



THE VIRGINIA PEN

GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY OF THE VIRGINIA PENINSULA



November 2017

President's Corner

Sara Phillips

Special Points of Interest:

- RMWG Rock Swap & Sale, Nov 18
- Northern VA Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show, Nov 18 & 19
- Scufflin Farm Field Trip, Nov 19
- Science Museum of VA: Virginia Earthquakes, Nov 29
- GMSVP Holiday Party, Dec 7

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Happy Thanksgiving GMSVP folks!!! It's time for turkey, turkey, and more turkey!!!!

Our membership meeting on November 2nd consisted of the voting/volunteering of two executive board positions (President and 1st Vice President/membership) and the voting/volunteering of various committee positions (hospitality, TOTE shows, library, silversmithing, and mineralogy). Congratulations to all those who volunteered for these positions! We will install the new officers and committee members at our December 7th Holiday Party.

After the voting, a survey was passed out regarding scholarship funds (where should they go), a field trip transportation option, and 2018 picnics. The survey indicated that: (1) the majority of members at the meeting would like to donate \$1,000 to The College of William and Mary's Geology Department as a student fellowship (Note: The faculty will decide who gets this donation); (2) more people would attend field trips and shows, if transportation was provided; and (3) club picnics should stay in May and September.

We have a mineral collecting field trip coming up on Sunday November 19th at Scufflin Acres Farm in Prospect, Virginia (just before the Thanksgiving holiday!). The cost for collecting will be \$10 per person for half a day (9am to 1pm) or \$20 for a whole day (9am to 5pm). Please be aware that this is a primitive collecting trip. Please see the field trip article for more information. (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.) HAVE A GREAT TURKEY DAY EVERYONE!!!!!!

Joke: How fast does a fault move? A mylonite!

Have a gneiss day!!

Sara Beth

GMSVP Holiday Party—December 7th

Michael Griffith



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

The 2018 GMSVP officers will be installed, and closing actions for 2017 and preliminary plans for 2018 will be discussed. There will be an optional Pollyanna Gift Exchange (~\$10). Gifts should be related to our hobby.



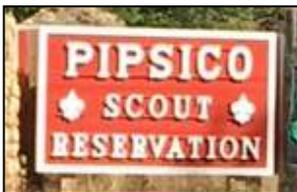
Come to the GMSVP December Holiday Party! It is a great way to celebrate the holidays with our many rockhound friends.



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It all started at the October 2017 Treasures of the Earth Gem, Mineral, and Jewelry Show in Virginia Beach, VA. We decided to stop in and take a look around, and found the Gem and Mineral Society of the Virginia Peninsula (GMSVP) booth. We were greeted by a gentleman named Bubba who was making beautiful jewelry, we commented on how elegant each piece was. He asked: "Would you like to make one, I can teach you." We excitedly said yes.



In the conversation that followed, we learned more about GMSVP and the upcoming field trip to Pipsico Boy Scout Reservation. The more we learned the more excited we became, so we registered as members that day!

I have always had an interest in fossils and fossil hunting and the day had arrived finally arrived to "get my hands dirty" again. Eager to start the adventure I arrived at Pipsico earlier than most, but found a few, more experienced "diggers" ready and willing to get started. All having the same interest, we started talking about where we came from, what type of fossils we were looking for, and where to find them. I mentioned that it was my first time at Pipsico; and everyone was so gracious to share information, especially a wonderful man named Bill. He had a collection of fossils, whale bones, clam tubes, shells, and many other specimens. He graciously took the time to explain each, where they were found, and where to look to find more. He also joined us later in the day, sharing his wealth of knowledge to identify our "finds" of the day.



Let the adventure begin! After a short walk to the beach, I stopped, looked left, looked right, and said, "Where do I begin?" I began by taking in the beauty of what was before me, beautiful calm water, sunshine, brisk temperature, and a new adventure.

Miles of coastland, high cliffs filled with fossils, and base piles of treasure appeared before my eyes. My initial focus was to find shark teeth, so I went to the suggested location to search. There was no beginners luck for me, but another GMSVP member was successful and found a few



teeth, so I know they are there!



Heading in the opposite direction, walking the shore line and searching the cliffs were both exciting and rewarding. I did get my hands dirty. My finds included clam tubes, whale bones, shells, and much more, which could be dated as much as 5 million years ago. What a treasure!

