



**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 May 12th 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 speaker for May will be **Denise Nelson**, owner of INNER CIRCLE Fine Jewelry Sales and Appraisals which she started in 1990. She is a Graduate Gemologist, and Graduate Diamontologist (both GIA), and completed the educational courses offered by ISA (International Society of Appraisers.) She is an importer, designer, wholesaler, author, and is also an active appraiser. Her topic is "**Diamonds-Out of Africa**", a first-hand look inside the operations at the DeBeers mines of Namibia and South Africa. This program includes a power point presentation of her recent visit to the Premier mine, in Cullinan, South Africa, and the alluvial pocket-beech mines in the huge restricted "Sperrgebiet", the "Forbidden" diamond mining area of Namibia. An account of the visit to the off-shore diamond dredging ship "Glomar Pacific" completes the truly insightful look into a world rarely revealed.

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS** will meet May 19th at 7:30 pm at the abode 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.



**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:**

CLEMENZI, Robert & Nerine, 12017 Fair Hill Lane, Manassas VA 20112-3259, Clemenzi@cpcug.org, Phone Unlisted.

COLVIN, David and TYLER, Charlotte, 5301 Westbard Circle #341, Bethesda MD 20816-1431, Charlotte.Tyler@FCPS.edu, 301 951 4993.

HENNESSEY, David, 11998 San Ysidro Court, Woodbridge VA 22192-6284, david.hennessey.ctr@navy.mil., 703 590 6359.

SMITH, Linda, 10109 Ashburton Lane, Bethesda MD 20817-1729, Tunacat107@aol.com, 301 530 5007.

Conrad 7/97. Earl "Eric" 4/92.

SMITH III, Earl A., 10109 Ashburton Lane, Bethesda MD 20817-1729, EAmericus@aol.com, 301 881 4184.

WEIR, Jane, 27 East Main Street, Middletown MD 21769-7933, serenityjane@gmail.com, 301 639 3895.

**REMINDER ABOUT CELL PHONES:** Members and guests should respect the rights of others to listen uninterrupted by cell phone rings. Please be certain that your cell phone is turned OFF during the meeting.

**DEADLINE** for the June 2008 Rockhounder: **May 24th**

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**PRESIDENTS MESSAGE:**

What are your favorite pieces in your collection? If you're anything like me you really like showing them off to friends, relatives, or just about anyone who comes by the house. Imagine having thousands of people viewing your collection every week. Of course that's what happens in the Smithsonian's Janet Annenberg Hooker Hall of Geology, Gems and Minerals throughout the year. As everyone who attended April's society meeting knows, we, as a society, continue to help build the Smithsonian's Gem and Mineral collection. The pieces that Dr. Post and his peers purchase with our contributions are not only for exhibition, but also for educational and research purposes. Dr. Post's presentation of this year's purchases at the Tucson show was certainly inspiring.

The idea that I find particularly inspiring is that we are helping the museum to put together a collection that, as Dr. Post says, is expected to last hundreds of years. The thought of students and researchers using our donations in the coming centuries to make new contributions to earth science is certainly intriguing. Having such a close connection to an important, and world-famous museum is certainly a benefit of living near Washington. The purchases we funded are as follows, as described by Dr. Post:



1. Emerald crystal in matrix, Urals Mtns., Russia. This will be our best Russian emerald specimen and will eventually be paired on exhibit with a Russian emerald gemstone (our first) that we have on reserve for purchase in the fall. Cost - \$1500.00

2. Inesite crystals, Wessels Mine, South Africa. This is a classic piece from this locality and fills a hole in our collection of South African manganese belt minerals. I have been looking for one for several years. We feel it is one of our best buys of the show. \$750.00.

3. Thomsenolite, Greenland. This is an exceptional example of this rare mineral from a classic locality and will be a major upgrade for the collection. It also was one of our "bargains". \$750.00.

4. We selected a suite of four interesting specimens from Steve Perry, including:

- A. A 1.8 carat peridot gem from Kenya, our first from this locality,
- B. A rare untwinned crystal of chrysoberyl from Sri Lanka,
- C. An unusual andalusite crystal in matrix from Brazil, and
- D. A spessartine garnet crystal from a new find in Tanzania.

The total cost of these four specimens is \$800.00.

Mark Dahlman



Peridot, Kenya  
Smithsonian Institution Photo

**SUNSHINE:** Word from Inga Wells: "I had to have sinus surgery and thought I would be able to go to Wildacres three weeks after it. However, they found more problems when they ran tests and I had to cancel out on Wildacres. The day back home from the hospital, I slipped getting out of the tub and broke some ribs.



