

THE ROCKHOUNDER



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Where we Collect



2007

REGULAR MEETING 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". Meetings are held the 2nd Monday of the month from September to June. Next meeting: Monday February 12th in the dining room of the Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Drive, Rockville. The short business meeting will begin at 7:45pm but the room is available to us at 7:30 pm so come early and see what you and others have on the Show Table and chat with old friends. The program will be "Deep Sea Drilling -- Results from a Recent Expedition of the JOIDES Resolution Drillship.", presented by Mrs. Julie Masteller an 8th grade science teacher at Herbert Hoover Middle School. She spent a couple of weeks on the 470 foot long ship "Resolution" on a deep sea drilling research project.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS Will meet on Monday February 19, 2007 at 7:30 pm at the home of David and Nancy Ballard. Any member is welcome to attend but please let Nancy know if you plan to attend. .

ROSTER CHANGES

Re-instated member:

DINSMORE, David, 1949 Medallion Court, Forest Hill MD 21050-2761, davensteph10@aol.com, Phone 410 838 8835

Correction to roster:

MORGAN, TIM, & McMURTRY, Michelle, 8057 Tuckerman Lane, 20854-3741 Potomac MD 20854-3741

RUSSELL SHEW died on December 20, 2006. Although not a member of our Society, he was a well known having served as President for the Gem, Lapidary, and Mineral Society of DC, and, for 23 years!, as their Show chairman. In 1993 he, and his wife, Helen opened a studio at the Torpedo Factory in Alexandria VA. At the time of his death he was the senior-most member of the GLMSDC. Russ will be missed.

FIELD TRIPS

No field trips are scheduled for February. Get in touch with the Field Trip Chair Anita James to inquire about trips at Phone 301 652 5527 or E Mail <johnjames04@comcast.net>.

Anita is investigating an "Inside" Society trip to the American Museum of Natural History in NYC (and possibly the Harvard Mineral Museum in Cambridge MA) for sometime this Spring. The

AMNH special *Gold* exhibition runs through August 19, 2007. Admission to *Gold* is by ticketed timed entry only. Tickets to *Gold*, which include Museum admission, are \$21.00 for adults, \$16.00 for students and seniors, and \$12.00 for children. Meals are at your own expense. The Board will pay part or all of the bus cost. If it is a one day trip, it will be a 16 hour day with 10 of that bus riding time. Anita needs a count for planning. Do you want to go? Let her know if you favor a one day trip or two. What dates are best for you? Anita must hear from you to plan this event. Help Anita by responding NOW.

DEADLINE for the March 2007 Rockhoulder is January 29th.

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REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

President Scott Braley called the January 8, 2007 meeting, with about 40 people attending, to order at 7:48 pm. The December minutes were unanimously approved. Scott read a letter of appreciation from Dr. Jeffrey Post for the donation made by the Society for minerals specimens. (See Page 9) Scott reported that there has been a good response from dealers for the March Show. No one responded to his request for audit of the 2006 books. We still need a Secretary. Wendell Mohr announced the 2007 Wildacres workshops and had application forms. Nancy Ballard had sign up sheets for volunteers working at the Show and emphasized the need for help at the "Touch'N'Feel" and "Mini Mine" at the Show. Bob Irby and Heather Felsen are working on Demonstrations and Exhibits for the Show.



Rod Towers introduced the speaker, Courtland Lee, promoter responsible for the selection of Patuxent River Stone as the MD State Gemstone. Mr. Lee had an extensive display of material from the Eastern U.S., most of which had been displayed at the November Carnegie Show. At age 12, he worked at a rock shop in Whitefield NH, later studied under Arthur Montgomery, received an MS in Economic Geology from AZ State University, and has worked with the sand and gravel industry, as well as many other geological projects.

He discussed many geologic features of the Appalachian area, including diamonds (in WV), Tourmaline, emerald, and sapphires. He predicts another deposit like Franklin in the mountain range. Compared to the West, the East is poorly explored because of the vegetation cover. He posits that many significant deposits are yet to be found. A large part of his talk was about Patuxent River Agate. He maintains that it is silicated dinosaur bone, showing features similar to bone from the Colorado Plateau in UT. Mr. Sterling Wade of Moab UT a miner and dealer for over 30 years has said that it looks exactly like dinosaur bone from there. Found in many locations, the stone comes from the Arundel formation which, he said, is related to the Morrison formation in the west. The stones can be found in areas along the route US 1 corridor. Because of trespassing concerns he gave no specific locations. Lee cited the "Maryland Clay Products", Cherokee-Sanford quarry now closed, and planned to be an industrial park. He said that the Patuxent River Stone is out of the paleontological realm and, because of the designation as gemstone, into gemological sphere so it is legal to collect. He suggests researching geological maps for likely areas to look, in the 110 plus or minus 10 million year old Cretaceous gravels. Rep. James Hubbard MD Delegate, Dist. 23-A, sponsored the bill for gemstone designation. He cited several articles about the stone and exhibits at various shows. He touched upon Blue Ridge native copper in metabasalt deposits, iron ore at MD 197 and BW Pkwy., and Williamsite along the MD/PA line. Questions from the audience were answered.

