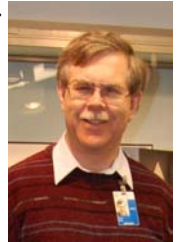


REGULAR MEETING Meetings are held the 2nd Monday of the month from September to June. The Society will next meet on Monday June 8th in the dining room of the Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Drive, Rockville. The short business meeting will begin at 7:45 pm but the room is available to us at 7:30 pm so come early to chat and see the Show Table materials. The program will be presented by close friend of the Society, **Dr. Jeffrey E. Post**, Curator-in-Charge, Gem and Mineral Collections at the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution. His subject: **What's New in Gems and Minerals**.



THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS will NOT meet in June. If any issues arise that require Board action they will be handled by E Mail and/or phone.

NEW MEMBERS

BAUM, Doug & Marcia Conron Baum, 11205 Golden Meadow Court, Germantown MD 20876-1740, 301 515 4641, Doug dbaum@gazette.net, Marcia jayceebee18@aol.com.

Jonathan (1/98)

GUNNISON, Maureen & John, 914 Laredo Road, Silver Spring MD 20901-1867, 301 754 1533,

maureengunnison@hotmail.com.

Lauren (2/95), Nicholas (9/96), and Ryan (2/99)

MARSTELLER, Julie, 9 Welland Court, North Potomac MD 20878-4847, jmarsteller@comcast.net

Avery (10/00)

ZIMDARS, Jonathan, 1900 Thames Street Unit 319, Baltimore MD 21231-3519, J.Zimdars@yahoo.com.



WILDACRES WORKSHOP There is still time to register for the September 7 to 13 session. For \$345 (plus small fees for materials depending upon your class selection) you'll have a great week of fun, sharing, and learning. Room and board are included in that price for a stay on top of a mountain in NC! Choose from classes in cabochons, exhibiting and judging, faceting, fused glass, lampwork beads, pewter fabrication, silversmithing, and wire wrapping. Find out more at <www.amfed.org/efmls> and click on the Wildacres tab. Find out for yourself why Wildacres workshops have been so successful for 36 years. Get a registration form from the June-July EFMLS News <www.amfed.org/efmls> (click on the Newsletter tab, June-July issue, page 10.) or Wendell Mohr



DEADLINE for the Jul.-Aug. 2009 Rockhoulder: **July 1st**

NOTE: There are NO general meetings in Jul. and Aug.

IN THIS ISSUE

Meeting Announcements, Roster Changes, New Members, Wildacres Workshop, Rockhoulder Deadline.....	1
President's Message, MR Auction, Turquoise Talk.....	2
Regular Meeting Minutes.....	3
Board Meeting Minutes.....	4
Field Trips, Malachite.....	5
Bead Museum, Safety.....	6
Show Table, Door Prizes.....	7
Birthdays, Shows & Events.....	8
FRA, Lillian Turner Award.....	9
Web Sites, Ammonite & Ammolite.....	10
Society History.....	11



PRESIDENTS MESSAGE:

Before we take our summer break, please consider being our club's Delegate at the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies (EFMLS) convention in Bristol Connecticut this October. Our Society reimburses \$200 to our delegate to the convention to help defray the cost of attending. I tentatively will be attending as an EFMLS Director. If you wish to be an alternate for either Delegate or Director you would be on standby and only reimbursed if the primary person does not go. If you are interested in representing our Society at the EFMLS convention, please contact me or our EFMLS liaison, Wendell Mohr, for more information. The EFMLS annual meeting will occur Friday October 16. The Bristol Gem & Mineral Club, the host of the convention, will have their show that weekend, October 17th and 18th, at the convention site. The EFMLS awards banquet and editor's breakfast will also be held at the convention Saturday and Sunday respectively.



At the EFMLS convention, a drawing will be held for the Eastern Foundation Fund. The Eastern Foundation Fund's interest is used for special projects such as a current effort to transfer mineral symposium programs to DVD for use by clubs like ours. Ten prizes are to be awarded at the drawing, including very attractive jewelry, mineral art, and "a really fabulous mystery prize." Pictures of the prizes can be seen in the March, April, and May issues of the EFMLS News at <www.amfed.org/EFMLS/newsletters.htm> Mar. P 1, Apr. P 1, and May P 6. The tickets for this Eastern Foundation Fund drawing are \$1 each or 5 for \$4. Both Wendell Mohr and I have these tickets for sale, so bring a few dollars to our June meeting, take a chance on winning a great prize, and most importantly, support the Eastern Foundation Fund.

