



# THE VIRGINIA PEN

GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY OF THE VIRGINIA PENINSULA



March 2020

## President's Corner

Deborah Rice

### Special Points of Interest:

- Cancellations
- TOTE Show CANCELLED
- Shed Clean out
- Virginia Mineral Project
- No April GMSVP Meeting



I know that right now things are kind of scary.

We will get through this. I hope all of you are well and relaxed. If the stress gets to much for you, take a walk out side, go to a State Park, the beach or Sandy Bottom. Luckily our hobby offers us opportunities away from others. Walking along the beach at Chippokes looking for sharks teeth or rocks can be fun and safe.

While on a nature walk or rock hunt remember to keep your distance from others. Stay hydrated, watch the Sun.

My hope is for all of us to remain healthy inside and out.

## 2020 Aurora Fossil Festival Cancelled

Dan Fontaine



The Aurora Fossil Museum closed until further notice last week, and then we received news that the 2020 fossil festival has been cancelled in accordance with recommendations from the CDC. Please consider donating in support of both the museum and the festival. Donations can be made online at <http://aurorafossilmuseum.org/post/7/donate.html>

## GMSVP April Meeting Cancelled

Michael Griffith

There was no April meeting scheduled due to the April TOTE Show, but the April TOTE HAS BEEN CANCELLED as well. There is no date available for reschedule, so the next Virginia Beach TOTE Show the club will attend will be July 17-19. No April meeting.

**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.



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## GMSVP

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## April TOTE Show Cancelled

Dan Fontaine

Due to the ongoing health crisis, the Treasures of the Earth Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show scheduled for April 3rd-5th has been cancelled. There is no date



available for rescheduling which forced a cancellation of the April show. The next show the GMSVP will be attending is scheduled for July 17th-19th.

Please consider volunteering

to help with these shows, any and all help is greatly appreciated. Contact Deborah Rice at [Heritageeducation@yahoo.com](mailto:Heritageeducation@yahoo.com) to let us know you can volunteer.

## Graves Mountain April Dig Cancelled

Bo Mulcahy

Due to the ongoing health crisis, the Graves Mountain Rock Swap and Dig in Lincolnton, Georgia scheduled for April 24th-26th has been cancelled. We have been informed that a date for reschedule is being worked on, but currently has not been posted. For up to date information the Graves Mountain Venue can be reached at (706) 359-3862 as well as on Facebook.

## Meeting Schedule

Gary Bergtholdt

- **CANCELLED** Apr 3-5: VA Beach TOTE Show
- May 7: Club Meeting and Auction
- May 9: Club Picnic
- Jun 4: Club Meeting
- Jun 8: Exec Board Meeting
- Jul 2: Club Meeting
- Jul 17-19: VA Beach TOTE Show
- Aug 6: Club Meeting
- Sep 3: Club Meeting
- Sep 12: Picnic
- Sep 14: Exec Board Meeting
- Oct 1: Club Meeting
- Oct 9-11: VA Beach TOTE Show
- Nov 5: Club Meeting (Elections)
- Dec 3: Christmas Dinner
- Dec 14: Exec Board Meeting



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## Donation Made to Pipsico BSA

Gary Bergtholdt



During early March, several of the club's officers received an email from the Mountain Area Gem and Mineral Association (M.A.G.M.A.) which is a North Carolina rock club whose focus is on collecting, not meeting. They host several year-round collecting sites, rock swap/sales, and weekend events. The one collecting event many of the GMSVP members are familiar with is at the Pipsico Scout Reservation, across the James River. Many of us have found some wonderful fossils while having an enjoyable walk along the river bank. M.A.G.M.A. was asking for us to support the annual BSA program, Friends of Scouting. Local councils solicit for donations from the participating scout families, local businesses, and former scouters, to help with the local BSA councils' costs of operations. In response, the board has voted and donated \$150.00 to the Tidewater council's program. The council has been very generous to allow collecting on their property. We have supported other BSA programs in past years, *like having a scout pack attend one of our picnics to learn about rocks and minerals*

## EFMLS Convention Postponed

Source: EFMLS Website

The March 2020 EFMLS Annual Regional Show & Convention has been postponed to October due to the COVID-19 / Coronavirus outbreak. Please check [\[the EFMLS website\]](#) frequently for updated announcements.

