

THE TIDEWATER PROSPECTOR

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



President's Notes

by Robin Stoughton

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I want to wish everyone a Happy New Year! Thanks to all who helped make our club Holiday party a lot of fun and thanks to all who came to the party.

Unfortunately, we have lost another great club member, Emory Dixon passed away in December. He has been a member of our club for over 30 years. He was always doing something with the club from field trips to shows and educational topics. He was very knowledgeable and a great friend. He will be greatly missed by all of us.

Bill and I have not had a good start to this year either. Bill's sister, Darlene Salyers, who was also a club member, passed away on New Year's Day. It's so extremely difficult losing a loved one.

Happy Birthday to all members celebrating one this month!

REMINDER: Don't forget to pay your dues this month. You can mail them in or pay at the meeting.

Our first show of the year will be here before you know it. It is March 8th-10th with set up on the 7th. We must have members doing displays and demonstrations. We also need help with setup, working at the tables throughout the weekend and with pack up. Please contact Kelley Finch at 757-630-6607 to get on the list.

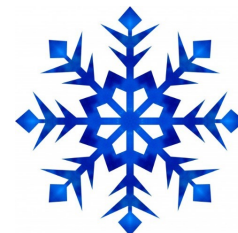
We need members to volunteer to do some programs at our monthly meetings. Please contact Jessica Bates at 757-354-9622.

Hospitality: All members are welcome to bring snacks to any of our meetings.

REMINDER: All articles and info for the newsletter need to be to Judy Hyszcak by the third of each month.



January 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6 Board Meeting
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19 TGMS MEETING	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

TREASURER'S REPORT



PRESIDENT

Robin Stoughton
(757) 822-9631

1st VICE PRESIDENT (Membership)

Kelley Finch
(757) 630-6607

2nd VICE PRESIDENT (Program/Entertainment)

Jessica Bates
(757) 354-9622

TREASURER (Finance)

Lloyd Schiffelbian
(757) 495-7946

SECRETARY (History/Library)

Brooks Britt
(757) 759-4779

WORKSHOPS

Madison Hall &
Jody Anderson
(757) 582-8420

SHOWS

Kelley Finch
(757) 630-6607

NEWSLETTER

Judy Hyszcak
(757) 533-1512

FIELD TRIPS

Kelley Finch
(757) 630-6607

WAYS & MEANS

Amanda Arab
(757) 383-3713

LIBRARIAN

OPEN

HOSPITALITY

Robin Stoughton
(757) 822-9631

WEBSITE

Brooks Britt
(757) 745-7104

December was a busy month for the club's treasury. The **Holiday Party** was a great success with a wonderful assortment of foods and desserts, a gift exchange and entertaining games. The club received a refund of \$55.18 from the \$500 advanced for the holiday food trays, \$20 from T-shirt sales, \$9 from specimen sales, and \$6 from one new member. Please welcome **Deborah Towers** to the club as we end the year with 163 adults and 21 children!

December expenses were routine, except for the following: \$200 for our annual Holiday donation to the church; \$111 for Holiday scratchers for the party; \$25.50 for the Reynolds Law group; \$22.55 for paper, envelopes and stamps; and \$13.95 for trading cards and candy for the party.

2024 dues are due this month. \$15.00 for adults and \$7.50 for children ages: 6 -17.



IN MEMORIAM

This past year we lost three members of the Tidewater Gem & Mineral Society:

Katie O'Leary - April 24, 2023
Susan McCoy - September 7, 2023
Emory Dixon - December 17, 2023

All of them were active members with Emory being the most well known to most members. They will all be missed by their families, friends and us here at TGMS.



ROCKHOUNDER OF THE YEAR

What are the qualifications for someone to be nominated to be a club's Rockhounder of the Year? Someone who goes above the normal requirements as a member, someone who promotes rock hunting and the club. We haven't given anyone this honor in quite a while or to my recollection, ever. We did have one person who did go beyond the normal job duties this past year. She was awarded the honor at the Holiday Party in December. The deserving member of this honor is:

Kelley Finch

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

At the Holiday party we were honored & proud to present a certificate of appreciation and a Lifetime Membership to TGMS to the following members:

Roger Blackman
Judy Hyszczak
Emory Dixon

Roger has been a club member since 1999. Most of you know Roger as “Mr. Fluorescent” because of his love for fluorescent minerals and the way he loves to share them with others. Roger and his fluorescent mineral display are a staple at every Treasures of the Earth Gem Show. In fact, he is usually one of the very few that routinely show up for the entire show to include set up and clean up. Additionally, he regularly attends almost every field trip. This year especially, he has gone above and beyond to attend all six (6) of the 2023 Community Outreach programs. These programs are usually at night and require him to lug the blackout box, his fluorescent minerals and his UV light to the events then set up and tear down. This year, he has donated at least 20 hours of his personal time to the Community Outreach Program.

