



# THE VIRGINIA PEN



GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY OF THE VIRGINIA PENINSULA

October 2019

## President's Corner

Vinton Feanny

### Special Points of Interest:

- GMSVP Meeting: Nov 7
- RGMS Rock Swap: Nov 9
- NC Fossil Hunts: Nov 15 & 22
- Pipsico Fossil Hunt, Nov 23
- N. VA Show: Nov 23 & 24

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Hello fellow Rockhounds. The Club had a very successful and busy October TOTE show. I wish to thank the volunteers who helped with this adventure. Many club members were on hand throughout the weekend. The club signed up 17 new members - one of the main purposes of taking part in the TOTE shows.

Our Club will be attending and selling at the Richmond Swap Meet on November 9<sup>th</sup>. The event takes place at the Ridge Baptist Church Hall in the western suburbs of Richmond and begins at noon. Please see related information on the rock swap on pages 9 and 10 for more information on this meet. As I understand it, this event is one of the best for purchases of various rocks, specimens, minerals, etc., and would recommend that all who can attend should visit this show.

At the upcoming November meeting, we will be voting on our Board members, whether new members or reinstating the present Board members. Additionally, there are several positions open for Committee Chairs – TOTE Shows, another Pebble Pups Co-leader, Property (Shed and Equipment Maintenance), and Librarian/Historian. We have a tentative volunteer to be webmaster, and Hunter Thurmond has volunteered to be our new editor next year. Please see me at the November or December meetings, if you are interested in volunteering.

Annual dues for 2020 should be paid at the November or December meetings. The membership fee is \$15 for an individual, \$20 for couples, and \$25 for a family.

(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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Newport News, VA 23602

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

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**Webmaster:** Vacant

## President's Corner (Cont'd)

Vinton Feanny

(Cont'd from prior page) All dues must be collected by end of 2019, so that come January 2020, we can give an accurate count of members to our insurance carrier for our liability insurance premiums.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our Thanksgiving November meeting.

## November Meeting Program

Michael Griffith

We have an exciting program for our November 7th GMSVP Club Meeting. Tom Leary will provide a presentation on crystal growing. Tom grows some of the largest bismuth crystals in the United States, perhaps the world!

## October Meeting Program Florescent Rocks

Dan Fontaine



Walter Priest and Gary Bergtholdt provided a presentation on the florescent properties of some minerals under florescent light. They also showed how a number of specimens glowed under low and high wave length ultraviolet light.



## GMSVP 2019 Meeting Calendar

Gary Bergtholdt

- November 7: Club Meeting/Elections
- Dec 9: Board Meeting
- Dec 5 - Holiday Party

## GMSVP 2019 Pebble Pups Calendar

Christine Hempley

- November 7: Lapidary Art
- December 5: Awards

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A super big thank you for a job well done to all who helped with October 2019 Treasures of the Earth (TOTE) Show in Virginia Beach. During the four days, there was a lot of work involved with loading and unloading the truck, setting up the booth and saws, working the sales area, educating the public about geodes and other lapidary skills, breaking down the booth and saws, cleaning, and truck loading and unloading at the and storing at the shed.

We gained 17 new members at the show.



While we can always use more, we had an adequate number of members who were experienced or willing to learn what was needed to finish in record times for both setup and take down. It couldn't have been done without their dedication to the club's programs.

Geode sales were very good, and we had many repeat customers. It was great to see the facial expressions and smiles of the customers, as they opened their geodes for the first time, and the excitement as they showed them to us in the sales area.



We added a new smaller Tranca geode at the October TOTE Show. All but three of the Tranca geodes sold (around 95). Many of our customers that purchased one were impressed.



We also had an unusual geode with a dark purple Amethyst around the perimeter and a solid formation in the center. It looked like an island surrounded by a purple coral reef.



Again, thanks to all who were able to help with the show. We had enough members

to handle the crowds, and give members a break and/or time to use the club's equipment for their own projects. We can always use the help from the club members at the show. Even a few hours, makes it easier for those who are present and gives them a break.

This coming year, 2020, we are having three show in VA Beach (Apr 3-5, Jul 17-19, and Oct 9-11).

