



The PRESQUE ISLE PROSPECTOR

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

August-September 2005

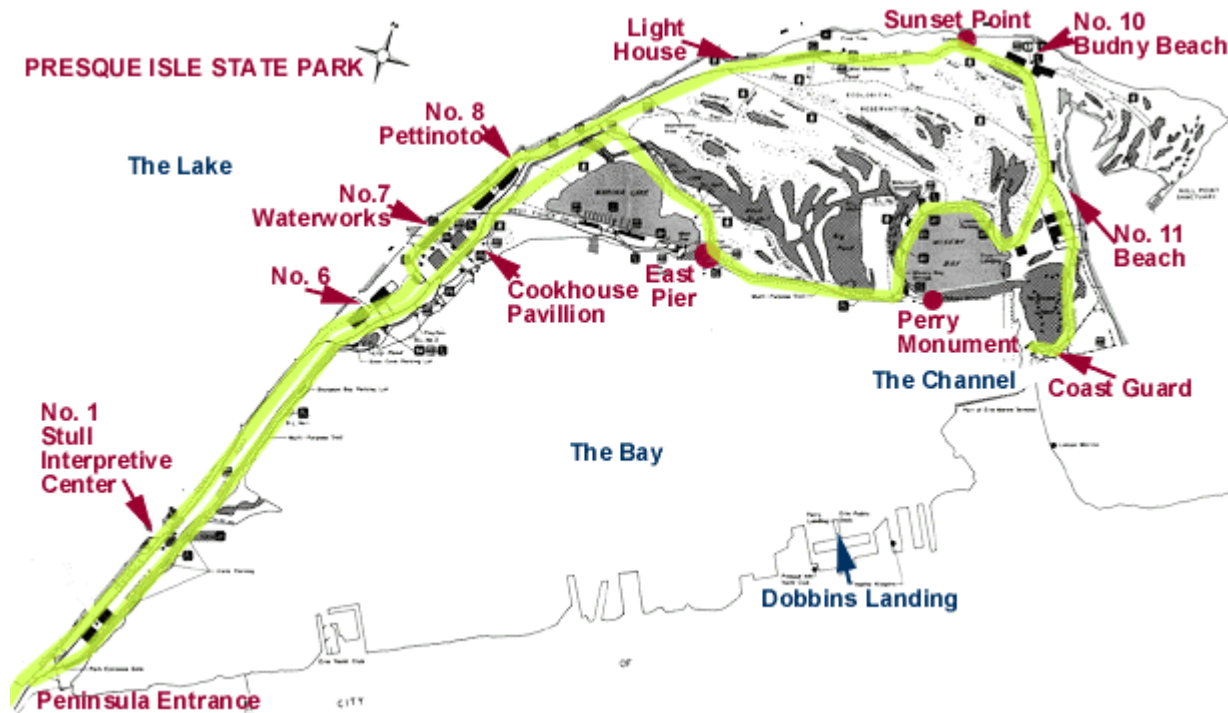


Last Month's Meeting:

Last month -- or July, anyway -- was taken up by show prep, THE SHOW, and show clean-up. Then in August, we recovered!

This Month's Meeting:

This month our meeting will be the annual Club Picnic, scheduled this year for Sunday, September 11th, at 1:30 PM, at the same Waterworks picnic area we've used for the past few years on Presque Isle. For our out-of-town members not familiar with the area, the easiest way to get there is to take I-90 to Exit 18 and take Route 832 north -- Route 832 becomes Peninsula Drive, and goes right on out to the park. We will be in the Waterworks area -- see the maps below for directions to the spot where we plan to stake out some tables.



The green lines are the main road; we will be picnicking at Waterworks, across the road from Waterworks Beach (handicap-accessible). Take the main road past waterworks, turn left on West Fisher Drive (the first road past the ponds) and take the **second** left onto the old road to the parking area. We will be sharing the park with the Erie Marathon, but we've done this before and it doesn't present any problems -- just be aware that one lane on the main road will be reserved for the runners, and you'll have to look out for them when turning. We will stake out a table or two (not the shelters that have to be reserved), and we'll have a big sign.

