

THE ROCKHOUNDER

FEBRUARY

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 February 11th 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 see what you and others have on the Show Table and chat with old friends. The program will be by member Gerald Elgert whose subject will be "**The Science of the Patuxent River Agate.**" Gerald reports that his interest in rocks and fossils extends back to junior high school days when volunteering at the MD Academy of Sciences. His mother used his rock collections to form a rock garden in their backyard. While attending college, his first job was in the Anatomy Dept. at the Johns Hopkins University which led to a career in Anatomical Pathology. Now retired, Gerald is applying this background to a hobby of identifying fossilized materials based on their geological and anatomical structure.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS will meet **one week later than normal on February 25th** at 7:30 pm at the David and Nancy Ballard castle. All Board members are expected to be there. Any member is welcome to attend but please let Nancy know if you plan to attend.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

BENNETT, John, and HUNTER, Gillian, P.O. Box 225, Garrett Park MD 20896-0225, 301 929 5128, jthb@borderstate.com, Son Quinn Hunter (4/99) Daughter Sierra Hunter (4/99) [Twins!]
PORTER, Bill, 1329 Grandin Avenue, Rockville MD 20851-1155, 301 309 0509,
oldcokes@aol.com



ROSTER CHANGES

CATON, Tom: remove second E Mail Thomas.caton@verizon.net
CELMER, Andrew: E Mail change to abcpec@comcast.net
MACLEAN, David: E Mail chg. to dbmaclean@maclean-fogg.com
MASON, Chuck: E Mail change to sugartree2@comcast.net
MASON, Mary Beth: E Mail change to m.b.mason@comcast.net
WRIGHT Add Max (5/95), & Sophie (7/98) [omitted in error]

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.

VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP SHEETS for the show will be at the February meeting. Our show is an all-volunteer event and we depend on the help of **each one of you**. Call Nancy Ballard, 301 926 7374, if you cannot be at the meeting but will help.

DEADLINE for the March 2008 Rockhounder **Feb. 25th**

IN THIS ISSUE	
Meeting Announcements, New Members, Roster Changes, Snow Contingency, Show Volunteer Sign-ups,	
Rockhounder Deadline.....	1
Regular Meeting Minutes.....	2
Board Meeting Minutes.....	3
New Show Chmn. & Work Shop- Chair, Lapidary Equip't for Sale...	4
Displaying your Treasures.....	5
Safety, Birthdays.....	6
Show Table, Field Trips.....	7
Bead Museum Trip, EFMLS Convention, Shows and Events....	8
Treated Stones, Donation.....	9
History, Prizes.....	10
Web Sites, Trim Saw, Wild- acres Scholarship.....	11

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES: The Jan. 14, 2008 meeting was called to order by President Mark Dahlman at 7:45 pm with about 52 people attending. The minutes of the Dec. 10, 2007 regular meeting were approved.

Visitors: John Bennett and twin children Quinn & Sierra Hunter, and Bill Porter. All were approved for membership.

Field Trip Chairman, Jonathan Harris, spoke of the trip to the Bead Museum in Washington DC scheduled for Saturday January 26th. Jonathan requested the help of club members in suggesting future trips and providing contacts and introductions that would be helpful in gaining access to quarries and other prospective sites. Please email Jonathan at jgharris7@comcast.net.

Show Chairperson, Heather Felsen, commended Juan Proano for his efforts in obtaining dealer contracts. She mentioned that 4 prior dealers declined this year, 3 of those slots have already been filled and a 4th replacement is in the works.

George Durland handed out show flyers and posters.

Pat Repik-Byrne announced that the exhibit form is due back to her by Mar. 1st and she would appreciate receiving them sooner.

Volunteer sign up sheets for the show will be available at the February regular meeting.

Treasurer, Juan Proano, confirmed that our coffers are in good shape. He announced that the 2007 financial statements have been prepared and requested a volunteer to perform the annual audit. Robert and Sara La Villa graciously volunteered. Thank you!

Other Business: Mark Dahlman announced that the club had received a \$150 donation from Joan and Dave Little in appreciation for a presentation on fossils by Wendell and Jo Ann Mohr at their son's recent birthday party. The club has sent a formal thank you note to the Little's for their gift.

Member Carol Smith broached the subject of further reaching out to junior rock hounds, some of whom cannot participate in the club because of the lateness of our meetings. Suggestions included a separate weekend meeting for the youth, as well as scheduling the youth-oriented activities, including show table and door prize drawing, earlier on the meeting agenda. Mark acknowledged this is an area we hope to improve upon and asked for additional ideas and, of course, volunteers!

