



# THE ROCKHOUNDER

November 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 December issue of the Rockhounder to Editor Maria Nopo at [bulletineditor@glmsmc.com](mailto:bulletineditor@glmsmc.com) by November 30th, 2025.

## Regular Meeting Announcements

Heather Vineyard, Vice President

### November Meeting Information

**Speaker:** Dave Tiktinsky

**Talk Title:** Lost Sheep Fluorspar Mine, Delta, UT

Please welcome Dave Tiktinsky as the speaker for the November 17th meeting. Dave has been a mineral collector since he was about 13 years old. He grew up in New Jersey and has collected in various localities around the United States. His interests in mineral collecting led him to major in Mining Engineering at the University of Arizona. He then worked at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for many years and retired from the NRC at the end of 2021 and now works for Nano Nuclear Energy. The CEO of Nano Nuclear is also the CEO of Ares Strategic Minerals, which owns the Lost Sheep Mine. He was invited to visit the mine as it was preparing for operations a few months ago. The Lost Sheep Mine is a fluorspar mine in Utah, which contains extensive high-grade fluorspar with low levels of impurities. The mine and its associated facilities are currently under construction and the team is inching closer to production of metallurgical and acid-grade fluorspar, day by day.

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## Next Regular Meeting

**Date:** November 17th, 2025

**Time:** 7:30 PM

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

## Next Board of Directors Meeting

*The November Board of  
Directors meeting occurred on  
November 10th, 2025*

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## November Meeting Information

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Originally purchased by ARES Strategic Mining Inc. in 2020, the Lost Sheep Mine is now fully permitted and financially backed by both the state of Utah and the US Federal government. The mine is geographically split across 2 areas: (1) the mine on Spor Mountain in Juab County, Utah and (2) the processing facilities located in Delta, the nearest town. The presentation will provide some information about the ore deposit and the progress of developing a new underground mine.

## President's Message

Chris Luzier, President

Hello GLMSMC Members--

We are in the full swing of the November mineral shows and we also have a few shows still coming up in late November as well. There are even a few after the Northern Virginia Mineral Show at George Mason on the weekend of November 22nd and 23rd. The Lebanon, PA. show is the weekend of the 15th and is always a great show. All of these shows and the other regional shows are currently listed in this issue of the Rockhoulder. Thank you Andy for providing the listings. After these shows are finished, you will have to wait until the Tucson Show to find more mineral curiosities at a show. Until then, you will just have to open your old and forgotten flats and see what you forgot that you had! It's always great to fall in love with a mineral specimen, especially when you already own it!

For this month, we will have our regular meeting on Monday, November 17th, and our Board meeting was ahead of it on November 10th, due to the Veteran's Day holiday. We will vote in our new slate of officers, which were published in the October Rockhoulder issue. We will also have the pleasure of having Dave Tiktinsky provide a new presentation on "The Lost Sheep Mine", which is a new fluorospar mine that is just in the opening stages of development. I am looking very forward to seeing this one, since I love fluorites and have never seen a presentation like this one. Please join us at the meeting and enjoy it as well! We will also have a small auction of fluorescent minerals at the meeting, just in case you want to buy some early Christmas gifts for the people around you, or perhaps even just for yourself! See you all then--

Peace to you--Chris



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## GLMSMC Regular Meeting Minutes from October 13th, 2025

Jeff Cessna, Secretary

The 13 October 2025 meeting was called to order by President Chris Luzier at 7:45 pm. There were approximately 48 adults and 6 juniors in attendance. It was M/S/P to approve the minutes of the 8 September 2025 Regular meeting and the 15 September 2025 Board of Directors meeting, with the following amendments to the BOD minutes. Holly Heighes inquired about payment for the senior center rather than the show venue.

**Announcements:** President Chris Luzier welcomed everyone. He noted the upcoming Ultraviolation, fluorescent mineral only, show. It will be the 35th year. Also, there is an upcoming Northern Virginia Mineral Club show on 22-23 November. Chris discussed the board positions for the upcoming election. He described the duties of the president and the vice-president. Candidates for both positions were needed. Elections will be held at the November meeting. Karen Lottes mentioned that there is always opportunity to assist the board. Chris mentioned that the board will seek help from the members with activities such as processing donations and preparing for auctions. Linda Kohn announced that the spring Wildacres dates had been announced as 11-17 May 2026. Jonathan Harris brought donated material for give-away to members. Ken Reynolds brought hobby related books for give-away.

