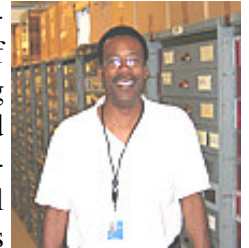




**REGULAR MEETING** Meetings are held the 2nd Monday of the month from September to June. The Society will next meet on Monday January 12th in the dining room of the Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Drive, Rockville. The short business meeting will begin at 7:45 pm but the room is available to us at 7:30 pm so come early to chat and see the Show Table materials. Then hear the speaker: Dr. Michael Wise, a research mineralogist and curator since 1998, at the Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of Natural History. He is one of the world's leading authorities on the mineralogy of pegmatites. He is a consulting Editor for *Rocks & Minerals Magazine* and an Adjunct Professor at the University of New Orleans. His subject will be: The Pegmatites of Hiddenite North Carolina.



**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS** will meet January 19th, 2009 at 7:30 pm at the home of David and Nancy Ballard. (The date was erroneous in the December *Rockhounder*. Mea Culpa Ed.) 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** You will separately receive an updated Society roster. Notice: This list of members is **for the use of the GLMSMC and its members only**, and may not be used by any other person or business entity for any purpose whatsoever without the express permission of the affected member or members. (Please report any changes, errors or missing information to Wendell Mohr, 301 926 7190 or <wmohr@erols.com>.)



**NEW MEMBERS**

BECKER, Francis, 4920 Griffith Road, Gaithersburg MD 20822-2011, 301 253 2688, febedgehill@hotmail.com

LEAMAN, Gary & Diane, 7524 Cinnabar Terrace, Gaithersburg MD 20879-4577, 301 963 3702,

Gary: gLeaman@comcast.net, Diane: DianeVMoore@comcast.net

**DECEMBER VISITOR**

Adelaide Tenenbaum. We hope that you come again.

**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.

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**DEADLINE** for the February 2009 Rockhounder: **Jan. 22nd**



**PRESIDENTS MESSAGE:** Happy New Year! I'm looking forward to the new things that this year will bring. It's been great to see so many new members over the past year. To our new members, you're sure to find interesting and rewarding activities as part of the society. Let me mention two of them ... Since our club is a member of the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies (EFMLS), we all have the opportunity to attend two EFMLS sponsored workshops each year - one in the spring and one in the fall. This year the dates are April 17 - 23, and September 7 - 13. These week long workshops are held at the Wildacres Retreat in Little Switzerland, NC which is halfway between Asheville and Blowing Rock in North Carolina's Blue Ridge Mountains. The speaker in resi-

dence for the spring session will be Dr. Michael Wise, Our January program speaker! Attendees typically take two classes during the week. The Spring classes this year cover many topics: faceting, capping, lost wax casting, silver smithing, glass engraving & etching, micro mounting, wire wrapping, bead weaving, Picasso jewelry, metal clay (PMC), and a study of the Wildacres wilderness. Information about Wildacres can be found at <<http://www.amfed.org/efmls/>>, click "Newsletters", then "January 2009". See page 1 for general information, pages 5 & 6 for the class listings, and page 9 for the Registration Form. The modest price of \$345 for this spring's session covers the classes as well as lodging in a modern, motel-style private room and three meals a day. How can you beat that? Well, you can...

Our society offers one Wildacres sponsorship each year which reimburses the week's cost for one society member. If you've been a GLMSMC member for a year, you've never been to Wildacres, and you're willing to give our club a presentation or write an article about your Wildacres experience, you are eligible for this sponsorship. Since the workshops fill up first-come, first-served it is a good idea to get your registration in as soon as you can. Please contact me if you are interested in sponsorship or would like more information including the Wildacres registration form.