***I would be very interested in hearing members' ideas on improvements for upload, setup, sales, operations, and teardown.***

**Welcome New Rockhounds! 142 Members!!!**

<b>Kelley &amp; Hank Finch</b>	<b>Elizabeth, Chris, Ian, &amp; Ella Mcleod</b>
<b>Rachel, Alex, &amp; Glenn Handley</b>	<b>Andrew &amp; Mary Morrow</b>
<b>Mike &amp; My Jolie Hutchings</b>	<b>Skye, Joshua, Maxis, &amp; Calista Wilson</b>

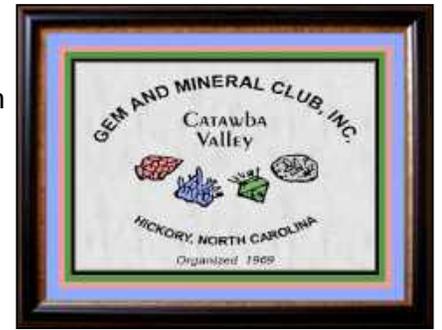
# To Hickory We Will Go – 2020 EFMLS Convention

Source: EFMLS News, Volume 66, Number 10 – October 2019 (<https://efmls.org/>)



The Catawba Gem and Mineral Club invites all delegates and guests to their 50<sup>th</sup> annual Catawba Valley Gem and Mineral Show to be held in association with the annual EFMLS Convention in Hickory, NC March 27-29, 2020.

The show will be held at the Hickory Metro Convention Center at 1960 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue Drive, SE, Hickory, NC (exit 125 from I-40 east/west). Friday and Saturday



show hours are 9 AM to 6 PM, and Sunday show hours are 10 AM to 5 PM. Over 24 quality vendors will have an array of merchandise that includes minerals, fossils, meteorites, finished and unfinished jewelry, and more... Hourly door prizes are offered, as well as demonstrations of faceting/cabbing/wire wrapping, kiddie mini-mine, hands on exhibits for children, educational tasks for school groups. Competitive and non-competitive exhibits will be shown for the public's education. The special-feature exhibit will be The First Gold Rush in North Carolina.

EFMLS Convention Hotel: the Hampton Inn is well suited since it is adjacent to the Hickory Metro Convention Center (one to two minutes walk). It is located at 1956 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue Drive, SE. A block of rooms has been set aside for convention delegates at \$119 plus tax. Mention that you are with the EFMLS Convention, when calling 1-828-624-2000.



Hickory is in the foothills region of North Carolina between the piedmont and mountain sections – a medium sized town with a diverse economy, a liberal arts four-year university, and an ideal location which is equidistant from Charlotte (a major financial and travel hub), Winston Salem (with a major university and tertiary medical center), and Asheville (historic and a favorite destination of many tourists).

## EFMLS Convention Schedule of Activities:

Friday, March 27	4:00 PM	Cracker Barrel @ Hampton Inn Center
Friday, March 27	7:00 PM	Annual business meeting @ Hickory Metro Convention Center (cash bar at 6:30 PM)
Saturday, March 28	8:00 AM	EFMLS Editors and Webmasters Breakfast @ Hampton Inn (\$5)
Saturday, March 28	1:30 PM	EFMLS Auction @ Hickory Metro Convention Center
Saturday, March 28	7:00 PM	Awards Banquet @ Hickory Metro Convention Center (Pulled pork BBQ, BBQ chicken, and Salmon/potato salad/baked beans/cold slaw/apple cobbler with ice cream ...\$35) (Cash Bar at 6:30 PM)
Monday, March 30	8:30 AM	Field trip to Propst Farm for Sapphires. Meet in Lobby of the Hampton Inn. \$20 dig fee payable at site.

Registration Forms can be accessed on the new EFMLS web site at: <http://www.EFMLS.org>.

*Larry Huffman, CVGMC EFMLS liaison*



It is a difficult topic to talk about, especially in polite society. It's rife with uncomfortable situations. It's dripping with implications. It's also lifesaving. What is it? It's sweat, or rather perspiration.

Our bodies sweat, pardon me, we perspire for numerous reasons. But they all lead to the same result, we lose valuable water, salt, and various other chemistries.