**Field Trips:** Marco Molinaro discussed efforts to book field trips. Any upcoming field trip details are sent in the member emails ahead of time. All trip details and pertinent info will be in these emails.

**Membership:** Membership chair Doug Baum welcomed visitors and asked them to introduce themselves. It was M/S/P to accept the family membership of Ginny and Mark Stumpf.

**EFMLS Liaison:** Upcoming shows will appear in the Rockhoulder.

**Treasurer:** Jonathan Harris reported that the club is in good financial standing.

**Program:** Dan Kohn introduced our speaker for the evening, club president Chris Luzier. The presentation was titled Fire Opal and a Selection of Worldwide Localities. Chris laid out a wide selection of opal specimens and used them to discuss mainly four different opal localities, passing specimens around as the localities were discussed. He started with Welo opals from Ethiopia. His interest was sparked by a dealer at local shows. Welo opals with a black background are the most expensive. New finds include jelly opals. Chris discussed polishing opals and the appropriate use in jewelry due to their softness. Next were Australian localities. Chris highlighted Yowah, supplying yowah nuts, and Koroit. Australia is also known for opalized fossils. In the US there is Virgin Valley, NV where you can still dig your own opals at a fee site. They are known for limb casts and black opal. The final locality was the source for Mexican fire opals. As a child he was familiar with a dealer at a farmer's market that sold small jars of opals.

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

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A Mexican fire opal, along with a Lightning Ridge, Australia opal (and a goldstone specimen), were among the first specimens for his collection. Chris answered many questions from the audience. Thanks, Chris.

The show table and door prizes were administered by Joel Rosen. Kurt Knower offered a prize of an ornament containing tumbled stones for the guess closest to the number (over 1000) of personally collected small fossil shark teeth from Purse State Park shown in a Riker mount.

**Adjournment:** It was M/S/P to adjourn the meeting at 9:41 PM.

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

Holly Heighes, recording Secretary pro-tem

Attendees: Doug Baum, Andy Celmer, Jonathan Harris, Dan Kohn, Gary Leaman, Chris Luzier, Joel Rosen, Dave Tiktinsky, (Jeff Cessna @ 8:15), Guests: Holly Heighes, Diane Leaman, Dee Weiss

The meeting was called to order at 7:36 pm by Chris Luzier, President.

### **President**

Chris mentioned that the board should think about what donations we might want to make as a club before year end. No motions were made. Chris announced the slate of officers that would appear in the Rockhoulder for voting at the November meeting. Chris will prepare the 2026 show flyer so that it may be distributed at the NOVA show in November. Chris reminded the group that our next show will be our 60th.

### **Treasurer**

Jonathan said he will prepare a 2026 budget for consideration at the November board meeting.

### **Property Manager**

Joel mentioned he will need to purchase more door prizes for the club meetings and would like funds allocated for that.

### **Other Issues and announcements**

Dan reported on upcoming Wildacres classes as well as other upcoming local Rock and Mineral club speakers. Dan will forward one upcoming announcement to Chris for distribution to the membership. Dan provided several suggestions for speakers for GLMSMC.

There was discussion about potential scholarships or stipends to be provided, no motions were made.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20pm.



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## Show Table from October 13th Regular Meeting

Name	Specimen	Locale
Jeff Cessna	Gold, Pyrite, Quartz	Haile Gold Mine, SC
“ ”	Shark tooth	Calvert Cliffs, MD
“ ”	Mahogany Sphalerite, Willemite	Franklin Mining District, NJ
Doug Baum	Andradite Garnet	Graham County, AZ
Germaine Broussard	Lepidolite/Kyanite & Kaolinite	Peru and VA
David Tiktinsky	Rhodochrosite	Argentina
Gary Leaman	Boulder opal	Queensland, AU
Diane Leaman	“ ”	“ ”
Tom Parnell	Thunder egg	Richardson Ranch, Deming, NM
“ ”	Purple Passion agate	Chihuahua, MX
“ ”	Thunder egg	Baker Ranch, Deming, NM
Dan Kohn	Opal rough	Australia
“ ”	Red Goldstone cab	Unknown
Dan Baker	Fulgurite	Africa
Corrine Wilson	Chapinte	California
Kurt Knower	Shark teeth in case	Nanjemoy, MD
Mango Vaz	“Black widow” Quartz	Ft. Collins, CO
Maria Nopo	Andean opal	Peru
Jonathan Harris	Magnetite	Mineral Hill, Carrol County, MD
“ ”	Gneiss	“ ”
“ ”	Serpentine	Penn/MD Quarry, Peach Bottom, PA
Ken Reynolds	Fire opal	Mexico
Lisa Simpson	Garnet	Montpelier, VT
Steve Calamuci	Opal	Ethiopia
Marco Molinaro	Siderite	Frostburg, MD
Nancy Shinowara	Opalized Pippi shells	Lightning Ridge, AU
“ ”	Blue opal - fossil wood	Indonesia
Pat Repik-Byrne	Fire opal in rhyolite	Mexico
Dee Weiss	Opal	Idaho
“ ”	Blue opal - fossilized wood	Unknown
“ ”	Surprise	Scotland
Joel Rosen	Sphalerite on Quartz	Elmwood Mine, Smith Co., TN

