



THE VIRGINIA PEN

GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY OF THE VIRGINIA PENINSULA



September 2014

President's Corner

Walter Priest

Special Points of Interest:

Board Meeting Discussions in President's Corner

Willis Mt Kyanite Mine Field Trip

- September 27th

GMSVP Meeting, Oct 2nd

Treasures of the Earth (TOTE) Show

- Virginia Beach Convention Center
- October 17—19

Northern Virginia Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Show

- George Mason University; Fairfax, VA; at *The HUB* Ballroom
- November 22—23

In This Issue

President's Corner GMSVP Calendar	1
Chapter Contact Info Maintenance of GMSVP Equipment President's Corner (Cont'd) October TOTE Show	2
Machine of Faceting GMSVP Fall Picnic	3
October Program	4
The Four R's—Rose River, Rocks & RVs	4—7
Safety Matters	8
Thanks for Your Support Safety Matters (Cont'd)	9
Cherry Blossom Stones EFMLS Directory	10
Observations—Poem	11
Willis Mountain Kyanite Mine Field Trip	12
Northern VA Gem Show	13
AFMS Code of Ethics	14



It looks like everyone had a good time at the picnic. Thanks to all who made this happen. It shows what a wonderful Club we have when members step up to ensure we have fun and meaningful activities for everyone in the Club. Also, thanks to those who helped with the recent equipment maintenance day.

The August Board of Directors meeting covered a number of important topics. First, there was a lot of discussion about the trailer and its ability to continue to serve as our principal mode of equipment transportation to the TOTE Shows. The consensus of the Board was that we have outgrown its ability to transport all of the equipment and displays we use at the Show. Now it takes the trailer and at least two trucks to carry all of our paraphernalia. Consequently, the Board will be recommending to the Club that we abandon the trailer in favor of renting a truck for each event. This will, of course, mean an additional amount of effort from the membership to load and unload a truck for each show, but it will allow us to transport all of our equipment in one vehicle. The cost of the truck rental will be much more economical than the storage fees we are now paying for the trailer. Please give this idea some serious consideration because it is a major departure from how we currently handle things.

At the meeting, I also appointed a Nominating Committee consisting of Michael Griffith, Chuck Rogers, Barbara Priest and Debbie Huff. They were charged with finding nominees for First Vice-President for Membership, Second Vice-President for Programs and Secretary. I also need to appoint a new Field Trip Coordinator and Webmaster. The Board also decided there is a need for a Collections Chairperson to handle custody of the Club's various collections. **Please think about how you can serve the GMSVP in 2015.** Nominations will be made at the October meeting with elections in November and installation of the new officers at the December Christmas banquet.

The Board also discussed the disposition of the large number of solid Thunder eggs we currently have in our inventory. These are not selling well at the Shows and are a burden to continue to haul around and store. (Cont'd on pg 2)

GMSVP CALENDAR

09/27/14—Willis Mountain Kyanite Mine Field Trip	10/17-19/14—Treasures of the Earth Show
10/02/14—GMSVP Meeting. Program: Wildacres Fall 2014	11/06/14—GMSVP Meeting. Program: Faceting Mentoring

GMSVP

P. O. Box 6424

Newport News, VA 23602

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

Facebook: <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-GMSVP/275041405841489

Officers

President: Walter Priest,
wetlanddesign@gmail.com

1st VP Membership: Michael Griffith,
mgriff8645@aol.com

2nd VP Programs: Barbara Priest,
ben7@cox.net

Secretary: Dave Scharff,
chap_dad@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Gary Bergtholdt,

Committee Chairs

Field Trips: Al DeHart,
dehartalbert@cox.net

Hospitality: Kelly Mazzrillo,
kmazzrillo@yahoo.com

Pebble Pups: Robert Mazzrillo,
spazzagorilla@yahoo.com &
Christine Hempley,
offalstuff@gmail.com

Shows: Robert Mazzrillo,
spazzagorilla@yahoo.com

Newsletter: Dan Fontaine,
maineguy@cox.net

Property: Hank Woods,
hwoods55@cox.net

Librarian: Debbie Huff,
debbiehuff@ymail.com

Faceting: Chuck Rogers,
car3rd@verizon.net

Silversmithing: Anthony Hubbard,
lanexa05@gmail.com

Workshops: Renee Eichman,
toddrenee@netscape.com

Publicity: Michael Griffith,
mgriff8645@aol.com & Richard MacDonald,
garnets52@cox.net

Mineralogy: Walter Priest,
wetlanddesign@gmail.com

Webmaster: Richard MacDonald,
garnets52@cox.net

Maintenance of GMSVP Equipment

Dan Fontaine

Hank Woods is the GMSVP committee chair for equipment.