After a short break, the meeting reconvened. No field trips are planned for January and February. Juan Proaño reported that we are solvent and have received deposits from 19 Show dealers. Paul Vance reiterated his offer to teach cabbing and asked that people sign up. Don Turner emphasized the need for Workshop volunteers. George Durland made posters, automobile posters, and fliers available and asked that everyone distribute them widely. He had sign up lists for Giant Food stores. George also said that Jeff Post was asked for photographs of the minerals we donated to the NMNH. Guests were to be introduced but left after the program. Each junior again received a shark tooth and a polished rock. After Show Table discussions, UV demonstrations, and Prize drawings, the meeting was adjourned at 10:52 pm.

Secretary Pro Tem Wendell Mohr

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm on January 15th, 2007 by President, Scott Braley, at the home of the Ballards. Present were Board members Nancy Ballard, Scott Braley, George Durland, Heather Felsen, Anita James, Harry Lupuloff, Wendell Mohr, Juan Proaño, and Rod Towers. Non-Board members were David Ballard and John James.

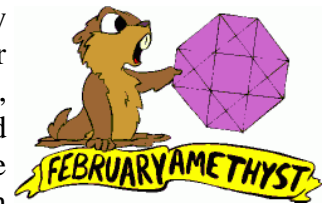
Anita James said she was unable to contact with the University of PA museum in Philadelphia. She is exploring the possibility of a bus trip to the American Museum of Natural History in NYC and/or the Harvard Mineralogical Museum in Boston. If travel is by bus, the Society would pay for transportation. Anita needs feedback from members to gauge interest and get a count. The NYC proposal could be done in one long day, avoiding hotel costs. Open to juniors, Spring break was suggested for timing. George Durland suggested a Franklin NJ trip. The need for state safety training for VA quarry trips needs clarification.

Harry Lupuloff is contacting program speaker candidates. He indicates that Government speakers are not allowed to accept honorariums so donations to a charity are an alternative.

We should have heard by November about our 501.C.3 non profit application . George will make inquiry.

(Continued on Page 3)

FEBRUARY MEMBER BIRTHDAYS : Christine Abelow, Nancy Ballard, Betsy Hallman, Eric Kindahl, Phil Krug, Andy Muir, Tom Parnell, Alison Post, Ginger Posthumus, Juan Proaño, Lester Schaub, Carol Smith, Rod Towers, Inga Wells, Robin Wilson. **The February Birthstone is Amethyst.** Genuine Faceted Stone and Genuine Cabochon Amethyst is a quartz which occurs as crystals or masses. The presence of manganese in quartz creates amethyst, but it is the element iron which lends amethyst its violet hue. Amethyst ranges from pale lavender to deep purple. Exposure to heat can cause amethyst crystals to turn yellow, brown, green or colorless. It is found in Brazil, Madagascar, the Urals of Russia, Namibia, Uruguay, California / USA, Montana / USA, Colorado/ USA and India, among others. Amethyst's specific gravity is 2.65 and it rates as a 7 on Moh's Hardness Scale. Until large deposits of the mineral were discovered in Brazil, amethyst was considered a precious stone. The name, "Amethyst" is derived from the Greek for "without drunkenness" because the mineral was historically believed both to bring temperance and restore sobriety to its wearers. It is known as the "Bishop's Stone" because amethyst rings have been given to popes and bishops at their investitures since the 13th Century. In the 1500's, the following French story was written to give amethyst a mythological origin: The drunken god Bacchus, irritated at being admonished about the savage behavior of his pet leopards, decided to loose them on the next unsuspecting mortal. The hapless virgin Amethyst, on her way to worship at the temple of the goddess Diana, was nearly killed by the beasts. Diana intervened, however, turning Amethyst into a colorless stone to grant her immortality. Bacchus, grief-stricken at what he had caused, poured the remainder of his grape wine onto the stone, turning it forever violet. Modern metaphysicians use amethyst to treat insomnia, headaches and arthritis, as well as disorders of the nervous and digestive systems. Elixirs of amethyst are used even today to treat these afflictions.



References: Schumann, Walter, Handbook of Rocks, Minerals & Gemstones, Harper Collins Publishers and Houghton Mifflin Company, NY NY, 1993. Melody, Love Is In The Earth - A Kaleidoscope of Crystals Update, Earth-Love Publishing House, Wheat Ridge CO, 1995. Sullivan, Kevin, The Crystal Handbook, Penguin Putnam Inc. Publishers, NY NY, 1987. Taylor, Ken and Joules, Crystal Lore (Series 1), internet source, <<http://www.wordwrights.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk/nonfic/ameth.html>> 1994.

By Thomas Bourne, Shin-Skiner News, February 2003

BOARD MEETING MINUTES (Continued from Page 2) Wendell said that our "Each One Teach One" entry last year was not acted upon. George Durland should re-submit the application. Wendell will revise the Society Brochure and look at need for By Laws revisions. He reminded that complimentary tickets to our show need to be made available to speakers, quarry field trip contacts, and others exceptionally helpful.

