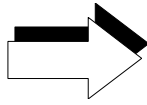
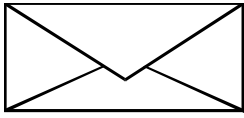


GLMSMC MEMBER SURVEY

We want your ideas! How can we improve the activities of the Gem, Lapidary, and Mineral Society? You can help us by filling out this survey form and turning it in at our next meeting or sending it to:



Mark Dahlman
11906 Scovell Terrace
Germantown MD 20874-2532
Or Email <president@glmsmc.com>

What do you like most about GLMSMC?

Is there anything you dislike about GLMSMC? What would you change?

In what way are you willing to assist with GLMSMC activities? Do you have a particular area of interest?

Did you attend the 2008 GLMSMC Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show?

Do you have any suggestions for improving next year's show?

Do you have any suggestions for the GLMSMC meeting format, or for future speakers or topics?

Have you participated in any GLMSMC field trips? What were your favorites?
Do you have any suggestions for future field trips?

Would you be willing to assist with GLMSMC junior activities?
Do you have any suggestions for junior member activities?

Are you satisfied with the Rockhounder?
Are there things you would like to see? Are there things you would delete from the newsletter?

Have you visited the GLMSMC website <www.glmsmc.com>?
Are there things you would like to add? Are there things you would remove from the website?

Any other comments?

Name (Please PRINT)_____

Signature:_____



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 September 8th** in the dining room of the Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Drive, Rockville. The short business meeting will begin at 7:45 pm but the room is available to us at 7:30 pm so come early and see what you and others have on the Show Table and chat with old friends. The Program subject is “**GOLD**” by **Walter A. Goetz**. Walter is a leading authority on gold mining in Maryland. He has written the following publications on gold mining in the National Capital Area: Maryland Gold Fever (revised 1996), Montgomery County Gold Fever (1988), and Fairfax Gold Fever (1984.) He also produced a map: Gold Mining in Great Falls of Maryland (1975.) Walter has been a regular exhibitor participant in our annual Show and has spoken to our group previously so you can count on his talk to be interesting. He will bring copies of books available for sale. There is, of course, no pressure or obligation to buy.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS will meet September 15th at 7:30 pm at the home of David and Nancy Ballard. All Board members are expected to be there. Any member is welcome to attend but please let Nancy know if you plan to attend.

DUES are overdue if you didn’t pay by September 1st. Single membership is \$15 per year, Family membership (which is defined as up to 2 adults and children under 18 years of age) is \$20 per year. We pay dues for EFMLS/AFMS affiliations, and for insurance for each member over 10 years of age so when renewing, list only those interested in taking part in Society activities.

Send check made out to “GLMSMC” to: Membership Chair Nancy Ballard, 16812 Baederwood Lane, Derwood MD 20855-2011, 301 926 7374.

She will mail your Membership card(s) back to you if you send her a self addressed stamped envelope, otherwise you may pickup your card(s) at the September regular meeting. Be sure to renew NOW if you haven’t already done so. It makes for lots of extra administrative work if you are deleted from Membership then reinstate later.

ROSTER CHANGES

BRALEY, Scott, PSC 2 Box 3384, APO AP 96264 (Moved to Korea.) gbraley@gmail.com.

RIMAR, Donna, j.rimar@comcast.net

Your Board of Directors wants to help make your membership experience one of the very best available. To that end your input is requested. Attached to this Newsletter is a survey for members of the Society to use to help guide society activities. Please use it!

DEADLINE for the Oct. 2008 Rockhounder: **SEP. 26th.**

IN THIS ISSUE

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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE:

We're coming up on a new year for the GLMSMC, and I expect this will be a good one. As mentioned previously, we'll be looking for your thoughts on how to make the society better. Our questionnaire is with this September *Rockhounder*. Also, a reminder that dues are due for our new year that runs from September through August. Payment should be given to our Membership Chair, Nancy Ballard.

