



The Rockhounder

April 2022

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 May issue of The Rockhounder to Editor Olivia Luzier at editor@glmsmc.com by Monday, April 25, 2022.

Regular Meeting Announcements

Pat Repik-Byrne, Vice President

April Speaker Information

Speaker:

Steven Calamuci

Title of Talk:

Mineral Photography: Tips and Hacks

Steven Calamuci is a member of the GLMSMC and is presently a critical care nurse working at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Clinical Center.

He has been fascinated by minerals from a very early age, collecting calcite crystals and garnets in the mountains of New York. He began seriously collecting about 10 years ago. As his collection grew, he tried to take photos of his favorite pieces and learned quickly that it's not that easy. After discussing photography with his wife (a professional photographer) and borrowing her equipment, he learned to incorporate a few small adjustments that made a big difference.

Photographing minerals presents many challenges, from lighting the specimens to capturing the details. Each specimen presents unique situations.

Using tips, hacks and a little Photoshop magic, he

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Next Regular Meeting:

Date: April 11, 2022

Time: 7:30 PM

Place: Rockville Senior Center,
1150 Carnation Drive Rockville MD

Next Board of Directors Meeting:

Date: April 18, 2022

Time: 8 PM

Place: Virtual (online Zoom meeting)

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February Speaker (Cont'd)

Pat Repik-Byrne

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learned how to capture a high-quality image. Some of his photos can be viewed on the Friends of Minerals Forum discussion and message board website.

Topics to be covered include:

- Camera— phone versus DSLR
- Lens— macro lens and manual focus
- Additional Equipment— softbox tent, shooting surface that is flat and steady
- Flags and Reflectors— dark foam core to block light and white to reflect it
- Lighting— strobes, hot lights, natural light
- Aperture— depth of field
- Shutter Speed— drag shutter to “burn in” natural light or prolonged exposure for better results

We look forward to seeing everyone on April 11 for what promises to be a very interesting, unique presentation and demonstration by one of our own members.

Submitted by Pat Repik-Byrne

President's Message

Jonathan Harris

Fellow collectors, lapidarists, and lovers of geology,

Welcome to spring. I hope you had a chance to enjoy our wonderful show. Thanks go to the 60+ people who helped make it happen— planning; managing dealers, demonstrators, and exhibitors; setting it up; helping educate our youth; and putting everything away.

Also, thanks go to the many exhibitors and demonstrators who help make our show the best! I heard our fluorescent exhibit received some glowing reviews, just like the pre-COVID days. Our Future Rockhounds of America youth had a world-class exhibit of member specimens and several award-winning individual displays. Finally, a thanks go to our dealers, who provided more eye candy and new specimens for many collections.

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President's Message

Jonathan Harris

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While the return of our show was welcome fun, spring hasn't ended yet. There are plenty of opportunities for both the steel and silver picks. Many other clubs are having shows in the mid-Atlantic region. *(See the page 13 of the Rockhounder for more information on upcoming shows.)*

One of the most useful collecting tools is a camera, perhaps the one that is part of your cell phone. It is the only collecting tool allowed in national parks and many other places. The pictures you collect can be seen around the world without paying for shipping or worrying about fine crystals being damaged in transit.

Cheers,
----Jonathan

GLMSMC Regular Meeting Minutes from March 14th, 2022

Patricia Cronin

The March 2022 meeting of the GLMSMC commenced in-person at 7:50 PM. Minutes of the February Board meeting and club meeting were approved.

2022 Show

A few volunteers are still needed for the show, which will be held on March 19 & 20. Also needed are volunteers to help with set-up on March 18 and clean-up after the show on March 20.

The dealers are ready but there has been one last-minute cancellation.

Membership

See Doug if you have not yet renewed your membership dues for this year. He also has a few members' name tags waiting to be picked up. *(See page 6 of the Rockhounder for more information on renewing your membership.)*

According to Montgomery County policy at this time, wearing of masks is optional.

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GLSMC Regular Meeting Minutes from March 14th, 2022

Patricia Cronin

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Speaker: Dr. Jeffrey Post

The speaker for March (in-person) meeting was Dr. Jeffrey Post, one of our favorite guests and most-anticipated speakers. He has a B.S. Degree from the University of Wisconsin, Platteville, and a Ph.D. from Arizona State University.

Prior to joining the Department of Mineral Sciences at the Smithsonian Institution in 1984, Jeffrey Post had been a Postdoctoral Research Fellow for three years in the Department of Geological Sciences at Harvard University. He is currently Chairman of the Department of Mineral Sciences and, since 1991, has served as Curator of the U.S. National Gem and Mineral Collection.

