

# THE ROCKHOUNDER



# SEPTEMBER 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 September 12th 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 titled "**Mineral-Making Microbes**" will be presented by **Cara Santelli** who is currently a Research Geologist and Assistant Curator of Minerals at the National Museum of Natural History. Cara received her B.S. In Geology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and her PhD in from the MIT/Woods Hole Oceanographic Joint Program in Oceanography. Her PhD was in Geomicrobiology - a new subdiscipline within the Earth Sciences that requires training in both Geology and Microbiology. As a geomicrobiologist she investigates the interactions between microorganisms and minerals and how these interactions impact processes occurring on the Earth's surface. Specifically, she has studied microbes that inhabit lavas at the seafloor as well as microbes that can be used to clean up polluted environments through the formation of minerals! One of the highlights of her research was going to the bottom of the ocean in the submarine Alvin - the same vehicle that helped discover hydrothermal vents (aka "hot springs") at the seafloor. At the Smithsonian, Cara is continuing her research in Geomicrobiology as well as learning and studying the nation's finest collection of minerals and gems.



**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS** will meet Monday September 19th 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.

**DUES & DON'TS** Congress needs to pay its bills and so do you! **Unless you have already paid, your membership in GLMSMC 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.

**NOTE:** There is a \$5.00 surcharge for renewals after a grace period which extends to November 1st. We pay dues for EFMLS/AFMS affiliations and over \$3.00 for insurance for each member over 10 years of age so when renewing, list only those interested in taking part in Society activities. Mini Miner's and MOCKS Families are urged to join the Society and support efforts. We do not send out bills for dues bills. This is it! (See Page 2)

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**DEADLINE** for Oct. 2011 Issue: September 26th

**DUES & DON'TS** (Continued) 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](mailto:dbaum@gazette.net) or call 301 515 4641.

Doug will mail your membership card(s) back to you if you send him a self addressed stamped envelope, otherwise you may pickup your card(s) at the September regular meeting. If your phone number, address, E Mail address, or other vital information has changed since the January 2010 Roster or subsequent *Rockhounds* please let us know. **DO IT NOW** while you are thinking about it! If you are willing to receive the newsletter by e-mail only, so note when sending in your dues. Postal rates were again raised this year. **Don't neglect paying your dues on time.**



### **REGULAR AND BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Since no meetings were held during July and August, there are no Minutes

### **COMBINED AFMS, EFMLS CONVENTIONS, and SYRACUSE Gem and Mineral Society 60th year anniversary Show July 6 - 10, 2011**

By Wendell Mohr

This event was outstanding and thoroughly enjoyable. The Syracuse Society did a superb job of organizing and hosting the event and deserve the highest acclamation possible. As AFMS Commemorative Stamp Committee Chairman and as EFMLS Liaison and GLMSMC Delegate I attended the business meetings of both AFMS and EFMLS.

On July 6th there was an AFMS Uniform Rules Committee meeting and American Lands Access Association meeting which I did not attend.

The July 7th AFMS meeting went smoothly with most reports of Officers, Directors, and Committees included in a packet sent prior to the event. A few things to report:

1. Emerson Tucker was authorized to sell hats with the AFMS Logo. This is his personal project and they will sell for \$10 - 12 including postage and the income over the \$7.50 cost will go to the AFMS Scholarship fund.
2. A donation of 4 pieces of equipment was accepted from Hi-Tech Diamond (Retail value \$1500, \$500, \$489, and \$439.) This is a donation and the company is not offered AFMS endorsement. They offered 10% off orders for equipment when "AFMS 2011" is supplied on the order. See <[www.HITECHDIAMOND.com](http://www.HITECHDIAMOND.com)>.
3. The AFMS FRA program was authorized to issue 5 new badges: Fluorescent Minerals, Special Effects, The World of Miniatures, Reaching across Generations, and Maps.
4. The Budget was passed with a few changes from the original proposal.
5. The slate for next year officers presented by the nominating Committee was unanimously elected.
6. AFMS Convention next year will be at Minnetonka MN, a suburb of Minneapolis, July 26 -29, 2012 sponsored by The Minnesota Mineral Club.
7. The Meeting Minutes and other convention news may be read at <[http://www.amfed.org/news/n2011\\_09.pdf](http://www.amfed.org/news/n2011_09.pdf)>.



I did not attend the AFMS Scholarship Foundation meeting following the AFMS meeting, nor the President's luncheon picnic.

