

March 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 April issue of The Rockhounder to Editor Olivia Luzier at editor@glmsmc.com by Monday, March 28, 2022.

Regular Meeting Announcements

Pat Repik-Byrne, Vice President

March Speaker Information

Speaker: Jeffrey E. Post, Ph.D.

Curator-In-Charge, National Gem and Mineral Collection Smithsonian Institution

Title of Talk: "Updates from the Smithsonian Collection, etc."

I am pleased to announce Dr. Jeffrey E. Post as the distinguished speaker for the March 14, 2022 meeting. Dr. Post's presentation will diverge a bit from those he's given over the past few years. As he did not attend the Tucson Gem & Mineral Show in 2021 and 2022, his presentation will be a bit broader in topic than in the past.

While he will still discuss new acquisitions to the Smithsonian collection and give an update on news from the museum, he will also present some of his favorite topics and those in which scientists at the Smithsonian have been involved.

Dr. Post is a native of Wisconsin and received his Bachelor of Science degrees in geology and chemistry from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville. He

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Next Regular Meeting:

Date: March 14, 2022 **Time:** 7:30 PM **ce:** Rockville Senior Center

Place: Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Drive Rockville MD

Next Board of Directors Meeting:

TBD

(Typically we do not have a BOD meeting in March, due to our show.)

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February Speaker (Cont'd)

Pat Repik-Byrne

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received his PhD. degree, with a specialty in geochemistry, from Arizona State University. He was a Postdoctoral Research Fellow for three years in the Department of Geological Sciences at Harvard University prior to joining the Department of Mineral Sciences at the Smithsonian Institution in 1984. Since 1991, he has served as Minerologist and is Curator-In-Charge of Gems and Minerals of the U.S. National Gem and Mineral Collection at the Smithsonian Institution.

His research interests include environmental minerology, single crystal and X-ray diffraction, manganese oxide minerals, clay minerals, computer modeling of mineral structures, and gemology. He has published more than 100 scientific articles in these fields.

President's Message

Jonathan Harris

Hello fellow Rockhounds. Spring is around that corner. So is our show. A great thanks to all of those who have volunteered to help make our show the best!

We can still use more people for setup, takedown, the kid's zone, and admissions. Please reach out to Chris to sign up for slots (see prior emails).

Aside from our show, there is quite a bit of news and future events this spring. See the rest of the Rockhounder to learn about these opportunities.

I look forward to seeing you all at the show in a couple of weeks.

Cheers, Jonathan



March 2022

GLMSMC Regular Meeting Minutes from February 28th, 2022

Patricia Cronin

Meeting at 7:45 PM (in person at the Rockville Senior Center) was opened by President Jonathan Harris. The meeting had been postponed from February 14th because of Valentine's Day. Thirty adults and 4 juniors were present. Last months' minutes were approved, as were the minutes of the BOD.

MEMBERS & FRIENDS

George Durland, a Lifetime Member, was present at tonight's meeting. He stated that he has a lot of good memories of his years in the club.

Frances Becker's father passed away recently. Many club members knew him and remembered him fondly. (See page 8 in this issue of *The Rockhounder* for more information about his memorial service.)

Dale and Pam owned the security service that provided security at our show for many years. Dale passed away of COVID in 2020. Pam continues to operate the security business and her staff will be with us at next month's show.

We have three new members. George Knight is a returning member. He was part of GLMSCMC when he was a student at UMD. David Balenson purchased a geode at his first rock show when he was a child many years ago. He still has one half of it. Julie Miller won a prize during the raffle at the holiday party in December and she's back. Welcome to all of you!

SHOW

The show will be held March 19th & 20th at the Montgomery Co. Fairground. Please sign up for the times you can volunteer to help. Also, notify Chris about any exhibits you will display. Joel tells us the storage trailers are ready to roll. He needs a lot of help unloading on Friday and re-loading on Sunday.

We have a full complement of dealers, including some who are new to us this year.

Mamma Lucia's Restaurant will be our new food service provider for our show, with a very full menu.

TREASURER

Taxes have been submitted.

PROGRAM

The speaker tonight was club member Chris Luzier. He is a long-time member and has held many



GLMSMC Regular Meeting Minutes from February 28th, 2022

Patricia Cronin

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club offices, including President and Vice President. He belongs to six rock and mineral clubs. The title of his talk was "Willemite in Daylight: It's Not Just a Fluorescent Mineral."

Although Chris had only 60 minutes to discuss one of his (many) favorite minerals, he talked so fast and so knowledgably that he squeezed at least 120 minutes of information into his presentation. The slides he used to demonstrate his talk were exquisite. The photos were taken by Chris, Ken Reynolds, and Steve Stevenson. Chris started with some examples of gemmy Willemite from Franklin, NJ.

