



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 MEETINGS**

Meetings are held the 2nd Monday of the month from September to June. The Society will meet on **Monday, April 14, 2014**, 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 presentation this month is Cuprian Tourmaline: Brazil and Beyond by Michael Wise, a mineralogist in the Department of Mineral Sciences at the National Museum of Natural History in Washington, DC.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

Meeting will be held **Monday, April 21, 2014**, 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.

**PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE: HELLO FELLOW ROCKHOUNDERS**

Just wanted to let everyone know that we had an excellent show this year! We had even stronger attendance than last year and lower expenses as well. The influx of Scouts on Sunday was welcome and Conrad Smith's Eagle Scout project was a big hit. Jim Kostka was instrumental in helping with the project and promotion.

Tremendous thanks to the Smithsonian again for their annual display and special thanks to the National Park Service - Chesapeake & Ohio Canal Historical Park for their first time loan of a truly historic Maryland Mine gold specimen from the Ingall's collection. The specimen displayed is the best of the collection and has not been on public display since the early 1970's. It was truly something to behold and we have also secured the loan of specimens from the NPS on a perpetual basis for the show.

Thank you to Pat for once again being our Downstairs Show Chair and Andy for stepping up as our Upstairs Show Chair. They provided all of the coordination the show requires and solved any problems that came up. I tried over the show weekend to personally thank as many of our members as possible for the help that they put forward. I know I missed being able to thank all of you in that fashion, but please accept my sincere thanks now, for all the time and effort you put into the weekend. We TRULY cannot do it without our volunteers and I just can't thank everyone enough!!!

Next up, we have our tremendous upcoming auction on April 12<sup>th</sup> with loads of top quality material and equipment for sale. All members should have gotten an auction notice via e-mail with the particulars and pictures of some of the material. This auction will likely be one of our best ever, so don't miss it! This is a rare opportunity to acquire old stock material that is from many mining localities that are long gone or are just plain, hard to get!!! We look forward to seeing you all there.

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**REMINDER**

I refuse to put the snow announcement in the **APRIL** issue, but if it snows, by now you know what to do!

The deadline for the April issue of The Rockhounder is April 25, 2014.

The Board has voted to make the hugely popular, Superdig at the Sterling Hill Mining Museum of Ogdensburg, New Jersey, a club sanctioned event. This way, if you want to participate, you are covered under the Society's existing field trip insurance policy through the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical & Lapidary Societies. Just another great benefit of being a GLMSMC member! If it were not club sanctioned, you would have to pay for a membership into the Delaware Valley Earth Science Society, which is providing the Superdig event, so you would be covered under their insurance policy. Thanks again go to the Delaware Valley group and the Mining Museum for putting on this spectacular event

*All my thanks again, Chris Luzier, President*

## **REGULAR MEETING MINUTES: MARCH 10, 2014**

The March 10, 2014, meeting was called to order by President Chris Luzier at 7:44 PM, with approximately 64 people attending. This meeting was the last preparation meeting before our 2014 Annual Gem Mineral, Lapidary, & Fossil show on March 15-16.

**Awards:** Mark Dahlman announced that 8 junior members of the GLMSMC had earned their Fluorescent Mineral badges and singled out Jonathan Baum for special recognition in being the 9<sup>th</sup> junior in the state of Maryland to achieve a 6<sup>th</sup> badge. This notable accomplishment was recognized and awarded to Jonathan Baum by Holly McNeil and Dr. Jeff Post, Curator of the Smithsonian National Gem & Mineral Collection. It was also George Durland's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday and he honored us all by celebrating with a birthday cake at this meeting. Congratulations, George, and thank you for sharing this event with us. We truly appreciate your many years of outstanding service and contribution to our society.



**Annual Show:** Pat Repik-Byrne announced that so far she had 47 exhibitors and 16 demonstrators and encouraged all members to step up and help out as volunteers at the show. This should be our best show ever but it would only be as good as we, the members, make it with our time and talents.

