



**PURPOSE** 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”.

**REGULAR MEETING** Meetings are held the 2nd Monday of the month from September to June. The Society will meet on Monday December 10th in the dining room of the Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Drive, Rockville. The short business meeting will begin at 7:45 pm 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 the 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.

**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.

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS** There will be NO meeting in December, next on January 14th, 2008

**ROSTER** Welcome NEW MEMBERS:



WELLS, John & Barbara, 6020 Commack Ct., Springfield VA 22152-1313, 703 569 7889 John: jdwellssr@yahoo.com, Barbara: brylandw@yahoo.com  
WRIGHT, Robert and Kathleen, 3840 Chaucer Ct., Monrovia MD 21770-9203, 301 865 3379, Robert: Robert.Wright@JHUAPL.edu, Kathleen: KMW.Happydog@comcast.net  
Max (5/95) Sophia (7/98)

**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 Wendell Mohr (301 926 7190) 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 Wendell about it, please do it 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, nor will it be distributed outside of the Society.

**DEADLINE** for the January 2008 Rockhounder is Dec. 26th

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**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES:**

Vice President Harry Lupuloff called the Nov. 14, 2007 meeting to order at 7:45 pm, with about 47 attending.

Bob Irby reported that he had arranged for tables, chairs and security for the show. He also gave thanks to Elmer Lantz and others for handling the Susan Houser material event November 10<sup>th</sup>.

Guests included Richard Bailey, who announced the commercial Frederick G&M Show on Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> and passed out postcards, Mary Bernardo, on whose property the Society Trailer is parked, Joe Hotung and son, John Wells, who announced a parking lot change for the NOVA Show, and Robert Wright. The latter two were unanimously elected to membership.

Treasurer Juan Proaño assures that we are solvent. He also reported that we still have no word or contract from the Fairgrounds.

Wendell Mohr called attention to upcoming shows, Wildacres workshop dates, and about a recent diamond find at Murfreesboro Arkansas. He, for the Board which acted as Nominating Committee, moved the nomination for 2008 officers: Elmer Lantz for Vice President, Holly McNeil for Secretary, and Juan Proaño for Treasurer. George Durland seconded and the motion unanimously passed. There is currently no one to fill the role of President. Society bylaws preclude Scott Braley from a third year as President, and Harry Lupuloff declined nomination due to career change. We need a volunteer for President.

Minutes for the Oct. regular meeting and notes for the Board meeting were approved unanimously.

Harry Lupuloff introduced the speaker, Wayne Sukow, of Fairfax VA, speaking on Lake Superior Agates. He is a past president of the EFMLS and received an AFMS award in the program competition on this subject. Wayne showed slides of various agates and gave descriptions of special features especially inclusions. He showed agates in red, brown, pink, black, purple, and orange, explained the colorant minerals, and showed various patterns, fortification banding, and exit tubes. He brought specimens for viewing. "Water level Agate" is used for cameos. Upper layers are removed until a colored layer is revealed which is carved into a design. Agates are found in WI and MN in red glacial drift gravel bars, gravel pits, dry river beds, lakes, and fields. The upper peninsula of MI, including Isle Royal, has agates.



With microscopic examination, inclusions of native copper, hematite, chalcopyrite, bornite, tenorite, malachite, limonite, goethite, and pyrite can be found. Curious growth lines have inclusions oriented perpendicular to the lines. Some point inward and others outward. Many different forms of copper are seen. Christmas tree, arborvitae, and poplar tree-like groups are observed. Copper crystals in cubic and octahedral form and many more complex isometric forms are seen sometimes isolated as tiny specks. When you get a piece of agate, look at it from different angles and focus on different depths, and use different magnifications.

He spoke of Iris agate and the diffraction of light forming a reflection grating much like a CD reflecting in the light. The iris effect of Lake Superior Agates is rare. Plume and moss and sagenitic needle inclusions were illustrated.

Wayne, along with others, wrote a paper on his theories of how agates are formed. Volcanoes erupt and water comes into the lava and the minerals get squeezed. Changes in temperature and pressure occur and crystals start to grow. The theory of the formation of agates has a lot to do with the rind, noticeably harder. A husk forms first and is impervious to everything except water, a closed system. Theories abound. Entrance and exit tubes, silica gel or silica solution, Liesgang Bands, irregular bands that are deposits of iron minerals, and other factors are considered. None of the above or all of the above may be true factors.

