



THE VIRGINIA PEN

GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY OF THE VIRGINIA PENINSULA



December 2017

President's Corner

Sara Phillips

Special Points of Interest:

- GMSVP Member Meeting, Jan 4, 7 PM
- GMSVP Board Meeting, Jan 8, 7 PM

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Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone!!!! I hope everyone has a great holiday!

Our membership meeting on December 7th consisted of our annual Christmas dinner, presenting members with awards for their winning articles in the SFMS Bulletin Contest, presenting pebble pups awards, and installing our new officers (executive board) for 2018. I was presented with a president's gift of lepidolite (a sample that I actually do not have), and I thought it was very sweet and thoughtful! I actually cried a little bit, (okay maybe a lot), because I was so moved by the gesture and sad

that I cannot continue to lead this group.

This is my last article as your president. I have had a wonderful 2 years leading this group. Geology is a huge part of my life, and I am so glad that I got to share it with all of you. Hopefully, I have inspired and taught you all some new and interesting things. I appreciate everything that you all have done for me – it's the entire group that keeps this club functioning. Thank you to my executive board and committee chairs for everything you have done. Thanks to those members who have helped out with the TOTE shows and picnics. We could not have done all of these things without volunteers.

Here is a short poem that I wrote for all of you, about my experience as being your president: (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

P. O. Box 6424
Newport News, VA 23602

Web: <http://www.gmsvp.org>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/pages/The-Gem-and-Mineral-Society-of-the-Virginia-Peninsula-GMSVP/275041405841489

Officers

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gbergtholdt@gmail.com

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Hospitality: Pat Fontaine,
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Pebble Pups: Co-Chair #1

Vacant; Co-Chair #2 Christine
Hempley, offalstuff@gmail.com

Shows: **Vacant**

Newsletter: Dan Fontaine,
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Librarian/Historian: **Vacant**

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Publicity: Michael Griffith,
mgriff8645@aol.com

Mineralogy: Walter Priest,
wetlanddesign@gmail.com

Webmaster: Holly Worsham,
gmsvp.web@gmail.com

(Note: Contact information for
2018 Officers and Committee
Chairs will updated in the next
newsletter.)

President's Corner (Cont'd)

Sara Phillips

(Cont'd from prior page.)

"When I first arrived,
I saw something shiny
And then I thought:
That rock sure is tiny!

I began my adventure
By being your field trip committee chair,
And then I thought:
How do I get to the Presidential chair?

I volunteered for President
And was soon sworn in,
And then I thought:
The fun is about to begin!

TOTE shows, field trips, and speaking

engagements
Happened all the time.
And then I thought:
This Presidential gig is sublime!

Now the fun is over,
Now I must leave,
And then I thought:
The replacement will be
great.....Ms. Vinton Feanny."

I will still be available if anyone needs to
get in touch with me. Please e-mail me at
sphillips@ecslimited.com. I will miss you
all!!!

Have a gneiss day!!
Sara Beth

January Meeting Program

Michael Griffith

One of our members, Greg Hajos, will share some thoughts
about his visit to the Gray Fossil Site digs and museum in
Gray, Tennessee. The East Tennessee State University
(ETSU) Center for Excellence in Paleontology is actively
digging the site and cleaning and restoring the fossils.

This fossil site was discovered in 2000 by TDOT
construction workers digging a road cut. The road was
rerouted to save the site. It is believed that 4.5-7 million
years ago, the site had a limestone karst that formed a
sinkhole. The sinkhole filled with water. Animals used the
sinkhole as the local drinking hole, fell in, and sank to the
bottom. The hole filled in with silt over the years preserving the bones as fossils.

Large animals found so far include rhinos, tapirs, alligators, sabertooth cats, and
red pandas. Turtles, squirrels, and other rodent fossils also are found.



GMSVP's "The Virginia Pen": Non-commercial reprint permission is granted to non-profit
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available in our efforts to advance the educational understanding of the amateur jewelry
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use material from this publication for commercial or purposes of your own that go beyond 'fair
use', you must obtain permission from the copyright owner.

About 35 club members enjoyed our December Holiday Party. It was truly a feast that included turkey, ham, all the fixings, and lots of desserts!



Two of our members, Wally Vogel and Mickey Whalen, added to the festive atmosphere by bringing some holiday plants for purchase.

