

THE  
ROCKHOUNDER

JULY-AUGUST 2009

**NOTE: There are NO General or Board meetings in July and August.**

If any issues arise that require Board action they will be handled by E Mail and/or phone.

**FORMER MEMBERS REINSTATED**

CELLETI, Michael & BROOKS, Barbara, 20007 Hob Hill Way, Montgomery Village MD 20886-1306, 301 948 8490, 215 266 3232(Cell), optimizelife.michael@gmail.com

**ROSTER CHANGES**

ZELLERS, Charles new E Mail tectonic@gmx.us. And congratulations to Charlie as he has just retired from NIH on June 3rd. We wish him many years of healthful and happy retirement.

**DUES & DON'TS**

Your membership in GLMSMC expires August 31, 2009. Membership dues are due by September 1st annually. 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. There is a \$5.00 surcharge for late renewals. We pay dues for EFMLS/AFMS affiliations, newly increased postage rates, and over \$3.00 for insurance for each member over 10 years of age so when renewing, list only those interested in taking part in Society activities. Please send to Membership Chairperson Nancy Ballard, 16812 Baederwood Lane, Derwood MD 20855-2011, (301 926-7374 for questions.) She will mail your membership card(s) back to you if you send her a self addressed stamped envelope (SASE), otherwise you may pickup your card(s) at the September regular meeting. If your phone number, address, E Mail address, or other vital information has changed please let us know. Please help by paying your dues on time. DON'T be late. DO IT NOW while you are thinking about it!

**MISSING COPY OF ROCKHOUNDER?**

If you access the internet you may read the Rockhounder at the Society web site <<http://www.glmsmc.com/>>. You will also find much other useful information there.



**WELCOME JUNE MEETING VISITORS**

George Hunt and Robert Clemenzi

**Rockhound Humor**



“Doctor!” whined the man, “When I look at the minerals under the microscope I keep seeing spots before my eyes.” The primary care physician scratched his head, “Why have you come to me? Have you seen an ophthalmologist?” “No,” replied the guy, “just spots.”

Did you hear about the USGS geologist who bought a piece of sandpaper thinking it was a map of the Sahara Desert?

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**DEADLINE for the September 2009 Rockhounder: Aug. 31.**

**PRESIDENTS MESSAGE:**

Summer's here and I hope you're having a good one. Personally, mine started well with a trip to Franklin to hear about the mill site material that the Franklin Museum has acquired. That was followed by a trip to Shenandoah National Park, where we hiked with a ranger to examine the volcanic rocks near Skyland. Who would have thought that Skyland would have volcanic post piles?

Speaking of field trips, our field trip chair, Jonathan Harris, reports that Dr. Phil Piccoli at the University of Maryland provided an excellent tour of the geology department on June 13: "Dr. Piccoli and his grad students spent their Saturday morning giving us a wonderful performance. Among the tools we saw was an awesome electron probe analyzer. These are of course expensive to run. They allocate some funds to allow students to use that equipment." To thank the university for the tour and to further earth science education, the board voted to provide \$300 to the University of Maryland geology department to help defray the cost of educational usage of the equipment. We can all be proud of our support of earth science education in keeping with our Society's purpose to "increase knowledge and popular interest in earth sciences, geology, and mineralogy...." Some of you may remember Dr. Piccoli as an undergraduate who was a recipient of a scholarship from our Society. It's good to again be helping budding earth scientists.



I have found that I won't be able to attend the EFMLS convention October 16th-18th in Bristol, CT, which is not far from Hartford. I have not received any indication so far of interest from any Society member to attend as our representative to the Annual Meeting on Friday October 16th. If some one is planning to attend that convention and show, one person as Director's alternate and one person as Delegate are eligible to receive \$200 toward expenses. Let me know before our next meeting in September. If no one shows interest, Wendell and Jo Ann Mohr have indicated willingness to serve.

Also I'd like to take the opportunity to thank all of our Society's board members for their efforts this past year - I have been very lucky to have been associated with such a great group of people that have certainly made my job easy. Looking toward next year, I have asked the board to act as a nominating committee for board officers. Due to term limits and personal commitments, we are looking for Society members interested in serving on the board. If you have such interest, please contact me or any member of the board - we're hoping to hear from you.

