



The PRESQUE ISLE PROSPECTOR



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

November 2006



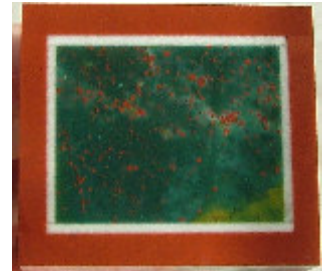
Last Month's Meeting:

Last month our meeting fell on the First Day of Snow for the season – lucky us! In spite of that, we had a pretty decent turn-out, and got lots of stuff done. We had our first session of the silent auction, and even though we only had time for two rounds, we got rid of – er, *sold to happy new homes!* – 13 rocks, which ended up going for prices ranging from \$10 to less than \$1, and raised a total of \$31.00. Yeah! There's plenty more left – in fact, this doesn't even make a dent – so don't think you missed out on all the good stuff, there'll be more at this month's meeting.

This Month's Meeting:

This month our meeting will be **Saturday, November 4th, at 9:30AM.**

We will again 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, it's not too late – see below on the club's continuing Silent Auction. 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 border pieces, which will be less patterned and more a solid color. Last month several of us brought stuff, but we didn't really have enough to match anyone up with their dream slabs, so if more people bring them along this month we'll try it again. 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!

Special Work Session:

Last month we had a special Silversmithing Demo/Workshop, at which Mel Ward demonstrated a basic silverworking project and then helped each of us work on our own. The idea was to have us each complete a project, but since there were eight of us and only one torch, it took a bit longer than expected to get through all the steps. So now we all have projects in various states of completion, and while Mel showed us all the remaining steps, he won't be around to guide us through them; so we're going to help each other remember it all at a work session to complete the project on **November 11th**. We'll start at about 9:30AM, and go until we all finish or we give up for the day. If you started the project, try to get there for the second session, and we'll try to have more than one *working* torch!

Field Trip:

The Carnegie Museum of Natural History in Pittsburgh is hosting the Ninth Annual Carnegie Gem & Mineral Show (<http://www.carnegiemnh.org/minerals/gemshow/home.htm>), Nov. 17-19 (the weekend before Thanksgiving). This year's theme is "Sea of Pearls" and sounds wickedly fascinating! Admission to the show is free with Museum admission, which is \$10/person. Last year,

Club Web Site address:	http://www.treebeard.net/gemcity/index.htm		
President	Kirk McFadden	P.O. Box 128	Waterford PA 16441-0128 (814) 602-5225
Vice-president	Sarah Boesch	1223 Lake St.	Lake City PA 16423-1808 (814) 774-4234
Secretary	Harriet Beckman	2239 South Shore Dr.	Erie PA 16505-2154 (814) 455-4851
Treasurer	Val Engelleiter	132 Moorehead St.	Erie PA 16508-1859 (814) 454-1771
Newsletter Editor	Harriet Beckman	email:	gemcity@treebeard.net (814) 455-4851
Board Members:	Robert Gallivan		Robert Perry Mary Thomson

several of us went down together and enjoyed not only the show, but the special exhibit of "The Bog People" – this year's special exhibits are listed on the museum page at <http://www.carnegiemnh.org/exhibits/>.

The club will try to facilitate carpooling again for those who want to go down to the show, so check your calendars for what days over that weekend you can go and we'll try to set things up at the meeting. If you can't make the meeting, call me at 455-4851.

Future Field Trips:

Ed has been disappointed that we haven't gone on more field trips lately, so he decided that even though we haven't appointed a Field Trip Committee for a couple of years, he'd just BE it and set some stuff up, and the rest of the club can come along or not! Bravo, Ed!

He has researched 2 major trips for 2007, and he plans on going to both (gas prices permitting) but figures the club might want to decide which one to concentrate on.

