



**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 March 10th 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. "Ozone, Clouds and Smoke in the Stratosphere, As Seen from Space" will be the program presented by **John Hornstein**. There is only a relatively small amount of ozone in the atmosphere, but it is very important. It shields the Earth's surface from the Sun's most dangerous ultraviolet rays, making possible life on land. As the ozone absorbs solar ultraviolet radiation, it heats up, creating the worldwide temperature inversion that we call the stratosphere. We need the ozone in the stratosphere, but ozone near the ground is a dangerous pollutant. Ozone in the stratosphere is attacked by man-made chemicals, which create the ozone hole. Although the ozone hole is not the same as global warming, it interacts with global warming. Measurements from space make it possible to monitor the distribution of ozone worldwide. They also allow us to see exotic clouds that exist only in the stratosphere and even higher. These measurements recently allowed us to discover that smoke from large forest fires can reach the stratosphere. John Hornstein is a physicist at the Naval Research Laboratory. He works in a group that has had two instruments that measured ozone and high clouds from space. He is now aiding the development of the ozone monitoring capabilities of the next generation of polar orbiting weather satellites.

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS** will **NOT** meet in March because of the nearness to the Show. The next Board meeting will be on April 21st.

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

BROSIUS, Louie ("Boe"), 10284C White Pelican Way, New Market MD 21774-2909, 301 865 3030

**ROSTER CHANGES** Reinstated:

CARTER, Kenneth & Patricia, 501 2nd. Avenue, Brunswick MD 21716-1400, (301) 834-6516 kc21716@yahoo.com. Carolyn (8/92)



**SUNSHINE** Best wishes to Nancy Ballard who was hospitalized at Montgomery General Hospital, Room 315B, on February 27th. We all wish you a speedy and complete recovery.

**VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP SHEETS** for the show will be at the March meeting. Our show is an all-volunteer event and we depend on the help of **each one of you**. Call Wendell Mohr, 301 926 7190, or E Mail <wmohr@erols.com> if you cannot be at the meeting but will help.

**DEADLINE** for the March 2008 Rockhounder **Mar. 27th**

**IN THIS ISSUE**

Meeting Announcements,  
New Members, Roster  
Changes, Sunshine, Show  
Volunteer Sign-ups,

Rockhounder Deadline.....1  
Regular Meeting Minutes.....2  
Bd. Mtg. Minutes, Show Needs....3  
Show Exhibits and Demonstration  
Chairs, Lap. Equip't for Sale.....4  
Safety, B'days, Turner Award.....5  
Show Table, Field Trips.....6  
Shows and Events, Snow  
Contingency.....7  
Web Sites,  
Occupational Birthstones.....8  
History, Rockhounding Along  
the Southern US Border.....9

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES:** The February 11, 2008 meeting was called to order by President Mark Dahlman at 7:45 pm with approximately 46 people attending. Minutes of the January 14, 2008 regular meeting and the January 21, 2008 Board meeting were approved. Visitors included Louie Brosius, Robert Clemenzi, Don Greaves, and Keith Regatts. Louie Brosius was unanimously voted into membership.

**Show Chairperson,** Heather Felsen, reported that 21 dealer spaces are sold with only 1 table remaining. She mentioned that she and Juan met with the representatives from the fairgrounds, signed the contract and also reserved our slot for the 2009 show.

Bob Irby reported on the show demonstrators (1 sculptor and 2 faceters confirmed so far.)

Pat Repik-Byrne told of about 13 exhibitors signed to date; additional forms are due by March 1st.

George Durland handed out show flyers and requested volunteers for poster distribution.

Volunteer sign up sheets for the show were available. Thank you to all members who signed up.

The Houser material is slated for a dealers-only silent auction on Feb. 14th at the fairgrounds.

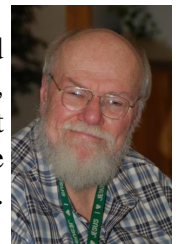
The Diamond Genie & Slabbing Saw will be sold together via silent auction open to all fair attendees.

Chuck Hyland announced he would be "drafting" Boy Scouts to help with the show.

