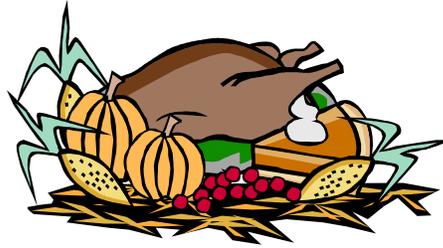


# THE ROCKHOUNDER



November  
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 November 8th** in the dining room of the Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Drive, Rockville. The short business meeting will begin at 7:45 pm but the room is available to us at 7:30 pm so come early and see what you and others have on the Show Table and chat with old friends.

**SUBJECT: Mystery Mines & Mineral Occurrences in the Southern Maryland Piedmont** by member Jeff Nagy. Beside being a member of our Society he also maintains membership in the Baltimore Mineral Society. He is very active in revising the book, *Minerals of the Washington D.C. Area*, which has kept him in or out of mischief for quite a time! He has been a mineral and fossil collector since age 10 and an active gem faceter for the last five years. Among other activities he also a volunteers as a speaker for the Montgomery County Historical Society.

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS** will meet **Monday Nov. 15th** at the Home of Andy Muir. All Board members are expected to be there. Any member is welcome to attend but please let Andy know if you plan to attend at <amuir21@comcast.net>301 990 1370.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

BEYER, Nelson and Mary, 6800 Orem Drive, Laurel MD 20707-3240, 301 776 5371,  
NelsonBeyer@gmail.com.

CAMPEAU, Maureen & LEE, Rob, P. O. Box 159, Brighton Ontario Canada KoK-1Ho, 613 475 9552,  
simken@sympatico.ca.

SIMONOFF, Robert, 6 Ali Drive, Middletown MD 21769-7812,  
301 371 7503, bob.simonoff@gmail.com  
Jessica (04/98)

### ROSTER CHANGES

DINSMORE, David, change e-mail to:  
david.dinsmore@boettcher-systems.com

Geologists tell us that if all the oceans were to evaporate, the salt left behind would cover the entire planet with a layer of salt 50 meters (half a soccer field) thick. How’s that for high blood pressure? Then we’d all be in a pickle.



If you are able to read this, you are eligible to become newsletter editor!  
See president, Eric Kindahl, to volunteer. Lots of help is available..

**DEADLINE** for Dec. 2010 Rockhounder: Nov 28th

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**BALLARD AUCTION:** Prior to the auction GLMSMC members Mark Dahlman, Jeff Cessna, Wendell Mohr, and Andy Muir went through everything available, discarding a little, setting aside several flats for FRA use, and establishing lots to be auctioned. A couple of Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area members went through the micromount material.



Mark's connection with meteorologist Bob Ryan really paid off. October 9th was a perfect day, neither too cold or too hot. No rain, and no wind to blow away labels. Thanks to Mark also for handling the table and chair rental and overseeing the task. Several members helped auctioneer and it was impressive that Jonathan Baum served as deliverer of sold items for the entire time. He is officially commended. Of course there were several other volunteers to be recognized for helping set up, tally sales, etc.

Attendance was good with representation from many clubs. We got through everything with but one bank box of unsold books and one small box of specimens.

David Ballard had made an arrangement where microscopes, micromounts and micromount rough, and cabinets went to the Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area. The micromounts will be sold at the Atlantic Micromounter's Conference In Elkridge MD in the Spring. Proceeds of the other MMNCA sales conducted as a part of our auction went directly to David.



The minerals, fossils, lapidary materials, and various and sundry equipment were auctioned. The gross sales for everything was \$13,634.00. The MMNCA share was \$2,325.00. The share for GLMS was \$11,309.00 and the agreed upon 25% of that, \$2,827.25, was retained by the GLMS for handling the auction. After expenses of \$212.60 the Society realized \$2,614.65. The 75% went to David Ballard.

We are indebted to David Ballard and profusely thank him for putting his material in the hands of those who could appreciate it the most, the buyers. We also formally thank Jennie Lussier, David's daughter, for all the hospitality and support she gave to the effort.

●Since selling the Ballard collection a rebound has increased the elevation of all of Derwood due to the unloading of all that weight!●

### **CONDOLENCES**

To the family of GLMSMC member Gladys Fuller who died at the age of 86 on October 20, 2010. Gladys had been a member since 1979 and served as Treasurer from 1985-1989. She and her late husband were both physicists. She earned a Master's Degree in Nuclear Physics from the University of Illinois. Gladys taught at Montgomery College. She presented many educational talks to school children and served as a geology docent at the NMNH for about 30 years.