Although the mineral is usually red or green under short wave light, it can be any color in daylight. Also, some "Shot Ore" Willemite crumbles while sitting on a shelf. These "Sugar Willemites" are similar to sugar in that the size of the crystals are the same size as sugar crystals and can shed particles without being touched.

A rock with 3%-8% manganese from Franklin/Sterling seems to give the best fluorescence.

One lovely specimen photo showed amber and green colors. Some of the gem quality stones have striations. Two of the rarest colors from Franklin are a strong yellow and a pale blue. There are often zones of separate colors and certain combinations of minerals that can be found in the same specimen. There are numerous patterns in Willemite that are know by specific names, like "Candy Willemite," "Turkey Tail," and "Radiating."

Chris has many Willemite specimens he has personally collected and some he purchased. Some of his purchased specimens were collected in the 1890s to early 1900s. Chris admires the identification labels found on the bottom of many of his older specimens. He advises collectors to label their specimens for future reference.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Patricia Cronin

Follow us on Facebook at

https://www.facebook.com/groups/984241208329511/



March 2022

GLMSMC BOD Meeting Minutes from February 22nd, 2022

Patricia Cronin

Meeting commenced at 7:37 PM, via Zoom.

Present: Karen Lottes, Dan Kohn, Jonathan Harris, Patricia Cronin, Chris Luzier, Andy Celmer, Doug Baum, Gary and Diane Leaman, Dave Tiktinsky, and Pat Repik-Byrne.

MARCH 2022 ROCK SHOW

FOOD

Discussion was held about food vendors for the March rock show. Andy has been in contact with an association of food trucks. Pat Repik-Byrne has talked with an Italian restaurant that also does catering. The fairground does not yet have a regular food vendor to rent their kitchen during events.

Update: After Pat Repik-Byrne's discussions with Mamma Lucia restaurant, the restaurant indicated interest in providing food at the show. After further email discussion among the Board members, a decision was made to have Mamma Lucia's provide the food. Mamma Lucia's will deal directly with the Montgomery County Fairgrounds about the rental of the kitchen space. There will be no cost to the club.

OTHER SHOW ITEMS

Chris has a list of supplies still needed. Much is already available, as purchases were made for the 2020 show, which did not occur. Deposits for rented items, such as tables, have carried over. Table layout has changed, as there will be no Lapidary Shop this year. Other demonstrators are scheduled.

UV tent supplies are ready. Karen will prepare the quiz for the juniors. Pat Repik-Byrne will prepare the Wendell Mohr Memorial exhibit. Our old PA system is no longer functional; Chris will look into acquiring one. Volunteers are especially needed at the kids' table. Information promoting the Junior Rockhounders will be available at the kids' table. Many other details were noted and assigned to various members.

TREASURER

Latest report can be found in the club drop box.

MEMBERSHIP

Doug has received club dues from 37 adults and 1 child so far. Doug asks that Board members look at the website and make suggestions about possible changes or eliminations. Paper membership applications will be kept for contact information. We have about 100 club patches for sale.

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GLMSMC BOD Meeting Minutes from February 22nd, 2022

Patricia Cronin

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Dan has updated the website and has reorganized several sections. The membership form on the website has also been updated.

OTHER BUSINESS

Frances' father has passed away. Many club members knew him and remembered him fondly. (Please see information about his memorial service on page 8.)

GEORGE BENDER COLLECTION

George Bender's donated collection will be auctioned at a member's only date in the summer. A thank-you letter will be sent by club Secretary Patricia Cronin.

Motion to adjourn made, seconded, and passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:59 PM.

A Word About Our Show

Chris Luzier

Our show is rapidly approaching on March 19th & 20th at the Gaithersburg Fairgrounds and we are ready to go! We still have some last minute sign-ups that need to be filled with set-up and teardown, along with Admissions and the Juniors' Mini-Mine area.

On March 14th, we have one more regular meeting still left ahead of the show with Dr. Jeffrey Post. We would love to see you there!

This meeting always helps with last-minute logistics and volunteer sign-ups for the show. I will also send out the volunteer sign-up sheets to the members' email one more time ahead of that meeting. The earlier we get these filled up, the better I sleep at night! Help me sleep well--

Peace and thanks again--Chris Luzier Downstairs Showchair





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

Mark Dahlman

Next Meeting Date: March 14th **Meeting Time:** 7:45-9:00 PM

Meeting Location: Sunroom Cafeteria at the Rockville Senior Center

February 28th Meeting:

At our February meeting, we started working on the Showmanship badge by looking at and discussing a lot of examples from past shows. Nicole led the group in improving an example exhibit—thanks Nicole! Everyone received the judging criteria for the Lillian Turner Awards as well as an exhibit entry form. Individual junior exhibits (completely voluntary) are eligible for the very generous Lillian Turner Awards.

