

THE ROCKHOUNDER



FEBRUARY 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 February 13th** 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. For the March meeting, we are fortunate to have **Dr. Andrew Beck** from the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History. Dr. Beck is the Post Doctoral fellow in the Division of Meteorites. He received his B.A. from Albion College (2004) and his doctorate was received from the University of Tennessee (2011.) He has amassed many awards and recognition for his work and research. The title of his presentation will be "**Petrology of Diogenite Meteorite and Implications for Results of the Dawn Mission.**" We thank Andrew very much for his willingness to provide his time and knowledge to the GLMSMC."



Photo from Speaker

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS will meet **Monday February 20th** at the Home of Andy Muir. All 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.

ROSTER UPDATES

CATON, Tom: Phone 301 987 2298
HENNESSEY, David: e-mail davidhennessey@comcast.net
Rejoined members: SIMONOFF, Robert, 6 Ali Drive, Middletown MD 21769-7812, 301 371 7503, e-mail bob.simonoff@gmail.com Daughter, Jessica

ROCKHOUNDER EDITOR

With the resignation of the editor, we are once more asking for someone to step forth and volunteer to undertake this important function in the Society. Some streamlining has already been accomplished to help make the task easier. Quite a thorough job description exists to help guide you.



Resources such as clip art, jokes, articles from other club's newsletters are available for use.

The Microsoft Publisher program or equivalent will be supplied by the Society.

How about **YOU** taking on this job or understudying it now?

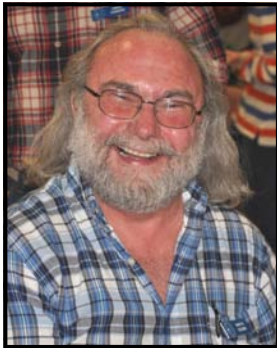
DEADLINE for Mar. 2012 Rockhounder: Feb. 28th.

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SNOW CONTINGENCY Reminder: If schools in Montgomery County are to be cancelled, or let out early, because of weather on the day of a scheduled Society meeting, we will have no meeting. Call the Society President or a Board Member. Phone numbers are listed on the last page of the *ROCKHOUNDER*.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Andy Celmer



Greetings!

I would like to remind everyone that the Wildacres Retreat is coming up, April 10-15, 2012. My experience at Wildacres was fun, informative and delicious. The \$350 fee covers your room, three great meals a day, your classes and a morning and evening lecture. See <<http://efmls-wildacres.org/>> for more information. Go to "Scholarship" for more information about the two scholarships EFMLS is offering this year. See Class schedules" and other links. Our club, previously reported, offers one scholarship a year for a member in good standing for their first visit.

As you know our annual rock show is fast approaching. The activities available on the first floor are fun and informative for children of all ages. We are after all an educational organization and the experience available on the first floor ignites or reinforces an interest in the hobby we all love. We are members of this club because we love being Rockhounds.

You know what's coming next!

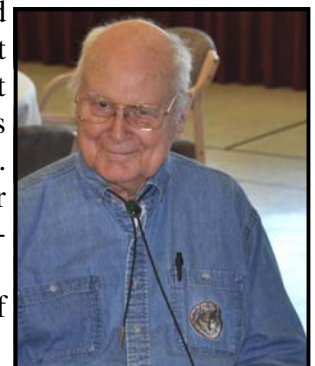
That experience on the first floor doesn't happen without You! The club is there for you all year long, for friends to get together, hear interesting speakers, learn new things and best of all, collect rocks in the wild. You receive all that and in return we come to you, once a year, to help spread the news of who we are and what we have as Rockhounds. This is the contract between you and the club. The club provides all the things I listed above and in return, you volunteer at our annual rock show to show people a good time while you educate them. Best of all, you do this by talking to kids of all ages, while you have a good time.

So I'm going to encourage you to sign up for at least four hours at the show. But that's not all! Should you forget to sign up, I'm going to call you! I'm going to show up at your house! Remember it's not stalking if you have a way to prevent it. I'm going to tell your Mother and your Mother-in-law! I'm going to show those embarrassing adolescent pictures of you to your kids! Don't make me come over there!

I just made you an offer that you can't refuse!

Andy B, the B stands for Brutal.

SAD NEWS David Ballard, member since Nov. 1972 and a Life member died on Saturday, January 28th following a long decline in his health. He worked at the Bureau of Standards, now NIST as a metallurgist. Most recently he lived at an Oakton VA assisted living facility. Dave was one who did many Society jobs quietly, mostly behind the scene, often with wife Nancy, who died in Nov. 2009. He was Master electrician for the show for years. He was also Property Manager and was responsible for the purchase of the trailer in which we store show supplies. He was also active in the Micromounters of the National Capital Area. Our condolences to his family, daughter Jennifer Luzzier of Vienna VA, Son Jeff Johnson of Bowie MD, and daughter Pat Kendrick of Chicago IL.