Over the summer, I found a very interesting book on meteorites, *Rocks From Space: Meteorites and Meteorite Hunters* by O. Richard Norton, at our local library. It's a fascinating book not only about the science, but also about some of the characters and interesting events in the world of meteors and meteorites. It made me think of another library book, *Trilobite!: Eyewitness To History* by Richard Fortey, which was last summer's surprise for me. Again, this book was more enjoyable than I had expected. It was interesting to read about Virginia's contribution to the world's knowledge of these ancient sea bugs, and I haven't looked at a trilobite's eyes the same way since reading this book.

Looking through the list of books that we have available to us in the GLMSMC library, I spotted another of my favorites, *Maryland Gold Fever*, by Walter Goetz. When it comes to interesting local history, the story of the local gold mining, and the thought of what may still be found in Montgomery County, is hard to beat. The point of all these book notes is that we have a rather extensive library in the GLMSMC - I count over 300 books, pamphlets, and videos in the collection. Those of you with web access can see a list of our society's library holdings thanks to the efforts of our webmaster, Becky Dahlman. Just go to our society webpage at <www.glmsmc.com> and click on the library link on the left side of the page. Books can be checked out by contacting our Librarian, Jonathan Harris.

And lastly, there have been a few societies (Western Dakota Gem & Mineral Society in the Black Hills of South Dakota, Osage Rock and Mineral Club in Missouri, and Delaware Mineralogical Society) that would be interested in swapping local specimens of theirs for local specimens of ours. I'm looking for anyone who would be interested in leading up such a swap - please contact me if you are.



I'm looking forward to seeing you all soon - I hope your summer has been a good one. Mark

VIRGINIA DEPT. OF MINES, MINERALS, AND ENERGY GENERAL MINER WORKSHOP

will once more be offered on September 18th at Manassas (Prince William County Department of Social Services.) This is an all day workshop starting at 8 am and costs \$10.00. Deadline for registration is September 12th. Entry forms and fees must be received 5 working days before the exam. Classes are on a first come first served basis. Next class will be May 14, 2009. Information 434 951 6316. Certification may help with Virginia quarry and mine visits if management insists on the training.

EARTHQUAKE SAFETY

Earthquakes can strike without warning, and being prepared for such a disaster can mean the difference between life and death. Here are some tips to help you and your loved ones make it through a quake:



Those living in areas not prone to earthquakes can respond quickly to the plight of disaster victims in quake zones by complacently smirking and saying, "I told you so."

To minimize loss and damage in a quake, try not to own things.

In the event of a quake, get under something heavy, such as a desk, a table, or your boss.

Practice your burrowing-out-from-under-40-tons-of-rubble skills ahead of time.

A doorway is the safest place to be during a quake. Eat, sleep, and work in doorways.

If you are caught in a major earthquake in Southern California and are part of the entertainment industry, take a moment or two to reflect on how grossly you've wasted your life.

Look out your window often. If you see a large, zig-zag-shaped crevasse moving rapidly from the horizon toward your home, step either to the right or the left.

Be sure to mail your house insurance payments a full five business days before a major earthquake strikes.

SEPTEMBER MEMBER BIRTHDAYS: Joyce Becker, Michael Buynak, Jeffrey Cessna, Mary Crosswhite, Erich Grundel, Emily Johnson, Alexandra Kindahl, Rory McElravy, Jo Ann Mohr, Georgia Olmstead, Meredith Powers, David Smith, Michelle Snyder, and Jane Warford.



SEPTEMBER BIRTHSTONE: SAPPHIRE. **Sapphires of the Stars!** By Arthur Anderson



Some exceptional sapphires and rubies display a six-rayed star, a phenomenon known to gemstone connoisseurs as "asterism." This star-like effect is created by thousands of needle-like inclusions crisscrossing the crystalline structure of the gem. Star sapphires and rubies are usually cut as polished domes (en cabochon) to showcase the star-like effect.

Star sapphires were a great favorite among the movie stars of the 1920's and 1930's. Silent-film actress Mary Pickford treasured a 182-carat star sapphire, the Star of Bombay, given to her by her husband Douglas Fairbanks, Sr. She later donated this beautiful blue-violet gem to the Smithsonian's Museum of Natural History.