Let's not forget that our 45th Annual GLMSMC Show is coming up soon - March 21-22. All of you (especially our new members) are encouraged to put a display case in the show. Everyone who puts in a display case receives a \$10 voucher for purchases at the show. The 2' x 4' cases are provided by the club, but you get to decide what goes inside. The display can be on any theme related to gems, lapidary arts, minerals, fossils, jewelry, etc. You can also put in multiple cases or even share a case with someone else. It takes preparation so it's not too early to start. See the excellent Rockhounder articles on how to prepare a display case ("It's Easy To Set Up A Showcase" at <<http://www.glmsmc.com/Rockhounder/Jan%202008%20Rockhounder.pdf>> and "Displaying Your Treasures" at <<http://www.glmsmc.com/Rockhounder/Feb%202008%20Rockhounder.pdf>> (If you do not use E Mail, contact me or Wendell Mohr for the information contained in the above web sites.) I hope you'll give it a try - show us what interests you. Mark.

**FIELD TRIPS:** **January 31st**, Noon-4 pm. Indoor Field Trip to the Smithsonian's Naturalist Center, 741 Miller Dr., SE, Suite G2, Leesburg, VA. Children 10 and older are welcome if accompanied by a parent. The Naturalist Center features specimens of rocks, minerals, and fossils that you can actually pick up and examine as well as dissecting microscopes and a UV light. You can bring in your own unknowns to compare with the center's specimens. The collection includes a sizable number of specimens of local rocks, minerals, and fossils. This is a good trip for new rockhounds to get acquainted with specimens you are apt to find on field trips. To those planning on attending, please **Email Jonathan at <[jgharris7@comcast.net](mailto:jgharris7@comcast.net)>** by January 17, as the staff requested two weeks notice to make sure they have enough volunteers to accommodate us. It is possible that we could exceed the limits of what they can handle, in which case a second field trip will be scheduled.

See <[http://www.mnh.si.edu/education/fieldtrip/planned\\_programs/naturalist\\_center/index.html](http://www.mnh.si.edu/education/fieldtrip/planned_programs/naturalist_center/index.html)>

**Directions:** From the Beltway in Virginia, take exit 45A onto the Dulles Toll Rd (VA-267), continue all the way to exit 1A onto US-15 Byp/VA-7 (almost to Leesburg). Go 0.7 mi, turn RIGHT (South) onto Sycolin Rd SE for 1.3 mi. Turn RIGHT (West) onto Miller Dr SE and go 0.2 miles to the office park. The trip is about 42 minutes from Rockville. 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.

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES:** President Mark Dahlman called the December 8, 2008 meeting to order at 7:48 pm. Approximately 40 people were in attendance.

He announced the Patuxent Lapidary Guild's Winter sale on December 20th. Mark had AFMS and EFMLS Newsletters for anyone to read who wanted. (View them at the web sites <[http://www.amfed.org/afms\\_news.htm](http://www.amfed.org/afms_news.htm)> and <<http://www.amfed.org/efmls/newsletters.htm>> Ed.)

It was noted: Free copies of the Lapidary Journal and Gems and Gemology magazines were again available courtesy of the estate of Sue Patch. Chuck Mason was selling books, with the proceeds in excess of his cost going to the Society.



Mark announced the commencement of the Future Rockhounds of America Program in January. Holly McNeil graciously volunteered to lead the program. Meetings for juniors will be held in the sunroom from 7:45 to 9:00 pm.

It was M/S/P that the minutes of the November 10th & 17th Regular and Board meetings be approved.

Membership applications for Diane and Gary Leaman and Frances Becker were accepted. It was M/S/P to approve their membership. Visitor: Adelaide Tenenbaum.



Andy Muir announced that he had specimens free to all.

Wendell mentioned the commercial "Fall Festival of Fine Minerals, Fossils, and Jewelry" show Dec 13th. Joel Rosen stated that the location has been changed from the Days Inn in Timonium to Damien's. Wendell also mentioned upcoming class instruction and events of interest.



Mark recognized Juan and Luisa Proaño who arrive late after movers finished packing up their house contents in preparation for their move to Washington Crossing PA. Mark presented Juan a personalized booklet with historic pictures of Juan and pages of written comments from members. As an extremely active member, Juan was recognized for his long time contributions to the Society. In turn Juan thanked everyone and told of his pleasure of the years being in the Society.



