



THE ROCKHOUNDER

December 2025

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 Rockhoulder to Editor Maria Nopo at bulletineditor@glmsmc.com by December 30th.

Regular Meeting Announcements

Heather Vineyard, Vice President

December Meeting Information

Event: Holiday Party!

There is no speaker for the December meeting as it is our annual holiday party and potluck. Please bring a dish or two to share. It can be appetizers, desserts, side or main dishes, or anything else that you would like to share with everyone.

We will have a gift exchange where you can bring an item valued in the range of 25 dollars. Any member that brings a wrapped gift can then exchange it for another gift to take home.

Remember that the gift should be wrapped and include a tag that states whether it is a mineral, fossil, or jewelry/lapidary-related item.

Participating in the gift exchange is optional, and you're more than welcome to observe the festivities while enjoying the food!

We will also have a swap and sell going on throughout the meeting, where any member is welcome to bring up to two flats of items to sell to other members.

Come to the December 8th holiday meeting for a great evening with club members to enjoy our hobby together!

Next Regular Meeting

Date: December 8th, 2025

Time: 7:30 PM

Place: Rockville Senior Center
1150 Carnation Drive, Rockville, MD

Next Board of Directors Meeting

*There will be no December Board of Directors meeting.
Enjoy the holidays!*

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President's Message

Chris Luzier, President

Good day GLMSMC Members!

Hard to believe that Thanksgiving has gone by already and that our holiday party is on it's way this coming Monday, December 8th!!! Bring your casseroles, desserts, finger foods or whatever your specialty is. We look forward to this annual potluck style party with all the treats and goodies that our members bring to share. Also, don't forget to bring a gift for our gift exchange with other members. You need to bring a gift in the range of, plus or minus 25 dollars, to participate. You also don't have to participate as well in the gift exchange. If you just want to observe the festivities and see what people have brought, that is more than fine.

The gift needs to be wrapped and then you should write on the tag, whether it is mineral, fossil, or lapidary/jewelry related, so people can choose whatever genre they like best. This is always a lot of fun and some of the items that are brought are quite awesome and unique as well! We also have during the meeting and holiday party, a swap and sell going on for any of the members who want to bring in up to two flats of minerals or related items to sell. This goes on for the whole evening and you can pick up some really nice things in this sale. If you are selling, make sure you bring your own change as well.

This is also my last meeting as President and I thank you for the opportunity to serve the group again as President.

Our 60th Annual Gem and Mineral Show is coming up March 21st & 22nd, 2026. We need you all as always and your volunteer efforts allow the show to run properly. We cannot thank you enough for your help and time!

We will have the sign-up sheets available at the upcoming Holiday party, for you to be able to sign-up for the volunteer slots that you want. We will also have show flyers available as well. In the past month, I have brought 1200 flyers for the Lebanon Show weekend and then also another 1200 to the NOVA Show as well, for the dealers and the front admissions tables. We will have one other opportunity to do this again at the Delaware Show on March 7th & 8th, two weeks ahead of our show. Look forward to seeing you all this coming Monday!!!



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GLMSMC Regular Meeting Minutes from November 17th, 2025

Jeff Cessna, Secretary

The 17 November 2025 meeting was called to order by President Chris Luzier at 7:45 pm. There were approximately 49 adults and 7 juniors in attendance. It was M/S/P to approve the minutes of the 13 October 2025 Regular meeting and the 20 October 2025 Board of Directors meeting.

Announcements: President Chris Luzier welcomed everyone. He noted the upcoming Northern Virginia Mineral Club show the following weekend. Flyers will be distributed to the front table and to dealers as they were at the Lebanon show. Chris announced there would be an auction of material from the Andy Muir collection, with a preview under UV lights to occur after the presentation. Chris announced the December meeting would be the annual Holiday Party with a potluck meal, gift exchange, and the opportunity for members to sell up to 2 flats of hobby related items. To participate in the gift exchange please wrap an item up to \$25 in value and label Mineral, Fossil, or Lapidary. There is no Show Table in December. There is typically no BOD meeting in December. The January program will be club editor and junior member Maria Nopo presenting on the Minerals of Peru. Linda Kohn informed members the Spring Classes at Wildacres have been announced. See Linda or Dan for details.

Election: The proposed slate of officers was announced: President, Jonathan Harris; Vice-President, Chris Luzier; Treasurer, Holly Heighes; and Secretary, Karen Lottes. A call was made for nominations from the floor. Hearing none, it was M/S/P to elect the slate of officers.

EFMLS Liaison: No announcements.

Treasurer: Jonathan Harris reported that the club is solvent. A 2026 proposed budget was discussed and passed at the prior Board of Directors meeting.

