



THE VIRGINIA PEN

GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY OF THE VIRGINIA PENINSULA



November 2018

President's Corner

Vinton Feanny

Special Points of Interest:

- GMSVP Holiday Party (in place of regular Monthly Meeting)/Optional Pollyanna Gift Exchange,

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Happy Thanksgiving to all GMSVP rockhounds and families!!!

During our last club meeting on November 2nd, the present officers were voted back into service for 2019. Our Editor in Chief, Dan Fontaine, has agreed to continue as Editor of our fine Newsletter for another year. Our pebble pups Co-Chairs, Christine Hempley and Barbara Riley, will continue with the pups. Holly Worsham will continue to be our webmaster also. For all other members who have periodically chipped in to help the club out on various matters, thanks. Congratulations to all those who volunteered for these positions! We will install the new officers at our December 6th Holiday Party.

At our upcoming December Holiday Party, Future Rockhounds of America AFMS Badges will be handed out to our Pebble Pups, new officers installed, and Co-Chairs recognized. Congratulations to Gary Bergtholdt on achieving the Lifetime Membership status for his exceptional devotion to the Club!

Our Holiday Party will be festive and fun for all members. It will give us a chance to renew our acquaintances and to get into the spirit of the season. The club will be providing turkey and ham. Club members are urged to bring in a favorite dish or dessert to add to the event.

As in the past, members can take part in an optional Pollyanna gift exchange (~\$10 to \$15). Your Pollyanna Gift should be related to our rock hobby. (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

President: Vinton Feanny,
FeannyVin@gmail.com
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Committee Chairs

Field Trips: **Vacant**
Hospitality: Brigitta Haggins,
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President's Corner (Cont'd)

Vinton Feanny

(Cont'd from prior page.) I look forward to seeing all our club members at this end of year celebration for the club. HAVE A GREAT THANKSGIVING!!!!!! Vinton

GMSVP December 6th Holiday Party

Gary Bergtholdt

Come to the GMSVP December meeting! It is a great way to celebrate the holidays with our many rockhound friends. The GMSVP December 6th meeting (Holiday Party) is at 7 PM at the Sandy Bottom Nature Park's Nature Center (enter from the Big Bethel Road). The meeting 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, and our members are requested to bring some delectable side dishes and desserts. There will be an optional Pollyanna Gift Exchange (~\$10 to \$15). Gifts should be related to our hobby.



Those participating the Pollyanna Gift Exchange will be given a ticket upon arrival at the meeting. The tickets will be used to determine the order that the members go up to the gift exchange table to select their gift (if desired, any swapping of a selected gift among members can be done after the gift exchange). You don't need to identify who your gift is from, but you can if you want.

RESPOND TO GARY BERGTHOLDT (gbergtholdt@gmail.com), so that he will know about how many will be coming to the meeting (including family members) and/or participating in the Pollyanna Gift Exchange. We would also like to know what side dish or dessert that you may bring.

- **Number of members from your family coming to the holiday party. (Gary will let Brigitta know what the attendance will be, so that she knows how large of a turkey and ham to buy for the meeting.)**
- **If your family will be participating in the Pollyanna Gift Exchange.**
- **What side dish or dessert your family will be bringing. (We would like to have all the traditional sides like mashed potatoes, stuffing, gravy, vegetables, casseroles, etc., at the holiday party.)**

The 2019 GMSVP officers also will be installed during the meeting, and closing actions for 2018 and preliminary plans for 2019 will be discussed.

Dec Pebble Pups Activity: Pups News/Awards

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On Saturday, November 10th, the RGMS held its annual rock swap, which is the model for many other clubs' swaps and is probably the 2nd longest running swap in the Eastern U.S. Unlike the Treasures of the Earth (TOTE) Shows, the RGMS rock swap is almost entirely specimens and little or no jewelry.

Eight of our club members set up tables at the Richmond Gem and Mineral Society's (RGMS) Rock Swap to sell specimens recently donated to our club by an estate. Our specimens were priced to move with most in the \$10 to \$20 range (because we did not want to keep moving them ourselves!). There were lots of nice specimens from Maryland and Virginia quarries and mines (many of which are no longer open!). The collection was heavy in the prehnite and calcite specimens.

Sales did very well. Most of the specimens had been properly labeled with the name of the rock and the location and date collected. Many of our 'customers' knew and commented about the different locations, had stories about things they had found in the same place, and lamented about many of the places no longer allowing access to the properties for collectors.

