



# The Tidewater Prospector



Newsletter for the Tidewater Gem and Mineral Society November 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 Hysczak  
(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

## Notes from the President

by Robin Stoughton



I hope everyone is doing good. If anyone has went on any field trips or just personal collecting trips, we would like to hear about what treasures you found. Feel free to bring your finds to the meeting to show everyone.

Thanks to Kelley Finch for running the meeting for me last month.

Thanks to Tom Leary for doing an awesome program on growing bismuth crystals last month. Hated to miss that one!

Thanks to all who brought snacks to our meeting.

Thanks to all members who helped out at the last show from setup to pack up and who did displays.

We will be having our club elections before our program this month. Positions up for voting are:

President (2years)  
2nd Vice President (2 years)  
Secretary (2years)

Robin, Jessica and Brooks are all running for reelection.

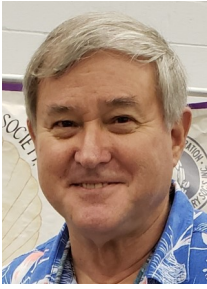
**REMINDER:** December newsletter articles **MUST** be to Judy Hysczak by November 21st as our Christmas party/meeting is the 2nd Friday in December.

**REMINDER:** Our annual Holiday party/meeting will be on Friday, December 8th at 6:30pm. It is for members only as we are limited to the number of people in the fellowship hall per fire code. The club provides the meat, cheese, vegetable and fruit trays. We ask that all members attending please bring a side dish or dessert to share. We will start our meeting promptly at 6:30pm so that our food doesn't get cold and to make sure we have enough time to play all the fun games Judy and Kelley have planned.

I hope everyone has a great Thanksgiving and hope to see y'all at the meeting!



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



## TREASURER'S REPORT



October was a busy month for the club's treasury!

The first weekend we had the Treasures of the Earth (TOTE) Show, which raised \$1,547.47 that is about average for October shows. Show sales included \$870 for 87 Adult grab bags, \$182 for 26 Fossil grab bags, \$100 for 50 Kid's grab bags, \$248 for the Labradorite raffle, \$93.47 in donations, and \$54 for 5 adult Memberships. Please welcome the following new members from the show: Bryan & Kelly Harrison, Ed Jarawich, and Tony Zydlewski.

Two weeks later at the club meeting, we raised \$69 from 4 new members, \$53 from late auction sales, \$52 from the paid raffle and \$21 from specimen sales. Club expenses were routine, except \$10.60 for raffle tickets and for \$29.95 for the show volunteer raffle, which was won by Roger Blackman who kindly passed the prize to Kelley Finch! Please welcome the following new members to the club: Jasmine Galan, and George & Stacy & Ella Johnson. That brings total club membership to 162 adults and 21 children.

## NOVEMBER PROGRAM: Bring and Brag

Bring whatever you would like to show everyone - something you found, something you made, maybe need help in identifying what it is, something you are selling, extra rocks you want to share...

### CORNY JOKE



Did you hear about the geologist who went to jail?

*Answer on last page*

# 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 ROCK CLUB after all.

**OTHER GAMES AND ENTERTAINMENT** will be happening as well.



# Hear Ye, Hear Ye!

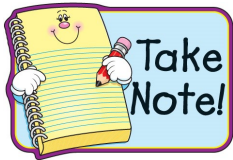


## 2023 Important Dates

*(Dates can be changed or cancelled)*

November 11  
November 17  
December 8

Richmond Gem & Mineral Society Rock Sale & Swap  
TGMS Meeting & Annual Audit Report / Elections  
TGMS Meeting / Holiday Party



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## ELECTION NOTICE



The TGMS Election of Officers will be held at our November 17<sup>th</sup> meeting. **We need your help!** Please consider running for an office to help make TGMS the best it can be! Most offices only take a few hours of work per month. The following offices are open and will be voted upon if we have multiple candidates:

**President** – 2 year term  
**2nd Vice President** – 2 year term  
**Secretary** – 2 year term

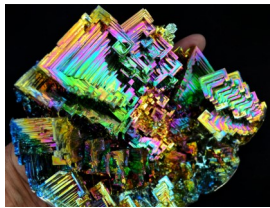
Additionally, we have several committee chairpersons' positions that are vacant and need to be filled or that could benefit from a co-chair. These are volunteer positions that are appointed by the President and have duties that can be easily shared.

**Librarian**  
**Pebble Pups (co-chair)**  
**Show (co-chair)**  
**Nominating**  
**Hospitality (co-chair)**

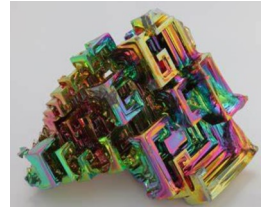
The Co-Chairs for the Nomination Committee are Ricky Byrant and Hank Finch. Contact Hank Finch at (757-650-2412) by November 14<sup>th</sup> to get your name on the official 2023 ballot. If you would like to volunteer for a chairperson position or need more information on the duties you can look at the bylaws on our website or you can call Robin Stoughton or Kelley Finch.



## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS: Tom Leary creating Bismuth Crystals



Tom explaining the process of making the Bismuth crystals.



Pulling out the crystal formation.



The crystal before oxidation begins and the colors appear.



# FOSSIL HUNT REPORT

By Bill Stine



Above: Small Ecphora

Thank you to all that came out for the October 24-26 Collecting Days. This was the first time that we did a weekday collecting and I think it went very well, even though it was a rushed date.

We had 21 people come out from Tuesday to Thursday and many great specimens were found.

Tom Leary found a nice whale backbone, Mike Griffiths a nice Ecphora, Rick Jacquot collected lots of Chesapeake and also found two whale ear bones while walking the shoreline where others had walked past at a rush. Rick was walking slow and spotted the ear bones in two different areas. Many double Chesapeake jeffersonius were found this time, many in very good condition.

I even got a lot of time to collect and the pictures are some of what I found. Tuesday, Rick and myself were working a rubble area and we both found some Ecphora fragments attached to other material. Then I turned a cluster over and the small Ecphora appeared. A little later I was looking beneath some tree branches and found the Calcite crystals. This is probably the most exciting thing I have found since the whale jaw in 2015.

Thursday morning a few of us were back on the beach and about 35 feet from the shoreline entrance, I found the larger Ecphora next to the bluff. I do not know if it rolled out on Wednesday night or was completely missed by everyone on Wednesday. The last picture is the cleaned specimen. I only used water to clean the crystals and the Ecphora.

Below: Calcite Crystals

Someone left their walking stick at the beach. It is an Ozark Trails stick. Please let me know if you left it behind. (rockdoctor48@wmconnect.com)



Before and after cleaning of another Ecphora that Bill found.



## Brad's Bench Tips by Brad Smith

I'd like to apologize to those of you who read my Jewelry Bench Tips in your clubs' newsletters each month. The wife and I are getting older and decided it was time to move closer to the family, so our lives over the summer were a turmoil of packing and shipping about 11,000 pounds across country to the shores of Chesapeake Bay.

### RAISING A CABOCHON

When a cabochon sits too low in a bezel, the bezel hides a lot of the stone. The solution is to either sand down the bezel height or boost up the stone. But if you choose to raise it up, the question is what is the best material to use?

I was taught to use fine sawdust but now think that might be a problem when used in rings. I reason that rings will frequently get wet, which would cause the sawdust to swell in size and push the stone against the bezel. Then when the sawdust dries out, the stone would be a little loose.

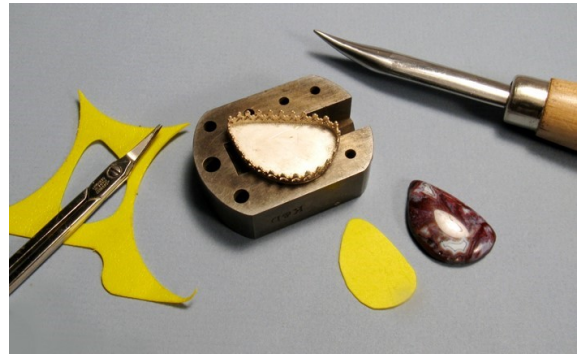
In any case, I now prefer to insert a flat sheet to boost up my stones. It can be a scrap of metal or some plastic from product packaging or old credit cards. In either case, just cut a piece to loosely fit into the bezel and drop in the stone (with some dental floss) to check its height.

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>



## AN UPDATE FROM BILL STINE REGARDING THE RECENT PIPSICO FOSSIL HUNT:

Rick Jacquot found this specimen at the recent Pipsico dig. I am sharing this as it is the best earbone specimen that I have ever seen found at camp.

Rick Jacquot wrote:

Finished cleaning my whale ear from Pipsico. This is one of the most complete ear bones I have found. Most are river worn and I never find them this good diving the Cooper and other rivers. This one was cemented in a sand matrix (picture on left). I soaked it for the past few days in 5% vinegar to loosen and remove the surrounding hardened sand. It came out nice, (middle and right pics). Most ear bones are worn from rolling along the river bottom like the one pictured on the far right. You hardly ever find them with the thin flange curving around the inside still intact.



