



# THE VIRGINIA PEN

GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY OF THE VIRGINIA PENINSULA



August 2019

## President's Corner

Vinton Feanny

### Special Points of Interest:

- No Regular GMSVP September Meeting
- [EFMLS Wildacres Fall Workshop September 2-9](#)
- GMSVP Board Meeting, September 9th
- **GMSVP Picnic, September 14th**
- SFMS Wildacres Workshop: [September 16-22](#)
- Graves Mountain Dig, October 4-6
- TOTE Show, October 11-13
- Pipsico Fossil Hunt, Nov 23

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This summer has been sweltering!

The newsletters have provided information on field trips as they are identified. I'd like your help on identifying more potential field trips for the rest of the summer and this fall. Please let me ([FeannyVin@gmail.com](mailto:FeannyVin@gmail.com)) and our field trip coordinator, Bo Mulcahy ([bomulcahy@gmail.com](mailto:bomulcahy@gmail.com)) know if you are aware of new field trip opportunities in the Virginia area.

The Treasures of the Earth Show (TOTE) show was a success. Our volunteers were awesome, and we got everything loaded and unloaded in quick fashion. The volunteers that helped with the truck loading and/or unloading and with our booth and/or saws were able to purchase a geode for half price! We really appreciate our members.

At the August 1st club meeting, we had "Show and Tell." It was an exciting and fun-filled evening. Paul Toupin showed us a very inventive way of cutting and handling a rather large rock – ask him about it when next you see him. Our other members showcased their skills and finds. Members took the time to communicate with each other and comment on various items shown. Michael Griffith, our Programs VP, showed us his film on the elusive Kentucky agate. I am sure we will be hearing much more about his future hunts for the black and red banded Kentucky agate.

Our semi-annual picnic is on Saturday, September 14th. We will have a trunk sale/swap meet among our members. You may bring any lapidary related item for sale or trade. The club will also be putting out rocks, slabs, and specimens for sale at very reasonable prices. Additionally, we will make available the large (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

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

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

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**Leaving Club Soon**)

## President's Corner (Cont'd)

Vinton Feanny

(Cont'd from prior page) rock cutting saw and several Genies for members use. We will need a headcount for this picnic, so we can prepare accordingly. Please contact me at [feannyvin@gmail.com](mailto:feannyvin@gmail.com) and let me know if you will be attending.

Our October meeting will be held on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, the first Thursday of the month. At that meeting we will accept nominations for replacing the existing Board. Please be aware that the existing Board is willing to serve for 2020. Our club also has a number of committee chair positions to fill (see column on left of page). Additionally, our Pebble Pups coordinator is in need of an assistant, please consider volunteering. We are having an exciting 2019!

### **AS OF SEPTEMBER 1ST, OUR CLUB WILL NO LONGER HAVE A WEBMASTER.**

There are no special skills required, other than being comfortable using a computer. We have a great website. Your effort will be to do maintenance (add, delete, check links, etc.). Our outgoing webmaster will train you on the Weebly web tool that we use for the website.

### **!!!IMPORTANT SAFETY INSTRUCTION!!!**

**Always wear a mask, when grinding copper-related rocks on a Genie or similar machine. Also, copper-related rocks should not be ground when others are present.** Some rocks containing copper include: Azurite (Hydrated Copper Carbonate), Chalcopyrite (Copper Iron Sulfide), Chrysocolla (Hydrated Copper phyllosilicate) Conicalcite (Hydrated Calcium Copper Arsenate), Copper (Cu), Cuprite (Copper Oxide), Malachite (Hydrated Copper Carbonate), Tetrahedrite (Copper Antimony Sulfide), and Turquoise (Hydrated Copper Aluminum Phosphate).

## GMSVP 2019 Meeting Calendar

Gary Bergtholdt

- 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

## GMSVP 2019 Pebble Pups Calendar

Christine Hempley

- September 14: Picnic/Cab Practice
- October 3: State Fossil
- November 7: Lapidary Art
- December 5: Awards

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## GMSVP Fall Picnic on September 14th

Gary Bergtholdt

Our GMSVP Spring Picnic will be at Sandy Bottom Nature Park's Lakeside Shelter (next to the nature center) on Saturday, September 14th, from 10 AM to 4 PM.

**Note: The September 14th GMSVP picnic replaces the regular member meeting for September.**

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: CONTACT GARY BERGTHOLDT**

([gbergtholdt@gmail.com](mailto: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!