**Auction:** During our regular meeting a silent auction took place of some fine gem and mineral books bequeathed to GLMS-MC by the Speilman estate. Members were reminded that the actual gem and lapidary part of this bequest was still being cataloged and appraised. They will be auctioned at a special event scheduled for Saturday, April 14, from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM at the Rockville Senior Center.

**EFML Liaison:** Wendell Mohr announced upcoming events and activities of interest to GLMS-MC members and made an urgent call for a member to step forward as the next editor of *The Rockhounder*, our award-winning monthly newsletter.

**Micromineralogy:** GLMSMC member David McClean, President of the Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area announced that MNCA will be hosting the annual Atlantic Micromineralogy Symposium on April 4-5, 2014 at the Springhill Suites Marriott Hotel in Alexandria, VA, with special presentations both days by reknown microscopist and mineralogist Joe Marty, from Salt Lake City, Utah. Registration: \$30.

**Field Trips:** Jonathan Harris announced that our first collecting trip of the year, unless snowed out, is scheduled for Saturday, March 22, 2014, at the Vulcan Quarry in Manassas, VA. We are teaming up with our NOVA Mineral Society friends on this event. Only paid, registered GLMSMC adult and youth members may attend, with their signed insurance waivers and GLMSMC rules in hand at the Quarry office at 7:00 AM.

**Treasurer's Report:** Holly McNeil reported our adjusted cash balance (funds net of the Lillian Turner designated funds) was approximately \$23,000. Activity for February included receipt of the remaining dealer payments for the show and payment of most of the show expenses except the trailer related expenses. The other activity for February was renting the Senior Center for the upcoming April 12<sup>th</sup> auction.

### **MEMBER UPDATE**

We welcome a new family to our society, Priscilla Quackenbush, Priscilla Critser, Mary Quackenbush, and Danny Quackenbush, 13404 Bonnie Dale Drive, Gaithersburg, MD 20878-3095, 301-357-6355, priscillaquackenbush@gmail.com.



**Presentation:** Vice President Dave Tiktinsky introduced the night's guest speaker, Dr. Jeff Post, Curator of the Smithsonian Institution's National Gem & Mineral Collection. Dr. Post, who is also a resident of Montgomery County and GLMSMC member thanked us for 20 years of annual gifts presented to the Smithsonian – "the American

People's collection"—for the acquisition of new gem and mineral specimens for public display and research. He talked about new acquisitions made at the 2014 Tucson Gem & Mineral Show. Among the new acquisitions were kyanite from Nepal; color-changing diaspore from Anatolia, Turkey; a 51 carat danburite from Tanzania, andradite (demantoid) from the Green Dragon Mine in Namibia; a 147 carat yellow beryl from Brazil; opal from Ethiopia; and a beautiful complex specimen of aquamarine from Pakistan displaying an unusual platy habit, that was acquired thanks to the endowment of GLMSMC members Wendell and Joanne Mohr.

**Adjournment:** The regular meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:45 PM.

*Dave Fryauff, Secretary*

**GET INVOLVED AT THE SMITHSONIAN NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY BY WENDELL MOHR**

The museum is always looking for volunteers. They need your help! Here's your chance to join some of the great scientific research projects and educational activities of the Museum. Contribute your time and expertise to support the work of the museum behind-the-scenes in the Mineral Sciences Department. If you, or older children, are interested contact Jeff Post at [postj@si.edu](mailto:postj@si.edu) or phone 202 633 1814. He will gladly review opportunities and their conditions.

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES: MARCH 17, 2014**

A special meeting of the Board was called to order on March 10, 2014, by President, Chris Luzier at 9:00 PM during the regular meeting to discuss items of importance to the show scheduled for that weekend.