Each year, Hank invites club members to help with the maintenance of our club's equipment that so many of you use. This year, Robert and Kelly Mazzrillo, Larry Hawks, Chuck Rodgers, and Dan Fontaine joined Hank.

Cabachon machines were disassembled, thoroughly cleaned, adjusted, and select wheels replaced. Rock saws were cleaned and adjusted.

Participating in the annual equipment maintenance was a great opportunity to not only help our club but also learn the proper way to maintain cabochon machines and rock saws. This was especially valuable for those considering purchasing new or used lapidary equipment and rock saws.

Kudos to all that participated.



President's Corner (Cont'd)

Walter Priest

The Board decided to recommend that these be distributed to the Club members at no charge.

The next TOTE Show will be October 17-19.

Finally, please do not forget that dues for 2015 are due. Try to get them paid by the December meeting. We need to have a good handle on our membership to pay for our liability insurance for 2015. The insurance fees are based on the number of members in the Club.

Rock on,
-Walter

Treasures of the Earth Show

Virginia Beach Convention Center October 17—19, 2014



Volunteers needed to staff GMSVP booth, share club information, sell geodes, and use club equipment.

Contact Robert Mazzrillo at: spazzagorilla@yahoo.com to volunteer.

No new GMSVP rockhounds during August 2014

The Machine of Faceting

Seth Hempley, Pebble Pup



In this article I will tell you about the parts of the faceting machine. The faceting machine has three major parts. The three parts of the faceting machine are the grinding part, the gem attachment part and the adjustment part.

The lap, arbor nut, motor, and drip tank work together to grind on the gem. That's why it's called the grinding part. The lap is a round disc with a rough surface, like ground up diamonds. The arbor nut holds the lap disc down. The motor spins the lap at different speeds. The drip tank drips water on the lap so that gem doesn't overheat.

The gem attachment part has the dop rod, the quill, and the mast assembly. The dop rod is a metal rod. The quill holds the dop rod. The mast assembly holds the quill and has the quadrometer, the angle dial, the radial index knob, the cheater and the mast. The whole assembly moves in and out from the lap and let's you adjust the height of the mast assembly.

The adjustment parts are the quadrometer, radial index, angle dial, and cheater. The quadrometer is a pressure gauge that measures pressure on the gem. The angle dial lets you change the angle. The radial index lets you turn your gem and make facets on your gem. Teeth are on the index wheel symmetric, repeatable facets. The cheater is a knob that slightly turns the angle.

There are many types of faceting machines. Some are digital and some have dials adjustments. Faceting machines cost \$800 and up.



GMSVP Fall Picnic

Kelly Mazzrillo & Dan Fontaine



About 20 GMSVP members attended the Fall Picnic. The picnic was a success mainly due to the volunteers helping with the setup and takedown and bringing in side dishes and desserts.

A good time was had by all. The rain held off for most of the day, which allowed everyone time to work on the rock saws and cabochon Genies. A special thanks goes to Bubba Ward for training Debbie Huff in basic wirewrapping.

I hope the new members got to enjoy learning how to use the machines and encourage them to come to the TOTE show on October 17—19 at the Virginia Beach Convention Center to support our club's booth and for more access to the machines and fun!

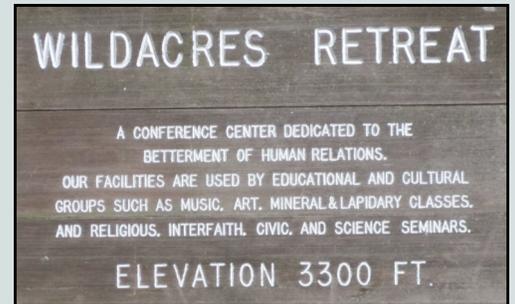


EFMLS Wildacres Workshop, A First Time Experience

Come to the October 2nd GMSVP Meeting!

Dan and Pat Fontaine joined our club in January and consider themselves new rockhounds. When they found out about the EFMLS Wildacres Workshop, they thought it would be a great way to quickly enhance their geology and lapidary knowledge. They were not disappointed.

Dan is the speaker at our October meeting and will be sharing their amazing experience during the Fall 2014 Wildacres Workshop in the mountains of North Carolina!



The Four R's—Rose River, Rocks, and RVs

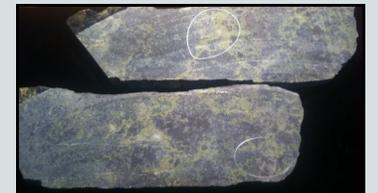
Larry Hawks

In August, Brenda and I decided to explore the Rose River, so we set out on a day trip with a twofold goal in mind... Find the Rose River and scope out some RV parks that we could utilize in the future. It was a success on both counts. To find the portion of the Rose River that we accessed, start by putting in the address for Graves Mountain Lodge (3626 Old Blue Ridge Turnpike, Syria, VA 22743) into your GPS and follow the directions. It's about a three hour drive from Yorktown. Once you arrive at the Lodge, you are just about there. The location where we jumped into the river is a mile or so past the lodge. A map is included on page 6.

