



The PRESQUE ISLE PROSPECTOR



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

March 2005



Last Month's Meeting:

Last month we again had a pretty long meeting, refining ideas for youth activities and club displays, but we wrapped it up in time to watch the video on Quarries, which was pretty interesting.

This Month's Meeting:

This month our meeting will be Saturday, March 5th at 9:30AM at the Club Rooms. Our program will be on enameling – after all, how better to spend a Saturday in the chilly month of March than huddled around a nice, warm kiln? ☺ We haven't done much enameling for a couple of years, but we have the kiln, we have the enamels, and we have copper stampings and shapes to enamel. We even have sheet copper if you'd like to cut out a particular shape. While none of us is exactly expert, we have managed to have fun and even to create some passable, and sometime quite lovely, pieces. Come join us for some fun!

Also, if you haven't already paid for this 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. Those not renewed by the April meeting 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.

In Memoriam:

For those of you who may have missed the notice in the newspaper, Wilma Perry, a long-time club member and wife of club board member Bob Perry, passed away on February 17th. We will miss Wilma, and our sympathies go out to Bob and his family.

Club Projects Continued:

Just a reminder that the club is collecting materials for 2 ongoing projects:

- 1) a permanent collection of (multiple samples of) educational materials for teaching about rocks (examples of igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic rocks) and minerals (examples of crystals of various shapes, and minerals to identify); and
- 2) a permanent collection of items with which to make up displays, like those in the display windows of the area libraries or display cases the club could take to other locations. Display topics might be rock & minerals (large or showy examples), lapidary (projects in various states of completion to show the method), or how minerals are used (garnets & garnet sandpaper, graphite & pencils, etc.).

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

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Board Members:	Robert Perry	Dale Pysher	Mary Thomson	

2005 Eastern Federation Convention:

The 2005 EFMLS Convention (<http://www.amfed.org/efmls/convention.htm>) 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. Since the convention is so close, we discussed sending delegates (2) this year to represent our club at the convention meetings. Val Engelleiter, Sarah Boesch, and I (Harriet Beckman) will be going to the convention and show, and while the club can only send two actual delegates and an alternate to the convention itself, there's no reason more of us couldn't go to the social gatherings and the show. 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 or the packet of info I'll bring to the meeting. If you would be interested in going, and would like to carpool / share hotel expenses, either call me at 455-4851 or talk to me at 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>, and they now **have** updated the web site for this year's classes.

Field Trip Planning:

The club has not sponsored a major collecting trip since the Herkimer NY trip that ended up with only 3 club members going, since it was so hard to find a time when more of us could go for a whole weekend. But individual club members are welcome to plan trips, and to invite other club members to go along for company or to share expenses. Club member Ed Lytle is planning such a trip, and he sent the following info to be passed along:

In April, either the 1st or 2nd week, I will be going to the Burra Burra Mine. This is a Historic Mine Site located in Ducktown, TN. The Ducktown Basin Museum and in 1983 the Burra Burra Mine Historic District was placed on the National register of Historic Places. The State of Tennessee purchased the Museum on March 9, 1988 to be the first state-owned historic industrial site. This is a unique Copper Basin. After the museum we will go to collect garnets and massive pyrite (collecting is by appointment only). This area has Pyrite, Chalcopyrite, Pyrrhotite, Actinolite.

You will need to bring a small sledge-hammer, some chisels, a rock hammer and safety glasses. Ziplock bags and a 5-gal.bucket, scratching tool to work the dumps for garnets. Proper footwear with good ankle support is a must when climbing around the rock piles. Don't forget gloves, food and drinks.

And if there is time we will go to Blue Ridge, GA. to collect the black Staurolite crystals.

There is more info on the mine and museum on the web site of *The Georgia Mineral Society* at <http://www.gamineral.org/commercial-burra-burra.htm> .

If you might be interested in going along, check your calendars and talk to Ed at the meeting, or email him at edward_lytle@yahoo.com or phone him at 814-868-1514.

Rockhound TV This Month:

PBS: Nova: The Wave That Shook the World. <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/tsunami/> The tragic tsunami that struck the Indian Ocean on December 26, 2004, killing or injuring many hundreds of thousands of people and causing unthinkable damage, demonstrates all too clearly the devastation that tsunamis can wreak. But what are the precise scientific causes of such hugely destructive waves? What can we learn by studying past tsunamis? And can future ones be adequately detected and effective warnings sent out, so that such staggering loss of life may be averted? In a special report shot within days of the disaster, NOVA presents a clear explanation and analysis of the tragedy, revealing exactly how these deadly waves were triggered by one of the most powerful earthquakes recorded in the past century. March 29, 8:00PM. **Krakatoa.** On the morning of August 27, 1883, the rumbling volcano of Krakatoa stood more than 6,000 feet high, with a diameter of

approximately 10 miles. Later that day, this giant cone exploded so violently it was literally blown away. The effects of the volcanic explosion caused a tidal wave more than 140 feet high; one ship was carried more than two miles inland. Hail-sized stones fell as far as 100 miles away, and the city of Jakarta fell into total darkness. For many of the area's inhabitants, Armageddon had arrived. The noise of the eruption was unprecedented - it was heard as far away as Alice Springs and Madagascar. Its power has been calculated as the equivalent of 21,000 megatons of nuclear explosion. Over 36,000 people were killed immediately, and countries all over the globe were affected by the volcano's devastating after-effects. The eruption of Krakatoa was one of the best-documented natural cataclysms in history; from the first indications that something was amiss to the final explosion, each step was witnessed and recorded by the Dutch settlers living in the region. Through these testimonies, viewers can once again witness the volcano's reawakening and its final devastating eruption. KRAKATOA also examines the geological processes through which a seemingly benign, supposedly extinct volcano could have burst back to life with such ferocity and such disastrous consequences. March 29, 9:00PM.

