



REGULAR MEETING: Meetings are held the 2nd Monday of the month from September to June. The Society will meet on **Monday December 14th** 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 chat with old friends and help us set up for the PARTY!. **NO SHOW TABLE THIS MONTH.** There will be no speaker for this meeting because this will be the SWAP/SELL and social evening. You may bring hobby related items to swap or sell. Space is limited and we need some tables for refreshments, so bring no more than an amount that will fit on one table. It is possible that tables will have to be shared.

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

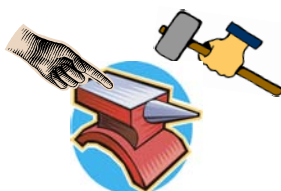
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS will not meet in December.

ROSTER CHANGES

HALLMAN, BETSY, new E mail address: fossilhound@comcast.net
PARNELL, Tom, 5552 Arboretum Avenue, Virginia Beach VA. (Cell) 571 205 5286, thomas.parnell@wachovia.com
VAITKUS, Kris & OLSHIN, Bob, 13917 Flint Rock Road, Rockville MD 20853-2650, 301 460 3286, Bob: bolshin@verizon.net, Kris: Krisev1@verizon.net, Elena Olshin (9/96), Abbie Olshin (9/96)

ROSTER UPDATE An updated roster will be sent out in January. It is for the convenience of members and will be mailed or E mailed to members only. It is not to be used to solicit business, nor will it be distributed outside of the Society. If you do NOT want your name, address, phone number, or E Mail address listed, please let Wendell Mohr know by December 15th At 301 926 7190 OR <wmohr@erols.com>. If any data in your listing has changed, (Address, phone number, E Mail, children added or deleted) and you have not told Wendell about it, please do it NOW.

Richard put his pinkie
where he shouldn't ought,
A very painful lesson he's
now been taught.



DEADLINE for the January 2010 Rockhounder: Dec 26th

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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE:

Our Society has lost a great friend and member. As you probably know, Nancy Ballard passed away in November. Everyone who knew her, even for a short time, appreciated Nancy's humor, intelligence and fortitude. Nancy provided a clear, no-nonsense view of questions before our board. She had the perspective of decades of involvement to share with those of us who joined her in service to our Society. Nancy had a wealth of Society history and experience. She helped to keep us from repeating mistakes, and offered encouragement in new endeavors. Nancy provided tremendous judgment, hospitality, and warmth. We will miss her in many ways, and we will be reminded of her often.



I'd like to thank Jonathan Harris for standing in for Nancy as Membership Chair during the November and December general meetings. Thanks also to Andy Muir for hosting the November board meeting. We are now in need of someone to serve as Membership Chair for 2010. Please consider this opportunity to contribute to our club - talk with me or any of the board members if you can help the Society in the role of Membership Chair. Our Membership Chair accepts applications from prospective members, collects dues, issues membership cards, and keeps record of our Society's enrollment.

It has been great to see the number of new members that joined our club in the past two years, and it is even more gratifying to see the number of members that are getting involved in the club's workings. We have elected a new President and Vice President, who I believe will do an outstanding job for the Society. Two years ago I was curious as to why no one was taking the President's position, and George Durland encouraged me to give it a try. I am glad that he did since it has been very enjoyable, particularly having two GLMSMC meetings most months. As other officers have said, I like spending time with other club members, and the board meetings have been an interesting and productive thing to do with other rockhounds once a month. The board is an outstanding group of thoughtful and talented people who continue to make this club successful. Thanks to each of them for making my job in these past two years much easier. Finally, thank you to all of our club members for making our meetings and shows great places to be, for volunteering generously, and for continuing to share your rockhounding experiences with the rest of us.

Heather Felsen is retiring as Show Chairman and I have volunteered to handle those responsibilities. **OUR ANNUAL GEM, MINERAL, & FOSSIL SHOW** will be **March 20-21, 2010** at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds in Gaithersburg. It is not too early to be thinking about the exhibit you will be showing and reserving time to help with the set up, operation, and cleanup for the event. Many hands makes for light work. I look forward to us having another excellent show.

See you at the December meeting/holiday party.

Mark

WEATHER ALERT

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.



For our members and friends in Virginia:

“YES SANTA CLAUS , THERE REALLY IS A VIRGINIA.”

A census taker knocked on a lady's door. She answered all his questions except one. She refused to tell him her age. "But everyone tells their age to the census taker," he said. "Did Miss Maisy, and Miss Daisy tell you their ages?" she asked. "Certainly," he replied "Well, I'm the same age as they are." she snapped. "Precambrian," he wrote on his form.



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES The November 9, 2009 meeting was called to order by President Mark Dahlman at 7:40 pm, with approximately 62 people attending. Minutes of the October 12, 2009 regular meeting were approved.

Election of Officers: Mark said that the Board of Directors, acting as the nominating committee, had nominated Andy Muir to continue as Treasurer, Jeff Cessna to continue as Secretary, Owen Powers for Vice President, and Eric Kindahl for President. There no were no other nominations offered, and the slate of officers was M/S/P. The members present welcomed the new officers warmly.