The first is to Bancroft, Ontario, "Mineral Capital of Canada", which Mapquest says is about a 6½ hour drive (which means more like 8+ hours with stops). The best time to go is during the Annual Rockhound Gemboree, the first weekend in August (Thursday through Sunday) (<http://www.bancroftontario.com/index.cfm?vNavID=1&vSubNavID=4>). Not only is there a big rock show, but each day a Chamber of Commerce geologist leads tours (http://www.bancroftdistrict.com/Tourism/rock_hound_gem.php) to collecting areas in the morning, leaving you to collect in the afternoon! The list of minerals to collect in the area is huge (see web sites), but includes quartzes (especially rose quartz), beryl, garnet, sodalite, micas, calcite, amazonite, spinel, corundum, and lots more. We would plan to stay in a campground, and there is some equipment to share (we did okay when we went to Herkimer County), but if you want to spring for a motel, we don't need to be tied together. Just as something to note, according to the latest information, 2007 will be the last year that U.S. citizens can drive to Canada and back to the U.S. without a passport; a passport will be required in 2007 for all other modes of travel (plane, train, etc.), and in 2008 will be required for driving as well. So if you want to go *someday*, and don't want to pay the \$87 for a passport, now is the time!

The Second major trip is to Arkansas, to dig for quartz crystals at Mt. Ida and for diamonds at Crater of Diamonds. See info at web sites <http://www.craterofdiamondsstatepark.com/> and http://www.mtidachamber.com/crystal_dig_info.htm. This trip only has preferred dates if you want to go for the World Championship Crystal Dig (upside: lots of other more experienced diggers to show you how it's done; downside: lots of other more experienced diggers to get the best spots to dig), which will probably be the second weekend of October. Otherwise, it's a matter of weather and convenience. Mapquest says this is a 16¾ hour drive, which could be one day if you're young / intrepid / insomniac, or two days if you're like me ☺. In this case, we've seen the video of the digging in *Rockhounds: The Movie*, and we know what that red clay is like, so bring clothing that doesn't ever have to look clean again!

We'll be discussing the possibilities for both these trips more in future meetings, but please start thinking and reading about them now if you have the slightest interest.

New official Club Mailing Address:

The club now has a new official mailing address! We voted to rent a Post Office Box at the Griswold Post Office (3 blocks from the club rooms) so that this can be a more or less permanent address, independent of who the particular club officers are. Our new official address is:

Gem City Rock & Mineral Society
P.O. Box 475
Erie, PA 16512-0475

New Club Material to be Offered at (Continuing) Silent Auction:

The Club has recently acquired several hundred pounds of rocks from an estate, and we've decided to auction it off to club members in a Silent Auction format.

So, what is a Silent Auction, you ask? For those not familiar with it, we set out 8 to 12 "lots" around a table, and each lot has 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 \$2.25). 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 or 10 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 8-12 lots 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 last month we sold some crazy lace agate, banded agate, picture jasper, amethyst, unakite, and some other stuff I don't remember. What's left? All of the above, plus 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):

Reminder of the Open House This Weekend:

Past & Present Science & Nature Store invites you to view its
Fossil Gallery Open House
Friday, November 3rd, 2006, 10-8, or Saturday November 4th, 10-6,
Past & Present
Science & Nature Store & Gallery
3767 South Park Ave.
Blasdell, New York 14219
716-825-2361
www.pastpres.com fossils1@verizon.net

Gallery Showing Closer to Home – Glass Growers:

Also this weekend, Glass Growers Gallery, at 10 East 5th St., is presenting a Trunk Show by Jewelry Artist Kathryn Scimone Stanko of her woven metal jewelry. "MetaLace: Inspirations from East Asia" will be presented in the gallery Friday, November 4, 11AM to 5PM, and Saturday, November 5, 11AM to 3PM. Since it's only 5 blocks away, take a wander down after the meeting on Saturday and get some inspiration!

Federation News:

The Eastern Federation newsletter (<http://www.amfed.org/efmls/efnov06.pdf>) has a final article on the EFMLS Convention in Palm Beach, FL this November 16-19, and the "Safety First" column has general seasonal safety tips to keep in mind over the approaching holiday season.

The American Federation newsletter hasn't come yet but should soon be available online at http://www.amfed.org/news/n2006_11.pdf.

Holiday Dinner and Election of Officers:

Well, if it's November, that means we need to plan the where and when of our Holiday Dinner for next month. Some of us have expressed a desire to go somewhere new this year, so think about where we might go that has a meeting room for us. Some have expressed a desire to have it earlier, perhaps a noon-ish meal instead of an evening meal for an easier drive home, so look at your calendars and bring them along so we can pick a date!

And if it's the Holiday Dinner, that also means time for the Election of Officers – so a nominating committee was formed and will be presenting a slate of candidates at the November meeting, for consideration and election at the Holiday Dinner in December.

