



THE VIRGINIA PEN



GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY OF THE VIRGINIA PENINSULA

May 2015



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Walter Priest

Special Points of Interest:

GMSVP June Meeting

- Sandy Bottom Nature Park's Nature Center
- June 4, 7 PM

William Holland Workshop

- Young Harris, GA
- June 7—13

James River Fossil Field Trip

- Spring Grove, VA
- June 13

MAGMA KY Geode Field Trip

- Parksville, KY
- June 19—20

Coal & Gem Mine Field Trip

- Beckley, WV
- July 25

Wildacres Workshop

- Little Switzerland, NC
- August 17-23 (SFMS)
- August 24-30 (EFMLS)
- September 21-27 (SFMS)

TOTE Shows

- VA Beach Convention Ctr
- July 17—19
- October 16—18

Fall GMSVP Picnic

- Sandy Bottom Nature Park
- September 12



Wow! What a wonderful picnic. With over 40 members in attendance, we had a wonderful time getting to know one another, enjoying some wonderful food and some serious slabbin' and cabbinn' on the Club's equipment. Many thanks to Miss Kelly for organizing the luncheon delights and to all the members who provided the covered dishes. Also kudo's to Hank, Larry and the other members who pitched in to get the equipment set up and taken down. We could not have done it without you. We signed up a couple of new members and had a lot of participation from our newer members which is very heartening to see. Howard and Jeff had slabs and rough for sale. Potential new member Joe Delizzio had some of turquoise polishing equipment for sale and Skip Skippen had a display of desert roses from Saudi Arabia. Last but not least, thanks to Brian Burdette for his presentation on opals. All in all, it was a most pleasant and enriching afternoon.

Last month we had our second of four TOTE Shows for the year. It was successful to say the least. We sold a couple boatloads of geodes and provided a wealth of demonstrations for the attendees. Special recognition is due Bubba for garnering several donations to the Club for his wire wrapping classes. We had great participation from the membership which made everything from setup to take down run smoothly. We have our next TOTE Show coming up the 17th-19th of July. (Cont'd on pg 6)

FIELD TRIP DEADLINE: May 31st is the deadline to sign up for the June 13th Fossil Field Trip to Pipsico Scout Reservation in Surry County and the July 25th Field Trip to Beckley, WV Coal Mine Tour and Rock/Mineral Sieving. See information toward end of the newsletter.

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

Visitors Welcome: The GMSVP welcomes any visitor with an interest in geology, mineralogy and the lapidary arts. Whether you are a hobbyist, artist, collector or interested in Earth Science, the club has something for everyone. Dues information is under [Frequently Asked Questions on the GMSVP Website](#).

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

GMSVP

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Newport News, VA 23602

Web: <http://gmsvp.weebly.com/>

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-GMSVP/275041405841489

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GMSVP Picnic—Fun and Lapidary Skill Development Dan Fontaine



GMSVP held its Spring picnic on Saturday, May 16th. The Fall picnic will be on September 12th. Both picnics are at Hampton's Sandy Bottom Nature Park's Lakeside Shelter.

Volunteers arrived at the GMSVP shed at 8 AM to assist with loading lapidary equipment and supplies into Hank Wood's and Larry Hawk's trucks for the short ride over to the shelter. Thanks to the many volunteers, the equipment was operating as advertised by 9 AM.

We had a number of new members come to the picnic that used the opportunity to get some basic instruction on the rock saws and rock polishing machines.



As a special treat, Brian Burdette discussed the various types of opals and how to polish them for optimum fire.

Kelly Mazzrillo once again did an outstanding job coordinating the picnic lunch. The club provided hamburgers, hot dogs, buns, condiments, soft drinks, chips, fruits, and desserts. Members provided salads, chips, fruits, and desserts. No one complained of not having enough to eat.

Roughs, specimens, and jewelry were available for members to select some special deals. A used flat lap table and two rock tumblers also were available for purchase from the club.

We hung a poster advertising the club on the picnic pavilion and had some membership forms and brochures for anyone enticed by all the fun and activity. Two new members joined the club during the picnic, bringing our membership to about 90.

Toward 4 PM volunteers made a quick job of cleaning and returning the equipment to the shed.