President: Mark reminded the members about our December meeting, which will be a potluck and rock swap or sale. He stated that Heather Felsen has stepped down as Show Chair, so he is seeking a volunteer to assume that position. Heather will be available for "coaching" the new chair, and Pat Repik-Burns is willing to serve again as the "downstairs chair" to assist the Show Chair. Mark then presented EFMLS and AFMS awards to Mary Crosswhite for two field trip articles she authored for the Rockhounder.



Photo from Mark Dahlman

Field Trips: Jonathan Harris explained that the Hunting Hill collecting trip was rained out, and no other dates are available for this collecting season. He announced two upcoming trips to the Texas quarry and the Havre de Grace quarry. Jonathan also gave a brief explanation of "what to expect" when collecting in a quarry for the first time, emphasizing good safety practices.

Treasurer: Andy reported we continue in good shape financially, with sufficient balance in our accounts.

Membership: There were no new applicants for membership this meeting.

Program: Vice President, Elmer Lantz, introduced the evening speaker, Al De-Milo, a long-time member and once president of the GLMSDC, retired research scientist at the USDA Agricultural Research Service, and lapidary "artist" who loves making cabochons. Al described how to find the rough for a cabochon by collecting it a quarry, buying at a gem show or rock shop, or finding deals at a rock club's auction. He said contrasting colors on relatively hard material make the prettiest cabs. Al explained the process of making the cab by slicing the rough, tracing the desired shape, trimming the rock to shape, then grinding-sanding-polishing until you can see your smiling face in the cab! He estimated that an investment of about \$800 is needed to get started in cabochon-making. There was a discussion of various cutting oils, and Al said he likes the inexpensive Pella oil (but covers up all his skin when working with it to avoid dermatitis) and cleans his cut rocks with lighter fluid. Finally, the audience was reminded that folks can make their own cabochon at our club's show in March. Thanks, Al.

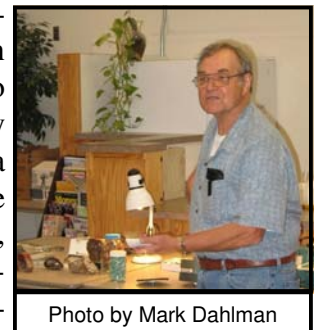


Photo by Mark Dahlman

FRA: The evening FRA program on lapidary was presented by Heather Felsen. Each FRA member went home with a self-made piece of wire-wrap jewelry! Holly McNeil thanked Tom Parnell for donating a large amount of material for upcoming FRA meetings.

Door Prizes: Joel Rosen administered the junior, general and show table door prizes.

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 PM.



Andy Muir, Secretary Pro Tem

BOARD MEETING MINUTES November 16, 2009

Board members present: Jeff Cessna, Mark Dahlman, George Durland Heather Felsen, Jonathan Harris, Elmer Lantz, Wendell Mohr, Andy Muir, Pat Repik-Byrne, Joel Rosen. Future board member present: Owen Powers. President Mark Dahlman called the meeting to order at 7:39 pm.

President: Mark followed up on ongoing issues. George reported that Dr. Post will spend the money from a club donation at the upcoming Tucson Show. He will later let the club know what we purchased.



There was a discussion of who will temporarily take on the innumerable tasks of our cherished club member, Nancy Ballard. Many people volunteered for many tasks. Jonathan will fill in as membership chair at the December meeting.

Field Trips: Jonathan reported on a successful Texas Quarry trip. Nothing was scheduled for December, due to the busy season. Indoor options were discussed for the January or February. As always, please submit photos and stories from trip to Jonathan, to personalize thank you letters to the quarries.

Editor: Wendell reminded us of end of the year housekeeping for the changing of the board. He received a donation of a Lortone tumbler, to be sold at the December meeting. He reported on opportunities for the club at the Rockville Science Day and the USA Science and Engineering Festival.

Property: Joel reported on the door prize inventory. It is sufficient enough to wait and purchase more inventory at our club show. There was discussion of the boards wishes for types of door prizes.

Show Downstairs Chair: Pat has replacement exhibit case prices, and will bring to next meeting. Owen will assist her creating a Email fillable exhibit form for the show, to be placed on the club website. There are 100 pre-forms ready for the shop. Elmer and Jeff will each make an additional 100. Heather will make an additional number, TBD.

Show Chair (former): Heather was working on contracts, anticipating having them out by weeks end. Dealer will send completed contracts to Mark. All those present expressed their appreciation for Heather's efforts.

VP: Elmer anticipates sending a Thank You for the last presentation. January and February have tentative speakers. Owen discussed a possible future speaker.

Treasurer: Andy reported that the net worth statement still in progress. A full yearly budget will be ready for January. Andy will send out Thank You letters for recent contributions. Jeff Nagy directed a speaking honorarium to the club, Tom Parnell made a donation to FRA, and Al DeMilo directed his honorarium specifically to FRA.

