



# The Rockhounder

November 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 December issue of The Rockhounder to Editor Olivia Luzier at [editor@glmsmc.com](mailto:editor@glmsmc.com) by Wednesday, November 24th, 2021.

## Regular Meeting Announcements

Ken Reynolds, Vice President

## November Speaker Information:

**Topic of Talk:** "The History of Chromite Mines of Montgomery County, Maryland"

**Speaker:** Jeff Nagy

Our November speaker will be our own GLMSMC Historian, Jeff Nagy, with a new presentation on the Chromite Mines of Montgomery County, Maryland. Maryland was one of the best earliest suppliers of the tough-to-find mineral and had a thriving mining district based on this. It was mostly controlled by the mining tycoons, Isaac Tyson and Washington Waters, for a period of time. There is a fascinating history to the area that will be shared, along with the mines and personalities associated with this very important and lucrative mining district.

Jeff has always had one of our most popular presentations in "The Gold Mines of Maryland— The Maryland Mine," with an emphasis on Montgomery County. He is extremely well versed in the history and locations of Maryland's copper mines as well and loves to share stories and knowledge on these mostly

*Continued on page 2*

## Next Regular Meeting:

**Date:** November 8th, 2021

**Time:** 7:30 PM

**Place:** Rockville Senior Center,  
1150 Carnation Drive Rockville MD

## Next Board of Directors Meeting:

**Date:** November 15th, 2021

**Time:** 8 PM

**Place:** Virtual (online Zoom meeting)

## Inside this issue:

Item	Page
Meeting Announcements, Speaker Info	1
President's Message	2
Regular Meeting Minutes	3
BOD Meeting Minutes	5
FRA Meeting Minutes	6
FRA Youth Auction Article	7
Auction and Picnic Note	8
The Legacy of Wendell Mohr	9
Pictures from Penn-MD Quarry	10
Pictures from H & K Quarry	11
Upcoming Shows	12



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## **November Speaker Info (Cont'd)**

*Continued from page 1*

unknown mines of Maryland.

Jeff has been collecting minerals since the age of 10 and has collected up and down the East Coast, along with even Antigua! Apparently this Caribbean island is loaded with plant fossils!!!

Look forward to seeing you on November 8th for this exciting presentation on our local area and mining history.

*Submitted by Chris Luzier*

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## **President's Message**

Holly Heighes

Many thanks to Casper, who gave a great talk at our October meeting. Someone said to me that it was "just like old times." That was great to hear.

I hope our potluck party at our December meeting is just like old times too, with good food and members selling minerals (maximum of two flats per member please). Will people be draping themselves in grill covers like usual? Who knows.

As this is my penultimate President's message, I submit that this has been one of the stranger terms in our club history. I was only able to preside over three live meetings, we had two shows cancelled, and had a love/hate relationship with something called 'Zoom.' How strange life can be sometimes.

Happy Thanksgiving everyone!



### GLMSMC Regular Meeting Minutes from Oct. 11th, 2021

Jeff Cessna, Secretary

The October 11, 2021 meeting was opened by Vice President Ken Reynolds at 7:43 PM. There were approximately 29 people in attendance (25 adults, 4 juniors). A motion passed to approve the minutes of the September 13, 2021 regular meeting. A motion passed to approve the minutes of the September 20, 2021 BOD meeting. (Note: The actual meeting date was September 18, 2021 and was correctly noted in the published minutes).

**Vice President:** Ken Reynolds welcomed attendees, as he was filling in for President Holly Heighes. He requested that members follow the COVID precautions of the Senior Center. Guests were welcomed to introduce themselves. Ray from northern Virginia is interested in collecting, mining, and lapidary. Sabrina is interested topographical information on Montgomery County, MD. Julie is interested in fossils and in gold mines of Montgomery County.

Club officer elections will be held at the November meeting. Candidates will be published in the Rockhounder. If there are additional nominations, they can be taken from the floor. The BOD meeting will be held on Zoom. Any member is welcome to attend. Contact any club officer for Zoom link.

