



The Rockhounder

March 2016

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.”

NOTE: Please send any Rockhounder submissions for the April issue to Editor Olivia Luzier at editor@glmsmc.com by Sunday, March 27, 2016.

March Speaker Information:

Dr. Jeffrey E. Post, Ph.D.
Curator, National Gem and Mineral Collection
Smithsonian Institution

“What’s New in Smithsonian Gems and Minerals”

Dr. Jeffrey Edward Post, a native of Wisconsin, received Bachelor of Science degrees in geology and chemistry from the University of Wisconsin - Platteville, and his Ph.D. in chemistry, with a specialty in geochemistry, from Arizona State University. Prior to joining the Department of Mineral Sciences at the Smithsonian Institution in 1984, he was a Postdoctoral Research Fellow for three years in the Department of Geological Sciences at Harvard University. From 1989 to 1994, he was Chairman of the Department of Mineral Sciences, and since 1991 has served as Curator of the U.S. National Gem and Mineral Collection. Dr. Post served as the lead Curator for the Janet Annenberg Hooker Hall of Geology, Gems and Minerals that opened in 1997.

His areas of research interest include mineralogy, gemology, geochemistry, crystallography, and electron microscopy. He has published more than 75 scientific articles in these fields.

Dr. Post is married and has two daughters.

Gary Leaman, Vice President

Next Regular Meeting:

Date: Monday,
March 14, 2016

Time: 7:30 PM

Place:

Rockville Senior
Center
1150 Carnation
Drive
Rockville, MD

Next Board of Directors Meeting:

There will be no Board of Directors Meeting this month, due to the Show.

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President's Message

Jonathan G. Harris

It is almost time for our annual show and the chance for all members to be part of the action. How? First—inform your friend and neighbors. Hand out copies of show flyers. Second—get your display ready. Select the specimens and prepare your labels and signs.

Third, arrange to volunteer. While many members have already signed up to help, we still have slots to fill, especially in staffing the admissions area. It is a great way to make friends and meet people.

And last but not least—enjoy the show with your friends and family. Explore the exhibits and demonstrations. Visit the dealers to take advantage of a great chance to add to your collection.

Sunday night, when we finally set down the broom and Joel closes the equipment trailers, it will be our first show where Andy Muir, our former show chair will not be helping choose the pizza place. For the last several years Andy worked with us from setup to take down. We remember his leadership, gentle smile, and sense of humor with memorial cases featuring fluorescent minerals and spheres. We also expect to have tee-shirts featuring the Andy glo-rocks logo that Chris has ordered.

Many thanks go to Holly McNeil and Dave Tiktinsky for their tireless effort in getting the show running.

On some other matters. Don't forget to attend our March meeting. The speaker is Dr. Jeffrey Post, The Department Chair and Curator in Charge of the Smithsonian's Mineral Collection, never fails to excite us with photos and news of recent acquisitions and activities in the mineral collecting world.

In your explorations, don't forget about our club library. See the catalogue in this issue. Contact me at jgharris7@gmail.com if you want me to bring an item to the next meeting to check out or arrange to pick up.

GLMSMC Regular Meeting Minutes for February 8, 2016

Jeff Cessna

The February 8, 2016 meeting was called to order by President Jonathan Harris at approximately 7:45 pm. There were approximately 51 people (44 adults, 7 juniors) in attendance. It was M/S/P to approve the minutes of the January 11, 2016 regular meeting, with correction. It was M/S/P to approved the minutes of the January 18, 2016 BOD Meeting.

FRA: Mark Dahlman presented another Special Effects badges. Mark invited everyone back for the presentation of a big award in March.

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GLMSMC Regular Meeting Minutes for February 8, 2016

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Membership: It was MSP to accept the membership of Tom Dushel of Severna Park; Curt, Valva, Colin, and Nolan Savage of Bowie, and Jay, Jill, Erik, and Sarah Staggs of Silver Spring.

Treasurer: A special election was held to fill the vacant Treasurer position. After a request for any additional nominations from the floor, the nominee, Tom Dushel, was elected by the members.

