

THE ROCKHOUNDER



JULY/AUGUST
2011

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".

NO REGULAR, BOARD, OR FRA MEETINGS IN JULY OR AUGUST

If any issues arise that require Board action they will be handled by E Mail and/or phone.

DUES Your GLMSMC membership expires August 31, 2010. Membership dues are due by Sept. 1st. Single membership is \$15 per year, Family membership (Which is defined as up to 2 adults and children under 18 years of age) is \$20 per year. **There is a \$5.00 surcharge for late renewals.** We pay dues for EFMLS/AFMS affiliations and over \$3.00 for insurance for each member over 10 years of age so when renewing, list only those interested in taking part in Society activities. Please send dues (check to GLMSMC) to Membership Chairman Doug Baum, 11205 Golden Meadow Court, Germantown MD 20876-1740, (301 515 4641 or e-mail dbaum@gazette.net with any questions.) He will mail your membership card(s) back to you if you send him a self addressed stamped envelope, otherwise you may pickup your card(s) at the September regular meeting. If your phone number, address, E Mail address, or other vital information has changed since the January 2011 Roster or subsequent *Rockhounters* please let us know. **Help by paying your dues on time.** DO IT NOW while you are thinking about it! Reconsider if you are willing to "go green": If you are willing to receive the newsletter by e-mail only, so note when sending in your dues.



NEW MEMBERS

HANSON, Chris, 20437 Watkins Meadow Drive, Germantown MD 20876-4263, 301 972 2961, ChrisMah5@aol.com

MILLER, Ruth, 1701 Cody Drive, Silver Spring MD 20902-4024, 301 593 7917, rlmcd@verizon.net
Isaac Moles (11/02)

ROSTER CHANGE:

CATON, Tom, email: thomas.caton@verizon.net

CONDOLENCES to Mark, Becky, and Annie Dahlman. Mark's father, Eugene Dahlman died at the age of 84 on June 5, 2011 in Virginia. Beside Mark, he was survived by two other sons and his wife, Greta. We share in your sorrow.



DEADLINE for Sept. 2011 Issue: Aug.28th

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REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

The June 13, 2011 meeting was called to order by Treasurer Andy Muir at 7:46 pm, with approximately 62 people attending. It was M/S/P to approve the minutes of the May 9, 2011 regular meeting and the May 16, 2011 board of directors meeting.

FRA: Holly McNeil presented multiple badges (see this newsletter).



Photo by W. Mohr

Field Trips: Jonathan discussed the upcoming field trips. He noted that the Havre De Grace trip may have material from a new blast in a productive part of the quarry. Jonathan had give-away laumontite and other zeolites from the Churchville Quarry, Churchville, MD. To preserve the crystals, either keep these wet or soak them 15 minutes in 1 part Elmer's glue to 8 parts water. Jim Kostka had nicely trimmed and labeled give-away material from Vulcan Materials Manassas Quarry, Manassas, VA.

EFMLS Liaison & Guest Editor: Wendell Mohr has the application forms for the Wildacres sessions this fall. He also gave information about some newly announced Patuxent Lapidary Guild classes and several regional club shows. He reminded us that there are no club meetings for the months of July and August. The position of editor still needs to be filled.

Presentation: Vice president Owen Powers introduced the speaker for the evening, our own Bob Simonoff, father of noted author and speaker Jessica Simonoff. Bob presented *A Mineral Collecting Trip to the Ilimaussaq Complex of Greenland*. He began with a discussion of the history of the area and a description of the socioeconomic realities. A general discussion was given of the many events that led to the unique geology of the area. While fluorescent minerals are a focus they are not the only mineralogical interest in the area. During WWII it was a major supplier of cryolite, used as a flux in the electrolytic processing of bauxite to yield aluminum. The area is also home to the uranium mine where Danish physicist Niels Bohr collected material for his research. We were given a photographic tour including the long, involved, trip to the area, the collecting localities, and finally the fluorescent minerals that can be collected there. Thanks Bob.