## **New GMSVP Member—Welcome New Rockhounds! 123 Members!!!**

**No new members during the past month.**



### **Last 2019 TOTE Show Date**

- October 11-13, VA Beach Convention Center

**Next Treasures of the Earth Show: VA Beach Convention Center on October 10 - 13**

## **Gem Tree Workshop**

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





GMSVP has a booth at the Treasures of the Earth (TOTE) shows to spread awareness of our club within the Tidewater area and generate revenue for our club's activities through the selling and cutting of geodes. It is also a great opportunity for our members to get to know each other better.

Thanks to our members who volunteered, our club had a good show. Although the weekend was very hot, we had a lot of traffic by our booth. We were able to demonstrate our lapidary skills, talk with some potential new members, and had pretty good geode sales. Although our geode saws were kept busy, we did have some breaks for much needed rest. If you were not able to support this show, the next one is in October! Here's some photos from the July show.





Volunteers can sign up by contacting Gary Bergtholdt at: [gbergtholdt@gmail.com](mailto:gbergtholdt@gmail.com).



GMSVP once again will have a booth at the TOTE Show being held at the Virginia Beach Convention Center on October 11-13. GMSVP's booth will have displays to educate the public about Virginia's natural resources and our club. Members also display their collections and demonstrate the equipment. As a fund raising activity, our club sells geodes at the show, which we cut with our rock saws. These shows also are a great way to increase awareness of our club, get to know other members, and gain new club members.

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

### HELP NEEDED:

**Please volunteer to help!**

- **Thursday, October 10th:**

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

- **Friday, October 11th to Sunday, October 13th:** During the show, GMSVP booth/equipment will have four areas that need manning: demonstrations, education/youth programs, geode sales, and geode/slab cutting.

- **Sunday, October 13th:**

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



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

Questions should be directed to **Gary Bergtholdt** at: [gbergtholdt@gmail.com](mailto:gbergtholdt@gmail.com).



### What is Micromounting?

Carolyn Weinberger

"Micromounting is the same as a field trip without the travel."

A Micromount is any single or group of crystals that requires some degree of magnification in order to view it properly and has been securely mounted in a box for protection.

Why collect microminerals?

There are several reasons that people collect micromounts -- space, cost, variety of minerals available, etc.

Consider:

- You can store about 100 mounted specimens in a box measuring approx. 8 1/2 x 11 inches x 1 inch.
- Micro-crystals are perfectly formed and undamaged far more often than larger sized specimens. Often protected in vugs, they survive!
- You can purchase prepared micromounts from dealers for far less cost than larger specimens.
- Micromount collectors are always willing to give away extra specimens or trade extra specimens to increase their collection.
- Almost all the newly identified minerals today are found only as microscopic crystals. Pity the larger specimen collector - only a few hundred of the now 4100+ specimens survive in larger sizes!
- Micro crystals often exhibit unusual forms such as twisted rods or crystals growing within other crystals.

### An Invitation to Micromounting

Michael Seeds

Micromounting is the study and collection of mineral specimens that require magnification to be appreciated. The typical micromount is a group of crystals only a few millimeters in diameter, mounted in a small box and properly labeled with species and location. Collectors study and enjoy their minerals under low-power stereo microscopes. Micromounters are famous for being friendly and generous, and that is because the best way to find micromounts is to trade raw rock, unmounted specimens, or finished micromounts with other micromounters. All around the world, micromounters hold conferences to swap stories, give away extra material, and have a good time. The best way to start micromounting, it find a conference near you and attend. See the list of conferences below. You will be welcome.

Why would you want to collect micromounts?

Space: You can store 3000 micromounts in one cubic foot of space. Your equipment would fit on a card table. If you are pressed for space, micromounting will allow you to enjoy the beauty of minerals and the fun of collecting without a workshop or hobby room.

Beauty: Larger crystals are often cracked and dinged, but microscopic crystals are often perfect. Small minerals often form in vugs where they are protected from damage, and mounting a specimen in a micro box protects it and makes it easy to view. Micromounters are accustomed to seeing flawless crystals and undamaged formations.

Variety: Most minerals do not form large crystals. If you collect larger specimens, only a few hundred are available. Of the 4000+ minerals known, the vast majority form only microscopic crystals. Add to that, nearly all newly discovered minerals are available only as microscopic crystals. It is not unusual for a micromounter to have over 1000 different species, and at least one micromounter has 80% of all known minerals in his micromount collection.

