

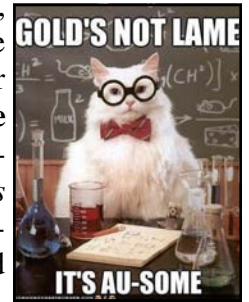
THE ROCKHOUNDER



APRIL
2012

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 April 9th** in the dining room of the Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Drive, Rockville. A short business meeting will begin at 7:45 pm but the room is available to us at 7:30 pm so come early and chat with old friends. The speaker will be our own member **Jeff Nagy**. His topic will be titled "**The Ingalls Collection: The Maryland Mine - Montgomery County, Maryland 1867-1940.**" The mine is in Potosi. Jeff is a very talented person, working to completely revise and update the *Minerals of the Washington DC Area* by Lawrence Bernstein. He is an active faceter and demonstrated that at the March Show. He has been directly involved in researching old mines and has had papers published. He volunteers at the Montgomery County Historical Society.



THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS will meet Monday, April 16, at the Home of Andy Muir. All Board members are expected to be there. Any member is welcome to attend but kindly let Andy know if you plan to attend at: <amuir21@comcast.net> or phone 301 990 1370.

WELCOME NEW ROCKHOUNDS

LOTTEs, Karen and John, 330 Ridge Road, Washington Grove MD 20880-1386,
301 335 8237, e-mail: Karen kylottes@yahoo.com, John: lottesjj@yahoo.com
Children Mira and Jered.



RETURNING MEMBER

SCHAUB, Lester, 3152 Gracefield Road, Apt. 107, Silver Spring MD 20904-5898, 301 890-1272

HIRING - ROCKHOUNDER EDITOR! Starting salary (zero dollars/year) is highest wage offered in the National Capital Area. Experience the satisfaction of being the editor for the best Society in the region.

The Board will supply you with Microsoft Publisher program or equivalent for your easy use. Lots of clip art and articles are available.

Simply assemble input from the Program and Membership Chairs, President, Secretary, Field Trip Chair, FRA and Mini Miners leaders. Joel supplies Door Prize and Show Table Information at the meeting. Area show and other items like Safety articles come from EFMLS or AFMS Newsletters you will receive.

If are willing to take on the job, talk to Andy Celmer.

IN THIS ISSUE	
Meetings, New Members, Roster changes, Editor needed, Deadline....	1
Prez Message, Show Case Sale.....	2
Regular Meeting Minutes.....	3
Field Trips.....	4
FRA.....	5
Turner Donation, Mini Miners, G&M Hunters.....	6
Shows & Events.....	7
Web Sites, Name Badges.....	8
March Prizes, Preliminary Show Report, Removing Clay from Minerals.....	9
Show Table.....	10
Safety.....	11

DEADLINE for May 2012 Rockhounder: Apr. 30th.

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

By Andy Celmer



W. Mohr Photo

Hello Everyone,

Allow me to congratulate everyone who helped “person” all our stations at the Rock Show. A special thanks to the Mighty Mocks for their participation through out the Show. As well as the set up and take down crews, always a labor intensive endeavor. Continued thanks to Patricia Repik-Byrne, who stayed until 9 pm Friday to assist in display case loading in addition to, guidance, set up, tear down and all day Saturday and Sunday service. Continued thanks to Mark Dahlman for guidance, set up, tear down, all day Saturday and Sunday service as well as staying until 10 pm while the last vendor packed up.

I looked fantastic on Saturday in my green Flower print shirt and Shamrock Tie! I only looked Handsome on Sunday.

Thanks to all who helped, you/we make this all a reality!

Now let me speak about what all your hard work accomplishes.

Many of you already know we contribute \$4,000 to the Smithsonian every other year, so that they may purchase a mineral or crystal specimen that is needed for their collection. Their collection is not only for display, but also contributes to their ongoing scientific investigations.

The American Federation of Mineralogical Societies maintains a Scholarship Fund for individuals pursuing degrees in Earth Science or related fields. Our club, as well as individuals from our club have contributed to this fund. The suggested giving level is \$1 per member and is cumulative over time. Our participation level is 11,000% to date!

