



# The Tidewater Prospector



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

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## **2nd VICE PRESIDENT (Program/Entertainment)**

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## **TREASURER (Finance)**

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Jody Anderson  
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## **NEWSLETTER**

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## **WAYS & MEANS**

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

## **Notes from the President**

by Robin Stoughton



Well, I'm thinking we are still in March with all this crummy, rainy, chilly weather. My garden isn't liking it at all and neither am I. Hopefully we get some warmer weather soon.

I would like to thank Jennifer Spitz for a great program on the Bisbee Arizona mines! It was very interesting!

I would also like to thank Kelley and Hank Finch, Roger Blackman, and Tom and Samantha Leary for doing the outreach programs for the schools. If any other members would like to help with these programs, please get in touch with Kelley Finch.

I would also like to thank Emory and Margaret for redoing our large display cases. They look great!

Happy Birthday to all who are celebrating one this month.

Anyone is welcome to bring snacks to our meetings. Thanks to all who brought them last month.

We still need items to be donated for our club auction in September. We will be making kids grab bags at the July meeting.

Our next show will be here before you know it. It is July 28th-30th, with set up on the 27th. We must have members demonstrating and doing displays, so please contact Kelley Finch if you can help out. We also need help with setup and pack up.

Reminder: All newsletter info needs to be to Judy by the 3rd of the month.

See ya'll at the meeting!

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**



May was an average month for the club's treasury.

At the May meeting, the club raised \$122 when 9 adults and 2 children paid their membership dues, and \$54 from the paid raffle. Please welcome the following new members to the club: Gregory Colvin, Alan Nuchols, Lewis Reyna, Amanda Saldana and children: Ezra and Nathan and Jessica Smith. This brings total club membership to 126 adults and 19 children.

Club expenses were routine, except \$13.93 for postage.



# Hear Ye, Hear Ye!

## 2023 Important Dates (Dates can be changed or cancelled)

June 8	Community Outreach	Virginia Beach Aquarium Family Night
June 16	TGMS Meeting	
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	
October 20	TGMS Meeting	
November 17	TGMS Meeting	

## Bisbee Arizona Mines Presentation Recap

A huge thank you to Jennifer Spitz for her presentation last month on the Bisbee, AZ mines. Jennifer is a Geotechnical Engineer for the US Army Corps of Engineers. She has master's and bachelor's degrees in civil engineering, a bachelor's degree in Ocean and Earth Sciences and a Major in Geology and a Minor in Geography. We are so thankful you shared your knowledge, family history and specimens from the Bisbee Mines. We really enjoyed the presentation and learned a lot about the pseudomorph processes, the difference between subaerial and subaqueous formations as well as the geographic uniqueness and history of the mines in Bisbee Arizona.





# FIELD TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

## A Visit with Bob Simon on Fossil Hunting and Restoring

Our club was invited up to Bob Simon's place in Ashland on Saturday April 21<sup>st</sup>. Space was limited and filled up quickly. It was an opportunity that you don't want to miss if we are invited again! Bob told us about digging on a private ranch out in Wyoming and what he went through finding fossils.

Bob has retired from the on-site physical labor of fossil hunting but he is still tied to fossils in the preparation of fossils found by others. He showed us how he works on them and allowed everyone who wanted a hands-on experience to give it a try.



Turtle Fossil



Allison Munden using the freedom cleaning off debris on a fossil bone.



Top right: Bob Simon  
Middle right: femur to work on  
Bottom right: Spine worked on and all cleaned up



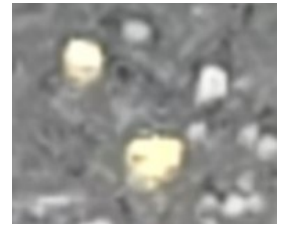
# Prospecting 101 Field Trip Report

It was a beautiful day with perfect weather! Our host was fellow TGMS member & CVGP Board member, Mr. Tom Leary. The Central Virginia Gold Prospector (CVGP) club held an amazing and very informative and fun Prospecting 101 event where they demonstrated various prospecting equipment, techniques and methods.



Left to right: Evan, Emery, Margaret, Jim, Tom, Rosanne, Bridget & David. ~photo by Kelley Finch

We started the day with a “bushwacking” excursion to a rocky outcrop where we found specimens of spectacular hematite, quartz, gothite and magnetite.



