



The Rockhounder

March 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 April issue of The Rockhounder to Editor Olivia Luzier at editor@glmsmc.com by Monday, March 25th, 2024.

Regular Meeting Announcements

Heather Vineyard, Vice President

March Speaker Information

Speaker: Jeffrey E. Post, Ph.D. Retired Curator-In-Charge, National Gem and Mineral Collection, Smithsonian Institution

Title of Talk: "The Persian Gulf, A Geological Story-More than 1,001 Arabian Nights (and a lot of sand)"

We are honored to announce Dr. Jeffrey E. Post as the distinguished speaker for the March 11th, 2024 meeting. Dr. Post will discuss a recent Smithsonian trip to the Persian Gulf. His talk will be on the story of the Persian Gulf through its gems, minerals, Geology, and sand. This also ties in with some field-work that he did on a small island in the Gulf a few years ago.

Jeff became interested in minerals and geology at a very early age and continually brought home rocks in his pockets. He was just really fascinated by them as a little boy. He recalled seeing a beautiful quartz crystal in fourth grade that amplified his interest in minerals and science, and he also owned an awesome chemistry set that made science great fun. Add to that a welcoming local rock shop and lapidary club, some supportive teachers and professors, and a

Continued on page 2

Next Regular Meeting:

Date: March 11th, 2024

Time: 7:30 PM

Place:

Rockville Senior Center,
1150 Carnation Drive Rockville MD

Next Board of Directors Meeting:

There will be no BOD meeting for the month of March, due to the club's show this month.

Inside this issue:

Item	Page
Meeting Announcements, Speaker Info	1
Message to Members	2
Regular Meeting Minutes	3
BOD Meeting Minutes	4
Show Table	6
FRA Meeting Minutes	7
A New Book to Dig Into	8
Upcoming Shows	9



March Speaker Information (Cont'd)

Continued from page 1

passion for minerals, and it seems inevitable that he ended up with a career in science. He shared that he is fortunate that what he does for a job is also his hobby. Dr. Post is a native of Wisconsin and received his Bachelor of Science degrees in Geology and Chemistry from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville, and his PhD. degree, with a specialty in Geochemistry, from Arizona State University. He was a Postdoctoral Research Fellow for three years in the Department of Geological Sciences at Harvard University prior to joining the Department of Mineral Sciences at the Smithsonian Institution in 1984. Since 1991, he has served as Mineralogist and was Curator-In-Charge of Gems and Minerals of the U.S. National Gem and Mineral Collection at the Smithsonian Institution until his retirement. His research interests include environmental mineralogy, single crystal and X-ray diffraction, manganese oxide minerals, clay minerals, computer modeling of mineral structures, and gemology. He has published more than 100 scientific articles in these fields.

Message to Members

Chris Luzier, Downstairs Showchair

Good day Members-

We are right on the doorstep of another big show and I thank you for all of your help in advance! We still have more volunteer sign-up sheets that have to get filled in on Monday night at the meeting. There are a couple of really necessary ones with Admissions, the kid's Mini Mine section, and a few other spots here and there. We have more demonstrators than we have had in many years the exhibit cases are spoken for and ready to go. But the most exciting news in my book is that we have a record number of junior's exhibit cases this time around! There are so many that we cannot have them all on just the one side of cases in front of the Mini Mine. We will have to wrap them around the front and possibly the back of the display area as well! Amazing!!!

See you all on Monday and thanks very much again!

P.S. We still need a President.

If you are excited about and motivated to be President, that is the most important part and exactly what you need to fill this role. We need someone who is really passionate about the hobby and wants to see it move forward. Everything else can really be taught and learned. Thanks as well to everyone who we have already talked to about the role and ideas that have been put forward.



Regular Meeting Minutes from February 12th, 2024

Jeff Cessna, Secretary

The February 12th, 2024 meeting was called to order by Downstairs Show Chair/Past-President Chris Luzier at 7:48 PM. There were approximately 55 people in attendance (46 adults, 9 juniors). A motion passed to approve the minutes of the January 8th, 2024 regular meeting, with a correction to the first sentence replacing Ken Reynolds with Jonathan Harris. A motion passed to approve the minutes of the January 15th, 2024 BOD meeting.

Past-President: Chris Luzier announced that the meeting would run as a president's training session. Chris referred to a cheat sheet that described the simple actions to be taken by a president to run the meeting. He recalled that his term as Vice President started 6 months after joining the club. That followed into Chris becoming President after that. This was on the urging of Past-President Andy Celmer, who declared if he (Andy) could do it, anybody could. The club is still in search of a president for this year.