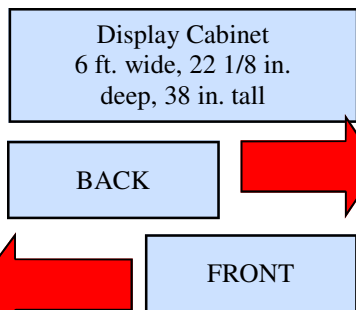
We contribute to the Eastern Foundation Fund. They use their funds for one time special uses, such as the recent digitization of their entire program library. The AFMS Endowment is another special project fund, to which we contribute. We maintain a full Scholarship to Wildacres. We partially funded a rock thin section project for a High School student in the Havre de Grace region. We continue to contribute to James Madison University Geology Department as well as other area Geology Departments to further their educational endeavors.

All this and more. Our Budget expenditures are made possible through your continued efforts.

A Job Well Done!

Andy B

SHOW CASE SALE Thanks to Claudia Hill, daughter of former GLMSMC member J. R. Smith, now deceased, we are gradually making material of interest available. The 12” diamond saw and a 15” Lortone vibratory lap were silent auctioned at the Gem and Mineral Show. A glass showcase has been moved to the home of Andy Celmer. It will reside there until is it silent auctioned at the April meeting. The buyer will be responsible for moving it to the location they want. Sold “As-Is”, no warranties.



The March 12, 2012 meeting was called to order by President Andy Celmer at 7:46 pm, with approximately 93 people attending. It was M/S/P to approve the minutes of the February 13, 2012 regular meeting and the minutes of the February 20, 2012 Board of Director's meeting.

President: President Andy Celmer announced a silent auction of two storage containers donated by Claudia Hill. Both items sold. Andy also discussed and showed pictures of a display case, to be auctioned at the April meeting.

Show: Pat Repik-Byrne discussed the volunteer positions that still needed to be filled. The sign up list was distributed. Forty exhibit cases were filled and many demonstration positions were filled. Mark Dahlman reminded members of the free show admission on days they volunteered.

Field Trips: Jonathan Harris discussed upcoming field trips to Manassas, Gettysburg, and MD Materials Quarries.

Guest Editor and EFMLS Liaison: Wendell Mohr discussed some upcoming classes from the Patuxent Lapidary Guild. He has applications for the Wildacres sessions. Wendell discussed attending the AFMS meeting at the Minnesota Mineral Club. Please volunteer to help the club as newsletter editor, we are desperately in need.

FRA: Holly McNeil thanked Bob Irby for his donation of materials for the FRA program. Holly asked for volunteers to speak at the Gaithersburg Youth Center. George Durland volunteered.

Membership: It was M/S/P to approve family memberships for the Lottes family, Karen and John and children Mira and Jered.

Presentation: Vice president Chris Luzier introduced the speaker for the evening, Dr. Jeffrey Post. Dr. Post discussed the highlights of the Department of Mineral Sciences at the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History and his experiences at recent shows. The department has added some new staff, such as volcanologist Dr. Ben Andrews, and lost some – Dr. Eloïse Gaillou has taken a position of curator of gems and minerals at the Los Angeles County Museum. We were treated to a wonderful show of the new acquisitions from both the Denver and Tucson shows along with the stories that went along with some of the purchases. Dr. Post described the pentagonite specimen from the Pune District, India purchased using the club donation. The fragile specimen was hand carried home on the plane by Dr. Michael Wise. Dr. Post even got to do some collecting, looking for manganese oxide minerals in tailings from abandoned mines near Tombstone, AZ. Finally, he discussed the new Infrared microscope, capable of spectroscopy and including a mapping stage. Thanks Dr. Post.



Photo by W. Mohr

Treasurer: Andy Muir reported the state of pre-show payments and receipts. The club is in good financial shape.

Rod Towers administered the junior's door prize. Joel Rosen administered the show table and the drawings for the door and show table prizes.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55PM.

Jeff Cessna, Secretary.

NO BOARD MEETING MINUTES No Board meeting was held in March.

FIELD TRIPS

April 14, Saturday **Gettysburg Quarry:** 7am-11am. Quarry is known for zeolite crystals, copper minerals, epidote crystals, and micromounts. Address: 1575 Baltimore Pike. **Directions:** Go North on I-270 and follow it to continue North on US-15 past Frederick. In Pennsylvania, take the PA-97/Baltimore Street exit, go 0.2 miles. Turn LEFT onto PA-97/Baltimore Pike. Quarry will be 0.8 miles down Baltimore Pike. An Aerial photo shows the quarry on the left, just past where the road crosses Rock Creek. The age limit for this trip is 10 years old; all minors must be carefully supervised by a parent. The quarry manager emphasized the importance of staying away from forbidden areas-high walls and drop-offs; adults or children venturing there will get our club blacklisted from this site.