Show: Holly McNeil noted the circles were again available to be included in the background of case for Andy. She announced 27 of 42 (5 of 6 fluorescent) cases were filled. Volunteers are desperately needed. Joel requested and Jonathan gave a summary of positions working in the show lapidary shop. He discussed the front desk, undopping, and teaching positions. No experience necessary, learn to cab then teach the same show as Jonathan recounted. Joel is responsible for delivering the show supplies. He needs help on Friday to unload and, especially, Sunday evening to pack up.

Field Trips: Dave Fryauff noted that we are on winter break. He reminded us of the upcoming trip to the Super Dig at the Sterling Hill Mine in Ogdensburg, NJ, on April 23, 2016. This will be a club sanctioned trip to allow required insurance coverage.

EFML Liaison: Wendell Mohr discussed the upcoming Rockville Science Day on 24 April. He noted the opportunity for anyone interested to represent the club.

As the 3rd event for the same weekend Dave MacLean announced the Atlantic Micromounters Conference on April 23-24, 2016.

President: Jonathan Harris announced the silent/voice auction materials for the evening, including boulder opal, lapidary material, and fluorescent specimens. Chris Luzier stated the fluorescents were old Buckwheat Dump material.

Program: Gary Leaman introduced the speaker for the evening, member Jeff Nagy. Jeff is working on a reissue of *Minerals of the Washington D.C. Area*. He presented *From the Frying Pan into the Fire*, which recounted a portion of the business life of Robert "King" Carter as he sought to cash in on Copper in the colonies as Art Schuyler had recently done in New Jersey. The Frying Pan Copper Company mined as along a creek of that name near present Day Dulles Airport, but on the frontier at the time. The story included details of the original find, opportunistic land grants, letters to England for workers, and letters to England to either complain about or praise those workers. Copper was mined, but enough money was not made. As a direct result the area is left with Ox and Frying Pan Roads and some collapsed drifts. Jeff answered many question from an interested audience. Thanks Jeff.

The Show Table and door prizes were administered by Joel Rosen.

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GLMSMC Regular Meeting Minutes for February 8, 2016

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Adjournment: It was M/S/P to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 PM.

Jeff Cessna, Secretary.

GLMSMC Board Meeting Minutes for February 22, 2016

Jeff Cessna

Board Members Present: Jeff Cessna, Tom Dushel, Dave Fryauff, Jonathan Harris, Gary Leaman, Chris Luzier, Holly McNeil, Wendell Mohr, Joel Rosen, and Dave Tiktinsky.

Board Member Not Present: Doug Baum.

Guest present: Pat Repik-Byrne.

President Jonathan Harris called the February 22, 2016 meeting to order at 7:36 pm.

President: Jonathan Harris requested input on auction items at the next meeting. No items will be auctioned so as not to draw attention away from the presentation by Dr. Post. Jonathan noted that member Chuck Hyland inquired about selling a piece of lapidary equipment at a meeting or the Show. Jonathan will get more information to facilitate selling at a meeting rather than the Show. Sue Marcus's donated material was discussed. The boxes were divided among Board members to investigate contents in order to determine a course of action. Chris Luzier will take charge of eventual consolidation. Jonathan will get in touch with Don Greaves and Dave Fryauff regarding the Wildacres scholarships.

Website: Several more updates are necessary for the website, including the addition of Tom Dushel and the removal of Mini-Miners. Jonathan will investigate individuals who can share web duties.

Newsletter: To gauge member interest, the Club Library should be added as a stand-alone item in the newsletter with a hyperlink to the webpage of library contents.

Other: Updates to the Club brochure for clarity and accuracy were discussed. The following edits were identified in order: use approximate membership numbers, meeting "attendees" can

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GLMSMC Board Meeting Minutes for February 22, 2016

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participate in show table strike juniors (not literally), strike library reference, strike swap/picnic reference, strike Mini-Miners, strike flint-knapping, clarify "display" case, strike awards at science fair, strike specific officer names, reference website, add opportunity for mineral ID at meetings, and additional editorial. Holly will investigate distributing brochure at libraries. After discussion, it was M/S/P to spend \$140 to upgrade the Club laptop. Chris Luzier reported that the Muir shirts were ordered and will arrive within the week. Holly will distribute these to the MSDC group. Chris will collect and pass money, with t-shirt order receipt, to treasurer, who will reimburse.

