



THE ROCKHOUNDER

Summer/September 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 October issue of the Rockhoulder to Editor Maria Nopo at bulletineditor@glmsmc.com by September 25th, 2026

Regular Meeting Announcements

Chris Luzier, Vice President

September Meeting Information

Speaker: Martin Schmidt

Talk Subject: Maryland's Geology

Martin Schmidt will be talking about the subject of his book: Maryland's Geology. We'll whiz through a billion years of plate tectonics to see the 4 mountain ranges that have formed and eroded away in our area, and how the Bay formed. Then we can look at the varied results we find today in our 5 physiographic provinces, both in landforms and in underlying rocks and geologic structures. While this will not be about exactly where to go to find minerals, it will give you the big picture and so perhaps possibilities. This will also provide an introduction to an online interactive map tool you can use at home to find what is the rock under your house and throughout Maryland, in addition to other geoscience aspects.

Next Regular Meeting

Date: September 14th, 2026

Time: 7:30 PM

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

Next Board of Directors Meeting

Date: September 21st, 2026

Time: 7:30 PM

Place: Virtual
(Online Zoom Meeting)

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September Meeting Information

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Martin Schmidt has been teaching grades 9-12 at McDonogh School near Baltimore since 1978, including physics, chemistry, and geosciences over the years. He is author of the book, Maryland's Geology, published by Schiffer Publishers, which is designed to give a basic geologic background & then apply it to the state, for students, teachers, and laymen. In addition to sometimes looking down at the rocks, he's just as watchful looking up at the weather and the stars, and teaching those subjects, as he finds all of Earth science fascinating.

President's Message

Jonathan Harris, President

Hello Fellow Rockhounds:

Welcome back from summer. It is time to resume our monthly program. For our September 14 meeting, we will have the opportunity to learn about Maryland geology.

For those who enjoy field collecting, we have a field trip to the Willis Mountain Kyanite Mine on Sept. 26. Please check your email for the announcement. If the email is missing or buried in megabytes of inbox messages, go to our Google Groups site (<https://groups.google.com/g/glmsmc-members>). You can use this site to see any other conversations you have missed.

If you have not already done so, mark your calendar for our Oct. 3 auction and potluck picnic. I look forward to seeing you there.

Cheers, Jonathan



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GLSMC Regular Meeting Minutes from June 8th, 2026

Karen Lottes, Secretary

Meeting was called to order at 7:45. 41 members/7 FRA

Treasurer's Report: Not much change from last month. The club invested in another CD and also had some reimbursements.

Thank you to Nathaniel for updating our show flyer, working on the website, and other projects.

Membership: Longtime Membership Chair Doug Baum is leaving us for sunnier climes. Dee will be taking over as Membership Chair. Welcome to guests.

Upcoming Shows: The Howard County Show is this weekend (June 13/14), the Gem Cutters Guild is having an auction June 13, and the Pennsylvania Rock Cutters has an Open House June 27.

Today's Prizes: chalcopyrite specimen and titanium treated quartz specimen.

There will be an auction after the presentation.

Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club meets all summer on the 4th Tuesday of the month if you can't wait until September for a rock meeting. Also, their annual show is October 3.

Don't forget to check the giveaway pile by the door before you leave today.

Presentation: Denise Nelson is presenting on "Poland's Treasures: Amber and Salt." Amber has been used in clothing as far back as ancient times. It is an organic gem material and easily faked. Baltic amber ranges from black to white, a rich brownish color as well as orange. In Asia it has been called sun stone. Amber with glittering on the inside has probably been heated. It takes the opaqueness away, but leaves it more brittle. It started to be created from the sap of pine trees in ancient forests that stood where the North Sea is now.

The salt mine in Wieliczka started in the neolithic. It is still being mined, but is primarily a tourist attraction today.

Meeting ended at 9:52



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GLMSMC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes from June 15th, 2026

Karen Lottes, Secretary

Called to order at 8:05

Present: Karen, Gary, Diane, Jonathan, Chris, David B, Holly, Maria, Dan, Joel, Andy, and Jeff.

FRA - Mark is retiring as FRA leader and Holly is taking over. She is stepping down as treasurer at the end of the year.

Show: David Balenson has agreed to help with our annual mineral show. He will take over as downstairs chair and Nick will take over as upstairs chair since Dave is stepping down. Dan Baker will be taking over running the downstairs electrical cords for Frank.

Membership: Dee will be replacing Doug as Membership Chair.

Scholarship Fund: The implementation of the scholarship fund was discussed.

Auctions: We have a manageable collection of 40-50 lots to auction from a friend of Karen's. The October Picnic Auction will have lots from Gary and Diane, and Karen still has material from the donation we got last year.

Jeff has some fluorescent material from an old donation that might be good for giveaways for FRA.

Upcoming Meetings: September Martin Schmidt will talk about Maryland Geology. November David Balenson will be our presenter on sand collecting.