All club members must sign up to attend. E-mail Jonathan Harris at <jgharris7@gmail.com> at least **5 days** before the field trip date including "Gettysburg Quarry" in the subject line. (Please do not abbreviate this.). You must agree to the rules and waiver available from Jonathan. Please do not be a "no show". If you lack access to e-mail Jonathan's phone number is 301-545-0808 and his cell phone is 240-506-2864. Please inform friends who are paid members.

April 28, Saturday The Haines Kibblehouse (HK) group has kindly permitted us to have a field trip to the **Penn-MD Materials Quarry** 8 am to Noon.

Location: Meet at the gate around the laboratory entrance by 8 am, 303 Quarry Rd, Peachbottom PA.

Restrictions & Age limit: Attendees must be **adults (18 and over)** and be **current members** of the **GLMSMC** or a mineral club invited by the GLMSMC.

Mineral types: Serpentine, chromite, magnesite, deweylite (a mixture of clinochrysotile or Lizardite with a talc-like mineral), brucite, and opal.

All club members must sign up to attend. E-mail Jonathan at <jgharris7@gmail.com> at least **5 days** before the field trip date including "Penn MD Materials Quarry" in the subject line. (Please do not abbreviate this.). You must agree to the rules and waiver available from Jonathan. Please do not be a "no show". If you lack access to e-mail Jonathan's phone number is 301-545-0808 and his cell phone is 240-506-2864. Please inform friends who are paid members.

Directions: (From Rockville)

Take I-270 toward Washington. Merge onto I-495 (Inner loop.) At exit 27, turn RIGHT onto Ramp, I-95 / Baltimore. Go onto I-95 / Baltimore / New York. Keep RIGHT onto I-895 (Harbor Tunnel Throughway, toll road.) Merge onto I-95 (John F Kennedy Memorial Hwy.) At exit 80, turn RIGHT onto Ramp to MD-543 / Riverside / Churchville. Turn LEFT (North) onto MD-543 (Creswell Rd.) After 3.8 miles, bear RIGHT (North) onto MD-136 (Calvary Rd.) At Churchville MD Calvary Rd becomes Priestford Road. Stay on MD 136 bearing RIGHT (North-East) onto US-1 (Conowingo Rd.)



Immediately after crossing the Susquehanna River US 222 merges with US1. Turn LEFT (North-West) onto US-222 (Rock Springs Rd.) Enter Pennsylvania. Right at the state line turn RIGHT (East) onto Quarry Rd, Go 0.6 mi and arrive at 303 Quarry Rd, Peach Bottom, PA 17563.

Driving distance from Rockville: about 90.0 miles, Driving time: about 1 hour, 45 minutes.

The class assignment in English was to write something unusual that happened during the past week. Little Irving got up to read his paper. "Papa fell in the quarry last week--" he began. "Good heavens," shrieked the teacher. "Is he alright now?" "He must be," said little Irving, "He stopped yelling for help yesterday."



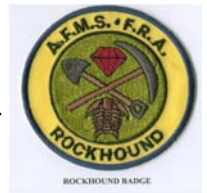
FUTURE ROCKHOUNDS OF AMERICA (The MOCKS) Ages 10-15.**Meeting Date:** April 9, 2012. **Meeting time:** 7:45 - 9:00pm.**Meeting Location:** Sunroom Cafeteria at the Rockville Senior Center**March 12, 2012**

We held a short meeting to review show logistics, and the FRA members then attended a special presentation in the main meeting room by Dr. Jeffrey Post, Geologist, Curator-in-Charge, Mineral Collection Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History. Dr. Post treated us with slides and stories of the Smithsonian's latest acquisitions, including a specimen purchased with funds donated by our club. He also shared stories of the recent Tucson show and other happenings at the Smithsonian.

April 9, 2012

Metamorphic rocks, the final group in our three-part series, will be covered in April. We will have a brief review of the other two groups and then discuss the two classes of metamorphic rocks, (foliated and non-foliated). We will also cover formation and metamorphic grades, and will work on our identification techniques.

