



THE VIRGINIA PEN

GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY OF THE VIRGINIA PENINSULA



April 2019

President's Corner

Vinton Feanny

Special Points of Interest:

- Pipsico Fossil Field Trip, Apr 13
- GMSVP Meeting, Apr 18
- TGMS Auction, Apr 26
- MAGMA Graves Mountain Rock Swap & Dig, Apr 26-28
- GMSVP Auction, May 2
- EFMLS Spring Wildacres Workshop, May 20 - 26
- Aurora Fossil Festival, May 25
- SFMS William Holland Lapidary Workshop, Jun 9
- Dino-Walk, Jul 13



Welcome to all our new members! 2019 is shaping up to be an exciting year. Numerous trips have been planned so far. Watch our newsletter for all upcoming trips.

Many thanks for our hospitality host Dale Nichols who prepared the most delicious pot roast ever! I spoke to a few club members who told me of the dish. Sorry I missed that one. Perhaps we can persuade him to do us another dish later in the year.

Michael Griffith, our Programs Coordinator, has graciously offered his additional dinosaur walk ticket to the club at cost. The club is looking into renting a van for this dino-walk adventure. This van would be able to take 14 club members for a modest donation of \$10 at time of signing up for the trip. I understand there is a nearby museum in Culpeper which would be a great addition to the trip. The dinosaur walk is approximately 1 hour. There are restaurants nearby the museum for lunch. There possibly could be an additional stop at the Gold Mining Camp Museum at Monroe Park, the official gold mining interpretive center for the Commonwealth of Virginia, the only museum in Virginia solely dedicated to the history of gold and gold mining. Monroe Park is located off Route 17 in Goldvein, Virginia. The Gold Panning and Gem Mining Sluice is available for sluicing. More information to come on this trip. If you are interested in going, please let Bo know of your interest. The trip is slated for July 13th.

There are many more events happening around our state and Bo, our Field Trip Coordinator, has provided our editor with the names, dates, and (Cont'd on next page)

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

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

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

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



GMSVP

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President's Corner (Cont'd)

Vinton Feanny

(Cont'd from Prior Page) addresses of these events. As requested, please inform Bo if you are interested in any of these events.

Just a reminder, the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies (EFMLS) Wildacres Lapidary Workshops are on May 20th to 26th and September 2nd to 8th. Please be sure to read up on the available classes online at: <http://efmls-wildacres.org/>. The workshop is under the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies. It is a great way to learn about rocks and minerals, hear great guest speakers and enjoy a really relaxing time in the mountains. Additionally, William Holland, another lapidary school, is offering courses in June. Please see notation in this newsletter on William Holland.

Club Meeting Dates: The next Club meeting is on April 18th, which will feature a program on Uranium for the Mineral Collector. The May 2nd meeting will be our annual auction. Additionally, we have scheduled our bi-annual picnic for May 11, 2019 beginning around 10 AM. All information on the auction and the picnic are addressed separately in this newsletter. Please familiarize yourself with the dates. Please mark your calendar accordingly.

We should have an exciting 2019!

GMSVP 2019 Calendar (Subject to Change)

Gary Bergtholdt

- April 18: Club Meeting
- May 2: Club Meeting (Auction)
- May 11: Club Picnic
- June 6: Club Meeting
- June 10: Board Meeting
- July: No Club Meeting
- July 18-21: VA Beach TOTE Show
- August 1: Club Meeting
- September 9: Board Meeting
- September 14: Club Picnic
- October 3: Club Meeting
- Oct 10-13: VA Beach TOTE Show
- November 7: Club Meeting/Elections
- Dec 5 - Holiday Party
- Dec 9: Board Meeting

March Meeting Program

Michael Griffith

Brad Goodman provided a program at the GMSVP March 21st meeting on the newest Mars lander: Mars InSight. Brad described the lander and its various instruments, especially its heat flow probe to explore the subsurface and a seismometer to measure Martian quakes.