Joan Crawford's engagement ring, from husband number two of five, featured a 70-carat star sapphire. Incidentally, husband number two was Douglas Fairbanks, Jr. Clearly the Fairbanks men knew the alluring power of a star sapphire. To complement her betrothal bauble, the star of "Grand Hotel" favored a bracelet set with three equally stunning star sapphires each weighing 73 carats, 64 carats and 58 carats. Clearly she felt these gemstones had "Star Quality!"

On the other hand, Jean Harlow was less fortunate. In 1936, leading man William Powell proposed to her with a beautiful, but traditional, diamond ring. Harlow accepted the proposal, but refused the ring. The platinum blond actress felt a large star sapphire would better fit her glamorous life style. Powell, no doubt chagrined that his first ring was rejected, acquiesced and purchased a large star sapphire, but one of lower quality. This time the ring was accepted and Harlow proudly displayed the bauble in her final film, Saratoga. Tragically, she died several months later at the age of 26.

Photo and Article Used with permission. Arthur & Judi Anderson, © Copyright Bijoux Extraordinaire, Ltd. <www.JewelryExpert.com>.

VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY FIELD TRIPS You are invited to attend field trips near the Virginia coast scheduled in Sept. and Oct. Curator of Invertebrate Paleontology, Dr. Lauck W. Ward, will conduct each of these field trips. Registrations can be mailed to Janet Roetken, Administrative Assistant, Research and Collections, Virginia Museum of Natural History, 21 Starling Avenue, Martinsville, VA 24112, with checks payable to VMNH Field Trips.

September 13 Stratford Hall/Westmoreland State Park. Take a trip along the spectacular cliffs along the Potomac River, in an area rich in paleontology, ecology, and history. The 140-foot high cliffs expose sediment ranging from 3.5 million to 14 million years old, and have produced fossils of whales, seals, crocodiles, sharks, and numerous seashells. These cliffs have been studied by naturalists for nearly 200 years. While on the trip, take time to explore the scenic beauty at Westmoreland State Park and the historic structures and museum at Stratford Hall. Accommodations and park fees are not included in your donation. There is a campground at Westmoreland State Park, and hotels are available in Montross and Colonial Beach. Bring your own lunch, a trowel, plastic bags, and a bucket. Dress to wade and get dirty. Access is moderate, with some walking required, and getting wet is likely. There are no restrooms. 9 am-3 pm. VMNH Members \$30 adults, \$15 children under 12, Non-Members \$35 adults, \$20 children under 12

October 18 Upper James River Boat Trip. Explore the James River and collect fossils that range in age from 3.5 to 7 million years old. These ancient marine beds contain abundant vertebrate and invertebrate fossils that are accessible only by boat. Five different strata all provide different fossils peculiar to those ages. Plan to wade and get dirty. You should bring your own lunch. There are no restrooms. 8 am to 4 pm. VMNH Members \$85, Non-Members \$100

(Continued on Page 5)

SAFETY FIRST – EYE SAFETY

by Bill Klose, AFMS Safety Chairperson

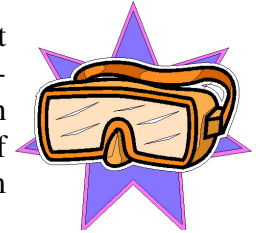
Eyes require protection at all times of the year, whether it is protection from the sun on the way to a collecting site, protection from flying particles at a collecting site, or protection from chemicals, dust, or particles while processing your finds back home in the shop.



Eye hazards include particles, dusts, mists, vapors, fumes, gases, and ultraviolet light. Many of these hazards are encountered by rock hounds in pursuit of their passion.

