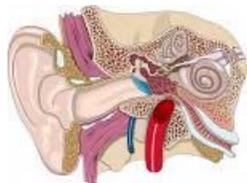




**PURPOSE:** The purpose of the Gem, Lapidary, and Mineral Society of Montgomery County MD., Inc. is “To increase knowledge and popular interest in earth sciences, geology, mineralogy, paleontology, lapidary arts, and related subjects”.

**REGULAR MEETING:** Meetings are held the 2nd Monday of the month from **September to June**. There are **NO meetings in July and August**. Have fun and stay cool!

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:** There will be **NO July-August Board meeting** unless there is a specially called meeting



**NOW HEAR THIS! DUES & DON'TS** Your membership in GLMSMC expires **August 31, 2008**. Therefore Annual dues are due by September 1st. Single membership is \$15 per year, Family membership (Which is defined as up to 2 adults and children under 18 years of age) is \$20 per year. We will pay \$1.75 dues for EFMLS/AFMS affiliations (up \$0.50), increased postage rate, and about \$3.15 for insurance for each member over 10 years of age so when renewing, list only those interested in taking part in Society activities. Please send to Membership Chairperson Nancy Ballard, 16812 Baederwood Lane, Derwood MD 20855-2011, 301 926-7374. She will mail your membership card(s) back to you if you send her a self addressed stamped envelope (SASE), otherwise you may pickup your card(s) at the September regular meeting. Please help by paying your dues on time. DON'T be late.

**VISITORS** Welcomed at the June meeting were Robert and Rosemarie Soulen, friends of the speaker.



**IN THIS ISSUE**

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**DEADLINE** for the Sept. 2008 Rockhounder: **August 25th**.  
**NO General Meetings in JULY and AUGUST**

**PRESIDENTS MESSAGE:**

Well, summer is certainly here! Time for our two-month break. I hope that each of you has a chance to include some of your favorite hobbies in your summer plans. And may I suggest that summer is a fine time to be thinking about what would make your showcase even better - perhaps a new specimen to be on the look-out for, or a new facet of the hobby to show others. Certainly Lisa Carp's presentation at the June meeting made me want to take up tourmaline collecting.

Summer is also a fine time to make room in your collection for the new items. All it takes is digging a hole in the backyard to give you some room for rock disposal. Once the dirt is replaced, you can tell folks someone famous is buried there. On second thought, a much better idea is to follow the example of several of our club members and consider bringing your extra goodies to a club meeting to share with your fellow enthusiasts. It's been great to see the generosity of these individuals that allows others to enjoy their finds too.

Speaking of sharing, we're hoping to get your thoughts about the GLMSMC. When we meet again in the fall (don't forget, no meetings until September 8) we'll be handing out a GLMSMC Member Survey. It's been many years since the last member survey, so we'd like to solicit your thoughts about the society. Over the Summer, please give some thought to what, in your opinion, are the society's strong points and areas for improvement. We'd like to get your suggestions for making the society even better.

I've been reading an interesting set of articles in the Eastern Federation newsletter about how to resuscitate a dwindling club - it certainly is reassuring to know that GLMSMC is anything but that! It's great to be part of an enthusiastic and growing group. With the variety of backgrounds and interests in our society, I'm sure we'll get many excellent suggestions for improvement. I'm also looking forward to our September meeting to hear where you've been this summer. I always enjoy hearing about good vacation spots, especially if they involve rockhounding. I hope you'll have a new piece to show, along with a good memory to share. See you in the fall!

Mark Dahlman

**JAMIE HILL, LEGENDARY EMERALD HUNTER** by Don Kauffman Central Pa. R &M Club

One continuing story of a gem fantasy coming true centers on hunts for North Carolina emeralds. Commit to memory the name of Jamie Hill. His story has become legend in annals of North Carolina gem lore. Jamie Hill spent summers as a boy digging up, turning over, and collecting rocks in his great grandmother's backyard in Hiddenite, North Carolina.<sup>1</sup>

Photo by W. Mohr ↗



But Hill, unlike most boys of his age, never outgrew his interest. As his searches intensified he no doubt fantasized and later theorized that a huge cache of emerald was waiting just below the surface of his summer retreat. He most likely learned history of emerald and hiddenite finds from local old timers. It was not a well kept secret that between 1967 and 1971 a series of discoveries by local prospectors had created a rush for emeralds and green "bolts" of hiddenite.<sup>2</sup>

By his teens, he most certainly realized that a careful search of local red soil and bedrock around town would eventually produce a cash crop of emerald treasure. Even though finds overall had become sluggish, Jamie Hill never gave up. In 1999, at the age of thirty-five, Jamie Hill was on the verge of being flat broke. None-the-less, he pursued his gem fantasy with zest. As money from a massive loan dwindled he finally discovered his first emerald in a pocket only a few feet under the ground. His find produced nearly 1000 carats of high quality emerald. Alexander County, North Carolina was put back on the map of rich gemstone discoveries.



