

THE ROCKHOUNDER



MARCH 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 March 14th** 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. **Dr. Jeff Plescia** will speak on the **Chesapeake Bay Impact Crater**, a 50 mile wide crater that lies beneath the Delmarva Peninsula. He currently works at the Applied Physics Laboratory of the Johns Hopkins University. Before that he worked at the U.S. Geological Survey and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory. His research interests include impact craters, lunar geology, hyperthermophile organisms in Yellowstone, and Mars. He received a M.S. and Ph.D. in geophysics from the University of Southern California and a BS in geology from the University of Miami.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS will NOT meet in March.

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



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

GILLESPIE, Alison and BRIGLIA, David, 1826 Brisbane Court, Silver Spring MD
20902-4018, 301 754 3830, algillespie@rcn.com.
Sam Briglia (07/01), Grace Briglia (08/03)

RETURNED FORMER MEMBERS:

COLVIN, David, & TYLER, Charlotte, 5301 Westbard Circle
#341, Bethesda MD 20816-1431, 240 388 8618,
CATyler@fcps.edu
NAGY, William, 11110 Troy Road, Rockville MD 20852-2436,
301 770 1993, Audrey.BillNagy@yahoo.com

THIS IS IT - - THE MONTH OF THE BIG SHOW

Publicity is out. Dealers are signed up. Security, tables and chairs, snack bar, and many other items have been arranged by your show workers. It is going to be another GREAT Show! But volunteers are still needed. If you have not enlisted to support the show, come to the March meeting to sign up for one of the many openings that still need to be filled. Your participation is sorely needed.

DEADLINE for Apr. 2011 Rockhounder: Mar. 28th

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SAFER COLLECTING AND SOME THINGS TO MAKE YOU THINK! Excerpted from article by Andrew Brodeur, Connecticut Valley Mineral Club From AFMS Newsletter Feb 2011.

Everything we do has a certain amount of risk involved and mineral collecting is no different. We are constantly going to remote places with rough unfamiliar terrain and once you start getting comfortable with them is when the bad stuff can happen! Complacency will get you in trouble every time but with a little planning, maybe you won't come back with more than a scrape and sore knees.

We go to some fairly remote places and the more remote they are the more you need to be thinking about the moves you are making and staying safe, no mineral specimen is worth an injury in the field! In my opinion the most dangerous places we go as a club are in steep, rough terrain, quite a distance into the woods and where there is **NO CELL PHONE CONTACT!** Other places have similar hazards as well as snakes and if you fall there, you are going for quite a rough ride all the way to the bottom.

I think the most valuable thing you can know when you go out collecting is know where you are, sounds funny doesn't it? How many times have you headed out on a field trip following the trip leader and the only concern is not losing sight of his vehicle or the guy in front of you, you get to the location and off you go. If something happened to you or another person and you needed help, could you tell a rescuer or emergency person where you are and how to get to you? **KNOW WHERE YOU ARE!** Location, Street, and Town will allow help to get to you faster. You should also notice some landmarks on your way in, this will also help you tell people how to get to you. When you dial 911 from a cell phone it doesn't always go to the closest police station, it may go to the closest State Police Barracks and it may be in a different town. If you can't tell them how to get to you, you have just lost precious time and you just added being lost to the problem, and your rescuers have to try and figure out where you are and get you out too!

If you need help, tell the people what's your emergency? The type of injury, adult, child, male, female, **HOW BIG ARE THEY?** What is being done for them in the field. It could take a dozen or more rescuers to get one person out of a bad situation. If you don't have a cell connection and you need to send another person or persons for help, they will have to know all of the afore mentioned things to get to help and to lead them back to the location to help the injured person. They should try to get to the car as fast as possible **WITHOUT** getting hurt in the process. Try to make a mental note of the closest house or store as you drive in to the site just in case you need to go for help and a phone.

If a person can't get up on their own after an accident, don't move them! If they aren't alert to **PERSON, PLACE** or **TIME** and other everyday things they should know, they shouldn't be moved. These are signs of a serious head injury and moving them could be very dangerous. Keep them warm, dry, and awake. If the person is unconscious try and place them on their left side so if they vomit, they don't aspirate it into their lungs. It would be a shame to get them out alive only to have them die of a respiratory infection a week later. If you have the option of staying with the injured person and send another person for help, do just that, getting the person and all your gear out of the woods and driving them to a hospital yourself wastes precious time in them receiving the critical care they may need, **LEAVE IT TO THE PROS!**



There is some information that should be shared before you go out alone or in a group. Tell people where you are going and what time you plan on being back, if more than an hour over due you should be making a phone call to the local or state police so they can see if the collector's vehicle is still where they planned on going.

