



# The Tidewater Prospector



Newsletter for the Tidewater Gem and Mineral Society April 2021 Virginia Beach, VA

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Newsletter is best read  
using Acrobat Reader.

## **Notes from the President**

by Robin Stoughton



Hello, yayyyyyyy Spring is here! So happy the cold weather is almost gone. Hope everyone is doing good. We will finally be having a meeting on Friday, April 16th at 7:30pm. We will be

allowed up to 50 people inside. Everyone still has to wear a face covering while there at the meeting. No food or drinks are allowed yet except for your own personal drink. You will have to sign in when you arrive. The new pastor is at the church but not sure if he will attend the meeting or not. The meeting will be over by 9:00pm.

As of right now, we do not have a program that I can report. Caitie, one of our new members, will be bringing her gem mining bag treasures for everyone to see and the info on where to order your own if interested.

We will not have our annual auction until we can get back to having normal meetings.

Our April Treasures of the Earth show was cancelled, so I'm hoping we will be able to have the July show. North Carolina is allowing shows but Virginia Beach is still being stupid and cancelling everything. There will be a Treasures of the Earth show in May in Raleigh, NC and also in May is the GL&W show and the Highlands Road show in Franklin NC. Also, this month is the Tucson shows which were postponed in January.

Workshop: There will not be a workshop anytime soon.

Hospitality: We cannot bring food or drinks to share but you can bring your own personal drink.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to everyone who has one this month.

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

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**



March was a slow month for the club's treasury with no March club meeting. This month, however, we will finally be able to meet **in person** and celebrate our common "**love**" of gems and minerals.

In March, the club raised \$115 when eleven members renewed their membership. Other expenses were routine and the treasury balance is about \$2,972.

## **CORNY JOKE**

What did the limestone say to the geologist?



Answer on last page

## ROGER'S REFLECTIONS

By Roger Tiangco

"I'm fortunate to have some very important pieces of jewelry, I don't believe I own any of the pieces. I believe that I am their custodian, here to enjoy them, to give them the best treatment in the world - to watch their safety and to love them. And they give their love back to me. We enjoy each other. I think it's because each piece has meaning for me and the memory of a piece of jewelry always brings back a stab of joy and love". When Mrs. Paul Ames decided to put the pear-shaped diamond up for auction - we all went crazy. Originally designed as a ring, weighing over 69 carats, it was remounted by Cartier as a pendant, suspended from a V-shaped shaped necklace of graduated pear-shaped diamonds, mounted in Platinum.

- Elizabeth Taylor



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**DIAMOND:** Mineral allotrope (molecular form) of carbon forming colorless cubic crystals – the other forms being graphite and the recently discovered “fullerene”. Diamond is the hardest known substance with a Mohs hardness of 10, which varies slightly with the orientation of the crystal. And thus diamonds can be cut only by other diamonds. They do not conduct electricity, but conduct heat extremely well. Diamonds occur naturally in the mineral Kimberlite, most notably in South Africa - Transvaal, Tanzania and in the USA at Murfreesboro, Arkansas. They are also mined from secondary alluvial deposits - especially in Australia, Brazil, Canada, India, Siberia, Sierra Leone and Zaire. Diamonds are separated by mechanical panning, and those of gem quality are cleaved (or sawn), cut and polished. The inferior, or industrial diamonds are used for cutting, drilling and grinding. Synthetic industrial diamonds are made by subjecting graphite to very high temperatures and pressures sometimes with fused metals as solvents.

Almost certainly, the process of Diamond's creation begin 90 to 120 miles beneath the surface of the earth – in the upperpart of the “mantle” – the 1,800-mile-thick region that lies between the molten outer core and the solid, rocky crust. The upper mantle is thought to consist of heavy Iron and Magnesium-rich rocks – particularly dark, coarse grained Peridotite – interspersed in many places with molten rock, called “Magma”. The precise nature of the titanic forces that thrust kimberlite magma through perhaps 25 miles of overlying crust is not known, but it is believe that high-pressure pockets of superheated gases such as steam and carbon dioxide are the most likely source of the impetus.

Many kimberlite deposits dates back from period between 70 and 150 million years ago – that's between Mesozoic and Cenozoic Era (Geologic Time Scale) – when ponderous crustal motions were splitting a single great land mass into the separate continents of South America and Africa (although kimberlite deposits as much as 1.2 billion years old have been found).