Photo by W. Mohr ↗

After years of searching, legendary "Emerald Man" Jamie Hill had revived the almost thirty year-old dearth of emerald production for the state's gemstone. His discovery produced emeralds so fine that they were quickly rated top one-percent in the world. Found beneath just fourteen feet of surface soil, Hill's emerald trove is said to be so extensive that it "could take 100 years" to exhaust the supply. Hill became an instant celebrity appearing on syndicated national network television shows.<sup>3</sup>

Reading of him prior to a Learning Channel appearance, I watched with extreme envy as a fine emerald was extracted from a subsurface pocket right in front of TV cameras.

Continued on Page 10

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES:** The June 9th, 2008 meeting was called to order by President Mark Dahlman at 7:45 pm with approximately 45 people attending. Minutes of the May 12th, 2008 regular meeting, after correction of the adjournment time of 9:50 pm, and the May 19th, 2008 Board meeting were approved. Mark reminded the group of our summer hiatus – no meetings scheduled in July or August.

**Show Chairperson,** Heather Felsen announced that we have received our \$500 deposit back from the Montgomery County Fairgrounds; this was the only outstanding item from the 2008 show season.

**Field Trip Chairman,** Jonathan Harris announced the upcoming field trips and requested that those interested in the trip to the Cornwall Materials Mine on June 28<sup>th</sup> notify him so that he may inform the quarry. Mark commended Jonathan on the quantity and quality of field trips offered, and Jonathan acknowledged the help he has received from Wendell Mohr and Fred Parker.

**Editor,** Wendell Mohr announced the upcoming shows (details are included in the show section of the Rockhounder), and gave a special mention to the large and popular West Springfield MA mineral and fossil show on 8/8 to 8/10.

**Educational Opportunities:** Wendell announced:

\*Paleontology focused summer camp offered for ages 8-13 at Meadowside Nature Center starting July 29<sup>th</sup>. The cost is \$175.00. See “Shows and Events” in this Rockhounder.

\*The Clearwater Nature Center is offering Cabochon classes for ages 18 and older on July 12<sup>th</sup> and August 9<sup>th</sup> from 9am – 3pm. The fee is \$30 for residents of Mont. and Prince George’s counties.

\*There is still time to sign up for the September 8<sup>th</sup>- 14<sup>th</sup> session at Wildacres; Wendell has registration forms.

**Treasurer,** Juan Proano announced that the club remains solvent and that all of the club’s bills have been paid..

**Member,** Tim Morgan announced the Lebanon Valley PA show scheduled for 8/15 to 8/17.

**Vice President,** Elmer Lantz introduced the speaker for the evening. **Lisa Carp**, long time club member, and member of GIA and the Bead Museum treated us to a fascinating “hands on” Tourmaline presentation. She explained the origin of the name Tourmaline, touched on its formation and production locales. She taught us the characteristics and properties of the gemstone and graciously shared with us a wide variety of samples from her vast collection. From elbaite to liddicoatite, from Paraiba to watermelon, each piece was a treat for us to see. Thank you Lisa!



**Awards.** President Mark Dahlman announced the following awards:

**Life Member:** **Juan Proano** was awarded the status of GLMSMC Life Member by unanimous vote of the board of directors.

**Eastern Federation Awards:** **Wendell Mohr** was awarded 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the “Small Bulletin” category, honorable mention for two web site articles and a best in category trophy for “Drawn Features” for his “Mineral Collectors Eye Chart” feature.

**Heather Felsen** received a trophy for best in the “Original Non-Technical Article” category for her “Wildacres Spring 2007” – her very first submission!

Meeting Adjourned 9:55pm.

Holly McNeil, Secretary

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES:** The Board did not meet in June 2008.

Old Faithful really isn’t so faithful. I understand that they take it down every night for maintenance.



**CRYSTAL SKULLS ARE FAKE:** May 23, 2008 Courtesy Cardiff University and World Science staff

As Indiana Jones races to find an ancient crystal skull in his new movie adventure, he might want to take a moment to check its authenticity. New research suggests two well known crystal skulls, in the British Museum and the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, are not, after all, from ancient Mexico. Academics now believe the British skull was made in 19th century Europe and the American one even later.

The British Museum bought its skull, a life size carving from a single block of rock crystal, from Tiffany and Co., New York, in 1897. Its origins were unknown but there were suggestions it was of ancient Mexican origin. Human skulls worn as ornaments and displayed on racks were known to have featured in Aztec art. The skull attracted much public attention and speculation and was once thought to have healing powers. Crystal skulls have since featured in many books, articles and films, most recently in the new Steven Spielberg movie *Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull*.



The Smithsonian Institution's crystal skull. (Courtesy Smithsonian Inst.)

However, there have been doubts about the authenticity of the skull since the 1930s. Now an international research team has scrutinized the British Museum skull and a larger white quartz skull donated to the Smithsonian in 1992. Electron microscope analysis for tool marks found both skulls were carved with rotary disc shaped tool, a technology the ancient Mexicans didn't have. Analysis of the quartz in the British Museum skull suggests it was quarried from Brazil or Madagascar – far outside the ancient Mexicans' trading links.

The team, made up of experts from Cardiff and Kingston universities in the U.K., the British Museum and the Smithsonian, concluded that neither skull could have been made in Mexico before the time of Columbus. They believe the British skull was created in Europe in the 19th century, and the Smithsonian's shortly before it was bought in Mexico City in 1960. "It is always disappointing when an intriguing artifact like a crystal skull turns out not to be genuine," said Cardiff University's Ian Freestone, a member of the research team. "However, it is important to be precise about what is authentic and what is fake if we are properly to understand our past. Maybe Indiana Jones will have better luck in his hunt for a real crystal skull!" The findings are to appear in *The Journal of Archaeological Science*.