Although we were on a scouting mission and didn't spend much time picking up rocks, we still quickly filled a milk crate.



None of the rocks we picked up were the elusive Unikite. Instead, what we ended up collecting was Epidote (rocks and slabs on right). The river is full of Epidote and some of the ones that we collected were pretty unique. Most of them are green and red, but some have shades of purple as well.



On Labor Day weekend, we went back with the Mazzrillos, and they taught us some tricks of the trade. We met at the lodge in the morning and drove up to where we parked the cars and jumped into the river. It was the same place Brenda and I had gone previously. Robert, Kelly and Lance were quick to pick up some Unikite and show us what it looked like. It wasn't long before we were picking up our own (rocks and slabs on left). I couldn't believe we had missed all this Unikite the last time we were there. We found it important to take our time. A lot of the Unikite that Brenda picked up was just where I had walked. It's also important to turn over the rocks. The Unikite in the river has algae growing on it, and the Unikite along the banks gets bleached out by the sun, both make for great camouflage. As soon as you turn a rock over it will be apparent if it is Unikite or not.



The river wasn't very deep (Robert said it was the lowest he has seen) but it was still difficult to navigate in some locations, especially where the river narrows and the water runs pretty swift. Combine that with slippery rocks and sometimes it is a chore to stay upright. A walking stick is always helpful. Lance was nice enough to lend Brenda and I a couple of backpacks, since we weren't nearly as prepared (Cont'd on pg 5)

as he was. In the end we spent about four hours in the river in two different places and picked up a milk crate and a 2 - gallon bucket full of Unikite. Thanks for the lesson Robert, Kelly and Lance!

Both the Epidote and Unikite make nice looking cabochons, as shown in the pictures below.



Now for the RV Parks. Before heading for the Rose River, I did my research on the internet and had five RV parks I wanted to visit. There are more than five RV parks, but these were the most likely candidates. Three are in the Shenandoah National Park, i.e., Loft Mountain, Big Meadow, and Lewis Mountain. Both Loft Mountain and Big Meadow are about an hour drive from Rose River. Lewis Mountain is just under an hour drive, but is designed for pop-up campers and tents, so for us it is off the list. Of the other two we visited, I would only recommend Heavenly Acres Campground. This is a very nice campground and is closer to the Rose River, being only a 20 - minute drive away. (See map on pg 7 for directions.)

We plan on returning in October to take in the views of the changing leaves and visit Rose River again! This time we will take the travel trailer and stay for a couple days.

Pros and Cons of the Campgrounds

Cost

- Loft Mountain: \$15 a night and requires a Nat'l Park pass \$15 a week or \$30 a year
- Big Meadow: \$20 a night and requires a Nat'l Park pass \$15 a week or \$30 a year
- Heavenly Acres: \$35 (30 amp) \$40 (50 amp) a night

Hookups

- Heavenly Acres has full hookups: 30 and 50 amp service, sewer and water
- Loft Mountain and Big Meadow are dry camping with a dump station, no generators during quiet hours

