

THE ROCKHOUNDER



OCTOBER 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 October 8th** 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 our own **Chris Luzier** Topic: **“Megalodon-The Monster of the Miocene, and Other Fossils of the Atlantic Coastal Plain.”** He will discuss the shark that was so large, it gave birth to 8-10 foot long “babies” that ate full grown dugongs and medium sized whales, within minutes of being out of the womb! He will also discuss slightly less exciting fossilized creatures found in the Delmarva area and down the coast to Florida. Chris has been an avid winter fossil collector since he was a boy along the famous Calvert Cliffs exposure. He also worked with the Natural History Society of Maryland as one of the Paleontology Department curators

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS will meet Monday, October 15th, at the Home of Andy Muir. All Board members are expected to be there. Any member is welcome to attend but kindly let Andy know if you plan to attend at: <amuir21@comcast.net> or phone 301 990 1370.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



BERMAN, Kate & Mike, 821 Bowie Road., Rockville MD 20852-1042, 301 294 7322, tkberman@gmail.com.

Shayna

CARTER, Michael, 4510 Roxbury Drive, Bethesda MD 20814-4038, macarter84@msn.com, 301 493 8869, .

FRYAUFF, David & Pasimani, 24109 Sugar Cane Lane, Laytonsville MD 20882-4031, 301 253 1687, David: david.fryauff@med.navy.mil. Pasimi: moni.fryauff@gmail.com.

Leilani, Michael, Frista, Xena

HENN, Harper, 10234 Carroll Place, Kensington MD 20895-3300, 301 942 0963, harper.henn@gmail.com.

MARSH, George, 17321 Whitaker Road, Poolesville MD 20837-2137, 301 916 3616, glmarsh@verizon.net.

RADOWSKI, M. Scot & KEARNS, Katherine, 19401 Framingham Drive, Gaithersburg MD 20879-1837, 408 329 0139,

Scot: radowski@gmail.com; Katherine: Katie.kearns@gmail.com. Michael “Dar”, Kassia, Zella

ROSTER CHANGES (E-MAILS ONLY)

HUNTER-SHUPE, Cynthia, given.cynthia@his.com

SCHOEN, Barbara, msbarbaraschoen@gmail.com

DEADLINE for The November
2012 Rockhounder: October 29th

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Andy Celmer

The EFMLS, Eastern Federation of Mineralogical & Lapidary Societies, recently held their convention in Harrisburg Pa. You will be reading more about the convention throughout the newsletter.

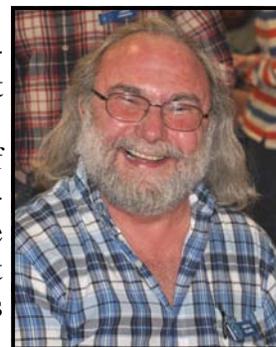


I would like to speak toward the venue of their show. The Zembo Temple is a sight to behold! Built in the late 1920's it has a Middle Eastern flair. Think Cecil B DeMille and a cast of thousands! The beautifully painted columns and arches have a backdrop of soaring ceilings.

And if that were not enough, this beautiful building held a great rock show. Consider a drive to Harrisburg for their show next year.

Congratulations Linda and Conrad Smith for the Each One Teach One, Second Place Award. Thanks for all your work with the Mini Miners. We will hear more about all the awards at the presentations. See you at the meeting.

Andy B

**STEP UP!**

The Society needs a volunteer to handle Demonstrations for the annual show. Questions may be addressed to Bob Irby at <irby@verizon.net> or 301 540 5033.

Wendell Mohr has been Editor for seven years. A volunteer is still needed to take over that position. The Editor holds a Board seat in addition to publishing *The Rockhounder*. Questions may be addressed to Wendell Mohr at 301 926 7190 or <wmohr@erols.com>.

Contact Andy Celmer <Abcpec@comcast.net> or 301 865 4442 to step up!

MORE STEP UP:

How about being on a Society list of volunteers when various people or groups call for help?

We get requests for speakers for scout and school groups. George Durland and Wendell Mohr are among those who have helped in the past. Are you willing to do this?

Many times folks call for the identification of minerals and gems and even make requests to cut and polish their finds, often found in North Carolina. Jeff Nagy is one who does this now. Would **you** be comfortable doing this? Contact Andy Celmer <Abcpec@comcast.net> or 301 865 4442 to step up!

