

THE ROCKHOUNDER



September 2010

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

REGULAR MEETING: Meetings are held the 2nd Monday of the month from September to June. The



Society will meet on **Monday September 13th** in the dining room of the Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Drive, Rockville. The short business meeting will begin at 7:45 pm but the room is available to us at 7:30 pm so come early and see what you and others have on the Show Table and chat with old friends. The speaker will be **Catherine (Cari) Corrigan**, Curator of Antarctic Meteorites in the Mineral Sciences Department of the National Museum of Natural History. She will speak about **Antarctica Meteorites**. Cari received her B.S. and M.S. degrees from Michigan State University, her Ph.D. from Case Western Reserve University, and did post-doctoral research at Johns Hopkins and at the Smithsonian. She has studied the Chicxulub impact, Martian meteorites, lunar and iron meteorites and also does Mars Exploration Rover Pancam research.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS will meet **Monday September 20th** at 7:30 pm at the home of Andy Muir. 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).

DUES & DON'TS If either a male or a female, your dues are due! Unless you have already paid, your **membership in GLMSMC expired August 31, 2010**. Single membership is \$15 per year, Family membership (Which is defined as up to 2 adults and children under 18 years of age) is \$20 per year. There is a \$5.00 surcharge for renewals after a grace period which extends to November 1st. We pay dues for EFMLS/AFMS affiliations and over \$3.00 for insurance for each member over 10 years of age so when renewing, list only those interested in taking part in Society activities. We do not send out membership dues bills. This is it!

Send dues (check to GLMSMC) to Membership Chairman Doug Baum, 11205 Golden Meadow Court, Germantown MD 20876-1740, (301 515 4641 or e-mail dbaum@gazette.net for questions.)

Doug will mail your membership card(s) back to you if you send him a self addressed stamped envelope, otherwise you may pickup your card(s) at the September regular meeting. If your phone number, address, E Mail address, or other vital information has changed since the January 2010 Roster or subsequent *Rockhouniders* please let us know. **DO IT NOW** while you are thinking about it! If you are willing to receive the newsletter by e-mail only, so note when sending in your dues.

Don't neglect paying your dues on time.

DEADLINE for the October 2010 Rockhounder: Sep. 27th

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ROSTER CHANGES

DINSMORE, David, 1949 Medallion Court, Forest Hill MD 21050-2761, 410 838-8835, davensteph10@comcast.net (Re-instated.)

VANCE, Virginia, e-mail virvance@msn.com.

WELLS, John & Barbara, 22210 Fifth St., Chassell, MI 49916, 906 523-2721, same e-mail addresses.

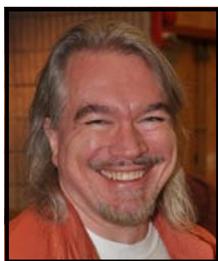


Photo: by W. Mohr

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: Welcome back! I am excited to begin another year of activities with GLMSMC. In addition to our regular meeting on the 13th, we also have two field trips lined up for September. The first will visit the Vulcan Quarry in Manassas, VA on the 11th, and the second will sample both National Limestone Quarries in Middleburg and Mount Pleasant Mills, PA on the 25th. Official announcements of these trips can be found later in this bulletin. Please note that field trips require certain safety gear and may have age restrictions for participants. Due to insurance coverage field trip participants must be members in good standing in the club, which includes being current in your dues! Did you remember to pay your GLMSMC dues for 2010-2011? If not, send them to our new membership chairman Doug Baum or bring them to our first meeting. I look forward to working with all of you this year!

Eric Kindahl, GLMSMC President

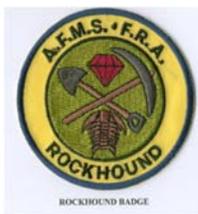
- Why does mineral water that has trickled through mountains for centuries have a “use by” date? ●
- E Mail to Field Trip Chair on a rainy morning from a fair weather collector, Marcus Absent ●

Once upon a time, there were four people; Their names were Everybody, Somebody, Nobody and Anybody. Whenever there was an important job to be done, Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. When Nobody did it, Everybody got angry because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought that Somebody would do it, but Nobody realized that Nobody would do it. So consequently Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done in the first place.



The
Rockhounder

Need a new **editor** by Jan. 1st when Wendell Mohr will retire from that position. The new person should be versed in using computer word processing/publishing programs. A Job Description with details of the job is available for anyone to read. The person automatically becomes a member of the Board of Directors. Contact Eric Kindahl if you are willing help in this position.