Judy became a TGMS member in 1996. You all know Judy because she is the Newsletter Editor, so you get her monthly emails with her amazing newsletters. I can say that because I belong to 6 different mineral clubs in 3 different states and Judy’s monthly newsletters blows all other newsletters out of the water! It is simply the best -- no others even come close to being as good! Besides the countless hours that go into each newsletter, she has to print and mail several of them to several of our older members who do not have computers or email. She is the official “Printer” for the club - printing everything we need for: The TOTE Shows, the meetings, and the Community Outreach Programs as well as any special events. Judy has loaned several of her minerals for the Community Outreach program table displays and did a PowerPoint presentation to another club for TGMS. She is a staple at the TOTE Shows, helping with set-up, tear down, working the tables, filling display cases of all sizes on multiple occasions, and giving demonstrations on the lapidary wheels as well as jewelry making. She has for many, many years been the driving force and main planner of our annual Holiday Party – many of the fun games we play are because of her creativity. TGMS simply could not function without all that Judy does behind the scenes!

Emory has been with TGMS since 1993. Over the years he has attended many events and is great at helping to identify specimens. Since I took over as the field trip chairperson, he has attended many of them and even acted as the guide to this year’s field trip to Chestnut Ridge. Which is quite possibly the most physically demanding of all our field trips. He also regularly participates in the TOTE shows – usually helps with set up on Thursday and volunteers at the table on Friday. The last few years he has hosted an interactive demonstration with his hand-held digital mineral microscope called **“It’s a small, small, small World!”**. His demonstration has been such a big hit that TGMS purchased a similar microscope so that we could have that demonstration every day of the TOTE show. He went above and beyond when he, with the help of Margaret Whitby, took on the daunting task of refurbishing two (2) of the large display cases that were in very bad condition.



Hear Ye, Hear Ye!

2024 Important Dates

(Dates are subject to change or be cancelled)

January 19	TGMS Meeting
February 8 - 11	Tuscon Gem Show (Main)
February 16	TGMS Meeting
March 15	TGMS Meeting
March 7	Spring TOTE Show - Set Up
March 8, 9, 10	Spring TOTE Show
March 15 - 17	Land of Sky Gem Show, Swannanoa, NC
April 19	TGMS Meeting
May 17	TGMS Meeting
May 31 - June 2	Pipsico Fossil Hunt
June 21	TGMS Meeting
July 19	TGMS Meeting
August 9 -12	Pipsico Fossil Hunt
August 16	TGMS Meeting
September 20	TGMS Meeting
October 18	TGMS Meeting



PROGRAM IDEAS YOU CAN DO!

Educational - About geology, minerals, gems, fossils, etc.

Field Collecting - Showing site(s), specimens, with some geology, collecting methods and other aspects of interest.

How To Do It - Techniques/equipment for fossil preparation, jewelry, metal work, carving, faceting, other lapidary, etc.

Miscellaneous - Anything that does NOT fit in any of the above categories.

If you have an idea or have taken a trip and have pictures for a program presentation but not the means to make a Powerpoint presentation to do a program, I will be glad to assist you. Please either email or text me - hyszczak@cox.net / 757-533-1512.

REMEMBER! Annual dues are due this month. \$15 for adults \$7.50 for children ages: 6 -17.

The newsletter can also be found online: <http://tgms.weebly.com/>

AFMS Code of Ethics

I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without the owner's permission.

I will keep informed on all laws, regulations or rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.

I will, to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.

I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.

I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind - fences, signs, buildings.

I will leave all gates as found.

I will build fires in designated or safe places only and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.

I will discard no burning material - matches, cigarettes, etc.

I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.

I will not contaminate wells, creeks or other water supply

I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.

I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.

I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.

I will cooperate with field trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.