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

The January 9, 2012 meeting was called to order by President Andy Celmer at 7:45 pm, with approximately 57 people attending. It was M/S/P to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2011 regular meeting. (There was no December Board meeting.)

President: Andy Celmer began his first meeting by noting that he can be referred to as Andy "B" to avoid confusion with Andy (Muir), our continuing Treasurer. The club is requesting volunteers to work at Rockville Science Day on April 15th. Andy read a citation for Wendell Mohr as "Rockhound of the Year" and presented bound copies of all the Rockhounters he edited. Andy Muir's daughter Gabi prepared a decorated cake for the event.



Photo by G. Elgert



Photo by G. Elgert

Treasurer: Andy Muir reported that the club is in good financial shape. Income included dealer checks for the club show. The club made contributions to the Eastern Federation fund and the American Federation Scholarship fund. He reported that the club will receive all of the proceeds from the club auction of material donated by the Fuller's. The club will receive half of the proceeds from material donated by the Vances. He delivered a treasurers report to the club president.

Field Trips: Jonathan Harris mentioned an upcoming fossil collecting trip organized by Gerald Elgert. He requested members contact him with any trip suggestions.

Editor: Gerald Elgert expressed that Wendell Mohr left large shoes to fill. He requested any interested individuals should contact him about an associate editor position.

EFMLS Liaison: Wendell Mohr had registration forms for Wildacres. He reminded members that the club will pay for one scholarship per year to help with expenses. See any board member for information. He mentioned a request from any individual who would like some tumbling done.

Show: Bob Irby discussed demonstrators for the upcoming show. He has many invitations out. He was still in need of another jeweler. George Durland discussed show advertising and handed out show flyers. Sign-up sheets were circulated. You may also sign up by contacting Pat Repik-Byrne.

Presentation: The program for the evening was organized by Pat Repik-Byrne and was entitled GLMSMC Show Time – A Guide for Volunteering. After a brief introduction, several club members made presentations to familiarize members with the volunteer opportunities available. Holly McNeil discussed the kid's area consisting of the mini-mine, touch table, and quiz. She was assisted by the MOCKS giving demonstrations. Mark Dahlman, standing in for Joel Rosen, discussed the pre-show set-up. Andy Muir discussed the admissions table. Bob Irby, standing in for Shop coordinator Elmer Lantz, discussed what goes on in the shop area and requested members to volunteer making pre-forms before the show (see Elmer). Pat discussed the Hospitality table and raffle opportunities. She then discussed the show take-down. Wendell Mohr discussed preparing and displaying exhibit cases. Be sure to get the actual internal dimensions when making liners for your cases. Thanks, everyone.



Photo by W. Mohr

Andy Muir administered the show table. Due to last minute illness, there were no door prizes.

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 pm.

Jeff Cessna, Secretary.

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The following Board business was conducted by email: It was M/S/P (with one non-voting) to designate Wendell Mohr as the Club Rockhounder of the Year.

January 16, 2012 Board of Directors Meeting

Board members present: Andy Celmer, Jeff Cessna, Gerald Elgert, Jonathan Harris, Eric Kindahl, Wendell Mohr, Andy Muir, Pat Repik-Byrne and Joel Rosen. Board members not present: Chris Luzier, Rod Towers. Guests present: Mark Dahlman, Holly McNeil.

President Andy Celmer called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

President: Thanks.

EFMLS Liaison: Wendell Mohr noted that volunteers were needed for Rockville Science Day on April 15 for about 4 hours. He discussed some more lapidary equipment being donated to club. Andy Celmer will pick up for silent auction at show. Wendell noted the upcoming deadline for Each One Teach One nominations. It was M/S/P to designate this year's nominee. Mark Dahlman will produce a write-up with the assistance of Holly McNeil. Andy Muir and Andy Celmer will submit the write-up for Rockhounder of the Year.

Field Trips: Jonathan Harris gave an update on the student project for which the club authorized payment toward the production of thin sections. The student submitted a proposal that was acceptable to Andy Muir and Jonathan. Other clubs are still deciding. Vulcan quarries and some individuals may pay any additional expense. There was discussion of alternative methods for supporting college students besides scholarships. Jonathan will discuss these alternatives with a local college. Jonathan solicited ideas for field trip locations. Gerald Elgert suggested several ideas.

Show: It was M/S/P to authorize Holly McNeil to purchase an estimated \$185 in supplies for the kid's table at the club show. Pat Repik-Byrne reported that the January meeting went well. Production of a show guide, similar to the officer duties documents, was discussed. Pat requested that people send a list of their duties and details to her. The number of exhibit applications to date was 20. Mark Dahlman discussed the status of dealers, including one substitution from the waiting list. Most dealer checks have been received. There was a discussion of the shop area, including a motion to make the height limit absolute. The motion was not seconded. The shop coordinator will continue to use their discretion in cases of juniors with an accompanying adult. Mark has emailed announcements to the email list from the door prize entrants. There was a discussion of expanding the security for the show to include an outside guard. Mark will investigate cost and report.

