



THE VIRGINIA PEN



GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY OF THE VIRGINIA PENINSULA



May 2014

President's Corner

Special Points of Interest:

Picnic

- Saturday, May 17
- Sandy Bottom Nature Park's Courtyard Shelters 1, 2, and 3
- 10 AM—4 PM
- Food, Training & Friends
- Help Needed

Aurora Fossil Festival

- May 23—25

June Field Trip

- Vulcans Materials Dale Quarry; Saturday, June 7; 9 AM—1 PM; POC: Al DeHart
- Rose River Rock Collecting, Saturday, June 14; 10 AM—3 PM; POC: Robert Mazzrillo

Treasures of the Earth Show

- Virginia Beach Convention Center; July 18—20



Fellow Rockhounds,

We had a busy month in April. The Club's Annual Auction was a resounding success. Treasurer Gary's preliminary report indicated that we sold 70 items in the big kids' auction for almost \$1000. The Pebble Pups also had their own successful auction. If you missed anything at the auction, I plan to have a silent auction at the Club picnic that will include the items not sold at the April auction.

The Eastern Federation of Mineral and Lapidary Societies is sponsoring a Fall Session of lapidary classes at the Wildacres Conference Center near Spruce Pine, NC. These classes are a fantastic opportunity to learn new skills from experts in lapidary arts or hone your existing skills. The fee is nominal, \$390 for a week of classes, room and board. Please see their website for details - <http://www.efmls-wildacres.org/>

The April Treasures of the Earth (TOTE) Show in Virginia Beach also was a great experience for the Club. Many members helped staff our booth and help cut the geodes that we sold. In addition, members also had the opportunity to use the Club's equipment for their own projects. The preliminary report from Treasurer Gary indicates that we took in almost \$1900 from geode sales. Many thanks to all of the members who were able to help out, especially the always dependable setup crew on Thursday and those who stayed on Sunday to help clean up and pack the trailer.

Please do not forget the Club's Annual Picnic at Sandy Bottom Nature Park on May 17th. Also please see the accompanying article in this newsletter. This is a fun event that allows everyone to enjoy good food, work with the Club's equipment and get to know your fellow Rockhounds better.

Finally, Vice-President Barbara has arranged for Dr. James Kaste from the Geology Department at the College of William and Mary to be our guest speaker at the June meeting. He will be giving a presentation on Uranium Mining in Virginia. It promises to be a very enlightening program.

Rock on,
-Walter

In This Issue

President's Corner	1
Contact Information for Chapter, Officers, & Committee Chairs	2
A Working Vacation Wildacres—We Need Your Help	
New Members	3
Meeting Minutes	
Picnic	
Aurora Fossil Festival	
Editors Contest	4
April TOTE Show	5
Collecting Mineral Books Can Be Fun	6 & 7
Mid Atlantic Mineral Shows	7
Smithsonian's Hall of Dinosaurs	8
Stone Curb Material Code of Ethics	9
Vulcan Materials Dale Quarry Field Trip	10
Rose River Rock Collecting Field Trip	11

If you plan to attend the May 17th picnic, please call Gary Bergtholdt, 757-851-9620, by Wednesday, May 14th with the number of attendees.

GMSVP

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Newport News, VA 23602

Web: <http://gmsvp.weebly.com/contact-information.html>

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

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

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A “Working Vacation”

Betsy Oberheim, EFMLS

Source: EFMLS News, Volume 51, Number 7, May, 2014



It sounds like an oxymoron; “working vacation”, but it really describes the wonderful week I just spent in North Carolina!

First the “vacation” aspect; it is truly a beautiful retreat from the hassles of life. No phone, TV, radio, etc.—instead the company of other rockhounds, lovely view of dozens of mountains in every directions, bird songs, excellent food, hiking, field trips, pleasant room, sweet roommate (Isabella), etc.