There was a final round of thanks to the outgoing President, Vice President, and Show Chair.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Jeff Cessna, Secretary.



HAPPY NEWS Jeff Cessna and Beth Hilkemeyer were married in the Catoctin mountains on November 1st. Society members the Dahlmans and Muirs were in attendance. Beth and Jeff enjoyed their honeymoon in Hawaii, especially seeing the lava. Is the marriage "On the Rocks" so soon? Congrats, Jeff and Beth, from us all.

FIELD TRIPS No trips are currently scheduled for December.

VESTS: Field Trip Chair, Jonathan Harris, reports: Many quarries, including Hunting Hill (Rockville), are now requiring all collectors to wear fluorescent safety vests. These can be purchased from home centers and other stores. Collectors should add this to their gear inventory. (Three styles of vests in yellow or orange are available at Harbor Freight in Gaithersburg are \$3.99 to \$8.99 Less if on sale or with coupon. No endorsement intended Ed.)

The November 1st trip to Rockville quarry had to be cancelled due to inclement weather.

REPORTS OF PAST TRIPS

By Jonathan Harris

November 14, La Farge Texas Quarry, Texas, MD. For the first time in a decade, the GLMSMC and Baltimore area clubs visited with our host Page Herbert, a geologist-consultant, who many of us know from our days collecting at Medford. Texas quarry mines a large deposit of Cockeysville marble.



Quarrying in this area began in the early 1800's. The Texas quarry is the only remaining active site in the area. Marble from this and another local quarry were used extensively in the Washington Monument. Today the quarry supplies mostly aggregate, but also building stone. Page explained that the most pure calcite marbles command the highest price, and have been used in chemical, food, and pharmaceutical products--possibly even Tums.

Most of our collecting was on the lowest levels. Page guided us to the bottom, where we could safely park our cars and walk to the adjacent rock piles. Texas quarry shares one thing in common with that state--its size. We only collected in a relatively small area of this huge mine. In the upper walls we could see large tunnels, apparently bored to extract the purest calcite from the deposit.



The majority of the rock was a fine grain marble, with abundant pieces of phlogopite, a magnesium mica, and pyrite. In a faulted area on the next level of the quarry, several collectors found quartz and calcite crystals and spent considerable effort digging some out of the rock. On the lower level, a pile of coarse grained white marble, held veins of phlogopite, with some books over an inch in diameter. Collectors even found some veins containing dravite, a magnesium rich tourmaline. Long ago, much larger crystals of dravite had been collected at this site, but the those veins have long been removed. Both the dravite and the phlogopite show greenish yellow-orange fluorescence under short wave UV.

November 21, Vulcan's Havre De Grace MD Quarry. This was our first trip to this Quarry. Our host, Pat Pieton, a geologist and assistant plant manager gave us our safety briefing and then a slide show on the quarry and its operations and provided a glimpse of the challenges a quarry faces in supplying the right material for modern construction projects. Dirty gravel can't go in asphalt! Pat had a large table of specimens from the world that they use to show school children when they visit the quarry.

The Havre De Grace quarry is strategically situated along the banks of the Susquehanna River. The quarry material can be loaded directly onto barges for shipping. Quarrying began in 1905 and the mine was acquired by Vulcan Materials in 2007. The rock mined is diabase, gneiss, and metagabbro. The quarry supplies chunks in sizes ranging from small gravel pieces for concrete and asphalt, to large boulders that serve as bollards to block a truck laden with explosives from reaching a building. Pyrite is the most common mineral found by collectors.

After the presentation, Pat escorted us to a site from which we could access two benches. For the first couple of hours we found mostly small pyrite cubes, pyrite masses, feldspar, and quartz with chlorite flecks. Then soon before finishing time, we found a rock pile with large crystals of pyrite--some about two inches long. Trimming the specimens proved to be a challenge. Like any good aggregate material, the diabase and gneiss proved extremely tough--tougher than the pyrite. Attempts to shatter or cleave the rock would almost certainly cleave through the brittle pyrite crystals. The shock of breaking boulders into manageable pieces would often shatter the pyrite. At home, even the stress from squeezing a rock in a rock cracker would shatter some of the pyrite crystals. Nevertheless we were able to acquire some interesting specimens.



All Photos from Jonathan Harris

TED'S SAFETY CORNER RADIOACTIVITY AND YOU



by Ted Reith, AFMS Safety Chair



I taught military students about nuclear weapon effects and defense against same for my two years U S Army active duty service many moons ago. My feeling at the time was that few outside the nuclear physics or health physics world had any meaningful understanding of this topic. I fear that the general knowledge has not improved much since then.

When the term 'radioactivity' is used in general conversation, I feel most thoughts focus on Three Mile Island and Chernobyl. I know scores of people who would take a wide berth around an operating nuclear power plant (out of safety concerns) rather than take one of the fascinating tours some of them offer.

Radioactivity and fluorescence are somewhat related, in that neither can be detected by any of the five senses; specific electronic devices are necessary to know their existence. However, fluorescence can't hurt you, while radiation can be a hazard.

