



The PRESQUE ISLE PROSPECTOR



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

August 2007



Last Month's Meeting:

Last month we worked on show planning, and we did some brainstorming on where the club could move to – either temporarily (storage) or permanently, and we have been pursuing some options.

This Month's Meeting:

For the past several years, we have moved our “Summer Picnic” to the second Sunday in September, and just taken the month of August off; this year, we can't do that, since we've got a whole lot of packing and an all-too-near deadline! Our Picnic will still be the second Sunday in September, this year that's September 9th, but we will also be having an August meeting on **Saturday, August 4th, at 9:30AM**. Actually, we will be meeting pretty much every Saturday, to discuss progress in the new-home-hunt, and to get busy on the packing up of stuff, but August 4th will be a regular Club Meeting. It appears that there really is quite a lot of interest in keeping the club going, but that will require some effort on all our parts. It will also require some creative thinking, and brainstorming is best done in a group, so please come and help us figure out what we're going to do.

We have definitely been spoiled by having such a large and lovely space donated to us for so many years, and because we had the space, we used it – all of it! Finding another such space would, of course, be ideal, but since we can't count on that, we've been adjusting our thinking a bit. Our current basement home has areas for lapidary work, for silverwork, for meeting space, for display space, and for storage space. While it would be nice to retain all those functions, they would not all necessarily need to be at the same location. We could meet in many types of locations, from public buildings with meeting space (Library? Tom Ridge Environmental Center? Area Colleges?), to Churches, to people's living rooms. Storage might also not need to be all together – it would be good to keep as much as possible of the club's rock supply with the lapidary equipment, wherever that goes; but as we have just been reminded, we have a lot of stuff that we only use once a year for the Gem Show (cords & rugs, door prize cage & display case, mini-mine and other activity supplies) that could easily go in a member's basement (or members' basements), and we might find somewhere not just willing but happy to provide a semi-permanent home for our “museum” cases. But that still leaves us looking for space to set up and use our lapidary and silverworking equipment.

We made the decision to go ahead and change venues for next year's show, to the larger and more centrally located JMC Ice Arena. As it will be the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the Club, we will want to make it as special as we can. Since we will have a good deal more space, we can think about expanding displays, demos, and activities – as long as we have people to man them! So start thinking up ideas! Since we are collectively committed to the continuation of the club, this could be the boost we need!

Also – to help with the move, if anyone has sturdy containers, like plastic milk crates or 5-gallon buckets, or anything else that can carry rocks and hold up well, please bring them along!

Field Trip Reports:

If anyone would like to write up a trip report or submit some photos from the trip to Arkansas, there will be room for it in the September newsletter (hint, hint). In fact, you could write it up now so you don't forget, and run into next month's deadline (about August 30th).

Club Web Site address:	http://www.treebeard.net/gemcity/index.htm		
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To show you how easy this can be, here are a few photos I took at the Lizzadro Museum of Lapidary Art (<http://www.lizzadromuseum.org/>) in Elmhurst (Chicago area) IL, where Brad and I stopped on the way home from Omaha – it's not a very big museum (even I could do it in a couple of hours) but for gee-whiz factor, it's hard to beat! The lighting was much better for display than for photography, so I tried lots of them (thank goodness for digital!). Here are a few of the 400-plus photos I brought home:



Rockhound TV This Month:

This column is still in DIY mode:

PBS: www.wqln.org and www.PBS.ORG ;

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

Travel Channel: <http://travel.discovery.com/> ;

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

Upcoming Shows in the area:

Sept. 21-23, Berea, OH - GemStreet USA. Gem, Mineral, Jewelry, Fossil, and Bead Show. Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds, 164 Eastland Rd. (Bagley Rd. entrance). 21st-22nd, 10-6; 23rd, 11-5. Strieter Productions, Inc., Jane Strieter Smith, 216-521-GEMS, spi@stratos.net, www.gemstreetusa.com.

Sept. 29-30, Akron, OH - Intergalactic Bead & Jewelry Show. Summit County Fairgrounds, Arena Complex, 229 E. Howe Rd. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. daily. 888-729-6904, ibs@beadshows.com, www.beadshows.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 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 868-8422 or Bob Gallivan at 454-6770 to make sure.