There are so many fun activities available; such as tailgating, talent (?) show, auction, or just hanging out in the Cantina. As a vacation it is well worth the price—but the “working” part is an added treat! I took Pewter Fabrication and learned so much about working with that tricky metal. We shaped, filed, soldered, welded, and surface treated. I was so amazed at what I was able to do (with Bruce Gaber’s skillful assistance)

We also had a wonderful speaker; Leonard Himes, a mineral dealer and educator. He told us about many interesting aspects of his job. I really learned a lot! I just wish more people could experience the wonderful “working vacation” that the Brandons and I did at Wildacres!

Wildacres—We Need Your Help

Steve Weinberger

EFMLS Wildacres Committee Chair Source: EFMLS News, Volume 51, Number 7, May, 2014



You’ve read Betsy’s lovely article about our just concluded spring session. Those in attendance had a fabulous time! Now we need your help to allow it to continue.

Wildacres has been a tremendous resource to members of EFMLS clubs. It has been a source of education, inspiration, and joy over these past 42 years. Unfortunately, our fall enrollment numbers are currently low—too low, in fact, to justify going through with our planned fall session.

To this end, I am asking all EFMLS current and past officers (especially regional vice-presidents), committee chairmen, club officers, former attendees and anyone else who knows just what a fantastic resource Wildacres is to us to help us get the word out NOW! If we do not get sufficient registration by early summer, we will have to do the unthinkable, namely cancel our fall session. If we do this, who knows what the future will be?

I urge you now to do everything that you can to insure that we can continue this fantastic opportunity for our members to enrich their lives by attending, learning, and enjoying our two sessions at Wildacres.

Full details on cost, class selections, etc. are on our website (efmls-wildacres.org/).

Let’s be sure that we did all that we could to insure that our sessions at Wildacres did not become just a fond memory.

Editors Note: Information also is available in GMSVP April 2014 Newsletter.

New GMSVP Members

Meeting Minutes

Welcome new rock hounds!

- ◆ April 2014
 - Kimberly, Sydnee & KJ Evans
 - Marty (Martha) Sharpe
 - James Trist
 - John Eckhardt
 - Valerie, Malcolm & Sophia Rathbun

The GMSVP picnic replaced the monthly meeting for the month of May. Therefore no meeting minutes were prepared.

GMSVP PICNIC

SANDY BOTTOM NATURE PARK

MAY 17TH 10 AM—4 PM



GMSVP's 1st picnic is coming, Saturday, May 17, 2014. It will be at Sandy Bottom Nature Park's Courtyard Shelters 1, 2, and 3. These are near the Hampton Roads Center Parkway entrance to the park. The trailer and equipment should arrive about 9 AM, and we need help to set up the site. Once the equipment is set up and passes a safety check, members may start using it. All equipment is available for use from 10 AM through 4 PM. At 4 PM we need member help to clean the equipment and reload the trailer, takes about an hour.



The club will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, buns, condiments (i.e., ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise, pickle relish, onions, lettuce, and tomatoes), soft drinks, and tableware. Members are asked to bring side, deserts, and anything else they would like to share. Food will be available from 11:30 AM through 3 PM. Come anytime and there should be something to munch on.

Members may use the equipment on-their-own or get instruction, if they don't know how to operate a specific machine. Don't be afraid to ask for help. There are members willing to help you. We all had to learn at some time in the past. Please be courteous and allow others who are waiting for a

machine to use it too. As a guide, if no one is waiting, continue. Otherwise, if after 30 minutes and someone is waiting, finish that project and let the waiting party use the machine.

2014 Aurora Fossil Festival
May 23 - 25
21 Years of Fun and Fossils!

Members are encouraged to attend!
<http://aurorafossilfestival.net/>



Editors Contest



Submit your inputs to the Dan Fontaine, maineguy@cox.net, GMSVP Editor, to include in future newsletters!