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

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We plan to eat around 1:30, and start arriving anytime after 12:00. The club will provide ox roast sandwiches, and you are asked to bring a side, salad or dessert to share. As usual, please **call Harriet at 814-455-4851 before September 9th** to let me know what you plan to bring so we'll have a good distribution and a head count. Some cooler space may be available to keep cold things cold, but please let me know if you need to take advantage of this.

In addition to your dish, please bring your own table service and something to drink. You might also want to bring folding chairs. We will be near a beach if anyone wants to swim or play in the water, but it will not be guarded, since it's after Labor Day.

We have several new members who joined at the show, and we are eager to meet you all! This will be a good time to get to know one another, and relax and share good food. If you have ANY questions, call me (Harriet) or Bob Gallivan or anyone else listed in the newsletter footer.

Swap Meet: This year, we will be turning the picnic into something of a tailgate-swap-meet – at the show, we met Mel Ward and his wife who had a rock shop in California for many years, but are now retired and living in Linesville, and looking to clear out some of the remaining rock stacked up in their basement. He asked if any club members might be interested in some rocks and cutting material collected out in several western states, and those of us at the admission table at the time said, “WOULD we?!” Since they are now snowbirds and plan to leave for points south in October, we invited them to come to our picnic and bring along some rock for club members to look over. He has such things as petrified wood, jasper, agate, tigereye, howlite, obsidian (snowflake, mahogany, sheen), jade (Burmese & Alaskan), turquoise, and probably other stuff collected all over the western states 30-40 years ago. He said he doesn't have a scale now but will be packaging it up by the box of approximately a pound each and pricing most of it at about \$1-\$2 per box (though the turquoise, at least, will be a *teeny* bit more ☺), with many pieces windowed or with an end cut to show an example of the material. So if you were as disappointed as I was that there was no rough to be had at our show this year, bring a few bucks along to the picnic for some shopping!

And as long as we're in a shopping and swapping mood, club members are invited to bring along anything they might rather part with in exchange for something else they might want more. For instance, when putting together the display window for the Library, I got some wire 'cage' pendants (for popping tumbled stones and things in) and some bell caps, and since I don't need all dozen cages or the whole gross of the bell caps, I'd be happy to sell / swap some of them to other club members for what I paid. I also got some 'slab candle holders', which are a metal base with a candle cup behind a channel to hold a slab – they also came by the dozen, and I don't need them all. I'm sure many other club members can think of / find in the basement other things that they got too many of, or don't have use for anymore, or just want to clear out; if it will fit in the back of your vehicle, bring it along and see if another club member would just LOVE to have the rest of that bucket of whatever-stone that you collected umpteen years ago and have cut all you need of and quite frankly don't need to trip over anymore.

In addition, I'll be bringing some more Utah rocks to share. You may remember that Frank, who lives in Utah but grew up here in Erie, sent a box of rocks he'd collected out there to the club here. Well, we sent him the newsletter with the write-up, and invited him to come to our Show. He has since sent 2 more smaller boxes of rocks, which I will bring along to the picnic. He didn't make it to Erie for our show in July, but did come in time to join us for our trip to collect fossils August 27th (see write-up below) – and he brought more rocks! Enough for any club member who's interested to have some! Of course, then he loaded up his Jeep with fossils, so he'll be just as heavy driving back home!

Major Project: This year's major project for the fall will be a beginning wire-wrapping project, the Woven-Bail Cab Pendant from the December 2004 / January 2005 issue of the Wire Artist Magazine that the club gets. We will work on this project in October, and may have to set up more than one work session so that everyone can make it to one, so check your calendars and we'll schedule times while at the picnic. The project calls for a 40x30mm cab, and 3 feet of 20-gauge square dead-soft wire and 1 foot of 21-gauge half-round half-hard wire. The club will put in a group order for the wire to get a bulk price and save on shipping, so we'll have a sign-up sheet at the picnic for how much wire you want. If you want to do the project in Sterling Silver, the cost for the wire should run about \$3-4 per pendant. If you want to do it in Gold-Filled wire, talk to me about cost – the cheapest-per-foot source of wire has a minimum order, so the actual cost will depend on how many people want to get some gold-filled wire – but probably somewhere around \$6-12, depending. Several people have already told me how many pendants they'd like to make in which type of wire, but you might want to check over my sign-up sheet to be sure I got it right (or you haven't changed your mind!).

