

# THE ROCKHOUNDER



# NOVEMBER 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 November 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. The program will be presented by Morton Salt, Vice President, Science and Research, The Salt Institute in Alexandria VA. Trained in Canada as a molecular biologist, he is an internationally-known food industry and United Nations executive and author. The program: “Our Understanding of Salt – Salacious or Salubrious?” which will cover mining, basic applications, and end with the most controversial issue of salt and health.



Photo Morton Salt Image

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS** will meet Monday November 21st at 7:30 pm 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.

## **UPGRADE TO FAMILY MEMBERSHIP**

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



## **BIG WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:**

CARVELL, Chip & Heather, 714 Owens Court, Rockville MD, 20850-2126, 301 251 0425, e-mail:  
Heather: HCarvell@Mcleanschool.org, Chip: CCarvell2@yahoo.com  
Gus Carvell (04/04), Vaughn Carvell (04/08)

LOLMAUGH, Kristin, 1282 Terrace Lane, Arnold, MD  
21012-2204, 410-647-2959, e-mail: kmarstille@aol.com  
LOWE, Cortney, 179 Federal Ann Court, Westminster, MD  
21157-5753, 443-547-9311  
MAYER, David & Diana, 14121 Heritage Lane, Silver Spring MD  
20906-2333, 301 460 3323,  
e-mail Diana: sortacrunchymom@gmail.com  
David: david@themayers.org  
Eli Mayer (08/01), Nathan Mayer (03/03), and Ari Mayer (07/07)

**DEADLINE** for Dec. 2011 Issue: Nov. 28th

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**2012 DUES** There is now a \$5.00 surcharge in effect for membership renewals. **2011 dues expired August 31, 2011.** 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. If you intend to renew **DO IT NOW.**

Send dues (check to GLMSMC) to Membership Chairman Doug Baum, 11205 Golden Meadow Court, Germantown MD 20876-1740. If you have questions contact Doug at dbaum@gazette.net or call 301 515 4641.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

November is election month for the Society.

The Board of Directors, serving as the nominating Committee, has secured candidates who have agreed to run for officer positions for the new year:

New President: Andy Celmer      New Vice President: Chris Luzier  
 Continuing Secretary: Jeff Cessna      Continuing Treasurer: Andy Muir

Nominations from the floor will be open, provided the person nominated has agreed to serve.



**OBITUARY**

It is with great sadness that we have learned of the death of the last remaining charter member of our society, Daniel W. Spielman. Dan served as President in the late 1960's.

Dan passed away Saturday, September 24, 2011 at Memorial Hospital at Easton MD. He was 83.

Born November 17, 1927, in Martinsburg, WV, he worked for the Maryland State Health Department as a Microbiologist until retiring in 1982. He was an accomplished gemologist and lapidary. He was a member of the Montgomery County Gem, Lapidary and Mineral Society of which he was a founding member. Dan enjoyed being with his family, reading history and traveling with his wife.



He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Eva Griffin Spielman; two sons: Daniel R. Spielman and his wife Robin and Stephen W. Spielman and his wife Melissa; 2 grandchildren: Daniel J. Spielman and Eva Michelle Spielman, all of Easton. Along with his parents, Mr. Spielman was predeceased by his brother Frederick W. Spielman, Jr. Our sincere condolences to all of his family.

Funeral Services were held September 29th at Easton, MD. Burial was held September 30th at Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Frederick, MD. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Palliative Care Unit, Memorial Hospital Foundation, P. O. Box 1846, Easton MD 21601.

March 13 2011 At our Annual Show Photo by W. Mohr ➡



Question: A sundial is a timepiece that has the fewest number of moving parts. Which timepiece has the most moving parts? See below for answer.

**AUCTION**

Saturday, December 10 has been reserved at the Senior Center for our big auction of the season. Hold back some of the Holiday gift money for a present to another or even for yourself! The material is from two sources: Paul Vance and Gladys Fuller. Material includes slabs, cab and gem rough including Jade, many mineral specimens from a variety of localities. Some are rare species, others showy colorful specimens. The more valuable pieces will be auctioned individually. Others will be grouped into manageable lots. More details in the December Rockhoulder. Save the date.

Answer to Question above: (For sand collectors): An Hourglass!

