



# Chippers' Chatter

Newsletter of the Chesapeake Gem & Mineral Society  
Baltimore, Maryland <chesapeake.rockclub.us>  
Volume 54 Number 2  
February 2010

## Who We Are:

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.

**Deadline for submitting articles or comments in this Newsletter is the 15th of each month.**

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## Weather Policy:

**If Balto. county schools are closed on a meeting day, then our meeting is cancelled. Please listen to WBAL [ 1090 A.M. ] or T.V. channel 11, or visit their website [ wbaltv.com ] to be sure.**

## President's Message

Date: January 13, 2010

The specimens and slide show enhanced our appreciation of the beautiful world of agates. Thanks to everyone who participated.

Remember to pay your dues for 2010. March is the due date.

Begin collecting your items for the March auction. Keep in mind that the club side of the auction can always use donations.

See you at the February meeting.

Gil

## February's Program

This month the club is in for real treat. Our speaker will be the amazing Scrimshander, Jane Tukarski. A local (Annapolis), Jane Keeps alive the unique maritime tradition of scrimshaw. A true master of her craft, her highly detailed renderings and engravings, all done by hand, Have garnered her exhibits in and awards from museums, galleries and competitions all over the country.

Through examples and slide presentation she will enlighten us about the techniques and materials (ivories, whale teeth and their alternatives) she employs to create her incredible pieces. As well, she'll discuss the state of scrimshaw today. So please don't miss this chance to share an evening with this delightful and talented artist. If you would like a preview, check out her web site at

[www.janetukarski.com](http://www.janetukarski.com)

Thanks the program committee

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**Goodies 'N Such**

**Many thanks to the members who brought in the refreshments for our January meeting. The hot chicken was very welcome on a cold night, and we also enjoyed the fresh fruit, cakes, and something unexpected, but wonderful- Halvah!**

**We look forward to seeing everyone in February. The following members have signed up to bring in the treats:**

**Jim Hooper  
Keith Kaneda  
Wendy Stanne  
&  
Tony Wilner**

*The Chesapeake Gem & Mineral Society*

# **Auction**

*Date : Friday, March 12, 2010*

*Time : 7:30 pm (viewing at 7:00 pm)*

*Place: Woman's Club of Catonsville*

**Items that can be found are  
gemstones, cutting rough, jewelry,  
minerals, fossils, books, magazines,  
and lapidary equipment.**

*Refreshments are available.*

## ***Directions:***

*Go West on Fredrick Rd. from I-695 aprox.3 blocks to St.  
Timothy's Lane.*

*Turn right & go 1 block to the Woman's Club; located  
behind ST. Timothy's Church.*

## Personals

11 Jan 2010

I found out that Mary Chandler is back home, but her sister is critically ill, so please keep her and her family in your prayers.

Becky is going to have another surgery on our February meeting day, so let's send her our best wishes for everything to go well, and to have an easy recovery.

It was great to see Virginia in January. However, she does have some other health issues that have to be dealt with, so please keep her in your thoughts.

We have best New Year's wishes from Helen and Andy to all in the Chesapeake.

Thanks,  
Lynne

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## Minutes

By Earle Pftzing

The January 2010 meeting of the Chesapeake Gem & Mineral Society was called to order at 7:40 pm at the Catonsville Woman's Club by Gil Charleton, President. Approximately 34 members and 2 guests were in attendance.

The **President** welcomed members and guests, had the two guests introduced, and went on to committee reports.

The **Treasurer** said that we are in the usual good financial condition. She also said that dues for 2010 are due and fresh membership cards can be picked up at the February meeting.

The **Library** chairman said that two boxes of books were available for check-out at the back of the room.

The **Newsletter Editor** spoke facetiously, saying he will have to fill in space with his bad jokes and puns, if the membership does not supply enough material. He suggested that almost anything related to the jewelry arts, mineralogy, or associated subjects would be acceptable.

The **Hospitality** chairperson said sign-ups for refreshments for April, May, and September are still being sought.

The **Programs** chairman said a scrimshaw artist will lead the February program.

The January program was an in-house club member's show-and-tell demonstration of the many forms of agates. Members brought in numerous examples of these including plume agate, Fairburn agate, Turritella agate, etc.

The March program will be a club auction of various items pertinent to the club's interests <<See Ad>>. It will start at 7:30pm on Friday, March 12 at the meeting room. The Auction Committee Chairman said those wishing to sell items should call Bernie or Lynne a week ahead of time.