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GMSVP Spring Picnic on May 11th

Gary Bergtholdt

Our GMSVP Spring Picnic will be at Sandy Bottom Nature Park's Lakeside Shelter (next to the nature center) on Saturday, May 11th, from 10 AM to 4 PM.

Note: In addition to the May 11th picnic, the regular GMSVP meeting on May 2nd will be our annual auction.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: CONTACT GARY BERGTHOLDT

(gbergtholdt@gmail.com).

- We need a volunteer to be the Grill Master to cook the hamburgers and hotdogs.
- Volunteers should meet at the club's shed at 9 AM to help with equipment loading and setup at the picnic shelter. The equipment should be ready for members to use around 10 AM, after we have conducted a safety inspection. Equipment cleanup begins at 3 PM, and members are needed to help load and return the equipment to the shed.

If we have a volunteer to cook, lunch should be from 11:30 AM until about 2 PM, with the club providing hamburgers, hot dogs, buns, condiments, and drinks. Members are requested to bring desserts, sides, and salads to share. Please mark your dishes and serving utensils to ensure we can return them to the right members or guests.



If you are using a piece of equipment and others are waiting, please limit your use to 30 minutes, then share. Also please clean after you are done using a piece of equipment.

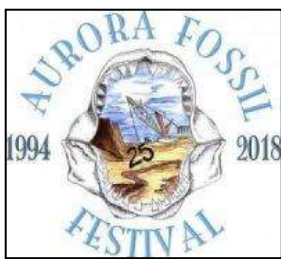
The picnic is a great opportunity to get to know other members, learn to use the club's equipment, share our knowledge, and have fun!



Aurora Fossil Festival May 25th

Reference: <http://aurorafossilfestival.net/>

Dan Fontaine



The annual Aurora Fossil Festival is on May 25th in Aurora, NC (a nice day trip from Hampton Roads).

Pat and I went a few years ago with two of our grandchildren that were 7 and 9 at the time.

We all had a blast. What's not to like....a fossil museum, digging in the dirt for shark teeth, eating junk food, going on some

carnival rides, and looking at tents with tempting fossil goodies. We even took a bus trip into the nearby potash mine; although we had to stay in the bus, they provided an interesting history and overview of the mining operations.

So if you like fossils and especially if you have some kids or grandkids interested in fossils, this festival makes for a fun family outing. See this link for more info: <http://aurorafossilfestival.net/>.



Next Treasures of the Earth Show: VA Beach Convention Center on July 18 - 21

I will be stepping down as GMSVP Editor at the end of 2019. If you would like to be the next GMSVP Editor, please let me know (gmsvp.editor@gmail.com). You can “shadow” me on the remaining 2019 club newsletters. I’ve learned lots of tricks over the past 7 years that I can share. Dan Fontaine


Annual Auction at May 2nd GMSVP Meeting 7 PM

Michael Griffith

It's that time of year again! Time for the club to clear out some of the shed and divest ourselves of some of the rock collections that we've bought over the past year. The GMSVP auction at the May 2nd club meeting will feature rocks, gems, specimens, slabs, and equipment. I recommend that you arrive early (~6:30 PM), get registered for the auction (includes getting your bidding number), and grab something to eat.