There are three types of radioactivity that may be emitted by the unstable nuclei of certain minerals. Borrowing on the Greek alphabet, they are:

- Alpha: structurally a helium nucleus. This form of radiation has very low penetrating power (can be stopped by a sheet of paper), thus is no hazard outside the body. Internally, however, it poses a risk if an alpha emitter would be inhaled or ingested.

- Beta: structurally, a stream of electrons. Beta has some penetrating power, though can be stopped by a thin piece of aluminum. It is more of an external hazard than alpha – prolonged skin contact will produce a sunburn-like effect. Internally, it's of lower hazard than alpha, but eating is not advised.

- Gamma: essentially similar to X-rays. These, depending on energy level, have great penetrating power, and can be stopped only with generous amounts of high-density materials such as Lead. They may pass through the body without doing damage, or may chip electrons off atoms and cause great damage if the energy is high and the exposure time is long.

How may one identify such species in their collection? To start, some of the more common radioactive minerals are: Uraninite, Torbernite, Autunite, and Gummite – all uranium containing species. To detect them, a Geiger counter (military Radiac instrument) is needed. eBay lists quite a few devices in the \$20 - \$60 range, most are Civil Defense items. Many of them measure Gamma dose rate and detect Beta, such as the CDV 700 device used by Civil Defense. Alpha detectors are unusual, and harder to find. If you have a local CD unit, they may be willing to lend you a device. In any event, you need one used for personnel monitoring (lower dose rate) rather than one for survey.

So, you determined part of your collection is radioactive...what to do. Common sense takes over. Don't eat, drink, or smoke while handling these materials. Wash your hands after handling. Store them further away from your living areas (dose rate decreases with the square of the distance). Avoid mechanical processes which may put fine debris in the air. Consider that Lead-lined box for fairly strong Gamma emitters (but not for Beta.)

Like many other hazards in life, one can generally control them with knowledge. Handled safely, you'll get more radiation in a CT scan, from normal background (always present) radiation – cosmic rays and naturally occurring radioactives, and from the radioactive Potassium 40 present in your own bodies than you will from your mineral collection.

Free safety P.S.: The US Dept of H&HS offers a household product safety site, which may be reached at <<http://householdproducts.nlm.nih.gov/index.htm>>. This site includes many specifically named commercial products commonly found around the home and discusses topics such as health effects, symptoms of exposure, first aid, physician notes, and many others. Additional information may be found at <www.hedegaard.com/Minerals/Groups/Radioactives.html>. This link is fairly well written and may be included for those who wish to do additional reading.



From AFMS Newsletter Sep.2009

SHOW TABLE: Oct. 12, 2009. Thanks to those who bring items for sharing at the meetings.

| <u>Exhibitor</u> | <u>Specimen (s)</u> | <u>Locality</u> |
|-------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| Doug Baum | Okenite | Bombay, India |
| Mary & Chris Crosswhite | Petrified Wood | Holbrook AZ |
| Jonathan Harris | | Antreville SC |
| Dave Hennessey | *Phlogopite (fl.) | Marriottsville MD |
| Alex Kindahl | Malachite | Bisbee AZ |
| Eric Kindahl | Blue and brown goldstone | Man-made |
| | *Minerals from granite pegmatite (Quartz, Feldspar, Muscovite, Biotite, Schorl, etc.) | Ruggles Mine, Grafton NH |
| Avery Marsteller | Agate | Locality not given |
| Chuck Mason | Lake Superior Agate | Crisp Point, Upper Peninsula MI |
| Andy Muir | Chlorophane Fluorite | Trumbull CT |
| Tom Parnell | Calcite on Manganite | Chihuahua, Mexico |
| Nolan Pepper | Halite | Dead Sea, Israel |
| Owen Powers | Crystal & ugly looking Rock! | Chevy Chase MD |
| Joel Rosen | Opal | Manhattan mine, Knoxville Napa Co. CA |
| Jennifer Weiss | Agate | Locality not given |



* = Self-collected or self made



DOOR PRIZES

Junior Prize Alex Kindahl took home a Calcite and Laumonite specimen from the Stafford Quarry, Stafford VA which was donated by Andy Muir.

Show Table Prize A Mexican fishtail Selenite was won by Nolan Pepper.

The General Door Prize, claimed by Mary Crosswhite, was a Dichroic Glass Pendant.

All Photographs by Mark Dahlman



SILENT AUCTION There will be two Lortone tumblers for sale to the highest bidder at the December meeting. One is Model 45-CNR, a gift of Gil Bowen, and the other Model 1.5E-NR, gift of Jed Brown. Both are “Beginner” size. Also there will be some fluorescent minerals. Bring money!

SAD NEWS Michael Tihomirov Died on Nov. 28th at the age of 65. A resident of Alexandria VA, he was a member of our Society for over five years. He and his children participated in activities, especially field trips. He leaves a wife, Cynthia and children Zinaida (Zina), Alexander (Sasha), and Eugenia (Zhenya) to whom we extend our condolences.



