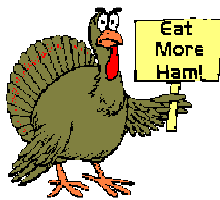


THE ROCKHOUNDER



NOVEMBER 2007

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 through June. **Next Meeting: Monday November 12** 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. The program will be by Wayne Sukow, of Fairfax VA, speaking on Lake Superior Agates. He is a past president of the EFMLS and received an AFMS award in the program competition on this subject.



Photo EFMLS News

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS will meet on November 19th at 7:30 pm at the home of David and Nancy Ballard. All Board members are expected to be there. Any member is welcome to attend but please let Nancy know if you plan to attend.

ROSTER CHANGES

ELGERT, Gerald E Mail Address: isaiah.423@juno.com
JAMES, John and Anita E Mail Address: johnanitajames@verizon.net
LANTZ, Elmer E Mail Address: elantz521@verizon.net
Reinstated: GALLEGOS, Frances, 4003 Jeffry Street, Wheaton MD 20906-4228, 301 949 7238

CONDOLENCES Dale A. Madden (Age 74) Of Rockville, MD passed away on Thursday, October 18, 2007. He is survived by his wife, Marilyn C. Madden; sons, Paul Madden and David Madden and daughter, Carla Baster. He also leaves several grandchildren. Dale was an alumni of M.I.T. He was one time Secretary of the Society. He will be missed.


SUNSHINE Lois Ritchie Has been recovering from surgery and Chemotherapy. Her husband also requires more attention. explaining why we have not seen her lately. Congrats to her for winning the Each One Teach One EFMLS award (See Page 11) Keep **Scott Braley** in your thoughts as he goes for laser eye surgery November 7th.



IN THIS ISSUE	
Meeting Announcements, Roster Changes, Condolences, Sunshine, Election, Rockhounder Deadline	1
Regular Meeting Minutes	2
Board Meeting Minutes.....	3
Show Table, Prizes, Education.....	4
Birthdays, Topaz Birthstone,	5
Safety, Field Trips.....	6
Shows, Swaps, Events.....	7
History.....	8
EFMLS Convention, Show..	9, 10
Susan Houser Donated Cabbing Rough, Ritchie Each One Teach One Award.....	11

November is Society Election Month.
 Nominees for election are:
 President: **YOUR NAME HERE?**
 Vice-President: Elmer Lantz
 Secretary Holly: McNeil
 Treasurer: Juan Proaño

Officers take office January 1



DEADLINE for the December 2007 Rockhounder is **Nov. 26th**

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES: The Oct. 8, 2007 regular meeting was called to order by President Scott Braley at 7:45 pm, around 38 people in attendance. Minutes from the June and September meetings were moved and approved. Announcements by Scott included that Wendell Mohr won 1st place in the new editor category for *The Rockhounder* newsletter, and Lois Ritchie won 4th place for the "Each One Teach One" award from the Eastern Federation of the Mineralogical Society (EFMS). Our web site, <www.glmcmc.com> is now operative. The Web designer will be providing training for Cynthia Hunter, who volunteered as web master. Wendell will update content. Scott solicited volunteers for next year's elected officers: President and Vice President (arranges for speakers). Also needed are Field Trip Chair (schedules and coordinates field trips), and Show Chair. Elmer Lantz offered to help where needed and will attend next Board meeting but not sure about an official position.

Wendell provided field trip information from Anita James. Activity has slowed at the quarries. If there is blasting, the Rockville Quarry will be open for a trip Sunday October 21 at 8:15 am. Call Fred Parker to inquire about status. There is no word yet about Pinesburg and Medford Quarry trips.

Wendell also said that our Society received two certificates at the EFMLS convention. One, for the American Federation Scholarship Foundation, recognized \$950 contributions since the 2006 Convention, including individual donations and club as a whole, for 8900% in cumulative total. (\$1/member/year=100%.) Only one other EFMLS club is higher. The second, for the Eastern Federation Fund where the principal is not touched, only the interest spent for special projects. We attained a level of 600% from Feb. 18, 2005 to Sep. 4, 2007. The *Rockhounder* placed 4th in the AFMS contest. The Rostrum, bulletin of Maryland Geological Society, got the EFMLS trophy in the new editor category.

Jack Busch announced that Richard Hronik's widow donated his collection to the Mineralogical Society of DC where he was a life time member. They are going to sell the collection at the Northern VA Show, George Mason University, Fairfax VA, November 17th and 18th.

Bob Irby spoke of the extensive cutting material donation by Mrs. Susan Houser. She was a member several years ago. Bob Irby picked up around 550 lbs, Bob Winfield has picked up around 1100 lbs and Elmer Lance will pick the remainder. She also donated a Genie Cabbng machine and flat slab saw. A letter of acknowledgement of the donation will be written and sent for tax purposes. The Board needs to determine what to do with the donation.

Treasurer, Juan Proaño, reports we are "Solvent". We await the contract from the Agricultural Center for our Show on March 15th and 16th, 2008. Show chair needs to work out and confirm space for 2009.

