



THE VIRGINIA PEN



GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY OF THE VIRGINIA PENINSULA



December 2014

President's Corner

Walter Priest

Special Points of Interest:

GMSVP Board Meeting

- Sandy Bottom Nature Center; Hampton, VA
- January 5th, 7 PM

GMSVP January Meeting

- Sandy Bottom Nature Center; Hampton, VA
- January 15th, 7 PM

Hampton TOTE Show

- HR Convention Center
- March 27—29

EFMLS Convention

- Hickory, NC
- March 27—29

Wildacres Workshop

- Little Switzerland, NC
- May 18—24

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2014 has been a wonderful year for the GMSVP. We have grown and prospered all year. I would like to take this opportunity to recount some of the events that have made this year special and to remind us of how fortunate we are to have such a wonderful group of people that are the GMSVP. We have a steady influx of new members this year which is a good sign that we are providing a meaningful experience for our members. Not only has this growth

been good for the Club, but many of the new members have taken on leadership positions within the Club.

First, I would like to welcome the new Board of Directors and Standing Committee Chairs that have helped make 2014 so great and promise to make 2015 even better. New Board members include: Brenda Hawks, 1st Vice-President for Membership and Pat Fontaine, Secretary, and new Committee Chairs, Dan Fontaine, Newsletter; Holly Worsham, Website; and Field Trip Coordinator, Sara Phillips as well as our continuing 2nd V-P, Barbara Priest and Treasurer for Life, Gary Bergtholdt. Thanks are especially due to our outgoing 1st V-P, Michael Griffith; Secretary Dave Scharff; and Field Trip Coordinator, Al Dehart. All have helped make 2014 great and will make 2015 even better.

In the beginning of 2014, we revised the Club's Constitution and By-Laws to make them reflective of our current operating procedures. These revisions were ratified by the Club at our January meeting. Thanks to all who contributed their time to this effort. We also approved a balanced budget for 2014's activities and established a petty cash fund to facilitate the Treasurer's reimbursements. The Board also has finalized the schedule of events and meetings for 2015 including regularly scheduled quarterly Board meetings.

Thanks to Robert Mazzrillo and his crew, we have significantly expanded and improved our presence at the TOTE Shows with new and rehabilitated displays as well as our educational and outreach activities. New in 2014 were the Indiana geodes which proved to be a big seller. Dan Fontaine worked hard to revise and update the GMSVP's brochure for distribution at the TOTE Shows and elsewhere. The Club also opened a dialogue with the new TOTE Show owners, Chuck and Ellen White, to ensure that the Club is responsive to their needs. (Cont'd on pg 2).

GMSVP CALENDAR

01/05/15 GMSVP Board Meeting	03/27-29/15—TOTE Show at Hampton
01/15/15—GMSVP January Meeting	Roads Convention Center

GMSVP

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President's Corner (Cont'd)

Walter Priest

The Club's annual auction in April was well attended and by all accounts successful. It provides an opportunity for the Club to make available its supply of donated minerals and lapidary material to the membership while providing revenue to help the Club grow.

Our semi-annual picnics in May and September have been a big hit with the membership. They allow increased access to the Club's equipment and generate a lot of good comradery. The new picnic silent auctions have also been well received.

This report would not be complete without acknowledging the herculean efforts of Dan Fontaine to upgrade and improve the monthly Newsletter and Holly Worsham to revise and update the Club's Website. Both of these activities have dramatically improved the communication within and outside of the Club. (Cont'd on pg 3)

Christmas Dinner and 2015 Officer Installation Dan Fontaine



The December 4th meeting was held at the Sandy Bottom Nature Center. During a short business meeting, the 2015 GMSVP officers were installed and closing actions for 2014 and preliminary plans for 2015 were discussed.

Our club will continue to meet at the same time and location during 2015, i.e., 7 PM at

Hampton's Sandy Bottom Nature Park's Nature Center. Our meeting date for January is locked down for the 15th. See page 13 for the rest of the 2015 calendar.