**Junior Program Chair,** Rod Towers handed out *Mini Miner Monthly* publications to all Junior members in attendance. Thanks to a recent donation, up to 8 Junior members will receive this publication at the meetings this year. The Junior raffle was then conducted.

**Other Business:** Mark Dahlman announced there is interest in the Wildacres scholarship and requested any additional applicants to contact him by Feb. 24th. Mark also mentioned the fast approaching Eastern Federation Conference and the \$200 stipends available to two members wishing to attend. Mark requested any information as to the whereabouts of the club's trim saw, believed to have been last seen at the November meeting. He further announced the new and improved web site is up and running, and an impromptu round of applause was given in absentia to "web master" Rebecca Dahlman.

**Vice President,** Elmer Lantz introduced the speaker for the evening, Gerald Elgert. Gerald shared his long standing interest in rocks and fossils by focusing on the Patuxent River Agate, Maryland's state gem. Ironically, Gerald has found it in abundance throughout the state except at the Patuxent River! Gerald "de-bunked" some theories of the stone's formation he believes are not supported by scientific evidence, and exhibited many samples from his personal collection. Thanks Gerald!



**Field Trip Chairman,** Jonathan Harris spoke of the upcoming trips to the C&D Canal, DE slated for February 24, and the Valley Quarry near Gettysburg PA scheduled for April 5<sup>th</sup>. He emphasized that signing up in advance was necessary for Gettysburg, as well as need for appropriate safety gear.

**Editor,** Wendell Mohr made a motion to accept the financial report as presented, and it was so approved. He mentioned that Searles Lake, the subject of an article by Mary Crosswhite that appeared in the January 2008 Rockhounder, was to be featured on the television show "Dirty Jobs." Wendell also mentioned he was now in possession of the course schedule for Wildacres and described a contest offered by Rock & Gem magazine.

**Treasurer,** Juan Proano announced the annual audit of the Society's financial statements was successfully completed and we all thanked the La Villa's for their efforts. He reported on the healthy account balance due to the majority of the dealers sending in their payments.

**A Request:** George Durland informed us that the Rockville Consortium has requested an exhibit for their program to be held Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup> from 12-5 at the Rockville Campus of Montgomery College. They would like a "hands on" display – the more extensive the better -- and will provide adequate space for whatever we can offer. If anyone is willing and able to perform this public service, please contact George.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:52pm.

Holly McNeil, Secretary

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES** Board Members present: Nancy Ballard, Mark Dahlman, George Durland, Heather Felsen, Jonathan Harris, Elmer Lantz, Holly McNeil, Wendell Mohr, Juan Proano, Joel Rosen,. Non board members present: David Ballard, Pat Repik-Byrne, and Andy Muir. President Mark Dahlman called the February 25 meeting to order at 7:35 pm.

**Show:** Joel reported that he inspected the trailer and all is well. He is in the process of arranging its transport to the show. Heather reported the one remaining table has been offered to a meteorite dealer. Heather will contact Irby regarding the demonstrators. Heather will follow up with the dealers who have not paid as specified by contract. She reported the pre-forms are well under way and that Jeff Cessna's help with them was invaluable. Heather will order a banner to be displayed on Perry Parkway announcing the show. George will research other newspaper advertising venues. Upon receipt of cost information, the ad decisions will be made by the board via email. Motion was passed asking Joel to purchase door prizes for the show from the dealers for \$300. Pat reported on the exhibits (31 regular, 6 fluorescent), and she will prepare display labels identifying the exhibitors. (Goal of about 40 regular exhibits.) Heather will produce the Show program this year. Heather will speak with Bob Irby regarding soliciting raffle items from the show dealers. Wendell has completed the demonstrator recognition certificates, the exhibitor recognition certificates and the \$10 dealer redemption certificates. Nancy reported that 2,340 show announcement postcards were mailed to prior show attendees. Wendell sent out a notice of our show to all the local rock club bulletin editors.

**Residual Houser material:** Joel reported a lack of interest from the dealers regarding the residual material; he did not receive any responses from our invitation to bid.

**Treasurer,** Juan, updated the board on the account balances, status of dealer payments, and mentioned we will be filing income tax forms for the first time. The history of the Lillian Turner award was discussed and tabled for the present. At Wendell's request, Juan will prepare a 2008 budget.

