



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.”

### FROM THE EDITOR

See, there is nothing to be afraid of. Filling the shoes of previous editor, Wendell Mohr, was scary. He had been doing the newsletter for so long, so well, that I was very nervous. I decided the best way to handle it was to make it look so different that folks wouldn't be able to compare them – you know “apple to oranges.” Anyway, I have done the newsletter for a year now, and there really wasn't anything to be afraid of.

Now we need a new editor for the newsletter, and my shoes aren't as big. If you are interested in giving it a try, Wendell and I will walk you through it. I have enjoyed this past year as editor, but too many things have and are changing in my life. It is unlikely that I will be able to attend very many meetings and will have less time to work on each issue. If you are thinking you might like to give it a try, I would be happy to answer any questions ([kristinlolmaugh@gmail.com](mailto:kristinlolmaugh@gmail.com)) or talk with Andy or Wendell.

*Kristin Lolmaugh, Editor*

### REGULAR MEETINGS

Meetings are held the 2nd Monday of the month from September to June. The Society will meet on **Monday, December 9, 2013**, 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 and help us set up for the PARTY!

**NO SHOW TABLE THIS MONTH** and there will be no speaker for this meeting because this will be the SWAP/SELL and social evening. You may bring only hobby related items to swap or sell. Space is limited and we need some tables for refreshments, so bring no more than an amount that will fit on one table. It is possible that tables will have to be shared. There WILL be a prize drawing in December.

**THIS IS THE ONLY MEETING OF THE YEAR WHEN WE HAVE REFRESHMENTS.** Please bring cookies, cakes, crackers, cheese, candy, and any other goodies that appeal to you. Goodies should be “finger food.” Napkins, cups, plates, punch, coffee, tea, and hot chocolate will be provided. Come and have a good time. As usual, visitors are welcome. Remember we must vacate the building by 10:00 pm and the tables and chairs must be cleaned and put back where we find them. If everyone helps, it is not a big chore.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Meeting will be held **Monday, December 16, 2013**, 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](mailto:amuir21@comcast.net) or phone 301-990-1370.

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**REMINDER**  
If schools in Montgomery County, MD, are cancelled or let out early because of weather on the day of a scheduled Society meeting, the meeting will be cancelled. If in doubt, call the Society President or a Board Member (numbers on the back of *The Rockhounder*).

Deadline for the January issue of *The Rockhounder* is December 20, 2013.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: HELLO FELLOW ROCKHOUNDERS

I would like to talk to you about a few things before my "Prez" goes away.

### Box-O-Rox

I would like to start a Box-O-Rox program where those that contribute to the program, benefit from it. I do not claim that this is my idea; I got it from the EFMLS newsletter. It's like calling the Estate Tax, none of us have an Estate OR the Death Tax, we all Die, different name, same thing.

It would work like this, you contribute something, and you get something. Ideally if you contribute a common mineral or rock, you would receive the same. Conversely, if you contribute a nice specimen, you would get a nice specimen.

1. One of our members makes a donation to the box, recording on my paperwork their name and what they donated.
2. I send the Box-O-Rox to the participating club.
3. When I receive the box from the participating club, we do the following:
  - a. We suspend the show and tell during a regular meeting.
  - b. All of the participating club's donations would be laid out on a table at our regular meeting for all to see. We would take some photos to promote the program to other clubs.
  - c. I use the list of member donators to hand out tickets for a drawing at our regular meeting. This drawing would be in place of the show and tell.
  - d. Everyone in our club who donated has their drawing ticket. We draw a ticket and the person who has that ticket number would pick one item of their choice.
  - e. Continue the drawing till all items are with their new owners.

Next: I would like to set up a laptop, projector and screen during the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Show. We would show pictures of the Mini-Miners, Mighty Mocks and members doing rock stuff. Please go through your digital pictures and send them to me. I am also looking for someone to review the pictures and select the ones we will display. I would prefer to have so many pictures that there is no repeat of pictures during the entire day. Submit your name with your pictures if you would like to be on a posted list of contributors. Should your pile of pictures be very large, you could compress them to a zip file or burn them to a CD or DVD.

