



The Tidewater Prospector



Newsletter for the Tidewater Gem and Mineral Society July 2021 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



I hope everyone is doing good, great to see more members back at the meeting. Thanks to all who brought munchies.

Thanks to Bill for a great program on polishing stones.

REMINDER: NO MEETING THIS MONTH DUE TO THE SHOW BEING HELD THE SAME WEEKEND.

SHOW SHOW SHOW! Our Treasures of the Earth show is fast approaching. We need volunteers to meet at storage on Thursday July 15 at 12:30 to take stuff to the show. We are in Hall D at the convention center. We also need volunteers to be at our tables all weekend to help out. We need volunteers to demonstrate. There are no set times so you can be in the booth as long as you want. Machines will be there for demonstrating. You must be current on dues and be qualified to use the machines before using them. We need volunteers to pack up stuff on Sunday and take it back to storage. If you have any questions call Robin at 757-822-9631 or Bill at 757-343-8656.

Ellen White, show promoter, is looking for help for about 3 older vendors. They need help getting their stuff into and out of the show.

WORKSHOPS: None anytime soon.

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



TREASURER'S REPORT



June was an average month for the club's treasury. At our meeting the club raised \$58 from the paid raffle and \$60 when six members renewed their memberships. **Please welcome** former members **Robert & Kelly MAZZRILLO** to the club! That brings total club membership to 61 adults and 2 children. Other expenses were routine, except the club reimbursed **Rosanne Hinshaw** \$40 for purchasing fossil dirt from Aurora, N.C. for the children's fossil dig at the July Treasures of the Earth Show. The treasury balance is about \$2,982.

I hope you will consider saving the weekend of **July 16-18** to come to the Convention Center and represent the club greeting, demonstrating, and selling to the public. These show sales are our **greatest revenue-maker** of the year and we haven't had a show since October, 2019!

Set-up will start **Thursday, July 15, at 12:30 PM** at Jack Rabbit Self-Storage near the Convention Center. Please call **Robin, Rosanne Hinshaw** or me to let us know you will be able to help set-up.



CORNY JOKE

What do you call a rock that never goes to school?



Answer on back page.

Meeting Minutes

Minutes were taken By First VP Mike Jackson in for Cheri Jackson

The June meeting was called to order by President Robin Stoughton at 7:30pm.

There were no minutes from the previous meeting to go over.

Lloyd reported that there was \$3,116.51 in the Treasury as of the end of May.

Lloyd also had some specimens from the Pipsico collecting trip to show on the front table. There were about 76 people on the trip and the hunting was hard as the cliffs had collapsed and covered up the fossil area but everyone seemed to have a good time.

June's birthdays were recognized.

Wesley reminded everyone to turn in their overdue books to the library when they could.

There will still be no workshops in the foreseeable future; Bill will try and get them going again in the fall.

Bill and Robin will be having a rock sale at their house in late July. It would be by appointment only and if interested feel free to contact them.

Rosanne will need a lot of help with setup, running the table, demonstrations, and teardown at the Treasures of the Earth show in July. Please contact her if you can help. We will have lots of grab bags for the show and we will also have a table of magazines and specimens going for donations to the club.

Rosanne recently went down to the Aurora Fossil Museum to get a fresh supply of material for the kid's table as well as some promo material for the museum that will be on the show table.

Due to the gem show there will be no meeting as they fall on the same weekend.

We then had our raffle and door prize drawings.

The meeting was then turned over to Bill who did an informative program on tumbling stones and slabs.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.



ROGER'S REFLECTIONS

By Roger Tiangco

WE WANDER DOWN THE LANES AND FAR AWAY, LEAVING NO STONES AND ROCKS UNTURNED THAT COME OUR WAY. MINERALS AND ROCKS ARE HERE AND OVER THERE - YES MOTHER NATURE HAS FASHIONED THEM, EONS AND EONS OF YEARS AGO. AND YES, IF WE'RE LUCKY - WE CAN STUMBLE UPON A GOOD SPECIMEN WHICH NO OTHER HUMAN EYES HAVE HERETOFORE SEEN. EVERY ROAD CUTS, BANKS, CLIFFS, EXCAVATION OR QUARRY EXPOSES ROCKS AND MINERALS FOR US TO SEE. IMAGINE A 307-CARAT DIAMOND DUG BY A FARMER OF SIERRA LEONE! A 59-CARAT EMERALD GEM, MUNEARTHED BY A NORTH CAROLINA LANDSCAPER AND A HOUSEWIFE THAT COME ACROSS A HILL OF JADE IN BRITISH COLUMBIA - AWESOME!

DOOR PRIZES

Amazonite (polished oval shape), Blood stone (sliced mineral specimen), Druzy Quartz (mineral) Feldspar (polished V-shape cab) & Tiger Eye (polished mineral).



SILVER: Chemical element (Ag) has been known and used since ancient times. It occurs in nature as Argentite and hornsilver, and at times "native" (uncombined). It has the highest electrical and thermal conductivity of all metals. Silver was used as a coinage metal in the past. It is used in photography, jewelry, mirrors and in Dentistry. The excited winner will now provide a new home to this "puff heart" pendant and chain silver, weighing over 17 grams. Many silver deposits are found in continental USA! The copper-miners of long ago, encountered crystallized silver specimens located in the Keweenaw Peninsula, Michigan. Silver is the State mineral of Nevada and Texas. Other best collecting areas: Arizona, Colorado, Idaho and Montana.



