



The Tidewater Prospector



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

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Notes from the President

by Robin Stoughton



Well it's that time of year again, Christmas will be here before we know it! It's my favorite holiday to decorate for.

Thanks to the members who participated in the bring and brag program.

We had our elections and with no new nominations, Robin, Jessica and Brooks all kept their positions on the board.

We will have our annual board meeting in January, date has not been decided yet. Happy Birthday to all members celebrating one this month.

We will be voting on our bylaws before our party.

I want to thank all of our members and officers for doing all that you have done to make this a great year for our club!

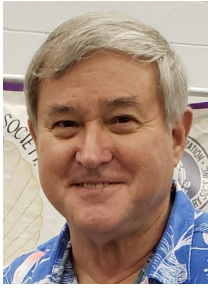
REMINDER: Our annual club Holiday party will be FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8th at 6:30 pm. This is for club members only due to limited seating. We will have a brief meeting and then dinner, followed by some fun games the Holiday Party Committee has planned. The Club will provide the meat, cheese, fruit and vegetable trays. We ask that all members bring a side dish or dessert to share. If you plan on participating in the Pollyanna, you **MUST** bring a gift wrapped LAPIDARY related item, under \$20. No joke gifts will be allowed! We **DO** need to hear if you are coming as the total participants do impact the party!

REMINDER: All newsletter articles need to be to Judy by January 3rd.

I know not everyone can make it to the party so I hope everyone has a great Christmas and New Year!



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



TREASURER'S REPORT



November was an average month for the club's treasury. At the meeting the club raised \$44 from the paid raffle, \$40 from the sale of 8 T-shirts, and \$12 from specimen sales.

Remember T-shirts have been **reduced** from \$10 **to only \$5** so be sure to buy one at the December's Holiday Party! Expenses for the month were normal, except for \$500 for holiday Party trays and \$110 for a Reynolds' Law Group consultation. No new members joined the club in November.

FIGHTING TARNISH ON SILVER

There are a variety of methods to keep the shine on your silver – be it jewelry or a serving platter. You can purchase anti-tarnish silver bags, material to make your own or even special anti-tarnish paper to use to keep the silver from tarnishing. To make your own bags, you can purchase the material and sew them yourself; the material comes in a variety of colors, but it is not transparent. Another option is to purchase the special papers and then store both the paper and jewelry in a plastic bag.

Anti-tarnish silver cloth bags will help keep tarnish producing gases in the air from reaching your silver jewelry and will be effective for years. However, washing will remove the anti-tarnish properties. The photos represent some that I discovered through a search on Amazon.



Ani-Tarnish Cloth



Anti-Tarnish Papers



Silver Polishing Cloth

CORNY JOKE



Why was the geologist always depressed?

Answer on last page

Hear Ye, Hear Ye!

2023 Important Dates
(Dates can be changed or cancelled)

December 1
December 8

DEADLINE for Holiday Party response
TGMS Meeting / Holiday Party



HOLIDAY PARTY

DATE: 2nd Friday - 12/8/23

TIME: Earlier - 6:30 pm

PLACE: Regular Meeting Place:

Memorial United Methodist Church,
804 Gammon Road, Virginia Beach, VA

BRING: Either a side or a dessert or what you signed up to bring

CLUB PROVIDES: Meats, Fruit and Vegetable Trays and paper goods.

LAPIDARY POLLYANNA will be held for those wanting to participate.

Bring a gift, pick a gift. Not mandatory but lapidary related gift **IS** - This IS A ROCKCLUB after all.

OTHER GAMES AND ENTERTAINMENT will be happening as well.



Brad's Bench Tips by Brad Smith

Whenever I have to make more than 2-3 exact copies of a sheet metal component, I think of making a template. Templates let me easily draw the shape of an item to cut out.

Art stores or online sources like cooltools.us/ and kingsleynorth.com/ sell templates for common shapes like circles, ovals, hearts, etc. but for nonstandard shapes, I make my own out of a scrap of sheet plastic or sheet metal. My preference is brass. I carefully lay out the shape using a steel ruler, a set of dividers, a scribe, and a fine center punch.

One example is the brass template in the pic below that lets me quickly trace the design of ginkgo leaf earrings onto silver sheet. Another is the nickel template which makes it easy to drill a pattern of holes for pin inlay into wooden handles.



