



The PRESQUE ISLE PROSPECTOR

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

May 2006



Last Month's Meeting:

Last month we watched one of the programs from the Rockhound TV lists that had been recorded.

This Month's Meeting:

This month our meeting will be Saturday, May 6th, at 9:30AM. Since Bob G. will be out of town for May's meeting too, it looks like we will have to push back the Tumbling program to June, and this month we will have a show-and-tell, so dig out your newest / niftiest / favorite rock, mineral, or fossil to show the rest of us, and tell us something about it. If, that is, all your niftiest stuff isn't already in the Library Window display! It can be something you've found, something you've bought, or something you've made. This is a good time to share with us the smaller things that wouldn't show well in the display window, the kind of thing that you need to see up close. Or maybe you have stuff that you meant to get to the club for the window, but didn't get around to it yet – bring it along, and it can still go in, to show it off to all of Erie!

We will also be setting up some work sessions to make the second batch of Discovery Blocks. In fact, depending on how long the meeting runs, we may do the sorting-out after the meeting. It doesn't take long, is not very difficult and requires no special skills, so come along and make a mess with us! If you have any more interesting stuff to put in them, please bring it along to the meeting.

And we will be having a brief (2-minute?) board meeting, to vote on the minor changes to the by-laws as previously discussed; once that is okayed by the board, the new bylaws with the changes will be sent out to the whole membership for review and a vote in June.

Choosing a Major Fall Project:

We need to think about a Major Project for the fall – preferably something that even a beginner can do with a little guidance, and that can be finished in one or maybe two work sessions, and requires materials we can shop for at the show in July. Last year, our wire-wrapping project (the Woven-Bail Pendant) went over very well, and many pendants were made! Other past projects have been Slab Clocks, of which quite a few were made, and table-top fountains, of which very few were made. So some ideas have been more successful than others.

Now we need ideas for this year's project! There are a few more beginner-level wire-wrapping ideas, or it could be a lapidary project like the slab clocks, or beading, or beginning metalwork, or.... Please put some thought into this, and bring along an idea or two – with a picture or a sketch, if possible, so we'll all know exactly what you're talking about!

Library Window Display:

By the May meeting, the display should be in the Library window, and many thanks to those club members who contributed materials to include! If you have anything really spiffy that you'd like to show off and either didn't have or couldn't get to the club until the May meeting, you could still bring it along and I'll try to put it in a bit late – if there's room! Do stop down at the Library after the meeting and check out the display – there's lots of cool stuff that we generally don't get to see from other member's personal collections, and now's the chance to see it all!

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Federation News:

The Eastern Federation Newsletter (online at <http://www.amfed.org/efmls/efmay06.pdf>) has an article on the EFMLS Convention, hosted this year by The Gem and Mineral Society of the Palm Beaches, Palm Beach County Florida, Friday, November 17th through Sunday, November 19th. It coincides with the society's 40th annual show (Saturday & Sunday, November 18th & 19th). The Safety First article this month is on Fire Safety, timely since we are heading into field trip / camping season. There is also a notice that Dr. Frederick H. Pough, distinguished mineralogist and author, died on April 7 at the age of 99 while attending the Rochester Mineral Symposium. Many of us have a copy of his "Field Guide to Rocks & Minerals" first published in 1953 and now in its 5th revision, and a few years ago he donated his extensive slide collection of mineral subjects to the AFMS.

The American Federation Newsletter (online at http://www.amfed.org/news/n2006_05.pdf) has more information on the AFMS national convention, held this year in Nashville, TN, August 16-20. A schedule of events is given for the convention and show, and more info on the optional field trips that have been organized. It also has pictures of more new donations for the AFMS Endowment Fund Raffle – this fund is where the money comes from for the AFMS to duplicate the programs that they donate to the regional federation libraries, and we certainly appreciate having those available! There is also a sad article about a well-known rock shop and geode-digging beds near Keokuk, Iowa, that have been closed down due to being condemned under eminent domain to expand a highway. We lose more collecting spots all the time!