Have a good summer, Mark

**MARYLAND MINERALS EXHIBIT** Ed Goldberg of the Baltimore Mineral Society, and who many of us have met on joint field trips, has installed an exhibit titled "What Maryland is Made Of" at the Howard County Community College Science and Technology Bldg. in Columbia MD. The location is west of the Columbia Mall on Little Patuxent Parkway to #10901. Turn left into the campus, go straight, around the traffic circle, and straight on, taking the next left and then the road gently turns right to the parking garage on the left. Park there and take the 3rd floor walkway through the Student Activities Bldg. to the Science Activities Bldg. and go to the basement. The HCC campus is open pretty much all the time, including Sat. and Sun. There are guards in the Student Activities Bldg. who can help guide you. The College hopes to expand the exhibit (now about 3 cases 12 total- ing 12 feet) when they move to a new building.

Ed has been working to try to get a MD mineral exhibit somewhere in the state showing our state minerals. Specimens are represented from Fanny Frost Mine, Frostburg Fire Clay mines, Springfield Mine, Blue Mount Quarry, Mtn. View Mine, Soldier's Delight, Mineral Hill Mine, Owings Mills and Oregon Ridge. The exhibit is dedicated to the memory of Herb Corbett and Jack Nelson. It includes specimens mostly collected by Ed. If you want to contribute MD mineral specimens to this purpose, I am sure Ed, <Edmund.A.Goldberg@usdoj.gov>, would gratefully accept them.

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES:**

The June 8, 2009 meeting was called to order by President Mark Dahlman at 7:45 pm, with approximately 67 people attending. Minutes of the May 11, 2009 regular meeting were approved.

**FRA:** Holly announced the evening program theme of Mineral Identification Part II. Basic skills were learned in April. This evening will include the test for the Mineral ID badge.

**President:** Mark mentioned the upcoming Lake Anna Picnic and Swap, in 12 days. He announced the evening auction of *A Guidebook to Mining in America, Volume 2: East*, which later sold. He brought flyers from shows and the AFMS and EFLMS newsletters. For the Eastern Federation Meeting in Bristol, CT the club is seeking a member to serve as delegate. Speak to Mark, if interested.

**Field Trips:** Jonathan sent word, by way of Mark – there will be a field trip to the Sideling Hill Road cut with an opportunity to go out on the berm, see schedule.

**Editor:** The Patuxent Lapidary Guild has moved to near Annapolis Mall. Wendell reported on many upcoming opportunities. Many classes are available from Audubon, Glen Echo, and Montgomery County, including topics from geology to jewelry. Many shows are also upcoming, see schedule. He got an E Mail from Eric Kindahl call asking if anyone knew anything about geology or minerals in South Korea. Anyone?

Lisa Carp announced that her Gemology course will be split into Beginner and Advanced.

**Program:** Vice President, Elmer Lantz, introduced the evening speaker, Dr. Jeffrey E. Post, Curator-in-charge, Gem and Mineral Collections at the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution. The program was entitled “What’s New in Gems and Minerals.” We first heard about the many upcoming Hope Diamond events for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its arrival at the Smithsonian. There will be a new video, display out of the setting for the first time, and a design contest for a new temporary (six month) setting. Much new scientific study has been done and all those who attended got an exclusive preview of the results. What followed was a pictorial review of the new and noteworthy in the collection. Some of the photos may be seen on the museum’s new acquisitions website <<http://mineralsciences.si.edu/collections/newacquisitions.htm>>. The pictures finished with some favorite scanning electron microscope images. Many audience questions were answered while a brief period of technical difficulties was dealt with. On a personal note, I was able to benefit from the suggestion to visit the newly reopened mineral exhibit at the Royal Ontario Museum. It was wonderful. Thanks, Dr. Post.



**Treasurer:** Andy reported we were doing great financially, with not many changes. The bank we utilize has been bought by Provident.

Rod Towers administered the drawing for the junior door prizes and Joel Rosen administered the general and show table door prizes.

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 PM. Jeff Cessna, Secretary.

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES** The Board did not meet during June. The following Board of Directors business was conducted by email and phone during June. It was M/S/P to make a \$120 donation to the University of Maryland, Department Of Geology, to defray the costs of instrument use by students. It was further M/S/P to increase the amount to \$300.



