

THE  
ROCKHOUNDER



MARCH  
2012

**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 March 12th** in the dining room of the Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Drive, Rockville. A 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. The speaker will be **Jeffrey Post of the Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of Natural History**. His topic will be "Tales from Tucson, and other Smithsonian Gem and Mineral News." Dr. Post was awarded the prestigious 2011 Carnegie Mineralogical Award on February 11th in Tucson. Post notably led the development of the Smithsonian's Janet Annenberg Hooker Hall of Geology, Gems, and Minerals. His dedication to specimen mineralogy and educational outreach are exemplary.

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS** will meet not meet in March



**WELCOME NEW ROCKHOUNDS**

WINEGRAD, Michael & Roslyn, 9711 Macarthur Blvd., Bethesda MD 20817-3905  
Phone: Roslyn: 240 461 8388, Michael: 240 447 8527  
e-mail: Roslyn: roz.winegrad@marriott.com  
e-mail: Michael: michael@Imichaelinteriordesign.com.

Son Aaron

VARDI, Michael & Lisa, 6 Chancelet Court, Rockville MD 20852-4234, 301 770 0805,  
E-mail: Michael: mvardi@verizon.net, Lisa: lvardi@verizon.net  
Sons Ethan & Ben



**ROSTER CHANGES**

HUNTER-SHUPE, Cynthia, new e-mail: given.cynthia@his.com

**ROCKHOUNDER EDITOR**

With the resignation of the editor, the Board is once more asking for someone to step forth and volunteer to undertake this important function in the Society. Some streamlining has already been accomplished to help make the position less imposing. The membership Chair will maintain all membership information needed for the bulletin, Jonathan Harris has set up a system for easy e-mailing all members with e-mail. If are willing to take on the job, talk to Andy Celmer.



Ever since I crossed a shamrock with poison ivy, I've had a rash of good luck.

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**DEADLINE** for Apr. 2012 Rockhounder: Mar. 26th.

**SNOW CONTINGENCY** Reminder: If schools in Montgomery County 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. Phone numbers are listed on the last page of the *ROCKHOUNDER*.

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

By Andy Celmer

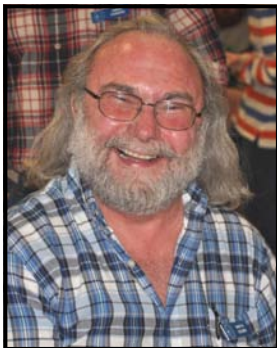


Photo by W. Mohr

Hi Everyone,

Please give me a moment of your time. As you know our Show is coming up in March and we still need workers and that means You! Perhaps you believe paying your dues once a year is your only obligation to the support of the club. Au contraire mon faire!

The dues collected in 2011 would cover the rental of our meeting rooms with enough left over to cover Half of the printing of the newsletter. That means it would Not cover Supplies for the Future Rockhounds and Mini Miners and the subscription to Daryl Powell's Diamond Dan Publication for juniors.

The dues would Not support our payment to EFMLS and our Insurance, which is required for our Rock Trips, Post Office box, Speaker honoraria, the Website and Meeting supplies.

If your dues are all we relied on to run the club we would be over \$2000 in debt in 2011.

That's \$2000 in debt before you take into account the \$4000 we donate to the Smithsonian every other year to purchase specimens and other donations we make to educational and scientific institutions and projects to support our Purpose and Existence. Our Purpose and Existence as a Society is to increase "the knowledge and popular interest in Geology, Mineralogy, other earth sciences, the lapidary art and in related subjects." as stated in our By-Laws.

Sure we could increase our dues another \$8000 or \$10,000, which amounts to more than a 570% increase in everyone's dues to balance the books. But do you really want that? I think not!

Instead we have the Show and it raises a good amount of money. But let's be clear, the Show is not just about Money, it's about reaching out to people of all ages to get them interested in learning more about our various passions, which is our Purpose and Existence.

We need more cabochon instructors. My wife learned how to do it in 10 minutes, it's not rocket science. We also need many people for take down after the Show. A total four hour commitment makes you a member in good standing. Send your selection to Patricia Repik-Byrne at <prb.rocks@verizon.net> and cc me at <abcpec@comcast.net>.

Sign up! It's Fun, it's Easy and it's your Duty!

And for those who have already signed up, Thank You, we couldn't do it without you.



He wasn't married and was looking for a bride. He took four Herkimer Diamonds with him at all times. He thought that would help. Four Quartz is equal to one gal.

## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

The February 13, 2012 meeting was called to order by President Andy Celmer at 7:44 pm, with approximately 72 people attending. It was M/S/P to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2012 regular meeting and the minutes of the January 16, 2012 Board of Directors minutes – with the following correction: “Mark has emailed announcements...” is changed to “Mark will email announcements...”

**Treasurer:** Andy Muir was sad to report a net loss in the club finances for January, however it was not unexpected. Payments included space and table rental for the annual show. Income included member dues and show dealer payments. The club is in great financial shape.

**Membership:** Doug Baum had two applications from the January meeting. It was M/S/P to approve family memberships for Michael & Lisa Vardi and their sons Ethan & Ben and Michael & Roslyn Winegrad and their Son, Aaron.

**Guest Editor and EFMLS Liaison:** Wendell Mohr gave details of the memorial service for Life Member David Ballard. Wendell gave detail of many upcoming classes and shows. He has applications for the Wildacres sessions. Please volunteer to help the club as newsletter editor, we are again in need.

**Show:** Andy Celmer announced help was need to string bags made by Jo Ann Mohr and that samples to be donated for the kids table should be given to Holly McNeil, with name and locality. Fliers were handed out to be distributed before the show. Posters are available to post at your local Giant store, see George Durland. Pat Repik-Byrne announced there were still exhibit spaces available. Volunteers were still needed especially in the shop and admissions table. Andy Celmer needs help retrieving a donated rock saw, to be sold at show. Joel Rosen noted that, due to some shifting, show cases will need to be removed earlier than usual at set-up to access the back of the trailer.

**Presentation:** Vice President Chris Luzier introduced the speaker for the evening, Dr. Andrew Beck. Dr. Beck presented “*Petrology of Diogenite Meteorite and Implications for Results of the Dawn Mission.*” He began with a discussion of meteorites and why scientists were interested; they tell us something about the geology of the parent body. The meteorites being studied came from the asteroid Vesta, which is distinguished for being both large and having a differentiated composition of crust, mantle, and core. Diogenite meteorites come from the lower crustal region and are composed mainly of orthopyroxene with some amount of olivine. Studying structure and levels of iron and manganese yielded more than one group of meteorites suggesting the lower crust of Vetsa is non-uniform. More evidence for this theory was found in the results of the Dawn Mission, which recently paid Vesta a visit. Thanks, Dr. Beck.



Photo from Speaker

**Prizes:** Rod Towers administered the junior’s door prize. Joel Rosen administered the show table and the drawings for the door and show table prizes.

Meeting adjourned at 9:55PM.

Jeff Cessna, Secretary.



At a brick-making pit in old Colorado, the foreman used to use a stone outside his office to determine if the weather was good enough to mine the clay raw material. If the stone had snow on it, it was too cold. If the stone was hot and dry, it was good for mining. If the stone was wet with rain, it was not. Which naturally led to the expression: You should make Clay while the Sunstone shines! StateLine Gem and Mineral Society Rock Trails Feb 2010

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

On February 18th the board, by e-mail vote M/S/P a motion to hire an armed outside guard for the show.

President Andy Celmer called the February 20, 2012 meeting to order at 7:31 pm.

Board Members present: Doug Baum, Andy Celmer, Chris Luzier, Wendell Mohr, Andy Muir, Pat Repik-Byrne, Joel Rosen. Board members not present: Jeff Cessna, Jonathan Harris, Eric Kindahl, Rod Towers. Non-Board member present: Mark Dahlman.

**Property Manager:** Joel Rosen reported he has updated his list of duties and submitted them to the Pat. He has tried to find a wireless microphone that works with the amplifier donated to the Society by Jeff Nagy, however, it is clear that no such product exists. The Board agreed to stay with the handheld microphone, with Chris Luzier reminding speakers, as needed, to keep the mike right under their mouth. Joel and Andy Celmer will inspect the trailer and try to develop an approach to better secure the stacks of cases. The board agreed that door prizes purchased by the Society from dealers last year but not claimed in the drawings will be given out as extra door prizes at the regular Society meetings.

**Treasurer:** Andy Muir presented a treasurer's report, stating that the Society is still in a strong financial position. He reported that the 2011 books are being audited by Steve and Holly McNeil.

**Vice President:** Chris Luzier reported that Dr. Jeffrey Post from the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History will speak at the March Society meeting.

