



THE VIRGINIA PEN



GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY OF THE VIRGINIA PENINSULA

December 2018

President's Corner

Vinton Feanny

Special Points of Interest:

- GMSVP Meeting, January 3rd
- Graves Mountain MAGMA Dig, January 4 & 5
- EFMLS Spring Wildacres Workshop, May 20 - 26

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Happy Holidays to everyone! I trust that the holidays will find you well and that all of your wishes come true.

GMSVP's Holiday Party was a rousing success. We had a good turnout and everyone enjoyed themselves as was evident by the many laughs and good humor exhibited. Old friendships were fostered and new friendships made. After all, we are just a group of folks that love rocks!

Many of the members took part in the Pollyanna gift exchange, and I for one, am extremely satisfied with my Pollyanna gift. YEA!

Our 2019 incoming Officers were recognized, Pebble Pup Awards were handed out, and new members were signed up.

The club does not have someone to be our Hospitality Committee Chair next year. As a result, we will be having limited refreshments at our meetings, until we have a volunteer to lead this important committee. Volunteers also are needed for almost every aspect of the various Committees, with Field Trip Committee Chair and Co-Chair for the Pebble Pups being the most needed.

2019 is shaping up to be an active and exciting year. There are a number of field trips that have been suggested, be they far or near. Watch the GMSVP newsletters for information. Reminder: The EFMLS Wildacres Lapidary Workshop is taking registrations for the upcoming classes in May (See pg 5 of the newsletter).

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all Club members and their families. Stay safe, and we will meet in the new year.

GMSVP Purpose: The purpose of the GMSVP is to: facilitate the exchange of information and general cooperation among its members by promoting the study of lapidary techniques, mineralogy, paleontology, and allied fields of Earth sciences; provide the community with a knowledge of the hobby through lectures, demonstrations, and exhibitions; and enjoy good fellowship.

Visitors Welcome: The GMSVP welcomes any visitor with an interest in geology, mineralogy and the lapidary arts. Whether you are a hobbyist, artist, collector or interested in Earth Science, the club has something for everyone.

Dues: Individual \$15, Couple \$20, and Family \$25. Dues information is under: [Documents and Membership Information on the GMSVP Website Homepage.](#)

Meeting Location: Our meetings are held at [Sandy Bottom Nature Park](#) in Hampton, VA. Check the GMSVP website [Events](#) page for actual dates and times. The upcoming meeting information is in the Special Points of Interest area on the left of this page.



GMSVP

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GMSVP January Meeting Program

Michael Griffith

The January 3rd GMSVP Meeting Program will be on the Crystal Cave in Naica, Mexico.

(Editor's Note: The following information and photo was copied from Wikipedia website page: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cave_of_the_Crystals. See the link for references 1 through 7 indicated below.) Cave of the Crystals or Giant Crystal Cave (**Spanish:** Cueva de los Cristales) is a cave connected to the Naica Mine at a depth of 300 metres (980 ft), in Naica, Chihuahua, Mexico.



The main chamber contains giant selenite crystals (gypsum, $\text{CaSO}_4 \cdot 2 \text{H}_2\text{O}$), some of the largest natural crystals ever found.^[1] The cave's largest crystal found to date is 12 m (39 ft) in length, 4 m (13 ft) in diameter and 55 tons in weight. When it was accessible, the cave was extremely hot, with air temperatures reaching up to 58 °C (136 °F)^[2] with 90 to 99 percent humidity. The cave is relatively unexplored due to these factors.^[3] Without proper protection, people could only endure approximately ten minutes of exposure at a time.^[4]

The cave was discovered by the brothers Eloy and Javier Delgado. It has since been allowed to re-flood, with the cavern now filled once more with the water rich in minerals required for the crystals to grow.

A group of scientists known as the Naica Project have been heavily involved in researching these caverns.^[5]

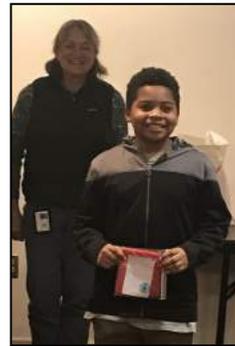
Formation of the Crystals: Naica lies on an ancient fault above an underground magma chamber which is approximately 3–5 kilometres (2–3 mi) below the cave. The magma heated the ground water which was saturated with sulfide ions (S^{2-}). Cool oxygenated surface water contacted the mineral saturated heated water, but the two did not mix due to the difference in their densities. The oxygen slowly diffused into the heated water and oxidized the sulfides (S^{2-}) into sulfates (SO_4^{2-}) that precipitated as anhydrite (CaSO_4). When the overall temperature of the Naica cave started to drop below 56 °C, the hydrothermal and sedimentary anhydrite crystals started to dissolve and gypsum ($\text{CaSO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$) crystals started to form^[6]. The hydrated sulfate gypsum crystallized at an extremely slow rate over the course of at least 500,000 years, forming the enormous crystals found today.^[7]

GMSVP's "The Virginia Pen": Non-commercial reprint permission is granted to non-profit organizations, unless otherwise noted.

