



# The Rockhounder

May 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 June issue of The Rockhounder to Editor Olivia Luzier at [editor@glmsmc.com](mailto:editor@glmsmc.com) by Monday, May 27th, 2024.

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## Regular Meeting Announcements

Heather Vineyard, Vice President

## May Speaker Information

**Speaker:** Thomas Hale

**Title of Talk:** “Exploring the Mineral-Security Nexus”

**Abstract:** In this presentation, Mr. Hale will provide a broad overview of the nexus between minerals and national security, their impact on international affairs, and their growing role in decarbonization efforts and the energy transition. The presentation will cover core concepts such as critical minerals, conflict minerals, and rare-earth elements, including key policy challenges and great-power competition influencing the race for these critical metals. Mr. Hale will present his concept of mineral diplomacy as a method to view the world’s most-pressing challenges through a mineral lens; from conflict zones, critical mineral supply chains, climate change, and U.S. national security policy. Mr. Hale will also discuss his research and some key policy developments in the US surrounding critical mineral development.

*Continued on page 2*

### 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)

### Inside this issue:

| Item                                | Page |
|-------------------------------------|------|
| Meeting Announcements, Speaker Info | 1    |
| Regular Meeting Minutes             | 4    |
| BOD Meeting Minutes                 | 5    |
| Show Table                          | 6    |
| FRA Meeting Minutes                 | 7    |
| Upcoming Shows                      | 8    |



## May Speaker Information (Cont'd)

*Continued from page 1*

### Key Concepts:

- Review the fundamentals of why minerals are important to society and the basic components of global supply chains;
- Provide a brief overview of key issues and policy challenges related to critical minerals, conflict minerals, and rare-earth elements (REE's);
- Define the Mineral-Security Nexus and explore its relationship to national, human, and environmental security issues;
- Discuss the importance of visualizing data to improve our understanding of these issues.
- Explore the pathway(s) forward and political obstacles a mineral future will face;
- Describe the concept of Mineral Diplomacy as a tool to explore global issues through a mineral lens;
- Present three brief case studies on artisanal cobalt mining in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Afghanistan's mineral resources post-US withdrawal, and mineral redevelopment of Greenland.
- Provide an overview of recent U.S. legislation and federal government announcements related to increasing domestic mining and reducing dependency on foreign supply chains.



*Photo Credit: Thomas Hale*

*Continued on page 3*



## May Speaker Information (Cont'd)

*Continued from page 2*

**Bio:** Thomas Hale is a PhD student at the University of Delaware in the Department of Geography and Spatial Sciences and an adjunct fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies focusing on the nexus between the mining industry and national, environmental, and human security, or what he coins the “mineral-security nexus.” Thomas promotes this concept through his practice of mineral diplomacy, the use of minerals and materials as a tool for engaging global communities about the importance of mining to achieve shared energy futures. He received his master’s degree at the Elliott School of International Affairs at George Washington University, and his bachelor’s degree at Virginia Polytechnic and State University. His interests span the globe with research on Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and recent work on the Arctic Circle. Thomas maintains both working knowledge of the technical applications and extraction of critical minerals, while also remaining engaged in the policy and defense communities. He is the host of a podcast titled “A Rock & A Hard Place,” where he convenes experts to discuss contemporary issues in the mining and defense space. Thomas also founded the first mineral literacy nonprofit in the country, supporting K-12 educators and local industry with engaging communities about the importance of mining in modern society.



*Photo Credit: Thomas Hale*

**Research Expertise:** Geopolitics of Mining, Mineral Diplomacy, Critical Material Supply Chains, Upstream Extractive Processes, Energy Security, and Mining Issues in Indigenous Communities.