Photo by W. Mohr

It was M/S/P to approve the memberships of Isaac Moles and Chris Hansen.

Treasurer: Andy Muir reported that the club finances are still strong.

Mark Dahlman administered the show table and the drawings for the door and show table prizes.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 PM.

Jeff Cessna, Secretary.



A man was looking for crystals at a country road cut and not having much luck. A cow came along and stopped near him. "Your trouble is you are too far South for the best crystals," said the cow. Startled, the man jumped back and ran down the road until he met the farmer. He told the farmer his story. "Was it a large red cow with a brown spot over the right eye?" asked the farmer. "Yes!" "Oh, I wouldn't listen to Bessie," said the Farmer. "She doesn't know anything about minerals or crystals."

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

Board members present: Doug Baum, Jeff Cessna, Jonathan Harris, Wendell Mohr, Andy Muir, Owen Powers. Treasurer Andy Muir called the June 20, 2011 meeting to order at 7:35 pm.

The cessation of the junior door prize during the main meeting was discussed. It was noted that there is a stock of purchased material. The Junior drawing could be done after the break to not interfere with the MOCKS session. The Board will reconsider the issue after Mark, Rod, and Holly give consideration.

EFMLS Liaison & Guest Editor: Wendell Mohr discussed the status of several proposed donations to the club. Dr. Lewis Hsu donated material and books for juniors that will be used in the FRA program. Dates have been announced for the next USA Science Festival in Washington, DC. The Society will consider participation. The position of editor still needs to be filled.

There was a discussion of possible nominations for election to fill Board of Director positions. At least a president and vice-president will be needed. If you are interested in giving back to the club please contact any current Board member.

FRA: Andy Muir will be giving a presentation on fluorescence to the MOCKS in September. He solicited donations of labeled fluorescent material.

Field Trips: Jonathan discussed upcoming trips and his efforts to gain access to sites currently not open to collectors. This may require that some sites carry a designation that material collected is for personal use, not commercial use.

Vice President: Owen Powers noted that an organizer is needed for the January 2012 meeting program, presenting volunteer opportunities at the annual club show and key points for great exhibits.

Membership: Doug Baum discussed some possible changes to the membership form.

Treasurer: Andy Muir reported on the clubs finances. He discussed the draft budget that will be prepared for the yearly audit.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:16 PM.

Jeff Cessna, Secretary.



Many years ago a friend of mine called Joe worked in the gold mines. He would go to work early in the morning, go down the mine to the ore face and do his eight hour stint, then come back to the surface to get ready to come home. He followed this daily routine faithfully for years on end, down the mine in the morning and up at the end of his shift. Down then up, down then up.

One day while he was at the ore face he swung his pick and the point went deep into a rock. He eventually managed to remove the pick from the rock, and as he did so he was engulfed in a deluge of water. He was absolutely drenched by the water, and his work mates remarked that he looked about 10 years younger since the water had covered him. They all tried to get soaked, and those that managed did indeed look 10 years younger. He, and those of his friends who had managed to get covered by the water, were thankful but they couldn't stop wondering why they had only been made to look 10 years younger.

Why hadn't they been made to look 20 or 25 years younger than they really were? It must be obvious that it was only a miner miracle!

BIRTHDAYS:

JULY: Blythe Batchelder, Sam Briglia, Stephen Campanella, Maureen Campeau, Patricia Carter, Michael Ciletti, David Colvin, Susan Day, Antonia Dentes, Claire DeSalvo, Wendy DeWolfe, Gerald Elgert, Sam Briglia, Jonathan Harris, Dave Johnson, Krystal Lai, Susan Luff, Andrew Mays, Tim Morgan, Savannah Muir, William Nagy, Bob Olshin, David Paraboschi, Jim Paraboschi, Michael Paraboschi, Barry Remer, Julianne Remer, Donna Rimar, Conrad Smith, Charlotte Tyler, Dee Williams, Takashi Yabuki.



