

**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 next meet on **Monday May 10th** 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 see what you and others have on the Show Table.

The program will be “**Faceting**....How to select material, how to orient the material to best advantage and follow through with the various steps involved in cutting and polishing gemstones” by **Steve Weinberger**. Steve has been in the lapidary and mineral hobby for over 40 years. His interest began with making cabochons, then progressed to faceting, mineral collecting, micromounting, and photomicrography. He has served as President of the Gem Cutter’s Guild of Baltimore and is currently Treasurer. He has also been President of both the Eastern Federation and the American Federation. He is Chair of the EFMLS Wildacres Functioning Committee. As a previous speaker before our group, you know that it will be an excellent program.

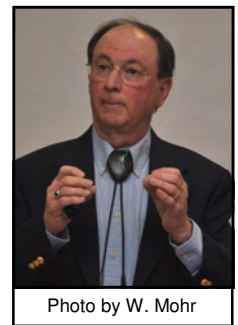


Photo by W. Mohr

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS** will meet on **Monday May 17th** at the home of Andy Muir at 7:30 pm. All Board members are expected to be there. Any member is welcome to attend but please let Andy know if you plan to attend (301 990 1370).

**ROSTER CHANGES:**

David Ballard, Sunrise at Huntermill, 2863 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton, VA 22124, Room 115, 703 319 7112  
Louis and Therese Van Rafelghem, e-mail: louis.vanrafelghem@comcast.net

**RE-INSTATED MEMBERS:** Welcome back!

John Curry, 9503 Burgee Place, Frederick MD 21704-7842,  
240 405 9670, e-mail: jjcurry9@yahoo.com.

Kellyn (2/03)

Bill Porter, P.O. Box 385, Rockville MD 20851-0385,  
301 309 0509, e-mail: oldcokes@aol.com.

Jason Millington, 1401 Woodbridge Road,  
Catonsville MD 21228-1120, 410 747 6276,  
e-mail: fasterjason@yahoo.com.

Jonathan Zimdars, 1900 Thames Street Unit 319,  
Baltimore MD 21231-3519, 414 573 1035,  
e-mail: J.Zimdars@yahoo.com.

**SOCIETY WEB SITE:** Don’t forget to occasionally peek at our wonderful web site. It is maintained by Becky Dahlman, who is doing an admirable job. See [www.glmsmc.org](http://www.glmsmc.org)

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**DEADLINE** for the June 2010 Rockhounder: May 29

# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

COOPER, Andrew and Debra, 3643 Davis Street NW, Washington DC 20007-1460, 202 363 6565,  
e-mail DCinDC@yahoo.com.

Jared (04/99) email coop.jared@gmail.com, Cole (11/97), Dean (06/01), Grant (09/06)  
LANDSMAN, Michael, 4853 Cordell Avenue #1113, Bethesda MD 20814-3025, 301 370 0174,  
e-mail mikel666@mac.com.

ROGERS, Richard and Minerva, 5225 Pooks Hill, Apt. 916N, Bethesda MD 20814-6753,  
301 530 7254, E-mail makamima@yahoo.com.

WILLIAMS, Priscilla, 6417 Rock Forest Drive, Apt 308, Bethesda MD 20817-7864, 240 743 4248,  
e-mail pw435@yahoo.com.

YABUKI, Takash and Yukako, 1826 Spruce Peak Way, Frederick MD 21702-5905, 240 575 8849,  
e-mail celestite.11732@gmail.com.

Haruka (03/09)

**MEMBERSHIP CHAIR PERSON** We continue to be in desperate need of someone to serve as Membership Chair for 2010. Please rise to this opportunity to contribute to our Society. Our Membership Chair greets visitors, accepts applications from prospective members, collects dues, issues membership cards, and keeps records of our Society's enrollment. The person automatically becomes a member of the Board of Directors. **You** can do it. See Eric Kindahl and sign up!

**OPENING FOR NEW EDITOR** Wendell Mohr has notified the Board that he wants to retire from Rockhounder editorship at the end of the year. That will complete over 5 years of service to the Society. Therefore a new volunteer for the job is needed. With plenty of advance notice, a new person can understudy the position. A rather complete Job Description with many of the details is available for anyone showing interest. Contact President Eric Kindahl if **You** would like to give it a try.



**ADDITIONAL FRA LEADER** What a nice condition for our Society to have to have! So many juniors that we need help to continue to effectively present our program! Many clubs have few or no junior members. Will you help with the program? Contact Holly McNeil at: 301-605-7179 or <fra\_advisor@glmsmc.com> if **You** want to help or if you want more information.



**SUNSHINE:** Jennifer Lussier reports that her father, **David Ballard**, moved into Assisted Living on April 6th. Hopefully he will enjoy his new residence more than rehab since it is filled with furnishings from Derwood and should feel more homey and familiar to him. See page 1 for his new address and contact information. The front desk, 703 255 1006, should be able to take and pass a message on to him in case he is out of his room when you call. Why not visit him? Surely he would like to see his friends from GLMSMC.

