



THE VIRGINIA PEN

GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY OF THE VIRGINIA PENINSULA



December 2019

President's Corner

Vinton Feanny

Special Points of Interest:

- GMSVP January Meeting: Date TBD
- EFMLS Wildacres Lapidary Workshops: May 18 – 24 & August 24 – 30

In This Issue

President's Corner	1
Chapter Contact Info Dec Holiday Dinner	2
EFMLS Wildacres Lapidary Workshop & Training Courses	3-5
GMSVP Board Meeting Onslow Dig 2019 Dec Calendar	4
Safety Matters	5
GMSVP Help Wanted GMSVP Dues Are Due 2020 TOTE Show Dates	6
Safety Matters Welcome New Rockhounds! GMSVP 2020 Calendar GMSVP Lapidary Training Raffle	7
Shoebox Adventures 76: Rings	8
Jewelry Bench Tips New GMSVP Editor	9
GMSVP December Meeting Minutes Gem Tree Training	10
Upcoming shows Eastern Field Trip Alliance (EFTA) Field Trip Sharing Program	11
AFMS Code of Ethics	12



Happy Holidays!

Our Christmas Dinner/Meeting held on December 5th was an enjoyable event. There were many empty seats at the tables. Nevertheless, all those present had a wonderful time. The gift exchange was a hit as were the tables of excellent eats.

I have enjoyed being President for the past two years and have now turned over the gavel to Debbie Rice. Debbie is our new President for 2020. She brings with her an excitement, which I am sure, will energize the club members to get out and do more – especially attending meetings and other events. Thanks for all of those who supported my tenure, especially the Board members and Bubba. I have learned a lot during these past 24 months and look forward to being a helpful member of the club in the future.

We are still working with the park rangers at Sandy Bottom to lock in our 2020 meeting dates. Dan Fontaine will send out an e-mail with information about the January meeting date, once it is locked down. The Club is now taking orders for our T-shirts. There will be a sign-up sheet at the January meeting.

Happy Holidays and a Prosperous and Safe New Year to all. See you all at the next club meeting in January.

Vinton



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. **Board Meeting held in new location this month, see page 4.**

GMSVP

P. O. Box 6424
Newport News, VA 23602

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

Officers

President: Debbie Rice,
heritageducation@yahoo.com
1st VP Membership: Walter Priest,
wetlanddesign@gmail.com
2nd VP Programs: Michael Griffith,
MGriff8645@aol.com
Secretary: Dave Scharff,
chap_dad@yahoo.com
Treasurer: Gary Bergtholdt,
gbergtholdt@gmail.com

Committee Chairs

Communication Advocate:

Dan Fontaine,
maineguy@cox.net
Facebook: Michael Griffith,
MGriff8645@aol.com
Faceting: Chuck Rogers,
car3rd@verizon.net
Field Trips: Bo Mulcahy,
bomulcahy@gmail.com
Hospitality: Joyce and Bob Kennedy,
joycekennedy63@yahoo.com
Librarian/Historian: **Vacant**
Newsletter: Hunter Thurmond,
gmsvp.editor@gmail.com
Mineralogy: Walter Priest,
wetlanddesign@gmail.com
Pebble Pups: Co-Chair:
Christine Hempley,
offalstuff@gmail.com (**Need another Co-Chair**)
Property: **Vacant**
Silversmithing: Tim Savage,
savagegems@yahoo.com
TOTE Shows: **Vacant**
Webmaster: Bob Kennedy,
rdkennedy14@gmail.com

GMSVP January Meeting

Dan Fontaine

We are still working with Sandy Bottom rangers to lock in our 2020 meeting dates. I'll send out an e-mail, once the January meeting date is locked down. Mike Mulcahy will provide a program on gold panning in Virginia.

December Meeting Program

Michael Griffith

GMSVP December Holiday Party



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

FAIR USE NOTICE. This publication may contain copyrighted material the use of which has not been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available in our efforts to advance the educational understanding of the amateur jewelry fabrication and rock collecting hobbies. We believe this constitutes a 'fair use' of any such copyrighted material as provided for in section 107 of the U.S. Copyright Law. If you wish to use material from this publication for commercial or purposes of your own that go beyond 'fair use', you must obtain permission from the copyright owner.

