



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



April 2010



Last Month's Meeting:

Last month we tried a basic wire-wrapping project – an Adjustable Filigree Ring. If you missed it, you can still see the instructions for making it online at <http://wire-sculpture.com/pages/jewelrypattern105.html>. We also cut the first slabs on the big 18" slab saw since our move – now we really feel at home!

This Month's Meeting:

This month our meeting will be Saturday, **April 3rd**, 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 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. 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 – a door heading into what looks like, well, a restaurant, with a small mirrored lobby.

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

We will be planning a Display for a smaller space than the downtown library, and hope to use it in a couple of branch libraries and / or the Tom Ridge Environmental Center – more on this below; and since we were talking last month about the WQLN Auction and donating more Tree of Life Pendants, quite a few of us haven't finished ours and would like a work session for some help, so that's what we'll be doing after the business is finished.

Board Meeting:

Let's just say that we still need to have a board meeting, and will plan it directly following the regular meeting every month until we have all the players present – and hope that this is the month. Primary topics are establishing a budget and any other planning for the activities of the year.

We will also have a show committee meeting, either before or after the board meeting, to discuss some of the advance-planning aspects we need to start thinking about.

Dues are Due:

Also, now that we've entered a new Calendar Year, club Dues are due! If you joined at the show last July (2009), your dues are paid through the end of 2010; if not, this is your final reminder. 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

Club Web Site address:	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 st 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: editor@gemcityrockclub.org		(814) 868-8422
Board Members:	Robert Gallivan	Ted Oslak	Mary Thomson	

The Membership Renewal Form has worked very well in helping your club secretary and treasurer keep track of who paid what for whom, so please do use it again 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

Please try to remember to bring your dues along to the meeting, or mail a check to the club. Those not current on their dues **by April 3** will stop getting the newsletter and not be eligible to participate in any club activities! So please help us keep you current by renewing promptly.

Federation News:

Neither of the Federation newsletters were up online as of the printing of this newsletter, but they should be any day, so you can check out the April American Federation Newsletter at http://www.amfed.org/news/n2010_04.pdf, and the Eastern Federation Newsletter at <http://www.amfed.org/efmls/efapr10.pdf> -- the latter has a safety article on **General Requirements for Collecting in Quarries and Elsewhere**, and one on the fall Wildacres session (September 6-12) which still has plenty of openings.

Educational Displays:

We have done several displays in a few different locations in the local libraries, and while we don't have the big window case in the downtown library this year, there are several options for smaller display spaces, both in the libraries and elsewhere. One idea that was floated was minerals and their everyday uses (like gypsum in wallboard and fluorite in toothpaste) – this would be a great topic, and we'll be discussing how to present it and who has what specimens to donate to the display. This might be a semi-permanent display, in that we'd keep it all together to re-display periodically, so it would be more a donation than a loan; but many of us have some inexpensive specimens that we could put to better use, so comb the internet for lists of minerals in everyday use (a few are listed to get you started) and then see what specimens you have that you could part with.

Look at:

Rocks & Minerals in Everyday Things - http://www.rocks4u.com/min_uses.htm

What are minerals used for? - <http://geology.utah.gov/surveynotes/gladasked/gladadminused.htm>

Rock and Mineral Uses - <http://www.rocksandminerals.com/uses.htm>

A starter list of minerals to look for would include the above mentioned fluorite and gypsum, as well as calcite, talc, any metallic ore (like malachite or chalcopyrite for copper, or galena for lead, or pyrite or hematite for iron), feldspar, flint, sulfur, halite, kaoline (clay), mica, perlite, phosphates, quartz, graphite ... the list goes on! See how many more you can come up with. And remember, for everything we use, if it can't be grown, it must be mined!

Field Trip for Staghorn Coral:

At the March meeting, we chose Saturday, April 17th for our spring trip to collect Staghorn Coral near Batavia, NY. We also decided the next Saturday, April 24th, would be our "Blizzard Date" – a little rain wouldn't slow us down, but an April blizzard would make travel (and collecting) a little too difficult. I really hope that's not necessary, though, since the 24th&25th are the dates of the Cuyahoga Falls gem show, and that's the other direction.

