

THE ROCKHOUNDER



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 October 8th** 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 has not been confirmed as of this writing. You can be certain that a program of interest will be presented so come and be surprised.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS will meet on October 15th 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

LUPULOFF, Harry New E Mail address: hlupuloff@comcast.net

New Members:

DEHMER, Joe, 9912 Doubletree Court, Potomac MD 20854-2136, jdehmer@nsf.gov, 301 424 1585

ELGERT, Gerald, 9910 Lorain Ave., Silver Spring MD 20901-2231, ISAIH.423@juno.com, 301 681 5720



DUES Our By-laws state “Any member in arrears as of Oct. 15th shall forfeit membership”. If you have not paid this will be the last Rockhounder you will receive. A red star on the address label of mailed newsletters indicates non-payment (As of Oct. 1st). Notification will be made to those in arrears getting newsletters by E Mail only. If not already done, pay for your Single membership at \$15 per year, or Family membership (Up to 2 adults and children under 18 years of age) at \$20 per year at the October meeting or send to: Membership Chairperson Nancy Ballard, 16812 Baederwood Lane, Derwood MD 20855-2011, 301 926 7374. She will mail your membership card(s) back to you if you send her a self addressed stamped envelope otherwise you may pickup your card(s) at the next regular meeting. Club membership is a requirement for attending most Society field trips. We need you and want you back!

GOOD NEWS! We now have a Show date established for 2008: March 15th and 16th. Start planning now for your exhibit and plan to help one or more days at the show. Lots of volunteer time is needed for a successful show. Think now about where you will pitch in to help.

URGENT NEED A Show Chairman is desperately needed. Scott Braley has agreed to handle dealer sign ups. The Venue is established. Chairman is required for getting security, tables and chairs, and oversight. **CAN YOU DO IT?**

IN THIS ISSUE	
Meeting Announcements, Roster Changes, Dues, Show date, Urgent Need, Rockhounder Deadline1
Reg. and Board Meeting Notes, Editor’s Three Wishes2
Show Table, Door Prizes, Silent Auction, Denver G&M Show3
Field Trips, AFMS Dues, AFMS Purpose, Request for agate slicing4
Birthdays, Opal Birthstone, Diamonds in the News5
Safety6
Shows, Swaps, Events7
History, Shows, Swaps, Events8
Web Sites, USGS Open House9

DEADLINE for the November 2007 Rockhounder is **Oct. 29th.**

REGULAR MEETING NOTES In the absence of Minutes from the secretary, these are notes by your editor of the September 10, 2007 meeting. The meeting was called to order by President Braley at 7:48 pm, with about 36 attendees. Scott reminded that dues are due. He stated the need for a show chairman, saying that he can handle the dealers portion. He solicited for someone to become Field Trip Chair, and for 2008 Officers. Robert Clemenzi was a visitor. Scott recognized Joseph Dehmer and Gerald Elgret, visitors who desire to become members. It was moved and seconded that they be accepted into membership and it passed unanimously. Scott mentioned the Auction of Norman Root material.

Wendell Mohr explained the silent auction rules and, as well, announced the sale of opal by Susan Staff, and a number of events in the area. He made a request for someone to cut an agate for a person in Monrovia MD who enquired, for which there was no response. Anita James discussed field trips to the Vulcan Quarry in Manassas VA on September 15th and Meckley's Quarry on Sept 23.

The issue of Society representation at the EFMLS Meeting in Newark NY was brought up by Scott. We are eligible for two votes, a director and a delegate. Scott said that he would be unable to go. He proposed Wendell Mohr as delegate which was approved by the members in attendance. We will have no alternate director or alternate delegate. Scott mentioned that the new website is up in rudimentary form and additional work is yet to be done. (The web site is at <<http://www.glmsmc.com>>).

David MacLean brought to attention the Annual Paul Desautels Memorial Micromount Symposium, October 12, 13, 14, at the MHA Conference Center, Elkridge MD.