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

November is election month for the Society.

The Board of Directors, serving as the nominating Committee, has already completed its job, easy this year, because all of this year's officers have agreed to serve a second term!

Officers who have agreed to run for officer positions for 2013:

President: Andy Celmer

Vice President: Chris Luzier

Secretary: Jeff Cessna

Treasurer: Andy Muir

Nominations from the floor will be open, provided the person nominated agrees to serve.



St. Peter is checking IDs. He asks a man, "What did you do on Earth?" The man says, "I was a Doctor." St. Peter says, "OK, Go right through those pearly gates. Next! What did you do on Earth?" "I was a school teacher." "OK...Go right through those pearly gates. Next! What did you do on Earth?" "I was a mineral collector." "OK....Go up the dirt road, turn left at the stone wall, look for a large Oak tree, the dumps are just....." PLG Lap Talk News June 2012

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES: The September 10, 2012 meeting was called to order by President Andy Celmer at 7:37 pm, with approximately 70 people attending.

President: President Andy Celmer announced a silent auction of a small gold pan, a large gold pan, and a tumbler with supplies. Auction was ended at the end of the break with all items selling. Andy Celmer reminded member of the need for volunteers at the club show in March.

Guest Editor and EFMLS Liaison: Wendell Mohr discussed the upcoming Micromount Conference noting the new date and location. The Society continues to need a new newsletter editor.

Membership: It was M/S/P to approve membership for the following individuals: Kate and Mike Berman and Shayna; Michael Carter; David and Pasimani Fryauff and Leilani, Michael, Frista, and Xena; Harper Henn; George Marsh; and M. Scot Radowski and Katherine Kearns, and Michael "Dar", Kassia, and Zella.

Treasurer: Andy Muir reported there was little financial activity over the summer. The meeting site rental is paid. Dues are coming in for the new membership year.

Andy Muir had free wavellite from Mt Pleasant Mills, PA. Jonathan Harris had free zeolites from Churchville Quarry, Churchville, MD. Jim Kostka had free specimens once belonging to an economic geologist.

Field Trips: Jonathan Harris discussed his efforts to get into to local quarries. Look for an announcement. He reminded us of upcoming trips.

Presentation: Vice president Chris Luzier introduced the speaker for the evening, member Bob Simonoff. Bob presented *The 2012 Ste. Marie aux Mines Mineral Show: The Show That Almost Wasn't*. The presentation covered a family trip to France in 2012 timed to coincide with the Ste. Marie aux Mines Mineral Show, the second largest show in Europe behind the Munich Show. Bob discussed the history and unique character of the show that allowed it to survive when the long term organizer decided the show would be better suited at convention center in the same region, removing a large source of income from the town. The town rallied, solved many of the problems the organizer identified, and held their own parallel show. Bob also presented many pictures of the finds available at this year's show, interspersed with stories behind some of them. He answered several questions from the audience. Thanks Bob. Photos Below by Speaker: Sculpture; Fluorite, Quartz, & Pyrite; Pentagonite; Afghanite.



See <<http://www.mineral-forum.com/message-board/viewtopic.php?t=2347>> for a posting of his photos.

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 9:45PM. Jeff Cessna, Secretary.

BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

Board Members present: Andy Celmer, Jonathan Harris, Chris Luzier, Wendell Mohr, Andy Muir, Pat Repik-Byrne. Non-Board member present: Mark Dahlman. President Andy Celmer called the Sept. 24, 2012 meeting to order at 7:35 pm.

Show: Major costs for the 2013 show were discussed, as well as some publicity considerations. Pat will lead an effort to publicize "job descriptions" for various volunteer opportunities for Society members at the show.

Field Trip Chair: Jonathan Harris reports that the Sep. 29th, National Limestone Quarry, Mt. Pleasant Mills, PA trip has had low response and may be rescheduled. He has scheduled a trip to US Silica's Montpelier Mine at Montpelier VA for Oct. 27th. Other possible trips include Farmville VA for amethyst, Manassas, and LaFarge Churchville Quarry.

Treasurer: The treasurer's report was presented with no major news. The Society is in excellent financial shape.

EFMLS Liaison: Wendell Mohr and Andy Celmer reported that the Central Pennsylvania Rock & Mineral Club did a wonderful job hosting the EFMLS Annual Meeting and mineral show the weekend of September 14-16, 2012. GLMSMC members won several awards that will be presented at our October meeting.