Need someone to lead the 6 to 9 year olds in the FRA program. Won't you help? You need not know everything about minerals, fossils and gems to be able to help. Plenty of support will be provided. If the proposed program at 7 pm to 8 pm can be accomplished you will still be able to attend the main meeting lecture. Contact Holly at 301 605 7179 or <fra_advisor@glmsmc.com>

NO REGULAR OR BOARD MEETINGS WERE HELD IN JULY OR AUGUST THEREFORE NO MINUTES APPEAR HERE

The following Board of Directors business was conducted by e-mail. Given the evenly matched level of participation among applicants, it was M/S/P to award the 2010 Fall Wildacres Scholarship to the applicant who has been a member of our Society the longest: Andy Celmer. Jeff Cessna, Secretary

Congrats Andy. Have a good week in NC and please share with us your experiences in an article for the *Rockhounder*. Editor.

“CHIP” CLARK DEATH Close friend of the Society, Roy E. Clark, Jr., better known to our members as “Chip”, died unexpectedly of natural causes on June 13, 2010. He was a graduate of Virginia Tech. with a degree in biology and taught high school science before moving from Newport News to Northern VA. He was a Senior Scientific and Studio Photographer for the Smithsonian Institution National Museum of Natural History working there since 1973. A superb photographer, he documented thousands of specimens and exhibits, and accompanied scientists on research trips around the world. He has photographed everything from mummies to butterflies, but we have specially treasured his gem, mineral, and fossil photos. Many of his images are available on the NMNH web site pages and his work also may be seen in several of the Smithsonian books. Chip’s late father, Roy Clark Sr., was an EFMLS Past President. He leaves wife Debbie Claric, and daughter Jessica and one brother.



With an early mineral collector!
Self Photograph by Chip

He spoke at several meetings of G&M clubs in the National Capital including to our Society. [Parenthetically, he was the photographer of the wonderful Smithsonian gemstones used by the AFMS Commemorative Stamp Committee promoting birthstones on USPS stamps. The photos were used as well on the AFMS website and the poster boards used at shows. I serve as Chairman of that AFMS Committee. Editor.]

MARYLAND EARTHQUAKE The temblor struck on July 16 at 5:04 am and was widely felt from PA to VA. Initially thought to have been centered in Gaithersburg, later triangulation from many reporting seismographs refined the location to Germantown. It was the strongest earthquake ever recorded in our immediate area. Turns out that the epicenter was only about two blocks from the home of Mark and Rebecca Dahlman!

In a private communication Mark writes:

“Thankfully our damage was not as extensive as in this photograph.”



Just released! -- picture of the devastation following the 3.6 earthquake in Germantown MD. Photograph from Mark Dahlman

●Rock Hounds, being animals, detected the recent earthquake ahead of people. Perhaps they felt the Pee wave first.●



CONDOLENCES to Jonathan Ertman and his mother, Lilo, and brother Peter on the loss of his father, Robert Ertman on August 12, 1010.



FIELD TRIPS

Jennifer Wingard, coordinator for trips to the **Aurora NC Phosphate Corporation's** Saskatchewan facility, reports that Curtis Ormond (PCS Public Affairs), who coordinated collecting there for many years just retired and conditions inside the mine still are not conducive to collecting right now. So, Alas, no collecting yet another season. Let's hope for spring!

Saturday September 11, 2010: Vulcan's Manassas Quarry 7:30 am to Noon or when the quarry employees have to leave. The rock is diabase, with one level having a layer of hornfels. This quarry has produced prehnite, apophyllite, calcite, amethyst and other quartz, chalcopyrite, pyrite, epidote, and zeolites -- stilbite, chabazite, heulandite, stellerite, and others.

Directions to Manassas Quarry: From the Beltway, go West on I-66. Take Exit 44, VA234S (Prince William Parkway.) Go 3.6 Miles. Turn Left onto Wellington Lane. The quarry will be on your left, about 0.5 miles from VA234.



Children 10 and up are welcome if accompanied and well supervised by a parents and use the required safety gear.

◀ Fearless Jonathan G. Harris, Field Trip Chairman. Let him know if you plan to attend by Sept 8th so he can provide the quarry with an accurate headcount.

Email (preferred) <jgharris7@gmail.com>, including "Manassas" in the Subject Line, or phone 301-545-0808.

Saturday September 18, 2010, noon to 4pm. A friend of Member Phil Krug has advised that the **Lafarge Quarry**, just east of I-83, about 4 miles north of the Baltimore Beltway, will have an Open House. Call Barb, 410-683-9010 to be added to the visitor list. Enter at 440 West Padonia Rd, Cockeysville. This is a public relations activity and collecting will NOT be permitted.

Saturday, September 25, 2010 National Limestone Quarries At Middleburg and Mt. Pleasant Mills PA. These two quarries mine the limestone of the Upper Silurian Age Tonoloway Formation.

