

# THE ROCKHOUNDER



**REGULAR MEETING** Meetings are held the 2nd Monday of the month from September to June. The Society will next meet on Monday February 9th in the dining room of the Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Drive, Rockville. The short business meeting will begin at 7:45 pm but the room is available to us at 7:30 pm so come early to chat and see the Show Table materials. Our own member, George Durland, will be our speaker on the topic “Fluorescent Minerals of the World.” His father worked at the mines at Franklin NJ and he holds a keen interest, not only on the Franklin minerals, but also fluorescent minerals worldwide. George is a Society past President and currently is publicity chairman. We look forward to an interesting and entertaining program.

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS** will meet February 16th, 2009 at 7:30 pm at the home of David and Nancy Ballard. All Board members are expected to be there. Any member is welcome to attend but please let Nancy know if you plan to attend.

## **ROSTER CHANGES**

COLVIN, Davis & Tyler, Charlotte, Phone & Email discontinued, current new addresses to be determined.

KRUG, Phillip & Sue, E Mail: ptk11@verizon.net

SMITH, Earl, E Mail: EAmericus@aol.com


## **NEW MEMBERS**

NWE, TIN LAY, & HTUT, AUNG (OSCAR), 7205 Orkney Parkway, Bethesda MD 20817-4919

Tin: 301 943 3721, Aung: 301 312 8817, nwetin@yahoo.com


## **WEATHER ALERT**

**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.




A scuba diving geologist has a business to measure the relative sizes of the rises, drops, cavities and undulations of coral formations along the sea coasts. Of course this can only be done in the summer months so he takes the winters off to avoid the frigid air like we have been experiencing recently.

You may tag him as a “frost-free reef ridge rater.”




**DEADLINE** for the March 2009 Rockhounder: **Feb. 23rd**



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**PRESIDENTS MESSAGE:** Spring is just around the corner! It will be here before we know it, and with it will be our club's show at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds on March 21 and 22. As the show flier says, this will be our 45th annual show - our Sapphire Anniversary show. It certainly feels like history in the making.



Like all big events, it takes a lot of folks (like you and me) to make it happen. We are extremely lucky to have members already working on the show preparations, such as Heather Felsen coordinating the Fairgrounds, dealers, and a long list of other items; George Durland making sure our publicity and fliers are in place; Charlie Zellers getting the show's mailing list updated and postcards labeled; Jeff Cessna, Bob Irby, Elmer Lantz, and Don Turner, preparing the shop for hundreds of kids; Bob Irby lining up demonstrators; Pat Repik-Byrne organizing the first floor; Jo Ann Mohr sewing bags for kid's specimens; and I'm sure I'm missing others.

Thanks to those of you who have already signed up to help out at the show. We got a good start on members signing up for the show at our January meeting, but we have a way to go to fill all the shifts. There are many spots open for things like the Mini Mine where we hide interesting stones in sand for children to mine. It's always a lot of fun to see the next generation of rockhounds there, and at the adjacent Touch Table where kids can see and touch an interesting variety of minerals and fossils.

We still need more help in the shop - if you've never cabbled a stone before here's your chance to be trained by Don Turner - contact Don at 301 424 8616 to arrange a time. And, of course, the more folks we have for the set-up on Friday, March 20, and take-down on Sunday, March 22, the easier it is for everyone. Please help the club by signing up for open spots at our February meeting, or contact <show\_education\_chair@glmsmc.com>, Pat Repik-Byrne if you can sign up but won't be able to attend the February meeting - we really need your help!

Speaking of the show, we only have 8 exhibit forms submitted so far. We have a lot of cases to fill, so please don't think your exhibit isn't needed - it is! (Also keep in mind that each exhibit gets a certificate worth \$10 at the show - pretty good for showing off your collection while supporting your Society.) Complete one (or more) exhibitor's application form(s) and get them to Pat Repik-Byrne.

Congratulations to our Future Rockhounds led by Holly McNeil, assisted by Pat Jayne and Jennifer Paraboschi, who held their charter meeting at our January meeting. It's great to see this activity for juniors getting started. See Holly's FRA article in this Rockhounder, Page 9, for more information.