Keep **Dale Fisher** in your thoughts as he again wages battle with a returned problem.

**T**he map her friend had drawn indicated that the owner of the property with amethyst crystals lived in the second farm past Yin road. Try as she might, the collector could not find a Yin Road anywhere! Exasperated, she finally stopped to ask directions. She asked at the next farm. "I ain't never heard of no Yin Road." said the farmer. "But ya might try askin' old man McGillicuddy, he's lived 'round here for better 'n 80 years." "Thanks," replied the woman. "Where can I find him?" "He lives on the second farm past the Y in the road."

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES:** The April 12, 2010 meeting was called to order by President Eric Kindahl at 7:45 pm, with approximately 76 people attending. It was M/S/P to approve the minutes of the March 8, 2010 regular meeting and March 15, 2010 board meeting.

**President:** Eric Kindahl noted we are still looking for a membership chair.



**FRA:** Holly McNeil presented multiple badges to multiple Mocks. See page 7 of the Rockhounder for details. Congratulations to all.

**Visitors** Minerva and Richard Rogers, Michael Landsman, Takashi Yabuki, Andrew and Jared Cooper, and Priscilla Williams applied for membership. It was M/S/P to approve membership pending receipt of applications and dues.

**Editor:** Wendell Mohr discussed the recent Montgomery County Science fair winners of the GLMS-MC awards. He announced the impending move of the Wells family to Michigan and the associated mineral sale. Wendell spoke about the many upcoming shows and classes.

**Field Trips (through Wendell Mohr):** Jonathan Harris sent word of upcoming trips. Note the date changes from original announcements. Jonathan would like to know if anyone went to the second quarry after National Limestone Quarry.

**Presentation:** Vice president Owen Powers introduced the speaker for the evening, Dr. Jeffrey Post. Dr. Post presented us with an update on purchases by the Smithsonian for their collection. Included among those presented was a copper and cuprite specimen from West Siberia sponsored by our own Wendell Mohr. We also saw an interesting group of four gold crystals from Venezuela with sharp crystal faces (these feature later in the minutes). He then moved to the exciting exhibit of the Wittelsbach-Graff 31.06 ct. blue diamond. This diamond showed up at the same time and was thought to be related to the Hope Diamond. Both were checked by various techniques (the former under the watchful eye of the owners insurance agent) and found to likely be from the same deposit, but not the same stone. Dr. Post was gracious enough to answer many questions from the audience. It was an exciting presentation, as always. Thanks Dr. Post.



Photo by W. Mohr

It was M/S/P that the Society donation to the Smithsonian Institution National Museum of Natural History be the gold specimens seen during the presentation.

**Treasurer:** Andy Muir reported on the number of show attendees and the income from the raffle, which combined for a successful show.

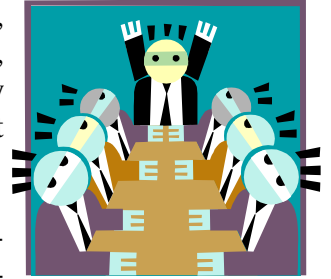
**Show:** Mark Dahlman gave a general thanks to all those who helped with the show and a specific thanks to Pat Repik-Byrne. George Durland spoke for all of us when he thanked Mark.

Rod Towers administered the door prize drawing for juniors and Joel Rosen administered the drawings for the door prize and show table prize.

Meeting adjourned at 9:56 pm. Jeff Cessna, Secretary.



**BOARD MEETING MINUTES** Board members present: Jeff Cessna, Mark Dahlman, Jonathan Harris, Eric Kindahl, Wendell Mohr, Andy Muir, Owen Powers, Pat Repik-Byrne, Joel Rosen. Non-Board member present: Holly McNeil. President Eric Kindahl called the April 19, 2010 meeting to order at 7:30 pm.



**President:** Eric Kindahl discussed the eventual fate of stones donated to the Society by the Jim & Michelle Michaelis. He will bring examples to the next meeting. We are still in need of a membership chair, who is also a member of the board of directors.

**Editor:** Wendell Mohr discussed the club show and presented an extensive list of opportunities for improvement, questions, comments, and suggestions for recognition of jobs well done. Many positions need understudies to learn the collected wisdom. He pointed to the super leadership of Mark and Pat, as evidenced by "no hollering." Wendell announced that he will submit his resignation as editor of the Rockhounder at the end of the year. Start considering now if you wish to volunteer for this important position and talk to a board member.

**FRA:** Holly McNeil discussed the current over-capacity state of the program along with the wide age range. Both threaten to dilute the effectiveness of the lessons. The most recent class was roughly twice the national average size. Various options were discussed. It was M/S/P to alter all club materials to reflect a new policy of an age range from 10 to 15 years (with current students grandfathered in) until such time that the club has sufficient volunteers and identified space to expand the age range again. It was further M/S/P to cap the program at 22 (amended from 20) participants. Eric will ask for additional volunteers at the next regular meeting.

