



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. The Society will meet on **Monday June 9th** 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 presented by Lisa Carp, speaking about Tourmaline - newest finds and some potential controversy. A society member for a couple of decades, Lisa has an intriguing background as a bacteriologist and biology teacher. Her initial interest in beads widened to gemstones and she studied under Louise Taggart in her adult education classes. Lisa took over leadership of those classes when Louise died about 10 years ago. Her 25 years of collecting gems, specimens, beads, and books assist her in her hands-on teaching curriculum. She has become an expert in the field and is a member of the Gemological Institute of America and the Bead Museum. She has given educational lectures and always oversees an exhibit or two at our March show and has been a show dealer as well.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS will NOT meet in June, July, and August unless there is a specially called meeting. On June 16th at 7:30 pm only the Board committee to study the need for and duties of an Historian will meet at the home of David and Nancy Ballard.



GILMORE, John, 18944 Quail Valley Blvd., Gaithersburg MD 20879-1744, 301 775 1834, <t36kr84@comcast.net>.
RIMAR, Donna, P. O. Box 218, Nokesville VA 20182-02218, 703 594 2804, <dewittd@cox.net>.
SNYDER, Scott and Patricia, 4299 Candice Drive Mt. Airy MD 21771-7486, 301 829 0645, <XL350@hotmail.com>.
Shannon (3/92) and Michelle (9/96).

WORD PLAY – HARDNESS SCALE

An original puzzle by Diane Dare. Fill in the blanks with the correct word.

- ___ H ___ Developer of the Hardness Scale
- ___ A ___ # 1 on the scale
- ___ R ___ # 4
- ___ D ___ # 9
- ___ N ___ # 10
- ___ E ___ # 3
- ___ S ___ # 2
- ___ S ___ # 6

DEADLINE for the July-August 2008 Rockhoulder: **July 1st.**

NOTE: NO General Meetings in JULY and AUGUST

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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE:

At the May Society board meeting, the board unanimously approved Wendell Mohr's motion to award Juan Proaño life membership in the GLMSMC. Since joining the Society in 1984, Juan has served in many capacities. He has been Librarian, Vice President, President, and for the last five years, Treasurer. He has provided the Society with years of service, always a model of professional and polite leadership. It is a real pleasure to work with such a gentleman. I am told that when he was Vice President (Program Chairman), he had the whole year's programs confirmed at the beginning of his term!

As Wendell pointed out when nominating Juan, there have been many times when Juan noticed something that needed to be done and then took on the new responsibility for the benefit of the Society. Juan's contributions to this year's show demonstrate why he deserves our thanks. Juan was there with Heather from the beginning to work out the fairgrounds arrangements for our show. He dealt with the dealer deposits and rental payments, and even brought many of the raffle donations. Juan worked throughout the show starting with set-up on Friday, and he was there to the very end of the clean-up Sunday night. After the rest of us felt relieved that the show was done with, Juan was still busy with the receipts, reimbursements, and the financial report.

As Juan comes up on 25 years with the GLMSMC, his consistently outstanding service to our Society certainly makes him a deserving recipient of life membership in our society. Congratulations, Juan, and thank you!

Mark Dahlman

AFMS ENDOWMENT RAFFLE

Just received: an exceptionally beautiful and rare prize #10. Like Prizes #1 - #9, (selenite plate on amethyst pipe, New Zealand Kauri gem, Brazilian amethyst cathedral, Virgin Valley opal rough, blue CZ pendant, faceted topaz, float copper and Hecla stock share, engraved glass vase, and digital scale, each valued at \$100 to \$700) you could be the lucky winner for a small donation to the AFMS Endowment Fund!

Prize #10 is a 14k gold wire-wrapped Royal Lavender charoite pendant.



The pendant is 3-1/8 by 1-5/8 in. It is hung on an 18" gold chain. First discovered in Russia's Murun mountains in 1947, charoite was not known in the West until 1978. The stone was named for the Chary River at Aldan in Russia, near which it was discovered. This rare and valuable mineral remains unique to Russia, its only known source to date. The creator and donor of this lovely pendant estimates the value of the piece to be \$125.00 to \$175.00.

At least four more prizes are expected which will be added before the AFMS Convention and Show at Houston, September 25 to 28. When received, the prizes (or pictures of them) will be posting on the AFMS website, <<http://www.amfed.org>>, along with all the pictures and specifics for all prizes.

Regional Federation representatives (ours is EFMLS Regional VP, Dee Tinsley, 324 Huff Creek Trail, Amherst VA 24521-3745. 434 221 0864, <flydeetin@gmail.com>), are ready and willing to reward your donations to the Endowment Fund with coupons to place in the drawing bucket.