Left: David in a hole at the epidote vein. Center: Spectacular hematite on a large boulder. Right: gold found by Tom Leary.

Then we headed down a very bumpy, 2-mile road to the epidote vein. Most opted for a ride in the jeep but David and Bridget walked the entire route with their gear in a cool wagon.

Then we went the remainder of the way down to the tongue creek at the end of the road to pan for gold. Tom demonstrated how to pan and how to set up a sluice. Of course, we also had a stack of classifiers available so we could get to the heavy smalls/pay dirt quickly. Tom found a few specks of gold. Several of us took pay dirt home to pan at our leisure.



Tom shows the group how to set up a sluice in the river.



Tom Leary demonstrates how to clean the gold out of a sluice. Bridget is in the background.



Evan utilizing the classifiers while Rosanne pans



Top Right: Jim Arab is on the edge of his seat while searching for the ever-elusive gold.

Margret & Emery at Butterfly point as a CVGP member is demonstrating a dredge in the background .



Margaret & Emery panning from the bank.



## Prospecting 101 Field Trip Report (continued)

Finally, we returned to the topside demonstrations where we also got to see various types of equipment and get something to eat and drink. Emery & Margaret and Kelley went to the “butterfly point” section of the river where dredges were being demonstrated. To get to that area you had to walk a mile or catch a ride in one of the jeeps as there were significant “mud holes” to splash through.



Bridget, David & Evan watching a panning demonstration by a CVGP member.



Muriatic acid to remove impurities from the gold.



A bucket top classifier with foot pedal.



Hand sluice.



Floating dredge (top) & hand



Two different styles of High Bankers.



A display table with a digital microscope, pay dirt and various uses for gold.

We are super thankful to Tom Leary and the Central Virginia Gold Prospector's club for inviting us to this inaugural event. We had a great time and learned a lot. We hope they have another Prospecting 101 event soon.



# PREVIEW TO OUR JULY MEETING GUEST

By Judy Hyszcak

I had a nice chat recently with Joel Spencer. It has been confirmed that he will be coming down from Richmond to make available specimens from his collection for sale to members of our club. He is originally from this area and found clams with calcite to offer us as well as other specimens from the Morefield Mine. He wants to offer them to us prior to offering them to collectors from other places.

He has posted on Dropbox 27 pictures of specimens that he will guarantee to bring down with him in July. Here is the link to the photos he posted for us to view:

The link to the Dropbox folder is:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/23gkn20p9du6jutff40f9/h?dl=0&rlkey=zeugdwynx4i8qyxsa673s5sr5>

If the photos do not load, and you get a message that there was a problem, you probably did not answer a site question. Once I accepted the request, the photos loaded.

More about our future guest: Joel wrote, "I took a look at the TGMS website and read the history link. It was a bit of a walk down memory lane. I knew Warren Redford fairly well and also remember Pat Gavin and Mr. Schermerhorn as well as the Mathews. In my mind I remember Mr. Schermerhorn as "Ralph", but at that age he was Mr. Schermerhorn to me. In the notes about officers it is noted that my father Ralph Spencer was vice president in 1963. He also served as field trip chairman one year which was probably 1962. I think I still have his notes from field trips that he led for the club if that would be of interest. My father also gave a series of lectures on crystallography. Sometime around 1964-65 I got into football, being a teenager, and girls and slowly drifted away from active mineral collecting."

Joel recently emailed us the following: "Lastly, I want to clarify my motives for coming to the TGMS meeting. Your newsletter said that I was old and disposing of my collection. I don't want it to sound like I am about to croak any time soon. I am in excellent health. I don't look 74 years old and don't feel 74. I cycle between 5,000 and 7,000 miles a year, but the reality is that I am getting old. If I were to die in 2023 it most likely would be from getting hit by a car instead of some natural cause. Finding a home for my minerals is part of the process of getting my life in order and simplifying the future. I'm doing this now while I am able. I do want to find a home for my minerals and at the same time make a few bucks to support my cycling addiction. There is an altruistic component to my visit to the TGMS meeting as I believe that the calcite clam specimens from Lake Edward are truly unique and I would like to offer them to TGMS members first before offering them to a general market.

This past Fall I participated in the Richmond club "swap" and had a flat of six calcite clam shell specimens for sale. Someone wanted to buy all six and I declined thinking that offering them to Tidewater collectors should come first before offering them to the general market. It wasn't about the money, but it just seemed like the right thing to do."