The formal meeting ended about 8:45 pm but holiday festivities continued until about 9:55 pm. Members and friends had tables for the Swap'N'Sell. "Pot-Luck" finger foods were contributed and enjoyed by all. Nancy Ballard, once more, provided the beverages and accoutrements. Thanks, Nancy. Perhaps the nicest part of the evening was the spirit of comradeship of all people of like interests. W. Mohr, Secretary Pro-Tem.



**NOTE:** No Board meeting was held in Dec.

**AFMS ELECTION/BALLOT RESULTS**

With the cancellation of the annual meeting in Houston, it became necessary for the AFMS to conduct business by mail. Ballots were sent to each AFMS Officer and Director listing the items from the agenda and asking that they be returned by a specific date. The ballots have now been received and counted and all items have been approved.

Your newly elected AFMS officers for 2009 are: Joy Bourne, President (EFMLS), Emerson Tucker, President-elect (SCFMS), Bob Miller, 1st Vice President (MWF), Lauren Williams, 2nd Vice President (NFMS), Ann Monroe, 3rd Vice President (SFMS), Richard Jaeger, 4th Vice President (RMFMS), Colleen McGann, 5th Vice President (CFMS), and Pat LaRue, Treasurer (2-year term).




Anne Cook, Secretary was not up for election this year.

There will be an increase in AFMS dues from 50¢ to 75¢, a variety of Operational Procedures changes were approved a new Webmaster's Contest was approved on a 3-year trial basis, and adoption of Rock & Gem as our official magazine.

By Steve Weinberger, Central Office Administrator


**BAGS FOR KID'S SPECIMENS FOR OUR SHOW** Jo Ann Mohr thanks Nancy Ballard, Jack Busch, Michelle Michaelis, and Adelaide Tenenbaum for their generous donations of material for bags. At this time it appears that she has a sufficient supply for plenty of bags for the 2009 event.

**KUDOS** A great big round of applause for the outgoing Secretary, Holly McNeil and Treasurer, Juan Proaño. Both performed with distinction during their terms. Holly has taken on the "Future Rockhounds of America" project (See page 11.) Juan has moved to Washington Crossing PA and we wish Juan and Luisa well in their new community. Three Proaño, Two Proaño. Juan Proaño. GO!



There was an old miner who loved to paint. Sadly, he could not afford canvases. But he found a solution. He would paint on the interior walls of his house. They soon became covered with his paintings. One day, a group of wayward youths broke in and defaced the paintings. The youths were soon apprehended and arrested for corrupting the murals of a miner.

A Friendly Reminder: Respect the President and other Society members by remaining quiet when the president calls for attention at meetings. Also please turn off cell phones, which can be distracting.



**The Klotschtein Diamond**


A businessman boarded a plane to find, sitting next to him, an elegant woman wearing the largest, most stunning diamond ring he had ever seen. Being a rockhound, he asked her about it.

"This is the Klotschtein diamond," she said. "It is beautiful but there is a terrible curse that goes with it."

"What's the curse?" the man asked.

"Mr. Klotschtein," she answered.

Bob Livingston,  
Gem & Mineral  
Society of Syracuse,



**JANUARY MEMBER BIRTHDAYS:**

Chris Barr, Boe Brosius, Scott Braun, Chris Crosswhite, Jimmy Cummins, Joe Dehmer, Gladys Fuller, Dave Hald, Benjamin Harris, Matthew Hyland, Sara LaVilla, Gabriella McDonald, Robert Meny, Rob Robinson, Ron Suddendorf, Melissa Thompsen, Don Turner.

**January's Birthstone is Garnet****THE GARNET GROUP**

By Mary Fraser

The garnet group is made up of silicate minerals with similar crystal structure. They have a hardness of 6.5 to 7.5, streak white, a luster vitreous, greasy, or resinous, and are transparent to opaque, coming in all colors except blue. They occur in gneiss mica schists, dolomitic metamorphic rocks, and frequently in sands. They are rare in igneous rocks. The occurrence is worldwide. Garnets are used as grinding and polishing agents and as gemstones.