Gladys was the beloved wife of the late Everett, also a GLMSMC member. She is survived by her very close friend, Bob Carter. She was the mother of Wendy (husband Jeffrey), Jef, and Susi (husband Rob) and had 7 grand children and 3 great grand children. Contributions may be made to The Alzheimer's Association, 11240 Waples Mill Road, #402, Fairfax, VA 22030, Adirondack Nature Conservancy, P.O. Box 65, Keene Valley, NY 12943, The American Heart Association, P.O. Box 5216, Glen Allen, VA 23058, or to another charity of one's choice.



To Annie Shaw on the loss of he mother, Bibb Haley, on October 16th. One memorial service has already been held at Westminster-Canterbury in Winchester VA. Another will be at Christ Church in Roanoke around Thanksgiving.

**REGULAR MEETINGS MINUTES**

The October 11, 2010 meeting was called to order by President Eric Kindahl at 7:45 pm, with approximately 52 people attending. It was M/S/P to approve minutes of the Sept 14, 2010 regular meeting.

**FRA:** Holly McNeil presented a Collecting Badge to Trevor Babb. Congratulations, Trevor.

**President:** Eric Kindahl noted we still need FRA help and will soon need a *Rockhounder* Editor.

Mark Dahlman discussed the recent club auction of material from the Ballard collection. He thanked the many people for their hard work to prepare and execute the auction.

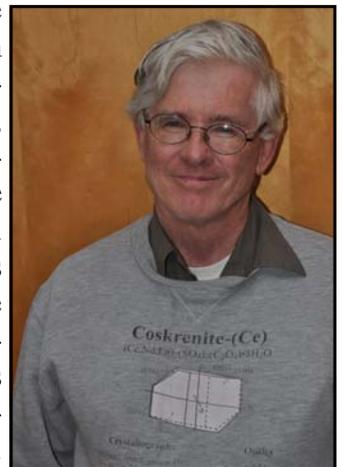
It was M/S/P to accept membership of visitors Nelson and Mary Beyer, Maureen Campeau and Rod Lee, and Robert Simonoff and daughter, Jessica.

**Field Trips:** Jonathan Harris discussed some upcoming trips, see this newsletter, and potential trips.

**Treasurer:** Andy Muir reported the club is in excellent shape financially, thanks to the buyers at the Ballard auction. He requested members pay their 2011 dues, an important part of club income.

**Editor:** Wendell Mohr listed many of the upcoming regional shows, events, and local rockhound related classes. He made special note that George Durland, show publicity, had the flyers done in time to display at recent shows.

**Presentation:** Vice president Owen Powers introduced the speaker for the evening, Dr. Dennis Coskren. Dr. Coskren spoke on the minerals of Alum Bluff Cave, Great Smokey Mountains, Tennessee which include coskrenite-(Ce), discovered by and named for the speaker. He discussed the collection, study, and eventual identification of not just coskrenite-(Ce), but also levinsonite-(Y) and zugshunite-(Ce). During the discussion he highlighted the fact that you don't need a lot of money to do real science, just enough knowledge to see what is unique and enough information about what you are investigating to convince others with instrumentation to take a look. Waiting in the wings from this locality are the possible Nd analogue of levinsonite-(Y) and the as yet unnamed, mineral E. Thanks Dr. Coskren.



The special club purchase of identification badges at a discount rate was discussed. Members should get the forms submitted by the November meeting and will receive their badges at the December meeting.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:59 pm.

Jeff Cessna, Secretary

All Photos by W. Mohr ►



Board members present: Doug Baum, Jeff Cessna, Mark Dahlman, Jonathan Harris, Eric Kindahl, Wendell Mohr, Andy Muir, Owen Powers, Joel Rosen.

**President:** Eric Kindahl called the October 23, 2010 meeting to order at 7:35 pm. He reported that he had nothing new to report and requested reports from the other members.

**Vice President:** Owen Powers discussed upcoming speakers. All but three months, June October, and November, are already filled for 2011. An arrangement was discussed to allow Owen to continue as Vice-President, thanks to his excellent job of finding speakers, but temporarily transfer duties of setting up equipment and, if necessary, introducing the speaker, to another board member or a vice-president in training when Owen is unable to attend due to work obligations. Owen suggested a club laptop would facilitate presentations for speakers that do not have their own. It was M/S/P to obligate up to \$1000 to Jonathan Harris to research and purchase a laptop and associated software for the club.

**Field Trips:** Jonathan discussed upcoming trips. Outdoor trips are generally not scheduled in the coldest months. Differing styles of field trip leadership on joint club trips was discussed.

