



# *The Rockhounder*

November 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 December issue of *The Rockhounder* to Editor Olivia Luzier at [editor@glmsmc.com](mailto:editor@glmsmc.com) by Tuesday, November 29th, 2022.

## **Regular Meeting Announcements**

Pat Repik-Byrne, Vice President

## **November Speaker Information**

**Date:** November 14th, 2022

**Speaker:** Dave Tiktinsky

**Title:** “Minerals and Mining from the Tsumeb Mine in Namibia”

Please welcome fellow club member Dave Tiktinsky as the speaker for the November meeting. Dave has been a mineral collector since he was about 13 years old. He grew up in New Jersey and has collected in various localities, including Franklin, NJ. His interests in mineral collecting led him to major in Mining Engineering at the University of Arizona. He then worked at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for many years and retired at the end of 2021.

Although his interest in mineral collecting had always existed, his activities related to this hobby lay dormant for a number of years. However, about 15 years ago, his interest in minerals was rekindled. He has since traveled to Maine for collecting and attended the Pegmatite Workshop a couple of times. In order to combine his interests in minerals and travel to exotic locations, he and his

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### **Next Regular Meeting:**

**Date:** November 14th, 2022

**Time:** 7:30 PM

#### **Place:**

Rockville Senior Center,  
1150 Carnation Drive Rockville MD

### **Next Board of Directors Meeting:**

**Date:** November 21st, 2022

**Time:** 7:30 PM

#### **Place:**

Virtual (online Zoom meeting)

### **Inside this issue:**

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## President's Message

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family visited Namibia on a “mineral safari” in 2013. That is when he decided to focus on collecting minerals from Tsumeb.

The Tsumeb mine in Namibia is world-famous for its incredible assortment of common and rare mineral species, some of which are among the world's finest. Nearly 350 different known mineral species have been found from this location. Dave's keen knowledge of this site and its minerals is sure to be of interest to all, so please plan to attend. Dave will also be bringing some of his Tsumeb specimens to show.

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## President's Message

Jonathan Harris

Hello members,

Fall is progressing rapidly. The colors on the trees are disappearing, but the colors on the mineral specimens, including those from Tsumeb, are as bright as ever.

Mark your 2023 calendar for two important events: our February 11th public auction of some fabulous worldwide specimens and our March 18th-19th annual show. In the meantime, look at our announcements to learn about local shows to find specimens for your upcoming displays at our show.

Browse the rest of *The Rockhounder* to find out about our upcoming program for this Monday's meeting and other events. Don't forget we will be auctioning more lapidary material at our meeting.

Also, don't forget about our [Facebook page](#). Encourage your friends to join and share your pictures and relevant news stories.



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## **GLMSMC Regular Meeting Minutes from October 10th, 2022**

Meeting started at 7:45 PM.

The meeting started with the speaker beginning first, as he had a time constraint for the evening.

Our speaker was Mubarek Allumani from Ethiopian Gems of Falls Church, Virginia. Mubarek is a very popular dealer at a number of regional shows, including ours. He discussed Ethiopian Wello opals in great detail.

The first discovery of "chocolate opal" was in 1994 in the North Shawa province. This was not very good material, as it had a tendency to crack or craze due to its instability. But in 2008, the world-famous Wello province opal was discovered. This opal is very stable and can be found in many base colors with incredible "fire." After the 2008 find at Wello, in 2013 the highly coveted, black opal with "fire" was found as well.

Fire opal can be red, blue, green, and a variety of other hues and colors depending on the location and quality of the opal. All the opal in the Wello region is mined by hand and at 10,000 feet above sea level. It is extremely difficult to just get to the mountain where the opal is found, much less to mine the material.

Wello opal is moist when found and has to slowly dry out in an even manner or it will be prone to cracking or crazing. The material is hydrophane (or "water-loving") and has to be dried out appropriately to be stable for cutting. When wet, there is no "color" or "fire" in the stone, as the stone has to go through the drying process before it will begin to show fire or "have the color come up."

Some stones have no color and others are ablaze with color. Most of the Wello stones are also cut with very little water so the cutter can see the color as they work the stone. Consequently, the stones have to be worked slowly as not to generate too much heat, which can crack the stone.

Besides the color in the stone, the stones also have different body tones or background colors. These colors that the "fire" plays off of can be black, blue, orange, white, and clear.

The inventory of Wello opal is dropping, as miners are not finding as much as in years' past. However, the demand keeps increasing.

