



# The Rostrum

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

Volume 25, Number 6

November, 2016

## Important Messages Regarding the November Meeting

**Elections:** All four of the officer positions come up for election on an annual basis. Any member in good standing is eligible to run for any one of these positions. The Board of Directors serve for a three year term and 2017 marks the start of their third year. Consequently at the November meeting we will not be voting for Board of Directors positions. All members in good standing are eligible to vote at the meeting.

**Membership Dues:** Annual dues of \$15.00 (still at the amazingly low cost for an individual membership) will be due on December 31<sup>st</sup>. The November meeting is an excellent time to renew your membership for 2017.

**Holiday party:** Please join for us for our annual holiday party to share pizza, stories of collecting from the past year, and good fellowship with your fellow MGS members.

## Dates to Remember

November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016

### Meeting Time and Location

11:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Bowie Community Center, 3209 Stonybrook Drive, Bowie, MD 20715

## Elections and Holiday Party

Mineral of the Meeting - Halite. Bring a few choice specimens to the meeting.



"Man's mind, once stretched by a new idea,  
never regains its original dimensions."

Oliver Wendell Holmes



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### Maryland Geological Society

Founded in 1991, MGS is comprised of both amateur and professional mineral and fossil collectors. The organization 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

Annual dues are \$15.00 per individual adult member. Applications for membership may be obtained from the MGS website or by contacting the Membership Chairman, Mike Folmer, at 417 West Maple Road, Linthicum, MD 21090, (410) 850-0193. Dues are payable by January 1st of each year.

### Meetings

Meetings are held bimonthly, beginning in January at the Bowie Community Center, located at 3209 Stonybrook Drive, Bowie, MD - (301) 464-1737. The doors open at 11:00 AM and the meetings are completed by 3:00 PM. Club meetings will be held as scheduled so long as the Bowie Community Center is open.

## Meeting Dates & Programs for 2016

**January 17:** General Meeting

**July 17:** General Meeting

**March 20:** General Meeting

**September 18:** Annual Auction

**May 15:** Joint meeting with AFF

**November 20:** Elections & Holiday Party

### Correspondence

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

### The Rostrum

Published bimonthly beginning in January. Submit material for publication electronically to [rick.smith.mgs@gmail.com](mailto:rick.smith.mgs@gmail.com) or by mail to Rick Smith, 1253 Brewster St, Baltimore, MD 21227.

### Website

[www.ecphora.net/mgs/](http://www.ecphora.net/mgs/)  
Material for the website should be sent to Jim Stedman at [jbstedman@verizon.net](mailto:jbstedman@verizon.net).

## Mineral of the Meeting: Halite

Bob Farrar

For the November meeting of MGS, the Mineral of the Meeting will be halite. Halite is the mineral name of the most common forms of salt, including table salt and rock salt. In addition to its many uses as salt, halite can also be an interesting specimen for the mineral collector.

Halite consists of sodium chloride, NaCl. It crystallizes in the cubic system. Crystals of halite are commonly found as nearly perfect cubes. However, they often also form in the "hopper" habit. In hopper crystals, the edges of the crystal are higher than the centers of the faces. This may be an indication of very rapid crystal growth. Pure halite is colorless, but it may be colored reddish by inclusions of hematite, or pink by microorganisms. Halite can also be brilliant blue from imperfections in the crystal structure, possibly due to free sodium. Halite is soft, with a hardness of 2.5, and has perfect cubic cleavage. Like table salt, natural halite is water soluble. Its solubility in water and a salty taste are usually sufficient to identify halite. A test for sodium and cleavage will distinguish it from other water soluble minerals.

Halite generally forms by the evaporation of sea water or salt lakes. Vast deposits can form this way. Beds of halite can subsequently be incorporated into sedimentary formations. Major halite formations occur worldwide. As would be expected of a water soluble mineral, though, deposits on the earth's surface are usually found in arid regions. In more moist regions, deposits can be found deep underground, such as the salt domes found along the Gulf Coast. Major deposits also occur in New York and Michigan. Good crystals are frequently found in salt lakes, such as Searles Lake in California, the Great Salt Lake in Utah, and the Salar de Atacama in Chile. Salt mines in Germany and Poland are

also well known for producing large crystals. Blue halite is found in France, as well as in New Mexico.