The garnet groups are divided into two series of minerals: pyrospite series named after its three members pyrope, almandine, spessartite and ugrandite series named after uvarovite, grossularite, and andradite. (They all have the same general chemical formula,  $[A]_3[B]_2(SiO_4)_3$ , where A can be calcium, magnesium, ferrous iron, or manganese, and B can be aluminum, ferric iron, or chromium, or in rare instances, titanium. Editor.)

**Almandine:** (iron-aluminum) common garnet. Forms in schist in areas of regional metamorphism. Colors are brown, red-violet, and almost black.

**Andradite:** (calcium-iron) occurs in metamorphic rocks. Colors are brown-black (**melanite**), colorless, green (**demantoid**), and yellow.

**Grossularite:** (calcium-aluminum) found in metamorphosed impure limestones and limey shales where aluminum is high and iron is low. Colors include colorless, green (**tsavorite** variety), yellowish, brown, red, and brown-orange (**hessonite** variety).

**Pyrope:** (magnesium-aluminum) also known as carbuncle, bohemian garnet, and cape ruby. Pyrope occurs in silica poor rocks such as kimberlites. Colors are red, brown-red, and the rose-red (**rhodolite** variety).

**Spessartite:** (manganese-aluminum) associated with manganese ores of metamorphic origins. Colors are yellow, orange, and red-brown.

**Uvarovite:** (calcium-chromium) origin is metamorphic. Its color is emerald green from chromium.

Garnets are among the commonest minerals. They crystallize in the cubic system as 12-sided dodecahedrons or 24-sided trapezohedrons or a combination of both. In ancient times garnets were called carbuncles. Ancient Egyptians valued them as ornamental stones and they were considered to be the bearers of well being and family harmony. Greek and Roman citizens believed the bearer to be favored with inheritance. Garnets are found on the Breastplate of Aaron. It is said these "stones of health" extract negative energy from the chakras and transmit it to the beneficial state. Also known as the "stone of commitment" garnets monitor and adjust the flow of energy around the physical body and align the emotional and intellectual bodies. Garnet is also reported to enhance the assimilation of iodine, calcium, magnesium, and vitamins A,

D, and E into the body.

from Rockin' Around, March 05 via The Tidewater Prospector 3/07.



Garnet jewelry takes people's minds off their wrinkles.

**SAFETY****BE "PATIENT" OR "A PATIENT"**

It was about 1:30 a.m. when the Doctor finally came in to look at my smashed finger. It had been almost five hours since I had checked in --- after all --- it was Saturday night and things were pretty hectic in the Emergency Room. "What happened?," the pleasant young doctor asked. "Well ... I guess I was in too much of a hurry. We were on a field trip to collect rocks and minerals in a rock quarry and I decided to turn over a 300 pound rock to get some nice crystals. I could have used my six foot steel pry bar to turn the rock over, but it seemed like a waste of time to walk the 50 yards to get it. So I just rolled the big rock over with my hands. I was wearing the right safety stuff --- steel toed shoes, long jeans and heavy work gloves --- but it rolled right onto my finger! It really hurt, but I didn't make a big deal. I took my glove off and my finger was bleeding, so I wrapped it up with several Band-Aids and put my glove back on. No one knew that I was hurt --- in fact, I used a big sledge hammer to get out some more crystals. About 8 hours later after the drive home, my wife took one look at my swollen, blue-black finger and sent me straight to the Emergency Room."

"When was your last tetanus immunization?," he questioned. "About 10 years ago," I replied --- knowing that the nurse would soon be giving me another shot. Doc then said, "I will check your X-rays and if nothing is broken, we will dress your finger and get you out of here. We will also give you an antibiotic, because we can't take chances with infection." I recalled that infection in bones can be deadly. Later, some good news from the doctor ---no broken bones. But my earlier decision to not get the pry bar had been a costly mistake --- 5 hours at the Emergency Room, another hour at the drugstore, more hours of follow-up at my regular doctor and the orthopedic doctor --- not to mention pain, money, and the inconvenience of having my hand in a bandage. Lesson learned --- be patient and take the extra time and effort to get and use the proper tools.

