



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**

**Next Meeting: Monday January 12, 2015 7:30 PM**

Dave Tiktinsky

Our speaker this month is Cara Santelli who is a researcher at the Smithsonian. Cara's research is related to biominerals. Cara will be talking to our club about some of her work.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

The Board of Directors will meet 7:30 PM **Monday January 19, 2015** at the home of Andy Muir. Board members are expected to be there. Any member is welcome to attend, but please let Andy know if you plan to attend at [amuir21@comcast.net](mailto:amuir21@comcast.net) or phone 301-990-1370.

**PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE**

Chris Luzier

Well I hope everyone has enjoyed their holidays and is ready for the upcoming New Year. We have lots of great events coming up this year, with the biggest being our annual show. We have started filling slots on the sign-up sheets that we had out at the December Christmas party. The party had tons of great food, desserts and rock specimens for sale. A great time was had by all, as everyone just got to mingle, swap stories and just enjoy each others’ company. Thanks for making it a success!

As far as sign-up sheets go, we have still many slots to fill in all areas of the show. The show always requires strong volunteer support, and we need you more than ever! One of our most popular events with the youth, is the cabochon cutting stations. This requires many hands and different types of volunteer service, from hands-on cabochon cutting, removing the dop sticks from the cabs, to something as simple as just signing up the participants. The point being, whatever your skills or area you would like to help with, we have everything for you and your family to participate in. This is the one time of year where we ask for your support for the mineral society. Please ask any of the board members at the meetings, how you can help. You have my thanks in advance!!!

Peace to you—Chris Luzier

**GLMSMC REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

December 8, 2014

The December Meeting was the annual holiday party.

**GLMSMC BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

There was no Board of Directors Meeting in December 2014.

- Regular Meetings.....1
- Board of Directors Meeting .....1
- President’s Message.....1
- GLMSMC Regular Meeting Minutes .....1
- GLMSMC Board Meeting Minutes .....1
- Condolences.....2
- Volunteer wanted.....2
- Future Rockhounds of America (the Mocks) .....2
- Field Trips .....5
- Websites of Interest .....5
- Our 51rst annual show .....6
- THE LILLIAN TURNER JUNIOR AWARDS .....7
- Events of interest.....8

## **CONDOLENCES**

Wendell Mohr

CONDOLENCES to Bob Irby upon the death of his wife, Norma, on December 14, 2014. Norma joined the Society in 1991 at the same time as her husband and remained a member until 2012. She and Bob were involved with many of the lapidary arts and ran sales as dealers in area events featuring her necklaces, earrings, and bracelets along with his silversmithing, gemstone setting, and other lapidary skills. A memorial service was held on December 30th. Memorial contributions may be made to a charity of your choice in Norma's memory, if you wish.

## **VOLUNTEER WANTED**

Wendell Mohr

Wendell Mohr has asked that someone else step forward to take pictures at meetings and GLMSMC events. You don't need to be a professional to take snapshots of Mini Miner's and FRA meetings, speakers and their material on exhibit, door prizes and show table items, show table participants and other pictures of interest to the membership.

You don't need a fancy camera. Current tech equipment will do just fine. Simply take pictures (Unless a person requests that you take no photographs of them) and send condensed copies to the Rockhounder editor. If you wish, you could crop, eliminate "red eye", or otherwise edit them. That is up to you.

Wendell needs to retire from this activity he has been doing for many years.

## **FUTURE ROCKHOUNDERS OF AMERICA (THE MOCKS)**

Ages 10-15

Mark Dahlman

**Next Meeting Date:** January 12, 2015 **Meeting Time:** 7:45-9:00pm

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

### **December 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting:**

We enjoyed the holiday party with the adults – it was delicious!

### **January 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting:**

This is going to be a great one. Tom Taaffe will be our guest speaker at the January meeting. Mr. Taaffe will be bringing examples of fossils to tell us about. You may recognize Mr. Taaffe since he sells fossils at local shows including our club show. Come and hear about the fascinating types of life that these fossils illustrate. There may even be some door prizes involved. I hope to see you all at the meeting!

For more information on the Future Rockhounds of America program, please contact Mark Dahlman at <fra\_advisor@glmsmc.com> or 301-428-0455.



**FINAL MONTH PARTY!**  
**FREE OF SNOW,**  
**FINGER AND FORK FOOD,**  
**FLOWING LIQUIDS,**  
**FULL STOMACHS,**  
**FELLOWSHIP, FRIENDS,**  
**FIELD TRIP DECEMBER**  
**FRA PARTICIPTION**  
**FUNNY FELLOWS**  
**FORTUNATE WEATHER**  
**FROST-FREE**  
**FEELIN' GOOD**  
**FELICITIES TO ALL**  
**FUN FESTIVITIES,**  
**FOSSIL FOLKS**  
**FOTOS BY W. MOHR**





By W. Mohr

MORE  
PARTY PICTURES



## FIELD TRIPS

by Jonathan Harris

**Saturday January 31, 2015 9am James Madison University Department of Geology and Environmental Science and Mineral Museum**, hosted by Professor Lance Kearns..