(Continued on Page 3)



The traditional “Cracker Barrel” Thursday was not a session for exchanging problems and solutions this year but rather a very nice social event held at the original Erie Canal Park in Camillus. Beside the picnic gathering, the historic Sim’s Store Museum there was open and there was a narrated boat



tour to a renovated aqueduct. It was a perfect day Free to all attending the Convention.

The EFMLS meeting, held on a Friday evening, went smoothly with most reports of Officers, and Committees included in a packet sent prior to the event.

A few things to report:

1. A balanced realistic budget was passed for the first time in my recollection. Hooray!
2. The EFMLS Convention next year will be at Harrisburg PA, September 15 - 16, 2012. The host club is the Central Pennsylvania Rock and Mineral Club.
3. The slate for next year’s officers presented by the nominating committee was unanimously elected.
4. The Meeting Minutes and other convention news may be read at <<http://www.amfed.org/efmls/efsept11web.pdf>>.



The Show at the New York State Fairgrounds was open Saturday and Sunday July 9 & 10. Admission was \$6 with free return on Sunday. It was a super event with 54 retail and 12 wholesale dealers offering wide variety of material. There were 59 exhibits primarily in a side room plus a few in the



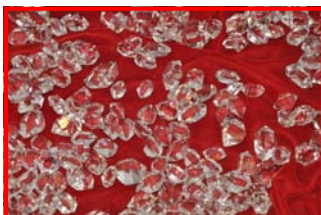
main hall. Ten were competitive exhibits with 7 receiving trophies for high quality. Quality of all exhibits was great and there was good junior participation. “UV Bob” had a large fluorescent tent. There was a sluice, soapstone



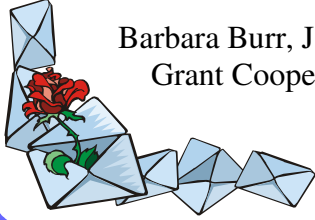
carving beading, and gem trees for children. There were flint knappers and beading. Workshops included making Hammered aluminum earrings, wire wrapped stone, beading, and making a wire crochet bracelet. A lecture series offered 4 sessions on Saturday and another 4 different lectures on Sunday. The EFMLS Endowment Fund auction took place Saturday afternoon.

The Awards Banquet Saturday evening included the installation of officers for both AFMS and EFMLS. Recognition of AFMS Scholarship Awardee, Scholarship Fund awards, Each One Teach One awardees, “M” (Greatest increase in membership) awards, All American Club Award, Competitive Exhibit awards, and EFMLS Citation award. Special invited speaker was Bob Jones, Editor of Rock & Gem Magazine.

Sunday morning was the Editor’s and Web Master’s Breakfast. A number of awards came to our Society. Web Site competition winners were also announced. See Page 7 for our awards and visit the EFMLS and AFMS web sites for complete information on all awards.



There were field trips to the Museum of the Earth at Ithaca, and the Syracuse Erie Canal museum on Friday. A trip to collect Herkimer Diamonds was scheduled for Monday following the show. On Tuesday they offered a trip to East Bethany NY for fossils followed by a visit to Ward’s Natural Science Establishment in Rochester. Great Job, Syracuse folks!

**SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS:**

Barbara Burr, Joyce Becker, Michael Buynak, Jeffrey Cessna, Cindy Cincotta,  
Grant Cooper, Mary Crosswhite, Erich Grundel, Maureen Gunnison, Nicholas Gunnison,  
Emily Johnson, Alexandra Kindahl, Chris Luzier, Ingeborg McCright,  
Jo Ann Mohr, Georgia Olmstead, Abbie Olshin, Elena Olshin,  
Meredith Powers, David Smith, Yukako Yubuki, Sergiy Yakovlev.

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

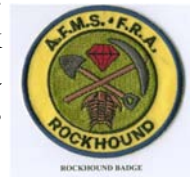
**Meeting Date:** September 12, 2011 **Meeting time:** 7:45 - 9:00 pm

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



R. Weller/Cochise College

September 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting: Why do some minerals glow in the dark and change colors under different light conditions? Fluorescent aficionado, Andy Muir will “enlighten” us on these natural phenomena. “Ultraviolet” Andy will discuss the precautions necessary to handle fluorescent minerals safely and will talk about the science behind fluorescents. He will have a variety of specimens for us to examine, and attendees will receive fluorescent samples to take home.