Harry Lupuloff brought a number of recorded audio visual programs and the group had a choice narrowed down to two, one on Minerals of Morocco one on Gemstones of America. The latter was selected and proved to be an interesting one hour presentation hosted by Ephraim Zimbalist Jr. It featured Bob Jones, Editor of Rock & Gem Magazine, John White, the then Curator of the Gem & Mineral Collection at the National Museum of Natural History, and John Sinkankas, now deceased, an expert on both minerals and gemstone cutting. The coverage included Sunstones from OR, Red Beryl from the Harris Mine in UT, Tourmalines from Paris ME, Himalaya Mine Pegmatite minerals from the San Diego CA area, Sapphires from the Eldorado Bar Mine in MT, The Opals of the Bonanza Mine in Virgin Valley NV, Peridot from the San Carlos Apache Reservation in AZ, and Turquoise from the Sleeping Beauty Mine in AZ. The presentation went on to cover the cutting and polishing of the gemstones. Though somewhat dated, it still proved its ability to hold the interest of members.

Fine prizes were awarded by drawing, and the Show Table explanations followed (See Page 3). The Silent Auction was concluded, and the Meeting was closed at 9:55 pm. By Wendell C. Mohr

BOARD MEETING MINUTES: Minutes were not received. Member Al Shupe attended. Your Editor, who was on vacation, was told that Nancy Ballard, Scott Braley, Juan Proaño, and Joel Rosen were the only Board members in attendance so that there was not a quorum. Therefore no official action could be completed. Juan Proaño reported that we are assured that we have the Montgomery County Fairgrounds for our Show on March 15 & 16, 2008. A contract is expected in a couple of weeks when we will learn the cost. Juan also reviewed the status of the treasury, which is in good shape. Board members will be polled to get approval of the purchase of a Cab mate machine for about \$650. Juan will send a letter of thanks to Helen Root for her donation for the silent auction with the amount realized and proper verbiage. Discussion took place about the large number of vacancies on the board which need to be filled either by election or appointment. Hopefully some of the newer younger people will assume some leadership roles. The nominating committee needs to become active very soon.

Your Editor's Three wishes:

1. That members and officers abide by the deadline for the newsletter.
2. That members submit articles to *The Rockhounder* for publication. Share with others. Write about your own trips, Society field trips, or other items of general interest to the Society members. The Editor will edit. Articles of a page or less are ideal. Start writing at the sound of the bell!
3. That you all enjoy *The Rockhounder*. Don't be afraid to express your opinion about the newsletter.

SHOW TABLE September 10, 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>
Scott Braley	Smoky Quartz*	GE Pollucite Mine, Buckfield, ME
Mark Dahlman	Willemite*	Franklin NJ
	Fluoborite in Marble	NJ?
Alexandra Kindahl	“Green Party” Malachite, Unakite, Onyx, Lemon Chrysoprase, Green Calcite, Moss Agate, Adventurine	} Not given
Eric Kindahl	Unakite Cabochon*	
David Maclean	Copper, Microcline	Syria VA
Chuck Mason	Agatized Wood*	Greenland MI
Aiden McElravy	Collection	WY
Rory McElravy	Geode	Not given
Wendell Mohr	Canadian \$4 Dinosaur Commemorative Coin	Mexico
George Reimherr	Yellow Muscovite	Canada Mint
Owen Powers	“Model Acer”	Itinga, Minas Gerais, Brazil
Juan Proaño	Sodalite	USA
Joel Rosen	Calcite	Cuzco (?), Peru
Alf Shupe	Various	Cerro de Pasco, Peru
Rod Towers	Microscope and Specimens	Various from NC Trip

SEPTEMBER PRIZES: For the Junior prize, Alexandra Kindahl won a specimen of Sphalerite, Quartz, and Pyrite from Peru. Fortunate Alex Kindahl (Trying to match Rory McElravy’s luck?) also took home the Show table prize, a Rhodochrosite from Huanco, Peru. Chuck Hyland claimed the General door prize, a Rutilated (Brutilated?) Quartz from Ibitaria, Bahai, Brazil.



SILENT AUCTION The auction of material donated by Helen Root consisting of material owned and used by Norman Root proved to be a spirited event. Everything sold and the Society benefitted in the amount of \$508. Many thanks to the generosity of Helen. Norman would be happy to know that everything will be put to good use by those participating.

