



# THE VIRGINIA PEN

GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY OF THE VIRGINIA PENINSULA



July 2018

## President's Corner

Vinton Feanny

### Special Points of Interest:

- Treasures of the Earth (TOTE) Show, July 20-22. See page 3.
- [SFMS Wildacres Workshop, August 20-26](#)
- [EFMLS Fall Wildacres Workshop, September 3-9](#)
- [SFMS Wildacres Workshop, Sept 17-23](#)

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Welcome everyone! A special welcome to our visitors and all the new members who have recently joined our club. It is always wonderful to see new visitors and new members visiting and enjoying our club. Thank you.

During our July meeting, Gary Bergtholdt and Walter Priest provided a very interesting program on mineral identification. Their presentation gave our members the knowledge to identify a mineral through a series of tests. They used a combination of slides and demonstrations to help share the information. Walter encouraged our members to come up to the table with the mineral samples after the presentation to try the various identification techniques.

Thanks to Gary, we had some choice specimens for the meeting raffle, and the tickets sold well. I look forward to hopefully winning one of the raffle prizes at our next meeting.

Please note **THERE WILL BE NO MEETING IN AUGUST**. Our normal meeting space is not available.

Our next club activity will be at the July 20 – 22 Treasures of the Earth (TOTE) Show at the Virginia Beach Convention Center. As I shared during the meeting, we will have a booth to share with the community about our club and to sell and cut geodes. The TOTE Show GMSVP booth is the major fund raiser for the club. Our success is based on the willingness of our members to help load and unload the truck, set up and tear down the booth, and staff our booth and rock saws during the show. Hope to see many of you there. We all appreciate your willingness to help...the more that help, the less the individual effort. See page 3 of this newsletter for more (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](http://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Gem-and-Mineral-Society-of-the-Virginia-Peninsula-GMSVP/275041405841489)

### Officers

**President:** Vinton Feanny,  
FeannyVin@gmail.com  
**1st VP Membership:** Walter Priest,  
wetlanddesign@gmail.com  
**2nd VP Programs:** Michael Griffith,  
MGriff8645@aol.com  
**Secretary:** Dave Scharff,  
chap\_dad@yahoo.com  
**Treasurer:** Gary Bergtholdt,  
gbergtholdt@gmail.com

### Committee Chairs

**Field Trips:** Lisa Cumming,  
lcumming1223@gmail.com  
**Hospitality:** Brigitta Haggins,  
hagginsbri@gmail.com  
**Pebble Pups:** Co-Chairs:  
Christine Hempley,  
offalstuff@gmail.com & Barbara Riley,  
barbtriley\_pt80@hotmail.com  
**Shows:** **Vacant**  
**Newsletter:** Dan Fontaine,  
gmsvp.editor@gmail.com  
**Property:** Tom Meyers,  
ddmanwoutFear@yahoo.com  
**Librarian/Historian:** **Vacant**  
**Faceting:** Chuck Rogers,  
car3rd@verizon.net  
**Silversmithing:** **Vacant**  
**Publicity:** Michael Griffith,  
mgriff8645@aol.com  
**Mineralogy:** Walter Priest,  
wetlanddesign@gmail.com  
**Webmaster:** Holly Worsham,  
gmsvp.web@gmail.com

## President's Corner (Cont'd)

Vinton Feanny

(Cont'd from prior page.) information.

*Remember, if a club member volunteers 4 hour of their time during the weekend at the booth and either helps with equipment loading and booth setup on Thursday or equipment breakdown and storage on Sunday, you can buy any geode for half price (and we will cut it for you too!).*

Don't forget about our club picnic scheduled for Saturday, September 8<sup>th</sup>. The picnic will be from 10 AM to 4 PM (add it to your calendars!). An article about the picnic will be included in next month's newsletter.

I look forward to seeing our members at the TOTE Show!

Rock on! Vinton

## Upcoming Pebble Pups Programs

Christine Hempley

Here's the planned Pebble Pups activities for the rest of 2018.

- Aug: No meeting.