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

The October 10, 2011 meeting was called to order by President pro tem Andy Muir at 7:44 pm, with approximately 65 people attending. It was M/S/P to approve the minutes of the September 12, 2011 regular meeting and the September 19, 2011 Board of Directors meeting.

The club accepted the donation of a compact PA system from member Jeff Nagy. Many thanks Jeff.

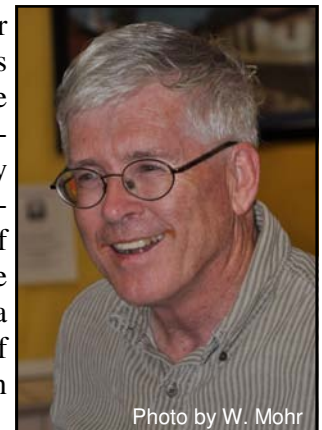
**FRA:** Holly McNeil presented several badges and announced the club's 7<sup>th</sup> Rockhound award. See this newsletter Page 5 for specifics. Congratulations to all.

**Field Trips:** Jonathan Harris discussed several upcoming trips, see Page 7 this newsletter.

**Treasurer:** Andy Muir reported there were no big changes in club finances. He delivered the treasurer's report to the immediate past president.

**Guest Editor:** Wendell Mohr spoke of many of the upcoming shows, events, and local rockhound related classes. He mentioned that fluorescent vests could currently be purchased inexpensively at Rugged Warehouse (no endorsement implied). Wendell also discussed the upcoming club auction of material donated by the families of Paul Vance and Gladys Fuller. A tentative date is set of December 10, 2011 at the Rockville Senior Center.

**Presentation:** Vice president Owen Powers read a letter of from the September speaker, Dr. Cara Santelli, then introduced the speaker for the evening, Dr. Dennis Coskren. Dr. Coskren gave the presentation "Pegmatites." He began by listing the many examples of popular pegmatites in the U.S. and throughout the world. Pegmatites are igneous rocks with large, over 1 inch, crystals. They are generally thought to be the last part of the crystalizing minerals, due to the elements they contain in their minerals. Dr. Coskren discussed the theories, science, and mysteries of pegmatite formation. In a side discussion he noted that it would not be impossible to find emeralds in our local area if a pegmatite were drawing chromium from a local serpentine body, such as Soldiers Delight. He finished with a multitude of pictorial examples of the more interesting and the more desirable minerals that can be found in pegmatites. Thanks Dr. Coskren.



It was M/S/P to accept into membership visitors: the Carvell family, the Freedman family, Christine Lolmaugh, returning member Cortney Lowe, and the Mayer family.

**Show:** Pat Repik-Byrne reminded us that the annual show is the third weekend in March, the 17th and 18th, 2012. Ten showcases have been set aside for junior members. Sign-ups will begin in January. Bob Irby asked those persons with information about potential demonstrators to contact him. We particularly would like to feature rock carving, stone sculpture, or jewelry making (torches are not allowed by the venue).

**President pro tem:** Andy Muir noted that the Board of Directors is acting as the nominating committee. The slate will be announced in the November issue of the *Rockhounder*.

Rod Towers administered the door prize drawing for juniors. Joel Rosen administered the drawings for the adult door prize and show table prize. **Members were reminded we are still in need of an Editor for the Rockhounder, please volunteer.**

The meeting ended at 9:59 pm.

Jeff Cessna, Secretary.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES**

President Eric Kindahl called the October 17, 2011 meeting to order at 7:30 pm. Board members present: Doug Baum, Jeff Cessna, Mark Dahlman, Jonathan Harris, Eric Kindahl, Wendell Mohr, Andy Muir, Owen Powers, Pat Repik-Byrne and Joel Rosen. Board member not present: Rod Towers.

**President:** Eric Kindahl received a message from Sue Marcus that she had a two show cases to donate to the club, a club type and a solid wood slant front case, as well as some miscellaneous historical items. Andy Muir will contact her. Eric noted there was a miscommunication regarding last year's Rockhounder of the Year and Each One Teach One awards. He will resubmit.

**EFMLS Liaison and Guest Editor:** Wendell Mohr inquired about show flyers. It was reported they would be complete the following day. Mark Dahlman will send flyers for dealers to distribute with the show contracts. Doug Baum will fax new member information to Wendell to include in bulletin and a count of members to be reported for insurance. Suggestions were discussed for members to approach about the Bulletin Editor position. Field trips must be published for insurance reasons and minutes must be published per the bylaws. The auction date has been set for December 10<sup>th</sup>. Eric Kindahl, Mark Dahlman, Andy Muir, Jonathan Harris and Jeff Cessna will help Wendell organize and sort the material. Elmer Lantz and Chuck Mason previously helped with the Vance material.