Optional Badge Assignment: For those who have not yet earned the Earth Process badge, you can complete the badge requirements by bringing in 3 different examples of each of the three rock groups (labeled).

**MOCKS HELP GET THE ROCK SHOW ROCKING!!!**

Once again, the MOCKS' contribution to the annual show was outstanding. All were impressed by the MOCKS' 10 fabulous exhibits, and 13 MOCKS volunteers did a fantastic job covering the mini-mine, touch table, give-away section and junior quiz. The MOCKS did the majority of the work in these areas and we are all proud of the example they set and their helpfulness to the guests at the show

Special congratulations to the winners of the Lillian Turner Awards:***1st Place Ryan Gunnison for his "Micro Mania" exhibit******2nd Place – Trevor Babb for his exhibit on the "Modern Uses of Rocks"******3rd Place – Elena Olshin for her "Quartz" exhibit***

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO ALL WHO DONATED SPECIMENS FOR THE KIDS SECTION AT THE SHOW AND TO THE FRA PROGRAM. I WASN'T AROUND TO THANK SOME OF YOU WHEN YOU DROPPED OFF YOUR GIFTS, BUT PLEASE KNOW THEY ARE APPRECIATED AND WERE/WILL BE PUT TO GOOD USE.

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



Photographs by Wendell Mohr

DONATION Dr. Stephen Turner, the son of Lillian Turner, stopped by the Show unannounced on Sunday. He brought smiles to the faces of several of us when he presented GLMSMC with a check for \$5000.00 for the Lillian Turner Award fund! He keeps abreast of the outstanding programs that we have for Juniors and was impressed, not only for the on-going programs, but also for the many splendid junior exhibits at the show. We are grateful for this support and the kind gestures of the benefactor.



MINI MINERS Ages 6-9

Meeting Date: April 09 , 2012 **Meeting time:** 7:00 - 8:00 pm

Meeting Location: The Card Room at the Rockville Senior Center

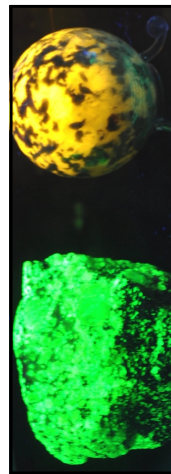
March 12, 2012

The Mini Miners were treated to a wonderful presentation on Fluorescent Minerals by Andy Muir. The children learned about fluorescent minerals and phosphorescence. They also tested out minerals brought from home to see if they would fluoresce. Many thanks to Andy for a terrific session and the great samples from Franklin, New Jersey.

April 09, 2012

At this meeting we will continue to learn about mineral identification by discussing streak and cleavage.

For more information contact Linda Smith 301-530-5007 or Tunacat107@aol.com



GEM & MINERAL HUNTERS, a Northern Virginia club has, per the new EFMLS Directory, disbanded. It got to the point that the meetings consisted of only about 5 regulars plus a couple of others attending irregularly. Several are getting along in years and can't make it to the quarries any more, so they got together and decided to just make it a social meeting club. The organization fell below the critical mass. They had fun while it lasted.

SHOWS AND EVENTS

April 19 - 22, Rochester (Henrietta) NY - 39th Annual Rochester Mineralogical Symposium sponsored by the Rochester Academy of Science, Mineral Section. Radisson Inn, Rochester Airport, 175 Jefferson Rd, Rochester NY. Opening with a visit to Ward's Natural Science Establishment and including a Micromounters "Play room", the event (which won the Carnegie award last year) features many speakers of note. An auction is Scheduled for Saturday. Steve Chamberlain - Chairman <sccham2@yahoo.com> for information.

April 21 - 22, 55th Semi-annual Bead Bazaar of the Bead Society of Greater Washington. Sat. 10-5, Sun. 11-5 at the Activity Center at Bohrer Park, 506 S. Frederick Ave., Gaithersburg MD. Admission \$7, Children under 12 free. Information <<http://bsgw.org/bazaars.html>>.

April 27 - 29, Mid-Atlantic Micromounters Conference of the Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area. Speaker for the weekend is Dr. John A. Jaszczak, Adjunct Curator at the A.E. Seaman Mineral Museum in Houghton, MI and Physics Professor at Michigan Tech. University. He will deliver three terrific talks during the weekend. For registration and info contact <cscrytals2@verizon.net>.

