



# THE VIRGINIA PEN

GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY OF THE VIRGINIA PENINSULA



February 2019

## President's Corner

Vinton Feanny

### Special Points of Interest:

- GMSVP Meeting, Feb 21
- VA Beach TOTE Show, Mar 8-10
- Asheville Mineral & Fossil Show, Mar 15-17
- Pipsico Fossil Field Trip, Apr 13
- MAGMA Graves Mountain Rock Swap & Dig, Apr 26-28
- EFMLS Spring Wildacres Workshop, May 20 - 26

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I hope everyone has been enjoying the non-winter like weather conditions. The weather begs for us to go rock hunting.

I would like to thank Bo Mulcahy for graciously offering to be our Field Trip Coordinator. Bo joined the club in December 2018 and comes to us with a wealth of rock hounding experience. Bo has travelled to various sites throughout the US and will be a great fit as our Field Trip Coordinator. Thank you, Bo.

Once again we are asking for volunteers to staff our booth at the March 7 - 10 TOTE show at Virginia Beach Convention Center. Of note, we have been short of volunteers at recent shows to cut geodes. Although a club member should switch off from the saw about every two hours, a couple of volunteers have been on the rock saws cutting geodes for most of the past several shows. Please consider volunteering and learning how to cut a geode. As always, we also need volunteers to load the truck, set up the booth, sell geodes, demonstrate lapidary skills, tell folks about our club, and breakdown the booth, load the truck, and unload at our shed. Please see me or Gary at our next meeting on Thursday, February 21st, about volunteering or e-mail us at [FeannyVin@gmail.com](mailto:FeannyVin@gmail.com) or [wetlanddesign@gmail.com](mailto:wetlanddesign@gmail.com). **See the article on pg 3 for areas, dates, and times where volunteers are needed.**

We are members of both the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies (EFMLS) and the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies (SFMS). Both offer week-long, hands-on lapidary workshops at Wildacres in Western North Carolina. SFMS also offers lapidary workshops at William (Cont'd on next page)

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

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

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

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



## GMSVP

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

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## President's Corner (Cont'd)

Vinton Feanny

(Cont'd from Prior Page) Holland in Northeastern Georgia. Whether you are a newcomer to the lapidary arts and want to learn the basics or you're experienced and want to learn something new or hone your skills, the Workshop Program has something for you. Information on the lapidary workshops and courses are listed in this newsletter. Please take time to review these, as well as all the activities mentioned in this newsletter.

### Club Meeting Dates

The February and March Club meetings will be on the third Thursday (February 21st and March 21st). Please mark your calendar accordingly. The meeting in April will be on April 18<sup>th</sup>. There will be an auction at our May meeting, which is being held on the first Thursday in May (May 2nd). Our annual picnic will be held on May 11th; watch future newsletters for information.

We should have an exciting 2019!

## GMSVP 2019 Calendar (Subject to Change)

Gary Bergtholdt

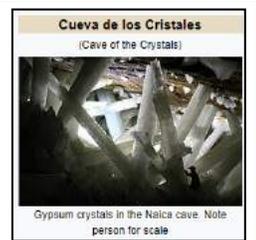
- February 21: Club Meeting
- March 7-10: VA Beach TOTE Show
- March 11: Board Meeting
- March 21: Club Meeting
- April 18: Club Meeting
- May 2: Club Meeting (Auction)
- May 11: Club Picnic
- June 6: Club Meeting
- June 10: Board Meeting
- July: No Club Meeting
- July 18-21: VA Beach TOTE Show
- August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

## February Meeting Program

Michael Griffith

The February 21st GMSVP Meeting Program (originally planned for January) will be on Crystal Cave in Naica, Mexico. The main chamber contains giant selenite crystals (gypsum,  $\text{CaSO}_4 \cdot 2 \text{H}_2\text{O}$ ), some of the largest natural crystals ever found.

(Reference: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cave\\_of\\_the\\_Crystals](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cave_of_the_Crystals))



Cueva de los Cristales  
(Cave of the Crystals)  
Gypsum crystals in the Naica cave. Note person for scale

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



GMSVP once again will have a booth at the TOTE Show being held at the Virginia Beach Convention Center on March 8-10. GMSVP's booth will have displays to educate the public about Virginia's natural resources and our club. Members also display their collections and demonstrate the equipment. As a fund raising activity, our club sells geodes at the show, which we cut with our rock saws. These shows also are a great way to increase awareness of our club, get to know other members, and gain new club members.

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

**HELP NEEDED:**

**Please volunteer to help!**

**Thursday, March 7th:**

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



- **Friday, March 8th to Sunday, March 10th:** During the show, GMSVP booth/equipment will have four areas that need manning: demonstrations, education/youth programs, geode sales, and geode/slab cutting.