By Dave Lines, ROCK TALK, Southern MD R&M Club, Oct 2008

**A FIELD TRIP TRAGEDY**

A member of the East Coast Fossil Club was killed by a cave-in on Nov. 30, 2007 while collecting fossils during a private collecting trip in North Carolina. Bob Henderson, a retired Air Force officer from Fayetteville, North Carolina died when the high wall of a borrow pit in Elizabethtown collapsed on him. Several other fossil collectors located and uncovered him, but he could not be revived. (Old News, but "The Message": Always stay away from high walls. Ed.) From EastCoastFossilClub, a web group.

**PATUXENT LAPIDARY GUILD THANK-YOU** We received a nice note thanking our Society for the gift of cutting rough we made from the Houser gift. In part it said:

Hi,

I know we sent a thank you card for your generous donation of lapidary materials, but let me say again how grateful we are for your kindness. Your help and all the hard work has helped to secure the PLG until the spring and we are continuing to stabilize our funds.

We could have not come so far without donations like the one you gave. It was truly appreciated and members who purchased the rough rock have had a great time cutting the stones.

Thank you, Donna Madej Fundraising Chairman

**NEW YEAR RESOLUTION**

"Think Green." If you have not already done so, let your editor know if you are willing to for-go getting a hard copy of the Rockhounder. The E Mailed version, provided you have the capability, gives you full color! And it saves the Society the cost of the 3 P's: Paper, Printing, and Postage.

● Some of you, I guess, still say "Let there be P's on earth."●

**EFMLS MEMBERSHIP CARDS** are now available. If you would like to have one, make the request to Membership Chair, Nancy Ballard, and she will fulfill your wish. The cards are sometimes needed if you attend joint field trips.

**2008 GLMS DONATIONS ACKNOWLEDGED**


Here are excerpts from letters received for our Society's donations. Take pride in these worthwhile funds.

Thank you, on behalf of the **Eastern Foundation Fund**, for your club's generous contribution in the amount of \$300.00. Your gift will be credited to the 2008-2009 total for the purpose of tallying the club cumulative contributions to the EFF. Any additional contributions from your club or its members will also be included in your total and will be recognized at the 2009 Eastern Federation Convention in October in Bristol, CT.

As you know your generous contributions to the EFF make it possible for the Eastern Federation to continue to support programs and services offered to all EFMLS member clubs.

Thank you so much for your gift and for all you do to support the EFF.

(s) Frances M. Sick EFF Chairman




Thank you, on behalf of the **American Federation of Mineralogical Societies' Endowment Fund**, for yet another contribution of the Gem, Lapidary, and Mineral Society of Montgomery Co., MD, in the amount of \$300.00. Your club has been a staunch supporter of the AFMS Endowment Fund for almost as long as I can remember, and we truly appreciate your generous gifting.

Your Board of Directors and members, might be interested to learn that as we prepared the AFMS Budget for 2009, we have allocated \$6,400 from the Endowment Fund proceeds to fund the AFMS Slide and Video program, including the special project of duplication and conversion of old programs to digital format, the Uniform Rules Judges training programs at Wildacres, and the Juniors' Badge program. These are all worthy programs which might not have been funded, were it not for the support of special people like your members, who faithfully support the Endowment Fund.

Please express our thanks to all your members. We deeply appreciate your contributions to the programs of outreach which the Fund provides.

(s) Joy Bourne,  
Chairman 2008 AFMS Endowment  
Fund Committee




We are delighted and most grateful to receive a recent donation of \$400 from your club. This will be recorded and forwarded to the **AFMS Scholarship Foundation**.

In the running total, this moves the GLMS of Montgomery Co. MD from 9000% to 9300% participation level. A nice certificate will commemorate this fine gesture and will be presented at next year's EFMLS convention in Bristol, CT.

It is great to count on the ongoing support we get from your great club. It is only because of needed donations like this the Foundation is able to continue paying out (24) annual scholarships of \$2000 each to grad students working on their Masters in the Earth Sciences field.

Again, we wish your club great success in 2008 and beyond, and thanks much for this wonderful donation.

(s) Bob Livingston,  
EFMLS Coordinator  
for AFMS Scholarship  
Fund



Note: 100% = \$1.00 per member per year



**STAR STONES**

by Mary Prosek



The optical phenomena of some gem materials to display a single ray of light on their surface is called chatoyancy, a French word meaning cat or cat's-eye.

