

# HAPPY HOLIDAYS



REGULAR MEETING of the Gem, Lapidary, and Mineral Society of Montgomery County MD., Inc. will be held on Monday December 12th in the dining room of the Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Drive, Rockville. The business meeting will begin at 7:45 but the room is available to us at 7:30 PM so come early and help us set up for the PARTY! NO SHOW TABLE THIS MONTH. There will be no speaker for this meeting because this will be a SWAP/SELL and social evening. You may bring hobby related items to swap or sell. Space is limited and we need some tables for refreshments, so bring no more than an amount that will fit on one table. It is possible that tables will have to be shared.

SILENT AUCTION OF MINERALS 19 lots of material that were not auctioned in June, for the lack of time, will be sold (From the Fanny Phillips collection). Each lot will have a slip with it. Make your bids on the slip and check back often if you want to beat out the competition. At an appointed time, probably 9:30, President George Durland will call HALT and the winners at that time may claim their purchases and pay George. He will be glad to accept cash or checks for items you select.



SALE of material donated by Stephanie Sidella is planned. She lives in Olney, and had held a couple of yard sales, disposing of her deceased father's minerals and lapidary gear. She donated the residual to the club.

REFRESHMENTS This is the only meeting of the year when we have refreshments. PLEASE BRING COOKIES, CAKE, CRACKERS, or CANDY (Or VEGGIES for those who insist on healthy eating), to share. Goodies should be "Finger food". Napkins, cups, plates, punch, coffee, tea, and hot chocolate will be provided. Come and have a good time. As usual visitors are welcome. Remember that WE MUST VACATE THE BUILDING by 10:00 PM and the tables and chairs must be cleaned and put back where we find them. If EVERYONE helps, it is not a big chore.



ELECTIONS were held at the November meeting. Congrats to the new officers for 2006:

Scott Braley	President	Rod Towers	Vice President
Robert Winfield	Secretary	Juan Proaño	Treasurer

BOARD OF DIRECTORS Will meet not meet in December but will meet next on Monday, January 16th.

FIELD TRIPS There are currently no field trips planned for December or January. If you are interested in being notified of possible last minute trips, be sure Anita Lizas James has your E Mail address or phone number. Hers is <alizas@gonzaga.org> or <johnjames04@comcast.net>, or phone 301 652 5527.

SUNSHINE: We continue to keep in mind Nancy Ballard and Jack Busch who are undergoing or recuperating from medical procedures. All our best wishes for a speedy recovery.

SNOW CONTINGENCY Reminder: If schools in Montgomery County, MD are to be cancelled, or let out early, because of weather on the day of a scheduled Society meeting, we will have no meeting. Call the Society President or a Board Member (Numbers on the back of the ROCKHOUNDER) if in doubt. With the unusual weather patterns this year who knows what can happen!



DEADLINE for the January Rockhoulder is December 26th.

ROSTER UPDATE An updated roster will be included with the January ROCKHOUNDER, If you do NOT want your name, address, phone number, or E Mail address listed, please let Nancy Ballard (301 926 7374) know by December 15th. If any data in your listing has changed, (Address, phone number, E Mail, children added or deleted) and you have not told Nancy about it, please do NOW. If you know of any members who have not paid dues for this year but plan to do so, please tell him/her to do so NOW so that the roster can be complete. Thanks to Bob Irby who is quietly efficient in keeping up the roster for printing. It is for the convenience of members and will be mailed to members only. It is not to be used to solicit business

CURRENT ROSTER CHANGES:

Welcome to New Members:

Kuehn, John and Jane, 14303 Merton Court, Rockville MD 20853-2159, John: <jkuehn8@comcast.net>, Jane: <mjkuehn1@comcast.net>, 301 460 0108.



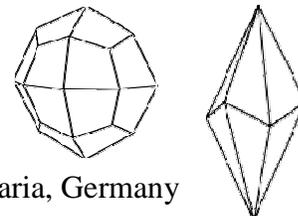
to those born in December: Sheryl Birkhead, Bob Bratton, Versie Durborow, Patricia Jayne, Joshua King, Helen Reimherr, Hugh Richards, Lois Ritchie, Bob Winfield, and Jennifer Wingard. Your birthstone is Turquoise. Most US cutting material is from the western states but only micro-crystals of turquoise are known. Strangely, the most common occurrence of crystals has been in Virginia, an area from which little, if any, gem turquoise has been produced. See web sites <<http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals/pubs/commodity/gemstones/sp14-95/turquoise.html>> and <<http://csd.unl.edu/Birthstones/turquoise.asp>>.