THE VIRGINIA PEN
GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY FOR THE VIRGINIA PENINSULA

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Special Points of Interest:

- Treasurer of the Earth Show
- Virginia Beach Convention
- April 29-30
- 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
- 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM
- 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM
- 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM
- 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM
- 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM
- 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM
- 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM
- 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM
- 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM
- 9:00 PM - 10:00 PM
- 10:00 PM - 11:00 PM
- 11:00 PM - 12:00 AM

Special Points of Interest:

- 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
- 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM
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- 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM
- 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM
- 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM
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- 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM
- 9:00 PM - 10:00 PM
- 10:00 PM - 11:00 PM
- 11:00 PM - 12:00 AM

Special Points of Interest:

- 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
- 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM
- 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM
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- 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM
- 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM
- 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM
- 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM
- 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM
- 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM
- 9:00 PM - 10:00 PM
- 10:00 PM - 11:00 PM
- 11:00 PM - 12:00 AM

EFMLS holds an annual Bulletin Editors Contest. Judges comments are meant to improve the quality of the publication, thus resulting in better communications and a sharing of information, throughout the Federation. GMSVP has until December 2014 to develop and submit their entry....if we want to pursue an award for our club!

GMSVP can provide an entry any of the following categories:

- **Category S, Small Bulletins (6 to 11 pages):** Lead—Dan Fontaine, Editor. Submit a printed copy of a newsletter to be scored against newsletters from other clubs in a similar size category.
- **Category N, New Editors:** Lead—Dan Fontaine, Editor. With Dan as the new GMSVP editor in 2014, the club has the opportunity to submit a hard copy of the initial newsletter (i.e., March) to be scored against other new editors from the Federation.

- **Category OE, Original Educational/Technical Articles:** Lead—Any Adult Club Member. Any article from an adult GMSVP member providing educational or technical information included in a newsletter can be submitted. Articles should not be simply a report. If a field trip report is submitted, it should go beyond who went and who found what. It should also include historical and geological information and provide complete technical descriptions of the material found and the educational value of the report. An article will not be considered if it was previously published in a magazine or company publication; used as information for a display case; was a handout at a show, class, seminar, or convention/meeting; or previously published on the internet.
- **Category ON, Original Non-Technical Articles:** Lead—Any Adult Club Member. This category includes show critiques, program reviews, book reviews, and editorials on matters pertinent to the hobby. An article will not be considered if previously published in a magazine, company publication, as other public information, or on the internet, or if the content is largely made up of quoted passages.
- **Category P, Original Poems:** Lead—Any Adult or Pebble Pup Member. Poems must be related to the hobby and can be serious or humorous.
- **Category FW, Written Features:** Lead—Any Member. Possible entries include humorous anecdote, president's column, shop hints, play on mineral names, special club contests, club history commentary, etc.
- **Category FD, Drawn Features:** Lead—Any Member. This category includes original items that bring spice to the newsletter such as puzzles made up of a form or shape (no word puzzles), cartoon crystal structures (drawn by the author and incorporated in an original application). The drawn feature should have some accompanying description but the drawing predominates.
- **Category J, Junior Articles Special Publications.** Lead—Any Pebble Pup. There are two age categories, i.e., under 12 and 12 to 17. Entries should reflect capabilities expected of their age. For example, a 2nd grader might be expected to write one paragraph or 1/3 of a page with no bibliography. The high school student should be able to research material and write an article 1/2 to 1 page or more in length with a bibliography.

Support an initiative to have our club recognized.
Submit your input to the editor to include in the next newsletter!!!

Treasures of the Earth (TOTE) Show

The April TOTE show was once again a success for the club.

Our members availed themselves of the club's four cabochon machines to learn and hone their skills and shape a number of gemstones. The club's two rock cutting saws opened the treasures of geodes delighting our booth's many visitors and adding to our treasury for future field trips.

The booth also successfully increased the awareness of GMSVP and the opportunity for fun, learning and fellowship. Our booth included a workstation for Pebble Pups to create fossil footprints in salt dough and a number of rock displays from personal and club rock collections.

Club members that attended had a great time. The next TOTE Show is in July. Hoping to see even more members supporting our booth at that show! Here's some pictures from the show.