With permission, World Science <<http://www.world-science.net>>

**JULY MEMBER BIRTHDAYS:** Paul Braley, Patricia Carter, David Colvin, Antonia Dentes, Gerald Elgert, Heather Felsen, John Gilmore, Jonathan Harris, Dave Johnson, Andrew Mays, Christian Michaelis, Tim Morgan, Savannah Muir, Barry Remer, Julianne Remer, Donna Rimar, Conrad Smith, Charlotte Tyler, Dee Williams, Robert Wright, Sophie Wright.

**AUGUST MEMBER BIRTHDAYS:** David Ballard, Larry Campbell, Lisa Carp, Carolyn Carter, Robert Clemenzi, Annie Dahلمان, Murray Feshbach, Jacob Harris, David Hennessey, Norma Irby, George Loud, Elese Lupuloff, Zachary Lupuloff, Steven McNeil, Denise Muir, Gabi Muir, Marlene O'Callaghan, Bill Porter, Joel Rosen, George Sayther, Nancy Shinowara, Jane Weir, Barbara Wells.



**JULY BIRTHSTONE: RUBY** Red corundum is known as ruby (while all other colors of that mineral are called sapphire). Chromium is the coloring agent. Large fine rubies are the most expensive gems sold in today's marketplace, bringing prices considerably above that for diamonds of the same size and quality. The world's highest quality rubies come from Burma (Myanmar), although Kenya, Pakistan, Vietnam, Thailand, and Madagascar are important sources as well. Ruby is a very durable jewelry gem (hardness = 9), that has generally been heat treated. Some specimens show a "star" effect (asterism).

**AUGUST BIRTHSTONE: PERIDOT** Peridot occurs in shades of limey to olive yellowish green—unique in the gem world. Major sources include the USA (Arizona), Pakistan, Burma, and China. One of the minority of idiochromatic gem species, its color is derived from its inherent chemical composition rather than from impurities (allochromatic), like most. It is a reasonably durable jewelry gem for most applications with hardness of 6.5. There are no treatments commonly used to enhance peridot.



By Mark Villanueva G.G., C.S.P., A.J.P., Member of the Houston Gem & Mineral Society

**SAFETY FIRST - SAFETY RULES FOR FIELD TRIPS**

by Bill Klose, AFMS Safety Chair

Field trip season is upon us and we need to pause and review appropriate safety rules. Field trip leaders need to review these rules before every field trip.

1. Never go on a field trip alone. Have someone along who can help or summon help if necessary. Make sure someone knows where you have gone and when you will return. Carry a cell phone with spare battery to expedite your communications. Call someone if you are going to change your routine or are going to be late. Should you leave a field trip early, notify the person in charge.



2. Should there be children on the field trip, have them within sight or talking distance at all times. A child could not only become lost, but could encounter a snake, scorpion, etc., or have an accident of some sort.

3. Do not collect directly above or below other people or below unstable rock piles, cliff walls or overhangs where there may be danger of falling rock.

4. Park so that all cars can get out. Do not block the roadway. Do not drive cars, SUV's, or RV's, such as "4 wheelers", across fields to avoid damaging property, setting grass fires with catalytic converters or damaging the vehicle. Do not drive across or walk on newly planted or cultivated fields without special permission.

5. Have your vehicle in proper working order with appropriate emergency equipment and supplies.

6. Make sure that all fires are completely out and wet down the ashes with water, stir to make sure there are not any buried embers and then smother completely with dirt. Adhere to local fire regulations and warnings.

7. Break all matches and shred all cigarettes before discarding and be careful where they are disposed of. Take them with you rather than leaving them as litter.

8. Do not throw rocks or engage in "horse play" and do not allow children to do so.

9. Do not over exert or stay in the direct sunlight or heat too long. Take a rest in the shade from time to time and drink plenty of electrolyte replacing fluids, such as sports drinks. Properly wear appropriate safety equipment, sunscreen, and clothing.

10. Avoid old mine tunnels. Never go into a mine alone. Carry a flashlight and a candle with you. Carbon dioxide or other gases, such as methane, may be present. There may even be a lack of Oxygen. Mines are also havens for snakes, scorpions, spiders, rodents and their feces which can carry disease. Mines also may contain uncovered shafts and pits. Also be extremely cautious around abandoned buildings. You may stumble into old deep wells or cesspools not properly covered.

11. Respect property rights and signs. Obtain permission to enter property if owned by private individuals or corporations. Attend Company safety briefings required by MOSHA and sign releases. Pay attention to and practice the Company's safety policies. Adhere to government regulations and restrictions if collecting on public lands or parks. Pay any collecting fees required and do not exceed collecting limits where established.

12. Inquire if there are any dangerous animals on the property. Close all gates you open.

13. Refill any holes you dig so people or animals will not fall in. Do not dump dirt or other debris into streams.

14. Respect another's diggings. If a person has left for lunch or for any other reason with the intent of returning, and has left a pick, coat, or definite marker, find another spot.