No program was scheduled so Harry Lupuloff called for input. Member, Jeff Nagy, who is rewriting the *Minerals of the DC Area* book, by Larry Bernstein, was our impromptu speaker. Larry was one of our junior members in the early 1960s and he got a Society Scholarship. Jeff provided tantalizing information on local locations to dig and explore. His locations included non-local Prince Edward County amethyst, a fee dig site for only \$10 a day. Digging is hard but well worth it, Saturdays only and requires hole refilling. 3 hour drive to Farmville, VA between Charlottesville and Richmond. Email Jeff, <JWNagy@comcast.net>, for scheduling and owner contact information. He mentioned Gold at Little Bennett Creek near Hyattstown, Garnets, Shorl, and Beryl at Tridelphia reservoir (Low due to drought), Liberty Reservoir Copper mine, Beryl at Ben Murphy Mine, MD Mica Mine, Copper and Silver mines and Serpentine in the Kentlands, Copper mine along Seneca Creek, "Annapolis Rock" Quartz near Damascus, many small quarries in Patapsco State Forest, Sandstone quarries Near Seneca and Malachite a short distance North, Schist quarries: Alpine Quarry at Viers Mill and Twinbrook Parkway, and Ken Gar Palisades. Many of the localities are disappearing due to construction. Others are on non-accessible private land. Jeff wove in intriguing history and the research he has conducted. He appealed for specimens that could be photographed for the book. With all of Northern Virginia yet to cover it will be quite some time before it is in print. Jeff also commented on the lack of funding preventing the MD Geological Survey from making specimen sets available to the public.



Nancy Ballard remarked that in the Washington Post there was a comment regarding 2 miles down to the San Andreas fault they found Serpentine. Does that portend that Rockville will have an earthquake? She commented that she is collecting for dues, and renewal is required for the newsletter. An E mailed reminder was sent out by Wendell.

Virginia Vance mentioned that she has old National Geographic magazines she would like to donate to a good home. Anyone interested should contact her.

Nancy Shinowara commented on the National Arboretum having a touring Asian collection of rocks. She highly recommends seeing the exhibit. Chrysanthemum stones are attractive.

Wendell called attention to the USGS Open House Nov. 3, 10-5, at their Reston Headquarters.

Drawings were made for the regular and junior door prizes and the show table participant prize.

Tim Morgan is now director of the Bead Museum. Attendance is encouraged.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 pm.

Cynthia Hunter, Secretary

BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

The October 15, 2007 meeting was called to order by President Scott Braley at 7:45 pm. Board Members present: Nancy Ballard, Scott Braley, George Durland, Cynthia Hunter, Anita James, Wendell Mohr, Juan Proaño, and Joel Rosen, a quorum. Non-board members: Dave Ballard, John James, and Elmer Lantz.

There are unfilled vacancies for Officers and Committee Chairs. The Board Voted to designate itself as nominating committee. President and VP serve for 1 year but have term limits of 2 years. Elmer Lantz said that he would be willing to stand for election as VP. Contacts will be made for the President position opening. Some contacts have already been made without success. It is desirable to get younger people who have been active at meetings and field trips into leadership roles and some possible candidates were identified.

Scott said he can Co-chair the 2008 show, handling dealer contracts or things "From a distance". Juan has already taken a lead in getting a contract for the venue. Bob Irby has agreed to handle arrangements for chairs and tables, and security. He already handles the raffle, securing demonstrations, and shop equipment upkeep.) Need to confirm if Don Turner will supervise the shop. Still need to get a person to Co Chair and be in a position to be Show Chair for 2009

Jonathan Harris is willing to become Field Trip Chair. Officers and Committee Chairs are expected to attend Board meetings.

The Board discussed the roughly 2 tons of cutting rough material donated by Susan Houser. Bob Irby has part, Bob Winfield another part, and Elmer Lantz the rest. There is a mostly complete itemized listing. Bob Winfield will hold the best material from which Joel Rosen will first select some for Society door prizes, the residue of that batch will be held for Show door prizes and Show raffle. Bob Irby will retain the softer materials for Show Shop preforms. Members will be able to select a bucket full of material from the remainder without paying by visiting the homes of the 3 holders of material on a date to be determined. (Later changed, See Page 11-Ed.) The last part will be offered for sale to Dealers. Cynthia Hunter volunteered to contact dealers to determine their interest in pick-up and pricing offers. We will not ship. Could sell on EBay. Details of sale to be handled at next Board meeting. Bob Irby is coordinating with the donor. We do not appraise, only acknowledge gift and description. Donor is responsible for setting value or dollar amount for income tax purposes. Ms. Houser also donated Diamond Pacific grinding and polishing machine and Flat slab saw. Discussion as to how to dispose: The donated D-P machine will not do preforms as well as a Cabmate machine per Paul Vance. Joel investigated and found Terra Firma no longer handles the Cabmate. There is a Rock Rascal machine for \$374. It was moved and passed that Joel will check that one with Paul, and buy the less expensive one but if it is not as good we will purchase a Cabmate for about \$650. Whichever machine is bought it will reside with Heather Felsen. It was moved and passed that the donated machines be put up for silent auction. To ask Bob Irby about a minimum bid.

Society Web site bill for set up is \$1500 including training, yet to be done. Motion made to pay bill passed with one abstention. Cynthia agreed to be web master. Juan noted that web site hosting charge for two years is to be repaid to J. Harris.

Juan Proaño reported that he was to have received contract from Fairgrounds but told it would be another month for their Board to approve. No cost known yet but certain to go up. Lacking rental cost, it was moved and passed to raise the ticket prices to \$6.00 with \$1.00 off when ad or flier presented. This will allow George Durland to proceed with publicity. We have not yet written the Agricultural Center Board of Directors.

Joel Rosen requested \$1100 funding for meeting door prizes. He hopes to make purchases at the NOVA show dealers and from the Richard Hronik estate there. It is also desirable to have the prizes on hand so that they can be displayed at our March Show. Juan offered to bring specimens still at his house for juniors. Some material will be used from the Houser donation. After discussion it was moved and passed to allocate \$850 for specimens which will last to June 2009. The President found it necessary to leave at 9:25.

