



THE ROCKHOUNDER

April 2026

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 Rockhoulder to Editor Maria Nopo at bulletineditor@glmsmc.com by April 30th, 2026.

Regular Meeting Announcements

Chris Luzier, Vice President

April Meeting Information

Speaker: Bob Farrar

Talk Title: New Discoveries at a Classic Mineral Locality: Maine's Pulsifer Quarry

The Pulsifer Quarry on Mt. Apatite in Auburn, Maine, is perhaps the most famous locality in the US, if not the world, for purple fluorapatite. The Roebling Apatite, which is housed at the Smithsonian, was found there in the early 1900's. Additional fine purple apatite specimens were found there off and on until 1996. Beginning in 2022, mining of the Pulsifer was resumed, and many additional purple apatite crystals were found, along with tourmaline, beryl, quartz, and other minerals.

Bob Farrar is a longtime collector of minerals, fossils, and gemstones. He is active in several clubs and is a dealer at area shows. He holds a Ph.D. in entomology and is retired from the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Beltsville, MD.

Next Regular Meeting

Date: April 13th, 2026

Time: 7:30 PM

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

Next Board of Directors Meeting

Date: April 20th, 2026

Time: 7:30 PM

Place: Virtual
(Online Zoom Meeting)

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President's Message

Jonathan Harris, President

A hearty thanks to the many people who made this show a great success, especially to our show chairs Chris, Holly, and Dave. They put in many hours of planning and logistics – dealing with everything from recruiting dealers and exhibitors to arranging floor plans and handling last-minute challenges. I hope next year to return to full participation in the show, enjoying the fascinating exhibits, dealers, and wonderful people.

Thanks to the efforts of Sam and Marco, we are able to restart visiting quarries. Keep watching for email announcements.

Spring is a great time to pull out your cell phone or camera and photograph local rock formations and historical artifacts. Use our Facebook page to share what you find!

Cheers,
Jonathan

GLMSMC Regular Meeting Minutes from March 9th, 2026

Karen Lottes, Secretary

Called to order at 7:45 pm - 50 in attendance, FRA had 7

Approval of Minutes - passed

Treasurer's Report - Most expenses for the show have been paid. We have put some of our money in CDs

Membership - Please remember to pay your dues

Show Report - still need volunteers for the kids table and hospitality.

Kudos to Maria - she did two competitive cases at Tucson and won second place for Juniors

Field Trips - We hope to get one scheduled to West Virginia in April. The Maryland quarry trip is full. Also looking at one other possible trip in April.

Trailer Update - Will be at the Fairgrounds Thursday so we can start unloading Friday morning.

Presentation - Mike Wise from the Smithsonian gave a talk on Recent Acquisitions to the National Gem and Mineral Collections. Mike talked about what they acquired this year, especially from Tucson. He pointed out that not all acquisitions are display quality, but may fill a gap in the collection and are important for research.



THE ROCKHOUNDER

Show's Over...

Holly Heighes, Downstair Show Co-Chair

To the many volunteers and exhibitors – thank you for making our 60th show so wonderful for all of our 1400+ guests. I wish to extend a personal, extra thank you to a few people who went above and beyond in helping me personally:

- Samira Vora for working every shift at the kids section on Saturday and being so supportive of the club's youth program
- Mango Vaz who did a tremendous amount of bagging, organizing and packing at the kids section
- Tom Parnell who volunteered to take the label organization task away from me before opening on Sunday morning so that I could focus on other jobs
- Doug Baum who spent most of the weekend at the hospitality table doing whatever needed to be done

To all the folks I cajoled into exhibiting – I appreciate the amount of work that you put into your lovely displays - thank you so much!

It takes so much to put this show together, from set up to take down - everyone's effort is appreciated!



The 1st 2nd and 3rd place winners of the Turner-Mohr awards. A lot of time and effort went into all the FRA exhibits.