15. Leave any place in good condition. Don't leave paper, cans, and other litter lying around to mar the beauty of the place, and to tell others that you have been there. Take your litter with you, do not bury it.

16. Never eat wild berries or anything else unless you are absolutely sure they are safe. Carry bottled water or other drinks and do not drink from streams or wells that have not been recently tested.

17. Be able to recognize poison ivy, poison oak, etc. Should there be any doubt, don't touch.

18. Always be alert for snakes, scorpions, ticks, spiders, rodent infestations, etc. Be very careful where you place your hands and feet.

19. Bring and properly use the appropriate well maintained and inspected tools. Don't expect others to provide tools for you.

20. Use proper lifting and carrying techniques to bring home your finds. Do not overload your vehicle. Many of these safety rules are covered in greater detail in the AFMS Safety Manual and on the AFMS web site. Have a safe field trip season in 2008.

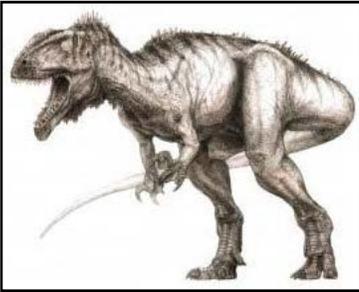
Adapted from AFMS Newsletter June 2005



**TWO STRANGE DINOSAURS, ONE DARK HUNGER**

Courtesy University of Chicago and World Science staff.

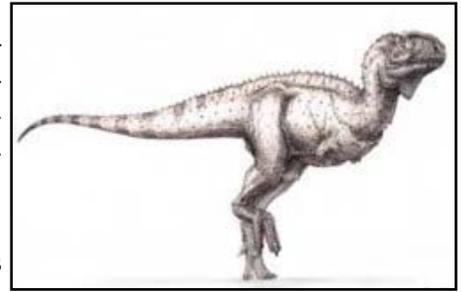
Feb. 14, 2008



**Eocarcharia**  
(© Todd Marshall, courtesy Project Exploration)

Two 110 million-year-old dinosaurs just unearthed in the Sahara Desert highlight the unusual meat eaters that prowled southern continents during the Cretaceous period, researchers say.

Named *Kryptops* and *Eocarcharia*, the fossils were found in 2000 on an expedition led by



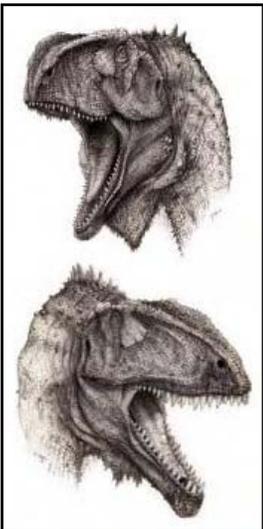
**Kryptops**  
(© Todd Marshall, courtesy Project Exploration)

University of Chicago paleontologist Paul Sereno. They're described in a paper this month in the scientific journal *Acta Palaeontologica Polonica*. Sereno and co-author pa-

leontologist Stephen Brusatte of the University of Bristol, U.K., say the fossils offer a glimpse of a rather early stage in the evolution of the strange meat eaters of Gondwana, the southern "super-continent" of the dinosaur era. During the Cretaceous, modern day Africa and South America were beginning to separate after having been united as part of Gondwana.

"*T. rex* has become such a fixture of Cretaceous lore, most people don't realize that no tyrannosaur ever set foot" below the equator, said Sereno. Instead, he added, distinctive meat eaters arose there, some with little in common with the "tyrant king" beyond a taste for fresh meat.

Short-snouted *Kryptops palaios*, or "old hidden face," was named for a horny covering that seems to have blanketed most of its face, paleontologists said. It probably ate like "a fast, two-legged hyena gnawing and pulling apart a carcass," Brusatte said. Like later members of its lineage, called abelisaurids, in South America and India, *Kryptops* had short, armored jaws with small teeth that would have been better at gobbling guts and gnawing carcasses than snapping at live prey, the researchers said. The voracious reptile was measured at 25 feet (8 meters) long.



**Kryptops (above)  
Eocarcharia (below)**  
(© Todd Marshall, courtesy Project Exploration)

A similar-sized contemporary, *Eocarcharia dinops* or "fierce-eyed dawn shark," is so named for its blade-shaped teeth and prominent bony eyebrow. Unlike *Kryptops*, its teeth were designed for disabling live prey and severing body parts, according to Sereno and colleagues. *Eocarcharia* and kin, called carcharodontosaurids, produced the southern continents' largest predators, matching or exceeding *T. rex* in size, they added. *Eocarcharia's* brow was swollen into a massive band of bone, giving it a menacing glare. Sereno and Brusatte suggest in the paper that the robust bony brow in *Eocarcharia* and kin may have been used as a battering ram against rivals in fights over mates. "Brow-beating may not be far from the truth," ventured Sereno.

The fossil area, in present-day Niger, was home to a panoply of bizarre species, the researchers said. Hyena-like *Kryptops*; shark-toothed *Eocarcharia*; and fish-eating, sail-backed *Suchomimus* ("crocodile mimic") are a carnivore trio that characterizes the Cretaceous period in Africa and possibly other southern land masses, they added. These beasts preyed on the ground-grubbing, long-necked plant eater *Nigersaurus* and lived along side an enormous extinct crocodylian nick-named "Super-Croc" (*Sarcosuchus*).

