



# The PRESQUE ISLE PROSPECTOR



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

**August-September 2006**

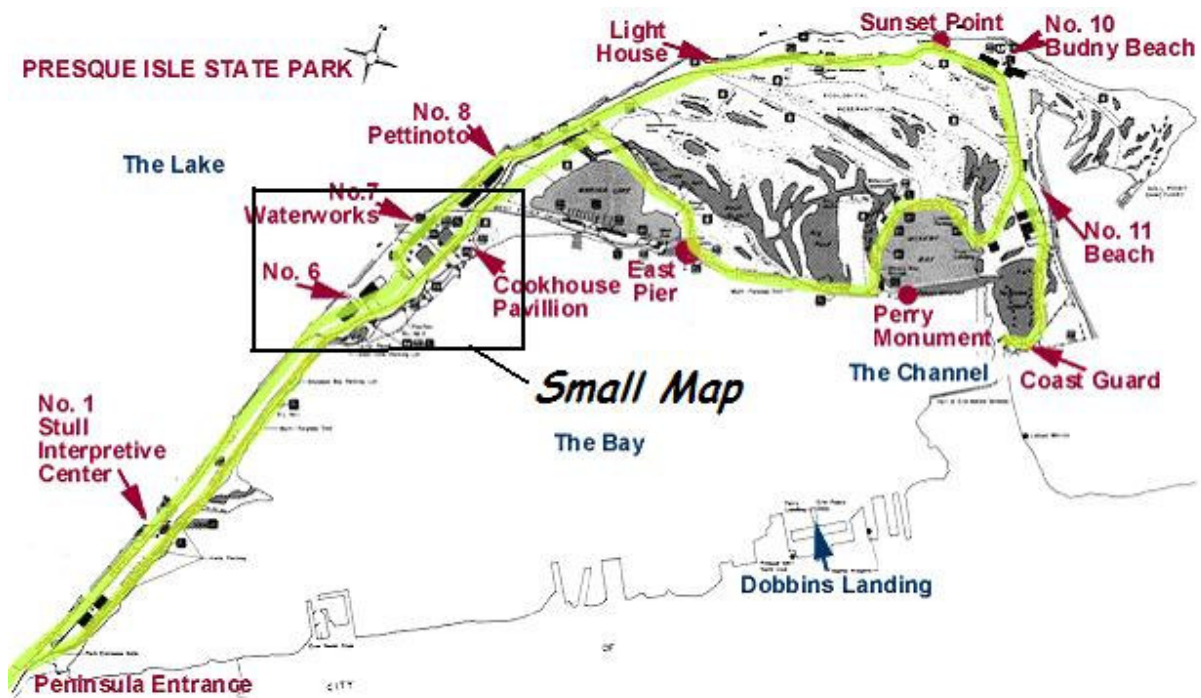


## Last Month's Meeting:

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 10<sup>th</sup>, at 1:30 PM, at the Niagara Boat Launch picnic area on Presque Isle, where we ended up last year when we couldn't get to Waterworks (due to the Marathon -- on again this year), and we liked it better! Families / Significant Others are welcome to come join the fun. 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. See the maps below for directions to the spot where we plan to stake out some tables.



The yellow lines are the main road -- take it past the Park Office and look for the Rock Club sign on the right side of the road. If you pass Waterworks, you've gone too far. We will be sharing the park with the Erie Marathon again, but we've done this before and it doesn't present

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major problems – just be aware that one lane on the main road will be reserved for the runners. We will stake out some tables, and we'll have a big sign.



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 8<sup>th</sup>** 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 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 anyone else listed in the newsletter footer.

**Shop the Picnic:** This year, we will again be welcoming Mel Ward and his wife to our picnic. They 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. Last year they brought a minivan-load of rocks to the picnic, and took significantly less back home! (I know this because a moderately-sized pile of them went into Brad's minivan when we left!) 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 will probably again have some rocks priced per pound (mostly \$1-\$5 per pound IIRC), and others priced per box (we'll try harder not to mess up the 'per box' boxes this year!). So if you didn't find what you were looking for in rough at the show this year, bring a few bucks along to the picnic for some shopping!