*Dave Fryauff, Secretary*

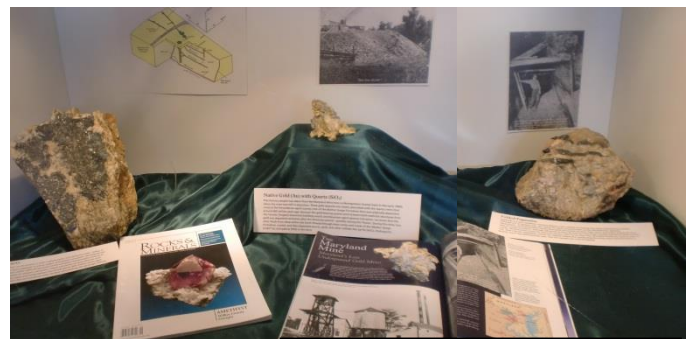
**A GOLDEN SURPRISE**

BY CHRIS LUZIER

This year our group was honored to receive the loan of specimens from the National Park Service for our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Show. Aptly, we received the flagship gold specimen from the Ingall's collection from the long shutdown, Maryland Mine. We had been in discussion with the National Park Service's, Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Historical Park in Hagerstown, Maryland, since the summer of last year.

Club member Jeff Nagy and past president Andy Celmer worked with Ahna Wilson, Cultural Resource Program Manager, and Ivan Carabajal, Geologist, with the C & O Canal Historic Park. The gold specimens had not been on public display since the early 1970s and the NPS had not had them on loan before, so there was much work to be done to secure the loan.

We had been in touch with them off and on through the end of 2013 and then received an e-mail from Ivan and Ahna, just before the show. The NPS had decided to give our Society the loan of the Ingall's flagship gold specimen and two other very large Maryland Mine pieces as well! The two others were an ilmenite and gold ore specimen with very attractive blue iridescence on the ilmenite, and another gold ore specimen with amphibolite crystals dug in 1936. We completed all of the necessary paperwork from the NPS and the Board voted on allocating the funding for the needed insurance requirements for the loan. After a Board thumbs up, we secured



Photos by Kristin Lolmaugh



a short term insurance and transfer policy for the specimens to be covered for the weekend. This was all finished just barely before the show with some excellent last minute connections provided by our Treasurer, Holly McNeil, and her husband, Steve.

It was such a pleasure to set-up the case on Friday with Ahna and Ivan. Jeff Nagy brought in copies of the article he co-wrote with Fred Parker, for *Rocks and Minerals Magazine* on the Maryland Mine and the famous, historic Ingall's Gold Collection from the long defunct mine. We placed these in the case with the front cover of the magazine and the article itself, opened up to a photograph of the very gold specimen in front and center of the case! It really goes to show that Maryland truly has spectacular specimens in its own right, even though it is a much maligned state from a geologic point of view. From top notch specimens of gold, Hunting Hill's famous garnets, to Frederick County coppers, Maryland is not a trivial mineral locality that can just be glossed over. Displays like this one and our GLMSMC display of the Maryland suite of historic minerals from the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences collection, emphatically prove this point.

It was truly an honor to see the Maryland Mine specimens out for display and the C & O Canal Historic Park employees were elated to see the collection back out on display when it had been stored for so long. The show was also an excellent outlet for the NPS to pass out brochures for the C & O Canal Park and provided a good publicity opportunity for both of our organizations. Thanks to the National Park Service and the C & O Canal Historic Park for entrusting us with their precious specimens. Special thanks again to Ahna Wilson, Ivan Carabajal, and finally, Kevin Brandt, Superintendent of the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal Historic Park. We look forward to working with you all in years to come.



## THE GEM, LAPIDARY AND MINERAL SOCIETY OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY AUCTION

Our society is having an auction on Saturday, April 12, 2014, at the Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Drive, Rockville, MD 20850. The viewing starts at 9:00 AM and the auction starts at 10:00 AM. The



bulk of the material is from the Dan Speilman Collection, Founding member of GLMSMC. The material includes: faceting rough, slabs, cutting rough and some mineral specimens. The equipment includes: trim saw, cabochon machines and faceting machines.