Saturday April 28 - 29, Sterling Hill Super Dig weekend "day-and-night" mineral collecting at Sterling Hill Mine, Ogdensburg NJ (9 am-11 pm); organized by the Delaware Valley Earth Science Society and Northeast Field Trip Alliance; cost of \$20/person includes museum and extended mine tour and registration. Fee of \$1.50/lb. is charged for those participating in mineral collecting. Preregistration by April 1st required. See <www.uvworld.org> for information.

Museum: Web site: <<http://sterlinghillminingmuseum.org/gemmineral/index.php>>. Christiansen Pavilion; 30 Plant St.; Sat. 10-3, Sun. 10-3; free admission; sales of excess rocks, minerals, mining and lapidary equipment, Museum Shop. Contact Sterling Hill Mining Museum, 973 209 7212, e-mail: <info@sterlinghillminingmuseum.org>.

Saturday May 12, Rock Swap by the Central Penn Rock Club & Franklin County Rock Club. South Mountain Fairgrounds, 615 Narrows Rd., Biglerville PA, outdoor pavilion. 8-3, Adults \$1, children free. Contact Tom Smith, 717 552 6554 or e-mail <tsmith1012@comcast.net>.

Saturday May 19, 23rd Annual Chesapeake Gem and Mineral Show, 10-4, Ruhl Armory, Towson MD. Free admission. Directions: take I-695 (Baltimore Beltway) to exit 26 - York Road South. The armory is on the east side of York Rd. (across from a car dealer and funeral home) just inside I-695.

July 26 - 29, "A Celebration of Agates." AFMS Convention and Show and seminars. Lindbergh Center at Hopkins High School, 2400 Lindbergh Drive, Minnetonka MN
For information see <<http://minnesotamineralclub.org/2012show.htm>>.

September 15 - 16 47th Annual Show by the Central Pennsylvania Rock & Mineral Club, Zembo Shrine, 2801 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg PA 17110. **EFMLS** Meeting Friday September 14th.
For information see <<http://www.rockandmineral.org/>>.



Etta was one of the new rich and she didn't hesitate about letting her friends know. One day she got a jeweled wristwatch and when one of the girls asked her the time she said, "It's exactly two emeralds past the diamond."



**WEB SITES**

By Wendell Mohr

The GIA Gem Project, <<http://www.gia.edu/research-resources/gia-gem-database/index.html>> has, so far, catalogued over 200 gems. The GIA (Gemological Institute of America) received Dr. Edward Gublerin's collection of approximately 2800 gems representing 225 different minerals in 2005. Working out of Switzerland, he had collected for many decades. At the left on this site are listed five specific minerals as well as other various gems already included in this on-going project. Click on the named gem then click on the catalogue number for a wealth of information some of which is very technical. Thanks to George Durland for the lead on this site. • A Montana guy puts his gem-bearing gravel through the screens. It's a grate way to get out the gemstones. And he heat treats all his sapphires for better colors. He must have a license to kiln. •



Arizona Experience at <<http://arizonaexperience.org/>> commemorates the 100 years of statehood and is an intriguing work in progress. Currently Mining & Minerals is the feature. Start by Clicking "Land." Read Mining Arizona and "read more." Freeport-McMoRan Copper and Gold Foundation is a sponsor. Step through Mining Methods, advancing by clicking "next" at the top of the photo. See the Morenci Mine flyover, a 2:36 video. Then a 10:49 video of the Bisbee Museum. Start again at the main page and click "people", which leads to the featured artist Jeff Scovil, renown photographer of minerals. See 19 of is photographs. A 2:00 video shows his procedure and gives some hints. Jeff, incidentally, will be the "Speaker-in-Residence" at the April Wildacres session. Schmooze around the site for other things of interest. Stay tuned for additions all year. • Flying above northern Arizona in a jet, I listened as the captain described points of interest over the loudspeaker. He indicated a giant crater on the ground that was formed by a meteorite thousands of years ago, A young woman in the row ahead of me looked out the window. She turned to her companion, and exclaimed, "Gee, if it had landed a little farther to the right, it would have hit the highway!" •

