



The Rockhounder

June 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 July-August issue of The Rockhounder to Editor Olivia Luzier at editor@glmsmc.com by Saturday, June 27, 2020.

Regular Meeting Announcements

Ken Reynolds, Vice President

June Speaker Information:

There will be no meetings for the month of June, as we will be practicing social distancing to prevent the spread of Coronavirus/COVID-19.

Stay safe and well, everyone!

Follow us on Facebook at

[https://www.facebook.com/
groups/984241208329511/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/984241208329511/)

Next Regular Meeting:

Due to the Coronavirus/COVID-19 outbreak, our June Regular Meeting will be cancelled.

Next Board of Directors Meeting:

Due to the Coronavirus/COVID-19 outbreak, our June BOD Meeting will be cancelled.

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President's Message

Holly Heighes

Hi folks,

I hope you and your families are all well. Another month, another missed meeting. If this continues through September, we may attempt to do a virtual meeting in some sort of modified fashion. Hopefully we won't have to go there; it would be much nicer to see everyone in person.

Once the restrictions are lifted, we are hoping to organize a weekend club member and families' event. Our preliminary thoughts are an outdoor picnic/cookout with a remembrance of Wendell and an auction of his collection. As part of that, we are planning on an FRA youth group-only auction to give the kids a chance to have their own auction without competition from the adults.

Here is a picture from Wendell's collection.



Hope to see you all soon!

Holly

GLMSMC Board Meeting Minutes from May 2020

There was no Board meeting for the month of May, due to Coronavirus/COVID-19 concerns.

GLMSMC Regular Meeting Minutes from May 2020

There was no Regular meeting for the month of May, due to Coronavirus/COVID-19 concerns.



Virginia Mineral Project Community Virtual Sessions

Editor's Note: These events are hosted online through Zoom meetings. When I sent the June Rockhounder email out to our members, I attached the PDF with clickable links to register for each event, as the links do not want to work with this image.

VIRGINIA MINERAL PROJECT

-May Report-

State of the Project

Throughout the month of May, the VMP continued to host its virtual community events as a way to stay connected during COVID-19. Each meeting was a success, with average numbers hitting 35 and peaking at 62 Zoom participants. These numbers reflect typical club meetings.

May was also a very important month for the progress of the Friends of Mineralogy Virginia Chapter (FMVA) which has now been incorporated and officially a chapter under the national organization. The VMP will continue its work towards a publication as a subcommittee within this new state-wide nonprofit. You can expect official news and information on the new mineralogy organization in June.

Outside community events, interviews and photography have been hindered due to COVID-19. The VMP has now developed a five-year strategic plan which highlights how we will work moving forward, post COVID-19 delay.

Thanks to the community members that have attended these virtual events. Several clubs across VA are now looking into this as we move forward into the summer. If you are still unsure or your organization would like to learn more about these virtual programs, I would be happy to assist!

A special thanks to Scott Duresky and his presentation on Rutherford Mine and the microlite reclassification. It was a huge success and has caught the attention from the larger mineral community.

Looking to June...

June is an important month as things begin to open up into phase two and summer begins to rear its head. Our goal was to provide during times of absence and now we need to be realistic as people make summer plans and travel opens up.

There has been some discussion around the idea of keeping these virtual events as we move into the future. On the off months of the Friends of Mineralogy Virginia Chapter meetings, we are working out a plan to keep informal and community sessions open for people to come and enjoy. These would not all be full presentations but would be special topics and conversations for the community.

It's Not All About the Rocks!?

I just wanted to briefly highlight the amount of enjoyment we had from this meeting. Rocks are not our only passion and it was truly a great experience getting to learn about people's other hobbies and even some shared interest outside rocks! I would highly recommend this be a topic at local meetings.