Guest Editor: Wendell reported that Doug Baum (who was unable to attend the meeting) has volunteered to create a Facebook page for the GLMSMC, which would feature news and photos. The board happily accepted this offer. Wendell also explained that a gentleman in Rockville would like to disperse his fossil collection via an upcoming Society auction. Several board members volunteered to help pack up and store the material until the auction can be organized.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 PM.

Andy Muir, Secretary pro-tem

DUES Unless you have paid, **your GLMSMC membership expired August 31, 2010.** Membership dues are due by Sept. 1st. 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 late renewals.** If you have not renewed by November 1st you will be dropped from the roster and receive no mail or e-mails. Send dues (check to GLMSMC) to Membership Chairman Doug Baum, 11205 Golden Meadow Court, Germantown MD 20876-1740, 301 515 4641 or see him at the meeting.



SICK BAY Keep Jack Busch in your thoughts. He is in the Asbury Methodist Village, Wilson Health Care Center and has experienced a couple of falls with complications.

SILENT AUCTIONS The September event at the meeting garnered \$65 for the Hyland Tumbler, a gift from Peggy Bourg and \$21 for the gold pans of Pat Repik-Bryne.



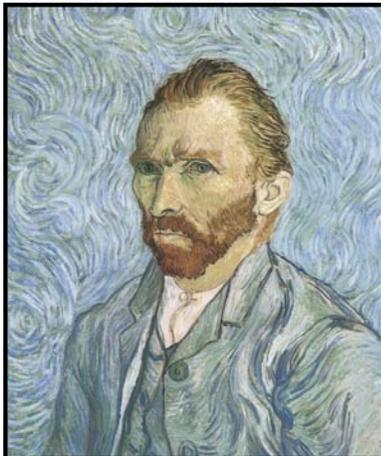
He split open a geode and, what do you think? A cop arrested him! What for? Breaking and entering!

Saturday October 27 Meet 9 am at US Silica's Montpelier Mine Office, 17359 Taylor Creek Road, Montpelier VA 23192, 804 883-6700. Note that the Mine office is about a mile from the entrance.



Let Jonathan Harris know if you plan to attend and your agreement to the waiver and rules by October 20th. If at all possible, do this by email to <jgharris7@gmail.com> including US Silica and Montpelier Quarry in the subject line. Otherwise call Jonathan at 301 545 0808. Children 10 and up are welcome if accompanied and well supervised by a parents and use the required safety gear.

According to the Shenandoah club, minerals found include: Actinolite, Albite (var: Andesine), Albite-Anorthite Series, Amphibole Group (var: Uralite), Anatase, Anthophyllite, Apatite, Biotite, Garnet, Goethite, Hornblende, Illite, Ilmenite, Kaolinite, Microcline, Moonstone, Muscovite, Prehnite, Pyrite, Quartz (var: Blue Quartz), Rutile, Sericite, Spessartine, Titanite, and Zircon. See also <<http://www.ussilica.com/locations/montpelier-va>>.



Last week we took a field trip with Vincent attending. He drove his minivan. You should see Vincent van Gogh.

Directions from Rockville: Take I-270S right onto I-270 Spur South onto I-495 to I-95S. * Take exit 110 West (right) on VA 639, Ladysmith Rd. Becomes Lendora Bridge Rd. then Anderson Mill Rd. Turn left onto VA-738/Anderson Mill Rd. Turn right onto VA 678/Union Church Rd. Turn left onto Beaver Dam Rd, VA 715. Take the 2nd right to stay on Beaver Dam Rd/VA 715. Turn left onto US-33 E/Mountain Rd. Turn right onto Bethany Church Rd/VA 610. Turn left onto VA 677/Taylor's Creek Rd. Turn right and drive about a mile down the mine's road to the parking lot at the mine office. Drive time about 2 1/2 hours.

* Alternate Route: Take I-95 to Route 54 West (Exit #92-B). Stay on Route 54 West through the city of Ashland. Continue on Route 54 until it turns into Route 33 West (approximately 15-17miles). Amoco/Fastmart on left and Montpelier Food Center, right. Follow Route 33 West for about 1 mile and turn left on Route 610, fire station at intersection. Follow Route 610 to its end and turn left at stop sign onto Taylor's Creek Road. Plant will be about 1 mile down Taylor's Creek on the right side.