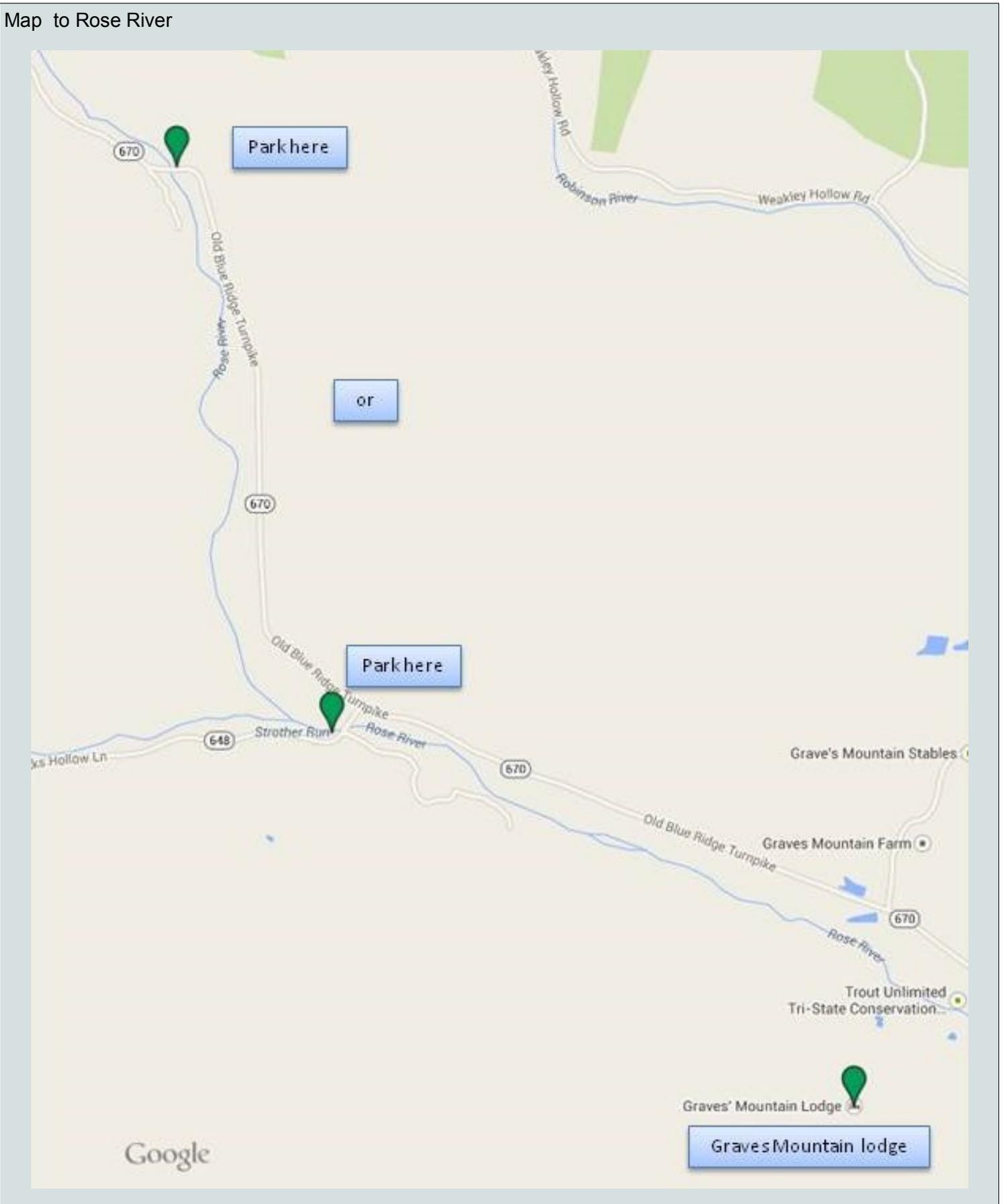
Location

- Heavenly Acres: 20 minutes from Rose River
- Loft Mountain and Big Meadow: One hour to Rose River

