



The Tidewater Prospector



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

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

Notes from the President

by Robin Stoughton



Hello everyone, hope y'all are doing good. Sorry I wasn't at last month's meeting. I want to thank Kelley Finch for filling in for me at the last minute. I was not feeling good. These pills my oncologist put me on

are giving me a lot of issues. Hoping they get better soon.

Thanks to Sandra Saint Laurent for doing our program last month, I was told it was a great presentation.

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

Unfortunately, I have sad news again. We have lost two more wonderful club members. Both passed away unexpectedly and will be dearly missed. They were in our club for many years. Please send your thoughts and prayers to the families of Katie O'Leary and Jane Edwards.

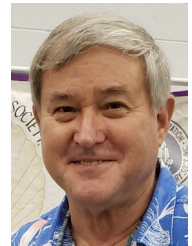
Our next show will be in July, we must have demonstrations and displays, so please contact Kelley Finch if you can help out.

Hospitality: Thanks to all who brought snacks last month, I heard they were really good!

Anyone who wants to do a monthly program, please contact Jessica Bates.

Hope to see everyone at the meeting!

TREASURER'S REPORT



May was an average month for the club's treasury. At the meeting 10 adults paid their 2023 membership dues totalling \$132, the paid raffle raised \$54, the sale of 2 T-shirts raised \$20, and we received \$3 from a late show payment. **Please welcome** the following **new** members: Martin Boo, Rebekeh Blanchard, Rebecca McCurdy, John & Margit Sanderlin, and Shelby Smithwick. That brings total club membership to 120 adults and 17 children.

Club expenses were routine except for the following: \$34.35 to clean the show tablecloths, \$29.95 for the show volunteer raffle for one year of **Rock & Gem**, and \$7 for newsletter postage.



Hear Ye, Hear Ye!

2023 Important Dates (Dates can be changed or cancelled)

May 19	TGMS Meeting
May 20	Ashland VA Dinosaur Bone Prep Demo - Bob Simon
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 -13	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

IN MEMORIAM



Katie Frances O'Leary
April 20, 1939 - April 24, 2023

Katie Frances O'Leary, age 84, died on April 24, 2023, at Sentara Albemarle Medical Center in Elizabeth City, NC. Born in Georgia on April 20, 1939, she was a loving, creative, and intelligent woman.

Katie is survived by her devoted children, Deborah Torres and Mark Belek. She was preceded in death by her parents, who instilled in her the values of hard work and kindness that she carried throughout her life.

Katie's professional life was marked by her dedication and expertise in the field of accounting. She worked for several companies throughout her career, with her last position being as a Controller at Trinity Pre-Owned Auto Sales in Norfolk, VA. Her colleagues admired her intelligence and attention to detail, qualities that contributed to her success in her field.

In addition to her professional accomplishments, Katie was a dedicated and loving mother to her two children. They will remember her as a constant source of encouragement and love, and they are grateful for the many happy memories they shared as a family.

Katie's creativity and passion for the arts were evident in her involvement with the Tidewater Gem and Mineral Club. She loved to make jewelry and beaded crafts, often sharing her beautiful creations with friends and family. Her artistic talents were admired by many, and her handcrafted pieces will be cherished as lasting reminders of her skill and love for her craft.

Katie will be dearly missed by her family, friends, and all who had the privilege of knowing her. May her memory live on in the hearts of those she loved and may she rest in peace. As we mourn the loss of this incredible woman, we also celebrate her life and the many ways she touched the lives of those around her.

CUDOS TO OUR MEMBERS



Sandra St Laurent spoke about the Impact Crater and how it affected the Peninsula when she lived there.

Display Case Renovation Project

We have been doing the Treasures of the Earth (TOTE) shows for years and have utilized the large display cases at every show. As a result, they started showing the inevitable wear and tear that comes from repeated moving and usage...they were falling apart. Emery & Margaret volunteered to use their excellent carpentry skills to refurbish them. Hank dropped them at Emery's workshop so he and Margaret could get to work on them. Thank you both so very much for making them better than ever! I can't wait to use them in the next TOTE show.



Top Left: Margaret is working on the new supports for the side wall mounting hardware.

Below Center: The light wiring harnesses were reorganized and bundled. Additionally, the inside received a coat of white paint.



Bottom Left: The new support mounting hardware are clamped to walls.

Right: Margaret admires she and Emery's amazing results!



