



PURPOSE The purpose of the Gem, Lapidary, and Mineral Society of Montgomery County MD., Inc. is “To increase knowledge and popular interest in earth sciences, geology, mineralogy, paleontology, lapidary arts, and related subjects”.

REGULAR MEETING Meetings are held the 2nd Monday of the month from September to June. **Next meeting: Monday May 14th** in the dining room of the Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Drive, Rockville. The short business meeting will begin at 7:45 pm but the room is available to us at 7:30 pm so come early and see what you and others have on the Show Table and chat with old friends. **Program: “Masters of Mineral Illustration”, presented by Bruce Gaber.** Bruce (And his wife, Cathy) received the coveted EFMLS 2006 CITATION AWARD, the “Top” award for contributions that are “above the call of duty to our Federation and hobby.” Bruce has take an active role at Wildacres and serves as the perpetual chief auctioneer for EFMLS. He designed and taught pewter fabrication work and small object photography, served as Parliamentarian and is a certified judge for mineral and educational exhibits. A member of several clubs in the Washington, DC area, he served as President of the Mineralogical Society of the DC. He has taken award-winning photographs of minerals, jewelry, and crafts, which have appeared in publications.
❖ We exited the building before the 10:00 pm deadline last month. Good work! Let’s do it again, Please. ❖

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS will meet on May 21, 2007 at 7:30 pm at the home of David and Nancy Ballard. Any member is welcome to attend but please let Nancy know if you plan to attend.

ROSTER CHANGES New Members:


CHURCH, David & Christy, 13417 Wild Bird Terrace, Darnestown MD 20878-3972, (301) 963 6739, digby2032@yahoo.com, Heather (01/94)

McNEIL, Steven & Holly, 20410 Shore Harbour Dr. Apt. O, Germantown MD 20874-5426, (301) 919 9498, hollyheighes@earthlink.net

MUIR, John and Nancy, 113 Taft Avenue, Auburn ME 04210-4244

Change: MASON, Chuck new E Mail sugartree2@comcast.net

GET WELL WISHES A speedy recovery to John James who suffered 2nd degree burns to his arm when an acetylene gas torch fitting leaked and caught fire. He was in a class at the Wildacres workshop when this occurred on the 2nd day of the session, which disrupted the whole week for he and Anita.


 **Your Society Desperately needs a Show Chairman for the 2008 Show. We also need a person to make cab pre-forms for the Show workshop. The Board will consider purchasing a cab mate machine (To remain Society property) to assist in the process. Apply to Scott**

DEADLINE for the June 2007 Rockhounder is May 29th.

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ENJOY!



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES President Scott Braley called the April 9, 2007 meeting to order at 7:43 pm. Attendance was about 49 people. Joel Rosen moved, and Jack Busch seconded a motion which passed unanimously to adopt the By-laws change as published in the April *Rockhounder*. Wendell Mohr moved, and Joel Rosen seconded a motion to authorize items (2), (3), and (4) as published in the April *Rockhounder*. These are in regards to obtaining the 501-C-3 Private Non-profit status. Scott referred to the Field Trip schedule as published.

Vice-President Harry Lupuloff introduced the speaker, member Rob Robinson, who made a digital projection presentation “Gems and Pegmatites in Maine: People and Places”. (He made use of the Society’s new digital projector.) Rob related his connection to minerals when hiking dumps during summers in ME. He told of the initial discovery in 1820 by two boys at West Paris who came upon green tourmaline “Pencils”. He described the geology of the area and the exposure of the upper levels of the pluton by glacial action. Dikes cut across country rock. Rob named people who have worked the pegmatites and studied them, and spoke of their roles, including: Skip Simmons, Frank Perham, Bob Whitmore, Ray Woodman, Al Foster, Dennis Holden, Mike Wise, Dudley and Mary Groves, and Gary and Mary Freeman. He went on to show pictures and describe sites at Buckfield, the Bennett Mine; Greenwood, Emmons Quarry, access from Poland Mining Camp, Harvard-Morgan Mines; Auburn, Mount Apatite; Stoneham, Lord Hill, a NFS site, Mount Mica; Buckfield, Orchard Pit; Plumbago, Dunton Mine; and Georgetown. At Trap Corner, West Paris is the Perham’s exhibit. He showed beautiful mineral art of Fred Wilda. Rob’s pictures included graphic granite and garnet ledges, important markers. Photos clarified growth of crystals from relatively cool rock toward the center of the core of the pegmatite. Early mining was for feldspar for ceramics and mica but now for mineral specimens. Apatite, Manganapatite, Shorl and gem pink and green Tourmaline, Amethyst, Lithiopyllite, Smoky Quartz, bladed and ball Muscovite Mica, Herderite, Clevelandite, Monazite, Zircon, Pyrite, Phenacite, Aquamarine and Topaz were but a few of the minerals mentioned and shown. He told of the Maine Pegmatite Workshop and the Poland Mining Camp attractions. Micromount potential is good. There is also Poland Spring water if the minerals didn’t whet your apatite!



After the break, visitors were recognized, including David and Christy Church, Steven and Holly Mc Neil Andy Muir’s parents, and John and Nancy Muir, who were all accepted into membership by unanimous vote. Oren Lickman, Boy Scout friend of Matt Hyland, and Alex and Zhenya Tihomirov children of Mike who now live in NY state all visited and had show table contributions.

