



The Tidewater Prospector



Newsletter for the Tidewater Gem and Mineral Society April 2023 Virginia Beach, VA

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OPEN

HOSPITALITY

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Newsletter is best read
using Acrobat Reader
and on a computer.

Notes from the President

by Robin Stoughton



I hope everyone is getting out and enjoying the nice spring weather.

Thanks to Brooks Britt for another great program on his Montana agates! Always interesting hearing about them.

Someday I might make it to the Yellowstone to look.

The Club had a great show so thanks to all members who helped out. Thanks to Kelley Finch for organizing and running the show, awesome job! Also, thanks to all who did displays and demonstrations. Ellen White wants us to have displays and demonstrations at every show, the more the better, so start thinking of what you can do for the July show.

Field trip: Our next field trip is to Contrary Creek as Kelley has posted. I have heard there are some club members who are concerned about the water in the creek. Our club has been there many times over the years. People look for garnets on the hill or dig in the creek for them and possibly find a gold speck if you are lucky. As with ALL areas in the country that have had mines on creeks, the water is still contaminated to some degree; however, that does NOT stop people from looking for treasures. Our club has NEVER had any issues with the area. All the creeks in all the gold locations could possibly still be contaminated but so is everything else on the planet. People dig with or without gloves, they are recommended but that's up to you. Boots should be worn also but that is for just about any trip if you want to get in the water. The water will be quite cold obviously as it is early in the year. Garnets can be dug anywhere on the hills, watch out for previously dug holes that others don't fill in when they are done digging. It is a tick and possible snake area so pay attention to that. I have been there

a few times many years ago and walked through the creek and dug without any issues. If you are too worried about the area, then you might want to pass on this trip.

If any members can help out with programs at our meetings, please contact Jessica Bates, 757-354-9622

Hospitality: All members can bring snacks to our meetings, there are no signup sheets.

REMINDER: All newsletter info to Judy by the 3rd of the month.

TREASURER'S REPORT



March was a busy month for the club's treasury with the monthly club meeting followed by the Treasures of the Earth Show (TOTE) the next weekend.

At the club meeting we raised \$67 from the paid raffle and \$10 from one T-shirt sale, as well as \$337.50 when 20 adults and 5 children joined the club. Please welcome the following new members: David & Bridget Coburn; Michael Curling; Jason Early; Anthony Fields & children Alena, Elaine & Estelle; Michael Knepler; Jenny Roe & child David; and Barbara Taychert.

Club members provided great support for the TOTE Show lead by Kelley Finch. Operations ran very smoothly and the club raised a record of \$2,227.98 for any past March show. This included \$1,110 from the sale of 111 adult grab bags, \$329 from the sale of 47 fossil grab bags, \$158 from the sale of 158 kid's grab bags, \$190 from the paid amethyst raffle, \$20 from the sale of 2 T-shirts, and \$30.98 in donations. 23 adults and 6 children paid \$390 for membership dues. Please welcome the following new members: Elexas Cain, Laticia Carter, Nicole Hill, Kathy Johnson & child Grace, Abigail Ramey, Jacqueline Sloskey, and Melody Zeiler.

Club membership now stands at 108 adults and 15 children (by my count).

Hear Ye, Hear Ye!

2023 Important Dates (Dates can be changed or cancelled)

April 14 - 16	Treasures of the Earth Show - Richmond
April 21	TGMS Meeting
April 22	Field Trip - Contrary Creek, Mineral, VA
April 25 or 26	Community Outreach - Malibu Elementary STEM Night
April 27	Community Outreach - Brookwood Elementary STEM Night
April 28	Community Outreach - Ocean Lakes Elementary STEM Night
May 6	Field Trip - Dillwyn - Prospecting 101 Central VA Gold Prospecting Club
May 19	TGMS Meeting
June 16	TGMS Meeting
July 21	TGMS Meeting
July 23	GMSL Club Show - Lynchburg
July 28 - 30	Treasures of the Earth Show - Virginia Beach
August 11	Fossil Hunt - Camp Pipsico
August 18	TGMS Meeting
September 15	TGMS Meeting / Auction
September 22 - 24	Treasures of the Earth Show - Richmond
September 22 - 24	SVGMS Club Show (Shenandoah Valley) - Dayton, VA
October 6 - 8	Treasures of the Earth Show - Virginia Beach
October 6 - 8	Fossil Hunt - Camp Pipsico
October 17 - 19	Fossil Hunt - Camp Pipsico (additional date mid-week)
October 20	TGMS Meeting
October 20	TGMS Meeting
November 17	TGMS Meeting
December 8	TGMS Meeting / Holiday Party

TOTE SHOW DISPLAYS



**Sandra St Laurent's
Geode Collection**



**Thomas Leary's
Western NC Mineral
Display**



**Member Cabochons
and Specimens**

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

MONTANA AGATES By Brooks Britt



Brooks giving his presentation on Montana Agates.



