



# The Rockhounder

June 2019

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 July-August issue of The Rockhounder to Editor Olivia Luzier at [editor@glmsmc.com](mailto:editor@glmsmc.com) by Tuesday, July 23, 2019.

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## Regular Meeting Announcements

Steven Calamuci, Vice President

## June Speaker Information:

**Speaker:** John Weidner

**Title of Talk:** “Garnets!”

This month's speaker is John Weidner, who is a member of the MSDC group and a volunteer with the Geology Department at the Northern Virginia Community College (NVCC).

Be forewarned, his presentations often involve audience participation. For his garnet presentation, rumor has it that there may be a song (in 4/4 time).

### Next Regular Meeting:

**Date:** Monday,  
June 10, 2019

**Time:** 7:30 PM

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

### Next Board of Directors Meeting:

The Board of Directors will meet at **7:30 PM on Monday, June 17, 2019** at the home of Holly Heighes. Board members are expected to be there. Any member is welcome to come, but please let Holly know if you plan to attend.

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## President's Message

Ken Reynolds

Hello Rockhounds,

Welcome to the month of June; it is one of my favorite months for collecting minerals and going to rock shows around the region. And when I say region, I include Maryland, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, and North Carolina... obviously I don't mind a little driving!

This past weekend, June 1-2, I traveled to Macungie, PA, for their Spring Mineralfest. It was about a 3 hour drive from Rockville, MD, and happened to be on the way to Franklin, NJ, where I was headed anyway. I thought the Spring Mineralfest would be a fun thing to do, a good chance to pick up some local minerals, and possibly to pick up some Franklin minerals, considering its close proximity to New Jersey.

I arrived at the show and was surprised to see some familiar faces of dealers I know and a nice turn-out of mineral enthusiasts like us. The indoor area was small, but packed full of dealers. The outside area was very large in comparison, with lots of vendors selling minerals, but also a lot of arts and crafts dealers as well!

I managed to find four nice Franklin specimens from a gentleman; he, his mother, and his sister were all selling minerals that their father had self-collected 50 years ago at the Parker Dump (which is no longer in existence) in Franklin, NJ, and from Pennsylvania. The gentleman had many great father-son collecting stories, which I thoroughly enjoyed. I learned his father was the President of their mineral club for years and a great field collector as well! I could have spent all day listening, but I had plans to do the Night Dig at the Buckwheat Dump on the grounds of the Franklin Mineral Museum, so I had to go.

I love doing fluorescent mineral digs at night for the obvious reason, that you don't need to do it in the sun under a hot black cover! The dig went well but the bugs cut the dig short for many people; New Jersey has had a very wet spring and the insects were abundant! I managed to stick it out and it paid off, as I found a 30 lb boulder of fluorescent sphalerite! I originally planned on trimming it down, but after breaking it into four pieces, I decided to keep it all!

Come to our June meeting and I will have pieces to show!!

Please don't forget our June 10 meeting at the Rockville Senior Center, for our presentation on garnets! Please bring a garnet specimen, if you own any, for show and tell!!

Hope to see you there!!  
Ken Reynolds, President



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## GLMSMC Regular Meeting Minutes from May 13, 2019

Karen Lottes

The meeting was called to order at 7:48 by Ken. Approximately 40 in attendance.

The Regular Meeting Minutes and the Board Meeting Minutes from April were passed.

**Announcements:** AFMS finally gave out Rockhounder of the Year awards to Chris Luzier for 2016 and Doug Baum for 2017. We received a donation of books from Sam Linton. We are offering them free, but there's a donation envelope if you are so inclined. All donations will go to the FRA program. This month, we have Casper Voogt as our speaker with a talk on trilobites. Chris will be giving a talk on Fossil Sharks of the Chesapeake Bay to the GPAA on Friday, June 14th.

Jeff Nagy has proposed that we petition that the Rock Run Trail be renamed for Walt Goetz. (For those who don't know, Walt wrote books on Maryland and Montgomery County prospecting.) Karen is looking into how we could get the trail renamed.

