



The Rockhounder

June 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 July issue of The Rockhounder to Editor Olivia Luzier at editor@glmsmc.com by Tuesday, June 28th, 2022.

Regular Meeting Announcements

Pat Repik-Byrne, Vice President

June Speaker Information

Speaker:

Jennifer Weiss

Title of Talk:

“Geosciences at JMU and the Intersection Between Geology and Art History”

Jennifer has been a member of the GLMSMC since May 2009 as a Future Rockhounder of America. In June of 2011, she received the “Rockhounder” designation, and began helping out during youth meetings and at the youth section of our annual shows. She was the third-place winner of the Lillian Turner Award for her creative exhibits “Birthstones” in 2013, “Turning Earth” in 2014, and “Super Solar System” in 2017.

After graduating high school in 2019, she went on to study geology and art history at James Madison University, where she graduated this past May with a Bachelor of Science degree in Geosciences and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Art History. While at JMU, she was involved heavily in extracurricular activities, assisting with the Mineral Museum, the Geology Club, the Association for Women in Geosciences, and Sigma Gamma Epsilon, among others. In the fall, she will

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Next Regular Meeting:

Date: June 13, 2022

Time: 7:30 PM

Place:

Rockville Senior Center,
1150 Carnation Drive Rockville MD

Next Board of Directors Meeting:

Date: June 20, 2022

Time: 8 PM

Place:

Virtual (online Zoom meeting)

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June Speaker (Cont'd)

Pat Repik-Byrne

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begin pursuing a Master of Science degree in Geosciences and a Master of Arts degree in Art History at the University of Arizona.

Jennifer's presentation will be centered on what she has done during her time at JMU, including her classes, her work with the mineral museum and clubs, her field camp experience this past winter, and her capstone research. She will also focus on her research efforts pertaining to the intersection between art history and geology, and how this can have implications for the future of both disciplines. She will then share her upcoming plans at the University of Arizona and her hopeful career goals.

President's Message

Jonathan Harris

Hello fellow rockhounds,

Summer is around the corner. This edition of *The Rockhounder* features shows you can visit and an upcoming fossil collecting trip. Also, you can read about our June regular meeting's presentation by Jennifer Weiss, who has been an active contributor to our club, both as an FRA member and an adult member.

Thanks to Doug and Dave's efforts, we have increased our Facebook group membership. We can post photos of specimens with sizes ranging from micro mounts to mountains. Posting photos is a lot easier than getting a Sideling Hill onto the top shelf of your display case.

Several club members were able to attend the joint field trip with the Delaware and Southern Maryland Clubs at Penn-MD Quarry. Those who attended— please post photos of finds on our Facebook page, if you would like. Some finds included fluorescent magnesite; a light green botryoidal mineral (likely magnesite); chromite; and multiple varieties of serpentine, including the translucent williamsite, brucite, along with micromounts of aragonite and pyroaurite. Keep an eye on our Facebook page as people add their photos. We are keeping alert for additional opportunities to collect.

One administrative note—at our meetings, we need to be out of the senior center by 10 PM. The custodian needs to close the room, get home, and get his sleep. Also, several members have long drives home. We also want to leave time at the break for informal socializing among the members. We will

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President's Message (Cont'd)

Jonathan Harris

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thus have to shorten our formal presentation times a bit and be careful as to how many lots we auction.

Also, for the show table, we will need to keep moving quickly. Please discuss only one specimen, and be brief! Remember that we need time for the door prize, show table prize, and collecting our belongings and equipment.

Finally, mark your calendars for the lunch-time picnic and auction at Griffith Park, Gaithersburg, on September 25. In addition to enjoying good food, we will auction some recently donated specimens.

GLSMC Regular Meeting Minutes from May 9th, 2022

Secretary Patricia Cronin

The May 2022 meeting of the GLSMC began at 7:30 PM. The minutes from the April club meeting and Board meeting were approved. There were 34 people in attendance.

