



THE VIRGINIA PEN

GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY OF THE VIRGINIA PENINSULA



November 2015

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Walter Priest

Special Points of Interest:

GMSVP December Meeting

- Sandy Bottom Nature Park Nature Center
- December 3, 7 PM

MAGMA Crabtree Emerald Mine Field Trip

- Dec 4, 5, & 6

In This Issue

President's Corner	1 & 2
GMSVP Purpose	1
Chapter Contact Info	2
December Program	
GMSVP Website Wins	3
National Award	
November Program a Success	
GMSVP Facebook Page	4
Welcome New Members	
M.A.G.M.A./GMSVP	5
Pipsico Field Trip	
GMSVP Newsletter	
Wins National Award	
William Holland: Opals and Intarsia	6
New Kyanite Dig Site	7 & 8
On the Hunt for Fossil Shark's Teeth	9&10
EFMLS Announces	10
2016 Wild Acres Workshop Dates	
EFMLS Spring	11
Workshop Classes	
Safety Matters	12&13
Material for Your Newsletter	14
Need GMSVP Property and Show Chairs	
MAGMA Crabtree Emerald Mine Dig	15
Each One Teach One	
2016 TOTE Show Schedule	
GMSVP Meeting Info	
GMSVP Minutes	16-17
Rock Pox	17
AFMS Code of Ethics	18



It is really amazing how fast 2015 has come and gone. The days and weeks have just flown by. It is hard to believe that Thanksgiving is this week and Christmas is just around the corner.

Almost all of the Club's major activities are behind us. No more TOTE Shows, picnics or field trips until next year. Our final activity for 2015 will be our annual Christmas Banquet at our meeting on December 3rd. The Club will be providing ham and turkey. Members are invited to bring covered dishes to share to round out the menu.

As has been our tradition for the past several years, we will be having a Pollyanna gift exchange. If you wish to participate, please bring a wrapped gift that is rockhound related of modest value. By some mysterious method devised by our Treasurer for Life, Gary Bergtholdt, names will be randomly drawn to exchange the gifts.

This is a great start for the Holiday Season where we share the gifts we have been given and give thanks for the many blessings we have all received. Our Club has been blessed in many ways, especially with the kind hearts of our members.

At the banquet, we will install our new Officers for 2016, Sara Phillips, President, Brenda Hawks, 1st Vice-President for Membership, Michael Griffith, 2nd Vice-President for Programs, Pat Fontaine, Secretary, and Gary Bergtholdt, Treasurer, as well as our new Pebble Pups Chair, Christine Young. Please give them the same support you have shown me over the past three years. I would also like to (Cont'd on next page.)

GMSVP Purpose: The purpose of the GMSVP is to facilitate the exchange of information and general cooperation among its members by promoting the study of lapidary techniques, mineralogy, paleontology, and allied fields of Earth sciences, to provide the community with a knowledge of the hobby through lectures, demonstrations, and exhibitions and to enjoy good fellowship.

Visitors Welcome: The GMSVP welcomes any visitor with an interest in geology, mineralogy and the lapidary arts. Whether you are a hobbyist, artist, collector or interested in Earth Science, the club has something for everyone.

Dues: Individual \$15, Couple \$20, and Family \$25. Dues information is under: [Documents and Membership Information on the GMSVP Website Homepage.](#)

Meeting Location: Our meetings are held at [Sandy Bottom Nature Park](#) in Hampton, VA. Check the GMSVP website [Events](#) page for actual dates and times. The upcoming meeting information is in the Special Points of Interest area on the left of this page.

GMSVP

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President's Corner (Cont'd)

Walter Priest

(Cont'd from prior page.) thank the outgoing Committee Chairs, Kelly Mazzrillo, Hospitality; Robert Mazzrillo, TOTE Show; Christine Hempley, Pebble Pups; and Hank Woods, Equipment Manager. They have all made my job much easier with their dedication and eagerness to help get things done.

As a reminder to new members, during winter hours Sandy Bottom Park may close earlier, but the gates are always left open on the Big Bethel Road exit side to allow us access to the Park for our meetings. Please do not be discouraged by the half open gates.

Rock On,
Walter

GMSVP December Program Fun and Fellowship

Barbara Priest, GMSVP Programs

The December 3rd meeting is at 7 PM at the Sandy Bottom Nature Park's Nature Center (enter from the Big Bethel Road). The meeting focuses on fellowship. Chairs and tables with tablecloths will be set up to add to a festive atmosphere. The club will supply the turkey and ham and our members are requested to bring some delectable side dishes and desserts.

The 2016 GMSVP officers will be installed and closing actions for 2015 and preliminary plans for 2016 will be discussed. There will be an optional Pollyanna Gift Exchange (~\$10). Gifts should be related to our hobby.

Come to the GMSVP December meeting! It is a great way to celebrate the holidays with our many rockhound friends.



EVERYTHING WAS GOING FINE
UNTIL I VISITED THAT ROCK
COLLECTOR'S HOUSE WITH THE
DOG TOOTH CALCITE CHIMNEY.

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During March of this year, I entered our old GMSVP website in the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) competition. Among the 15 clubs competing, our website placed 6th scoring a 91 out of a possible 100 points!

The AFMS website has a scoring checklist used for judging the competition. Using the checklist as a guide, I made changes to the old website before submitting it. Unfortunately, because we were using a “free” website development tool, the tool did not have the capability (functionality) to fully meet all of the requirements of the checklist. The GMSVP Board subsequently approved an enhanced website development tool to upgrade and migrate to our recently launched website.

Areas where points were deducted included:

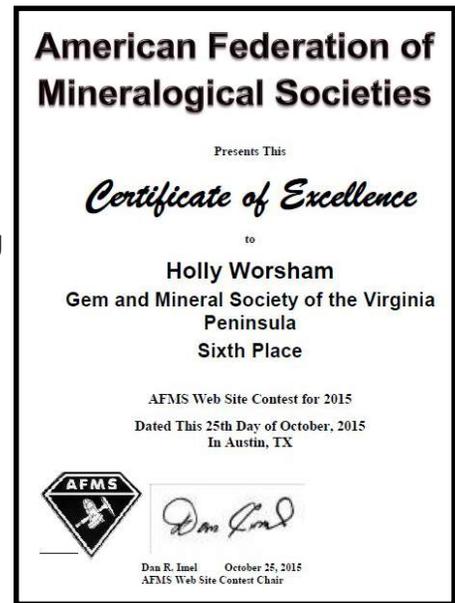
- Our old website was not searchable. Our new website now has that feature.
- The contrast and size of the font did not optimize readability. I will make ensure that it is not an issue with the new site.
- Keywords were missing in the source code, which I will fix for the new site.
- There were a few other minor deductions, which I will also investigate.