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**

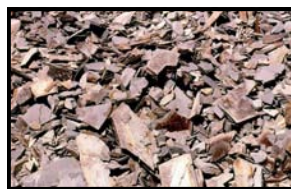
**Meeting Date:** September 12, 2011 **Meeting time:** 7:00 - 8:00 pm

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

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

September 12th Meeting: We will be discussing the Rock Cycle and examining sedimentary rocks. We will have lots of samples for you to examine and we will try our hand at making our own sedimentary rock.

Parents are welcome to participate.



Photos R.Weller/Cochise College

**Sept. 17** - Arrangements were unable to be made for the Lake Anna Swap this year per EFMLS Region IV Vice-President Carl Miller. So don't trek to that area near Mineral VA, site of the 5.8 earthquake.

**September 24** - Willis Mountain Kyanite Mine. Saturday 8:45 am -TBD. Everyone must be at the Willis Mine office no later than 8:45 am for the safety briefing.

Minerals found: kyanite, rutile, apatite, zeolites, pyrite. Rock type - a kyanite-quartzite rock.

This is a multi-club trip; currently we have 5 slots (in line with our prior attendance). Thus you must get Jonathan Harris' confirmation to attend. We could get more slots if other clubs have lower attendance. To get priority in the lottery, please respond to Jonathan by September 14; after that slots will be allocated on a first come-first serve basis. Email (preferred) <jgharris7@gmail.com>, including "Willis Mtn." in the subject line, or phone 301-545-0808.

Children 10 and above are welcome if accompanied and supervised by a parent.

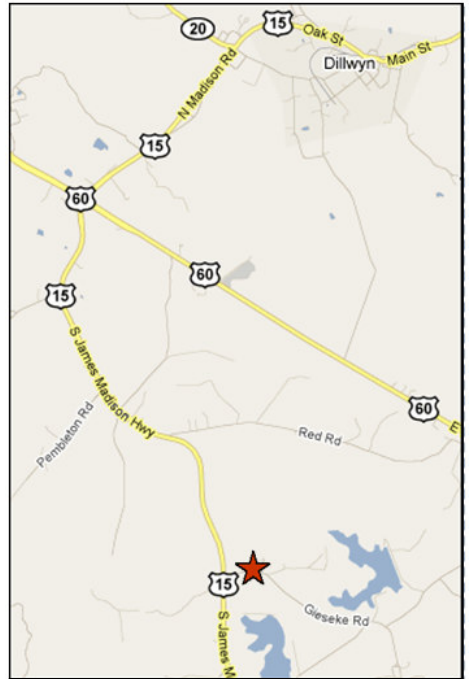
Transportation in the mine: People should expect to drive to the collecting area. Low slung sports cars are not recommended. Minivans or normal sedans should be fine as long as drivers are careful.

Departures: People may leave prior to closing, but should plan on not returning later (this will just be too hard for the quarry personnel to monitor safely). We must be out promptly at closing.

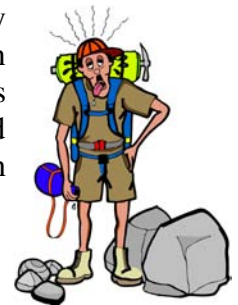
Other information: Baker mountain is not part of this trip, it is 40 miles away and has been grassed over.

Also please bring a signed copy of mine's waiver and get a copy of field trip rules. (from Jonathan)

**Directions:** Note the assembly area is the Scale House. Take I-270 South to I-495 (outer loop), to I-95. Go West on VA-3 (near Fredericksburg) to VA-20 where you stay left. Stay on VA-20 to US-15 (Near Orange.) Continue on US-15 South to intersection with US-60 (Sprouses Corner.) From the intersection of VA-15 and US-60, go 3-4 miles South on US-15 and turn left on VA-788, Gieseke Road. This is just before you get to Willis Mt. Plant Rd. Keep straight on VA-788 to the scale house assembly area. Do not block any mine traffic to the scales. Roughly 160 miles from Rockville, driving time about 3 hours.



**October 1** - National Limestone Quarries in PA. Saturday 9 am - ? Jonathan is awaiting confirmation and a decision on whether we will just go to the Mount Pleasant Mills Quarry or also visit the other nearby one. He won't send the complete notice out until he gets the final confirmation as he doesn't want people going to the wrong quarry.



**Field Trips** continued on page 6

Jonathan Harris frequently responds to inquiries from newer collectors having the question "What do I need." He says you need Anita. She'll help. Anita prospector's pick, Anita cold chisel, Anita a hard hat, Anita eye protection, and so forth.....