UPCOMING FIELD TRIP

Dinosaur Bone Preparation Demonstration By Bob Simon

We have been invited by Mr. Michael Griffith with the Gem and Mineral Society of the Virginia Peninsula (GMSVP) to attend a dinosaur bone preparation demonstration by Mr. Bob Simon. Folks interested in rocks, paleontology, dinosaurs and dinosaur bone prepping do not want to miss this field trip on **Saturday May 20th starting at 10:00 a.m.**

Bob Simon of the Richmond Gem and Mineral Society (RGMS) has dug up several dinosaurs over the years (though he's retired from that now) including Sophie the Stegosaurus on display at the London Museum of Natural History.

Bob has agreed to let folks come to his house in Ashland, VA, where he still does preparation work on dinosaur bones. He said he would set up so that people could see unprepared and prepared dinosaur bones as well as photos of complete skeletons he has discovered that are now in museums.

He will also demonstrate preparation of dinosaur bones and would have some non-expensive bones set up and available if anyone would like to try their hand at preparing a bone using an air scribe for a little while. He will have some bone pieces available for kids to take home free.

There will be a discussion about properly labeling and cataloging mineral specimens, which should be educational for collectors, young and old.

There is plenty of parking available and all ages are welcomed and encouraged. All minors must always have an adult present with them. **Everyone who is planning on attending must a TGMS member and sign up in advance. I will need: Your name, your phone number, email address and the number of persons in your party no later than Sunday, May 14th at 5pm.**

After I have the list of attendees, the driving directions to Bob's place ("The Dino Zone") will be emailed.

If you have any questions, you can email me at: kellyfinch@gmail.com or call my cell 757-630-6607. If I don't answer, please leave a message.



Bob Simon, photo from the Paleo Gallery website



Sophie the Stegosaurus was a young adult when she died 150 million years ago. Many of her bones have been laser and CT-scanned to study within computer simulation programs. She currently resides in the London Museum of Natural History. Photo by John Stillwell/PA

Brad's Bench Tips

by Brad Smith

DRILLING SMALL ITEMS

Small pieces need to be held securely while drilling to prevent them from spinning if the drill catches. Having sliced my fingers occasionally in my younger days, I avoid band-aids now by using flat-jaw pliers or a ring clamp. Pliers also save you if the piece gets hot. Put a little tape over the plier jaws if needed to avoid scratches.



DRILLING A STONE

One of the things my students often ask to do is drill a hole through a piece of gemstone. The usual thought is to get a diamond drill, but I've been disappointed with them. I think the reason is that the tip of the drill is just pivoting in the hole and fails to cut well. When it looks like the drill isn't cutting, the tendency is to push with more force. The drill gets hot, and the diamond grit falls off.

A much better approach is to use a core drill. This is a small hollow tube with a coating of diamond grit at the business end. The diamonds easily carve out a circular arc without undue pressure or heat buildup.

Core drills are readily available from lapidary and jewelry supply companies. They come in sizes as small as 1mm and are very reasonable in price. For instance, a 2mm diameter drill is about \$6.



Chuck the core drill in a drill press, Dremel or Foredom and be sure to keep the drilling zone wet to cool the tool and to flush out debris. Also, if you're drilling a through hole, go very easy on the pressure as the drill is about to cut through. Otherwise you will usually chip off some of the stone surface around the hole.

See Other Tips in my Smart Solutions for Jewelry Making Problems

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



TGMS Community Outreach

March and April were very busy months for our TGMS volunteers who attended four events (three in one week) at various Virginia Beach Elementary schools.



Roger Blackman at Brookwood Elementary.

Roger Blackman, aka Mr. Fluorescent, as always, his world class fluorescent specimens were a huge hit at all four events! I love all the oohs and aahs from all the little and big kids as they step up and peek inside.



Roger's fabulous fluorescent minerals

Judy Hyszczak, thanks for putting in extra work behind the scenes printing all the handouts and signs for all four events. Also, for lending us many of your beautiful geodes so we could fulfill a specific request by Ocean Lakes Elementary school.



Judy's geode collection on display at Ocean Lakes Elementary STEM night... several are fluorescent.



Left: Tom and Sam Leary at Malibu Elementary STEM night. "Mr. Fluorescent" is in the background.

Right: Hank Finch at Brookwood Elementary Reading Night Event, manning the "Elroy is a Rock Star" Crystal Observation Booth.



Hank Finch, thanks for helping with the transport, set up and breakdown at several events...it is hard work...we are thankful you are always willing to chip in. We couldn't have done the Brookwood Elementary Reading night and the Malibu STEM event without you!

Thanks to Kelley who attended every event and provided a display of at least one specimen of each mineral listed in the book "Elroy is a Rock Star". This helped the kids identify with the minerals mentioned in the book.