Moving Rock at <<http://framework.latimes.com/2012/02/29/lacma-rock/#/0>> shows the Los Angeles County Museum of Art's newest acquisition - a 340-ton boulder that has already arrived at the Wilshire Boulevard site. It and its massive transporter garnered international attention. The rock made its way from a Riverside County quarry 105 miles away. It will be the centerpiece of the museum's new outdoor installation called "Levitated Mass." Click through 43 captioned photographs. There have been times when collectors on our field trips wished for such a rig to transport finds home. • On the Riverside Quarry now closed to mineral collectors: "TRESPASSERS SHOT. IF MISSED, PROSECUTED!" •



NAME BADGES You may have noticed that some members have nice blue badges with the Society logo. What a nice way to get to better know members! New members are given the opportunity to purchase them for \$5.25 each. All members are strongly encouraged to have and use one. It has been called to the attention of the Board that some members do not remember being asked, and perhaps the question even missed some long time members. Other long-time members may have lost or broken their badge. See the Membership Chair, Doug Baum, who has the forms for ordering them.

Also the Treasurer has Embroidered Society Patches (About 3" Diameter) available @ \$2.00.

MARCH 12th PRIZES

General Door Prize: A specimen of Sphalerite, Quartz, and Chalcopyrite from the Animon Mine, Department of Pasco, Peru (From the collection of Juan Proaño) went to Douglas Baum.

Junior Door Prizes: A Terlingua type Calcite from Mexico across the border with Terlingua TX was won by the second lucky member of the Baum family, Jonathan. Marcia did not win so no atomic Baums this month

Wrangell AK Garnets were taken home by Conrad Smith, his second award →
In two months.

Show Table Prize: Joel Rosen (now under insider indictment for his actions after drawing his own number) won the fossilized dinosaur dung (Coprolite).



Photo by
W. Mohr

PRELIMINARY SHOW REPORT

We had a total of 1,745 attendees (down from 2,001 in 2011, but very similar to 2010 numbers). The lack of publicity in the Gazette Newspapers this year was a major factor after having had the wonderful coverage in by them in 2011. Of this total, we had 1,257 paying attendees and 488 free attendees (children, volunteers, etc.)

We earned \$6,451 from the admissions table (after subtracting the \$710 value of the 71 exhibitor and demonstrator certificates that were cashed in to the dealers.) We earned \$589 from the raffle. We also grossed \$463 from the silent auction items, however, I still need to determine what part of this will be kept by the club vs. paid to the donors.

I believe those are the key points for now! More later on the final Show numbers which will include income from dealers, and expenses for chairs, tables, security etc. Andy Muir, The Original Andy!

REMOVING CLAY FROM MINERAL SPECIMENS

Dirt is dirt, but clay is trouble. It is sticky when wet and hard when dry. In a past issue of *The Collecting Bag*, Betsy Martin explains how to clean rock. Her much longer article is condensed here. Betsy begins by reminding collectors that some minerals are water soluble and that some fluffy minerals or delicate coatings can't survive the mechanical stress of washing. If it is safe to clean the mineral, pick off as much clay as possible before you start.

1. Let clay dry out *completely*. Rubbing or scrubbing wet clay will just pack it down tighter.
2. Work outdoors. It's messy.
3. Always use cold water. Hot or warm water will make the clay even more sticky.
4. Add a tablespoon of liquid Calgon to the cold cleaning water. The water should feel slippery. If you must use powdered Calgon, dissolve it in a cup of hot water first and then add the hot water to your cold cleaning water.
5. Put the minerals in the cleaning solution for 10 to 20 minutes or until the clay has begun to absorb the liquid. Some of the clay will fall apart at this stage.
6. Rinse the rocks in cold, clean water and dispose of the muddy slurry. Repeat steps 5 and 6 as necessary.
7. Betsy recommends a final rinse in Calgon, a small amount of ammonia in water, or Windex (presumably the type with ammonia) to get off the last of the clay. Rinse again and drain.
8. Dry the minerals on newspapers and then pick out remaining clay bits and rinse again as necessary.
9. A final cleaning in an ultrasonic cleaner filled with Windex will finish the surface. Rinse in clear water.

From the Conglomerate, Baltimore Mineral Society Jan 2009

SHOW TABLE: March 12th, 2012. Thanks to those who bring items for sharing at the meetings.

