



The Rockhounder

January 2020

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 submissions for the February issue of The Rockhounder to Editor Olivia Luzier at editor@glmsmc.com by Monday, January 27, 2020.

Regular Meeting Announcements

Ken Reynolds, Vice President

January Speaker Information:

Speaker: Chuck Mason

Title of Talk: Agates

Agate is a mineral that presents itself to us as rock—just plain old rock. But cut that rock open and you may find amazing beauty. Quality agate is considered a semiprecious gem stone, and agate cabochons are sought after for inclusion in craft jewelry. This program will tell the story of agates—how they fascinate us; where they are found; how they are formed; where they fit in mineral world; and most of all, what they look like. No two agates look the same. There is fantastic variety in their patterns and beauty. The program will close with a photo album of beautiful agates from around the world.



Montana Agate Slab

Photo courtesy of Chuck Mason

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Next Regular Meeting:

Date: Monday,
Jan. 13, 2020

Time: 7:30 PM

Place: Rockville
Senior Center
1150 Carnation
Drive
Rockville, MD

Next Board of Directors Meeting:

The Board of Directors will meet at **7:30 PM on Monday, Jan. 20, 2020** at the home of Holly Heighes. Board members are expected to be there. Any member is welcome to come, but please let Holly know if you plan to attend.

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President's Message

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Speaker Bio

In the late 1940s, I took a high school elective class in jewelry making that included carving agate into cabochons and other articles. I was fascinated by being able to turn a piece of stone into a beautiful cab. After finishing high school and college, I was able to do a little cabling of and on, but it was not until I retired that I was really able to devote any significant time or attention to the hobby. In order to refresh my skills, I took classes given by the Baltimore Gem Cutters and went to Wildacres where I got more practice.

Like any cab cutter, I was on the lookout for cutting material, and I was drawn particularly to beautiful agate slabs, but also to beautiful jasper slabs. Some were just too beautiful to cut up, and that was the beginning of becoming a collector. To agate and jasper I added petrified wood, geodes, and quartz crystals. I now collect almost anything in the quartz family.

I've done some rockhounding, mostly in Nebraska, Wyoming and Montana where I collected any material that to me was interesting. Some of this was of a quality that merited being used for cutting cabs. I particularly value the few cabs I have cut from self-collected Montana agate.

I am an active member of GLMS of D.C., an active member and past president of the GLMS of Montgomery County, and active member and past president of the GLMS of Leisure World.

Chuck in the lapidary shop

Photo courtesy of Chuck Mason





President's Message

Holly Heighes

Happy New Year to all!

I want to start out by thanking Dave Fryauff, Karen Lottes, and Steve Calamuci for their past service on the Board; their contributions were invaluable.

We are starting 2020 with a large public auction scheduled for January 18th in our usual meeting room. We could use some help—any member who is willing to assist with set-up on Friday evening and/or work the auction on Saturday, please let either myself, Chris Luzier, or Dave Tiktinsky know so we may provide you with details and timing.

Of course the biggest event of the year is our show, March 21-22st, 2020. The volunteer and exhibitor sheets will be at our meetings as usual. I especially invite new members to sign up. It is certainly hard work, but rewarding. It does not cease to amaze me how well we all pull together to put on one of the best shows in the area. I find it especially gratifying to watch the Future Rockhounds work the 'Kids Zone' teaching other kids and adults about rocks and minerals.

Ken Reynolds, our new VP, has already lined up some great speakers for the first part of 2020 (see our website www.glsmc.com). If you have ideas for other programs, please let him know; he would appreciate any suggestions.

Cheerio,
Holly Heighes

Follow us on Facebook at
[https://www.facebook.com/
groups/984241208329511/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/984241208329511/)



GLMSMC Board Meeting Minutes for December

Karen Lottes

There was no Board meeting for the month of December.

GLMSMC Regular Meeting Minutes from December 9, 2019

Karen Lottes

The meeting was called to order at 7:45 PM with 32 adults plus 7 FRA members present.

Minutes: The minutes for the both the November Board meeting and regular meeting were approved.

Smithsonian Donation: We made the annual donation to the Smithsonian for purchase of a specimen. This year we were able to give \$2,500.

Show News: The volunteer forms are here! We have 145 volunteer slots to fill, so please be generous with your time and sign up! Exhibitor and Demo forms are also available.