**Vice President:** Owen Powers discussed upcoming speakers. The Salt Institute speaker has been re-scheduled. Programs are filled through February of 2012.

**Show:** Showcase space for juniors was discussed including allotting more table space if a display case is supplied by the junior. A waiting list was discussed in the event of unfilled junior cases. The mid-February cut-off for sign-up worked well in 2011 and will continue. Replacement of case fronts was discussed. Joel Rosen will check cases for the number needed. Joel needs to know about broken parts when cases are packed at the end of the show. For the January meeting program Elmer Lantz will discuss the shop, Holly McNeil will discuss the mini-miners table, and Wendell Mohr will provide pictures of displays and a booklet on preparing displays.

**Field Trips:** Jonathan discussed upcoming trips. He also discussed some unsuccessful contacts with quarries. Jonathan continues to investigate.

**Treasurer:** Andy Muir reported on the clubs finances. The profit and loss statement for the club and the proposed 2011 budget were discussed. Andy will incorporate the changes for the copies to be distributed, along with the auditor's report, as a member-only supplement to the *Rockhounder*. A reminder: Expenses submitted for payment will only be honored for three months after the expenditure.

**Property:** It was M/S/P to approve up to \$375 for the purchase of meeting door prizes by Joel Rosen. Owen Powers has taken possession of the PA system.

**Nominations:** The proposed nominees were discussed and agreements to run were secured from all candidates. It was M/S/P to accept the proposed slate and publish it in the November *Rockhounder*. It was noted that nominations can still be taken from the floor, as long as the nominee has agreed to run.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:17 pm.

Jeff Cessna ➡



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

**Meeting Date:** November 14, 2011 **Meeting time:** 7:45 - 9:00 pm

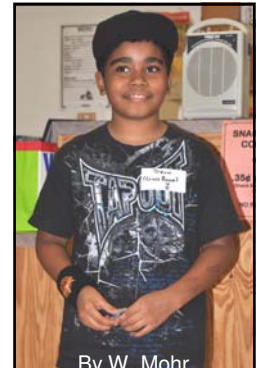
**Meeting Location:** Sunroom Cafeteria at the Rockville Senior Center



By W. Mohr



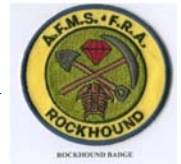
By W. Mohr



By W. Mohr

CONGRATULATIONS TO: Cassie DeSalvo who earned and was awarded the A.F.M.S. Future Rockhound program designation of "Rockhound." Cassie became the seventh MOCKS member to reach this elite level.

KUDOS ALSO TO: Trevor Babb who earned the Fieldtrip and Gold Panning badges and Jennifer Weiss who earned the Fossil and Gold Panning badges.



**October 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting:** Maureen Campeau, Patrick Haynes and Jim Koskta spent the evening teaching the MOCKS members about the world of micros. We learned about trimming specimens, using the microscope to select the best view, and mounting individual minerals. Each member was able to select and mount a couple of specimens and went home with a "trick-or-treat" bag full of micro specimens and supplies graciously donated by Patrick, Maureen, and Jim. Our thanks also to Rod Towers for lending us his equipment for use by the group.



By W. Mohr



By H. McNeil



By H. McNeil



By H. McNeil

**November 14<sup>th</sup> meeting program:** Stone Age Tools & Art badge. We will learn about rocks and minerals that have been used as tools and throughout history and will attempt to re-create some of their uses.

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

## **FUTURE ROCKHOUNDS OF AMERICA (MINI MINERS) Ages 6-9**

**Meeting Date:** November 14 , 2011 **Meeting time:** 7:00 - 8:00 pm

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



Photo by W. Mohr



Photo by W. Mohr

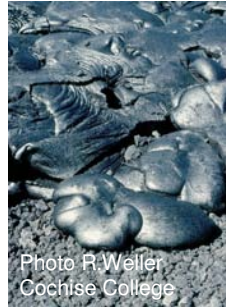


Photo R.Weller  
Cochise College



At the last Mini Miner's meeting we discussed Igneous Rock Formations.

