

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."

FROM THE EDITOR

A couple of quick items:

- 1. Volunteers are still needed for our annual show. Please contact Pat at 301-279-5962 or prb.rocks@verizon.net to help out.
2. If you are going to be at the show, please wear your name badges. If you don't have one, there is an order form on page 16. If you order it soon, you may have it before the show.
3. Someone is needed to serve as an outreach volunteer for the Rockville Science Day 2013. It is Sunday, April 28, 2013, from noon to 5:00 pm (Set up is Saturday 4-6 pm and Sunday 10 -12). It is at the Montgomery College, Rockville Campus. There is no cost to exhibit and the topic can be anything having to do with earth science (minerals, gems, lapidary, fossils, geology, etc.). For more information, contact Mark Dahlman, mddahlman@yahoo.com, and Wendell Mohr, wmohr@erols.com, has the forms.

Kristin Lolmaugh

REGULAR MEETINGS

Meetings are held the second Monday of the month from September to June. The Society will meet on Monday March 11, 2013, 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. Our March speaker will be Dr. Jeffrey Post, the Mineral Sciences Curator at the Smithsonian Institution. He has recently returned from the world's largest and most famous mineral show, Tucson. He will discuss recent acquisitions and highlights of the show. This is one of the most popular and anticipated speakers of the year. Don't miss the chance to see new and dramatic mineral specimens, along with the best examples of the classics as well.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

There will be no Board of Directors meeting in March 2013.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: HELLO FELLOW ROCKHOUNDERS

It's time for you to step up and do your part at our show this year. The show provides our club with the funds to operate the club.

Allow me to demonstrate this fact:

Table with 2 columns: Item and Amount. The dues collected near the end of 2012, about \$1392.50; Senior Center rental for our meetings \$1410.80

Table with 2 columns: Section and Page Number. Includes Club Minutes (2), Board Minutes (3), Field Trips (4), Lure & Lore of Rocks (5), FRA (5), Mini Miners (6), Prospectors (6), Natural Chimneys (6), Bench Tips (7), Websites of Interest (8), Daring Heist (9), Show Table (10), Field Trip Follow-up (11), Upcoming Events (12), Safety Matters (14), Depth of Focus (15), Surface Hunting (16), Badge Order Form (17)

REMINDER
If schools in Montgomery County, MD, are cancelled or let out early because of weather on the day of a scheduled Society meeting, the meeting will be cancelled. If in doubt, call the Society President or a Board Member (numbers on the back of The Rockhounder).

Deadline for the April issue of The Rockhounder is March 25, 2013.

As you can see, our dues do not even cover the cost of our meeting space. Other expenses include the door prizes we give away, the payment we make to the Federation per member, the insurance that makes field trips possible and numerous other expenses. This amounts to about \$4512.80. Subtract your dues from that amount, it means we have to come up with \$3120.30.

Those expenses do not take into account the \$4000 we give the Smithsonian every other year and other expenses related to our purpose and existence, "to increase knowledge and popular interest in earth sciences, geology, mineralogy, paleontology, lapidary arts, and related subjects" as stated in our By-Laws.

But the show is not just about money! It is about spreading the news of the hobby and art that we love!

The Mighty Mocks, our kids group, has staffed several stations, including the touch table, the shop, and mini mine. Mocks who have never cut a cabochon before will be given a quick lesson and then teach others how to cut a cabochon. If they can do it so can you. We need more instructors at the shop especially on Sunday. A few minutes of training will make you ready to go.

We also have numerous other positions to fill so contact me, Andy B Celmer, [abcpec@comcast.net](mailto:abcpec@comcast.net), or Patricia Repik-Byrne, [prb.rocks@verizon.net](mailto:prb.rocks@verizon.net).

I think it is time to create a system that encourages members to volunteer at the show and other jobs that need doing.

I propose a two-tier dues structure that would take effect next year, 2014. For those that work the show a minimum of four hours the dues would remain \$15 for an individual and \$20 for a family.

For those that choose not to work at the show, dues would be \$60 for an individual and \$90 for a family. The dues would increase again in 2015 for non-workers to reflect their share of our total expenses. Exceptions would be made for medical conditions, unemployment and other extenuating circumstances. The Board on a case-by-case basis would grant exceptions.

Come join us at the show and have fun with kids of all ages. Help spread the word of our hobby and art and have a good time while you do it.

*Andy B, Prez*

## **CLUB MEETING MINUTES: FEBRUARY 11, 2013**

The February 11, 2013, meeting was called to order by President Andy Celmer at 7:43 pm, with approximately 78 people attending. It was M/S/P to approve the minutes of the January 14, 2013, regular meeting and the January 28, 2013, BOD meeting.

**EFML Liaison:** Wendell Mohr discussed an inquiry from the Croyden Creek Nature Center requesting field trip assistance or ideas for their summer program. He also mentioned frequent requests such as gem ID, stone cutting, or speakers. Anyone who is willing to assist the Nature Center or to be on a standing list to fulfill requests, please contact Wendell. Wendell discussed upcoming shows.

Chuck Mason discussed the active Gem and Lapidary Society at Leisure World.

**Field Trips:** Jonathan Harris reported there were no upcoming field trips at the time. He brought material from Vulcan Quarry in Manassas to give away.

### **WINNERS!**

#### **Junior Table:**

Amethyst with Calcite, Sidi Rahal, Morocco – Conrad Smith

#### **Show Table:**

Ankerite, Berks County, Pa and Polished Picture Rock – Jonathan Harris

#### **General:**

Nautilus Cretaceous – Owen Powers

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

**Show:** Pat Repik-Byrne distributed the show sign-up sheet. She thanked those who had signed up so far. She has a short write-up describing duties of volunteer positions. Please contact Pat if you would like to sign up. She also had exhibit and demonstrator sign up forms. George Durland passed out show flyers.

**Treasurer:** Andy Muir reported a net income for the month from dealer fees with few expenses. The club is still doing great financially.