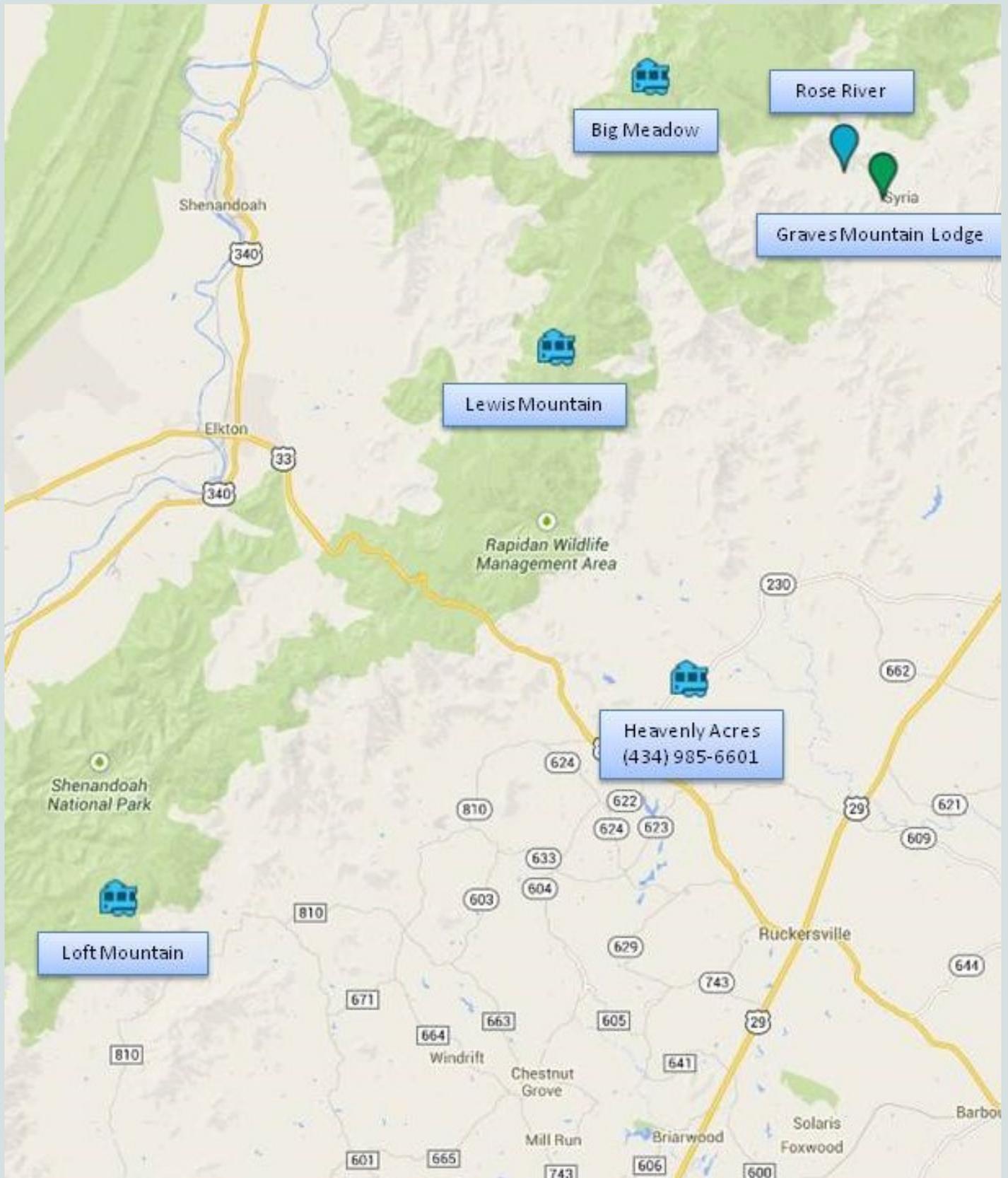
Reservations

- Heavenly Acres: Has a standard reservation process
- Loft Mountain and Big Meadow: Reservations are for only some of the spots. One half to two thirds of spots are first come first served (this can be a pro or a con)

Map to Rose River



RV Park Locations





Oxalic Acid Precautions

Numerous articles have been written about the use of oxalic acid for cleaning and preparing mineral specimens. The trouble with most of the articles I've read has been that a good deal of the important safety information has been left out of them. In fact, most of the articles never even mention the very important matter of its toxicity. This month I'm turning over the Safety Matters column to Duane Leavitt. Duane is a chemistry teacher, mineral collector, and contributor to the *Mineralogy of Maine Volume II*, published by the Maine Geological Society.

Some Notes and Safety Tips on Using Oxalic Acid, by Duane Leavitt

One often reads about and sees reference to oxalic acid (wood bleach) in publications when the topic of cleaning minerals is discussed. This chemical, while an excellent cleaner for some types of minerals, poses some serious health risks which are not widely understood and can be confusing when considered in light of other acids that are sometimes used for cleaning purposes. Oxalic acid, chemically $H_2C_2O_4$, is an organic acid, which means that it contains, among other things, the element carbon. At room temperature it is a white, crystalline, odorless, solid looking a lot like granular sugar in physical appearance. It melts at 101 degrees C and will vaporize at around 150 degrees C.

When we look at oxalic acid, strictly as an acid, we find that as acids go it is quite weak. Acid strength is measured by how much hydrogen acids give up in water solutions; a convenient measure of this is what is known as the K_a value, ionization constant value, of the acid. In a standard water solution oxalic acid has ionization constant (K_a) values of 0.0054 (primary) and 0.0000523 (tertiary). Compare this to K_a values of hydrochloric acid, K_a : 1; and nitric acid, K_a : 27.79 and it is obvious that oxalic acid is nowhere near as strong or as soluble in water as these last two acids, which are also used in mineral cleaning. This last statement is very true and is a BIG part of the problem with understanding oxalic acid. There is NO CORRELATION between acid strength and how poisonous it is, it's TOXICITY.

As an organic acid, oxalic acid, and/or its water solutions, can be absorbed directly through the skin into the bloodstream, powders from the dry acid and vapors from solutions can be absorbed into the body through the lungs—this has serious implications for those who like to clean specimens in a crock pot of simmering oxalic acid solution in their basement; residues from improperly neutralized and rinsed specimens may be absorbed through later handling. Dust from the solid acid can damage the cornea of the eyes.