Auction Guidance

Sample Auction Items



- SIGN UP FOR YOUR BID NUMBER AND ‘NUMBER PADDLE.’
- GO TO THE TABLES TO THE RIGHT AND SELECT THE ITEM(S) YOU WANT TO BID ON.
- PLACE THE ITEM(S) ON ONE OF THE 60 SQUARES ON EITHER SIDE OF THE PODIUM. (THERE ARE 100 ITEMS AVAILABLE BUT WE WILL ONLY AUCTION 60 DUE TO TIME CONSTRAINTS.)
- BID IN WHOLE DOLLAR AMOUNTS ONLY. (THERE WILL BE SPECIAL PEBBLE PUPS AUCTIONS WITH 50-CENT INCRIMENTS AS THE ONLY EXCEPTION.)
- BID LOUDLY AS THE AUCTIONEERS ARE OLD.
- PHOTOS OF THE AUCTION ITEM WILL BE PROJECTED ON THE SCREEN, SO TRY TO MINIMIZE ASKING TO LOOK AT THE ITEM. LOOK BEFORE THE AUCTION ON THE TABLES, PLEASE.
- WE TAKE CASH, CHECK (W/ I.D.) AND CREDIT CARDS. MAKE CHECKS OUT TO ‘GMSVP.’
- AUCTIONS WILL END WITH ‘GOING ONCE – GOING TWICE – SOLD!’

GOOD LUCK AND HAVE FUN!

See <http://www.gmsvp.org/> for a slide show of all the auction items.



Next Treasures of the Earth Show: VA Beach Convention Center on July 18 - 21

Richard Hull will present “Uranium for the Mineral Collector” at our April 18th meeting.

Uranium is a metallic element, but for the mineral collector, it appears as rock. To the commercial world this rock is called ore. Ore refers to a valuable element hidden within stone. Uranium, from its discovery as a rather worthless element in the 18th century, languished until very limited use for it was found in pottery glazes and glass coloring and later in photographic printing. It was only in the early 20th century that it was a source of the very valuable and highly radioactive element, Radium. Hundreds of tons of Uranium ore were processed for mere grams of Radium. The Uranium that could not be sold to the glass and pottery industry was thrown on the slag heaps as waste. World War II began the true interest in Uranium metal for the atomic bomb. The hunt for Uranium in useful amounts created the last great mineral rush in U.S. history....The Uranium boom of the 1950’s and 1960’s. This will be the tale of the mineral, the ore, and the hunt for it by mineral collectors.

Our presenter, Richard Hull, is a retired electronics engineer and a life-long amateur scientist and collector of many things (minerals among them). During his youth he was interested in chemistry, electronics, and nuclear physics. For his 8th birthday his mom gave him a surplus Geiger counter. He collected the fallout from nuclear tests by catching rain water from his home’s roof downspouts in pails. He boiled it down to get at the strontium 90, cobalt 60 and cesium 137 that rained out over the entire East coast shortly after each announced Nevada nuclear test in the 1950’s.

Virginia is not a great place for Uranium, but its Piedmont pegmatites were a rich source of radioactive monazite (Thorium), where mines near Richmond produced it and he collected it. In a number of recent trips to Utah, Colorado, and New Mexico, he has collected from the areas around the long closed mines of the famous “U Boom”.

Remaining 2019 TOTE Show Dates

- July 19-21, VA Beach Convention Center
- October 11-13, VA Beach Convention Center



New GMSVP Members—Welcome New Rockhounds! 118 Members!!!

**Christian Dickerson
Lavonne Hayes
Kam McGuire**



GMSVP April Meeting

Date: April 18th, 7 PM

Program: Radioactive Minerals

Location: 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.



The Tidewater Gem and Mineral Society (TGMS) has invited GMSVP members to participate in their Auction at 7 PM on Friday, April 26th (*note date change*). It will be held at their regular meeting location at the Memorial United Methodist Church, 804 Gammon Road, Virginia Beach, VA.

In addition to rocks and things, the auction will include the following lapidary equipment: an 8-inch rotary lap, a homemade by Warren Redford combination 6" saw/buffer, a faceting machine and accessories (Raytech), a centrifugal castor for gold or silver work, a kiln, a beginners faceting machine (older model from Warren Redford), a vibratory lap (older model), and a buffing wheel.



REGISTRATION OPENS JANUARY 1ST

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

Steve Weinberger, Wildacres Chair

Just a reminder that registration opened January 1st for the Spring (May 20 - 26) and Fall (September 2 - 8) Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies (EFMLS) Wildacres Lapidary Workshops. These workshops are always popular and has limited class space to ensure outstanding instruction. We encourage you to register early.

