



# The Rockhounder

April 2023

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](mailto:editor@glmsmc.com) by Tuesday, April 25th, 2023.

## Regular Meeting Announcements

Pat Repik-Byrne, Vice President

### April Speaker Information

**Date:**

April 10th, 2023

**Speaker:**

Justin Masser

Operations Manager, HolcimUS Quarries

**Title of Talk:** “The Aggregate Industries Travilah Quarry”

I am pleased to announce Mr. Justin Masser as our speaker for the April 10th meeting. Mr. Masser received a B.S. degree in Mechanical Engineering, as well as a B.S. degree Mining and Mineral Engineering from Virginia Tech. Some GLMSMC members may recall the quarry as The Hunting Hill Quarry, but several others may not even be aware of the Quarry's existence right here in Rockville. Mr. Masser will discuss the Quarry's history and how it operates, the type of rock it produces, projects that have used quarry material (roads, buildings, etc.), and the number of years of future operations expected. He may also bring along rock and mineral specimens from the Quarry to display. In addition,

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### Next Regular Meeting:

**Date:** April 10th, 2023

**Time:** 7:30 PM

**Place:**

Rockville Senior Center,  
1150 Carnation Drive Rockville MD

### Next Board of Directors Meeting:

**Date:** April 17th, 2023

**Time:** 7:30 PM

**Place:**

Virtual (online Zoom meeting)

### Inside this issue:

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## April Speaker Information (Cont'd)

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he will inform us about the upcoming Quarry Day in May, during which the Quarry will be open to the public for tours.

To my knowledge, no one associated with the Travilah Quarry has ever spoken to our club before, so this will be an exciting opportunity for our members to learn about the Quarry's history and its operations.

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## President's Message

Jonathan Harris

A hearty thanks to the many people who made this show a great success, especially to show chairs, Chris and Dave. They put in many hours of planning and logistics – dealing with issues ranging from recruiting dealers and exhibitors, arranging floor plans, and dealing with last minute challenges. The great news -- our show attendance has recovered to 2019 levels and children have returned. We had six excellent exhibits from the Future Rockhounds of America (FRA, our youth group)—five individual contributions and one group display.

In this coming meeting, we will have the opportunity to hear from Justin Masser, Operations Manager of Holcim US Quarries, the current owner and operator of the Travilah Quarry, formerly known as Hunting Hill. One of the first specimens in my collection was a bright green diopside from the quarry. I found it as an elementary school child looking at the gravel from the quarry.

Unfortunately, due to safety concerns, the quarry, like many others, does not permit mineral collecting; however, you can find specimens in much of the gravel and rip rap spread throughout the county. There are many potential fascinating topics for Mr. Masser to address—quarry history, geology, mineralogy, the aggregate industry, and engineering. Mr. Masser will also mention an opportunity to visit the quarry at the upcoming open house in early May. It is an excellent opportunity to learn more, even if we can't collect in the quarry itself.

I am also glad to announce we do have some upcoming field-trips with our partner clubs. Please see the Rockhounder and your email for announcements and rules. It is also a good time to make sure you have a clean pair of safety glasses for eye protection, a hard hat, steel-toed shoes, and other safety gear. Scratched safety glasses don't protect the eyes when you need to remove them to see clearly! Continue to share photos of your finds and adventures on our Facebook page.

Cheers,  
---Jonathan



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**GLMSMC BOD and Regular Meeting Minutes from March 13th**

Germaine Broussard

**Board Meeting –impromptu before regular meeting– began at 7:33 PM.**

The Board met to determine the fate of the lapidary equipment still in the trailer and the possibility of emptying the small trailer.

Discussions were had about what to sell/keep/trash of the items in the trailers.

Once the trailers were emptied and the showcases set up, the remainders would be placed on the side table where the workshop used to be held. Other items were to go there as well: boxes, towels, goggles, and anything related to lapidary, along with the old blue plastic table covers.

Holding all of these items for an indefinite time is a waste of space and money for the club. If the trailer can be emptied, it was discussed that the small trailer could be sold. Once sold, everything can be kept in the large trailer, which Joel said is still watertight after Jonathan sealed it. (Thank you, Jonathan!)