If all else fails (you can't contact your rep. - or if she is all out of coupons) you can always send a check for \$5.00 for one coupon or \$20.00 for 5 coupons, plus a stamped, self-addressed envelope and Joy Bourne, AFMS Endowment Fund Chair, will mail your coupons directly to you. Please remember to include your name, address and telephone number with your request. Checks should be made payable to "AFMS Endowment". Address: Joy Bourne, RR #1, Box 159A, Towanda PA 18848. Questions? Phone (570) 265-6454 or e-mail <csprings@epix.net>.

If you have interest in going to the AFMS Show which is conjunction with the South Central Federation, the deadline for making advanced reservations for meals, show admission, and competitive and noncompetitive displays is August 24, 2008. Complete information can be found on the AFMS website <<http://www.amfed.org>>. Just click on the show flier to download all the relevant information and forms. Room reservations should be made directly with the hotel of your choice.

Adapted from AFMS Newsletter June-July 2008



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES: The May 12, 2008 meeting was called to order by President Mark Dahlman at 7:50 pm with approximately 46 people attending. Minutes of the April 14, 2008 regular meeting and the April 21, 2008 Board meeting were approved.

“Each One Teach One” Award. President Mark Dahlman presented Wendell Mohr the Eastern Federation’s third place award for the “Each One Teach One” program. Nancy Ballard had nominated Wendell for his volunteer efforts at many youth organizations and schools, along with his contributions to the club. Congratulations Wendell!

Junior Advisor, Rod Towers offered copies of the Mini Miner publication to any members with children at home who might enjoy it.

Vice President, Elmer Lantz introduced the speaker for the evening:

Denise Nelson, G.G. treated the club to an insider’s look at the diamond industry through her “Diamonds Out of Africa” presentation. Denise provided some background on diamond properties and terminology including the 4C’s; the inception and market dominance of the DeBeers organization; and the challenges of the diamond industry today. She shared with us slides from her recent trip to South Africa and Namibia where she was fortunate to be allowed into heavily restricted areas. She educated us on the processes used to extract the diamonds, the safety and security precautions taken by the mine owners, and the lives of the diamond workers. Reference books were made available for perusal. Thank you Denise for a most fascinating and informative presentation!



Opportunities to Serve: President, Mark Dahlman announced that the Eastern Federation is looking for recommendations for Regional Vice President, a two-year position. Mark asked club members for suggestions by the end of the week

The New Jersey “Y” camps have made a request for “state specific” rock and mineral specimens to be used for youth education at its camp. They will happily provide postage paid mailers. Please contact Mark Dahlman for details.

Editor, Wendell Mohr highlighted some upcoming shows. He mentioned a note from club member, Fred Parker announcing he would be selling a portion of his collection at the Chesapeake show on May 24th. Wendell mentioned the Wildacres program and made the class schedule available to anyone interested.

Visitors included John Gilmore, John Marler & Mary Ellen Michel, Donna Rimar, and Scott Snyder. John Gilmore, Donna Rimar, and the Scott Snyder family were unanimously elected to membership.

Meeting Adjourned 10:50 pm.

Holly McNeil, Secretary

BOARD MEETING MINUTES: May 19, 2008. Board members present: Nancy Ballard, Mark Dahlman, George Durland, Jonathan Harris, Elmer Lantz, Holly McNeil, Wendell Mohr, Juan Proaño, Joel Rosen, and Rod Towers. Non-board member present: David Ballard. President Mark Dahlman called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm.

Junior Business: Rod announced he intends to distribute a mineral magazine to the junior members in addition to the Mini Miner publication at each meeting.

Speaker: Elmer reported on June’s program – a discussion of tourmaline by Lisa Carp. (Continued Page 4)

Board Meeting Minutes (Continued from Page 3)

Field trips: There was some discussion about the possibility of scheduling a gold panning trip. Jonathan will follow up. The board discussed improving the dissemination of information with regard to minimum age requirements on field trips. The board was in agreement that we would love to give junior members more opportunities to join appropriate field trips provided all safety requirements and rules are met. The board will review our insurance policy to ensure there are no age restrictions.

Houser Material: We have been informed that the Northern Virginia club has expressed some interest in the residual material. Elmer will follow up. Gerald Elgert raffled a bucket of the material at the Wildacres program for \$60.