Activity: Micromounting is a way of working on your minerals instead of merely admiring them. On cold winter nights and rainy days, micromounters study their rocks, find the best specimens, (Cont'd on next page)

(Cont'd from prior page) trim them down to size, glue them on cork supports, put them in boxes, and write labels. Some micromounters explore quarries and mines and others never leave their chairs. Micromounting has been described as a craft and an art. However you pursue it, it is an active way to enjoy mineralogy.

Cost: Nearly all micromounters are anxious to swap minerals, and micromount conferences traditionally have "Giveaway" tables where collectors put their extra rock free for the taking. Fantastic specimens come routinely from giveaway tables. Dealers sell micromounts for a few dollars with rare or unusually beautiful specimens going for tens of dollars. The value of one good cabinet specimen would buy an entire micromount collection.

### How do you get started?

The Book: The best source of information about micromounting is the book: "The Complete Book of Micromounting" by Quintin Wight, Mineralogical Record, 1993.

Your Scope: You need a stereo microscope with magnification between 10 and 20 times. A zoom scope is best and many go up to 40 times. Higher magnification is not necessary but can be useful. You can find used microscopes by asking other mineral collectors, and a few companies sell both new and used scopes. Scan the ads in mineral magazines for dealers.

Light Source: Micromounts must be illuminated from above, so you need a light source. Many micromounters use bright light sources with fiber optic arms that pipe the light directly to the mineral, but others use desk lamps, home made illuminators with LEDs, and so on. All you need is a bright light on the mineral. Most companies that sell microscopes also sell light sources.

Tools and Supplies: You probably have hobby knives and forceps, but you may want to buy a small rock trimmer to crack specimens down to size. You also need the microboxes (23x23x19 mm) and corks used to mount specimens. Boxes, tools, and supplies are available from a number of dealers.

Rocks: Many micromounters are avid field collectors, and you can find micromount material in surprisingly mundane places. Almost any rocky place is a possibility. Nevertheless, one of the best places to find rocks is other micromounters, so don't hesitate to locate someone near you and introduce yourself. A list of sources and references is available from Mike Seeds ([mseeds@fandm.edu](mailto:mseeds@fandm.edu)).

The Rules of Micromounting: Rule number one is: There are no rules. Most micromounters try to produce neat, clean specimens carefully mounted so that the cork and glue underneath do not show, but some collectors stick their specimens in boxes with stickum or even hot glue. Some collectors use various size boxes and some use only one size. Some collectors photograph every specimen and catalog it carefully in a data base and double entry card catalog. Others hardly keep records at all. It is just fun. Do it your way.

## Desautels Symposium

Mark Your Calendar

63<sup>rd</sup> Annual

### Paul Desautels Micromount Symposium

October 11, 12, 13, 2019

Friends School of Baltimore

5114 N Charles St

Baltimore, MD 21210

Giveaway Tables, Silent Auction,  
Voice Auction, Sales, Mineral Talks,  
Trading, Lots of Friends

---- Hall of Fame Inductions ----

Anne Cook, Cleveland

Jesse Cope Green 1817 - 1920

For program and registration forms email

Mike Seeds

[mseeds@fandm.edu](mailto:mseeds@fandm.edu)

## SFMS LAPIDARY WORKSHOPS AT WILDACRES—CLASSES

[http://sfmsworkshops.com/?](http://sfmsworkshops.com/)

### Wildacres September 16-22, 2019

Advanced Casting

Chain Maille

Cold Connection

Electro-Etching/Wood Inlay

Introduction to Gem ID

Metal Clay – Tangible Moments

Silver I

Stone Inlay



## EFMLS LAPIDARY WORKSHOP AT WILDACRES—CLASSES

<http://efmls-wildacres.org/>

### Wildacres September 2-9, 2019

- Intarsia—John Milligan
- Viking Knit 1st semester—Valerie Johnson
- Wire Works 2nd semester—Valerie Tab Setting 1st semester—Linda Searcy
- Prong Setting 2nd semester—Londa Searcy
- Cold Connections/Etching, 1st semester—Arlene Lazzaro
- Cold Connections II/Etching and setting stone, 2nd semester—Arlene Lazzaro
- Enamel Stone Pendant, Wire inlay Pendant and Earrings 1st semester—Samantha Lazzaro
- Crackle Enamel Pendant, Separation Enamel Pendant



## Still Looking for a Webmaster Replacement

Holly Worsham

I have decided to take an early retirement being offered by my company and move back to my family out of state. So, we have a need to fill the webmaster position. I will still be available for a few months for training, but my plans are to move back to Massachusetts.

