



REGULAR MEETING: Meetings are held the 2nd Monday of the month from September to June. The Society will next meet on **Monday February 8th** 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 see what you and others have on the Show Table.

The program speaker will be **Dr. Dennis Coskren**, speaking about **Minerals in the Alum Cave in Tennessee and his discovery of Coskrenite**. He is a mineralogist and geochemist, and graduate of MIT (BS) and the University of Kentucky (MS, PhD). He has been interested in minerals since high school, when he did a science project in crystallography. He joined the Boston Mineral Club in 1958, and was introduced to the pegmatites of New England. His mineral interests include pegmatite phosphates, the minerals of Mount St.-Hilaire, and water-soluble sulfates. In the late 1980's he became intrigued by the report of a rare sulfate mineral at Alum Cave Bluff in the Great Smoky Mountains, and decided to do a study of the locality to document the minerals there. His investigations found many interesting new species, including three new minerals, all of which are rare-earth-element sulfate-oxalates. He became a member of a very select group when a mineral was named after him.



THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS will meet on **February 15th** at the home of Andy Muir at 7:30 pm. All Board members are expected to be there. Any member is welcome to attend but please let Andy know if you plan to attend (301 990 1370).

REINSTATED MEMBERS: Welcome back!

WELLS, John D. & Barbara, 6020 Commack Court, Springfield VA 22152-1313, 703 569-7889,
John e-Mail: jdwellssr@yahoo.com,
Barbara e-Mail : brylandw@yahoo.com.

ROSTER CHANGES

Eric Thompsen e-Mail: eric@wcc-ip.com.
Charlotte Tyler e-Mail: CATyler@fcps.edu.

A BIG WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

William Nagy, 11110 Troy Road, Rockville MD 20852-2436,
301 770 1993, e-Mail: Audrey.BillNagy@yahoo.com.
Don Greaves, 3J Research Road, Greenbelt MD 20770-0766,
301 436 2057, e-Mail: Donald.Greaves@fda.hhs.gov.

A warming trend has hit the Arctic. Scientists have been assigned to watch glaciers in danger of splitting. Naturally, all of the researchers had to have good ice sight.

DEADLINE for the March 2010 Rockhounder: February 24



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: When was the last time you took a good long look at *someone else's* collection? This is a fantastic way to test your identification skills on specimens that are both familiar and new at the same time. There are several ways to see others' collections, and I recommend them all.

First, attend our club gatherings. The show table at our monthly meetings allows you to see a cross section of what fellow club members are interested in, and it gives you a chance to introduce others to your interests. While I enjoy seeing what everyone brings in, I truly delight in the stories connected to the specimens and the excitement of the storytellers. If you haven't been part of the show table experience yet, give it a try. We'd love to see and hear about the latest or strangest or favorite part of your collection.

Second, make friends in the hobby. In joining GLMSMC I learned that there are other people out there who are just as crazy about minerals, fossils, and lapidary as I am. I've seen some of their collections – well, parts of them at least, since we all have yet another box or two of rocks in the garage or basement that we just haven't had a chance to sort yet. I've even seen fellow rockhounds adding to their collections on club field trips. Not only do I get to swap rocks and share stories with these club members, but they have become my friends as well.

Third, visit a show. This is a great opportunity to see a wide range of specimens up close and to ask questions. Dealers are more than happy to share what they know, as are many of the customers! Displays by club members allow you to see beautiful and interesting specimens and give you insight into what drives other collectors. Think about what you would put into a showcase. Better yet – don't just think about it – do it! Put together a showcase for our upcoming show in March. Volunteer to help out at the show and spend some quality time looking at other people's collections.

Fourth, hit the museums. Take advantage of the stellar museum collections in our area. The Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of Natural History, for example, has a world class collection of minerals, fossils, and meteorites. Visiting museum collections makes me feel like I've gone to rockhound heaven, but I would really like to get even closer to the specimens, perhaps even touch them. If you feel the same way, why not join our club for its upcoming trip to the Smithsonian Naturalist Center in Leesburg. Here you can see the rocks and touch them too!

See you at our February meeting!

Eric Kindahl



MEMBERSHIP CHAIR PERSON We continue in desperate need of someone to serve as Membership Chair for 2010. Please consider this opportunity to contribute to our Society. Our Membership Chair greets visitors, accepts applications from prospective members, collects dues, issues membership cards, and keeps records of our Society's enrollment. The person automatically becomes a member of the Board of Directors. **You** can do it. See Eric Kindahl to sign up!