SEPTEMBER DOOR PRIZES

Jonathan Baum went home with the Junior Door Prize, a planetarium.

Conrad Smith received a Miocene period fossil elm leaf (*Ulmus Pyramidalis*) from Brezanky, Czech Republic for the Show Table entry.

The General Door Prize was won by Pat Repik-Byrne, a Stibnite from the Raura Mine, Department of Lima, Peru.



FUTURE ROCKHOUNDS OF AMERICA (The MOCKS) Ages 10-15.**Next Meeting Date:** October 8, 2012. **Meeting time:** 7:45 - 9:00 pm.**Meeting Location:** Sunroom Cafeteria at the Rockville Senior Center

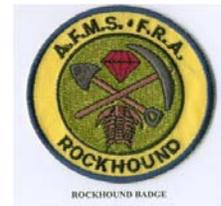
September 10th Meeting: Colored gemstones were the topic for this meeting. We learned about the nature of color, reviewed selective absorption and how gemstones get their color(s). We discussed allochromatic and idiochromatic gems and learned the impact a stone's crystal structure can have on its color. We learned how colored gems are evaluated in the market place and discussed historical trends and preferences in gemstones. We talked about the role cut and clarity play in evaluating colored gemstones and compared valuation criteria for different stones. We learned how many of the most valued gems are formed and talked about hydrothermal veins and pegmatites. Each FRA member went home with a specimen classified as a gemstone as well as some tourmaline pieces.



October 8th Meeting: Visitors from outer space (meteorites) will be the topic for this evening. Mark Dahlman has graciously agreed to take the MOCKS on another intergalactic journey. Note: Holly will be absent this meeting.

November 12th Meeting:

The agenda will be magnetism and a review of fluorescence to satisfy badge requirements.



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

MINI MINERS Ages 6-9**Next Meeting Date:** October 8th, 2012**Meeting time:** 7:00 - 8:00 pm**Meeting Location:** The Card Room at the Rockville Senior Center

Last month the mini miners did a quick review of all 3 types of rocks and examined samples.



W. Mohr Photo

The next meeting's topic will be "From Cubic to Glossular; looking at how different crystals form" Please be sure to bring in your specimen to share.

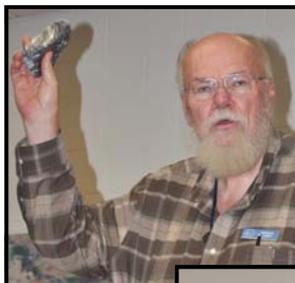
For more information contact Linda Smith 301-530-5007 or <Tunacat107@aol.com>

SHOW TABLE: September 10th, 2012. Thanks to those who bring items for sharing at the meetings.

<u>Exhibitor</u>	<u>Specimen (s)</u>	<u>Locality</u>
Frances Becker	Obsidian "Apache Tears"	likely Superior AZ (Ed.)
Boe Brosius	Chalcedony, Serpentine (?)	TX
Barbara Burr	Amazonite	Morefield Mine VA
Andy Celmer	Coral*	Hillsboro WV
Jeff Cessna	Shalenblende: a mixture of Sphalerite, Wurtzite and Galena	Olkusz, Poland
	Wollastonite, Calcite (fl.)	White Knob Q., San Bernardino Co. CA
George Durland	Hardystonite, Clinohedrite, Willemite Bornite	Franklin NJ
Gerald Elgert	Silicon (refined element)	China
Don Greaves	Geode with red core	Brazil
Jonathan Harris	Chabazite/Stilbite*	LaFarge Q., Churchville MD
Diane Leaman	Quartz Geode	KY
Gary Leaman	Geode Chalcedony	KY
Wendell Mohr	Canadian Fl. Dinosaur \$0.25 Coin	Canada Mint
Andy Muir	Tremolite var. Hexagonite	Balmat NY
	Meionite/Marialite	Canada
	Ruby and Zoisite bouncing Sphere!	Tanzania
Joel Rosen	Fluorite/Calcite	Deming NM
Conrad Smith	Cryolite, Siderite, Galena	Ivigtut, Greenland
Linda Smith	Schorl in Schist	Kensington MD
Eric Thompsen	Selenite xls.	Woodrow Wilson Bridge I-95 MD/VA
Rod Towers	Ruby	Macedonia



*Self-collected or self made



Photographs by W. Mohr

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

October 12, The Chesapeake Gem & Mineral Society **Auction**, 7:30 pm (viewing at 7:00 pm.) Offering gemstones, cutting rough, jewelry, minerals, fossils, books, magazines, and lapidary equipment.

