



# The Rockhounder

May 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 June issue of The Rockhounder to Editor Olivia Luzier at [editor@glmsmc.com](mailto:editor@glmsmc.com) by Sunday, May 28, 2023.

## Regular Meeting Announcements

Pat Repik-Byrne, Vice President

### May Speaker Information

**Date:**

May 8th, 2023

**Speaker:**

Heather Vineyard

Collections Specialist, Paleobiology Department  
Smithsonian Institution, Museum of Natural History

**Title:**

“Suitability of Paleosols from the Early Miocene  
Kiahera Formation, Rusinga Island, Kenya, for Stable  
Isotopic Analyses”

Paleosols are defined as a stratum or soil horizon that was formed as a soil in a past geological record. Such soils can contain data relevant to the climate at the time of formation of the soil. Reconstructing paleoclimates can provide insight to our own future climate.

Heather began her career as an undergraduate physics major at Tennessee Technological University. It was not until she visited the Natural History Museum, which sparked an interest in other fields,

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### Next Regular Meeting:

**Date:** May 8th, 2023

**Time:** 7:30 PM

**Place:**

Rockville Senior Center,  
1150 Carnation Drive Rockville MD

### Next Board of Directors Meeting:

**Date:** May 15th, 2023

**Time:** 7:30 PM

**Place:**

Virtual (online Zoom meeting)

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## **May Speaker Information (Cont'd)**

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that she realized she wanted to change career paths. She thus enrolled in the geology program with no previous knowledge of geology, then slowly narrowed her interests towards mineralogy and geochemistry. She graduated with a B.A. degree in Earth Sciences with a concentration in Geology, and a B.S. degree in Geological and Earth Sciences/Geosciences in 2021 in the midst of the pandemic.

Heather then decided to work before returning to school to further her education. Fortuitously, a friend who works in the Botany Department notified her of an open position in the Paleobiology Department at the Smithsonian and the rest is history! Heather currently works behind the scenes at the Museum; i.e., she works with curators and collection management to improve collection and organization. She looks forward to continuing research on paleosols when she returns to school.

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## **President's Message**

Jonathan Harris

Hello Fellow Rockhounds:

Our quarry trips are a special benefit of joining our club. For these trips to continue, every attendee must follow all safety rules. Perhaps the most critical one: Never enter a quarry or mine without first attending the safety briefing or being briefed and escorted by a quarry-approved person. Mine regulations require such a briefing, and many quarries operate on weekends with huge trucks and pieces of mobile equipment. If you find you are going to arrive after the safety briefing, it is best to return home and join a trip on another day; but certainly, don't drive into the working areas of the quarry.

Also, it is important to read the rules that come with our liability waiver and make sure you procure the required safety equipment: certified (ANSI Z89.1) construction and mining helmet, steel-toed boots, long pants, eye protection, and gloves. Some quarries require wearing a fluorescent vest. Generally, you will be instructed on how to use the equipment at the safety briefing.

Many leaders in the industry and mine safety regulators do not approve of collecting in quarries. They believe that safety violations are too frequent and the quarries too hazardous. If a collector is seriously injured, it is likely the quarry would be fined, and the management may sanction the employees overseeing the trip. Quarry operators have told me of these warnings from inspectors.

Our field trips are one situation where safety rules cannot be ignored; one incident can get us expelled from quarries for years. Please read our Waiver and Rules before attending a field trip.



### Regular Meeting Minutes from April 10th

The April 10th, 2023 Regular Meeting was called to order at 7:43 PM by President Jonathan Harris.

Jonathan mentioned that we have many new members who have joined in the last few months, which has been excellent. We are still having email issues with the members email account, as some are still being flagged as spam and not getting through some spam filters. He recommended that members and new members who are not yet getting emails check their spam folders and mark our emails as "not spam" so that they can be delivered. He also asked if anyone had any other suggestions or another email delivery service that could be used, to let him know.

Last month's meeting minutes were accepted M/S/P and Doug announced that we have indeed had many new members. He also had many new name badges that had arrived and could be picked up from him. Joel then thanked all of the people who had helped him during the show with the electrical cords and the trailers. As always, the show cannot be run without all the member's help, work, and support and he thanked everyone for it. Jonathan also talked about the additional field trips that were upcoming and Diane mentioned that we did well at the show, but all of the increasing costs did take a toll on our proceeds from the show. We had around 1500 adults and 400 kids at the show this year, which gets us to our attendance levels before the pandemic. The fairgrounds' rental increase has been the biggest problem and it seems that many of the venues (which are few in number) have increased already or are scheduled to increase this year.