EFMLS Wildacres Workshop Registration Opens January 1st!

EFMLS News, Volume 67, Number 2, December 2019

Imagine yourself spending a week away from the hustle and bustle of life, the noise of car and truck horns, blaring radios, stories of crime blaring at you from the local news, and the pressures of everyday life. We have a wonderful opportunity to get away from all of the above and immerse yourself in relaxing, learning a new skill or two, and learning new things from a guest speaker.



Imagine – a week away in the mountains of North Carolina attending one or both of the 2020 EFMLS Workshops at Wildacres Retreat. Wildacres is a fantastic haven located on Pompey's Knob just off the Blue Ridge Parkway about an hour north of Asheville. The property consists of over 1,000 acres, much of which is truly kept "wild." Think rocking chairs, comfortable nights, starry skies, and great conversation!

The facility features two large lodges with private, motel style bedrooms (each with private bath), well equipped lapidary and jewelry studios and other classroom spaces, an auditorium, hiking trails, a dining room, and fantastic views of Mt. Mitchell and the surrounding Blue Ridge Mountains. Wildacres is owned by a private foundation that allows non-profit groups, such as ours, to come for a few days for workshops that encourage the betterment of mankind. We've been privileged to be allowed to use the facility for the past 47 years. Think of Wildacres as summer camp, but without the tents.



Imagine – a week immersed in our hobby, getting to know others who share that hobby—whether you're interested in jewelry, lapidary, or minerals. Each session consists of time for participants to take one or two classes (one 4-day class or two 2-day classes) and hear excellent talks from our guest speaker -- Bob Jones for our Spring Session. Bob Jones is a renowned author, speaker, and prolific writer for Rock and Gem Magazine. He always enralls audiences with his knowledge and effervescent presentations to audiences.

Join a field trip, explore the area, and participate in a variety of other activities. Our instructors, all volunteers, are outstanding and bring with them a wealth of knowledge about their subject, lots of teaching experience and above all, patience!

Imagine – a week of no cooking, housekeeping, or errand running! The food is well-prepared, abundant and accommodating to special dietary needs. Meals are served family style in the very pleasant dining hall.

Dates for 2020 are May 18 – 24 and August 24 – 30. Descriptions for our spring classes can be found on on the next two pages. Fall classes will be announced later. Feel free to make copies for your club members! Tuition for each session this year will be \$435 per person, which includes your room and board for the week and gratuity for the Wildacres Retreat staff. You will be asked to pay your instructor(s) a materials fee, but that depends on what class or classes you select. Materials fees will be announced closer to the workshop session since costs, especially that of metals, do tend to change. Since some classes fill quickly, we ask that you include 4 options per "semester". More information about the EFMLS Workshops at Wildacres (<https://efmls.org/wildacres>) can be found on our website. *Do register, but not before January 1, 2020.* In a nutshell, an EFMLS Workshop at Wildacres should be on your bucket list of places to experience. We hope to see you there in 2020!

EFMLS Wildacres Registration Form link: [https://img1.wsimg.com/blobby/go/af096484-e167-4bf1-9ca1-c7a7decb6f97/downloads/wildacres%202019%20registration%20form%20\(fillable\).pdf?ver=1575996944029](https://img1.wsimg.com/blobby/go/af096484-e167-4bf1-9ca1-c7a7decb6f97/downloads/wildacres%202019%20registration%20form%20(fillable).pdf?ver=1575996944029).

EFMLS Wildacres Registration Opens January 1st!

