

THE ROCKHOUNDER



December
2010

PURPOSE: The purpose of the Gem, Lapidary, and Mineral Society of Montgomery County MD., Inc. is “To increase knowledge and popular interest in earth sciences, geology, mineralogy, paleontology, lapidary arts, and related subjects”.

REGULAR MEETING: Meetings are held the 2nd Monday of the month from September to June. The Society will meet on **Monday December 13th** 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 chat with old friends and help us set up for the PARTY!. **NO SHOW TABLE THIS MONTH.** There will be no speaker for this meeting because this will be the SWAP/SELL and social evening. You may bring hobby related items to swap or sell. Space is limited and we need some tables for refreshments, so bring no more than an amount that will fit on one table. It is possible that tables will have to be shared.

REFRESHMENTS This is the only meeting of the year when we have refreshments. PLEASE BRING COOKIES, CAKE, CRACKERS, or CANDY (Or VEGGIES for those who insist on healthy eating) to share. Goodies should be “finger food”. Napkins, cups, plates, punch, coffee, tea, and hot chocolate will be provided. Come and have a good time. As usual, visitors are welcome. Remember that WE MUST VACATE THE BUILDING by 10:00 pm and the tables and chairs must be cleaned and put back where we find them. If EVERYONE helps, it is not a big chore.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS will **NOT** meet in December.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

ANDERSON, Gus, 19540 Crystal Rock Drive, Apt. 13, Germantown MD 20874-4977, 301 916 5649
La VILLA, Robert & Sara, 19164 Roman Way, Montgomery
Village MD 20886-5063, (301) 926-6355, lavillars64@clear.net

ROSTER CHANGES

REIMHERR, George e-mail: greim@cox.net



ELECTION OF OFFICERS Vote at the December meeting for Officers for 2011.

Nominated are the present officers who have agreed to continue in office: President - Eric Kindahl, Vice President - Owen Powers, Secretary - Jeff Cessna, and Treasurer - Andy Muir.

Additional nominations may be made from the floor so long as the person has agreed to serve.

DEADLINE for Jan. 2011 Rockhounder: Dec. 24th

IN THIS ISSUE	
Meetings, Refreshments, New Members, Roster Changes, Election of Officers, Deadline....	1
Snow, Silent Auction, Safety.....	2
Regular Meeting Minutes.....	3
Board Meeting Minutes.....	4
Field Trips.....	5
FRA.....	6
Gem Hunt, Member News, R&G Magazine article, Roster Update.....	7
Show Table.....	8
Prizes, Birthdays, Shows, Events, Sale....	9
Web Sites, Badges, Library.....	10
Mispelling, Request for Participation.....	11

WEATHER ALERT

SNOW CONTINGENCY Reminder: If schools in Montgomery County MD are to be cancelled, or let out early, because of weather on the day of a scheduled Society meeting, we will have no meeting. Call the Society President or a Board Member (Numbers on the back of the ROCKHOUNDER) if in doubt.

**SILENT AUCTION OF BOOKS**

At the December meeting there will be a silent auction of about 35 books from the Ballards. Come prepared to bid to buy some very interesting varied titles. The collection represents the last remaining “leftovers”, and a few of which were not out for display at the Auction. time of the October 9th.

ANATOMY OF AN ACCIDENT

by Don Monroe, Chairman AFMS Safety Committee

There are times when each of us is so close when an accident occurs that we later feel that surely there was something we could have done to stop or prevent it. That is exactly what happened during the last hours of the last class of the last week of school at William Holland this year. Ann and I were teaching an advanced silver class (Channel) when it happened. Ann was assisting a student who was frantically trying to polish a rather large piece of jewelry and I was standing about 6 feet away. Ann was making the “last pass” across the piece trying to remove that last little, maddening, scratch. She was using an 8” flat lap covered with a piece of chamois. The piece of jewelry had an irregular shape with an edge that resembled a saw with teeth that were somewhat sharp. The polishing material was coated with wet cerium oxide.