## THE LURE AND LORE OF ROCKS: SMITHSONITE

BY KRISTIN LOLMAUGH

Smithsonite was re-named in 1832 by François Sulpice Beudant in honor of James Smithson [1754-1829], British chemist, mineralogist, and benefactor of the Smithsonian Institution. Smithson discovered that a zinc-containing mineral known by the name calamine in the 18th century was in fact two



Photo from  
<http://www.gemselect.com>

separate minerals – a zinc carbonate and a zinc silicate. The zinc carbonate was named hemimorphite and the zinc silicate was named smithsonite in Smithson's honor.

Smithsonite has the beautiful luster of melted wax. Some believe it is a stone of charm, kindness, and positive happenings. It is auspicious for new beginnings. It can activate each chakra (energy center) of the body and can be used as a "replacement stone" in crystal healing. It reputedly helps with immune system problems, alcoholism, sinus problems and digestive ailments. It also helps attract new friends. Various colors of

smithsonite also bring the color energies to the stones.



Photo by Kristin Lolmaugh

## FIELD TRIPS

BY JONATHAN HARRIS

- **APRIL 5, 2014: VULCAN STAFFORD AGGREGATE QUARRY**, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM; Garrisonville, VA; We have the opportunity to return to Vulcan's Stafford Quarry thanks to Ted Carver arranging another joint trip for us. They have done some new digging lately. At the last trip we found zeolites, schorl, pyrite cubes, and fluorescent calcite. Email Jonathan Harris, [jgharris7@gmail.com](mailto:jgharris7@gmail.com).
- **APRIL 26-27: ANNUAL STERLING HILL SUPERDIG AND ASSOCIATED EVENTS**, 9:00 AM-11:00 PM; The Board has approved this as an official field trip. Can you handle it? An opportunity to spend 14 continuous hours mineral collecting at a famous site as part of the annual Super Dig. Of course you can take breaks to go to the garage sale and the NJES mineral show and swap and sell in a nearby town and maybe even get a bite to eat. Members should bring their membership card. Email Jonathan Harris, [jgharris7@gmail.com](mailto:jgharris7@gmail.com).

### PRIZE WINNERS!

#### Junior:

*A Field Trip Guide to Dinosaurs* – Jonathan Baum  
Calcite Magnetite, Icon Mt., Utah – David Weiss

#### Show Table:

Pyrite Crystals w/Bornite on Quartz, Butte, Silver Bow Co., MT – Andy Muir

#### General:

Rose Quartz, Lavia do Ilba Mine, Minas Gerais, Brazil, David Fryauff

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

## ROCKVILLE SCIENCE DAY

As we have mentioned in a previous issue, the Rockville Science Day is Sunday April 6<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 to 5:00 PM. Here is a list of some their offerings:

- Fossils of Calvert Cliffs by Karen Lottes
- Gems, Minerals and Fossils by Imelda Rocha, Celia Chen, Al DeMilo, and Tim Morgan
- Fluorescence, Phosphorescence, Tenebrescence, and Electroluminescence of Minerals and Other Substances by George Durland

## MINI MINERS

**Next Meeting Date:** April 14, 2014

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

**Ages 6-9**

**Time:** 7:00 - 8:00 PM

Linda Smith is shown working with the mini-miners at our regular meeting. The Society teaches many interactive geology and mineral topics each month with hands on learning, geared towards children ages six to nine. For more information, contact Linda at [Tunacat107@aol.com](mailto:Tunacat107@aol.com).



Photo by Wendell Mohr

## FUTURE ROCKHOUNDS OF AMERICA (THE MOCKS)

**Next Meeting Date:** April 14, 2014

**Location:** Sunroom Cafeteria, Rockville Senior Center

**Ages 10-15**

**Time:** 7:45 - 9:00 PM

### March 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting:

Congratulations went to Jonathan Baum for earning the AFMS Rockhound award! Thanks to Holly McNeil and Dr. Jeffrey Post, Curator of the Smithsonian Gem & Mineral Collection, for presenting the prestigious award to Jonathan. Congratulations also were given to our MOCKS who received their fluorescent mineral badge: Jeremy Yee, Jennifer Weiss, Ethan Vardi, Patrick Keane, Matthew Keane, Ryan Gunnison, Cooper Batchelder, and Jonathan Baum.