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**Regular Meeting Minutes from April 8th, 2024**

*Chris Luzier on behalf of Jeff Cessna*

The meeting was brought to order by Kenny Reynolds at 7:45 PM with 44 adults and 12 juniors present. Marco started the meeting out with talking about upcoming field trips that are in the works for the future. There will be an upcoming Mt. Pleasant Mills trip and the potential for a new trip to a quarry in West Virginia that Sam and Marco had recently taken a tour of. More information will be put out to the members' list email as these develop.

Also, we shall double up for the May meeting to approve the March regular meeting minutes (there was no Board meeting for March in lieu of the show), along with the upcoming April meeting minutes, as the Rockhounder was not ready for publication then.

Greg Pappas also offered free entry passes for the upcoming Howard County Fairgrounds Gem & Mineral Show on June 8th & 9th. There will be more of these available at our upcoming May meeting. This is an excellent two day show that should not be missed! The April 20th Howard County Fairgrounds show is rapidly upcoming as well!

Joel discussed that water was found in the trailer at the unloading of the trailer for the show. He was asking for volunteers to help check out where the leaks may be infiltrating. Joel and his merry band of volunteers will check the trailer out again in April.

We also had a new visitor by the name of Dan, who was welcomed by the group and hopefully enjoyed the meeting and will join us again. Heather then introduced our presenter, David Balenson, who gave an excellent presentation on sand collecting and the different types and collections that can be built. It was a fascinating and exciting presentation with amazing microscopic views of sand that showed their texture, grain sizes, and composition. The gemstone sands were especially amazing!

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 PM.

*Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Chris Luzier on behalf of Jeff Cessna*



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## BOD Meeting Minutes from April 15th, 2024

Jeff Cessna, Secretary

**Board Members Present:** Doug Baum, Andy Celmer, Jeff Cessna, Jonathan Harris, Dan Kohn, Gary Leaman, Karen Lottes, Chris Luzier, Joel Rosen, Dave Tiktinsky, and Heather Vineyard. **Guests Present:** Diane Leaman and Dee Weiss.

Past-President\Treasurer Jonathan Harris called the April 15th meeting to order at 7:34 PM. The meeting agenda will include the trailer, show admission, and show advertising.

**Property:** Property manager Joel Rosen requested interested parties gather at the storage location of the club trailer to investigate the origin of the leak discovered during unloading before the most recent annual show. Potential products to address the leak were discussed. The potential that the vents are leaking should also be investigated. The trailer will be partially unloaded to reach the area for investigation. Joel, Chris Luzier, Heather Vineyard, and Gary Leaman will meet and proceed to the storage location. Joel will distribute the addresses. Joel inquired about the status of the Rock Show display. Some items shifted during transport. Fixes will be made before the next show.

**Show:** The admission price for the show was discussed. A previous vote approved increasing the admission, but the increase was not implemented. The increase would result in a price higher than other shows, but not all. It was noted that the intent is not to make a profit. The show fulfills part of the educational mission of the club. All costs to run the show have been increasing. Potential methods for saving money were discussed. A motion to raise the show price by a dollar in 2025 was made, seconded, and passed (8 yes, 1 no, 1 abstain). Advertising for the show was discussed. It is recognized that additional effort is needed to increase the club's exposure on social media, Instagram in particular. Interesting pictures are an important part of this effort. Paying for assistance was discussed, but no motion was made. Doug Baum will give Heather access to the Facebook account for the purpose of adding photos. Karen Lottes has new contacts for Scouts. Karen volunteered to investigate PTA contacts upon being reminded in January or February.

**Auctions:** Gary Leaman inquired about an auction at the next meeting. Dave Tiktinsky will bring material. A change envelope will be needed to facilitate auction payments. The fall club picnic and auction was discussed. The amount of material or number of lots should be reduced to allow more time for the picnic portion of the event. A date will need to be decided soon to book the venue.

Andy Celmer will run the next meeting in the continued absence of a president.

Secretary Jeff Cessna thanked the individuals who had taken minutes in his absence.

No other reports were made.

It was M/S/P to adjourn the meeting at 8:54 PM.