Christine Hempley, our Pebble Pups Program Committee Chair, recognized Pebble Pups for their interest and effort during 2014 by presenting each of them with a present.

As a surprise, Samantha Mazzrillo developed a scrapbook for the Pebble Pups and another for the club leadership with pictures and captions highlighting our activities throughout 2014. Well done, Samantha, the club appreciates your talents!

The meeting focused on fellowship. Instead of chairs, tables were set up with tablecloths and poinsettias to add to a festive atmosphere. The club supplied the turkey and ham and our members provided some delectable side dishes and desserts. The greatest challenge for our members was to select from the many culinary choices and not going back for thirds and fourths....going back for seconds was a given!



Twenty six of the 44 members at the meeting participated in a Pollyanna Gift Exchange. Gifts were all related to our hobby with some being accessories for rockhounding and many being pretty rock specimens. The suggested gift exchange dollar limit was \$10.

Our December meeting was a great way to celebrate the holidays with our many rockhound friends. As I have said many times, we have a great club.

As I am sure that you are, I am looking forward to our meetings, field trips, picnics and TOTE show participation in 2015! Our yard needs more rocks!

As a measure of their efforts, they are submitting the Newsletter and Website to the AFMS/EFMLS's Annual Awards Competition. I would also like to acknowledge the efforts of Michael Griffith in maintain the Club's Facebook page.

We have had a number of great Club field trips this year coordinated by Al Dehart, Robert Mazzrillo and myself. These include trips to the Robbins Museum and Stone Goddess Rock Shop, the Vulcan Materials Dale Quarry, the Rose River for unakite, the Willis Mountain kyanite mine and the fossil hunt on the James River at Pipsico Scout Reservation. These were all well attended by Club members and yielded many fine specimens. In addition, many Club members made trips to other collecting sites and shows including: Aurora Fossil Festival; Searles Lake, CA; Franklin, NJ; Herkimer, NY; Graves Mountain, GA; Crabtree Emerald Mine; and Morefield Gem Mine and shows at Franklin, NC; RGMS Rock Swap; and the NVMS Show at George Mason.

I would like to acknowledge the growing mentorship activities by Club members especially Anthony Hubbard for his silversmithing classes and Chuck Rogers for mentoring Seth and Raina Hempley in faceting.

We have had many great meeting programs in 2014. Presentations were given by Ellie Pitts on her yellow opal mine; Richard Kaste on uranium mining in Virginia; Michael Griffith on his trip to Searles Lake, CA; Robert Mazzrillo on Franklin, NJ and Herkimer, NY; Lance Mazzrillo on the Rose River; Dan Fontaine on Wildacres; and Raina Hempley on faceting.

We should also be proud of our Pebble Pups and Rock Star programs. They have provided our youth with a wonderful opportunity to expand their horizons in the earth sciences as evidenced by the awards presented at the Christmas Banquet. Many thanks are due to Christine Hempley and Robert Mazzrillo for their mentorship.

The Hospitality Committee led by Kelly Mazzrillo has done an outstanding job this year providing a little something to eat during our meeting fellowship. The Christmas banquet was quite a spread. Everyone seemed to enjoy the new Pollyanna gift exchange. Samantha Mazzrillo, as a surprise gift, shared her talents by capturing our 2014 club activities in scrapbooks for the club and our Pebble Pups Program.



The Club also came to a crossroads in our logistical needs for the TOTE Shows. We came to realize that we had drastically outgrown the trailer that we used to transport our equipment and displays. After a trial run at the October TOTE Show using a rental truck for transportation, we decided that renting a truck for each show both facilitated the logistics and provided cost savings. Consequently, we offered the trailer to the membership in a sealed bid auction at the December meeting. The high bidder was Al Dehart.

I would like to thank all of the Club members who has contributed to making 2014 such a wonderful experience. Everyone has done something to help the Club be such a great organization. I thank you, one and all, for your help throughout the year.