There are times we don't know we are perspiring, such as after we have been swinging the 15 pound sledge hammer for a while and the perspiration starts entering our eyes causing us to lose the ability to see what we are trying to hit with the hammer. So, what do we do then? We wipe our brow, dry our eyes, and go back to swinging. We have, after all, a good measure of passion in our hobby.

It's usually a while later when we decide we are thirsty and take a break to replenish ourselves with a drink of water, but by then, we are already dehydrated. When we are thirsty, we are already dehydrated. Our body is already unbalanced by lack of precious water.

I'd like to make a case for drinking water before we are thirsty, making a case for drinking as we go, rather than waiting till we feel thirsty. When we anticipate engaging with an activity likely to cause perspiration, I'd like to make a case for keeping handy a bottle, a cooler, a thermos, an ice chest, a Thermos, an insulated bag or whatever containing a sufficient quantity of bottled water. If one is to perform the perspiration-causing activity

indoors, perhaps displaying a reminder sign nearby with the single salient words "Drink Water" would be in order.

That might remind us to frequently utilize nearby sources of drinking water.

Keeping our bodies hydrated is important for just about everything we do - thinking, digesting, cardio-vascular activity, movement and joints, and so on. If we are unbalancing our bodies with lack of water, we are making whatever activity with which we are engaging that much more difficult. For our bodies' sake, drink up!

One other important consideration is what we drink. While soda, soft drinks, pop, coffee, energy drinks, tea, alcohol-including drinks, all contain water, they also contain other chemistries, chemistries which affect our bodies. Pure water is hard to beat for optimum performance in most situations. For one thing, the other drinkable options have additional chemistries, ones which alter how we process the drink. They add work to process. Water is simpler. When thirst calls, water answers.

Before thirst arrives, please drink up and replenish your body. Keep your body at optimum operational levels. Drink and be cool.

## *Safety Matters*

From Betsy Martin  
via EFMLS Newsletter



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via AFMS Newsletter 2/00*

SCRIBE 2014 Clipart DVD

### TAPERED REAMERS

A tool you don't see often these days is a tapered reamer. They're particularly useful for making an irregular hole round or for enlarging a hole to an exact diameter. For example, the small set in the yellow pouch is for holes in the range of 0.3mm to 2.5mm. They are great for sizing a tube to fit a hinge pin. Other times when I'm drilling a hole for riveting sheet metal and can't find the exact size drill, I simply drill the holes with a slightly smaller bit and enlarge them with a reamer until the wire just fits.



For larger hole sizes in sheet metal up to 14 ga, I really like the reamer with the black handle. It makes quick work of sizing holes from about 3mm to 12mm. You can find them in well-equipped hardware stores.

You may never use the large diameter reamers, but when sawing out some rings from 4mm thick sheet, I found they worked well for rounding and sizing the hole.

### TESTING FOR SILVER

Often you need to identify some of those unknown "silvery" pieces in the bottom of the toolbox or some piece of old jewelry. Is it silver or something else?

Of course, if you need to know exactly what you have, it's best to send your metals off for refining. But inexpensive silver testing solutions can be used to help distinguish higher silver content alloys from alloys that have the same appearance but with little to no silver content, like German Silver or Nickel.

I purchased a half-ounce bottle of JSP Silver Testing Solution #GT41. It's not a rigorous analytic test, but it lets you know if you're on the right track. And it's inexpensive. Mine was only \$3.

With a fresh solution you have an instant reaction after applying it to the metal being tested. The procedure is simple - as you apply a small drop, look for a color change. Note that the acid will leave a slight mark, so choose a spot that is out of the way or will be easy to polish.

If you suspect the object is silver plated, you should file a little notch somewhere inconspicuous to expose what metal is below the surface. Otherwise, all you test will be the surface plating.

Here's the reaction I got when testing various materials: Fine Silver, Red/Orange; Sterling Silver, Brick Red; 80% Silver 20% Copper, Dark Red Changing to Gray; Brass, Yellow Changing to Blue; Nickel, Gray-Green; Copper, Yellow Changing to Blue; Steel, Black; and Stainless Steel, No Color Change.

