



The Rockhounder

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

Regular Meeting Announcements

Pat Repik-Byrne, Vice President

May Speaker Information

Speaker:

Nancy Shinowara

Title of Talk:

Collecting Turquoise

Turquoise has been traded, valued, and appreciated by many cultures for centuries and has been very important to many indigenous native peoples of North America. It is increasingly popular to those who enjoy collecting turquoise and/or for its use in jewelry and objects made by both indigenous and non-indigenous artisans and artists.

The depletion of prized turquoise deposits and the growing international interests in turquoise by designers, high-end jewelers, and collectors appear to contribute to the steep rise in the cost of turquoise and the challenges of understanding the legitimacy of materials being described as turquoise.

This presentation will focus on knowledge gained from years of collecting and appreciating the different types of turquoise, along with Native American-made jewelry and objects while on a budget. Several

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Next Regular Meeting:

Date: May 9, 2022

Time: 7:30 PM

Place: Rockville Senior Center,
1150 Carnation Drive Rockville MD

Next Board of Directors Meeting:

Date: May 16, 2022

Time: 8 PM

Place: Virtual (online Zoom meeting)

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February Speaker (Cont'd)

Pat Repik-Byrne

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examples of these turquoise materials and objects will be available for viewing.

Nancy is a long-time member of the GLMSMC who joined around 1998 and has volunteered for many years at our Annual Show in the Shop Area, assisting kids with cabochon-making. She retired a few years ago from the National Institutes of Health as Program Director, Spinal Cord and Musculoskeletal Disorders and Assistive Devices Program, in the National Center for Medical Rehabilitation Research at the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD).

President's Message

Jonathan Harris

Hello fellow rockhounds,

Some of you have enjoyed our recent field trip to Mt. Pleasant Mills, a regional mineral show, the April dig at the Franklin Mineral Museum, or Steve Calamuci's wonderful presentation on how to upgrade your mineral photography techniques.

With digital photography and the internet, you can share your field and silver-pick finds with people around the world without leaving home. Suppose the specimen is too big to carry or is in a place where collecting is illegal? You can still use your camera and the internet to show it to your friends and others while avoiding breaking your back or the law.

The club's Facebook page is an excellent place to display pictures of specimens and lapidary creations, whether they be physically collected or photographed in situ. You can help our club thrive and enjoy our community in the virtual sphere as well as the physical world by posting to our Facebook page.

Please join our Facebook group and encourage interested friends to join. To learn more and join, you can either scan the QR code on the next page or go to the following link:

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

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President's Message

Jonathan Harris

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You can scan the QR code below to learn more and join our Facebook group!



Of course, the physical world is important.

Our May meeting with Nancy Shinowara's presentation on collecting turquoise will offer a chance to see people and specimens in real life.

Please consult the rest of this edition of the Rockhounder for further information on her talk, upcoming opportunities to see more eye candy while adding to your collection at regional shows, other announcements, articles, and photos. And don't forget to join and like our Facebook page for even more!

—Jonathan

GLSMC Regular Meeting Minutes from April 11th, 2022

Andy B. Celmer, filling in for Secretary Patricia Cronin

The April 2022 meeting of the GLSMC commenced in-person at 7:45 PM. The minutes from the March club meeting were approved. There was no Board meeting the day after the show because everyone was exhausted.

Membership

See Doug if you have not renewed your membership dues for this year. He also has a few members' nametags waiting to be picked up. Three people/families signed up at the show, including returning member Ken Carter. New members were approved.

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GLMSMC Regular Meeting Minutes from April 11th, 2022

Andy B. Celmer, filling in for Secretary Patricia Cronin

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

Treasurer Diane said we made a profit from the show.

Downstairs Show Chair Chris is very happy to have the show back again and gave a hearty thanks to the many volunteers who made the show possible.

Vice President Pat asked about level of satisfaction with the new food vendor. The new food vendor, Mamma Lucia, was very well received.

Upstairs Show Chair Dave remarked that the dealer selling small ultraviolet lights for viewing fluorescent rocks and minerals thanked the club for driving up his sales.

Additionally, one of our dealers, Tom Cummins has a store (GTC Rock Shop) in the Francis Scott Key Mall in Frederick, MD.

Property Manager Joel thanked his many assistants at the show, which made his life easier.

Andy announced upcoming regional shows. *All are listed in the newsletter on page 14.*

Vice President Pat introduced the speaker for the evening.

