



The PRESQUE ISLE PROSPECTOR

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

October 2006



Last Month's Meeting:

Last month our meeting was the annual Club Picnic on Presque Isle. We had a great turnout, due I'm sure in part to the opportunity to shop the rough that Mel and Jean Ward brought with them! With good food, good friends, and PLENTY of rocks, we all had a pretty good time! And thanks to Ed, who not only remembered to *bring* a camera, but also to *use* it, we even have some photos:



This Month's Meeting:

This month our meeting will be **Saturday, October 14th, at 9:30AM.** We had to move it to the second Saturday this month, so please take note of this.

We will be looking at how to make our simple intarsia project, so bring any materials you have already collected for your intarsia, center stone and edging strips or slabs for both. If you don't have materials yet, and didn't find anything fun and exciting either at the Show or among Mel's stuff at the picnic, it's not too late – see the item below on the material the club is auctioning off! I expect this project will take us most of the winter, so keep looking!



Since the frame will take very little stone, we can 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

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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!

Silversmithing Workshop October 21st at 9:30AM:

Those of you who were at the picnic saw lots of the rough Mel Ward brought, but did you also notice the finished jewelry he brought? It was, admittedly, a much smaller area, but well worth a look. And he has offered to come lead a workshop to help us learn a little basic silversmithing to make our own! Several club members do silverwork, but others of us would like to learn more, and Mel will demonstrate how to make a basic bezel with a twisted-wire accent frame, and set a cabochon in it – and then help each of us do it!

Mel will bring materials (Sterling silver and cabs) for those who don't have any they want to work with, and will offer them at nominal cost (bring a few bucks to pay for whatever materials you use), or if you have your own cab(s) or sheet silver, bring them along. Mel will show us how to use 3 levels of solder, easy, medium and hard, which melt at successively higher temperatures. This is so that you can solder a bezel (strip of silver bent to a ring the size of your stone) together, solder that to the back plate, perhaps solder a ring of trim like twisted wire to the outside of the bezel, and solder on findings to make it a ring or pendant, all without your earlier solder joints letting go on re-heating.

The goal is to have everyone go home with a finished piece. So come on down, and spend a few hours learning a new skill, or seeing a new perspective on one you already practice!

New Club Material to be Offered at Silent Auction:

The Club was contacted by the family of a rock collector / lapidary about donating the rocks in his estate to the club. Bob made two trips down, and brought back 2 mini-van loads of rocks! This is quite a lot of material to try to find space for, and much more than the club needs to keep around, so we will be making it available to club members in a Silent Auction as the most equitable way to distribute it. This will also help raise some funds for the club, which we will need to buy new diamond blades for both slab saws if we're going to be cutting all this rough! Both blades have given long and faithful service, but are tired enough that they have serious trouble with agates, and much of this new material is agates of various types.

So, what is a Silent Auction, you ask? For those not familiar with it, we will set out 8 to 10 “lots” around a table, and each lot will have a form listing what the lot contains, the opening bid, and the bid increment. If you want that lot, you write your name and your bid (say, \$2.00) on the form. If someone else wants it more than you do, they write their name under yours, and write their own bid which is more than yours by at least the given bid increment (say, 25¢, so new bid at least \$1.25). Then you can decide if you want to outbid the upstart usurper trying to steal your fabulous find, or if the poor sap can have it if he wants it that badly. The auction runs for a set time period, say 5 minutes, and is over when that time expires. Then whoever has the highest bid written at that time wins the item, pays the cashier, and we set up a new tableful of items. Thus, there's no “auctioneer”, no bidding aloud (hence the “silent” part), and we get through several lots at the same time. With this much material, we hope to go through several rounds of 8-10 lots at the October meeting, and probably the same at each meeting all winter long!