Discussion about Show venue: Juan reviewed rental charge at the Fairgrounds which has risen from \$2160 in 1997 to \$5070 in 2007. Stone Ridge School, used by GLMSDC, is not available at our time, we did not complete investigation of Bohrer Park building, nor did we get pricing and availability from the Germantown Soccerplex.

Discussed membership renewals or lack thereof. Wendell sent E Mail reminder about dues due.

Juan gave the Treasurer's report, reporting that we are solvent. Some uncashed checks to be dealt with.

Anita reported that Oct. 21 there is a potential field trip to Rockville Quarry, call Fred Parker. Fred was unable to reach Page Herbert re Medford trip.

Wendell noted that, because of the February EFMLS convention in Jackson MS (early), the deadline for Each One Teach One, and Rockhound of the Year is December 1, 2007. The Montgomery Area Science Fair winner has not cashed his check not has he responded to talking to the Society. Wendell noted deadlines for the *Rockhoulder* and appeals for contributed articles. EFMLS & AFMS dues are very certain to increase probably \$0.25 each.

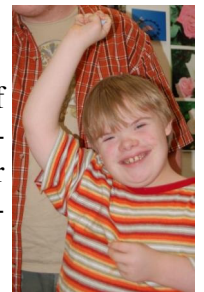
George Durland will contact Dr. Jeffrey Post about a Society donation for their collection. With high mineral prices it might be better to give a larger amount on alternate years. He will also broach having Jeff speak at one of our meetings.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:54 pm

Cynthia Hunter, Secretary

SHOW TABLE October 8, 2007 Thanks to those who bring items for sharing at the meetings

<u>Exhibitor</u>	<u>Specimen(s)</u> * = Self-collected or self made	<u>Locality</u>
Jack Busch	Novelty Rock Made by Charlotte Morrison	
Jeff Cessna	Poldervuartite, Hematite, Orange Quartz Strontianite*	South Africa Nat'l Limestone Quarry, PA
George Durland	Bustamite with Clinohedrite	Franklin NJ
Jonathan Harris	Spessartine Garnet	Rockville Quarry, MD
Chuck Hyland	Serpentine	BSA Camp Horseshoe PA
Matt Hyland	Fossil Shells	Calvert Cliffs, MD
Alex McDonald	Calcite and Ulexite	Medford Q., MD and Show (CA)
Chuck Mason	Fibrous Quartz*	Frederick Co. MD
Aiden McElravy	Moonstone Star	Not Given
Rory McElravy	Smoky Quartz, Microcline	Park Co. CO
Wendell Mohr	Microcline	Jefferson Co. CO
Andy Muir	Mariposite Willemite and Sphalerite Stilbite and Chabazite	Sierra Nevada Mtns., CA Sterling Hill NJ Vulcan Q., Manassas VA
Jeff Nagy	Almandine Garnet	NC
Pat Repik-Byrne	Opals in Matrix Gypsum Crystals Calcite Crystals Man Made Silicon Carbide Crystals	Brazil Canada Not given Not given
Joel Rosen	Kutnahorite with Willemite Mangano-Calcite with Pyrite	Sterling Hill Mine, NJ Chenshan Mine, Hunan, China
Rod Towers	Pyrite McGovernite Barite Rutilated Quartz Microscope	Peru Sterling Hill Mine, NJ Romania Minas Gerais, Brazil



OCTOBER PRIZES: Two Junior prizes this month: Matthew Hyland took home a vial of Silver flakes, and Alex McDonald won a book, *The Roadside Geology of Utah*. The Show table prize, a Barite from Cavnic Romania, was claimed by Joel Rosen. The Prize Coordinator IS eligible to win a prize! The General door prize, an Amethyst Quartz from Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada, was won by Aidan McElravy. Nice Going!

EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH: On Sep. 27th, Wendell Mohr spoke to Webelos Scout den 7 of Pack 460 about Rocks and Minerals, with a main emphasis on the Webelos Geology Badge. Invited by leader Joseph Yao, the event was at the Kensington Volunteer Fire Department, Station 5, on Connecticut Avenue. Each boy was able to complete their badge requirements according to the leader. He also spoke on fossils to a group of 19 third graders from the Friends School of Baltimore on October 28th at the request of Joan Little.

Director Tammy Duell invited our Society to make a series of presentations at the Holy Cross Hospital Medical Adult Day Care Program. Wendell Mohr Spoke on Rocks and Mineral on October 17th and Lisa Carp on Organic Gemstones on October 25th. The audience numbered about 25-30 with 5 Staff people. Several other speakers are yet to make presentations.

If you are able and willing to meet requests for speakers, in keeping with our educational objective, contact your editor.

Q: Why are mineral collectors immune to Mad Cow Disease? A: Because it only attacks the brain.

NOVEMBER MEMBER BIRTHDAYS: Eric Durland, Chuck Mason, Audrey McElravy, Holly McNeil, Michelle Michaelis, Wendell Mohr, Laurence O'Callaghan, Joseph Powers, Dan Spielman, Erich Thompsen,



Photo by W. Mohr

Your Birthstone is **Topaz** which is a silicate mineral of aluminum and fluorine with the chemical formula $\text{Al}_2\text{SiO}_4(\text{F},\text{OH})_2$. It crystallizes in the orthorhombic system with mostly prismatic crystals terminated by pyramidal and other faces, the basal pinacoid often being present. It has an easy and perfect basal cleavage so that stones have to be handled with care to avoid developing cleavage flaws. The fracture is conchoidal to uneven. Moh's hardness is 8, specific gravity is 3.4–3.6, and luster is vitreous. Pure topaz is transparent but is usually tinted by impurities; typical topaz is wine or straw-yellow but may also be white, gray, green, blue, pink, or reddish-yellow and transparent or translucent.