Juan reviewed finances, which are in good shape, and said that two checks remain un-cashed. The 2006 books need auditing and Scott will make contacts for help. Ladd's insurance binder copies were received for the Show and Field trips. Juan asked for Board consideration of a higher allowance for attendees to the EFMLS Convention before the next one (Newark NY, Oct. 5-7).

Scott said that he would be working on the Society Web Site after the Show. Scott reported that 20 dealers have responded for the March show and we need only one more. A couple of dealers were mentioned by Heather and George. Scott has a list of possibilities from which to choose. Show post cards are to be printed and mailed yet. Scott would like Joel Rosen to check the Club Trailer for condition of things. Heather reports 16 exhibits invitations have been sent out but only 3 applications have been received. She has coordinated with Bob Irby who overlooks demonstrations. Wendell will get American Geological Institute information to Heather, produce the exhibitor certificates again this year, and handle signs. Jo Ann Mohr is making cloth bags for junior's specimens. Nancy called Jim and Michelle Michaelis and confirmed that they will manage the mini-mine and junior activities. George discussed fluorescent exhibit needs and enlisted Scott and Rod to participate along with himself. Scott will arrange tables, chairs, and security for the Show. Heather discussed findings for the shop cabs. It was decided to let dealers fill the need. Meeting was adjourned at 8:58 pm. Secretary Pro Tem, Wendell Mohr



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, there will be 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!



WILDACRES WORKSHOP Wendell Mohr or Scott Braley can supply registration forms for the April 20 - 26 session. Click on the Wildacres tab for information at <www.amfed.org/efmls>. Tuition for 2007 at EFMLS Wildacres will be \$330 per person. This includes lodging in very comfortable private rooms, all meals and gratuity for the permanent Wildacres facility staff. Get a **free** CD-ROM entitled "It's Wildacres...It's Wonderful and It's Yours" by writing or sending an E-mail to Steve Weinberger (P. O. Box 302, Glyndon MD 21071-0302, <cscrystals2@verizon.net>) for your own copy.

Wildacres is situated on 1600 acres at an elevation of 3,300 feet atop a mountain called Pompey's Knob, near the Blue Ridge Parkway. It is halfway between Asheville and Blowing Rock in North Carolina's Blue Ridge Mountains. Our Board of Directors offers a scholarship to a member of our Society who has never been to Wildacres, has been a member of the Society for at least a year, and has been active in society affairs, especially helping at our show. Nominations (Members may nominate themselves) are to be submitted to the Board. If you've never been to Wildacres, you're missing a wonderful week of fun, learning and sharing.



DIAMOND FIND By Patty Wooten of the Pine Bluff (Arkansas) Commercial Staff. January 4, 2007
A diamond found by a Jefferson County man is the fourth-largest diamond unearthed in 2006 at the Crater of Diamonds State Park. Gary Dunlap, a Pine Bluff Arsenal employee, discovered a 2.37 carat white diamond at the 37.5-acre plowed field near Murfreesboro. "It was pure luck," Dunlap said. "It rained real hard Saturday so mother nature did all the work." At 9:15 a.m. Sunday, following Saturday's hard rain, Dunlap said he looked down and saw what looked like a piece of shiny metal. "I picked it up and said 'Oh my gosh, it's a white diamond!'" Dunlap's weekend trip to the park was not his first. "It was our 10th or 11th trip," the resident of the Jefferson community said. "We usually take a camper and stay at the park grounds but this time we stayed in a hotel. My wife wanted to stay in the hotel so I went to the park by myself."

When he returned to the hotel room, Dunlap said his wife, Thelma, told him "I'm not coming back again. I'm tired of it." He sat down on the bed, reached in his shirt pocket and pulled out the little box containing the diamond. At first Thelma thought her husband was playing a prank on her, but when she realized it was no prank, she nearly collapsed, Dunlap said. "She got to shaking and I thought she was going to pass out," Dunlap said. He named the diamond the "Star of Thelma" in honor of his wife. Dunlap said he's not sure what he's going to do with the diamond. "Right now, we're just going to play with it," he said. "We may consider selling it later after we get it appraised."

While he was getting his diamond registered and certified at the park, Dunlap said another man found a one-third carat yellow diamond. Park Interpreter Aneesha Rasheed described Dunlap's diamond as a shiny stone that's sparkling white. "The diamond is a little larger than an English Pea, but not round," Rasheed said. "The diamond is an octahedral shape, like two pyramids joined at the base. This is a shape that I've seen many times in the larger diamonds that have been found here at the park."

More than 75,000 diamonds have been unearthed at the Crater of Diamonds State Park since those first found in 1906 by the farmer who once owned the property. The largest diamond unearthed at the park was the "Uncle Sam," a 40.23-carat rose-tinted gem found in 1924 during an early, privately operated mining operation there. The diamond remains the largest diamond ever unearthed in the United States.

▲ © January 4, 2007 by Pine Bluff Commercial. Used with permission and slightly edited.

