



The PRESQUE ISLE PROSPECTOR



Official Publication of the Gem City Rock and Mineral Society
Monthly Meetings, First Saturday at 9:30 AM

April 2008

Last Month's Meeting:

Last month our meeting was again mostly work, but again, we got quite a bit done.

This Month's Meeting:

This month our meeting will be Saturday, April 5th, at 9:30AM in (if you will recall) our new home in the **Renaissance Centre building at 1001 State Street in downtown Erie** (southeast corner of 10th and State Streets). To find the club rooms, go in the front revolving door of the building on State Street (just south of the nut shop, which is on the corner), and look for a stairway to the basement on the right-hand side of the lobby right before the small hallway containing the elevators. At the bottom of the stairs or the elevator, you will see the entrance to our space – a door heading into what looks like, well, a restaurant, with a small mirrored lobby.

There is also a parking ramp on the south side of E. 10th Street just east of the Renaissance Centre building (toward French Street), and it should be free to park there on Saturdays!

The meeting topic will be planning for the Library display, and the new Juniors club (see article below). Also, we will have to see what need to do to help Val file the new Tax form we've been hearing about, and thought we didn't need to worry about until next year – wrong! We need to file it by May 15th!

Just after the regular meeting, we will have a meeting of the Show Committee. We want to have more displays and activities this year, especially for the kids since our new venue is in the Erie Zoo Complex and we can hope for lots of cross-over traffic – *and* we have a new Juniors Coordinator, and will be starting specific Juniors Activities, so maybe we'll have some more junior members and parents to help out!

We will also need as much publicity as we can get this year, so please also be thinking about where we can advertise without breaking our budget (which has traditionally been – um, nothing).

Oh, and for all those of you who signed the letters to our legislators listing our concerns about the Paleontological Resources Act, we did get a form acknowledgement letter from Phil English's office, thanking us for our input. So he got the letter – let's just hope he reads it!

Dues are Due:

Last chance to get your dues in! If you joined at the show last July (2007), your dues are paid through the end of 2008; if not, you'll be dropped from the mailing list. 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

Please use the Membership Renewal Form when you mail in your dues or bring it in to the meeting. To remind you, the club address is

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

Club Web Site address:	www.gemcityrockclub.org		
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
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Newsletter Editor	Harriet Beckman	email: editor@gemcityrockclub.org	(814) 868-8422
Board Members:	Robert Gallivan	Ted Oslak	Mary Thomson

Federation News:

The April Eastern Federation Newsletter (<http://www.amfed.org/efmls/efapril08.pdf>) has the last of a three-part series of articles on Club Health – this one focusing on last-ditch efforts to save a failing club; some of these are pretty extreme, and we aren't in dire straights right now, but with our current level of membership and our current monetary imbalance with our having to pay rent now, we may want to consider some of the ideas, especially as we try to ramp up interest at our 50th Anniversary Gem Show. The Safety Article mentions the TV show "Cash & Treasures" and that often the host or others are shown not using safety gear, or not using it consistently – you not only need to HAVE safety glasses, you need to USE them! Consistently! The Junior program article is on "A Most Unique Mineral: Clay".

The American Federation Newsletter (http://www.amfed.org/news/n2008_04.pdf) has a brief though informative article on the **new tax form (990N)** that we are required to file, and apparently **we have to file this for the 2007 tax and calendar year by May 15, 2008** – so everyone should bring **any and all financial info** (all expenses, all accounts, etc.) they have with them to the meeting this month so we can work on it, and have a month's grace if we find we're missing anything. There's more on the Tri-Federation Rockhound Rendezvous and Field Trip in Nevada, Memorial Day weekend. There is also an article lamenting that fewer and fewer club bulletins are containing educational articles – and that includes ours. I'd like to emphasize that I am the club's newsletter *Editor* – not sole author or contributor. Or at least I shouldn't have to be. I'd love to have anyone else contribute anything of interest to the newsletter – and it doesn't have to be long, or involved, or perfect – sprucing it up is the Editor's job. Even a rough draft or outline would be really, really great (hint, hint). The Bulletin Editor's Contest has categories for educational articles, feature articles, non-technical articles, drawings, poems, articles or drawings by Juniors – just because we haven't had any in the newsletter doesn't mean we shouldn't – so pitch in!

Library Window Display:

We will have the wonderful big display window at the downtown Public Library for June and the first half of July, the perfect time leading up to our Gem Show, so we want to come up with a bang-up display to generate interest for the show. I'm still hoping to find someone interested in helping me on the display, especially the fossils aspect. And everyone can help by checking their collections for items to use, especially in the yellow / orange areas (not my favorites).

Junior Activities: Announcing Gem City Pebble Pups!

We now have a Junior Activities Coordinator! Member Melanie Slayton has agreed to coordinate and lead activities for Junior members, and knows many friends and classmates of her son Jake who would be interested, so we are issuing an invitation to all current junior members to spread the word! We have applied to have the **Gem City Pebble Pups** be listed an official Future Rockhounds of America (FRA) club, and we had hoped to have a Junior program for this month's meeting, but we didn't get everything ready in time, so the first meeting of the Gem City Pebble Pups will be **May 3rd, at 11:00AM**, after the regular meeting. But you would be welcome to come this month too, and help plan future activities.