We did get a “+6 points for outstanding features.” The judge made a comment that we had an **Excellent Facebook Page**; this helped bring our score up. **Thank you Michael Griffith for all your outstanding work on our Facebook page!**

I welcome any feedback and suggestions from our members on how to further improve our website. Just send an e-mail to gmsvp.web@gmail.com or get with me at a meeting. If you haven’t done so already, check out our new [Website](#) and our [Facebook](#) page.

You are doing a great job, Holly. Placing 6th in a national competition is a wonderful testimony to the quality of our website. Many thanks for your dedication to the website!

Walter Priest, GMSVP President



2015 AFMS Web Site Competition Results

Place	Club	Webmaster	Region
First	Santa Rosa Gem & Mineral Society	Kendra Johns	CFMS
Second	Jacksonville Gem and Mineral Society	Timothy Smeggil	SFMS
Third	Owyhee Gem and Mineral Society	Brad Larson	NFMS
Fourth	Albuquerque Gem & Mineral Club	Joel Johnstone	RMFMS
Fifth	Pasadena Lapidary Society	Mark Nelson	CFMS
Sixth	Gem and Mineral Society of the Virginia Peninsula	Holly Worsham	SFMS
Seventh	Colorado Mineral Society	Julio Edwards	RMFMS
Eighth	Canon City Geology Club	Jennifer Gerring	RMFMS
Ninth	North Idaho Mineral Club	Michael Burton	NFMS
Tenth	Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society	Harry Nichandros	CFMS
Honorable Mention	Aiken Gem, Mineral and Fossil Society	Patti Bennett	SFMS
Honorable Mention	Cheasapeake Gem & Mineral Society	Carolyn Weinberger	EFMLS
Honorable Mention	Delaware Mineralogical Society	Ken Casey	EFMLS
Honorable Mention	Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area	Julia Hrechka	EFMLS
Honorable Mention	Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies	Brad Larson	NFMS

November Meeting Program A Great Success!

Dan Fontaine

Anthony Hubbard provided a program on silver fabrication. He shared his learning from a number of silver fabrication workshops at William Holland School of Lapidary Arts and the Silver I training class that he offers for interested GMSVP members. He displayed the numerous tools and discussed the use of the tools to develop beautiful silver jewelry pieces. Our members were engaged in his display and discussion and had lots of questions before and after the meeting. Well done, Anthony!



In this modern age, the Internet is a growing place for social media and online interaction. Our club has a Facebook page, which complements our club's webpage (<http://www.gmsvp.org/>) quite nicely. Although Facebook started as a way for college students to keep in touch with one another, it has long outgrown that to become one of the world's leading social medias.

You have to be a member of Facebook (www.facebook.com) to access the GMSVP Facebook page, but that's part



of the whole Facebook experience. Once you join, you can keep up with family members, groups with similar interests, and news. Facebook is a great way to share ideas and events, as well as photos with other club members.

We have over 500 people following the Gem and Mineral Society of the Virginia Peninsula from all over Hampton Roads, Virginia, and even the rest of the world! I try to post news articles daily relating to the world of geology, paleontology and all things rock-related. It's an exciting time for me as we are discovering lots of interesting geology all around the world, under the ocean, and even on other planets!

I also try to sprinkle in several photos of beautiful mineral specimens, rock formations, and the odd video! If you have photos of recent rock field trips, some lapidary work you've done, or specimens you've collected; it's easy to post photos to the Facebook page. (Though I understand it's not easy to post several photos at once...I've looked into this and don't have an easy answer other than you can e-mail me your photos at MGriff8645@aol.com and I can post them for you.)

To find the GMSVP Facebook page:

- Establish a Facebook account, if you do not have one.
- With your Facebook page open, search for: "The Gem and Mineral Society of the Virginia Peninsula" or "GMSVP." Our URL is: <https://www.facebook.com/The-Gem-and-Mineral-Society-of-the-Virginia-Peninsula-GMSVP-275041405841489/?ref=hl>
- Once the page is open, "Like" us to get the updates.

New GMSVP Members—Welcome New Rockhounds!

Suzanne Ebartlett
Stephanie Millhoff

Thomas Stone
Kim Stone

Chris Young

GMSVP MEMBERSHIP DUES REDUCED!

- 2016 Membership Dues: \$15 Individual, \$20 Couple, & \$25 Family
- New Members: Join now and your 2016 dues cover the remainder of 2015! (Tell your friends!)

I got up on Halloween morning at O'dark thirty to get to the semi-annual Mountain Area Gem and Mineral Association (M.A.G.M.A.) fossil dig at the Pipsico Boy Scout Reservation on the James River just a bit north of Surry. M.A.G.M.A. is a very nice online group dedicated to rockhounding field trips. I would recommend joining M.A.G.M.A., if you like to dig in the region.



Since I had to head north later in the day, I decided to make my way there as early as possible to maximize my time on the beach. It was still dark, when I crossed the James River on the Jamestown Ferry. Daylight was just starting to show, when I arrived on the beach.

The weather and conditions were perfect, i.e., not too cold, no wind, not a cloud in the sky, and low tide with little wave action. The beneficial weather conditions along with the recent heavy rains promised a good day's hunting.

The Pipsico beach is littered with mostly marine fossils from the Pliocene, including lots and lots of the Virginia state fossil, *Chesapecten Jeffersonius*; the Maryland state fossil, the gastropod, *Ecphora gardnerae*; as well as corals, turratella shells, and the tree oyster, *Isognomon* (that I found in great abundance this trip!). While



fossilized shark's teeth can be found at Pipsico, I have never had much luck finding them.

A very nice *Megalodon* tooth was found that day. As I was leaving, I happened upon fellow GMSVP member, Brian Burdette. I was telling him that I was leaving early to



head up to Maryland when he pointed right behind me in the sand and said: "Hey! There's a couple of whale vertebrae right there!" I turned and looked, and sure enough, I'd just stepped over two very nice, associated whale vertebrae about the size of half a soda can about 18-inches apart. (Maybe, I'm just not looking right or need to get my glasses checked...). I think next time, I'm going to stick around for the whole day!