**Membership:** It was M/S/P to approve the memberships of Machalek family.

**Presentation:** Vice president Chris Luzier introduced the speaker for the evening, Katherine Loughney. Katherine discussed the Mid-Atlantic Geology and Paleontology. From 2011-2012 she served as an intern at the C&O Canal National Historical Park under the GSA GeoCorps America Program. She documented the geological and paleontological resources of the park from field surveys, the first such effort in the park. Katherine discussed that the park runs through three physiographic provinces and contains exposures spanning from 600 Ma to 230 Ma. The different ages were discussed with respect to the environment during deposition and examples of fossils to be found. Not only fauna can be found, but also often overlooked flora fossils. This included wood fragments from the genus *archaeopteris*, the first modern tree. The results of the survey were used to draft a resource management plan for the park. Katherine finished with a note on fossil stewardship. Please take note of fossils and tell a ranger, but leave them alone. She was kind enough to answer many questions from the audience. Thank you, Katherine.



**Door Prizes:** Joel Rosen administered the drawings for the door prize and show table prize.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 9:55 PM. Jeff Cessna, Secretary.

*Jeff Cessna, Secretary*

## **BOARD MEETING MINUTES: FEBRUARY 18, 2013**

**Board Members Present:** Andy Celmer, Doug Baum, Jonathan Harris, Kristin Lolmaugh (phone), Chris Luzier, Wendell Mohr, Andy Muir, Pat Repik-Byrne, and Joel Rosen. **Guests Present:** Mark Dahlman, Elmer Lantz, Holly McNeil. President Andy Celmer called the February 18, 2013, meeting to order at 7:37pm.

**Membership:** Doug Baum reported the membership numbers – currently 207 members (158 adults and 49 juniors).

**Treasurer:** Andy Muir presented the treasurer's report. The club continues in strong financial shape. Andy turned over the 2012 accounting records to Holly McNeil for the annual audit.

**Show:** Joel Rosen reviewed his show responsibilities and solicited a volunteer to measure the Plexiglas for the 22 display case fronts slated for replacement. Andy Celmer volunteered to do so during show set up. Stickers will be used to identify the panels to be replaced. It was also suggested that the display case lighting not be returned to the trailer to facilitate possible replacement prior to the 2014 show.

Pat Repik-Byrne gave an update of the status of volunteers, exhibitors and demonstrators. Andy Celmer will be contacting club members who have not yet volunteered. Pat informed the board that a simple exit survey form will be utilized in an attempt to learn what attendees liked and disliked about

### **MEMBERSHIP UPDATES**

The club welcomes the Machalek family, Woody and Alisa and their children Bryce and Keenan; 10013 Penfold Court, Potomac, MD, 20854, 301-217-9990, [alisa.machalek@nih.gov](mailto:alisa.machalek@nih.gov), [woody.machalek@verizon.net](mailto:woody.machalek@verizon.net).

the show. She also announced that there would be a capping training session on Friday at 2:30 for first time shop volunteers. Pat and Wendell confirmed the certificate number and preparation.

Elmer Lantz updated the group on the status of the shop staffing and procedures.

Mark Dahlman went through an "odds and ends" list of responsibilities for bringing various supplies and equipment for the show set up. He also asked Andy Celmer remind club members to wear their name badges at the show, and he asked Kristin to include this request in the March *Rockhouser*. Mark mentioned he will have SSL forms at the show if needed.

**Vice President:** Chris Luzier announced that Dr. Jeffrey Post will be the speaker for the March meeting and Bob Simonoff will be the speaker in April.

**Field Trips:** Jonathan Harris updated the group on his efforts to schedule upcoming field trips.

**Other business:** Andy Muir announced a donation of fluorescent rocks by Jim Van Fleet for the junior programs. The payment of speakers at the monthly meeting was discussed and protocol reviewed. A \$500 donation to JMU in support of the field trip program was approved. Chris informed the group of an opportunity to purchase a collection of Maryland minerals; the board requested photographs and will conduct a vote by email.

There will be no board meeting on Monday, March 18th.

The following BOD business was conducted by e-vote: It was M/S/P for GLMS-MS to co-sponsor the Super Dig event at Sterling Hill.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 9:17pm.

## FIELD TRIPS

**March 9, 2013 – Vulcan's Manassas Quarry:** Meet 7:30 am, out by 12 or when the quarry employees 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. Email Jonathan Harris, [jgharris7@gmail.com](mailto:jgharris7@gmail.com), by March 6, if you plan to attend and include Manassas in the subject line.

**March 9, 2013 – Chesapeake & Ohio Canal:** Observation and photography trip with Maryland Geological Society. We are very fortunate to live just a few miles from the only National Park, the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal, which passes through three geological provinces. It's 186 miles in length but in places, only several hundred feet wide. While most of the landscape today is farms and cattle, in earlier days settlers on the land cleared their fields and used the rocks they found to build stone walls. During construction of the nearby canal, some of these rocks found their way into construction of the tow path, canal locks and retaining walls. For the field trip we will drive the back roads, stopping to explore the varied collections to be found in the rock walls. Then we will drive to the canal's towpath and locks and see some more of the stone that is quarried locally and what it may contain. Contact the leader, Gerald Elgert, [isaiah.423@juno.com](mailto:isaiah.423@juno.com) or 301-681-5720, to RSVP and for specific details. The club does not provide insurance and all attendees are bound by the waiver circulated in the email version of the announcement.

**April 26-28, 2013 – Graves Mountain, GA:** The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc. (SFMS) has issued an open invitation for clubs to join them in a field trip to Graves Mountain. Contact Information: Clarence Norman Jr. (Junior), 706-359-3862 (business) or 706-401-3173 (cell).

**April 27-28, 2013 – Sterling Hill Mining Museum Super Dig and Mineral Sale:** Saturday 10am-11pm and Sunday, 10am-3pm (sale only). The address is The Sterling Hill Mining Museum, 30 Plant Street, Ogdensburg, NJ 07439, 973-209-MINE (6463), [info@sterlinghillminingmuseum.org](mailto:info@sterlinghillminingmuseum.org); <http://sterlinghillminingmuseum.org/gemmineral/index.php>. Members should bring their membership

card and email Jonathan so we could arrange to rendezvous and/or carpool. For further information contact Jonathan Harris at [jgharris7@gmail.com](mailto:jgharris7@gmail.com).

**May 4, 2013 7:00 -11:00 am – Gettysburg Quarry, PA:** Quarry known for zeolite crystals, copper minerals, epidote crystals, and micromounts. The address is 1575 Baltimore Pike. The age limit for this trip is 10 years old; all minors must be carefully supervised by a parent. The quarry manager emphasized the importance of staying away from forbidden areas – high walls and drop-offs. Adults or children venturing there will get our club blacklisted from this site. Email Jonathan Harris, [jgharris7@gmail.com](mailto:jgharris7@gmail.com), at least 1 week before the trip if you plan to attend and include Gettysburg Quarry in the subject line. To attend, you must RSVP and be a GLMSMC member in good standing. You must also agree to our club waiver and any waivers the quarry asks you to sign.