Source: Diamond Dan Publications, Mini Miners Monthly, Vol. 8 No. 4, April 2014

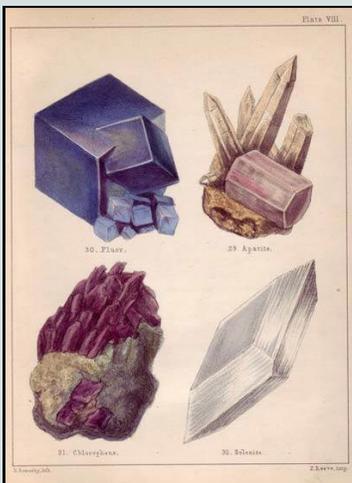
Last month I bought a very old mineral book. It is Popular Mineralogy by Henry Sowerby. This copy has all of its pages, but it is falling apart. It is still a treasure to me because it is a wonderful old book about a subject I love (minerals!) and it was at a great price. I actually bought a box of books about minerals for \$5 and this book was in the box.

What I like best about the book are the pictures of minerals that are in it. The mineral drawings were done by the author, Henry Sowerby. This book was printed at a time when pictures in books were not printed in color as they are today. The pictures in this book were printed in black and white and then they were colored in by hand! This means that every copy is a little bit different from every other copy. Sample pages from this book are featured here in this article.

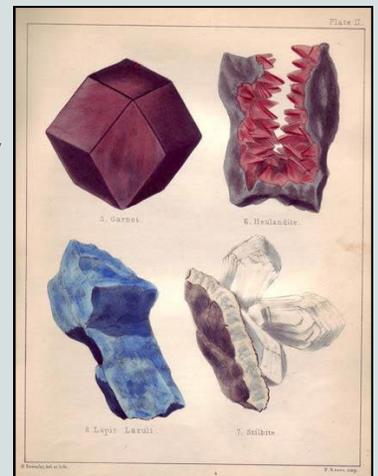
As I spend time looking at the pages of mineral pictures, I began to wonder about the man who wrote the book. Who was Henry Sowerby? Where did he live? What did he do in his life?

Here's a new way to go hunting for minerals: spend a Saturday or a weekend visiting used book stores. Hunt for old books about minerals. You might find it challenging and fun to hunt for antique mineral books. I like the ones that were published before 1900. Then, when you find your treasure, read the book, or read portions that are interesting to you. THEN...do some hunting on the internet about the person or persons who wrote the book. You may very well discover some history that helps make your own mineral collecting more interesting. So, here is what I learned when I did some digging on the internet for information about Henry Sowerby... by Darryl Powell.

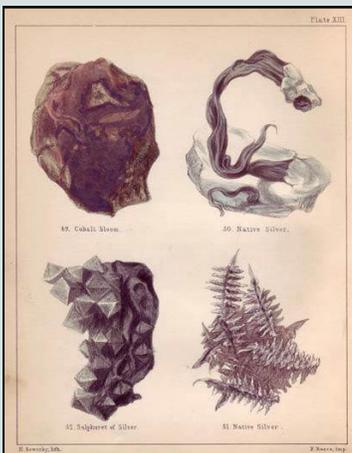
Henry Sowerby 1825 - 1891



Henry Sowerby was born in London, England on March 29, 1825. He became a mining expert in England, which is where he learned about minerals first hand. The Sowerby family is famous for its illustrated books about minerals, shells and plants. His grandfather was the very well-known and famous illustrator, James Sowerby. James Sowerby's two publications *British Mineralogy* and *Exotic Mineralogy* are two of the most valuable and most sought-after books in the world of mineralogy. Henry's father was George Brettingham Sowerby and his older brother was George Brettingham Sowerby II.



From 1843 to 1852 Henry was an assistant librarian to an important group of his day, The Linnaean Society of London. The Linnaean Society was a group of men who were interested in natural sciences.



They would prepare and present papers about different themes in natural history, often about biology or zoology, but also about mineralogy and botany (plants). The goal of the Society was to inspire and educate the general public about natural sciences.

Henry must have thought that his future wasn't going to be very successful if he stayed in England. So, in 1854 he moved to Australia. There he worked as an illustrator (draughtsman) at Melbourne University. He also worked as a teacher of drawing in the state schools of Australia.

