



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 MEETINGS

Next Meeting:

Monday May 11, 2015 @ 7:30 PM
David Tiktinsky, Vice President

May Speaker Information:

John Sanfaçon
Title of talk: "Agates and Jaspers"

John Sanfaçon's Biography

Mr. Sanfaçon is a teacher of foreign languages (French, Spanish and Russian) at Delbarton School in Morristown, NJ. He began teaching there in 1963. He has been a rockhound since the late 50's. He began collecting at the famous Upper New St. Quarry for zeolites in his hometown of Paterson, NJ. He has held various offices in the NJ Earth Science Association and the Morris Museum Mineralogical Society since 1983. He has held a mineral sale in August at Delbarton for the past 21 years. His last name is Acadian French and is pronounced in English as San-fa-sahn, with the stress on the fourth syllable.

John travels to many different mineral groups along the East Coast for speaking engagements. He is a wonderful speaker and tonight's presentation will certainly be worth your time. John will be traveling all the way down from New Jersey to speak to our group on the 11th.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The Board of Directors will meet at **7:30 PM on Monday, May 18**, at the home of Holly McNeil. Board members are expected to be there. Any member is welcome to attend, but please let Holly know if you plan to attend via her email at hollyheighes@earthlink.net.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Chris Luzier

I love this hobby and can think of no other that has more facets (pun intended) and different avenues to explore than this one. You can delve into regular cabinet mineral specimens, fossils, lapidary arts, fluorescents, and radioactives; the list seems never-ending. Aside from all of the different sectors of the hobby just mentioned, you get into the specializations. Maybe you decide that you want to study and acquire classic locality minerals such as Bisbee, Arizona, or maybe Franklin, New Jersey, or Amelia Courthouse, Virginia. Then you can parse it down even further by collecting only certain suites of minerals, or one species, or crystal habits or colors of one mineral. The variety and diversity of possible collections are nearly endless! That is what makes this hobby

so dynamic and wonderful. You can literally shape and bend your collection to your interest and what you find fascinating and desirable. These individual specializations of amateur and professional mineral collectors alike have always driven the science and knowledge of minerals through the years. Amateur collectors and mineralogists who specialize in picking out the minute differences in mineral assemblages have discovered many new mineral species at various localities. This can be you!

It does not matter whether you have been collecting since you were a child or are a new collector this year. We all have to start somewhere. I thought about this on my return from the show this weekend in Franklin, NJ. For those have not been to the annual Spring Show in Franklin, it is loaded with events all weekend from the Superdig at the neighboring Sterling Hill Mine, where you can dig all day long and most of the evening as well. It is truly an experience to behold at night where just about everything glows around you under the UV lamp. It is quite overwhelming and wonderful! Then there is the Franklin Show itself with indoor, outdoor, and fluorescent darkroom vendors and displays as well. There is also a mineral and mining memorabilia auction after the close of the show on Saturday evening. The auction this year was dedicated to the Sterling Hill miner, John Kolic passed away in the fall of 2014, and featured portions of his mineral collection and related items as well. John was incredibly instrumental in discovering many new species at Sterling Hill, as it was one of his specializations. The mineral Kolicite was named after him and he discovered so many other rare and unique minerals in his tenure in the mine from 1972, until its closing in 1986.

This brings me to my point: John Kolic was not a professional mineralogist or geologist. He was just an incredibly talented and accomplished amateur collector who spent his time studying and understanding the details of the specimens in his hands and what made them unique and rare when compared to others from the mine. He was a specialist in his area of interest because of his passion, drive, and love for the minerals that he collected and studied. Once again, he started somewhere. For him, it was a trip to the Grand Canyon in the 1960's. Where did it start for you and where will you take it?

Peace and Happy Hunting,
Chris

A Special Thank You to Dr. Stephen Turner

Holly McNeil

The Gem, Lapidary and Mineral Society of Montgomery County would like to thank Dr. Stephen Turner for his tremendous support of our youth programs. Dr. Turner has made several generous gifts to our club over the years as a tribute and in memory of his mother. Lillian Turner was very active in the mineral community and unwavering in her encouragement of young people with an interest in rocks and minerals.