He gave credits and answered many questions. It was a fine program, not the typical agate topic of the Lapidary trade, but a fine presentation about the mineralization and inclusions in the agates.

Door prizes, show table explanations and show table prize followed the break. (See page 5)

Meeting adjourned at 10:57 pm.

Cynthia Shupe, Secretary Edited by Wendell Mohr



**You might be a mineral collector if you have ever vacationed in a highway rest area.**



**BOARD MEETING MINUTES:** In the absence of the President and Vice President, Immediate Past President George Durland called the November 19, 2007 meeting to order at 7:34 pm. Board Members Present: Nancy Ballard, George Durland, Cynthia Hunter, Anita James, Wendell Mohr, Juan Proaño, Joel Rosen, Rod Towers, for a Quorum. Non board members Present: David Ballard, Mark Dahlman, Jonathan Harris, John James, Elmer Lance

Show items: George had new show fliers. Juan said that the Fairground contract is due in two weeks. Correct date is held for us, rental cost unknown. Dealer contracts should be sent out this week. Since Scott is out of town for three weeks, Juan agreed to send them out this week with cover letter. Yes/No reply will be requested. It was suggested that we continue to look for other show location alternatives. Bob Irby has set aside travertine, marble, and softer material for shop preforms. Moved, seconded, and unanimously approved purchase of a 110 Volt Cab Mate diamond machine for preforms for \$649 + S&H. Joel reported that trailer registration renewal form was received. Trailer is dry inside. Bob Irby is handling Raffle, Demonstrations and Maintenance of shop equipment. USGS can come to show. Scott is unable to be Show Chair due to work assignments. Still need Show Chairman for 2008. Wendell will make contact with candidate.

George reported that Mark Dahlman agreed to stand for election as President. Board moved, seconded, and passed his nomination unanimously.

Cynthia is drafting a letter (to be sent separately from contracts letter) to dealers offering residual Susan Houser material for sale at silent auction. Motion was made by Joel, seconded by Elmer, and unanimously approved to auction the residual material with a reserve price at \$1.00/lb. We will auction it as single lot at show, on March 14th, auction winner responsible for removing entire lot. A member can take material to show site, for lot viewing Friday before the show. Motion made, seconded and passed to take Genie Pacific 6 wheel grinding and polishing machine and Flat slab saw to the show in March for silent auction Sat. and Sun., the reserve price yet to be determined. The February *Rockhounder* will carry notice and other clubs will be notified. Joel stated equipment might be put into trailer if needed.

Juan reports that we are in good shape financially and that there are still a few outstanding checks from Society that are un-cashed.

Anita reported no Field Trips scheduled yet, waiting on replies. Jonathan Harris will be Field Trip Chair effective Jan. 1, 2008. Wendell will provide him information on the C&D canal site in DE which is non-restricting for children. We have liability insurance for members that go on field trips. Copies needed for quarry managers when going on field trips given to Jonathan by Juan. Insurance is only if Society member damages equipment and does not cover bodily accident or damage for individual Club Members

Brief discussion was held about establishing a central Society workshop with no action because of high cost of rent in our area, and difficulties to establish and maintain.

Offer by Richard Bailey to have a Society table at the Frederick G&M Show Dec 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> was declined.

It was moved by Joel, seconded by Nancy, and passed that Wendell Mohr be selected for the "Each-One-Teach-One" award for this year. Nancy will prepare recommendation for EFMLS by Dec. 1 (Because of early 2008 EFMLS Convention in Jackson MS in Feb.) No person was recommended for Rockhound of the Year at this time.

Wendell requests that information for *Rockhounder* be submitted by stated deadline. He also encourages submission of articles by members, including juniors.

Effort has been made to interest 4H youths to join Society based on gem, mineral and fossil exhibits in the August Fair, and visitors at Nov. meeting resulted. It is always good to try to enlist youths.

An article by Shirley Leeson, AFMS President, about legal records retention is valuable. We have no formal designation of which officer retains what records and need to follow-up.

There will be NO December Board meeting

Wendell produced pdf letterhead Society stationery documents reflecting the official Society address now at P. O. Box 444, Gaithersburg.