Safety glasses or spectacles are designed to provide impact protection from flying particles and have heavier frames than normal spectacles with impact resistant lenses, usually of poly carbonate. These lenses can be tinted to protect the eyes from laser or ultraviolet light and the sun's rays. As most particles enter the eyes at an angle, it is recommended that the frames accommodate and are worn with side shields or have them "built in". Safety glasses are available with corrective lenses, even bifocal and multifocal lenses. Do not use spectacles intended for protection from radiation and glare from the sun indoors where your vision may be impaired by the tinted lenses. Spectacles should be fitted to your eye and bridge size and temple length and should fit comfortably over the eyes. The frame should be close to the face and supported by the bridge of the nose. Keep spectacles clean and clear of scratches. Store spectacles in a dry clean place where they will not fall or be stepped on. Scratched or damaged spectacles interfere with vision and do not provide protection for the eyes from fumes, vapors, liquids, and large particles and should be discarded.

Safety goggles provide a secure shield around the entire eye area to protect against hazards coming from many different directions and spread the force of impact over a larger area around the eyes than spectacles. Goggles are most effective when worn with safety spectacles and are also provided with impact resistant lenses that can be tinted if required. Goggles that are unvented or indirectly vented will provide protection from splash hazards. Goggles may be provided with fog free coatings.



Face shields are required when pouring hot liquids, using acids to clean rocks or fossils, breaking rocks with hand or mechanical equipment, and while dressing grinding wheels. Face shields should never be used without goggles and safety spectacles and are available with protective head gear and chemical hoods.

Select the proper level of eye protection prior to starting any activity and remember that the risk of bypassing a level because "it will only take a second and I will be careful" could cost you one of your most precious possessions, your sight.

From AFMS Newsletter Feb. 2005

UPCOMING CLASSES:**Clearwater Nature Center**

Cabochoon Making Classes. 3 separate classes Sat. Sep. 20, Sat. Oct 18, Sat. Nov. 8, 9 am-3 pm. Ages 18 & up. Fee for residents of PG or Montgomery Counties for each class \$30, others \$36.

Jewelry Classes. 3 separate classes Sat. Sep. 13 Knotting Beads. Sat. Sep. 20 Bead Weaving, Sat. Oct. 4 Sterling Silver Chains. Extra \$12 material fee due at start of each class. Ages 16 & up. 10 am-4:30 pm. PG, Montgomery County residents \$40, others \$48 for each class.

Montgomery County Department of Recreation Get the Montgomery County Guide for Recreation and Park Programs Fall 2008, for information.

Stone Sculpture, by Ann Ruppert. 2 separate series of 10 sessions each, at Ross Boddy Community Center, starting Wed. Sep. 24 or Thu. Sep. 25, 7-9 pm. Age 16 & up. Fee \$157. Bring your own gloves, goggles, tools, supplies, and stone.

Various Jewelry Classes starting Sep. 17 – Oct. 29.



The San Andreas Fault is a topographical error.

Definition of a Lapidary: Someone who grinds their fingernails, sands their knuckles and polishes their vocabulary while trying to do the same thing to a piece of agate.

From Chipper's Chatter, Chesapeake Gem & Mineral Society, July 2007

VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY FIELD TRIPS (Continued from Page 3)

October 19 Lieutenant Run is a small stream in Petersburg, Virginia, that has cut through rock units of the Chesapeake Group, a sequence of strata deposited in extensive Miocene and Pliocene (7 million to 3.5 million years ago) embayments in the Maryland and Virginia Coastal Plain. In these large embayments, normal to nearly normal marine salinities prevailed and many species and genera of mollusks flourished. The mollusks are representative of a marine-warm temperature climatic province not presently existing off the Atlantic Coast of the United States. VMNH Members \$15 adults, \$10 children under 12. Non-Members \$20 adults, \$15 children under 12.

For further information: contact Janet Roetken, Phone 276 634 4171, Fax 276 634 4199. Space is limited.

E Mail <janet.roetken@vmnh.virginia.gov>. (Scientifically significant specimens may be retained by curators for the VMNH collection.) Thanks to Georgia Olmstead for this information.