Large Polished Montana Agates



Montana Agates in the rough.



In addition to Brooks' presentation, Mike showed us the rock polishing machine he made.

TOTE SHOW RECAP



A view from our booth of the show.



Lloyd helping a customer with a fossil bag.



Evan talking about fluorescent rocks and where the ones in the box were found.

The LUCKY Raffle prize winner of the amethyst from Brazil: Shannon Walker.



TOTE SHOW RECAP



Checking out the children's corner



He is pleased with his creation made at the children's corner.



Jessica demonstrating.



Keith cutting a stone.



Jay explaining the steps to cutting a cab.



Members working together...

Treasures of the Earth Show Report

The show was a success! Success that is only possible with the help of the 45 TGMS members (listed below) who took time out of their busy schedules to volunteer at least one hour. Please, the next time you see these volunteers, let them know how much we appreciate their dedication.

Dianna Hinshaw	Jessica Bates	Lloyd Schiffelbian	Barbara Drori
Dylan Boger	Sara Pearsal	Elliana Pearsal	Thomas Leary
Erick Dell	Jody Anderson	Margaret Dell	Ricky Bryant
Jay Graber	Judy Hysczak	Jamie Simpson	Larry McCoy
Jeff Sandmeier	Jim Arab	Rick Naujoks	Emery Dixon
Jennifer Spitz	Keith McBride	Rosanne Hinshaw	Dena Cottle
Joe Byrd	PJ Pratt	Sandi St. Laurent	Hank Finch
Tosha Sanders	Evan Stallings	Allison Munden	Anthony Serrano
Aniyah Samreth	Sue White	Margaret Whitby	Mike Jackson
Alani Coleman	Louis Thurston	Katherine Milburn	Susan Johnson
Louis Biro	Caitlyn White	Jerry Lee Cobleigh	Jacob White



A special thank you to the following club members for the extra time and effort to provide:
Display Cases (Large): Tom Leary, Western NC Minerals & Sandi St. Laurent, Geodes

Display Cases (Small): Judy Hysczak, Cabochons & Jewelry; Jeff Sandmeier, Cabochons & Silversmithing & Joe Byrd, Cabochons & Jewelry.

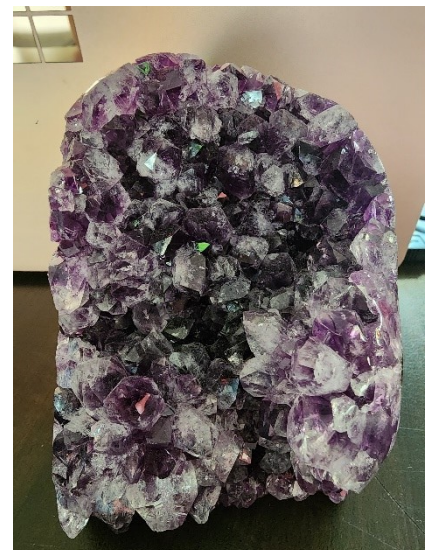
Demonstrations: Emory, It's a Small, Small, Small World; Dianna Hinshaw, Bracelets; Jessica Bates, Beaded Necklaces; Judy Hysczak & Dylan Boger, Macrame Mermaid Pouches; Joe Byrd, Wire Wrapped Pendants and Roger Blackman provided Fabulous Fluorescent Rocks.

Lapidary Arts: Jim Arab, Jeff Sandmeier, Joe Byrd, Keith McBride, Judy Hysczak, Jay Graber, Jamie Simpson, Ricky Bryant, Katherine Milbourn, Rosanne Hinshaw and Kelley Finch

All volunteers are entered into a drawing that will be held at the April TGMS meeting for:

- 1.) Either a 1-year subscription to the Rock & Gem Magazine or \$25.00 gift card.
- 2.) An amethyst specimen that was donated by the SE Pierson LLC (March 2023 show only – photo on right).

FUTURE 2023 TOTE Show Dates:
July 28th – 30th & October 6th - 8th
We need volunteers for the booth, displays
and demonstrations.