**Show:** Mark Dahlman, Pat Repik-Byrne, and Joel Rosen also gave their reports about the show. Mark reported that, on average, the dealers were pleased with the show. He reported the statistics on how people reported hearing about the show. They were similar to last year, the greatest being postcard, friend, or flier. Mark noted the first floor chair has a multitude of duties and marshals for certain tasks might ease the burden. Security has done an outstanding job again. No problems were reported and no dealers reported losses. Pat reported that gathering of door and raffle prizes went smoothly. There was discussion of modifying the Lillian Turner Award procedure to allow it to be awarded on Saturday. Joel reported on set-up, take down, electrical issues in the shop and the possible upcoming need of replacing motors on the lapidary machines. He displayed the lapidary meeting door prizes purchases.

**Treasurer:** Andy Muir will soon have the 2010 budget prepared. He reported on the clubs finances.

**Field Trips:** Jonathan discussed upcoming trips. We need a minimum of 10 participants for Manassas. He also discussed options for fossil collecting trips, such as Matoaka Cabins or Purse State Park.

**Joel Rosen:** Joel apologized for rushing the show table presentations in order to be out of the meeting facility by 10 pm. When we have a full program this happens through no fault of his. A reminder to participants: Display as many items as you wish but please limit discussion to ONE item and try to keep it concise.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:06 PM. Jeff Cessna, Secretary



The camera on board the Mars Global Surveyor has provided evidence that strong Martian winds move large sand dunes on the planet's surface. The heaviest damage appears to have been done to the "Martian Acres" mobile home park.

**May 8, Saturday:** Meet 7:30 am at Vulcan's Manassas Quarry. Out by noon or when the quarry employees have to leave. The rock is diabase, with one level having a layer of hornfels. This quarry has produced prehnite, apophyllite, calcite, amethyst, quartz, chalcopyrite, pyrite, epidote, and zeolites -- stilbite, chabazite, heulandite, stellerite, and others. Our recent joint trip with the Northern Virginia club was quite productive, hence the second visit (I have invited them to join us on that day also.)

Please let me know if you plan to attend by **May 4**, so I can provide the quarry with an accurate headcount. Children 10 and up are welcome if accompanied and well supervised by a parents and use the required safety gear.



**Directions to Manassas Quarry:**

From the Beltway, go West on 66. Take Exit 44, VA234S (Prince William Parkway.) Go 3.6 Miles. Turn Left onto Wellington Lane. The quarry will be on your left, about 0.5 miles from VA234.

**May 22 Saturday: Note date change!** Martin-Marietta Pinesburg Quarry, 14932 Bottom Road, Williamsport, MD 21795. This is a limestone quarry where there are vugs with quartz (smoky and "Herkimer diamond"), calcite, dolomite, barite, pyrite, and fluorite. Some fossils and concretions also appear in the quarry. One collector found a large trilobite last time. Meet at the Manager's Office no later than 8 am. We will collect from 8 am to 1 pm. Minimum age is 10, minors must be with a parent and closely supervised.

Please let me know if you plan to attend by **May 11** so I can provide the quarry with an accurate headcount.

**Directions to Pinesburg Quarry:** Take 1270 North to I70 West to I81 South (near Hagerstown). Take the Williamsport exit (2) right which is US11 South. Turn right at the third traffic light MD 68 and continue for about a mile until you see a sign for Bottom Road. (There is a cannery on the left and a brickyard on the right.) Take Bottom Road to the left before the railroad. Turn right across the railroad tracks. Go to the second entrance and turn into the visitor's parking lot. It is about 1 hour 10 minutes from the Montgomery Village Avenue & I270 intersection. Please let me know if you plan to attend by May 11 so I can provide the quarry with an accurate headcount.

**Field Trip Rules:** Field trips are restricted to club members in good standing. Participants must attend the safety briefing given at the beginning of the trip, sign applicable waivers and paperwork, and follow all quarry instructions. Required safety gear: hard hats, safety goggles, long pants, steel toed boots, **fluorescent construction vests** and gloves. Participants must wear eye protection and hard hats at all times on quarry property. These rules apply to our club members even if the quarry management is willing to be more lenient. I will attempt to get age limits from quarry management before each trip. Children must be accompanied by a parent and use the required safety gear.

Seriously consider bringing: sunscreen, water, snacks, and clothing appropriate for the weather conditions. Club members are not permitted to stop rain, adjust outdoor temperature, or otherwise alter weather conditions at the collecting site. Participants must sign up with the field trip chair in advance. Please also e-mail me if you have to cancel or if you plan to make a decision the morning of (e.g. "fair weather collectors").

Jonathan G. Harris, Field Trip Chairman  
Email (preferred) <jgharris7@gmail.com> or phone 301-545-0808.



My wife and I were traveling on the Kansas Turnpike, bucking 30 to 45 mph crosswinds. At the tollbooth, I asked the attendant, "What do you people do in Kansas when the wind quits?" The tollbooth attendant didn't miss a beat when she answered, "We take the rocks out of our pockets."