**Field Trips:** Jonathan reported on the successful C&D Canal field trip and reminded us of the upcoming trip to Valley Quarry, Gettysburg.

#### **Miscellaneous Business:**

Joel informed the group of his recent purchases for regular meeting door prizes.

Wendell stated we did not have representation at the Eastern Federation conference.

It was agreed that speakers should be given free passes to the annual show. Elmer will ensure this is done.

George spoke with Jeffrey Post regarding a possible Smithsonian exhibit and potential club purchases for the Smithsonian. George will follow up with him and ask if he will be a speaker.

Wendell received a note indicating a possible member's donation, and will follow up.

A motion was made to accept the Wildacres scholarship application received by the board from Gerald Elgert. The motion was approved.

Holly McNeil, Secretary

#### **SHOW NEEDS**

- ▶ Your application to exhibit– Send to Pat Repik-Byrne NOW. **At least 9 more cases needed.**
- ▶ If you are entering an exhibit, Michelle Michaelis needs questions for the junior quiz. Questions should be educationally oriented. Phone 301 330 5010 or E Mail rocksrme@msn.com by March 7th.
- ▶ If you have one or more quality specimens you would be willing to donate for the Show Raffle or Door Prize contact Show Chair Heather Felsen 301 947 7459 or E Mail hfelsen3@hotmail.com.
- ▶ Sign up now to help at the show. We need volunteers for Fri.: Hang signs. Sat. and Sun.: Workshop, Raffle, Kid's Give-away table, Hospitality Table, Mini Mine, Door Prize Drawing, and others are needed. Contact Wendell Mohr by phone 301 926 7190 or E Mail <wmohr@erols.com>.
- ▶ Distribute posters and fliers to "Get the word out" about "The best show in the area."

**CONTINUING AS SHOW DEMONSTRATIONS CHAIR** Bob Irby has been with the GLMSMC since the early 1990's and has served as President and VP. In high school in Washington, D.C., Bob took two years of metalsmithing which included silver. Before retiring from his computer systems analyst career he took 3 semesters in metalsmithing from Montgomery College as a hobby and decided to make jewelry after a 30 year hiatus. Making silver jewelry led him to using cabochons and then to faceted gems. He says, "Gemstones became a passion for me, and I am particularly fond of Amethysts."



Bob's wife, Norma, also a member of the club since the early 1990's, took one semester of metalsmithing with him and they both decided to become crafters. Bob would make sterling and gold pieces with gemstones and Norma would create unique pearl necklaces, earrings and bracelets. Often they worked together to design and make a piece. They've been crafters together since the early 1990's. Making jewelry led him to do repair work, thus accepting new challenges. They are now doing only 1 or 2 shows each year.

He says "Norma and I joined the GLMSMC to learn more about gems and minerals. The Society provided a good opportunity to learn and a way for me to help children learn how to make cabochons. The club has been a growth opportunity. We have 2 sons and 9 grandchildren. Norma is an alumna of Montgomery College and I hold a B.S. In Industrial Engineering from Maryland University and an MBA from Frostburg State University." Bob helps in many different ways both every club show and in other ways.

**HERE IS YOUR NEW SHOW EXHIBITS CHAIR** Pat Repik-Byrne grew up in Stamford, CT and became interested in rocks and minerals when she was about 8 years old. She always vacationed during the summer at her grandparents' house in the small town of Lansford, PA, which is in a major anthracite coal mining region. Pat and her cousins would hike into the hills at the end of her grandparent's street to explore and collect beautiful clear quartz crystals, pyrite and any other interesting rocks they could find on the ground. She became totally hooked on rocks and minerals when she vacationed one year in Atlantic City, NJ, where she visited her first rock shop, The Boardwalk Rock and Shell Shop, and was just amazed by the beauty and variety of the specimens. That led to science fair presentations on Rocks and Minerals in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade, Crystals (She grew her own) in 8<sup>th</sup> grade, and Crystals and Light (color/diffraction, etc.) in high school.



Although she continued to collect and learn about geology and rocks after high school, she was also very interested in biology, and received a BA in Microbiology at the Univ. of Connecticut and PhD in Virology/Molecular Biology at Rutgers. Pat has held research positions in government, academia and industry, and is currently employed at NIH/NIAID, overseeing grants and contracts in the area of emerging encephalitis and hemorrhagic fever viruses.

