



The Rockhounder

June 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 July-August issue of The Rockhounder to Editor Olivia Luzier at editor@glmsmc.com by Monday, July 10th, 2023.

Regular Meeting Announcements

Pat Repik-Byrne, Vice President

June Speaker Information

Date: June 12th, 2023

Speaker: Jonathan Harris

Title: “Club Field Trips: Where, What, Why, and How to Get Invited Back and Avoid Leaving on a Stretcher”

Please welcome Jonathan Harris as our speaker for the June 12th meeting. Jonathan grew up in Silver Spring, left the area to attend graduate school and, followed by several jobs in other cities, returned to the area in the fall of 1999. He started collecting rocks and minerals after his third-grade teacher showed the class a rock and mineral collection. He later went on to obtain a PhD in Physical Chemistry, specializing in molecular simulations. He has been a GLMSMC club member since 2000 and has served as a Field Trip Chair, Treasurer, and, since January 2022, as President.

Currently, Jonathan is a data science director at Visa, building models to identify fraudulent transactions. He is an avid rock and mineral collector, with a

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Next Regular Meeting:

Date: June 12th, 2023

Time: 7:30 PM

Place:

Rockville Senior Center,
1150 Carnation Drive, Rockville, MD

Next Board of Directors Meeting:

Date: June 19th, 2023

Time: 7:30 PM

Place:

Virtual (online Zoom meeting)

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June Speaker Information (Cont'd)

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special interest in specimens with unusual physical properties, fluorescent minerals, crystal structure, and interesting chemistries.

Jonathan's presentation will describe some of the locations of club field trips, including what specimens one expects to find there, as well as facts about various quarries the club has visited. He will discuss why getting into quarries is a challenge and the rules one must follow to enable members to be allowed onto the site, including the critical safety rules. He will include pictures of specimens, as well as actual specimens he's collected. Jonathan's presentation is a timely one, at the start of the summer season when many rockhounds look forward to collecting during their summer vacations.

President's Message

Jonathan Harris

Hello, fellow rockhounds. Don't let the summer doldrums set in. When it is too hot and humid to collect outdoors, several shows will be appearing. See page 10 in the Rockhounder and your email for more. In the meantime, be ready to bid on some high-quality lapidary material at our June 12th meeting. This will be our last meeting before the summer recess, one not to be missed.

The Rockville Science Center has run geological tours of places such as Great Falls and Cunningham Falls. Unfortunately, their geologist can no longer guide these. Any geologist, professional or knowledgeable non-professional, interested in leading such events can reach out to me at jgharris7@gmail.com. I can connect you with the center.

Several of our members are working with quarries to help us have more quarry field trips. If you think you have sites you can get us into or contacts who can help, reach out to me and Sam. I will speak about our quarry trips and finds at our June meeting.

Finally, mark your calendars for September 30th. We will continue our post-Covid annual picnic and auction. This auction will feature specimens from a mineral collection that includes a variety of interesting specimens.

Cheers,
----Jonathan



Regular Meeting Minutes from May 8th

Diane Leaman filled in for Jonathan, as he was away on a trip, and called the meeting to order at 7:45 PM. The minutes from the April Regular meeting were M/S/P. The minutes from the April BOD meeting were M/S/P.

Announcements:

Chris announced that the Rockville Science Center is looking for geologists to lead tours around the area and teach classes at the center. If anyone is interested, please contact him to be relayed to Howard at the Science Center.

Chris also showed his field trip “go bag” with the equipment needed for a field trip and all of the safety gear as well. Here is the list of items, along with others you may think of for your own needs:

- Steel toed boots
- No shorts– LONG pants!
- Helmet– chin strap helps hold it on when you lean over
- Geological hammer– no claw hammers
- Sledges and chisels made for stone only, not for woodworking!
- Safety vests- with pockets!
- Construction helmet, or maybe two, as it is good to have a spare along– ANSI rated
- Safety glasses– UVA/UVB rated
- Spare pair of clean safety glasses in case your first pair get muddy or dirty (3m makes a good pair of glasses with side shields as well)

Show up early and do not be late! You could miss the safety briefing from the quarry personnel and the waivers. With several of the mineral groups that have invited us on field trips, we are guests! Respect their time, rules, and the invitation from them and the personnel of the quarry. Without this, we may not be invited back again, as this is a privilege for our group and the members.