If you are leading a group, you should know who is a diabetic or allergic to bees just in case there is a problem and do they carry their meds with them? Is there anybody with you that has first aid kit or any medical training? Don't take unnecessary chances look up before you settle down to do any collecting, are you sitting under a hanging dead branch or tree? Use your head and eyes and be aware of your surroundings, know where you are and what's around you. Don't be afraid to tell the person near you if they are in a bad spot, you may see something they don't. With just a little knowledge and planning you can make your collecting trips much safer for yourself and others in your group, nothing can put a damper on a great day faster than an injury or incident that might have been preventable. Have fun, be safe and come to the next meeting with a good story about your collecting trip.

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

The February 14, 2011 meeting was called to order by President Eric Kindahl at 7:42 pm, with approximately 52 people attending. It was M/S/P to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2011 regular and January 24, 2011 Board of Directors meetings.

President: Eric Kindahl passed around the show volunteer sheets and reminded the members that the show depends on them for success.

Rod Towers administered the door prize drawing for juniors.

Treasurer: Andy Muir reported there were no changes in the club finances, they are still in good shape. Andy still had some of the special order of name badges. See Andy to pick up yours.

EFMLS Liaison & February Guest Editor: Wendell Mohr discussed the upcoming Larry Krause sale, without endorsement. He discussed upcoming classes; Audubon talks and children's summer programs; and upcoming east coast club shows (see details, this newsletter). Wendell has the application forms for the Wildacres sessions this year.

Show: Eric Kindahl noted that we still had 14 exhibit cases to fill. Mark Dahlman echoed Eric's message that the show depends greatly on the volunteer efforts of the club members. Jeff Cessna requested volunteers to help prepare workshop cabochon pre-forms for next year, see Jeff.

David Maclean announced the upcoming 38th annual Atlantic Micromounters' Conference.

Presentation: Vice president Owen Powers introduced the speaker for the evening, Chris Seagle from the Mineral Sciences Department of the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History. Chris presented *The Nature of the Earth's Core*. The presentation covered what we think we know and how we came to those conclusions, for the most remote part of the earth, given that we most likely will never have a sample from there. By studying the propagation of the two different types of waves created in large earthquakes and how they reflect and refract on different structures, scientists can form a picture of the interior of the earth. To test theories about what is found in the core Chris takes simple materials like iron with a little oxygen, silicon, or both to as close to the extremes of pressure and temperature as can be produced in the lab, a field of study called Mineral Physics. Chris also discussed theories about what's going on at the boundaries in the core. Finally, he patiently answered many planetary questions. No mention of popular fiction was made. Thanks Chris.



Photo by W. Mohr

It was M/S/P to accept the membership application of Alison Gillespie, David Briglia, and juniors Sam and Grace Briglia.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:54 PM. Jeff Cessna, Secretary.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

February 21, 2011 Board of Director's Meeting

Board members present: Doug Baum, Jeff Cessna, Mark Dahlman, Jonathan Harris, Eric Kindahl, Wendell Mohr, Andy Muir, Pat Repik-Byrne. Prior to the arrival of Eric, a quorum called the February 21, 2011 meeting to order at 7:39 pm.

Treasurer: Andy Muir discussed the club finances. The Fairground has been paid. There was still one outstanding dealer check yet to be received. Andy discussed the audit with Steve McNeil. We are waiting for a certificate of insurance from our insurance carrier for both the Show and field trips.

Field Trips: Jonathan discussed an upcoming field trip and his efforts to secure more trips. Suggestions were solicited for ways to give back to the quarry employees that give of their time.

President: Eric Kindahl discussed the Eastern Federation meeting this summer in Syracuse, NY and the need for club representation. It was decided that Wendell Mohr would be a delegate. Eric has the meeting schedule if others are interested.