At our April meeting, Carolyn Weinberger told us about the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) drawing in July to support the AFMS Endowment Fund. The Endowment Fund's interest supports such AFMS programs as the Future Rockhounds of America, of which our Society takes advantage. New prizes have been added to the AFMS drawing including jewelry and a slice of meteorite. You can see all of the prizes at <www.amfed.org/endow2009.htm>. Tickets for the AFMS Endowment Fund drawing are \$5 each, or 5 for \$20. You can purchase your tickets for the drawing by sending your check, payable to "AFMS Endowment Fund" to Carolyn Weinberger, PO Box 302, Glyndon, MD 21071-0302. Be sure to include your name, address and phone number along with a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return of your ticket stubs. All requests for tickets must be received no later than July 10, 2009 in order to be included in the drawing which will be held on August 1 during the AFMS convention in Billings, MT.

Don't forget that we will break for the summer after our June meeting, and start meeting again in September. Have a wonderful summer. Mark

MINERALOGICAL RECORD SALE One of the three final lots did sell at the May meeting for \$6. The unsold lots will be sold to a book dealer with proceeds to the Society. This is the end of the sale of these magazines.

INVITATION Lisa Carp invites our members who might want to join with her Gemology course on June 17th for a talk by Abby Kent Flythe who will be speaking on Turquoise. The group meets at 10 am at the Potomac Community Center. All are welcome but contact Lisa to let her know if you are coming. Call 301 299 8205 or E Mail her at <LGCarp@verizon.net>.



**A TOP SCRABBLE AND
COLLECTING SCORE:**

Q U A R T Z

(IN A CORNER = 24X3=72!)

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES:

The May 11, 2009 meeting was called to order by President Mark Dahlman at 7:44 pm, with approximately 77 people attending. Minutes of the April 13, 2009 regular meeting were approved.

FRA: Holly announced the evening program theme of fossils. The lecture was given by friend of GLSMC, Mike Elwood. Next month will be mineral ID part II. Participants were reminded to bring their ID kits. There are a few available for those that don't have one.

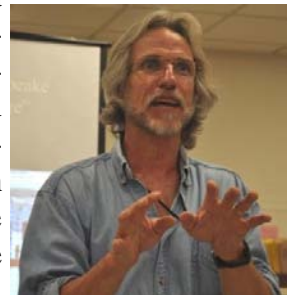
Field Trips: Jonathan reminded us of the upcoming trips to Manassas, Rockville, and National Limestone Quarry. A lot of quarries have been shut down recently due to the economy. He is getting final details for an indoor field trip to the University of MD Geology Department with Dr. Phil Piccoli.

President: Mark announced the evening auction of the mineralogical record volumes. One lot sold, the other will two lots be sold to a dealer. He brought flyers from shows and the AFMS and EFLMS newsletters.

Editor: Wendell reminded us of the EFLMS raffle. The Patuxent Lapidary Guild has moved to near Annapolis Mall. Wildacres fall dates are available. Register early for first choice on classes. Mark reminded us of the club scholarship for Wildacres. We had a testimony from a recent attendee who thoroughly enjoyed it and noted the value for money. Wendell publically thanked Heather Felsen and Pat Repik-Byrne for a job well done at the annual show. There was much rejoicing.

Show Downstairs Chair: Pat thanked everyone. She reported we had more exhibit applications than we could accommodate and those we could were first class.

Program: Vice President, Elmer Lantz, introduced the evening speaker, David Scott Powars, a geologist with the USGS in Reston, VA. The program was entitled "Exploring the Chesapeake Bay Impact Structure." The exploration included the most recent updates to the understanding of the impact crater based on the latest drilling project, the 1.76 km deep Eyreville Corehole, in Northampton Co., VA. The impact was a comet nucleus or asteroid that hit the earth about 35 million years ago (Eocene epoch) on the mid-Atlantic shelf near the mouth of the modern Chesapeake Bay. The impact sent km high waves all the way to the Blue Ridge and left a 53-mile-wide complex and asymmetric crater. Attendees included NPR reporter Sabri Ben-Achour, who produced two short segments heard the following day on WAMU. Thanks, David.