**FIELD TRIPS** Continued from Page 5.

**October 29** - Lafarge Quarry, Churchville MD. Saturday 8:45 am - 1 pm. Meet at the office building. Park in the gravel parking lot, 1219 Calvary Road, Churchville MD. We must be out of the quarry by 1 pm (subject to change by quarry management if the people on site have to leave earlier. Restrictions and age limit: Attendees must be adults (18 and over) and be current members of GLMSMC or a mineral club invited by the GLMSMC. Total number of attendees is limited to 12 by request of the quarry. **Special rules:** The quarry has requested that we wear fluorescent vests (typically available at home center stores), that members with any certification for mine safety bring their cards (certification not required), and that no food wrappers or other trash be left behind. Directions and further information in the October Rockhoulder.

**REPORT ON AUGUST 28th TRIP**

Article and Photos by Wendell Mohr

18 folks trekked to Crystal Grottoes, the only commercial cave in MD. No evidence of earthquake damage and while hurricane winds were still fierce at 2 am that morning, by the afternoon, when we got to the site, it was bright and sunny! Several juniors and Mini-Miner's parents were in attendance. A delightful educational tour of about an hour conducted by a knowledgeable speleologist highlighted the discovery, formations, and many other things about caves. Exploration was easy with but one short staircase; The cave is beneath a hill and all about level with the entry. Thanks, Jonathan, for a different kind of field trip.



**Against All Odds:  
Rescue at the Chilean Mine**

Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of Natural History  
Exhibit: August 5, 2011 to: indefinite.

Last fall, the world watched as rescuers in Chile ferried 33 miners to safety after nearly two months trapped in a collapsed mine. See the actual rescue capsule in a special temporary exhibit featuring the complex rescue effort and the miners' story. New video footage, mementos from the miners, and rock samples from the mine help take you to the scene of this dramatic event.



Photo from NMNH Web Site

**The Hope Diamond**

The Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of Natural History, Harry Winston Gallery features the Hope Diamond, in its new temporary setting,

**"EMBRACING HOPE"**

Voted online as the favorite setting.

On display in its dazzling new setting through Nov. 18, 2011.

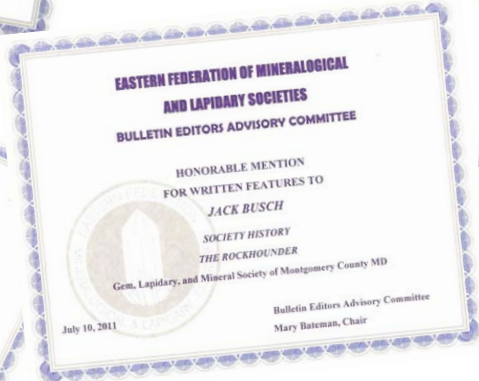
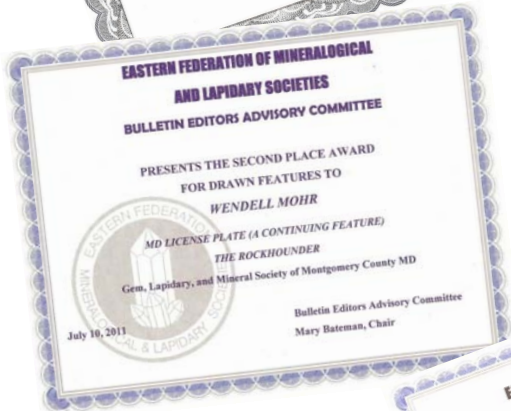
To learn more, visit the Smithsonian Channel's website for the documentary, <Mystery of the Hope Diamond>.



Photo: Don Hurlbert




**2010 AWARDS APLENTY FOR THE SOCIETY AND INDIVIDUALS FOR ARTICLES IN THE ROCKHOUNDER**



**SECOND AWARD FOR JACK !**

46th ANNUAL  
**GEM MINERAL & JEWELRY SHOW**

 <http://www.rockandmineral.org>

**SEPTEMBER 17 and 18, 2011**  
SAT. 10 am – 6 pm      SUN. 10 am – 5 pm

**ZEMBO SHRINE**  
THIRD AND DIVISION STREETS, HARRISBURG, PA

**Vendors of Jewelry, Beads,  
Gemstones, Minerals and Fossils**

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CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES    PRIZES    EDUCATIONAL EXHIBITS