EFMLS Liaison and Guest Editor: Wendell Mohr reported that Joel Rosen had possession of a show table sample left behind. Joel will contact the owner. The question of requirements that FRA parents be club members was discussed. Parents are encouraged to join. Requests from the website for Boy Scout presentations were discussed. It was M/S/P that no BOD meeting was necessary in March. The ever lengthening list of possibilities for Rockhounder editor was considered. A new editor has still not been found for the Rockhounder. Please consider giving back to the club by volunteering.

Show: Doug Baum discussed possible promotional opportunities for the show that he will pursue, including buying keywords for searches. Pat Repik-Byrne announced that available exhibit cases were pretty well filled. A presentation to the FRA was well received with 10 juniors signing up for cases. A criterion to be used for judging junior cases was presented. Pat distributed the current list of demonstrators. The list was updated with recent information. The volunteer list was discussed. There are still many openings that need to be filled without the necessary floaters to fill them. Especially needed are help in the shop and for the raffle. Andy Muir will head the dealer donation and purchase for the raffle and door prize. Mark Dahlman will provide Andy with the information sent to dealers. The following tasks were assigned: Andy Muir – coffee and tea provisions, and placing of indoor and outdoor signs; Mark Dahlman – tape, scissors, markers, and poster board; Pat Repik-Byrne will pick up the large outdoor sign; and Wendell Mohr will provide the coffee pot, signs to be posted, Eastern Federation directory, club brochure, Windex, and paper towels. Wendell noted that the built in “more exhibits” neon sign in the rear of the downstairs room should be covered and a dealers upstairs sign should be situated appropriately. The number of certificates per exhibitor and demonstrator was discussed. Wendell sent flyers to all local clubs. Flyers were available especially early this year. Thanks, George Durland. The requirement for one six foot and one eight foot table behind the ticket sales table was noted. Mark Dahlman has a solution for the students needing service certificates. Pre-forms are on schedule to be complete in time. Jo Ann Mohr has produced 625 bags for the children's give-aways.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:06 PM.

Jeff Cessna, Secretary

FIELD TRIPS

Saturday April 2, 7:20 am to noon. Vulcan Havre De Grace Quarry.

Meet at the office at 7:20 AM. Minimum age for attending is 10. Minors under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent and both must be club members. Notify Field Trip Chairman Jonathan Harris by March 27, at email <jgharris7@gmail.com> (preferred) or phone 301-545-0808. In your notification, please confirm that you have read and agree to the waiver and rules at the web site <<http://www.novamineralclub.org/calendar/details/273148-vulcan-havre-de-grace-quarry>>. Please include "Havre De Grace" in the subject of your email message to make it easier for him to find. The Havre De Grace Quarry mines Port Deposit gneiss, diabase, and mettagabbro. Among the minerals reported found are epidote, pyrite, zeolites, siderite, titanite, feldspar crystals, and quartz. Further information about the quarry and geology are also on the Northern VA Mineral Club web site.



Circumstances beyond our control -- weather or problems at the quarry can cause last minute cancellations so it is advisable to check 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.

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. Allow about 1 3/4 hours from Rockville.



Courtesy of Google Earth



LETTER OF THANKS FROM JEFFREY POST

Smithsonian
National Museum of Natural History

January 19, 2011

Mr. Eric Kindahl, President, Gem, Lapidary & Mineral Society of Montgomery County, MD, Inc.
P. O. BOX 444, Gaithersburg, MD, 20884-0444

It gives me great pleasure to formally thank the Gem, Lapidary & Mineral Society of Montgomery County, MD, Inc. for the very generous gift of \$4000.00 to be used for the purchase of three crystalline gold specimens from Venezuela for the Smithsonian's National Gem and Mineral Collection. These beautiful crystals represent a unique and significant addition to our collection. As you are aware, our mineral acquisition funds are very limited, and therefore, the financial support provided over the years by your organization has been much appreciated and has contributed greatly to the building of our collection. When the gold specimens are exhibited or shown as images, they will be acknowledged as gifts from the Gem, Lapidary, Mineral Society of Montgomery County, MD, Inc.

Finally, I would also like to thank you and the members of your organization for your continued interest in and support of our National Gem and Mineral Collection and for your gracious hospitality to me when I attend your meetings and shows.