**FIELD TRIP REPORT #1** Dr. Philip Piccoli graciously hosted a group of 15 Society members at the University of MD Geology Department on June 13th. Francis Becker, David Colvin & Charlotte Tyler, Jonathan and Susan Harris, Robert & Sara LaVilla, Gary and Diane Leaman, Michael Miller, Jason Millington, Wendell & Jo Ann Mohr, Tim Morgan & Michele McMurtry enjoyed the introductory remarks by Piccoli. He, ably assisted by several graduate students, guided us through several laboratories where we saw and had equipment explained to us. Thanks Philip!



Philip Piccoli

The Laser Ablation System where UV Lasers are used with an Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass



Spectrometer using Argon and Helium gases is best for analysis of low concentrations of elements. We peeked at the Mass Spectrometer Lab followed by seeing the Electron Probe Micro analyzer Scanning Electron Microscope which allows a complete chemical analysis on an area of a few square microns of rock! It is best for mid to high concentrations.



Lastly we saw the Laboratory for Mineral Deposits

Research (LMDR) where high pressure, high temperature experimentation is taking place to simulate conditions at depth in the earth. Some research studies the effect of CO<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>O on mineral deposition.

We thoroughly enjoyed seeing their Mineral Collection. Primarily based on significant donations by Irvin Freedman, a successful supermarket designer and outfitter, and Johannes Martinus Burgers, a University of MD Physicist and Math Professor, it features some very fine specimens. Notable are many emeralds, quartzes, tourmalines, aquamarines and others. A 200 pound quartz xl. with a necklace of tourmaline is very unusual. ↴



(Your Board voted [by phone and E mail] to contribute \$300 to the University to help defray the cost of educational usage of the equipment ) Report and photographs by Wendell Mohr

**FIELD TRIP REPORT #2** It was a very warm and breezy day at Aurora NC May 9th. The mercury hit 92<sup>0</sup> that day, and it was fortunate that we had 14 mph winds to cool us down a bit. PCS had just put in a nice new ramp the week prior and two weekends were canceled prior to ours. There had been heavy rains so things were well washed but there was still a lot of moisture in the material and there wasn't sufficient wind erosion to make the collecting really good. Mary & Chris Crosswhite and a very nice couple from the Maryland Geological Society, who had not been able to go before, Tim Oechsler and Cheryl Madden, joined us for the trip. There was a new page of rules (now 3 pages long to be signed) before entering the mine. Goggles are now required (even over safety glasses). And if you go in on the first bus, you have to come out on the first bus.



No joke, Jennifer is holding a whale humerus



Jennifer's Chubutensis

The collecting was sparse but one fellow found a tooth from a megamouth shark, which is pretty rare. In the parking lot some very kind gifts were given from collectors to the guides and it really warmed my heart to see it. My best find was a 3 inch Chubutensis. What a beaut! Pictures of our group and my chubbie are shown.

Report and photographs from Jennifer Wingard

The May 30 field trip to the National Limestone Quarry in Mount Pleasant Mills, PA was a "smashing" success (pun intended) according to all participants! Cindy Cincotta and her 11-year old son Kevin, Mark Dahlman, and I all found the three-hour drive to be well worth our efforts. The group collected in two areas, first heading to the west end of the quarry floor. This area was full of chunks of blasted limestone jam-packed with interesting vugs. I think the treasure-seeker in each of us was thrilled with the abundance of calcite crystals, although Kevin was the most vocally enthusiastic! A few strong whacks with a crack hammer would split open the vugs and expose calcite-filled "beds" with crystals up to 1 cm in length. We also found some strontianite (although none of the beautiful one-inch "balls" of white crystals Jeff Cessna and others found in previous trips) and small areas of chalcopyrite and purple fluorite (massive, not crystalline). Mark diligently but carefully pounded one rock for many minutes and was rewarded with 3-4 inches of fossilized shell in an interesting spiral form.



Our second collecting area was located on the ridge above the quarry pit, reached by a 15-minute hike. The sandstone in this area is the source of the famous green wavellite as well as fossil specimens. Again, the group was not disappointed as wavellite specimens were easy to find -- I believe Cindy's sharp eyes spotted the first wavellite crystals right on the trail. While none of our finds was of a quality that might be posted to E-bay and finance a future trip to Tucson or Denver, all we rockhounds were quite satisfied (especially Mark, who found another good fossil, this time a 2-3 inch snail).

