



The Rockhounder

September 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 October issue of The Rockhounder to Editor Olivia Luzier at editor@glmsmc.com by Monday, September 27th, 2021.

Regular Meeting Announcements

Ken Reynolds, Vice President

September Speaker Information:

Topic of Talk: “Spinels: An Underrated Stone”

Speaker: Tim Morgan

Spinels have been mined, worked, and worn by humans for 1,000s of years. Long confused with rubies and sapphires, they are now coming into their own. At our first in-person regular GLMSMC meeting since COVID began, local gemologist Tim Morgan will talk about the stone—its gemological properties, its history, its lore, its value today.

Born and raised in the southern suburbs of Chicago, Tim earned a BS in math and an MA in history from Purdue University and a PhD in history from The College of William and Mary. He taught history at Ohio University and Christopher Newport University from the 1960s until 2005, when he retired from teaching. He began his love affair with rocks, minerals, and gems shortly thereafter. He has a small business (mostly online but does local shows), teaches gemology through the Montgomery County Department of Recreation (classes begin the week of his talk), and has taught at Wildacres and been a guest speaker there too.

Next Regular Meeting:

Date: September 13th, 2021

Time: 7:30 PM

Place: Rockville Senior Center,
1150 Carnation Drive Rockville MD

Next Board of Directors Meeting:

Date: September 20th, 2021

Time: 8 PM

Place: Virtual (online Zoom meeting)

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President's Message

Holly Heighes

As of writing this (August 27th)...

Auction/Picnic and September Meeting at the Rockville Senior Center are both on.

If there are any changes, I will send out a mass email to the membership

9/12 Auction/Pot Luck Picnic (RSVP was required) – 12:00pm Start

- Griffith Park Pavilion – 29 S Summit Ave Gaithersburg MD 20877
- Rain or Shine (If rain, we have the pavilion. If shine, we'll spread out on the grass.)
- More than 50 people have RSVP'd, and we have ordered the main course (BBQ) & drinks.
- Thank you to those who have signed up to bring a side dish and/or dessert.
- Please bring chair(s) and a blanket to sit on the grass if you wish.
- Youth Only Auction will start at 1 PM.
- Silent auction will occur during lunch from 12-2 PM, live auction from 2-5 PM.

****Please let me know if your plans change and you cannot make the event- this will help us keep the cost of food down and aid in planning.****



9/13 September Meeting **MASKS REQUIRED. PER SENIOR CENTER******

- Rockville Senior Center- 1150 Carnation Drive Rockville MD
- 7:45 start time (7:30 room opens for gathering).
- We will have our show table as usual.
- Topic: "Spinel- An Underrated Stone" by Tim Morgan, gemologist, club member, and dealer at our show and gemology instructor for Montgomery County & Wildacres.



Photo credits: Wikipedia



GLMSMC Regular Program Report from August 9th, 2021

Jeff Cessna, Secretary

The August 9, 2021 meeting was opened by President Holly Heighes at 7:45 PM. There were approximately 32 people in attendance. The meeting was conducted online. No business meeting was held, as this was a program-only meeting.

President Holly Heighes welcomed attendees. She gave details of the upcoming club picnic and potluck, asking for members to sign up to allow the BOD to finalize details. She noted the August 23rd Board of Directors meeting, stating that any member was welcome to attend. The BOD positions still needing to be filled for next year are VP and Secretary.

Chris Luzier announced upcoming August shows in Lebanon, PA, and Edison, NJ: the Franklin show is the 3rd weekend in September and the Ultraviolation Show in October in Fairless Hills, PA.

Ken introduced our speaker for the evening, Bill Stephens. The talk was entitled "Preliminary Evaluation of Mount Pleasant Mills Wavellite Occurrence." Bill discussed the recent workings of the Mt. Pleasant Mills quarry and the geologic context, with drone photos of the progress and location of the wavellite localities with the property. They are not in the quarry, but on the back side of a ridge in a different formation. The best specimens are found by looking in joints and bedding planes where the wavellite forms. Besides wavellite, planerite, variscite, and vauxite are possible. Within the same formation, fossils are also found. Within the main portion of the quarry, strontianite, calcite, and celestine can be found. Study of the minerals was aided by SEM-EDS by Ron Sloto at West Chester University. Thanks, Bill.

Show Table: In honor of our presentation, a suggestion for the show table was to show off your wavellite specimens or other green minerals. Those with items to present were asked to provide the information in the chat to facilitate inclusion in the minutes.