In addition maintaining our momentum and growing our programs, my major goal for 2015 is getting our IRS 501c(3) status reinstated. It lapsed some time ago unbeknownst to anyone.

I am immensely proud of our Club, and you should be too. It is truly a great group of people dedicated to furthering our knowledge in the earth sciences and lapidary arts, teaching others and enjoying great fellowship. I am looking forward to 2015 with great anticipation for a wonderful year with you all.

Rock on,
-Walter

Conservation & Legislation

Scott Peters, EFMLS Conservation and Legislation Committee Chair

Source: EFMLS Newsletter, Volume 52, Number 2, December 2014

I would like to introduce myself as your new chairman of the Legislative and Conservation Committee for the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Society. I am an attorney in suburban Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. I came to my enthusiasm for minerals, fossils and the lapidary arts late in life in that as a result of assisting my son with one of his many elementary school projects. I am an active member of two clubs, the Delaware Mineralogical Society and the Philadelphia Mineralogical Society and the past president and the newsletter editor for the Delaware Mineralogical Society. I have been a member of the Delaware Valley Paleontological Society and the Tuscarora Lapidary Society but due to time constraints I had to limit my memberships. As you may know, we are blessed to have a number of great clubs in the Philadelphia area. We are also blessed with a number of good collecting sites that are still open to the public.

However, both recent closures of quarries due to insurance concerns and the limitation of collecting on public lands are hampering our collecting activities. As the Chairman of the committee I am looking for assistance to be able to notify our members of potential legislation that may further restrict the sites at which we are able to collect. I would like to form a committee of interested individuals from a diverse section of the organization who would be interested in notifying members of potential legislation that effects our organization. If you are interested in assisting the EFMLS by joining this important committee or know of someone in your club who would be a good addition to this committee, please contact me at: slipgapdms@aol.com.

Thank you in advance for your assistance, I look forward to hearing from you. Just remember, if we are not vigilant, your next collecting trip to your favorite site may be your last.

New GMSVP Member

Welcome new rockhound! — Howard Steele

2015 Treasures of The Earth (TOTE) Show Schedule

Source: <http://treasuresoftheearth.com/events/>

March 27 – 29

Hampton Roads Convention Center
Hampton, VA

April 24 – 26

Virginia Beach Convention Center
Virginia Beach, VA

July 17 – 19

Virginia Beach Convention Center
Virginia Beach, VA

October 16 – 18

VA Convention Center
Virginia Beach, VA

Shows close by you may be interested in:

March 20 – 22

Meadow Event Park
Doswell, VA

May 1 – 3

Richmond Raceway Complex
Richmond, VA

Sept 18 – 20

Richmond Raceway Complex
Richmond, VA

Club Newsletter Award Submittals

The following has been submitted by GMSVP for 2015 EFMLS Newsletter Awards:

- Category J, Junior Articles: The Machine of Faceting, Seth Hempley
- Category ON, Non-Technical Articles:
 - ◇ The Four R's—Rose River, Rocks, and RVs, Larry Hawks
 - ◇ Field Trip Coordinator Responsibilities, Al DeHart
 - ◇ EFMLS Wildacres Workshop—A First Time Experience, Dan Fontaine
- Category N (New Editor) and Large Bulletin, Dan Fontaine

VOLUNTEERS MAKE A GOOD CLUB GREAT! GET INVOLVED!

Wow! Spectacular Speakers, Wonderful Classes Steve Weinberger, Wildacres Committee Chair

Source: EFMLS Newsletter, Volume 52, Number 2, December 2014



I'm excited to announce that the speakers for our 2015 EFMLS Workshops at Wildacres have been confirmed.

- **Bob Jones**, Sr. Editor for Rock & Gem Magazine will be with us in spring.
- **Denise Nelson**, jewelry appraiser and designer will be our fall speaker.



Dates for the Spring Workshop are Monday, May 18 to Sunday, May 24. We're awaiting notification from the Blumenthal Foundation

about our Fall session dates and will publish them in the January newsletter and on the EFMLS Wildacres website as soon as available.