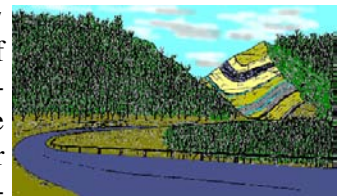
After such a fun day cracking rock and finding attractive minerals, the drive back home passed quickly. As an added bonus, a basement examination of my finds determined that the calcite crystals on about half of the specimens glow a lovely yellow-green color under long, short, and mid-wave ultraviolet light. Many of these specimens also feature the white-fluorescing strontianite, creating aesthetically pleasing two-color combinations. I also determined that some of the wavellite fluoresces a dim bluish-white (best under long-wave) and one specimen also featured a creepy-looking green fluorescence around the outer edge of each wavellite crystal.

Busting open cooperative rocks to explore their treasures within. Enjoying glorious sunshine and a satisfying breeze (no extra charge for that "farm fresh scent"). Filling the car with abundant crystals, fossils, and fluorescent minerals. I think you'd agree that our GLMSMC field trip to the National Limestone Quarry was certainly a "gem."

### **FIELD TRIPS**

Illustrations courtesy of the MD Geological Survey

**July 18, Saturday 10AM Sideling Hill, Hancock, MD:** Sideling Hill is one of the most famous and spectacular road cuts in the Northeast. One gets an unparalleled view of the folded strata underlying the Appalachian. Dale Shelton, of the Maryland Geological Survey, will give us a detailed look at Sideling Hill--a tour that goes beyond what most people see. The tour will include a special slide presentation, discussion of the geology and history of the road cut and a trip out on one of the berms. **No one under the age of 18 is allowed out on the berm.** Children can attend the parts of the presentation that occur in the areas open to the general public and to see the exhibits, but parents must make sure they have appropriate supervision when we go out on the berm. Sturdy shoes and long pants are required. The berm is hazardous due to falling rocks and all attendees will have to sign a waiver so our taxes won't go up if a rock falls on someone's head. Dale will be able to provide hard hats for those who don't have one. Also this trip will be contingent on the weather. If it is raining or foggy, we may either have to reschedule or skip the part of the trip out onto the berm. Go North on Route 270. Continue North/West on I-70 towards Hagerstown. Proceed 52.7 Miles on I-70 to I-68 West. Go 6.3 miles West on I-68 to the Sideling Hill Interpretive Center. Driving West on I-68 you will see the large road cut in the distance and there are signs for the Sideling Hill Interpretive Center/Rest Stop. There is a large parking lot. We will meet inside near the information desk at 10am. Typical travel time is about 1.5 hours from Montrose Rd and I-270 in Rockville. Please let me know by July 14. (note I will be unable to respond to email between June 29 and July 14).



Jonathan Harris, Field Trip Chairman

**SAFETY FIRST - FIRE SAFETY**

by Bill Klose, EFMLS Safety Chair

With the summer camping and field trip season here we need to review the use of fire in the timber and range lands.



Always build fires in prescribed areas if present. If there are no prescribed areas clear an area of leaves, grass, and branches, and make a rock ring around the fire pit area. Prior to starting any fire, check the local papers, radio stations, police, firehouses, or ranger stations, to see if an outside burning ban is in effect. In very dry conditions, even the roots under the burning pit may allow a campfire to spread. Do not start a campfire in an old coal mine where a coal vein may lie just below the surface or where the mine has been used as a land fill and may be filled with combustible materials. Never leave a fire burning unattended. Put it out with water if possible, then cover with earth. Never throw away a match until it is completely out and cold. If you smoke, be sure the "butt" is completely out, break down the paper and tobacco and grind it into the earth. For filter tips, break the tip off and take it with you in your trash bag.



Keep a clean camp. Eliminate litter by taking it with you in your trash bag. Glass containers containing clear liquids and cans in the open can act as a magnifying glass or mirror if in the sun and can cause fires by focusing the sun's rays on combustible materials.