**MONTGOMERY SCIENCE FAIR** The private-non-profit, “ScienceMontgomery” operates the fair which was held this year March 19-21, a perfect conflict with our big show. The fair was held at the University of Maryland on Saturday. The presentations were made on Sunday at the Gaithersburg High School. Your Board of Directors voted to support winners in Earth Science, allowing the category judges to make the pick, owing to our inability to send special awards judges.

Eric Keen was the winner in the Senior category for his project, “Does Mountain Top Removal Affect Precipitation Patterns?” and he was awarded a \$100 check. Eric is in 10<sup>th</sup> grade, home-schooled. His advisor was his mother, Christine Keen and his research was aided by Dr. Stuart Foster, Kentucky State Climatologist. Tentatively he will share his work with our group at the June meeting. He has indicated interest in paleontology and geology on his membership application form. Eric was his category winner (Senior Earth Science) at the fair. He additionally won awards from the American Meteorological Association, CIA, Geological Society of Washington, and the U.S. Army Research Office.

Trinish Chatterjee was a winner in the Junior category. “Modeling a Disaster: Tsunami”, was the name of his entry and we awarded a \$50 check. He is in the 7th grade at the Roberto Clemente Middle School.



Devon Lyons and Marina Silva, a team of two budding scientists both from Holy Cross School, were also winners in the Junior category. They were second place category winners (Junior Earth Science), and also given awards by the Association of Women Scientists, and the Federal Water Quality Association. Each received a \$50 check from GLMSMC. Their project was titled “Flushed Away.” Both are in the 6th grade. Devon Lyons indicates an interest in Minerals, Gems, and Jewelry. Marina Silva is interested in gems and beading.

Our Society has long had the policy of making a cash award, and also awarding one year Society membership. It is our practice to also include parents (along with siblings) when the winner is under 18 since they must be accompanied to meetings, events, and field trips.

**WELCOME NEW  
SCIENCE FAIR WINNERS  
& THEIR FAMILIES**

Dan & Christine Keen, 8707 Hempstead Avenue, Bethesda MD 20817-6713, 301 564 0077,  
Christine e-mail keenteam@cs.com, Dan e-mail dkckekmk@hotmail.com.

Eric (07/94) Science Fair winner, e-mail bccrhp@cs.com, Michael (11/96)

Bishwanath & Mitali Chatterjee, 7501 Nutwood Court, Derwood MD 20855-2232, 240 631 8616,

Bishwanath e-mail bishwachatterjee@gmail.com, Mitali e-mail mitalichatterjee@hotmail.com

Trinish (01/97), Science Fair winner, e-mail madscientist113@gmail.com

Rachel Lyons, 11205 Landy Court, Kensington MD 20895-1320, 240 242 4297,  
e-mail rachel@mcandrewcompany.com.

Devon (11/98) Science Fair winner, Brennan (01/01)

Mario & Jennifer Silva, 4021 Byrd Road, Kensington MD 20895-1312, 301 933 5989,

Jennifer e-mail jennsilva@verizon.net.

Marina Silva, (04/98) Science Fair winner

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

By Holly McNeil

**\*\*Future Rockhounds of America Program in need of Volunteers\*\***

**\*\*Searching for someone to lead the 6 – 9 year olds in the program\*\***

We are fortunate that so many kids are interested in joining the Future Rockhounds program, however, in order to maintain the quality of the program, the board has decided to cap new membership until such time as the group can be split into smaller groups of similar age. Plenty of support in terms of materials and program information will be provided – please consider volunteering and contact Holly (see below).

**CONGRATULATIONS TO:** Jonathan Baum, Ryan Gunnison, Jennifer Weiss, Avery Marsteller, Abbie Olshin, Elena Olshin and Jimmy Cummins who all earned and were presented their lapidary badges by Dr. Jeffrey Post, curator of the Smithsonian’s National Museum of Natural History Gem & Mineral collection. Thanks for your participation Dr. Post!

**ADDITIONAL CONGRATULATIONS TO:** Jimmy Cummins, who also earned his Showmanship badge, a Rocks & Minerals badge, and the Collecting badge. For those keeping count – that makes 5 for Jimmy!

At the April meeting, Diamond was our “mineral of the month.” We talked about its properties and spent extra time covering how it is formed and are eventually carried to the surface of the Earth.

Our main meeting program covered Rocks. We had an overview of the three different rock types, their formation and general characteristics. We then focused on igneous and discussed glassy and crystalline structures and how important the rate of cooling is to the final rock.

**MAY 10** Rocks – Part 2. We will cover **sedimentary rocks** in detail, including their properties, formation and identification. The mineral of the month for May is **emerald**.

**BADGE ASSIGNMENT:** This series on Rocks is in conjunction with the Earth Processes badge. To earn the badge, additional “at home” work needs to be completed. There are several assignment options, one of which would be to bring in a total of 9 different rocks, 3 from each group, with labels properly identifying the name of each rock.