Sara Phillips installed our 2018 GMSVP Board. Our new board is: Vinton Feanny, President; Walter Priest, 1st VP Membership; Michael Griffith, 2nd VP Programs; David Scharff, Secretary; and Gary Bergtholdt, Treasurer.



(Left to Right) Dave Scharff, Gary Bergtholdt, Vinton Feanny, Michael Griffith, Walter Priest, & Sara Phillips



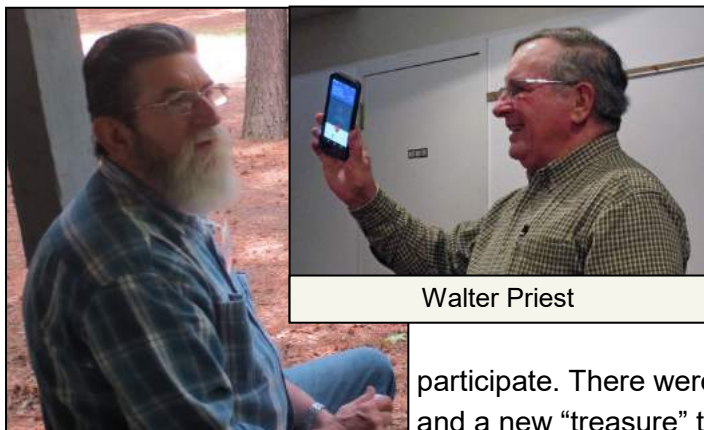
Christine Hempley passed out Future Rockhound of America (FRA) badges to three of our Pebble Pups. The American Federation of Mineralogical Societies' (AFMS) FRA program offers a total of 20 badges. To earn a badge, kids must complete at least 3 of the designated activities for that badge.

Dan Fontaine also passed out certificates to GMSVP members that received awards from the 2017 Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies (SFMS) Bulletin Contest. See page 4 for an article on the winning articles and members!



(Left to Right) Vinton Feanny, Dan Fontaine, Sara Phillips, Brenda Hawks, and Gary Bergtholdt

One of our club's "old guard," Hank Woods, left to relocate



Hank Woods

Walter Priest

to Texas earlier this year. He is missed! Walter Priest called him during the holiday party for all of us to wish him a Merry Christmas!!!

The party included a rock-related pollyanna gift exchange for those wanting to

participate. There were lots of laughing and a new "treasure" to add to personal collections.





(Left to Right) Vinton Feanny, Dan Fontaine, Sara Phillips, Brenda Hawks, and Gary Bergtholdt

Each year, the regional mineralogical and lapidary societies have a bulletin contest to encourage improvement and development of club bulletins/newsletters. As a member of both the Eastern and Southeast Federations, we are eligible to enter either of the Federation bulletin contests. This year, we participated in the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies (SFMS) contest.

We submitted our newsletter for the large bulletin category and seven articles for the categories of Written Features (articles that add “spice” to the bulletin) and Original Adult Articles (educational/technical articles).



The awards were announced during the Editor’s Breakfast at the SFMS Annual Convention on October 20 - 22 in Knoxville, TN. Our newsletter won first place and six of our members were awarded certificates for their articles (see below).

Our club members do a great job supporting our newsletter with interesting and educational articles related to our hobby. Many of our members have used articles as ideas for family field trips to collecting sites and rock shops. Our members truly make our club great!

**Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies (SFMS)
2017 Bulletin Editor’s Contest GMSVP Awards**

Author	Article	Award Category	Newsletter Links
Ellie Pitts	Why Wildacres Means So Much to Me	Honorable Mention - Written Features	December 2016
Sara Phillips	Thermal City and Emerald Village Field Trip	Tied Tenth Place - Written Features	August 2016
Vinton Feanny	Wildacres Workshop Experience Begs to be Repeated	Eighth Place - Original Adult Articles	June 2016
Daniel Fontaine	Our Family Field Trip through Utah	Sixth Place - Written Features	April 2016
Gary Bergtholdt	Polishing: Adding the Extra Touch to Your Project	Fourth Place - Original Adult Articles	February 2016
Gary Bergtholdt	Clean Genies after Use at TOTE Shows or Picnics	Fourth Place - Written Features	January 2016
Larry Hawks	How I Upgraded an Inexpensive Tile Saw to a Trim Saw	Second Place - Original Adult Articles	November 2016
Daniel Fontaine	The Virginia Pen, May 2016	First Place - Large Bulletins Category	May 2016

New GMSVP Members—Welcome New Rockhounds!