GMSVP Gets 3rd Place in AFMS National Bulletin Contest

Dan Fontaine, Editor

As you know, GMSVP received a number of Eastern Federation Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies (EFMLS) awards earlier this year for our club newsletter. Awards included: Al DeHart, 8th place for a non-technical article on: "Field Trip Coordinator Responsibilities"; Dan Fontaine, 5th place for a non-technical article on: "Wildacres, A First Time Experience"; Larry Hawks, 5th place for nontechnical article on: The Four R's—Rose River, Rocks, and RVs"; Seth Hempley, 2nd place for youth article on: "The Machine of Faceting"; and Dan Fontaine, 1st place for New Editor. EFMLS submits 1st place winners to the national AFMS bulletin completion.

At last month's American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) convention, it was announced that GMSVP was awarded 3rd place (out of 7) in the New Editor category.

Our newsletter is an important communication vehicle for GMSVP. Member articles on hints and tips, best tools to use, family field trips, etc., make our newsletter special for our members. Your articles make our newsletter great (and my job easy)!

Editor's Contest Results	
from Mark Nelson, BEAC Chair	
New Editors	
1st Place	Rockhound Record Alice LeBonte, editor Mineralogical Society of Arizona - RMFMS
2nd Place	The Pick & Dop Stick Rachele Best, Editor Chicago Rocks & Mineral Society, MWF
3rd Place	The Virginia Pen Daniel Fontaine, editor Gem & Mineral Soc. of the VA Peninsula, EFMLS
4th Place	The Rock Prattle Chip Burnett, Editor Tri-Cities Gem & Mineral Society, SCFMS
5th Place	The Hounds Tale Gerald Pennington, Editor Arlington Gem & Mineral Club, SCFMS
6th Place	Rockontour James King, Editor Santa Lucia Rockhounds, CFMS
7th Place	Highlites Randall Kokkinen, Editor Littleton Gem & Mineral Club, RMFMS



I just returned from another two weeks at William Holland School of Lapidary Arts (nice to be retired). This included a week of opals and one of intarsia. I knew little or nothing about either. Both instructors were very knowledgeable and patient with all the students. These sessions were some of the best that I've had this summer.

Opals: We learned about the many different types of opals and their origins, treating and stabilizing the stone, cutting and shaping them, and determining their market value. The class started with rough stones and ended with



opals ready to mount. A major portion of the class focused on polishing techniques and maintenance/cleaning of the equipment that we used.

My idea of what an opal is has changed drastically. I want to take "Opals 2" and learn how to carve them.

Intarsia: We took big stones and made little pieces that we glue together to make a picture or design. You don't have to be an artist for this class! The process for creating a piece of intarsia included the following:



- Find a small figure or shape in a slab to be the main feature and contrasting and complimentary colored rock to border and highlight the piece.
- Use trim saws to cut our material.
- Square and smooth the sides using a grinder designed to ensure 90-degree angle sides.
- Super glue the pieces together.
- Smooth the back side with a genie, and use epoxy to attach the back.
- Using the genie, grind a slight curvature to the surface
- Finish polishing the piece like a cabochon.



I'm looking forward to next year to take more classes. If you have the time, I recommend taking back-to-back classes and enjoy the learning.

I named a few of my intarsia creations.....



Bad Hair Day



Not My Fault



How many Faces?

We received an e-mail from the M.A.G.M.A. Club saying they were hosting a kyanite dig at a brand new site in Prospect VA (near Farmville), on Sunday Nov 1st. Talked it over with the family; the vote was 75% in favor of driving 3 hours and 150 miles; and the trip was a go!

We left at 6:30 AM and arrived at around 10 AM—not the first ones there by a long shot—waylaid by breakfast again. We checked in with the owner, Jessica Callan, who lives onsite in a tent while they are building a home. While the usual fee is \$25 per person, she reduced it for the club to \$20 per adult and half that for children. We were told that we could dig as long as we wanted and pretty much anywhere we wanted. She then described the property in detail.

The property is 102 acres with many minerals to be collected, the main prize being kyanite blades both in and out of the matrix. To say that kyanite is “abundant on the property” as was listed in the MAGMA e-mail, is in my opinion, an understatement. Other minerals include garnet, beryl, quartz, hematite, and more. The largest blade of kyanite that I saw collected was roughly 3-3.5 inches long, almost a half inch wide, and a tad under one quarter inch thick, all in a beautiful sky blue color. Most of the blades found were smaller, but very good looking just the same, especially in large clumps in the matrix.

Jessica gave us the nickel tour, explaining where we might find the different minerals, and she was pretty much dead on point. She even said we could poke around in the dirt parking lot for loose crystals of small size that got kicked up during the parking lot creation and leveling. It didn't take long to find those small loose crystals! They were everywhere, right outside the car doors. Nothing of any serious size but still, it all looked very promising.

Right now the acreage is all freshly logged, and there are large trunks to small branches, large piles, and tree stumps everywhere. It is a large, tree-cleared, hilly area, and the terrain is decidedly NOT conducive to a hand cart for hauling, even for the determined. At least not yet, but Jessica assures me they are working hard on clearing it. The fire pit near the tents convinced me! The fire pit is around 15-feet across and great to sit around chatting. A small stream runs on the property. While you are not allowed to cross it, it still leaves more land than you would want to drag minerals and tools around on, believe me.

We were required to sign a roughly 5-6 page waiver, which may or may not have given Jessica rights to claim my first born child, as well as release her from any and all harm that is clearly spelled out in the agreement. There are snakes and bears. Jessica also told me there was a 2,000 pound bull wandering through the property from a neighboring farm at one point. The agreement basically says that you will take your own safety very seriously and you take full responsibility for your own actions while on the property. We signed away, paid the fees, and off we went.

The tools required are a sledge hammer, the bigger the better, chisels, shovel, and of course rock pick. I would also recommend EYEWEAR! Matrix chips in the eye would be bad. I hit some rocks, and matrix went flying as far as 15 feet from me, and that was just with a 3-pound mini sledge. High boots are a must, twisting an ankle on a branch 400 yards from the truck would make a very bad day as well. (Cont'd on next page.)



