



# The Rockhounder

December 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 January issue of The Rockhounder to Editor Olivia Luzier at [editor@glmsmc.com](mailto:editor@glmsmc.com) by Tuesday, December 26th, 2023.

## Regular Meeting Announcements

Pat Repik-Byrne, Vice President

## December Speaker Information

**Speaker:** There will be no speaker this month, as we will be having our annual holiday party again!

**Title of Talk:** Holiday Party!

The regular meeting will be held on Monday, December 11th at 7:30 PM. This meeting will be our annual potluck style holiday party, so bring your favorite dishes, desserts, snacks, or drinks you wish to share with other members and friends.

Also, you can bring any mineral specimens you wish to sell, trade, or give away. Please keep your items for swap/sale to the maximum of one or two flats, due to the shortage of space.

Once again, we are having a holiday gift exchange. Members who wish to participate in the exchange should bring any hobby-related item, mineral, fossil, or lapidary item. Please wrap the item and only identify it as mineral, fossil, or lapidary; this way it remains a surprise for when we unwrap the gifts. Please keep the value of the gift under \$20.

### Next Regular Meeting:

**Date:** December 11th, 2023

**Time:** 7:30 PM

**Place:**

Rockville Senior Center,  
1150 Carnation Drive Rockville MD

### Next Board of Directors Meeting:

There will not be a BOD meeting for the month of December.

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## **President's Message**

Jonathan Harris

Hello fellow rockhounds:

We are at the end of the year and will start the new year without a club President. Fortunately, due to many dedicated officers and Board members, we will continue our programs. Having a President would make it much easier, as there would be a central person who could organize and run meetings and coordinate activities.

If you are interested in joining the Board as an at-large member or in being President, please reach out to me or any Board member. I'm living proof that you don't need to be an expert at geology, collecting, identifying, polishing, or selling minerals to do the job. The strength of our organization is that we bring together friendly people with a common interest and different knowledge, skills, and perspectives.

Please remember to come to our holiday party on Monday, December 11th. It will be a good chance to share cheer, specimens, and food. Bring food and minerals to sell, swap, or give away. Also bring a good appetite!

Please keep sharing your pictures and inviting friends to our Facebook and Instagram pages.

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah, and a happy winter holiday season to all.

----Jonathan

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## **Regular Meeting Minutes from November 13th, 2023**

The meeting started at 7:43 PM.

Tonight's meeting is different with the member's swap and sell of their own items and auction of items as well from the members, along with donated specimens for the benefit of the GLMSMC.

Jonathan opened the meeting. Doug mentioned that we had some new visitors and asked if any would introduce themselves and were welcomed. The business meeting was very quick, as we needed to make sure that we had plenty of time for Dan and Linda Kohn to do their presentation on the Wildacres lapidary school and vacation center in the beautiful mountains of NC. They explained and showed an amazing array of lapidary projects, classes, activities, and attractions that Wildacres has to offer for your vacation time there. They have attended many times, along with some of our other members as well. It is an excellent program and Dan and Linda did a wonderful job of bringing that



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## **Regular Meeting Minutes from November 13th, 2023**

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point home!

After their presentation, there were a few more announcements before the swap and sell auction part of the meeting.

Jonathan mentioned that we still need a President for next year. Chris mentioned that he would be willing to be President if someone else would step up to take over Downstairs Showchair for him. Chris would train the new Showchair candidate over a period of a couple of years and still help with the planning and logistics and the running of the show.

The other three candidates for office were voted in MSP, as the following:

President- TBD

Vice President- Heather Vineyard

Treasurer- Jonathan Harris

Secretary- Jeff Cessna

We thanked them as a group and just could not do it without our volunteers!

The swap and sell auction went well, with many nice items changing hands and going to new homes! It was a very fun evening indeed!

The meeting adjourned at 9:42 PM.

*Minutes respectfully submitted by Chris Luzier on behalf of Germaine Broussard*

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## **BOD Meeting Minutes from November 20th, 2023**

The meeting was called to order at 8:03 PM, with a quorum recognized.

### **On the agenda:**

- Party
- Donations
- Computer and A/V expenses for the club
- The budget for 2024

### **Computers/AV**

The need for new computers/laptops has been in the works for over five years. Chris reiterated and

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### BOD Meeting Minutes from November 20th, 2023

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followed up on the need for new computers for the club, particularly for the VP and the Treasurer. The ones currently used are having issues and will not be supported shortly. Connections have been problematic with other equipment. The club also needs a microphone and speaker box. The projector may need to be replaced as well if it keeps having powering up issues and not playing well with others.

Dan has volunteered to load the software and get the computers started.

Chris has researched several different brands and types, Dell and HP among them. The projector is easy to pair with the HP and many of our other Board members are very familiar with using the HP computers, including Chris.

Amounts for Computer and AV equipment were discussed. It was mentioned that the selling of the 5 machines from the shop equipment could be used for these purchases.