Now, I'm forced to take it easy for a while. I would rather be at Wildacres or field tripping and gardening, but sitting and watching birds at the window feeder and catching up on all the geology stuff on the TV recorder is not all that bad, besides the sun is shining. Greetings to all, Inga." Best wishes for a swift recovery, Inga, from all of us.

A sprained ankle has slowed Jennifer Wingard down a bit but she is on the mend. Heal fast, Jen!

We are glad to hear that Gladys Fuller is home again after a week in the hospital and 2 months in a nursing home, the result of an infection. Hope we see you back again shortly.

**EXHIBIT CASE FOR SALE:** I have a gorgeous glass and mirror display case 48"w x 75"h x 18" deep with 4 shelves and light; gold metal trim which I must sell. It is great for minerals or fossils. I can be called at 240 446 2183 or contacted by E Mail at < parkermineral@comcast.net >. From member, Fred Parker

**POSTAGE RATES UP AGAIN:** If E Mail only will suffice for your needs, let the Editor know. It will save nearly a dollar to not send a printed mail copy each issue. Think Green!

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES:** The April 14, 2008 meeting was called to order by President Mark Dahlman at 7:45 pm with approximately 61 people in attendance. Minutes of the March 10, 2008 regular meeting were approved.

**President,** Mark Dahlman thanked all the volunteers who helped make the annual gem and mineral show a success and especially show chair, Heather Felsen. Mark announced that the Eastern Federation is looking for recommendations for Regional Vice President, a two-year position, and who will serve for two years starting Nov 1, 2008. Mark asked club members for suggestions.

**Editor,** Wendell Mohr announced that the Rockville Quarry has requested our club participate in their May 3rd Earth day program by providing a speaker and perhaps an exhibit, ideally focusing on rocks and minerals found at the Quarry. Any club members willing to do this should contact Wendell. Wendell also announced a couple of requests for assistance with tumbling & polishing. He touched on the upcoming events highlighted in the *Rockhounder* and gave a special mention to the New Jersey Earth Science show slated for April 26 & 27<sup>th</sup>. George Durland elaborated on this show and gave a positive recommendation. Wendell mentioned the Wildacres program (a great bargain) and made the class schedule available to anyone interested.

**Vice President,** Elmer Lantz introduced the speaker for the evening: **Dr. Jeffrey Post**, a noted geologist, and Curator-in-Charge, Mineral Collection, Smithsonian Institution. Dr. Post was kind enough to share with the club his insights on this year's Tucson show. He explained the show's evolution to what it is today and some changes he has observed. He treated club members to a wonderful slide show highlighting some of the featured exhibits from the show's theme "Minerals in the USA." Dr. Post graciously gave us a "sneak peek" at the specimens he and his colleagues acquired at the show for the Smithsonian collection and discussed the thought process that goes into deciding what to purchase. He also shared with us some slides of other recent acquisitions and donations that we look forward to seeing on exhibit. At the club's request, Dr. Post selected some specimens at the Tucson show for the club to consider purchasing and donating to the Smithsonian. A motion was made and accepted for the club to make several purchases totaling \$3,800.



Thank you Dr. Post, for sharing your time with us as well as your many contributions to the enjoyment and education of all those interested in rocks and minerals.

**Visitors** included Robert Clemenzi, David & Charlotte Colvin, David Hennessey, Earl Smith III, Linda & Conrad Smith, Earl Smith, and Jane Weir, who were all unanimously elected to membership and Edward Slagle, & Peggy Peters

**Field Trip Chairman,** Jonathan Harris mentioned some upcoming field trips and warned the club members that the political winds appear to be blowing further safety rules and restrictions our way. He fears expanded MSHA enforcement could affect members' ability to collect at quarries and mines. Jonathan mentioned formal safety training being offered in Manassas to "certify" one as properly trained would likely satisfy any potential requirements.

**Treasurer,** Juan Proano announced we continue to be financially sound. He looked over the historical records and was happy to announce that this year's show had the highest receipts since 1987 (as far back as his records went). He noted that even though 245 fewer people attended the show compared to the preceding year, the decrease in admissions was offset by higher than normal raffle income and the sale of the donated Diamond Pacific Genie for \$1,250. Juan gave a special thanks to Mark and Heather for "jumping in" to lead the show to success and he encouraged others to become more involved with the club.

**Property Manager,** Joel Rosen gave a special thanks to all those who helped him with the show set-up and tear down. Meeting Adjourned 9:57 pm.

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, Joel Rosen, Rod Towers. Non-board member present: David Ballard. President Mark Dahlman called the April 21st meeting to order at 7:35 pm.

