



The Rockhounder

January 2021

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 Tuesday, January 26, 2021.

Regular Meeting Announcements

Ken Reynolds, Vice President

January Speaker Information:

Speaker: Gabriela Farfan, Ph.D

Focus of Talk: Research at the Smithsonian

Gabriela Farfan, Ph.D joined the Smithsonian Natural History Museum Department of Mineral Sciences in 2019 as a Curator of Gems and Minerals. She earned her B.Sc from Stanford and her Ph.D. from M.I.T. and the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. Her interests include Biomineralogy, Environmental Mineralogy, and Gem Science.

Gabriela has graciously agreed to give a talk to our membership on January 11th, focusing on the research side of the Smithsonian. She will discuss the breadth of current research taking place at the Smithsonian, the behind-the-scenes research facilities, and how she tackles her own research projects—ranging from the snowflake-patterned inclusions in quartz from China to how seasons get trapped in aragonite pearl layers.

Please note that this will be a virtual Zoom meeting and we will not meeting in-person.

Next Regular Meeting:

Date: January 11, 2021

Time: 7:30 PM

Place: Virtual (online Zoom meeting)

Next Board of Directors Meeting:

Date: January 18, 2021

Time: 7:30 PM

Place: Virtual (online Zoom meeting)

Inside this issue:

Item	Page
Meeting Announcements, Speaker Info	1
President's Message, Regular Minutes, BOD Minutes	2
Holiday Message from EFMLS	3
FRA Minutes	4
Upcoming Shows Update	5



President's Message

Holly Heighes

Happy New Year Everyone!

I sure hope it will be, and I hope to see as many of you as possible on our upcoming Zoom meeting on the 11th. This presentation will be an opportunity to learn more about one of our favorite institutions: the Smithsonian Department of Mineral Sciences. We will get to know Gabriela Farfan, Ph.D., who started there in 2019 and has been working closely with Dr. Post. Gabriela also belonged to a rock club in her home state of Wisconsin and hopes to become more involved with the clubs in this area.

Speaking of becoming more involved... Our Board is comprised of 12 volunteers and all positions are filled for 2021 thus far. However, many will have term limits and we will need additional volunteers for 2022. If you might be willing to help in this area, but are perhaps a bit uncertain, may I invite you to attend some Board meetings now?

As we are only Zooming, it is an opportunity to dip your toes in without even getting in the car. The meetings last about an hour and are quite convivial. You don't have to do anything; just come and listen. All members are always welcome. If you are willing- please reach out to me and I will send you the Zoom link! The Board meetings are generally the Monday following the regular meeting.

Hope to see you soon!
Holly

president@glmsmc.com

GLMSMC Regular Meeting Minutes from December 2020

Jeff Cessna

There was no regular meeting held in December.

GLMSMC BOD Meeting Minutes from December 2020

Jeff Cessna

There was no Board meeting held in December.



Holiday Message from EFMLS

Many thanks to each and every one of you for coming "in" this past year to participate in the many (virtual) events held by the EFMLS in 2020.

And we greatly appreciate your continued patronage in 2021!!!

2020 wasn't normal by any stretch

And what else besides an upside down Christmas Tree could be a fitting reflection of the times we're living in...

Photo below courtesy of
Pam Pollister & Vince Albicelli
(Philadelphia Mineralogical Society)



...can't do much better than above



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

Mark Dahlman

Next Meeting Date: Time will tell

Meeting Time: 7:45-9:00PM when we're back in action

Meeting Location: Sunroom Cafeteria at the Rockville Senior Center

Happy New Year! We've been highlighting activities from the Fossils badge lately, and one of the most important things to know about is the geologic timescale. The timescale includes huge periods of time called "eras," then not as huge but still big periods of time called "periods," and finally "epochs." You might read that a particular fossil is from a particular period (such as the Triassic period), or epoch (like the Miocene epoch). Good fossil labels will include this information.

The University of California Museum of Paleontology at Berkeley has put together a great website that helps explain the geologic timescale: www.ucmp.berkeley.edu/education/explorations/tours/geotime/geotime.html. It includes a couple of challenging quizzes (I didn't get them all right)- see how you do. Choose the "student" path on the first page.

I'd love to see pictures of your rock ornament (see December's article), or your collection showing off your fossils, which is another badge activity (see the October article), as well as any interesting fossil-related web links to share with the group. My email address is shown below.

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

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



Upcoming Shows

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 more 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.

Permission to copy material printed herein, except specifically copyrighted items, is granted, provided credit is given.

Award Winning Bulletin
EFMLS, AFMS



**TIME SENSITIVE
DATED MATERIAL
FIRST CLASS MAIL**

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