Speaker: Steven Calamuci

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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GLMSMC Regular Meeting Minutes from April 11th, 2022

Andy B. Celmer, filling in for Secretary Patricia Cronin

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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.

Steve began shooting minerals with a cell phone, but was not satisfied with the results. He suggests that if you are going to shoot with a cell phone, pick a cloudy but bright day and shoot outside. A sunny day will introduce shadows and glare to your image.

His current setup for shooting minerals is a much more controlled environment. He uses a Digital Single Lens Reflex, DSLR Camera (Nikon D-500), mounted on a sturdy tripod. The tripod not only holds the camera steady, but aids in composition, as it allows you to deliberately consider your angle, distance, and placement of the mineral. The camera has manual settings that enable you to improve your picture quality.

Even more important than the camera is the lens. A macro lens 85mm or larger (85mm to Macro) with manual focus is essential to creating a quality image. An auto focus lens will change focus every time you touch the shutter button. Trying to manually focus the image using the camera's small screen can be difficult.

His solution is to use a software program such as Capture One to send the image to the much larger screen of a laptop. The very act of touching the shutter button to take the shot will introduce vibration to the camera and cause the image to be blurry. To prevent this, use a cable release, remote control switch, or set the camera to the timer setting so that any vibration introduced by touching the shutter button has the opportunity to subside before the image is captured.

Manual settings:

The aperture is the opening in the lens that allows light into the lens. The smaller this opening, the greater the Depth of Field (DOF) of your subject. The depth of field is that portion of your image that is in focus. You want to maximize depth of field and thus the amount of your image that is in focus.

Aperture is expressed in f-stops and the larger the f-stop number, the smaller the opening in the lens and thus the greater the depth of field. You should shoot at an f-20 or f-22 when photographing minerals. When the lens opening is this small, very little light gets in to create your image. To compensate for this small amount of light, you must increase the time the lens is open.

This brings us to our next manual setting: shutter speed.

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GLSMC Regular Meeting Minutes from April 11th, 2022

Patricia Cronin

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The shutter speed is the time the lens is open to admit light. Your lens may be open for a minute, depending on the amount and intensity of artificial lighting. Some DSLR cameras may give you accurate meter readings in manual mode; read your camera's directions. Or the meter reading may just be a starting point. You may have to change the shutter speed, make the shot, and observe it on the laptop screen 'til you get the exposure you want.

This brings us to our final manual setting: ISO.

The ISO set by the International Organization of Standards is the sensitivity of the CCD or charged-coupled device. This is the device that captures the image and converts them to digital information. You would want to shoot minerals at about ISO 200. While this setting does not capture a lot of light, it also has very little noise. The noise will show up as graininess in your image. Artificial light is the next ingredient in this recipe.

Steve uses work lights, circle lights (both called hot lights), as well as strobes and natural light. The mineral is placed inside a portable studio, which may consist of a flat black back and bottom while two sides and the top are translucent white material. The lights never shine directly at the mineral, which would create glare and reflections. Instead, passing the light through the white material of the portable studio diffuses the light.

Steve does not zoom in to the mineral to make it larger, as this reduces depth of field. Rather, he uses Photoshop or other image editing programs to enlarge the image in post-production. Image editing programs use interpolation to increase the image size while maintaining quality. The program creates creating a new larger image. Interpolation is the computer guessing what the larger image would look like and placing the appropriate pixels in the new image. Many programs are very good at this operation.

The type of file you create with your image depends on how you will use the image. Steve uses RAW files, which are very large but offer a lot of control postproduction. A JPEG file is fine for displaying online. A TIFF file may be sufficient for a photo transfer to a T-shirt. The file size of these last two formats would be 3.3 to 5 Mbytes.

Next step: start shooting!

The presentation was over at 9 PM after many questions.

A club auction followed the break, after which show and tell preceded the general door and show table prizes.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:52 PM.



