



# The Tidewater Prospector



Newsletter for the Tidewater Gem and Mineral Society June 2020 Virginia Beach, VA

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## **Notes from the President**

by Robin Stoughton



I hope all members are staying safe and hanging in there. Wish I had good news but once again I don't. Our July Treasures of the Earth show was cancelled a few days ago. I am not happy with that decision

and I don't agree with it, but I have no say in it. I think that cancelling events near the end of July is ridiculous. Our June meeting is also cancelled due to the majority of members who want to wait one more month. Since we are not having our July show and our July meeting was previously cancelled due to the show, I'm going to reschedule our meeting for July 17th. As long as the church hasn't given that night to anyone else, we will be having our meeting in July.

I want to thank members for contributing to our newsletter by sending different articles in monthly. One last month, from Lori Morrison, was interesting to me on the energy from selenite helping plants. I'm a huge plant nut and I never knew that. Also, in Brad's bench tips, it mentioned using a core drill bit when a diamond drill bit won't work. I am always frustrated with not being able to drill a hole through a stone.

The Virginia Mineral Project has been quite interesting, I hope everyone is reading their newsletters. Please remember to get your articles to Judy by the 3rd of each month so she can get them in the newsletter on time. The club's printer is still having issues, and the printed newsletter is in black and white instead of color. Hopefully we can fix that issue soon.

Hope we will be able to meet in July, everyone take care.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**



Well, the state's lock-down is starting to be lifted slowly, but our club meeting for June is cancelled! It has been four months since we have been able to enjoy fellowship with our fellow rock-club members!

It was another quiet month for the club's treasury. Two adults and one child mailed their club dues for a total of \$37.50. Our only expense was \$136 rent for June's storage unit. The treasury balance is about \$4,560 with 65 adults and one child paying dues for 2020.

## **CLUB DUES DEADLINE EXTENDED!**

Due to the coronavirus preventing the club from meeting, the deadline to pay club dues for 2020 has been **extended** until Friday, July 17th. Dues are **\$15 for adults** and **\$7.50 for children** under 17 years old. You can pay your club dues any time by sending a check to the **club's P.O. Box address** (on last page).



## ROGER'S REFLECTIONS

By Roger Tiangco

"EVERY PARTICLE IN THE UNIVERSE ATTRACTS EACH EVERY OTHER PARTICLE, WITH A FORCE DIRECTLY PROPORTIONAL TO THE PRODUCT OF THEIR MASSES AND INVERSELY PROPORTIONAL TO THE PRODUCT OF THEIR DISTANCE BETWEEN THEIR CENTER OF MASS". That is the Law of Gravity, as stated by Sir. Isaac Newton – Natural Philosopher & Mathematician (1642 – 1721).



While Gravitation is one of the fundamental forces of nature, the force of attraction exists between ALL MATTER - it is much weaker than Nuclear or Electro MAGNETIC forces, and plays no part in the internal structure of matter. Scientists have long known that the force of MAGNETISM is stronger than the force of Gravity. MAGNETS are certainly one of the strongest things in nature. Derived from the Greek "magnētis lithos" or magnesite stone. Magnesite is an area in Greece near the Aegean Sea, where Magnetite was first discovered and quarried. Pieces of these Magnesite stones are now called LODESTONES or "leadstone", because a lodestone turns toward the Earth's magnetic poles like a compass needle. Scientists use two types of compasses to study the Earth's magnetic field. One is called "Radial compass" and the other is "Inclinometer or Dip compass".

Ferromagnetic was ascribed to some metals – meaning "containing Iron or like iron", things of iron are most attracted to magnets. Copper, Aluminum and Gold were having very weak attractions, only sensitive instruments can detect it though. Some rare –earth elements like: Lanthanide, Scandium, Yttrium, Monazite – they show strong ferromagnetic-like qualities when cooled to extremely low temperatures, and when used in electromagnets, this cooling enhances the flow of electrical current through them, creating a condition called "super conductivity" – a powerful electromagnetic field

Scientists discover new things every now and then about magnet's valuable effect unto the fields of Astronomy, Engineering, Medicine, Space exploration and Technologies.

Yes, we do remember the GEMINI MISSIONS of the year 1965. The space flight of Astronauts: James A. McDivitt and Edward H. White. Where Mr. Edward White walked in space for over 20 minutes. Also, the epochal APOLLO 11 - SPACE FLIGHT GIG of Astronauts: Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin, "FIRST HUMAN TO SET FOOT ON THE MOON" - July 20, 1969.