Ethiopian opals are rarer, larger, and less expensive than Australian opals, in case you would like to add a few to your collection.

After the excellent speaker presentation commenced, it was noted for the members to check out the materials in the small lapidary auction that was being conducted this meeting as well.

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## GLMSMC Regular Meeting Minutes from October 10th, 2022

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The regular business meeting was conducted with the September Regular meeting and Board meeting minutes being accepted and M/S/P.

Jonathan asked for committee reports, Diane gave the Treasurer's Report, and announced the current balances for the accounts for planning next year's budget.

Doug asked for members to please pick up their membership badges that they have ordered from him.

Chris will be printing show flyers for the upcoming Ultraviolation show at the end of this month and Dave will be working with the dealers soon as well.

The annual financial review needed a volunteer to perform the review and Dee Weiss said that she would volunteer.

The upcoming slate of officers was announced in-person, after it had been published in the October Rockhounder. The slate of officers will be voted on at the November Regular meeting and will begin their terms on January 1st. Thanks to all who have graciously volunteered their time and effort to the mineral group.

Joel conducted the show table and door prizes drawings.

The meeting adjourned early at 9:40 PM.

*Submitted by Chris Luzier on behalf of Patricia Cronin*

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### **Slate of Officers for 2023**

**President**– Jonathan Harris

**Vice President**– Pat Repik-Byrne

**Secretary**– Germaine Broussard

**Treasurer**– Diane Leaman



## **GLMSMC BOD Meeting Minutes from October 17th, 2022**

Secretary Patricia Cronin

Meeting commenced at 7:30 PM via Zoom. Present were Jonathan Harris, Pat Repik-Byrne, Karen Lottes, Dan Kohn, Gary and Diane Leaman, Holly Heighes, Chris Luzier, Andy Celmer, and Dave Tiktinsky.

### **Auctions**

The club has been contacted by a woman who wants to sell her lapidary supplies. We will be unable to accommodate her for 6-12 months, as we already have several large collections to auction. Contact information for other nearby clubs will be given to her.

### **Doree's Auction**

Doree would like us to pick up the rest of her auction items soon. There are a lot of geodes and coral. There was a lengthy discussion about how and where to store them. Andy Celmer is interested in the 18-inch saw and will look it over, determine its condition, and establish a plan for moving it. November 6 at 1:00 PM is a good date for those club members doing the moving. Jonathan will verify the date with Doree.

### **Sid's Auction**

We will try for a date in late January or early February. This will be an auction that will open to our club, other mineral clubs, and the general public. As soon as Chris gets a definite date from the senior center, we will send publicity to other clubs, dealers, and the public. Gary will take photos of some interesting pieces for publicity.

Gary has also pulled aside a few specimens that need to be handled or stored properly that will be held out of the auction. Gary and Diane have sorted this collection into 66 flats of smaller items; 16 boxes containing softball-size items; and 18 boxes containing large, very heavy rocks. The majority of these items are labelled. Specimens are from the U.S. and Canada. Each box contains a mixture of items with a few unusual pieces in each box. There is enough unsorted material for 40-50 more lots containing petrified wood, geodes, fossils, etc. Gary and Diane are compiling lists of the contents of each flat.

### **Lapidary Collection**

The November regular meeting will have specimen lots available from the collection. There are a lot of excellent lapidary material and specimens in this collection.

### **Finance**

Diane gave information about the amounts in all of our accounts, including the fund for the FRA. Jonathan will review Diane's budget figures. Wendell's family requested that the money raised from his auction go to our FRA kids' program. In response to questions about possible deficits and surpluses, Holly stated that the operations of the club this year (since the show attendance was down) would run at a deficit if not for the amounts generated by the auctions.

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## **GLMSMC BOD Meeting Minutes from October 17th, 2022**

Secretary Patricia Cronin

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### **Club Donations**

At the November Board meeting, we will make decisions about our financials. In the past, we have given an annual donation to the Smithsonian so that it can be spent at the Tucson show for purchasing a specimen for the national collection. Board members, please bring ideas about any other organizations to which we may consider donations.

Andy will gather information about University of Maryland Geology Department. For example, do they have a museum? Do they have tours of a research collection? Speakers? Can we afford to give donations to more than one institution? Dave commented that it is probably better to maintain a consistent donation level, i.e. not \$2,000 one year and \$1,000 the next. Discussions about our donation level and institutions will continue at the next Board meeting.