No new members during the past month

GMSVP has 138 Members!

Kudos to two of our newer club members! Please help these great members!

Brigitta Haggins is our new Hospitality Committee Chair. Hospitality is an important social committee that helps create the welcome, fun atmosphere for our members at the meeting.

Tom Meyers is our new Property Committee Chair. Tom manages the shed and ensures our lapidary equipment is in good working order.

William Holland School of Lapidary Arts

Source: SFMS Website (<http://amfed.org/sfms/william-holland-retreat.html>)

The **William Holland School of Lapidary Arts** is situated on a mountain in north Georgia near the North Carolina border. It is a Rockhound's Dream come true. Here, near Young Harris College, is a special school that is like no other in the United States. The serious Rockhound can learn how to turn rough gems into family keepsakes. With dedication and determination, an inspired group of hobbyists is making it possible for many others to enjoy the fruits of their knowledge.



The lapidary arts include all the skills that are required to make custom jewelry. At the William Holland School of Lapidary Arts, classes are taught by volunteer instructors in such procedures as faceting, silversmithing, the making of cabochons, wire crafting, wax modeling and casting, bead knotting and design, and opal cutting. Some weeks also include chain making, stained glass, basket making, and copper tooling. Gem and mineral identification classes are also offered. Students learn to use all the special tools and shop safety is stressed. Each student carries home the fruits of his or her efforts as well as fond memories of new acquaintances.

The facilities include a main building (lodge) of two stories whose upper ground floor is like a motel with 29 bedrooms, each with a private bath and two beds, one double, and one twin. Two bedrooms are equipped for the handicapped. The lower ground level contains 13 classrooms, the kitchen, and dining room. Each bedroom has a ceiling fan and air-conditioning was added during the 1997 season. A separate building, the Seabolt Building, houses the George Kasper Memorial Library. This building also has facilities for a campground with 10 spaces with full hookups. On September 1, 2001, we opened Mary Lou's Cottage. This building will be used by the instructors. There are 8 bedrooms, a kitchen and common area.



The school is named for a deceased past president of the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies. The creation of the William Holland School of Lapidary Arts was built through the personal philanthropy of Harold Sparks, another SFMS past president, and his wife Mary Lou. Much of the construction work was a volunteer effort of many members of the Southeast Federation. Furnishings and workshop equipment were donated by various clubs and societies in the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies. Harold has passed away but his family still operates the school for the benefit of rockhounds throughout the United States.



The school is operated from April through October with certain weeks being set aside for special workshops sponsored by and for members of the Southeast Federation. All rockhounds are eligible to participate during the remainder of the season. Classes are of one week duration, and the courses vary during the time the school is in operation. A student takes one class for the week.

The workshop week begins on Sunday with check-in after 3 PM; dinner is at 6 PM. Classes start at 9 AM on Monday.

Tuesday night is generally scheduled for an auction with items donated by students and instructors. Proceeds go into classroom equipment and supplies.



For more information write to:
William Holland School of Lapidary Arts
P.O. Box 980
Young Harris, GA 30582
706-379-2126

William Holland School Internet site: <http://www.lapidaryschool.org/>

[William Holland School has OPEN (to everyone) classes during non-federation weeks - April through October. Call or email the school for more information.]

Ready, Set, Register!

Steve Weinberger, EFMLS Wildacres Committee Chair

Source: EFMLS News, Volume 65, Number 2 December, 2017

I just received the list and descriptions for our spring 2018 classes, and I'm quite excited. In addition to our fabulous guest speaker Helen Serras- Herman, we have a wide selection of offerings including several offered by outstanding teachers who are new to us. In addition, some of our popular classes will be offered as well.



Not been to a Wildacres before? What are you waiting for? In our view, you cannot find a better bargain and a better week combining talks by our speaker-in-residence, a variety of classes from which to choose, an activity day so you can go off campus and explore the surrounding area, an always fun auction and much, much more.