Newly elected officers assume responsibilities January 1, 2008. Cynthia Hunter will handle the Society website, but no longer be a Board member. She awaits manual, information from Scott. She will investigate free hosting for non-profits by Dreamhost.com.



(Continued on Page 6)

**DECEMBER MEMBER BIRTHDAYS:** Jo Ann Albert, Larry Becker, Mark Dahlman, Cheryl Hyland, Pat Jayne, Joshua King, Jeffrey Nagy, Owen Powers, Helen Reimherr, Hugh Richards, Lois Ritchie, Alf Shupe, Bob Winfield, Jennifer Wingard. Your Birthstone is Turquoise

## YOUR HELP PLEASE

The American Federation of Mineralogical Societies is attempting to attain Birthstones on U.S. stamps. We need you to actively support and promote the project by continuing letters or notes to the USPS. You do not have to be an AFMS member to write. Please mail your *PERSONAL* letter to:

The Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee  
 Stamp Development  
 US Postal Service  
 1735 North Lynn St., Room 5013  
 Arlington VA 22209-6432

Competition is stiff with about 50,000 proposals to the USPS annually. We are convinced that gem stamps, would be attractive. We and the public would use them, keep them, and we would all enjoy their beauty.

Don't you agree?



By Wendell C. Mohr Chairman, AFMS Commemorative Stamp Committee

Personalize YOUR letter to Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee:

"I support the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies' efforts to try to get gemstones on American stamps because": (Write you own reasons) Ideas:

1. Gems have never appeared on U.S. First Class stamps, and would be very attractive.
2. They would not be controversial.
3. Gems would continue the theme of "America's Mineral Heritage" stamps.
4. We and the public would all enjoy their beauty. Etc., etc.

Sign and date your letter and add your address.

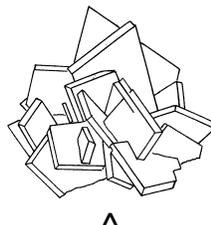
Stamp your envelope and mail it off to the address above! **DO IT NOW**



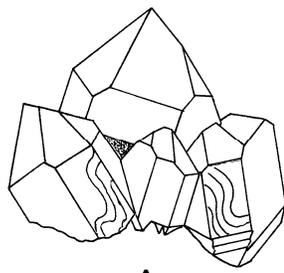
**SHOW TABLE**

November 12, 2007 Thanks to those who bring items for sharing at the meetings

<u>Exhibitor</u>	<u>Specimen(s)</u> * = Self-collected or self made	<u>Locality</u>
Jeff Cessna	Pyrite*	Hunting Hill, Rockville MD
	Cut Stones*	Hunting Hill, Rockville MD
	Strontianite*	Mt. Pleasant Mills PA
Mark Dahlman	Esperite, Calcite, Willemite*	Buckwheat Dump, Franklin NJ
	Barite on Calcite*	Sterling Hill NJ
George Durland	Clinohedrite	Franklin NJ
	Wollastonite	Franklin NJ
	Wollastonite	Sterling Hill Mine, Ogdensburg NJ
	Mcgovernite	Sterling Hill Mine, Ogdensburg NJ
Gerald Elgert	Rainbow Agate	Holbrook AZ
	Petrified Wood (2 specimens)	Holbrook AZ
Jonathan Harris	Wavellite*	National Limestone Quarry PA
	Strontianite*	National Limestone Quarry PA
Pat Jayne	Agate (Houser donation)	Locality not stated
Alex Kindahl	Belemnites (Squid Shells) *	C&D Canal DE
Eric Kindahl	Exogyra Cancellata (Pelecypod)*	C&D Canal DE
Bob LaVilla	Fossil*	Swack Formation Cle Elum WA
Chuck Mason	Jasper cabochons*	Niobrara County WY
Aiden McElravy	Not given	Not given
Rory McElravy	Chlorite, Quartz	Nepal
Andy Muir	Sodalite (Hackmanite)	Greenland
	Sphalerite	Sterling Hill, Ogdensburg NJ
	Karpatite	CA
Tom Parnell	Green Quartz	Isle of Serifos, Greece
Joel Rosen	Fluorite on Sphalerite	Elmwood Mine, Smith Co. TN
	Franklin Mine Ore	Franklin NJ
Rod Towers	Microscope and Specimens	
	Tugtupite	Locality not given
	Willemite	Locality not given
	Ruby	Locality not given
	Crazy Calcite	Locality not given
Jane Warford	"Turtle Rock" Concretion	Fort Scott KS



