



The PRESQUE ISLE PROSPECTOR



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



June 2008

Last Month's Meeting:

Last month we got started on the first batch of Discovery Blocks, since we have set a goal of 300 for this year's show – so we started sorting out the goodies to go into them. We've since had our first assembly session, and made up 90-something of them (I don't remember exactly), so we have a good start, but need 2 more sessions. We also continued on with show planning and Library Display planning.

This Month's Meeting:

This month our meeting will be Saturday, June 7th, 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 clubroom, go in the front revolving door of the building on State Street 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.

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 Show, since we only have two more meetings before then, and some continued discussion of the Library display, since installation of that got pushed back until June 12th & 13th. We will also be scheduling more Discovery Block work sessions, probably starting with one Sunday afternoon June 8th.

Then at 11:00AM, the Pebble Pups will have their *second* meeting!

Gem City Pebble Pups:

The first meeting of the Gem City Pebble Pups was a great success, even though the turnout was only 4 juniors – and a few interested adults! The crystal growing was cool, there were several types that were all tried, and you could even see the first ones (Borax crystals growing on pipe-cleaner forms) starting to grow by the end of the session – and by the next weekend, when a few of us went down for a Discovery-Block work session, you could really see them! Just wait until we all see what they look like after a month! The session ended up being much longer than the target of one hour, but since it was a project kind of thing and everyone was still into it, we went ahead and finished – but in future we will try to keep the meetings closer to one hour.



The *second* meeting of the Gem City Pebble Pups will be **June 7th, at 11:00AM**, after the regular meeting. We will be looking at the crystals we grew and others, and at mineral and crystal properties, like crystal systems (shapes) and the crystal's optical properties, cleavage (or splitting along planes), and hardness, color, streak, fracture, or however many of these we can get to in the hour, continuing next month with the rest.

So come to the June meeting, and bring your friends (and their parents)! See the Official Invitation below or on the club's web site (<http://www.gemcityrockclub.org/files/PPupInv.pdf>), and print it out 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!

Club Web Site address:

www.gemcityrockclub.org

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Federation News:

The June-July Eastern Federation Newsletter (<http://www.amfed.org/efmls/efjune-july08.pdf>) lists a few newly contributed items to the AFMS Endowment Fund Raffle Drawing – and all the items currently received are shown at <http://www.amfed.org/endow2008.htm> and there are some beauties! The Endowment Fund provides for interest income that the Federation uses for such projects as copying Library programs, or converting some of the slide programs to DVD. The article on Junior Activities describes a simple craft project.

The American Federation Newsletter (http://www.amfed.org/news/n2008_06.pdf) Junior Activities article is on the Future Rockhounds of America program, and how many clubs are using it (48) and how many badges have been awarded (1355!!), among other usage stats – pretty impressive, and something to look forward to adding to. There is an article on the American Lands Access Association (ALAA), which was designed to be the lobbying arm of the AFMS, and what it does and its future roll and why we should be involved – if we want to maintain access to public lands, that is! There is a small article on the importance of having a club PR person, and suggestions for PR opportunities.

Library Window Display:

The Library Window Display has had its installation date pushed back to June 12 & 13, so it's not too late to dig out some stuff and get it into the display! We've had several members collect up some stuff to include, and some more promising to do so – but could probably use more, so if you have anything you're willing to live without until the Show, and would help us in displaying our "Rainbows of Rocks" theme in either a **Rainbow of Rock Colors** (especially yellows and oranges, or ANY loose faceted stones), different **Ages of Fossils, Properties of Minerals** (especially if you have any crystals that show typical crystal shapes, other than quartz, or minerals that will exemplify some other property like hardness or streak – check out <http://webmineral.com/determin.shtml> for ideas); or **Stages of Lapidary** (we have the Faceting display Ed made, and some rocks-and-their-slabs pieces, and a few slabs-and-cabs pieces, but anything else in stages would be good – similar tumbled stones at various grit stages? Cabs in process? etc.), ***please bring them to the June meeting.***

To be sure that the right things get back to the right people, be sure to bring things in a **container that is clearly labeled with your name, address and phone #**, and also **label each item** if possible -- put either a return-address label on the bottom, or even a tiny piece of paper with your initials taped to it. For loose gems, and other un-label-able items, we will take photos & measurements to uniquely identify each one before removing it from your labeled container, or if there are two close enough not to be uniquely identified, we won't need to use both. We've managed to get everything eventually back to the right home pretty well before.