Let's get cracking,

*Andy B, Prez*

## SOCIETY MEETING MINUTES: NOVEMBER 11, 2013

The meeting was called to order by President Andy Celmer at 7:39 pm, with approximately 68 people attending. It was M/S/P to approve the minutes of the October 14, 2013, regular meeting and of the October 21, 2013, BOD meeting.

**FRA:** Mark Dahlman presented a badge in the FRA program.

**President:** It was M/S/P to approve the changes to the By-Laws as previously published in the *Rockhounder*. It was M/S/P to elect the slate of officers as published in the *Rockhounder*. Andy Celmer requested volunteers to assist with preparation of pre-forms for the club show. He also inquired about club interest in trading rocks with other clubs. Interested member see Andy. A new newsletter editor is needed. If interested contact a board member.

**Field Trips:** Jonathan Harris discussed several upcoming field trips, including an historic Manganese Mine, Medford Quarry, and James Madison University. Gerald Elgert discussed a recent joint trip to a shale site and a Devonian site.

**Show:** Pat Repik-Byrne will bring the volunteer and showcase sign-up sheets to the December meeting. There is the possibility that more showcases will be provided for the upcoming show. The National Park Service has indicated their intent to provide a case and a geologist to assist with interpretation.

**EFML Liaison:** In a break with tradition, Wendell Mohr had no announcements.



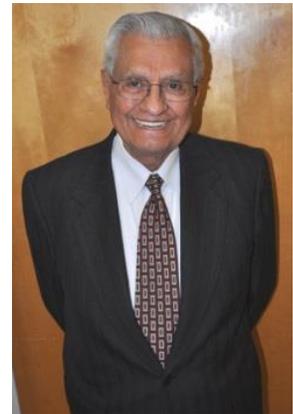
*Ryan Gunnison receives his fossil badge.  
Photo by Wendell Mohr*

**Presentation:** Vice president Chris Luzier introduced the speaker for the evening; long-time member and former club officer Juan Proaño. Juan expressed his appreciation to be invited to speak with old friends. He presented *Have Hammer and Hand Lens and Will Travel*. The talk consisted of a tour of many localities in South America, the majority in Brazil and one in Bolivia.



Agates from Brazil  
Photo by Wendell

These included recollections of the tourmaline rush in the state of Bahia, Rio Grande do Sul agates, gems in Rio de Janeiro, imperial topaz from Belo Horizonte in Minas Gerais, iron deposits in the Amazon, and Cerro Rico de Potosi silver in Bolivia. The presentation began with a history and geography lesson on Brazil. Moving on to the tourmaline rush, we saw pictures from the time of the rush showing the extent of hand dug mines all over the hill of the original find. Agate collecting and processing was shown in Rio Grande do Sul. The tour continued through various sites with interesting



Speaker Juan Proaño  
Photo by Wendell  
Mohr

anecdotes for each site. The tour concluded with a telling of the history of Bolivar and silver mining in Bolivia. Thanks, Juan.

**Give-away:** Andy Muir brought labelled and unknown, unlabeled minerals to give away. Jonathan Harris and Jim Kostka had give-away specimens from Vulcan Manassas Quarry.

**Door Prizes:** Rod Towers administered the junior's door prize. Joel Rosen administered the drawings for the door prize and show table prize.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 9:54 pm.

#### MEMBER UPDATE

**Correction:** Ciletti: Zip+4 is 20886-1366 and Phone is 215 266 3232

*Jeff Cessna, Secretary*

### BOARD MEETING MINUTES: NOVEMBER 18, 2013

**Board Members present:** Doug Baum, Andy Celmer, Jeff Cessna, Jonathan Harris, Kristin Lolmaugh, Chris Luzier, Holly McNeil, Wendell Mohr, Andy Muir, Pat Repik-Byrne, and Joel Rosen. **Board Members not present:** Eric Kindahl, Rod Towers. President Andy Celmer called the November 18, 2013, meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

**Treasurer:** Holly McNeil presented the treasurers report referring to the previously distributed draft budget. Results of the recent auction were reported. It was M/S/P to keep federation scholarship and lands access donations at last year's levels. Recent club budgets have been drawing on reserves. In this light discretionary donations, including above, were discussed and reductions considered. The maintenance of cash reserves and opportunities for additions to the reserve were discussed. Other budget items are found below. The budget will be finalized at later BOD meeting. Holly will prepare a calendar of payments and actions for the treasurer to be included in the documentation of officer duties.