Without warning, the polishing lap snagged the piece of jewelry and slashed the end of Ann’s finger cutting it around the periphery almost all the way around. I saw it happen and followed Ann out of the room to inspect the damage. The cut was very deep and the blood was flowing vigorously. I had snatched up a tube of super glue on my way out of the room and we used pressure to slow the bleeding while I applied the super glue which is our favorite remedy for clean cuts. I had some success but, as luck would have it, we had three nurses among the students in the class. Unfortunately, although I was doing a great job with my approach, the nurses were insisting that Ann should go to the emergency room. I was totally outvoted and took my patient to the hospital in the next town. The emergency room nurse that checked us in quietly stated that the super glue was doing great but since we were there, Ann should see the doctor. This doctor was pretty good, maybe even better than I am (my grandfather was a doctor) and he used 7 stitches since the cut went almost all the way around the finger.

Now, let’s talk about how this thing happened and what mistakes were made which resulted in the accident:

1. In the first place, the piece of jewelry was entirely too large for the lap that we were using. It was our fault because we did not insist that the student make a smaller piece.
2. In the second place, we all got in too big a hurry. We should have declared that the piece must be finished later.
3. We should have used leather rather than chamois to polish. We could nit-pick this situation forever but there are lessons to be learned and we must recognize that none of us are exempt from using poor judgment.



REGULAR MEETINGS MINUTES

The November 8, 2010 meeting was called to order by President Eric Kindahl at 7:45 pm, with approximately 67 people attending. It was M/S/P to approve the minutes of the October 11, 2010 regular meeting and the October 23, 2010 Board of Directors meeting.

President: Eric Kindahl discussed the particulars of the upcoming holiday party. He announced that the current officers are nominated to continue in office in 2011. The formal election will take place at the December meeting. He announced that help would be needed to assist the Vice-President, see a board member for details.

Editor: This position will become vacant in January. Please help the club continue the fine newsletter we are accustomed to by volunteering for the position. Wendell Mohr announced details of a local private sale, see this *Rockhounder*. He announced many of the upcoming regional shows and events. He passed along research from Jim Kostka on products available from Chevron for use as mineral cutting oil. Wendell received a request from Philip Justus who would like to trade mineralogy books for teaching specimens. The individual also requested members consider involvement in the center's Science Café program.

Field Trips: Jonathan Harris discussed the upcoming Texas Quarry trip. He requested suggestions for indoor trips.

Presentation: Vice president Owen Powers introduced the speaker for the evening, our own Jeff Nagy. Jeff presented *Mystery Mines and Mineral Occurrences in the Southern Maryland Piedmont plus One Bonus Silver Mine on Maryland's Eastern Shore*. After discussing the undeservedly poor reputation Maryland has for mineral collecting opportunities, Jeff went on to discuss five new sites he has been researching. He discussed an unnamed copper prospect/mine in Poolesville, the Fountain Copper Mine #2 in Darnestown, The Gauntt/Gantt Lead Mine in Frederick, The Spring Mills Lead Mine in Westminster, and a silver mine in Galena. He gave us an insight into the process used to locate these sites, from researching historical documents to interviewing people to searching on the ground. Sometimes the mines find him, such as the copper prospect in Poolesville, about which the property owners contacted him. It's always an enjoyable talk with the historical details and context Jeff provides about the sites. Thanks Jeff.



Photo by W. Mohr

Treasurer: Andy Muir made a final request that members sign up for name badges at a special price.

Chuck Hyland brought material from the Mount Apatite, Maine area pegmatites to give away.

It was M/S/P to accept membership of visitor Gus Anderson and returning members Sarah and Robert LaVilla.

Rod Towers administered the door prize drawing for juniors. Joel Rosen administered the show table and the drawings for the show table prize and door prizes, including a hard cider brewed and donated by the speaker.

Meeting adjourned at 9:52 PM.