Jonathan also mentioned that we have been asked if any of our members would be interested in an old Raytech 12" diamond saw that they were looking to find a new home for and wanted to announce it to our meeting. Pat then introduced our TWO speakers who work for HOLCIM quarry operations. HOLCIM are the owners and operators of the famous Hunting Hill Quarry in Rockville, Maryland. Justin Esser is their Operations Manager and Indra Kumar specializes in the mixes and specs of the material that is produced. It was a fascinating presentation with discussion of the geology of the quarry and area, along with particulars of operations and what goes into the quarrying process.

According to Mindat, there are 60 different specimens of minerals found at the quarry. It was opened as a quarry in 1955, when the area was mostly rural and farmland. The quarry covers 330 acres and produces an average of 1.5 million tons of stone products each year. They recycle their water used in the plants into three settlement ponds. They can then pump it back into the plants to re-use again to wash the products that are washed stone mixes and to also spray down the roads to keep dust at a minimum. Mr. Kumar spoke about the unique products that they provide for specialized applications for roadwork, building, and construction. He has been in the industry for decades and knows the products and specifications like the back of his hand.

The quarry is also having their open house again (which is where Pat Repik-Byrne first made contact with them). Pat mentioned that it is a wonderful day of being able to tour the quarry with its employees and see the quarry firsthand. This is not a collecting trip; it is a tour graciously provided to the public by HOLCIM and its people. This one-day-a-year "Quarry Earth Day" event will take place on May 6th from 10 AM-3 PM. More information will be sent in the members' email, or please see their

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## **Regular Meeting Minutes from April 10th**

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website for more news.

A short break was taken after the presentation and the Show Table commenced, followed by the two door prize drawings. The meeting was adjourned at 9:52 PM.

*Respectfully submitted by Chris Luzier on behalf of Germaine Broussard, who was out of town.*

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## **BOD Meeting Minutes from April 17th**

Jonathan called the April 17, 2024 Board meeting to order at 7:35 PM. Present: Jonathan, Patricia Cronin, Chris, Dave, Karen, Andy, Joel, Pat Repik-Byrne, and Germaine.

Lapidary was discussed for members who are wanting to learn or willing to discuss and show lapidary work. At the April regular meeting, Dan had mentioned that there were several places for the opportunity to pursue lapidary work. These include the Gem, Lapidary and Mineral Society of Leisure World, The Patuxent Lapidary Guild, and the Gem Cutters Guild of Baltimore, along with the Wildacres workshops. Dan said to please ask for any other information.

At the recent quarry visit, a member showed up late, did not have safety equipment (no hard hat/goggles), and was found away from the group, trying to hammer out a sample. By being late, they had not gotten the safety lecture and not been told of restrictions of where not to be. There is a safety items list on the email and parameters sent out with every field trip announcement. They need to be read and understood and participants need to bring all items mentioned on the list. Fortunately, the other mineral group that had invited our group on the trip had extra safety gear and were able to help our new member have an enjoyable and safe time.

At our next meeting, we will be having a discussion of safety and items that are needed for field trips. (This is meant to be a refresher for everyone!) There is a safety list and waiver sent out with every Invitation, along with a list of equipment and instructions for quarry visits. We will review those. Every trip and location can be different in what they require and what special instructions the quarry owners and mineral group that offer the trip are expecting, which is why they need to be read ahead of each trip. We have had so many new members join in the past few months, which is excellent, but we need to make sure that everyone understands how the field trips work and the safety measures that are part of the trip. This is how we keep the good relationships with the quarries and our other mineral societies that invite us on our trips and vice versa.

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### BOD Meeting Minutes from April 17th

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Going forward, the trip leader for the inviting group or our group will send the invite email to members. The participant will need to make sure they have read and heard all the safety information, along with being present at the safety briefing at the quarry office on the morning of the trip. This is why it is so important to not be late, as you could miss the safety briefing. Jonathan will review and remind in his next President's message as well, along with the discussion at the regular meeting.

After the show, leftover items were inventoried and stored to be able to access and for deaccession. A list of items still remaining are as follows:

- 9 old cases
- 1 box of random case parts
- 2 Rubbermaid tubs containing 3 dop pots
- Blue plastic table runners
- Plastic shop aprons

There are still 2 Raytech cabochon machines, along with a 6" trim saw, that were reserved for the cab demo at the GLMSMC annual show if we have the volunteers to run the station. These are now stored in the larger trailer. Chris mentioned that he also has another cab machine that is ours that was used for many years as a loaner machine to anyone willing to cut preforms for the lapidary shop at the show. He also mentioned that he is storing another machine with a new 80 grit diamond wheel and a 6" trim saw as a preform cutting machine. If a society or a school would be interested in trying to start a lapidary shop and can get the logistics figured out, we could still make donations of equipment. We also seem to get many machine donations as well.