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**Show Table from March 11th Regular Meeting**

Chris Luzier

| <b>Name</b>           | <b>Specimen</b>                   | <b>Locale</b>                            |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| Chris Luzier          | Cleiophane & Mahogany Sphalerites | Sterling Hill Mine                       |
| Greg Pappas           | Turquoise                         | Arizona                                  |
| Ken Reynolds          | Atacamite                         | Chile                                    |
| Rick Roffeld          | Amber                             | Myanmar                                  |
| Gary Leaman           | Petrified Wood                    | Madagascar                               |
| Diane Leaman          | Grossular Garnet                  | Mexico                                   |
| Dan Kohn              | Wernerite                         | Canada (Quebec)                          |
| Tom Parnell           | Herkimer Diamond on Black Druse   | Area 51 Claim, Fonda, NY                 |
| Tom Parnell           | Herkimer Diamond                  | Diamond Acres, Fonda, NY                 |
| Corrine Wilson        | Chalcedony                        | Apache Creek, NM                         |
| Seraphina Wilson      | Quartz                            | Apache Creek, NM                         |
| Tristan Wilson        | Drusy Quartz/Chrysocolla          | Chile                                    |
| Germaine Broussard    | Therapod Fossil                   | Pennsylvania                             |
| Jake Margolis         | Stibnite                          | McLoughlin Mine, California              |
|                       |                                   | Barb Burr Sand Picture                   |
|                       |                                   | Badlands, SD                             |
| Steve Calamuci        | Dioptase on Shattuckite           | Congo                                    |
| Joel Rosen            | Prehnite                          | Lower New Street Quarry,<br>Paterson, NJ |
| Marco Molinaro        | Green Calcite                     | Missouri                                 |
| David Balenson        | Picture Sandstone                 | Unknown locality                         |
| Jonathan Harris       | Petrified wood                    | Madagascar                               |
| Priscilla Quackenbush | Sand jar specimens                | Various localities                       |

**Show Table Door Prize**

Calcite

Medford Quarry, Carroll County, MD

*Won by Barb Burr*

**General Door Prize**

(3) Quartz (var. agate slabs)

*Won by Linda Kohn*



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

Mark Dahlman

**Next Meeting Date:** May 13th      **Meeting Time:** 7:45-9:00 PM

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

### **April 8th Meeting:**

We finished the Gold Panning and Prospecting badge with a presentation on prospecting equipment, terms, and places to look for gold. We talked about local gold mines and learned some gold trivia. We also decided to work on the Maps badge next.

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

We are lucky to have Mr. Margolis, who is an experienced geologist and an excellent speaker, start our Maps badge activities by showing us geologic maps and explaining what they can tell us. Knowing how to use a geologic map is a very valuable skill for all of us! We'll have badges to hand out at the beginning of the meeting and of course door prizes to hand out at the end of the meeting. 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.

Follow us on Facebook at

<https://www.facebook.com/>

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



Upcoming Shows

With this ad, \$1.00 off General Admission



# GEM MINER'S SPRING SHOW!!

June 8 - 9, 2024

W. FRIENDSHIP, MD

**Beads! Findings!  
Minerals! Fossils!  
Gems & Jewelry!**

**THE MID-ATLANTIC'S BEST SHOW**

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

RETAIL & WHOLESALE VENDORS

WHOLESALE ONLY TRADE AREA

HOURLY DOOR PRIZES & GRAND PRIZE DRAWING

SATURDAY: 10 A.M. - 5 P.M. ❖ SUNDAY: 11 A.M. - 4 P.M.

\$6 ADMISSION - CHILDREN UNDER 12 FREE



Howard County Fairgrounds  
2210 Fairgrounds Road  
West Friendship, MD 21794  
[www.gem-show.com](http://www.gem-show.com)

(see website for updates)

(301) 807-9745





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**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](mailto:editor@glmsmc.com).

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