

**REGULAR MEETING** Meetings are held the 2nd Monday of the month from September to June. The Society will next meet on Monday May 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 to chat and see the Show Table materials. The program will be *Exploring the Chesapeake Bay Impact Structure* presented by **David Scott Powars**, geologist, USGS, Reston, Virginia, and primary researcher on the Impact Crater since the late 1980s. Approximately 35 million years ago, a chunk of space debris a mile or two in diameter, traveling up to 70,000 mph blasted a 24-mile wide, one-mile deep hole into the solid rock below, the largest known impact crater in the United States!

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS** will meet on May 18th at 7:30 pm at the home of David and Nancy Ballard. All Board members are expected to be there. Any member is welcome to attend but please let Nancy know if you plan to attend.

**NEW MEMBERS**

BABB, Roshni, 19109 Jericho Drive, Gaithersburg MD 20879-3129, 301 208 9899, rpbabb@comcast.net

Trevor (06/00)

CINCOTTA, Cindy & Jay, 13808 Holly Crest Lane, Dayton MD 21036-1242, 443 535 9363, ccincotta@esymmetrix.com

Dylan (03/95), Kevin (11/97)

HOCHULI, Jürg & Sarah, 6209 Beechdale Court, Derwood MD 20855-1405, 301 208 6556, Hochuli06@comcast.net

Danny (09/01), Owen (10/99). Susannah (09/97)

SIEGAL, Anne Cameron & Rebecca, 105 West Luray Avenue, Alexandria VA 22301-2031, 703 517 0860, siegalwriter@gmail.com

WEISS, Dee & Robert, 13204 Lantern Hollow Drive, North Potomac MD 20878-8705, 301 216 0350, dcopl@aol.com

Jennifer (06/01), David (08/03)

YEE, Margaret, 9710 Traville Gateway Drive #160, Rockville MD 20850-7408, 301 379 7506, Margaret\_yee2000@yahoo.com

Rachel Zehrunge (12/97), Haley Zehrunge ((05/00)

**FORMER MEMBERS - REJOINED**

CARTER, Ken and Patricia, 501 2nd Ave., Brunswick MD 21716-1400, 301 834 6516, kc21716@yahoo.com

Carolyn (08/92)

**ROSTER CHANGE**

CURRY, Kellyn, Junior member birthday (02/00)

HENNESSEY, Matthew (NOT Michael) (Son of David)

WINGARD, Jennifer, & KING, Joshua, xtlresearch@yahoo.com

**GUESTS** Robert Clemenzi and Carolyn Weinberger.



**DEADLINE** for the June 2009 Rockhounder: **May 26th**

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**PRESIDENTS MESSAGE:** Greetings! I hope you are enjoying the Spring weather, perhaps on some of our many club field trips. Thanks again to Jonathan Harris for organizing such a wealth of trips for us this year. If you've never been on one of the collecting field trips, you owe it to yourself to give it a try. Quarries, such as the Rockville quarry, can be very impressive - just the scale of the place is inspiring. If you have wondered what it takes to go on one of these trips, just ask. There are a lot of folks in the club who are more than happy to provide tips and advice for a first-time collector.



Our show in March continues to bring visitors and new members to our Society meetings. I hope that each of us takes the opportunity to welcome them to our meetings. By striking up a conversation with a visitor or new member, you may discover a kindred spirit, or someone who knows a lot about a subject that interests you. If nothing else, you are bound to make someone new feel like we are a friendly bunch (we are, aren't we?). Speaking of new members, I'd like to encourage everyone to wear their name tags at our meetings. If you don't have a name tag, our Membership Chair, Nancy Ballard, can provide you with the order form for one. The name tags are inexpensive, and are available in a week or two. Also, for those who are new to the Society, you may not know that we have a library of books, pamphlets and videos that are available to you. The list of what is available is on our Society website, <[www.glms.com](http://www.glms.com)> - just click on the "Library" link. If you don't have computer access, contact me or our Librarian, Jonathan Harris for the list of material we have available. As members of the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies (EFMLS), we also support the EFMLS library of on-line articles at <[www.amfed.org/efmls](http://www.amfed.org/efmls)> - just click on the "library" link. And of course you can find a tremendous number of interesting articles and links in *The Rockhounder* - several years of our favorite newsletter are also available on our Society website under the "Rockhounder" link.