**Caution:** If you do any of this testing, know that you are handling a reasonably strong acid. The GT41 label says it includes nitric acid and potassium dichromate. Wear safety glasses. Do not get any testing solution on your skin. Use a solution of baking soda and water to neutralize acid. Wash and clean up well when you're done.

Work Smarter & Be More Productive With Brad's "How To" Jewelry Books: [www.Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](http://www.Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith).



Wulfenite is a well-behaved mineral. You can trust good old wulfenite to look like wulfenite. It doesn't mess around. It doesn't get all dressed up and pretend to be some other mineral, and, although the color can vary a bit, it is almost always a satisfying beer yellow. Wulfenite seems like a Charley Brown mineral, but look again. There are a few places in the world where wulfenite goes crazy.

Wulfenite in the Barranco del Humo Mines in Spain can form thickened plates, and that thickening can extend outward along the axis perpendicular to the plane of the plates. The crystals can actually be found as truncated octahedra, and some extend to a point and are fully octahedral. Some can grow highly elongated looking like spikes. That's extreme, but it isn't the most extreme wulfenite.

The Great Southern Mine near Wickenburg, Arizona, hosts some interesting rocks. Fluorite is common there and much of the matrix is colored purple by fluorite. And clusters of acicular Willemite are delicate and snow white. But the real star is the wulfenite, which elongates along that perpendicular axis so far the crystals become needles. If you look closely at the first photograph, you can see that the needle is made up of a cluster of highly elongated crystals.

I first met these crystals in a way that is typical of micromounters. At the end of the Desautels Symposium some years ago, I was packing up my scope and shoebox of goodies when a well-known micromounter I knew only slightly stopped at my table. "Mike, they are cleaning up the giveaway table and leftovers will go to the dumpster, but there's an egg carton marked Great Southern Mine. No one has looked at it all weekend. Go get it, and take it home. You'll like it." He didn't take it for himself, and he didn't even share it. He just gave it to me, and it was a treasure and a puzzle. The beautiful purple matrix sported white fuzz and golden needles. This was BMD, Before MinDat, so it took me quite a while to identify the white fuzz as willemite, and the golden needles as wulfenite. Wulfenite needles are not mentioned often in books, but you can find them now with a click or two on MinDat.

The Great Southern Mine is only about 4 miles from the Purple Passion Mine, a location with similar mineralogy. Fluorite is common at the Purple Passion Mine and colors some of the matrix purple. Willemite and wulfenite are also common. Some of the wulfenite is simple plates, but some plates are zoned with darker cores and lighter layers above and below. Acicular wulfenite is found there, and some plates have spikes of wulfenite growing side by side over the plate. Those specimens have been called scrub brush wulfenite. Clearly the two mines sample the same mineralization.

Why would wulfenite grow into octahedra and needles? Lots of different factors can affect crystallization, such as temperature, pressure, saturation, ph, and on and on. But whatever caused the formation of wulfenite needles, it must be common to the two mines. One would expect local differences in temperature, pressure, ph, and so on, but perhaps there are factors that do not depend so delicately on location. Perhaps the presence of some unusual element at both mines can exaggerate the crystal growth.

At first glance, wulfenite is beautiful and fascinating little plates, but at second glance it seems as exciting as Aunt Mandy's bridge club. All those plates are kind of the same. But look yet again and you can find wonderful variations in color and thickness, and at the extreme, you can find wulfenite needles.



A needle of wulfenite with willemite, from the Great Southern Mine, Wickenburg area, Arizona. The needle is 1.6 mm long. (Photos by the author.)



A tiny needle of wulfenite. Note fluorite matrix. Eleven images stacked to control depth of field. The needle is 0.5 mm long.)



Wulfenite needles with willemite. Purple Passion Mine. Field of View 1.2 mm.

# GMSVP CLUB HELP WANTED

## Webmaster

Our webmaster, Holly Worsham, has retired from her job and relocated to be near her family in New England. So as of September 1<sup>st</sup>, our club is without a webmaster. Please consider volunteering to be our club's webmaster. Holly has done the hard work of upgrading our website. The new webmaster can focus on updating links and adding and deleting items (mostly copy and paste from other sources such as the newsletter). The web tool that Holly used is very user friendly, and Holly is willing to remotely train a new webmaster.