- Sept: During picnic: Geocaching or

Lapidary Art/Jewelry Craft

- Oct: Sand, Sand Everywhere

- Nov: Sand Collection and Project

- Dec: Pups News/Awards

## July GMSVP Program - Mineral Identification

Dan Fontaine

Gary Bergtholdt and Walter Priest provided slides and a hands-on demonstration on mineral identification. The program was well received, especially by our newer members.

Mineral identification can be fairly easily done by doing some simple tests and referring to a handbook or an online resources to identify the applicable mineral from the test results. Mineral identification tests include: fracture/cleavage, streak, color, hardness, luster, clarity, and specific gravity.

A number of members practiced some mineral identification following the program.



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Volunteers can sign up by contacting Vinton Feanny at: [FeannyVin@gmail.com](mailto:FeannyVin@gmail.com).



GMSVP once again will have a booth at the Treasures of the Earth (TOTE) Show being held at the Virginia Beach Convention Center on July 20th - 22nd. GMSVP's booth will have displays to educate the public about Virginia's natural resources and our club. Members also display their collections and demonstrate the equipment. As a fund raising activity, our club sells geodes at the show, which we cut with our rock saws. These shows also are a great way to increase awareness of our club, get to know other members, and gain new club members.

Any of our members may use the club's equipment during the show. All they have to do is sign up to reserve a time. While the equipment can be used without a reservation, those signed up will have first preference. Members will be available to provide training on equipment proper use and safety for new rockhounds. Volunteers have ample time to also see the show.

### HELP NEEDED:

**Please volunteer to help!**

- **Thursday, July 19th:**

- ◇ **Noon:** Volunteers should meet at our club shed at the Sandy Bottom Nature Park (*enter from Big Bethel Road and turn right at the sign saying "Authorized Vehicles only" at noon to load the truck and caravan over to the show site (or can meet us at Virginia Beach Convention Center at 1:30 - 2 PM).*)
- ◇ **~2 PM:** Truck unloading and GMSVP booth/ equipment setup. Booth and equipment setup takes about 3 hours; more volunteers, less time.

- **Friday, July 20th to Sunday, July 22nd:** During the show, GMSVP booth/equipment have four areas that need manning: demonstrations, education/youth programs, geode sales, and geode/slab cutting.

- **Sunday, July 22nd:**

- ◇ Booth and equipment cleanup, teardown, and truck loading at the end of the show.
- ◇ Truck unloading at the club's shed in Sandy Bottom Nature Park.



Members are reminded that: (1) we get free access to the show (bring your GMSVP membership card); (2) we are not competing with the other vendors or clubs, and (3) *if a club member volunteers 4 hour of their time during the weekend at the booth and either helps with equipment loading and booth setup on Thursday or equipment breakdown and storage on Sunday, you can buy any geode for half price (and we will cut it for you too!)*

Questions should be directed to Vinton Feanny at: [FeannyVin@gmail.com](mailto:FeannyVin@gmail.com).





The YouTube videographer, The Crystal Collector, (Brian Major) led me to discover a mineral and history treasure in my home state of South Carolina (SC). In Brian's video, he visited a farm in SC, looking for amethyst, one of my favorite minerals.

Brian introduced Amos Cunningham, a happy, gregarious, thoughtful man, who is the third-generation owner of his family farm. Cunningham Farm is located in Due West, in the upper northwest corner of SC, situated between Greenwood and Anderson, SC.



In the video, Cunningham and the Crystal Collector find countless pieces of amethyst points and plates covered in red clay, while explaining exactly what the tell-tell signs of a promising vein look like. They also dig out beautiful pieces of green beryl, aquamarine, and emeralds. They do this with giddy laughter that has me pulling out a calendar to see when I can fit a trip home to SC. I grew up in SC and had no idea of how mineral-rich my own state was.



Accompanied by my childhood best friend, Caroline, I took a trip to visit both Diamond Hill Mine and Cunningham Farm. Both locations are thirteen minutes away from one another. The Diamond Hill Mine trip was the first day. I successfully found a few nice clear crystal points that I proudly brought home. The owner, Mr. Bill, pointed us to each of the areas that minerals are found. I decided to dig for clear crystals, garnets, and aquamarine. Two days later, we visited Cunningham Farm.