At the November meeting we will conclude the study of the rock cycle by looking at and discussing Metamorphic Rock Formations. Don't forget to bring in your favorite Metamorphic rock.

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

## **SPECIAL "THANKS" FROM THE FIELD TRIP CHAIRMAN**

Field trips play a critical role in keeping our club vibrant. Their impact extends far beyond the individuals who leave home at 6 am on a Saturday to experience the joy of busting rocks. Besides residing in personal collections, the specimens end up being donated to schools and museums, being used for demonstrations before school, scout, and other youth groups, and being give-aways to inspire the next generation to learn more about geology and other sciences. My own personal journey into math and science started when a third grade teacher showed her rock collection to the class.

These thank-yous go to both club members and corporations. Sam Linton has arranged field trips to the County Line Quarry and the Ben Murphy Mine dump site. Wendell Mohr as newspaper editor has edited the announcements—catching my errors and putting up with many last minute notices. Ted Carver, of the Northern Virginia Mineral Club and Jeff Splitstoser of GLMS-DC have arranged joint field trips to several sites. Dave Callahan of the Lynchburg G&M Society graciously allowed our members to join a multi-club field trip to Willis Mountain that he planned.

The rock quarries are under great stress from a sluggish economy and a NIOSH regulator who has decided they need to write more citations to demonstrate that they have teeth. In spite of this, several companies have graciously made arrangements to let us collect and some of their employees have spent their Saturday mornings insuring that our trips happened.

Vulcan Materials has admitted us to their Chester, Manassas, and Havre De Grace quarries. Mickey Stump and K. T. Odum at Manassas have spent several Saturdays with us while we found prehnite, apophyllite, calcite, chalcopyrite, and zeolites. Mickey gave our young rockhounds an exciting tour of the quarry and plant. Patrick Pieton has guided us on trips to Havre De Grace which continues to produce sphene, pyrite, siderite, heulandites, and goodie bags for the younger rockhounds. Thomas Brazell and Wayne Orr hosted us on a hot Saturday morning at the Chester quarry near Richmond where we found some small molybdenite crystals and I obtained a supply of pearly feldspar that we can use for youth programs, demonstrations, and give -aways.

Continued on Page 7

**SPECIAL "THANKS" FROM FIELD TRIP CHAIRMAN**

Continued from Page 6

Lafarge has provided us access to the Churchville and Texas Quarries. Geologist Page Herbert has arranged trips for us to the Texas quarry where collectors reported finding calcite, dravite, scapolite, and phlogopite and is working to guide us back into the Medford quarry when there is a safe area that offers calcite collecting possibilities. At the Churchville quarry, Joe Harris, patiently guided us on a trip where we recovered laumontite, schorl, stilbite, and stellerite.

Chris Adams and Haines & Kibblehouse hosted us at a spring trip to the Penn-Maryland Materials quarry, whose serpentine yielded brucite, antigorite, chromite, calcite, and drusy quartz.

More recently we found a mountain of kyanite at Virginia Kyanite's Willis Mountain Mine at a large multiclub field trip. Mike Morris spent his Saturday guiding us at the mine and providing us interesting information about kyanite, its usage, and processing. If you are redoing your kitchen or bathroom, you can purchase kyanite countertops. Suppliers call this a form of "granite" even though it is a metamorphosed sandstone. Any kyanite granite comes from Willis Mountain.

Last but not least, Eric Stahl, hosted us at National Limestone where we continued to find unusual specimens of wavellite, strontianite, calcite, and fluorite as well as cave-like formations that have been blasted out of cavities in the limestone. Eric, the company president, is also a bible teacher and gave us each Bibles and is publishing a book titled *America's Last Warning* (Winepress Publishing, [www.winepressbooks.com](http://www.winepressbooks.com) for those who are interested or have friends who are interested).

How can all of us continue to show our appreciation to companies and their employees? When appropriate, let others know about the support these companies are giving to the community. Also, if you are building a retaining wall or need crushed rock or a new countertop, consider these firms.

**FIELD TRIPS**

**Saturday December 3, 2011** Meet 7:30 am at Vulcan's Manassas Quarry. Out by Noon or when the quarry employees have to leave. The rock is diabase, with one level having a layer of hornfels. This quarry has produced prehnite, apophyllite, calcite, amethyst and other quartz, chalcopryrite, pyrite, epidote, and zeolites: stilbite, chabazite, heulandite, stellerite, and others.