Membership: Jonathan discussed adding notification to the membership form to regarding use of contact info for Club business.

Treasurer: Tom Dushel reported he has received records, accounts, and instruction from Holly McNeil. Additionally, Tom will audit the 2015 financial records.

Show: With discussion it was M/S/P to waive admission fees for the last hour of the Show. With discussion it was M/S/P that any new member who joins and pays at the Show will receive membership through the following membership year. Chris Luzier will coordinate set-up of the fluorescent tent and contacting Eric Durland for possible assistance. Jonathan Harris will coordinate set-up of the new-style cases. Joel Rosen will purchase three 25 ft. heavy-duty extension cords. Holly reported exhibit spaces are full. Volunteer signup is progressing well. Thanks were given to Doug Baum for assistance. Holly sent a poster and 100 flyers to each of the Montgomery County libraries. Additional publicity contacts were made. Holly is updating publicity guidelines to avoid missing deadlines for national publications. Dave Tiktinsky will solicit donated specimens for raffle items and Show door prizes and Chris Luzier will purchase four additional door prizes. Dave Tiktinsky reported on postcards and new email service, with metrics. The Keymaster was stymied. Joel Rosen will check on trailer status from the snowstorm in advance of the Show. Wendell Mohr suggested investigating use of Montgomery Village News.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:00 PM.

The following business was conducted by email on 25-26 February 2016. It was M/S/P, with discussion, to spend \$142 on Show advertising in the Montgomery Village News.

Jeff Cessna, Secretary.



Future Rockhounds of America (The MOCKS) Ages 10-15

Mark Dahlman

Next Meeting Date: March 14, 2016

Meeting Time: 7:45-9:00pm

Meeting Location: Sunroom Cafeteria at the Rockville Senior Center

February 8th Meeting:

Thanks to Jennifer Weiss for leading our FRA group exhibit! Putting in an exhibit or taking part in the group exhibit is a requirement of the Showmanship badge. Jennifer helped FRA members each select and research a specimen for the exhibit. We also assembled crystal models, and looked at some differences between the crystal systems.

March 14th Meeting:

Congratulations to Cooper Batchelder for earning enough badges for the Rockhound award. Cooper will receive his Rockhound award, and we'll award the Special Effects badge to the FRA members who are still owed one. We'll also continue to develop our group exhibit – it's not too late to get in on the display. Remember it's important for MOCKS to help out at the show by signing up for time at the touch table and mini mine. FRA families are encouraged to help our club with this once-a-year fund-raising activity. It's the best show around because of our volunteers. Please contact Mrs. McNeil (show_education_chair@glmsmc.com) and sign-up to help at the show! Bring a friend if you'd like - see you there!

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

Andy Muir T-Shirts Are In!

Chris Luzier

Andy's t-shirts have been delivered and will be available for pick-up and purchase at the March 14th meeting. They actually ended up being less expensive than originally anticipated, with a final cost of only \$10.50 per shirt! I will bring the original sign-up sheet to the meeting and I did order a few extra shirts that will be available on a first come, first serve basis. It would be preferred that payment would be in cash, versus a check, as it would be more paperwork to deposit that many checks. I will have change available as well and look forward to seeing you all at the March meeting.



Show Table for February 8, 2016

NAME	SPECIMEN	LOCALITY
Holly McNeil	Jet	Unknown
Jeff Cessna	Hardystonite, Willemite & Calcite Quartz w/ FL Inclusions Potomac Marble	Franklin, NJ Pakistan Leesburg, VA
Gary Leaman	Soapstone	Cambodia
Diane Leaman	Bronzed/Silver Layered	Cambodia
Barbara Burr	Zirconium Silicate	Cambodia
Dave Hennessey	Amazonite & Smoky Quartz	Colorado
Wendell Mohr	Mattaburrourus Coin	Australian Mint
Gerald Elgert	Pseudo-fossil (Self-Collected)	Paint Branch
Don Greaves	Peanutwood	Western Australia
Jonathan Harris	Chabazite, Stilbite & Stellarite (Self-Collected)	Vulcan Manassas Manassas, VA
Pat Repik-Byrne	Doubly terminated Calcite XTL	Pugh Quarry, Ohio
Lyle Peterson	Ammonite	England
Steve Calamuci	Barite	Romania

