



The PRESQUE ISLE PROSPECTOR



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

February 2007



Last Month's Meeting:

Last month we watched a video program from the Eastern Federation Library, on the Sweet Home Mine, "Rhodochrosite - Red Treasure of the Rockies" – you may remember that this commercially-produced video got rave reviews in Rock & Gem Magazine about a year ago. We can add our raves to theirs! There were quite a few collective gasps, sighs, and moans as we saw the fabulous and beautiful rhodos that came out of that mine!

This Month's Meeting:

This month our meeting will be Saturday February 3rd, at 9:30AM. We will be making the Wire-Wrapped Cages that Ed has shown us. Bring along "a small tumble stone approx. 1 inch long" or something else of similar size to put in your cage. If you have something larger (or smaller), the size of cage can be adjusted, so if you have something specific that you want to put in your cage, bring it anyway. Since the wire needed for this project is the most common size used for wire-wrapping projects, the club has a good supply of brass practice wire in this size and we decided to lay in a moderate supply of 21-gauge square half hard wire in sterling silver, so even if you weren't at the last meeting to put in an order for wire, we will have enough for you to come play too! And bring your tools!



Board Meeting:

There will be a brief board meeting before our regular meeting this month. The board meeting will be at 9:00AM.

Dues are Due:

Also, now that we've entered a new Calendar Year, club Dues are due! Many of you have already sent in your dues, but if you forgot, it's time to pay up again for another year. Dues are as follows:

\$10.00	Junior (under 18 or full-time student)
\$15.00	Individual
\$20.00	Couple (or parent and one child)
\$25.00	Family

If you joined for the first time at the show last July (2006), your dues are paid through the end of 2007.

If you get a Membership Renewal Form in this newsletter, that means I don't have a record of your having paid dues for this year yet. (Those of you who get the e-version from the web site, it's there in the e-version regardless.) I know you all love filling out forms, but please do fill this

Club Web Site address:		http://www.treebeard.net/gemcity/index.htm		
President	Kirk McFadden	10535 Bowmantown Rd.	Cranesville PA 16410-9739	(814) 602-5225
Vice-president	Sarah Boesch	1223 Lake St.	Lake City PA 16423-1808	(814) 774-4234
Secretary	Harriet Beckman	1120 W. 41st St.	Erie PA 16509-1302	(814) 868-8422
Treasurer	Val Engelleiter	132 Moorehead St.	Erie PA 16508-1859	(814) 454-1771
Newsletter Editor	Harriet Beckman	email:	gemcity@treebeard.net	(814) 868-8422
Board Members:	Robert Gallivan		Ted Oslak	Mary Thomson

one out and bring it along to the meeting with your dues, or mail it in with your dues check – and you can use the new official club mailing address! It is:

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

Please try to remember to bring your dues along to the meeting, or mail a check to the club. We will give you a month or two to get your dues in, but those not current on their dues will stop getting the newsletter and not be eligible to participate in any club activities! So please help us keep you current by renewing promptly.

Club Services Disruption:

You may notice a slight disruption in the club's newsletter and web site, since your Newsletter Editor and Webmaster (both me!) is in the process of moving and getting married. This impacts the club in a few ways:

- 1) I have much less time for the newsletter, so the most time-consuming feature, the Rockhound TV listings, will be on hiatus until after most of the chaos is over.
- 2) I no longer have reliable internet access at home, so there have been some problems updating the web site, and some of my email doesn't seem to be sent; I am working on this, but it hasn't been solved yet.
- 3) Since my moving also involves splitting a household, I no longer have the same phone number I have had. I will be moving into Brad's house sometime in March (probably), but have already changed to his address and phone number since I am at his house as much as mine these days. Mail and telephone messages will reach me if they are directed to the new address and phone number for me listed in the Newsletter Footer on the first page.
- 4) In a continuing effort to remain technically current, I have removed the text that has comprised the footer of the newsletter and replaced it with a graphic of the text. This is to try to foil internet "bots" which are programs that scan all text on web pages looking for web sites, email addresses, addresses or phone numbers for spamming / marketing purposes. This should be transparent to you all, but if it is not, please let me know.