When I took over this position, the previous webmaster had used the Weebly tool for website development. I found this tool easy to use, so I kept with it. The Weebly tool is easy to use and should be readily learned by a club member taking over as our club's webmaster.

I have drafted a document with instructions on how to maintain this site. If you know how to drag and drop objects onto a page, you will be able to pick this up easily.

I have used the Weebly tool over the last few years to build and refine our GMSVP website to best match AFMS guidelines for gem and mineral club websites. Following these guidelines has help our club win 1<sup>st</sup> place in websites competitions in both the AFMS and SMFS. The new webmaster can focus on just editing and adding information to the website pages, until they feel comfortable enough to make some enhancements.

Please let me ([gmsvp.web@gmail.com](mailto:gmsvp.web@gmail.com)) or Vinton Feanny ([FeannyVin@gmail.com](mailto:FeannyVin@gmail.com)) know if you are interested. This position helps attract new members to our club and can be very rewarding, if you are looking for an opportunity to serve.

## **GMSVP PROPERTY MANAGER**

**GMSVP is in need of a Property Manager, who would manage our shed at Sandy Bottom Nature Park and maintain our club's Genie grinding/polishing machines and rock saws. The Property Manager would also assist the TOTE Show committee by ordering geodes to be sold at the shows. These property manager duties are presently being done by various club officers, who have other important responsibilities. Please volunteer! Just let [gmsvp.editor@gmail.com](mailto:gmsvp.editor@gmail.com) know, if you are interested!**





Tightly tucked toward the top of our trinket trunks are treasures too toxic to touch, tempting us though, as they tease our thoughts .

Yes, 'tis true! Tossed throughout our treasure trunks are things that are toxic to the touch and taste, even in this totally tantalizing, yet tranquil, task of teaching there are terrors taxing my task.

Well, enough of these terrible, Thesaurus taxing “t’s” . The message this month is a mention that there are dangers lurking among our mineral treasures and what to do about that. Think for a moment, if you will, about the chemical compositions of some of the minerals we collect - autunite, arsenopyrite, cinnabar, betafite, thorite , cuprosklodowskite, malachite, even beach shells for the jewelry we make have within them chemistries that, under certain conditions of working, handling, or storage, can present concerns about their part in maintaining our health. Think of the conditions in which we find our mineral treasures -- conditions that hide biting, stinging insects, or rash-causing plants, or offer precarious physical conditions which may impact one’s health.

Our hobby is associated with great joys but also has within it certain dangers with which we should exercise substantial care and caution. There are minerals that should not be touched with bare hands and fingers. There are minerals that should not be worked dry. There are minerals that produce slivers that, oh so easily, penetrate the skin. There are minerals of a radioactive nature as well. Each of those situations requires certain protective measures.

We encounter many specimens of fauna and flora along the way as we walk to our favorite collecting localities. Many of those same fauna and flora are ones which bite, sting, or scratch us. Some things just lay in wait to dig into our delicate hides, or scratch and tear us. We don’t usually encounter hiding tigers or crouching dragons on our trips, but those pesky little eight and six legged things sure can mess with our enjoyments.

What is a body to do to protect oneself? Glad you asked! We have a hobby based on sharing, giving, and teaching! Most of the hobby’s enthusiasts out there, ones I’ve met over the years, follow those practices in all ways. There are folks in our clubs who have all manner of experiences with our hobby’s related dangers and hazards. What I would like to offer here is a thought for your consideration. I would like to offer a suggestion that we encourage our members with the most experience to share, give, and teach not just about their knowledge with rocks, minerals, and fossils, but, also share, give, and teach what they have learned about being safe - - safe mineral handling, safe storage, safe caring and feeding of our treasures, safe traipsing on quarry roads, safe avoidance of biting insects and so on.

I’d like to broaden the sharing approach of our hobby to all things safety. Indeed, if your club does not have a safety coordinator, I would recommend your investigation of the benefits to your club with having a dedicated safety person. And, if you already have such a dedicated person in your club, I applaud your forethought! If you have a safety coordinator making safety a fun, interesting, and a learning experience, you are well ahead of the safety curve!

Please be safe, and think safety. Also, please mind those legless critters as well, after all, we all have a place on this Earth and we need to be mindful about sharing it with them.

**The Saturday, September 14th, GMSVP Picnic replaces the regular club meeting for September.**

## FINISHING PIERCED PATTERNS

After sawing patterns there's always a little cleanup to do, and the smaller cutouts can be a challenge. Needle files (7-8 inches) can get into the larger areas, and escapement files (4 inches) can get into some of the corners.