BOB JONES IS COMING TO WILDACRES!

by Steve Weinberger, Wildacres Workshop Committee Chair

Yes, you read correctly, Bob Jones is coming to Wildacres as our spring session speaker. If you've heard Bob speak at Wildacres or Springfield or some other venue before, you know how terrific he is. He's travelled to all sorts of places -- England, Russia, the selenite cave of swords at Naica; has been involved in the production of various videos; was show chairman for the Tucson Gem & Mineral Show during the fabulous 50th Anniversary "Gold" show; continues to be Senior Editor of Rock & Gem Magazine; and, best of all, is a fabulous and knowledgeable fellow.



We have our spring dates.....April 23 – 29 and Director Fran Sick is working on our line-up of classes which will be published in the January issue of EFMLS News. Registration will begin on January 1 The fee for the sessions in 2010 will be \$350. Keep an eye on the web site: <<http://www.amfed.org/efmls/wildacres.htm>>.

We also now have our fall dates.... September 6 - 12 and our speaker will be **Lisa Carp** who has a strong interest in jewelry.



Mark your calendar now! Watch for the January EFMLS News so you can get the registration form.....and as they say at those other "rock" events....seating is limited, so plan on registering early! Adapted from EFMLS News & Gem Cutter's News, Dec 2009



Back in the days when Paul Revere's silver shop was not heated, his apprentices and helpers, like most people of that period, donned their winter underwear at the first fall chill and neither removed nor washed it until it was too hot to stand it. Over this time the daily dust of silver accumulated in the fibers of the material. In the spring, the now-heavy underwear was burned, for many reasons, and the silver was reclaimed. This is how we got the term "Long John Silver"! By Ted Marikos, McDonnell Douglas Gem & Mineral Society, St. Louis, MO (written for The Geode 04/76) Via Pegmatite Bulletin of the San Diego M&G Soc. Nov. 2009

THANKS A great big thanks for the exemplary service of the outgoing President, Vice President, and Show Chair. Each demonstrated a high quality of leadership during their terms. Mark Dahlman skillfully was at the helm and advanced the Society an many ways not previously known. Elmer Lantz



provided a couple of years of varied and interesting programs. Heather Felsen led the Annual Shows to ever increasing success. Great job, recognized by all. Many thanks.

Why don't YOU step up to a leadership role?



JUNIORS FUTURE ROCKHOUNDS OF AMERICA "The MOCKS"

By Holly McNeil



November Meeting Program What a night! Heather Felsen gave a fantastic presentation on making jewelry to help us with our Lapidary badge requirements. She discussed the various types of stones used to make jewelry, gave a workshop safety lesson and taught us how to grind and polish stones using her cabbing machine.



Photographs by Mark Dahman

Almost every club member had a chance to help grind or polish a stone. The last part of the meeting was devoted to learning wire wrapping, and members made their own pieces of jewelry. THANK YOU HEATHER!

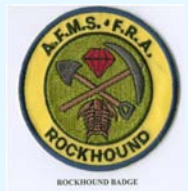
December 14th Party - Parents -- The Mocks voted to have their own year end party in the sunroom. We are asking each Mock family to bring in one finger food (this is a "no silverware" event) to share with the group in that room. Drinks, napkins and paper plates will be provided.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU to Tom Parnell for a very substantial donation of specimens to the FRA program for prizes and education. A most generous gift and we thank Tom and numerous other GLMSMC members for their support which helped make the first year of the Future Rockhounds of America a great success and ensures 2010 will get off to a great start!



Photo: W. Mohr

For more information on the Future Rockhounds of America program, please contact Holly McNeil at <fra_advisor@glmsmc.com> or 301-605-7179.

**SHOWS**

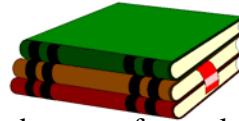
Sat. Dec 12th Fall Festival of Fine Minerals, Fossils, & Jewelry, a commercial show sponsored by several dealers who sell at our show. 10 am to 4 pm, free admission, Timonium MD, Just N. of Towson/Baltimore I-83, Exit 17, right on Padonia Road to 9615 Deerco Road. Information 410 828 0024, <octahedron1@mac.com>.



Sat. February 20, 2010 Annual show of the Southern Maryland Rock & Mineral Club. One day only 10 am to 4 pm. Admission \$3.00 (6 and under free). New location: The Show Place Arena, Upper Marlboro MD. Off MD 4

March 6 & 7, 2010: Annual Gem & Mineral Show and 60th Annual EFMLS Convention hosted by the Delaware Mineralogical Society. Delaware Technical College, Routes 58 & 7, Stanton DE. EFMLS Annual Meeting Friday, March 5.