These amazing adventures/space explorations were thru the help of a magnetic instrument called: Accelerometer. It fed important information to computers which in turn, fired the engines if the spacecraft was drifting off-course. The electromagnets measure and tell the computer to "fire" or "switch-off" certain engines. This gets the spacecraft back on course!

SPACE EXPLORATION originated in 1957- upon the successful launching of Russia's "SPUTNIK". The success didn't come "cheap" - every SPACE launching and flight cost millions upon millions of monies. Hence, the building of a "permanent space station" become a necessity.

The Space Station provides a convenient place to stop, refuel and load supplies before a longer voyage. Recently, on May 30, 2020, the Space X and Crew Dragon left and will deliver more than 400 lbs. of crew supplies and equipment to the orbiting INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION. A life-like device, "Ripley" is also aboard, outfitted with sensors that will provide data about potential effects on humans travelling in Crew Dragon, manned by Astronauts Bob Behnken and Doug Hurley. These Project was thru the auspices of Mr. Elon Musk - A HEARTFELT, "THANK YOU ALL YOU GUYS".



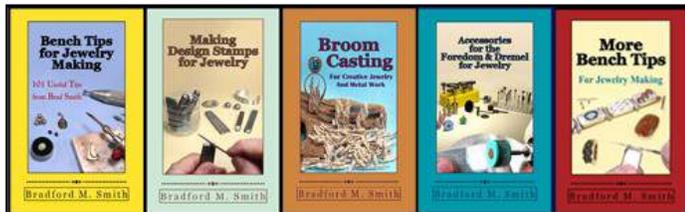
Accelerometer

## Brad's Bench Tips

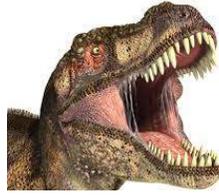
by Brad Smith

### QUICK CLOSE-UPS

Often when trying to get a close-up photo with your iPhone or Android, you end up with a fuzzy, out-of-focus image. Next time try using your loupe over the camera lens. It works quickly and easily.



Be More Productive With Brad's "How To" Books  
[Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](https://www.amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)



### LITTLE THINGS CAN BITE

Most jewelers treat motorized equipment with caution. We've all heard stories about workpieces coming loose in the drill press or about getting long hair or clothing caught in the polishing machine. It stands to reason that a machine with a motor of a half horsepower or so is going to win out over its operator. We all know that, and I'm not going to harp on it. That's not the point of this story.

I want to talk about the smaller motor powered machines we often use, the ones with little 3 inch diameter motors. For instance, these small motors are used in flexshafts and micro buffers. They're so small that many of us forget caution when using them. I'm guilty of it myself sometimes, and believe me it can get you in trouble. Here's what happened to two people I know.

One friend had a polishing bur bend in the handpiece and then whack the thumb that was holding the workpiece. The swelling was substantial, and it took several weeks to regain normal use. A small underpowered motor? Not so.

Another friend was using one of the small buffing machines, the kind you can stop when you apply too much pressure to the wheel. Not to worry about such an underpowered beast you say. Wrong, it literally jumped up and bit the hand that feeds it!

Buffer was set on a low table to do a quick polish, so was not mounted or clamped. A buff was installed on the right spindle, no buff on the left. Friend was wearing a tight-fitting, long-sleeved sweater. While buffing on the right wheel, the left tapered spindle caught a thread on the friend's left sleeve and started grabbing more and more threads and sleeve.

Rather than pulling the arm into the machine, the light buffer quickly lifted off the table and started climbing up the underside of the friend's arm. There was no way to get a hand of the on/off switch because the unit was spinning wildly and battering my friend like a club wielded by a mad man. Only when someone nearby could grab the power cord and yank it from the wall did the mayhem stop.

So when you're in the shop, please think safety. Don't take even the little motors for granted.

# This and that

## HAVE YOU ZOOMED????

by Judy Hyszczak

The kind of zoom that is online – not your car... I experienced it for the first time learning about the Rutherford Mine minerals by the Virginia Mineral Project (VMP). The surprise I got was that my photo from the computer's camera displayed me as a participant! I had some mixed feelings about that but there are always post-its. I was "muted" for sound which was fine by me. The VMP offered several of these presentations in May. They have been held on Wednesday at 7 pm and generally last about an hour. Thomas Hale is the moderator and there are a variety of people doing the presenting. If you have a question, there is a chat option and the moderator will get the presenter to answer it. There are more sessions planned for June. You will need to register for it first. Check the upcoming sessions on the next page. There was a concern by one of our members regarding the use of ZOOM, but I am told that would be the groups using the free version and the VMP has purchased the application that they are using. One must register in order to be a part of their sessions.