Uses for halite are many, ranging from table salt to road salt to a range of industrial uses. However, halite crystals also make interesting specimens for mineral collectors. Care must be taken, though, to preserve them. Do not keep them in a humid environment. Especially, do not let them get cold and then expose them to humid air. Moisture can condense on the cold surfaces and dissolve the crystals. With a little care, halite crystals can be enjoyed for many years, even in the climate that we have in Maryland.



**Halite crystals.** Image by Walter J. Pilsak and reproduced under Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported license. Image is available at [Wikimedia Commons](#).

## Minutes of the Meeting for September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Marci Shore & Jim Stedman

President's Report: MGS President **Gary Lohman** called the meeting to order. He discussed the upcoming annual convention of the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies that will be held October 21-23 in Rochester, NY. Gary plans to attend the convention and offered to rideshare if anyone is interested.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer **Dave Andersen** reported that the club has \$1,774.76 in checking, \$2,692.93 in savings, and \$99.62 in cash, for a total of \$4,567.31. Dave announced that, after serving as treasurer for 16 years, he will be stepping down from the position in November when MGS elections are held. Later in the meeting, there was further discussion of how to fill the treasurer's position. If no one steps forward to run for the position, there might be a job sharing arrangement in the interim. Dave also noted that he has been responsible for bringing the doughnuts and sodas to the meetings.

Membership: Chair **Mike Folmer** reported that the club had 66 total adult members (including 14 lifetime members) and 16 junior members.

Newsletter: Editor **Rick Smith** described the process for sending out the newsletter. It is emailed one week before the upcoming meeting. If any member has not heard anything within three or four days of the meeting, please email Rick and Mike Folmer (who is using the membership list to distribute the newsletter).

Website: Gary Lohman reported for webmaster **Jim Stedman** that he is always looking for photos and links to interesting articles for posting on the website.

Social Media: Chair **Michael Hutchins** reported that the MGS Facebook page has 450 likes.

Field Trips: Chair **Marci Shore** reported that a Junior Members' collecting trip to Brownies Beach is tentatively set for October 9<sup>th</sup>. Also, the Calvert Marine Museum Fossil Club will be hosting the Memorial John Wolf collecting trip to Odessa, DE. MGS and other clubs are invited to participate. Rick Smith and Mike Folmer will be sending out information on that trip.

Future Rockhounds of America: Sponsor Rick Smith noted that field trip etiquette is a required element for the FRA Field Trip Badge and would like to meet with the FRA members that are present to discuss this during the break prior to the start of the auction.

Old Business: **Mel Hurd** announced that the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary BBQ will be postponed due to a very low projected turnout for the scheduled date of October 9<sup>th</sup>. Mel and Michael Hutchins (who is hosting the BBQ) will discuss possible future dates and ways of polling members' interest. It was noted that previously there was an annual picnic which, for various reasons, has not been held in recent years. It was suggested that it might be worthwhile to again explore Matoaka Cottages as a possible venue for a picnic.

New Business: Newsletter editor Rick Smith announced the annual MGS awards for journalism excellence. The MGS Journalism Awards are selected by the MGS Board of Directors for outstanding contributions to the newsletter of the prior year. Adult members **Michael Hutchins** and **Bob Farrar** received first place awards as did junior members **Brooke** and **David** in the junior category. Rick was also very pleased to announce that Brooke and David won the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place awards, respectively, for newsletter articles by junior members in the nationwide newsletter contest conducted by the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies. In other new business, a visitor to the club meeting introduced himself.

Mineral of the Meeting: Bob Farrar gave a talk on pollucite.

Adjournment: Gary adjourned the meeting. The MGS annual auction followed.

## Field Trips

### Field Trip Coordinators - Marci & David Shore

The Maryland Geological Society is an advocate of responsible collecting. The society has permission to collect in all of the sites listed that require such permission. Most trips are weather dependent and some require at least an average level of physical fitness. Field trips are restricted to MGS members only.

#### Field Trip invitation from the Calvert Marine Museum Fossil Club:

Greetings, we would like to invite you & your club members to a joint trip with the Calvert Marine Museum Fossil Club. This message is going to DVPS, MGS, DMS, and WVFC, & a few friends. If you have contact info for other clubs around, please let me know.