You don't need any special skills other than knowing how to use a computer.

*Our club needs your help! Please help by being our next webmaster!* Please let our club president, 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 and a great opportunity to help the club. (Update: We have a potential volunteer.)

## 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 may 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 Vinton Feanny ([FeannyVin@gmail.com](mailto:FeannyVin@gmail.com)) know, if you are interested!

## TOTE Show Coordinator

GMSVP also needs a club member to lead our club's Treasures of the Earth Show activity. Our treasurer, Gary Bergtholdt, is presently coordinating the shows as a collateral duty, which takes away from his prime duty as the club's treasurer. The Show Coordinator orders the geodes and coordinates club volunteers and activities at the shows.

## Pebble Pups Coordinator

GMSVP also needs a club member to assist our Pebble Pups Coordinator, Christine Hempley. The Pebble Pups Coordinators plans activities for our club's young rockhounds to work toward AFMS Future Rockhounds of America Badges. The coordinator leads a breakout meeting during our monthly meetings with our club's Pebble Pups.



This coming year, 2020, we have three show in VA Beach.

Apr 3-5, Jul 17-19, and Oct 9-11



**The 25th Annual Richmond Swap (and Sale)** was held on Saturday November 12, 2016 in the Meeting Hall adjacent to the Ridge Baptist Church Hall in the western suburbs of Richmond. We had perfect fall weather - clear, sunny and a bit chilly. There were swappers both outside and inside the small building. Outside swappers had much more room for display - several swapped out of the bed of their pickup truck - others brought and set up 5 or more tables. Inside swappers were limited to 2 tables, which was tight, but it was nice and warm.

There were about 35 people who rented tables or spaces, so there was plenty of variety. Lots of mineral specimens, a good deal of jewelry, some lapidary and a surprising array of fossils including local petrified wood, sharks teeth, whale vertebrae and coral. One of the more unusual swappers had both of his tables covered with beautiful, high quality agates - a real treat for agate lovers.

One of the especially neat things about this event were the many long time members of the RGMS (Richmond Gem and Mineral Society) who brought in some of their older material from classic Virginia locations to swap. There were excellent specimens from all over Virginia. In fact, the quality of specimens from everywhere was generally high.

RGMS also had two tables of specimens from the Sandra Childers collection for sale. Sandra, who had been a very active member for many years, had donated her entire collection to the club after her recent death. Thanks to Andy Dietz and Rudy Bland for organizing, relabeling and pricing Sandra's splendid collection. Their help allowed the club to benefit from the proceeds, while giving everyone the opportunity to purchase some really nice specimens.

Good deals as well as true bargains were to be found everywhere. I was stunned to see what Dave Hennessey (NOVA club) snagged for just \$20 - an egg sized clear topaz crystal from the Morefield Mine in Amelia, Virginia. He plans to have Dr. Lance Kearns from JMU (James Madison University) check it out to determine if it is correctly labelled. If so, wow - that was the bargain of the century!

Throughout the day, attendance was generally very good, with the peak from about 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. There were lots of kids and families as well as older adults. And there were many folks from other area clubs. I saw rock club members from Northern Virginia, Washington (DC), Montgomery County (MD), and from Lynchburg (VA).

The dealers have always been encouraged to give specimens to kids, which is great because it promotes our wonderful hobby to future generations. Some of these little guys (and girls) were requesting to swap throughout the day. Two brothers about 8 and 10 years old and their sister about 12 years old were especially persistent. Their general approach was to get something from one dealer and then try to swap it for something better with another dealer. They were hilarious. The two young boys came back to me repeatedly, asking to swap various items. They both had their sights on some magnetic balls (called zingers) that when tossed into the air alternately repel and attract with a buzzing sound. I finally gave them other specimens to bribe them to leave me alone. It did not help - they were both back in less than 5 minutes desiring to swap. Their older sister (she visited me at least 10 times) finally pestered me enough so that I relented and swapped her a pair of zingers for an agate specimen. About an hour later, she came back holding up three bags full of rocks, gleefully explaining that she had swapped for all of them without spending any money. (Cont'd on next page.)



