



The Rockhounder

July 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 August issue of The Rockhounder to Editor Olivia Luzier at editor@glmsmc.com by Monday, July 26th, 2021.

Regular Meeting Announcements

Ken Reynolds, Vice President

July Speaker Information:

Topic of Talk: Herkimer Diamonds

Speaker: Scott Braley

Our talk this month will feature Scott Braley, Assistant Professor at Northern New Mexico College. Scott has been collecting minerals since childhood, with a focus on microminerals and photography for the last 15 years. Until a few years ago, he lived in the D.C. area and was active in several local mineralogical clubs. Scott was a member of the NVMC and the MNCA, and is a past president of the GLMSMC. After retiring from the Air Force, he completed a Ph.D. and is now a professor at the Northern New Mexico College.

Next Regular Meeting:

Date: July 12th, 2021

Time: 7:30 PM

Place: Virtual (online Zoom meeting)

Next Board of Directors Meeting:

Date: July 19th, 2021

Time: 8 PM

Place: Virtual (online Zoom meeting)

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President's Message

Holly Heighes

Please mark your calendars for September 12th – a celebratory in-person gathering:

- GLMSMC Club members and their families only
- Auction of Wendell Mohr's extensive collection (silent and live)
- Youth-only auction (each youth will be provided with a specific/ equivalent amount of 'money' and bidding paddles so they can experience and learn about auctions without adult competition)
- Location: Griffith Park Pavilion at Gaithersburg City Hall, 29 South Summit Ave.
- Tables, restrooms, overhead cover and good (close) parking

If you have never been to one of our auctions, this would be a great one to start with. Our primary goal is to get Wendell's collection in the hands of our members and to further encourage our youth, which was so important to Wendell.

Our VP, Ken Reynolds, has arranged for great speakers for July and August so we can continue to keep in contact over the summer via Zoom. These meetings will be more informal– just speakers, show table, and any announcements.

Upcoming Meetings:

- **July 12th:** Scott Braley, Herkimer Diamonds. Show Table Suggestion: Quartz
- **August 9:** Bill Stephens, Wavellite. Show Table Suggestion: Wavellite, Peridot or other Green Mineral.
- **September 12:** Club Picnic / Auction
- **September 13:** Regular Meeting (currently planned for Rockville Senior Center)

2022 Board of Directors:

If anyone would like to volunteer, please let me, Chris Luzier, or Ken Reynolds know.





GLMSMC Regular Meeting Minutes from June 14th, 2021

Jeff Cessna, secretary

The June 14th, 2021 meeting was called to order by President Holly Heighes at 7:45 PM. There were approximately 37 people in attendance. The meeting was conducted online. A motion passed to approve the minutes of the May 10th, 2021 regular meeting.

President: Holly Heighes welcomed visitors to the meeting, including Nancy Muir, mother of Andy Muir, and others. Holly thanked Jonathan for covering the last meeting.

It was M/S/P to approve the change to the club by-laws, published in the preceding Rockhounder, regarding the makeup of the BOD. It was also M/S/P to approve the change to the club by-laws, published in the preceding Rockhounder, regarding the replacement of the terminology audit.

Holly announced that the Rockville Senior Center will be reopening in July. The September meeting is expected to be in-person, although that is subject to change. She reminded members of the club members-only picnic the day prior to the meeting. The Board of Directors meeting was announced. Any member is welcome to attend.

Treasurer: Jonathan Harris delivered a Treasurer's report. Income included membership. Expenses included storage fees for Wendell's collection.

Membership: Doug Baum supplied contact information for potential new members. Chris Luzier discussed upcoming events in Franklin, NJ. The Franklin Mineral Museum will sponsor special digs of Mill Site material each month over the summer. A pond swap and sale will occur on July 31st.