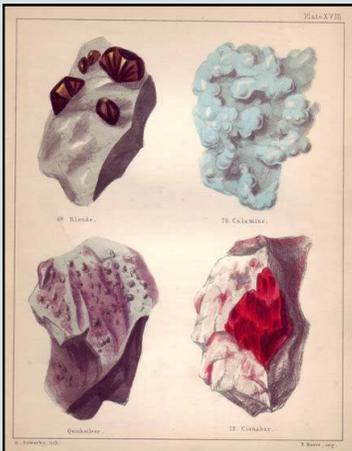
Very rich deposits of gold were discovered in Australia. In fact, some of the largest gold nuggets found anywhere (Cont'd on next page.)



Collecting Mineral Books Can Be Fun (Cont'd)

Darryl Powell

Source: Diamond Dan Publications, Mini Miners Monthly, Vol. 8 No. 4, April 2014



in the world have been discovered in Australia. Henry Sowerby spent the last 20 years of his life searching for gold in his new homeland, hoping to find his fortune in the mineral world he seemed to love so much. He died in Melbourne, Australia on September 15, 1891.

Without question, the mineral books of his grandfather, James Sowerby, are superior in the quality of the drawings and their coloring. Still, this is an interesting and even beautiful little book. If you can find one in which the pictures are in good condition - even if the rest of the book is not - you have found a treasure. Be prepared, however, to be surprised by the cost. A copy of this book in good condition could cost you \$600 or more. A copy in poor condition, like the one I discovered, will be much less expensive.

Finding and Buying Old Mineral Books

In general, the cost of good mineral books can be very different from one book dealer to another. You will have to decide if you want to pay a high price now or wait for a copy at a better price (that is, lower price) later. You may never find one at a lower price. Or, you may find a treasure of a mineral book at a very low price. It is also important to know that there are some mineral books that are so rare that they will be very expensive in poor condition and extremely expensive in good condition.

“Digging” for old mineral books can be a fun hobby. Attend as many used book sales as you can. Churches, libraries, and other charities often have used book sales. You can spend hours and hours looking over the books that are piled on the tables. Who knows, you could very well find an old mineral book somewhere in the pile - for \$1 or \$2!

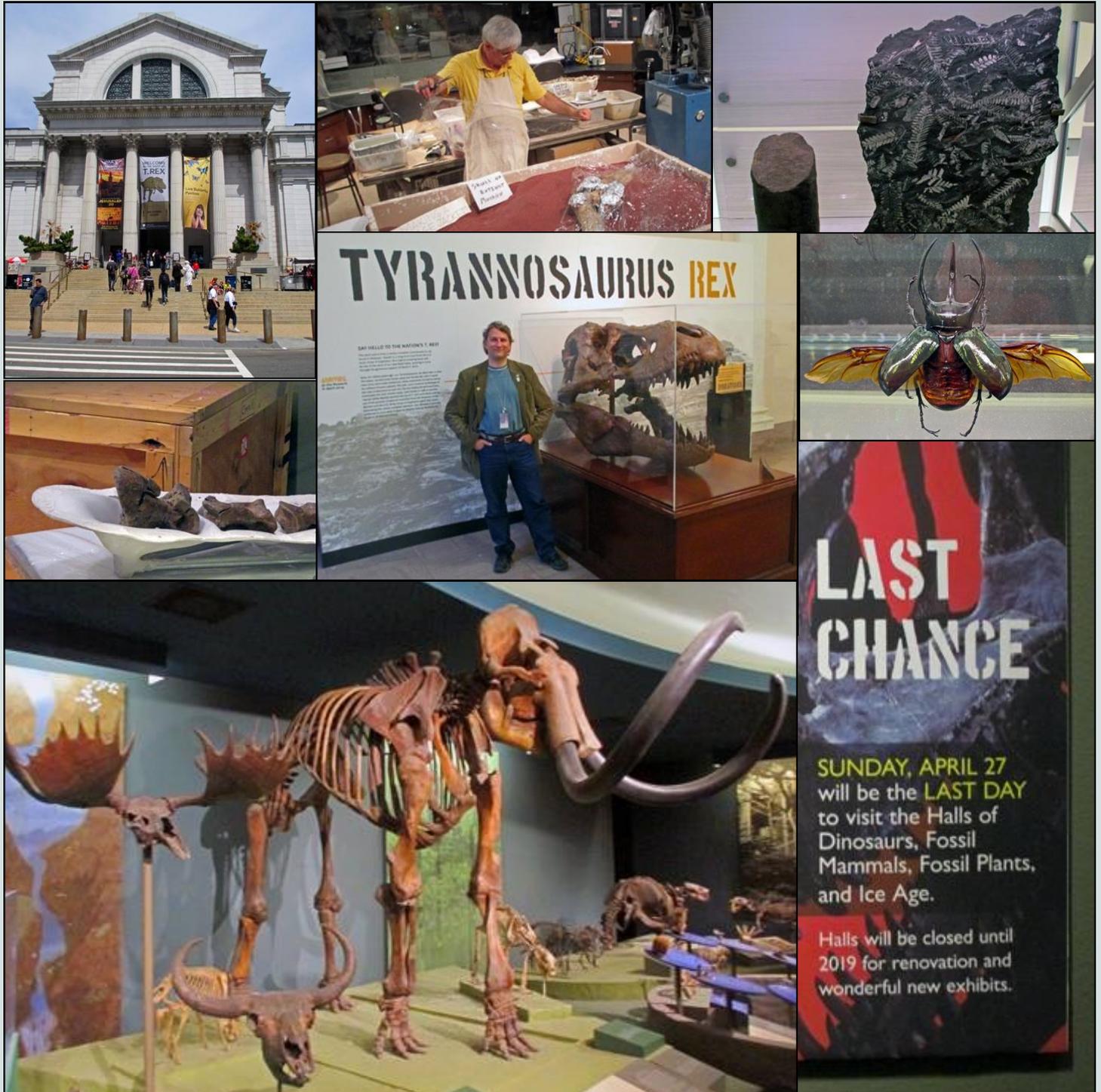
You can prepare for your “mineral book dig” by studying now. The Mineralogical Record website (minrec.org) has a whole section on mineral books. Check them out. The more you know before you go hunting, the more successful you can be when you are out on the search.