AUGUST: Gus Anderson, David Ballard, Alex Batchelder, Grace Briglia, Larry Campbell, Lisa Carp, Carolyn Carter, Annie Dahlman, John Gunnison, Jacob Harris, David Hennessey, Norma Irby, George Loud, Kevin McCright, Hannah McCright, Steven McNeil, Denise Muir, Gabi Muir, Bill Porter, Joel Rosen, Nancy Shinowara, Louis Van Rafelghem, Kate Vargo, David Weiss, Barbara Wells.

FUTURE ROCKHOUNDS OF AMERICA (The MOCKS) Ages 10-15

Meeting Date: September 12, 2011 **Meeting time:** 7:45 - 9:00 pm

Meeting Location: Sunroom Cafeteria at the Rockville Senior Center

CONGRATULATIONS TO: Jonathan Baum who earned the Gemstone Lore & Legend badge, Elena Olshin who earned the Rocks & Minerals badge, and Abbie Olshin who earned the Rocks & Minerals and the Gemstone Lore & Legend badges.

June 13th Meeting Recap: We were privileged to have a guest speaker, Dr. Michael Wise of the Department of Mineral Sciences, Smithsonian Museum of Natural History discuss "Minerals in our Daily Lives." We learned just how important minerals are to EVERYTHING we do. How we eat, live and play are dependent upon the minerals we obtain from the earth. Without minerals, there would be no computers, video games, cell phones, dishes, utensils, paint, electricity, etc. in short – back to the stone age we would go. Dr. Wise discussed conflict minerals and other mining controversies and conflict minerals and gave us a lot to think about.

Reminder – no meetings in July or August – see you in September for Fluorescents!

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



Photos by W. Mohr

Saturday July 9 Vulcan Materials Havre De Grace MD Quarry. Meet at the office at 7:20 am, collect until noon. We expect that there will be fresh blasted material from one of the more productive levels! Minimum age for attending is 10. Minors under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent and both must be club members. The Havre De Grace Quarry mines Port Deposit gneiss, diabase, and mettagabbro. Among the minerals reported found are epidote, pyrite, zeolites, siderite, titanite, feldspar, and quartz.

Circumstances beyond our control -- weather or problems at the quarry can cause last minute cancellations so it is advisable to check your email Friday evening for any changes. Jonathan will try to avoid such situations and give notice as soon as he learns of them. Please be on time. Late comers who miss the safety briefing cannot collect at the quarry. **Signup by 5 pm, Wednesday July 6** at <jgharris7@gmail.com> (preferred) or phone 301-545-0808. In your e-mail notification, please confirm that you have read and agree to the waiver and rules. Please include "Havre De Grace" in the subject of your email message to make it easier for Jonathan to find.

Directions: Take I-270 to the beltway and go east on I-495 to exit 27, right ramp to turn left onto I-95. Take I-895 (Harbor Tunnel Thruway). Merge onto I-95. At exit 89 (Havre de Grace) turn right onto MD-155 (Level Road and later Superior Street.) Turn Left onto Graceview Drive. Turn left onto Quarry road to 938 Quarry Road on the left. About 80 miles from Rockville. Allow about 1.5 hours from Rockville.

REPORT ON JUNE 11th FIELD TRIP to Vulcan Quarry in Dale, Virginia. By Gerald Elgert

Hopes were high as we drove down I-95 to the Vulcan Materials Quarry in Dale, Virginia, just south of Richmond. Jeff Splitstoser of the GLMS of DC had invited our own club along on a joint collecting trip. Meeting us at the quarry was Tom Brazell, the Manager of Geology and Mine Planning for Vulcan and Wayne Orr, the Quarry Manager. Before guiding us to the quarry floor, Tom presented a safety lecture and had us sign release forms. He explained how Vulcan arranges for trips for schools and clubs as part of their community outreach program.