Walking along the beach, I found another treasure in the conversations I

shared with other fossil hunters and the shared interest and the excitement in the search and sometimes in the find. I discovered an excitement and passion and, for some, an intense desire to find the perfect specimen. This day was a day of new discovery, in both fossils and friendship. We're looking forward to the future and growing and learning with new-found friends.



During the Spring (May 2017) Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies (EFMLS) Wildacres Workshop, I was asked to be the EFMLS Treasurer and I said yes. I asked Walter Priest, who had been at the workshop, if he would be the EFMLS Assistant Treasurer, and he agreed to take on those duties. We carpoled to the annual meeting at Bristol, CT to learn more about the federation and be installed as officers. We planned our trip to avoid as much traffic as possible and ensure that we arrived with time to spare.

We left Thursday October 19th and drove up Hwy 17 to US 301, then toward Annapolis, across the Bay Bridge, the Jersey Turnpike, the Garden State Parkway around New York City and I-84 to Bristol. We were successful with most of the traffic in the New York City area and in road construction zones. The fall colors were only okay and weren't at their peak. We checked into the Bristol Doubletree around 9 PM after our long 12-hour trip.

Since the first EFMLS activity wasn't until 4 PM Friday, we headed to the Peabody Museum of Natural History at Yale University about an hour away. We spent four hours at the David Friend Hall of Minerals, Earth, and Space. The displays were impressive, well done, and informative. The same was true for the North America Dioramas and the Hall of Mammalian Evolution. Definitely worth a visit when you are in the area. The colors were improving as we noted on our way back to Bristol.



Next was the first official function, the Cracker Barrel Meeting. This was an informal discussion of EFMLS' successes during the year and of ideas members had about what to do in the future. General consensus was that the federation is doing things well and has the right direction for the future. The meeting lasted an hour.



At 7 PM we began the Annual Meeting, where EFMLS Officers and Committee chairs presented reports of their actions and concerns during the current year. The reports were followed by a review of the proposed 2018 budget and the election of officers for next year who assume their duties November 1, 2017. Each club attending had its president or a designated representative who was eligible to vote. Walter and I were duly elected to our new offices.



Saturday began with the Bristol Club's Rock Show at 9:30 AM in the Beals Community/Senior Center. There were about 40 vendors in two halls (one a cafeteria and the other a gym) of the converted school. There were mineral displays and judging of competitive displays in addition to the vendors. Bob Jones, senior consulting editor of Rock & Gem magazine, was the guest speaker and gave a presentation on the Bristol Copper Mine. There was also an EFMLS rock auction in the afternoon. Walter and I looked over the auction items and decided we could make better use of our time. (Cont'd on next page.)

New GMSVP Members—Welcome New Rockhounds!

Brigitta & Matthew Haggins

GMSVP has 138 Members!

Installment of 2018 GMSVP Board will be part of the December 7th GMSVP Holiday Party.

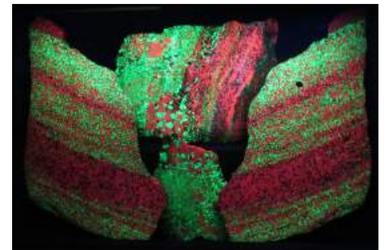
(Cont'd from prior page.) We headed for the Dinosaur State Park about 30 minutes away at Rocky Hill, CT. Hundreds of 200 million year old dinosaur tracks were discovered in 1966 during excavations for a new building. The state immediately designated the area as protected and began planning to preserve these treasures. They have built a permanent building around site and converted it to a state park. There are great displays of what it looked like long ago and have fossil activities and Connecticut rock displays for young and old alike. It was definitely worth the trip.

The Awards Banquet began at 6 PM, with a social hour followed by dinner, award presentations, and the introduction and installation of the new officers.



Sunday morning, we began packing and loaded to leave. While there was an Editors awards breakfast, we opted to go to the Hewitt Rock Quarry to collect, about 40 minutes away. It was an ideal day for collecting, with a cool, light breeze and a bit of shade. On the Saturday before, there had been people cutting and tossing pieces from the quarry to ease our job. We were looking for beryl, tourmaline, aquamarine, and mica. We found several nice pieces and lots of pieces to be used for gem tree bases. Tired, we departed in the early afternoon and headed back to the New York City area to spend the night.