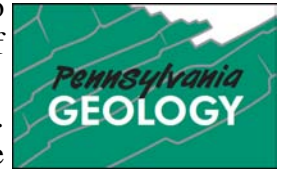
Bookmark These

**WEB SITES**

Pennsylvania Geology Online, is a handy way to get what was formerly a snail mail publication. Find an archive dating from Spring/Summer 1997 to present. You may wish to subscribe to receive it regularly by E Mail. I think you will find many articles of interest. You will find it at:

<<http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/topogeo/pub/pageolmag/pageolonline.aspx>>.

●Geologists are gneiss, tuff, and a little wacke.● ●Asked about his strange place to sleep, the geologist said why not? It is bedrock.●



By Wendell Mohr

Meteorites and Their Properties, <<http://meteorites.lpl.arizona.edu/>>, is an online version of a book by David Kring of the University of Arizona. Go to the Table of Contents and step through the Introduction, and about meteorite's Origin, Structure and Composition, Impacting and Craters, Frequency of Falls, Appearance when Freshly-Fallen, Hunting, Tests, Articles and Books, and a Glossary. ●The Smithsonian put the Tucson ring meteorite on their web page. Yes, what goes around .coms around!●



Photo credit
R. Weller,
Cochise College

Eye on Tiger Eye, <<http://www.lapidaryjournal.com/feature/jul00str.cfm>> is a feature story from the July 2000 Lapidary Journal/Jewelry Artist magazine. Play 20 questions with authors Si and Ann Frazier to learn a multitude of things about the stone. Although the font for titles is extremely hard to read, this is a worthwhile piece. ●Tiger Eye is becoming very valuable since tigers are on the endangered species list.●

●I bet the tiger says "Leave my eyes alone."●

Photo credit
R. Weller,
Cochise College

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO MEMBERS:**

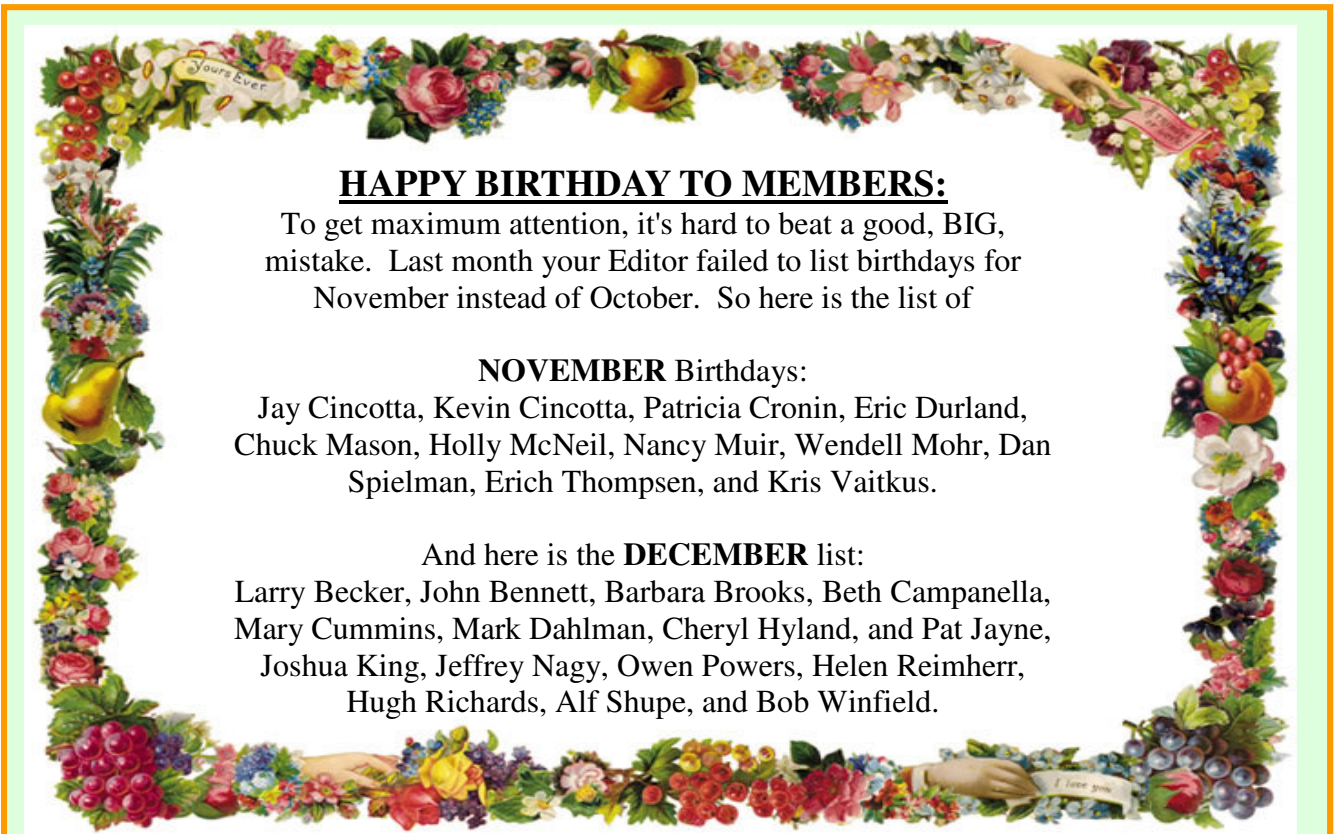
To get maximum attention, it's hard to beat a good, BIG, mistake. Last month your Editor failed to list birthdays for November instead of October. So here is the list of

NOVEMBER Birthdays:

Jay Cincotta, Kevin Cincotta, Patricia Cronin, Eric Durland, Chuck Mason, Holly McNeil, Nancy Muir, Wendell Mohr, Dan Spielman, Erich Thompsen, and Kris Vaitkus.