**Property:** Contingency funding was budgeted for purchase of door prizes if those of good value were available. Contingency funding was budgeted for ten new showcase fronts.

**Show:** The possibility of the increasing the number of cases was discussed. Joel Rosen presented a quote for new directional signs. Joel will secure two additional quotes. A group of those interested will visit the fairgrounds to plan placement of additional signs and produce a map. Joel indicated that he does not want any large signs on the right-of-way. Discussions continued regarding special aspects of the 50<sup>th</sup> annual show including, but not limited to, a dinner and sale or give-away of items imprinted with society information. Quotes were presented for several items. Andy Celmer will poll members regarding interest in a 50<sup>th</sup> year dinner. At Wendell Mohr's suggestion, Doug Baum will contact the mayor of Gaithersburg and the fairgrounds regarding permanent events signs. Wendell provided a picture of Lillian Turner and frame to be used at the show. Pat Repik-Byrne will provide text.

**Membership:** Doug Baum reported the membership numbers. The numbers are below levels at the same time last year, but some renewals are still due.

**EFMLS Liaison:** Wendell noted that Andy Celmer has accepted the historian position in the EFMLS. Each One Teach One nominations were discussed. Holly will prepare our submission. A new version of the By-Laws incorporating recent changes must be produced and mailed to all members.

**Editor:** A new editor is needed for the *Rockhounder*. Possibilities were discussed. Interested parties should contact a board member.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 10:02 pm.

*Jeff Cessna, Secretary*

## PRIZE WINNERS!

### Junior Table:

Tourmaline in Quartz Matrix I – Claire De Salvo  
Tourmaline in Quartz Matrix II – Cassie De Salvo

### Show Table:

Prehnite, Luck Quarry, Bealeton, VA – Boe Brosius

### General:

Sphalerite, Pyrite, Quartz, Kronstev Dol Mine, Medan District, Rhodope Mts., Bulgaria – Lyle Petersen  
Barite, Red House Claim, Nakaye District, NM - Andy Celmer

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

## FIELD TRIPS

**SATURDAY February 1, 2014** – James Madison University Department of Geology and Environmental Science and Mineral Museum, hosted by Professor Lance Kearns; 9:00 am. For those who like machines more than experts, Professor Kearns has indicated that the x-ray diffraction machine and Ramen Spectrometer will be available. There is some chance that the LEEDS/SEM lab (Low energy electron diffraction and Scanning Electron Microscope) will be open – and, of course, the JMU mineral museum. Please sign up by contacting [Jonathan Harris](#).

## LUCKY BEGINNER

BY WALTER CASTRO

I feel very lucky to be a member of the GLMSMC, where I have the opportunity of meeting people with common hobbies and passions. This past weekend I joined Gerald Elgert and Lyle Peterson for my first time fossil collecting in the United States.

First of all, it was one of my lucky days, because it is a unique experience for a geologist to see an open field. I am talking about the famous “whaleback” at the Bear Valley Coal Mine near Shamokin City, PA. I saw a three-dimensional structure of folding and faulting caused by the Alleghany Orogeny. The area is visited by many people – especially geology students. We saw two groups of enthusiasts. One was fossil collecting while the other was riding motorcycles.

The first time I hear the word “whaleback” was during this fossil collecting. I thought I would see the fossils of whales, but now I understand the name “whaleback” comes from the central anticline. Then we continued the fossils collecting at Turbotville, PA, on our second day. We worked hard excavating the rock, but the effort rewarded me when I found a nice sample of trilobite. Gerald said it was a *Phacops rana* because of the big eyes. The trilobites are an extinct group of animals in Phylum Arthropoda, which roamed the oceans during the Paleozoic Era of geologic time about 520 million years ago. They appeared as part of the great explosion of living things that established the foundation of the biologic world as we know it today.

So, my lucky beginner days started in the first meeting at the GLMSMC where I won a wonderful sample of malachite on chrysocolla and concluded when I met and spent time with people like Gerald and Lyle with a lot experience and exceptional communication skill and with these people I will continue to be lucky.