## THE LURE AND LORE OF ROCKS: AMAZONITE

BY KRISTIN LOLMAUGH

A Brazilian legend boasts of the Amazon people giving “green stones” to the visitors of the region. Europeans were already familiar with green microcline from Russia and assumed the blue-green rock given to them by the Indians of South America was the same stone. As it turns out, Amazonite is not found in the Amazon Basin and the legend was most likely referring to Nephrite (jade). It is believed that Amazonite was first called “Amazon Stone,” and was later changed to Amazonite.

Amazonite is said to have a soothing effect on the nervous system. Since the nervous system controls our emotions, this stone is said to soothe tense and aggravated situations and enhance love. It is said to bestow truth, honor and integrity to its wearer. Amazonite balances feminine and masculine energy and promotes kindness and practicality. It is an excellent stone for artists and for men. Pale azure blue amazonite is known as the lucky “Hope Stone” since it thought to be lucky for all your hopes and dreams. Amazonite helps balance the emotions and gives physical stamina.

My sister and I have found beautiful pieces of Amazonite at the Morefield Gem Mine at 13400 Butlers Road, Amelia, Virginia 23002. The Morefield Mine is a highly mineralized pegmatite dike having a length of 2,000 feet and a depth of 300 feet. The mine is open to public for a fee during the late spring, summer, and fall.



*Photos by Kristin Lolmaugh*

## FUTURE ROCKHOUNDS OF AMERICA (THE MOCKS) Ages 10-15

**Next Meeting Date:** March 11, 2013

**Time:** 7:45 - 9:00 pm

**Location:** Sunroom Cafeteria, Rockville Senior Center

At the February 11<sup>th</sup> meeting, in preparation for the March 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> show, the MOCKS split up into groups and rotated among three works stations. Station 1, led by Ryan Gunnison, was a workshop where members discussed what makes a good display and practiced building one using a mock display case. Thank you, Ryan! At Station 2 the



group worked on what will eventually be the visual part of the touch table.

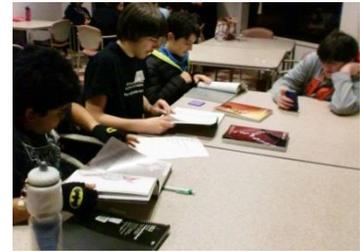
*Photos by Kristin Lolmaugh*

Station 3 was a review of the special effect mineral properties that will be the theme for this year's touch table. It was a lively meeting where much was accomplished.

### March 11<sup>th</sup> – Fossils – Part 2

We will briefly review show logistics then will continue with our work on Fossil badge requirements started in January. This month we will speak more in depth of fossils themselves – how they are formed, the different types, and how are they categorized.

For more information on the Future Rockhounds of America program, please contact Holly McNeil at [fra\\_advisor@glmsmc.com](mailto:fra_advisor@glmsmc.com) or 301-605-7179.



### MINI MINERS Ages 6-9

**Next Meeting Date:** March 11, 2013

**Time:** 7:00 - 8:00 pm

**Location:** Card Room, Rockville Senior Center

Last month, the mini miners continued learning about faults. At this month's meeting the mini miners made clay models of how mountains are formed. Do you know the difference between fold and fault block mountains? Per request of some of the Moms we are going to test out activities for the Future Rockhounds of America starting next meeting on March 11. If you have any questions please contact Linda Smith at 301-530-5007.



### PROSPECTORS

The Weather Channel Companies announced plans for a new show with the working title of "Prospectors," which follows a group of miners searching for the rarest gems in order to strike it rich. Produced by High Noon Entertainment, "Prospectors" features nine 30-minute episodes and will premiere in 2013, possibly on Tuesdays at 9 pm beginning on March 5th.

**Announcement:** Just like their predecessors 150 years ago, the small, ragtag gang in "Prospectors" has one goal: find their fortune. Based in Colorado, they brave the continent's most extreme mountain environments in search of the planet's most precious gems, such as topaz, aquamarine and rhodochrosite. Rarer than diamonds, it is more valuable than gold and far more difficult to mine; one of these fist-sized gems can bring \$3 million or more. The prospectors use picks, sledgehammers and dynamite to send Volkswagen-sized boulders spinning out of control down the 60 percent grade mountainside. They open holes, looking for veins of brilliant red, blue and green crystals. And the right pocket, extracted correctly, can bring a million dollar payday or more.

But the process is brutal. This is some of the most dangerous mining in the world, because while Colorado is home to North America's richest, most abundant gem fields, they're also at the highest elevations. At 14,000 feet above sea level, there's 50 percent less oxygen, and weather is always more extreme, with twice as many lightning strikes, hurricane force winds, and vicious storms that move in without warning. And if the weather doesn't get the prospectors, the thieves might.

*Submitted by Wendell Mohr*

### NATURAL CHIMNEYS PARK IN MT. SOLON, VIRGINIA

BY GERALD ELGERT

Resembling the turrets of a medieval castle, there is a circle of natural stone chimneys that contribute their uniqueness to an interesting geological story. They date back roughly 500 million years to the pre-Cambrian period of the Paleozoic era. Although created entirely by natural



*Photo Courtesy Augusta County Department of Parks*

forces, the reference to man-made structures can be traced back to the German immigrants that flooded into this region from Pennsylvania, where most of the good land had already become occupied.

These early settlers soon discovered significant deposits of iron in the area and in time, numerous smelting furnaces were constructed to refine the ore. These man-made chimneys were also used to burn the local limestone for use in agriculture. The name, *chimney*, stuck.

Actually, the chimneys are a misnomer, as they are not hollow. They are actually the remnants of what was once the compressed and compacted bottom of a sea, capped by a layer of resistant chert, which is a name for a lot of things geological. By itself, it is basically a form of silica or silicon that would have been precipitated out of the water in the sea. It could be made of a combination of other materials such as the compacted silica skeletons of microscopic creatures like sponges, diatoms and glassy radiolarians that died and fell to the bottom of a muddy ocean floor.