COAL: Hard, black mineral predominantly carbon - the compressed remains of tropical and sub-tropical plants, especially those of Carboniferous and Permian geological period, burned as fuel - with its by-product of coke and coal tar which is vital to many industries. Coal formation began when plant debris accumulated in swamps, partially decomposing and forming peat layers. Land subsidence buried these layers below marine sediments, whose weight compressed the peat, transforming it under high temperature conditions into Coal. The lucky winner - will now provide a new home to this over 520 grams mineral. Best collecting areas: Pennsylvania and Virginia.



GEODE: It is essentially, a rough spherical stone-like oddity. It has a cavity that may contain crystals or the solutions inside that can have hardened into Chalcedony. Theory has it that evidently, there must be a pocket of cavity first, filled with water and a shell of silica is deposited around this water-filled cavity for thousands and thousands of years. The water solutions in the cavity can seep out by a process called osmosis and leave a crystalline solution trapped inside. Under UV-light, some Geodes may fluoresce greenish, while other may fluoresce beige-yellow. The gentleman winner of this diamond sawed Geode- (Thunder egg) that weighed over 378 grams, showed disbelief when his ticket number was called. Best collecting areas: Arizona, Colorado, Iowa, Nevada, New Jersey, Oregon, S. Dakota & Utah.

OBSIDIAN: As we are already aware of, Obsidian is made of silica-rich magma, of granitic composition and develop as "volcanic glass". It was fashioned by Mother nature out of molten rock material that cools off very quickly after intense volcanic activity. Obsidian was spewed together with hot lava into the Earth's surface. The excited winner confessed that was the item she wanted to win! It is exceptionally translucent and weighs over 36 grams. One obsidian variety is called "Apache Tears" - for small shiny round pieces, which weathered out of larger masses. Another variety is called "pitch stone" though same origin, but the effect is not as shiny. Best collecting areas: Arizona, California, Oregon, Utah and Wyoming.



MONTANA AGATE: This Agate is a gemstone in its own right! The nature miracle of images within the gemstone was brought to light by the artist for everyone to behold. As previously mentioned, "epochal and catastrophic" event was its glorious beginning. The roaring volcanic activities of the now called "Yellowstone Park" - situated in Montana and Wyoming, effected the necessary conditions for the formation of this gemstone. Minerals rich in silica, flowed and filled cracks of host tree limbs, host rocks, any way it can and evidently, the liquefied silica when cooled, formed as nodules. The lady winner will now provide a new home to these 5-pieces of shiny gems -weighing of 44 grams. Best collecting areas: Montana and Wyoming.

Brad's Bench Tips

by Brad Smith

EASIER PRONG SETTING

When setting stones in a prong mount, the tool is less likely to slip off the prong if you grind a shallow groove into its face or rough up the face a bit with sandpaper. Some folks prefer a prong pusher for doing this, and others like a set of pliers with a slight groove on one jaw.

The easiest way to create a slot on the pusher is with a file, and the quickest way to create a slot on one jaw of your pliers is with a separating disc. Then do a rough polish on the slot with a medium grit, knife-edge silicone wheel.



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FANCY RIVET HEADS

For a nice looking rivet head, use brass escutcheon pins. You'll have perfectly rounded heads that are all the same size and shape. The pins are a little hard to find, so try the best hardware stores first. Be sure to get solid brass pins, not brass plated steel. If unsure, test them with a magnet.

The pins are readily available online. Lee Valley Tools has them in 16 or 18 gauge and lengths from 1/4 inch to 1 inch. Go to <http://www.LeeValley.com> and do an item search on "escutcheon pin"

For best results, select a drill that gives you a hole with a close fit to the rivet. Trim the rivet to a leave a little less than one diameter sticking out the back side. Place the head on a scrap of hard plastic on the anvil so as to not flatten the head. I prefer a ball peen hammer (with a small 3/8 inch ball) for setting the rivet.





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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 administrates the site and will get back with you.

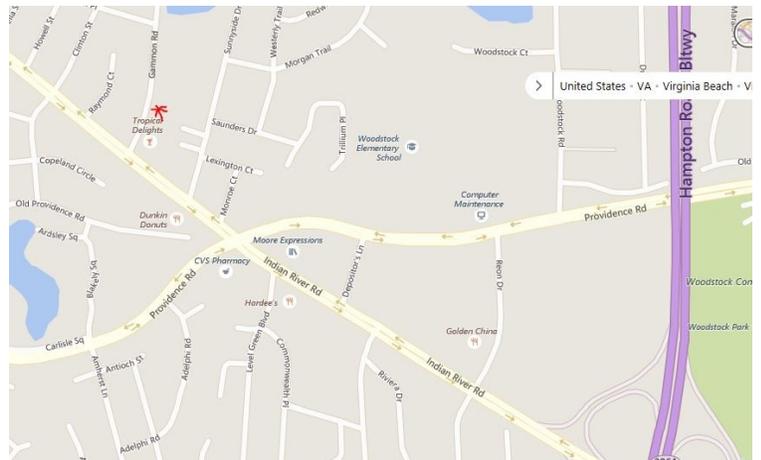


Corny Joke Answer:

A skipping stone!



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NO MEETING THIS MONTH BECAUSE IT FALLS ON THE SAME WEEKEND AS THE TREASURES OF THE EARTH SHOW.