A quick reminder, we must clear our meeting room at 10 pm. Please do your part to accomplish that deadline by limiting your remarks about your Show Table specimens to only your two favorite items.

I hope your Spring is filled with enjoyable rockhounding adventures.

See you at the meeting. Mark.



**MINERALOGICAL RECORD** One of the two lots sold at the April meeting for \$75. The unsold lot will be sold to a book dealer with proceeds to the Society. In May we will hold another silent auction. One lot consists of Vol. VII, 5 issues, 1976, (# 2 is missing), minimum bid \$158. [#6, the "Colorado I" issue alone, retails for \$174.] The 2nd lot, Vol. III, 4 issues, (#2 & 3 are missing), 1977, minimum bid \$75. The 3rd lot is a single issue, Vol. XIV, #4, with a \$6 minimum bid. The minimum bid for each is half of the going retail price. This is the end of the sale of these magazines.



**EFMLS DRAWING** At least 8 great prizes will be offered at the EFMLS Convention and Show, October 17 & 18 at Bristol CT, and more keep coming in. You can see these prizes in color by going to <[www.amfed.org/efmls](http://www.amfed.org/efmls)> and downloading the March and April EFMLS Newsletters. Tickets will be available soon and we will keep you posted.

**AFMS DRAWING**, likewise, will take place at the AFMS Convention Aug. 1st at Billings MT. Tickets for \$5 each, or 5 for \$20 may be bought by check addressed to "AFMS Endowment Fund" along with self-addressed, stamped envelope (remember the new postal rate!) to Carolyn Weinberger, P.O. Box 302 Glyndon MD 21071-0302. Color photographs are at <[www.anfed.org/endow2009.htm](http://www.anfed.org/endow2009.htm)>.



**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES:**

The April 13, 2009 meeting was called to order by President Mark Dahlman at 7:46 pm, with approximately 69 people attending. Minutes of the March 9, 2009 regular meeting were approved.

**FRA:** Holly announced the evening program theme of mineral identification. She gave thanks to Jo Ann Mohr for bags to hold mineral ID kits; Elwin Bagley, of Chelmsford, MA, for streak plates; and Georgia Olmstead for specimens used to demonstrate hardness and cleavage. The May program will feature Mike Elwood discussing fossils. Holly announced the first badge, in showmanship, was earned by Gabriella McDonald. Gabriella earned extra congratulations from AFMS Junior Activities Chair, Jim Brace-Thompson.

**President:** Mark announced the evening auction of the *Mineralogical Record* volumes. One lot sold, the other will be sold to a dealer. He then talked about the show. We had 1588 attendees over the two days, plus over 500 kids. He noted there were many new people helping out. Mark thanked new member Ann Cameron Siegal for her articles in the Washington Post. It sure helped the show.

Don Turner reported that approximately 240 juniors went through the shop. He read a statement of appreciation (see this newsletter).

**Field Trips:** Jonathan announced the extensive list of upcoming trips. Many options are available for juniors. Mark commented – “What a line-up!” This brought applause from the crowd. Thanks, Jonathan.

Carolyn Weinberger was delighted to see our active FRA program and reminded us that it wouldn't be possible without the AFMS endowment. She offered raffle tickets that support that endowment. Get yours today.

**Program:** Vice President, Elmer Lantz, introduced the evening speaker, Steve Weinberger. The program was entitled “Micromounting – Not Just for Small Minds.” Steve started with questions for the audience to reveal the many benefits of collecting micromounts. One benefit is to avoid the experience of a New York collector whose attic collection spontaneously moved itself to the basement. No collectors were harmed in this story. More benefits are the opportunity to collect rare minerals and perfect crystals. We learned about the tools needed for micromounting: a good magnifier, a binocular microscope, a rock trimmer, tools for trimming, cleaning, and grabbing small samples, tools and jigs for preparing the mounts, and storage cabinets. Approximately 120 samples will fit in one tray! Hints for photography were discussed. Finally we were treated to pictures of gold, silver, copper, diamonds, fluorites, vanadinites, wulfenites, and many more specimens.



**Treasurer:** Andy announced the highest attendance ever for the show. We made slightly more than last year. He joined in the thanks to everybody and reported we are doing well with our bank account.