The Eagle Scout project donated by Conrad Smith (posters, etc.) and was used at previous shows is another item that we need to decide how to use again or to return to Conrad, as he said that he could take them as well. These will need to be gone through to see how to best use them. We could hang the posters at the show. They have giveaway specimens associated with the project, but these would need to be replenished and bought again. We already do so many giveaway specimens at the kid's section at the show and this is why we have not recently used the excellent project that he provided us. Germaine is going to bring her mineral example boxes that she uses for the NoVA show for some ideas to an upcoming meeting as well.

For the trailer disposition, we would need Board approval for sale. It was discussed how to put the small trailer up for sale, since everything would be now consolidated for the show into the larger trailer. Gary and Diane presented another option (before the meeting, as they couldn't attend) to save the smaller trailer for auction item storage so everything would be in one place and easy to access. Joel has kindly stored the smaller trailer in his driveway for many years and commented that it needs to have a new place to be stored, preferably before June. Chris mentioned that he could store it for a few months, but not long-term. Joel mentioned it needs to be longer than 2-3 months, in a semi-rural area, and in close proximity to the Fairgrounds and the Senior Center. The Board will work on a few differ-

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### BOD Meeting Minutes from April 17th

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-ent options and will have more news at the next Board meeting.

There was also a discussion of the impromptu board meeting before the last membership meeting prior to the show about the disposition of equipment and the contents of the trailer. It seemed to a few Board members that it was very rushed to try to get rid of the contents of the small trailer and that we should hold onto the machines for longer if we might have other possible options for them to be used in a lapidary shop for a school. The very quick, impromptu board meeting directly ahead of the regular meeting discussed unloading and sorting the contents of the trailer, as it would need to be unpacked at the show and this would be the best time to do it. It was voiced that it was pushed really hard to get all of this done and that the Board gave into the demands. It was also voiced that we should not have quick impromptu meetings like that again. (Jonathan mentioned the next day that we will not have impromptu meetings like that anymore and offered an apology the next morning after the April Board meeting. Joel also offered an apology as well the same morning.)

Chris and Dave (and previously Diane and Gary) also brought up the increasing cost of the current show venue and of everything to run the show. The show dates are earlier this coming year at the Montgomery Fairgrounds and will be on the March 16 and 17th of 2024. Suggestions were made to compare ours to other shows in the area. Is there an incentive to advertise digitally? We will check with NoVA on their numbers. It was also discussed if we should raise the cost of entry of our show and what effect would it have? Bohrer Park was suggested and visited, but in the end would just be too expensive. It has 2 gyms and the electricity connections are not conducive to what we need. There are very few other options in the area that provide the size buildings that we need at a reasonable cost.

#### **Committee Reports:**

- Joel- nothing further
- Pat- Upcoming Speakers:
  - May 8th Regular Meeting Speaker will be Heather Vineyard- Paleosols of Kenya
  - September- Statuary Hall presentation
- Andy- nothing further
- Dave- nothing further
- Germaine- nothing further

*Respectfully submitted by Germaine Broussard*





## Show Table from April 10, 2023

### Show Table

Chris Luzier	Various Hunting Hill Quarry specimens	Rockville, MD
Doug Baum	Garnet	Hunting Hill, Rockville, MD
Gary Leaman	Ammonite Slice	Madagascar
Diane Leaman	Blue Apatite	" "
Dan Kohn	Five Cabochons	Assorted localities
Tom Parnell	Various Hunting Hill specimens	Rockville, MD
Avery & Betty Francis	Unknown	Kentlands, MD
Joyce Buttrey	"	Myersville, MD
Jonathan Harris	Sphene-rodingite	Hunting Hill, Rockville, MD
Steven Calamuci	Aquamarine	Piang Wu Mine, China
Pat Repik-Byrne	Mangano-calcite	Santa Rita Mine, Morococha, Peru
Dave Hennessey	Various Hunting Hill specimens	Rockville, MD
Bruce Moran	Unknown- Donated specimens	Unknown
Marco Molinaro	Sodalite	Michigan
" "	Ruby in Zoisite	Unknown
Dave Fryauff	Mc Guinessite, Todorokite, Clinozoisite	Hunting Hill, Rockville, MD
Dave Tiktinsky	Amethyst	Reel Mine, NC
Joel Rosen	Chalcopyrite	Sweetwater Mine, Reynolds Co., MO
Dee Weiss	Vivianite	Brazil
Corrine Wilson	Unknown/ Quartz?	Brunswick, MD
" "	Dolomite	Calhoun, GA
Jeff Cessna	Fluorite	Stoneco Quarry, Clay Center, OH
" "	Fluorite, Calcite, Dolomite	Moscana Mine, Asturias, Spain

### Door Prizes

**Show Table Door Prize:** Calcite from Medford Quarry, Carroll Co., MD

*Won by:* Pat Repik-Byrne

**General Door Prize:** Pyrite from Huanzala, Peru

*Won by:* Seraphina Wilson



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

Mark Dahlman

**Next Meeting Date:** May 8th

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

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

### April 10th Meeting:

As part of the Rocks & Minerals badge, we continued our introduction to crystal forms. We made some crystal shapes using paper and observed some home-grown crystals. We had outstanding crystal door prizes thanks to our benefactor out west, Patrick Haynes– thanks, Mr. Haynes!