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ADMISSION **\$6.00**  
**\$1.00** discount on each of two adult admissions with flier  
Maximum Value \$2.00  
CHILDREN 12 AND UNDER AND SCOUTS IN UNIFORM FREE WITH ADULT

 **55<sup>th</sup> Annual Franklin  
Mineral Museum  
Gem & Mineral Show**  
**September 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> 2011**

Held at: Franklin School  
Washington Ave., Franklin N.J. Jersey  
*(Follow road signs to show)*

Indoor Show	Outdoor Show
<b>Saturday 9 – 6 PM</b>	<b>Saturday 7:30-6 PM</b>
<b>Sunday 10:00 – 5 PM</b>	<b>Sunday 9:00 – 5 PM</b>

Admission: Adult \$7.00 Children (6-16) \$4.00

 **Expanded Fluorescent Area**

For additional information contact:

- Franklin Mineral Museum at: 973-827-3481
- [www.franklinmineralmuseum.com](http://www.franklinmineralmuseum.com)


**Dealers & Sponsors email:**  
[pesolutions.minerals@gmail.com](mailto:pesolutions.minerals@gmail.com)

**\$1.00 OFF  
Admission  
with this coupon**

Children 12 and under  
FREE with paying adult

Regular Admission - \$5.00

Sponsored by



**47<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Atlantic Coast  
Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show**  
Howard County Fairgrounds  
I-70 at MD Rt. 32

Award-winning displays of jewelry, gems, minerals, fossils, and lapidary art.  
Choice rough, slabs, tools, finished gems, minerals, fossils, beads and jewelry for sale.  
Demonstrations show how to make your own beautiful jewelry and finished stones.  
Visit our website <[www.gemcuttersguild.com](http://www.gemcuttersguild.com)> for news about our classes and show.

**September 24 – 25, 2011**

Visit our website...  
<[www.gemcuttersguild.com](http://www.gemcuttersguild.com)>  
for news about the show and our jewelry and gem cutting classes.

November 12 – 13, 2011. Northern Virginia Mineral Club's 20th Annual Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Show. ([www.novamineralclub.org](http://www.novamineralclub.org)) Saturday 10 AM – 6PM, Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM. Student Union II Building, George Mason University, Braddock Rd and Route 123, Fairfax, VA. Admission \$5.00, Seniors and Teens \$3.00. Scouts in uniform and Children under 12 free.





**HUGE AUCTION SALE**

Saturday, September 10, 2011  
Material and Equipment from Joe Sobrio,  
well-known Baltimore area  
lapidary and teacher

**Over 150 lots  
Equipment, Slabs, Rough, Tools, etc.**

Auction listing can be found at  
<gemcuttersguild.com>

Preview at 11:30 am  
Auction begins at Noon

Terms: Cash or check. All sales final

Woman's Club of Catonsville  
10 St. Timothy's Lane Catonsville MD

**CHESAPEAKE GEM AND  
MINERAL SOCIETY  
AUCTION**

Date : Friday, October 14, 2011  
Time : 7:30 pm (viewing at 7:00 pm)  
Place: Woman's Club of Catonsville

**Offering Gemstones, cutting rough,  
jewelry, minerals, fossils, books,  
magazines, and lapidary equipment.**

Refreshments are available.

Directions: Go West on Fredrick Rd.  
from I-695 approx. 3 blocks to St.  
Timothy's Lane. Turn right & go 1 block  
to the Woman's Club; located  
behind St. Timothy's Church.



**COPPER BRONZE CUFF**

Silversmithing - Layering metals

Date : 2 classes Sat., Sep. 10th **or** Sun., Sep. 11th from 9 am to 5 pm (1 hour lunch break)

Location: Patuxent Lapidary Guild workshop, 169 Defense Highway (lower level) Annapolis.

Description: Students will make one cuff bracelet. Students will work on jeweler's saw skills, soldering, riveting and finishing techniques. Students may bring their personal tools if desired. Some silversmithing experience is helpful but not required. This class is intensive, please be prepared to focus and work hard. The image above is intended as a sample only - students will create their own designs.

Fees: Class fee \$40 members, \$60 non-members, payable in cash or by check made out to the PLG.

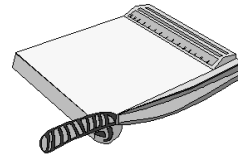
Materials fee: \$35, payable to the instructor. Materials will include: copper and nu gold (bronze) sheet (3' x 12" each) copper wire (5 feet) bronze wire (2 feet) solder and patina.