Professor Kearns is a valued link between hobbieist and professional geologists. How have many of our seasoned collectors identified the rich variety of local minerals? --- Lance Kearns. 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 LEDS/SEM lab (Low energy electron diffraction and Scanning Electron Microscope) will be open. And of course the **JMU** mineral museum.

\*\*\* Please signup by responding to this message. **Prior signup by January 23is required** to give Professor Kearns a correct headcount. Please signup earlier if possible \*\*\*

\*\*\* Please signup by responding to this email or include "James Madison University" in the subject line. Make tracking signups easier --- please change the subject line when sending me emails on other topics!

Directions below:

Travel Time---about 2 hours and 30 minutes from Rockville, MD

Go West on I-66 to I-81 South.

Get off I-81 at Exit 245.

Turn **RIGHT** onto Port Republic Road

Proceed to S. Main St. (Rt. 11) and turn right at the light.

Proceed northward on S. Main St. to the 3rd traffic light -  
turn left onto Cantrell Ave.

Proceed over the bridge to traffic light on South High St. (Rt. 42).  
Memorial Hall (the old Harrisonburg High School) is directly in front of you.

Go straight into the parking lot. The Mineral Museum is around  
Grace Street. Entrance "E" to the building.

After entering the building at Entrance "E", make an immediate

right. The museum is at the end of the hall.

the building to the left (south side) along

right. The museum is at the end of the hall.

## WEBSITES OF INTEREST

Contributed by Wendell C. Mohr

**A Visit to the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County California**, a review by the GIA Authors: Merilee Chapin, Duncan Pay, Pedro Padua, and James E. Shigley. Read about the collection origins and history, view superb mineral and gem galleries, learn about maintaining the collection of about 150,000 specimens including the largest collection of minerals of California. Don't miss four videos: Minerals of California, Working with the Collection, World-wide Collection, and Donations to the Collection, each from 3 - 7 minutes.

<<http://www.gia.edu/gia-news-research-natural-history-museum-los-angeles-county>>



Benitoite From Web Site



**Q&A: Why Iceland's Volcanoes Have Vexed Humans for Centuries.**

National Geographic Magazine's author Alexandra Witze, gives us a background into why

January 2015

*The Rockhounder*

so many volcanoes exist there, why they are of concern, what happens when a volcano erupts under ice (and how thick the ice?), and concerns about air travel.

<<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2014/08/140822-iceland-volcano-eruption-bardarbunga-ice-witze/>>

**Travels in Geology: Peru's petrified forest: The struggle to study and preserve one of the world's most remarkable fossil sites.** An Earth Magazine article by author Terri Cook, focuses on a 9 million year old Eocene petrified forest. Discovered at 2800 meters elevation near the village of Sexi Peru, first studies are described. Protection of the site for the future is discussed.

From web site, Credit: Jean Schnell.



<<http://www.earthmagazine.org/article/travels-geology-perus-petrified-forest-struggle-study-and-preserve-one-worlds-most>>

## OUR 51ST ANNUAL SHOW

Pat Repick-Byrne

OUR 51st ANNUAL GEM-LAPIDARY-MINERAL-FOSSIL SHOW will be held on March 21 & 22, 2015 at the Montgomery Co. Fairgrounds, and as in prior years, all club members should be excited and take great pride in participating in this show. As most of you are aware, 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. Show times will be the same as last year - the show will run on Saturday the 21st from 10 AM-6 PM and on Sunday the 22nd from 11 AM-5 PM (later start time on Sunday).

Andy Muir, the "Upstairs" Chair, has finalized contracts with 22 dealers (our maximum number). Dealer offerings are always such a hit and provide an opportunity to purchase a wide array of interesting mineral specimens and fossils, gems and hand-crafted jewelry, bookends and other items, purchase and crack-open geodes, etc.