Monday morning we were up early and on the road to the Sterling Hill Mining Museum, Ogdensburg, NJ. Neither one of us had been there before, nor were we sure what to expect. Numerous people at the EFMLS meeting had told us to visit the Franklin Mineral Museum, about 30 minutes from Sterling Hill. Walter had been there several years ago, and had liked it but found the collecting hard. Both sites are known for their fluorescent minerals. We passed the turn to Franklin and headed for Sterling Hill. It was a little hard to find because of a construction detour. The mine was known for its high zinc ore concentrations and the high concentration of minerals which glow under ultraviolet (UV) light.



As we entered the parking area we saw mining equipment and mineral displays in and around the welcome center and there were several school buses parked in the lot with students off-loading. We parked and went



inside the center and gift shop. We paid the collecting fee and were escorted to the collecting area, where there was an old level railroad bed lined on both sides with rock piles about 40 yards long. The first 10 yards on the right had minerals from around the world and the rest were from Sterling Hill. On the right side, there was a shed with a short wave UV light source to check our finds.

We began looking and checking the materials that caught our attention. We were able to break the rocks and keep the best parts for our collections. We paid \$1.50 per pound for the materials we kept. After about two hours of looking we went back to the center, paid for our treasures, cleaned up, and had a traditional miner's lunch of pasties (a meat, potato, and onion mixture in a flour shell that is baked). This was a common meal for Cornish hard rock miners that could be warmed over their candle light.

At 1:00 PM we started on the daily mine tour with our guide Clarissa, a very personable (Cont'd on next page.)

(Cont'd from prior page.) young lady. Walter and I were the only ones on the tour. We went through the collecting area, down some stairs, and arrived at the old miners shower room. She opened the building, turned on the lights, and we saw the 5,000 square foot Zobel Exhibit Hall. We had free reign of the room filled with hundreds of mineral specimens and displays (would rival those in the Smithsonian), mining equipment, and historical information. Included was a 10-foot long Periodic Table with a sample of the actual element, an ore sample, and an item made from the element. When we were ready, we moved to the mine entrance and went inside. The tour was about a half mile in length and went through the actual tunnels used in mining. It included the rainbow room (fluorescent zinc ore) with both normal lighting and UV lighting, a shaft station used to move miners between mine levels, a blasting demonstration, and many more displays (including movie set). The tour ended with the Warren Museum of Fluorescence, a three room collection with over 700 specimens as well as everyday items that also fluoresce. We returned to the gift shop one last time for a final look.

I would rate the Sterling Hill Mine Tour as the highlight of the trip and recommend it to anyone headed that way. Our adventure complete, we headed home, tired but happy.



Terrific News from EFMLS Wildacres! Steve Weinberger, Wildacres Committee Chair

Source: EFMLS News Volume 65, Number 1, November, 2017

Although we don't yet have the dates for our fall 2018 EFMLS Wildacres Workshop we are delighted to let you know that our spring session will be: **May 21 - 27**.

And...drumroll please, our Speaker-in-Residence will be the always exciting and popular: **Helen Serras-Herman!**



Helen comes to us from Arizona and will be accompanied by her wonderful husband Andy. She's an award winning glyptographer (gem carver) who also creates one-of-a-kind jewelry utilizing a variety of materials including carved gemstones, beads, silver and gold findings, and carved and cast silver portraits. A few of her creations can be seen on her website (www.gemartcenter.com). Helen is passionate about her work, and that passion translates into her always interesting talks.

As of this writing, Director Pamm is working on the schedule of classes to be offered; we should have these for you in the December issue of EFMLS News. We anticipate lots of interest in our session, so we encourage you to register for this (and/or the fall session) as early in 2018 as you can to ensure your place.

Tuition for 2018 will be \$425, a slight increase from this year because of an increase imposed on us by the Wildacres Retreat. Regardless, those of you who have attended a Wildacres session in the past, know that it's a fabulous bargain. Where can you get a week of lodging in comfortable rooms with private bath, outstanding talks by a delightful speaker-in-residence, instruction given by outstanding teachers, and so much more? Registration will begin in January. (Editors Note: EFMLS Wildacres website is: <http://efmls-wildacres.org/>).



October 28th was a pleasantly warm day for fossil collecting on the James River at the Pipsico Boy Scout Reservation as guests of the Boy Scouts and our hosts in the Mountain Area Gem and Mineral Association (MAGMA). This area was frequently covered by water during the Tertiary Period, and the bluffs along the riverbank provide a constant flow to the river of fossils from the Pliocene and Miocene Epochs. This field trip is the perfect adventure for families, new collectors, and old hands as it is literally impossible to walk along the river without stepping on fossils!