Editor: Gerald Elgert discussed the duties of the editor as most recently tabulated. Options for assisting in the maintaining of an up to date mailing list, to be delivered to the editor each month, were discussed. Jonathan Harris will investigate mailing list and coordinate with Doug Baum. Gerald will put together a list of tasks where he could use assistance.

Treasurer: Andy Muir reported on the clubs finances. Andy noted that the club By-laws require a team of two auditors. Holly McNeil will assist Steve McNeil on future audits. After clarifying the final room cost, Andy will report income from auction. Thank you notes and check have been sent.



The meeting was adjourned at 9:57 PM.

Jeff Cessna, Secretary.

Sunday, February 19 (weather permitting) 2 pm. Fossil collecting at the spoil piles of the C&D Canal. Children are welcome, but the club will provide no supervision nor warrant the safety of the site; parents are responsible for the safety of any children or other family members. The fossils are cretaceous marine organisms--clams, oysters, belemnites in material dug up during the construction and dredging of the canal. For further information see <<http://www.dgs.udel.edu/Geology/Paleontology/fossilsites.aspx>>. The site is about two hours from Rockville. Members must email <jgharris7@gmail.com> (preferred) or call Jonathan Harris at 301-545-0808, or cell 240 506 2864 to let him know you are coming. Equipment: You will need to bring zip-lock baggies or any other container for fossils, a shovel, and screen if you plan on sifting the soil for fossils, and wrapping material for specimens. Also bring water/beverage and a snack. There is a Port-a-Potty at Grassdale Center.



Location: The North Reedy Point spoil pile is located along the north side of the C & D Canal, just outside of Delaware City DE.

Directions: I-270S to I-270 Spur East to Beltway I-495, to I-95. At Exit 1 take ramp DE-896 (Newark/Middletown.) Take ramp right onto DE-896, S. College Av., (Glasgow/Middletown.) Keep straight onto US-301, DE-896. Bear left (East) onto US040 (Pulaski Hwy.) then immediately bear Left (East) onto US 301 (US-40.) Turn right (South) onto DE-72 (Wrangle Hill Road.) The road name changes to US-13 (DE-72.) The road changes name to DE-72 (Wrangle Hill Road.) Keep straight onto DE-9, (Wrangle Hill Road.) Keep straight onto DE-9 (5th Street.)

Take DE-9 through Delaware City past Wiso's Restaurant on the right and cross the bridge over the Delaware City Canal. Make the first right after the bridge towards the Grassdale Center. **Do not take the Route 9 bridge across the C&D Canal.** Go to the end of the road (at the C&D Canal) and make a left. Go under the Route 9 Bridge. About 1/3 mile on your left you will see a road with a gate across it. Park along that road so as not to block the gate. Walk up the road and bear left following the road with the silt fence. You should see a bulldozer and a front end loader at the top of the rise. The vegetation on the dredge spoils has been removed, and there are several mounds of spoils as well as a trench on your left from which you can collect.

Saturday, February 25th Potomac River near Fort Washington MD. This is the Aquia Formation with lots of shark teeth. We'll most likely meet at 10 am at the Staples parking lot on Greenbelt Road, across from the Greenbelt Mall. This will be either a shoreline or stream site, so boots and warm clothes are a must. Hopefully it will be a mild day. Please contact the trip leader, Gerald Elgert, at 301 681 5720 as the date approaches. This will be a joint trip with the Maryland Geological Society and the American Fossil Federation.

JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY VISIT

By Jonathan Harris

On January 15th, a few hardy rockhounds met with Professor Lance Kearns at James Madison University. Professor Kearns welcomed us with some pastries, coffee, a tour of the museum, and a chance to apply some high tech tools to identify mystery minerals we brought. Extra bonuses included some surplus specimens he offered for sale and a chance to have a closer look at some of his lab's specimens.

The mineral museum alone is a worthy destination. It included a display of spectacular specimens from Virginia and the rest of the world. A number of the specimens are from quarries in the Washington area; unfortunately most of these are no longer accessible. At <<http://csm.jmu.edu/minerals/Gallery.html>> is a selection of the collection however nothing beats an in-person view.

Continued on Page 6

JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY VISIT (Continued from Page 5)

Our high tech tools for mineral identification included a Raman spectrometer and x-ray diffractometer. The Raman spectrometer consists of a device the size of a paperback that excites crystal vibrations with an infrared laser and sends the resulting light emission spectrum to a laptop for automatic analysis. This technique is highly useful for distinguishing certain look-alike crystals that are excited by the laser; however, it cannot identify specimens that have various impurities or lack a large enough single crystal.

