



# THE ROCKHOUNDER

February 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 March issue of the Rockhoulder to Editor Maria Nopo at [bulletineditor@glmsmc.com](mailto:bulletineditor@glmsmc.com) by February 28th

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## Regular Meeting Announcements

Heather Vineyard, Vice President

### February Meeting Information

**Speaker:** James Hall

**Title of Talk:** Collecting at the Reel Mine, Iron Station, NC

Our February presentation will be provided by James Hall who is the owner of the Reel Mine in Iron Station, North Carolina. This mine is world famous for its incredible amethyst specimens and James has found some remarkable pockets during their ownership, dating back to 2016. They have donated specimens to museums all over the world, that are currently on display. This list includes the Smithsonian Institution Natural History Museum, The University of Arizona Alfie Norville Gem & Mineral Museum in Tucson, along with the world-famous Mim Mineral Museum. They also have donated specimens to the Maine Mineral Museum in Bethel, and the amethysts from this mine are truly world-class.

James will share many stories of his time at the mine and show some of the truly amazing amethysts that they have been able to preserve. There will be a question and answer period, as well as show and tell. Feel free to bring in any amethyst specimens of your own to show the group.

## Next Regular Meeting

**Date:** February 10th, 2025

**Time:** 7:30 PM

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

## Next Board of Directors Meeting

**Date:** February 17th, 2025

**Time:** 7:30 PM

**Place:** Virtual  
(Online Zoom Meeting)

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## President's Message

Chris Luzier, President

Hello GLMSMC Members!

We are approaching our 59th Annual Gem and Mineral Show and I wanted to say thanks to so many people that have signed up to help already. The volunteer sign-up sheets are looking better, and many of the slots are filled with new members to our mineral society! That is just excellent!!!

We are definitely still needing sign-ups for the kid's Mini Mine section. We need more help there, as it is one of our busiest areas. We also need sign-ups for the cabbing demonstration if you have some experience in that arena. There are still multiple spots to fill throughout the show too. We need more help with set-up on Friday starting at 9 am, and ALWAYS with Sunday afternoon/evening, with the breakdown of the show. Just a note too, we have changed the closing time on Sunday to 4:00 pm as well so we can all get home an hour earlier after a very long, but rewarding weekend.

If you want to pick up a volunteer slot or two, just email me directly and not to the entire member distribution list email address. Or just sign up at our regular meeting as I will have the sheets available then. We are also pretty light in Exhibit case sign-ups right now. I hope to have this remedied at the February 10th regular meeting. The Exhibitor forms are due back by March 1st, so I can create the show layout. Please let me know if you want to do one or two cases, and your titles.

For the show flyer, we are at that time where we need the show to be promoted well and heavily. This should be now and right up to the show itself and through that weekend. Please help with this by distributing the flyer to your email lists and friends, home school groups, scout and 4-H groups, sports groups, social media, etc...

Tell people why you enjoy our show and all the events that we hold there. We need this homegrown marketing, along with all the other events calendars that we post to, the outreach with other regional East Coast mineral groups and local Montgomery County organizations as well. Thank you again for your personal attention to where you can help promote the show with the people that you know!



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## **GLMSMC Regular Meeting Minutes from January 13th, 2025**

Jeff Cessna, Secretary

The meeting was called to order by President Chris Luzier at 7:45 pm.

There were 35 adults and 8 Juniors present.

There was a motion to accept the Regular and the Board Meeting minutes from the December Rockhoulder. This was M/S/P and Chris then discussed the upcoming events. For the upcoming show, the volunteer sign-up sheets were very sparse with few names so far. It was mentioned that this could be remedied at tonight's meeting and it would be much appreciated. Exhibitor forms were also available and the potential to provide a display of minerals, fossils, or lapidary items is available to all, including new members. The upcoming Rutgers Mineral Museum Open House was noted as well.

Chris then called for any committee reports. Doug mentioned that he is available to take membership payments as we have just started the new calendar year. Please see him at any of our meetings to update your dues and membership. Joel spoke about volunteering for the show, most especially for the set-up and take-down. He also explained duties that he would need help with this year as well. Jonathan mentioned that the club is solvent and that he had brought a number of mineral items and a small lapidary machine that were all free to any members who wanted to take them. These giveaways were provided from outright donations to the club. There was only a bit of dust left at the end of the night, and all the rocks found new homes!

Chris turned the meeting over to Heather who introduced the evening's speaker, Fred Paraskevoudakis who gave an exceptional presentation on the Lavrion Silver Mines of Greece. He had many videos embedded in the presentation with geologist guides that explained the different areas seen in the mine and the mineralogy. It was a fascinating and captivating evening and this was only part one of the story! We will have Fred back again in the near future to regale us with his next series of videos and more stories. Thank you again Fred!

The Show table and Door prizes were administered by Joel.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:43 pm by the President.

*Minutes taken by Dan Kohn, compiled and submitted by Chris Luzier on behalf of Jeff Cessna*



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## GLMSMC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes from January 20th, 2025

Jeff Cessna, Secretary

The 20 January 2025 Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 7:34 PM by Chris Luzier. The agenda included the show, budget, and regular reports.