Refreshments are available. Directions: Go West on Fredrick Rd. from the Baltimore beltway, I-695, approximately 3 blocks to St. Timothy's Lane. Turn right & go 1 block to the Woman's Club of Catonsville, located behind St. Timothy's Church

**The 21st Annual
Richmond Gem & Mineral Society Rock Swap**

**Saturday, November 10th, 2012
9:00 am - 3:00 pm**

*The Rock Swap is indoors, so come rain or shine.
Open to all children and adults (from novice to expert) to swap or purchase the various mineral, gem, fossil, shell, and lapidary specimens.*

**Ridge Baptist Church Meeting Hall
1515 East Ridge Road, Richmond, VA 23229**

Doors open at 7:00 am for setup. Tables are limited. Please bring your own table covering. We will have 6 foot & 8 foot tables set up for swappers/sellers. If interested in participating, please e-mail so we may reserve tables and make sure all have the space they need. (Heavy response for tables may reduce all requests to a single table). We suggest a 2 table limit. Weather permitting, an outdoor area may be available for additional tables (provided by swappers) or swapping out of your vehicle.

SWAPPERS PLEASE LABEL YOUR MATERIALS. Please have at least one flat of good material specifically labeled for children and novice collectors for swap or give away.

To defray Swap costs, RGMS asks that Swappers donate a specimen(s) for future RGMS raffles and auctions. Please, no junk!

Food and beverages are available at near-by restaurants. Restroom facilities are available in the building.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Andy Dietz (dietziv@yahoo.com) or Bob Simon (dino_safaris@yahoo.com).

October 27, South Penn **Rock Swap** sponsored by the Central PA Rock & Mineral Club and the Franklin Co. Rock & Mineral Club. South Mountain Fairgrounds, 615 Narrows Road, Biglerville PA.

October 27, Rock & Mineral Club of Lower Bucks County, 23rd Annual "Ultraviolation" - Fluorescent Mineral **Show, Swap, Sell**, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm, First United Methodist Church, 840 Trenton Road, Fair Hills, PA. \$2 donation, Kids 12 and under free.

Information: Chuck O'Laughlin <ultraviolation@yahoo.com>

November: 17-18, Northern Virginia Mineral Club 21st Annual Gem, Mineral & Fossil **Show**. George Mason University, Student Union Bldg. II (The Hub), Rte. 123 & Braddock Rd, Fairfax, VA.

Sat. 10 am - 6 pm, Sun. 10 am - 4 pm. Silent Auction on Sunday.

Admission: Adults \$5, Seniors \$3, Teens (13-17) \$3, Children (12 & under) Free, Scouts in uniform Free, GMU Students w/valid ID Free. Parking: On campus use GMU's parking Lot A. Enter Lot A from Nottaway River Lane where you will also find the courtesy shuttle to the Mineral show.

Information <www.novamineralclub.org>.

THE BEAD SOCIETY OF GREATER WASHINGTON
PRESENTS ITS 56TH SEMI-ANNUAL
BEAD BAZAAR
Saturday ♦ November 10, 2012 ♦ 10am-5pm
Sunday ♦ November 11, 2012 ♦ 11am-5pm
BEADS ♦ JEWELRY ♦ FINDINGS
Contemporary ♦ Designer ♦ Ancient
♦ Antique ♦ Ethnic ♦
Demonstrations! Books!
Bead ID: 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:
April 20-21, 2013 ♦ Nov 9-10, 2013



BULLETIN EDITOR'S AWARDS - AWARDED SEP 16, 2012 AT HARRISBURG PA

Trevor Babb, 1st place trophy, junior articles for "Train Gold Robbery of 1855."

Also received 7th place in the AFMS Bulletin Contest.

Gerald Elgert, 7th place, written features for "Report on the June 11th Field Trip."

Erich Grundel, 9th place, original educational articles for "Touching History."

Jonathan Harris, 2nd place, non-technical articles for "Special "Thanks" from the Field Trip Chairman."