Thanks to the many volunteers that helped make our Spring picnic a great success. If you missed this one, you can still come to our Fall picnic on September 12th. Add it to your calendar now!



"What's Shaking? Earthquakes in Virginia" GMSVP June 4th Meeting Program

Barbara Priest, Program VP



The June 4th GMSVP Meeting Program topic is: "What's Shaking? Earthquakes in Virginia." Dr. Chuck Bailey, the Geology Department Chair at the College of William and Mary, is our speaker.

Remember the 2011 Virginia earthquake that rattled Virginia and was felt by more Americans than any other earthquake in U.S. history? This talk, by Professor Bailey, will discuss that quake as well as Virginia geology, earthquakes from the past, and consider future prospects for more temblors.

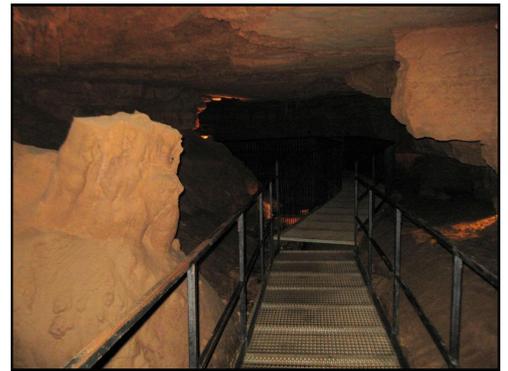
If not already on your calendar, add this exciting evening to your "must do" list!

A Visit to Indiana Caverns, Corydon, IN

Holly and Paul Worsham



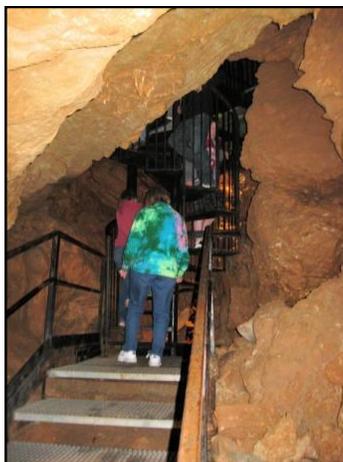
Paul and I recently returned from visiting relatives in Missouri. During a stop at the Illinois Welcome Center on Interstate 64, we picked up a brochure for the Indiana Caverns. It was not too far off our planned route, so we took a little side adventure. It took us a little bit to find the place. We initially drove past the road that would lead us to the caverns. But with the help of a nearby service station, we were able to find our way.



Indiana Caverns has a nice gift shop and also offers panning for gemstones and fossils by purchasing a seeded bag from the gift shop.

We found our tour guide delightful and knowledgeable about the history of the cavern as well as the formations within the cavern. The staff at the caverns were very helpful and friendly.

Indiana Caverns opened in the summer of 2012 and is full of surprising finds. The cave tour is about 3/4 of a mile long and has steep stairways, metal walkways and ends with a boat ride. State Paleontologists have discovered peccary skulls and other Ice Age bones dating back 38 to 42,000 years ago from the middle of the last Ice Age.



The cave system is known as the Binkley cave system and is over 40 miles long, the longest cave in Indiana and the 7th longest in the USA. The Binkley cave system has 4 surveyed levels with cavers mapping the cave system for over 45 years. The limestone rock in the cave dates back to 300-330 million years old. The passages in the Indiana Caverns were formed by underground water flowing down through the joints and cracks in the bedding plane, and then gradually enlarging into open passageways.



The boat ride was really fun. You are about 110 feet below the surface, floating on the tributary of the underground Eerie River. The water averages 3-5 feet in depth. This was a great place to visit and tour, if you would like additional information you can visit their web site at: indianacaverns.com.

Source: AFMS Newsletter Vol 68, No. 6, May 2015



AFMS Ed. Note: Scott Peters is the Conservation & Legislation chair for the Eastern Federation and ALAA state representative for Pennsylvania. Scott and others are working “behind the scenes” to reopen the sites for organized, planned club trips, but this will take time. Unfortunately he reports that despite the closures, he’s learned that some clubs and individuals are still scheduling field trips to at least one of them - further complicating the process of gaining legal access, even if on a limited basis.

Let this be a warning to all to follow the AFMS Code of Ethics, to always heed quarry and collecting site rules and to not trespass on closed or posted areas. As a rockhound community, we must do everything we can to ensure that private sites remain open.