The x-ray diffraction proved the most powerful technique, though one must sacrifice a small piece of the material to be ground to dust to apply this tool. By measuring the angles at which x-rays bounce off the powder so that the x-ray wave crests from nearby planes line up to produce a signal (constructive interference), a computer can back out distances between atoms and compare these sets of distances against a large database. Those who took physics many years ago may have had to do mathematical transformations of dots recorded on film and manual lookups of possible species to accomplish this.

As Lance explained, the x-ray diffraction tells us where the atoms are, but not what they are. Electron microscopy and the associated measurements can accurately identify the atoms, but not how they are arranged. The electron microscopy was not available.

Tom Parnell identified some yellow prehnite from Hunting Hill quarry in Rockville MD, rhodochrosite from Silverton CO, and sphalerite from Thomaston CT. Lance helped Jeff Cessna identify some chlorite, epidote, and byssolite crystals from Vulcan's Manassas quarry. Lance visually identified some stellerite from Vulcan's Manassas quarry and indicated that in multiple specimens from that location the spectroscopies had concluded that aggregates with curved crystal tops are stellerite and ones with flat crystal tops are stilbite.

Conrad Smith had a large broken brown cube he dug up from his backyard. The core appeared to be pyrite, so this must be a pyrite caught in the act of being converted to a goethite pseudomorph.

The Raman and a later acid test I performed at home indicated that one of my Hunting Hill specimens was a dolomite. I had two green columnar specimens from Hunting Hill that initially appeared to be the same mineral. The x-ray diffraction concluded that one was a variety of serpentine and the other one of several amphiboles similar to actinolite. The two mineral samples from Hunting Hill look very similar. X-ray diffraction revealed that the one on the left is a serpentine and the one on the right is an amphibole. The report gave three different varieties of each of these minerals. The varieties differ by the degree of substitution of different elements in the lattice (e.g. magnesium vs. iron).



Picture by J. Harris

David Hennessey, Jonathan Harris, Mark Dahlman, Host Dr. Lance Kearns, Jeff Cessna, Conrad & Linda Smith, Tom Parnell, Jim Kostka & Logan Babcock. Not shown Wendell and Jo Ann Mohr



Photos by W. Mohr



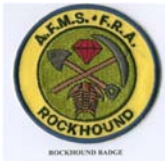
FUTURE ROCKHOUNDS OF AMERICA (The MOCKS) Ages 10-15**Meeting Date:** February 13, 2012 **Meeting time:** 7:45 - 9:00 pm**Meeting Location:** Sunroom Cafeteria at the Rockville Senior Center**January 9, 2012 Meeting**

The MOCKS did a great job demonstrating the give-away, mini-mine, touch table & junior quiz activities of the annual show. Hopefully their rock-solid performance will encourage other club members to volunteer. A fully staffed show is necessary to ensure our guests have the best possible experience.



Photo by W. Mohr

We launched our three-month segment on rocks with a discussion of the igneous rock group. We covered terminology, formation and texture, and then practiced identifying specimens using a flow chart to guide us through the different properties.



Optional Assignment: For newer members or those that have not yet earned the Earth Process badge, you can meet one badge requirement by bringing in 3 different examples of igneous rocks (labeled) from the list provided at the meeting.

February 13, 2012

The second component of our series on rocks will focus on the sedimentary group. We will learn about formation, composition and proper terminology as well as how to identify them. An identification practice session will close out the evening.

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

SHOW BUSINESS:**March 17th & 18th at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds**

MOCKS members and their parents are encouraged to sign up to work at the youth section at the annual show. We have a lot of fun and learn a lot. No experience necessary; there will be guidance and help available.

If you are planning to do a display case for the show, the forms are due at the February meeting.

MINI MINERS Ages 6-9**Meeting Date:** February 13, 2012 **Meeting time:** 7:00 - 8:00 pm**Meeting Location:** The Card Room at the Rockville Senior Center**January 9, 2012 Meeting**

The Mini Miners learned about crystals. They examined the different crystal shapes and looked at different types of crystallization of different minerals. The kids also made a model of a salt crystal and prepared two different solutions to grow their own crystals: Epsom salts and Borax. It will be interesting to see the results. Last year we made Alum crystals and got some really good specimens.

Continued on Page 8

MINI MINERS (Continued from page 7)

February 13, 2012

We will discuss Moh's Hardness scale and will try to identify rock specimens using the classification system. For more information contact Linda Smith 301-530-5007."