**Editor:** The procedure for special price badges was discussed, see this newsletter. Sign-up has been good. Wendell Mohr reported on the status of the club roster. He reported that Don Turner is willing to continue coordinating the shop at the annual show. Don will coordinate volunteers and pre-forms. Wendell noted the bang-up job Doug Baum was doing as Membership Chair. It was agreed that mentions of club member hobby related businesses in a member news section of the Rockhounder was appropriate and would not constitute endorsement.

**Property:** Joel Rosen reported on the price of new Plexiglas fronts for show cases. Existing fronts will be checked at the show to get the replacement number needed. Joel received the extra case from Dave Ballard (formerly Marty Hamasian's personal case). It has been customized. It will be considered for the Smithsonian display due to its good condition. Replacement schedule options were discussed for cabochon machine motors. Mark Dahlman will price motors for shop equipment.

**Show:** Mark Dahlman has all pieces for a prototype case and will bring an assembled one to the next board meeting. He also brought the few unsold items from the auction to be used as door prizes. All 2010 dealers have requested to return, four having returned contract with payments already. The venue has prepared a contract and the club will pay the deposit. Eric Kindahl appointed Pat Repik-Byrne to be Show Chairman, allowing her a vote in board business. The split of duties between Upstairs Chair and Downstairs Chair will remain the same. Making the Show Downstairs a standing committee, which makes the chair a board member, requires a change to the by-laws. This will be investigated.

Treasurer: Andy Muir reported on the clubs finances including the results of the recent auction.

It was decided that a Board meeting was not required in Dec.

The following Board of director business was conducted by e-mail. It was M/S/P to allocate the proceeds of the sale of two microscopes at the Ballard auction to the Micromineralogists of the National Capitol Area portion of the sale.



The meeting was adjourned at 9:11 PM. Jeff Cessna, Secretary

**Saturday November 13**, LaFarge Texas Quarry, Texas MD (with BMS) Time TBD

Meet at the office at TBD. Note that this trip may be 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. Jonathan 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. Notify Jonathan by Nov. 7, email (preferred) <jgharris7@gmail.com>, 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 Jonathan to find.

The Texas quarry mines Cockeysville marble. Previously it has been known for calcite, pyrite, dravite, and mica specimens. The marble has also been used as a building stone in the Washington-Baltimore area. See <<http://pubs.usgs.gov/gip/stones/stones4.html>> for some historical information.

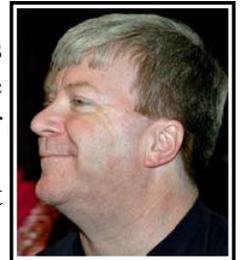
Circumstances beyond our control -- weather or problems at the quarry can cause last minute cancellations so it is advisable to check Friday evening for any changes. Jonathan will try to avoid such situations and give notice as soon as he learns of them.

Directions: Take 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.



**SAFETY** General Lapidary Safety Guidelines by Jim Doran, EFMLS Safety Chair

I was trying to decide what my topic would be for this article, and I got some ideas from the silversmithing class I took two weeks ago at Wildacres Retreat. These are some general safety practices that you should follow in your own lapidary shop or your club's shop:



1. Safety procedures for all equipment should be given before every class, it doesn't matter how experienced someone is, accidents may still happen.
2. Newer students may need to be watched more closely while they're using the equipment because there will be many operational and safety procedures and techniques that they need to get familiar with.
3. Always use safety glasses or goggles when using grinding wheels, rock or trim saws, laps, faceters, or torches.
4. You should use dust masks or respirators with rock or trim saws, and grinding wheels. Some saw lubricants are toxic and masks should always be used when using saws with chemical lubricants.
5. The shop should have adequate ventilation.
6. Hearing protection should be used if the equipment is loud or you'll be using it for a long time.
7. Always have a working, recently inspected, fire extinguisher rated for chemical, electrical and other fires. Know how to use it.
8. Keep your workplace clean. The cleaner it is, the less chance you'll have for fall injuries, chemical or fire injuries.
9. If using chemicals, know how to use them correctly. Never mix chemicals. Always use eye protection.
10. Keep all liquids away from electrical equipment.



I hope that these guidelines will be helpful to you. These are not all the safety procedures that you may need for your lapidary shop, but I think they will a good start to build on.

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



Photo by W. Mohr

◀ Congratulations to: Trevor Babb who earned the Collecting badge through work he did over the summer. That makes 4 badges for Trevor so far – well done!