The program planned for the May meeting is on growing crystals – a project that requires a little patience, since most types take a week or more to grow – so you will be starting them at the meeting, and seeing examples of what you can grow.

So mark your calendars now, and not only come to the May meeting, but bring your friends (and their parents)! See the Official Invitation Letter included in this newsletter, and take it with you to any classes, scout meetings, or other gatherings where you might find interested kids. Become a Future Rockhound of America!

Fall Club Project – and beyond:

Last year our big Club Project was finding a new home and moving, but this year we'd like to return to choosing a Club Project – something we can all make in a session or two this fall, and for which we can shop for at our show in July. It's also a great way to generate interest and show people what sorts of things the club does.

In the past, we've done beading projects, lapidary projects, and wire-wrapping projects, and the wire-wrapping got the most participation by far, so that's probably what we'd look for again; but if

you have an idea for a club project of any type, please bring it to the meeting so we can have a range of options to choose from. It should be suitable for beginners, but can be somewhat challenging for them. Bring a picture, and if you can, the directions too.

In addition, we should be thinking about program topics for the rest of the Fall and Winter. We've had quite a lot to do at meetings lately, but we need to have some fun, too – and if we set up our calendar of programs before the Show, we will 1) have something more to show prospective members, 2) have more to entice current members to show up for meetings, and 3) be able to sit back and not worry about a meeting topic for a while! So please be thinking about this. If anyone wants a particular topic or project that is not suitable to be the Fall Club Project, still bring it with you – it could be something we've done before that you'd like to do again, or something more in the way of a show-and-tell, or a topic you'd like to see a program on from the Federation Library – we just got the new 2008 Federation Directory, so you can look over the list. Also check out the EFMLS web site's article library page at <http://www.amfed.org/efmls/library.htm> for several articles on program topics, to give you ideas. It's **your** club, what do **you** want to do?

Rockhound TV This Month:

This column is still in DIY mode, but I will mention that the new season of *Cash & Treasures* has started on the Travel Channel:

PBS: www.wqjn.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:

April 5-6, Hamburg, NY - 40th Annual Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Show, Buffalo Geological Society; Erie County Fairgrounds, 5600 McKinley Parkway; Show theme, Jade-Stones of Heaven; Sat. 10-6, Sun 10-5; Admission \$5, children 12 & under free; mini-mine for ages 12 and under, kids' bead crafting, sand art, and more, more than 25 dealers, fossils, minerals, geology, books, equipment, lapidary, 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 .

April 19-20, West Mifflin, PA - Show; The Monongahela Rockhounds; Skyview Fire Hall, 640 Noble Dr.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; free admission; contact Monongahela Rockhounds, P.O. Box 18063, Pittsburgh, PA 15236; e-mail: show@monongahelarockhounds.org; Web site: www.monongahelarockhounds.org

April 26-27, 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

May 17-18, Berea (Cleveland), OH - 40th annual show, "Cleveland Area Gem & Mineral Show"; Parma Lapidary Club; Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds, 164 Eastland Rd.; Sat. 10-7, Sun. 11-5; adults \$5 (good both days), children 12 and under with adult and Scouts in uniform free; 26 vendors, minerals, crystals, gemstones, fossils, handcrafted jewelry, specimens, tools, supplies, beads, books, equipment, lapidary demonstrations, educational exhibits, silent auction, hourly door prizes, Kiddie Korner, Treasure Dig; contact John Zaborowski, 926 Lake Breeze Rd., Sheffield Lake, OH 44054, (440) 949-8242; e-mail: jjzabor@roadrunner.com ; Web site: 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>). I have noticed more and more shows listed in only one of these locations.

Our Work Sessions on Saturdays will mostly be finding and setting up stuff in the new clubroom. Check the club web site or call me (Harriet) at 868-8422 or Bob Gallivan at 454-6770 to find out about any specific Saturday.



GEM CITY ROCK & MINERAL SOCIETY

Membership Renewal Form 2008



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:

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

Calling All Future Rockhounds of America!

The **Gem City Rock & Mineral Society** of Erie, PA
Announces the formation of the

Gem City Pebble Pups

**For young people under 18 interested in
Rocks, Minerals, Fossils, and Lapidary**

**First Meeting May 3rd at 11:00AM
Renaissance Centre, 1001 State Street in
Downtown Erie**

The Gem City Rock and Mineral Society of Erie, PA, a non-profit educational group and member of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies, announces the formation of the Gem City Pebble Pups, a Future Rockhounds of America (FRA) club. The club would be open to Junior Members of the Society (those under age 18). This first meeting would be partly organizational and **open to any interested children / young people ages 6-18 and their parents / guardians**. Future meetings would have activities geared toward the ages of those interested, and may be tailored to more than one level / age group. Any parents interested in getting involved very welcome!

Please see the club web page at www.gemcityrockclub.org/peb-pups.htm for the more specific information and updates. We are trying to organize a fossil-collecting trip in April, so please check back often!

See the Federation web page at <http://www.amfed.org/kids.htm> for information on possible future activities.

Email info@gemcityrockclub.org or call Harriet at 814-868-8422 for more information.