



# The Rockhounder

December 2017

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 submissions for the January issue of The Rockhounder to Editor Olivia Luzier at [editor@glmsmc.com](mailto:editor@glmsmc.com) By Thursday, December 28, 2017.

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## Regular Meeting Announcements

Gary Leaman, Vice President

### December Speaker Information:

**Speaker:** There will be no speaker this month.

**Title of Talk:** Holiday Party!

The general meeting will be held on Monday, December 12th at 7:30 PM for set-up. This meeting will be a potluck style holiday party, so bring your favorite dishes, desserts, snacks, or drinks you wish to share with other members and friends. Also, you can bring any mineral specimens you wish to sell, trade, or give away.

There will be no speaker this month, as this meeting is our annual Christmas/holiday party.

### Next Regular Meeting:

**Date:** Monday, Dec. 11, 2017 **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.

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## **President's Message**

Jonathan Harris

Happy Hanukah, Christmas, and New Years. A great thanks to all of the incoming officers and Board members: new President Ken Reynolds, Vice President Steve Calamuci, Secretary Karen Lottes, Treasurer Holly McNeil, and Downstairs Show Chair Chris Luzier. I look forward to working with this group as the Immediate Past President.

Many thanks go to Board members and others who have made this another great year. Gary Leaman has provided us with a year full of engaging speakers. Mark Dahlman has run a first rate youth program and audited our books. Jeff Cessna has kept careful records of our meetings and Board decisions. Dave Fryauff has provided us with a year full of fun and productive field trips. Holly McNeil and Dave Tiktinsky have again run a wonderful and unique annual show and have prepared us for another show this coming March. Joel Rosen has had the wisdom to replace our aging trailer, along with managing the maintenance and storage of equipment as well as critical parts of the set-up and take-down of the show. Wendell Mohr continues as our liaison to the larger federation, the EFLMS, and has provided his valuable insights to the rest of us.

Olivia Luzier has continued to provide us with a year full of Rockhounters, putting up with the vagaries of software and formats to provide us with an attractive and easy-to-browse newsletter. Doug Baum, our Rockhound of the Year, has built our presence on Facebook and managed our show publicity along with handling the mechanics of enrolling and renewing memberships and maintaining accurate records. Tom Dushel, our outgoing Treasurer, has kept a careful watch on finances. Our recent past presidents have not faded away either. Andy Celmer has been a valuable shop steward. Chris Luzier has continued to pitch in for a range of activities—the show, auctions, and other monthly meeting activities. Finally, Ben Dodge, our webmaster, has upgraded and maintained our website—often the first opportunity for people to engage with our club.

### **Holiday Party Alert**

Our monthly meeting, on December 11, will be a holiday party. It will be a potluck. As always, please bring a dish, snack, or dessert to share potluck style with everyone and if you like, please bring any mineral related items you wish to sell, trade, or give away. The club will supply paper plates, eating utensils, napkins, and drinks. Don't forget—bring some room in your stomach for good food. December and January are a good time to start preparing your exhibits for our annual show. Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah, and Happy New Year.



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## GLMSMC Regular Meeting Minutes for November 13, 2017

Jeff Cessna

The November 13, 2017 meeting was called to order by Vice President Gary Leaman at 7:45 pm. There were approximately 47 people in attendance (38 adults, 9 juniors). It was M/S/P to approve the minutes of the October 9, 2017 regular meeting and the October 16, 2017 BOD meeting.

**FRA:** Mark Dahlman presented 4 Maps badges and 2 Rockhounder badges. The Rockhounder badges recognize the earning of 6 individual badges. In addition to the badge, Kaylee Bloom received a Smithsonian rock and gem book and a showy calcite and marcasite from the Brushy Creek Mine in Missouri. Peter Korenko received a geode book and an amethyst geode that was approximately a foot tall. Mark received assistance for these gifts in the form of suggestions from Bob Jones.

**Membership:** Doug Baum announced the membership applications for the evening. It was M/S/P to approve the memberships of returning members Eric Thompson and John Curry and new members Dave and Elena Chisthilf from South Riding Loudon, Virginia.