But I often find myself wanting even smaller files. I couldn't find them even at a watchmaker tools supply company, so I had to try something else. I ended up grinding down the tip of a 4" barrette file using a separating disk (or cutoff wheel) in the Dremel or Foredom.



Be sure to wear your safety glasses when using this tool. A flake of steel in your eye makes for a bad day.

## MAKING FILIGREE WIRE

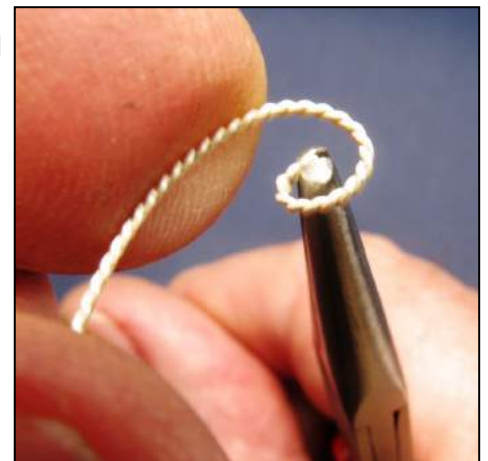
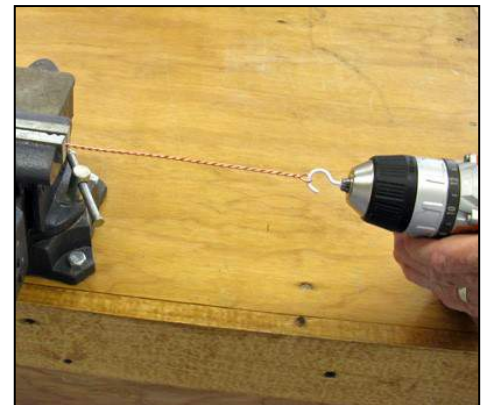
Making wire for filigree is quite simple. Take a double strand of 24-26 gauge silver wire, twist it tightly, and then flatten it a bit. While the basics are straightforward, here's a few tips that will quickly make you an expert with filigree.

Filigree looks best when the wire has a very tight twist. The way I do this is to start with dead soft wire and twist it until it breaks. It always seems to break on one end or the other.

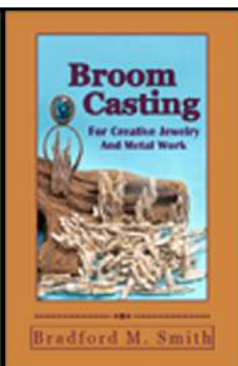
I like to use a screw gun, although a Foredom also works well. You'll need a small hook in the spindle, either a cup hook from the hardware store or a nail that has been bent into the shape.

Be sure to keep a little tension on the wires as you twist. Then to get a real tight twist, I anneal the wire and twist it a second time until it breaks.

The final step in prepping the filigree wire is to flatten it slightly with a planishing hammer or rolling mill. The amount of flattening is a personal preference. I like to reduce the diameter about 25%. The wire will be quite stiff at this point, so it's best to anneal it again before starting to make the filigree shapes.



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



Gaspinducingness refers to the ability of a mineral specimen to induce gasps when people first see it. Experts say that gaspinducingness increases with specimen size. Certainly an elbaite (tourmalines) size of your head would induce gasps, but there is a little understood part of this relationship that explains a lot.

Imagine that you could graph gaspinducingness against size. You would see a steadily rising line showing that bigger and bigger specimens produce more and more gasps. Look at the lower end of the curve. Down there, smaller and smaller specimens induce fewer and fewer gasps. It is easy to understand why. Nature makes a lot of small crystals, but really large crystals are rare. Because they are rare, you don't see them often, and when you do finally see that monster elbaite crystal in a museum display, you gasp and nudge your companion. "Wow, look at that!" you say.

But down at the lowest part of the gaspinducingness curve, down where the mineral specimens are tiny little things, the curve turns and shoots up. And that hook is where micromounters get caught.