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 speakers are on our website (<http://efmls-wildacres.org/index.html>).

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 that 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.



BURNISHING BEZELS

A dapping ball can sometimes be used to burnish a bezel. I noticed this when setting some 10 mm cabs on a piece of filigree. It was difficult to get enough pressure with a pusher or a regular burnisher, so I tried a dapping ball and found it much easier. Make sure the ball is well polished (hit it with the Zam wheel) and let it ride along the base of your piece. Select a ball big enough so its curvature hits the top of the bezel at the best angle to burnish it down onto the stone.



SUPER PICKLE

We've all made the mistake of putting some steel in the pickle pot. This can cause all your pieces to be coated with copper. Easiest way I've found to clean it off is to fill half a coffee cup with new hot pickle and put in an ounce or two of hydrogen peroxide from the drug store.

Throw your pieces in and the coating is gone in about 10 minutes. When finished, pour the solution back into your pickle pot.

Many people think that when some steel gets into the pickle, the solution is contaminated and should be thrown away. Not true as long as you can remove all the steel from the pickle. In fact, the pickle should work even better after the steel is removed. Pickle works by dissolving the copper oxides that form during soldering. Pickle gets "old" when it cannot hold any more dissolved copper. Putting steel in the pot forces some of the copper to come out of solution, meaning the pickle is then able to dissolve more copper.

Discover New Jewelry Skills With Brad's "How To Do It" Books at:

www.Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith.



Photos from Vulcan Manassas Trip

Michael Griffith



Safety Matters—Got a Date?

Ellery Borrow, AFMS Safety Chair

Source: AFMS Newsletter, Volume 68, Number 3 – February, 2015 (www.amfed.org)



Got a date on any items in your field trip, show, or club meeting first aid kit? Many products now-a-days have not just manufacturer's lot numbers but product use by, or expiration dates as well. Such is the case not just for many food items, but medical supplies as well.

Even bottles of water have use by dates on them – not that water goes bad, but sometimes there is concern that the chemistry in the plastic of the bottle may migrate into the product. Thus if water needs a date, so do medical supplies.

Periodically, the person in charge of a club's medical or first aid cabinet should review the kits contents with regard to their expiration, or "use by" dates. While some folks play fast and loose with "best if used by" dates on food items, a medical supply item should really be kept up to date.

A couple safety people I know make reviewing supplies quite easy to accomplish because they maintain a list of all the first aid kit's supplies and contents as well as their respective expiration dates. Such a list makes periodic reviews easy – especially when listed in a computer data base and sorted by expiration date.

Now, while expiration dates are important, there are additional important facts to consider when making decisions to replace certain items. For example, adhesive bandages may be adversely effected by high heat (think something like noon day or desert sun here). Heat may also effect gel-caps, package seals, and some meds. So one should not just go by the package expiration labels but also by the product storage and handling requirements.

Another factor to consider is relative humidity or dampness. Be mindful to keep the items in the first aid kit protected from wet conditions as much as possible. Many store-bought first aid kits are sealed sufficiently well as to make them waterproof – some even have cases that float, which is quite handy in cases of venturing forth in, around, or on the water.

Some liquids such as hydrogen peroxide, alcohol, iodine may still be found in sealed glass containers. Needless to say, such containers should be well protected from accidental breakage.

Lastly, a note about cleanliness -- many first aid kits are taken right to the sight of a field trip and upon usage possibly exposed to dust, moisture, or other contaminants. First aid kits should be kept as clean as possible. It is not fun to open a kit and see the materials contained in it splattered or covered with dust and debris from the last trip. When items are dirt covered, one really must question the sterility of the contents. As they say, cleanliness is next to... well, cleanliness.

To start out the new year, please, for safety's sake, make sure the products in your first aid kit are fresh, clean, and have their seals tight. Insure that the supplies that should be in the kit are indeed in the kit. Also, please be safe and consider getting those dates checked.