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

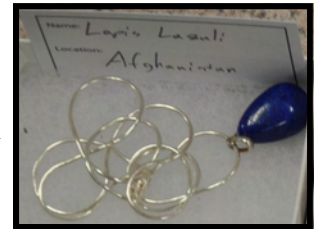


Abbie & Elena Olshin with Dr. Post. On the table is a portion of their exhibit at our March Show which included a miniature of the Hope Diamond Exhibit at the National Museum of Natural History.

Photo by Holly McNeil

**SHOW TABLE:** April 12, 2010 Thanks to those who bring items for sharing at the meetings.

<u>Exhibitor</u>	<u>Specimen (s)</u>	<u>Locality</u>
Doug Baum	Blue Fluorite	Bingham, Socorro County, NM
Barbara Burr	Lapis Lazuli	Afghanistan
	Shell with Barnacles	Rice's Pit, Hampton VA
Pat Repik-Byrne	Amazonite, Smoky Quartz, Topaz*	Morefield Mine, Amelia VA
	Vanadinite xls. on bladed Barite	Acif Mine, Mibladen, Morocco
Jeff Cessna	Sphalerite	Sterling Hill Mine, Ogdensburg NJ
	Poldervaartite	South Africa
George Durland	Celestine and Fluorite	Clay Center OH
	Celestine	Clay Center OH
Gerald Elgert	Smithsonite	Sinaloa, Mexico
	Smithsonite (Fl.)	Sinaloa, Mexico
Don Greaves	Brachiopod*	Utah
Eric Kindahl	Lemurian Agate	Argentina
Diane Leaman	Ammonite fossil	Near Innsbruck, Austria
	Amazonite, Clevelandite, Garnet, Muscovite, Pegmatites, Smoky Quartz*	Morefield Mine, Amelia VA
Gary Leaman	Stellerite*	Manassas Quarry, Manassas VA
David Maclean	Hematite film*	Manassas Quarry, Manassas VA
Wendell Mohr	Topaz	Skardu, Pakistan
Andy Muir	Wavellite*	National Limestone Quarry, Mount Pleasant Mills PA
George Reimherr	Calcite	Genoa Quarry, OH
	Brown Fluorite	Hunting Hill Quarry, Rockville MD
Joel Rosen	Clinzoisite-Epidote*	Hunting Hill Quarry, Rockville MD
	Omphacite*	Shigar, Skardu, N. areas of Pakistan
Earl Smith	Schorl with Quartz	Cabin John MD (Probably not native)
Linda Smith	Tetrahedrite*	Thomas Range, Juab County, Utah
Eric Thompsen	Topaz	Hunting Hill Quarry, Rockville MD
Rod Towers	McGuinnessite*	
	Microscope with specimens	



Photos by W. Mohr

\* = Self-collected or self made

**APRIL PRIZES** The Junior prize, a Dinosaur Coprolite, locality not stated, went to Ryan Gunnison. Did Joel use a pooper scooper to obtain that one? A specimen of Stilbite and Mordenite from the Rickreal Quarry, Polk County, Oregon, was taken home by Rod Towers for the Show Table Prize. The general door prize, Fluorite from Okorusu, Namibia was won by Jeanne Lantz.

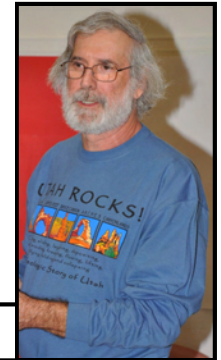


Photo: W. Mohr





## SEPTEMBER AT WILDACRES

Short & Sweet. Next sessions are September 6 -12. Room and board only \$350 per person. (Wendell Mohr has applications and class schedules).

**HONORS:** Junior member Conrad Smith placed third on the topic of Fossils, at the MD State Science Olympiad Competition. He got first in his event at the Regionals.

Science Olympiad is a science competition where students from Middle and High School compete in activities with topics ranging from aeronautics to earth science and biology.

The Olympiad was held at Johns Hopkins University and Conrad's team of 26 hard working students from North Bethesda Middle School placed 1st in the State Competition. These North Bethesda students and our intrepid junior member will now represent MD in the National Science Olympiad at the University of Illinois in May. A great deal of Conrad's success stems from his association with this club. The club has been really helpful in his interest in fossils and mineralogy.

He is now readying for the National Competition. The school is accepting donations made to help defray the \$11,000 cost to travel. No donation would be too small.

Extracted from Special Communication from Linda Smith



**MORE SHOW THANKS** Don Turner, Lapidary Shop Coordinator, reports another successful year's activity. He gives special thanks to all who helped in the Workshop at the show, making it a great success!

**CONDOLENCES:** Former member Arthur Goldberg died March 21st. He was active in the Society until the period of his terminal illness. A Rockville dentist, he was a collector of both minerals and fossils and travelled extensively in the West. He volunteered at the National Museum of Natural History in the laboratory for fossil preparation. He leaves a wife, Linda, and two sons, Jason and Clayton.

