



THE ROCKHOUNDER

June 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 Summer issue of the Rockhoulder to Editor Maria Nopo at bulletineditor@glmsmc.com by August 21, 2026.

Regular Meeting Announcements

Chris Luzier, Vice President

June Meeting Information

Speaker: Denise Nelson

Talk Title: Poland's Treasures: Amber and Salt

Denise Nelson is a Graduate Gemologist (GIA) and an Appraiser. She started her business "Inner Circle" over 35 years ago. She also designs, imports, and sells fine gems, pearls and jewelry. She has traveled to five continents to visit mines, pearl farms, trade shows and many gem and jewelry-related venues. Visits to the Smithsonian gem-vaults and to many exclusive private collections have provided her with an opportunity to see and study items rarely displayed and researched.

Over the years, Denise has also served as board member of several trade-related organizations, and has been a speaker at numerous conferences, trade shows, and at private venues and mineral societies. She was presented with a GIA Alumni Leadership Award for her work as the Ambassador of the Washington DC Alumni Chapter, and is recently retired. Her love of photography, travel, education and meeting new people is reflected in each of her presentations.

Continued on next page.

Next Regular Meeting

Date: June 8th, 2026

Time: 7:30 PM

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

Next Board of Directors Meeting

Date: June 15th, 2026

Time: 7:30 PM

Place: Virtual
(Online Zoom Meeting)

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June Meeting Information

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Words from Denise Nelson:

During a three-week journey, through a beautiful country and north to the Baltic Sea, I wanted to shed a bit of light on what in Asia is often called the "Sunstone" and what is commonly known as Amber!

It is an organic substance which can be enhanced, dyed, crushed, reconstituted or blatantly copied and misrepresented. Easily fooling the public, one could safely assume that it would become disliked by sellers and buyers alike. Instead, Amber has survived and it's popularity has actually grown due to Poland's dedication to preserving its unique treasure. Modern designers flock to it and its historical importance and uses are quite surprising.

Poland also values a site accessible by walking 900 steps into the largest tourist site in Poland. In operation since the 13th century, the Wieliczka salt mine can only be described in pictures. The "White Gold" of this mine together with the "Sunstone" of the Baltic are a perfect combination for an information-filled travel adventure!

President's Message

Jonathan Harris, President

Hello, fellow rockhounds.

Don't let the summer doldrums set in. When it's too hot and humid to collect outdoors, several shows will be appearing. Look in the Rockhouser and your email for more details.

June 8 will be our last meeting before the two-month summer break. Don't miss hearing Denise Nelson enlighten us about amber and salt from Poland. Bring some interesting specimens as well!

In the meantime, be ready to bid on some high-quality fluorescent material at the upcoming meeting. I'm sure the auction will get glowing reviews.

Finally, mark October 3rd on your calendars for our fifth annual picnic, featuring potluck food, a specimen auction, and time to catch up with fellow rockhounding friends.

Cheers, —Jonathan



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GLSMC Regular Meeting Minutes from May 11th, 2026

Karen Lottes, Secretary

Meeting was called to order at 7:45 PM

41 in attendance / 7 Future Rockhounds

FRA - the showmanship badge was presented to the FRA

Treasurer - Chris presented for Holly who couldn't be at the meeting. He relayed from her the gross auction proceeds, and that recent expenses were the PO Box, trailer repairs, and a new PA system. Nathaniel has created a new flyer for the show and we will be printing it.

Nathaniel has been helping the club update email lists, social media, etc.

Membership - New members Conrad, Lydia, Debbie, and Paula were welcomed. Guests visiting were Jered and Owen. Doug will be moving to Florida this summer and Dee will be taking over membership.

Field Trips - Marco is working on a trip to West Virginia. Middleburg trip days are full for the season already. He and Sam are scouting for other localities for field trips as well. Many thanks to Marco and Sam for their hard work.

Property - Joel pointed out our new PA system. We also have a stained glass display created by Wendell and his wife showing the different types of crystals. Karen R. has agreed to keep it at her place and bring it to the show.

Presentation: Megalodon and Other Sharks of Calvert Cliffs with Chris.

June - Denise Nelson will give a presentation on amber and there will be an auction of Andy Muir specimens.

Mark your calendars for October 3 for the fall picnic and auction.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 PM.



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GLMSMC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes from May 18th, 2026

Karen Lottes, Secretary

Present: Dan, Joel, Diane, Gary, Holly, Jeff, Jonathan, Karen, Dave T, and Andy

Called to order at 7:46

Banking - Holly suggested exploring other options for banking, as our bank hasn't been great.

Auctions - next meeting has 19 lots. October picnic - Karen has probably 40ish lots. She needs someone to come out this summer to create the lots. Dee also has some material.

New PA System - Chris has it.

Trailer - Joel mentioned that the mobile trailer repair company came out and fixed the trailer brakes.

Jeff won't be at the next meeting.

Holly shared the new flyer Nathaniel created.

Emails - looking into Google groups for the e-list.

Discussion about getting Venmo or Zelle to make it easier for payments for auctions and membership.