Finally, I'd like to recognize Jeff Nagy for stepping forward and accepting the position of Society Historian. Jeff will retain documents and mementos in a safe, secure and organized manner in order to preserve the club's history. He will also be putting his stamp on this position as our first official Historian. Thanks, Jeff!

I hope to see you at our February meeting, Mark

**HAPPY NEWS** Consistent with February's Valentine emphasis, Heather Felsen has let us know that she and Marco Marchegiani became engaged in December! We share your joy, Heather, and give you both our congratulations. The big date is July 5th, appropriately the day after Independence Day! Marco gave us a hand at last year's show and we hope that he will become more interested in our hobby. We understand that he picked a GREAT NEW STONE for your collection. Marco was heard to speak the old Latin Phrase, "Veni, Vidi, Velcro" (I came, I saw, I stuck around.)



**MINERALOGICAL RECORD** In February we will hold a silent auction for two complete years of these valuable magazines. One lot consisting of the FIRST 4 issues, Vol. 1, 1970, and the other, 6 issues, Vol. II, 1971. Minimum bid for each is \$95 and \$260, half of the going retail price.

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES:** The January 12, 2009 meeting was called to order by President Mark Dahlman at 7:45 pm, with approximately 61 people attending. Minutes of the December 8, 2008 regular meeting were approved.

**FRA:** Holly McNeil announced the first night of the Future Rockhounters of America (FRA). The four students would learn about the rock cycle and the different types of rocks. Holly asked for volunteers to lead special sessions at future meetings. E mail <fraadvisor@glmsmc.org> if you are interested. Holly was assisted by Pat Jayne and Jennifer Paraboschi.

**President:** Mark announced that forms were available for the EFMLS Wildacres sessions April 17-23 and September 7-13. The speaker in residence will be Dr Wise, our speaker for the evening. He called for a volunteer for the Rockville Science Day April 26<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact George Durland to find out what is involved.

**Show:** Mark circulated volunteer sign-up sheets for the annual show. Invitations have been sent out to demonstrators. Don Turner requested volunteers for the shop to help teach cabochon making. Contact Don if you are interested. Chuck Hyland offered the Boy Scouts and his sons to help. Completed exhibit forms were requested by Pat Repik-Byrne. George Durland had show flyers available for people to pick up and distribute. Show Chairman, Heather Felsen announced that she had received full payment from 19 of the 20 dealers. Mark reminded the members that those working at the show will receive free admission, others must pay.

**Treasurer:** Andy Muir announced that the club was solvent and that the checks were in from the dealers. Andy was impressed with Juan's thoroughness and diligence and will take the same approach, using the same forms. Steve McNeil audited the financial statements and announced that the 2008 records are in good shape and echoed Andy's evaluation of Juan's performance.

**Other business:** Jeff Nagy has agreed to be the club historian. He will pick up the materials from Nancy Ballard who noted that he "doesn't yet know what he is in for."

**New members:** Tin Lay New and Aung Htut (Oscar) made application for membership it was M/S/P electing them to membership. Welcome!

**Speaker:** Vice President, Elmer Lantz, introduced the evening speaker, Dr. Michael Wise, of the Smithsonian Institution. Having a keen interest in the study of pegmatites, Dr. Wise gave a presentation entitled *Mineralogical and Geochemical Study of the Hiddenite Emerald Deposit, Hiddenite, North Carolina*. During the presentation, however, we found out that his study of the North American Emerald Property revealed that it is one of two known sites in the world where emeralds are found in a hydrothermal deposit rather than in pegmatites. We also learned about the similar, but distinctly different mineralogies of the emerald and hiddenite pockets. This knowledge, particularly the morphology of the pyrite, quartz, and calcite, may one day be useful for finding new emerald pockets, or the rarer hiddenite pockets, in this deposit. This could enhance the currently used yellow brick, limonite, road. As usual, Dr. Wise also showed us pictures of many samples we'd all love to own. Thank you Michael.

The meeting adjourned at 9:57 PM.



Jeff Cessna, Secretary.

Reminder, we must vacate the meeting room at 10:00 pm

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES:** President Mark Dahlman called the January 19, 2009 meeting to order at 7:36 pm. Board members present: Nancy Ballard, Jeff Cessna, Mark Dahlman, George Durland, Heather Felsen, Jonathan Harris, Elmer Lantz, Wendell Mohr, Pat Repik-Byrne, Joel Rosen, and Rod Towers. Non board members present: David Ballard.