**Field Trips:** Last Saturday (May 10), we were at Penn/MD Quarry. We had about 24 or 25 people in attendance. It was a really nice trip and we found some unexpected fluorescents. On Saturday the 18th, we'll be going to Vulcan Quarry.

**Auction:** We have one today, following the talk. There are 22 lots and all proceeds go to FRA.

**Trailer:** Joel reported that the trailer is dry! He and Jonathan had caulked the trailer to waterproof it.

**Membership:** Doug said he's heard from some people who have said that they aren't getting emails. Please see him if that's the case.

There was a presentation of Maryland material from the Matrix Archives by Erich Grundel. He is donating it to the club, as he thinks this is the best place for them. It is mostly photographic material. Jeff Nagy will add to the club archives.

**Speaker Presentation:** Casper Voogt's "Trilobites of the West Virginia Area"

Trilobites are extinct arthropods, related to lobsters and insects, that lived from the Cambrian Era to the Permian Era. They are diverse, abundant, and found worldwide. They are important to geology as an index fossil and their exoskeleton makes them now well-preserved. Casper has done field collecting of trilobites in Penn-Dixie, New York, near Lake Erie. Trilobites are abundant in the Rochester Shale and Capon Bridge, WV. Other places you can collect trilobites are Delta, UT, and the Wolcott Rust Quarry in Herkimer County, NY (although he has not collected in these locations). Tips for cleaning your trilobite: leave a lot of matrix around the fossil for protection. They can be fragile. Use a pneumatic chisel and steel brushes. If the specimen is in sandstone, you can use a sand blaster.



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## GLMSMC Board Meeting Minutes from May 20, 2019

Karen Lottes

**Present:** Dave T, Gary, Doug, Ken, Holly, Chris, Karen, Jonathan

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 PM.

**Auction:** At the last meeting, the auction seemed more chaotic than usual and not everyone seemed aware of the rules. Also, it was really crowded because we had the auction, the books, and Casper's specimens there at one time. We need to have a reminder at the start of the meeting about how the auction works and also move the auction space out of the corner, so it doesn't get so crowded. We discussed how to auction off the big slab saw at Jonathan's, as it is too big to bring to the meeting. We decided to do it on Facebook with people posting bids in the comments or contacting Jonathan if they aren't on FB. He's going to tackle this particular challenge.

Many Board members are still storing donated items for auction. We'll be doing another auction at next month's meeting.

**Membership:** There seems to be a drop in memberships and fewer members in the FRA program than there used to be. We discussed what we could do to get members to the meetings. We could start reaching out to new members and unfamiliar faces more, like having some print-outs of the Rockhounder at the meetings to give to new members. Also, at the end of a regular meeting, we can remind people of the topic of the next regular meeting.

We have a preliminary schedule of speakers and their topics for the fall:

**September:** Dave Tiktinsky on Namibia

**October:** Gold Panners

**November:** Member Auction

**December:** Holiday Party

Our current membership levels are 131 adult and 17 youth.

**Book Donation:** Regarding Sam Linton's book donation at the regular meeting, we did an online motion of how to handle them:

**Motion that we put all the books out at the meeting and tell anyone to take whatever they want for free, but that if they wish to donate any money toward the FRA program, we will accept that and have an envelope available for the purpose. Motion seconded and passed.**

Thank you, Sam, for your generous donation. Also a thank you to Mimi Doane for donating our recent auction items for the benefit of the FRA.

*Continued on page 5*



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## GLMSMC Board Meeting Minutes from May 20, 2019

Karen Lottes

*Continued from page 4*

**Miscellaneous:** The group reimbursed Joel for the caulk for the trailer. There was an update on Wendell: Jeff Post went to visit him and accepted some of his collection for the Smithsonian.

**The Show:** The plastic table covers that we use for the annual show have had a long life and need replacing. We want to look into replacing with cloth tablecloths.

**Move that we allocate up to \$1,000.00 for new polycloth table covers for the show. Motion seconded and passed.**

The cloths would cover all four sides to the floor. It was discussed if we want to order one to test this.