Federation News:

The American Federation newsletter (http://www.amfed.org/news/n2007_02.pdf) has an article on the 2007 AFMS Convention, hosted this year by the Chaparral Rockhounds of Roswell, NM, June 7-10 in conjunction with the Rocky Mountain Federation Convention. They are planning several mouth-watering field trips in the area, including a 3-day trip after the conclusion of the show to points west! The Safety column *Be Safe – Be Well* is on Footwear and Foot Care – something that is very important in a hobby that not only requires quite a bit of walking (if you rockhound) and standing (if you're into lapidary), but can be pretty hazardous to your feet if you don't take care; and as most of us are increasingly aware, foot problems increase the older you get. And you *really* start to know how important your feet are to you when they begin to let you down – or you let *them* down!

There is a brief description of the new "America the Beautiful" pass of the National Parks Service – read the article or see the web site at http://www.doi.gov/news/06_News_Releases/061205.html . There is an article by the new Chair of the Conservation & Legislation Committee, citing some recent and pending legislation and urging *all* rockhounds to become involved in advising our legislators in various ways as they are asked to "protect" certain areas – an easy way to remain current on such legislation is to join the American Lands Access Association (www.amlands.org).

There is an interesting article on exploring the possibility of finding Co-Sponsors for Club Shows – and as we've been exploring some other changes in our show, this is one article that

every club member who wants to insure the continued success of our Show really should read! While the main thrust of this article is finding co-sponsors to help fund the show, we need to think more along the lines of co-sponsors to help with manpower and activities; but the idea of finding other organizations / entities with some interest in common is a good one.

Another article is *Good Info For E-Mail Users*, and before you think you know all you need to about emailing, I've always thought I was pretty tech savvy, and I not only learned things I didn't know, but was made aware of the significance of some things I already knew but didn't pay enough attention to!

The Eastern Federation newsletter (<http://www.amfed.org/efmls/feb07.pdf>) has another article on Wildacres, and class listings, which include crystallography, fused glass, geology and intarsia in addition to the faceting, capping, and various jewelry-making classes which they always have. The sign-ups for the 2007 Wildacres workshops are now open, so now is the time to read up on it and make plans to go. 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. Considering that you'd be hard-pressed to find a week's vacation room-and-board for \$330 (per person, double occupancy), let alone with a class or two thrown in, it's a pretty good deal!

There is also a report on the EFMLS Convention that was just in Palm Beach, FL November 16-19, so by now we have new officers – the newsletter has contact info and photos from the convention. The Safety First article is on eye protection, listing the hazards to your eyes our hobby involves and the different levels of eye protection you should have for each.

Upcoming Field Trips:

Our field trip coordinator, Ed, gave me this info:

FIRST FIELD TRIP, Arkansas for Quartz Crystals

May 31st-June 3rd, 2007

On May 30th we will leave from my place about 6:30 or 7pm for our 16-hour trip. We will be going to Arkansas for quartz crystals. I can take 3 people maybe 4 with me and this will cut the cost on traveling. The cost for digging is \$20.00 a day. This is about 2250 miles round trip. The first mine we will dig at is the "lonesome dove" a new mine, we can camp here at no cost. From here we can either stay or take day trips to other mines. We will leave Arkansas Sunday night for our trip home for Monday morning. Please inform me at the club or email me on how many want to go and who is going. This will be discussed at the March and April club meetings. ED

Also keep in mind the trip to Bancroft, Ontario for the 44th Annual Rockhound Gemboree, August 2-5, 2007. This is probably the last year we can make this trip without springing \$80 or so for a passport. More info on the Gemboree is at

http://www.bancroftdistrict.com/Tourism/rock_hound_gem.php

<http://www.bancroftontario.com/index.cfm?vNavID=1&vSubNavID=4>

Ed also has several daytrips in mind for this summer – more on those as collecting weather approaches.

