



THE VIRGINIA PEN

GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY OF THE VIRGINIA PENINSULA



January 2017

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Sara Phillips

Special Points of Interest:

- GMSVP Monthly Meeting
- February 2nd, 7 PM
- Sandy Bottom Nature Park's Nature Center Hampton, VA

In This Issue

President's Corner	1 & 2
GMSVP Purpose	1
January Meeting—Tucson Gem Show Help Needed (Please Volunteer!)	2
Chapter Contact Info	
West VA Fossil Club February Program	3
GMSVP 2017 Calendar	
Thundereggs	4 & 5
Welcome New Rockhounds	4
New Field Trip Coordinator!	5
Safety Matters	6
January Birthstone	
Jewelry Bench Tips	7
You Think English Is Easy?	7 & 8
Wildacres—EFMLS Spring Workshop Kick-Off! & Classes Offered	8 & 9
Mineral Musings	10
Field Trip Update	11
AFMS 2017 Convention Gem Tree Training	12
2017 TOTE Show Dates	
February Meeting Info	
GMSVP January Meeting Minutes	13
Upcoming Shows	14
AFMS Code of Ethics	15



Happy New Year GMSVP Members! I hope everyone discovers a NEW rock, mineral, or fossil this year!

GMSVP members Walter and Barbara Priest were our guest speakers at our January 5th membership meeting. They gave a great presentation on the Tucson Rock and Mineral Show – it's the largest show in the world (and it happens every February, which is just around the corner!). For more information, please visit: <http://www.22ndstreetshow.com/>. Also during our club meeting, our

members brought some wonderful food to share, and we had several people win raffle prizes. Fun was had by all!

Our first board meeting of 2017 was held on January 12th. Program ideas, committee business, and the 2017 budget were discussed. The 2017 budget will be presented for member approval during our next membership meeting on February 2nd. Please attend this meeting, feel free to ask questions, and vote!

During our next membership meeting, I will give a quick presentation on gold and gold panning. We have a possible field trip coming up in March/April, and I want everyone to be prepared for some good old fashioned gold panning. If you have gold panning equipment, please bring it with you to the meeting. This presentation is an interactive one!

Please take a look at the website and our newsletter, as we have several committee positions open. Let me know if you are interested in (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; provide the community with a knowledge of the hobby through lectures, demonstrations, and exhibitions; and 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)

Sara Phillips

(Cont'd from prior page) volunteering. Remember, a committee is not just one person, it can be several people. Talk to other club members and try to get a group together if you don't want to volunteer by yourself. It's a great opportunity to get more involved in our club and learn how we operate.

Have a Gneiss Day!!!

Sara Beth

January Meeting—Tucson Gem and Mineral Show Dan Fontaine

Walter and Barbara Priest have gone twice to the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show and plan to go back. Their first trip was a reconnaissance mission. The sheer expanse (40 venues) and the 4500 vendors were overwhelming. They went back the following year prepared to focus on the vendors that they wanted to hit for deals. He encouraged everyone to go to the show at least once! The 2017 show is from January 26 through February 12th.



Help Needed—Please Volunteer!

There are several positions that offer volunteer opportunities for anyone looking to make a difference in their lives as well as in the lives of others. Please consider volunteering for one of the available positions.

- **Pebble Pups Co-chair** - Great opportunity to make a difference in the lives of the younger generation. This is a co-chair; you are not alone in this position.
- **Tote Show Coordinator** - Lead the planning and club's participation in gem and mineral shows.
- **Property Manager** - Keep track of club equipment and order parts as needed.
- **Silver Jewelry Instructor** - Instruct club members in the techniques of silver jewelry fabrication.
- **Club Librarian/Historian** - Keep track of the club's library books and the history of the club. Prepare and submit All American Club Yearbook.

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Through my involvement in S.C.R.I.B.E., I recently made a new “editor friend,” Sue Hurst, Editor and Webmaster of the West Virginia Fossil Club. We are now sharing our newsletters for information and potential articles for our respective newsletters!

I know that many our club members have an interest in fossils. I thought that I would share a bit about her club. This information was extracted from their website, [http://](http://westvirginiafossilclub.com/index.html#)

westvirginiafossilclub.com/index.html#.

The West Virginia Fossil Club is in Clarksburg, WV and was founded in September 1988. There are about 60 members in the club. They meet at 7 PM on the first Friday of each month at a location posted on their website. They have guest speakers and schedule fossil trips (members only) at least monthly, April through November, which usually includes one or two trips of out of state. Some members have gone to schools, groups, shows, etc., promoting the club and fossils, especially the fossils found in West Virginia.

There are many plant and marine fossils found in West Virginia. The state fossil is the *Megalonyx Jeffersonii* (Jefferson’s Ground Sloth), and the State Gem, silicified Mississippian Fossil Coral *Lithostrotionella* (composed of the mineral calcedony).