Gerald Elgert, Wayne Orr, Quarry Manager, Jeff Splitstoser, Erich Grundel, and Jonathan Harris



Once down and on the quarry floor, it felt really cool, considering the heat wave we had suffered in the D.C. area the week before. Wayne explained that had rained the night before, and he expected the lower levels of the quarry to be muddy. There was also a faint and sometimes stronger reminder of a local landfill that wafted an occasional aroma across our nostrils. Meeting us was a huge rock garden of base granite with feldspar pegmatite veins here and there. It was in the quartz cores, near the cream colored feldspar, that beryl

would be found.

Tom went on to explain that garnets would also be found in these veins along with biotic (book) mica. While no one in our group found the latter, Jon Harris was first to find a good sized almandine garnet, a nice clear one with good color. The remainder of us searched and searched some more, splitting rocks and looking through the various rock gardens strewn about the quarry floor and finding just lots of little, drusy like garnet crystals.



Continued on Page 6

REPORT ON JUNE 11th FIELD TRIP

Continued from Page 6

Towards the end of our stay, after the sun had a chance to creep over the high quarry walls and elevate the temperature on the floor (where we were), Jon and Tom walked over to a lower area of the quarry. Along the way Tom found a small cluster of molybdenite crystals. To my uneducated eye, they looked like a small book of black mica crystals. "Oh, well", as they say, "size sometimes matters," as they were pretty small and easily overlooked. While the crystals were too fragile to even touch, I know from a previous experience on a collecting trip to Colorado that there is a slippery feel, much like that of graphite, and the material is used as a lubricant. Then, about noon time, just as the sun was really making its presence known, we packed up and headed homeward. What a nice trip. Thanks for inviting us along, Jeff!



All Photos from Gerald Elgert

FUTURE ROCKHOUNDS OF AMERICA

MINI MINERS

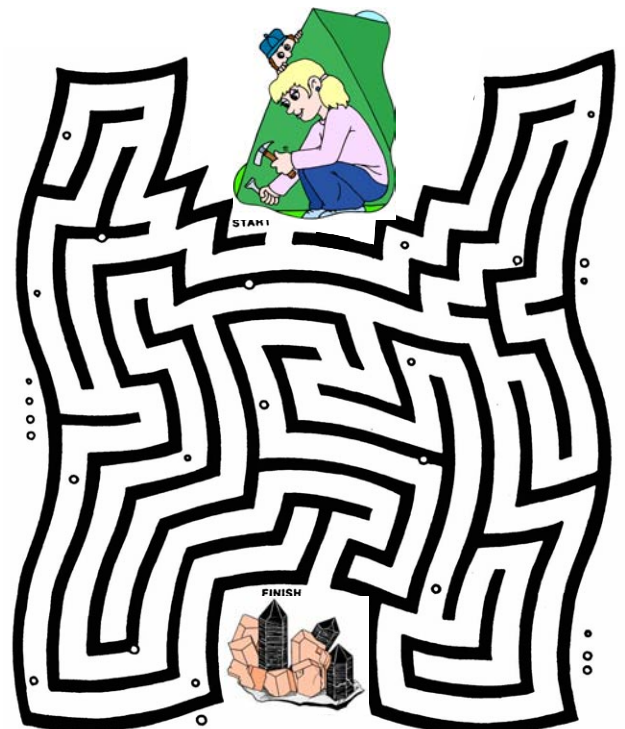
FOR AGES 6-9 ONLY:

Next Meeting Date: September 12 , 2011 **Meeting time:** 7:00 - 8:00 pm

Meeting Location: The Card room at the Rockville Senior Center

At the June meeting we discussed how we use rocks and minerals in our daily lives and where we can find them in our homes. We even make our own toothpaste! We showed Crystals we had grown.

For more information contact: Linda Smith, Home Phone: 301-530-5007, <Tunacat107@aol.com>.



This Mini-miner wants to find the mineral specimen of her dreams.



BENITOITE (beh-NEE-toe-ite) is a rare gem that was first discovered in 1906 along the headwaters of the San Benito River in San Benito County, California. This small region is the only source in the world for gem quality Benitoite. Because of its rarity and beauty, Benitotite was adopted as California's state gemstone in 1985.