**October meeting recap:** Our “mineral of the month” was Opal, and after discussing its unique properties each member took home a small bag of opal pieces courtesy of the Ballard collection. For the main program we started work on the “Earth in Space” badge by discussing the formation of our solar system. In an effort to demonstrate just how vast our small corner of the galaxy is, each FRA member represented a planet and we paced off their distances from the sun and each other using

a scale of 36 million miles to one step...this meant that most of the FRA members found themselves outside and those playing Neptune and Pluto wound up in the woods...fortunately no MOCKS members were lost in this exercise. We finished the program by discussing supernovae and the fascinating world of red giants, white dwarfs, neutron stars, pulsars and black holes.

**November 8<sup>th</sup> meeting:** We have scheduled a guest lecturer, Mark Dahlman, who will help us continue working toward the “Earth in Space” badge by exploring one of his areas of expertise – meteorites.

**December 13<sup>th</sup>:** The FRA members voted to have a joint holiday party with the rest of the GLMSMC this year. In between the festivities, we will complete the “mineral of the month” component of the Gemstone Lore & Legend badge by testing our knowledge of each month’s birthstone. We also will do some planning and consider topics of interest for the 2011 FRA program.



Photo by H. McNeil

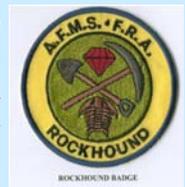
**THANK YOU TO:** The Ballard family for their extremely generous donation of a large number of specimens, and also to Patrick Haynes for his on-



Photo by H. McNeil

going donations – the FRA program would not be the success it is without support such as this.

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



If you are able to read this, you are eligible to help with 6 to 9 year olds in the FRA program. How about lending a hand for Holly? Give her a call.

**UNVEILING** November 18, 2010 there will be an unveiling in the Harry Winston Gallery 2nd Floor NMNH. A special new design for the Hope Diamond's temporary setting honors the 50th anniversary of Harry Winston's donation of the legendary diamond to the Smithsonian Institution. The new setting, "Embracing Hope," was selected by vote of more than 100,000 people. Coinciding will be the premier of the Smithsonian Channel's "Mystery of the Hope Diamond" documentary.

## **MEET DOUGLAS BAUM, YOUR NEW MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN**



Doug first heard about GLMSMC when he read about a mineral show being held at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds in The Washington Post a few years ago. His family has been active in the club ever since.

Doug moved to Maryland in December of 1995 with his wife Marcia (newlyweds!) to accept a position as Corporate Classifieds Director for Post Newsweek Media Group (The Gazette's -Community Newspaper Division for Washington Post Company) and has been here every since. He has been in the newspaper industry since he was in college at Rowan University.

A New Jersey native, born in Paterson, he did not know that he was born in the center of so much geological activity. (Prehnite is one of his favorite minerals from there.)

One of the highlights of this last year was re-establishing a relationship with one of his dad's old time friends who is the last living miner at Sterling Hill Mining Museum in New Jersey. Doug's wife, son, and he have found memories of hearing stories about his father, Copper Mining in Arizona, hunting for minerals all over the world, fluorescents, taking a mine tour, and digging in the mineral pits.

This past year, when Rock and Gem Magazine ran a feature article on our Gaithersburg Mineral Show, he and his son Jonathan were two of the featured members in the article.

Boasting about being very fortunate, Doug is quoted as reporting to have learned about Geology from great mentors like Andy, Mark, Eric, Wendell, Jeff, Joel, and others (He apologizes if he missed anyone). And he gives special thanks Holly McNeil, whose Jr. Rockhouser program has piqued his son Jonathan's interest to pursue a career in Geology and follow in the footsteps of Jeffrey Post from The Smithsonian. Elmer Lantz stands recognized by Doug and thanked for being patient enough to teach him how to make beautiful cabochons.

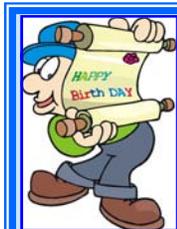
Doug's family enjoys vacationing at the Maryland, New Jersey, and Florida beaches, and cruising. They have been to many area rock shows and enjoy hunting for unique mineral and rock specimens from all over the world. Doug hopes to be an active member for many years to come. "Oh," he says, "almost forgot... My favorite mineral is Vanadinite."



Credit R. Weller/Cochise College

**MEMBER NEWS:** Tom Cummins has a website <<http://www.mobileminingexperience.com/>>. It is a commercial venture which, as usual, we are not endorsing. A fee for participation is made. Take a peek at his ambitious undertaking and his well constructed web site.