Best Regards,

Jeffrey E. Post
Curator

National Gem and Mineral Collection

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
National Museum of Natural History
10th & Constitution Avenue NW
Washington DC 20560

REPLACEMENT CUTTING OIL

Submitted by James Kostka

Rock and gem cutters are asking the question, "What am I going to do without my Texaco Almag oil." Phone calls confirmed that Almag Oil is not longer made. I received this message [Edited by Ed.] from a Chevron representative:

Subject: Almag Cutting Oil

Mr. Kostka,

Thank you for your interest in Chevron products.

The current replacement product for the former Texaco Almag Oil is the Chevron Bright-Cut NHG Metal Working Fluid (part number 233935).

Another product/recommendation: Chevron Superla #5 or Chevron Superla #7. (food grade mineral oil = less misting & easier cleanup) The part number for Chevron Superla #5 is 231013.

To locate distributors use web site: <www.chevronlubricants.com>. (HN Funkhouser, Winchester, VA, phone: 540-662-9000 is a Northern Virginia distributor.) For additional questions or technical information call 1 800 582 3835.

We greatly appreciate your business.

Teresa Wright, Policy, Government and Public Affairs, Chevron

1401 Eye St. NW, Suite 1200 Washington, DC 20005, Tel 202-408-5800, Fax 202-408-5845,
e-mail <wrightt@chevron.com>.

AGES 10-15:**Future Rockhounds of America (The MOCKS)****Meeting Date:** March 14, 2011 **Meeting time:** 7:45-9:00**Meeting Location:** Sunroom Cafeteria at the Rockville Senior Center

March 14 Meeting Program: The third segment in the Gemstone Lore & Legend badge – “Mysticism and Minerals”. We will discuss, from a historical and cultural angle, the many “powers” humans have attributed to minerals. For example: we will learn what gem was believed to provide safe passage on stormy seas, a gemstone that was thought to bring the plague, and a mineral thought to ward off evil.

February 14 Meeting recap: Pat Repik-Byrne spoke to the group about the Lillian Turner award and what the judges will be looking for in evaluating the displays prepared by juniors for the upcoming show. The group then discussed the slightly different criteria for the FRA specific Nancy Ballard award.

Main Meeting: We started work on the Gold Panning & Prospecting badge by looking at gold from many perspectives including: chemistry, physical properties, impact on history, a bit of mythology, and gold’s many and sometimes surprising uses. We learned the history behind why gold is measured in Karats/Carats, the difference between a Troy ounce and an Avoirdupois ounce, and about the various alloys and purities of gold. We compared the physical properties of gold to fool’s gold (Iron pyrite) and did some testing to prove the differences. Thanks to Jim Brace Thompson who donated some assay cups from the 1800s found in a closed gold mine out in California. It was interesting to see and hold what the 49ers likely used!

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

**NEW, FOR AGES 6-9 ONLY:****Future Rockhounds of America Mini Miners****Next Meeting Date:** March 14, 2011 **Meeting time:** 7:00-8:00 pm**Meeting Location:** The Card room at the Rockville Senior Center

In February the Mini Miners explored Igneous rock formations. We tested different igneous rocks to see which might float. We only found one specimen of pumice which was able to float. We learned about the how the cooling process causes different types of rocks. We looked at obsidian, Rhyolite, Granite and Gabbro and Basalt. We then made our own mini volcanoes to examine how lava would flow.

In our third session we will be studying Metamorphic Rock formations. If you have any questions, call Linda Smith 301-530-5007 or e-mail <Tunacat107@aol.com>.

47th ANNUAL GEM-MINERAL-FOSSIL SHOW

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY
FAIRGROUNDS**

MAR. 19 & MAR. 20, 2011
SAT. 10 AM-6 PM, SUN. 10 AM-5 PM

Presented by the Gem, Lapidary, &
Mineral Society of Mont. Co., MD,



**16 CHESTNUT STREET
GAITHERSBURG,
MARYLAND**

Adult Admission \$6.00
With This Ad \$5.00
Under Age 12 Free

Featuring World-Wide Treasures *Over 40 Exhibits *Door Prizes *Demonstrations
*Free Workshop *Free Specimens for the Kids *Free Kid's Mini Mine *Food For Sale
*Fluorescent Minerals *Raffle *Information Center *Plenty of Free Parking



Over 20 Dealers From Around the Country:

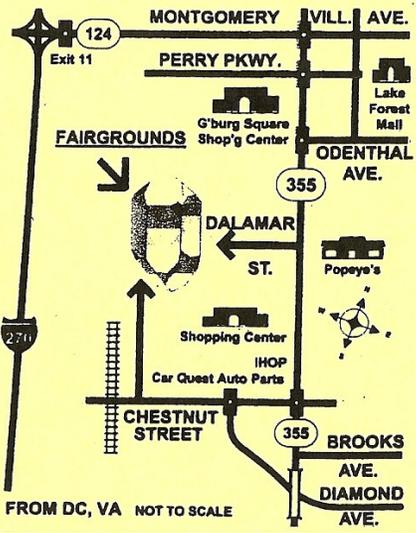
- *Fossils *Jewelry *Findings *Beads *Minerals *Geodes
- *Gifts *Shells *Slabs *Fluorescents *Books *Equipment
- *Carvings *Meteorites *Jewelry boxes *New age items
- *Gems & Gem Rough *And Much More

Website—WWW.GLMSMC.COM



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Income supports scholarships for college students in earth sciences, Science Fair awards, and gifts to the Smithsonian Institution's Gem and Mineral Hall



FROM DC, VA NOT TO SCALE

MARCH 26 & 27 Franklin County Rock and Mineral Club 33rd Annual Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show. Shalom Christian Academy, 126 Social Island Road, Chambersburg, PA. Take I-270 to I-70 West to I-81 and North to exit 10, PA 914 West to US 11. Go North a short distance and turn left onto Social Island Road. Shalom Christian Academy is on left. Saturday 10 am – 5 pm, Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM, Adults \$4, Children under 12 free with adult.

APRIL 1-3 Atlantic Micromounter's Conference, Sponsored by the Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area, MHA Conference Center, Elkridge MD.
Friday evening, Saturday and Sunday morning will include Tom Loomis, speaker, slide auction, "freebie table", and dealers. Tom's talks include: Black Hills Pegmatites and Their Minerals, and Phosphates from the Rasmussen Mine, Caribou ID, and Deadwood Formation: its Minerals and Mines.
Registration Steve Weinberger <cscrystals2@verizon.net>.

APRIL 30 - MAY 1 39th Annual NJESA Show sponsored by the Franklin-Ogdensburg Mineralogical Society in conjunction with the NJ Earth Sciences Association and the Sterling Hill Mining Museum. Franklin School, Franklin NJ

MAY 21 22nd Annual Chesapeake Gem & Mineral Show.
Ruhl Armory, MD Route 45 at I-695, Towson MD

JULY 9-10 EFMLS/AFMS Convention and Show hosted by the Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse. Show is at NY State Fairgrounds. Headquarters hotel: Ramada Inn Syracuse: \$99 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, and Eastern and US Federations. You might want to go to the world famous "Herkimer Diamond" locations, about 1 1/2 hour drive from Syracuse.
Information: <www.gmss.us> click on "Gem Show" or call Cathy Patterson 315 638 8817

DINOSAUR PARK 13200 Block of Mid-Atlantic Boulevard, Laurel, MD 20708, 301-627-7755. Dinosaur Park interpretive area is open from dawn to dusk 7 days a week. The public is invited to participate in hands-on programs in the fossil area on the first and third Saturdays of every month from 12 noon until 4 pm. Featuring a rare deposit of fossils from the Early Cretaceous period about 110 million years ago, the Park is part of a geologic formation called the Muirkirk Deposit that consists of sediments and clays that occur south of Washington D.C. to north of Baltimore. Here, paleontologists have unearthed fossilized bones of several kinds of dinosaurs, early mammals, and fossils of trees and early flowering plants.

FAMILY FOSSIL HUNT For 6 yrs. & up. Travel to a local fossil site from the M-NCPPC Clearwater Nature Center, 301 297 4575. One class, Wed. April 20th, 1 - 3 pm. Bring a plastic bag and dress to get wet. Cost \$3 for residents of Montgomery and Prince Georges County, \$4 for all others.



An Irishman presented his beloved with a gorgeous diamond engagement ring on St. Patrick's Day. She took it to a jeweler for appraisal for insurance purposes, whereupon she was told it was a fake. A bit upset, she returned it to him. "But Macushla (that's Gaelic for "Darling"), I gave it to you on St. Patrick's Day ...and it's a sham rock."

CHARLOTTE D. MORRISON

GLMSMC Life Member Charlotte Morrison, age 87, of Boulder CO died on July 31, 2010 after a short illness. She was born in Moscow, ID, attended the University of ID and lived in Portland OR, Salt Lake City UT, Rockville MD, then Boulder CO, her home for the past 34 years.