The Lillian Turner Fund supports the awards given to the junior exhibitors at our annual show, the Future Rockhounds of America (FRA) program, and youth outreach events. Dr. Turner's generosity has enabled the club to purchase books and supplies so FRA members have the tools needed to properly learn mineral identification, plate tectonics, paleontology, and many other mineral related subjects. The Lillian Turner Fund is enriching the lives and furthering the education of our young club members and we are truly grateful to Dr. Turner.

Rockhouser of the Year

Holly McNeil

The Gem, Lapidary and Mineral Society of Montgomery County, MD, recognizes Mark Dahlman as our 2015 AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year. With any large job in the club, Mark is consistently the one who steps forward. Within two years of joining, Mark became President and took the initiative to rejuvenate our AFMS Future Rockhounds of American program for juniors. Participation skyrocketed to over 40 enthusiastic youth members. During his presidency, he led many organizational improvements which still remain in effect. He next managed and improved the club's annual show, and when his term as President was over, he became the Junior Advisor. Today Mark still inspires us with his calm, measured approach to all he does for the club. We are greatly appreciative of all his efforts to support the club.

GLMSMC Regular Meeting Minutes

(With show table specimen photos by Wendell Mohr)



The April 10, 2015 meeting was called to order by President Chris Luzier. There were approximately 34 members in attendance at the regular meeting, 13 members at the FRA meeting and 1 mini-miner. It was M/S/P to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2015 regular meeting and of the March 16, 2015 Board of Directors meeting.

FRA Badge Presentation: Mark Dahlman presented Peter Korenko with the fossil badge. Congratulations Peter!

President: Chris Luzier announced that the Rockville Science Day will be on Sunday, April 26th, where George Durland will have an exhibit on various forms of quartz. (Just kidding, wanted to see if you were reading this. His exhibit will be on fluorescent minerals, of course.) Chris also announced plans for Jeff Nagy to add additional articles to the club website.

Farewell and Thank You to Rod Towers: Farewell and thank you to Rod Towers who has been a tremendous asset to the club, working 19 shows in a row, always at hand with his microscope and interesting specimens, and serving as the Junior Advisor for many years. Rod is retiring and moving to Texas. Best wishes Rod! We will all miss you! Your spot in the fluorescent tent will be held for you any time you come back to visit on the 3rd weekend in March.

EFML Liaison: Wendell Mohr announced the upcoming Rochester Symposium that will take place from April 23-26 and informed the group about webcasts provided by the Natural History Museum.

Field Trips: Jonathan Harris announced upcoming field trips to Manassas and Mt. Pleasant Mills. He also reminded the group of the upcoming Super Dig at Sterling Hill.



Show Co-Chair: Pat Repik-Byrne thanked everyone who volunteered at the show, with special acknowledgment to the exhibitors and demonstrators who are a major and extremely important part of the show.



Treasurer: Holly McNeil reported that show attendance exceeded 2,000 resulting in net proceeds (after expenses) in excess of \$5,000 dollars, which should cover club expenses for the remainder of the year. Holly commended the show admissions volunteers who are tasked with tracking the number of attendees via the admissions charts and tickets—every team was within single digit accuracy, not an easy task with the volume of people who flow through our doors. Holly thanked the volunteers with special acknowledgement to FRA members and their parents, new club members, and the 65 volunteers who logged over 200 hours, not including Thursday and Friday set up and Sunday tear down. Holly also thanked Jonathan Harris, Bob Irby, and Jonathan Ertman for their donations of specimens to the youth section.

Property Manager: Joel Rosen expressed his thanks to everyone, but especially Mark Dahlman who stayed until the bitter end to help Joel load cases on his truck.

Program: President Chris Luzier introduced our own Chuck Highland, the guest speaker for the night. Chuck gave an interesting lecture that focused on color change gems such as sapphire, tourmaline and especially color change garnets found in the Umba Valley in Tanzania. He shared with us his research of the geology of the area and how that contributes to the wealth of minerals in that region of the world. Thank you, Chuck!

The program was followed by a short break and then the show table; it was M/S/P to adjourn the meeting at 9:42 PM.

-Holly McNeil, secretary pro tem

GLMSMC BOARD MEETING MINUTES

April 20, 2015

Jonathan G. Harris Recording

Attendees: Andy Celmer, Jonathan Harris (secretary pro tem), Chris Luzier, Holly McNeil, Wendell Mohr, Andy Muir, Pat Repik-Byrne, Joel Rosen, and Dave Tiktinsky. **Absent:** Doug Baum, David Fryauff, and Rod Towers. Meeting started at 7:37 PM on April 20.