Joel mentioned that the other Karen in the club has the Mohr crystal display and will bring it to the next show.

Adjourned at 8:36 PM.



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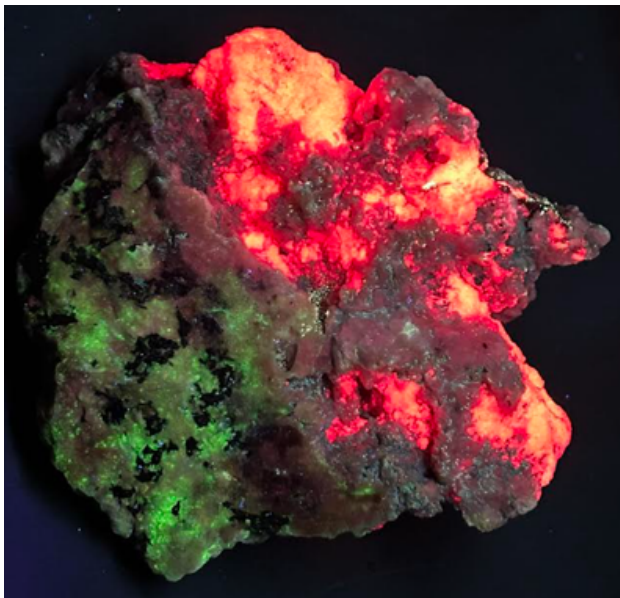
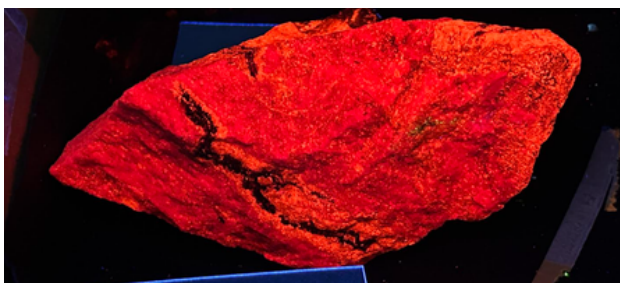
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June Auction

Holly Heighes, Treasurer

June Auction – 19 specimens from the Muir collection including:

- 3 Pete Dunn pieces (2 from Greenland and 1 piece of Franklin 'Pie')
- 2 Tenebrescent pieces (Hackmanite (also phosphorescent) and a Greenland Sodalite)
- Several daylight pieces including
 - Barite on Quartz (Fred Parker specimen)
 - Large Lapis Lazuli sphere
 - Sulfur & Calcite
 - Septarian Nodule from Utah
- Classic locations such as Cave-In-Rock, Mt. St. Hilaire & Minas Gerais





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Show Table from May 11th Regular Meeting

Name	Specimen	Locale
Jeff Cessna	Spodumene	Near Haddam, CT
" "	Goethite	Near Fleetwood, Berks Co., PA
" "	Fluorite	Commisione Mine-Zogno Bereamo, Italy
Jonathan Harris	Kyanite **	Willis Mountain Mine, VA
" "	Sillimanite	Near Brandywine Springs Park, DE
" "	Andalusite	Ogilby, Imperial Co., CA
Rob Mays	Pyrophyllite	Randolph Co., NC
Karen Lottes	Shark teeth	Scientists Cliffs, MD
Mira Lottes	Megalodon tooth	Unknown
Tom Parnell	Bivalve - Chesapecten	Virginia
Maria Nopo	Barite	Cerro Warihuyn, Peru
Kurt Knower	Fossils (Miocene)	Maryland
Marco Molinaro	Siderite & Barite	Frostburg, MD
Judith Kovach	Petoskey & Pudding Stone	Michigan
Joel Rosen	Schorl w/ Quartz	Pakistan
Ken Reynolds	Shark tooth	Unknown
" "	Manganese bio-minerals	Calvert Cliffs, MD
Nick Jacobs	Sodalite - Hauyne	Afghanistan
Pat Repik-Byrne	Brachiopod fossil (Spirifer?)	Interlaken, NJ
Dave Fryauff	Mix of Zeolites	Bay of Fundy, Nova Scotia
Owen Powers	Cucullaea (Clam Fossil)	Friendly, MD
Dee Weiss	Fossil in a Geode	Unknown

Show Table Door Prize

Hackmanite
Afghanistan
Won by Thomas Parnell

General Door Prize

Amethyst
Uruguay
Won by Mira Lottes



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

Mark Dahlman

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

Meeting Location: Sunroom Cafeteria at the Rockville Senior Center

May 11th Meeting:

Congratulations to the five FRA members who received their Showmanship badges at the May meeting. Maria presented a slideshow of her trip to the Tucson show, which included entering exhibits in the TGMS show that won her a second-place award! Congratulations to Maria!! We also reviewed what we can tell from sand and then created mounts of sand from several places around the world. Of course, everyone went home with new specimens for their collection as well.

June 8th Meeting:

We'll do additional activities for the Sand and Sediment badge including some sand art to complete the badge requirements. Members should please bring their loupes to the meeting if possible. We'll also decide on the next badge to work on when we start again in September. 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 or 301-428-0455.