## Wild Acres Opening Postponed

Source: EFMLS Website

The March 2020 EFMLS Annual Regional Show & Convention has been postponed to October due to the COVID-19 / Coronavirus outbreak. Please check [\[the EFMLS website\]](#) frequently for updated announcements.

## Pipsico April Field Trip

Hunter Thurmond

"As of now, it is still a go. There is a meeting of the council executive board on April 1 and I should know for sure after that date." This is the current status according to Bill Stein, Pipsico trip coordinator from the MAGMA club. Given how many other gatherings, trips and shows have been cancelled around this time it is most likely this trip will be cancelled in the coming weeks. Email Bill Stein after April 1st for updates [rockdoctor48@wmconnect.com](mailto:rockdoctor48@wmconnect.com)



If you have any shows you would like to share information about please send information, fliers or links to me at [HLThurmond@outlook.com](mailto:HLThurmond@outlook.com). I am always looking for submissions whether it just be information to share, an article you have written, or some other personal creation you would like to share.





Our March program on the Virginia Mineral Project (VMP) was presented by the founder, Thomas Hale. The project was created to revitalize old mineral publications as well as reintroduce the community to the wealth of mineral discoveries and important historical events that occurred in VA over the last 150 years. **He is looking for people in our area who would like to become part of Virginia mineral history** by sharing stories and photos that may be included in the VMP publication “Classic Mineral Localities of Virginia”.

This Project seeks to tell these stories, by utilizing updated advancements in technology to bring to life Virginia Minerals and their stories collaborative project, community programs, social media engagement, and photography databases in ways that have never been done before.

If you have stories and photos you would like to share for the project, contact Thomas Hale at [virginiamineralproject@gmail.com](mailto:virginiamineralproject@gmail.com). If you don't have a story to share but would like to support or follow the VMP journey via social media <https://www.facebook.com/VirginiaMineralProject/>



During our shed cleanout we located newsletters and history dating back 50 years! If you have stories, share them! We can always publish an article in this newsletter that you may then turn into a chapter in a book, or it may be rediscovered in 50 years and republished then, who knows!



# GMSVP CLUB HELP WANTED

## 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 Deborah Rice ([Heritageeducation@yahoo.com](mailto:Heritageeducation@yahoo.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.

## Volunteers Needed For TOTE Shows

GMSVP participates in Treasures of the Earth (TOTE) shows at the Virginia Beach Convention Center and we need your help! Please volunteer for the next TOTE show on July 17-19, 2020. GMSVP has a booth with displays to educate the public about Virginia's natural resources and our club. Members also display their collections and demonstrate the equipment. These shows also are a great medium to increase awareness and gain new 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 equipment proper use and safety for new rockhounds. Volunteers have ample time to also see the show.

Members are reminded that we get free access to the show bring your GMSVP membership card. Questions should be directed to Deborah Rice or Gary Bergtholdt.



This year, 2020, we have two shows in VA Beach  
the First will be July 17-19

**PROBLEMS WITH SMALL DRILLS**



Drilling small holes can be a problem.

With drills that are less than 1mm (18 gauge or .040 inches), some chucks will not tighten down well enough to hold the drill securely.

The problem is easily solved in either of two ways - with a chuck adaptor or by buying your small drills with a 3/32 inch shank size. Either way you have a large shank to be gripped in your drill press, Foredom or Dremel, so changing bits is fast and easy.



Chuck Adaptor

**PRE-MADE BEZEL CUPS**

As a general rule of thumb I assume it's going to take me 15 - 20 minutes to make a bezel for an ordinary cabochon, so for some projects buying pre-made cups can save a lot of time. But if you go this route, keep in mind three things.

First, try to get cups made from fine silver, not sterling. Fine silver is softer and burnishes over the stone more easily.

Second, you may have trouble matching the shape and size of the stone with the shape and size of the bezel cup. Purchased cups can only be found in a limited number of standard sizes. You may have to adjust your choice of gemstone to match the cup. The other consideration is that pre-made cups often have fairly low side walls. While these are fine for low-dome stones, they're not dependable for stones with steep side walls.

Lastly before setting, check the fit of your gemstone in the cup, particularly around the bottom. The bottom corners of a stamped cup are much more rounded than a bezel you would fabricate yourself. This causes a problem with stones that have a sharp edge around the bottom. Burnishing the bezel over one of these stones will place a lot of stress on the stone and may cause it to crack. To avoid this, I round off the bottom edge of the stone with a diamond file (or use sandpaper on soft stones).