Photo Aneesah Rasheed, Park interpreter, and with permission of Crater of Diamonds State Park. ►



General information at the Park web site at <<http://www.craterofdiamondsstatepark.com/>>

HELP!! A Secretary is still desperately needed. We need a permanent show chairman. Volunteers are needed to serve on the Science Fair Committee on March 17th. Let President, Scott Braley, know which of these needs you will fill and/or get more information. Short Item, Big Need

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES: Montgomery Co. Recreation Dept./Montgomery Parks.

Stone Sculpture Age 18 up. 10 sessions, starting either Wed. Feb. 22 or Thur. Feb. 22 at Concord Center. Instructor Annamyra Ruppert. \$145 fee, furnish own tools, supplies and stone.

Jewelry There are too many classes (11) to cover here. Get the Montgomery Guide of Recreation and Park Programs Winter 2006-7 to see the selection.

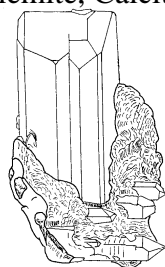
Crystal Magic For ages 5 and up, 1 session, Tues. Jan 16, 7 pm – 8:15 pm, Black Hill Visitor Center, Friends of Black Hill \$4.

Geology Rocks! Rock Creek rocks, For ages 8-14 years, 1 Class, Wed. Feb. 14, 3:45-4:45pm., \$5, Meadowside Nature Center. Leader Naturalist Melanie Marshall.

SHOW TABLE

January 8, 2007

Scott Braley	Smoky Quartz with Aragonite* Galena and Quartz*	Desert Rose Mine, NM
Pat Repik-Byrne	3 fluorescents: Fluorite with hydrocarbon bubbles	Cave-in-Rock IL
	Hourglass Gypsum	Alberta, Canada
	Zinc Oxide (Probably melted chimney debris)	NH
George Durland	2 fluorescents:Hardystonite, Willemite, Calcite, Clinohedrite	Franklin NJ
	Calcite	Pachapaqui Mine, Ancash, Peru
Jonathan Harris	Beryl*	Kemp Mill MD
	Titanite (Sphene)*	Fanny Frost Q., Woodstock MD
Bob Irby	Faceted Fire Opal	Mexico
Pat Jayne	Legrandite (Alphabetic:L,M,N)	Mexico
	Mimetite	AZ or Mexico
	Natrolite	NJ
Alexandra Kindahl	Adventurine, Rose Quartz, Mahogany Obsidian, Lapis, Red Calcite, Aragonite, Nickel from Smelter	Unknown localities
Eric Kindahl	Tourmalinated Quartz	Unknown locality
	Secondary Copper Minerals*	Albaugh Farm, Loys Station, Frederick Co., MD
Rory McElravy	Rose Amethyst Geode	Madagascar
Wendell Mohr	Fluorescent Willemite, Calcite and Franklinite*	Sterling Hill Mine, NJ
Andy Muir	Dolomite and Calcite Crystals*	Pinesburg Q., Williamsport MD
Joel Rosen	Vesuvianite	Asbestos, Quebec, Canada
Rod Towers	Microscope and Specimens	



*= Self-collected

EVENT The Montgomery County Historical Society will stage an exhibit "Mining in Montgomery" at the Beall-Dawson House, 111 West Montgomery Ave., Rockville MD from February 28th to September 23rd. Find out about this part of county history and the natural resources that have been mined and quarried here over centuries. A talk on gold mines will be given by Walter Goetz (A regular exhibitor at our show) on March 11th (One of the days of our show) at 3:30 pm. The talk is included with admission (Free for MCHS members) but reservations are required.



What does a mineral collector who loves his pickup truck do on February 14? He gives it a valenshine! What did the Magnetite Lodestone say to the paper clip on Valentine's Day? "I find you very attractive."

SHOW SAFETY

by Bill Klose, EFMLS Safety Chair



The sites we select for Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Shows can range from a small local exhibit in a Fire Hall, Mall, or Shopping Center to an International Exhibit in a Major Museum or Exhibition Center. In addition to ensuring that the public enjoys the exhibition, the promoters of the exhibit have a responsibility to all participants that they return home safe and healthy.



The initial step insuring a safe show is the selection of the exhibition facility. It must meet local, State, and National Codes. Do not exceed the floor load (weight) limits, capacity of individuals allowed in the facility at one time, or electrical capacity. The aisle widths and space should allow the public adequate access to the exhibits and dealers, including enough room for handicapped devices such as wheel chairs and electric carts. The facility must have adequate space for the expected number of patrons, including enough parking, including for the handicapped. At large shows there may be a requirement for traffic control and security and this may be provided by the shows sponsors, a security contractor, or local police. The facility must meet the requirements of the American Disabilities Act, with access ramps and bathroom facilities for the disabled, etc. Adequate numbers of well lighted and identified emergency exits must be available. Inside and outside lighting should be adequate for viewing the exhibits and to provide security.

Make sure that required licenses, fees, and liability and theft insurance are obtained for the show and by the dealers and food vendors. Food vendors must meet the standards established by the local health department.