More good news! The fee for our 2015 sessions will remain the same as last year — \$390 per person. This includes room and board, gratuity for the Wildacres staff, six talks by our outstanding speaker-in-residence and registration in classes. What a deal!

- * Imagine – a week in the mountains of North Carolina away from the hustle, bustle and noise of our normal lives.
- * Imagine – a week immersed in our hobby – whether you're interested in jewelry, lapidary or minerals.
- * Imagine – a week of no cooking, housekeeping, errand running, blaring radio or TV.
- * Imagine – six fabulous talks given by either Bob Jones (Spring) or Denise Nelson (fall).
- * And imagine – a fun filled week that includes an auction, field trip, a day set aside for you to explore the area (Asheville is but an hour away) and much, much more!



A [complete list of our spring classes](#) and a [registration form](#) can be accessed using the embedded links or by clicking on the [Wildacres tab on the EFMLS website](#). Let's keep the fall session momentum going (we had a waiting list!), and fill all of our available spaces. The experience of an EFMLS Wildacres Workshop is one you won't want to miss.

More information about our Workshops can be found on our web page (efmls-wildacres.org/). More information about the Wildacres Retreat facility can be found at (www.wildacres.org).

I'm looking forward to sharing the EFMLS Wildacres Workshop experience with you and your club mates. Register early for your best opportunity to gain admittance to your first choice of classes.

GMSVP Trailer Sold by Competitive Bid

Hank Woods, Property Committee Chair

At the November meeting, GMSVP members voted to continue renting a truck to transport our equipment to the Treasure of the Earth (TOTE) shows and dispose of the club-owned trailer. The trailer was offered to the Club's membership via a sealed bid auction. Bids were due at or before the December 4th membership meeting. The three submitted bids were opened at the meeting, and the trailer was awarded to the highest bidder, Al DeHart. Al will pick up the trailer before December 16th, when our storage unit rental expires.

The trailer was sold as is, where is. The 1996 Homestead utility trailer has an enclosed 5' x 8' bed, reasonably new tires, an empty weight of 840 lbs and a gross weight of 2990 lbs.

Wildacres Spring Classes—May 18 to 24, 2015—Speaker In Residence, Bob Jones

Beading and Findings (Basic), Instructor Mia Schulman: Knotting is back. You will learn how to make a knotted bead necklace as well as how to identify and properly use “findings” such as jump rings and clasps. If time permits you can also make a bracelet and/or earrings to match. 2-day class offered first semester. No prior experience necessary.

Knitted Wire and Bead Bracelet (Intermediate), Instructor Mia Schulman: Don't worry, you don't have to know how to knit. These bracelets are stunning and people are always surprised when told they are knitted. 2-day class offered second semester. No prior experience necessary.

Cabochons (Basic), Instructor Bernie Emery: Learn to transform a piece of rock into a shiny, well-formed cabochon. You will learn the use of the trim saw as well as basics of grinding, sanding and polishing. Slabs are provided or students may use their own with approval of the instructor. Please bring an apron and safety glasses. 2-day class offered first semester. No prior experience necessary.

Cabochons (Intermediate), Instructor Bernie Emery: Learn to cut different shapes and the techniques needed to do so. Slabs are provided or students may use their own with approval of the instructor. Please bring an apron and safety glasses. Prerequisite: Students must have prior experience with cabbing and use of the trim saw. 2-day class offered second semester.

Chainmaille (Basic), Instructor Roger Campbell: Learn the ancient art of chainmaille using non-soldered copper jumprings. Students will learn different weaves while completing class projects. All tools will be provided. An Optivisor® or other magnification would be helpful. 2-day class offered first semester. No prior experience necessary.

Chainmaille (Intermediate), Instructor Roger Campbell: The 2nd semester class will be a short review of chainmaille and students will learn additional weaves. All tools will be provided. An Optivisor® or other magnification would be helpful.

