



# The PRESQUE ISLE PROSPECTOR



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

**May 2009**



## Last Month's Meeting:

Last month we decided on our Fall Club Project, a Tree of Life Pendant; we decided on a date for our Field Trip to collect Staghorn Coral (see report below); and we did more planning on the Library Display and what displays / demos we'd like to have at the Gem Show.

## This Month's Meeting:

This month our meeting will be Saturday, **May 2nd**, at **9:30 AM**, at the club room at the **Renaissance Centre building at 1001 State Street in downtown Erie** (southeast corner of 10<sup>th</sup> 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 just before the small hallway containing the elevators. If you can't take the stairs, the third elevator goes down to the basement level. 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. 10<sup>th</sup> Street just east of the Renaissance Centre building (toward French Street), and it is free to park there on Saturdays!

We need to start working on the Discovery Blocks for the show – coordinating all the materials we have, seeing what more if anything we need, and then a few work dates to put them together. We'll get started on that, and pick dates for work sessions.

We also need to do a little more planning for the Library display (see article below), so people can decide what they have to contribute and what they might make / do for it by the time it goes in the window in July.

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 in the Erie Zoo Complex did seem to generate some cross-over traffic – and we have some more junior members (and their parents) this year, maybe they can help out!

We will also need as much publicity for the show as we can get, of course, so please also be thinking about where we can advertise without breaking our budget (which has traditionally been – um, nothing). We got more publicity last year than in years past, but also thought of some things we didn't get done, or done in time; let's all think about possibilities now, so we can get moving earlier!

## Federation News:

The American Federation Newsletter should be soon be up on the web at [http://www.amfed.org/news/n2009\\_05.pdf](http://www.amfed.org/news/n2009_05.pdf) -- it contains details of more field trips planned for after the AFMS Convention in Billings, MT the first week of August; there's also lodging and camping info for the area. The Safety article deals with taking a good look at your home for safety hazards that you may be content to live with, being well aware of them, but which may surprise visitors, and other things to look for that you may be accustomed to overlooking. It also, unfortunately, has a report that the huge Omnibus Lands Act (which included the Paleontological Resources Preservation Act that we've been fighting for many years) was passed by the Senate and while initially defeated by the House it was later amended to yet another piece of legislation, and passed by both houses and signed into law. Anyone planning to visit and/or collect on any Public Lands should be sure to find out exactly what they are and are not permitted to collect. It remains to be seen how zealously many of the portions of the Act that relate to "intent" will be enforced.

Club Web Site address: [www.gemcityrockclub.org](http://www.gemcityrockclub.org)

President	Kirk McFadden	2976 Clark Rd.	Erie PA 16510-4422	(814) 602-5225
Vice-president	Sarah Boesch	1223 Lake St.	Lake City PA 16423-1808	(814) 774-4234
Secretary	Harriet Beckman	1120 W. 41 <sup>st</sup> St.	Erie PA 16509-1302	(814) 868-8422
Treasurer	Val Engelleiter	132 Moorehead St.	Erie PA 16508-1859	(814) 454-1771
Newsletter Editor	Harriet Beckman	email: <a href="mailto:editor@gemcityrockclub.org">editor@gemcityrockclub.org</a>		(814) 868-8422
Board Members:	Robert Gallivan	Ted Oslak	Mary Thomson	

Many of the other 150+ bills in that act also limit access to more areas. There is an article by the American Lands Access Association (ALAA) calling for help to deter further such limiting legislation, by joining the ALAA and by participating once joined – numbers will help give weight to concerns presented to legislators concerning pending legislation, but someone must actually present those concerns, too. See the ALAA web site at [www.amlands.org](http://www.amlands.org).

The Eastern Federation Newsletter, online soon at <http://www.amfed.org/efmls/efapr09.pdf>, has an article by a past EFMLS president offering clubs help in preparing a tri-fold brochure similar to one he created for his own club. The Safety article topic, as we head into Field Trip season, is Be Prepared – do we have a club First Aid Kit, and do we bring it along on all Field Trips? And just as important, do we have anyone trained in First Aid along? Certainly we seldom have need of either, but when we do is a little late to wish we were better prepared.