The backstory on this trip is that after seeing the Crystal Collector video, I called Mr. Cunningham in SC to schedule a trip to the farm. I listened intently as Mr. Cunningham told me about the history of the family farm. His grandfather purchased and farmed this land, as did his father. Their family grew cotton after the Civil War, and the soil was incredibly rich. As a child, Amos recalls that people with tractors would come and offer to till the soil for the elder Cunningham prior to planting season, in exchange for bags of rocks.

Amos Cunningham remembers his first realization that there was something valuable about their land when he was six years old. He said that he was carrying a "rock" and the gentleman that was tilling for his father offered him a dollar and a stack of comic books for the rock in his hand. He said sure, but, realized at that moment that the "rock" had a value. As a boy, he enjoyed finding new minerals. Everything came into focus, when he took a geology class at Benedict College in Columbia, SC, and realized that his family farm held tremendous treasures.

After graduating from college, Amos returned home to work with his father on the farm and his passion for discovering minerals and rocks. This led him to opening his land to share his minerals with others.

By trade, Mr. Cunningham is a landscaper and is very busy most of the year. This limits his ability to open the farm to the public. It is open a few times a year for groups to come to dig. During those times, he takes the opportunity to coach rockhounds and help them find minerals.

He has been featured in many of Brian Major's Crystal Collector videos, and they have travelled together to other area farms that discoveries have been made to identify minerals for local people.

(Cont'd on next page)

(Cont'd from prior page) Mr. Cunningham has pieces of amethyst in the Smithsonian Museums of Natural History and American Museum of Natural History. The Cunningham Farm Amethyst is featured in the Smithsonian Rock and Gem Book, published by Covenant Garden Books, 2008. He was recently featured in the June 10, 2018, edition of the Index-Journal Newspaper.

In his same passion for minerals and education, Mr. Cunningham was one of several local presenters at Erskine College last fall at an Upper Abbeville Gem and Mineral Exhibit.

In June, Mr. Cunningham presented a one-day Rock Camp for children 10-years old and up, where he explained the geologic history of the area, uses of gems and minerals, jewelry making, identification of tools, location techniques, and cleaning minerals.

This trip was a year in the making and worth every mile. Mr. Cunningham shared family stories (including his daughter finding gold on their property) and about the variety of minerals found in the area including: epidote, copper, smoky quartz, rubies, and garnet. Hearing stories of mining operations that took place in the area in the 1940s also contributed to an interesting visit. Mr. and Mrs. Cunningham are very warm, open people that enhance the draw to area with stories about their family, 38-year marriage, and his passion of mineral discoveries. I look forward to visiting again and discovering more about my state and what "true" gems the people there are.

The next scheduled open dig at Cunningham farm is in October 2018.

- The Crystal Collector- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0w0EItR80fo>
- Amos Cunningham Farm, 471 George Alewine Road, Due West, SC, tel: (864) 379-8918 and (864)992-7843
- Diamond Hill Mine, <https://www.facebook.com/Diamond-Hill-Mine-344887849016363/>
- Jackson Crossroads Mine, Hollis Norman Road, Tignall, GA 30668, tel: (303) 319-9199



## SFMS Wildacres Lapidary August & September Workshops

Source: <http://sfmsworkshops.com/>



GMSVP is a member of both the Eastern and Southeast Federations. In addition to the Eastern Federation Wildacres Workshop

described on page 10, the Southeast Federation offers the following classes at their August and September workshops.

(<http://sfmsworkshops.com/>)

Wildacres 8/20-26, 2018

- Casting
- Chain Maille
- Gem Trees
- Introduction to Gem ID
- Metal Clay – Tangible Moments
- Metalwork Special Projects
- Silver I
- Wire

Wildacres 9/17-23, 2018

- Chain Maille
- Cold Connection
- Electro-Etching
- Enameling
- Intro to Inlay
- Seed Bead Weaving
- Silver I

## July Birthstone - Ruby

Source: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ruby>

Ruby is the traditional birthstone for July. A ruby is a pink-to-blood red colored gemstone, a variety of the mineral corundum (aluminium oxide). The word *ruby* comes from *ruber*, Latin for red. The color of a ruby is due to the element chromium.