Collecting Sites Closed

Spring collecting season is upon us here in the northeast and it is with a heavy heart that I must inform you of the closing of two well-known collecting sites in Pennsylvania. I have learned from Jeri Jones via the December issue of Rock Buster News, newsletter of the Central Pennsylvania Rock and Mineral Club of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, that the property owner has closed the Rossville malachite/azurite location in northern York County. The site is well known to collectors as it has been well advertised in books and articles since the early 1970's. From what I understand, the location has become dangerous due to over collecting. If anyone is seen at the site, the owners will notify proper authorities.

The second site that is now closed to collecting is the St. Clair, Pennsylvania, fern fossil location. The fossils found at this location are very detailed white and sometimes yellow plant fossils on black shale. The plants were replaced by pyrite which was later believed to be replaced by pyrophyllite a whitish aluminum silicate. I spoke with a representative of the owners of the property and she informed me that overzealous collectors began bringing in power tools to collect, posting their trips and selling the fossils they collected via the internet. The representative indicated that the owners will prosecute any individuals they find collecting on their property. Currently, the owners will permit school trips to collect at the site. I am in the process of making further inquiries to see if members of mineral clubs can obtain permission to collect for their personal collections, for museum exhibits or for distribution to children at our shows. If I receive any additional information I will pass it along.

Please do not attempt to collect at these locations unless you receive express permission from the owners of the property. You will risk prosecution and may cause the loss of any possibility of reopening these sites.

If you know of any collecting sites that have closed or are in danger of closing, or any laws that may restrict our collecting activities please email me at <slipgapdms@aol.com>. I will pass that information on in future newsletter so that in that manner we can all be informed about the status of our collecting locations As always, please remember to collect responsibly.

New GMSVP Members—Welcome New Rockhounds!

Nichole & N’Kai Boston

Christina Loria

Kalyn & Matt Spittler

David Bromley

Jeffrey Madden

Paul Toupin

Dee Coulter

Robyn Muhr

Evelyn Vretos

Robert Estes & Shania Wolf

Elise Reeves, June Bernard, &

Jeffrey Gainey

David Goetze

Claudia Greene

Jordan Shorter



THANKS AND THANKS AGAIN!



Thank you to everyone who assisted with the March Treasures of the Earth (TOTE) Show at the Hampton Roads Convention Center in Hampton. It was a very good show, we had a lot of new members sign up, sold a ton (literally haha) of geodes, put on some great demonstrations, and hopefully everyone who was there had a lot of fun. The show owners came by a few times and were very grateful that we came to the show at its new location in Hampton. The club was also featured in a few photos with the Daily Press.

Thanks again for helping with the show!



Okay, now for a second thanks to our great volunteers!

We had another great TOTE show in April at the Virginia Beach Convention Center. We sold a LOT of geodes, made a lot of people happy (both adults and children), and even got a few interested enough to be new members. Cabs were made, wires were wrapped, rocks were both slabbed and discussed, and vendors were happy to see us.



First, I want to thank everyone who assisted with not only the setup and takedown, but also for helping sort, size, and paint the new geodes in time for the show. All of the help was greatly appreciated and helped get us in (and out of) the show. The truck rental continues to go much easier, so thanks to those who assisted with loading and unloading!



Second, a BIG thank you for everyone who manned the tables at the show, selling geodes, talking to potential new members, demonstrating the machines, wire wrapping, talking about the various displays, and everything else!



Great club members make for great club functions! THANKS!!!

2015 SFMS WORKSHOPS

William Holland on June 7-13, 2015 and Wildacres on August 17-23, 2015 & September 21-27, 2015

If you would like to know more about any of the classes, visit <http://www.sfmshworkshops.com/> or follow on facebook. <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Southeast-Federation-of-Mineralogical-Societies/317959434999844>.

See pages 8 & 9 for June 7—13 classes. (Openings Available)

The Spring Picnic replaced the regular monthly GMSVP Meeting for May. No Minutes or Committee Reports were provided.