- Jeff Cessna showed three ugly specimens from Mt. Pleasant Mills, a strontianite and calcite specimen, and two wavellite specimens.
- Chris Luzier showed a solid wavellite nodule from Cumberland County, PA, and a 3-4 inch split nodule from Moors Mill, PA, the latter from a 1970s collection.
- Nancy Shinowara showed three specimens acquired from a dealer during a recent show, exhibiting several minerals in the same specimen from malachite to fluorite.
- Germaine Broussard showed two specimens she believed to be wavellite that had been purchased at an auction.

The meeting ended at 9:00 PM.



GLMSMC BOD Meeting Minutes from August 23rd, 2021

Jeff Cessna, secretary

Board Members Present: Doug Baum, 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, and Karen Lottes.

President Holly Heighes called the August 23rd meeting to order at 8:00 PM.

Picnic: The options of moving forward with the picnic as scheduled or postponing were discussed. The decision was reached to moved forward, given the outdoor venue. Hand sanitizer and masks will be supplied for those who wish to use them. Local conditions and rules will be monitored. Jonathan will update the food order and finalize 3 days before event. He will inquire about plates and cutlery and purchase if necessary. Jonathan and Andy will bring coolers for water and drinks. Ice is available next to the facility. Karen will purchase sodas. Chris offered to bring water. The details of the auction and schedule were discussed. Joel will bring additional boxes. Karen has extra tables available to use for food. The final details announcement will remind members to bring chairs and blankets for picnic, as tables will be used for auction items. The picnic will occur rain or shine.

Meeting: As with the picnic, the meeting will proceed. Local conditions and rules will be monitored. The Senior Center requires masks to be worn indoors. Provision of a hybrid meeting will be tested in a limited setting, for possible implementation in future meetings.

Property: Retaining a storage facility was discussed. All items will be removed from current unit for auction. Holly noted that the club operates at a loss without show income. As in-person meetings resume, auctions will resume to disperse backlog of donated items stored in members' houses. Pat Repik-Byrne will take custody of Wendell's mining exhibit and transport it to the club show.

Nominating committee: Most BOD positions have a nominee for the upcoming election. *A nominee for secretary is still needed.*

Treasurer: Holly announced her review of club finances is nearly complete.

Membership: Doug announced that paid memberships stood at 124 as of August. He is waiting on a few additional payments.

Website: Holly thanked Dan Kohn for the recent updates to the website. Jonathan and Dan will coordinate to ensure there is a backup of the site files.

Vice President: Holly encouraged aid for the incoming Vice President. Please provide names, topics, contact information, and past contributions for potential speakers to be consolidated in the club files.

It was M/S/P to adjourn the meeting at 9:24 PM.



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

Mark Dahlman

Next Meeting Date: Monday, September 13

Meeting Time: 7:45-9:00 PM

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

Since the club is meeting in-person this month, let's plan on having an FRA meeting. We'll hold our meeting outside the Sunroom at the Senior Center (parents, you may want to bring folding chairs and bug spray). Following the Montgomery Co. Public Schools policy, masks are highly recommended for our outdoor activities. Also, don't forget the Mohr auction on Sunday the 12th if you signed up for it!

At our FRA meeting on the 13th, we'll be starting the Fossils badge. We'll work on a badge activity, we'll have giveaways, and we should talk about taking a fossil collecting field trip in October.

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

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



BMS Oct. 9th Symposium

****Editor's Note: Thanks to Kathy Hrechka for sending this information over from Michael Seeds about some upcoming Baltimore Mineral Society events our members might be interested in.**

Summaries for the two talks are included below, as members might enjoy these, micromounters or not.

Desautels Micromount Symposium: Oct. 9, 2021, 1 pm Eastern (New York) time. (Free.) Register with Mike Seeds mseeds@fandm.edu.

"Micromounts in the Sancy Massif"

By Jean-Luc Designolle

The Sancy Massif is a volcanic area right in the middle of the French Massif Central, in the Department of Puy-de-Dôme. The Puy de Sancy culminates at 1 886 m height (6 190 feet). The first eruptions took place 4 000 000 years ago and the last only 6 700 years ago (giving rise to Pavin lake). The landscapes are wild with deep valleys carved by glaciers. Jean-Luc presents the synthesis of more than 30 years of mineral collecting in the massif, during his holidays and familial excursions. He follows ski slope development works. Most of the time, mineralizations developed in xenoliths: zircon, titanite, pyroxenes, magnetite, fluorapatite, pseudobrookite... Jean-Luc tries to differentiate the habitus of zircons according to their origin. Some basaltic lavas also host a few zeolites. Some exotic species (for France) have been found as well, and are still to be published in the Cahier des Micromonteurs.

