



The Tidewater Prospector



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

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Notes from the President

by Robin Stoughton



Hope everyone is enjoying the nice fall weather. Great time to go rock hunting again.

I would like to thank all of our board members and chairmen for doing an outstanding job this year!

Hospitality: Thanks to all members who brought snacks last month. Anyone can bring snacks to our monthly meetings. They are always appreciated.

Our annual club Holiday party will be on Friday, December 8th at 6:30pm. Please mark your calendar as it is always a lot of fun. It is for members only as we have a limit on the number of people we are allowed in the fellowship hall. Our club provides the meat, cheese, fruit and vegetable trays so we ask that y'all bring a side dish or dessert to share. We also play different games and usually have the Pollyanna. If you want to participate in the Pollyanna, then you must bring a gift wrapped, lapidary/rock related item. DO NOT bring gag/joke gifts. They will not be accepted. If you have any questions about the party, please call Robin at 757-822-9631

The annual Richmond rock swap will be on Saturday, November 11th. This event is always fun to attend or setup at. Information for setup was sent out in August to the membership.

We will be having our club elections at the November meeting before the program. Positions coming up for a vote will be:

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

REMINDER: Newsletter articles for the December newsletter MUST be to Judy by November 21st, as our Holiday party/meeting is the 2nd Friday in December and the newsletter will be sent out earlier.



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



TREASURER'S REPORT

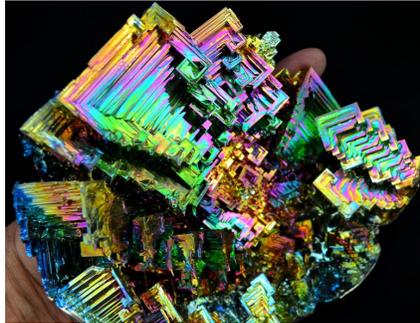


September was a busy month for the club's treasury with our annual **Auction!** Bidding was lively and the auction raised a total of \$719. \$666 has been collected and \$53 is outstanding but will soon be paid. The club also raised \$89 from memberships for 8 adults and 1 child, as well as \$68 from the paid raffle. Please welcome the following new members: Doug Denzine, Elizabeth Estabrooks, Melissa Hartman and son Ryan, Jay & Dorothy Rockwood and John Suarez. That brings total club membership to 153 adults and 21 children.

Club expenses for the month were routine, except for \$23.31 for lamination pouches and \$13.20 for postage.

OCTOBER PROGRAM:

Member Tom Leary will be do a program and demonstration on creating Bizmuth crystals.



CORNY JOKE



What did the teenage rock say after failing its driving test?

Answer on last page

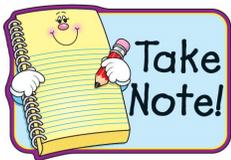
Hear Ye, Hear Ye!



2023 Important Dates

(Dates can be changed or cancelled)

October 20	TGMS Meeting
October 21	Workshop 10am to 2pm
October 24, 25, 26	ADDITIONAL Fossil Hunt - Camp Pipsico
November 11	Richmond Gem & Mineral Society Rock Sale & Swap
November 17	TGMS Meeting & Annual Audit Report / Elections
December 8	TGMS Meeting / Holiday Party



ELECTION NOTICE



The TGMS Election of Officers will be held at our November 17th 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)

If you would like to run for an office, volunteer for a chairperson position or need more information on the duties you can look at the bylaws on our website or contact Robin or Kelley.

MEMBER PROJECT

Jeff Sandmeier shared some photos of a project of his. He wrote the following: "I've been working on a project and just got finished. I started with a piece of opal I bought from the TOTE show several years ago. I decided I would try to make an opal doublet with it. I backed the opal with a piece of obsidian I had in my workshop. Then I used the disc cutter to cut 2 circles, and then to cut a smaller circle in one piece. I used a doming block and punches to make the two pieces rounded and domed."

