

# THE ROCKHOUNDER



JUNE  
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”.

**REGULAR MEETING:** Meetings are held the 2nd Monday of the month from September to June. The Society will meet on **Monday June 13th** in the dining room of the Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Drive, Rockville. The short business meeting will begin at 7:45 pm but the room is available to us at 7:30 pm so come early, chat with old friends, and see what is on the Show Table.

The program will be presented by member **Bob Simonoff** whose talk will be “**A Mineral Collecting Trip to the Illimaussaq Complex of Greenland.**” Bob is a mineral collector who very much enjoys field collecting. His interests include, but are not limited to fluorescent minerals, crystal shapes and forms, and mineral oddities. In 2008 he took a group geo-adventure tour to Greenland to collect minerals at various locations within the Illimaussaq Complex. This talk will consist of many pictures from the tour, a brief explanation of the geology of the area, and a quick overview of the society that lives in the area as well.

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS** will meet **Monday Jun 20th** at the Home of Andy Muir. 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> or phone 301 990 1370.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



BATCHELDER, Alex and Stephanie, 308 Burnt Mills Avenue, Silver Spring MD, 301 592 0916, bfa8@yahoo.com. Cooper (11/99), Chase (12/01), Brett (12/04), Blythe (07/08)



## REJOINED

PORTER, Bill, 1329 Grandin Avenue, Rockville MD 20851-1115, 301 309 0509, oldcokes@aol.com

### HENRY'S HELPFUL HINTS by Henry Wilson

1. Don't try to cut and polish cabs while watching TV.
2. Always walk uphill while collecting large specimens.
3. Tin oxide will not work as well in your coffee as Cremora.
4. Most good gemstones can be dug up only during a rain or snowstorm.
5. If you can't identify a mineral, call it jasper. No one else will know either.
6. Don't spill dop wax on your wife's kitchen stove.

From Rock Chips 11/06, via RockCollector June 2008

### IN THIS ISSUE



Meetings, New and Rejoined Members, Henry's Helpful Hints Rockhounder Deadline.....	1
Birthdays, June Birthstone, Bench Tips...	2
Regular Meeting Minutes, Get Well.....	3
Board Meeting Minutes.....	4
Field Trips, Nat'l Science Olympiad.....	5
FRA Mini Miners, Puzzles.....	6
FRA Mocks.....	7
Shows & Events.....	8
Show Table.....	9
Web Sites, May Prizes.....	10
Wedding, Nagy Article, AFMS Scholarship, Patuxent Lapidary Guild Classes...	11
Safety.....	12
Tunguska Event.....	13



**DEADLINE** for July-Aug 2011 Issue: June 28th

**JUNE MEMBER BIRTHDAYS:**

Trevor Babb, Doug Baum, Andrew Celmer, Dean Cooper, John Curry,  
Dale Fisher, Susan Harris, Larry Harrison, David MacLean,  
Jake McCright, Fred Parker, George Reimherr, Eve Spielman,  
Mary Vargo, Tracy Vargo, Alice Wang, Jennifer Weiss,  
John Wells, and Robert Wright.

**ALTERNATE JUNE BIRTHSTONE - ALEXANDRITE**

The Gemstone Alexandrite is the *color changing* variety of the mineral **Chrysoberyl**. The June Birthstone, its color varies from red to green depending upon the light source. Alexandrite is named for the former czar of Russia, Alexander II, and was first discovered in the Ural Mountains of Russia, supposedly on the day of his birth. Chromium gives alexandrite its color and while, in most minerals, a trace element like chromium would provide only one color to the mineral, in alexandrite it gives it two! Coloring agents are dependent on the wavelength of light and the chemical bonds in the crystal to determine the color that



Photo R.Weller/Cochise College

they will cause. An element like copper, in normal light, can cause a green color in malachite and a blue color in azurite, it all depends on the character of the chemical bonding. In a single specimen of alexandrite, the chromium is in such a balanced situation that the color of the specimen depends on the character of light that hits the crystal. If the light is natural sunlight or fluorescent light, the crystal will be green; however, if the light is incandescent light from a common indoor light bulb, then the crystal will appear red. Synthetic corundum spiked with trace elements that yield an alexandrite-like color change are sold as alexandrite on the gemstone market. These stones have a red-violet, near-amethyst color in incandescent light and a blue-violet color in daylight. They are far cheaper than natural alexandrite, which are some of the rarest and most expensive of gemstones.

From Gem and Mineral Federation of Canada Spring 2006

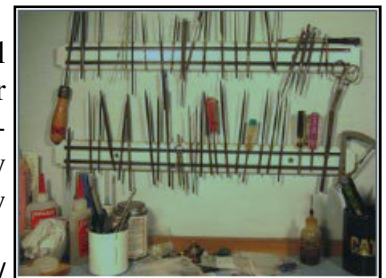
Editor's Note: Alexandrite, a rare mineral, is  $\text{BeAl}_2\text{O}_4$ , Beryllium aluminate. Hardness: 8.5

**BENCH TIPS FROM BRAD SMITH**

An easy way to keep all your files organized at the bench is to use a magnetic tool strip. They're not expensive and help keep a lot of small tools from cluttering the bench top. I got a couple of them from Harbor Freight for about \$5 each. See <<http://www.harborfreight.com/18-inch-magnetic-holder-65489.html>>. My only regret was putting some of my small drills on the magnets. The drills got a little magnetized and now stick together when I carry them in a bottle in my tool box.