DENVER GEM & MINERAL SHOW Your Editor greeted longtime friend and former member, Fred Schaefermeyer and his friend, Muriel Frink, attending the show on September 15th. They are leading an active life, having made a boat trip in the sheltered inside passage of Alaska. They attended the AFMS Convention and Show at Roswell NM where Fred stood in for Carolyn Weinberger who was restricted to home during Steve’s recovery. They looked forward to a trip to Seattle where Fred’s Grandchild was to be married. More power to Ya!



Another “gem” seen at the show was Charlotte Morrison, a life member of our Society. She is also active, though requiring Oxygen and now using a wheelchair. Despite dealing with those issues, she continues to play an active role with the Flatirons Mineral Club in Boulder CO, one of the 10 clubs who are responsible for putting together the Denver show. There she was, at her club’s table, answering questions and promoting the hobby. She proudly announces that she is now 85 years young. What a great volunteer! The Show is one of the premier shows in the U.S. and attracts wonderful exhibits and speakers without being overwhelming.

FIELD TRIPS: No trips are currently scheduled. Contact Field Trip Chair Anita James to inquire about any last minute trips at 301 652 5527 or E Mail <johnjames04@comcast.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.



INCREASED AMERICAN FEDERATION DUES COMING Per Fran Sick, EFMLS President: Of course, the convention (AFMS at Roswell NM-Ed.) was not all fun and games. It's main purpose is to conduct the business of the American Federation. The annual meeting minutes will be published but, at the request of AFMS President-Elect, Shirley Leeson, there is one item of business I must bring to your attention. As usual, one of the most important items of business was the presentation of the annual budget. During discussion it became abundantly clear that a dues increase is needed. The AFMS budget is a deficit budget, and it is only through the generosity of people who do not ask for reimbursement of expenses, that the expenditures do not exceed income at the end of each year. A proposal was made at the June 6 meeting to increase AFMS dues. However, Shirley asked that this not be voted on until Regional Directors could prepare their individual Federations. It does appear probable that a dues increase will be voted on in 2008 which, if passed, will necessitate an increase in EFMLS dues. Member clubs may also have to enact changes. I hope having advance warning will help our clubs and the Eastern Federation be better prepared.



What is the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS)?

The AFMS, formed in 1947 as a not for profit corporation, serves as an umbrella organization to the seven regional Federations covering all 50 States. The Regional Federations are California, Eastern, Midwest, Northwest, Rocky Mountain, South Central and Southeast. Through the auspices of AFMS hundreds of gem and mineral clubs and thousands of their individual members, youth and adults, enjoy participating in national programs that promote popular interest, involvement, and education in the various earth science hobbies including Geology, Mineralogy, Paleontology, Lapidary and other related subjects.

AFMS maintains a website (<<http://www.amfed.org/>> Ed.) and issues a monthly newsletter which is disseminated to each of the clubs through the seven Regions. AFMS also:

1. Awards competitive display trophies based upon procedures established by a Uniform Rules Committee.
2. Sponsors a Program Competition for individuals to develop new slide, video and computer disc programs regarding some phase of our hobby, with the winning presentations being disseminated to each of the seven Regional Federations for their lending library.
3. Promotes the All American Club Program to encourage clubs to reach their goals of demonstrated quality in club bulletins, programs, service to members, to community, to neighboring clubs and to their Federation.
4. Maintains a program to honor bulletin editors for achieving excellence in club publications and to individual club members for articles they write for their newsletter.
5. Promotes an emphasis on youth groups through a program called Future Rockhounds of America.
6. Maintains a scholarship program. AFMS is funded by dues from the Regional Federations based on club membership, income from an annual show, and contributions from clubs and individuals.

The Regional Federations are not limited by the authority of AFMS, but are free to conduct their own programs and define their own goals. The AFMS is, rather, an alliance of seven Federations. The work of AFMS is performed through committees.

The EFMLS is represented at AFMS by the current President. Via "Breccia" of Santa Clara G&M Society

REQUEST FOR AGATE SLICING Tom Wilkes, 301 865 8059, 12119 Merricks Court, Monrovia MD, <TBWone@comcast.net>, has an agate nodule about 1 1/2 X 2 X 1 3/4 inches he would like to have sliced by diamond saw to yield the two slabs from the middle. Can you volunteer to help him out? If so contact him directly and let your editor know.