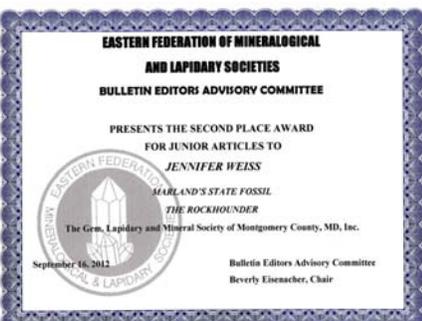
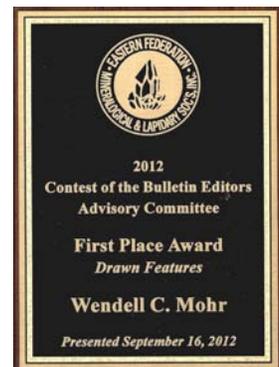
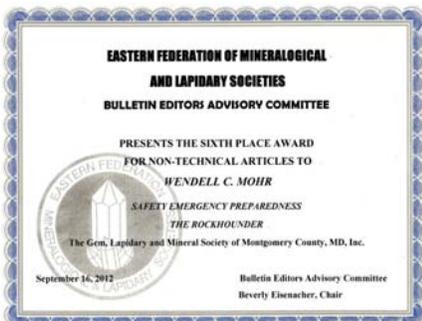
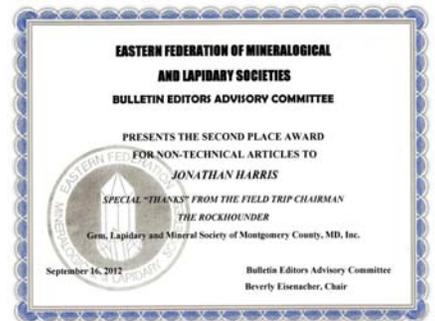
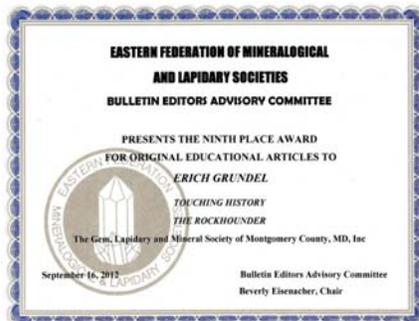
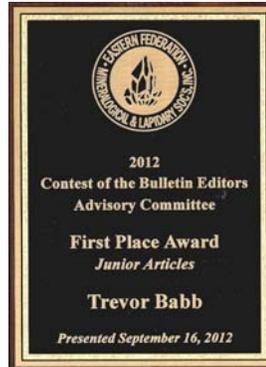
Wendell Mohr, 1st place trophy, drawn features for "Collect Rocks."

Wendell Mohr, 6th place, non-technical articles for "Safety Emergency Preparedness."

Jennifer Weiss, 2nd place, junior articles for "Maryland's State Fossil"

Also received 4th place, junior articles in the AFMS Bulletin Contest.

Entries are picked by the editor for the competition. Congratulations to our award winners!



If you submit articles for publication, perhaps you, too, can be a winner!

OTHER AWARDS - CONFERRED SEPTEMBER 15, 2012 AT HARRISBURG PA



At the Awards banquet, recognition was given to Linda and Conrad Smith in the “Each One Teach One” category. Nice work, Smiths, for all you do with educating the Mini Miners.

Award certificates for the AFMS Scholarship Fund were not available at the time of the meeting but suffice it to say, that when our certificate is received, we will have continued our tradition of generous giving to support this important educational effort.



100% is \$1.00 for every member. Our 200% level to the Eastern Federation Fund recognizes that for every member of the Society the level represents \$2.00 donated per member. This is the total of our club’s donation and the donation of any members made independently.

Wendell Mohr was recognized as the GLMSMC “Rockhound of the Year”



Photo by Michael Wise

INTERNSHIP Over the summer I had the honor of having an internship at the Department of Mineral Sciences in the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History. There I worked with Dr. Mike Wise on cataloging the paragenesis of the Bennett Pegmatite in Maine. Over the course of the summer I learned a lot about pegmatite, geology, mineralogy, and what it is like to work in the field of Geology. Also I had the privilege of being able to use and operate some of the lab equip-



Photo by W. Mohr

ment there. In particular I was able to use the Electron Microscope, X-Ray Diffractor and multiple stereoscopes. Overall my internship was an incredible experience. By Conrad Smith



Photo courtesy Jessica

Also junior member Jessica Simonoff was an intern at NMNH and continued her collaboration with Mike Wise on characterizing the mineralogy of the Merelani tanzanite deposit. Their work has resulted in the discovery of several mineral species that were previously unreported from this significant gem locality.