# The Best SWAP On the East Coast

Source: RGMS' The Collecting Bag, Vol 56, Issue 12, December 2016



Rudy Bland

show. It is well organized and fun and productive. Try to make the effort to attend next year --- it is always held on the second Saturday in November. You will be glad you did.

*Thanks to Dave Lines for this review and photos!*

(Cont'd from prior page.) Watch out - someday, these little folks will become big time wheeler-dealers.

If you missed this event, you missed a great



Fossil Spindle Shell

## The 28th Annual Richmond Gem & Mineral Society Rock Sale and Swap

Saturday, November 9th, 2019  
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

*The Rock Sale/Swap is indoors (overflow will be in the parking lot), so come rain or shine!  
Open to children and adults (from novice to expert) to purchase or trade (swap) mineral, gem, fossil, shell, and jewelry and lapidary specimens.*

Ridge Baptist Church Meeting Hall  
1515 East Ridge Road, Richmond, VA 23229

- Doors open at 7:00 a.m. for table setup. Inside table fees are \$20.00 per table (regardless of 6' or 8' table size) and are limited (44 total tables). RGMS will provide all interior tables which are a mix of 6' and 8'.
- Parking lot spaces are \$20 for approximately 6 spaces and you must provide your own tables.
- Everyone please bring your own table coverings.

To register for a table(s) or exterior space, please download the registration form and mail (with fee) to the address listed on the form. We suggest a 2 table limit. Table reservations are based on "first received, first assigned".

**ALL PARTICIPANTS - PLEASE LABEL YOUR MATERIAL** Please have at least one flat of good material specifically labeled for children and novice collectors for swap (trade) or give away. Promote the hobby!

To defray sale/swap costs, RGMS asks that each seller/swapper provide a least one nice specimen or similar item for our annual auction. Please no junk!

Food and beverages are available at near-by restaurants. Restroom facilities are available in the building.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Arny Dietz ([dlatziv@yahoo.com](mailto:dlatziv@yahoo.com))

**DIRECTIONS:** Since 1996 the swap has been at this location in Henrico County near Regency Square Mall and Douglas S. Freeman High School.

**North or South of Richmond, Virginia:**

Use I-95 to Exit 70 to I-64 West (North of Richmond City).  
Leave I-64 at Exit 181A (South) on Parkton Road.  
Proceed south on Parkton Road for about 1.5 miles and TURN LEFT ONTO EAST RIDGE ROAD. (A right turn at this intersection takes you onto Quincepoin Road to Regency Square Mall.)  
The Ridge Baptist Church and Meeting Hall are 400 feet on the right, across from Kroger's Grocery.  
MEETING HALL IS THE WHITE BUILDING at the rear of the parking lot.  
There is ample parking in front of the Meeting Hall. Swap signs will mark both entrances.

**East or West of Richmond, Virginia**

Use I-64 to Exit 181A (South) and follow the directions above.

## 2 or 3 GMSVP Members Needed to Help at RGMS Rock Swap

The club needs your help on November 9th at the Richmond Club's Rock Swap. GMSVP has reserved two tables at the swap and will be selling specimens and findings that the club has obtained in past years that take up space in the shed. It's a great opportunity to meet others interested in rocks and minerals. There also will be many opportunities to find interesting additions to your personal collections. Contact Gary Bertholdt ([gbergtholdt@gmail.com](mailto:gbergtholdt@gmail.com)), if you can help.

### GOLD

Gold is the color of victory  
The color of happiness,  
The color of kings and queens,  
The best heart in the world.  
Gold is the color of a perfectly

roasted marshmallow,  
The sound of trumpets when kings approach,  
The taste of caramel filled chocolate,  
The color of hidden treasure waiting to be found.

*Poem by Eddie G.*

Eddie won second place for his article in the AFMS Editors' contest for Junior Poetry and the Trophy Award in the EFMLS BEAC Competition.

