



Chippers' Chatter

Newsletter of the Chesapeake Gem & Mineral Society
Baltimore, Maryland <chesapeake.rockclub.us>
Volume 53 Number 05
May 2009

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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President's Message: April 14, 2009

What a great speaker the club had at our April meeting. We gained knowledge from an expert on what type of rock is more promising for gold, places to go, and what are the best areas and streams to search.

Remember our gem show is just around the corner (May 23rd). If you have not already done so, please sign up for one or more of the following:

1. Friday - setup at 6:30 pm.
2. The Information Booth and the Silent Auction Table.
3. Saturday afternoon taking down the tables and chairs beginning at 4:00 pm.

Many thanks to all who have volunteered to help the club throughout the year.

Gil

NOTE: There will be a brief board meeting in the back office of the hall prior to the meeting. The meeting will start shortly after 7:00 pm.

NOTICE:

For some reason Arleen & I keep appearing in the news letter as the persons in charge of the directory. We have not done so for quite a while, please give credit to Phyllis & Steve Dyer as they are the people doing it and let the members know to contact them for changes.
Lloyd Gleeson

Upcoming Shows & Special Events:

2009

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

May 23: Chesapeake Gem & Mineral Show hosted by the Chesapeake Gem & Mineral Society. Ruhl Armory, 1035 York Rd (MD 45 just off I-695), Towson, MD

September 7 - 13: 2nd EFMLS Wildacres Workshop. Speaker in residence - Brenda Foreman

Goodies 'N Such

by Liz & Wendy Stanne

Thank you to our members, who brought in the refreshments for our April meeting.

We would like to ask that the folks who bring in the goodies, to also help clear the refreshment table after the meeting.

Thanks so much.

The following members have signed up to provide the goodies for our May meeting:

**June Bartscher
John & Barbara Buchleitner
Susan Powell
&
Paul Senstadt**

Personals

As some of you know, Richard Meszler's wife Leslie underwent heart surgery in early February and had been hospitalized with severe complications ever since. We just received word from Richard that Leslie lost her battle and passed away this afternoon (4/15). Steve and I are absolutely speechless!

A memorial service and funeral has not yet been scheduled, but should occur within the next week or two and I will let you know when I hear something further.

In the meantime, should you wish to send condolences to Richard, his mailing address is:
Richard Meszler
1572 Dellsway Rd
Towson, MD 21286-5901

+++++

When Steve talked to Dave Fordyce about the upcoming Marriottsville trip, Dave informed him he would not be there as he had rotator cup surgery this past Tuesday (4/14). Just so club members would be aware of as he will be having physical therapy.

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Steve has a picnic table full of chalcopyrite from the field trip - any takers?

+++++

Becky Kays and Rachael Charlton are still going through some health issues. We hope the doctors can sort it out and put them both on the road to good health.

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Field Trip Announcements

General Instructions for all trips:

1. **No attendee under 16.**
2. **All safety equipment required (hard hats, steel-toed boots, eye protection, gloves)**
3. **Quarries do not allow collecting under high walls.**
4. **Usually there will be a safety instruction talk before collecting that all are required to attend and sign off on, including release of liability.**
5. **Obey all quarry directives strictly.**

Tentative remaining date for collecting at Hunting Hill Quarry (Rockville MD) is 17 May. Sunday mornings, meeting at 8:15 am. Chip-in fee of \$5.00.

Register by email with your field trip leader well in advance, because we must advise the quarry of the expected attendance.

by David Fordyce

Copper Country Mineral Retreat - August 2-9, 2009

by Keith Kaneda

The Copper Country Mineral Retreat (CCMR) is a week of field trips, talks, mineral shows, and open houses, which is put on by the A. E. Seaman Mineral Museum at Michigan Tech. Details on the events are available by following the links on the web page at the URL below. Any club members interested in attending that with questions about the CCMR can contact me at kaneda@jhu.edu or 410-366-1186. Date Listed on URL is wrong.