### **Field Trip – Staghorn Coral:**

Several of us went to Batavia, NY to collect Staghorn Coral on Sunday, April 26th, and had a great time and got a bunch of stuff! Of the eight of us who went, three were first-timers – but unfortunately, we had no kids! None of our families with kids could make it. Some of our adults – okay, most of us – managed to generate nearly as much enthusiasm, however, and we did get a bunch of fossils for the discovery blocks – not to mention just a few special extra-cool ones to keep!

We spoke to the owners of the land, who were very gracious and very pleased to have us – I gather that they really didn't know there was much of anything special about the stuff in their creek until these fossil geeks started showing up and raving! We showed them what we got, and I took up a few pieces from a previous trip that I had cut open and polished so they could see the insides. They told us to come on back any time, so maybe if we have enough interest, we'll try to put together another trip for the families with kids once school is out.



### **Library Window Display:**

Our theme this year is “**From Rocks to Gems**” showing the lapidary processes involved in taking a chunk of rock and cutting it into cabs, or faceted material, or other decorative objects.

We have a fair amount of lapidary equipment– we will have at least some small tumblers, a 6” trim/slab saw, and an All-U-Need lap machine to put in. Sarah is trying to (at least cosmetically) re-assemble the combination cabbing/saw unit that used to live in the old clubrooms. Can anyone think of any other lapidary equipment that individuals or the club might have that will fit in a display window 25” deep? Other than the depth, we have *plenty* of room! ☺

What we still need is different types of lapidary projects in various stages of completion. We have previously made-up displays of a couple of rocks being slabbed, and Ed's very nice display

of stones in various stages of being faceted, but we could use bunches of cabs, both finished and in-process. We could also use tumbled stones in various stages – it'd be nice to have similar batches of stuff, at each stage – before any tumbling, and after each stage up to finished, but we'll take what we can get. I have some of this, but I never seemed to get beyond the rough grind!

I'd also like to get photos of some of these machines in action, since none of it will be in motion while inside the window. Could we set up a work session with this in mind, so I can get some action shots of hands and stones with the machines?

We will also want a section on minerals and one on fossils, but smaller in area. Please keep this in mind, and look through your stuff to bring a few special things along to the June meeting.

Any other ideas of what might go into this display?

Then the next big challenge is, how much of this can we set up for demos at the Gem Show?

### **Fall Club Project – and beyond:**

We have chosen our Fall Club Project, and it is a Tree of Life Pendant made with gem chips and wire wrapping. Here are some possible examples:



We really didn't get around to thinking about program topics for the rest of the Fall and Winter, so please still be thinking about this.

### **WQLN Auction:**

I was contacted by staffer at WQLN who was given a Gem City card, and who went to the web site and saw the pictures I've put there as examples of the Tree of Life Pendant on the projects page (<http://www.gemcityrockclub.org/projects.htm>). She wanted to know if we might like to donate something to their **40th Annual Great TV Auction** fundraiser, as a way of increasing our visibility in the community. This sounds like a great idea, but the Auction is this month, May, and we won't make these pendants until fall. But that doesn't mean we couldn't donate *something* to the auction – if we act fast. If anyone has anything they've made or collected that they'd be willing to donate, bring it along to the meeting or call me, and we'll see if we can get it in the auction.

There are two parts to the auction: the 40th Annual Great TV Auction runs May 27-31, and is a live televised event reaching "A potential of over one million customers in Northwestern PA, parts of Ohio, New York, and southern Ontario, Canada watch via television and worldwide through live streaming on the Web"; and WQLN's Great Steals And Deals.com, an online auction, which runs May 22-June 5, and I'm sure will be referenced many times during the on-air presentations. We'd provide a "script" to describe the item and the club, and they'd put it in whichever auction they decide (TV or online). There is no minimum value to items donated, but I imagine \$10-value items won't make it onto the TV auction.

I'll be looking through my stash of previous projects to see if there's something of "saleable" quality that I'd be willing to part with (since most of this stash lives in boxes under beds, lacking adequate display space), and I'll try to get at least one decent-looking pendant done in time. But if someone has something they've actually cut, to tie in with our "Rocks to Gems" theme this year, that would be super!

**Mail Bag:**

You all know the club has a Post Office box, and it's never empty when I check it – but it's often junk mail, sometimes fliers for other club's gem shows (like the one for a show in Westtown NY May 30&31 – not daytrip range, since you'd have to cross all of PA plus NJ to get there, but be sure to ask me if you'll be over there about then and I'll give you the flier).