The club plans to include the remaining specimens in our next auction.



Bruschetta Chicken

Dan Fontaine

If you were like me, I really enjoyed the baked chicken that Brigitta Haggins brought to the November meeting as the club's hospitality contribution. Here's her recipe:

She bought the chicken pieces at Costco. Marinate it in Italian dressing and bruschetta seasoning. She then baked it in a high temperature to make the outside crisp.

Reference: <http://thescholarship.ecu.edu/handle/10342/4098>

Martin Marietta periodically opens their Onslow Quarry on a Friday to fossil lovers, like myself. It is a working mine, so you have to have all of the traditional safety gear as well as a safety vest. From the pictures, you can tell that recent extensive rains made for a muddy but productive day.

The mine is in the Eocene age Castle Hayne Limestone Formation on the coastal plain of North Carolina. The limestones contain a variety of fossils about 50 million years old.



Rock Shops are everywhere.

Barbara and I just returned from a cruise on the Danube River from Budapest, Hungary to Nuremberg, Germany. One of the many shore trips along the river was the town of Regensburg, Germany. It is a beautiful medieval town of narrow streets among tall picturesque buildings with shops and residences.

During the walking tour, I happened to look down one of quaint alleys, and there it was, a Mineralien and Fossilien sign. We had stumbled upon Aepler Minerals. After we finished the tour, we backtracked to the alley to spend some time and do a little shopping.

The store was not huge, but it was filled with all kinds of rocks, minerals and fossils from around the world. The proprietress was a delightful lady from Madagascar with an unpronounceable name, who spoke very good English. She told us that they have a booth at Tucson every year.

Barbara and my sister bought some jewelry, while I scoured the shop for European minerals. The proprietress said that European minerals are expensive and hard to find, because so many of the mines have closed. I finally settled on specimens of a breccia laced with galena and silver from Czechoslovakia, a combination specimen of fluorite and barite from Bavaria, and a beautiful polished specimen of chalcopyrite from the Congo (all with labels written in German). Even half way around the world; it is a small world of rocks and minerals.



I'm delighted to let you know that we now have our dates for our two 2019 EFMLS Workshops at Wildacres and have obtained our two stellar Speakers-in-Residence as well.

Spring will be May 20th to 26th and will feature Renée Newman as Speaker. Fall will be September 2nd to 8th and will feature Elise Skalwold as our Speaker.



Renée
Newman,
Photo ©
dcgia.org

Renée is a graduate gemologist (GIA) and is the author of a variety of consumer guide books to buying gems. Her books use a variety of photos from designers, lapidaries, jewelry artists, and gem dealers, but she also takes many photos herself. More info about Renée can be found at

www.reneenewman.com.

Our fall speaker is Elise Skalwold. She is an Accredited Senior Gemologist, independent researcher, educator, author, and photographer. She has served as Consulting Gemological Curator at her alma mater Cornell University (B.Sc. 1982) and is contributing editor and author for the quarterly column *G&G Micro-World* featured in *Gems & Gemology*, the peer-reviewed scientific journal of the Gemological Institute of America (GIA). Ms. Skalwold is a graduate gemologist (GIA). While living in Thailand, she worked in the famous gem markets of both Chanthaburi and Bangkok and pursued studies at the Gem & Jewelry Institute of Thailand for which she was subsequently elected a Fellow of the Gemological Association of Great Britain (F.G.A.) in London.



Elise Skalwold
(Photo © Elise
Skalwold)

Passionate about her work, Elise takes great pride in representing gemology as a relevant geoscience around the world and has done so at Cornell University. She is an author and co-author of several books, scientific papers, and articles. She has spoken to gemological conferences worldwide, including Scotland, Sweden, Tucson, at the GIA Carlsbad and alumni chapters, Sinkankas Symposium, and is a repeat speaker at the Rochester Mineralogical Symposium and the New York Mineralogical Club. Please visit her website at: <http://nordskip.com/>. Elise will be accompanied by her wonderful husband, James Edward, a professional geologist.

The Wildacres Retreat is like no other place you've ever visited. Nestled atop it's own private mountain just off the Blue Ridge Parkway in Little Switzerland, NC, the privately held facility features comfortable bedrooms, well-equipped workshops, meeting rooms, a comfortable dining hall, and wonderful mountain vistas. Food is good, the air is clean and free from city noises, car horns, blaring radios, etc. What a wonderful place to rest, relax and learn. The tuition for each week-long session is \$425 per person. This fee includes room and board, and gratuities for the permanent Retreat staff. Materials fees for the class or classes you take during the week are additional and vary with each class.

