



**REGULAR MEETING:** Meetings are held the 2nd Monday of the month from September to June. The Society will meet on **Monday November 9th** in the dining room of the Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Drive, Rockville. The short business meeting will begin at 7:45 pm but the room is available to us at 7:30 pm so come early and see what you and others have on the Show Table and chat with old friends. Speaker, **Albert De Milo**, will present the program titled “**On the Road to Cabochons.**” Al is a long-time member of the GLMSDC who has nearly two decades of experience cutting cabochons. He served that organization as President and is currently a Director. He has exhibited at the GLMSDC Shows and has taught capping at the EFMLS’s Wildacres Workshop and has served as Director. He will discuss why he was drawn to lapidary, the equipment needed, the training he received, and his mind-set toward exhibiting his work.

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS** will meet **Monday November 16th** at 7:30 pm at the home of David and Nancy Ballard. All Board members are expected to be there. Any member is welcome to attend but please let Nancy know if you plan to attend (301 926 7374).

**ROSTER CHANGES**

BUYNAK, Michael, 413 Tannery Road, Athens PA 18810-9621, 570 337 0655, michaelbuynak@yahoo.com  
 HARRIS, Susan, sedharris@gmail.com  
 WELLS, Inga, 502 Church Street Apt. 701, Athens PA 18810-1837, 570 731 4396, ingawells@yahoo.com

**NEW MEMBERS**

CAMPANELLA, Beth, daughter of Stephen (added to family membership)  
 HAYNES, Patrick, 8341 Carnegie Drive, Vienna VA 22180-7112, 703 698 0989, patrickehaynes@verizon.net

PEPPER, Robert & Amy, 12016 Blackberry Terrace, North Potomac MD 20878-4920, 301 948 1152, Robert E Mail: Rpepper200@comcast.net, Amy E Mail: Apepper200@comcast.net, Nolan (8/98), Nathan (2/99)  
 VAITKUS, Kris & OLSHIN, Bob, 13917 Flint Rock Road, Rockville MD 20853-2650, 301 460 3286, Bob: bolshin@verizon.net, Kris: Krisev1@verizon.net, Elena (9/96), Abbie (9/96) [Twins!]



After fifty years of faithful duty with the US Forest Service, their beloved fire prevention mascot was unceremoniously "retired." Still in the prime of his life and bearing one of the world's most recognizable faces, he quickly found work as a spokesman for the world's leading exporter of diamonds. He's now working as "Smokey DeBeers."

**DEADLINE** for the December 2009 Rockhounder: Dec 1st

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**PRESIDENTS MESSAGE:**

Our Field Trip Chair, Jonathan Harris, has organized a field trip for us to the Texas Quarry near Cockeysville on November 14th. Googling the Texas Quarry shows that it has a long and important history. It is the only existing quarry in a group of marble quarries that produced the stone for pillars of the U.S. Capitol building, the spires for St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York, as well as the Washington Monument in Baltimore. Texas Quarry itself provided the first 152 feet of marble for the Washington Monument on the National Mall. A number of years ago the Baltimore Sun reported on "the Texas rumble" that Cockeysville residents have experienced since Civil War times because of blasting at the quarry. Collectors have not been allowed in the Texas Quarry for a number of years. It will be interesting to see what will be found there. Space on this trip will be limited, so please contact Jonathan to reserve your spot.



At this month's meeting we will be making history of our own by voting on next year's board members. Thanks to Andy Muir, continuing as Treasurer, Jeff Cessna continuing as Secretary, Owen Powers who will stand for Vice President, and Eric Kindahl who is running for President on their willingness to serve our Society in the coming year. I'm sure they would welcome competition in the election. If you are interested in running for office, please speak up at the November meeting.

Also, I'd like to thank Heather Felsen and Pat Repik-Byrne again for doing such a great job organizing our Spring show for the last two years. Pat will be continuing as the First-floor Show Chair, but Heather will be stepping down, so I'd like to speak with anyone who may be willing to help out the Society in this very important position. The show will be here soon so please call me at 301-428-0455 if you'd like to find out more about this role. Hope to see you at the meeting.