Husband William Morrison also a GLMSMC member, passed away on Dec. 26th, 1999. Charlotte is survived by her sons Howard, Charles and Bruce Morrison, the latter two of whom were GLMSMC members as juniors. She had ten Grandchildren and eight great-grand children.

Although not a founding member of GLMSMC, she was one of the earliest members when the Society met at Julius West School in Rockville. She worked closely with Dorothy Porter, who was a founding member. She worked with youths as advisor, was Secretary, and was Rockhounder editor before Nancy Ballard. She regularly participated in the Annual Show with exhibits, especially self-collected specimens.

In Colorado she was a member of the Flatirons Mineral Club and Western Interior Paleontological Society. Charlotte was the FMC Secretary numerous times. She was the editor of the FMC newsletter for approximately ten years. She was active on show committees, and coordinated the FMC tables at Denver Shows each year. She was also active on their scholarship committee.

Her main joy in recent years was having the Jr. Geologists group meet monthly at her house. Memorial donations to the FMC Scholarship Endowment Fund can be in her name made at: FMC, P.O. Box 3331, Boulder, CO 80307

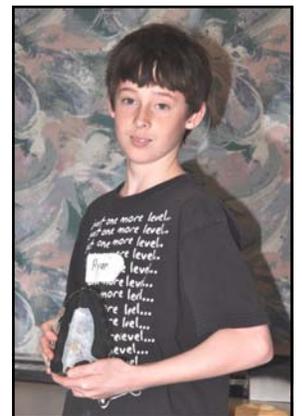


Photo by W. Mohr
Sept. 15, 2007 ▶

SHOW TABLE: February 14, 2011 Thanks to those who bring items for sharing at the meetings.

<u>Exhibitor</u>	<u>Specimen (s)</u>	<u>Locality</u>
Jonathan Baum	Wulfenite & Mimetite	AZ
Frances Becker	Epidote and Tremolite	Warren NH
Boe Brosius	Calcite	Medford Q. Westminster MD
	Staurolite	Unknown
	Tourmaline	Unknown
Barbara Burr	Amethyst & Calcite	Brazil
Jeff Cessna	Zincite	Sterling Hill Mine, NJ
	Zincite	Franklin NJ
Ryan Gunnison	Geode	Unknown
Eric Kindahl	Acasta Gneiss	Northwest Territories, Canada
Diane Leaman	Pyrite Sun	Coal Mine in IL
Gary Leaman	Garnet	St. Martin near Friar's Bay Beach
Wendell Mohr	Iris Agate	Unknown
	Wernerite	Grenville, Quebec, Canada
Andy Muir	Inexpensive LW Fluorescent Light	
	Several LW Fluorescents	Various
William Nagy	Two trays of Faceted Gems	Brazil
George Reimherr	Calcite*	Vulcan Mat'ls Q., Hanover PA
Joel Rosen	Zincite/Franklinite	Sterling Hill Mine NJ
Cynthia & Al Shupe	Agate, Bloodstone, Tiger Eye	Various
Earl Smith	Opal	Virgin Valley NV
Rod Towers	Mosasaur Tooth and others	Tucson G&M Show
Jennifer Weiss	Petrified Wood	AZ

* = Self-collected or self made



Photos by W. Mohr

MINERAL OF THE MONTH: VANADINITE

By Bob Farrar

Vanadinite is a great favorite among mineral collectors, owing to its beautiful colors and interesting crystals. Vanadinite consists of lead chlorovanadate, $Pb_5(VO_4)3Cl$. It crystallizes in the hexagonal system. Crystals are commonly barrel-shaped, but may also be short and tabular, and can be of a "cavernous" or "hopper" form. Acicular, fibrous, or mammillary formations also occur. Mineralogically, it is grouped with pyromorphite and mimetite, which have similar composition, but with phosphate and arsenate respectively, instead of vanadate as predominant components. It can be distinguished from these minerals by blowpipe tests. Vanadinite is commonly a brilliant



Photo R. Weller/Cochise College

red to orange, but may also show brown, yellow, or rarely, white. The red color is due to chromium. An arsenic-rich variety, endlicheite, is usually brown to silvery gray. Red specimens tend to darken and dull with prolonged exposure to sunlight, and so they would best be kept in the dark. Other physical properties include a hardness of 2.75 to 3.0, a specific gravity of 6.7 to 7.1 and an absence of cleavage.