Spring class offerings are shown on the EFMLS website (<http://efmls-wildacres.org/index.html>). Fall should be available in our next EFMLS News. Class size is kept at a low level in order to ensure proper attention from your instructor and availability of equipment. Registration for either session begins January 1, and we encourage you to do so early in order to have a good shot at being enrolled in the class or classes of your choice.

At Wildacres....

- We learn new skills!
- We review previously learned skills!
- We meet new people!
- We have fun!!!!

See the EFMLS Wildacres website page for more information at: <http://efmls-wildacres.org/index.html>.

Webster's Dictionary Rockhound Definition – A specialist in geology. A rock and mineral collector.

A Specialist in Geology. You can become a specialist through years of college study. For our club members, the specialist part generally comes from being a rockhound for many, many years of participating on field trips and learning from fellow members.

As a hobby, a rockhound uses resources in our club and other clubs to locate potential rock collection sites, get the help of more knowledgeable rockhounds, and begin the process of locating, deciphering, and praying that the 50 lbs. of rocks you then drag up the side of a steep hill will turn out to be your lucky find.

Of course, experienced geologists know exactly what they are seeking – don't they? We rockhounds go around cracking rocks with our rock and sledge hammers as if they were coconuts to yield that wonderful find on the inside. Of course, the telling of what we actually found is after we drag the 50 lbs. of rock out of our trucks and into our garages to slab and polish into a cab!

A Rock and Mineral Collector. Now that sounds fancy! Do you become a rock and mineral collector after many, many trips to drag 50lbs. of rocks up and down mountain ranges and river banks and chipping and slabbing rocks to determine what we were actually lugging around? Is that when we have arrived at being a rock and mineral collector? It may sound like work, but it is so much fun! YIPPEE!!

Being a rockhound demands strength and fortitude to hunt along a dry creeks (avoiding snakes and the like), stubbing toes, sweating bullets, and finally finding that one rock that we absolutely must have – except it weighs more than – you guessed it – 50 lbs. Nevertheless, we are not deterred, we are determined – slipped disc be damned, we are lifting, rolling, and getting that monster to our vehicle, because we know, deep down, that this is the one – YIPPEE! We finally get it home and what do we do – we place it in the garden as a garden rock! Really? Let's slice and dice that rock to get the perfect cab (weight less than one ounce) out of all that backbreaking work.

Socializing and meeting with like minded folks, and hearing their stories, seeing their end products (cabs and carvings) makes rockhounding a unique hobby. The artistic bent of rockhounds never ceases to amaze me. Perhaps some were artists before becoming a rockhound. Perhaps some became a rockhound from childhood and just collect for the beauty of the raw materials. Perhaps some became rockhounds to create and sell their products. I guess that it is all of the above. Rockhounds seem to be drawn for whatever reason to go lift that 50 lbs. of rock up a steep incline.

I am in the learning stages of being a rock and mineral rockhound, an artist with the designing of cabs, a neophyte in painting rocks, an addicted slabber (love power tools), and an upcoming weight lifter for those 50 lbs. and up rocks.

Happy rock hunting hounds!



GMSVP December Holiday Party (In place of the regular Monthly Meeting)

Date: December 6th, 7 PM

**Program: Celebrate the Holidays with Our
Many Rockhound Friends; Pollyanna Gift Exchange; and
Install 2019 GMSVP Board**

**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.





No doubt all safety-aware persons are mindful of various rules, regulations, guidelines and limits imposed upon us by all manner of property owners, equipment manufacturers, and various state and federal agencies.

Those rules, regulations, guidelines and limits have been thoroughly researched, reviewed, relevancy tested, and released for all of our collective safety concerns.

Where however, do one's own personal limits come into play? Our various medications, concerns about our less than satisfactory balance, our less than sharp eyesight, and our less than optimal motor skills all suggest limitations to which we should also pay attention as we engage in our rockhounding activities.

Is that a slope we could easily climb or is it something we could no longer ascend? Is a large lapidary project something we should no longer attempt, considering the weakness in our hands? Should we cut back on certain faceting designs because of eyesight issues?