(Cont'd from pg 1) The program for the June meeting will be by Dr. Chuck Bailey from the College of William and Mary on earthquakes in Virginia. Our July meeting program will be by our own Sara Phillips on her adventures in the mines of Brazil. It will be followed in August by our first official Rock Swap. Everyone needs to get prepared to bring in their lapidary projects, slabs, cabs and rough to sell, buy, trade or just show off what you have been working on. It will be new and different and should be a lot of fun.

We have several field trips coming up this summer. The first will be a fossil collecting trip sponsored by the Mountain Area Gem and Mineral Association (MAGMA) to the Pipsico Scout Reservation in Surry County. We have been invited as a Club, and you do not have to be a member of MAGMA to attend. The second GMSVP Trip is to a coal mine in West Virginia being organized by our Field Trip Coordinator, Sara Phillips. There is also an opportunity to hunt geodes in Kentucky with MAGMA. Details are to be found elsewhere in this Newsletter.

I think that is about it for now. We have an exciting and event filled Summer on tap. I hope everyone will be able to have fun and enjoy the upcoming events.

Rock on,
-Walter

Get Some Silversmithing Skills

Dan Fontaine



GMSVP offers nearly free silversmithing training for our members. One of our members, Anthony Hubbard, is the instructor and has the club equipment to provide a training. All you need to do is contact Anthony (lanexa05@gmail.com) for a mutually acceptable training time.

Pat and I are taking his silversmithing training. Anthony is a patient and knowledgeable instructor. He starts you out by going over the workstation and tools. He then slowly steps you through each step of the silversmithing process by describing the technique, demonstrating the technique and



answering your questions as you replicate each step on your piece of silversmithed jewelry.

Because the workstations and tools are owned by our club, once trained you can schedule a time with Anthony to work on a piece of jewelry on your own.

The cost for this training is amazingly low....only a small material fee and the cost of the silver used. Anthony also has a list of silver procurement sources, silversmithing tools needed and sources to purchase them, if you would like to invest in a silversmithing workshop in your home!



This is yet another great GMSVP benefit for our members!

VOLUNTEERS MAKE A GOOD CLUB GREAT! GET INVOLVED!
- A Special thanks to members contributing articles to the newsletter!

Bring Out Your Creative Juices!

Steve Weinberger, Wildacres Chair

Source: EFMLS News Volume 52, Number 7, May 2015



Driving down to Hickory, NC for the EFMLS Convention at the end of March brought us from the grip of winter at our home in Maryland to the promise of spring in North Carolina. The forsythia was in bloom as were daffodils and the trees were beginning to show their spring foliage.

All of that “new life” got our juices pumping for the return trip we’ll be making to North Carolina later this month as well as the trip back down in August. We’re of course talking about and looking forward to the EFMLS Workshops at Wildacres near Little Switzerland, NC.

Our Spring session was on May 18—24 with Bob Jones as our Speaker-in-Residence.

We’ve not been to an **EFMLS August Wildacres session (August 24-30)** for many years now and are looking forward to the warmth and sunshine that August usually has to offer. Speaker-in-Residence is Denise Nelson, a GIA graduate, dermatologist and jewelry designer. She and husband Dennis are a delightful and knowledgeable couple who have travelled to Europe, South America and Africa plus many places in the United States, always learning more about the culture of the places visited as well as the geology, scenery, jewelry gems and minerals of these places. Denise delivers an outstanding talk...and will give us six of them during our week together.



Classes being offered are:

- Faceting*
- Polymer Clay*
- Intarsia*
- Soapstone Carving

* All week class

- Gem Trees
- Silversmithing
- Roadside Geology
- Wildacres “Wild”

Registration & descriptions of the August 24-30 classes can be found on our website: efmls-wildacres.org.

Tuition, which includes room and board, is \$390. That’s quite a bargain for lodging in motel style rooms, three good meals per day, six talks by our guest speaker, and instruction given by excellent and experienced professionals and semi-professionals. In addition, all the fun of the auction, rocking chairs and canteen schmoozing, and much, much more makes an EFMLS Wildacres Workshop a “must do” experience. I hope to see you and your clubmates there.

Magnificent Quartz Veins

Sara Phillips

My husband, Claiborn, and I went waterfront camping at Lake Moomaw in the fall of 2014. We decided to kayak to an island in the middle of the lake to have a picnic lunch. On the way to our destination, we observed magnificent quartz veins located within a Devonian age shale stratum on the edge of the lake. The edge of my kayak paddle was used for scale. We had to stop and take a picture!