Dave Hennessey announced a banquet in Alexandria on December 9, 2017, celebrating the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Mineralogical Society of the District of Columbia and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Micromineralogists of the National Capitol Area. Dr. Jeff Post of the Smithsonian Institute will be the featured speaker.

**Elections:** Chris Luzier announced the nominees put forward by the nominating committee, as previously published in the Rockhounder: President, Ken Reynolds; Vice President, Steve Calamuci; Treasurer, Holly McNeil; and Secretary, Karen Lottes. He also called for any nominations from the floor. Hearing none, it was M/S/P to elect all nominees as stated.

**Vice President:** Gary Leaman announced that the next meeting will be the holiday party. There will be no show table. Gary asked members to volunteer to the new Vice President to give talks at meetings, if interested. Gary then began the auction of member specimens, which served as the program for the evening. Chris Luzier served as auctioneer. Holly McNeil and Tom Dushel assisted in record keeping and money handling.

**Adjournment:** It was M/S/P to adjourn the meeting at 9:41 PM

Jeff Cessna, Secretary



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## GLMSMC BOD Meeting Minutes for November 20, 2017

Jeff Cessna

Board Members present: Doug Baum, Jeff Cessna, Tom Dushel, Jonathan Harris, Gary Leaman, Chris Luzier, Holly McNeil, Joel Rosen, and Dave Tiktinsky. Board Members not present: Dave Fryauff and Wendell Mohr. Guests present: Ken Reynolds and Karen Lottes. President Jonathan Harris called the November 20, 2017 meeting to order at approximately 7:36 pm.

**President:** Jonathan Harris stated he had been contacted for suggestions regarding dispersing a collection. Dave Tiktinsky contacted the individual for information and began discussing the possibilities of contacting dealers or having an auction. He will visit to view the collection.

**Treasurer:** Tom Dushel supplied the 2017 accounting to date and a proposed 2018 budget for discussion. The 2017 numbers were reviewed in detail. Auctions brought in additional income. It was M/S/P to make a donation to the Smithsonian Institute. Proposals were received to upgrade the lapidary machines in the shop from silicon carbide to diamond for the rough wheels. It was M/S/P to provide additional funds above what was already budgeted. It was M/S/P to provide funds for trailer tag and possible taxes. For the 2018 budget, additional funds were allotted for the possibility of purchasing new show table draping, to increase the Wildacres scholarship fund to reflect current cost, and to increase the funds available for programs. A slight increase was made to the door prize funds. It was M/S/P to approve the 2018 budget as discussed.

**Property:** Joel Rosen stated that the taxes and tags needed to be paid for the new trailer. Holly McNeil will supply the club 501c3 information to Joel. Joel will investigate the taxes. Joel reported he has delivered the title to the new owner of the old trailer.

Responsibilities were assigned for club supplied aspects of the holiday party. Holly McNeil will check with Wendell Mohr regarding water heater for coffee and tea. Joel Rosen has one if needed.

**Programs:** Gary Leaman discussed recent donations from the GLMSDC and member John Curry. Much material from John will be used for the junior program. The remaining donation materials have been processed into lots for a future auction. Gary and Diane Leaman donated a laptop to the club. Gary will deliver the laptop to the new Vice President, Steve Calamuci. Holly McNeil will take possession of projector, so it will be near the meeting site.

**Membership:** Doug Baum stated the club had 121 members (109 adults and 12 juniors) as of November. We are now in the surcharge phase of membership renewal.

**Adjournment:** It was M/S/P to adjourn at 9:25 PM.



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

Mark Dahlman

**Next Meeting Date:** December 11

**Meeting Time:** 7:45-9:00pm

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

### **November 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting:**

We started our November meeting awarding the Maps badge to Kaylee Bloom, Nichole Mueller, Colin Savage, and Jennifer Weiss, and then awarded the Rockhounder badge to Kaylee Bloom and Peter Korenko—congratulations to all! Colin told us about his trip to China last spring as well. We then practiced gold panning paydirt in tubs of water to strike it rich! Well, maybe not rich, but at least richer than we were.

### **December 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting:**

We'll have a short "Yankee Swap" for FRA members (items to swap will be provided) and then we will be joining the holiday party in the main meeting room. Since the holiday party is a potluck, everyone is welcome to bring family favorite finger food to the party. We'll also be doing more gold panning for those who didn't have a chance last time. This meeting is also a chance to sell or swap with other GLMSMC members. 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.