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^ Used with permission from Diamond Dan Clipart by Darryl Powell

**NOVEMBER PRIZES:** Lucky Aiden McElravy again won the Junior prize, a polished Labradorite from Madagascar. The Show table prize, was a Grossular Garnet from Lake Jaco, Chihuahua, Mexico, and went to Robert LaVilla, recently returned from Seattle. The General door prize, a Heulandite on Mordenite from the Rat's Nest Claim, Custer Co. Idaho, was also won by Robert LaVilla. I seem to be seeing double while typing this!



**VIRGINIA GENERAL MINERAL MINER CERTIFICATION:** Georgia Olmstead notes that classes to obtain the VA General Mineral Miner Certification will be held on Feb. 13th 2008 in Thornburg VA, May 13th in Manassas, and sometime in June in Charlottesville. Training lasts 7 hours. For more information and to sign up, call the office of Jeffrey Stewart, VA Div. of Mineral Mining at 434 951 6315. Access to VA mines and quarries often requires this certificate but, so far, MD quarries do not.

**SAFETY FIRST**

Adapted from Dec 2004 by Bill Klose, EFMLS Safety Chair

**FROST-BITE and HYPOTHERMIA**

Frost-bite is the cutting off of circulation to and possibly the destruction of superficial tissues, especially to hands, feet, ears, and nose as well as other areas of the body exposed to cold temperatures. The wind (wind chill factor) and moisture can add to the effects of cold temperature, even when above freezing. Symptoms of frost-bite begin as a prickly feeling on exposed areas of the skin followed by numbness and waxy looking patches. In more severe cases, these waxy patches get lumpy, redden, blister, followed by the skin dying and falling off or gangrene setting in. Severe pain is associated with advanced frost-bite. At the first signs of frost-bite, dry the affected area and cover with cloth or in the case of hands, place into the armpits to prevent further cooling. Do not rub or apply snow to the frost-bitten area. The affected area can be placed in water a little above body temperature, but not above 104 degrees F. Do not place the affected area under hot running water, as there will not be any feeling initially, so it may become burned. As the frost-bitten area "thaws" it is normal to feel pain or a burning sensation. If blisters form, do not break and protect them with a loose dressing and seek medical attention immediately.

Hypothermia is the loss of body temperature and can be life threatening. The symptoms are initially uncontrollable shivering with pale and numb skin. The person then becomes confused and forgetful, acts tired, and wants to sit or lie down. In severe cases the person will become unconscious, have shallow breath, erratic heartbeat, and then the pulse weakens and slows. At the first signs of hypothermia, take the victim to a warm, dry place and give them hot liquids (not alcohol). Prevent further heat loss with warm blankets, warm rocks, or a companion in bed with the victim. Get medical attention as soon as possible if the symptoms have gone beyond the shivering stage.



The best protection against frost-bite and hypothermia is to keep warm, keep moving, and keep dry. Dress in loose layers of warm, waterproof and windproof clothing that covers exposed areas. Warm gloves and a hat are essential. Up to 80% of the body's warmth can be lost through an uncovered head. The young and elderly are especially at risk, as are people who have been drinking alcohol, have diabetes, or poor circulation. People taking beta blockers to lower blood pressure are also at high risk. It is best to have someone with you in cold weather who can watch for signs of frost-bite and hypothermia. Enjoy a safe 2007-2008 winter season.

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES:** (Continued from Page 3)

Class to obtain the VA General Mineral Miner Certification is being conducted May 13th in Manassas, and other dates elsewhere in VA.

Elmer is working toward getting program speakers. He has referrals and honoraria conditions were discussed.

George Durland says that Montgomery Area Science Fair requests us to purchase ad space. Our show and science fair dates coincide. Therefore an ad will not bring customers to our show. It was moved, seconded, and passed that we not give donation for show ad this year. With date conflict it is not likely that we will participate in judging but could let science fair determine winner in our category and still give prize(s).

Joel displayed Door prizes purchased at the NOVA Show for about \$618 with \$230 left to spend of authorized amount. We will have extra door prize in December donated by Nov. speaker Wayne Sukow.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:47pm.