Membership

There were five potential new members present. A motion to accept their membership was made, seconded, and approved.

If you use Facebook, please remember to "like" GLSMC's Facebook page. Read it often and post comments, photos, and information that would be of interest to other members.

Follow us on Facebook at
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GLMSMC Regular Meeting Minutes from May 9th, 2022

Secretary Patricia Cronin

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Treasurer

There was no Treasurer's Report for this month.

Show

Chris reports that the contract for next year's fairgrounds rental for the show has been signed. The fee for next year has increased. This is the first increase since 2015.

Other News

Tom Cummins has expanded his rock shop, GTC Rock Shop & Mineral Mining Experience. It is located in the FSK (Francis Scott Key) Mall in Frederick.

Program

Nancy Shinowara, a club member since 1996, presented tonight's program, "Collecting Turquoise." Nancy is a retired scientist who specialized in research and development of spinal cord and muscular-assistive devices. Her display cases at our annual shows have presented some of her stunning collection of turquoise jewelry.

When she purchased items from the auctioned collection of Dan Spielman, she was so impressed by his meticulous organization and labelling that she became more diligent about labelling her own collection. Some of the Spielman Turquoise was collected many years ago from now-closed mines. Several of those pieces were donated by our club to The Smithsonian Institution, as they had no samples from those mines. She urged all of us to take good notes and label everything right away while we still remember all of the pertinent details.

Nancy attends the Tuscan show every year and has become quite knowledgeable about Turquoise jewelry. As the supply of Turquoise has decreased steadily, she has learned more about determining good from poor turquoise and real from fake. Much of what is sold as turquoise in tourist areas is fake and made in China. She recommends purchasing from reputable dealers or from National Park gift shops.

The specific gravity of Turquoise varies by location. In the USA, it is 2.6 -2.7. It also exhibits a wide range of hardness. A lot of Turquoise is veined. Some Turquoise is softer and its color can change over time and due to exposure to household chemicals and even skin oils. Specimens with medium hardness are often stabilized, which is a process of using a material such as resin or epoxy to fill

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GLMSMC Regular Meeting Minutes from May 9th, 2022

Secretary Patricia Cronin

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small fissures and lock in the color. Many dyes, plastics, wax and other substances have been used to “improve” poor quality turquoise or fakes.

Variscite is often mistaken for turquoise. Gasparite is a greenish rock that is now rare in the USA; although, there is still some being mined in Australia.

Although we usually think of Turquoise as being bright blue in color, its color can be in a broad of range of blues and greens.

In decades past, there were many small mines in the Southwest, and rough could often be identified as having come from specific mines. Nancy passed around a chart from the Durango Silver Co., which identifies various shades of Turquoise as having originated at specific mines. Many of the smaller mines have closed. It is now often easier to find turquoise jewelry or carvings than rough. The Kingman mine in Arizona is one of the largest sources today.

Nancy showed an impressive display of some of the beautiful Turquoise jewelry she has collected. She told us that in addition to treasuring these pieces, she has very much enjoyed getting to know some of the jewelry miners and vendors she has met over the years, along with learning the history of the mines and the stories of the jewelry artists who created these pieces.

Nancy provided an extensive list of some of the references and resources she has used in her research.

The question and answer session provided more fascinating Turquoise information and lore. Turquoise is possibly the oldest gemstone– some items from 2000 BC have been found. Marco Polo wrote about Turquoise he had seen and admired.

Fakes are common and are made from a huge variety of materials. She once purchased three strands of “Turkish Turquoise” from an estate auction. When she performed a scientific test with a hammer on a small piece from one strand, she found it to be cement!

U.S. Native American Turquoise artists purchase raw turquoise from all over the world. TV shopping channels seem to sell a lot of Turquoise.

The meeting adjourned at 9:56 PM.