The most common fossils were Chesapectens with at least three species represented, including the Chesapecten Jeffersonius, our Virginia State Fossil and the first scientifically reported fossil in the New World in the 17th Century! Fossil clams, clam burrows, oysters, barnacles, and coral also were easily found. Members of our group also found fossil sharks' teeth and whale bone; one lucky couple even found an intact fossil sea urchin! Collecting was permitted from 9 AM to dark, but most success was registered at low tide when more treasures were revealed along the water's edge. Collecting is allowed along the beach and river bank; but, for safety and erosion reasons climbing or digging in the bluffs was not permitted.



Shown in the pictures are the author and his wife Nannette examining a large matrix of

fossil shells and their favorite finds of the day.



**The 26th Annual Richmond Gem & Mineral Society
Rock Sale and Swap**

Saturday, November 18, 2017
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

*The Rock Sale/Swap is indoors (overflow will be in the parking lot), so come rain or shine!
Open to children and adults (from novice to expert) to purchase or trade (swap) mineral, gem,
fossil, shell, and lapidary specimens.*

Ridge Baptist Church Meeting Hall
1515 East Ridge Road, Richmond, VA 23229

- Doors open at 7:00 a.m. for inside setup. Inside table fees are \$20.00 per table (regardless of 6' or 8' table size) and are limited (44 total tables). RGMS will provide all interior tables which are a mix of 6' and 8'.
- Parking lot spaces are \$20 for approximately 6 spaces and you must provide your own tables.
- Everyone please bring your own table coverings.

To register for a table(s) or exterior space, please download the registration form and mail (with fee) to the address listed on the form. We suggest a 2 table limit. Table reservations are based on "first received, first assigned".

ALL PARTICIPANTS - PLEASE LABEL YOUR MATERIAL Please have at least one flat of good material specifically labeled for children and novice collectors for swap (trade) or give away. Promote the hobby!

To defray sale/swap costs, RGMA asks that each seller/swapper provide a least one nice specimen or similar item for our annual auction. Please no junk!

Food and beverages are available at near-by restaurants. Restroom facilities are available in the building.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Andy Dietz (dietziv@yahoo.com) or Bob Simon (dino_safaris@yahoo.com).

DIRECTIONS: Since 1998 the swap has been at this location in Henrico County near Regency Square Mall and Douglas S. Freeman High School.

North or South of Richmond, Virginia:
Use I-95 to Exit 79 to I-84 West (North of Richmond City). Leave I-84 at Exit 181A (South) on Parham Road. Proceed south on Parham Road for about 1.5 miles and TURN LEFT ONTO EAST RIDGE ROAD. (A right turn at this intersection takes you onto Quicoocasin Road to Regency Square Mall). The Ridge Baptist Church and Meeting Hall are 400 feet on the right, across from Kroger's Grocery. MEETING HALL IS THE WHITE BUILDING at the rear of the parking lot. There is ample parking in front of the Meeting Hall. Swap signs will mark both entrances.

East or West of Richmond, Virginia
Use I-94 to Exit 181A (South) and follow the directions above.



Dr. Karenne Snow Briefing on Devonian Fossils

Facebook users who “like” geology sites may be familiar with Cathy Young and her Mid-Atlantic Fossil and Nature Adventures (<http://www.fossilandnaturetrips.com/>) firm. She recently offered a two-day, five-site fossil hunting trip to northern Pennsylvania that coincided with a scheduled visit we were making, so we signed up and met her in Williamsport, PA the last weekend in October. With her was an exceptionally well-qualified geology expert, Dr. Karenne Snow, who gave short presentations and displays of what fossils we should find at each site and then accompanied us to those sites to provide additional advice and coaching.



Nannette Fulmer

The first stop was Red Hill, but on the way we stopped at the North Bend Museum where we viewed a wonderful display of local fish and plant fossils. There we also met Doug Rowe, a long-time researcher at Red Hill and a source of advice and information on Red Hill fossil collecting. Red Hill, not surprisingly, was primarily red shale with an abundance of fossils, especially Devonian brachiopods. This area is recognized as a formal research site and is only open to organized groups by prior arrangement. We then went to Hyner View State Park for lunch and more fossil information from Dr. Snow before heading to the Antes Creek



Silurian Reef

and a variety of Ordovician fossils. Along the way we passed an upturned Silurian ocean reef but only had time for photos.