In the body, oxalic acid removes calcium from the blood, forming insoluble crystalline masses of calcium oxalate that eventually wind up in the kidneys where they will obstruct and abrade the kidney tubules causing the kidneys to bleed. They may block the kidneys and have to be removed surgically - kidney stones. In respiratory passages the material will cause severe irritation, possible hemorrhaging of these tissues and lungs. When the material gets into the digestive tract it causes severe gastroenteritis and vomiting, shock and convulsions, cardiovascular collapse and/or kidney failure which can lead to death. A lethal dose of oxalic acid is somewhere between 5-15 grams. Severe health problems occur at much smaller levels of exposure. OSHA recommends a TLV (threshold limit value) of no more than 1 mg (that is one thousandth of a gram)/ cubic meter. For comparison, 1 restaurant packet of sugar contains about 1 gram of material or 1000 times the recommended exposure value.

Unlike neutralized hydrochloric, muriatic and nitric acids, the products of "neutralized" oxalic acid are STILL poisonous—they just are no longer acidic. Oxalate compounds of any nature are still a threat to your health.

People wishing to use oxalic acid can do so successfully and safely provided they incorporate the following procedures into their mineral cleaning:

1. Always use long-sleeved rubber gloves, a splash proof apron, and full eye/nose protection when handling either dry oxalic acid crystals or oxalic acid solutions.
2. Avoid heating solutions of oxalic acid.... it will work cold, it just takes longer.
3. Keep containers of soaking specimens covered so that acid vapors stay inside the container. Lids should NOT be airtight.

(Cont'd on pg 9)

Thanks For Your Support!

Fran Sick, EFMLS Wildacres Workshop Director

Source: EFMLS Newsletter, Volume 51, Number 9, August—September 2014



It always amazes me what people can accomplish when we work together. Never has that been more true than for our September 1—7, 2014 EFMLS Wildacres Workshop.

As late as April or May we were in danger of having to cancel our fall workshop for lack of an adequate number of registrations. However, when the word went out that we were on the brink of possibly losing one of the most treasured activities of the EFMLS, your response was overwhelming.

Club editors made a special effort to promote Wildacres in their newsletters, club officers and members who know what a special place Wildacres is promoted it at club activities, and so many of you sent in your registrations that by the end of June we were pretty much “bursting at the seams.” Needless to say, thanks to your overwhelming support, the September 2014 workshop was not only saved, but enjoyed one of the highest enrollments in some time. Thank you all for your outstanding response.

Club editors made a special effort to promote Wildacres in their newsletters, club officers and members who know what a special place Wildacres is promoted it at club activities, and so many of you sent in your registrations that by the end of June we were pretty much “bursting at the seams.” Needless to say, thanks to your overwhelming support, the September 2014 workshop was not only saved, but enjoyed one of the highest enrollments in some time. Thank you all for your outstanding response.

If you are one of the lucky folks who has attended one or more Wildacres workshops no further comment is necessary from me. You already know how special it is. But if you have not yet had an opportunity to join us on our beautiful mountain, I hope you will be able to do so in the very near future. If you have any interest at all in learning lapidary or jewelry skills, enjoy beautiful scenery, wonderful speakers, field trips, tailgate sessions, auctions, comfortable lodging in motel-type rooms, three great meals a day that you don't have to prepare or clean up after, or would just enjoy a very busy, but somehow still very relaxing week with the friendliest people you will ever meet, at the most reasonable cost to be found anywhere, you really need to plan a trip to an EFMLS Wildacres workshop as soon as possible. I hope to see you there.

Thanks to you WE DID IT!!! Now that we are on a roll lets keep it going. We have two EFMLS workshops each year – one in spring and one in fall. In recent years our numbers have been declining. Lets get them back up there and fill the place to the rafters. Watch for the dates and class schedules for 2015 in the December and/or January EFMLS newsletters.



Safety Matters (Cont'd)

Elery Borrow, EFMLS Safety Chair

Source: EFMLS Newsletter, Volume 51, Number 9, August—September 2014

4. Rinse any specimens cleaned with oxalic acid with copious amounts of water and test with pH paper to ensure that all acid is gone. A post treatment bath in dilute (household) ammonia or sodium bicarbonate solution is a good idea.

5. In the event of a spill removed affected clothing immediately, rinse affected areas with copious amounts of water, rinse and wash affected clothing. If there is any doubt as to the severity of the exposure seek medical help immediately.

6. Small amounts of used solutions of oxalic acid can be disposed of by the following method:

1.) Neutralize the solution with sodium bicarbonate or sodium hydroxide; TEST with pH paper to make sure it is neutral (or slightly basic).

2.) Dilute the solution from step 1 above, 20 fold with water (example, to 1 pint of neutralized acid solution add 20 pints of water).

3.) Pour solution 2 down the drain with plenty of cold water. This disposal technique is identical to Flynn Scientific disposal technique 24A (Flynn, 2006).