**Upcoming Speakers:** Elmer reported on the upcoming speakers scheduled. Denise Nelson will discuss diamonds of Africa in May and Lisa Carp will cover tourmaline in June.

**Items for Sale:** Elmer was contacted by a woman who has equipment she wishes to sell. Elmer will offer her the options of a silent auction (she would be responsible for transporting the equipment and retrieving whatever is not sold and setting a reserve price if desired) or a listing in the Rockhoulder for members to contact her directly. Wendell also mentioned that Fred Parker would like to sell a display case and perhaps some other items; club members would be asked contact Fred directly.

**Fieldtrips:** Jonathan spoke of the tightening enforcement of safety rules at mines and quarries, and the upcoming planned trips. He also asked the board if they believe there is sufficient interest to a trip to Morefield mine and several other local sites. He will explore alternatives. There was discussion about potential club interest in gold panning.

**Acknowledgements:** Wendell thanked Becky Dahlman for all the work she has done on the website. He noted that Jonathan Ertman has graciously agreed to be the club's representative at the Rockville Quarry Earth Day festivities. Wendell also announced that David Dinsmore has donated 11 flats of minerals to the club. Select specimens were turned over to Joel to be used as door prizes for the meetings. Holly will send a thank you letter to David. Wendell thanked Mark for his "From the President" articles for the Rockhoulder. He shared with the group the AFMS certificate of acknowledgement we received for the club's contribution to the AFMS scholarship foundation.

**Houser Material:** The remaining material has been relocated to the Dahlman residence. We have feelers going out to other local clubs to see if they have any interest, upon the results of that inquiry the board will then decide what to do with the material.

**Miscellaneous Business:** Wendell suggested that the board members (and show volunteers) prepare "job" descriptions to aid future members who take on their respective roles. Mark challenged all board members to provide this information for the next meeting. George Durland followed up on the donation the club made to the Smithsonian. Juan will send the appropriate check as directed by Dr. Post. Wendell will follow up on a potential donation about which he was contacted.

**Junior Business:** Rod has been handing out the Mini Miner publication at each meeting and will make "leftovers" available to club members with children to take home.

**Facilities & Equipment:** Joel Rosen brought up the fact that our membership seems to be outgrowing our current meeting space as demonstrated at our last meeting. Mark will contact the Rockville Senior Center to inquire about a larger room, and other board members will research potential new locations. A missing trim saw has been located. The board discussed "custody" of the new cab-mate; it was decided Mark will hold onto it until the pre-form process starts for the next show.

**Finances:** In the absence of the Treasurer, Wendell mentioned that Juan will be providing a budget at the next meeting. The financial results of the show were discussed.

**Show Chairperson:** Heather Felsen reported she took an informal "survey" of the dealers and, for the most part, their feedback was very positive. They reported above average sales; they liked the size and the layout of the showroom; and many expressed interest in returning next year. Franko Wire Wrapping was especially enthusiastic about wanting to come back in 2009 and the board voted to guarantee him a contract. Heather has compiled a list of suggestions for refining some aspects of the show and will share them for discussion as appropriate. Compensation for the demonstrators was discussed and it was agreed that it should be done. Heather reported the dates for next year's show are March 21st and 22nd. There was some discussion about the Montgomery County Fairgrounds moving to a new location, but we were assured it would be at least several years before that became an issue. The possibility of acquiring Joe Murter's "Rock Show" as a permanent exhibit for the club was brought up, and Heather will contact him to see if it is available for sale.

(Continued on Page 5.)

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES:** (Continued from Page 4.) Nancy Ballard reported that show receipts were within \$2 of expectations based on her attendance figures. Wendell read a comprehensive list of observations and constructive criticisms he had compiled in connection with the show.

**Show Recognition:** Heather wished to give a special commendation to **Jim Michaelis** for his tireless assistance with the show. Jeff Nagy helped with performs and was omitted in last month's *Rockhounder*. Heather also wished to commend the security company for their tremendous service. **Thanks to everyone who helped out and thanks to the exhibitors and demonstrators who selflessly gave of their time and talent!**

Meeting Adjourned approximately 10:10 pm.

Holly McNeil, Secretary

## **SAFETY FIRST AND LAST! EVERYONE IS A SAFETY CHAIRMAN!**

by Jim Doran, EFMLS Safety Chair

You probably have never thought of this but when your club is on a field trip or in the lapidary shop, every person there is a safety chairman. Each person in attendance at these club activities is responsible for not only their own safety, but the safety of everyone else there.

What do I mean? I mean that each person has to make sure that they are wearing their hard hats, safety glasses, steel toed boots, and gloves, when in a quarry, and that everyone else along on the trip has, and uses, their safety equipment correctly.