Jeff Cessna, Secretary

Board members present: Doug Baum, Jeff Cessna, Mark Dahlman, Jonathan Harris, Eric Kindahl, Wendell Mohr, Andy Muir, Owen Powers, Pat Repik-Byrne, Joel Rosen. President Eric Kindahl called the November 15, 2010 meeting to order at 7:40 pm at the Muir residence.

President: Recently a member expressed concern to one of the board members regarding the use of lasers at the meetings. Users, please be aware of the possible dangerous reflections.

Editor: Our editor is retiring in January. Please consider volunteering. Wendell Mohr remarked that Don Turner had contacted him to state he will continue as show shop chairman. Wendell will label the remaining Ballard donated books for sale by silent auction at the next meeting. Requesting cell phone numbers for the roster was discussed. The following volunteers were conscripted for the holiday party: Pat Repik-Byrne – spoons, napkins, cups, plates; Wendell Mohr - coffee pot, Andy Muir – coffee, tea, hot cocoa, sugar, creamer; Mark Dahlman – punch; and Doug Baum – punch bowl.

Field Trips: Jonathan Harris requested suggestions for indoor field trips. Members are also welcome to make suggestions. Possibilities include the Smithsonian Naturalist Center in Leesburg. Jonathan will poll interest in visiting James Madison University.

Show: Pat Repik-Byrne suggested and the board agreed to an earlier show exhibit deadline, to allow enough time to prepare labels and the program. The deadline will be February 14th, date of the February meeting. Reimbursement of mini-miners expenses was discussed. Judging of junior show exhibits will occur Saturday morning so award can be posted early. Mark Dahlman reported that the contract and deposit are in. The candidate replacement mock-up case is partially assembled. Back rooms will be occupied Saturday morning during show requiring door monitor volunteers on club side.

Property: Mark Dahlman researched shop motor prices. Joel Rosen will check inventory for existing motor purchases dates and sizes.

Vice President: Owen Powers has purchased a laser pointer for club presentations. Jonathan Harris has purchased a club laptop for presentations.

Treasurer: Andy Muir reported on the clubs finances. It was M/S/P for the club to make the same donations as previous years with an accepted amendment of increasing the AFMS Scholarship donation by \$200.

It was M/S/P to nominate a member, to be named later, for the EFMLS Each One Teach one award. It was M/S/P to nominate Wendell Mohr as EFMLS Rockhounder of the Year. Congratulations, Wendell. Eric Kindahl will prepare the write-ups.

FRA: Holly McNeil reported (by email) that Linda Smith has volunteered to lead the 6-9 years, second age group, of the program. Andy Muir will call the senior center to rent an extra room. A budget will be discussed when needs are identified. Thanks, Linda.

A December Board meeting will not be held.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:58 PM.

Jeff Cessna, Secretary. ▶



Photo by W. Mohr

Our October trip to Willis Mountain was part of a large multi-club fieldtrip including one open to the entire Dixie Club federation.

The Kyanite Mining Corporation extracts kyanite from the kyanite bearing quartzite of Willis Mountain. The kyanite is purified and refined. Pure kyanite has the property that it irreversibly expands at high temperatures so that it can offset the shrinking in other components of ceramics. The Kyanite Mining Corporation also sinters the ground kyanite to manufacture mullite, a mineral used in high temperature ceramics.



View from Willis Mountain section

Willis Mountain is near the Central Virginia town of Dillwyn, due west of Richmond, slightly halfway to the Shenandoah Mountains. The three hour driving time from Rockville, meant either an early rise or an overnight stay in a nearby town for any collectors from our area. Hence, only five GLMSMC collectors attended.

Kyanite occurs in elongated blades, often varying from white to deep blue. Particularly noticeable is that its hardness when scratched parallel to the blade is only 4.5; while when scratched perpendicular to the long axis it is 6.5. This anisotropy on the same crystal face is unique. Besides kyanite, collectors have reported pyrite, rutile, mica, quartz crystals, and a variety of zeolites from the Willis Mountain mine. Most of the accessory minerals are found as thumbnails or micromount size specimens.