**Saturday, November 26, 2016. Odessa, DE. This is a John Wolf Memorial Trip.** Meetup 9:45-10:00 AM near Middletown, DE, details at signup (by email by Thanksgiving but the sooner the better, [robertertman@msn.com](mailto:robertertman@msn.com)). We'll move on to the farm in Odessa to walk the fields (soybeans this year) and collect petrified wood (cypress from the Pleistocene, probably 1.5-2 million years old. No special equipment is necessary; in fact, you should leave your tools at home so that we do not do anything to cause erosion on this no-till farm. A cautionary note: it's unlikely but this is a working farm and if the harvest isn't in we'll have to postpone the trip. Here's a link to a nice write up about one of our trips to a nearby site: <http://viewsofthemahantango.blogspot.com/2011/08/petrified-wood-from-delaware.html>.



## Philadelphia Shell Show & Fossil Shells of England's Barton Beds

Rick Smith

This past October, I assembled a fossil shell exhibit for display at the Philadelphia Shell Show held at the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University (<http://www.ansp.org/>). It is considered to be one of the larger events of its kind in the country and attracts a wide range of exhibitors and dealers. There are competitive displays on mollusks by collectors, amateur scientists, and artists and the displays are separated into artistic and scientific divisions. Judging is performed on the Friday evening prior to the weekend show which is open to the public with a regular paid admission to the museum.



*Outside the front entrance to the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University in Philadelphia*

My display was of fossil gastropod seashells that were recovered from the sea cliffs near Hampshire, England. They are from a geological formation known as the Barton Beds and date to a time period of 37.2 - 40.4 million years ago. The display consisted of three Riker mount cases and three explanatory panels. The second and third panels were reproductions of fossil plate illustrations from a publication titled *Fossilia Hantoniensia collecta* (Hampshire Fossils) and was published in 1766. The text of the first panel is below.



*Display of fossil Eocene seashells collected from the Barton Beds near Hampshire, England.*

## Fossil Shells of England's Barton Beds

### Historical/Biological Significance:

Most of us are familiar with the terms genus and species. In the mid-1700's, these terms were used in a new biological classification system devised by Carl Linnaeus. Fossils from the Barton Beds were the first fossil specimens ever described using this new classification system. A collection of fossils, primarily seashells, had been brought to the British Museum for study by Gustavus Brander. Daniel Solander, a former pupil of Linnaeus, catalogued, described, and illustrated the fossils. The findings were published in the scientific literature in 1766 and titled *Fossilia Hantoniensia collecta* (Hampshire Fossils). The accompanying panels contain two of the fossil plate illustrations from the Solander publication. Several of the specimens in the cases are of the same species illustrated in these fossil plates.

### Geological significance:

The geologic record has been formally divided into various units by the International Commission on Stratigraphy. Going from larger units to smaller units, the fossils on display are of the Cenozoic Era/Paleocene Period/Eocene Epoch/Bartonian Stage. Stages are named after a geographical feature located near where the first scientific description of the area is made. The locality is termed the type or stratotype area. The Eocene Epoch is composed of four stages: Ypresian named for Ypres, Belgium, Lutetian named for Lutetia, France (Lutetia is the latin name for Paris), Priabonian named for Priabona, Italy, and most importantly for this display, Bartonian named for Barton-on-Sea, England, the source for the fossil shells on display here.

### From Fossil Shells to Kangaroos - The Amazing Journey of Daniel Solander:

After the species name, many of the fossil specimens in the cases are labeled with Solander, 1766 indicating that they were first described in the scientific literature in the year 1766 by Daniel Solander. Solander was born in Sweden in 1733 and at age 17 enrolled at Uppsala University, where he studied natural history under the famous Carl Linnaeus. A revolutionary system for the classification of plants and animals was being developed by Linnaeus and was termed "Systema naturae". In 1768, Solander set sail on the ship H.M. Bark Endeavour as part of a round-the-world expedition in search of a mythical continent that was believed to exist in the southern ocean. The Endeavor was commanded by Lt. James Cook and from 1768 to 1771 the Endeavour circumnavigated the earth. The crew became the first Europeans to see New Zealand and Australia. The ship returned over thirty thousand specimens to England, including nearly 1,400 species that were unknown up to that point in time. Solander documented much of the flora and prepared the first scientific report on the kangaroo. The voyage was not without hardship as 38 of the 94 crewmen did not survive the journey due to disease and other hardships. It is only in our time that Solander's great importance as a botanist and zoologist has been recognized. (<http://www.danielsolander.se/esolan.htm>)



I was fortunate to have received The Conrad Award, a special award for the "Best Paleontological Exhibit" at the show. If any MGS members would have an interest in exhibiting at a future show, please do not hesitate to contact me for information about the show (<http://phillyshellclub.org/>) or about assembling a display of fossil shells.