The quality of a ruby is determined by its color, cut, and clarity, which, along with carat weight, affect its value. The brightest and most valuable shade of red, called blood-red or pigeon blood, commands a large premium over other rubies of similar quality. The world's most valuable ruby is the Sunrise Ruby.

**Physical Properties:** Rubies have a hardness of 9.0 on the Mohs scale of mineral hardness. Among the natural gems only moissanite and diamond are harder, with diamond having a Mohs hardness of 10.0 and moissanite falling somewhere in between corundum (ruby) and diamond in hardness. Sapphire, ruby, and pure corundum are  $\alpha$ -alumina, the most stable form of  $Al_2O_3$ .

All natural rubies have imperfections in them, including color impurities and inclusions of rutile needles known as "silk." Gemologists use these needle inclusions found in natural rubies to distinguish them from synthetics, simulants, or substitutes. Usually, the rough stone is heated before cutting. These days, almost all rubies are treated in some form, with heat treatment being the most common practice. Untreated rubies of high quality command a large premium.

Some rubies show a three-point or six-point asterism or "star". These rubies are cut into cabochons to display the effect properly. Asterisms are best visible with a single-light source and move across the stone as the light moves or the stone is rotated. Such effects occur when light is reflected off the "silk" (the structurally oriented rutile needle inclusions) in a certain way.

**Ruby vs. Pink Sapphire:** Generally, gemstone-quality corundum in all shades of red, including pink, are called rubies. However, in the United States, a minimum color saturation must be met to be called a ruby; otherwise, the stone will be called a pink sapphire. Drawing a distinction between rubies and pink sapphires is relatively new, having arisen sometime in the 20th century. Often, the distinction between ruby and pink sapphire is not clear and can be debated. As a result of the difficulty and subjectiveness of such distinctions, trade organizations such as the International Colored Gemstone Association (ICGA) have adopted the broader definition for ruby which encompasses its lighter shades, including pink.



**Rob Lavinsky, [iRocks.com](http://iRocks.com) – CC-BY-SA-3.0**

**Corundum** Locality: Winza, Mpapwa, Mpapwa (Mpwapwa) District, Dodoma region, Tanzania ([Locality at mindat.org](http://mindat.org))

Size: thumbnail, 2.8 x 2.0 x 2.0 cm.

**RUBY:** This is a killer thumbnail specimen, my favorite matrix thumbnail from the lot that I had. A bit of matrix is host for 2 crystals of lustrous and translucent, cherry red ruby with exquisite micro-details on the faces and sharp beveled edges. The larger one, exhibiting superb crystal form, measures 1.5 cm across. These ruby crystals are totally unique in form, and combined with color and gemminess make for a dramatic matrix presentation that is unlike rubies from any other locality in the world, so far as I know. Because of the balance and aesthetics of this specimen, and the quality of the ruby crystals (which have some cutting value as well), I regard this specimen very highly. Thumbnail or not, its superb. As a thumbnail, for overall balance and poise, I think it is the highest competition-level quality.





Registrations for the September 3-9 Fall EFMLS Workshop at Wildacres are now being accepted by Registrar Suzie Milligan. Just click on the [registration page](#) on the EFMLS Wildacres website to access the registration form.

Fall is a lovely time of year "on the mountain." Temperatures are usually warm, but not too hot, skies are clear, and evenings comfortable. We encourage you to come and see for yourself.

Each workshop week consists of a "Speaker-in-Residence," who gives six talks during the week plus the opportunity to participate in one or two classes, a field trip, auction, lots of time to sit in the rocking chairs and talk, visit the canteen, or explore the wonderful area around the property.



The Wildacres Retreat is located about an hour north of Asheville, NC and about 2 hours from Charlotte, NC. If you're flying, we suggest checking airline rates for both cities as well as Raleigh and Hickory, NC. You will have to rent a car to get you from the airport to Wildacres, since there is no regular taxi or bus service.

Once "on the mountain" you'll be able to relax, learn some new skills (or refresh previously learned ones), meet new fellow rockhounds and enjoy the talks given by Speaker-in-Residence Alfredo Petrov.

