



The Rostrum

The Newsletter of the Maryland Geological Society
Baltimore, Maryland
Established 1991

Volume 15, Number 1

January 2006

MGS Meetings

New Meeting Time & Location

12 Noon to 4 PM at the South Bowie Community Center
1717 Pittsfield Lane, Bowie, MD 20716
301-249-1622

Right (west) on Mitchellville Road to Pittsfield Lane (one block)
2.7 miles south of US 50 on US 301/3

Dates to Remember

Sunday, January 15th - next MGS Meeting

Mineral of the Meeting: Vivianite. Bring a few choice specimens to the meeting.

Membership dues of \$15 for 2006 are now overdue.

Please renew your membership at the January meeting or send dues payment to
Dick Grier, Sr. (address on page 2).

Please submit material for the next issue of The Rostrum by February 20th



"Chance favors the prepared mind"..... Louis Pasteur



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Program Chairman	Eric Seifter	401-203-1064
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Bob Farrar	301-464-1137	
Gary Grimsley	703-642-2824	
Mike Folmer	410-850-0193	
Gary White	410-551-7826	

Maryland Geological Society

Founded in 1991, MGS is comprised of both amateur and professional mineral and fossil collectors. MGS emphasizes collecting, identification, study and display aspects of the geological sciences. MGS is a nonprofit organization affiliated with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) and the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies (EFMLS).

Dues

Dues are \$15.00 per individual adult member. Applications for membership may be obtained from the MGS website or by contacting Dick Grier, Sr., Membership Chairman, 8052 Kavanagh Road, Baltimore, MD 21222, (410) 285-5554. Dues are payable on January 1st of each year.

Meetings

Meetings are held bimonthly, beginning in January at the South Bowie Community Center, located at 1717 Pittsfield Lane, Bowie, MD. The doors open at 12 noon and the meetings are completed by 4:00 PM. Club meetings will be held as scheduled so long as the South Bowie Community Center is open. Call 301-249-1622 after 11:00 AM to find out if the Center is open.

Meeting Dates & Programs for 2006

January 15: Program TBA

March 19: Program TBA

May 21: Joint MGS & AFF Meeting. Program TBA

July 16: Program TBA

Sept 17: Annual Auction. Program TBA

Nov 19: Elections & Pizza Party.

Correspondence

Direct mail to Gary & Cindy Lohman, Secretary, 21995 Barkentine Court, Great Mills, MD 20634. Phone: (301) 862-1957.

The Rostrum

Published bimonthly beginning in January. Submit material for publication electronically to john.richard.smith@us.army.mil or by mail to Rick Smith, 1253 Brewster St., Baltimore, MD 21227.

Website

(<http://ecphora.net/mgs/>)
Material for the website should be sent to Daryl Serafin at joshua2415@peoplepc.com.

Donations & Thanks
submitted by Dick Grier, Sr., Ways & Means Chairman

MGS would like to thank the following members for their donations to the silent auctions and raffles:

Mike Folmer for a cash donation to MGS.

Bob Farrar for handling all the negotiations with the South Bowie Community Center, our new hall through 2006, and Prince George's County. It required him to make numerous trips to complete the negotiations with them.

To our 35 loyal members who came to the November 20, 2005 MGS meeting at South Bowie, and who found the location and the parking very suitable for the Society's needs. There were sufficient tables and chairs and the restrooms were very nice. We hope to see you at our future meetings.

Mineral of the Meeting: Vivianite
submitted by Bob Farrar

The mineral theme of the January meeting of MGS will be vivianite. Those of us who collect minerals, especially beautifully crystalized ones, will appreciate vivianite. However, those of us who do a lot of fossil collecting will also be familiar with this mineral as it is commonly associated with fossils.

Vivianite is one of the more common members of the phosphate group of minerals. It is composed of hydrous iron phosphate, $\text{Fe}_2(\text{PO}_4)_2 \cdot 8\text{H}_2\text{O}$. ("8H₂O" denotes that for every two iron ions and phosphate groups, the crystal has eight molecules of water bound to it.) The color of vivianite is typically a deep blue-green, but ranges from nearly colorless to green, blue, and violet. It crystalizes in the monoclinic system with a well developed micaceous cleavage. Like November's mineral, stibnite, vivianite has well developed gliding planes, and, as a result, the crystals are often bent. Crystals that are well developed and transparent, with good color, can be quite spectacular and are popular with collectors. Vivianite is a very fragile mineral, however, with its cleavage and a hardness of only 1.5 to 2 on the Mohs scale, so care must be taken in collecting, transporting, and displaying it. Vivianite, at least from some localities, also tends to lose water and crack.