MINUTES of the Regular Meeting November 14, 2005: The Meeting was called to order at 7:50 PM by Pres. George Durland, with about 33 in attendance. The October 10th Regular meeting Minutes were approved as written in the Rockhounder. Among visitors, the Kuehn family, returning members, were voted into membership. The election of officers was held. There being no other nominations from the floor, Scott Braley, President, Rod Towers, Vice President, Robert Winfield, Secretary, and Juan Proaño, Treasurer were approved by acclamation. A Board Meeting will be at the home of George Durland on November 21st at 7:30 PM. Rod Towers introduced the speaker, Dr. Harold Williams, of Montgomery College Takoma Park/ Silver Spring campus. His topic was The Chesapeake Bay Meteor. Accompanied by a digital projection presentation, he spoke about the crater caused by the impact of a meteor at the mouth of the James, York, and Rappahannock Rivers about 35 million years ago. The 85 Kilometer diameter crater of complex shape is similar to the moon's King crater. At the time of impact, the earth was warmer and oceans higher. The meteor came in from the North at an angle and the shock cracked underlying strata, threw up tektites, killed much life, raising general havoc over about 6,400 Sq. Kilometers, and was 1.3 Kilometers deep. He discussed the potential of other impacts in the future. See <[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2004\\_MN4](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2004_MN4)> about the 2029 or 2036 possible impact of an asteroid. Upcoming Field Trip to Pinesburg MD was discussed. Remains from the yard sale from Stephanie Sidella were donated to the club. George Durland reminded us that a congressional contact be made to send comments and any concerns to our own House members about the "The Paleontological Resources Preservation Act of 2005". Nancy Ballard and Jack Busch are recovering from health problems. Member, Paul Smith died. Harvey Lindenbaum is working on the 2006 Show. Jim Michaelis has volunteered to be his local representative. George reported for the Treasurer that we are solvent and checks from dealers are arriving. George announced that Jennifer Wingard had volunteered to lead the Montgomery Area Science Fair Judging. Wendell Mohr announced that there will be a silent auction of Phillips material at the December meeting. He also told of the death of Will Forester of Lefthand Studio. Paul Vance has offered to teach classes on cabochon cutting. His students will hopefully help teach cutting at the March Show. There was a discussion about the need for a new Society Librarian since Robert Winfield is unable to accommodate it. Jonathan Harris volunteered to look over the material to select duplicates which could be sold and to further consider becoming Librarian. Upcoming Gem and Mineral Shows at Northern VA and Carnegie Museum were mentioned. (Continued on next page)

MINUTES (Continued) George announced that a Westminster CO dealer is selling Estwing gem scoops for \$5.40. See him for details. Also see George for information about Honduran Opal being sold by "Gemco Mining" of Bradenton FL. Chris Barr stated that a Cub Scout Pack will be going gold panning in the Spring on the second Sat. in May, at Rock Run and volunteers are wanted. Bob Irby may be able to help. Meeting was adjourned at 9:55 PM.

SHOW TABLE November 14, 2005

Scott Braley	Two Agate Nodules	Rockhound State Park, near Deming NM
Eric Durland	Trona	WY
George Durland	Calcite, Chondrodite, Diopside	Long Lake Zinc Mine, Olden Twp., Frontenac Co., Ontario, Canada
Ben Harris	Fluorite on Calcite	Meckley Quarry, PA
Jonathan Harris	Magnetite on Calcite	Rockville Quarry, MD
	Prehnite (Orange)	Rockville Quarry, MD
	Calcite	Medford Quarry, MD
David Kogon	Fluorspar	Fluorite Mine, Stulln, Bavaria, Germany
Chuck Mason	Sandstone "Cannon Ball"	Shaw Butte, MT
Georgia Olmstead	Photo of Paul Smith at age 25	In the Navy
Joel Rosen	Barite, Fluorite	Mina Jaimina Caravia Alta, Asturias, Spain
	Fluorapophyllite	Chantilly Quarry, Loudoun Co., VA
	Barite	Julcari District, Peru
Rod Towers	Goethite	Mexico



DOOR PRIZES: The Junior door prize, a fossil ammonite, was won by Benjamin Harris. The Show Table prize, Tsumeb Azurite, was won by Rod Towers. The General door prize, a Pendant by Larry Krause, was won by our speaker, Dr. Harold Williams.

