



# The Rockhounder

January 2018

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 February issue of The Rockhounder to Editor Olivia Luzier at [editor@glmsmc.com](mailto:editor@glmsmc.com) By Tuesday, January 22, 2018.

## Regular Meeting Announcements

Steven Calamuci, Vice President

## January Speaker Information:

**Speaker:** John Weidner

**Title of Talk:** Silicate Classifications (Why are There So Many Funny Names with "Silicate" in Them?)

What’s a nesosilicate? Why should you care? Come to our January meeting and find out!

Our speaker, John Weidner, will describe and define nesosilicates, single-chain silicates, sister silicates, and all those many other funny silicate names. As for caring: Well, after the meeting, if you decide you don’t care, you will be able to explain *why* you don’t care.

Almost half of the Dana classification of minerals (probably the most commonly-used classification scheme for minerals) are classes of silicates. The classification is based on the chemistry, particularly the chemical elements present, the atomic structure, and the arrangement of those elements into crystals. When faced with

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### Next Regular Meeting:

**Date:**  
Monday,  
Jan. 8, 2018

**Time:**  
7:30 PM

**Place:**  
Rockville Senior  
Center,  
1150 Carnation  
Drive  
Rockville, MD

### Next Board of Directors Meeting:

The Board of Directors will meet **7:30 PM on Monday, Jan. 15, 2018** at the home of

Jonathan Harris. Board members are expected to be there. Any member is welcome to attend, but please let Jonathan know if you plan to attend.

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## **Speaker Information (Cont'd)**

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the plethora of names used, most as synonyms of each other, the classification seems overwhelming, but it all falls into place once a few organizational concepts are explained. All such organizational concepts will be explained in January. Any difficult chemistry will be skipped over, because you don't need to know it to understand the classification of silicates.

Our speaker, John Weidner, is the son of a lawyer and a math major, both fields that are based on precise definitions. This upbringing placed him at a distinct disadvantage in geology and mineral collecting, fields with imprecise categories such as a metagreywackie, pseudomorph habits, and sub-vitreous luster. He continues to struggle against this disadvantage today. John completed his PhD in math in 1973. Since then, he has alternated between teaching math in college and designing databases as a subcontractor. He is presently a registered volunteer with the Geology Department at Northern Virginia Community College, although no one, including John, can describe just what he does there. But since most minerals we see commonly in rocks are silicates, he does look at a lot of silicates.

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## **President's Message**

Ken Reynolds

### **Hi Rockhounds and Welcome 2018**

First of all I'd like to say how honored and humbled I am to be asked to serve as the club's President! I love this club, everything from the great group of members, the fantastic annual show, the best kids section of any club (Future Rockhounds of America), the awesome Board of Directors, the wide assortment of field trips, and the fun monthly meetings, I could go on and on—point is we have the best club around and I am really honored to serve as your President! I would also like to thank Jonathan G. Harris for his service the last two years; I think he's done a fantastic job!!

### **Moving Forward in 2018**

Our show is less than 3 months away! We put out sign-up sheets at last month's meeting and will continue to have them at our meetings up until the show. The show is a huge amount of work and a whole lot of fun; we really rely on our club members' help in everything from set up to take down, so please sign up early and often!

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## President's Message (Cont'd)

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The show is also a great opportunity for club members to show off their passions by presenting a display exhibit; this is one of my favorite things to do as a club member and I will be setting one or two displays up this year! Exhibitor forms will also be available at the club meetings or be sure to ask Chris Luzier for the form.

Lastly, I would like to remind members of the Spring (May 21-27) and Fall (September 3-9) sessions at Wildacres. Registration is available at <http://efmls-wildacres.org/>. Classes include beading, gemological, mineral identification, silversmithing, as well as jewelry making and lapidary skills. Our Board has now made it available for 2 spots to be paid for in full by our club on a first come first serve basis, so please, if anyone is interested, please ask any Board member and we will get you the forms needed!

Thanks and looking forward to a great year!!

Sincerely,  
Ken Reynolds

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## GLMSMC Regular Meeting Minutes for December 11, 2017

Jeff Cessna

The December 11, 2017 meeting was called to order by President Jonathan Harris at 7:40 pm. There were approximately 47 people in attendance. It was M/S/P to approve the minutes of the November 13, 2017 regular meeting. It was M/S/P to approve the minutes of the November 20, 2017 Board meeting minutes.

**President:** Jonathan Harris requested reports from the directors.

**Show:** Chris Luzier, new Downstairs Show Chair, requested members sign up to volunteer at the show and to exhibit. Chris announced that Gary Leaman will assist as Downstairs Co-Chair with an emphasis in the shop.

Denise and Dennis Nelson brought some book and enamel jewelry part donations through GLMSDC From Lisa Carp.



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**GLMSMC Regular Meeting Minutes for December 11, 2017**

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**Field Trips:** Field trips are planned to resume in March.