And here is the **DECEMBER** list:

Larry Becker, John Bennett, Barbara Brooks, Beth Campanella, Mary Cummins, Mark Dahlman, Cheryl Hyland, and Pat Jayne, Joshua King, Jeffrey Nagy, Owen Powers, Helen Reimherr, Hugh Richards, Alf Shupe, and Bob Winfield.



("NANCY") ANNABEL BALLARD

Died November 12, 2009. She is survived by her husband and GLMSMC member, David Ballard and three children, Patricia Kendrick, Guy Jeffrey Johnson, and Gail Jennifer Lussier.

Nancy was a Master Gardener and volunteered for the for the Extension Service as well as maintaining a home greenhouse the full length of the back of their home. She was also active in the Music Box Society. So active, she also was a member for over 40 years and did volunteer work for her Church including at "The Attic", a now-closed thrift store in Old Town Gaithersburg and in the "Alter Guild." She enjoyed reading and collecting things made of wood.

A member of our Society since Nov. 1972, (when family membership was but \$5.00!) she did a multitude of things, including editing the Rockhounder for 32+ years (Done on a typewriter all that time!), still mailing the snail mail copies, and graciously hosted the Board meetings at her home (with refreshments for attendees). Nancy was usually the first face seen by Show attendees, managing the hospitality and ticket booth. She provided refreshments for the annual Holiday event and at Show set up. Nancy served as the de facto historian, and was a Society life member.

There will be a memorial service at 1 pm, December 12th at the Episcopal Church of the Ascension, 205 S. Summit Ave., Gaithersburg. A small reception will be held in the church library immediately after the service. Donations in her memory may be made to the American Cancer Society, 11331 Amherst Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20902.

A few comments by Society members: Nancy will truly be missed.; Very very said news. What a nice lady!!!; That is so very sad to hear...she always had a smile and kind words, she will be missed dearly by all of us I am sure.; I'm saddened to hear this. She will be missed, especially during the show this year.; Sorry to hear that news. Nancy will surely be missed as she was a pillar of the club.; So sad about Nancy, things just won't be the same.; This is indeed sad news.; Sorry to here about this, Nancy did so much for club.; What terrible news. She was a terrific person and a very valued member of GLMS/MC as long as I can remember.; We are very sorry to hear about Nancy's death.; We appreciated her friendship very much.



Photo: Wendell Mohr



MEET YOUR NEW PRESIDENT, ERIC KINDAHL

Eric Kindahl has been playing with rocks since he was a small child. Once he discovered they were more interesting to look at than to eat, he has been hooked on rockhounding. Eric credits his father for first getting him interested in the hobby, and he has many fond memories of collecting Crinoid fossils for dad along the beaches of Lake Michigan. Growing up in urban Chicago, Eric longed for the day that he would be old enough to “cross the busy street” and venture away from his home block. On his first solo foray out of the neighborhood, his mother tells him he walked to the local library and checked out every book they had on minerals, geology, and fossils. These early encounters with the treasures of the earth crystallized into a passion when, in junior high, a mineral dealer at a craft fair gave him some beautiful fluorite, calcite, and sphalerite specimens from southern Illinois. Although the passion lay dormant for many years, it was reawakened when Eric’s daughter Alexandra expressed interest in learning about minerals and they joined GLSMC in 2006.

Eric received his bachelor’s degree in biology from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. From there, he moved to Cornell University to study environmental toxicology, but he eventually completed his doctorate in population genetics with minors in ecology and evolutionary biology. Eric is first and foremost a teacher and has taught over 25 different courses in environmental science, biology, and areas further afield, such as trail maintenance and natural history writing. He worked at Cornell, St. Lawrence Univ., and Univ. of Maine-Machias before joining the faculty at Hood College in 1998 where he is currently the director of the Environmental Science & Policy Program. Eric especially enjoys working in the field with students on travel-study courses which have taken him to Costa Rica, the Southern Appalachians, the Everglades, and the Bahamas. His current research focuses on stream restoration.



Eric lives in Mount Airy, MD with his 13-year old daughter Alexandra. Together they enjoy hiking, rockhounding, working on school projects, and discussing the latest in forensic science. Eric is an avid naturalist and loves watching birds, studying lichens, catching salamanders, and growing heirloom vegetables in his garden. He plays the autoharp and hammer dulcimer, but not as often as he would like. When not studying his mineral collection, Eric enjoys making jewelry, especially metal weaving and chain maille. He is looking forward to learning more of the lapidary arts to meld these passions into wearable objects of beauty.