**President:** It was M/S/P to approve a \$300 budget for the Future Rockhounds of America. It was M/S/P to renew The Mini Miner Monthly subscription for three copies.

**Show "Downstairs" Chair:** Pat Repik-Byrne discussed the volunteer sign in sheets. More volunteers are needed for many of the positions. The clipboard with sign up sheets will be passed around again at the next meeting. There are only nine exhibit applications now. The Turner award for junior exhibit winner will be announced in the *Rockhoulder*. Applications will be E Mailed and/or mailed to members. Only one demonstrator application was in hand now.

**Newsletter Editor:** Charlie Zellers will make the mailing labels for the show postcards. We will need a new person to take on this task. Mark will get the current information from Charlie. We still need to investigate alternative venues for the show. Since the Montgomery Area Science Fair falls on the same weekend as the club show we will not participate this year. Magazines donated from Sue Patch will be offered to attendees at the next regular meeting with the remainder being offered at the club show. The exception will be the almost complete set of Mineralogical Record, volumes 1-8. It was M/S/P to sell, by silent auction, at club meetings, 2 volumes per month. The minimum bid will be half of the going market rate of the issues offered. An application has been submitted for the club by Jennifer Wingard for eight spaces on a collecting trip to the phosphate mine in Aurora, NC.

In addition to a resumption of the junior door prize being given at the beginning of the meeting, the juniors contributing to the show table will discuss their samples at the beginning of the meeting. They will receive tickets for the show table door prize, but the drawing will still be after the show table presentations at the end of the meeting. Mark will announce the new procedure.

Joel will make a plea to the members for brevity and a reduction in the number of samples per person having material on the Show Table, at the next meeting.

**Treasurer:** According to the net worth statement from the previous treasurer the club is doing well. Dealer checks are coming in with a majority now paid in full. CD's are being renewed. Steve McNeil gave the club books a clean bill of health in his audit. The yearly budget was discussed and small adjustments were made.

**Secretary:** The club CabMate has been transferred to Jeff Cessna for performs for the club show. Elmer will assist in the effort. We will need about 300-375 and have none remaining from the previous year. Others will be contacted to help.

**Door Prizes:** Samples recently purchased for door prize were previewed. Prizes will also come from remaining Houser materials, donations at last years show, and donations from Juan Proaño.

**Vice President:** Dr Wise has been thanked for his presentation. Possibilities for the March meeting were discussed.

**Field Trip Chair:** The Smithsonian Naturalist Center field trip is organized. Suggestions for future field trips were requested. Jonathan had discussions Black Hill Visitor Center to attempt to make a weekday presentation on local "Volcanoes in Maryland" available on a Saturday.

**Show Chairman:** All but one dealer booth is committed. Heather will select from the lengthy waiting list. Reminders have been sent regarding dealer raffle donations. Joel asked for volunteers to take over the collection of raffle samples at the beginning of the show. It was suggested that raffle samples be collected at the same time and by the same person who collects the door prize samples to avoid confusing the dealers with multiple requests. Heather will explain the requests to dealers. It was M/S/P to give each demonstration group a voucher to be used at the show.

**Publicity:** George requested volunteers to post show posters at their local Giant stores public bulletin board. It was M/S/P with two abstentions to forego the paid Gaithersburg Gazette ad this year and gauge the impact on attendance.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 PM.

Jeff Cessna, Secretary.



**FEBRUARY MEMBER BIRTHDAYS:**

Christine Abelow, Nancy Ballard, Nora Braun, Frances Gallegos, Betsy Hallman, Gillian Hunter, Eric Kindahl, Phil Krug, Andy Muir, Luke Paraboschi, Tom Parnell, Ginger Posthumus, Juan Proaño, Keith Regatts, Lester Schaub, Carol Smith, Earl A. Smith III, Patricia Snyder, Rod Towers, Inga Wells, Kathleen Wright.