**Membership:** Doug Baum introduced himself to potential members.

**Show:** The 2022 show is planned for March 19th-20th. Dave Tiktinsky has received replies from one third of dealers, all of whom stated that they were returning.

Chris Luzier gave information about the upcoming Ultraviolation show on October 30<sup>th</sup> in the Philadelphia area. The show highlights fluorescent minerals. Flyers were available.

There is also a sale swap in the Richmond area on November 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Field Trips:** There was an upcoming members' trip to Penn-MD Quarry. The FRA field trip to Flag Ponds went well.

**Programs:** The upcoming speaker for November is member Jeff Nagy speaking on the subject of Chrome Mines in Montgomery County.

*Continued on page 4*



## GLMSMC Regular Meeting Minutes from Oct. 11th, 2021

Jeff Cessna, Secretary

*Continued from page 3*

**Program for the Night:** Ken Reynolds introduced our speaker for the evening, club member Casper Voogt. The talk was entitled “Trilobites of the West Virginia Area.” Trilobites, named for their three body sections, arrived in great numbers during the Cambrian explosion and departed in the Permian extinction. Their great numbers and diversity throughout time have allowed them to be used as an indicator species for time periods in geology and paleontology. Among the great variety in body types are adoptions of eye stalks and spines for hiding and protection.

Spiny examples are of interest to Casper. After a review of some worldwide and further afield U.S. localities, we learned more about Casper’s collecting experience in nearby West Virginia. Close to a well-publicized site in Gore, there is a privately-owned site (permissions required) that exposes the aptly named Devonian Needmore formation.

Casper showed examples of *Phacops rana* and *Elderedgeops rana* collected there. He also discussed tips for finding specimens and preparing specimens using pneumatic micro chisels and air abrasion tools. Finally, we were treated to photos of amazing worldwide specimens and provided resources for our own research. Thanks, Casper.

Show table and door prizes were administered by Joel Rosen.

**Adjournment:** It was M/S/P to adjourn the meeting at 9:21 PM.

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



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**GLMSMC BOD Meeting Minutes from Oct. 18th, 2021**

Patricia Cronin, Acting Secretary

Meeting commenced at 8:00 PM via Zoom.

**Attending:** Board members Holly Heighes, Joel Rosen, Andy Celmer, Ken Reynolds, David Titinsky, Chris Luzier, Doug Baum, Germaine Broussard and guests Gary Leaman, Diane Leaman, Dan Kohn, and Patricia Cronin (Acting Secretary).

**2022 Rock Show:** Discussion was held about the 2022 club show. Will we be able to hold it? In 2021, some clubs held their shows and some did not. Various options were discussed. Show fliers have not been printed yet. We are moving forward with the planning process, but a firm decision cannot be made at this time.

**Membership:** About 9 new people have paid dues and been voted into the membership recently. A new members list will be available soon. Current membership is about 150 people.

**Field Trips and Speakers:** JMU is reopening their museum this month. Several GLMSMC members plan to attend the opening event.

Jeff Nagy may be our November speaker. December will have no speaker, as that will be our annual Holiday Party.

Our youth group went on a fossil collecting field trip to Flag Ponds Nature Park on October 9th.

**Treasurers Report:** The Treasurer was not able to attend. He sent a draft budget. It will be discussed further and amendments made in November.

**Board Approval:** The Board approves Joel's destruction of all stink bugs found in the trailer, but he must make sure the blue plastic tablecloths are safe! :)

Meeting adjourned at 8:43 PM.

*Respectfully submitted by Patricia Cronin, Acting Secretary*



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

Mark Dahlman

**Next Meeting Date:** Monday, November 8th

**Meeting Time:** 7:45-9:00 PM

**Meeting Location:** Outside the Sunroom Cafeteria at the Rockville Senior Center

We had a beautiful, if windy, day for fossil collecting at Flag Ponds Nature Park on Saturday, October 9th. We were joined by Chris Luzier who, having decades of experience with Calvert Cliffs fossils, was able to help us identify the treasures we found. Thanks, Chris!!

