

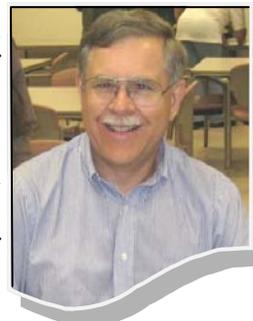
THE ROCKHOUNDER



APRIL 2011

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 April 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, chat with old friends, and see what is on the Show Table. **Dr. Jeffrey Post, PhD.** Arizona State University, Curator-in-Charge - Gem and Mineral Collections at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History will speak on “What’s New in the Department of Mineral Sciences and ‘Tucson 2011’.”



THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS will meet Monday April 25th at the Home of Andy Muir. **NOTE date change** from normal 3rd Monday to the 4th Monday. Board members are expected to be there. Any member is welcome to attend but please let Andy know if you plan to attend at <amuir21@comcast.net> or phone 301 990 1370.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

GILLESPIE, Alison and BRIGLIA, David, 1826 Brisbane Court, Silver Spring MD 20902-4018, 301 754 3830, algillespie@rcn.com.
Sam Briglia (07/01), Grace Briglia (08/03)

RETURNED FORMER MEMBERS:

CILETTI, Michael & BROOKS, Barbara, 20007 Hob Hill Way, Montgomery Village, MD 20886-1306,
optimizelife.michael@gmail.com, cell 215-266-3232

ROSTER CHANGES

LAVILLA, Robert & Sara, 9023 Mary Avenue NW, Apt. 106, Seattle WA 98117-3447, 206 660 9658 & 240 418 9089, lavillars64@clear.net
MENY, Bob, new e-mail bobmeny@verizon.net
PARNELL, Tom, new e-mail tommoose46@gmail.com
SMITH, David & Carol new e-mail desquared59@yahoo.com

A guide was showing Niagara-Falls to a man from Texas and said; I’ll bet you don’t have anything like this in Texas. The Texan said; nope, but in Texas we have plumbers who can fix it.

DEADLINE for Apr. 2011 Rockhounder: Mar. 28th

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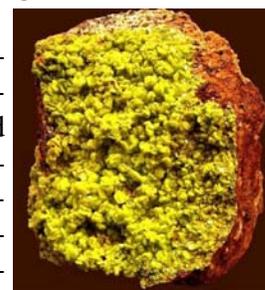
Excerpted from article by Ellery Borow, EFMLS Safety Chair, EFMLS News March 2011

The stories I've heard go something like this: A knowledgeable collector goes up to a dealer's table and comments about what an extraordinary and large specimen of cuprosklodowskite they have on their table. The collector asks why it is so prominently displayed and unprotected on their table, especially with it being such a highly radioactive mineral. Dealer responds that it is not dangerous. Collector thinks, well, I would not want that specimen anywhere near me for any length of time, and walks away. This particular mineral specimen, so prominently displayed on the dealer's table, was relatively large and had the flaming green, fuzzy look of a typically "hot" specimen. Who was right in their opinion of the mineral's safety - the dealer, or the collector?

Maine has quite a few minerals containing uranium. We often see interesting halos (radiation burns) around a dark speck of material in some of the minerals we collect. Over the years, I have heard a great many do's and don'ts with respect to collecting minerals with traces of uranium and other radioactive elements in them. I recently asked myself which radioactive minerals are safe to collect and which ones require special precautions when collecting and storing in one's collection. As I am not in the habit of talking to myself, I did not have an answer.

A friend of mine in Connecticut is a collector of radioactive mineral specimens so I asked him a few pointed questions about the subject. He and I chatted at length about: dangers, protections needed, handling, shielding, and storage, daughter elements, salts and oxides, alpha, beta, and gamma particles and so on. At the end of our conversation I asked him if there were any authoritative articles, books or other sources of information about radioactive minerals I might read to be better informed. His answer was disappointing. He knew of no single source of comprehensive information about collecting and storing radioactive minerals.