**ADIOS AMIGOS:** Farewell to John, Barbara, and Kathryn Wells as they move this month to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan in the Houghton area. John says that they are going to start a rock shop with whatever they kept after their April 24-25 Sale. We thank Barbara for sharing her wire wrapping skills at our show in March.

### MINERAL SALE

Former member David Dinsmore is continuously upgrading his fine mineral collection. As a result he has many very nice specimens for sale. Contact him at (cell phone) 443 910 1267 or e-mail [davensteph10@comcast.net](mailto:davensteph10@comcast.net) to arrange to view his material and negotiate a deal. He lives in Forest Hill MD, which is North of Bel Air in Harford County MD.

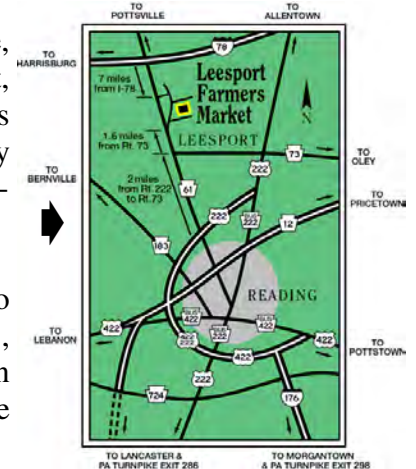


Bob: "Hey, Bill did you hear about the artists who held a competition at the gem and mineral show in Tucson?"

Bill: "No? How did it turn out?"

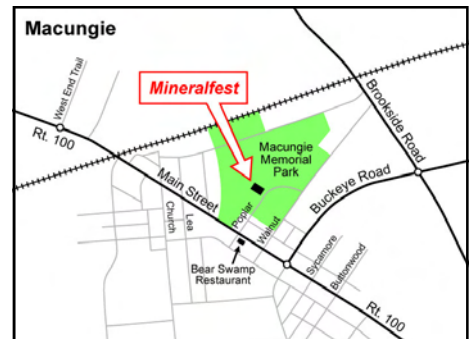
Bob: "It was a draw."

**May 15, 16:** 42nd Annual "World of Gems and Minerals" Gemstone, Jewelry, Bead, Mineral and Fossil Show at Leesport Farmer's Market, Leesport, PA 19533-8608 (Off PA61 N. of Reading), 312 Gernants Church Road. Organized by: Berks Mineralogical Society. Saturday 10:00 am to 5:00 pm & Sunday 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Admission - \$3.00. (Just a few miles S. of Mohrsville—must be good! Ed.)



**May 29:** Chesapeake Gem & Mineral Show, one day only 10am to 4pm at the Ruhl Armory, Towson MD. Free Admission. Take I-695, Baltimore Beltway, to exit 26, York Road South. Ruhl Armory is on the east side of York Rd. (across from a car dealer and funeral home [Get up and go! - Ed.]) just inside I-695.

**June 5:** One day only, 54th semi-annual indoor Spring Mineralfest organized by the Pennsylvania Earth Science Association, Macungie Memorial Park, Macungie PA 18062. 8:30 am to 3:00 pm. Turn onto Poplar St. (directly across from the Bear Swamp Restaurant).



**Date: Sunday, June 13, 2010**

**Time: 10:00-4:00**

**NEW DAY!!! - SUNDAY**  
**Region IV Annual Picnic & Swap**  
**Lake Anna State Park Shelter #1**



**Don't Forget:**

- Your lawn chair!
- A dish to share!
- Swap materials!
- Auction or door prize items!
- Surplus hobby related items to give away in the Region IV Treasure Box!

**Directions:** I-95 to exit #118 Thornburg; West on Rte 606 to Rte 208; Turn left onto Rte 208; Continue to Rte 601 and turn right onto Rte 601 (turn is just past Lake Anna Marine Supplies & Hardware); Continue on Rte 601 then turn left into Park; follow park road to lake, shelter is around to the left past the park facilities.

Email or call with any questions:  
Carl Miller, EFMLS Region IV PPAC  
Kobold1@erols.com; 804-730-4645

*Highlights: Mineral & Fossil Swapping, the famous Region IV Treasure Box, and a GREAT Picnic Pot Luck Lunch.*

**10:00AM** - Swapping begins early, so arrive early for the best swapping!!! Don't forget ~ no selling allowed in park.

**12:00PM** - Picnic Lunch! Hotdogs & Hamburgers will be provided. Please bring a dish to share and your own drinks.

**2:00PM** - A fun Auction - please donate items for the auction. Donations should be at least somewhat hobby related.

**Door Prizes** - Please bring one to donate - everyone loves to win so the more donations, the more winners!

**June 11:** Chesapeake Gem & Mineral Society Auction. Friday only, viewing 7:00 pm, Auction 7:30 pm. Woman's Club of Catonsville. Gemstones, cutting rough, jewelry, minerals, fossils, books, magazines, and lapidary equipment. Refreshments are available. Directions: Go West on Frederick Road from I-695 (Baltimore beltway), approximately 3 blocks to St. Timothy's Lane. Turn right and go one block to the Woman's Club located behind St. Timothy's Church.