Program: Holly introduced our speaker for the evening, Jim Van Fleet. The talk was entitled "Historic Franklin and Sterling Mines of Northern New Jersey." Jim started by discussing the location, extent, and unique of the two ore bodies in Franklin and Ogdensburg. The 366 minerals discovered so far represent 6.5% of those in the world. Of those, 71 were first described there, 17 occur only there and, most importantly, over 90 have some fluorescent response. Beginning with the many daylight colors and different textures of willemite, Jim led a visual tour of these fluorescent, and a few non-fluorescent, species, including additional interesting details for collectors along the way. He went generally from common to rarities, such as znuclite and roebingite. Then he discussed other collecting opportunities from specimens that show geological features to possibilities with new LW flashlights to mining artifacts. After Vice President Ken Reynolds gave a brief background on the speaker, Jim answered questions from an appreciative

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GLMSMC Regular Meeting Minutes from June 14th, 2021

Jeff Cessna, Secretary

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audience. Thanks, Jim.

Ken discussed upcoming presentations on Herkimer diamonds, Mt. Pleasant Mills wavellite, and rare earth minerals from the Rutherford No. 2 Mine.

Field Trips: An upcoming limited access trip to the Middleburg and Mt. Pleasant Mills quarries was announced for June 25th. Details to be provided by email.

Show Table: In honor of our presentation and the local availability, a suggestion for the show table was to bring your Franklin district specimens. Those with items to present were asked to provide the information in the chat to facilitate inclusion in the minutes.

- Karen Lottes showed a glass jar of opals self-collected from her father's office.
- Jeff Cessna showed:
 - Sphalerite (var cleiophane), willemite, from Sterling Hill, Ogdensburg, NJ
 - Hardystonite (xtal), bustamite, clinohedrite, willemite, from the Mill Site, Franklin, NJ
 - Margarosanite from Franklin, NJ
 - Sphalerite, unknown (LW blue), franklinite, zincite from Franklin Mining District, NJ. Chris Luzier gave a potential ID for the unknown as calcite from Sterling Hill.
- Ken Reynolds showed a clinohedrite, hardystonite, and bustamite specimen from Franklin.
- Chris Luzier showed a well-crystalized andradite garnet with pale green willemite, barite, and franklinite.
- Jonathan Harris showed:
 - A phosphorescent willemite vein in calcite, self-collected at Sterling Hill, NJ
 - A green willemite with daylight fluorescence from Franklin, NJ
 - A reddish-brown willemite crystal self-collected Sterling Hill mine dump from special material.
- Pat Repik-Byrne showed two cut geodes showing unknown fluorescent minerals.
- Joel Rosen showed his U-Haul T-shirt with the theme of New Jersey state, highlighting fluorescent minerals from Franklin.

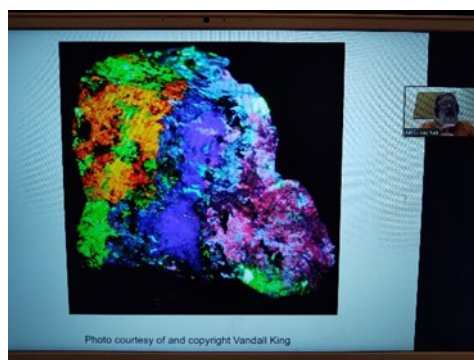
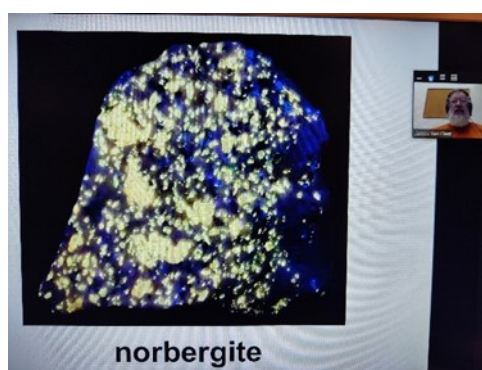
Adjournment: It was M/S/P to adjourn the meeting at 9:38 PM.



