



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 2010



Last Month's Meeting:

Last month we discussed making a semi-permanent display of **Minerals and their Uses**, which would live at the club and could be used in any other display and/or at the Show; we will be collecting specimens of some of these minerals, so please see the list below to see if you have anything you'd be willing to donate. We also decided that instead of a Fall Project as such, we'd have a basic Lapidary Tutorial for those members who haven't had any lapidary experience. This would include demos of the slab and trim saws and the cabbing equipment, and some one-on-one tutorial time to learn to make a cab.

This Month's Meeting:

This month our meeting will be Saturday, **May 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 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 refining plans for the **Minerals and their Uses** display; doing more specific show planning; and working more on our Tree of Life Pendants after the business is finished.

July Meeting:

The club meets on the first Saturday of each month – except when that runs into a holiday, as it usually does in July with July 4th being a generally heavily-traveled long holiday weekend. We usually then push the meeting back to the 2nd Saturday, but since our Gem Show is the 3rd weekend, that means we scurry around collecting all the things we need to take out to the Arena for the Show. But we thought if there were any possibility of putting on a public demo in conjunction with a display that 2nd weekend, we might move the July meeting to the last weekend in June to free up the time. So far, the people at TREC have said they have dinosaur exhibits from Mercyhurst in their temporary display space until fall, but they might be interested in a demo if they can arrange it and they'd get back to me. If that doesn't work out, we might try to arrange something at one of the libraries. So be aware that if we succeed in scheduling a lapidary demo for the weekend of July 10-11, we will be moving the "July" club meeting to June 26th.

Federation News:

The American Federation newsletter at http://www.amfed.org/news/n2010_05.pdf has a further-information article on the All-Federations Memorial Day weekend trip (May 29-31) to the Blue Forest Area in Wyoming to collect petrified wood, organized by the AFMS Inter Regional Field Trips committee. The introductory article about this trip was in last December's newsletter, so if you want to check out a cool trip look at www.amfed.org/news/news2009.htm. They are still looking for committee members, especially from areas other than the western states. The Safety article was a timely reminder that those with allergies should prepare ahead for springtime outdoor activities – take your Benadryl® or whatever you need BEFORE you go out in the boonies and start breathing in all those pollens you haven't seen since last spring! There is an

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article from the ALAA (American Land Access Association) President urging individual and/or club/society membership, especially since our rights to collect are under even greater threat than even just last year with the new assault, National Monuments by Presidential Decree. I'd like to see the club join, but we would need a contact person, and I can't take on another role – so if you want to retain the right to collect rocks, minerals, fossils, or pretty much anything else, please think about becoming our club contact person for this organization that is trying to help us preserve our access to lands public and private. There is also an award-winning article on Lapis Lazuli.

The Eastern Federation Newsletter at <http://www.amfed.org/efmls/efmay10.pdf> has an article on Wildacres – the Spring session is sold out (and by the time you read this, over), but the Fall Session has some space remaining. There is an article on getting youth involved, which has some new and good ideas, including some for shows – but we still need someone to be a Youth Activities Coordinator.

Educational Displays:

We've decided to make up a permanent display set of **Minerals and Their Everyday Uses** – this could be used again and again, so we need to find a durable method to display them. I took photos of the displays made by the Buffalo club at their Hamburg Show, and they used basic wood plaques like you'd find in a craft store, and laminated cards with a question on one side and an answer on the other – this is a fair starting point to think about what we want to do.

We need to collect specimens of the minerals we choose, and examples of the items made from them. Since this will be a permanent display set, in that we'd keep it all together to re-display periodically, it would be more a donation than a loan if you have something to contribute; but many of us have some inexpensive specimens that we could put to better use.