Mid Atlantic Mineral Shows

- **Treasures of the Earth (TOTE) Show**
<http://treasuresoftheearth.com/>
 - ♦ May 30—June 1, Powell Convention Center, Ocean City, MD
 - ♦ June 6—8, Meadow Event Park, Doswell, VA
 - ♦ July 18—20, Virginia Beach Convention Center, Virginia Beach, VA
- **46th Annual World of Gems and Minerals: Gemstone, Jewelry, Bead, Mineral and Fossil Show**
May 17—18
Leesport Farmer's Market (Route 61), Leesport PA (6 miles north of Reading, PA)
Berks Mineralogical Society
www.berksmineralsociety.org
- **Ruhl Armory Show**
May 24, 10 AM - 4 PM
Baltimore, MD
Chesapeake Mineral Club
<http://www.chesapeakegemandmineral.org/>
- **62nd semi-annual Mineralfest**
June 7
Macungie Memorial Park (Poplar Street)
Macungie, Pennsylvania
Pennsylvania Earth Sciences Association
<http://www.chesapeakegemandmineral.org/>

During early April, club members had an opportunity to visit the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History. The "sort of" field trip to the Smithsonian provided an opportunity to visit the Hall of Dinosaurs before it shut down at the end of April for a 5-year renovation. Dr. Thomas Holtz of the Smithsonian provided a guided tour of the Hall on April 20th. Those attending also had an opportunity to tour the rest of the Smithsonian, including an awesome gem and mineral exhibit.

A few photos from the Hall of Dinosaurs tour are included below.



In the Hampton Roads, we typically see concrete, asphalt, or no curbs. During a trip to Maine, I noticed some granite curbing was being staged and installed. It caused me to wonder when it was appropriate to use stone material for a roadside curb. The following is shared based on a Wikipedia curb article (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Curb>).



Fabrication, installation, and maintenance cost; intended use; and environment determine the optimal curb material. While curbs most often are made of concrete, they also may be constructed of asphalt or stone. Concrete curbs are very visible and can be poured in place using forms. If the installation is large enough, offsite fabrication may be more economical using less expensive techniques. A paving machine forms asphalt curbs. While cheaper, it is less durable than a concrete curb.