If any of our members are interested in also joining their club, you can contact Sue Hurst, the club’s editor and webmaster, at: sehwwla4608@gmail.com.



Source Wikipedia: *Megalonyx jeffersonii* skeleton cast produced and distributed by [Triebold Paleontology Incorporated](#)

GMSVP February Program

Michael Griffith

During last month’s field trip to the Seay Gold Mine, some people were lacking in the proper technique to pan for gold. For our February program, Sara Phillips will discuss the proper technique to find those pesky gold specs!

GMSVP 2017 Meeting & Activity Calendar

Gary Bergtholdt



The following are the 2017 GMSVP meeting and activity dates:

- Jan 5 - Club Meeting
- Jan 9 - Board Meeting
- Feb 2 - Club Meeting
- Mar 2 - Club Meeting
- Mar 24 - 26 - Hampton TOTE
- Apr 3 - Board Meeting
- Apr 6 - Club Meeting
- Apr 21 - 23 - VA Beach TOTE
- May 4 - No Meeting
- May 13 - Picnic
- Jun 1 - Club Meeting
- Jul 10 - Board Meeting
- Jul 6 - Club Meeting
- Jul 14 - 16 - VA Beach TOTE
- Aug 3 - Club Meeting
- Sep 7 - No Meeting
- Sep 9 - Picnic
- Oct 2 - Board Meeting
- Oct 5 - No Meeting
- Oct 6 - 8 - VA Beach TOTE
- Nov 2 - Club Meeting
- Dec 7 Club Meeting

Our club sells geodes at each of the Treasures of the Earth (TOTE) Shows throughout the year. While our geodes currently come from Mexico, Morocco, and Indiana, there are numerous other locations throughout the world. On occasion there is a thunderegg (solid) found in our batches of geodes (partially hollow) that we sell. Depending on the minerals inside, they can be quite beautiful!

In the short time that I have been helping sell geodes at the TOTE Shows, I have seen some really unique and beautiful thundereggs. I found some interesting information on thundereggs to share.



Thundereggs are found in rhyolite volcanic lava flows and are also known as a "lithophysae" (Greek for "rock bubbles"). Thundereggs are formed in gas pockets which become the mold when water percolates through the porous rock. The water usually carries a silica solution into the pocket along with any other minerals that may be present during the formation. Patterns inside the core of the thunderegg can vary from a single lens, triangle-like, box-like, and a star-like pattern, along with seascapes and beautiful agate banding. Sometimes there are no patterns at all, just



striations and globs of mineral content frozen in time, as with some of the thundereggs that come out of the GMSVP geodes.

- Thundereggs are not geodes; geodes have a hollow in them, sometimes with crystal formations.
- Thundereggs are a solid made up of mainly agate, chalcedony, jasper, or opal. It is possible to see quartz and gypsum crystals as well as other mineral growth and inclusions depending on what part of the world the thunderegg was formed.
- Thundereggs look like a regular rock on the outside, so it is difficult to determine what might be inside.
- In my research, I have seen the word thunderegg written both as "thunder egg" and one word "thunderegg".
- Robert Colburn, aka "Paul, the Geode Kid," has written one of the most lengthy articles I found so far on thundereggs. You can read his theory by clicking this link: <http://www.zianet.com/geodekid/thndregg.htm>



(Cont'd on the next page.)

New GMSVP Members—Welcome New Rockhounds!

Ronald Deal
J. Wyatt Hall
Sean Harley

Vernon & Shirley Hash
Mary Hood

- (Cont'd from prior page.) David Rix from Australia created the Eibonvale Thunderegg Gallery website to track his own private collection. It has grown and evolved into a great resource for thundereggs from all over the world. My second article for next month will cover more from David's website <http://www.thundereggs.co.uk/>
- Thundereggs got their name from a legend. A Native American legend reportedly considers the rocks to be the eggs of the thunderbirds, which occupied Mount Hood and Mount Jefferson located in Oregon. Thunder Spirits on the mountains hurled the "eggs" at each other.
- In the United States, we currently have thirteen states (with many locations within each state), which have thunderegg deposits. Oregon is one of the states with one of the largest deposit, where there are over 100 known thunderegg beds located in eight counties.
- The thunderegg is also Oregon's state rock.

Last fall I purchased these two thunder eggs on Ebay from the famous Friday Beds located on the Richardson Ranch in Oregon. I will be cutting them open at the next Tote show in Hampton, VA on March 24-26. I can't wait to see what they look like inside.



Disclosure: I am not a geologist or mineralogist. My background is in the tech field, and I am just your typical rock hound/hobbyist. Information for this article came from the internet (so it must be true) and books in my private collection. As more research is being done, and with the help of technology, some of the older theories on how thundereggs were formed are being challenged. I hope you find this information educational as well as entertaining. If by chance you see a correction, please feel free to contact me (gmsvp.web@gmail.com) or the newsletter editor (maineguy@cox.net) and a follow up correction will be printed.