Photos by Wendell Mohr

22nd Annual Mineral, Jewelry, & Fossil Show
Saturday, February 18, 2012 | 10am - 5pm

The Show Place Arena
 14900 Pennsylvania Ave. | Upper Marlboro, MD 20772
 Admission: \$3/person
 Children 6 & under free!

Exhibits and Vendors:
 Rough, polished, & faceted stones
 Fossils, minerals & geodes
 Tools & supplies
 Beads & findings
 Original jewelry designs

Demonstrations:
 Bead stringing, wire wrapping, gold panning and more.

WWW.SMRMC.ORG

For more information, or to request a vendor application, please contact Monae Patterson at 301-297-4676.

The Department of Parks and Recreation encourages and supports the participation of individuals with disabilities. Please contact the facility two weeks in advance of the program start date to request an accommodation (i.e. sign language interpreter, support staff, etc.). TTY 301-499-2544. Visit the Department of Recreation website at: www.ppparks.com

The Delaware Mineralogical Society presents their **49th Annual Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show**
 Delaware Technical & Community College
 Churchmans Road (Rt 58)
 Newark (Stanton), DE @ Exit 4B, I-95
March 3-4, 2012
 Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
 Sunday 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Outstanding Mineral & Fossil Dealers
 Gems, Jewelry & Lapidary Supplies
 Demonstrations, Exhibits & Door Prizes
 Jr. Booth for Kids

Adults: \$6.00 (1.00 off with this coupon)
 Seniors: \$5.00
 Juniors (12-16): \$4.00
 Children: FREE

Additional Information @ www.delministry.net

SHOWS AND EVENTS

March 17 - 18, 2012 OUR SHOW! Save the dates, including set-up on March 16th. Plan to **VOLUNTEER**. Since this is an all volunteer operated event, it is important that everyone does their fair share. Sign up on the Helper sheets that Pat Repik-Byrne will have at the meeting



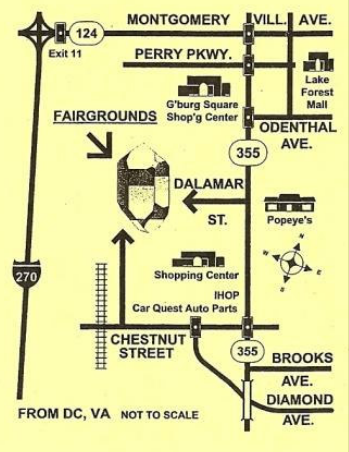
48th ANNUAL GEM-MINERAL-FOSSIL SHOW
MONTGOMERY COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
MAR. 17 & MAR. 18, 2012
SAT. 10 AM-6 PM, SUN. 11 AM-5 PM

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

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

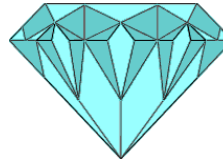
Over 20 Dealers From Around the Country:
 *Fossils *Jewelry *Findings *Beads *Minerals *Geodes
 *Gifts *Shells *Slabs *Fluorescents *Books *Equipment
 *Carvings *Meteorites *Jewelry boxes *New age items
 *Gems & Gem Rough *And Much More
 Website—WWW.GLMSMC.COM

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



March 24 - 25th, 34th Annual Gem, Mineral, & Jewelry Show sponsored by the Franklin County Rock and Mineral Club. New location: Hamilton Heights Elementary School, 1589 Johnson Road, Chambersburg PA.





Gem of a site

By Wendell Mohr

WEB SITES

The Ruby Mines of Mogok, <http://www.palagems.com/ruby_mines_mogok.htm> is from an unfinished manuscript by Martin Ehrmann who died in 1972. The partially finished illustrated manuscript consisting of 6 chapters, like Haydn's unfinished symphony, still can be enjoyed. It includes stories not only of Rubies but also Jade, Peridot, Sapphire, Amber, and Danburite. There is a link at the end to his article in Gems and Gemology titled Gem Mining in Burma, 1957. With the changing political climate perhaps that country will open up to more free trade. ● A thief was stealing Burmese gemstones. He was apprehended by the police. When arrested he said "The best things in life are free but only if you don't get caught." ●

Photo R. Weller Cochise College



Underwater Asphalt Volcanoes, <<http://www.ia.ucsb.edu/pa/display.aspx?pkey=2228>>, were discovered by scientists at the University of California at Santa Barbara. In the submersible "Alvin" these over 300 feet long and 700 feet deep structures were found about 10 miles off the Pacific Coast. They are "fossils" in that their age is estimated at 40,000 years. The now dormant natural oil seeps were accompanied with large releases of methane. Despite known oil spills it is estimated that half of the oil entering the coastal environment originates currently from natural oil seeps. ● Geologists, like marketing specialists, are hailing these structures as "new and improved" volcanoes, without lava dangers! ●