Treasurer: Andy reported there were no significant transactions since the last report. The club is still in solid financial shape.

It was M/S/P to accept four new membership applications.

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

President Mark Dahlman called the May 18, 2009 meeting to order at 7:32 pm. Board members present: Nancy Ballard, Jeff Cessna, Mark Dahlman, George Durland, Jonathan Ertman, Elmer Lantz, Wendell Mohr, Andy Muir, Pat Repik-Byrne, Joel Rosen, Rod Towers. Non board member present: David Ballard.

It was M/S/P to nominate a club member, to be announced later, for Rockhounder of the Year.

Vice President: Elmer sent a thank you for the Powars presentation. Mark noted that last month was a "high impact presentation." Dr. Post has a confirmation for the next meeting.

FRA: (by proxy) Holly asked if we have a standard certificate of appreciation, we don't, and whether anyone noticed the noise from the juniors, not when the doors were closed, they didn't.

President: Mark expressed concern about the number of chairs.

Editor: Wendell delivered the new, bigger, raffle boxes to Pat. Mark talked to Charlie Zellers and will get old mailing list data into new format. Nancy will work on supplying Mark with data from this year. Unsold Mineralogical Record issues will be sold to dealer. Wendell noted that Mark is an EFMLS Director to attend the October EFLMS meeting in Bristol, CT. Wendell has been the other delegate, but is willing to let someone else take his place if they wish.

Property: Joel reported life is good. He delivered his updated list of board member duties.

Publicity: George reported on his assistance with a student project measuring phosphorescence. C. Carter Rich is going out of business.

Show Downstairs Chair: Pat is checking on exhibit case prices. Mark will contact the GLMSDC club.

Membership (and Host): It was decided that no Board meeting was needed in June.

Field Trips: Jonathan reported on the June 13th trip to the University of MD and prospects for other summer trips. Possibilities for gold related trips and a club picnic were discussed. Jonathan suggested we contact our legislatures to see if they can do anything to allow quarries to trust waivers signed by club members to allow more trips.

Treasurer: Andy reported our bank has been bought and account numbers will change, requiring new checks and deposit slips. Tax forms were submitted on time, although we are technically below the reporting requirements. The budget was discussed including updates to the show numbers previously reported.

Junior Advisor: Timing of junior door prize drawing was discussed. It should occur after the FRA update, before the FRA presentation begins.

Nominations for club officer elections were discussed. An ad hoc committee discussed potential presidential nominees. The first on the list was contacted and agreed to stand. The current treasurer and secretary agreed to stand for reelection. Members interested in running (especially for V.P. [and Program Chair]) are encouraged to contact any current club officer.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:56 PM.

Jeff Cessna, Secretary

FIELD TRIPS

June 13, 10 am we will have an indoor field trip to the University of Maryland's Department of Geology. The trip will include a viewing of the University's museum collection and some of the laboratories. The host will be Dr. Phil Piccoli of the Department of Geology and Laboratory for Mineral Deposits Research.



PLEASE **RSVP** to Jonathan Harris **no later than June 5**. It is important that he let Dr. Piccoli know how many people to expect have so that he can manage the tour efficiently and comfortably. Only so many people can fit into a laboratory at a time, and it would not be desirable to have extra staff show up on a Saturday when not be needed! Depending on the number of visitors, we may break the group into two.

DIRECTIONS: Take the Capital Beltway to Exit 25 and go South on US 1, Baltimore Avenue. Cross University Blvd./Greenbelt Road. At traffic light, (Paint Branch Pkwy. is to the left) turn right on Campus Drive and proceed to the traffic circle with the "M" and turn right. (The Geology Building is immediately on your left.) The Regents Drive Parking Garage is the 3rd building on the left. Park in the garage. There are no meters, but you will not be ticketed as long as you are in the B or 5 sections. For those members with GPS, it is located at 38° 59.377'N 76° 56.485' W. A map of the campus is at <<http://www.transportation.umd.edu/2008Map.pdf>>. Walk back to the Geology Building.

MEETING POINT: Room 2118 of the Geology Building (Bldg. 237) at 10:00 am. GPS coordinates: Geology Building: 38° 59.288' N 76° 56.445'W.