## THE LURE AND LORE OF ROCKS: MALACHITE

BY KRISTIN LOLMAUGH

Malachite's name is thought to have been derived from the Greek word "malache" meaning "mallow" (a green herb), or possibly from the Greek word for "soft" which is "malakos".

The ancient Egyptians were the first culture to use malachite for adornment. Around 4,000 BC they used it in jewelry and art. The stone was imported from King Solomon's infamous copper mines on the Red Sea. Archeologists have found Egyptian tomb paintings using malachite gemstones that had been ground into paint. It was also ground into a fine dust and mixed with galena to be painted onto eyelids as a cosmetic and talisman against evil. Vivid green malachite kohl is believed to be Cleopatra's favorite cosmetic and she was buried with a large vase of it for use in her afterlife.

Malachite also played an important role in European paintings during the Renaissance period as a pigment for paints and dyes. It is believed that many of the green colors found in Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel painting were painted with malachite-based oil paints.

It was the Russian Romanov dynasty, however, that really made malachite synonymous with outlandish luxury. High quality malachite, discovered in 1635 in the foothills of the Urals, had become very fashionable for jewelry by 1820 and was frequently paired with gold and diamonds. In 1835, a high quality malachite boulder was discovered that would take 21 years to unearth and bring to the surface. Slabs from this 260-ton gem were used to adorn the interior of two Russian palaces; creating malachite pillars, columns and encased walls. This same boulder also supplied enough malachite to encase eight of the ten huge Corinthian columns that support a two-hundred foot tall gilded altar in St. Isaac's Cathedral in St. Petersburg, Russia.



From the medieval through the Victorian times, small pieces of malachite were dangled from baby cribs and children's beds to help keep evil at bay and to help children have peaceful sleep. Malachite is believed to protect travelers from accidents. Malachite can aid in successful business and protect against undesirable business associations.

Malachite is the essence of joy and is known as the "stone of transformation" because some people believe it helps reveal and heal emotional pain by absorbing the pain into itself; some even believe it can be wrapped over bruises and broken bones to help with tissue regeneration and healing. It can help a person get through tough transitional periods. This is a wonderful, empowering stone to wear when starting a new project or job or moving to a new home.

### MINI MINERS Ages 6-9

**Next Meeting Date:** December 16, 2013

**Time:** 7:00 - 8:00 pm

**Location:** Card Room, Rockville Senior Center

The Mini Miners worked on learning the characteristics of minerals which will take them one step closer to earning their Rocks and Mineral badge.

*Photo by Wendell Mohr*



*Photo by Kristin Lolmaugh*



## FUTURE ROCKHOUNDS OF AMERICA (THE MOCKS) Ages 10-15

Next Meeting Date: December 16, 2013 Time: 7:45 - 9:00 pm

Location: Sunroom Cafeteria, Rockville Senior Center

### November 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting:

We satisfied one of the three activities needed for the Gold Panning and Prospecting badge by doing some panning for the yellow metal at our November meeting. Armed with pans and pay dirt, there was plenty of sloshing and good panning technique as the MOCKS uncovered their own Montgomery County gold!

### December 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting:

The MOCKS will have a “Yankee Mineral Swap” at our December meeting. Specimens will be provided by the FRA - MOCKS do not need to bring anything for the swap. After the swap we will join the adults and enjoy finger foods provided by the membership. Reminder: FRA members who would like to earn the Gold Panning and Prospecting badge need to either present information or submit a paper about uses of gold, gold throughout history, or gold resources in our state or region. Three activities are needed to earn the badge. Those members who went on the Lake Anna field trip or came to the November meeting have satisfied the gold panning activity, and those members who took the gold vs. pyrite quiz (part of our October meeting) satisfied the activity for learning differences between gold and pyrite. The gold vs. pyrite quiz is also available to anyone who hasn't taken it yet to satisfy that badge requirement.

For more information on the Future Rockhounds of America program, please contact [Mark Dahlman](#) or 301-428-0455.