We are invited to attend this field trip as guests of the Nittany Mineral Society, and must have the following safety equipment: Steel toed boots, hard hat, safety glasses, and gloves. Minimum age 16. You should have an agreement to accept The GLMS waiver if you have not done so for a prior trip.

9:00 am to Noon, National Limestone Quarry At Middleburg for calcite, fluorite, travertine, and fossils (cephalopods, favosites coral, and others.) Fossil info see:

<<http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/topogeo/collecting/fossilsintro.aspx>>.

1:00 pm to 3:00 pm, National Limestone Quarry at Mt. Pleasant Mills for strontianite, wavellite, cacoxenite, turquoise(?), celestine, and fossils. For additional information see:

<<http://www.mindat.org/loc.php?loc=145516>>.

A group leader is required for this trip since Jonathan cannot attend. Let Jonathan know if you can serve as leader and/or if you plan to attend by September 17th.

Photos by W. Mohr



Tom Cummins's Calcite
Mt. Pleasant Mills PA ▶



SAFE QUARRY COLLECTING PRACTICES

Always be on time and at the appointed place for a field trip so that you can hear and understand all the safety issues and hazard training before entering the quarry.

All of this information is very important for your safety and by not following all the rules to the letter; you stand a very good chance of getting injured or being escorted out of the quarry.

The two most abused safety rules are venturing too close to the high wall and going behind barriers. The high wall is the most dangerous place in the quarry, and at the safety briefing you will be told how far to stay away from the wall. If you abuse this rule, you will be escorted out of the quarry and, depending on the circumstance, may be banned from future quarry field trips. This is serious business, folks, and as responsible club members, you are asked that if you see another member of our or another club venturing too close to the high wall or behind barriers, immediately get their attention and tell them in a polite manner that they are breaking safety rules and please move back to a safe area. If they do not respond, immediately notify the field trip leader or a club officer and they will take care of the situation. Several quarries have been closed to collecting and clubs have been banned from all the company's quarries for breaking these rules. We do not want this to happen to our club, so we will rigorously support these rules.

It's not a hard rule to follow folks. Just pay attention to where you are at all times. No mineral specimen is worth the consequences. If a situation does arise where there is collectable material close to a wall, notify the field trip leader and he will ask if the quarry foreman in charge could move the pile for us with their heavy equipment.

Have all your own **personal** required **safety equipment** with you and in good condition. This includes the following:

An approved **hard hat** with all the webbing and bands intact. Make sure that the hat is not cracked and the bands are not frayed or missing. Make sure that the ratchet adjustment works or the adjustment holes are secure.

Make sure that all your **hammers, chisels and other tools** are properly prepared and the heads are not mushroomed.

Make sure that your **safety glasses or goggles** are clean and not scratched or broken.

Make sure that your **steel-toed boots** are in good condition. Make sure that the laces are not frayed or broken. Make sure that the soles have tread and heels are not run over.

Make sure that your **gloves** fit comfortably and do not have holes. They should be leather or other strong material to protect your hands against cuts and misguided hammer blows.

Make sure that you have something to **protect and carry** your finds. Bring wrapping materials, buckets, tote bags or a backpack.



Photo by w. Mohr

Wear proper-fitting **long pants and a long sleeved shirt** to protect your arms and legs from falls or flying debris.

Bring **sunscreen, snacks and plenty of water to drink.**

If you have a medical condition that might endanger you, tell your field trip leader or at least a collecting buddy who will be with you.

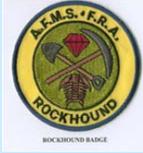
Never wander off by yourself. Always have a collecting buddy nearby. Stay with the group, always in eyesight or in hearing distance. You may need to summon help or respond to others in need.

Adapted from Gem & Mineral Journal, 05/09, The Gem & Mineral Society of Lynchburg, VA. Inc. & The Roanoke Valley Mineral and Gem Society Inc.



Photo by W. Mohr

JUNIOR FUTURE ROCKHOUNDS OF AMERICA “The MOCKS”



Welcome Back! I hope you all had a great summer and were rocked by the earthquake -- especially those of you that were at our plate tectonics session!

September 13th Meeting

Assignment: We'll make this a September tradition...Please bring in one specimen (preferably one you collected over the summer) to talk briefly about with the group. This will help us work toward the Communication badge and give us some public speaking practice. I will also ask everyone to share any stories they have of any Rock/Mineral/Fossil activities they did this summer. Lastly, if you have anything to bring in that was on the “suggested summer activities” handout, please do so and I'll update your badge checklists as appropriate.



Program:

Minerals of the Month (we have some “catch up” work to do) - Peridot, Sapphire & Ruby.