Faceting, Instructor Larry Heath: Students will learn to cut and polish a 57-facet round brilliant gemstone. In addition, they will learn how to identify well-cut stones, select rough material and see whether or not they enjoy this fascinating aspect of the hobby. Students are asked to bring an Optivisor® (#7 or #9) and an apron. 4-day class. No prior experience necessary.

Fused Glass (Advanced), Instructor Becky Edmundson: Students will learn to use a wet saw to cut shapes, a grinder to smooth the glass, and a jeweler's bit to cut a channel in the piece before it is fire polished in a kiln. You should expect to complete a minimum of two pieces. Students are asked to bring safety glasses and, if you own them, a glass cutter and breaking pliers. No prior experience necessary. 2-day class offered first semester. Note: The advanced class is offered before the basic class for fused glass because more firing time is required for the more complex pieces.

Fused Glass (Basic), Instructor Becky Edmundson: Fused glass is the art of cutting and layering pieces of glass and then firing them in a kiln. Dichroic coated glass gives a 3-D look. Students will learn the basics of cutting and firing the glass and will complete at least two pieces of jewelry. Students are asked to bring safety glasses and, if you own them, a glass cutter and breaking pliers. 2-day class offered second semester. No prior experience necessary.

Photographing Small Mineral Specimens, Instructor Bruce Gaber: Students will learn to set up, light and photograph small mineral specimens to show off their beauty. 2-day class offered first semester. No prior experience necessary.

Wildacres Spring Classes—May 18 to 24, 2015 (Cont'd)

Modern Macrophotography, Instructor Bruce Gaber: The natural world is often at its most wonderful when viewed – and photographed – with magnification. Minerals, flowers, insects, all can reveal dramatic beauty in the space of moderate Magnification. We will learn the tools and techniques to be photographic explorers of this space. In addition to lens selection, lighting, and of course choice of appropriate subjects, we will use state-of-the-art digital techniques such as focus stacking and high dynamic range imaging. And we'll have a lot of fun while we're at it. 2-day class offered second semester. No prior experience necessary.

Basics of Scrimshaw, Instructor Sandra Brady: Scrimshaw, a folk art dating back centuries, is a special form of engraving applied to ivory and similar materials. This course offers an excellent way to begin traditional scrimshaw. Working with a hand scribe you will learn attractive shading techniques and how to work on both natural and man-made materials. You will also learn basic composition and tool sharpening, as well as transfer methods for those who are “drawing challenged.” An Optivisor® or other magnification is recommended. 2 day course offered first semester. No prior experience necessary.

Scrimshaw – Color Basics, Instructor Sandra Brady: Building on the methods taught in the first semester, students will be introduced to color. Again, working on both natural and man-made materials, modern scrimshaw methods utilizing the beauty of color will be explored. Preservation of your art work will be included. Bring an Optivisor® or other magnification. 2-day course offered second semester. Prerequisite: Basics of Scrimshaw.

Silversmithing (Basic), Instructor, Richard Meszler: Have fun learning the basics of working silver sheet and wire to fabricate jewelry. The projects will introduce you to annealing and bending/shaping/texturing metal, soldering, piercing and polishing. 2-day class offered first semester. No prior experience necessary.

Silversmithing (Intermediate), Instructor Richard Meszler: Continue your education working with metals by doing a more complex project. You will learn to make a bezel and ball in which you will set a cabochon to make a pendant. 2-day class offered second semester. Prerequisite: Basic silversmithing experience including soldering.

Wirewrapped Jewelry, Jacolyn Campbell: Using pliers, gold-filled or sterling silver wire, assorted beads or gemstones, and a few basic wirecraft techniques, learn how to create your own fashion rings, bracelets, pendants and earrings to add that perfect accent to your jewelry wardrobe or to give as gifts. All tools and materials will be provided.