When heated, yellow topaz often becomes reddish-pink. The color change upon heating was first discovered by a Parisian jeweler around 1750. In particular the yellow Topaz of Brazil has been known to be treated frequently, by wrapping Topaz in Asbestos. Only stones of a brown-yellow color yield the pink; the pale yellow ones usually turn white. The pink color is stable. Irradiation turns the stone blue, ranging from a light pure color to very dark almost electric blue. A recent trend in jewelry is the manufacture of topaz specimens that display iridescent colors, by applying a thin layer of Titanium Dioxide by physical vapor deposition and sold as "mystic topaz."

Topaz is commonly associated with silicic igneous rocks of the granite and rhyolite types. It typically crystallizes in granitic pegmatites or in vapor cavities in rhyolite lava flows like those at Topaz Mountain in western Utah. It may be found with fluorite and cassiterite. It can be found in the Ural and Ilmen mountains, Afghanistan, Czech Republic, Germany, Norway, Pakistan, Italy, Sweden, Japan, Brazil, Mexico, and the U.S.

The name "topaz" is derived from the Greek *Τοπάζιος* (Topázios), which was the ancient name of St. John's Island in the Red Sea which was difficult to find and from which a yellow stone (now believed to be chrysolite: yellowish) was mined in ancient times; topaz itself (rather than *topazios*) wasn't really known about before the classical era. In the Middle Ages the name topaz was used to refer to any yellow gemstone, but now the name is only properly applied to the silicate described above.

Many modern English translations of the Bible, including the King James Version mention *topaz* in Exodus 28:17 in reference to a stone in the Hoshen: "And thou shalt set in it settings of stones, even four rows of stones: the first row shall be a sardius, a topaz, and a carbuncle: this shall be the first row." However, since these translations as *topaz* all derive from the Septuagint translation *tòpazi[òs]*, which as mentioned above referred to a yellow stone that wasn't topaz, probably chrysolite, it should be borne in mind that topaz is not meant here. The masoretic text (the Hebrew on which most modern bible translations of the Old Testament are based) has *pitdah* as the gem the stone is made from; *pitdah* is of unknown meaning, though scholars think it is related to an Assyrian word meaning *flashed*. There is a wide range of views among traditional sources about which tribe of the Israelites the stone refers to.



Yellow topaz is the traditional Nov. birthstone and the state gemstone for UT.

Largely Taken from Wikipedia

A group of terrorists burst into the conference room at the Hotel where the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies was holding its Annual Convention. More than 500 rockhounds were taken as hostages. The terrorist leader announced that, unless their demands were met, they would release one rockhound every hour.

By our very nature of being rock hounds, we get involved with moving heavy specimens and equipment around, in addition to lifting items in our day to day lives.

Prior to lifting an item it is a good idea to consider a number of things.

1. How heavy or bulky is the item to be lifted or carried?
2. How good a shape are you in and have you had any back problems in the past after lifting? Many back problems are of a cumulative type, where a repeated minor injury will flare up and become worse.
3. How much space is there around the object to be lifted and how much space is around where it is to be deposited.
4. What kind of obstacles are there along the transportation route, such as trip hazards, holes, overhangs, etc.?



If any of these questions create a concern, or if in doubt, get help or use an aid such as a dolly (Get a good looking one! – Ed.), hand truck, or even fork lift. Statistics show that 80% of back injuries occur in people between 30 and 50.

Be sure to utilize appropriate safety equipment such as safety shoes and work gloves when lifting. The use of back belts, as seen at some stores and outlets, has not been shown to prevent back injuries according to recent studies.

Prior to the lift, make sure you have adequate clearance for your hands and arms. Stand close to the load with your feet apart and toes pointed out to provide firm footing. Bend your knees, not your waist. Grip the load firmly with a “full palm grip”. Do not place your fingers under the load. Tighten your stomach muscles and then lift head and shoulders first, and then with your back straight, use the strength of your legs to slowly and smoothly push up. “Jerk-lifting” a load will multiply the stress to your lower back. Keep the load close to your body at all times with your back upright.

Never hold the load away from your body. Make sure you can see over the top of the load. If you should have to change direction with the load, move your whole body with your feet. Do not twist your body which can be especially dangerous for your back.

To raise the load above shoulder height, first lift to waist height and rest on the edge of a ledge, hip, or stand, and then shift hand positions so the load can be boosted after the knees are bent. The knees should be straightened as the object is lifted or shifted to the shoulders. If the load is to be placed on a table or shelf, first set it on the edge, and then push it far enough onto the support so it will not fall. The load should be released gradually as it is set down and then pushed into place with your hands in front.



When setting the load down, keep the back straight and upright, bending the knees. Lower the load slowly and smoothly. Don't add the weight of your body to the load.

FIELD TRIPS: No trips are currently firmly scheduled. Anita reports that there will be one more trip to Rockville Quarry, yet to be finalized, and possibly a trip after Dec. 1st to Pinesburg Quarry. Contact Field Trip Chair Anita James to inquire about any these or any other trips. Call 301 652 5527 or **NEW** E Mail <johnanitajames@verizon.net>. Reminder: If you leave a message on her answering machine be certain to leave your viable phone number and/or E Mail address so she can get back to you.