**Show:** Pat Repik-Byrne reported that the Smithsonian is planning a display case again this year. Joe Murter will not bring his several displays. We have cases available for five more exhibits. The case donated by Sue Marcus is smaller than our standard cases; Mark and Joel will decide how we might be able to use it at the show. Pat stated that we have quite a few volunteers but still have open slots. Andy Celmer will call club members not yet signed up to request their participation. Mark reported he has nearly completed the updated mailing list for the show postcards, and expects to have them printed and mailed in early March.

Pat reported that fewer demonstrators have signed up so far, with Mike Elwood not able to display his usual hands-on fossils. Pat and Bob Irby will contact previous demonstrators to seek their commitments for this year. The Board agreed to save money by continuing to use the already-printed Society brochures, even though they are out-of-date on a few minor issues. Joel will try to get the large blue banner from the trailer so it can be displayed on the fairgrounds fence starting about a week before the show. Wendell agreed to print signs and Mark will provide the sign putty. The board expressed appreciation to Jo Ann Mohr for sewing the cloth gift bags for juniors at the show and to Barbara Burr for agreeing to string more bags.

**Other:** It was M/S/P to send a \$500 donation to James Madison University Geology Department to support student field trips as a thank-you for hosting our Society field trip to their labs. Mark reported that he and George Durland would support the April 15 Rockville Science Day. Doug Baum reported that there were 209 members in Feb. 2011 and 204 members in Feb. 2012, with fewer adults but more juniors.

It was agreed there would be, as usual, no March board meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Submitted by Andy Muir, Disguised as Secretary



Photo by  
W. Mohr

**FIELD TRIPS**

**March 17 & 18 OUR SHOW.** Enjoy the fun and excitement. Help set up on Friday, at the show Saturday and Sunday, and take-down Sunday evening to make it a success. Sign up with Show Chair, Pat Repik Byrne at <prb.rocks@verizon.net> or call her at 301 279 5962.

**April 28, Saturday** The Haines Kibblehouse (HK) group has kindly permitted us to have a fieldtrip to the Penn-MD Materials Quarry 8 am to Noon.

**Location:** Meet at the gate around the laboratory entrance by 8 am, 303 Quarry Rd, Peach-bottom PA.

**Restrictions & Age limit:** Attendees must be **adults (18 and over)** and be **current members** of the GLMSMC or a mineral club invited by the GLMSMC.

**Mineral types:** Serpentine, chromite, magnesite, deweylite (a mixture of clinochrysotile or Lizardite with a talc-like mineral), brucite, and opal.

All club members must sign up to attend. E-mail Jonathan at <jgharris7@gmail.com> at least **5 days** before the field trip date including "Penn MD Materials Quarry" in the subject line. (Please do not abbreviate this.). You must agree to the rules and waiver available from Jonathan. Please do not be a "no show". If you lack access to email Jonathan's phone number is 301-545-0808 and his cell phone is 240-506-2864. Please inform friends who are paid members.

**Directions:** (From Rockville)

Take I-270 toward Washington. Merge onto I-495 (Inner loop.) At exit 27, turn RIGHT onto Ramp, I-95 / Baltimore. Go onto I-95 / Baltimore / New York. Keep RIGHT onto I-895 (Harbor Tunnel Throughway, toll road.) Merge onto I-95 (John F Kennedy Memorial Hwy.) At exit 80, turn RIGHT onto Ramp to MD-543 / Riverside / Churchville. Turn LEFT (North) onto MD-543 (Creswell Rd.) After 3.8 miles, bear RIGHT (North) onto MD-136 (Calvary Rd.) At Churchville MD Calvary Rd becomes Priestford Road. Stay on MD 136 bearing RIGHT (North-East) onto US-1 (Conowingo Rd.)

Immediately after crossing the Susquehanna River US 222 merges with US1. Turn LEFT (North-West) onto US-222 (Rock Springs Rd.) Enter Pennsylvania. Right at the state line turn RIGHT (East) onto Quarry Rd, Go 0.6 mi and arrive at 303 Quarry Rd, Peach Bottom, PA 17563

Driving distance from Rockville: about 90.0 miles, Driving time: about 1 hour, 45 minutes.

**March 24, 2011, Saturday** In at 7:30 am at Vulcan's Manassas Quarry, 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.

