



The Tidewater Prospector



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

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

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

Notes from the President

by Robin Stoughton



I hope everyone is doing well and enjoying these nice summer days! Perfect weather for field trips!

Happy Birthday to all celebrating one

this month!

Thanks to Judy Hyszcak for doing a great program on the Oceanview Mine in CA and for bringing in tourmaline samples to share!

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

We still need donations for our annual club auction in September. You can bring any donations to the next meeting or hold on to them and bring them to the meeting in September.

Our next show is at the end of the month, July 28-30th. Setup on the 27th. Due to our club being non-profit and we don't pay for our booth, we MUST have members demonstrating all three days AND having some displays set up! The people in charge of the show require us to do this. We have small and large display cases for members to use. You can share one if you would like also. Displays can be just about anything you make or collect lapidary related. Please contact Kelley Finch to help out..

Our program this month will be quite busy. We will be making kids grab bags with the new material we just got. I need two or three

members to bring a stapler to staple grab bags shut. Also, we will have Joel Spencer coming down from Richmond with a quite extensive collection of specimens he has collected back in the 50's and 60's. A lot of specimens were collected locally like the calcite clams, and also items from the Rutherford and Morefield mines. He will be selling them so I hope we have a great turnout for this meeting.

Thanks to all who brought snacks to last month's meeting!

Hope to see everyone at the meeting!

TREASURER'S REPORT



June was an average month for the club's treasury. Due to stormy weather, club attendance was only about half the normal amount of members. The club raised \$45 from the paid raffle, \$33 from membership for 3 adults, and \$10 from the sale of 1 T-shirt. Please welcome the following **new** members: Lori Cox and Peter Jacobson. That brings total club membership to 129 adults and 19 children.

Club expenses for June were higher than normal. The club purchased 800 pounds of mixed Brazilian minerals for \$1,483.65 to be used to make kid's grab bags at the July meeting for future TOTE shows. We purchased a portable microphone and speaker system for \$511.41 to be used at club meetings so all can hear clearly.

Hear Ye, Hear Ye!

2023 Important Dates (Dates can be changed or cancelled)

July 21	TGMS Meeting
July 22	Contrary Creek Trip
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
November 17	TGMS Meeting & Annual Audit Report
December 8	TGMS Meeting / Holiday Party



BRAZILIAN MIX FOR THE
CHILDREN'S BAGS

Meeting Preview

MAKING UP CHILDREN BAGS FOR TOTE SHOW



Crate of rocks delivered to us at the Farmer's Market



Inside the crate - lots of heavy bags!



Sampling of rocks for the bags.

JOEL SPENCER'S VISIT

From calcified clams found in Tidewater to minerals found in Virginia mines - they will be available at the next meeting.



Brad's Bench Tips

by Brad Smith

ONE PART DIE FORMING

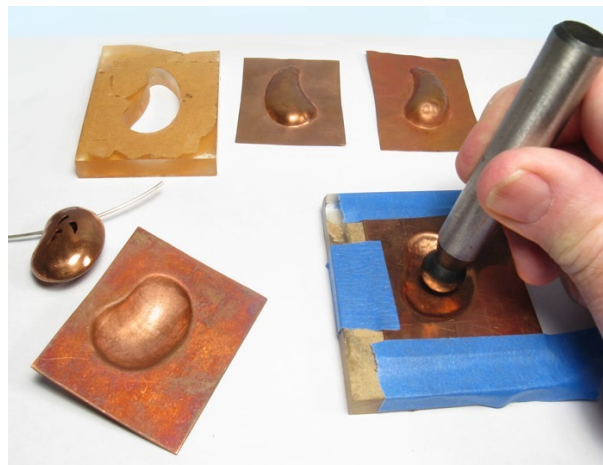
An easy way to make large and strong components for your jewelry designs while keeping the weight of precious metal to a minimum is done with simple tools in a process called one-part die forming. Complex 3-D shapes can be made quickly from thin gauge sheet with just a piece of plastic and a dapping ball.

I make a forming die by sketching the shape I need on a piece of thick plastic. Then drill a hole and saw out the shape with a jeweler's saw and a coarse blade. When sawing, try to keep edges straight up and down. Refine the cut as needed with a sanding drum or file. Select a thickness of plastic that is just a little more than the amount of doming you want.

> Note: I tend to use 1/4 inch or 3/8 inch plastic that I get as scraps from a local plastics shop.

To use the die, cut a piece of sheet about 3/8 inch wider than the hole in the die on all sides. Anneal the sheet and tape it down on the plastic. Use a dapping ball and hammer to create the domed shape. When the taped down edges begin to warp, planish them flat on the top of the die. Finally, if the sheet is to be domed deeply, you will need to anneal the metal occasionally.

One nice feature of this technique can be seen in the top and left of the picture. If the sawed walls are straight up and down, the hole on the bottom is a mirror image of the hole on the top. This allows you to produce a mirror image shape as needed to make left and right earrings or both sides of an irregular shaped bead as shown.



OCHRE APPLICATOR

Yellow ochre is used when you want to be sure the solder won't flow on an area of your piece while you're soldering another area. The only problem with ochre is coming up with a good way to store and apply it.

I use recycled nail polish bottles. They seal well and have a built-in brush applicator. Just clean them out with a little acetone or nail polish remover, and they're ready to go.



See Other Tips in my Smart Solutions for Jewelry Making Problems

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



Contrary Creek Field Trip

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

MANDATORY SIGN UP IS REQUIRED WITH KELLEY. WITH THE HIGH TEMPERATURES WE ARE EXPERIENCING, THE TRIP MAY HAVE TO BE POSTPONED UNTIL IT IS COOLER. WE NEED TO KNOW WHO ARE GOING FOR COMMUNICATION PURPOSES.