**\*\*Motion Amended: Move that we allocate up to \$1,000.00 for new polycloth table covers for the show, but start with the purchase of one to test. Motion seconded and passed.**

**Final Shop Numbers:** We had 184 pre-forms go through with about 20 being redone because the cabs fell off the dopsticks.

There was a short discussion about Jeff Nagy's proposal to petition for a name change of Rock Run Trail.

The meeting adjourned at 9:12 PM.



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

Mark Dahlman

**Next Meeting Date:** June 10th

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

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

### **May 13th Meeting:**

FRA members brought beautiful pendants and an impressive gem tree they created since our last meeting. We completed assembly of pendants that still needed gluing and jump rings, and made a group gem tree to see how such a thing is done. We also reviewed some important shop safety rules. The FRA members that completed a lapidary project have fulfilled the requirements of the Lapidary Arts badge – congratulations to all seven FRA members who completed the requirements at our May meeting!

### **June 10th Meeting:**

This will be Jennifer's last meeting before she leaves for college this fall, so we will be wishing her a fond farewell. Thanks to Jennifer FRA members have earned many badges, particularly the Showmanship badge since Jennifer has organized and assembled our group exhibit for many years. THANK YOU, Jennifer! We will also be awarding Lapidary Arts badges. To finish our lapidary subject, we will have a guest speaker, Mr. Nagy, who will show us the art of faceting stones. As always, we'll have door prizes to give away too. 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.



Show Table for March 11th Regular Meeting

\*\* denotes self-collected

NAME	SPECIMEN	LOCALITY
Jeff Cessna	Blue Willemite	Franklin, NJ
" "	Bustamite, Hardystonite, Willemite	" "
Tom Parnell	Fluorite	Zheziang, China
" "	Fluorite	Hunan, China
Ken Reynolds	Hardystonite, Clinohedrite	"Mill Site Pile" Franklin, NJ
" "	Microcline & Meionite	" "
Sonja Navarez	Fern Fossil	St. Claire, PA
Reed Owens	Yoopelite	Lake Superior
Jeff Nagy	**Soapstone & Soapstone/Magnetite	Montgomery County
Doug Baum	Trilobite (Devonian)	Morocco
Gary Leaman	Trilobite	Morocco
Diane Leaman	Blue Carnelian	Brazil
Richard Ernst	Trilobite	Ohio
Pam Ogasawara	Trilobite	Utah
" "	Stingray bar (mouth) plates	Maryland
" "	Alligator Scutes	Mongolia
Barbara Burr	Erythrite	Bowazar, Morocco
Alana Hulse	Amethyst	Unknown
Pat Repik-Byrne	Apophyllite on Stilbite	Maharashtra, India
" "	Fossilized Coral	Unknown
King Stablein	Trilobites	Utah
Jonathan Harris	Magnesite (SW/LW Blue) Calcite	Penn/MD Quarry
" "	Hardystonite/Willemite	Franklin, NJ
" "	Microcline (SW Blue)	" "
" "	Calcite/Sphalerite	Buckwheat Dump, Franklin, NJ
Germaine Broussard	**Self Collected Treasures	Warren, PA
George Durland	2 Microcline Crystals	Raikot Chelas, Pakistan
Joel Rosen	Pyrite, Galena, & Dolomite	Viburnum Trend, MO
Dave Fryauff	**Brucite & Magnesite	Penn/MD Quarry, Peachbottom, PA

Continued on page 8



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## Show Table for March 11th Regular Meeting

\*\* denotes self-collected

*Continued from page 7*

### Door Prizes

#### Show Table:

Picasso Stone (Marble), Beaver County, Utah

*Won by Doug Baum*

#### General:

Labradorite Pendant

*Won by Dave Tiktinsky*

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





## May 18, 2019 Field Trip to Vulcan Sanders Quarry

Dave Fryauff

We heard that it would be hard to find good specimens in the Vulcan Sanders Quarry in Warrenton, VA, and that there would only be small vugs, and that good micro-sized specimens could be found. I agree, it was a tough quarry to find good specimens in, but for those few of us who made the trip, I think we found some good things.