Cynthia Shupe, Secretary Edited by Wendell Mohr

**SIGNS THAT DON'T QUITE GIVE THE INTENDED MESSAGE:**

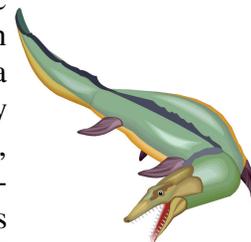
In the window of an Oregon mineral dealer: "Why go elsewhere to be cheated, when you can come here?"

On a highway to a local quarry: "Take notice: when this sign is under water, this road is impassable."

On the grounds of another quarry: "No trespassing without permission."

## UPCOMING SHOWS AND EVENTS

**Ongoing for 8-12 months** The 40 minute 3D IMAX Movie, Sea Monsters, is a prehistoric adventure weaving together a compelling story about an ancient and mysterious ocean world containing some of the most awe-inspiring creatures of all time. The film follows a curious dolichorhynchops as she travels through the most dangerous oceans in history (Cretaceous), encountering long-necked plesiosaurs, great giant turtles, enormous fish, fierce sharks, and the most dangerous sea monster of all, the mosasaur. A National Geographic Society film, with ultra high resolution computer generated graphics, and pictures of modern day fossil dig sites. At National Museum of Natural History's Johnson IMAX theater. Tickets \$8.50 adults, \$7.50 Seniors, \$6.50 Members, \$7.00 youth. Information 202 633 4629. Buy tickets online at <<http://www.si.edu/imax/>>.



Mosasaurus giganteus

**Now through March 18, 2008.** National Geographic Museum at Explorer's Hall (Located at 17th & M Streets N.W. Washington DC) houses a new exhibition, "Extreme Dinosaur: Africa's Long-Necked Fern Mower." It displays the original fossil bones, a flesh head and neck model, and a 30-foot reconstructed skeleton of the bizarre dinosaur Nigersaurus taqueti. University of Chicago paleontologist Paul Sereno, a National Geographic Explorer-in- Residence, and his teams in three expeditions to Niger collected about three-fourths of the bones of a skull of the animal, along with much of its skeleton. The exhibition was created by Project Exploration. Open Monday through Saturday and holidays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sundays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Web site <<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2007/11/071115-nigersaurus.html>> has more details. Admission is free.



◀ Art by Tyler Keillor/Photo by Mike Hettwer, courtesy of Project Exploration.

©2007 National Geographic used with permission.

Nigersaurus taqueti, in the flesh and without. A flesh model of the animal's skull and neck as well as a life-sized, 30-foot-long reconstruction of the dinosaur will be on display at the National Geographic Museum at Explorers Hall through March 18, 2008.

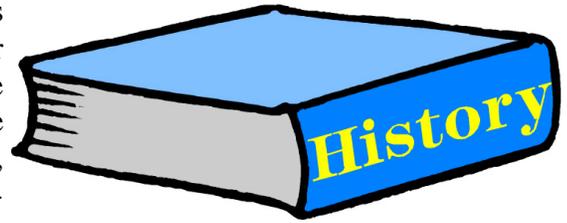
**December 8,** Dealer show "Fall Festival of Fine Minerals, Fossils, and Jewelry", 10 am to 4:30 pm, Days Hotel, 9615 Dereco Road, Timonium MD Free admission. Participants: Henry's Gems & Jewelry, Highland Rocks and Fossils, Mike's Minerals, and Octahedron Minerals/Jewelry.

**March 15 & 16, 2008** at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds, Sat. 10 am to 6 pm, Sun. 10 am to 5pm. It is not too early to plan ahead for **OUR SHOW**. Put aside that weekend including March 14th for set up. It is a first priority to get ready for the big event and many hands makes light work. Volunteer! Then, start thinking about and putting together an exhibit for the event. Our show features the largest number of gem, mineral, fossil, jewelry and other educational exhibits of any in the area. This is an aspect not offered by commercial shows. If you feel you do not have enough for a whole case, consider teaming up with one or more others. Lastly when the time comes, put your name on the sign up sheets for volunteer staffing of the show for the weekend. More on that later. Many opportunities exist for helping and we are an all volunteer run show.