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Club members enjoyed our December Holiday Party. It was truly a feast that included turkey, ham, all the fixings, and lots of desserts! Vinton Feanny installed our 2019 **GMSVP Board**. Our new board is: Vinton Feanny, President; Walter Priest, 1st VP Membership; Michael Griffith, 2nd VP Programs; David Scharff, Secretary; and Gary Bergholdt, Treasurer.



Future Rockhound of America (FRA) badges were presented to our younger members that participated in the Pebble Pups Program. 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.



Note from the Moses Family: As my family and I got ready for the **GMSVP Holiday Party**, it dawned on us that it has been a year that we have been affiliated with the organization. I must say that the Moses Family have learned a great deal about geology, rockhounding, and even started a crystal business all within a year. The greatest part of the holiday party was seeing my two children earn their first badges. I was thrilled that they are highly interested in my new hobby and business



venture. I would like to take time out to thank all of you for a wonderful year. This organization has helped me, and my family spend more time together than we could ever imagine. We have mined in Ontario, Canada this past Fourth of July. Our first time out of the country as a family. We also mined in Virginia. To be able to attend the Gems shows, network, and fellowship have been a true blessing for our family. -----*The Moses Family*



New **GMSVP Member—Welcome New Rockhounds! 113 Members!!!**

Bo, Michael,
Aidan, & Owen
Mulcahy
Debbie Rice



Welcome!!!!



GMSVP January Meeting

Date: January 3rd, 7 PM

Program: Crystal Cave in Naica, Mexico

Location: Sandy Bottom Nature Park's Nature Center Hampton, VA

Excalibur Mineral Corporation

DeWitt Shank, Lewisburg, WV; Member of the Roanoke, Lynchburg, and GMSVP clubs

There is a business in Charlottesville named Excalibur Mineral Corporation. It is located at 1885 Seminole Trail, Suite 202, Charlottesville, VA 22901, and is advertised in Rock & Gem Magazine (<http://www.rockngem.com/>) in the back in one of the small classified ads, under the Minerals section, as well as Mineralogical Record, Rocks, and Minerals, and professional journals like Elements, etc. For some of you this is old news, but it was all new to me until just recently. It's been in business 45 years!

It is a most amazing place, particularly if you have never been there before. The shop (a word which does not adequately describe it) is located on the second floor of what is basically an office building located north of Rio Road on U.S. 29 North (Seminole Trail), just past Woodbrook Trail, and across the highway from a Chic-Fil-A. (See attached pictures on the right). They are open 9 AM to 4 PM only and are closed Sundays and Mondays.

When you get out of the elevator, you see what looks to be a very small, but classy, rock shop. Think again, Sparky! When you go in, you will likely meet Tony Nikischer, the owner. Be sure to call ahead, though! As stated on the website: "Our warehouse and laboratory facilities are not open to the general public without prior arrangement!" Let him know you did call, and ask if you can see the rough and specimens in the back. Prepare to be amazed.

In the back is a warehouse full of more minerals of all kinds and in all configurations than you have likely seen in one place, aside from the Tucson show. There are multiple large industrial shelves of every kind of mineral imaginable, running what seems like the length of the building -- in essence the back side of the whole second floor -- stacked with rocks floor to ceiling.

Excalibur also publishes monthly an excellent 16 page newsletter (\$30/year) named Mineral News. The current issue is Volume 34, #11. As it is for November 2018, I assume the newsletter has been being published for 34 years.

A visit to the website (<http://www.excaliburmineral.com/>) will probably mean a visit to the shop is in your not too distant future.



Gem Tree Workshop

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



REGISTRATION OPENS JANUARY 1ST

Source: EFMLS News, Volume 67, Number 1, January 2019

Steve Weinberger, Wildacres Chair

Just a reminder that registration for the spring (May 20 - 26) and fall (September 2 - 8) EFMLS Wildacres Lapidary Workshops opens January 1st. Always popular with limited space in classes to ensure outstanding instruction, we encourage you to register early. A list of our spring classes can be found pages 6 and 7.