Please let Jonathan Harris know if you plan to attend and your agreement to the waiver and rules by **November 30**, so he can provide the quarry with an accurate headcount. If at all possible, do this by email to <[jgharris7@gmail.com](mailto:jgharris7@gmail.com)> (and include Manassas in the subject line.) Otherwise phone him at 301 545 0808. Children 10 and up are welcome if accompanied and well supervised by a parents and they use the required safety gear.

Note: Digging into the walls is not permitted at Vulcan quarries. We must stay 7 feet from any walls. Also, Jonathan may need to appoint a group leader.

Directions: From the Beltway take I-66 West to Exit 44, VA 234. Go 3.6 miles. Turn Left onto Wellington Lane. The quarry will be on your left, about 0.5 miles from VA 234.

**Saturday January 7, 2012** Meet at 9:00 am. at James Madison University Department of Geology and Environmental Science and Mineral Museum, hosted by Professor Lance Kearns. Professor Kearns is a valued link between hobbyist and professional geologists. How have many of our seasoned collectors identified the rich variety of local minerals? Lance Kearns! For those who like machines more than experts, Professor Kearns has indicated that the X-ray diffraction machine and Ramen Spectrometer will be available. There is some chance that the EDS/SEM lab (Low energy electron diffraction and Scanning Electron Microscope) will be open. Professor Kearns indicated that he could help identify specimens. And of course another outstanding attraction; the JMU mineral museum. Directions and parking instructions will be provided later.



**WILDACRES WORKSHOP A Special Opportunity!**

by Steve Weinberger, Wildacres Committee Chair. Adapted From article in the Nov. EFMLS Newsletter  
**EFMLS Wildacres Scholarship**

In 2012 we will be celebrating the 40th Anniversary of EFMLS Workshops at Wildacres Retreat. In recognition of this special event we will be offering two scholarships to attend our sessions. One will be awarded for the spring and one for the fall session.

Criteria for consideration will include active membership in an EFMLS member club, completion of an application form, and never having previously been to an EFMLS Wildacres Workshop. In addition to some basic information (name, address etc.), the application will ask all candidates to submit a brief essay telling why they would like to receive the scholarship.


Once all applications for the scholarship have been received and selection made, all candidates will be notified as to whether they have or have not been selected. Applications will be printed in the December EFMLS Newsletter once the dates of our sessions become available.

We're excited to be able to offer the opportunity for two new people to attend one of our fabulous workshops tuition free. If you've never experienced an EFMLS Wildacres Workshop, now's the time to find out what you've been missing!

Please do consider applying and planning on joining us "on the mountain" at one or both of our workshops in 2012. [Ed. Note. This is in addition to the scholarship offered by the GLMSMC.]



**SHOWS AND EVENTS**

  
**THE BEAD SOCIETY OF GREATER WASHINGTON**  
 PRESENTS ITS 54TH SEMI-ANNUAL  
**BEAD BAZAAR**

Saturday ◊ November 12, 2011 10am-5pm  
 Sunday ◊ November 13, 2011 11am-5pm

Beads and Findings: Ancient, Antique,  
 Tribal & Contemporary Designer Jewelry  
 Demonstrations! Books!

Bead Identification: Sat & Sun 12-2 pm


**ACTIVITY CENTER at BOHRER PARK**  
 506 South Frederick Ave • Gaithersburg MD  
 -off Hwy 355/Frederick Ave at Education Blvd-

SAT ONLY Free Shuttle from Shady Grove Metro  
 More info: <http://www.bsgw.org/bazaar.html>  
[BazaarBSGW@hotmail.com](mailto:BazaarBSGW@hotmail.com) • 202.624.4500

Admission: \$7.00 or \$6.00 with this card  
 - Children under 12 free -

Future Bazaars:  
 April 21-22, 2012 ◊ November 10-11, 2012

With this ad, \$1.00 off General Admission



**GEM MINER'S HOLIDAY!!**  
 November 19 - 20, 2011  
 LEBANON, PA  
**Beads! Findings!**  
**Minerals! Fossils!**  
**Gems & Jewelry!**

**THE MID-ATLANTIC'S BEST SHOW**

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

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



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





Presented by the Northern Virginia Mineral Club, Inc. [www.novamineralclub.org](http://www.novamineralclub.org)  
 Sponsored by the Dept. of Atmospheric, Oceanic and Earth Sciences at GMU

**Date:** November 12 & 13, 2011  
**Place:** Student Union II Building  
 George Mason University Campus  
 Braddock Rd. & Route 123, Fairfax, VA  
**Hours:** Saturday 10-6, Sunday 10-4  
**Admission:** Adults: \$5, Seniors & Teens (13-17): \$3.  
 Children 12 & under, Scouts in uniform,  
 and GMU Students w/ valid ID are FREE.

