



# The Rockhounder

Summer-September 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 October issue of The Rockhounder to Editor Olivia Luzier at [editor@glmsmc.com](mailto:editor@glmsmc.com) by Sunday, September 24, 2023.

## Regular Meeting Announcements

Pat Repik-Byrne, Vice President

## September Speaker Information

**Date:** September 11, 2023

**Speaker:** Paul Kreingold ([paul@kreingold.com](mailto:paul@kreingold.com))

**Title of Talk:** “The Lost History of Potomac Marble”

The destruction of Washington in 1814 by the invading British challenged President Monroe and Benjamin Latrobe with the task of rebuilding the edifices which had been destroyed. As did Washington and Jefferson earlier, they understood that the principal buildings of the government were not mere offices but symbols of the aspirations of the Republic. They had to be more than functional; they had to be beautiful. As classicists, their notions of beauty were derived from the ancient Greek and Roman Republics. Like the Greeks and Romans, the preferred building material was marble. The question was, where was such building material to be found? The building material which was discovered and used was Potomac Marble, which exists in abundance on both sides of the Potomac River, extending from Leesburg to Montgomery County. It is not actually marble, but a limestone conglomerate. Architect of the Capitol Benjamin Latrobe and President Monroe rode all up and down

*Continued on page 2*

### Next Regular Meeting:

**Date:** September 11, 2023

**Time:** 7:30 PM

**Place:**

Rockville Senior Center,  
1150 Carnation Drive, Rockville, MD

### Next Board of Directors Meeting:

**Date:** September 18, 2023

**Time:** 7:30 PM

**Place:** Virtual (online Zoom meeting)

### Inside this issue:

Item	Page
Meeting Announcements, Speaker Info	1
President's Message	2
Regular Meeting Minutes	3
BOD Meeting Minutes	5
FRA Meeting Minutes	6
Picnic and Auction Announcement	7
Upcoming Shows	8



## **September Speaker (Cont'd)**

*Continued from page 1*

Loudoun and Montgomery Counties opening up quarries. Despite many problems and political opposition, Latrobe was able to build the beautiful columns in the Capitol from this marble.

In the process of his research, Mr. Kreingold has re-discovered some of the 200-year-old quarries, and will have polished samples from these local quarries for display. He will discuss:

1. The step-by-step invasion of the British from the Patuxent River to D.C.
2. The methods the British used to actually burn the stone buildings; after all, how do you burn stone?
3. How stone was quarried in the early 19th century, along with sample quarry tools.
4. The utilization of George Washington's Potomac Canal to ship the stone to D.C. for carving.

Please be sure to join us for the inaugural meeting of the GLMSMC 2023-2024 season, where we will be treated to this compelling and locally relevant presentation by Mr. Kreingold. He is currently the President of the Banshee Reeks Chapter of the Virginia Master Naturalists and the Conservation Director of the Izaak Walton League, Loudoun County Chapter. His interest in geology and history dates back to his college days, but after a long career in computer system design, he has devoted his time in the last five years as a researcher and educator. Besides public lectures throughout Loudoun, Montgomery, and Frederick Counties, Mr. Kreingold regularly leads "expeditions" to the rediscovered Latrobe Potomac Marble quarry along the beautiful Potomac River. He is also the author of the book *Potomac Marble: The History of the Search for the Ideal Stone*, which will be available for sale at the meeting for those who are interested.

---

## **President's Message**

Jonathan Harris

Hello fellow club members:

Hopefully, you are enjoying the summer recess. If you haven't already, mark your calendars for our September 30th picnic and auction. We will be auctioning pieces from a mineral collection we recently acquired from an estate.

We will be reaching out to quarries about potential collecting opportunities. If you have contacts that

*Continued on page 3*



## **President's Message**

*Continued from page 2*

can get us access to quarries or other sites, please reach out. It has gotten harder to collect in quarries over the past years, as many are reluctant to deal with the costs and risks of having visitors.

We are having quite a bit of trouble with our email listserv. As of this writing, Bluehost's listserv has stopped sending out messages, and they have not remedied the situation after my three time-consuming interactions with their customer service. By the time you get this, we either have gotten the problem resolved or found another way to communicate.

This leads to this urgent request: If you have any guidance on how we can distribute the Rockhounder and other announcements to club members, please reach out to me. Perhaps someone knows a more reliable hosting provider or a mailing list service. One challenge: We would like several individuals (e.g. myself, the editor, program director, and trip organizers), but not everyone, to have the ability to reach out to the membership. Some providers make this very difficult or costly.

Cheers and keep cool,  
----Jonathan

---

## **Regular Meeting Minutes from June 12th**

Germaine Broussard

The June 12th Regular meeting was called to order at 7:38 PM.

Regular meeting minutes and Board meeting minutes for May were M/S/P without discussion.

Doug Baum said he had name badges that members had ordered.

There was discussion of the upcoming picnic and auction. It will be held at the Griffith Park Pavillion on Saturday, September 30.

*Continued on page 4*



## Regular Meeting Minutes from June 12th

*Continued from page 3*

Doug also said there was a position for a volunteer at Patuxent River Park to teach the local geological history of the park.