Each session is divided into two parts (called semesters) with a day "off" in the middle to allow participants the chance to do some field collecting, museum visiting, or just exploring the Little Switzerland or Asheville area.

Students are pre-enrolled (based on their choice) in one class for the first semester and another class for the second. Students have opportunities in each to learn new skills and/or produce amazing projects.

Each session also features a "Speaker-in-Residence" who gives six talks related to the hobby and their specialty during the week. Spring will feature author Reneé Newman and fall, Elise Skalwald. Details about both are on our website (<http://efmls-wildacres.org/index.html>) (or will be there shortly).

Cost for each session is \$425 per person which includes room and board as well as semi-private rooms. In addition, there is a modest materials fee for the class or classes you are enrolled in and of course you get to take home the project or projects your complete.

Consider Wildacres for 2019. It's an experience you'll not soon forget.

See the EFMLS Wildacres website page (<http://efmls-wildacres.org/index.html>) for information on the EFMLS Wildacres Lapidary Workshop program, frequently asked questions, workshop dates, courses and the speaker-in-residence at the Spring and Fall workshops, registration form, a video on the workshop, how to contact the organizers, and directions to the site.



Wildacres Spring Classes – May 20 – 26, 2019 – Speaker-in-Residence: Renée Newman
 Steve Weinberger, Wildacres Chair

Class & Instructor	Description
Cabochons – Basic Instructor: Bernie Emery	Learn to transform a piece of rock into a shiny, well-formed cabochon. You will learn the use of the trim saw as well as basics of grinding, sanding and polishing. Slabs are provided or students September use their own with approval of the instructor. Please bring an apron and safety glasses. 2-day class offered first semester. No prior experience necessary.
Cabochons - Intermediate Instructor: Bernie Emery	Learn to cut different shapes and the techniques needed to do so. Slabs are provided or students may use their own with approval of the instructor. Please bring an apron and safety glasses. Prerequisite: Students must have prior experience with cabbing and use of the trim saw. 2-day class offered second semester.
Faceting Instructor: Reivan Zeleznik	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 if they have one. Jeweler's loupe needed and will be available from the instructor for purchase. No prior experience is necessary. 4-day class.
Fold Forming/ Cold Connections Instructor: Micah Kirby	The class will introduce intro to fold forming and connecting base metals without heat (cold). We will cover how to use forming tools and hammers, wire, tubing, and rivets as fasteners. Hinging and tab setting also be covered. We will explore design concepts with texturing, using stamps, hammers and rolling mill. Forming and tab setting techniques will be implemented as well. Class will learn a to design an air chased cuff from copper tubing and a pair of matching earrings. Gain knowledge of texturing and forming the cuff. Class will produce a one cuff and 1 pair of earrings and finish with tumbling. 2-day class offered first semester.
Fold Forming / Cold Connections II Instructor: Micah Kirby	Class will Learn to design and fabricate a pair of earrings and pendent. Combing multiple pieces and connecting with wire, tube or rivet. Using stamps, hammer or rolling mill to texture. The pendent will involve the same techniques also a tab set stone/ found object and finish with tumbling (pendent will tumble before setting). 2-day class offered second semester.
Geology Instructor: Rob Robinson	A basic introduction to rocks and minerals and the study of the earth. The class will include a discussion and class activity about how geologists interpret rocks to tell geologic history related to their formation, deformation and sequence and timing of events. Weather permitting there will be a field trip to local rock exposures to illustrate local rock types, the deformation types, and how a geologist maps and interprets structures (limited walking is required.) Please bring a loupe or other magnification, hiking boots or sturdy shoes and outdoor clothes for the half-day field trips. Geologic hammer and safety glasses are also desirable. (Do not bring a nail hammer – they are unsafe to hit rocks.) 2-day class offered first semester. No experience needed.