Contrary to popular belief, very few, if any, Diamonds are absolutely colorless, and Diamonds come in almost all colors. Remember also that uncut Diamonds do not flash and gleam as do - cut and polished ones. And yes, as everyone knows – it is the symbol of brilliance, heart's desire, sublimest of beauty. Adornment of the Royalty, of the Rich and Famous. The sharp rainbow – colored sparkle of vivid brilliance, gained its right to be called “King of Precious stones”. Ancient people of the Deccan Plateau in India, where it was first known, called it – Fragment of Eternity. As birthstone for April, it is believed to free one's spirit of anxieties. Greek legend believed it is “Adamas”, steel-hard and invincible nature for April-born and bring luck for those who wear it.

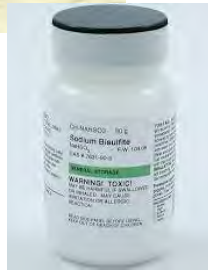
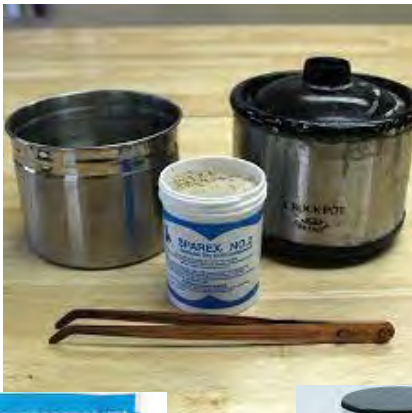
## Brad's Bench Tips

by Brad Smith

### CHEAPER & BETTER PICKLE

Most jewelers use a granular pickle mixed with water. The active ingredient is sodium bisulfate. This can be purchased online or from local stores as a common pool chemical used for adjusting the acidity of the water. It's sold under various names, so be sure to check the list of active ingredients for a brand that is 95% or more sodium bisulfate.

An added benefit is that the pool chemical is more pure in form than what is sold for jewelry use and does not cause the brown grime often found floating on the top of the pot.



### BEZEL PROBLEMS

When bezel setting a cab that has rather sharp corners, have you ever had problems pushing the metal down at the corners? It's a common problem often causing a wrinkle in your bezel and a grimace on your face.

In order for a bezel to capture the stone, the top edge of the bezel must be compressed and become shorter to lay down onto the stone. With a round or oval stone this naturally happens as you push and burnish the bezel. But when setting a stone with corners, the tendency is to push the long sides of the bezel down first. No compression occurs along the sides, and all excess metal is left at the corners. Compressing everything there is difficult. Often the only way to remove the extra metal at the corner is to make a saw cut and fold the two sides in to touch.

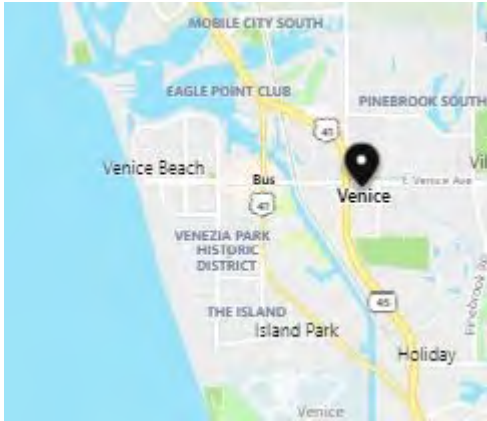
If you want a smooth bezel all around the corners, the simple solution is to set the corners of the bezel first. Then push in and burnish the sides. In this way the necessary compression is distributed along the length of all sides and not forced to occur at the corners. With the corners set first, the top edge of the bezel can easily be compressed along the sides.



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# Just Can't Get Away from them Rocks!

By Judy Hyszcak

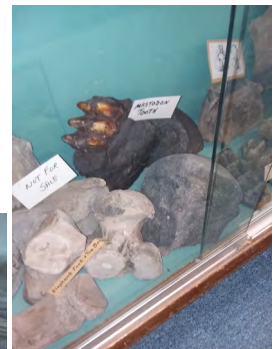


Last month I went down to Venice Beach, Florida for a week. Venice Beach is known to have a Shark Festival the first week of April each year. They find shark teeth along the Venice beaches but there is one beach that is known in that area for finding teeth, Caspersen Beach. I did not get there this year but if I find myself there NEXT YEAR, I will make it my goal to visit it. Maybe I will wait for April and experience the Shark Festival too. I made a floating sifter with pool noodles. Many use a long handled sifter/scoop made out of metal so it is less back irritating. I wasn't successful in finding any teeth using my method, but others were finding them at the same beach. Lucky them!



