



The Rockhounder

April 2024

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 May issue of The Rockhounder to Editor Olivia Luzier at editor@glmsmc.com by Friday, April 26th, 2024.

Regular Meeting Announcements

Heather Vineyard, Vice President

April Speaker Information

Speaker: David Balenson

Title of Talk: “The Wonder of (Collecting) Sand”

Sand, the second-most used resource on Earth after water, permeates our lives and our culture. From beaches to riverbanks, deserts to mountains, and even beyond Earth, on the Moon and on Mars, sand is ubiquitous. Its versatility is astounding; from arts and crafts to abrasives, and from glass to computer chips, our reliance on sand is extensive. In this presentation, I will share my fascination with sand, cultivated through the collection of over 150 samples collected around the globe over the past two decades. We will delve into the myriad types, colors, and granularities of sands, unveiling their diverse beauty. Utilizing a digital microscope, we will scrutinize sand up close, unveiling a largely unseen world. We will also explore the intersection of sand and art, where it serves as both subject and medium. Finally, I will provide insights into resources for further exploration and collection of sand, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation for this remarkable resource.

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Next Regular Meeting:

Date: May 13th, 2024

Time: 7:30 PM

Place:

Rockville Senior Center,
1150 Carnation Drive Rockville MD

Next Board of Directors Meeting:

Date: May 20th, 2024

Time: 7:30 PM

Place:

Virtual (online Zoom meeting)

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April Speaker Information (Cont'd)

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Editor's Note:

David Balenson's presentation was for the meeting that occurred on April 8th. For those who missed his talk this time around, he will also be speaking at the Chesapeake Mineral Society in Oella at their June meeting.

Show Message

Chris Luzier

Thanks to all of our members who participated in and volunteered for our show in March! It was a wonderful show again with a good number of attendees and plenty of options of fun things to do for kids and adults alike. I want to thank all of our dealers, demonstrators, and exhibitors for all of their work and creativity, along with our army of volunteers!!! Without you all, the show cannot happen!

Thanks to our Board members and Upstairs Showchair, Dave Tiktinsky, for his help with servicing all of our dealers' needs and the upstairs logistics. Thanks so much again and I hope everyone had a wonderful time at the show as well. It was so great to see all the new families that attended this year. It is the very reason why I volunteer to be Downstairs Showchair and it is always gratifying to see the young kids taking in the show and the hobby for the first time!



Regular Meeting Minutes from March 11th, 2024

Jeff Cessna, Secretary

The March 11th, 2024 meeting was called to order by Past-President Andy Celmer at 7:38 PM. There were approximately 69 people in attendance (58 adults, 11 juniors). A motion passed to approve the minutes of the February 12th, 2024 regular meeting. A motion passed to approve amended minutes of the February 19th, 2024 BOD meeting, with a correction replacing the word “grumpy” with “gimpy.”

Past-President: Andy Celmer announced that the club was still in need of a president. He proposed that in addition to the door prize, the winner would also become president.

Announcements: Germaine Broussard discussed a Junior Geographer program at Kings Cross Library in Reston, VA. Contact Germaine or the library for details. There will be a show at the Howard County fairgrounds on April 20th. See page 7 in *The Rockhounder* for details.

Membership: Doug Baum asked if there were any visitors. Ken Rock of MSDC introduced himself. A motion passed to accept a new member.

Treasurer: Jonathan Harris reported that the club is solvent. He noted some of our income comes from show attendance and asked that members promote the show by posting pictures of previous shows and link to the club Facebook page.

Show: There were show flyers for distribution. Property Manager Joel Rosen discussed the logistics of getting the club trailer to the fairgrounds and in place for volunteers to unload. Joel is looking for a club member to take over transportation and storage of the Joe Murter “Rock Show” display. The storage location should be safe and dry. Contact Joel if interested. Chris Luzier passed around a clipboard with sign-up sheets for all volunteer positions at the show. A number of positions, such as admissions, have been filled. There were still a few volunteer opportunities, such as door prizes, kid’s table, and the cabbing demo. The Gem Cutters’ Guild will provide a demonstration. Ken Reynolds volunteered to bring water for set-up and teardown. Displays are completely full, with a large showing from Juniors. Display set-up should be complete by 6 PM. A food vendor is confirmed that will use the inside commercial kitchen.

Field Trips: An effort is underway to schedule a trip to Mount Pleasant Mills. See *The Rockhounder* or email. Member inquired about the Kyanite trip. This is run by Lynchburg, and we are typically invited for a limited number of slots.

Program: Heather Vineyard introduced our speaker for the evening, Dr. Jeffrey Post. The talk was entitled *The Persian Gulf, A Geological Story – More Than 1,001 Arabian Nights (and A Lot of Sand)*. Jeff opened by noting that it seemed less than a year since his last talk and thanked the club for the memorable meeting acknowledging his retirement and thanking him. He maintains an Emeritus position, having the opportunity to continue research. After retirement, Jeff was a lecturer on a Smithsonian Journey. His connection to the Persian Gulf goes back to an earlier trip many years ago to visit a small museum. Abu Dhabi is now a world trading center for diamonds and gemstones owing to trade

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Regular Meeting Minutes from March 11th, 2024

Jeff Cessna, Secretary

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routes. Jeff walked us through the geological history of the area, pointing out events along the way that led to the conditions today. It is greatly influenced by the movements of the Arabian plate. A low area formed by the subduction of this plate forms the Arabian Gulf. Build-up of 8000 m of sediment that was then subject to heating, the porous limestone and sandstone cap rock accounts for the oil deposits of the region. An overview of sand of the area was given, discussing characteristics and uses with comparison to sand from other parts of the world to emphasize how interesting they can be. The talk continued with a tour of sites around the gulf and descriptions of their unique geologies. He answered many questions from the interested audience. Jeff did not go to Tucson this year, so he was looking forward to his “next major show” the following weekend. Thanks, Jeff.