Pictures by Holly McNeil



April 18th field trip to Pinesburg Q., near Williamsport MD. Fun for all especially the first timers!

MALACHITE

From the RockVein, Winnipeg R&M Club Apr 2004
Great care must be exercised in working with malachite as it is poisonous in its raw state. Never lick it to see the color. If you wet your finger to apply it to the stone, do not put your finger back in your mouth. Grind malachite wet and wear a mask. When cutting it on the saw, do not get the contaminated oil on your skin. If you do, cleanse the affected skin immediately.

If you smoke, you can tell very easily if you are inhaling malachite dust because the smoke will taste sickeningly sweet. The reason for this sweet taste is that the copper oxide dust mixes with the moisture in the mouth, and this combination reacts with the tar of the tobacco, turning it into saccharin, an artificial sweetener.



When working with Malachite saw about 10 degrees away from directly parallel to the grain. This way when you are done with the stone, you will get a bulls-eye effect. Malachite is a fairly soft stone, try to cut the slab a little thicker than other material. When grinding, always wear a breathing mask. This is toxic material and can make you very ill. After grinding, sand first on a new 600 grit sanding belt. For polishing, ZAM on hard felt is recommended. Give the stone a little extra time.

THE BEAD MUSEUM, Washington DC, closed its doors to the public on Dec. 31, 2008. Though successful on many levels, the mounting costs of operating the Museum in the current fiscal climate dictated the decision to close. They thank the many volunteers and friends enabling it to exist for 12 years. The majority of the programs affiliated with the museum will continue.

BE SAFE – BE WELL

Feet Hurt? Check Footwear and Foot Care!

I remember some of my older relatives saying that when your feet hurt, you hurt all over. I never really gave it much thought until I approached significant maturity. Then, my feet began to cause a bit more trouble and I had to make changes in footwear and foot care. I well remember the lectures they gave us in the Army before we went on marches, hikes or field exercises. Always we had to have an extra pair of clean, dry socks and we had to inspect our feet carefully each morning and each evening and keep our boots and feet as dry as possible. It was darned good advice.

All of us must become more sensitive to our footwear. We should select sturdy shoes. I know ladies, they may not be stylish. We must have shoes that fit properly. We may have gotten in the habit of buying one particular size and they may no longer fit. Two factors can figure into this. First, I have been told that a few years ago manufacturers changed the standards for shoe sizes and shoes became ever so slightly smaller. A second factor is that as we become older, our feet may tend to change in size, width or length. We may need to consult a knowledgeable supplier of footwear so that we purchase the correct size so that we do not cramp our toes and also get the proper support. Much comfort can often be derived from either good quality arch supports or custom made orthotics. This may cost you a little money but can be a good investment in the long run.

The second part of the basic equation of foot comfort is foot care. Let's start with the toe nails. An ingrown toe nail can really be a source of pain and infection – they can actually be dangerous. Nails should be trimmed straight across and trimmed often. They do not have to be cut extra short just don't let them touch the inside of the toe of the shoe. Be alert to strange tendencies for the toe nails to "cup" or "curl" and watch out for discoloration. There are fungus growths that enjoy attacking your toe nails and they can cause big trouble.

Malformations of the toes and feet can occur and are bad news. Hammer toes, bunions and corns often result from poorly fitted shoes and may require medical assistance. There are other foot problems that I do not even know about and I am not sure that I want to.

Paying close attention to our toes and feet in general is most important. With age comes the onset of non-insulin dependent or type 2 diabetes. Diabetes has a nasty habit of causing sores or infections on the feet and this must be avoided. Untreated sores on the feet can even result in amputation or some other form of surgery.

In closing, let me remind you that our feet are fragile and we must not run down to our work area or studio for even a minute without proper footwear. It is really easy to break toes and often very little can be done to repair the damage. Having your toes taped together is less than comfortable and is, often, the only thing that can be done to achieve healing.



I must declare to you that I am not a physician and have no other contact with the medical profession other than sleeping with a nurse (my wife), but I do know that as long as we persist in walking upright, we must take care of our feet. by Don Monroe, AFMS Safety Chair Feb. 2008



SHOW TABLE: May 11, 2009. Thanks to those who bring items for sharing at the meetings.