Each person should be aware of where everyone else is and keep an eye on them. Someone may notice a fellow club member too close to a high wall. Another person may notice someone not wearing safety glasses when breaking a rock. It's everyone's job to be safe and make sure everyone else is too.

When in the lapidary shop, it would be a similar situation. Make sure you have and use the correct safety gear. Is everyone wearing safety glasses when using the grinding wheels? Does everyone use safety glasses and mask when using a trim saw?

My point in this article is to make you think a little more, be aware of yourself, your fellow club members, and your surroundings. Remember, we are all safety chairman!

(Does your club have a first aid kit at all field trips? At your lapidary shop? Do you and your club members know how to use it? Do you or anyone else know simple first aid techniques? This is something else clubs need to think about and implement.) Let's be safe! Have fun! (Feel free to e-mail me with any suggestions, ideas, criticisms, etc. for this column at <jpdoran1@verizon.net>.)



## **MAY MEMBER BIRTHDAYS:**

Scott Braley, David Church, Alison Durland, Corky Harrison, Bob Irby, John James, Steven Karsch, Elmer Lantz, Bob LaVilla, Charlotte Morrison. Annette Regatts, Linda Smith, John D. Wells, Max Wright. Your birthstone is emerald.

EMERALD, HIDDENITE NC - PHOTO BY W. MOHR▶



**EDUCATIONAL EFFORTS:** In response to an inquiry by Jeff Green, who is our Rockville quarry liaison, Jonathan Ertman volunteered to set up an exhibit of Rockville's Hunting Hill (Travilah) Quarry minerals for their Earth Day Open House on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. This was Aggregate Industries 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Event, a community affair with multiple activities for family and children. Public relations events make the absolute necessity of quarries better known to the public and offer the opportunity of acquainting people about minerals.

**EFMLS, AFMS DUES INCREASE:** The EFMLS meeting went smoothly and about the only major business transacted was to approve an increase in Federation dues from \$1.25 to \$1.75 per voting member. This increase will take effect for 2009. \$0.25 of that increase is expected to be needed to offset a raise in AFMS member dues from \$0.50 to \$0.75 so it's really just a pass through for EFMLS. The remaining \$0.25 will be used by EFMLS to offset rising costs to its own programs.

From April Chippers Chatter

**MONTANA'S MAN-MADE MINING MESS MAY MAKE MEDICINES** By Erich Grundel

Anyone who has been to Butte, Montana in the last 25 years has seen the Berkeley Pit Lake. When mining ceased in the late 1970's, the pit measured about a mile wide and nearly 1800 feet deep. Butte is situated near the Continental Divide. The pit acts as a giant cistern for the vast network of remaining drifts and tunnels as well as the surrounding watershed. About four million gallons a day pour into the pit. Projections are that at some point in the next decade the water will breach the rim.

The Berkeley Pit Lake is the site of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) largest Superfund Cleanup project. This is not surprising. The lake is considered one of the worst environmental problems in the world. It is an acidic, pH 2.5, toxic soup of heavy metals and sulfate. It is a death trap to any living thing, notably migratory birds. If the rim is breached, this poison will enter the headwaters of the Columbia River, the aquatic aorta of the Pacific Northwest. Millions of people, wildlife, including commercial fisheries, as well as the entire agricultural system of the region are at risk. Despite spending billions of dollars, EPA has found no solution to halt the rising water level or to convert the dissolved elements into metals.

As the saying goes, there is a silver lining to every dark cloud. This is a small pun since silver was one of the important products of early mining at Butte.



Prior to Flooding, Photo: NASA



Scientists in the Department of Chemistry, Montana Tech of the University of Montana, in the mid 1990s began to look for signs of life in the pit's water, specifically microorganisms such as bacteria and fungi. Organisms that can live under such harsh conditions are called extremophiles. They dredged up these organisms from various depths. Some of the organisms could be cultured, that is they could grow in containers (e.g. Petri dish) in the lab. The metabolic by-products the organisms produce are then subjected to standard assays to see if there are potentially useful drugs being produced.

*Penicillium rubrum* was one species of bacteria that was retrieved from a depth of 885 feet. It produces a class of compounds called meroterpenes some of which have been named Berkeleyacetals. The assays of these compounds have shown positive results against certain lines of cancer cells. Of course, it will take years of further investigation to determine if these compounds can be used in humans.

Butte is not in our backyard but there is a Montgomery County connection to this story. The assays were developed at the National Cancer Institute and the research was funded by NIH.