Show Table for April 11th Regular Meeting

Submitted by Chris Luzier

Show Table

Jeff Cessna	Spodumene	Kunar District, Afghanistan
" "	Edenite, Diopside	Bodnar Quarry, Rudeville, NJ
Tom Parnell	Quartz var. Herkimer Diamond	Middleville, Fonda, NY
Gary Leaman	Amethyst Geode	Morocco
Diane Leaman	Fluorescent sodalite/syenite	Lake Superior
Jonathan Harris	Wavellite	Mount Pleasant Mills, PA**
" "	Cuprite	Rubtsovsky Mine, Siberia, Russia
Dan Kohn	Coprolite	Unknown locality
Karen Lottes	Emerald	Brazil
Richard Ernst	Diopside, Garnet	Rockville, MD
Steven Calamuci	Fluorite	China
Germaine	Easter is Coming! --Eggs	Various localities
Broussard	Made of Minerals	
Dee Weiss	Fluorite & Calcite	Cumberland, MD
Joel Rosen	Fluorite	Marysville Mining District- Piute County, UT

*** indicates self-collected*

Door Prizes

Show Table: Amethyst from Uruguay

Won by Jonathan Harris

General Door Prize: Fluorite from Diana Marie Mine in Weardale County, Durham, England

Won by Gary Leaman

Special thanks go to the following friends of our mineral group for their donations of door prizes or for greatly discounting them for us!!!

Tom Cummins- Large Amethyst specimen (donation)

Jonathan Ertman- Morganite Crystal (donation)

Warren Gonazales- Huge Fluorite tower (largely discounted)

Thanks so very much for your kindness in providing these specimens so we can give them away to our members who attend our monthly meetings!!!



GLMSMC BOD Meeting Minutes from April 21st, 2022

Patricia Cronin

The Board of Directors meeting began at 7:00 PM via Zoom. The Board members in attendance were Jonathan Harris, Diane Leaman, Andy Celmer, Chris Luzier, Pat Repik-Byrne, Ken Reynolds, Dave Tiktinsky, Joel Rosen, Dan Kohn, Gary Leaman, Ken Reynolds, Karen Lottes, Doug Baum, Patricia Cronin, along with club member Jeff Cessna.

Our Annual Show 2022

Dave reported on the rock show.

Attendance was considerably lower than in previous years. There were also very few children compared to previous years. This was perhaps because of lingering concerns about COVID, the beautiful weather that weekend, and other factors. Other clubs in the region have also reported lower attendance.

Some dealers expressed concerns about decreased numbers. A few also commented that they were considering retiring, due to health reasons or age.

A lengthy discussion and brainstorming were held about possible ways to increase attendance in the future. Many suggestions involved increasing the use of internet resources and analyzing where best to use print media and paid advertising resources. Other ideas posed included: hiring a consultant; using QR codes; notifying home school, scouting, and other child-oriented groups; and linking our dealers' websites on our web page.

Doug will develop an outline for an action plan. One easy suggestion was that we all post short trip reports and photos of our rock-related activities to our FB page.

Attendance this year was 1,100. Their residences were as follows:

Montgomery Co.	65%
Virginia	10%
Prince George Co.	10%
Frederick Co.	10%
Other	5%

Auctions

We have several donations to be auctioned, including the George Bednar collection and several smaller ones. There was some discussion about the type of auctions to be held: one large general

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GLMSMC BOD Meeting Minutes from April 21st, 2022

Patricia Cronin

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auction at the Senior Center, along with several small auctions at club meetings or a silent auction at a club summer picnic. Karen will call about a pavilion rental for a June club picnic and possible auction. No decision was made.

Committee Reports

Federation

No report

Membership

Dan, our Web Page Manager, asked about the present membership form on the website. Should it be reduced to one page? The longer format produces information that could be useful to know. The Board decided to use the 2-page format.

Dan also reminded us that young people are accustomed to constant changes and updates on web sites; we should not let our information be perceived as stale.

Doug informed us that our membership is currently 107 adults and 15 youth. Twelve new members have been added since January, including 6 who learned about us from our show.

Program

Pat announced that our May 9th speaker will be Nancy Shinowara, who will speak on Southwestern U.S. Native American Jewelry. The June 13th speaker will be Jennifer Weiss, a graduate of our kids' program, who is now a college student studying geology.

Treasurer

Diane gave the final results of the show income and expenses.

Other Comments

Everyone was very pleased with the new food service vendor.

Several visitors commented on the absence of the lapidary shop and gold panning demo this year.

Joel will check the trailers and do some rearranging.

Karen stated that the hospitality table at the show should have an "information" sign. Also, we need

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GLMSMC BOD Meeting Minutes from April 21st, 2022

Patricia Cronin

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better signage and information directing people upstairs to the dealers.

The motion to adjourn made and approved at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia Cronin

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

Mark Dahlman

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

Meeting Location: Sunroom Cafeteria at the Rockville Senior Center

April 11th Meeting:

Our May meeting was just the start of the Rocks and Minerals badge activities. We talked about the difference between minerals, elements, and rocks, along with starting our minerals identification techniques, focusing on hardness. FRA members not only went home with some pretty nice door prizes, but with basic hardness test kits as well.

