



The PRESQUE ISLE PROSPECTOR



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



June 2007

Last Month's Meeting:

Last month we met at the club room at about 9:30, but as there were only 4 of us, we couldn't have an actual "meeting" (not a quorum present); so we just went down to Ralph Miller Jewelers (<http://www.ralphmillerjewelers.com/jandan/rmj.htm>) and since there were only a few of us, we got a really in-depth tour from Dan, who showed us all kinds of nifty things they have for sale, including contemporary and antique carved stone and cast bronze artworks from China, Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, India, Africa

They also had quite a few fossils and mineral specimens, and several quite impressive collector's gems, like a 126 ct. pear-cut Aquamarine, or a 208 ct. rectangular Amethyst, or a 3809 ct. oval-cut Smoky Quartz! That's in addition to the lovely jewelry, some of it estate jewelry, and much more made by the 5 jewelers on staff, each with their own style and specialty. It's an amazing store / gallery, and you wander from case to case, and then you look back and see things you didn't even notice the first time you looked in that case!

Then Dan demonstrated a simple wire-wrap technique for a pendant with three elements, and showed that you can use much finer wire if you're willing and able to solder a few joints for strength, ending up with a much lighter look and feel – not to mention less metal, which makes quite a difference with the current price of metals! He also talked about the design considerations that go into putting those elements together.

Altogether it was a very interesting morning, and we thank Jan and Dan for their gracious hospitality!

This Month's Meeting:

This month our meeting will be Saturday June 2nd. We will be working on show planning, since the show is only six weeks away.

We also need to work on a few more batches of Discovery Blocks. They take at *least* 2 weeks to dry, and we only have one batch made so far, and should have at least 3 batches to meet demand – especially if we don't manage to have more kid's activities, as last year, when we ran out of blocks by 11AM Sunday!

We also need to discuss some decisions we will need to make about next year's show. We may be changing venues, and as it will be the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the Club, we will probably want to make it as special as we can. Since we may have a good deal more space, we can think about expanding display space, and demo space, and activity space – as long as we have people to man them! So start thinking up ideas!

Federation News:

The American Federation newsletter (http://www.amfed.org/news/n2007_06.pdf) has more on the 2007 AFMS Convention, in Roswell, NM, June 7-10 in conjunction with the Rocky Mountain Federation Convention. Also a good article on Mapping activities for juniors, though it sounded like enough fun for senior members too. The Safety Article is on Poisons, both those you run into as a rockhound and those around the house, including a few I hadn't heard about –

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in fact, I'll quote that part because I think it's so important: "some of the pre-moistened, disposable, mop pads cause liver problems in animals. It is reported that the pet gets the chemical on their paws and then lick their paws. Look at the packaging for a cautionary note regarding children and extend this warning to the pets."

The Eastern Federation newsletter (<http://www.amfed.org/efmls/efjune07.pdf>) has more on the 2007 EFMLS Convention October 5-7 in Newark, NY (15-20 miles east of Rochester) including other things to do while you're in the area. There was an article on how wonderful the just-completed Spring Wildacres session was, and notice that the Fall session (September 10-16) still has some spots left. The Safety article is on Field Trip Safety, as it is each June. And you should read it – AGAIN – as you should at the start of each field trip season, or even each field trip! Review of safety never hurts!

Upcoming Field Trips:

Well, of the two Big Field Trips that Ed has planned this year, the first to Arkansas for Quartz Crystals May 31 to June 3rd, is right about now, so if you haven't already made plans to go, you aren't going! The second, to Bancroft, Ontario for the 44th Annual Rockhound Gemboree, August 2-5, 2007, looks like it may have to be cancelled unless a few more people step forward to go. That would be a shame, as 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 next month, or whenever Ed makes the plans more definite.

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) 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:

June 1-3, Cleveland, OH - International Gem & Jewelry Show. I-X Center. 301-294-1640, fax 301-294-0034, info@intergem.com, www.intergem.com.

June 7-9, Pittsburgh, PA - Glass Art Society. 37th Annual Conference. 206-382-1305, info@glassart.org, www.glassart.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 218-1774 or Bob Gallivan at 454-6770 to make sure.