**Sunday, March 10th:**

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



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



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

**Upcoming Treasures of the Earth Show: VA Beach Convention Center on March 8 - 10**

# Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies 2019 Workshops

Source: <http://sfmsworkshops.com/?p=1>



*Editor's Note: GMSVP is a member of both the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies (EFMLS) and the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies (SFMS). Our members are eligible to attend lapidary workshops sponsored by both Federations.*

One of the unique facets of the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies (SFMS) is the Workshop Program, which offers SFMS members the opportunity to gather for week-long, hands-on seminars taught by experienced instructors. Whether you are a newcomer to the lapidary arts and want to learn the basics, or you're experienced and want to learn something new or hone your skills, the Workshop Program has something for you.

Looking forward to seeing you! Information on SFMS 2019 workshops and courses are below. The registration form is available on the link in the article title block above.

- Date: June 9 to 14; Location: William Holland; Classes: Beading, Cabochon I, Casting, Chain Loop-n-Loop, Electro-Etching/Wood Inlay, Metal Manipulation/Cold Connection, Opals II, Silver II Fused, Silver I, Silver Wear I & II, and Wire Wrapping (Bracelets Only)
- Date: Aug 19 to 25; Location: Wildacres; Classes: Beginning Casting, Cabochons, Chain Maille, Cold Connections, Layered Colored Pencil Jewelry on Metal, Metalwork Special Projects, and Wire Wrapping
- Date: September 16 to 22; Location: Wildacres; Classes: Advanced Casting, Chain Maille, Cold Connection, Electro-Etching/Wood Inlay, Introduction to Gem Identification, Metal Clay - Tangible Moments, Seed Bead Weaving; Silver 1, and Stone Inlay

## FIELD TRIPS

**Bo Mulcahy has volunteered to be our GMSVP Field Trip Coordinator. Please thank her and share your field trip suggestions with her. Bo's e-mail is: [bomulcahy@gmail.com](mailto:bomulcahy@gmail.com).**

**New GMSVP Members—Welcome  
New Rockhounds! 80 Members!!!**

There were no new members during the past month.



## GMSVP February Meeting

**Date: February 21st, 7 PM**

**Program: Crystal Cave**

**Location: Sandy Bottom Nature Park's  
Nature Center, Hampton, VA**

## Gem Tree Workshop

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



## REGISTRATION OPENS JANUARY 1ST

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

Steve Weinberger, Wildacres Chair

Just a reminder that registration for the Spring (May 20 - 26) and Fall (September 2 - 8) Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies (EFMLS) Wildacres Lapidary Workshops opened January 1st. Always popular with limited space in classes to ensure outstanding instruction, we encourage you to register early.

Each session is divided into two parts (called semesters) with a day "off" in the middle to allow participants the chance to do some field collecting, museum visiting, or just exploring the Little Switzerland or Asheville area.

Students are pre-enrolled (based on their choice) in one class for the first semester and another class for the second. Students have opportunities in each to learn new skills and/or produce amazing projects.

Each session also features a "Speaker-in-Residence" who gives six talks related to the hobby and their specialty during the week. Spring will feature author Reneé Newman and fall, Elise Skalwald. Details about both are on our website (<http://efmls-wildacres.org/index.html>) (or will be there shortly).

Cost for each session is \$425 per person which includes room and board as well as semi-private rooms. In addition, there is a modest materials fee for the class or classes you are enrolled in and of course you get to take home the project or projects your complete.

Consider Wildacres for 2019. It's an experience you'll not soon forget.

See the EFMLS Wildacres website page (<http://efmls-wildacres.org/index.html>) for information on the EFMLS Wildacres Lapidary Workshop program, frequently asked questions, workshop dates, courses, and the speaker-in-residence at the Spring and Fall workshops, registration form, a video on the workshop, how to contact the organizers, and directions to the site.



## President's Message - Field Trip Dreams

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

David Nock, EFMLS President



Field Trip Dreams. Don't most of us wish for one of these? Or many? Maybe some of you have had a dig or two, where you collected a museum specimen or specimens. Of course, we all enjoy many aspects of club life, but isn't finding our own treasure the hands down ultimate?

Field trips are part of belonging to a club but as time rolls on, it's obviously becoming harder to get access to dig sites. Getting site access is one thing, but a coordinated effort to plan trips and people to lead them to new and existing sites present challenges.

Your Federation is looking into how we can increase access and share resources for leading field trips. Over the next few months, we will establish a committee to look at creating a consortium of EFMLS clubs to lead trips. If anyone has any ideas or their own club issues regarding field trips, please reach out to me ([davidnock@gmail.com](mailto:davidnock@gmail.com)).