The atmosphere at Wildacres is relaxed and casual. Meals are served family style in the lovely dining room, bedrooms all have a private bath and are comfortable. Days are filled with the sounds of people laughing and talking, sometimes music from a visiting musical group, and the chirping of birds. Being off the mainline of traffic, auto noise also is limited.

The cost for the week at Wildacres is \$425 which includes your room and board plus a gratuity for the permanent Wildacres Retreat staff. Instructors volunteer their time and talents and many have returned to this idyllic spot several times now to share their expertise with us.



I hope to see you "on the mountain" this September 3 - 9. But hurry! Class size is limited and assigned on a first come - first served basis.

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

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

*What could better!*

- Electro-etching Beginner--Micah Kirby**
- Electro-Etching Intermediate--Micah Kirby**
- Loop & Loop Chains Beginner--Chuck Bruce**
- Loop & Loop Chains Advanced--Chuck Bruce**
- Silversmithing Basic--Richard Meszler**
- Silversmithing Intermediate--Richard Meszler**
- Chasing & Repousse--Morning Sherrod**
- Geology I--Rob Robinson**
- Geology II--Rob Robinson**
- Wire Wrapping I--Jacqueline Campbell**
- Wire Wrapping II--Jacqueline Campbell**

A list of the Fall classes are on the left. For more information on the classes, visit the Wildacres website at: <http://efmls-wildacres.org/index.html>.

## SAVE WHEN BUYING SILVER

Silver products, like sheet, wire, and casting shot, are sold by the Troy ounce at what is called the spot price. That's what companies pay for the pure metal on the commodities market, and the spot price changes daily.



But in addition to the spot price, there is also a cost to fabricate the metal into wire or sheet, so the price of the item you buy is the cost of the metal plus the cost to make it. Different products have different fabrication charges, because each takes a different amount of labor. Also, different companies will have different fabrication charges, because of local labor rates and their desired profit margin.

You can save money by finding a company with a lower fabrication charge. Also, note that the fabrication charge per ounce is less on larger orders, so you can save more by buying more. Find a friend to place a joint order and split the shipping charges.

But for casting purposes, there's an even better way to save. Buy your silver at a coin store. They sell bars and rounds in pure and Sterling for the spot price plus about a dollar per ounce.

The local coin shop adds only a small profit over the spot price. So I save about \$3 per ounce, pay no shipping charges, don't have to wait for mail order, and support a local business.

## SAWING JUMP RINGS

The difficult part of making jump rings for me has always been holding the coil while cutting off the individual rings. I use a saw to get the best fit when closing the rings later. I've seen all sorts of suggestions for ways to hold the coil, but the one that works best for me is this little jig made from scrap wood.



It's about 2 inches wide and 4-5 inches long with a groove cut down its length to cradle the coil of wire and a thin stop attached to the front end.

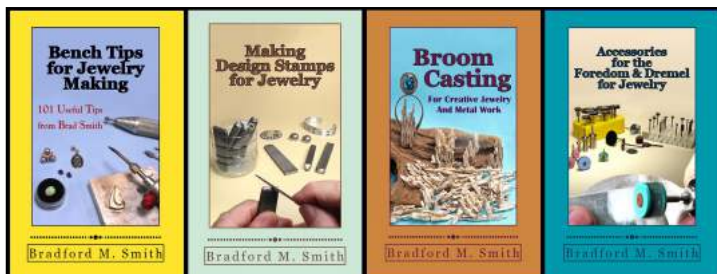
To cut the rings, thread your saw blade through the coil, hold the coil down in the groove and against the front stop, and saw through the bottom of the coil at about a 40 degree angle.



Don't forget to use some wax or cutting lube. It really does make a difference. If you don't believe me, do an experiment while you're cutting a lot of rings. Count how many rings can be cut before the blade breaks. First, do the test without lube, and then do it again while adding some lube to the blade after cutting every 8-10 rings.

It's the best way I've ever found to hold the coils easily and securely. If the coil doesn't move, you break fewer blades. And it is safer than some other techniques because you are cutting away from the fingers.

For more tips or to learn new jewelry skills, pick up a few of Brad's "How To Do It" Books: [www.Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](http://www.Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith).