Be careful where you drive. Catalytic converters on automobile and truck exhausts emit gasses at about 750 degrees Fahrenheit and can cause grass fires, especially if you stop over dry grass and leave the engine running.



If you should cause a fire or find one spreading, call for help, spread the word to others in the area and then attempt to prevent the fire's spreading. If it has spread over too wide of an area or can not be safely contained, evacuate the area and let the professional fire fighters handle the fire. Do not become cut off and isolated where the fire and/or smoke can overcome you.

From May 2006 EFMLS Newsletter

**EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH** On June 3rd, Wendell Mohr spoke to an attentive large group of 1st graders at the Goshen Road Elementary School in Gaithersburg. Parent Alex Hurley made the initial contact based on our website's content. Teacher Tammy Monarch brought together 4 classes with over 100 students. The students were rewarded with calcite specimens from Medford Quarry and had a superb span of attention, learning about Rocks and Minerals.

**HINTS:** Hint 1 Never test to see if a grindstone is turning with your nose - it is only an expression  
 Hint 2 If your opal turns red you are probably grinding your finger tips  
 Hint 3 Linear speed of a cab that has come off the dop during polishing is always exceeded by the speed of profanity.  
 Hint 4 The ease of loosing a stone in the shop is directly related to the value.  
 Hint 5 Waterproof aprons aren't.

Island Gem and Rock

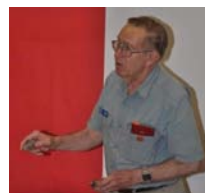
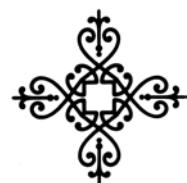
**SHOW TABLE:** Jun 8, 2009. Thanks to those who bring items for sharing at the meetings.

<u>Exhibitor</u>	<u>Specimen (s)</u>	<u>Locality</u>
Lisa Carp	Shorl	Not given
Jeff Cessna	Calcite, Fluorite (Fl.)	Geronimo Mine, La Paz Co. AZ
	Quartz with inclusions (Fl.)	Wazistan, Pakistan
	Tremolite & Tirodite (Fl.)*	Gouverneur NY
Kevin Cincotta	Calcite*	Nat'l Limestone Q., Mt Pleasant Mills PA
	Wavellite*	Nat'l Limestone Q., Mt Pleasant Mills PA
George Durland	Sodalite	Ilimaussaq complex, Greenland
	Manganaxinite, Willemite, Clino-	
	hedrite, Xonotlite	Franklin NJ
	Fluorapatite	Franklin NJ
Gary Leaman	Franklinite*, Willemite*, Hydro-	Franklin NJ
	zincite*, Calcite*	Franklin NJ
David MacLean	Hematite, Quartz, micaceous	Ironton MN
Avery Marsteller	Gold, 24 karat	Locality unknown
Wendell Mohr	Almandine	Sedalia Mine, Salida CO
Andy Muir	Calcite*, Fluorite*, Strontianite*	Nat'l Limestone Q., Mt Pleasant Mills PA
	Wavellite*	Nat'l Limestone Q., Mt Pleasant Mills PA
George Reimherr	Chrysocolla*	Teeter Q., Gettysburg PA
	Quartz on Chrysocolla	Bagdad Copper Mine, Bagdad AZ
Joel Rosen	Willemite, Esperite, Calcite	Franklin NJ
Eric Thompsen	Prehnite*	Hunting Hill, Rockville MD
Rod Towers	Microscope and specimens	
	Various Minerals*	
Jennifer Weiss	Calcite	Hiddenite NC
	* = Self-collected or self made	"The road"



**DOOR PRIZES**

<u>Junior</u>	Gypsum, Johnson Co., WY	Kevin Cincotta
	Carved green frog	Jonathan Baum
<u>Show Table</u>	Two polished geodes	Andy Muir
<u>General Door Prize</u>	Pyrite, Calcite, Pachapaque, Peru	Francis Gallegos



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO MEMBERS:**

**JULY** Patricia Carter, David Colvin, Antonia Dentes, Wendy DeWolfe, Gerald Elgert, Heather Felsen, Jonathan Harris, Jürg Hochuli, Dave Johnson, Andrew Mays, Christian Michaelis, Michael Miller, Tim Morgan, Savannah Muir, David Paraboschi, Jim Paraboschi, Michael Paraboschi, Barry Remer, Julianne Remer, Donna Rimar, Ann Cameron Siegal, Conrad Smith, Charlotte Tyler, Dee Williams, Robert Wright, Sophie Wright.



