



# The PRESQUE ISLE PROSPECTOR

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



## December 2007

### **Last Month's Meeting -- and since:**

Last month we had our first meeting in our new club home in the basement of the Renaissance Center! Since we were in quite a hurry to get all our stuff moved, we didn't exactly have a meticulous itemized inventory or placement plan, so it'll take a while to find where everything is, but we found a table, a bunch of chairs, and space to set them up to meet around, and that's all we really needed.

Since we had agreed to paint the space, we made plans to start that project the following Saturday, but you may recall we had our first snowfall on Tuesday of that week – several inches of wet, slushy icky-ness that was over an inch of water, and it gave us our first indication that whatever leak-control measures the building maintenance department had put in place were, shall we say, not totally effective. I got a call on Wednesday afternoon that there was water in the basement, and when I got down there, there was up to an inch of water in the low spots along the outer wall under the sidewalk. We moved a few things that were most vulnerable, and that next Saturday session turned into a rescue-and-relocate workday. Only a few boxes of really vulnerable stuff – our records and library materials – got wet, and those not sopping, just pretty damp, so we emptied them out to dry and shifted the rest to areas that looked less likely to be vulnerable.

Needless to say, after our fairly intense and minimally fruitful search for a new home, and to be saved with this really nice space at the last hopeless minute and a heroically intense moving effort, we were pretty disheartened by this. We had to decide whether to stay, and deal with who-knows-how-bad water issues (apparently the building management doesn't) and risk damage to our equipment and other stuff, and not really knowing how much effort we wanted to put into setting up our benches and equipment work areas – or break the lease and have to not only start further searching but also move AGAIN, this time in snow.

We (the Board, or the work party, pretty much the same thing) decided to stay, at least for now. We will not have to paint the area, at least not until the water issues have been dealt with (would be pretty much a waste of effort & paint anyway). We will have to keep a close eye on where the water comes in and where it goes -- at least the heat seems to keep the air fairly dry. We have already had some equipment damage – the steel master lap on the faceter must have gotten wet since it's all-over rust and now we'll have to find someone to re-face it with sufficient precision or replace it (which might be cheaper, actually). We'll find out about any other damage as we continue to unearth equipment. We see no point in investing in further electrical access, especially since we don't know where we will end up needing it – our plans for placement of equipment have already changed, and may have to change again. But we will try to set up some equipment for running by the end of January (allowing for the slowdown in club work over the holidays).

### **This Month's Meeting – Holiday Dinner and Annual Election of Officers:**

This month our meeting will be our annual Holiday Dinner and Election of Officers on **Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</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).** (See map on next page.)