Vanadinite occurs in the weathered zones of lead deposits, typically but not always, in arid regions. Perhaps the most important localities are in Morocco. The lead mines of Mibladene are the source of great numbers of specimens of bright red to orange material. Crystals up to 12 cm across, coated with descloizite, have been found at Oujda, in northern Morocco. At Taouz in eastern Morocco, a locality famous for dinosaur fossils, vanadinite crystals on a black psilomelane matrix have been found. Vanadinite is also found at numerous localities in the southwestern US and neighboring areas of Mexico. For example, the red crystals from the Old Yuma Mine, in Arizona, are well known. A few years ago, cavernous crystals from the Pure Potential Mine, also in Arizona, came on the market. Good specimens of endlicheite come from Santa Eulalia, Mexico. Less typical localities include alpine fissures in Switzerland and Italy. Other localities include Russia, Spain, Kazakhstan, Algeria, and Tunisia. Closer to our area, vanadinite has recently been found with pyromorphite in Louisa Co., VA.

Vanadinite has been a favorite of mineral collectors for a long time and will doubtless continue to be popular. Really good specimens are not cheap, but nice pieces can be had by most collectors. As long as they are not exposed to sunlight for extended periods, vanadinite specimens will continue to provide their owners with much enjoyment.

From The Rostrum January 2009

WILLIAMSITE FAMILY

By Dale J. Fisher

Serpentine, though not a hard material is a very tough material. Toughness is significant in both jade (nephrite and jadeite) and in gem serpentine. The quality of serpentine ranges from building stone to Williamsite.

The best gem serpentine is easily mistaken for jade. Where serpentine is worthwhile cutting material the grades are called gem serpentines. Three recognized gem grades are retinalite (translucent yellow), bowenite (also called Soochow jade...may be translucent or opaque) and Williamsite. In addition, gem serpentine is an important pseudo jade.

Williamsite is by far the best gem grade of serpentine. Its color ranges from green to emerald green and it is translucent to nearly transparent. True Williamsite is very rare. It occurred in the chromite mines, called the Line Pits at the border between Pennsylvania and Maryland. This area is now closed and is a private farm. Gem grades of serpentine have previously been found in nearby quarry locations—many of which are closed.

Similar black streaks or spots are found in both nephrite jade and in Williamsite. John Sinkankas stated that "the lovely green Williamsite provides very handsome cabochon gems..." (Vol. I, P. 542, "Gemstones of North America")



Go Nuts Over These

WEB SITES

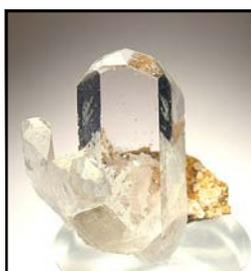
By Wendell Mohr

Limestone, a USGS four page fact sheet at <http://pubs.usgs.gov/fs/2008/3089/fs2008-3089.pdf> is an informational piece about one of our nation's most essential resources. Read what it is, uses, Portland cement shortage, Issues, US Consumption and a bit about caves and sinkholes.

• Marl is a sort of limestone which incorporates mud. Where do you find it? In Marland, of course. Many times limestone is found in huge level or nearly level beds sitting there extending over miles. There are Igneous, metamorphic, and sedentary rocks •



Photo Credit USGS



Colorado Rockhounding by Bob Loeffler at <http://www.peaktopeak.com/> is mainly dedicated to minerals and crystals of Colorado. Click on "Colorado Rockhounding" and noodle around locations, minerals, county for sites he visited. Click on "Fluorite Gallery" for pictures of that mineral from world wide locations. Click on "Comets" for information on meteorites in Colorado. Navigating this site is somewhat obtuse. • A guy was collecting in Colorado when, at first unnoticed, a bear came up behind him. He was very startled and didn't know what to do. So he texted his wife "Bear