Announcements: Ken Reynolds announced the Delaware show is the first weekend in March. Germaine Broussard gave details of a Junior Geographer program at Kings Cross Library in Reston, VA. Contact Germaine or the library for details. Dave Fryauff is looking for a copy of the "Golden Guide to Minerals" with the black cover showing hand colored mineral pictures. Chris Luzier will supply a fluorescent display to the April Howard County show and our club will have a display providing club info. There is a new lapidary shop in Baltimore, run by the Gem Cutters' Guild of Baltimore. Any of our member who want to take classes are welcome. An upcoming trip to the JMU Mineral Museum was announced. Attendance was limited. Interest over the limit will prompt a lottery.

Membership: Doug Baum recognized the Past-Presidents in the room and the present and past Board of Directors members. A motion passed to accept the membership of three new members. Doug asked if there were any visitors. Three visitors introduced themselves.

Treasurer: Jonathan Harris reported the club is solvent. Insurance, security, and rentals are paid.

Show: Dave Tiktinsky reported that all dealers are returning. He informed the members that a dealer well known to club members, Warren Gonzales, had passed away on January 30th, 2024. Warren was remembered fondly by the meeting participants. Property custodian Joel Rosen called for volunteers for the show set-up on Friday and the show take-down on Sunday night. Any help is appreciated. Chris passed around a clipboard with sign-up sheets for all volunteer positions at the show. There were still a few opportunities, such as the door prize position. Additional exhibits are needed. Many demonstrators are lined up, including: a new gold panning group from PA, The Reel Amethyst Mine, NHSM, Minerals in Context (formerly FM-VA), The Gem Cutters' Guild of Baltimore, The Micromineralogists of the National Capitol Area, cabbng demos, and Bob Clemenzi Physics. A food vendor has been secured that will use the commercial kitchen inside the building. They will provide lunch options during set-up.

Program: Heather Vineyard introduced our speaker for the evening, club member Casper Voogt. The

Continued on page 4



Regular Meeting Minutes from February 12th, 2024

Jeff Cessna, Secretary

Continued from page 3

talk was entitled "Trilobites." Casper discussed the importance of trilobites to date the age of deposits. They were around from the Cambrian Explosion to the Permian extinction. During the Devonian, parts of WV were under a shallow sea containing trilobites. Gore, WV, is a known trilobite site. Casper also collects on a nearby private access site. We were shown the morphology of trilobites. He noted that they shed their skins so that is some of what we sometimes collect, especially those without heads. We are also collecting minerals, as their bodies include calcium carbonate. Even the complex lenses in their eyes are calcium carbonate. Different lens shapes evolved independently matching lenses designed by scientists, Huygens and Descartes, before the study of trilobites began. Recent studies have even shown what some ate, finding tiny snails. They have also been found carrying their eggs. Beyond WV, Casper showed both US and world sites where trilobites are collected. He gave tips on the preservation of the fossils. Casper answered many questions from the interested audience. Thanks, Casper.

Auctioneer Diane Leaman administered the auction of lapidary materials.

Show table and door prizes were administered by Joel Rosen.

Adjournment: It was M/S/P to adjourn the meeting at 9:59 PM.

BOD Meeting Minutes from February 19th, 2024

Jeff Cessna, Secretary (Dan Kohn substituting for this session)

Board members present: Jonathan Harris, Joel Rosen, Gary Leaman, Heather Vineyard, Chris Luzier, Dave Tiktinsky, Dan Kohn, Andy Celmer. Board members not present: Jeff Cessna, Doug Baum, Karen Lottes. Guests present: Diane Leaman, Holly Heighes.

Acting President-for-the-Evening Chris Luzier called the February 19th meeting to order at 7:35 PM.

General Remarks:

Two spots are still available for the JMU trip on Saturday 2/24 at 10:00. Claude Poli, a very popular Franklin, NJ collector, suddenly passed away on Thursday, 2/15, in the evening.

New Business: None

Old Business: None

Continued on page 5



BOD Meeting Minutes from February 19th, 2024

Jeff Cessna, Secretary (Dan Kohn substituting for this session)

Continued from page 4

Membership: No report

Social Media: No report

Inter-club notices: No report

At-large members: No Report

Downstairs Show: Preparations are on track. Caribbean food service is lined up to rent the kitchen during the show. Two demonstration cabbing spots remain unfilled on Saturday, 10-12 and 2-4. Chris will ask Karen Lottes to see if her son, Jered, and daughter, Mira, can fill those spots. A small number of VIP free passes were distributed to the Smithsonian staff in the Mineral Sciences and Paleontology Departments, and to the family that stores the large trailer. The Baltimore Gem Cutters Guild has been contacted for demonstrating jewelry and lapidary at the show to supplement our cabbing demonstrations.