So what fabulous gems are contained in this treasure trove? Well, with this much stuff, there's bound to be some of just about anything! We haven't looked through more than a small fraction of it yet, but there's crazy lace agate, banded agate, picture jasper, amethyst, obsidian, jade, and lots more I haven't seen, didn't recognize, or forgot to mention, and, of course, plenty of leaverite (as in, “Leave 'er right there!”). Of course, one man's leaverite is another man's “I've been looking for something like this” (like the plain solid mud-brown jasper I want for my intarsia!), so come look through it all and be inspired -- maybe you'll even find something perfect for your own intarsia project!

New Fossil Gallery Opens in Blasdell (Buffalo area):

The Club recently got the following notice by email:

Past & Present Science & Nature Store invites you to view its
new Fossil Gallery at an Open House
Friday, November 3rd, 2006, 10-8, or Saturday November 4th, 10-6,
or stop by at your convenience during our regular business hours.

Dinosaur fossil remains, giant prehistoric shark jaws large enough for an adult to sit in, rare, delicate and beautiful fossils from all the continents, and much more are featured in the new 500 square foot Fossil Gallery at Past & Present, located just south of Buffalo, New York.

Also on display are exhibits on prehistoric mammals, sharks and other fishes, reptiles and amphibians, plants and invertebrates. A visitor favorite is the 9 ft. tall leg from the dinosaur *Edmontosaurus* excavated from a private Cretaceous dinosaur dig site in South Dakota. A display of fossils of Western New York and Southern Ontario is a useful reference for guests in identifying and understanding local prehistoric life.

A remodeled room devoted to the restoration of fossils is now a permanent working exhibit where visitors can view preparation of dinosaur bones and other fossils for gallery display.

Past & Present's retail shop offers a selection of merchandise including fossils, minerals, crystals, jewelry, collecting tools, reference books, posters, various science and nature related items and unique gifts.

Please Join Us!

Fossil Gallery Open House

Friday, November 3rd, 2006, 10-8, or Saturday November 4th, 10-6,
or stop by at your convenience during our regular business hours.

**Past & Present
Science & Nature Store & Gallery
3767 South Park Ave.
Blasdell, New York 14219
716-825-2361**

www.pastpres.com fossils1@verizon.net

Additional parking generously provided by our neighbors at Ilio DiPaolo's Restaurant.

For More Information Contact: Glen LaPlaca, www.pastpres.com or 716-825-2361

Federation News:

The Eastern Federation newsletter (<http://www.amfed.org/efmls/efoct06.pdf>) has another article on the EFMLS Convention in Palm Beach, FL this November 16-19, telling more about the talks and field trips offered by the sponsoring club – not to mention a taunt about the beautiful Florida weather, as we prepare for cooler weather here! And just to get you in that mindset, the “Safety First” column is on Winter Driving Safety, and is not only a good reminder of stuff you already *know* but keep forgetting to actually *do*, but had a few ideas new to me that you should probably read too.

The American Federation newsletter (http://www.amfed.org/news/n2006_10.pdf) has several reports on the AFMS Convention in St. Louis, both on the proceedings and the accompanying show and activities, and lists the new programs that will soon be available from the Program Competition. The safety article has several driving tips not related to winter and not long enough for articles of their own. The Juniors article is on Earth Science Week, this year October 8-14, which has a theme of “Be a Citizen Scientist.” The goal is to encourage

everyone, not just academics and Ph.D. researchers, to take part in the earth sciences. And the AGI Earth Science Week web site (www.earthsciweek.org) provides ideas for how all of us can become scientifically literate citizens, helping to advance the field in ways great and small.

Club Grit Order:

Yes, okay, we were going to put together the Club's Grit order at the Picnic – but since we decided not to bother with an actual meeting at the picnic, and, um, I might have been the teensiest bit distracted by all the lovely rough Mel brought (“What? You guys want to eat? Well, go ahead – you’re not going to wait for *me* to get hungry when I’m looking at rocks, are you?”), well, I forgot all about it. So we’ll do it at the October meeting. (Oh, goody, it should arrive in time to wrap up a pound or two or ten for Christmas gifts!)