I also had an experience recently with another kind of *zoom*. It did freak me out as I was sending out the "NEWSFLASH" Flyer about the Pipsico Fossil Find and what I wrote in the body of the email was so tiny I could not see what I wrote or if there even was a typo! I sent myself a test message and saw that the email was large enough to read once it was sent so at least it went out that night. I had to write what I wanted the email to say in Word, copy it over to the email and it too was tiny! I wasn't sure if a virus had hit my computer and that put me into panic mode as I was working on the newsletter and wasn't sure why this happened. A HELP! email to our friend Kelley gave me a suggestion the next day to check my zoom settings in Outlook. I wasn't sure what that was but I went and opened Outlook and lo and below I saw in the format section there was the word "zoom" at the very end of the ribbon! I am not sure HOW I put on the zoom (yes, I must have clicked on it) and was greatly relieved when my email was back to normal!

I also want to thank Kelley Finch for her donation of Corel Draw Clipart CDs to the club for the newsletter editor's use. Again, thank you!



## In Defense of Rocks

by W.C. McDaniel  
Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society

The use of the phrase "Dumb as a Rock" appears to be on the increase, especially by politicians, and it is time to stand up for rocks. I love and adore rocks, collect them, play with them, hoard and board them, display them, sell them, and put them to work. But I have never met a dumb rock. Met a few that were hard and somewhat ugly and of little use, some that made my back ache and a few that tried to remove my big toe. But through it all, they were rocks, not dumb rocks. The origin and use of the term are somewhat hazy, and an online search will give you multiple answers and opinions. So, stand up for rocks, collect them, appreciate them and keep on rocking. *Addendum*, Rocks are a perfect companion and activity for social distancing.

From the April 2020, MAGS Rockhound News.



## Trip Report Pipsico Scout Reservation – Fossil Dig

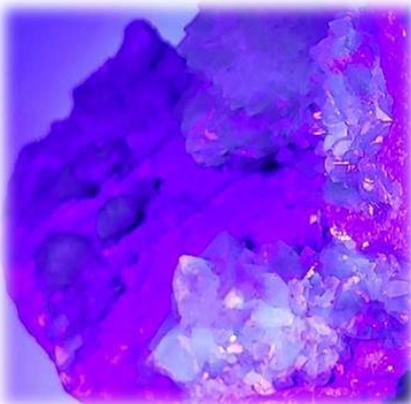
Hosted by Bill Stine and the Mountain Area Gem & Mineral Club (MAGMA)  
On June 6, 2020 in Spring Grove, VA 23991



This was a last minute dig due to the COVID-19 regulations. So very sorry to all those that couldn't make it. We had a fairly good turnout...eleven TGMS members - five first timers at this site.



Pipsico Scout Reservation is over 900 acres of woodlands, fields, marshes and beach front that is teeming with wildlife. The waterfront area is where the formation of fossils from the Miocene and Pliocene eras are located.



We found whole/double Chesapecten Jeffersonius scallops (VA State Fossil), whale vertebra & bones, coral, barnacles, straws, turritella, shark teeth, ecpora and bog iron. Several members even found clams and shells with calcite crystals that fluoresce.



Thanks to all who came, I enjoyed your company and seeing your amazing finds. - Kelley Finch

# VIRGINIA MINERAL PROJECT

## -May Report-

### **State of the Project**

Throughout the month of May, the VMP continued to host its virtual community events as a way to stay connected during COVID-19. Each meeting was a success, with average numbers hitting 35 and peaking at 62 Zoom participants. These numbers reflect typical club meetings.

May was also a very important month for the progress of the Friends of Mineralogy Virginia Chapter (FMVA) which has now been incorporated and officially a chapter under the national organization. The VMP will continue its work towards a publication as a subcommittee within this new state-wide nonprofit. You can expect official news and information on the new mineralogy organization in June.

Outside community events, interviews and photography have been hindered due to COVID-19. The VMP has now developed a five-year strategic plan which highlights how we will work moving forward, post COVID-19 delay.

Thanks to the community members that have attended these virtual events. Several clubs across VA are now looking into this as we move forward into the summer. If you are still unsure or your organization would like to learn more about these virtual programs, I would be happy to assist!