Side note: One thing I noticed in my research on geodes, thunder eggs etc., many locations cannot be disclosed due to lands being private or nature reserves, fear of claim jumpers, or other reasons. This makes it difficult to track where the stones originally come from or other significant information that you may want to know.

References

- Geodes Nature's Treasures – by Brad L. Cross and June Culp Zeitner Geode book
- Wikipedia
- www.thunderegg.uk.com
- www.Statesymbolusa.org
- www.zianet.com/geodekid/
- http://www.achat-almanach.de/html/steinhardt_engl.html



Source: S.C.R.I.B.E. 2014 Clipart DVD

THANK YOU!!! Mary Hood has volunteered to be the GMSVP Field Trip Coordinator! Mary is a new member! Welcome and THANKS FOR VOLUNTEERING TO BE OUR NEW FIELD TRIP COORDINATOR!!!!

Source: AFMS Newsletter, December 2007

Yes, the title of this article sounds like an industrial strength safety slogan... but it is also true. Safety requires us to exert a concerted effort to ensure that it happens. Safety does not happen by coincidence.

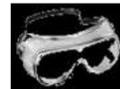
Have you been following past EFMLS Safety Chairman, Bill Klose's - Safety First articles up to now? Over the past 7 years or so, Bill has been writing a great, in depth, and very technically detailed series of articles on all manner of safety issues covering most of the aspects of the things we rockhounds routinely do - such as participate in field trips, attend shows, use rock collecting tools and lapidary machines, and work with torches. Hopefully every club safety chairperson has read, implemented and kept on file a copy of all of Bill Klose's articles. Perhaps you noted that Bill's articles were repeated from time to time. Safety issues bear repeating. Repetition makes for a safer membership.

As most safety chairpersons no doubt understand, it's one thing for a club to have access to safety information. It stands as quite another issue to have club members take safety instruction to heart. Some folks listen with an undivided attention to safety issues and some do not.

The lessons of being safe are clear - it is common cent\$ to do what we do in as safe a manner as possible. By common cent\$ I'm not referring to the loose change in ones pocket or purse, I'm instead referring to the costs associated with being safe compared with being unsafe.

Let's cover some examples of safety costs -

1. Cost of a pair of goggles - \$2.00 to \$5.00. Cost of eye surgery to repair damage from a flying shard of quartz... well, you don't even want to think about it.



2. Cost of watching where you are walking - \$0.00. Cost of a broken leg (or worse) - Perhaps a thousand or two....but could be more.

3. Cost of a pair of good, strong gloves - \$5.00 to \$15.00. Cost of cut finger - a bandage...not too much, but think of the effort required to clean up from the cut finger on your specimens.



4. Cost of carefully preparing to go to a new, never-visited quarry - some time to do research - \$0.00. Cost of getting lost or injured from a poorly planned trip - besides the embarrassment, this could be very expensive.

5. Cost of a sledge hammer handle....well, I think you get the point.



Countless more examples exist to illustrate the effectiveness of planning to be safe. It just makes common cent\$ to be safe. Making safety an economic issue may help some of our members appreciate the value of safety. We all know safety is important, it's just that some folks need more reminders than others. Its those others who need repetition, repetition, repetition.

January Birthstone

Source: Wikipedia

Garnets are a group of [silicate minerals](#) that have been used since the [Bronze Age](#) as gemstones and abrasives.

All species of garnets possess similar physical properties and crystal forms, but differ in chemical composition. The different species are [pyrope](#), [almandine](#), [spessartine](#), [grossular](#) (varieties of which are [hessonite](#) or cinnamon-stone and [tsavorite](#)), [uvarovite](#) and [andradite](#). The garnets make up two solid solution series: pyrope-almandine-spessartine and uvarovite-grossular-andradite.



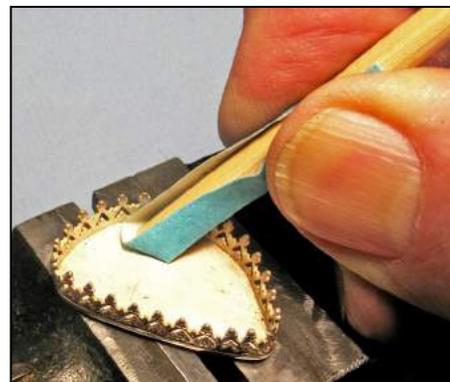
Almandine in metamorphic rock

SANDING/POLISHING IN TIGHT PLACES

Often you'll need to sand or polish an area that's impossible to reach with even a small wheel on a flex shaft. Other times it might be the bottom of a pocket or inside bottom corner of a box that needs to be finished. One trick for these nit-picky jobs may be left over from your last Chinese dinner - a chopstick.

I've found quite a few uses for these in the shop. Prepare the tip by simply sawing it off at a 45 degree angle. Then apply whatever abrasive grit you will need for the job or hold a strip of sandpaper around the end. Loose grit can be held onto the tip with a bit of vaseline or oil.