To Do's:

- Chris will contact Kristina Simms about options for dealing with the 30 crates of rocks and arrange to inspect the material and take material that is worth auctioning.
- Andy Muir will contact the fairgrounds concerning our security deposit and locking down the dates for the 2016 show (third full weekend of March).
- Andy Celmer and Show Co-Chairs Pat Repik-Byrne and Andy Muir have show manuals and agreed to update and circulate them.

- Wendell will look through his show pictures to identify the location of the additional hospitality table so we can record its position in the show manual.
- The Board agreed that Jeff Cessna could borrow the midwave UV lamps for a display at the Franklin Show this coming weekend.
- Andy Celmer will provide Jeff Nagy with the password to the website so Jeff can start adding materials.
- The Smithsonian will send the \$900 owed to the club for turquoise specimens to Chris Luzier via Paypal for disbursement to the club. There will likely be the Paypal fees deducted.

Next BOD meeting:

Holly will host the next BOD meeting at her home in Rockville. Wendell informed us that we still have no takers for the Wildacres session scholarship.

Issues and announcements:

- Joel noted that the large trailer probably has about 5 years or less of life left in it. A replacement will likely cost about \$8,000.
- We will need a new “downstairs” show chair; after several years of wonderful work, Pat needs to step down from that position.
- Most of the findings donated by June Markland do not have the shapes and sizes that would fit the cabs we make at the show with the children. Chris Luzier will store them until we can auction them.
- Holly shared information about show attendance and financial reports.

Thanks:

- Wendell noted that Bob Irby has donated to the club the glass display case for the raffle prizes. A great thanks is due Bob.
- Wendell noted that Steve Turner has gratefully donated another \$1,000 to the club for junior activities.
- George Durland will demonstrate fluorescence at the Rockville Science Day.

Show observations and suggestions:

The show went smoothly. Dealers were happy with their level of business and the show itself. The following suggestions and observations were made (most by Wendell).

- We should have posters and fliers at every meeting from January to March for people to pick up and distribute.
- The Scotch Blue tape worked well and should be used for any taping within cases in the future to prevent the sticky mess or other damage.
- What appears to be a video security camera on the ceiling is not per Joel. We should inquire about the possibility of the Fairgrounds providing cameras for show security.

- A thanks goes to Al Shupe for staffing the faceting station throughout the show; unexpected circumstances left us short-handed here.
- Someone needs to be able to locate the new show case locks at all times so that people can access show cases. Currently Pat and Joel keep one on the rings.
- A majority of the preforms for the cabochon making had to be re-attached to the dop sticks due to adhesion failure. The vendor who supplied them this year will be unable to supply them next year.
- The additional table for hospitality worked well; Wendell will look for a picture of it so that we can record its correct position in the show layout diagrams.
- Our give-away magazines and books were all taken.
- We are out of MD Geological Survey pamphlets. We should see if the MD Geological Survey can have a presence at the show.

Meeting adjourned at 9:37 PM.

VOLUNTEER WANTED

Wendell Mohr

Wendell Mohr has asked that someone else step forward to take pictures at meetings and GLMSMC events. You don't need to be a professional to take snapshots of Mini Miners, FRA meetings, speakers and their material on exhibit, door prizes and show table items, show table participants, and other pictures of interest to the membership.

You don't need a fancy camera. Current tech equipment will do just fine. Simply take pictures (unless people request that you do not take photographs of them) and send condensed copies to the Rockhounder editor. If you wish, you could crop, eliminate "red eye," or otherwise edit them. That is up to you.

Wendell needs to retire from this activity he has been doing for many years.

FUTURE ROCKHOUNDERS OF AMERICA (THE MOCKS)

Ages 10-15

Mark Dahlman with Photos by Wendell Mohr

Next Meeting Date: May 11, 2015

Meeting Time: 7:45-9:00 PM

Meeting Location: Sunroom Cafeteria at the Rockville Senior Center

April 13th Meeting:



Mark Dahlman presents fossil badge to Peter Kosenko.