Sneakers, while allowed, are not going to cut it and not a good idea around large rocks anyway. I do not believe a pick axe will work well here, because I tried it, but it might just be me though.

We started by just looking around for the bigger chunks of matrix laying half buried, then either using water from the stream to rinse them off and see what we had, or flipping them over then rinsing, or both. We discovered quickly that what is on one side of the matrix rock is not a representation of what was on the other side, or in the middle... We found a few nice pieces right off, and kept moving. We headed back up to the truck after an hour with our finds for lunch. We sat around the fire pit in chairs, but they need to use a few of those big logs to make long log benches around the fire (that would be AWESOME)... hint hint Jessica, put those college kids to work!



We met up with a few other club members who had some phenomenal pieces with sky blue kyanite running all through them. The pieces were huge! One at least 1-1/2-foot long, a foot high, and maybe six-inches thick at the widest point. I was so jealous! And I told them so. They kindly pointed me towards where they were digging and said have at it, and off we went again.

We searched for a while and found a few more really nice smaller pieces, but I was so tired by then that I was having trouble swinging my mini sledge, should have brought the BIG one... so we called it a day and headed back up to the parking area. We ended up with two 5 gallon buckets full of very nice looking Kyanite finds. I think the matrix is too weathered to cab, and the blades mostly too small to attempt anything, but beautiful stuff it definitely is.

We stayed and talked for a while, and they have a LOT of stuff for purchase from around the world in boxes around the campsite including a roughly hundred pound piece of charoite that is gorgeous. But no matter how much I whined and begged she would just not take \$20 dollars for it... We did buy some rocks though and were very pleased with the purchases.

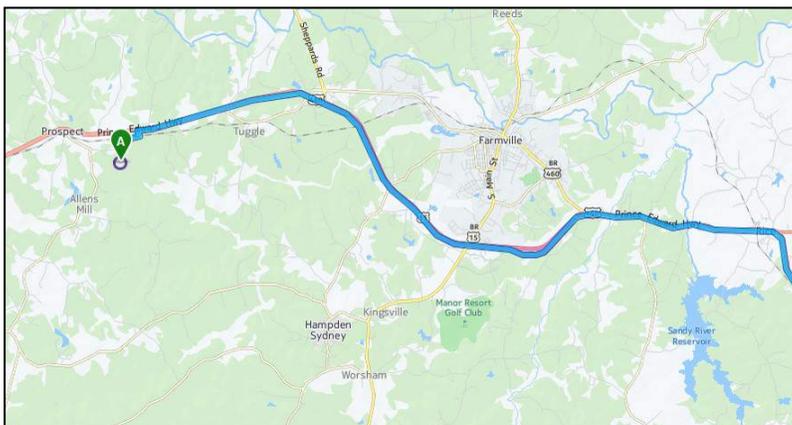
Jessica said that we are welcome anytime, just call first and head out as singles or groups if she is available. She also mentioned that if we would like to, camping on the property is an option as well. I should also mention that rest room facilities at this time are limited basically to which tree you would you like to visit. So be ready for that issue until Jessica has a chance to develop the property further .

There are a lot of minerals left to mine. We look forward to going back at the earliest opportunity. Jessica hopes there will be bigger and bigger finds as people go deeper and deeper over time. I have already mentioned the place to our esteemed field trip coordinator, and she was thrilled that this could be a possibility for future field

trips. Especially now that most of the corporate mines are cutting off all access due to liability issues.

Information:

- End of Browntown Rd. in Prospect VA, right off of 460, just west of Farmville VA.
- Around 3 hours driving time from Chesapeake.
- Owner: Jessica Callan
- Website: [Earthen Paradise Inc. on Facebook](#)
- Phone: 434-808-5966



We live in a great area for fossil shark's teeth. They are one of the most common fossils, due, in part, to sharks having been around for a long, long time; sharks being rather plentiful over the years; and individual sharks having thousands of teeth over their lifespan.

I've been on a fossil shark's tooth quest lately, have done some research, and have gone to several locations in the past year or so. Timing seems right to share what I have learned so far.

First, finding shark's teeth is a bit like fishing. They're out there but you've got to do some research to find them. As my father used to say about fishing: "To find fish (or teeth), you got to go where they're at." Pretty much just about anywhere you go in a couple hours drive along the coast is a good spot, but waterfront property belongs to somebody...and most of those people don't want folks trespassing on their land. Public land is much better.



State parks are a good place to start. But read up on anyplace you're considering. Some don't allow collecting. Others have places designated for fossil collecting. Westmoreland State Park has a "Fossil Beach" that I've had mixed results....one year, quite a few teeth; this year, not a one. York River State Park also has a "Fossil Beach," but I've yet to check it out.

Stratford Hall (Robert E. Lee's birthplace, near Westmoreland State Park in Virginia's Northern Neck) allows fossil collecting on the beach, and we had good luck there. There is a \$7 fee to access the grounds, but the \$7 will be taken off your check if you eat at the restaurant on the grounds (which was very good, by the way!) Bonus: bald eagles are often seen there.

Maryland has quite a number of good collecting places. But be aware that most of these places have dangerous cliffs that are tempting to dig into, which is illegal in Maryland. Also, like fishing, check the local tide charts as many of the beaches disappear at high tide that can leave you stranded.

Calvert Cliffs is one of the most famous of these beaches. There is a parking fee (\$5 when I was there earlier this year) and a 2-mile hike to the beach (which was non-existent the last time that I went due to the aforementioned high tide and a brutal N'orEaster.)

Brownie's Beach (just south of Chesapeake Beach, MD) is a good place, I understand. There is a fee at certain times of the year for out-of-towners, but the parking lot is nice and there's only a walk of a couple hundred yards to the beach. While I only found one little Hemipristis tooth there, a young man was finding hundreds of tiny (3-4mm) teeth in the surf while I chatted with his folks.



A recent place that I've found that I've been very happy with is Purse State Park in Maryland. There's really not much to it. Just a small parking lot and a quarter-mile trail that goes to the beach along the Potomac River. I found lots of nice shark's teeth there. There is a trail marked with a shark's tooth that takes you to a nice beach. Again, check the tide charts as parts of the beach disappear at high tide.

(Cont'd on next page.)

VOLUNTEERS MAKE A GOOD CLUB GREAT! GET INVOLVED!