Vice President, Elmer Lantz, introduced the speaker for the evening, **Dr. Mark D. Uhen**, a University of Michigan graduate, Senior Fellow at the US National Museum, a Post-Doctoral Fellow at the Smithsonian Institution National Museum of Natural History, and published author (his further credentials would take up all remaining space in this issue of the Rockhounder, so we'll stop there!) Mark treated us to a fascinating talk on whales -- specifically their evolution from land to sea mammals and why science has concluded that the closest living relatives of the modern whale are hippopotami. Dr. Uhen provided slides of fossils found throughout the world that have provided the support for his and his colleagues' conclusions. He enlightened us on how the shifting of the tectonic plates affected the evolution of the whales and reviewed artist renditions that hypothesize the appearance of the ancient terrestrial whales and those in the transition period prior to becoming the solely aquatic animals we know today. We all expanded our vocabulary with terms such as Mysticeti, Odontoceti, Balaena, and Ambulocetus (the "walking whale") among many others. Our heartfelt thanks go out to Dr. Uhen for a whale of a presentation!



Editor, Wendell Mohr, said that neither he nor Mark Dahlman would be able to attend the EFMLS Conference Feb. 22 to 24 thus leaving two slots available for voting members. A \$200 stipend is allotted by the society to offset some of the cost of attending the conference if anyone is interested in representing the club and seeing historic Jackson MI.

Wendell pointed out the great value offered by the Wildacres Workshop. Two members of our club, Rob Robinson and Inga Wells will be instructors covering geology, and soapstone carving respectively.

Member, Chuck Hyland announced his troop of Boy Scouts plan to re-create the Klondike gold rush on January 19 in Poolesville. He indicated a need for gold pans that could be loaned for use for this event, and added that he expected several of his scouts to volunteer their time at the upcoming rock show.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:45 pm.

Holly McNeil, Secretary

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Board Members Present: Nancy Ballard, Mark Dahlman, Heather Felsen, Jonathan Harris, Elmer Lantz, Holly McNeil, Wendell Mohr, Juan Proano and Joel Rosen. Non board members present: David Ballard, Pat Repik-Byrne. President Mark Dahlman called the January 21st meeting to order at 7:42 pm.

Field Trips Jonathan reported on the upcoming Bead Museum field trip and other trips currently in the planning stages.

Show Heather reported that commitment of about 10 more dealer tables will fill our space to capacity. Heather and Juan will meet with the representatives of the Fairgrounds on Jan. 24th to review and sign the contract. Heather reported that the missing cab-mate parts were received and making pre-forms is now possible. Acquisition of door and raffle prizes was discussed. Heather is to contact Bob Irby and matter will be decided at the February Board Meeting. Pat will insure we have sufficient quantities of exhibitor name badges. Titles of exhibits and names of exhibitors be displayed on showcases unless exhibitor declines. Nancy will see that Dealer Name badges are available. Wendell said that Bob Irby has sent out the demonstrator requests and perhaps a second faceter and a sculptor will part-take. There is a flea market the same day as our show at the fairgrounds and we will ask George Durland to distribute fliers to the flea market dealers, to solicit attendance at our show. Wendell will prepare certificates given to each exhibitor for \$10 redemption at dealers. Heather now has insurance paperwork necessary for the show.

The Lillian Turner Award award, a \$100 U. S. savings bond is presented each year to the best Junior exhibit at the show. If a Jr. is a recipient of a prior award, the exhibit must be significantly different to qualify.

Programs Elmer will ensure that meeting announcements are sent to all the appropriate local papers.

Residual Houser material Elmer will bring material to the show trailer Fri. afternoon. It was moved and passed that all bids from dealers for the residual material be submitted by 9:00 am Saturday of the show. Joel will be the person to receive bids. The winning bidder must remove all the materials by 4:00 pm Sunday of the show. Holly will notify our dealers of above. The Diamond Pacific Genie Cabochon machine will be sold by silent auction to anyone interested in bidding during the Show with a 4 pm Sunday closing time. A minimum bid is to be determined.

Treasurer Report Juan presented an update of the financials and indicated that the 2007 accounts are being audited.

Junior Business It was moved and passed that the \$150 donation from the Little family be designated for the education of young people and used toward purchase of 8 subscriptions to Diamond Dan's Publication's Mini Miner Monthly and given to the junior rockhousers. Rod Towers will be the point person for this. It was moved that the Junior door prize drawing be conducted by Rod Towers just before the break. The motion was passed by a majority of board members.



Science Fair Due to the conflict with our show, the change in venue, and the lack of projects in our field, a motion was made to forego awarding a prize this year. The motion was passed with one board member abstaining.

Membership Nancy updated the board on roster changes and indicated that Charlie Zellers was preparing the labels for postcards inviting the door prize entrants of the prior years' shows to the upcoming show.

Miscellaneous Business Mark has gotten Society materials from Past President Scott Braley.

It was suggested that George Durland be invited to attend board meetings in the absence of the immediate past president. Scott Braley and George will both be consulted by Mark.