Club Grit Order:

Since several people who wanted grit didn't make it to last month's meeting, you'll have one more chance to sign up for it at this month's meeting before the order goes in.

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

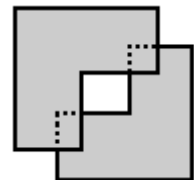
Club Findings Order:

With more of us learning silversmithing, it has been suggested that the club might want to stock not only some basic sheet and wire for projects, but also some very basic findings, like earring posts and clutches, and clasps, and a few other things. And since the club will be placing an order with Rio Grande (catalog available at club room) and one with Fire Mountain Gems (catalog online at <http://www.firemountaingems.com/>), this might be a time to look through the catalogs and add a few things of your own to our list to take advantage of quantity pricing. So if you have plans to make gifts to give this holiday season, make up your materials lists now to take advantage of this opportunity!

Simple Intarsia Project – Mistakes You Don't Have to Make:

We've been planning this simple intarsia project, consisting of a square or rectangular center stone with some pattern or interest and a single or double frame of solid-color strips around it, since last spring. This was to give us plenty of opportunity to shop for appropriate slabs to provide our center and coordinating border strips, both at our own show in July and any other area shows. This First Step sounds pretty simple, doesn't it? Well, at least in my case, simple doesn't necessarily mean easy. Finding slabs of solid color isn't so common, for one thing, because they're, well, boring – so most dealers don't carry much in solid colors. And finding rough to slab yourself can also be a challenge, since most rocks have some variation in them – which usually is a good thing, but if you really want solid color, now it's a bad thing. Or, you could go with a stone with a small pattern, which will look okay in narrow strips, but those aren't too common either. But keep looking – there are some. Also, color-matching is pretty challenging – one solution is to try to use other areas of your slab (or the slab next to it if you're slabbing your own) for the outer frame, and many stones can use either white or black as a separator.

Second step: Cut out a good spot for your center stone. A good help for picking a good spot on an interesting slab is to use a template with a rectangular cutout to frame different areas of your slab. Or you can cut a square out of the corners of two sheets of paper, and overlap them to frame a square or rectangular cutout, like so:



Okay, **First Mistake You Don't Have to Make:** keep your center stone under an inch in the larger direction. Less would be better, like $\frac{3}{4}$ " or even $\frac{1}{2}$ ", though probably not smaller than that. Why? Because you are going to be grinding a lot of flat surfaces, and the bigger a flat surface, the longer it takes to grind it down. This means, the longer your sides, the longer it will take to grind it down to the desired thickness; though it will *really* come into play when you want to smooth down the front and back faces. So go with what works on your slab, but keep this in mind.



Third Step: Cut your side strips. Now, here's the **Second Mistake You Don't Have to Make:** I tried to cut these strips pretty narrow, so I could have more of them and not have to grind so much of them away. But you really can't cut strips that are narrower than the slab is thick, or the strips will tend to snap off. See the picture – that last strip snapped into several pieces. This will vary somewhat by how brittle the material is, but be aware that you may not be able to get 6 really narrow strips out of that 1" wide slab, you'll be lucky to get 4 strips with a near-square cross-section. Another reason to cut wider strips is if your center slab is thicker than your frame-strip slab – check that before you cut strips, or

you'll spend years grinding down your faces to get all the pieces even. Thicker strips will wear down much faster than the center face.

Fourth Step: Grind the sides flat on your strips. Now, this sounds easy, but there are a few tricks. One is that a slab is never perfectly flat; the saw blade is made with a slight dish, so as to maintain strength when it spins at a high rate of speed. This means slabs also have a slight dish. It shouldn't be much of a problem, but be aware that a strip will grind away in the center first on one side, and at the ends first on the other side. And the sides you cut on the trim saw could be even more variable, if you aren't careful. But here's the **Third Mistake You Don't Have to Make:** you only need to grind one side of the strip flat, and that's the side you'll be gluing onto the center stone. The other sides will have to be ground down to be even with the whole face when it's done, but doing it now is a waste, and will make your strips thinner for no good reason. So choose your gluing side, and mark the other three sides with an "X" so you know which is the good one. Then scribble all over the gluing side, and start sanding it down. **Fourth Mistake You Don't Have to Make:** 100 grit will make this fast, but it may also chip the edges of your strip, and you need it to be as perfectly flat as possible for the gluing lines to be as invisible as possible. The videos we watched last year said to sand down to 600 grit before gluing, and if your stone isn't too hard, you may just want to start there. If it *is* hard, start with the 360-grit lap, then go to the 600. And check the edges under magnification – chips along the edge – from the lap or the saw blade – will either need to be removed now, or you'll have to do it later by sanding down the whole face when it's done and the chips show along the glue line.

