



# Chippers' Chatter

Newsletter of the Chesapeake Gem & Mineral Society  
Baltimore, Maryland <chesapeake.rockclub.us>  
Volume 52 Number 11  
December 2008

## News & Happenings

The HOLIDAY meeting will be on Friday,  
December 12th and will begin at 6:30 p.m.

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Many of you are aware of the Omnibus Lands Bill that was introduced by Sen. Harry Reid of Nevada. The intent was to ramrod this legislation through the senate before this session ends in January.

There's now finally some good news coming out of Washington about the legislation – Sen. Reid has withdrawn the bill! His reasons included a threatened filibuster by Oklahoma Senator Tom Coburn and a perceived lack of 60 votes to invoke closure.

Bad news is that the bill will probably be reintroduced in January when the new congress begins, but for now at least the immediate threat is over.

Carolyn

## President's Message

See you in December at the party.

Gilbert Charlton

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**Lloyd & Arleen Gleason have a new email address: lgfossil@verizon.net Please send all address changes to them for the Directory. Thanks.**

## Who we are, What we are, and Where we are in a nutshell:

The Chesapeake Gem & Mineral Society is a Member of the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical & Lapidary Societies and is Affiliated with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies.

The Chesapeake Gem & Mineral Society was established in order to allow its members to gain knowledge and skills in various phases of the Earth Science field. Through field trips, exhibitions, and cooperation with other societies, we endeavor to further not only our own knowledge, but also that of the general public.

Meetings are held on the 2nd Friday of each month except August at the Women's Club of Catonsville, St. Timothy's Lane & Frederick Rd in Catonsville, MD. Meetings begin at 7:30 P.m. and visitors are always welcome.

Dues are \$10 for individuals, \$15 for husband and wife, and \$20 for family memberships.

### **Deadline for submitting articles or comments is the 15th of each month.**

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**Note: I will accept articles and commentary via email, Fax, or regular mail.**

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**Goodies 'N Such**

by Liz & Wendy Stanne

Many thanks to our club members who brought in a wonderful selection of goodies for our November meeting. They were enjoyed by all and kept us fueled up for the evening. Remember to bring your goodies for the Holiday Party.....

## **Feature Articles**

### **A Brief History of Russian Lacquer Brooches**

By Michael S. Hakulin Sr

The first brooches and boxes with lacquer miniatures were brought into Russia in the early 18th century from Western Europe. At the same time, the first private workshops were opened in Moscow and St. Petersburg to create these items. These wares were made in the Western European style on papier-mache or on mother-of-pearl and sometimes were just copied from art works of European masters.

In the late 18th century, a Russian merchant, P.V. Lukutin, built his later to be world renown factory in Fedoskino village not far from Moscow. For the first time in Russia, the industrial manufacturing of lacquer brooches was located there. Though the Fedoskino painters worked using the Western European technique, they used scenes of Russian everyday life for their miniatures. Fedoskino brooches with floral compositions were especially popular among Russian women. The miniatures with pictures of Russian landscapes and finely made portraits were also widely known. The Fedoskino brooches are painted in oils on papier-mache or on mother-of-pearl.

Since the late 19th century and early 20th century, the production of original lacquer brooches of genuine Russian origin have been centralized in the old icon-painting villages such as Palekh, Mstera, and Kholuy. A most common theme has been Russian fairy tales and folklore. Local painters used old secrets drawn from the icon-painting for this new art. The traditions of 12th century icon-painting were reflected most vividly in the works of Palekh painters. Their wares are remarkable for their fine-drawn and very difficult painting; though they are very expensive at the same time. The miniatures and boxes of Mstera are widely known for their bright colors and most famous subject--the Troyka, the traditional Russian team of three horses. The artists of Palekh, Mstera and Kholuy use old formulas of paints which were employed for icon-painting.

The beautiful "double brush" art technique is used for Zhostovo brooches. Since ancient times, the artists of Zhostovo have painted on metal dishes. Zhostovo flowers are famous all over Russia.

Nowadays, some Moscow painters are trying to revive the art of lacquer miniatures. Their work is based on the best samples of old Russian art found in the museums of the Kremlin and the Russian Orthodox Church.

Sadly, this proud heritage of an artistic Russia has fallen to commercialism. Many of the miniatures are now painted by apprentices on pre-cut wood slats rather than on papier-mache or mother-of-pearl. In some cases, the painting is actually a decal that has been glued to the top of the brooch or box. The lines are no longer perfect, but are thick and uneven.

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## **New Gem Treatments and Potential Frauds**

Mr. Edward Bristol, [www.diamondring.com/forums/](http://www.diamondring.com/forums/), has just published a list of the latest gem treatments and potential frauds that have been confirmed by reputable sources. He is planning to keep

the list updated and would appreciate inputs. Please send your information to him quoting the following:  
**"Post#1 @ 07-14-08, 06:24 am"**

Here is what has been gathered from various websites and lab reports in the last 6 months.