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

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

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

**JEWELRY CLASSES at the Patuxent Lapidary Guild**

All classes are from 9 am to 5 pm with a 1 hour lunch break, at PLG workshop, 169 Defense Highway, lower level, Annapolis, MD. Fees are payable in cash or by check made out to the PLG. Call the instructor, Donna Madej, to register at 410-215-1774 and with any questions regarding materials. Register early so materials can be ordered. See <<http://www.greencavedesigns.com/plgj/?cat=26>> for more details.

PAPER PMC - Precious Metal Clay Sunday, November 13.

BASIC FACETING - The Standard Round Brilliant Saturdays November 19 and Dec. 3.

SILVERSMITHING - Band And Silver Lined Ring Sunday, November 20.



SILVERSMITHING - Copper Bronze Metal Beads Sunday December 4.

SILVERSMITHING - Ring Or Pendant With A Bezel Saturday December 10.



SILVERSMITHING - Fusion With Argentium Earrings Sunday December 11.

**2011 FALL ROCK SWAP**

Ridge Baptist Church meeting hall  
 (building on west side of church – rear of parking lot)  
 1515 Eastridge Road, Richmond, Virginia

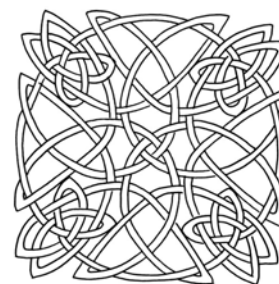
**FREE Admission!**

**NOV 12**  
 9 am to 3 pm

Novice or Expert  
 All are welcome to swap or purchase

To help defray costs, Swappers will be asked to donate at least one quality specimen (no larger than fist-sized) to be auctioned at future RGMS functions.

minerals, gems, fossils, shells, lapidary specimens



## **NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS:**

Cooper Batchelder, Heather Carvell, Jay Cincotta, Kevin Cincotta, Cole Cooper, Patricia Cronin, Greg DeSalvo, David Dinsmore, Donald Greaves, Chuck Mason, Holly McNeil, Wendell Mohr, Isaac Moles, Erich Thompsen, Petra Trebohansingh, Kris Vaitkus, Becky Waugh



## **TOPAZ**

Topaz is a silicate mineral of aluminum and fluorine with the chemical formula  $Al_2SiO_4(F,OH)_2$ . It is the birthstone of the month November. It crystallizes in the orthorhombic group and its crystals are mostly prismatic terminated by pyramidal and other faces. It has an easy and perfect basal cleavage, meaning that the mineral must be handled with care to avoid developing cleavage flaws. The fracture is conchoidal to uneven. Topaz has a hardness of 8. Pure topaz is transparent but is usually tinted by impurities; typical topaz is wine or straw yellow. It may also be white, gray, green, blue, pink or reddish yellow and transparent or translucent. Topaz is commonly associated with silicic igneous rocks of the granite and rhyolite type. It typically crystallizes in granitic pegmatites or in vapor cavities in rhyolite lava flows like those at Topaz Mountain in western Utah. It can be found in the Ural and Ilmen mountains, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Czech Republic, Germany, Norway, Pakistan, Italy, Sweden, Japan, Brazil, Mexico, Flinders Island and the United States.



Topaz crystal - Burma  
Photo R.Weller  
Cochise College

Some clear topaz crystals from Brazilian pegmatites can reach boulder size and weigh hundreds of pounds. The famous Braganza diamond is in most likelihood a topaz.

From Wikipedia, <<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Topaz>> Via November 2008 Music City Rockette, Middle Tennessee Rockhounds.