While visiting the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of Natural History there was a visiting leader shepherding several youngsters through the exhibits. The man obviously was impatient with the slow pace of his charges. “Hey, c’mon if you stop to look at stuff we aren’t going to see anything.”



These are HOT!



WEB SITES

By Wendell Mohr

Stone Age Industries, Lapidary Tips, basic procedures, craft projects and more at http://stoneageindustries.com/lapidary_tips.html is by Bill Beebe of Powell WY. Browse the nearly 30 topics and you are sure to find something of interest. The home page is a commercial site and as tradition dictates, we do not endorse any dealers, however you might like to take a peek.

- In round numbers there are only about 100 sphere polishers. You must be very careful when cutting and polishing Crocidolite which can be a cat-astrophe. •



Arctic Pachyrhinosaurus Perotorum Dino Find: Paleontologists from Dallas' Museum of Nature & Science announced last October their discovery of a new species of the ceratopsid dinosaur Pachyrhinosaurus. See http://natureandscience.org/information/pdf/press_room/102811_pachyrhinosaurus.pdf.

Named in recognition of the Margot and H. Ross Perot family, the fossils were found in an excavation in far north Alaska, many miles north of the Arctic Circle. A film crew from PBS' NOVA series documented the team's work at the site and may be viewed at <http://video.pbs.org/video/1022686073/>. Be forewarned, the video is 52' 23"

- A poacher at the scientific dig was sure to take a shower just before pilfering the fossil bones. He wanted to make a clean getaway. •



Illustration Courtesy
Of Nobu Tamura
See
<spinops.
blogspot.com>
For An Enormous
Portfolio of His
Paleontological
Subjects



Photo R.Weller Cochise College

Spodumene. At <http://geology.com/minerals/spodumene.shtml>, there is yet another Geology.com site arousing interest. Get educated by finding out what the mineral is, its uses, varieties, properties and demand. Hiddenite and Kunzite are varieties used as a gemstone. I found out that Hiddenite NC was named for the mineral, not the mineral named for the locality. • Great spodumene is regularly found on some of the southern California Indian reservations. Proves you need reservations for good collecting these days. Three crazy mineral enthusiasts planted tine Spodumene crystals expecting them to grow large. These guys were Planters Mixed Nuts. •

GEOLOGIC WONDERS - THE WAVE

The Wave is a fantastic sandstone rock formation located near the Arizona/Utah border on the slopes of Coyote Buttes, in the Paria Canyon-Vermilion Cliffs Wilderness, on the Colorado Plateau in Utah. It is famous among hikers and photographers for its colorful, undulating forms, and the rugged, trackless hike required to reach it.

The Wave is made of Jurassic-age Navajo Sandstone that is approximately 190 million years old. Scientists who study The Wave say that the old sand dunes turned into hard compacted rock over the ages, calcifying in vertical and horizontal layers. Erosion by wind and rain has created the spectacular landscape which appears now.



Breathtaking sculpted swirling bands of color run through the

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sandstone, which has eroded into interesting shapes. The colors and shapes change with the light as the day progresses. Red, pink, yellow and green rock has been blended together to form castles, beehives, chutes and other structures. The soft sandstone of The Wave is fragile, one needs to walk carefully to not break the small ridges.

The Paria Canyon-Vermilion Cliffs Wilderness, which contains The Wave, is administered by the BLM, and a permit is required to visit The Wave. Due to the fragile nature of the site only twenty permits are issued per day. Ten of the permits are available in advance through a lottery that is conducted four months before the month for which the permit is sought.

The remaining ten permits are available by lottery on the day before one's intended hike at the Paria Ranger Station in Page, Arizona. The lottery for the walk-in permits takes place at 9:00 in the morning. Every day during the summer hikers are lined-up at the door of the station. The best, and most popular, time to visit The Wave is in the spring and fall.

The Wave is challenging to find. In an effort to maintain the natural integrity of the region, there is no formal trail to The Wave. The Paris Ranger Station will give hikers with permits a lengthy, full color photo and map handout called "Finding The Wave" with GPS, latitude-longitude and UTM coordinates. Regardless, it is easy to get lost, and in past years there have been a significant number of Search and Rescue Operations conducted by both the Coconino County Sheriff's Office (Arizona) and the Kane County Sheriff's Office (Utah) for persons lost hiking to and from The Wave.