Adjourned at 8:56



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Show Table from June 8th, 2026

Name	Specimen	Locale
Charlie Zellers	Cleavelandite	Amelia County, VA
Tom Parnell	Benitoite	Gem Mine, San Benito Co., CA
“ ”	Neptunite	“ ”
Reed Owens	Himalayan Rock Salt	Auction
Rob Mays	Barite	Lubin Mine, Poland
“ ”	Barite & Pyrite	“ ”
Maria Nopo	Wernerite	Unknown
Linda Kohn	Fused Glass	Wildacres, NC
Dan Kohn	Handmade Inlayed Bracelet & Ring	“ ”
Kurt Knower	Travertine/Calcite	National Limestone Quarry
Joel Rosen	Garnet	Shigan, Pakistan
Corrine Wilson	Opal	Spencer, ID
Dan Baker	Epidote	Peru
Jonathan Harris	Dolomite	Ace of Diamonds Mine, Middleview NY
“ ”	Aragonite	Cuenca Castile-La Mancha, Spain

General Door Prize

Titanium treated quartz
Uruguay
Won by Denise Nelson

Show Table Door Prize

Chalcopyrite
Green Valley, Arizona
Won by Joel Rosen



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

Holly Heighes

Next Meeting: September 14th, 7:45 - 9:00 pm

Dining Sunroom Cafeteria at the Rockville Senior Center

Welcome back future rockhounds!

Thank you to Mr. Mark Dahlman who has retired from leading the FRA program after thirteen years! We are all grateful for all that he has done for the FRA and the GLMSMC club. Holly Heighes will be picking up where Mark left off.

Congratulations to the FRA members who have earned their Sand and Sediment badge! These badges will be presented at the start of the meeting.

Please bring in 1 specimen to show to the FRA group, preferably one you collected over the summer.

After our show and tell, we will start learning how to identify rocks through their formation, texture and composition. (Mineral identification will come later). We will be using observation, testing and deductions to reach conclusions. By the time this series is complete you will be able to confidently identify almost any rock you come across.

All participants will go home with a new specimen.

For more information on the Future Rockhounds of America program, please contact Holly at fra_advisor@glmsmc.com.

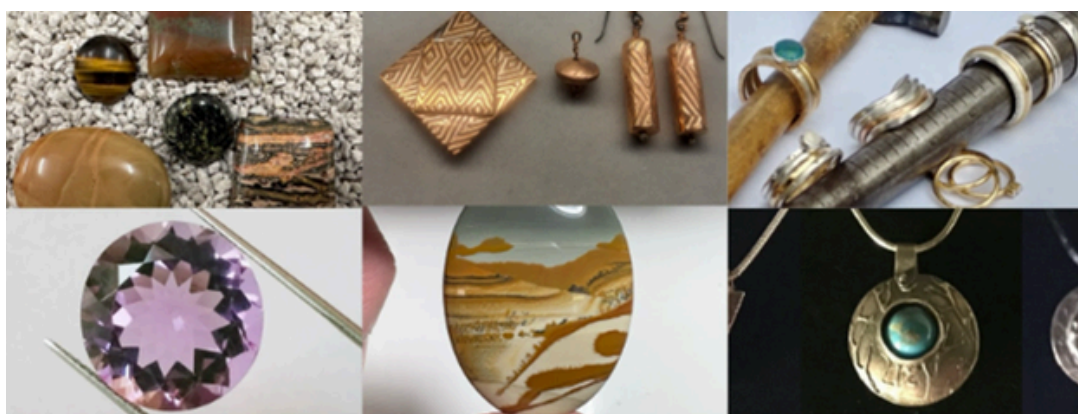
Follow us on Facebook at
[https://www.facebook.com/groups/
984241208329511/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/984241208329511/)



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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



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Upcoming Events

74th Annual GEM, JEWELRY, MINERAL & FOSSIL SHOW

Sponsored by:
Danbury Mineralogical Society

Sat. Sept. 12, 2026, 10am - 5:00pm
Sun. Sept. 13, 2026, 10am - 4:00pm



NEW MILFORD HIGH SCHOOL

388 Danbury Rd (Rte 7)

New Milford, CT 06776

Member Exhibits!

Daily Hourly Door Prizes!!

Daily GRAND PRIZE DRAWING!!!

\$6.00 adults \$5.00 seniors & full time-students with ID
Free admission for kids 12 yrs & under, and Scouts in uniform

the Atlantic Coast ★ ★ ★ *61st annual*

GEM, MINERAL, JEWELRY and FOSSIL Show

presented by... THE GEM CUTTERS GUILD of BALTIMORE

9.26 - 9.27

HOWARD COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

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Upcoming Events

Continued from previous page.

Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club
30th Annual

Rock, Mineral & Fossil Show

October 3, 2026

9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Old Waldorf School

[3074 Crain Highway, Waldorf, Md. 20601](#)

[\(1 Block](#) North of Checkers on the access road - next to Jaycee's Hall)

This Rock Show is indoors, so come rain or shine!

Admission: \$3.00, Children (12 and under) free with an Adult

Print Coupon for \$1.00 Off Admission



GEM MINER'S HOLIDAY SHOW

November 20th-22nd, 2026

Rock, Gem, Jewelry, Bead, Gift & Fossil Show

Lebanon Expo & Fairgrounds

80 Rocherty Rd, Lebanon PA 17042

Open to the Public!!! + Wholesale



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THE ROCKHOUNDER

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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