Wildacres is a private retreat located on its own mountain just off the Blue Ridge Parkway about an hour north of Asheville, NC. There are no TVs blaring car horns, or city noises to disturb the sounds of laughter, music (if there's a musicians' class on the mountain with us), and bird chirps.

Tuition for the week long session is just \$425 per person. This fee includes room, wonderful meals each day, instruction by our outstanding teachers, etc.

The only additional charge will be for the materials used in the class or classes you sign-up for.



The class offerings for spring are and a registration form are included on the next few pages. Please fill out the registration form, write your check, and send it to our Registrar, Suzie Milligan, on January 1st or shortly thereafter so you can be a part of the fun in the beautiful mountains of North Carolina.

Breaking News: Dates for our fall session have just been received. Mark your calendar now and plan to join us the week of September 3 - 9. Information on the Fall Workshop should be coming out next month.

Wildacres Spring Classes – May 21 – 27, 2018

Speaker in Residence: Helen Serras- Herman

Class & Instructor	Description
Beaded Bezel: Mia Schulman	Instead of using metal to set your cabochons, we will set them by using rows of small beads. The end result is a striking piece of jewelry suitable for any occasion. 2-day class offered first semester and no prior experience necessary.
Knitted Wire & Bead Bracelet: Mia Schulman	Don't worry; you don't have to know how to knit. These bracelets are stunning and people are always surprised when told they are knitted. 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.

Cont'd on next page.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Wildacres Spring Classes – May 21 – 27, 2018 (Cont'd)

Speaker in Residence: Helen Serras- Herman

Class & Instructor	Description
Cold Connections I: Morning Sherrod	This class will start with basic skills such as the proper use of a jeweler's saw, hammering, patterns, doming with dapping blocks using a die cutter, and how to anneal metal. We will be using copper, brass, bronze, and silver to add color and character to your jewelry. Connections will be accomplished using rivets, jump rings, and wire. We will also learn about patinas and etching. After the mandatory projects are finished, you will be challenged to use your imagination to construct projects of your own under my supervision. This will be a fun class with finished pieces to take home. It will also provide a framework for more advanced projects. All materials and use of my tools for projects are included in class fees. I will have materials and kits for purchase if you want to purchase to take home. If you are not a beginner, I will have more advanced projects available. Please be patient and considerate of your fellow students as everyone may be at a different skill level. No prerequisites necessary. 2-day class, first semester.
Cold Connections II: Morning Sherrod	I am excited you are joining me in an advanced metal working class. We will be etching, texturizing, setting cabs, and using prongs, tabs and sandwiching techniques. Also we will be sweat soldering metals together. I will first go over the techniques you will need for the projects, and demonstrate as needed. You will be challenged to create your own work. I'm there to assist you with your project. Everyone will be on different projects. Beginners are welcome!!! I will work with you to get you up and hammering. This is a laid back class. I want you to have fun and enjoy what you are doing. You may bring your own cabochons to work with if you want. I will have extra tools, cabs, metals, kits for you to purchase to take home if you want. Looking forward to meeting you and having a fun filled two days. Prerequisites. 2-day class, 2nd semester.
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.
Electro-Etching – Beginner: Micah Kirby	Description coming next month
Electro-Etching – Intermediate: Micah Kirby	Description coming next month
Faceting: Steve Weinberger	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.

(Cont'd on next page)

Wildacres Spring Classes – May 21 – 27, 2018 (Cont'd)

Speaker in Residence: Helen Serras- Herman

Class & Instructor	Description
Loop and Loop Chains – Beginner: Chuck Bruce	Students will learn the ancient technique of fusing fine silver jump rings and linking them together into a chain. We will explore 2 different patterns - Roman Fold-over and Single Fold-over (Foxtail). Students should be able finish a bracelet and pair of earrings in each. (These ancient beautiful designs are quite different from chain maille). No prior experience is needed. 2-day class offered 1st semester.
Loop and Loop Chains – Advanced: Chuck Bruce	Students will learn the ancient technique of fusing fine silver jump rings and linking them together into a chain. We will explore 2 different patterns - Double Fold-over (Foxtail) and Sailor's Knot; students should be able to finish a bracelet and pair of earrings in each. (These ancient beautiful designs are quite different from chain maille). No prior experience is needed, but Semester 1 helpful. 2-day class offered 2nd semester.
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.
Viking Knit: Val Johnson	You will learn a technique used nearly 1300 years ago by ancient people to weave a silver rope. Viking knit is also called trichinopoly chain and was used to make bracelets, trim on clothing, and many other decorative objects. Once you learn the skill it is very easy and uses few tools and supplies to create stunning chains. Student will complete a bracelet in single stitch. 2 day class offered 1st semester.