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



**Next Treasures of the Earth Show: VA Beach Convention Center on July 17-19**



GMSVP Club members were given a behind the scenes tour of the Virginia Living Museum Collections. Pictured left to right starting with the back row: Mike Mulcahy, Aiden Mulcahy, Gary Bergholdt, Deborah Rice, Mwazomela Mbewe, Hunter Thurmond; Front row: Bo Baker our VLM behind the scenes guide and educator. This wonderful photo is thanks to Bo Mulcahy and is why she is not pictured.



On our tour we saw many fossils including the tusks of the full Mastadon found here in Virginia. This is their collection of megalodon shark teeth.



The club was given a moment to explore the endless drawers of mineral specimen, all meticulously labeled.



Gary recognized agates similar to those we sell at the TOTE shows.



With the gems and fossils were other collections. Bugs, bones, and pelts.

Thank you Deborah Rice for organizing the cleaning and reorganization of the club shed. Club members helped to ready items for the next TOTE show. Along the way many club treasures were uncovered. Boxes of old newsletters and documents were found, some have already been forwarded to Thomas Hale with the Virginia Mineral Project and he sends his appreciation.



Bob Kennedy and Mike Mulcahy amidst the contents of the club shed meticulously scattered.



Geenies... oh and John Fulmer and Hunter Thurmond.



Rock saws!



Left to Right: Hunter Thurmond, John Fulmer, Aiden Mulcahy, Owen Mulcahy, Mike Mulcahy, Deborah Rice, Gary Bergtholdt, Pat Fontaine, Dan Fontaine. Not pictured: Bo Mulcahy and Bob Kennedy. ***Thank you everyone who helped!***

Last year's trip to Englewood, Florida, was so productive and fun-filled that Nannette and I returned for a month in January. Fossil shark teeth were still there in abundance -- over a four week period, we found more than a thousand on the beach! However, many of these surface beach finds were worn or small as a result of the surf action which literally acts as a rock tumbler before depositing the fossil teeth on the shore. Consequently, we decided to try a different collecting method.

We travelled to the Peace River, Florida's premier fossil depository. Here, by digging in the river bottom, you can bring up beautiful "untumbled" fossil shark teeth specimens as well as fossils from turtle, tortoise, glyptodon, horse, mammoth, mastodon,



dugong, and other creatures. Arcadia, one of the larger towns along the river offers a number of guide services as well as canoe rentals. Due to unseasonal rains, the river was a bit too high and fast for us, so we linked up with the Fossil Recovery Exploration outfitters. This group had privately leased land along a creek flowing into the Peace River that promised great fossil success. We invited another couple to join us and we met our expert guide, Mike Gesel, at the site. He had all the equipment we needed and quickly demonstrated shovel and sieve techniques by finding shark teeth and soft shelled turtle fossils in his first sieve-full. Mike also proved indispensable at fossil

identification -- a resource that was essential as we found a number of unfamiliar specimens.

The technique we used was to probe the creek bottom with a pole; Mike used a golf club handle with great precision. When we could feel gravel under the mud, that's where we would dig and empty our shovels on the sieves. The rule of thumb was "**the bigger the gravel, the bigger the fossils.**" We balanced the sieves on the creek bank or over-hanging limbs and rocked them up and down in the water to rinse and separate our finds. And finds there were! Shark teeth were most common (more than a hundred), but



**Glyptodont Scutes**

were in great condition with clear serrations. Fossil dugong ribs were also plentiful -- this creature, which I had never heard of before, was a relative of the manatee and we found so many rib pieces that we stopped collecting them. We also found soft-shelled turtle scutes, portions of tortoise shell, two horse teeth, and a partial mammoth tooth. Our most unusual finds were two scutes from glyptodons, armored creatures similar to a giant tortoise or armadillo.

Several days later we returned to Arcadia to try the river on our own. Unfortunately, it was still too high for fossil hunting so we just took a pleasant cruise. As a result, we found more alligators than shark teeth but had an enjoyable day on the water; outfitters in Arcadia can keep you posted on river conditions. **Bottom line: if you want quality**

**fossils in Florida, spend a day on the Peace River (or one of its tributary creeks).**



Those that participated in the Vulcan Materials Dale Quarry field trip were not disappointed. We met at the quarry where some of the newer club members got help from seasoned rock hounds assembling our hard hat inserts. You would think that that it would be intuitive, but it wasn't. Kenneth (Rock) Johnson, the Vulcan Materials Dale Quarry Supervisor and gracious host, provided the requisite safety training. Rock was joined by Kristen Thomas, Mining Engineer, to lead our caravan down into the quarry. With our vehicles secured with wheel chocks, and our rock hounds properly attired with safety equipment, the day's fun commenced.