Benitoites have often been mistaken for fine blue sapphires and spinels due to their rich blue-violet colors. Benitoites tend to be found in smaller sizes with gems larger than one carat being the exception. Larger gems with rich color and exceptional quality are greatly prized by collectors. The one pictured here is described as a "Fancy Trillium" cut with rich blue-violet hue and dark tone of moderate saturation. It weighs 1.83 carats and is 6.9 millimeters in diameter. Scott Forrest of WSF Gems, who gave us the photo and permission to use it in this article, describes it as "very well cut with nice dispersion and high luster".

W. Scott Forrest is a second-generation in the mining and gemstone business. His father and his father's partner owned the "Benitoite Gem Mine". After faceting Benitoite and other precious stones for them Scott began to sell his own and opened WSF Gems in Old Town Clovis. He still facets most of them to maximize beauty and value. He invites jewelry and lapidary hobbyists to visit his store or to shop his web site. You can see this gem and others at <www.wsfgems.com>.

Article from Mark Nelson, Editor - Rockhound Ramblings, Pasadena Lapidary Society Feb 2011

SODA IN THE FIELD (Author Unknown)

From The Agatizer, via Calgary Lapidary Journal, June, 2007

Here are a few good reasons you will be glad you took that box of Baking Soda along on your field trip. In fact, maybe you should take TWO boxes!

1. Insect bites, minor burns and poison oak - add water to make a paste and apply to affected area.
2. Sunburn, wind burn and prickly heat - add ¼ cup to a basin of water and bathe or sponge on.
3. Acid indigestion - add ¼ teaspoon to ½ glass of water and drink slowly.
4. Tired feet - 3 tablespoons to a basin of warm water and soak.
5. Tooth Cleanser and breath freshener - use as much as needed on moist toothbrush.
6. Hand and fingernail cleaner - rub dry on moistened hand to remove pine pitch, odors and grease.
7. Fire extinguisher - for grease fire, throw a box full at the base of the fire.
8. Freshening camp coolers and jugs - add 2 teaspoons, partly fill with water. Shake and rinse.
9. Deodorant - sprinkle inside boots and shoes.
10. Natural cleaner for camp dishes and pans - add 3 tablespoons to a pan of warm water and soak.
11. Cleaning a dirty bug splattered windshields, chrome and camper frames - rub damp sponge sprinkled with soda on area.
12. Freshening RV water tanks - flush with a solution of ¼ cup soda and 1 gallon of water. Rinse

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2011

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Demonstrations show how to make your own beautiful jewelry and finished stones.
Visit our website <www.gemcuttersguild.com> for news about our classes and show.

September 24 - 25, 2011

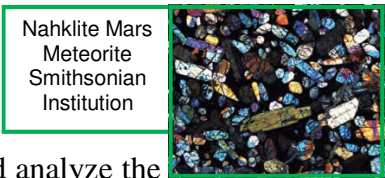
Visit our website...
<www.gemcuttersguild.com>
for news about the show and our jewelry and
gem cutting classes.

August 12-14 Martin Zinn Exposition's East Coast Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show, at West Springfield, MA (Commercial Show.) Fri. & Sat. 10 am - 6 pm, Sun. 10 am - 5 pm (Wholesale closes at 4 pm Sun.) Admission: \$6, under 12 free with adult. Parking \$5 per day. 200 dealers. Door prizes, guest speakers, museum quality exhibits, and a large wholesale section.
Information: <<http://www.mzexpos.com/eastcoast.htm>>.



EVENTS National Museum of Natural History

Saturday July 23, Exhibition opens at the First Floor, Special Exhibits Gallery through October 31, 2012. Scientists at the Museum rely on special tools, skills, and technologies to examine the world’s diversity of life and culture up close and in great detail. Explore alongside Smithsonian scientists as they use their super-powered vision to observe, document, and analyze the natural world and global cultures.