I will report to my club or Federation officers, Bureau of Land Management, or other authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.

I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.

I will observe the "Golden Rule," will use "Good Outdoor Manners" and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and public image of rockhounds everywhere.



HOLIDAY PARTY GAMES



Above: Sandra tossing a wreath. Below: Joe trying his skill.



Mr. Snowman awaiting snowballs.



Lloyd trying to get his snowballs in.



Deborah and Lucita playing the Reindeer Hoof game.



Trace and Keith almost getting their ball in the bin!



Brad's Bench Tips by Brad Smith

TESTING FOR SILVER

Often you need to identify some of those unknown "silvery" pieces of metal in the bottom of the toolbox or some piece of old jewelry that is not hallmarked. Is it silver or is it something else?

Of course, if you need to know exactly what you have, it's best to send your metals off for refining. But inexpensive silver testing solutions can be used to help distinguish higher silver content alloys from alloys that have the same appearance but with little to no silver content, like German Silver or Nickel.

I purchased a half-ounce bottle of JSP Silver Testing Solution #GT41. It's not a rigorous analytic test, but it lets you know if you're on the right track. And it's inexpensive. Mine was only \$3.

With a fresh solution you have an instant reaction after applying it to the metal being tested. The procedure is simple - apply a small drop and watch for a color change. Note that the acid will leave a slight mark, so choose a spot that is out of the way or will be easy to polish.

If you suspect the object is silver plated, you should file a little notch somewhere inconspicuous to expose what metal is below the surface. Otherwise, all you test will be the surface plating.

Here's the reaction I got when testing various materials:

- . Fine silver Red/Orange
- . Sterling silver Brick Red
- . 80% silver 20% copper . Dark red changing to gray
- . Brass Yellow changing to blue
- . Nickel Gray-green
- . Copper Yellow changing to blue
- . Steel Black
- . Stainless Steel No color change

Caution - If you do any of this testing, know that you are handling a reasonably strong acid. The GT41 label says it includes nitric acid and potassium dichromate.

Wear safety glasses.

Do not get any testing solution on your skin.

Use a solution of baking soda and water to neutralize acid.

Wash and clean up well when you're done.



[Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](https://www.amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)

EFMLS WILDACRES May 13-19, 2024

What is EFMLS Wildacres?

That question has been asked many times. How do you define Wildacres? Fellowship, teaching, learning, friendship, sharing, creativity is what the EFMLS Wildacres workshops are defined as being. However, the EFMLS Wildacres program is much more than that.

Wildacres is a property on top of a mountain in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina that was purchased by entrepreneur I.D. Blumenthal. The facility was eventually turned into a retreat for the benefit of mankind.

Meanwhile at EFMLS over 51 years ago, it was apparent there was a need to provide an opportunity to its members for an education in the various aspects of their earth science hobby - everything from mineral identification, lapidary arts, stone carving, jewelry making, etc. - and at a reasonable cost to its members.

EFMLS began its history with Wildacres in 1973. The first sessions at Wildacres were discussions and lectures. Well-known artisans and instructors lectured on and demonstrated how to do various topics (i.e., cabochon cutting, beading, silversmithing, etc.). There were no hands-on opportunities. Eventually, EFMLS Wildacres became what it is today—a hands-on workshop. Each year a variety of classes are chosen. They range from beginners to Intermediate skill levels and are taught by well-known instructors in their fields.

Each session also has a well-known Speaker-in-Residence who gives lectures in their field of expertise in the earth sciences and hobby. Over the years, the Wildacres sessions have had thousands of students take advantage of the opportunity to learn a new skill or add to the one they already have, listen to speakers who are experts in their fields, participate in field trips, and visit the local attractions, and much more. All this is in a beautiful setting on top of a mountain and at a low cost.