Nancy Ballard reported for Juan Proaño, Treasurer, away on travel, that the Society is solvent. Wendell Mohr made announcements about the upcoming Audubon adult programs “Chevy Chase Geology Loop” & “Geology Along the C&O Canal”, Multiple jewelry and gem classes and summer Nature Center programs for youth by the Montco Recreation Dept/Montco Parks. An appeal for someone to represent GLMSMC at the Rockville Science Day went unanswered.

Scott said that his 18” diamond saw is operable and people wanting large pieces sawn can contact him. He also offered Maine micromount material to anyone who wants some and is free at his Annandale home.

Door prize drawing and Show Table discussions followed, see listing elsewhere.

The minutes of the March Regular and Board meetings were unanimously approved. Meeting was adjourned at 9:50 pm.

Secretary Pro Tem Wendell Mohr

BOARD MEETING MINUTES The meeting was called to order by VP Harry Lupuloff at 7:37 pm at the home of the Ballards. In attendance were Board members Nancy Ballard, George Durland, Harry Lupuloff, and Wendell Mohr, and non- Board members Dave Ballard and Heather Felsen. Lacking a quorum, no official business could be transacted. Harry suggested that a donation, in lieu of an honorarium for the April speaker, be sent to a mineral collecting oriented scholarship fund suggested. The speaker for the May meeting, Cathy Gaber, is yet to be confirmed. Heather Felsen confirmed that she will be going to Wildacres Workshop. Upon successful completion, her tuition will be paid by the society as a scholarship, as previously agreed. Both the Aurora and Rockville quarry trips were cancelled due to rain and high winds. A show financial report from Juan Proaño was distributed.

Continued on Page 3

BOARD MEETING MINUTES Cont'd

A Show Report from Scott Braley was discussed. Overall Show successful. Need to obtain a Show Chair early for 2008. A major issue is the venue for 2008, unable so far to get space and date wanted at the Fairgrounds. We need to send written communication to the Fairgrounds Board. Also need to investigate other venues. We should investigate more cost effective advertising. Signage should be studied. Dealer space layout needs review. Shabby exhibit cases need replacement. Always need more volunteer help and more exhibits. Good financial results for 2007. Other miscellaneous show items were reviewed. The Exhibit award for the best Junior exhibit is yet to be presented. A note from Paul Vance was read by Wendell expressing his need for others to do cutting of the performs for the show workshop. Consideration might be given to purchasing a Cab-Mate machine. Members will be solicited to do this simple but time coming task.



Scott is working on a new Society web site. A contact for Society Secretary is yet to be made.

There was no new information about field trips at the time of the meeting.

George Durland will resubmit the nomination for "Each One Teach One" award which went astray last year. George also reported on the status of the 501 C 3 application. He will hand carry the Articles of incorporation change to Baltimore on April 17th, then on to IRS in DC before the deadline. He expressed appreciation to Pat Jayne for her help on the project.

Wendell suggests a member survey, which has not been run in 8 years, as a way to improve the Society with member input. The meeting adjourned at 9:08 pm.

Wendell Mohr, Secretary Pro Tem

AMERICAN LANDS ACCESS ASSOCIATION (ALAA) April 2007 Report on Congressional and Government Agency Activities.

By Jon Spunaugle

The U. S. Congress and the Government Land Management Agencies, US Forest Service (USFS) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) continue to make progress on several fronts of interest to the ALAA and "rockhounds" interested in access to public lands.

The U. S Congress is moving ahead with two identical Fossil Preservation Bills (S 320 and HR 554). The Senate Bill S-320 is listed on the Senate Calendar and will be voted on in the next few weeks. Very likely shortly after the Senate resumes from the Easter Break. The House Bill HR 554 is being reviewed by two Committees; House Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests & Public Lands; and House Agriculture Subcommittee on Department Operations, Oversight, Nutrition, and Forestry. These committees may review the Bill and report on it. However the Speaker of the House of Representatives has the authority to place the Bill as introduced on the House calendar without comment or consultation with the committees. Comments by rockhounds on these Bills should go to the your Congressional Representative immediately if they are to have any effect on the Bills passage which seems likely.

Congress is also considering 14 new Wilderness designations which will be reviewed in the next report.

The US Forest Service is continuing to push forward with land sales under the 2008 Federal Budget and the National Forest Land Adjustment for Rural Communities Act. There recent actions have been to add additional land parcels for sale. The purpose is to raise funds for use by local communities affected by Forest Service curtailed logging activities. Information on the parcels of land being offered for sale can be found on the Internet at <<http://www.fs.fed.us/land/staff/spd.html>>. Though most of the parcels are small isolated lands, several are not and could effect rock collecting. The ALAA urges interested rockhounds to review these parcels and report back to the ALAA on any that contain known collecting locations.

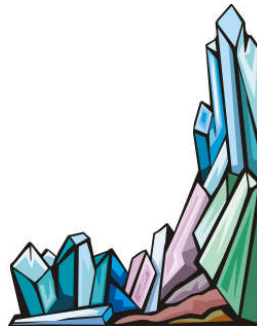
The Bureau of Land Management and the US Forest Service continue to review roads open for use by ATV's and have been holding meetings open to the public for public input. These are great opportunities for interested Rockhounds to let the public land managers know their feelings on road closures. As Congress continues to reduce the funding for roads and road maintenance by the public land managers the more roads will be closed. To have an input into which roads will stay open and which will be open to ATV access you need to attending these meetings. One of our best sources of information on these input opportunities has been our association with the Blue Ribbon Coalition. They publish a wealth of information on their web site at <<http://www.sharetrails.org/>>. The information can also be by researching the information on the Federal Register.

