



THE ROCKHOUNDER

March 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 April issue of the Rockhoulder to Editor Maria Nopo at bulletineditor@glmsmc.com by March 28th, 2026.

Regular Meeting Announcements

Chris Luzier, Vice President

March Meeting Information

Speaker: Dr. Michael Wise

Talk Title: What's New in the Mineral Department

Dr. Michael Wise is a geologist in the Mineral Sciences Department of the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History. He obtained his PhD from the University of Manitoba. A pegmatite expert, he has conducted much research and has published many scientific articles on the subject.

Next Regular Meeting

Date: March 9th, 2026

Time: 7:30 PM

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

Next Board of Directors Meeting

There will be no Board Meeting in March in lieu of the show.

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President's Message

Jonathan Harris, President

Hello fellow rockhounds,

Our annual show is just around the corner! If you haven't had a chance yet, **please sign up to volunteer**. We specifically need more staffing for the "Mini-Mine" in our youth area. Engaging the next generation is vital—after all, these young enthusiasts are the future caretakers of our collections.

I am also thrilled to share some wonderful news: The Smithsonian is supporting our club in a big way. Not only will **Dr. Mike Wise** be joining our March meeting as our speaker, but thanks to Holly's hard work, they will also be providing a special exhibit for our show!

On a personal note, I am saddened to share that I will be missing this year's show. Due to an unavoidable personal trip, I will be out of the area during the event. This is only the second time I've missed a show in over 15 years—the last being for a Scout troop hike with my son—and I am truly disappointed to miss the fun. I know the event will be a massive success regardless, and I look forward to hearing all about it.

Cheers,

– Jonathan



THE ROCKHOUNDER

GLMSMC Regular Meeting Minutes from February 9th, 2026

Karen Lottes, Secretary

Attendance: 46 FRA: 5

7:45 - Chris called the meeting to order.

Minutes for the monthly meeting and the board meeting were approved.

Show Report – volunteers needed for the kid’s area. Everything else looks in good shape. Exhibitor forms need to be in by March 1. Dealer area is full. Upstairs Showchair, Dave Tiktinsky, is looking for someone to take over his duties for next year's show. He is looking for someone who can work with him to learn what to do so he can step back.

Treasurer’s Report – The Club has made a donation to the Natural History Society of Maryland and will be making a donation to Wildacres. Show expenses and dealer payments are up-to-date.

Joel – He is excited to be getting new door prizes for future meetings.

Also, thank you to everyone who has signed up to unload the trailer on Friday and load on Sunday for the Show.

Membership – We welcome new members Robert Mays, Nathaniel Stephens, and Nicholas Jacobs. Everyone was voted in. We now have 178 members (146 adults and 32 youth).

Field Trips – We are working on upcoming Spring trips to a local Maryland quarry, one in West Virginia, and also US Silica.

FRA – Congratulations to all the FRA members who earned their World in Miniature badges! Among them, an FRA member earned her sixth badge, so she also got the Rockhound Award, which came with a certificate and lots of goodies.

PRESENTATION: James Hall from the Reel Mine in North Carolina gave a presentation on his amethyst mine. He discussed how he acquired the mine, how he mines, and showed many samples of the amethyst flowers and other specimens he has found.

Adjourned at 9:55



THE ROCKHOUNDER

GLSMC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes from February 16th, 2026

Holly Heighes, recording Secretary pro-tem

Attendees: Andy Celmer, Jonathan Harris, Holly Heighes, Dan Kohn, Gary Leaman, Chris Luzier, Joel Rosen, Dee Weiss, Board members not present: Ken Reynolds, Dave Tiktinsky, Karen Lottes, Doug Baum, Jeff Cessna. Non-Board member present: Diane Leaman

The meeting was called to order at 7:31pm.

Show Issues:

- Holly informed the group of the invoice total for the Security for the show. It was M/S/P to pay the invoice.
- Holly and Chris informed the group of the need to purchase additional supplies for the show, it was M/S/P to allocate up to \$1200 for said purchases.
- A discussion about re-using the fluorescent tent plastic took place.
- A member requested the opportunity to sell copies of her book at the show. It was agreed, with the provision that a dealer table fee and contract would be required. Chris will respond to the inquiry.
- Chris indicated he was in the process of obtaining a sign to honor a member. Joel will bring his easel to the show for the sign to be placed upon, in front of the fluorescent tent.
- Chris and Jonathan to coordinate the transfer of the fluorescent lights and one box of tablecloths from Jonathan to Chris prior to March 10th .
- Chris indicated he was awaiting information from Karen regarding a PA system, a purchase previously approved by the board. Holly will follow up with Karen.
- Holly indicated four out of the six slots at cabling station have not been filled and asked the group for potential volunteers. Holly will reach out and inquire.
- Holly updated the group on the number of exhibits currently reserved.
- A general discussion on the state of the exhibits in the club's possession took place, with suggestions for additional maintenance and modifications made.
- Chris will forward the name/contact information of the Food Vendor to Holly to update the show checklists.
- Chris will follow up with the food vendor as we get a little closer to the show.
- Chris indicated that he will be going to the Delaware show and distributing our show flyers there.