FIELD TRIPS:

Saturday September 13, 2008: Meet at 7:45 am at Vulcan's Manassas Quarry. The rock is diabase, with one level having a layer of hornfels. This quarry has produced prehnite, apophyllite, calcite, amethyst, quartz, chalcopyrite, pyrite, epidote, and zeolites - stilbite, chabazite, heulandite, stellerite, and others. See <<http://www.mindat.org/loc-15214.html>>. Children must be accompanied by their parents and have the same safety gear we require of adults. The minimum age is 10. Please let Jonathan know if you plan to attend by September 6th so he can provide the quarry with an accurate headcount. Directions to quarry: From the Beltway, go west on I-66. Take exit 44, SR-234. Go 3.6 miles. Turn left onto Wellington Lane. The quarry will be on your left, about 0.5 miles from VA-234.

Saturday October 4, 2008: Martin-Marietta Pinesburg Quarry, 14932 Bottom Road, Williamsport MD. This is a limestone quarry where there are vugs with quartz (clear and smoky), calcite, dolomite, barite, pyrite, and fluorite. Some fossils and concretions also appear in the quarry. Meet at the Manager's Office no later than 8:00 am. We will collect from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm. Minimum age is 16, minors must be with a parent. Please let Jonathan know if you plan to attend by Sep. 27 so he can provide the quarry with an accurate headcount. Directions to Pinesburg: Take I-270 north to I-70 west to I-81 south (near Hagerstown.) Take the Williamsport exit (2) right, which is US-11 south. Turn right at the 3rd traffic light MD-68 and continue for about a mile until you see a sign for Bottom Road. (There is a cannery on the left and a brickyard on the right.) Take Bottom Road to the left before the railroad tracks. After 2.3 miles you will see a sign that says "Do Not Enter." Turn right across the tracks. Go to the 2nd entrance and turn into the visitor's parking lot. It is about 1 hour, 10 minutes from the Montgomery Village/I-270 intersection.

Field Trip Rules: Field trips are restricted to club members in good standing. (Dues are due Sep.1st.) Participants must attend the safety briefing given at the beginning of the trip, sign applicable waivers and paper work, and follow all quarry instructions. Required safety gear: hard hats, safety goggles, long pants, steel toed boots, and gloves. Participants must wear eye protection and hard hats at all times on quarry property. These rules apply to our club members even if quarry management is willing to be more lenient. Jonathan will attempt to get age limits from quarry management before each trip. Children must be accompanied by a parent and use the required safety gear.



Seriously consider bringing: sunscreen, water, snacks, and clothing appropriate for the weather conditions. Club members are not permitted to stop rain, adjust outdoor temperature, or otherwise alter weather conditions at the collecting site. Participants must sign up with the Field Trip Chair in advance. Please also E Mail him if you have to cancel or if you plan to make a decision the morning of the trip. ("fair weather collectors") Jonathan Harris will email announcements of any additional trips scheduled after press time. Get on his list if you are interested and not already included. If you do not have E Mail, phone him at 301 545 0808.

“MOST PRIMITIVE” KNOWN FOUR-LEGGED ANIMAL DESCRIBED June 26, 2008
with permission World Science <<http://www.world-science.net>>.

A new report analyzes fossils of what scientists describe as the most primitive four-legged animal known. The findings further fill in the already shrinking gaps in the fossil record of an epochal transition in animal evolution - the shift from sea to land, researchers said. The major hole in that record seems to have been plugged in 2006, with the fossil discovery of a creature almost exactly midway between land animal and fish. Even so, biologists said a gap remained between that creature, known as Tiktaalik, and the earliest true tetrapods, or animals with limbs in place of fins. Scientists have now presented a description of an animal that would seem to stand midway between Tiktaalik and the most primitive tetrapods previously recognized, in particular creatures by the names Acanthostega and Ichthyostega.



Artist's concept of the head of Ventastega.
Image by Philip Renne



Reconstruction of Ventastega (Courtesy Per Ahlberg)

The newly studied animal is called Ventastega. It was “first described from fragmentary material in 1994,” said Per Ahlberg of Uppsala University, Sweden, an author of the report. “Since then, excavations have produced lots of new superbly preserved fossils, allowing us to reconstruct the whole head, shoulder girdle and part of the pelvis.”

Ventastega was more fish-like than its contemporaries, such as Acanthostega, according to Ahlberg's group: Ventastega shows a tetrapod-like lower jaw, but more fish-like fangs. The findings also point to skull changes during the transition, they said: the eyes and snout became larger, but the skull overall began to shrink.

