



The Rockhounder

January 2016

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.”

NOTE: Please send any Rockhounder submissions to Editor Olivia Luzier at editor@glmsmc.com by Thursday, January 21, 2015.

January Speaker Information:

The Rise and Fall of the Neogene Giant Sharks

Dr. Bretton Kent

University of Maryland, College Park

Dr. Bretton Kent is a faculty member in the College of Computer, Mathematical and Natural Sciences at the University of Maryland (College Park). He has been studying fossil sharks since 1980 and previously wrote *Fossil Sharks of the Chesapeake Bay Region*, two papers of the False Mako Shark (*Parotodus benedeni*), and two chapters on the cartilaginous fishes of the Fisher/Sullivan site in Virginia. He has also been a technical advisor for fossil shark television specials for the Discovery Channel, the History Channel, National Geographic, and the BBC. He currently has a chapter in press for Smithsonian Contributions to Paleobiology of the cartilaginous fishes of Calvert Cliffs, MD.

Gary Leaman, Vice President

Next Regular Meeting:

Date: January 11, 2015

Time: 7:30 PM

Place:
Rockville Senior Center
1150 Carnation Drive
Rockville, MD

Next Board of Directors Meeting:

The Board of Directors will meet 7:30 PM on **Monday, January 18, 2016** 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.

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President's Message

Jonathan G. Harris

Happy New Year to all fellow rockhounds, lapidary artists, science buffs, and adventure-seekers. Over the past decade I have enjoyed years of meeting new friendly people and learned so much about different areas of art, history, and science from the club; though not how to clean out my garage!

A hearty thanks goes to both our prior Board members and new ones. Their dedication and commitment to excellence has made our club great.

While it is only January, it is not too early to start preparing for our annual show, the weekend of March 19-20. Helping out during the show weekend (including the set-up on Friday) is a lot of fun and the best way to get to know your fellow club members. And you can get all of the training on the job! I learned to how to make cabochons by teaching at a show many years ago.

It is also important that members commit to slots via the signup sheets in January and February. While it may seem easier to defer making commitments, we need people to sign up in advance so we can properly plan and organize activities. If we do not have sufficient volunteers committed in advance, we may need to make the painful decision to eliminate activities that make our show special.

Also, don't forget that the show is a chance for members to exhibit the fruits of their hobbies; so get those exhibits ready and send in your forms by the February 20 deadline.

-Jonathan

GLMSMC Regular Meeting Minutes for December 14, 2015

The December 14th, 2015 meeting was called to order by President Chris Luzier at 7:45 pm. This was a special joint Christmas Party of the GLMSMC and the Mineral Society of the District of Columbia (MSDC), preceded by a brief GLMSMC business meeting. There were brief reports from officers. Sincere thanks go to Holly McNeil for making two fantastic cakes, one welcoming the MSDC and the other commemorating Andy Muir with a fluorescent GLO-ROX icing logo. There was M/S/A of the November 2015 regular meeting and BOD meeting minutes. For all interested there was a signup sheet for 100% cotton Andy Muir Tee shirts (est. cost \$13-14), and it was announced that the March 2016 show would feature two display cases in honor of Andy: one with fluorescent minerals and another with polished spheres. Andy's wife Denise and daughter Savannah were special guests of the night's party. There was a silent auction for three large pieces of banded Argentine rhodochrosite, and the door prize went to Pat Repick-Byrne. A number of members brought rock, mineral, and fossil specimens for giveaway and sale. Thanks to the efforts and generosity of all those members who brought in snacks, cocktail shrimp, drinks, hot hors d'oeuvres, and deserts. Everyone had a great time. The meeting/party was adjourned at 10 pm. There will be no BOD meeting this month.

Dave Fryauff, Secretary



GLMSMC Board Meeting Minutes

There have been no Board meetings since the prior edition of The Rockhounder.

Future Rockhounds of America (The MOCKS) Ages 10-15

Mark Dahlman

Next Meeting Date: January 11, 2016 **Meeting Time:** 7:45-9:00pm

Meeting Location: Sunroom Cafeteria at the Rockville Senior Center

December 14th Meeting:

Our “Yankee Swap” at the December meeting was a lot of fun. After the swap we joined the holiday party in the main meeting room. There were all sorts of good food, as well as things for sale and giveaways; it was a very nice evening.