Pat says "Although not collectors themselves, my husband Kevin and our two daughters appreciate the rocks and minerals displayed around our house (So they say), and Kevin has accompanied me over the years on trips to shows, rock shops, quarries and mines. After moving to the Rockville area a few years ago, I joined the GLMSMC in September 2006 and volunteered at the Show last year. I'm excited to be serving as the Exhibits Chair this year."

**LAPIDARY EQUIPMENT FOR SALE** A Diamond Pacific Genie Cabochon 6 wheel grinding and polishing machine (including detachable flat saw and diamond wheels), in excellent condition, will be sold by silent auction during the show (At the GLMSMC table) with a 4 pm Sunday closing time. The minimum bid is \$500.00. This machine is a donation of Susan Houser and we thank her once more for her generosity. The sale is open to members, dealers, members of other clubs, and guests but equipment must be removed by the close of the show at 5 pm. If there are any questions, please feel free to contact Joel Rosen, 410 775 7937 or E Mail <jrosenii@lycos.com>.

**SAFETY SO YOU THINK YOU ARE SAFE**

by Jim Doran, EFMLS Safety Chair

\*When was the last time you really examined: Your hard hat? Is it c r a c k e d ? Is the liner broken or loose? Is your hard hat up to code? If your hard hat is over a certain age, it may not meet the latest government safety standards. (I bet most of us have never even considered that!)

\*When was the last time you really examined: Your collecting boots? Have you really examined them for slick or worn treads or soles? Have you examined your laces? Are they worn or frayed? Do your boots still give you foot and ankle support? (Steel-toed boots are now mandatory at some quarries.)

\*When was the last time you really examined: Your safety glasses or goggles? Do they still fit snug enough? Is the elastic strap stretched too far? Are the lenses scratched or loose?

\*When was the last time you really examined: Your gloves? Are they worn? Do they have holes in the palms or fingers?

\*When was the last time you really examined: Your rock (crack) hammer? Is the handle still intact? (If a two-piece hammer.) Is the handle grip slick or worn?

\*When was the last time you really examined: Your rock chisels? Are the tips or points worn or flat? Have the chisel heads mushroomed?



My purpose for this article is to make you think about the common tools most of us have and use frequently in our pursuit of rocks and minerals, which, for many, is the reason for participating in this hobby. You can't take safety for granted. You must check your tools every time BEFORE you use them. If you even think an item is questionable, replace it immediately. Unsafe equipment is no excuse for being seriously injured or worse! Don't ever take chances with yours or someone else's safety. Do You Still Think You're Safe?

**MARCH MEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

Judith Barr, Jack Busch, Leila Campbell, Rebecca Dahlman, George Durland, Cynthia Hunter-Shupe, Jane Kuehn, Mary Beth Mason, Patricia Repik-Byrne, Paul Vance, and Harold Williams. Your birthstone is Aquamarine.



The Aquamarine was the stone of the sea-goddesses and sirens of the past times. Beads of aquamarine have been found in ancient Egyptian mummy tombs. They were used as a tribute gemstone to the Gods of the Nether world for safe passage. King Solomon is said to have worn one in his breast plate.

Uses: Gemstone. Hardness: 7.5 - 8. Variety of Beryl,  $\text{Be}_3\text{Al}_2\text{Si}_6\text{O}_{18}$ . Cleavage: one direction, poor. Pleochroic: weak. Color: various shades of blue to blue-green. Crystal System: hexagonal. Index of Refraction: 1.57 - 1.60. Birefringence: 0.004 - 0.008

Aquamarine is the blue-green or aqua variety of the mineral beryl. Other gemstone color varieties that belong to beryl include emerald, morganite, and heliodor. Other colors of beryl are simply referred to by their color, such as red beryl. Aquamarine is colored by trace amounts of iron that find their way into the crystal structure. Most gem aquamarines have been heat treated to produce the popular blue-green colors from less desirable yellow or pale stones. The leading producer of aquamarines is the country of Brazil, which has many mines. Pakistan, as well as many U.S. localities, produce wonderful specimens as well. Recently, a new mine in China has produced large numbers of excellent flat (stubby) hexagonal crystals, for a fraction of the price of those beautiful Pakistan specimens. Aquamarine is sometimes found in huge crystals (unlike emerald). It is also known in a glassy form, often without showing crystal form, and sometimes with many holes or other odd shapes. Other times a large cluster of prismatic crystals can be seen to all have the same alignment - a sign that it is really a single crystal with many faces.