If you have been on any of the club's trips to the Pipsico Scout Reservation, you may have been one of the lucky beachcombers finding fossil sharks' teeth. If you weren't among the lucky ones, let me recommend a vacation to Florida's Venice Island, the self-proclaimed "Shark Tooth Hunting Capital of the World." Florida was completely covered by water during the Pliocene to Miocene epochs (2-35 million years ago), and the Gulf Coast area was home to many shark species including Megalodon, Mako, Great White, Snaggletooth, Sand Tiger, Bull, and Lemon sharks. These sharks grow teeth in multiple rows; as a tooth falls out, another tooth moves forward to replace it in a matter of days. Consequently, a single shark can produce as many as 24,000 teeth in its lifetime. Multiply that by millions of sharks over millions of years, and you have a lot of teeth being left behind -- sharks have no bones, so when they die, only the teeth survive decomposition. They settle on the sea bottom where they fossilize in a small variety of colors, mostly black or brown, depending on the minerals present where they were formed.



While shark teeth fossils can be found on many Florida beaches, Venice Island has the most that we have ever seen. The state of Florida does not require a permit for fossil shark teeth collecting, and there are a number of state and municipal beach parks on the island. We had good success at Blind Pass, Caspersen, and Stump Pass beaches. Perhaps the most productive, though, was right outside our AIRBNB cabin on the beach in Englewood.



The teeth can best be found in the water and on the beaches after storms, low tides, and dredged beach replenishment. We found teeth by simply walking the beach, but had our best success using sieves and a perforated scoop (see pictures). We used these for sifting sand from the shallow water as well as sifting piles of shells deposited along the tidelines on the beach. The scoops are available in most beach hardware and Wal-Mart stores. The locals like to call them "Florida snow shovels." The sieves can also be purchased or made at home using screens, wood or PVC framing, and Styrofoam floats. We did not find any Megalodon teeth on this trip, but two nearby ladies each found a two-inch

specimen on the beach in the highest tide-line. We were told that was unusual; most Megalodon teeth are found snorkeling and sifting sand from the shallow water just off shore. We did, however, find an average of 50 shark teeth a day for a vacation total of more than 400 teeth!



When we recount our experience, we are always asked two questions: Why collect fossil shark teeth? What do you do with them? The answer to the first question is easy; we pick them up because if we don't who will? The second question takes some creative imagination. We used most of our finds to frame a mirror for our hallway (See picture). The rest will probably be returned to a beach for our grandchildren to find and, hopefully, develop an interest in fossil hunting.

In closing, let me also recommend a few other Florida fossil adventures. The Crystal River area is rich in fossil sea biscuits, the Eupatagus Antillarum, being considered for the state fossil of Florida (They currently have a state fossil stone, the agatized sea coral). I found several in fill along the road, but best hunting is on the spoil islands (manmade dredge deposits) off Yankeetown. They are reachable by boat which can be rented or hired for drop off and pick up in town. Fossil shark teeth as well as mammoth teeth and bones can be found in the Peace River near Arcadia in central Florida. Finally, Fernandina Beach on Amelia Island boasts fossil shark teeth and whale bone. That island is on the Atlantic Coast north of Jacksonville.

## Yooperlites

Holly Worsham

References: Mineral News Letter - <http://mineralnews.com/index.htm>; Excalibur Mineral Corp - <http://excaliburmineral.com/>; Facebook page – Just search for Yooperlites; Erik Rintamaki website - <http://www.yooperlites.com>; YouTube - LIGHT UP THE NORTH - The Story of the Yooperlites - Produced by Matthew R Myers - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KxOlyheHXM0>

It doesn't take much to get me excited about rocks. At the January club meeting Walter Priest brought to the club meeting a rock his son gave him for Christmas. Walter told me that I would need to put on a bib before he showed me his rock, because I was going to drool. He was right, another rock I needed to get for my collection. A Yooperlite, because you can never have enough rocks, right?

So started my hunt. I went out the internet to see what I could find for information on Yooperlites; see references at the top for what I found. So, what is so great about a Yooperlite? It looks like just a river rock, a gray rock sometimes with some spots of mica or other material. The excitement is that Yooperlites fluoresces under a longwave 365 nm UV light. They look like hot lava glowing from the inside out. What is equally amazing is that new mineral identifications are still happening today.

The discoverer of the Yooperlite is Erik Rintamaki. If you go out to Erik's website (<http://www.yooperlites.com>), you will find out how he discovered Yooperlites and how to find them. There are also several YouTube videos on Yooperlites and a Facebook page (see references above). The YouTube video also was nicely put together.

