



The Tidewater Prospector



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

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WAYS & MEANS

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(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 would like to thank Kelley Finch for running the meeting for me last month. I was a bit under the weather.

Happy Birthday to all celebrating one this month.

I hope lots of you have been able to go on some field trips and find some treasures.

Our last show of the year will be coming up before you know it. Please contact Kelley Finch to help out.

Our annual club auction is our program this month. If anyone has items to donate, please label them and add a minimum bid if needed. It's always a lot of fun. We will also need some volunteers to help with the auction.

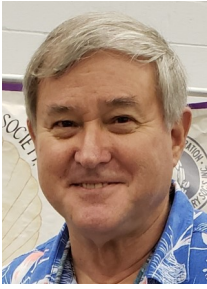
Thanks to all who brought snacks to the meeting last month.

Reminder: All newsletter articles need to get to Judy by the 3rd of the month.

Hope to see everyone at the meeting.



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



TREASURER'S REPORT



August was an average month for the club's treasury. At the meeting the club raised \$47 from the paid raffle and \$57 from membership for 5 adults. Please welcome the following new members: Orena Cassidy, Laura Linnabary, and Maryann Perrini. That brings the total club membership to 145 adults and 20 children.

Club expenses were routine, except for the following: \$176 for Post Office box rental for 1 year; \$29.95 for 1 year of **Rock & Gem** for Jacob White, raffle winner of the July Show volunteer; and \$25 for club registration with the State Corporation Commission.



JAIMIE'S
FINDS
AT
PIPSICO IN
AUGUST



CORNY JOKE



Why shouldn't you lend a geologist money?

Answer on last page

Hear Ye, Hear Ye!

2023 Important Dates (Dates can be changed or cancelled)

September 15	TGMS Meeting / Auction
September 16	Workshop 10am to 2pm
September 22 - 24	Treasures of the Earth Show - Richmond
September 22 - 24	SVGMS Club Show (Shenandoah Valley) - Dayton, VA
September 23	Field Trip
October 6 - 8	Treasures of the Earth Show - Virginia Beach
October 6 - 8	Fossil Hunt - Camp Pipsico
October 20	TGMS Meeting
October 21	Workshop 10am to 2pm
November 11	Richmond Gem & Mineral Society Rock Sale & Swap
November 17	TGMS Meeting & Annual Audit Report
December 8	TGMS Meeting / Holiday Party

OLD MINERAL CLEANING TIPS FROM THE 60'S

I found these in an old "How to Clean Minerals" booklet published by West Essex Mineral Club dated 1968. I have checked and all the products listed are still available.

Crystals (Non-water Soluble)

Use a solution of "Dip-it," a coffee pot cleaner. Cover the mineral with the solution, then heat it and allow to cool. Scrub the crystals and rinse in clear water.

"Polydent," a dental cleaner, can also be used. Add one teaspoon of the Polydent to each cup of water.

To clean fragile crystals, or those hard to reach recesses in some mineral specimens, use "Crew," a product of Johnson Wax Company. Just spray it on so the foam covers all the area. Let it set for a few minutes and then rinse with water. Works on fluorite and calcite and other non-water soluble crystals.

A detergent bath does not always remove all saw oil. Use "Fuller's Earth," place a slab or specimen in it—it absorbs all oil.

ACID TO CLEAN QUARTZ

"Oxalic acid" mix with warm water, then immerse the specimen and allow to stand overnight, then rinse in clear

water after removing the solution.

"Tartaric acid: in crystal form, mix in warm water then immerse in solution overnight.

Then rinse in clear water after removing from solution. Tartaric is stronger than Oxalic acid but milder than Hydrochloric acid.

Crystals (Non-water Soluble)

Use a solution of "Dip-it," a coffee pot cleaner. Cover the mineral with the solution, then heat it and allow to cool. Scrub the crystals and rinse in clear water.

REMEMBER – No chemical injury is due to "accident" or "bad luck," it is caused by carelessness!!!

By Larry Huffman from August 2019 Tar Heel Rockhound

October T.O.T.E. Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show



October 6th, 7th & 8th



The 2023 Treasures of the Earth (T.O.T.E.) shows are a great opportunity to get together with other TGMS members, visit, share your talents and learn more about minerals all while helping the club. Please consider volunteering...even just an hour will be a great help. All members who volunteer will be entered into a raffle drawing for a one-year subscription to the *Rock and Gem* magazine or a \$25.00 gift card if you already get that publication.

