



# THE ROCKHOUNDER

January 2025

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 Maria Nopo at [editor@glmsmc.com](mailto:editor@glmsmc.com) by January 31st, 2025

## Regular Meeting Announcements

Heather Vineyard, Vice President

### January Meeting Information

**Speaker:** Fred Paraskevoudakis (Paras)

**Title of Talk:** The Silver Mines of Lavrion, Greece

Surface mining began as early as 3000 years ago in the ancient site of Thorikos adjacent to Lavrion. With more intensive mining, starting around 600 BC, the silver mines at Lavrion yielded enormous wealth both monetarily and in diversity of mineral species. There will be a brief overview of the ancient sites where this all began mentioning the historical importance, and then focus on the modern day mines which began in 1865 and ran strong until 1976. Today, visitors to the small town of Lavrion can see two, small but wonderful, museums packed with incredible mineral collections that also showcase some of the old mining history and equipment. The presentation will include numerous slides and videos from the most recent trips (2023-'24) inside the mine shafts, and reveal the stunning mineral wealth that still lies inside. Lavrion is perhaps the richest site in the world, after Tsumeb, Namibia, with 672 (Mindat) catalogued mineral species and continues to be a scientific destination for Geologists and Mineralogists.

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## Next Regular Meeting

**Date:** January 13th, 2025

**Time:** 7:30 PM

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

## Next Board of Directors Meeting

**Date:** January 20th, 2025

**Time:** 7:30 PM

**Place:** Virtual  
(Online Zoom Meeting)

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## January Meeting Information

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Fred Paraskevoudakis (Paras) is a professor at Baltimore City Community College where he has taught mostly Microbiology, some Biotechnology and Environmental Science, since 1992. His education includes two B.S., two M.S. degrees (Environmental Science, Molecular Biology) and PhD work in Science Education.

His interests in Natural History stem from his childhood in the tropics where he collected butterflies and shells, hobbies which he continues today with his own large scientific collections. These interests have been pursued through extensive travels in many countries on all continents of the world. Fred is the president of the Maryland Entomological Society and longtime member of the Natural History Society of MD where he is the curator of the shell collection. Although he had a rudimentary interest in fossils and minerals growing up, he became very active in these areas in the last 10 years.

## President's Message

Chris Luzier, President

Happy New Year to all our members!

I hope that you all had a good holiday season and it is unbelievable that it is 2025! We have our upcoming Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show coming up on March 15th and 16th and are looking forward to another great show. For us to have a great show, we need our great volunteers as well! We all try and pitch in every year with taking one or two volunteer slots throughout the weekend of the show, which really starts with set-up on Friday at 9:00 am. Even if you have never been to our show and volunteered, we still need your help. There are many different tasks from helping at the kids mini-mine section, the front desk with admissions, the raffle table, set-up and teardown and the list goes on and on. We will have the volunteer sign-up sheets available again at our January regular meeting on the 13th and thanks in advance for your help!

The next big show in our local region isn't until March 1st and 2nd with the Delaware Mineral Society show. This show starts off the whole East Coast mineral show circuit, with our show following on its heels two weeks later. The Delaware show is an excellent one and certainly worth the drive from our area. If you want to head a little further out, the largest gem and mineral show on Earth is coming to the Tucson area in early-mid February. Events last for two to three weeks before and after the main shows that start around February 13th, 2025. Check the online show calendars for the lists of satellite shows and timing for a trip out West. A number of our members, along with dealers from our show attend this incredible event. Maybe this is your year to go?

Looking forward to seeing you all at the upcoming meeting!



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## GLMSMC Regular Meeting Minutes from December 9th, 2024

Jeff Cessna, Secretary

The 9 December 2024 meeting was called to order by Past-President Chris Luzier at 7:45 pm. There were approximately 50 people in attendance, including lifetime member Holly Heighes. It was M/S/P to approve the minutes of the 11 November 2024 Board of Directors meeting and of the 18 November 2024 Regular Meeting.

**Announcements:** Chris welcomed everyone to the holiday party. After the business meeting there will be food, an auction of material from the Andy Muir collection, door prize, and a gift exchange. Free specimens were available to members. A few members brought items to swap or sell. Free passes were available from a dealer for the June show in Howard County.