If you don't speak up and take advantage of these meetings and public input opportunities, someone else will be speaking instead of you and they may be saying something entirely different from your views.



SHOW TABLE April 9, 2007 An increasingly interesting feature at the meetings

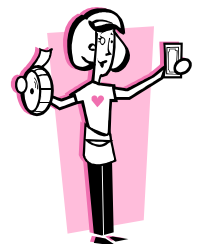
<u>Exhibitor</u>	<u>Specimen(s)</u> * = Self-collected	<u>Locality</u>
Paul Braley	Geode*	Farmer City KY
Scott Braley	Geode*	Farmer City KY
	Fluorite, Galena*	Royal Flush NM
Jeff Cessna	Calcite with inclusions	Mexico
	Calcite*	Hardy County WV
George Durland	Hardystonite on Bustamite	Franklin NJ
	Calcite and Willemite	Sterling Hill Mine, Ogdensburg NJ
Jonathan Harris	Marl	FL
Chuck Hyland	Chatoyant Malachite	Bisbee AZ
	Aquamarine with bubble	Brazil
Matt Hyland	Fossil Bone & cab geode	Not given
Alexandra Kindahl	Covellite, Hematite, Chalcopyrite, Pyrite	
	Petrified Wood, Nickel, Malachite	Not given
Eric Kindahl	Sepastria Fossil Coral & other marine inverts.*	Road fill, Mattamuskeet NC
David MacLean	Dense concentrate*	Harris Creek, Powhattan Co., VA
Audrey McElravy	Celestite	Not given
Rory McElravy	Butterfly Selenite	Not given
Wendell Mohr	Synthetic Quartz	Cleveland OH
Andy Muir	Fluorescent Pegmatites	Auburn ME
Owen Powers	Petrified Wood	MS Petrified Forest Flora MS
George Reimherr	Muscovite crystals*	Yates-Brooks farm, near Lattimore, Cleveland Co., NC
Joel Rosen	Fluorite with Calcite	Hardin Co., IL
Alex Tihomirov	Fluorite (Fluorescent)	England
Zhenya Tihomirov	Fluorite	China
Rod Towers	Microscope and Specimens	Not Given
Paul Vance	Polished Patuxent River Agates	MD
Oren Licktman	Fossil Shell & Wood	Paint Branch Cr., Kemp Mill MD



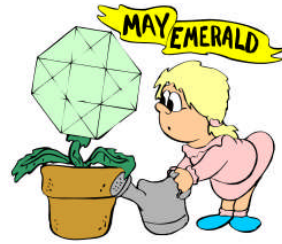
MARCH PRIZES: The Junior winner was Alex Kindahl, who took home a mystery box labeled “Cosmic Coal”. We hope she will share with us the contents next month. A very nice Apophyllite on Prehnite from Luck Quarry, Centerville, Fairfax Co., VA was the Show Table prize won by David MacLean. The general door prize, a Quartz, variety Amethyst, from Sweden ME (Appropriate for the evening’s program) was taken home by George Durland.

DRAWINGS Here are two opportunities for you. First, the EFMLS Ways and Means Committee is running a drawing for at least the 7 prizes in hand now (You are urged to donate a prize if you wish to increase the attractiveness of the lottery). Tickets will be available in June to be returned by September 15th for the drawing at the October Newark NY EFMLS Convention or contact Janie Hand, Committee Chairman, at 253 Wanda Drive, Jackson MS 39042. See <<http://www.amfed.org/efmls/efmay07.pdf>>. Proceeds go to the principal of the Eastern Federation Fund, interest from which is used for projects to benefit clubs.

Second, The AFMS Endowment Fund has a parallel lottery, donations welcomed. Currently 14 items are on hand. The drawing will be at the Roswell NM AFMS Convention June 9th. \$5 donation per ticket, \$20 for 5 tickets. See <<http://www.amfed.org/endow2007.htm>>. Contact Joy Bourne, RR1, Box 159A, Towanda PA 18848-9739. Here, too, the proceeds go into a fund which is not touched. Interest earned is used for projects.



MAY MEMBER BIRTHDAYS: Scott Braley, Alison Durland, Daniel Greene, Corky Harrison, Bob Irby, John James, Steven Karsch, Bob LaVilla, Charlotte Morrison. Your birthstone is **Emerald**.



Emeralds have been highly prized and valued as a gemstone since early times. Of all the members of the beryl family of minerals, the emerald is considered the most valuable. From the Greek, “smaragdos” and the Latin “beryllus” and “emaraude,” the name “Emerald” was first coined in the sixteenth century. In ancient times, emerald was associated with the goddess Venus and endowed with the power to show faithfulness in one's partner. The Romans brought medicinal connotations to emerald and associated it restoring sight and soothing weary eyes. Over the centuries, all sorts of mystical powers have been attributed to the emerald including the power of prescience, to attract wealth, and ward off epilepsy.

The two most important historical emeralds are the 1,384 carat Devonshire Emerald and the 630 carat Patricia Emerald displayed by the American Museum of Natural History in New York.

Classification and Grading: Emerald can be defined as opaque, translucent or transparent beryl with medium to dark tones of green in color. Beryl that is light or very light in tone are more properly called “Green Beryl.” Over the years a number of terms and classification nomenclature has been used to describe gem grade emerald. These include:

Colombian Emerald - The finest qualities have traditionally been called Colombian after their country of origin. These fine grades are characterized by the deep, intense pure green with either yellow or blue undertones.