<u>Exhibitor</u>	<u>Specimen (s)</u>	<u>Locality</u>
Barbara Burr	Stalagmite	IL or MO
Jeff Cessna	Barite/Calcite (Fl.)	Franklin NJ
Lawrence Davis	Apatite	Shigar Valley, Pakistan
	Amethyst	Abernathy Mica Mine, Mitchell Co. NC
	Schorl	Tiffany Amethyst Mine, Macon Co. NC
Wendy DeWolfe	Trilobite fossils*	Ray Mica Mine, Yancey Co. NC
George Durland	(4) Willemite, Calcite, Franklinite	Pinesburg Quarry, Williamsport MD
	Microcline	Franklin, Sterling Hill Mines NJ (via AZ)
Gerald Elgert	Calcite (Fluorite?)	Northern Pakistan
Heather Felsen	“Opalite” and other unidentifieds	Potomac River MD (dumped there?)
Jonathan Harris	Strontianite and Wavellite*	ID panhandle
	Tremolite*	Nat’l Limestone Q., Mt. Pleasant Mills PA
	Stellerite*	R’ville Crushed Stone Q., Rockville MD
Chuck Hyland	Aragonite	Manassas Quarry, VA
	Barite and Hematite	Pisco, Peru
Matt Hyland	Franklinites	Bulgaria
Alexandra Kindahl	Hematite and “Hemalike”	Franklin NJ
Eric Kindahl	Olivine and Basalt	Not given
Elmer Lantz	Quartz, Peridot faceted	Lanzarote, Canary Islands
David MacLean	Epidote in Hornfels Shale	Not given
Wendell Mohr	\$4 Canadian T. Rex Silver Coin	Gettysburg PA
Andy Muir	Sodalite (tenebrescent)	Canada Mint
	Agate or ? (Fl.)	Greenland
Tom Parnell	Possible Fossil?*	Unknown
	Quartz on Calcite*	Pinesburg Quarry, Williamsport MD
George Reimherr	Gahnite, Rhodonite, Calcite	Pinesburg Quarry, Williamsport MD
	Almandine in Mica Schist*	Sterling Hill Mine, Ogdensburg NJ
Pat Repik-Byrne	Fluorapophyllite with Stilbite	Tributary to Pennypack Crk., Phila. PA
	Dolomite over Quartz, Pyrite	Maharashta State, India
Joel Rosen	Glass River Rock	Krushov Dole Mine, Bulgaria
Conrad Smith	Quartz and Rutile	By Cliff Goodman
Earl Smith	Chromite	Not given
Rod Towers	Microscope and specimens	Paterson NJ
	Blastoids	PA



DOOR PRIZES

Junior Malachite from Congo was claimed by Alexandra Kindahl and a Carved Frog went to new member Jonathan Baum.

Show Table Pat Repik-Byrne got the Lace Agate Pendant.

General Door Prize An Imperial jasper Pendant was won by new member Douglas Baum, father of Jonathan!





JUNE BIRTHDAYS Trevor Babb, Doug Baum, Andrew Celmer, John Curry, Dale Fisher, Susan Harris, Larry Harrison, Anita (Lizas) James, David MacLean, John Muir, Tin Lay Nwe, Fred Parker, George Reimherr, Eve Spielman, Jennifer Weiss, Robert Wright.

Your Birthstone is PEARL. The Latin word for pearl literally means "unique," which refers to the fact that no two pearls are identical. The pearl is the oldest known gem, and for centuries it was considered the most valuable. Today, the most valuable pearls are perfectly symmetrical, relatively large and naturally produced.

The natural colors of pearls include white, cream, pink, lilac, silver and gold. Black pearls, called "Tahitian Pearls," come from the black-lipped oyster and are highly valued for their rarity.

Unlike gemstones created deep inside the Earth, pearls are created organically by living creatures called mollusks and are composed of calcium carbonate and water. Pearls are created when a grain of sand or other small foreign object accidentally enters the soft inner body of a mollusk, creating an irritation. The mollusk produces liquid called *nacre* to cover the irritant. Layer upon layer of this silky substance continues to cover the irritant, gradually hardening into a lustrous gem. This process can take up to eight years.