Barite, Book Cliffs,
Grand Junction CO
Photo from web site

with me, I'm finally finding some super crystals." •

Stoneman's Store and Museum Gallery, <http://stonemans-rock-mineral-fossil-heap.com/> is by Kerry Matt, "The Stone Man." Step through a number of galleries on minerals, microminerals, and fossils, worth the price of admission. With attractive pictures of some very nice specimens one can forgive the mis-spellings. Perhaps you will be incited to take a trip to PA as the weather gets better. As is our custom, we do not endorse commercial ventures, but fossils and publications are for sale at this site. • Our Society held a field trip to Cornwall PA and some of the rocks contained a lot of Pyrite. If you struck it with a hammer you would notice a sulfur odor. That make scents! Pyrite, upon exposure to moisture will decay. Decay, What is that? De letter after "J." •

MAGAZINES FOR SHOW GIVE-AWAY Have unused copies of *Rocks and Minerals*, *Rock and Gem*, *Lapidary Journal/Jewelry Arts*, *Art Jewelry*, or other publications? Unclutter your home and make them available to others at the Show. Bring them Friday, Saturday, or Sunday for free distribution from the Hospitality Table.



I thought I saw another fabulous epidote locality on an Alaskan island, but it turned out to be an optical Aleutian.

FEBRUARY PRIZES The **Show Table Prize**, a Galena from near Joplin MO was won by Wendell Mohr, whose wife did the drawing! The **Junior Prizes**, Rutilated Quartz, Microcline Feldspar, and Quartz from Pakistan were awarded to Trevor Babb. Jeff Cessna took home **The General Door Prize**, consisting of Vanadinite crystals on platy Barite from Mibladen, Morocco

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

MARCH MEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Judith Barr, Marcia Conron Baum, Jack Busch, Leila Campbell, Dylan Cincotta, Rebecca Dahlman, George Durland, Alison Gillespie, Cynthia Hunter-Shupe, Jane Kuehn, Michael Landsman, Diane Leaman, Gary Leaman, Patricia Repik-Byrne, Harold Williams, Ben Wang, Haruka Yabuki, Anton Yakovlev.



Photo: W. Mohr



THE MARCH BIRTHSTONE IS AQUAMARINE

The blue of aquamarine is a divine, eternal color, because it is the color of the sky. However, aquamarine blue is also the color of water with its life-giving force. And Aquamarine really does seem to have captured the lucid blue of the oceans. Its name is derived from the Latin aqua (Water) and mare (Sea).

Aquamarine is almost as popular as the classics: ruby, sapphire and emerald. In fact it is related to the emerald, both belonging to the beryl family yet is almost entirely free of inclusions. Aquamarine has good hardness (7 to 8 on the Mohs scale) and a wonderful luster. That hardness makes it very tough and protects it to a large extent from scratches. The more intense the color, the more value is put on it. Brazilian Beauties: The various color nuances of Aquamarine have melodious names: the rare, intense blue Aquamarines from the Santa Maria de Itabira mine in Brazil are called "Santa Maria." Similar nuances come from a few gemstone mines in Africa, particularly Mozambique. To help distinguish them from the Brazilian ones, these aquamarines have been given the name "Santa Maria Africana." The "Espirito Santo" color of Aquamarines from the Brazilian state of that name is of a blue that is not quite so intense. Most of the raw crystals for the world market come from the gemstone mines of Brazil. Occasionally, sensationally large Aquamarine crystals come to light, such as the crystal of 110.5 Kg. found in 1910 in Marambaia, Minas Gerais, or the "Dom Pedro", weighing 26 Kg. and cut in Idar Oberstein in 1992 by the gemstone designer Bernd Munsteiner, the largest Aquamarine ever to have been cut. However, Aquamarines are also found in other countries, for example Nigeria, Zambia, Madagascar, Mozambique, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Favorite stone of modern designers: There is hardly any other gemstone in modern jewelry design which is refined in such a variety of ways as Aquamarine. Whether it is fashioned as a clear, transparent gem in the classical step cut, or creatively cut in a more modern design, it is always fascinatingly beautiful. Uncut too, or with many inclusions which can be brought into play by the designer in the way in which the stone is cut, it can be refined to produce the most beautiful creations. Designers call it their favorite gemstone. Again and again they take the world by surprise with a new, modern artistic cut, and when they are breaking new ground, Aquamarine is a gem that they particularly like to work with. Without doubt, these creative designer cuts have contributed to the great popularity of this gem.

Adapted from Mar. 2006 Port Moody R&G Club Newsletter, BC, Canada.

(They report "Taken from: International Colored Gemstone Association web site: <www.gemstone.org>")

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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.



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