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Show Table for February 8, 2016

NAME	SPECIMEN	LOCALITY
Nancy Shinowara	Phantom Lepidolite Chrysoprase Quartz	Brazil Western Australia Arkansas
Ken Reynolds	Sphalerite	Unknown
Chuck Mason	Quartz Geode	Chihuahua, Mexico
Dave Fryauff	Soapstone Pot	Egypt
Joel Rosen	Jade Frog	China

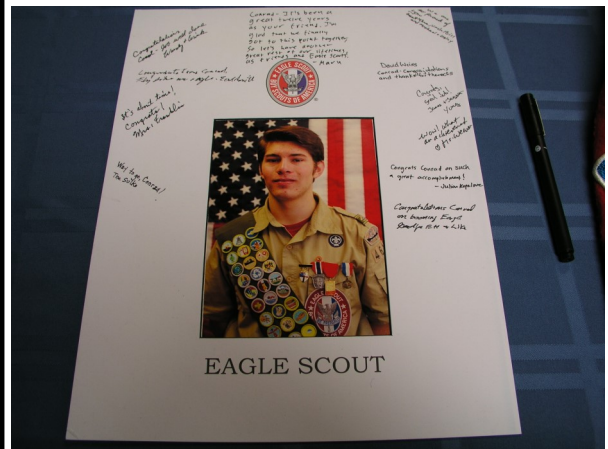
Door Prizes for February 8, 2016

Show Table Door Prize: Linarite with Quartz
Blanchard Mine
Bingham, New Mexico
Won by Don Greaves

General Door Prize: Copper
Keweenaw Peninsula
Michigan
Won by Joann Mohr

Conrad Smith's Eagle Scout Court of Honor Chris Luzier

Back in early January, I had the pleasure of attending Conrad Smith's Eagle Scout Court of Honor ceremony. It was a well attended ceremony with a special twist as Conrad's best friend, Mark Hornyak was also receiving his Eagle Scout award as well. Apparently, they met in first grade and Conrad asked Mark to join his Wolf den in Cub Scouts. From that day forward they were fast friends and that friendship was only amplified through Boy Scouts of America. I have been to many Eagle Scout Court of Honor ceremonies and this one was one of my favorites. It was very powerful to see Conrad's family together, which comprises a total of four Eagle Scouts in his immediate family. This includes his grandfather, father, brother and now Conrad. Obviously, this made quite an impression when they all presented him with his award in their own individual way. Linda had the honor of pinning on his Eagle Scout badge and it was surely an event that his family will never forget. I have also included his Biographical Sketch from his Eagle Scout program and some pictures of the event as well. Enjoy!



EAGLE ☆ SCOUT
COURT OF HONOR

CONRAD I. SMITH
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH



CONRAD INVICTUS SMITH



I began my trail to eagle long before I was a Tiger in cub scouts. As a toddler, I participated in my brother's Den, Pack and Drum & Bugle Corps events from the seat of a stroller or in a backpack. Around the time I became an official cub scout in Pack 461 I met my best friend Mark Hornyak. We were both in Ms. Beck's first grade class at Ashburton Elementary School. Mark was singing some annoying song that got on my nerves which somehow led to me being invited to his Thomas the Tank Engine themed birthday party. At his party we subsequently agreed to become best friends. I encouraged Mark to join our Wolf den.

I pushed hard to achieve my first class rank because I wanted to attend the Boy Scout National Jamboree at Fort AP Hill in 2010. I made the cut-off by age and rank by a few days.

In 2012 I attended the World Jamboree in Sweden where I had the incredible opportunity to gain perspectives on various cultures. In 2014 I went to the National Jamboree at the Bechtel Summit Reserve in West Virginia, as staff. I was the youngest staff person there having turned 16 the day before the Jamboree started. I was assigned to the Geology area and taught the geology merit badge.

My Eagle Project involved the creation of a portable geological education center known as the Youth Introduction to Earth Sciences Area (Y.I.E.S.A.). My Eagle Project has been used in three Gem Shows to date and is likely to remain a fixture at future shows. The booklet I created has been used to teach the geology belt loop at George Mason University and Cub Scout Day Camp. My poster, "Minerals in a Smart Phone", has been adopted by the USGS, James Madison, George Mason and the Smithsonian for use in the classrooms and on display.