**Editor:** Wendell gave a list of odd and ends of interest to the club. There is a long list of upcoming shows. Fall Wildacres applications are available. For faceters, a club discount of \$1000 off list price on equipment is available from Ultratec.

It was M/S/P to accept six new membership applications.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 PM.

Jeff Cessna, Secretary.

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Board members present: Nancy Ballard, Jeff Cessna, Mark Dahlman, George Durland, Heather Felsen, Elmer Lantz, Wendell Mohr, Andy Muir, Pat Repik-Byrne, Rod Towers. Non board member present: David Ballard. President Mark Dahlman called the April 27, 2009 meeting to order at 7:33 pm.

**Editor:** The MD Geological Society would like some joint our field trips. With no objections, Wendell will inform Jonathan. Reciprocity would be welcome. The board should select a nominating committee. Mark will hit term limits and Elmer will not be available next year. Nominations are need for Each One Teach One and Rockhounder of the Year. It was M/S/P nominating a person for the former, the latter suggestion requires clarification (Names will be revealed at a later date). Possibilities were discussed about another venue in case the fairground becomes unavailable. Options were discussed for modernizing the show mailing list. Mark will follow up on possibilities. Getting the Lillian Turner awards for the junior winners was discussed. The non-profit status of the club should be added to the flyer.

**VP:** Elmer sent a thank you for the Weinberger presentation. The May program is confirmed and newspaper ads are requested. The June presentation by Dr. Post was accepted, according to George. Elmer will follow up.

**Show Downstairs Chair:** Pat was thrilled with the number of exhibits. Applications exceeded spaces. Usable cases number 45 (+ 1 needs repair), including fluorescent cases. There was discussion of purchasing new cases. Mark will follow up with GLMS-DC for case plan. There are possibilities among the members to build cases. Auctions seem to bring people to the show and keep them there longer.

**Show Upstairs Chair:** Heather will complete a show report for this year. Informal poll showed dealers were happy about sales this year. Having a Downstairs Chair is working well. The new table plan worked. Our dealer waiting list is lengthy. Only one incident of possible shoplifting was reported. Security for the following year was discussed.

**Treasurer:** Society tax return is due May 15th. Andy is working on it. Club savings were rolled into a no penalty CD for better return. Show finances were discussed. This year we have our security deposit back.

**Membership and Show Front Table:** Nancy reported the numbers. The flyers got good returns. The post cards yielded approximately 10% returns.

It was M/S/P to add language to the show flyer stating the policy that the discount applies to each member in a group.

It was M/S/P to undertake a redesign of the show flyer and poster, subject to board approval. Marco Marchegiani has volunteered.

**President:** Mark reminded us all to update our job duties write-ups, with special emphasis on show related duties while the memories are fresh. Mark is looking for show photos to use on the club web site. Mark noted that the President's job is the easiest on the board. If you are reading the minutes you should consider the position.

**Field Trips: (submitted by email):** Jonathan is trying for Stuart and Perry Quarry in Winchester, VA. There are currently no trips scheduled for June. University of MD is still being investigated.

**Property: (submitted by email):** Trailer is back at Mary Bernardo's property and all is well. Alf Shupe is working on one of the lapidary machines, will replace bearings if needed. Everything else in the trailer is where it will be until next year. Joel gave Mary the rent check. She will receive new trailer registration and he will pick it up from her.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 PM.

Jeff Cessna, Secretary.

**MORE SHOW THANKS**

My gratitude to all those who helped me set up downstairs on Friday and those who helped me break down and repack the trailer on Sunday at the show. There is no way I could do all that has to be done, without the help of all the club members who graciously extend a helping hand.

Regards to all. Joel

Rosen

As the 2009 Show shop coordinator I wish thank all of the people who took part in any way with the shop preparation and its activities. It was a great success.