Tripoli or rouge can be just rubbed onto the end of the chopstick.



OCHRE APPLICATOR

Yellow ochre is used when you want to be sure the solder won't flow on an area of your piece while you're soldering another area. The only problem with ochre is coming up with a good way to store and apply it.

I use recycled nail polish bottles. They seal well and have a built-in brush applicator. Just clean them out with a little acetone or nail polish remover, and they're ready to go.



See all Brad's jewelry books at: www.Amazon.com/author/BradfordSmith.

You Think English Is Easy?

Betty Cain, S.C.R.I.B.E. Treasurer

Source: Excerpts from Article in S.C.R.I.B.E. Newsletter, Volume 40 No. 4 October—December 2016

1. The bandage was **wound** around the **wound**.
2. The farm was used to **produce produce**.
3. The dump was so full that it had to **refuse** more **refuse**.
4. We must **polish** the **Polish** furniture.
5. He could **lead** if he would get the **lead** out.
6. The soldier decided to **desert** his dessert in the **desert**.
7. Since there is no time like the **present**, he thought it was time to **present** the present.
8. A **bass** was painted on the head of the **bass** drum.
9. When shot at, the **dove dove** into the bushes.
10. I did not **object** to the **object**.
11. The insurance was **invalid** for the **invalid**.
12. There was a **row** among the oarsmen about how to **row**. (Cont'd on the next page.)

You Think English Is Easy? (Cont'd)

Betty Cain, S.C.R.I.B.E. Treasurer

Source: Excerpts from Article in S.C.R.I.B.E. Newsletter, Volume 40 No. 4 October—December 2016

- (Cont'd from prior page.) They were too **close** to the door to **close** it.
- The **wind** was too strong to **wind** the sail.
- Upon seeing the **tear** in the painting, I shed a **tear**.

Let's face it - English is a crazy language. English was invented by people, not computers, and it reflects the creativity of the human race, which, of course, is not a race at all.

The Kick-Off

Steve Weinberger, Wildacres Committee Chair

Source: EFMLS News Volume 64, Number 3, January 2017



January 1st marks the opening bell for registering for one or both of our upcoming EFMLS Workshops at Wildacres. Each week long session is held in Little Switzerland, NC thanks to the auspices of Wildacres Foundation, a non-profit dedicated to the betterment of human relations.

Let me share some of the wonderful things about our EFMLS Workshops. Nestled on its own private mountaintop, the Wildacres Retreat is located just off the Blue Ridge Parkway about an hour north of Asheville, NC. The buildings are modern, yet blend in well with the rustic scenery of the mountains. Bedrooms feature private baths, comfortable beds and generally accommodate two people. Meals are served family style in a lovely dining hall and the food is ample and good. A well stocked salad bar is available for most lunch and dinner meals and a variety of special diets can be accommodated by the kitchen staff with advance notice.

Wildacres is quiet! There are no radios or TV's and while there is internet service, it's limited and totally unavailable should there be heavy cloud cover or storms (satellite does that!). There are wide porches and a large patio complete with rocking chairs as well as a canteen (open in the evenings) for snacks, playing cards, ping-pong, or just talking.

Each of our workshops features a guest speaker and a variety of classes for participants to take. Our week is divided into two parts (semesters) of 2 days each with an activity day between the halves. Activity day affords all a chance to leave campus and participate in a field trip, explore the region, visit Asheville with its fabulous Biltmore Mansion and unique craft shops, or whatever else you wish to do. There is also a tailgate session that afternoon for you to swap or sell items you have made or brought. One evening is devoted to an auction of donated hobby related items while another to "show and tell" so everyone can see the projects completed during the week. Wildacres is always a relaxing, fun and educational week.

Our spring session will feature **Bob Jones** as Speaker-in-Residence. Always a popular speaker, Bob will regale us with tales of his adventures in rockhounding around the world. Dates for this week are Monday, May 22nd through Sunday, May 28th.

Fall will feature Dr. Timothy Morgan as Speaker-in-Residence. Tim's specialty is gemstones, and we're sure you will drool over the tales and images that he shares during his talks. Dates for fall are September 4th through 10th.

Tuition for each week is \$410 per person and includes room and board. Your only extra expenses will be for materials fees paid to the teacher plus items you may purchase at the auction or tailgate.

Take a look at the next page for a listing of spring classes and the [EFMLS Wildacres registration site](#) for a registration form. Register early so you won't be disappointed.