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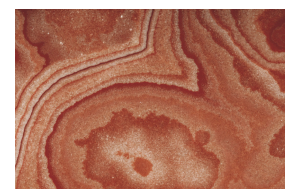
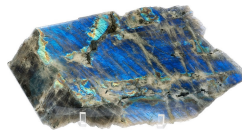
**LILLIAN TURNER AWARD**

Juniors, here is your incentive to enter an exhibit at our show. The best junior exhibit in the show will be given the Lillian Turner Award, a \$100 U.S. savings bond. Rules say that you must be age 17 or younger and the case should be substantially your own work. If you have won previously, the case must be substantially different from the previous entry.

**SHOW TABLE**

**February 11, 2008** Thanks to those who bring items for sharing at the meetings

<u>Exhibitor</u>	<u>Specimen (s)</u>	<u>Locality</u>
Jeff Cessna	Scheelite and Quartz Stilbite	Yaogangxian Mine, Hunan Prov., China Teeter Stone Quarry, Gettysburg PA
George Durland	2 Wollastonites Willemite and Calcite	Nobel Pit, Sterling Hill, Ogdensburg NJ Nobel Pit, Sterling Hill, Ogdensburg NJ
Gerald Elgert	Patuxent River Agate*	Mostly from MD
Don Greaves	Labradorite Cab	Madagascar
Jonathan Harris	Patuxent River Agate*	Paint Branch River MD
Chuck Hyland	Calcite, Hardystonite, Willemite, Franklinite	Franklin NJ
Matt Hyland	Calcite, Chalcopryite, Dolomite	Ben Hogan Mine, Lawrence Co. KS
Elmer Lantz	2 Pendants*: Fire Agate, Carnelian 2 Rings*: Peridot and Quartz, Opal	
Chuck Mason	Carnelian Eye Agate	Chandler Mountain OR
Alex McDonald	Peacock Ore: Bornite, Pyrite	Mineral Hill
Aiden McElravy	Carnelian	Not given
Rory McElravy	Manganese Oxide	CO
Wendell Mohr	1970 Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Stamps	Angola
Andy Muir	Scheelite Scheelite, Fluorite, Quartz Fire Opal	Fairfield CT China Virgin Valley NV
Juan Proaño	Vivianite	Near Porco mine Bolivia
Keith Regatts	Meteorites, 1 real 2 suspect	Nantan, China & Canyon Diablo AZ
George Reimherr	2 Nickel-Copper Ore specimens	Sudbury area, Ontario, Canada
Joel Rosen	Rhodochrosite on Tetrahedrite Orthoclase, Opal, Smoky Quartz	Sweet Home Mine, Alma CO Umaruru Distr., Erongo Mtn. Namibia
Rod Towers	Microscope and Several Specimens	



**FIELD TRIPS Sunday Feb. 24th** Jonathan Harris made the right connections for a pleasant but cool sunny day at Delaware City DE at the C&D canal. Ten members (Chris Barr & Pat Jayne, Leila & Larry Campbell, Ken Carter, Jeff Cessna, Jonathan & Susan Harris, Wendell & Jo Ann Mohr, and perhaps others) got many Phylum Mollusca Class Pelecypoda *Exogyra* and *Ostrea mesenterica* fossils. An extinct order (Belemnoida) of mollusks belonging to the cephalopod class *Belemnitella Americana* were characteristically bullet shaped.



**Saturday Apr. 5th, Valley Quarry, Gettysburg Quarry PA 7 am-11 am**, about 1' 20" from Rockville. This interesting quarry features a contact between sedimentary rocks and a diabase intrusion. Jonathan says, "On my last trip there I found several nice zeolite (Stilbite) specimens. This quarry has yielded many other minerals, particularly micros, as described in the article in this website: <<http://www.encyclopedia.com/doc/1G1-145338789.html>> ."