Show table and door prizes were administered by Joel Rosen.

Adjournment: It was M/S/P to adjourn the meeting at 9:48 PM.

BOD Meeting Minutes from March 2024

Jeff Cessna, Secretary

Due to the annual club show, there was no Board of Directors meeting for the month of March.



Show Table from March 11th Regular Meeting

Chris Luzier

Name	Specimen	Locale
Jeff Cessna	Willemite	Star Zinc Mine, Namibia
" "	Sphalerite (Green FL)	Sterling Hill Mine, NJ
" "	Lapis/Phlogopite	Garam Chasm, Afghanistan
Karen Lottes	Mine Core Samples	WV, AZ, CO
Rick Roffeld	Pyrite	South America
Greg Pappas	Azurite/Malachite	PA
Gary Leaman	Blue Gibbsite	Yunnan Province, China
Diane Leaman	Moldavite Tektite	Czech Republic
David Balenson	Amazonite	Morefield Mine, VA
" "	Kyanite (Blue)	Prince Edward County, VA
" "	Staurolite Twin	VA
Doug Baum	Sikhote-Alin Meteorite	Russia
Eric Durland	Fluorite	Cumberland, England
Joel Rosen	Smithsonite	Kelly Mine, NM
Maria Nopo	Calcite on matrix w/ Pyrite	Hunzala Mine, Peru
Jonathan Harris	Breccia	Frederick County, MD
" "	Geode Auction	
Dave Fryauff	Diopside	Hunting Hill Quarry, MD
Corrine Wilson	Clinocllore/Quartz	Russia
Seraphina Wilson	Vanadanite	AZ
Tristan Wilson	Celestite/Calcite	PA
Tom Parnell	Galena & Sphalerite	Dal'Negorsk, Russia
Barb Burr	Malachite	Unknown
Paseed Mba	Sapphire/Tourmaline	Nigeria
Mango Vas	Cave Calcite	Morocco
Bennie Krause	Leaf/Fish Fossils	Turkey
Germaine Broussard	Cabs	Various
Priscilla Quackenbush	Show Guides	Tucson Show

Show Table Door Prize

Pyrite
Central City, Colorado
Won by Greg Pappas

General Door Prize

Fossil Ammonite
Unknown Locality
Won by Mango Vas



Future Rockhounds of America (The MOCKS) Ages 9-16

Mark Dahlman

Next Meeting Date: April 8th **Meeting Time:** 7:45-9:00 PM
Meeting Location: Sunroom Cafeteria at the Rockville Senior Center

March 11th Meeting:

We had an excellent presentation on gold formation, ores, and mining by Mr. Margolis, who is not only a geologist but also worked for gold mining operations. He even brought in different examples of gold ore- thank you, Mr. Margolis!

Thanks to the many FRA members and families who supported our show by volunteering this year. The show was a success because we have such a great group of volunteers. Congratulations to all the FRA members who put exhibits in the show - they were a very impressive group of displays! Special thanks to Lili for organizing and producing the attractive and interesting group FRA exhibit! The group exhibit enabled FRA members to satisfy an important part of the Showmanship badge.

April 8th Meeting:

We'll finish up the Gold Panning and Prospecting badge, including filling out the badge requests. Finally, we'll decide on the next badge to do as a group and hand out door prizes of course. I hope to see you all 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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groups/984241208329511/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/984241208329511/)



Upcoming Shows

33rd Annual Chesapeake Gem, Mineral, Jewelry & Fossil Show

Saturday, April 20, 2024 10 AM – 4 PM

Howard County Fairgrounds

2210 Fairgrounds Rd. West Friendship, Md 21794

Free Admission and Parking

Minerals, Original Jewelry, Fossils, Rough & Cut Gemstones
Silent Auctions, Door Prizes
Activities for Kids

www.chesapeakegemandmineral.org

Directions: From Baltimore take I-70 to Rt. 32 south; Turn right on Rt. 144 west Fairgrounds
Road is half a mile on the right.

From Washington area – Routes 29 or 95 North to Rt. 32 west/north; turn left on Rt. 144 west-
Fairgrounds road is a half of a mile on the right.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President – Not currently filled

Vice President – Heather Vineyard

Secretary – Jeff Cessna

Treasurer – Jonathan Harris

Membership Chairman – Doug Baum

Downstairs Showchair – Chris Luzier

Upstairs Showchair – Dave Tiktinsky

Property Manager – Joel Rosen

EFMLS Liaison – Andy Celmer

At Large Board Members – Ken Reynolds, Karen Lottes, Gary Leaman, Dan Kohn

NON-BOARD POSITIONS

Field Trip Chairman – Sam Linton

Immediate Past President – Holly Heighes

Bulletin Editor – Olivia Luzier

Life Members: Larry Harrison, Juan Proaño, George Durland, and Holly Heighes

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.

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Award Winning Bulletin
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