While setting up the exhibits and dealers booths, make sure that the tables are rated for the weight they will be holding. Properly secure heavy, sharp, or hazardous materials (including dangerous chemicals or minerals containing them) so that they will not fall or come in contact with the viewing public. Even small specimens can be a safety hazard in the hands or mouths of children. [Ed Note: It is also essential to double check to see that the table legs are sturdy and "locked" into place properly so they don't collapse.]

Make sure that electrical cords are heavy enough for the service required and are grounded. Properly secure the cords so that they do not present a trip hazard and will not be run over by vehicles or other equipment and become damaged and an electrical shock or fire hazard.

Lighting should be properly ventilated and spaced to reduce heat build up. Material used to decorate the facility should be fire retardant and meet local fire codes.

Display case lids should be provided with positive supports that cannot be knocked out if bumped by mistake when the case is open. Lighted cases should be ventilated to prevent heat build up and potential fire.

Proper lifting and transporting practices should be followed while bringing in and out and setting up and tearing down the exhibits and equipment. These areas should be isolated from the public by ropes or tape during this time.

During the show, keep obstacles such as packages and packing material secure so as to not create a trip or fire hazard. Ensure that all appropriate safety precautions associated with demonstrations are followed, such as the wearing of safety equipment, and that proper equipment set up and operation are followed, to keep the exhibitor and public safe and to demonstrate proper safety precautions as well as the purpose of the demonstration.

From EFMLS News February 2006



RETURN TO 1989 I found it necessary to temporarily delay my data delving, but all now is back to what passes for normal, so here is a the promised recap of the March 1989 show.

As some of you may recall, this one marked the 25th anniversary of the event, and it was a great success thanks to the efforts of Show Chairman Larry Harrison and the many members who supported him. There were about 1400 paid admissions, plus at least that number of kids. In addition to those, on the day preceding the official opening of the show, about 110 students from three different schools made a tour. George Fetterly reported that about 300 more visitors were "run through" the workshop on Saturday and Sunday. That's a lot of grinding and polishing. As mementos of the show Larry planned to give 25 silver dollars as door prizes. However, he had no luck obtaining them at local banks, so when wife (Continued on page 7)



Corky called from Texas where she had been visiting, he asked her if she could round them up down there. Within days they arrived, loose and rattling in a FedEx bag, in time for the show! Wendell Mohr arranged with the US Postal Service to have one of its members present at Saturday's show to hand cancel envelopes with a specially made postmark, on an envelope designed by a friend, Peter Verne. (I still have one somewhere.) Oh, yes, there were exhibits too, 30 of them, all interesting.

Veep Gordon Austin chaired the April meeting since Prez Juan Proaño was in Venezuela. (That man do get around!). Wendell and his co-judge Lou Williams had reviewed the exhibits at the Montgomery Area Science Fair and reported that the participation and exhibit quality were higher than in past years. Of the exhibits, 23 had a relation to Earth Sciences, and the two judges selected as award winners: Junior, 12-year-old Brian Newbury of Ridgeview Intermediate School, for a project entitled "An Investigation into Crater Formations", and Senior, 17-year-old Jonathan Goldstein of Springbrook HS whose project was "Simulation of a Volcanic Cloud Using Parallel Computer". The evening's program was given by member Mike Ellwood who spoke about "The Cleaning and Care of Fossils." Mike took the audience from the sites where fossils are found to their resting places in display cases. While about 50% of cleaning can be done at the collecting point, the delicate part is done at home, using water, dental tools, chisels, and soft brushes. He cautioned NOT to use soap or detergent, also that use of ultrasonic cleaners should be with care.

Two field trips were scheduled for April, the first to Henson Creek in Prince Georges County (near Rosecroft Raceway) for fossil casts of Cucullaea Gigantea, a clam about the size of a softball. The other trip was to Lee Creek Mine in Aurora NC, well-known for its fossil trove.

Continuing on fossils, in the May '89 "Rockhounder", Editor Nancy Ballard copied an article she had lifted from "The Coral Geode" called "Fossils as Medicine". It's too long to repeat here, but use of fossilized materials in various forms to treat ailments was common in the Middle Ages. The article also pointed out that even in 1989 in some parts of the world coal is carried in one's pockets to prevent colds. Guess it beats the asafetida Tom Sawyer had to wear around his neck. At May's meeting Prez Juan reported on the most recent of his travels, this time to the EFMLS Convention at Hickory NC. The highlight of the convention was the election of our member Fred Schaefermeyer as President of the Fed. The evening's program was on the cleaning of mineral specimens, given by VP Gordon Austin. Similar, but not identical, to the cleaning of fossils, but distilled water is to be used, and then only if the mineral doesn't react unfavorably to it (e.g., halite!).

Hope to be back next month.. Meanwhile, THINK SHOW, not SNOW.