At our April meeting David Fryauff gave an excellent presentation on micromounts to the FRA. Mr. Fryauff's lecture and demonstration showed the advantages, tips, and tools of micromounting. Mr. Fryauff also brought many mineral specimens for the FRA members to view under his microscope. Thanks again to Mr. Fryauff for sharing his expertise with us!

Each FRA member also mounted his or her own specimen, once again thanks to the beautifully prepared micro-mount kits (specimens, labels, boxes, and tack) provided by Maureen Campeau and Rodney Lee of Simkev Micromounts.

May 11th Meeting:

At our May meeting we will be learning about some optical properties of minerals that can be used to identify the minerals under a microscope. Also, if members already have 10 labeled micromounts (requiring magnification to appreciate them), 10 labeled thumbnails (typically in 1" boxes), and/or 10 labeled miniature specimens (in 2" boxes) in their collections, please bring them to our meeting so you can receive credit toward the badge.

See you at our meeting!

For more information on the Future Rockhounds of America program, please contact Mark Dahlman at <fra_advisor@glmsmc.com> or 301-428-0455.



Dave Fryauff demonstrates micromounting to FRA group.



Linda Smith with Mini-Miner

Jonathan Harris

FIELD TRIP REPORT: VULCAN MANASSAS QUARRY

About fifteen rockhounds from the GLMSMC, the Southern Maryland group, and the Northern Virginia group converged on Vulcan Material's Manassas Quarry. K. T. Odum gave us the safety brief and then led us into the quarry to search for treasures amid the diabase and hornfels. The quarry mines for road material and rip-rap. A diabase dike cuts through the Balls Bluff Siltstone, which is a Triassic (251 to 199 million years ago) sedimentary rock that heated the diabase into hornfels about 150 to 180 million years ago. Callan Bentley's blog, <http://blogs.agu.org/mountainbeltway/2014/06/10/diabase-intrusion-vulcan-manassas-quarry/>,

shows pictures and diagrams of the quarry and the dike. See “Tectonic History of Northern Virginia (<http://www.virginiaplaces.org/nova/novatectonic.html>)” for information on the quarry and rocks.

While Vulcan values the diabase for its weather resistance and toughness, a quality lacking in the sedimentary siltstones, rockhounds look for vugs and veins in the hornfels and the diabase. Prehnite, apophyllite, stilbite, stellerite, datolite, chabazite, chalcopyrite are popular finds in these vugs. Collectors found most of these minerals on this trip. On the “minus forty” level, we found some hornfels with the orange stilbite-stellerite-chabazite vugs embedded in the quarry floor. Others reported finding zeolites in the hornfels on the lower levels.



Manassas Quarry. Digging orange zeolite crystals on the floor of the -40 bench.

2nd row right photo: A view of the quarry from the top level.

Lower left: Datolite crystals collected.

FIELD TRIP NEWS

Jonathan Harris

Scott Peters reports in the A.F.M.S. (American Federation of Mineralogical Societies) Newsletter that the owner of the St. Clair, Pennsylvania, fern fossil site has closed the site. The reason? Overzealous collectors have been bringing in power tools and selling their finds on the internet. The owner currently only allows school groups on the site and promises to prosecute collectors who trespass.

Valley Quarry's Gettysburg Quarry

Saturday, May 16, from 7-11 AM

Address: 1575 Baltimore Pike. Go North on I-270 and follow it to continue North on US-15 past Frederick. In Pennsylvania, take the PA-97/Baltimore St exit, go 0.2 miles. Turn LEFT onto PA-97/Baltimore Pike. Quarry will be 0.8 miles down Baltimore Pike. An Aerial photo shows the quarry on the left, just past where the road crosses Rock Creek.

Gettysburg Quarry (formerly known as Teeter Quarry) is known for zeolite crystals, copper minerals, epidote crystals, and micromounts. The age limit for this trip is 10 years old; all minors must be carefully supervised by a parent. The quarry manager emphasized to me the importance of staying away from forbidden areas, such as high walls and drop-offs; adults or children venturing there will get our club blacklisted from this site.

Please email me at least 1 week before the trip if you plan to attend and include the subject of this message in your reply. You must RSVP to me to attend and you must be a GLMSMC member in good standing. You must also agree to our club waiver and any waivers the quarry asks you to sign.