### **2023 Club Show**

After no increases for 7 years, our fee at the Montgomery Co. Fairground for the 2023 show has risen by 18%. We have paid our 25% deposit for 2023. Our income at the 2022 show was significantly lower than usual. (Influencing factors could have been that COVID restrictions were just ending, there was no accepted vaccine yet for kids, and the weather for that day was spectacular.)

Dave is surveying our vendors to see who will return in 2023. According to his discussions with various vendors, some may be considering retirement due to health or age and some were concerned about low turnout. According to some Board members, some other shows had greatly increased attendance.

We must advertise more and in better ways. We must take advantage of social media and advertising at other area shows as well as contacting Scouting groups.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Patricia Cronin

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



## Show Table from October 10th, 2022

*\*\*indicates self-collected*

### Show Table

Jeff Cessna	Loellingite & Sphalerite (FL)	Sterling Hill Mine, NJ
" "	Fluorescent cabochon	Franklin, NJ
Dan Kohn	Rutilated Quartz/ Opal	Unknown
Pat Repik-Byrne	Opals in Matrix (in glycerol)	Australia?
Diane Leaman	Geode Half	Brazil
Gary Leaman	Geode Half	Brazil
Dave Tiktinsky	Boulder Opal	Australia
Tom Parnell	Quartz var. Herkimer Diamond	Middletown, NY.
Doug Baum	Paradamite	Durango, Mexico
Ken Reynolds	Fire Opal & Precious Opal	Mexico & Peru
Karen Lottes	Opal & Fossil Ferns	Ethiopia & Pennsylvania
Germaine Broussard	Brachiopod Plate	N.W. Pennsylvania
Dee Weiss	Opal	Australia
Jonathan Harris	Rhodochrosite	Climax, Colorado
Joel Rosen	Prehnite	Lower New St., Paterson, NJ

### Show Table:

Fluorite with Barite  
Denton Mine  
Hardin Co., Illinois

*Won by: Dave Tiktinsky*

### Door Prize:

Prehnite  
Luck Quarry  
Leesburg, Virginia

*Won by: Tom Parnell*

### Fossil Poster:

*Won by: Gary Leaman*



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

Mark Dahlman

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

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

### **October 10th Meeting:**

Our October meeting started with a presentation about two mineral properties: cleavage and fracture. This was followed by a presentation and exercise about labeling specimens (the rocks themselves) and the pieces of paper that go with them. Everyone labeled and took home an example of fluorescent minerals from Sterling Hill Mine in Ogdensburg, NJ, as well as another fine micromount specimen from Pat Haynes.

### **November 14th Meeting:**

We will discuss other physical properties that we can use to help identify minerals and we'll do another activity for the Rocks & Minerals badge. It's also time to start thinking about exhibits for our club show in March.

Of course, we will have specimens for every FRA member to take home for their collection too. Feel free to bring a friend. I hope to see you all there!

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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## Upcoming Shows

### **Gem Miner's Holiday Show**

11/19/2022 -11/20/2022 Sat: 10-5 Sun: 11-4

<http://www.gem-show.com/>

80 Rocherty Road,  
Lebanon Expo Center  
Lebanon, PA

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## Upcoming Shows

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### SYMPOSIUM & FIELD TRIP

**Friends of Mineralogy - PA Chapter November 12-13, 2022 Lancaster, PA**

Attend ONLINE -OR- IN PERSON at Bright Side Opportunities Center, 515 Hershey Ave., Lancaster PA 17603

**Symposium** for mineral enthusiasts on **Saturday Nov. 12** Doors open 8:30 a.m.; Symposium 9:00 - 4:15

Sales by Select Dealers – Silent Auction – Give-away Table – Meet Fellow Collectors

Talks by knowledgeable speakers on **Pennsylvania Mineralogy and Geology**, and more:

<b>William Kochanov, PG</b> Pa. Geol. Survey, Retired Reconnaissance of mineral collecting sites in Southeastern Pennsylvania	<b>Ronald A. Sloto,</b> West Chester Univ. Classic Mineral Localities of Bucks County, Pennsylvania	<b>Stephen R. Lindberg</b> U. Pittsburgh at Johnstown Geology of the New Paris Limestone Quarry, Napier Township, Bedford County, Pennsylvania	<b>C. Lee McIlvaine, IV PG</b> Professional Geologist Journey to Greenland Ilimaussaq Alkaline Complex Kujalleq, South-west Greenland	<b>Bill Stephens, PG</b> Stephens Environmental Report on Re-opening the Mount Pleasant Mills, Snyder County, Pennsylvania, Wavellite Occurrence
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Registration form on website. Register online or by mail (or on-site, cash/check only).