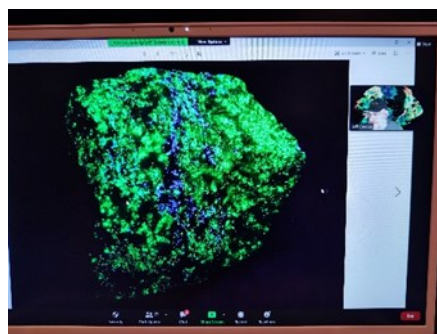
Pictures from June 14th Regular Meeting

Holly Heighes

A great big THANK YOU to James Van Fleet and his talk on the minerals of Franklin and Sterling Hill mines. Here are a few pictures from his talk:



And some pictures from our members' Show Table offerings:



Photos courtesy of Holly Heighes



GLMSMC BOD Meeting Minutes from June 21st, 2021

Jeff Cessna, secretary

Board Members Present: Doug Baum, Germaine Broussard, Andy Celmer, Jeff Cessna, Jonathan Harris, Holly Heighes, Chris Luzier, Ken Reynolds, Joel Rosen, and Dave Tiktinsky. **Guests Present:** Dan Kohn, Gary Leaman, Diane Leaman.

President Holly Heighes called the June 21st meeting to order at 8:00 PM.

Picnic: Holly had distributed a potential timeline and plan for the upcoming club picnic. Details were discussed including retrieving, sorting, and preparing materials for the silent auction followed by live auction of those items with multiple bids. Jonathan, Ken, Chris, Andy, Joel, and Germaine offered vehicles to move material. Ken and Joel offered hand trucks. Gary described material ranging from small containers of multiple specimens to larger specimens. He suggested the majority be divided into lots of full or half boxes. Sorting will occur the morning of the auction. As the auction material will take up most table space, several Board members will bring pop-up canopies for additional covered space.

Karen Lottes will have the key to the bathroom. Sign-up for attendance will occur online ahead of the event. It was M/S/P to cater the event using Mission BBQ, with members supplying side dishes and desserts. Jonathan will look at stock of plates, cups, and utensils. It is noted a caterer may supply some of these items. Jonathan will bring auction supplies. Special invitations to friends of the club were discussed. Holly and Jonathan will handle money. Premiere auctioneer Diane will supply her services. Joel will look for suitable signs to use at the picnic. Due to the club member-only nature of the event, information should not be posted to social media.

Meetings: The July and August meeting will be programs only with no associated business meetings. A Board of Directors meeting will be needed in August to finalize picnic planning.

Elections: Ken, Chris, and Holly will serve on the nominating committee for the executive officers. The current President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer are all term-limited. All present appointed directors indicated a willingness to continue in their positions.

Vice President: Ken discussed potential upcoming meeting presentations.

Membership: Doug announced that memberships were still being received. Additional outreach will occur for those who have not yet renewed.

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GLMSMC BOD Meeting Minutes from June 21st, 2021

Jeff Cessna, secretary

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Field Trips: Jonathan reported that 8 people had signed up for the upcoming trip. Germaine had mentioned the availability of fossil collecting opportunities at Purse State Park; however, limited parking makes field trips difficult. Information could be supplied to member in the newsletter. Others mentioned the availability of parking at nearby Mallows Bay.

Club Outreach: Chris Luzier reported about a visit that he, Jonathan, and Dave made to the Rockville Science Center to help identify minerals from the Chuck Hyland collection and others. They consulted on the display of the collection. They will return to continue identification efforts. The Science Center requested club assistance teaching geology for Boy Scout merit badges.

Treasurer: A Treasurer's report was received prior to the meeting. There were no additional details to report.

Show: It was noted that planning for the 2022 show needed to commence in September. The number and condition of stockpiled pre-forms needs to be investigated. Planning needs to identify any key individuals who might not be available to fill volunteer positions. It needs to be determined which dealers will return after the show hiatus. Joel reported Mineral House has been collecting at Clay Center and finding some neat stuff.

Other Business: It was M/S/P to offer the collection of Mineralogical Records to specific individuals. Holly will prepare and distribute a new version of the by-laws as recently amended. It was noted that the BOD and guests are grateful to the Rockhounder editor for her continued efforts.