7. Read up on cleaning techniques (Cleaning and Preserving Minerals by Richard Pearl is a good place to start) and educate yourself about techniques, materials and alternatives.

Reprinted with permission of the author.

Meet the cherry blossom stone from Japan - one of the most striking natural rock formations in the world.



Image: John Rakov et. at

So-called because when you crack them open, their internal cross-sections look like tiny golden-pink flowers, cherry blossom stones (*sakura ishi* in Japanese) get their beautiful patterns from [mica](#), which is a commonly found silicate mineral known for its shiny, light-reflecting surface.

These flower patterns weren't always made of mica. They started their existence as a complex matrix of six prism-shaped crystal deposits of a magnesium-iron-aluminum composite called [cordierite](#), radiating out from a single dumbbell-shaped crystal made from a magnesium-aluminum-silicate composite called indialite in the centre.

Hosted inside a fine-grained type of rock called a [hornfels](#)—formed underground around 100 million years ago by the intense heat of molten lava—cherry blossom stones underwent

a second significant metamorphosis in their geological lifespan when they were exposed to a type of hot water called [hydrothermal fluids](#). These fluids altered the chemical composition of minerals inside the cherry blossom stones, causing mica to replace the original cordierite-indialite inclusion.

Because they have to undergo two intense and very specific types of metamorphosis in order to form, cherry blossom stones are incredibly rare, and found - rather serendipitously - only in central Japan.

Not all cherry blossom stones experienced a complete replacement of their internal minerals during their geological lifetime, but those that did are quite delicate inside, according to a 2006 study published by the journal [Rocks & Minerals](#) by John Rakovan from the Department of Geology at Miami University in the US. Rakovan reports:

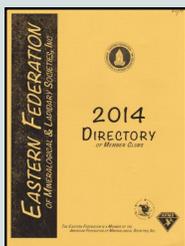
"They can easily be snapped in half or crushed between one's fingers. Although they are delicate, complete crystals, showing well-preserved external morphology, are commonly found weathered out of the hornfels. In areas where the cordierite is completely replaced by mica the hornfels is also altered such that it is very friable and poorly consolidated."

In order to preserve the beauty of their delicate mica patterns, the Japanese locals coat them in a diluted solution of wood glue mixed with water to keep everything in place. Unlike the living cherry blossoms, or *sakura*, that come and go so quickly each year in Japan, these pretty minerals live on as long as the glue holds.

"Although the *sakura* are ephemeral in their beauty, lasting only a few weeks each year," [says Rakovan](#), "their image has been set in stone in the *sakura ishi* of Kameoka."

EFMLS 2014 Directory—A Club Resource

Dan Fontaine



The EFMLS Directory provides a ready resource for our club to access information available from the Eastern Federation. Here's a sampling of its contents:

- Club contact information
- Insurance, Wildacres, Scholarship Foundation Fund, & awards
- Program Library: Loaning of slides, video tapes, DVD's, and Powerpoint for Club Programs

The GMSVP Picnic replaced the regular meeting for the month of September.

No minutes were taken or will be published for September.

Source: *Mini Miners Monthly*, Volume 8, Number 6, August 2014

Mesolite

Spicules
Grouped together
Peppered with dark crystals
Arrowheads arranged at angles
Weighty.



Goodies in Gravel

Searching
Rows for agate
Glancing through gray gravel
Just finding some glass and pebbles



Futile

Scavenging the Shore
Investigating
Comparing and contrasting
Stones that catch my eye



Erosion

Once towering cliffs
Chipped into boulders—weathered
To the size of sand.

The Grand Canyon from the Air

Viewing,
Admiring
Broad, colorful, rugged
Cliffs stretching onward for miles
Quiet



Runaway Discovery

Tumbled in a stream—
I snatch the stone up before
It can roll away.

OFFICIAL COMBINED MINERAL COLLECTING FIELD TRIP

THE GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY OF LYNCHBURG, VA INC. (HOST) AND

THE ROANOKE VALLEY MINERAL AND GEM SOCIETY INC. (HOST)

An official Field trip of the Gem and Mineral Society of the Virginia Peninsula (GMSVP)

KYANITE MINING CORP. ----- ANNUAL FIELD TRIP

WILLIS MOUNTAIN KYANITE MINE

30 Willis Mountain Lane, Dillwyn, VA 23936

If the mine is working, we may have to limit our collecting areas

SEPTEMBER 27, 2014, 9:00AM to 1 PM

Sign-up is required, call Al DeHart, GMSVP Field Trip Leader

Home Phone No. 757-877-3844, Cell Phone No. 757-254-3844, E-mail Address: dehartalbert@cox.net. If you cancel, notify Al if you have any questions or to be taken off the list. There is a limit of 100 collectors from all clubs for this event so there should be room for everyone.