This time there was also a handful of fliers from a Connecticut mineral dealer touting his new web site, [www.mineralmovies.com](http://www.mineralmovies.com) -- where he features not just photos of specimens, but animated 360° views of them, since one photo will only show you one side. Well, as you might imagine, these are pretty spiffy specimens, to rate that kind of treatment – so by all means, check them out if you have a few hundred (or thousand!) bucks to spare (or just want to see some real beauties). But even if you don't, you might want to check out his *other* albums, which include photos of various collecting trips – wow! Vicarious Field Tripping! If you go to <http://www.mineralmovies.com/php/albums.php> you will find albums of 2 trips to collect Herkimers, one fossil shark tooth trip to Florida, a quarry at Graves Mountain, etc. – but check out especially his trip to Pakistan! Not somewhere I want to go personally, but his pictures were great! And the pictures of some of the specimens he bought, both as-purchased and then after cleaning – wow!

**Upcoming Shows in the area:**

We're heading back into Show Season in our region – check out what's coming up:

**May 2-3--Washington, PA: Show, "Greater Pittsburgh Area Gem, Mineral, Bead & Jewelry Show";** F.M. Fossils; Washington County Fairgrounds, 2151 N. Main St.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$4, children 12 and under free with parent; select dealers, loose gems, minerals, fossils, finished jewelry, beads, bench jeweler, wire-wrapper; contact F.M. Minerals, P.O. Box 252, Farmington, WV 26571, (304) 825-6845; e-mail: [frankoz@juno.com](mailto:frankoz@juno.com) .

**May 9-11--Henrietta (Rochester), NY: Show; GemStreet USA;** Monroe Country Fairgrounds, 2695 E. Henrietta Rd.; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; adults \$7, seniors (60+) and students (12-17) \$5, under 12 free, ticket good all weekend; fine gems, jewelry, mineral specimens, fossils, beads, findings, display items, Scout badges, discount coupon on Web site; contact Jane Strieter Smith, (216) 521-GEMS (4367); e-mail: [spi@stratos.net](mailto:spi@stratos.net); Web site: [www.gemstreetusa.com](http://www.gemstreetusa.com)

**May 16-17--Berea (Cleveland), OH: 41st annual show and Midwest Federation Convention, "Beautiful World of Rocks and Gems"; Parma Lapidary Club;** Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds, 164 Eastland Rd., enter from Bagley Rd. entrance; Sat. 10-7, Sun. 11-5; adults \$6 (ticket good for both days), children 12 and under free with adult; gems, minerals, fossils handcrafted jewelry, lapidary demonstrations, educational exhibits, silent auction, raffles, door prizes, Kiddie Korner, Treasure Dig; contact John Zaborowski, 926 Lake Breeze Rd., Sheffield Lake, OH 44054, (440) 949-8242; e-mail: [J751@centurytel.net](mailto:J751@centurytel.net)

**June 5-7—Wauseon (Toledo), OH: Show, "Rocks: Their Myths and Legends";** State Line Gem & Mineral Society; Fulton County Fairgrounds, Junior Fair Bldg., 8514 SR 108; Fri. 12-7, Sat. 10-7, Sun. 11-4; free admission; dealers, displays, demonstrations, silent auctions, children's activities, classes in mine safety, soapstone carving, beaded jewelry; contact Doris Brzezicki, 419 N. Broad St., Adrian, MI 49221, (517) 263-1669; e-mail: [rychard@tc3net.com](mailto:rychard@tc3net.com); Web site: [www.angelfire.com/mac/rock-club/](http://www.angelfire.com/mac/rock-club/)

**July 18-19—Erie, PA: 40th Annual Gem and Mineral Show;** JMC Ice Arena, 423 W. 38th St, Erie, PA; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$3, seniors \$2, children under 12 free; dealers, displays, children's activities; contact Bob Gallivan, Erie, PA 16505, 427 Colleen Dr., Erie, PA 16505; (814) 454-6770; e-mail: [gallivan@lycos.com](mailto:gallivan@lycos.com); Web site: <http://www.gemcityrockclub.org/show.htm> .

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> ).

We will have Work Sessions on some Saturdays, depending on interest. 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, or to let us know you're interested.