



THE ROCKHOUNDER

October 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 November issue of the Rockhoulder to Editor Maria Nopo at bulletineditor@glmsmc.com by October 31st, 2025.

Regular Meeting Announcements

Heather Vineyard, Vice President

October Meeting Information

Speaker: Chris Luzier

Talk Title: Fire Opal and a Selection of Worldwide Localities

This month's speaker will be Chris Luzier who has a new program to offer on "Fire Opal and a Selection of Worldwide Localities". His presentation will explore some of the most famous precious opal localities, with examples of specimens and cut stones from the locations and a brief overview of each. He will focus on the classic Australian mining districts, along with Virgin Valley, Nevada, Mexico, and the exceedingly popular Welo opal examples from Ethiopia. This will be an excellent and colorful presentation for sure.

Next Regular Meeting

Date: October 13, 2025

Time: 7:30 PM

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

Next Board of Directors Meeting

Date: October 20, 2025

Time: 7:30 PM

Place: Virtual
(Online Zoom Meeting)

In this Issue

Item	Page
Meeting Information	1
President's Message	2
Regular Meeting Minutes	2
BOD Meeting Minutes	3
Sad News	4
Show Table	5
FRA Meeting Minutes	6
2024 Financial Review	6
Slate of Officers for 2026	6
Happenings at the Gem Cutters	7
Guild of Baltimore	
Upcoming Events	8



THE ROCKHOUNDER

President's Message

Chris Luzier, President

Well, October and November are shaping up to be excellent months for minerals! There are loads of shows coming up, including one of my all-time favorites, the Ultravioletation fluorescent mineral show! This show has alternating periods with the lights on and then the lights off, to show off all the fluorescent mineral glory. It is coming up on Saturday, October 25th from 9:00 am-4:00 pm at 840 Trenton Road in Fairless Hills, Pennsylvania. This is a one-day show and is a ton of fun and unlike any other show around! This is the 35th anniversary of the show as well.

We are also looking for a President and Vice President for this upcoming year. Karen Lottes has volunteered for the Secretary position and Holly Heighes for the Treasurer. Thank you to all of our volunteers throughout the year that help with the show, the Juniors program, the Rockhounder, and the Board as well. It is much appreciated! This month's Rockhounder has a number of show listings/postcards, including the Pennsylvania Friends of Mineralogy Chapter Symposium. The list of speakers and topics is shown and it is an excellent annual event in West Chester, Pennsylvania.

See you all at our regular meeting on Monday, October 13th! I am looking forward to providing the program on fire opals as well!

GLSMC Regular Meeting Minutes from September 8th, 2025

Jeff Cessna, Secretary

The 8 September 2025 meeting was called to order by President Chris Luzier at 7:40 pm. There were approximately 46 adults and 6 juniors in attendance. It was M/S/P to approve the minutes of the 9 June 2025 Regular meeting and the 16 June 2025 Board of Directors meeting.

Announcements: President Chris Luzier welcomed everyone back from the summer break. Attendees of the picnic and auction had a great time. All items sold. Jonathan Harris noted there were geodes from a donated collection to give away. Chris gave details of an upcoming, 20 September, open house at a rock-cutting shop in York, PA. Frances offered 2 kittens from the farm. They are available to a good home. She'd like them to go to the same home if pawsable. They come with a free rock. Karen Lottes noted that 16 September is National Collect-A-Rock Day and encouraged everyone to celebrate.

Continued on next page



THE ROCKHOUNDER

GLMSMC Regular Meeting Minutes from September 8th, 2025

Continued from previous page

FRA: A Rockhound award was presented to a member of the Mocks in recognition of earning 6 badges. A certificate and patch (on its way) were accompanied by a Rocks and Minerals book and large septarian nodule.

Membership: Membership chair Doug Baum welcomed visitors and asked them to introduce themselves.

Field Trip: There is an upcoming multi-club field trip. See Rockhounder or email for details of this trip and others.

EFMLS Liaison: Upcoming shows will appear in the Rockhounder.

Treasurer: Tom Dushel performed a financial review for 2024. The letter will be printed in the next Rockhounder. Jonathan reported that the auction proceeds were deposited. The club is solvent.