Misc. Business: Wendell updated the board on the status of the Lillian Turner award. There was discussion of the status of preparing “job” descriptions for the club officers. Mark requested the board members to submit their write-ups to someone who has knowledge of the position. Wendell will email a copy of the bylaws to all board members so they may ensure compliance within the job descriptions. The board voted to cancel this year’s June board meeting. Discussion of retention and safeguarding of club documents resulted in a motion being made for the establishment of a club historian. The motion was passed and a committee was formed to facilitate this. Committee members are: Mark Dahlman, George Durland, Wendell Mohr, Nancy Ballard, Joel Rosen and Juan Proano. The committee’s first meeting will be held on June 16th at 7:30pm at the Ballard residence. Wendell recommended Mark consider distributing satisfaction surveys to all club members. Wendell touched on the Montgomery Fairground’s vague plan to move to a new location and mentioned that our 2009 show was recently mentioned in the “Montgomery Extra” publication of the Washington Post. Wendell indicated he will be working with Pat Jayne to update the bylaws. George Durland will forward the club’s organizational paperwork to Juan to be kept with the financial records.

Facilities & Equipment: Joel mentioned the need for additional extension cords for next year’s show. A motion was made and granted to authorize him to purchase six. Joel reported he has obtained the renewal registration for the trailer and will affix it when the 2009 show approaches. Joel will inventory our supplies of meeting prizes and raffle items for next year’s show. The new layout of the meeting room at the Senior Center was discussed, a few minor suggestions were made, but on the whole the new layout was approved.

Show Follow up: Joel indicated his need to be available for last minute facility related tasks during the show interferes with his ability to obtain door and raffle prizes and suggested that task be reassigned next year. Joel further announced the dealers appeared very appreciative that we were willing to purchase items from them for prizes and they responded very generously. Joel mentioned his new member recruiting efforts during the show and recommended he be assigned to that task again next year.

Treasurers Report: Juan Proano reported on the status of the finances and presented a spreadsheet of the prior years’ show results. He indicated the required tax forms have been filed. Juan also reported that the budget is being finalized and he will submit it to the board prior to or at the next regular club meeting. He announced a donation the club recently received from Mr. Edward Karpoff.



Life Member: Wendell made a motion that Juan be granted the status of Life Member; the motion passed.

Public Service Items: George Durland was a judge a Stedwick Elementary School’s Science Fair on May 15. He also gave a presentation at the Parkland Magnet Middle School on fluorescents on May 19. George will speak to Dr. Jeffrey Post of the Smithsonian Institute to inquire of his preference for our anticipated 2009 donation as well as a possible speaking engagement.

Meeting Adjourned approximately 10:10 pm.

Holly McNeil, Secretary

BE SAFE – BE WELL:

by AFMS Safety Chair Don Monroe from AFMS Newsletter, April 2008

Help from Members More and more I receive suggestions and assistance with our safety articles. At the recent SFMS annual meeting in Biloxi several people came up with great subjects for future articles. I also read a large number of bulletins from many sources and I want to share one with you that was published in the "Rockhounds Tale" from the Panama City Gem & Mineral Society.

"Vegas On your Mind? Would you guess one of our club members would end up needing eight stitches from



a shard knocked off a boulder with his own sledgehammer? Odds are, it was bound to happen sooner or later. What are the odds of another club member being peppered with three tiny, sharp & dangerous shards immediately ABOVE his eye (some bleeding, needed pressure to stop it) just three weeks later at another sledgehammer party at a different location? Personal safety begins to invade your conscious mind and makes you wonder, "Well, it's possible, not necessarily probable." Then guess the likely odds of the first injured club member having bought some



shin protectors, failing to wear them on dig #2 and ending up with ANOTHER large cut from yet another sharp flake – finally, you can decide the odds of this happening again. If anyone gives you mere even odds this will happen a third time to "scar leg", JUMP on this bet without delay. I'll be dragging my knuckles on the ground before I'll ever put my eyes or legs at risk on a rock dig again. You can take that to the bank while my wife says "well it is about time."

This safety issue is noteworthy only because we now all know someone who has been seriously hurt during a dig. Many times over the years had I not been wearing glasses that were badly scratched at a dig by flying chips and pebbles, the alternative might have been an eye loss. It was only a matter of time. Safety will one day become a paramount issue to our hobby as it grows, leading to more digs and the inevitable injuries; that is a sure bet! By Herb Whittington." At the November SFMS meeting, I met Herb Whittington and we discussed his story and I saw the scars. They were real and it was scary. As Paul Harvey would say "and that is the rest of the story."

JUNE MEMBER BIRTHDAYS: Andrew Celmer, Christy Church, Dale Fisher, Dave Freeman, Susan Harris, Larry Harrison, Anita (Lizas) James, David MacLean, Fred Parker, George Reimherr, Eve Spielman, and Robert Wright. Your birthstone is opal with MOONSTONE as an alternate.