**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!

**FIELD TRIPS:** No trips are currently firmly scheduled. Contact Field Trip Chair Anita James to inquire about latest information about any trips. Call 301 652 5527 or **NEW** E Mail <[johnanitajames@verizon.net](mailto:johnanitajames@verizon.net)>. Reminder: If you leave a message on her answering machine be certain to leave your viable phone number and/or E Mail address so she can get back to you.

**SOCIETY HISTORY:** ONWARD, 1991. Just as February is followed by March, so the latter is SHOWTIME!! And as per usual, '91's production, too, was a success, with paid attendance totaling 1250, plus kids too numerous to count. At the time we were still having competitive exhibits, and the winners, by class, were: Lapidary, Joseph Sobrio, who also won Best in Show; Fossils, Jennie Smith for an excellent exhibit of trilobites; Minerals, Fritz Beckman, for self-collected specimens; Educational, Kathy Studinski (Now Hrechka) and the Micro-mineralogists of the NCA for a case entitled "The Art of Micromounting."



The show had been preceded earlier in the week by the Society's monthly meeting. Prez Jack Nelson announced that Walter Goetz was planning a gold panning field trip (to include instructions), also that Mike Ellwood had placed a case of fossils on display at the Olney library. VP Lou Williams introduced member Ron Tonucci as the evening's speaker, who spoke about the amethyst belt that runs from North Carolina into Georgia. Ron told of the colorization process of clear quartz to smoky quartz to amethyst. His big find had been in Georgia. He brought a selection of his quartz crystals, most of them splendid amethyst but also smoky and milky quartz. Ron said he'd hold a field trip to GA in mid-May

In April's "Rockhounder", Editor Nancy Ballard quoted from the "Rock Buster News" (whose editor had lifted it from "The Golden Nugget") that the Smithsonian would soon put on display a 13+ inch long trilobite that had been found at Louisville District's Clear Creek Project in Ohio. She also reported that Mount Erebus, an active volcano in Antarctica had been spewing microscopic gold crystals all over the continent. What a place for a field trip! How about that, Walter?

Junior member Brian Newbury won first place in the Sciences category at the Montgomery Area Science Fair. His project, "Jupiter in a Jar", used a plume of water in a bowl of rotating water to study the theory that the planet Jupiter's red spot is caused by a plume of gas. Brian also had won one of our Society's awards.

At May's meeting, Editor Nancy asked the members who displayed self-collected or self-made items on the Show Table to indicate that fact on the sign up sheet. This still applies.



One of the winners of the Society's Scholarships, Philip Picolli (a post-graduate student at the U of MD), was the evening's guest speaker. His subject, "Fluids in Granites and Pegmatites", was illustrated with slides. Among other things, he explained the role fluids play; the behavioral patterns of fluids; how to determine the composition of rocks and fluids; and how fluids are important constituents of magma rocks. Much of his research had been done in Yosemite National Park. His presentation was very informative and well done.

More of the "Bygones" next month.

Contributed by Jack Busch

### **HAPPINESS ON A FIELD TRIP IS:**

1. Finding a geode as big as a basketball and weighing as much as a golf ball.
2. Having to ask someone to help carry your crystal back to the truck.
3. Finding the fool's gold on your piece of quartz, isn't.
4. Being told by your partner that the snake you just sat on, is just a garter snake.
5. Being told by the leader that the hike up the hill is a mile, and it turns out to be only half a mile.
6. Finding out you had the biggest and best bragging rock found on the trip.

Strata Gem, Tooele G&M Soc. Tooele Utah, May 2007 via Jun 2007 Quarry Quips 'Wichita G&M Soc. KS

**CONTRIBUTE ARTICLES FOR THE NEWSLETTER:** "Home grown" articles in the Rockhounder add a local flavor not available from gleaned items of other clubs. Challenge: Junior members! (Adults too!) Why not write a bit about your collection or collecting experience. Share with others some of the joys you have had in the hobby. It's fun. The editor will edit so don't worry about spelling and grammar.

**SUSAN HOUSER DONATION MATERIAL:** It is fair to say that everyone participating in the November 10th event thoroughly enjoyed the event and were happy that it occurred between rainy spells.