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?*

TGMS MEETING Minutes 6/21/22

Minutes taken by Kelley Finch

Call to Order: by Robin Stoughton at 7:30 PM

Welcome: Recognized New Members & Guests. Happy Birthday to all who have a June birthday.

Minutes: In the newsletter – contact an officer if you ever have any questions or need clarification.

Secretary: Britt Brooks (Not Present) – These minutes by Kelley Finch

Treasurers Report – Lloyd S.

TREASURERS REPORT 06/14/2023

Balance on Hand (04/30/23) \$7,892.08

May Income

Membership (9 adults, 2 children) \$122.00

Paid Raffle \$54.00

Total May Income \$176.00

May Expenses

Jack Rabbit Self-Storage (MAY) \$136.00

Church Meeting Room \$40.00

Postage (Judy H.) \$7.00

Total May Expenses \$189.93

Balance on Hand (05/31/2023) \$7,878.15

Communications / Announcements:

Chairpersons Reports:

Newsletter – Judy H.: Input is due to Judy by the 3rd of each month. Check spam folders if not received, goes out the Friday before the meeting.

Library – Open Position:

Workshop - Madison H. (not present)/Jody A.: Per Jody, the workshop will be held tomorrow, sign up sheets are in the back...fee is \$5.00 per person.

Ways & Means – Amanda Arab: nothing to report

Field Trips - Kelley: The next field trip will be on July 22nd to Contrary Creek.

The price fossil pits was suggested for a future field trip, however, they are no longer open.

Reports from Special Committees:

Pebble Pups – Rosanne (Not Present): - If you have pebble pups (aka: kids between the ages of 7- 13) notify Rosanne via email no later than the Wednesday before each meeting. Pebble pups program is before each monthly meeting from 7PM to 7:30 PM.

Tote Show - Kelley F.: Mark your calendar for the July 28th to 30th show. Sign up sheets will be at the July meeting...we need volunteers for the tables, displays and demonstrations. We will need to make more children's bags at the July meeting.

Robin thanked Lloyd S., Judy H., Bill S. and Kelley F. for helping her transport the new minerals that arrived that will be used for the TOTE show bags.

VP of Presentations - Jessica Bates:

July: We will be quickly making a few children's bags for the TOTE show. Then Joel Spencer will be present to sell his calcite clams that he found in Virginia Beach as well as other specimens.... Bring money... he also accepts checks & cards. He will have specimens for every budget from a few dollars to a few thousand dollars.

September: TGMS Auction, if you have any donations, contact Robin.
If you are interested in doing a presentation, please contact Jessica.

TGMS MEETING Minutes (continued)

New Business:

Community Outreach: Per Kelley F. the Virginia Aquarium has requested TGMS and specifically Roger Blackman “Mr. Fluorescence” to demonstrate at their Family Night in June.

Other Club Shows: Emory asked if we knew about other mineral club shows and dates. Any show dates that we are aware of get listed in the “Important Dates” section of the newsletter. If you are aware of any upcoming mineral or rock shows or events, please contact Judy H. so she can add it to the newsletter.

Old/Unfinished Business:

Bylaws – Kelley F.: In Progress – if you want to attend the meeting on July 10th at 10:00AM, please contact Kelley Finch.

Committee chairs – Appointed by the President - please consider helping, most positions take less than 1 hour per month, many take less time if shared duties. If we do not have a volunteer, that service may be suspended. Call Robin if you are interested in one of these chairs: Librarian Nomination Pebble Pubs (co-chair)
Field Trip (co-chair)

Raffle – Amanda & Lloyd: As always, the door prize and raffle produced many satisfied winners.

Program – Jessica: The June presentation was by Judy Hyszczak on the Pala Mine in California.

End Meeting Time: 8:03 PM



CORNY JOKE

What happens when you keep reading geology jokes in your free time?



Answer on last page



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.

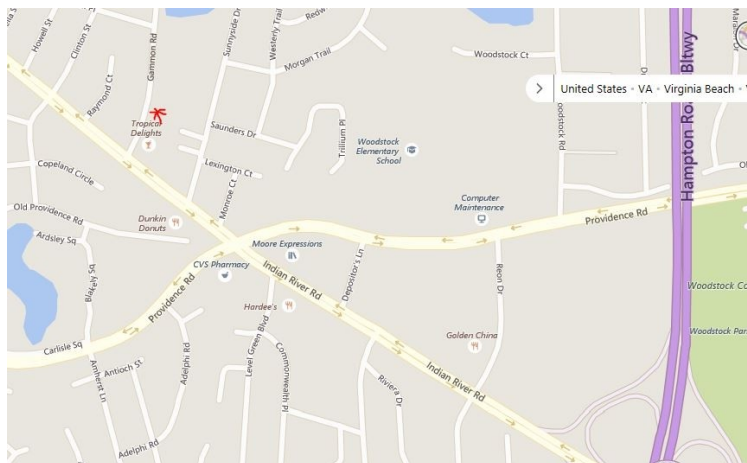
Meetings are the third Friday of each month at 7:30 PM at Memorial United Methodist Church located at 804 Gammon Road, Virginia Beach, VA. Our monthly meetings are open to everyone, no admission is charged.

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.

FAIR USE NOTICE: This publication may contain copyrighted material the use of which has not been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available in our efforts to advance the educational understanding of the amateur jewelry fabrication and rock collecting hobbies. We believe this constitutes a 'fair use' of any such copyrighted material as provided for in section 107 of the U.S. Copyright Law. If you wish to use material from this publication for commercial or purposes of your own that go beyond 'fair use', you must obtain permission from the copyright owner.



Our meeting in will be on
July 21 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:

You know that you have really
hit rock bottom.

