



# The PRESQUE ISLE PROSPECTOR

Official Publication of the Gem City Rock and Mineral Society  
Monthly Meetings, First Friday at 7:30 PM

## JANUARY 2005



### Last Month's Meeting:

Last month we had our Holiday Dinner, and our annual Election of Officers. The slate as nominated by the Nominating Committee was elected, so our new Officers for 2005 are as follows:

- President: Bob Gallivan
- Vice-President: Sarah Boesch
- Treasurer: Val Engelleiter
- Secretary: Harriet Beckman
- Board Members (3): Bob Perry, Dale Pysher, and Mary Thomson

### This Month's Meeting:

This month our meeting will be Saturday, January 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:30AM at the Club Rooms. Our program will be a combination 'show-and-tell' and mineral ID – bring along an item either that you find fascinating and want to share with others, or one that has you baffled and you hope someone else can help you identify. And since the length of that type of program depends entirely on how many items people bring and / or how much discussion they generate, we will also be prepared to watch some videotapes of some of the programs that you have seen listed under the Rockhound TV section and I actually managed to tape. We have at least the **Modern Marvels** programs on **Diamond Mines** and **Quarries**, both of which were very interesting – so if you don't get the History Channel, here's your chance to see them!

Also, now that we've entered a new Calendar Year, club Dues are due! If you joined at the show last July (2004), your dues are paid through the end of 2005; if not, it's time to pay up again for another year. Dues are still as follows:

- \$5.00 Junior (under 18)
- \$10.00 Individual
- \$15.00 Couple (or parent and one child)
- \$20.00 Family

Please try to remember to bring your dues along to the meeting, or mail a check to the club Treasurer, Val Engelleiter, at her address in the footer of the newsletter. We will give you a month or two to get your dues in, but those not current on their dues will stop getting the newsletter and not be eligible to participate in any club activities! So please help us keep you current by renewing promptly.

### 2005 Eastern Federation Convention

Each year, a different member-club of the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies is called upon to host the EFMLS Convention

(<http://www.amfed.org/efmls/convention.htm>), which they generally do in conjunction with their annual club show. Since the convention is held in conjunction with a different club show each year, it falls at different times, depending on when the hosting club has their show.

Club Web Site address: <http://www.treebeard.net/gemcity/index.htm>

President	Robert Gallivan	427 Colleen Dr.	Erie PA 16505-2101	(814) 454-6770
Vice-president	Sarah Boesch	1223 Lake St.	Lake City PA 16423-1808	(814) 774-4234
Secretary	Harriet Beckman	2239 South Shore Dr.	Erie PA 16505-2154	(814) 455-4851
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Newsletter Editor	Harriet Beckman	email: <a href="mailto:gemcity@treebeard.net">gemcity@treebeard.net</a>	(814) 455-4851	
Board Members:	Robert Perry	Dale Pysher	Mary Thomson	

The 2005 EFMLS Convention will be hosted by the Che-Hanna Rock & Mineral Club (<http://www.che-hanna.org/>), in Sayre, PA, March 18-20, 2005, with their Show being March 19-20, 2005. This is even a smidge closer than last year's EFMLS Convention in Syracuse, NY (though this year's AmFed (national) Convention will be elsewhere). For more info on what you can expect to see at the Show and Convention, check out

[http://www.che-hanna.org/html/show\\_news\\_and\\_information.html](http://www.che-hanna.org/html/show_news_and_information.html)

or the packet of info I'll bring to the meeting.

### **2005 Wildacres Schedule**

The EFMLS sponsors two annual lapidary and jewelry making workshops at a retreat known as Wildacres in Little Switzerland, North Carolina. Each session lasts for one week during which classes are given in areas such as Mineral Identification, Cabochon Making, Faceting, Soapstone Carving, Chain Making, Wire-wrapping and Wirecraft Jewelry, Precious Metal Clay, Lost Wax Casting, Intarsia, Channel Inlay, Micromounting, and Silver Filigree. This year's sessions are June 3-9 and September 12-18, and the class schedule has been announced. You can get general info on the Wildacres classes at <http://www.amfed.org/efmls/wildacres.htm>, but they haven't updated the web site for this year's classes; I'll bring that info to the meeting, for those who might be interested.