Over time, small nodules or even large sheets of this highly concentrated silica mixture could be formed. We will sometimes find it as nodules in limestone or as float in a stream and then it would be known as "flint." Surrounding sediments can sometimes lend a distinctive color to chert and then we know it as jasper. Oxidation of iron minerals causes the redness of the rocks found at this location. There is dark red jasper that was favored by the Native Americans on Maryland's Eastern Shore for their cutting tools and weapons that originates from this region but it is actually a form of chert. With a hardness of 7 on the Moh Scale, the chert that formed on the bottom of this prehistoric sea made the perfect protective roof for preserving the even more ancient sediments below.

The surrounding land mass has now been eroded away from the free standing chimneys. What is left behind could be called a mesa with its table-like top and steep sides. From the photograph, you will notice that the chimneys form a circle. The inside of the circle, now obscured by vegetation, is the remains of a molten lava intrusion. This involved the insertion or injection of a column of heated and molten magma, forced by pressure from deep within the earth, between layers of the sediment, which then cooled below the surface. What kept it from erupting to the surface may have been the harder, more resistant chert capstone. The chimneys also contain a volcanic layer that was squeezed between the layers of limestone and sediment that had been deposited over the ages.

Today, the seven flat-top *chimneys* range in height from 65 to 120 feet and form the attraction for a county park and geological wonder to be shared by all. How about a field trip there?



Photos by Gerald Elqert

## BENCH TIPS

BY BRAD SMITH

### Bench Shears

When cutting sheet metal, it's quicker and easier to use a set of shop shears as compared with



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using a hand saw. The cut is not as precise, but many times you don't need that. Shears will easily cut up to 24 gauge sheet and some will cut 22 or even 20 gauge.

Current prices for shears run from \$13 - \$22 in jewelry catalogs, and the Joyce Chen scissors recommended on some jewelry blogs run more than \$20. But we found a cheaper alternative at the 99 Cent Store - some gardening utility scissors that were only \$1.07

I buy a half dozen of them at a time for use in my jewelry classes. They're great for cutting bezels, trimming around a bezel cup, and cutting a piece off a larger sheet.

### Bezel Closer

A bezel closer is a steel punch that makes quick work out of pushing the metal down over a round stone and burnishing it. The working end is a concave cavity that fits over your bezel or prong setting and is pushed and twisted to capture the stone. Sets can be purchased but are expensive and contain many sizes you will probably never use. If all you need is one or two sizes, here's how you can make them yourself.



Find a good quality, round steel rod a little larger in diameter than your bezel cup or prong setting. Cut a 5 inch length. File both ends flat. Locate the center of one end, center punch a divot, and drill a small pilot hole about 5 mm

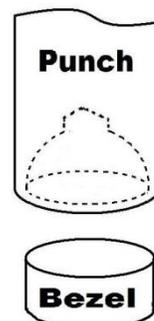
deep. Remember to use a little oil as lubricant when cutting steel.

Select a ball bur a bit smaller than the steel rod but slightly larger than the bezel. Enlarge the pilot hole to a full hemispherical cavity. Test for proper fit with your bezel. Bezel should first contact the cavity about a third of the way in. When the size is correct, polish the cavity using Zam on a length of chopstick in your flexshaft. If the tool is not polished, it will leave scratches on your bezel or prongs.

When using the tool, the first step is to capture the stone correctly. I usually work by hand and push the punch straight down over the bezel or prongs. This causes the metal to start bending over the stone. Now inspect with a lens to be sure the stone is staying level. This is repeated until the stone is seated on its bearing and can't move anymore.

Next, you want to force the metal down onto the stone uniformly all the way around. While this can be done by hand, I often gently tap the punch with a hammer. Finally, I burnish the bezel by twisting the punch around.

See more are at [facebook.com/BenchTips/](https://www.facebook.com/BenchTips/) or see the book "Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" on Amazon.



## WEBSITES OF INTEREST

BY WENDELL MOHR

**Spinel: The Ruby Imposter**, addresses the "Why?" of more than 1000 years of confusion at <http://geology.com/minerals/spinel.shtml>. Meaningful information on the diagnostic physical properties, uses, and synthesis of spinel are available. A couple of examples of famous stones long misidentified are given.

**The Gem Hunter**, W. Dan Hausel, maintains a very extensive site at <http://gemhunter.webs.com>. A consulting geologist now from Gilbert, Arizona, he is a man of distinction, covering many of his discoveries primarily in Wyoming where he was a research geologist for the Wyoming Geological Survey but also in other localities. He has written many books, which, as customary, we do not endorse here.



Photos by Rob Lavinsky  
iRocks.com. Creative commons license

His publications span about 40 years and he was elected a member of the Rockhound Hall of Fame. He is an artist, too! His articles which cover more than a dozen gems are intriguing.

**Volcano Photo Albums** is a site by Dr. Richard Roscoe of Munich, Germany, at <http://www.photovolcanica.com/PhotovolcanicaFullIndex.html#AlphabeticalVolcanoes>. A collection of outstanding photographs at night and day, with Lava, Hot Springs, Fumaroles, Volcanic Destruction, and Landscapes, it offers outstanding pictures (available for sale, not endorsed here). There is also a guide to volcano photography, with the technical aspects. As a fun example choose Erta Ale and see the many volcanic forms.



*Volcanic Bomb and Ropy Pahoehoe Lava  
Photographs: National Park Service*

## **A GOLD RUSH LIKE NO OTHER: DARING HEIST SHOCKS N.J. MUSEUM OWNERS**

**UP TO \$1 MILLION WORTH OF CRYSTALLIZED NUGGETS STOLEN DURING BUSINESS HOURS**

**February 22, 2013 8:19 PM**

**OGDENSBURG, N.J. (CBSNewYork)** You could call it a gold rush in the Garden State – but for thieves.

Gold nuggets worth nearly \$1 million were stolen from a mineral museum, CBS 2’s John Slattery reported.

On the site of a zinc mine dating back to the 1700s is the Sterling Hill Mining Museum, where crystallized gold and nuggets, 20 of them, were stolen while the museum was open. They were large specimens, from all over the world.

“The large nugget is from the Dominican Republic: a 16-ounce nugget,” said Richard Hauck, who assembled the collection.

Hauck said he put it all together 40 years ago at a cost of \$400,000. He said today it would be valued at \$750,000. The gold was displayed inside an antique safe behind sheets of heavy Plexiglas.