Tuesday August 9, 1 to 3 pm, More Than Meets the Eye: Volcanic Eruptions. At the More Than Meets the Eye exhibition (First Floor.) Volcanologist Rick Wunderman answers visitors’ questions about the history and practice of recording film, collecting samples and conducting interviews near volcanoes.

From Nature's Best, photo by C. J. Kale "Volcano"



The Hope Diamond On Permanent exhibition but shown in temporary setting through November 18, 2011. Second Floor, Harry Winston Gallery. The American people voted online for their favorite design, and the winner is the dazzling necklace called “Embracing Hope.” The Diamond is now on display in this temporary setting. Don't miss this rare opportunity to view the Hope Diamond in a new light.

SAFETY HEAR HERE! Adapted from Ellery Borow, EFMLS Safety Chair
 Can you hear me? I can hear you. In fact I can hear very well indeed. Frankly, hearing is an amazing feat. Over the years I have spoken with numerous hearing specialists. Specialists are very good with measuring how much hearing a person has lost. One’s hearing has an excellent ability to the repair damage imposed upon its sensitive parts - within reason. Over time and continuing duress that ability to self-repair is often overwhelmed by amount of damaging sound waves.



Photo by W. Mohr

Hearing one loud sound may cause a temporary feeling of hearing impairment. When exposed to continuing loud sounds hearing degradation may become permanent. Very loud noises are not the only culprits. If one is exposed to moderately loud noises for lengthy periods of time one’s hearing again diminishes. What are those less than painfully loud noises? Air compressors, electric rock drills and hammers, rock saws and grinding wheels, polishers, high pitched ventilation fans or diamond grinding tools can all cause hearing loss if ear protection is not worn. Even lower decibel noises, when one is exposed to them time and time again, may cause hearing loss.

The moral to this story is to wear your hearing protectors. If in doubt as to the loudness of a noise, wear protection. There are enough types and styles to make it most likely one will find protectors that are comfortable. Even if they are not - what is your hearing worth? Even if one has experienced some hearing loss already, use protection and save what hearing you have! Lets all raise our ear protectors to a cheer of Hear Here!

From the EFMLS News June-July, 2011

Have a Great Summer



Have a knife time with these

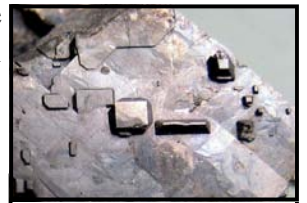


WEB SITES

From Geology.com <<http://geology.com/usgs/lead/>> comes a useful brief summary of the **Uses of Lead**. The article describes what lead is, ancient and modern uses, lead in the environment, types of lead deposits, worldwide supply and demand, a note on recycling, and links to other sites.

- “Get the lead out” and explore this one. ●
- “Here’s lead on the table of elements,” the professor said periodically. ●

By Wendell C. Mohr



R. Weller/Cochise College



Case Western Reserve Geological Sciences via Wikipedia

“Scientist’s Search for Ice Age Fossils in Los Angeles”

is a Voice of America account of ongoing work at the LaBrea Tar Pits. Discovered during the excavation for an underground parking garage for the adjacent LA County Art Museum, these finds are documented in a short movie clip and in text. The remains dated 11,000 to 40,000 years old are remarkably preserved.

See <<http://www.voanews.com/english/news/usa/Scientists-Search-Trove-of-Ice-Age-Fossils-in-Los-Angeles-118599054.html>>

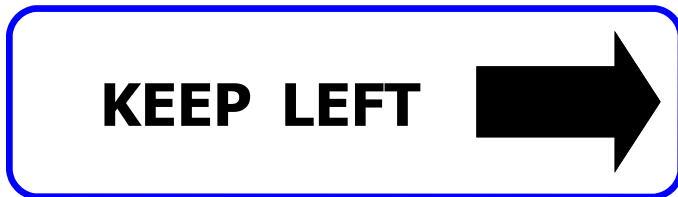
- Why are sabre-tooth tiger fossils always found erect? Because cats always land on their feet. ●
- In the La Brea Museum a fossil lion is the mane attraction. ●

Jaspers at <<http://www.worldofjaspers.com/>> by Hans Gamma, originally from Switzerland, but now retired to AZ. Search for pictures by geographic locations in the Western US, and Mexico, Australia, Africa, and Madagascar. Let your imagination take over and visualize picture scenes akin to modern art. There is a 9 minute video. If you could understand Arnold Schwarzenegger, you should understand his language! Some audio is with German language but does have English titles.