Property Manager: Joel Rosen discussed acquisition of the show table and attendance door prizes.

Program: Chris Luzier introduced our speaker for the evening, Gary E. Lohman. The presentation on meteorites was titled Fire From Heaven. Gary introduced his background in archeology and science education, stressing he was not an expert on meteorites. At one point he was asked to put together an elementary school level explanation of meteorites. He expanded on this explanation, simplifying the usually very complicated discussion of the subject. He gave a comprehensive overview of the materials of meteorites and what was created because of meteorites. He gave the scientific history and connections, with a discussion of the evolution of classification systems. Meteorite impact sites were discussed. Finally bringing the discussion back to his early archeological work at Serpent Mound in central Ohio, that has since that time been recognized as an uplift from a meteorite impact. Gary included in his show and for view after, several specimens. Thanks, Gary.

The show table and door prizes were administered by Joel Rosen. A highlight was a rediscovered 1979 Rockhounder with articles on Wildacres and fluorescent minerals from Franklin, NJ.

Adjournment: It was M/S/P to adjourn the meeting at 9:56 PM.



THE ROCKHOUNDER

GLSMC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes from September 15th, 2025

Jeff Cessna, Secretary

The 15 September 2025 Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM by Chris Luzier.

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

President: Chris Luzier thanked Jonathan Harris for sending the financials for review. He noted the 2024 review was completed by Tom Dushel and the letter would be published in the Rockhounder. Chris discussed upcoming shows. The auction went well. The materials were an outright donation. Karen will have a bill for the rental. Chris thanked all those who assisted in the set-up. Remaining donation materials and auction materials were discussed. A large amount of material remains. Diane and Gary have tumblers that may be donated and could be sold at the same time as lapidary material. Dan Kohn raised the issue that most auction preparation appears to be done by the BOD members. He suggested and it was agreed that in the future the assistance of other club members should be sought.

Treasurer: Jonathan Harris inquired about a past auction proceeds check that appeared to not have been cashed. The item was followed up on immediately and Jonathan will also make the payments to the Senior Center and the website provider.

Field Trips: Jonathan discussed the possibility of an upcoming field trip, but noted a leader was needed as neither of the Field Trip chairs could attend.

Show: Holly Heighes inquired about the payment to the show venue for next year. Jonathan reported the payment was recently completed, but it did not appear in the financials due to the reimbursement not yet being processed. Holly also noted confirmation of the deposit we have in place at the venue, for noting in the budget. Holly has completed entering the door prize addresses into the show mailing list. Thanks Holly.

Newsletter: A slate of officer candidates needs to be published in the upcoming Rockhounder. A President and Vice President candidate still needs to be identified. The editor and all future incoming officers should be granted access to the shared file service. It houses useful files describing duties of officers and the calendar for club business.

Meetings: Holly reported on potential program presenters from the Smithsonian, particularly the important March, pre-show, meeting. It was noted that Columbus Day holiday does not close the Senior Center, so the October general meeting will occur on that day.

No other regular reports.

Adjournment: It was M/S/P to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:12 pm.



THE ROCKHOUNDER

Sad News With the Passing of Daniel Glenn and Steve Dyer

Chris Luzier, President

It is with a sad heart that I have to inform you all of the passing of two friends, with long associations to the GLMSMC. The first is with the passing of Steve Dyer. Steve and his wife Phyllis were longtime members of the Chesapeake Gem and Mineral Society and our group as well. They attended our show every year and I always enjoyed the time that I got to spend with the both of them. Steve was very talented in the lapidary arts and mineral collecting as well. I was fortunate enough this year to visit with them at their house on multiple occasions. We had some wonderful times looking at rocks and slabs, and of mineral collecting trips from many decades ago, especially in the Michigan area. His stories were amazing and all the history and knowledge he shared, was just excellent! In the last few months as his health really took a toll on him, we would sit and talk about the stories and specimens. His spirits would brighten and it was wonderful to see him back to his old self again for an afternoon or evening. He will be missed by many and I am grateful for the time that I got to spend with him and Phyllis.