“That someone would actually come here in the middle of the day when we are open and all those people here, and just do it,” Bob Hauck said.

Police said the daring heist happened between daytime tours, during a 20-minute window. Museum employees said the thief used an ax to smash the acrylic window and then left the ax behind.

“He just grabbed it, threw in a bag and over a fence he went,” Richard Hauck said, adding that there were no surveillance cameras operating at the time.

A \$25,000 reward is being offered for the smash and grab that occurred in July of 2011. The directors of the non-profit museum decided to put the word out now because of four other museum burglaries around the country over the past two years.

But this gold is likely gone.

“Unless there’s some nutty collector who’s got it shoved under his bed someplace, but if anybody’s doing it for the money, they melted it,” Bob Hauck said.

The owners said they realize there is very little chance of getting the items back. They said it was a devastating loss since the gold was not insured.

The crystallized gold is worth more than gold nuggets. Both can be melted down, the Haucks said.

***Thanks to Wendell Mohr for this submission.***



*Photo: Silver Hill Mining  
Museum*

## SHOW TABLE: February 2013

Thanks to those who bring items for sharing at the meetings.

Exhibitor	Specimen (s)	Locality
Jeff Cessna	Esperite/Willemite/Calcite, Willemite	Franklin, NJ
Gerald Elgert	Molten Intrusion	Bridgewater, VA
Diane Leaman	Orthoceras Morocco	Bought in VA
Gary Leaman	Dog Tooth Calcite	Bought in MD
Kristin Lolmaugh	Yellow Quartz – raw & cabochon	Self-Collected in VA
Don Graves	Rutilated Quartz	Brazil
Chuck Mason	Agate	Sumatra
Patricia Cronin	Crystal & Pyrite	Unknown & Colorado
Andy Celmer	Oolitic Limestone	Unknown
Wendell Mohr	Calcite on Fluorite	Joplin, MO
Ryan Gunnisen	Metal Sphere	Backyard in Silver Spring
Bob Simonoff	Unknown	Unknown
Joel Rosen	Quartz	SC PA
Ken Carter	Frederick Limestone	North Frederick
George Durland	Hardystonite/Calcite/Willemite & Hardystonite/Calcite/Willemite/Esperite	Franklin, NJ
Andy Muir	Spheres & Rough Willemite/Ephalite, Willemite, Willemite/Zincite, Quartz/Microcline	Franklin, NJ (first 3) Auburn, ME (last one)
Dave Fryauff	Geodes	Self-Collected in Djibouti
Jonathan Harris	Magnesite	Self-Collected Penn MD Quarry, PA
Rod Towers	Shark Tooth	Morocco
Conrad Smith	Almandine	New York



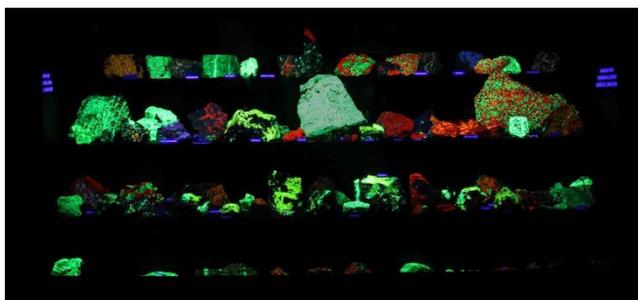
Photos by Kristin Lolmaugh

# FIELD TRIP FOLLOW UP

BY JONATHAN HARRIS

About 30 Rockhounds from the GLMSMC and the Northern Virginia Mineral Club ventured to Lance Kearns's laboratory and the Mineral Museum at the James Madison University for our indoor fieldtrip on Saturday February 2. Professor Kearns greeted us with pastries, tools for identifying mineral specimens, surplus specimens to trade for donations, and a visit to the museum.

Participants used microscopes, drops of acid, a Raman spectrometer, a modern x-ray diffractometer, and Lance's expertise to help identify specimens. Some added to their collection from a variety of surplus specimens and micromounts that Lance offered. We also toured the mineral museum--a room of specimens from Virginia and around the world and guarded by a state of the art security system.



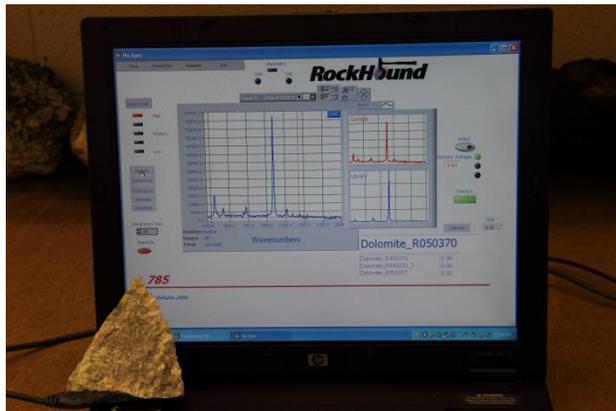
*Fluorescent display at the JMU mineral museum*



*Young member studying a specimen. Photo by Woody Machalek.*



*Virginia traprock display at the JMU mineral museum.*



*Dolomite with Raman spectra on laptop.*



*Indoor collecting from JMU surplus specimens.*



*Lance Kearns demonstrates the radioactivity from a uraninite specimen.*

*Photos by Jonathan Harris, except where noted.*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### MARCH

**MARCH 2, 2013 – Rubber and Aluminum Bracelets:** Patuxent Lapidary Guild; 1 to 5pm; held at the home workshop of Ena-Laurie Kearns (directions provided upon registration). Use inexpensive materials to create two fun and comfortable bracelets. These weaves are a bit complex, so some experience with chain maille is encouraged but not required. Each item will be made using various colors of non-latex rubber o-rings and aluminum rings, and several color choices will be available for each pattern. To register for this class: Email the instructor, Ellie Barna, at [ecbarna@verizon.net](mailto:ecbarna@verizon.net).

**MARCH 2-3, 2013 – Silversmithing: Stone Cuff Bracelet with a Hand Made Bezel:** Patuxent Lapidary Guild; 9 am to 5 pm with a lunch break; 169 Defense Highway (lower level) Annapolis, MD. Students will make 1 bracelet set with a stone. Students may bring personal tools if desired. An assortment of cabochons will be included to choose from. Contact the instructor, Donna Madej, at 410-215-1774 or [littlewings@mdonline.net](mailto:littlewings@mdonline.net).