Requirements: Students are encouraged to bring a notebook and an Optivisor if they own one.

To register for this class: call the instructor, Donna Madej, at 410-215-1774. No deposit is necessary, but be prepared to pay at the start of the class. Class size will be limited to 8 students. There are currently 3 openings for the Saturday class and 4 for the Sunday class. Contact Donna to reserve your place in class. Your place will be reserved when you contact the instructor.

**MICROMOUNT SALE** Member, Maureen Campeau reports that she has updated her web site, <<http://www.simkevmicromounts.com>> with some extremely fine specimens among the 547 Specimens available. (Not an endorsement.) Maureen was a micromount demonstrator at the March Show.

Cut 'em out and save 'em

**WEB SITES**

By Wendell C. Mohr



**Art Jewelry Magazine**, <<http://www.artjewelrymag.com/Videos.aspx>>, offers 48 videos on wide ranging jewelry topics. Here's a good read. How about making wire spirals, jump rings, S hook clasps, fusing metal, threading a saw blade into a saw frame, polymer clay, metal clay, chain maille, enamel sgraffito, making a cabochon, tools and more! You must register (Free account). You likely will want to go to the main page for more about the magazine. (No endorsements here, as usual.)

- New Book just out: *You Can Fix your Lapidary Equipment* by Jerry Rigg. •

**Twenty Things You Didn't Know About Crystals**, May 2011 issue Discover Magazine article, at <<http://discovermagazine.com/2011/may/05-things-you-didnt-know-about-crystals>> is a far ranging potpourri about many crystal topics. Crystals inside comets forged by the Sun, the ones buried under Manhattan, and the "crystal" ones that aren't *crystal* at all. Explore the links for added interest. • Sometimes you'll come across a crystal that obviously broke at some time in geologic history. Perhaps crustal movements caused that to occur. Later growth repaired the crystal much like a broken bone heals. How is that possible? What could have helped? I think it was Helium. •



**Unearthing Wyoming's Dinosaurs-A Walk Through Wyoming's Paleontological History** <<http://trib.com/app/flash/dino/dino.php>> is an article from the Casper Star Tribune by Kristy Gray and illustrated by Wes Watson. Although Kids probably know more about dinos than adults, this site is for all. For reasons unknown, the only way for me to proceed was to click on Triceratops (Wyoming State Dinosaur). Then text information providing age, size, collection date and other facts on eleven species can be visualized. *Bone Wars* gives biographical information and a short history of four paleontologists who were in the forefront of discoverers. *Dirt to Display* details dinosaur death, discovery, digging, lab work, and reassembling bones.

- John Benedict went to Wyoming in search of dino fossils. He made an early lucky strike and found a dino nest. He had the honor of naming them: Eggs Benedict. •

**TOUCHING HISTORY**

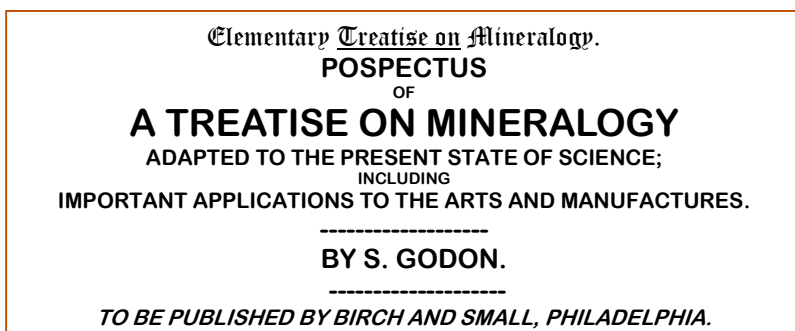
By Erich Grundel

If you have ever searched for information on the internet you have had this experience. You find a site with the information and within it there is a link. You click the link. There is a link therein and you click it. Soon you are cascading through links until you stop. The final site, though connected to the initial one, is far removed in content from where you started. This phenomenon, sometimes called concept connections, is of interest to many people including psychologists, engineers and marketers. Earlier this year I had such an experience that lead me to one of the greatest thinkers in world history.