The study reveals tetrapod lineages diversified much earlier than previously thought, since other contemporary fossils show quite different features, the researchers argued. “The transformation from paired fins to limbs had already occurred” with Ventastega, said Ahlberg, but it seems “different parts of the body evolved at different speeds during the transition,” which occurred during the Late Devonian period, about 360 to 380 million years ago. Ventastega was represented in the new study by remains of a skull, brain-case, shoulder girdle and partial pelvis found in Latvia. Findings appear in the June 26 issue of the research journal *Nature*.

UPCOMING CLASSES:

Glen Echo Park: Obtain the Fall/Winter 2008-9 Catalog of Classes and Events available at the Montgomery County Public Library. See catalog for dates, fees, and age requirements. Various Beading & Jewelry classes.

Stone Carving, Nizette Brennan instructor. Class 1 Wed. Sep. 10 to Dec 15, Class 2 Wed. Oct 22 to Dec. 3 (not Nov. 26th.) 6 sessions for age 13 up. All classes 6 -9 pm. Fee \$280, \$45 tool rental, \$75 stone fee if needed.



The Black Ironwood tree (*Olea laurifolia*) has wood so dense that it won't float on water. Volcanic pumice is less dense than water, so it can float! Wood sinks and rock floats on water! How 'bout dat?

September 13 & 14, 43rd Annual Gem, Mineral, and Jewelry Show of the Central Pennsylvania Rock and Mineral Club Inc. celebrating the club's 50th anniversary. **New Location:** Eagle View Middle School, (Behind Cumberland Valley High School) 6746 Carlisle Pike, Mechanicsburg PA. Saturday 10 am to 6 pm, Sunday 10 am to 5 pm. Admission \$5.00, under 12 and scouts in uniform free. Information & Dollar Off coupon at <<http://rockandmineral.org>>.

September 24 to 28, The Houston Gem and Mineral Society hosts the AFMS & South Central Federation of Mineral Societies' Conventions at the Humble Convention Center, 8233 Will Clayton Parkway, Humble TX. The show itself is Sep. 26 to 28, with Federation meetings and activities earlier and coincident with the show. Information at <<http://www.amfed.org/show2008.htm>>



September 27 & 28, 44th Annual Atlantic Coast Gem, Mineral, & Jewelry Show of the Gem Cutter's Guild. Howard County Fairgrounds, Saturday 10 am to 6 pm, Sunday 10 am to 5 pm. Admission \$5.00, children under 12 free with adult. Free parking. Food. Directions: Off I-70 at MD 32 to MD 144 to Fairgrounds. Information and Dollar Off Coupon see : <www.gemcuttersguild.com>.

September 27 & 28, 52nd Annual Franklin-Sterling Hill Mineral, Gem, & Jewelry Show sponsored by the Franklin Mineral Museum, Franklin School, Washington Avenue, Franklin NJ.

October 18 & 19, 34th Annual Gem & Mineral Show, sponsored by the Kanawa Rock & Gem Club. South Charleston Community Center, South Charleston WV.

October 25 Ultravioletation 2008 Fluorescent Mineral Show sponsored by the Rock & Mineral Club of Lower Bucks County First United Methodist Church, Fairless Hills PA

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sat. Sep. 20 or Sun., Sep. 21: Professor Callan Bentley, Northern VA Comm. College, Annandale campus, will be leading a walking tour "History Before History: the Geologic Saga of Washington, DC" as part of Walkingtown, DC, 1 pm until about 4 pm, involving about 2.5 miles of walking from Adams-Morgan to Georgetown. Limit of 30 people; interested walkers should reserve a spot with Cultural Tourism DC. Free.

Sun. Oct. 5: Callan Bentley will give a talk titled "A Geologist's Perspective on Climate Change" at the Chinn Park Regional in Woodbridge, Virginia. 2 pm-3 pm. Free.