MINUTES Of the Board of Directors meeting November 21, 2005: Board Members Present: George Durland, Wendell Mohr, Juan Proaño, Joel Rosen, Rod Towers, Bob Winfield. Member present: Scott Braley. George Durland called the meeting to order at 7:36 PM at the Durland's. George got the Stephanie Sidella leftovers donated to the club. We will sell them and also have a silent auction of the Phillips minerals at the Dec. meeting. We need a 2007 Show Chairman, an Editor and/or Publicity Chairman, a Historian, and a Show Workshop Chairman. Rod Towers told that he volunteered at the NOVA show at the kid's table. Scott Braley introduced some new ideas to increase membership (Ties to local Universities, Nature Centers, space for a program for juniors) and there was a discussion about free meeting space and a shop or office. Joel Rosen brought specimens purchased for door, show table and junior prizes and requested authorization for a total of \$1030 to cover them and others yet to be bought. Mohr moved, and Proaño seconded motion passed authorizing expenditure. (Since Bob Winfield was called away, it was necessary to call Frances Gallegos to have a quorum to pass the motion.) Joel will display prizes in case at the Show. Joel Rosen said that Fred Parker and Larry Krause will hold December home shows. Juan Proaño gave the Treasurer report and noted that fewer members renewed by dues payment this year. It was agreed that there be no Board meeting in December. Meeting was adjourned at 9:47 PM. Wendell Mohr, Secretary Pro-Tem

SHOWS AND ROCK SWAPS COMING UP: Holiday Home Minerals Sales:

Fred Parker, Parker Minerals, Frederick, MD  
 Please call 301-620-7591 for directions  
 and to RSVP by 12/9  
 Sunday, December 11th, 12:30 - 4 pm

Larry N. Kraus, Octahedron Home Show  
 Saturday, Dec. 10th, 9:30 AM - 2 PM  
 1106 Gypsy Lane West  
 Towson, MD 21286-1404 410 828 0024

HELP WANTED ADS: Club job openings abound. The following are needed:

1. 2007 Gem-Mineral-Fossil Show Chairman. Duties include overall Show management, arrange table and chair rental, guard service, dealer contracts, and venue rental.
2. Rockhounder Editor (Wendell Mohr will do if someone takes Publicity Chairperson position).
3. Historian, a new position to keep historical records and photographs.
4. Show Lapidary Workshop Chairperson. Oversees shop, equipment and supplies, volunteer teachers.

All Jobs: Hours: Possibly long Pay: Very low! But all are self satisfying. Volunteer NOW!

SYMPATHY to Andrea Schmitt, long time friend and co-dealer with Will Forester of Left Hand Studio who died unexpectedly on Oct 1. Will died at age 53 of a ruptured coronary aorta. He was a long standing dealer from Mendham NJ at our annual March Gem-Mineral-Fossil Shows.

LIBRARY More library contents are listed here for you to see. You can ask Bob or his replacement to check out any of the books listed. Call Bob at 301 251 6671 or E Mail him at <winfielr@intra.nimh.nih.gov>.