Jack Busch

OUR GEM-MINERAL-FOSSIL SHOW, at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds, is **March 10-11**. An application for YOUR exhibit(s) is included with this issue. Exhibits are generally not seen at commercial shows. Get your completed form in to Heather Felsen, Exhibits Chair. If you feel you have not got enough for an exhibit, speak up at the February meeting and perhaps you can pair up with another for a shared exhibit. Juniors, here is your incentive to exhibit at our show. The best junior exhibit in the show will be given the Lillian Turner Award, a \$100 U.S. savings bond. Rules say that you must be age 17 or younger and the case should be substantially your own work. If you have won previously, the case must be substantially different from the previous entry. Shop leader, Don Turner, needs shop instructors. Learn how to make cabochons under the guidance of Paul Vance. He has offered to teach you at his own home workshop. Give Paul a call at 301 935 5560 to arrange a time, preferably during the day time. If you learn, you must help demonstrate cabbing to guests at our Show. Help George Durland with advertising by distributing posters and fliers far and wide. A poster for your vehicle with most important information can be a moving billboard. Other needs are able-bodied people to help set up and take down. Nancy Ballard has sign-up sheets for the many needs. Handle admissions, work at the information table, oversee the raffle, staff the give-away table, help educate kids, staff the fluorescent exhibits. If every local member does their part we will have another successful show. Volunteers get free admission to the show. It depends on YOU.

Fossil Fest 2007: Dinosaurs and More Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History. Saturday February 10th, 10 am—4 pm. Fossil Fest is a one day event designed for children, adults and amateur paleontologists. Explore over 30 different demonstrations, presentations, educational games and art projects organized by our paleontologists. Specially appropriate for older children and adults. Information table. Learn about paleontology, Take a tour or see a presentation, hands-on activities. A new, compact, easy to operate scanning electron microscope (SEM) on loan from Angstrom Scientific will be set up. Amber presentation. Coal plant and animal fossils. Paleo Art. “Behind The Scenes Tours” require free tickets. Groups of 6-8 children (and parents) can excavate simulated fossil deposits. Fossil dig recommended for children 5-12. Demonstrations at the FossilLab will include preparation work on dinosaurs and early whales. Learn about seashells through time. Children discover fossils searching through a gravel bed, experts will identify them, label and bag to take home. Bring a treasure in and have it identified by a Smithsonian expert. Learn about rising seas. Dr. Matthew Carrano takes you (Free tickets required) on a spotlighted tour of the Dinosaur Hall for 30-45 minutes.

For additional information see <<http://www.nmnh.si.edu/paleo/fest/index.html>>

The Smithsonian thanks:

The Museum of the Earth at the Paleontological Research Institution, Ithaca, NY

PPCS Phosphate Inc., Lee Creek Mine, Aurora, NC
Strata, a division of Corastar, Inc.

Apple Computer, Inc.

Here is an in-front-of and “Behind the Scenes” opportunity you have asked about. There is probably more to do here than time will allow! Have fun. This is BEFORE the February Meeting.



INGREDIENTS OF AN ARROWHEAD The American Indian wasn't fussy about what he used to make an arrowhead as long as the material would suit his need. Throughout the ages the Indian's choicest material for arrowheads was flint, and flint-related rocks such as chalcedony, agate, novaculite, jasper, opal, etc. He liked obsidian, too. These are silicon dioxide glass rocks of nature and, like glass, they flake beautifully in conchoidal fractures and shape easily into sharp cutting edges. Quartzite, which is more granular silica was used extensively, but was more difficult to shape.

The Indians of the Eastern Seaboard were starved for the good flint-like rocks and their arrowheads are the ugliest of all since they are made of slates, quartzite, traprock, schists, and other forms of rocks which a Wyoming Indian would have written off as junk.

There are rumors of Wyoming jade arrowheads, but they probably aren't true. The Indians of the Valley of Mexico made beautiful jadeite sacrificial knives, but they weren't flaked. They abraded, honed, and polished them to shape.

Probably the most spectacular arrowhead ever found was a fabulous fluted Clovis point struck out of a large quartz. This diamond-clear point was found by a farmer in North Carolina who then took it home and used it to strike against steel to start kitchen fires. The now-damaged point rests in the Smithsonian.

Some arrowheads and spear points were made of wood, especially the stunning arrow. Many were made of bone, antler, and tusk. The Indian tribes bordering the Gulf of Mexico used garfish scales extensively. Everywhere, bottles, insulators, and other glass articles were popular. Best of all, Indians liked the white man's iron. Barrel hoops were a favorite source.

The Indians also traded fur pelts to the white man for steel arrowheads.

Author unknown, from the Ginkgo Minerals Society, 7/03, via Breccia 8/05, via The Coral Geode of the Tampa Bay Mineral and Science Club 11/06



LETTER OF THANKS FOR SOCIETY DONATION:

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
National Museum of Natural History
10th & Constitution Avenue NW
Washington DC 20560

December 20, 2006

Mr. Scott Braley
President, Gem, Lapidary & Mineral Society
of Montgomery County, MD, Inc.
193 24 Ridgecrest Drive
Germantown, MD 20874-1541

Dear Scott:

It gives me great pleasure to formally thank the Gem, Lapidary & Mineral Society of Montgomery County, MD, Inc. for the very generous gift of \$2950.00 to be used for the purchase of three mineral specimens for the Smithsonian's National Gem and Mineral Collection: 1) native silver on acanthite - China, 2) calcite - China, and 3) eudidymite -Malawi. Each of these specimens is a significant acquisition for our collection. As you are aware, our mineral acquisition funds are very limited, and therefore, the financial support provided over the years by your organization has been much appreciated and has contributed greatly to the building of our collection. When the above specimens are exhibited or shown as images, they will be acknowledged as gifts from the Gem, Lapidary & Mineral Society of Montgomery County, MD, Inc.