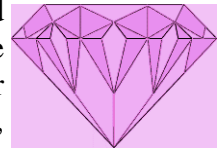
**February's Birthstone is AMETHYST**

Amethyst's top grade, (monetarily) is a deep purple and has no flaws or inclusions in it. It can be mauve or violet and is a form of the mineral quartz. When heated to 550-560 degrees C. amethysts turn dark yellow or reddish-brown and are called citrines. They are more richly colored and more expensive than natural citrines. The color will also fade if left in the sun too long.

**Split Personality** It is possible for some specimens of quartz to be different colors in different areas. Amethyst and citrine are varieties of quartz which can both occur in the same stone. Such stones are sometimes called ametrines, but we think they could equally well be called citrysts or citrethysts.

**What's in a Name?** Amethyst gets its name from a Greek word amethystos meaning "not drunken", as it was believed to protect against intoxication by alcohol. (Yet, one source says, if it is to protect one from the effects of wine, it needs to be held under the tongue while drinking. You need to hold your face just right, for it to work!)

**Beautifully Colored Gemstone** Amethyst is one of the most beautiful of the colored gemstones, particularly in its better qualities. The most important attribute should be an attractive color, but varies according to individual taste. The rich deep violet color is generally the favorite and most expensive, but a stone of medium color intensity, with plenty of sparkle, can also be very attractive. Many of the amethysts for sale in stores are only in low to medium quality, being either pale or quite included, and as a result are not particularly attractive.



**Synthetics** It's believed the 70% of amethysts on the world market are now synthetic. This has only been discovered in the last few years. The hardness of real amethyst is 7, and appears on the Moh scale as quartz. Many of the low cost Amethysts are of high quality, and are deeply colored and can be found in inexpensive jewelry. This is often due to the cost of testing the stone being higher than the cost of even the natural stone, so it is not often performed. Therefore, be aware of a cheap amethyst, what looks like a perfect stone.

References: Website: <<http://www.24carat.co.uk/a2z.html>> (Gemstone Information) and Tim McCreights (1991) *The Complete Metalsmith: An Illustrated Handbook*.

via The Surrey Rockhounder Via the RockVein Winnipeg Rock and Mineral Club April 2004

**FIELD TRIPS:** No trips are currently planned for February. Jonathan Harris will email announcements of any trips scheduled after press time. Get on his list if you are not already included and are interested. Contact him at <[jgharris7@comcast.net](mailto:jgharris7@comcast.net)>. No E Mail? Call Jonathan at 301-545-0808. Our thanks to Jonathan for a great 2008 trip program—Keep up the good work.

**FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2008,** sent separately, will give you a summary of all the income and expenditure items for the Society. It also gives the beginning and ending Society balance. **This report is for confidential use by members only.** If you have questions contact our new Treasurer, Andy Muir. Also the report of the auditor is shown. A big thanks to Steve McNeil for performing this year's audit. It is a required task each year and know it took time out of Steve's busy schedule.



**GET WELL** George Loud had knee surgery on January 13th and we all wish him a successful and speedy recovery. We need you back at show time!

**SAFETY FIRST - HEARING SAFETY**

By Bill Klose EFMLS Safety Chair Mar. 2005

Hearing loss affects about 28 million people in the United States. About 10 million of these people received this damage as a result of exposure to loud noises. More than 20 million Americans are exposed to hazardous levels of noise on a regular basis that could result in Noise Induced Hearing Loss or NIHL.

Occupational noise exposure is the most common cause of NIHL, but non-occupational exposure, such as live or recorded high volume music, airplanes, automobiles, and recreational vehicles, household tools, and some appliances are also major contributors to NIHL.

Very loud sounds of short duration, such as explosions, gunfire, or loud banging, can produce immediate, severe, and permanent loss of hearing. Longer exposure to less intense levels of sound over time exacts a gradual toll on hearing, initially without the person's awareness. The louder the level of noise, and the longer the duration of exposure, the greater the potential for permanent damage.

The best method for protecting ourselves from NIHL is to eliminate or reduce the intensity of the noise source and the time of exposure. The next best prevention method is to wear hearing protection in the form of ear plugs (disposable or fitted) or ear muffs when faced with potential exposure to noise.

Rock hounds are most commonly exposed to noise while in vehicles on the way to and from collecting sites. Some collecting sites contain industrial equipment that can generate considerable amounts of noise. When at these sites it is best to wear the same level of protection that the workers at the site are wearing, as the employer has determined the level of protection required for the protection of his employees.