**MANY THANKS TO VOLUNTEERS FOR SET UP:** Andy Celmer (saw horses), **Bob Irby (Unable to attend but Special recognition for moving and storing material and serving as liaison with Ms. Houser), Elmer Lantz (Special recognition for moving and storing material and setting up facilities for the day),** Owen Powers (saw horses), Joel Rosen, Paul and Virginia Vance (saw horses), Jane Warford (documentation photographs), **Bob Winfield (Special recognition for moving and storing material),** and Bob Wright (sawhorses ) who joined the Society on Nov.12th

**MEMBERS, IN ADDITION TO ABOVE, WHO ATTENDED:** Jeff Cessna, Joe Dehmer, Gerald Elgert, Jonathan Ertman, Jonathan Harris, Cynthia Hunter & Alf Shupe, Anita James, Pat Jayne, John & Jane Kuehn, Chuck Mason, Holly & Steve McNeil, Wendell & Jo Ann Mohr, Andy & Savannah Muir, and Georgia Olmstead. Apologies if we missed someone who did not sign in.

**YOU MIGHT BE  
ADDICTED TO  
TRILOBITES IF:**

You bought a trilobite instead of having your youngest child vaccinated against early childhood diseases.

You don't understand the danger in asking your wife if you can display your trilobites in her new china cabinet.

You fall asleep by counting trilobites leaping over crinoids (stems AND crowns).

Your pet rock is just a matrix for your favorite trilobite.

You can remember the age of every trilobite in your collection, but can't remember your anniversary.

You sleep in an enrolled position.

You tell your wife to get off her pygidium and cook you some supper.

Your last child's middle name is Psychopyge.

You've surpassed the limit on ALL your credit cards with trilobite purchases.

Santa filled your stocking with nothing less than 250,000,000 years old.

All your on-line time is spent at Kevin Brett's Trilobite Page: <<http://www.geocities.com/trilobitologist/>>.



Lifted from Paleontology  
Society of Austin (TX)  
Nov 2006

## THE NIGHT BEFORE TERTIARY

'Twas the night before Tertiary and all through the crater,  
Not a creature was stirring, not even a gator...  
Their carcasses were flung in the wind without care;  
Making their species exceedingly rare.

Then from the earth there arose such a clatter...  
As earthquakes and volcanoes spewed out much matter.  
Living in darkness, what should disappear...  
The plankton, the plants, what else is not clear!

Out T Rex, out pterosaurs, ceratopsians, and raptors,  
Comet-killed ammonites and all of their captors.  
Many small mammals burrowed to bed,  
While fire and brimstone roared overhead.

Birds flew away to avoid the hot blast...  
Going like heck until it had past.  
Then as the snow and ice hit the ground...  
The temperature dropped as things turned around.

Mammals came out of their holes with glee,  
To eat bugs and berries, and of course just to pee.  
After a time the sun showed some light;  
Evolution kicked in with all of its might.

The earth had survived a terrible fright.  
Merry Christmas for some; for dinos, GOOD NIGHT!  
By Stew Spezzano,  
from the Dinosaur Forum on Compuserve

## WILDACRES WORKSHOP

By Steve Weinberger (Edited)

Wildacres is a 1200 acre retreat in the Blue Ridge Mountains near Asheville, NC. Accommodations are modern, motel style rooms with private bath. Numerous classrooms and large meeting spaces grace the campus as does a dining hall where family style meals are served. Wildacres is peaceful - no radios, TV's, or automobile noises.



The dates for the 35th year of EFMLS workshops have been set by the Wildacres Foundation: Spring: April 18 to 24, Fall: September 8 to 14, 2008.

The week is made up of two semesters with a "free day" between the semesters so you can go off and explore, join an organized field trip or just relax and enjoy the Wildacres campus. Some classes run the full 4 days of instruction and you will be able to take only one of these. Other classes last for 2 days and you will be able to take 2 different classes during the week if you sign up for any of these.

Tuition for 2008 will be \$330 per person, the same as last year. This tuition covers room and board for the week plus gratuity for the Wildacres permanent staff. (There will be a small additional fee imposed by your instructor to cover materials that you use during their classes.)

You will need to indicate which classes you would be interested in taking. (Classes are assigned based on your selections.) We limit the number of students in class so that everyone can obtain maximum attention from the instructor so once a class is filled, our registrar needs to know your 2nd, 3rd or 4th choice in order to be sure that you are assigned to something you really want to take.