MEET YOUR NEW VICE PRESIDENT, OWEN POWERS

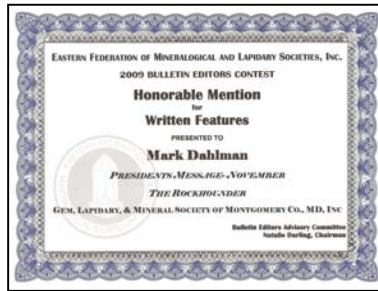
Owen lives in Chevy Chase, MD with his wife Antonia and two children, Joseph and Meredith. His interest in nature developed as a child growing up in New York City. As contrary as that may sound it’s true. The part of NYC where he was raised, Little Neck, is a peninsula in the Long Island Sound. It is surrounded by salt marshes and it provided him with a plethora of natural phenomena to be investigated. Another major influence was TV; the series that aired on PBS in 1974: “The Ascent of Man”, by Jacob Bronowski, inspired him to pursue a bachelor’s degree in Physics and Earth and Space Sciences from the State University of New York at Stonybrook.

He moved to the DC area thirty years ago to work at National Air and Space Administration’s Goddard Space Flight Center as a software programmer. He subsequently became CEO and cofounder of SYSTRON, INC., a software development company. Currently he works as an Instructional Associate in the Science Learning Center at Montgomery College.



Owen enjoys spending time with his family, golf and tap dancing, not at the same time, as well as hikes in Rock Creek Park and of course, rock hounding. Fairly indiscriminate in his rock collecting, he never found a rock that was not worth looking at. Most of his spare time is spent researching his hypothesis: that Washington DC was built in a secondary impact crater of the Chesapeake Bay Impact. See <www.dccrater.com> for more information. (Editor’s note: the web site could well have been subject for the regular web site article.)

Photos by W. Mohr



EFMLS CONVENTION AWARDS



Small Bulletins,
The Rockhounder, Wendell Mohr Editor: EFMLS 1st Place, AFMS 7th Place.

Original Educational Articles,
Mary Crosswhite, "Can a Lake be Dry?"
EFMLS 1st Place, AFMS 10th Place.

Original Non-Technical Articles,
Mary Crosswhite, "The Frog, and the Plum"
EFMLS 6th Place.



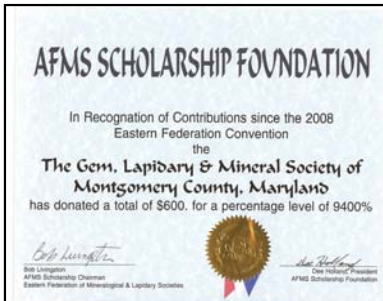
Written Features,
Wendell Mohr, "Web Sites—Spy one These"
EFMLS 1st Place, AFMS 5th Place.

Written Features,
Mark Dahlman, two "President's Messages"
one for May, 6th Place, and one for November
Honorable Mention.



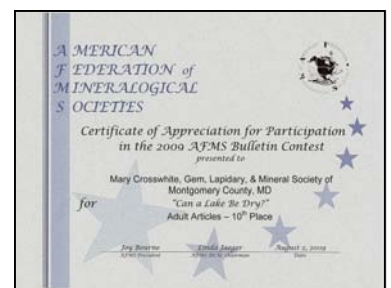
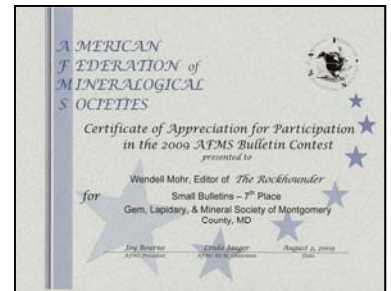
Each One Teach One Award,
Holly McNeil EFMLS, 3rd Place.

AFMS Scholarship Foundation,
To GLMSMC for \$600 donations (Includes Society gift and individual's gifts and memorials) for 2009, total to date 9400%. \$1.00 per member per year = 1%.



Eastern Foundation Fund,
To GLMSMC for 200% level for year. Also Special Award for having attained the second \$1000.

Our Society's name has been added to the EFF "Roll of Honor" Plaque.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

| | |
|--|--------------|
| President- Mark Dahlman, 11906 Scovell Terrace, Germantown MD 20874-2532 | 301 428 0455 |
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| Bulletin Editor- Wendell Mohr, 9509 Emory Grove Road, Gaithersburg MD 20877-3501 | 301 926 7190 |

Charter Member: Dan Spielman; Life Members: David Ballard, Jack Busch, Larry Harrison,
Wendell Mohr, Charlotte Morrison, Juan Proaño, Dan Spielman, and Paul Vance

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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Award Winning
Bulletin
EFMLS, AFMS
Editor's Contests



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THE ROCKHOUNDER
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Of Montgomery County, Md., Inc
Wendell C. Mohr, Editor
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