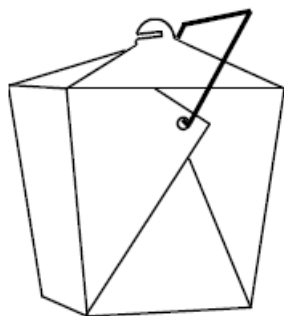
Only 20 of the more than 8,000 species of two-shelled mollusks are capable of producing pearls. One of the largest pearl-bearing oysters is the *Pinctada maxima*, which is roughly the size of a dinner plate.

With Permission. Copyright © 2000 Houston Museum of Natural Science and/or its suppliers, Houston, TX, U.S.A.
All rights reserved.

Happy Birthday!

UPCOMING SHOWS AND EVENTS

GEOLOGY OF THE C&O CANAL Sunday, June 7th, 10 am to Noon, River Center, at Lock House 8, 7906 Riverside Avenue, Cabin John MD. Callan Bentley, Assistant Professor of Geology at Northern Virginia Community College, will use rock evidence to deduce the geologic history of our region.



**Chinese Mineral
Shipping Container**

GEOLOGY OF THE GETTYSBURG BATTLEFIELD

The Audubon Naturalist Society is featuring a day field studies program, June 27th, 10 am to 3 pm. Joe Marx is the leader who relates geology to the Civil War Battle. Members \$25, Nonmembers \$35. Registration required. Information 301 951 7179.

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.

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.

JUNIORS FUTURE ROCKHOUNDS OF AMERICA

By Holly McNeil



We were fortunate to have a guest speaker for our May 11th program. Fossil expert Mike Elwood kindly brought in many specimens from his collection and explained the different types of fossils and their formation methods. He graciously provided each attendee with a booklet on where to locate fossils in Maryland. THANK YOU MIKE!

Photos by Holly McNeil

Upcoming:

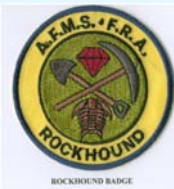
June 8 program – Mineral Identification – Part II. We covered the basics of Mineral Identification in April, now it is time to apply what we learned. To meet the badge requirement, each participant must identify (through proper testing techniques) a minimum of 6 minerals.

Assignment: For those of you who attended the April session **please bring in your mineral ID kits.** I will have extras available for those who did not attend in April. This could be a good opportunity for you to bring in any of your own specimens that need identification.

****July & August – summer break – no club meetings will be held.****

Keep an eye on the *Rockhoulder* for notices of upcoming field trips and the Fall FRA program.

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



Lost & Found At the April meeting someone left a small round plastic container about 3 inches in diameter, a small box, and a bag filled with tumbled agates, jasper, shells & other misc. stones on prize table at the FRA meeting. No one claimed them at the May meeting nor when Mark announced it during the 2nd half of the April meeting. See or contact Holly if they are yours.

THE LILLIAN TURNER AWARD is a \$100 U.S. Savings Bond that is presented each year to a youth (below the age of 18) judged as having the best Junior Exhibit at the GLMSMC Show. While all three junior entries at the 2009 Show were truly excellent, we are happy to announce that the winner of the Lillian Turner Award for 2009 is 13-year old **Savannah Muir** for her exhibit entitled "Thumbnails from A-to-Z".

The beautifully presented and comprehensive exhibit showcased 26 different thumbnail minerals, one for each letter of the alphabet. The three-tiered layout structure with dark background and white labels made the minerals easy to observe and appreciate. The accompanying documentation that described what thumbnails are and why she collects them was informative and fun to read. Congratulations Savannah!

By Patricia Repik-Byrne



Photo by W. Mohr



WEB SITES

The Volcano Beneath Yellowstone, <<http://gallery.usgs.gov/videos/112>> is a three part video by the USGS geologist Jake Lowenstern. He is the Scientist in charge of the Yellowstone Volcano Observatory. Click on "View Part 1, 2, 3 of 3" You should prepare for a long download since the videos are about 7 minutes each. You may click for full screen viewing but it is not HDTV. Here is everything you wanted to know and maybe more. If you want to escape volcanoes, go to Australia, the only continent devoid of them. • In case of the "Big One" at Yellowstone, they intend to hang out a sign saying "Don't come to Wyoming, we'll come to you" •