## Notice from the Paleontological Society



### The Paleontological Society Offers New Membership to Amateur/Avocational Paleontologists

On behalf of The Paleontological Society, I am very pleased to announce the establishment of a new regular-membership category for amateur/avocational paleontologists. This category, which formally takes effect at the start of 2017, carries all the privileges of the existing regular-membership category, but at a discounted annual rate of \$30. This membership category was formally ratified by The Paleontological Society Council last Spring at its midyear meeting in Atlanta, and is the first stage in what will become a multifaceted effort on the part of The Paleontological Society to better serve the interests and needs of the

amateur/avocational community, and to enhance interactions among professional and amateur/avocational groups (see: <http://www.myfossil.org/the-paleontological-society-would-like-to-hear-from-you/> ). Member benefits are enumerated at <http://paleosoc.org/benefits-of-membership-in-the-paleontological-society/> , and include free online access to The Society's two journals, the *Journal of Paleontology* and *Paleobiology*. You can join online or download a membership form at <http://rock.geosociety.org/membership/paleo/>. Stay tuned in the coming months for additional news! In the meantime, feel free to send me an email if you have any questions or thoughts.

Arnie Miller,  
President of The Paleontological Society,  
Professor of Geology, University of Cincinnati  
[arnold.miller@uc.edu](mailto:arnold.miller@uc.edu)

## American Federation of Mineralogical Societies Journalism Awards

Rick Smith



Two MGS junior members were recently recognized in the national journalism competition held by the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies. It was announced at the AFMS National Convention held at Albany, Oregon in July that the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place awards for junior articles went to Brooke and David, respectively. Brooke's award was for her article on garnets and David's award was for his piece on being a member of the MGS and testifying before the Maryland Assembly's Judiciary Committee on a bill concerning the ivory trade. Congratulations to both of these junior members for an outstanding accomplishment!

## **Website Traffic Takes a Hit**

**Jim Stedman, MGS Webmaster**

During the past year, the average number of daily visitors to the MGS website (<http://www.ecphora.net/mgs/>) tumbled by approximately 33% from the prior year, falling from 173 to 116 on a daily basis. The annual total number of visitors to the site dropped from 63,077 (July 2014 - July 2015) to 42,335 (September 2015 - September 2016). (These annual total counts of visitors contain some unknown number of duplicate visitors.)

We need to keep in mind that these data on visitors cover only two years and that determination of long term trends from them isn't possible. Further, it is also possible that this drop in traffic might partly reflect the decline in overall MGS membership across this time period. Nevertheless, I think the message from these data should be heeded and we should consider ways to draw more visitors to the website.

Data on the most popular pages on the site provide some interesting perspective on what visitors might be looking for when they do drop by. In addition to the homepage, the most visited pages on the site (in descending order of popularity) were:

- FAQ (frequently asked questions) page ([http://www.ecphora.net/mgs/new\\_faq.html](http://www.ecphora.net/mgs/new_faq.html)) which offers links that answer questions about finding, identifying, and seeing fossils, minerals, and gems in Maryland and surrounding areas
- Gallery page ([http://www.ecphora.net/mgs/new\\_gallery.html](http://www.ecphora.net/mgs/new_gallery.html)) which features pictures of members' fossils and minerals,
- WebSightings page ([http://www.ecphora.net/mgs/new\\_interesting\\_articles.html](http://www.ecphora.net/mgs/new_interesting_articles.html)) which provides links to many of the recent fossil and mineral related news stories on the Web
- Field Trips and Activities page ([http://www.ecphora.net/mgs/new\\_calendar\\_new.html](http://www.ecphora.net/mgs/new_calendar_new.html)) which describes upcoming field trips
- Future Rockhounds of America page ([http://www.ecphora.net/mgs/new\\_future\\_rockhounds.html](http://www.ecphora.net/mgs/new_future_rockhounds.html)) which highlights the activities of MGS junior members in this program of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies
- Contact Us page ([http://www.ecphora.net/mgs/new\\_contact\\_us.html](http://www.ecphora.net/mgs/new_contact_us.html)) which lists club officers and how to get in touch with them

This is an informative mix of pages, suggesting that many visitors may have come in search of answers to questions such as these: where can I learn about fossils and minerals? where can I find fossils and minerals? what have I found? how active is this club and in what ways? how might I get in touch with the MGS?