Vivianite occurs in a wide range of environments. Some of the best known occurrences are late-stage deposits in ore veins. Many fine specimens have been found in such deposits in Bolivia. Other such localities include Colorado, Utah, and Cornwall, England. Vivianite is also found in granitic pegmatites. There, it usually occurs as a secondary mineral formed by alteration of primary phosphate minerals such as triphylite. Well formed vivianite crystals over 3 inches long have recently been found in a pegmatite at the Cigana Mine in Minas Gerais, Brazil. Of particular interest in this part of the country, vivianite commonly occurs in sedimentary deposits, often occurring as concretions. Vivianite specimens found in Richmond, VA look a bit like sea urchins with crystals sticking out in all directions. In sedimentary formations, vivianite is often associated with fossils. In such cases, phosphate from the fossils can combine with iron in the groundwater to form vivianite. One example of this is the blue staining sometimes seen on fossil ivory from Alaska. In the Ukraine, hollow fossil shells containing vivianite crystals are found. Closer to home, numerous small nodules of vivianite, formed in association with fossiliferous strata, can be found along Wheeler Rd. in Oxon Hill, PG Co., MD. So, next time you are out fossil collecting and notice something blue-green, don't miss the chance to collect an interesting mineral along with your fossils.

Thanks Bob, for a Job Well Done
submitted by Rick Smith, Editor

Bob Asreen took over editorship of The Rostrum in the year 2001. The quality of the newsletter during Bob's tenure as MGS editor is reflected in the numerous awards that were presented both to the newsletter as a whole and to individual articles written by MGS members. This would seem to be an appropriate time to review the many awards received by MGS members during the past several years under Bob's guidance. For those that are not familiar with the awards process, there are actually three different literary awards programs. The first is the annual MGS Journalism Awards presented to MGS members that made an outstanding contribution to The Rostrum during the previous year. In addition, both the EFLMS and the AFMS sponsor a Bulletin Editor's Contest. Bob would review the newsletters of the previous year, extract out the best articles, notes, and poems, prepare a submission packet, and mail it off to the EFLMS for judging. Considering that the EFLMS is composed of 150 mineral and fossil clubs and contains over 10,000 individuals, the level of competition can be significant. Awards are presented at the annual EFLMS Convention. The top three selections in each category are then forwarded to the AFMS to be judged at the national level. The AFMS is composed of seven regional organizations, so only twenty-one submissions in each category from across the country make it to the national level of competition. The Rostrum has been recognized at both the regional and national levels. Following is a list of the awards received under Bob's stewardship. It speaks very highly of Bob's dedication to our society's newsletter and also to the contributions of many of the members of MGS. Thank you Bob, from everyone at MGS, for an exceptional job during your five years as editor.

EFLMS awards - 2002:

(note - in 2002 and prior years, scoring was done by place categories)

Bob Asreen	3 rd place	New Editor
Terry Cirrincione	2 nd place	Educational Articles
Dick Grier, Jr.	2 nd place	Educational Articles
Terry Cirrincione	2 nd place	Non-Technical Articles
Dave Anderson	2 nd place	Non-Technical Articles
Tim Price	2 nd place	Non-Technical Articles
Eric Woody	2 nd place	Featured Articles
Rick Smith	1 st place	Poetry

EFLMS awards - 2003:

(note - in 2003 and following years, scoring was done following AFMS guidelines)

Bob Asreen	3 rd place	Large Bulletin
Terry Cirrincione	8 th place	Educational Articles
Terry Cirrincione	Hon. Mention	Educational Articles
Mel Hurd	Hon. Mention	Non-Technical Articles
Tim Price	Hon. Mention	Non-Technical Articles
Tim Price (2)	Hon. Mention	Non-Technical Articles
Paul Murdoch	1 st place	Featured Articles
Phil Schmitz	Hon. Mention	Featured Articles
Eric Woody	Hon. Mention	Featured Articles
Rick Smith	1 st place	Poetry
Terry Cirrincione	3 rd place	Poetry
Rick Smith	4 th place	Poetry