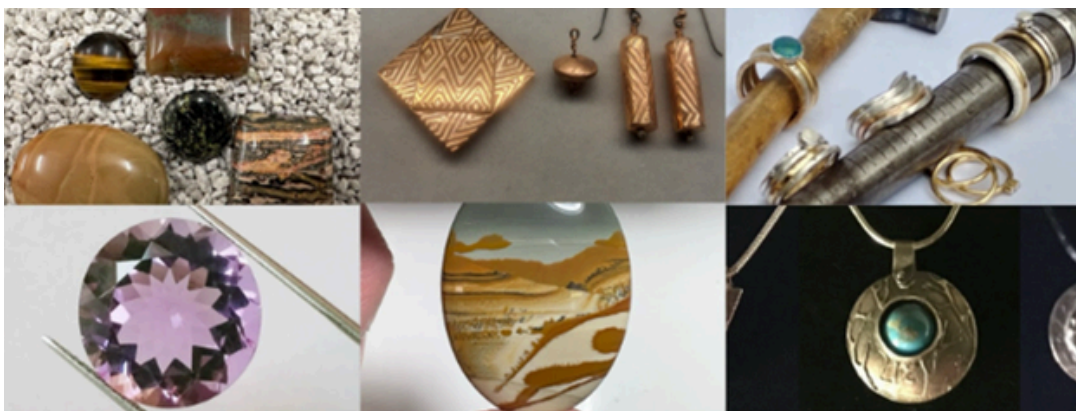
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Happenings at the Gem Cutters Guild of Baltimore



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



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Upcoming Events

With this ad, \$1.00 off General Admission

GEM MINER'S SPRING SHOW!!
June 12 - 14, 2026
W. FRIENDSHIP, MD
**Beads! Findings!
Minerals! Fossils!
Gems & Jewelry!**

THE MID-ATLANTIC'S BEST SHOW
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
RETAIL & WHOLESALE VENDORS
WHOLESALE ONLY TRADE AREA
HOURLY DOOR PRIZES & GRAND PRIZE DRAWING
Fri. NOON-6PM ♦ Sat. 10AM-5PM ♦ Sun. 11AM-4PM
\$6 ADMISSION - CHILDREN UNDER 12 FREE

Howard County Fairgrounds
2210 Fairgrounds Road
West Friendship, MD 21794
www.gem-show.com
Tamie Simpson
(810) 919-4386

Save the Date
**Desautels Micromount
Symposium**
The Baltimore Mineral Society
is pleased to announce the

70th Annual

**Paul Desautels Memorial
Micromount Symposium**
October 2-4, 2026
At |
Natural History Society of Maryland
6908 Belair Road, Baltimore, MD 21206

Micromounters Hall of Fame Induction
Mineral Talks, Silent and Voice Auctions
Sales, Giveaway Tables, Trading

Details to be Announced: Mseeds@fandm.edu

Continued on next page.



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Upcoming Events

Continued from previous page.

FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY - Pennsylvania Chapter and West Chester University Earth and Space Sciences Dept. SYMPOSIUM November 14, 2026 Field Trip Nov. 15

West Chester, Pennsylvania

Symposium for mineral collecting enthusiasts - tentative plans include:

Saturday Nov. 14: Hybrid Symposium - ONLINE or IN PERSON
8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at West Chester University
Talks by knowledgeable **SPEAKERS** on Pennsylvania Mineralogy and Geology and the theme **ART in MINERALS** Silent Auction - Give-away Table - Conversation
Professional Geologists: 6 Professional Development Hour credits available for full lecture attendance

Sunday Nov. 15: Field Trip. Open only to symposium registrants.

Watch for details, registration form, changes and **UPDATES** on our **web site:**
www.rasfoto.com/FM or Friends of Mineralogy Pennsylvania on Facebook

For newsletters and field trips during the year, please join our chapter!
See "Join FM" on the web site

Gems Silent Auction Beads Jewelry

Tuscarora Lapidary Society's 57th Annual
GEMARAMA
Rock, Gem, and Jewelry Show

NOVEMBER
7TH, 10AM-6PM
8TH, 10AM-5PM

Greater Philadelphia Expo Center-Hall D
100 Station Avenue
Oaks, PA 19456

Admission:
1 day \$7
2 day pass \$10
Children \$1 (under 12)

Discount tickets available at www.gemarama.org

Jewelry Demos Lapidary Demos Children's Activities

Fossils Exhibits TLS Booth Rocks



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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President - Jonathan Harris

Vice President - Chris Luzier

Secretary - Karen Lottes

Treasurer - Holly Heighes

Membership Chairman - Doug Baum

Downstairs Show Co-Chairs - 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, Jeff Cessna, and Dee Weiss

NON-BOARD POSITIONS

Field Trip Chair - Sam Linton

Club Auctioneer - Diane Leaman

Immediate Past President - Chris Luzier

Bulletin Editor - Maria Nopo

Life Members: Larry Harrison, Juan Proaño, 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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