Gems displaying this characteristic exhibit a single undulating narrow band of white light with a changeable luster. Another optical effect is shown when some gem materials exhibit more than one ray of light. These rays will cross or intersect each other at some central point or points on the surface of a cut and polished gem. This phenomena is called asterism or is more commonly known as a star.

The cause of asterism or chatoyancy is attributed to tubes, or needlelike inclusions within the gem. When these foreign inclusions are highly uniform in alignment within the gem, they will be capable of concentrating and reflecting or transmitting the light which enters the gem. However, this potential will not be effectual in the form of a ray or rays if the gem does not have the optical shape necessary for focus and magnification of the light. When the foreign inclusions are aligned only in one direction with the gem, a single ray of light will be possible. If the alignment is in two directions, then the gem will have the potential of emitting two rays of light which will intersect each other at a central point or points on the gem creating a star with four legs. When the alignment is in three directions, three intersecting rays can be emitted which will produce a six legged star.

Gem materials which are capable of displaying a ray or rays of concentrated light will usually show some indication of this phenomenon in the form of a satin sheen or silkish luster while in the rough state and when exposed to an incandescent type of light. The area in which the sheen or silk is most intense will usually yield a star or cat's-eye effect. This area should be tested with a testing fluid such as STP motor oil and marked prior to shaping. The gem is shaped so that this area will become the approximate apex of the gem's dome or curved surface. Approximate is mentioned because the ray or rays will tend to shift their location slightly as shaping progresses. This shifting is attributed to the relationship between the gem's physical shape and optical properties. Any change in the physical shape of the gem will also exert a change in directions, focus and magnification of the ray or rays. Special care and star-making cups must be used when lapping the stones in order to achieve the desired effects.

Read up on this technique before attempting to cut a star stone.

Source: "Star Gems" - author Douglas L. Hoffman, copyright 1967 From The Opal, 10/07, Via the Rochester Lapidary Society RockCollector Dec 2007

**DECEMBER DOOR PRIZES**

Joel Rosen awarded three necklaces. Winners were Gabi Muir, Matthew Hyland, and Andy Muir (Two out of three for Muir's ain't bad!)

Those interested participated in another drawing for a Walter Goetz Gold Mining Poster.

It was won by Tim Morgan.





**UPCOMING SHOWS AND EVENTS**

**Ongoing until January 11, 2009** "Desert Jewels: North African Jewelry and Photography from the Xavier Guerrand-Hermès Collection," Smithsonian Institution, Museum for African Art, 950 Independence Avenue SW. 10 am to 5:30 pm. See <<http://africa.si.edu/exhibits/hermes/index.html>> for more information.

**February 25**, "Volcanoes in Maryland?", Maryland National Capital Parks and Planning Commission, Black Hill Visitor Center, 301 916 0220, <[BlackHillNature.org](http://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 Greasey Farm see 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 3-4** 44th Annual Earth Science Gem & Mineral Show, Delaware Mineralogical Society, in expanded facilities at Delaware Technical and Community College, I-95 at Exit 4B, Churchmans Road (Route 58), Newark (Stanton), DE 19713. Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5. Adm. \$5, \$4 for seniors, \$3 for ages 12 and 16, and free for under 12 accompanied by an adult. Information, map, and coupons at <[www.delminsociety.net](http://www.delminsociety.net)> or E mail <[gene@fossilnut.com](mailto:gene@fossilnut.com)>. Further info. contact: President Karissa Hendershot (302) 762-7760 or Show Chair Wayne Urion (302) 998-0686 or E-Mail <[wurion@aol.com](mailto:wurion@aol.com)>.