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.

Happy Valentine Day 

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Best wishes to David Ballard who was hospitalized and now in Rehab at The Virginian, 9229 Arlington Boulevard, Fairfax VA 22031, Dogwood Terrace, Room 49B. His phone is 703 279 3449. Bet that he would welcome a call or a card.

A fast recovery to Andy Muir who had hip surgery. His family is supportive while he manages those unwieldy crutches.

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

The January 11, 2010 meeting was called to order by President Eric Kindahl at 7:45 pm, with approximately 65 people attending. It was M/S/P to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2009 regular meeting and board meeting.

President: Eric Kindahl had show flyers for the Southern MD club and Montgomery Co. Fairground calendars with the Society show advertisement. The society is still in need of a Membership Chair. If interested see Eric, or any board member.

Three visitors introduced themselves. It was MSP to approve the membership of William Nagy (father of club historian, Jeff Nagy) and Don Greaves, pending receipt of applications.

Treasurer: Andy reported that all deposit checks from show dealers are in. The club has paid the Fairgrounds. The Society is in good shape financially.

Field Trips: Jonathan discussed the upcoming field trip to the University of Richmond. He requested any member with access to a quarry, mine, or construction site contact him.

Editor: Wendell noted that we need to select representation and alternates for the Eastern Federation meeting. Jennifer Wingard sends news that there will be no collecting this year at the PCS mines in Aurora, due to road construction. The closure is not expected to be permanent. Wendell has forms for this year's Wildacres. He reported on upcoming rock related events and classes.

Jeff Nagy reported that Fred Parker will present "*Minerals of Maryland*" at the Rochester Mineralogical Symposium, 15-18 April 2010, and suggested a local support delegation attend.

Show: Mark distributed the show sign-up sheets. Please contact Mark if you would like to sign up. Invoices are in for Show security, tables, and chairs, with only slight increases from last year.

Show (Exhibits/Demonstrations): Pat has exhibit and demonstrator forms. Bob Irby reported that demonstrator invitations have been sent. Two cases, Walter Goetz and Dr Jeffrey Post, and two demonstrators, Micromineralogists and the Washington Bead Society, are confirmed. He has leads on USGS, sculpture, and jewelry gold working demonstrations.

Presentation: Vice president Owen Powers introduced the speaker for the evening, Dr. Peter Kranz. He discussed the recently opened Dinosaur Park near Laurel, MD. The public can visit 12-4 pm on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of every month. Then, after minor technical difficulties, he presented "Dinosaurs of the National Capitol Region: an Update." The presentation continued the story of the park and other area sites, starting with some of the early important people in dinosaur fossil collecting for the area. Many of their important finds were pictured. We also saw some of the dinosaur track fossils that can be found in this area. There is hope of preserving an important fossil track site near Emmitsburg, MD as a park as well. Thank you, Dr. Kranz.



Photo by W. Mohr

Meeting adjourned at 9:57 PM.

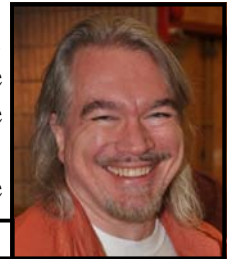
Jeff Cessna, Secretary

Board members present: Jeff Cessna, Mark Dahlman, Jonathan Harris, Eric Kindahl, Wendell Mohr, Andy Muir, Owen Powers, Pat Repik-Byrne. President Eric Kindahl called the January 18, 2010 meeting to order at 7:36 pm at the Home of Andy Muir.

President: Eric will be able to attend the Eastern Federation meeting as a Director. Gerald Elgert volunteered to be the delegate. It was M/S/P to accept the offer. There was discussion that club representatives are expected to attend all functions, take notes, and report back.

Discussion continued on filling the vacant membership chair position. Duties were discussed. Mark will keep the board position descriptions.

Photo by W. Mohr ▶



Field Trips: Jonathan reported that four members attended the University of Richmond trip. He is working to schedule the Smithsonian Naturalist center. Possible fossil trips were discussed to the C&D Canal, Calvert Cliffs, or the Dinosaur Park. Rockville Quarry will now require reflective vests. Members should add them to their safety gear.