If you didn't find a 30x40mm (or slightly smaller) cab to wrap at the Show, I have a few that I got with the batch of wire to make up the sample pendant, and I will bring them along to the picnic if you might want to buy one – or you can look in the Rio Grande catalog and see if there's something else in there you'd like to order.

The project will also require flat-nose pliers, chain-nose pliers, flush cutters, and either 3-step combination pliers or round-nose pliers – the club has some pliers, but not enough for everyone, so if you think you might want your own pliers, you can get a cheapie set at Michaels or A.C. Moore, or check around online or ask me about ordering some tools when we order the wire.

Before you spend too much on tools, though, be aware that we are trying to arrange with Franko (of *Franko Wire-Wrapping*, a vendor at our show) to have a special wire-wrapping class the day before the show NEXT summer, when he can just come up a day early and spend Friday giving a wire-wrapping class to those who are interested. He said the class would be \$50 per person for all day, and that he would provide wire and things to wrap, and he said not to buy special tools for the class because you'd get a much better idea what tools are worth the money in the class. We are still discussing the possibility of setting this up, so let me know if you are interested – Franko would prefer to have at least 8 people for the class, so we will need to judge interest within the club and how to find others to augment our numbers if we need to – but we have a few months.



Field Trip: We try to take a club field trip each year to reward us for all the work we put into the show, and while there have been a few collecting trips lately and still have one coming up, we could use a few more possibilities, especially something most of us could enjoy together. We have more information on the place several of us went in June (see trip report on the Field Trips page of the club web site at <http://www.treebeard.net/gemcity/monroe.htm>) so we can hope to do better if we go back, or there's a place Ed knows in NY state that's a little closer that has similar stuff plus some pyritized fossils. Kirk took a few people on August 13th up to collect Stag-Horn Coral (and a few other fossils!) at the site he found in a stream south of Batavia NY, and took a few more August 27th (I got to go this time!). And several of us are planning to go up to Crystal Grove in Herkimer County NY to collect Herkimer Diamonds over the long Labor Day Weekend (see more on this below). But if anyone has any other ideas of somewhere to go within daytrip range, or even weekend trip range, by all means, speak up and let us know!

We will also be facilitating carpooling for those who want to go down to the Carnegie Gem & Mineral Show (<http://www.carnegiemn.org/minerals/gemshow/home.htm>), November 18-20, this year "Silver Spectacular" also celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Hillman Hall of Gems & Minerals.

Field Trip Report – Batavia, NY, August 13th and 27th, 2005:

Had to remove this to get the filesize down, but you can see it on the web site at <http://www.treebeard.net/gemcity/bethany.htm> .

Library Display Window:

The club has had a display -- themed “**Lapidary – How Do You Cut Rocks, and What Do You Do With Them?**” -- in the window of the Presque Isle branch (in the West Erie Plaza) of the Erie County Library, but it is set to come out at the end of August (they liked it so well – and had nothing planned for August anyway – that they kept it another month), but someone from the main downtown library heard about it and came to see it, and has asked if we can put it in one of their “display tables” for October. Since the table is 30x60x9”, not everything in the window will fit, so if you contributed material and would like it back before the end of October, let me know. When I get everything out of the Presque Isle window, I’ll start formatting the items for the table display space. Check it out if you get a chance!