Wildacres Spring Classes (Cont'd) – May 20 – 26, 2019 – Speaker-in-Residence: Renée Newman
 Steve Weinberger, Wildacres Chair

Class & Instructor	Description
Geology II Instructor: Rob Robinson	An overview of plate tectonics, geologic history and the geology of the Blue Ridge region and its minerals. We will discuss the geologic environments hosting mineral and gem collecting sites. Come prepared to identify some of your collecting localities to be part of this exercise. Weather permitting there will be a field trip to the Blue Ridge Museum showing local rocks and geologic history and another to see local geology. (A one-mile walk over gentle trails is required for the geology trip.) Some knowledge of basic geology preferred. Please refer to Geology I for suggested tools, clothing and magnification. 2-day class offered second semester
Introduction to Inlay Instructor: Chuck Bruce	Students will construct an inlay box pendant and student choice after. Students can bring basic silver tools, pocketknife or scribe, will have all tools needed. Students need to bring or purchase 2-3 slabs of rock that are similar hardness, Woods, Fossil Ivory and can be combined for inlay. Pattern stones do very well with plain colored stone. Expect waste rock. 2-day class offered first semester.
Introduction to Inlay - II Instructor: Chuck Bruce	Student will finish fabrication of small trapper folding knife. Students can bring basic silver tools, pocketknife or scribe, but will have all tools needed. Students need to bring or purchase 2-3 slabs of rock that are similar hardness, woods, fossil ivory which can be combined for inlay. Pattern stones do very well with plain colored stone. Expect waste rock. 2-day class offered second semester.
Silversmithing Instructor: 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 first semester. No prior experience necessary.
Silversmithing II Instructor: 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 second semester
Soapstone Carving Instructor: Sandy Cline	This class will provide a general introduction to the carving of soapstone. You will develop a working knowledge of the material, tools, safe handling issues and the methods used to complete a carving. You will produce a simple piece and progress to making a more advanced sculpture of your choice. The development of your own personal style will be encouraged. No prior experience needed. 2-day class offered both semesters
Wirewrapping: Session I, Basic; Session II - Intermediate Instructor: Jacolyn Campbell	Using pliers, gold-filled or sterling silver wire, assorted beads or gemstones, and a few basic wirecraft techniques, learn how to create your own fashion rings, bracelets, pendants and earrings to add that perfect accent to your jewelry wardrobe or to give as gifts. All tools and materials will be provided. Session I: Designed for beginners, participants will make an adjustable ring, two bracelets, a pendant and two pairs of earrings. 2-day class offered first semester. Session II: Designed for those with some experience (or a brave beginner) participants will make a fitted ring, two pairs of earrings, a cabochon pendant and a bracelet. 2-day class offered second semester.



The examples we set for the kids around us are profound. Whether it's our own kids, the neighbors kids, the playground kids, the kids in the grocery store, or the kids on our field trips, kids are watching what we adults do.

Have you every taken note of the oft-repeated safety message recited by airline flight attendants just prior to take off? There is a section in their message about loss of cabin pressure and the resulting need to take the now-dangling-in-front-of us oxygen masks, pull them out to straighten (un-kink) them and, place the masks on our faces. After we are wearing the masks, we are then directed to place them on the kids traveling with us. There is a reason why we are told to place them on our faces first before placing them on the kids faces. When a kid sees the mask on us first, they will understand that it is safe and right thing for them to do as well. Like it or not, for better or worse, we set the examples kids learn to adopt.

Just as with aircraft safety, field trip safety is important and if adults set a good example, it can make an impression on kids. Kids will mimic, adopt, accept, follow and learn from the examples we set. Safety issues are no exception to that essential nature of kids.

Kids, for the most part, want to grow up, be adults, and do the things adults do. If we, as responsible adults, set good examples that pathway to adulthood will be that much safer for the child. On the next rock collecting adventure, think about putting your proper footwear on first, wearing your safety goggles first, placing gloves on your hands first. On our upcoming rock collecting outings please mind where you toss your "leaverite", mind how you use your collecting tools, and pay attention to how we interact with our fellow rockhounds -- the kids are watching.

Now, even if the kids are hundreds of feet away from where we are working kids will do what they do best. The curious nature of kids and the little sponges in their heads will absorb the sights of our actions, the words we speak, and take note of our behavior. Even without your being aware, kids are watching us -- that is their nature.

What if the kids around us are far away from our location, too far away to see the details of whether or not we are wearing safety glasses? Should the adults in such an instance let their guard drop and dismiss wearing goggles, or gloves, or using proper tool technique? Well, adults are just grown up kids and we need to protect ourselves too!

Perhaps you have noted the incredible tendency of kids to show up just as we make our greatest mistakes (such as not wearing those goggles). Even without kids around, we adults still deserve to be safe too. It's just that, with kids around, we need to extra vigilant with our setting a good, or even a great, example for them to soak up.

Also, please consider this -- by our setting a good example, the parents of the kids around us will have a much easier time teaching kids the right things to do because everyone around the kids will be doing the right things -- what a great relief for a parent of young children! It's no fun for a parent to have to keep saying to their child, "No, don't do what they are doing." or "No, that guy over there is not following the safety rules for the trip."