Daniel Glenn also passed away recently after a long battle with cancer. He joined our group a number of years ago and was interested in fluorescent minerals. We really took care of that interest, and Daniel became a full out fluorescent guy! He was a professional photographer and his mineral pictures were amazing. He amassed a number of nice fluorescent specimens and became a part of our group of fluorescent mineral nuts. He was a quick study on Franklin/Sterling Hill minerals and he and Sue were wonderful people to hang out with and enjoy time with. Daniel and Sue retired to Alaska a number of years ago and Daniel pursued his talent for photography to the wildlife up North, most especially with birds. We all stayed in touch for years, through emails of his pictures and then him discussing his health challenges as well. He was a great guy and they really enjoyed life in the Alaska wilds for many years. He will definitely be missed by us in the fluorescent mineral community.

This is also why I love being a part of our mineral group, and many others as well. It's not about the rocks, the collections, even the fluorescent minerals! It's about getting to know the new people, the veterans of the hobby and everyone in between. We get to spend time together in a variety of ways and get to know each other better. Many of these connections become lifelong friends and we are blessed and should be grateful when we look back on all the memories made. Thanks to you all for making life joyful, loving and valuable. I will always appreciate Daniel and Steve, and am thankful for my time with them. Thank you Steve and Daniel for what you add to my life, and to many other's lives as well.



THE ROCKHOUNDER

Show Table from September 8th Regular Meeting

Name	Specimen	Locale
Jeff Cessna	Strontioaragonite	Tuscany
“ ”	Esperite, Hardystonite, Willemite	Franklin, NJ
“ ”	Azurite, Malachite, Quartz, Epidote	Pontiac Mine, Halifax, VA
Dan Baker	Phantom Calcite/Picture Jasper	Morocco/Oregon
Linda Kohn	Rockhounder Issue from 1979	-
Dan Kohn	Cabochon	-
David Balenson	Various beach rocks	Agate Beach, Trinidad, CA
“ ”	“ ”	Flat Rock Beach, Fort Bragg, CA
“ ”	“ ”	Glass Beach, Fort Bragg, CA
Kurt Knower	Geode Cookies	Gift from a family member
Maria Nopo	Calcite	National Limestone Quarry, PA
Gary Leaman	Opal conglomerate	Mexico
Diane Leaman	Rhodonite	Mexico
Steve Hatleberg	Seymchan Meteorite	Magadan District
*Eric Kindahl	Chrome diopside, serpentine, etc.	Black Hill Park, Montgomery Co., MD
Joel Rosen	Meteorite Collection	Outer Space
Corrine Wilson	Quartz	Patty's Pit, Summerville, GA
Tom Parnell	Quartz crystal	Mt. Ida, AR
“ ”	Quartz w/ Hedenergite inclusions	Syrafos Island, Greece
“ ”	Smoky Quartz	W. Ossippee, NH
Jonathan Harris	Selenite	Unknown
Ken Reynolds	Barite, Calcite	Franklin, NJ
“ ”	Mylotinized Willemite/Calcite	Sterling Hill Mine, NJ
Priscillia Quackenbush	Mystery Quartz w/ inclusions	Found in Potomac

Show Table Door Prize

Amethyst Geode

Won by Steve Hatleberg

General Door Prize

Celestite Geode

Madagascar

Won by Gary Leaman



October 2025

THE ROCKHOUNDER

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

Mark Dahlman

Next Meeting Date: October 13th **Meeting Time:** 7:45 - 9:00 pm

Meeting Location: Sunroom Cafeteria at the Rockville Senior Center

September 8th 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 specimens donated to by our generous benefactor out west, Pat Haynes.

October 13th Meeting:

If you've cataloged 10 or more pieces, please bring your catalog to the meeting to get credit for that Collecting badge requirement if you haven't already. We'll continue on with the World In Miniature badge with more specimens to mount. 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 or 301-428-0455.

2024 Financial Review

As requested by the BOD, I have reviewed the financial activity for the GEM club for FYE 12/31/24. Based on my tenure as a member of the board and background as an accountant, I believe the financial statement attached is reasonable. The statement is supported by documentation and is comparable to FYE 12/31/23. The excel schedule has been updated with my notes.

- Tom Dushel

Slate of Officers for 2026

President - TBD

Vice President - TBD

Treasurer - Holly Heighes

Secretary - Karen Lottes

If you are interested in any of these roles, please talk with any board member.