Fri., Oct. 24: " Geology Along the Billy Goat Trail." Callan Bentley will lead a hike along the infamous Billy Goat Trail, examining its exquisite display of metamorphic geology and geomorphology. 12:30 pm-4:30 pm. Reserve a spot through the Great Falls Tavern Visitor Center. Free.



Thanks to Owen Powers for the information about these three events.

Sun. Sep. 14, 1-4 pm, Geology of Gulf Branch, Arlington VA. by the Audubon Naturalist Society. Members \$19, non-members \$26.50. Information 301 652 9188 Ext. 16.

C&O Canal Association. Details TBD. Call Marlow Madeoy 703 723 6884 or <nancymadeoy@aol.com>.

Sat. Oct. 4, Geology Hike Great Falls and Billy Goat Trail.

Sat. Nov. 15, Geology Hike at Point of Rocks.

Montco Parks Dept., Black Hill Visitor Ctr., Fossil Collecting by Kayak lead by fossil expert Kevin Wilson to Calvert Cliffs. 1 class Sun. Sep. 14, 8 am-8 pm. 18 & up. Fee \$25, Friends of Black Hill \$20. 301 916 0220.

WEB SITES

Plug into these



By Wendell Mohr



Details of the Napoléon Diamond Necklace. With Permission, NMNH

The Napoléon Diamond Necklace. Research on the necklace by E. Gaillou & Jeffrey E. Post as described in "Gems and Gemology" can be viewed at the URL <<http://mineralsciences.si.edu/collections/napoleonnecklace.htm>>. The Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History site tells the history of the piece, details about the necklace, and describes the intriguing infrared spectrometry and fluorescence studies performed along with fine accompanying photographs.

- Napoléon once had lots of cash for diamond necklaces. After banishment to the Island of Elba, he could only afford Tourmaline (Elbaite.) •

Mimetoliths, at <<http://www.cst.cmich.edu/users/dietr1rv/mimetoliths/>> is a real site for sore eyes. Put together by Dr. R. V. Dietrich, Professor Emeritus at Central Michigan University, it is up to you to have a vivid imagination. After you figure out what a mimetolith is, explore all the venues of this one. You might take a closer look at picture #39, with special meaning to me, since I took the picture in June, while on a trip to New York State. • One weirdly shaped tufa mimetolith broke as it was being put in display. The owner took it to his dentist to get his tufa fixed. •



Gone But Not Forgotten



Great Basin Minerals is a site referred to me by member Georgia Olmstead. A commercial posting by Scott Kleine who concentrates on mineral specimens from Nevada, there are minerals for sale (no endorsement here.) The enjoyable part is the excitement of seeing collecting at various places for quartz, benitoite, gold, amazonite, smoky quartz, heulandite and others. The archive page has pictures from his many show visits. • An aged collector went to the old silver mining town at the Comstock lode. He ducked into a drug store and found exactly what he was looking for: Centrum Silver. •

MINERAL SCIENCES SEMINAR SERIES Mineral Sciences seminars are held on the 4th floor, East Wing, of National Museum of Natural History. Individuals who are not members of the department need to buzz in at the entrance to the department (located just by the 4th floor East wing elevators) prior to 10am. Below the phone, just push the big red door access button and you'll be buzzed through. Those without SI badges should call the department from the visitor services office, located at the 10th and Constitution Ave entrance to the museum, by dialing Phyllis McKenzie at 3-1808 or Liz Cottrell at 3-1859. Refreshments served at 10 AM. Seminars run from 10:00 until 11:00 unless otherwise noted.

September 10, Jessica Warren - Department of Terrestrial Magnetism, Carnegie Institution of Washington "Insights on mantle composition from ultra-slow spreading mid-ocean ridges."

September 17, Isamu Matsuyama - Department of Terrestrial Magnetism, Carnegie Institution of Washington "To be announced."

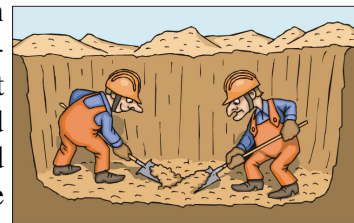
October 8, Jim Zimbelman - Center for Earth and Planetary Studies, Smithsonian Institution "One Hundred Years after the Tunguska Explosion."