To attend this trip, you must reserve no later than one week before the trip by E mailing or phoning Jonathan Harris (E mail <jgharris7@comcast.net>, preferred, or call Jonathan at 301-545-0808.) Please include with any messages your name and contact information. The quarry wants a head count a week ahead, and Jonathan needs contact information in case of a last minute cancellation. Only paid members are permitted. If you show up without prior signup, you will be asked to leave.

Also a reminder: All collectors must dress appropriately, with appropriate safety gear. Hard shoes, hard hats, long pants, and safety goggles are a must. Steel toed boots are highly recommended for both toe protection and ankle support. Hard hats must stay on your head and eyes must be covered at all times (even when there is no banging) while in the quarry. All collectors must attend the safety briefing at the beginning of the trip and follow all quarry rules.

## UPCOMING SHOWS AND EVENTS

**March 14,** Chesapeake Gem & Mineral Society Auction. Friday only, viewing 7:00 pm, 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.

**March 15 & 16,** at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds, Sat. 10 am to 6 pm, Sun. 10 am to 5pm. **OUR SHOW-** the weekend after our March meeting! (Set up Fri. Mar. 14th 9 am.) If EVERYONE in the Society did a four hour stint on Saturday and again Sunday, it would fill our volunteer needs. Wendell Mohr, 301 926 7190, or <wmohr@erols.com>, is taking input for times and assignments. Some incentive is that those who work need not pay admission. Many hands make light work. We need the help of ALL members to make our show a success. Remaining posters and fliers will be available at the March meeting. We do a lot of "Public service announcement" (PSA) advertising and some paid ads. Any posters/fliers left over will be a waste if do you do not do your part to help get them out.

**March 28-30,** Atlantic Micromounters Conference hosted by the Micromineralogists of the NCA. MHA Conference Center, Elkridge MD. Info. & registration <central\_office@amfed.org>, 410 833 7926.

**March 29,** Southern MD Rock and Mineral Club's Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show, one day only, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Clearwater Nature Center, 11000 Thrift Road, Clinton MD. Admission \$2.00, under 6 Free. Information 301 297 4575.

**March 29-30,** 30th Annual Show, Franklin County Rock & Mineral Club, Quality Inn & Suites, 1095 Wayne Ave. Chambersburg PA, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5, adults \$4, children under 12 free. Information 717 372-2256, Email <chenindesigns@comcast.net>.

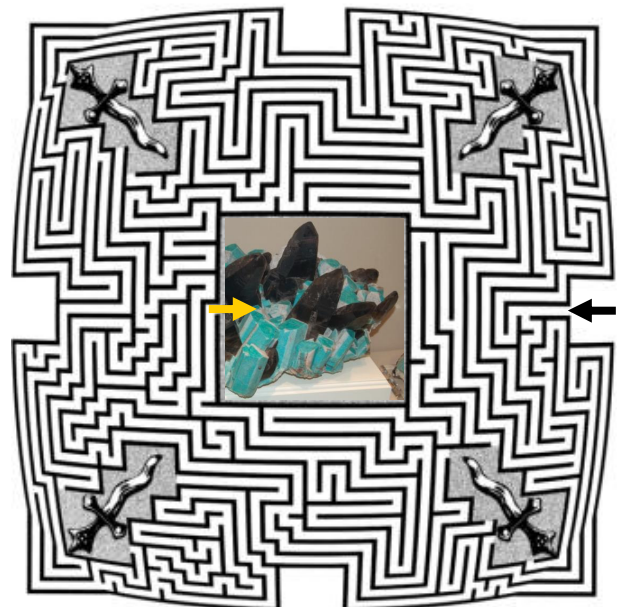
**April 10-13,** 35th Rochester Mineralogical Symposium, Radisson Hotel Rochester Airport, 175 Jefferson Road, Rochester NY, \$60 Thursday night through Sunday Noon if early registration by Mar. 9th, \$65 if after. \$30 per day at the door. Phone 315 682 0387, or E Mail contactrms@hotmail.com.