**Newsletter:** Chris announced members should have received the first issue from our new Rockhounder editor, Maria. A thank you card was distributed for signatures for past editor Olivia.

**Show:** Chris has show flyers available for people to distribute. Exhibitor and Demonstrator forms were available. The volunteer sign-up sheets were on a clipboard. Members will get emails in January with all the upcoming show information and volunteer spots available. Dave Tiktinsky reported the contracts had been sent to dealers.

**Treasurer:** The treasurer reported the club is solvent.

**Property:** Joel Rosen and Chris met at the storage location to check on the large trailer. No water was found inside after roof repairs. The interior will need to be rearranged before moving trailer. Tires will be replaced before next show. A quote was requested from a local shop.

**Membership:** Doug reminded members that membership renews in January.

An auction of spheres and mineral specimens from the collection of Andy Muir was previewed under UV illumination. The auction was administered by Diane, assisted by Gary.

The door prize was administered by Joel Rosen.

Gift exchange was administered by Joel Rosen.

**Adjournment:** It was M/S/P to adjourn the meeting at 9:49 PM.



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# THE ROCKHOUNDER

## GLMSMC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes from December 16th, 2024

Jeff Cessna, Secretary

The 16 December 2024 Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 7:37 PM by Chris Luzier. The agenda included the show, auctions, and regular reports.

Board Members Present: Andy Celmer, Jeff Cessna, Jonathan Harris, Dan Kohn, Gary Leaman, Karen Lottes, Chris Luzier, and Joel Rosen. Guest Present: Diane Leaman.

Note that the previous club email service no longer works. The new service should be used.

Chris Luzier recently gave a fluorescent mineral presentation at the Delaware Mineralogical Society annual holiday luncheon.

**Show:** Chris is also doing outreach programs with the Natural History Society of Maryland and the Gold Panners group as well. The Delaware show is the weekend of 1-2 March. Chris will send our show flyer to be distributed. The gold panners will do a demo again. Typically, this is only Saturday due to distance and availability of volunteers. The Gem Cutters Guild of Baltimore will be contacted to confirm that they will be available to be Demonstrators again at this years' show. The Reel Mine will have a demonstrator booth.

**Treasurer:** Jonathan Harris reported the total for the most recent auction.

**Auctions:** There is several years' worth of material to auction at the current rate. Options were discussed. Mixing of materials will only be done if the type of material does not compete for customers. Record keeping for mixed auction would not be an issue. A few more lots could be added if we know the presentation will be shorter.

**Property:** The quote for tires was discussed and considered reasonable. The expense needs to be included in the next budget. The trailer will need to be transported to the shop to mount tires.

No other reports were made.

**Adjournment:** It was M/S/P to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 pm.



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

Mark Dahlman

**Next Meeting Date:** January 13th      **Meeting Time:** 7:45-9:00pm

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

### December 9th Meeting:

At our holiday party in December, we held our annual “Yankee Swap” of door prizes. We also started fluorescent sand art projects as part of the Fluorescent Minerals badge activities.

### January 13th Meeting:

We’ll be finishing the Fluorescent Mineral badge activities at our January meeting – please remember to bring your sand art project if you started one at the holiday party. We’ll decide on the next badge to work on, and we’ll start planning for our exhibits for the club show in March. Of course, everyone will go home with a new specimen for their collection too. I hope to see you there!

For more information on the Future Rockhounds of America program, please contact Mark Dahlman at [fra\\_advisor@glmsmc.com](mailto: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/)



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## Happenings at the Gem Cutters Guild of Baltimore



We will continue to announce classes as details become available—we're looking at an exciting 2025!

See the [Events and Classes](#) page to see the full calendar of offerings.



Questions about classes? Send us an email: [classes@gemcuttersguild.com](mailto:classes@gemcuttersguild.com)





# THE ROCKHOUNDER

## Upcoming Events

**RUTGERS GEOLOGY MUSEUM'S**  
**57TH ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE**  
**SATURDAY, JANUARY 25TH, 2025**  
JOIN US FOR A DAY OF NEW JERSEY GEOLOGY-THEMED LECTURES AND ACTIVITIES!