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 order 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 – uh, meeting -- 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 theirs, 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

Rockhound TV This Month:

PBS: Seeking 1906 with Simon Winchester. A journey with best-selling author, Oxford-trained geologist, and adventurer Simon Winchester as he researches his 18th book, *A Crack in the Edge of the World: America and the Great California Earthquake of 1906*. Winchester travels as far afield as Alaska searching for both the stories behind the catastrophic 1906 earthquake, and the modern day science of earthquakes. He stumbles across some strange and unexpected things along the way, and meets an eclectic and colorful collection of characters. Oct. 12, 4:00AM. **Lake Erie: Ohio’s Great Lake.** <http://www.wgte.org/lakeerie/> Explores Lake Erie's impact on the history, economy, agriculture, recreation and industry of communities in Ohio. Using archival film, photographs, and high definition footage, WGTE illustrates how this invaluable natural resource influences virtually every aspect of the lives of those living near the lake. The program examines the geology of how the lake was created, the Native American presence, the settlement of the state, the recreation the lake provides, and the impact of industry, agriculture and human interaction on the lake itself. Oct. 18, 8:00PM. **Nova: Magnetic Storm.** <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/magnetic/> Is the magnetic field protecting Earth from deadly radiation about to reverse direction or even disappear? Like the plot of a sci-fi B movie, something weird is happening deep underground where the constant spin of Earth's liquid metallic core generates an

invisible magnetic force field that shields our planet from harmful radiation in space. Gradually, the field is growing weaker. Could we be heading for a demagnetized doomsday that will leave us defenseless against the lethal effects of solar wind and cosmic rays? "Magnetic Storm" looks into our potentially unsettling magnetic future. Oct. 24, 8:00PM. **Nature: Violent Hawaii.**

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/nature/hawaii/index.html> The Hawaiian chain of islands, made up of six main islands plus two smaller ones, stretches for more than 1,500 miles through the heart of the Pacific Ocean. It is a place of idyllic beauty. But it is also a land of volcanic fury, raging mountaintop blizzards, dangerous rockslides, monster waves, and even tsunamis. Sun Oct. 29, 8:00PM

Discovery Channel: Into the Death Zone: Volcano Detectives. Meet the firewalkers monitoring the highly active volcanoes between Japan and Alaska. Investigate the effects of a concentrated swarm of volcanoes developing on the northern ring of fire and the catastrophic effects of volcanic activity under glaciers. Oct. 3, 1:00PM. **The Next Wave: Science of Tsunamis.** Discovery demystifies one of the most dangerous and enigmatic forces on earth, tsunamis. See the science behind their devastating power. Understand where they come from and what we can do to better prepare. It's not if it will happen again, but when. Oct. 14, 8:00PM, 12:00AM. **America's Tsunami: Are We Next Episode 1.** 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. Oct. 14, 9:00PM, 1:00AM. **America's Tsunami: Are We Next Episode 2.** 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. Oct. 14, 10:00PM, 2:00AM. **Tsunami: Wave of Disaster.** Shot on location in the nations surrounding the Indian Ocean that were ravaged by the December 26, 2004 tsunami, this film is a uniquely intimate portrait of the worst natural disaster in recorded history. Oct. 14, 11:00PM. **Mega-Tsunamis.** Discover a geologic force capable of generating skyscraper-sized waves. Huge landslides create these walls of water. The next one might send a monster wave across the Atlantic and straight for the East Coast of the United States. Oct. 21, 5:00PM. **America's Volcanoes: Sitting on a Powder Keg: Mount St. Helens.** On May 18th, 1980 the most active volcano in the continental United States exploded. Journey into the past to experience one of nature's most memorable natural disasters and find out whether recent activity means another explosion is in the near future. Oct. 21, 6:00PM.

TLC: Nothing rock-related this month.