Siberian or Russian Emerald - From the Ural mountains these stones are lighter and are more yellow than Colombian stones.

African Emerald - In some cases the color of these stones rivals fine Colombian but more commonly are characterized by blue and gray overtones.

From Chatbox May 2006 Via Shin Skinner News

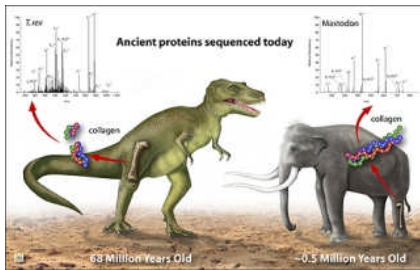
FIELD TRIP REPORT

The Aurora NC trip was a bust. Chris Herbstritt, Jeff Cessna, Bill Jones, the Campbells and I braved the threats of wind and rain made our way to Aurora on April 14th. On 15th, we found that the trip into the mine was cancelled. Pat Young of the Phosphate Corporation of Saskatchewan was on hand at the PCS Phosphate mine parking lot to advise us as to the bad news while standing in the pouring rain. The mine had cancelled the expedition due to flooding and high winds the prior evening after all of us had arrived in Washington, NC. Drenched but undefeated, most of us made our way to the small piles of material across the street from the Aurora Fossil Museum. Andrea, the director of the museum, noticed us and was kind enough to open the museum to us for a private tour of their new NC Archaeology wing and PCS mine video theatre. She mentioned that they also recently opened a NC mineral museum but we were unable to visit it. Our wallets lighter, our pockets heavier with a few interesting fossils (a sting ray barb, some porpoise ear bones and vertebrae, partial megalodon shark teeth and lots of mysteries), we made our way home mid-day on Sunday to dream of sunnier collecting days to come. Too bad for those folks from Indiana, who drove 14 hours one way. 15 - 20 other people there that hadn't heard the news of the cancellation either. It was suggested that those who were brave enough to try and face the elements would get moved up in priority for the next trip.

Merged Contribution by Jennifer Wingard & Chris Herbstritt (Edited)



Simultaneously working and vacationing in New Mexico, Scott Braley couldn't help but notice all the warnings about bears posted in campgrounds, visitors centers and rest areas advising people not to feed the bears, how to avoid bears, what to do if a bear sees you, what to do if a bear attacks, and so on. His favorite, however, was a hand-lettered sign on the door of a small gas station in a remote area. It said: "Warning! If you are being chased by a bear, don't come in here!"



Protein Fragments Sequenced in 68 million-year-old Tyrannosaurus Rex

Sequences Are the Oldest Ever to be Reported
Results Support Controversial Theory that Dinosaurs and Birds are Evolutionarily Related

(Illustration: Courtesy Zina Deretsky, National Science Foundation)

BOSTON April 11, 2007 Researchers from Harvard Medical School and Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center have captured and sequenced tiny pieces of collagen protein from a 68 million-year-old Tyrannosaurus rex. The protein fragments, seven in all appear to most closely match amino acid sequences found in collagen of present day chickens, lending support to a recent and still controversial proposal that birds and dinosaurs are evolutionarily related. The HMS and BIDMC researchers, working with scientists at North Carolina State University, report their findings in the April 13 Science.



"Most people believe that birds evolved from dinosaurs, but that's all based on the architecture of the bones," said John Asara, who sequenced the protein fragments over the course of a year and a half using highly sensitive mass spectrometry methods. "This allows you to get the chance to say, 'Wait, they really are related because their sequences are related.' We didn't get enough sequences to definitively say that, but what sequences we got support that idea."

(Photo: John Asara, director of the mass spectrometry facility purified the protein, identified as collagen, and, with the enzyme trypsin, broke it down into fragments, or peptides, 10 to 20 amino acids long.)

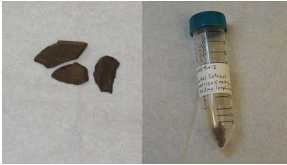
In another study, Mary Schweitzer, of NC State Univ., and colleagues found that extracts of T. rex bone reacted with antibodies to chicken collagen, further suggesting the presence of birdlike protein in the dinosaur bones. The mere existence of such exceedingly ancient protein defies a longstanding assumption. When an animal dies, protein immediately begins to degrade and, in the case of fossils, is slowly replaced by mineral. This substitution process was thought to be complete by one million years. "For centuries it was believed that the process of fossilization destroyed any original material, consequently no one looked carefully at really old bones," said Schweitzer. She is a co-author on the Asara study. That may change, said Lewis Cantley, HMS professor of Systems Biology and BIDMC chief of Signal Transduction, who also participated in the study. "Basically, this is the breakthrough that says it's possible to get sequences beyond one million years. At 68 million years, it's still possible to get sequences," he said. In addition to the seven dinosaur sequences, Asara and his colleagues isolated and sequenced more than 70 protein fragments from a 160,000- to 600,000-year-old mastodon, providing further evidence of the staying power of ancient protein. "I think what this says is that when people make new discoveries now, if they want to get maximum information out, they have to immediately handle material in a way that first of all will avoid contamination and, second, ensure that whatever is there gets well preserved because it can be interrogated."