Follow us on Facebook at
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/984241208329511/>



October 2025

THE ROCKHOUNDER

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](#)

The Baltimore Mineral Society is hosting the 69th Memorial Micromount Symposium on October 17-19, 2025. [Click here for more info.](#)

Rochester Gem, Mineral, Jewelry and Fossil Show & Sale

Kid's Activities, Sluice, Rock Painting, Educational Displays, Demonstrations, Raffle, Beads, Crystals, Fossils, Minerals, Jewelry, Carvings, Spheres, Straw Draw, Hourly Door Prizes & Much More

2025

AT TOTAL SPORTS EXPERIENCE
435 WEST COMMERCIAL STREET, EAST ROCHESTER, NY 14445
JUST OFF INTERSTATE 490

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25TH
10:00 A.M. TO 6:00 P.M.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26TH
10:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.

ADMISSION \$7.00

KIDS 12 & UNDER FREE WITH AN ADULT | SPECIAL: 2-DAY PASS ONLY \$10.00
STUDENTS RECEIVE HALF PRICE ADMISSION WITH VALID SCHOOL ISSUED PHOTO IDENTIFICATION

<http://www.rochesterlapidary.org/show> Facebook.com/ROCGemShow

GEMARAMA 2025 - Discount Coupon

2025 show theme: **Treasures in Stone**
Tuscarora Lapidary Society's 56th Annual Show

SAVE THE DATE
November 1st: 10am - 6pm November 2nd: 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.

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



THE ROCKHOUNDER

Upcoming Events

Continued from previous page



**Friends of Mineralogy - Pennsylvania Chapter and
West Chester University Earth and Space Sciences Department
SYMPOSIUM Nov. 8, 2025 - FIELD TRIP Nov. 9**

Attend **ONLINE -OR- IN PERSON** at West Chester University
Online registration deadline November 6

SYMPOSIUM for mineral collecting enthusiasts Non-members \$ 20.00 Members \$15.00 Students free
Saturday Nov. 8: Hybrid Symposium - **ONLINE** or **IN PERSON**
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at West Chester University

Talks by knowledgeable **SPEAKERS, including:**
Mineral Localities of Delaware County, Pennsylvania- by Ronald A. Sloto, PG, West Chester University
Minerals of the Phoenixville Mining District - by Ross Elliott, PG, Delaware Mineralogical Society, and
Bill Stephens, PG, Stephens Environmental
The Hogg Mine: A Tale of Two Machine Digs Revisited- by Bill Stephens, PG, Stephens Environmental
Recent Finds in Southeastern Pennsylvania - by Anatoly Bitny
Fossils of the C&D Canal - by Luke Jackson, West Chester University
Importance of lead mineralogy on the historic Pennsylvania frontier- by Dr. Ryan Mathur, Juniata College

Silent Auction – Give-away Table – Meet Fellow Collectors
Professional Geologists: Six Professional Development Hour credits available for full lecture attendance

FIELD TRIP Sunday Nov. 9 to Phoenixville area sites. Open only to symposium registrants.
Watch for details, registration form, and **UPDATES** in "What's New" on our **web site:**
www.rasloto.com/FM/ or Friends of Mineralogy Pennsylvania on Facebook

With this ad, \$1.00 off General Admission



GEM MINER'S HOLIDAY!!
November 14-16, 2025
LEBANON, PA
Beads! Findings!
Minerals! Fossils!
Gems & Jewelry!

THE MID-ATLANTIC'S BEST SHOW
Gift and Craft Related items
Retail and Wholesale Exhibitors
Two Wholesale Trade Rooms
Open To The Public

Friday: Noon to 6 p.m. * Saturday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday: 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

\$6 Admission - Children under 12 FREE



Lebanon Valley Expo Center
80 Rocherty Road
Lebanon, PA 17042
www.gem-show.com
(see website for updates)
(301) 807-9745

Continued on next page



THE ROCKHOUNDER

Upcoming Events

Continued from previous page



33rd Annual GEM, MINERAL AND FOSSIL SHOW

Presented by The Northern Virginia Mineral Club, Inc. | 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



October 2025

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.

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**