Be safe, act safe, set a safe example, and see the smiles. Be safe 'cause your safety matters.



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



<http://www.wncrocks.com/magma/>

Graves Mountain MAGMA Dig January 4th and 5th, 2019, Lincolnton, Georgia

Official Field Trip of the Mountain Area Gem and Mineral Association

This will be MAGMA's first club dig of the 2019 year, Our New Years dig!

The mountain will be open to collecting from 8 AM to 6 PM each day, Friday and Saturday. All attendees must sign a liability release upon arrival on the mountain. I will be at the gate at 8:00 am to collect release forms and fee for dig. The dig will end and everyone must be off the mountain by 6:00 p.m. each day.

- Fee: \$15 per person, per day, Children 12 and under are free.
- Bring all tools, food and drinks with you.
- GRAVES MOUNTAIN CODE OF CONDUCT!
- Park your vehicle in the designated area at the end of the paved access road.
- ALL pets must be kept under control and on a leash.
- The caretaker, Jr. Norman has final and absolute say as to where you may safely work.
- Ladders or power tools of any kind will not be allowed. (HAND TOOLS ONLY!)
- STAY AWAY FROM ALL HIGH WALLS!
- NO RAPPELLING OFF OF ANYTHING!
- NO ONE IS ALLOWED TO DRIVE THEIR VEHICLE ON ANY PART OF GRAVES MOUNTAIN BEYOND THE PARKING AREA! (The caretaker must accompany anyone driving beyond the parking area!)
- EVERYONE NEEDS TO BE OFF THE MOUNTAIN BY 6:00 p.m. (Absolutely no one is allowed on Graves Mountain after dark.)
- Please protect our ability to field collect at Graves Mountain!
- Report violations to:
Jr. Norman; Norman C E Wrecking Co., 3333 C E Norman Rd, Lincolnton, GA 30817-3110; 706-401-3173
All reported violations will be held in strict confidence.
- DIRECTIONS: From Washington Georgia, drive east 11 miles on SR-378, look for mine entrance on right. From the Hardee's in Lincolnton, Georgia, drive approximately 5-1/2 miles west on SR-378. Look for the sign at the entrance to Graves Mountain on the left side of the road.
- Motels and Camping:
 - o Cullars Inn, Lincolnton, Georgia, 706-359-6161
 - o Soap Creek Lodge, Clarks Hill Lake, Lincolnton, 706-359-3124
 - o Elijah Clark State Park, 706-359-3458 / 800-864-7275

Join MAGMA for \$15/yr individual or \$25 Family. <http://www.wncrocks.com/magma/magma%20join%20club.htm>

TAKE A BETTER PHOTO

Most digital cameras these days have the ability to take a good picture of your small jewelry items, but set-up is important. There are four major items to control-background, lighting, camera motion, and focus control.

Lightly colored papers from an art store make reasonable starter backgrounds. Try experimenting with other products later like glass or colored plastics. Avoid fabrics because the weave can often be distracting at high magnification.

Outside lighting is the easiest. In fact for close-ups, flash never works well. Turn off your camera's flash. Choose a bright but overcast day or a lightly shaded area when the sun is full. For inside use, two gooseneck desk lamps can be used with 75 watt bulbs. Whatever you use, be sure to set the camera to match the type of lighting you use or else the colors will be off.

You'll be shooting up close, so turn on the Macro mode. Now at this range, if the camera moves even a little bit during the shot, the picture will be blurry, so it's essential to use a tripod. Used ones are available inexpensively from eBay, yard sales or some camera shops. And even with a tripod, I put the camera on the self-timer mode so that any vibration from when you click the button settles down before the camera takes a picture.

In order to get the largest part of your jewelry in focus, you have to close the lens down to the minimum aperture (highest F-Stop number). This is done by taking the camera off of "Auto" mode and selecting Aperture Priority, usually denoted by "Av" and then setting the aperture to the largest number, which is F-8 on my camera. You'll probably have to get out the book or go back to the store to ask how to do this, but it's really worth it.