Mark

**THIS AND THAT**

**Sara LaVilla** communicated, in part, "We had to take the house off market and fly out here for mitral valve replacement for me. That occurred on Oct 1 and now I am home for one full day on Oct 6. They put in a bovine tissue valve which may not last as long as a mechanical one but doesn't have the clotting potential of the mechanical one. Hope all is well in Maryland." We hope that you are getting a little better each day and will be "good as new" shortly. Moooooo!

**Jeff Nagy** was central to a nice article in the Gazette papers on October 28th by staff writer Andre L. Taylor. It addressed the hunt for mines in Montgomery County and mentioned Jeff's membership in the GLMSMC. A photograph included information about Jeff's work on updating the 1980 "*Minerals of the Washington DC Area.*" Information touched upon the content of his talk to our Society in September. See < [http://www.gazette.net/stories/10282009/gaitnew205559\\_32529.shtml](http://www.gazette.net/stories/10282009/gaitnew205559_32529.shtml) > for the full text of the article and photographs.

**George Durland** carried out our tradition of outreach by talking at the Brookside Nature Center for two hours on Friday October 16th. He spoke about minerals and, what else?, fluorescent ones! George reports that the center even had bought an ultraviolet light. Thanks George for your efforts in education.

**ELECTION**

November is election month for the Society.

The Board of Directors, serving as the nominating Committee, has secured candidates who have agreed to run for officer positions for the new year:

President: Eric Kindahl

Vice President: Owen Powers

Secretary: Jeff Cessna

Treasurer: Andy Muir

Nominations from the floor will be open provided the person nominated has agreed to serve.



**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

The October 12, 2009 meeting was called to order by President Mark Dahlman at 7:40 pm, with approximately 62 people attending. Minutes of the September 14, 2009 regular meeting were approved.

**President:** Mark reminded those who had not done so to renew membership that night, noting that all renewing and new members should consider electronic delivery of the Rockhoulder.

**FRA:** A ceremony was held to award the Rocks & Minerals badge to Jennifer Weiss, Avery Marsteller, Trevor Babb, and Jonathan Baum. Congratulations. The evening FRA program on gems was given by member Lisa Carp.

**Field Trips:** Jonathan Harris filled us in on upcoming field trips (see schedule). He requested that participants let him know what they find and submit pictures. Interesting information allows him to personalize thank you letters to quarries.

**Treasurer:** Andy reported we continue in good shape financially, with sufficient balance in our accounts. He mentioned the board decision to donate to the American Lands Access Association \$100, AFMS Endowment Fund \$300, EFLMS Eastern Federation Fund \$300, and AFMS Scholarship Fund \$800.

**Membership:** Nancy mentioned we still have close to 50 people who have not paid their dues.

**Program:** Vice President, Elmer Lantz, introduced the evening speaker, Lee Horowitz, of Peru Blue Opal Ltd. Lee educated us on the various materials available from Peru, such as blue opal, and the pitfalls of buying material that is too good to be true. All the materials were available to see in person. A trait of the gem trade, we heard all of the many names any single material could be called. We learned that the associated non-specific localities are a result of miners protecting their livelihood by not revealing the sites of the mines. Finally, Lee told us of his involvement in bringing mineralogy and gemology into the considerations of archeological finds in Peru, both stones and possible lapidary tools. This can bring consistency to the discussions and hopefully a better understanding of the real origins and subsequent histories of artifacts. Thanks, Lee.



Photo by W. Mohr

**Editor:** Wendell reminded us to look in the Rockhoulder for the many classes available from Clearwater Nature Center, Glen Echo, and others. A number of shows are also upcoming.

It was M/S/P to accept new membership applications. The new members are Beth Campanella, Patrick Haynes, Robert Pepper and family, and Bob Vaitkus and family. Patrick brought many free minerals for fellow members. Thanks.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:56 PM.

Jeff Cessna, Secretary



On May 3, 2003, New Hampshire's "Man of the Mountain" tumbled into oblivion. This is but one of the Earth's formations that, to people with even less than vivid imaginations, appeared life-like. Rest in Peace Old Man!



**BOARD MEETING MINUTES October 19, 2009.**

Board members present: Nancy Ballard, Jeff Cessna, Mark Dahlman, George Durland, Heather Felsen, Jonathan Harris, Elmer Lantz, Wendell Mohr, Andy Muir, Pat Repik-Byrne, Joel Rosen, Rod Towers. Non board members present: David Ballard. President Mark Dahlman called the October 19, 2009 meeting to order at 7:33 pm.