If you haven't been, this site is about a 2-1/2 hour drive to a site with really easy collecting of Staghorn Coral, along with some other corals and other fossils, including a few trilobites (though I have only gotten pieces of them – still trying for a whole one!). The site is a streambed in a farmer's field, and while you can find fossils closer, you can't find them this thickly scattered or easily collectable! It's worth the drive! We collect enough to put in our Discovery Blocks for the

kids at our Gem Show, and that means we need to collect a few hundred specimens of an appropriate size – this takes only a couple of hours, generally.

If you have been, you know this is a fun trip, and lots more fun if there are first-timers and/or kids along – and there are 2 Scout troops that might send a few along with their parents. Here's hoping! For a write-up of a past trip, check out the Field Trips page at the club web site at <http://www.gemcityrockclub.org/batavia.htm> .

WQLN Spring Auction:

We have been asked again if we would contribute some items to the WQLN Spring Auction, and also if we would take a shift manning the phones during the auction. The Auction is May 19-23 this year, and we are signed up to work the early evening shift on the 19th. Check your calendars, and we'll start a list of who can come help us out – bring along a friend, SO, kids, parents, anyone who'd be willing to answer the phones for a couple of hours.

Last year, we donated 3 Tree of Life pendants, an agate cab pendant that Val cut and made the setting for, a large fossil coral head, and a kid's package of minerals, fossils, and reference stuff. This year, they asked for more of the pendants, and Val said she'd do the kid's package again, and we thought we'd donate a 4-pack of admission tickets to our Gem Show in July. Any more great ideas?

Upcoming Shows in the area:

The shows within driving distance are starting back up again (Yea!!):

April 17-18, Pittsburgh, PA - Show; **Monongahela Rockhounds**; West Mifflin Volunteer Fire Co. #4 Skyview Hall, 640 Noble Dr.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; free admission; contact Bret Howard, (724) 327-8618; e-mail: show@monongahelarockhounds.org; Web site: www.monongahelarockhounds.org

April 24-25, Cuyahoga Falls, OH - Show, "**Gemboree**"; Akron Mineral Society & Summit Lapidary Club; Emidio & Sons Expo Center, 48 E. Bath Rd.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-6; adults \$5, students and seniors \$4, children \$1; lapidary demonstrations, art and educational displays, gem identification, geode cracking, gem mine, make-and-take projects for children, dealers, door prizes, silent auction; contact Evelyn Tryon, 2028 Tallmadge Rd., Kent, OH 44240, (330) 673-9664; e-mail: etjtryon@juno.com; Web site: www.LapidaryClubofOhio.org

April 30-May2, St. George, Ontario, Canada - Spring Open House; Robert Hall Originals; 138 Sugar Maple Rd.; Fri. 10-5, Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; free admission; rocks, minerals, gems, beads, lapidary demonstrations; contact Robert Hall Originals, P.O. Box 29, 138 Sugar Maple Rd., St. George, ON, N0E 1N0, (519) 448-1236; e-mail: robert@roberthalloriginals.com; Web site: www.roberthalloriginals.com

May 1-2, Washington, PA - Annual spring show, "**Greater Pittsburgh Area Gem, Mineral, Bead & Jewelry Show**"; F.M. Minerals; Washington, County Fairgrounds, 2151 N. Main St.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$4, children 12 and under free with adult; dealers, jewelry, metaphysical minerals, bench jeweler, beads, gemstones, wire wrapping; contact F.M. Minerals, P.O. Box 252, Farmington, WV 26571, (304) 825-6845; e-mail: frankoz@juno.com

May 7-9, Henrietta (Rochester), NY - Show and sale; **GemStreet USA**; The Monroe Fair & Expo Center, 2695 East Henrietta Rd.; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; fine gems, jewelry, beads, fossils, minerals; contact Jane Strieter Smith, (216) 521-4367; Web site: www.gemstreetusa.com

If you're planning to travel elsewhere, 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.



GEM CITY ROCK & MINERAL SOCIETY

Membership Renewal Form 2010



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:

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