Contrary Creek Field Trip

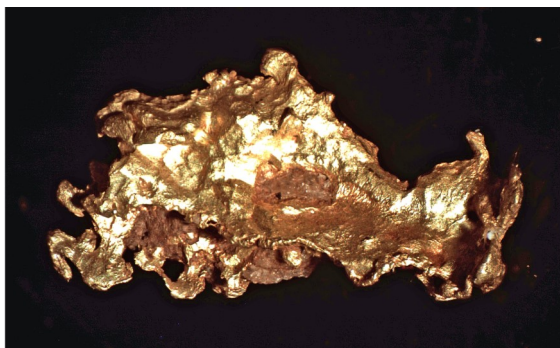
APRIL 22nd – 9:30 AM near VA 522/ VA 208 Bridge

Contrary Creek is in Louisa County, VA and has had at least 31 minerals identified. One of the most well-known specimens found was a 9-pound gold nugget. That nugget is currently kept at the Smithsonian. Over 150 years ago the banks were lined with various mines that left scars that are still visible today. Unfortunately, the water was also scarred by the runoff and dumps and will not sustain any life...neither plant nor animal. Many consider it to be the most damaged site in Virginia. So, safety precautions must be taken to ensure that you stay safe while collecting at this site. I strongly recommend you wear waterproof rubber boots and gloves.

There are still many minerals to be collected from the banks. Some of the most common are Gold, Pyrite, Iron, Copper, Garnets, Quartz, Sulfur, Mica, Feldspar, Magnetite, Kyanite & Rhomboclase. The images below are of gold specimens found in Contrary Creek courtesy of the www.MindDat.org.



The drive is approximately 150 miles from the Tidewater area. We will meet our guide, Emery Dixon, at 9:30 at the roadside pullout near the beginning of the bridge located on VA 522. The pullout road is very rough and requires a 4x4 vehicle. Non 4x4's should park in a safe location on the side of the road. If you have any questions, contact Kelley Finch at 757-630-6607.



Click [here](#) for Jennifer's report: ***Is Contrary Creek Contaminated?***

Prospecting 101 Field Trip

This field trip is for all gold prospecting experience levels from novice to expert. All attendees must be members of the Tidewater Gem and Mineral Society (TGMS). Our host will be fellow TGMS member & CVGP Board member, Mr. Tom Leary. We chose this date because the Central Virginia Gold Prospector (CVGP) club is holding a Prospecting 101 event where you can learn various prospecting techniques and methods. You must sign up for this field trip (contact Kelley Finch, 757-630-6607). The fee is \$10.00 per person. Bring extra cash - the CVGP club usually has prospecting equipment for sale. Give yourself approximately 3 hours to make the drive. We will have a safety brief, review the required paperwork then caravan to the actual claim site.

When: May 6th at 9:30 AM
Where: The Dillwyn McDonald's
140009 Buckingham Centre Drive
Dillwyn, VA 23936

We will watch the demonstration, then head down to the river to practice what you have learned. At this location, there is also a vein of epidote that is on the way to the river and worth checking out. This site also has spectacular hematite and magnetite deposits. If we have time and enough participants interested, we can hike down to the location that takes a bit of "bushwacking". Another claim nearby has a river with gold and quartz and garnets in the surrounding hillside. To the right are photos of previously found minerals.

Protective glasses, waterproof boots & gloves, buckets, various classifiers*, a dirt scoop, pick, gold pan, tweezers with magnifying glass, magnet, sniffer bottle, collection vial & cart and/or backpack.



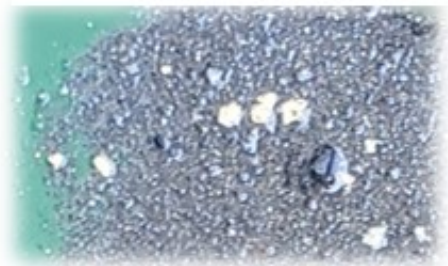
*Pans that have various size screens to clean out various rocks & debris.



Gold above & Garnet and Quartz below found by Thomas Leary.



Epidote & Quartz found by Jennifer Spitz (above). Gold found by Kelley Finch (left).



TGMS MEETING Minutes 3/17/22

Minutes taken by Brooks Britt

Call to Order:

Meeting was called to order at 7:40pm by President Robin Stoughton

Welcome to Members/Introduction of New members and Guests

Welcomed new members and guests and recognized members and guests with March birthdays

Reading of the Minutes:

February meeting minutes published in the March newsletter

Roll Call:

President Robin S.: Present

1st VP Kelly F.: Present

2nd VP: Jessica B.: Present

Treasurer Lloyd S.: Present

Newsletter Editor Judy H.: Present

Secretary Brooks B.: Present

Librarian: Open

Treasurer's Report:

March 15, 2023

Balance on hand January 31, 2023

\$6,538.85

FEBRUARY INCOME

Membership (22 adults & 4 children)	\$355.00
Paid Raffle	\$93.00
TOTAL FEBRUARY INCOME	\$448.00

FEBRUARY EXPENSES

Reynolds Law Group – file as non-profit 501c3	\$415.25
Jack Rabbit Self Storage (March)	\$136.00
Workshop Table (Kelly F.)	\$125.00
Church Meeting	\$40.00
Stamps (Judy H.)	\$13.00
TOTAL FEBRUARY EXPENSES	\$729.25

Balance on hand February 28, 2023

\$6,257.60

Communications and Announcements:

Club invited to church spaghetti dinner that weekend.