After some discussion, it was decided after the trailers were unpacked, we would go through the items and sell the machines and other possible items on Friday at our show set-up, with our members having the first chance to buy the items. Since it was a very quick meeting and the regular meeting was upcoming, Karen moved to adjourn this meeting. Ken seconded and it was adjourned at 7:39 PM.

**At 7:40 PM, Jonathan called the regular meeting to order.**

This meeting's guest speaker was Dr. Jeffrey Post, who presented "Musings of a Museum Curator."

A large part of the meeting was also discussing the upcoming Rock Show and the preparation for it.

Doug asked for visitors to introduce themselves. One visitor mentioned that the reason she had attended was that she liked shiny things! There are many in our club who fall into that same category — with or without UV illumination!

Doug also said he still has name tags for members who ordered them and to please pick them up from him.

Chris talked about the two-hour volunteer spots that still needed to be filled in various sections and doing case set-up teams for the show. (The kids section/Admissions/Door Prizes/Cab demo/Teardown are still in need of 16 volunteers!) Please check the lists of volunteer times for which you signed up!

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## **GLMSMC BOD and Regular Meeting Minutes from March 13th**

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There will be no food service for this show, as our normal vendor was very short staffed. Pat has created a list of local restaurants and there is a Mexican food truck on the Fairgrounds property as well.

### **Other committee reports:**

- Diane– Set and organized for the show and ready to go.
- Andy– Said to check the newsletter for upcoming shows and events, as many were printed in the last Rockhounder.
- Germaine– Last month's minutes are in the newsletter as well.
- Joel discussed set up and breakdown. After emptying the trailer and setting up cases, the old cases would be evaluated and put up for sale or perhaps as giveaways. The lapidary machines would be sold with two being held onto for the cab demo in the future if we have the volunteers to run it. The hope is that most everything would be gone by Sunday.

Pat introduced our speaker, Dr. Jeffrey Post, the Curator-in-Charge of Gems and Minerals at the National Museum-Smithsonian Institution. His talk, "Musings of a Mineral Museum Curator," covered his many years and memories of his time with the Smithsonian.

A social was held in Jeff Post's honor and everyone enjoyed the treats brought in by the many members. It was a wonderful gathering.

Again, the announcement was made that there were still openings for the show and to please sign up to volunteer.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting, seconded, and Jonathan adjourned the meeting at 9:54 PM.

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[https://www.facebook.com/  
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## **Future Rockhounds of America (The MOCKS) Ages 9-16**

Mark Dahlman

**Next Meeting Date:** April 10th

**Meeting Time:** 7:45-9:00 PM

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

### **March 13th Meeting:**

We started the March meeting by collecting information FRA members wrote for the group exhibit. The group exhibit at the club show the following weekend was excellent! Congratulations to everyone who helped with the "Blue & Green" case, and a huge thanks to Nicole for leading the group exhibit! Congratulations as well to the FRA members, Lili, Izzy, Kaitlyn, Nicole, and Clive, who created individual exhibits for the show. The cases were not only eye-catching but very informative and showed a great deal of time and care had been put into each one. You all did a great job!

### **April 10th Meeting:**

As part of the Rocks & Minerals badge, we'll continue our introduction to the crystal systems, including some hands-on activities to help identify the systems' shapes. Of course, we'll have door prizes for everyone too. 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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## **Gemology Classes**

Tim Morgan

Gemology classes offered by Montgomery County Department of Recreation will begin Wednesday, April 12th (Advanced) and Thursday, April 13th. Classes begin at 10 AM and end at 12 noon.

Anyone interested in either class may register through [Activemontgomery.org](https://activemontgomery.org), STEAM programs, Gemology. Tim Morgan is instructor for both classes.



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## **GLMSMC 2023 Show Report**

Gary Leaman, Chris Luzier

The 57th Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Show, presented by the Gem, Lapidary, and Mineral Society of Montgomery County, Maryland, took place on March 18-19th, 2023 at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds in Gaithersburg.