Tumbling Tips:

Many club members have rock tumblers, and anyone who does not can get one pretty cheap now that we have Harbor Freight in town at the Liberty Plaza – they sell a small 3-pound tumbler (about a pint capacity) for about \$30, but it often goes on sale for about \$22, so it's not a huge investment and is a good way to get started in lapidary and see the steps to polish rocks. Or you can often get good deals on used equipment on eBay.

But getting it to work well is not simply a matter of turning it on – and a vibratory tumbler works differently from a rotary tumbler. So those of us with tumblers are looking forward to Bob's program on how to get them to work most effectively. In the mean time, here are a few tips from other rock club newsletters:

One of the cardinal rules in using the tumbler is "do not overload". The ideal tumbling load is slightly less than 3/4 full. Use only enough water to fill the voids between the stones, with no more than 1 / 8 of an inch over the top of the stones.

Another item that causes difficulty is the amount of abrasive. Use only enough to cover the surface area of the stones. This usually takes about one pound of #100 grit for each eight pounds of rock. This may be further reduced as the #400 and #600 grit is used, as the finer particles possess more surface area, and 3/4 pound of grit with eight pounds of rock is usually sufficient.

-- from The Southwest Gem 7/00 via The Cowtown Cutter, 1/01. via RockCollector 2/01

When tumbling rocks to polish, you can add desert sand to the first grit in the tumbler. Place plain white rice in with the stones for the last polishing. This will do a wonderful job and the rice will keep the stones from chipping.

via Southwest Gem, 12/96, via The Cowtown Cutter, 3/01

A rock in a swift maintained stream may be rounded off, but the outer surface will be very rough due to pounding together by movement. The same action occurs on a minute scale in all tumblers, either vibration or rotation. The only way to minimize pounding action is to have sufficient separating media to cushion the load in the barrel. Small to very small stones or broken glass, ceramic bits or garnets are all very good.

From The Cowtown Cutter, 3/01 by Bill Meyers- Ft Worth Gem and Mineral Club member. Via RockCollector 4/01

New Method of Tumbling by Al Nutile in Tulip City Conglomerate

The writer believes that the following idea can take much of the work from the popular method of tumbling. All of the instructions we have seen state: "Wash stones and tumble very clean between each change of grit or final materials," at the same time stating, "If liquid is too thick add some slurr or grit from previously used material."

We know some will argue against our method, but here goes: Don't wash at all after each week of tumbling with grit! Start with #50 grit, tumbling a week. Then DON'T EMPTY THE TUMBLER, but add 5 teaspoons of new grit [one step finer]

to the mixture in the three pound tumbler. Follow this procedure through #190, #320 and #600 grit. Now [finally] thoroughly wash the stones and tumbler before pre-polish and final polishing.

For a really glossy finish, take one or more weeks [after washing out the polishing powder] adding three spoons of sugar, one spoon [level] of Cascade or All or any non-sudsing detergent and add about ten drops of muriatic acid, if you have some, let stand one minute - open, close tub, and tumble for a week.

We have run eleven tubs using this method and found that even ordinary sandstone comes out highly glossed. Except for extra final steps, you save three washings and getting rid of the slurr each time. Saves time, work and mess, and still gets a better polish.

From Pickin's & Diggitis 7/96 et al via The Rockhouser October '99, via The Poedomorph May 2000, via Rock Chips 6/00

(Has anyone tried this? I'd be eager to know how well it works! – Harriet)

Rockhound TV This Month:

PBS: Globe Trekker: Arab Gulf States. War memorials in Kuwait; the Hajar Mountains, which separate Oman and Dubai. Also: diving for pearls in the Arabian Gulf. Apr. 30, 3:00AM. **Nova: Mystery of the Megaflood.** What unleashed a catastrophic flood that scarred thousands of square miles in the American Northwest? May 16, 8:00PM. **Nova: Volcano Under the City.** A restless mountain threatens a bustling metropolis perched on its flanks. May 23, 8:00PM.