Thanks very much. Don Turner

**Saturday May 9, PCS Lee Creek Mine, Aurora, NC, 07:00 am.** Drive time about 6 hours from Rockville. A classic site for fossil shark's teeth and whale bones. We have only 8 slots. You are only allowed into the mine once a season; please don't go with our Society and then with another. They check driver's licenses. If you get caught you may get barred. You should have signed-up with Jennifer Wingard at <xtlresearch@yahoo.com> already. Contact her to see if openings still exist. In an email please include both email and phone contact information and how many times and when you have been to the site. If you don't have access to email, please call Jonathan at 301-545-0808. Jennifer or Jonathan will notify you soon after if we have a slot for you. We would like to have at least one experienced person on the trip. Note that "no-shows" for this trip are absolutely forbidden. The mine management reduces slots when the requested ones are not fulfilled. Management is extremely strict and has no tolerance for even the slightest infraction of rules. End up on the wrong side of a collecting zone marker cone and our club will get zero slots next time. To see what to expect see the web sites <<http://www.elasmo.com/>> and <<http://www.fossilguy.com/>> . This is a reminder that quarry management does us great favors by inviting us in and we must be extra sensitive to their rules and requirements.

**Saturday May 16, Vulcan's Manassas Quarry 7:30 am.** The rock is diabase, with one level having a layer of hornfels. This quarry has produced prehnite, apophyllite, calcite, amethyst, other quartz, chalcopyrite, pyrite, epidote, and zeolites -- stilbite, chabazite, heulandite, stellerite, and others. Please let Jonathan Harris know if you plan to attend by May 9 so he can provide the quarry with an accurate headcount. Children 10 and up are welcome if accompanied by a parents. Mickey Stump, our host, has offered to show the children some of the equipment, including the ginormous trucks. Directions: From the Beltway, go West on 66. Take Exit 44, SR-234. Go 3.6 Miles. Turn Left onto Wellington Lane. The quarry will be on your left, about 0.5 miles from Rt. 234.

**May 17th, Hunting Hill Quarry in Rockville, 8:15 am.** Minimum age is 16 (with proper parental supervision.) Only paid members are permitted. You must reserve no later than one week before the trip. Email <jgharris7@comcast.net> (best) or call Jonathan at 301-545-0808. Include with any messages your name and contact information. The quarry needs a headcount a week ahead, and contact information is needed in case of a last minute cancellation. If you show up without prior signup, you will be asked to leave. All collectors must attend the safety briefing at the beginning of the trip and follow all quarry rules. It is customary to pay \$5.00 each for the quarry person.

Find your best way to the intersection of Shady Grove Road with Darnestown Road. (From I-270 you may take I-370 west to Great Seneca Highway, where you turn left, to Darnestown Road, where you turn right.) Go North (West at this point) on Darnestown Road. Turn Left at the stop light at Travilah Road. Go 0.9 miles and turn left on Piney Meetinghouse Road. Go 0.1 miles to the quarry entrance on the right. Enter the property and stay right and meet at the office bldg.



**Saturday May 30, National Limestone Quarry, Mt. Pleasant Mills PA, 9:00 am** at quarry office. A great site for wavellite, strontianite, variscite and turquoise. Bring a specimen from some other location for Eric Stahl, manager of the Quarry. Jonathan is unable to attend. A group leader to keep things organized is needed. People may leave when the group leader leaves! Volunteer leader you?, Let Jonathan know. Mt. Pleasant Mills is about 3 to 3.5 hours away. Go N. on I-270, continue N. on US 15. Roughly 9 miles N. of Liverpool take PA 104 to intersection with PA 35 at Mount Pleasant Mills. From this junction, go N. on Route 104 about one-third of a mile and make the first left turn (Heister Valley Rd). Proceed a little way to the first left turn on this road and your are at the Quarry entrance. (Cont'd on Page 9)

**SAFETY - WHAT HAVE I JUST COLLECTED?**

By Theodore J. Reith

From: Mid West Federation News, November 2008

I have been a rock and mineral collector for more than three decades now. Being a Chemical Engineer, I've typically been more interested in a specimen's chemistry than its geology. This is a most wonderful hobby, though all of us must be aware of the potential hazards that some minerals could represent.

This was most apparent to me in an acquisition made when still relatively new to the hobby. A vendor offered a very nice specimen of a rather gemmy, yellow and red crystal matrix from Utah, which I had not seen previously at several dozen shows. What a great new collection addition! The card identified the specimen as Orpiment and Realgar. As the vendor was quite busy at the time, I did not inquire as to the chemical composition of those minerals.

At home, my research quickly identified this specimen as two arsenic sulfides, chemically AsS and As<sub>2</sub>S<sub>3</sub>. Arsenic is an obvious hazard word for most of us. A bit more checking of the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) showed it to have:

A Health rating of 4 (defined specifically as "life-threatening, major or permanent damage may result from single or repeated overexposures.")