Finally, I would also like to thank you and the members of your organization for the enthusiastic support provided to me and my colleagues through the years.

Best Regards,



Jeffrey E. Post
Curator
National Gem and Mineral Collection

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY SEMINARS: Unless otherwise indicated, talks will be given in the USGS Visitor's Center, Reston VA. The schedule is subject to change. Check <<http://minerals.usgs.gov/east/speakers.html>> before attending a seminar.

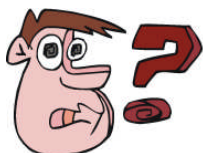


February 19, 1:00 pm, Ivette Torres and Peter Kuck, USGS, Reston VA—Mineral Industry of Cuba.

March 6, 10:30 am, Room 4C315— Dmitry Rundqvist and Sergei Cherkasov, Vernadsky State Geological Museum, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow, Russia. The mineral resources of Russia: Challenges, solutions and significance for the world.

March 19, 1:00 pm, William E. Brooks, USGS, Reston VA—Mineral, energy, and fertilizer resources of the north coast of Peru: Perspective from the Santa Rita B archeological site.

April 9, 1:00 pm, Stephen Peters, USGS, Reston VA—Syn-deformational features of Carlin-type gold deposits in Nevada and China.



If a petrified tree falls in the forest with no one to hear it, then who will notify the next of kindling? When a ladder was stolen from a quarry work shed the quarry manager said that further steps would be taken.

Denver Museum of Nature & Science Receives Largest

Aquamarine Specimen Ever Found in North America

Nov. 10, 2006. The Denver Museum of Nature & Science has received a spectacular new donation to its gem and mineral collection: the largest aquamarine specimen ever found in North America. The reconstructed specimen consists of more than 100 aquamarine crystals and other gems. It was discovered in 2004 by a lone prospector in a claim known as "Diane's Pocket" near the summit of Mount Antero in the Sawatch Range of central Colorado. On permanent public display in the Coors Gem and Mineral Hall on Friday, November 17th, the aquamarine was donated by Museum trustee and avid mineral collector Bruce and Cody Oreck. Funds for the exhibition were generously donated by Newmont Mining Corp., Hadley Stuart, Jr., Cortlandt Dietler, and many other friends of the Museum's gems and minerals collection.



The specimen is dazzling to mineral enthusiasts and to scientists. "To find a pocket that's that big and that complete really extends our knowledge of the formation of aquamarine and the nature of the geologic structure on Mount Antero," said Dr. Kirk Johnson, the Museum's chief curator. "It's a phenomenal thing that people can go out and find treasures like this in the Colorado mountains today. That's what science is all about-continually making new discoveries. It's happening right now and right here in Colorado." The pocket reconstruction measures 37 by 25 inches. The specimen also contains white feldspar, silvery mica, and red garnets, and dozens of black quartz crystals. The rock cavity, or vug, where these crystals formed was discovered in 2004 by prospector Steve Brancato who works a claim near the summit of

Mt. Antero, Colorado's 10th highest peak. He named it "Diane's Pocket" as a tribute to his mother.

"To be able to remove it and reconstruct it for the Museum, was always my intention," said Brancato. "I figure it's not just here for my pleasure. It's here for all to see. I'm just honored to be the one to bring it out. I love the thought of little kids generations from now getting inspired by looking at it and maybe they'll decide to come up here and find something even better."

The promise of finding treasure has lured prospectors to Mt. Antero and its neighbor, White Mtn., since the 19th century. Initially, they were hunting for veins of gold and silver. What they found instead were rare sea-green and sky-blue aquamarines. These minerals have a hexagonal crystal structure and are closely related to emeralds. Both are gemstone-quality varieties of the mineral beryl. Aquamarines form under very specific, violent geologic conditions. 35 million years ago, mineral-rich magma under high pressure intruded from below into the rock layers of the Sawatch Range. As the magma cooled, it trapped cavities of mineral-saturated fluid heated to temperatures as hot as 600° C (1,112° F). Minerals, including aquamarines, crystallized out of that fluid in these pockets. Over millions of years, the mountains were uplifted and eroded, which exposed the pockets and the crystals within them. Most of the time, it is difficult for scientists to say precisely what an aquamarine cavity looked like because the crystals break off the cavity walls over time. The cavities themselves collapse as they are jostled by seismic activity and exposed by erosion. This was also the case with "Diane's Pocket." While a few aquamarine crystals were still attached to the vug wall, most were lying on the floor of the pocket when Brancato discovered it. He collected the crystals and buckets of rock from the pocket and hauled it down the mountain. The geologists and gemologists at The Collector's Edge in Golden, Colorado agreed to work with the Denver Museum of Nature & Science to re-create what part of "Diane's Pocket" might have looked like when it formed. This involved cleaning, sorting and numbering each piece of rock and crystal from "Diane's Pocket," and reassembling the pieces using scientific knowledge and a little artistic license. The entire process took more than six months to complete.