**MARCH 2-3, 2013 – 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Earth Science Gem & Mineral Show:** Sponsored by the Delaware Mineralogical Society; Delaware Technical & Community College, Newark, DE.

**MARCH 3, 2013 – Silversmithing: Capped, Tooth, Claw or Stone:** Patuxent Lapidary Guild; 9 am to 5 pm with a lunch break; 169 Defense Highway (lower level) Annapolis, MD. Students will make 1 capped item. It can be a sharks tooth (or any other), claw (if legal to have) or a stone (tongue shape or crystal). Contact the instructor, Donna Madej, at 410-215-1774 or [littlewings@mdonline.net](mailto:littlewings@mdonline.net).

**MARCH 9, 2013 – Vulcan's Manassas Quarry:** Meet 7:30 am, out by 12 or when the quarry employees 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. Email Jonathan Harris, [jgharris7@gmail.com](mailto:jgharris7@gmail.com), by March 6, if you plan to attend and include Manassas in the subject line.

**MARCH 9, 2013 – Chesapeake & Ohio Canal:** Observation and photography trip with Maryland Geological Society. We will drive the back roads, stopping to explore the varied collections to be found in the rock walls. Then we will drive to the canal's towpath and locks and see some more of the stone that is quarried locally and what it may contain. Contact the leader, Gerald Elgert, [isaiah.423@juno.com](mailto:isaiah.423@juno.com) or 301-681-5720 to RSVP and specific details.

**MARCH 9 & 23 – Basic Lost-Wax Casting:** Patuxent Lapidary Guild; 10 am to 4 pm with a lunch break; 169 Defense Highway (lower level) Annapolis, MD. Students will learn the basics of lost-wax casting, including spruing and investing wax patterns; casting, and finishing. Contact the instructor, Donna Madej at 410-215-1774 or [littlewings@mdonline.net](mailto:littlewings@mdonline.net).

**MARCH 10, 2013 – Silversmithing: Box Clasp:** Patuxent Lapidary Guild; 9 am to 5 pm with a lunch break; 169 Defense Highway (lower level) Annapolis, MD. Some silversmithing experience is helpful but not required. Students will make 1 silver box clasp. Contact the instructor, Donna Madej at 410-215-1774 or [littlewings@mdonline.net](mailto:littlewings@mdonline.net).

**MARCH 16-17, 2013 – Enameling: Cloisonné:** Patuxent Lapidary Guild; 9 am to 5 pm with a lunch break; 169 Defense Highway (lower level) Annapolis, MD. Students will make projects on fine silver by kiln firing enamel. Students will learn enameling skills and make 1 or more cloisonné projects Contact the instructor, Donna Madej at 410-215-1774 or [littlewings@mdonline.net](mailto:littlewings@mdonline.net).

**MARCH 23-24, 2013 – Silversmithing: Stone Inlay Pendant:** Patuxent Lapidary Guild; 9 am to 5 pm with a lunch break; 169 Defense Highway (lower level) Annapolis, MD. Students will make 1 inlay pendant. Students will work on jeweler's saw skills, silversmithing, lapidary techniques, and finishing techniques. This is an advanced class and students should already have some silversmithing and lapidary experience to take this class. Contact the instructor, Donna Madej at 410-215-1774 or [littlewings@mdonline.net](mailto:littlewings@mdonline.net).

**MARCH 23-24, 2013 – 44th Annual Gem & Mineral Show:** Sponsored by the Che-Hanna Rock & Mineral Club; Athens Township Volunteer Fire Hall, Sayre, PA.

**MARCH 24, 2013 – Half Persian 4-in-1:** Patuxent Lapidary Guild; 1 to 5 pm; 169 Defense Highway (lower level) Annapolis, MD. Students will make 1 inlay pendant. Half Persian is one of the most fascinating chain maille weaves, giving the appearance of braided rings. The weave is considered advanced and difficult because of the start, but once started it is rather easy. Contact the instructor, Donna Madej at 410-215-1774 or [littlewings@mdonline.net](mailto:littlewings@mdonline.net).

## APRIL

**APRIL 6, 2013 – Prongs, Turtles and Frogs:** Patuxent Lapidary Guild; 9 am-5 pm; 169 Defense Highway (lower level) Annapolis, MD. This class will explore the technique of capturing a cabochon or tumbled stone without the use of a bezel. Contact the instructor, Victoria Tom at [mlvitom@aol.com](mailto:mlvitom@aol.com), by March 23.

**APRIL 7TH 2013 – Saltwater Etching on Copper:** Patuxent Lapidary Guild; 9 am-5 pm; 169 Defense Highway (lower level) Annapolis, MD. Students will make etching projects without chemical solutions. All etching will use saltwater. Contact the instructor, Donna Madej at 410-215-1774 or [littlewings@mdonline.net](mailto:littlewings@mdonline.net).

**APRIL 7, 2013 – Basic Cabochon Cutting and Lapidary Techniques:** Patuxent Lapidary Guild; 9 am-5 pm; 169 Defense Highway (lower level) Annapolis, MD. Students will employ basic lapidary techniques to produce at least one basic, oval cabochon. Students will be introduced to standard lapidary equipment. Contact the instructor, John Cleland, at [jtcleland@verizon.net](mailto:jtcleland@verizon.net) or 410-353-4031.

**APRIL 12-14, 2013 – New York/New Jersey Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show:** Held at the NJ Convention & Exposition Center, 97 Sunfield Avenue, Edison, NJ. 200 exhibitors. The theme of the 2013 show will be "The Minerals and Fossils of NY & NJ". The Franklin Mineral Museum and the Sterling Hill Mining Museum will partner to turn the Junior Ballroom into a darkened ultra-violet mineral room with ten cases of glow-in-the-dark UV minerals. Up to eight other museums and 15 - 25 notable collectors will fill another 50 wall-cases with the best specimens from New York and New Jersey's notable localities. For more information, visit their website at <http://ny-nj-gemshow.com/>.

**APRIL 13TH, 2013 – Torch Fired Enameling:** Patuxent Lapidary Guild; 9 am-5 pm; 169 Defense Highway (lower level) Annapolis, MD. Students will make projects on copper by torch firing enamel. Students will work on torch skills and finishing techniques Contact the instructor, Donna Madej at 410-215-1774 or [littlewings@mdonline.net](mailto:littlewings@mdonline.net).