The rocks are actually syenite rocks that are rich in fluorescent sodalite. As I mentioned above, you will need a long wave 365nm UV light in order to see the Yooperlite fluoresce. I purchased my light on Amazon.

Mineral News, a publication put out by Excalibur Mineral Corp in Charlottesville, Virginia, has a full article on this discovery in their Vol 34, No. 5, May 2018 edition. The article is authored by Raymond Laughlin, Shawn M Carlson, Travis A Olds, and Owen P Mills. Here is what the article had to say on the Minerology of the stone. "The mineral reported as sodalite does indeed display a strong hackmanite-like fluorescent in response to longwave UV illumination. Examined under incandescent illumination and binocular stereozoom microscope, the mineral is generally a very pale gray but hints of yellow and teal are observed. And it is translucent, although this is probably due to heavy fracturing, as small unfractured domains appear transparent. Examined via petrographic microscope the material possesses a refractive index between 1.480 and 1.490 (consistent with sodalite) and appears isotropic in crossed polars."

The Mineral News article also mentions a theory on the origination of Yooperlites: "Although there are some small syenite bodies in Upper Michigan's Marquette County, to the west of this study area, we believe that it is unlikely that Rintamaki's sodalite-bearing syenite clasts are locally-sourced. It is more probably that the bedrock source of this material is located in Canada, specifically the Coldwell Alkaline Complex in Ontario, and that fragments of this complex were transported to their approximate present-day location by continental glaciation, further slightly moved, concentrated, and somewhat wave-polished by modern Lake Superior. Indeed, the presence of minor orange-red natrolite (alteration of nepheline) in these clasts argues strongly for a Coldwell Complex origin (Mitchell and Platt, 1982)." For more information, please read the full article which can be found on Erik Rintamiaki's website. If you would like the full article in the publication, you can order back copies of the Mineral News publication Vol 34 No. 5 May 2018 edition (link is in the references). (Cont'd on next page)



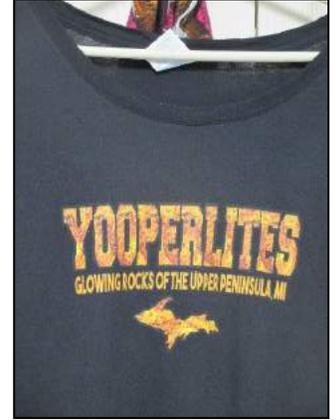
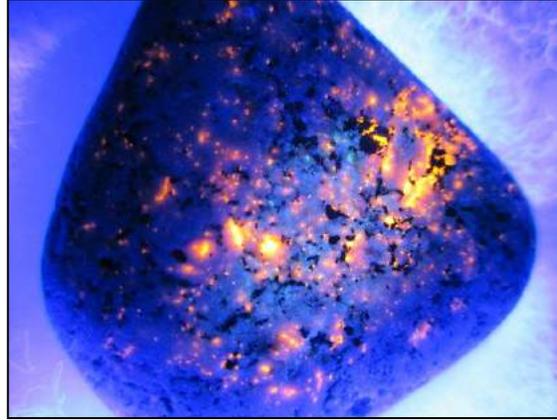
## Yooperlites (Cont'd)

Holly Worsham

References: Mineral News Letter - <http://mineralnews.com/index.htm>; Excalibur Mineral Corp - <http://excaliburmineral.com/>; Facebook page – Just search for Yooperlites; Erik Rintamaki website - <http://www.yooperlites.com>; YouTube - LIGHT UP THE NORTH - The Story of the Yooperlites - Produced by Matthew R Myers - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KxOlyheHXM0>

(Cont'd from previous page) I won my rocks on an E-bay auction. I would love to go up to Upper Michigan Peninsula to find my own, but that will have to wait. People are finding Yooperlites on other beaches on the Great Lakes, so maybe there is a beach a little closer. I can't help but wonder what else is out there?

And yes, I am also now the proud owner of a Yooperlite tee shirt purchased on Amazon.