The web-site overhaul was discussed. Mark's wife, Rebecca, has graciously volunteered to take on the task of updating it and offered to teach an interested club member how to do so as well. Thank you Rebecca!

A Wildacres scholarship request was received and discussed, decision to be made later pending receipt of any additional applications and other considerations.

Wendell mentioned the need for by-law revisions due to our change in tax status and for other reasons and is spearheading that task.

No interest was expressed by anyone in attending the EFMLS conference to represent the club.

Wendell is working on updating the club brochure.



Holly McNeil, Secretary

MEET YOUR NEW SHOW CHAIRMAN: **Heather Felsen** has been a member of GLMSMC since January, 2006. She discovered an interest in gems and minerals while enrolled in metal- smithing classes at Montgomery College in the early 2000's. She has studied Metal Arts under Nancy DeMulder in MCPS Adult Education classes as well as working independently in the hobby.

Through club field trips she has explored area mines and quarries. Under the instruction of Paul Vance, Heather also learned the basics of cabochon making. Attending the Wildacres Workshop on a club scholarship in April, 2007, she pursued her interest in cabbing and mineralogy. Heather has volunteered in the Club Show workshop teaching cabbing to children for the past 2 years.

In her day job, Heather is a social worker for Montgomery County Child Welfare Services where she coordinates placement of children into foster homes. She says "In her spare time, she enjoys travel, cooking and reading. In August, 2007, I collected geodes and fossils in the (dry) bed of the Whiskey Creek River in Kentucky. I live in Germantown, MD with my rabbit, Sorrel!"

We look forward to an exciting Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Show in March under Heather's leadership.



CONTINUING AS WORKSHOP CHAIR: **Don Turner** obtained his BS degree from Salisbury State College (Now University) and his MA in Education from George Washington University. He taught school full time for 28 years subsequently substitute teaching for 24 years and continuing.

He served from 1951-53 as an enlisted man in the US Air Force. After being commissioned a 2nd lieutenant he served in the Reserves, reaching the rank of Captain.

Don's interest in geology and paleontology developed when he served for 5 years as an Elementary Science Specialist. He had a student Lapidary Club while teaching at Southlawn Middle School and taught the only MCPS lapidary summer class ever offered. "We had a field trip in the morning to find cutting material and cut it in the afternoon!" he says. Over the years he has enjoyed field collecting fossils and doing lapidary work. For many years he collected in the Spruce Pine NC area, obtaining specimens and cutting material. Don says, "Corundum (varieties Sapphire and Ruby) is my favorite stone."



He has helped with the Workshop for our Show for quite some time and is in his second year as Workshop Chair. A reminder from Don. He **needs volunteers** to sign up for the Workshop so there is complete coverage for both days while the shop is open. Wont you give him a hand by signing up on the signup sheets at the February meeting or calling him at 301 424 8616?

LAPIDARY EQUIPMENT FOR SALE A Diamond Pacific Genie Cabochon 6 wheel grinding and polishing machine (including detachable flat saw and diamond wheels), in excellent condition, will be sold by silent auction during the show (At the GLMSMC table) with a 4 pm Sunday closing time. The minimum bid is \$500.00. This machine is a donation of Susan Houser and we thank her once more for her generosity. The sale is open to members, dealers, members of other clubs, and guests but equipment must be removed by the close of the show at 5 pm. If there are any questions, please feel free to contact Joel Rosen, 410 775 7937 or E Mail <jrosenii@lycos.com>.

Have you wished you could tell the weight of a stone easily? Well, Ray Kopman gives us such a ready reference. U.S. Coins weigh approximately as follows: Dime – 11 carats; Penny – 15 carats; Nickel – 25 carats; Quarter – 28 carats; Half-dollar – 56 carats; Silver dollar – 133 carats. (From Rock Rustler's News/The Mirror 01/93) Via Nov 2006 Hound's Howl.)

DISPLAYING YOUR TREASURES By Clay Williams, El Dorado County Mineral & Gem Society from the AFMS News, Dec. 2007 (Edited)

Whether a case contains mineral specimen(s) or the product of any other related activity, the challenge is to display them to best effect. The author, who is struggling with the mastery of this art and has been for a number of years through successes and occasional failures, was asked by several club VIP's to share some of his insights.

A good place to start is the color scheme. The colors of all supporting elements of the exhibit should be relatively muted and, for the best effect, should both match each other and what is being displayed. The author took labels in colors that were appealing and also blended with his specimens, along with a junk piece of mineral that matched those specimens, to a fabric store where he placed each next to liner fabric candidates. The store clerk must have wondered what was going on. When the winning fabric was finally determined, the only other limitation was, could enough be purchased to cover all liner foam board and any possible fabric covered risers? The word, muted, cannot be emphasized enough when talking about the case, the liners, the mounts and/or risers and the labels! All should be less eye catching than the object or objects of display. Various earth tone colors are an excellent way to execute this difference. Avoid bright colors, especially red, at all cost! That the last, when on cars, draws inordinate scrutiny from police should be a hint why. The bright purple liner that I saw at a recent show should probably go in favor of something much less attention getting -- after all, the intent is to get people to focus on what is being displayed, not on the background.