**QUOTE**

- Andesine, sold for years as an expensive red gem, has turned out to be in fact cheap brown-yellow African labradorite heated and diffused with copper and iron. Buyers are now suing Jewelry Television (JTV) for fraud.

- GAAJ and GIA have found synthetic rubies in the market which were heated in order to disguise their artificial origin. They are offered as "Natural Heated Ruby". The normal gem testing process in a laboratory will easily fail to identify a heated ruby as synthetic.

- GEMLAB from Germany has warned of a new type of synthetic quartz which is heated and then passed off as natural ametrine. Ametrine is always heated. Basically this new trick goes along the lines of heating synthetic ruby to sell it as "heated natural" (mentioned above).

- Cobalt coated tanzanite was found by the GIA. Tanzanite is always heated into permanent color change but this "color" can be scratched off.

- The GAAJ has identified rutilated quartz filled with oil and resin in order to improve clarity.

- The process of lead-glass filling for star rubies in Thailand has been described by Vincent Pardieu. Lead glass filled rubies have been around for some years but the low-heat version (800-1200 degree C) for star rubies is new.

- A new "center-fusion" to color topaz has been developed by Sithy Gems. So far Topaz was irradiated into blue, vapor-color coated into "Mystic Topaz", and diffused into blue and green. The new center-fusion is basically high-pressure-heat gluing of an artificially colored piece of topaz onto a colorless topaz. From the companies' brochure:

"Top Colors of Expensive Gemstone which will resemble as High-Priced Gemstone once mounted in Jewelry. Only Gemologist could reveal the secret upon testing."

The same company also offers color-coated Tsavorite and moonstones.

- Gem Research Swiss (GRS) has found bismuth-based glass filler in pink sapphires and rubies.

- A new type of blue sapphire is produced by inducing cobalt oxide under high-heat into colorless or brown corundum. The new process is called "Tanusorn" and was developed in Thailand, reports the GAAJ. The resulting sapphires are not very nice but cheap and widely available.

- The GIA has found lead-glass filled color change sapphires. Lead-glass filling can essentially be applied on any fractured or fissured gemstone but was so far mostly used in ruby. This year lead-glass filling has started to show up in other varieties, too.

Additions, comments or corrections? Please contact Edward Bristol at [www.diamondring.com/forums/](http://www.diamondring.com/forums/)

**UNQUOTE**

## Mineral of the Month

by Steve Weinberger

### Malachite

Our holiday party does not usually feature a display for mineral of the month, but the mineral malachite does certainly lend itself to the festive spirit. When looking at a fine acicular example of malachite, you can't help but think that all it needs is some tinsel and ornaments (at least micromounters can think that since we see things 7-45 times larger than life.)



Malachite's formula is  $\text{Cu}_2(\text{OH})_2\text{CO}_3$  and is monoclinic. Its hardness is 3.4—4.0, has an adamantine, vitreous luster, and can be transparent to translucent in finer crystals. The name comes from the Greek "mallows" meaning green color. It's the most common secondary mineral in oxidized zones of copper sulfide deposits.

The location for malachite is world-wide with notable deposits found in the Congo and Tsumeb Africa and Bisbee, Globe, and Morenci, Arizona. It is even found at Mineral Hill in Eldersburg, and at Medford Quarry in Westminster, MD.

The fact that it pseudomorphs after azurite created quite a problem for artists hundreds of years ago (although they did not know it at the time.) The pigments they used for sky and water were azurite-based. As time passed, the azurite changed to malachite, and sky and water scenes turned from blue to green.



Check out some of the better photographs of malachite in books and the internet and see if your imagination can picture one of the clusters in the living room of a very small family.

ref.: *Mindat, Minerals and their Localities (Bernard & Hyrsl)*

### Eastern/American Federation News

**Rock & Gem Now the "Official" Magazine of the American Federation**

by Shirley Leeson, AFMS Past President  
from AFMS Newsletter, December 2008

I'm delighted to share some exciting news with all of you. The AFMS Officers and Directors have selected *Rock & Gem* Magazine as the official magazine of the American Federation!

*Rock & Gem* is published by Miller Magazines and our own International Relations Chair, Bob Jones is its Senior Editor. He and his “boss” Lynne Varon, Managing Editor of the magazine have been actively promoting the AFMS and several of its activities for the past year and plan to continue doing so in years to come.

*Rock & Gem* is the last of the true “rockhound” magazine now that Lapidary Journal has been morphed into Jewelry Arts/Lapidary Journal. *Mineralogical Record* and *Rocks & Minerals* of course continue as outstanding publications, but their focus is on minerals, not on rockhounds. Each issue of *R & G* contains articles on field trips, minerals, projects and a series of kids activities.

The November issue includes an editorial by Lynne Varon entitled “Find Your Voice” touting the AFMS Conservation & Legislation program, plus information about our efforts to get the U.S. Postal Service to produce a series of commemorative stamps featuring birthstones and an early plug for the AFMS 2009 Convention in Billings, MT by Bob Jones.

