



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

August 2009



Last Month's Meeting:

Last month we worked on the Gem Show. Now it's over. Playtime! Well, almost – we need to wrap it up still while it's fresh in our memories.

This Month's Meeting:

This month our meeting will be Saturday, **August 1st at 9:30 AM**, at the club room at 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 will be a Gem Show wrap-up, with a report on how we did (the numbers) and making notes on what we think worked well and what didn't, and what we want to do differently next year. Please be thinking about this, and jot things down ahead of time if you have any ideas – we implemented several things we came up with after last year's show, and this one went much better!

We will also need to choose a couple of dates – we didn't **choose a date for our annual picnic**. For the last several years we have had it on the Sunday following Labor day, which this year would make it September 13th, but we should all check our calendars to make sure this is good. We have liked our spot at the Niagara Boat Launch, unless anyone has a better idea.

We also want to discuss a date for the proposed trip back to **Batavia to collect Staghorn Coral** – and see if there is enough interest to warrant planning a trip. We had thought August, before kids start back to school, but August is also the time most of us have to travel if we'd planned that, so we'll see what's good – check your calendars before the meeting. I imagine the trip would be nice up through the middle of October with little chance of snow.

Federation News:

Both Federation Newsletters are on vacation for the summer, but you can still see the June-July issues online at http://www.amfed.org/news/n2009_06.pdf (American Federation) and <http://www.amfed.org/efmls/efjune09.pdf> (Eastern Federation).

Library Window Display:

As July winds down, it's time to take the Display out of the Library window. I plan to remove and pack up the smaller stuff on Thursday and Friday, so that Saturday after the meeting a few of us can go down to take out the larger pieces of equipment that I'll need help with – this is really just the club's faceter (which is a bit heavy for me to carry, either out of the library or back down to the clubroom) and Sarah's combo unit (which she knows how to take apart and carry the pieces) so it shouldn't take too long.

If you contributed stuff to the display, thank you, thank you, and could you please come get it Saturday so I can get all the packing boxes out of my car and living room? ☺

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Fall Club Project:

Remember that the Fall Club Project is learning to make **Tree of Life Pendants** like these, so if you didn't find Gemstone Chip strands at the show, you'll want to shop for them elsewhere – though this could be from other club members who did already find their chips, since the pendants seem to take somewhere around 6" of chips to make a pendant about 1½" in diameter.

Please be thinking about how many pendants you want to make, since we will **need to put together a Club order for the wire**; then you'll know if you have more chips than you'll need, so you know what you can offer to other club members. In general, most chip strands are around 36" – though they vary, so measure yours. Chip strands of more valuable stones may be a lot shorter – I've gotten Peridot strands that were 28", and Tourmaline strands that were 10", so measure to see what you have, and keep a generous amount for yourself before you decide what you have to offer to others. I have not yet dismantled one of those funky woven-elastic chip bracelets to see how long a single strand would be – has anyone else? **Bring your chips to the meeting to show others what you can share.**

Also look at other shapes of Tree of Life Pendants – I've found oval ones and rectangular ones on the Internet, so look around for images to see what you like.



Upcoming Shows in the area:

August 14-16--Lebanon, PA: 12th annual show and sale, "Gem Miner's Jubilee"; Mid-Atlantic Gem & Mineral Association; Lebanon Expo Center, Rte. 72 and Rocherty Rd.; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; admission \$6, children under 12 free; gems, jewelry, minerals, fossils, beads; contact MAGMA, (301) 565-0487; Web site: www.gem-show.com

September 11-13--Toledo, OH: 38th annual show; Toledo Gem & Rockhound Club; Stranahan Complex, 4645 Heatherdowns Blvd.; Fri. 2-8, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; adults \$4, seniors and students \$3, children under 12 free; free kids' mineral kits, kids' games, exhibits, demonstrations, mini classes, Touch & Feel Area, scholarship raffle, silent auction, club sales, more than 20 dealers, beads, jewelry, gems, precious metals, fossils, minerals, carvings, gem trees, tools, equipment; contact Jerri Heer, 247 Decatur, Toledo, OH 43609, (419) 531-8124; e-mail: jheerx6@aol.com; Web site: www.toledogemandrockhounds.com

September 25-27--Cleveland, OH: Show; GemStreet USA; Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds, Bagley Rd. entrance, 0.5 mile west of I-71 and Bagley 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; Web site: www.gemstreetusa.com

October 24-25--Cuyahoga Falls, OH: Show and sale, "Gemboree"; Summit Lapidary Club, Akron Mineral Society; Emidio & Sons Expo Center, 48 E. Bath Rd.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-6; minerals, rocks, gems, jewelry; contact Warren Salchak, (330) 929-3798, or Carl Miller, (330) 633-4250; Web site: www.LapidaryClubofOhio.org .

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>). There are lots more shows outside daytrip range!

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.