As a club, it is very important that we share our love and knowledge of minerals with our community... especially the children. Please make sure you thank these volunteers for going above and beyond to promote the TGMS mission. Contact Kelley Finch, 757-630-6607, if you would like to help with these types of events in the future.

TGMS MEETING Minutes 4/21/22

Minutes taken by Brooks Britt

Call to Order:

Meeting called to order at 7:44 pm by 1st VP Kelley F

Welcome to Members/Introduction of New members and Guests

April birthdays recognized

Reading of the Minutes:

March meeting minutes published in the April newsletter

Roll Call:

President Robin S.: Excused

1st VP Kelly F.: Present

2nd VP: Jessica B.: Present

Treasurer Lloyd S.: Present

Newsletter Editor Judy H.: Present

Secretary Brooks B.: Present

Treasurer's Report:

Balance on Hand February 28, 2023

\$6,257.60

April 17, 2023

MARCH INCOME

Membership (20 adults & 5 children)	\$337.50
Paid Raffle	\$67.00
T-Shirt Sales (1)	\$10.00
SHOW:	\$2,227.50
Adult Grab Bags (111)	\$1,110.00
Fossil Grab Bags (47)	\$329.00
Child Grab Bags (158)	\$158.00
Paid Raffle (Amethyst Cathedral)	\$190.00
Membership (23 Adults & 6 Children)	\$390.00
Donations	\$30.98
T-Shirt Sales (2)	\$20.00
TOTAL MARCH INCOME	\$2,642.48

MARCH EXPENSES

Club Banner	\$343.87
Fossil Purchase (300 Shark Teeth, 200 Orthoceras)	\$225.00
Reynolds Law Group – file as non-profit:503c(3)	\$165.00
Jack Rabbit Self Storage (March)	\$136.00
Church Meeting	\$40.00
Show Supplies (Kelley F)	\$11.93
Paper (Judy H.)	\$8.95
TOTAL MARCH EXPENSES	\$930.75

Balance on hand March 31, 2023

\$7,969.33

Communications and Announcements:

Provide input to Judy for newsletter by May 3

TGMS MEETING Minutes (continued)

Reports of Standing Committees:

Kelley: Due to dangerous inclement weather conditions, the field trip to Contrary Creek that was scheduled for Saturday, April 22nd has been cancelled. We will reschedule it soon and post the new date in the newsletter. Prospecting 101 May 6 field trip is in the April newsletter for those interested.

Kelley: Sign up for workshops. Signup sheets on table.

Kelley: TOTE show volunteers recognized and drawing for volunteers conducted (2 names). Judy H. selected donated amethyst specimen, Lloyd S. selected subscription to Rock & Gem magazine.

Kelley: Card to Katie Leary: sign card

Kelley: We need donations for the annual club auction.

Jessica: We need volunteers for program presentations at future meetings.

Reports of Special Committees: None

Old or Unfinished Business: None

New Business: None

Drawing of Raffle Prizes:

Free and paid raffles conducted

Program:

Sandra St. Laurent presented program on the Chesapeake Bay Impact Crater. Slideshow and wall chart illustrated. Sandra was thanked for an outstanding presentation on the topic.

Refreshments:

Thank you to all who brought them in

Adjourn:

Meeting ended at approximately 8:55 pm



CORNY JOKE

When were rock puns the funniest?



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.

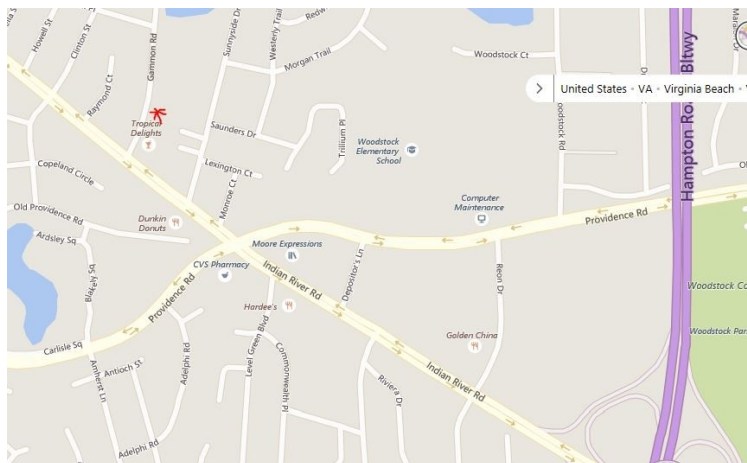
Meetings are the third Friday of each month at 7:30 PM at Memorial United Methodist Church located at 804 Gammon Road, Virginia Beach, VA. Our monthly meetings are open to everyone, no admission is charged.

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 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
May 19th 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:

During the Stone age