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

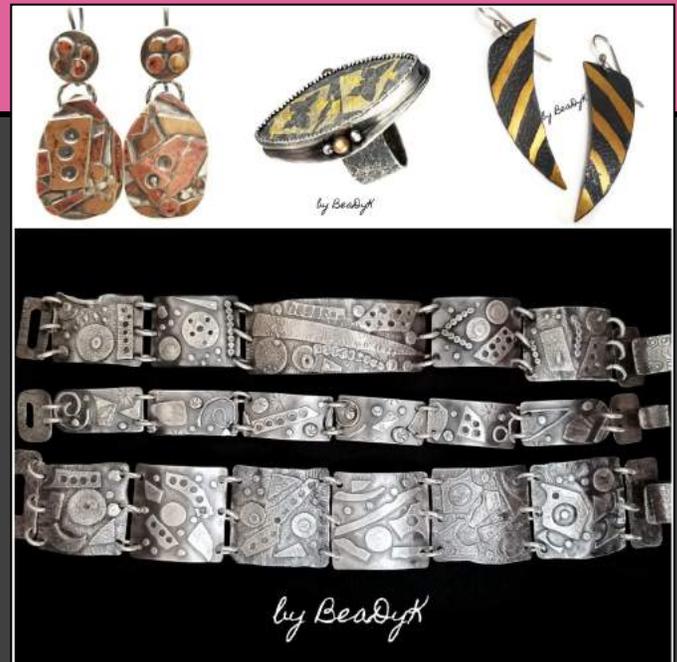


Please find all the information regarding classes, registration form and payment at our new website...

[www.sfmsworkshops.org](http://www.sfmsworkshops.org)

For questions please contact

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In this litigious day and age, sadly, all it takes is one action, one member, one disrespectful event to cause a property owner to boot an individual or a club from a collecting site. The best solution to such a problem is, most certainly, for it not to be a problem in the first place. Prevention is a great thing but there are limitations to what one can accomplish.

Club members can be coached, encouraged, guided, and otherwise instructed in the ways and means to be good rockhounds and remain in the good graces of property owners.

However, accidents happen despite ones best effort. Worse, however, are the intentional disregarding of property owner's wishes. What does a club do if a member willfully and repeatedly disregards a property owners wishes? It can be a very touchy issue to give a member the boot for disrespectful behavior at a collecting site.

A way of making the expulsion process easier is to have within the clubs rules, regulations, and bylaws, a reasonably comprehensive description of reasons to expel a member whose disrespectful collecting methods reflect badly on the club's field trip activities. Although no set of rules, regulations, or bylaws can cover every incident, they may be specific enough to everyone that certain behaviors and means are unacceptable... and then have a group of people, rather than a single individual, concur to remove a member from the club rolls. Having specific expulsion guidelines makes it easier to point to rules that say: "Sorry, but we just cannot accept misbehavior of such a nature on digs, or any other club activity."

An even worse situation occurs when a club is booted from a collecting site due to the activities of non-club member rockhounds. What can a club do in such instances? A good starting point is to stress to a property owner that the disrespectful collector was NOT a member of the club and does not represent the respectful nature of club members. A good document to use in making such a case is the AFMS Code of Ethics.

Indeed, most of the items in the Code are items that have their roots in being safe and respectful! Even more helpful would be to, in addition to the AFMS Code of Ethics, have your own local regional federation and club guidelines relating to matters of respecting property owner rights and wishes. It goes without saying that having a calm, measured, and patient approach is helpful when discussing such matters with the owners of property that permit, or at least at one-time permitted, collecting.

Your safety matters, so please keep in mind that respect plays an important part in safety. Respect for your personal limits, property owner limits, and codes of ethics all play a part in being and staying safe.



*Please note that the April Treasures of the Earth (TOTE) Show at the Hampton Roads Convention Center in Hampton has been cancelled.*

*Our March TOTE Show at the VA Beach Convention center is still on. We hope that you are able to volunteer to help us with truck loading, set up, the booth staffing, geode selling and cutting, booth teardown, truck loading, and unloading at the end of the show.*



### 2019 Show Dates

- March 8-10, VA Beach Convention Center
- ~~April 5-7, Hampton Roads Convention Center~~
- July 19-21, VA Beach Convention Center
- October 11-13, VA Beach Convention Center

## Beware of Nature's Hazards—Annual Reminder

Robert Mazzrillo

Source: This article was developed using information from the following sources: Poisonous Spiders in Virginia By Michelle Z. Donahue, eHow Contributor, [http://www.ehow.com/list\\_6151790\\_poisonous-spiders-virginia.html](http://www.ehow.com/list_6151790_poisonous-spiders-virginia.html); Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, <http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/wildlife/nuisance/snakes/>; Common Bees of West Virginia, <https://extension.wvu.edu/files/d/c1f9403b-7d46-4e35-8874-14bd3aaf1b08/berkeley-mg-class-common-bees-of-west-virginia.pdf>; Pests of Homes, Structures, People, and Pets, <http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn7449.html>; Virginia Tech News, <https://vtnews.vt.edu/articles/2007/05/2007-302.html>

(Editor's Note: Reprint from GMSVP Pen, March 2016.) Spring is here and you know what that means... Yes, it is time to start thinking about hitting the field and collecting all those awesome rocks again. But before you start rooting around in that rock pile looking for that prize, you should stop and think of the creatures that just might be living in it already. A trip to the field should not include a side trip to a hospital.