Discovery Channel: Hope Diamond. In the labs of the Smithsonian's Natural History Museum, history is about to be made. The Hope Diamond, one of the most valuable diamonds in the world, has been removed from its setting so that scientists can take exact measurements of the famous stone. March 6, 5:00PM.

TLC: Mega Machines: Mega Crunchers. Meet a monster that's chewing up the docks of Long Beach, California, a spider-like machine with a big bite, and a concrete truck that does things backwards. Dine with a duo that feasts on 4,000-lb. boulders and crunch a path through the crust of a mine. March 22, 8:00PM, 11:00 PM.

Travel Channel: John Ratzenberger's Made In America: Barre Granite. Barre, Vermont, is the granite capital of the world, where gravestones meet their makers. In Cambridge, Ohio, the family-owned Mosser Glass Company transforms molten glass into functional works of art. March 1, 9:30PM; March 2, 12:30AM; March 5, 4:30PM. **Gold Struck.** With the right tools and a little luck, the average Joe can still strike it rich. Trek through the Australian outback, the wild hills of South Africa, and the urban markets of Istanbul and New York in search of the world's most precious metal. March 3, 4:00PM. **Secrets of Gold.** The glitter of gold defines prized works of art, ornaments of royalty and coinage, as well as tools and devices essential to modern life. Explore fascinating stories and remarkable properties that make gold the most coveted of precious metals. March 3, 5:00PM. **World's Best Lost Treasures.** Grab a shovel and a sense of adventure and head out to unearth the world's lost treasures! From shipwreck loot sunk into the sand to the greatest unsolved heists in history, join professional treasure hunters hot on the trail. March 3, 7:00PM; March 4, 2:00AM. **America's Best Places to find Cash and Treasures.** In Arkansas, diamonds can be found on the eroded surface of a volcanic pipe. Sports cars and jewelry are on the block at the Department of the Treasury's auction in Los Angeles; and in Key West, a company combs the sea bottom for the sunken treasure. March 3, 8:00PM, 11:00PM. **America's Best Places to Find Cash & Treasures – 2.** Travel the country in search of hidden riches, from precious emerald digs in North Carolina to gold claims in California. In northern Wisconsin, join the search for John Dillinger's missing suitcase, filled with cash. March 3, 9:00PM, 12:00Mid. **America's Best Places to Find Cash & Treasures – 3.** In Beverly Hills, explore exclusive pawnshops where visitors can buy diamonds, Rolls-Royces, and even an Emmy Award for rock bottom prices. Dig for rubies in North Carolina, and in Washington State, hunt for the missing loot of DB Cooper. March 3, 10:00PM; March 4, 1:00AM. **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. March 4, 4:00PM. **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. March 4, 5:00PM. **Secrets of Zion & Bryce.** In Southwestern Utah, two of America's National Parks are spectacularly different yet equally awe-inspiring. Experience the mysterious labyrinths of twisted rock and the highest sheer cliff walls in North America. March 4, 10:00PM; March 5, 1:00AM; March 6, 11:00AM. **Natural Wonders of Hawaii.** From lush tropical jungles to fiery volcanic peaks, no place else on earth offers a more diverse array of natural treasures than the Hawaiian Islands. Experience these spectacular sights up close and uncover the fascinating stories behind them. March 11, 10:00PM; March 12, 1:00AM; March 13, 11:00AM. **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. March 18, 10:00PM; March 19, 1:00AM. **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. March 23, 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. March 25, 9:00PM, 12:00Mid; March 27, 1:00PM.

Active Volcanoes. At Hawaii Volcanoes National Park in Hawaii, a geologist gathers hot lava samples from the world's most active volcano. At Mt. St. Helens in Washington, a helicopter pilot rescues campers, residents and loggers trapped by the 1981 eruption. March 25, 10:00PM; March 26, 1:00AM; March 27, 11:00AM.

History Channel: Modern Marvels: Salt Mines. It's in our blood, sweat, and tears. Join us as we dig up salt mining's history--from the "white gold" on the table to the oceanic and underground deposits whence it came. Though today we take salt for granted, most life depends on it. Roman soldiers were sometimes paid in it--hence the word salary. And many slaves died procuring it. March 16, 7:00AM. **Modern Marvels: Oil.** From the first well in Pennsylvania to the gushing Spindletop and modern supertankers, the story of oil is the story of civilization as we know it. We'll take a look at the ingenious and outrageous men who risked everything for "black gold" and unimaginable wealth. March 16, 1:00PM, 7:00PM.

Upcoming Shows in the area:

Spring is coming, and with it, the start of Gem Show Season! Here are some things to look forward to:

Mar. 4-6, Sharonville (Cincinnati), 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, 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, 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, www.gemstreetusa.com.

Apr. 1-3, Pittsburgh, PA - The International Gem & Jewelry Show. Pittsburgh ExpoMart. 301-294-0034, 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; Web site: 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 most Saturday mornings (which sometimes extend to 2:00-3:00PM), but **check the club web site** at www.treebeard.net/gemcity or call and find out if you would like to join us for any *particular* Saturday. The web site is usually updated with a 'definite' status Friday night or early Saturday morning -- or call me (Harriet) at 455-4851 or Bob Gallivan at 454-6770 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.