## **CLEAN OUT YOUR TUMBLER**

via Gem Cutter's News 1/09

by Susan Bannon from 2/08 Quarry Quips,

### **For a one to two pound tumbler:**

- Pour a mixture of 1/4 cup of vinegar and 1 3/4 cup of water into the barrel.
- Run 20 to 30 minutes, Rinse with clean water, and Empty.
- Pour a mixture of 1/4 cup of baking soda and 1 3/4 cup of water into the barrel.
- Run for 20 to 30 minutes, Rinse with clean water.

The vinegar cleans the barrel, removing rust and residue. The soda mixture neutralizes the vinegar.



### **To clean jewelry in a tumbler For a three pound tumbler:**

- Use 12 to 16 ounces of mixed media: stainless steel shots (balls, pins and saucers.)
- Put in a few pieces of jewelry (pieces that won't get tangled up with other pieces.)
- Pour in enough water to cover.
- Add a generous squirt of Dawn liquid dish soap or
- Use burnishing compound (following burnishing directions.)
- Tumble for 15 to 30 minutes.

If jewelry turns out dull use more soap, maybe more time also. NO pearls, crystals, emeralds, plated stuff or soft materials should be cleaned in this manner.

**WEB SITES**

**Herkimer Diamonds**, <<http://geology.com/articles/herkimer-diamonds.shtml>>, is a fun web site covering Herkimer diamond (Quartz) mines and mining at the world renown area. I think you will enjoy this nicely illustrated treatise at Geology.com. It covers a location not far from Syracuse NY where the AFMS/EFMLS conventions were held this summer. The matrix rock is not so hard but is extremely tough so reaching the pockets is not easy. • A few loose crystals can be found easily especially after a good rain fall. One man was examining every stone in the tailing piles but kept only a minority discarding most, his “Catch and release program.” •



**“Pleistocene Treasures at Breakneck Speed”** is a NY Times article at <<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/07/05/science/05dig.html?pagewanted=all>> about an excavation in Colorado. The ice age site was being developed as a reservoir dam and there was a limited amount of time for the excavation at Snowmass Village near Aspen. Kirk R. Johnson, the chief curator of the Denver Museum of Nature and Science oversaw the project that yielded mammoth, mastodon, ground sloth, bison, camel and horse fossils.

• Mammoths and Mastodons were the predecessors of the modern day Pachyderms according to professor L. E. Phant. •

**Tafoni.** Learn about fantastic rock weathering patterns at <[www.tafoni.com/](http://www.tafoni.com/)>. Tafoni are ellipsoidal, pan-to bowl-shaped natural rock cavities, a term I had never encountered. See “Definitions”, which describes types, rock types, and formation. “Locations” tells where they are found. “Weathering” covers biological, chemical, and physical decay. Some of the links are broken. The gallery features 110 pictures of Tafoni in Northern CA and 71 at other world-wide locations. • Box work is caused when the calcite leaches away leaving only the quartz mold. Yeh, proves you get moldy when you get old. • • Geology class professor: “Define weathering.” Student: “Great big wrinkle remover.” •



Photo from Web Site

**WILLIS MOUNTAIN FIELD TRIP FINDS**

Submitted by Jonathan Harris



Photo by J. Harris

Blue Kyanite collected by Dave Lines of the Southern Maryland R & M Club



Photo by K. Lolmaugh

Cab of Kyanite-Quartzite rock from Willis Mountain made by Kristin Lolmaugh



Photo by J. Harris

Gray Kyanite crystals at Willis Mountain photographed by Jonathan in situ but not collected

**SHOW TABLE:** Oct. 10th, 2011. Thanks to those who bring items for sharing at the meetings.

<u>Exhibitor</u>	<u>Specimen (s)</u>	<u>Locality</u>
Frances Becker	Granite	N. Chelmsford MA
Boe Brosius	Pegmatite with Aquamarine	ME
	Pegmatite Muscovite Mica	ME
Jeff Cessna	Barite	Palos Verde, Los Angeles Co. CA
	Scheelite	Dongsang, Hunan, China
George Durland	Microcline	Raikot Chilas, N. Pakistan
	Zircon	Mud Tank, N. Territory, Australia
	Sodalite	Tunuliarfik, Greenland
Gerald Elgert	Tourmaline*	Kensington Mica Mine MD
Don Greaves	Pietersite	China
Ryan Gunnison	Unknown	
Jonathan Harris	Kyanite*	Willis Mtn., Sprouse's Corner VA
	Wavellite*	Mt. Pleasant Mills PA
Dave Hennessey	Datolite*	Manassas VA
Jim Kostka	Prehnite*	Vulcan Q., Manassas VA
Gary Leaman	Almandite Garnet*	Green's Farm Garnet Mine, Roxbury CT
Kristin Lolmaugh	Fluorite	NM
Tim Morgan	Tourmaline	Loc. Unknown
Wendell Mohr	Spinel	Vietnam
	Pyrite	Huanzala, Peru
Jeff Nagy	3 Faceted Smoky Quartz Gemstones	Clarksville MD
Joel Rosen	Sphalerite/Quartz	Huaron, Peru
Barbara Schoen	Serpentine and Diopside*	Rockville MD
Eric Thompsen	Chalcopyrite	Garrisonville VA
Rod Towers	Emeralds, Amblygonite, Iolite	Minas Gerais, Brazil