January 11th Meeting:

We will be awarding the Special Effects badge to the six FRA members who earned it at the November meeting. Holly McNeil will be our guest speaker, showing us how to put together a display for our upcoming show. Remember there are big prizes for the best junior display!

Bring a friend if you’d like - see you there!

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



Two Amazing Weeks In The Mountains Await You

Steve Weinberger, Wildacres Committee Chair

An article used with the generous permission of the EFMLS from its December 2015 newsletter.

Imagine yourself spending a week away from the pressures of life, the noise of car and truck horns, blaring radios, stories of crime blaring at you from the local news, and, if you're not retired, the pressures of "the boss" who expects you to "work" to earn that paycheck.

We have a terrific solution for you – an opportunity to get away from all of the above and immerse yourself in relaxing, learning a new skill or two, and learning new things from a guest speaker. That solution is attending one or both of the 2016 EFMLS Workshops at Wildacres in North Carolina.

Wildacres is a fantastic retreat located on Pompeys Knob just off the Blue Ridge Parkway about an hour north of Asheville. The property consists of over 1,000 acres, much of which is truly kept "wild". The facility features two large lodges with private, motel style bedrooms (each with private bath), well equipped lapidary and jewelry studios and other classroom spaces, an auditorium, hiking trails, dining room and fantastic views of Mt. Mitchell and the surrounding Blue Ridge range.

Owned by a private foundation that allows non-profit groups such as ours to come for a few days for workshops that encourage the betterment of mankind, we've been privileged to be allowed to use the facility for the past 43 years.

Each session consists of time for participants to take one or two classes, hear excellent talks from our guest speaker, join a field trip, explore the area, and participate in a variety of other activities. Our instructors, all volunteers are outstanding and bring with them a wealth of knowledge about their subject, lots of teaching experience and above all, patience!

Dates for 2016 are May 9 – 15 and September 5 – 11. Descriptions for our spring classes are on page 8. We're still working on the fall list, but will include faceting, fused glass, silversmithing and wirewrap for sure. Descriptions for all fall classes will be in the next EFMLS News and on our website <efmls-wildacres.org>.

Tuition for each session this year will be \$400 per person which includes your room and board for the week and gratuity for the Wildacres Retreat staff. You will be asked to pay your instructor(s) a materials fee, but that depends on what class or classes you select. Materials fees will be announced closer to the workshop session since costs, especially that of metals, do tend to change.

We've included a registration form for your use on page 10. Feel free to make copies for your club members! Since some classes fill quickly, we ask that you include 4 options per "semester". More information about the EFMLS Workshops at Wildacres can be found on our website <efmls-wildacres.org>. Do register, but not before January 1, 2016.

In a nutshell, an EFMLS Workshop at Wildacres should be on your bucket list of places to experience. We hope to see you there in 2016.



2016 EFMLS Wildacres Registration

PLEASE, ONLY one person per form per session

CHECK ONE: May 9 - 15: _____ Fall: September 5 - 11: _____

Please fill out a separate registration form for each person attending and return to SUZIE MILLIGAN, 931 Carmichael Rd; Owego, NY 13827-3320. No registration will be accepted prior to January 1, 2016. (To make it easier for the registrar and others, please do not change or revise this form. You September photocopy it as needed.) Please write legibly!

Name (as you wish it to appear on your name badge): _____
Street: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Telephone number with area code: _____ e-mail: _____
Club/Society Affiliation: _____

Fee for each session is \$400.00 per person. Deposit is \$200 per person, payable with registration. Make checks payable to "EFMLS". Balance of fee is due 30 days prior to start of session. No post-dated checks will be accepted.

Cancellation policy: If unable to attend, fees paid will be refunded if notification is given prior to one month before the session begins. No refund will be made after that date.