### **TREC – Tom Ridge Environmental Center:**

For those of you who haven't been out to Presque Isle since last year's picnic, you might want to stop in and see the Tom Ridge Environmental Center, or TREC (<http://www.trecpi.org/>). It opened this past Memorial Day, and has interactive environmental exhibits, a 75-foot observation tower to climb for views of the peninsula, Nature Shop & Gallery, Sunset Cafe, Orientation Theater, and the Big Green Screen – an IMAX-like big screen (4-story-high, 45-foot-wide) for showing large-format movies. Currently they are showing two such movies, *The Living Sea* and *Lewis & Clark*, each about 45 minutes long and showing alternately on the hour each hour from 11:00AM to 8:00PM. Admission to TREC is free, each movie costs \$7.50 /adult, \$6.50 / seniors 65+, or \$5.50 / children 2-12 – or you can see the second movie in a

consecutive showing for only \$4.00 more. There are also group savings rates listed at: <http://www.discoverpi.com/content/view/317/148/> .

### **Update on Sue Pysher:**

As some of you know, club member Sue Pysher had surgery the week before the show to remove a malignant melanoma from her heel, along with a good part of her foot. Dale was a real trooper and came to help us set up for the show and clean up afterward, so we got to hear that she came through that surgery okay, but that there was a long road of recovery ahead.

Since we haven't gotten together since then, I thought we could all use an update, so I called Sue and she said she's doing fine. She had a second surgery in which they took a slab of fat from her thigh and attached it to her foot with a vein and an artery and it is now living there on her foot; in further surgeries they will shape this into a new foot for her. In the mean time, she is having Interferon treatments.

She said she'd like to come to the picnic – she'd like to go anywhere other than treatments, actually ☺ -- but she wasn't sure they'd be able to come. We'll have to wait and hope!

You are in our thoughts and prayers, Sue, and Dale, and Matt!

### **Major Fall Project:**

Our fall (and maybe all winter) project will be a simple intarsia, a center stone with a square or rectangular frame – something like this. You will need a center focal piece, something with a pattern probably, like agates / jaspers, 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. I will tell you that it's much harder to match colors than I thought it'd be – in thinking “red jasper would be great with this,” I wasn't counting on how many shades red jasper can be! Mary bought a nice big chunk of white howlite at the show with the idea to share it out for framing material, and I've found some snowflake obsidian with almost no snowflakes for some black, but it would be nice to have a wider color palette. Dig through your slabs for fairly solid colors!



### **Federation News:**

The Eastern Federation newsletter (<http://www.amfed.org/efmls/efsept06.pdf> ) has an article written by a first-time Wildacres attendee, and one on the EFMLS Convention in Palm Beach, FL this November 16-19. The “Safety First” column is on Hammer Safety, and is a must-read for any rockhound who even thinks about using a hammer in collecting – even those who have some experience, but especially those who don't; **never** use the general-purpose hammer from your toolbox to hit rocks! Read up if you don't know why!

The American Federation newsletter (not up as of press time, but should be available soon at <http://www.amfed.org/news/news2006.htm>) has a safety article on keeping your tools sharp, an article on thumbnail specimens for Juniors, as well as the “Truth and Some Consequences” column by the Conservation & Legislation chair outlining recent legislative activity that affects rockhounds and their mineral and fossil collecting activities – we should all read up on this, and thank goodness there's someone who spends the time to keep track and give us all the summary!

### **Club Grit Order:**

Since we're all now learning to tumble – or at least several of us are – and since tumbling takes grit, and the only grit we can get locally is in those cute little “grit kits” that cost a whole lot, we're putting together a large club grit order so we can take advantage of bulk prices.

Figure out how much grit your tumbler needs for a load – or just look up its capacity in pounds and we'll help you figure it out – and then try to decide how much tumbling you think you'll want to do. You should also figure out (if you can) what materials you will be tumbling

most, so we can help you decide on a polish (there are several to choose from ,and we may oder more than one type). Then we can add up how much grit each of us wants, and figure out how to get the best price. We will have a sign-up sheet at the picnic, and we'll total it all up and send in the order.