The "Downstairs" Chair (Pat Repick-Byrne) is again overseeing the educational and hands-on activities of the show, which include showcases/exhibits and demonstrations, fluorescent displays, raffle, and activities geared towards kids. So please plan NOW to exhibit, demonstrate, and/or help out at one or more of the various activity stations. We need to have your commitment EARLY. With regard to exhibits, we have space/cases for ~ 50 exhibits. As you may recall from last year, we have 25 "new" cases that were obtained from the GLMSDC club that can be utilized for non-fluorescent exhibits. These "new" cases are in excellent condition, and look very similar to our older "classic" cases, but are slightly smaller, and have a different, built-in secure lock. "New" cases will be locked/unlocked only by the Show Chair/Downstairs Chair (Pat) or by other designated GLMSMC members. Joel Rosen took careful measurements of the new cases after the Show last year. Dimensions of the "New" cases are: 22 7/8" High X 22 5/16" Deep X 46 3/8" Long. These measurements are also listed on the 2015 Exhibit Application form, so there is plenty of time to prepare new liners for those who would like to use one of these cases. Exhibit Application forms contain a checkbox for preference of "New" vs "Classic" cases. "New" cases will be assigned on a first come/first served basis. Exhibit applications are included in this issue of *The Rockhounder* and will be available at the January meeting.

As most of you know, folks attending the show love viewing the showcases to learn about all sorts of things, and revel in the amazing displays. Showcases can highlight specimens you've collected on field trips, or minerals or items of particular interest to you (some examples may be: crystals, specimens having unusual shapes or properties, fluorescents, various forms of a particular mineral, various stones or minerals from a particular locality, lapidary or other items made from stones/minerals, geology, volcanoes, impact craters, etc. etc.). So please consider putting together an exhibit to share your interests. YOU can do it! If you haven't displayed previously, no problem - everyone is a beginner at some time. If you feel you don't have enough items for an

exhibit, mention this at the meeting and perhaps we can pair up people for a shared exhibit. You have 2½ months to plan the exhibit, prepare neat labels, liners, risers, and other case features to highlight your exhibit! Exhibit Application forms will be due to Pat by February 20. Use one form for each case.

As in previous years, we expect to have demonstrations of gem faceting, beading and jewelry-making, micromounts, Calvert Marine Museum displays and fossil identification, gravity, vibrations and crystal growing activities, and more, including the excellent demonstration (Youth Introduction to Earth Sciences Area ) by club member Conrad Smith that he presented last year as his Eagle Scout project . And although we haven't had flint-knapping demonstrations in the past 3 or 4 years, we are making every effort to get such a demonstration to the part of the 51<sup>st</sup> Show. Visitors to the show will have fun and gain a sense of accomplishment by fashioning and polishing a cabochon to keep, and will also be amazed by the eye-popping fluorescent exhibits and fascinating demonstrations in the "UV-Fluorescent Tent". Demonstrations are critical to our Show and, along with the Showcases, are features that set our GLMSMC Show apart from others. Demonstration applications are also included in this issue of *The Rockhounder* and will be available at the January meeting. Demonstrator Application Forms will be due back to Pat by February 20.

And VERY IMPORTANTLY, we NEED VOLUNTEERS to work at the Show, starting with Set-Up on Friday (3/20), ending with Take-Down on Sunday (3/22), and at all activity stations on Saturday and Sunday. Activity stations include Kids Activities (Welcome/Give-Away Area, Touch Table, Mini-Mine, Junior Quiz), Admissions Table, Hospitality, Raffle, and Lapidary Shop (teaching grinding/polishing, as well as doing sign-ups and un-dopping). Holly McNeil is heading the Volunteer sign-ups this year and has made up large sign-up sheets to organize the various volunteer slots/activities. Many thanks to all who already signed up at the December meeting/holiday party. Holly will bring the sign-up sheets to the next two monthly meetings so please sign up ASAP if you haven't already do so. We absolutely need the support of all members to put on the Show.

One Additional Note: Everyone who volunteers at the Show gets a bonus – FREE ADMISSION. Those NOT volunteering/exhibiting/demonstrating must pay the regular admission price. Another incentive to get onto the volunteers list!

Show fliers and posters are available to help publicize the show. If you haven't already done so, pick up your copies at the January meeting as well as extra copies to give to friends, co-workers, family members, etc.

## **THE LILLIAN TURNER JUNIOR AWARDS**

Pat Repik-Byrne

These awards come via the generosity of Lillian Turner, a generous benefactor who was intent on promoting interest in rocks, minerals and lapidary arts to youth of the community. With the ongoing generosity of her surviving son, Stephen Turner and the Turner family, exhibits by juniors are eligible to receive the Lillian Turner Awards which, in addition to ribbons, are monetary awards of \$150, \$125, and \$100, for 1<sup>st</sup> , 2<sup>nd</sup> , and 3<sup>rd</sup> place showcase winners respectively. At the judges' discretion, 4<sup>th</sup> place awards of \$50 may be presented for 1 or 2 other cases, if also deemed to be outstanding. Honorable Mention ribbons (without monetary award) may be presented to 1 or 2 additional cases at the judges' discretion. We are extremely grateful to the Turner Family for their contributions to our Society and for their continuing efforts to promote and support youth interest in rocks, minerals and lapidary arts.