Editor: Wendell reported the suggestion of a PA system for the meetings. Andy will investigate senior center offerings and other options. It was M/S/P to sponsor two Senior and two Junior \$50 prizes for geology or fossil entries at the Montgomery Area Science Fair. Wendell has received responses from early club members regarding the origins of the club, in anticipation of the 50th year (currently 47th). Jack Busch has purchased a new typewriter for his history articles. We could use a volunteer or more to put in a booth at Rockville Science Day

Show Chair: Mark reported the contract and payment are in with the fairgrounds. Invoices are received from security and furniture. All have slight increases from 2009. Two additional tables are needed. One security officer will be in plain clothes. Wendell will post sign stating as such. Final payments are outstanding for five dealers. The show duties normally assumed by Nancy must be taken on by others. Wendell supplied advertising information for the Montgomery Village News. We need a volunteer to administer the hourly door prizes. Previous years have included a memorial case. We need a volunteer to put one together this year.

Show Downstairs Chair: Pat asked about the notification and process for obtaining raffle items and purchasing door prize items from dealers. Dealers were notified by Mark. It was M/S/P purchase a show door prize item for \$25 from each of the 22 dealers. Pat discussed replacement show case options, favoring and demonstrating one-piece folding designs. Two demonstrator forms have been received from faceters Jeff and William Nagy.

VP: Owen reported Dr. Post is confirmed to speak in April. He will bring the club purchase(s) for donation to the National Museum of Natural History from Tucson. The March speaker is confirmed. Owen stated he can agree to one year as VP.

Treasurer: Andy reported on the club finances. Dr. Kranz requested his honorarium be donated to the dinosaur fund. Steve McNeil has agreed to audit the club financial records for 2009.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:12 pm.



Jeff Cessna, Secretary

AURORA NC, LEE CREEK MINE Curtis Ormond has advised that, due to major construction equipment being moved in and out of the area set up for fossil hunting, “We have decided that for safety reasons there will not be any fossil hunting allowed this year at PCS Phosphate. The mine roads continue to be extremely congested with dump trucks and other equipment involved in relocating Highway 306 which raises safety issues. PCS has not canceled collecting permanently. Please check back next spring. Thanks.” Our Liaison, member Jennifer Wingard, will follow up closely for us.

February 13 1 to 4pm Indoor Field Trip to the Smithsonian's Naturalist Center, 741 Miller Dr., SE, Suite G2, Leesburg VA. Children 10 and older are welcome if accompanied by a parent. Free Parking. See <http://www.mnh.si.edu/education/fieldtrip/planned_programs/naturalist_center/index.html>. The Naturalist Center features specimens of minerals that you can actually pick up and examine as well as dissecting microscopes and a UV light. You can bring in your own unknowns to compare with the center's specimens. The collection includes a sizable number of specimens of local rocks, minerals, and fossils. This is a good trip for new rockhounds to get acquainted with specimens you are apt to find on fieldtrips. To those planning on attending, please email <jgharris7@gmail.com> by February 6. No email? Call Jonathan at 301 545 0808. It is possible that we could exceed the limits of what they can handle, in which case I will schedule a second field trip. Directions From the Beltway, in Virginia, take exit 45A onto the Dulles Toll Rd (VA 267), continue all the way to exit 1A onto US 15 Bypass/VA 7 (almost to Leesburg). Go 0.7 mi, turn RIGHT (South) onto Sycolin Rd. SE (VA 643) for 1.3 miles. Turn RIGHT (West) onto Miller Dr SE and go 0.2 mile to the office park. The trip is about 42 minutes from Rockville. An alternative route is to take White's Ferry beyond Poolesville MD Then US 15 South to US 15 Bypass,, to VA 643. Jonathan G. Harris, Field Trip Chairman

ROCKVILLE QUARRY NEW SPECIES FOUND It was brought to my attention by Fred Stohl of Toms River, NJ that someone had identified and put on MINDAT the mineral **Omphacite** as valid for Hunting Hill Quarry in Rockville. The specimens he showed me were convincing and found it in my collection. It forms porous crystalline to wormy light green aggregates with clinozoisite. Therefore, mineral #70 for Hunting Hill is **Omphacite**. Thank you. Communication from Fred Parker



EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH Chuck Mason Presented a program on Wednesday January 13th at the Leisure World Lapidary Club. His topic? Agates, of course! Chuck has been an avid collector of agates, both self collected and otherwise. He stressed the wide variety of colors and pattern available in agates. He has graced our Show with an exhibit of materials from his collection. Thanks, Chuck



