



The Tidewater Prospector



Newsletter for the Tidewater Gem and Mineral Society September 2022 Virginia Beach, VA

PRESIDENT

Robin Stoughton
(757) 822-9631

1st VICE PRESIDENT (Membership)

Kelley Finch
(757) 630-6607

2nd VICE PRESIDENT (Program/Entertainment)

Jessica Bates
(757) 354-9622

TREASURER (Finance)

Lloyd Schiffler
(757) 495-7946

SECRETARY (History/Library)

Jennifer Spitz
(757) 650-2788

WORKSHOPS

Madison Hall
(757) 708-5022
Bill Stoughton
(757) 340-5391

SHOWS

Kelley Finch
(757) 630-6607

NEWSLETTER

Judy Hyszcak
(757) 533-1512

FIELD TRIPS

Kelley Finch
(757) 630-6607

WAYS & MEANS

Position Open

LIBRARIAN

Jennifer Spitz
(757) 650-2788

HOSPITALITY

Robin Stoughton
(757) 822-9631

WEBSITE

Brooks Britt

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

Notes from the President

by Robin Stoughton



I hope everyone is doing well and not melting in the heat. If anyone has gone on any rock hunts or adventures feel free to let the club know. You are welcome to bring in your finds to show off.

Happy Birthday to all members who have one this month.

I hope everyone is reading the newsletter each month as there is a lot of info in it.

I would like to congratulate Thedia Smith on winning the drawing for a year subscription to Rock and Gem magazine. She volunteered at our last show. We have a drawing after each show, so any member who helps out is entered into the drawings.

I would like to thank Caroline Chen for a great program on Burma Amber last month. Several members were interested in purchasing some of the Amber so Caroline will be coming back this month.

We need volunteers to do programs so please contact Jessica Bates, 757-354-9622, if you want to help out

We once again have our club library books available for check out. You must be current on dues. Contact Jennifer, 757-650-2788, to check out a book from her list.

Our program this month will have members bring their handcrafted items to brag about and they can barter or sell their items if they want to do so with other club members

Our last show of the year is quickly approaching, October 7-9th. Please contact Kelley Finch to help out. Let's have an awesome show like our last one, members really stepped up and did a great job!!!

Field Trips: Kelley has the upcoming field trips listed. Contact Kelley at, 757-630-6607 if you are interested in going. PLEASE read all info for each trip. You MUST be current on dues to go on the next two field trips. If you do not bring the proper safety equipment, you will be sent home. If you do not follow the rules, there will NOT be any warnings, you will instantly be sent home. This is especially important on the Willis mountain trip. One member NOT following the rules will get our club kicked out. We will not let that happen, so pay attention to what you are doing. ALL rules will be gone over again before you are allowed in the mine. Other club field trip chairs will also be watching as well as my staff.

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

If you have any questions about our pebble pups group, please contact Rosanne at, 757-409-9794.

See y'all at the meeting!!

Treasurer's Two Cents



August was an average month for the club's treasury. At the monthly meeting, the club raised \$60 from the paid raffle and \$29 from membership of 2 adults and one child. **Please welcome** the following **new members** to the club: **Sue Ann WHITE** and son **Jacob**. That brings club membership to 165 adults and 22 children.

Club expenses were routine, except for the following: \$166 for the club's Post Office box rental(1 year), \$62.48 for printer ink, \$29.95 for newsletter stamps and envelopes, \$29.95 for Rock & Gem (1 year) for the July Show volunteer winner: **Thedia SMITH**, and \$25 for the annual club registration. The current treasury balance is about \$7,968.

TGMS MEETING Minutes 8/19/22

Minutes taken by Jennifer Spitz

Robin S. called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM and welcomed New Members & Guests and recognized new members and members with August Birthdays.

Communications / Announcement / Committees:

Treasurers Report – Lloyd S.: July 13, 2022

Balance on Hand May 31, 2022: \$5,876.65

June Income

Membership (24 Adults, 1 Child)	\$327.00
Paid Raffle	\$68.00
Adult Grab-bag (1)	<u>\$10.00</u>
<u>TOTAL JUNE INCOME</u>	\$405.00

June Expenses

Jack Rabbit Self-Storage (July)	\$136.00
Church Meeting (June)	\$40.00
Pizza (3)-SAT: making Grab-bags (\$27)	<u>\$22.00</u>
<u>TOTAL JUNE EXPENSES</u>	\$198.00