Bob (our tumbling guru) has said that you can figure on 4-5 times as much coarse grit as anything else, and my limited experience bears this out. As a guide, those "grit kits" that come with the 3-pound tumblers have a pound each of coarse, medium and fine, and a quarter-pound of polishing compound, and this should do 8-10 pounds of stones, or 3-4 loads (assuming your tumbling rough doesn't need much shaping, but mine sure has needed a lot). So if you have a 3-pound tumbler and you just want to stick you toe in and see if you like it, you might want 5 pounds of coarse, 1 pound each of medium and fine, and a quarter-pound of whichever polish. If you have a big bucket of tumbling rough in your basement, you might want a little more! I've mentioned that it didn't take me long to go through 5 pounds of coarse grit (and no, I still haven't gotten to a medium load, but I took a break after the show), but I have a 10-pound tumbler that eats grit!

Lots of places on the internet have better pricing than Kingsley North on small quantities, but in the 50-100 pound range, I didn't find any better than them, so that's where we'll get it unless someone can point me to a source I didn't find. Cost will depend on how much our total order is and how much shipping works out to, but for a guide if we order this much and shipping is ~\$80 (as per their web site):

60/90 Grit	120/220 Grit	600 Grit	Cerium Oxide	Aluminum Oxide	Rapid Polish
100lb - \$120+s = \$1.50/lb	50lb - \$90+s = \$2.20 / lb	50lb - \$119+s = \$2.90 / lb	5lb - \$28.00+s = \$1.70 / ¼lb	5lb - \$17.50+s = \$1.10 / ¼ lb	1lb - \$13.00+s = \$3.95 / ¼ lb

### **Field Trip Report:**

You may recall club member Ed planned a Field Trip to North Carolina, mostly to the MAGMA (Mountain Area Gem and Mineral Association, <http://www.wncrocks.com/magma/magma.htm> ) annual Rockhound Roundup, with a few stops on the way. Kirk went with him, and :Ed took some photos which are posted along with other people's on the MAGMA web site. To check out the trip write-up, go to <http://www.wncrocks.com/magma/roundup2006-1.htm>

There are 24 (!) pages of pictures with some write-up (be sure to see the picture of Ed with his big Poovey Garnet on page 2, and pics of Kirk with his stuff on pages 4, 6, 8). From all the photos of the camping area, it looks like a good time was had by all! Maybe next year, more of us can go!

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

**PBS: NOVA: Mystery of the Megavolcano.** A remote lake in Southeast Asia conceals evidence of Earth's greatest volcanic cataclysm of the last 100,000 years. Miles beneath its placid surface lies a magma chamber that exploded so violently during the last ice age that gases and ash may have encircled the globe and blotted out the sun for years on end. The eruption of Toba, a supervolcano now submerged beneath a lake in central Sumatra, may have helped kick the climate into an unprecedented freeze 74,000 years ago and perhaps even pushed ancestral human populations to the brink of extinction. In a classic science detective story, NOVA pieces together clues of this great catastrophe and probes questions raised about human evolution and Earth's fragile ecosystems. Sept. 26, 8:00PM.

**Discovery Channel: Big Science: What Really Killed the Dinosaurs.** Until recently, most scientists thought they knew what killed off the dinosaurs - a giant meteorite crashing into Earth. But a small and vociferous group of scientists believes there is increasing evidence that the 'impact' theory could be wrong. Sept. 2, 8:00PM, 12:00AM. **Krakatoa: Volcano of Destruction.** More than 30,000 people were killed when Krakatoa erupted in 1883. In 1927, another volcano began rising in it's place. Based on survivors' stories and observations, scientists are looking into what damage the reborn volcano will do when it erupts again. Sept. 8, 12:00PM. **Walking with Prehistoric Beasts: The New Dawn.** Follow 24 hours in the life of a female Leptictidium, a small hopping insectivore, as she endeavors to keep her