While rules, regulations, guidelines and limits imposed upon us are thoughtful and well intentioned, we would be well advised to be aware of our personal limits and mind them as well. Our personal limits are, well, personal. We are the ones most suited to judging and minding our own personal limits. How well can we walk to and in a quarry, how heavy a pack we can carry, and how far we can carry that pack, should all be a part of our thought process in being safe.

Some limitations have work-arounds. For example, one can add wheels to their collecting bags, support jigs and fixtures to support heavy lapidary work, or use a longer trail instead of a steep slope. These are all work-arounds.

One's own personal limits are important to mind. One might injure themselves by disregarding equipment manufacturers recommendations, but one might also injure themselves when disregarding a personal limitation such as when taking too steep a trail.

Please be safe – your safety matters, no matter the source of a limitation.

New GMSVP Member—Welcome New Rockhounds! 108 Members!!!

Leah Bernhardt & Devan Street
Andrea & Sean Hudson
Lori & Rudy Kokich
Alexandra Kokich & Adam Tyler

World Class Amethyst YouTube Videos

Brigitta Haggins forwarded a couple of YouTube links for world class amethysts and quartz. I enjoyed them. You will too!

- <https://youtu.be/deZv4sE8Odc>
- <https://youtu.be/UmrVLfb2LiM>



2019 Show Dates

- March 8-10, VA Beach Convention Center
- April 5-7, Hampton Roads Convention Center
- July 19-21, VA Beach Convention Center
- October 11-13, VA Beach Convention Center

SMALL PARTS CONTAINERS

I'm always on the lookout for small containers to use for holding all those little parts and tools that we deal with in making jewelry, especially since I'm always traveling to classes and workshops.



My latest find are some plastic vials about 15 mm in diameter and 75 mm long. Best part is that they are free. The vials are used in the doctor's office to draw blood samples. They cannot be used after their expiration date, and are thrown out. On my last doctors visit, I asked the nurse if she had any expired vials. She replied "How many do you want?" and tried to give me 400 of them. We settled on 200.

The ones I have are called "Vacutainers," but there are probably many other names. They are clear plastic with a rubber stopper and a paper label all ready to write on. I find them really handy for small parts like jump rings, prong settings, small drills, nuts & bolts, faceted stones, and precious metal filings.

SOURCE FOR PLASTIC

We often use plastic in our studios, like for a single part die or for a template, so it's handy to have a small supply along with the rest of your sheet, wire, copper and bronze. But we seldom think to buy and stock any plastic.



The plastics store that I go to has a scrap bin out back, where they give away their scraps. I usually opt for the 3/8 and 1/2-inch thicknesses for use as forming dies, but there's always a variety of sizes and colors to choose from including thin sheets that are good for templates.

If you can't find a shop with Google or Yellow Pages, do a search on Ebay.com for scrap plastic by the pound.

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.



2019 Board Elected & Entertaining Program at November GMSVP Meeting

Dan Fontaine



Michael Griffith gave a very entertaining and interesting program at the GMSVP November meeting about his participation in the "Guinness Book of World Records Fossil Dig" attempt at the Penn-Dixie Fossil Quarry in New York ([Video Link](#)). While interesting and fun, only partial fossils were generally found.



The GMSVP 2019 Board was also elected during the meeting. Results were: Vinton Feanny, President; Walter Priest, 1st Vice President for Membership; Michael Griffith, 2nd Vice President for Programs; David Scharff, Secretary; and Gary Bergholdt, Treasurer. They will be installed at the December 6th GMSVP Holiday Party on December 6th.



AFMS/MWF 2019 Annual Convention & Show, Cedar Rapids, IA
March 21-24, 2019
Information, Schedule, Registration, Flyer, etc.

55th Annual Show

Cedar Valley Rocks & Minerals Society

Presents its

2019

GEM, MINERAL & FOSSIL SHOW

this year hosting

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies National Show
Midwest Federation of Mineralogical & Geological Societies Regional Show

Saturday March 23 - 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Sunday, March 24 - 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Hawkeye Downs Expo Center
4400 6th Street SW, Cedar Rapids, Iowa



GEODES

Iowa's Mysterious State Rock

Also Featuring a T-Rex Skull



PROGRAMS
 Programs on Theme-Related Topics
 Call ahead or check our website for Speakers & Times

DEMONSTRATIONS
 Tumbling
 Glass Bead Making
 Cabbing, Beading
 Silversmithing
 Flint Knapping
 Geode Cracking

PEBBLE PIT FOR KIDS
 1z, 5z, 10z, 25z, & 50z Items
 \$1 Rock & Mineral Kits

HOT FOOD
 Hawkeye Downs Concessions



DISPLAYS
 Geodes
 Minerals
 Crystals
 Fossils
 Amethyst
 Crinoids, Artifacts
 Petrified Wood
 Polished Stones
 Spheres, Agates

SILENT AUCTION
 Geodes, Minerals, Crystals, etc.