EFMLS News, Volume 67, Number 1, January 2019

[EFMLS Wildacres Registration Form Link](#)

WILDACRES SPRING CLASSES – MAY 20 – 26, 2019 – SPEAKER-IN-RESIDENCE: RENÉE NEWMAN

Class & Instructor	Description
Cabochons – Basic Bernie Emery	Learn to transform a piece of rock into a shiny, well-formed cabochon. You will learn the use of the trim saw as well as basics of grinding, sanding and polishing. Slabs are provided or students September use their own with approval of the instructor. Please bring an apron and safety glasses. 2-day class offered first semester. No prior experience necessary.
Cabochons - Intermedi-ate Bernie Emery	Learn to cut different shapes and the techniques needed to do so. Slabs are provided or students may use their own with approval of the instructor. Please bring an apron and safety glasses. Prerequisite: Students must have prior experience with cabbing and use of the trim saw. 2-day class offered second semester.
Faceting Reivan Zeleznik	Students will learn to cut and polish a 57-facet round brilliant gemstone. In addition, they will learn how to identify well-cut stones, select rough material and see whether or not they enjoy this fascinating aspect of the hobby. Students are asked to bring an optivisor if they have one. Jeweler's loupe needed and will be available from the instructor for purchase. No prior experience is necessary. 4-day class.
Fold Forming/ Cold Con-nections Micah Kirby	The class will introduce intro to fold forming and connecting base metals without heat (cold). We will cover how to use forming tools and hammers, wire, tubing, and rivets as fasteners. Hinging and tab setting also be covered. We will explore design concepts with texturing, using stamps, hammers and rolling mill. Forming and tab setting techniques will be implemented as well. Class will learn a to design an air chased cuff from copper tubing and a pair of matching earrings. Gain knowledge of texturing and forming the cuff. Class will produce a one cuff and 1 pair of earrings and finish with tumbling. 2-day class offered first semester.
Fold Forming / Cold Con-nections II Micah Kirby	Class will Learn to design and fabricate a pair of earrings and pendent. Combing multiple pieces and connecting with wire, tube or rivet. Using stamps, hammer or rolling mill to texture. The pendent will involve the same techniques also a tab set stone/ found object and finish with tumbling (pendent will tumble before setting). 2-day class offered second semester.
Geology Rob Robinson	A basic introduction to rocks and minerals and the study of the earth. The class will include a discussion and class activity about how geologists interpret rocks to tell geologic history related to their formation, deformation and sequence and timing of events. Weather permitting there will be a field trip to local rock exposures to illustrate local rock types, the deformation types, and how a geolo-gist maps and interprets structures (limited walking is required.) Please bring a loupe or other magnification, hiking boots or sturdy shoes and outdoor clothes for the half-day field trips. Geologic hammer and safety glasses are also desir-able. (Do not bring a nail hammer – they are unsafe to hit rocks.) 2-day class of-fered first semester. No experience needed.

EFMLS Wildacres Registration Opens January 1st!

EFMLS News, Volume 67, Number 1, January 2019

EFMLS Wildacres Registration Form Link

2019 WILDACRES SPRING CLASSES - CONTINUED

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

GMSVP CLUB HELP WANTED

We have a great club that directly reflects the active involvement of our members. There are a few critical committees that need some help or leadership, so that we can have another great year in 2020. Please let Debbie Rice, heritageducation@yahoo.com, know, if you are interested in helping with any of the following committees.

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!

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.

GMSVP 2020 Membership Dues

Club dues are due! Please pay your 2020 club dues at the January GMSVP Meeting. If you don't plan to attend the January meeting, please print out the membership renewal form (https://www.gmsvp.org/uploads/3/1/2/7/3127689/gmsvp_membership_form_2015-10_rev.compressed.pdf) and mail it to our GMSVP post office box noted on the form.



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

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



Perhaps you have noted the often stated: "Please read and follow manufacturer's instructions." These words appear on a myriad of tools, supplies, and equipment. Anything from a rock pick to a 48" slab saw may state some version of the above quote. The "instructions" often cover safety, as well as maintenance guidelines. So, yes, safety is part of many manufacturers' recommendations. Being safe is part of their concern, and it can end up saving you money as well.

A good measure of our hobby involves use of tools - microscopes, rock picks, slab saws, geode crackers, faceting machines, soldering torches, faceting machines, and cars. Cars are a really big tool.