With Permission, World Science, <<http://www.world-science.net>>



Back in the age of dinosaurs, dung beetles went for the coprolites. They were yesterday's poop tarts!

**FIELD TRIPS:**

**Sunday Aug. 17, 9:30 am until ???, Brownies Beach, Calvert Cliffs** fossil collecting. Great location for shark's teeth, ray plates, whale and porpoise bone fragments. Collect on beach or in shallow water. Digging in cliffs is forbidden and extremely dangerous. Low tide is expected to be at 11:29 am. Recommended tools: a screen (1/4" screen in a wooden frame) and shovel or trowel. Regular outdoor gear (shoes, sunscreen, bug repellent, beach towels, hats, etc.) recommended. Children supervised by parents are welcome; the club provides no supervision and accepts no responsibility for their safety; this is the parent's responsibility. Brownie's beach is a public park. Directions: From Beltway exit South on MD Route 4. After 14.2 miles, go right on MD Route 260 to Chesapeake Beach where it ends. Take a right on MD Route 261, just outside the town of Chesapeake Beach where you will drive down a hill. At the bottom of the hill a little road disappears in the forest. This road goes to the parking lot. If it is full, you will need to find a safe legal spot along the shoulder somewhere. (Editor: Per Fossilguy.com: Just ~ 1/4 to 1/2 mile south of Chesapeake Beach on MD 261, there is small shoulder on the road with a little entrance to a paved parking lot, then a paved walkway to the beach. Waders are advisable if you go into the water [to avoid jelly fish in July.]) The beach is very narrow, and becomes submerged in high tide, so make sure you arrive at low tide. See web sites for further Information:

<<http://www.mgs.md.gov/esic/fs/fs10.html>> and <<http://mysite.verizon.net/browniebeach/where.html>>.

Jonathan Harris will email announcements of any additional trips scheduled after press time. Get on his list if you are interested and not already included. If you do not have E Mail, phone him at 301 545 0808.

**BRIEF REPORT ON RECENT FIELD TRIPS**

**June 14<sup>th</sup>** Kyanite Mining at Willis Mountain VA was the site for collecting. Following an interesting talk by mine employee, Mike, covering history of the mine, uses of the products, and an opportunity to see the exhibit in the office, our Society and two other clubs gained access to two collecting areas. David Colvin and Charlotte Tyler, Chris and Mary Crosswhite, Jonathan Harris, Eric and Alexandra Kindahl, Wendell and Jo Ann Mohr, and Jennifer Wingard were able to collect to as late as 3 pm. No huge blue kyanite blades were seen but there was plenty of material to take home. It was a nice day, followed later by severe thunderstorms. (What else is new this time of the year?)



**June 28<sup>th</sup>** Andy Celmer, Jeff Cessna, Jonathan Harris, Eric Kindahl, and Wendell Mohr, trekked to Cornwall PA. on a first foggy, then hot day. Collecting was quite different at this location. It was a dump from the iron mine which operated from continuously from 1730 until 1973 when Hurricane Agnes filled the 400 foot deep pit with water. There is no blasting there, the material is being sized for use wherever there is a market. Magnetite, pyrite, hematite, garnet and green copper minerals were found. A visit to the Cornwall Furnace State Park provided an interesting historical background with exhibits and a well preserved iron making facility.

**THE LONGEST WORD IN THE DICTIONARY?**

Answer: It depends . . . It might be *antidisestablishmentarianism*: opposition to the disestablishment of the Church of England.

Or . . . *supercalifragilisticexpialidocious*: Nonsense-word used especially by children, now chiefly expressing excited approbation: fantastic, fabulous. Or . . . *pneumonoultramicroscopicsilicovolcanoconiosis*: pneumoconiosis caused by the inhalation of very fine silicate or quartz dust.

"Smiles" is the longest word, because there's a mile between the first letter and the last!



A revolving lithic conglomerate accumulates no congeries of a small, green bryophytic plant.

(A rolling stone gathers no moss.)