Upstairs Show: Dave Tiktinsky reported all dealers are signed up. Table and chair delivery is scheduled for Thursday at 1:00. Upstairs will be set up first, followed by downstairs. Save-the-date e-mail distribution has been sent out to approximately 1,700 names out of our maximum capacity of 2,000 names, using our current vendor subscription.

Programs: Heather Vineyard reported on the status of upcoming presentations. March will be Dr. Jeffrey Post, April will be Dave Balenson, and May will be Thomas Hale presenting on Greenland minerals. Heather also reported that the new laptop is working perfectly.

Joel: The trailer will be delivered to the Fairgrounds on Friday morning at 8:00. Joel has deferred his partial knee replacement surgery until the day after the show, so he warned the Board members that he may be grumpy during set-up, the show, and takedown. He will need more assistance than usual during these times. The Board agreed that the registration on the small trailer will be maintained to facilitate ease of transportation, should the need arise.

Board: The club is still in need of a president. Potential members to approach were discussed. Chris will write the next President's Message and make another appeal.

Treasurer: Jonathan Harris will send out a statement soon. His review so far shows that the income and assets are consistent with the club balances. The club remains solvent. Several individuals have reached out to the club seeking the club to auction off their materials. No decision made yet; we currently have more requests than space/time available to hold these auctions.

It was M/S/P to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 PM.



Show Table from February 12th Regular Meeting

Chris Luzier

Name	Specimen	Locale
Jeff Cessna	Sphalerite	Balmat, NY
“ “	Birds-eye Sphalerite	“ “
“ “	Eldredgeops Trilobite	Gore, VA
Diane Leaman	Trilobite	North Africa
Gary Leaman	Yellow Calcite	China
Germaine Broussard	Coprolite?	Unknown
Marco Molinaro	Green Garnet	Africa
Reed Owens	Kelp/Coral?	Jamaica
Mango Vaz	Clam	Madagascar
Barb Burr	Wulfenite	Aurora Mine, Mexico
Corrine Wilson	Calcite	Paradise Island, Bahamas
Dan Kohn	Jasper, Agate, Mookaite?	Unknown
Linda Kohn	Trilobites?	Unknown
Dave Fryauff	Trilobites (1 ea.)	Morocco
Joel Rosen	Fluorite	Heights Quarry, England
Richard Ernst	Barite on Fluorite	Grand Forks, BC
Ken Reynolds	Turritella Cast	Purse State Park
“ “	Willemite (polished)	Franklin, NJ
Dee Weiss	Opal ring?	Unknown
Nancy Shinowara	Prehnite over Epidote	Mali
Seraphina Wilson	Wavellite	Pennsylvania

Show Table Door Prize

Amethystine/Quartz Geode from Chihuahua, Mexico
Won by Ken Reynolds

General Door Prize

Gonatite sp. of Fossil Nautilus from Morocco
From the Wendell Mohr collection
Won by Priscilla Quackenbush

Additional Door Prize

Pink Opal from Peru
Won by Tristan Wilson



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

Mark Dahlman

Next Meeting Date: March 11th **Meeting Time:** 7:45-9:00PM

Meeting Location: Sunroom Cafeteria at the Rockville Senior Center

February 12th Meeting:

At our February meeting, Lili led the work on our group exhibit for the March show. (If you haven't brought your two specimens to put in the group's "Favorite Specimens" exhibit, please remember to bring them to the March meeting!) We also watched a couple of short videos about the formation of gold. Everyone left with an exceptionally well-labeled collection of specimens from Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Virginia, thanks to club member Stephanie Pisto.

March 11th Meeting:

If you haven't already, please bring two favorite pieces to put in the group exhibit, along with a short statement of why they are favorite specimens – and make sure that your name is on your labels and on a piece of tape on each specimen (if possible).

We'll take whatever time is needed to complete our group exhibit preparations. For FRA members putting individual exhibit cases in the show, please plan on setting up your exhibit Friday afternoon, March 15th, in our show building at the Montgomery Co. Fairgrounds. The exhibits need to be taken down when the show closes at 5 PM on Sunday, March 17th.

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.

Follow us on Facebook at

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



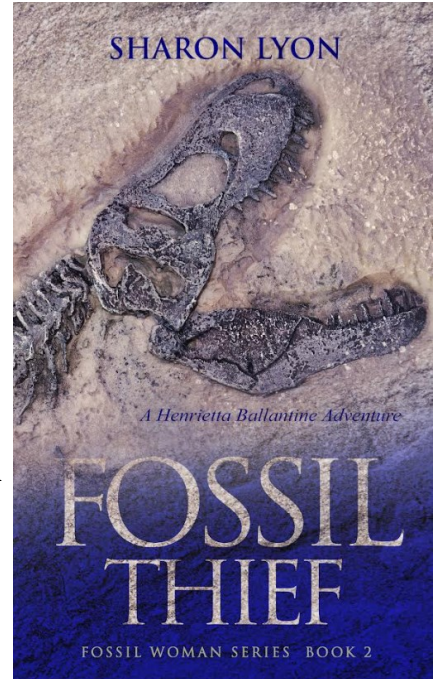
Dig Into a New Book!