We need many members to help in order to make these shows successful. Here are a few examples of how you can help:

Tables - Volunteer at the tables to collect donations for specimens and the various bags that we offer. If you like working with kids, you can help at the kid station.

Display Cases - We need displays! We have several large wooden display cases and two small glass cases. Show off your collection or crafts!

Lapidary Artists - Lapidary demonstrators are always a big hit. You must have attended a workshop and have been cleared on the machines.

Demonstrators - Do you make gem trees, jewelry, chainmail or do any other rock or mineral related craft? We need demonstrators of various types to share their skills.

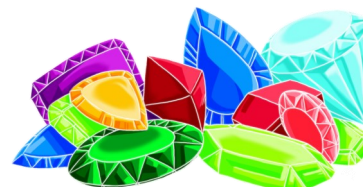
Digital Microscope - "*It's a Small, Small, Small World*" digital microscope demonstration. We need volunteers to run this demonstration.

Fluorescent Display - Our Fluorescent Specialist, Roger Blackman, will have his always popular demonstration. We need a few outgoing and friendly volunteers to assist him.

If you cannot make it to the show, we always need help setting up starting at 12:30 PM the Thursday before the shows. Sign up at one of the meetings or contact Kelley Finch 757-630-6607.

WHAT IS A GEM?

There is a difference between a "gem" and a "gemstone". A gem is the final cut and polished object. A gemstone is usually a mineral, but sometimes another natural material, in its untouched natural form.



For a mineral to be considered a gemstone, it has to have three basic properties. First, it has to be colorful and beautiful to look at. Second, it has to be hard enough to be able to be shaped, cut or polished. Its hardness is also important because gems are worn in jewelry, so a gemstone has to be hard enough to be worn in jewelry without being easily scratched, chipped or damaged.

Pipsico Fossil Finds August 12, 2023

We knew it was going to be a hot day. Bill Stine sent us a weather advisory about it beforehand and recommended bringing extra water. Once we got down to the beach we saw some serious changes that had been made. To stave off erosion, the Boy Scouts and the Department of Transportation built a Living Shoreline. This impacted finding shells like we usually did as we would make our way down to the cypress grove (if you weren't side-tracked and never made it down to the grove). They hauled in large rocks to make a jetty-like protection that paralleled the shore and a variety of plants and grasses were planted to extend the beach to the rocks. In creating this they made a cove between the jetty-like breaks. There were about three along the shoreline.



Lake Beasley - In the Lions' section of the camp



The Living Shoreline



Bill Stine, our host with fossils he found



Find the Treasure in this Conglomerate
Answer reveal on last page.



View down the beach towards the Cypress Grove



Pipsico Fossil Finds (continued)

The collecting weekend was a great success for all. Many people found many beautiful specimens. We had a total number of 74 that braved the hot sunny weather to come out and search the low tide mark and along the banks.

There were many first timers, one who even came down from Massachusetts. We had a lot of regulars and everyone went home happy. Below are a number of pictures of great finds. Nate Marchessault (Calcite) made his first trip to Pipsico as well as Diane Moxley (Ecphora) and Phaedra Beauchamp (Mako).

I found two large bone pieces and I had them on the table for show and gave them away as I have enough bone pieces in my collection. The whale tooth fragments were found by Tom Leary and given to Julie Paine. Diane Soccio, and Steve Jones are regulars and their Ecphora and Chesapeake specimens were very good finds. The Chesapeake was found in a wash with both valves. A lot of people missed that one. Congratulations to Olga Suarez for finding the Megalodon. That is the first I have seen found at a club dig in a number of years. She thought her husband dropped it for her to find. That reminds me of Lance and his dad leading mom and dropping shark teeth for her to find a number of years back!!! Juan said he did not drop it for her to find.

Contributed by Bill Stine



Mako Shark Tooth



Megalodon Tooth



Calcite



Whale Tooth



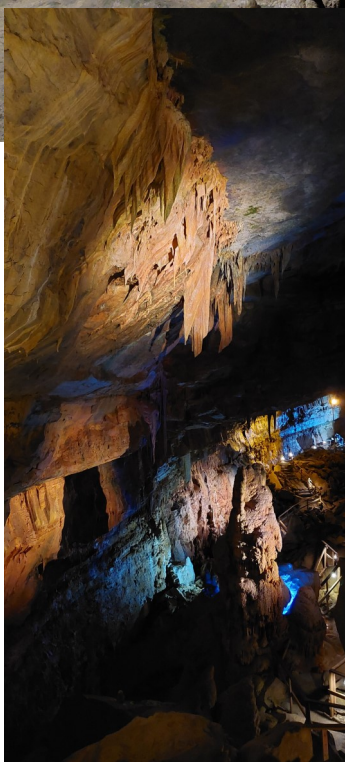
Whale Tooth Fragments



Chesapeake

SUMMER TRAVELS

Jeff Sandmeier went to the **Lost Worlds Cavern** this summer and is sharing some of the pictures he took while there. Lost Worlds Cavern is located in Lewisburg, West Virginia, about a 5 1/2 hour drive from the Tidewater area. It's a self-guided tour that takes about 45 minutes. There is also a gift shop with a small fossil museum attached.