MOONSTONE, with its mysterious white or blue sheen, is one of the most familiar gem varieties of a large group of minerals called feldspar. Feldspars are the most abundant minerals in the crust of the earth. All are aluminum silicates containing calcium, sodium, or potassium.

Moonstone is the most popular and important microcline gem. Its blue or white sheen is called adularescence, and is caused by the presence of tiny crystals of albite arranged in layers within the host microcline. Moonstone may be completely transparent, and the sheen can be either silvery white or a soft but distinct blue, the latter being highly prized. The adularescent sheen resembles a cloud of light that appears within the gem when it is turned at the right angle to the eye.



Some moonstones are nearly opaque and may have a strong body color, which may be beige, pink, green, yellow, white, gray, or brown. These are usually cut as high-domed cabochons, and the sheen is concentrated at the top in a bright spot that sometimes extends across the stone as a distinct "eye." Such gems have been called "cat's-eye moonstones." Some others may have a second ray at right angles to the first, forming a cross. Moonstones with a strong body color are primarily from India. Mining is usually carried out by hand, and stones are frequently cut locally. Moonstone is still considered a sacred gem in India and it has been used in jewelry there for centuries. It has a Mohs hardness of 6-6.5

Reprinted from the June 2007 Rimstones Review, Via Gems and Jewelry, Via The Rockhound Record of the Mineralogical Society of Arizona June 2007

TWINNED MINERALS

Breccia, February 2007 via 2007 GEM CUTTERS NEWS

Twinned minerals can add a fascinating side to ordinary minerals or can add another dimension to already complex minerals. There are several minerals that form classic twins, such as chalcocite, fluorite, sanidine, microcline, staurolite, gypsum, cinnabar, spinel, and rutile to name a few. Some twins have colloquial names, such as “fairy cross”, “iron cross”, and “cogwheel” twins. Twins form as a result of an error during crystallization. Instead of a normal single crystal, twins grow out of or into each other.

Accidental relationships are not considered twins, that is, where two distinct crystals grow more or less randomly side-by-side or toward each other. Twin formation is never random and follows certain defined rules called twin laws, usually named for well known twins, Spinel law, Albite law, etc.

The twin laws are crystallographic in nature and are caused by flaws in the crystal structure occurring during growth or change in phase. Many minerals form with a stacking sequence. If an error occurs during growth the twin forms as a miss-positioned sequence, which is repeated as if nothing happened. The crystal(s) grow outward in both directions. Twinning has dramatic effect on the outward symmetry of the mineral.

There are two general types of twin styles, contact and penetration. Contact twins have a composition plane that forms the boundary between them, a mirror plane where the twins look like reflected images or an angled plane resulting in a “bend” to the twin forming dove-tails, fish-tails and chevrons. Penetration twins look like whoever made the crystal didn't know how it was supposed to fit and ended up twin crosses, 3-D stars, and complex structures. Twinning is actually rather common in the mineral kingdom, but perfectly formed twins are not.



Japanese Law Twin
(Quartz)



Fairy Cross Twin
(Staurolite)



Fishtail Twin
(Gypsum)



Butterfly Twin
(Calcite)

HALITE, Sodium Chloride, NaCl or Common Salt

by Jody Lee Dorman, Pine Country GMS

By whatever name you call it, there has been no substitute found for this very useful mineral. Halite has been used since the prehistoric days for nutrition or in industry. In purification, potassium and magnesium salts, bromine, and iodine are obtained as byproducts. Chlorine from salt is used as a bleach and in water purification. In addition, salt is used in food preparation, and as a preservative. The mineral is also used in chemical industries in the manufacture of soda ash for glass products, in soap making and metallurgy. All halite comes from the sea. Layers of rock salt mark areas where seas dried up in ancient time. In many places salt is still made by evaporating sea water in shallow basins. Southeast Texas and southern Louisiana have numerous salt deposits. Halite is mined by shaft mining or by pumping water into the deposit and later pumping out the brine. Halite is colorless when pure, but is usually discolored some shade of yellow, red, gray, or brown. It is transparent to translucent, brittle, and with excellent cleavage. It occurs in granular, fibrous, or crystalline masses, easily recognized by the cubic-shaped crystals and by the mineral's familiar salty taste.



References:

- (1) The Golden Book Series, "Rocks, Gems, and Minerals"
- (2) Guide to Familiar Minerals, Gems, Ores, and Rocks.