These kinds of questions suggest some areas in which the MGS website might be strengthened. For instance, it's possible that the site would attract more traffic if it offered more help to visitors on fossil and mineral identification, including, perhaps, our own online identification guides with detailed pictures. We certainly have the in-house expertise to prepare such material. Finding ways to get popular links on the MGS website cited more broadly throughout the Web would also help. As your webmaster, I'm very open to your suggestions about making the website more attractive. After all, it is your site.

## **A Stroll on the Ocean Floor**

**David Shore, Junior Member**

Under Pangea and beneath the ocean floor, it is growing very hot. Suddenly there is a volcanic eruption. Pangea is splitting apart, making the new continents we know today as Africa and North America. This explosion throws serpentinite from the ocean floor onto what we now know as Soldiers Delight Natural Environment Area.

A barren landscape. Well, that's what it is, really. You could also call it "The Great Maryland Barrens," if you want to quote European settlers. It is barren because it has a lot of serpentinite in the soil, and very few plants can live in this



environment. Serpentinite does not have enough calcium to counter the huge amount of magnesium - only one part calcium to four parts magnesium. Rich soil has one part calcium to each part of magnesium.

You may hear some people say that there is no lumber wood there. That is true, but it does not mean there are no trees. There are blackjack and post oak, but they are are too stunted, weak, and short to use as timber.

According to Maryland historian William B. Marye:

A "tax list" for Harford Co., 1783 . . . gives us the benefit of more or less competent opinion as to the quality of lands within and adjacent to the Barrens. Lands are given one of three ratings: good, midling, and sorry. . . . Of the surveyed lands [in a particular portion of the Barrens] the assessor rated 4,548 acres as "sorry," 326 acres as "midling," and none as "good". . .<sup>1</sup> The suspicion that the lowest rating was too liberally dispensed is probably not justified.

The serpentine soil did not act alone. Native Americans, the Susquehannock Indian tribe in particular, also played a major role. Mr. Johnny Johnsson, a historian of the Serpentine Barrens and the famous volunteer ranger at Soldiers Delight, believes the theory that the phrase "Indian summer" comes from the fire hunting the Native American Indians used on especially warm autumn days -- making giant rings of fire to round up and trap game. William B. Marye quoted Judge Walter W. Preston from a 1901 history of Harford County:

It was the custom of the Indians in the autumn to set fire to and burn the barrens of York and Baltimore Counties, and tradition says this smoke was the origin of the name of Indian summer for that season.

Marye also says that the Indians' hunting practices "had effects which differed according to local conditions . . . . In some place they produced open, grassy areas, or 'barrens,' as was intended . . . ."

When the Indians stopped setting the fires, other plants, such as Virginia pine and greenbriar, began to creep in and kill out plants native to the Barrens' ecosystem. These invasive plants threaten 39 rare and endangered species of plants and animals that thrive there, and in many cases, nowhere else in Maryland. One of them, a certain leaf hopping species, is known to exist only in Solders Delight!

But the park rangers are resorting to methods of the past -- controlled fires -- to keep these species alive. At the time of European settlement, 100,000 acres of serpentine barrens existed. Today, the Maryland serpentine barrens includes 2,000 acres, almost all at Soldiers Delight NEA.



David panning for chromite at Soldiers Delight NEA



Mr. Johnny Johnsson, Volunteer Ranger and mining historian at the entrance to the Choate Mine at Soldiers Delight NEA

As I am sure most geology geeks know (and I know that most of the people reading this article are geology geeks), chromite is found with serpentine almost all of the time. This was good news for Isaac Tyson, Jr., who in 1808 first discovered chromite in the United States at Bare Hills, Baltimore County. He and his family cornered the world's chromite market from 1820-1917 after the Siberian mines were used up. His monopoly of the chromite market made him and his family quite rich. He bought all the serpentine barrens he could find and very successfully mined chromite. The entrances to the Choate Mine can still be seen at Soldiers Delight today, and panning for chromite is an extremely fun activity there. I had the chance to pan for chromite with Johnny Johnsson on a hike at Soldiers Delight recently. I highly recommend it. Where else could you take a stroll along the ocean floor in Maryland and pan for chromite?