Joel mentioned, since we have so many new members, that we have the show table for members to show off their mineral, fossils, and lapidary treasures. Registering on the sign-up sheet gets members a ticket for the prize drawing and there is also a door prize drawing as well for all attendees. You have to stay until the end of the meeting when we have the drawings, as you need to be present to win.

Vice President Pat introduced the evening's speaker, GLMSMC member and President Jonathan Harris.

Jonathan spoke about upcoming field trips, equipment, and paperwork requirements. He also showed items required for hunting in the quarries and mentioned several rules that must be followed:

- **Arrival at the sites**—be early and check in with the leaders. Pre-hunt safety briefings given by the sites are **required**!
- **During the hunt**—do not wander off! Stay in the designated areas. Keep your equipment on—especially safety glasses and hard hats!
- The mine/quarry can be fined if anyone is not wearing their gear! And it could mean any further visits could be cancelled!
- Do not climb on the safety berms constructed of rock that the quarry has placed as boundaries. Also do not approach high walls in the quarry and pay attention to what is above you (such as a highwall).
- Assumption of risk and waiver form is **required** for each field trip.
- The goal is to have fun and find new stuff! But, keep safety first and we get to keep going to quarries!

An auction was held at the meeting with some beautiful lapidary slabs, perfect to create amazing jewelry or just admire as is! The bidding for a few items was intense, but all in good fun!

Joel administered the show table and door prize drawings.

Our next meeting will be September 11th after the summer break, with no July and August meetings.

The motion was made, seconded, and passed and the meeting was adjourned at 9:55 PM.



## **BOD Meeting Minutes from June 19th**

*Chris Luzier on behalf of Germaine Broussard*

Meeting started at 7:37 PM by Jonathan Harris.

Present were Gary and Diane Leaman, Dan Kohn, Holly Heighes, Andy Celmer, Dave Tiktinsky, Doug Baum, Karen Lottes, Pat Repik-Byrne and Chris Luzier.

This was a short meeting to discuss the logistics and planning for the sorting, loading, and pick-up of the new auction material of minerals on Saturday, September 30th. This will be in conjunction with our annual fall club picnic and is an old collection of minerals and fossils as well. We will meet with Scott, who is in possession of the collection, and sort the items in early July with him in advance of the picnic/auction.

The picnic will be held at the same location in Gaithersburg at Griffith Park, where we have had our last few picnics. Thanks very much to Karen for reserving the September 30th date for us again at the park and her suggestion of this wonderful venue in the first place.

We will bring all of the auction lots to the park early in the morning on the 30th and set everything else up for the picnic as well. We will likely begin around 10 AM with the viewing and then around 11 AM for the picnic and the auction following. Specific times will be listed on an upcoming flyer for the event with time ranges being about the same as the prior events. This will be in a future Rockhounder and be sent out to the members' email. This will be announced at the regular meeting on September 11th, after the summer break.

We had also been contacted about another collection that has a small amount of minerals and lapidary items that the owner would like to have help with. We will follow up with them as well and schedule a time to meet and view the collection. Kathy Hyland has also asked if we would want some of Chuck's mineral and lapidary related books that she is storing and would like to donate. Chris talked with her and we will get together after the summer break to discuss moving forward with Chuck's mineral library.

It was also discussed whether or not to sell or keep the smaller trailer that we have used for storing show items. Diane had suggested previously that instead of selling this trailer, that we could use it for storing auction material instead. It was proposed that we keep the small trailer for storing upcoming auction material or donated specimens to the club, instead of selling it. This was M/S/P in favor of retaining the trailer for these purposes.

The meeting adjourned at 8:34 PM.



---

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

Mark Dahlman

**Next Meeting Date:** Sept 11th

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

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

### **June 12th Meeting:**

We finished the Rocks & Minerals badge by identifying mineral specimens and doing some badge paperwork. We also decided on the next badge to work on (Gold Panning & Prospecting) and planned for a summertime gold panning field trip. We finished off the evening with door prizes for everyone.

### **Sept 11th Meeting:**

At our September meeting, we'll award the Rocks & Minerals badges that FRA members have earned and then start on the Gold Panning & Prospecting 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/)





## Potluck, Picnic, and Auction Announcement/Flyer

GLMSMC Members, Friends, & Family  
**Potluck, Picnic, & Auction!**  
Saturday, September 30.2023  
11am - 4:30pm

An old  
time,  
classic  
mineral  
collection  
will be live  
auctioned!

Griffith Park Pavilion  
29 South Summit Ave  
Gaithersburg, MD

Bring a  
potluck  
dish or two  
to share!

Please bring  
utensils with  
dishes that  
require them.



11am-Auction  
Viewing  
11:30am-Time to  
eat!  
12pm-Auction  
Begins



Please use cash for  
payment, except  
GLMSMC  
Members may also  
use checks.