((See http://www.museum.mtu.edu/copper_country_mineral/index.html)))

Minutes

Submitted by Earle Pfetzing

The meeting was called to order at 7:45pm at the Catonsville Woman's Club on 10 April 2009 by Gil Charleton, President. Approximately 45 members and 2 guests were in attendance.

Committee Reports:

The Treasurer stated that the club is financially sound.

Legislative: It was reported that "Senate Omnibus Bill 22" was initially defeated, but thanks to "smoke and mirrors" maneuvering at a later date, it ended up passing into law. The bill allows the Federal government to control all fossil-related collecting on federal lands.

Field Trips: see earlier announcements.

Newsletter: The editor reminded members that the deadline for all articles was the 15th of the month. Any articles received after that date will normally be held until the next issue. ONLY exception will be PERSONALS; which will be accepted until publication.

Hospitality: The refreshment list for 2009 is complete, according to the Chairman, and she thanked everybody who is participating.

Program: Mr. Jeri Jones presented a talk and slide show titled "Gold in Southeastern Pennsylvania." He spoke about gold occurrences between Adams County, Pa., and York County, Pa., where he has panned and dug extensively. He also included Montgomery County, Md., where gold has been found and mined near the Potomac River. On a practical basis, he covered how to examine stream and river beds to find the best prospecting areas.

Mineral of the Month: The mineral featured was galena, with specimens from Idaho, Tennessee, Missouri, and other places being displayed. The showcase contained a piece of wonderstone, a dugway geode, and precompressed shale.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15PM.

Club Show: Members were reminded of the club's annual show, which will be at the Ruhl Armory on Saturday, May 23rd from 10AM to 4PM. Show chairman, Bernie Emery, asked for volunteers to help with set-up for the show. Helpers were asked to show up at 6:30 PM the night before (22nd).

Help Needed: We will have sign up sheets at the April meeting. You can also call or email one of us to indicate your time preference. The following are the committees we need to volunteers for:

Information Table - Lynne Luger

Silent Auction - Wendy Stanne

Children's Activities Table - Liz Stanne

April Program

Our lecturer for May will be none other than our own Steve Weinberger.

The program is entitled "Micromounting- Not Just For The Small Minded" and is really a talk about what micromounting is all about. It explains the reasons why people prepare and collect micromounts, how to prepare them using various pieces of equipment and shows examples of some of my favorite micro-minerals.

A club stalwart, Steve has taught and presented programs on a wide variety hobby related subjects. An engaging and informative speaker, Steve has generously agreed to share with us, his amazing collection of micromount specimens that he's meticulously prepared, catalogued and photographed. The images of these diminutive minerals aren't just scientific; they reveal a beauty otherwise, viewable only through a microscope. So, please join us for what I'm sure will be delightful evening.

Feature Articles

Mineral of the Month **Sulfur (S)**



Due to a request from a club member, the mineral (actually element) for May is sulfur, an

orthorhombic and sometimes dipyramidal crystal. Its color is usually yellow, but with about 1% inclusion of selenium, it leans toward the orange. This element has been known since at least 2,000 B.C. Its name comes from the Latin sulphurum.

Sulfur is often formed by volcanic sublimation or from the decomposition of sulfides.



Locations are worldwide, and in the U.S., notable formations are found at Yellowstone National Park (in the fumaroles), Gunnison and Steamboat Springs, Colorado, Nevada, California, and Louisiana.

Sulfur can be massive, stalactitic, botryoidal or powdery. It is often clear and the surface has a resinous luster.

Why not bring in the best examples of sulfur from your mineral collection and put them on the mineral of the month table?

If you would like to see your favorite mineral discussed here, please let me know so that you can inspire other club members when you bring in your amazing specimens.

References:

Guastoni & Appiani. Minerals.

Sinkankas. Mineralogy for Amateurs.