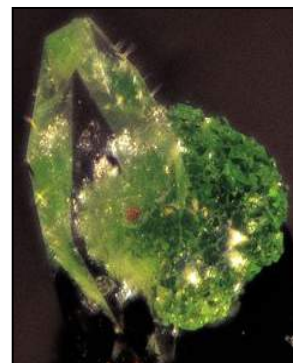


Mimetite, Mapimi, Mexico. An Ed Quick mount. The entire specimen is 2.1 mm in diameter. (All photos by M. Seeds)

Most collections include mimetite (lead arsenate chloride) as a yellow coating on matrix, but micromounters know that under the 'scope you can see the individual mimetite crystals in a pick-up-sticks jumble of hexagonal golden rods. Micromounters tend to have a lot of mimetite specimens; it isn't a rare mineral, and it is quite pretty. But micromounters also know that a dime-size piece of matrix covered with mimetite crystals doesn't have the gaspinducingness of a tiny cluster of brilliant crystals floating in the blackness of a micromount box. That's the hook -- that tiny specimen balanced on the end of a brush bristle.

Why does the curve have the micromounter's hook at the bottom? One reason is quality. Big crystals are so rare; we put up with chips, cracks, crusts, and missing corners. Nature makes so many tiny crystals that micromounters can be very selective picking through crystal after crystal searching for that perfect specimen. Another reason is drama. The big specimen sits on a shelf and even when illuminated brightly still looks like a specimen sitting on a shelf. If properly mounted on a bristle, the tiny micromount floats in space like the perfect moon of an alien world.

Conichalcite can form botryoidal (globular) coatings with a warm green color. Under the microscope the crowded spheres look like a layer of green peas. In contrast, a single sphere of conichalcite isolated in the blackness of a micromount box takes on a beauty far beyond green peas. Down on the micromounter's hook, the perfection of the crystals stands out.



Conichalcite with Calcite, Mapimi, Mexico. An Ed Quick mount. The conichalcite sphere is 0.6 mm in diameter.



The submillimeter conichalcite specimen shown in the previous photo is lost in its microbox.

Another reason that micromounters love those little specimens is the difficulty in mounting the rock to the support. It takes art and technique to glue a crystal less than a millimeter in diameter to the end of a brush bristle. Ed Quick created two of the mounts shown here by gluing the specimens to the tips of what seem to be sharpened toothpicks painted black. The adamite specimen shown on the left is glued to the end of a squirrel whisker. (It vibrates wildly at every disturbance, which makes stacked photography an exercise in extreme patience.) Micromounters admire those little crystals so carefully presented just as craftsmen admire ship models built inside bottles.

(Cont'd on next page)

(Cont'd from prior page) A tiny specimen concentrates our attention and emphasizes delicacy. Whether it is an unusual spray of acicular adamite or just common conichalcite, the tiny specimen forces us to notice the details of the specific and not the common properties of the whole. We see the tiny needles and the little spheres as single objects, and can admire their smallest structure. Further, the size of the specimen gives it the delicacy of a tiny filigree engraved inside an antique pocket watch. Somehow the smallest mineral specimens force us to feel the intricate beauty so easily lost in a bigger rock.

The micromounter's hook may tell us about our own sense of drama and art, but it also tells us that beauty is separate from rarity, that modesty is as valuable as spectacle. It warns us not to neglect the tiny bits.



Acicular adamite bowtie with conichalcite. Hilarian Mine, Laurium, Greece. M. Seeds mount. The adamite needles are about 0.7 mm in diameter.



### Minutes for the GMSVP General Meeting of August 1, 2019

David Scharff

- Our club president, Vinton Feanny, opened the meeting and invited our visitors and a former member to introduce themselves.
- Treasurers Report: Gary Bergtholdt stated we had a good TOTE show. Gary said that we had many new volunteers involved throughout the show. Their willingness to get their hands dirty was appreciated.
- Membership: Walter Priest stated we have 115 members who are paid up.
- Awards: Walter announced that our newsletter, The Virginia Pen, won 1st Place in the 2019 Eastern Federation and 9th Place (nationally) in the American Federation Bulletin Contest.
- GMSVP Facebook Page: Mike Griffith invited club members to submit pictures of any geology related trips.
- GMSVP Webpage: Our Webmaster, Holly Worsham, announced that she is taking early retirement and moving out of the area, and that the club will need a new webmaster. She encouraged anyone interested in becoming webmaster to contact her, and she will explain what is involved. Walter and Gary presented farewell gifts to Holly.
- Field Trip Coordinator: Bo Mulcahy stated that Scufflin Acres has opened a new line to dig for Amethyst crystals.
- Vinton announced that the club is forming a Nomination Committee for the election of the 2020 board and any open positions in the club. Elections will be held during our November meeting.
- The next meeting will be the club picnic, Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup>. Set up will begin at 9 AM. Vinton said we will have a "Trunk Sale." She invited our club members to bring personal items to sell at the picnic. The club will also have some items for sale.
- Vinton invited anyone with an August birthday to raise their hand. She gave a rock specimen to the one person with a birthday in August.
- Mike Griffith presented a program about some of his trips.

