



# THE ROCKHOUNDER

January 2026

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 February issue of the Rockhoulder to Editor Maria Nopo at [bulletineditor@glmsmc.com](mailto:bulletineditor@glmsmc.com) by January 31st, 2026.

## Regular Meeting Announcements

Chris Luzier, Vice President

### January Meeting Information

**Speaker:** Maria Nopo

**Talk Title:** Under the Andes - Mines and Minerals of Peru

Hello everyone! I am excited to be the speaker for the upcoming January meeting. I am a high school student in Bethesda, Maryland and planning on pursuing a career in geology. I started collecting minerals while living in Peru, which helped me become exposed to popular Peruvian mineral localities. As my collection grew, so did my knowledge of the Peruvian mining industry and its history. The topic for this presentation arose from an exhibit case I made for this club at the 2024 show. In this presentation, I will discuss the history of mining in Peru, dating back from pre-colonial civilizations to the modern era. I will also delve into popular mineral localities and the samples that come out of there, including some specimens from my own collection. I look forward to seeing you at the meeting!

– Maria Nopo, Rockhoulder Editor

## Next Regular Meeting

**Date:** January 12th, 2026

**Time:** 7:30 PM

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

## Next Board of Directors Meeting

**Date:** January 19th, 2026

**Time:** 7:30 PM

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

## In this Issue

Item	Page
Meeting Information	1
President’s Message	2
Regular Meeting Minutes	3
Door Prizes	3
FRA Meeting Minutes	4
Happenings at the Gem Cutters	
Guild of Baltimore	5
Upcoming Events	6



January 2026

# THE ROCKHOUNDER

## President's Message

Jonathan Harris, President

Happy New Year Fellow Rockhounds!

As we kick off a fresh year, it's the perfect time to start gearing up for our annual show. One of the highlights every year is the incredible variety of exhibits you all bring. Your displays—whether they feature spectacular mineral specimens, intriguing sands from around the world, or beautifully crafted lapidary art—are what make our show truly special.

Just as important is the behind-the-scenes effort from so many members. From set-up to staffing throughout Saturday and Sunday, to the final take-down, the show depends on all of us pitching in. Signing up early for exhibit space and volunteer shifts helps lighten the load on Chris and Holly and ensures we're fully prepared for another successful event.

We also want to boost our publicity this year. Sharing photos, club highlights, and show reminders on Instagram and Facebook over the next couple of months can make a real difference. If you have ideas—or connections that could help us reach youth groups, schools, community organizations, or broader social media audiences—please reach out to Doug, Holly, Chris, Dave, or me.

Looking forward to another great year together.

Cheers,  
Jonathan



# THE ROCKHOUNDER

## GLMSMC Regular Meeting Minutes from December 8th, 2025

Jeff Cessna, Secretary

The 8 December 2025 meeting was called to order by President Chris Luzier at 7:28 pm. There were approximately 46 adults and 5 juniors in attendance. It was M/S/P to approve the minutes of the 17 November 2025 Regular meeting and the 10 November 2025 Board of Directors meeting.

**Announcements:** President Chris Luzier welcomed everyone. He reminded members the club show was upcoming on 21-22 March 2026. Volunteer sign-up sheets were available. Holly Heighes is Downstairs co-chair. She had exhibitor forms for members to fill out and return to her. Diane Leaman reminded us that a previous club president had claimed “volunteering for a 2-hour slot at the show is a requirement for membership” (in jest). Flyers are available for the show.

**Membership:** Membership chair Doug Baum called for any guests to introduce themselves. It was M/S/P to accept the Fitzgerald family membership.

**Treasurer:** Jonathan Harris reported that the club is solvent.

**Field Trips:** Jonathan Harris reported that a local quarry group has closed access at all their quarries to all clubs due to a collector entering a restricted area during a field trip (not our club member or trip). This is an unfortunate result of not following rules. See Rockhounder or emails for details of any upcoming trips.

The holiday gift exchange and door prizes will be administered by Joel Rosen during the party. Liz Von Kaenal donated a wire-wrapped quartz for an additional door prize.

**Adjournment:** It was M/S/P to adjourn the business meeting at 7:36 PM and start the holiday party.

## Door Prizes from December 8th Regular Meeting

Agate with wooden stand

*Ex-Wendell Mohr collection*

Won by: Bennie Krause

Quartz Crystal Pendant

Donated by: Liz Von Kaenal

Won by: Andy B. Celmer

Pyrite

Won by: Jake Margolis

Agate Pendant

Won by: Steven Hatleberg

Mystery Prize: Amber Necklace

Won by: Karen Lottes



January 2026

# THE ROCKHOUNDER

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

Mark Dahlman

**Next Meeting Date:** January 12th      **Meeting Time:** 7:45 - 9:00 pm

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

### December 8th Meeting:

We had our traditional game of Yankee Swap before joining the adults in the main room for holiday refreshments.

### January 12th Meeting:

We'll finish up our activities for the World In Miniature badge. We'll also decide on the topic of our group exhibit for the club show in March and have signup sheets for individual exhibits. Taking part in the group exhibit or entering an individual exhibit satisfies one of the activities for the Showmanship badge. All juniors who enter an individual exhibit in the show are eligible for the Lillian Turner awards. Of course, everyone at the meeting will go home with a door prize too. 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](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/)



January 2026

# 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](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](#)



**60th Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Show**

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

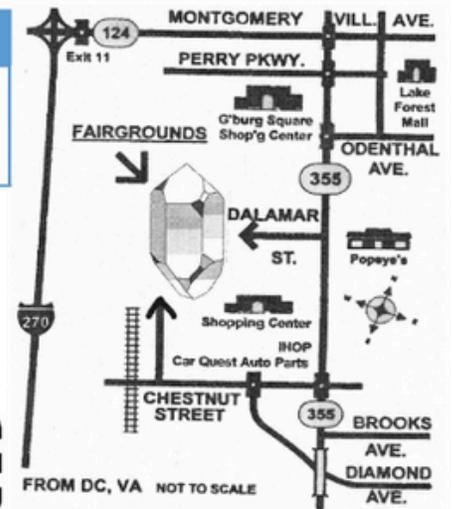
Location: **Montgomery County Fairgrounds; Building #6  
16 Chestnut St. Gaithersburg MD 20877**

**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.glmsmc.com](http://www.glmsmc.com)

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





January 2026

# THE ROCKHOUNDER

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**President** - Jonathan Harris

**Vice President** - Chris Luzier

**Secretary** - Karen Lottes

**Treasurer** - Holly Heighes

**Membership Chairman** - Doug Baum

**Downstairs Showchair** - Chris Luzier and Holly Heighes

**Upstairs Showchair** - Dave Tiktinsky

**Property Manager** - Joel Rosen

**EFMLS Liaison** - Andy Celmer

**At Large Board Members** - Ken Reynolds, Gary Leaman, Dan Kohn, and Jeff Cessna

## NON-BOARD POSITIONS

**Field Trip Chairman** - Sam Linton

**Immediate Past President** - Chris Luzier

**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).

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**