Photos from Onlsow Quarry Dig 2-22-19

Michael Griffith



The GMSVP Website won 1st Place in the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies (SFMS) 2019 Website Contest.

This is quite an honor for our club and our outstanding webmaster, Holly Worsham.

Dan Fontaine, on behalf of our club President, Vinton Feanny, presented Holly with the 1st Place plaque and certificate.



Dan also passed the SFMS website contest scoring sheet to Holly to review for any potential thoughts to further hone our website.

If you have not already visited our club's website (www.gmsvp.org), you are missing a true gem.

Join us for the 2019 SFMS Workshop at William Holland June 9th - 14th, 2019



Please find all the information regarding classes, registration form and payment at our new website... www.sfmsworkshops.org

For questions please contact:
Kristine Robertson, kristine@kmarella.com,
863-640-2887



Please let Bo Mulcahy (bomulcahy@gmail.com) know, if you would like to attend any of the field trips.

- **April 13th - Pipsico Boy Scout Camp Reservation near Surry, Va.** See information on page 10.
- **April 26th - 28th: MAGMA Graves Mountain Rock Swap and Dig, Lincolnton, Georgia.** See information on page 11.
- **May 25th, The annual Aurora Fossil Festival is on May 25th in Aurora, NC; <http://aurorafossilfestival.net/>.** See page 3 for more information.
- **July 13th (8 AM - Noon 12 PM): The Museum of Culpeper History's Dino-Walk 2019, Luck Stone Corporation, 18244 Germanna Highway, Culpeper, VA 22701**
 - Details: Join the Museum of Culpeper History at the Luck Stone Quarry in Culpeper on Saturday, July 13th, for their Annual Dino-Walk. Discover the largest set of dinosaur footprints discovered in North America right here in Culpeper! More than 215 million years ago, during the Triassic Period, giant beasts roamed the region that we call home today. Then, in 1989, evidence of their existence was discovered at the bottom of the quarry.
 - **Note: Although it is sold out, Michael Griffith, our Programs Vice President, has graciously offered his additional dinosaur walk ticket to the club at cost. The club is looking into renting a van for this dino-walk adventure. This van would be able to take 14 club members for a modest donation of \$10 at time of signing up for the trip. Please let Vinton Feanny (FeannyVin@gmail.com) and Bo Mulcahy (bomulcahy@gmail.com), if you would like to participate.**
 - The event will be held rain or shine. You should arrive at the Luck Stone Culpeper Quarry about 15 minutes before your scheduled tour time for check-in and to have your vehicle lined up. We look forward to seeing you!

The Loss of Carolyn Weinberger

EFMLS News, Volume 66, Number 6

Our hope by now is that you have heard that the Matriarch of our Federation, Carolyn Weinberger, passed away on March 25th, 2019. She is now at peace after a long battle with leukemia related illness and was laid to rest on Friday, March 29th. Please continue to keep Carolyn, Steve and their families in your thoughts and prayers.

She was more than just a leader of our Federation, she also had her hands in just about everything she could in regards to our hobby. She was active in Wildacres, American Federation of Mineralogical Societies, DeSaultels Micromount Symposium, Baltimore Mineral Society, Cheseapeake Gem & Mineral Society, and the Gem Cutters Guild of Baltimore, just to name a few. At this time, we won't go into the numerous awards she received.

This is more than a big loss, not just for us but, for the extended mineral community. Carolyn's presence extended far beyond the groups and activities she was involved in as she had a guiding presence to ensure that we follow guidelines and make everyone feel welcomed and treated fairly. Over the past few weeks, we have heard from so many folks whose lives have been touched by Carolyn. And we will continue to honor her in the future.