On the East Ridge--Mike Morris sprayed orange paint near the upright boulder and warned us to stay a "coffin's length" away. Two collectors search for micros.

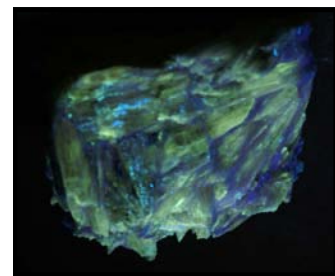
Arriving just before the 9 am start time, I could see perhaps 50 or more cars lined up and a gathering of 100 collectors surrounding Mike Morris and a couple of other Kyanite Corporation employees. After explaining that our waivers were our ticket, we headed to the first section of the mine --- the East Ridge. This area consisted of two large pits. Much of the kyanite-quartzite specimens were dotted with tiny red and black crystals. Some were iron stained mica; others were rutile. Small misshapened pyrites were also abundant. More careful examination with a good loupe or microscope would be needed for identification.

Of course, the rock was loaded with kyanite; but much of it was rather poorly formed weathering crystals. Collectors found some specimens with large well formed blades.

At about noon we switched to another section of the mine on the main part of Willis Mountain. The Roanoke Valley Mineral Society sold barbeque lunches to feed many collectors. This section had less pyrite, but seemed to have more boulders with larger kyanite crystals. I managed to find a couple with sizable (2") crystals. At home these showed a soft yellow fluorescence under short wave light.



Specimen from the Willis Mountain Section showing the yellow fluorescent kyanite blades. Some unidentified mineral produces small patches of blue-white fluorescence, particularly towards the lower right.



JUNIORS – Future Rockhounds of America (The MOCKS)

NEW PROGRAM STARTING IN JANUARY FOR JUNIORS

A Beginner Rockhound program, geared for younger ages (6-9) will be led by Linda Smith (a.k.a. Conrad's mom.) The program will start at 7:00 pm and end at 8:00 pm to accommodate both the younger age and to allow those that wish to, attend the regular meeting. Please pass the word!



November meeting recap: Our “mineral of the month” was Topaz, and each member took home two specimens courtesy of Patrick Haynes (THANKS AGAIN PATRICK!)– one to use in their mineral ID kits for the hardness of 8 and one for their collections. For the main program we continued to work on the “Earth in Space” badge. Mark Dahlman was our guest lecturer for the evening and shared with us his enthusiasm for and knowledge of meteors, meteorites, asteroids, meteoroids and tektites. We learned the true nature of meteor and meteorite interaction with our planet and its atmosphere. Mark conducted a crater impact experiment with the group using a container of flour and chocolate powder and simulated meteorite impacts of various trajectories using rocks of different sizes. We discussed craters and what can be learned from impact studies. Mark taught the group how to make a meteorite dust collector, and dismayed their parents when he suggested the best place to

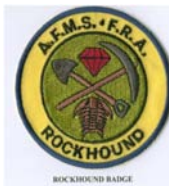
collect is from roofs and gutters. Mark shared stories and pictures of some historic meteor showers and showed us examples of meteorites from his collection. To start everyone’s meteorite collection, Mark gave each MOCKS member a piece of the meteorite Sikhote-Alin, an iron (coarsest) octahedrite that fell February 12, 1947.



December 13th:

- PARTY TIME! Please bring in a finger food item to share with the rest of the group.
- We will also cover the final “Mineral of the Month” for 2010 -- December’s birthstone – Turquoise. For those who wish – quizzes will be available at the beginner, advanced and expert level to test their knowledge of the traditional birthstones. Passing the quiz will complete one of the requirements for the Gemstone Lore & Legend badge.
- We also will do some planning for the 2011 FRA program.