Rock hounds also use hammers and even large portable gasoline engine powered diamond saws at collecting sites to recover specimens and should protect their hearing with ear plugs or ear muffs.

Back in the shop, hammers and rotating equipment such as diamond saws, grinding wheels, rock hammers, rock trimmers, etc., contribute to the noise level along with everyday activities around the house such as music, television, household appliances, and power equipment such as lawn mowers. Consider wearing ear plus or ear muffs when appropriate to prevent NIHL.

**ROCKVILLE SCIENCE DAY 2009** INVITATION TO EXHIBIT. The Rockville Consortium for Science invites you to bring a hands-on exhibit to the twentieth Rockville Science Day, Sunday, April 26, 2009, Noon to 5 p.m., Montgomery College, Rockville Campus. Set-up: Saturday, April 25, 4 to 6 p.m. & Sunday April 26, 10 a.m. to noon. This year they are emphasizing the emerging Rockville Science Center. During 2008, a new group was organized to focus specifically on developing a science center in Rockville to serve the citizens of Montgomery County. They would like your exhibit to be an example of a learning experience that might be found in our future science center. In the past, Jim and Michelle Michaelis and George Durland have participated in this event. It is an opportunity to educate young people as well as to enlist new members in our Society. If you intend to participate, let Mark Dahlman know and fill out and send the entry form he has by February 15, 2009.

**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. The 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.

Q. How does a rockhound stop a his tumbling machine?

A. He uses the paws button.

Contemporary Latin Phrase:  
"Sic semper tyrannus." (Your dinosaur is ill.)

**SHOW TABLE:** January 12, 2009 Thanks to those who bring items for sharing at the meetings.

<u>Exhibitor</u>	<u>Specimen (s)</u>	<u>Locality</u>
Boe Brosius	Various Minerals	Various Locations
Lisa Carp	Opal	UT
	Rhodochrosite	Alma CO
Jeff Cessna	Calcite*	Near Baker WV
	Willemite/Calcite	Franklin NJ
Lawrence Davis	Beryl/Columbite	Ray mine, Yancey Co. NC
	Kyanite	Meeper Mine, Buncombe Co. NC
George Durland	Gypsum var. Selenite	Watkins Glen NY
	Gypsum var. Selenite	Salinas Salt Mine, Pisco Peru
	Garnets in Willemite	Franklin NJ
Jonathan Harris	Calcite*	Medford Quarry, MD
Dave Hennessey	Aquamarine & Shorl	Gilgit Pakistan
Chuck Hyland	Various fluorescent minerals	Various Locations
Pat Jayne	Unidentified green rock	From Houser Material
David MacLean	Hematite, Quartz, Fluorite*	Buffalo Creek, Deckers CO
Gabriella McDonald	Illegible Name	Unknown
Jason Millington	Scapolite/Idocrase	Bandana NC
	Dolomite Marble	Bandana NC
	Lepidolite	Harding Pegmatite Sandoval Co. NM
Wendell Mohr	Calcite on Galena	Miami OK
Andy Muir	Celestine	Lime City OH
	Willemite	Ogdensburg NJ
Keith Regatts	Norbergite/Diopside	Sterling Hill Mine Dump NJ
	Round Tektite (Meteorite Impactite)	China
George Reimherr	Quartz crystals	Rist Mine, Hiddenite NC
Joel Rosen	Prehnite	Prospect Park NJ
Alf Shupe	Faceted Amethyst* (His FIRST!)	Rough from Gem Cutter's Show



\* = Self-collected or self made

**JANUARY DOOR PRIZES** Gabriella McDonald was the lucky junior to win the malachite specimen from Katananga Province, Democratic Republic of the Congo. Other junior members had left early before the drawing. David Hennessey's number was drawn for the show table prize but he declined since the specimen was one he had collected and which had been selected by Joel Rosen as a prize! In a second draw, Boe Brosius took home the apophyllite on prehnite specimen from the Luck Quarry, Bealeton VA. Winner of the general door prize, "Sam the Clam" as named by Joel, a Mercenaria Permagma, was David MacLean. The specimen was a fossil clam included with calcite crystals, 1.5 million years old, and from Fort Drum FL. Lastly, John Wells took home the new Jan./Feb. 2009 issue of Rocks and Minerals Magazine. A donation of Wendell Mohr