May 9th Meeting:

We'll continue Rocks and Minerals badge activities, specifically working on techniques for identifying different minerals. 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.



Pictures from the GLMSMC March 2022 Show

Photos courtesy of Ken Reynolds



Bob Cooke is one of our micromineral supporters and is a member of the Northern Virginia group.



Reed, Marcia, Doug, and Joel at the show.

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Pictures from the GLMSMC March 2022 Show

Photos courtesy of Ken Reynolds



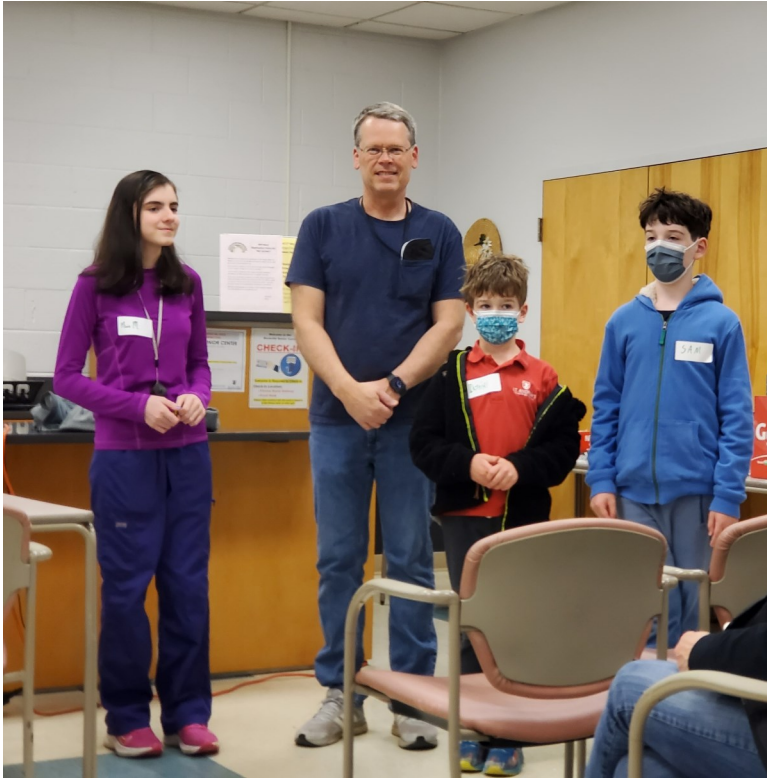
The following two pictures are from Thomas Hale's display for the Friends of Mineralogy, Virginia Chapter (FMVA).





Pictures from the GLMSMC Regular Meeting

Photo courtesy of Jonathan Harris



From left to right: Nicole, Mr. Dahlman, Daniel, and Sam.

Article of Interest

Submitted by Reed Owens

I thought this article would be interesting for the club. It's about a blacklight cave.

https://www.smithsonianmag.com/travel/black-lights-turn-this-north-carolina-mine-into-a-psychedelic-wonderland-180979899/?utm_source=smithsonianopic&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20220417-weekend-er&spMailingID=46700455&spUserID=NzQwNDU0MDkxNTkS1&spJobID=2221729832&spReportId=MjlyMTcyOTgzMgS2



Upcoming Shows

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

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/>
- **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

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

Date: June 12, 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



Upcoming Shows

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**The Chesapeake Gem & Mineral Society
Presents
Living Estate Auction of Virginia & Gary White**

Friday, May 13, 2022

7:00 PM

Viewing starts at 6:30 PM

Cash & Checks only

Westchester Community Center
2414 Westchester Ave., Oella Md.21043

Some items to be auctioned are Gemstones,Cutting rough, Jewelry, Minerals, Fossils

Full listing on our website

Directions:

From the north:

Take I-695 to US 40 west (exit 15B). Turn left on N. Rolling Rd. Turn right at Old Fredrick Rd. (You will pass through 1 roundabout). Turn right on Oella Ave. Turn left on Westchester Ave. Westchester Community Center is on the right.

From the south:

Take I-695 to Fredrick Rd. (exit 13). Turn left on Fredrick Rd. Follow Fredrick Rd. approx. 2.7 miles. Turn right on Oella Ave. Turn left on Westchester Ave. Westchester Community Center is on the right.

<chesapeakegemandmineral.org>

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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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