March 14th Meeting:

At our March meeting, Nicole will be leading us to put together our group exhibit for the show. The theme of our group exhibit is "Our Prized Specimens." <u>Please bring three to five specimens to include in the group exhibit.</u> We'll work on the labels and the other information that will go in the exhibit. Participating in the group exhibit will satisfy a requirement for the Showmanship badge. See you soon!

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



Submitted by Chris Luzier

Our longtime and active GLMSMC member, Frances Becker has relayed the news that her father, John Becker, passed away on February 10th, 2022. John was a pleasure to talk to and had so many stories to tell about his ninety years of life! He will be missed by many. Thanks to Frances for providing the following memorial of her father and the details of the upcoming service for him on Saturday, March 12th at 2:00 at the Gaithersburg Church of the Nazarene, 8921 Warfield Road in Gaithersburg, MD.

JOHN EDWARD BECKER

John Edward Becker, 90, died on February 10th, 2022, at his home of 53 years, Edgehill Farm in Unity, Maryland.

He was born in the Bronx, New York, to the late Edith Hauser and the late Frank John Becker. He was a 1953 graduate from Western Maryland College, Westminster, MD, as well as receiving a Master's degree and continued studies from the University of Buffalo, Buffalo, NY.

He was an elementary teacher for thirty years, the majority at Cedar Grove Elementary School, Germantown, MD. Mr. Becker was the first and only striker and picketer in front of Cedar Grove Elementary at the Montgomery County Teacher's Strike of 1968 until others followed his lead over the next few days.

John was a charter member of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Silver Spring, MD, a member of the Hilbus Chapter of the Organ Historical Society, Washington D.C., and a member of The Friends of the Agricultural History Farm Park, Inc., Derwood, MD, and a true historic preservation activist. A fabulous chef and baker courtesy of his diploma from the Food Trades Vocational High School, Manhattan, NY, he perfected and mastered Julia Child's Reine de Saba cake. He also was a coffee connoisseur who enjoyed roasting his own blends of coffee. Playing his pipe organ and his piano were lovely notes to hear. Everything he learned, taught others, or championed he did so with reflectiveness, happiness and strength.

Proceeding in death were his wife, Janet Willcox Becker, his sister, Marian Louise (Delbert) Hand, brother, Robert J. (Eileen) Becker and his step grandchild, Destin Mosko.

He is survived by his twin daughters, Frances Becker and Amanda (Robert Mosko) and step grand-children, Jorden, Evan, and Desi (Anthony). Also survived by his nieces, Barbara Delfa, Patricia Cuomo (Louis), Susan Krausman (Kenneth), Robert Hand, Raymond Hand (Melody), Ritchie Hand (Debbie), Eddie Hand, and John R. Becker as well as many more loved family members and friends.

Memorial donations in his name may be made to support the Organ Historical Society for pipe organ student scholarships (330 N Spring Mill Road, Villanova, PA 19085) or the "Unity Scholarship" at Warren Wilson College. This scholarship was established by John and his daughters in memory of



Submitted by Chris Luzier

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his late wife, Janet, supporting students who are passionate about English, Foreign Languages, American History, Music, Art, or Craft Studies.

Checks may be made out to Warren Wilson College with "Unity Scholarship" in the for/memo line and sent to Warren Wilson College Advancement at PO Box 9000, CPO 6376, Asheville, NC, 28815 or online to Mark Newman, Director of Development at mnewman@warren-wilson.edu.

Or remember him by participating in the John Becker way to "pop in" unannounced at a friend's house of your choosing. His friends were also his family and he adored speaking to all!

A Memorial Service will be held Saturday, March 12, 2022, at 2:00 pm at the Gaithersburg Church of the Nazarene, 8921 Warfield Road, Gaithersburg, MD 20882.

Pictures from February 28th Regular Meeting

Photos courtesy of Ken Reynolds





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Pictures from February 28th Regular Meeting

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Show Table for February 28th Regular Meeting

Door Prizes

Show Table: Calcite from Elmwood, Tennessee, won by Joel Rosen

General: Megalodon Shark Tooth from unknown locality, won by Patricia Cronin

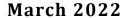
Show Table:

Ieff Cessna Sphalerite(FL) Horn Silver Mine, Utah Joel Rosen Willemite Franklin, NJ Willemite/Calcite Gary Leaman Franklin, NJ Diane Leaman Willemite Franklin, NJ Willemite Franklin & Sterling Hill Mines Ken Reynolds Steve Hatleberg Ruby in Zoisite India **Doug Baum** Hardystonite Franklin, NJ "Portable Power" **Reed Owens**

Eric Durland Willemite Sterling Hill Mine Nate Durland Willemite Sterling Hill Mine Linda Kohn Wernerite Sphere Quebec, Canada

Jonathan Harris Willemite(2) Franklin & Sterling Hill Mines

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Show Table for February 28th Regular Meeting

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Dave Fryauff Spodumene Afghanistan (Wendell's)

Nancy Shinowara Cobaltoan Calcite The Congo

Malachite Aragonite Libertinite Rosalite

Marcia Baum Ruby & Opal Australia?