Coal Mining Overhang

The next day we drove to McIntyre Mountain, a former coal mining site and dug through the tailing overhangs for tree fern fossils. My wife is a dedicated rock splitter, but I had just as much success by simply turning over rocks! Cordaites, Cyperites, Anularia, and Pecopteris were some of the more common specimens found there. We drove down the mountain to Rock Run State Park for a picnic lunch and then to an amazing roadcut on the edge of Danville. Amazing because of the abundance of Devonian brachiopod fossils waiting to be picked up. A few



Tree Fern Fossils McIntyre Mountain

trilobites were also found here but I was not so lucky. Our final destination was the close-by Montour Preserve Fossil Pit, a former borrow pit and another spot once covered by the Devonian Sea. This area is open to the public and has restrooms nearby. Fossils found there include coral, brachiopods, crinoids, trilobites, and bryozoans.

We had folks of all ages on the trip and everyone had a fun and educational experience. Having experts along made a world of difference, and I now have a new love of borrow pits and road cuts. What makes them great is that no matter how

many fellow rockhounds are working the area, more rock is always being exposed as rockhounds slip and slide on the slopes. Just be sure if you are working a road cut that road traffic is not going to be a safety issue and that local authorities have no objection to your search.

MANDRELS



Straight rod mandrels have a multitude of uses in helping to bend sheet and wire, and frequently we need a round rod for winding jump rings. Common sources for different sized rods are knitting needles, wooden dowels and clothes hangers. Metal rods can also be found in hardware stores and hobby shops.



But to get the right "look" in chain maile designs, you must have exactly the right size mandrel, and often those are not easy to find. Jewelry catalogs sell selections of straight rod mandrels for \$50 or more, but my choice is a set of transfer punches used in woodworking. The set has 28 sizes, from 3/32 inch to 1/2 inch, and is only about \$12. In the U.S., it is available from Harbor Freight as item number #3577, and in Europe, it's available from MZS in the Netherlands as item number 250575.

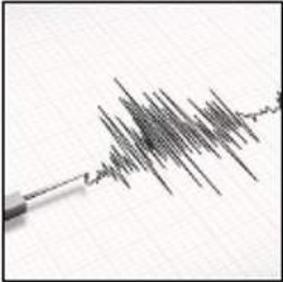
JUST SAY NO TO OPTIVISORS

I was having my annual vision-check and the light-bulb went on: why not have my reading glasses made with bifocals that would magnify the same as the Optivisors? So I asked the ophthalmologist if he could add around +2.00 diopters into bifocals.



The Science Museum of Virginia
Lunch Break Science
presented by Bon Secours

Nov 29, 2017
12-1 pm
David Spears (DMME)
Virginia Earthquakes

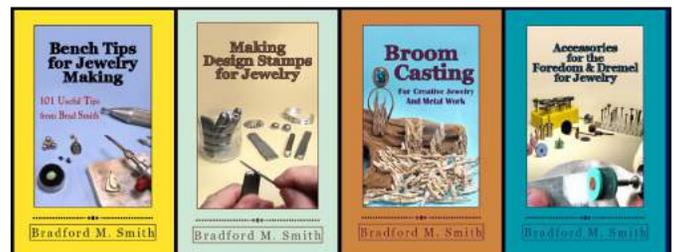


Bring your lunch, and enjoy the presentation!

Lunch Break Science is always **FREE** admission as in no charge, just check in at the front desk for an admission sticker where you'll be directed to the 3rd floor (Ms. Barbara Thalhimer Theatre).
First come, first seated in the 122-seat arena.

He checked with his supervisor and came back all excited. They all agreed that was a great idea and even gave him a special device to measure how far I hold a jewelry piece from my eye, so they could get the focal distance exactly right. So if all goes well, no more sweaty bulky Optivisors! (Thanks to Gary Strickland)

Learn New Jewelry Skills With Brad's How-To-Do-It Books at: www.Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith.



2500 W. Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23220; <http://www.smv.org/>

Source: RGMS The Collecting Bag, Vol 57, Issue 11, November



Most likely everyone knows about a field trip leader, mine master, or dig leader. But, what about a field trip follower? You know—follower, the last one in line, the person who helps the stragglers and others not so quick to get to the mine.