Wildacres Spring Classes – May 22 – 28, 2017 – Speaker-in-Residence: Bob Jones

Steve Weinberger, Wildacres Committee Chair; Source: EFMLS News Volume 64, Number 3, January 2017

Class & Instructor	Description
Beading: New Beads Mia Schulman	You will be creating pendants and earrings using beads that have from 2 to 4 holes each! They will be square, triangular, and rectangular in shape in combination with regular one-holed beads. 2-day class offered first semester. No prior experience necessary.
Beading: Peyote Bracelet Mia Schulman	Pendants will be created using Delicata beads and the Peyote stitch (also called Gourd stitch). This is an off-loom bead-weaving technique using a fine needle and beading thread. People who look at your pendant usually want to feel it because it is so intriguing. 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.
Introduction to Gemology Tim Morgan	What is the ideal color of ruby? Where do diamonds come from? What country is a leading producer of gems? What is gemology? How are gems formed? How are they classified? Answers to these questions, and more, offered in this class. Session includes discussion of organic gems and their appeal to the public. Lots of hands on-rough, specimens, finished stones-as examples. No Prerequisite. 2-day class offered 1st semester.
Intermediate Gemology Tim Morgan	How does one examine and evaluate a gemstone? How does a loupe aid such evaluation? A dichroscope? An emerald (Chelsea) filter? Course considers these questions and issues such as Mohs scale of hardness, inorganic gemstones, how gems are sold, what to look for when shopping for gemstones, and the care and feeding of your gems. Lots of hands on-rough, specimens, finished stones-as examples. Prerequisite- Introduction to Gemology. 2-day class offered 2nd semester.
Gem Trees - Basic Ellie Pitts	Students will learn the basics to create at least two gem trees with optional instructions and supplies available for more trees and patterns, as time permits. Students will learn to cut, twist, and assemble wire branches according to a pattern. Please bring either reading glasses or an optivisor. Tools will be available in class, but it would be helpful to bring your own jewelry pliers. Students may bring their own base rocks (Base rocks should be from 1-1/2" to 5" wide; small bases must have enough weight to hold a mini tree upright.). No prior experience needed, but students must be able to work with small objects, twist wire, and handle the smell of adhesive glue. 2-day class offered 1st semester.
Gem Trees - Intermediate Ellie Pitts	Students with prior experience will create two gem trees in class from more complicated patterns, as well as recognize how their technique changes how the tree will look. Bring reading glasses or an optivisor. Tools will be available to share, but it would be helpful to bring your own pliers and cutters. If you bring your own wire, I recommend Artistic Wire 24ga, since generic craft wires can break when twisted tightly. You may bring your own base rocks (1 1/2" to 5"), Two day class, second semester. Prerequisite: Gem Tree 1 or prior experience with twisting wire and working with gem tree patterns. Advanced students may enroll during Gem Trees I or II and work independently with supplies and suggestions available. 2-day class offered 2nd semester.
Mineral Identification Mike Wise	Students will learn the basic skills needed to identify a wide variety of rock-forming and "exotic" minerals. This class will focus on "non-destructive" and "semi-destructive" tests that the beginner can use to aid in mineral identification. 4-day class. No prior experience necessary.
Silversmithing - Basic Richard Meszler	Have fun learning the basics of working silver sheet and wire to fabricate jewelry. The projects will introduce you to annealing/bending/shaping/texturing metal, soldering, piercing and polishing. Students will receive a kit containing the necessary metals and supplies to complete these projects as well as a detailed written step by step description of each project. 2-day class offered 1st semester. No prior experience necessary
Silversmithing - Intermediate Richard Meszler	Continue your education working with metals by doing a more complex project. You will learn to make a bezel setting & bail into which you will set a cabochon to make a pendant. Students will receive a kit containing the necessary metals and supplies to complete this project as well as a detailed written step by step description of each project. Prerequisite: Basic silversmithing experience including soldering. 2-day class offered 2nd semester.
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.

Mineral Musings

by Fred Haynes

Source: Wayne County Gem and Mineral Club News, January 2017

<http://wcgmc.org/>

Everyone likes to classify things: by shape, by color, by cost, by size. You name something to sort by, and someone is busy classifying with it. So, it should be no surprise that geologists get classified. And perhaps the first way they get labeled is as either a soft rock geologist or a hard rock geologist. No, it has nothing to do with the character of their head (although some might disagree) and it has nothing to do with their taste in music. Rather it relates to the type of rocks they study.

Soft rock geologists study sedimentary rocks. Some aren't particularly soft when they have been cemented and lithified (anyone trying to collect fluorite in the dolostones at Walworth knows this), but they were all pretty much deposited first as a soft sediment. Geologists who study the deposition and/or erosion of lake (lacustrine) or stream (fluvial) deposits, and those studying coral reefs, are soft rock geologists. They might focus on aspects of hydrology (most underground aquifers are hosted by sedimentary rocks). Paleontologists who study fossils and prehistoric life are soft rock geologists. So are those exploring for hydrocarbons.