### Show Table Door Prize

Azurite, Malachite, & Chrysocolla  
 Peru  
 Won by Mango Vaz

### General Door Prize

Malachite  
 L’Etoile du Congo Mine, Lubumbashi Katanga, Zaire, Africa  
 Won by Pat Repik-Byrne



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

Mark Dahlman

**Next Meeting Date:** November 17th      **Meeting Time:** 7:45 - 9:00 pm

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

### October 13th Meeting:

We continued the World In Miniature badge at the September meeting. This badge is all about micro, thumbnail, and perky-sized specimens. Everyone went home with a collection of more excellent specimens donated to by our generous benefactor out west, Pat Haynes.

### November 10th Meeting:

We'll finish up the World In Miniature badge with more specimens to mount. Please bring your loupe, and a count of your micros, thumbnails, and perkys since the badge calls for 10 of each. I hope you all can make it!

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.

## Proposed Slate of Officers starting in January 2026

President - Jonathan Harris  
Vice President - Chris Luzier  
Secretary - Karen Lottes  
Treasurer - Holly Heighes

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](mailto: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](#)

**33rd 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 22 & 23, 2025  
Place: Dewberry Hall, Johnson Center  
George Mason University - Fairfax Campus  
GPS: <https://novamineralclub.org/showparking>  
(Takes you to GMU's Lot A)  
Hours: Saturday 10am-6pm, Sunday 10am-4pm  
Admission: Adults: \$6, Seniors (65+): \$4, Teens (13-17): \$3  
Children 12 & under, accompanied by adult are FREE  
GMU Students, Faculty & Staff 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)

**Features: Demonstrations, Exhibits, Kids Activities, and Door Prizes.**  
Mini-mines for children to dig in and get free fossils and minerals.  
**SILENT AUCTION on SUNDAY**  
Approximately 20 Dealers with Gems, Minerals & 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*

## Roanoke Valley Mineral & Gem Society Show

November 28 - 30, 2025

<https://www.rvmgs.org>

Salem Civic Center

1001 Roanoke Boulevard

Salem, VA, 24153



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## Upcoming Events

Continued from previous page

**Rock & Mineral Weekend**

November 28 - 30, 2025

<https://morrismuseum.org/events/rock-and-mineral-weekend-2025>

Morris Museum  
6 Normandy Heights Rd  
Morristown, NJ, 07960

**Holiday Gem and Mineral Show**

November 29, 2025

<https://www.alansqualityminerals.com>

Springhill Suites Hotel Conference Room  
5000 Midlantic Dr  
Mount Laurel, NJ, 08054



**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

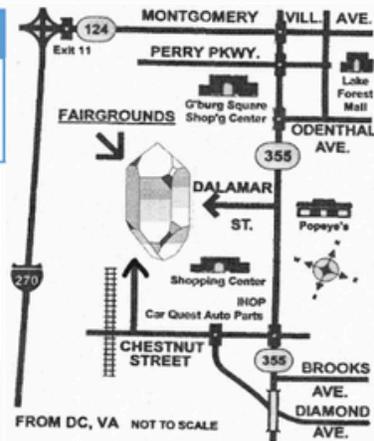
**Featuring:**

- Hourly Door Prizes
- Fluorescent Minerals
- Raffle Prizes
- Free Parking

- 20+ Vendors of minerals, beads, fossils, gems & jewelry
- 40+ Exhibits by club members - including junior exhibits
- Mini Mine, Free minerals & activities for children
- 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.glmcmc.com](http://www.glmcmc.com)

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





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# THE ROCKHOUNDER

## 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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