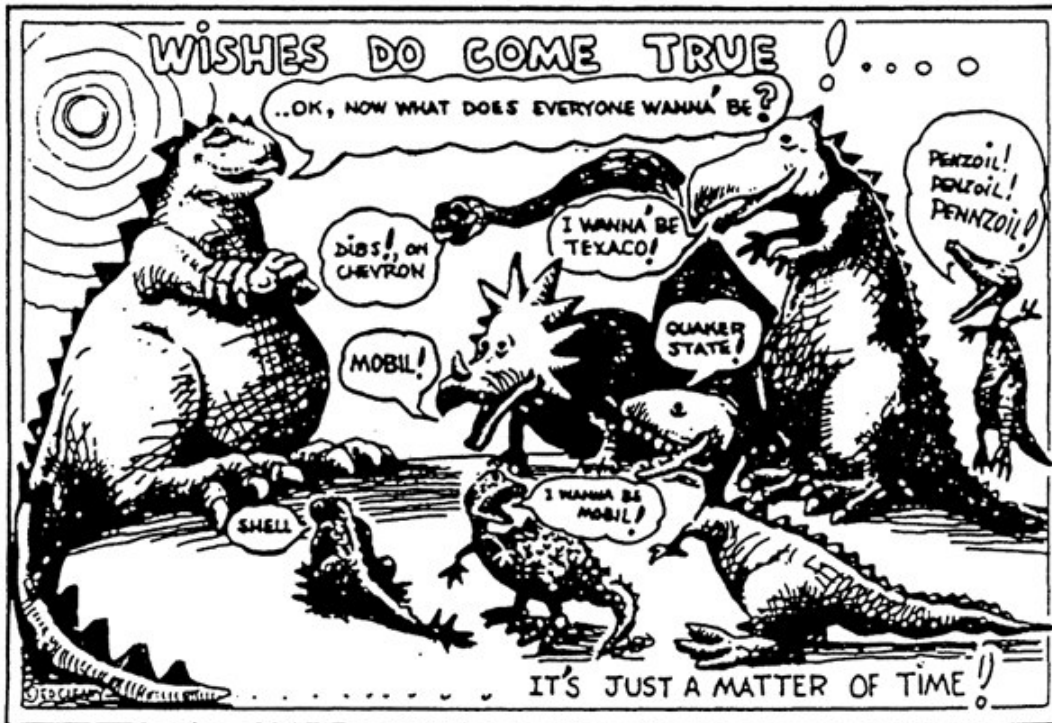
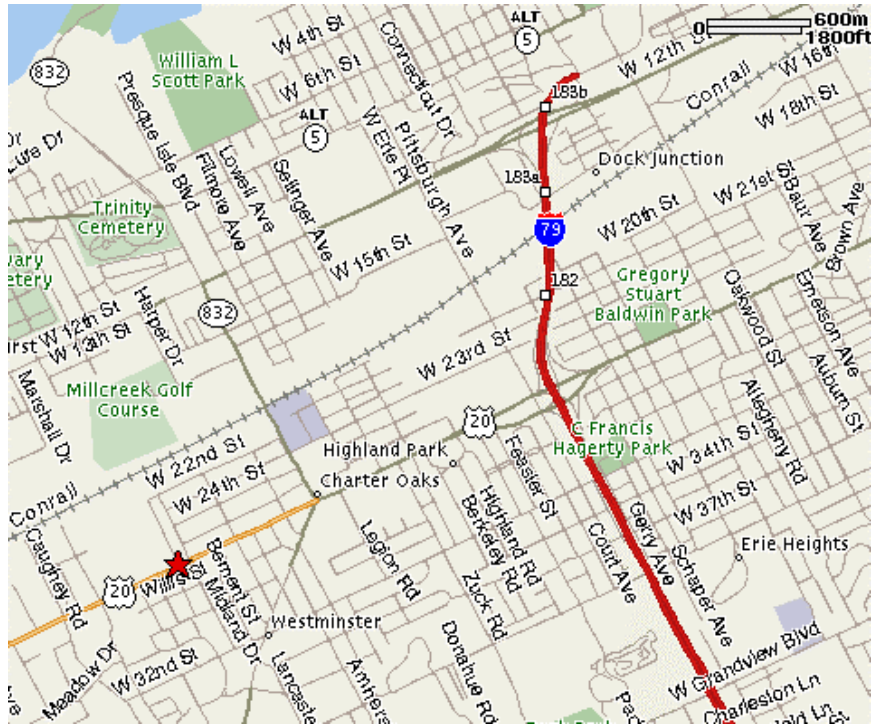
Club Web Site address:		<a href="http://www.treebeard.net/gemcity/index.htm">http://www.treebeard.net/gemcity/index.htm</a>		
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Board Members:	Robert Gallivan		Ted Oslak	Mary Thomson

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 please call Harriet (868-8422) with a headcount by Wednesday, November 28<sup>th</sup> so I can tell them how many to set up for. Just so you aren't surprised by it, they will automatically add an 18% gratuity to our checks.

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 (these names may look familiar ☺):

- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| President:         | Kirk McFadden   |
| 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) |

Last month we had several guests visit us at the meeting –you'd be welcome to join us for the dinner, too!



From The Boondocker 5&6/92 via T-Town Rockhound 6/98

## **Federation News:**

The December Eastern Federation Newsletter (<http://www.amfed.org/efmls/efdec07web.pdf>) has an article on the 2008 Wildacres sessions, listing the Spring session dates as April 18-24 and the Fall dates September 8-14, and class schedules for each. Please check out the class listings, because I'm still hoping someone else will find something they can't resist and so be a carpooling partner! At \$330 / week, including room, board & tuition, it's a pretty tough deal to beat – but then there's that pesky transportation cost, and who knows what the price of gas will be by then, so let's get a carload of people to split the cost! I keep reading that the classes are really good, but every bit as good is the fellowship of like-minded rocks-in-the-head friends just waiting to be met, so please, *somebody*, let's go! They begin taking registrations January 1<sup>st</sup>, so if you want a specific class (though it's kind of hard to decide, there are so many good ones), early registration would help ensure getting your first choice.

There are also articles and registration forms for the 2008 Eastern Federation Annual Meeting, this year held in conjunction with the Mississippi Gem & Mineral Society's 49th Annual Gem and Mineral Show, February 22, 23, and 24 in Jackson, MS. This is that club's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and they are celebrating their Golden Anniversary with a Gold theme and by hosting the EFMLS Annual Meeting. Sounds like fun if you're planning to be near there about that time....