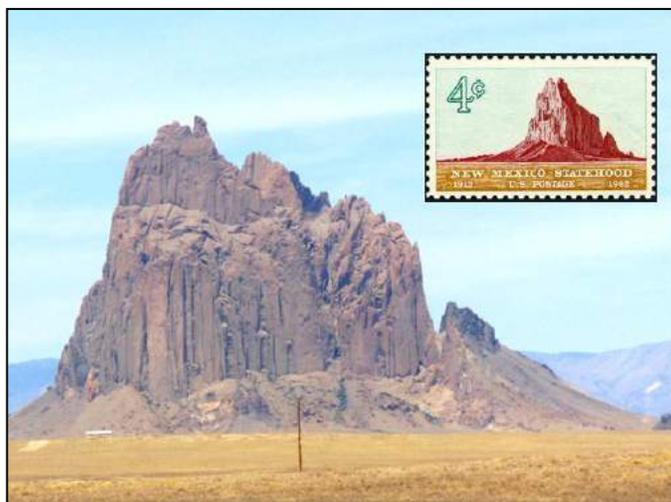
On the other hand, another set of geologists spend their waking hours studying the so called "hard rocks". These are rocks born of fire (igneous) or those generated from other rocks when deeply buried in the earth's crust (metamorphic rocks). These folks are more likely to study plate tectonics or volcanology, or be involved for the search for natural resources resulting from magmatic activity or the hydrothermal processes associated with just about all subsurface processes.

In the beginning (i.e. college) I was a hard rock geologist. The copper deposits I studied in Arizona were generated around a granitic intrusive. I spent time looking for gold (notice the verb is not finding) in the volcanic terrain of Nevada. But sanity set in (i.e., the desire for a stable paycheck) and I flipped to the soft rock side and career in the oil industry. I will take credit for finding some of that! Anyway, oil and gas are born in sedimentary basins from decaying organic material almost all of which resides in the pore spaces of sedimentary rocks. Geologists in that industry are generally of the soft rock variety.

It seems the same dichotomy exists in the rockhound world. There are fossil collectors and there are mineral collectors and then there are some of us who enjoy both. Perhaps the dual nature of my career is why I now find hunting for fossils in the Devonian shales of western New York just as entertaining and satisfying as digging terminated minerals out of a pegmatite. You could say that this makes me bi-stonal (that's a made up word, say it out loud). Or perhaps the best way to express it is that I am HR-SR (hard rock-soft rock), equally excited, motivated, and otherwise energized by geologic activity in either domain. The resultant corollary would be that I am not very selective about what I pile into my car and accumulate in the basement and backyard. In that regard, I know I am not alone.

So where do you fit in the rock hound classification scheme? Are you a soft rock, fossil collecting maniac? Or are you a hard rock, crystal seeking lunatic? There is no correct answer and you can be both.

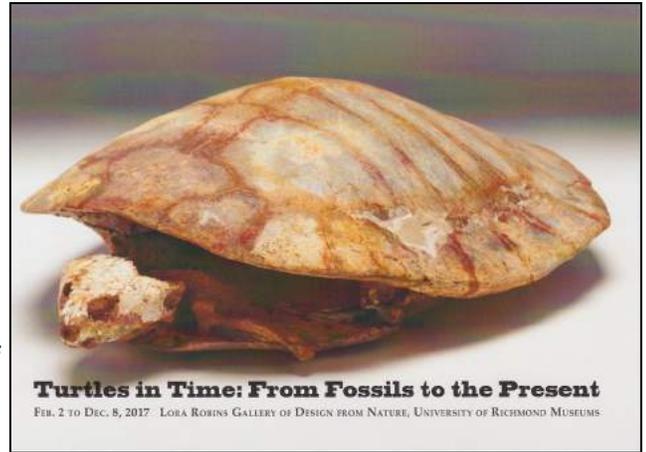
Perhaps we should classify accountants, or lawyers, or maybe politicians. Probably not, huh.



Shiprock, NM: Soft rock or hard rock?

I would like to extend a warm welcome to Mary Hood! She will be our new field trip coordinator for this year. She attended our first board meeting of the year and has lots of information and possible field trips to plan. Here is a quick list of possible field trips for the year:

February 1st: "Turtles in Time and Space: A Conversation" is presented by Robert McCord, Curator of Natural History, Arizona Museum of Natural History, Mesa; and David Hutchison, independent scholar and collector, and co-curator. Reception and preview of the exhibition "Turtles in Time: From Fossils to the Present" follow the talk. Free and open to the public. You can register for a parking pass to be mailed to you ahead of time at: <http://parking.richmond.edu/registration/visitor.html>. The Museum's address is: University of Richmond, Lora Robins Gallery, 28 Westhampton Way, Richmond, VA 23173.



March or April (Date TBD): Buckingham County Gold Panning & Mine Spoils

Location: Seay Gold Mine, Dillwyn, VA

Details: Primitive collecting only. Minerals on-site include garnet, kyanite, gold fines and small nuggets, quartz, etc. Much of the garnet is cabbing grade and takes a nice polish. You can pan for gold in the creek. Cost is \$10 per person for the day. A map of the area will be provided before the trip.