At our March meeting we discussed Stone Age tools, and looked at examples of local Indian artifacts. We looked at several stones and determined which had the right characteristics for being a tool. Each MOCK was given a list of minerals and their Stone Age tool properties. (MOCKS, don't forget to collect and bring in three of the minerals on the list to receive credit for the activity!) We also discussed Stone Age art and made clay vessels to take home.



From our show: Thanks to the many FRA members and families who supported our show by volunteering this year. The show was a tremendous success because we have such a great group of volunteers. Congratulations to our Lillian Turner award winners for their exceptional exhibits:

Ryan Gunnison – 1<sup>st</sup> place for Amazing Metals

Cassie DeSalvo – 2<sup>nd</sup> place for Sparkles

Jennifer Weiss – 3<sup>rd</sup> place for Moving Earth

### April 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting:

We will be greeting new members at our April meeting, and continuing Stone Age Tools and Art. Ms. Lynne Bulhack, from the Montgomery Parks Archaeology Program, will speak to us in May. For more information on the Future Rockhounds of America program, please contact Mark Dahlman at [fra\\_advisor@glmsmc.com](mailto:fra_advisor@glmsmc.com) or 301-428-0455.



# SHOW TABLE: February 2014

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

Exhibitor	Specimen (s)*	Locality
Jeff Cessna	Quartz Calcite	Woodbury, Cannon Co., TN
Rod Towers	Malachite	Zaire, Shaba Province
Dave Fryauff	Norbergite/Ferrosphenite	Amity, NY -Rhein Prop
Andy Celmer	Leonite	Leno, TX
Gary Leaman	Rutilated quartz (tourmaline)	Unknown
Diane Leaman	Pyrophyllite	Graves, GA
Wendell Mohr	Tiktallik Coin	Canada Mint
Chuck Mason	Snakeskin Agate	Brazil
Andy Muir	Amber	Indonesia
Priscilla Critser	Loch Ness Blob Jade (?)	Loch Ness
Priscilla Quackenbush	Lapis Lazuli	Afghanistan
Conrad Smith	Mohns Hardness Display	
Linda Smith	What is ingroute	
George Durland	Glaucocraite Blue Willemite Beta Willemite	Franklin, NJ Franklin, NJ Franklin, NJ

\* indicates self-collected or self-made



## WEBSITES OF INTEREST

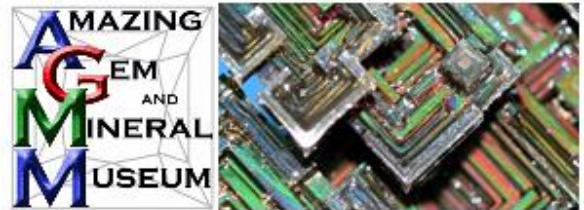
BY WENDELL C. MOHR

**The Yellowstone Volcano: Past, Present, and Future**, Monitoring the sleeping giant beneath Yellowstone National Park, <http://online.wr.usgs.gov/calendar/2014/jan14.html>, leads to a 77" video.

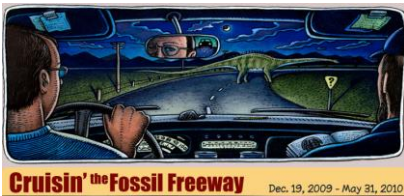


It is a U.S. Geological Survey 500MB presentation if you download the MPEG! I suggest that you skip the first 5" introduction and you view it in full screen mode. Speaker Jake Lowenstern Scientist-in-Charge, Yellowstone Volcano Observatory, gives a wonderful summary of what's going on there. You should be interested in the background information but especially the prediction for the future.