Circle appropriate responses:

Have you been to Wildacres before? Yes ___ No ___ Is your Club paying your tuition? Yes ___ No ___ Name of roommate: _____ (If none, one will be assigned).
Are you: Male ___ Female ___ (No single rooms are available). Are you a smoker? Yes ___ No ___ (No smoking is allowed in any building)

Do you have any physical handicaps and / or special dietary needs? Yes ___ No ___ If YES, please explain on reverse side. Do you have a skill to demonstrate or a program to share (up to 40 minutes)? Yes ___ No ___

Class Pre-registration

See EFMLS Newsletter or Website (efmls-wildacres.org/) for class offerings. You will either be able to take one 4-day class or two 2-day classes. All participants must take classes.

Which of the classes being offered would you like to take? Please indicate at least 3 choices in order of preference for each semester. You will be preregistered for classes based on your choices, but no class placement is guaranteed. Should your preferred class be unavailable for any reason you will be preregistered for another of your choices. If no alternate class preference is indicated we will preregister you in a class of our choosing, based on availability.

1st Semester or 4 day class choices Second Semester
1 _____ 1 _____
2 _____ 2 _____
3 _____ 3 _____
4 _____ 4 _____

(No registrations accepted prior to January 1, 2016)

Mail to: Suzie Milligan, 931 Carmichael Rd; Owego, NY 13827-3320

If you have any questions, please contact either

Suzie Milligan, Registrar at <smilligan@stny.rr.com> or 607-687-5708 or Fran Sick, Director at <ednfran@epix.net> or 570-928-8313.



Rocks Are Cool Too

Gary E. Lohman, Junior Activities Chair

An article used with the generous permission of the EFMLS from its December 2015 newsletter.

EFMLS member clubs have long served as local hubs for education, sharing, and fellowship among people of all walks of life with common interests in the earth sciences and lapidary craft. Field trips, guest speakers, and hands-on experiences have long been the hallmark of club activities and meetings. While it is no secret that today, many clubs struggle with fewer collecting sites, more restrictive collecting laws, and aging member populations; it is heartening to see the number of clubs with very active youth programs of varying forms. Today's youth are tomorrow's leaders and decision-makers, who will in no small part help shape future attitudes towards the hobby, including establishing policy regarding future amateur collecting. The litigious fears combined with profit-motivated exploitation of raw resources that increasingly edge out scientific study and amateur collecting in both policy and practice will almost certainly continue if we do not instill the scientific curiosity and appreciation for the earth in today's youth.

In the words of Albert Schweitzer: "As soon as man does not take his existence for granted, but beholds it as something unfathomably mysterious, thought begins." Through our personal efforts to expose children to rocks, minerals, and fossils over the past two decades, both my wife and myself have repeatedly seen a couple of notable trends. First, there is an almost magical draw that kids have to specimens that they can touch, hold, and examine. We all seem to start life with a natural curiosity for the earth. By combining a specimen with the story behind it that connects it to the larger understanding of earth's history and significance to our lives, children seem to quickly enjoy experiencing the earth sciences and develop a hunger for more. With the right charismatic story-telling, rocks and fossils can become as addictive as a video game. Second, our modern lifestyle dominated by self-indulgence, social media, and messages conveyed within 140 characters or less appears to squelch this natural curiosity through a combination of fast-paced and high-tech over-stimulation that relegates rocks, minerals, and fossils witnessing earth's existence to the more "taken for granted" mundane part of life.

In our schools, the combination of larger class sizes with often less hands-on and more scripted experiences that are part and parcel with more uniform, structured teaching focused on preparing students for standardized test-taking, can downplay the importance of the traditional experiencing and inquiring at the core of true learning. At the same time, while a growing emphasis on more virtual and simulated exposure through computer interaction and video programming may be beneficial, it shouldn't replace self-discovery of real experiences. In a modern world increasingly obsessed with safety, political correctness, and fear of lawsuits, the world of field trips, unstructured exploration of our

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Rocks Are Cool Too

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environment, and first hand “touching & feeling” that our generation grew up with, is not the same as the world in which today’s youth are immersed. Moreover, many of today’s young parents are already products of this fast-paced, “take the earth for granted” environment. With chock-blocked schedules, the time for hobbies and corresponding clubs like ours are easily edged out, both with these young parents and with their children.