Bernard & Hyrsl. Minerals and Their Localities

#1 - Steamboat Springs, Washoe Co. NV

#2 - Machow Mine, Tarnobrazeg, Poland

#3 - Kern County, CA

May Birthstone – Emerald

May's birthstone is the emerald. Emerald is the green version of the mineral Beryl. It was considered to be the talisman of the goddess Venus, and to represent faith, goodness and kindness. Emeralds vary in color from light to deep green. It is commonly thought that an



emerald's green color derives from the presence of chromium and or vanadium replacing some of the aluminum in the mineral's structure. The stone can, however, lose its color when heated strongly.

The emerald's name is indirectly derived from the Greek word "smaragdos," a term ambiguously applied to several kinds of green stones. The history of emeralds can be traced back to antiquity. They were worn by royalty in Babylon and Egypt. Tools dating



back to 1300 B.C., during the reign of Rameses II, have been found in emerald mines in Egypt. Queen Cleopatra's emeralds were believed to originate from mines in Southern Egypt, near the Red Sea.

Emerald has been considered as a "medicinal" stone to soothe strained and tired eyes, just by gazing at a nice green one. Colombia in South America is the most famous and possibly the most important source for high-quality stones. Siberia (Russia), Brazil, and the Sandawana area in Zimbabwe are known to have produced significant quantities of gems. In the U.S., North Carolina, especially the Spruce Pine area is the only significant source of emerald.

According to a 2001 article by Kathy A. Miles and Charles F. Peters II, "emeralds can range in price from quite cheap to incredibly expensive. Their quality too ranges from poor to sensational with a side warning about fakes;" which have been around since the Dark Ages.

The four "C"s of emeralds are Color, Clarity, Cut and Carat weight, with the most important being color.



Usually, the darker the *color* the more valuable; however, it must also be translucent and brilliant. There are many dark opaque stones that are very cheap. *Clarity* is also a factor as emeralds are one of the most included precious

stones. Natural inclusions, called "gardens" are some times so high that 80 to 95% of the stone must be cut away to create a gemstone. Thus, the high weight loss is one of the primary reasons they are so expensive. The faceting, or cabochon shape, width and depth of the emerald makes up the *cut*. The ideal cut emerald will be symmetrical and have uniform sides and facets that provide for maximum color and brilliance. The actual *carat* weight is the least determinant factor in the value of an emerald. Just because an emerald is large does not mean it is expensive and vice-versa.

Note: The bulk of this article is summarized from two excellent books: *Emeralds and Other Beryls* by John Sinkankas and *Emeralds* (Fred Ward Gem Series) by Fred Ward. [Additional sources:](http://starryskies.com/articles/dln/501/may.birthstone.html)
<http://starryskies.com/articles/dln/501/may.birthstone.html>
[ml: http://emeralds.com/education/history.html](http://emeralds.com/education/history.html)

I also recommend *Colored Gemstones, 2nd Edition: The Antoinette Matlins Buying Guide* by Antoinette Matlins ((that's Tony's daughter)). It is an excellent general

guide for buying and caring for emeralds, rubies, sapphires and other colored gemstones. <ed>

The Legendary History of the Engagement Ring – Part 1 As told to Mike Hakulin, Editor

I have decided to have a little fun with this tale. Here is the legend of the history of the engagement ring. It is more about myth and fantasy than actual fact until you enter the 20th Century when a marked turn of events shapes public opinion beyond all doubt.

Today almost everyone's interpretation of the engagement ring is something along these lines: "A symbol of ever lasting purity, love, devotion and commitment between two people." But where did it all start?

Archduke Maximillian of Hamburg may have started the trend among the European wealthy and royalty of giving diamond engagement rings in 1477 by giving Mary of Burgundy a diamond betrothal ring. What happened before 1477? Was there such a thing as an engagement ring and if so were they set with diamonds?