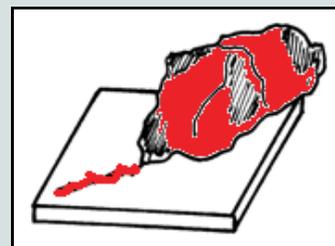
#1 - Designed for beginners, participants will make an adjustable ring, two bracelets, a pendant and two pairs of earrings. 2-day class offered first semester.

#2 - Designed for those with some experience (or a brave beginner) participants will make a fitted ring, two pairs of earrings, a cabochon pendant and a bracelet. 2-day class offered second semester.

Streak

Source: Source: Mini Miners Monthly, Volume 8, Number 11, November 2014

Streak is the color of a mineral when it is crushed to a powder. The easiest way to determine a mineral's streak is to rub the edge of a specimen against an unglazed porcelain tile. Minerals with a hardness less than 7 will leave a streak. For many the streak will be white, so always look carefully. Minerals harder than 7 will not leave a streak and might even scratch the streak plate itself.



A Field Trip Back in Time

Dan Fontaine

Reference: Geological Society of America; Guidebook for Field Trip 7b, Stratigraphy of the Chesapeake Group of Maryland and Virginia by Blake W. Blackwelder and Lauck W. Ward

Editor's Note: Information from the referenced guidebook was used to provide some background as to the formations in the area of the field trip.

On a cold day in mid-November, GMSVP joined members from the Mountain Area Gem and Mineral Association (M.A.G.M.A.) and the Tidewater Gem and Mineral Society to take a field trip back into time looking for fossils from the early Miocene to early Pliocene geologic periods along the banks of the James River. The James River is within seven formations that form the Chesapeake Group of Maryland and Virginia. The formations are successively younger in time. The formations in ascending order include:

- Calvert Formation: 14 million years old. The Calvert Formation was named for the strata exposed at the Calvert Cliffs along the Chesapeake Bay in Calvert County, MD. This formation spans a large area from Washington, DC to Richmond, VA that reaches to sea level.
- Choptank Formation: 13 million years old. The Choptank Formation was named for the strata on the Choptank River in Talbot County, MD. The formation overlies the Calvert Formation but has a much more restricted basin. Macrofossils are abundant in parts of the formation.
- Little Cove Unit: 12 million years old. The Little Cove Unit was named for the geographic feature in Calvert County, MD and is distinct from the St. Marys Formation and occupies a different overlapping basin. The unit occupies a small area in Maryland near Calvert Cliffs and the Patuxent River. This area may contain numerous mollusks.
- St. Marys Formation: 11 million years old. The St. Marys Formation was named for exposures in St. Marys County, MD. This formation is mainly in Maryland and seems to reflect the uplift of Maryland. The formation has abundant and diverse mollusks.
- Claremont Formation: 10 million years old. The Claremont Formation was named for exposures along the James River in Surry County, VA. The Claremont Formation extends from St. Marys County in Maryland to North Carolina. In our area it extends from near Richmond to Hampton Roads, VA. The formation overlies the Calvert Formation. The Claremont Formation contains quartz and phosphate pebbles and cetacean, turtle, and fish bones.
- Cobham Formation: 7 to 9 million years old. The Cobham Formation was named for exposures at Cobham Wharf on the right bank of the James River in Surry County, VA. The formation overlies the Claremont Formation in the area of Cobham Wharf and is easily recognized and extends from southern Maryland to North Carolina.
- Yorktown Formation: 4 to 5 million years old. The Yorktown Formation was named for beds on the York River at Yorktown, VA. The formation extends from near the Maryland border down into North Carolina. There is great mollusk species diversity in this formation. Fossils are generally abundant and well preserved.

(Cont'd on next page.)



A Field Trip Back in time (Cont'd)

Dan Fontaine

Reference: Geological Society of America; Guidebook for Field Trip 7b, Stratigraphy of the Chesapeake Group of Maryland and Virginia by Blake W. Blackwelder and Lauck W. Ward

The field trip site was in Surry, VA at the Pipsico Scout Reservation's Camp Lions riverfront. Formations visible along the James River included the Claremont (14 million), Cobham (7 to 9 million), and Yorktown (4 to 5 million).