#	Author	title	year
43	Braun	Black Light Creates Fascinating Fluorescence	1968
44	Dake & Pearl	The Art of Gemcutting	1945
52	Kelley	Guide to Michigan Fossils	1962
53	Gleason	Ultraviolet Guide to Minerals	1972
53A	Gleason	Ultraviolet Guide to Minerals	1960
56	Pompa	Treasures in Gold and Silver	1975
57	Pompa	Treasures in Gold and Silver	1975
58	Reed	Gold Veins Near Great Falls, MD, GS Bull1286	1969
59	Nitecki	Mason Creek Fossils	1979
61	Liddicoat	Handbook of Gem Identification	1977
65	Roberts, et.al.	Encyclopedia of Minerals	1974
67	Smith	Gemstones	1958
68	Palache, et.al.	Dana's System of Mineralogy, Vol. I	1944
68A	Palache, et.al.	Dana's System of Mineralogy, Vol. I	1944
69	Palache, et.al.	Dana's System of Mineralogy, Vol. I	1944
70	Palache, et.al.	Dana's System of Mineralogy, Vol. II	1951
70A	Palache, et.al.	Dana's System of Mineralogy, Vol. II	1951
70B	Palache, et.al.	Dana's System of Mineralogy, Vol. II	1951
71	Palache, et.al.	Dana's System of Mineralogy, Vol. III	1962
71A	Palache, et.al.	Dana's System of Mineralogy, Vol. III	1962
72	Palache, et.al.	Dana's System of Mineralogy, Vol. III	1962
73	Choate	Creative Gold & Silversmithing	1970
75	Simon&Schusters	Guide to Rocks & Minerals	1978
75A	Simon&Schusters	Guide to Rocks & Minerals	1978
76	Pearl	Handbook for Prospectors	1978
76A	Pearl	Handbook for Prospectors	1973
78	Stevens	Shellcraft	
80	USGS	P-0628, Tectonics of North America	1969
81	USGS	P-903, Paleozoic & Mesozoic Rocks	1976
82	USGS	P-1066-K, Echinoderms, Kentucky	1981
83	USGS	P-1205, Accotink Schist	1981
84	USGS	P-1231-A, Virginia Volcanic Plutonic Belt	1981
91	Soukup	Facet Cutter's Handbook	1962
91A	Soukup	Facet Cutter's Handbook	1962
92	Zeitner	Appalachian Mineral & Gem Trails	1968
92A	Zeitner	Appalachian Mineral & Gem Trails	1968
93	Zirlin	The International Handbook	1981
94	Faciolla	Minerals of Laurel Hill, NJ	1981
95	Gleba	Massachusetts Minerals & Fossil Localities	1978



WHAT EDITORS 'ATE By - Dolores Rose, SCRIBE RVP.

It is deemed a bulletin editor's fate -

Current stories to locate,

Information to educate,

Pictures that will illustrate,

Recent news to relate,

Wow, all the data to accumulate!

Then I sit and type 'till it's way too late -

I'm not even sure that it's accurate,

With no problems to irritate,

No errors to exasperate.

One more mistake to eradicate,

I'm sure I'll hyperventilate!

Piles of copy that inundate -

A lack of help I anticipate,

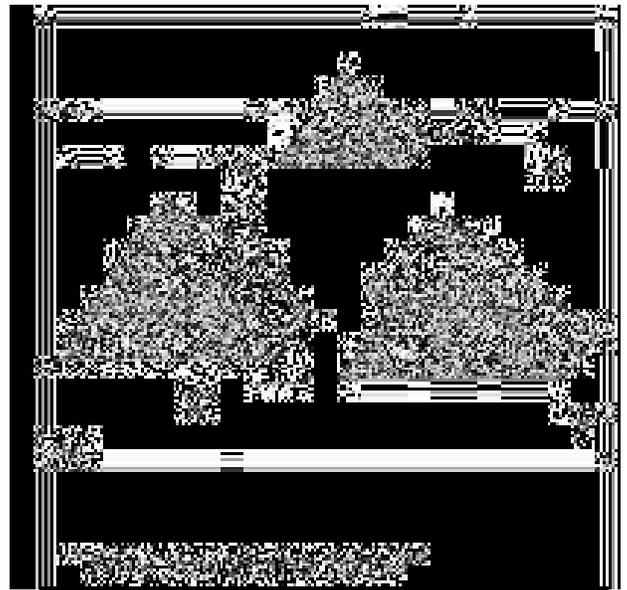
Oh, to have an associate,

A worker who will help collate.

Cuz the members would miss the meeting date,

If the bulletin is mailed too late!

How about contributing an article for the Newsletter on any aspect of the hobby?