There was a discussion about the number of remaining cabochon pre-forms from last year (determined to be approximately 100, after the meeting). We have a small group of volunteers and will spread the work.



**FRA:** (by proxy) Holly stated she was happy with the support from the board. She will soon submit a request for expenditures. In December she and the Future Rockhounds will set the agenda for next year.

**President:** Mark is still researching new showcase options, still working on the mailing list, and reminded everyone to keep their duties and responsibility listing up to date.

**Membership (and Host):** Nancy reported 44 people have not yet paid their dues. Options to politely urge payment from this unusually large group were discussed. The loss of club privileges, such as field trip attendance, should be an incentive.

**Editor:** Wendell just returned from the October EFLMS meeting in Bristol, CT. A report will be in the newsletter. The club and members have won many awards. Board thanks to Wendell and Jo Ann for representing the Society.

**Show Downstairs Chair:** Pat is also checking on exhibit case prices. She will contact the Gem Cutter's Guild for their plans. Elmer will get an existing case from Joel to check on metal construction options.

**Treasurer:** Andy reported that a net worth statement covering the past 10 years is still in progress. Recent or upcoming expenditures include donations, including one in lieu of a speaker fee, advertising for the show, and insurance. Payment was made for Fairgrounds event calendar.

**Property:** Joel will check his inventory of door prizes, but does not anticipate a large need. The Junior Advisor will assess his need before the next board meeting and the upcoming local show.

**VP:** Elmer sent a thank you for the previous presentation. The November speaker is confirmed. January and February have tentative speakers.

**Show Chair:** We are awaiting an invoice to pay the Fairgrounds, but are confident in our dates. Heather announced she will not be able to continue as Show Chair. If you are reading the minutes, you might be interested, volunteer!

**Field Trips:** Jonathan reported on upcoming trips and requested suggestions for indoor trips. Museums and club member collections were among the suggestions.

**Past President:** George Durland will be in contact with Dr. Jeffrey Post re Society donation.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Jeff Cessna, Secretary

**FIELD TRIPS**

**November 14**, Meet at the office at 12 noon, Saturday. **LaFarge Texas Quarry, Texas, MD.** Note that this trip is space limited. You must have confirmation from Jonathan Harris to attend. If you are a "maybe" due to other commitments, please let him know of that status and when you can commit. He intends to manage space limited trips so as many club members as possible will get such opportunities over time.

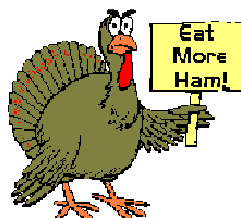
Minimum age for attending is 16. Minors under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent and both must be club members. Please notify Jonathan Harris by Nov. 7, <jgharris7@gmail.com> (email preferred) or phone 301-545-0808. He will randomly select people from a list of those who notify him by November 7. Please include "Texas Quarry" in your email message to make it easier for him to find.

The Texas quarry mines Cockeysville marble. No clubs have been in there for a decade. Previously it has been known for calcite, pyrite, and mica specimens. The marble has also been used as a building stone in the Washington-Baltimore area. <<http://pubs.usgs.gov/gip/stones/stones4.html>> has some historical information.

Circumstances beyond our control - weather or problems at the quarry can cause last minute cancellations so it is advisable to check Friday evening for any changes. Jonathan will try to avoid such situations and give notice as soon as he learns of them. Please be on time. Late comers who miss the safety briefing cannot collect at the quarry. Note that everyone (including minors) must have the appropriate safety equipment. This includes hard hat (ANSI Z89.1, certified for industrial head protection, readily available at home centers and hardware stores. Bike helmets and other sport helmets are NOT suitable.), eye protection, steel toed shoes, gloves, and long pants.

Directions: Take I-95 North towards Baltimore, take exit 49B--I-695/I-70/I-83 towards Towson. At exit 24, go North in I-83 towards Timonium/York. At exit 17, go right on Padonia Rd. If you hit Beaver Dam Rd, make a u-turn. We meet at the quarry entrance on Padonia Rd, which should be somewhere between I-83 and Beaver Dam Rd.