To be listed by DOT as a Class B poison ("presumed to present a serious threat to health during transportation.")

To produce Hydrogen Sulfide (H<sub>2</sub>S) when contacted with water, a known respiratory hazard with its own Health rating of 4.

If a sample has a Health rating of 3 or 4 on the MSDS (or even a 2 if you're extra cautious,) then you need to do some homework on safe handling. The lesson to learn – know what you're collecting. The first stop would be to discuss the specimen with the vendor or a knowledgeable person at the collection site. If you have internet access, there are a multitude of safety information sources if you know the chemical composition of your specimen. *Google* can certainly be your friend in this search. The MSDS, noted above, is a fine information source even though designed for industrial use of chemicals.

So, what did I do with my colorful, but hazardous specimen? It's clearly marked as to the arsenic content. Handlers, including myself, will use non-cloth gloves or wash hands thoroughly after admiring the crystals, especially prior to eating. Younger children may look, but not touch. And from this point on, this writer knows what is being added to his collection!

**MAY BIRTHDAYS** Roshni Babb, Frances Becker, Alison Durland, Corky Harrison, Bob Irby, John James, Steven Karsch, Elmer Lantz, Bob LaVilla, Charlotte Morrison, Jennifer Paraboschi, Annette Regatts, Linda Smith, John D. Wells, Max Wright, Haley Zehring.

Your birthstone is **Emerald**. Emeralds are a variety of the mineral beryl (Be<sub>3</sub>Al<sub>2</sub>(SiO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>6</sub>) colored green by trace amounts of chromium and sometimes vanadium. Beryl has a hardness of 7.5 to 8 on the Mohs scale of hardness. Most emeralds are highly included, so their brittleness (resistance to breakage) is classified as generally poor. Colombian emeralds are generally the most prized due to their transparency and fire. Some of the most rare emeralds come from three main emerald mining areas in Colombia: Muzo, Coscuez, and Chivor. Fine emeralds are also found in other countries, such as Zambia, Brazil, Madagascar, Pakistan, and Russia. In the US, fine emeralds can be found at Hiddenite NC. In 1998, emeralds were discovered in the Yukon.



Photo by  
Wendell Mohr

Courtesy Wikipedia®

**SHOW TABLE:** April 13, 2009. Thanks to those who bring items for sharing at the meetings.

<u>Exhibitor</u>	<u>Specimen (s)</u>	<u>Locality</u>
Boe Brosius	Calcite (fl.) & Stilbite & Amethyst Epidote Goethite Blue Quartz	Localities Unknown Switzerland Cornwall, England Leadville CO
Jeff Cessna	Native Copper Aragonite	South Mountain PA Enna, Sicily, Italy
George Durland	Clinohedrite, Hardystonite, Willemite Microcline	Franklin NJ Northern Pakistan
Jonathan Harris	Grossular Garnet, Diopside*	Hunting Hill Quarry, Rockville MD
Chuck Hyland	Calcite on Quartz Chalcopyrite on Calcite Gypsum var. Selenite Amber Calcite	Krushov Dol Mine, Bulgaria Cumberland, England Chancellor's Point, St. Mary's Co., MD Durango, Mexico
Pay Jayne	Fluorescent Collection	Various
Diane Leaman	Serpentine, Garnet, Calcite, Rodingite, Magnetite, Hematite*	{ Hunting Hill Quarry, Rockville MD
Gary Leaman	Serpentine, Garnet, Calcite, Dolomite, Clinozoisite*	
Gabriella McDonald	Eocene Shark Teeth	Morocco
Wendell Mohr	Smoky Quartz	Florissant CO
Andy Muir	Fluorite (Fl. zoning)	Cave-in-Rock IL
George Reimherr	Willemite, Calcite Grossular Garnet micro xls.*	Buckwheat dump, Franklin NJ Hunting Hill Quarry, Rockville MD
Joel Rosen	Petrified Tree Agate Egg Managanocalcite	Unknown Unknown Guanajuato, Mexico
Conrad Smith	Quartz ("Herkimer Diamonds")*	Herkimer County NY
Earl Smith	Sulfur	Bolivia
Linda Smith	Quartz ("Herkimer Diamonds")*	Herkimer County NY
Eric Thompsen	Turquoise	Bishop Mine, VA
Rod Towers	Microscope and specimens	