A registration form is available from your President or Newsletter editor and can also be downloaded from the EFMLS website at <<http://www.amfed.org/efmls/wildacres.htm>>. (You will also find more information about Wildacres and the classes on the website.) No registrations will be accepted prior to January 1, 2008.

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**WEB SITES**

**Gemstone Eggs Collection** at <<http://www.oeufspolis.com/index.html>> is by Frenchman, Claude Pélesson. It is accessible by selecting “English” not “Entrez.” Featuring a brief history with intriguing details, it goes on to “My Eggs Collection” where more than 760 eggs are featured on 32 pages. The many beautiful eggs show cavities, patterns, colors, inclusions and interesting cuts. All are 5.9 X 4.5 cm. You can see rough to egg, and sort by locality of origin. Links to other egg collectors and eggs for trade are cited. \*\*\*Eggs-actly what you wanted! Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall. Humpty Dumpty had a great fall. He had to to make up for the lousy spring.\*\*\*

**IMA Official List of Minerals, RRUFF Project** at <<http://rruff.info/ima/>> allows you to peruse the entire list of 4253 known minerals! A Sherlock can check out minerals by selecting the name, then, by clicking “HOM”, get crystal data, physical properties, optical properties, cell data, X-ray powder pattern, chemistry, occurrence, association, distribution, name basis, and references. A veritable Encyclopedia! Holmes could also find all the minerals that contain selected elements. Some interesting back ground as I was seeking permission from Dr. Robert T. Downs at the University of AZ, Tucson, to publish this link: According to him The Handbook of Mineralogy (HOM) used to be owned by Mineral Data Publishing. They gave it away to the Mineralogical Society of America. The acronym RRUFF is something that benefactor Mike Scott, founding President of Apple computers chose for the web site. The name will be accepted as soon as the site is high quality and useful. Scott picked the name Apple for computers without any link between computers and fruit, and now Apple rolls off the tongue. \*\*\*I told my Mom when I was very young that when I grew up I wanted to be a mineral collector. Mom said “You can’t do both.”\*\*\* \*\*\*The female Russian collector used Fleisher’s Glossary of Mineral Species as her list until RRUFF came along. Her name: Ida Checkov\*\*\*



**December 2007, National Geographic Magazine-Bizarre Dinosaurs** is a major feature of this issue See <<http://magma.nationalgeographic.com/ngm/ngm.html>>, click on Bizarre Dinosaurs and you are your way to an intriguing amount of information: Feature main page, Photo gallery, John Updike interview, Dinosaurs 1942-2000 about changing knowledge and depictions in art, by Thomas Holt who is a Univ. of MD paleontologist, Closer look at Bizarre Dinosaurs, Nigersaurus and gallery, Dinosaur wallpaper for your computer, and finally, time-consuming dinosaur jigsaw puzzles. I learned that a new species of Dinosaur is being discovered on average every two weeks! See P. 7 for information about exhibition at Explorer’s Hall.

\*\*\* They found Dino coprolite, hard as stone. It must have been really uncomfortable for the dinosaur. \*\*\*

**PETRIFIED LIGHTNING (Fulgurite):** By Van A. Wimmer, Sr.



Along the ocean beaches, sandy hills or dunes, people sometime come across a strange hollow tube of cemented sand, sometimes in the shape of a tree branch, sometimes like a small straight rod. This is a piece of “Petrified Lightning”, created in a fraction of a second when lightning struck the earth and fused sand particles into silica glass. Scientists call these fragile objects “Fulgurites”, from the Latin word Fulgur, meaning lightning. When a bolt of lightning strikes an area of dry sand, the intense heat, with temperatures as high as 3,272 degrees, melts the sand surrounding the stroke into a rough glass tube. In as short a time as 100 millionths of a second, a stroke of lightning pierces the earth, and leaves this fused record of its searing path. With diameters from one half inch to two inches, some fulgurites are ten or more feet long, although most are less than a foot. They are nearly always found in pieces, for the brittle cast breaks easily if jarred, dropped or stepped upon. The inside walls of the tube are glassy and lustrous, while the outside is rough with sand particles adhering to it. They are usually tan or black, but an almost transparent white Fulgurite has been found in Florida. They have been found in almost all parts of the U.S., wherever people happen to recognize what they are. Star City Rock & Gem Journal, Roanoke M&G Society Oct 2007

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