● We were trying our luck collecting at Crater of Diamonds in Arkansas. Sitting through the safety program can make anyone nod off. So the instructor tried to lighten the mood by going around the room asking where all the collectors were from. "Burnt Mattress, Arkansas," called out the guy sitting next to me. "Burnt Mattress!" said the instructor, suppressing a laugh. "I've heard some unusual town names before, but never that one. Where's it located?" The fellow shot back, "Right above Hot Springs." ●



### **NOVEMBER MEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

Jay Cincotta, Kevin Cincotta, Cole Cooper, Greg DeSalvo, David Dinsmore, Michael Keen, Devon Lyons, Holly McNeil, Wendell Mohr, Dan Spielman, Erich Thompsen, Kris Vaitkus.

**SHOW TABLE:** October 11, 2010 Thanks to those who bring items for sharing at the meetings.

<u>Exhibitor</u>	<u>Specimen (s)</u>	<u>Locality</u>
Jonathan Baum	Trinitite	Trinity site, NM
Boe Brosieus	Granite*	Howard County MD
	Smoky Quartz*	Columbia MD
	Fluorite, Picture Sandstone	TX
	Jasper	Lewes Beach, Lewes DE
	Strontianite	Mt. Pleasant Mills PA
Jack Busch	Rhodochrosite on Tennantite	Pachapiqua Mine, Ancash Dept., Peru
Jeff Cessna	Pyrite*	Quarry, Havre de Grace MD
	Fluorite (Fl. Red LW)	Ojuela Mine, Mapimi, Durango, Mexico
George Durland	Fluorite	Fraser's Hush Mine, Rookhope, & Cambo keel's Mine, Westgate, both Weardale Co., Durham, England
		Not Given
Ryan Gunnison	Apophyllite	Beryllium Virgin Claim, Sierra Co. NM
Patrick Hayes	Tin Vein Cassiterite, Hematite, & Cristobalite*	Pine Barrens, Mullica River NJ
Eric Kindahl	Bog Iron* and Glass Slag*	Wildacres Workshop NC
Diane Leaman	Cabochohs*	Lake Clear, Ontario, Canada
Wendell Mohr	Phlogopite Mica*	MO
Andy Muir	Galena	Various
	Mineral Spheres	Keweenaw Peninsula MI
Pat Repik-Byrne	Native Copper	Turkey
Eric Thompsen	Kaemmererite = Chrome Clinoclore	
Rod Towers	Microscope and Specimens	
Jennifer Weiss	Apatite, Dolomite, Graphite	Unknown



All Photos by W. Mohr

**OCTOBER PRIZES**

Wendell Mohr won the **Show Table Prize**, a Fluorite on Galena from Thomaston Dam, Thomaston CT.

**The Junior Prize**, a Vesuvianite from Lake Jaco, Mexico was won by Jonathan Baum, who also took home the **General Door Prize**, a Fluorite from the Rock Candy Mine near Grand Forks, B.C., Canada!

Participate at the Show Table to increase your chances of winning a prize!



**SHOWS and EVENTS**

Announcing The 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Richmond Gem & Mineral Society...

**2010 Fall Rock Swap**

>>>>>>> **Free Admission** <<<<<<<<

Visitors (adults or children, from novice to expert) are always welcome, and may swap or purchase from among the various mineral, gem, fossil, shell, and lapidary specimens

**Saturday, November 13, 2010**

Hours: Opens at 9:00 am until 3:00 pm  
(The Rock Swap is indoors - so come rain or shine)

**Ridge Baptist Church Meeting Hall**  
1515 East Ridge Road,  
Richmond, VA

(adjacent to the Church in a one story building with parking)



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT (either):  
Murray Rosenberg, Swap Chairman, 804-740-0019 or  
Carl Miller, Club President, 804-310-8762

**DIRECTIONS:** The swap is at the same location as it has been since 1998, and is easy to find at a centralized location in Henrico County, near the Regency Square Mall and Douglas S. Freeman High School. Maps available upon request.

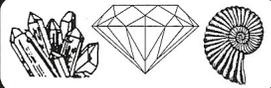
North or South of Richmond, Virginia  
Use I-95 to Exit 79 to I-64 West (this is just north of Richmond City). Leave I-64 at Exit 181A (South) to Parham Road. Proceed south on Parham Road for about 1.5 miles and **turn left onto East Ridge Road**. (A right turn at this same intersection takes you onto Quoccasin Road and leads to the Regency Square Mall). The Ridge Baptist Church and Meeting Hall are about 400 feet on the right across the street from the new Kroger's Market. Meeting Hall is at the rear of the parking lot on the west side of the church. There is ample parking in front of the Meeting Hall.

East or West of Richmond, Virginia: Use I-64 and follow the directions above.

**NOTES**

- To defray the costs of the Swap, RGMS asks that Swappers donate a specimen(s) for future RGMS raffles and auctions.
- Food and beverages are available at near-by restaurants.
- Tables are limited and no table reservations will be accepted. If you have your own tables, please bring them!