**SHOWS**





## EASTERN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL AND LAPIDARY SOCIETIES ANNUAL MEETING

My wife and I travelled through rain, sleet, snow, and fog on our way through PA & NY towards Bristol CT for the Show and Convention where we represented the Society. EFMLS activities commenced with the "Cracker Barrel" discussion in the afternoon of Oct. 16th.

Insurance for clubs was said to remain at the same rate, and again with a \$1000 deductible if a claim is paid.

Discussion took place covering the Federal restrictions on collecting on Federal lands. The American Lands Access Association has been revitalized to monitor legislation and seek member's responses to their legislators.

The future EFMLS convention sites were announced: March 2010 in Delaware, July 2011 in Syracuse NY (in conjunction with the AFMS convention), and September 2012 in Harrisburg PA. The early Convention in 2010 will require early submissions for bulletin Editors and other awards.

Be alert for jewelry (mainly from China) containing unacceptably high levels of lead.

Discussions included trying for support of clubs by college and university professionals. AFMS Commemorative Birthstone Stamp efforts continue.

There was chat about Support of EFMLS for clubs. Main response was to see past President, Bob Livingston's article "101 Ideas and Tips for Presenting the Best Club Programs Possible" and other helpful hints at the EFMLS web site under "Library."

It was noted that Joy Bourne, AFMS President, was hospitalized after a bad fall.

The Annual Meeting took place that evening.

2008 minutes were approved.

The traditional format consisted of reports from the Officers, followed by Committee reports. No reports were received for Regions V, VI, and VII. The packet of written reports will be available on-line at the EFMLS web site.

Financial reports were reviewed and a budget was passed for the new year.

A motion to change the deadline date for receiving club dues to EFMLS from April 1 to March 1 was passed. (Dues are still due January 1.)

There were no entries for the All American Club Award.

No report was received from several committees.

It was reported that the Uniform Rules for Competitive Exhibits will be changed effective January 1st 2010 to include a new category of Beading. Creative Cabs category is eliminated and included in Modern Cabs.

New officers were elected: Left to Right: President, Loren Patterson; Treasurer Lou Budell (Continuing); 1st V.P. Betsy Oberheim; 2nd V.P. R. J. Harris; and Editor, Carolyn Weinberger (continuing).



Photo by W. Mohr

No specific report was made on the current EFMLS membership status but 2009 Dues paid included 9461 adults and 855 juniors.

Continued on Page 9

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

<u>Exhibitor</u>	<u>Specimen (s)</u>	<u>Locality</u>
Jonathan Baum	Grossularite Garnet in Graphite	Merelani, Arusha, Tanzania
Boe Brosius	Brazilianite	Minas Gerais, Brazil
	Jade (Nephrite)	British Columbia, Canada
	Vanadinite	Milbaden Khénifra, Province, Morocco
	Rock Crystal	Locality not given
Barbara Burr	Desert Rose	NM
Jeff Cessna	Lapis (Fl.)	Badakhshan, Afghanistan
	Chabazite (Fl.)	Patterson NJ
George Durland	Willemite, Calcite	Sterling Hill Mine, Ogdensburg NJ
	Hardystonite, Clinohedrite,	
	Willemite, Calcite	Franklin NJ
	Esperite, Hardystonite	
	Willemite, Calcite	Franklin NJ
Jonathan Harris	*Pyrite, Prehnite, Talc, Molybdenite	Rockville MD
Diane Lehman	Fossil Oyster	Peru
	Pyrite	Huanzala, Peru
Gary Leaman	Orthoceras Ammonites	Atlas Mountains, Morocco
David Maclean	*Calcite	Stafford Quarry, Stafford VA
Wendell Mohr	Petrified Wood	Vantage WA
Andy Muir	“Sea Foam” Willemite	Ogdensburg NJ
Tom Parnell	*Clinozoisite	Rockville MD
Nolan Pepper	Geode	Peru
George Reimherr	Sylvite	Saskatchewan, Canada
	Las Trankas Geode (Quartz lined chalcedony)	Chihuahua, Mexico
Joel Rosen	Bustamite, Hardystonite, Clinohedrite	Franklin NJ
Cynthia & Alf Shupe	Black Opal	Locality unknown
Rod Towers	Platinum and Emeralds	Columbia, South America
	Microscope and specimens	
	* = Self-collected or self made	