The story: Some few folks know that I am a hiker and a person who can run up a mountain and take nary a deep breath. A group was going up a local mountain and, probably because of my hiking background, invited me along. This was a mixed group of various ages and abilities, with few having hiking experience. As I'd been up the mountain many a time, I was sort of the guide/leader of the excursion.

While still in the parking lot at the base, several of the young bucks and buckettes decided to go on up ahead. I had no difficulty or concerns about that because the trail was very well marked and next to impossible to go astray. This was a church group mind you.

So, I appointed myself the field trip follower. Much of the group had gone on ahead, and I sort of stayed with the last fellow in line. I did not let on that I was going slow simply to match his pace. He looked enthused about the hike but I had some reservations about his abilities.

The climb was modestly steep along several stretches of the trail. Perhaps 1/2 way up, with the others well ahead of us, the fellow again stopped to rest. He casually mentioned that he had forgotten to bring his heart meds. That was the first moment in the hike, when I thought I was going to be the one to need heart meds for myself. Instead of slapping my forehead and enquiring of the fellow: "What were you thinking?" I kept my poker face, kept calm, and tried to maintain my composure. I assured him that I too liked frequent rest stops. I posed the question of turning back and his comment was as expected, he was going on, no matter what. Hmmmm, well, that was the second time I thought I might need heart meds. Okay, all right, we pressed on. We 'aided' one another with frequent stops for rest and conversation. I found many reasons to stop, talk and admire the beauty of the trail and undergrowth. Perhaps 3/4 of the way up some of the young bucks and buckets passed us as they headed down. The fellow and I did make it to the top, enjoyed the view, and soon headed back down - all the while taking almost as many rest breaks as we did on the way up.

Returning to the parking lot to join the picnic, things appeared to return to normal...ish. I'm not sure my heart had relaxed yet.

That trip occurred years ago, in the pre-cell phone era. From that day onward, I often became the self-appointed follower. A self-appointed follower when hiking, field tripping, jogging, ice climbing, biking, kayaking, cross-country skiing--whatever.

Does your club's field trip, mine master, dig leader also have a follower? Might be something to consider. Sometimes at the top of a mountain or mine, folks are so busy they may not take note that a person did not show up. Even in this day and age, in the wild and woolies of the mountains, cell phones can be problematic. Besides, someone might be hurt enough so as to be unable to use one to call for help.

There are a great many ways of keeping members safe, please consider taking advantage of ail of them. Even being a follower is good. Your safety matters.

"Remember, we agreed. I'd carry the canned goods in if you'd carry the rocks out."

by Ebners from Dust & Grit 2/00
via Golden Spike News 3/00

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

Please contact Mary Hood to sign up for the field trip or for additional information.

Email: Mhood4@msn.com

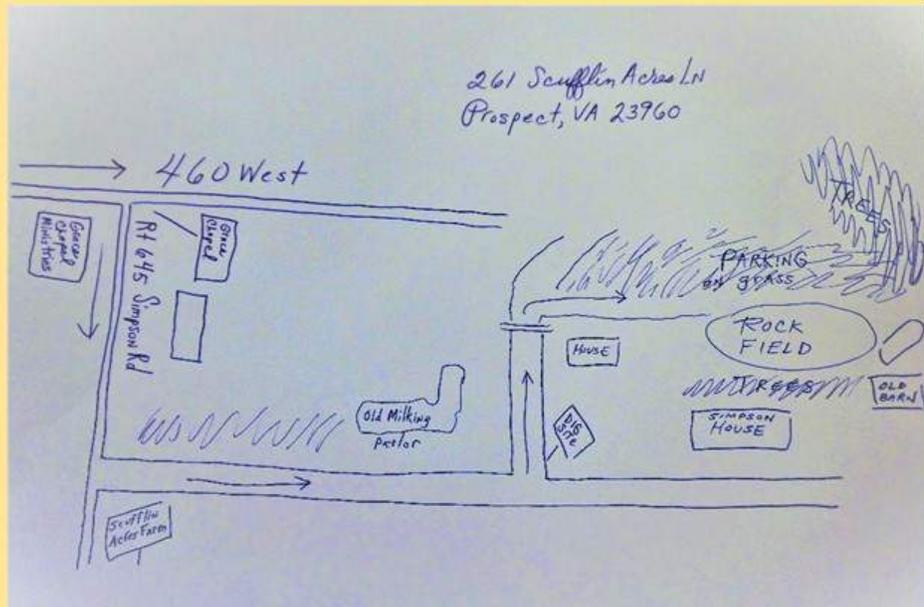
Phone: (757) 771-8675

Date: Sunday, November 19, 2017

Fees: \$10 for a half day (From 9am-1pm)
\$20 for a full day (From 9am-5pm)