\*\* SWAPPERS-- PLEASE LABEL YOUR MATERIALS \*\*\*\*



**19th Annual GEM, MINERAL AND FOSSIL SHOW**

Presented by the Northern Virginia Mineral Club, Inc. www.novamineralclub.org  
Sponsored by the Dept. of Atmospheric, Oceanic and Earth Sciences at GMU

Date: November 20 & 21, 2010

Place: Student Union II Building  
George Mason University Campus  
Braddock Rd. & Route 123, Fairfax, VA

Hours: Saturday 10-6, Sunday 10-4

Admission: Adults: \$5, Seniors & Teens (13-17): \$3,  
Children 12 & under, Scouts in uniform,  
and GMU Students w/ valid ID are FREE.

**\$1 OFF**  
1 Adult Admission  
with this card.

Demonstrations, Exhibits, and Door Prizes. Mini-mines for children to dig in and get free fossils & minerals. Over 20 dealers with Fossils, Minerals, Crystals, and Gems for sale.

Use Parking Lot A (east), enter Lot A from Nottaway River Lane.  
Look for our Courtesy Shuttle to Mineral Show

Join Us for Our 20<sup>th</sup> 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

With this ad, \$1.00 off General Admission

**GEM MINER'S HOLIDAY!!**

November 20 - 21, 2010  
LEBANON, PA

Beads! Findings!  
Minerals! Fossils!  
Gems & Jewelry!

THE MID-ATLANTIC'S BEST SHOW

GIFT AND CRAFT RELATED ITEMS  
RETAIL AND WHOLESALE EXHIBITORS  
HOURLY DOOR PRIZES & GRAND PRIZE DRAWING  
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

SATURDAY: 10 A.M. - 5 P.M. ♦ SUNDAY: 11 A.M. - 4 P.M.  
\$5 ADMISSION - CHILDREN UNDER 12 FREE

Lebanon Expo Center: Route 72  
5 mi. N. of PA Turnpike--Exit 266 (old exit 20),  
right on Rocherty Road.  
www.gem-show.com  
(see website for updates)  
(717) 838-8870



**AUTUMN**



**WILDACRES!** How I spent my summer vacation.

Article and photos except where noted by GLMSMC Wildacres Scholarship winner, Andy Celmer



I arrived in the area a day early so I could look around. My week was action packed, so this gave me a chance to see the Mineral Museum on the Blue Ridge Parkway, Mount Mitchell, the tallest peak east of the Mississippi and a local swimming hole fed by a mountain stream.

Wildacres is a self-contained facility less than 0.5 miles from the Blue Ridge Parkway. The mountain altitude meant we were 10 ° F cooler than the valley below. Mountain views in every direction, native plants arranged on the grounds and a front row seat for sunrise. The two dorms housed all guests, a lobby, cantina and lots of deck space to just sit and chat or commune with nature.

Art is everywhere! Handrails, the lobby bathroom, statues, paintings, wall hangings and photographs adorned the four main buildings. Glass cases contained mineral collections and small dioramas of minerals. Jewelry and pottery were also on display, all donated by people of the Wildacres Experience!

Imagine being in a small community where everyone is as obsessed with their hobby as you are. It was Hog Heaven! But I knew nothing of this in the beginning. I knew what the classes were about, but what did the speaker in residence speak about? Would she be a motivational speaker, telling us how to be one with the universe through Transcendental Mineralization?

Boy was I surprised! After breakfast, another hog heaven delight, we learned the am and pm lectures by Lisa Carp, speaker in residence, would be on Gemology, the study of gems, with lots of beautiful examples to pass around. For me, it was an area in which I had very little information, so I learned a great deal and marveled at Lisa's collection. My favorite lecture was on pearls. I had no idea pearls came in so many forms. What an outstanding collection Lisa has.

My class, covering both sessions, was on faceting. I learned how much I didn't know about faceting and came away determined to try again. With only six people taking the class, it was easy to have Steve Weinberger's advise every step of the way.

Thursday was a free day. We had a break from the classes and lectures, and could go off and do as we pleased. There are many interesting things to do in the area, but I elected to hunt for minerals at the Ray Mine dump. This involved digging into the hill until you encountered a mica layer and following that layer into the hill. I came back with books of mica, but the prize find was Beryl from this pegmatite mine.