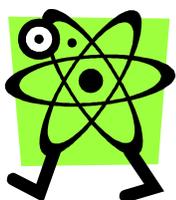
Over the next few days I voraciously reread my many mineral reference books specifically researching a few minerals that typically vary from just barely above background radiation levels to levels that require substantial precaution when handling and storing. The minerals I researched were autunite, betafite, beta-uranophane; cuprosklodowskite, samarskite, uraninite, and uranophane. A great amount of information was to be had in the reference literature regarding physical and chemical properties. No mention was made of radioactivity, handling precautions, or storage requirements. The books were very authoritative and informative except with regard to my questions.



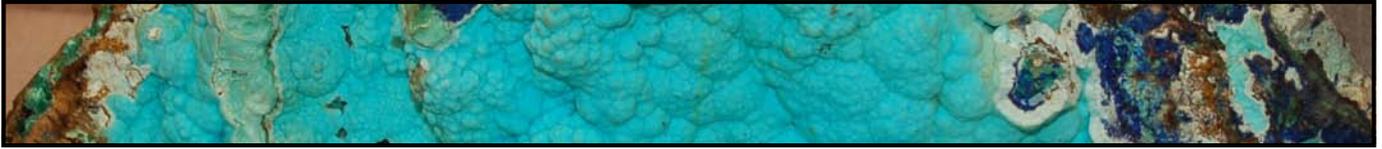
Autunite Photo by
R. Weller/Cochise College

My friend's comment at the tail end of our conversation had finally hit home. The best way to know which minerals required the most caution would be to become knowledgeable about mineral chemistry (and the various radioactive elements and daughter elements) and have specimens in question checked by someone who has use of and is knowledgeable in the operation of a Geiger or scintillation counter. There are numerous means of safely storing commonly available radioactive mineral specimens (light metal shielding water jackets, exotic metal storage containers to name a few) but each specimen must be evaluated to determine its own requirements.

Unless specifically sought, rare and exotic radioactive mineral specimens don't usually find their way into the average mineral enthusiast's collection. But if there is a question about a particular mineral's radioactivity it would be wise to check out any minerals of concern with a Geiger or scintillation counter and then respond accordingly. The best advice one can offer is to ask the pertinent questions and be the knowledgeable collector. It has been my experience that dealers are often reasonably knowledgeable about their wares.



Oh, the answer to the question as to which one was right, the knowledgeable collector or the dealer, is that the collector was right. The dealer apparently had not properly informed himself of the radioactive nature of his cuprosklodowskite specimen. The knowledgeable collector was right in assuming there were many special precautions needed in that mineral's display, handling and storage. The lesson: be the knowledgeable and cautious collector.



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

The March 14, 2011 meeting was called to order by Past-President Mark Dahlman at 7:43 pm, with approximately 64 people attending. It was M/S/P to approve the minutes of the February 14, 2011 Regular and February 21, 2011 Board of Directors meetings.

Past-President: Mark Dahlman discussed recent talk requests from the Boy Scouts, thanked Jonathan Harris for his help, and asked if others could help. A reporter from the Gazette newspapers was on hand to cover junior activities, before the upcoming show, thanks to Doug Baum. The sign-up sheets to volunteer at the club show were passed around. Mark announced that 12-year old member Jessica Simon-off received the "Best Article" award from the Friends of Mineralogy at the Tucson show this year for her article with Dr. Lance Kearns in Mineral News on skeletal galena fakes.

Rod Towers administered the door prize drawing for juniors.

Show: George Durland distributed flyers and posters. Bob Irby discussed demonstrators signed up for the show. Rod Towers volunteered to help Pat Haynes man the microscopes. Pat Repik-Byrne discussed exhibit cases, including 10 from juniors. The plans for judging of junior cases were also discussed.

Presentation: Vice President Owen Powers introduced the speaker for the evening, Dr. Jeff Plescia. Dr. Plescia spoke about *The Chesapeake Bay Impact Crater*. The presentation started with an introduction to craters, their structure and their frequency on the earth. Many of the structures are buried and only found by oil drilling and exploration. The history of the discovery of the Chesapeake Bay Impact Crater was presented. Unusually highly saline ground water was a clue to the discovery. Shocked quartz and impact breccias confirmed the impact presence. The subsequent deep drilling and gravity measurements rounded out the story. Thanks Jeff.