Labeling is important and indicates the exhibitor has taken the trouble to correctly identify his treasure. In most cases, such as with minerals and fossils, it should definitely include locality and name information. This should be more specific than, say, "Emerald, South America." A better effort would state that emerald is a variety of beryl and, at the very least, give the country and province, region or district of origin. It also might be nice to know where a lapped piece of tiger's eye, topaz in a jewelry setting, or turquoise in a belt buckle came from. Even though not really muted, black, depending on the shade of your liner, usually is fairly readable. Readability is an important issue and is one reason why the author tested a sample label at the fabric store. Readability also limits your choice of fonts. Making that font bold and of a reasonable size helps, as it must be assumed that not everyone can see or read well. The author's labels are composed on a PC and then printed onto transparencies using an ink-jet printer. Each transparency page is then cut into individual labels, which may be further trimmed to fit in the spaces between specimens. Gloves are used whenever handling the finished product, as it fingerprints easily. This not-often-seen procedure gets lots of attention from those more interested in the process than the item or items being displayed.

Layout within the case is, of course, a personal thing. However, too much clutter looks very unprofessional and should be avoided; it diminishes the overall impression. Also to be avoided is the placement of lower quality material among stars; the former detracts from the latter. This is easier said than done, especially if one is new to collecting and, therefore, has a limited choice of what to include. Labels should be of consistent type and not look like they were just thrown in. The liner or liners should cover the entire area visible through the glass, and not be stained or dirty. Avoid giving the appearance that your effort was lacking.

It is a good idea to try putting your case together pre-show. Such a dry run will get the kinks out, if any. It is the time to make final changes and is great practice, especially if the exhibit is at all complex. Also this can uncover any omissions while something can still be done. Did you get your completed Exhibitor Application form in to Pat Repik-Byrne? NOW is the time. Good luck!

Note: Clay Williams has credentials behind his advice. He has entered his displays and won in competition at California Federation of Mineralogical Societies shows. He won the 1st Place Advanced Minerals Trophy for his copper minerals case and was also awarded the coveted Hamel Minerals Trophy at the 2005 CFMS Show in Roseville, CA. In June, he received the 1st Place Masters Minerals Trophy for his copper mineral case at the 2007 CFMS Show in Lancaster, CA.



SAFETY FIRST THINGS I OBSERVED THIS YEAR by Bill Klose, EFMLS Safety Chair (Jan. 2007)
During the year I have had the privilege of attending a number of fine Federation and Commercial Gem and Mineral Shows and as a Museum Curator worked on many vintage collections. I want to share some of my observations.

At the shows I continue to see some tables that are overloaded with heavy specimens that could lead to collapse. One table contained a large flat of the Arsenic Sulfide specimens right up front where small children could reach them. A lady came up to a show chairman wanting to know if her daughter should be taken to Emergency because she touched a piece of fused glass from a 1940's atomic bomb blast. Small specimens, heavy specimens, and sharp specimens are commonly on the tables where they can be reached by small children. Shows in older facilities that do not have adequate outlets many times have strings of extension cords that exceed the National Electrical Code for the allowable number of outlets on a single circuit. Smaller facilities have a tendency to have very narrow aisles between rows of dealers tables making the use of wheel chairs and electric carts very difficult for disabled visitors. Cardboard boxes and packing materials can easily become trip and fire hazards if not kept under control. Flat glass cases that are held open by single metal props could easily fall and pinch fingers. When holding or attending a show, look around for these potential problems and have them corrected for the safety of all in attendance.



The private and school collections that come in for processing are a source of wonder and disappointment. Many of the specimens are from old locations that no longer produce or have unique species not found anywhere else. Many of these specimens never had a label made for them because the collector or owner knew where they came in their head or the label became lost or mixed up over the years and never had a catalog number on the label and specimen. A school teaching collection with many specimens over 100 years old had over 70 percent of it's labels missing or misplaced. The 30 percent with labels were a fine addition to a research collection and the remainder were donated to Teachers for general education, so all was not lost. One collection of fossils, replaced by pyrite, that were not properly stored and took on moisture from the air and altered to sulfuric acid resulting in drawers of white powder. Some hazardous minerals and chemicals are also found in collections without labels or warnings. The most important information that should accompany a specimen is location. Names of the species of minerals or fossils can change over the years as more is learned about them. This year collections were curated that contained lost "type" or original specimens of species and species from classic locations that have never been recorded in the literature. Many collections were put together when large or very fine examples were available and even before the specimens contained were given names by scientists. Many species were originally described by scientists in private collections or once described, just put out in the general collection and over time have become lost to science. Many of James Hall's (early New York State Paleontologist) described fossils were just put out in the next collection leaving the New York State Museum and have never been recovered from or recognized in these collections.