Main Program: Gemstone Lore & Legend. We will learn about some historical and famous gemstones. Stories may include.....

The gem that belonged to a Queen of England and was almost eaten by Elizabeth Taylor's dog.

The gem thought to be cursed only if in possession of a man (the curse doesn't work on a woman.)

The gem swallowed (all 53 carats of it) by a courier to prevent thieves from taking it.

The gem that was stolen, ransomed and then returned to a phone booth in Florida.

The gem that caused its cutter to faint when making the first cut.

*****Parents – some of the stories of these famous gems are “tales of the macabre” – if you have any concerns about your child hearing them and wish to discuss this, please contact me*****

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

OUTREACH

From Linda Smith August 11, 2010

You would have been proud of Conrad (Smith - Ed.) today. I am running a Cub Scout day camp for the Montgomery District. Today we had Rock and Minerals day at the Nature Station. Conrad talked about rocks and minerals and showed off his collection to over 87 kids. When I had a chance to walk by, they were all sitting on the ground around him.

AUTHOR Continuing to hone her writing skills, Mary Crosswhite had a wonderful article:

“DoBell Ranch Collecting, A quest for Arizona's Wonderful, Colorful Petrified Wood” published in the August 2010 Rock and Gem Magazine. Consisting of four pages, well illustrated, the piece concentrated on collecting at the Ranch adjacent to the Petrified Forest National Park. She described Chris's and her foray and, among other things, shows the 300 pound log section they somehow managed to get home to Maryland. Get the magazine and see for yourself. Mary is certainly an accomplished writer.

A one-armed man broke into the Gem and Mineral Hall at the Smithsonian Institution. He was attempting to steal several of the valuable gemstones on exhibit. The alarm systems functioned exactly as they were supposed to and he was caught. He was carted off by the police and charged with un-armed robbery.





SAPPHIRE

The birthstone for September, is a the non-red variety of corundum, Al_2O_3 .

Uses: Gemstone. Color: various colors, except for red. Index of refraction: 1.76 - 1.78. Birefringence: 0.009. Hardness: 9. Cleavage: none, although there is a rhombic parting. Crystal system: trigonal. Pleochroic: strongly.

Sapphire is the non-red variety of corundum, the second hardest natural mineral known to mankind. The red variety of corundum is ruby - all other colors are called sapphire, even pink. Sapphires are well known among the general public as being blue, but can be nearly any color, even colorless. White (or colorless but massive) sapphire would more properly be called corundum. The blue color is by far the most popular color for sapphire but orange-pink, golden, white, and even black have generated much interest in the gem trade. Oriented crystal inclusions cause a six-pointed-star light effect (called *asterism*) to form the popular star sapphire.

Many of the finest watches have crystal faces made of colorless artificial sapphire - these are extremely durable and scratch resistant.

One interesting bit of trivia - sapphire is aluminum oxide, and aluminum is a highly reactive metal. Any freshly exposed surface of aluminum is quickly oxidized to corundum (sapphire), so it can be said that your lawn chair (or screen door, or any other aluminum object) is coated with sapphire.



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Photographs credit to R. Weller/Cochise College

SEPTEMBER MEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Barbara Burr, Joyce Becker, Michael Buynak, Jeffrey Cessna, Cindy Cincotta, Grant Cooper, Mary Crosswhite, Chiara D'Andrea, Erich Grundel, Maureen Gunnison, Nicholas Gunnison, Emily Johnson, Alexandra Kindahl, Chris Luzier, Jo Ann Mohr, Georgia Olmstead, Abbie Olshin, Elena Olshin, Meredith Powers, Jennifer Silva, David Smith, Adelaide Tenenbaum, Jennifer Wingard, and Yukako Yubuki.



CORRECTION The image with George Reimherr's article in the July-August *Rockhounder* was not simply stilbite but stilbite-Ca. Stilbite is a hydrous sodium and calcium silicate mineral. It is designated stilbite-Ca or stilbite-Na depending on which element constitutes more than 50% of the cations in the structure. The species was verified by Tony Kampf, who happens to be the USA's best mineralogist, according to member and the photographer, Patrick Haynes.



MOVIN' UP Barbara and John Wells moved from Springfield VA to Chassell MI. "UP" stands for Upper Peninsula MI. A Shop, "Mageia Minerals" is the realization of a decade long dream of Kathryn Wells, their daughter, currently pursuing a Geology degree at Michigan Tech University. It is stocked with extensive displays of local offerings of datolite, copper, greenstone, and Lake Superior agate, and material from six estate collections and includes lapidary rough, slabs, and premier cabochons.