<u>Exhibitor</u>	<u>Specimen (s)</u>	<u>Locality</u>
Barbara Burr	Brown Tourmaline	Locality unknown
Andy Celmer	Septarian Nodule	UT
Jeff Cessna	Hendricksite, Hyalophane	Franklin NJ
	Fluorapatite	Pitcairn NY
Claire DeSalvo	Alexandrite	Locality unknown
George Durland	Corundum Var. Ruby	Luc Yen Mine, Yen Bai Prov., N. Vietnam
Jonathan Harris	Stilbite*	Gettysburg PA
Jim Kostka	Columbite	Royal Gorge CO
	Coprolite	"Out West"
Diane Leaman	Dbl. Terminated Green Quartz	Green Monster Mtn. AK
Gary Leaman	Uranium Oxide	Quebec, Canada
	Wernerite	Greenville, Quebec, Canada
Shirley/Gary Letcher	Coprolite/ Belemnite*	Big Creek NJ
	Fossil bivalve shell*	Eleuthra Island in the Bahamas
Chuck Mason	Petrified wood (Gift of V. Vance)	Locality unknown
Wendell Mohr	Dolomite*	Penfield NY
Andy Muir	Calcite (fl.) in Limestone*	Oklahoma City OK
Joel Rosen	Calcite, Hydrozincite, Sphalerite (Aragonite?)	Fill Quarry
Conrad Smith	Pyrite, Goethite, Limonite*	Sterling Hill Mine, Ogdensburg NJ
Earl Smith	Agate	My back yard. Bethesda MD
Rod Towers	Lepidolite	Mexico
	* = Self-collected or self made	Zimbabwe



Photographs by W. Mohr



SAFETY - JUST A MOMENT

by Ellery Borow, EFMLS Safety Chair March 2012

Just a moment is all it takes to have an accident. There are numerous people who keep track of such things. But before I go on - a word of background information. Nearly all the rockhounds I know have additional interests - rocks and fossils, rocks and botany, rocks and geology, rocks and astronomy, rocks and photography, rocks and woodworking and so on. I do woodworking.



A recent woodworking magazine had a full-page advertisement on the back cover that caught my attention. The ad showed a good woodworker holding up his hand that was missing parts of several digits. The ad mentioned that if you are a woodworker, you probably know a fellow woodworker with a similar loss. In just a moment I thought of a professional woodworker I know who had indeed lost digits.

The people who keep track of accidents say one table saw injury occurs every 9 minutes. I know table saws can be dangerous but an injury every 9 minutes? Table saws have blade guards, push sticks, emergency stops, wood guides, feather boards, and all manner of jigs and fixtures all designed to keep ones fingers away from the nasty looking teeth of a spinning table saw blade. Yet with all that safety gear - every 9 minutes there is an injury.

Thankfully the “teeth” on a diamond blade are far less aggressive in cutting fingers. But even so, our hobby is rife with instances where just a moment of inattention can spell injury.



How many times have you noted a person not wearing goggles because they were just going to chip off a small bit of rock, or turn their head to avert their eyes because of just chipping a small bit of rock, or close their eyes just because of chipping a small bit of rock, or not wear gloves because quartz is not all that sharp, or not wear a mask because they would be grinding only for a moment. Yet, as with the table saw, it takes just a moment of inattention for an injury to occur. With rocks, a misdirected hammer, a spill of acid, a sleeve caught in a drive belt, dismissing just a “little bit” of toxic dust - just a moment of inattention is all it takes for an injury to occur.

We know that accidents do happen no matter how much safety gear we utilize, no matter how much we safety train, no matter how good the equipment - things do indeed go wrong.

Our job with rockhound safety is to minimize the risk, know the hazards, keep our attention on the task at hand and always be prepared for emergencies.

All it takes is a moment. That moment can be as short as a microsecond. The take away message we need to reinforce with our club members - in just a moment we can convey a safety idea. In just a moment we can set a good example. In just a moment we can acknowledge someone’s proper use of safety guidelines. Just a moment can change everything for the better.



LIBRARY On the Society web site at <www.glmcmc.com/> under “Library” you will see a complete listing of materials available for lending to members. You will find books on fossils, minerals, gems, geology and more. To utilize the library materials get in touch with Jonathan Harris at 301 545 0808 or <jgharris7@gmail.com>. If you contact him before a meeting he can arrange to bring the requested material to the meeting and you may keep it out for one month until the next meeting, when it must be returned. Most items are not available at the Montgomery County Public Library system.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President– Andy Celmer, 4798 Mid County Court, Monrovia MD 21770-9417	301 865 4442
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