OCTOBER MEMBER BIRTHDAYS: Kenneth Carter, Thomas Caton, Caroline Culberson, Andy Dietz, Jonathan Ertman, Stephanie Hald, Charles M. P. Hyland, Charles J. Hyland, Ross Koby, Sue Krug, John Kuehn, Aidan McElravy, Annie Shaw, Jim Michaelis, Leslie Porter, Louis Van Rafelghem, Therese Van Rafelghem, Barbara Wuerstlin.

The October birthstone is Opal. The name “opal” comes from the Sanskrit word “upala,” as well as the Latin “opalus,” meaning “precious stone.” Characteristics: Hardness of opal is 5-6, luster is glassy to resinous. It is transparent to translucent, and often highly fluorescent. Opal is an hydrous silica composed of submicroscopic silica spheres held together by more silica and water. It is a soft stone, highly sensitive to changes in heat and pressure. This mineral contains varying amounts of water within it. When water evaporates out of an opal, the stone appears slightly smaller and the stress of evaporation creates cracks on it. Opals are formed in near-surface volcanic rocks, in cavities and cracks. In sedimentary volcanic ash rock, percolating water in the ground dissolves silica that eventually precipitates to form the opal, often becoming the replacement material for fossils whose original material had dissolved away. Opals are famous for their “fire,” or “play of colors” many stones flash the colors of the rainbow when moved, due to the interference of light on small cracks and varying alignments of the micro-spheres. Opal’s characteristic colors are due to impurities within the individual stones. The milky or pearly appearance of some opals are due to inclusions of tiny gas bubbles. Yellows and reds are the result of iron oxides. The spectacular Australian black opals which sometimes flash green, blue and red get their color from magnesium oxides and organic carbon inclusions.



Opal replacing Belmnites Photo W. Mohr

Australia is the principal source of opals. Fire opals were first mined in Mexico, and continue to be produced today. In the United States, brilliant fire opals are also found in Arizona and Nevada. Other commercial sources of opal are Brazil, Honduras, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Japan and Ireland.

To ancient Romans, the opal was a symbol of love and hope. Orientals called it the “anchor of hope.” - It was believed to make its wearer invisible, hence the opal was the talisman of thieves and spies. Modern spiritualists declare that opal promotes psychic stability and the capacity to share.



References:
 Schumann, Walter, Handbook of Rocks, Minerals & Gemstones, Harper Collins Publishers and Houghton Mifflin Company, New York, NY, 1993.
 Mella, Dorothee L., Stone Power, Warner Book, Inc. Albuquerque, NM. 1986.
 Pough, Dr. Frederick H., Rocks and Minerals. Peterson Field Guide Series, Houghton-Mifflin Co., New York. 1998.
 <www.earthsky.com/Features/Articles/birthstones10.html>
 by Thomas Bourne, Shin-Skinner News, Oct. 2005 Via Gem Cutters News, Oct.2006

DIAMONDS ARE A GIRL’S BEST.....

The New York Times recently carried two articles about diamonds: In one they told of some German university scientists who found hair-thin diamond crystals included in zircon (First reported in *Nature Magazine*). Not large, to be sure, but an unusual find in light of the very old age of the zircons from the Jack Hills in Western Australia, 4.25 billion years old or so. These are the oldest terrestrial diamonds ever found. The earth is estimated to be 4.5 Billion years old. The find opens up all kinds of controversial discussions about the formation of the earth and the subsequent puzzle about the formation of the crust. The other article reported a 7,000 carat diamond find in South Africa. Twice the size of the Cullinan, formerly the largest ever found. How 'bout that, ladies?



Q. What kind of ring does a rabbit give to his girlfriend? A. 14 carrot ring.

SAFETY FIRST - SAFETY RULES FOR FIELD TRIPS

by Bill Klose, EFMLS Safety Chair

Field trip season is upon us, so we need to pause and review appropriate safety rules. Field trip leaders need to review these rules before every field trip.