In late June, the Lake Superior Copper District of Michigan's Upper Peninsula yielded what they believe is the largest crystallized copper specimen on record. Hopefully destined for Seamans Museum at Michigan Tech. or a distinguished private collection, the specimen was displayed during August at the shop. Recovered from a fissure vein, its survival intact is quite miraculous. Fortuitously, it also was encased in mud, forestalling any corrosive or oxidative processes. The entire specimen is crystallized. It contains hundreds of crystals of varied habits, and several distinct shades of patina. The specimen is in a museum cabinet John constructed.



Photos by W. Mohr

Of equal note, Mageia has been authorized to distribute the River Falls collection of Wisconsin native Wayne Sukow, renowned collector and author on Lake Superior agates and nodular datolite. Sukow's core collection remains in VA where he lives. Mageia will bring this stellar collection to market in stages over the next two years. Grand opening of Mageia Minerals was August 4th. A 17-pound Datolite headlined the August offering!



The shop is located at the blinking traffic light in Chassell, southeast of Houghton on US 41. A website is at <www.mageia.com>. The Wells hope all their rockhound friends will stop by when they go to the UP, which they should do because it is a rockhound heaven. John found an agate in the gravel at a restaurant -- minerals are simply everywhere. He says, "We are virtually guaranteed 10-15 pounds of copper for every 2-3 hours on the poor rock piles (with metal detector), and sometimes it includes silver half-breeds or crystallized copper or artifacts of the old mining industry. Truly fascinating!"

Barbara has her wire wrap work station and displays inside Kathryn's shop and continues to have more commissions than she has time for.

"We intend to keep up our mid-Atlantic club memberships and will be back for an extended Christmas trip each year, with some possibility of actually making a meeting, depending on schedule", they say.

SALE Senior citizen Marie L. Brown will be trimming down her collection of slabs, minerals, fossils, coral, 6" RayTech trim saw and cabinet or sold separately, findings and more. She has set Saturday October 2nd from 9 am to 5 pm with a rain date of Sunday October 3rd for the sale. Her address is 3722 Rodes Court, Annandale VA 22003-1725. She may be contacted at 703 256 8343.

\$2.00

**Admission
with this coupon**

Children 12 and under
FREE with paying adult

Sponsored by



**46th Annual
Atlantic Coast
Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show**

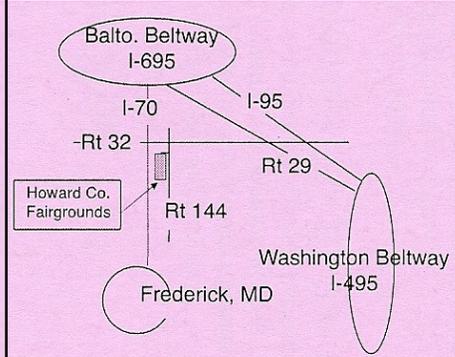
Howard County Fairgrounds
I-70 at MD Rt. 32

Award-winning displays of jewelry, gems, minerals, fossils, and lapidary art. Choice rough, slabs, tools, finished gems, minerals, fossils, beads and jewelry for sale. Demonstrations show how to make your own beautiful jewelry and finished stones. Visit our website <www.gemcuttersguild.com> for news about our classes and show.

September 25 - 26, 2010

Hours:
Saturday: 10 A.M. - 6 P.M.
Sunday: 10 A.M - 5 P.M.

Visit our website....
<www.gemcuttersguild.com>
for news about the show and our jewelry and gem cutting classes.



45th ANNUAL
GEM MINERAL & JEWELRY SHOW

<http://www.rockandmineral.org>



SEPTEMBER 18 and 19, 2010
SAT. 10 am - 6 pm SUN. 10 am - 5 pm

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**Vendors of Jewelry, Beads,
Gemstones, Minerals and Fossils**

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ADMISSION **\$6.00**
\$1.00 discount on each of two adult admissions with flier
Maximum Value \$2.00
CHILDREN 12 AND UNDER AND SCOUTS IN UNIFORM FREE WITH ADULT

**54th ANNUAL FRANKLIN-STERLING HILL
GEM & MINERAL SHOW**

SPONSORED BY THE FRANKLIN MINERAL MUSEUM
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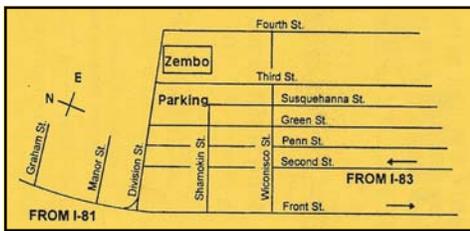
September 25 & 26, 2010
Franklin School, Washington Ave., Franklin, NJ
(Follow road signs to the show)

Indoor Show: Sat. 9 AM - 6 PM Sun. 10 AM - 5 PM
Outdoor Show: Sat. 7:30 AM - 6 PM Sun. 9 AM - 5 PM