Field Trips: Marco Molinaro discussed an upcoming joint Field Trip with the Southern Maryland Rock club. The locality has golf ball sized garnets. It has previously produced moonstone and rutile. The number of participants will be limited. An email will be sent to members with details of this trip and any others.

Membership: Membership chair Doug Baum welcomed visitors and asked them to introduce themselves. Guests discussed their interests, having heard of the club from the Howard County show, their professor, or Google. Doug reminded members that membership starts in January, so think about renewing.

Program: Chris Luzier introduced our speaker for the evening, member Dave Tiktinsky. The presentation was titled *Lost Sheep Fluorspar Mine, Delta, UT*. Through work connections, Dave is familiar with the new owner of the Lost Sheep Mine.

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GLMSMC Regular Meeting Minutes from November 17th, 2025

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His presentation was inspired by a recent visit to the mine. Dave described the local geology. He mentioned the nearby Thomas Range where people collect topaz among other minerals. Fluorite deposits are found in several areas near the mine tending to be brecciated deposits in pipes, without crystal deposits. Some mines, such as the Tiffany mine, produced lapidary specimens. The main attraction is the high grade of fluorspar found in the deposit. Although it will first be processed for metallurgical uses, the grade is high enough to produce the purity hydrofluoric acid needed for uranium enrichment. That use and the possibility to extract gallium and germanium qualifies the products as critical minerals. Dave got the opportunity to go inside the mine as preparations to reopen it were completed. He showed photos of what this type of mine looks like and what the deposit and associated geology looks like. Thanks, Dave.

The auction of material from the Andy Muir collection was administered by Diane Leaman. The show table and door prizes were administered by Joel Rosen. Gary and Diane Leaman supplied large “cauliflower” quartz specimens from Indiana to be given away as additional door prizes.

Adjournment: It was M/S/P to adjourn the meeting at 9:58 PM.

GLMSMC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes from November 10th, 2025

Jeff Cessna, Secretary

The 10 November 2025 Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 7:34 PM by Chris Luzier.

Board Members Present: Andy Celmer, Jeff Cessna, Jonathan Harris, Dan Kohn, Gary Leaman, Karen Lottes, Chris Luzier, and Joel Rosen. Guests Present: Holly Heighes, Diane Leaman, and Dee Weiss.

President: The BOD meeting and regular meeting were switched due to the holiday weekend.

Treasurer: Jonathan Harris distributed the financial statement and proposed 2026 budget prior to the meeting for review by board members. It was M/S/P to amend the 2025 budget to include donations to the Smithsonian, Wildacres, and the Natural History Society of Maryland at the same level as 2024. Budget information is available to members upon request. The 2026 proposed budget was reviewed with changes to the money allotted to purchase meeting door prizes, the venue rental amount, and to remove the budgeted donations, to be considered in an amendment near the end of the 2026 fiscal year. It was M/S/P to accept the proposed budget as amended. An exploratory subcommittee was established, consisting of Andy Celmer, Holly Heighes, Dee Weiss, Karen Lottes, and Jonathan Harris, to consider the organizational structure for a club scholarship.

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GLMSMC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes from November 10th, 2025

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Show: Holly Heighes distributed updated volunteer sign-up sheets, door prize tickets, and the 2026 show flyer. Suggested edits from the BOD were incorporated before the meeting. The prior year food truck operator will be contacted for 2026. BOD members concurred on the consolidation of some volunteer time slots. Dee Weiss asked for examples of stages of cabochons to prepare a display. Dan requested Chris supply more of the slab material used for pre-forms.

Election: The TBD positions in the published slate of officer candidates have been filled. There must be a call for nominations from the floor when the election occurs at the regular meeting. Some members will move from at-large positions. Potential individuals were suggested for the elected president to nominate to the open positions.

Meetings: Items needed for the Holiday Party were assigned to individuals. Jonathan will bring the club supplies of plates, cups, and cutlery. Jonathan will bring tablecloths. Chris will bring a cooler and ice. Gary and Diane will bring sodas. Joel will run/administer the gift exchange. Andy will bring storage bags for leftovers. Other local clubs will be invited by Chris and Dan.

The disposition of material donated to the club was discussed. Karen still has 40-50 flats of auction material. Holly inquired if material held by Jonathan contained items that could be repurposed as Show or meeting door prizes.

No other regular reports.

Adjournment: It was M/S/P to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:42 pm.

The following business occurred by email between regular Board of Directors Meetings. It was M/S/P to include additional money in the 2025 for local social media/show publicity in the week preceding the show. Budget details can be provided to any member by contacting a member of the BOD.