DONATIONS REQUESTED

Adults\$3.00
Students (12-18)\$1.00
Children (Under 12)Free
Youth Groups (with adult)Free

PROFITS GO TO SCHOLARSHIPS

NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ACCIDENTS

SLUICE FOR MINERALS (Kids & Adults)
MANY ITEMS FOR SALE, INCLUDING:

Books	Fossils	Jewelry	Minerals	Rock Ends
Opal	Agates	Carvings	Seashells	Petrified Wood
Slabs	Geodes	Crystals	Tumblers	Lapidary Equip.
Gems	Beads	Spheres	Meteorites	Jewelry Findings

CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT

ONLY SERVICE DOGS ALLOWED

For Additional Information, Contact:
Martin Hong (319-364-2888, m_hong@yahoo.com)
Marion Soudthorpe (319-399-1919, msoudthorpe@earthlink.net) or Andrew (andrew.soudthorpe@gmail.com)
For program, dealer, and show updates, check www.cedarvalleyrockshow.org

Source: AFMS Homepage (<http://www.amfed.org/>)

Visit a Show

Source: EFMLS News Volume 66, Number 1, November 2018 & SFMS Lodestar August 2018

January 11-13: Pinellas Geological Society Forty-Third Annual Gem, Jewelry and Mineral Show. Central Park Performing Arts Center, Parkside Room, 105 Central Park Drive, Largo, Florida. Contact Person: Leona Feldhausen, (727) 709-3236

February 16-17: Treasure Coast Rock and Gem Society 43rd Annual Show. Vero Beach Community Center, 2266 14th Ave, Vero Beach, FL 32960

February 23-24: 60th Mississippi Gem, Mineral, Fossil and Jewelry Show sponsored by Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society. Mississippi Trade Mart on the State Fairgrounds, Jackson, Mississippi. MGMS website: www.missgems.org. Information e-mail: rock2lanes@gmail.com

March 1-3: 49th Annual Gem, Jewelry & Mineral Show and Sale by the Suncoast Gem & Mineral Society. Minnreg Hall 6340 126th Ave. N., Largo, FL 33773. Show contact: Bill Schmidt, Show Chair, 727- 822-8279, E-mail contact: SGAMSGemshow@gmail.com. Website: <http://www.sgams.com/Shows/show.html>"
[http://www.sgams.com/ Shows/show.html](http://www.sgams.com/Shows/show.html).

March 2-3: 56th Annual Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show sponsored by the Delaware Mineralogical Society. NEW LOCATION: Doubletree by Hilton, 4727 Concoed Pike (Rt 2020), Wilmington, DE. Info: <http://www.delminsociety.net/march-show/marchshow.htm>

March 23-24: 50th Annual Rock & Mineral Show presented by the Che-Hanna Rock & Mineral Club. Wysox Volunteer Fire Co, 111 Lake Rd., Wysox, PA. Info: Bob McGuire – 570-928-9238 or uvbob1942@gmail.com.

March 30-31: Annual Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show sponsored by the Philadelphia Mineralogical Society and Delaware Valley Paleontological Society. LuLu Temple, 5140 Butler Pike, Plymouth Meeting, PA (PA Turnpike, exit 333 or I-476, exit 20). Info: www.phillyrocks.org

April 27-28: Mineral, Fossil, Jewelry Show sponsored by the Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society. Agricenter, 7777 Walnut Grove Rd Memphis, TN. Website: www.theearthwideopen.com, E-mail: info@theearthwideopen.com. Contact: WC McDaniel 901-490-3575



If you have not already done so, renew your GMSVP 2019 dues at:

2019

- The December 6th GMSVP Holiday Party
- By completing and mailing in the membership form from

our website: http://www.gmsvp.org/uploads/3/1/2/7/3127689/gmsvp_membership_form_2015-10_rev.compressed.pdf



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.