Show Table for May 9th Regular Meeting

Submitted by Chris Luzier

Door Prizes

Show Table: Kambaba Jasper from Madagascar

Won by Linda Kohn

General Door Prize: Amethyst from Brazil

Won by Diane Leaman

Tucson Show Poster: *Won by Sabrina Miller*

Show Table

*** indicates self-collected*

Jeff Cessna	Malachite, Willemite	Franklin, NJ
" "	Esperite, Willemite, Calcite	Buckwheat Dump, NJ **
Diane Leaman	Eudialyte	Quebec, Canada
Gary Leaman	Moqui Marble	Utah
Doug Baum	Crinoid Sphere	China
Pat Repik-Byrne	Sterling Silver earrings w/ Turquoise-Turquoise bracelets	Central NJ
Marcia Baum	Turquoise necklace	Arizona
Steve Hatleberg	Chrysocolla, Azurite & Malachite	
Chris Luzier	Turquoise nugget	Kingman, AZ
David Tiktinsky	Turquoise	Arizona & New Mexico
Karen Lottes	Eilahn Stone	Israel
Patricia Cronin	Gypsum	New Mexico
Joel Rosen	Sphalerite, Quartz, & Marcasite	Petosi, Washington Co, Missouri
Linda Kohn	Turquoise	Morenci Mine, AZ
Dan Kohn	Handmade Turquoise ring, bracelet, earrings	
Ken Reynolds	Turquoise crystals	Bishop Mine, Virginia
Tom Parnell	Vivianite	Kertsch, Crimea, Ukraine
" "	Adamite	Ojuella Mine, Mapimi, Mexico
Jonathan Harris	Kyanite	Willis Mountain Mine, Dillwyn, VA**
" "	Brochantite	Grandview Mine, AZ
Julie & Sabrina Miller	Turquoise bracelet	Unknown, gift AZ?
Germaine Broussard	Charoite/Garnets	Russia/Alaska
David Smith	Turquoise & Amethyst	Unknown
David Balenson	Miscellaneous Turquoise	Various localities
King Stablein	Turquoise crystals	Lynchburg, VA



GLMSMC BOD Meeting Minutes from May 16th, 2022

Secretary Patricia Cronin

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM via Zoom.

Board members present were: Patricia Cronin, Andy Celmer, Jonathan Harris, Gary and Diane Leaman, Doug Baum, Joel Rosen, Pat Repik-Byrne, Chris Luzier, and Dave Tiktinsky. Non-Board members present: Jeff Cessna.

OUTREACH

Doug will continue working to build traffic on our website and Facebook page. He sent an email blast to the visitors to our last show, thanking them for attending and directing them to our website and FB page. Last month, four people signed up for membership on our FB page. FB and Google searches are the best media sources for people to find us.

Frances Becker is going to Colorado to see friends and visit mineral groups. She has shipped about 30 pounds of Willemite, Calcite, and Hardystonite to give to kids at rock clubs there. Frances, Gary and Diane Leaman, and Chris Luzier donated this material.

PICNIC & AUCTIONS

The club picnic and auction will be held Sunday, September 25th. Several club members are storing donated items. Help from Board members will be needed during the summer to sort and prepare items for the auction. The Bednar family's donation of minerals will be auctioned at this picnic and auction. We shall then notify the family of the proceeds from their donated material.

We do have some donated items designated for FRA. Many items can be given to the kids at the meetings. Fluorescents will be given to kids at the next show. Wendell's remaining pieces will be auctioned off at our regular meetings in the fall. Wendell's collection has some highly desirable items, such as Herkimers.

AUCTIONS AT MEETINGS

We also discussed our time management at the regular meetings when we have an auction. They can cause the rest of the meeting to be hectic, cutting into the time allotted for show and tell and the door prizes. Some suggestions were discussed:

1. Remind the speaker that the presentation must end by 9:00 PM.
2. Limit the number of items auctioned to about 6-10.
3. Limit the number of items discussed at show and tell to one per person.