From Pineywoods Rooter, Feb. 2008,
Via RockCollector Mar. 2008



In the Midwest, trilobites are generally found in a curled up position. No one is certain as to why they didn't die in a flattened position as those found in the West and other countries. It really is an exceptionally easy problem to solve. It is without a doubt a matter of economics. The Trilobites in the Midwest were more economical and able to make ends meet. Via Rock Pickings 6/01, Chipper's Chatter 5/08

FIELD TRIPS: Jonathan Harris will email announcements of additional trips scheduled after press time. Get on his list if you are not already included and are interested. Children with full safety equipment (same as for adults) and accompanied and supervised by a parent are permitted for these two trips.

Saturday June 14, 9:30 am - 3 pm. Willis Mountain Kyanite Mine, 30 Willis Mountain Lane, Dillwyn, VA 23936. An active mine about 3 hours from Rockville, it is one big mountain of kyanite in quartzite. Unlike most mines in this area, it produces one specific mineral: kyanite. See <<http://www.kyanite.com/>>. See <<http://www.mindat.org/loc-26384.html>> for the mineral listing. Please let Jonathan Harris know of your plans to attend by June 6.

Saturday June 28, 8:00 am - 11 am or Noon. Cornwall Materials Mine at 445 Boyd Street, Cornwall, PA. This mine obtains gravel from the dumps of the old Bethlehem Steel iron mine. See information about the current property at <<http://www.hkggroup.com/companies/cornwall-materials/index.aspx>> and mineral list at <<http://www.mindat.org/loc-3653.html>>. Please let Jonathan Harris know of your plan to attend by June 20. The Old Cornwall Furnace in Cornwall PA is preserved as a State Park. It is a worthwhile visit to see how iron was made there and to see the buildings preserved. You might like to see if you have time after collecting. See <<http://www.cornwallironfurnace.org/>>

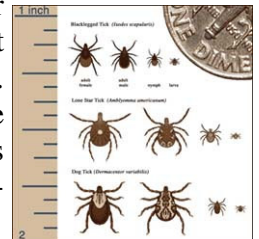


YICKY TICKS: When you're outside this Spring and Summer, prevent tick bites and reduce your risk of tick-borne disease by following these tips.

Some species and some life stages of ticks are so small that they can be difficult to see, but all hungrily look for animals and people to bite. Depending on the species, you can find ticks in various environments, often in or near wooded areas. You may contact ticks when walking through infested areas or by brushing up against infested vegetation.

Protect Yourself from Tick Bites

- **Use a repellent** with DEET (on skin or clothing) or permethrin (on clothing) and wear long sleeves, long pants and socks. Products containing permethrin can be used to treat boots, clothing and camping gear which can remain protective through several washings. Repellents containing 20% or more DEET (N, N-diethyl-m-toluamide) can be applied to the skin, and they can protect up to several hours. Always follow product instructions! Parents should apply this product to their children, avoiding the hands, eyes, and mouth. Get detailed information about using DEET on children



- **Wear light-colored clothing**, which allows you to see ticks crawling on your clothing.

- **Tuck your pant legs into your socks** so that ticks cannot crawl up inside of your pant legs. Some ticks can crawl down into shoes and are small enough to crawl through most socks. You should examine your feet and ankles to ensure that ticks are not attached.

- **Avoid tick-infested areas.** If you are in a tick-infested area, walk in the center of the trails to avoid contact with vegetation.

- **Perform Daily Tick Checks**

Check your body for ticks after being outdoors. Conduct a body check upon return from potentially tick-infested areas by searching your entire body for ticks. Use a hand-held or full-length mirror to view all parts of your body and remove any tick you find.

Check your children for ticks, especially in the hair, when returning from potentially tick-infested areas. See the list above for the places on your child's body to check for ticks. Remove any tick you find on your child's body.

Check your clothing and pets for ticks. Ticks may be carried into the house on clothing and pets. Both should be examined carefully, and any ticks that are found should be removed. Placing clothes into a dryer on high heat effectively kills ticks.

Watch for signs of illness such as rash or fever, and see a health care provider if these develop.