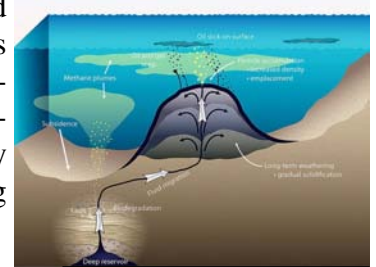
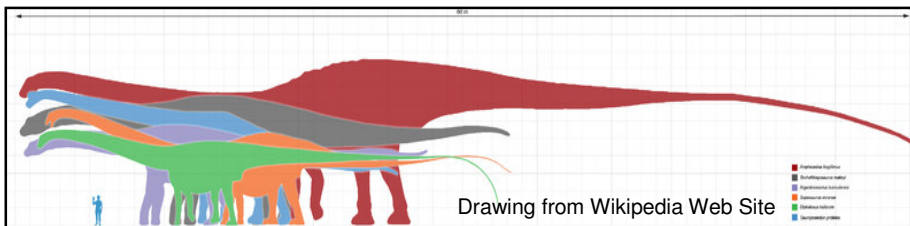


Diagram courtesy Jack Cook, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution



The Supersaurus, is among the world's largest known dinosaurs.

See <<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Supersaurus>>. Originally discovered by Vivian Jones of Delta, Colorado 40 years ago, in the Morrison formation it is deemed to be a large relative of the familiar Apatosaurus. It is estimated to have been 108 to 110 Ft. long and weighed 35 to 40 tons. Read further details about this life form that the youths probably know more about than you and I. ● The dinosaur fought the battle of evolution. How'd he come out? Horizontally - he lost. Everyone knows that coprolites found near the bones are dinosaur dung, an endangered feces. ●

DIAMOND PACIFIC "GENIE" POLISHING MACHINES FOR SALE

Not one but two used ones are on the market: See <http://www.diamondpacific.com/thejenie.html> for machine information.

One unit is complete with 6 wheels (2 grinding, 4 polishing) and a 7th buffing/final polishing wheel. Machine was manufactured in 2000. Excellent condition. Also have a nearly new Dop Station, purchased in 2010. Call Heather Felsen at 301 802-5608.

Another is for sale by Charles Noel who lives in the Cockeysville MD area off York Road. He reports that his machine has been little used. He is asking \$1200.00 for it. You can reach him at (Cell) 410 804 3445, or (Home) 410628 6317.

It is up for you to call and work a deal with an owner, first come, first serve.

AUCTION FUN

Article by Wendell Mohr and Andy Muir, Pictures By Wendell Mohr

We had a perfect day (no snow!) for the December 10th event.

Activities like this do not come off successfully without the help of many members. Jeff Cessna, Mark Dahlman, Jonathan Harris, Elmer Lantz, Chuck Mason, Wendell Mohr, and Andy Muir were involved in obtaining the material from the Gladys Fuller and Paul Vance estates, sorting it, readying for auction as individual items or in lots with multiple items, and moving it to the Senior Center. The material was offered to the Society by Paul's widow, Virginia, and Gladys's children. At the site, many hands, including many of the above people plus Holly McNeil, Doug Baum, Chris Luzier, and Sam Linton accomplished the set-up on schedule and assisted during the auction.



Mark Dahlman, Jonathan Harris, and Wendell Mohr shared auctioneer duties. There were many smiles and lots of laughter around the room during the morning, some from spirited bidding wars, some from folks getting great bargains, and some from the witty banter of the mineral and fossil enthusiasts.

Andy Muir ably kept the books for the event, recording sales by seller and buyer. Apologies if we missed any other helpers.

The auction drew a number of members and guests from Baltimore and DC clubs. Surprisingly no juniors attended.



Andy reports that "It was a great win-win-win for the donors, the Society, and the winning bidders! Plus the whole experience was quite fun for all participants."

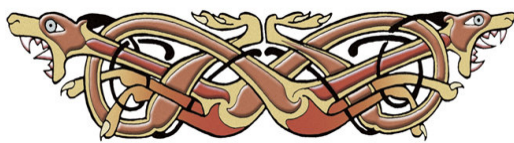


The total auction bids for the mineral specimens, fossils, slabs, other lapidary rough, and hobby-related books was \$6,123. Sales of \$1,770.50 came from Fuller donations. Jef Fuller, Gladys's son, who is the executor of the estate



said that Gladys would have wanted the entire proceeds to go to the use of the Society! \$4,352.50 came from Vance donations. \$2,176.25 went to Virginia Vance (Who was in attendance with her nephew) since she agreed to donate 50% of her proceeds to the Society. (Normal is 25%, Thanks Virginia.)

A total of \$3,946.75 is the share to the Society. We paid for the rental of the Senior Center, so our net proceeds are \$3,634.75 to be used for educational purposes. What a wonderful contribution we received from our donors! Between the great financial boost to the Society and all the treasures taken home by winning bidders, the auction was a huge success.