Jennifer Wingard has secured six spots for Sunday November 18th, at Aurora NC for our Society's fall fossil collecting season. It was agreed that those who got "Rained out" last time have the right of first refusal. Four people have availed themselves of this opportunity. Sooooo... we have **TWO** slots to fill. It is very important that, if you commit to going, you actually do go. No-shows deduct from our next trip's allotment of spaces so it is unfair to other Society members to not fulfill your promise to go. **YOU MUST BE A PAID UP MEMBER TO GO.** CONTACT Jennifer at <XTLRESEARCH@yahoo.com> or phone 540 832 5195 if you want to go. First Come, First Serve. See<<http://www.elasmo.com/>> and click on "Lee Creek News" for this season's finds. Drive time is about 6 hours from Rockville at legal speed limits. I-95 is always a slow go in the Northern Virginia area. If you need driving instructions and other information, contact Jen.

UPCOMING SHOWS AND SWAPS AND EVENTS

TREASURES OF THE EARTH EXHIBIT: The Bead Museum DC's "Treasures of the Earth" exhibit will run until September 13, 2008. Hours are noon to 6 pm, Tue. through Sat. The exhibit, curated by our members, Tim Morgan and Michele McMurtry, examines how humans transform Earth's raw materials into finished pieces of adornment. Each example will have at least one piece of rough and/or specimen, a finished bead or gemstone, and a finished piece of jewelry such as a necklace or pendant. Maps and pictures will accompany the exhibit. The Museum, sponsored by the Bead Society of Greater Washington, is located at 400 Seventh Street, NW, in the Jenifer Building and is Metro accessible. For further information, E Mail <info@beadmuseumdc.org>, website at <<http://www.beadmuseum.org/>>, or call 202-624-4500. Per Tim Morgan

November 10-11 46th Semi-Annual Bead Bazaar by The Bead Society of Greater Washington. Sat. 10-5, Sun. 11-5, Activity Center at Bohrer Park, 506 S. Fredrick Ave., Gaithersburg MD. Admission \$7.00.

November 10, 16th Annual Richmond G&M Society Fall Rock Swap, 9-3. Indoors at Ridge Baptist Church Mtg. Hall, 1515 E. Ridge Rd., Richmond VA. Parking in front of Hall. Swappers please label your specimens. For more information please contact: Murray Rosenberg, Swap Chairman 804 740-0019, E Mail <murrayrosenberg@cavtel.net> or Jim Doran RGMS President 804 288 8092. Use I-95 to Exit 79, to I-64 West. At Exit 181A go South on Parham Rd. 1.5 miles and turn left on East Ridge Rd. Church and Meeting Hall are about 400 ft. on right, across from Kroger's Market. Hall is at rear of parking lot on W. side of Church. To defray costs swappers are asked to donate specimen(s) for raffle and auction.

November 10 Whale Tales: Global Diversification of Whales as Seen in the Fossil Record *Naturalist Center, 1:00 – 2:30 pm.* About 50 million years ago, a group of land-living mammals began an improbable journey to become fully aquatic whales. Dr. Mark D. Uhen will discuss new fossils that shed light on this transition, as well as the origin of echolocation in toothed whales about 35 million years ago. Part of the Naturalist Center Lecture Series, free and open to the public. Ages 11 & up. The Naturalist Center is located at 741 Miller Drive, Suite G-2, Leesburg, VA 20175. Questions? Call (703) 779-9712.

November 17-18, 16th Annual Gem, Mineral, & Fossil Show of the Northern VA Mineral Club. George Mason University, Fairfax VA. Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4. Adults \$4.00, Seniors 65+ \$2.00, Teens 13-17 \$2.00, 12 and under free. Silent auction Sun. 2 PM.

November 30, Washington Philosophical Society lecture open to the public, free, no reservations required. Michael P. Ryan of the USGS will talk on Plate Tectonics and World Volcanism at 8:15 pm. at the John Wesley Powell Auditorium adjacent to the Cosmos Club, 2170 Florida Ave. NW, Washington. Entrance through Club gate, 1st right hand entrance on Florida Ave, N. of intersection with Massachusetts Avenue NW. Auditorium entrance is to left of gate.

Per Robert Clemenzi

December 1, 8, 15 Clearwater Nature Center is having classes. Cabochon Cutting, Dec. 1st 9-3. \$30 residents of PG and Montgomery Counties, \$36 others. Ages 18 & up. Bring safety goggles and protective apron.

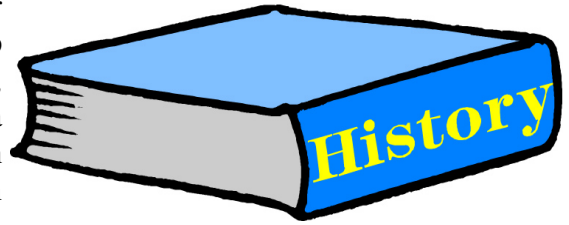
Precious Metal Clay (Silver) , Dec. 8th. 10-4:30. \$40 residents of PG and Montgomery Counties, \$48 others. Ages 16 & up. Approximately \$20 material fee depending on market price of silver.