2023 CLUB SHOW

Rental of the fairground has increased by \$750 for next year. This is the first increase since 2015.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed that we increase our vendor fee by \$10 per table for 2023. A motion was also made, seconded, and passed (with one abstention) that we increase our ticket price

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GLMSMC BOD Meeting Minutes from May 16th, 2022

Patricia Cronin

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by \$1 for next year.

Joel has checked the trailer and is securing it until it is needed for the next show.

TREASURER

Diane gave a report on our current assets. We are in good financial shape. Gary reminded us that we need to update our computer and hardware. A suggestion was made that we look at our donations to the Smithsonian and others.

PROGRAM

June is our last meeting until September.

Meeting adjourned at 9:06 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia Cronin

Future Rockhounds of America (The MOCKS) Ages 9-16

Mark Dahlman

Next Meeting Date: June 13th **Meeting Time:** 7:45-9:00 PM

Meeting Location: Sunroom Cafeteria at the Rockville Senior Center

May 9th Meeting:

We continued activities for the Rocks and Minerals badge at our June meeting. We tried out testing hardness of a variety of mineral specimens and started learning the terms to describe luster. Everyone went home with new specimens for their collections. (Building a mineral collection is one of the activities for this badge as well.)

June 13th Meeting:

At our June meeting, we'll join the general meeting to listen to a presentation about geoscience by Jennifer Weiss. Jennifer was a recent member of the FRA and earned her degree in Geosciences from James Madison University this year. We'll also talk briefly about our upcoming fossil collecting trip to Flag Ponds on June 26th. 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.



Upcoming Shows

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

June 2022

2nd Annual *SUMMER* South Jersey Gem, Jewelry, Mineral & Fossil Show

******Date:** June 11, 2021****

Location: 1721 Springdale Road Cherry Hill, NJ 08054

Show Times: Saturday (6/11/22) 10:00 am - 5:00 pm (Saturday Only) (Outdoor Only)

***Rain Date:** Sunday (6/12/22) 10:00 am - 5:00 pm (Outdoor Only)

Website: www.sjmineralshow.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/sjmineralshow

July 2022

The Monongahela Rockhounds Gem Mineral & Fossil Show

7/23/2022 - 7/24/2022

Sat 10:00 AM- 6:00 PM

Sun 10:00 AM- 4:00 PM

<https://www.monongahelarockhounds.org/>

660 Noble Drive
West Mifflin Volunteer Fire Co., #4 Skyview Hall
Pittsburgh, PA, 15236



Upcoming Shows

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July 2022

Long Island Mineral & Geology Society Show

7/30/2022 - 7/31/2022

10:00 AM- 5:00 PM

<http://www.limineralandgeology.com/LiMags/Home.html>

15125 Main Rd
Mattituck Cutchogue Jr-Sr High School
Mattituck, New York 11952

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Upcoming Shows

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2ND ANNUAL GEM AND MINERAL SHOW! FREE ADMISSION!!

SHOWTIME JULY 23 10AM-6PM

SHOW LOACATED AT: (MOOSE LODGE 715) 2307 LAKESIDE DR. LYNCHBURG, VA 24501

ENTERTAINMENT FOR ALL AGES!! -SPECIMEN RAFFLE -50/50 -HANDMADE JEWELRY -TOP QUALITY SPECIMENS - CUTTING ROUGH -LAPIDARY ART



GMSL P.O. Box 11975 Lynchburg, VA 24506-1975

The Gem and Mineral Society of Lynchburg, VA

-Monthly Meetings -Workshops -Field Trips -Newsletters -Auctions



www.lynchburgrockclub.org

Lynchburgrockclub@yahoo.com



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President – Jonathan Harris

Vice President – Pat Repik-Byrne

Secretary – Patricia Cronin

Treasurer – Diane Leaman

Membership Chairman – Doug Baum

Downstairs Showchair – Chris Luzier

Upstairs Showchair – Dave Tiktinsky

Property Manager – Joel Rosen

EFMLS Liaison – Andy Celmer

At Large Board Members – Ken Reynolds, Karen Lottes, Gary Leaman, Dan Kohn

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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