**Editor's Note:** See the next pages for pictures of the Maps badge and Rockhounder badge recipients receiving their awards!



## FRA Maps and Rockhounder Badge Recipients and Awards

### Maps Badge Recipients

*Top left to top right: Kaylee Bloom, Nichole Mueller.*

*Bottom left to bottom right: Colin Savage, and Jennifer Weiss.*



Photos courtesy of Holly McNeil and Mark Dahlman

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## FRA Maps and Rockhounder Badge Recipients and Awards

### FRA Rockhounder Badge Recipients

Kaylee Bloom and Peter Korenko receiving their awards.



Photos courtesy of Holly McNeil and Mark Dahlman



**Photos from December 2nd Penn MD Quarry Field Trip**

*Here are photos, courtesy of Sam Linton, from the recent Penn MD Quarry field trip.*







### Turquoise

Andy B. Celmer

Hello Boys and Girls,

Traveling through the western US, I encountered many representations of turquoise, both as personal jewelry and retail offerings. The prices of turquoise varied widely. This price difference is attributed to the fact that turquoise can and is treated/alterd by a variety of methods. Some estimate 10% of currently mined turquoise is gem grade and 25% of all available turquoise is NOT treated. That means 75% of turquoise on the market today is treated. It gets worse! Dayton Simmons, the owner of Silver Day Trading Company, Madrid, NM, specializes in turquoise that has not been treated. Mr. Simmons estimates natural, untreated turquoise is just 2% of the entire market.

How can all of these numbers be accurate? For that answer we have to start at the beginning. Well, what is turquoise? I'm glad you asked!

Turquoise is a hydrated phosphate of copper and aluminum (but you already knew that). As a secondary mineral, turquoise forms through decomposition of existing rock and the accumulation of copper, aluminum, and other minerals in existing cavities or crevices. Typically it forms in arid areas near a source of potassium-feldspar-bearing porphyritic (large and small crystal) igneous rock. The gem grade turquoise is relatively soft, at a hardness of 5-6.

So let us say—or, “let me say,” I can never be sure, but I digress—you are digging through the rock in an arid area that fulfills all the conditions necessary to form a secondary deposit of turquoise. You encounter a large deposit of turquoise...woo hoo! You know only 10% of the turquoise deposit is gem grade because you read my article. What can you do with the remaining 90%? Welcome to the world of turquoise treatments.

Your turquoise deposit will yield hopefully a small amount of natural gem quality turquoise. Nevada Cassidys sells natural turquoise for about \$160 for 49 grams. The pieces are up to 2 mm as the longest dimension. That is only \$1400/lb. Prices vary! Nevada Cassidys also sells specimen turquoise. A 132 carat (26.4 gram) piece of green turquoise, 58 mm longest dimension sells for \$396. That is only \$6810/lb. for about 17 similar sized pieces. There is very little natural untreated turquoise on the market.

Next comes low grade natural turquoise (also known as “chalk,” a whitish-blue, porous, soft material). This grade of turquoise is much too soft for polishing and it is off-white, not the desired blue or green. This grade can be stabilized, our first level of treatment. While subjecting the chalk turquoise to high pressure, a plastic resin is forced into the porous material. This process hardens the turquoise

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## Turquoise

Andy B. Celmer

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oils, soap, and cosmetics, which can cause a color change. Stabilized turquoise is permanently sealed from these absorptions and is a fully legitimate form of turquoise that is used by many of our finest artists. Of course a seller of rough turquoise should disclose the level of treatment. Colbaugh Processing Inc. sells stabilized Kingman Turquoise for \$150/lb., consisting of medium to large that are ½” to 1” thick.

Our next level of processing is reconstituted. Reconstituted turquoise consists of pulverized low-grade chalk turquoise mixed with resin and dye. These materials are subjected to high pressure and may be pressed into blocks. The percentage of pulverized turquoise in the mix may be very small. A spider web pattern and/or matrix may be added during the creation process. The finished product usually feels very smooth and some say you can heat a pin, press it into the product, and detect the odor of burnt plastic. This test is sure to make most vendors cranky! Alibaba sells block reconstituted turquoise for \$5 to \$10 per kilogram (that’s \$2.50 to \$5 per pound).