### **Rockhound TV This Month:**

#### **PBS: Nature: Land of the Falling Lakes.**

(<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/nature/fallinglakes/index.html>) NATURE takes viewers to the exotic forest of Plitvice Lakes National Park and World Heritage Site, the oldest national park in Europe, situated in the Dinaric Mountains of Croatia. The forest, known as the Devil's Garden, is home to an array of strange wildlife, such as the baby dragon, great tit, edible dormouse, capercaillie, diced snake and tiny Martino vole, all of which share a landscape of 16 falling lakes arranged in breathtaking terraces, connected by countless waterfalls and rapids. Almost destroyed in the last Balkan war, the Devil's Garden is recovering, thanks to the forest's unusual form of limestone that rapidly rejuvenates the terrain with new pools, barriers, water slides and cascades. Jan. 2, 8:00PM, 12Mid; Jan. 3, 3:00AM; Jan. 9, 3:00AM. **Nova: Welcome to Mars.** (<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/mars/>) Two rovers roaming the surface of Mars find proof that it was once awash in water. Jan. 4, 8:00PM; Jan. 5, 1:00AM; Jan. 9, 2:00AM. **Nova: Death Star.** (<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/gamma/>) Probes the deep mysteries of gamma-ray bursts, the most powerful celestial explosions since the Big Bang. Jan. 4, 9:00PM. **Nature: Violent Hawaii.** (<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/nature/hawaii/index.html>) Hawaii's breathtaking beauty was forged in fire, created by the awesome power of volcanoes on land and in the sea, by earthquakes and tsunamis, natural wonders that continue to shape the islands today. Shot in high definition by a team of award-winning filmmakers who live on the islands, this spectacular film features volcanic eruptions, rivers of molten lava, monster waves, humpback whales and perhaps most surprising of all, snow. Jan. 9, 12Mid; Jan. 10, 3:00AM.

**Discovery Channel: The Next Wave: Science of Tsunamis.** Discovery demystifies one of the most dangerous and enigmatic forces on earth, tsunamis. See the science behind their devastating power. Understand where they come from and what we can do to better prepare. It's not if it will happen again, but when. Jan. 5, 10:00PM; Jan. 6, 1:00AM; Jan. 8, 4:00PM, 10:00PM; Jan. 9, 1:00AM. **Raging Planet: Tidal Wave.** Emerging from deep water at only one or two feet high, tidal waves can stretch 600 miles from crest to crest and can climb to a height of 500 feet by the time they reach land. These crashing walls of water are triggered by underwater earthquakes. Jan. 8, 2:00PM; Jan. 8, 8:00PM, 11:00PM. **Mega-Tsunamis.** Discover a geologic force capable of generating skyscraper-sized waves. Huge landslides create these walls of water. The next one might send a monster wave across the Atlantic and straight for the East Coast of the United States. Jan. 8, 3:00PM, 9:00PM, 12:00Mid; Jan. 30,

12:00Noon. **Pompeii: The Last Day.** On August 24, 79, Mount Vesuvius showered the city of Pompeii with ash, smoke and rock. The city lay undisturbed under volcanic debris for more than 1,500 years. Follow a compelling account of the city's final 24 hours, based on the buried evidence. Jan. 30, 9:00PM, 11:00PM.