I have found that one of the most interesting web sites is that of the Library of Congress <[www.loc.gov](http://www.loc.gov)>. It has one of my favorite spots called Today in History. Every day some aspect of America's history is explained. The subject matter has no boundaries; it can be profound or trivial. There are always links that allow one to further explore the daily topic. One day through a link, I reached a LOC site called An American Time Capsule:

Continued on page 11

Three Centuries of Broad­sides and Other Printed Ephemera. I decided to search this site on a subject that is of interest to me; mineralogy. One of the items that was on the list caught my eye, so much so that I decided to see it in person. A few days later I went to the Rare Book Room and requested the item\*:



This one page prospectus, printed on only one side, was issued in Philadelphia in April, 1810. Sil­vain Godon (ca. 1769-1840) is a well known figure in the early history of American mineralogy (Wilson, 1994). The existence of this prospectus has been noted elsewhere (Greene, 1978) but without further in­formation. Godon outlines the planned contents of what he envisioned would be a two book set. Note­worthy is his intention to use the recently published crystallographic concepts of the great French mineral­ogist Haüy. He also intended to report on the mineralogy of North America based on his own travels and observations as well as that of “respectable authorities” and as such he planned to make it, in his own words, “a National work.” The intention of the prospectus is to ask for subscribers to the publication. The price was ten dollars. For non-subscribers the price would be twelve dollars. For various reasons the books were never written, much less published. It was a real pleasure for me look at and read such a rare item of American mineralogical history.

Interesting as this is, this is not the reason I wanted to look at this document (the document may also be viewed on the LOC web site).

What really got my attention is the opposite side. This prospectus was sent from Philadelphia on May 7, (1810) as a free letter and it is the person to whom it is addressed and a short, handwritten note indicating it was received on May 13, (1810) that stoked my curiosity. I called over the librarian and asked about the handwriting and whether it belonged to the addressee.

I could tell that he was a bit surprised when I showed him the writing. I think he was unaware of its existence. Before he answered my question he told me about the document. Although there is no way to verify it, he was certain that it was part of the Peter Force Collection. I was familiar with this collec­tion. Peter Force (1790-1868) was a printer and publisher in Washington, DC during the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. He was intensely interested in the Colonial, Revolutionary and Constitutional periods of America’s history. He eventually accumulated tens of thousands of books, documents, manuscripts and maps from these periods. It was probably the largest private collection of such material ever collected. In stages it was obtained by the LOC and constitutes one of the most important acquisitions in its history.

As to my question, he could not tell if this was the handwriting of the recipient of the prospectus; Thomas Jefferson. Instead, he went to the reference shelf and gave me a book to check. It is a large tome with examples of the handwriting of people, famous and less so, from the period of the American Revolu­tion. While I checked the book the librarian disappeared behind one of the side doors to enter an area where some of the rare books are stored.

Continued on Page 12

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The example of Jefferson's handwriting that is given in the book is his June, 1776 draft of the Declaration of Independence. This document has been on public display several times in recent years. I have seen it. It is housed in a special case to protect it. It contains notes, comments and changes from John Adams and Benjamin Franklin as well as Jefferson himself. It took me just a few seconds to confirm that the handwriting on the prospectus is Jefferson's. His writing is very neat and he makes the letter d in a distinct way; it looks like an open, backward 6.

A few minutes later the librarian returned and handed me a small box. He told me the contents will help me answer my question. I showed him what I had found from the information in the handwriting book.

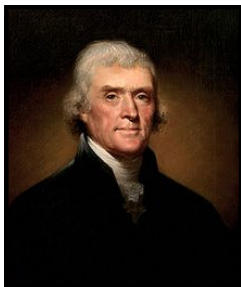
The box contained a book printed in 1785. The title is *Rules of the Senate* and the author is Thomas Jefferson. In 1785 the country was governed under the Articles of Confederation. The Constitution did not exist. Therefore the Senate as described in the Constitution was not yet created. As I opened the pages of the book, there in the margins, again, in a very tiny, neat handwriting were comments and observations. Jefferson was editing his own writing! The characteristic d was there. Jefferson must have used a magnifying glass to effectively write such small, clear letters.



From Wikipedia

The British burned the Library during the War of 1812. In 1815 Jefferson sold his entire library of 6,487 books to help re-establish the Library. This is one of the books.

Never did I think my interest in minerals would lead me one day to see and touch the thinking of one of the supreme minds mankind has ever known.



Portrait of Thomas Jefferson by Rembrandt Peale, 1800; From Wikipedia

### REFERENCES:

\* The Library of Congress is not a circulating library. The public may use the library on site. One needs to apply for a library card which is obtained in the James Madison Building.