Jean-Luc Designolle is an engineer. He graduated in 1989. After one year spent in Cameroon for his national service, he has worked at Colas (road building) for ten years as works supervisor, and since 2000 as design office manager. As a child, Jean-Luc discovered minerals during holidays in the Alps with his parents. He got his first microscope in the early 80s', and became member of the Association Française de Microminéralogie (AFM) in 1987. Ever since 1990, he is the Rhône-Alpes, Bourgogne, Franche Comté regional delegate. He organizes an annual meeting where regional members of the AFM share their best findings of the year, and where they decide the program for the field trips of the year to come (5 to 7 a year). Jean-Luc was elected president of the AFM at the annual meeting in Besse (in the Sancy Massif!) in 2007. Over the years, Jean-Luc has regularly authored papers in the Cahier des Micromonteurs (more than 40), promoted micromounting in mineral shows such as the annual event in Sainte-Marie-aux-Mines. He has designed and built carousels for ease of manipulation by inexperienced visitors. He also manages the AFM micromount collection housed in the Mineralogical Museum of the École des Mines de Paris.

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BMS Oct. 9th Symposium

****Editor's Note: Thanks to Kathy Hrechka for sending this information over from Michael Seeds.**

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"The Journey from an Unknown to a New Mineral"

By Dr. Anthony R. Kampf

There are now more than 5700 known mineral species and that number is growing by more than 100 each year. The long-held notion that there is a limit to the number of mineral species does not account for the existence of exotic geologic and geochemical environments (some extraterrestrial), which continue to come to light and others that have only recently been explored. Mineralogy books tell us about some of the basic tests (streak, hardness, cleavage, density, etc.) that can be used to identify a mineral; while such properties are important in characterizing minerals, they have limited usefulness when it comes to unambiguously identifying an exotic phase, or determining that it is a new mineral. Tony Kampf will lead us on the journey from the finding of an unknown mineral through its description as something new to Science – a journey that he has now taken more times than anyone else in the world.

Dr. Anthony (Tony) R. Kampf discovered mineralogy and crystallography as an undergraduate chemistry major at the University of Illinois in Chicago. He received his B.S. in chemistry (1970) and his M.S. in mineralogy and crystallography (1972) from that institution. He continued his studies at the University of Chicago under the mentorship of the inimitable Prof. Paul Brian Moore who introduced Tony to the thrill of discovering and characterizing new minerals, using both classical and modern techniques. After receiving his Ph.D. in mineralogy and crystallography in 1976, Tony joined the staff of the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County at the beginning of 1977. He has spent his entire 44-year professional career at the museum, serving more than 34 years as Curator (including 31 as head of the Mineral Sciences Department) and the past 10 years as Curator Emeritus. Tony has more than 450 publications and has authored the descriptions of 300 minerals (more than anyone else). Since 2008, he has served as the U.S. delegate to the International Mineralogical Association's Commission on New Minerals, Nomenclature and Classification.

Feldspars

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.



The feldspars are the most common mineral in the earth's crust. Actually, they are not a single mineral, but a mineral group. They are essential minerals accounting for most of the bulk in granite and basalt, the two most common rock types.

The feldspars as a group can be quite confusing. In the past several years, the IMA has attempted to reduce the confusion by simplifying classifications and nomenclature, but the result is far from crystal clear.

The general formula for feldspars is WZ_4O_8 in which W can be sodium (Na), potassium (K), calcium (Ca), or barium (Ba). Z is either silicon (Si) or aluminum (Al). The proportion of silicon to aluminum is balanced by the proportion of sodium and/or potassium to calcium and barium.

There are two major subgroups of feldspars. One subgroup contains the potassium feldspars and are associated mostly with granite. The other subgroup is made up of the sodium and calcium feldspars and is more closely aligned with the basalts. The latter subgroup is known as the plagioclase feldspars.