Bead Weaving, Dec. 15th 10-4:30. (No seed beads) \$40 residents of PG and Montgomery Counties, \$48 others. Ages 16 & up. \$12 material fee

Ongoing for 8-12 months The 40 minute 3D IMAX Movie, Sea Monsters, is a prehistoric adventure weaving together a compelling story about an ancient and mysterious ocean world containing some of the most awe-inspiring creatures of all time. The film follows a curious dolichorhynchops as she travels through the most dangerous oceans in history (Cretaceous), encountering long-necked plesiosaurs, great giant turtles, enormous fish, fierce sharks, and the most dangerous sea monster of all, the mosasaur. A National Geographic Society film, with ultra high resolution computer generated graphics and pictures of modern day fossil dig sites. At National Museum of Natural History's Johnson IMAX theater. Tickets \$8.50 adults, \$7.50 Seniors, \$6.50 Members, \$7.00 youth. Information 202 633 4629. Buy tickets online at <<http://www.si.edu/imax/>>.

HISTORY: Contributed by Jack Busch

Goodbye 1990, Hello 1991---One of the Society's actions for 1990 was the selection of scholarship winners. The Scholarship Committee, composed of Wendell Mohr (Chair), Dave Ballard, Larry Harrison, Ginger Posthumus, Juan Proaño, and Virginia Vance, agreed to award four scholarships. The first, the Dian Beckman Award, went to Mirta Armas, a senior at George Mason University, who expected to receive a BS in Geology and a BA in Spanish History. The second award recipient was Melissa Brock, a senior at Virginia Tech, who had been award winner in 1989 and continued to be an outstanding student. Philip Piccoli, a PhD candidate at the University of MD who already had earned BA's in Geology and Biology, and an MS in Geology and Planetary Science, was awarded the third scholarship. The final award went to George Hecht, son of member Jerry and Annabel Hecht and a PhD candidate at the University of Kansas, Lawrence.



As per custom, December's meeting was our annual holiday party, featuring all manner of high and occasional low calorie delights. Mother Nature or Jupiter Pluvius ("Sender of rain" - Ed.) or whoever else may be responsible for precipitation took the day off, thus the only visible snow was depicted in an EFLMS slide program on Snow Crystals that was the non-edible portion of the night's program

And so ended another year in the history of GLMSMC and began great the 20th century's palindrome year of 1991. Did you know that we already have passed the one of the 21st century?

The weather gods looked somewhat kindly on us for they permitted our January 1991 meeting to be held as scheduled. However, a larger group, which also used the Herbert Hoover Middle School's cafeteria as a meeting place had been snowed out the previous week, so they were given the use of the school cafeteria on our night, and we were relegated to the school's library for our meeting. Luckily, our group was able to fit into the latter. Once the meeting began Juan Proaño turned over the gavel to incoming President Jack Nelson. This was a special gavel, for Juan had made it himself and had donated it to the Society.

The evening's program was a Federation slide show entitled "Metamorphism-Wings from the Stone" No, it wasn't about flying rocks but rather about moths and butterflies designed from minerals and rocks such as agate, flint, sandstone, etc. These then were attached to pieces of driftwood in such a manner that they appeared to be in flight. The program had been presented by new VP Lou Williams who also showed what tools are needed in making the stony lepidoptera.

February's meeting opened with a general discussion about the upcoming show. During the critique of the 1990 show a decision had been made to discontinue the practice of having the show open on Friday with admission limited to classes of school kids. This had meant that exhibits had to be set up on Thursdays. In recent years such attendance had become smaller, to the point that the early opening no longer was considered to be warranted, thus the practice would be discontinued as of 1991, and set-up day would be changed to Friday.

The evening's program was presented by guest speaker Rosa Greber who spoke about Pewter and Silversmithing. She explained the differences between pewter and silver, and demonstrated the techniques and materials used to form objects such as small boxes and cups. (As an aside, pewter is an alloy of metals, primarily tin, together with any or all of lead, antimony, copper, Etc., and was used to make eating utensils in the 17th and 18th centuries. No one at the time knew of lead poisoning.)

There were two guests at February's meeting, one of whom was a fellow named Bob Irby. Although there was no mention of him being voted in as a member, it must have happened as he's been around ever since. More of 1991's doings next time. Have an enjoyable Thanksgiving!

EFMLS CONVENTION & SHOW:

My wife, Jo Ann, and I, as Delegate, attended the event in Newark NY. Graciously hosted by The Wayne County Gem & Mineral Club, it was held in Newark NY, a small town in an agricultural belt of NY, famous for apples. What was to be peak fall colors fell short due to the unseasonably warm and dry weather this year.



The kickoff event was the Cracker Barrel session on Fri. afternoon, Oct. 5th at the host hotel, the Quality Inn. These sessions are a valuable free-for-all discussion of problems, concerns, and advice. Dr. Robert Carlson, Los Alamos NM, AFMS President, was present at all events. Too many items to cover, so I will pick a few. The Syracuse Club asked for advice on creating a permanent workshop and was given suggestions. The need for increased dues, both AFMS and EFMLS was discussed. The last EFMLS increase was in 1995. Number of members is down and costs are up. Postage is up 42%. EFMLS now collects \$1.25 per member including \$0.50 for AFMS. Budget income is 5% from annual auction, 14% from interest, and 80% from dues so dues need to be changed. A bylaws change must be made and at least 60 days notice given so they can be changed at the early-in-the-year convention in Jackson MS in 4 months. Many ways proposed to increase efficiency to reduce expenses but most have good reasons why not to do. The relationship with the Northeast Field Trip Alliance group that sponsors joint field trips was discussed. Several years ago EFMLS agreed recognize them and to print articles submitted. Only one was forwarded. There is a need to publicize the purpose, safety rules, problem cases, how to become a member, and how clubs can participate. It was stated that NEFTA is working. See web site at <<http://www.nefta.us>>. Merrill Dickinson, Supplies Chair, brought his AFMS and EFMLS items and information sheets. Richard Harrison, Program Chair, noted that Ken Tudor will take that responsibility, and he spoke of the need to go digital.