## Upcoming Shows

### Mineral Treasures Outdoor Show 2023

Sponsored by the Philadelphia Mineralogical Society

**St. Michael's Grove**  
**400 Jacobs St.**  
**Mont Clare, PA 19453**

**Saturday, Sep. 9, 2023**  
**10am to 5pm**

Minerals, Fossils and Gem sales on  
Grounds and in Pavilion

Kids' Activities and Free  
Specimens

Snack Bar and Picnic Grounds

Free Parking and Indoor Restrooms

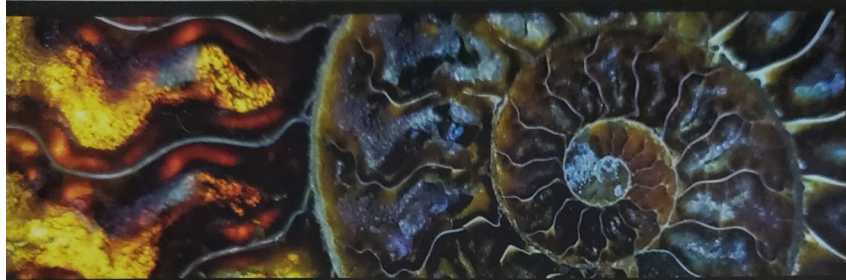
Admission: \$5 per adult

Under 13 free

Scouts in uniform free

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

THE GEM CUTTERS GUILD OF BALTIMORE PRESENTS



THE 58TH ANNUAL ATLANTIC COAST

### GEM MINERAL JEWELRY AND FOSSIL SHOW



SAT. SEPT. 23 10AM - 6PM

SUN. SEPT. 24 10AM - 5PM

HOWARD COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS  
WEST FRIENDSHIP, MD





## Upcoming Shows

**Rochester Gem, Mineral, Jewelry and Fossil Show & Sale**  
Educational Displays, Beads, Crystals, Fossils, Minerals, Jewelry, Carvings, Spheres, Hourly Door Prizes & Much More

**2023**

**GENERAL ADMISSION \$7.00**

**2023**

Total Sports Experience  
Washington St.  
W. Commercial St.

**TOTAL SPORTS EXPERIENCE - 435 WEST COMMERCIAL STREET, E ROCHESTER, NY 14445  
JUST OFF INTERSTATE 490**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28<sup>TH</sup>  
10:00 A.M TO 6:00 P.M.**

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29<sup>TH</sup>  
10:00 A.M TO 5:00 P.M.**

KIDS 12 & UNDER FREE WITH AN ADULT | SPECIAL: 2-DAY PASS ONLY **\$10.00**  
PURCHASE GENERAL ADMISSION TICKETS AT THE DOOR, OR  
ONLINE AT [tinyurl.com/2023GemShowTix](http://tinyurl.com/2023GemShowTix)

**SAVE THE DATE**

<http://www.rochesterlapidary.org/show>

Facebook.com/ROCGemShow

**GEMARAMA 2023 - Discount Coupon**

2023 show theme: **World of Quartz**

Tuscarora Lapidary Society's 54th Annual Show

November 4th: 10am - 6pm November 5th: 10am - 5pm  
Hall D, Greater Philadelphia EXPO Center  
100 Station Avenue, Oaks, PA 19456

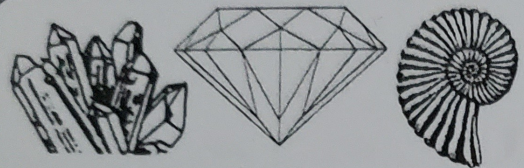
**Discount** with this bookmark: \$1 off adult one-day fare, good for the entire family.  
Purchase discount tickets in advance at [lapidary.org/gemarama](http://lapidary.org/gemarama).

- Demonstrations
- Exhibits
- Dealers
- Gems
- Jewelry
- Food
- Childrens Activities
- Beads
- Fossils
- Minerals
- Silent Auction
- Free Parking





## Upcoming Shows



### 31st Annual GEM, MINERAL AND FOSSIL SHOW

Presented by The Northern Virginia Mineral Club, Inc. | [www.novamineralclub.org/show](http://www.novamineralclub.org/show)  
Sponsored by the Dept. of Atmospheric, Oceanic and Earth Sciences at GMU

Date: November 18 & 19, 2023

Place: Dewberry Hall, Johnson Center  
George Mason University - Fairfax Campus  
GPS: [www.bit.ly/3fBZfh8](http://www.bit.ly/3fBZfh8) (Lot A)

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

Admission: Adults: \$6, Seniors: \$4, Teens (13-17): \$3  
Children 12 & under, accompanied by adult are FREE  
GMU Students & Faculty w/valid ID are FREE.  
Scouts in uniform 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 @ Mattaponi River Lane off Patriot Circle  
Look for our Courtesy Shuttle & Designated Walking Path to Mineral Show



**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).

Permission to copy material  
printed herein, except  
specifically copyrighted items,  
is granted, provided credit is  
given.

Award Winning Bulletin  
EFMLS, AFMS



**TIME SENSITIVE  
DATED MATERIAL  
FIRST CLASS MAIL**

**The Rockhounder  
Gem, Lapidary, and Mineral Society  
of Montgomery County, MD, Inc.  
P. O. Box 444, Gaithersburg MD  
20884-0444**