"The Museum is the place where we collect the treasures of Colorado for everyone to see and enjoy, so we feel particularly fortunate to have this stunning Colorado discovery donated to our collection," said George Sparks, President & CEO of the Museum. "Since the aquamarine is Colorado's state gemstone, it is very special that we can display this awe-inspiring specimen in the Coors Gem and Mineral Hall."

Thanks to Denver Museum of Nature & Science. Press Release DMNS-06-086.

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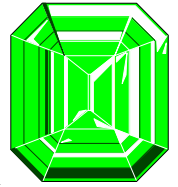
WEB SITES

Contributed by Wendell C. Mohr

Dictionary of Mining Terms, <<http://www.maden.hacettepe.edu.tr/dmmrt/>>, is taken from the book titled "Dictionary of Mining, Mineral, and Related Terms" prepared by the U.S. Bureau of Mines in 1996, Special Publication SP 96-1, now out of print. I bought a used copy of the original book at the Jack Nelson memorial auction a couple of years ago. A CD-ROM, Item 500-E-07, is available from the Government Printing Office for \$19.00. Unbelievably it is now available as an online version is courtesy of Hacettepe University, Department of Mining Engineering, in Turkey's Capital, Ankara. The dictionary contains over 28,000 terms. All those items, and I couldn't find anything about carpal tunnels. I bought stock in this mercury mining venture because it looked to me like an investment with high liquidity.



Chatham Research Laboratories, <<http://www.chathamcrystals.com>>, is by the producers of synthetic gemstones. Carrol Chatham grew Emeralds in 1939 by a flux process and, after his death in 1993, his son, John, has operated the business. Read the story, see the gems (Ruby, Emerald, Sapphire, Padparadscha) available as collector's specimens, rough, and faceted stones. Jewelry by various artists is shown. See press remarks about the process and products. No endorsement is made here. He is growing Emeralds, Rubies, and Sapphires. Yes, it is a growth industry. The 11th commandment says "Thou shalt not call that which is man made to be natural" What is your opinion about lab grown synthetic gems?



Minerals of Scotland brings you an opportunity to see collecting in a venue far away. By Hal Currie, it is at <<http://www.curriehj.freeserve.co.uk/>>. You click to enter and visit Leadhill Wanlockhead, Isle of Skye, Strontian, Central Scotland, Scottish Highlands & Islands, Southern Scotland, & more. Enjoy 200+ photographs, and don't miss the sections on Gold & Silver, Agates, and Mineral inclusions. Gilligan, the geologist has a surveillance program to watch for new land masses due to volcanic activity. He keeps an eye out constantly looking. If he sighted one it will be Gilligan's Island. The Scot collector took his wife along on one trip. Very rough terrain. Darn near kilt her.

UPCOMING SHOWS: For more details see the January Rockhoulder.

March 3-4 Delaware Mineral Society, Delaware Technical and Community College, I-95 at Exit 4B, Churchmans Road, Newark DE. Information <www.delminsociety.net> or E mail <gene@fossilnut.com>.

March 24-25 29th Annual Gem, Mineral, & Jewelry Show, Franklin County Rock & Mineral Club, Quality Inn & Suites, I-81 at exit 14, Wayne Ave., Chambersburg PA.

March 24 Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Show, Southern MD Rock and Mineral Club, Clearwater Nature Center, Cosca Regional Park, 11000 Thrift Rd., Clinton MD.

March 30-April 1 Atlantic Micromounters Conference, Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area, MD Hospital Association Conference Center, Elkridge MD. Information: <cscrystals2@verizon.net>

JANUARY PRIZES: The Junior Prize, an Agatized Geode from Brazil, was won by Aidan McElravy. Nice going Aidan, you kept it in the family! The General Door Prize, won by Marjorie Kuehn, was a Fluorite specimen from Okorusu, Namibia. Bob Irby took the Show Table Prize, a Malachite with Dioptase and Duftite from Tsumeb, Namibia



AUCTION: The Chesapeake Gem and Mineral Society will be holding an auction on Friday, March 9 at 7:30 pm (Viewing at 7:00 pm) at the Woman's Club of Catonsville. Directions: From the Baltimore Beltway, I-695, go West on Frederick Rd. (MD 144) approximately 3 blocks to St. Timothy's Lane. Turn right & go one block to the Woman's Club, behind the Church. You are invited to bid on gemstones, rough, jewelry, minerals, fossils, books, magazines, and Lapidary equipment. Refreshments available.

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Society Address: Gem, Lapidary, and Mineral Society of Montgomery County MD., Inc.
P. O. Box 444, Gaithersburg MD 20884-0444

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 home address.



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