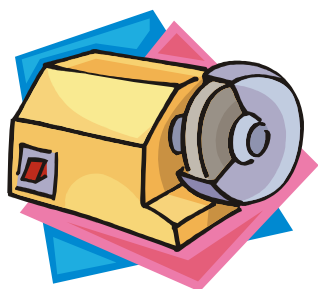
DRYHEAD AGATE
Agate bed near Dryhead creek
Yellowstone county, Montana
Cut & face polished
Photos and article by W. Mohr

NAME BADGES You may have noticed that some members have nice blue badges with the Society logo. New members are given the opportunity to purchase them for \$5.25 each. All are strongly encouraged to have and use one. It has been called to the attention of the Board that some members do not remember being asked, and perhaps the question missed some long time members. The Membership Chair (What? Who? Position is open. How about you volunteering?) has the forms for ordering them. Also the Treasurer has Embroidered Society Patches (About 3” Diameter) available @ \$2.00.

SAFETY: ROTARY SLINGSHOTS

By Mel Albright; AFMS Safety Chair, Dec. 1997

Do you know why slingshots are so powerful? The answer is that they use stored energy to accelerate something to a high speed. That makes them strike with a great deal of force. How many slingshots are in YOUR shop? "None", you say. Sorry, you're wrong. EVERY device you have that goes round and around is a slingshot. Your cab machine, your hand tool, your polisher, your saw, your grinder, your faceter, and more.



If anything catches on one of these devices, it is accelerated - by kinetic energy this time - and becomes a dangerous missile. That means that when they hit they will have a great deal of force. And - YOU might be what it hits. Even worse, your EYE might be what it hits.

So what safety is required when using such devices? First and foremost is an eye shield of some sort. Some machines have one built in. But, most do not. So safety glasses or a face shield are in order. Both are inexpensive and available at your local big box discount or hardware store.

"But, my machine doesn't throw anything!" The needed word to add is "YET". All will at some time. For your safety, many are manufactured so that anything that is sling-shot will go away from you ALMOST every time. But, even then, they can and have come toward the user.

I'll add a personal note about a rotary tool. I had a hard rubber abrasive wheel on (1/4 inch thick and 3/4 inch in diameter) and was polishing silver with it. The shaft broke. The wheel and the jagged shaft ran up my face shield and rammed into the wall behind the workbench. It left a dent like a hard hammer blow would. It also left a deep scratch right in front of my eye. I get chills when I think "What if".



AUCTION The Chesapeake Gem & Mineral Society is holding their auction on Friday, March 12, 7:30 pm (viewing at 7:00 pm) at the Woman's Club of Catonsville. Gemstones, cutting rough, jewelry, minerals, fossils, books, magazines, and lapidary equipment will be auctioned. Refreshments are available. Directions: Go West on Fredrick Rd. from I-695 (Baltimore beltway) approximately 3 blocks to St. Timothy's Lane. Turn right & go 1 block to the Woman's Club located behind St. Timothy's Church.

EDUCATIONAL CONTRIBUTION George Durland has shepherded the donation to the Brookside Nature Center in the Wheaton Regional Park of a collection of fluorescent minerals. The majority were previously purchased by the Society. Some specimens were added from George's own collection. Currently they are locked up to avoid theft but are available for use by the naturalists there to make presentations. They wisely invested in "Way Too Cool" brand multiple wave length UV lights for optimum viewing. Hopefully they will be frequently employed to educate guests about minerals that glow under UV radiation. The center is located at 1400 Glenallan Avenue in Wheaton. As they say, "Geology Rocks!"

USGS EVENING LECTURE Lectures are held the first Wednesday of every month in the Dallas Peck Auditorium, on the first floor of the USGS Building in Reston, Virginia. Follow signs from the Visitors Parking. All visitors must enter at the Visitors Entrance and pass through a security screening process (Photo ID required.) If Fairfax County Schools and activities are cancelled, the lecture will be cancelled.

Wednesday March 3, 2010, 7 pm. Title: Extreme Science: Understanding our Earth By USGS Director Dr. Marcia McNutt. Dr. McNutt will outline exciting new directions for cutting-edge science at the 130-year old agency.

From Astrogeology and Earth-observing satellites, to exploring gas hydrates and deep coral reefs, learn how USGS scientists employ highly innovative techniques and perspectives to develop a more complete understanding of how our Earth works. For additional information phone 703 648 4748.