WORLD RECORD METEORITE UNEARTHED BY HUNTER IN KANSAS A 1,400-pound stony-iron pallasite meteorite found in Kiowa County is the largest of its type ever recovered in the United States, and the third largest in history. Steve Arnold, 39, a professional meteorite hunter from Arkansas has found and excavated a meteorite weighing almost three quarters of a ton from a farmer's field near Haviland, Kansas. The discovery was made in late October using sophisticated metal detecting equipment. It is one of the most valuable meteorite finds ever made in the United States and is of historic and scientific importance. Meteorites, rocks that have fallen to Earth from outer space, are of considerable value to both scientists and private collectors. Meteorite collecting is a growing hobby, with thousands of enthusiasts worldwide willing to pay high prices for these rare sky rocks. Brenham meteorites, named after the Kiowa County township in Kansas, were first found in the area during the 1890s, when frontier farmers sold a number of them to universities and mineral dealers. Brenham specimens are today on display in the American Museum of Natural History in New York, the Field Museum in Chicago, and other prominent institutions. They are of a rare type, known as pallasites, which account for only 1% of all known meteorites. Pallasites consist of a nickel-iron matrix full of colorful olivine crystals (the semi-precious gemstone peridot) and are very beautiful when cut and polished. Well prepared pallasite specimens often sell for between twenty and forty dollars per gram. Arnold's discovery is the largest pallasite ever found in America, and the largest oriented pallasite meteorite ever found anywhere in the world. An oriented meteorite is one which has traveled through Earth's atmosphere without spinning and formed a conical or bullet shape as its surface melted. Oriented pallasites are extremely rare and highly prized by museums and private collectors. Steve Arnold was born in Kansas, and has been thinking about Brenham meteorites for more than a decade. "I traveled all over the world hunting for meteorites, but came home to make my most important discovery. I was just sure there were more of them out there waiting to be found," he said. Mr. Arnold and his partner, Phil Mani, a geologist and oil and gas attorney from San Antonio, Texas, made arrangements with local landowners, which allowed them to search for the deeply-buried meteorites. The 1,400-pound specimen was recovered at considerable depth, and a back hoe was needed to lift it. Dr. Art Ehlmann, Curator of the Oscar E. Monnig Meteorite Gallery at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth visited the site last week, and described Mr. Arnold's discovery as "the most significant American meteorite find in decades." (From the Nov. 9, 2005 Press Release.)

See <<http://www.worldrecordmeteorite.com/>>. Look at <<http://www.worldslargestthings.com/kansas/pallasitemeteorite.htm>> for the former largest palasite at 1000 pounds.

YOU MIGHT BE A ROCKHOUND IF.....

You spend hours and hours in the ugliest room in your house.  
 You give directions like, "Turn right at the green farmhouse..."  
 You bought the ugliest boots available because they were water proof.  
 You know what findings are for.  
 The local jewelry stores and libraries give out your name for information on rock clubs.  
 You examine individual rocks in driveway gravel.  
 Your dealers send you get well cards when you don't place an order in more than a week.  
 The baggage handlers at the airport know you by name and refuse to help with your luggage.  
 The local university's geology department asks permission to hold a field trip - in your back yard.  
 The city sends you a letter informing you a landfill permit is required to put any more rocks in the back yard.  
 You can debate for hours on the differences between spectrolite and labradorite.  
 Your children have names like Rocky, Jewel, and Beryl.  
 You get excited when you find a hardware store with 16 pound sledge hammers and 5 foot long pry bars.  
 You debate for months on the Internet about whether vibratory or drum tumblers are best.  
 You can't remember the last time your car still fit in the garage.  
 Your company asks you not to bring any more rocks to the office until they have time to reinforce the floor.  
 By members of the GMEDITORS E Mail Swap Group. Contributors include Mel Albright, Richard Busch, Betty Commean, Dan Imel, Bob Keller, Paul Kline.



SERPENTINE OAKS CONSERVATION PARK, located on the north side of Piney Meeting House Road, Just South of the Rockville Quarry in Potomac is to be developed. Plans proposed for the park include an interpretive trail network to provide low impact access to the park and outdoor educational opportunities. Montgomery County's conservation parks are reserved for environmental protection and the enjoyment of nature. Acquired beginning in 2002, the 300+ acre Serpentine Oaks Conservation Park harbors more than 20 threatened or endangered plants in a rare "serpentine" ecosystem. This unique ecosystem is profoundly influenced by the unique rock that underlies the area and supports a rare plant community that adapted to the thin soils and high concentrations of magnesium, iron, nickel, and chromium. Many rock outcroppings in the park expose this mottled greenish rock. A rare natural bedrock, serpentine is believed to have been thrust up from the earth's core during plate shifting activity about 450 million years ago. Composed of a variety of oaks, the forest also includes hickory and pine trees, all of which have a short, stunted appearance even though most are mature trees. In North America, there are few of these systems: Southern PA, Southern OR, the Gaspe Peninsula, Western Newfoundland, and Maryland. Soldiers Delight Serpentine Barrens is located in western Baltimore County. Other MD barrens are on the border with PA at Delta/Cardiff.