**DOOR PRIZES**

**Junior Prize**, went to **Jennifer Weiss**, who won a beautiful fluorite from Okorusu, Namibia.

**Show Table Prize**, a Quartz from Department of Ica, Peru was taken home by **Gary Leaman**.

**The General Door Prize**, claimed by **David Maclean**, was a nice malachite from Zaire, Africa.



**BE SAFE – BE WELL DON'T LIFT THAT WAY!**

By Don Monroe, AFMS Safety Chair Mar. 2008

As I write this article, I am sitting here on our hill top wishing I could get up and do things that I really need to do. I am currently “chair – bound” because I did something extremely stupid. If we are going to publish articles telling you about all of the things that we should not do, then we must tell you about the things that we did and should not have.

We live on a fairly high hilltop in the Blue Ridge Mountains and my neighbors and I have been installing gates and barricades because we have burglars visiting our neighborhood. Ann and I were installing what is known up here as a Forest Service Gate which is a pipe barricade blocking access and we were lifting the pipe section which is a 4” diameter heavy steel pipe and is 16’ long. You can see this coming can’t you? Yes, I lifted with my back, not with my legs and suffered a muscle strain about two weeks ago and it is s-l-o-w-l-y improving. I know better but I was in a hurry and did not stop to think. We all have been taught that we lift with our legs, not our back. But, the question is, do we always do what we know we should do? This is just one example of the type of injury that many of us suffer needlessly.

Let’s take a minute to think about other things that we do that are, at best, ill-conceived and, at worst, stupid.

Here not that far from the beginning of a new year, we should resolve that we will avoid those basic mistakes that we tend to make when we just do not stop to think. Let me give you a short check list.

- Are you using the right tool for the job? A knife is not a pry bar or a chisel.
- Are your tools in good shape? Dull knives, chisels, saws and punches will only bring you grief. Hammers with loose handles or mushroomed heads are not reliable (read that as not safe).
- Some power tools are downright scary. All power saws will bite you. We all have horror stories involving folks that we know. We visited good friends in Scotland recently and could not find them. It seems that he was cutting a tree and when his wife walked up beside him and spoke, he swung around and slapped her in the head with his chain saw which was running. We can’t find out what finally happened but we know it was really bad.



Are you faithfully using eye protection? I feel confident that a majority of you are not using safety glasses when you know you should.

I could turn this list into a book but, would you read it? I know I am “preaching to the choir” and you all know all of the things that I am saying but the question is, are you willing to stop and think?



**MORE COMFORTABLE CAB CUTTING**

from Marcus Smith

Is the edge of your cab machine water trough sharp? When you’re cutting a cab, does the edge dig into your wrist or arm? Here’s an easy and inexpensive solution to end your discomfort. Get a piece of foam pipe insulation from the hardware store and place a piece of it over the edge of the trough. Voila, no more discomfort! And, you can easily remove the foam when you go to empty or clean the trough.



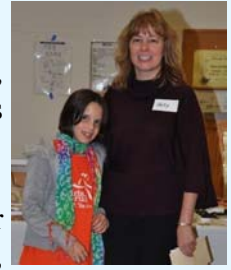


## **JUNIORS FUTURE ROCKHOUNDS OF AMERICA “The MOCKS”**

By Holly McNeil

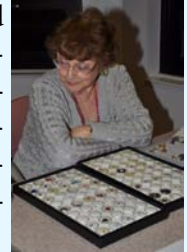


**CONGRATULATIONS** to Trevor Babb, Jonathan Baum, Avery Marsteller and Jennifer Weiss who received the Rocks and Minerals Badge at the October 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. Well done!

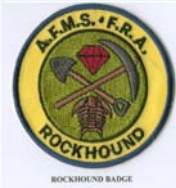


October Meeting Program Lisa Carp was our guest speaker for the evening. She discussed gemstone formation, properties, color and light return with the group, talked about places gemstones are found and shared some interesting stories. She then treated us to many examples from her personal gemstone collection – Diamonds, Emeralds, Rubies, Demantoid Garnets, Tourmaline, Jade, Pearls – each piece more beautiful than the next. Lisa kindly let everyone handle the pieces and get a real close look, a very special treat. As an added bonus, Lisa gave each member some gemstone samples to add to their personal collections.