Please let Jonathan Harris know if you plan to attend and your agreement to the waiver and rules by **March 19**, so he can provide the quarry with an accurate headcount. If you lack access to e-mail Jonathan's phone number is 301-545-0808 and his cell phone is 240-506-2864. Otherwise e-mail Jonathan at <jgharris7@gmail.com> and include "Manassas" in the subject line. 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. Also, Jonathan may need to appoint a group leader.**

**Directions:** From the Beltway, go West on 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.



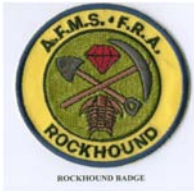
**FUTURE ROCKHOUNDS OF AMERICA (The MOCKS) Ages 10-15****Meeting Date:** March 12, 2012 **Meeting time:** 7:45 - 9:00 pm**Meeting Location:** Sunroom Cafeteria at the Rockville Senior Center**February 13, 2012**

The second component of our series on rocks was the sedimentary group. We covered composition, focusing on the categories of clastic, biochemical and chemical; formation through lithification via compaction & cementation, and precipitation; and finally, texture as defined by grain size. We practiced identifying specimens using a chart to guide us through the different properties.

**Optional Badge Assignment:** For those who have not yet earned the Earth Processes badge, you can complete the badge requirements by bringing in 3 different examples of each of the three rock groups (labeled).

**March 12, 2012**

**CHANGE OF PLANS:** We will have a short 15-minute meeting to review show logistics. Then, instead of the originally scheduled topic, Metamorphic Rocks, the FRA members are invited to attend a special presentation in the main meeting room by Dr. Jeffrey Post, Geologist, Curator-in-Charge, Mineral Collection Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History. Metamorphic rocks, the final group in our three-part series will be covered in April.



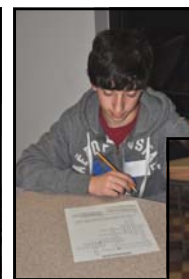
**SHOW BUSINESS: March 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>  
at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds**

As usual – the MOCKS' commitment to the upcoming show is fantastic. Ten MOCKS members have signed up to exhibit, and MOCKS and their parents have volunteered to cover

**26 volunteer slots.**

**Special thanks to Abbie & Elena Olshin and their mother Kris Vaitkus** for covering a total of 11 volunteer slots among the three of them

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



Photographs by Wendell Mohr

**MINI MINERS Ages 6-9**

**Meeting Date:** March 12 , 2012      **Meeting time:** 7:00 - 8:00 pm

**Meeting Location:** The Card Room at the Rockville Senior Center

**February 13, 2012**

The Mini Miners learned about Mohs hardness scale. The kids examined different mineral specimens and tried to identify the minerals based on hardness. They did a really great job. You would be surprised on how knowledgeable they are.

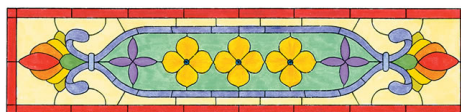
**March 12 , 2012**

The topic is not set yet. It will either be Florescent Minerals, a further examination of rock and mineral identification using streak and cleavage or a discussion on rocks and minerals in our everyday life.

For more information contact Linda Smith 301-530-5007 or Tunacat107@aol.com



Photographs by W. Mohr



**SHOWS AND EVENTS**

**March 9, 2012**, Chesapeake Gem & Mineral Society Auction, 7:30 pm (viewing at 7:00 pm), Woman's Club of Catonsville. Gemstones, cutting rough, jewelry, minerals, fossils, books, magazines, and lapidary equipment. Refreshments are available.

Directions: Go West on Fredrick Rd. from I-695 approximately 3 blocks to St. Timothy's Lane. Turn right & go 1 block to the Woman's Club; located behind St. Timothy's Church.

**DON'T MISS OUR SHOW**

**48th ANNUAL GEM-MINERAL-FOSSIL SHOW**

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS**

**MAR. 17 & MAR. 18, 2012**  
**SAT. 10 AM-6 PM, SUN. 11 AM-5 PM**

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




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

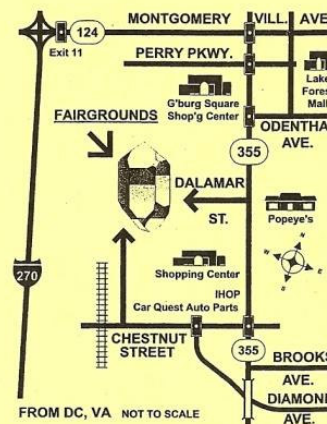
Website—[WWW.GLMSMC.COM](http://WWW.GLMSMC.COM)

**16 CHESTNUT STREET GAITHERSBURG, MARYLAND**

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

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



FROM DC, VA NOT TO SCALE

**March 24 - 25th**, 34th Annual Gem, Mineral, & Jewelry Show sponsored by the Franklin County Rock and Mineral Club. New location: Hamilton Heights Elementary School, 1589 Johnson Road, Chambersburg PA.