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GLMSMC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes from February 16th, 2026

Continued from previous page.

- Joel inquired about help re-wiring for the show, Chris to reach out to the volunteers who have helped with this in the past to try to confirm them for Friday setup.
- Joel reported on the arrangement for the trailer to be towed to the show.
- A general discussion was held on the ever-increasing costs to put together the show, it was suggested that we could take a closer look at this after this show is past.

Other Issues and announcements:

- Diane was formally appointed Club Auctioneer and will be added as such in the appropriate section of the Rockhoulder.
- Jonathan asked if anyone was able to represent the club at the Hoover Middle School science night, no volunteers yet.
- The Andy Muir Earth Science Award proposal was reviewed and accepted by the board. Formal announcement and details to be included in the April Rockhoulder.
- Discussion about the Rockhoulder distribution timing and email took place. Jonathan to follow up with Maria to ensure she can send the Rockhoulder out to the membership without her personal email being visible.
- Dan confirmed that the old Treasurer laptop is obsolete and should be recycled.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.



THE ROCKHOUNDER

Our Show - Some Notes and Reminders

Holly Heighes, Downstairs Show Co-Chair

Thank you to the more than forty-five volunteers who have volunteered to work at our show. You are the best.

I will have the complete volunteer assignments at the March meeting for those who wish to confirm when/what you signed up for.

First Time Volunteers – Special thanks to you.

- You do not pay the admittance charge if you are a volunteer, just tell the admissions staff at the door who you are, sign in with hospitality and they will hand you a volunteer name badge to wear.
- If you could arrive a couple minutes before your shift to be “trained” if necessary and to smooth the transition, that would be ideal.
- We are in building #6 at the Fairgrounds (there may be a flea market going on in another building at the same time)

Friday Set up Volunteers

- Reminder to bring work gloves if you wish
- We start at 9:00 a.m.
- We often have a small pot-luck during morning set up

Exhibitors

- Cases may be set up as soon as they are ready – usually that is around noon; take down Sunday at 4:00 p.m.
- If you need tape to secure any part of your exhibit, please only use painters/blue tape (other types mar the case surface)
- Supplies (blue tape/glass cleaner/paper towels, etc) are supplied and may be found in the white crate in the exhibit area.
- Holly & Chris have keys to the new cases

During the Show

- Lost & Found is at the hospitality table
- Have a wonderful time!

*Thank you,
Holly*

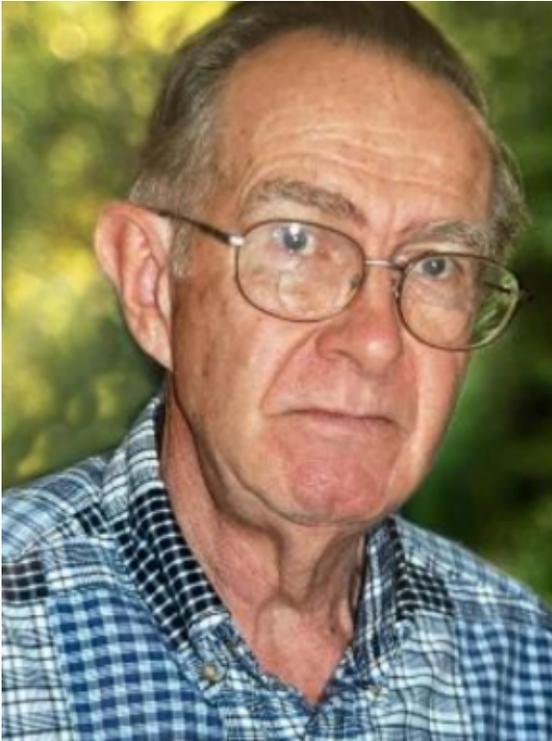


March 2026

THE ROCKHOUNDER

In Memory of George Durland

Holly Heighes, Downstairs Show Co-Chair



“Have you ever seen a magic rock?”

Everyone who met George or entered the Fluorescent Mineral Tent at our show heard these words and soon learned about Tenebrescence. Born in Franklin, New Jersey – he could hardly escape fluorescent minerals. As well as regularly speaking at schools and at scout groups, George spent much of our show in the Fluorescent Mineral tent educating and amazing thousands of kids (of all ages).