Dr. Marcia McNutt
Director, USGS

ROCKVILLE SCIENCE DAY 2009 INVITATION TO EXHIBIT. The Rockville Consortium for Science invites you to bring a hands-on exhibit on Sunday, April 26, 2009, Noon to 5 pm, Montgomery College, Rockville Campus. Set-up: Saturday, April 25, 4 to 6 p.m. & Sunday April 26, 10 a.m. to noon. This year they are emphasizing the emerging Rockville Science Center. During 2008, a new group was organized to focus specifically on developing a science center in Rockville to serve the citizens of Montgomery County. They would like an exhibit to be an example of a learning experience that might be found in our future science center. In the past, Jim and Michelle Michaelis and George Durland have participated in this event. It is an opportunity to educate young people as well as to enlist new members in our Society. If you intend to participate, let Eric Kindahl know and fill out and send their entry form by February 15, 2009.



LILLIAN TURNER JUNIOR AWARD Juniors, here is your incentive to enter an exhibit at our show. The best junior exhibit in the show will be given the Lillian Turner Award, a \$100 U.S. savings bond. The rules say that you must be age 17 or younger and the case should be substantially your own work. If you have won previously, the case must be substantially different from the previous entry.

OUR GEM-MINERAL-FOSSIL SHOW will be at the Montgomery Co. Fairgrounds Mar. 20 & 21. Plan NOW to exhibit. Patricia Repik-Byrne, Exhibits Chair, wants to have your commitment EARLY. She would like to have 40 or more cases and has but a half dozen right now. YOU can do it! Everyone is a beginner at some time. If you feel you have not got enough for an exhibit, mention this at the meeting and perhaps we can pair up some people for a shared exhibit. Only a month and a half left for preparing professional looking labels, nice liners, risers, and other case features! Fill out an Exhibit Application form and get it to Pat ASAP. Use one form for each case. Show fliers and posters From George Durland are available for you to help publicize the show.

Demonstrations are being finalized by Bob Irby. Sign up to help set up and volunteer to cover the many jobs to be done. Mark Dahlman, Show Chairman, reports that we have all dealer contracts returned with payments. Help with Set-up on Friday, March 20th at 9:00 am. And don't forget to help take down Sunday night. Many hands makes easy work.

EFMLS CONVENTION Eric Kindahl, as an EFMLS director, and Gerald Elgert, as delegate from our Society have indicated a willingness to represent us at this year's event in Delaware March 5th to 7th. See Page 8 and 9 for more particulars on the Convention and Show.



SHOWS

20th Annual Mineral, Jewelry & Fossil Show
 Saturday, February 20th, 2010 | 10 am - 4 pm

Join us this year at
The Show Place Arena
 in Upper Marlboro, MD.

The Show Place Arena
 14900 Pennsylvania Ave.
 Upper Marlboro, MD 20772
 Admission \$3/person
 children 6 & under free

Demonstrations include:
 cabochon making, bead stringing,
 wire wrapping, gold panning & more

Sponsored by:

Clearwater Nature Center
 11000 Third Rd.
 Clinton, MD 20735
 301-297-4975

March 6 & 7: 47th Annual Gem & Mineral Show and 60th Annual EFMLS Convention hosted by the Delaware Mineralogical Society. Sat. 10 to 6, Sun. 11 to 5. 19 dealers. Delaware Technical College, Routes 58 & 7, Stanton DE, near Wilmington. EFMLS Annual Meeting Friday, March 5. Convention hotel is the Hilton, a few minutes from the show. Further information: <www.delminsociety.net> or 610 274 8228.

March 26-28: Elkridge, MD - 37th Annual Atlantic Micromounters Conference hosted by the Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area. MHA Conference Center, Elkridge, MD. Registration & Information: Steve Weinberger, <cscrystals2@verizon.net > or 410 833 7927.

↓ **DON'T MISS OUR BIG SHOW**

46th ANNUAL GEM-MINERAL-FOSSIL SHOW

MONTGOMERY COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
MAR. 20 & MAR. 21, 2010
SAT. 10 AM-6 PM, SUN. 10 AM-5 PM

Presented by the Gem, Lapidary, & Mineral Society of Mont. Co., MD.