Photo by W. Mohr

EFMLS Liaison & March Guest Editor: Wendell Mohr reported on the sizeable monetary donation from Stephen Turner, son of Lillian Turner, in support of the Lillian Turner best junior exhibit award. He discussed upcoming classes; offers to trade petrified wood; and other rock-related opportunities. The Laura Robins Gallery in Richmond, VA has reopened its fluorescent mineral exhibit. Wendell has the application forms for the Wildacres sessions this year.

Chuck Mason discussed the Leisure World Lapidary Club and requested that members consider giving presentations. See Chuck.

Treasurer: Andy Muir reported that the club finances are OK.

Joel Rosen administered the show table and the drawings for the door and show table prizes.

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 pm

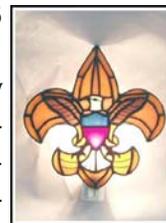
Jeff Cessna, Secretary



Jonathan Harris has volunteered to accept requests from Boy Scout groups for requests on earth science topics. He is a registered merit badge counselor for geology, has the Youth Protection Training, and has worked with scouts for years. His younger son is in BSA Troop 1449 (Rockville/Potomac area).

On February 5th he did a geology merit badge day for a group of boy scouts in Troops 3 and 1449.

He also talked with a Derwood 1st year Webelos Cub Scout Den from Pack 178 in early March. Jonathan reports that they were an energetic and enthusiastic group. He demonstrated the textures of different types of rocks and the different properties of minerals --- luster, hardness, crystal form, and cleavage. He then capped it off showing them fluorescence, phosphorescence, and tenebrescence.



FIELD TRIPS

April 9, Lafarge Quarry Churchville, MD Saturday 8:45 am - 1:00 pm. Meet at the office building, 1219 Calvary Rd, Churchville MD. Park in the gravel parking lot. See directions below. We must be out of the quarry by 1 pm. (Subject to change by quarry management if the people on site have to leave earlier).



DO NOT BE A NO-SHOW! Collectors who are late may miss the safety briefing and hence the privilege of collecting. Please be on time!

Attendees must be adults (18 and over) and be current members of the GLMSMC or a mineral club invited by the GLMSMC. Total number of attendees is limited to 15 by request of quarry.

Special rules: The quarry has requested that we wear fluorescent vests (typically available at home center stores), that members with any certification for mine safety bring their cards (certification not required), and that no food wrappers or other trash be left behind.

Group leader needed: Jonathan expects to be unable to attend. Any volunteers? Contact Jonathan.

Minerals: Zeolites (Stilbite, Heulandite, Laumontite) Pyrite, Quartz, and Epidote.

This is space limited, so RSVP to Jonathan, <jgharris7@gmail.com> by April 2, 5 pm. Let him know your name, anyone else potentially going with you, and your agreement to the rules and waivers to apply attend. Without e-mail? Call 301-545-0808. Please note any special issues that may affect your plans on attending (e.g. potential to be called away for business trip, desire to avoid rain, etc.) He will let people know within a couple of days after, if they can attend; previous experience suggests it is unlikely we will be oversubscribed. People who request to attend after April 2 will be accommodated on a first-come-first-served basis.

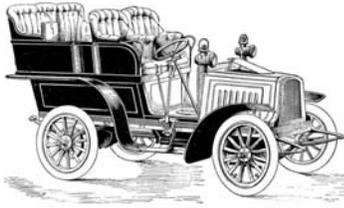
Directions: Find your way to I-95 towards Baltimore. Take I-895 [Harbor Tunnel] and merge back onto to I-95N. At exit 80, turn RIGHT onto Ramp to MD-543 (Riverside/Churchville). Turn LEFT (North) onto SR-543 (Creswell Rd.) Turn RIGHT (North) onto MD-136 [Calvary Rd] about 1.8 miles To the Quarry. Allow about 1 1/2 hours from Rockville.

The following applies to all field trips:

Field trip attendees are solely responsible for their own safety and must agree to GLMSMC Waiver and Rules (available from Jonathan.)

Required safety equipment: hard hat (ANSI Z89.1, certified), eye protection, steel toed boots, gloves, long pants, fluorescent safety construction vest (some quarries require these, we may not know ahead of time). Collectors missing required safety equipment will be asked to leave.