Sure, we service and maintain our cars. We realize it costs time and money to do so, but with that expenditure one has a car that lasts longer and is safer. The same can be said of a rock pick or a slab saw. The rock pick's instructions are usually short, the slab saw's rather lengthy. However, both are worth reading. Besides saw routine maintenance, which generally make a saw safer to run, there are usually specific safety recommendations. Those recommendations might include reference to maintaining hood gaskets for mist containment, ductwork to vent mist, safe saw vice operation, adjusting guarding, proper grounding of electrical components, avoiding pinch points (areas on the saw where fingers might be pinched between moving parts). All such recommendations are based on the manufacturer's thorough understanding of the design and operation of their equipment.

Manufacturers want you to be safe as you enjoy many years of use of their equipment. That's true for everything from that rock pick to the mammoth 48" saw.

Now to the cost of safety. Safe car tires, brakes, and working windshield wipers are all clearly issues of safety. The expenditures help avoid car accidents. Perhaps the cost of a damaged hammer handle or mis-adjusted blade guard are not as apparent. The costs might be much more apparent, if the flying hammer head hit a bystander or the improper guard allowed flying debris to cause eye damage.

Please consider maintaining your rock and mineral tools and equipment with an eye toward your being safe and very possibly saving you some hard-earned money. Your safety matters.

Welcome New Rockhounds!

Sharon Hishok

Erin Schooley

Martha Smith Sharpe

GMSVP 2020 Calendar

Gary Bergtholdt

The GMSVP 2020 calendar will be included in the January newsletter.

GMSVP 2020 Lapidary School Raffle

Gary Bergtholdt

Congratulations to Dan Johnson, the winner of the GMSVP Raffle!

The Board voted for GMSVP to pay the tuition and meals for one member to attend a lapidary training at either Wildacres or William Holland School of Lapidary Arts. Club members at the GMSVP Holiday Dinner on December 5th that were interested in attending 2020 lapidary training participated in a raffle. One of our newer members, Dan Johnson, won the drawing! Two alternates were also drawn in the event Dan indicated in the future that he could not attend. The first alternate was Pat Fontaine, with the second alternate being Walter Priest.

Does your collection contain any minerals that take the form of balls? Yes, probably. Lots of minerals form balls. And sticks and rods are common too. Surely you own some minerals that have the shapes of plates. Wulfenite, for example forms nice plates. But what about rings? Got any rings?

I first met a mineral ring some years ago, when micromounter Frank Ruehlicke gave me a boulangerite, $\text{Pb}_5\text{Sb}_4\text{S}_{11}$, specimen and said: "Look carefully; there's a ring in there." It took quite a bit of looking and some help from Frank, but I finally found it – a ring shaped rock.

The boulangerite is from Madoc in Ontario, and it is a mass of thin gray filaments as fine as hairs. That's typical of boulangerite. Sometimes the hairs are radiating and sometimes they are a tangled mess. Sometimes they are free standing and sometimes they are imbedded in some other mineral such as calcite. If you own a boulangerite specimen, look carefully because sometimes a filament can curl back on itself and form a beautiful ring.

Boulangerite rings are not common, but specimens from the Rogers Mine seem more likely to contain rings. The mine is now overgrown by forest interrupted by beaver ponds, but collectors have visited the dumps in recent years and found boulangerite including rings. Boulangerite is found in other places, but rings are not as common as they are in the Madoc area. Something in the water perhaps.

Boulangerite can also form cylinders as the filament curls back on itself and continues round and round to make a coil. In most cases the cylinders are shorter than the diameter of the ring, but some cylinders have been found that are longer.

There are five boulangerite rings in my collection, and I never miss the chance to add more boulangerite in the hope that a ring will turn up somewhere in the tangle. Although I've never tried to measure the diameter of the rings, my impression is that they are all about the same size. If someone said that boulangerite rings are always the same diameter, it would make sense – some atomic-level mischief causes the curl, and the same dance of atoms should always produce the same curl. But you can't trust mother nature. She is much too ingenious to trust without direct measurements. One collector commented that boulangerite rings have a *maximum* diameter of 200 microns, which would be 0.2 mm – consistent with the rings I see. But if that's the "maximum" diameter, that suggests there is a range of diameters.

Boulangerite is not the only mineral that forms rings. Jamesonite rings are known, and some people refer to pyrite rings found in Halls Gap geodes.