**DOOR PRIZES** (Doubled up since Joel missed the March meeting due to illness.)

**Junior**

Carved Lizard Gabriella McDonald  
Fluorite, Okorusu, Namibia Conrad Smith

**Show Table**

Alethopleris Fern, St. Clair PA Conrad Smith  
Uvarovite Garnet, George Reimherr

**General Door Prize**

Ichthyosaur Vertebra, Upper Jurassic, Eric Smith  
Dorset, England  
Calcite, Kolwezi, Zaire Eric Thompsen



## UPCOMING SHOWS AND EVENTS

**EARTH DAY EVENT, 2009** Aggregate Industries (Rockville Quarry) regrets to announce that they will not be hosting an open house this year. Unfortunately Aggregate Industries has not escaped the recent financial turmoil that has impacted the construction industry, and like many businesses, they have been forced to cut back in some areas.



Smilodon californicus

**EXTREME MAMMALS** The American Museum of Natural History in New York City announces their exhibit of the biggest, smallest, and most amazing mammals of all time. Exploring the surprising and sometimes bizarre world of extinct and living mammals, The exhibition opens May 16, 2009, and remains on view until January 3, 2010.

See <<http://www.amnh.org/exhibitions/extrememammals/>>.

**May 23** Saturday only, 20th Annual Chesapeake Gem and Mineral Society Show, 10 am to 4 pm, Ruhl Armory, Towson MD. I-695 exit 26, York Road South. Armory is on the east side (across from car dealer and funeral home) at 1035 York Rd. just inside I-695. Free admission!

**PEGMATITE WORKSHOP.** The 2009 Maine Workshop at Poland Miming Camps, Poland ME will run from May 30<sup>th</sup> to June 6<sup>th</sup>. See <<http://homepage.mac.com/rasprague/PegShop/>>.

Thanks to Georgia Olmstead

**GEOLOGY OF THE C&O CANAL.** Sunday, June 7th, 10 am to Noon. River Center, at Lock house 8, 7906 Riverside Avenue, Cabin John MD. Callan Bentley, Assistant Professor of Geology at Northern VA Community College, will use rock evidence to deduce the geologic history of our region.

**GLEN ECHO PARK** is presenting courses in bronze metal clay jewelry, precious metal clay jewelry, fine silver casting, and stone carving. The library has the Spring/Summer catalog or visit <[www.glenechopark.org](http://www.glenechopark.org)>.



### MINERALOGICAL MUSEUM

Invitation: "Please join us for the re-opening of the Mineralogical Museum in Penny Hall, 225 Academy Street on the University of Delaware Newark Campus. Be the first to see the newly redesigned exhibition of the University's nationally renowned mineralogical collection. The Mineralogical Museum originated with the gift of the Irenée du Pont, Sr. collection in 1964. A significant part of this collection was purchased in 1919 by Mr. du Pont from George Kunz, Vice-President of Tiffany & Co, and had been on display in the Tiffany showroom in New York City.

See <[udel.edu/museums](http://udel.edu/museums)>.



**JUNIORS Future Rockhounds of America**

By Holly McNeil

CONGRATULATIONS to Gabriella McDonald who received her Showmanship badge – the first badge awarded to a FRA member.



We had record breaking attendance at the April session of Future Rockhounds of America. Mineral Identification was the topic - each participant made their own mineral ID kits, including streak plates, hardness testers and magnets. We covered the basic principles of mineral identification and practiced our new skills on some specimens.

THANK YOU to those who donated materials used in the session (Jo Ann Mohr, Elwin Bagley, Georgia Olmstead), and a special note of appreciation to volunteer Linda Smith for stepping up to help ensure attendees had everything they needed and were on track with the exercise. Thanks Linda!

**Upcoming Programs**

**May 11<sup>th</sup>** program - FOSSILS! Mike Elwood, local fossil expert, demonstrator at our show and former club officer has graciously agreed to lead the discussion. He will share examples with the youth and discuss where in Maryland similar items may be found. It promises to be a very informative session. **7:45 - 9:00** pm in the sunroom of the Senior Center Cafeteria.