TGMS MEETING Minutes 8/18/22

Minutes taken by Brooks Britt

Call to Order:

Meeting called to order at 7:43 pm by 1st VP Kelley F.

Welcome to Members/Introduction of New Members and Guests

August birthdays recognized

Reading of the Minutes:

July meeting minutes published in the August newsletter

Roll Call:

President Robin S.: Absent

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:

August 16, 2023

Balance on Hand June 30, 2023

\$5,758.09

JULY INCOME

Paid Raffle

\$86.00

Membership (5 adults)

\$63.00

SHOW:

\$1,594.26

Adult Grab Bags (89)

\$890.00

Fossil Grab Bags (30)

\$210.00

Kid's Grab Bags (55)

\$110.00

Paid Raffle (Amethyst Plate)

\$203.00

Membership (7 Adults & 1 Children)

\$74.00

Donations

\$77.26

T-Shirt Sales (3)

\$30.00

TOTAL JULY INCOME

\$1,743.26

JULY EXPENSES

Jack Rabbit Self Storage (August)

\$136.00

Gratuity – Joel Spencer (Richmond Trip)

\$50.00

Kid's Grab Bags (500)

\$46.11

Church Meeting

\$40.00

Membership Refund – Lewis Thurston

\$30.00

Specimen Tray – Joel Spencer

\$25.00

Stamps & Paper (Judy H.)

\$21.95

Cups (Lloyd S.)

\$19.00

Stereo Cable (Kelley F.)

\$8.47

TOTAL JULY EXPENSES

\$376.53

Balance on hand June 30, 2023

\$7,124.82



TGMS MEETING Minutes (continued)

Communications and Announcements:

Provide input to Judy H. for newsletter by September 3

Reports of Standing Committees:

Kelley F.: Field trip to Pepsico was very hot. September field trip information will be published soon. Next field trip to Pepsico is sometime in October.

Kelley F.: TOTE show volunteers recognized for the July show. Winner of drawing is Jacob White. Next show is October 6, 7 and 8. Set-up day is October 5. Need volunteers!

Judy H. Confirmed when newsletters are sent out.

Kelley F.: Annual club auction is next month. We need donations for the club auction.

Kelley F.: Discussed status of new bylaws. Will be presented to membership soon.

Jessica B.: 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 drawn

Program:

Program for this month is mineral bingo. Next month's program will be the annual club auction.

Refreshments:

Thank you to all who brought them in!

Adjourn:

Meeting ended at approximately 9:00 pm





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 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.

CONGOLMERATE "SOLUTION":

It is an Ecphora. Do you see it Now? If you turned it upside down, it was even visible from the other side!

Gemstone Definition from Diamond Dan Publications

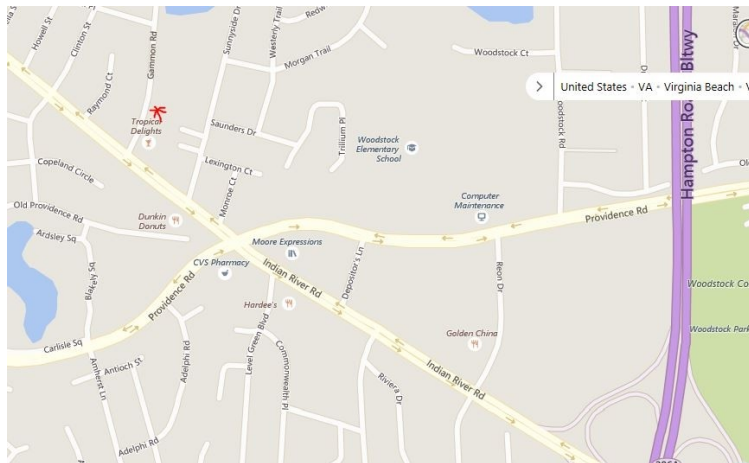


Answer:

They consider a million years ago to be Recent.



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Our meeting in will be on
September 15th 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)