**Note:** In writing this story, I relied on articles written by William B Marye in the Maryland Historical Magazine. There were three articles in 1955 in a series titled: *The Great Maryland Barrens*. I also relied on articles in the Baltimore Sun, information from the history section of the Soldiers Delight NEA website, and articles online from the Maryland Geological Survey. A special thank you for the interviews and hikes with volunteer ranger and mining historian Mr. Johnny Johnsson, Dr. R. Wayne Tyndall, Maryland State Wildlife and Heritage ecologist for the Department of Natural Resources, and Ranger Jamie at Soldiers Delight NEA. They were all very helpful to me when I was learning about Soldiers Delight NEA.

I plan to write about chromite in the next issue of The Rostrum.

<sup>1</sup>This refers to only part of the Barrens and this is the most extreme example because none of the land was rated "good." Other parts of the Barrens have a lot of "sorry" land, very little "midling" land, and almost no "good" land.



*Dr. Wayne Tyndall, Maryland State Wildlife and Heritage ecologist for the Department of Natural Resources at Soldiers Delight NEA*



*Ranger Jamie at Soldiers Delight Education and Visitor Center with samples of chromite and serpentine*

## Shows & Events

### **November 2016:**

**19-20: 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Show of the Northern Virginia Mineral Club**, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA, HUB Ballroom, Student Union II Bldg., (park in Lot A off Nottaway River Lane and take free shuttle to and from show); Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; Adults \$6, Seniors \$4, Teens (13-17) \$3, Children 12 and under FREE; over 20 Dealers with Gems, Minerals, Fossils, Jewelry, and more; also, Demonstrations, Exhibits, Door Prizes, Kid's Activities & Mini-mines, and Silent Auction on

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Sunday; for more information and a printable \$1 discount coupon for adult admission, go to <http://www.novamineralclub.org/events/2016-show>.

**March, 2017:**

**4-5: 54<sup>th</sup> Annual Earth Science Gem and Mineral Show of the Delaware Mineralogical Society, Inc.** New show location - University of Delaware - Wilmington Campus- Arsht Conference Center; 2800 Pennsylvania Ave (Rt-52); Wilmington, Delaware 19806. Hours Saturday are 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday 11:00 a.m. till 5:00 p.m. The show features educational exhibits of mineral, lapidary and fossil specimens, displays from regional and university museums, a roster of fine dealers of minerals, fossils, gems, jewelry and lapidary supplies, door prizes, demonstrations of gem cutting and polishing and a children's table, where youngsters may purchase inexpensive mineral and fossil specimens. Admission is \$6.00, \$5.00 for seniors, \$4.00 for youngsters between 12 and 16, and free for children under 12 accompanied by an adult. Info and Coupons at [www.delminsociety.org](http://www.delminsociety.org) or contact [fossilnut@yahoo.com](mailto:fossilnut@yahoo.com) or Elaine Kipp (show Chair) 410-392-6826 [kippekipp@msn.com](mailto:kippekipp@msn.com).

**18-19: 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Show of the Gem, Lapidary & Mineral Society of Montgomery County.** LOCATION: Montgomery County Fairgrounds, 16 Chestnut St, Gaithersburg MD 20877. Free parking. Hours: Saturday 10am-6pm, Sunday 11am-5pm Visit [www.glmsmc.com](http://www.glmsmc.com) for a coupon for \$1 off the \$6 admission (ages 12+). Children 11 and younger are free.

**Junior Members Field Trip to Brownies Beach**



**Dates to Remember:**

**Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016 – Elections and Holiday Party**

**Meeting Time & Location**

**11:00 AM to 3:00 PM**

**Bowie Community Center**

**3209 Stonybrook Drive, Bowie, MD 20715**

**301-464-1737**

**Location/Directions:** The Center is located off of Route 450 in Bowie. Detailed directions and a map can be found on the MGS website ([www.ecphora.net/mgs/](http://www.ecphora.net/mgs/)).

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

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***The Rostrum***

Rick Smith, Editor

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**First Class Mail**