Finally there is turquoise color plastic, which can have matrix on the surface or embedded in the material.

As always, buyer beware! You may wish to refrain from impressing friends and family by burning holes in their turquoise. I believe most people would prefer not to know their lovely turquoise is actually manufactured. However, now you may shop for turquoise with your eyes wide open.

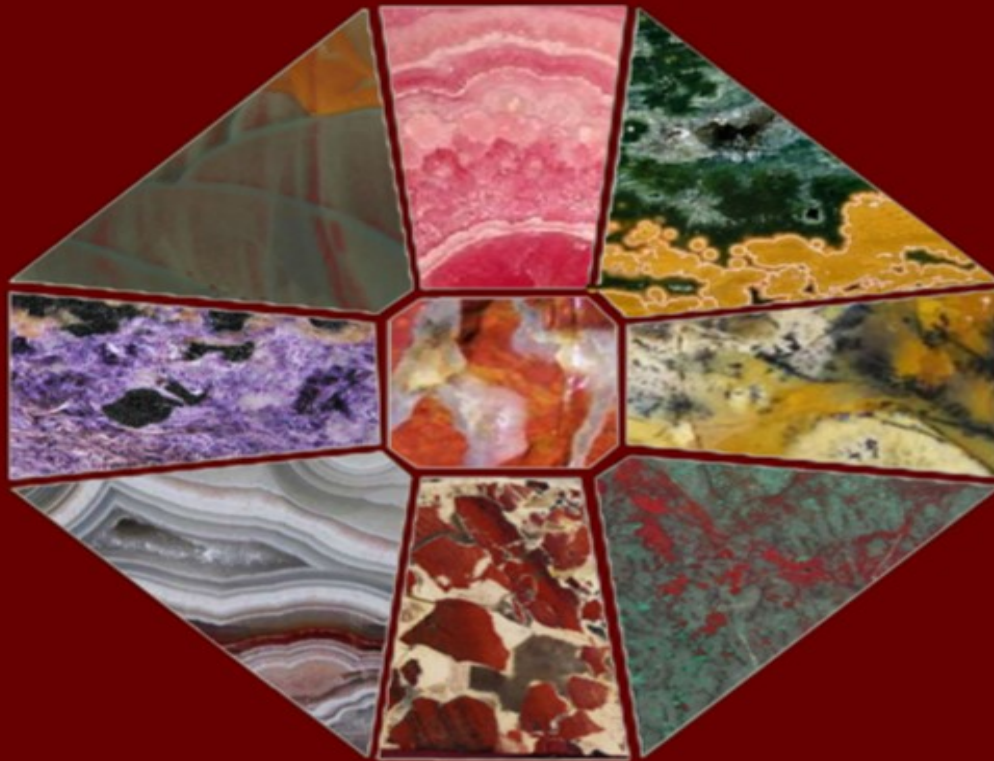
‘Til next time,  
Andy B

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Upcoming Shows

# Gemcutters Guild of Baltimore Annual Lapidary Auction



Dec 5th 7:30pm

3600 Clipper Mill Rd #116, Baltimore, MD 21211

Very good quality slabs, rough, and tools!

Time: 7:30 PM (Door opens at 7 PM for preview)

Address: 3600 Clipper Mill Rd, Suite 116, Baltimore



### Upcoming Shows

#### Mineral and Fossil Swap & Sell

Sponsored by the Philadelphia Mineral Society

January 20, 2018 from 9-12

LOCATION CHANGE: LuLu Temple, 5140 Butler Pike, Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462

Info and Reservations: John Rateike at 215-576- 0741 or jdrat@comcast.net

#### 55th Annual Earth Science Gem & Mineral Show

Sponsored by the Delaware Mineralogical Society

March 3 – 4, 2018

University of Delaware—Wilmington Campus, Arsh Conference Center

2800 Pennsylvania Ave (Rt 52), Wilmington, DE 19806

Info: [www.delminsociety.net](http://www.delminsociety.net)

Adult Admission \$6 each  
Group with this Ad. All \$5 each  
11 and under Free!