More BenchTips by Brad Smith are at <[groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips/)> or at <[facebook.com/BenchTips](http://facebook.com/BenchTips)>

Via Gritty Greetings, and The Rockcollector, June 2011

**MAGNETIC HOLDER FOR FILES**

Long, long ago an old Indian chief was about to die, so he called for Geronimo and Falling Rocks, the two bravest warriors in his tribe. The chief instructed each to go out and seek buffalo skins. Whoever returned with the most skins would be chief. About a month later Geronimo came back with a hundred pelts, but Falling Rocks never returned. Even today as you drive throughout the West you can see signs saying: "WATCH OUT FOR FALLING ROCKS."

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

The May 9, 2011 meeting was called to order by President Eric Kindahl at 7:41 pm, with approximately 61 people attending. It was M/S/P to approve the minutes of the April 11, 2011 regular meeting and the April 25, 2011 Board of Directors meeting.

**FRA:** Holly McNeil presented multiple badges (see this newsletter, Page 7) culminating with the club's third and fourth Rockhound awards to Ryan Gunnison and Jennifer Weiss. Congratulations, Ryan and Jennifer.

**EFMLS Liaison & Guest Editor:** Wendell Mohr announced the items for the evening's silent auction. All but one lot sold. He discussed the Region IV picnic and swap at Lake Anna in Virginia, noting that there is no selling, only swapping, due to the venue. He also gave information about Patuxent Lapidary Guild classes, Clearwater Nature Center classes, Audubon summer camps, and several regional club shows. Wendell has the application forms for the Wildacres sessions this fall.

Rod Towers administered the door prize drawing for juniors.

**Presentation:** Vice president Owen Powers introduced the speaker for the evening, Jeri Jones. Jeri presented *Gold in Maryland and Southeastern Pennsylvania*. He started with a discussion of gold panning as a hobby noting that can be inexpensive until you get to the chiropractor after panning for 8 hours a day. He also discussed some of the specific places to look for gold, such as crevices, nooks, crannies, cut banks, rapids, and point bars. Next we heard about the history of gold mining in the area. Much of this history he learned from the work of Donald Schmerling and Jeri's father Karl Jones. He went over the process of looking for possible localities, from studying the history to studying the Geology. Many specific areas and finds at those sites were discussed.

After closing his presentation with a few club appropriate puns, Jeri answered many questions from the audience. Thanks Jeri.

It was M/S/P to approve the membership of the Batchelder family, Alex and Stephanie, and children Cooper, Chase, Brett, and Blythe.

**Treasurer:** Andy Muir reported the results of the silent auction.

Joel Rosen administered the show table and the drawings for the door and show table prizes.

Meeting adjourned at 9:47 PM.

Jeff Cessna, Secretary



Photo by W. Mohr



**GET WELL WISHES** to Becky Dahlman whose wrist was broken in a fall from a horse. Perhaps she should limit herself to the 25¢/ ride horses just outside the front of Walmart. Heal quickly, Becky.

Get well wishes also to member Inga Wells, living in PA, who had the misfortune to fall and has some medical issues now. Hopefully, she'll be well soon. She's also having some eye problems that don't seem to want to go away.

(Per Shin Skinner News June 2011)

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES**

Board members present: Jeff Cessna, Mark Dahlman, Jonathan Harris, Eric Kindahl, Wendell Mohr, Andy Muir, Owen Powers, and Pat Repik-Byrne. Non-Board member present: Holly McNeil. President Eric Kindahl called the May 16, 2011 meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

**President:** Eric Kindahl will not be able to attend the next regular meeting. Past-president Mark Dahlman will stand in.

**FRA:** Holly McNeil discussed FRA events for the upcoming meeting. She reported that only one Rockhound trophy was remaining. Options were discussed for replacements. It was M/S/P to authorize the purchase of miner trophies for juniors completing the program this year, amended to authorize a total of five. Noting that the FRA program distributes door prizes and that remaining juniors are eligible for the main door prizes, it was M/S/P to discontinue the main meeting junior door prize.

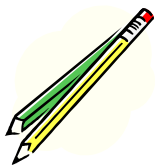
**EFMLS Liaison and Guest Editor:** Wendell Mohr discussed the Region IV picnic continuing lack of details; the status of several donations and proposed donations to the club; forms to be submitted to the Eastern Federation; and some membership issues. Wendell discussed some insurance information and provided a contact for more. A new editor has still not been found for the Rockhounder. Please consider giving back to the club by volunteering.

**Field Trips:** Jonathan discussed upcoming field trips. Issues with securing trips were discussed. The recent fruitful trip to Vulcan Quarry in Manassas, VA was discussed.