Admission: Adults: \$7.00; Children (6-16) \$4.00

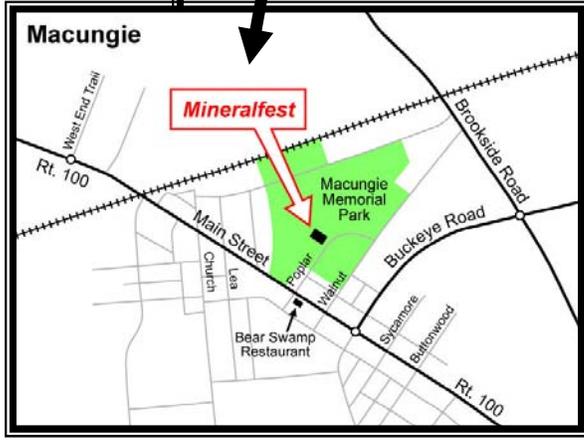
Show admission includes a tour of the Franklin Mineral Museum

For info, contact: Franklin Mineral Museum, 32 Evans St., Franklin, NJ 07416
Phone: (973) 827-3481 or 6671 Web: www.franklinmineralmuseum.com



Mineralfest

**2010 Autumn Mineralfest,
Mineral, Gem, Fossil Show.** Sponsored by the
Pennsylvania Earth Sciences Association.
Saturday, October 2, 2010 8:30 am to 3:00 pm.
Macungie Memorial Park, Macungie PA.
Info: <<http://www.mineralfest.com/>>
Admission \$2.00,
Under 12 free.
Free parking.
Over 50 dealers.
Breakfast and lunch available.





FRITZ BECKMAN DEATH Frederick William Beckman, Jr., long time former member of our Society, was born in 1922 and died on June 29, 2010. His wife, Dian, died previously and was also a very active member. He lived in Silver Spring and is survived by son, Frederick W. Beckman, III, and daughter Pamela L. Beckman; five grandchildren and two great-grand-children, as well as a brother Robert Beckman of Washington. Our condolences.

He was a proud World War II Marine Corps Veteran.

Fritz and Dian were inveterate field collectors. They collected a multitude of pyrite/marcasites from Rensselaer, Indiana and many other minerals from U. S. and Canadian localities. Fritz, a construction machine operator, doing utility work uncovered the giant clam (*Cuccullea Gigantea*) site at Henson Creek in Temple Hills MD. Despite infirmity and age he managed to visit our Show regularly. We will all feel his absence.



Photo by W. Mohr

Contributions may be made to American Diabetes Association Washington Office 1025 Connecticut Ave., NW, #1005 Washington, DC 20036. Silver Spring, MD.

GET WELL WISHES

A speedy recovery for **Lisa Carp**, who underwent a knee replacement surgery this summer. When will we be able to run a foot race with you, Lisa?

Keep **Jack Busch** in your thoughts. We wish him a swift recovery.

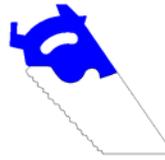
PATUXENT LAPIDARY GUILD CLASSES There has been a change in dates for their advanced silversmithing (cutwork) class to September 12th and 19th, 10 am - 4 pm at their workshop in Annapolis. Cost \$60.00 members, \$80 non-members + Materials \$55.

New: Introduction to Faceting instructor: Mike Hakulin, Wed. Sept. 15, 2010 and continuing for 7 weeks. First class 6:30 pm, others 6:00pm, all end at 9:00 pm.. Location PLG workshop. Class will be fast paced and students will be expected to come in on their own time to complete their stone. If you fall behind., shop is open Thursday nights and shop fee will be waived if completing class work.

The first class will consist of intro to choosing stones, choosing the cut based on the shape of stone, how to make original cuts based on shape of stone, and how to mount and preform the stone. The remainder of the classes will be to cut the stone chosen.

Students will be expected to bring a black magic marker and either a loupe or Optivisor with # 10 lens. Class fee of \$117.50 Material: \$10.00 Register with Ken Moser 443-717-2621. No deposit fee is required. Be prepared to pay entire material and class fee at the first class.