1. Never go on a field trip alone. Have someone along who can help or summon help if necessary. Make sure someone knows where you have gone and when you will return. Carry a cell phone with spare batteries to expedite communications. Call someone if you are going to change your routine or are going to be late. Should you leave a field trip early, inform the field trip leader.
2. Keep children in sight or within talking distance at all times. A child could not only become lost, but could encounter a snake, scorpion, etc., or have an accident.
3. Do not collect directly above or below another person or below unstable rock piles, cliff walls, or overhangs where there may be danger of falling rock.
4. Park so that all vehicles can get out. Do not block the roadway. Do not drive vehicles across fields to avoid property damage, setting grass fires with exhaust systems, or damage to your vehicle. Do not drive or walk on newly planted or cultivated fields without permission.
5. Have your vehicle in proper working order with appropriate emergency equipment and supplies.
6. Make sure all fires are completely out and wet down the ashes with water. Stir to make sure there are no buried embers and smother them completely with dirt. Adhere to local fire regulations and warnings.
7. Break all matches and shred all cigarettes before discarding, and be careful where they are disposed. Take them with you rather than leaving them as litter.
8. Do not throw rocks or engage in "horse play" and do not allow children do so.
9. Do not over exert or stay in the direct sunlight or heat too long. Take a rest in the shade from time to time and drink plenty of electrolyte replacing fluids such as sports drinks. Properly wear appropriate safety equipment, sunscreen, and clothing.
10. Avoid old mine tunnels. Never go into a mine alone. Carry a flashlight and a candle. Carbon dioxide or other gases, such as methane, may be present. There may even be a lack of Oxygen. Mines are also havens for snakes, scorpions, spiders, rodents and their feces which can carry disease. Mines may also have uncovered shafts and pits. Also be extremely cautious around abandoned buildings. You may stumble into old deep wells or cesspools not properly covered.
11. Respect property rights and signs. Obtain permission to enter property if owned by private individuals or corporations. Attend Company Safety Briefings required by MOSHA and sign releases. Pay attention to and practice Company safety policies. Adhere to government regulations and restrictions if collecting on Public Lands or Parks. Pay any collecting fees required and do not exceed collecting limits if they exist.
12. Inquire if there are any dangerous animals in the fields. Close all gates you open.
13. Refill any holes you dig so people or animals will not fall in. Do not dump dirt or other debris into streams.
14. Respect another's diggings. If a person has left for lunch or for any reason with the intent to return and has a pick, coat, or definite marker, find another place.
15. Leave any place in good condition. Don't leave papers, cans, etc., lying around to mar the beauty of the place, and to tell others you have been there. Take your litter with you, do not bury it.
16. Never eat wild berries or anything else unless you are absolutely sure they are safe. Carry bottled water and do not drink from streams or wells that have not been recently tested.
17. Be able to recognize Poison Ivy, Poison Oak, etc. Should there be any doubt, don't touch.
18. Always be alert for snakes, scorpions, ticks, spiders, rodent infestations, etc. Be very cautious where you place your feet and hands.
19. Bring and properly use appropriate well maintained and inspected tools. Don't expect others to provide tools for you.
20. Use proper lifting and carrying techniques to bring home your finds. Do not overload your vehicle.

Many of these safety rules are covered in greater detail in the AFMS Safety Manual and on the AFMS web site. Have a safe field trip season.



UPCOMING SHOWS & SWAPS & EVENTS:

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.**

October 12, Chesapeake Gem & Mineral Society Auction. Friday only, viewing 7:00, Auction 7:30 pm. Woman's Club of Catonsville. Gemstones, cutting rough, jewelry, minerals, fossils, books, magazines, and lapidary equipment. Refreshments are available. Directions: Go West on Frederick Road from I-695 (Baltimore beltway), approximately 3 blocks to St. Timothy's Lane. Turn right and go one block to the Woman's Club; located behind St. Timothy's Church.

October 13 You are invited! Please join us in celebrating the grand opening of the new JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY MINERAL MUSEUM HARRISONBURG VA. The university has relocated and renovated its mineral display facility. With the help of the JMU administration, lapidary and mineral societies in the region, and generous gifts from individual supporters, we will be officially opening the doors of our museum to the public from 11:30 a.m. until...