16 CHESTNUT STREET GAITHERSBURG, MARYLAND

Adult Admission \$6.00
 With This Ad \$5.00
 Under Age 12 Free

Featuring World-Wide Treasures *Over 40 Exhibits *Door Prizes *Demonstrations
 *Free Workshop *Free Specimens for the Kids *Free Kid's Mini Mine *Food For Sale
 *Fluorescent Minerals *Raffle *Information Center *Plenty of Free Parking

Over 20 Dealers From Around the Country:
 *Fossils *Jewelry *Findings *Beads *Minerals *Geodes
 *Gifts *Shells *Slabs *Fluorescents *Books *Equipment
 *Carvings *Meteorites *Jewelry boxes *New age items
 *Gems & Gem Rough *And Much More
 Website—WWW.GLMSMC.COM

Income supports scholarships for college students in earth sciences, Science Fair awards, and gifts to the Smithsonian Institution's Gem and Mineral Hall.

FEBRUARY MEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

Christine Abelow, Lauren Gunnison, Ryan Gunnison, Betsy Hallman, Gillian Hunter, Eric Kindahl, Phil Krug, Andy Muir, Tom Parnell, Nathan Pepper, Ginger Posthumus, Juan Proaño, Keith Regatts, Lester Schaub, Carol Smith, Earl A. Smith III, Rod Towers, and Inga Wells.

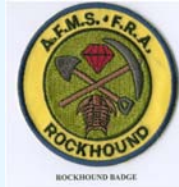
HAPPY BIRTHDAY



JUNIORS FUTURE ROCKHOUNDS OF AMERICA “The MOCKS”

By Holly McNeil

At our January 11th meeting we started by covering the Garnet group, our “mineral of the month.” We then worked on the Fossil badge by discussing the Geological Time Scale and key events during each of the periods, and finally, everyone made a leaf fossil to take home.



February 8th Our mineral of the month is Amethyst. The main program will cover plate tectonics and, time permitting, an introduction to the Rock Cycle to get us ready for rock identification.

In March we will begin a three-part series on Rocks covering the Igneous, Sedimentary and Metamorphic rock types, including their properties, formation and identification.

THANK YOU to Jim Brace-Thompson, AFMS Juniors Program Chair and developer of the Future Rockhounds of America badge program, for donating a box of California specimens to our club!

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

Photo: W. Mohr



The Delaware Mineralogical Society
presents their **47th Annual**

Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show

Delaware Technical & Community College
Churchmans Road (Rt. 58)
Newark (Stanton), DE @ Exit 4B, I-95

March 6-7, 2010

Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Sunday 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.



Ticket can be duplicated.

Outstanding Mineral & Fossil Dealers
Gems, Jewelry & Lapidary Supplies
Demonstrations, Exhibits & Door Prizes
Jr. Booth for Kids

Adults: \$6.00 (\$1.00 off with this coupon)

Seniors: \$5.00

Juniors (12-16): \$4.00

Children: FREE

www.delminsociety.net



After a long day collecting, a group of Rockhounds stopped for dinner on their way back home. The ‘Hounds got more than they could possibly eat so they asked for a people bag to take the excess home.

SHOW TABLE: January 11, 2010. Thanks to those who bring items for sharing at the meetings.

<u>Exhibitor</u>	<u>Specimen (s)</u>	<u>Locality</u>
Frances Becker	Fossil Geodes Rocks	Brighton Beach, UK Locality Unknown Cape Cod MA
Boe Brosius	Almandine Garnet Volcanic Ash	Locality Unknown Mount St. Helens WA
Jeff Cessna	Manganaxinite, Clinohedrite, Willemite Sphalerite, Willemite	} Franklin NJ
Mark Dahlman	Dinosaur Track	West Paterson NJ
Lawrence Davis	Rough & 1.7 ct. cut Aquamarine*	De Vries Q., Carroll Co. MD
George Durland	Hardystonite, Clinohedrite, Willemite Granite	Franklin NJ Barre VT
Gerald Elgert	Dinosaur Coprolite	MD
Jonathan Harris	Pyrite*	Havre de Grace Q., MD
Patrick Haynes	3 Quartz var. Agate	Estacion de Ojo Laguna, Mexico
Eric Kindahl	Corundum var. Ruby	Family heirloom– in ring Man-made Verneuil boule China
Diane Leaman	Octahedral garnet	Santa Eulalia, Chihuahua, Mexico
Gary Leaman	Aragonite	SW Iceland
David MacLean	Basalt	Yellowstone Co. MT
Chuck Mason	4 Dryhead Agates (2 of which*)	Madagascar
Wendell Mohr	Ammonite	McComas Iron Mine, Hereford, Balt. Co. MD
Jeff Nagy	Garnets in Chloritic schist*	Various
William Nagy	Assorted faceted Gemstones*	Pugh Q., Custer OH
George Reimherr	Fluorite	Pingwu, Sichuan Province, China
Pat Repik-Byrne	Beryl & Muscovite Sphalerite, Manganocalcite, Pyrite Spirifer Fossil*	Rhodope Mountains, Bulgaria Bridlemere Av. Interlaken NJ Franklin NJ
Joel Rosen	Calcite/Willemite	O & G Quarry, CT
Eric Thompsen	Prehnite (2 color)	



* = Self-collected or self made

All Photographs by Wendell Mohr

DOOR PRIZES

Show Table Prize A Chalk Mountain, Spruce Pine NC Autunite was won by **Eric Thompsen**.