**SNOW CONTINGENCY** Reminder: If schools in Montgomery County, MD are to be cancelled, or let out early because of weather on the day of a scheduled Society meeting, we will have no meeting. Call the Society President or a Board Member (Numbers on the back of the *ROCKHOUNDER*) if in doubt.



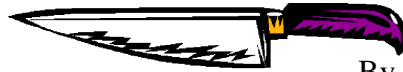
Upon waking, a paleontologist named Stone  
Found two Iraqis arguing full blown.  
With a leg bone, it's said  
He killed them both dead.  
Thus, stilling two Kurds with one bone.

A University of MD student was taking the tour of Dinosaur Nat'l Pk. The ranger mentioned to the tour group that dinosaur fossils had been found near the visitor center quarry exhibit. The student exclaimed, "Wow I can't believe the dinosaurs would come this close to the highway!"



IT'S A-MAZE-ING!  
PASS THE DANGERS & FIND YOUR WAY THE  
AMAZONITE, SMOKY QUARTZ PRIZE

Have a Knife time with these



By Wendell Mohr

**WEB SITES**



**Meteorite or Meteorwrong?** at <<http://meteorites.wustl.edu/realities.htm>> is by Randy L. Koratev of the Washington University in St. Louis MO. He has a Checklist with Examples and Caveats that feature many links to answer the question: is it a meteorite? "More information about meteorites" leads to more fascinating information and valuable multiple links. Explore facts about Lunar and Antarctic specimens and meteorite falls in MO, IL, and the US.

- Reading about the Chixulub Crater makes you think: "Chicken Little was right!" •



Think Big!!! **The Giant Crystal Project** by Thomas Krassman is a simply wonderful place for micromounters to try to reform their outlook.

Found at <<http://giantcrystals.strahlen.org/>> it

seems best to me to go directly to Giant Crystals by Location, by Species, or On Display. See Aragonite, Celestite, Halite, spectacular Rhodochrosite, Spodumene, Vivianite, and of course world famous Gypsum from Naica Mine, Chihuahua, Mexico. • Disney is Wrong! It's not a small world after all. • One very large crystal had a bad noticeable fracture but they fixed it with White-out . •

**Quartz Project**, <[http://www.geocities.com/quartz\\_project/index.html](http://www.geocities.com/quartz_project/index.html)> by Sarah Sorden is educational and informative. Physical properties, uses, relative value, chemical composition, history and folklore, where found, and crystalline structure of quartz are covered nicely. The dark font on black background on the mainpage is not very legible and the link for Bibliography is broken, but the site content is quite good. • If lettuce and quartz had a race, which one would win? Lettuce—its ahead! • José went to a fee collecting area producing quartz. At this mine they charged by the pound. He had good luck.....Weigh to go José! •



**OCCUPATIONAL BIRTHSTONES**

Homemaker	Hearthstone
Shoe repairman	Cobblestone
Women's Libber	Amazonite
Preacher	Brimstone
Traveler	Yellowstone
Astronaut	Moonstone
Politician	Blarney Stone
Doctor	Gallstone
Vampire	Bloodstone
Mortician	Headstone
Lawyer	Blackstone
Blacksmith	Ironstone
Laundryman	Soapstone
Explorer	Adventurine
Con Artist	Gypsum
Magician	Hiddenite

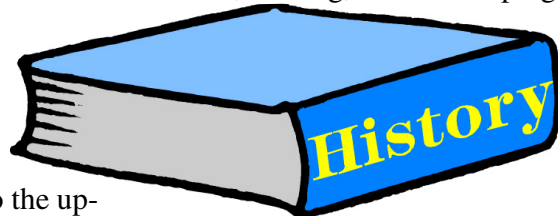
The Dopstick, GLMSDC, January 1974!

Veterinarian	Cat's Eye
Zoo Keeper	Tigereye
Miner	Goldstone
Baker	Sodalite
Actor	Apache Tear
Skindiver	Aquamarine
Wood Cutter	Axinite
Dressmaker	Hematite
Milkman	Quartz
Hunter	Traprock
Trucker	Lodestone
Tobacconist	Pipestone
Snake Charmer	Serpentine
Fisherman	Garnet
Knitter	Pearl

A herpetologist (snake expert) brought several snakes to the Gem and Mineral Show in Tucson. A woman went up to him after the discussion to ask more about the snakes. She wanted to know if the herpetologist had ever been bitten by a poisonous snake. He said "Yep, several times. Most recently a rattler bit me right here", and he showed the scar on his arm where the snake had sunk it's fangs. She looked at the man in awe and asked, "And you lived!?" He looked at her, surprised, then grinned and said "You're a mineral collector, aren't you?"