A special thanks to Scott Duresky and his presentation on Rutherford Mine and the microlite reclassification. It was a huge success and has caught the attention from the larger mineral community.

### **Looking to June...**

June is an important month as things begin to open up into phase two and summer begins to rear its head. Our goal was to provide during times of absence and now we need to be realistic as people make summer plans and travel opens up.

There has been some discussion around the idea of keeping these virtual events as we move into the future. On the off months of the Friends of Mineralogy Virginia Chapter meetings, we are working out a plan to keep informal and community sessions open for people to come and enjoy. These would not all be full presentations but would be special topics and conversations for the community.

### **It's Not All About the Rocks!?**

I just wanted to briefly highlight the amount of enjoyment we had from this meeting. Rocks are not our only passion and it was truly a great experience getting to learn about people's other hobbies and even some shared interest outside rocks! I would highly recommend this be a topic at local meetings.

#### **Geology 365 Tutorial**



Date: June 17th @ 7pm

**RSVP**



#### **Scufflin Acres Amethyst**



Date: June 24th @ 7pm

**RSVP**



### **Virtual Presentations Currently on YouTube**

- Minerals of the Allah Cooper Mine, Louisa, Virginia
- Network Analysis of Virginia's Mineralogical Systems
- Richmond Vivianite Locality
- Collecting Quartz Crystals in Saltville, Virginia
- The Historic Rutherford Mine Pegmatite (Releasing June 3)

**You Tube**



## Gold & Magnetite Field Trip June 27, 2020 at 10:00 AM

Tom Leary is hosting this trip and will be taking us to two sites - starting at the Magnetite site then continue to the gold panning site. The field trip **collecting fee is \$5.00** per person. We will join the Central Virginia Gold Prospector Club (CVGP) meeting at 10:00. This meeting is at an outdoor site and was chosen in order to minimize exposure to COVID -19. Please take a mask and follow social distancing guidelines. After the meeting you can purchase pans, vials and snuffer bottles for sale from \$4.00 to \$15.00. All (100%) of the proceeds will go to the Central Virginia Gold Prospector Club (CVGP).



**RECOMMENDED TOOLS & EQUIPMENT:** Gloves / Safety Glasses / Sturdy Close-toed Shoes / Thick Water Boots or Waders / Gold Pan / Tweezers / Small Vials / Plastic Snuffer Bottle / Shovel / Sifting Screen / Magnet / Rock Hammer / Picks / Bucket / Trash Bag.



### **FIELD TRIP RULES & CODE OF CONDUCT:**

Park your vehicle in the designated area and keep gates closed.

No power tools (battery operated is okay), No pets, No music, No fireworks (of any kind) & No open fires.

If you remove any rocks or boulders during the prospecting process, they must be replaced before you depart the area.

**All holes** dug outside any streams or rivers **must be refilled** when you complete your dig.

Do not under cut the banks of any creek, stream or river.

All attendees must sign a liability release prior to collecting.



The Host & Field Trip Chair has final and absolute say as to where you may collect safely. You must stay within the marked boundaries.

Do not leave any trash on any of the properties. That includes cigarette butts. If you see trash, please pick it up and carry it out with you.

Everyone needs to be back at their vehicles by the Host's designated time. Remember your actions, words and choices reflect upon the TGMS Members – always use your best manners and protect our ability to collect at this site in the future.

Photos by Tom Leary

### **HELPFUL HINTS:**

Field work is tough work and requires you to be and stay hydrated. Start drinking lots of water at least 3 days prior this trip and frequently during the trip. Bring a healthy lunch and snacks. Dress for the weather in layers. Don't forget a hat, sunscreen and bug spray. Pack a towel & spare set of clothes for the return trip home.

### **MEETING LOCATION:**

Lee Wayside Historic Village  
84 Lee Wayside Road  
Buckingham, VA 23931

Plan on a three and a half hour drive from Hampton Roads.



If you have any questions, contact Kelley Finch via cell (757-630-6607) or via email at [kelleymfinch@gmail.com](mailto:kelleymfinch@gmail.com).

## SHOEBOX ADVENTURES - No. 84 Blue Stuff

By Photos and Text by Mike Seeds

Twenty years ago a friend handed me a hunk of rock not quite as big as a soccer ball. It was a heavy toe buster and as I struggled to get a grip on it, he said, "The blue stuff is nakauriite from Cedar Hill. People really love it. You can trade pieces of nakauriite for lots of good stuff." Well, it is blue and it is interesting, and the big chunk of rock proved to be laced with it, but no one seems to be interested in my blue stuff.