**Vice President:** Owen Powers reported that he has secured a replacement speaker for the cancellation next month.

**Show:** The review of the annual show continued from the previous meeting. Mark Dahlman presented his notes from the show. Suggestions from the show dealers regarding the show hours were discussed. It was M/S/P to change the Sunday opening time from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM. George Durland will be contacted to make the change on the show flyer. If flier space can be found, a notation that the discount applies to everybody in a group should be added. Some dealers also suggested that the close of show should be announced allowing attendees to complete their shopping. Mark suggested that there should not be overlap in judges between the two junior display prizes due to the time involved. Mark will prepare for lost & found next year by providing a dedicated box. Donated touch table give-aways were checked for radioactivity prior to show, this should continue next year. Having a display case riser and liner workshop was discussed. Having an individual dedicated to directing volunteers and assigning tasks during set-up and take-down was suggested. Club policy regarding demonstrator no-shows and last-minute additions were discussed. The show next year will be the third weekend in March.

**Treasurer:** Andy Muir has sent out many thank you correspondences for recent donations. Financial information and recent updates were presented. A preliminary accounting of the recent show's financials was presented and discussed.



It was decided there will be a meeting of the Board of Directors on 20<sup>th</sup> June, 2011 at Andy Muir's home.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:37 PM.

Jeff Cessna, Secretary.



**Saturday June 11** Vulcan Materials Dale Quarry, Chesterfield, VA, 7:30 am, a joint trip with GLMSDC. We must be out by noon. No age restrictions stated yet. This is a granite quarry with pegmatite dikes. Minerals found include beryl, feldspars, micas, garnets, autunite, and molybdenite. There may be a quota on how many people can attend; thus you will need to get Jonathan's confirmation that you are able to attend. To get in the lottery, notify Jonathan at <jgharris7@gmail.com> (preferred) or phone 301-545-0808. Include the name(s) of who wants to attend by **5 pm June 4**. Replies between now and June 8 will be prioritized on a first-come first served basis; replies after June 8 may be too late for consideration. Include "Chesterfield VA" in the subject to minimize the chance of Jonathan missing your message. As always, Please also affirm that you have agreed to the waiver and rules.



Directions: Take I-270S to I-495S and entering VA. Go right (S.) onto I-95. Take exit 79 to merge onto I-195 S toward Powhite Pkwy. Continue onto VA-76W (Partial toll road.) Exit on the left onto VA-150 S/Chippenham Pkwy (Partial toll road.) Exit onto VA-10E/Iron Bridge Rd toward Chesterfield. Destination will be on the right, just shortly beyond Ironbridge Pkwy., 11520 Iron Bridge Rd. Dale VA. Allow about 3 hours for the 140 miles to the locality..

**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,**

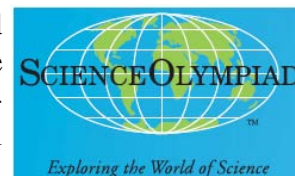
**Wednesday July 6** at <jgharris7@gmail.com> (preferred) or phone 301-545-0808. In your e-mail notification, please confirm that you have read and agree to the waiver and rules. Please include "Havre De Grace" in the subject of your email message to make it easier for Jonathan to find.



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.

**NATIONAL SCIENCE OLYMPIAD** Junior member Conrad Smith went to the event again this year, this time to Madison WI, Univ. of WI on May 20-21. They switched his event from the topic of "Fossils" to "Aquifers." He was able to use all of his knowledge of Rocks and Minerals in environmental science. He really enjoyed it. They may be switching "Fossils" to "Rocks and Minerals" next year. Conrad is really looking forward to this!

People are being sought to act as judges for the events at the regional and state tournaments. The first tournament will be in January 2012 and the State Championship is in April 2012. If you are willing to help with this project contact Linda Smith 301-530-5007 or e-mail <Tunacat107@aol.com>. She will have more specific information at the September meeting.





**FUTURE ROCKHOUNDS OF AMERICA**

**MINI MINERS**

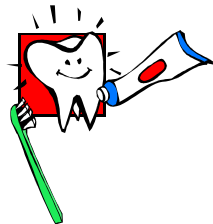
**FOR AGES 6-9 ONLY:**

**Next Meeting Date:** June 13, 2011 **Meeting time:** 7:00-8:00 pm

**Meeting Location:** The Card room at the Rockville Senior Center



At the May 9th meeting of the Mini Miners we learned about Fossils. We learned about the different types of fossils (mold, cast, trace and true form), the different ways fossils occur, the Ancient Life - Time Line and examined some fossil specimens. We also made our own fossil-like impressions or molds, using real shell and coral fossils, clay and plaster of Paris.



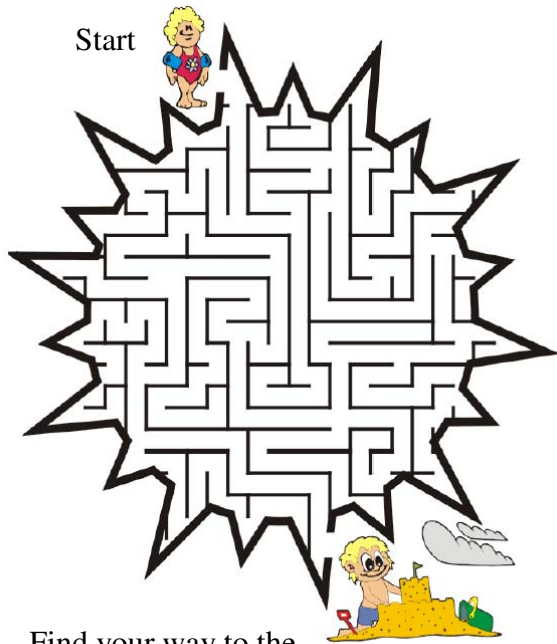
The topic for the June meeting will be discussing how we use rocks and minerals in our daily lives and where we can find them in our homes. Our make it/take it activity will bring a smile to your dentist as we make our own toothpaste!