Mineral of the month: Steve Weingberger and Al Pribula discussed the display of the selected mineral family. This was the hydrated borates, which included colemanite, ulexite, tin calconite, and others.

In the showcase, Bernie Emery displayed examples of knife carving and polishing. Numerous forms of agates and jade were displayed by Keith Kanada, Steve Dyer, Mike Hakulin and others.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:15pm.

## Mineral of the month – The Spinel Group

by Steve Weinberger

The spinels are usually aluminum oxides with iron, magnesium, manganese, chromium or zinc included in their formulae. There are several individual minerals in the series—



*Spinel – 4mm  
San Vito Quarry  
Monte Somma  
Campania, Italy*

Spinel— $MgAl_2O_4$ —its name comes from the Latin, spina, for “thorn.”

The members of the spinel group are isometric, usually simple octahedrons sometimes with dodecahedron faces.

Twinning can occur along the octahedral plane, giving rise to the term “spinel twins.” Spinel occurs in many colors, have a vitreous

(glassy) luster, and can form 4-ray stars when cut into gems.

Other well-known members of the spinel group include gahnite  $ZnAl_2O_4$ , franklinite  $(Zn,Mn,Fe)(Fe,Mn)_2O_4$ , magnetite  $Fe_2O_3$ , and chromite  $(Mg,Fe)Cr_2O_4$ .

Magnetite is best known for its ability to attract iron. Earlier civilizations used lodestone to construct a compass for navigation. Students still like to use it to magnetize rods to be able to pick up small iron or steel objects.

Franklinite is abundant in Franklin and Ogdensburg (Sterling Hill), New Jersey. This was the main zinc ore at the mines. If you are in the area and stop in to see the museum and mine, you are in for a treat, especially when

the lights are turned off in the mine and the UV lights are lit and the willemite almost jumps out at you with its bright yellow-green color.

Chromite was the main source of chrome in the Baltimore area. The Soldiers Delight Park in northwest Baltimore County was such a mine. Johnny Johnsson occasionally leads tours of the area, explaining the mining process.

So—for February, why not bring in your specimens of the above minerals to show to the members of our club.

Ref.: Sinkankas, John. Mineralogy for Amateurs  
Dana, E.S. A Textbook of Mineralogy  
Bernard, J. H. and Hyrsl, J. Minerals and their Localities.

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## Safety First – And Last

by Jim Doran, EFMLS Safety Chair  
From EFMLS February 2009

1. Check your rockhounding gear for wear and tear.
  - Check boot soles for wear and poor tread.
  - Check hard hat for fit and integrity.
  - Get new safety glasses or goggles if scratched or loose-fitting.
  - Check hammers and chisels for dull points and slick handles.
  - Replace or repair, if possible.
2. Make sure that any lapidary equipment has been maintained and adjusted. Tighten all blades, wheels, nuts and bolts. Replace worn wheels, blades, bearings, switches, etc. Check all electrical cords and replace if worn or frayed. Have safety glasses and masks at the station, and wear them! Learn how to use the equipment correctly and safely.
3. Be aware of where you are and your surroundings when collecting. Watch your fellow collectors. Make sure they're safe too.

## Safety Training

by Jim Doran, Safety Chair

Does your club have safety training for its members, whether they're experienced Rockhounds or "newbies?" If you do not have safety classes, then your club should definitely begin to establish some types of safety courses on a regular basis.

Also, did you know that the EFMLS suggests that each club have a designated safety "officer" who would handle safety training and related issues? Do you know whether or not Maryland has special mining related training classes? If you do not know, you should find out if your state does have such classes.

Fortunately, in my home state of Virginia, they do have mine safety classes. The classes are given monthly, at different locations around the State of Virginia, by the Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (DMME). The basic mining safety course, which many members of my club have, is the General Mineral Miner Certification.

Members of other clubs outside of Virginia have also taken this course, because, some Virginia quarries are requiring that anyone they allow into their quarry to collect must have taken and passed this General Mineral Miner class.

<<Fieldtrip Chairman, do we have such a course? Do we have anyone qualified to teach?>>

Now, are we going to have regular safety classes for our club? If Maryland does have mine safety classes, are we going to make sure that our club members take that training?

We need to take advantage of what is available for safety training, some day we might be glad we did! Be safe, have fun!!!

