



# The PRESQUE ISLE PROSPECTOR



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

June 2006



## Last Month's Meeting:

Last month we had a show-and-tell at which some of us brought in neat things to look at and drool over, and then most of us drove down to the library to see the BIG show-and-tell in the display window. Thanks again to all those who contributed stuff to display!

## This Month's Meeting:

This month our meeting will be Saturday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 9:30AM. This month we really are going to have the Tumbling program! Bob G. will be not just telling us, but **showing** us how to tumble stones. If you have a tumbler, either a rotary or a vibratory (or both!), bring it (them) along – Bob has used both types, and he will show us how to set them up so we can **see** what is the appropriate amount of tumbling stuff, and grit, and water, to get good results.

If you do not have a tumbler, there are of course many places to get them online, and one local place – Harbor Freight in the Liberty Plaza has small, 3-pound tumblers (about a pint) for \$29.99, but currently on sale for \$19.99 (at least at [www.harborfreight.com](http://www.harborfreight.com) -- may or may not be on sale at the store). They also have a dual 3-pound tumbler (2 3-pound drums) for \$39.99 (currently \$34.99 on web), or a 5-pound vibratory tumbler for \$59.99. This is much cheaper than the tumblers you'd get from lapidary supply manufacturers, but like most things, it is also a get-what-you-pay-for thing – this is a great way to get into tumbling cheaply, but if you like it, you'll probably want a better tumbler when this one dies.

We will also be putting together a club order for grit, since there's nowhere local to get it without paying an arm and a leg and bulk orders are *lots* cheaper. So think about how much tumbling you think you might like to do, and then once Bob helps us figure out how much grit to use, you can figure out how much to order.

## Major Fall Project:

We can discuss this again, since we had a small-ish group for the May meeting, but we tentatively decided that our fall project would be a simple intarsia, a center stone with a square or rectangular frame – something like this, but probably *not opal* for a first project! You will need a



center focal piece, something with a pattern probably, like the agates / jaspers below, and then one or two stones to frame it with, preferably of similar hardness.

Since the frame will take very little stone, we might want to have a "slab swap" or maybe even a "strip swap" so that we can see a greater variety and maybe share out the cost of material for the border pieces, which will be less patterned and more a solid color. So look through your slabs to see if you have some of



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<http://www.treebeard.net/gemcity/index.htm>

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solid-color material, like aventurine or lapis or rose quartz or any plain jasper or agate or anything else, and determine what value you'd place on a few strips of it for trading. We'll probably want to have a survey session before shopping at the show, and save the actual swapping until after the show when we have our focal pieces.

### **Changes to Club By-Laws:**

You will have noticed that this newsletter is fairly thick, but actually, the newsletter itself is cut back to four pages so that a copy of the club By-Laws, with a few proposed amendments, could be included for the regular postage.

The changes are mainly that we have had to raise club dues – but since we haven't had a raise in at least 20 years, perhaps that's not too bad! The new dues rates would raise an individual annual membership from \$10 to \$15, a couple or parent and one child from \$15 to \$20, a junior or student from \$5 to \$10, and a family from \$20 to \$25. This is still a very good deal!

Other changes are the formal removal of the 50¢ work session charge that we have already done away with, and a suggestion that we should have a formal permission slip / liability release for any junior member accompanied by a senior member not their parent or guardian on a club field trip. Perhaps some parents would help us with what exactly this form should include?

Please read through the by-laws and note these few changes that have been proposed and approved by the Board. We will need to vote on the changes at the June meeting.

### **Federation News:**

The Eastern Federation Newsletter (online at <http://www.amfed.org/efmls/efjune06.pdf>) has more info 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 Sun and Heat Safety, timely since we are heading into warmer field trip season.

The American Federation Newsletter (should be at [http://www.amfed.org/news/n2006\\_06.pdf](http://www.amfed.org/news/n2006_06.pdf), but not online as of yet) has more pictures of more new donations for the AFMS Endowment Fund Raffle to be held at the AFMS national convention, held this year in Nashville, TN, August 16-20. The safety article is on the importance of clearly labeling not only those substances that might be toxic if misused, like fluxes and polishes and other chemicals, but even those that might just not work so well if confused, like different grades of solder or fine vs. sterling silver.