Geology 365 Tutorial



Date: June 17th @ 7pm

RSVP

Scufflin Acres Amethyst



Date: June 24th @ 7pm

RSVP

Virtual Presentations Currently on YouTube

- Minerals of the Allah Cooper Mine, Louisa, Virginia
- Network Analysis of Virginia's Mineralogical Systems
- Richmond Vivianite Locality
- Collecting Quartz Crystals in Saltville, Virginia
- The Historic Rutherford Mine Pegmatite (Releasing June 3)



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Virginia Mineral Project Community Virtual Sessions

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Classic Mineral Localities of Virginia

5-year Strategic Plan

Due to COVID-19 and the inability for travel, data collection for 2019 was less than originally hoped for. We are still needing individuals with specimens and collections to send in their stories as they relate to our classic locations and would like to encourage photographs, even if temporary, of specimens you feel should be put in the publication. During times like these, it is imperative that we continue to work towards the end goal and push through any hurdles that may present themselves. The VMP has developed a new timeline for the development of a new publication on Classic Mineral Localities of Virginia.

This five-year strategic plan highlights the goals and objectives of the Virginia Mineral Project (VMP) and the Friends of Mineralogy Virginia Chapter (FMVA) to update and publish a new book on the state's classic mineral localities. Below is a section from the plan highlighting the objectives and first year localities.



Objectives for 2020-2021:

- Complete ten locality sections of the book and have them ready for editing and proofing.
- The previous years localities will then be sent to editors and volunteers for review.
- The format of these locality reviews mean that they can, if necessary, act as single publications in the future.
- Creative changes to individual reports can occur past the editing phase but it does mean that the report should be 95% completed in its design and format by the end of the year.
- Photographs can change, but there should be an understanding of what the image is trying to convey and what we are looking for if new photographs come up.
- Co-authors and assistants on the chapters can continue their work past the one-year mark if they need.

1st Year Locality Report Overview

1. Vivianite Richmond Discovery
2. Andalusite Discovery "The Brick Yard", Campbell County
3. Chestnut Ridge, Bath County
4. Goochland Quartz Crystal Discovery
5. Scufflin Acres Amethyst, Prince Edward County
6. Allah Cooper Mine, Louisa County
7. Fairy Stone National Park, Patrick County
8. Limonite Cubes, Albemarle County
9. Saltville Quartz Crystals, Smyth County
10. Peter's Mountain, Iridescent Hematite

Please email us if you have stories, photos, specimens, etc. from these locations!



Some Recollection of the Early Days of Our Society: GLMSMC

Dan Spielman

Our first meeting was held at the Rockville COOP Market in the early to mid part of 1963 (I do not have an exact date). Knight and Dottie Porter had posted circulars around various places in the county announcing a meeting for anyone interested in rock, mineral, fossil collecting, field trips, and lapidary. The main objective was to determine if there was enough interest by those attending to form a club in the Montgomery County area. (Membership was not restricted to Montgomery County.)

There were already well-developed, successful societies (clubs) established and operating in the Washington, D.C., Maryland and Virginia areas at that time.

Approximately 15 to 20 interested persons showed up for the meeting and it was generally agreed to schedule more meetings to organize and develop a club. For the most part, those in attendance showed interest and offered their help and services to get organized, but for one reason or another did not sign up at that first meeting. Dottie, Knight Porter, and Dan Spielman were the only names on the sign-up sheet at the first meeting.

After several meetings and interest increased to where organizing into a club was practical, an election was held. With officers in place, committees were formed and basic rules of order were established while a Constitution and By-laws were being drawn up. It was decided in the course of organizing that Junior members would have their own club and officers within the main club to develop projects according to their interest, with the approval of the main club. With By-laws and Constitution drawn up, revised, and finally accepted, Incorporation was the next step. Phil Marcus, member and legal advisor, devoted much time and effort in preparation of necessary papers and documents to secure our Incorporation status.

Dottie Porter, our first elected president, had also been Chairperson/Coordinator at our meetings leading up to club development and elections. The "Rockhounder," our monthly bulletin and newsletter, was edited by Dottie Porter for quite a few years. The newsletter included Minutes from the Regular meeting, the Board of Director's meeting, other club business, information about field trips, shows in the area, and other tidbits concerning the various phases of club interest. Fairly early on, our society became a member of the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies, Inc., and Affiliate of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies.

Shows; field trips; exchanging information; working with and displaying rocks, gems, minerals, and fossils were all important phases of our club's operation.