The scraps of dinosaur protein were wrested from a fossil femur discovered by John Horner, of the Museum of the Rockies, and colleagues in 2003 in Hell Creek Formation, a barren fossil-rich stretch of land that spans several states, including WY and MT. Schweitzer and colleagues reported in 2005 that they had found evidence of soft tissue inside the fossilized femur, a discovery widely covered. After seeing one such story in the NY Times, Cantley contacted Asara who, in 2002, had sequenced collagen fragments from 100,000 to 300,000-year-old mammoth bone samples sent by Schweitzer and colleagues. (Photo: The T. rex protein was wrested from a fossil femur discovered in 2003 in Hell Creek Formation Courtesy Museum of the Rockies)

"I realized when I read the New York Times article and saw Mary Schweitzer's story of having uncovered this dinosaur that this is exactly the sort of thing that would appeal to John and hence ripped him off an e-mail from my Blackberry," Cantley said. "John of course took the bait." Schweitzer readily agreed to provide T. rex bone samples. "She knew from our last collaboration that I was not going to stop until I found something," Asara said.

(Continued next Page)



(Continued) At the outset, he faced two challenges. The first was to gather enough protein to sequence. The bone extract, sent by Schweitzer, arrived in the form of a gritty brown powder that had to be rid of contaminants. Using techniques and tricks perfected while working on the mammoth sample, Asara purified the protein, identified as collagen, and, with the enzyme trypsin, broke it down into fragments, or peptides, 10 to 20 amino acids long. The peptides were passed over a liquid chromatography (LC) column, where they were separated from one another and then sprayed at extremely low, or nanoliter, flow rates, for optimal sensitivity, into a mass spectrometer. To maximize his yield, Asara used an ion trap mass spectrometer, which captures and holds peptides. The collected peptides were measured for mass and, in a second step, isolated and fragmented to reveal their amino acid sequence. Using this tandem procedure, Asara netted seven separate strings of amino acid.

He now faced his second challenge, namely, to interpret the amino acid sequences. Normally, when a sequence comes out of a mass spectrometer, it is compared to a database of existing amino acid sequences. Collagen is a highly conserved protein, so it was highly likely that some of the dinosaur peptide sequences would match those of an existing species. Of the seven T. rex peptides, five were for a particular class of collagen protein, collagen alpha I. The majority of these were found to be identical matches to amino acid sequences found in chicken collagen alpha I, while others matched newt and frog.

For extinct species, the real goal is to find sequences unique to that organism. Asara generated a set of theoretical collagen protein sequences representing the kinds that might have been present around the time of T. rex. None of his dinosaur peptides matched the theoretical set, which is not surprising. "If you're only finding seven sequences in T. rex, you're not going to find novel ones, which we didn't," said Asara. He also tested mastodon bone, sent by Schweitzer, against a database of existing amino acid sequences and against a set of mastodon theoretical sequences. He identified a total of 78 peptides, including four unique sequences.

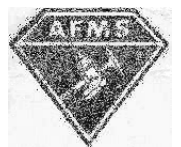
"As we get better at doing the extractions, and the sensitivity of the instruments and techniques improve, I anticipate that we'll be able to get from comparably aged species much more extensive sequences and to get novel sequences unique to that species, which will give us ideas about the relationship between species," said Cantley.

Still, it may be the rare fossil that is as pristinely preserved by the environment as the T. rex and mastodon specimens analyzed in the current study. "Nature has to give you the opportunity to do this first," Asara said. Funding for this project was provided by the National Science Foundation, the Paul F. Glenn Foundation, and Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center.



News Release Harvard Medical School Office of Public Affairs

AFMS SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION Since its founding, your AFMS Scholarship Foundation has distributed over 1 million dollars in scholarship funds to deserving graduate students in the earth sciences. In order to remain impartial, neither the American Federation nor the Scholarship Foundation has a hand in the selection. Instead, each participating regional federation names an "Honorary" recipient. This person is often a college professor or someone well known in the earth sciences field. The EFMLS Honoree will receive a plaque at the October convention and will choose a University with a graduate Earth Science Program, and will select two graduate students for two year awards. Each will receive \$2000 per year for a total of \$4000 per student.



For the EFMLS, Dr. Peter J. Heaney, Prof. of Mineralogy, Dep't. of Geosciences, Penn State University was selected. He was a Postdoctoral Fellow at Cambridge Univ., an Asst. Prof. at Princeton University, and was a Visiting Research Scientist with the Dep't. of Mineral Sciences, Smithsonian Institution, and VP, Mineralogical Society of America, 2006. He has organized a number of Symposia, the latest being for The American Geophysical Society, 2006. His publications go on for pages. He has supervised numerous Graduate Theses and Projects, and has received numerous grants and contracts. His selection for the scholarship awards has not yet been disclosed.

Our Society makes an annual contribution, which has been \$300 in recent years, to the fund. Additionally individuals who contribute have that amount credited to the society. Only the interest from monies collected is used: your donations go directly to the principal. Adapted from AFMS Newsletter, May, & EFMLS News, Mar. 2007

SAFETY FIRST - CHISEL & DRILL SAFETY

by Bill Klose, EFMLS Safety Chair



Hand drilling hammers, Machinist's peen hammers, and Blacksmith's or sledge hammers, are used with chisels and star drills. Bricklayer's or mason's hammers are designed for setting and splitting bricks, masonry tile, and concrete blocks and should never be used to strike chisels, drills or other metal tools. Standard nail (claw) hammers are designed for striking unhardened nails and not chisels or drill bits.