**May 16<sup>th</sup>** Field Trip - Ages 10+ Vulcan Quarry, Manassas VA. Must be accompanied by a parent and must have all required safety gear (hard hat, safety goggles, steel toed boots, gloves, long pants). FRA members will have an opportunity to “tour” some of the quarry equipment as well as hunt for specimens for their collections. Sign up prior to May 9<sup>th</sup> by contacting <jgharris7@comcast.net>. See field trip section, Page 5, this *Rockhounder*, for additional details.

**June 8<sup>th</sup>** program – Mineral Identification Part II. We will focus on further honing our skills and meeting the badge requirement by having each youth identify at least 6 minerals.

**FIELD TRIPS** (Continued from Page 5)

(If anyone has ever been to Middleburg Quarry, ten miles from the Mount Pleasant Mills Quarry, and is planning to go, let Jonathan know if you would be willing to lead an afternoon side trip. Eric indicated we could collect there if we have someone familiar with the quarry present. This quarry has yielded nice fluorites.)

**Field trip rules:** Field trips are restricted to club members in good standing. Children must be accompanied by a parent and use the required safety gear. Participants must attend the safety briefing given at the beginning of the trip, sign applicable waivers and paperwork, and follow all quarry instructions. Required safety gear: hard hats, safety goggles, long pants, steel toed boots, and gloves. Participants must wear eye protection and hard hats at all times on quarry property. Seriously consider bringing: sunscreen, water, snacks, and clothing appropriate for the weather conditions. Participants must sign up with the field trip chair in advance. With the exception of the Aurora trip, E mail Jonathan if you have to cancel or if you plan to make a decision the morning of the trip (e.g. “fair weather collectors”). Jonathan Harris will email announcements of any trips scheduled after press time and will have specific driving instructions. Get on his list. Questions? Contact <jgharris7@comcast.net>. No E Mail? Call Jonathan at 301-545-0808

Get fired up about these



## WEB SITES

By Wendell Mohr

**Zeolites-of-the-World**, <<http://www.mindat.org/article.php/507/Mindat's+15th+Birthday+and+a+present+for+everyone>>, by Rudy W. Tschernich is available free for the 15th anniversary of Mindat's website: Click to download the book, a very thorough treatise. Warning! It is 237 Mb and took me about 40 minutes with a DSL connection to download the 565 page book. You can catch a lot of ZZZZZZ's while waiting! How zeolites are formed, cleaning specimens, industrial uses, and details of the approximately 41 species are covered in this technical work.



- You often find nice zeolites in vesicular basalt. What if there aren't cavities? That's tuff! •



**Glossary of Glacier Terminology**, <<http://pubs.usgs.gov/of/2004/1216/index2.html>> is by Bruce Molnia of the USGS. "Types of Glaciers", well illustrated, shows Alaskan glaciers and land forms. The Glossary, though somewhat obtuse because you have to work your way through the alphabet, gives you very informative content. Better look quickly because of the effects of global warming.

- The glaciologist, says it is a great profession but there is one big risk– you get a lot of cold sores! •

**Fossils of Nova Scotia**, <<http://museum.gov.ns.ca/fossils/>> offers an opportunity to learn about the subject. Read about geologic history, amazing discoveries, 8 important sites, early and contemporary collectors, and the N.S. rules about protecting the past. I thought that the fossil gallery was somewhat weak in places. Remember, if you go there, tides up to 49 feet are eroding the cliffs and will try to erode you! • No one from PETA was there when the trilobites went extinct. •



Great for Nova Scotia Fossil Fish!

## YOUNG GEM AND MINERAL COLLECTOR EARNS BIG PRIZE

The Intel (formerly Westinghouse) Science Talent Search is the premier forum for showcasing America's future leaders in scientific research. High school students from throughout the country compete for scholarships based on their science projects. These projects are typically conducted at government or university laboratories and are on a level of those conducted by senior investigators. Traditionally the winners have come from just a few disciplines: biology, chemistry, mathematics and physics. This year may have produced a first: a top place prize on a project in the earth and planetary science category that looked at the properties of a popular gemstone mineral.

Gabriela Farfan is a high school senior from Madison, Wisconsin. She is a member of a local club and is particularly interested in minerals and gems. One mineral that caught her eye is "Oregon Sunstone", the state rock. This is a feldspar that usually has a red color and can display a schiller. It has been known that the color is due to copper inclusions. Gabriella was curious as to why some of the specimens from the Dust Devil mine in Oregon looked red from one angle and green from another.