**The Amazing Gem and Mineral Museum**, <http://www.amazinggemandmineralmuseum.com/>, is by the International School of Gemology of Helotes TX, Robert James, President. Grand opening was in February this year. It is very wide ranging with some 10,000 specimens available. You may sign up for the worthwhile newsletter. The February issue was "The Story of Copper." A course of 9 lessons by the ISG costs \$95.00 which, as is customary, is not endorsed here.



**Cruisin' the Fossil Freeway**, <http://www.burkemuseum.org/static/cruisin/videos.php>, is from the Burke Museum at the University of Washington in Seattle. An exhibit is now closed but these YouTube videos are still available for your enjoyment: Ginkgo Petrified Forest 3' 44", Million Year Old Salmon 2' 53", Searching for Concretions 4' 37", Pancakes and Geology 3' 47", Ray Troll's Artistic Process 1' 55", Reading Rock Layers 2' 37", And Paleontology Meets Art, 3' 39". Enjoy!



## SAFETY MATTERS: MOVING ON

BY ELLERY BOROW, AFMS SAFETY CHAIR

Moving on is what folks do in our busy society and in our busy clubs. Sometimes in our clubs a treasurer or president or editor may hold their position for years and years. In most instances, however, after serving faithfully for a few years, a person is ready to move up, ease down, slide over, or simply move on.

With all the many moves possible in a club, an outgoing president would hand the incoming officer "the files." The departing editor hands the new editor "the files," the departing treasurer passes "the files" to the newly elected treasurer. I'm sure you see the pattern emerging here. The wealth of experience and history of the club is passed on, added to, and continues helping to grow a club with its accumulated wisdom.

In growing a club, matters of safety are important in keeping a club on the path of growth. A club's new safety chair (hopefully your club indeed

has a safety chair) deserves the same path to growth. They deserve to be handed "the files" from the outgoing chair.

No doubt every club would have in its safety files both specific to their club safety materials, and general to the hobby guidelines. General safety items in the file might include items such as the AFMS Safety Manual, a regional organization's safety guidelines, perhaps a binder containing years of AFMS or regional federation newsletter safety articles, and maybe an accumulation of various safety tips. Club specific safety files may include such things as a list of supplies and equipment included in their first aid kit (you do have a first aid kit don't you?), a list of specific safety guidelines for your club's digs and field trips, your club's lapidary and jewelry workshop MSDS (Material Safety Data Sheets), or perhaps a list of safety articles from past issues of your club's very own bulletin.



A full safety file should include every bit of a club's accumulated wisdom, knowledge, and experience available to you. There could be many "who" lists included within a safety file as well. Who in the club has completed club-sponsored first-aid or CPR training? Who has the specific OSHA, MSHA training required to visit some area mines, quarries and pits? Who has received training sufficient to instruct at a club's lapidary or jewelry workshop? Who has responsibility to maintain the first aid kit?

Why, there may be a plethora of information in a club's safety library. All that information could weigh up to be quite a large bundle. Having a bulging safety file is all well and good but who is going to read all that information? For the information to be valuable and useful a truly dedicated club safety chair would most likely want to be familiar with all of the information – after all, part of their charge is to help the club members be as safe as they can be. Any

truly dedicated safety chair will also be diligent in passing on that file to a new safety chair when the time comes to be moving on.

If your club has just recently established the brand new position of safety chair, it is easy to start one's own safety file. Other area clubs, state and regional organizations, and the AFMS Safety Manual may all be good sources of information. There is also this "new thing" called the Internet that has a wealth of good safety articles – you just have to do a bit of surfing.

With long term club safety chairs, when your time comes along for moving up, or over, or just on, please help make sure the accumulated safety wisdom in the club also moves on to the new safety chair.

Please be safe and use proper lifting techniques when picking up those heavy safety files.

## **BENCH TIPS**

BY BRAD SMITH

### **Polishing Wheels**

In the finishing sequence there's a step called pre-polishing, between sanding and buffing, and one of the most effective tools I've found to help here is the little silicone wheels used in a Foredom or Dremel. They come in several different abrasive levels and several different shapes. The wheels are color coded to denote their abrasive level. Different shapes (coin, knife, cylinder, point, etc.) are available to match the geometry of the area being cleaned up.