He served as the lead curator for the Janet Annenberg Hooker Hall of Geology, Gems, and Minerals that opened in 1997. His areas of research include mineralogy, gemology, geochemistry, crystallography, and electron microscopy. He has published more than 100 scientific articles in these fields.

Dr. Post has recently published a book about the scandals, mysteries, and human stories behind the world's greatest gems, *The Smithsonian National Gem Collection– Unearthed: Surprising Stories Behind the Jewels*.

Dr. Post began his lecture by telling us about some of the disruption caused in his department by COVID and its Omicron variation. Even after parts of the museum were open to the public for visits, the research staff and behind-the-scenes folks had to work from home. His anticipated visit to the Tucson show also had to be cancelled.

We learned about an exciting new addition to the collection: The Lion of Merelani, a variety of green garnet known as Tsavorite, weighing an astonishing 283.75 carats. (Most of these stones fall in the 10-20 carat range.) Found in late 2017, it was cut into a cushion-cut gem of 116.76 carats. Vanadium produces the green coloration of the stone, which fluoresces orange. After being exhibited at the Tucson show, it is now being held in a vault at the Smithsonian until an exhibit space can be prepared for it.

Another Smithsonian Museum addition, but one you CAN see, is the fabulous “wall of crystal” now greeting visitors at the Madison Street entrance. At a mine in Arkansas, donors Chris and Michael Burns saw this 8,000 lb. specimen and bought it for the Smithsonian. Dr. Post showed slides of the excavation of the huge 2 adjacent pieces of crystals, the design of the exhibit, the process of transporting it from AR to DC, and moving and placing it in the museum. Removing it from trucks and carefully manipulating it through fragile displays in this historic building and carefully adjusting it in its display space took about 12 hours. It has already become a favorite selfie spot.

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GLMSMC Regular Meeting Minutes from March 14th, 2022

Patricia Cronin

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Other recent acquisitions include a pair of Corundum Sapphires from Montana, weighing 4.93 carats and 5.38 carats; a 57 carat Elbanite from the Democratic Republic of Congo; an Ettringite from S. Africa; and numerous beautiful specimens from other donors and locations around the world.

Dr. Post ended by showing a few slides of mines he's visited, some of his personal specimens, and some historic photos. He reiterated that rocks and minerals are spectacular in so many ways, from million dollar crystals to multi-colored beach pebbles.

GLMSMC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes for March 2022

Editor's Note: There was no BOD meeting for the month of March, due to the return of our show.

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



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

Mark Dahlman

Next Meeting Date: April 11th

Meeting Time: 7:45-9:00 PM

Meeting Location: Sunroom Cafeteria at the Rockville Senior Center

March 14th Meeting:

At our March meeting, the group worked on the FRA exhibit titled "Our Prized Specimens." Thanks to Nicole for leading the effort, as well as printing labels and signs and setting up the display.

The FRA members' specimens were excellent. It was really a great looking exhibit! As a result of the groups' efforts, everyone earned their Showmanship badge, which we will award at the April meeting. Thanks to all the families who helped to staff the Kids' Zone tables at the show, and thanks again to Nicole for taking responsibility for overseeing the Kids' Zone during the show.

April 11th Meeting:

After getting awarding the Showmanship badges at our April meeting, the FRA will start on the Rocks and Minerals badge. This badge covers a lot of important topics: elements, minerals, rocks, the rock cycle, crystal shapes, building a collection, and techniques for identifying different rocks and minerals. It's a great foundation for rockhounds. Of course, we'll have door prizes too! Bring a friend – this is a great time to start. See you there!

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

2022 Membership Dues

Doug Baum

Please send a check for \$20 family or \$15 individual membership made out to the GLMSMC to the address below. If you send a self addressed envelope, I will mail back your membership cards. If you have any questions, email dbaum18@aol.com.

Doug Baum
11205 Golden Meadow Court
Germantown, MD 20876



Pictures from the GLMSMC March 2022 Show



Ken Reynolds meeting George Loud for the first time!

Photo courtesy of Ken Reynolds



Isabella receiving the Lillian Turner Award from President Jonathan Harris.

Photo courtesy of Nancy Mueller



Nicole receiving the Lillian Turner Award from President Jonathan Harris.