**April 19 - 22**, Rochester (Henrietta) NY - 39th Annual Rochester Mineralogical Symposium sponsored by the Rochester Academy of Science, Mineral Section. Radisson Inn, Rochester Airport, 175 Jefferson Rd, Rochester NY. Opening with a visit to Ward's Natural Science Establishment and including a Micromounters "Play room", the event (which won the Carnegie award last year) features many speakers of note. An auction is Scheduled for Saturday. Steve Chamberlain - Chairman <[sccham2@yahoo.com](mailto:sccham2@yahoo.com)> for information.

**Saturday April 28**, Sterling Hill Super Digg "day-and-night" mineral collecting at Sterling Hill Mine (9:00 am - 11:00 pm); organized by the Delaware Valley Earth Science Society and Northeast Field Trip Alliance; cost of \$20/person includes museum and extended mine tour and registration. Fee of \$1.50/lb. is charged for those participating in mineral collecting. Preregistration by April 1st required. See <[www.uvworld.org](http://www.uvworld.org)> for information.

**July 26 - 29**, "A Celebration of Agates." AFMS Convention and Show and seminars. Lindbergh Center at Hopkins High School, 2400 Lindbergh Drive, Minnetonka MN  
For information see <<http://minnesotamineralclub.org/2012show.htm>>.

**September 15 - 16** 47th Annual Show by the Central Pennsylvania Rock & Mineral Club, Zembo Shrine, 2801 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg PA 17110. EFMLS Meeting Friday September 14th.  
For information see <<http://www.rockandmineral.org/>>





WEB SITES

## Surf's UP!

By Wendell Mohr

**Marco Macchieraldo Minerals**, <[www.macminerals.com/index.htm](http://www.macminerals.com/index.htm)>, is shown by the title person living in Torino, Italy. Although he offers specimens for sale as a dealer, this is not an endorsement. "My private collection" features 5 pages of specimens from his personal collection. An article about the Monte Bianco and another about the Val Varaita district, both Alpine mineral occurrences are well done and profusely illustrated. • I really didn't want to rappel down the Swiss Alp to find the Fluorite pocket, but I was roped into it. (To appreciate rope jokes, you have to be taut!) •



Swiss Smoky Quartz  
Photo by R. Weller, Cochise College



Nordic-Calista Drilling Rig #3 on site at the Ignik Sikumi #1 well, Prudhoe Bay Unit, Alaska North Slope - photo courtesy Conoco-Phillips

**Methane Hydrates**, <[http://www.netl.doe.gov/technologies/oil-gas/FutureSupply/MethaneHydrates/projects/DOEProjects/MH\\_06553HydrateProdTrial.html](http://www.netl.doe.gov/technologies/oil-gas/FutureSupply/MethaneHydrates/projects/DOEProjects/MH_06553HydrateProdTrial.html)> is a site of the National Energy Technology Laboratory, part of the Department of Energy. Geology in Action! Here you will find news of a current production trial to recover clean fossil fuel. In an exchange, carbon dioxide, CO<sub>2</sub>, displaces Methane, CH<sub>4</sub>, with the potential of a huge new source of fuel. Laboratory tests have proven satisfactory and now a trial is underway on the Alaskan North Slope. • And if the project fails they can always use Gas-X. Methane hydrate drilling is a lot like paying taxes. You work hard and end up in the hole! •

**Agates**, <<http://snr.unl.edu/data/geologysoils/agates/index-agates.asp>> is a feature of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln site. 864 images are available in a data base organized by County/State. Agates Glossary describes 7 features of agates. Not all pictures are highest quality but still useful. • Fortification agates have bands that resemble a fort from an aerial perspective. Fortification: Two twentyfications; or a large gulp of good whiskey. •

Montana Dryhead Agate  
From Web Site

**FEBRUARY 13th PRIZES** Double this month prizes to make up for none in January!

**General Door Prizes:** A Smoky Quartz crystal from near Hell Roaring Lake, South Mountains, ID went to Conrad Smith. And a Garnet in Feldspar was won by guest Ranjan Gupta.



**Junior Door Prizes:** A Dinosaur Bone was awarded to Ryan Gunnison. Conrad Smith succeeded in getting a second prize, a Brazilian Rhodonite.