For a starter, I'd suggest a medium, a fine and an extra fine wheel in both the coin shape and the knife-edge shape. The thicker coin shapes are particularly handy. Be sure to get a few extra mandrels so you'll have one of each wheel shape mounted and ready to go.

Cylinder shapes are nice for doing the inside of rings. Knife-edge shapes clean up the base of bezels quickly. Most jewelry catalogs carry these wheels, but often the color codes don't match between different manufacturers.



### **Reshaping Silicone Wheels**

Silicone polishing wheels in the Dremel or Foredom are a great time saver, but after using them a bit they often need to be reshaped. This is particularly true with the knife-edge wheels.

The natural thought is to grab one of your files and hold it up against the rotating wheel to reshape it. But this gives you a problem. The grinding grit in the silicone wheel is much harder than steel, meaning that you end up grinding down the teeth of your file.

The best way to reshape your polishing wheels is to use a diamond file. If you don't have one and must use a steel file, I sacrifice the area of the file that is closest to the handle. That's an area which is not used in normal bench work.

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **APRIL 4-5, 2014** – 2014 Atlantic Micromounters' Conference, Springhill Suites by Marriott, Alexandria, 6065 Richmond Hwy, Alexandria, VA 22303, 571-481-4441, 6:00 – 9:00 PM Friday and 8:00 AM – 9:00 PM Saturday; Speaker Joe Marty, Salt Lake City, <http://www.dcmicrominerals.org/>
- **APRIL 5, 2014** – Friends of Tom meets the first Saturday of the month, at Monroe Park. They are a gold panning group. Contact Tom Rusnack for more information.
- **APRIL 5, 2014** – Field Trip to Vulcan Stafford Aggregate Quarry Field Trip, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM; Garrisonville, VA; email Jonathan Harris, [jgharris7@gmail.com](mailto:jgharris7@gmail.com).
- **APRIL 6, 2014** – Rockville Science Day, 12:00 – 6:00 PM, Montgomery County Community College, Rockville, MD.
- **APRIL 11-13, 2014** – NY/NJ Gem-Mineral-Fossil Show in Edison, NJ; 350 to 400 exhibitor booths, 97 Sunfield Avenue, Edison, NJ.
- **APRIL 18-19, 2014** – Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show, North Museum of Natural History and Science, 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM and 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM; 1383 Arcadia Road, Lancaster, PA; Alison Mallin, [amallin@northmuseum.org](mailto:amallin@northmuseum.org); 717-358-7188.
- **APRIL 26, 2014** – Audubon Naturalist Society: Geology of the Patapsco Valley Park-Orange Grove Area (near Catonsville MD; 1:00 – 5:00 PM; Leader Joe Marx; details and registration contact at [ANShome.org/adultnatureprograms](http://ANShome.org/adultnatureprograms).
- **APRIL 26-27, 2014** – Field Trip to Annual Sterling Hill Superdig and Associated Events, 9:00 AM – 11:00 PM; email Jonathan Harris, [jgharris7@gmail.com](mailto:jgharris7@gmail.com).
- **MAY 3-4, 2014** – Treasures of the Earth: 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Show and Sale, Mineralogical Society of Northeastern Pennsylvania, Oblates of St. Joseph, 1880 Highway 315, Pittston, PA.
- **MAY 10, 2014** – Audubon Naturalist Society: Geology at Government Island State Park; 9:00 am – 12:00 pm, near Aquia in Stafford County, VA; Leader Joe Marx; details and registration contact at [ANShome.org/adultnatureprograms](http://ANShome.org/adultnatureprograms).
- **MAY 17-18, 2014** – 46<sup>th</sup> Annual World of Gems and Minerals: Gemstone, Jewelry, Bead, Mineral, and Fossil Show, [Berks Mineralogical Society](http://Berks Mineralogical Society), Leesport Farmer's Market, Route 61, Leesport, PA
- **MAY 24, 2014** – 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Chesapeake Gem & Mineral Show, Ruhl Armory, Towson, MD, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM; for more information, visit [chesapeakegemandmineral.org](http://chesapeakegemandmineral.org).
- **JUNE 7, 2014** – 62<sup>nd</sup> semi-annual Spring Mineralfest, [Pennsylvania Earth Sciences Association](http://Pennsylvania Earth Sciences Association), Macungie Memorial Park, Poplar Street.
- **JUNE 7-8, 2014** – Mineral, Gem, Jewelry & Fossil Show Sell and Swap, Orange County Mineral Society, both days 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM, Museum Village, 1010 Route 17M, Monroe, NY 10950; [www.Orangecountymineralsocietynewyork.com](http://www.Orangecountymineralsocietynewyork.com), [orangecountymineralsociety@yahoo.com](mailto:orangecountymineralsociety@yahoo.com)
- **JULY 1-3, 2014** – Rockville City Camps, Croydon Creek Nature Center, Geology, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM, camp number #46243; register at <http://bit.ly/1kaoWjY>.
- **JULY 7-18, 2014** – Bullis School Summer Programs, Geology 8:45 – 10:45 AM and July 21 to August 1, Geology - 1:30 – 3:30 PM; register at <http://www.bullis.org/summer-programs/>.
- **JULY 12, 2014** – Audubon Naturalist Society: Geology at Great Falls MD, 8:30 – 11:00 AM; Leader Joe Marx; details and registration contact at [ANShome.org/adultnatureprograms](http://ANShome.org/adultnatureprograms).
- **AUGUST 15-17, 2014** – Gem Miners Jubilee, Lebanon Expo Center, Friday 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM, Saturday 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM, Sunday 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM, Lebanon, PA, [www.gem-show.com](http://www.gem-show.com).