Discovery Channel: Megaquake. Earthquake preparation has become a normal part of life for West Coast residents. But scientists believe a quake far stronger than ever before may be on the way. The "megathrust" quake could unleash volcano eruptions, landslides and tsunamis. May 6, 7:00PM, 11:00PM. **Extreme Engineering: Iceland Tunnels.** The Eastern Highland, a vast plateau 100 miles south of the Arctic Circle, is the site of a bold challenge of extreme engineering. World-class tunnel diggers are carving more than 45 miles of tunnels through solid rock hundreds of feet underground. May 10, 7:00PM; May 30, 11:00AM. **Dinosaur Planet: White Tip's Journey.** When White Tip loses the rest of her pack, she must struggle to survive on her own. In time, she locates a new pack, as well as a mate, only to find that her hardships are just beginning in the harsh desert environment. Christian Slater narrates. May 21, 9:00AM. **Dinosaur Planet: Alpha's Egg.** The world is a very dangerous place for tiny hatchlings like Alpha, a female saltasaur. Follow Alpha along the road of her growth years, from before her birth through adolescence and on to adulthood, as she learns how to survive and beat the odds. May 21, 10:00AM. **Dinosaur Planet: Pod's Travels.** Pod is alone in the world after his sisters die in a tidal wave that sweeps him out to sea. After landing on an island populated with dwarf-sized dinosaurs, Pod discovers that he's become the apex predator. But, Pod learns it's lonely at the top. May 21, 11:00AM. **Dinosaur Planet: Little Das' Hunt.** As a young male, it's Das' job to herd unsuspecting prey towards the rest of the pack. But he's easily distracted and ruins several hunts getting him in deep trouble with his mother, the pack leader. When a volcano threatens, the dinosaurs are unprepared. May 21, 12:00PM.

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. May 2, 10:00AM; May 3, 7:00PM, 2:00AM; May 16, 10:00PM, 1:00AM; May 20, 2:00PM. **Best of the National Parks.** Each year, millions of people are amazed by majestic vistas, geysers, smoldering volcanoes and rugged country where wildlife roam free. Visit the most spectacular places and open spaces in North America, from Yosemite to the Everglades. May 3, 10:00AM. **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. May 5, 10:00AM. **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. May 6, 3:00PM. **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. May 7, 1:00PM; May 12, 10:00AM. **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. May 7, 2:00PM. **U.S. National Parks.** Steve Irwin, his wife Terri, daughter Bindi and son Robert take an epic two thousand mile 'North to South' road journey through the heartland of America visiting seven of the most spectacular and diverse national parks in the country. May 7, 3:00PM. **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. May 9, 10:00AM; May 29, 5:00PM. **Hidden Yosemite.** To discover the true beauty of Yosemite, trek by llama and mule to remote locations not mentioned in the guidebooks. Discover the secrets to ice climbing, snow camping and snow shoeing, and make reservations for a traditional Christmas dinner. May 9, 5:00PM. **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. May 9, 7:00PM, 2:00AM; May 31, 5:00PM. **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. May 20, 3:00PM. **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. May 21, 3:00PM; May 24, 6:00PM; May 30, 10:00AM. **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. May 21, 4:00PM; May 24, 5:00PM. **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. May 23, 10:00PM, 1:00AM; May 27, 2:00PM. **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. May 28, 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 sunken treasure. May 31, 10:00AM. **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. May 31, 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. May 31, 7:00PM, 2:00AM.