Flat chisels are designed to be used to form and cut metal and should not be used with rock. Rockhounds should use brick chisels that have a double beveled point at an inclined angle of 80 degrees and brick sets with a single beveled point with an inclined angle of 45 degrees to split rocks. Star drills have all cutting edges with inclined angles of 70 degrees and are used for making holes in rocks.



Hold chisels and drills with a loose fist, keeping the fingers relaxed in order to minimize the chance of being hit by a glancing blow from the hammer. A sponge rubber pad forced over the chisel or drill above the hand and a glove will also provide protection. If someone else is holding the chisel or drill, it is best to use a set of tongs or a chisel holder as a guide. Gloves and protective clothing, consisting of long sleeve shirts, long pants, and aprons, eye protection (Safety Spectacles, Safety Goggles, and Face Shields), and Safety Shoes should be used by all individuals in the area for protection from glancing blows and flying chips. The hammers face should be 3/8" larger than the face of the chisel or drill bit to be struck. The hammers striking face should be parallel with the chisel or drill being struck.

Protect the cutting edges of chisels and drills by installing protecting covers and store in a rack where they will not be chipped or broken. Lubricate with light oil before storing and wipe off the oil before striking with a hammer.

Regrind broken or chipped chisel edges before using. Cool in water often while grinding to protect the temper of the metal. Drill bit edges should be hand filed. Replace chisels, drill bits, and hammers with cracked or mushroomed heads to prevent shards of metal from breaking off and causing injury. Replace worn or damaged hammer handles. A qualified individual should replace hammer handles. Most hardware stores will replace handles for a nominal fee. They can also provide a rubber sleeve for sledge hammers which will prevent handle damage adjacent to the hammer head.



1989 WRAP-UP As happened in September, the program for October's meeting was a double header. The first Part was given by President (Now Treasurer) Juan Proaño. He had recently returned from Bolivia, where, among other places, he had visited Potosi (Pronounced po-to-See, as I was sternly informed years ago by John Griesbach), the site of one of the world's largest silver mines. Juan explained that its name means "Rich Hill", and told the story of its discovery. It seems that a group of locals spent the night in one of the caves and built a fire to keep warm. In the morning there was a pool of molten silver where the fire had been burning! This occurred in 1545 and the mine has been in operation ever since. As part of his presentation Juan showed slides he had taken, and explained the mining methods used through the years.

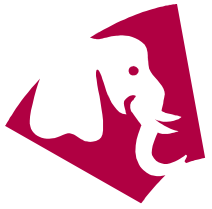


The second part of the program was an EFMLS slide program on Calcite, prepared by Paul Desautels. Paul described the many forms in which this amazing mineral is found. Together, the two programs made for an interesting and enlightening evening. It was capped by a door prize drawing, done by Paul Vance who drew his own number! From a selection of prizes, he selected a couple of slabs. Are you surprised? The evening's Show table was enhanced by a batch of material brought by Paul Shade from the collection of Murray Ressler. Paul urged those present to take whatever they wanted.

November being the election month, Wendell Mohr, Chair of the Nominating Committee, presented a slate of officers for 1990. It consisted of those persons presently serving as officers, and was unanimously approved by the membership, to no one's surprise. Member Fred Schaefermeyer, newly elected President of the Eastern Federation, reported on the recent meeting of the Federation's Executive Board.

(Continued on the next page)

1989 WRAP-UP (Continued) Among the items discussed at that meeting were the preparation of new guides for preparing competitive and non-competitive exhibits. Fred also presented an EFMLS slide program describing the Tom Miner Basin in Montana, near Yellowstone National Park. It's similar to the Petrified Forest in that the petrified trees are opalized and agatized. The scenery shown in the program was described as being breathtaking.



November's *Rockhounder* reported that the Federal Government had announced a ban on all imports of animal ivory into the U.S. The ban did not apply to Tagua nuts, the kernels of which are a vegetable form of Ivory. The Tagua tree, a form of palm, is found in South America, and the kernels can be fashioned in to jewelry. Although it wasn't mentioned in the article, there was no indication that Ivory Soap was banned, thus soap carvers could continue plying their skills.

In that same *Rockhounder* Editor Nancy Ballard included a list of about 125 minerals, ranging from Alunogen to Zirklerite that, according to the Micromounters of New England, were water soluble, therefore should not be cleaned with that agent. I recognize Halite, but not many of the others.

December's meeting, after a number of announcements, began a short slide program depicting minerals of the Gleason AZ area, highlighted by shots of spectacular Wulfenite. After the presentation the evening's attendees descended on the array of cakes, cookies, and other comestibles (\kuh-MES-tuh-buhl\, *adjective*: Suitable to be eaten; edible. To celebrate the upcoming holidays. Not in my Webster's New Collegiate dictionary but found elsewhere Ed!). And so endeth another year in the history of GLMSMC. 1990, here we come.

By Jack Busch

FIELD TRIPS Contact Field Trip Chair Anita James to inquire about trips not yet listed or for further information on trips scheduled at 301 652 5527 or E Mail <johnjames04@comcast.net>. Everyone should contact her to indicate if you are going and to get any additional details. Anita reminds us that if you leave a message on her answering machine be certain to leave your phone number so she can get back to you.