Lake Moomaw is a manmade lake located in western Virginia, which spans over Allegheny County and Bath County. It was made by Army Corps of Engineers in 1979 by constructing the Gathright Dam on the Jackson River. The lake is used recreationally for fishing, boating, and camping.

Virtual Museum of Geology

Dan Fontaine

I recently became aware of a new site for geology enthusiasts. The Virtual Museum of Geology has a website (<http://www.virtualmuseumofgeology.com/>) and Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/virtualmuseumofgeology>).



2015 SFMS WILLIAM HOLLAND WORKSHOP (Openings Available)

Our first session of the SFMS annual workshops at William Holland School of Lapidary Arts is fast approaching. The classes are conducted at a beautiful location in northeast Georgia. They provide a fun filled vacation which includes lodging, food, and instruction for less than the cost of a hotel! Our website sfmsworkshops.com provides schedules, class details, instructor information and registration forms.

In addition to the classes, we have many other activities associated with this workshop. These include an exciting auction, tailgating, and many other fun activities. Our much-anticipated auction is always a hit and offers an opportunity to pick up some nice items at a great price. If this sounds like a great week, it is! We invite you to join us and spread the word about this and the other SFMS workshops.

Our William Holland June 7 – 13 session is very close at hand and we have openings in most of our classes. If you are interested in a class or know someone who is, please call the William Holland registrar: Rosemary van Wandelen (386-860-5586 home or 386-479-1509 cell) **immediately** to reserve a class and a room. **It is extremely important that you do not wait. The following is a list of the remaining classes that have openings. All others are full or have been cancelled.**

Since the session is virtually upon us, I have included a short recap of the classes:



Cabochons - Instructor: Pat Davis Students will learn how to cut cabochons, both calibrated and freeform. This class will cover factors to consider in selecting a stone, dopping, use of trim saws, grinding wheels and polishing wheels. Some tips and tricks of the trade and ideas about what can be done with the finished product will be discussed. All skill levels are welcome. Novices will get detailed instruction. Those with previous experience will be encouraged to proceed at their own pace. Slabs will be available for purchase from the instructor or students may bring their own.



Casting: Instructor - Bill Harr If you want an introduction the professional process of casting, this is your class. Bill has been casting for many years, studied with several experts, and is now operating a specialized business in casting Orchids. If you twist his arm really hard he might even show you some of his Orchids. He also loves to cast small “add-on” objects for his Silversmithing projects. He will teach you proper spruing techniques to insure good casting results. This may be the most important thing that you will learn since it can allow you to cast large numbers of items in one flask. (Bill’s class will be offered at both sessions for Wildacres.)



Chain-Maille - Instructor: Kathy Morris This class will be structured for beginners to learn the basics of making chains with unsoldered jump rings. If you took a class but did not continue to make chains you may qualify as a beginner. Intermediate students are welcome and will be taught some harder patterns. Using precut rings prepared by the instructors, you will construct chains and jewelry pieces in the basic patterns for chain making. The process of winding, cutting, and polishing rings will be demonstrated during the week. Precut rings will be available in copper and artistic wire. If you prefer sterling or gold-filled rings you need to let the instructor know so she can have the gold and silver wire available for you. This class will prepare you to recognize variations of patterns in publications and help you to understand instructions for them.



Channel Inlay - Instructor: Dave Wayment **NOTE - THIS CLASS MAY ALREADY BE FULL CHECK WITH THE REGISTRAR** Channel Inlay combines a soldered silver grid with carefully fitted shaped pieces of stone. Students will have the opportunity to fabricate a silver grid from their own design or from provided patterns, to create pins, pendants, bola ties or belt buckles. Hard stones, such as agate and jasper, will be used in the projects. Combining silver and lapidary techniques make this a challenging class. Lapidary skills are helpful but not required. Silver and other supplies will be available from the instructor. (Cont’d on next page)



2015 SFMS WILLIAM HOLLAND WORKSHOP (Cont'd) (Openings Available)



Faceting - Instructor: Bill Roberts In this class the student will learn the Meetpoint faceting method of stone cutting. All students will be supplied with 3 pieces of facet rough, an instruction book with 10 different facet diagrams and a list of critical angles. The student will learn stone orientation in order to learn how to get the best color and maximum yield from a stone. How to choose rough stone will also be covered. The student should expect to not just learn, but have a lot of fun at the same time.