*Panning for Gold  
Photos by Wendell  
Mohr*

## WEBSITES OF INTEREST

BY WENDELL C. MOHR

**Gem Gallery**, <http://geogallery.si.edu/index.php/en/gems/all/mineral/any/19#top>, is a work in progress. It currently features 170 Minerals, 278 Gems, and 12 Meteorites from the Smithsonian Institution, Museum of Natural History collection. They spotlight the current birthstones, new acquisitions, and the Tiffany endowment. Eventually Rocks will be added. Clicking on the photographs will lead to supplementary information about the object.





**Rio Tinto Borax Mine**, Boron, California,

<http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/IOTD/view.php?id=82365>, gives an astronaut's view of the mining operation and text about the operation. There are links to three minerals found there. Don't miss the link to the Rio Tinto Group corporate site. Another web site gives information about the annual open house for collectors by the Trona Gem Club. See <http://www1.iwvisp.com/tronagemclub/>. Check "Show Info Flyer" and link to latest show information, October 3, 2013, regarding this year's trip.

Start early to prepare for the fall 2014 field trip!

**Rainbow Mountains in China's Zhangye Danxia Landform Geological Park** is about the Rainbow Mountains. A UNESCO World Heritage site, it shows spectacularly colorful scenes of different colored sandstone. Caveat: They state "There could be some slight photo manipulation going on to make the colors pop a bit more than they would naturally." In any event they are wonderful geological formations in Linze and Sunan Counties in Gansu Province. The colorful mountains are the result of mineral deposits over 24 million years of age. Thanks to Bob Irby for calling this site to my attention.



See [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/07/31/rainbow-mountains-china-danxia-landform\\_n\\_3683840.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/07/31/rainbow-mountains-china-danxia-landform_n_3683840.html).

## **SAFETY MATTERS: AN INTRODUCTION**

BY ELLERY BOROW, EFMLS SAFETY CHAIR FROM EFMLS NEWS

Tradition calls for a short introduction and biography for a new committee chairperson. So, hello, my name is Ellery (insert thoughtful pause). Well, that is about as short as I can make it and probably more than some folks care or want to know!

On second thought perhaps I should also mention that I have not graduated from any college rockhound safety curriculum. I don't even know of any class such as Rockhound Safety 101. Colleges offer just about everything from Hula Hoop to Rocket Science – but not rockhound safety – that I know-of anyway. I should say in my defense that I have not made every safety mistake imaginable, but I'm well on my way. In fact some mistakes I've made were so good; I've made them a second time.

And now to the discussion of this Safety Matters article – most of us know the right thing to do when it comes to safety. We do, however, live in a busy world. In all that business, sometimes safety takes a back seat to other matters. How many times have you heard after an accident, a refrain uttered (expletives deleted) similar to one of the following:

1. But I WAS taking it easy...
2. I was only going to try this to see if it worked!
3. We were in a hurry and it looked so easy to...
4. Gee, it didn't appear to be that much of a slope.
5. I know all about those things! I didn't need to read the directions.
6. It was just like all the others, what could go wrong?

and my own personal favorite: I saw this demonstrated once ...

Might one get the gist of an idea or perhaps a gut feeling about what may have gone astray in each of those instances?

How do we, as responsible field trip leaders, safety chairs, show chairs, club officers, and members in general encourage! cajole! support, guide, suggest and demonstrate to folks the right thing to do? The safe thing to do? The responsible thing to do? The cautious thing to do? I sure wish I had answers to those questions. About the only things I'll suggest here are to try leading by example and to try offering a word of caution when one sees an unsafe act about to be executed,.

Over the coming months we will attempt to verbally illustrate (verbilate??) some ideas and thoughts about safety matters from my own 1/2 vast background with all manner of safety matters. Gemologists study their 3 C's of clarity, color and cut. In Safety Matter's articles to follow we will talk about rockhound safety's 4 C's of

Confusions, Contusions, Calamities, and Concussions. Not to be left out, we will also talk about some other letters of the alphabet as well.

Hopefully we will get to know one another not thru a mere biography but instead through a series of articles, discussions, stories, ideas, bloviates and rants offered for your consideration, contemplation, and concern. Oh, and I should forewarn you, sometimes I repeat myself – especially when I say something really profound (which does not happen all that often, but brace yourself, just in case).

Please be safe during this upcoming season of holidays. As it says at the start of this article – your safety matters.