Say You Saw It Here



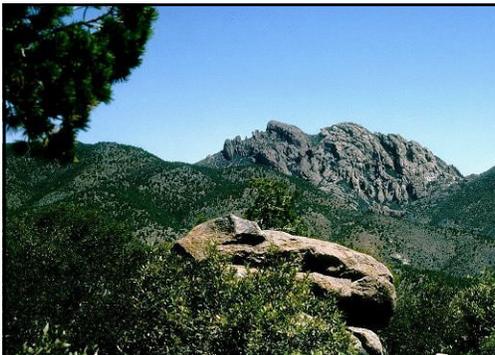
By Wendell Mohr

WEB SITES

Strange Natural Landscapes

<www.all-creatures.org/stories/ppp-strangenaturallandscapes.pps> opens in PowerPoint viewer. It is a short but spectacular show of world-wide geological formations. Accompanied by music it consists of 19 slides, including the opening and ending slides. Thanks to Phil Krug for this one. ●Do you know that it took millions of years for these scenes to be completed? My friend said “I didn’t know they were a government job.”●

Ayers Rock Australia, Photograph credit to R. Weller/Cochise College ▶

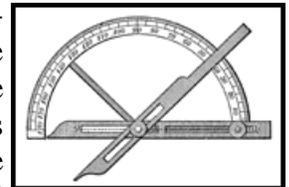


The Minnesota Museum of the Mississippi,

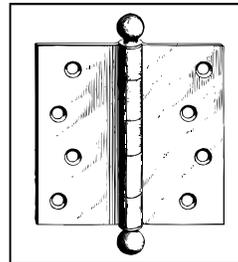
<<http://www.wurlington-bros.com/Museum/exhibit.html>> is a sort of funky virtual museum. Click on **The Stone Face: Fragments of an Earlier World**. You need a vivid imagination for many while others are obvious. Click on through the many likenesses and say “WOW!” to the uncannily accurate ones. ●When you think life is moving too fast, just sit back and watch the weathering of the rocks.●

◀Chiricahua Mtns. AZ - Cochise Head, Photo by R. Weller/Cochise College

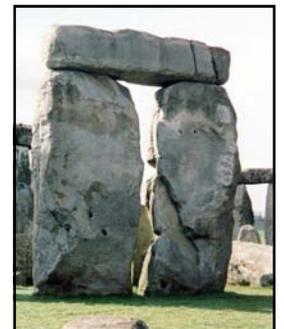
The Virtual Museum of the History of Mineralogy, <<http://www.mineralogy.be/>> is by two Belgian gentlemen, Paul Tambuysen and Claude Hootelé. ●South Africa is noted for its many diamond mines. Tasmania boasts that its crocoites are abundant like no other place in the world. Belgium is proud that it produces more Belgians than any other country.● Their purpose is to bring together photographs and descriptions of representative historical objects and information related to the early mineralogical and crystallographic sciences. Historic mineral and crystal books, goniometers, optical and non-optical instruments, and crystal models are shown. You may subscribe to their 3X/year newsletter. Antiquarian books are for sale but without endorsement by this writer. You may find this that this niche interest appeals to you too.



Historical Stone Hinge.....



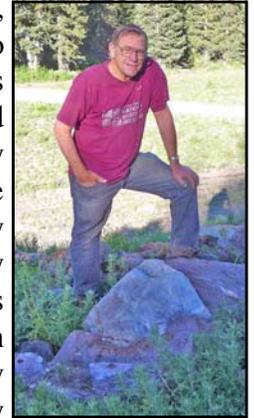
.....to hold the rocks together!



AWARD *The Rockhounder* garnered an 8th place in the AFMS Bulletin Editor’s Contest in the small bulletin category. Awards were announced at the AFMS Annual Convention held at LeHabre CA in June.

GERALD'S STORIES August 2010: California, Nevada & Utah

It was close to Noon before we finally got out of the house and onto the road. I wonder if the early pioneers had the same experience with making certain they had food enough, water, clothing, tools – you name it – to last them till the journey’s end? While we didn’t forget anything on the way out, we did later on the way home. But, more about that later. My friend, Charles Dailey,  is a professor of Biology and Paleontology at the nearby Sierra College in Rocklin, California. At the college he has a geology trail and the purpose of our trip was to collect some specimens to fill in parts of the geological history of the area. He lives in the Granite Bay area, which is just northeast of Sacramento, and nestled around the lower perimeter of Folsom Lake. The lake and surrounding area are mostly granite bedrock with crystals and flakes of mica thrown in, making it undesirable for construction projects. The mica weakens the strong bond the granite usually yields. When the early Mormon pioneers were making their way over the nearby Carlson Pass in their horse drawn Conestoga wagons, they took advantage of this contaminate in building useable roads through a countryside that was littered with granite glacial erratics dropped there during the last Ice Age. They learned that by burning the granite, the mica would expand and crack the boulders which they could then pound with their small hammers and farming implements into a more useable size, suitable for a horse drawn wagon route. You can still see a portion of this former wagon road, known as the Emigrant Trail, as Route I-80 turns northwest towards the somewhat famous Donner Pass. Donner Pass is still a challenge, particularly during snowy winters, with the one side being a mere 3 degrees and the other a steep 30 degrees. Imagine taking a horse drawn wagon over that during a raging snowstorm and then being stranded on top until the spring thaw? The local railroad train was once stranded there for six days. On an overlook for Lake Donner there is a small stand of Jeffrey pines which have their place in the history books as their sap was used as the flavoring for early brands of butter rum hard candy. After a rain the grove smells deliciously rummy.