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

- Q: Why did the dinosaur cross the road?
- Q: What comes after extinction?
- Q: What comes after Y-tinction?

- A: The chicken hadn't evolved yet.
- A: y-tinction, of course!
- A: Z-end!

**Delaware Valley Earth Science Society Crossword  
Puzzle From DVESScapedes Dec 2010**



Find your way to the Sand Collector

- CRUST
- GLACIER
- AFTERSHOCK
- EARTHQUAKE
- AMPHIBOLE
- ANDALUSITE
- ARCHES
- ASBESTOS
- AUGITE
- BASALT
- TECTONICS
- BAUXITE
- BIOTITE
- BORNITE
- BRECCIA
- BUTTES
- GEOPHYSICS
- COQUIN
- CRATER
- CHERT

b y E d L o v e l a n d															
D	J	C	C	Z	R	A	P	S	E	H	C	R	A	A	F
T	E	I	H	D	A	N	I	U	Q	O	C	A	S	U	A
T	E	N	O	I	T	E	R	C	N	O	C	M	B	G	U
L	O	N	N	R	E	T	A	R	C	P	E	P	E	I	L
A	H	A	D	K	T	I	Y	E	G	E	A	H	S	T	T
S	P	B	R	C	A	S	S	I	T	E	R	I	T	E	L
A	E	A	U	A	R	U	E	C	S	S	T	B	O	C	A
B	I	R	L	R	E	L	L	A	U	C	H	O	S	T	D
O	F	E	E	N	M	A	I	L	R	I	Q		N	O	I
R	B	D	T	O	O	D	T	G	C	S	U	E	E	N	O
N	U	L	I	T	L	N	O	W	H	Y	A	B	T	I	H
I	T	A	T	I	G	A	S	I	E	H	K	A	I	C	C
T	T	C	O	T	N	N	Y	E	R	P	E	Y	X	S	N
E	E	Z	I	E	O	B	R	U	T	O	N	O	U	J	O
A	S	R	B	K	C	O	H	S	R	E	T	F	A	E	C
E	T	I	M	O	R	H	C	N	B	G	N	A	B	S	A

- CONGLOMERATE
- CASSITERITE
- CHRYSOTILE
- CONCHOIDAL
- FAULT
- CHROMITE
- CINNABAR
- CONCRETION
- CARNOTITE
- CHONDRULE
- CALDERA



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

**Meeting Date:** June 13, 2011 **Meeting time:** 7:45 - 9:00 pm

**Meeting Location:** Sunroom Cafeteria at the Rockville Senior Center

CONGRATULATIONS TO: Jennifer Weiss and Ryan Gunnison who earned and were awarded the A.F.M.S. Future Rockhound program designation of "Rockhound". There are only five A.F.M.S. Rockhounds in the state of Maryland, and four of them are members of our chapter. Well done MOCKS!

KUDOS ALSO TO: Kevin McCright who earned Gemstone Lore & Legend and Showmanship badges; Jennifer Weiss, Trevor Babb, Cassie DeSalvo who earned the Showmanship badge; and Ryan Gunnison who earned the Showmanship and Collecting badges.

Photos by W. Mohr



**May 9 Meeting Program:** We learned about crystal formation, including the impact it has on mineral properties, and covered the seven crystal groups. We constructed some examples to help us visualize the different crystal structures and everyone in the group went home with a crystal growing kit.

**Assignment:** For those who grew crystals at home using the provided kit, please bring in your crystal or a photo of it to receive credit toward the Rock and Mineral badge assignment.

**June 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting Program:** We are honored to have as guest speaker, Mineralogist, Michael Wise of the Department of Mineral Sciences, Natural History Museum, Smithsonian Institution, who will discuss "Minerals in Our Daily Lives." This is a component of the Earth Resources badge, and Dr. Wise will share his knowledge of the vast, and often surprising, impact that minerals have on our daily activities.

**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.



When a warming trend hit the Arctic, scientists were assigned to watch glaciers in danger of splitting. Naturally, all of the researchers had to have good ice sight.

It is the time of Pangea. What did the oceans say when they hadn't seen each other in years? Long time, no sea.



**JUNE 10** 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.

**JUNE 11** Saturday, EFMLS Region IV Annual Picnic & Swap at Lake Anna State Park VA. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Pavilion #1 at Lake Anna State Park, Virginia. Directions: I-95, to exit # 118 Thornburg; go west on VA 606 to VA 208, follow VA 208 to VA 601, right on VA 601 and continue to Park entrance on left; follow Park Road to lake, pavilion #1 is around on the left, well past the beach facilities. Via Rock Talk, Southern MD

**JUNE 18** The Patuxent Lapidary Guild auction and members' sale, 169 Defense Hwy., Annapolis MD. Auction preview will begin at 9 am and the auction starts at 10 am. The members' sale will begin immediately after the auction. Non members may not offer their items for sale but are welcome to buy sale material.