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Show Table from March 9th Regular Meeting

Name	Specimen	Locale
Jeff Cessna	Beryl in Quartz	Amelia, VA
“ ”	Garnets	“ ”
“ ”	Cleavandite	Rutherford Mine
“ ”	Scralendiende	Raibl Mine, Italy
Charlie Zellers	Pegmatite	Otter Lake, Canada
Kurt Knowler	“ ”	Chesterfield, VA
Reed Owens	Fluorite crystals	Unknown
Rob Mays	Smoky Quartz - pink and black tourmaline	Himalaya Mine, CA
Dan Mick	Griesen	Madison Co., MO (Silver Mines)
Jonathan Harris	Beryl in pegmatite	Kemp Mill, MD
“ ”	Apatite in pegmatite	Ellicott City, MD
Maria Nopo	Fluorite	Yindu Mine, China
Doug Baum	Andradite Garnet	Arizona
Joel Rosen	Barite w/ Quartz	Liaxiang, China
Dan Kohn	Creating a Cabochon Display	
Marco Molinaro	Quartz w/ Malachite	King of Prussia, PA
Diane Leaman	Fire Opal	Mexico
Gary Leaman	Green Corundum	Madagascar
Judy Kovach-Zukin	Tourmaline & Calcite	Pakistan
Jake Margolis	Heulandite & Stibnite	India
Tom Parnell	Marcasite, Chalcopyrite	Pitcher, OK
	Sphalerite on Barite	
Ken Reynolds	Beryl	Morefield Mine, VA
“ ”	Polished Willemite	Franklin, NJ
Mark Tyra	Spodumene, Li-minerals	Harding Mine, NM
Corrine Wilson	Aquamarine	Pakistan
Danny Baker	Pyrite Sun fern fossil	Sparta, IL
Nancy Shinowara	Elbaite/Indicolite	Brazil
“ ”	Pink Tourmaline	Pakistan
Steven Calamuci	Morganite	“ ”
Nathaniel Stephens	Fossil	Give-away box

Show Table Door Prize

Pink Calcite
Pakistan
Won by Corrine Wilson

General Door Prize

Wulfenite (*Ex-Wendell Mohr collection*)
Mammoth Mine, Tiger, Arizona
Won by Priscilla Quackenbush



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

Mark Dahlman

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

Meeting Location: Sunroom Cafeteria at the Rockville Senior Center

March 9th Meeting:

Congratulations to everyone who put an exhibit in the club show in March – they all looked exceptional and showed a great amount of care and planning! A huge thank you goes to Maria Nopo for curating the group exhibit and making it look tremendous! Thanks also to all the FRA families who volunteered at the show. The show relies on our club members and your dedication is really appreciated. At our March meeting we pulled together the information and specimens for our group exhibit and selected from a variety of great quartz door prizes thanks to Mr. Parnell and Mr. Hall.

April 13th Meeting:

Please come and collect your specimens from the group exhibit. Our April meeting will have a special guest speaker, Mr. David Balenson, who will show us all sorts of things about sand. You may have seen Mr. Balenson's fascinating exhibit about sand at the club show. This will be the start of our Sand and Sediment badge activities, so come and learn about many interesting and surprising aspects of sand. Of course, everyone at the meeting will go home with a door prize too. 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/)



April 2026

THE ROCKHOUNDER

Happenings at the Gem Cutters Guild of Baltimore



There are several exciting classes coming up!

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




Questions about classes? Send us an email: classes@gemcuttersguild.com



THE ROCKHOUNDER

Upcoming Events

 Berks Mineralogical Society
Presents

THE

57TH

ANNUAL

**WORLD OF GEMS
& MINERALS**

**GEMSTONES, JEWELRY, ROCK
MINERAL & FOSSIL SHOW**

May 2 & MAY 3, 2026

SAT. 10 - 5 SUN. 10 - 4

Leesport Farmers Market Banquet Hall
312 Gernant's Church Rd. Leesport, PA 19533
Admission Donation \$ 5.00

MINERAL DISPLAYS ACTIVITIES EDUCATIONAL!	GREAT FOR KIDS! THE BEST SHOW IN BERKS COUNTY!
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For more info, visit berksmineralsociety.com



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Upcoming Events

Continued from previous page.

The 57th ANNUAL

ROCK-A-RAMA

JEWELRY, GEM, CRYSTAL, FOSSIL & MINERAL SHOW

Saturday May 16, 2026 10 am - 6 pm

Sunday May 17, 2026 10 am - 5 pm

Soccer Sportsplex

31515 Lorain Rd.

North Olmsted, Ohio

FREE Parking

Air-conditioned and Heated

Admission is \$6 for adults (valid for both days), children under 12 and Scouts in uniform are free.