National Limestone Quarry

Mt. Pleasant Mills, PA

Saturday June 13, 9am-??

If there is sufficient interest, then it is likely we can all go to the nearby Middleburg Quarry. This is a great site for wavellite, strontianite, fluorite (purple masses) and more recently variscite and turquoise. Collectors should bring a specimen from some other location for Eric Stahl, the manager of National Limestone Quarry. If the operator blasts in certain sections, celestite and sphalerite might also be found.

The trip will start at 9am at the quarry office. Mt. Pleasant Mills is about 3-3.5 hours away, but it is worth it! Children 10 and older are permitted, but parents must stay near and supervise their children and leave the quarry with them if they get too restless to be safe.

Please RSVP by the Wednesday before the trip, read, and agree to the waiver in the email message (same waiver as prior trips in 2015). Quarries are now often requesting that we have a minimum number of people so that their employees' time will be used effectively. Thus it is important that people who sign up on these and other trips attend.

Directions

Summary: 150.7 miles (2 hours, 50 minutes)

9:04 AM 2.9 Going North- I-270 [Dwight D Eisenhower Hwy] 26.7 mi I-270 / Frederick
9:30 AM 29.5 Road name changes to US-40 [Baltimore National Pike] 0.6 mi
9:30 AM 30.1 Road name changes to US-15 [US-40] 68.3 mi
9:56 AM 55.9 Entering Pennsylvania
10:42 AM 98.4 Bear RIGHT (North-East) onto Ramp 153 yds PA-581 / I-83 / Harrisburg / Hershey
10:42 AM 98.5 Take Ramp (RIGHT) onto SR-581 [Harrisburg Expy] 2.1 mi
10:44 AM 100.5 Road name changes to I-83 1.2 mi
10:45 AM 101.8 At exit 43, turn RIGHT onto Ramp 0.6 mi State Capitol / 2nd St
10:46 AM 102.3 Turn RIGHT (East) onto Paxton St 0.3 mi
10:46 AM 102.6 Turn LEFT (North) onto SR-230 [S Cameron St] 0.7 mi
10:48 AM 103.3 Keep STRAIGHT onto SR-230 [N Cameron St] 1.3 mi
10:50 AM 104.6 Road name changes to N Cameron St 54 yds
10:51 AM 104.6 Road name changes to US-22 [N Cameron St] 0.5 mi
10:52 AM 105.2 Keep STRAIGHT onto US-22 22.3 mi
11:16 AM 127.5 Keep RIGHT onto Ramp 0.2 mi PA-34 / Newport / New Bloomfield
11:16 AM 127.7 Take Ramp (RIGHT) onto SR-34 [Red Hill Rd] 4.5 mi PA-34
11:22 AM 132.2 Keep STRAIGHT onto SR-34 [Hunters Valley Rd] 3.2 mi
11:25 AM 135.4 Turn LEFT (North) onto US-11 [US-15] 6.1 mi
11:38 AM 141.5 Turn LEFT (West) onto SR-104 8.5 mi

Find your way to Mount Pleasant Mills, PA, which I got to show on Yahoo Maps. Mount Pleasant Mills is located at the junction of Routes 35 and 104. From this junction, go north on Route 104 about one-third of a mile and make the first left turn (Heister Valley Rd). Proceed a little ways to the first left turn on this road (sorry, didn't get the name) and you've reached the Quarry entrance.

SUMMARY

Driving distance: 150.7 miles
Trip duration: 2 hours, 50 minutes
Driving time: 2 hours, 50 minutes

WEBSITES OF INTEREST

Wendell C. Mohr



The Desmond Sacco Collection is a photographic record of Southern Africa's premier mineral producing localities. Mr. Sacco has devoted 40 years to collecting. Click on the pictures of the first page for 12 larger size pictures. The collection covers the Democratic Republic of Congo (Zaire), Morocco, Mozambique, and mainly the Namib region and South Africa. As is customary we are not endorsing the purchase of his book or the one via a link about the Kalahari Manganese Field. <www.dessaccominerals.co.za>

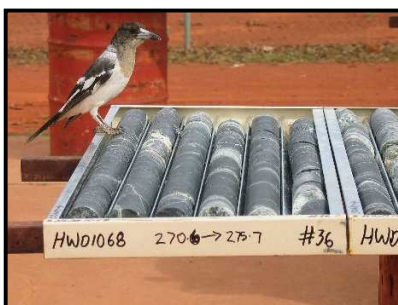
Photo from Website

An Overview of the 2014 GIA Brazil Expedition by authors Duncan Pay, Andrew Lucas, Pedro Padera, and Shane McClure. I really do not have the space to give you all the details about this very extensive site. It includes maps, videos, galleries, and information about at least 8 or 9 spectacular mines in the country yielding emeralds, tourmaline, spessartine and more. A truly A+ sight to see!