## UPCOMING SHOWS AND EVENTS

**February 25**, "Volcanoes in Maryland?", Maryland National Capital Parks and Planning Commission, Black Hill Visitor Center, 301 916 0220, <BlackHillNature.org>, 11:00 am to 5:30 pm, ages 12 & up, Free. Led by Naturalist Glenn Cumings, you will visit volcanic areas around Catoctin and South Mountains, and Myersville. At the Greasey Farm see a volcanic fireplace, look at Native American artifacts, and visit ancient Indian quarry. Volcanic rocks may be collected along the route. Get the Montgomery Co. Recreation And Park Program Guide for registration information.

**March 7-8**, The Delaware Mineralogical Society, Inc. 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Earth Science Gem and Mineral Show at Delaware Technical and Community College at I-95 Exit 4B, Churchmans Road (Rt. 58) Newark (Stanton), DE 19713. Hours Saturday are 10:00 am to 6:00 pm, Sunday 11:00 am to 5:00 pm. Admission is \$5.00, \$4.00 for seniors, \$3.00 for youngsters between 12 and 16, and free for children under 12 accompanied by an adult. Information and Coupons at <www.delminsociety.net> or contact <gene@fossilnut.com>.

**March 21-22** Our own **GEM-MINERAL-FOSSIL SHOW** at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds. Plan **NOW** to exhibit. Patricia Repik-Byrne, Exhibits Chair, wants to have your commitment **EARLY**. She would like to have 40 or more cases. **YOU** can do it! Everyone is a beginner at some time. If you feel you have not got enough for an exhibit, mention this at the meeting and perhaps we can pair up some people for a shared exhibit. Only 1 1/2 months left for preparing professional looking labels, nice liners, risers, and other case features! An application form will be sent to you separately from this Newsletter.

Show fliers and posters From George Durland are available for you to help publicize the show. Demonstrations are being finalized by Bob Irby. Sign up to help set up and volunteer to cover the many jobs to be done. Heather Felsen, Show Chairman, reports that we have 19 dealer contracts returned with full payment. Help with Set-up on Friday, March 20th at 9:00 am.

Keith Regatts will be over-seeing a case of meteorites for the show with contributions from members. E Mail him at <tinyoinkers@yahoo.com> if you are willing and able to loan specimens for the exhibit. He requests that you bring the specimens to the March meeting so he can plan the case and prepare labels. If you do not have E Mail, see him at the February or March meeting.



**March 28** Saturday only. **NEW INFORMATION!** The 19th Annual Jewelry, Mineral, & Fossil Show of the Southern MD Rock & Mineral Club at the Clearwater Nature Center, 11000 Thrift Road, Clinton, Maryland. From the Beltway Take MD Route 5 for 7 miles to Surratts Road. Go right 1 mile to Brandywine Road. Go left 0.4 of a mile to Thrift Rd. Go right 1 mile to the Clearwater Nature Center sign. Turn right into parking lot. 10:00 am - 4:00 pm, Admission \$2 (children 6 and under are free). (301) 297-4575 Information <http://www.freewebs.com/smrmc/>.

**March 27-29** Atlantic Micromounters Conference, sponsored by the Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area at the Hospital Association Conference Center, Elkridge MD. Ron Gibbs, mining geologist in NM and AZ, field collector, dealer, and author will be the Conference speaker. Registration and information: S. Weinberger <cscrystals2@verizon.net> or phone 410 833 7926.



**JUNIORS**

The GLMSMC Future Rockhounds of America program got off to a rousing start in January. We discussed Earth Processes (badge #10), and learned about the three rock types (igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic) as well as the Rock Cycle. We then played a lively game of “Rock Jeopardy,” with minerals as prizes for all contestants.



The charter members selected “**MOCKS**” (combining **Minerals** and **rOCKS** ) as the club’s name.