There were 20+ vendors/dealers of gems, minerals, fossils, jewelry and beads, along with 40+ exhibits and displays by club members, including junior exhibits that spanned two large floors of everything mineral related. There were many activities for children, including the Mini Mine with many free minerals that were found by the children. There was also a large table of rock, mineral, and fossil specimens for hands-on learning and discovery, along with giveaway bags of minerals that the children could choose from and special prizes that were given when the Junior Quiz was taken. (All of the answers to the quiz are found in the exhibit cases and are always a great way for the kids and parents to enjoy the multitude of displays. )

There were many small specimens with labels that were available for the children to take home, along with information about the GLMSMC and the kids' program. The juniors also put together one group case and five of their own exhibit cases that were judged and were awarded first, second, and third place ribbons and prizes for their cases. There were also two magnificent smoky quartz crystals that were donated by Tom Cummins with the GTC rock shop in Frederick, Maryland, and were given to the runners-up for their displays. Thank you, Tom!

There were a number of demonstrators amongst all of the displays on the first floor. There was a Physics demonstration by Robert Clemenzi that is always a perennial favorite named "Gravity Is Optional," with hands-on activities of scientific principles that children and adults can participate in. The Mason-Dixon Gold Prospectors Association from Pennsylvania came down to provide a Saturday demonstration of gold panning and activities that they are involved in. This was the first year that this group had been a part of our show and they are eager to return next year!

Another first year participant with a demo were James and Colleen with the incredible Reel Mine in North Carolina. They had a stunning display and computer presentation of a number of fantastic amethyst specimens from the mine, along with discussing their experiences of specimen mining in NC. James Hall also grew up in our area and dug with many of the local Virginia and Maryland stalwart Collectors, such as Buck Keller, Andy Dietz, Scott Silsby, and others noted in the recently published FMVA book, "The Northern Virginia Trap Rock Quarries." As a youngster in our area, he had even presented an exhibit case at our show when he was 17 years old!

While on the topic of FMVA, Friends of Mineralogy Virginia had a fantastic display of different minerals from local areas in VA. They had a number of pamphlets and flyers with other information about FMVA and other activities that are taking place in VA and other areas. FMVA also had copies of the aforementioned book available for a very reasonable cost. The sale of this book will fund the upcoming publication and efforts to promote and educate about Virginia minerals, quarries, industry,

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### GLMSMC 2023 Show Report (Cont'd)

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and history.

Another wonderful organization that provides another popular demonstration is the Micromineralogists of the National Capitol Area (MNCA). This group focuses on the very small representations of minerals that are difficult to see clearly without magnification. I can assure you that they are none the less fascinating though! In fact, most of the new minerals known to science are discovered under the microscope. The crystals shown are magnificent under even slight magnification and, many times, are absolutely in perfect condition with no damage and in textbook formation. MNCA is another local group that has been around for decades and is a great one to become a member of.

Other activities and demonstrations were provided by the Baltimore Bead Society that runs an excellent show as well with many workshops on beading, jewelry, and glasswork. The group has very friendly and welcoming members.

The Natural History Society of Maryland and their fossil group members came down to again provide a wonderful and wide-ranging array of megalodon teeth, fossils, oddities, and beautiful insects and butterflies. They have many workshops, events, field trips (including shark tooth hunting), and a wonderful museum in the Baltimore area that is excellent! They have events every week for anything and everything related to the natural world and their website, [marylandnature.org](http://marylandnature.org), is an excellent place to start.

The ever-popular Fluorescent Mineral Tent had five displays, along with demonstrations of phosphorescence and tenebrescence shown in the back of the darkroom tent. If you haven't seen a display like this, you would be pleasantly surprised by an amazingly colorful and remarkable characteristic of different rocks and minerals to collect.

There were also door prize giveaways for adults and kids that were drawn hourly, along with a raffle of three shelves of different gems, minerals, fossils, jewelry, and beads on each shelf that are raffled off at the end of the last day. This year was the highest participation for the raffle that can be recalled for many years. This was partially due to all the generous donations for the vendors/dealers, along with a donation of a dynamite Reel Mine amethyst specimen, thanks to James and Colleen! This year, we had a number vendors/dealers who helped make the raffle a great success by donating various items for the raffle.