## Future Rockhounds of America

Source: American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) Website (<http://www.amfed.org/index.html>)

*Editor's Note: GMSVP's Pebble Pups activity is based on the AFMS Future Rockhounds of America Program. Our program leads toward earning the badges shown in the graphic to the right.*

Rockhounding societies have long supported kids. Most have always had young members but often didn't know what activities to provide for them. Thus, many fell through the cracks. As no one would argue, we need



to ensure the future of our hobby by encouraging our youth.

Knowing this, the AFMS President in 1984 established a committee named the "Future Rockhounds of America." It gives pebble pups and juniors the distinction of belonging to something worthwhile. The only requirement for kids to obtain FRA membership is to be a member of a regional club with an AFMS affiliation (such as GMSVP).

Starting in the fall of 2004, the AFMS developed a free badge program of guided activities to provide club youth leaders with 53 individual activities in 9 areas: Rocks & Minerals, Earth Resources, Fossils, Lapidary Arts, Collecting, Showmanship, Communication, Field Trips, and Leadership. In 2008, after polling local clubs, 6 new areas with 32 more activities were added on Earth Processes, Earth in Space, Gold Panning & Prospecting, Gemstone Lore & Legend, Stone Age Tools & Art, and Rocking on the Computer. Five more badges were added in 2012 for The World in Miniature, Special Effects, Fluorescent Minerals, Reaching Across Generations, and Maps.

The Fourth Edition of the Badge Manual was established in 2016 with a total of 20 badges and 130 activities. Many of the new activities were suggested by youth leaders—or by kids themselves. Kids earning 6 of the 20 badges earn a "Rockhound" badge and those earning all 20 badges receive an AFMS cloisonné pin and become "Rock Stars" as a mark of distinction.

Program details may be found under "Kids Corner" on the AFMS website: <http://www.amfed.org/index.html>.



You've read about it, heard about it, and talked about it. There are laws governing it, and it has a lot of people thinking about it. In our busy traveling hobby we need to be aware of it, because we travel to meetings, travel to club outings, travel to digs and field trips, and we travel to shows and rock shops – and back. All that traveling should give us cause to think a great deal about it. Perhaps you have surmised the nature of the "it" mentioned here. The "it" is cell phone use while driving.

We are a traveling society and a traveling hobby. After all, the rocks don't often come to us - we go to them. It is a natural desire to use our travel time to good advantage keeping in touch with our busy lives. As soon as we divert some of our attention from driving to communication, we officially enter multi-tasking land.

There are a good many folks who feel they are able to multi-task along with the best of them. Well, I've read survey after survey, study after study and it seems as though, even under the best of circumstances, perhaps as many as 2% of drivers exhibit a small bit of multi-tasking ability. In general, even though some may have some small modicum of ability to multi-task, even the best of us are not good enough at it to do so while driving!

Let's mention some modern distractions as we attempt to multi-task while driving:

1. Some of us interact with devices during text-to-speech, and speech-to-text interfaces – this is a distraction.
2. Talking on a hand's free device, whether in the phone or built into the car, is a distraction.
3. Talking on a hand held device is a distraction.
4. Texting while driving is a distraction.
5. Listening to an audio book while driving is a distraction.
6. Simply listening to a radio program is a distraction, although not quite on par with the other five distractions listed above.
7. Knitting, reading the newspaper, reading a book, shaving, doing ones nails, cleaning ones eyeglasses (and yes, I personally have witnessed folks doing all of these as they have passed me on the highway) are all, yes, you guessed it – distractions.

Any effort at multi-tasking adds another task onto the already complicated task of driving. Driving is not just a visual activity. Driving also involves how the seat feels as it presses on our body. Driving involves sensing movement cues – pedestrians, moose, vehicles, bikes, and birds, etc. Driving means sensing how the vehicle is handling. Driving keeps us aware of vehicle noises and surrounding noises such as those from emergency vehicles. Driving requires monitoring optical effects – glare and reflections. Our brains are already full of driving needs when we are behind the wheel. Driving with additional distractions is just something we don't do well. As we add distractions such as taking our eyes off the road while texting or pressing a speed dial number, or focusing on an important conversation, or fumbling with a seat adjustor, or fussing with the A/C unit buttons simply adds too much for our brains to handle well.