The potassic feldspars include sanidine, orthoclase, and microcline. The first two are monoclinic while the last is triclinic. However, it is nearly impossible to visually distinguish the symmetries from each other. Sanidine is commonly found in acidic volcanic rocks and is usually white in color. Orthoclase is common in granitic and syenitic rocks and also in low grade metamorphic rocks, such as most schists. Microcline is common in pegmatites, coarse grained iron rich rocks, hydrothermal veins, and high grade metamorphic rocks such as gneiss. Orthoclase and microcline are visually similar. If the feldspar is in granite or syenite it is most probably orthoclase. If it is from a pegmatite it is most likely microcline. Although both orthoclase and microcline can be found in large crystals, large crystals are probably microcline.

Sanidine and orthoclase are polymorphs. That is, they exhibit the same crystal form. However, their lattice structures have a disorder—order relationship. The Al and Si atoms are randomly distributed in the sanidine lattice, while they are in regularly repeated (or ordered) positions in the orthoclase lattice. The structural order is temperature related. Above 700°C, sanidine is more stable. Heating orthoclase transforms it to sanidine above that temperature. The reverse transformation has not been demonstrated.



GLMSMC Auction and Potluck Picnic

GLMSMC AUCTION & POTLUCK PICNIC

Club members and their household only

Please bring a side dish or dessert
The club will supply a main course

**WENDELL MOHR COLLECTION TO CLUB MEMBERS
VIA SILENT & LIVE AUCTION
YOUTH ONLY AUCTION WILL BE WITH PLAY MONEY**

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12TH 2021 12-5

Griffith Park Pavilion, 29 South Summit Ave. Gaithersburg

RSVP to: hollyheighes@gmail.com by August 21, 2021

Please indicate the # of people coming from your household
& what you plan to bring for potluck.
We recommend that you bring a chair(s)



Field Trip Announcement Reprint

Sam Linton

Dig...!

Penn/MD Quarry (H&K): October 2nd, 2021 from 8 AM to 12 PM (arrive by 7:45 AM) at 303 Quarry Rd, Peach Bottom, P.A., 17563. Strict limit of 25, so no other clubs. Children 10 and older welcome, but must be watched closely by guardian (1 per child). RSVP to cooldragonshirts@yahoo.com (Sam) between September 27-29th, because the dig is a long way off and your plans may change.

REQUIRED: Hard hat, eye protection, gloves, and steel toed boots. Last time Jay wanted us to keep one foot on the ground, so that means no climbing on the berms. If you are caught touching a high-wall, you will be immediately thrown out. As with every quarry, there will be situations that require you to use common sense. If you question a situation, ask the trip lead (Sam) or the company rep. The most common minerals to be found are quartz (usually crypto, but up to 1/4" ... prase too), serpentine (antigorite), brucite (usually thin sheets), chromite, magnesite (hydro- too), and deweylite.

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

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

See "Join FM" on the web site



Upcoming Shows

FRANKLIN/STERLING
GEM & MINERAL SHOW
SEPTEMBER 25 & 26, 2021
Saturday: 9am - 5pm **Sunday: 10am - 4pm**



Franklin Fire Department, 137 Buckwheat Rd, Franklin, NJ 07416

The Gem Cutters Guild of Baltimore Presents the 56th Annual Atlantic Coast
Gem, Mineral, Jewelry & Fossil Show



Howard County Fairgrounds West Friendship, MD
Sat. Sept 25 10am-6pm Sun. Sept 26 10am-5pm



Upcoming Shows

Tuscarora Lapidary Society Presents

GEMARAMA 2021

One of the largest Fine Gem, Jewelry and Mineral Shows on the East Coast


November 6th: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. November 7th: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Our 52nd Year Theme: Pictures in Stone

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Central PA Rock and Mineral Club's 55th Annual

GEM MINERAL & JEWELRY SHOW

September 25 and 26, 2021
Sat. 10 am-6 pm Sun. 10 am-4 pm

Admission \$6.00
\$1.00 discount on each of two adult
admissions with flier or postcard
Children 12 and younger free with a
paying adult

Harrisburg Consistory

2701 North Third Street, Harrisburg, PA
(Adjacent to the Zembo)



Upcoming Shows

THE MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA

THE TREASURES OF THE EARTH 2021

17th ANNUAL SHOW & SALE

SATURDAY OCTOBER 23, 2021 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
SUNDAY OCTOBER 24, 2021 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Oblates of St. Joseph, 1880 Hwy 315, Pittston, Pa. 18640

MINERALS
FOSSILS
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St. Joseph's on right side

I-81 Southbound - Exit 175 A
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I-81 N- Exit 170 B to Exit 1
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Web Site - www.msnepa.org



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Award Winning Bulletin
EFMLS, AFMS



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