Bearing in mind that our children are rarely interested in the things that we are, we can protect our collections by labeling and numbering the specimens and providing notation about those that are rare or hazardous on the labels. This will maintain the value of the collection and help with the eventual dispersal of the collection. So many fine collections and hazardous specimens are just thrown out. There is a saying that "amateurs have the best specimens". Many put together their collections over many years and are there when the more unusual species or finer specimens appear, where scientists many times only are able to collect during one or two trips to a site or when funding is available.

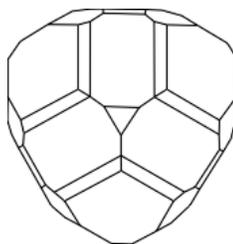
FEBRUARY MEMBER BIRTHDAYS: Christine Abelow, Nancy Ballard, Frances Gallegos, Betsy Hallman, Gillian Hunter, Eric Kindahl, Phil Krug, Andy Muir, Tom Parnell, Ginger Posthumus, Juan Proaño, Lester Schaub, Carol Smith; Rod Towers, Inga Wells, Kathleen Wright. Your birthstone is Amethyst.



Lost and Found. Lost eye. Last seen in quarry. Stuck by rock shard. (No safety glasses!) Glass eye not an acceptable substitute. Phone 301 555 1234

SHOW TABLE **January 14, 2008** Thanks to those who bring items for sharing at the meetings

<u>Exhibitor</u>	<u>Specimen(s)</u>	<u>Locality</u>
Larry Campbell	Whale Bone*	Aurora NC
Leila Campbell	Whale Bone*	Aurora NC
Jeff Cessna	Chert*	Westphalia MO
George Durland	Manganaxinite, Willemite, Xonotlite, Clinohedrite	Franklin NJ
	Fluorite	Dundas, Ontario, Canada
Jonathan Harris	Stilbite and Calcite*	Manassas VA
Pat Jayne	Polished Nautiloid	Purchased, Locality Unknown
Chuck Hyland	Quartz, Feldspar, Garnet, Pyrite,*	Gwynn Falls Gneiss Quarry, Baltimore Co. MD
	Mica, Quartz, and Schorl*	Hollofield Station, Baltimore Co. MD
	Quartzite, Schorl*	Marriottsville, Howard Co. MD
Eric Kindahl	Azurite, Malachite*	New Market MD
Alex Kindahl	Howlite natural and, Turquoise	No Locality Given
Sara LaVilla	Travertine*	Darrington WA
Chuck Mason	Agate Cabs*	Platte Co. WY
Aiden McElravy	Carnelian	Purchased
Rory McElravy	Salt Rock	Tibet
David MacLean	Chabazite, Analcime	Csódi-Hegyí Hungary
Wendell Mohr	2 Posters	Denver G&M Show
Andy Muir	4 Fluorites	Various Localities
Quinn Hunter	Specimens	Not Given
Joel Rosen	Barite	Miekle Mine NV
	Calcite	Trotter Dump, Franklin NJ
Rod Towers	Microscope and Specimens	



* = Self-collected or self made

FIELD TRIPS **Sun. Feb. 24, 2 pm, C&D Canal, DE.** Fossil collecting at the spoil piles (weather permitting). Children are welcome, but the Society will provide no supervision nor warrant the safety of the site; parents are responsible for the safety of any children or other family members. The fossils are cretaceous marine organisms--clams, oysters, belemnites in material dug up during the construction and dredging of the canal. See <<http://www.dgs.udel.edu/Geology/Paleontology/fossilsites.aspx>> for further information. The site is about two hours from Rockville. Members E mail <jgharris7@comcast.net> (preferred) or call Jonathan Harris at 301-545-0808 to let him know you are coming and to get directions. In the event of inclement weather, it will probably be moved it to March 1 or 2.

Saturday Apr. 5th, Valley Quarry, Gettysburg Quarry PA 7 am-11 am, about 1' 20" from Rockville. This interesting quarry features a contact between sedimentary rocks and a diabase intrusion. Jonathan says, "On my last trip there I found several nice zeolite (Stilbite) specimens. This quarry has yielded many other minerals, particularly micros, as described in the article in this website: <<http://www.encyclopedia.com/doc/1G1-145338789.html>> ."

To attend this trip, you must reserve no later than one week before the trip by E mailing or phoning Jonathan Harris (See above). Please include with any messages your name and contact information. The quarry wants a headcount a week ahead, and Jonathan needs contact information in case of a last minute cancellation. Only paid members are permitted. If you show up without prior signup, you will be asked to leave.