**March 21** Saturday only. The 19th Annual Jewelry, Mineral & Fossil Show of the Southern MD Rock & Mineral Club, New Location: Watkins Nature Center, Largo MD. From the Beltway take I 495 to Exit 15 East (MD 214 or Central Avenue). Go approx. 3 miles to MD 193 (Watkins Park Drive). Turn right and follow for approx. 1 mile to the marquee and turn right into Watkins Park. Follow the main road until it ends, turn left and make another left into the nature center parking lot. The entrance is down the steps and over the short bridge. 10-4, Adm. \$2 (children 6 and under are free). Info. <<http://www.freewebs.com/smrmc/>>

**March 21-22 OUR largest annual event is the GEM-MINERAL-FOSSIL SHOW at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds, our 45th** We take pride in the many exhibits which YOU and friends put into the show, a feature not seen in commercial shows. Plan NOW to exhibit. Patricia Repik-Byrne, Exhibits Chair, wants to have your commitment EARLY. She needs to be able to allocate space and prepare recognition for exhibits in the program. Help her out by not procrastinating. She would like to have the assurance of 40 or more cases. Don't be shy. 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. With but a little over 2 months left, it is time to establish a theme for YOUR case, and be preparing professional looking labels and nice liners, risers, and other case features. Publicity is being ably handled by George Durland. Show fliers are available. Demonstrations are yet to be finalized. Set aside that weekend's days to help set up and volunteer to cover the many functions to be done. Show Chairman, Heather Felsen, reports that so far we have 9 dealer contracts returned with full payment. We expect to have the full complement of about 22 dealers. She will write something more in the February issue.

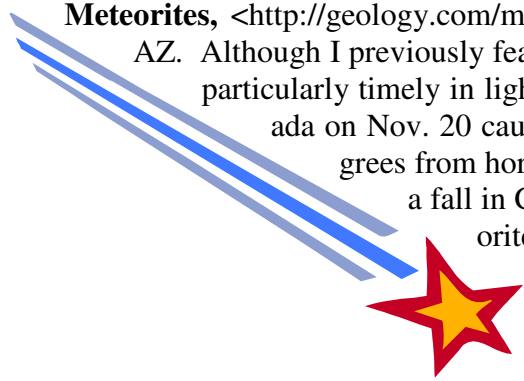
**March 27-29** Atlantic Micromounters Conference, sponsored by the Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area at the Hospital Association Conference Center, Elkridge MD. Ron Gibbs, mining geologist in NM and AZ, field collector, dealer, and author will be the Conference speaker. Registration and information: S. Weinberger <[cscrytals2@verizon.net](mailto:cscrytals2@verizon.net)> or phone 410 833 7926.

WEB SITES



By Wendell Mohr

**Meteorites**, <<http://geology.com/meteorites/>> is an outstanding series of articles by Geoffrey Notkin of AZ. Although I previously featured the home page for Geology.com, I thought this sub section was particularly timely in light of the meteorite fall near the Alberta-Saskatchewan border in Canada on Nov. 20 caused by a roughly 10-ton asteroid fragment coming in at about 60 degrees from horizontal. Several fragments have already been found. There also was a fall in Colorado December 5th. There are 4 main sections: "What are Meteorites", "Meteorite Classification", "Meteorite Identification", and "How Much Are Meteorites Worth?" Other links may be pursued. Enjoy!



- Why did the space rock come to earth? The food out there was good, but the place lacked atmosphere. •



Quartz, Korur India

**The Quartz Page**, <<http://www.quartzpage.de/index.html>> is by Amir Akhavan in Germany. This site is well done and is a compendium of information about all varieties of quartz. Learn about the mineralogy of Quartz, its properties, crystals, and varieties. The section on growth forms is fascinating. Learn something about faden and gwindel quartz, for example. Nicely illustrated, you will note the European viewpoint. Do not overlook the enlargements which are activated by clicking the pixel sizes under the photographs. References include not only a bibliography but also useful links. An index offers quick shortcuts to site content. Amir did a very nice job! Quartz and Amethyst photos used with permission. (Photos above by site author, A. Akhavan.)