**References:**

Stierle, A.A., et al, **A Novel 5-HT Receptor Ligand and Related Cytotoxic Compounds from an Acid Mine Waste Extremophile**, *J. Natural Products*, V. 66, pp. 1097-1100, 2003.

Stierle, D.B. et al, **The Berkeleyacetals, Three Meroterpenes from a Deep Water Acid Mine Waste *Penicillium***, *J. Natural Products*, V. 70, pp. 1820-1823, 2007.

**FIELD TRIPS:**

**Saturday May 10, 2008: Vulcan's Manassas Quarry, 7:45 AM.** The rock is diabase, with one level having a layer of hornfels. This quarry has produced prehnite, apophyllite, calcite, amethyst, other quartz, chalcopyrite, pyrite, epidote, and zeolites -- stilbite, chabazite, heulandite, stellerite, and others. Please let Jonathan Harris know if you plan to attend by May 3, 2008 so he can provide the quarry with an accurate headcount.

See <<http://www.mindat.org/loc-15214.html>>.

**Thursday May 15, 2008: General Mineral Miner Certification 8 AM.** Prince William County Department of Social Services, Sudley North Government Center, 7987 Ashton Avenue, Manassas, VA. To sign up for the course, call 434-951-6316 or email Shannon Plummer at <[Shannon.Plummer@dmme.virginia.gov](mailto:Shannon.Plummer@dmme.virginia.gov)>. You must register by May 9. Please look at the attached schedule and the website below for details. The course fee is \$10.00.

See <<http://www.mme.state.va.us/dmm/training.shtml>>.

**Saturday May 17, Morefield Pegmatite Mine, Amelia VA.** Please let Jonathan Harris know if you are going for surface collecting only or going into the mine. He needs to know by Friday May 9 so that he can let the owners know how many people are going into the mine. See the website <<http://www.toteshows.com/morefield.html>>. For minerals that have been found see <<http://www.mindat.org/loc-4200.html>>.

The fee for both collecting and underground mine tour is \$30.00. The collecting fee for surface collecting only is \$12.00. The fee for the underground tour only is \$20.00. Groups may have to go underground in shifts, depending on size. All persons going into the mine must wear a M-65 Self Rescuer and they own nine of them. It will accept only a narrow width belt so wear an appropriate belt. An alternative is to bring a shoulder bag or small backpack for transporting the rescuer. The usual schedule for underground tours is by reservation. Tours are scheduled after 1:00 pm and again, if necessary, after 3:30 pm. The tour including paperwork and Hazard Training takes a minimum of 1.5 hours. A detailed tour with plenty of questions and answers takes 2 hours. An effort is made to take as much time as visitors want during their underground visit. On occasions when groups are large and have traveled from out of state, we can occasionally schedule a 10:00 am tour. A trip into the mine requires climbing ladders. The main level is 45 feet below the surface and other levels are at 32 feet and 60 feet. It is a requirement that visitors be able and healthy enough to climb into and out of the mine under their own power. While there are platforms about every 12 feet where one can rest, physical exertion is required.

Federal and state law require hard toed shoes or boots for mine employees. Visitors should wear sturdy leather boots or good gripping rubber boots. Tennis shoes are not acceptable. Water on the floor of the tunnels (drifts) is minimal. Other gear should include a personal light source that can be carried on the body or a shoulder bag and not in the hand. Hands must be free for climbing. Bringing your own hardhat is helpful but not a requirement. Thin gloves are good but are not a requirement. Warm clothing is not necessary and the number of layers used is a personal preference. Usually dress for outside is sufficient for inside, except for the coldest of days when one will want less clothing underground. The use of cameras and camcorders is encouraged but they must be carried in a bag, again so hands are free for climbing. No mineral collecting underground is permitted. They do not take young children into the mine. They do take older teenagers when accompanied with a parent.

**Sunday May 18, 8:45 AM - 3 PM. Rockville Crushed Stone (Hunting Hill) Quarry, Rockville Maryland.** Find your best way to the intersection of Shady Grove Road with Darnestown Road. (From I-270 you may take I-370 West [becomes Sam Eig Highway] to Great Seneca Highway, where you turn left, to Darnestown Road, where you turn right.) Go North (actually West at this point) on Darnestown Road. Turn Left at the stop light at Travilah Road. Go 0.9 miles and turn left on Piney Meetinghouse Road. Go 0.1 miles to the quarry entrance on the right. Enter the property and stay right and meet at the office building.

You may only go to this site with an organized Club trip. It has been customary to pay \$5.00 each for the person (Currently Jeff Greene) opening the quarry for us. Safety Requirements: STEEL-TOED BOOTS, HARD HATS, SAFETY GLASSES/GOGGLES, SIGNED RELEASE FORM.



