



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

October 2009



Last Month's Meeting:

Last month we had our annual Club Picnic out at Presque Isle, and had a really beautiful day for it. We all had a pretty good time, even if there were too many bees wanting to share our ox roast! We had some fun show-and-tell, and planned how many project pendants to make for Christmas presents!

This Month's Meeting:

This month our meeting will be **Saturday, October 3rd, at 9:30 AM**, 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.

Our meeting program will be starting on our Tree of Life Pendants – and in rummaging around down at the club, I found some compartmented boxes of gem chips, so we will definitely have some available if you haven't found any yet! We also "rounded up" quite a bit on the wire order, so if you didn't order any or decide it was easier than you thought and you'd like to make more, we'll have extra wire, too.

Federation News:

The American Federation Newsletter, online at http://www.amfed.org/news/n2009_10.pdf, has the minutes of the AFMS Convention in Billings, and the first info on next year's convention.

The Safety article is on lawn-mowing safety – no, really – apparently, the last mow of the season is usually the most hazardous, and you wouldn't want to get injured and put yourself out of commission for the start of lapidary-in-the-basement season!

The Eastern Federation Newsletter, online at <http://www.amfed.org/efms/efoct09.pdf>, has more on the EFMLS Convention, this year held October 16-18 in Bristol, Connecticut, including the scheduled field trips and other things to do in the area. There are photos and a write-up from the just-concluded session at Wildacres.

Field Trip Report:

We went back to collect Staghorn Coral at Batavia, NY on Saturday, September 19th, and we had a blast! We had 3 carloads caravanning up (though we all came home separately – after all, the "To I-90" signs are pretty easy to find). When we got there, our first surprise was that we weren't the only ones collecting – Scott McKenzie had brought 2 van-loads of Mercyhurst College Geology Club members up to collect, too – so we had fun showing and telling a bit, and cries of "Look what I found" tended to gather more folks for more fun. Not to mention, Scott's expert (and detailed!) identifications! I mean, I can tell a trilobite from a brachiopod, but which species? I don't really remember them all now, but it was lots of fun to hear about. Since each carload came home at different times, we didn't have a good "show-and-tell" of what we found, but I got enough to make the trip worthwhile for me, and the Galvin boys certainly seemed to have a good time – maybe we can show-and-tell at the meeting!

Club Web Site address: www.gemcityrockclub.org

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Fall Club Project:

We will be starting on our Tree of Life Pendants this month, and when we see how far we get, we can decide if we need another work session or not. If you still haven't found Gemstone Chip strands, we did find some down at the club, so you can buy 6" of the club's chips for a \$1.00, or see what other club members have. **If you have extra chips to share, please bring them to the meeting, along with how much you want for them.** 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. Also keep in mind that smaller chips may require more branches (and therefore more inches) to fill the space, while larger chips will require fewer.



We put together an order for the wire, and the preliminary estimate of cost was \$3.00 per Sterling Silver pendant and \$5.50 per Gold-filled pendant, but that cost will be adjusted some when we get the actual cost with shipping, so bring that along for however many pendants you ordered plus a margin, in addition to whatever you may want to look for more chips.

If you have your own pliers, bring them along too – the club has some pliers, but not enough to go around. You will want round-nose and chain-nose, and nippers to clip the branch wires after wrapping.

Upcoming Shows in the area:

October 10-11--Worthington, PA: Show; Kit-Han-Ne Rock & Gem Club; Worthington-West Franklin Firehall, 680 Cherry St. and Linton Alley; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; displays, silent auction, six dealers, kids' gem mine and Blinks; contact Albert Zabinski, P.O. Box 456, East Vandergrift, PA 15629, (724) 567-7067; e-mail: Zabinski@facetersco-op.com; Web site: www.facetersco-op.com/zabinski/gemshow.htm

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 .

October 24-25--Henrietta (Rochester), NY: 37th annual show, "Rochester Gem, Mineral, Jewelry & Fossil Show"; Rochester Academy of Science Mineral Section, Rochester Lapidary Society; Minett Hall, Monroe County Fair & Expo Center, corner of E. Henrietta Rd. and Calkins Rd.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; dealers, jewelry, beads, minerals, mineral carvings, fossils, demonstrations, gemstone faceting, cabochon making, jewelry making, fossil preparation, member displays, minerals, fossils, jewelry, door prizes, kids' activities, starter mineral collection, sluice, soapstone carving, mineral bingo; contact Paul Dudley, 140 Railroad Mills Rd., Pittsford, NY 14534, (585) 385-2368; e-mail: show@rasny.org; Web site: www.rasny.org/show

November 13-15--Hamburg (Buffalo), NY: Show; GemStreet USA; Fairgrounds at Hamburg, The Grange Bldg., 5600 McKinley Pkwy.; 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

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.