Other safety equipment (we don't check for this, but you should use it!):
sunscreen, drinking water, rain gear, and snacks or lunch. Continued on Page 5.

FIELD TRIPS Continued from Page 4

Saturday May 7, 2011. Meet 7:30 am at Vulcan's Manassas Quarry. We must be out by 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, other quartz, chalcopyrite, pyrite, epidote, and zeolites -- stilbite, chabazite, heulandite, stellerite, and others. Our recent joint trip with the Northern Virginia club was quite productive, hence the second visit (Jonathan has invited them to join us on that

day also).

Please let Jonathan know if you plan to attend and your agreement to the waiver and rules by **May 3**, so he can provide the quarry with an accurate headcount. Also, Jonathan may need to appoint a group leader. Children 10 and up are welcome if accompanied and well supervised by a parents and use the required safety gear.

Note: Digging into the walls is not permitted at Vulcan quarries. We must stay 7 feet from any walls. (One club's member snaked into a quarry after hours. He was killed while digging into the wall and a big rock collapse got him. Pretty ironic! No man is completely useless. He can always serve as a bad example.)



Directions: From the Beltway, go West on I-66. Take Exit 44, VA-234. Go 3.6 Miles. Turn Left onto Wellington Lane. The quarry will be on your left, about 0.5 miles from VA 234.

ADIOS TO THE LAVILLAS Concluding the sale of their home in Montgomery Village, we bid farewell to Bob and Sara, who embark on continued retirement pleasure in the environs of Seattle. They have been out there and already established collecting experiences. Our best wishes.

CONDOLENCES To Pat Repik-Byrne, whose father in New Jersey died only one week before the show. We share your sorrow. With that event and business trips, she did a wonderful job of handling the "downstairs" part of the Show. Stay strong, Pat.

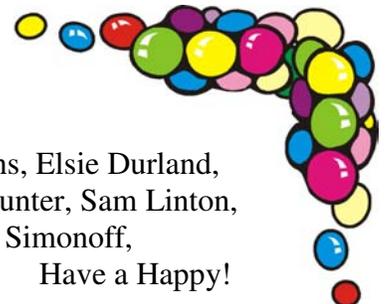
SHOW RAFFLE Winners of the drawing were: Lot 1, Pat Repik-Byrne, Lot 2, Kris Vaitkus, both members, and Lot 3, Tina Driskell of Herndon VA (and a near neighbor of Eric Thompsen.)

SHOW TIDBITS Member Maureen Campeau travelled the farthest, from Ontario, Canada to help for all three days. Holly McNeil graciously provided brownies and raspberry pastries for the set up crew. Jack Bush, at age 91 was the oldest to help, working the Hospitality Table. Thanks to all.

**APRIL MEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

Kevin Babb, Jared Cooper, Tom Cummins, Elsie Durland,
Beth Hilkemeyer, Quinn Hunter, Sierra Hunter, Sam Linton,
Michele McMurtry, Marina Silva, Jessica Simonoff,
Robert Weiss.

Have a Happy!



AT THE SHOW

Under the leadership of Mark Dahlman and Pat Repik-Byrne we had yet another outstanding Show. We experienced only minor glitches. Attendance was good, the fine Gazette article helping. The weather cooperated. Leadership for set up & takedown, Publicity, Workshop, Demonstrations, Exhibits, FRA, and the many other facets of the show was superior. Thanks to the volunteers, too numerous to list here, who staffed the show for making it a success. We apologize having not identifying all the helper's by name.

Glory in and savor the results of all the hard work. GOOD JOB!



See Page 7 for a listing of the awards for junior exhibits
 Nine,
 Count 'em,
 Nine!, a new record.



FUTURE ROCKHOUNDS OF AMERICA MINI MINERS

FOR AGES 6-9 ONLY:

Next Meeting Date: April 11, 2011 **Meeting time:** 7:00-8:00 pm

Meeting Location: The Card room at the Rockville Senior Center

At the March 14th meeting, the Mini Miners learned about metamorphic rock formations and reviewed how sedimentary and igneous rock formations were a part of the rock cycle. We also made our own metamorphic edible treats.