There will be food, beverages and a few words of welcome from members of the James Madison University administration. Of course there will be plenty of time to view the specimens on display. The collection hosts displays from Virginia, Elmwood, a Franklin-Sterling Hill fluorescent collection, and systematic displays. We hope that you will be able to join us. Please RSVP by October 8th to:

Lance E. Kearns, Curator, Dept. of Geology & Environmental Science, MSC 6903

James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA. 22807

Office: 540-568-6421 Secretary: 540-568-6130 Email:

<KearnsLE@JMU.edu>

October 12, 13, 14, 51st Annual Paul Desautels Memorial Micromount Symposium, MHA Conference Center, Elkridge MD. Info.: <<http://edisk.fandm.edu/mike.seeds/BMS.htm>>, Mike Seeds, <mseeds@fandm.edu>, Phone 717-201-8750. Registration: Cal Pierson <calP@MHAONLINE.org>.



October 19, Friday 2-4 pm, Fossil Foray at the Beach. Look for fossilized shark teeth, whale bones, ray dental plates. For all ages. Free. From Brookside Nature Center, Register at Maryland Capital Parks and Planning. Call for directions.

October 27, 23rd Annual South Penn Rock Swap Sat. 8 to 3. South Mountain Fairgrounds (1.5 miles West of Arendtsville, PA on route 234, [NW of Gettysburg PA]). Admission: \$1.00. Tables for swappers: \$10.00 (Multiple tables allowed for the \$10.00 fee). Sponsored by: The Central Pennsylvania and Franklin County Rock and Mineral Clubs.

October 24-28, Marvin Schwab, The Bead Warehouse, Sales Event. Weekdays and Sat. 10-5, Sunday 11-3. 2740 Garfield Ave., Silver Spring MD 20910, 301 565 0487.

November 4, Sunday 9-Noon. for ages 12 and up, Jeff Greene, guide at Aggregate Industries Rockville Quarry will provide time to collect local rocks. Reservations required. Under 18 must have accompanying adult. All pay \$12 fee. From Brookside Nature Center, Register at Maryland Capital Parks and Planning.

Continued on Page 8

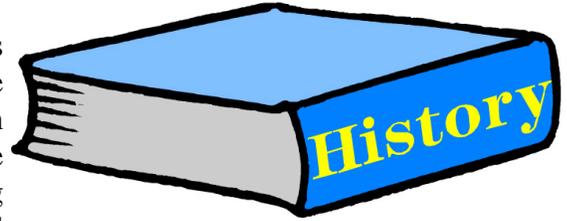
That prudent avis which matutinally deserts the coziness of its abode will ensnare a vermiculate creature.

The early pteradactyl gets the annelid.

= The early bird gets the worm!

HISTORY Contributed by Jack Busch

GOODBYE TO 1990---As was predicted in last month's "Rockhounder" the election of the 1991 officers took place at the November meeting, and I'm sure all of you have been waiting with bated breath to learn if anyone had the audacity to challenge the slate of nominees that had been presented by the Nominating Committee. Nope, no such occurrence; the entire slate was elected by acclamation. As there were no changes to that slate it would be redundant to list the names again. I'm sure none of you throw away your Rockhounder, so, to quote Casey Stengel, "You can look it up."



After the election process was completed, Field Trip Chair Jack Nelson announced an expedition on October 1 to the Medford Quarry (Near Westminster MD) where outstanding calcite crystals could be found. Nancy Ballard stated that a pink marble type of calcite also was available, and that it was reputed to be good cutting material. Jack also announced that another favorite hunting spot, Winfield Quarry, had had a change of ownership. He told of the high quality celestite having been found at Winfield, photos of which may be found in Cornelius Hurlbut Jr.'s book, "*Minerals and Men.*" Wendell Mohr announced that, according to an article in the Washington Post, dinosaur tracks had been found in a quarry near Culpeper VA. Folks, through the University of Virginia, could arrange to see the tracks but not to collect them. The meeting ended with a presentation by Gordon Austin entitled "Diamonds: Facts, Myths, and Changes in the Industry."

During November Nancy and Dave Ballard visited the residents at Leisure World in Silver Spring and told them about our Society and its activities. Former member Charles Smith made the arrangements, and Wendell Mohr provided slides for them to show.

Nancy, in her role as "*Rockhounder*" Editor, in December's issue reminded all about the winter meeting policy of meetings being cancelled in the event of snow. Just in case you are wondering why the warning was printed so early, she pointed out that despite our meeting scheduled early in the month, in the past, one meeting had been cancelled, and another had just missed cancellation by one day.