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## GLMSMC 2023 Show Report (Cont'd)

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The entire upper floor of the show was filled with mineral dealers and they had an excellent show as well! This was helped along with the fact that the show had over 1,900 people through the doors for the weekend, including over 1,500 adults and over 400 children!!! This could not have happened without all the club members and their volunteer efforts, the vendors/dealers, our demonstrators, and let's not forget the food truck too!

For more information about our club, please check out <https://www.glmsmc.com/> or <https://www.facebook.com/groups/984241208329511/>

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### Message from Our Membership Chair

Doug Baum

**NEW MEMBERS:** Let's welcome Corrine Wilson from New Market, Greg Pappas from Gaithersburg, Rick Roffeld from Germantown, Alexander Chyu from Gaithersburg, Andrea McClusky from Frederick, Elizabeth Vankaenel from Rockville, Bruce W. Moran from Brookeville, and Ken Rock from Oakton, VA.

**NAME BADGES:** See me at an upcoming meeting. I have many NAME BADGES that were ordered and paid for that I would like to give to you.

**2023 MEMBERSHIP DUES:** Please see me at an upcoming meeting to pay your 2023 dues or mail a check/cash for \$20 (Family) or \$15 (Individual). Please make checks out to GLMSMC.

The mailing address is Douglas Baum, Membership Chair GLMSMC, 11205 Golden Meadow Court, Germantown MD 20876.





## **Upcoming Shows**

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### **33RD ANNUAL NORTH JERSEY GEM, MINERAL, & FOSSIL SHOW**

4/15/2023 - 4/16/2023  
Sat., 10am-5pm; Sun., 10am-4pm  
<http://www.nojms.webs.com/>  
250 Prospect St  
Midland Park High School  
Midland Park, NJ, 07432

### **Spring Swap at the Franklin Mineral Museum**

Saturday, April 22, 2023 10 AM – 4 PM  
32 Evans Street, Franklin, NJ 07416

### **32nd Annual Chesapeake Gem, Mineral, Jewelry & Fossil Show**

Saturday, April 22, 2023 10 AM – 4 PM

#### **Howard County Fairgrounds**

2210 Fairgrounds Rd. West Friendship, Md 21794

#### **Free Admission and Parking**

Minerals, Original Jewelry, Fossils, Rough & Cut Gemstones  
Silent Auctions, Door Prizes  
Free minerals for kids

[www.chesapeakegemandmineral.org](http://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.







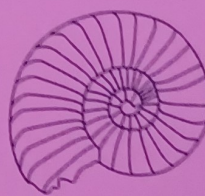
## Upcoming Shows

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# 4th Annual South Jersey OUTDOOR Gem, Jewelry, Mineral & Fossil Show

Date: April 29, 2023

(Rain Date: April 30, 2023)



The Jewish Federation of Southern New Jersey Annex Building  
(1721 Springdale Road Cherry Hill, NJ 08003)

### Show Hours:

SATURDAY ONLY: 10:00 am – 5:00 pm

~ 16 Dealers ~ Door Prizes ~ Refreshments

### Admission:

Adult: \$4.00; Children (6-17): \$3.00;

Children under 5 & Scouts in uniform: Free

\*Receive \$1 off any adult admission ticket with this flyer.

[sjmineralshow.com](http://sjmineralshow.com) \* [sjmineralshow@gmail.com](mailto:sjmineralshow@gmail.com)



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**President** – Jonathan Harris

**Vice President** – Pat Repik-Byrne

**Secretary** – Germaine Broussard

**Treasurer** – Diane Leaman

**Membership Chairman** – Doug Baum

**Downstairs Showchair** – Chris Luzier

**Upstairs Showchair** – Dave Tiktinsky

**Property Manager** – Joel Rosen

**EFMLS Liaison** – Andy Celmer

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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, George Durland, and Holly Heighes

**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

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