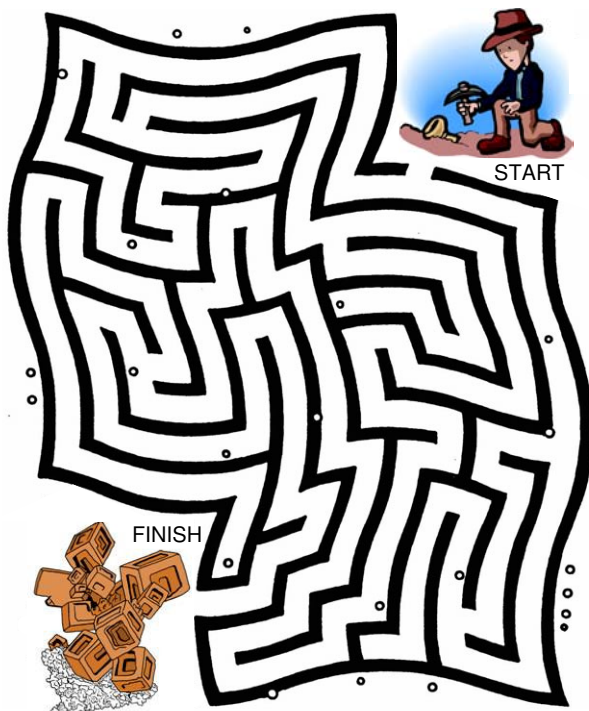
SHOW TABLE: January 9th, 2012. Thanks to those who bring items for sharing at the meetings.

<u>Exhibitor</u>	<u>Specimen (s)</u>	<u>Locality</u>
Jeff Cessna	Hardystonite, Clinohedrite, Willemite	Franklin Furnace NJ
George Durland	Caswellite, Willemite, Garnet	Franklin NJ
Gerald Elgert	Garnet, Willemite	Franklin NJ
Ryan Gunnison	Amoeba	OK
Jonathan Harris	Lepidolite	Gunnison CO
	Serpentine*	Rockville MD
	Amphibole*	Rockville MD
Bob Irby	4 Cabochons	Peru and other locations
Diane Leaman	Emerald	Columbia
Gary Leaman	Aquamarine	Nigeria
Wendell Mohr	Melanite Garnets	Chihuahua, Mexico
Andy Muir	Lapis-Lazuli Spheres	Afghanistan?
Earl Smith	Serpentinite*	Cedar Hill Quarry, PA

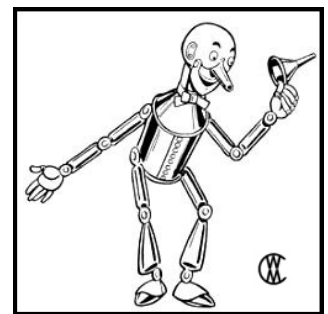
* = Self-collected or self made



Upper Photos by W. Mohr , & Lower G. Elgert



HELP THE MINER GET TO THE GOLD



Scheelite and Cassiterite Collectors

FEBRUARY'S BIRTHSTONE

AMETHYST is the most highly prized quartz variety with a hardness of 7 on the Mohs scale, so the material is hard enough for use in all types of jewelry. The mineral is fairly tough and has no cleavage, so gems wear well.



Photo R.Weller
Cochise College

SAFETY NOTE: KNOW YOUR LIMITS

by Owen Martin, AFMS Safety Chair



Over the past few years I've written a lot of safety articles, many of which were inspired by fellow rock hounds while out on hunting trips (kind of like those songs from Taylor Swift - don't date her!). Last week I managed to inspire another one of my own. The trip I was on resulted in a great find - a big ammonite that weighed in excess of 70 pounds. Seeing as I had hernia surgery earlier this year this posed a problem. Luckily with proper lifting techniques I managed to slowly haul the big ammo out of the water and up to my cart without injuring my self! The effort did however inspire this note.

In my particular case I really pushed the limit of how much I could safely lift without injuring or reinjuring myself. The potential was there to aggravate my hernia scar or even hurt my back.

Understanding your limits with respect to managing how much you can carry is very important. The very first article I wrote as the Safety Chairman for the SCFMS was inspired by an incident where a lady passed out from heat exhaustion while trying to carry too much weight up a hill to our cars. Ultimately she was OK, but we left most of her finds at the outcrop. If she had considered her physical condition, the heat and the terrain, then she would have been much more selective with what she had tried to haul out.

Along those lines I would encourage you to take into account what you might find while on a field trip and give careful consideration to how much you can physically carry from the outcrop to your vehicle. Personally I use a variety of buckets and ropes to do a lot of my rock hauling, and much to the amusement of many of my friends, I haul a lot of rocks in a double-wide jogging stroller (3-wheeler) that I bought at Goodwill a couple of years ago. It works great - thus my "limit" is about two hundred pounds of rocks! I have other field trip buddies who use wagons, carts, sleds, canoes, rafts, etc. to help them haul out their finds.