NEW EDITOR NEEDED A big thank you to Wendell for filling in for this and last month's issues. After 32+ years, I have decided it is time to retire from the position of Editor of the Rockhoulder. I have enjoyed my tenure interacting with members and with editors of other newsletters, but I think it is time for new blood. I have managed to remain computer free (And illiterate!) but can see that having E Mail access would be easier for committee chairs and other members to get their message out. The job does consume a bit of time, and monthly deadlines seem to come up faster than monthly, but results are rewarding. I am willing to help during the transition but a new editor would be free to take the Rockhoulder in any direction he/she wants.

Nancy Ballard

CABBING WORKSHOP In order to revive an important phase of our hobby, I will teach a 2 hour class in how to shape and polish a number of cabochons at my home. This will qualify you to teach in the shop at the show in March and perhaps kindle a life-long interest in a hobby of many facets. If interested, see me at the meeting or apply by mail: Paul D. Vance, 8811 Patricia Court, College Park MD 20740-2024.



Internet Point your mouse to these sites

Contributed by Wendell C. Mohr



News Flash: Zippo Manufacturing, Audi Motors, Dominion Gold, and Dakota Mining will merge and become ZipAudiDoDa! <<http://www.gia.edu>> is the web site of the not-for-profit **Gemological Institute of America**, which offers a wealth of information. See Diamond Cut Grading System, How to Buy a Diamond, “Ruby Tuesday” (= How to Buy a Gemstone). There are many gemological items for sale under Gem Instruments

And Bookstore. Gems and Gemology, a premiere magazine, is the equivalent of the Mineralogical Record. There are many free article downloads. Browse further, find out about the educational opportunities and a great number of other topics. I was going shopping to buy a gift for my wife and asked her for her sizes. “If it’s clothes, it’s small.” “If it’s gem stones, I wear large.”

**Earth Science World**, <<http://www.earthscienceworld.org/>>, is a sort of E-Zine for students and teachers by the American Geological Institute (AGI). Check out the Image Bank, with thousands of photos. See the interactive Geological Time Scale. The Book Center has sale items. Explore Careers in Geosciences and many resources. Play the Virtual Oil Well Game. The Earth Science Week feature is updated annually. Two young geologists realize that they are being surrounded by fast moving lava of the volcano they were studying. “Help, Help!”,



yells one of them. “Help us, Help us!”, yells the other. “Maybe it would help if we yelled together”, said the first. “Good idea!”, said the other. So both started yelling “Together, Together!”



**This Dynamic Earth**, <<http://pubs.usgs.gov/publications/text/dynamic.html>>, is a top notch on-line edition of a USGS book, A Story About Plate Tectonics. Covered are the Historical Perspective, Developing the Theory, Understanding Plate Motion, Hotspots, Some Un-answered Questions, and Plate Tectonics and People. What lies at the bottom of the ocean and twitches? A nervous wreck. New book just out: SCUBA Collecting Minerals at “Black Smokers” by Kenny Dooit and Betty Don’t. The Earthquakes: When you re-arrange the letters: that Queer Shake.

EFMLS NEWS Can be viewed at <<http://www.amfed.org/efmls/>>. } See what’s new  
AFMS NEWS Can be viewed at <[www.amfed.org](http://www.amfed.org/)>. } At the Federations

INQUIRY Hi, My 9 year old's science teacher suggested I contact your club. My son is beginning to be very interested in rocks and he wants a rock polisher for Christmas. I would like to get him a used hobby grade (such as a Lortone 3# that I can get spare parts for) unit rather than a toy that will only be frustrating in the long run as I suspect it will get lots of long-term use. Thanks, Peter (Conway/Close). If you have such a unit you wish to dispose of, contact him at <[conwayclose@rcn.com](mailto:conwayclose@rcn.com)>

WILDACRES On your mark, get set, register! It’s time for you and your friends to start making plans to attend one (Or both) of the EFMLS Wildacres Workshops for 2006. Dates have been set as May 22-28 and September 11-17, with an impressive list of choices for classes offered. Applications will be accepted beginning January 1, 2006. Because Wildacres raised their prices to the Federation, EFMLS was forced to raise their prices. But it is still a real bargain at only \$320 for room and board for a whole week and gratuity for the staff! Applications for the workshop will be available at the December meeting. Further information can be found in the December EFMLS News and under “Wildacres” on the EFMLS web site (See above). Our Board offers one scholarship to a club member who has never been to Wildacres, has been a member for at least a year, and has been active in club affairs, especially at our show. It may be used for either session. Nominations are to be submitted to the Board. Any member may make a nomination, including his or her self. (First come, first served).