**APRIL 14, 2013 – Fold-formed Earrings, Cuff Bracelet and More:** Patuxent Lapidary Guild; 9 am-5 pm; 169 Defense Highway (lower level) Annapolis, MD. Students will make 6 projects with copper by hammering and forming. Contact the instructor, Donna Madej at 410-215-1774 or [littlewings@mdonline.net](mailto:littlewings@mdonline.net).

**APRIL 20, 2013 – Pendant with Multiple Cabochons:** Patuxent Lapidary Guild; 9 am-5 pm; 169 Defense Highway (lower level) Annapolis, MD. This is an advanced class that will explore the challenges of setting

### EFMLS WORKSHOPS AT WILDACRES

BY STEVE WEINBERGER

We've just had the dates for the two EFMLS 2013 Workshops at Wildacres confirmed for us.

Session #1 will be held from April 8 - 14 with Bob Jones, Sr. Editor of *Rock & Gem Magazine* confirmed as the speaker.

Session #2 will be held from September 2 - 8. As of this writing, the Speaker in Residence has not yet been confirmed.

Classes for both sessions will be available next month and registration will commence on January 1, 2013. We suggest that you register early as it's likely that both sessions will sell out quickly. Tuition for 2013 will be \$380 per person.

For more information, visit <http://www.amfed.org/efmls>

more than one cabochon stone in bezel settings on one piece. Email the instructor, Victoria Tom, at [lvitom@aol.com](mailto:lvitom@aol.com) by March 16, 2013.

**APRIL 21, 2013 – Fusion with Argentium Earrings or Rings:** Patuxent Lapidary Guild; 9 am-5 pm; 169 Defense Highway (lower level) Annapolis, MD. Students will make 1 pair of earrings or a set of rings using fusion. Students will work on jeweler's saw skills, fusion and finishing techniques. Contact the instructor, Donna Madej at 410-215-1774 or [littlewings@mdonline.net](mailto:littlewings@mdonline.net).

**APRIL 26-28, 2013 – Field Trip to Graves Mountain, GA:** The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc. (SFMS) has issued an open invitation for clubs to join them in a field trip to Graves Mountain. Contact Information: Clarence Norman Jr. (Junior), 706-359-3862 (business) or 706-401-3173 (cell).

**APRIL 27-28, 2013 – Sterling Hill Mining Museum Super Dig and Mineral Sale:** Saturday April 27 10am-11pm. and Sunday April 28, 10am-3pm (sale only); The Sterling Hill Mining Museum, 30 Plant Street, Ogdensburg, NJ 07439, 973-209-MINE (6463), [info@sterlinghillminingmuseum.org](mailto:info@sterlinghillminingmuseum.org). For more information, visit <http://sterlinghillminingmuseum.org/gemmineral/index.php>. For further information, contact Jonathan Harris, [jgharris7@gmail.com](mailto:jgharris7@gmail.com)

**APRIL 28, 2013 – Silversmithing: Ring or Pendant with a Bezel:** Patuxent Lapidary Guild; 9 am-5 pm; 169 Defense Highway (lower level) Annapolis, MD. Some silversmithing experience is helpful but not required. Students will make 1 bezel set stone with a bail OR simple ring shank. Contact the instructor, Donna Madej at 410-215-1774 or [littlewings@mdonline.net](mailto:littlewings@mdonline.net).

## **SAFETY MATTERS – OMGG**

BY ELLERY BOROW, SAFETY CHAIR EFMLS MARCH 2013

OMGG! (That's Oh My Goodness Gracious.) What was I doing? Well, let me relate a brief tale. I was sanding, sanding, sanding with a high speed power sanding tool – a very routine and some would say boring job. It was a job however, with the potential to incur injuries if one was not paying close attention.

The OMGG moment occurred when I noted that this needing-close attention task did not have my full, or even mostly full, attention. My mind had wandered! I was not amused by this realization. What was I thinking!!!! Well, I'll mention where my mind had wandered. I, during the sanding process, found my mind wandering to the next article I was going to write for the next issue of the Safety Matters columns – how embarrassing! This was just a fine how do you do!

Well, whatever I was going to write about has completely disappeared from my memory and lo and behold – a new topic has emerged – giving your attention your all. The sanding I was doing could have scraped knuckles or fingers, or

perhaps damaged the workpiece, so the wandering mind's transgression was most likely not life-threatening but what if the task had more potential for injury? Paying attention to what one is doing is important. From this experience it is easy to imagine just how easy it is for the mind to wander away, be distracted by something or just day dream about something other than the task at hand when it is boring.

Some ideas to be safe:

1. At the first moment of inattention – take a break.
2. If there is some thought or issue taking you away from your concentration – address that intruding matter first.
3. Find ways to relax-such as have background music playing.
4. Change body positions.
5. Break up a boring task into more interesting (and shorter) units. One's mind does not often wander during short tasks such as when one is about to strike a rock splitting

- chisel with a mallet, or switch on a lapidary machine, or light a torch.
6. Be well rested before beginning a boring task.
  7. Stand up (or sit down) for a moment.
  8. Get some fresh air.

9. Don't do boring things. Yes, seriously, don't do boring things. In other words, find ways to make a boring task less boring. Find an excitement or interesting aspect to the task at hand.