I am currently pursuing a double major in Mineral Engineering and Geology at the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology in Socorro, New Mexico.

Here is an excerpt from the program for the Court of Honor ceremony.



Conrad Smith and Mark Hornyak receiving their Eagle Scout Awards.





A Muirkirk Dilemma – Why Mostly Cypress?

Gerald Elgert

An interesting geological dilemma exists at the nearby Dinosaur Park, located just south of Laurel, in Prince George's County, Maryland. The park's geology is from a slice of time, roughly 115 millions of years ago, in what is known as the Cretaceous Era. Within the boundaries of the park there exists two formations, both the same age but with vastly differing characteristics. These are the Arundel and the Patuxent Formations. The present fenced in area of the park was once a meandering stream much as is the Mississippi River of today, as it flows through the bayou of what is now southern Louisiana. Periodically, this meandering river did as the present Mississippi, forming an almost complete curve, known as an oxbow. Wikipedia says this, "After a long period of time, the meander becomes very curved, and eventually the neck of the meander becomes narrower and the river cuts through the neck during a flood, cutting off the meander and forming an oxbow lake." Then the bow would dry out, leaving an oxbow lake or pond behind. In the Dinosaur Park, a prehistoric oxbow lake is now preserved in time and is in what we now know as the Arundel Formation. In fact, a series of these former oxbow lakes occur in the corridor between the cities of Baltimore and Washington, D.C., in what was once called, "Dinosaur Alley."

What is interesting about the Arundel Formation is the preserved fauna found there; it is mostly vertebrate material and mostly dinosaurs and all are known from their teeth and various disarticulated bones. Four species of turtles are known but Crocodylian teeth and armor are abundant as well as Gar Fish scales and a tooth from a freshwater shark. The most common plant material is carbonized wood preserved as lignite and siderite casts of metasequoia (a kind of cedar tree) cones. Considerable trace fossils also are found as impressions in siderite slabs and include plant leaves and tracks.

Now for the interesting part. The dilemma that exists is in the close proximity of the Arundel Formation with the Patuxent Formation; their boundaries touch. While the Arundel Formation deposits are almost exclusively clay and silt with large amounts of tree lignite, siderite nodules and preserved (but disarticulated) bones and teeth of vertebrates, the Patuxent Formation is primarily unconsolidated sand and clay, but with tree, fern and cycad fossils preserved as silicon replacement and often containing considerable cellular detail - but, not always. More often than not, these Patuxent Formation plant fossils are preserved in a state of decomposition. And, even more interesting, is that the fossil fauna found in the Arundel is not found in the Patuxent, and visa versa. As Peter Kranz in his 1998 paper on the Arundel Formation found, "Mostly Dinosaurs," in my studies with the Patuxent Formation, I have found, "Mostly Cedars."

Working with petrified plant material - tree, fern and cycad - collected from the Patuxent Formation within a 15 mile radius of the park, I have made a study collection of geological thin sections and have found but one species of tree, Bald Cypress. *Tempskya* fern and cycad have also been found and all are preserved while in an advanced state of decay.

My supposition is that cypress is a decay-resistant wood and therefore has been preserved more intact than other plant material in an environment that favors decay and incomplete

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A Muirkirk Dilemma – Why Mostly Cypress?

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preservation while undergoing petrification.

Actually, two species of cedar may have been found, Cupressaceae, known in present time as Dawn Redwood and Taxodium, as the Bald Cypress of the present day. Physically, on the surface and in preference for habitat, these are very different trees. Internally, however, in examination of the histology and cell structure, they are remarkably very similar. It is beyond the scope and intent of this present article to discuss these differences. The succession of events during this slice of time and differences between the found fauna will make another story.

References

history.pgparks.com/sites_and_museums/Dinosaur_Park.htm

Kranx, Peter. 1998. Mostly Dinosaurs: A Review of the Vertebrates of the Potomac Group (Aptian Arundel Formation), USA. in Lucas, S.G., Kirkland, J.I. And Estep, J.I., eds., 1998, Lower and Middle Cretaceous Terrestrial Ecosystems. New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science Bulletin No. 14.