There are only two known poisonous spiders in Virginia, but both have bad reputations.

The Black Widow is probably the more famous of the two spiders, however this spider is not really aggressive. The female Black Widow is easily identifiable by her shiny black body and distinctive scarlet-red hourglass shape on the underside of her abdomen.

Males will have red spots and white markings on their undersides. The spider's name derives from the female's occasional habit of killing and consuming the male after mating. Most bites on humans are the result of an intrusion into the spider's nest, which



the spider builds in woodpiles, rotting tree stumps, corners of garages or any small unoccupied, undisturbed hole. The female guards the nest throughout the summer and this is when most bites occur. A person usually doesn't feel pain until several hours after a bite, then he or she may also experience nausea, fever, burning in the skin, aching abdomen, and possibly difficulty breathing. While symptoms generally dissipate in healthy adults within four days, the venom of the black widow can be lethal to very young children and the elderly.

While the brown recluse has been reported in Virginia, sightings are extremely rare and, so far, confined to the western regions of the state. The brown recluse is light to

chocolate brown in color, has three pairs of eyes arranged in a triad of three pairs which is one of the main diagnostic features for recluses, and a dark violin-shaped marking that extends behind the head toward the body. They prefer dark, dry, undisturbed crevices, such as under rocks and the loosened bark of dead trees or logs. In a home, a brown recluse will live inside cracks in the walls and in or behind storage boxes. They are incredibly tolerant of one another and can be found in very high numbers within a single location. In fact, "where there is one, there are many" would typically be an accurate rule of thumb! The brown recluse has an outsized reputation because its venom causes necrosis of the skin where the bite occurs. Most bites start out as a blister, which can be accompanied by fever, chills, nausea and in rare cases, convulsions or death. The cells of the affected area die and are shed, in some cases leaving behind a large hole that takes a long time to heal and recover.



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There are only three species of venomous snakes in Virginia. The Copperhead is a heavy-bodied, medium-sized venomous snake that grows to a length of 24-36 in. The head is triangular and coppery-red with an hourglass pattern. There are dark, rounded spots on the sides of the belly and the scales are weakly keeled. The upper side of the body and tail are pinkish tan to dark brown, with hourglass-shaped crossbands colored chestnut to (Cont'd on the next page)



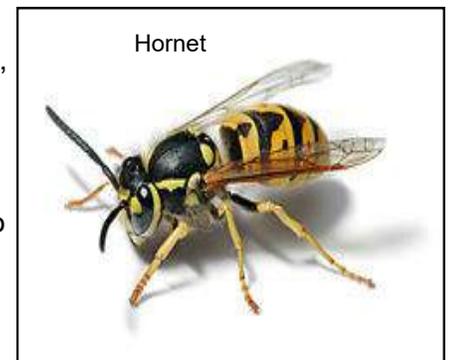
(Cont'd from prior page) dark brown; most dorsal scales are sprinkled with black flecks. Juveniles have the same color patterns as the adults, except that the tip of the tail is a sulfur yellow and juveniles lack the black flecking of the adults. There are regional differences in body color and pattern throughout Virginia. This snake is found statewide, in a wide variety of terrestrial habitats, including wetlands, forests, fields, and edge areas of all types. The copperhead is found in open areas with higher rock densities, and uses all types of structures for cover, including abandoned buildings, brush piles, and stone walls.

The Timber Rattlesnake grows to lengths of 36-60 in. There are two major color patterns: (1) the yellow phase, in which there are black or dark brown cross-bands on a ground color of yellow, brown, or gray; the crossbands, which may be V-shaped, break up anteriorly to form a row of darker spots down the back, plus a row along each side of the body; and, (2) the black phase, in which the head is black and there are black blotches and chevrons on a ground color of dark brown to nearly black. This species will emerge from hibernation in April and May. This species occurs at elevations up to 6000 feet, and sometimes higher, in the Blue Ridge, in the far western mountains, and in the western Piedmont. It inhabits upland hardwood and mixed pine-hardwood forests, in areas where there are sunny, rocky slopes and ledges. This snake needs places to hibernate that allow it to stay below the frost line, such as large cracks in rocky outcroppings.



The Canebrake Rattlesnake is a large, venomous snake that grows to lengths of 36-60 in. The canebrake rattlesnake is pinkish to light tan with dark-brown to black blotches and chevrons, and it has a marked stripe down the back and a stripe from the eye to the jaw. The pupil of the eye is vertical and elliptical. The black tail is tipped with a rattle. Males grow larger than females. It is listed as state endangered. This species inhabits hardwood and mixed hardwood-pine forests, cane fields, and the ridges and glades of swampy areas in localized areas of southeastern Virginia. It overwinters in the base of hollow trees or in stumps.