## DEPTH OF FOCUS

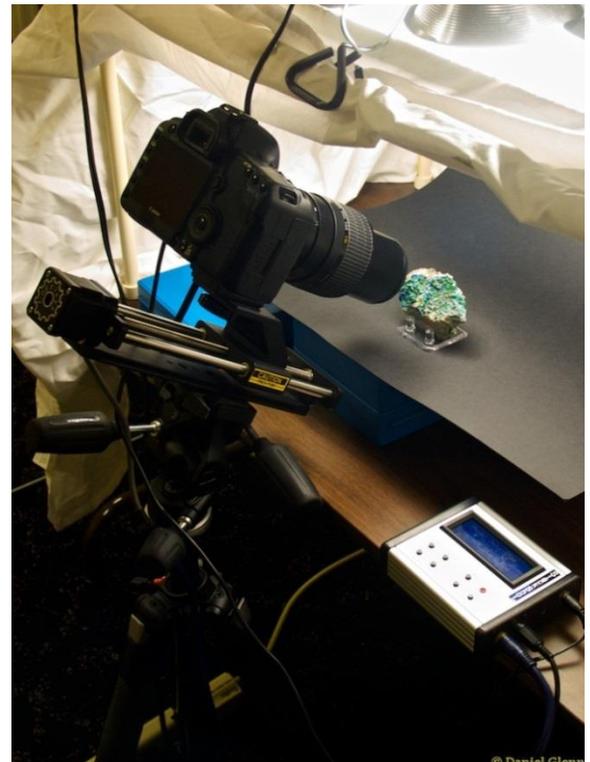
BY DANIEL GLENN

I suspect that you, as I do, have many minerals that have small features or crystals that can only be appreciated through magnification. As a photographer, and with a macro lens that can do as much as five times magnification, I can capture the beauty in the small details, but because of the extremely small depth of field, only a little of the image will be in focus. Even if I take steps to use a smaller aperture so I will get greater depth of field, at greater magnifications, it might only be a millimeter or less. However, with the use of specialized hardware and software, we are now able to take multiple photographs at different focal distances and combine them to yield a photograph with much more of the subject in focus. The results can be amazing.

There are several ways to do this today, and I'm going to share my experience. For my system I went fairly high end with a hardware/software system from Cognisys called StackShot. At the less costly end you would need a manual focusing rail and software such as Photoshop, which has the ability to do some shot stacking.

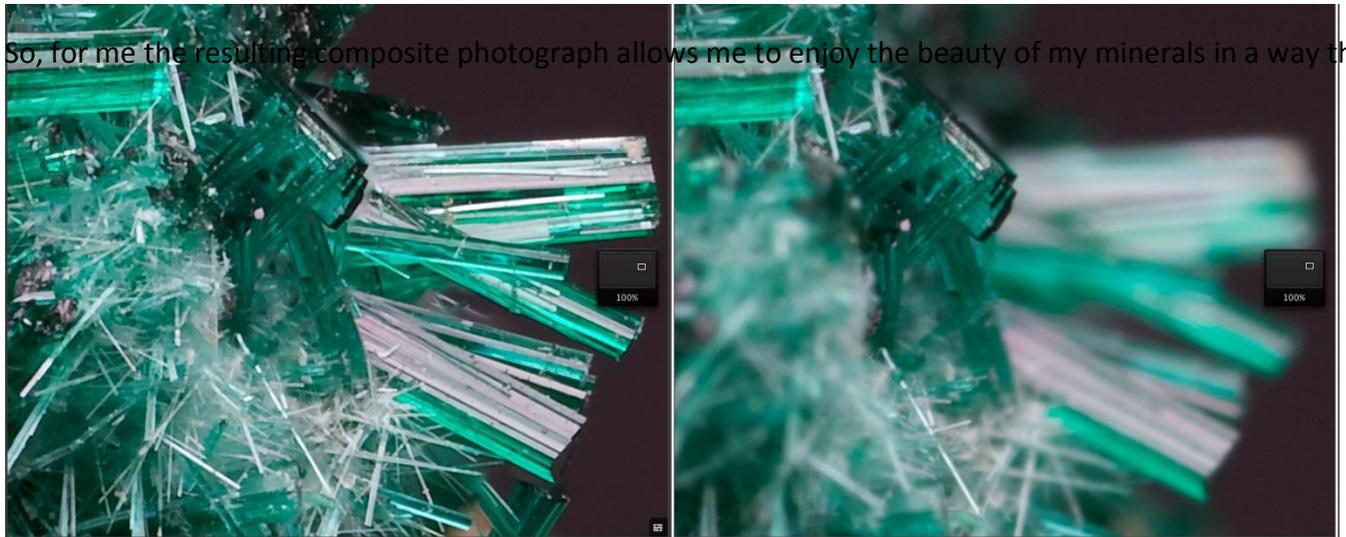
So, using photos, here is my setup and results.

- **Photo A** shows the subject mineral; in this case Brochantite from Chile. In the photograph you can see the lovely greens and blue and some hints of crystals on the mineral.
- **Photo B** shows the parts of the system. The camera is mounted on the StackShot which has rails that guide and move the camera. The mineral is positioned at a focal distance for the series of shots, and the camera and mineral are within a frame of PVC pipe covered with a white sheet that provides diffuse light from some CFL bulbs, rated as daylight, mounted externally to the frame. The PVC frame, covering, and lights make up a "light box" which is an extremely cheap, do-it-yourself project that I've used in other photographic projects. The controller for the StackShot is the aluminum box near the bottom right of the photo. It allows



various ways to control the camera to include the number of photos, and the start and stop focus/distance settings for the camera. After setting up the parameters on the controller and checking the manual settings for exposure on the camera, the controller is set loose to move the camera and signal the camera to take the photos. Once the series of shots are complete, the camera is returned to the initial start position, ready for the next run if required.

- **Photo C:** The photos on the camera card then get put into my desktop computer where the software, in this case Helicon Focus, processes the images to produce the final composite image. Given the magnification I was using, only a very small segment of the mineral was imaged, yielding a beautiful forest of green crystals.
- **Photo D:** To see the difference between a composite image and a single image look at photo D. The image on the left is from the composite image and the image on the right is from a single photograph. Here you can see the difference in focus between the left and right images.



So, for me the resulting composite photograph allows me to enjoy the beauty of my minerals in a way that I can

### HINTS FOR SURFACE COLLECTING

When searching for translucent material, like agate, walk towards the sun, you will see the sun shine through the stone.

When looking for reflective material like crystals, have the sun behind you and the material will shine or sparkle in the sun. If you walk sideways to the sun, look side to side for both translucent and reflective material.

If you find something good or unusual, stop and mark the spot, look up the slope and down the slope to find the source of the material. Some collectors like to pile rocks every time they find something unusual, that way they can see the fall-line of the material.

*Adapted from The Ramblings, Pasadena Lapidary Society via The Tumbler 5/11*

**GEM, LAPIDARY, and MINERAL SOCIETY of  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD. Inc.**



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Revised March 2010

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 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 email address – [kristinlolmaugh@gmail.com](mailto:kristinlolmaugh@gmail.com)

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EFMLS, AFMS



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**THE ROCKHOUNDER**  
 Gem, Lapidary, and Mineral Society  
 of Montgomery County, MD, Inc.  
 Kristin Lolmaugh  
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