There are accidents we sometimes see ahead of time – and thus offers us time to process. Seriously – sometimes we will monitor a fast car coming up behind us zipping from lane to lane as it races to save a few seconds time on the commute home. Sometimes ahead of us we will see a car not--all-that-far-enough pulled into the emergency lane with cars swerving around it – at high speed. Sometimes we (Cont'd on Next Page)

(Cont'd from prior page) will see a line of brake lights ahead of us as we approach a lane (or two or three) of road bottleneck. All these things give us a few moments of precious time to react.

It is often the case however, when the time we have to react is a 1/2 second, or maybe even a full one and 1/2 seconds. What if, however, that 1/2 second occurs when we have our eyes down or side cast while texting, or fumbling with a seat adjustor button? Sometimes that 1/2 second contains a life saving or life risking decision and it would be nice to think our brains were clearly focused on the driving tasks during the precious small amount of reaction time wouldn't it.

Another serious consideration to texting and other distractions is that there are altogether too many of such distracted folks on the road, and so we, as good rockhounds and drivers, need to be ever vigilant and on the watch for such drivers. Certainly you would not want to pay the price for someone else's distraction.

Because we have a traveling hobby yet we still need to be safe and stay in contact we might ask – what is a person to do and still stay in touch? Some possible solutions – share the driving so that there is a passenger who can be responsible for some of the communicating. Pull over where it can be done legally and safely to stop and talk. Let the phone do what it was designed to do and take messages – they are very good at that. If you have a field trip caravan, have a designated communicator in each vehicle. You can do this; you can be safe.

By all means make an effort to be aware of your state's laws on using cell and mobile phones. Know not just your own state's laws, but the laws of the states through which you will be passing. Even if your area permits some cell and mobile phone use while driving, please do so safely and avoid becoming distracted – it's just not worth the horrific price some people have paid for the talking time.

Please be safe – it's an interesting (yet distracting) world out there!

### May Aurora Fossil Festival Testimonial (Photos: GMSVP Facebook Page)

Hunter Thurmond

The Aurora Fossil Festival was absolutely worth the drive. When I first started collecting I knew no one else interested in the subject and it seemed like every book about it was outdated. The Aurora Festival was the exact opposite, thousands of fossil lovers and collectors all in one place. There was so much to do I'm already yearning for next year.



### New GMSVP Member—Welcome New Rockhounds!

Michael, Christine, Kenneth, and Luke  
Miller

Debra Hartberger





- Our president, Vinton Feanny, opened the meeting. The meeting began with discussion about the upcoming meeting. Walter Priest and Gary Bergtholdt are discussing mineral identification.
- Gary Bergtholdt passed out the current budget and the execution notes.
- Dan Fontaine asked the board what to do with an old club printer. It does not work well, and the ink cartilages are hard to find. The board instructed Dan to donate the printer to a Thrift Shop.
- Upcoming programs were presented and discussed: August – No meeting; meeting space is not available. September – Club picnic. October -- Michael Griffith is talking with Buck Ward to speak for this meeting. He is an expert about fossils in Chesapeake Bay area. November – Nominations for new board members. December – Christmas Dinner.
- To increase member awareness, a program about what the Pebble Pups are learning was suggested.
- The next TOTE show is July 20 - 22. We will need volunteers to help load the truck and set up; sell and cut geodes; share their expertise with booth visitors; and help take down our booth, load the truck, and unload at the shed. Gary will pick up the truck for Thursday. Gary said he has received and is preparing the new shipment of geodes for the next TOTE show. Michael Griffith shared that the Tide Water Grotto Club has requested to set up an information display for about 2 – 3 hours as part of our booth at the next TOTE show. A Grotto Club member would be there to interact with the public.
- Michael also discussed the club’s Facebook page and loading pictures from other club members.
- The timely program on volcanoes last month by Anna Montgomery was very well received.
- A question was asked about T-shirt and hat sales and the status of stickers with the club logo. The board was informed that shirts and hats are available, and more can be ordered as requested. Purchasing of club decals will be researched.