**SHOW TABLE: June 9th, 2008**

Thanks to those who bring items for sharing at the meetings

<u>Exhibitor</u>	<u>Specimen (s) * = Self-collected or self made</u>	<u>Locality</u>
Lisa Carp	Tourmalines	Multiple
Char & David Colvin	Shell Fossils*	Martinsburg WV
Jeff Cessna	Fluorite	Clay Center OH
	Tugtapite	Ilimaussaq Complex, Greenland
	Conglomerate*	Leesburg VA
	Unknown*	Farquier County VA
George Durland	Powellite	Poona India
	Fluorite	Rogerley Mine, Frosterley, England
Chuck Hyland	Assorted Minerals	Franklin and Sterling Hill NJ
Eric Kindahl	Calcite*	Nat'l. Limestone Q., Mt. Pleasant Mills PA
	Calcite*	Medford Quarry, Westminster MD
Wendell Mohr	Whale Vertebra*	Lee Creek Mine, Aurora NC
	Mako Shark Tooth*	Lee Creek Mine, Aurora NC
Andy Muir	Tourmaline	Himalaya Mine, Pala CA
	Phlogopite (Fl.)	Afghanistan
Owen Powers	Shell Fossils*	Prince Georges County MD
Juan Proaño	Coprolite	Madagascar
	Copal with Fossil Insects	Madagascar
Keith Regatts	Adamite? (Fl.) & Calcite? (Fl.)	NJ
George Reimherr	Lollingite, Sphalerite	Sterling Hill Mine, Ogdensburg NJ
Joel Rosen	Smithsonite	Kelly Mine, Magdalena NM
	Willemite, Franklinite, and Zincite	Franklin Mine, Franklin NJ
	Polished Calcite	Franklin Mine, Franklin NJ
Earl Smith	Serpentine Var. Picrolite*	Cedar Hill PA
Rod Towers	Microscope and Specimens, incl. Garnet	Minas Gerais
Jane Weir	Quartz ("Herkimer Diamond")	NY
	Dravite Tourmaline Beads	Not given



Door prize baron, Joel Rosen, prepares the prizes



Rod Towers checks for optical properties while Jane Weir looks on

**JUNE DOOR PRIZES** Winner of the Junior prize was Matt Hyland who took home a 48 specimen mineral collection. The Show Table prize winner was Jeffrey Cessna, who got a barite with chalcopyrite from Beloretchenskig Mine, North Caucasus, Russia. Holly McNeil took home the General Door prize, a Fluorite from the Xiang Hua Ling Mine, Hunan Province, China

**WILDACRES FALL SESSION** Only two months remain until this year's fall session September 8th to 14th. At only \$330 per person, where else can you spend a week with room and board included? There are modest fees for materials for the classes you take. Classes in faceting, gem identification, bead crafts, chain making, geology, precious metal clay, silver smithing, and soapstone carving will be offered. Some of the classes may already be fully subscribed. The featured speaker will be Denise Nelson, who presented our May meeting program. Wildacres is near the Blue Ridge Parkway halfway between Asheville and Blowing Rock in the Blue Ridge Mountains of NC.

You may see more details at the website <<http://www.amfed.org/efmls/wwildacres.htm>> and can download registration forms there. Wendell Mohr also has registration forms if you do not have access to the internet.



**UPCOMING SHOWS AND EVENTS**

**Various Dates in July** The Montgomery County Recreation Department is offering classes on Wire Work Jewelry, and "Earrings, Earrings, Earrings" at the Bauer Drive Community Center. Obtain the Summer 2008 Montgomery County Guide to Recreation and Park Programs or call 240 777 6840 or register on line at <<http://recweb.montgomerycountymd.gov>>.

**July 29** Jurassic Camp at Meadowside Nature Center, 5100 Meadowside Lane, Rockville MD 301 924 4141. Ages 8-13 yrs. 4 classes Tu, W, Th, & F. 9:30 am to 1:30 pm. Field trips, activities, and crafts. Fee \$175.

**July 12<sup>th</sup> and August 9<sup>th</sup>** The Clearwater Nature Center is offering Cabochon classes for ages 18 and older 9am to 3pm taught by Bob Davidson. Fee \$30 for residents of Montgomery and Prince George's counties, \$36 for others for a single session. Information 301 297 4575.

**August 2**, Saturday, "Rock-A-Rama 2008" of the Central Pennsylvania Rock and Mineral Club Inc. Rock and Gem Magazine's Senior Managing Editor, Bob Jones, will be the featured speaker at the Club's 50th Anniversary Celebration. With Special Guest, Rock and Gem Contributing Editor and CPRMC Member, Geologist, Bob Beard. TICKETS GO ON SALE JUNE 1st. \$10 for the public. \$5 for CPRMC Members. See <<http://rockandmineral.org>>.

**August 2 & 3** 59th Annual Gem & Mineral Show of the Gem, Lapidary, and Mineral Society of Washington DC, Stone Ridge School, 9101 Rockville Pike, Bethesda MD. \$6 adults, \$5 Seniors, Children under 16 free. 10 am to 6 pm Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm Sunday. Information <[www.GLMSDC.com](http://www.GLMSDC.com)>. Printable dollar off discount coupon <<http://www.glmsdc.com/coupon.html>>.

**August 9 & 10, Sat. and Sun.** Intro to Metal Clay Jewelry Workshop 10am to 4 pm, by Marjorie Barnes, Arcade 304, Glen Echo Park. Fee \$160 + \$80 supply fee. Contact: <[marjoriebarnes@yahoo.com](mailto:marjoriebarnes@yahoo.com)>.

**August 15, 16, & 17** 11th Annual Gem, Jewelry, Mineral & Bead Show and Sale of the Mid-Atlantic Gem & Mineral Association. Lebanon Expo and Fairgrounds, Rte. 72 & Rocherty Rd., Lebanon, PA. Fri. & Sat. 10 to 6, Sun. 10 to 4. Admission \$6.00 (Good for all 3 Days). Children Under 12 Free. Information: Marvin Schwab, 301/565-0487, or [www.gem-show.com](http://www.gem-show.com).