The Future Rockhounds of America program, as operated by the Gem, Lapidary & Mineral Society of Montgomery County, is geared to youths aged 6-9 & 10-15 with an interest in Rocks & Minerals and related Earth Sciences. Meetings are the second Monday of the month from 7:00-8:00 & 7:45-9:00 pm respectively. Please contact Holly McNeil phone 301-605-7179 or e-mail <fra_advisor@glmsmc.com> for more information.



GEM HUNT - HOW MANY CAN YOU FIND? From SCRIBE 2006 CD (**Answers below**)

A lady traveling wanted to brag to her friend about the gems she had bought on her trip. However, she feared the message might be intercepted and someone would steal her gems. So, she hid their names in an innocent letter. But her friend has a problem—there are a 10 gem names throughout the letter, but she can't find them all. Can you help her?

"I promised to drop a line to you soon. We arrived in India Monday at noon. The robbery last night left me short of things, so I had to shop early for gloves and rings. When the plea of a beggar nettled Paul, he bought rutabaga, tender and small. We tried to stop a zebra from running amok, and had to rub your rabbit's foot for luck. On paper I do try, but somehow it all fails, whenever I spin elaborate tales."

MEMBER NEWS

Fred Parker tells us: Yes its true; the lovely Carol and I were married on November 7, 2010 at the VanDiver Inn in Havre de Grace just minutes away from the quarry. The small reception group downed a delicious meal at the VanDiver and pyrite in matrix from the Havre de Grace quarry was given to every guest as a souvenir. The yummy wedding cake from Rita's Cakes was complete with topper having the groom in hard hat, steel toe shoes and a geologists pick and pockets of rock candy. (yes, really!) A rocking time was had by all! The couple will reside in Catonsville MD. Congrats and best wishes from us all, Fred and Carol.

**ROCK & GEM MAGAZINE ARTICLE**

The November Magazine's "Artist Profile" was written by Andy Herman and is all about his wife, Helen Serras-Herman. They were formerly residents here and were dealers in our show. They now reside in Arizona. Subtitled "Her Sculptures and Jewelry Reflect a Passion for Gems", the article is well worth reading. Kudos to Andy and Helen!

ROSTER UPDATE

An updated roster will sent out in January. If any data in your listing has changed, (Address, phone number, E Mail, children added or deleted, etc.) and you have not told Wendell Mohr about it, please do it NOW.



A cannibal entered the meat market to buy something nice for dinner. The owner greeted him and told him to look around. The cannibal began to inspect the meat case and noticed the market specialized in brains. Upon further inspection he noticed a marked disparity between the costs of brain meats. A carpenter's brain sells for \$1.50 per pound. A plumber's brain sells for \$2.25 per pound. He noticed with alarm that a mineral collector's brain sells for \$375.00 a pound. With not a little curiosity he asked the owner why the huge difference in price between the similar meats. The owner responded with a dead-pan look on his face, "Do you realize how many mineral Collectors it takes to get a pound of brains?"

A KING VISITS A PAWNBROKER

A king was running low on cash. Desperate for money, he began selling his possessions. Finally, he was down to the Star of the Euphrates. At the time, it was the most valuable diamond in the world. Reluctantly, the king took it to a pawnbroker. The pawnbroker offered him 100,000 dinars. The king was outraged. "I paid a million dinars for it," he said. "Don't you know that I am the king?" The pawnbroker replied, "When you wish to pawn a Star, makes no difference who you are."

**ANSWERS TO GEM HUNT** – From top of page

"I promised to **drop a** line to you soon. We arrived in **India Monday** at noon. The **robbery** last night left me short of things, so I had to **shop early** for gloves and rings. When the plea of a **beggar** nettled Paul, he bought **rutabaga, tender** and small. We tried to **stop a zebra** from running amok, and had to **rub** your rabbit's foot for luck. On **paper I do try**, but somehow it all fails, whenever I **spin** elaborate tales."