Member Wendell Mohr: We are sad to report that our longtime member Wendell Mohr has passed away. Wendell was an early club member and a past president, as well as many other positions on the Board. He was always helpful and knowledgeable. He will be missed.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.



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

Mark Dahlman

Next Meeting Date: January 13th

Meeting Time: 7:45-9:00 PM

Meeting Location: Sunroom Cafeteria at the Rockville Senior Center

December 9th Meeting:

Our holiday party was very enjoyable. As usual, there was good food and friends and everyone went home with something for their collections. Most importantly, the group decided on Quartz as the theme for our group exhibit in March. Huge thanks go to Kaylee Bloom for volunteering to organize this year's exhibit!

January 13th Meeting:

We have ten Gemstone Lore & Legend badges to award at the beginning of the January meeting—congratulations to all! Our meeting will be all about showmanship and preparing for our club's show in March. We will go over tips on making a good display and do more planning for our group exhibit. Please think about what you'd like to show in your exhibit (like fossils, orange minerals, or local rocks). Your display doesn't need to be specimens though—it can be about uses of rocks and minerals, geological subjects like volcanos, plate tectonics, or synclines, or any other earth-science subject. We can fill out entry forms at the meeting. It would be very helpful to bring a picture or a description of the quartz specimen you'd like to include in the group display too. As always, we'll have door prizes. Bring a friend if you'd like. I hope to see you all there.

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



Wildacres

Andy B. Celmer

Wildacres is a school of instruction operated by our regional organization, the EFMLS or Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies.

See more at: <https://efmls.org/wildacres> or <http://www.wildacres.org>

Two EFMLS sponsored sessions are held in May and September and last for one week.

The programs consist of general sessions for the whole group and small-group class sessions covering a variety of topics such as minerals, beading, exhibit, cabochon making, faceting, wire-wrapping, silversmithing, pewter fabrication, PMC, fused glass, soapstone carving, etc. The workshop staff consists of experts in the various areas of the hobby. Most are EFMLS members and all serve without pay to share their knowledge with others.

GLMSMC offers two scholarships for \$425 each this year. The \$425 scholarship covers the entire cost of your stay at Wildacres and includes lodging, 3 meals a day, and classes. Some classes have material fees for which you will be responsible. The scholarships have two conditions: first, being a member of GLMSMC, and second, having a history of working at the Club's Show and/or signing up and working a minimum of 4 hours at the Club's upcoming Show in March.

I have been to Wildacres twice and thoroughly enjoyed myself. Wildacres is located in the Blue Ridge Mountains, on 1600 acres at 3,300 feet in elevation, with excellent views and the sounds of nature all around. Take a look at their website for more information or contact me to see if you would want to take advantage of this opportunity.

EFMLS Liaison,
Andy B Celmer



Upcoming Classes at Patuxent Lapidary Guild

Make Hoop Earrings - 1/12/2020

Description: No Silversmithing experience is required. This class is for beginners or a refresher for everyone, please be prepared to focus and work hard. Students will make hoop earrings with posts or wires or both. This is a fun project with great results.

Class fee: \$75

Materials fee: \$25, paid to the instructor

Basic Lost-Wax Casting - 2/8/2020 and 2/15/2020

Description: Students will learn the basics of lost-wax casting, including spruing and investing wax patterns; casting, and finishing. We will start with a wax pattern from the Guild's collection (or one of your own, with instructor approval) and end with one or two finished pieces of sterling silver jewelry. If you do not finish polishing your finished work by the end of the second session, you will be allowed one free Open Shop to do so.

Class fee: \$180

Materials fee: \$35, paid to the instructor

Beginning Silversmithing - 2/23/2020

Description: No Silversmithing experience is required. This class is for beginners or a refresher for everyone, please be prepared to focus and work hard. Students will make 1 bezel set stone pendant with a bail. Students will need to supply 1 small to medium cabochon. Students may bring personal tools if desired. Cabochons may also be purchased at class - please contact the instructor with any questions. Students who have already taken this class can work on a more advanced project of their choice in silversmithing.

Class fee: \$90.00

Materials fee: \$35, paid to the instructor

Basic Prong Setting - 3/14/2020

Description: Students will learn the basics of mounting a round faceted stone into a 4-prong pendant setting. We will also go over similar setting types, other stone shapes, finishing techniques, and advanced tools.