Mark Your Calendars

MAGMA has invited GMSVP to its next miocene and pliocene fossil field trip at the Pipsico Scout Reservation in



Surry County, VA (on the other side of the James River from the Jamestowne Historic National Park, easy ferry ride from the Peninsula). The field trip will be on **Saturday, April 7, 2018**. More information will be provided as the date nears.



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

Wildacres Spring Classes – May 21 – 27, 2018 (Cont'd)

Registration Form: <http://efmls-wildacres.org/resources/WA-Registration-2018.pdf>

2018 EFMLS Wildacres Registration

PLEASE, ONLY one person per form per session

CHECK ONE: May 21 - 27: _____ Fall: September 3 - 9: _____

Please fill out a separate registration form for each person attending and return to SUZIE MILLIGAN, 931 Carmichael Rd; Owego, NY 13827-3320. **No registration will be accepted prior to January 1, 2018.** (To make it easier for the registrar and others, please do not change or revise this form. You September photocopy it as needed.) Please write legibly!

Name (as you wish it to appear on your name badge): _____

Street: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone number with area code: _____ e-mail: _____

Club/Society Affiliation: _____

Fee for each session is \$425.00 per person. Deposit is \$215 per person, payable with registration.

Make checks payable to "EFMLS". Balance of fee is due 30 days prior to start of session. No postdated checks will be accepted.

Cancellation policy: If unable to attend, fees paid will be refunded if notification is given prior to one month before the session begins. No refund will be made after that date.

Circle appropriate responses:

Have you been to Wildacres before? Yes _____ No _____ Is your Club paying your tuition? Yes _____ No _____

Name of roommate: _____ (If none, one will be assigned).

Are you: Male _____ Female _____ (No single rooms are available). Are you a smoker? Yes _____ No _____
(No smoking is allowed in any building)

Do you have any physical handicaps and / or special dietary needs? Yes _____ No _____
If YES, please explain on reverse side.

Class Pre-registration

See EFMLS Newsletter or Website (efmls-wildacres.org/) for class offerings.

You will either be able to take one 4-day class or two 2-day classes. All participants must take classes.

Which of the classes being offered would you like to take? Please indicate at least 3 choices in order of preference for each semester. You will be preregistered for classes based on your choices, but no class placement is guaranteed. Should your preferred class be unavailable for any reason you will be preregistered for another of your choices. If no alternate class preference is indicated we will pre-register you in a class of our choosing, based on availability.

1st Semester or 4 day classe choices

1 _____
2 _____
3 _____
4 _____

Second Semester

1 _____
2 _____
3 _____
4 _____

(No registrations accepted prior to January 1, 2018)

Mail to: Suzie Milligan, 931 Carmichael Rd; Owego, NY 13827-3320

If you have any questions, please contact either

Suzie Milligan, Registrar at <smilligan@stny.rr.com> or 607-687-5108 or
Pamm Bryant, Director at <pjbryant@juno.com> or 804-457-4698

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MARKING YOUR TOOLS

It makes sense to mark your tools if you ever lend them to friends or take them out to classes or workshops. Question is how to mark them permanently. For metal tools, I use a very small ball bur running fast in the Dremel or Foredom to "engrave" my initials. Other times I'll form the initials with a number of hits with a center punch.

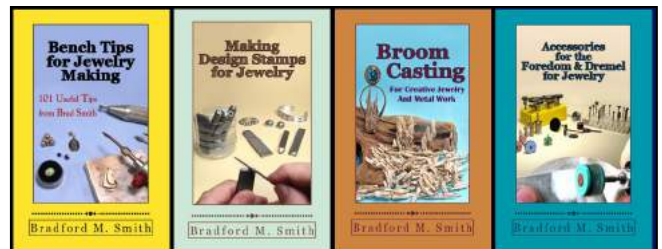


But for hammer handles and other wooden tools, the country boy in me came back and thought: "Why not make a branding iron?" If you'd like to try one, all you need is a little scrap copper or nickel about 22-24 gauge, a piece of heavy brass or copper for a base, about 6 inches of metal rod and a piece of wood for the handle.