Trip to Collect Herkimer Diamonds over Labor Day Weekend:

A couple of club members decided that the long Labor Day Weekend would be a good time to go on a collecting trip *outside* of day-trip range, and decided that Herkimer NY sounded like a good possibility. Since this idea came up *after* the show, and a decision (and reservations!) had to be made quickly if we were to get any of the rapidly-disappearing camping spots at Crystal Grove (one of the commercial collecting sites, see <http://www.crystalgrove.com>), we contacted all those club members we could reach by email and currently have 7 people planning to carpool up and camp the weekend. We have 2 back-to-back campsites reserved, and each can house 4 people with maybe one more for a slight extra charge. We are still working out exactly how much tent space we have available, but if you have your own sleeping bag or equivalent and want to come with us, call Harriet at 455-4851 ASAP to see if we still have room. You will also need some hard-rock collecting equipment (rock hammer, sledge, chisels and splitters, goggles and gloves, etc.), but I think we’ll have most of the camping equipment covered (though if you have more, by all means let us know!). The campsites are \$27 per night per site (+ \$3/night extra-person charge for more than 4 people per site), split by however many people we have along, plus \$8.00 /day digging fee per person, plus a few bucks for food (we will be organizing what food / cooking will be communal and what each individual will bring over the next week) and more than a few bucks for gas, even carpooling – it’s a 5-6 – hour drive up and back – but better splitting the gas money among a full carload than each paying that much to drive up alone!

Rockhound TV This Month:

PBS: Beads, Baubles, and Jewels : Jewelry Making 101. Sept. 3, 12:00noon. **Naked Planet: Grand Canyon.** A geological and historical survey of the Grand Canyon explores how the stunning Colorado River gorge was formed, what sort of wildlife calls (or called) it home, and humans' impact on it. Sept. 3, 5:00AM. **NOVA: Mystery of the Megaflood.** <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/mega-flood/> What unleashed the catastrophic flood that scarred thousands of square miles in the American Northwest? One of the Earth's strangest geological riddles is the evidence for a huge catastrophe that struck eastern Washington State thousands of years ago. It took scientists decades to figure out that a colossal flood had carved out bizarre landscape features strewn across thousands of square miles. On "Mystery of the Megaflood," NOVA gets to the bottom of what created this compelling detective story. Sept. 20, 8:00PM.

Discovery Channel: Nothing rock-related this month.

TLC: Nothing rock-related this month.

Travel Channel: 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. Sept. 26, 4:00PM. **RV Crazy!** Recreational vehicles reflect the unique spirit of adventure that causes otherwise ordinary people to pack up their life and go on the road. From the wacky to the way out, see the most amazing, most amusing RVs and meet the people who call them home. Sept. 3, 2:00PM; Sept. 5, 4:00PM; Sept. 25, 9:00PM, 12:00Mid. **Mysteries of the Smithsonian.** With nine separate locations on Washington's historic Mall, the Smithsonian may be the world's

biggest museum. It is also an extraordinary storehouse of the weird and the macabre, including the giant squid in the basement of the Natural History Museum. Sept. 2, 5:00PM; Sept. 16, 7:00PM, 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. Sept. 3, 3:00PM. **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. Sept. 4, 8:00PM, 11:00PM; Sept. 19, 4:00PM. **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. Sept. 4, 9:00PM, 12:00Mid; Sept. 19, 5:00PM. **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. Sept. 4, 10:00PM, 1:00AM; Sept. 19, 6:00PM, Sept. 20, 2:00AM. **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. Sept. 4, 7:00PM; 2:00AM. **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. Sept. 5, 12:00Noon; Sept. 26, 5:00PM. **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. Sept. 5, 1:00PM; Sept. 26, 6:00PM. **Amazing Campgrounds.** Pitch a tent and gather 'round the campfire at seven of the most captivating campsites in America. Mountain biking at Utah's Devil's Garden, sailing off the California coast, and hiking through Yellowstone are just the beginning of this outdoor adventure. Sept. 5, 3:00PM. **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. Sept. 5, 7:00PM. **Stranded - with Cash Peters: Quartzsite.** Some fly. Some drive. Some RV. Quartzsite, Arizona is home to few - until fall. From November to February this desert town explodes into the fourth largest city in the state. Cash drops in to discover why Quartzsite is more than a rock-hounder's paradise. Sept. 5, 9:00PM; 12:00Mid; Sept. 11, 4:00PM. **Stranded - with Cash Peters: Coober Pedy.** Visit Coober Pedy in the Australian Outback, where the climate is so harsh that half the town resides underground. After visiting the city's oldest church, meeting Crocodile Harry, and golfing on a grassless course, Cash will see what's really down under. Sept. 5, 9:30PM, 12:30AM; Sept. 11, 4:30PM. **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. Sept. 10, 3:00PM; Sept. 29, 7:00PM, 2:00AM. **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. Sept. 14, 2:00PM. **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. Sept. 29, 8:00PM, 11:00PM.