The Buffalo Club's list of minerals included:

- Dolomite** – $\text{CaMg}(\text{CO}_3)_2$ – Cement
- Gypsum** – $\text{CaSO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ – Plaster of Paris, Wallboard
- Talc** – $\text{Mg}_3\text{Si}_4\text{O}_{10}(\text{OH})$ – baby powder, paints, plastics, linoleum
- Pyrite** – FeS_2 – Sulfur for Sulfuric Acid, iron ore for Steel, inks
- Galena** – PbS – lead ore, for lead-acid batteries, lead shielding
- Halite** – NaCl – table salt, road salt
- Sphalerite** – ZnS – zinc ore for galvanizing steel, combining with copper for brass
- Quartz** – SiO_2 – Glass, ceramics, electronics
- Fluorite** – CaF_2 – toothpaste, enameling, flux for steelmaking
- Calcite** – CaCO_3 – used in blackboard chalk, antacids

We can comb the internet for lists of minerals in everyday use (a few are listed to get you started) to find more if we want; look at:

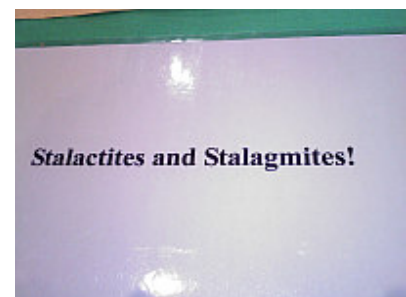
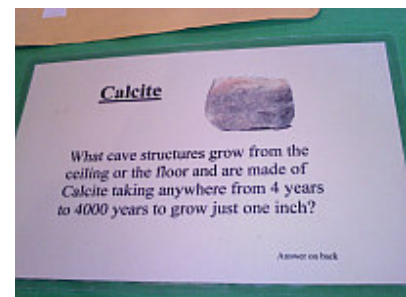
Rocks & Minerals in Everyday Things - http://www.rocks4u.com/min_uses.htm

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

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

In addition to the above listed minerals, we could include any metallic ore (like malachite or chalcopryrite for copper, or hematite for iron), feldspar, flint, kaoline (clay), mica, perlite, phosphates, graphite ... the list goes on! See how many more you can come up with. See what specimens you have that you could part with, and **bring them along to the meeting**. It would be ideal to find a crystal and an industrial/massive form of each, but we can start with anything.

And remember, for everything we use, if it can't be grown, it must be mined!



Field Trip to Cleveland Zoo for *Dinosaurs!*:

The **Cleveland Metroparks Zoo** is again putting on their ***Dinosaurs!*** display this summer (http://www.clemetzoo.com/events/event.asp?event_id=101):

“Cleveland Metroparks Zoo promises a summer of monstrous proportions with ***DINOSAURS! DINOSAURS!*** takes you on a prehistoric journey to the wooded shores of the Zoo's Waterfowl Lake, where you'll encounter life-size animatronic dinosaurs that move and roar just like the originals.

Back for its fifth season at the Zoo since 2003, this wildly popular exhibit features 18 super-sized creatures that seemingly come to life. Built on steel frames and powered by air pistons and state-of-the-art electronics, these lifelike giants move and roar along the shores of the Zoo's Waterfowl Lake. This summer, ***DINOSAURS!*** features returning favorites like the mighty Tyrannosaurus rex and the water-spewing Dilophosaurus, while introducing new specimens like the thick-horned Carnotaurus and the toothy Sarcosuchus. Half of the robotic giants have never before been seen at the Zoo.”



Those club members who've seen the exhibit say it is well worthwhile, so we decided to arrange a club carpooling trip, after the Gem Show. Admission to the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo is free for members of the Erie Zoo, and \$10 for adults (age 12 and older) and \$7 for Children (2-11) for non-members; the ***Dinosaurs!*** exhibit is \$1 more. We will be choosing a date at the Show, to get together and carpool.

Other Trips to Contemplate:

While we're in Cleveland and thinking Dinosaurs, the Cleveland Museum of Natural History has some new dinosaurs since the last time I was there – a new full-sized replica of a T. rex facing off against the Museum's Triceratops, and in the main lobby, they have Jane: “Jane is a life-sized skeletal cast of a juvenile tyrannosaurus from the Late Cretaceous. While some scientists believe Jane may be a juvenile T.rex, others say it is instead a close cousin, Nanotyrannus, of which The Cleveland Museum of Natural History has the only certain specimen.”

Also in Cleveland, the Great Lakes Science Center has at its IMAX theater the film HUBBLE, of images of the universe as seen through the 20 years of the space-based telescope (hey, it's sort of exo-geology, right?)