**AUGUST** David Ballard, Larry Campbell, Lisa Carp, Carolyn Carter, Michael Ciletti, Annie Dahlman, John Gunnison, Jacob Harris, David Hennessey, Norma Irby, George Loud, Steven McNeil, Denise Muir, Gabi Muir, Marlene O'Callaghan, David Paraboschi, Jim Paraboschi, Michael Paraboschi. Bill Porter, Joel Rosen, Nancy Shinowara, David Weiss, Barbara Wells.

**SHOWS & EVENTS**

**July 30 to August 2** AFMS/NFMS Convention & Show hosted by the Billings Gem & Mineral Club. Holiday Inn Trade Center, Billings MT. AFMS meetings July 28–29.



**August 14, 15, and 16th** The (MAGMA) Mid-Atlantic Gem & Mineral Association 12th Annual Gem Miner's Jubilee. At Lebanon Expo Center & Fairgrounds, PA 72, 5 miles N. of PA Tpk. Exit 266, right on Rocherty Road to 80 Rocherty Rd. Lebanon PA. Fri. and Sat. 10 am to 6 pm, Sun. 10 am to 4 pm. Admission \$6, good for 3 days. Children under 12 free. Info.: call 717 838 8870 or web site <www.gem-show.com> which has a \$1 discount coupon.

**September 12-13** 44th Annual Gem, Mineral, and Jewelry Show, Central Pennsylvania R&M Club, returns to Zembo Shrine, 2801 N. 3rd St., 3rd & Division Streets, Harrisburg PA. Sat. 10 am to 6 pm. Sun. 10 am to 5 pm. Admission \$5, 12 and under and scouts in uniform free. Information: <www.rockandmineral.org> which has a \$1 discount coupon.

**September 26-27** 45th Annual Gem, Mineral, & Jewelry Show, Gem Cutter's Guild. Howard County Fairgrounds, MD 144 near MD 32 and I70, West Friendship MD.

**October 17-18** 37th Annual Gem & Mineral Show and 59th Annual EFMLS Convention sponsored by the Bristol Gem & Mineral Club. Beals Community Center, Bristol, CT.



**THE COLUMBIA ART CENTER** is located in the Long Reach Village Center (next to Stonehouse Community Center), 6100 Foreland Garth, Just minutes from Route 175 and Tamar Dr., Columbia, MD 21045 and offers classes of interest. From MD 29, take MD 175 East towards Jessup. Follow 175 for several miles to the light at Tamar Dr. Turn left on Tamar, and go one mile. Turn right on Cloudleap Ct. Turn left into Long Reach Village Center parking lot. The Art Center is located in the courtyard behind the Safeway entrance (look for large round window).

Most of the spring dates have passed but you might want to keep up with their offerings. Phone 410-730-0075. Email, general information <art.staff@columbiaassociation.com>. Web site: <www.columbiaartcenter.org>.

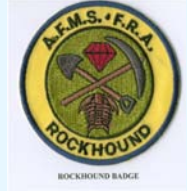


## JUNIORS FUTURE ROCKHOUNDS OF AMERICA



By Holly McNeil

The June 8<sup>th</sup> program “tested” our recently expanded Mineral Identification skills. It was hard work, but seven FRA participants met the badge requirement by successfully identifying 6 minerals. CONGRATULATIONS! There will be future opportunities for additional testing so others can also complete this activity.



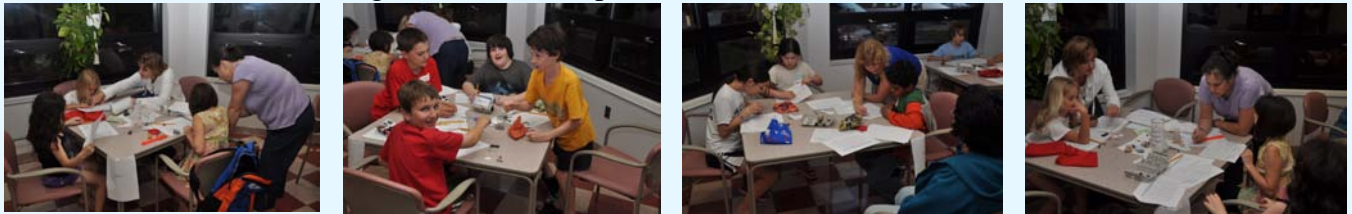
Upcoming: **\*\*July & August – summer break – no Society meetings will be held.\*\***