My hunting in Texas also adds the summer heat to the mix. It was so hot this past summer that I know very few people who actually made many hunts over the past several months. Hunting in this heat required additional consideration for what could be hauled out from an outcrop. Distance, time, heat and how much liquid you could carry out with you were added to the equation with weight. Staying hydrated was essential. Two bottles of water in a backpack were NOT adequate!

One thing I really enjoy is the opportunity to take my kids hunting with me. My eldest daughter has type 1 diabetes and managing her insulin and food intake can become much more complicated while on extended hunts. Many of us really ratchet up our rockhounding after retirement, but likewise have a lot more medical considerations associated with age. Please keep that in mind if you are going into the field so that you can make sure that your medication and food situation is properly accounted for.

In a nutshell keep in mind what limitations you have, both physical and physiological. Considerations include rock weight, distance travelled, vertical ascents/descents, stamina, water/food/medicine requirements, and those of who you will be hunting with.

Proper planning will help keep you safe and knowing your limitations will help you to not overdo it.
BE SAFE!!!



I like hunting fossils, a hobby that isn't exactly my wife's favorite. On one excursion, I found the petrified bones of a squirrel-like mammal. When I brought them home and told my wife what they were she squelched my excitement. "I've heard of many a squirrel bringing a nut home," she remarked, "but this is the first time I've heard of a nut bringing a squirrel home."

FROM THE SHOW CHAIRMAN

Patricia Repik-Byrne

OUR ANNUAL GEM-MINERAL-FOSSIL SHOW will be held this year at the Montgomery Co. Fairgrounds on March 17 & 18. The GLMSMC Show is the major yearly activity of our club and is completely run by Club volunteers. Everyone needs to pitch in to make it a success. Please note that there is a shortened time frame beginning this year: Saturday the 17th from 10 am - 6 pm; Sunday the 18th from 11 am - 5 pm (later start time on Sunday).

Plan **NOW** to exhibit. Patricia Repik-Byrne, Show Chair/Exhibits Chair, wants to have your commitment **EARLY**. We are excited to report that we already have commitments for 26 Exhibits but can accommodate about 20 more. **YOU** can do it! Everyone is a beginner at some time. If you feel you have not got enough for an exhibit, mention this at the meeting and perhaps we can pair up some people for a shared exhibit. Only a month and a half left for preparing professional looking labels, nice liners, risers, and other case features! Fill out an Exhibit Application form and get it to Pat ASAP. Use one form for each case.

Demonstrations are being finalized by Bob Irby. More demonstrators are needed, so please contact Bob and complete the Demonstration Form soon!

We also have a **GREAT NEED** for **VOLUNTEERS** to work at the show, especially in the Lapidary Shop (teaching, sign-ups and un-dopping), set-up on Friday (March 16th), take down on Sunday (March 18th), and at all other activity stations. Sign-up sheets will be passed around at the meeting, or you can contact Pat at 301 279 5962 or <prb.rocks@verizon.net> to get the job you prefer. Additional note: Those who volunteer at the show are admitted free of charge. Those **NOT** working must pay the regular admission price. Another incentive to get onto the volunteers list!

Show fliers and posters are available from George Durland to help publicize the show. Pick up your copies at the February meeting.

Mark Dahlman, Upstairs/Dealers Chair, has finalized contracts with 22 dealers (our maximum number). One new dealer will be joining our Show this year.

FOR JUNIORS:

THE LILLIAN TURNER JUNIOR AWARDS. The best (1st Place) junior exhibit in the show will be given the Lillian Turner Award, a \$100 cash award plus ribbon. In 2011, the GLMSMC Board also initiated the awarding of cash prizes for 2nd Place award at \$50 and 3rd Place award at \$25 to Juniors who exhibit at the Show. These awards come via the generosity of Lillian Turner, a generous benefactor who was keen on promoting interest in rocks, minerals and lapidary arts to youth of the community and her surviving son Stephen. The rules say that you must be age 17 or younger and the display should be substantially your own work. If you have won previously, the case must be substantially different from the previous entry.



Criteria for judging are:

1. Overall presentation.
2. Short paragraph (3-4 sentences) on your reason for exhibiting your particular case or theme, why this is of interest to you.
3. Any additional written or graphic information that reinforces knowledge of the specimens or theme of the presentation.
4. Details were provided in a handout to the **MOCKS** at the January meeting. Handouts can also be obtained at the February meeting from Holly McNeil or by contacting the Show Chair (Pat Repik-Byrne) at <prb.rocks@verizon.net> or 301-279-5962.

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