Fifth Step: Glue your center stone to a dop (superglue is fine for this, and much easier to remove later), and put it in the faceter to grind down your four squared sides. Now, it doesn't much matter where the registration hole in the side of the dop is, since we have a 96-index wheel and that'll get you pretty close to one of the sides you cut; but once you pick that first side, you'll have to do the math to get your only 4 index positions, 24 index teeth apart. Write these numbers down, and keep them handy! Scribble pencil all along the side of your stone, and grind down until you don't see any more pencil left. Then move on to the next side. Again, this will go faster with the 360-grit, but you'll have to use the 600-grit for final smoothing and to get rid of all traces of chips in the edges. Then rotate to the opposite index position and do that side (if your dop is pretty close to the center of your stone, you won't have to move the whole faceting head between these two sides, you may only have to adjust using the fine-adjustment screw). Then do the 2 remaining sides.

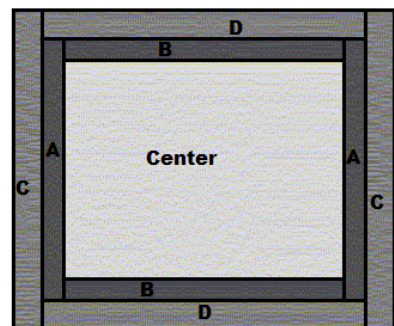


Check for Square!

Sixth Step: Glue on two opposite strips (sides B) with epoxy glue, being careful in your placement.

Seventh Step: Put the dop back in the faceter. Be aware that there is a wee bit of play even with the registration pin in place, so each time you put the dop back into the faceter, you may have to play a bit to get your side strips perfectly even in width. Grind down the ends of the strips even with the center stone. You may also want to grind down the width of the two sides you added to closer to their final width, especially if you will be removing a lot of material, but grinding them at least back into square so the sides are even will help when you go to put it back in after gluing on the next two sides. Glue on the other two sides (A).

Step Eight: Grind down the four sides to the desired width, keeping them all even end-to-end and with each other. This can be tricky, with the slight play in the registration pin, so you have to have a really good eye or a caliper for measuring. And here is the **Fifth Mistake You Don't Have to Make:** Grind down the two sides



you will be gluing onto to the exact width they should be, but leave the other two just slightly oversized. That way, when you glue on the next two sides, you'll have some room for error as you grind down the ends even with the rest of it. *Then* you will sand it down to be the same width as the first two sides in that frame (A to match B).

Step Nine: Glue on the first two sides of the second frame (sides D). And grind the ends even, and sand sides A to match sides B.

Step Ten: Glue on sides C. Grind the ends even, and grind-then-sand sides D to final width, and then grind-then-sand sides C to final width.

The rest will have to go in a future newsletter, and I'm working on a web page that will have more room for pictures. But this is plenty to give you the idea that while the project is pretty simple in concept, there are a few interesting pitfalls, and I'm falling in lots of them! Aren't you all glad I'm keeping track of all my mistakes, so you don't have to make them too? If you find any I missed when you begin your own project, please let me know so we can all make our own *unique* mistakes!

Random Items of Interest:

People tend to send me email about interesting rock-related stuff – and not just rock people, but all kinds of other people too who know of my rock-afflicted state (and, after all, this tends to be anyone I've talked to for more than a few minutes!). I thought I'd share some recent interesting ones.

Ed called my attention to news reports of the recent sale of a rather large (603 carat, the 15th largest ever found) rough white diamond, the "Lesotho Promise", for \$12 million. There was a small item in Erie's newspaper about this, but they only had one photo with it, while the online news sources don't have to worry about space so much and if you check out the link at http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20061009/od_nm/diamond_record_dc and click on the photo you can see a slide show with several more views of it. Pretty impressive!