THANK YOU LISA!



Upcoming November 9 Continuing on the gemstone theme, Heather Felsen has offered to teach the group how to make jewelry and will help each member make their own piece to take home. This activity is one of the requirements for the Lapidary Badge.



December The Mocks had a vote and decided to have their own year end party in December. Parents will probably be asked to assist with refreshments, stay tuned.

**A SPECIAL THANK YOU** to Tom Parnell, Patrick Haines and Mark Dahlman who donated specimens to the Future Rockhounds of America program.

### **EFMLS Annual Meeting** (Continued from Page 6)

The Gem and Mineral Show was held at the Senior/Community Center on Saturday and Sunday. I counted 5 smaller exhibit cases in the hallway, and about 26 cases on a stage and 1 Poster exhibit. The cases generally were much smaller than ours. Some excellent CT minerals were exhibited along with others. Of these only 2 were entered in competition. Three speakers were scheduled. “The History of Mining in CT” got our attention and was well prepared and excellently presented by Jack Pawloski, director of the CT Museum of Mining and Mineral Science. The annual EFMLS auction was cancelled due to absence of coordinator and alternate. 26 dealers offered a variety of items.

At the Awards dinner, certificates and trophies were given for competitive exhibits, “Each One Teach One”, Eastern Federation Fund donations, “M” awards for club growth, and AFMS Scholarship donations. The EFMLS Citation award went to Lou Budell. The raffle drawing did not produce a GLMSMC winner. Following the installation of new officers, Dr. Dan Record presented an illustrated talk on NASA missions collecting of moon rocks and their study. As one attendee said, “I felt like I went to the Moon and back!”

The bulletin awards meeting on Sunday was productive for our Society.

Come to the November meeting to find out about awards brought home. The field trip to Roxbury Falls CT for garnets saw a very rainy Sunday. Thanks to the Bristol G&M Club for hosting a very nice weekend. It is a lot of work for the host but it reflected their great planning. By Wendell Mohr



TAKE A GANDER AT THESE

WEB SITES

**FREE BOOK (FROM “DIAMOND DAN”)**

**Treasured Minerals** Mr. Russ Behnke is a mineral dealer and collector from Meriden, CT. He has field collected minerals since his childhood when he would go out collecting with his father. He has put together a beautiful book of his life in mineral collecting called *Treasured Minerals*. This one is outstanding. Download a free copy as a PDF document from his website: <<http://www.russbehnke.com/book.html>>. It is 11.5 MB so expect a long download. In his own words, “Free may be the way of the future. via Pick & Pack, CO Sprgs. Min. Soc. 9/09 • A friend of the author said that he understood he was writing another book. Asked what’s it about? The author said “150 pages.”•

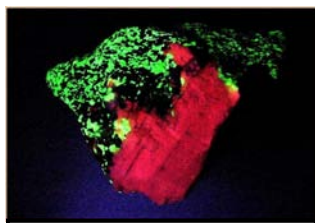
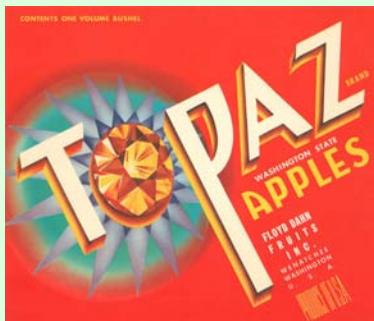


Photo credit R. Weller/  
Cochise College

**Fluorescent Minerals** A web site about Fluorescent minerals is maintain by Axel Emmermann. Read his bio on this page: <[http://users.telenet.be/axel.emmerman/FiatLux/About\\_me.html](http://users.telenet.be/axel.emmerman/FiatLux/About_me.html)>. A member of Mineralogische Kring Antwerpen (MKA) from Belgium, he has dealer links where you may see a few Fluorescent mineral dealer’s sites. Better yet, click on Minerals and select English. There is a data base of a few minerals. Select a URL and get all the minerals in that class. On some pictures moving the cursor on and off the picture will give a white light or UV effect. An interesting side light is his reporting to authorities lunar samples for sale illegally. •New song just released as MP-3 “Franklin Fluorescents” by Gladys Knight.●