### **Items for Sale:**

Club member Ed has had health problems, and has decided he needs to sell a few things, and he'll give club members first shot before putting them on eBay:

1) Wire Name Jewelry Course on 6 DVDs – a wire-wrapping course on how to making all the letters, capital and small, and to make wire name jewelry. He made this pin after viewing the course. He is asking \$100 (he paid ~\$160).

2) Faceter – Graves Mark I with 8" laps in various condition -- 100, 360, 2-1200, 3000, tin-lead lap, 18 dops, 2 index gears (64 & 96) – electric pre-former (almost \$100 in itself). If you've been down to see the Library Display window, he made the "how a stone is faceted" pre-form, crown and pavilion stones with it. He is asking \$600 (~ \$1300 new).

Call him at 868-1514 if you are interested.



### Library Window Display:

The Gem City Rock & Mineral Society has had a display in the large window of the Blasco Library, 160 East Front St., in downtown Erie, for the month of May.

The display will be coming out of the library window June 1&2, so if you haven't gotten down there to see it yet, go **fast!** The library is closed Sunday & Monday for Memorial Day, but Tuesday and Wednesday it is open 9:00AM to 8:30PM. This photo is of the Rock & Mineral section of the display, there are also sections on Fossils and Lapidary. There are more photos on the club web site at <http://treebeard.net/gemcity/libwin.htm> .



### You Might be a Rockhound If...

**Mel Albright**, editor of *Osage Hills Gems* (Osage Hills Gem and Mineral Society, Bartlesville, Oklahoma) says, "You might be a rockhound if ..."

- You think road cuts are built as tourist attractions.
- You describe your vacations by the rocks you brought home.
- The rockpile in your garage is over your head.
- Your screen saver on your personal computer features pictures of rocks.
- You find rocks when you empty your pockets at night.
- You went to a rock festival -- and you hate music.
- You gave rocks, tumblers, or rock tools as Christmas gifts.
- When friends say they're going to Tucson, you assume it'll be in February.
- You can find Quartzsite on a map in less than 5 seconds.

**Richard Busch**, editor of *Lithosphere* (Fallbrook Gem and Mineral Society, Fallbrook, California) says, "You might be a rockhound if ..."

- When someone mentions "Franklin" you think of New Jersey rather than Ben.
- You can pronounce "molybdenite" correctly on the first try.

- The polished slab on your bola tie is six inches in diameter.
- You examine individual rocks in driveway gravel.
- You shouted "Obsidian!" to a theater full of movie-goers while watching *The Shawshank Redemption*.
- Your children have names like Rocky, Jewel, and Beryl.
- The bookshelves in your home hold more rocks than books; and the books that are there are about rocks.
- On a trip to Europe, you're the only member of the group who spends their time looking at cathedral walls through a pocket magnifier.

—*from Lithosphere* (April 1996); Fallbrook Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.; Fallbrook, CA

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

I had intended to just eliminate this section for the month to save space, and since with summer there aren't so many new programs, more repeats, but I had to include this one:

**PBS: Nature: Diamonds.** <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/nature/diamonds/index.html> An encyclopedic look at the oldest, hardest natural substance in the world -- diamonds -- from their beginnings in the core of the earth, through mining and acquisition, to the history of the most famous of these extraordinary gems. June 4, 12Mid; June 5, 3:00AM.

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

**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](mailto:niagara.geology@gmail.com); Web site: [www.ccfms.ca/Clubs/NPGS](http://www.ccfms.ca/Clubs/NPGS).

**July 8-9, Syracuse, NY** - 40th annual show and sale, "Ruby Red Wonders"; Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse; New York State Fairgrounds, Verizon Center of Progress Bldg., I-690 Exit 7; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; adults \$5, children under 12 free; 41 dealers, 10 wholesalers, educational exhibits, kids' fun things, door and show prizes; contact Lou Budell, (315) 673-1891; or Web site: [www.gmss.us](http://www.gmss.us).

**July 15-16, Erie, PA** - 37th Annual Gem & Mineral Show; Gem City Rock & Mineral Club. Perry Hi-way Hose Co., 8270 Peach St; Erie, PA. Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$2.50, seniors \$1.50, children free; contact Bob Gallivan, (814) 454-6770.

**Aug. 26-27, State College, PA** - Nittany Mineralogical Society. Mt. Nittany Middle School. Bernie Pisarchick, 814-265-8887, [bernie@lodins.com](mailto:bernie@lodins.com), [www.lodins.com](http://www.lodins.com).

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](http://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.