The kids were also interviewed by a reporter from the Gazette!

Next month's meeting will be on April 11th where we will examine crystals and perhaps grow our own crystals.

Remember..... OLD GEOLOGISTS never die, they just recrystallize

For more information contact: Linda Smith H: 301-530-5007 or e-mail
 <Tunacat107@aol.com>.

AGES 10-15:

Future Rockhounds of America (The MOCKS)

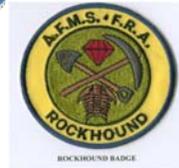
Ages 10-17

Meeting Date: April 11, 2011 **Meeting time:** 7:45-9:00**Meeting Location:** Sunroom Cafeteria at the Rockville Senior Center

April 11 Meeting Program: MINERAL IDENTIFICATION. **Assignment:** **If you have a mineral identification kit and/or mineral identification handbook – please bring them in.** Participants who do not, will be provided one. Each attendee will be guided through the practical application of their mineral ID tools to determine the various properties (hardness, streak, cleavage and luster) useful in identifying unknown specimens. This is a great class for first time attendees, or those relatively new to rock and mineral collecting. More experienced collectors can fine-tune their skills.

March 14 Meeting Re-cap: We discussed “Mysticism and Minerals” and learned folklore and history surrounding mystical properties attributed to minerals through the years. Some stories and myths, which at first sound unbelievable, could be found to have some logical origins when looked at more closely. In any case, we had fun with the stories.

Thank you to Maureen Campeau and Patrick Haynes for their on-going and extremely generous donations!

AT THE SHOW

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Ryan Gunnison - 1st Place winner of both the Lillian Turner Award and the Nancy Ballard Award
 Kevin McCright – 2nd Place winner of the Lillian Turner Award
 Cassie DeSalvo – 2nd Place winner of the Nancy Ballard Award
 Abbie Olshin – 3rd Place winner of the Lillian Turner Award
 Elena Olshin – 3rd Place winner of the Nancy Ballard Award



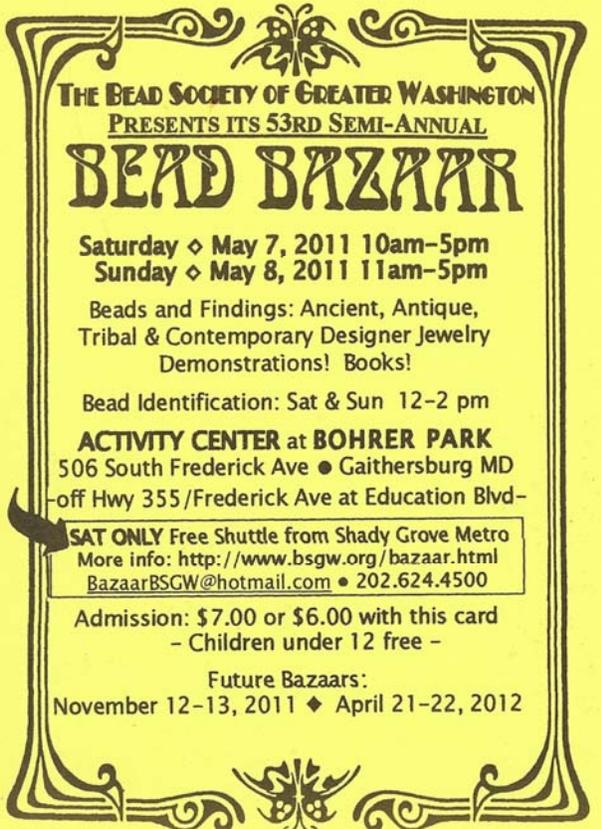
Trevor Babb, Jimmy Cummins and Jennifer Weiss also had fantastic displays!

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING MOCKS MEMBERS WHO WORKED AT THE SHOW:

Trevor Babb, Jonathan Baum, Jimmy Cummins, Cassie DeSalvo, Ryan Gunnison, Kevin McCright, Abbie Olshin, Elena Olshin, and Jennifer Weiss. You all did a fantastic job running the mini mine, touch table, junior quiz and give away stations. We could not have done it without the support of the MOCKS!