**WHEN ROCKHOUNDS GET DESPERATE**

By Mary Crosswhite

My husband, Chris, and I are trying to learn to be “Snow Birds”. For the last few years we've been heading off to Florida for a couple of weeks every February. Since I'm always looking for a place to collect rocks or fossils, we've checked out numerous sites on the way to and from our chief goal: warmer climes than MD.



In past years we've collected at “Ruck's Pit” aka “The Fort Drum Crystal Mine”, near Okeechobee, FL. This is a site which has enormous fossil clams and whelks, filled with big, golden dog-tooth calcite crystals. Alas, the pits are now filled with water, and on our last visit, collecting was limited to piles of reclaimed material. The “good old days” of collecting directly from the quarry walls and floor are gone. (“The good old days of collecting there are gone” seems to be a common theme among rockhounds, doesn't it?) The Ruck family is still very helpful, and are trying to establish a resort campground on their property, but we were disappointed in the “pickings” available nowadays. Another year, we stopped at

Honeymoon Park State Recreation Area on the Gulf Coast near Dunedin, FL. Here you can have the combined pleasure of walking along the shore with your toes in the warm Gulf waters, and, occasionally, finding pieces of coral agate in the gently rolling waves. Coral Agate is the FL State stone, and amazing pieces of it, gleaned from waterways and sometimes excavation sites in FL, can be found for sale at many gem shows. The pickings at Honeymoon Island are not nearly as marvelous, but have the attraction of being “self-collected” (and getting you a day at the beach as well!) Of course, the last time we were there I was bitten on the foot by a fire ant, and experienced weeks of itchy bumps before I recovered! Last year, we decided we would try to collect fossils in the Peace River, in central FL. But we decided not to hire a guide or a canoe [a mistake!], and amazingly enough, there were no big signs saying: “FOSSILS THIS WAY!” So we took one look at the brown, tannin dyed water, and decided maybe we'd try this hunt another day.



You may see a trend here. While my enthusiasm for rock collecting is boundless, my actual talent for rock collecting is not really very great.



Which brings me to this year's “Snow Bird” Trip. We decided to bypass all our collecting spots and just settle in on one of the Keys for a week of sea and sunshine. One afternoon, while Chris was “telecommuting” to his office in Virginia, I passed the time by strolling around the RV Park, just admiring the facilities. I particularly admired the well-groomed black gravel pathways and white gravel parking areas. And I realized... I was admiring gravel!!! But it got even more interesting than that. What's the primary source of crushed white gravel in FL? Limestone deposits and crushed shells from places like Ruck's Pit! So I got down on my knees and started studying the stones all around where our RV was parked. And they were beautiful! There were perfect fossil clam shells, that I guess had just been small enough to survive the crusher, and little nuggets about an inch in size, full of beautiful crystals. I soon realized that all I had to do was to rove along the area, watching for the sun glints in the gravel, and I was picking up tiny treasures all over the place! Needless to say, I started attracting the attention of other campers. A few even worked up the nerve to come over and ask me what in the world I was doing. So I showed them some of my crystals and clam shells, but for some reason this did not start a run of other campers crawling around on their parking platforms! I was glad, because I could imagine the proprietors allowing ONE patron to collect the gravel on which they were parked, but if everyone started doing it.....



Shown are a few pictures of some of the pieces I brought home with me. Although none are larger than a meatball, they are some of the prettiest specimens I've ever brought home from FL! Maybe enthusiasm is almost as valuable as talent after all!

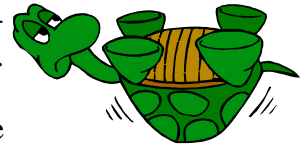


**Creative Wedding Favors** seems unlikely to be a good source of information about all phases concerning gemstones. However, at <http://www.creativeweddingfavors.com/guide-to-gemstones.html>, you will find a plethora of information. Billing themselves as “The Ultimate Guide to Gemstones” they may not be far from it. Topics such as characteristics, classification, gemstone properties, valuation, cutting and polishing, and many others are covered. Useful links and illustrations abound. • The lady said that she got some new ring stones. I asked to see them. She said “no” you can only hear them.” “How is that?” I asked. Come to find out she meant ring tones for her cell phone! •



- Rubie\$, Diamond\$, Aquamarine\$, Emerald\$. Get the message? •

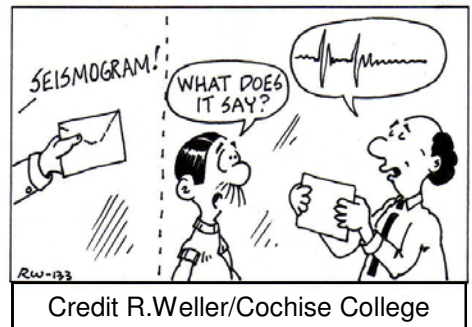
**The University of California Museum of Paleontology** site at <http://www.ucmp.berkeley.edu/> affords a broad ranging look at many aspects of fossils. There is more than I can possibly cover in a few sentences. Noodle around to explore the breadth covered here. I liked the field notes and even the blog with current explorations. • The collector went to Aurora NC and came upon a huge fossil shell. Listening to hear the ocean in it, it had an entirely different sound. That’s because there was so much less salt in the water then. •



