



# The PRESQUE ISLE PROSPECTOR

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

**December 2006**



## Last Month's Meeting:

Last month our program was more on the Simple Intarsia Project, and I brought the two I've been working on – they're all assembled, and the fronts faced and the shaping pretty much done. I left the backs to show how they work during assembly, but now they're ready to be ground flat and the whole piece polished – maybe I'll have them ready for the Christmas party. Several other people are planning to start their own pieces, but we didn't have much luck with a "strip swap" – so I guess there will be Mary's white howlite and my black almost-snowflakeless obsidian on a first-come-first-serve basis, and other than that you're on your own.

We only had one round of the continuing silent auction, but sold 4 more rocks for I think \$6 total. Whoa, big spenders! But we'll have more stuff out & available at the January meeting.

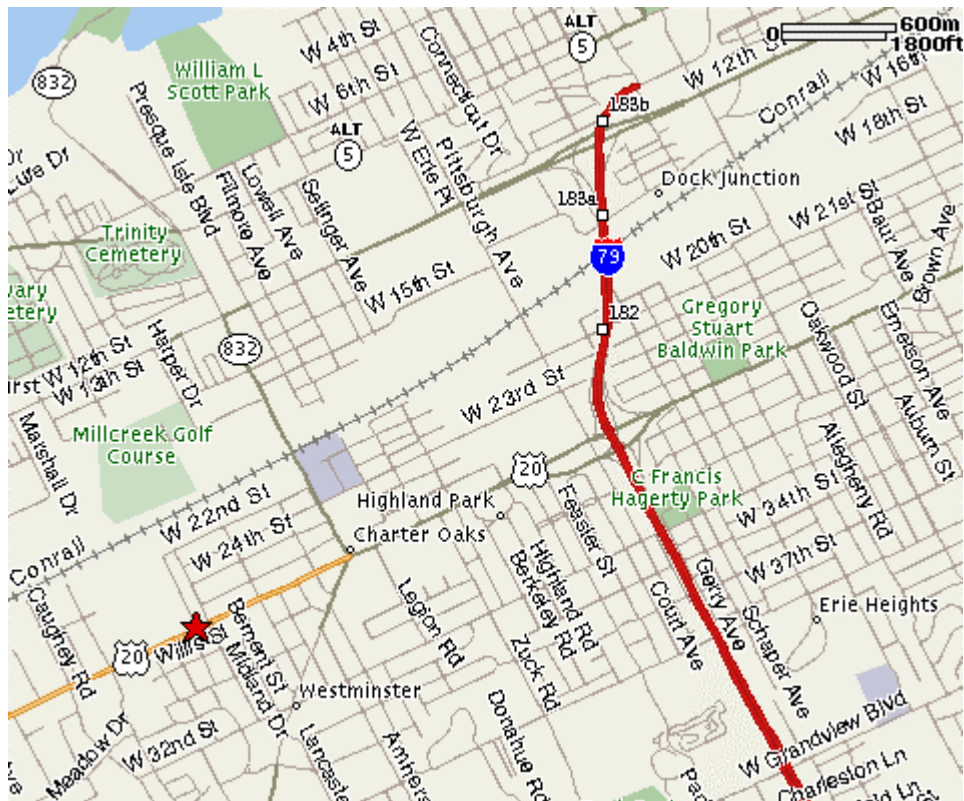
## This Month's Meeting:

This month our meeting will be our Holiday Dinner, which will be **Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>**, at **1:30PM** at **Hoss's Steak and Sea House**, 3302 W. 26<sup>th</sup> Street (Rt. 20) – which is about 4 blocks west of Peninsula Drive / Sterrettania Road (Rt. 832).

When you get inside, don't order in line, just ask to be directed to the Gem City Rock Club party -- we'll order at the table.

Families and / or S.O.s are welcome, since we pay individually; just call Harriet (455-4851) with a headcount by December 1<sup>st</sup> so I can tell them how many to set up for. Just so you aren't surprised by it, they will automatically add a gratuity to our checks, and this year it will be 18%, up from 15%.

This is also our annual Election of Officers meeting. While other nominations may be made at the meeting, the slate of proposed officers as presented by the nominating committee is as follows:



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

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Vice-President: Sarah Boesch  
Treasurer: Val Engelleiter  
Secretary: Harriet Beckman  
Board Members (3): Ted Oslak and Mary Thomson (Bob Gallivan as  
Past President is automatically on the board)

The other thing we generally do at our December meeting is discuss proposed program topics for the coming months, so this is our annual plea for ideas, especially if you would like to present them! Please give this some thought – if you would like to see more wire-wrapping programs, well, the club has some wire, and some tools, and a lot of project ideas in the Wire Artist Magazines we have, so pick out a project, learn how to do it, and present it as a program! If you want a silver-smithing program, or a lapidary program, or anything else, the club has resources, both tools & equipment and people, to help you learn it so you can present it. If you step up and say you'll do a program, chances are people will help you with it if you ask. If I can do it, you can do it. Give it a try!

### **Federation News:**

The Eastern Federation newsletter (<http://www.amfed.org/efmls/efdec06.pdf>) has an article reminding us that the sign-ups for the 2007 Wildacres workshops will open January 1, and the January EFMLS newsletter will have class listings in it. The dates for the Spring session are April 20-26, a bit earlier than usual, and the guest speaker will be Bob Jones, Sr., editor of Rock & Gem Magazine, who just got back from a trip to China. The Fall session will be September 10-16, and the guest speaker will be Dr. Steve Chamberlain, author and director of the Rochester Mineralogical Symposium. The EFMLS Convention was just in Palm Beach, FL November 16-19, so by now we have new officers – we'll find out who they are in the next newsletter!

The American Federation newsletter is available online at [http://www.amfed.org/news/n2006\\_12.pdf](http://www.amfed.org/news/n2006_12.pdf) and has an invitation to the 2007 AFMS Convention, to be held in Roswell, NM, June 5-10. It is hosted by the Chaparral Rockhounds in conjunction with their "Gems of Enchantment" 2007 Gem and Mineral Show, June 7-10, and there will be a 3-day field trip afterward. We'll look forward to more info on these later. There is also an article by the AFMS Junior Activities Chair on the Future Rockhounds of America (FRA) badge program – we often express the need to attract more new members, and especially younger members, but to really get kids involved we need someone who will be a Youth Activities Coordinator for the club. If you have some time and would like to work with kids, there's a LOT of good information on activities associated with the FRA program at [www.amfed.org/fra/meritbadge.htm](http://www.amfed.org/fra/meritbadge.htm) -- please check it out! Many of us in the club would gladly *help* with Junior activities, but don't have time to do all the coordination. So if you have the time and are willing, don't let a perceived lack of expertise hold you back – others of us will help you learn along with the kids, if we can just coordinate some activities to attract some!

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

Sorry, but since the newsletter had to go out so early, the listings for December were not yet available for me to go through – you'll have to check them yourself, or maybe just make do entertaining yourselves with family and friends and holiday parties instead of TV!

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

Shows are pretty much over for our area until spring, but it's not too early to start dreaming of TUCSON! And to look forward to:

**Feb. 23-25, Pittsburgh, PA - International Gem & Jewelry Show.** Pittsburgh ExpoMart. 301-294-1640, fax 301-294-0034, [info@intergem.com](mailto:info@intergem.com), [www.intergem.com](http://www.intergem.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>).

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.