Current members \$ 15.00/person Non-members \$ 25.00 College Students free

Professional Geologists: Five Professional Development Hour credits available for full lecture attendance

**Field Trip on Sunday Nov. 13** Mount Pleasant Mills, PA. Open only to symposium registrants. Register now!

Visit our web site for details, registration form, changes and updates: **[www.rasloto.com/FM](http://www.rasloto.com/FM)**



Presented by The Northern Virginia Mineral Club, Inc.

[www.novamineralclub.org](http://www.novamineralclub.org)

Sponsored by the Dept. of Atmospheric, Oceanic and Earth Sciences at GMU

Date: **November 19 & 20, 2022**

Place: **Dewberry Hall, Johnson Center  
George Mason University Campus  
GPS: 4400 University Dr, Fairfax, VA 22030**

Hours: **Saturday 10am-6pm, Sunday 10am-4pm**

Admission: **Adults: \$6, Seniors: \$4, Teens (13-17): \$3  
Children 12 & under & Scouts in uniform are FREE  
GMU Students & faculty w/valid ID are FREE.**

**\$1 OFF**

Adult admission  
with this card  
(applies to all adults  
+ seniors in your  
group)

Demonstrations, Exhibits, Kids Activities, and Door Prizes.  
Mini-mines for children to dig in and get free fossils and minerals.  
Approximately 20 Dealers with Gems, Minerals and Fossils for sale.

Use parking Lot A, enter Lot A where adjacent to the Johnson Center  
Look for our Courtesy Shuttle & Designated Walking Path to Mineral Show

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## Upcoming Shows

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### **The Annual Richmond Gem & Mineral Society Rock Sale and Swap**

**Saturday, November 12th, 2022**

**9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

*The Rock Sale/Swap is indoors (overflow will be in the parking lot), so come rain or shine!  
Open to children and adults (from novice to expert) to purchase or trade (swap) mineral, gem, fossil, shell,  
and jewelry and lapidary specimens.*

**Ridge Baptist Church Meeting Hall  
1515 East Ridge Road, Richmond, VA 23229**

- Doors open at 7:00 a.m. for inside setup. Inside table fees are \$25.00 per 8 foot table and \$20.00 per 6 foot table, and are limited (44 total tables). RGMS will provide all interior tables which are a mix of 6' and 8'. Limit of 2 tables per seller/swapper inside.
- Setup is also available between 12 – 2 pm on Friday, Nov. 11. Note: doors will be locked but no additional security.
- Parking lot spaces are \$20 for approximately 4 spaces and you must provide your own tables. Free-standing tents are permitted for outside sellers/swappers.
- Everyone please bring your own table coverings.
- We also would appreciate help taking down the swap/sale setup after the event.

To register for a table(s) or exterior space, please download the registration form and mail (with fee) to the address listed on the form. There is a 2 table limit. Table reservations are based on "first received, first assigned".

**ALL PARTICIPANTS - PLEASE LABEL YOUR MATERIAL** Please have at least one flat of good material specifically labeled for children and novice collectors for swap (trade) or give away. Promote the hobby!

To defray sale/swap costs, RGMS asks that each seller/swapper provide a least one nice specimen or similar item for our annual auction. Please no junk!

Food and beverages are available at near-by restaurants. Restroom facilities are available in the building.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:** Andy Dietz ([dietziv@yahoo.com](mailto:dietziv@yahoo.com))

**DIRECTIONS:** Since 1998 the swap has been at this location in Henrico County near Regency Square Mall and Douglas S. Freeman High School.

#### **North or South of Richmond, Virginia:**

Use I-95 to Exit 79 to I-64 West (North of Richmond City).  
Leave I-64 at Exit 181A (South) on Parham Road.  
Proceed south on Parham Road for about 1.5 miles and TURN LEFT ONTO EAST RIDGE ROAD. (A right turn at this intersection takes you onto Quicoccas Road to Regency Square Mall).  
The Ridge Baptist Church and Meeting Hall are 400 feet on the right, across from Kroger's Grocery.  
MEETING HALL IS THE BRICK BUILDING at the rear of the parking lot.  
There is ample parking in front of the Meeting Hall. Swap signs will mark both entrances.

#### **East or West of Richmond, Virginia**

Use I-64 to Exit 181A (South) and follow the directions above.



**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](mailto:editor@glmsmc.com).

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Award Winning Bulletin

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