Special thanks to Maureen Campeau who not only drove from her home in Canada to be a demonstrator, but also was extremely helpful in setting up the touch table/mini mine section and in acquiring additional prizes from the dealers for the youth exhibitors! THANKS MAUREEN!

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



**THE BEAD SOCIETY OF GREATER WASHINGTON
PRESENTS ITS 53RD SEMI-ANNUAL
BEAD BAZAAR**

**Saturday ♦ May 7, 2011 10am-5pm
Sunday ♦ May 8, 2011 11am-5pm**

Beads and Findings: Ancient, Antique,
Tribal & Contemporary Designer Jewelry
Demonstrations! Books!

Bead Identification: Sat & Sun 12-2 pm

ACTIVITY CENTER at BOHRER PARK
506 South Frederick Ave • Gaithersburg MD
-off Hwy 355/Frederick Ave at Education Blvd-

SAT ONLY Free Shuttle from Shady Grove Metro
More info: <http://www.bsgw.org/bazaar.html>
BazaarBSGW@hotmail.com • 202.624.4500

Admission: \$7.00 or \$6.00 with this card
- Children under 12 free -

Future Bazaars:
November 12-13, 2011 ♦ April 21-22, 2012

MAY 7 & 8th

The Greater Pittsburg Area Jewelry,
Mineral and Bead Show, Washington Co.
Fairgrounds, 2151 N. Main Street,
Washington PA. I-79 Southbound
Exit 41, I-79 Northbound Exit 40.
Sat. 10 am to 6 pm, Sun. 10 am to 5 pm.
Food will be available. Free Parking.
\$4.00 Admission, under 12 free
(Ticket good all weekend.)
Commercial Show by FM Minerals, P.O.
Box 252, Farmington WV 26571,
e-mail frankoz@juno.com.
Information: call 304 567 7089

MAY 21 Saturday 10 am to 4 pm. 22nd
Annual Chesapeake Gem & Mineral Show.
I-695 (Baltimore Beltway) to exit 26 - York
Rd. South. Ruhl Armory is on the East side of
York Rd. (across from a car dealer and funeral
home) just inside I-695, Towson MD.
Free admission

JULY 9-10 EFMLS/AFMS Convention and Show hosted by the Gem & Mineral Society of
Syracuse. Show is at NY State Fairgrounds. Headquarters hotel: Ramada Inn Syracuse: \$99 per
room if you call 315 457 8670 and ask for Eastern Federation rate. AFMS meetings July 7 - 8.
EFMLS Annual meeting Friday, July 8. This will be a very big show since it is a combined show
for their Society, Eastern, and US Federations. You might want to go to the world famous
“Herkimer Diamond” locations, about 1 1/2 hour drive from Syracuse.
Information: <www.gmss.us> click on “Gem Show” or call Cathy Patterson 315 638 8817

APRIL 30 - MAY 1st 39th Annual NJESA Show
sponsored by the Franklin Ogdensburg Min. Soc.

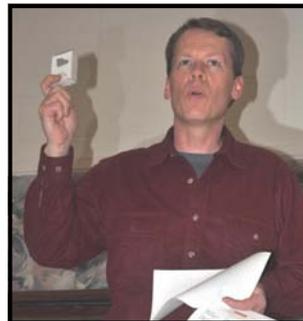
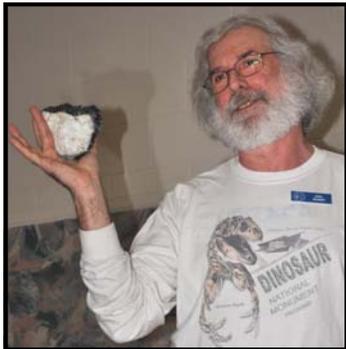
APRIL 30 Sterling Hill Super Dig, 30 Plant St., Ogdensburg
NJ, Saturday 9 am to 11 pm. See <www.uvworld.org/> for
voluminous information. Trip Master Jeff Winkler,
973 835 2582. Registration (on-line ends 1 am Apr. 26th)
limited to 200 people. Cost \$20. Collecting fee \$1.50/pound.
There will be a museum and lower mine tour, and also an upper
mine and mill tour. Meeting at 4:45. Night dig until 11:00



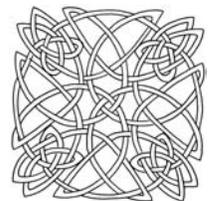
SHOW TABLE: March 14, 2011 Thanks to those who bring items for sharing at the meetings.