**LEFT:** Rick's Whale EarBone showing how it cleaned up.

**RIGHT:** what is left after most earbones have been tumbled in the river





## TOTE SHOW HIGHLIGHTS



Liz Estabrooks & Roger Blackman



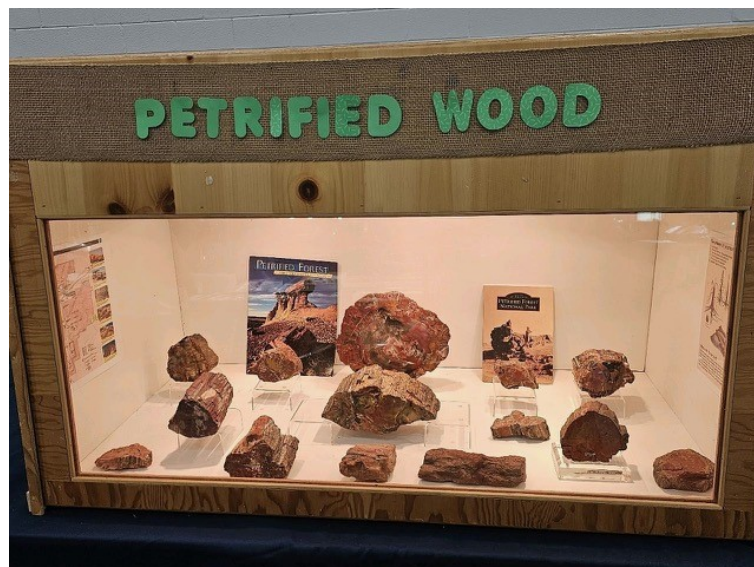
Fluorescent Rocks in our Box



Dianna Hinshaw and Mike Jackson Demonstrating



Jeff Sandmeier at work



Brooks Britt's Petrified Wood Collection he brought in for all to see.



## TOTE SHOW RECAP

The October 2023 show was a success! Success that is only possible with the help of the twenty-four wonderful TGMS members (listed below) who took time out of their busy schedules to volunteer at least one hour. Please, the next time you see these volunteers, let them know how much we appreciate them.

Barbara Drori  
Brooks Britt  
Joe Byrd  
Hank Finch  
Kelley Finch  
Keith McBride  
Jay Rockwood  
Jeff Sandmeier

Dianna Hinshaw  
Rosanne Hinshaw  
Dorothy Rockwood  
Lloyd Shiffelbian  
Rebekah Blanchard  
Rebecca McCurdy  
Liz Estabrooks  
Margaret Whitby

Jeff Sandmeier  
Jody Anderson  
Madison Hall  
Judy Hyszcak  
Margaret Dell  
Eric Dell  
Michael Jackson  
Emory Dixon



A special thank you to the following club members for the extra time and effort to provide:

Large Display Case: Brooks Britt, your rainbow petrified wood was amazing!

Small Display Cases: Jeff Sandmeier, we love seeing your various cabochons and your silver work.

Fluorescent Demonstration: Roger Blackman always gets oohs and aahs from the crowds.

Additionally, he was the only volunteer that was at the show every day all day...including set up and tear down. Thank your Roger for your amazing dedication to TGMS!

Emory Dixon for your It's a Small, Small World demonstration on Friday.

Demonstrations: Dianna Hinshaw, Jeff Sandmeier and Joe Byrd.

Lapidary Demonstration: Thanks to the Workshop Co-chairs Jody Anderson & Madison for lugging the machines to/from the show. And a huge thanks to all the lapidary artists who demonstrated their talents for the public.



All volunteers were entered into a drawing that was held at the TGMS October meeting for either a 1-year subscription to the Rock & Gem Magazine or \$25.00 gift card. The drawing winner was Mr. Roger Blackman.



Tidewater Gem & Mineral Society  
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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.

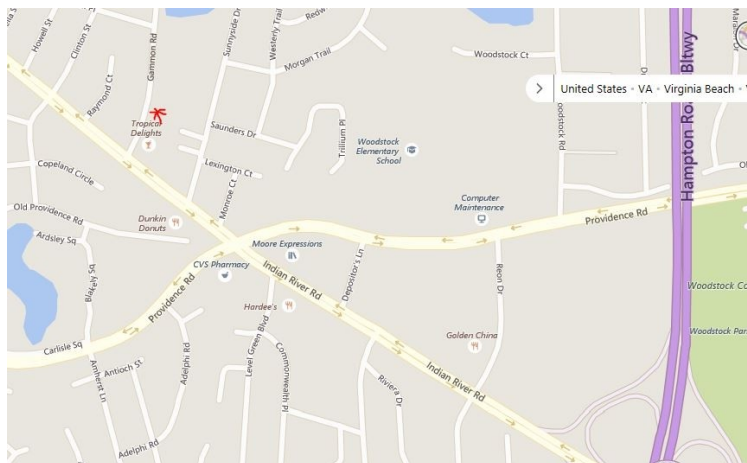
**Meetings** are the third Friday of each month at 7:30 PM at Memorial United Methodist Church located at 804 Gammon Road, Virginia Beach, VA. Our monthly meetings are open to everyone, no admission is charged.

**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  
November 17th 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:



Answer:

He was charged with basalt and battery.