Opals – Instructor: Sara Lee Boyce She teaches a structured 14-step method for cutting and polishing various types of opal. The 14-step method was created by Sarah Lee for Opal cutting, because the opal rough can be very unforgiving and the play of color needs to be released very slowly, as Sarah Lee says, It is not an agate. The finished opals are cabochons but the actual cutting method is different, thus the 14-steps. For the first two days of class, opals are cut from a kit.



Seed Beading – Instructor – Barbara Green This class begins with learning to make a bead bezel around a cabochon using peyote stitch. As the week continues, students will have the opportunity to learn other stitches, such as right angle weave, herringbone, simple and double spiral, and many more. Many patterns are available. Feel free to bring your own materials and tools if you are an experienced beader; otherwise, supplies will be available.



Silver 1 – Instructor: Nancy English This class will introduce shop safety, tools, sawing techniques, solder, soldering and hammering for design. Students will learn closed and open back techniques for jewelry design. Each student will have the opportunity to create 4 to 7 items (ring, pendant and bracelet). Creativity is encouraged.



Wire for Beaders – Instructor Leslie Wayment What is Wire for Beaders? It is easier to say what it is not. It is NOT Wire Wrap, Cold Connections or Chain Maille. It does Not involve flexible beading wire. It IS necessary for most beaders. In Wire for Beaders you will learn about jewelry hand tools and metal wire. It is a techniques class for making the odds and ends needed in your other beading projects. You will also make projects out of just wire. We will learn to master the simple loop, wrapped loop, rosary chain or linked wrapped loops to start with. The loops are necessary for earrings and multi-strand beading using cones. You will make your own earring wires, head pins, eye pins and decorative head pins. And that is just part of the first day. Other techniques you will learn are 3 ways to make a caged bead, how to make spirals, a fish hook clasp, a hook-and-eye clasp, a pelican clasp and an S-hook clasp. You will learn to twist and coil wire and make beads from them, how to use a jig (such as Wig-Jig and others) and how to make your own wire links for a wire bracelet.

For more details on all the available classes contact the Registrar or Director listed below. For applications visit the website at WWW.SFMSWORKSHOPS.COM. The website is being updated to reflect the recent changes.

Registrar

Rosemary van Wandelen
386-860-5586 home
386-479-1509 cell
sfms.wh@gmail.com

Director

Cindy Reed
863 255 5256
cdreed@tampabay.rr.com

Thanks!!

Danny Griffin, Education
Co-Chair

Field Trip #1—Fossil Collection along the James River (near Surry, VA)

Date: Saturday, June 13

Please let Sara Phillips (SPhillips@ecslimited.com) know by no later than May 31st at 3PM if you would like to attend this field trip .

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

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

Sunblock and bug spray are highly recommended, as well as bottles of water and snacks. Please bring your own bags and tools for collecting. Camping is allowed the night before if anyone is interested.

Alcoholic beverages are prohibited on the property.

No parking of vehicles in the campsites, you must park in the parking area after unloading gear.

No climbing steep banks.

Hand tools only.

Everyone must sign a liability release form upon arrival.

Swimming is prohibited in the river.

No pets.

Fee: \$5.00 per person

Field Trip #2—Parksville, Kentucky Geodes (Official MAGMA Field Trip) – Only Members of the Mountain Area Gem and Mineral Association (MAGMA) can participate.

Date: Saturday, June 19 & 20

Location: Phil Daly, 10330 Forkland Rd. Hwy. 37, Parksville, KY 40464. Hotels in nearby Danville, KY and at a campground in Danville.

Directions: 150 W from I-75 to Danville, turn left onto KY 37, follow signs for KY 37 to 10330 Forkland Rd/KY 37 on left.

There will be a geode dig in a river/creek behind Phil Daly's house on June 19th and 20th. The area is loaded with geodes up to basketball size. The creek has flooded recently and there are tons of new geodes to pick from.

There are also fossil geodes at this site.

Cost is \$25 for first bucket of geodes, or large geode and \$10 for each bucket or large geode after that.