<u>Exhibitor</u>	<u>Specimen (s)</u>	<u>Locality</u>
Boe Brosius	Amethyst	Unknown
Barbara Burr	Sandstone* (Not Ironstone)	PA
Jack Busch	Paper Weight by Charlotte Morrison	
Jeff Cessna	Fluorite	Okarusu, Namibia
	Calcite and Willemite	Sterling Hill NJ
Mark Dahlman	Barnwell Meteorite	Barnwell, England
George Durland	Clinohedrite on Bustamite	Franklin NJ
	Hardystonite	Franklin NJ
Ryan Gunnison	Granite	Silver Spring MD
Gary Leaman	Faceted Citrine	Purchased
	Citrine rough*	Unlisted
Chuck Mason	Agate	Botswana, Africa
Wendell Mohr	Oreodont Teeth	SD
Andy Muir	Fluorite	Rosiclare IL
	Fluorite	Cave-in-Rock IL
Joel Rosen	Calcite/Boulangierite	Cavnic, Romania
Rod Towers	Armadillo Osteoderms	FL

* = Self-collected or self made



Photos by W. Mohr



A guy was visiting his mineral collector friend who had acquired two new dogs. The dogs were rockhounds. He asked his friend what their names were. The friend responded by saying, "Well this one is named Rolex and the other one is Timex." He asked, "Whoever heard of someone naming dogs like that?" "Hellooooo," replied the friend. "They're watch dogs!!"



Where it's

**WEB SITES**

By Wendell Mohr



Care and Feeding of Radioactive Mineral Species (Here be Dragons) is a comprehensive article at <http://www.nexus08.clara.co.uk/article.RadioactiveMineralSpecimens.A4.pdf> by Alysson Rowan. 75 pages long, it covers many aspects of the subject, effect of radiation, managing exposure, instrumentation, storing specimens, risks, as well as information on specific minerals. This makes a fine reference in conjunction with the Safety Matters article on Page 2. Key observation: don't breathe or swallow particles of radioactive minerals. Thanks to James Kostka for the reference lead. Behave like your life depended on it. It Does! • The retired army general took up mineral collecting. Unfortunately he repeatedly licked his fingers after touching some of his radioactive minerals. In general, radioactive minerals can be lethal. •

In looking for something on diamonds, this month's birthstone, I came across this site on **Gemstones** at <http://geology.com/gemstones>. See for yourself, select any of the diamond topic links. Go further and see the variety of gemstone topics, not only primary links on the left on the main page, but also, other interesting places to visit on the right. Covering far more than diamonds this is an interesting site. • The Washington Nationals player's wife agrees that "diamonds are a girl's best friend." A woman went to Russia in search of gems. She found that with a one letter change she could change rubles into rubies.



Photo from Smithsonian
www.mnh.si.edu/earth

Nyirango Crater: Journey to the Center of the World Is from the Boston Globe. See article at http://www.boston.com/bigpicture/2011/02/nyiragongo_crater_journey_to_t.html for 28 wonderful photographs and commentary with each. This is a HOT ONE, literally. The risks some geologists take to get to the shore of the world's largest lava lake! Kudos to photographer Olivier Grunewald.

• This volcano has been nominated for placement in the Hall of Flame. •

AFMS ENDOWMENT FUND DRAWING The count is now 28 prizes in the benefit drawing. 2 sets of 6 polished cabs each, An amethyst cathedral, Texas palm wood sphere, and a set of 4 Susan Robinson watercolor prints are among the attractive donations. See pictures in color at the AFMS web site, at <http://www.amfed.org/endow2011.htm>. Tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20. Make a check payable to "AFMS Endowment Fund" and mail it along with a self addressed envelope to EFMLS representative Carolyn Weinberger, P. O. Box 302, Glyndon MD 21071-0302. Be sure to include your name, address, and phone number when placing your order. Drawing will be at the AFMS Conventions at Syracuse on July 9th. You need not be present to win.