(Source: EFMLS News, Volume 66, Number 10, October 2019)

The Martin Marietta Corporation opens a few of their quarries to the public for fossil collecting. This happens roughly every 3 or 4 months, and there are a couple of opportunities coming up in November.

The first is **Friday, November 15th** at the **Belgrade Quarry in Maysville, NC**, and the second is **Friday, November 22nd** at the **Onslow Quarry in Richlands, NC**.

Both digs are on a Friday and you need to be at the quarry by 8 AM for the mandatory safety briefing and waiver signing. Both locations are about a 4-hour drive from Hampton, so I would recommend driving down the night before and getting a place to stay nearby so that you don't have to get up at 3 AM to get there. Since it's on a Friday, you'll probably have to take a day off (I do, but it's worth it, because these quarries are the closest thing we'll have to the Aurora quarry available to us anytime soon.)

Both quarries are limestone quarries with plenty marine fossils consisting of shark's teeth being found there (and the occasional Meg tooth), fossil sand dollars and urchins, the occasional mammal fossils (ribs and verts), and fossil shells.

You will need the basic safety gear of hard-toed safety shoes (ANSI approved), a hard hat, safety glasses, and a high-visibility vest (Preferably Red/Orange but Yellow will do). Other recommended items are food and water, bug and sun spray (probably not needed as much in November), a rock hammer for extracting fossils from matrix (most fossils I find just surface collecting), and weather-based clothing. It might be very cool in November, and there have been several times I've been where it has been extremely muddy.

### Addresses:

#### **Martin Marietta Belgrade Quarry**

5678 Highway 58 South  
Maysville, North Carolina 28555

Phone number: (910) 743-6471

#### **Martin Marietta Onslow Quarry**

131 Duffy Field Road  
Richlands, North Carolina 28574

Phone Number: (910) 324-7430



Note: The Onslow address will direct your GPS to a wide spot in the road. The quarry office is about a 1/2 mile down the road on the left.

The Contact Point for these digs is Danny Humphrey at (910) 376-4001. I would text him probably a day before to ensure the dig is still going on, since they have been cancelled in the past due to really bad weather.

Several photo albums of digs at the Belgrade and Onslow quarries as well as what has been found there can be found in the "Photos" section of the GMSVP Facebook page. Search "Albums" to find either Belgrade Quarry or Onslow Quarry digs.



**The next GMSVP Meeting is on Thursday, November 7th, 7 PM, at the Sandy Bottom Nature Park's Nature Center in Hampton, VA. We have a great program by Tom Leary on crystal growing. Tom grows some of the largest bismuth crystals in the United States, perhaps the world!**

## 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, November 23rd.

**Date:** November 23rd

**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 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.

**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:**

Fees: \$5 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. Information on Mountain Area Gem and Mineral Association (M.A.G.M.A.): <http://www.wncrocks.com/magma/magma%20join%20club.htm>.



**Lots of Specimens!**



Presented by The Northern Virginia Mineral Club, Inc. [www.novamineralclub.org](http://www.novamineralclub.org)  
 Sponsored by the Dept. of Atmospheric, Oceanic and Earth Sciences at GMU

Date: November 23 & 24, 2019

Place: Dewberry Hall, Johnson Center  
 George Mason University Campus  
 Braddock Rd. & Route 123, Fairfax, VA

Hours: Saturday 10am-6pm, Sunday 10am-4pm

Admission: Adults: \$6, Seniors: \$4, Teens (13-17): \$3  
 Children 12 & under & Scouts in uniform are FREE  
 GMU Students w/valid ID are FREE.

**\$1 OFF**  
 Adult admission  
 with this card  
 (applies to all adults  
 + seniors in your  
 group)

Demonstrations, Exhibits, Kids Activities, and Door Prizes.  
 Mini-mines for children to dig in and get free fossils and minerals.  
 Over 20 Dealers with Fossils, Minerals, Crystals and Gems for sale.