I formed my initials from a couple 4mm wide strips of sheet nickel. The "S" was one piece, but the "B" was three pieces soldered together with hard. Remember to form the letters backwards). I then soldered the letters with medium onto a piece of 1/8-inch thick brass bar to act as a heat sink. Finally, I soldered a piece of 1/8-inch round rod on the back of the brass bar as a shaft to join to a wooden handle.



With the holidays upon us soon, we're all making our lists. If you need a present for someone who does jewelry, consider a book that teaches new skills. See a selection at www.Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith.



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

Scufflin Acres

Sean Harley



(Left to Right) (Bottom) Mary Hood, Sean Harley, Vinton Feanny, (Top) Sara Phillips, Vernon Hash, and Lisa Cummings and her friend Jean

Although there were a smaller turn out than last time, we were still productive. The area to dig is constantly changing. After a storm there was more to see on the surface. I was glad that I didn't bring a shovel this time, because the majority of my finds were in plain site. I was able to find some nice moonstone among amethyst and quartz as well as a quartz cluster with amethyst streaks running through it, just beautiful! Sara Phillips picked up a small, clear, terminated quartz.



A nice couple from NY was already there, and we had an interesting conversation about rock hounding. They gave away

some Herkimer Diamonds, and I gave them a garnet/mica matrix that I found in NC. It was a bit chilly, but still a sunny day. I believe everybody enjoyed themselves.



The 2018 American Federation of Mineralogical Societies/Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies (AFMS/EFMLS) Convention will be here before you know it!

Plans are still being finalized for the 2018 AFMS/EFMLS Convention and Show to be held in Raleigh, North Carolina, the weekend of April 4 – 8. This is an exciting venue to hold a show, since North Carolina is home to numerous ruby, sapphire, and emerald mines to name just a few of the gemstones found there.



Hosted by the Tar Heel Gem & Mineral Club, a dual Federation club (EFMLS and Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies (SFMS)), the club show has always been an excellent one and the members are excited to share their annual event with us. Field trips, both during and after the show, are in the planning stage.

Although a firm group rate is still being negotiated, we can tell you that the host hotel will be the Embassy Suites in Raleigh, NC. A large mall with many restaurants and hotels are in the area.

Embassy Suites offers a range of amenities and services, including a shuttle to and from the airport, fitness room, and pool. Every room contains two rooms - a separate bedroom and separate living room. A complimentary hot breakfast is included.

The tentative schedule is for the cracker barrel meeting to be held on Wednesday, April 4th; the AFMS Annual meeting on Thursday, April 5th; and the EFMLS Annual Meeting probably on Friday, April 6th.

More information will be available on the [AFMS website](#) as contracts and schedules are finalized. Do check there often.

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!



www.gmsvp.org



2018 Show Dates

March 9 - 11, July 20 - 22, and October 12 - 14

(All at the VA Beach Convention Center):



GMSVP Meeting

Thursday, January 4th, 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.