His knowledge and passion for these minerals influenced many GLMSMC members and we all looked forward to what he would bring to each meeting for the show table. George served on the Board of Directors, was President of the club, and a highly valued member. He will be greatly missed, but his legacy is assured – each time the lights are turned out at a meeting to look at a fluorescent mineral – we can remember George.



THE ROCKHOUNDER

Show Table from February 9th Regular Meeting

Name	Specimen	Locale
Jeff Cessna	Willemite	Andover Mine - Andover, NJ
“ ”	Bustamite XTL, Calcite	Franklin, NJ
Karen Lottes	Citrine	Club Auction
Joel Rosen	Quartz	Camp Bird Mine - Ouray, CO
Dee Weiss	Amethyst	Reel Mine, NC
Chris Luzier	Amethyst Stalactite slice	Uruguay
Reed Owens	Fluorite	Unknown
Doug Baum	Amethyst	Brazil
Charlie Zellers	Coprolite	Morrison Formation - Ouray, CO
Sue Knower	Amethyst	Unknown
Dan Mick	Blue John Fluorite	Derbyshire, UK
Dan Kohn	Chevron Amethyst	Unknown
Steven Calamuci	Calcite/Marcasite	Linwood Mine, IN
Mango Vaz	Amethyst w/ Calcite	Unknown
Marco Molinaro	Amethyst Phantom	Unknown
Rob Mays	Willemite, Franklinite, Cal.	Fr/Og Mining District, NJ
Tom Parnell	Amethyst	Jackson Crossroads, GA
“ ”	“ ”	Scufflin Acres, VA
Diane Leaman	Blue & Gray Geode	China
Gary Leaman	Amethyst	Reel Mine, NC
Barb Burr	“ ”	Uruguay
Nick Jacobs	Aquamarine	Shigar Valley, Pakistan
Ken Reynolds	Amethysts	Brazil, S. Africa, Pennsylvania
“ ”	Scapolite XTLS	Texas Quarry, MD
Nancy Shinowara	Green Garnets	(Demantoid) Mali & (Uvarovite) Russia
“ ”	Watermelon Chalcedony	Nebraska
Karen Rowan	Amethyst	Unknown
Judy Kovach	Stromatolite Fossil	Unkown (from GLMSMC Giveaway
“ ”	Petrified Wood	box at meeting)

General Door Prize

Mangano-calcite
Pakistan
Won by Mango Vaz

Show Table Door Prize

Sphalerite
Chihuahua, Mexico
Won by Judith Kovach-Zukin



March 2026

THE ROCKHOUNDER

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

Mark Dahlman

Next Meeting Date: March 9th, 2026 **Meeting Time:** 7:45 - 9:00 pm

Meeting Location: Sunroom Cafeteria at the Rockville Senior Center

February 9th Meeting:

Congratulations to all the juniors who earned their World In Miniature badge, as well as the special junior who earned her AFMS Rockhound award! During our meeting we put together a mock exhibit and made improvements to it as a warm-up to creating the real exhibits for the club show. This activity satisfies one of the Showmanship badge requirements. Everyone left with a fine door prize for their collection of course. After the meeting, James Hall, owner of the Reel Mine, donated a group of exceptional amethyst specimens to the juniors – come to our March meeting to claim one. Huge thank you to Mr. Hall!

March 9th Meeting:

Please bring the quartz (amethyst, rose quartz, citrine, agate, etc.) specimens you'd like to include in the group exhibit! Don't forget their labels. We will be working on the group exhibit at our meeting since the show is coming up on the weekend of March 21st and 22nd . 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/>



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February 9th Regular Meeting Pictures Holly Heighes, Downstairs Show Co-Chair



Top: Members show off their specimens at the Show Table.

Right: One of the FRA members receiving her AFMS Rockhound Award.

Bottom: Some FRA members receive their World in Miniature badge.





March 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

**EXHIBITS,
Demonstrations,
Kid's Corner,
Dealers of Fossils,
Minerals, Gems &
Jewelry**

Saturday, March 7, 2026

10 A.M. to 5 P.M.

Sunday, March 8, 2026

11 A.M. to 5 P.M.

Tickets Only Sold at the Door

62nd Annual Gem Mineral & Fossil Show



DoubleTree by Hilton
4727 Concord Pike (Rt-202)
Wilmington, DE 19803
Newark (Stanton), DE



Adults (18-59) \$7 (\$6 w/ Coupon), Seniors (60+) \$6,
Juniors (12-17) \$4, and Children under 12 and all
Scouts in Uniform free with Paying Adult.