May 6 Sunday. American Museum of Natural History in New York City to see the exhibition on GOLD and mineral and fossil exhibits. Open to all members including juniors. You will be responsible for your own travel, but our Society will reimburse you for the admission to the show. Adults: \$21.00, Children (2-12): \$12.00, Senior/Student with ID: \$16.00, AMNH Member Adult: \$10.00, Member Child \$6.00. IMAX theater is not included. Meals are at your own expense. See <<http://www.vamoosebus.com/>>. The Vamoose bus leaves from Rosslyn VA as early as 7:30 am or Bethesda MD as early as 8:00 am. Return is as late as 7:00 pm leaving NYC. It is about a 4 hour trip each way. Make a reservation. \$25 each way, cash or personal checks accepted on the bus. Or you may want to take Amtrak (\$67 one way lowest). Make your own reservations. Some members might want to drive, or go early or stay late and stay overnight in the city. Others will make it a one day excursion. Contact Anita James for further details, bus schedules, etc.

May 12 Saturday. Medford Quarry, near Westminster MD 8:00 am. Adults only.

May 20 Sunday. Hunting Hill Quarry, Rockville MD 8:15 am. \$5 charge. Adults only.

OOPS & THANKS Please excuse: Many thanks to Pat Jayne for helping the "Take down" at the March Show. Her name was inadvertently omitted from the published list. And while on the subject, we all are also deeply indebted to Pat for her invaluable work along with George Durland as he worked so hard on the application for 501 C 3 Society status.

CLASSES Cabochon making classes are being offered at the Clearwater Nature Center, Cosca Regional Park, 11000 Thrift Road, Clinton MD 20735. Learn basics using diamond saws, grinding, and polishing equipment. You need to bring safety goggles, and wear clothes that can get wet or oily or bring an apron to protect clothing. Three separate classes, June 23, July 28, and August 25, 9 am-3 pm, for ages 18 & up. Montgomery and Prince Georges County residents \$30, others \$36. Register through a an M-NCPPC facility or at SMARTlink online at <www.pgparcs.com>. Information 301 699 2544



Annual EFMLS Region IV Swap & Picnic

Directions: Lake Anna State Park, VA, Shelter #1, Saturday, June 9, 2007, 9 am to 3 pm. I-95 to exit #118, Thornburg, West on Rte 606 to Rte 208, Left onto Rte 208, Continue to Rte 601 and turn Right onto Rte 601 (Turn is just past Lake Anna Marine Supplies & Hardware), Continue on Rte 601 then turn Left into Park, Follow park road to lake, shelter is around to the left past the park facilities.



Highlights: Material Swapping, renowned Region IV Treasure Box, and outstanding Picnic Pot Luck Lunch. At 9:00 am start swapping and socializing. Much of the swapping is done early in the day so go early and swap the materials you have tons of, but don't forget there is NO SELLING allowed in the park. At noon, there will be grilling of hot dogs. Bring your own dish to share. Pot luck! At 1:30 pm, a fun auction of the weird, wild, funny, odd, and unusual stuff you have accumulated will take place. Please donate items for the auction. They should be at least somewhat hobby related. Door prizes: Take one with you because everyone loves to win! The famous Treasure Box will be open all day. Take items that you have a ton of or no longer want. Hobby related, of course. Remember one rockhound's junk is another rockhound's treasure. Please label your material for the Treasure Box. For questions, E Mail or call Bill Gilbert, EFMLS Region IV VP, <Billis4rox@comcast.net> or 804-541-8520. Go for a fun event.

Smithsonian Institution National Museum of Natural History. The spectacular Tiffany diamond, one of the largest fancy yellow diamonds ever found, is on display on the second floor now through mid Sept. 2007. It was discovered in 1877 in the South African Kimberly Diamond Mine. Weighing 287.42 carats in the rough, it was cut to a cushion shaped brilliant of 128.54 carats with 82 facets. It is displayed in the "Bird on a rock" brooch setting designed by Jean Schlumberger. The temporary exhibition celebrates the opening of the New Acquisitions Case, dedicated to displaying gemstones acquired by a newly established fund, The Tiffany & Co. Foundation Endowment. Go see it and enjoy!



Auction The Chesapeake Gem & Mineral Society is sponsoring an auction on Friday, Jun 8, 2007 at 7:30 pm (Viewing at 7:00 pm), at the Woman's Club of Catonsville. There will be gemstones, cutting rough, jewelry, minerals, fossils, books, magazines, and lapidary equipment. Refreshments are available. Directions: Get to the Baltimore beltway, I-695 by your most convenient route. Exit on MD 144, Frederick Road, going west from I-695 for four blocks to St. Timothy's Lane. Turn right and go one block to the Woman's Club, behind St. Timothy's Church.

Field Trip GLMSDC, Saturday May12, 2:00 pm at Monroe Park Gold Mining Camp, 14421 Gold Dust Parkway, Goldvein VA. This new park (See <<http://www.goldvein.com>>) is the only museum in VA solely dedicated to the history of gold mining. Ranger Bob Sinclair will lead a tour of the museum and a gold panning demonstration. Anyone wishing to attend needs to let Cathy Gaber, <bg@his.com>, know ahead of time. All attendees must be a member of an Eastern Federation club with EFMLS insurance. (GLMSMC members qualify.) This one is good for families.

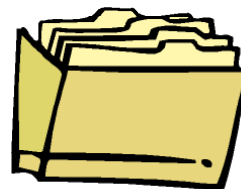
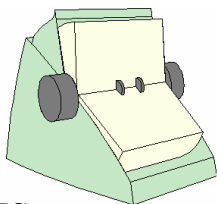
Bead Museum "To Bead Or Not To Bead", now through June 16, the historical use of beads and adornment in Shakespearian costuming. "Beads and the Bard", Tues.-Sat. Noon to 6:00 pm, 400 Seventh Street NW, corner 7th and D streets.