SAFETY: Everyone should arrive at the office parking lot between 8:30 AM and no later than 8:45 AM to sign the release form and hear the required safety briefing. Each Club field trip leader, or his appointed replacement, will act as safety observer and will be expected to be on the lookout for and correct all safety infractions from any collector. Keep in mind that this site is one of the few that is still open for collecting. Not obeying all the safety rules will cause this site to be closed to all future collecting.

Driving Directions from the Tidewater Area:

- I-64 W
- Take exit 200 for I-295 toward Washington
- Take exit 53A to merge onto I-64 W toward Charlottesville
- Take exit 175 for VA-288 S toward Chesterfield
- Take the U.S. 60/Midlothian Turnpike exit toward Midlothian/Powhatan. Keep left at the fork to continue toward US-60 W/Midlothian Turnpike
- Turn left onto US-15 S
- Turn left onto Willis Mountain Plant Lane, Dillwyn, VA 23936
- Stop at the stone mine office and park out of the way as not to block traffic.

GENERAL LOCATION and ASSEMBLY TIME: Everyone will meet at the mine office for sign-in and safety instruction, be there between 8:30 and no later than 8:45 AM. Wait in the parking lot and do not block traffic. Many trucks may be using the road. While you're waiting, be sure to enjoy the beautiful blue kyanite bolder in the front yard from the old closed Baker Mountain.

COLLECTING: Willis Mountain is what's known as a monadnock. The kyanite exposure resisted weathering and, as the surrounding area was eroded and weathered away, the mountain outcrop was left standing. This is very much like the famous Graves Mountain kyanite mine in Georgia. The center of the mountain has been mostly mined away. We should be able to find plenty of white kyanite blades in the massive kyanite quartzite; pyrite; quartz; hematite with some iridescent, red mica, apatite and possibly some blue kyanite and pale green trolleite. Some of the white kyanite and quartz here have a beautiful light blue fluorescence.

EQUIPMENT: The standard quarry safety gear required is a hard hats with a mfg. date of 5 years or less, safety glasses, wheel chocks either purchased, home made or a rock. Every time you leave the car, turn off the engine, put in park and apply the hand brake. **ONLY STEEL TOED BOOTS WILL BE ALLOWED, THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS!!!** . If you do not have the required safety equipment, you will not be allowed to enter the quarry. Also required are long pants, gloves, hammer and chisels, wrapping paper, buckets, food and water. Be prepared for windy, hot or wet weather. We will be on the mountain top and it's always windy. We can drive to the designated collecting area, so hand trucks should not be needed. Bring a camera, as the view is awesome.

AGE LIMIT: There is no age limit, but all children must be signed for, supervised by an adult and have all the required safety equipment. No Exceptions!!!

WEATHER: The trip will be canceled in case of hard rain or a thunderstorm. Call to confirm if there is any question.



November 22 & 23, 2014: Fairfax, Virginia

23rd Annual Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show

Sponsored by the Northern Virginia Mineral Club & the GMU Department of Atmospheric, Oceanic and Earth Sciences

Show site:

- George Mason University; Fairfax, Virginia; at *The HUB* Ballroom (old - Student Union Building II
- GMU Campus is located at the intersection of Rte 123 & Braddock Road, Fairfax, Virginia

Hours: Saturday 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM; Sunday 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Features:

- 20 plus Dealers selling Minerals, Fossils, Crystals, Gems, Jewelry, Carvings, Meteorites & more!
- Also, Demonstrations, Hands-On, Exhibits, Door Prizes, Scout Teaching Area & Kid's Activities - including FREE Kid's Mini-mines & Fossil Dig. Fee-based BSA STEM activities – Scouts can earn awards.
- Silent Auction on Sunday afternoon.

Admission to Show/Ballroom:

- Adults \$5, Seniors \$3, Teens (13-17) \$3.
- FREE - Children (12 & under), Scouts in uniform & GMU Students w/valid ID.

Parking:

- On campus use GMU's parking Lot A.
- Enter parking Lot A from Nottaway River Lane off Braddock Road.
- Courtesy shuttle provided from Parking Lot A to the Mineral show.
- Handicapped parking is available near venue – however you must have a DMV handicapped sign/sticker – to locate The HUB just follow our van back from parking Lot A.

GMU Campus Map: <http://eagle.gmu.edu/map/fairfax.pup>

Overview of the GMU Mineral Show: See the video on *youtube* search: “*COMM 353 Mineral Show*”
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xq-EsM1w74A>

www.novamineralclub.org

This event is sponsored by a non-profit hobbyist educational group. However, it is a fee paid event.

Jim Kostka, GMU Show PR Chair jkostka@juno.com



AFMS CODE OF ETHICS

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.