Also a reminder: All collectors must dress appropriately, with appropriate safety gear. Hard shoes, hard hats, long pants, and safety goggles are a must. Steel toed boots are highly recommended for both toe protection and ankle support. Hard hats must stay on your head and eyes must be covered at all times (even when there is no banging) while in the quarry. All collectors must attend the safety briefing at the beginning of the trip and follow all quarry rules.

BEAD MUSEUM FIELD TRIP

Arrival was delayed On Jan. 26th for those using the Metro Red Line due to track maintenance causing single track operation. However, Leila Campbell, Wendell and Jo Ann Mohr, our member



Tim Morgan, who is a Bead Society Director, and also Volunteer Museum Director, Juan and Luisa Proaño, and Annie Shaw attended. Tim made introductory remarks and Victor Steele, Operations Manager, gave a nice explanation of their Bead Time Line exhibit. We had a chance to see their displays and sales area and it was a worthwhile experience for those attending.



Neither the President nor the EFLMS Liaison will be able to attend this year. The Society will reimburse \$200 each toward expenses for one or two people who would like to attend. Are you willing to be our representative? See Mark Dahlman if you wish to go.

UPCOMING SHOWS AND EVENTS

February 22-24, 49th Annual Gem, Mineral, Jewelry, and Fossil Show and 58th Annual EFMLS Convention hosted by the Mississippi Gem & Mineral Society Trade Mart Building, MS State Fairgrounds, Jackson MS. Info.: 601 914 6747. E Mail <mineeralid@comcast.net>.

March 1-2, 45th Annual Earth Science Gem and Mineral Show sponsored by the Delaware Mineral Society, Delaware Technical and Community College, I-95 at Exit 4B, Churchmans Road, Newark DE. Sat. 10 - 6, Sun 11-5. Admission \$5.00, \$4.00 for seniors, \$3.00 ages 12 and 16, and under 12 free if accompanied by an adult. Information and coupons at <www.delminsociety.net>.

March 14, Chesapeake Gem & Mineral Society Auction. Friday only, viewing 7:00, Auction 7:30 pm. Woman's Club of Catonsville. Gemstones, cutting rough, jewelry, minerals, fossils, books, magazines, and lapidary equipment. Refreshments are available. Directions: Go West on Frederick Road from I-695 (Baltimore beltway), approximately 3 blocks to St. Timothy's Lane. Turn right and go one block to the Woman's Club; located behind St. Timothy's Church.

March 15 & 16, at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds, Sat. 10 am to 6 pm, Sun. 10 am to 5pm. **OUR SHOW!** Volunteers are essential to help set up, during the show, and takedown. Sign up! Put in a showcase. If you feel you do not have enough for a whole case, consider teaming up with others. Your participation is sorely needed. If EVERYONE in the Society did a four hour stint on Saturday and again Sunday, it would fill our needs. If you work, take off Friday and help with set up. Even half a day in the morning would be great. If you have some extra cloth material, Jo Ann Mohr, who sews the Treasure bags, would still like donations.

March 28-30, Atlantic Micromounters Conference hosted by the Micromineralogists of the NCA. MHA Conference Center, Elkridge MD. Info. & registration <central_office@amfed.org>, 410 833 7926.

March 29, Southern MD Rock and Mineral Club's Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show, one day only, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Clearwater Nature Center, 11000 Thrift Road, Clinton MD. Admission \$2.00, under 6 Free. Information 301 297 4575.

March 29-30, 30th Annual Show, Franklin County Rock & Mineral Club, Quality Inn & Suites, 1095 Wayne Ave. Chambersburg PA, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5, adults \$4, children under 12 free. Information 717 372-2256, Email <chenindesigns@comcast.net>.

ENHANCED, TREATED, HEATED, DYED, STABILIZED, CREATED, AND IRRADIATED—FAKE?

by Deborah Pfianz

Gemstones and semi-precious stones have been fiddled with for centuries to make them 'more' colorful, more eye-catching, and easier to work. This does not make them 'fake', however one should know what some of those terms and treatments mean.

Heat Treated: This is the most common treatment and is as old as fire. Humans heated agate and jasper so as to be able to knap the stones for tools. Humans also heat gem materials to enhance, clarify or create color in a stone. Amethyst is heated for citrine and ametrine. Zircon is heated to clarify the stone to clear white. Sapphires are heated to get the most amazing pinks and blues. Tigereye is turned blue or red. Carnelian turns orange-red. Aquamarine may go from green-blue to blue. Rubies may lose a purplish tint. Iolite may be turned a deep blue. It is also used to enhance the 'color change' gems such as tanzanite.

Dyed: This is also a very common practice. Agate is dyed to get fancy pinks, purples, orange and blues, eye catching and very saleable. Chalcedony is often dyed; black is sold as onyx and green is sold as chrysoprase. Howlite is often dyed to look like turquoise, lapis, sodalite and charoite. Turquoise and jadeite are often dyed to enhance the natural color. Alabaster, coral, banded calcite, and marble are dyed to enhance their color or to imitate other semiprecious stones.