(Cont'd from prior page.) There's also Douglas Point just up the road from there that I'm going to check out soon, and Mallows Bay is a very interesting place just about a mile or two up the road from Purse State Park. It has the largest ghost fleet in the western hemisphere!

A few online resources that I would recommend reading before heading out include:

- The Fossil Guy has some great descriptions of fossil hunting locations along the Chesapeake: <http://www.fossilguy.com/sites/index.htm#location>
- Biology of Sharks and Rays: http://www.elasmo-research.org/education/evolution/guide_f.htm
- Good resource for fossils tooth identification: <http://elasmo.com/>

Announcing the 2016 EFMLS Workshops at Wildacres Steve Weinberger, EFMLS Wildacres Chair

Source: EFMLS News, Volume 53, Number 1, November 2015



I'm delighted to be able to share with you the dates for our 2016 EFMLS Workshops at Wildacres plus the names of our two invited speakers-in-residence.

Session #1 will be **May 9 – 15 (Monday - Sunday)** and will feature a return engagement by renowned glyptographer (gem

carver), **Helen Serras-Herman**. She's an excellent and passionate speaker and warm and lovely individual who will be "on the mountain" with her husband Andy. You can view her work at gemartcenter.com.



Session #2 will be **September 5 – 11 (Monday - Sunday)** and will feature a return engagement by

renowned mineral collector and dealer, **Alfredo Petrov**. He's an interesting fellow who spends his time traveling between Japan, the United States, Europe and South America either selling minerals at important mineral shows or hunting for mineral treasures.

A listing of our spring 2016 classes and their descriptions is included in the December issue of EFMLS News which was sent to all clubs yesterday and will be uploaded to the EFMLS Wildacres website shortly. The fall class schedule will be available in the January EFMLS News and on the website sometime in December. Help us spread the word!

I'm looking forward to seeing many of you at one or more of the exciting and always wonderful EFMLS Workshops at Wildacres.

GMSVP Editor's Note: See the next page for Spring Session Classes. (Cont'd on the next page.)

EFMLS Wildacres Workshops

<http://efmls-wildacres.org/>



Indulge your passion for minerals, gems, jewelry, and craft.
Join entry and intermediate level short classes.
Enjoy programs from our great Speakers-in-Residence.
Form new friendships and deepen old ones.

Do it all at Wildacres
a beautiful retreat center
atop the Blue Ridge Mountains.

What could better!

Announcing the 2016 EFMLS Workshops at Wildacres (Cont'd)

Steve Weinberger, EFMLS Wildacres Chair

Source: EFMLS News, Volume 53, Number 1, November 2015

Class & Instructor	Description
Beading: Kumihimo With Magmata Beads – Mia Schulman	Quite different than other kumihimo classes. Students will learn a new kumi technique to complete a lovely necklace. 2-day class offered first semester. No prior experience necessary.
Beading: Russian Spiral Necklace Mia Schulman	Using two sizes of seed beads, a lovely spiral pattern develops. Students will complete a necklace which can be worn alone or use to hang a pendant (instead of using a chain.) 2- day class offered second semester. No prior experience necessary.
Cabochons – Basic Bernie Emery	Learn to transform a piece of rock into a shiny, well-formed cabochon. You will learn the use of the trim saw as well as basics of grinding, sanding and polishing. Slabs are provided or students September use their own with approval of the instructor. Please bring an apron and safety glasses. 2-day class offered first semester. No prior experience necessary.
Cabochons - Intermediate Bernie Emery	Learn to cut different shapes and the techniques needed to do so. Slabs are provided or students September use their own with approval of the instructor. Please bring an apron and safety glasses. Prerequisite: Students must have prior experience with cabbing and use of the trim saw. 2-day class offered second semester.
Faceting Larry Heath	Students will learn to cut and polish a 57-facet round brilliant gemstone. In addition, they will learn how to identify well-cut stones, select rough material and see whether or not they enjoy this fascinating aspect of the hobby. Students are asked to bring an Optivisor (#7 or #9) and an apron. 4-day class. No prior experience necessary.
Flint Knapping Michael Miller	The class will focus on replicating tools made by Stone Age cultures. Beginning level students will learn to work flint with percussion and pressure flaking techniques. Projects may include arrowheads, knives, scrapers and survival tools. Students are encouraged to bring any flintknapping tools or knappable (conchoidal fracturing) rock they have to supplement class materials. Leather gloves recommended. Safety goggles will be provided. Prerequisites: none but hand-eye coordination is a must. Nominal class fee will cover a flintknapping tool kit and knapping materials. 2-day class offered both semesters.
Geology I Rob Robinson	A basic introduction to rocks and minerals and the study of the earth. The class will include a discussion and class activity about how geologists interpret rocks to tell geologic history related to their formation, deformation and sequence and timing of events. Weather permitting there will be a field trip to local rock exposures to illustrate local rock types, the deformation types, and how a geologist maps and interprets structures (limited walking is required.) Please bring a loupe or other magnification, hiking boots or sturdy shoes and outdoor clothes for the half-day field trips. Geologic hammer and safety glasses are also desirable. (Do not bring a nail hammer – they are unsafe to hit rocks.) 2-day class offered first semester. No experience needed.
Geology II Rob Robinson	An overview of plate tectonics, geologic history and the geology of the Blue Ridge region and its minerals. We will discuss the geologic environments hosting mineral and gem collecting sites. Come prepared to identify some of your collecting localities to be part of this exercise. Weather permitting there will be a field trip to the Blue Ridge Museum showing local rocks and geologic history and another to see local geology. (A one-mile walk over gentle trails is required for the geology trip.) Some knowledge of basic geology preferred. Please refer to Geology I for suggested tools, clothing and magnification. 2-day class offered second semester.
Pewter Fabrication Bruce Gaber	Learn to make functional and decorative objects from a wonderfully versatile metal. Pewter is easy to work and easy to solder. This allows us to make a variety of forms in a much shorter time than working in silver. Pewter finishes can range from a glossy high luster to a deep rich matte. It can be embellished by embossing and by the addition of an etch or patina. Join us as we explore this most ancient and traditional material. Modern pewter contains no lead. 4-day class. No prior experience needed.
Basics of Scrimshaw Sandra Brady	Scrimshaw, a folk art dating back centuries, is a special form of engraving applied to ivory and similar materials. This course offers an excellent way to begin traditional scrimshaw. Working with a hand scribe you will learn attractive shading techniques and how to work on both natural and man-made materials. You will also learn basic composition and tool sharpening, as well as transfer methods for those who are “drawing challenged.” An optivisor or other magnification is recommended. 2 day course offered first semester. No prior experience necessary.
Scrimshaw – Color Basics Sandra Brady	Building on the methods taught in the first semester, students will be introduced to color. Again, working on both natural and man-made materials, modern scrimshaw methods utilizing the beauty of color will be explored. Preservation of your art work will be included. Bring an optivisor. 2-day course offered second semester. Prerequisite: Basics of Scrimshaw.
Soapstone Carving Sandy Cline	This class will provide a general introduction to the carving of soapstone. You will develop a working knowledge of the material, tools, safe handling issues and the methods used to complete a carving. You will produce a simple piece and progress to making a more advanced sculpture of your choice. The development of your own personal style will be encouraged. No prior experience needed. 2-day class offered both semesters.