- Our Christmas dinner began at 7 PM. Everyone enjoyed the great food and sharing with old and new friends.
 - Sara Phillips began tonight's program at 7:40 PM and announced that this was our annual Award Program. She first invited Dan Fontaine to announce the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies (SFMS) Bulletin Contest GMSVP Awards. Awards were presented to:
 - o Honorable Mention - Written Features Category: Ellie Pitts - "Why Wildacres Means So Much to Me"
 - o Tied Tenth Place - Written Features Category: Sara Phillips - "Thermal City and Emerald Village Field Trip"
 - o Eighth Place - Original Adult Articles Category: Vinton Feanny - "Wildacres Workshop Experience Begs to be Repeated"
 - o Sixth Place - Written Features Category: Daniel Fontaine - "Our Family Field Trip through Utah"
 - o Fourth Place - Original Adult Articles Category: Gary Bergtholdt - "Polishing: Adding the Extra Touch to Your Project"
 - o Fourth Place - Written Features Category: Gary Bergtholdt - "Clean Genies after Use at TOTE Shows or Picnics"
 - o Second Place - Original Adult Articles Category: Larry Hawks - "How I Upgraded an Inexpensive Tile Saw to a Trim Saw"
 - o First Place - Large Bulletins Category: Daniel Fontaine - "The Virginia Pen. May 2016"
 - Christine Hempley then announced the Pebble Pup Awards.
 - o MaKayla received a new Sash and 6 patches
 - o Seth received the Natural Resources patch.
 - o Raina received the Natural Resources patch.
 - o Christine announced that the Pebble Pups had completed their geocache and were waiting for permission from the Rangers to bury it.
 - Gary Bergtholdt invited those who had brought gifts for the pollyanna exchange to listen for their number when it is called. Everyone had fun and appreciated the gifts they received.
 - Sara announced the GMSVP Board for the new year.
 - President, Vinton Feanny (New Board Member)
 - 1st Vice President, Walter Priest (New Board Member)
 - 2nd Vice President, Michael Griffith
 - Secretary, David Scharff
 - Treasurer, Gary Bergtholdt
- Sara then swore in the Board and instructed us to respond with "I do" to acknowledge our commitment to fulfill the duties of our office.
- Gary presented a "Thank You and Fare Well" gift to Sara Phillips. The gift was a beautiful lepidolite cube.
 - Walter Priest gave Hank Woods a call in Texas, so that our members could wish him a happy holiday.
 - Our program completed at 8:15 PM.

Minutes prepared by David Scharff

December 13, 2017

/ original signed /

Visit a Show

Source: EFMLS News Volume 65, Number 2, December 2017 & SFMS Lodestar December 2017

January 12-14: Pinellas County Gem and Mineral Hobby Club's 42nd Annual Gem, Jewelry and Mineral Show and Sale. Largo Cultural Center, Parkside Room, 105 Central Park Drive, Largo, Florida. Contact Person: Leona Feldhausen, Co-Chairperson, phone (727) 709-3236.

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.

January 20-21: 47th Annual Jewelry, Gem, Mineral, Fossil Show & Sale. Tomoka Gem & Mineral Society. Volusia County Fairgrounds (Tommy Lawrence Arena), 3150 E. New York Ave, Deland, FL 32724
Contact Show Chair: Mary DeJan, 386-871-6221 or Vendor Chair: Cathi Haroldson, 386-290-0653. Website: <http://www.tomokagms.org>

February 3-4: 41st Annual Show and Sale. Central Brevard Rock and Gem Club. Kiwanis Recreation Center, 951 Kiwanis Island Park Rd, Merritt Island, Florida 32952. For additional information, contact Roz Mestre, show chairman, 321-431-0159. (<http://www.centralbrevardgems.org>)

February 17-18: Treasure Coast Rock and Gem Show. 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. Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society. Mississippi Trade Mart on the State Fairgrounds in Jackson, Mississippi. MGMS website: www.missgms.org.

March 3-4: 55th annual Earth Science Gem & Mineral Show sponsored by the Delaware Mineralogical Society. University of Delaware – Wilmington Campus, Arsh Conference Center; 2800 Pennsylvania Ave (Rt 52), Wilmington, DE 19806. Info: www.delminsociety.net

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

April 4-8: EFMLS/AFMS Convention and 42nd Annual Capital Area Gem & Mineral Show. Tar Heel Gem & Mineral Club. Kerr Scott Building, NC State Fairgrounds, Raleigh, NC. AFMS Annual Meeting - Thursday, April 5; EFMLS Annual Meeting - Friday, April 6.

April 7-8: 45th Annual Mineral, Gem, Jewelry & Fossil Show. New Haven Mineral Club. Amith Regional Middle School, 1 Ohman Ave, Orange, CT. Info: www.newhavenmineralclub.org.

April 28-29: Memphis Mineral, Fossil, Jewelry Show "The Earth Wide Open." Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society. Memphis International Agricenter, 7777 Walnut Grove Road, Memphis, TN. Web: <http://www.TheEarthWideOpen.com>. Show Chair James Butchko, 901 743-0058, Dealer Chair WC McDaniel, 901-274-7706.



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

If you have not already done so, please pay your 2018 GMSVP membership dues. Submit the membership form with payment to PO Box on the form. Our 2018 club insurance is based on our number of members. Here's a [link to the GMSVP membership form](#).

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.