Note, however, that the metallic filaments found inside those geodes are generally recognized to be millerite, and specific millerite rings have been found. Rutile is also known to form rings, and an Ed Quick mount of a thin slice of topaz contains imbedded rutile filaments that form two rings one larger than the other.

Keep your eye out for rings among your filamentary mineral specimens. You will have to be patient and look carefully to find them as they are generally quite small. You will need a microscope, but there's nothing wrong with that.



Boulangerite ring on calcite, Rogers Mine, Madoc, Ontario, Canada. Field of view 5 mm. (Photos by M. Seeds)



Boulangerite ring (center) from the Rogers Mine. Field of view 5 mm.



Two rings of rutile imbedded in topaz are located right of center. Tepetate, Potosi, Mexico. An Ed Quick mount. Field of view 4

DIVIDERS

A set of dividers is a tool I find very useful in laying out the geometry of a piece I'm making. It has two needle-like tips with an adjustment to set the spacing between them.

They can be used to transfer a measurement. Let's say you need a 7mm wide strip of sheet metal. Set the spacing between the divider tips to 7 mm on the ruler. Then lay the sheet on the bench, put one tip against the edge, and run the dividers down the edge scribing a line parallel to the edge.



Dividers can be used to mark equal segments of a line or arc. For instance, assume a line between A and B that might be straight or curved, and you want to divide it into 5 equal lengths. Set the dividers to an estimate of the distance. Starting at Point A, use the dividers to mark off five lengths along the line. If you end up short of Point B, lengthen the distance on the dividers. If you end up overshooting Point B, shorten the length of your dividers. After a few tries, the length on the dividers will be the exact distance you need to mark the 5 segments.

Dividers can let you quickly find the center of a circular disk. With one tip of the dividers at the edge of the disk, set the other tip to an estimate of where the center might be. Fix one tip of the dividers at the 3 o'clock position and scribe an arc with the other tip near the center. Do this again from the 6 o'clock, 9 o'clock, and 12 o'clock positions. The arcs at the center will form a small four-sided box, and the center of the box is at the center of the disk.

With the holidays coming up soon, one of Brad's "How To" jewelry books is a great way to help a friend learn a few new skills. See all the books at: www.Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith.



New GMSVP 2020 Editor

Dan Fontaine



Hunter Thurmond

This is my last newsletter as your GMSVP Editor. I hope that you have found the newsletters to be your "go-to source" about our club activities. Hunter Thurmond takes over as the GMSVP Editor next month. Hunter is ready to be the GMSVP editor. For training, he took the lead on developing last month's newsletter.

I have enjoyed being the club's editor. I especially appreciated the many newsletter articles submitted by our members that shared their

lapidary training and experiences and also helped us (club and members) win multiple national AFMS and regional EFMLS and SFMS bulletin contest awards.

I am not going anywhere. I will continue as the club's communication advocate to share information from the board and committee chairs with our members, so look out for future e-mails from me!