### May 8th Meeting:

We'll be doing more activities and watching a short video to help identify minerals for the Rocks & Minerals badge. 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.

Follow us on Facebook at

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

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## Upcoming Shows

### NJ Mineral, Fossil, Gem & Jewelry Show



**May 17-21, 2023**

NJ Convention & Expo Center  
Raritan Center  
97 Sunfield Ave, Edison, NJ

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## Upcoming Shows

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**THE ROCK & MINERAL CLUB  
OF LOWER BUCKS COUNTY, PA  
PRESENTS**

**The Earth Science Show & Sale**

**May 13, 2023  
8:30 AM to 3:00  
PM**

**LOCATION:**  
**Christ United Methodist Church**  
**501 Wistar Road, Fairless Hills, PA 19030**

**Rocks, Minerals, Fossils, Lapidary Arts, Jewelry &  
All Things Related to the Earth Sciences**

**Admission: \$2.00 Donation, Children 12 & Under Free**  
**Dealers: 6' Table \$20,**

**Registration & Prepayment is Required**

**Send Check to: Brian Schwab, 539 Sycamore Ave., Croydon, PA 19021,**  
**Payable to RMCLBC. For Info. Text Brian at 267-201-7104 or call and**  
**leave a message.**

**<https://sites.google.com/view/lowerbucksparocks/home>**  
**<https://www.facebook.com/rockclublowerbucksco/>**

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## **Upcoming Shows**

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### **Treasures of the Earth**

5/6/2023 - 5/7/2023

Sat 10:00-5:00 Sun 10:00-4:00

<http://msnepa.org/>

1880 Hwy 315

Oblates of St. Joseph Seminary

Yatesville, PA, 18640

### **Berks Mineralogical Society's World of Gems & Minerals**

5/6/2023 - 5/7/2023

Sat 10:00 - 5:00 Sun 10:00 - 4:00

<http://berksmineralsociety.com/>

312 Gernant's Church Rd

The Pavilion at Leesport Farmers Market

Leesport, PA, 19533

### **Fairless Rock & Mineral Club Show & Sale**

5/13/2023 - 5/13/2023

8:30 - 3:00

[https://sites.google.com/view/lowerbucksparocks/  
home](https://sites.google.com/view/lowerbucksparocks/home)

501 Wistar Rd

Christ United Methodist Church

Fairless Hills, PA, 19030

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## **Upcoming Shows**

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### **Gem Miner's Spring Show**

6/3/2023 - 6/4/2023

Sat 10:00-5:00 Sun 11:00-4:00

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

2210 Fairgrounds Rd

Howard County Fairgrounds

West Friendship, MD, 21794

### **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

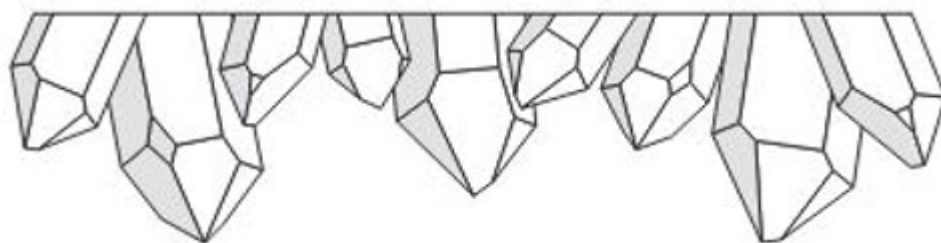
Syracuse, NY

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## Upcoming Shows

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# Spring Mineralfest

**mineral, fossil, and gem show**

Over one hundred tables loaded with minerals, fossils, crystals, geodes, gemstones, and gemstone jewelry from six continents and outer space

**Saturday, 3 June 2023**

8:30 AM to 3:00 PM

**Macungie, Pennsylvania**

Macungie Memorial Park – 50 N. Poplar Street

FREE ADMISSION and free parking

Rain or shine - over 50 vendors indoors, outdoor tailgate section weather permitting

Family oriented - younger attendees encouraged

Fluorescent mineral exhibit by courtesy of the Franklin Mineral Museum



Sponsored by the  
**Pennsylvania Earth Sciences Association**  
a 501(c)(3) nonprofit educational organization

PESA is a Lehigh Valley based group of mineral and fossil collectors, gemstone and lapidary artisans, and other earth science enthusiasts.





## 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

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

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Award Winning Bulletin

EFMLS, AFMS



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