Veterans and Active Military are FREE on Sunday.

Ticket at the door are CASH ONLY.



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THE ROCKHOUNDER

Upcoming Events

Continued from previous page.

**Annual South Jersey Gem,
Jewelry, Mineral & Fossil Show**

Date: May 30 - 31, 2026



Trinity Presbyterian Church
(499 Route 70 East Cherry Hill, NJ 08034)

***Show Hours:**
Saturday: 10am - 6pm
Sunday: 11am - 4pm

~ 20 Dealers ~ Hourly Door Prizes ~ Food Truck ~

Admission:
Adult: \$6.00; Children (6-17): \$4.00;
Children under 6 & Scouts in uniform: Free

*Receive \$1 off any adult admission ticket with this flyer.

sjmineralshow.com * sjmineralshow@gmail.com

With this ad, \$1.00 off General Admission

GEM MINER'S SPRING SHOW!!

2026

June 12 - 14, 2026
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
Fri. NOON-6PM ♦ Sat. 10AM-5PM ♦ Sun. 11AM-4PM
\$6 ADMISSION - CHILDREN UNDER 12 FREE



Howard County Fairgrounds
2210 Fairgrounds Road
West Friendship, MD 21794
www.gem-show.com
Tamie Simpson
(810) 919-4386

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Upcoming Events

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Save the Date
Desautels Micromount
Symposium
The Baltimore Mineral Society
is pleased to announce the
70th Annual
Paul Desautels Memorial
Micromount Symposium
October 2-4, 2026
At |
Natural History Society of Maryland
6908 Belair Road, Baltimore, MD 21206

Micromounters Hall of Fame Induction
Mineral Talks, Silent and Voice Auctions
Sales, Giveaway Tables, Trading

Details to be Announced: Mseeds@fandm.edu

 **FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY - Pennsylvania Chapter and West Chester University Earth and Space Sciences Dept.**
SYMPOSIUM November 14, 2026 Field Trip Nov. 15
West Chester, Pennsylvania
Symposium for mineral collecting enthusiasts - tentative plans include:
Saturday Nov. 14: Hybrid Symposium - ONLINE or IN PERSON
8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at West Chester University
Talks by knowledgeable **SPEAKERS** on **Pennsylvania Mineralogy and Geology** and the theme
ART in MINERALS Silent Auction - Give-away Table - Conversation
Professional Geologists: 6 Professional Development Hour credits available for full lecture attendance
Sunday Nov. 15: Field Trip. Open only to symposium registrants.
Watch for details, registration form, changes and **UPDATES** on our **web site:**
www.rasloto.com/FM or Friends of Mineralogy Pennsylvania on Facebook

For newsletters and field trips during the year, please join our chapter!
See "Join FM" on the web site



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Upcoming Events

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Gem, Silent Auction, Beads, Jewelry

Tuscarora Lapidary Society's 57th Annual
GEMARAMA
Rock, Gem, and Jewelry Show

NOVEMBER
7TH, 10AM-6PM
8TH, 10AM-5PM

Greater Philadelphia
Expo Center-Hall D
100 Station Avenue
Oaks, PA 19456

Admission:
1 day \$7
2 day pass \$10
Children \$1
(under 12)

EXPO

QR Code

Discount tickets available at www.gemarama.org

Jewelry Demos, Lapidary Demos, Children's Activities, Education Center, Fossils, Exhibits, TLS Booth, Rocks



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THE ROCKHOUNDER

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President - Jonathan Harris

Vice President - Chris Luzier

Secretary - Karen Lottes

Treasurer - Holly Heighes

Membership Chairman - Doug Baum

Downstairs Show Co-Chairs - Chris Luzier and Holly Heighes

Upstairs Showchair - Dave Tiktinsky

Property Manager - Joel Rosen

EFMLS Liaison - Andy Celmer

At Large Board Members - Ken Reynolds, Gary Leaman, Dan Kohn, Jeff Cessna, and Dee Weiss

NON-BOARD POSITIONS

Field Trip Chair - Sam Linton

Club Auctioneer - Diane Leaman

Immediate Past President - Chris Luzier

Bulletin Editor - Maria Nopo

Life Members: Larry Harrison, Juan Proaño, 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

EFMLS, AFMS



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