Quite a few folks know I write safety articles for the AFMS News and several other newsletters. So, it was no surprise when a fellow came up to me at a local gem and mineral show and posed a question and a concern about field trip safety. His question pertained to a trip to a working mine and how to approach a matter of safety that was, to his way of thinking, different from that of the mine owner's point of view.

The fellow had seen a situation at the mine that he thought could have been more of a safety hazard than had the miner owner's representative. It is possible that the owner's representative may not have noted the potential of the hazard, or may perhaps not have noted the hazard itself. The owner's representative certainly did not know the physical abilities of the club members attending when judging a potential hazard. So, in effect, the instance was one where the fellow, a club officer, thought a situation was more hazardous to his club's members than did the mine owner's representative.

It is rather unusual, given operating equipment, mine workings, owners stocks, and the biggy -- company insurances, that a club officer wished to impose greater safety limits than those required by the mining company. This is not an issue faced by many field trip leaders, so, how does one approach an issue involving the hazard potential of any one particular situation? Even though instances such as this are seldom faced by field trip leaders, I'm a firm believer in having a plan for every situation. So here are some considerations:

1. Safety is, above all, paramount.
2. The field trip is usually at the request of the club, not the mine owners.
3. Mine and quarry workers are specially trained to stringent safety guidelines. Such workers are ever watchful and constantly monitor safety issues in their work areas. Club members on the other hand, are generally not trained to evaluate every potential safety issue in a working mine. Members are usually only given the site/ mine specific instruction thought necessary for the area of collecting.
4. Of several sets of safety guidelines can be applied to a situation, the strictest set of rules should be utilized. Member safety must be paramount.
5. Field trip leaders of the club should be aware of club member's weaknesses - who is likely to dehydrate faster than the others, who has a heart condition, who might have frailties needing to be monitored more than the rest, who might have balance issues, and so on. True, folks have to ultimately be responsible for themselves but things such as dehydration can sneak up on person, even a responsible person. Trip leaders need to be ever watchful, it's part of the job description.
6. Safety precaution lectures by mine representatives, as I have personally witnessed on numerous occasions, consist of an arm/hand wave indicating stay away from (an arm wave for) "there" or you can collect over (an arm wave for) "here." And, oh, it is also necessary to wear your hard hats, safety shoes, gloves and goggles at all times. While those guidelines are good for most folks, there are those few who tend to want to stretch the limits of "there" or "here". My own preference is to have a more distinct or physical barrier between "there" and "here." Barriers can include wooden stakes and flagging, fences, a line of boulders, or painted lines on the ground. It's harder for wanders to ignore a distinct or physical limiter. (Cont'd on next page.)

Happy Holidays!

(Cont'd from prior page.) 7. It's one thing if the owner's representative gives a field trip leader the safety specifics and then that person, in turn, passes the parameters on to the club members. It is quite another when the representative gives the specifics to everyone present at the same time. These are very different approaches in one important respect. If the mine representative passes the specifics to just the trip leader, the leader is then able to pass even more restrictive guidelines on to the members. If the members are given the specifics directly by the mine representative and then the club field trip leader wants to impose even more restrictive guidelines, it is possible that members may want to know why the additional restriction were imposed by the trip leader. More stringent restrictions may be difficult to explain to members - unless a clear case is made as to why. Such a why talk may not be understood by members, or even by the mine representative. There has to be good level of confidence in the field trip leader's judgment if additional restrictions need to be applied, and accepted by members. With human nature being what it is, there will always be members who want to stretch the mine representative's hand wave of "there" and "here."

8. What happens if a field trip leader sees the need to impose greater restriction? Might the company see it as a calling into question their judgment? Might the company see such a judgment as a need to perhaps rethink their allowing field trips to their facility? Such instances certainly call for communication—communication indicating that the field trip leader knows the additional needs or abilities of the members, communication indicating that the field trip leader understands the collecting interests of the members, communication indicating the need to keep any wandering folks to tighter designated areas, and so on. Good negotiation skills, good communication skills, good safety backgrounds and judgements, and good people skills are important in such instances.



9. One helpful guide in deciding limits is the clubs own field trip guide. Your club does have a field trip guide, doesn't it? An actual printed guide can help make a case for "No" meaning "No." Case closed, end of story. A generalized written field trip safety guide can be helpful. It is also helpful to have some specialized guidelines that may be applied if necessary - especially in instances when implementing additional site restrictions based on the judgment of the field trip leader(s)

10. Speaking of judgment, let's say a member sees a collecting treasure just a foot or two on the other side of the line where collecting is not permitted. The member, by rights, should not just walk across that limit line by those two feet and pick up the treasure. That said, it might be possible to seek permission from the owner's representative to reach over those two (or three, or four or so) feet over the line. One should always be aware of the potential problems with any over-the-line collecting. The key is to try and avoid jeopardizing future trips -- or collecting on any slippery slopes.

There are numerous possibilities and pitfalls with any added restrictions. First and foremost is putting club member safety first—even if the field trip leader has to be the tough guy. All the official positions in a club have club constitutional or bylaw or other governing club document authority; therefore field trip leaders should be no less so authorized to do their job—after all, safety rules.

Be safe, you deserve no less. Please mind your field trip leaders.