History Channel: Modern Marvels: Diamond Mines. Half a mile below the earth's surface, men mine for rough diamonds--a pure carbon substance. Brilliant when cut and polished, they are marketed as the most precious gem in the world. From the earliest mines of the 4th century BC to today's technological wonders in South Africa, we explore the history and technology of the diamond mine. May 3, 8:00PM, 12:00AM. **Modern Marvels: Silver Mines.** It was called the "mother lode", a deposit of silver so massive that it would produce \$300-million in its first 25 years of operation, establish Nevada as a state, and bankroll the Union Army in the Civil War. Named after an early investor, we'll see how the Comstock Lode, discovered near Virginia City, proved to be a scientific laboratory from which vast improvements in mining technology and safety were pioneered, including innovations in drilling, ventilation, drainage, and ore processing. May 3, 9:00PM, 1:00AM. **Modern Marvels: Shovels.** From a prehistoric sharpened digging stick to today's \$15-million monster machines, our journey for the ultimate shovel begins in California's borax mines, where the P&H 4100 uses advanced electronics, brute strength, and savvy operators to excavate 170-ton chunks in a single scoop. We travel back to 1835, when William Otis set off an American digging frenzy with his patented steam shovel. And at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, we kick the legs of NASA's latest Mars Lander: *Phoenix*. This stationary probe has a robotic arm with a shovel scoop designed to dig into the soil, locate ice, and analyze its properties. Back on Earth, the Hitachi Corporation's 200-ton hydraulic humanitarian shovel is designed to locate and explode landmines in Third-World countries. May 3, 10:00PM, 2:00AM. **Modern Marvels: Coal Mines.** Coal--the fuel responsible for more than half the electricity used daily. We unearth the amazing technological advances that have led to today's extremely efficient methods--from ancient techniques to the simplistic bell-pit method, from drift mining, surface mining, and strip mining to modern longwall mining, when a massive machine extracts an entire wall of coal in seconds. We go underground with miners in West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Wyoming, and also address environmental concerns. May 3, 11:00PM, 3:00AM. **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. May 6, 10:00AM. **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. May 6, 11:00AM. **Mega Disasters: San Francisco Earthquake.** At the dawn of the 20th century, San Francisco was the place to be; a hub of trade and travel, business and banking. Located just to the east of the San Andreas Fault, the bay area is interlaced with eight major earthquake-producing faults. We examine the cataclysmic earthquake that struck on April 18, 1906--it jolted the city for 50 seconds, the earth split for 270 miles, and a resulting firestorm raged for three days. Amazing photographs document the city's destruction and efforts to rebuild. But the rush to get back in business came at a price--the city was rebuilt on the same seismic hazards. Now scientists warn that if it happens again damage and casualties will be much worse. The potential catastrophe unfolds through state-of-the-art graphics with bridges collapsing, high-rise fires, and freeways destroyed. A similar seismic jolt today would lead to a mega-disaster in San Francisco, with billions of dollars in damage and casualties in the tens of thousands. May 8, 9:00PM, 1:00AM. **Modern Marvels: Quarries.** Dynamite explodes hills to bits, drills divide sheer stone walls, 400,000-pound blocks are pulled from pits by giant cranes, and men work around the clock to wrest rock out of the earth. Not diamonds or gold...rock, the raw material of civilization! Without rock, modern society wouldn't exist. Roads, sewers, dams, bridges, buildings, paint, glue, make-up, antacids, and even chewing gum need crushed stone. From ancient days to the present, we explore the evolution of quarrying techniques. May 9, 12:00PM, 6:00PM. **Modern Marvels: Drilling.** Spiraling deep into the ground...driving holes through solid rock...rotating, hammering, and scraping its way through whatever it may encounter...whether it's earth or ice, steel or stone, nothing can stand in its way! This episode penetrates the world of drilling and explores various types of drilling's colorful histories. From drilling for water in the New Mexico desert to searching for oil in the Gulf of Mexico, we'll show you how it's done. The program features the quest to drill the deepest hole ever and the scientific drill ship expected to perform the feat, and also looks at drills used to recover ice cores that will unearth thousands of years of climate history. We also examine the latest and greatest tunnel boring machines, robotic drills, and handheld power drills. Finally, we check out laser drills--both large and small--including a drill that can bore a hole a fraction of the diameter of a human hair. May 10, 10:00PM, 2:00AM. **Mega Disasters: West Coast Tsunami.** What would happen if a massive earthquake and tsunami were to strike the West Coast of the United States? Experts say it could easily match the catastrophic 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami in scale and might. A 700-mile stretch of coast, from northern California to southern British Columbia lies just off the extremely volatile Cascadia Subduction Zone. Many seismologists say that after more than 300 years of massive pressure build-up, it is likely to erupt in the not too distant future. And it has happened in the past. Geologists have discovered evidence of a massive tsunami that struck the Pacific Northwest in 1700--as powerful as the devastating Indian Ocean Tsunami of 2004. Hundreds of thousands of lives are at stake. We'll talk to emergency planners, seismologists, and other researchers who are trying to get a handle on when Cascadia will blow, and what--if anything--we can do to minimize the disaster. May 14, 7:00PM; May 29, 11:00PM, 3:00AM. **Tsunami 2004: Waves of Death.** The 2004 Tsunami, centered in the Indian Ocean, was caused by a 9.3 earthquake--the second strongest quake on record. Join us for a minute-by-minute look at nature's fury at its worst, when the tsunami kills more than 200,000 people in 14 countries. In this special, we examine the tsunami as it moves from coast to coast through the eyes of people who lived through it and scientists now studying its path of devastation. Drawing on the extraordinary volume of amateur video that recorded the disaster, we take viewers inside the world's deadliest tsunami. May 14, 11:00PM, 3:00AM. **Klondike: Quest for Gold. Part 1.** This 4-part special follows four men and one woman as they retrace the historic route taken during the 1897-98 Klondike Gold Rush. Their amazing adventure takes them along the infamous Chilkoot Trail and up the Yukon River to the gold fields near Dawson, Canada--equipped with period clothes and tools, and carrying 3,000 pounds of provisions! Intertwined are stories from journals of people who sought their fortune in this stunningly beautiful and incredibly harsh part of the Canadian wilderness. Our team--Joe, Andria, Rick, Sebastien, and Dave--arrives in Skagway, Alaska and makes final preparations to depart from the trailhead at the historic town site of Dyea. They begin their arduous journey on the Chilkoot Trail and despite the help of Tlingit packers, quickly realize it's much more difficult than they imagined. Tension arises between Andria and the men when she announces that they may not have enough food to last them through the journey. May 15, 8:00AM, 2:00PM. **Klondike: Quest for Gold. Part 2.** The team continues to tackle the Chilkoot Trail with their heavy load of provisions, but falls behind schedule and begins to run out of food. The packers refuse to climb the notoriously steep Golden Staircase in bad weather, so the team struggles on alone. After many long hard days climbing to the Chilkoot Pass, weak and underfed, they reach the Canadian border with all their goods, but must pass an Royal Canadian Mounted Police inspection before they are allowed into Canada. Continuing on to their new camp at historic Lake Lindeman, Andria is left behind by the men on the trail and is forced to walk the trail through grizzly bear country alone. May 15, 9:00AM, 3:00PM. **Klondike: Quest for Gold. Part 3.** Their amazing adventure continues in Part 3 of this special that follows four men and one woman as they retrace the historic route taken during the 1897-98 Klondike Gold Rush. May 16, 8:00AM, 2:00PM. **Klondike: Quest for Gold. Part 4.** The arrival in Dawson becomes a huge celebration, and the team enjoys a full meal and their first bath in over two months! Dave and Andria part ways with the rest of the