Address: 261 Scufflin Acres Lane, Prospect, VA 23960

Details: The map below provides some directions to the site. We will meet at the gate to the digging site at **9AM**. Sean Harley will show everybody where to dig, what to look for, etc. Sean will also collect the fees and have waivers to sign at the digging site. A 4-wheel drive is not required. You should bring buckets for collection, a shovel, a trowel, water, food, etc. Digging may not be required; you can find quite a bit on the ground. Participants will have the opportunity to find amethyst, quartz, citrine, mica, some nice feldspar.



Our club is only successful because of all of your help. Thanks for serving as a board member or on one of our many committees!

NEW GMU LOCATION FOR 2017!!



Presented by The Northern Virginia Club, Inc.
Sponsored by the Dept. of Atmospheric, Oceanic and Earth Sciences at GMU

www.novamineralclub.org

Date: November 18 & 19, 2017

Place: Dewberry Hall, Johnson Center
George Mason University Campus
Braddock Rd. & Route 123, Fairfax, VA

Hours: Saturday 10 am - 6 pm, Sunday 10 am - 4 pm

Admission: Adults: \$6, Seniors: \$4, Teens (13-17): \$3
Children 12 & under & Scouts in uniform are FREE
GMU Students w/valid ID are FREE

\$1 OFF

Adult admission
with this card
(applies to all adults
+ seniors in your
group)

Demonstrations, Exhibits, Kids Activities, and Door Prizes.
Mini-mines for children to dig in and get free fossils and minerals.
Over 20 Dealers with Fossils, Minerals, Crystals and Gems for sale.

Use Parking lot A, enter Lot A from Nottoway River Lane.
Look for our Courtesy Shuttle & Designated Walking Path to Mineral Show

If you have not already done so, please pay your 2018 GMSVP membership dues at the December 7th Holiday Party. Our 2018 club insurance is based on our number of members.



Find us on
Facebook

www.gmsvp.org



2018 Show Dates

Looks like there will be three
(versus four) shows next year: Spring (TBD),
July 20 - 22, and October 12 - 14



GMSVP Holiday Party

Thursday, December 7th, 7 PM
Sandy Bottom Nature Park's Nature Center
Hampton, VA

Gem Tree Workshop

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





- Sara Phillips opened the meeting at 7 PM by asking if we had any new members or visitors. Two people responded by standing and introducing themselves.
- Sara called Larry Hawks forwarded and presented him with an AFMS certificate for his article: “How I Upgraded an Inexpensive Tile Saw to a Trim Saw.”
- Sara passed out a Survey on a scholarship, field trips, and picnics to our members. She asked that we fill it out and return it before 8:15 PM, so that the results may be tabulated and announced. Results were to:
 - o Provide a \$1000 scholarship to the College of William and Mary Geology Department,
 - o Have a large van to transport members to a distant field trip and gem and mineral show, and
 - o Keep our picnics in May and September.

New Business

- Sara announced that it's the time of year for our club elections. The 2018 GMSVP Board are:
 - o President: Vinton Feanny (New)
 - o 1st VP/Membership: Walter Priest (New)
 - o 2nd VP/Programs: Michael Griffith
 - o Secretary: David Scharff
 - o Treasurer: Gary Bergtholdt
- 2018 Committee Chairs
 - o Field Trips: Mary Hood
 - o Hospitality: Brigitta Haggins (New)
 - o Pebble Pups: Co-Chair #1 Vacant; Co-Chair #2 Christine Hempley,
 - o Shows: Vacant
 - o Newsletter: Dan Fontaine
 - o Property: Tom Meyers (New)
 - o Librarian/Historian: Vacant
 - o Faceting: Chuck Rogers
 - o Silversmithing: Vacant
 - o Publicity: Michael Griffith
 - o Mineralogy: Walter Priest,
 - o Webmaster: Holly Worsham

Reports:

- Executive Committee Updates
 - o President: Sara Beth restated that she will be stepping down as GMSVP President and from the EFMLS Region IV Vice President.
 - o 1st VP/Membership: It's that time of the year to renew your annual membership, \$15 for an individual, \$20 for a couple, and \$25 for a family.
 - o 2nd VP/Programs and Facebook: Michael announced that the Facebook page was very successful. He is posting multiple new articles almost every day.
 - o Secretary: No report
 - o Treasurer: Gary gave a very positive report.
- Standing Committee Updates
 - o Field Trips: Mary announced that our next field trip is Sunday, November 19th to Scufflin Acres Farm to collect minerals and rocks. The fee is \$10 for a half day collecting and \$20 for a full day. Mary told us further details were available in a flyer distributed by e-mail and on the club's website. Our next MAGMA Pipsico Fossil Collecting Trip is April 8, 2018.
 - o Pebble Pups: Christine described the activity for tonight's meeting. Someone (Cont'd on next page.)



- o (Cont'd from prior page.) volunteered to be a part time volunteer to assist Christine.
- o Hospitality: Pat announced that our next meeting on December 7th will be our Holiday Party. She informed us that the club will provide the ham and turkey. Members are requested to bring the sides and desserts. Walter invited everyone to share in a Polly Anna gift exchange at the Holiday Party; those desiring to participate were invited to bring a small wrapped rock-related gift for the exchange.
- o TOTE Shows: No report.
- o Newsletter: Dan has submitted our newsletter and 6 articles from our members to the 2018 EFMLS Bulletin Contest. Winners will be announced at the EFMLS Convention in April 2018.
- o Webmaster: Holly shared that our web site won 1st place in the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies (SFMS).
- o Property: Tom Meyers will be our Property Manager starting in January 2018.
- o Library: Sara shared that the club is considering purchasing an online membership, so that all club members have access to geology related information. Examples of online membership: Earth Magazine - \$20 for 12 digital issues per year and Rocks and Minerals Magazine - \$235 per year (digital and print).
- o Faceting: No report
- o Silversmithing: No report. Bubba Ward presented the idea of building another storage building near our other building to store the Silversmithing tools and equipment.
Mineralogy: No report
- Sara closed the business meeting at 7:30 PM. Michael Griffith provided a program on several new rock/mineral/fossil collecting locations that he has recently explored.

Minutes prepared by David Scharff

November 6, 2017

/ original signed /

Visit a Show

Source: EFMLS News Volume 65, Number 1, November 2017 & SFMS Lodestar October 2017

November 25-26: Rock and Mineral Weekend sponsored by the Morris Museum Mineralogical Society. Morris Museum, 6 Normany Heights Rd; Morristown, NJ. Info: kfrancis@morrismuseum.org

December 1-3: 43 Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil, & Jewelry Show. Veterans Memorial Park, 14333 Hicks Rd., Hudson FL 34669. Contacts: Judith Bix at 352-587-1702 or <http://www.withlacoocheerockhounds.com/>.

December 2-3: Gem, Jewelry, Mineral & Fossil Show sponsored by the Miami Mineralogical and Lapidary Guild. Evelyn Greer Park, 8200 SW 124 St; (Village of Pinecrest) one block off US 1. Info: www.miamigemandmineral.com

January 20: Mineral and Fossil Swap & Sell sponsored by the Philadelphia Mineral Society. The Schuykill Center for Environmental Education, 8480 Hagy Mill Rd; Philadelphia (Andorra), PA 19128. Info and Reservations: John Rateike 215-576- 0741 at: jdrat@comcast.net.

February 17-18: Treasure Coast Rock and Gem Show by the Treasure Coast Rock and Gem Society. Vero Beach at the Community Center, 14th Avenue & 23rd Street Downtown, Vero Beach, FL. Contacts: <http://www.treasurecoastrgs@gmail.org>; Vina Proper at 772-519-0533; or Ann Metz at 772-231-0218

February 24-25: 59th Gem, Mineral, Fossil and Jewelry Show by the Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society. Mississippi Trade Mart on the State Fairgrounds in Jackson, Mississippi. MGMS website: www.missgems.org.

March 24-25: 49th Annual Gem and Mineral Show sponsored by the Che-Hanna Rock & Mineral Club. Wysox Vol. Fire Co Social Hall, 111 Lake Rd; Wysox, PA. Info: www.chehannarocks.com

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.