Fall Club Project:

We have decided that our Fall Club Project will be learning a collection of Basic Jewelry-Making Skills, including using findings and some basic wire-wrapping, which can then be used to make many different projects with a few components. We have done basic wrapped loops, and beaded chains with each bead on a wire with a wrapped loop at each end; with a review of these, and variations that include headpins and eye pins, and basic findings like ear wires or clasps for necklaces and bracelets, cones, dangles, and other findings, you can put together a project out of any focal point(s) that take your fancy at the show -- so be on the lookout for beads, drops, dangles, etc., and we'll figure out how to put it all together; or, look for a design you like, and hunt up what components you need and can be found at the show.

We will then put together a club order for the rest of what we'll need – ordering everything at once generally gets us a better price.

To get ideas, try looking at jewelry catalogs, or check out the Fire Mountain Design Gallery at <http://www.firemountaingems.com/galleryofdesigns/> -there are tons of designs to spark your imagination, and all the designs give you a list of components needed to make the design, all of which you can buy right there on the Fire Mountain web site (imagine that!) – or you could just use the designs as a jumping-off point, and use their list as a guide to the bits and pieces you'll need in addition to the primary design components.



Show Business:

Many of our not-so-new members (and dealers!) have fond recollections of the Friday-night Set-Up Pot Luck Dinners that we used to have, when we could set up for the show on Friday. Since we will now be able to set up on Friday again, and even our newer members thought it sounded fun, we voted to have the Friday-night Pot Luck Dinner again this year. The Club will provide Ox Roast, and club members will be asked to bring a salad / dessert / dish to share. More on specifics next month, but be thinking about what to bring!

Also be thinking about what hours you might be able to spend helping out at the show – there's set-up on Friday, but that doesn't take too many people; what we really need are people to cover the hours at spots like the admissions table and the kid's activities -- the Discovery Blocks, the Mini-Mine, and the Egg-Carton Mineral Kits. Mostly, this just requires a 30-second orientation, and then just being there – it doesn't take much skill or specialized knowledge to take admission money or pass out Discovery Blocks, but it does take someone to BE there for each of the eight hours on Saturday, and the seven hours on Sunday, at each of 4-5 places (if we have enough manpower to run all the kid's activities). Several of us will probably be at the show the whole time it's open, but we need more people to spell us from time to time, so we can wander and SHOP! So if you can sign up for an hour here or an hour there, it would be greatly appreciated.

Upcoming Field Trips

We're still planning to go back to Herkimer County, NY to dig for Herkimer Diamonds, and perhaps also drive up to the Garnet mines we visited before. It is a lovely area, and we had a very good time when we went in 2005. If you'd like to see the write-up of that trip, it is on the club's web site at <http://www.gemcityrockclub.org/crystalg.htm> . We are thinking of going Labor Day Weekend, since it is a 5- or 6-hour drive each way so a 3-day weekend makes more sense. We will need to firm up plans soon, though, as the campgrounds fill up for the holiday weekends, so think about whether you'd like to go, and whether you have a tent, need space in a tent, or would take up an RV (the campground has spots with hook-ups). Check out the campground we'll probably use at <http://www.crystalgrove.com/> .

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.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:

July 12-13, Syracuse, NY – Show, Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse; Verizon Center of Progress Bldg., New York State Fairgrounds, Rte. 690; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; gems, jewelry, beads, beading supplies, minerals, fossils, educational exhibits, more than 50 retail and wholesale dealers, demonstrations, kids' activities, family fun; contact Cathy Patterson, (315) 638-8817; Web site: www.gmss.us

July 19-20, Erie, PA - 39th annual show; Gem City Rock & Mineral Society; JMC Ice Arena, 423 W. 38th St.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$3, seniors \$2, children under 12 free; celebrate the club's 50th anniversary, dealers, children's activities, displays; contact Bob Gallivan, 427 Colleen Dr., Erie, PA 16505, (814) 454-6770; e-mail: webmaster@gemcityrockclub.org; Web site: www.gemcityrockclub.org/show.htm.

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 especially the Rock and Gem Magazine Calendar (<http://www.rockngem.com/showdates/showdates.shtml>).

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.

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

Second Meeting June 7th 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 second meeting will still 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! A \$3.00 activity fee per child per meeting will cover materials costs for the programs.

Please see the club web page at www.gemcityrockclub.org/peb-pups.htm for the more specific information and updates.

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

Email info@gemcityrockclub.org or call Melanie at 814-398-1178 for more information.