Our GMSVP members dressed warmly and were allowed to come to the site when it best suited their schedule and the tide for optimal beach exposure. They collected numerous fossil shells, coral, shark teeth, and even a whale bone. GMSVP member sightings were made along the beach of Brian Burdette; Dan and Pat Fontaine; Michael Griffith; Robert, Kelly, Sam, and Lance Mazzrillo; Walter Priest; Bubba Ward; and Hank Woods. Hope that I didn't miss anyone!

We had a fun day of fossil collecting and greatly appreciated M.A.G.M.A. inviting our club to join them in the fossil hunt.



2015 EFMLS Convention in Hickory, NC on March 27—29

Baxter Leonard, Show Chair and Larry Huffman

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



The Catawba Gem & Mineral Club will host the 2015 EFMLS Convention on March 27-29, 2015 at the Hickory Metro Convention Center (Hickory MCC) in Hickory, NC. Our organization was organized in 1969, joined the EFMLS in 1973, and hosted the annual EFMLS conventions in 1989 and 1995. Its members take great pride in sponsorship of its annual show and are excited about the upcoming EFMLS accepting our proposal to host its annual convention in the Tar Heel state.



Hickory is located in the foothills region of the western Piedmont of our diverse state and North Carolina has 300+ minerals within its borders. The county which is home to Hickory has well known minerals within the quartz family, and everyone is familiar with the minerals of adjacent Alexander County which includes emeralds / hiddenite / and rutile.

This is our 45th annual show with a group of vendors that have quality mineral specimens, fossils, jewelry both finished and unmounted stones, lapidary material, and beads. The club has educational exhibits covering specific themes as well as personally collected and personally crafted specimens. We invite all attendees to join with us in sharing your exhibits... a display case may be reserved or you may bring your own. Look for showcase exhibit sign up info later.



We take much pride in setting aside the Friday morning for school groups to listen to various topics and have time for their questions. Also, demonstrations of wire wrapping, making cabochons, and faceting are present.

Our club will conduct a field trip to the Reel Amethyst Mine in close by Lincoln County on Friday, March 27th where exceptional colored crystals and clusters have been found.



The schedule for EFMLS events is:

Friday, March 27

- 5:30 pm - Cracker Barrel, Hampton Inn
- 7:30 pm - EFMLS Annual Meeting: Hickory Convention Center

Saturday, March 28

- 1:30 pm - Annual EFMLS Auction, Hickory Convention Center
- 7:30 pm - Awards Banquet, Hickory Convention Center

Sunday, March 29

- 8:30 am - Editors' Breakfast, Hampton Inn

Lodging has been arranged at Hampton Inn of Hickory, adjacent to the Hickory Metro Convention Center...a block of rooms has been set aside for convention delegates. (rate \$104 plus tax). Be sure to mention that you are with the EFMLS Convention when calling.

- Hampton Inn, 1956 13th Ave. Dr, SE, Hickory, NC 28602 ; 1-828-624-2000; I-40 at exit 125

Morefield Gem Mine

Source: www.MorefieldGemMine.com

Dan Fontaine

A number of members from GMSVP took advantage of the Morefield Gem Mine being open this Fall. The Morefield Gem Mine in Amelia, VA offers something for both the amateur or advanced rock hunter alike and has an exhibits and gift shop, collecting from mine dumps, sluice screening, picnicking, and restrooms.

The Morefield Gem Mine is a highly mineralized pegmatite dike having a length of 2,000 feet and a depth of 300 feet. It produces over 80 different minerals, including amazonite, topaz, garnets, purple amethyst, mica, feldspar, beryl, phenakite, and quartz for a few popular ones. Sorry, but it is now once again closed.





The 23rd Annual Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show, sponsored by the Northern Virginia Mineral Club and George Mason University's Department of Atmospheric, Oceanic and Earth Sciences, was held at the university in Fairfax, VA on November 22nd and 23rd. The show featured specimens of minerals and fossils in a wide variety of price ranges. It mattered little if you were new to rock collecting or an experienced rockhound, all seemed to come away with treasures to take home and display or share.