History Channel: Hands on History: Salt Mining. Host Ron Hazelton tackles the hard and dangerous work of salt mining when he travels to Avery Island, Louisiana--home to the first salt mine in North America. Here, Ron operates the latest equipment and sets dangerous explosives in an underground city 1,600 feet beneath earth's surface. Sept. 10, 12:30PM. **Modern Marvels: The World's Biggest Machines.** Join us for a look at the biggest, heaviest, tallest, longest, meanest machines on the planet! We'll see what these monsters do and how they operate, and how they're designed and assembled. Machines investigated include the largest draglines, excavators used in mining; the biggest dump truck; a front-end loader with an 80-ton bucket and the largest tires of any vehicle; the cruise ship, the *Voyager of the Seas*; a 240-foot tall wind generator; and a fusion reaction machine the size of a football field. Sept. 15, 9AM, 3PM. **Modern Marvels: World's Biggest Machines 4.** From a giant machine press that stamps out an entire car body to a 125-ton chainsaw that cuts through the world's hardest rock; from a huge telescope that glimpses the ends of the known universe to the world's largest rock crusher. Join us for a workout of the world's largest machines, and take a long look through the lens of the world's biggest optical telescope, the Keck Observatory, atop 13,800-foot Mauna Kea in Hawaii. Sept. 15, 12:00Noon, 6:00PM. **Save Our History: Gold Rush Ghost Towns.** Join us as we travel back in time to ghost towns in Montana and northern California and bring to life the gold-rush era of the mid to late 19th century and explore how gold was mined, what challenges prospectors faced, and what technology they used to hit pay dirt. Combining archival material, original footage, and demo scenes with host Steve Thomas, we meet

gold-rush historians and aficionados, set off an explosion in a gold mine, and walk the streets of lawless towns that boomed fast and went bust even faster--where fortunes were made and killings and robberies were almost daily events. It's a fascinating journey back in time that brings gold-rush ghost town history to life. Sept. 16, 6:00AM. **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. Sept. 23, 1:00PM, 7:00PM.

Area Museum Exhibits:

The Carnegie Museum of Natural History (<http://www.carnegiemnh.org/>) in Pittsburgh keeps adding more time-lapse clips of dino-disassembly. They have now grouped them into the *Allosaurus fragilis* archive, the *Apatosaurus louisae* archive, the *Diplodocus carnegii* archive, and the *Tyrannosaurus rex* archive. These are really pretty neat to look at if you have internet access, but they are very big files, so if you're on dial-up, start them downloading and then go eat dinner or something. If you go to the Carnegie Gem Show with us in November, you can check out the progress in person, since the hall will remain open during re-construction.

Upcoming Shows in the area:

The fall show season is heating up, and there are still plenty of shows within daytrip range to do your Christmas shopping at, or find a cab for the wire-wrap project, or find cabs to wire-wrap for Christmas gifts! If the show is a commercial one with a web site, check out the web site for possible coupons off admission – Gemstreet usually has them, and others might too. If you want to go to a show but can't justify the cost of gas, call or email me and I'll put you in touch with any other club members who've expressed interest to see if you can carpool.