There are many different types of wasps, bees, and hornets in Virginia. They will nest in many different types of locations to include trees, holes, under rocks, in brush, even old abandoned cars. Bees can only sting once then die; wasps and hornets however can sting multiple times and suffer no effects. If a nest is disturbed they will defend it vigorously, if one is injured away from the nest others nearby may attack to defend the wounded individual as well. Most will go about their business foraging for food and ignore you, some however, such as yellow jackets, are much more aggressive and likely to attack than others. Be observant of the area around you. If you see insects flying to and from a



particular place, avoid it!

Fire ant mounds are found in warm, sunny locations such as landscape beds, lawns, around trees and shrubs, along sidewalk cracks and against buildings. If disturbed, these ants are generally aggressive and can inflict painful stings. Fire ants clamp onto their targets with powerful jaws and sting their victims repeatedly. Each sting injects a dose of venom that causes a burning sensation. The stings raise itching (Cont'd on next page)

(Cont'd from prior page) blisters that can become infected. In sensitive victims, the stings can cause anaphylactic shock (symptoms include trouble breathing and fainting) or even death. The counties affected by Fire Ants in Virginia are James City and York and cities of Chesapeake, Hampton, Newport News, Norfolk, Poquoson, Portsmouth, Suffolk, Virginia Beach, and Williamsburg.



Bear sightings are becoming common throughout much of Virginia. Adult black bears are approximately 4 to 7 feet from nose to tail, and two to three feet high at the withers. Males are larger than females. Black bears have small eyes, rounded ears, a long snout, large non-retractable claws, a large body, a short tail, and shaggy hair. Depending on the time of year, adult female black bears commonly weigh between 90 to 250 pounds. Males commonly weigh between 130 to 500 pounds. Incredibly adaptable, black bears occupy a greater range of habitats than any bear in the world. Bear home ranges must include food, water, cover, denning sites, and diverse habitat types. Although bears are thought to be a mature forest species, they often use a variety of habitat types. What should you do if you see a bear? Enjoy and keep a respectful distance! In most cases, the bear will move on quickly. Normal trail noise should alert bears to your presence and prompt a bear to leave before you ever see it. Bears usually run and hide from people. Never approach the animal, and observe it only from a distance. Make it aware of your presence by clapping, talking, singing, or making other sounds. If you encounter a bear at close range, remain standing upright, avoid direct eye contact, back up slowly and speak in a calm, assertive, and assuring voice.

Be aware of what might be living all around you when you are collecting! Ensure that the people you are collecting with know the hazards that might be present in the area. Stay safe, have fun!

## Jewelry Bench Tips

Brad Smith, [www.BradSmithJewelry.com](http://www.BradSmithJewelry.com)

### PROTECTING FINISHED SURFACES

I figure that any accidental scratch I make on a piece means about 15 minutes of extra sanding and polishing. So after finishing major surfaces, I typically cover them with some masking tape to avoid any scratches when doing final work like cleanups and setting of stones. The blue masking tape used by painters works particularly well because it doesn't leave a sticky residue.



### PICKLE PRECAUTIONS

A hot pickle pot gives off fumes that bother me in my home workshop. I get around that by using my pickle cold. I mix it a little stronger than for a hot pot so that it works almost as quickly. I keep it in a large-mouth plastic bottle and cap it off whenever I'm done using it.

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

[www.Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](http://www.Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith).



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

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

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

**Date:** April 13th

**Time:** 9 AM until dark

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

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

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

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

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

**Collecting Rules:** All previous collecting rules still apply.

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

**Fees:**

- \$5.00 per person to collect or tent camp
- Cabin Rental: \$75
- Cabinette Rental: \$20

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

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





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

Official Field Trip of the Mountain Area Gem and Mineral Association (MAGMA).

MAGMA POC: Bill Stine at: [rockdoctor48@wmconnect.com](mailto:rockdoctor48@wmconnect.com)

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

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

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

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

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

**THIS DIG IS OPEN TO ALL CLUBS and ROCKHOUNDS!**

### Graves Mountain Code of Conduct!

- Park your vehicle in the designated area at the end of the paved access road.
- ALL pets must be kept under control and on a leash.
- The caretaker, Jr. Norman has final and absolute say as to where you may safely work.
- Ladders or power tools of any kind will not be allowed. (HAND TOOLS ONLY!)
- STAY AWAY FROM ALL HIGH WALLS!
- NO RAPPELLING OFF OF ANYTHING!
- NO ONE IS ALLOWED TO DRIVE THEIR VEHICLE ON ANY PART OF GRAVES MOUNTAIN BEYOND THE PARKING AREA! (The caretaker must accompany anyone driving beyond the parking area!)
- EVERYONE NEEDS TO BE OFF THE MOUNTAIN BY 6 PM. (Absolutely no one is allowed on Graves Mountain after dark.)