He's also sent links to news of several other diamond finds – at Crater of Diamonds! http://www.cnn.com/2006/US/10/21/diamond.ap/index.html?eref=rss_topstories

Check the link at <http://www.arkansasstateparks.com/craterofdiamonds> for more:

"A visitor from Ripon, Wisconsin found a flawless 5.47-carat, canary yellow diamond on October 14 at the Crater of Diamonds State Park in southwest Arkansas. The gem is the second largest diamond found by a park visitor at Arkansas's diamond site so far this year. The largest, a dark brown diamond, weighed 6.35 carats. Diamonds are formed in many colors. The three most common colors found at the Crater of Diamonds are white, brown, and yellow, in that order. The park is the world's only diamond-bearing site where the public is allowed to search and keep any diamonds they find regardless of value. Park visitors search over a 37 1/2-acre plowed field, the eroded surface of the eighth largest diamond-bearing deposit in surface area in the world. The largest diamond ever found by a park visitor was a 16.37-carat white diamond discovered in 1975 by a visitor from Amarillo, Texas. The largest diamond to ever be unearthed at the site was a 40.23-carat, white rose-tinted diamond found in 1924."

On average, two diamonds are found each day.

Another friend sent me a link to a page on Spar Boxes

(<http://members.aol.com/friendskillhope/sparboxe.htm>) (neat photos):

"Spar Boxes were constructed by miners in the North of England using crystals and mineral specimens from mines in which they worked. Their construction and design vary tremendously. From small boxes lined with crystals to cabinets over 2 metres in height depicting street scenes often with mirrors to give illusion of depth, and finally, columns encased in glass domes."

Rockhound TV This Month:

PBS: American Experience: The Gold Rush. <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/goldrush/> "The Gold Rush" is a vibrant retelling of the mania that followed the discovery of gold in San Francisco in 1848. "Next to the Civil War in the 19th century," says historian J.S. Holliday, "no other event had a greater impact." Nov. 6, 9:00PM, 2:00AM. **Nature: Christmas in Yellowstone.** No description yet available. Nov. 18, 8:00PM. **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. Nov. 29, 9:00PM.

Discovery Channel: 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. Nov. 21, 12:00PM. **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. Nov. 21, 1:00PM. **Before the Dinosaurs.** Welcome to Earth -- before the dinosaurs. The creatures may look strange, but they mark the beginning of life as we know it. Learn how some of the characteristics that helped them survive millions of years ago make humans what they are today. Nov. 25, 8:00PM, 12:00AM. **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. Nov. 25, 10:00PM, 2:00AM. **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. Nov. 25, 11:00PM. **The Day the Earth Nearly Died.** The Permian mass extinction was the worst disaster ever to hit Earth. It shattered ecological order and changed evolution forever. Now, scientists shed new light on the mystery of the most destructive event in the planet's history. Nov. 28, 12:00PM.

Travel Channel: 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. Nov. 1, 1:00PM; Nov. 20, 5:00PM. **Canadian Rockies: Banff & Jasper.** Snow-capped peaks and glacial lakes provide the setting for two majestic icons of the Canadian Rockies, Banff and Jasper National Parks. Soak in the hot springs, trek the backcountry trails, then shop the boutiques of this rustic resort wilderness. Nov. 1, 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. Nov. 1, 6:00PM. **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. Nov. 1, 7:00PM, 2:00AM. **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. Nov. 2, 1:00PM; Nov. 20, 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. Nov. 3, 1:00PM; Nov. 20, 7:00PM, 2:00AM. **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. Nov. 5, 7:00PM, 2:00AM. **John Ratzenberger's Made In America: Barre Granite.** Barre, Vermont, is the granite capital of the world, where gravestones meet their makers. In Cambridge, Ohio, the family-owned Mosser Glass Company transforms molten glass into functional works of art. Nov. 24, 11:00AM. **John Ratzenberger's Made In America: U.S. Mint.** At the Mother Mint in Philadelphia, sheet metal becomes more than worth its weight. In Akron, Ohio, the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company puts the bounce in its tires, and discover the Duncan Industries Parking Meters unquenchable thirst for change. Nov. 24, 12:30PM; Nov. 29, 12:30PM. **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. Nov. 26, 2:00PM.

History Channel: 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... Nov. 4, 11:00AM. **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. Nov. 7, 9:00PM, 1:00AM. **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! Nov. 14, 1:00PM, 7:00PM. **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. Nov. 16, 10:00PM, 2:00AM.

Upcoming Shows in the area:

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.