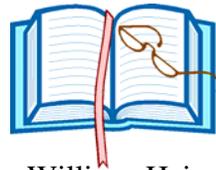
**September 13 & 14**, 43rd Annual Gem, Mineral, and Jewelry Show of the Central Pennsylvania Rock and Mineral Club Inc. celebrating the club's 50th anniversary. **New Location:** Eagle View Middle School, (Behind Cumberland Valley High School) 6746 Carlisle Pike, Mechanicsburg PA. Saturday 10 am to 6 pm, Sunday 10 am to 5 pm. Admission \$5, under 12 and scouts in uniform free. Information & \$1 Off coupon at <<http://rockandmineral.org>>.

**September 24 to 28**, The Houston Gem and Mineral Society hosts the AFMS & South Central Federation of Mineral Societies' Conventions at the Humble Convention Center, 8233 Will Clayton Parkway, Humble TX. The show itself is Sep. 26 to 28, with Federation meetings and activities earlier and coincident with the show. Information at <<http://www.amfed.org/show2008.htm>>



**September 27 & 28**, 44th Annual Atlantic Coast Gem, Mineral, & Jewelry Show of the Gem Cutter's Guild. Howard County Fairgrounds, Saturday 10 am to 6 pm, Sunday 10 am to 5 pm. Admission \$5.00, children under 12 free with adult. Free parking. Directions: Off I-70 at MD 32 to MD 144 to Fairgrounds. For information: <[www.gemcuttersguild.com](http://www.gemcuttersguild.com)>.

**September 27 & 28**, 52nd Annual Franklin-Sterling Hill Mineral, Gem, & Jewelry Show sponsored by the Franklin Mineral Museum, Franklin School, Washington Avenue, Franklin NJ.



## Bookmark These

**WEB SITES**

**The Corundinium**, <<http://www.corundinium.com/>>, is by William Heirerman, a Math teacher at Wharton County Junior College in Wharton TX. The site is hard (Moh's=9!) to negotiate because it is undergoing renovation, and is a work in progress. I suggest you go to the "Old Site" link and explore it fully, later investigating the "New" topics. You will find a gallery, Photo Essay, Localities, Commentary, and Crystal forms, etc. Even lab created material is included. There is a catalog of minerals for sale which is our practice to neither support or oppose. Fine quality Burma (Myanmar) ruby corundum is especially hard to find.

● New York Times writer William Safire (pun intended), who may have dug Montana sapphires, is known for calling a spade a spade. ●

By Wendell Mohr



Pakistan Corundum  
Photo:  
William Heirerman

**American Mineralogist**, <<http://www.minsocam.org/msa/ammin/toc/>>, has their articles from 1916 to 1999 available for free on this site. (Full text articles published in 2000-2008 are restricted to Subscribers and Members but you can view the abstracts.) These writings tend to be quite technical but you might find something of interest by puttering around while you are inside escaping the summer's heat.



● One very technical article said: Strike pyrite and it smells sulphury. Some barite is fetid. That's my two scents. ●

**Weird Geology Room**, <<http://unmuseum.mus.pa.us/weridgeo.htm>>, by Lee Krystek explores some geological features. Quicksand, Hoodoos of Bryce Canyon, Tsunamis, Devil's Tower, Yellowstone Super Volcano, Ringing Rocks (listen to the sounds), Geysers (watch the movies), and Crystals are revealed. Is it weird that he calls these topics weird?

● "Erosion Destroying Mountains" "breaking news at 11" is weird geology. ● ● I would consider using Walgreens advanced wrinkle therapy to improve the Nevada basin and Range topography really weird geology ●



**ERRATA** The June Rockhoulder stated that that month's birthstone is "Opal, with alternate moonstone." It should have read "Pearl with alternate moonstone." Parenthetically, alexandrite is another alternate. Opal is the October birthstone. Every morning is the dawn of a new error!



Advice for editors: Proofread carefully to see if you any words out.

**JAMIE HILL, LEGENDARY EMERALD HUNTER**

(Continued from Page 2)

Does the realization of a fantasy come true change rock people? No, for the most part I don't think so. In the most recent update I could find about him, Jamie Hill is President of his own exploration company. He must be rich beyond his wildest dreams but he is still heavily vested in pulling high quality emerald out of his property. December 11, 2003 a 1,861.9 carat emerald crystal was unearthed along with crystals of quartz, pyrite, muscovite, rutile, calcite, and other minerals "consistent with voids opened by the company."<sup>4</sup> In our interesting hobby of rock and mineral collecting, there are few guarantees that every trip to some location will produce a rich find and world-renowned specimens. After all that is not the real point of our interest in collecting. Very often just fulfilling of a dream, a fantasy and excitement of the hunt is reward enough. After almost a lifetime of searching Jamie Hill was exceptionally rewarded for his efforts. Anybody want to go to North Carolina and find gem emeralds?

1. Wells, Kimberly, "Emerald City: Hiddenite holds buried treasure." 3/30/01 *Hickory Daily Record*.

2. Trapp Francis W. (Bud), Where you can dig for emeralds; the rockrush for the "green bolts" of Hiddenite," *Rock & Gem Magazine*, March 1972, pages 9 and 11.