Minutes prepared by David Scharff

July 2, 2018

/ original signed /

**If you have a friend that might like to join our club, please let them know that they can join by coming to a meeting or by submitting a membership form. Here’s a [link to the GMSVP membership form](#).**



### 2018 Show Dates

**July 20 - 22, and October 12 - 14 (Both at the VA Beach Convention Center)**



**No August GMSVP Meeting  
(Our regular meeting space is unavailable.)**

### Gem Tree Workshop

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



## Visit a Show

Source: EFMLS News Volume 65, Number 7, June-July 2018 & SFMS Lodestar May 2018

July: 14-15: 2018 Gem World sponsored by the Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse. SRC Arena, Onondaga Community College, 4585 W Seneca Tpk, Syracuse, NY 13215. Info: [www.gmss.us/annual-show/2018-annual-show](http://www.gmss.us/annual-show/2018-annual-show).

July 28-29: 39th Annual Champlain Valley Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show sponsored by the Burlington Gem & Mineral Club. Tuttle Middle School, 500 Dorset St; So. Burlington, VT. Info: [www.burlingtongemandmineralclub.org/show.html](http://www.burlingtongemandmineralclub.org/show.html).

July 28-29: LIMAG Annual Gem & Mineral Show, Long Island Mineral & Geology Society. Mattituck High School, 15125 Main Road, Mattituck, NY 11952. Info: [www.limineralandgeology.com](http://www.limineralandgeology.com).

July 28 to August 5: The 34th Annual Grassy Creek Mineral and Gem Show sponsored by Parkway Fire and Rescue. Parking and admission are free. Food is available. 136 Majestic View, Spruce Pine, NC 28777. Contact: Donna Collis: [collisdonna@yahoo.com](mailto:collisdonna@yahoo.com), 828-765-5519.

September: 22-23: Annual Atlantic Gem, Mineral, Jewelry & Fossil Show hosted by the Gem Cutters Guild of Baltimore. Howard County Fairgrounds, 2210 Fairgrounds Rd; West Friendship, MD 21794. Info: [www.gemcuttersguild.com](http://www.gemcuttersguild.com).

October 19 – 21, 2018: 28th Annual Gem and Mineral Show, Rothchild Conference Center, 8807 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN 37923. Info: Travis Paris, [taparis@msn.com](mailto:taparis@msn.com) or Teresa Polly, [teresapolly@bellsouth.net](mailto:teresapolly@bellsouth.net)

November 10-11: Melbourne, FL Canaveral Mineral & Gem Society 45th Annual Parade of Gems Show. 625 East Hibiscus Blvd. Melbourne, FL 32901. More info; [www.canaveral-mgs.com](http://www.canaveral-mgs.com) Show Chairman, Don McLamb 570 Seabreeze Drive, Indialantic, FL 32903 321-723-2592, [fdjmc@aol.com](mailto:fdjmc@aol.com)

November 16-18: Columbia Gem, Mineral, and Jewelry Show. Columbia Gem and Mineral Society. 206 Jamil Rd, Columbia, SC 29210. More info: [www.cgms.rocks](http://www.cgms.rocks).

### NEW EFMLS FACEBOOK PAGE

by Susie Lamb

Incoming President David Nock and I are delighted to announce that our Eastern Federation is in the process of developing a new Facebook page. Once you log into Facebook, type EFMLS in the search block at the top right of your Facebook page and EFMLS will come up. It can be distinguished by the Federation logo if you're not certain.

For now, we're in the "building" mode and adding our EFMLS member clubs to the list of "likes". Doing so will allow your club to receive messages posted on the Federation page. We want you to "like" us as individuals too. And...you can send us a message if you want us to post information about your upcoming show, field trip, workshop, or other activity. Currently the administrators will filter all posts to be sure that they are genuine and not insulting in nature. We'll keep political items and commercial advertising off the site as well.

If you have any suggestions about what you think should be on the page, please let us know. My e-mail is [lambcheryl@hotmail.com](mailto:lambcheryl@hotmail.com)

This is YOUR forum, so please send us information about your upcoming shows or activities as well as photos of your recent club activities so we can spread the word to our fellow clubs.



Source: EFMLS News, Volume 65, Number 7 June-July 2018



# AFMS Code of Ethics

(<http://www.amfed.org/ethics.htm>)

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.