Rockhound TV This Month:

This column will be mostly on hiatus for a few months, unless someone else wants to take it over and get it to me by 2 weeks before the next meeting. It isn't difficult, but it is time-consuming, and I don't have the 20 or so hours to put into it until May or June. But you can

always go to the web sites for the various channels and look for yourself what will be on in the coming month:

PBS: This one is tough, since the local stations do the scheduling and WQLN (www.wqln.org) only has the schedule for the next 2 weeks up on the web site. You can go to www.PBS.ORG and get info on what the various series are offering to the local stations, but WQLN may or may not show them, and if they do, it may or may not be in Prime Time (you will have noticed how often Nova is on only at 3 or 4 AM). If you are a member of WQLN, you can get a month's worth of Prime-Time listings in their newsletter.

Discovery Channel: <http://dsc.discovery.com/>

Travel Channel: <http://travel.discovery.com/> Be sure to check out "Cash and Treasures on Tuesdays at 10:00PM.

History Channel: <http://www.history.com/> .

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, www.intergem.com.

Mar. 10-11, Liverpool (Syracuse), NY - Innovative Beads Expo. Holiday Inn, 441 Electronics Pkwy. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. daily. Renu Sawhney, 845-352-9735, info@innovativebeadsexpo.com, www.innovativebeadsexpo.com.

Mar. 10-11, Pittsburgh, PA - The Bead Mercantile Show. Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites of RIDC Park, 180 Gamma Dr. 423-639-7942, www.beadmercantile.com.

March 24-25, Hamburg, NY - "Agates: Nature's Stained Glass Window". Buffalo Geological Society; Grange/Market Bldgs., Erie County Fairgrounds, 5600 McKinley Pkwy.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$5, children under 12 free; kids' mini-mine, "Grandpa's Corner" with bead crafting, sand art, and more, more than 25 dealers, fossils, minerals, geology, books, equipment, lapidary arts, specialists in wire wrapping, cabochons, gems, jewelry, minerals, lapidary, fossils; contact Steve Birtz, 2230 Fix Rd., Grand Island, NY 14072, (716) 773-6386; e-mail: SBirtz@aol.com; www.bgsny.org.

March 4-25, Sayre, PA - 38th annual show; Che-Hanna Rock & Mineral Club. Athens Twp. Volunteer Fire Hall, 150 Herrick Ave.; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-5; cabochon making, geode cutting, and gemstone faceting demonstrations, fluorescent demonstration by UV Bob, kid's mini-mine, door prizes, exhibits, dealers, special exhibit and silent auction from Carnegie Mineral Museum; contact Hazel Remaley, (570) 888-7544; e-mail: northridge@infoblvd.net.

April 13-15, Berea, OH - "GemStreet USA". Strieter Productions Inc.; Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds, 164 Eastland Rd. (use Bagley Rd. Entrance); Fri. 11-7, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; adults \$6, seniors and students \$4, ticket good all weekend, children under 12 free; rough and finished minerals, high-quality gemstones, mineral specimens, spheres, wands, wire wrapping, 14k and sterling silver jewelry, authentic Native American jewelry, beads, tools, supplies, fossils; contact Jane Strieter Smith, P.O. Box 770580, Lakewood, OH 44107, (216) 521-GEMS; e-mail: spi@stratos.net; Web site: www.gemstreetusa.com.

April 28-29, Cuyahoga Falls, OH - Show and sale, "Gemboree". Summit Lapidary Club, Akron Mineral Society; Emidio & Sons Expo Center, 48 E. Bath Rd.; Sat. 10-7, Sun. 10-6; minerals, rocks, gems, jewelry; contact Warren Salchak, (330) 929-3798, or Carl Miller, (330) 633-4250; Web site: www.LapidaryClubofOhio.org.

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 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.



GEM CITY ROCK & MINERAL SOCIETY

Membership Renewal Form 2007



Name: _____

Address: _____

City & State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

How would you like to receive the newsletter? Email Snail Mail

- Junior (under 18 or full-time student) \$10.00
- Individual \$15.00
- Couple (or parent and one child) \$20.00
- Family \$25.00

Names of additional family members who are members:

Bring completed form with dues to next meeting, or mail to:

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