- The Ireland quartz twin crystals are best if from Dublin' •
- If we name the left twin crystal "Kate" then what do we call the right one? "Duplicate!" •



Amethyst, Lake Balkhash, Kazakhstan

Laguna Agate Mexico  
Chuck Mason Specimen  
W. Mohr Photo ▶▶



**Utah Geological Survey**, <<http://geology.utah.gov/>> offers lots of learning possibilities. On the main page work through the subheadings at the left. I suggest that you click "open all" for a multitude of topics among which are Geology, Dinosaurs and Fossils, Rocks & Minerals, and Great Salt Lake. Geosights allows you to vicariously visit some outstanding spots. I found information on far ranging subjects

of bixbite, Bingham Canyon copper mine, Dugway geodes, Great Salt Lake and its predecessor, Lake Bonneville, and trilobites of the House Range in Millard County to be informative. Books and other materials may be purchase from the site. The 1995 book, A Collector's Guide to Rock, Mineral and Fossil Localities in Utah by J. R. Wilson, Utah Geological Survey, Miscellaneous Publication 95-4, might be attractive for you to order after you spend a long, cold winter's night on the web site. From there, perhaps a visit to the state in the warmer months? • The Utah geologist said, "I live right next to the Great Salt Lake. Drop in sometime." •

- Not with the concept: One Utah miner went to the Great Salt Lake and said to a store owner there, "Gimme 15 pounds of halite, please." The owner said, "What for?" "I want to salt my gold mine," he replied. •

**SHOW TABLE** Owing to the holiday festivities at the December meeting, no show table was planned. You are invited to share you finds, purchases or crafted items at the January meeting. In order to have time for folks to tell about their item(s) it might be a good idea to limit what you bring to three or fewer items.



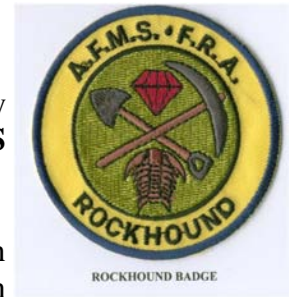
I am so pleased.

I got a Bluetooth for a holiday gift!



**CALLING ALL JUNIORS.....**

Starting in January the GLMSMC will introduce a new program created by the American Federation of Mineral Societies – **FUTURE ROCKHOUNDS OF AMERICA.**



While learning about the various earth sciences and related topics, through hands-on activities, Junior Rockhounds will have the opportunity to earn achievement badges in the following categories:

- Rocks & Minerals
- Earth Resources
- Fossils
- Lapidary Arts
- Collecting
- Showmanship
- Communication
- Field Trips
- Leadership
- Earth Processes
- Earth in Space
- Gold Panning & Prospecting
- Gemstone Lore & Legend
- Stone Age Tools & Art
- Rocking on the Computer

Each topic has multiple activities (some group, some individual) that must be completed before the badge is earned.

January's meeting will start with "Earth Processes" and will focus on the Rock Cycle, Sedimentary, Igneous and Metamorphic rocks. **All ages and levels are welcome!** We will cover the basics as well as introduce some advanced material. By the close of the meeting, FRA participants will be able to explain the differences between the three types of rocks, including their formation and textures. They will understand the rock cycle and will have probably learned some new vocabulary along the way. We will reinforce their knowledge with a spirited game of "Rock Jeopardy!"

The optional "at home" activities for the "Earth Processes" badge will be provided at the conclusion of the meeting and include:

- Forming crystal structures
- Making a volcano
- Creating different types of sedimentary rocks
- Creating a geologic column
- Making fossils
- Making metamorphic rocks

***PARENTS: Some of these activities will require adult supervision.***

FRA meetings will take place during the regular club meeting in the sunroom starting at 7:45 and ending at the usual break time in case participants do not wish to stay for the entire club meeting.

**Juniors** – this is YOUR club and we want YOU to decide what topics are covered and what sort of activities you prefer. We will be asking for your input at the January meeting, so PLEASE COME and tell us what you are most interested in!



Please contact Holly at <fra\_advisor@glmsmc.com> or 301 605 7179 with any feedback, questions, or offers to help! We will be looking for "specialists" to teach certain segments and materials for prizes.

Holly McNeil

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Society Address: Gem, Lapidary, and Mineral Society of Montgomery County MD., Inc.  
P. O. Box 444, Gaithersburg MD 20884-0444 Web Site: <http://www.glmsmc.com/>  
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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