- If your Jasper rough has flaws you can always try Clearasil. ●
- Rock of Ages, Left for me, Let me cut and polish thee. ●



From Web Site



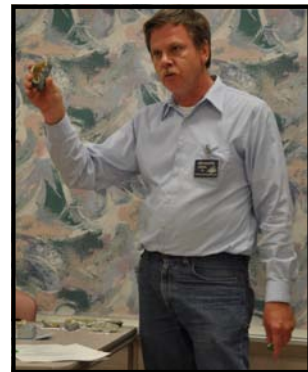
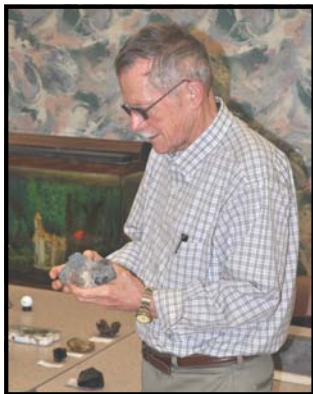
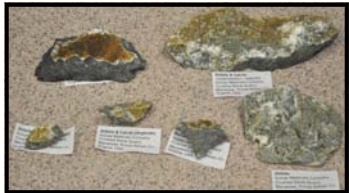
June 13th PRIZES Pisco and Pasco.

Last month the Olshin twins made a clean sweep. In June Trevor Babb emerged the winner of both the Show Table and the General Door Prizes! The Show 'n' Tell specimen was a Selenite from Pisco, Peru, and the General prize was a specimen of Sphalerite, Quartz, and Pyrite from the Animon Mine, Department of Pasco, Peru.

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

SHOW TABLE: June 13th, 2011. Thanks to those who bring items for sharing at the meetings.

<u>Exhibitor</u>	<u>Specimen (s)</u>	<u>Locality</u>
Trevor Babb	Uvite Tourmaline	Pierrepont NY
Jeff Cessna	Friedelite	Sterling Hill NJ
	“Sphere” golf ball	The Quarry Golf Club, San Antonio TX
Cassie DeSalvo	Fossils*	Stratford Hall VA
Claire DeSalvo	Quartz crystals	Arkansas
George Durland	Tugtupite	Greenland
	Tugtupite, Chkalovite	Greenland
	Sodalite (tenebrescent)	Greenland
Gerald Elgert	26# Lead brick*	Reactor site?
Don Greaves	Galena and Fluorite	Locality unknown
Ryan Gunnison	Igneous Lava	Locality unknown
Jonathan Harris	Serpentine*	Penn-MD Quarry, PA
Jim Kostka	Calcite, Stilbite, Stellerite*	Vulcan Quarry, Manassas VA
Elmer Lantz	Apatite	Yates Mine, Otter Lake, Quebec, Canada
Wendell Mohr	Barite	Sardinia
	Shorl	Yunnan Province, China
Tom Parnell	Axinite	Gilgut Pakistan
Bob Simonoff	Various Fluorescent Minerals*	Greenland
Earl Smith	Cryolite	Greenland
Rod Towers	Zinc Bar	
	Allosaurus Dinosaur Claw replica	
	Microscope and Minerals	



All Photos by W. Mohr



* = Self-collected or self made

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Membership Chairman- Doug Baum, 11205 Golden Meadow Court, Germantown MD 20876-1740	301 515 4641
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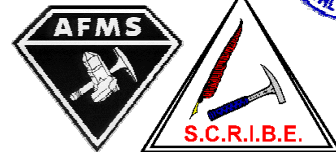
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