Instruction fee: \$60

Materials fee: \$35, included in registration fee

For more information, see the Patuxent Lapidary Guild's calendar of classes and events on their website at:

https://www.patuxentlapidary.org/content.aspx?page_id=4001&club_id=310740



Wendell Mohr Remembered

Juan Proano

Wendell Mohr (November 9, 1931-December 8, 2019)



We remember:

- His love of minerals, especially well-formed crystals
- His stamp campaigns
- His longstanding editorship of The Rockhounder
- His attention to detail to make sure the show would be as good as it could be
- His leadership at all our meetings
- His camera at the ready
- His smile at the ready
- His care and stewardship of the club
- His puns

The news of Wendell's passing is very sad, very sad indeed. He was a person who devoted very much of his time and a great deal of effort to ensure the success and future of our Club. Fortunately, he lived long enough to see that his efforts were worthwhile. Our Club has developed into a very sound and nationally well recognized Club in the mineral and fossil sectors, with an increasing membership, strong leadership, and an ever-increasing active participation of future young rockhounds. Wendell was a good, honest person and a great friend. He will be greatly missed.

My very best personal regards,
Juan Proano



Upcoming Auction on January 18th, 2020

The Gem Lapidary and Mineral Society of Montgomery County

We're having another **AUCTION!**

Vast quantity of specimens from the estate of a longtime collection -- **many museum quality minerals**, large and small cabinet sized from all over the world, including some closed locations. Some specimens are in their original wrapping. Over 100 lots. *Open to all – Please join us.*



Saturday January 18, 2020. 9:00am auction preview 10:00am – 2:00pm live auction
note: payment to be made in cash or credit card

Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Dr., Rockville MD 20850

**This is more material from the collection seen at our April 2018 Auction that was so popular*.*



Additional information and pictures will be posted on GLMSMC.com and on our FaceBook page as we get closer to the auction date. We expect to auction hundreds of specimens, many in bulk lots.



Upcoming Shows

57th Annual Earth Science and Mineral Show

by Delaware Mineralogical Society

March 7-8

Double Tree by Hilton,

4727 Concord Pike (Route 202), Wilmington, DE

INFO: Gene Hartstein at (geneatfossilnut.com)



56th Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Show

Date/Time: March 21-22, 2020 Saturday 10-6, Sunday 11-5

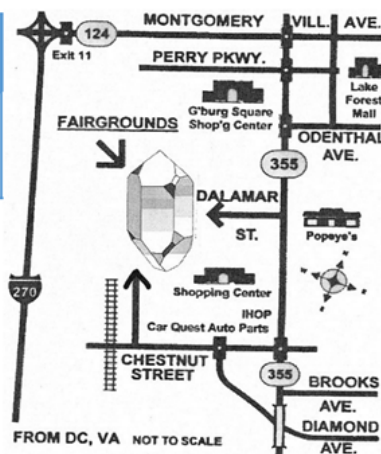
Location: Montgomery County Fairgrounds; Building #6
16 Chestnut St. Gaithersburg MD 20877

Featuring:

Hourly Door Prizes	20+ Vendors of minerals, beads, fossils, gems & jewelry
Gold Panning	40+ Exhibits by club members - including junior exhibits
Fluorescent Minerals	Learn to make a gemstone in the shop
Raffle Prizes	Mini Mine, Free minerals & activities for children
Free Parking	Demonstrations of Faceting, Beading, Jewelry Making, Physics

Children (11 & under) Free! Ages 12 and over \$6
Scouts in uniform Free! 4H youth with 4H identification Free!
More info at: www.glmsmc.com

Show this flyer for
\$1 off admission price
(applies to each member in your group)



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 – Holly Heighes

Vice President – Ken Reynolds

Secretary – Jeff Cessna

Treasurer – Jonathan Harris

Field Trip Chairman – Dave Fryauff

Membership Chairman – Doug Baum

Downstairs Showchair – Chris Luzier

Upstairs Showchair – Dave Tiktinsky

Property Manager – Joel Rosen

Immediate Past President – Jonathan Harris

EFMLS Liaison – Wendell Mohr

Bulletin Editor– Olivia Luzier

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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