June 9th: Pipsico Boy Scout Reservation Fossil Hunt, Spring Grove, VA

Saturday June 9th – 9 AM until the afternoon (at your leisure). This field trip will happen rain or shine, so please plan your field clothes accordingly! There is a \$5 collecting fee, and a wavier will need to be signed prior to entering the site.

Location: Pipsico Boy Scout Camp Reservation; 57 Pipsico Road, Spring Grove, Virginia

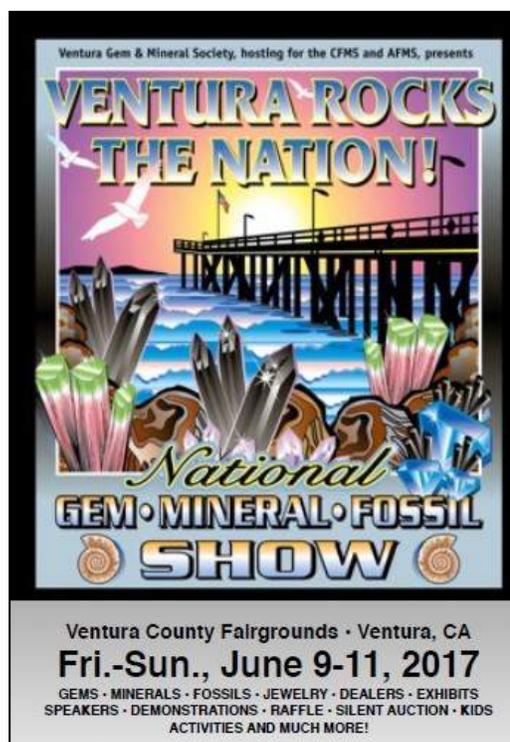
Details: Opportunities to collect fossils (sharks teeth, whale jaw/vertebrae, scallop shells, coral, etc). Sunblock and bug spray are highly recommended, as well as bottles of water and food. Please bring your own bags and tools for collecting. Camping is allowed the night before, if anyone is interested (\$5 per night). We are allowed to camp from Friday to Sunday.



Obtaining Info on the 2017 AFMS—CFMS Show & Convention

Jim Brace-Thompson, 2017 Show Publicity Chair

Source: AFMS Website (<http://www.amfed.org/>) & EFMLS News, Volume 64, Number 3, January 2017



Members of the Ventura Gem & Mineral Society are honored to invite rockhounds from across America to our hometown of Ventura, California to participate in the 2017 National AFMS-CFMS Show & Convention taking place June 9-11. At the 2016 California Federation Fall Directors Meeting, we performed a “Surfin’ USA” skit to kick off show promotions, and we distributed packets filled with info about the Show and about Ventura—how to get here, hotels and RV parks, basic show info, and things to do and see beyond the Show while on the southern California coast.

Rockhounds in all seven regional federations can get this info and more! To get the Advance Registration Form, competitive and noncompetitive Exhibitor Application Forms, and everything else that was included in the packet, please direct your members to our Show Website: 2017CFMS-AFMSShow.com. You and your members can also contact VGMS directly at (805) 312-VGMS (8467) or at: info@vgms.org. We invite and encourage newsletter editors of each and every AFMS-affiliated club and society to help us spread the word with a brief article directing your club’s members to the website and inviting their

participation. The National Show comes but once every seven years to California. Here’s an opportunity to compete at the national level with an exhibit, to meet fellow rockhounds from all across the USA, and—in general—to have fun in the California sun! See you in June!

Gem Tree Workshop

Gary Bergtholdt is holding 2-3 hour gem tree workshops at his home. If interested, contact Gary at: gbergtholdt@gmail.com.



2017 TOTE Shows

- March 24—26, Hampton, VA
- April 21—23, July 14—16, & October 6—8, VA Beach



GMSVP Regular Meeting

Thursday, February 2nd, 7 PM

Program: Gold Panning Skills

Sandy Bottom Nature Park’s Nature Center,
Hampton, VA (Enter from Big Bethel Road)

Please see the minutes on page 13 for GMSVP committee reports.