**Show Table Prizes:** Earl Smith took home an Augite from Ontario, Canada. Diane Leaman claimed a Rutile with Pyrophyllite from Graves Mountain GA.

**ROCKVILLE SCIENCE DAY** Thanks to Mark Dahlman and George Durland who have agreed to represent our Society at the 23rd event sponsored by the Rockville Consortium for Science Inc. on Sunday, April 15, 2012, Noon to 5:00 pm at the Montgomery College, Rockville Campus.



### FASCINATING FACTS ABOUT SILVER

Although silver was discovered later than gold and copper, it has been known and used by humankind since prehistoric times. Herodotus, the Greek historian, knew of silver used to make coins and beads, exploited from the river sands of the Pactolus in Lydia. The Chinese wrote of silver metals in 2500 BC. In the earliest prehistoric strata at the site of Troy, considerable deposits of silver and gold treasure have been extracted. Among the artifacts, silver bracelets and gold earrings, ornaments placed in a silver cup and more than

8000 beads were buried in the ancient city 2000 years before Christ. The most ancient silver miners of importance were in Asia Minor and on islands in the Aegean Sea. The Romans obtained most of their silver from Spain until supplies became scarce during the Middle Ages. After the discovery of the Americas in 1492, Mexico became the largest silver producing country in the world. Canada and the United States also produce significant amounts of silver. Silver is a lustrous white metal widely distributed in nature. In ores, it is commonly associated with gold, lead, and copper.



Much of the world's silver is obtained as a byproduct of smelting these other metals. Hornsilver ( $\text{AgCl}$ ) is found in the oxidized portions of ore which lie near the surface. Small amounts of silver in the oxidation zone form as the more complex compounds erode and weather. At deeper levels silver occurs as sulfides, arsenides and antimonides (compounds of silver with sulfur, arsenic, and antimony). In these deposits formation is the result of deposition from primary hydro-thermal solutions. Argentite occurs in low temperature hydrothermal veins in association with other silver minerals or sometimes in the cementation of lead and zinc deposits.



When found in a metallic state, it is called native silver. Native silver usually occurs in dendritic and wire-like forms which are aggregates of minute crystals. Silver may also occur in thin sheets or in large masses. In Kongsberg, Norway, magnificent crystalline wire specimens occur in association with sulfides, calcite, barite, fluorite, and quartz. The world's largest specimen of massive silver was mined in Aspen Colorado, and weighs in at 844 pounds.

On the Keweenaw Peninsula of Michigan, small amounts can be found in association with native copper. In Mexico, the Guanajuato District has been in operation since the year 1500 AD. During that time, more than 1 billion ounces of silver have been mined. (Amount adjusted by Editor from original for production for the district per accesswire.)

About 3/4 of the world's silver production is used for monetary purposes, either as coins or as bullion that governments hold to redeem paper currency. The leading industrial use of silver is for the manufacture of tableware and jewelry. The second largest consumer is (or was - Ed.) the photographic industry. When compounded with bromide or chlorine, silver forms salts which register light and shade on photographs. Silver has the highest thermal and electrical conductivity of any substance, making it ideal for use in electronic equipment. Silver is second only to gold in malleability. One ounce of silver can be drawn into wire 30 miles long. A silver leaf can be beaten to a thickness of 1/100,000 of an inch.



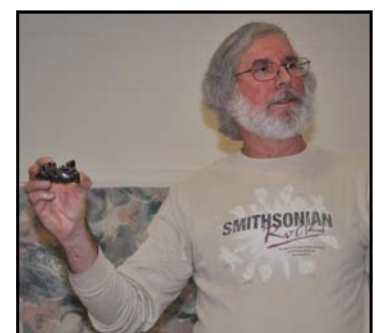
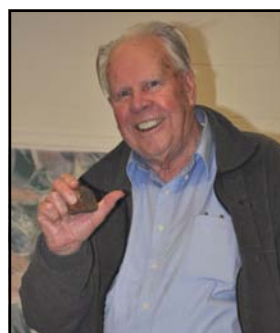
From Golden Spike News, 12/99 via: RockCollector, 3/12