**PRESENTATIONS IN SCOTT HALL, ROOM 123**

<b>10AM to 11AM</b>	<b>"WHAT CAN WE LEARN ABOUT EARTH'S PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE FROM ROCK &amp; SEDIMENT CORES FROM NJ"</b> Dr. Sean Kinney, Rutgers University
<b>12:30PM to 1:30PM</b>	<b>"SEA-LEVEL &amp; CLIMATE CHANGE IN NEW JERSEY: SHOULD I SELL MY SHORE HOUSE?"</b> Dr. Ken Miller, Rutgers University
<b>2PM to 3PM</b>	<b>"QUAKE IN THE GARDEN STATE: RUTGERS' RESPONSE TO THE APRIL 5TH 2024, MW 4.8 EARTHQUAKE SEQUENCE"</b> Dr. Jim Bourke, Rutgers University

**MINERAL SALE: SCOTT HALL, ROOM 135**  
**9:00 AM\*\* TO 3:00 PM**  
\*\*EARLY ACCESS TO MINERAL SALE AVAILABLE WITH EMERALD & DIAMOND LEVEL MUSEUM MEMBERSHIPS. CREDIT CARDS, CASH, AND CHECKS ACCEPTED. SALES TAX APPLIED TO ALL PURCHASES UNLESS TAX-EXEMPT STATUS IS PROVIDED.

**CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES IN SCOTT HALL**  
HANDS-ON ACTIVITY SESSIONS WILL BE HELD IN SCOTT HALL. SESSIONS WILL RUN IN 3 SECTIONS: 10:30AM TO 11:30AM, 12:30PM TO 1:30PM, AND 1:30PM TO 2:30PM.

- ROOM 114 MASTODONS, MAMMOTHS, ELEPHANTS, OH MY!**
- ROOM 115 GLACIER MODELING ACTIVITY**
- ROOM 116 CREATE YOUR OWN ICE AGE ANIMAL**
- ROOM 119 ROCK AND MINERAL IDENTIFICATION**
- GEOLOGY MUSEUM CRAFTS AND EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS (ALL AGES) & SCHANCK OBSERVATORY TOURS - FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED**

\*PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR PARKING INFORMATION\*  
CART CAPTIONING SERVICES WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR ALL LECTURES.



If you haven't been to the open house, your really missing out on a lot of interesting stuff.

It always has informative talks.

Should always check out the museum.

The mineral sale is a good place to pick up unique and cheaper priced specimens then at a regular show.

Hope to see you there.

If interested in helping out, there is a volunteering link on page below fill out your info.

<https://geology-museum.rutgers.edu/annual-open-house>

More information: <https://geologymuseum.rutgers.edu/annual-open-house>

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## Upcoming Events

*Continued from previous page*

Retired Geologist and GLMSMC member, Sharon Lyon has started a free, weekly newsletter that highlights geology news and events and everyday life. Please see the link below for more information.

[AAPG Newsletter](#)



### 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Show

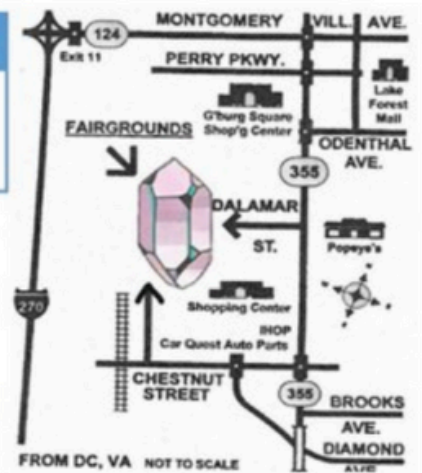
Date/Time: **March 15-16, 2025** Saturday 10-6 and Sunday 11-4

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 \$7  
 Scouts in Uniform Free! 4H youth with 4H identification Free!  
 More info at: [www.glmsmc.com](http://www.glmsmc.com)

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





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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**President** - Chris Luzier

**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** - Jonathan Harris

**Bulletin Editor** - Maria Nopo

**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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Award Winning Bulletin

EFMLS, AFMS



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