We pretty much drove completely across Nevada in one long day, arriving in Salt Lake City, Utah, early the next morning. Our goal was to locate and collect a rock from an outcrop of Precam-



Precambrian Glacial Mudstone with Marble Dropstone.

brian glacial-formed mudstone that had a marble dropstone dropped into it from a melting iceberg some 15,000 years past.

A teacher at the college had a photo of “just the perfect” specimen which he claimed was to be found on the slopes of Brighton, a ski area just south of Salt Lake City and on the boundary marking the southernmost advance of the glaciers. Well, we didn’t find it and were discouraged. Then I remembered having a friend who was a Maryland Geological Society



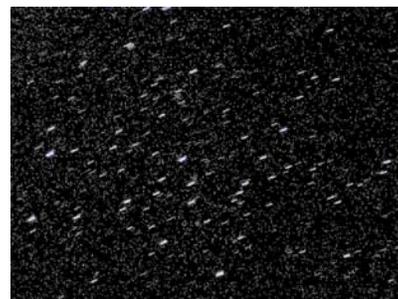
Precambrian Glacial Mudstone with Marble Dropstone.

member and worked for the U.S. Geological Survey in Salt Lake City, Larry Spangler. Larry couldn’t help but referred us to his boss, Joe Gates, the Division Chief who coincidentally was teaching a geology class on the other side of the mountain from Brighton, at the Snowbird ski resort. He knew exactly what we were talking about and gave precise directions. We were just on the wrong side of the mountain. Like they say, “The second thing to go is memory.” When we found the lump of rock we noticed there was no scale in the photo for the thing wouldn’t have fit into our one ton pickup. Not to be discouraged, we asked the City Manager in Snowbird for permission to collect some smaller pieces to which he readily agreed.

Continued on Page 13

GERALD'S STORIES (Continued from Page 12)

We then drove down the Interstate Route 15 to Beaver, Utah when during the night of August 12th we watched the Perseid meteor showers under a really dark sky in the desert area. These meteors are the remains of the comet, Swift-Tuttle, first observed in 1862. A bright streak came every minute or so. I sat up a camera and tripod and took some one minute exposures. On looking at the images we discovered many dimmer streaks; over 40 on one photo that we had missed. Wow!



Finally, on the last leg of our journey home we stopped off at Nevada's Area 51 near the town of Rachel. They have the alien's spaceship and some true stories, we were told. But the real interest in the area was in collecting a chunk of impact Alamo breccia from a meteor that had fallen into a warm shallow sea, filled with corals, some 370 millions of years in the past. When the meteor hit the earth, considerable material was blasted upward and when coming down was cemented with the shocked rocks in the crater.

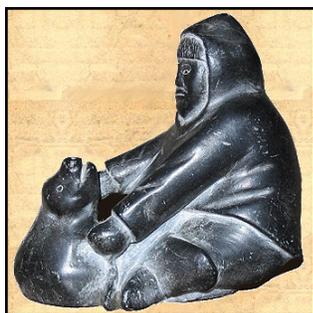
We collected a lot of fossils on this trip, too, but being a rock club, I only included the minerals part in this article. To know the rest of our story you'll have to read that in the newsletter for the Maryland Geological Society.

Article and photographs by Gerald Elgart

**POLISHING TALC (SOAPSTONE)**

by Richard Chappell, Jr., Houston G & M Society

The natives of Brazil have used the talc found there to make common utensils such as cooking appliances. Professional talc carvers from Anapolis-Goes, Brazil, showed me this quick method when they visited Houston, Texas, in a nation-wide tour.



1. CUT the talc into size desired with hand saw (even the pros didn't use any electric equipment except a lathe for hollowing out bowls and pots). Sometimes this step may be skipped if the piece is of the correct size.
2. CARVE the talc into approximate shape with a knife.
3. SAND with 220 or 400 grit sandpaper.
4. SMOOTH with quadruple zero (0000) steel wool, the finest available.
5. HEAT in strong sunlight or warm oven until slightly warm to the touch.
6. RUB with clear paste wax while the talc is still hot, and you have got yourself a finished carving.

Reasonably pure talc is required, but impurities give it a delightful marking or pattern. This method may be used for cabs, statues, or anything else. The finished product may surprise you, as you can't tell how it will turn out until the paste wax is on. (original source unknown, via geolap News, 3/99)

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