October 15, Tom Casadevall - U.S. Geological Survey "Long-lived Mud Extrusion near Surabaya, Indonesia."

October 29, Steve Self - Nuclear Regulatory Commission "The world's largest volcanic eruptions."

November 19, Richard S Fiske - Smithsonian Institution "Intra-oceanic convergent margin volcanism: Volcanology's Missing Link OR The Curse of the Island Arc!"

1992 WRAP-UP AND MORE- -But first a correction to something I'd written in the previous *Rockhounder*. In the year's election report I stated that George Fetterly had replaced Lou Williams as Treasurer. Not so! I've been reminded that Lou never held that office. When I had looked at the list of officers that appeared on the back page of the December 1991 *Rockhounder*, somehow my eye had jumped a line while I was reading. Yes, George had been elected Treasurer, but he took over the job from Steph Hald. (Lou had been Junior Advisor, a job he continued to hold in addition to taking on that of President.) Mea Culpa! Now you know why I don't drive any more.



MINING OUR HISTORY

As in years gone by the main event of December's meeting was the annual Holiday Party. The chomping and slurping of good stuff was preceded by a number of announcements, one of which was by Virginia Vance who informed the group she had a rockhound of a different sort to give away to anyone who would reimburse her for the cost of its shots. Are you confused? Well, this rockhound was a 6 week old beagle puppy. Nothing was reported in the January *Rockhounder* as to whether anyone took Virginia up on her offer.

For unspecified reasons, there had been no door prize drawing in November, so there were two names drawn at December's meeting. The winners were Lois and Berlin Ritchie, one of those rare occasions when two members of a family win on the same night.

In the December issue of *EFMLS Digest*, Carolyn Weinberger announced that in November an 18-year long dispute between the Eastern and Southeastern Federations had ended and they settled their differences which were primarily geographic in nature. (For newer members, originally the Eastern Federation consisted of most of the clubs east of the Mississippi and south of the Ohio rivers, and in the '70's some of the clubs in the southern states worked to set up a separate federation and did so.) Under the agreement, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, Tennessee, and North and South Carolina were "ceded" by the Eastern Federation to the Southeast Federation with the proviso that such clubs in those states could remain in the Eastern Federation should they choose to do so. Likewise, Eastern Clubs who wished to join the Southeastern Federation were free to take such action, but as of January 1, 1995 no club could have dual membership. After 18 years, peace at last!

Despite the fact that the night of 1994's first meeting was foggy, 33 adventurous souls showed up at Herbert Hoover Middle School and they were rewarded for their efforts. The evening's program speaker was Fred Ward, gemologist and free-lance photographer, who among other things had done much work for the National Geographic Society; (I guess that after some of the places he had visited on NGS assignments a bit of Montgomery County fog didn't phase him.) Mr. Ward spoke extensively about the corundum gemstones, rubies and sapphires. Supplementing his words with slides, he covered the history of and lore about the gems, geographic locations where they could be found, and precautions to take when buying them. He said that pure corundum is colorless; it is the presence of minute quantities of other trace elements that gives colors. Only rubies are red, thanks to a bit of chromium. Sapphire, on the other hand, comes in many colors, depending upon the intruding element. Both gems have been synthesized and simulated so one must use caution when buying. Mr. Ward, in addition to writing a book on rubies and sapphires, also had authored books on diamonds, pearls, jade, and emeralds.

Attendance was better at February's meeting, thus I assume the weather was also. Included among the announcements before the start of the program was one from VP Bob Irby who stated he had put together a computer program (IBM compatible) on gemstone weight, and that it was available for use at no charge to members. Do you still have the program, Bob?

The evening's program was presented by member Mike Ellwood, who spoke about collecting, identifying, and preparing Miocene Era fossils. He had brought a number of specimens for viewing, and shared his experiences in collecting and transporting large fossils. Mike's program was described as interesting, informative, and witty, and that it helped members in their understanding of Miocene fossils.

Hope to see all of you at September's meeting. Jack

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1st Place, New Editor, 2007
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