Field trip information is in the newsletters and in club emails. If you did not get an email, please check your spam files.

Standing rules for the most part:

- Stay off of and away from the high walls! They can be very unstable.
- Stay back at least 50 feet from the high wall, to err on the side of caution, and take notice of where the rock berms are that help to notify you that there is a high wall in proximity. Quarries may have different policies on whether or not you can collect specimens off of the berm. You can also just bring a rake or similar tool to drag specimens to you that are on the berm. Use good judgement and look around and up when you are in a quarry to know your surroundings and alert other collectors as well.
- If you leave, please tell the leader that you are heading out of the quarry.
- Do NOT wander, as we typically try and stay together as groups and move to other areas as a group as well!
- Please be aware of other quarry vehicles and other collectors as well. Quarries let us in as guests

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Regular Meeting Minutes from May 8th

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and can just as easily cancel field trips and further invitations for everyone! Let them know of your appreciation for the opportunity for the trip; you may want to give them a good specimen that you found.

*****Rules are dictated by quarries and the inviting groups. Please learn and respect the rules.*****

May 27 Peach Bottom Quarry- Serpentine trip- already full

Jonathan will be our next speaker, discussing his many years of collecting minerals in the Mid-Atlantic region and components of having a good, safe, and productive field trip.

There will be a lapidary/mineral auction at the June Regular Meeting.

Doug announced any visitors and guests.

Our speaker, Heather Vineyard, joined and was voted in as a new member as well! Welcome!

She is a Collections Specialist from the Smithsonian and her bio can be found in the last newsletter.

Her topic for the evening was "Suitability of Paleosols from the Early Miocene Kiahara Formation, Rusinga Island, Kenya, for Stable Isotopic Analyses."

Heather Vineyard said she met Chris at the NOVA Show back in November. She discussed her thesis and her new job at the Smithsonian and the rest is history! She talked about the many directions a geologist can go in their studies and fields; from the sound of her jobs, she tried them all! (Or close to it!)

As a Teacher's Assistant, she worked in the labs. Next, she worked for a zinc mining company as an ozone monitor. For the USGS, she worked with the drill coring notes to organize/translate them into usable information. She also digitized the records of the cores from the 70s and 80s. She also had a job with doing STEM for children. They designed a 3D Topo maps and forms, showing the levels to make them easier to understand, read, and visualize.

Her thesis project was essentially recreating paleo climates and how they affected the inhabitants at the time. The area that she concentrated on in Africa was once tall and open canopy, but has now become grassland. When this change occurred, it was approximately when apes went from quad to biped.

Now trade winds and water come from the Indian Ocean as monsoonal, before the winds and water brought in sediment from the Atlantic. Analyzing the contents of the fossil soils can tell how old, and the conditions and where the waters came from, which can thereby help in dating bipedalism. This is

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Regular Meeting Minutes from May 8th

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the same area in Africa where many of the most famous hominid fossils have been found.

Her new position is as a Collections Specialist in the Paleontology Department at the Smithsonian! It will be exciting to see where the future takes her!

The Show and Tell Table was then held.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:43 PM.

BOD Meeting Minutes from May 22nd

Jonathan called meeting to order at 7:34 PM. Board members present were: Jonathan, Karen, Pat, Doug, Holly, Dan, Chris, Ken, Dave, Joel, Germaine, Andy, Gary and Diane.

The trailer is being moved from Joel's to the Gaithersburg area at Frances' farm– Thank you to Gary, Diane, Frances, and Chris for making it happen. This puts the trailer much closer to the Fairgrounds and the Senior Center as well.