By Wendell Mohr



Mineral Oddities, <<http://www.the-vug.com/TheVugQuarterly/tucson2009forweb.pdf>>, is from the quarterly magazine, the-vug.com, to which you may subscribe for \$20 for four issues for one year. The site has many commercial advertisements. As usual we are not endorsing either. Get a glimpse of pseudomorphs and other oddities, the theme of the last February Tucson G&M Show. A couple of the pages are annoyingly sideways but the content is excellent. • Pseudomorphs: Change is inevitable.....except from a vending machine •



Colored Stone Magazine, <<http://www.colored-stone.com/>> is a bimonthly, international trade magazine that covers all facets (Pun intended) of the colored gemstone industry. Once more we are not endorsing the magazine or its advertisers. There are a multitude of interesting articles if you will click on Archives, News & Updates, and Products & Resources. • They screen lots of gravel for gemstones in Western NC. The mine owners' problem is the wear and tear on the screens. What they need is a screen saver program. •

AMMONITE & AMMOLITE

By Carla Howard

The name "ammonite" is derived from the ancient Egyptian god Ammon who considered them to be divine. Ammonites were hard-shelled marine animals related to squid, octopus, and the chambered nautilus. They were abundant and lived about 70-135 million years ago in all the oceans and in a subtropical sea that bordered the Rocky Mountains. They were able to swim, thanks to the unique construction of their shell, which was divided into a series of air chambers. The air in the chambers provided buoyancy for the animal to float, and they probably moved through the water using jet propulsion. As the seas receded, the ammonites were crushed by tons of vegetation and silt, and many were fossilized. They are usually preserved in chalky clay, limestone or limey shale.

Rare trace elements in some areas caused radiant iridescent blue, green, red and gold to appear on the fossil surface. When the fossilized shell shows this rainbow of shifting interference colors in beautiful mosaic-type patterns it is then known as an ammolite. The gem ammolite was created when the ammonite died close to the shoreline of the Bearpaw Sea, near an inflow of fresh water. The water somehow changed the chemistry of the shell, possibly depositing iron in it, which accounts for the greens in the stone. It is recovered through pit mining with most coming from the badlands of Alberta. By law, intact fossils cannot be broken for specimens, and each pit mine must be filled and reclaimed before another pit mine can be opened.

Ammolite has a hardness of 4.5 to 5.5, is also known as korite and calcentine, is made up of calcium carbonate, and has an orthorhombic crystal structure. The thin aragonite layer of the ammonite shell is often assembled into triplets with a protective quartz top and a shale backing. Ammolite is far rarer than diamonds.

Reference: <ammonite.com> --from The Nisqually Rockhoulder, May 2002 via The RockCollector, June 2002 via Hound's Howl Sept 2008.



SOCIETY HISTORY

By Jack Busch



END OF AN "ERA" – First though, I'm sure you've been sitting with bated breath since last month's ramblings to learn about May 1994's field trips, so I won't keep you waiting any further.

The month's first trip was to The Willows, an oft-visited spot on the west side of Chesapeake Bay, noted for its fossils. Both Thomas Caton and Terry Cirrincione brought back some of them to display on May's Show Table. Subsequent May trips were to Willis Mountain Kyanite Mine in Dillwyn VA, Ben Murphy Mica Mine at Burtonsville MD, unakite hunting in Syria VA (this one also offered wine-tasting and trout fishing en route), and a jaunt to St. Johnsville NY for Herkimer diamonds. Terry brought back some of the "diamonds" plus beryl from the Ben Murphy Mine for June's Show Table, and for the same table Charlie Zellers brought barite on kyanite from the Willis Mt. site, and Liz and Barbara Brain brought Beryl also from Ben Murphy. Alas, no one displayed wine or trout. As an aside, The Ben Murphy Mine, long abandoned, is located on WSSC-owned property and probably no longer is accessible for security reasons.

In May Wendell Mohr gave a talk to a group of Girl Scouts at Glenwood Middle School in Howard County. The girls had attended our show and their interest had been so aroused that they were prompted to plan a trip during school vacation to SD, MT, WY, UT, and CO. Talk about ambition! They wanted Wendell to tell them about minerals and fossils they might find.