Irradiation: While topaz is currently the most commonly irradiated gemstone (to get various shades and tones of blue) this is also how one gets those fabulously colored diamonds. In fact diamond was the first gemstone color treated with radiation.

Stabilized: Opals are often stabilized - either by filling such as with Opticon resin (or similar agent) or by Capping either as a doublet or triplet. Emerald has a long history of fracture filling due to its popularity and its tendency to be highly included and fractured. While natural oils have traditionally been used for fillings and stabilization, modern synthetic resins are now being used, such as Opticon, which are more permanent than the natural oils were. Turquoise and coral are also stabilized in such a manner so as to make them a bit more durable.

Created: This is a touchy subject. Much like farmed pearls are real with a center of plastic or mother of pearl rather than sand. Still real, still a pearl just helped to grow by a human. Laboratory grown crystals of ruby, sapphire, diamond, emerald, and star sapphire are real semiprecious stones. They just weren't grown in the earth. So what is the answer: Real or Fake? This 'real vs. fake' can be argued with all sides being technically correct. That is not the most important information one can have. The really important bit about this from a



lapidary or jeweler's point of view is disclosure. Does one know up front that the stone you are getting has been "helped along" by the human touch? Do you as a lapidary artist, gemsmith, jeweler or craftsman know what you are using? The beauty and art that we create with these stones is being helped along by our touch, much as it was to first get our attention. There is beauty in the knowing - be sure to share with those around you. *Rock Chipper 6/01, via CentrILL Gems, 10/07 Via Rochester Lapidary Society 12/07*

DONATION TO SOCIETY: Letter received with a check for \$150.00!:

Dear Members

This donation is being given by our family to your organization in thanks to Wendell and Jo Ann Mohr who graciously volunteered to make a presentation to our son, Sam's, birthday party last October.

The party was a terrific success thanks to the fascinating fossils that Wendell presented to us. The 8 and 9 year olds were excited to be able to touch some of the exhibit items and they asked a lot of good questions!

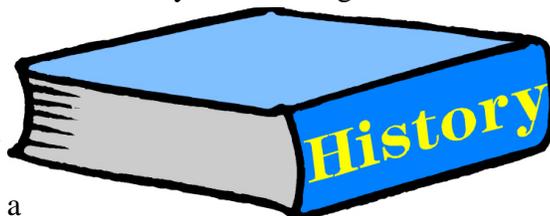
Our thanks again to the Mohrs and we hope this small gift will be useful to your club.

Happy Holidays!

Joan and Dave Little, 3610 Hickory Avenue, Baltimore MD 21211

SOCIETY HISTORY: HOW DID 1991 END? Read on. Two field trips were scheduled for October, a week apart. One to the Winfield and Meckley Quarries, the other to Medford Quarry, all of them familiar to our members. I could not locate any reports of results, but it's unlikely that nothing of interest was found at any of these sites.

Nancy Ballard reported she had received a certificate confirming her having been accepted into the EFMLS Decade Club, marking her service of over 10 years as Editor. (Actually she'd had the job for more than 18 years) Little did she know that she'd hold it for about 15 more! In the October EFMLS Digest appeared a list of all the awardees, and as with Abou Ben Adhem, Nancy's name led all of the rest. Nice going, Nancy.



In October's "Rockhounder" she quoted an item from Arkansas' "Crystal City" stating that probably the first practical use of quartz crystals was when Native Americans used them as cutting tools and weapon tips. Those of you who slit a fingertip or two when working with SiO₂ can attest to its sharpness.

The program of October's meeting was an EFMLS slide show entitled "The Mastodon Factory." This was a new addition to the Federation Library, prepared by the Lincoln Orbit Earth Science Society of Springfield IL, and had won first prize in the 1997 AFMS Slide/Video contest. Circa 1966 a huge deposit of mastodons - by huge, about 13,000 - was found in Boney Spring MO. (The name is real, not a pun.) The program showed the step-by-step manner in which the bones were excavated, casts made and hardened on the spot with resin, wrapped in toilet paper and plaster, and transported to "The factory." There the casts and molds from actual bone, by use of diagrams that depicted mastodons, were assembled into a complete skeleton. A fascinating story.

While on the subject of fossils, the "Washington Post" reported the discovery of dinosaur tracks in the Manassas area (Exact location not disclosed.) USGS scientists presumed the tracks had been made about 220 million years ago by animals not previously known to have lived in the region.

Getting back to fossils, new Field Trip Coordinator, Terry Cirincione, announced a trip to Willows on the western shore of the Chesapeake Bay to collect some of those available there, and Jack Nelson announced a trip to pan gold at one of his favorite spots. You'll recall he was quite adept at finding that stuff.