Minutes prepared by David Scharff

August 16, 2019

/ Original Signed /

**Graves Mountain Rock Swap and Dig**  
**October 4th - 6th, 2019**  
**Lincolnton, Georgia**  
**Official Field Trip of the Mountain Area Gem and Mineral Association**

I have been in contact with Jr. Norman about his upcoming "Rock Swap and Dig" at the mountain.

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.

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 number 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 the 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, Friday, Saturday, or Sunday. Special Vendor Dig Day! This year, Jr. is letting vendors only in to collect on Wednesday, October 2nd, to dig and collect. Us vendors rarely get to get away from our booth to rock hunt, so this is great. You must be a vendor to come on Wednesday. Everyone else is welcome to come in on Thursday as long as they plan to stay for the weekend.

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 6:00 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. Tel: 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:** Jr. has advised that the Soap Creek Lodge and campground is open again and will be offering a discount to rockhounds visiting the area for the weekend. The restaurant will also be open.

- Cullars Inn, Lincolnton, Georgia, 706-359-6161
- Soap Creek Lodge, Clarks Hill Lake, Lincolnton, 706-359-4100
- Elijah Clark State Park, 706-359-3458 / 800-864-7275

**Pipsico Scout Reservation  
Surry County, Virginia  
Miocene and Pliocene Fossils  
November 22 – 24, 2019**

**Official field trip of the Mountain Area Gem and Mineral Association**

A field trip has been set up for November 2019. The location is the same. Collecting will be allowed on Saturday, the 23rd of November.

Campers may come in on Friday night the 22nd. Friday afternoon arrivals may collect on the river. There are cabinettes available with electricity but no running water. There are four cabins available with full facilities. Tent camping is also allowed. Tents may be set up in campsite 4, and there are latrine facilities and water in the site. Showers may be available at the staff center. All overnight campers must exit the camp by noon on the 24th.

All previous collecting rules still apply.

- No climbing of steep river bank areas.
- No parking except in designated areas.
- No alcoholic beverages.
- No pets.
- Speed limit on camp road must be obeyed.

Fees: \$5.00 per person to collect or tent camp. Cabin Rental: \$75. Cabinette Rental: \$20. The town of Surry now has an inn on route 10, it is called the Surry Country Inn for those not wanting to camp but traveling in. Their number is: 757-210-4450.

Contact Bill Stine by email at: [rockdoctor48@wmconnect.com](mailto:rockdoctor48@wmconnect.com) for further information.

Directions to the scout camp from North Carolina: Head north on Interstate 85 or 95. Both Interstates will intersect Virginia Route 40. Take these exits and head east on 40. Follow RT. 40 to U.S. 460 at Waverly. Cross 460 and head to Spring Grove. It is 11.9 miles from 460. Here you will cross RT. 10 and bear to the right. In 0.3 miles, you will see Swanns Point Rd. You will bear to the right here and follow for 5.7 miles to the camp entrance on the left. 57 Pipsico Rd. Spring Grove, VA 23991

## Bay of Fundy Tides

Dan Fontaine

Reference: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bay\\_of\\_Fundy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bay_of_Fundy)

We have about a 2-1/2-foot tide in the Tidewater Virginia area. While you may know that tides get higher as you travel north, but did you know that tides in the Bay of Fundy can reach 43 feet! The Bay of Fundy borders Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and a small part of Maine.

The tidal range in the Bay of Fundy is about 43 feet. Because of tidal resonance in the funnel-shaped bay, the tides that flow through the channel are very powerful. In one 12-hour tidal cycle, about 100 billion tons of water flows in and out of the bay, which is twice as much as the combined total flow of all the rivers of the world over the same period.



Photo by my brother, Dave Fontaine



# 11th Bi-Annual

*Asheville, North Carolina*

## **Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show!**

**September 13th - 15th, 2019**

Rocks, Gems, Crystals, Minerals, Fossils,  
Artifacts, Meteorites and More!