**TLC:** nothing rock-related this month.

**Travel Channel: Secrets of Alaska's National Parks.** Alaska is one of the few remaining frontiers. Take a scenic expedition from ocean to mountains to tundra to ice, revealing the unparalleled beauty and unforgettable wildlife of this great land. Jan. 7, 4:00PM. **Secrets of Denali National Park.** Visit Alaska's most famous National Park, Denali, a remote wilderness of unspoiled beauty. This remarkably diverse terrain is set amid the Alaskan Range. Rising above it all is Mt. McKinley, the tallest mountain in North America. Jan. 7, 7:00PM; Jan. 8, 2:00AM; Jan. 28, 10:00PM; Jan. 29, 1:00AM; Jan. 30, 11:00AM. **Grand Canyon: Nature's Great Escape.** Head beyond the mule rides and hiking trails to the Grand Canyon's hidden treasures. Meet the team specialized in rescuing "fallers", wander the ghost towns of nearby abandoned gold mines, and find the secret path that leads into a forest of Joshua trees. Jan. 7, 9:00PM, 12:00Mid; Jan. 9, 1:00PM; Jan. 17, 2:00PM; Jan. 20, 7:00PM; Jan. 21, 2:00AM. **Great Outdoors: Top Ten Wonders of the West.** Each year, visitors flock to the deserts, coasts and mountains to climb on, hike over and kayak across the wonders that abound in the West. From Yellowstone National Park to Yosemite and beyond, capture the region's most awe-inspiring features. Jan. 14, 10:00PM; Jan. 15, 1:00AM; Jan. 16, 11:00AM; Jan. 17, 7:00PM; Jan. 30, 6:00PM. **Earth's Natural Wonders – 2.** Explore the powerful Niagara Falls and Australia's Great Barrier Reef. Visit the Grand Canyon, the world's finest example of water erosion, and then climb the highest mountain peak, Mt. Everest, which grows higher each year. Jan. 17, 9:00AM. **Earth's Natural Wonders – 1.** Explore the world's most awe-inspiring natural wonders. Second in length to the Nile, the Amazon River is 60 times greater in volume of water. The ocean of sand known as the Sahara is the largest desert, and Angel Falls is the tallest waterfall. Jan. 17, 10:00AM; Jan. 23, 6:00PM. **Secrets of Hawaii's National Parks.** Discover a land where the pyrotechnics of earth-in-the-making meets tropical paradise. At the edge of an active volcano, retrieve a lava sample, follow a flow as it strikes the sea, and marvel at a black sand beach where giant sea turtles bask in the sun. Jan. 17, 11:00AM; Jan. 21, 10:00PM; Jan. 22, 1:00AM; Jan. 23, 11:00AM; Jan. 27, 7:00PM; Jan. 28, 2:00AM. **Secrets of Glacier National Park.** Glacier National Park is a spectacular snow-capped chorus of peaks. Icebergs float in aquamarine pools and rivers wind through dense forests into pristine lakes and waterfalls. Experience a white-knuckle ride of alpine twists that cuts through the clouds. Jan. 17, 12:00Noon; Jan. 27, 6:00PM. **Hidden Yellowstone.** Journey to the untouched heart of Yellowstone National Park, the nation's largest and oldest. Learn how this pristine land and its native inhabitants endure against nature's most ferocious elements -- ice, wind and fire. Jan. 17, 1:00PM; Jan. 20, 6:00PM. **Top Ten Natural Wonders of the World.** Take an exhilarating look at the world's best natural wonders, including the planet's most recognizable waterfalls, mountains and canyons. Learn how these structures were formed and discover the wildlife that lives around them. Jan. 17, 3:00PM. **Alaska Wide Open.** Alaska is the largest state in the union, and the most extreme. For centuries, people have braved the elements in search of beauty, isolation and riches. From finding gold to traversing the land via dog sled, Alaska's treasures are revealed. Jan. 17, 4:00PM; Jan. 25, 10:00PM; Jan. 26, 1:00AM; Jan. 29, 3:00PM; Jan. 30, 7:00PM; Jan. 31, 2:00AM. **The Colorado: River of Wonders.** The Colorado River offers whitewater adventure and ancient mysteries. From the towering peaks of the Rocky Mountains to the majestic Grand Canyon, six National Parks along its banks enchant visitors with their spectacular scenery and wildlife. Jan. 17, 5:00PM; Jan. 23, 8:00PM, 11:00PM; Jan. 27, 8:00PM, 11:00PM. **Secrets of Niagara Falls.** Discover the geographical facts on what makes Niagara Falls so unique. Find out how the raging waters are transformed into limitless, electrical power for cities and states throughout the region. Jan. 17, 6:00PM; Jan. 23, 7:00PM; Jan. 24, 2:00PM; Jan. 27, 5:00PM. **Canadian Rockies: Banff & Jasper.** Snow-capped peaks and glacial lakes provide the setting for two majestic icons of the Canadian Rockies, Banff and Jasper National Parks. Soak in the hot springs, trek the backcountry trails, then shop the

boutiques of this rustic resort wilderness. Jan. 23, 9:00PM, 12:00Mid; Jan. 27, 9:00PM, 12:00Mid.