Sharon Lyon, Geologist and GLMSMC Member

I'm pleased to announce the publication of my new novel *Fossil Thief*.

In this second adventure of the Fossil Woman series, *Fossil Thief* is a tale of resilience, unearthing the strength to overcome adversity and the power of unexpected allies in the most trying times. In the novel, paleontologist Henrietta Ballantine has her future all figured out. With her Ph.D. in hand, she's ready to embark on explorations and digs alongside her new husband, geologist Frank Bailey. However, she quickly discovers that marriage comes with unexpected compromises.

When Frank's company unexpectedly sends him to the remote town of Mammoth, North Dakota, Henrietta's carefully constructed future begins to shatter. Struggling to find employment in the male-dominated science field of the 1960s, and feeling increasingly isolated in their snow-shrouded bungalow, Henrietta's one solace comes from a growing friendship with an enigmatic local Native American woman. As winter's chill sets in, a chance encounter reopens the doors to paleontology, propelling Henrietta to a dinosaur dig in the badlands.



But all is not what it seems on the dig and suspicion looms as she's shut out by her male colleagues. As a sinister plot emerges, Henrietta must use her wits and determination to uncover unsettling truths buried within the Hell Creek formation.

Fossil Thief is a #1 Amazon New Release, and is available on Amazon as an eBook, paperback, and on Kindle Unlimited.



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.

34TH ANNUAL NORTH JERSEY GEM, MINERAL & FOSSIL SHOW
APRIL 13TH & 14TH, 2024 - SATURDAY 10AM-5PM & SUNDAY 10AM-4PM
Midland Park High School
250 Prospect Street, Midland Park, NJ

\$1 off admission with this card *Food available on site!*

Admission: Adult \$5 • Senior \$4 • Under 12, MPHS Students, Scouts in Uniform FREE

One of the best shows in the Northeast! Featuring Rocks, Minerals, Fossils, Crystals
Gemstones, Jewelry, Metaphysical, Lapidary, Rockhounding Supplies, and Much MORE!

ALL INDOORS • FREE PARKING • FREE MINERALS FOR KIDS • DOOR PRIZES!

Sponsored by The North Jersey Mineralogical Society



Upcoming Shows

The Philadelphia Mineralogical Society and
The Delaware Valley Paleontological Society present a joint show

Mineral Treasures and Fossil Fair 2024

Saturday, March 23
10am to 5 pm
Sunday, March 24
10 am to 4 pm

LuLu Temple
5140 Butler Pike
Plymouth Meeting PA
Just 2 miles from the Norristown
exit of the PA Turnpike!



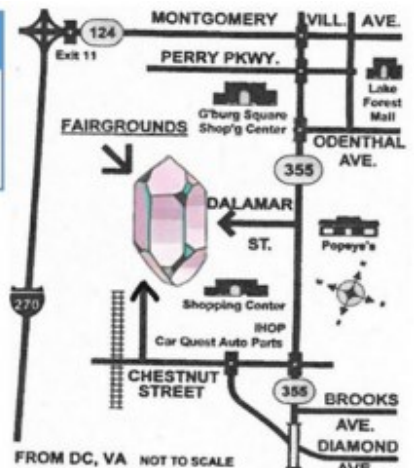
58th Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Show

Date/Time: March 16-17, 2024 Saturday 10-6 and Sunday 11-5

Location: Montgomery County Fairgrounds; Building #6
16 Chestnut St. Gaithersburg MD 20877

Featuring:

- Hourly door prizes
- Gold panning
- Fluorescent minerals
- Raffle prizes
- Free parking
- 20+ vendors of minerals, beads, fossils, gems, and jewelry
- 40+ exhibits by club members, including junior exhibits
- Two floors of everything mineral related
- Mini Mine, free minerals, and activities for children
- Demonstrations of faceting, micromineralogy, jewelry making, and physics



Children (11 and under) Free! Ages 12 and over \$6
Scouts in Uniform Free! 4H youth with 4H identification Free!
More info at: www.glmsmc.com

Show this flyer for
\$1 off admission price
(applies to each member in your group)



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.

Permission to copy material
printed herein, except
specifically copyrighted items,
is granted, provided credit is
given.

Award Winning Bulletin
EFMLS, AFMS



**TIME SENSITIVE
DATED MATERIAL
FIRST CLASS MAIL**

**The Rockhounder
Gem, Lapidary, and Mineral Society
of Montgomery County, MD, Inc.
P. O. Box 444, Gaithersburg MD
20884-0444**