Our group of rockhounds explored

berms on the two lowest levels. In the past, garnets, beryl, apatite, magnetite, microcline, molybdenite, muscovite, and zircon have been found in the quarry. Pink feldspar and mica was abundant on both levels and made enticing pieces to collect. Apatite, as well as other specimens, was found to cut up into future cabochons. However, our rock hounds thirst for garnets and beryl was not satisfied on the first site.



We then caravanned down to the lowest level where beryl was more common. Smoky quartz was scattered throughout the berms on this level. The finds of the day included a rock with five garnets and a number of rocks with beryl, including a matching set of beryl crystals.



All of our vehicles had poorer gas mileage on our trip back home due to all the stones collected during our day in the quarry.

Our thanks to Al DeHart, GMSVP Field Trip Coordinator, for setting up the trip and also to our Vulcan Materials hosts, Rock and Kristen, for ensuring our safety and enhancing our rock collecting experience.

Come to the July 10th meeting to see some of the specimens collected!



This article is a reprint from a past newsletter that was prompted by the fascinating Beryl specimen in Thomas Hale's presentation this month. Dan and Pat Fontaine mentioned at the meeting they had great Beryl finds from a similar trip the club had done, this is the article Dan wrote about that trip!

**Minerology**

Feldspar is a common mineral of Virginia’s Piedmont region, yet it is found everywhere because of construction.

According to the Division of Geology and Mineral Resources feldspar has a “general chemical formula of  $xAl(Al,Si)3O8$  where x can be sodium (Na) and/or calcium (Ca) and/or potassium (K).” Because feldspar forms in an aluminum rich environment, it is often found associated with garnets!

Feldspar has two solid solution series, alkali and plagioclase. Solid solutions series refer to the mineral stages that occur as feldspar cools from the liquid magma that forms it and other igneous rocks.

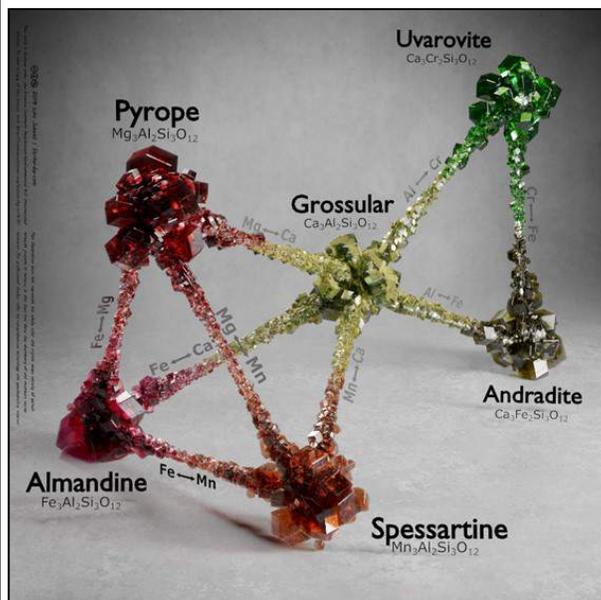
For those who have made rock candy, a nice comparison can be made; sugar dissolved in hot water precipitates, or crystalizes, into rock candy when the liquid cools.

For example if hot magma contains Aluminum, Silicon, and Oxygen required for both Feldspar and Garnets, as well as Sodium(feldspar) and Manganese(garnets); Albite Feldspar ( $NaAlSi3O8$ ) and Spessartine garnets( $Mn3Al2Si3O12$ ) can crystalize as that magma cools.

Both series of Feldspar include a form called Albite which can be of gem quality, and the plagioclase series contains the desirable labradorite.



This graphic was computer rendered by [strike-dip.com](http://strike-dip.com), a source of geologic visualizations. It shows the solution series of feldspar.