Photo by Holly McNeil

**COMING ATTRACTIONS for FEBRUARY 9<sup>th</sup> program:**

- Start at 7:45 with the Junior show table and raffle.
- We will create a group display for the club’s March show.
- We will learn how to improve the presentation of our collections.
- There will be time for follow up to January’s program -- bring in samples of igneous, sedimentary & metamorphic rocks for badge credit.
- **ASSIGNMENT: Bring in your favorite specimens for use in the group display.**

The FRA meeting will end at approximately 9:00 (the regular meeting break time)

*ALL JUNIORS ARE WELCOME – IT DOES NOT MATTER IF YOU HAVE MISSED A PRIOR MEETING!*

If you have questions about the FRA program call Holly at 301-605-7179 or contact her by E Mail at <fra\_advisor@glmsmc.com>.



Photo by Wendell Mohr

**WILDACRES WORKSHOP**

Abstracted from February 2009 EFMLS News

The speaker-in-residence for the Apr. 17-23 session is Mike Wise, our January speaker, who will regale with tales of adventures from mountains in Southern CA to Madagascar.

The Sept. 7-13 session will feature Dr. Brenda Foreman. Brenda is a fantastic speaker who has given numerous talks at country-wide venues. Her talks will highlight various periods of jewelry.

Registration for the week-long Wildacres sessions remains a bargain at \$345. This includes the full week’s activities, room, and board. Not included is a small charge for materials fees for the class or classes that you take. Material fees are “at cost” in order to keep them as low as possible.

A week at Wildacres is fun, relaxing, and most enjoyable. If you’ve never been, seriously consider joining the group this year for one or both of the sessions.



See <<http://www.amfed.org/efmls/effeb09.pdf>> for a list of classes being offered, along with a registration form. Mark Dahlman or Wendell Mohr will have copies at the February meeting. You are encouraged to register as early as possible. Class sizes are kept small, the better your chance of being placed in your first choice. Once filled, you will be assigned to your 2nd or perhaps 3rd or 4<sup>th</sup> choice. Be sure to indicate all on the registration form. You can be guaranteed a wonderful week.

Note: Member Jane Kuehn is on the Wildacres Functioning Committee.

**WEB SITES**

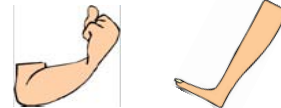
Surfin' the Web:



Time ticks away! By Wendell Mohr

**Bluecap Productions** is a venture of premier collector Dave Wilbur who sells DVD's commercially. As usual we do not endorse products for sale. Go to <<http://www.youtube.com/>> and in the search area put in "WHIT:08" This will lead you to over an hour's worth of viewing time of vignettes from the 2008 Tucson show. These are clips of his product. See Dave talking with some of the foremost dealers about many of the outstanding specimens for sale at the show. You can vicariously enjoy the views and conversation. Of course you could attend the 2009 show featuring mineral oddities in person as several of our members are planning on doing. • Can you believe it? That guy paid \$150,000 for that specimen in Tucson! Yeh, it proves that there's more than one way to get gold out of rocks. •

Cost of some specimens at Tucson:



National Park Service Photo

**How Volcanoes Work** is covered at <<http://science.howstuffworks.com/volcano.htm>>. Magma and Plate Tectonics, Forming of Volcanoes, Types of Eruptions, Shapes and Sizes, and Eruption Frequency are covered in an educational, non-technical way. Links lead to lots more information. Do not miss the videos and motion clips. • The Chinese volcanologist was killed by a hot wok! • • "Stop, Drop, and Roll" doesn't work well in a volcano. •

**Black River Fossils** is site at <<http://www.blackriverfossils.org/>> begun by a guy going by the name of "diTchweEzil." It originally covered only the (lonely?) low country of SC but has expanded now, due to contributors, to far reaching places like CA, HI, SD, TX, and even Belgium., France, and Germany. There are a number of subjects including fossil hunting, forum, articles, cartoons, excursions, and image gallery. For those of you liking paleontology, I think you will find this site of value. You may even order a T shirt which looks very attractive. • One of the paleontologists found a Mammoth body frozen solid in the Siberian Tundra ice. It was a good story line for TV.....Cold Case! • • I collected Belemnites from the C&D Canal in Delaware. I traded them for other fossils. Sort of a squid-pro-quo! •



Mammuthus imperator

**AFMS SCHOLARSHIP**

An Honoree is chosen by each regional federation that participates in the AFMS scholarship program. The honoree selects two graduate students in Earth Sciences going for a Master or Ph.D degree. This year, honoree *Dr. Joseph T. Kelley*, Professor of Geology, at the University of Maine at Orono selected recipients: *Meredith B. Petrie*, pursuing an MS in Earth Sciences who received her BS degree in Geology from Univ. of CA, Davis and *Eva R. Wadoski*, pursuing an MS in Earth Sciences who received her BS at Eastern Michigan University.