<<http://www.gia.edu/gia-news-research-an-overview-of-2014-gia-brazil-expedition>>



Pedeneira Mine, Sao Jose da Safira, Minas Gerais, Brazil - Photo credit: R. Weller/Cochise College



Diamond Hole Drilling gives you details about geologists' tools to see "What's down there?" Author David Tilley, working in Australia and New Zealand, describes a way geologists obtain detailed geological and geotechnical information prior to mining. He covers planning and logistics, supervision and safety, monitoring, core logging, sampling, and interpretation. Click on "Ore deposits" and other topics at the bottom of the main page for items of further interest.

Photo from Wikipedia

<<http://www.geologyforinvestors.com/diamond-drill-hole-drilling/>>

EVENTS OF INTEREST

- **Saturday, May 2, 2015, from 12:00 PM-2:00 PM:** Montgomery County Parks and Recreation Program: Jewelry Class. Basic Beading Ages 12 & Up: Learn the basic skills of stringing beads and findings for simple jewelry design to create earrings, bracelets and necklaces. Will complete several pieces in class. Ideal class for beginners or those who desire to refine their skills. Bring a basic tool kit of flatnose pliers, roundnose pliers and wire cutters. \$10 material fee due to instructor in class. 1 Session is \$35. Instructor: Renee Prioleau. Class: #405233 at Wisconsin Place Community Recreation Center.
Online registration: <recweb.montgomerycountymd.gov> or phone 240 777 6840.
- **Saturday, May 9, 2015 from 8 AM-3 PM:** South Penn Spring Swap & Sale. South Mountain Fairgrounds, 1.5 miles west of Arendtsville, PA on Rt. 234 (615 Narrows Road, Biglerville, PA 17307). Adults \$1. Children Free. Sponsored by Central Penn and Franklin County Rock & Mineral Clubs.
Contact Tom Smith at tsmith1012@comcast.net.
- **June 29 - July 2 from 9 AM-12 PM:** Rockville City Camps, Croyden Creek Nature Center Geology and Exploration. Ages: 8-12, [50265 6/29-7/2](http://www.502656.com/2015/06/29-7-2/). \$125/\$145.
For Descriptions and Registration: <http://rockvillemd.gov/index.aspx?NID=359>
- **July 6 - July 17:** Bullis Summer Program. **Geology & Exploration:** 8:45 AM-10:45 AM. Age: 9-14. Fee: \$250. **Space:** 1:30 PM-3:30 PM. Age: 9-14 Fee: \$265.
For Descriptions and Registration: <http://www.bullis.org/summer-programs/>

- **July 20 - July 31** Bullis Summer Program. **Geology & Exploration:** 8:45 AM-10:45 PM. Age: 9-14 Fee: \$250. **Space:** 1:30 PM-3:30 PM. Age: 9-14 Fee: \$265.
For Descriptions and Registration: <http://www.bullis.org/summer-programs/>
- **Audubon Naturalist Society:** New online registration for all programs below. Visit www.ANShome.org/adultnatureprograms and click on "Register Online".
Questions? Call Pam at [301 652 9188 extension 16](tel:3016529188) or e-mail pamoves@anshome.org

If you are planning a trip and want to know what clubs you might be able to visit, it would be worthwhile to visit the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies website. Check out their newsletter archives at <http://www.amfed.org/news/default.htm>.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Bulletin Editor– In Transition

Life Members: Larry Harrison, Wendell Mohr, Juan Proaño, and George Durland.

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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 –

BulletinEditor@glmsmc.com

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Award Winning Bulletin
EFMLS, AFMS



TIME SENSITIVE
DATED MATERIAL
FIRST CLASS MAIL

THE ROCKHOUNDER
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