**JULY 9-10** Final Notice EFMLS/AFMS Convention and Show hosted by the Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse. Show at NY State Fairgrounds. Headquarters hotel: Ramada Inn Syracuse, \$99 per room if you call 315 457 8670 and ask for Eastern Federation rate. AFMS meetings July 7 - 8. EFMLS Annual meeting Friday, July 8. This will be a very big show since it



is a combined show for their Society, Eastern, and US Federations. While in the vicinity you might also want to visit the world famous "Herkimer Diamond" locations, about 1 1/2 hour drive from Syracuse. For information: <www.gmss.us> click on "Gem Show" or call Cathy Patterson 315 638 8817

★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
**PRIVATE SALE!**

All Remaining Minerals from the  
Larry Krause Collection at

**50% off**  
—ONE DAY ONLY—

**Sat., June 11, 2011**  
11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

**1106 Gypsy Lane West  
TOWSON, MARYLAND**

Dulaney Valley Rd. (Exit 27N off Baltimore Beltway 695)  
Turn right on Hampton Lane immediately after Beltway overpass.  
Go one mile, passing National Historic Site, and turn right on  
Gypsy Lane. #1106 is on the right.

**R.S.V.P.**

Fred Parker, parkermineral@comcast.net,  
or Alice Cherbonnier, 410-828-0024

**July 2** Class # 517627 and }  
**August 6** Class #517628 }

**Cabochons**

Clearwater Nature Center, Cosca Regional Park,  
11000 Thrift Road, Clinton MD. Learn basics using  
supplied equipment. Bring safety goggles and  
apron to class. 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Ages 18 and  
up. Fee: \$30 Residents  
of Montgomery or Prince  
Georges Counties, \$36  
non-residents.

Call 301 297 4575 for  
information and to  
register.



As is customary, this is not  
an endorsement of a  
commercial sale.

Maryland  
**GEMGIRL**



**SHOW TABLE:** May 9th, 2011. Thanks to those who bring items for sharing at the meetings.

<u>Exhibitor</u>	<u>Specimen (s)</u>	<u>Locality</u>
Frances Becker	Calcite*	Churchville MD
Boe Brosius	Rutile	Hidden Valley Mine, NC
	Carrollite	Kamoto Pit, Shaba, Dem. Repl. Of Congo
Barbara Burr	Calcite*	Churchville Quarry, MD
Jeff Cessna	Calcite, Microcline*	Sterling Hill Mine, Ogdensburg NJ
	Crazy Calcite, Sphalerite*	Sterling Hill Mine, Ogdensburg NJ
George Durland	Franklinite crystals (tetrahedrons & octahedrons)	Franklin NJ
	Margarosonite and Pectolite	Franklin NJ
	Microcline	Diamar District, Northern Pakistan
Gerald Elgert	Metal(?)*	Dundalk MD
Eric Kindahl	Calcium-Aluminum inclusions in carbonaceous chondrite meteorite	NW Africa
CV3-NWA 3318, 4.567-4.571 Billion years old		
Diane Leaman	Calcite*	Churchville MD
Gary Leaman	Kunzite, Sodalite	Afghanistan
	Dogtooth Calcite, Stilbite*	Vulcan Manassas Quarry VA
	Dogtooth Calcite*	Woods County OH
Wendell Mohr	Albertosaurus \$0.50 Coin	Canada Mint
	Sinosauropteryx \$0.50 Coin	Canada Mint
Andy Muir	Calcite	Washington Courthouse PA
Joel Rosen	Calcite	York, York County, PA
Earl Smith	Creedite	Durango, Mexico
Rod Towers	Microscope and Minerals	

\* = Self-collected or self made



← The Better Half (?) of the Fluorescent Fans. What Are They Doing in There?



Photos by W. Mohr





Take out the fortune before you eat the cookie!

By Wendell Mohr

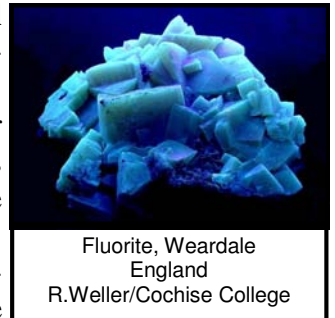
**WEB SITES**

**Luminous Minerals, Superfluorescence, and Franklin and Sterling Hill Minerals**, are a triple set of non-commercial web sites all by Herb Yeates featuring fluorescent minerals.

<<http://luminousminerals.com/>> includes Franklin at night from the Trotter dig, Greenland minerals, and trips. An excellent photo gallery allows vicarious exposure to the beautiful specimens. Other subjects include Karpatite, Benitoite and Scheelite.

<<http://superfluorescence.com/>> concerns itself with fluorescent mineral photography. An outstandingly well done set of pictures which alternate from white light to Fluorescent exposure constitutes the home page. Click the images for a gallery of fluorescent mineral photos where you may select short, medium, or long wave exposure. Minerals from Franklin, Greenland, and other localities are shown. Links to both the Franklin and Sterling Hill Mining Museums are given. The site also has a bit about photochromic or tenebrescent, a favorite of George Durland.