Provide input to Judy for newsletter by early April

Reports of Standing Committees:

Kelley: Field Trip to Morefield Mine on 3/11/23 was a huge success. The April 23rd field trip to Contrary Creek, information will be in the upcoming newsletter.

Kelley: The March TOTE show needs volunteers, sign up in the back or contact Kelley Finch.

Kelley: Community outreach event to the Brookwood Elementary reading night was a great success. We will be returning in April for their S.T.E.A.M. Event. Big thanks to Roger Blackman for his fabulous fluorescent minerals and the Hank Finch who helped to work the table

TGMS MEETING Minutes (continued)

Reports of Special Committees: None

Old or Unfinished Business: None

New Business: None

Drawing of raffle Prizes:

Free and paid raffles conducted

Program:

Brooks Britt presented the program on his October 2022 trip to Montana and discussed Montana agates, their origin, characteristics and appeal.

Adjourn:

Meeting ended at approximately 9:30pm



Scrambled Paragraph! Looks weird, but you can read it – give it a try:

I cdnuolt blveiee that I cluod aulclaty uesdnatnrd what I was rdanieg. The phaonmneal pweor of the human mind. Aoccrdnig to rsecearh at Cmabrigde Uinervtisy, it deosn't mtt aer in wht order the ltteers in a word are, the only iprmoatnt tihng is that the frsit and lsat lteter be in the rghit pclae. The rset can be a taotl mses and you can slitl raed it wouthit a porbelm. This is bcuseae the huamn mind deos not raed ervey lteter by istlef, but the word as a wlohe. Amzanig huh?

CORNY JOKE

Watson: Sherlock, what type of rock is this amazing specimen?



Answer on last page



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Virginia Beach, Va. 23466-1021

About This Publication

The Tidewater Prospector is the monthly newsletter of the Tidewater Gem and Mineral Society, Virginia Beach, Virginia, associated with the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc. and the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies. Permission to copy freely granted when proper credit given to both the publication and the author.

The Tidewater Gem and Mineral Society is a non-profit organization devoted to the collecting and study of minerals, gemstones, geology, paleontology and the lapidary arts as well as the love and deep appreciation of the great outdoors.

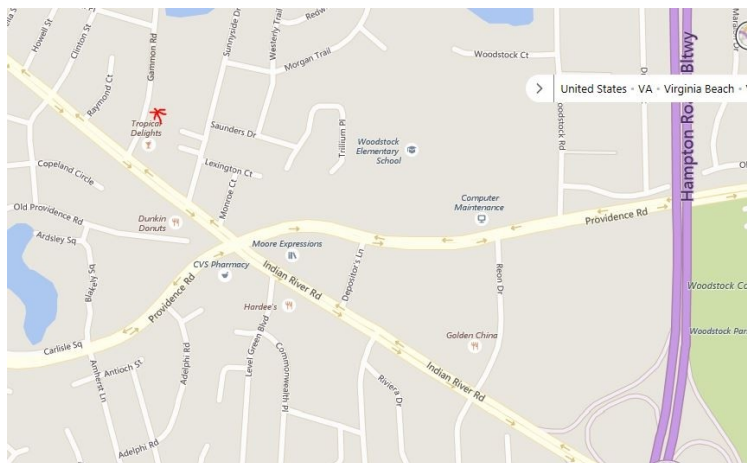
Meetings are the third Friday of each month at 7:30 PM at Memorial United Methodist Church located at 804 Gammon Road, Virginia Beach, VA. Our monthly meetings are open to everyone, no admission is charged.

Website: <http://tgms.weebly.com/>
Please contact Brooks Britt with any photos that you would like to add to our site. Email him at: bhbritt@verizon.net You can also view this newsletter on the site.

Email hyszczak@cox.net to submit articles to the newsletter editor. Deadline is third of the month for material for the newsletter - but the sooner, the better!

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com> Login to FB, then go to Groups and in the search box, type in "Tidewater Gem & Mineral Society". The page is open to view by anyone. Click "join" to join the group to add photos of your own and to post information. Brooks administrates the site and will get back with you.

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Our meeting in will be on
April 21st at 7:30 pm at
Memorial United Methodist Church,

804 Gammon Road, Virginia Beach, VA.
(Gammon Road is off of Indian River Road, in
between Military Highway and Providence Road)



Corny Joke Answer:

Holmes: It's sedimentary, my
dear Watson.