The American Federation Newsletter ([http://www.amfed.org/news/n2007\\_12.pdf](http://www.amfed.org/news/n2007_12.pdf)) has another article on currently pending legislation that will affect access to public lands and our ability to collect on them, asking once more for our involvement in helping our locally elected legislators to see our viewpoint. There is an article outlining some basic considerations when putting together a display, which you might want to check out since one of the areas we want to "punch up" for this year's Gem Show is our displays – and not just the competitive type. There is a flyer with more complete information on the Tri-Federation Rockhound Rendezvous and Field Trip scheduled for May 21<sup>st</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>, 2008 in Texas Springs, NV: "The Northwest, Rocky Mountain and California Federations of Mineralogical Societies are hosting a Tri-Federation Rockhound Rendezvous and Field Trip to Texas Springs, NV, over Memorial Day Weekend 2008 and all AFMS members are invited. The Texas Springs area is well known for spectacular pink agate limb casts, as well as other agate and petrified wood. Texas Springs Canyon is located approximately 25 miles southeast of the town of Jackpot in the northeast corner of Nevada. In addition to the collecting trips we will have potluck dinners, happy hours, speakers, evening campfires, tailgate displays, map exchange, and a great rockhound get-together." Apparently last year's Rendezvous was a big success, so they want to do it again. Sounds great!

## **Carnegie Museum Update:**

You may wonder why I haven't mentioned anything about the 2007 Carnegie Gem & Mineral Show; well, as far as I could tell, they didn't have one. But that might be because they've been busy with other things, like the updating of the hall of dinosaurs for their ***Dinosaurs in Their Time*** exhibit, and refurbishing the **Hillman Hall of Gems & Minerals** including the addition of the new ***Wertz Gallery of Gems and Jewelry***. So there are some great new things to see there; unfortunately, you'll have to pay more to see them – they just raised the adult admission to \$15.00 (ouch!). But here are the blurbs on the exhibits, or check out <http://www.carnegiemnh.org/> for more complete info.



**Dinosaurs in Their Time** opens to the public November 21, 2007

At long last! After two years of construction and over a decade of planning, the eagerly anticipated *Dinosaurs in Their Time* exhibit opens to the public in time for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Go to <http://www.carnegiemnh.org/dinosaurs/index.htm> to visit the ***Dinosaurs in Their Time*** Web site for construction updates and Web cams.



**Arresting Arrangements - Photos by Craig Cutler** through Spring 2008  
Entrance Gallery, First Floor

This exhibit features 20 large-scale photos by New York photographer Craig Cutler. Craig documented the remounting of Carnegie Museum of Natural History dinosaurs last year at Phil Fraley Productions. Craig's photos capture the curious juxtaposition of dinosaur parts and human intervention as still life. Many of the photos include the rigging apparatuses for staging and re-posturing the multitude of fragile fossil parts.



**Luxe Life: Masterpieces of American Jewelry** through January 6, 2008

Carnegie Museum of Natural History is pleased to announce the opening of *Luxe Life: Masterpieces of American Jewelry* to coincide with the inauguration of the museum's new *Wertz Gallery: Gems and Jewelry* on September 28, 2007.

Guest-curated by Charlie Scheips, *Luxe Life* draws inspiration from Carnegie Museum of Natural History's long tradition and methodology of display of artifacts and specimens for its world-class collection.



The exhibit features three major tableaux in the museum's newly installed Wertz Gallery that will house the museum's permanent collections of gems and jewels as well as special exhibitions. These three major tableaux will feature masterpieces of American jewelry design spanning from the mid-19th century to the present by some of the country's greatest jewelers and will be presented in specially created "natural" settings representing the flora, fauna, and celestial realms from which these important jewelry

designers drew upon for inspiration.

Major pieces by historic American jewelers such as Tiffany & Company, Traebert-Hoeffler-Mauboussin, the Newark Group, and Cartier as well as individual master designers such as Paul Flato, Alexander Calder, Donald Claflin, David Webb, Paul Gillot, Tina Chow, and Fred Leighton. Many contemporary American jewelry designers are also featured including Nicholas Varney, Joel Arthur Rosenthal (JAR), Michele Oka Doner, Lynn Nakamura, Ricardo Basta, and Katey Brunni.

**Rockhound TV This Month:**

This column is still in DIY mode:

**PBS:** [www.wqln.org](http://www.wqln.org) and [www.pbs.org](http://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:**

The shows within driving distance are pretty much over for the rotten-driving season; they'll start up again next spring. Plenty of shows in Florida, Texas and California, though, not to mention TUCSON!

**Feb. 23-24, ALBANY, NY - 15th annual show, "James Campbell Memorial Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show and Sale";** New York State Academy of Mineralogy, Capital District Mineral Club; New York State Museum, 4th floor, Empire State Plaza, Madison Ave.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; admission \$6; contact Mike Hawkins, (518) 486-2011; e-mail: [mhawkins@mail.nysed.gov](mailto:mhawkins@mail.nysed.gov).

Of course, as always, if you're planning to travel (especially to the warmer southern states), 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>). I have noticed more and more shows listed only one of these locations – possibly due to "automated listing" software that gave us trouble last year trying to list our show.

Our Work Sessions on Saturdays will mostly be finding and setting up stuff in the new clubroom, but with the holiday season upon us, many of us will have less time to spend on it this month. Call me (Harriet) at 868-8422 or Bob Gallivan at 454-6770 to find out about any specific Saturday.