**Mine History**

According to the DGMR the first known mining of feldspar in Virginia took place during the 1880’s in Amelia County. The pegmatites in Amelia County are the same mined at the famous Moorefield Mine (please open soon!). Much attention is given to the pegmatite feldspar mines because of crystal size. Many large spessartine garnets have been found at the Rutherford feldspar mine that used to operate in Amelia. The large crystal size can be attributed to slow cooling of the magma.

According to the DGMR, “feldspar is also mined from the Roseland anorthosite body at the Piney River Quarry in Amherst County by Boxley Materials Company for use as aggregate.” Anorthosite deposits have less iron and magnesium, so almandine and spessartine garnets are less common. Scientists are still unsure how anorthosites form but they believe plagioclase and other crystals float to the top of magma deposits.

This graphic was computer rendered by [strike-dip.com](http://strike-dip.com), a source of geologic visualizations. This wild diagram shows the various series of garnets and their chemical compositions.

**How garnets make it to your patio**

“Aggregate, is a broad category of coarse to medium grained particulate material used in construction, including sand, gravel, crushed stone, ...” according to Wikipedia. Since feldspar is used as crushed stone in construction projects, Amherst County feldspar makes its way all over Virginia through various construction projects, and so do the associated gems. These gems are so rare or tiny that finding them depends on clues not digging or searching. Please stay clear of any and all active construction projects. Feldspar, mica, quartz and garnets often form together and knowing this, if you see two together then look for the third or fourth inclusion. If you see a feldspar with mica inclusions, look for garnets!



Garnet on feldspar found in a landscape project.

**Associated Minerals**

Almandine-spessartine garnets are the type often found associated with Virginia feldspar. According to strike-dip.com, the source of the beautiful renderings on the previous page, “Garnet minerals are great group of silicate minerals with general chemical formula  $X_3Y_2Si_3O_{12}$ . X stands for divalent Ca, Mg, Fe and Mn cations and Y – for trivalent Al, Fe and Cr cations.” The Pyralspite group of garnets, which



Photo provided by [Virginia Mineral Project](http://Virginia Mineral Project).



Gem inclusions in feldspar found in parking lot island.

contain almandine and spessartine garnets, have Aluminum in the Y position, and are found associated with feldspar. The difference between almandine and spessartine garnets is there iron and manganese content in the x position respectively. Iron gives almandine garnets a vivid red coloration as most iron containing minerals exhibit, and manganese imparts an orange color to spessartine garnets.



We, on occasion, do bad things to our hands. I have had days when I'm using my rock hammer so much that, at the end of the day, my fingers have frozen in the curl of my hammer handle. When I pull the hammer from my hand my fingers stay frozen in the curl – that is not a good sign. What I should have done would have been to change activity and finger position frequently over the course of the day.

One other way we are bad to our hands is, and this is a really bad one that I have seen innumerable rockhounds do, hold a rock in one hand and, using the rock hammer held in the other hand, strike the rock. This activity sends shivers down my spine when I think of all the small bones in the wrist being

whacked by a hammer. After all, just about all of the striking force goes through the rock and into the bones and connective tissues of the hand. Just ask any orthopedic surgeon what they think of such an activity, and I'm sure you will get an earful of commentary about the un-wiseness of the act.

Next, for hand calamities, we see the all-too-common near misses of the hammer aiming for the end of the chisel. Ever seen one of those? They are not pretty – and I'm not talking about the resultant air turning a blueish color. Hands do not have an easy life!

What is a hand to do? Yes, lotion for hands is good, but lotion will not help a missed hammer strike on a chisel (or thumb). There are (a ta-da moment) hammer guards available for chisels. A guard on the end of a chisel really can help prevent hand damage during a misplaced hammer strike. There are also numerous chisel holding devices available. There is a plethora of styles, compositions, and sizes of gloves that can prevent the many scratches, scrapes, and cuts we receive on our hands. We have available to us really great holding devices that can support/hold a rock so that it is not held in ones hand to be struck by a hammer. There are many devices and programs that can help stretch, exercise, strengthen, and increase flexibility of our hands. Although I would mention here that some of the exercise devices I have seen for strengthening ones hand can sometimes do more harm than good if used improperly -- so if in doubt about any program or device please consider consulting with a professional. Oh and hand lotion is indeed good for hands to maintain sensitivity, grip, epidermal integrity, and so on.

Other general hand maintenance guidelines include watching out for too many repetitive motions, avoiding shocks to the delicate hands and fingers, and taking a break from heavy hand usage tasks. I have even seen issues with too firm a grip for too long a time with hands holding on to dop sticks being used by those dedicated cabbers among us. When tackling a big job, ask for a hand. A helping hand to share a load, or relieve a stress sure can help keep our hands healthy.