Making jewelry involves a multitude of skills, intricate hand work, and a lot of problem solving. In this series Books in this series help to:

Broaden your metalworking skills
Improve productivity at the bench
Save money on tools and supplies

You'll find hundreds of low cost and really practical tips and techniques that the author uses in his work and teaches in his classes and workshops.

<http://amazon.com/dp/B0BQ8YVLTJ>



Pick Up Your Copy on Amazon
BradSmithJewelry@gmail.com

Rock Wall To Remember

By Diane Moxley with Judy Hyszcak

Diane is a member of the Richmond Gem & Mineral Society and I came across her article in their September newsletter. She gave me permission to include it in our newsletter. Sharing is caring!

We go on field trips and quite often bring home treasures that are too big to go on the collection shelf, but we want to see them from time to time.. She is putting them to good use and I have done something similar in my garden. I put mine to use having them as a "stream" from a downspout.

Here is Diane's story: For most of us who collect rocks, after a while we amass a fair amount of "stuff". It happens to all of us, and I am no exception. But a few years ago, I realized that I rarely looked at most of my "stuff" because it was not readily accessible. I decided to change all of that by building a few raised flower beds in my yard, which were rock-faced with many of my treasures.



Initially, my friends thought I had lost my mind. I heard, "*You better watch out in case someone comes over with a hammer and chisel one night*" or, "*If I had those cool rocks/fossils, I would NEVER mortar them into a wall! What will you do if you move? You can't take them with you then.*"

Of course, I know I can't. Nor, can I take many

things that I hold near and dear. It is what it is. But, in the meantime, I CAN enjoy my rocks, fossils, shells, arrowheads, etc., every day when I step outside to look at my flowers! I see them and smile every time I walk around my yard.



My point to all of this.... take what you love in life and find a way to enjoy it to its fullest *now*, even if it seems a little crazy to someone else! This point was really brought home to me recently when a fellow, long-term club member was forced into assisted living. He was kind enough to offer free rocks to anyone who would come and get them. He couldn't take them with him to his new abode.

Since I was planning one last wall to replace some rotting logs, I needed rocks. So, with much appreciation for this "miracle" gift, I went. I collected my rocks from the numerous, vine-covered random piles in his yard. They were unmarked, unlabeled and

non-ID'd, but they were *PERFECT* for me.

They will all go to such good use in my pending rock wall, and every time I look at it, I will remember him with such gratitude and generosity for making my wall possible. Thank you, Pete! Your kindness will not be forgotten!



To the right is a picture of my garden "stream" when I first set it up. I am about to do a reset of it as I did this back in 2017 and some plants and weeds decided they like living in my collection too!

I remember when I did a display at one of the TOTE Shows that I went out to the stream and pulled some of the rocks from it to include in my display about field trips. I enjoy seeing the rocks in the stream especially during the winter when the garden is not actively growing or in bloom. I love what Diane did in her garden.





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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.

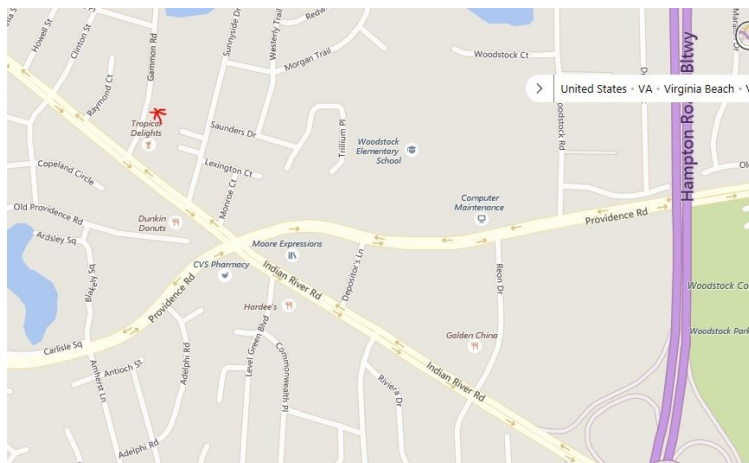
Meetings are the third Friday of each month at 7:30 PM at Memorial United Methodist Church located at 804 Gammon Road, Virginia Beach, VA. Our monthly meetings are open to everyone, no admission is charged.

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 administers the site and will get back with you.

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Our meeting in will be on
December 8th at 6:30 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:



Answer:

He had a hard rock life.