The General Door Prize, A Grossular with Diopside from Laglin Verdi, Val d'Ala, Italy went to Marcia Baum.

IT'S EASY TO SET UP A SHOWCASE

It's time to plan your exhibit for the March Show. Society members, and guest exhibitors, face your fears. Preparing a showcase is **EASY**. There are a few simple rules that anyone can follow:

Decide what you have to display.

Everyone, the interested novice, or older member can find materials to display. Show your interest in your hobby and give it a try. Don't say: I don't have anything good enough, I haven't had time to finish enough items, I don't have anything new that everyone hasn't already seen. In a non-competitive show, the items displayed don't have to be your own work - whatever your interest - rocks, slabs, minerals, fossils, finished jewelry, cabs, etc. If you have few things to display, share a case with another member. As few as 5 or as many as 20 or more items can make an attractive and interesting display.



Determine lay-out.

Our show cases are nominally 4 feet wide and 2 feet deep. (Actual inside dimension to lip in case is 45 5/8" X 22 1/4") Using a yardstick and a ball of string, mark out a 4 x 2 foot space on a rug or a table. Try out different arrangements of your display items. You may wish to use easels, stands, pedestals, risers, liners, etc., to display your item(s) to the best advantage. These should be as unobtrusive as possible to not detract from the specimens. Base material should be neat and free of wrinkles.

Keep it simple.

Don't overcrowd your display. Allow room for labels and your name plaque. Remember, you are displaying minerals, fossils, lapidary work, etc. Try not to distract the viewer with unnecessary decorations.



Label everything.

Use a name tag or plaque to identify your case so your friends and visitors will know whose it is. It is frustrating to see beautiful specimens or material unnamed in a case. Every item or grouping of the same materials should be labeled with the name of the material and its source (state or nation). Labels should be uniform in size and lettering. They should be computer generated or typed if possible, if not, neatly written or printed. 3 x 5 file cards or heavy card stock make

good label material. Labels should be uniform in size, lie flat and be parallel to the front of the case. Avoid "label maker" or other types of sticky tapes, which can curl in the heat.

Relax.

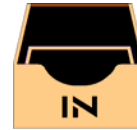
Before you dismantle your trial table-top layout, recheck it for all the above suggestions. Do you have it exactly as you want it? Is it over crowded? Make it look "Professional." Make adjustments as needed. Then, make a rough sketch showing each piece on the layout, to aid in reassembling it the way you want it at the show. Prepare a kit of things to take with you: display items, pins, tacks, labels, paper towel, glass cleaner, scissors, name tags, risers, easels.

NOW, really RELAX. The hard part is done. If you have more questions, or need a little extra help, don't hesitate to call upon one of the more experienced club members for help and ideas.



Adapted from an article by Lee Burleigh, in the Nugget, 06/82 and Big Rock Trader 08/93, via The Calgary Lapidary Journal, 04/05, and revised to fit our show situation.

All Photos by W. Mohr



This Month's In Basket

WEB SITES

By Wendell Mohr

During the fall my wife and I visited several Washington state localities and want to share something about them.

Ginko State Park, <http://www.historylink.org/index.cfm?DisplayPage=output.cfm&file_id=7396> has an overview of the Park, its geology, and other things of interest. Find nice UTube Videos by the State Parks and Recreation Commission, each nearly 8 minutes in length, with in-depth information:

Part 1 <<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1FqnYgNHhF4>>

Part 2 <<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UFv2Izzy8LE>>

Part 3 <<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B6TRPM5Fyj8>>

- The petrified forest makes it real hard on woodpeckers●



Photo by W. Mohr



Photo: by "lkiwaner", with permission

Ice Age Floods in Washington, <http://www.historylink.org/index.cfm?DisplayPage=output.cfm&file_id=8449> has an comprehensive cyber tour. Start with "Click here to start the tour." At <<http://www.nps.gov/iceagefloods/d.htm>>, is part of a conservation study, with another overview on the floods and biography of two of the key people involved with discovering the Floods.