## **BENCH TIPS: MINI DRILL PRESS**

BY BRAD SMITH

If you find yourself drilling a number of small holes for your work, you might want to look at the small, inexpensive drill presses now available. They take up just minimal space on your bench and are always ready to give you nice straight holes. Some models even have a variable speed control. I've been very pleased with a low-priced one that's been well-used in my classes for more than a year.

Because these machines are only a foot high, they're limited as to the size of work pieces that can fit into the machine and the size of the drill bits you can use. But I've had no problems with drill bits up to about 3/16" (4.5mm), even drilling steel.

The machines are sold by a number of companies. If you do get one, be sure to buy a spare belt because they are generally not available at local hardware stores.



*More Bench Tips by Brad Smith are at [facebook.com/BenchTips/](https://facebook.com/BenchTips/) or see the book *Bench Tips for Jewelry Making* on Amazon*

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- The Montgomery County Winter Recreation Guide has a number of classes that might be of interest to members. For more information, please visit: [http://www.montgomeryparks.org/viewer.shtm#http://www.montgomeryparks.org/activities/documents/Winter2013-2014\\_Complete\\_WEB.pdf](http://www.montgomeryparks.org/viewer.shtm#http://www.montgomeryparks.org/activities/documents/Winter2013-2014_Complete_WEB.pdf)

If you are planning a trip and want to know what clubs you might be able to visit, it would be worthwhile to visit the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies website. Check out their newsletter archives at <http://www.amfed.org/news/default.htm>.



## SHOW TABLE: November 2013

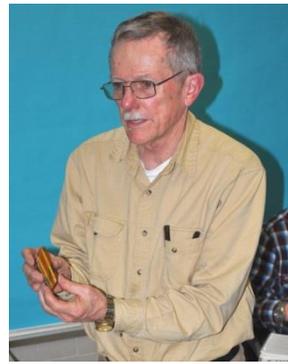
Thanks to those who bring items for sharing at the meetings.

Exhibitor	Specimen (s)*	Locality
Jim Kostka	Calcite	Strasburg, VA
Jeff Cessna	Willemite, Calcite Axinite, Xonotlite	Sterling Hills, NJ Franklin, NJ
Andy Celmer	Moss Agate & Unakite	Unknown
Rod Towers	Nicolite	Cobalt, Ontario, Canada
Gary Leaman	Calcite	Mexico
Diane Leaman	Purpurite	Namibia
Earl Smith	Amazonite	Amelia Courthouse, VA
Gerald Elgert	Poppy Hill Jasper	California
Pat Repik-Byrne	Dugway Geode Bookends	Juab County, UT
Denise Nelson	Tourmaline	Teofilo Otoni, Minas Gerais, Brazil
Andy Muir	Willemite-Rhodonite Sphere Grape Willemite – Rhodonite Sphere Limestone – Calcite Sphere	Franklin, NJ Franklin, NJ Medford Quarry, New Windsor, MD
Mary Ann Beall	Stromatolite Exogyrus Pondersoa	Blanco Rio, TX Blanco Rio, TX
Jonathan Harris	Norberite	Sterling Hill Mine, Ogdensburg, NJ
Wendell Mohr	Agate Slice	Brazil
George Durland	Gypsum Barite on Halite	Salinas Salt Mine, S. of Pisco, Peru Peru
Boe Brosius	Rock Crystal Druse in Milky Quartz	New Market, MD
Dave Fryauff	Fluorescent Oyster* Unknown* Microcline*	Egypt Franklin, NJ Franklin, NJ
Conrad Smith	Aragonite Flowstone*	National Limestone Quarry, Middleburg, PA
Walter Castro	Fossil	PA
Diane Castro	Unknown	Unknown
Don Greaves	Tiger Eye	Africa
Joel Rosen	Andersonite	Atomic King Mine, San Juan Cty, UT
Lyle Peterson	Ormord	Swopes Farm, PA
Linda Smith	Mica & Garnet Schist	Kensington, MD

\* indicates self-collected or self-made



Photos by Wendell Mohr



Photos by Wendell Mohr



Photo by Gerald Elgert

## WINTER IS COMING– IT’S TIME TO THINK WARM THOUGHTS OF SPRING!

BY STEVE WEINBERGER, WILDACRES COMMITTEE CHAIR

With the advent of the holiday season and the inevitable arrival of winter and its usual cold weather, it’s a good time to turn our attention to spring. And spring can only mean one thing – the first session of our fabulous EFMLS Wildacres Workshops!