**Saturday June 14, 9:30 AM - 3PM. Willis Mountain Kyanite Mine, 30 Willis Mountain Lane, Dillwyn, VA 23936.** This is an active mine about 3 hours from Rockville. The mine is one big mountain of kyanite in quartzite. Unlike most mines in this area, it produces two specific minerals: kyanite and mullite (a clay mineral). 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.

**SHOW TABLE: April 14, 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	Orthoclase	Mexico
	Lidicoatite	Madagascar
	Rhodochrosite	South Africa
Thomas Caton	Meteorite	Campo del Cielo, Argentina
Jeff Cessna	Rock Cabochon Leesburg Conglomerate	Leesburg VA
	Trilobite	Smoke Hole WV
	Chabazite	Manassas Quarry VA
George Durland	Margarosanite, Nasonite, Clinohedrite,	Franklin NJ
	Williamite, Manganaxinite, Aragonite	Franklin NJ
Gerald Elgert	Boar Tusk	India
Chuck Hyland	Manganocalcite	Huanzala, Peru
	Asstd. Fl. Min. & Adamite	Durango, Mexico
	Calcite	Franklin NJ
	Zoisite, Ruby	Africa
	Celestite	South Africa
Pat Jayne	Creedite	Durango, Mexico
Alexandra Kindahl	Calcite*	Nat'l Limestone Q., Mt. Pleasant Mills PA
Eric Kindahl	"Lava Rock" Basalt	Galapagos Islands, Ecuador
Wendell Mohr	Quartz with Epidote	Xichang, Sichuan, China
Jeff Nagy	Hydrozincite*	Columbia Mine, Marion KY
Andy Muir	Calcite (Fl.)	Santa Eulalia, Mexico
Bill Porter	Smithsonite	Kelly Mine, NM
	Gold XI.	Eagle's Nest Mine, Nr. Placerville CA
Keith Regatts	Wollastonite, Prehnite, Calcites* (Fl.)	Hunting Hill Quarry, Rockville MD
George Reimherr	Clinozoisite in Calcite	Hunting Hill Quarry, Rockville MD
Pat Repik-Byrne	Selenite/Gypsum (Fl. & Phosphorescent)	Red River Floodway, Winnepeg, Manitoba, Canada
	Fibrous Malachite	Luisha Mine, Demo. Republic Of Congo
	Unknown multicolored stone	Kenema, Sierra Leone
Joel Rosen	Rock	Neotsu, Northern Oregon beach
	Smithsonite	Kelly Mine, Magdalena NM
	Rutilated Quartz, Tourmaline in Quartz	In ring
Nancy Shinowara	Quartz (8X10 Oval)	Brazil
Michael Tihomirov	Kyanite (8X10 Oval)	Nepal
Sasha Tihomirov	Kyanite Rough	Zambia
Zhenya Tihomirov	Kyanite Refined	Willis Mountain VA
Rod Towers	Microscope and Specimens, Corundum (Fl.)	Macedonia
Jane Weir	Creedite	Locality unknown
	Celestite	Locality unknown
	Aragonite	Locality unknown



**APRIL DOOR PRIZES** Winner of the Junior prize, a microcline var. amazonite from Konso, Southern Nations Regional State, Ethiopia was Alex McDonald, one of the Boy Scout volunteers at our show.

The Show Table prize was taken home by Pat Jayne and was a fine spessartine (garnet) with smoky quartz from Tongbei, Fujian Province, China.

Lastly, a section of Tieta Singularis, a giant tree fern, of Permian age (250-280 mya) from Brazil, the General door prize, was claimed by Don Turner. No McElravy for the first in many moons!



May 24, Saturday only, 10 am-4 pm. 19th Annual Chesapeake Gem & Mineral Show, FREE admission, NOTE: Formerly at Goucher College, now at new location at Ruhl Armory Towson MD. I-695 exit 26, York Road South. Armory is on the East side of York Road (Across from car dealer and funeral home) just inside I-695.

June 21, 2008 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Save The Date

**EFMLS REGION IV ANNUAL PICNIC AND SWAP LAKE ANNA STATE PARK SHELTER #1**

Plan to attend now You won't want to miss this event! 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; 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.

Email or call with any questions:  
Dee Tinsley, EFMLS Region IV VP  
flydeetin@gmail.com; 434-221-0864



Adapted from the G&M Journal, G&M Society, Lynchburg VA

Highlights: Mineral Swapping, renowned Region IV Treasure Box, and an outstanding Picnic Pot Luck Lunch.

10:00 am-Swapping begins early, so arrive early for the best swapping options, Don't forget - no selling allowed in the park.