This show was not the typical show with mainly jewelry vendors. The show was tailor-made for rockhounds.

It is an annual show, so if you missed the show this year, you have ample time to plan it into your calendar for 2015!



Earth's Most Abundant Mineral Finally Gets an Official Name

Source: Science Magazine and <http://news.sciencemag.org/earth/2014/11/respect-long-overdue-earth-s-most-abundant-mineral-finally-gets-official-name>

It makes up 38 percent of our planet but until now hasn't had a name. Thanks to chemical analysis of a meteorite that landed in Australia more than a century ago, scientists have finally been able to classify the most abundant mineral on Earth as bridgmanite.

The International Mineralogical Association states that minerals can only be named and classified once they've been analysed in their natural state. The problem was that the mineral, a super dense version of magnesium silicate, in its natural state lies within the [Earth's lower mantle](#) - a rocky layer that stretches from 650 to 2,900 kilometres below the surface.

Intrigued? See above link above for the full story.



SAVE DATES TO YOUR HOME CALENDARS!

Hampton Sandy Bottom Nature Park's Nature Center

7 PM

- Board Meetings: January 5th, March 30th, July 6th, and September 28th
- Regular Meetings: January 15th, February 5th, March 5th, April 2nd, May (picnic instead of meeting), June 4th, July 2nd, August 20th, September (picnic instead of meeting), October 1st, November 5th, and December 3rd

Hampton Sandy Bottom Nature Park's Pavilion

(Watch for a future newsletter announcement)

- Picnics: May 16th and September 12th

Treasures of the Earth Show (GMSVP Booth)

Source: <http://treasuresoftheearth.com/events/>

- **March 27 – 29**
Hampton Roads Convention Center
Hampton, VA
- **April 24 – 26**
Virginia Beach Convention Center
Virginia Beach, VA
- **July 17 – 19**
Virginia Beach Convention Center
Virginia Beach, VA
- **October 16 – 18**
VA Convention Center
Virginia Beach, VA



Minutes for the General Meeting, December 4, 2014

- The meeting was called to order by the Walter Priest.
- Walter introduced our guests.
- Treasurers Report was provided by Gary Bergtholdt.
- Walter identified several changes to our meeting calendar:
 - ◆ January meeting will be January 15th.
 - ◆ July meeting will be July 2nd.
 - ◆ August meeting will be August 20th.

Board meetings will be held quarterly at the Sandy Bottom Nature Center. The next Board meeting is January 5th at 7:00 pm. The 2015 Budget will be discussed and prepared to be presented at the January 15th General Meeting.

- Walter presented parting gifts to the Board members who will not serve on the 2015 Board.
 - Walter introduced the new Board members and swore them in.

◆ President	Walter Priest
◆ 1 st Vice president (membership)	Brenda Hawks
◆ 2 nd Vice President (programs)	Barbara Priest
◆ Secretary	Pat Fontaine
◆ Treasurer	Gary Bergtholdt
 - Walter thanked Holly Worsham, GMSVP webmaster, for keeping the GMSVP website (<http://gmsvp.weebly.com/>) updated. He invited the club to check out how great the web page looked.
 - Walter asked if there were any more sealed bids for the GMSVP trailer. As none were presented, he stated they had received 3 sealed bids. He restated the primary points that the winning bidder will need to do.
 - ◆ Trailer must be picked up by December 15, 2014.
 - ◆ The title for the trailer must be transferred to the new owner by the end of 2014.
- There were 3 bidders. Al Dehart's bid was the winner.
- Walter reminded the GMSVP members that the dues for 2015 are now due and should be paid before the end of this meeting.
 - The meeting was adjourned for the Christmas dinner and the 'Pollyanna' gift exchange for those who wanted to participate.

Minutes prepared by David Scharff

December 9, 2014

/ original signed /



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.