I emphasized the AFMS Commemorative Stamp project with newly revised material and a sheet for kids.

The next event was the EFMLS 57th Annual meeting on Fri. evening, Oct. 5th. Show Chairman, Andrea Cords, was recognized and thanked. She made announcements including field trips to a Selenite locality at Fayetteville and Quartz (Herkimer Diamond) locality. Most Officer and Committee reports were pre-printed for use at the meeting. Highlights: 2 of 128 Clubs were lost during the year and member number decline. A new Region IV VP (Our region) was elected: Dee Tinsley, Amherst VA, of G&M Soc. of Lynchburg replacing Bill Gilbert who moved to Spain. There are concerns that club members do not see Federation material. Anyone can subscribe for a mailed copy of the Newsletter or see <<http://www.amfed.org/efmls/>>. Only 1 entry was submitted for the All-American award. Only 7 Rockhound of the Year Recognitions were made. (None submitted from GLMSMC) Only 8 entries for the Each One Teach One Award. Only 31 clubs made use of the Program Library. Next Wild Acres session will be April 18-24, 2008, fall date not yet set. The Nominating Committee placed in nomination the names of Ellery Borow for President, Mary Bateman for 1st VP, Loren Patterson for 2nd VP, Lou Buddell for Treasurer, Carolyn Weinberger for Editor, Barbara Fenstermaker and Esther Dunn for a 3 year term on the Nominating Committee. They were elected. The proposed budget passed without controversy. There was a vote of thanks to the host club. The Show was dedicated to Jim and Marion Wheaton, Founders. Meeting adjourned after 1 1/2 hours.

The 13th Annual Show of the Wayne County G&M Club was held at the St. Michael's School on Sat. and Sun. There were 12 Dealers, and 13 Exhibit cases, of which 7 were competitive. There was a Children's

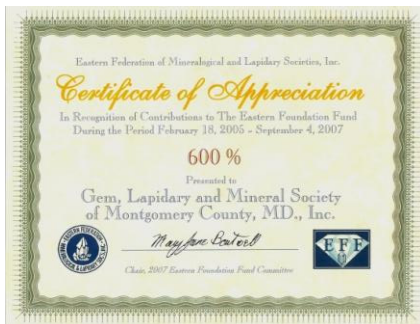


program, a guest speaker, Chuck Hiler, talking about minerals of the Walworth and Penfield NY quarries, a glass bead worker demonstration, and several activities for children. In the afternoon the EFMLS auction took place with spirited bidding and lots of fun.

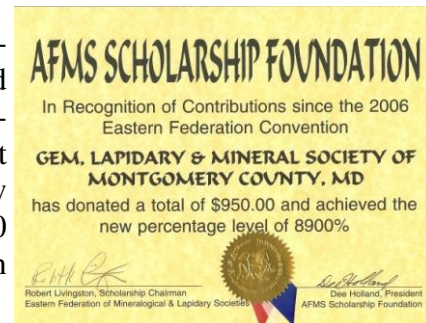


The Awards Banquet Saturday evening featured a good meal and interesting awards and speaker. Darryl Powell gave a hard hitting motivational presentation on stimulating interest of children. He referred to the program by Jim Brace-Thompson of the AFMS who has a free patch program with half a dozen new ones. The AFMS Scholarship presentation and Eastern Foundation Fund presentations made us proud when GLMSMC was awarded certificates for having the 2nd highest participation in both categories to date.

Continued on Page 10

EFMLS CONVENTION & SHOW: (Continued from Page 9)

Dr. Peter J. Heaney was the AFMS Scholarship honoree. He received a Plaque and chooses two students who receive scholarship money. He selected Emily Freeman at the Univ. of WI, Madison, and Andrew Wall at Penn. State Univ. Each gets \$2000 per year for two years. Each Federation gets the same funding.



The All-American award went to the Pennsylvania Earth Sciences Association of Mohrsville PA. (I should live there!)

Each One Teach One awards included our Lois Ritchie. See Page 11.

“M” Awards for increasing “M”embership went to Saco Valley G&M Club in NH for small clubs (under 50 members). The Penobscot Mineral and Lapidary Club in Bangor ME won For large clubs.

Six of the seven competitive Exhibits received awards and 4 were beginners. Barbara Sky, who many of you know, got a trophy for her Master’s Class entry.

Dr. Peter Heaney, Scholarship winner, was the banquet speaker and gave yet another interesting story about the Hope Diamond and other diamonds tested under UV and examining both fluorescence spectral color and length of phosphorescence time.

The top award of the Federation is the Citation Award which went to past President Robert Livingstone of Syracuse who has a long history of leadership and service to the Federation.

Officers were installed by AFMS President Robert Carlson.

Left to Right, Carolyn Weinberger, Lou Budell, Loren Patterson, Mary Bateman, Ellery Borow, and AFMS President Dr. Robert Carlson Photo by W. Mohr



After awarding prizes to winners of the raffle drawing to benefit Eastern Federation Fund, President Fran Sick turned the gavel over to Ellery Borow in a humorous ceremony.