You can collect and buy as many as you like. No breaking geodes, you should take your time and pick geodes that feel light if you are looking to cut them or break them open.

Our host will have hamburgers and hotdogs to eat.

If you plan to attend, email rick@wncrocks.com, as they need a head count and may need to limit attendance.

Field Trip #3—Coal Mine Tour and Rock/Mineral Sieving in Beckley, WV

If you would like to attend this field trip, please let Sara Phillips (SPhillips@ecslimited.com) know by no later than April 30th at 3PM. She needs a head count of adults and children for this trip. There is a maximum of 30 people allowed to tour the coal mine facility at one time, but a minimum of 10 people is needed to get the group rate. Also, she can provide some lodging guidance, if desired.

Date: Saturday, July 25 **Sources:** www.beckley.org/exhibition_coal_mine/ & www.someplacespecialgemmine.com/

Locations: #1) Beckley Expedition Coal Mine, 513 Ewart Avenue, Beckley, West Virginia 25801

#2) Some Place Special Gem Mine, 323 Rakes Road, Shady Spring, West Virginia 25918

(Cont'd on next page)

Field Trip #3—Coal Mine Tour and Rock/Mineral Sieving in Beckley, WV (Cont'd from prior page)

Details:

At the Exhibition Coal Mine, one can ride through the dark passages of a vintage coal mine. The guides are veteran miners and provide firsthand accounts of the daily responsibilities and travail of past and present day miners. In addition to the Mine, one can tour the period coal camp buildings situated throughout the grounds. Lovingly restored, the Coal Company House, Superintendent's Home, Pemberton Coal Camp Church, and the Helen Coal Camp School, give visitors a true representation of early 20th century coal camp life. Visitors are asked to bring a jacket because the temperature is always 58 degrees inside the Mine.

The Youth Museum's central exhibit area features an average of three different interactive exhibits yearly. Group tours include a visit to the Museum's Planetarium. Seasonal programs highlight constellations, visible planets and special celestial events. Behind the Museum's main building, stands the Mountain Homestead. Developed to enrich history studies, the Museum has recreated a typical settlement on the Appalachian frontier. Trained interpreters explain the importance of each of the eight reconstructed historical building. Visit the weaver's, the log house, and the one room schoolhouse and experience "readin', writn', and rithmatic" as it used to be. The barn, blacksmith shop, and general store all help to complete this rich historical journey of the late 19th century.

Field Trip Itinerary (this field trip will happen rain or shine)

- **9:50 AM:** Meet in Beckley Expedition Coal Mine parking lot
- **Group Rate Admissions:** **ADULTS: \$14.00 (18 and over); CHILDREN: \$ 8.50 (ages 4 - 17)**
- **10:00 AM:** Group tour begins with an underground tour (in a coal car) and tour of the surrounding grounds
- **12:00-12:30 PM:** Group picnic lunch on-site at the gazebo/picnic tables/or covered amphitheater. You **must** bring a picnic lunch (there are no food facilities on-site).
- **12:30-1:30 PM:** We will be touring the youth group museum and gift shop
- **1:30-2:00 PM:** Drive to Some Place Special Gem Mine (about a 15-20 minute drive from coal mine)
- **2:00 PM-???:** Sieve through buckets of materials to find gemstones (stay as long as you want).
 - ◆ 2.5 gallon buckets of sieving materials are \$10.00 each
 - ◆ Website coupons and family specials are available (SEE WEBSITE)

THIS IS A CASH ONLY FACILITY!!!

See information on the website (http://someplacespecialgemmine.com/Home_Page.php) and below for some helpful hints to make your adventure more enjoyable.

- It gets a bit muddy here at the mine, so wear old clothes and shoes.
- Seating is provided, but it's not padded. A nice cushion will help ease any sore spots.
- There are covers over the flumes, but a rain coat is advisable.
- We provide small plastic bags, but if you are planning a large mine adventure, a bucket or large heavy bag is a nice addition to have (Yes, you may have that many gemstones when you leave).
- Sunblock is suggested.
- This is a farm setting and bugs are present, so bring along some bug spray to help keep em' at bay.
- Cameras are allowed here, so bring one along to capture your adventure.
- Be sure to bring a towel to dry off.



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.