**History Channel: Wild West Tech. Biggest Machines in the West.** In this episode, we find out that size did matter in the Old West, where cowboys wanted big toys! Big profits required big equipment to dig, dredge, paddle, and plough through the wilds of America. Technology would replace the pan and the pick with massive machines roaming the forests and deserts like dinosaurs, feeding on the minerals above and below the soil. Even weaponry was super-sized! We take a look at the huge and deadly Hotchkiss cannon and the cumbersome Colt Buntline Revolver, carried by famous frontier personalities like Wyatt Earp, Frank and Jesse James, and Judge Roy Bean. And we review the history of the infamous Mankato Gallows, built to execute 38 Dakota warriors at the same time on December 26, 1862 in Minnesota--the largest mass execution in U.S. history. Hosted by David Carradine. Jan. 1, 5:00 PM. **Niagara: A History of the Falls.** The colorful and dramatic story of the natural wonder that has attracted honeymooners, daredevils, and utopian dreamers for centuries. Formerly a Native-American meeting place, Niagara Falls is famous for its beauty and unlimited waterpower. Charles Dickens saw God there, while Harriet Beecher Stowe overcame a fear of death. Entrepreneurs made a fortune, and in 1969, the U.S. even stopped its flow! Join us for a 2-hour look back at the vivid history of this vital resource. Archival footage includes tightrope walkers who cooked omelettes and did their laundry on a high wire above the gorge, and adventurers who threw themselves over the brink in barrels. Jan. 19, 8:00AM, 2:00PM. **Grand Canyon.** A spectacular 2-hour trip through time for a look at the human history of the Grand Canyon, one of earth's great natural wonders. Learn how the Canyon began forming billions of years ago, and how man discovered, settled, yet continues to be humbled by its wild and unforgiving landscape. The Colorado River runs at its bottom, winding through 277 miles of the Grand Canyon National Park--mecca for over 5-million tourists, hikers, archaeologists, geologists, and river runners each year. Jan. 19, 10:00AM, 4:00PM. **Save Our History: Yellowstone National Park.** Our first and foremost national park, Yellowstone was established in 1872 by Congress. Today, it encompasses 2.2-million acres and draws over 3-million visitors yearly. But it's under constant threat from pollution, urban encroachment, and the same tourists that have made it so valuable. We join ecologists, as well as the National Parks Service, in their search for ways to preserve this vitally important ecosystem, while keeping it available to visitors for years to come. Jan. 21, 7:00AM. **Nature Tech: Earthquakes.** Earthquakes have ripped through the planet's surface ever since it was born, and throughout history, mankind could do little to counter their seismic impact. We place today's advancements in historical context and explore the evolution of 21st-century technology--from global-positioning systems and interferometric radar to computer-engineered buildings -- and see what's being developed to assist seismologists and other researchers in their race to prevent the next earthshaking disaster. Jan. 27, 9:00AM, 3:00PM. **Nature Tech: Volcanoes.** Earth gives birth to volcanoes when hot magma rises to the surface, infiltrates weak spots in the outer crust, and explodes in a spectacular burst of energy and power that can kill thousands in moments. Despite this apparent danger, people insist on living near live volcanoes. In a high-tech look at man's attempts to control Mother Nature, learn how scientists test volcanoes for signs of impending activity, and why seemingly tranquil mountain peaks can reawaken to spew lava and ash without warning. Jan. 27, 10:00AM, 4:00PM. **Modern Marvels: Earthmovers: The Power to Move Mountains.** Feel the earth move under your feet and dig into the fascinating history of earthmoving equipment--from invention of the simple spade to today's powerful steam shovels. Meet the legendary giants like John Deere, Jerome Case, and the founders of Caterpillar, who helped forge America's monolithic construction industry. Jan. 27, 11:00PM, 3:00AM. **The Wrath of God.** Mount Vesuvius: The Fury Within. Rising 4,000 feet above Italy's Campania region, Mount Vesuvius is one of the world's most active volcanoes, unleashing its lethal fire time and again. We examine the 79 AD eruption that destroyed the city of Pompeii, sealing the volcano's place in history; a 1631 eruption, at the height of the Black Plague, when the fiery mountain killed around 18,000; and a 1944 eruption that killed 26 as WWII raged across Southern Italy. Is Vesuvius in a resting period or gearing up for another explosion? Jan. 29, 7:00PM. **Digging for the Truth: Pompeii**