The question facing the Board is to keep it or sell the trailer. If we keep it, can it be used to store auction items for meeting auctions? Who will keep the trailer lock keys?

The three keys will stay with Frances, Gary and Diane, and Joel. A copy of the insurance papers is needed to make sure that Frances is covered and not responsible. Jonathan will provide the insurance to Frances and the updated address for the storage to the insurance company. The renewal for the tags will stay with Joel to be renewed when due if we decide to not sell the trailer.

The trailer still has the blue plastic table covers and several showcases. The table covers are needed for two show tables with the gold panning demo with the water and the kid's mini-mine area with the sand. The old cases (two styles) are mostly parts and approximately 12-14 cases have already been retained as backups.

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BOD Meeting Minutes from May 22nd

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The September picnic and auction date was checked for any holidays and mineral shows in the month of September. The best day will be September 9th or 30th. Karen will work on getting one of these dates booked (preferably the 30th). If necessary, we will discuss a rain date next meeting.

Chris also brought up the items for Doree's– there are a good bit of field-collected rocks that were intended for lapidary use, along with many geodes. These would need to be sorted and put into lots. We also have Shelley's lapidary material and access to another collection.

Pat mentioned that she still had the stained glass crystals from Wendell's display case.

Show Business

We are staying with the same venue. Other places are also going up in price.

We need to check with other shows to see how their numbers are and the increasing costs vs. the amount of guests they are having coming through the doors. What about NoVA and other regional shows?

Gary mentioned that everything is going up. Could we hold a silent auction at the show? Or other fundraisers (like t-shirts) to help offset the higher show costs?

Field Trips

There is a trip to JMU with the Micromounters group. Depending on the amount of attendees, it may take two groups to do the museum tour.

Are there any other contacts for field trips? There are several trips coming up. Peach Bottom is next weekend. One idea is a group trip to Crystal Grottoes in Frederick.

Committees

- **Karen**– already discussed
- **Pat**– Upcoming speakers will be:
 - Jonathan is giving the next talk on field trip safety with a lapidary auction at the next regular meeting.
 - Bernie Emery in October
 - Paul Krein in September

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BOD Meeting Minutes from May 22nd

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- The motion was made to have a member auction at the November 13th meeting. It would be a silent auction unless there are 2 bids, then would become a live auction. The members would bring in items and the proceeds would go to members who bring in their material to sell (2-3 flats or 20 items.) The motion was M/S/P.
- **Doug-** was asked about a business membership. What different benefits would it offer? Several mentions were made that it would require a change in the By-Laws. Could we do sponsorships? Could it be a thank you for donations? It was decided not to proceed with this and just keep our standard memberships. We are also at the most members that we have had in years! The youth memberships have contributed to a large part of this also!
- **Chris-** already covered
- **Dave** - nothing to report
- **Joel-** Thank you to Gary, Diane, Frances, and Chris for taking possession of the trailer! We are also making arrangements to help re-caulk some of the seams on the big trailer for the show.
- **Gary and Diane-** Diane would also like to be our Club Auctioneer!! Jonathan agreed to this. We have always appreciated all the work that Gary and Diane have done for our group. Diane, thanks so much again!
- **Dan, Ken, Andy, Germaine-** nothing to report

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

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[https://www.facebook.com/
groups/984241208329511/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/984241208329511/)



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

Mark Dahlman

Next Meeting Date: June 12th **Meeting Time:** 7:45-9:00 PM

Meeting Location: Sunroom Cafeteria at the Rockville Senior Center

May 8th Meeting:

As part of the Rocks & Minerals badge, we watched some videos about mineral structure and properties. We also used scales to calculate specific gravity. Of course, everyone went home with a new specimen for their collection too.

June 12th Meeting:

The June meeting will be our last meeting before the summer (July and August) break so we'll wrap up our work on the Rocks & Minerals badge and decide what our next badge will be. 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.