Your Federation will be publishing a special edition newsletter in the next few weeks to honor her and her husband Steve's legacy. Acclaimed author of mineral publications, Bob Jones, will be publishing an article in Rock & Gem Magazine in the coming month about Carolyn. **Stay tuned!**

...Rest in Peace Carolyn

Field Trip—Miocene and Pliocene Fossil Collection along the James River (near Surry, VA)

Please let Bo Mulcahy (bomulcahy@gmail.com), if you would like to attend this field trip .

The Mountain Area Gem and Mineral Association (M.A.G.M.A.) has invited GMSVP to participate in a field trip at the Pipsico Boy Scout Camp Reservation near Surry, VA., on Saturday, April 13th.

Date: April 13th

Time: 9 AM until dark

Location: Pipsico Boy Scout Camp Reservation, 57 Pipsico Road, Spring Grove, Virginia 23991

Guidance within Boy Scout Camp: When you get to the camp, bear right of the building in front of the camp. From there, you will go through a gate and make a left turn at the sign for the Camp Lions. After you go over a bridge, park your car at the parking lot on the right. Follow the signs to the beach, where you will sign a release and pay the collection fee.

Campers may arrive on Friday night, April 12th. There are cabinettes available with electricity but no running water. Three cabins are available with full facilities. Tent camping is also allowed. Tents may be set up in campsite 4. There are latrine facilities and water on the site. Showers may be available at the pool area. All overnight campers must exit the camp by Noon, Sunday, April 14th.

Details: Rockhounds will experience easy collecting along nearly a 1-mile long riverbank and shoreline of molluscan fossils of Miocene and Pliocene epochs, shark teeth, whale bones, corals, and more.

Sunblock and bug spray are highly recommended, as well as bottles of water and snacks. Please bring your own bags, buckets, and tools for collecting.

Collecting Rules: All previous collecting rules still apply.

- Everyone must sign a liability release form upon arrival.
- Alcoholic beverages are prohibited on the property.
- Speed limit on camp road must be obeyed .
- Parking in designated areas only. No parking of vehicles in the campsites. You must park in the parking area after unloading gear.
- No climbing or digging steep bank areas.
- Hand tools only.
- Swimming is prohibited in the river.
- No pets.

Fees:

- \$5 per person to collect or tent camp
- Cabin Rental: \$75
- Cabinette Rental: \$20

Information on Mountain Area Gem and Mineral Association (M.A.G.M.A.):

<http://www.wncrocks.com/magma/magma%20join%20club.htm>. M.A.G.M.A. point of contact: Bill Stine at: rockdoctor48@wmconnect.com





Graves Mountain Rock Swap and Dig April 26th - 28th, 2019; Lincolnton, Georgia

Official Field Trip of the Mountain Area Gem and Mineral Association (MAGMA).
MAGMA POC: Bill Stine at: rockdoctor48@wmconnect.com

The mountain will be open to collecting from 8 AM to 6 PM each day. All attendees must stop at the welcome table to sign a liability release and make a contribution/donation to help with the cost of providing porta johns and golf carts. The dig will end and everyone must be off the mountain by 6 PM each day.

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

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

There will be an area in the parking lot for vendors to sell and trade minerals. If you would like to setup a booth, contact Jr. at the phone numbers listed below. Hot food and drinks will be available for purchase on the mountain all three days.

I will be setup at the dig with the Jacquot & Son Mining booth selling minerals and fossils. I will be setting up my booth along with other vendors on Thursday before the dig. All MAGMA members are welcome to come in on Thursday and collect as long as they plan to attend at least one other day of the show on Friday, Saturday, or Sunday.

THIS DIG IS OPEN TO ALL CLUBS and ROCKHOUNDS!

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 PM. (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, Tel: 706-401-3173. **All reported violations will be held in strict confidence.**

Directions: (1) From Washington, Georgia: Drive east 11 miles on SR-378 and look for mine entrance on right. (2) From the Hardee's in Lincolnton, Georgia, drive approximately 5-1/2 miles west on SR-378, and look for the sign at the entrance to Graves Mountain on the left side of the road.