**September 14<sup>th</sup> program – Assignment: It’s time to “show off” our collections! To meet the next requirement for the Rock and Mineral badge, participants must bring in at least 10 mineral samples – all must be properly labeled and stored in an organized fashion (box, tray, etc.).** Each member, in turn, will pick one of their specimens and briefly talk about it with the group – this will give us practice for the show table and will also get us started on the Communications badge. If we have time remaining, we’ll have a group game or activity relating to Rocks & Minerals.

Optional: If any member wishes to give a complete oral report to the group (3 – 5 minutes in length) on something they did over the summer relating to rocks and minerals or fossils – this will satisfy a badge requirement. Keep in mind the Who? What? Where? When? How? Why? rules of good reporting!

If anyone completes the mineral property chart included with the “suggested summer activities” handout – bring it to the September meeting for badge credit.

For more information on the Future Rockhounds of America program, please contact Holly McNeil at <fra\_advisor@glmsmc.com> or phone 301-605-7179.



## WILDACRES FALL SESSION

Only two months remain until this year’s fall session September 7<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>. At only \$345 per person, where else can you spend a week with room and board included? There are modest fees for materials for the classes you take. Classes in faceting, cabbing, fused glass, lamp work beads, pewter fabrication, exhibiting & judging, silver smithing, and wire wrapping will be offered. Some of the classes may already be fully subscribed. The “speaker in residence” for fall will be Brenda Foreman who will share her knowledge and love of jewelry through the ages. She’s a terrific speaker and you will come away with a new take on the baubles, bangles and beads that enhance our lives.

Wildacres is near the Blue Ridge Parkway halfway between Asheville and Blowing Rock in the Blue Ridge Mountains of NC. You may see more details at the website <<http://www.amfed.org/efmls/wildacres.htm>> and can download registration forms there. Wendell Mohr also has registration forms if you do not have access to the internet.



## WHAT ARE THOSE FIBERS IN MY ROSE QUARTZ?

Most of us are curious about the variety of colors in quartz. Rose quartz is one of the loveliest types, and many of us have specimens or jewelry of rose quartz. What accounts for its delicate pink color? Recent work has shed some light on its origin - apparently it is due to the presence of a close relative of the mineral dumortierite.

The breakthrough discovery was work done in 1987 by 2 geologists at the University of Missouri at Columbia, Ken Appin and Brian Hicks. They were doing studies on the etching of various types of quartz. They discovered in one of their samples, a rose quartz from the Ruby Range of Montana, masses of pink fibers on the sample surfaces after etching in hydrofluoric acid. The color of the fibers was spectrally the same as the pink color of the quartz specimen. Testing by X-Ray diffraction convinced them that the fibers were a mineral called dumortierite, and that they were responsible for the pink color of that particular quartz.



Photo courtesy of Roger Weller,  
Cochise College

Dumortierite is a complex boron-bearing silicate. It was named for a French paleontologist, and has been known as a mineral since 1881. It is generally found in fibrous to columnar aggregates and is usually an attractive pink to blue to purple in color. The particular concentration of trace amounts of iron and titanium seems to control the color seen. Dumortierite is often found in granite pegmatites, high temperature hydrothermal veins, and in high-grade regional metamorphic rocks where boron was available during metamorphism. Sometimes interesting collector specimens occur from Maine, California, New Mexico and elsewhere. Lapidary quality dumortierite occurs in South Africa and other locations.

Appin and Hicks work was followed by Julie Goreva, Chi Ma and George Rossman at Cal Tech. In a paper published in 2001, they looked for pink fibrous material in rose quartz from 29 localities from around the world. All of the samples they tested had such fibers. The fibers were very small, best described as nano-fibers 0.1 to 0.5 micrometers wide (about 0.00002 inches). Their optical patterns again matched the pink color of rose quartz. X-Ray diffraction, Raman spectroscopy and other analytical tests showed that these fibers were from a mineral close to, but not exactly like, dumortierite. The scientists concluded the rose color of all massive rose quartz was due to this material.