It is wonderful when you can go on vacation and still stumble upon rocks (no pun intended) without even going on a trail. While shopping, I was in Sea Pleasures and Treasures, a touristy type of store and discovered that they had a fossil display which included a

mastadon tooth! The last mastadon tooth I saw was at one of our auctions. This one was not for sale BUT they had slices of mammoth teeth for sale. The slices were about a half inch thick and one side was polished. I have included a photo of them. They were selling them at \$90 each.



Mastadon Tooth

Mammoth tooth slices

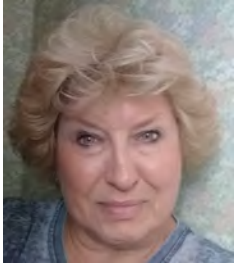
We visited the Ringling Museum in Sarasota which was simply amazing. Because this is a publication geared to rocks and fossils, I won't go into the amazing miniature circus that is there, but if you are in Saratoga, go there! The Ca d'Zan mansion's patio is made from a variety of marble. The marble is even on the boat landing! The patio was more like a piazza! In the Asian museum that is on the premises, there was a natural limestone sculpture that was eye catching.



Ca d'Zan  
Patio



Scholar's Rock  
China 19th century



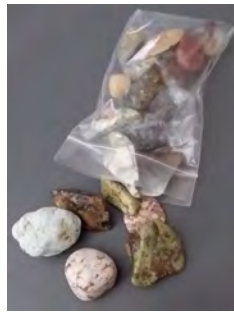
# PROJECT OF THE MONTH

Contributed By TGMS Member Judy Hyszczak

Combining my love of plants and rocks I made this dish garden of succulents. For my birthday, I received those small cute owl pots you see below and succulents to put in them. However, the pots were a bit small though and I figured I better make a dish garden before I lost them all. I came across the plastic dish garden container at the dollar store and then decided to add some tumbled rocks around the top edge. This was mostly to extend the height of the dish to ensure the dirt stayed inside. I liked the way it came out and thought I would share it with the club.



Plastic Dish Garden Bowl found at Dollar Tree



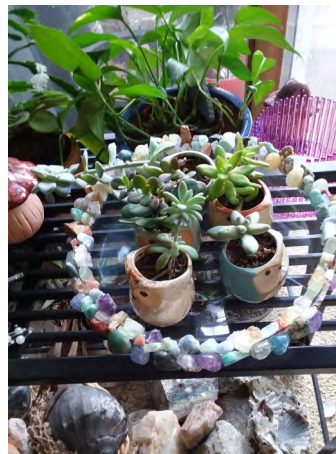
Tumbled Rocks



Hot glued the rocks to the top edge to extend the depth of the dish. Drilled four holes in the center bottom of the dish for drainage.



I hot glued some more rocks on the inside to insure that the dirt stayed inside. I put some pea gravel on the bottom before putting in the dirt. The pea gravel will keep the dirt from slipping out the drilled holes.



Here are some of those cute owl pots I took the plants out of to make this dish garden.



Here is the completed dish garden.



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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!

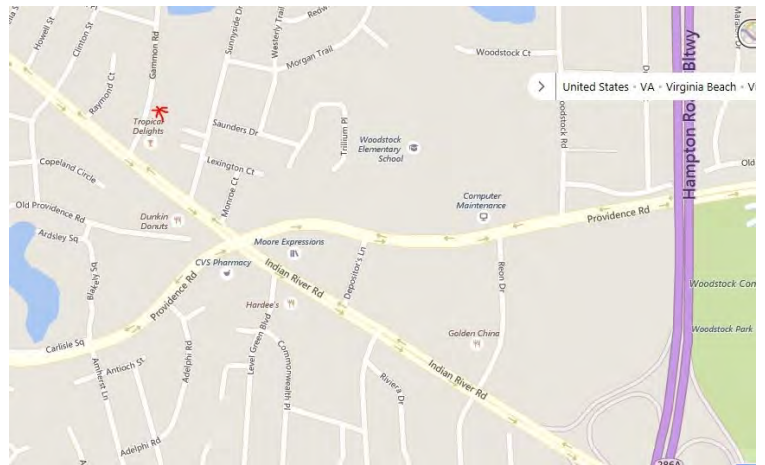
**Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com> Login to FB, then go to Groups and in the search box, type in "Tidewater Gem & Mineral Society", The page is open to view by anyone. Click "join" to join the group to add photos of your own and to post information. Brooks administrates the site and will get back with you.



**Corny Joke Answer:**

Don't take me for granite!

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Our meeting in April is on Friday the 16th 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)