**\*Self collected or self made**



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

**OCTOBER 10th PRIZES**

**Elmer Lantz** took home **The General Prize**, a Pyrite/Marcasite from Starkville MS.

**The Show Table Prize**, a Sphalerite with Calcite from Taolin Mine, Pingxaing Co., Hunan Province, China was claimed by **Boe Brosius**.

A Fluorite from Cave-in-Rock IL, Emeralds from Minas Gerais Brazil, a Rock & Gem Magazine and a Vibrating dog (Rockhound?) making up **The Junior Prize** was won by **Jonathan Baum**.

**SAFETY TOTE THAT ROCK, LIFT THAT TOOLBAG**

By Mel Albright AFMS Safety Chair from the April 1998 AFMS Newsletter

One thing that we rockhounds do a whole bunch - pick up rocks - little rocks, bigger rocks, and big rocks. Rocks by themselves, rocks in boxes, rocks in buckets, rocks in sacks - all are ways we collect and move rocks. And heavy tool bags are lifted all too often.

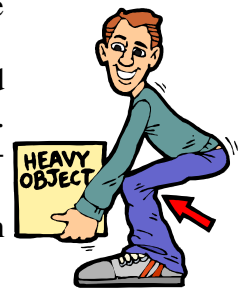


The classic joke picture of rockhounds is a bunch of people standing with straight legs, bent over at the waist, and touching the ground with their hands. It is too often true, unfortunately.

Another thing we rockhounds do is put those heavy tools and rocks into a vehicle - or take them out. - often by swinging things. And - the result is a lot of bad backs, sore backs, back strains, sometimes even permanently damaged backs. So, we need to learn - AND PRACTICE - the proper way to lift and lower heavy stuff (actually - light stuff, too) without hurting ourselves.

To lift and move something, several steps should be followed. We'll pretend we're picking up a rock, but the rules are the same for ANYTHING we pick up - even our dirty socks.

1. Stand with your feet apart about shoulder width, the rock between your feet, and one foot slightly in front of the other (for balance).
2. Lower yourself by bending your knees until you can grab the rock. The rock should be close to your body. Keep your back straight and your chin tucked in.
3. SLOWLY lift the rock by straightening up your knees pushing with your leg muscles. Keep the rock in close to your body. Do NOT twist sideways.
4. Once standing, DO NOT TWIST your back. To move the rock sideways, turn with your feet. Keep the rock in close to your body.
5. Once you get where you are going with the rock, reverse the steps you used to lift the rock. Remember - KEEP YOUR BACK STRAIGHT!!
6. If the rock must go into a trunk or car or whatever, set it down on the edge keeping a straight back. Then slide it into the vehicle. Most of us will bend over at the waist and swing it in - a sure way to get a bad back!
7. You aren't SUPERMAN OR WOMAN! If the rock or bucket or bag is too heavy for you to carry easily, do it another way! Get help. Use a skid made from a heavy cloth or a wood slat with a rope tied to the end. Roll the rock using a long handled tool to pry with. Use your ingenuity!



Show me a frightened flower arranger, and I'll show you a petrified florist.

If you put a shark's tooth under your pillow, what will the tooth fairy leave? Sand dollars.



My neighbor called her father to see how he had fared in the Virginia earthquake. "Well," he summed up laconically, "A lot of bric-a-brac is bric-a-broke."



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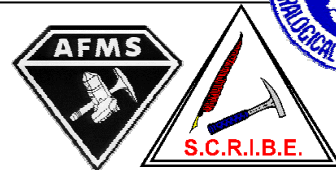
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