Over the years, I've trimmed pieces off of that rock and found lots of nakauriite. It is a lovely sky blue color; someone with an eye for color told me it is cornflower blue. In some places it is darker blue and in other places it is pale blue. Under the microscope you can see that it is made up of tiny bundles of acicular needles. Sometimes the needles are jumbled together and in other places they are parallel to each other and form lovely sweeping curls. But be careful; nakauriite is very soft and a careless touch can ruin a specimen.

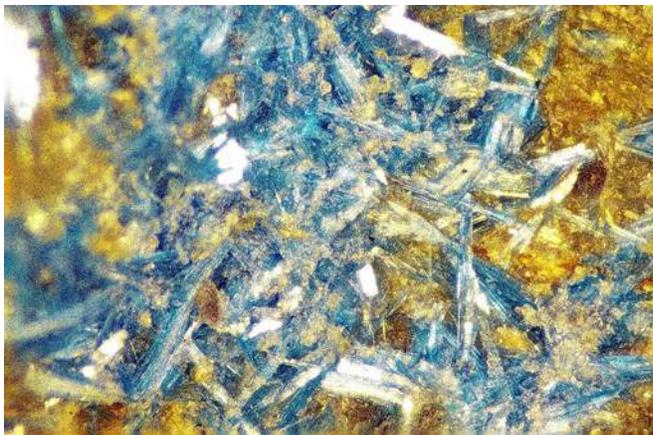


Nakauriite, Cedar Hill Quarry, Lancaster, Co. PA  
Field of View 13 cm.



Nakauriite, Cedar Hill, a gift from Martin  
Anne. Field of View 19 mm.

Nakauriite is named for the place where it was discovered, and thereby hangs a tale. Collectors in southeast Pennsylvania tell stories about the blue stuff at Cedar Hill. Everybody saw it and they wondered what it was, and one or two people said they would have it tested, but no one ever got around to it. And then, blue stuff was found at the Nakauri Mine in Japan, and they named it nakauriite. It could have been called cedarhillite, but it's not. If you ask around, most places have stories about the rare stuff that was not recognized as a new mineral till it was discovered somewhere else. It's part of the mythology of mineral collecting. Almost makes you want to own some nakauriite from Cedar Hill doesn't it?



Nakauriite, Cedar Hill, Field of View 3 mm.

Nakauriite is  $\text{Cu}_8(\text{SO}_4)_4(\text{CO}_3)(\text{OH})_6 \cdot 48\text{H}_2\text{O}$  and it is considered a sulfate. It is interesting to compare nakauriite's composition with that of turquoise  $\text{Cu}(\text{Al}, \text{Fe}^{3+})_6(\text{PO}_4)_4(\text{OH})_8 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , which is considered a phosphate. They are similar in color but quite different in structure. By the way, nakauriite is pronounced Na-cur-ee-ite where "cur" is pronounced like a stray dog.



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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.

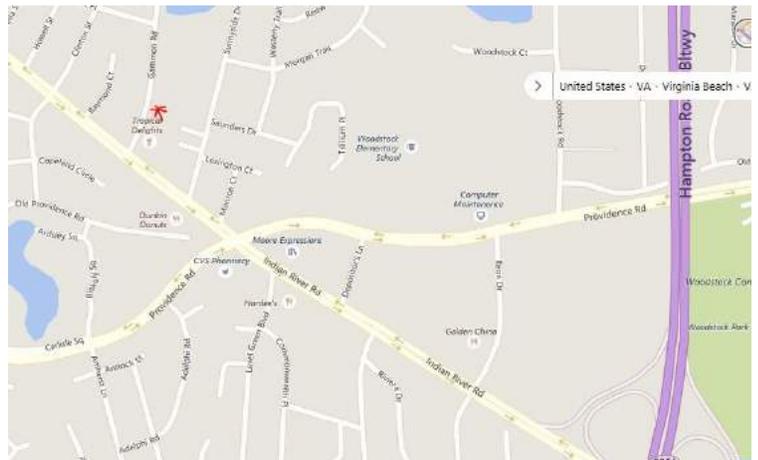
**Meetings** are the third Friday of each month at 7:30 PM at Memorial United Methodist Church located at 804 Gammon Road, Virginia Beach, VA. Our monthly meetings are open to everyone, no admission is charged.

**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.

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Our meeting in June **HAS BEEN CANCELLED** but we are planning on a **JULY** meeting.