EFLMS awards - 2004:

Bob Asreen	2 nd place	Large Bulletin
Don Miller	Hon. Mention	Non-Technical Articles
Glenn Roche	Hon. Mention	Written Features
Phil Schmitz	Hon. Mention	Written Features
Rick Smith	1 st place	Poetry
Rick Smith	6 th place	Poetry

EFLMS awards - 2005:

Bob Asreen	4 th place	Large Bulletin
Phil Schmitz	1 st place	Original Articles
Phil Schmitz	3 rd place	Non-Technical Articles
Rick Smith	9 th place	Non-Technical Articles
Phil Schmitz	Hon. Mention	Non-Technical Articles
Bob Farrar	Hon. Mention	Written Features
Rick Smith	Hon. Mention	Written Features

AFMS awards:

2002	Rick Smith	3 rd place	Poetry
2003	Bob Asreen	Hon. Mention	Large Bulletin
2003	Paul Murdoch	1 st place	Original Articles
2003	Rick Smith	1 st place	Poetry
2004	Bob Asreen	Hon. Mention	Large Bulletin
2005	Phil Schmitz	9 th place	Original Articles

Minutes of the November 20th Meeting

No report submitted at time of publication.

MGS Field Trips

The Maryland Geological Society is an advocate of responsible collecting. The society has permission to collect in all of the sites listed below that require such permission. Some sites allow only organizations to attend, while at others individuals are welcome to go on their own. Most trips are weather dependent and some require at least an average level of physical fitness. Check each individual listing.

The new fieldtrip coordinator, **Mark Bennett**, is trying to coordinate a trip to Ontario for Eurypterids and a trip to 10 mile Creek in NY for the spring.

Please check the MGS web site at <http://ecphora.net/mgs/> to get the latest fieldtrip updates

MGS Club Items for Sale

MGS has decals, coffee mugs, hats and t-shirts with the club logo for sale at very reasonable prices.
See Chris Hurd at the next meeting!

Finds by MGS Members

This section is open to all MGS members. If you would like the fossils that you have found listed in The Rostrum, please e-mail Paschmitz@hotmail.com or send a postcard briefly identifying the specimen(s) to: Phil Schmitz, 2708 Gibbons Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21214-2128.

No report submitted at time of publication.

Upcoming Shows & Events - 2006

Extracted from EFLMS January06 newsletter

March 4-5: 43rd Annual Earth Science Gem & Mineral Show sponsored by the **Delaware Mineralogical Society**. Delaware Technical & Community College (I-95 Exit 4B, Churchmans Rd), Newark (Stanton), DE. See attached flyer.

March 18-19: 42nd Annual Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show sponsored by the **Gem, Lapidary & Mineral Society of Montgomery County, MD**. Montgomery County Fairgrounds, 16 Chestnut St, Gaithersburg, MD

March 25: 16th Annual Rock, Mineral, & Fossil Show sponsored by the **Southern Maryland Rock & Mineral Club**. Clearwater Nature Center, 11000 Thrift Road, Clinton, MD.

March 25-26: 37th Annual Che-Hanna Rock & Mineral Show sponsored by the **Che-Hanna Rock & Mineral Club**. Athens Twp. Volunteer Fire Hall, 150 Herrick Av, Sayre, PA.

March 30 - April 02: Atlantic Micromounters Conference sponsored by the **Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area**. MHA Conference Center, Elkridge, MD. For registration information and information, contact Steve Weinberger at cscrystals2@verizon.net.

May 27: Chesapeake Gem & Mineral Show at Goucher College sponsored by the **Chesapeake Gem & Mineral Society**, Kraushaar Pavilion, Dulany Valley Road, just south of I-695, Towson, MD.

Dates to Remember

Sunday, January 15th - MGS Meeting

New Meeting Time & Location

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Mineral of the Meeting: Vivianite. Bring a few choice specimens to the meeting.

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Rick Smith, Editor
1253 Brewster Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21227

First Class Mail