Greene, John C. and Burke, John D., *The Science of Minerals in the Age of Jefferson*, **Transactions of the American Philosophical Society**, V.68, Pt.4, p. 33, 1978.

Wilson, Wendell, *The History of Mineral Collecting 1530-1799*, **Mineralogical Record**, V.25 (6), p. 172, 1994. Also: <[www.minrec.com](http://www.minrec.com)>, see the Biographical Archive to learn about Godon's life.

**AUCTION** We hear that, in lieu of this year's show, the **GLMSDC** will be holding its first annual auction on Sunday October 2nd. If open to non-members, and other details when we receive them.

**DONATION** Many thanks to Dr. Lewis Hsu for the donation of fossils, minerals, mineral kits, tumbled stones and tumbling grit, agate slices, geodes, and 4 books specifically designated for use by juniors. Dr. Hsu was a rockhound in high school. His children are off to college and he moved to Chicago at the end of June. He located us from the Society web site. The juniors will make good use of the materials.

Q: How do you sink a submarine full of mineral collectors?

A: Knock on the door.

I'm sure you have heard the old adage that "Safety Is Everyone's Business". I would like to remind you that Rock hounding in the field is a hazardous occupation and the adage is true. Rockhounds hit rocks with hammers and propel sharp shards of rock at speeds approaching 100 miles per hour. Rockhounds climb on piles of loose rock that is a disaster waiting to happen. Rockhounds get near rock faces where a rock falling from 50 feet up only gives you 1.3 seconds of warning. We hold chisels and swing hammers at them with great force and dubious accuracy. We go into remote places with wild and dangerous critters, some poisonous. Sometimes we even go into mines.

Yes, there are such things as accidents. But most "accidents" are probably avoidable given conscious thought and common sense.

Never collect alone; always have someone along who can at least go for help. Make sure someone not on the trip knows where you are going so they can send help if you don't return in a reasonable time.

Know the area you are visiting (look up a topo map) and plan an escape route ahead of time. How do you get out if a disaster occurs or you get "lost." Which way is civilization, and how do you find the path?

Wear reasonable protective gear. Hard hat protects you from falling stuff or bumping your head.



Eye protection against flying chips. Earplugs protect against hammer noise and flying chips. Steel toed boots protect the foot and ankle. Consider gloves.

Someone got hurt. Who knows First Aid? Did someone remember a First Aid Kit with basic supplies? If someone gets hurt badly, how will you be calling for help? Are you prepared to stabilize the situation and keep the patient alive until professional help can arrive?

How far away from the rock wall should you stay back to stay safe from collapse or falling rock? When is that rock face most dangerous? Do you know what a winze is, and why it is dangerous? Do you know why not to use tempered chisels? What do you do if you find explosives, or an abandoned mine shaft? What must you do if you have to apply a tourniquet? Do you know the difference between heat stroke and sun stroke? How do you do CPR?



The primary job of your Club's Field Trip Director is to make sure everyone comes back alive from every trip. Safety really is everyone's business, and you can help make that happen. You should be able to answer the above questions.

When in the field, don't get within 10 feet of another collector without acknowledgment so you are outside the zone of flying chips. Protect yourself with proper safety equipment. Drink lots of water so you don't overheat. Be aware of what is going on around you; don't walk into dangerous situations. Get some training so you can help in case something goes wrong.

Take a Red Cross First Aid class. Learn CPR.

Get Certified in Mine Safety and Hazard Awareness by the Department of Labor. Part 46 certification for Rockhounds will get you into many quarries and mines that would otherwise be closed. It should be a tough one day class and test. Many of the questions will cause you to flunk if missed. You really have to pay attention and think if the class is properly taught. Safety in the field can be a life or death issue; the class should be harsh too.

Don't depend on your Field Trip Chair. It is your life that is at risk in the field. Safety needs to be a conscious and actively thinking state of mind to be effective. Take some responsibility and learn how to be safe so you can collect again.



At the lead mine in Kansas, miners had to carry their ore up the steep adits by hand. They were paid by the number of containers of Galena they brought out each day. It was a hard job, and they had to be careful not to lose their loads while climbing. No doubt this is where the saying came from.... Lead men don't spill pails!

From StateLine Gem and Mineral Society Rock Trails Feb 2010

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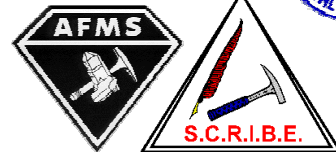
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