**Dinosaur State Park** is in Connecticut not far from Bristol and Hartford where we visited while attending the EFMLS Convention and Show. A rather skimpy web site has basic features at the park at <<http://www.dinosaurstatepark.org/index.html>>. 200 million year old Jurassic fossil tracks are preserved by a dome structure in Rocky Hill CT. A nice museum circles around the perimeter under cover. We had visited there not long after the tracks were discovered and before much of the building and park were completed some 40 years ago. Click “What’s at the Park” to see dino footprints. They have a feature outdoors where you may make plaster casts if you have half an hour (and it is not raining.) I found the place worth the relatively short time to visit. You should stop in if in the area. • I ordered a thesaurus on Ebay thinking that I would get a different species of dinosaur. While visiting in Mongolia a man witnessed the finding of a nest with Dinosaur eggs. “I’ll have mine over easy” he told the paleontologist.●



**HAPPY NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY TO MEMBERS:**

Jay Cincotta, Kevin Cincotta, Patricia Cronin,  
Eric Durland, Chuck Mason, Holly McNeil,  
Nancy Muir, Wendell Mohr, Dan Spielman,  
Erich Thompsen, Kris Vaitkus.

## SOCIETY HISTORY

BY JACK BUSCH

**WELCOME TO 1995!**

In accordance with a predetermined plan, 1995 arrived at 00:00 hours of January 1 in which ever time zone you happened to be. Which brings to mind a point to ponder, if you care to do so. If one were standing at the geographic North Pole, where all the meridians meet, in which time zone would he/she be?

The year's officers took over their jobs without ceremony, at January's meeting. You didn't know who they were? See last month's scribblings. The meeting's speaker was Fred Ward. Many of you are familiar with Fred's work, but for those of you who are not, he is a noted gem and jade dealer, author of books (including "*Rubies and Sapphires*" and "*Diamonds*"), and writer and photographer for National Geographic and other magazines. This evening he told about a gem that is neither rock or mineral, the Pearl. He touched on the history of pearl—natural, cultured, and fake—and what to look for in them, and how to treat them. He just completed a book about this gem in which he went into great detail.

At January's Board meeting it was voted to donate 10% of the upcoming Show's profit to the Smithsonian's Natural History Museum's Gem and Mineral Hall.

To illustrate the determination of rockhounds, Editor Nancy Ballard included in February's "*Rockhounder*" the tale of a man who went panning for gold in 14<sup>0</sup> temperature (that's <sup>0</sup>F., not <sup>0</sup>C.) on January 5, 1995. First, the ice in the stream had to be broken. Then ice froze on the tool handles making them slippery. After that, the water in the pan turned to slush, making the flakes difficult to extract. And finally, the cold penetrated the panner's hip boots and three layers of socks causing his toes to become numb, at which time he quit, driving home to finish panning in his basement. Who was this intrepid person? Look around at the next meeting and you may see him. 'Twas Bob Irby! What a way to start his presidential term!

Bob wasn't the only determined soul. Field Trip Chair Terry Cirrincione had been laid up for some time with a number of viral and bacterial illnesses. However, when an old friend phoned to tell of a construction site near her home where a trove of fossils had been found, Terry conned her sister to come from Virginia to take her to the Oxon Hill site so she could dig. Wearing a face mask, and with the aid of a friendly construction worker, Terry collected a number of the famed Prince George's County giant clam shells, among other fossils. Ah, the things we do in the pursuit of our beloved hobby.

At February's meeting Bob announced that though she was still ill, Terry had arranged for the Society to have 40 slots at the May fossil trip to Lee Creek in Aurora NC. The speaker for the evening was Jim Reger, a geologist and morphologist with the MD Geological Survey. Jim's subject was "Earthquakes" and he told how and why they occur. He mentioned that the strongest recorded quake east of the Mississippi River was in the late 1800's in Charleston SC. The quake was felt as far north as Washington DC where it caused a church bell to ring. As of 1994 no earth quake studies been done of Maryland because the state is the lowest level of hazard scale, a comforting thought.

Was there a show in 1995? I'll let you know next month.

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