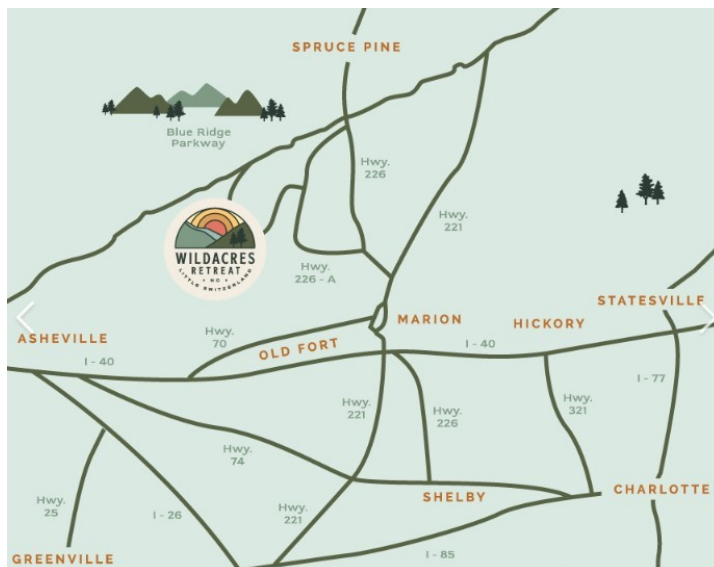
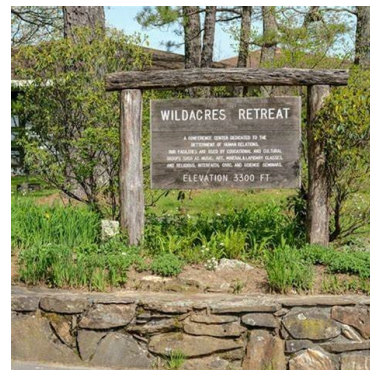
About the cost. Yes, \$475 does seem like a lot of money. However, this fee includes your room, meals, class instruction, and the opportunity to go on a field trip, and daily lectures by a well known speaker. All this plus being in a beautiful mountain top setting, being with fellow hobbyists, renewing old and making new friendships, and much more for an entire week.

Now is the time to sign up to go to Wildacres May 13-19. This year, once again, there will be only one session - you don't want to miss it because you waited too late to sign up. Classes are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis and a limited number of students are assigned to each class. Therefore, you don't want to register later and find that your first choice of a class was already full.

Classes and instructors this session will be:

- Beading - Cheryl Brown
- Chainmaille – Marilou Hillenbrand
- Faceting – Bernie Emery
- Geology – Rob Robinson
- Intarsia – Chuck Bruce
- Silversmithing – Richard Meszler
- Soapstone Carving – Ken Valko
- Viking Knit – Danny Griffin
- Wirewrapping – Jacolyn Campbell

If you have any questions contact Wildacres Director Mark Kucera (mark_j_kucera@yahoo.com) for questions about the classes or Registrar John Milligan (jmilligan@stny.rr.com)



WEBSITE: <https://wildacres.org>



Tidewater Gem & Mineral Society
P.O. Box 61021
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.

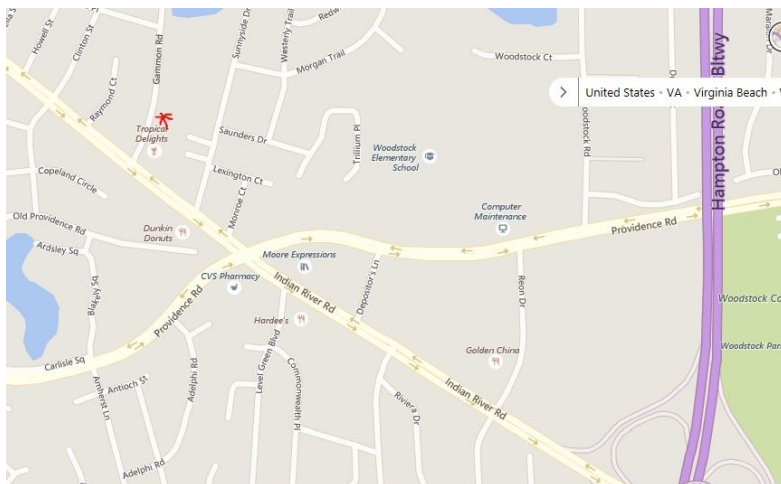
Meetings are the third Friday of each month at 7:30 PM at Memorial United Methodist Church located at 804 Gammon Road, Virginia Beach, VA. Our monthly meetings are open to everyone, no admission is charged.

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 administers the site and will get back with you.

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Our meeting in will be on
January 19th at 7:30 pm at
Memorial United Methodist Church,
804 Gammon Road, Virginia Beach, VA.
(Gammon Road is off of Indian River Road,
between Military Highway and Providence Road)