- Did you ever notice that so many turtle fossils are found upside down? The reason: “Help, I’ve fallen and I can’t get up.” •

**The San Andreas Fault** at <http://www.sanandreasfault.org/> is a site by David K. Lynch of Topanga CA. This makes three sites in a row each very comprehensive. All you ever wanted to know about the fault, and probably more is here. An attractive interface with each of the nearly 20 topics is good for lots of reading. Here be found maps, pictures, and information about plate tectonics, volcanoes, tsunamis, geology, history, and much more.

**OPAL'S PALS**



Credit R.Weller/Cochise College

- Special report! Breaking news at 11! Continental drift in progress! •
- In California, where the ground can resemble jello, a temblor hit and everybody in an office supply store took cover. The packages of paper quivered like leaves, all but one, which was wedged in so tightly that it and it alone, didn’t shake. Thinking it looked like a safe place to be, employee Donnie took shelter beside it, ducking to avoid the falling plaster. When the quake was over, and the store manager started counting heads he asked, “Where’s Donnie?” To which one of the other employees replied, “Down by the old still ream.” •



**MAY MEMBER BIRTHDAYS:**

Roshni Babb, Frances Becker, Mitali Chatterjee, Lawrence Davis, Alison Durland, Erin Gallagher, Corky Harrison, Bob Irby, John James, Steven Karsch, Dan Keene, Elmer Lantz, Charlotte Morrison, Jennifer Paraboschi, Annette Regatts, Linda Smith.



Columbia

The May Birthstone is Emerald  
Photo R.Weller/Cochise College



**ROLLING ALONG WITH '95** Last month I noted that Field Trip Chair Terry Cirrincione had lined up a number of hunts for the summer. Her report in the September '95 Rockhounder makes great reading and in some cases creates dismay that I had been unable to participate. Here are a few excerpts:

Romney Stone Quarry in Romney WV turned out to be interesting and productive as more than 15 members returned with beautiful specimens of calcite crystals, plus limestone that could be made into slabs for cabs (rhyming unintentional.)

French Creek Mine in PA, which was open for collecting for only one day during the year, rewarded diligent diggers with specimens of chalcopyrite, malachite, garnets, brucite, and apophyllite.

Of all places, a nursery (plant, not baby) provided limonite pseudomorphs after pyrite in many shades of red, brown, black, and rainbow.

One trip I'm happy not to have attended was the one to Chesapeake Beach for fossils, where temperature was reported to have been 115<sup>0</sup>

As you know, I try to keep my remarks light and, I hope, a bit humorous, but one incident Terry reported made me angry and still does 15 years later. The owner of the Meckley Quarry in Herndon PA called Terry to inform her that effective immediately all field trips were canceled and no more collecting would be permitted on that site. The reason? The quarry office had been broken into and ransacked, and the owner's private collection destroyed. Suspected were two men, neither a member of a club, who had been on a field trip to Meckley the previous week, had been seen in the area carrying a pneumatic drill at the time of the break in. I could find nothing subsequently to indicate that they had been apprehended. This shows what a few unthinking and unscrupulous people can do to spoil the pleasure of many others, and what prompts quarry and mine owners to prohibit collecting by innocent people. Up to that time Meckley had welcomed collectors and aided them finding the calcite crystal clusters and the baby blue celestite for which the site was noted.

An auction was held in August of material remaining from the Ecklund and McCarthy collections, plus some items that had been donated to the Society at its previous show. Although attendance at the auction was described as being sparse, callers Jack Nelson, Bob Irby, and Charlie Zellers managed to sell enough items that the Society's share of the "take" was about \$500.00. Some folks claimed their non-attendance was due to failure to make calendar notations. Tsk Tsk.

It was announced that Jennie Smith had won 1<sup>st</sup> place in the AFMS Program Competition for her presentation, "Gold." Husband Paul had done the photography. This was a repeat for Jennie as she had won 1<sup>st</sup> place in the previous year's competition.

Speaker at September's meeting was Andrew Grosz of USGS's Minerals Division, who had done extensive exploration for titanium dioxide and other rare earth minerals. He described the types of terrain sought and which minerals are richest in elements of interest. One of those is titanium, 90% of which is used for pigments, the remainder reduced to metal for use as rods for medical purposes, and in aircraft. Mr. Grosz's presentation was so interesting, the audience was sorry that he had to quit at 10:00 pm.

And I'll quit here, also, with intentions of getting into the Fall of 1995 issue (not to be confused with the fall of Rome.)

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