The Editor’s Breakfast took place on Sunday morning. After dining, awards were given in the Contest for Editor’s. In the absence of the Chair, Bill Gilbert, who moved to Spain, Mary Bateman graciously took over the ceremony. Awards were made for Small Bulletins, Large Bulletins, New Editor, Original Educational Articles, Original Educational Articles—Advanced, Original Non-Technical Articles, Written Features, Drawn Features—Junior, Drawn Features—Adult, Junior Articles, and Poetry. I was thrilled to have received the First Place Award for New Editors. Rick Smith, Editor of *The Rostrum* bulletin of the Maryland Geological Society, took the trophy in that class. I will not list all of the awards since the booklet published has 15 pages of awards, but will say that member Gerald Elgert won a 3rd place for his Original Educational Article titled *The Middle Devonian in Western NY* and an 8th place for *The VA Solite Quarry, Late Triassic* both published in *The Rostrum*. Member Inga Wells got an honorable mention for her Original Non-Technical article *We Teach Each Other* in the *Shin Skinner News*, of the Che Hanna R&M Club. Member Georgia Olmstead received an honorable mention for *Choose a Birthstone for November, Topaz or Citrine* written for the *Mineral Minutes* of the MSDC, and another honorable mention for *A Big Surprise for Jennie and Fred* written for the *Mineral Newsletter* of the Nova Club. I received Two 6th place awards for Written Features with *Mineral/Fossil Collecting Master* and a web site article, and a 9th Place for a different web site article. You could be a winner in one of the competitive classes. Give it a try and supply something to your editor for publication. The program ended at 9:45 am to allow those who wanted to go on a field trip.

The Convention and Show were a success. You might want to go to the next one in February in Jackson Mississippi. (When asked how to spell Mississippi, my wife said, the river or the state?) By Wendell Mohr

SUSAN HOUSER DONATION MATERIAL: After reserving some cutting rough for shop preforms, some for door prizes, both at meetings and the show, and some for raffle at the show, the remainder has all been moved to Elmer Lantz's home. Paid up Society members may **GET A BUCKETFUL OF CABOCHON CUTTING ROUGH FREE**, on **November 10th** from 10 am to 2 pm. **THIS IS BEFORE REGULAR MEETING.** Easy access from I-495. Take the exit North for US 29. Take the first left (Before University Blvd.) at Lanark Way to Hereford Place. 10128 Hereford Place Silver Spring, is on the left. Come rain or shine! Bring your own bucket.



Elmer needs some sawhorses on which to put sheet plywood, to be delivered to him before the 10th. He also needs some help (2 or 3 volunteers, hopefully they will have young strong backs) to get the stuff ready starting at 9 am by moving material out of his shed and out from under his porch. Contact Elmer directly at 301 593 0369 or E Mail <elantz521@verizon.net>. To document the donation we need photos, preferably digital, of each bucket of stuff after moved out for display, before the sale. (Bob Irby has already done that which he picked up). You can fill one or more needs. Volunteers contact Elmer directly. He will then know who will help and, if last minute cancellation, he will have the names of possible additional backup people and could contact them.



Nearly TWO TONS of material to choose from: Australian Chrysoprase matrix, Black Zebra Agate, Black & White Zebra Agate, Bulls Eye Jasper, Dendritic Agate, Cathedral Agate, Chrysocolla, Copper (Blue Color) stones with green color matrix, Crazy Lace Agate, Dendritic Jasper, Fancy Jasper, Jellow Jasper, Kingsley Brazilian Rainforest Jasper, Kingsley Montana Agate, Kingsley Red River/Rainforest Jasper matrix, Lavic Jasper, Mixed Agate, & Spotted stones, Mixed Chrysocolla and Malachite Cut Slabs, Moonstone rough matrix, Moss Agate, Needles Pear Agate, Nephrite Jade Blocks, NV Rhodonite, Piante Agate, Plume Agate, Rio Grand Agate, Rio Grand TX Moss Agate, Rhodonite, Royal Savanna Jasper, Sugilite, Tapestry Jasper, Texas Apache, Texas Pink Soapstone, Toole Onyx, Verdite matrix

LOIS RITCHIE EACH ONE TEACH ONE NOMINATION: Lois was nominated in 2006 but the paperwork was lost in the process. Re-submitted, **she won** a 4th place award in the EFMLS. Lois taught bead making at our club shows for a number of years and then began teaching cabochon creating and finishing in our club show workshop. For several years, Lois was in charge of our club's annual cabochon forming and polishing training workshop. This meant that she performed and directed the following tasks: preparing for the event, setting up the equipment, maintaining the equipment, buying supplies (including procuring and making the cabochon preforms), staffing the shop, and training helpers in the shop.

Lois has been the general manager of the workshop for the past several years and has run the workshop from beginning to end and has trained many of our members to be helpers in the workshop. She has also prepared a workshop manual which documents the entire operation of the workshop from setup to take-down. Prior to 2004, Lois worked in and helped manage the workshop for several years. Prior to that, she taught in our shop, starting about 1997. Lois has taught in, or managed our show workshop for at least 10 years.



The number of people Lois has helped teach cabochon making can only be estimated. For example, the number of people who polished a cabochon at our 2006 show was 232. These were mostly kids and this is one of the most thrilling things kids can do at our shows. The Curator-in-Charge of the Gem & Mineral Collection at the Smithsonian, Dr. Jeffrey Post, mentioned to me that his daughter could not wait 'til she was tall enough to use our shop and in 2006 she was.

Over the years, Lois has probably been involved with teaching around 2000, mostly kids, the art of cabochon polishing. This is one of the events at our show the kids remember and come back for and is one of our main demonstrations. Lois has certainly been an asset to our shows and we believe is worthy of being honored with an Each One Teach One Award.

Thanks, Lois!

Nomination written by George Durland

Here's one for the sand collectors:

Q. Where did the chicken go on her vacation?

A. Sandy Eggo.

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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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