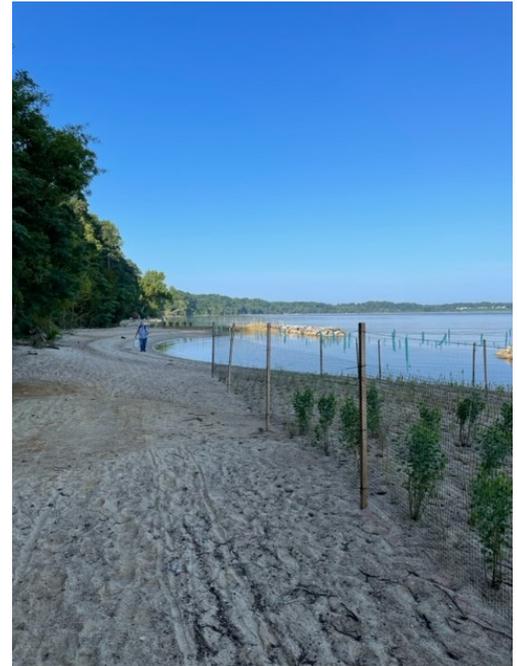


Additional Pipsico Boy Scout Reservation – Fossil Dig

Hosted by the Mountain October 24*, 25 and 26*
57 Pipsico Rd. Spring Grove, VA 23991

This additional dig happens rain or shine! The drive from the Tidewater area is about an hour and half. **The actual dig is Wednesday, October 25 from 9:00 AM to Dusk.** It is a very easy dig along the soft, sandy banks of the Jamestown River and is ideal for all ages and all skill sets. However, there is a short (1 quarter of a mile) walk to and from the parking area near the cabinettes to the waterfront and 1 mile from the mail parking lot. So, bring a cart to haul your tools, water, lunch and discoveries.

Once you check in at the waterfront shelter with Mr. Bill Stine, you can head down to the beach for surface collecting of whale & digging bones, shark teeth, echphora snail shells, driftwood, Chesapecten Jeffersonious Shells and much more. Don't forget to dress for the weather (I suggest layers), bring plenty of water & snacks and remember if you bring it in, please carry it out. All previous collecting rules still apply. Hand tools only. No climbing of steep river bank areas. No parking except in designated areas. No alcoholic beverages. Speed limit on camp road must be obeyed. Contact Kelley to get on the list! 757-630-6607.



If you want to make it a camping trip, contact Bill Stine by email at: rockdoctor48@wmconnect.com to rent a tent site or a dry cabinette. Campers may come in on Friday the 11th any time after noon. Tents may be set up in campsite 4 and there are latrine facilities and water at various locations. Showers may be available at the staff center. All overnight campers must exit the camp by noon on the 13th. Fees: \$10.00 (cash only) per person to collect or tent camp. Cabinette rental is \$25.00 – they are unheated, have no running water, support limited electrical usage and you will need to bring your own bedding. Do not bring electrical appliances as cooking is not allowed in the cabinettes. Parking for cabinettes only is in front of the dining hall.



A partial Echphora shell.

The nearby town of Surry has the Surry Country Inn for those not wanting to camp. Their number is: 757-210-4450. Surry has various dining options.

As you enter the boy scout reservation, follow the signs to Camp Lions. Pass to the right of the main building and veer to the left along the backside of the barn. You will pass several cottages on the left then go over a bridge and up a hill.

*Campers can arrive after noon on 10/24 and they have to be out of cabins by 10 am and off the property by noon on 10/26.



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.

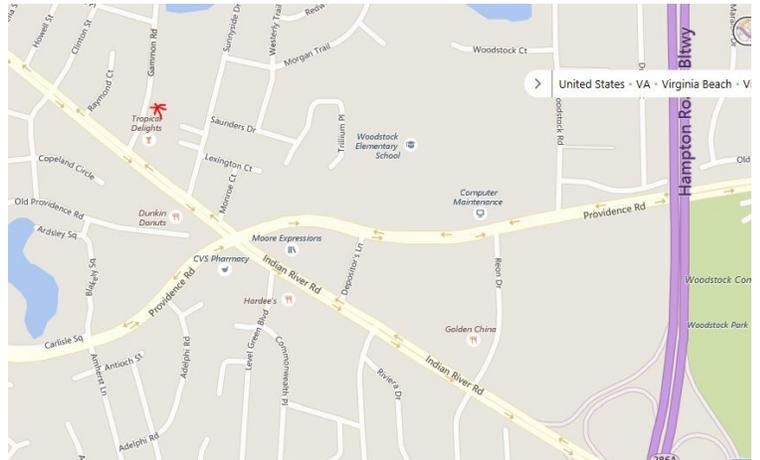
Website: <http://tgms.weebly.com/>
 Please contact Brooks Britt with any photos that you would like to add to our site. Email him at: bhbritt@verizon.net You can also view this newsletter on the site.

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 administrates the site and will get back with you.

Gemstone Definition from Diamond Dan Publications

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Our meeting in will be on
 October 20th 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:

I don't want to talk about it.