Travel Channel: 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. Oct. 3, 1:00PM. **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. Oct. 3, 10:00PM, 1:00AM; Oct. 7, 4:00PM. **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. Oct. 4, 1:00PM. **Secrets of Glacier National Park.** Glacier National Park is a spectacular snow-capped chorus of peaks. Icebergs float in aquamarine pools and rivers wind through dense forests into pristine lakes and waterfalls. Experience a white-knuckle ride of alpine twists that cuts through the clouds. Oct. 5, 1:00PM. **Secrets of the Southwest.** Journey through a land of dramatic highlands and badlands and ancient panoramas. Explore the grandeur of Monument Valley, unravel the mysteries of a tropical oasis in the Grand Canyon, and follow dinosaur tracks in the Painted Desert. Oct. 6, 1:00PM. **Earth's Natural Wonders – 1.** Explore the world's most awe-inspiring natural wonders. Second in length to the Nile, the Amazon River is 60 times greater in volume of water. The ocean of sand known as the Sahara is the largest desert, and Angel Falls is the tallest waterfall. Oct. 7, 5:00PM; Oct. 16, 8:00PM, 11:00PM; Oct. 23, 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. Oct. 7, 6:00PM; Oct. 16, 9:00PM, 12:00AM; Oct. 23, 7:00PM, 2:00AM. **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. Oct. 7, 7:00PM. **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. Oct. 12, 1:00PM.

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. Oct. 13, 1:00PM. **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. Oct. 15, 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. Oct. 15, 8:00PM, 11:00PM. **America's Best Places to Find Cash & Treasures – 2.** Travel the country in search of hidden riches, from precious emerald digs in North Carolina to gold claims in California. In northern Wisconsin, join the search for John Dillinger's missing suitcase, filled with cash. Oct. 15, 9:00PM, 12:00AM. **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. Oct. 15, 10:00PM, 1:00AM. **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. Oct. 16, 5:00PM. **National Parks Revealed.** Learn the secrets behind the most spectacular parks in the world. At Glacier National Park in Montana, see how springtime dangers like avalanches and grizzly bears are handled. In Egypt, rangers don snorkeling masks to patrol the coral reef. Oct. 2, 1:00PM; Oct. 16, 6:00PM. **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. Oct. 16, 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. Oct. 23, 5:00PM.

History Channel: Classroom: Gold! The Gold Wars. Throughout history, gold sparked man's imagination with dreams of riches and power; it built empires and destroyed civilizations. During the conquest of the Americas, the Spanish pillaged Native-American gold, and pirates plundered it from Spanish galleons. Custer's expedition into the Black Hills led to a discovery of gold that changed the way of life for the American Indian and led to his demise. In South Africa, greed and power drove 2 nations into conflict over gold--the Boer War. Oct. 2, 6:00AM. **Modern Marvels: Metal.** They constitute the very essence of the modern world; the cadence of our progress sounds in the measured ring of the blacksmith's hammer. From soaring skyscrapers and sturdy bridges to jet planes and rockets, metals play a key role. Our journey begins before the Bronze Age and takes us into the shiny future when new metal structures--engineered at a molecular level to be stronger, lighter, and cheaper--shape human progress, as they have since man first thrust copper into a fire and forged a tool. Oct. 2, 1:00PM, 7:00PM.

Classroom: Gold! Gold Fever. From the lone prospector panning in California's golden rivers to an army of miners tapping South African gold veins, we explore the greatest discoveries of gold. Throughout history, gold rushes created dreams of opportunity and riches for the common man. But when panning for gold proved elusive, big companies could dig deeper in search of that precious metal. Rushes for gold throughout the world eventually left the lone miner behind and became the domain of massive multi-national corporations. Oct. 3, 6:00AM. **Modern Marvels: Water.** It's nature's precious elixir--so powerful it can carve our landscape, yet so nurturing it can spawn life and support its intricate matrix. And it's the only substance on Earth that can exist in three separate forms at the same temperature--liquid, solid, and gas. We take it for granted, yet compared to other natural compounds, it's a genuine oddity. We'll paint a vivid portrait of this common entity that's anything but as we explore water's multidimensional character--from its place in the \$10-billion bottled water industry to its critical role in a Canadian nuclear reactor. We watch it flow from huge irrigation machines that have revolutionized American agriculture, blast 200 miles into space from a newly discovered geyser on one of Saturn's moons (via computer animation), coaxed from the clouds by chemical injection, captured by innovative "fog-catchers", and cascade with artistic flair from compressed air jets at the Fountains of Bellagio in Las Vegas. Oct. 3, 1:00PM, 7:00PM. **Mega Disasters.** Earthquake in the Heartland. Could a killer earthquake strike America's heartland? If history proves true, the answer is yes. The 1811-1812 New Madrid Earthquakes (centered in southeast Missouri) rank as some of North America's most catastrophic natural disasters. Stretching more than 160 miles, a system of earthquake faults lurks beneath the Mississippi River basin, loaded and ready to erupt. And it's happened before. Pioneer residents of New Madrid, Missouri were thrown from their beds in the early hours of December 16, 1811 when an estimated 8-point earthquake hit. But it wasn't just one event. Multiple shocks were experienced over the next three months--the largest caused the Mississippi to flow