Finds at the beach included many varieties of shark teeth, fish teeth, coral, at least one porpoise ear bone, other bone fragments, sand dollar pieces, turritella, and other shells, as well as the occasional tire cap. The FRA attendees were able to satisfy two Fossils badge activities: taking a fossil-collecting field trip and assembling a collection of at least ten fossils. We also enjoyed the excellent collection of local fossils on display in the park visitor center.

At our November meeting we will conclude the Fossils badge (bring your fossil collection if you haven't already) and decide on the next badge we'll work on. We will also discuss a group exhibit for the club's spring show, so this will be an important meeting to attend.

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



*Photo courtesy of  
Mark Dahlman*





## **Future Rockhounds of America Youth Auction**

**Nicole Mueller**

Member, GLSMC Future Rockhounds of America program

### **Youth Auction**

During the club picnic on September 12, Holly led the youth-only auction. At the start, everyone got a large tray of fossils and \$120 in play money to “spend” during the auction. Everyone was given a paddle with which to place a bid. There were about twenty lots with a variety of different specimens like calcite, geodes, fossils, amethyst, and even a Herkimer diamond. All the specimens came from the collection of Wendell Mohr.

Holly started the auction off with the first lot going up a dollar every time someone raised their paddle. Some of the lots went quickly with only a few bids while others, like the two geodes, went up to around \$60. Just like any other auction, no one got everything they wanted, but everyone walked away with several new specimens to add to their collections and bidding experience.

Timewise, the kids auction was rightly placed before the whole club auction, giving all of us kids a chance to practice bidding before jumping into the deep end to swim with the sharks. Thanks to the kid’s auction, three of the four participants were able to win and purchase a lot in the club auction and have a lot of fun while doing it.



*Photos courtesy of Holly Heighes*



## Auction and Picnic Note

Holly Heighes

**Editor's Note:** This note from Holly was inadvertently omitted from the last Rockhounder.

### GLMSMC Auction and Club Picnic

It was so great to see so many of our club members– more than 50 people attended! The food was great and the auction went splendidly. The kids enjoyed their private auction.



It was a great tribute to Wendell– an almost perfect day.

Thank you to all the club members who made this possible– it took a lot of work. Special thanks to all those who put in extra effort. You know who you are!

*Photos courtesy of Holly Heighes*





### The Legacy of Wendell Mohr

Holly Heighes

Our club meant a lot to Wendell and it was mutual. When he knew his health was failing, he told his family that he wanted his collection to benefit the Smithsonian and our club. His wishes have been fulfilled.

#### Wendell's collection:

- Is now part of the Smithsonian permanent collection—over 80 of his specimens are now part of the permanent national reference collection and 1 is currently on display.
- Will be used for club door prizes for the next two years (see pictures below).
- Will be used for youth education.
- Has been auctioned to club members (adults and junior members) so that, in the words of Wendell's daughter: "I'm glad everyone was able to take a little piece of Dad with them."
- The proceeds from the auction will benefit the youth program.
- The youth account is now named the Turner/Mohr fund.



Wendell's first term as club president was in 1983. He was also the EFMLS liaison, editor for many years, unofficial show supervisor, and all-around club expert. He knew everything about the club and helped make it what it is today.

He will be sorely missed.

*Wendell's daughters, Pam and Cynthia, at our 9/12 picnic.*

## The Legacy of Wendell Mohr

Holly Heighes

*Continued from page 9*

**Wendell Mohr collection specimens to be used for GLMSMC regular meeting door prizes:**



*Photos courtesy of Holly Heighes*

## Penn-MD Quarry Trip Photos

Sam Linton

Williamsite and cryptocrystalline quartz. Both are a bit scratched up. The crypto quartz is super sparkly, but you can't really tell in a photo.



*Photos courtesy of Sam Linton*





## H & K Quarry Trip Photos


Holly Heighes

**Editor's Note:** Photos taken from the October 2nd trip.





## Upcoming Shows



### GLMSMC holiday party

**December 13, 2021**

7:45pm


Rockville Senior Center, Rockville MD

Our holiday party will occur as usual with the addition of the mask requirement while we are not eating.