UPCOMING SHOWS & SWAPS & EVENTS. (Continued from Page 7):

November 3-4 38th Annual Gemarama, Gem, Jewelry, and Mineral Show of the Tuscarora Lapidary Society. Theme: Gemstones of the Western USA. Exhibits, demonstrations, silent auction, etc. Admission \$5 for adults, \$1 for children under 12, \$7 for 2 days, \$4 for 1 day with website discount ticket! Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5. At the School at Church Farm in Exton, just West of Philadelphia PA. Directions: North side of Business Route 30, 1/2 mile West of Frazer-Rt. 30 exit off Route 202.

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. Adm. \$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 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.

Let's Go To the Movies!



Get Your Popcorn and take a peek!

WEB SITES

Contributed by Wendell C. Mohr

For a change of pace this month we go to <http://education.usgs.gov/common/video_animation.htm>, **USGS Videos and Animations.**

Some of my favorites are reached by first going to Multi Topic Collections. Many links are listed here. Click on USGS Public Lecture Series. (Direct URL: <<http://online.wr.usgs.gov/calendar/archives.html>>). Six year's worth of Western Region Programs are available. For these you need Flashplayer (Free).

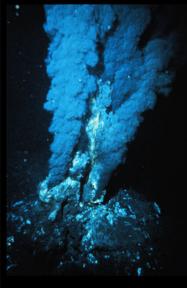


Photo From Wikipedia

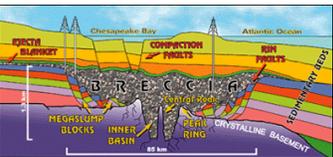
May 31, 2007 the presentation was **Alchemy in the Abyss**, "Ocean Minerals" about Black Smokers. It is by James R. Hein and 1'18" long in streaming (Or Steaming!) video. (Direct URL: <<http://online.wr.usgs.gov/calendar/2007/May07.html>>.) Pressing alt-enter will give a full screen presentation but resolution is poor.

Sep. 25, 2003, **Beneath Crater Lake**, "An Underwater Volcanic Landscape Tells a Complex Story" by Charles R. Bacon, about an hour long, (Direct URL: <<mms:video.wr.usgs.gov/science/Sep03.wmv>>.)



Mar. 22, 2007, **Impact!**, Piecing Together the Story of a Giant Meteorite Crater Beneath the Atlantic Coast, by David Powars, 1'38" long. Our Society had a program on the topic at a meeting some time ago. (Direct URL: <<http://online.wr.usgs.gov/calendar/2007/mar07.html>>.)

by C. Wylie Poag, USGS



Lastly under Geology, see **The Southern Appalachians: A Changing World.** The story of how geologic events over millions of years shape the region by Sandra Clark. (Direct URL: <mms://video.wr.usgs.gov/movies/the_southern_appalachians.wmv>.) This one is 25" long in wmv Format, requiring Windows Media Player.





An African-American with a Cuban cigar is also a black smoker.

Volcanoes are mountains with a stomach ache.

Volcanoes can be so noisy that the USGS proposes putting up acoustical absorbers. Yes, I think that that would be a sound investment.



I don't have to water my garden today. Why? Walter Chondrodite reports on the evening news: "Meteor showers are expected tonight."

"Africa crashed into the American Continent, News at 11!"

Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.



OPEN HOUSE AT USGS NATIONAL CENTER: USGS National Center in Reston will showcase science to the public with more than 75 interactive exhibits on Saturday, November 3, 10 am to 5 pm. Live music, treasure hunting with a GPS, a walk-through a crystal cave (GLMSDC's Michael Colella's), "What Good Are Rocks", fish painting, live birds of prey and alligators are among the many attractions that will feature a chance for the public to mingle with our scientists. This is a great opportunity for children. This event will showcase the themes in the science strategy report, *Facing Tomorrow's Challenges — U.S. Geological Survey Science in the Decade 2007-2017* <<http://pubs.usgs.gov/circ/2007/1309/>> : (Judy Salvo, Reston, VA, 703-648-5645; Patricia Phillips, Reston, VA, 703-648-5931.)

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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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