Sept. 9-11, Toledo, OH - 34th annual show, "Rock' Your Garden: Landscape with Earth's Jewels" Toledo Gem & Rockhound Club; Stranahan Theater Complex, 4645 Heatherdowns Blvd.; Fri. 4-9, Sat. 10-8, Sun. 10-5; adults \$3.50, seniors \$2.50, children under 12 with an adult and scouts in uniform free; landscaping with rocks, jewelry making, lapidary, bead making, and gem faceting demonstrations, dealers, finished jewelry, beads, gem trees, faceted stones, mineral specimens, fossils, cabochons, tools, carvings, silent auction, children's games, activities, and free specimens; TGRC, (419) 531-8124; Web site: www.Toledogemandrockhoundclub.com.

Sept. 17-18, Harrisburg, PA - Central Pennsylvania Rock & Mineral Club. Gem, mineral, jewelry, fossil, & bead show. Zembo Shrine Auditorium, 3rd & Division Sts. 17th, 10-6; 18th, 10-5; adults \$4, children 12 and under free; minerals, fossils, gems, jewelry, beads, directions and discount coupons on Web site. Ted Keck, 717-474-0112, www.rockandmineral.org.

Sept. 23-25, Berea, OH - Gemstreet USA. Gem, Mineral, Jewelry, Fossil, and Bead Show. Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds, 164 Eastland Rd. (Bagley Rd. entrance). 23rd, 11-7; 24th, 10-6; 25th, 11-5. Jane Strieter Smith, 216-521-GEMS, spi@stratos.net, www.gemstreetusa.com.

Oct. 1-2, Cleveland, OH - Great Lakes Intergalactic Bead & Jewelry Show. Cuyahoga Fairgrounds, 19000 Bagley Rd. 10-5 daily. 888-729-6904, ibs@beadshows.com, www.beadshows.com.

Oct. 8-9, Worthington, PA - Kit-Han-Ne Rock & Gem Club Show. Worthington-West Franklin Fire Hall, Rte. 422. 8th, 10-6; 9th, 10-5. Albert Zabinski, 724-567-3237.

Oct. 22-23, Cuyahoga Falls, OH - Summit Lapidary Club and Akron Mineral Society. Gemboree. Emidio & Sons Expo Center, 48 E. Bath Rd. 22nd, 10-7; 23rd, 10-6; minerals, rocks, gems, jewelry. Warren Salchak, 330-929-3798, or Carl Miller, (330) 633-4250; www.lapidaryclubofohio.org.

Oct. 22-23, Rochester, NY - Rochester Lapidary Society. Gem, Jewelry, Fossil, and Bead Show. Monroe County Fairgrounds, Minett Hall, Calkins Rd. 22nd, 10-6; 23, 10-5; gems, jewelry, fossils, beads, kids' activities, demonstrations;. Larry Schulman, 585-271-6967.

Nov. 11-13, Washington, PA - Fair & Balanced Promotions. Annual Jewelry, Mineral, and Fossil Show. Washington County Fairgrounds, Bldg. 4. 11th & 12th, 10-6; 13th, 10-5; gems, minerals, jewelry. F.M. Zambrotto, 304-825-6845, frankowrap@juno.com.

Nov. 12-13, Pittsburgh, PA - Bead Mercantile Shows. Allegheny Valley Holiday Inn, 180 Gamma Dr. 423-639-7919, fax 423-638-5676, dawn@beadmercantile.com, www.beadmercantile.com.

Nov. 18-20, Pittsburgh, PA - Carnegie Museum of Natural History. Gem and Mineral Show: Silver Spectacular. 412-622-3131, www.carnegiemuseums.org/cmnh/minerals/gemshow.

Nov. 25-27, Hamburg, NY - GEMSTREET USA. Gem, Mineral, Jewelry, Fossil, and Bead Show. Erie County Fairgrounds, 5600 McKinley Pkwy. 25th, 11-7; 26th, 10-6; 27th, 11-5. Jane Strieter Smith, 216-521-GEMS, spi@stratos.net, www.gemstreetusa.com.

These are only the shows within day-trip distance, 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 **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.