If you’re not already a subscriber, and thus a supporter of the magazine, you can easily get information by visiting their website <[www.rockngem.com](http://www.rockngem.com)> or by calling them at 760-291-1549.

Not yet had the opportunity of meeting our International Relations Chair Bob Jones? He’s always at the club show in Tucson each February, the Denver Show each September, the Springfield show each August in W. Springfield, MA and many, many local club shows. He’s also scheduled to be the speaker at the EFMLS Wildacres Workshop in 2010.

Our association with *Rock & Gem* can truly be a symbiotic relationship - we subscribe and the magazine supports the efforts of the American Federation and our local clubs.

## **Minutes**

Submitted by Earle Pfetzing  
Recording Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 pm by President Gil Charleton. Gil read a note from Eileen Boulter thanking the club for its attention and sympathies to her husband Ken. She was also grateful for the club's assistance in the auctioning of many of his lapidary items. She is now residing in a retirement home in Annapolis.

The Treasurer, Marilyn Cornish, stated that we are a "going concern" and in good financial condition.

Carolyn Weinberger spoke against a bill sponsored by U.S. Senator Reid which would stop the collecting and removal of rocks, minerals, or anything else on federal lands. ((Ed Note: See headline news, the proposed bill has been postponed for the time being.))

Hospitality chairperson Liz Stanne asked for refreshment sign-ups for 2009.

NEW Business: Dawn Johnson will be the chairperson of the Holiday Party which will be on 12 December at 6:30 pm in the regular meeting hall. She will be calling members in early December to record their contributing food items.

The Officers Nominating Committee reported that all the incumbent officers have agreed to serve another term of office. However, there are two (2) Board of Director offices which need nominees. The election will be at the December meeting.

The mineral of the month was Benitoite, which is named after Benito County, California, the only place where it is found. Natrolite and crosstie are often found with it, and it can be faceted.

The showcase contained faceted Benitoites contributed by Al Pribula and a garnet necklace from Karin Johnson. Phyllis and Steve displayed an unusual calcite-on-slate standing ornament.

The evening's program was titled "American Mineral Treasures, 2008." It was a slide presentation by Steve and Carolyn Weinberger, and was based on the fabulous display of minerals at the Tucson Gem and Mineral Society's 2008 show. The best specimens obtainable were assembled from private collectors and museums, in a juried display which took five years to assemble.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:24 pm.

### **Editor's Corner:**

If you hear about a gem and mineral show that's not listed below, please pass me that information so I can share with everyone. Thanks

As you will have noticed by now, I am not a very restricted editor. I feel that anything and everything related to the Lapidary Arts, including drawing, drafting pictures, photographs of minerals or jewelry or even rock formations, and sometimes recipes and quips, are grist for my mill.

### **Quotable Quips:**

*"No man has ever stood so tall as when he stooped to help a child."*

#### **Great moments in Sports Broadcasting**

**Sportscaster Al Michaels:**

Well, it appears that he has pulled his groin.

**Sportscaster John Madden:**

And it's a shame, it's such a great groin.

*((during a Monday Night Football game - Thanks to Dave Broker))*

**Dues Renewal**

*Please complete this form and include it with your membership renewal.*

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Cash \_\_\_\_\_

Check \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_

Individual (\$10) \_\_\_\_\_

Husband & Wife (\$15) \_\_\_\_\_

Family (\$20) \_\_\_\_\_

Names of Members: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday/(M/Day) \_\_\_\_\_

Hobby Interests: (see below) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Birthday (M/Day) \_\_\_\_\_

Hobby Interests (see below) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Birthday (M/Day) \_\_\_\_\_

Hobby Interests (see below) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Birthday (M/Day) \_\_\_\_\_

Hobby Interests (see below) \_\_\_\_\_

Hobby Interests: (Please use numbers in the spaces above)

- 1. Lapidary    2. Jewelry    3. Minerals    4. Fossils    5. Microminerals    6. Field Trips

Mail or give to Marilyn May Cornish, 2001 Devere Ln; Catonsville, MD 21228-4803.

## **Upcoming Meetings & Shows:**

### **December 2008**

**13:** 18th Annual Fall Festival of Fine Minerals, Fossils & Jewelry; *Commercial Show*.  
Days Hotel, 9615 Deereco Rd, Timonium, MD. Hours 10am - 4:30pm

**20:** Patuxent Lapidary Guild Member's "Fixed Price" Holiday Sale of Member's excess material and stuff. Sat 1-5pm at Guild club house in Glen Burnie, Furnace Branch Rd.

### **2009**

**March 21-22:** 45th Annual Gem-Mineral-Fossil Show sponsored by the Gem, Lapidary & Mineral society of Mont. Co. Montgomery County Fairgrounds, 16 Chestnut St, Gaithersburg, MD. Sat - 10am-6pm, Sun 10am-5pm

**April 17 - 23:** EFMLS Wildacres Workshop. Speaker for the week will be Mike Wise from the Smithsonian.



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