SHOW TABLE: November 8, 2010 Thanks to those who bring items for sharing at the meetings.

<u>Exhibitor</u>	<u>Specimen (s)</u>	<u>Locality</u>
Frances Becker	Franklinite, Willemite*	Sterling Hill Mine, Ogdensburg NJ
Boe Brosius	Diamond	Brazil
	Bog Iron Ore	Bethany Beach DE
	Magnetite	Mineral Hill Mine, Louisburg MD
Barbara Burr	Garnets	South America & AK
Jeff Cessna	Willemite, Calcite Cabs	Franklin, Ogdensburg NJ
	Conglomerate Rough* and Sphere	Leesburg VA
Susan Day	Whale Fossils*	Potomac River
George Durland	Fluorite	Black Dean Mine, County Durham, England
	Norbergite, Chondrodite, Diopside	Ogdensburg NJ
Gerald Elgert	Serpentine?*	Silver Spring MD
Don Greaves	Fossil Fern and Leaves*	St. Clair PA
Ryan Gunnison	Turtle Shell, Skull bones, and gold?	Old school in Montgomery County MD
Jonathan Harris	Kyanite*	Willis Mountain, VA
Patrick Haynes	Fluorite*	Galena King Mine, NM
Chuck Hyland	Assorted Minerals*	Poland Mining Camp, ME
Eric Kindahl	Mystery Fossil	Unknown
Jim Kostka	Rhodonite	Rhodonite Prospect, VA
Elmer Lantz	Shark's Tooth	SC
Diane Leaman	Amethyst and Titanium Geodes	South Africa
Gary Leaman	Meteorite	Sikhote-Alin Mtns., USSR
Sam Linton	Miscellaneous Minerals	Lower New Street Quarry, Paterson NJ
David MacLean	Quartz Sandstone	Orkney Springs VA
Wendell Mohr	Prehnite & Epidote	Mali
Andy Muir	Apatite in Calcite	Quebec
	Calcite (Fl. Red sw, blue mw)	Franklin NJ
Jeff Nagy	Amethyst	Diamond Hill SC
Tom Parnell	Fluorite	Cave-in-Rock IL
George Reimherr	Calcite*	Vulcan Materials Quarry Near Hanover PA
Joel Rosen	Willemite, Fluorite, Hyalite	Red Cloud Mine, Pima County AZ
Rod Towers	Tourmaline in Quartz*	Brookside Gardens, Montgomery County MD
Jennifer Weiss	Camel shaped rock	Unknown



* = Self-collected or self made





NOVEMBER PRIZES Junior, Abbie Olshin, happily took home four various mineral and fossil specimens.

Participate at the Show Table to increase your chances of winning a prize!
NO SHOW TABLE in December

The Show Table Prize, an "Alligator Quartz" Smoky Quartz from Itamarandiba, Minas Gerais, Brazil, was claimed by Barbara Burr.

Newly returned member, Bob LaVilla, was lucky enough to win a part of a Woolly Mammoth (Mammuthus Primigenius) Tusk.

Joel Rosen says that he will be giving away a VERY NICE door prize at the December meeting/ Holiday party.



DECEMBER MEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Larry Becker, Beth Campanella, Mary Cummins, Mark Dahlman, Pat Jayne, Brent McCright, Jeffrey Nagy, Owen Powers, Helen Reimherr, Hugh Richards, Alf Shupe, Robert Simonoff, Michael Tiktinsky, Bob Winfield.

SHOWS and EVENTS

Join Us for Our 20th Annual

Fall Festival of Fine Minerals, Fossils & Jewelry

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2010

10 a.m.-4.30 p.m. • Free Admission

HOLIDAY INN

9615 Deereco Road • Timonium, MD

Just North of Towson/Baltimore

I-83, Exit 17, rt. on Padonia Rd. to Deereco

—FEATURING—

Highland Rock & Fossils

Mike's Minerals

Octahedron Minerals/Jewelry

Parker Minerals

For information call Mike @ 330 726 9529

The Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club, getting a start on the new year, will hold their 21st annual Mineral, Jewelry, and Fossil Show, one day only, **Feb. 19, 2011** from 10 am to 5 pm. It will be at the Show Place Arena in Upper Marlboro MD.