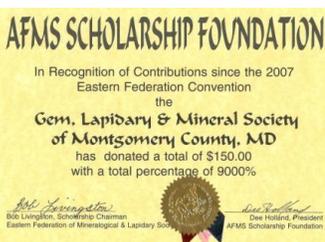
12:00 Noon-Lunch will feature Lynchburg Gem and Mineral Society's famous Barbecue. Please bring your own drinks and a dish to share.

2:00pm-A fun Auction of the weird, wild, funny and unusual—please donate items for the auction. These should be at least somewhat hobby related.

Door Prizes- Please bring one to donate - everyone loves to win. The more donations, the more winners we will have.

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>.

**AFMS SCHOLARSIP FOUNDATION AWARD** Our Society was awarded a certificate for contributions to the AFMS Scholarship Fund. We can be proud of our achievement which puts us among the very

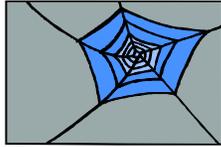


top contributors. At one time we used to run our own scholarship award but the process was very time intensive so it was decided to contribute instead to the AFMS fund. The fund principal is maintained and the interest pays for two scholarship for each regional Federation each year. The Scholarships go to students in Earth Sciences. The fund has awarded over \$1,000,000 since inception. If donations from our Society amounted to \$1.00 for every member, we would be at a 100% level. Our 9000% represents the cumulative donations over the years.



Senior citizen mineral, fossil, & gem collectors are valuable! We are more valuable than any of the younger generations: We have silver in our hair, stones in our kidneys, and lead in their feet.



WEB SITES

By Wendell Mohr

Here is something different, a visit to the ubiquitous You Tube!:

**The Ben E Clement Museum, Marion Kentucky**, <<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xbvqqoRbK3A>>, presents a video titled "More Than Minerals". A five minute history of the museum and the man behind it, along with photographs of the fluorites from the mining district in southern Illinois and western Kentucky, makes for an interesting peek. See also the links to other videos which may interest you. • In Marion KY you cannot take a picture of a man with fluorite crystals. Why? You take a picture with a camera not fluorite crystals!•



▲Photo credit R.Weller/Cochise College

**Sierra Leone Mining**, <<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xWuQc44Irzc>>, a 9'37" movie, features information about the re-emerging mining industry now that the political situation has stabilized. Recovery of diamonds from kimberlite pipes, and rutile recovered from alluvial deposits by a dredging operation are the main topics with a brief coverage of aluminum ore, bauxite. Again there are links to other movies of interest. • It's in the cards. Cut, Clarity, Carats, Color! The four of diamonds!•

Photo credit R.Weller/Cochise College▶



**Loose Gemstone Mining in Zambia**, <<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hqybLjT5huM>>, by Marc Sarosi is yet another site for voyeurs. It is 4'07" long, but is regrettably made up of all still pictures, silent, and with titles, no verbal commentary. Covered is the Kapilinkesa aquamarine mine, Lukusugi National Park, Eastern Province of Zambia. Primitive fire/water methods are used to crack the rock. Aquamarine is found at the core of the pegmatite as well as in decomposed rock. Black tourmaline is also found there. • I was telling one of my many jokes on one of the flight to Tucson and six people walked out!•



▲Photo credit W. Mohr

HOURGLASS SELENITE CRYSTALS

by Stan Nowak

On March 6 a meeting was held in Cherokee, OK concerning the Hourglass Selenite Crystal Digging Area. It concerned the status of the opening of the digging area after vials of diluted chemical agents were found by a Boy Scout while digging in the area in April 2007. An additional 162 vials were found by the U. S. Army 22nd Chemical Battalion from Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Maryland who were called in after the digging area had been closed. I had been in the digging area the first weekend of April 2007 helping people dig the crystals properly and was deeply saddened when I heard the area was closed. We had found a huge area of beautiful very large clusters as well as large clear blades.

A brief history of the area was presented by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Great Salt Plains was used as a training area for the U. S. Army and the U. S. Army Air Corps. The vials were used for training in the identification of various chemicals that the soldiers may encounter in battlefield conditions and what actions they should take. The vials were about 1 1/2" in diameter and 8" long, encased in a cardboard cylinder with metal end caps. Twelve of these cylinders were then placed inside a metal container about the size of a coffee can. Incendiary devices were then detonated to burn through the metal and cardboard which would then break the vials and release the chemicals. Unlike today's requirements, no records were kept as to the number or locations of the containers. A large metal detector on wheels was used over the 300 acre site to help locate any other possible containers. 322 anomalies and another 22 possible disposal pits were detected. The anomalies could be coins, bottle caps, or any other minor metal items.