Discussion was had about pairing the computers with the projector per the manuals and double checking the need for the new projector. The suggestion was made to get the updated version of Quicken for the Treasurer's computer.

A motion was made for the club to authorize the expenditure for AV equipment, computers, and the software. The motion passed MSP.

### **Donations**

Many institutions/charities need to receive their donations by year end.

GLMSMC usually tries to make their donation to the Smithsonian before year end so it can be used for purchasing a specimen on behalf of the GLMSMC at the Tucson Show for the Smithsonian collection. Other charities and organizations were mentioned as candidates for donations. Natural History Society of MD and Wildacres were two mentioned. (Dan and Linda just made the presentation on Wildacres.)

A motion was made to donate to the Smithsonian and to Wildacres, which was MSP.

The President asked for a committee to find out and recommend for other donations to be discussed in the future. Jonathan, Andy, and Chris volunteered to lead up the search and to report back to the Board.

### **Show and Budget**

Chris said we had sent postcards out in years' past before the pandemic, but by last count at the show that we only had a very few returned, not making the cost of sending them out worthwhile. He also

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## **BOD Meeting Minutes from November 20th, 2023**

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mentioned that we have that amount still allocated in the budget for these promotions and the postage associated with them. He mentioned that we may want to put this to use with building more social media presence. There has always been mention of more social media to boost show attendance with more FB, Instagram, and other social posts. Heather has graciously volunteered to help us work on the social media advertising/outreach for the show with Instagram and see what our best options may be as well.

Motion was made to approve 2024 budget as proposed and was passed MSP.

### **Party**

The party will be held Monday, December 11th and it will be a potluck as usual. Paper items, drinks (water and sodas), ice, tablecloths, cutlery, and storage bags are already covered and provided by the GLMSMC. The announcement in the newsletter will have more details for the party as well.

We will have a member buy/sell/swap there too, so bring some items if you wish!

We are also holding our Secret Santa swap! Please limit the cost to less than \$20. Mark the package as mineral, lapidary, fossil, etc.

Be prepared for an enjoyable evening!! The friendships made are the best presents I have received since joining!!

The meeting was adjourned at 9:38 PM.

*Respectfully submitted by Germaine Broussard*

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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:** December 11th

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

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

### November 13th Meeting:

Friday the 13th fell on a Monday in November. As we had to cancel the November meeting due to illness, but we'll finish the Gold Panning and Prospecting badge when we meet in January.

### December 11th Meeting:

It's that time of year again! The December meeting will be a short gathering of the FRA. We'll follow that by joining the adults in the main room for the holiday potluck event. There is no sign-up for the potluck, so bring whatever finger food you care to share with the club. Club members are invited to bring up to two flats of specimens to sell to other club members if they wish to do so. It should be a great event. 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.

## Upcoming Shows



### 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Show

Date/Time: March 16-17, 2024 Saturday 10-6 and Sunday 11-5

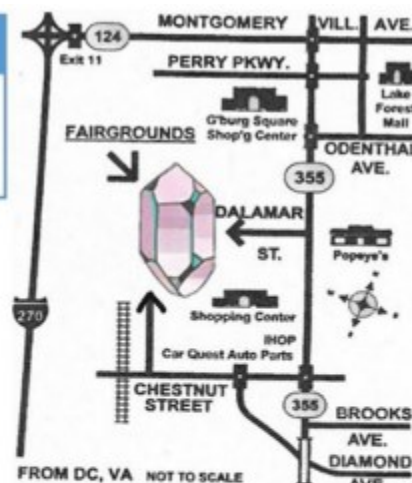
Location: Montgomery County Fairgrounds; Building #6  
16 Chestnut St. Gaithersburg MD 20877

#### Featuring:

Hourly door prizes  
Gold panning  
Fluorescent minerals  
Raffle prizes  
Free parking

20+ vendors of minerals, beads, fossils, gems, and jewelry  
40+ exhibits by club members, including junior exhibits  
Two floors of everything mineral related  
Mini Mine, free minerals, and activities for children  
Demonstrations of faceting, micromineralogy, jewelry making, and physics

Children (11 and under) Free! Ages 12 and over \$6  
Scouts in Uniform Free! 4H youth with 4H identification Free!  
More info at: [www.glmsmc.com](http://www.glmsmc.com)



Show this flyer for  
**\$1 off admission price**  
(applies to each member in your group)



## Upcoming Shows

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The Philadelphia Mineralogical Society and  
The Delaware Valley Paleontological Society present a joint show

# Mineral Treasures and Fossil Fair 2024

Saturday, March 23  
10am to 5 pm  
Sunday, March 24  
10 am to 4 pm

LuLu Temple  
5140 Butler Pike  
Plymouth Meeting PA  
Just 2 miles from the Norristown  
exit of the PA Turnpike!



### 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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