Show Table from May 8th Meeting

** indicates self-collected*

| | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Jeff Cessna | Calcite | Pakistan |
| " " | Sodalite | China |
| Tom Parnell | Calcite * | Medford Quarry, Westminster, MD |
| Gary Leaman | Sodalite(Fluorescent) | China |
| Diane Leaman | Kyanite | Minas Gerais, Brazil |
| Dan Kohn | Peacock coal | Lackawanna Mine, PA |
| Linda Kohn | Gold core sample | Homestake Mine, SD |
| Ken Reynolds | Kyanite | Kenya, Africa |
| Doug Baum | Crinoid | China |
| David Tiktinsky | Silica Chrysocolla | Arizona |

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Show Table from May 8th Meeting

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** indicates self-collected*

| | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| Rick Roffeld | Dolomite | Mexico |
| Greg Pappas | Malachite | China |
| Avery Francis | Quartz | Pickering Valley, PA |
| Joyce Butlrey | Serpentine | Unknown |
| Betty Francis | Phoenixville Quartz | Pennsylvania |
| David Balenson | Choya Geode w/ Amethyst | Chihuahua, Mexico |
| " " | Moroccan Geode w/ Quartz | Atlas Mountains, Morocco |
| Reed Owens | Sodalite Sphere | Unknown |
| Heather Vineyard | Muscovite w/ Apatite | North Carolina |
| Joel Rosen | Amazonite | Park County, Colorado |
| Dave Fryauff | Fluorite & Calcite | Pugh Quarry, Wood County, OH |
| Barbara Burr | Chinese Painted Stone | Guangxi Province, China |
| " " | Various gems | China |
| Chris Luzier | Fluorescent cabs | Franklin, NJ, & Oregon |
| Germaine Broussard | K2 | Unknown |

Door Prizes

Show Table:

Picture Sandstone
American Southwest
Won by: David Balenson

Door Prize:

Various Agates and Jaspers
Ex-Wendell Mohr Collection
Won by: Avery Francis



Upcoming Shows

Gem City Rock & Mineral Show & Sale

7/15/2023 - 7/16/2023

Sat 10:00-6:00 Sun 10:00-5:00

<http://www.gemcityrockclub.org/>

2525 W 38th

Zem Zem Shrine Temple

Erie, PA, 16506

Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse Show

7/7/2023 - 7/9/2023

<https://www.syracusegemsociety.com/>

575 State Fair Blvd

Center of Progress Building, New York State Fairgrounds

Syracuse, NY



Upcoming Shows

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SOUTHERN MARYLAND ROCK, MINERAL, AND FOSSIL SHOW SATURDAY OCTOBER 7, 2023

9 am to 4 pm

OLD WALDORF SCHOOL

3074 CRAIN HIGHWAY (Rt 301), WALDORF MD 20601

(next to JayCees Hall)

**ADMISSION DONATION: ADULTS \$5.00, SENIORS (65+) \$4.00,
JUNIORS (13-17) \$3.00, 12 AND UNDER FREE WITH AN ADULT**

FREE rocks for all Kids. FREE Door prizes every 30 minutes.



**THE HOLIDAYS ARE COMING
LOTS OF UNIQUE GIFTS
OVER 45 TABLES
*ROCKS *CRYSTALS *FOSSILS
*HANDCRAFTED JEWELRY
*LAPIDARY *MINERALS
*FLUORESCENT TENT *DISPLAYS**

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CLUB**

WEBSITE: WWW.SMRMC.ORG

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Mineral Club**

**VENDOR APPLICATIONS OR QUESTIONS?
CONTACT DAVE LINES THRU WEBSITE: SMRMC.org**



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Vice President – Pat Repik-Byrne

Secretary – Germaine Broussard

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Upstairs Showchair – Dave Tiktinsky

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NON-BOARD POSITIONS

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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

editor@glmsmc.com.

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Award Winning Bulletin

EFMLS, AFMS



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