Later work by this same team further characterized this material as a dumortierite relative. The only significant difference is the relatively large amount of iron replacing aluminum at a particular location in the mineral structure. Whether or not this will constitute a new mineral remains to be seen. At this point then it is hard to tell some one exactly what this material is. Yes, it is like dumortierite, but really isn't technically, and doesn't have an official name. I could suggest it be called that pink fibrous dumortierite-like stuff in the rose quartz. A bit unwieldy, but, (to paraphrase the Bard), to a mineral collector, wouldn't the coloring agent of rose quartz by any other name, still look so sweet?



Rose Quartz— Minas  
Gerais, Brazil  
Copyright  
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### References:

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By Bill Cordua, University of Wisconsin at River Falls  
via July 2009 Breccia, Santa Clara Valley G&M Soc., San Jose, CA

## SOCIETY HISTORY

## BY JACK BUSCH



**SUMMER 1994, PLUS A NEW HOME-** A number of field trips were made during that summer. Gasoline still was reasonably cheap and livin' was (comparatively) easy. Several trips took place in June, most of them with happy results. One was to Fairview Beach VA for turrutella fossils, and the participants found many whole pieces plus some matrix. Also collected were ray plates, shark teeth, and a crocodile tooth, all within in a short time span, so short that the travelers were able to stop at a flea market on the way home. There was no report that any fleas had been acquired.

Jack Nelson led a trip to one of his favorite spots in Potomac MD for gold panning, and everyone found many pieces of the shiny metal.

Terry Cirrincione and what she called a small but dedicated group drove 325 miles to Stuart VA to dig and screen for "fairy crosses" at the Stone Cross Mountain Mine. The owner of the mine spoke to the group about the history and legend of the famous Patrick County mineral, staurolite, of which the crosses were formed. Four types of crosses can be found, Maltese, Roman, Saint Andrews, and simple, and all managed to get specimens of each.

July too provided many opportunities to hit the road. The most ambitious of these was to the pegmatite area of Maine. Though only a few members participated, those who did were well rewarded, finding all manner of good stuff, including tourmaline, optical quality quartz, beryl, montmorillanite, and Lepidolite.

Another July destination was Marriottsville MD where shorl in shale, and dolomite were found. A separate trip to a local area was to an unspecified spot on the PA/MD border (the owner was adamant about not publicizing the location.) Here were found excellent specimens of serpentine and william-site.

A trip of a different kind was made by Wendell Mohr and Louis Williams to Syracuse NY to attend the Eastern Federation Convention and Show as our delegates. The show was housed in a NY State Fairgrounds Building which had no air conditioning, something sorely missed as the outdoor temperature was 91°. Add to that the heat generated by the lights of the display cases and from the tables of the 62 dealers and I'm sure you can understand how comfortable the place was. Luckily for the delegates the business portion of the convention was held at a Holiday Inn that had A/C. At the Awards Dinner members Jenny and Paul Smith received a trophy for first place for their advanced entry of micromount crystals, and Jenny was presented the EFMLS Citation Award for her "long and multifaceted" work on behalf of the Federation.

At the year's American Federation Convention, member Fred Schaefermeyer had been elected its president for the coming year.

The only August field trip was to Lebanon PA, not for baloney but to attend the annual Lost Dutchman Gemboree Festival. Actually the Festival featured five field trips, two for fossils and three for minerals. One of the latter was to a golden calcite site that was described as being "out of this world."

As has already been mentioned, we would be meeting at the Rockville Senior Center as of September. However in August we had a preview of what that would be like. Arrangements had been made with Mrs. Eileen Ecklund, widow of member Everett, to help her dispose of the hobby-related portion of his estate. The Society's Board decided the best way to do this was to have an auction, and the best place to do this was in our new air-conditioned meeting place. The auction was a definite success and though time did not permit disposing of everything, about \$3000 was realized of which the Society received 20% and Mrs. Ecklund the balance. And yes, the A/C was appreciated.



Enjoy your summer, and to quote from a song of a few years ago, "I'll see you in September."

Jack

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