<<http://franklin-sterlinghill.com/>> limits itself to Franklin and Sterling hill and offers access to Franklin minerals, Selected chapters from *Franklin and Sterling Hill, New Jersey: the world's most magnificent mineral deposits*, Published in 1995 by Pete J. Dunn of the Smithsonian Institution and Palache on-line, A classic older study Published by the USGS in 1935 of the area's minerals. • Fluorescent mineral collectors are like moths drawn to the she-lite • • He thought he had to go to the Southwest for fluorescents but soon found out the meaning of SW •



Fluorite, Weardale  
England  
R.Weller/Cochise College



Fluorescent Scorpion!  
R. Weller/Cochise College

**NM Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources** (A Division of NM Tech.), Spring issue of *Lite Geology* at <[http://geoinfo.nmt.edu/publications/periodicals/litegeology/29/lite\\_geo\\_29spring11.pdf](http://geoinfo.nmt.edu/publications/periodicals/litegeology/29/lite_geo_29spring11.pdf)>, has some intriguing articles and features. Evolution of Magnification and Role of Solving a Geological Problem is accompanied by a photo gallery and is of interest to all, but micromineralogists in particular. There is a crossword puzzle. NM's most wanted mineral concerns Galena, other items will catch your attention.

• Ways of Knowing You're in the Desert in the summer: You notice the best parking place is determined by shade instead of distance. You discover that in July, it takes only 2 fingers to drive your car. You no longer associate bridges (or rivers) with water. You eat hot chilies to cool your mouth off. Hot water now comes out of both taps. You can make instant sun tea. And lastly, you even learn quickly not to grab your COLD chisel after it's been in the direct sun. •



The Organ Mtns., Las Cruces, NM  
Photo Courtesy of U.S. BLM

**May 9th PRIZES**

**Juniors:** Abbie Olshin was awarded a specimen of "Tiger Eye" from Yinnithara, Australia, a Dinosaur Model, and a copy of *Rock and Gem Magazine*.

Elena Olshin, twin of Abbie, for a clean sweep by that family, won a specimen of "Tiger Eye" from S. Africa, A Calcite (Locality unknown), a crab toy, and a copy of *Rock and Gem Magazine*.

**Show Table Prize,** A Calcite from Ozark Mahoning #1 Mine, Hardin County, IL was taken home by George Durland.

**General Door Prize,** A pendant of blue Aragonite with two beads was claimed by Gerald Elgert.

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

**WEDDING BELLS**

On Saturday, May 7th, member Lawrence Davis was married to Katherine Ebeling. Lawrence is a geologist for EA Engineering, an environmental consulting firm, out of Hunt Valley, MD. Katherine, his bride, is a dermatological representative for Galderma. They recently returned from a two-week whirlwind honeymoon of Lake Tahoe, San Francisco, and Maui.

Lawrence has been collecting for about a decade now and has dug all over the lower 48 states. He prefers pegmatite minerals (beryl, fluorapatite, etc.) and quartz crystals. He even convinced Katherine to go dig quartz crystals at Petersen Mountain in California on their honeymoon!

Best wishes from us all for a rocky marriage and avoiding a rocky marriage.

**JEFF NAGY IN PRINT**

Photo by W. Mohr

Jeff is excited that his manuscript, "The Fountain Company, 1744–1764: A Pre-Revolutionary Copper Mining Company in Colonial Maryland," has been accepted for publication in the summer issue of the Maryland Historical Society's magazine. "Maryland Historical Magazine" is now in its 103rd consecutive year of publication. Jeff has generously shared some of the content of his research in presentations made to the Society. Congratulations, Jeff, keep up the good work.

**AFMS SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION HONOREES**

The honorary recipient is Professor Dr. William L. Blewett, Department Chair, Geography-Earth Science Department, Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania. The two students selected by Dr. Blewett to receive the actual monetary award are:

Veronica Woodlief, majoring in Geoenvironmental Studies.

Kevin Eaton, who holds a BS in meteorology, also majoring in Geoenvironmental Studies.

Our contributions to the AFMS Scholarship Program help support this effort.

**PATUXENT LAPIDARY GUILD CLASSES**

Held at the PLG workshop, 169 Defense Highway (Lower level), Annapolis MD, are several classes in which you might have interest:

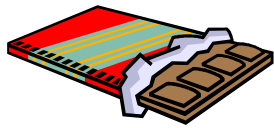
1. Two day structured class, *Making Jump Rings for Chain Maille and Chain Maille Bracelet*, Sun. June 12, and Sun. June 19th 10 am to 6 pm with a lunch break. Register at <car4jewelry@aol.com>.
2. Sat. June 25, Register at <car4jewelry@aol.com> by June 12. *Wire Sculpture Pearl Pendant*, 10 am to 6 pm with a lunch break.
3. Sun. June 26, register by June 15 by calling 410 215 1774. *Basic Precious Metal Clay (PMC)*, 9 am to 5 pm with a lunch break.
4. Sun. July 10, register by June 30 by calling 410 215 1774. *Enameling On PMC*, 10 am to 4 pm with a lunch break.

There are class and material fees for these classes. Some personally owned tools are needed. See <<http://www.patuxentlapidary.org/>>.