AFMS SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION NEWS The honorary Recipient for the Eastern Federation are is Professor William L. Blewett, University of PA at Shippensburg who will select 2 students who actually receive the monetary awards.

MARCH 14th PRIZES **Barbara Burr** took home the **Show Table Prize**, a Fluorrichterite from Wilberforce, Ontario, Canada.
Junior Prizes: Shark's Teeth were won by **Jimmy Cummins** and the small beach stones and Rock and Gem Magazine went to **Trevor Babb**.
The **General Door Prize**, a nice Smithsonite from Sierra Maiada, Ciahuila, Mexico was awarded to **Maureen Gunnison**.

Participate at the Show Table to increase your chances of winning a prize!

SILENT AUCTION

At the regular meeting in April we will silent auction a number of items:

Gift from **Michael Ellwood**: Air Blaster and Compressor with 2 bottles of grit.
Sold "as-is" 1 Lot.

Gift from **LaVillas**: Star Diamond model TU.3X1.5 tumbler and grit. NSI children's tumbler, shell fossil from Williamsport MD, leaf fossil, locality unknown, Onyx slab, Marble slab, A few miscellaneous Minerals.

From Non-member, **Robert Leffler** (25% to the Society) : **All one lot**, Minimum bid \$75:
2 specimens Franklinite, Willemite, and Calcite from NJ, 30 individually bagged small fossils, labeled as to identification and locality, 5 larger fossils including a Crinoid stem, 2 fossil leaves, 1 coral? 1 unknown, 1 concretion (localities unknown), small Quartz crystal group, locality unknown, Smithsonian Box of Rocks and Minerals Collection (16 types) student type specimens, Carded Gemstones of the world with 15 rough and 15 tumbled stones, 1 obsidian knapped point unknown origin.

Gift from **Leona Nelson** from Jack Nelson's holdings: Limited number of mounted micromounts plus small amount of rough. All 1 lot.

Gift from **Virginia Vance** from Paul Vance's cutting equipment: Ray-Tilt Gem Maker with grinding, polishing pads, etc. Sold "as-is" 1 Lot.

President Kindahl will select the end time for bids and settlement will be made with Treasurer Muir.



WILDACRES WORKSHOP Spring session is just around the corner when you read this, but there are still a few spaces left for you to join the fun. Dates are April 11 - 17

The fall session will be held from September 5 - 11 and our speaker-in-residence will be Dr. Steve Chamberlain, Chairman of the Carnegie Award winning Rochester Mineralogical Symposium. Steve will be presenting six talks during the week.



Registration is easy, the cost is very affordable at \$350 for the entire week, including lodging in lovely motel-style rooms, all your meals, the talks given by our guest speaker, a "free" day to allow you to go off exploring or field tripping if you wish, all the other activities of the week, and lots and lots of learning and laughter.

At <<http://www.amfed.org/efmls/efapr11.pdf>> see information, class schedules and registration form. Wendell Mohr has registration forms you may ask for at the April meeting.

AUDUBON NATURALIST SOCIETY Summer camps include "Dino Soar" for kindergarten, pre-kindergarten children June 20 to July 1, and "Earth Shakers" for 3rd and 4th graders July 18 to 22. See <<http://www.anshome.org>> and click on Register Online and follow the prompts.

CLEARWATER NATURE CENTER PROGRAMS At Cosca Regional Park, MNCPPC has programs of interest. Classes are offered on Cabochons, Chain Bracelets, and Wire Wrapping. There will be a fossil hunt for ages 6 & up on April 20th. Other events have already taken place.

Visit <http://www.smrnc.org/uploads/3/4/4/8/3448020/2011_spring_events.pdf> for a copy of their Spring events, with information and fee schedule. PG and Montgomery residents get a lower fee.

THE PATUXENT LAPIDARY GUILD Offers classes in Silversmithing: Bails and Bezels, Rubber and Aluminum Chain maille bracelets, and Super Basic Lost Wax Casting at their workshop in Annapolis. For details see their web site <<http://www.patuxentlapidary.org/>>.

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