When would it be economical to install granite curbs? Granite curbs are inherently more durable and resistant to snow plows and deicing salt. So in a location like New England, where granite is common and readily extracted, it may be viewed as economical when also considering road maintenance costs over a period of years. For those of you traveling to an area with granite curbs, avoid contact with your tire. A rough-faced stone curb can cut a tire sidewall.

EFMLS & AFMS Code of Ethics

Ellery Borow, EFMLS Safety Chair

Source: EFMLS News, Volume 51, Number 1, Oct—Nov 2013

EFMLS and AFMS both abide by a set of safety instructions – you may know them as the “Code of Ethics.” I hope you keep a set of the Code with you. They appear in the September and October AFMS Newsletters which can be downloaded from the AFMS web site (www.amfed.org) if you don’t have them.

The “Code’s” safety aspects are summarized below:

1. “I will respect both private and public property...” This is for your safety as well as ethical.
2. “I will keep informed on all laws...” Also for your protection. Knowledge is indeed power.
3. “I will, to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines...” Very much a safety issue as well.
4. “I will use no firearms or blasting...” No more need be said about this safety issue.
5. “I will cause no willful damage...” Again a safety issue, for you and the property owner.
6. “I will leave all gates as found.” Safety for your fellow creatures!
7. “I will build fires only in designated...” Smokey the B. will, I’m sure, thank you for your safety.
8. “I will discard no burning material...” Ditto
9. “I will fill all excavation holes...” Could this be any more clearly a safety issue?
10. “I will not contaminate...” Safety, safety, safety!!!
11. “I will cause no willful damage to collecting material...” While perhaps not specifically a safety matter, this is the right and ethical thing to do.
12. “I will practice conservation...” Perhaps an indirect reference to the safety / protection of our hobby?
13. “I will support the rockhound project HELP (Help Eliminate Litter Please)...” Most certainly a safety issue as well.
14. “I will cooperate with field trip leaders...” Our field trip leaders are there, in part, to keep us safe.
15. “I will report to my club or federation officers... deposit of petrified wood or...” Similar to No. 12.
16. “I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.” Again similar to No. 12.
17. “I will observe the “Golden Rule”...” No doubt about it, this is another matter which involves safety.

While these seventeen items are the AFMS Code of Ethics, they also serve as part of our safety guidelines as well.

Please be ethical, please be safe. It is in the hobby’s instruction manual – and you do read instruction and safety manuals don’t you?

Official Gem and Mineral Society of the Virginia Peninsula (GMSVP) Club Field Trip

Al DeHart, GMSVP Field Trip Leader

Home Phone No. 757-877-3844, Cell Phone No. 757-254-3844, E-mail Address: dehartalbert@cox.net

This is an official field trip for The Gem & Mineral Society of the Virginia Peninsula, Inc. (20 slots allotted)

Mineral Collecting Field Trip to Vulcan Materials Dale Quarry

11520 Iron Bridge Road
Chester, VA 23831

Saturday, June 7, 2014

9 AM until 1 PM

SIGN-UP REQUIRED...CONTACT AL DEHART

NOTE: All field trip participants must be 18 years of age or older and 2014 GMSVP Club members in good standing and covered by Club Liability Insurance. NO GUESTS ARE ALLOWED.

Minerals have been found here in the past include: Almandine Garnets, Beryl, Apatite, Magnetite, Microcline, Molybdenite, Muscovite and, Zircon. Check it out at: <http://www.mindat.org/loc-10492.html>

ATTENTION: All vehicles will require a set of wheel chocks as required by MSHA.

This Quarry is a working industrial facility and regulated by MSHA. All attendees must follow all MSHA safety regulations. Failure to do so will result in that person being ejected from the Quarry and suspended from future field trips. Additionally safety infractions jeopardize our Club's future access to this facility as well as all other Vulcan Material sites. Safety Equipment below is required.

Standard full dress safety precautions apply. Here's the Safety Equipment you will NEED:

1. Steel Toed Boots – A MUST
2. Safety Glasses or Goggles – A MUST
3. Safety Helmets - A MUST, though color is optional. Remember that the helmets must be less than five years old at this mine. Be sure to check the mark on the brim. No helmet means no admittance.
4. Heavy Work Gloves – Optional but a good idea
5. Knee Pads – Optional but a good idea.