"Mining Montgomery" An exhibit at the Montgomery County Historical Society, Beall-Dawson House, 103 W. Montgomery Ave., Rockville MD. Now Through September 23. Examines mineral resources of our county, people involved, and the way resources have been used. Much of the exhibit focuses on the county's gold mines. Tues.-Sun., Admission \$3.00, Sr. and Students \$2.00.

Postal rates are rising again on May 14th. If you are receiving a copy of this newsletter by the USPS you could get it by electronic means and it will be in full color in a pdf file. You must have the free Adobe Acrobat Reader program installed from <www.Adobe.com> Save printing and postage. Go green!
E Mail your editor, <wmohr@erols.com>, if you wish to get an E Mail only copy.

PUT THESE IN YOUR FILES



OTHER CLUB'S WEB SITES

For a change of pace this month, let's go visiting. It's a different kind of field trip (Or voyeurism). You can peek in on other clubs and their activities by going to their web sites. Some random U. S. geographic picks:

Contributed by Wendell C. Mohr



Che-Hanna Rock and Mineral Club
Cincinnati Dry Dredgers
Houston Gem and Mineral Society
Maryland Geological Society
Santa Clara Valley Gem and Mineral Society
The Rochester Lapidary Society

<<http://www.che-hanna.org/>>
 <<http://www.drydredgers.org/>>
 <<http://www.hgms.org/>>
 <<http://ecphora.net/mgs/>>
 <<http://www.scvgms.org/>>
 <<http://www.rochesterlapidary.org/>>

See information on the group's purpose, officers, meetings, field trips, newsletters, photographs, dues, activities and events, history, news, information, book reviews, workshop, kids education, show, classes, links and library.

Club Daffynitions:

Field Trip: An impossible trek to an inaccessible place for non-existent specimens.

Tumbler: Piece of equipment costing at least \$25 which makes \$250 worth of stones salable for \$25.

Rock Show: Bunch of people displaying their best specimens and another bunch selling their worst.

Field Polish: Spit.

From Sooner Rockologist, via G & M Federation of Canada, Spring 2006



UPCOMING SHOWS & SWAPS:

May 26 18th Annual Chesapeake Gem & Mineral Show sponsored by the Chesapeake G & M Society, at Goucher College, Towson MD. One day, 10-4. Free admission. Information: 410 832 5906.

June 2 48th Semi-Annual (Spring) Mineralfest. Mineral, Fossil, and Gem Show of the PA Earth Sciences Assn., Macungie PA, 10 miles SW of Allentown, Lehigh County, Macungie Memorial Park, Poplar Street opposite Bear Swamp Restaurant. Sat. only 8:30-3:00. Over 100 tables of specimens for sale/trade. Admission \$2.00, under 12 free. Information: <www.mineralfest.com>.

June 7-10 "Gems of Enchantment", Rocky Mtn./AFMS Annual Convention hosted by the Chaparral Rockhounds, Roswell Convention and Civic Center, 912 North Main Street, Roswell NM. Federation meetings etc. June 5, 6. Information and registration forms: <www.amfed.org>.

June 9-10 Orange County Mineral Soc., Swap and Sell, 10-4, rain or shine. Adults \$3, Sr. and Children \$2. Museum Village, 1010 Route 17M, Monroe NY. Info.: <<http://www.museumvillage.org/>> or 845 683 1167

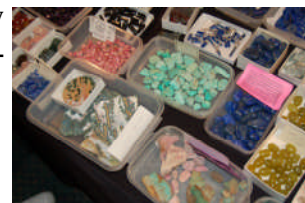
Aug. 4-5 GLMSDC 58th Annual Gem & Mineral Show, Stone Ridge School, 9101 Rockville Pike, Bethesda MD. Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5 Admission \$6.00, Sr. \$5.00, Under 6 Free. Info.: <www.GLMSDC.com>

September 15-16 42nd Annual Gem, Mineral, and Jewelry Show sponsored by Central PA Rock & Mineral Club. Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5. NEW Location west of US 15. Sporting Hill Elementary School, 210 S. Sporting Hill Rd., Mechanicsburg PA. Admission \$5.00. Information: <www.rockandmineral.org>.

September 22-23 43rd Annual Atlantic Coast Gem, Mineral, & Jewelry Show, Howard County Fairgrounds (MD), I-70 at MD 32. Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5. Admission \$5.00, 12 and under free with adult. Information: <www.gemcuttersguild.com>.

October 6-7, 14th Annual Wayne County Gem & Mineral Club Show sponsored by the Wayne County Gem & Mineral Club. St. Michael's School, 320 S. Main St., Newark NY, host of the 2007 EFMLS Convention, Annual Meeting Oct. 5, 2007.

The Eastern Federation Convention in 2008 will once more be in Jackson MS, held there previously. While talking of this my wife asked if I knew how to spell Mississippi. I asked whether she meant the state or the river!



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Charter Member: Dan Spielman; Life Members: David Ballard, Nancy Ballard, Jack Busch, Larry Harrison, Anna Marcus, Wendell Mohr, Charlotte Morrison, Dan Spielman, and Paul Vance

Society Address: Gem, Lapidary, and Mineral Society of Montgomery County MD., Inc.
P. O. Box 444, Gaithersburg MD 20884-0444

All Society correspondence is to be sent to this address except that which is intended for the Rockhounder and its editor. Such items are to be sent to the editor's home address.



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