And while we're thinking of things to see and do this summer, the **Carnegie Museum of Natural History** in Pittsburgh has an upcoming exhibit of interest:

Pittsburgh Adorned: Classic to Contemporary - Orr's Jewelers, presenting sponsor
Opens June 12, 2010 - Wertz Gallery: Gems & Jewelry in Hillman Hall of Minerals and Gems

More than 60 exquisite pieces from private local collections and Carnegie Museums of Art and Natural History celebrate the many passions—including love, status, and even political beliefs—that jewelry evokes. The exhibition explores design trends of the past 200 years and features works by Alexander Calder, Barry Kieselstein-Cord, and David Webb, as well as contemporary local designers ROY and Ronald McNeish.



WQLN Spring Auction:

WQLN Spring Auction is May 19-23 this year, and **we are signed up to work the first evening shift on the 19th, from 5:30 – 8:30** (get there a little early for orientation). **Check your calendars**, and we'll make 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.

Several of the members who worked last year said they had quite a bit of trouble hearing over the phones in the studio, with the high level of ambient noise. When I called to ask Amanda, the volunteer coordinator, what could be done to help with this, she said they are aware that hearing is difficult. They have earplugs available for the non-phone ear (did you guys use these last year?), but that being a non-profit, the phones they have are the cheapest available, and that doesn't help either. **HOWEVER**, when we chatted about what is available on some phones (but not *theirs*), I asked if people could **bring their own phones** – I have one with 3 volume settings,

which would be helpful if I crank it up to the top setting. If you have any phone that is not the absolute cheapest available, and if it works well for you at home, it'll probably have better sound than theirs. All it needs is a standard modular phone jack. *Yes!* If you'd like to help but really don't think you can handle the phones in the studio, there are other jobs for volunteers – bid sorting, confirmation calling, etc. **So please check your calendars so we can firm up how many volunteers we can promise them.**

As for items to donate -- 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, we are doing more of the Tree of Life pendants, and Val said she'd do 2 separate kid's packages (one fossils and one minerals), and we thought we'd donate a few 4-packs of admission tickets to our Gem Show in July. Any more great ideas? We need to round these up and get them in, **so if you have anything to donate, please bring it to the meeting.** If it's not ready quite yet, please let me know how and when to get it. They need a while to register everything and type up the "script" (short description of the item and its value).

Upcoming Shows in the area:

Here are the shows within day-trip driving distance:

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

May 15-16, Berea, OH - 42nd annual show; Parma Lapidary Club; Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds, Bagley Rd.; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$6, children 12 and under and Scouts in uniform free; live demonstrations, raffles, silent auction, competitive exhibits, Kids' Korner; contact Parma Lapidary Club, 926 Lake Breeze Rd., Sheffield Lake, OH 44054; Web site: www.parmalapidary.com

June 4-6, Wauseon (Toledo), OH - Show; **State Line Gem & Mineral Society**; Fulton County (Ohio) Fair Grounds, 8514 SR 108, Ohio Turnpike Exit 34; Fri. 12-7, Sat. 10-7, Sun. 11-4; free admission; **MSHA mine safety class Sat., (\$30 includes book)**, soapstone carving class (\$15 includes soapstone), beaded jewelry class, demonstrations (cabochon cutting and polishing, flint knapping, silver casting), micro mounts and sand, fluorescent minerals, wire wrapping, spool knitting, faceting, glass fusing, kids' grab bags, silent auctions, door prizes, raffle; contact Doris Brzezicki, 419 N. Broad St., Adrian, MI 49221, (517) 263-1669; e-mail: rychard@tc3net.com; Web site: www.angelfire.com/mac/rock-club/

June 24, Rochester, NY - Show, "**Rings & Things BeadTour**"; Rings & Things; Monroe Community College, Brighton Campus, Bldg. #3, Monroe A & B, R. Thomas Flynn Campus Center, 1000 E. Henrietta Rd.; Thu. 12-5; free admission; gemstones, bead strands, wholesale prices, findings, stringing supplies; contact Dave Robertson, (800) 366-2156; e-mail: drobertson@rings-things.com; Web site: www.rings-things.com

July 17-18, Erie, PA - 41st 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; rocks, gems, jewelry, minerals, fossils, wire wrapping, findings, beads, Mini-Mine, Discovery Blocks; contact Bob Gallivan, (814) 454-6770; e-mail: gallivan@lycos.com; Web Site: www.gemcityrockclub.org/show.htm

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.