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

**Show:** Chris reported on the progress for the show. There was an increase in the contract for tables and chairs. The ATM request has been placed. Dealer payments are coming in. The Admissions and Kid's Mini-mine sections need more volunteers on the sign-up sheets. Demonstrators are also arranged for cabochon making (we need more members to volunteer for this as well), The Reel Amethyst Mine, The Gem Cutters Guild of Baltimore, Minerals In Context (Thomas Hale), The Natural History Society of Maryland, Robert Clemenzi and his Physics Demo, along with Gold Panning with the M&D GPAA Chapter. More exhibitors are also needed for the cases. Assistance with electrical setup is needed to learn for future setups. Trailer tire replacement will be arranged pre-show. Previously budgeted amounts are sufficient for tires and towing to shop. Holly volunteered to process the backlog of show-collected contact information. This will provide input to bulk email provider. Emails, social media, and the group website need to be engaged to promote the show. The large banner will be hung at the close of the weekend before the show. Contacts needed with PTAs, homeschool groups, scout groups, and 4H to increase youth attendance. Karen has information for the first three. Perhaps the Fairgrounds can help provide contacts for the 4-H program. Food service has been coordinated.

**Treasurer:** Jonathan Harris distributed a budget prior to meeting. Specific items were discussed. Meeting door prizes are budgeted. Show door prizes are budgeted, but material is available from donations and prior shows. Delivery of donations from last years budget are still being arranged. Jonathan distributed a revised budget for email discussion and voting.

**Membership:** Many more members paid at last meeting. An announcement will go our reminding others.

The secretary thanked Dan Kohn for recoding minutes at the January regular meeting.

No other regular reports.

**Adjournment:** It was M/S/P to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 pm.



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## Show Table from January 13th Regular Meeting

### Name

Danny Baker  
David Balenson  
Greg Pappas  
Jonathan Harris  
Rick Roffeld  
Corrine Wilson  
Tom Parnell  
Karen Lottes  
Marco Molinaro  
Jake Margolis  
Ken Reynolds  
Mango Vaz  
Steven Calamuci  
Barb Burr  
Dan Kohn  
Linda Kohn  
Dave Fryauff  
Maria Nopo  
Joel Rosen  
Doug Baum

### Specimen

Brookite Crystal  
Beach agate & jasper  
Larimar  
Sphalerite  
Selenite  
Calcite  
Almandite Garnet  
Rock and a book  
Garnets (2 varieties)  
Biotite, Quartz  
Dendritic Silver Slab  
Amber Calcite  
Mesolite Calcite  
Amethysts  
Calcite & Franklinite  
Silver ore  
Magnesite/Antigorite  
Carnelians  
Barite  
Apophyllite

### Locale

Magnet Cove, AR  
Oregon  
Dominican Republic  
King David Mine, UT  
Unknown  
los, Greece  
Sudbury, Ontario, Canada  
N/A  
Silver Springs & CA  
Canada & Greece  
Ontario, Canada  
Unknown  
India  
Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina  
Franklin, NJ  
Cobalt, Canada  
Penn-MD Qry, Lancaster, PA  
San Francisco, CA  
Stoneham, Weld County-Colorado  
India

## Show Table Door Prize

Quartz  
Orange River, South Africa  
*Won by Greg Pappas*

## General Door Prize

Fossilized Leaf  
*Won by Steve Calamuci*

## Extra Door Prize

(Donated by Greg Pappas)  
*Won by Jake Margolis*



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

Mark Dahlman

**Next Meeting Date:** February 10th      **Meeting Time:** 7:45-9:00 pm

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

### **January 13th Meeting:**

We finished the Fluorescent Minerals badge (although we'll do a little more on the sand art project at the February meeting) and decided the next badge we'll work on the Collecting badge. We also discussed the FRA group exhibit for the club show in March and decided the theme will be "Frozen In Time" – an exhibit to show off FRA members' fossils. Big thanks to Maria for volunteering to lead the group exhibit!

### **February 10th Meeting:**

We'll start the meeting by awarding the Fluorescent Mineral badges members have earned so far. Please remember to bring your fluorescent sand art project if you started one at the holiday party. Also, please bring the fossil(s) you'd like to include in the group exhibit (we'll have fossil door prizes in case you need a specimen to put in the exhibit). Chris Luzier will join us to go over the Lillian Turner award criteria too. Of course, everyone will go home with a new specimen for their collection. I hope to see you there!

For more information on the Future Rockhounds of America program, please contact Mark Dahlman at [fra\\_advisor@glmsmc.com](mailto: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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## **A Thank You from Olivia**

Olivia Luzier

Hello all,

I wanted to thank everyone who contributed to the lovely thank-you card I received, especially to Heather for thinking of it and making it! It's a wonderful work of art that I will keep forever. I love Heather's creativity that went into recreating the old newsletter on the cover and back of the card, along with including pieces of GLMSMC show flyers and Maria's new newsletter design. Thank you to everyone who signed the card; your messages were lovely and meaningful! I also wanted to thank the Board for voting to present me with a check as a gift for my years of work. All of this was so sweet and I was both humbled and honored to accept both.