The women have received \$2000 checks each for the Spring semester of 2009. In the Spring of 2010, they will receive an additional \$2000, each with our best wishes.

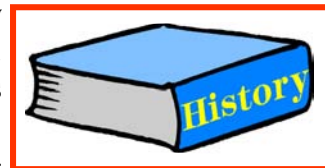
Our Society is a leader in donations to the fund. It makes us all proud to have contributed to this worthwhile educational support program.

No minerals down there  
How about up here?



## SOCIETY HISTORY

**MORE OF 1993** - The year's Eastern Federation Convention was held July 20 through August 1 at the Hampton Roads Coliseum in Hampton VA. Wendell Mohr had been scheduled to be the Society's delegate and he was accompanied by Society President Lou Williams (all Federation Societies' presidents are automatically directors.) A comprehensive report of the Convention's proceedings was prepared by Wendell and appeared in the September issue of the Rockhoulder.



The major topic of discussion, contention, dispute (take your choice) was the desired secession from the EFMLS of many clubs in the states of AL, FL, GA, MS, NC, SC, and TN so they could form a separate federation. (Sounds almost like the old Confederacy, doesn't it?) The new organization would be named Southeastern Federation of Mineralogical Societies, SFMS for short. The Eastern Federation finally voted 60 to 22, with 7 abstentions, to approve the formation of the new federation. Because so much animosity had arisen during the many months since the proposal had first been made, it was decided to "stop the politics, go on with the hobby, and let there be peace." (Why does that have a familiar ring?) The divisions of states would not affect the use of Wildacres by EFMLS members, thank goodness.

The election of the coming year's EFMLS officers resulted in our Baltimore area neighbor Steve Weinberger being elected President. Ironically the incumbent Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer, who were from FL and GA respectively, were re-elected.

The show that accompanied the Convention was an excellent one. Our members Jennie and Paul Smith exhibited a micromount exhibit that received a first place, Fred Parker had a dealer's booth, and Dave and Nancy Ballard were among the attendees.

As an aside, September's EFMLS Digest mentioned a campaign to ask the US Postal Service to issue a set of postage stamps displaying invertebrate fossils such as trilobites, ammonoids, brachiopods, etc. Fifteen years later we are still waiting. Dinosaurs, yes. Trilobites, no.

In other news, Juan Proaño provided editor Nancy with two items from a recent issue of "*Mining Journal*" (London). One item was about a find of an auriferous quartz reef off Australia from which was taken 4 ½ tons of stone that yielded 9000 ounces of gold. As I write this, the current price of gold is about \$856 per ounce. You do the math. The other item was about a diamond found in Jagerfontein, South Africa, that in the rough weighed in at considerably over 900 carats. As a carat weighs approximately 200 milligrams, you can do some more math.

Although several field trips had been announced for September, only one was reported upon, nine members having gone to Medford Quarry in Westminster MD. They experienced good luck finding many varieties of calcite including some with light coatings of azurite and malachite.

At the September meeting Gordon Austin reported he had been involved with training sessions for Montgomery County teachers of 4<sup>th</sup> grade in geography, geology, and social studies. Thus he joined a group of other Society members who had done similar work. The speaker for the evening was Dr. Jeffrey Post, Chairman of the Department of Mineral Sciences at the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History. He told of the plans for the new Mrs. James Steward Hooker Hall of Geology, Gems, and Minerals to be opened in September 1994. The next two years would be devoted to planning and selecting specimens to be displayed. He said about 3000 specimens would be photographed and have descriptions written. He then showed slide of some of the outstanding gems and specimens currently in the collection, relating to the history of each. He was kept busy answering questions until closing time, 10:30 pm. In retrospect, it's hard to believe that so many years have gone by since the new hall was opened.



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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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