The Sanders chabazite was very sparkly and clear. The stilbite was the flat-topped, prismatic columnar type and it too was water clear. Vugs were lined with a rounded, amorphous, white colored mineral that I think was saponite or montmorillonite; it was not fibrous like mordenite. Erich Grundel found some interesting clear, prismatic, hexagonal micro xls that I think are apatite, but he thinks they must be some other type of zeolite, given the type of rock and geology. Sam Linton sent a photo of possible mordenite, but I could not tell from that photo...Vulcan Manassas has produced some really nice mordenite specimens in our recent field trips, and also some nice little prismatic hexagonal xls that I believe are apatite....Mindat does list apatite in the species list for Vulcan Manassas.

Thanks to all those who attended the HK Penn-Md and Vulcan Sanders field trips and for all the photos. Keep shooting!!!

Cheers,

Dave



See more pictures on page 10!

*Photos courtesy of Dave Fryauff*



May 18, 2019 Field Trip to Vulcan Sanders Quarry



*Photos courtesy of Dave Fryauff*



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## Finds from Vulcan Sanders Quarry (Pictures)

*Photos courtesy of Sam Linton*



Half-inch Calcite Sphere



Chabazite



Possible Mordenite



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## June 29 National Limestone Quarry Trip Announcement

Dave Fryauff

### **Field Trip to National Limestone Middleburg Quarry #1 and Mt. Pleasant Mills Quarry #2 on Saturday June 29, 2019 from 9:00 AM to “afternoon”**

(\*This trip is hosted by GLMSMC and includes other local EFMLS clubs, like So.Md, NoVA, Shenandoah, MNCA, DEL, & DC)

**Meeting Time:** Meet at the Quarry Office parking lot at Middleburg Quarry, at 3499 Quarry Rd., Middleburg, PA 17842 at 8:45 a.m. (no later!!) for listening to owner’s Christian testimony (his personal requirement as the cost of admission), a Safety Briefing, and signing waiver forms. After the 1st 2 hours, we plan to drive 8 miles—as a group—to Mt. Pleasant Mills Quarry, 217 Quarry Rd., Mt. Pleasant Mills, PA 17853. The owner—Mr. Eric Stahl—is now using 2 canes to walk due to an inoperable bad hip and he said he does not think his son will continue coming in on Saturdays to allow rock collectors in) to visit here.

**Trip Leader:** Dave Fryauff for Montgomery County Club

**Location:** Our first 2 hours will be at Middleburg Quarry, 3499 Quarry Rd., Middleburg, PA 17842 (Approx. 200 miles and a 3-1/2 hour drive from La Plata according to MapQuest) and our second 2 hours will be at National Limestone Quarry, 217 Quarry Rd., Mt. Pleasant Mills, PA 17853.

**Directions:** Recommend follow directions from Mapquest or Google

**Special Requirements:** 1) The road to the small wavellite area is on the back side of a ridge above and behind the Mt. Pleasant Mills Quarry and is one way and narrow—we may have to take turns digging. 2) The quarry owner collects rocks and would appreciate the gift of any labeled specimens. 3) Kids (10 years old minimum and must also be a club member) are allowed, but must be closely supervised on a ratio of 1 parent per 1 kid (max) and remain next to their parent at all times.

**Safety:** Steel-toed boots, hardhat, safety glasses, long pants, heavy gloves and bright colored safety vest—to be worn by everyone at all times. Stay clear of all high walls.

**Note to Experienced Members:** Please keep a watch on all of us and say something to those who may not recognize danger before they get into trouble.

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## June 29 National Limestone Quarry Trip Announcement