Some of our early members and helpers were: Deas Boykin; Bob Braumberg; Jack and Richard Bush; Bill Capps and family; Herb Duke and family; Jim and Versie Durborow; John Greisbach; Larry Harrison; Ed Hitt and family; Mark Hollis; Phil, Anna and Susan Marcus; John McIlroy family; Bill and Charlotte Morrison and family; Dottie and Knight Porter; Jack Rann and family;

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Some Recollection of the Early Days of Our Society: GLMSMC

Dan Spielman

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Gunther Schwarz and family; Paul Shade and family; Dan Spielman and family; Bill Tanner; and others who contributed time and talent in those early years.

I know this list is not complete, so please forgive me if I missed you by name. I am considering the first five or six years as the early years.

I thought these odds and ends of information concerning how our society originated and developed during the early years might be of interest to anyone wanting to know how it began. I think Jack Bush has done a wonderful job in highlighting the society's history and activities through the years. Thanks, Jack!

Dan Spielman
March 14, 2003

What I've Been Up To

Jennifer Weiss

Hi everybody; my name is Jennifer Weiss. I joined the GLMSMC as an FRA Rockhounder in April 2009 after attending the annual show for the first time. Over the years, I have entered many displays into the show (including the popular Birthstones display annually), helped volunteer at the youth table, organized group displays with the youth volunteers, and much more.

Being in the club ignited my passion for geology and last year I decided to attend JMU to pursue a double degree in Geology and Art History (to learn museum studies). Sadly, JMU is about two and a half hours away, so I have not been able to attend meetings much in the last year, but it was great to finally see you all when I returned in March.

I wanted to let everybody know what I've been doing since going to JMU. After taking the introductory geology course at Montgomery College during my senior year, I was able to take the next level course at JMU, and I got to meet a bunch of other students in the department, who often hang out in the student lounge, commonly known as "Rock City." All of the professors are super nice and learning at JMU has made me 100% positive that this is what I want to do.

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What I've Been Up To

Jennifer Weiss

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I have also been interning with Dr. Kearns, curator of the JMU Mineral Museum and the Lisanby Museum, an art museum on campus. The mineral museum just inherited the collection of Peter L. Via, and we are in the process of moving into a larger space closer to the new geosciences building. We were scheduled to open in April, but that has been postponed indefinitely due to coronavirus. As part of the Lisanby, I helped research and write chats (the text descriptions) for minerals which are on display in their current exhibit "All That Glitters." The exhibit was a collaborative project between the Mineral Museum and the Lisanby and despite the recent crisis, it will remain on display until the Mineral Museum is opened. Hopefully, we will be allowed to return soon.

There is also a Geology club, which meets on Thursday every other week, and I have enjoyed getting to know the other students in the major and meet other teens who like rocks just as much as I do! A few weeks ago the club held elections, and I was voted Secretary. I'm looking forward to the upcoming year on the Board.

On a club field trip to the Shenandoah annual rock show, I met Thomas Hale, founder of the Virginia Mineral Project initiative. Thomas has been holding zoom meetings since the pandemic began, and it has been great to continue to be involved in that and have those meetings, even as everything else is cancelled. We are currently working on forming a Friends of Mineralogy Virginia Chapter, of which I will be a founding member and head of the Educational Committee.

If you have any questions or suggestions or want to talk about anything geology-related, feel free to email me at jrweiss6@gmail.com. Also, I highly recommend attending the Virginia Mineral Project Zoom meetings; I'll be a friendly face!

That is what I have been doing in the past year, and I'm really excited to see the final product of all of the projects I have been working on. I hope everyone is staying safe and healthy, and I look forward to when I can see you all in person at our next meeting (date undetermined).



Upcoming Show Updates

Most upcoming shows for our area are in a holding pattern currently. Many are being rescheduled or postponed at this point. Check the next Rockhounder for updates on shows!

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 – Germaine Broussard

Membership Chairman – Doug Baum

Downstairs Showchair – Chris Luzier

Upstairs Showchair – Dave Tiktinsky

Property Manager – Joel Rosen

Immediate Past President – Jonathan Harris

EFMLS Liaison – Andy Celmer

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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