offspring safe from the dangers of the forest. The Leptictidium mother protects her young from giant birds waiting in ambush... Sept. 9, 9:00AM. **Walking with Prehistoric Beasts: Land of the Giants.** The giant forests have started to open up and the wide open spaces have allowed mammals to evolve into much larger forms. But size isn't everything. Follow the early years of a young Indricotherium as it encounters predators. Sept. 9, 10:00AM. **Walking with Prehistoric Beasts: Mammoth Journey.** When South America eventually joins up with its northern neighbor, clashes between the two ecosystems are bound to occur. The native giant ground sloths and giant terror birds are joined by the incoming Smilodon, the largest of all the sabre-toothed cats. Sept. 9, 11:00AM. **When Dinosaurs Roamed America.** Follow dinosaur evolution. State of the art computer animation, live-action backgrounds and the latest scientific finds show how dinosaurs lived and died in our backyards. Go inside dinosaurs to see the latest known about their anatomy and physiology. Sept. 9, 12:00PM. **The Rise of Man.** From Homo Erectus, the first species to demonstrate signs of humanization, to Homo Sapien, follow the path of our direct ancestors as they migrate across the planet. Through socialization and technological advances, the Homo Sapien thrives. Sept. 9, 2:00PM. **Triassic Giant.** Ichthyosaurs were swimming, air breathing creatures that resembled whales and dolphins. A team excavates the giant fossil from a riverbank in British Columbia that is believed to be the largest Triassic ichthyosaur ever found. Sept. 9, 4:00PM. **Jurassic Shark.** Travel to prehistoric times to trace the shark's evolution. Fossils reveal a world of strange creatures with brush-like appendages, circular tooth saws and wings. Scientists combine history with current study of shark species for the complete story. Sept. 9, 5:00PM. **Supervolcano.** Amidst the stunning wilderness of America's most famous National Park, steam and hot water bubble and hiss from thousands of colorful, mineral-encrusted springs and vents. These geothermal phenomena make Yellowstone a time-bomb that could spell disaster. Sept. 16, 8:00PM, 12:00AM. **Extreme Hawaii.** Explore Hawaii's beaches, rain forests, lagoons, volcanoes, exotic flora and migrating whales. Learn about suicidal waves, deadly plants, freezing temperatures, hurricane force winds, and active volcanoes that could wipe out the entire island population. Sept. 17, 9:00AM. **America's Tsunami: Are We Next?** On December 26, 2004 the world's deadliest Tsunami hit the coast of Thailand. Now a team of leading scientists investigates what happened as they search for clues to discover if this massive wave will strike the same place twice or hit closer to home. Sept. 17, 10:00AM.

**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. Sept. 3, 2:00PM; Sept. 9, 3:00PM. **Alaskan Wild.** Alaska is one of the few true wildernesses left on earth. Aerial photography highlights the snowcapped mountains, wide open spaces and glaciers that punctuate the vast and unforgiving landscape. Sept. 3, 4:00PM. **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. 4, 9:00AM; Sept. 23, 3:00PM; Sept. 26, 1:00PM. **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. Sept. 4, 6:00PM. **Yellowstone: America's First National Park.** Host to half of earth's geothermal wonders, this rugged wilderness ignites the imagination. Get a ringside seat for the gushing geysers, explore bubbling mud pots, thundering waterfalls, a huge canyon, and the largest high altitude lake on the continent. Sept. 4, 7:00PM; Sept. 19, 10:00PM, 1:00AM; Sept. 23, 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. Sept. 5, 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. Sept. 5, 6:00PM; Sept. 12, 10:00AM. **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. Sept. 11, 10:00AM. **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. Sept. 11, 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. Sept. 11, 7:00PM, 2:00AM. **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. Sept. 12, 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. Sept. 14, 10:00AM. **Top Ten Canadian Parks.** Travel to some of Canada's most spectacular regions. From the beautiful desolation of Quttinarpaaq to the mythical creature that haunts Spirit Bear Park, join the Travel Channel for this odyssey of Canada's top ten parks. Sept. 15, 10:00AM. **Secrets of the U.S. Mint.** Take a rare look inside the highly guarded facilities of the U.S. Mint, which hold over \$60 billion worth of precious metal. Cameras unlock the previously secret process by which metal is transformed into works of art. Sept. 17, 2:00PM; Sept. 18, 5:00PM. **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. Sept. 17, 3:00PM; Sept. 18, 6:00PM. **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. Sept. 17, 4:00PM; Sept. 18, 7:00PM, 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 sunken treasure. Sept. 17, 5:00PM. **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. 17, 6:00PM. **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. 17, 7:00PM, 2:00AM. **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. Sept. 28, 1:00PM.