Source: EFMLS News, Volume 53, Number 1, November 2015

(Note: Portions of the article were adapted for GMSVP Newsletter)



Here are a few ideas for topics for your club's newsletter:

- What did you do on your vacation (hobby related, of course)?
- What is your favorite mineral? Can you research it and write an article about it? (Include where it can be found, its hardness, its properties, what it is used for, etc. Perhaps even a picture(s) of the mineral.)
- What is your favorite fossil? Can you research it and write an article about it? (Include where the fossil can be found, how did it live and where did it roam, details on size and perhaps even what it ate. Maybe even a picture of the fossil.)
- If there was a field trip — Where did you go and what did you find? What did others find? Can you write an article about the mineral/fossil you or others found?
- If anyone has read an interesting book on the hobby, ask them if they could write a book report/review.
- There are a plethora of shows now on TV that relate to the hobby. These include gold mining, mineral hunting, fossils, how the earth was formed, etc. Ask someone who watches some of these shows to write a review/critique of a show.
- Don't forget the news—TV, newspaper, internet. Ask someone to write up an article about a recent story. It may be about a recently discovered mineral/fossil, an earthquake, volcanic eruption, etc.
- Juniors can contribute by submitting a special drawing, a poem, or article.
- If you have a poet or artist in your club, ask them to submit a poem or drawing related to the hobby. Some members enjoy creating puzzles—ask them to create a special puzzle for the newsletter.
- Don't overlook the photographer (amateur or professional). They can add lots of interest to a publication. Who doesn't like to see the pictures—especially if they are in one. The expression, "one picture is worth a thousand words," is so true.

GMSVP Editor's Note: We will once again be participating in the EFMLS Bulletin Editors Advisory Competition. Submittals are due in early January. I will be reviewing the competition rules and selecting a newsletter and select articles from this past year to submit.

Important
Message

Robert Mazzrillo has stepped down as our club's Show Chair. Robert is available to mentor and help. Please consider volunteering as our Show Chair!

Important
Message

GMSVP needs a new Property (Club Equipment) Committee Chair. Hank Woods will be stepping down shortly as the committee chair. If interested, please contact Hank at hwoods55@cox.net. See the **July newsletter for more information.**

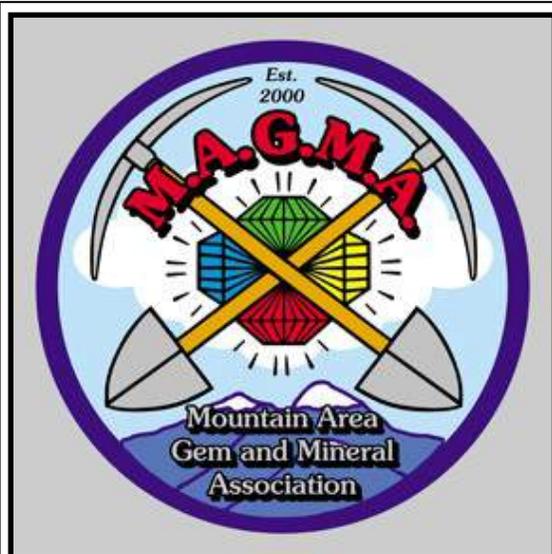
See the GMSVP Minutes for committee reports.

Upcoming MAGMA Field Trips

Sara Phillips, GMSVP Field Trip Coordinator

Upcoming Event: <http://www.wncrocks.com/magma/magmaupcomingevents.htm>

Join MAGMA: <http://www.wncrocks.com/magma/magma%20join%20club.htm>



Crabtree Emerald Mine Christmas Dig!

December 4th-6th, 2015

Official field trip of the Mountain Area Gem and Mineral Association

This will be our last dig of the 2015 season. The dig will begin Friday morning. Members are welcome to arrive Thursday evening if they like. I will have release forms and will arrive sometime Friday morning and catch up with everyone when I arrive.

Fee: \$15 paid MAGMA members, \$20 all others, Children 12 and under are free.

For directions, go to: www.crabtreemine.com.

Each One Teach One

Betsy Oberheim, (Aoberheim3@comcast.net)

Source: EFMLS News, Volume 53, Number 1, November 2015



I was thinking about this award; "Each One Teach One" and wondered if it isn't impossible!

As I walk around our rock club meetings, rock shows, even flea markets, I hear people asking questions about rocks and minerals, and as someone explains the answer; other people gather to hear. You may start out teaching one, but its like dropping a pebble in a still pond; the ripples spread and affect many others.

Dealers of rocks, minerals and fossils are natural teachers; they delight in telling customers and others how the minerals formed, where colors came from, how old a specimen could be, etc. Unfortunately they do not always belong to a rock club, so that a member can nominate

them.

But I am sure you have a fellow club member who is a natural teacher and enjoys an audience among the public. Its only a few minutes of your time to nominate that person and see how proudly they accept a certificate or plaque acknowledging their contribution to furthering our hobby.



2016 Show Dates

Hampton Roads
Convention Center

Feb 19 - 21

Virginia Beach
Convention Center

Apr 29 - May 1; Jul 15 - 17;
& Oct 14 - 16



GMSVP December Meeting Holiday Program

Thursday, December 3rd, 7 PM

Sandy Bottom Nature Center

Hampton, VA

Enter from Big Bethel Road

(Gate will be left open)