Dan Fontaine



- After sharing a fabulous Christmas Dinner, our club president, Vinton Feanny, opened the meeting and announced that it would be short meeting.
- Three Pebble Pups received awards and one was issued his awards sash.
- It was announced that we have a sign-up sheet for the GMSVP t-shirts. Club hats are presently not available.
- Vinton announced that Walter Priest was granted a Lifetime Membership for his many years of commitment and participation.
- Our president, Vinton Feanny, announced the Installation of the officers for 2020. The only new officer is the President. The 2020 GMSVP Officers are: President, Debbie Rice; 1st Vice-president for Membership, Walter Priest; 2nd Vice-President for Programs, Michael Griffith; Treasurer, Gary Bergtholdt; and Secretary, David Scharff. Vinton introduced and Installed the new board with a pledge.
- Vinton also shared that Bob Kennedy will be taking over as our webmaster and Hunter Thurmond as our editor next month.
- A gift was presented to Ms. Feanny in appreciation of her work as GMSVP president.
- The Board voted to pay the tuition and meals for one GMSVP member to attend a lapidary training at either Wildacres or William Holland School of Lapidary Arts. Club members at the GMSVP Holiday Dinner on December 5th that were interested in attending 2020 lapidary training participated in a raffle. Dan Johnson won the drawing. Two alternates were also drawn in the event Dan indicated in the future that he could not attend. The first alternate was Pat Fontaine with the second alternate being Walter Priest.
- Vinton also reminded us that club dues are due before the end of December, so the club can have an accurate list of members for the club insurance. 2020 club dues are: Single person \$15; Couple \$20, and Family \$25.
- Vinton announced that this month will be Dan Fontaine's final Newsletter. Hunter Thurmond will be the new editor beginning in January. Dan will continue as the communication advocate.
- The field trip to Belgrade was rained out. The alternate date was December 7th.
- The GMSVP Board meeting will be on December 9th, 7 PM, at the Willow Oaks Branch Library, 227 Fox Hill Rd, Hampton, VA. The Board meeting is open to all GMSVP club members.
- The guidelines for the pollyanna gift exchange were announced. The order of participants was identified by a drawing. When all participants had completed selecting their gifts, the meeting was concluded.

Minutes prepared by David Scharff

December 9, 2019

/ original signed /

Gem Tree Workshop

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

gbergtholdt@gmail.com.





January 10-12: 44th Annual Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show & Sale. Friday and Saturday: 10 AM to 5 PM. Sunday: 12 PM to 5 PM. Event is held at the Central Park Performing Arts Center, 105 Central Park Drive, Largo, FL.

March 7-8: 57th Annual Earth Science and Mineral Show by Delaware Mineralogical Society. Double Tree by Hilton, 4727 Concord Pike (Route 202), Wilmington, DE. Contact: Gene Hartstein (gene@fossilnut.com).

March 21-22: Buffalo Geological Society's 52nd Gem-Mineral-Fossil Show. The Fairgrounds in Hamburg, Market, Grange & State Police Buildings, Hamburg, NY. Contact: Jerolde Bastedo, jcbastedo@gmail.com.

March 27-30: Annual EFMLS Convention hosted by the Catawba Valley Gem and Mineral Club, Hickory, NC. & Catawba Valley Annual Show

May 2: North Shore Rock and Mineral club 57th Annual New England Gem & Mineral Show. Saturday, May 2 (9:00 AM--5:00 PM), Sunday, May 3 (1:00 AM—4:00 PM), Topsfield Fairgrounds, Coolidge Hall, Route 1, Topsfield, MA (GPS: 207 Boston Street, Topsfield, MA. Free Parking. Admission \$6.00, seniors \$4.00, children under 12 free. Contact: www.northshorerock.org or nsmc@verizon.net.



Eastern Field Trip Alliance (EFTA) Field Trip Sharing Program

<https://efmls.org/efta-field-trip-sharing-1>

How It Works: EFMLS Societies that carry liability insurance take turns hosting a field trip. The hosting interval is based on the number of Societies in the program.

Benefits of being a EFTA member Society: (1) There is usually one EFTA field trip per month, so EFMLS Societies have many field trips to offer their members. (2) The EFTA program gives Rockhounds the opportunity to visit sites to which their home Society may not have access. (3) A different Society hosts each month, there are a variety of field trips. (4) Since the EFTA is part of the EFMLS, trips are all over the east coast. (5) Rockhounds get to meet Rockhounds in other Societies.

EFTA Member Society Responsibilities: (1) Host an EFTA Field Trip. (2) After the trip, submit a brief report of the trip. (3) After the trip, renew EFTA membership by selecting a month/year from a range provided by the EFTA Coordinator.

One of the things people join Mineral & Rock Societies for, is the field trips. Societies everywhere are painfully aware of how difficult it is to find new collecting sites, plus collecting sites they have are disappearing due to construction, new ownership, management changes, etc. Being a member of the EFTA field trip sharing program helps Societies provide an important benefit to their members by having field trips available. **Just think of it, in exchange for hosting one trip every couple of years, your Society gets dozens of trips from other Societies!**

If you have any questions, please send an e-mail to David Nock at: davidnock@gmail.com.



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.