**SOCIETY HISTORY: HELLO, 1992.** We once more lucked out in that no snow fell or had fallen at the appointed hour of the January meeting. It must have been cold though for, as reported by Secretary Jan Shopland, only 32 persons attended. From what was reported, those who did not attend missed a good program by Jody Himes who explained the various techniques for using stones for meditation, healing, and developing intuitive abilities both at home and at work. (I remember a lady who meditated an hour before deciding which piece of rhodochrosite she wanted, but that's another story.) Jody also circulated a basket of tumbled stones, inviting each person to select one while meditating about a current problem in his/her life.



Most of January's Board of Directors meeting was devoted to the upcoming show. Special attention was given to making certain that dealers made sure to display specimens of radioactive materials out of the reach of children, also to mark these stones as being hazardous. The Board once again approved giving cash awards to exhibitors of worthy projects at the Science Fair to be held in April. Prez. Jack Nelson read a letter received from the AFMS asking for donations to the endowment fund. The interest earned on this fund is used to help defray the expenses of running the Federation. The Board voted to donate \$130.00 to the cause.

The National Capital Area Micromounters reported that their April conference would feature phosphates. I now know that phosphates are beautiful, rare, and small, but when I was a kid, a "Phosphate" was a flavored drink available at the local drugstore soda fountain, usually for 5¢. For me, this phosphate specimen was rare as I rarely had a nickel to buy one.

February's meeting featured a program given by John Ossi, possessor of an MA in Geology from the University of Maryland, whose subject was "Crystal and Mineral Identification under the Microscope." To aid the attendees in following his talk, he distributed photocopies of pages from *Dana's Textbook of Mineralogy*. He stated that though field guides give physical descriptions of the appearance of the specimens, they don't always disclose crystal structure. He illustrated his talk with slides showing specimens from member Ron Moretti's collection. Because of the advance notice of the evening's subject many members had brought micromounts to put on the Show Table. As a result a record of 121 specimens were on display!

The Society's Scholarship Committee made recommendations for presentation of awards to four college students in recognition of their accomplishments, and the Board of Directors endorsed the selections. The recipients of the scholarships were:

Matthew R. Campbell of the College of William and Mary who had began his undergraduate work in Sep. 1991 and would become a senior in the fall of 1992!

Christopher M. Keane, a senior at the University of Maryland.

Amy Wendell, a senior at James Madison University.

Cheryl Aapke Petrina, who already had received a BS in Geology at the University of Pittsburgh, and had become a master's degree candidate at the University of Maryland.

The Society fosters the study of Earth Sciences, and these awards, funded from our annual show proceeds, are one way this objective is accomplished.

Next month I'll write about '92's show, and perhaps a bit more. In the meantime, think about this year's show, and I hope to see you there. Oh yes, what element are you probably thinking of at this time? No doubt they are numbers 47 and 79 on the Periodic Table. Just don't try to settle your accounts with a plugged number 28.

By Jack Busch

## **ROCKHOUNDING ALONG THE SOUTHERN U.S. BORDER**

By Jack Busch

If you are planning to go prospecting, specimen hunting, etc. along the border of southern TX, AZ, NM, and/or CA, be sure to take plenty of identification with you. This advice is based on an incident that occurred to son Richard about 15 years ago in the wilds of Southern California.

He and his club members had gone to a remote location dressed in the usual rockhouser garb when a Jeep appeared over a rise and the driver or armed Immigration and Naturalization Officer rounded up everyone and required them to show ID and proof of residency. Some one had seen the raunchy looking group of wanderers and had reported them as possible illegal immigrants! As I said, that was over 15 years ago. Nowadays, the Homeland Security guys no doubt are far more rigid than then, so be prepared: picture ID, driver's license, perhaps even a passport. And don't make any smart remarks; it's unlikely that these guys have a sense of humor.

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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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