That's it. In recap, here are the camera settings I use:

- Set the lens to Macro for a close-up shot.
- Turn the camera's flash off.
- Move the camera in close enough for the item to cover at least ¾ of the frame.
- Look for adverse reflections from the jewelry surface.
- Try to minimize reflections with changes of light position, camera angle, or white background paper.
- Carefully check for any fingerprints or dust that might be on the piece.
- Make any final tweaks with light and arrangement.
- Select "Av" for aperture priority mode.
- Set the lens opening to the highest number to get the maximum depth of field.
- Set the lighting to match what you're using (daylight, overcast, light bulb, fluorescent, etc).
- Set the timer for delayed shooting, either 2 seconds or 10 seconds, to avoid camera movement. The delay also gives you time to hold up a piece of white paper to adjust lighting or reduce any final reflections.
- Set the image size to the maximum resolution. You can size it down later, but you can never increase it.
- Take the shot.

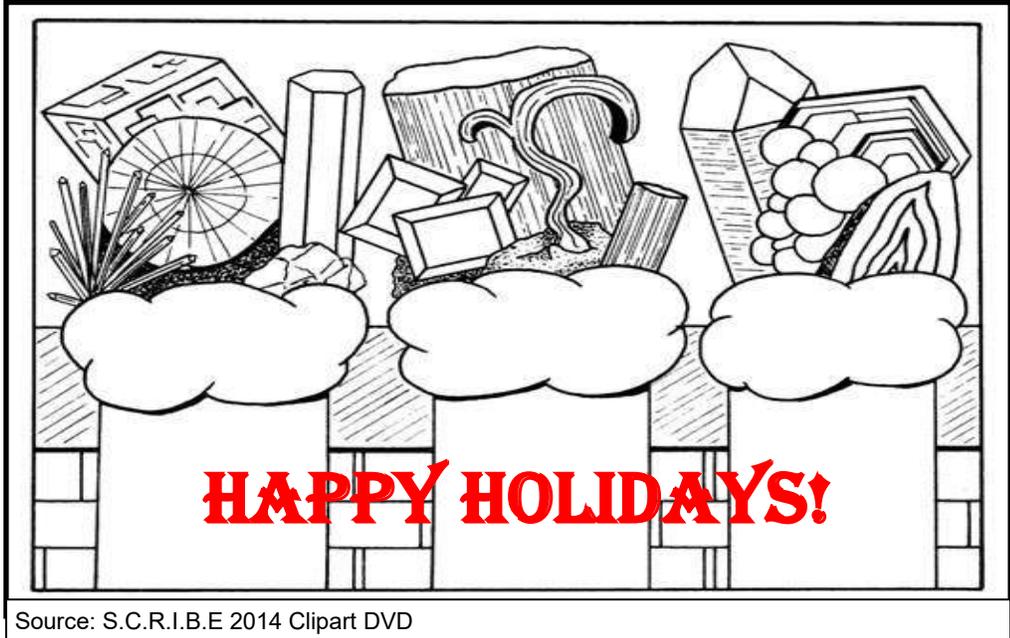
With the holidays coming up soon, what better gift for a friend than a book chock full of skills and ways to solve common problems. Here's a few to look at: Bench Tips for Jewelry, <http://amzn.to/1Z6hQ06>; More Bench Tips, <http://amzn.to/2KCYgh4>; Broom Casting, <http://amzn.to/1Z6hYws>; Making Design Stamps, <http://amzn.to/2fvf58T>; and Accessories for Freedom, <http://amzn.to/2fwxuaT>

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





- The annual GMSVP Holiday Party was held during the December 6th meeting. Members and guests were invited to begin serving themselves at 6:50 PM.
- At 7:30 PM, our president, Vinton Feanny, welcomed everyone. She announced that the GMSVP board for the past year has agreed to continue serving for the new year. She introduced each board member to the club:
 - o President: Vinton Feanny
 - o First Vice President for Membership: Walter Priest
 - o Second Vice President for Programs: Michael Griffith
 - o Secretary: David Scharff
 - o Treasurer: Gary Bergtholdt
- Vinton then asked for any guests and new members to introduce themselves.
- Vinton reminded the club members that our annual dues are due tonight, and requested that they be paid as soon as possible.
- Vinton stated that volunteers are needed for:
 - o Hospitality
 - o Field trip coordinator
 - o Pebble Pup Assistant to help Christine Hempley
- Vinton introduced Barbara Riley for the Pebble Pup Awards. Four Pebble Pups were awarded patches for their work during the past year.
- Michael Griffith announced that we will have new projector for our next meeting, and it will be used in the next program about the large crystal mine in Mexico.
- Gary Bergtholdt announced the rules for the Santa's gift exchange. At the conclusion of the exchange the meeting was adjourned.



Minutes prepared by David Scharff
December 15, 2018
/ original signed /

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 January 3rd GMSVP Meeting
- 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.