Parsons Infrastructure and Technology Group Inc. was contracted by the Corps of Engineers to examine and help clean up the area. They started to dig in the identified areas on March 15th with a completion in approximately five weeks. Contrary to what many may believe, not the whole digging area has been dug up, only where the metal detector has had hits. Parsons will give the Corps of Engineers a report of what was found and if it appears there may or may not be any other hazards in the area.

Continued on Page 11

(Continued from Page 10) The Corps of Engineers will then give a report to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife who have the final say as to if and when the digging area should be opened.



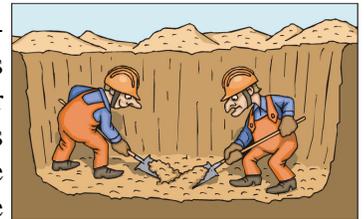
The object of everyone is for reopening the area. However, they all agree that they want to make sure the area is safe for everyone to go into. Since the area has been closed, it has had a major economic impact of the small communities in the area. Since the closing has had such an impact and also has closed a major recreation area for the state of Oklahoma, high priority has been put on this project by the U. S. Army and Congress. Reports that normally take two months to process are being done in about two weeks and funding is as well expedited.

By the original time frame a public report is due in January 2009; however, if everything goes extremely well that time frame will be expedited.

The bottom line though is that the Great Salt Plains Hourglass Selenite Digging Area will not open in 2008. We are hoping for spring of 2010, but ultimately we want to be guaranteed that the area is safe for all. A major concern of many of the local businesses was how will the word get out when it reopens, as I told them that as soon as I get more information I will pass it on throughout the RMFMS and AFMS.

From the April 2008 Quarry Quips of the Wichita G&M Society

**SOCIETY HISTORY:** Continuing with 1992---and I'll start with June's meeting, which proved to be a busy one. After the usual approval of the previous minutes and the Treasurer's report, V.P. Lou Williams conducted a drawing for a tumbler that had been donated by Mike Ellwood who specified that only the junior members could participate. The winner was Robby Shanklin, who then went on to win the show table prize for his selection of assorted crystals from various places. I hope Robby had help in taking everything home



**MINING OUR HISTORY**

The evening's program came next. The first part was given by Elizabeth De Terisi, who you may recall from last month's history article, was one of the Junior Science Fair winners with her "See a Snowflake" project. She gave an outstanding presentation, detailing capturing and classifying the different crystal formations and taking photos of them. In order to capture the flakes, Elizabeth had to wait for a snowfall (elementary but essential). She then would freeze some micro slides and spray them with a clear plastic acrylic just prior to catching a flake. The flake slowly would melt due to the slide's temperature, leaving a perfect imprint in the acrylic. The slides were allowed to dry, resulting in perfectly preserved images of the individual flakes. She made 70 of such slides! But that's not all. By aligning the lens of a 35mm camera over a single eyepiece of the microscope and shooting the automatic exposure, she made photomicrographs of the flakes. All this done by a 13 year old 8<sup>th</sup> grader!

Wendell Mohr gave the second part of the evening's program by showing slides of a field trip to the Sterling Hill Mine and Museum in NJ in which some of our members had participated in May. It gave our other members a chance to see and learn about the place. The mine had been operated for many years by the New Jersey Zinc Company, but they had to shut it down in 1986. In 1989 Robert and Richard Hauck bought the site and built the museum. The field trippers were permitted to enter part of the underground mine, see some of the equipment used in the mining process, and view photos of the operation.

The other part of the night's program was a Lou Williams production. He had been to North Carolina and had brought back a large container of a mixture of soil and sand. This he had "salted" with a number of mineral specimens, and he invited all the junior members to dig in and to see what they could find. The older members were called upon to help the kids identify what they had found.

June's meeting had been bracketed by a pair of field trips, the one before to the Marriottsville Quarry and the one after to the Medford quarry. I could find no report as to the success of the earlier trip, but Field Trip Chair, Terry Cirrincione, stated that about 25 members went to the latter, and all had found plenty of specimens to bring back. One group of three diggers found a "mother lode" of calcite and quartz crystals "with every conceivable formation possible." Terry also announced a slate of six field trips for July and August, promising a busy summer for all who had the time and resources. If I remember correctly, gasoline still was less than a buck a gallon at that time.

Speaking of prices, Editor Nancy Ballard mentioned that the AFMS Show in Brunswick Ohio in July had prompted Delta Airlines to give up to 40% discounts on fares to there. Yes, discounts, not surcharges. Can you believe it? I'm at a loss for words.

By Jack Busch

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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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