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Kristin,

I read with interest your letters to the editor. If you read my birthstone articles in the *Rock Buster News* the last 2 years you know I included some of the legends and lore about each stone and was careful to denote that it was legend and lore. Last March I received an e-mail from a member regarding my bloodstone article. They wanted to know "ruputed by whom." They went on to lambast me for including such "new age" drivel and worried about our club reputation. They believe only "scientific" info should be included and if nonsense such as this is included there should be a disclaimer that the club does not support this.

So, I forwarded this to other longstanding, active, respected and involved members to get their opinion as to whether I should stop including this info. All said the e-mail was ridiculous and they really enjoyed the articles. One said the writer should "get a life."

Right after this I got the most recent copy of *Gem & Mineral* and there was an article about a rock shop in England that was "New Age." Our program director also received a request to do a meeting program on crystals and healing. He did the program in May and it was well attended and received. I also wrote my April birthstone article on rock crystal. If you don't have it and would like to see it let me know and I will send.

My position is that this is a newsletter not a scientific journal! I include such info for its interest

and entertaining qualities. How many of us don't believe in astrology but still read our horoscopes? How many members actually read technically detailed mineral articles? If they do, how much will they remember? If someone needs or wants technical info they are not going to go back and try to find that article. They will google it or turn to the books they probably have!! Many readers will, on the other hand, remember how opal got a reputation for being bad luck or other such trivia.

I joined our club because of my interest in lapidary crafts. I do not have a rock collection. (I collect Swarovski crystal figurines.) One of the things that I have learned from this terrific group of people is that there is a wide variety of reasons for people's love of rocks. Some are into fossils, some gemstones and some lapidary crafts. My parents collected all over the U.S., Canada and Mexico for more than 40 years. My mother doesn't care about keeping what she finds –she just likes finding it!! People are interested in rocks for numerous, varied reasons and I have found the common bond is the love of rocks. Rockhounds are a wonderful group of people and even if I lost my interest in rocks I would stay involved with this group because of the wonderful friends I have found here.

Beverly Eisenacher  
CPRMC  
*Rock Buster News* editor

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>.





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 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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Award Winning Bulletin  
EFMLS, AFMS



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**THE ROCKHOUNDER**  
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