Info and Discount Coupon @

www.DMSrocks.org or

DEMineralShow on



60th Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Show

Date/Time: **March 21-22, 2026** Saturday 10-6, Sunday 11-4

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

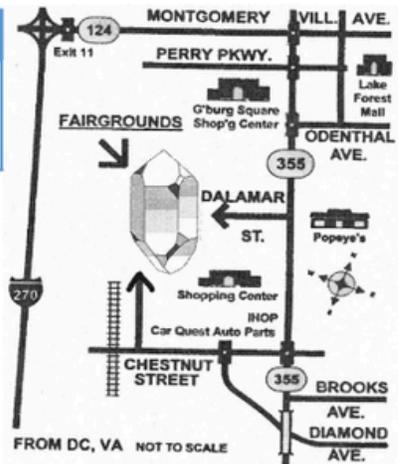
Featuring:

Hourly Door Prizes
Fluorescent Minerals
Raffle Prizes
Free Parking

20+ Vendors of minerals, beads, fossils, gems & jewelry
40+ Exhibits by club members - including junior exhibits
Mini Mine, Free minerals & activities for children
Demonstrations of Faceting, Beading, Jewelry Making, 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

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





THE ROCKHOUNDER

Upcoming Events

Continued from previous page.



46th Annual Gem- Mineral & Jewelry Show

Jewelry- Gemstones-Minerals-Fossils-Displays
Door Prizes

Eugene C. Clarke Jr. Community Center
235 South Third St.
Chambersburg, PA
Exit 16 off I-81, West on Rt.30, Left at Third St.

March 21 & 22, 2026
Saturday 10 am- 5 pm
Sunday 10am- 4 pm

Admission \$6.00- Children under 12 free with adult



Mention this ad and get
\$1.00 off admission!



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

Mineral Treasures and Fossil Fair
2026

Saturday, March 28
10am to 5 pm
Sunday, March 29
10 am to 4 pm

Admission: \$7 per adult
\$2 kids 12 and under
Scouts in uniform free

<https://www.phillyrocks.org>

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

Continued on next page.



THE ROCKHOUNDER

Upcoming Events

Continued from previous page.

**STARK COUNTY
GEM AND MINERAL CLUB
SHOW 2026**

SAT. MARCH 28 FROM 9 AM-5 PM
SUN. MARCH 29 FROM 10 AM-5 PM

AT THE
STARK COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
305 WERTZ AVE. CANTON, OH.

FREE PARKING

ADMISSION: **ADULTS \$5.00**
(CASH ONLY) SENIORS \$5 + \$4
CHILDREN 6-14 \$1
SCOUTS IN UNIFORM FREE

SILENT AUCTION, GEM AND MINERAL DEALERS,
JEWELRY, SLABS, ROUGH ROCKS, LAPIDARY, GEM STONES,
BEADS, THERAPEUTIC AND METAPHYSICAL, FOSSILS,
JASPER, AGATES, PETRIFIED WOOD, FLUORESCENT DISPLAY,
ROCK DISPLAYS, DOOR PRIZES, GAMES AND SILENT AUCTION
FOR KIDS AND GEODE CRACKING FOR ALL!!

FOOD TRUCK ON SITE

SHOW CHAIRS. TERRIE SHOCKLING-PHONE: 609-505-0060 E-MAIL: terriea@snip.net
LARRY JENKINS-PHONE 609-233-5891
DEALER CHAIR. KRIS MALONE 330-704-0784 E-Mail: kjimalone@aol.com



**56th ANNUAL
GEM & MINERAL SHOW 2026**
Presented by
Che-Hanna Rock & Mineral Club, Inc.
A (501c3) not-for-profit organization

March 28, 2026 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

March 29, 2026 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

**** GREAT LOCATION ****

**WYSOX VOL. FIRE CO. SOCIAL HALL
111 LAKE ROAD, WYSOX, PA**

OUTSTANDING GEOLOGICAL EXHIBITS
PRESENTED BY

Susquehanna River Archaeological Center Exhibit

Artifacts and information about SRAC

and

FLUORESCENT MINERAL PROGRAMS BY UV-BOB

Saturday--11am--1pm--3pm
Sunday--12 noon--2pm

DEMONSTRATIONS OF CABOCHON MAKING

GEODE CUTTING

EXHIBITS OF MINERALS, GEMS, & INDIAN ARTIFACTS

MINI-MINE FOR KIDS

DEALERS WITH MINERALS, GEMSTONES, FOSSILS,

JEWELRY, METAPHYSICAL AND HOBBY SUPPLIES

DOOR PRIZES

FOOD AVAILABLE ON PREMISES

Admission: Adults \$3.00 * Students \$1.00 * Under 8 Free



THE ROCKHOUNDER

Upcoming Events

Continued from previous page.

 Berks Mineralogical Society
Presents

THE

5 7TH

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



March 2026

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



**TIME SENSITIVE
DATED MATERIAL
FIRST CLASS MAIL**

**The Rockhounder
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of Montgomery County, MD, Inc.
P.O. Box 444, Gaithersburg MD
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