Field Trip Announcement

Sam Linton

Middleburg and Mount Pleasant Mills (MPM) Quarry

Saturday, April 9 (starting at 9:15 AM)

Do not be late! Make sure to show up by 9:15!

Meet at Middleburg (3499 Quarry Rd, Middleburg, PA 17842). We will take the brief and sermon from Eric then head into the quarry. We will hound there until 1 PM and leave earlier to go to the other quarry site if we aren't finding much. We will then head over to MPM (217 Quarry Rd, MPM, VA 17853). The Wavelite area in the back should be available.

Required safety gear= glasses, hard hat, boots, and gloves. No shorts! Kids are allowed but MUST be watched closely and stay nearby an adult. Stay away from high walls and drop-offs. Anyone caught touching a highwall will be asked to leave with no additional warning. Keep yourself from getting into a risky situation.

Last year, celestite, travertine crystals, calcite spheres replacing strontianite, and decent strontianite plates were found at MPM.

Please RSVP to Sam Linton ASAP to count our total numbers! (Depending on how many people respond, we may have to cut numbers for the trip. The earlier you RSVP, the more likely you can hound!)





Submitted by Patricia Cronin, Andy Celmer

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

March 2022

- GSA Northeastern Section Meeting: March 20-22
 Location: Lancaster, PA, at 25 Queen St, Lancaster Marriott http://msnepa.org/
- The Geological Society of America (GSA NE Section Annual Meeting): March 20-22 Location: 25 S Queen St, Lancaster Marriott at Penn Square, Lancaster, PA. https://www.geosociety.org/GSA/Events/Section Meetings/GSA/Sections/ne/2022mtg/home.aspx,

To ensure a healthy, safe, and comfortable event, we require that only those vaccinated against COVID-19 attend the in-person meeting. If you are not vaccinated, please do not attend the meeting. Learn more.

- Leidy Microscopic Society Annual Show: March 11-12 (Fri. 12-6, Sat. 9-6)
 Location: Richboro, PA at Advent Lutheran Church, 45 Worthington Mill Rd, 916 Senator Rd http://leidymicroscopical.com/
- **Our club show!** GLMSMC Annual Show: March 19-20 (Sat 10-6, Sun 11-5) Location: Gaithersburg Fairgrounds.
- Franklin County Rock and Mineral Club Show: March 26-27
 Location: Chambersburg, PA at 235 South 3rd St, Eugene C. Clarke Jr Community Center.
 Their website says their show is on, but check back as the time gets closer.
 https://www.facebook.com/Franklin-County-Rock-and-Mineral-Club-1601767103396099/
- Philadelphia Mineral Treasures & Fossil Fair: March 26-27 (Sat. 10:00-5:00, Sun. 10:00-4:00)
 Location: Plymouth Meeting, PA, at Lu Lu Temple, 5140 Butler Pike
 http://www.phillyrocks.org/
- Che-Hanna Rock and Mineral Show: March 26-27 (Sat. 9:00-5:00, Sun. 10:00-4:00)
 Location: Wysox, PA, at 1 Wysox Volunteer Firehall, 11 Lake Road
 http://chehannarocks.com/



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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 and Super Diggg: April 23

Show is at Franklin Mineral Museum and the Super Diggg is at Sterling Hill Mining Museum

For more information, see: https://franklinmineralmuseum.com/

Registration for the Super Diggg will open on March 12th:

http://www.sterlinghillsuperdig.org/

Berks Mineralogical Society53rd 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/





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

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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/

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

• **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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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

10 AM - 4 PM Saturday, April 23, 2022

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.



56th Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Show

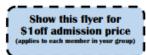
Date/Time: March 19-20, 2022 Saturday 10-6, Sunday 11-5 Location: Montgomery County Fairgrounds; Building #6

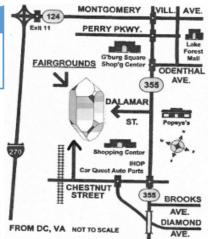
16 Chestnut St. Gaithersburg MD 20877

Hourly Door Prizes 20+ Vendors of minerals, beads, fossils, gems & jewelry Gold Panning 40+ Exhibits by club members - including junior exhibits Fluorescent Minerals Learn to make a gemstone in the shop Raffle Prizes Mini Mine, Free minerals & activities for children

Free Parking 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







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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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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



TIME SENSITIVE

DATED MATERIAL

FIRST CLASS MAIL

The Rockhounder Gem, Lapidary, and Mineral Society of Montgomery County, MD, Inc. P. O. Box 444, Gaithersburg MD 20884-0444