One couple employed the woman digging for small boulders and throwing them down to her husband to break open in search of beryl. She was about 15 feet above the stream when she stood up, threw a boulder down to her husband, lost her balance and followed the boulder down the hill. She made a great deal of noise as she traveled down the hill, and I turned around in time to see her fall, face flat, onto the rock floor. With her arms and legs stretched out to her sides, she looked like the cartoon Wile E. Coyote landing on the canyon floor after being tricked by the Road Runner. I thought we were about to switch from mineral collecting to mountain rescue, and I began to mentally picture how we would improvise a stretcher with the materials at hand. Then she got up and said she was OK. Apparently, she wore a lot of safety padding and her face did not hit a rock. No injuries, and a good time was had by all. We returned to Wildacres for Tailgating, an event where you can sell any hobby related material from your car.

Photo by W. Mohr ►



Continued on Page 11

**WILDACRES!** How I spent my summer vacation.

Continued from Previous Page

Friday was back to class and we were running out of time for our gems to be done. Friday was also the auction and a conspiracy was hatched at the beginning of the week to obtain a special item for the auction. It seems that our own Steve Campanella was well known for wearing his trademark hat everywhere. A plot was hatched – “The Case of the Purloined Chapeau.” A diabolical villain, whose initials rhyme with ABC grabbed the unsuspecting hat and passed it to a drafted individual to make the first step of the crime complete. Halfway through the auction, the chapeau was revealed, taking Steve a bit off guard. As the bidding rose to \$70, the juicy jaws of fate snapped closed. The diabolical design of demented deviltry was triumphant again! But I digress!

Saturday was crunch day. Each faceter had worked all week on his/her stone; if we didn't finish we would have little to show for our hard work. Steve had told us that while we had to keep moving, he cautioned that we should not grow complacent and let our minds wander. Good advise right? But did I listen? Read on!

Several people had finished their stones and they looked great. I was about an hour from finishing. I was polishing with the paper-like ultra lap when I grew complacent. I knew what I was doing; I could make adjustments to the cheater wheel while I was polishing. I didn't need to watch the gem ALL THE TIME! The paper-like lap bunched up around the stone, pulling it from my hand. The centrifugal force of the spinning lap threw the mast and my nearly finished stone against the metal wall of the machine. The stone popped loose and shot across the lap hitting the other side of the machine and dropping into the space between the spinning lap and the metal wall. We had to get it out by placing a straight edge screwdriver on it and tapping it out of its trap. Stick a fork in me hun, I'm done!



Saturday afternoon was Show & Tell, where we displayed our creations of the week. A selected person would tell about the class and what we learned. As everyone in the faceting class had enhanced egos we decided we would all get up and pantomime what Paul Campanella was saying to the group.



The complete collection of work was impressive, nary a sow's ear in the lot. When they asked me about my stone, I pretended not to speak English, “nolo comprenda hangalish.”

Saturday Night was Fun Nite where people signed up to do skits, readings, poetry or anything else. I brought my props to do my almost famous speech, “Dr Andy and the Frisky Goat.” Fun Nite was followed by general carousal and a desire to make the week last a little longer.

Sunday was another great meal, lots of goodbyes and the long road back to the world that is not Wildacres.

**NAME BADGES**

In order to encourage the wearing of name badges, the Board is making a special offer: Badges will be offered at the Low-Low price of \$3 each! Normal price is \$5.25. The offer is good for both juniors and adults. Andy Muir or an alternate will have order forms at the November meeting. You need to be specific in the name you want engraved and the exact spelling. Cash/checks/money orders accepted. The order will be submitted to the engravers as one large order, shipping them back to Andy, thus saving postage to every individual.

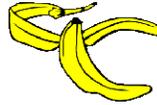
The order must be submitted by November 8th so, if you want badges, and cannot make the November meeting contact Andy NOW at <amuir21@comcast.net> or phone 301 990 1370 and he will get the form(s) to you. Those replies are required to be received no later than November 8th.

The badges will be distributed at the December meeting.

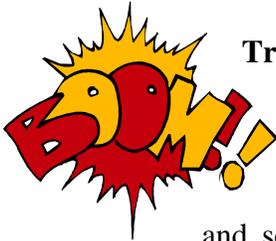


**WEB SITES**

Slide into These Sites



By Wendell Mohr



**Trinity Site** is at <[http://www.amwest-travel.com/awt\\_trinity.html](http://www.amwest-travel.com/awt_trinity.html)>. Vicariously visit the Trinity Site, place of the first atomic bomb explosion on July 16, 1945. I was prompted to post this site because this is the locality from which the Trinitite, which Jonathan Baum displayed at the last meeting, came.

Read about the tests that changed the world performed there and see historic pictures associated. It is said that old meters and clocks which had radium coatings on their dials generate greater radio activity readings than the trinitite. So, Jonathan, you got a hot specimen, not highly radioactive.