**Secrets Revealed.** In 79 AD, the volcano Vesuvius exploded in one of history's deadliest eruptions, burying the city of Pompeii and other Roman towns along the Bay of Naples beneath layers of ash and pumice. Pompeii was rediscovered in the 18th century, but only recently have archaeologists and volcanologists come to understand exactly how the eruption unfolded, and why it took the people of Pompeii almost entirely by surprise. Intrigued, host Josh Bernstein visits the Bay of Naples, and learns the entire area is built on ancient volcanic rock, some of it still steaming. He climbs the world's most active volcano--Stromboli--an island near Sicily, where "fireworks" from the mountain are a nightly entertainment. Back at Pompeii, he searches for clues that might have enlightened the Romans to the growing threat in their midst. And he literally plays with fire as he follows the story right into the heart of Vesuvius. Jan. 31, 9:00PM, 1:00AM.

### **Exhibits:**

You still have a few days to get to the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto for the exhibit **Pearls: A Natural History** ([www.rom.on.ca](http://www.rom.on.ca)) before it ends January 9<sup>th</sup>, and to the Cleveland Museum of Art for the exhibit **Dukes and Angels: Art from the Court of Burgundy (1364-1419)** (<http://www.clevelandart.org/exhibcef/burgundy/html/>), also until January 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Online Exhibits:**

For those of us who might be better able to visit an online exhibit from the comfort and warmth of our computer chairs without all that winter driving, the **Buffalo Museum of Science** (<http://www.sciencebuff.org/>) has a feature on the **Bentley Snowflake Digital Library** (<http://informatics.buffalo.edu/faculty/abbas/bms/>).

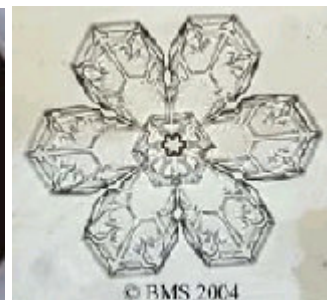
“Wilson Alwyn Bentley was the first person to successfully photograph snow crystals, which are commonly known as snowflakes. A brilliant, unique individual—largely self-taught—Bentley was born in a Vermont farmhouse which remained his lifelong home. Through remarkable determination and vision he became a gifted and pioneering scientist and photographer, passionately dedicated to capturing and sharing nature’s beauty, mystery, and magnificent design as seen in snow crystals.”

The online exhibit features 154 photographs of snow crystals, which form in the hexagonal crystal system, as do such minerals as quartz and corundum. Does snow count as a mineral? Just because it tends to be short-lived, and forms its crystals and crystal clusters in the atmosphere rather than in pegmatites or other underground structures, doesn’t mean that it does not also fulfill the definition of a mineral, which is



“A naturally occurring, homogeneous inorganic solid substance having a definite chemical composition and characteristic crystalline structure, color, and hardness.”

So check out these photographs, taken over a period of 47 years of study, of a common, often overlooked, and sometimes quite beautiful “mineral”.



## **Upcoming Shows in the area:**

Of course, THE place to be from January 29 through February 13 is TUCSON, ARIZONA!! And, of course, most of *us* will NOT be there. And the show season around here – at least within easy day-trip range – is pretty slow until spring. But here are some things to think about:

**Feb. 26-27, Albany, NY** - 12th annual show, “**James Campbell Memorial Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show and Sale**” New York State Academy of Mineralogy, Capital District Mineral Club; New York State Museum, Empire State Plaza, Madison Ave.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; admission \$5; contact Mike Hawkins, Geology Collection Manager, (518) 486-2011 or (518) 473-7154; e-mail: mhawkins@mail.nysed.gov.