While this likely explains in part the aging membership of many clubs today as well as the challenge of grabbing the attention of today’s youth, “rock clubs” with active youth programs seem to echo a common theme: once the kids are hooked, many tend to stay active, with a life-long interest and appreciation have been cultivated. Over the past several years of doing rock shows, county fairs, and even having a small rock shop, we have been heartened by seeing that natural interest rekindled in kids bringing in their small collections for identification and even saving up their allowance or birthday money to buy specimens and books. Equally interesting is the number of grandparents that purchase the rock and fossil kits with books that we assemble and even specimens just to have around their house to share with the grandchildren when they visit. There is still hope! It is therefore imperative that we as an organization continue to come up with creative and innovative ways of reaching out to today’s youth to bring both the hands-on experience of the hobby to them as well as captivate their imagination with the stories of the “unfathomably mysterious” earth, above the “noise” of their fast-paced, over-stimulated environment.



Websites of Interest

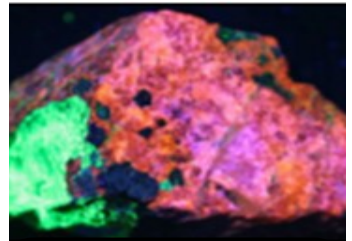
Contributed by Wendell C. Mohr

Franklin Ogdensburg Mineralogical Society

This organization is one of the predominant ones concerned with fluorescent minerals of the Franklin, New Jersey area. There seems to be a large number of our members having interest in fluorescent minerals, including our own Mark Dahlman who, I discovered this year, is President of the Franklin Ogdensburg Mineralogical Society (FOMS) in Franklin, New Jersey. Good job, Mark! On the site you will find, in addition to the usual club information, a list of Mineral Species Found at Franklin and Sterling Hill, NJ. From that page you will access a plethora of other pertinent Fluorescent mineral information.

<www.fomsnj.org>

Land Below Sea Level by David K. Lynch tells you about countries that have land below sea level. Most major depressions are associated with tectonic plate boundaries. They form when converging plates deform or when spreading centers open. The ten with lowest dry land are highlighted and maps show their locations.



Sphalerite (orange, pink),
Willemite (green),
Sterling Mine, Ogdensburg,
NJ from Society Website



<<http://geology.com/below-sea-level/>>

Photo courtesy of Death
Valley National Park

Turn Your Smartphone Into a Digital Microscope!

A YouTube 4'40" Video might be of interest to try. I have not tried this myself but it might be an inexpensive way to magnify specimens. Depth-of-field might be a problem. It should be good for flat slabs you might have.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KpMTkr aiYU>



Photo from website



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

President – Jonathan Harris, 11932 Goya Drive, Potomac, MD 20854-3313, (301-545- 0808)

Vice President – Gary Leaman, 7524 Cinnabar Terrace, Gaithersburg, MD 20879-4577,
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Secretary – Jeff Cessna, 12116 Cliftdale Drive, Silver Spring, MD 20904-1941, (301-680-7963)

Treasurer – Holly McNeil, 22 South Duke Street, Rockville, MD, 20850-1014, (301-605-7179)

Field Trip Chairman – Dave Fryauff, 24109 Sugar Cane Lane, Laytonsville MD 20882-4031,
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Membership Chairman – Doug Baum, 11205 Golden Meadow Ct., Germantown, MD 20876-1740,
(301-515-4641)

Downstairs Showchair – Holly McNeil, 22 South Duke Street, Rockville, MD, 20850-1014,
(301-605-7179)

Upstairs Showchair – Dave Tiktinsky, 9209 Laurel Oak Drive, Bethesda, MD 20817-1937,
(301-365-2812)

Property Manager – Joel Rosen, 833 Rampart Way, Union Bridge, MD 21791-9325, (410-775-7937)

Immediate Past President – Chris Luzier, 847 Springdale Drive, Millersville, MD, 21108-1436,
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EFMLS Liaison – Wendell Mohr, 9509 Emory Grove Road, Gaithersburg, MD 20877-3501,
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(editor@glmsmc.com)

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

Society Address: Gem, Lapidary, and Mineral Society of Montgomery County MD., Inc.
P. O. Box 444, Gaithersburg MD 20884-0444

Website: <http://www.glmsmc.com/>

All Society correspondence is to be sent to this address except that which is intended for The Rockhounder and its editor. Such items are to be sent to the editor's email address at editor@glmsmc.com.

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Award Winning Bulletin

EFMLS, AFMS



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