Please protect our ability to field collect at Graves Mountain!

Report violations to: Jr. Norman, Norman C E Wrecking Co., 3333 C E Norman Rd, Lincolnton, GA 30817-3110, Tel: 706-401-3173. **All reported violations will be held in strict confidence.**

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

### Motels and Camping:

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

## Visit a Show

Source: EFMLS News Volume 66, Number 5, March 2019 & SFMS Lodestar February 2019

March 1-3: 49th Annual Gem, Jewelry & Mineral Show and Sale by the Suncoast Gem & Mineral Society. Minnreg Hall 6340 126th Ave. N., Largo, FL 33773. Show contact: Bill Schmidt, Show Chair, 727- 822-8279, E-mail contact: [SGAMSGemshow@gmail.com](mailto:SGAMSGemshow@gmail.com). Website: <http://www.sgams.com/Shows/show.html> [http://www.sgams.com/ Shows/show.html](http://www.sgams.com/Shows/show.html).

March 2-3: 56th Annual Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show sponsored by the Delaware Mineralogical Society. NEW LOCATION: Doubletree by Hilton, 4727 Concoed Pike (Rt 2020), Wilmington, DE. Info: <http://www.delminsociety.net/march-show/marchshow.htm>

March 6-17: 55th Annual GLMSMC Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show hosted by the Gem, Lapidary & Mineral Society of Montgomery Co MD. Montgomery Co. Fairgrounds, 5- Perry Pkwy, Gaithersburg, MD INFO: [glmsmc.com](http://glmsmc.com)

March 15-17: 10th Bi-Annual Asheville, NC, Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Show. Address: 263 Clayton Road, Arden, NC. Contact Rick at 828-779-4501 or [rick@wnrocks.com](mailto:rick@wnrocks.com)

March 22-24: Lexington Rock Gem & Jewelry Show sponsored by Blue Grass Gem & Mineral Club. Clarion Hotel, 1950 Newtown Pike, Lexington, More Info: <http://bggamc.homestead.com>; Jane Volk, [lexgemshow@outlook.com](mailto:lexgemshow@outlook.com); and Allen Ferrell, [kyrock2010kentucky@yahoo.com](mailto:kyrock2010kentucky@yahoo.com)

March 23-24: 50th Annual Rock & Mineral Show presented by the Che-Hanna Rock & Mineral Club. Wysox Volunteer Fire Co, 111 Lake Rd., Wysox, PA. Info: Bob McGuire – 570-928-9238 or [uvbob1942@gmail.com](mailto:uvbob1942@gmail.com).

March 30-31: Annual Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show sponsored by the Philadelphia Mineralogical Society and Delaware Valley Paleontological Society. LuLu Temple, 5140 Butler Pike, Plymouth Meeting, PA (PA Turnpike, exit 333 or I-476, exit 20). Info: [www.phillyrocks.org](http://www.phillyrocks.org)

April 27-28: Mineral, Fossil, Jewelry Show sponsored by the Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society. Agricenter, 7777 Walnut Grove Rd Memphis, TN. Website: [www.theearthwideopen.com](http://www.theearthwideopen.com), E-mail: [info@theearthwideopen.com](mailto:info@theearthwideopen.com). Contact: WC McDaniel 901-490-3575

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

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

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

October 28-29: 55th Annual Atlantic Coast Gem, Mineral, Jewelry & Fossil Show hosted by the Gem Cutters Guild of Baltimore. Howard County Fairgrounds, West Friendship, MD. Info: [www.gemcuttersguild.com](http://www.gemcuttersguild.com)

November 9-10: 46th Annual Parade of Gems sponsored by the Canaveral Mineral & Gem Society. Melbourne Auditorium 625 East Hibiscus Blvd. Melbourne, FL 32901 More info: [www.canaveral-mgs.com](http://www.canaveral-mgs.com); Show Chairman, Don McLamb 570 Seabreeze Drive Indialantic, FL 32903 321-723-2592, [fdjmc@aol.com](mailto:fdjmc@aol.com)



Renew your club dues or join our club at the February 21st GMSVP Meeting or by completing and mailing in the membership form from our website: [http://www.gmsvp.org/uploads/3/1/2/7/3127689/gmsvp\\_membership\\_form\\_2015-10\\_rev.compressed.pdf](http://www.gmsvp.org/uploads/3/1/2/7/3127689/gmsvp_membership_form_2015-10_rev.compressed.pdf)



# 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.