# TGMS MEETING Minutes 5/19/22

## 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 MAY 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

**Treasurer's Report – Lloyd S.**

### TREASURERS REPORT 05/17/2023

**Balance on Hand (03/31/23)** \$7,696.33

#### April Income

Membership (10 adults) \$132.00

Paid Raffle \$54.00

T-Shirt Sale (2) \$20.00

Show – Late Payment \$3.00

**Total April Income** \$209.00

#### April Expenses

Jack Rabbit Self-Storage (MAY) \$136.00

Church Meeting Room \$40.00

Bank Checks \$38.95

Clean Show Tablecloths (Kelley F.) \$34.35

Show Vol. Raffle, Rock & Gem Mag. \$29.95

Postage (Judy H.) \$7.00

**Total (Monthly) Expenses** \$286.25

**Balance on Hand (04/30/2023)** \$7,892.08

### Communications / Announcements:

#### Chairpersons Reports:

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

#### Library – Open Position:

**Workshop - Madison H. /Jody A.: (Not Present):** Per Kelley Workshop will be held tomorrow, sign up sheets are in the back.

#### Ways & Means – Amanda Arab:

**Field Trips - Kelley:** Prospecting 101 was a blast, hope CVGP does it again soon. Thank you to Tom Leary who was the FT host. Contrary Creek FT will be rescheduled, watch newsletter important dates section for the re-scheduled date.

## TGMS MEETING Minutes (continued)

### 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 28<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> show. Sign up sheets will be at the June 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 Margaret Whitby and Emory Dixon for fixing and restoring two of the large wooden display cases. Now they are better than ever!

**VP of Presentations (Jessica Bates):** Next meeting Judy Hyszczak will give a presentation on the Pala mine in CA. July will be making of children's bags for the TOTE show and Mr. Joel Spencer will be present to sell his calcite clams that he found in Virginia Beach as well as other specimens.... So bring cash to the July meeting...we will ask if he accepts checks or cards. If you are interested in doing a presentation, please contact Jessica.

### New Business:

**Community Outreach:** Robin thanked Tom & Samantha Leary, Hank Finch, Judy Hyszczak, Roger Blackman and Kelley Finch for pulling off 4 events for various Virginia Beach Science nights last month. Per Kelley F. the Virginia Aquarium has requested TGMS and specifically Roger Blackman "Mr. Fluorescence" to demonstrate at their Family Night in June.

### Old/Unfinished Business:

**Bylaws – Kelley F.:** In Progress – if you want to attend the meeting (time & date TBD) to prepare them for the general membership vote, 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)



## CORNY JOKE

What did the rock say to the word processor?



*Answer on last page*





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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.

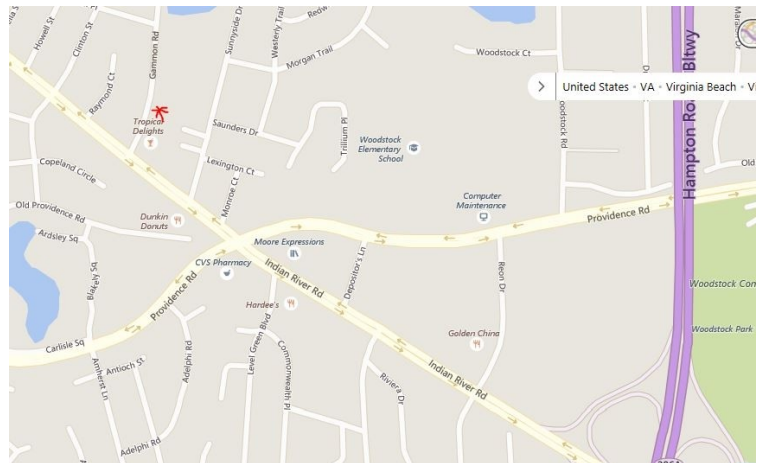
**Meetings** are the third Friday of each month at 7:30 PM at Memorial United Methodist Church located at 804 Gammon Road, Virginia Beach, VA. Our monthly meetings are open to everyone, no admission is charged.

**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](mailto:bhbritt@verizon.net) You can also view this newsletter on the site.

Email [hyszczak@cox.net](mailto: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  
June 16 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:

Boulder!