Use Parking lot A, enter Lot A from Nottaway River Lane.  
 Look for our Courtesy Shuttle & Designated Walking Path to Mineral Show

## 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).





**2nd Annual  
Asheville, North Carolina  
Christmas Holiday  
Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show!**

**December 13th - 15th, 2019  
Hours: 10am - 6pm Friday and Saturday  
10am - 4pm Sunday  
WNC Agriculture Center**

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

**Open to the public,  
Free admission!**

**Directions: Take I-26 to Exit 40, NC 280.  
Go south towards Brevard/Mills River.  
Drive 0.8 miles, you will pass the Asheville Airport  
and Fanning Bridge Road. Turn left into the entrance  
to the WNC Agriculture Center off of NC 280.**

**(Look for Gem Show signs)**

**The show is in the Virginia Boone Building.**

**The first building on the right when you turn into the Ag Center.  
Address: 1301 Fanning Bridge Road, Fletcher, NC 28732.**

**For more information, contact Rick: 828-779-4501  
Or email: [rick@wncrocks.com](mailto:rick@wncrocks.com)**

## Visit a Show

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

**November 2-3:** Annual show; Tuscarora Lapidary Society. Greater Philadelphia EXPO Center, 100 Station Avenue, Hall D. Contact: (610) 490-5252; Email: [Information@lapidary.org](mailto:Information@lapidary.org); Website: [www.lapidary.org](http://www.lapidary.org)

**November 2-3:** The Stamford Mineralogical Society 31st Annual Gem, Mineral, Jewelry, and Fossil Show and Sale. Eastern Greenwich Civic Center, 90 Harding Road, Old Greenwich, CT 06870. Website: <https://www.stamfordmineralsociety.org/>

**November 2-3:** ; New Jersey Mineralogical Society & New Jersey Lapidary Society's Annual Show. Trailside Nature and Science Center, 452 New Providence Rd., Mountainside, NJ

Contact: Russell Brarens, 515 Lincoln Blvd., Middlesex, NJ 08846, (908) 421-1045; e-mail: [njmin515@gmail.com](mailto:njmin515@gmail.com); Website: [www.njmin.org](http://www.njmin.org). <https://www.facebook.com/njmineralogical/>

**November 9:** Annual Rock Swap. Richmond Gem and Mineral Society. Ridge Baptist Church Hall, 1515 Eastridge Rd; Richmond, VA. Website: <http://rgms-va.info/activities/>

**November 9:** 6th Annual Discovering Earth's Wonders Fall Show. Lancaster Fossil and Mineral Club. Trinity Reformed United Church of Christ 450 West Main Street, Mountville, PA. Contact: Catherine P Haefner Co-Founder & Treasurer (717-917-5442) or Christopher L Haefner Co-Founder & President (717-606-4450). Website: <https://www.facebook.com/LancasterFossilandMineralClub/>

**November 9-10:** The NYC Fall Show. New York Mineralogical Club, Inc. Watson Hotel, 440 W 57 St., New York City, NY. Website: <http://www.newyorkmineralogicalclub.org/show/>

**November 16-17:** Crystal Fest by the Finger Lakes Gem, Mineral & Fossil Club. 100 Civic Center Plaza, Corning, NY. <https://www.facebook.com/Finger-Lakes-Gem-Mineral-Fossil-Club-1742055992690741/>

**November 23-24:** 28th Annual Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show by The Northern Virginia Mineral Club, Inc. Show site: Dewberry Hall, Johnson Center, George Mason University, 4400 University Dr, Fairfax, VA 22030. Club website: [www.novamineralclub.org](http://www.novamineralclub.org). Use parking lot A at Nottoway River Lane on campus. Contact: Tom Taaffe (703)-281-3767; e-mail: [rockclctr@gmail.com](mailto:rockclctr@gmail.com). GMU Map: <https://www.novamineralclub.org/events/2019-show>

**November 23-24:** 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. Contact: Walt Triche, 561-585-2080, [wtriche@gmail.com](mailto:wtriche@gmail.com)

**November 23-24:** Worcester Mineral Club's Annual Show. National Guard Armory, 701 Lincoln St. Worcester, MA. Contact: Darlene Fohlin, CT, (860) 923-9023; e-mail: [hunzo.dgf@gmail.com](mailto:hunzo.dgf@gmail.com); Website: <http://worcestermineralclub.org/>. Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/worcestermineral/>



Demantoid

Source: 2014 SCRIBE DVD



# 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.