**Hours: 9am – 6pm Friday and Saturday  
9am – 4pm Sunday**

**Free Admission  
Rain or Shine**

**Food and Drinks  
Available Daily**

**For more information,  
contact Rick at:  
828-779-4501 or email  
rick@wncrocks.com**

**Directions: Take Exit 33 off of  
Interstate 26 East. Turn left (West)  
on Brevard Road/Hwy. 191. Drive  
3.5 miles to Clayton Road on the  
left, turn left and drive 2/10ths of a  
mile to the entrance to Camp  
Stephens on the left. If coming West  
on I-26, take Exit 37, go left under  
interstate, turn right onto Clayton  
Road, the camp will be on the right.  
Look for 'GEM SHOW' signs.  
Address: 263 Clayton Road, Arden,  
North Carolina.**

## Visit a Show

Source: EFMLS (<http://www.amfed.org/efmls/>) & SFMS (<http://www.amfed.org/sfms/>) Websites

**August 24-25:** Capital Mineral Club; Douglas N. Everett Arena, 15 Loudon Rd., Concord, NH. <http://capitalmineralclub.org>

**August 24-25:** St. Lawrence County Rock & Mineral Club; Canton Recreational Pavilion, 90 Lincoln St. & 9 Indian Head Trl., Canton, NY. Info: William deLorraine, 315-287-4652; [wdellie@gmail.com](mailto:wdellie@gmail.com); and <http://stlawrencecountymineralclub.org>

**August 31-September 1:** Capital Mineral Club; Douglas N. Everett Arena, 15 Loudon Rd., Concord, NH. Info: <http://capitalmineralclub.org>

**September 7-8:** Danbury Mineralogical Society; New Milford High School, 388 Danbury Road (Rt 7), New Milford, CT. Info: Elizabeth Triano, 845- 319-6089; <mailto:lizziewriter@comcast.net>; [Facebook.com/Danbury Mineralogical Society](https://www.facebook.com/DanburyMineralogicalSociety)

**September 14-15:** Northern Berkshire Mineral Club. American Legion Post 125, 91 American Legion Drive, North Adams, MA. Info: Lawrence J. Michon, 413-663-8430; <mailto:LMICHON@RCN.COM>; <http://nbmclub.webs.com>

**September 20-22:** Shenandoah Valley Gem & Mineral Society; The Augusta Expo, 277 Expo Road, Fisherville, VA. Info: Scott Gregory, <mailto:Info@shenandoahvalleyrockclub.org>. <http://ShenandoahValleyRockClub.org>

**September 21-22:** Mid-Hudson Valley Gem & Mineral Society; Golds Gym Family Sports Complex, 258 Titusville Road, Poughkeepsie, NY. Info: Linda Wuest, <mailto:garnet327@hvc.rr.com>; <http://mhvgms.org>

**October 11-13:** Huntsville Gem & Mineral Society Gem, Jewelry, and Mineral Show. Jaycee Community Building, 2180 Airport Road SW, Huntsville, Alabama. Info: 256-534-8803.

**October 18-20:** Knoxville Gem & Mineral Society's 29th Annual Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show. Rothchild Conference Center, 8807 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN.

**November 9-10:** 46th Annual Parade of Gems by the Canaveral Mineral & Gem Society. Melbourne Auditorium. 625 East Hibiscus Blvd., Melbourne, FL. Info: <http://www.canaveral-mgs.com>; Show Chairman, Don McLamb, 570 Seabreeze Drive, Indialantic, FL 32903 321-723-2592 <mailto:fdjmc@aol.com>

**November 23-25:** 52nd Annual Gem, Mineral, & Jewelry Show by the Columbia, SC Gem & Mineral Society. Jamil Temple, 206 Jamil Rd., Columbia, SC 29210. Info: Sue Shrader, <mailto:ashrader@mindspring.com>; <http://www.cgms.rocks>

**November 24-25:** 53rd Annual Gem, Mineral, Jewelry, Bead and Fossil Show by the Gem & Mineral Society of the Palm Beaches. South Florida Fairgrounds Expo Center East, 9067 Southern Blvd., West Palm Beach, Florida 33411. Info: Walter Triche, 561-585-2080, email: <mailto:wtriche@gmail.com> website: <https://gmspb.org/>.

**December 14-15:** Franklin Earth Treasures Show by the Mid-Tennessee Gem & Mineral Society. Williamson County Ag Expo Park, 4215 Long Lane Franklin, TN. 37064. Info: <http://www.MTGMS.org/show.htm>

## TWO KEY DATES

- GMSVP Fall Picnic: Saturday, September 14th, at Sandy Bottom Nature Park (Pg 3)
- Last 2019 Treasures of the Earth (TOTE) Show, VA Beach Convention Center on October 10th through 13th. Note: Truck loading will be on October 12th. (Pg 5)





# 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.