Photo courtesy of Nancy Mueller



Pictures from the GLMSMC March 2022 Show (Cont'd)

Photos courtesy of Chris Luzier



Germaine Broussard's exhibit case showcasing spheres in a billiard set-up



Richard Ernst giving a long overdue cleaning to an exhibit case



Sharon Lyon's *Fossil Woman* exhibit case

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Pictures from the GLMSMC March 2022 Show (Cont'd)

Photos courtesy of Chris Luzier



Jonathan Harris' fluorescent minerals case

Eric Durland's fluorescent display



Kids' Zone/Mini Mine

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Pictures from the GLMSMC March 2022 Show (Cont'd)

Photos courtesy of Chris Luzier



Ken Reynold's copper exhibit case

Show Table for March 14th Regular Meeting

Door Prizes

Bumblebee Jasper from Java, Indonesia
Won by Diane Leaman

General Door Prize:

Azurite (polished) from Shangulowe Mine, Katanga, Republic of Congo, Africa
Won by Richard Ernst

Show Table

Jeff Cessna

Pam Ogasawara

Dan Bailey

Doug Baum

Jonathan Harris

Ken Reynolds

Calcite, Sphalerite

Axinite, Willemite

Megalodon Shark Tooth

Impactite? "Suevite"?

Aragonite

Lorenzenite

Willemite Vein in Calcite

Franklin, NJ

Franklin, NJ

South Carolina

Unknown

Mexico, Chihuahua

Kola Peninsula, Russia

Franklin, NJ.

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Show Table for March 14th Regular Meeting

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Ken Reynolds	Willemite Vein in Calcite	Franklin, NJ.
Richard Ernst	Petrified Wood	Paint Branch, P.G. County
Diane Leaman	Blue Aventurine Sphere	India
Gary Leaman	Amethyst Geode	Northern Cape, South Africa
Dan Kohn	Rhodonite	Wildacres
Barb Burr	Wulfenite	Aurora Mine, Mexico
Jake Margolis	Stibnite	McLaughlin, CA.
	Andalusite	Pershing Co., NV.
	Sulfur	Steamboat Springs, NV.
Joel Rosen	Galena w/Quartz	Pachapaque, Peru
Nancy Shinowara	Beryl/Heliodor	Pocket No.521-Volyn Deposit, Ukraine

Show Wrap-Up

Chris Luzier

Well, we were finally able to have another mineral show again and this was another excellent one, with great camaraderie, minerals, fossils and fun!!! There were many happy and smiling faces through the show and some after the show, even after all the work of teardown and packing everything away for the next one.

I want to thank all of our volunteers for all the work that they put forward in so many different arenas and ways that make the show possible each year. Without each and every one of you, from the kids to the adults, pitching in and getting everything done, we would not be able to have the show at all. Thanks so very much to all of you again!

We were wondering how this show was going to go, with a two-year hiatus from COVID and all of its aftereffects. We figured that it may dent show attendance for the first year back and the fact that Saturday's weather was absolutely perfect.

Great weather rarely bodes well for good attendance at a show, most especially an indoor one. This "perfect weather" is always a running joke with a huge kernel of truth! "Please don't let it be 70 degrees, sunny, and beautiful. Let it be cloudy and 55 degrees, maybe with a slightly cool wind!" Now that is perfect show weather! Unfortunately, we had the perfect bluebird day on Saturday, which

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Show Wrap-Up (Cont'd)

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Great weather rarely bodes well for good attendance at a show, most especially an indoor one. This "perfect weather" is always a running joke with a huge kernel of truth! "Please don't let it be 70 degrees, sunny, and beautiful. Let it be cloudy and 55 degrees, maybe with a slightly cool wind!" Now that is perfect show weather! Unfortunately, we had the perfect bluebird day on Saturday, which opens the door to many outdoor activity options instead of going to a mineral show. That being said, we were all grateful just to be able to finally have a show again!

The surprise that we weren't expecting was the number of first-timers who showed up to our show. The dealers also mentioned that the number of people was somewhat down, but that they had a lot of new buyers they had never seen before, along with some of their regular buyers as well. This is another area where things have changed since the pandemic.

So much of our promotion is so different now compared to methods that were popular just a couple of years ago. Much of it is now on just social media platforms that get replenished frequently with new postings and content that is ongoing. There are a multitude of different ways this is used, which we will be discussing at the Board meetings this year to figure out what we may want to try out and what we may want to add or change. This will be interesting to see how it progresses; we want to start now while it is still early.

In the end, the show was exactly what we wanted it to be: happy faces on children and adults, along with the joy and reward of being able to learn and teach about this hobby that we love. This show had a very relaxed and comfortable pace to it that was enjoyable to all.

I have never had so many comments and compliments on how wonderful our show was and is. The looks on a child's (or an adult's) face when they see a huge megalodon shark tooth for the first time; fluorescent minerals; or the fact that one mineral species can have so many colors and appearances, yet still be the same mineral! All of these revelations and experiences are how we all get started in this hobby. I volunteer my time to put this forth to be able to provide a venue and an opportunity for these experiences for people. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for doing the same with your time as well!