**History Channel: Mega Disasters: Yellowstone Eruption.** The world's largest, most active volcano system exists in the western US. 6,000 years ago, the Yellowstone Volcano erupted. Lava and pyroclastic flows covered 3,000-square miles with ash 3-feet thick. Fossils discovered as far away as Nebraska were found to have died from inhaling the Yellowstone debris. If--or perhaps we should say when--it erupts again, the Yellowstone "Mega-Volcano" will create a global cataclysm beyond human comprehension. Everything within 150 miles--including the cities of Cody, Wyoming and Bozeman, Montana--will be hit by an 800-degree blast of heat and 200 miles-per-hour winds. Thousands will be killed. That's just the local effects. Half the US will be buried beneath a blanket of volcanic ash. Crops in the Midwest--the world's breadbasket--will be destroyed. And it will take years before crops can grow again. Starvation, epidemics, and social chaos won't be long in coming. Sept. 9, 8:00AM. **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. Sept. 12, 9:00PM, 1:00AM; Sept. 17, 7:00PM. **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. Sept. 13, 8:00PM, 12:00AM. **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. Sept. 13, 9:00PM, 1:00AM. **Modern Marvels: Copper.** It transports electricity, water, and heat. Our bodies can't survive without it, yet it can kill microbes in minutes. It brings music to our ears and beauty to our eyes. We'll delve into all of copper's impressive traits, history, and how it's mined. This versatile red metal's most famous attribute is its ability to conduct electricity--copper wires connect and energize the world. And it's revolutionizing the electronics industry by enabling ever-shrinking computer chips. It's also formed into plumbing pipes to convey water and is the metal of choice for beautiful roofs and sculptures. It doesn't only look good--it sounds great too. A visit to a bell foundry reveals why bronze, a copper alloy, has been used to make music for hundreds of years. In myriad shapes and for innumerable uses, copper figures prominently in our world. Sept. 13, 10:00PM, 2:00AM; Sept. 23, 3:00PM. **Weird U.S. Weird Worship.** On a pilgrimage of weird worship, hosts Mark Sceurman and Mark Moran begin with America's birth and pious exiles seeking refuge. In California, they meet a man who spent the last 20 years building a shrine to Jesus from car parts, tires, adobe, and more than 100,000 gallons of paint. In Iowa, they visit "The Grotto of the Redemption", a huge monument handmade from rocks and semi-precious stones. In Florida, they stop at one of America's earliest cults--the Koreshan Unity Movement, which maintained life was lived on the inside, not the outside, of planet Earth. Returning to California, they visit the UNARIUS Academy of Science, where it's taught that past-life regression, channeling messages from other worlds, and impending contact with "space brothers" will help us achieve enlightenment. Sept. 25, 11:00AM, 5:00PM. **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. Sept. 25, 1:00PM, 7:00PM. **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. 29, 7:00AM. **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. Sept. 30, 12:00PM.

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

**Sept. 8-10, Toledo, OH - Toledo Gem & Rockhound Club. 35th Annual Jewelry, Gem, and Mineral Show, "Rainbow of Gems".** Stranahan Theater Complex, 4645 Heatherdowns Blvd. Fri., 2-9; Sat., 10-6; Sun., 10-5; dealers, jewelry, beads, gem trees, faceted stones, mineral specimens, fossils, cabochons, tools, carvings, silent auction, children's games, activities, free specimens, demonstrations, jewelry making, lapidary, gem faceting, bead making; adults \$3.50, seniors (55+) \$2.50 with ID, children under 12 with an adult and scouts in uniform free; contact TGRC, 419-531-8124, [www.toledogemandrockhoundclub.com](http://www.toledogemandrockhoundclub.com).