Adapted From Centers for Disease Control



SHOW TABLE: May 12, 2008

Thanks to those who bring items for sharing at the meetings

<u>Exhibitor</u>	<u>Specimen (s) * = Self-collected or self made</u>	<u>Locality</u>
Lisa Carp	Unakite, Rutile in Smoky Quartz	Localities not given
David Colvin	Ammonite	Arizona
Jeff Cessna	Calcite, Humite, Diopside, Phlogopite, Aragonite	Long Lake Mine, Parham, Ontario
	Calcite, Willemite*	Sterling Hill NJ
	Norbergite, Diopside*	Sterling Hill NJ
	Wollastonite*	Sterling Hill NJ
Mark Dahlman	Zunyite	Yuma AZ
George Durland	Cryolite, Siderite	Ivigut, Greenland
	Clinohedrite, Hardystonite, Willemite	Franklin NJ
Gerald Elgert	??Slag, Glass, Obsidian??*	Prince Georges County MD
Jonathan Harris	Apophyllite, Calcite*	Vulcan Quarry, Manassas VA
Wendell Mohr	\$4 Canadian Coin with Triceratops	Canada Mint
Andy Muir	Clinozoisite*	Hunting Hill Quarry, Rockville MD
	Calcite (Fl.) and Quartz	Rhodope Mountains, Bulgaria
Jeff Nagy	Fluorite, Calcite*	Memphis Mine, Marion KY
Pat Repik-Byrne	Fern Fossils*	Hazelton/ Allentown area Eastern PA
Joel Rosen	Calcite (Fl.)*	Medford Quarry, Carroll Co. MD
	Smithsonite	Kelly Mine, Magdalena NM
Conrad Smith	Magnetite, Pyrite, Chalcopyrite	French Creek Mines, St. Peters, PA
Earl Smith	Cryolite, Siderite, Galena	Ivigut, Greenland
Linda Smith	Miocene Fossil Scallop Shell*	Calvert Co. MD
Michael Tihomirov	Stilbite*	Vulcan Quarry, Manassas VA
Rod Towers	Dravite	Australia
	Microscope and Specimens	



MAY DOOR PRIZES Winner of the Junior prize, a Pyrite from Spain was Conrad Smith, who joined only last month. The Show Table prize was taken home by Mark Dahlman and was a pair of Jade earrings. Will Becky or Mark wear them? An Agate Pendant, the General door prize, was taken home by Michael Tihomirov.



DIAMOND CLASS ACTION SUIT Consumer, resellers, and direct buyers of diamonds who purchased diamonds between Jan 1, 1994, and Mar 31, 2006 have until May 19, 2008 to make a claim under a proposed \$295 million settlement of class-action suits against De Beers S.A. for alleged violation of antitrust laws. According to the proposal, U.S. residents who file a claim would receive a sum based on the price, quality, and quantity of their purchases. More information and filing instructions may be found at <<https://diamondsclassaction.com>>. Contributed by Mark Dahlman



OUTREACH: On May 8th Wendell Mohr responded to a request from member Leila Campbell to speak about fossils at her school, Piney Branch Elementary, in Takoma Park. He spoke to 5 different groups totaling about 110 youths and displayed tables of specimens, equipment, and books and references. He reports that the students were very bright, well behaved, and asked insightful questions. Hopefully some of the children will be interested enough to pursue fossil collecting.

Q. I am a rock group that has 4 members, all are now dead, one of whom was assassinated. What am I?

A. Mount Rushmore



June 11, Wednesday, 10 am - 1:30 pm, for 18 yrs. and up, Naturalist Glenn Cummings the Black Hill Visitor Center at Black Hill Regional Park is conducting a free tour of "Stonehenge of Montgomery County" in Hoyle's Mill Park. View the monoliths appearing to push out of the ground. Also see wildflowers, wildlife, and bubbling water in the valley walk. Information: 301 916 0220.

June 13, 7:30 pm, The Chesapeake Gem & Mineral Society is sponsoring an auction (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.



PICNIC

June 21, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm., EFMLS Region IV Annual picnic and swap, Lake Anna State Park shelter #1. Bring your own lawn chair, drinks, & a dish to share. Bring your swap materials. Bring a door prize donation & surplus items for the treasure box.

Directions: I-95 to exit #118 Thornburg VA; West on Rte 606 to Rte 208; Turn 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: Mineral Swapping, Treasure Box, and Picnic Pot Luck Lunch.

10:00 am Arrive early for the best swapping options, no selling allowed in the park.

Noon Lunch Barbecue. Bring your own drinks and a dish to share.

2:00 pm Auction. Donate items which should be at least somewhat hobby related. Door Prizes – Please bring one to donate – The more donations, the more winners we will have.

Information: Dee Tinsley, EFMLS Region IV VP. <flydeetin@gmail.com; 434-221-0864>

June 29, 9 am to Noon, Geology of Northwest Branch, Audubon Naturalist Society 3 mile hike from Adelphi Mill to Burnt Mills. Coastal plain deposits change into outcrops of metamorphic rock, culminating in a steep, rocky gorge. Bedrock exposures illustrate a history of colliding and rifting continents. Some stretches may be muddy. Members: \$19; Nonmembers: \$26.50. Registration required. Call 301 652 9188 Ext.11 for registration packet and information.