I have appreciated the opportunity to be the editor of The Rockhoulder for the GLMSMC since I came on as the editor in 2015, learning much along the way. Here we are at nearly a decade on! I'm so pleased to have passed the proverbial torch on to our wonderful new editor, Maria! Her work on the past two newsletters has been phenomenal and I'm so relieved that The Rockhoulder is in such capable hands!

I wish you all the absolute best today and always. Thank you all for your support and kindness, rockhounds!

Best wishes from your former editor,  
Olivia Luzier

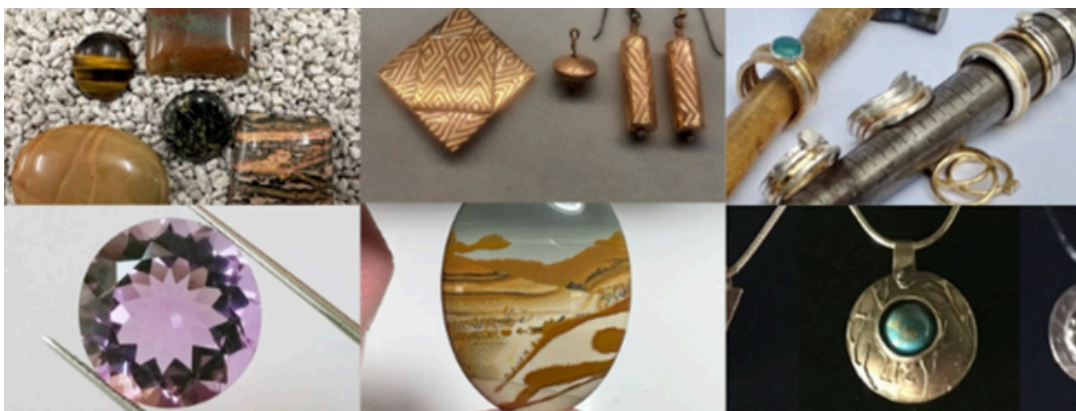




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## Happenings at the Gem Cutters Guild of Baltimore



We will continue to announce classes as details become available—we're looking at an exciting 2025!

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



Questions about classes? Send us an email: [classes@gemcuttersguild.com](mailto:classes@gemcuttersguild.com)






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## 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](#)



**61st Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show**

**March 1-2, 2025**

Saturday 10:00 am - 5:00 pm  
Sunday 11:00 am - 5:00 pm

**\*\*\* SHOW LOCATION \*\*\***

**Doubletree by Hilton**  
4727 Concord Pike (Rt-202)  
Wilmington, DE 19803

Outstanding Mineral, Fossil Gem,  
Jewelry & Bead Dealers with  
Club Exhibits &  
Jr. Booth for Children

**Seniors (60+): \$5.00**  
**Adults (18-59): \$6.00, \$5.00 with this Coupon**  
**Juniors (ages 12-17): \$3.00**  
**FREE** to all Scouts in Uniform  
& Children under age 12

*Tax-Free Shopping . Credit Cards Accepted*  
[www.DMSrocks.org](http://www.DMSrocks.org)

Coupon can be Duplicated

**34<sup>th</sup> Annual Chesapeake  
Gem, Mineral, Jewelry & Fossil Show**

Saturday, April 19, 2025 10 AM – 4 PM

**Howard County Fairgrounds**  
2210 Fairgrounds Rd. West Friendship, Md 21794

**Free Admission and Parking**

Minerals, Original Jewelry, Fossils, Rough & Cut Gemstones  
Silent Auctions, Door Prizes  
Activities for Kids

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

**Directions:** From Baltimore take I-70 to Rt. 32 south; Turn right on Rt. 144 west Fairgrounds Road is half a mile on the right.

From Washington area – Routes 29 or 95 North to Rt. 32 west/north; turn left on Rt. 144 west-Fairgrounds road is a half of a mile on the right.

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## Upcoming Events

*Continued from previous page*



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

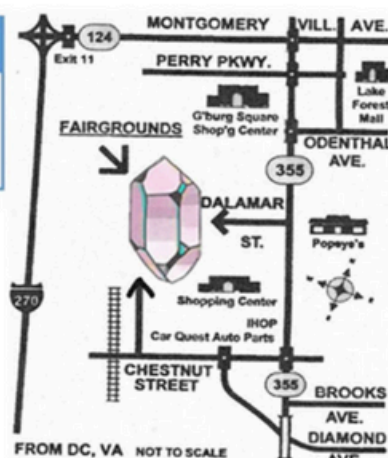
Date/Time: March 15-16, 2025 Saturday 10-6 and Sunday 11-4

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

#### Featuring:

Hourly door prizes	20+ vendors of minerals, beads, fossils, gems, and jewelry
Gold panning	40+ exhibits by club members, including junior exhibits
Fluorescent minerals	Two floors of everything mineral related
Raffle prizes	Mini Mine, free minerals, and activities for children
Free parking	Demonstrations of faceting, micromineralogy, jewelry making, and 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](http://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](mailto:editor@glmsmc.com).

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Award Winning Bulletin  
EFMLS, AFMS



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