- Glacial Lake Missoula no longer exists.....Long time no sea.●

Stonerose Interpretive Center and Eocene Fossil Site, <<http://www.stonerosefossil.org/>> presents information about the Center, far from any major metropolitan cities, which has a small but nice museum, a study center, and oversees a fee-for-dig collecting site at Republic WA. They reserve the right to retain anything of high scientific importance and you may only keep three fossils per day. The quality of fossils is outstanding and the site is well known. The stone rose isn't a rose at all! Read about it.

- Some of these plants about 50 million years old were in a real hurry to become fossilized. How so? They were pressed for time.

Do you know when a paleontologist is exaggerating his finds so much that he is lying? No, how? When his lips are moving.●



Florissantia Quilchenensis, Lobed Cocoa Tree, Photo by W. Mohr

Over the Holidays I was out in the Seattle area and came across what I believe is one of the mineral nation's hidden treasures. See picture of me (I'm the 57 year old young guy on the right) buying a piece of rough rhodochrosite from 86 year old Mr. James Page. He has run his little rock shop located behind his house continuously since 1950. His shop is on Route 101 between Sequim and Port Angeles in Washington State. It is very close to Hurricane Ridge. So, if any of the members ever get out to the Olympic Peninsula and are interested in local minerals and petrified wood from Washington and Oregon, stop by and visit **PAGE'S ROCKSHOP**. I know he would appreciate the business and company.



Thanks Andy Mays (Note: As is customary, this is not an endorsement of the dealer. Ed.)

SOCIETY HISTORY

BY JACK BUSCH



1995 CONTINUED I ended the previous episode of these ramblings just as I had reached March of that year, so let's march forward, especially since March turned out to be a busy month.

As usual, the month's activities began with our regular meeting at the start of which Lisa Carp was voted in as a new member. As luck would have it Lisa won one of the evening's Show Table prizes later on. President Bob Irby donated to our library a copy of a TV show recently aired, "Amazing Treasures." After that came the evening's program.

As often happens, it was a slide show, but this one was no ordinary one. It was a prize winner, the product of three of our members, Jennie and Paul Smith and Fred Schaefermeyer. It had won 1st place in the educational category of the American Federation's annual program competition. It was titled "Micro minerals from Lava Floes" and featured beautiful and unusual minerals found in an ancient lava layer in Sugar Grove WV and other places around the world. The Sugar Grove specimens had been collected personally. Paul did the photography, and Jennie and Fred the script. It was easy to see why the program was a winner.

Of course, the big event of the month was our 31st Annual Show, and I could fill pages describing it, but I'll just mention a few highlights. There were 41 exhibit cases of specimens of all types of hobby-related material, and 8 special exhibits. Included were 2 cases containing specimens that had been collected on Society field trips. David Dinsmore's case was judged best in Minerals; Cheryl Austin's, best in Lapidary; Kathy and Mike Elwood's, best in Fossils; Erich Grundel's, best in Educational; and Joe Murter's, best in Show. Special recognition was given to a display of shells entered by Robert Schoening and Leslie Dykstra. The Eastern Federation held its convention on the same weekend as our show but paid attendance was higher than that at 1994's (1469 vs. 1327). How many kids? To use an old laboratory term, TNTC—too numerous to count.

You have read here before about Jack Nelson's gold panning exploits. Well, he and Paul Smith made the March 26 edition of the *Washington Post's* Metro section with an article, plus photo, doing their '49er routine. Jack also appeared in an issue of *Poolesville Community News* about the same thing. Fortuitously, this was before the show, could have been the source of the increased attendance?

In April's *Rockhounder*, Editor Nancy Ballard printed a letter she had received from Juan Proaño. Juan had left these parts for Peru (where else?) to accept the position of General Manager of a mining company. The company owned two mines; one a mercury mine was inactive, the other, producing Pb, Zn, and Ag - go look them up - was just the opposite, producing 2000 tons of ore a day which were exported via the port city Callao to Japan and Europe for smelting. The mercury mine had been worked from the 17th through the 19th centuries, and played a very important role in the silver mining activities that made Bolivia and Peru the world's largest silver producers of those times. As most of you know, Juan subsequently returned and served the Society in many capacities until he retired to PA, a slightly shorter commute than from Peru.



Did we do any fooling around in April? We'll see next month.

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