If it rains the hike might be cancelled, as the mud formed literally sucks, and makes it dangerous to hike. During the summer it can easily get over 100°, so plenty of drinking water is a must as dehydration is a real risk. Everything must be carried in and carried out. This causes another hassle as a hiker must poop in a bag (and if you never have - it can be an experience.) Human/dog waste bags are, of course, provided free of charge. Dogs can be taken on the hike but must be on a leash and under control at all times.

Regardless of the hassles involved in the permit process and hiking in the rugged, trackless wilderness to reach it, The Wave is a photographer's delight. It is said that the best time to photograph it is when the sun is directly over head, but at other times the shadows give it nice contrasts.



Both Photographs © www.oodee.com



Beautiful, fragile and protected, The Wave is a geological wonder of the world! Information for this article came from:

<<http://www.besthike.com/northamerica/usasouthwest/wave.html>>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Wave,_Arizona> and

<www.utah.com/playgrounds/the_wave.htm>

Adapted from Pick - Hammer News 03/11 & Quarry Quips 09/12.

HEAR HEAR PART II

by Ellery Borow, EFMLS Safety Chair from Sep. 2012 EFMLS News



Safety Matters articles are not usually cutting edge material. Something new, however, has come to my attention concerning hearing loss. The June 2011 issue of the EFMLS NEWS included a Safety Matters article titled "Hear Here!" The article described the various loud noises rockhounds encounter and what one might expect to expect for hearing loss resulting from long term exposure to such noises. The late breaking news in hearing loss is a recent study indicating that even moderate noise levels may be harmful.

In the June 16, 2012 (Volume 181, Number 12) issue of Science News, there is an article by Rebecca Cheung titled "Moderate noise may harm hearing". The article reports on a study, published online in the May 15 issue of Nature Communications, which finds that constant low-level noise might cause problems with hearing. The study found that noise which has usually been deemed safe for human ears could in fact produce impairment in one's perception of sound.

Brief exposure to sound levels of around 100 decibels cause inner ear damage. Exposure to constant levels of noise greater than 85 decibels, also cause inner ear damage and loss of hearing. Until now, however, the impact of exposure to chronic low level sounds has not been well studied.

The new study focused on long term exposure to sound levels around 65 decibels, which are levels toward the high end of normal human speech. Following the two months of testing, subjects were found to have fewer nerve cells used in the detection of sharp sounds. Subjects also did not perform as well on listening tests compared with those not exposed to the low-level sounds.

Coauthors of the study, Michael Merzenich, a neuroscientist at the University of California, San Francisco, and Xiaoming Zhou of East China Normal University in Shanghai, also made maps of rat brain's auditory cortex, indicating the loss of nerve cells that respond to highly pulsed sound patterns.

While this study is new and will no doubt be subject to much review and critique, it does give one pause for thought. How much noise does it take to be labeled toooooo much noise? My hunch is that, having spent much of my working life around LOUD noises, additional studies may come to validate the detrimental nature of noises we now consider safe.



What is one to do in the here and now with low level noise? Because most hearing loss is gradual, indeed - very gradual, it behooves one to examine the noises in their hobbies and seriously consider acquiring and using hearing protection. Numerous lapidary and even some jewelry making operations produce noises greater than 65 decibels. Personally I like my hearing and want to keep it as long as I can. I plan on redoubling my effort to use hearing protection. Those who have seen my kitchen will attest to the fact that I even have pairs of ear plugs, dangling from various kitchen cabinet knobs, to utilize when needed with those loud kitchen noise making machines. I like my hearing that much. I hope you do to.

For this month's safety refresher, I would once again like to refer you to Bill Klose's fine article on hearing safety in the March 2007 issue of the EFMLS News, which if you do not happen to have is available on the EFMLS website at <www.amfed.org/efmls>. Click on the "Newsletter" tab and then download the issue. It will arrive as a pdf file.

Let's all once again raise our ear protectors to a rousing cheer of "Hear Here!" (Part II)



Safety News Item: Pounding on rocks, the razor sharp quartz shard came unexpectedly fast, striking and entering the collector's abdomen. Now he is a ;

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