**Food** - Please bring a potluck dish, the club will provide paper goods & drinks.

**Sale / Swap** - Members can bring up to two flats of minerals to sell or swap if they wish.

**Gift exchange** - If you wish to participate, bring a wrapped mineral, fossil, or lapidary item in the \$5-\$10 range. Please only specify which of the three categories it is on the outside to maintain the surprise.



Pictures from our 2017 party. Who is under the tarp?





## Upcoming Shows

**Saturday**  
**November 13, 2021**  
**9am to 3pm**

### FREE ADMISSION

Open to all children and adults (from novice to expert) to swap or purchase various mineral, gem, jewelry, fossil, shell, and lapidary items.

Free items for kids and a raffle.

Food and beverages are available at nearby restaurants. Restroom facilities are available in the building.

*Richmond Gem &  
Mineral Society*

## 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Swap



**Ridge Baptist Church Meeting Hall, 1515 East Ridge Road, Richmond, VA 23229**

### NORTH OR SOUTH OF RICHMOND

Use I-95 to Exit 79 to I-64 West (North of Richmond City). Leave I-64 at Exit 181A (South) on Parham Road.

Proceed south on Parham Road for about 1.5 miles and turn left onto East Ridge Road.

The Ridge Baptist Church and Meeting Hall are 400 feet on the right, across from Kroger's Grocery.

Meeting hall is the white building at the rear of the parking lot.

There is ample parking in front of the Meeting Hall.

### EAST OR WEST OF RICHMOND

Use I-64 to Exit 181A (South) and follow the directions at left.



## Upcoming Shows



**FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY - Pennsylvania Chapter**  
**SYMPOSIUM November 13, 2021 Lancaster, PA**  
**FIELD TRIP November 14**

**Symposium** for mineral enthusiasts on **Saturday Nov. 13, 2021**

Hybrid Symposium - **ONLINE** or **IN PERSON** at

Bright Side Opportunities Center, 515 Hershey Ave., Lancaster, PA 17603

Talks by knowledgeable speakers on **Pennsylvania Mineralogy and Geology**

Sales by Select Dealers - Silent Auction - Give-away Table - Conversation

Registration: watch for registration form on our web site

Professional Geologists: Professional Development Hours available for lecture attendance

**Field Trip** Location to be announced. **Sunday Nov. 14** Open only to symposium registrants.

Watch for details, registration form, changes and updates on our **web site**:

**[www.rasloto.com/FM](http://www.rasloto.com/FM)**

For newsletters and field trips during the year, please join our chapter!

**See "Join FM" on the web site**

Tuscarora Lapidary Society Presents

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For information or to purchase tickets:  
[www.lapidary.org/gemarama](http://www.lapidary.org/gemarama)





## 56th Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Show

Date/Time: **March 19-20, 2022 Saturday 10-6, Sunday 11-5**

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

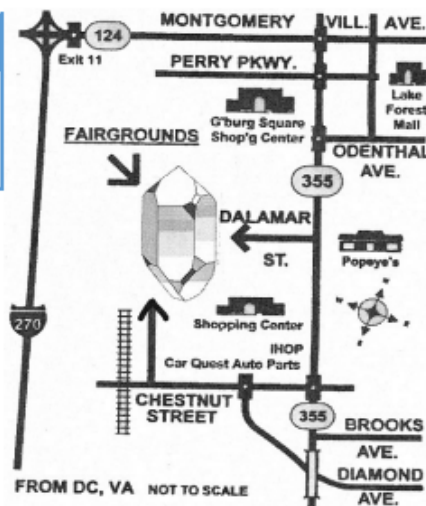
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Hourly Door Prizes  
Gold Panning  
Fluorescent Minerals  
Raffle Prizes  
Free Parking

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

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

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





## 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, 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](mailto:editor@glmsmc.com).

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Award Winning Bulletin

EFMLS, AFMS



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