**Sept. 16-17, Harrisburg, PA - Central Pennsylvania Rock & Mineral Club. 41st Annual Gem, Mineral, and Jewelry Show.** Central Dauphin Middle School, Locust Lane & S. Houcks Rd. Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$5, children 12 and under free; minerals, fossils, gems, jewelry, beads, scout programs. Ted Keck, 717-474-0112, [www.rockandmineral.org](http://www.rockandmineral.org).

**Sept. 16-17, Tallmadge (Akron), OH - Intergalactic Bead Shows, Inc.** Summit County Fairgrounds, Arena Complex, 229 E. Howe Rd. 888-729-6904, [ibs@beadshows.com](mailto:ibs@beadshows.com), [www.beadshows.com](http://www.beadshows.com).

**Sept. 22-24, Berea, OH - GemStreet USA.** Gem, Mineral, Jewelry, Fossil, and Bead Show. Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds, 164 Eastland Rd. Fri., 11-7; Sat., 10-6; Sun., 11-5; rough and faceted minerals, gemstones, fine gold and silver jewelry, wire-wrapped jewelry, precious beads, seed beads, beading supplies, books, silver findings, amber, fossils, door prizes; Strieter Productions, Inc., Jane Strieter Smith, Strieter Productions Inc., P.O. Box 770680, Lakewood, OH 44107; 216-521-GEMS, [spi@stratos.net](mailto:spi@stratos.net); [www.gemstreetusa.com](http://www.gemstreetusa.com).

**Oct. 7-8, North Lima, OH - East Ohio Lapidary Club. 42nd Annual Gem and Mineral Show.** Calla Mar Manor, 9983 Market St. Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; adults \$3, students \$1.50, children 6-12 50 cents, children 5 and under free. Donald Bircher, 330-876-2435, [horsewiper8@netzero.net](mailto:horsewiper8@netzero.net).

**Oct. 14-15, Worthington, PA - Kit-Han-Ne Rock & Gem Club. 2006 Club Show.** Worthington-West Franklin Firehall, Rte. 422. Albert Zabinski, 724-567-7067.

**Oct. 28-29, Cuyahoga Falls, OH - Summit Lapidary Club & Akron Mineral Society "Gemboree".** Minerals, Rocks, Gems, and Jewelry Show/Sale. Emidio & Sons Expo Center, 48 E. Bath Rd.; Sat. 10-7, Sun. 10-6; Warren Salchak, 330-929-3798 or Carl Miller, 330-633-4250, [www.lapidaryclubofohio.org](http://www.lapidaryclubofohio.org).

**Nov. 10-12, Washington, PA - Jewelry, Mineral, and Bead Show.** Washington County Fairgrounds, 2151 N. Main St., I-79N exit 40, I-79S exit 41; 10th-11th, 10-6; 12th, 10-5; jewelry, gems, minerals, jewelry repair, stone setting; F.M. Zambrotto, 304-825-6845, [frankowrap@juno.com](mailto:frankowrap@juno.com).

**Nov. 11-12, Pittsburgh, PA - The Bead Mercantile Show.** Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites of RIDC Park, 180 Gamma Dr. 423-639-7942, fax 423-638-5676, [showinfo@beadmercantile.com](mailto:showinfo@beadmercantile.com), [www.beadmercantile.com](http://www.beadmercantile.com).

**Nov. 17-19, Pittsburgh PA - Carnegie Museum of Natural History. Gem & Mineral Show, "Sea of Pearls."** 4400 Forbes Ave.; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-5, Sun 12-5; admission to museum adults \$10, seniors \$7, children & students \$6; <http://www.carnegiemnh.org/minerals/gemshow/home.htm>

**Nov. 24-26, Hamburg, NY - GemStreet USA. Gem, Mineral, Jewelry, Fossil, and Bead Show.** Erie County Fairgrounds, 5600 McKinley Pkwy. Fri., 11-7; Sa., 10-6; Sun., 11-7; rough and faceted minerals, gemstones, fine gold and silver jewelry, wire-wrapped jewelry, precious beads, seed beads, beading supplies, books, silver findings, amber, fossils, door prizes; Strieter Productions, Inc., Jane Strieter Smith, 216-521-GEMS, [spi@stratos.net](mailto:spi@stratos.net); [www.gemstreetusa.com](http://www.gemstreetusa.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.