SALE Liquidation of Marvelous Minerals and Lovely Lapidary Material. Outstanding lapidary material and many marvelous minerals from around the world accumulated from the 1960s on, including some localities that are no longer available.

Please contact Bonnie Grimm at: 301-942-9342 or <BonnieG@avorex.com>.



WEB SITES

Mining The Net For Information



By Wendell Mohr

Gemology on Line, at <<http://gemologyonline.com/>> is a forum with lots of content. Serving as a gemological resource with some 20 topics listed at the left of the home page. After entering, you see announcements, schools, labs, research and appraisal facilities, general gemology, classified ads and other miscellaneous things. There is a bookshop and a feature "Ask a gemologist." Enjoy this one.

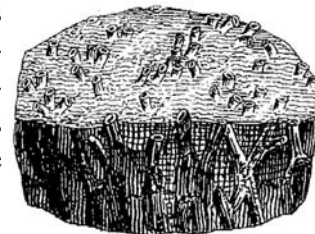
● Bill died, leaving a will that provided \$30,000 for an elaborate funeral. As the last of the visitors departed the services, his wife, Lynne, turned to her dearest friend, Sue, and said, "Well, I think Bill would be pleased." "I'm sure you're right," replied Sue, who then lowered her voice and leaned in close. "How much did this really cost?" "All of it," said Lynne. "All thirty thousand." "No!" Sue exclaimed. "I mean, it was very nice, but \$30,000?" Lynne replied, "Yes. The funeral was \$6,500; I donated \$500 to the church, and the wake, food and drinks were another \$500. The rest went for the Memorial Stone." Sue computed quickly and asked, "\$22,500 for a Memorial Stone? My goodness, how big is it?" "Two and a half carats." ●



The Promise and Perils of Seafloor Mining, a site The Wood's Hole Oceanographic Institution features, can be found at <<http://www.whoi.edu/oceanus/viewArticle.do?id=62986>>. Here you will find an extensive treatise on seafloor mining, chimneys, sea life, and mining locations. Don't miss the interactives on "How Seafloor Mining Deposits are Found" and "Seafloor Mining System." The pros and cons about the subject and who regulates seafloor mining are also discussed. ● Undersea miners stake their claims hoping for untold riches. After lots of promotion sometimes they sell, taking a sure thing rather than an uncertainty. Sell the stake not the sizzle, they say. ● ● Undersea Mine - feelings go deep ●



The Chazy Fossil Reef, at <http://www.ilmpt.org/ilmpt/The_Chazy_Reef_on_Isle_La_Motte.html> is presented by The Isle La Motte Preservation Trust with information on the world's oldest reefs in which corals first appeared. You likely won't be visiting the Lake Champlain region in this season! Step through the pages and read about the tropical reef of Ordovician age, which is about 480 million years old. The reef extends from Quebec to Tennessee, and is here designated a National Natural Landmark, the location about 44 miles from Burlington VT. Quarries revealed the fossils in the limestone used for many buildings including the National Gallery of Art. Though ancient corals were found, coral was not one of the predominant constructors of the reef. Instead, the reef builders were animals called bryozoans, stromatolites, stromatoporoids, sponges, and algae. ● Though not found in abundance, corals were sought by some paleontologists. They were singing their praises--the Choral Arts Society. ● ● Old Al had collected at Chazy Fossil Reef for years. He's so old he was nominated as State Fossil. ●



NAME BADGES ordered at the special low price will be distributed at the December meeting. If you ordered and are not able to attend the meeting, Andy Muir will have them for you at a later meeting.