To be competitive for these awards, you must be age 17 or younger and the display should be your own work. If you have won previously, the case must be substantially different from your previous entry.

**Criteria for judging are:**

1. Educational component (What do you want people to learn from your exhibit? How effective is your presentation in that regard?)
2. Overall presentation (neatness, creativity, clear labeling and arrangement of specimens; use of background that correlates with the theme or makes specimens stand out)
3. Short paragraph (3-4 sentences) on your reason for exhibiting your particular case or theme, why this is of interest to you. The write-up should be clearly displayed within the case and be easily readable. This is a critical component for all junior cases.
4. Any additional written or graphic information that reinforces knowledge of the specimens or theme of the presentation (for example, a display of igneous rocks might include a picture or drawing of a volcano to reinforce that they are formed by cooling of magma).

The above information will also be provided in a handout given to the MOCKS at the January and February meetings by Mark Dahlman (Advisor for the Future Rockhounds of America program), or can be obtained from the Show Chair (Pat Repik-Byrne) at [prb.ocks@verizon.net](mailto:prb.ocks@verizon.net).

Note: If you are Demonstrating, you must fill out a separate DEMONSTRATION APPLICATION FORM

## EVENTS OF INTEREST

- **January 7, 2015-March 16, 2015** Signup for Gemology classes is currently ongoing. The classes, Advanced and Introductory Gemology, are taught Wednesday, beginning January 7 (Old Rock Day) from 10 am to 12:15 pm, and Thursday, January 8 from 10 am to 12:15 pm. Classes are held at Potomac Community Center and taught by Tim Morgan. They last 11 weeks, ending the week of March 16. There may be some a guest speaker(s), perhaps a field trip. Anyone interested in more information, please contact Tim Morgan at [timothymorgan@mac.com](mailto:timothymorgan@mac.com) or call [301-325-3171](tel:301-325-3171).
- **January 11, 2015**, "Rocks on the Mall", an Audubon Naturalist program lead by Joe Marx, 1 - 4 pm. Walk a 2 mile loop to see type, manner of formation, and place of origin of rock in facades, fountains and walls. Audubon members \$24 ,nonmember \$34. Information: <[www.ANShome.org/adultnatureprograms](http://www.ANShome.org/adultnatureprograms)> and click on "Register Online" or call Pam at [301 652 9188 X16](tel:301-652-9188).
- **January 22 - March 26 (Thursday), 6 - 9 pm**, Winter Classes on Geology, with field trips March 1 and March 14. Instructor: Joe Marx. Location Capital Gallery, DC (L'Enfant Metro). Class code NATH 1125, 2 credits, Tuition \$355
- **March 29, 2015 (Sunday)** (10 am - 1 pm), Geology at the National Zoo, Leader, Joe Marx. Members \$24, nonmembers \$34. About 480 Million years ago, an arc of oceanic volcanoes merged with the growing continent that would eventually become North America. Within the Zoo grounds metamorphosed sea floor sediments and a large fault zone bear witness to this ancient geologic collision. A hike of about 2 miles will include examination of outcrops. Some parts are rather steep.
- **March 29, 2015** (10 am - 1 pm), Geology at the National Zoo, Leader, Joe Marx. Members \$24, nonmembers \$34. About 480 Million years ago, an arc of oceanic volcanoes merged with the growing continent that would eventually become North America. Within the Zoo grounds metamorphosed sea floor sediments and a large fault zone bear witness to this ancient geologic collision. A hike of about 2 miles will include examination of outcrops. Some parts are rather steep.
- **April 11, 2015** (10 am - 3 pm), Geology of Harpers Ferry, Leader, Joe Marx. Members \$30, nonmembers \$42. Harpers Ferry sits astride the junction of the Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers. In a 5 -6 mile walk along the C & O towpath, upstream from the railroad bridge and back, we will stop to look at local stones incorporated in the canal wall or river rock exposures.
- **Audubon Naturalist Society**, New on-line registration for all programs below. Visit <[www.ANShome.org/adultnatureprograms](http://www.ANShome.org/adultnatureprograms)> and click on "Register Online" Questions? Call Pam at [301 652 9188 extension 16](tel:301-652-9188) or e-mail <[pamoves@anshome.org](mailto:pamoves@anshome.org)>



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>.



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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 – [BulletinEditor@glmsmc.com](mailto:BulletinEditor@glmsmc.com)

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 Award Winning Bulletin  
 EFMLS, AFMS



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**THE ROCKHOUNDER**  
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