**SHOW TABLE:** February 13th, 2012. Thanks to those who bring items for sharing at the meetings.

<u>Exhibitor</u>	<u>Specimen (s)</u>	<u>Locality</u>
Boe Brosius	Plagioclase Feldspar in Diabase Chalcedony Pink Opal	Dickerson MD Soldiers Delight MD Unknown
Barbara Burr	Mahogany Obsidian	Central OR
Andy Celmer	Jade	OR
Jeff Cessna	Rhodonite, Willemite Bustamite, Willemite	Franklin NJ Franklin NJ
George Durland	Wollastonite Wollastonite	Franklin NJ Ogdensburg NJ
Ryan Gunnison	Assorted Micromounts	Various
Diane Leaman	Meteorite	Africa
Gary Leaman	Meteorite	Argentina
Kristin Lolmaugh	Banded Rhyolite	NM
Wendell Mohr	Siliceous Calcite	Badlands of SD
Andy Muir	Calcite (fl.) Magnesite in Serpentine	Frome, Somerset, England Cedar Hill Quarry Rising Sun MD
Jeff Nagy	Malachite, Chrysocolla, Quartz*	John Biggs Cu Mine, Carroll Co., MD
Joel Rosen	Sikhote-Alin Meteorite Ahnighito Meteorite	Sikhote-Alin Mtns., Russia Cape York, Savissivik, Greenland
Conrad Smith	Beryl	Topsham Mine, ME
Earl Smith	Siderite*	Frostburg MD
Linda Smith	Selenite	Oilfields CO
Rod Towers	Meteorites	World-wide Locations



Photos by W. Mohr



\* = Self-collected or self made

**SHOW SAFETY**

Adapted from article by Ellery Borow, EFMLS Safety Chair, February 2012

Gem and mineral shows do not often call to mind visions of bandages, scraped knees, strained backs and safety glasses. Most shows, however, would be well served if they included safety preparations in their planning and execution.

Does your club show involve exhibit cases, table set up, electrical wiring, demonstrations, children's activities, programs, or carrying, carrying and more carrying? If so, please note that any or all of these activities and the myriad of other show related activities may involve matters of safety. For example – exhibit case set-up usually involves handling large panels and pinch points. Are folks mindful of these safety concerns as cases are assembled? Does someone check the case lights and switches for electrical code requirements and general electrical safety? Are light sockets damaged? Are wires loose or insulation frayed?



During table set-up does someone verify table legs are locked, that there are no unsafe metal edges or protruding screws? Our table covering is fire retardant?

Electrical wiring for show such as dealer table lights and demonstration area power should all be checked for safety. Indeed, electrical safety could have volumes written about its safety requirements. It is wise to have all electrical safety matters checked by folks with electrical experience.

Standard electrical safety checks include verification that temporary show wiring meets local and National Electrical Code requirements. Wires run along floors should have all tripping hazards mitigated or at least addressed. Have all temporary electrical outlets for show tables, activities and programs been tested/checked? Are all temporary wires sized to meet the electrical load? Do show workers know where emergency shutoffs are located? Are fire extinguishers available for electrical fires? All these matters should be addressed.

Do show demonstrations offer suitable protection for the demonstrator and the public? Do lapidary demonstrators and demonstrations utilize eye protection, hearing protection, protection from dangerous dust and fumes. Is proper guarding used for lapidary equipment (including drive and belt guards)? Is machinery utilized in the manner recommended by the manufacturer?

Are safe lifting and hoisting recommendations followed for all the carrying? Do kids demonstrations have multiple reviews for safe operation?

Rock and mineral club shows often involve and include many facets of the interesting and varied hobby of mineral collecting and lapidary – and thus should address all of the usual safety concerns for those many and varied activities. A show is not the time to let our guard down – especially when clubs should be mindful of their show being their best foot forward with regard to the public's impression of the hobby. It serves the club and the public well to make our shows as safe as possible.

Here are a few general guide lines for general show safety:

1. Have in a club's possession and be sure to utilize the following publications – AFMS Safety Manual, EFMLS Recommended Guide for Club Show Chairmen, EFMLS Safety Tips for Rockhounds.
2. Consider appointing a safety overseer specifically for show related safety matters
3. Coordinate with the facilities manager for specific site related safety issues in the hall (including egress, electrical power requirements, lighting, handicap access, fire extinguisher access and placement, etc.)
4. Make sure first aid coordination and supplies are available at the show and on field trips
5. Insure every club member has a part to play with show safety. It is, after all, the whole club's show.
6. Keep everyone informed and on top of safety matters. This single show safety article in the EFMLS News cannot, in any way imaginable, bring to light or discuss every possible show safety issue. Be alert and stay on one's toes for any and every potential safety issue.

In the show season to come, may every club show be a safe show.

Thank you. And, please remember, your safety matters!

