



# The PRESQUE ISLE PROSPECTOR



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



April 2007

## Last Month's Meeting:

Last month we watched a few episodes of the "Cash and Treasures" Program from the Travel Channel.

## This Month's Meeting:

This month our meeting will be Saturday April 7<sup>th</sup>, at 9:30AM. Val will show us what you can do with a neat new product, **Omni-Gel photo-transfer liquid** which you can get from Fire Mountain (<http://www.firemountaingems.com/details.asp?PN=H203011TL>). "Omni-Gel photo-transfer liquid is a strong, versatile transfer agent. Use for transferring images to glass, metal, fabric and leather, or canvas. Waterproof, flexible, acid-free and dries clear." You paint 3 coats of the gel onto a photo, drying between each coat, then soak it in water to soften and dissolve the paper behind the image. Then stick the translucent image onto something with the gel.

Val says:

"I was hoping to have people participate. We can either plan to have another session the following week, or on Sunday afternoon, if we have keys available (1 p.m. or later -- most people should be done with church by then).

They can bring a picture from a magazine, newspaper or book, a black-and-white photocopy, or color laser print. They can try an inkjet print, but the color WILL bleed, and they might end up with a faded or blank transfer, although black-and-white inkjet prints seem to transfer pretty well. Actual professionally processed photos -- whether they be traditional film or digital -- do NOT work. I tried.

They should bring the item they want to put the image on, keeping in mind that the transfer image will be translucent. If the backing object has color or texture, it will show through. If they're using a black-and-white print on a colored slab, cab, shell component, etc., it might have a nice effect. I haven't tried it, though.

They might want to bring along a pair of scissors, too. We don't have many to go around.

Something else I've discovered: If you put finished pieces in a plastic bag, it will affect and possibly mar the transfer."

Photos look pretty cool when transferred to a Mother-of-Pearl backing, like a pendant or other component. Glass is cool too -- like Christmas ornaments or scrap window glass. When we were playing with this to see if it'd make a good program, I got a few extra shell components -- I have three 25mm (1") disks for \$1.00 each, five 14mm (1/2") disks for \$0.85 each, two 55mm (2 1/4") disks for \$5.00 each, a rectangle 35x45mm (1-3/8 x 1-3/4") for \$3.25, and 12 rectangles 18x13mm (about 1/2"x3/4") for \$0.65 each.

So scour your hard drive for those cute photos of your kids or pets to crop down (I used my cat's face), or a great stream or sunset or landscape, or look through magazines or even on the

|                        |                 |   |                           |                |
|------------------------|-----------------|---|---------------------------|----------------|
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web for images, then use the program of your choice to size it to the right size, and take it to somewhere like CopyMax and have them print it out on their color laser copier/printer for under \$1/page (put a bunch of images on a page to be cost-effective). Small images would work for jewelry, or larger ones for nightlights or ornaments or gift items.

My playing around with it:



Looking ahead to the May meeting, we will meet at Ralph Miller Jewelers (<http://www.ralphmillerjewelers.com/jandan/rmj.htm>), at 28 & 30 West 8th Street, in downtown Erie. Jan & Dan Niebauer will show us around the store & gallery. We had a great time drooling over – er, *looking at* – all the beautiful jewelry, both new and vintage, giftware and specimens etc. last time we were there, and look forward to seeing all the new things now!

### **Federation News:**

The American Federation newsletter ([http://www.amfed.org/news/n2007\\_04.pdf](http://www.amfed.org/news/n2007_04.pdf)) has more on the 2007 AFMS Convention, in Roswell, NM, June 7-10 in conjunction with the Rocky Mountain Federation Convention. The Safety article is on thorns/spines/splinters and the sometimes-underestimated dangers thereof. There is also an article on 5 week-long workshops at Wildacres and at William Holland sponsored by the Southeast Federation, to which other AFMS members are also invited.

The Eastern Federation newsletter (<http://www.amfed.org/efmls/efapril07.pdf>) has an article on the 2007 EFMLS Convention, which will be held October 5-7 in Newark, NY (15-20 miles east of Rochester, so easily within driving distance, and possibly even longish-daytrip-distance for those only interested in the show that always accompanies the convention); it was pointed out that this is generally around the peak of fall color season, for those who'd care to drive out for it. The Spring Wildacres session is closed, but the Fall session (September 10-16) still has some spots left. The Safety First article is on chisel and drill safety, and anyone considering going on any field trip where you'll be whacking ANYTHING with a hammer should LOOK THIS UP!

### **Upcoming Field Trips:**

Keep in mind the two Big Field Trips that Ed has planned this year – the first to Arkansas for Quartz Crystals, May 31 to June 3<sup>rd</sup>, and the second 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.bancroftdistrict.com/Tourism/rock_hound_gem.php)  
<http://www.bancroftontario.com/index.cfm?vNavID=1&vSubNavID=4>

For more info on either trip, talk to Ed at the meetings or email inquiries to the club web site and they'll be forwarded to Ed.

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

## **Rockhound TV This Month:**

This column is still in DIY mode, so here are the web sites for the various channels to 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](http://www.wqln.org) ) only has the schedule for the next 2 weeks up on the web site. You can go to [www.PBS.ORG](http://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:**

Spring, and the new Show Season in our area, are approaching:

**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](mailto:spi@stratos.net); Web site: [www.gemstreetusa.com](http://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](http://www.LapidaryClubofOhio.org).

**May 4-6, Washington County, PA - "Greater Pittsburgh Area Show";** Fair & Balanced Promotions. Jewelry, Bead, Mineral, and Gift Show. Washington County Fairgrounds, I-79 northbound exit 40 or southbound exit 41. Adults \$4, children under 12 free; 4th-5th, 10-6; 6th, 10-5. Franko, 304-825-6845, [frankowrap@juno.com](mailto:frankowrap@juno.com).

**May 11-13, Rochester, NY - GemStreet USA.** Gem, Mineral, Jewelry, Fossil, and Bead Show. Monroe Fair & Expo Center, 2695 E. Henrietta Rd. 11th-12th, 10-6; 13th, 11-5. Strieter Productions, Inc., Jane Strieter Smith, 216-521-GEMS, [spi@stratos.net](mailto:spi@stratos.net), [www.gemstreetusa.com](http://www.gemstreetusa.com).

**May 12-13, Canton, OH - Stark County Gem & Mineral Club.** 40th Annual Gem and Mineral Show. Stark County Fairgrounds, 305 Wertz Ave. Silent auction, demonstrations, displays, rock craft items, jewelry, lapidary supplies, minerals, fossils, national dealers; 12th, 10-6, 13th, 10-5. Dave Behringer, 330-830-1578.

**May 19-20, Berea, OH - Parma Lapidary Club.** 39th Annual Cleveland Area Gem and Mineral Show, "Beautiful World of Rocks and Gems"; Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds, 164 Eastland Rd., Bagley Rd. Entrance. 19th, 10-7; 20th, 11-5; adults \$5 (both days), Scouts in uniform free, children 12 and under free with adult; gemstones, minerals, crystals, unusual fossils, handcrafted jewelry, working lapidary demonstrations, exhibits, silent auction, raffles, hourly door prizes, specimens, tools, supplies, equipment, Kiddie Korner, Treasure Dig. John Zaborowski, 440-949-8242, [jjzabor@adelphia.net](mailto:jjzabor@adelphia.net), [www.parmalapidary.com](http://www.parmalapidary.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 218-1774 or Bob Gallivan at 454-6770 to make sure.