Motels and Camping:

- Cullars Inn, Lincolnton, Georgia, 706-359-6161
- Soap Creek Lodge, Clarks Hill Lake, Lincolnton, 706-359-3124
- Elijah Clark State Park, 706-359-3458 / 800-864-7275



- Our club president, Vinton Feanny, was absent, and Michael Griffith opened the meeting and invited our new members to introduce themselves.
- Michael thanked those who brought food to share.
- Membership: Walter Priest announced we had 6 new members who joined at the March Treasures of the Earth (TOTE) Show. Walter also said that the club will be ordering additional t-shirts and hats. He asked that those who were interested to sign up at the table.
- Field Trips: Bo Mulcahy announced several upcoming field trips. Please see the March GMSVP newsletter for information. Contact Bo to register, if you plan to go on any field trips.
- Tote Shows: The April TOTE Show at the Hampton Roads Convention Center has been cancelled. The next TOTE Show will be in Virginia Beach Convention Center on July 19th – 21th.
- Website: Dan Fontaine announced that the GMSVP website won first place in the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies (SFMS) Website Contest. He presented Holly Worsham with the 1st place plaque and certificate as well as the scoring sheet from SFMS. Dan also shared that our club's website placed well in the national American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) Website Contest (awaiting official notification).
- March Meeting Program: The presentation for this meeting was on the NASA INSIGHT mission to Mars.
- April Meeting Program: For the April 18th meeting Richard Hall will do a presentation on radioactive minerals.
- May Meeting Program: The May 2nd meeting will be the GMSVP auction. Some of the items from the last auction are on the web page. This is where the items for the May auction will be posted.

Minutes prepared by David Scharff

March 11, 2019

/ original signed /

Visit a Show

Source: EFMLS News Volume 66, Number 6, April 2019 & SFMS Lodestar February 2019

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

April 28: Patuxent Lapidary Guild at Earleigh Heights VFC, 161 Ritchie Hwy, Severna Park, MD . Info: Laura Block, 443-398-1840; lmblock2001@yahoo.com; www.PatuxentLapidary.org

May 4-5: North Shore Rock & Mineral Club. Coolidge Hall, Topsfield Fairgrounds, Topsfield, MA: Info: Joe Weisberg, 781-861-6653, mw29@verizon.net. www.NorthShoreRock.net

May 11: 30th Annual Chesapeake Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show hosted by the Chesapeake Gem & Mineral Society. Ruhl Armory, 1035 York Rd; Towson, MD. 21204. 10:00 am – 4 pm. INFO: <http://www.chesapeakegemandmineral.org/>

May 18-19: Suffolk Gem and Mineral Club; Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Auditorium, 495 N Ocean Ave., Patchogue, NY: Info: Elaine Casani, 631 567-3342, lavenderlady@optonline.net. www.SuffolkGem.com

May 18-19: Harrison County Gem and Mineral Show sponsored by the Harrison County Gem and Mineral Society. 13280 Shriners Blvd, Biloxi, MS. Contact info: www.gulfportgems.org

June 1: PA Earth Science Assoc.; Memorial Park, 70 Poplar St., Macungie, PA. Info: MineralFest.com/vendors.html

June 1-2: Wayne Co Gem & Min Club; Greater Can. Civic Center, 250 N Bloomfield Rd., Canandaigua, NY. Info: Fred Haynes, fredmhaynes55@gmail.com. www.wcgmc.org

July 6-7: Gem City Rock & Mineral Society; McDowell Intermed. HS, 3320 Caughey Rd., Erie, PA. Info: James Trimble, 814-460-9299, jtrimble57@gmail.com. www.GemCityRockClub.org

July 27-28: 40th Annual Champlain Valley Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show sponsored by the Burlington Gem & Mineral Club. Champlain Valley Exposition, Essex Junction, Vermont. Handicapped accessible. Info: Christine Smart at: csmart813@gmail.com or <http://www.burlingtongemandmineralclub.org/show.html>



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.