Pre-History

Lets go back to our ancestors, "prehistoric man" who is supposed to have tied the woman's arms and legs together so she could not escape. It wasn't an attempt at deviant sexual acts, but it wasn't the most flattering way to show how you care either!

Eventually the "bride's" legs would have been released and if she made no attempt to run away then she would just have worn a tied cord with a trailing end around one of her little fingers.

It's certainly an interesting theory -- ahem!

Part 2 -- June 2009 issue.

Recipe of the Month

With the weather warming up, I thought it would be nice to start a series of BBQ recipes

Apricot Glazed Pork Kabobs

- 1 pound boneless pork loin -- cut into one-inch cubes
- 1 10-ounce jar apricot preserves
- 4 tablespoons orange liqueur or orange juice
- 2 tablespoons butter

Stir together apricot preserves, orange liqueur and butter, simmer in a small sauce pan until butter is melted. (OR combine ingredients in a 2-cup glass measure; microwave on High 1 minute). Place pork cubes in heavy a plastic bag, pour 3/4 cup apricot over to coat. Marinate at least 30 minutes.

Thread pork onto 4-6 skewers (if using bamboo skewers soak in water for 20-30 minutes before using). Grill over hot coals 10-12 minutes turning occasionally. Baste often with the marinade. Warm remaining apricot sauce to boiling and serve along side kabobs if desired.

Recipe By: Nat. Pork Producers Council
Source: "<http://www.nppc.org>"

2009 Officers:

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Treasurer: Marilyn Cornish,
mcornish23@yahoo.com, 410.719.2434

Directors: **2009** **2009-10**
 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 Pftzing

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 & Lynne Luger

Showcase - Steve Dyer

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This 'n' That

By Mike H

Synthetics Any One: It's believed the 70% of amethysts on the world market are now synthetic. This has only been discovered in the last few years. The hardness of real amethyst is 7, and appears on the Moh scale as quartz. Many of the low cost Amethysts are of high quality, and are deeply colored and can be found in inexpensive jewelry. This is often due to the cost of testing the stone being higher than the cost of even the natural stone, so it is not often performed. Therefore, be aware of a cheap amethyst that looks like a perfect stone. References: <<http://www.24carat.co.uk/a2z.html>> (Gemstone Information) and Tim McCreights (1991) *The Complete Metalsmith: An Illustrated Handbook*. via The Surrey Rockhouser Via the RockVein Winnipeg Rock and Mineral Club April 2004

Toothpaste? Toothpaste with fluoride formula has the unique characteristic of penetrating stone, ceramics, brick or terra cotta and slushing dirt to the surface, where it can be flushed away with water. It was used to restore Etruscan vases by New York's most famous art and antique restorer.
—From Quarry Quips, July, 2005 via Shin-Skinner 6/06 RockCollector 2009-April

How to make rock bugs and spiders

Supplies: tumbled stones, pipe cleaners, glue (a multi-purpose cement such as Bond 527), white and black acrylic paint, and toothpicks.

Using the white acrylic paint and a toothpick, paint the white of the eyes on the stones. use the black paint to paint the pupil of the eye. If you prefer, those cute wiggly eyes may be used.

The legs for the spider will number eight so use two of the chenille stems, cut them in half. Gather up these four pieces and twist the wire in the center about three twists. The bugs will end up with four legs so use only one stem and cut it in half and then twist the two pieces in the center at least three times.) Bend the ends of the stems to simulate feet.

The gluing is the last step. Place the tumbled stone on the center of the stems where the twist is located and estimate where the glue needs to be applied so that the stems and stone will be glued together, without having glue exposed. Apply the glue to this area and center the stone and set upright so that the weight of the stone will help the glue adhere to the stone and the stem legs.

Complete drying takes 2 - 24 hours. Have fun!
http://www.stoneageindustries.com/how_to_make_rock_bugs_and_spiders.html

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Chippers' Chatter
 Mike Hakulin, Editor
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	<i>(Sign at the Could-Not-Cope-Up Café, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia)</i>