Hoadley, Bruce. 1988. Identifying Wood: Accurate Results with Simple Tools.

Tidwell, W. D. 1975. Common Fossil Plants of Western North America.

petrifiedwoodmuseum.org/Tempskya/Tempskya.pdf

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oxbow_lake

PlantNet/cycad/nitrogen/reading.html

Acknowledgments

I would like to acknowledge and thank Dr. Shelly Jaye, a professor at the Annandale Campus of the Northern Virginia Community College, for providing access to the geology lab and geological thin section machine, with which I was able to make the histology sections so important in the identification of the plant material from Muirkirk and to Dr. Peter Kranz, without whom the Dinosaur Park would not exist. He has been a valued mentor providing insight and direction.



WEBSITES OF INTEREST

Wendell C. Mohr

The Oldest Jurassic Dinosaur: A Basal Neotheropod from the Hettangian of Great Britain

Here is a technical article about the finding and naming of a dinosaur in marine and quasi marine strata on the south Wales coast near the city of Cardiff. Named *Dracoraptor hanigani*, after its finders two young collectors Robert and Nick Hanigan, 40% of a skeleton representing a new genus and species dinosaur is described in great detail.

<<http://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0145713>>



For a briefer news item see <<http://www.usatoday.com/story/tech/nation-now/2016/01/21/dracoraptor-dinosaur-species-wales-jurassic/79104410/>>

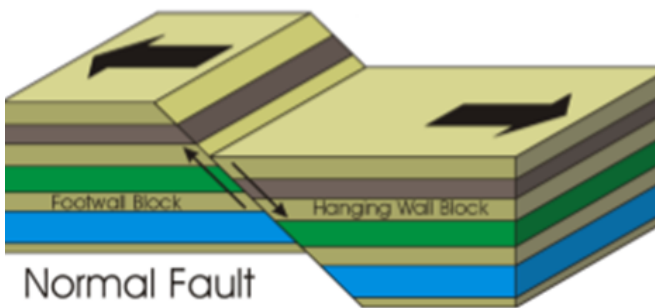


Photos from Web Site

The Crystal Collector

Digging for Amethyst Quartz Crystals. I think your mouth will be watering after seeing this 14:17 minute video about collecting “Killer Amethysts” at the Ellis Mine in Due West, South Carolina. How I’d love to “Get down and dirty” at this site!

<<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2SuqH1Rpa3s>>



Fault (Geology): A Wikipedia Article

If, after reading this tome you don’t understand more about this phase of geology, it is not my fault! Read about mechanisms, fault types, effects on structures and people, connect with external links and more.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fault_\(geology\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fault_(geology))



Editor's Notes

Olivia Luzier

In last month's minutes, Wendell noted the correction of the word "tanked" to "thanked."

Field Trip News

Dave Fryauff

Field Trip for April 23-24, 2016

The incredibly popular, annual Superdig is at the Sterling Hill Mining Museum in Ogdensburg, NJ, on April 23rd. This is in conjunction with the world famous, two day Franklin, NJ, show that offers everything that any fluorescent mineral enthusiast could desire! Plenty of opportunity to dig minerals until you drop and the ability to empty your wallet at the show for that fluorescent specimen that you just have to have, and plenty of exhibits and dealers wares to admire. You need to sign-up through the NJE-SA link at whoscoming.com/UVworld, as soon as possible. This event is extremely well attended and you want to make sure you get a spot. This is also a GLMSMC-sponsored event which means you don't need the extra cost of their insurance policy. Just one more way your Society membership works for you!



Upcoming Shows

South Penn Rock Swap & Sale

--SPRING SWAP--

Saturday, May 14, 2016

8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

South Mountain Fairgrounds

West of Arendtsville, PA on Route 234

For GPS, use address:

615 Narrows Road, Biglerville, PA 17307

General admissions: \$1.00/person

Table for Swappers: \$5.00/table

Sponsored by the Central Pennsylvania and
Franklin County Rock & Mineral Clubs

Contact: tsmith1012@comcast.net

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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Award Winning Bulletin
EFMLS, AFMS



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