**Mar. 4-6, Sharonville, OH - GEMSTREET USA.** Gem, mineral, jewelry, fossil, & bead show. Sharonville Convention Center, 11355 Chester Rd. 4th, 11-7; 5th, 10-6; 6th, 11-5. Strieter Productions Inc., Jane Strieter-Smith, 216-521-GEMS, [spi@stratos.net](mailto:spi@stratos.net), [www.gemstreetusa.com](http://www.gemstreetusa.com).

**Mar. 12-13, Pittsburgh, PA - Bead Mercantile Shows.** Allegheny Valley Holiday Inn, 180 Gamma Dr., 15238. 423-639-7919, fax 423-638-5676, [dawn@beadmercantile.com](mailto:dawn@beadmercantile.com), [www.beadmercantile.com](http://www.beadmercantile.com).

**Mar. 19-20, Sayre, PA - 36th annual show, Che-Hanna Rock & Mineral Club;** Athens Twp. Fire Hall, 150 Herrick Ave.; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$2, students \$1, kids under 8 free; **Hosting EFMLS Annual Convention**, demonstrations, displays, kids’ mini-mine, door prizes, mineral exhibit, silent auction of Carnegie Museum minerals, outstanding dealers; contact Hazel Remaley, RR#3, Box 316A, Gillett, PA 16925, (570) 888-7544; e-mail: northridge@infoblvd.net.

**Apr. 1-3, Cleveland/Berea, OH - GEMSTREET USA.** Gem, mineral, jewelry, fossil, & bead show. Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds, Bagley Rd. (0.6 m west of I-71 & Bagley Rd.). 1st, 11-7; 2nd, 11-6; 3rd, 11-5. Strieter Productions Inc., Jane Strieter-Smith, 216-521-GEMS, [spi@stratos.net](mailto:spi@stratos.net), [www.gemstreetusa.com](http://www.gemstreetusa.com).

**Apr. 1-3, Pittsburgh, PA - The International Gem & Jewelry Show.** Pittsburgh ExpoMart. 301-294-0034, [www.intergem.net](http://www.intergem.net).

**Apr. 2-3, Hamburg, NY - 37th Annual Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show, Buffalo Geological Society;** Erie County Fairgrounds, 5600 McKinley Parkway, Market & Grange Buildings; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$4, children under 12 free. Contact (716) 648-9733.

**Apr. 2-3, Canton, OH - 38th annual show, Stark County Gem & Mineral Club;** Stark County Fairgrounds, 305 Wertz Ave.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$4, children 6-14 \$1; silent auction, demonstrations, displays, rock craft items, jewelry, lapidary supplies, mineral and fossil specimens; contact Barry Heiks, (330) 868-4047; e-mail: bjheiks@raex.com.

**Apr. 23-24, Cuyahoga Falls, OH - Show and sale, “Gemboree” Summit Lapidary Club,** Akron Mineral Society; Emidio & Sons Expo Center, 48 E. Bath Rd.; Sat. 10-7, Sun. 10-6; minerals, rocks, gems, jewelry; contact Warren Salchak, (330) 929-3798, or Carl Miller, (330) 633-4250; e-mail: [SummitLapClub@hotmail.com](mailto:SummitLapClub@hotmail.com); Web site: [www.summitlapidaryclub.com](http://www.summitlapidaryclub.com).

And of course there are many more shows in warmer areas – like Florida and Arizona, though other places as well. So if you are traveling outside our area (and many of us will be), check the Rock and Gem Magazine Calendar (<http://www.rockngem.com/showdates/showdates.shtml>), and the Lapidary Journal Calendar (<http://www.lapidaryjournal.com/cal1.cfm>).

We have been down in the club room many Saturday mornings (which sometimes extend to 2:00-3:00PM), but call and find out if you would like to join us for any *particular* Saturday. Just call me (Harriet) at 455-4851 or Bob Gallivan at 454-6770 ahead of time to make sure. You can also call to arrange another time for a work session if Saturdays aren’t good for you, and someone will try to accommodate you.