June 25 to July 30, 6 sessions, 6-9 pm, Minimum age 12, Stone Carving class by Nizette Brennan at Glen Echo Park. \$287 + \$75 stone fee + \$45 tool rental if needed.

June 23 to 27, and **July 12 to 18** both sessions 6-9 pm, Stone Carving Camp for teens 12-18, with same instructor at Glen Echo Park, . \$280 + \$75 stone fee + \$45 tool rental if needed.

For information call 301 942 6975 or E Mail <nizettebrennan@hypmedia.com>.

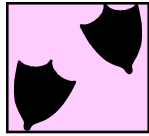
Various Dates in June and July The Montgomery County Recreation Department is offering classes on Beading Basics, Jewelry Basics, Wire Work Jewelry, and Earrings, Earrings, Earrings all at the Bauer Drive Community Center. Obtain the Summer 2008 Montgomery County Guide to Recreation and Park Programs or call 240 777 6840 or register on line at <<http://recweb.montgomerycountymd.gov>>.

August 2 & 3, 59th Annual Gem & Mineral Show of the Gem, Lapidary, and Mineral Society of Washington DC, Stone Ridge School, 9101 Rockville Pike, Bethesda MD. \$6 adults, \$5 Seniors, Children under 16 free. 10 am-6 pm Saturday, 10 am-5 pm Sunday. Information <www.GLMSDC.com>.



Q: What did one volcano say to the other? A: I lava you!

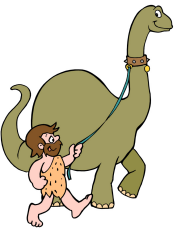
Q: What did one mountain say to the other mountain after the earthquake? A: "It wasn't my fault!"



Ducks have web feet. Here is a web feet.

WEB SITES

By Wendell Mohr



The Creation Museum, <<http://www.creationmuseum.org/>>, opened in the Spring of 2007 with a \$27 million investment. At Petersburg KY, West of Cincinnati OH's airport, the 70,000 ft.² facility espouses the literal interpretation of the Bible. You will find "A comparison between the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History and the Creation Museum" interesting. Other interpretations of historic events are intriguing. You need to noodle around the site yourself to read about their view of evolution. There is too much detail to describe fully here.

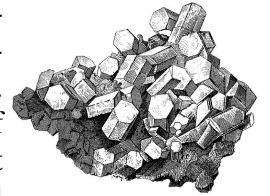


The Anti-Museum, NCSE = National Center for Science Education, presents the "other side" of the story. See <http://www.ncseweb.org/resources/articles/1411_the_antimuseum_an_overview_a_7_6_2007.asp>. Here is presented a lengthy review by Daniel Phelps, President of the KY Paleontology Society. The scientific views of evolution are defended and not always constructive comments are made about the Creation Museum. What is YOUR opinion? • You could ask Cyrano, he nose all about it. • • A little girl asked her mother, "How did the human race appear?" The mother answered, "God made Adam and Eve and they had children and so was all mankind made." Two days later the girl asked her father the same question. The father answered, "Many ages ago there were monkeys from which the human race evolved." The confused girl returned to her mother and said, "Mom, how is it possible that you told me the human race was created by God, and Dad said they developed from monkeys?" The mother answered, "Well, dear, it is very simple. I told you about my side of the family and your father told you about his." •

Top End Mineral Prices adapted from *The Conglomerate* of the BMS, May 2008.

by Mike Seeds

In just a few years, Marc Weill has built one of the most impressive private mineral collections in the world. Roughly 100 of those minerals are shown in *The Marc P. Weill Collection*, by Daniel Trinchillo, a color catalog distributed as a supplement to the Jan.-Feb. 2008 Mineralogical Record. The minerals shown are fabulous and the text covers lots of details, but something is missing—prices. *Forbes* magazine has let some of those cats out of the bag. They are not embarrassed to talk about money, so when they did a special story on Weill and his collection, they published photos of a few of his minerals and listed their current value. <http://www.forbes.com/home/2006/11/16/mineral-weill-collection-forbeslife-collect-cz_ms_1120rock.html> (Whew! Just got that URL on one line!) has the *Forbes* article with a link to a brief slide show." Not many rockhounds can pay those prices, but *Forbes* has encouragement for collectors with smaller pockets: "You can build a very strong collection with specimens priced in the \$20,000 to \$50,000 range."! • One of the vendors of top quality material lived on a South Seas island. He lived there because, with exquisite material, he was safe from many thieves and crooks and could deal mainly by E-Bay where customers could see specimens there. It was Gilligan's Eyeland. •