At May's regular meeting Wendell introduced Prissy Delgado, our Junior winner at the Montgomery Area Science Fair. Prissy presented her project "Effect of Waterlogging on Soil Salinity: in which she described her experimental techniques and the results obtained from them.

Prissy's presentation was followed by one given by the evening's scheduled speaker, Dave Brackna, who spoke about Faceting. He urged members not to cling to traditional designs but to design new ones instead. He showed how he went about faceting gems, using slides to illustrate designs he had made. Dare one say he was putting a new face on faceting?

In May's Rockhouser, Editor Nancy Ballard prefaced all other items with an announcement that June's meeting would be the last one to be held at Herbert Hoover Middle School. I'm, sure there were loud cheers when member's read this. As I had mentioned in previous articles, conditions at HHMS were getting intolerable – no air conditioning, preemptions of our meeting space for other activities, folding cafeteria tables with kid sized, etc. – so it was time to move on. Nevertheless we did hold one more meeting there, the one for June.

At that meeting Wendell Mohr introduced our Senior Montgomery Area Science Fair winner, Adrienne Johnson, who presented her project on "Beach Erosion" for which she studied the beaches of the Eastern Shore. This work was of such quality that Adrienne won the top Category Award for Earth and Space Science at the Fair. She received additional awards from the Marine Technology Society, the Association for Women in Science, the Graduate Women in Science, the League of Women Voters, and the Washington Society of Engineers. And she had been our Science Fair winner the year before for a project on Fault Formation. Whatta gal!

After Adrienne's presentation Bob Irby introduced Andrew Herman, who spoke about "Phenomenal Stones." These are stones that demonstrate unusual properties such as (1) the play of colors, (2) asterism as in star rubies and sapphires, and (3) iridescence as in Labradorite. Andy explained what causes these phenomena making for a most interesting presentation.

And with that display of curiosities the relationship between GLMSMC and HHMS ended. Unfortunately but appropriately, the night was described as "very hot", thus emphasizing the absence of AC. Despite this about 40 persons attended, attesting to the ruggedness of Rockhounds.

Have a delightful and fruitful summer.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President- Mark Dahlman, 11906 Scovell Terrace, Germantown MD 20874-2532	301 428 0455
Vice President- Elmer Lantz, 10128 Hereford Place, Silver Spring MD 20901-2035	301 593 0369
Secretary- Jeff Cessna, 12116 Cliftdale Drive, Silver Spring MD 20904-1941	301 680 7963
Treasurer- Andy Muir, 17949 Hazelcrest Drive, Gaithersburg MD 20877-3761	301 990 1370
Junior Advisor- Rod Towers, 19609 Gunners Branch. Rd., Germantown MD 20876-2738	301 972 1264
Field Trip Chairman- Jonathan Harris, 11932 Goya Drive, Potomac MD 20854-3313	301 545 0808
Membership Chairperson- Nancy Ballard, 16812 Baederwood Lane, Derwood MD 20855-2011	301 926 7374
Show Chairperson- Heather Felsen, 13621 Deerwater Drive, Germantown MD 20874-2847	301 947 7459
Property Manager- Joel Rosen, 833 Rampart Way, Union Bridge MD 21791-9325	410 775 7937
Past President- George Durland, 8600 Bunnell Drive, Potomac MD 20854-3545	301 299 8213
EFMLS Liaison- Wendell Mohr, 9509 Emory Grove Road, Gaithersburg MD 20877-3501	301 926 7190
Bulletin Editor- Wendell Mohr, 9509 Emory Grove Road, Gaithersburg MD 20877-3501	301 926 7190

Charter Member: Dan Spielman; Life Members: David Ballard, Nancy Ballard, Jack Busch, Larry Harrison, Anna Marcus, Wendell Mohr, Charlotte Morrison, Juan Proaño, Dan Spielman, and Paul Vance

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.



Permission to copy material printed herein, except specifically copyrighted items, is granted, provided credit is given.



Award Winning
 Bulletin
 EFMLS, AFMS
 Editor's Contests



FIRST CLASS MAIL
 DATED MATERIAL
 TIME SENSITIVE



THE ROCKHOUNDER
 Gem, Lapidary, and Mineral Society
 Of Montgomery County, Md., Inc
 Wendell C. Mohr, Editor
 9509 Emory Grove Road
 Gaithersburg MD 20877-3501