Other items recommended are as follows:

1. Collecting bags, buckets, rock hammer, pry bar, chisels, pick, shovel, and wrapping paper.
2. Drinking Water, snacks, lunch items

Driving Directions from Tidewater Area:

Plan your drive time to arrive at the Quarry between 8:30 and 8:45 AM Saturday morning. We will assemble at the Quarry office for our safety briefing.

Route to avoid tolls is below. Route variations are plenty. Choose the one right for you.

- I-64 West to Exit 200 I-295 South towards Rocky Mt NC
- From I-295 South, take Exit 15 for Rt. 10 West Iron Bridge Road
- Proceed on Rt. 10 Iron Bridge Road thru to small town of Chester
- Proceed past Chester and look for the Dale Quarry sign on the left side of the road. You will have to go a little past and make a U turn at the next medium and drive back to the Quarry entrance on the right hand side of the road.
- CAUTION: Please be careful. There is a landfill on this same road. A lot of truck traffic entering and exiting!
- Drive into the facility past the weigh station. Turn right into the parking lot where the Quarry office is on the right hand side.

NOTE: Severe weather or other crisis out of our control may result in the canceling or rescheduling of this trip. If there is any question, please call Al DeHart to confirm the trip.

Gem and Mineral Society of the Virginia Peninsula (GMSVP) Field Trip

Robert Mazzrillo, Rose River Field Trip Leader
Cell Phone No. 757-575-3174, E-mail Address: spazzagorilla

Rose River Rock Collecting Field Trip Syria, VA

Saturday, June 14, 2014 10 AM until ~3 PM

Please e-mail Robert Mazzrillo at spazzagorilla@yahoo.com or let Robert know at the June GMSVP Meeting, if you would like to participate. Anyone who feels they can walk in a small river can go!

Minerals have been found here in the past include: Unakite, Epidote in green blue or red colors, and possibly white quartz with blue quartz veins. Solid blue quartz is rare but possible. Check it out at: <http://www.rockhoundlounge.com/cgi-bin/yabb252/YaBB.pl?num=1337627078>.

We will meet in Syria VA in the field at the foot of the Graves Mountain Lodge driveway at 10 AM and leave the parking area at 10:15 AM to walk to the river for rock collecting. We will stop collecting at about 3—3:30 PM when collecting becomes difficult due to the shadow of the mountains. It can get dark pretty quick in the river valley. Keep this in mind!

Recommended Dress

- Shoes you don't mind getting wet.
- Gloves are advised as well but not required.
- A backpack to carry specimens is advised to keep hands free while traveling up river.
- A walking stick is HIGHLY recommended!!!
- The water should be cool, but not freezing. Most of the river will be shallow, less than calf and even ankle deep, with a few spots up to waist deep, at least if past history is any indication.

Safety warnings!

- There are bears in these mountains. Bears have been seen in the past several times near the river. Talk, make noise, and they will almost always run off before you even see them. But be aware.
- There are snakes in the area. Copperheads have been seen, be cautious.

Other items recommended are as follows:

- Drinking Water, snacks, lunch items

Driving Directions from Tidewater Area

Travel time is about 2.5—3 hours from Hampton Roads, mostly on interstate 64. (2 hour drive from Richmond)

- Take Interstate 64 West to Zion Crossroads (exit 136).
- Take Route 15 North to through Gordonsville to Orange.
- Follow Route 15 through Orange, 4 miles North of Orange, take a Left on Route 230.
- Follow 230 for approximately 14 miles to Stop sign at Route 29.
- Take a Right on Route 29 / Route 231 North. Drive 1.5 miles.
- Take a Left on 29 Business North. Go 1 mile, take Left on Route 231 North. Stay on Route 231 North for 8 miles.
- Take a Left on Route 670. Travel 4 miles, Graves Mountain Lodge is on Left.

NOTE: Severe weather or other crisis out of our control may result in the canceling or rescheduling of this trip. If there is any question, please call Robert Mazzrillo to confirm the trip.