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Show Table from November 17th Regular Meeting

Name	Specimen	Locale
Jeff Cessna	Sphalerite Smithsonite	Bloomsburg, PA
“ ”	Watermelon Calcite	Buffalo Gap Grasslands, SD
“ ”	Trilobite <i>Elrathia kingi</i>	Wheeler Shale, UT
Joel Rosen	Willemites	NJ
Gary Leaman	Lg. Cauliflower Quartz Geode	Bedford, IN (giveaway for the meeting)
Diane Leaman	Lg. Cauliflower Geode	“ ” (giveaway for the meeting) Thank you!
Tom Parnell	Fluorites (4 each)	China & Madagascar
Jake Margolis	“ ”	Hardin County, IL
Karen Lottes	“ ”	Durham Co., England
David Tiktinsky	Fluorite/opal	Lost Sheep Mine, Delta, UT
Doug Baum	Wulfenite	China
Danny Baker	Dragontooth Amethyst	Bahia, Brazil
Germaine Broussard	Mini Fluorescents	Worldwide
Ken Reynolds	Willemite XL/Sphalerite	Sterling Hill, NJ
Corrine Wilson	Fluorite	Diana Maria Mine, UK
Jonathan Harris	“ ”	Blanchard Mine, Bingham, NM
David Fryauff	Hanksite (TL)	Searles Lake, CA
Dan Kohn	Fluorite	Unknown
Steve Calamuci	“ ”	India
Pat Repik-Byrne	Fluorite XTLS (amber/violet)	Midwest area? Unknown
Marco Molinaro	Siderite & Barite	Frostburg, MD
Dee Weiss	Pearl & rattle rocks	Bahrain & ?
Anya Melyahova	Unknown	DMV
Priscilla Quackenbush	Pumice	Asbury Park, NJ
Karen Rohan	Labradorite earrings	Unknown

Show Table Door Prize

Selenite
St. Mary's, MD
Won by Steven Calamuci

General Door Prize

Dragon Scale Calcite
Sweetwater Mine, Ellington, Reynolds Co., Missouri
Won by Dave Tiktinsky



December 2025

THE ROCKHOUNDER

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

Mark Dahlman

Next Meeting Date: December 8th **Meeting Time:** 7:45 - 9:00 pm

Meeting Location: Sunroom Cafeteria at the Rockville Senior Center

November 17th Meeting:

We continued the World In Miniature badge with excellent material from our benefactor out west, Pat Haynes. Attendees topped off the required number of specimens of perkys, thumbnails, and micros to earn the badge. Everyone went home with prepared specimens for their collections for good measure.

December 8th 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. Look in this edition of the Rockhounder for additional activities going on in the main room. 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.

Follow us on Facebook at
[https://www.facebook.com/groups/
984241208329511/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/984241208329511/)



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Happenings at the Gem Cutters Guild of Baltimore



There are several exciting classes coming up!

See the [Events and Classes](#) page to see the full calendar of offerings.



Questions about classes? Send us an email: classes@gemcuttersguild.com



THE ROCKHOUNDER

Upcoming Events

Retired Geologist and GLMSMC member, Sharon Lyon has started a free, weekly newsletter that highlights geology news, events, and everyday life. Please see the link below for more information.

[AAPG Newsletter](#)



60th Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Show

Date/Time: **March 21-22, 2026 Saturday 10-6, Sunday 11-4**

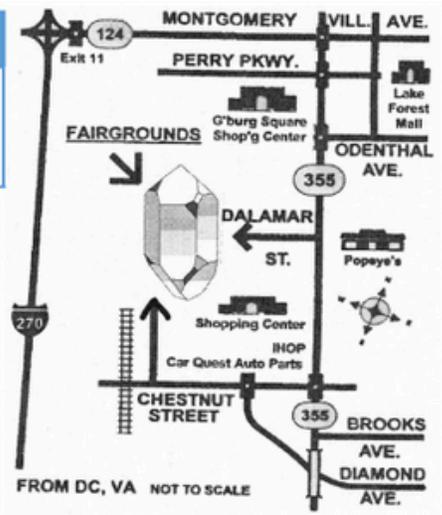
Location: **Montgomery County Fairgrounds; Building #6
16 Chestnut St. Gaithersburg MD 20877**

Featuring:

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| Hourly Door Prizes | 20+ Vendors of minerals, beads, fossils, gems & jewelry |
| Fluorescent Minerals | 40+ Exhibits by club members - including junior exhibits |
| Raffle Prizes | Mini Mine, Free minerals & activities for children |
| Free Parking | Demonstrations of Faceting, Beading, Jewelry Making, Physics |

Children (11 and under) Free! Ages 12 and over \$7
 Scouts in Uniform Free! 4H youth with 4H identification Free!
 More info at: www.glmsmc.com

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





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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President - Chris Luzier

Vice President - Heather Vineyard

Secretary - Jeff Cessna

Treasurer - Jonathan Harris

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 - Jonathan Harris

Bulletin Editor - Maria Nopo

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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