Although registrations will not be accepted until after January 1, 2014, we’ll whet your appetite about the spring session now so you can plan ahead...or perhaps give someone in your club or family the gift of a week “on the mountain” as a holiday surprise. One caveat – everyone attending must participate in our program and at least one member of the family attending must be a member of an AFMS affiliated club.

Not yet been to an EFMLS Wildacres Workshop? Let me share a bit about the place and our week there.

Wildacres Retreat is a conference center offering its facilities to non-profit groups conducting educational or cultural programs on topics such as music, art, science, religion, lapi-dary, craft and writing.

At an elevation of 3,300 feet, Wildacres is situated on 1,600 acres atop Pompey’s Knob, a mountain near the Blue Ridge Parkway in Little Switzerland, North Carolina.

Facilities on the mountain include indoor meeting spaces of various sizes; an auditorium, amphitheater, fully equipped workshops for lapidary, metalsmithing, and pottery, a dining hall serving three excellent family style meals daily; and 57 comfortable, double-occupancy bedrooms, each with a private bath.

The Wildacres facility is run by a non-profit foundation and approximately 90 different groups such as the EFMLS use the retreat during each year. In the past few years, our EFMLS Work-shop has had the pleasure of the attendance of other groups including cellists, dulcimer players and recorder

students in addition to groups using the pottery space. You can read a bit about the history and view some photographs by visiting [www.wildacres.org/](http://www.wildacres.org/).

Each of our EFMLS Workshops features a combination of classes, talks by a well-known guest speaker and other activities including an auction, field trip, and tail-gate session.

Our spring speaker-in-residence will be Leonard Himes, well known mineral dealer (Minerals America and Graeber and Himes). Leonard is a native Floridian and retired chemistry teacher. Recognized nationally for excellence in teaching, he coached the US team in the International Chemistry Olympiad (his students did very well!). He and his wife, Linda, now reside in Colorado.

During the session you’ll be able to take either one class that lasts the entire week (4 days of instruction) or two 2-day classes (2 days of instruction each). When registering, you’ll be asked to indicate your preference to help our registrar Pamm Bryant in assigning you to a class or classes.

Our instructors are all top-notch! Many are award winners and all volunteer their time. All have taught at our sessions before and have received rave reviews from their students. We’re delighted to have them back.

The dates for spring 2014 are April 7 – 13 and the cost for the week will be \$390 per person. This fee includes your room and board as well as all gratuities to the retreat staff. Materials fees for the class or classes you take are extra and paid to the instructor while you’re at Wildacres. We do not yet have our dates for fall, but should be able to share them with you in the January EFMLS News and on the EFMLS Wildacres Workshop web site [www.amfed.org/efmls](http://www.amfed.org/efmls). Click on the Wildacres link.

So think spring; think EFMLS Wildacres; think a week of fun, learning and laughter. We look forward to seeing you “on the mountain” in April (or fall).

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President – Andy Celmer, 4798 Mid County Court, Monrovia, MD 21770-9417, 301-305-0229  
 Vice President – Chris Luzier, 847 Springdale Drive, Millersville, MD 21108-1436, 443-995-5363  
 Secretary – Jeff Cessna, 12116 Cliftondale Drive, Silver Spring, MD 20904-1941, 301-680-7963  
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 Bulletin Editor– Kristin Lolmaugh, 1282 Terrace Lane, Arnold, MD 21012, 410-647-2959

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Society Address: Gem, Lapidary, and Mineral Society of Montgomery County MD., Inc.  
 P. O. Box 444, Gaithersburg MD 20884-0444; Web Site: <http://www.glmcmc.com/>  
 All Society correspondence is to be sent to this address except that which is intended for the *Rockhounder* and its editor. Such items are to be sent to the editor’s email address – [kristinlolmaugh@gmail.com](mailto:kristinlolmaugh@gmail.com)

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