**Membership:** Doug Baum announced the membership applications for the evening. It was M/S/P to approve the memberships of Michelle Friedberg of Gaithersburg and Katie Switzerland of Washington, D.C.

**Property:** Joel Rosen announced that the Tags, Title and Tags have been taken care of for the trailer.

Joel Rosen administered the door prizes.

Jonathan Harris welcomed the incoming officers.

**Adjournment:** It was M/S/P to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 PM and proceed with the Holiday party.

Jeff Cessna, Secretary.

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**GLMSMC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes for December 18, 2017**

There was no Board of Director's meeting for the month of December.

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[https://www.facebook.com/  
groups/984241208329511/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/984241208329511/)



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

Mark Dahlman

**Next Meeting Date:** January 8

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

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

**December 11th Meeting:**

Mrs. Holly McNeil led our FRA Yankee Gift Swap during the club's holiday party – thanks Mrs. McNeil! Everyone enjoyed the potluck food and drinks at the party too.

**January 8th Meeting:**

It's back to the gold in January! We'll be doing more gold panning for those that didn't have a chance last time, as well as learning more about the precious metal as part of the Gold Panning and Prospecting badge. FRA members should be deciding what the topic of their exhibit will be for the club show in March. Entry forms are due in February, but since space is limited, it's best to submit your entry form in January if you know what your topic will be. Don't forget that the Lillian Turner awards go to juniors' exhibits. We'll have forms at the meeting, and we'll be starting work on the group display. 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.

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**It's Showtime!**

Chris Luzier

Well fellow rockhounds, it is that time of year again!!! It's showtime!!! It was great to see many of you at the holiday party and a number of those people have signed up for various volunteer spots already. The January meeting is very important for signing up volunteers and also getting all of our exhibitor case forms distributed so we members can get our cases planned out. I will be doing the historic Maryland Mines and Mineralogist case that the GLMSMC owns again this year. I love putting up that case! Keep in mind that we only have a limited number of display cases available too, especially if you want a new case or a fluorescent room case.

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**It's Showtime! (Cont'd)**

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As always, we will need many volunteers for the lapidary shop and the kid's table. We have many slots available at the front tables with hospitality, raffles, and admissions. No matter what your skills and the amount of time that you can donate to the club, we have a place for you. I'd like to thank all of the other people that are helping with the show, especially Dave Tiktinsky as Upstairs Showchair, Andy Celmer as Shop Boss, and also Gary Leaman for stepping up with me to take care of the Downstairs portion of the show, most especially in the Shop with Andy. Thanks as well to all the behind-the-scenes volunteers and all of you other members who step forward every year to put forth such a great show!!!

Peace and thanks-Chris Luzier

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## **Board of Directors Bios**

**Editor's Note:** Below are some of our Board of Directors members' bios. There should be more to follow in the next few Rockhounder newsletters.

### **Steven Calamuci, Vice President:**

I've been interested in rocks and fossils since my early childhood, collecting trilobites from a shale quarry near my family's vacation house in New York State. I collected in New York State until my early teens. After a short 40-year break from collecting, my wife told me I needed a hobby, so I chose rockhounding as the hobby and now way too many rocks are in and outside my house.

### **Jonathan Harris, Immediate Past President:**

Jonathan Harris grew up in Silver Spring, MD and started mineral collecting after a third grade teacher showed the class a rock collection. This later inspired him to study chemistry. Combined with his love of mathematics, this led to a career as an academic researcher and teacher in computational chemistry, followed by a career in financial modeling, which is his current day-job.

He enjoys fluorescent minerals, minerals with unusual physical and chemical properties, polymorphs, micromounts, and interesting examples of crystal structures. His other hobbies include hiking, camping, and nature and wildlife photography. Occasionally he likes to use the internet to bust pernicious myths and hoaxes. He is currently trying to inform the public about the falsehoods

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## Board of Directors Bios (Cont'd)

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underlying the rise of the world's greatest pyramid schemes—Bitcoin and its sister crypto currencies.

Jonathan has also served as the Field Trip Chair. He and his wife Susan are currently empty nesters with two grown boys.

### **Olivia Luzier, Editor of The Rockhounder:**

Olivia Luzier grew up rockhounding (and fossil hunting) with her parents, particularly in Franklin, New Jersey, and various beaches in Maryland. She became the GLMSMC's Editor in May of 2015. She is currently a junior in college, majoring in English Communication and Technology.