Much obliged and peace to you--
Chris Luzier
Downstairs Showchair



Upcoming Shows

Please check the websites to verify that the shows will be held and what mask requirements there may be.

April 2022

- **Chesapeake Gem & Mineral Show:** April 23
Location: Howard County Fairgrounds- Ruhl Armory at 4645 Heatherdowns Blvd, West Friendship, MD -
<http://www.chesapeakegemandmineral.org/>
- **Franklin Mineral Show:** April 23
Show is at Franklin Mineral Museum
For more information, see: <https://franklinmineralmuseum.com/>
- **Berks Mineralogical Society 53rd Annual World of Gems & Minerals:** April 30 and May 1
Saturday 10:00AM to 5:00 PM, Sunday 10:00AM to 4:00 PM
Location: The Pavilion at Leesport Farmers Market, next to the Banquet Hall, at 312 Gernant's Church Rd. Leesport, PA 19533
Admission Donation \$4
<https://berksmineralsociety.com/>
- **The North Jersey Mineralogical Society Annual Gem, Mineral, & Fossil Show:** April 30 and May 1
Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-4
Midland Park, NJ. Admission is CASH ONLY! Adult (12 and over)- \$5, Senior- \$4
The show is tentatively scheduled for April 30 & May 1, 2022 to be indoors, but this may change to outdoors if the COVID situation requires.
<https://nojms.webs.com/>

May 2022

- **Salem Gem & Jewelry Show:** May 27-29 (Fri/Sat. 10:00-6:00, Sun. 11:00-5:00)
Location: Salem Convention Center at 1001 Roanoke Blvd, Salem, VA 24153
Website: <https://americangemshow.com/>

June 2022

- **Gem Miner's Spring Show:** June 4-5 (Fri/Sat. 10:00-5:00, Sun. 10:00-4:00)
Location: Howard County Fairgrounds, 2210 Fairgrounds Road, West Friendship, MD 21794
Website: <https://www.gem-show.com/>

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Upcoming Shows

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June

- **Mid-Atlantic Gem and Mineral Assoc. LLC Wholesale & Retail Show:** June 4-5 (Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4)

Location: Howard County Fairgrounds, 2210 Fairgrounds Road

\$6 with online discount

Show features: gems, minerals, beads, jewelry, and craft items.

An outdoor tailgate section where vendors have rough material and unique presentations.

Hourly and grand prize drawings

Contact Teresa Soltis Schwab at (301) 807-9745, Email: beadware@rcn.com

Website: www.gem-show.com

31st Annual Chesapeake Gem, Mineral, Jewelry & Fossil Show

Saturday, April 23, 2022 10 AM – 4 PM

New Location
Howard County Fairgrounds
2210 Fairgrounds Rd. West Friendship, Md 21794

Minerals, Original Jewelry, Fossils, Rough & Cut Gemstones

Silent Auctions, Door Prizes

Free minerals for kids

www.chesapeakegemandmineral.org

Directions: From Baltimore take I-70 to Rt. 32 south; Turn right on Rt. 144 west Fairgrounds Road is half a mile on the right.

From Washington area – Routes 29 or 95 North to Rt. 32 west/north; turn left on Rt. 144 west-Fairgrounds road is a half of a mile on the right.

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Upcoming Shows

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Rockville Science Center invites you to the 31th annual

Rockville Science Day

Sunday, April 24, Noon to 5 pm

Montgomery College, 51 Mannakee Street, Rockville MD 20850



Join us for an afternoon of:

Archaeology
Backyard science
Chemistry
Conservation
Electric vehicles
Homing pigeon
Maker Projects
Math Games

Medicine
New Technology
Radio and TV History
Robotics
Raptors & Reptiles
Rocket Launches
Telescopes
Weird physics

**And other hands-on science & tech activities.
For all ages, kids to seniors!**

Free Admission • Free Parking • Food for Sale

Link to Science Day: <https://www.rockvillesciencecenter.org/rscd>



About Rockville Science Center

Our mission at the Rockville Science Center is to inspire a passion for lifelong exploration of science, through our programs and our interactive Science Center.



This event follows Maryland, Montgomery County, and Montgomery College's COVID-19 recommendations.

<https://www.rockvillesciencecenter.org/> • 240-386-8111



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Vice President – Pat Repik-Byrne

Secretary – Patricia Cronin

Treasurer – Diane Leaman

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Downstairs Showchair – Chris Luzier

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NON-BOARD POSITIONS

Field Trip Chairman – Sam Linton

Immediate Past President – Holly Heighes

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.

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Award Winning Bulletin

EFMLS, AFMS



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