It was M/S/P to adjourn the meeting at 9:11 PM

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



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

Mark Dahlman

Next Meeting Date: Time will tell

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

Meeting Location: Sunroom Cafeteria at the Rockville Senior Center

Summer is a good time to add to your fossil collection. One of the activities to earn our next badge, Fossils, is to curate a fossil collection. When it comes to our collections there is nothing more important than good curation so these instructions for the badge activity are worth repeating:

Build a fossil collection of 10 to 20 specimens. Some collectors concentrate on a single sort of plant or animal (for instance, trilobites) and try to collect a wide range of species. Others concentrate on one locality or formation and build an array of all the plants and animals that locality has to offer. Still others opt for diversity, trying to collect a little bit of everything (clams, brachiopods, corals, shark teeth, trilobites, etc.). Whichever form you choose, be sure to follow the basics of good curation, labeling each specimen and keeping a log book with key information (what it is, where it came from, age of the fossil, etc.).

Between now and when we meet again, keep your eyes out for fossils to build your collection whether that is something you can find, or something you buy (there are a lot of inexpensive fossils available these days). Perhaps you have some fossils already that could use a label, or just a little organizing.

I'd love to see pictures of your collection, 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.



Diamonds

Don Peck

This article is courtesy of Dan Kohn and comes from the "Mineral Of The Month" by Don Peck, life member of the New Jersey Mineralogical Society.



Octahedral Diamond From Wikipedia / USGS

"Diamonds are a girl's best friend," according to DeBeers, anyway. They have been known for thousands of years for their sparkle and durability. They are the hardest natural substance known, 10 on the Mohs Scale.

Diamonds are formed usually at depths of about ten miles or more, deep in the earth's mantle where the pressure is about 50K atmospheres and the temperature is around 1000oC. They erupt toward the surface in rocks, called kimberlites or lamproites. Pipes of these rocks are found around the world, but those containing diamonds are widely scattered. Diamonds also may be formed when large meteors strike the earth.

The color of a diamond may be caused by a trace impurity or a defect in the crystal lattice. The lattice is particularly stable, so impurities are mostly excluded and most gem diamonds are colorless. Boron is responsible for the color of blue diamonds, while nitrogen produces yellow to brown colors. In these cases, either the boron or the nitrogen replace a few carbon atoms in the crystal. Green diamonds result from natural radiation of the crystal that disrupts the lattice. It is thought that plastic deformation may be the source of pinks and reds.

The most productive pipes being mined today are in Russia, Botswana, Australia, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The richest pipe is the Argyle Mine in Australia where production peaked in the 1990s at 42 metric tons per year. Major discoveries have been made also in Canada, Brazil, Zimbabwe, and Angola. In the U.S., the only producing pipe seems to be Crater of Diamonds in Arkansas. Individual alluvial diamonds have been found in Northern states, mostly Midwestern, but these are thought to be glacial material from Canada.



Save the Date for GLMSMC Picnic



**SAVE
THE
DATE**

Outdoor Picnic / Auction

GLMSMC Members Only

Wendell Mohr collection

Adult & FRA only auctions

**SEPTEMBER 12, 2021
GRIFFITH PARK PAVILLION
GAITHERSBURG, MD**

Upcoming Shows and Events



Virginia Rock Swap!

*Hosted by the Gem & Mineral Society of
Lynchburg*

July 10th!!

10AM-5PM

Moose Lodge 715 Banquet Hall, 2307
Lakeside Dr., Lynchburg, VA 24501

FRANKLIN POND MINERAL SWAP AND SALE

SATURDAY, JULY 31st

Rain Date: Sunday, August 1st

- 9am to 5pm
- At the Franklin Pond Sports Fields
- All types of rocks and minerals from Franklin and around the world! **Don't Miss It!**
- **All proceeds benefit the Franklin Mineral Museum!**





Upcoming Shows and Events

GMSL Show and Sell

The Gem and Mineral Society of Lynchburg
would like to invite you to our Inaugural
Show and Sell.



When:

July 10, 2021
10 am - 5 pm

Where:

Moose Lodge 715 Banquet Hall
2307 Lakeside Dr. Lynchburg, VA 24501

Open to all surrounding Clubs, entry is free!! Tables
for club sellers are \$30 each or 2 for \$50

Must purchase tables by July 1st

Please email lynchburgrockclub@yahoo.com for more info

Food will be available on site through Hot
Diggity Dogs





The Rockhounder

July 2021

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/>

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Award Winning Bulletin
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