Using x-ray diffraction, optical microscopy and electron microscopy she found the answer. Present in the host crystal are also inclusions of zinc. Gabriela's theory is that there are aligned nano-scale metal platelet inclusions which, when viewed from different angles, give rise to the observed colors. Gabriela also presented this last year work at a meeting of the Gemological Institute of America (GIA). For this work Intel presented her with a \$20,000 scholarship.

References:

<http://www.scisvc.org/sts/68sts/FarFan.asp>

<http://geology.about.com/b/2009/03/27/congratulations-gabriela-farfan.htm>

By Erich Grundel

**SOCIETY HISTORY**

By Jack Busch

**SPRING 1994** As usually happens, our show was followed by the arrival of Spring. But, as included in one of the songs from Gilbert and Sullivan's "Mikado", the flowers that bloom in the spring Tra la la la, Tra la la la la, have nothing to do with this case. No, Spring for us rockhounds means the resumption of field trips. True, there is an occasional jaunt during the preceding months, especially if one is lucky enough to get to AZ or NM, but the majority of dirt-digging. Sand-straining, creek-wading, and rock-cracking field trips begin after the vernal equinox. And April '94's schedule listed six interesting sounding trips, ranging from the Ideal Pits at Creek Hayne NC (80 miles beyond Aurora) to Cockeysville MD. I had not heard of nor read about the Ideal Pits before but according to the description give it was (is still?) owned by Martin Marietta, and contained many varieties of fossil sea urchins and sand dollars. Sue Krug and Terry Cirrincione brought back specimens of the latter to put on May's Show Table. I wasn't going into detail about the other five destinations but I suppose that had one had sufficient time, cash, and gas, one could have been to all during the month.



Another member of the Krug family, Phil, donated a video tape on diamonds (Frontline Diamonds - made by the DeBeers Company) which is still in our library. Another donor was from Dorothy McCarthy who gave a display case, books on gem identification, and some instruments used in gem identification to the Society. As now is the time for spring cleaning perhaps you may uncover some items that could be of use to the Society for its library or as door prizes, or for Holly's FRA members. Give a look.

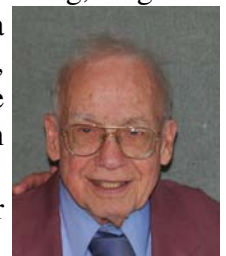
Back to fossils, some of you may have seen some of the recent Terminex TV commercials about termites. Well, in April's Rockhoulder, Editor Nancy Ballard included a squib about paleobotanists at Sul Ross State University in Alpine TX having restudied some of their petrified wood specimens, and in doing so found a fossilized termite nest. The wood had come from Big Bend National Park and was estimated to be 70 million years old. At that time the area was a swampy delta with rivers and forests. Too bad Terminex and its competitors weren't around then; perhaps we wouldn't have to watch the commercials now.

At April's meeting Wendell Mohr reported that he and Lou Williams had judged twelve exhibits at the Montgomery Area Science Fair and had chosen two of them to receive awards from us. Bob Irby reported we had been requested to place an exhibit at Montgomery College's Science Day. Jack Nelson volunteered to take the club case and represent us at the event. He was accompanied by Anna Marcus. Jack also said he had taken an exhibit on gold panning to an exhibit sponsored by the Bureau of Mines (no longer in existence) and designed for junior and senior high school students.

Hugh Richards was accepted as a member at April's meeting. Does it seem that long, Hugh?

The speaker for the evening was Claire McArdle who told of her career as a sculptor working with marble and bronze. Using slides to compliment her remarks, Ms. McArdle told about the varieties of marble from different locations and of the various techniques of sculpting. She also brought along some of her works to be seen (and felt) by the audience and some of the tools she used to do the work.

Did the field trips continue in May? What a question, of course they did, four of them. I will tell more about them in the next issue, along with other stuff.



**AFMS FRA** Committee Chair, Jim Brace Thompson visited our area (condolences to Jim, whose father of Bethesda passed away) and met with a few Society members at the home of Steve and Holly McNeil. Holly and Pat Jayne who have been deeply involved in the program for youths were able to compare notes, sharing our activities to date. It was an honor to have the opportunity to meet Jim, in person.

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