March 17-18, 2018  
Sat. 10 am-6 pm  
Sun. 11 am-5 pm

The Gem, Lapidary, and Mineral Society of Montgomery County, MD.

Featuring:

- Door prizes
- Demonstrations
- Fluorescent minerals

- Free specimens for the kids!
- DIY cabachon making
- Free kid's mini mine

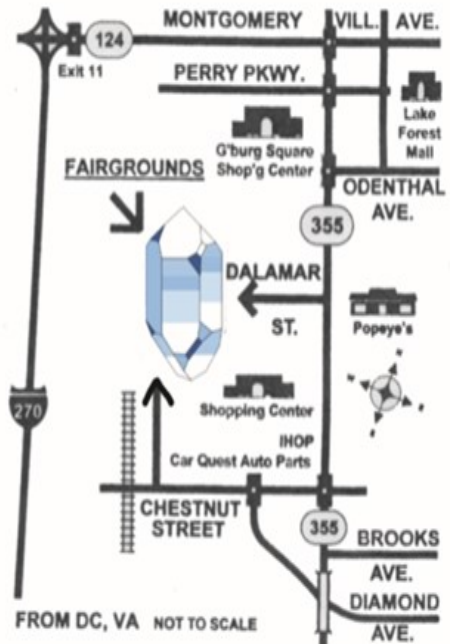
Montgomery County  
Fairgrounds  
GPS: 39°8'44"N  
77°12'22"W  
Building 6  
16 Chestnut Street  
Gaithersburg  
Maryland

- Over 40 exhibits
- Raffle
- GPAA Gold Panning

More than 20 dealers from around the country featuring:

- Fossils
- Minerals
- New age items
- Jewelry
- Fluorescents
- Gems & gem rough

- Beads
- Meteorites
- And more





## Upcoming Shows (Cont'd)

### **29th Annual North Jersey Gem, Mineral, & Fossil Show**

Organized by the North Jersey Mineralogical Society

April 14-15, 2018

Midland Park High School, 250 Prospect Street, Midland Park, New Jersey

For info: <http://nojms.webs.com/annual-show>

### **48th Annual New Jersey Earth Science Association Gem & Mineral Show**

Organized by the New Jersey Earth Science Association

April 28-29, 2018

NEW LOCATION: Littell Community Center, 12 Munsonhurst Road, Franklin, New Jersey

(Indoor and outdoor show)

For info: <http://njesa.org/spring-mineral-show.html>

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**

**President** – Jonathan Harris, 11932 Goya Drive, Potomac, MD 20854-3313, (301-545- 0808)

**Vice President** – Gary Leaman, 7524 Cinnabar Terrace, Gaithersburg, MD 20879-4577,  
(301-963-3702)

**Secretary** – Jeff Cessna, 12116 Cliftdale Drive, Silver Spring, MD 20904-1941, (301-680-7963)

**Treasurer** – Tom Dushel, 108 Berrywood Drive, Severna Park MD 21146-2004, (443-514-6734)

**Field Trip Chairman** – Dave Fryauff, 24109 Sugar Cane Lane, Laytonsville MD 20882-4031,  
(301-253-1687)

**Membership Chairman** – Doug Baum, 11205 Golden Meadow Ct., Germantown, MD 20876-1740,  
(301-515-4641)

**Downstairs Showchair** – Holly McNeil, 22 South Duke Street, Rockville, MD, 20850-1014,  
(301-605-7179)

**Upstairs Showchair** – Dave Tiktinsky, 9209 Laurel Oak Drive, Bethesda, MD 20817-1937,  
(301-365-2812)

**Property Manager** – Joel Rosen, 833 Rampart Way, Union Bridge, MD 21791-9325, (410-775-7937)

**Immediate Past President** – Chris Luzier, 847 Springdale Drive, Millersville, MD, 21108-1436,  
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**Life Members:** Larry Harrison, Wendell Mohr, Juan Proaño, and George Durland

**Society Address:** Gem, Lapidary, and Mineral Society of Montgomery County MD., Inc.

P. O. Box 444, Gaithersburg MD 20884-0444

**Website:** <http://www.glmsmc.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 at [editor@glmsmc.com](mailto:editor@glmsmc.com).

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Award Winning Bulletin  
EFMLS, AFMS



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