team to experience life in Dawson. Andria finds a job as a barmaid in a 100-year-old pub and Dave, a journalist, writes about his experiences on the journey. The other three men travel by horseback to the gold fields--getting lost on the way to the claim! When they finally arrive, they use gold pans and rocker boxes to try their luck at prospecting. The team member that gets the most gold finds it in a surprising way. May 16, 9:00AM, 3:00PM. **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. May 17, 1:00PM, 7:00PM. **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. May 26, 7:00AM. **Mega Disasters: American Volcano.** The 1980 Mount St. Helens' eruption alerted the world to the dangers of an explosive volcano in the Cascade Range. The fiery blast that killed every living thing within a 25-mile radius and unleashed the biggest landslide in recorded history. Now, Mount Rainier, 60 miles east of Seattle, threatens an even greater loss of life and property. This 14,000-foot peak holds more ice and snow than all other volcanoes in the Cascade Range combined. Even a small eruption at Rainier could unleash a debris mudslide that would entomb several towns in the valley below. Tens of thousands of people are in grave danger. Geologists say that it's not a question of if Rainier, an active volcano, will erupt...but when. Experts have mapped out the hazard zone and engineered a sophisticated warning system. But when Rainier blows, the window for evacuation is small. As we'll see, people must have an efficient evacuation plan, or else the loss of lives will be incredible. May 30, 9:00PM, 1:00AM.