CHOCOLATE,



COFFEE,



AND EGGS



Chocolate, coffee, and eggs all used to be “bad” for us. Then, they were “good” for us. Next, they went back to being bad. Fortunately, the last time I checked, they are now on and, hopefully, will stay on the good list (assuming moderate consumption). Safety rules are another matter. Safety rules do not waffle back and forth as to whether or not they are good for us. It has always been and always will be good and proper for us to wear our safety goggles when hammering rocks. It has always been and always will be good for us to let others know our whereabouts when we go collecting; to bring a first aid kit with us; to keep our tools in good shape; to wear proper attire for the task at hand; to handle acids with the utmost caution; and--well, I could go on, but I think you have the general idea.

It is indeed true that things change. For example, hammer metallurgy will improve, but it will never be wise to use a nail-driving hammer for hammering rocks. Different types of hammers are designed to do different things. Nail hammer metallurgy will improve, but the hammer will still be designed to hit only nails, not rocks. The steel in hammers used to drive nails is not hardened the way the steel in rock hammers is. To use the wrong hammer is to risk certain damage not only to the hammer but more importantly to ourselves.

Glove material will improve, as will goggles, chisels, diamond drills, and many other tools. Our hands however will always need protection, as will our eyes, toes, bare arms, and so on. The technology will change, but for the foreseeable future, we will still need to protect ourselves.

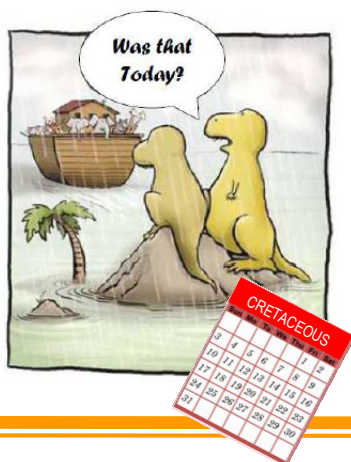
We sometimes think of risks as not applying to us. Here in Maine, where I live, we may think of rattlesnakes, scorpions, and old mine shafts as dangers for those folks who do their collecting way out west. Well, let me set the record straight. While the only scorpions we see are usually in glass display cases, we should be mindful that the New England states have their share of dangerous snakes, including rattlers. One can also find extremely dangerous mine shafts, adits, and loose talus slopes as well as sheer rock walls and cliffs. Mine shafts are never wise to explore. If you’ve ever seen any of those Discovery or National Geographic programs about old mine, cave, or similar underground exploration, you will have, no doubt, noted the elaborate and extensive preparations needed for those explorations. Such explorations are best left to the professionals. The dangers are very real and the rules for working with, in, and around them do indeed apply to us. Your safety matters.



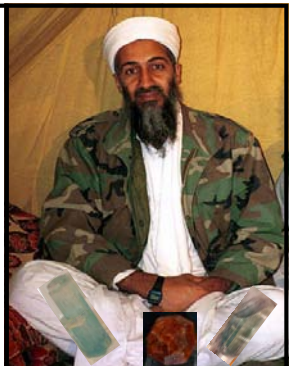
Photo by W. Mohr

By Ellery Borow, Safety Chair, from EFMLS News, May 2011 and AFMS

Newsletter June 2011

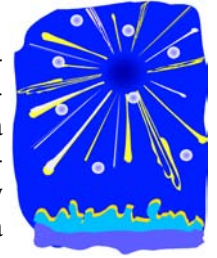


**From the late Osama Bin Laden collection: finest pegmatite minerals from Afghanistan and Pakistan for sale. Estate sale by The Navy Seals!**



## TUNGUSKA, THE COSMIC HIT OF THE CENTURY

From Andrew Alden, *Your Guide to Geology* 6/23/08.



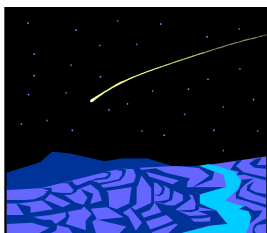
Russia was in a bad way in 1908. The Russian empire, already on its last legs, had been humiliated by Japan in a naval war three years before. The first of several revolutions had already occurred. The Czar was clinging to power with bloody crackdowns. And early on June 30, 1908, a few thousand scattered people in deepest Siberia witnessed a blinding, deafening blast that destroyed a vast region of taiga forest around the remote Tunguska River. In Moscow, nobody cared. There was nothing out there, for one thing. There was no easy way to reach the Tunguska region, for another. And there was no money to send an expedition anyway to track down the outlandish stories from the deep woods. At the end of that day, the first of several "white nights" affected northern Europe, so bright that you could read a newspaper all night. But those newspapers had nothing connecting this phenomenon to the event in Siberia. In fact, it took many years for Soviet scientists to reach the scene and reconstruct what had happened. It took many more years before all the facts reached the rest of the world, and longer still before we all realized just how important the Tunguska event is for the future of civilization. Today it is thought to have been a cosmic impact.

**What's at Tunguska?** The Tunguska event included seismic waves and infrasonic disturbances that were recorded around the world. Bright clouds and glowing skies were widely seen. But these also have terrestrial causes. The main evidence that points specifically to a cosmic impact is eyewitness accounts and the destruction at the scene. Stories were collected from the inhabitants of the Tunguska region, and while not all of them agree, there was a general trend. A great searing light crossed the sky from south to north, followed by tremendous booms and shaking. Around the central scene, more than 2000 square kilometers of forest was destroyed by fire and shock. Tree trunks were laid out flat, their tops pointing away from the central site. Detailed analyses suggest that a tight cluster of explosions occurred rather than a single one.