**AFMS ENDOWMENT**

Adapted from EFMLS Newsletter Editor Carolyn Weinberger

The 2012 American Federation of Mineralogical Societies Endowment Drawing will be held in late July during the AFMS / Mid West Federation Convention. Have you obtained your tickets yet? You don't have a chance of being a prize winner if you don't.



Unlike previous years, we really are conducting two separate drawings. The first is for lapidary equipment. Numbered as prizes 1 -4, you need to indicate which of the items you would like to receive if your ticket is selected during the drawing. Only those tickets that have one of the prizes identified will be entered in this portion of the drawing.

The second drawing is for the remaining prizes. Thus far, 10 additional prizes have been donated with more promised. If you're not interested in perhaps winning the lapidary equipment, your ticket will have a chance of winning one of these remaining prizes to be drawn at random.

You can find photographs and descriptions of each of the donated items by checking issues of the AFMS Newsletter at <[www.amfed.org/afms\\_news.htm](http://www.amfed.org/afms_news.htm)> for the last several months.

Purchasing tickets for the drawing is as simple as writing a check and mailing it. The cost remains at \$5 each or 5 for \$20.

Remember, the interest from all proceeds of the drawing is used for programs that ultimately benefit your club and.....you can't win without a ticket.

Checks should be made payable to "AFMS Endowment" and mailed along with a stamped, self addressed envelope to Carolyn Weinberger P. O. Box 302, Glyndon MD 21071-0302. For information or questions call (410) 833-7926 or Email: [editor@amfed.org](mailto:editor@amfed.org).

**MARCH BIRTHSTONE: AQUAMARINE** Aquamarine is a very popular gemstone of the beryl family. (The same family as emerald.) It varies in color from a very pale, almost colorless blue, to a blue green or teal and usually lacks the inclusions frequently found in emerald. Most commercial aquamarine has been heat treated to obtain the true blue color. It is usually faceted, with the emerald cut being the most popular, but it may also be made into cabochons which often display an asterism or cat's eye effect.

Simulants or "Fakes": Glass: If you can see bubbles in the stone it is glass rather than aquamarine. Another way to spot glass vs. real aquamarine is to place the stone on your forehead. Glass will feel room temperature but aquamarine will feel cool. If in doubt have it checked by a professional.

Synthetic: Lab aquamarine is rare since it cost more to make than the value of natural specimens. Synthetic Blue Spinel: These are much less expensive to make. Blue Spinel, however, does not display the pleochroism effect. (Effect of more than one color showing depending on the angle of light through the stone.) The most valuable aquamarine comes from Brazil but is also mined in Kenya, Nigeria, Madagascar, Zambia, Tanzania, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Russia. In the U.S. It is found in Colorado, Wyoming and North Carolina. The largest crystal was found in 1910 in Marambaia, Minas Gerais, Brazil. It weighed over 110kg and was 19 in. long and 17 in. in diameter.

Many believe it endows the wearer with foresight, courage and happiness and that it arouses feelings of sympathy, trust, harmony, friendship and lasting relationships. For this reason it was often given as a gift by the groom to the bride after consummation of the marriage.

Legend says that sailors often wore it to keep safe, avoid seasickness and as a protection against storms. In the middle ages royalty often wore it as a protection against poisoning.

It is believed to strengthen bones and teeth and has been used in treating eyes and for anxiety. It is also believed it protects against swollen glands.

To clean aquamarine use a mild liquid soapy water and an old toothbrush. Rinse well in warm water. Not hot!! Hot water can cause thermal shock. Do not use enzyme cleaners or detergents or ultrasonic cleaners. Avoid sudden temperature changes.



Sources: <[www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org)>, <[www.jewelsforme.com](http://www.jewelsforme.com)>, <[www.gemstones.org](http://www.gemstones.org)>, <[www.bernadine.com](http://www.bernadine.com)>, and <[www.shopgemstones.com](http://www.shopgemstones.com)>. From Rock Buster News, March 2012 via RockCollector Mar 2012

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Society Address: Gem, Lapidary, and Mineral Society of Montgomery County MD., Inc.  
 P. O. Box 444, Gaithersburg MD 20884-0444 Web Site: <http://www.glmismc.com/>  
 All Society correspondence is to be sent to this address except that which is intended for the Rockhounder and its editor. Such items are to be sent to the editor’s home address.



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 Gem, Lapidary, and Mineral Society  
 of Montgomery County, MD, Inc.  
 Wendell C. Mohr  
 9509 Emory Grove Road  
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