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## Baby, It's Cold Outside

by Natalie Darling, BEAC Chair  
EFMLS May 2009

I know that the weather is less than desirable for collecting, or any other outdoor activities which pertain to our hobby, (unless ice crystals are your thing). So here is an idea I came up with:

I thought I would research a couple of mineral specimens that I acquired over the summer and learn a little more about what I have recently added to my ever-growing collection. This is a great way to enjoy our hobby without having to brave the elements, and educate our selves at the same time.

Now wouldn't it be rewarding to educate our club members at the same time? Why not write an article on your "findings". It need not be technical, and can be as detailed as you would like. The important thing is that

you would be adding a little "spice" to your newsletter while learning a bit yourself. This can also be a fun, educational, winter activity for juniors. They may even want to draw a picture <<or take a picture>> of their specimen. We are so fortunate to have the wealth of information available to us through the Internet - why not put this tool to good use this winter.

"As an editor, I challenge you to suggest this activity to your club members, and perhaps they too can submit an article. Just think of the potential here! Wouldn't it be great to have a fresh "specimen research" article each month?

## The Federation Box Swap

by Michael Kessler, EFMLS Region II Vice President

Even though the cold of winter puts a damper on collecting, you don't have to go without finding new material. The members of our swapping program have been actively enriching their collections by trading through the mail...and you can too.

Since its inception in 2004 at the request of then EFMLS president Matt Charsky, the **Federation box Swap** has continued to grow. Currently we have clubs participating from New York, New Jersey, California, Washington state, Oregon, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Arizona, Florida, Virginia, Wyoming, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Georgia, North Carolina, Ohio, Wisconsin, Missouri, Nevada, and British Columbia, Canada.

Our latest club joined us from Colville, Washington this January 2009. The offerings cover just about everything possible. There are fossils, crystals and many kinds of lapidary materials offered at this very moment. Why not liven up your club activities and place a member in charge of your club swaps? Have them monitor the latest offerings through my email alerts. The post office has been offering flat rate boxes that suit our needs quite well. Everyone who has traded has been satisfied.

The proof is that they continue to trade again and again. Check our program out especially if you need something to liven up your meetings. Think how many miles you can save driving to a collecting site across the country.

The program is easy to participate in. Just email me at [quartz7228@aol.com](mailto:quartz7228@aol.com) and say you're interested in a Box Swap. That's how easy it is to get started.

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## 2010 Officers:

**President:** Gil Charlton, [gilchar@msn.com](mailto:gilchar@msn.com),  
410.296.8129

**Vice President:** John Buchleitner,  
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**Recording Sec'y:** Earle Pfetzing, 410.465.0408

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**Treasurer:** Marilyn Cornish,  
[mcornish23@yahoo.com](mailto:mcornish23@yahoo.com), 410.719.2434

**Directors:**   **2010-11**                   **2010**  
Steve Dyer           Carolyn Weinberger  
Gary White           Bernie Emery

## Committee Chairs

Auctions - Lynne Luger & Bernie Emery

Directory - Phyllis & Steve Dyer

Field Trips - Dave Fordyce

Greeters - Al Pribula, & Earl Pfetzing

HOLIDAY Party - Dawn, Rachel, Karl & Karin Johnsson

Hospitality - Liz & Wendy Stanne

Legislation - Dave Fordyce

Library - Tony Wilner

Mineral of the Month - Steve Weinberger

Personals/Announcements/ - Patricia Smith & Lynn Luger

Robinson Award - Patricia Smith, Richard Hoff, & Elizabeth Stanne

Sunshine Pgms - Richard Hoff, Keith Kaneda & Tony Wilner

Safety - Johnny Johnsson

Show - Bernie Emery & Lynn Luger

Showcase - Steve Dyer

## Editor:

Michael S. Hakulin Sr <[haksdad@aol.com](mailto:haksdad@aol.com)>

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## Its that time again, Emergency Telephone Chain:

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Mary Chandler 301-663-8348

Wendy Stanne 410-486-4018

Phyllis Dyer 410-349-1630

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Last month's mineral was spinel from Burma!

Chippers' Chatter  
 Mike Hakulin, Editor  
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 Millersville, MD 21108



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2010 Calendar		November	12 – Election of Officers
Factoid		December	10 -- <b>HOLIDAY PARTY</b>
<b><u>Factoid:</u></b>			
The maximum number of letters on one line of a <i>Wheel of Fortune</i> game board is 13.			
A regular sized Slinky has eighty feet of wire.			
The Butterfly is a cannibal.			
<i>Coca Cola</i> was originally green.			