backwards. No earthquake sequence has lasted so long, produced so many shocks, nor created such astonishing phenomena on land and water. The New Madrid Fault remains a seismically active area and experts expect a repeat. The only question is when... Oct. 3, 9:00PM, 1:00AM. **Classroom: Gold! The Stuff of Dreams.** Mankind has always been lured by the hypnotic power of gold, following maps, rumors, legends, and fantasies in search of treasure. We recount the quests for Solomon's Gold and the Ark of the Covenant, the legendary 7 Cities of Gold and El Dorado, and the most magnificent golden discovery of all time--King Tut's tomb. Experience the temptations of the Lost Dutchman and his mine in Arizona's Superstition Mountains and the search for the sunken treasure of Spanish galleons off the Florida Keys. Oct. 4, 6:00AM. **Modern Marvels: Glue.** It's Super! It's Crazy! And it can be found in everything from carpet to computers, books to boats, shoes to the Space Shuttle. It's even used in surgery! Without it, our material world would simply fall apart. In this episode, we'll visit the stuck-up, tacky world of glue. Glue's sticky trajectory spans human history and we'll cover it all--from Neolithic cave dwellers who used animal glue to decorate ceremonial skulls to modern everyday glues and their uses, including Elmer's glue, 3M's masking and Scotch tape, and the super glues. Remember the Crazy Glue commercial in which a man held himself suspended from a hard hat that had just been glued to a beam? Well, that 1970s vintage ad understates the power of glue. With the help of a crane, we're going to hoist a 6,000-pound pickup truck off the ground by a steel joint that's been bonded with glue! Oct. 4, 11:00PM, 3:00AM. **Classroom: Gold! Cold Hard Cash.** The story of gold spans 6,000 years and 5 continents--from Venice's canals to California's gold fields, from the Asian trade routes to Wall Street's trading floors. Venture back in time to Constantinople and Venice to see how gold was used to control the known global economy. Hear about the millions in gold stolen by the Nazis to keep their war effort afloat, and how the sinking of the SS Central America nearly sank the U.S. economy. If money makes the world go round, then gold is its axis! Oct. 5, 6:00AM. **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. Oct. 6, 7:00AM. **Violent Earth: 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. Oct. 10, 8:00PM, 12:00AM. **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. Oct. 10, 9:00PM, 1:00AM. **Modern Marvels: World's Strongest.** Strength...A powerful word, but what does it mean? How is it measured? Why are some things simply stronger than others. How strong is a rope, a tractor, a diamond, a tugboat or even plastic. From Spectra fibre to Lexan learn where, how and why strength matters to us every day. Oct. 18, 10:00PM, 2:00AM. **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. Oct. 24, 1:00PM, 7:00PM. **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. Oct. 27, 1:00PM, 7:00PM.

Upcoming Shows in the area:

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, horsewsp8@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.

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.

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, 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; www.gemstreetusa.com .

Of course, as always, if you're planning to travel, check out the complete online listings at the Lapidary Journal Calendar (<http://www.lapidaryjournal.com/cal1.cfm>), and the Rock and Gem Magazine Calendar (<http://www.rockngem.com/showdates/showdates.shtml>). 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.