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## Dec. 11 Holiday Party Pictures



Photos courtesy of Holly McNeil

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Dec. 11 Holiday Party Pictures (Cont'd)

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Photos courtesy of Holly McNeil

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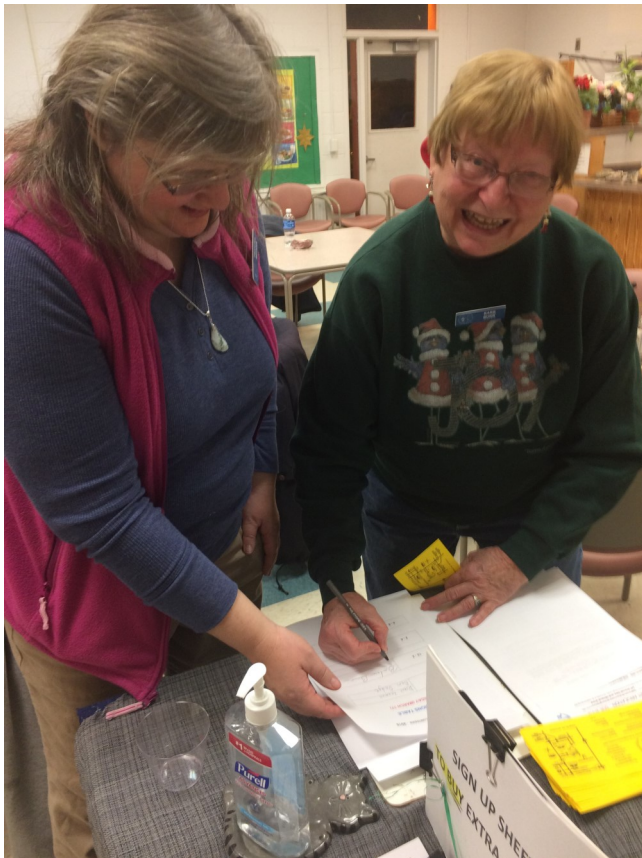




## Dec. 11 Holiday Party Pictures (Cont'd)

Photos courtesy of Holly McNeil

*Continued from page 8*



### **Our First Volunteers!**

Barb Burr and Frances Becker signing up to work at the show already!

### **Under the Tarp**

Rockhounds looking at fluorescent minerals with a UV light under a black tarp at the party.





## **Upcoming Classes**

### **Active Montgomery Gemology Classes: Winter Session**

Registration for Winter session Gemology classes in Active Montgomery is now open. Those who might wish to sign up should go to Active Montgomery and in the search box call up "Gemology." Both classes should appear with the opportunity to get additional info for each. If someone wants additional info beyond that, they should contact me, Tim Morgan, at [timothyemorgan@mac.com](mailto:timothyemorgan@mac.com) for more. Classes begin Wednesday, Jan. 17 (Advanced) and Thursday, Jan. 18 (Intro). They will run until Wednesday, Mar. 14 (Advanced) and Thursday, Mar. 15 (Intro). Again, for further information,

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## **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](mailto: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, Arsht Conference Center

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

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



Upcoming Shows

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

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

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

Featuring:

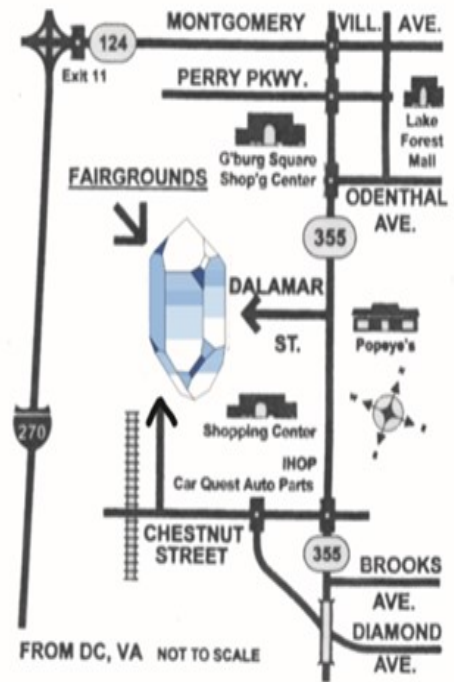
- |                      |                              |                   |
|----------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| Door prizes          | Free specimens for the kids! | Over 40 exhibits  |
| Demonstrations       | DIY cabachon making          | Raffle            |
| Fluorescent minerals | Free kid's mini mine         | GPAA Gold Panning |

More than 20 dealers from around the country featuring:

- |               |                  |            |
|---------------|------------------|------------|
| Fossils       | Jewelry          | Beads      |
| Minerals      | Fluorescents     | Meteorites |
| New age items | Gems & gem rough | And more   |

www.glmsmc.com

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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>





**Upcoming Shows (Cont'd)**

**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** – Ken Reynolds, 1139 North Utah Street, Arlington, VA 22201-5731 (703-929-3115)

**Vice President** – Steven Calamuci, 17403 St. Theresa Drive, Olney, MD 20832-2545 (301-456-5336)

**Secretary** – Karen Lottes, 330 Ridge Road, POB 1386, Washington Grove, MD 20880-1386 (301-947-3369)

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

**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** – Chris Luzier, 847 Springdale Drive, Millersville, MD, 21108-1436,  
(443-995-5363)

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

**EFMLS Liaison** – Wendell Mohr, 9509 Emory Grove Road, Gaithersburg, MD 20877-3501,  
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([editor@glmsmc.com](mailto:editor@glmsmc.com))

**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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