3. Ibid., Wells, Kimberly

4. George Howard, "Emeralds in N.C." *North American Emerald Mines* December 1, 2003. From Rock Buster News,

By Jack Busch

**Back with more about '92--** Sorry to have missed writing about 1992 last issue but I was visited by some kind of bug that gave me, among other things, a full blown case of malaise, but now I'm back to what passes for normal, so now we pick up once more the doings of sixteen years ago.

My last scribblings ended with the doing's of June's meeting, and per custom there were no gatherings in July and August. That doesn't mean that rockologically (there's a new word for Scrabble and Boggle players) were quiet. For instance, field trips were scheduled to Westmoreland State Park VA, Gore VA, the Calvert Marine Museum in Solomons MD, Medford quarry MD, and Crystal Grottoes in Boonsboro MD, so there was plenty to do. Jonathan Ertman and Mike Ellwood displayed some of their discoveries at September's Show Table.

Also at September's meeting several visitors applied for membership in the Society, among them Sue and Phil Krug. The evening's program was an EFMLS slide presentation on Lake Superior Agates, narrated by Wendell Mohr. The program described how the agates were found, and their different variations.

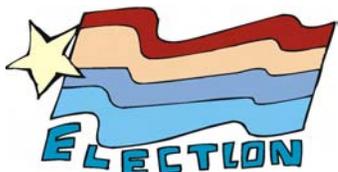
Another September event was the issuance by the U.S. Postal Service of a set of four large size stamps depicting minerals. The First Day of Issue took place at the Smithsonian's Museum of Natural History, and the stamps showed specimens of azurite, variscite, copper, and wulfenite, with the designs based on photos taken by Chip Clark of the museum staff. (As an aside, Chip has been a speaker at some of our meetings.) Wendell Mohr, who is now Chairman of the American Federation's Commemorative Stamp Committee, was instrumental, along with Lillian Turner, the then Chair, in getting issuance of the stamps approved, and he is still is trying to get stamps that display birthstones.

In September's "*Rockhounder*" Editor Nancy Ballard included an item she found in "*Old Cars Weekly*" that described the carving of a full sized Mercedes-Benz limousine from a solid block of Barre VT granite. The block measured 17 1/2 feet long and about 6 feet wide, and weighed 66 tons. It took 14 months to complete the job, and 30 tons of granite were chipped off, by hand, in the process. All external details were present: windshield wipers, tail pipe, muffler, tires with treads, even a keyhole in the trunk lid. After it was completed, the "limo" was taken to a cemetery in metropolitan New York and parked alongside a mausoleum.

Larry Harrison and Wendell represented the Society at the EFMLS convention in Harrisburg PA September 18-20 and reported the business meeting was completed in under two hours, as "no really controversial items arose." They also reported that the awards banquet was a sell-out and a great meal had been served. The show that accompanied the convention had 21 exhibits and 21 dealers.

At October's meeting Wendell introduced 14-year-old Gustavo Araoz, a Science Fair participant who had won First Prize in Junior Level Earth Sciences. His project was on "Paleogeography - Fossils and the Landscape." He outlined his project by explaining how he had gone to five different areas to collect, study, and research the habitats where he had collected his fossils. In addition to our award, he also had received several others for his work.

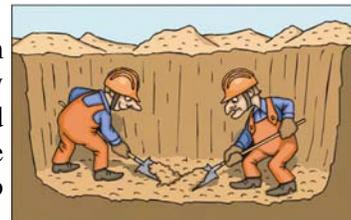
After Gustavo's presentation an auction was held of specimens from the collection of William Holloman which had been donated to the Society. Although no report was made of the proceeds of the auction, (though the activity itself was described as being "fun"), it's possible they could have been greater had the finding locations of the specimens been given. Ergo, make sure your collection is well labeled, and don't buy anything that doesn't show its provenance.



As in so many other places November is election time for the Society. However, we need not go through primaries or listen to speeches, bombastic or otherwise; a Nominating Committee prepares a slate, it is presented to the membership which approves it and voila!, the job is finished. This it was done at November's meeting with Lou Williams being elected President, Bob Irby new V.P., Jan Shopland retained her job as Secretary, and George Fetterly replaced Lou as Treasurer.

Bob introduced the evening's speaker, Dr. Louis C. Peltier, who spoke about Geomorphology. Dr. Peltier described this as "the use of minerals to determine environmental changes." He described himself as a Geomorphologist who has studied the earth's surface/terrain, soil conditions, and erosion to find what minerals may be found under the surface. He gave detailed descriptions how this work is done, illustrating his commentary with excellent slides.

The next "*Rockhounder*" will wrap up the year's activities and perhaps start those of 1993. Who knows? Have yourselves a joyous summer, perhaps to include the acquisition of new stuff for display on September's Show Table.



**MINING OUR HISTORY**

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Society Address: Gem, Lapidary, and Mineral Society of Montgomery County MD., Inc.  
 P. O. Box 444, Gaithersburg MD 20884-0444 Web Site: <http://www.glmsmc.com/>  
 All Society correspondence is to be sent to this address except that which is intended for the Rockhounder and its editor. Such items are to be sent to the editor's home address.



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1st Place, New Editor, 2007  
 2nd Place, Small Bulletin, 2008  
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FIRST CLASS MAIL  
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THE ROCKHOUNDER  
 Gem, Lapidary, and Mineral Society  
 Of Montgomery County, Md., Inc  
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