●James Kostka, on the other hand, collects radioactive minerals. Yes, some like it hot!●



**Dinosaur Park**, at <[http://www.pgparcs.com/Things\\_To\\_Do/Nature/Dinosaur\\_Park.htm](http://www.pgparcs.com/Things_To_Do/Nature/Dinosaur_Park.htm)>, gives vital information about the park about which Dr. Peter Kranz recently gave us a lecture. Directions, contact information, and vital facts are here. Included is a <[myFoxDc.com](http://myFoxDc.com)> news clip with Dr. Kranz and news reporter Gurvir Dhindsa. Don't overlook clicking on the items in the left column: "History of Dinosaur Park" and "Programs and Events."



Photo by W. Mohr

◀ Astrodon Johnsoni Maryland State Fossil - Art work at the Harbor Place Maryland Science Center Baltimore.

●Q: What do you call a dinosaur curse? A: A Tyrannosaurus hex! From Richard Jaeger, RMFMS President.●

**Herkimer Diamonds** is a site by Bill and Anne McIlquham. See <<http://herkimerdiamonds.ca/>> for this Canadian based couple's fine account of the world-famous locality. You need to click on the underlined "article" to see the body of the work on the Geology.com web site. As is customary no endorsement is made for purchases from this or any commercial web site.



●Someof the crystals found contain hydrocarbon anthraxo-lite inclusions, the non-fat version of that terrorist's bug.●

Photo, with permission [www.herkimerdiamonds.ca](http://www.herkimerdiamonds.ca)

**SUNSHINE** Andy Celmer broke his wrist. After David Maclean, and Wendy DeWolfe it is a contagion in our Society! A swift recovery to Andy and also to Andy Muir recuperating from hip surgery.



There was an old miner who loved to paint. Sadly, he could not afford canvases. But he found a solution. He would paint on the interior walls of his house. They soon became covered with his paintings. One day, a group of wayward youths broke in and defaced the paintings. The youths were soon apprehended and arrested for corrupting the murals of a miner. DVESS Newsletter Feb. '09

SOCIETY HISTORY

BY JACK BUSCH



FAREWELL TO 1995

Yes, at last I am to complete the recounting of that year's doings. For a variety of reasons I was unable to provide the Editor with material until now, so my apologies to all.

I had concluded my ramblings telling something of what happened at the November meeting, primarily about the program. You may recall one was "Mysteries of Rocks" designed for juniors. The kids were asked questions and given hints and were to declare the name of the mineral or rock being described. One of the participants, Teddy Zellers, Charlie's son, then 6, prepared a report describing his experiences and thanking that he had been able to become a Rock Detective.

In addition to the programs, the meeting included election of the following year's officers (After all, it was November.) Elected by acclamation were Bob Irby, President, Chuck Zellers, Vice President, Valerie Nelson, Secretary, and George Fetterly, Treasurer. All but Valerie would be serving a second term.

In December's Rockhounder, Editor Nancy Ballard reprinted something she had cribbed from numerous other bulletins, worthy of passing along again. If you have a surplus of cabochons or some so out of shape they can't fit standard mountings, glue small magnets to their back and give them as refrigerator door magnets. If you use them as stocking stuffers be sure all are removed before once again donning the footwear. Rocks in socks are not very comfortable.



An unusual activity for December was a field trip, this one to Mounts Willis and Baker in Virginia. Kyanite, Pyrite, and Bornite were found, along with frosted windshields the next evening. (It had been an over-nighter.) No further comment

At December's meeting there was no speaker, thus after a short period of announcements, the rest of the evening was devoted to scarfing down all manner of delicious viands brought by members. And so, on this happy note, ended another year in the history of GLMSMC.

BLACK COLORED MINERAL WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

By Nancy Bovy, MMC Member

S Z Y H D A S X X U K X W J Z V U H K C
T P D E A Z J O B F A D T V J I Z K N Q
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ANDRADITE
ANGLESITE
AUGITE
BABINGTONITE
CALCITE
CHALCEDONY
CHROMITE
CORUNDUM
DIAMOND
ENSTATITE
FLUORITE
FRANKLINITE
GARNET
GRAPHITE
HAFNON
HEDENBERGITE
HEMATITE
JADEITE
MAGNETITE
MELANITE
OPAL
PITCHBLENDE
PYROPE
QUARTZ
SHORL
SCHORLOMITE
SERANDITE
SERPENTINE
SPHAEROCOBLTITE
SPHALERITE
SPINEL
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The Rock Rustler's News.
Minnesota Mineral Club Inc. January 2009

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**THE ROCKHOUNDER**  
 Gem, Lapidary, and Mineral Society  
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