Upcoming Shows in the area:

Apr. 28-30, Pittsburgh, PA - International Gem & Jewelry Show, Inc. Pittsburgh ExpoMart. 301-294-1640, fax 301-294-0034, info@intergem.net, www.intergem.com.

May 5-7, Washington, PA - Fair & Balanced Promotions. Greater Pittsburgh Area Jewelry, Gem, and Mineral Show. Washington County Fairgrounds, I-79N exit 40, I-79S exit 41; jewelry, gems, minerals, jewelry repair, stone setting. 5th & 6th, 10-6; 7th, 11-5. F.M. Zambrotto, 304-825-6845, frankowrap@juno.com.

May 13-14, Berea, OH - Parma Lapidary Club. 38th Annual Cleveland Area Gem and Mineral Show, "Beautiful World of Rocks and Gems". Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds, Bagley Rd. 13th, 10-7; 14th, 11-5. Adults \$5, good for both days, children 12 and under free with adult; minerals, crystals, gemstones and fossils from around the world, handcrafted jewelry, beads, tools, supplies and equipment, kids' Treasure Dig, projects, auction games, lapidary demonstrations, exhibits, hourly door prizes; John Zaborowski, 440-949-8242, jjzabor@adelphia.net, www.parmalapidary.com.

May 19-21, Rochester, NY - GemStreet USA. Gem, Mineral, Jewelry, Fossil, and Bead Show. Monroe County Fairgrounds, 2695 E. Henrietta Rd. 19th, 11-7; 20th, 10-6; 21st, 11-5. Strieter Productions, Inc., Jane Strieter-Smith, 216-521-GEMS, spi@stratos.net.

June 3-4, St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada - "Geo-Venture 2006"; Niagara Peninsula Geological Society; Niagara Children's Discovery Centre, 360 Niagara St.; Sat. 10-17, Sun. 10-17; displays of fossils, minerals and lapidary arts, demonstrations, children's workshops, soapstone carving, auctions, sale of geological specimens, lapidary supplies, and finished jewelry; contact Rod Turnbull, 4893 St. Lawrence Ave., Niagara Falls, ON L2E3Y1, (905) 357-5132; e-mail: niagara.geology@gmail.com; Web site: www.ccfms.ca/Clubs/NPGS.

Of course, as always, if you're planning to travel, check out the complete online listings at the Rock and Gem Magazine Calendar (<http://www.rockngem.com/showdates/showdates.shtml>), and the Lapidary Journal Calendar (<http://www.lapidaryjournal.com/cal1.cfm>). While 90% or better of these listings are exactly the same, if you only check one, you could miss one in the 10% that *aren't* in both that's just the one you wanted!

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.