Dave Fryauff

*Continued from page 12*

**What to Collect:** Middleburg Quarry—Lots of recent quarry activity in this quarry, so this is our best bet for finding calcite xls. Calcite and Fluorite are the most abundant. Also (fluorescent) flowstone (travertine stalagmites from ancient limestone caverns) and several minerals. Sphalerite and Galena (other sulfides) have also been found there as micros. Mt. Pleasant Mills Quarry—Strontianite, Calcite, Celestine, Dolomite, sometimes Fluorite—and Wavellite. Strontianite is best found by breaking open likely looking rocks. A LARGE sledge hammer is helpful. Strontianite is DELICATE. Bring toilet paper/old newspaper to wrap your specimens in. On the top of the ridge, above/behind the quarry, we can dig for Wavellite. A recent report from a Delaware Club member said the Wavellite area was excavated extensively and collecting Wavellite has never been easier. Wavellite is found on chunks of limestone/sandstone, which is loose and covered with red dirt/mud. You may need to dig down through several feet of this material to find the “layer” that contains the best wavellite. A short shovel and a pry bar/digging bar help. A garden scratcher is good. Wavellite is best found by wetting promising looking specimens and brushing off the red clay/mud with a stiff scrub brush. Bring a bucket and fill it with water at the office/trailer. These specimens should be wrapped carefully, too. There are also fossils in the same pit with the Wavellite; Brachiopods and moonsnails seem to be most common. On occasion, some rarer minerals have been found here as micros—Variscite, Turquoise/Planerite, Cacoenite, and Strengite.

**Equipment/ Clothing:** Full safety gear for everyone at all times—steel toed shoes/boots, safety glasses, hardhat, work gloves, long pants. **Recommended tools:** rock hammer, 3-4 pound crack hammer, chisels, stiff scrub brush, garden scratcher, 5 gal. bucket, old newspaper for wrapping specimens, small pry bar. **Optional:** large sledge hammer, long pry bar, extra buckets, loupe/magnifying glass. Your best tools are sharp eyes. Clothing depends on the weather—long sleeves are recommended. Rain poncho is nice to have. A bow saw is nice to have if the road to the Wavellite site has a fallen tree across it. Ticks and bugs—it will be summer and you should apply bug spray as a preventative—I use 100% Deet.

**Quarry Description / Hints:** Both quarries are limestone quarries mined for material to be crushed for road construction and riprap. **Hint:** Carefully search and investigate anything that is different.

**Vehicles:** We will be allowed to drive our vehicles into both quarries.

**Misc.:** Drinking water, sunscreen, bug spray, lunch/snacks. "Thank" the quarry owner. Bring a camera and PLEASE take some pictures for our newsletter.

**Sign-up List:** Best if you sign up early as it will help my planning. Sign up at the May club meeting or by email to [fryauffdj@gmail.com](mailto:fryauffdj@gmail.com) before June 14th.



## June Field Trip Reminders

Dave Fryauff

**Please remember that we have two really great Saturday field trips in June:**

- **June 8th Vulcan Stafford Quarry:** 7:30 AM in full safety gear. Out at 11:45. RSVP by Wed., June 5th with Sam Linton at <cooldragonshirts@yahoo.com>
- **June 29th National Limestone Quarry #1 (Middleburg PA) & Quarry #2 (Mount Pleasant Mills, PA):** Sign in at Middleburg quarry office at 8:45 AM.

Signed, dated waiver (assumption of risks waiver) is required at Vulcan Manassas!!!

Be safe and smart.

Cheers,  
Dave Fryauff

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## Wendell Update

Holly Heighes

Our much-esteemed Wendell Mohr recently made a donation of part of his collection to the Smithsonian!





## Upcoming Shows

### Living Estate Auction

**Date:** Friday, June 14th, 2019

**Time:** 7:30 pm (viewing at 7:00 pm)

**Place:**

Westchester Community Center  
2414 Westchester Ave., Oella Md.21043

*Refreshments are available.*

#### **Directions:**

##### ***From the north:***

Take I-695 to US 40 west (exit 15B). Turn left on N. Rolling Rd. Turn right at Old Fredrick Rd. (You will pass through 1 roundabout). Turn right on Oella Ave. Turn left on Westchester Ave. Westchester Community Center is on the right.

##### ***From the south:***

Take I-695 to Fredrick Rd. (exit 13). Turn left on Fredrick Rd. Follow Fredrick Rd. approx. 2.7 miles. Turn right on Oella Ave. Turn left on Westchester Ave. Westchester Community Center is on the right.

***Need a map? You can find one on our web site.***

***<[chesapeakegemandmineral.org](http://chesapeakegemandmineral.org)>***



## Upcoming Shows

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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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**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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EFMLS, AFMS



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