Guides for the Jewelry, Precious Metals, and Pewter Industries by The Federal Trade Commission (FTC)



at <<http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/guides/jewel-gd.shtm>> may be of interest to you. The guides apply to jewelry industry products, including: gemstones and their laboratory-created and imitation substitutes; pearls and their imitations; and objects fabricated from precious metals, alloys, and their imitations. They show how the FTC weighs in to keep trading in these items fair and honest. You would do well to consult the guides if you are a producer or to use if you are a consumer. "Protecting America's Consumers" is the motto of the FTC. • Elliott

Kahn offered fake gems in imitation precious metals for sale at high prices. You remember him, I bet. He was the Kahn man. •

Gem, Lapidary, and Mineral Society of Montgomery County MD., Inc. Take a look at OUR new web site: <<http://www.glmsmc.com/>>. Becky Dahlman is doing a super job of maintaining the site and keeps information there right up to date. The old site is now gone.



ROCK TRIMMERS: The Collector's Salvation

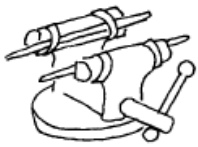
Art and article by Betsy S. Martin

Safety Note: Always use safety gear such as gloves and eye protection when breaking or sawing rock.

Collectors who don't down trim their specimens soon find that their storage space is completely consumed. How much useless rock surrounds the small section you are really interested in? Rock breakers and trimmers allow you to reduce the size of your specimens and emphasize the most important and emphasize the most important aspects. An attractive mineral specimen has the matrix trimmed so that the most important part of the specimen is oriented for the best view. Some specimens should not be trimmed, but are better stored in a larger box to preserve not only the main crystals, but also the associated mineral species and matrix characteristics.



Trimming can be done with a rock hammer, rock breaker or trimmer, diamond trim saw or diagonal cutting pliers. Initial re-sizing can start with a hammer and progress to more careful trimming methods. Specimens too large for a breaker may be hand trimmed first. Hand hold the matrix face down on a thick pad of towels and strike the backside sharply with a rock hammer to trim away excess. You want to protect the attached crystals on the opposite side. It is better to gradually trim off small portions than to try and break open a large rock with mighty blows to the center. Plus, hand striking has only a limited amount of precision. Make use of the natural fractures and weak points as this may be the only way to break the rock with a degree of control.



A simple trimmer can be made with two triangle files and a sturdy vise. With heavy strapping tape, fasten the files to the faces of the vise with their tapers reversed so the are opposed, but matched. Use this trimmer on smaller specimens that have already been reduced in size. You can put a short piece of pipe over the handle for hand comfort. After setting up the specimen between the chisels, wrap it in a small towel to protect it from falling and protect you from flying debris.

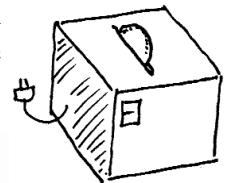


Commercial rock breakers and trimmers come in a wide variety of sizes and types. Trimmers can be manual or hydraulic in design, with the hydraulic ones the most powerful and most expensive. Shipping is steep, however. A good quality trimmer is an excellent investment over the long term to keep your collection's bulk under control.

Commercial trimmers are used lying flat on their sides over a pad of paper towels. This protects delicate specimen from falling and permits greater leverage. Never use a trimmer upright. Prop up one end or build a containment box if you need to level the trimmer and support it properly. A containment box also helps keep debris under control. Carefully hold minute, fragile specimens while trimming to prevent damage to the delicate crystals. **Cover larger specimens with a towel to prevent flying fragments.** Set the chisels into the sides of the specimen so the bite marks will not show on the finished piece. Some matrix materials are crumbly and unpredictable when trimming. Other rock types can be extremely tough and almost impossible to trim.



Tough materials can be partially sawn on a diamond tile saw and then snapped apart. Preserving some of the natural textured surface of a specimen is highly desirable. Diamond tile saws are inexpensive (\$60) and useful for reducing the bulk of an otherwise difficult specimen.



Diagonal cutting pliers and nippers can also be used for final trims on small specimens. A "Diamond Deb" fingernail file will safely remove small amounts of matrix. If you have a particularly valuable or unique specimen, it is wise to get some expert advice on trimming it. There's no going back! But you will enjoy your collection a lot more when it is properly sized for display, boxing or efficient storage.



The Collecting Bag Richmond G&M Soc. Oct. 2007



Q. What's the difference between a "Leaverite*" and an onion?

A. No one cries when you chop up a "Leaverite*."

*"Leaverite" a worthless rock you might collect in the field. Don't take it home, "leave 'er right" there.

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1st Place, New Editor, 2007
 2nd Place, Small Bulletin, 2008
 EFMLS Editor's Contest



FIRST CLASS MAIL
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THE ROCKHOUNDER
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