With proper maintenance our hands can last a lifetime -- and that is good for the hobby as well as the individual. So, please keep up the good work and give yourself a hand for a job well done. Be safe, stay safe.



S.C.R.I.B.E. 2014 Clipart DVD

- Many of the upcoming field trips or club events have been cancelled or postponed due to the ongoing health crisis.
- The **April TOTE show has** been cancelled and no date was available for reschedule. The next TOTE show will be July 17-19.
- The **Graves Mountain Rock Swap and Dig** has been cancelled but a make up date is in the works. Contact (706) 359-3862 for up to date information
- The **Pipsico** dig sponsored by MAGMA and the Pipsico BSA is still scheduled for April. A board meeting is scheduled for April 1st and most likely this trip will be postponed as well.

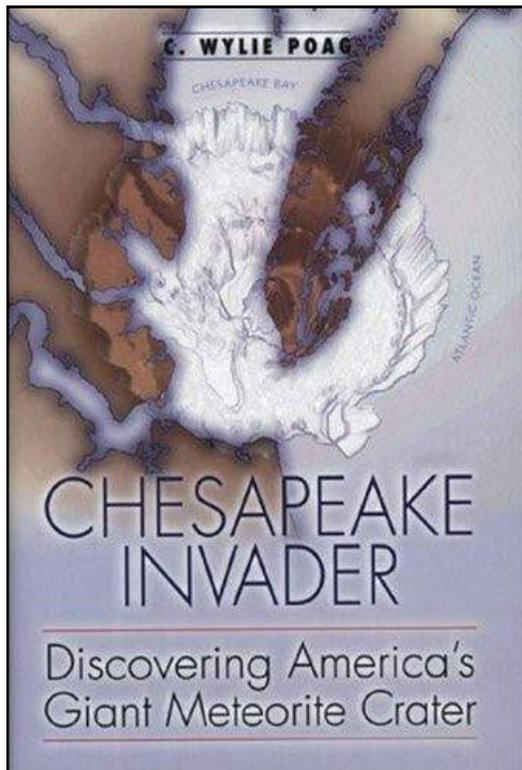


**2020 TOTE Show Dates**

- July 17-19, VA Beach Convention Center
- October 9 -11, VA Beach Convention Center

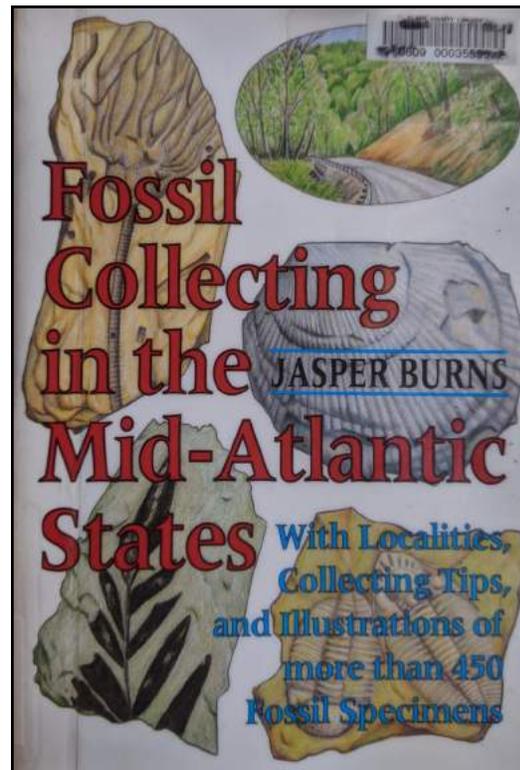
**Check Out These Books**

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



**Chesapeake Invader** by C. Wylie Poag is an amazing true story of the men and women that discovered the impact breccia of an asteroid impact that helped form the Chesapeake bay. It took many years, hard working people and a lot of digging. I encourage you to let this book captivate you and help keep you indoors!

**Fossil Collecting in the Mid-Atlantic States**, by Jasper Burns is my go to book for a day of fossil collecting. It illustrates over 40 localities, mostly in Virginia and along road-sides, that offer the chance to find a fossil or two. The book is almost 30 years old but it gives a great starting point for the Virginia fossil prospector.





# 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.