- The meeting was brought to order at 7:15 PM by President Walter Priest at Sandy Bottom Nature Center.
- Walter welcomed new members and guests. He also introduced our new 2016 Pebble Pups Chair Chris Young.
- First Vice President Brenda Hawks reported that we now have 115 members. In addition, dues for 2016 are now due. Members are encouraged to renew their memberships as soon as possible. An accurate roster is necessary in order for us to obtain the required insurance for the club, the cost of which is determined on a per capita basis. Brenda restated that the cost of membership has been changed as follows: \$15 for an individual, \$20 for a couple, and \$25 for a family in the same household.
- Secretary Pat Fontaine reported nothing new. The October meeting minutes are published in the newsletter.
- Second Vice President for Programs Barbara Priest reminded us that her position is open for 2016. She described the duties of the Second Vice President.
- Walter opened the floor for nominations for President and Second Vice President. Barbara Priest nominated Sara Phillips for President and Michael Griffith volunteered for Second Vice President. No other nominations were offered. Both candidates were elected by unanimous voice acclamation. Walter restated that we still need a new property manager and show chair.
- Editor Dan Fontaine reported that we are sharing our newsletter with other area rock clubs. We have also won at least one American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) awards, which he will report as soon as he gets details.
- Our webmaster, Holly Worsham, shared that our old website has been retired. Our new website address is now: www.gmsvp.org. The website now has a "Members Only" page to store club-related documents for future access by board members and committee chairs. The page is password protected; contact Holly at gmsvp.web@gmail.com, if you need the password.
- The club has purchased some items from the Emmanuel Rind estate, which consists of fine specimens and roughs, some good slab saws, a faceting machine and some other equipment. These items will be sold or auctioned to club members at a future date.
- Hospitality Chair Pat Fontaine informed us that we will have our annual holiday dinner at the next regular meeting. The club provides turkey, baked ham, rolls and butter. Member will bring sides, drinks, and desserts. Walter reminded us that there will be a Pollyanna gift exchange for those members who wish to participate. Each gift should be rock, mineral, or lapidary related and valued at about \$10.
- The schedule for the TOTE shows for 2016 has been released. The show for February 19-21 will take place in Hampton, while the shows for April 29-May 1, July 15-17, and October 14-16 will take place in Virginia Beach.
 - ◇ We will need to order more "green-size" geodes for the next show.
 - ◇ A new show chair is still needed, as the October Tote Show was Robert Mazzrillo's last show as our show chair. Two or more members may share the position.

(Continued on next page.)

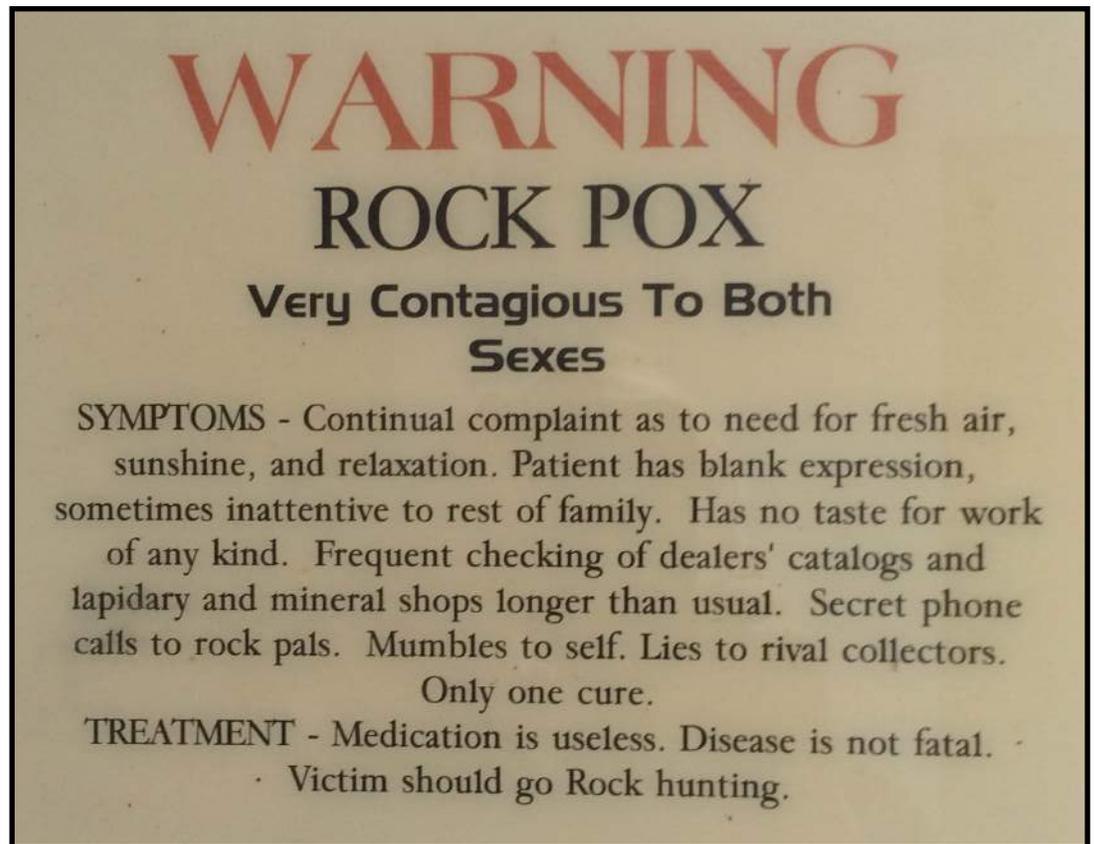


- (Cont'd from prior page.) Treasurer Gary Bergtholdt was out of town at the William Holland School of Lapidary Arts, so there is no treasurer's report this month.
- Field trip coordinator Sara Phillips thanked everyone who participated in the Pipsico field trip for following the safety rules so well. It was a great success, with a participant even finding a 4" megalodon tooth.
 - ◊ A future field trip will be planned for a new kyanite mine near Farmville, VA. Garnets, quartz and amethyst may also be found at the site.
- Property manager Hank Woods reported that he is updating the property list. Once updated, it will be stored on the Members Only page of our website. He also described a Genie rock-polishing machine and a faceting machine that will be sold/auctioned at a future meeting.
- The business meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM so that we could enjoy the speaker, Anthony Hubbard. Anthony presented a program which shared his expertise in silver fabrication and gave an overview of the silver fabrication classes that he offers to members. He had a display of some of his many tools that he uses and also a nice sampling of his work.

Minutes prepared by Pat Fontaine
November 7, 2015
/original signed/

**Unknown
Author

Picture
mounted in
hallway at the
William Holland
School of
Lapidary Arts**



2014 S.C.R.I.B.E. Clipart

2014 S.C.R.I.B.E. Clipart

AFMS CODE OF ETHICS



I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without the owner's permission.

I will keep informed on all laws, regulations of rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.

I will to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.

I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.

I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind - fences, signs, buildings.

I will leave all gates as found.

I will build fires in designated or safe places only and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.

I will discard no burning material - matches, cigarettes, etc.

I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.

I will not contaminate wells, creeks or other water supply.

I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.

I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.

I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.

I will cooperate with field trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.

I will report to my club or Federation officers, Bureau of Land management or other authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.

I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.

I will observe the "Golden Rule", will use "Good Outdoor Manners" and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and Public "image" of rockhounds everywhere.