- The meeting was called to order by Sara Phillips.
- Sara announced that a picnic for the Region IV of the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Sciences (EFMLS) is being planned at Lake Anna State Park. She will announce the date and time, when it is decided.
- Reports
 - o Membership – Brenda Hawks reminded us that GMSVP dues were due last month. For those who have not submitted their dues by tonight, their names will be removed from the mailing list. After a partial scrubbing of the membership roster, the current membership is 84.
 - o Program/Facebook – Michael Griffith announced that we have 647 followers.
 - ◇ The program tonight will be presented by Walter and Barbara Priest about the Tucson Rock Show.
 - ◇ Next month's program will be presented by Sara Phillips on Gold Panning.
 - o Treasurers Report – Gary Bergtholdt is in the hospital recovering from back surgery.
 - o Sara gave a summary of Gary's Treasurer's report. The club is in good financial shape.
 - o Sara reminded us that a Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 9th at the Sandy Bottom Nature Center. Sara stated if there is a large snow fall the meeting will be rescheduled. The 2017 Budget will be discussed.
 - o Hospitality – Pat Fontaine thanked everyone who brought refreshments for tonight's meeting. Pat announced that the theme for next month's refreshments will be "appetizers and dips."
 - o Pebble Pups – It was announced that the youth are preparing a "geo-cache."
 - o TOTE Shows – We need a show chairman for the new year.
 - o Newsletters – Dan Fontaine reminded us that he needs volunteers to write articles for our newsletter.
 - o Property – Hank Woods stated that they are redoing the plan for the new saw.
 - o Faceting – Chuck Rogers had nothing new to report.
 - o Website – Holly Worsham reported the webpage is doing well.
 - o Field Trips – Sara stated the last field trip to the Seay Gold Mine was well received. Several concerns were raised regarding the information provided before the trip. Sara reminded us that this trip had been the first time that anyone had gone there. Sara stated she is planning another trip to the Seay Gold Mine for this spring. A better map is being prepared, and we now know the entrance fee is \$10. Details for this trip will be announced when plans are finalized. Other possible field trips were discussed.
- With no further business, Sara adjourned the business meeting.
- Michael Griffith introduced Walter and Barbara Priest who will present a program about the Tucson Rock Show. Walter informed us that last year the Tucson show had at least 40 venues and 4,500 vendors.

Minutes prepared by David Scharff
January 11, 2017
/original signed/



Get well soon, Gary! No laying around allowed!

Clip Source: S.C.R.I.B.E. 2014 Clipart DVD

Visit a Show

Source: EFMLS News Volume 64, Number 3, January 2017

March:

4 – 5: 54th Annual Earth Science Gem & Mineral Show sponsored by the Delaware Mineralogical Society. NEW LOCATION: University of Delaware, Wilmington Campus, 2800 Penn Ave (Rt. 52), Wilmington, DE. Contact: Gene Hartstein at gene@fossilnut.com.

11: 41st Annual Micromount Symposium sponsored by the Leidy Micromount Society. Northminster Presbyterian Church, 140 Trenton Rd; Fairless Hills, PA. Contact: Don McAlarnen, don.mcalarnen@hpe.com or 610-584-1364.

18-19: 53rd Annual GLMS/MC Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show sponsored by the Gem, Lapidary & Mineral Society of Montgomery Co. MD. Montgomery Co. Fairgrounds, 16 Chestnut St; Gaithersburg, MD. Contact: Doug Baum at dbaum18@aol.com, 240-888-7485 or www.glmsmc.com.

24-26: Annual Catawba Valley Gem & Mineral Show sponsored by the Catawba Valley Gem & Mineral Club. Hickory Metro Convention Center, 1960 13th Ave Dr SE; Hickory, NC 28602. Info: Dean Russell 828-303-1448 or cvgmcsecretary@aol.com.

25-26: 48th Annual Rock & Mineral Club Show sponsored by the Che-Hanna Rock & Mineral Club. NEW LOCATION: Wysox Volunteer Fire Co. Social Hall, 111 Lake Rd., Wysox, PA. Contact: Bob McGuire at 570-928-9238 or uvbob@epix.net.

25-26: Mineral Treasures and Fossil Fair Annual Show sponsored by the Philadelphia Mineralogical Society and the Delaware Paleontological Society. LuLu Temple, 5140 Butler Pike, Plymouth Meeting, PA. www.philamineralsociety.org

25-26: CVMC 2017 Show sponsored by the Connecticut Valley Mineral Club. Hadley Farms Meeting House, Rt. 9, 41 Russell St; Hadley, MA. Contact: Lee Champigny, 413-320-9741 or pullg4fun@gmail.com, or www.westernmassmineralshow.com.

May:

13: Annual Earth Science Show & Sale sponsored by the Rock & Mineral Club of Lower Bucks Co. PA. Christ United Methodist Church, 501 Wistar Rd; Fairless Hills, PA. Contact: Brian Schwab at 215-788-3993 or Eric Brosius at <ebrosiusrock@aol.com>

June:

3 - 4: 43rd Annual Tannehill Gem, Mineral, Fossil, & Jewelry Show sponsored by the Alabama Mineral & Lapidary Society of Birmingham, AL. at the Tannehill Ironworks State Park 12632 Confederate Parkway Mc Calla, AL. 35111 Contact: Cathy Kellogg <tannehillgemshow@gmail.com>



June

9-11: 2017 National AFMS-CFMS Show & Convention: Ventura, California
2017CFMS-AFMSShow.com or directly at (805) 312-VGMS (8467) or at: info@vgms.org.



October:

20: EFMLS Annual Meeting: Friday, October 20
21-22: 45th Annual Gem & Mineral Show and 67th & Eastern Federation Convention: Beals Community Center, 240 Stafford Ave., Bristol, Connecticut.

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.