The election of 1992's officers was next on the agenda, and to no one's surprise the existing slate was voted in for another term. No debates, thank goodness.

Wendell Mohr presented the evening's program, an EFMLS slide show describing the Wildacres Workshop, the Federation's School of instruction for the members of its member societies, and which a number of you since have attended.

December began with another fossil field trip led by coordinator Terry, this one to Gore VA. She and nine other participants enjoyed good results and displayed some of their finds at the December Show Table. Also on that table was a piece of petrified wood with an arrow head imbedded. Ask Wendell Mohr how he acquired it.

Preceding the usual gourmandizing that highlights the December meetings, Mike Ellwood presented a program on Fluorescence, slides enhanced by hand-outs and spoken words. After that, OFF TO THE FOOD!!!!

And that's how 1991 ended. Will '92 be as exciting? I can't say as I as yet haven't begun to peruse the year's "Rockhonders." Happy Valentine's Day!!

By Jack Busch

JANUARY PRIZES: For the Junior prize, Alexandra Kindahl won a specimen of Drusy Quartz from Brazil. Each junior got a polished rock. Leila Campbell took home the Show table prize, a Fluorite with Sphalerite from the Minerva Mine #1, Cave-in-Rock IL. Jo Ann Mohr claimed the General door prize, a Carcharocles Megalodon fossil shark tooth from SC.



That Galena specimen from China you bought is on recall, like lots of stuff from China. I read it in the *Washington Post*. Too much lead!



RIGHT CLICK ON MOUSE

By Wendell Mohr

WEB SITES

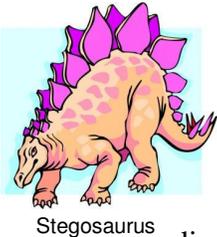
I would like to share with you some sites that are related to places we visited in Colorado last fall. We attended what is arguably the 2nd best (compared to Tucson) Gem & Mineral Show in the country, operated by a consortium of Clubs in the area. **The Denver Gem and Mineral Show**, <<http://www.denvermineralshow.com/>>, has a little information about this year's show but a lot about the 2007 show. Events, Dealers, Exhibitors, Competition, Educational, Clubs involved, Questions, Links, and Gallery are available to peruse. Be sure to click on the links in each category to enjoy them in the fullest. I was disappointed with the Photographs in the Gallery. They are low resolution and nearly all showcase pictures show the reflection of the overhead lights. So they do little to truly show the excellence of displays. We spent all the money we had saved by going to Geico!



Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument, <<http://www.nps.gov/flfo/>>, affords an opportunity to get information about this intriguing national treasure. Fish, animal, insect, and plant fossils are preserved. Over 1500 kinds of insects alone have been found here. Read about things to do and see photos and videos. Self guided and range guided walks are available. I found the visitor center to be smallish and that the majority of fossils found within the Monument have been distributed around the country with few left on display.



Paleovespa Florissantia



Stegosaurus

The Dinosaur Depot Museum, <<http://www.dinosaurdepot.com/>>, is in Cañon City CO. They educate about the late Jurassic fossils found in the area, primarily about 15 miles North at Garden Park where famous dinosaurs were uncovered at the Cleveland and Felch (Marsh) quarries. The world's most complete Stegosaurus was uncovered here in 1992 and confirmed the arrangement of the back plates. When you investigate the Exhibits, read the stories which are well done (but brief) and tour the museum (also brief). The "Just for Kids" area, good for adults as well, has a 28 page educational coloring book and a 31 page dinosaur book. The ubiquitous Store is here to help support the non-profit enterprise

Cripple Creek & Victor Gold Mining Company, <<http://www.ccvgoldmining.com/>> tells the story of this very successful joint mining venture which opened in 1995, producing about 2.5 million troy ounces of gold in the first ten years and still going strong. Geology of the area is elicited and the sodium cyanide heap leach operation is explained. Mining takes place 24/7 on old claims formerly consisting of mostly underground mines in rich veins. Now they mine about 20 million tons of ore to recover about 1/3 million troy ounces of gold! At nearly \$900/oz., you do the math. This company web site covers the economic impact on the near ghost town's economy, the safety record, and the reclamation projects after mining. I bribed a guy for high-graded specimens from the area mines and got arrested. For bribery? No, Contributing to the delinquency of a miner.

TRIM SAW Anyone knowing the whereabouts of the Society's 6" trim saw please contact Shop Manager Don Turner 301 424 8616.

WILDACRES SCHOLARSHIP Our Board offers one scholarship annually to a Society 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 annual show. It may be used for either session. Nominations are to be submitted to the Board. Any member may make a nomination, including for themselves. Reimbursement is made upon successful completion of the workshop. Everyone who is interested in applying needs to contact Mark Dahlman by Feb 24th. The board will consider the applications and act by the end of February.

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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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First Place
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EFMLS Bulletin
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