LIBRARY A reminder that the Society has a fine lending library at your disposal. Search the fine Society web site, maintained by Becky Dahlman, at <<http://www.glmsmc.com/>>, click on "Library" and see a listing of what's available. Jonathan Harris is the librarian and can make any item available to you upon request. Call 301 545 0808 or e-mail him at <Jonathan.jgharris7@gmail.com>.



MISPELLING - Did you notice anything wrong with that title? Of course you did, it was misspelled, looks awful, too, doesn't it? Well misspelled labels also look awful.

Our 2011 Show soon will be here, and many folks already are preparing their exhibits. True, we no longer judge them by AFMS Uniform Rules under which points were deleted for labeling errors. Yet, it does take something away from an excellent exhibit when names are misspelled. One of the most common occurrences are the labels for CaF_2 . That's right, fluorite. Recently I acquired two nice specimens of that mineral bearing tags that read "Florite." Phonetically, it might be right, but not mineralogically. The most frequent misspelling is "Flourite," and not just ordinary rockhounds make that error. Some years ago one of our leading magazines contained an excellent and erudite article about the mineral and in the article the name was spelled correctly. However, the captions under the seven photographs that accompanied it all read "Flourite." All seven of them! So it's not just amateurs that goof, professionals can do it too.

The gemstone aventurine (quartz with spangle inclusions of hematite, mica, or other mineral) frequently also is misspelled. Although it may be an adventure to find a good specimen and turn it into a piece of jewelry, the "d" has no place in the label. No doubt it is used to preface exclamations of dismay when a cab is broken while in the making.

Place names also should be spelled correctly. A common error is encountered when coming across specimens of prehnite from the northern New Jersey city of Paterson. Note: only one "t," not two. He was a baron.

The point of all this is that an excellent exhibit can be spoiled by a bit of carelessness. So take your time preparing your labels, proof read them, and also have someone also proofread them. Many times we, along with writers, read what we expect to see rather than what is actually there.

Don't let this discourage you from exhibiting, just be careful when you prepare it. **By Jack Busch**

REQUEST FOR PARTICIPATION The Rockville Science Center is an organization ultimately intent on the construction of a Science Center in Rockville. See <<http://www.rockvillesciencecenter.org/>>

Working toward that goal they are conducting "Science Café" programs and conduct these cafes at local restaurants, usually on the third Tue. evenings, around 7:00 pm. The event is free to all. Three GLMS members attended their last program in November on "Engaging the Public in Earthquakes: Gaithersburg and Beyond," an excellent program give by Dr. William Leith, Coordinator of the Advanced National Seismic System at the USGS. Future programs will be on a variety of topics of scientific interest.

Mr. Philip Justus has contacted us offering us the opportunity to reach out to participants in the Rockville Science Center. He envisions several presentations by one or more of our members over a period of time. For example, a first-time presentation that would capture the excitement of collecting, working with, and learning about gems/minerals/lapidary possibly associated with a field trip that the GLMSMC Society might host.

The same group operates the Rockville Science Day Festival, in which we have taken part in the past. George Durland and the Michaelis's come to mind. This year's program was Sunday, April 25th, Noon to 5:00 pm at Montgomery College, Rockville Campus and there surely promises to be a 2011 program.

ARE YOU WILLING TO PARTICIPATE IN EITHER OF THESE PROGRAMS?

Please Contact Tim Fahey at <tfahey@dirigoagency.com> if you have questions about the Rockville Science Center. Please let your President know if you respond with an affirmative answer.

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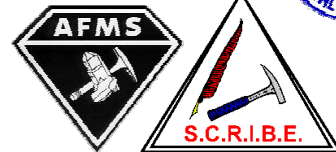
Society Address: Gem, Lapidary, and Mineral Society of Montgomery County MD., Inc.
P. O. Box 444, Gaithersburg MD 20884-0444 Web Site: <http://www.glmsmc.com/>
All Society correspondence is to be sent to this address except that which is intended for the
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