Unfortunately, no meteorites or large craters have yet been found to conclusively prove a cosmic impact, whether from an asteroid or a comet. (The differences are important: asteroids would be stone or iron bodies in relatively slow and predictable trajectories; comets would be icy bodies with high velocities coming from unexpected directions.) In the century since 1908, new expeditions have returned to Tunguska again and again to collect evidence from ground zero. A recent Italian expedition, for instance, found what may be an impact crater that could hold a large fragment of an impactor. And more and more scientists are finding room for new ideas in the body of evidence. And some scientists continue to hold that the cause of the Tunguska event was not from outer space but from a poorly known tectonic mechanism a poorly known tectonic mechanism, perhaps similar to that of near-surface earthquakes and earthquake lights.

**What Tunguska Means** Assuming that a cosmic impact is indeed what happened, the world was lucky in 1908. An impact of Tunguska's size could very easily have struck the ocean, where it would have raised a tsunami twice the size of those produced by the largest earthquakes. If it had struck a highly populated area, the deaths would have numbered in the millions and the injuries even more. Such events occur on Earth on the order of once a century, on the average. It may seem odd, therefore, that the Tunguska event is the only one that we have ever studied on the ground. Here's why it isn't so odd.

First of all, it's only in the latest two centuries that civilization has kept track of the whole world or anything near it. Before that, most parts of the world did not keep consistent, long-term records of natural events, and the oceans, two-thirds of the globe, were largely deserted. Furthermore, the signs of an impact are not permanent. Craters form in some cases, such as Meteor Crater in Arizona, but in many cases, including Siberia, impactors explode far above the ground. At Tunguska, the airburst knocked down and burned trees over thousands of square kilometers, but fallen trees rot away and new ones grow within decades. The signs that remain would be quite subtle, and we haven't searched the whole planet yet that intensively. And of course an ocean impact would leave no craters either.



But there still are lots of human records to search. Records of sea level and tides have been kept for several centuries, and maybe there are impact-generated tsunamis to be found in them. And ancient writings have tantalizing hints of some very nasty events. Geologists have begun to argue, with archaeologists strongly dissenting, that geological events are just as good at destroying civilizations as famine, war and civil unrest. Bob Kobres's *Comets, Culture, and Currency* web site is a first-rate exploration of the records of the oldest empires. These stories remind us how lucky we've been since those times.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

President- Eric Kindahl, 301 Violet Court, Mount Airy MD 21771-5206	301 829 2161
Vice President- Owen Powers, 2810 Abilene Drive, Chevy Chase MD 20815-3015	301 587 9275
Secretary- Jeff Cessna, 12116 Cliftdale Drive, Silver Spring MD 20904-1941	301 680 7963
Treasurer- Andy Muir, 17949 Hazelcrest Drive, Gaithersburg MD 20877-3761	301 990 1370
Junior Advisor- Rod Towers, 19609 Gunners Branch. Rd., Germantown MD 20876-2738	301 972 1264
Field Trip Chairman- Jonathan Harris, 11932 Goya Drive, Potomac MD 20854-3313	301 545 0808
Membership Chairman- Doug Baum, 11205 Golden Meadow Court, Germantown MD 20876-1740	301 515 4641
Show Chairperson- Pat Repik-Byrne, 9 Starlight Court, Potomac MD 20854-2658	301 279 5962
Property Manager- Joel Rosen, 833 Rampart Way, Union Bridge MD 21791-9325	410 775 7937
Immediate Past President- Mark Dahlman, 11906 Scovell Terrace, Germantown MD 20874-2532	301 428 0455
EFMLS Liaison- Wendell Mohr, 9509 Emory Grove Road, Gaithersburg MD 20877-3501	301 926 7190
Bulletin Editor <b>Pro Tem</b> Wendell Mohr, 9509 Emory Grove Road, Gaithersburg MD 20877-3501	301 926 7190

Charter Member: Dan Spielman; Life Members: David Ballard, Jack Busch, Larry Harrison,  
Wendell Mohr, Juan Proaño, and Dan Spielman

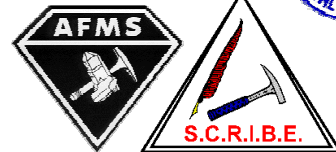
Society Address: Gem, Lapidary, and Mineral Society of Montgomery County MD., Inc.  
P. O. Box 444, Gaithersburg MD 20884-0444 Web Site: <http://www.glmsmc.com/>  
All Society correspondence is to be sent to this address except that which is intended for the  
Rockhounder and its editor. Such items are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



Permission to copy material printed herein, except specifically copyrighted items, is granted, provided credit is given.



Award Winning  
Bulletin  
EFMLS, AFMS



FIRST CLASS MAIL  
DATED MATERIAL  
TIME SENSITIVE



THE ROCKHOUNDER  
Gem, Lapidary, and Mineral Society  
Of Montgomery County, Md., Inc.  
Wendell C. Mohr, Editor  
9509 Emory Grove Road  
Gaithersburg MD 20877-3501