Balance on Hand June 30, 2022 \$6,083.65

Treasurers Report – Lloyd S.: August 14, 2022

Balance on Hand June 30, 2022: \$6,083.65

July Income

SHOW:	\$2,484.70
Adult Grab Bags (137)	\$1,370.00
Kid's Grab Bags (122)	\$122.00
Fossil Grab Bags (71)	\$355.00
Paid Raffle (Amethyst Cathedral)	\$259.00
Membership (15 Adults, 4 Children)	\$173.00
Donations	\$165.70
T-shirt Sales	<u>\$40.00</u>
<u>TOTAL JULY INCOME</u>	\$2,484.70

July Expenses

Jack Rabbit Self-Storage (August)	\$136.00
Show: Water & Batteries (Kelley)	\$25.59
Display Lights (Kelley)	<u>\$38.56</u>
<u>TOTAL JULY EXPENSES</u>	\$200.15

Balance on Hand July 31, 2022 \$8,368.20

President-Robin S.: Present

1st VP (Membership) – Kelley F.: Not Present

TGMS MEETING Minutes

Minutes taken by Jennifer Spitz

2nd VP-Jessica B.: Present

Treasurer-Lloyd S.: Present

Newsletter Editor-Judy H.: Present

Secretary – Jennifer S.: Present

Librarian – Wesley J.: Not Present, Jennifer S. until further notice

Robin S.: July TOTE show was great. A total of 36 members volunteered, the most volunteers we've ever had at any TOTE show. We hope to have the same turnout as the July show for the October show. Please sign up to volunteer again for the October TOTE show. Everyone did an awesome job. We are asking for volunteers who would like to do displays for the October show. Kelley will be back to attend the September meeting. Please let Kelley know if you are interested in volunteering. The TOTE show will be Friday, October 7th through Sunday, October 9th. We will be setting up for the show Thursday, October 6th. A reminder that the Pipsico Fossil Dig will be Friday, October 28th through Sunday, October 30th. Please let Kelley know if you would like to attend the Pipsico fossil dig. She will have more information available at the next meeting.

Congratulations to Thedia Smith who won the TOTE show volunteer prize! A one-year subscription to Rock and Gem Magazine!

Special thanks to Judy for writing this month's newsletter!

Judy H. on behalf of Madison: The workshop will be held tomorrow, Saturday August 20th. The sign-up sheet is available on the front table for those who are interested. Judy will notify Madison that you will be attending the workshop. Madison's telephone number is available if you need directions to her residence.

Jennifer S: The library has been brought into tonight's meeting for those who are interested in checking out books. The books are available now and will be available for some time after the meeting. The books will not be brought back to the next meeting, so please take advantage of them now while they are all available tonight. Jennifer will request that Judy send out the book inventory list to all TGMS members, and if a member is interested in checking out a book please notify Jennifer prior to the next TGMS meeting and it will be brought to the meeting. A member may check out books for one month. Jennifer will send out a friendly reminder either through text message or email to notify each member prior to the meeting to return or renew their reserved book(s). More information on the library rules will be provided once Jennifer has completed the book inventory list and has confirmed the rules with the President (Robin). Thank you.

PJ: Club decals for \$5. Please get in touch with PJ if you are interested in purchasing a decal.

Jessica B: We do not have a presenter for next month, please contact Jessica if you are interested in doing a presentation.



Pipsico Field Trip Oct 28th, 29th & 30th

The MAGMA club is once again hosting the fall dig at the Pipsico Boy Scout Reservation in Surry, VA. More, specific details will be in the October newsletter.

TOTE SHOW VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The TOTE Show is OCT 7th, 8th & 9th at the Virginia Beach Conference Center. We need many members to work the booth. Even one hour is a huge help!



We also need demonstrators. Share your talents! Do you do bead work or chainmail, paint rocks or make jewelry? Do you create gem trees? Are you a silversmith or lapidarist? Can you facet gems? We have a lot of spots available for demonstrators. All you must do is be willing to do what you love to do in public! Occasionally, you may get a question or two as people walk by.

Displays are very important too! Do you want to show off your personal collection or the products of your talent? This is your opportunity... we have one large and two small display cases that still need to be filled. If you want to help but are not sure how... call me...together, we'll come up with a few ideas. Thankfully Tom Leary will be doing a display on Willis Mountain Iridescent hematite and VA Kyanite.

If you can't help at the show, you can help pick up and transport from the storage locker & set up on Thursday Oct 6th from 12:30 to 5:30...the more volunteers we have, the quicker it is. We also need people to pack up, clean up and transport to the storage locker on Sunday Oct 9th from 5:00pm to 6:00pm. Trucks and SUV's or vans are needed!

Please consider donating at least one hour to help the Society have a successful show. To volunteer, call Kelley Finch at (757) 630-6607 or use the sign-up sheet that will be available at the September 16th TGMS meeting.

Hear Ye, Hear Ye!

2022 Important Dates

(Dates are subject to change or be cancelled)

August 19	TGMS Meeting
September 9, 10, and 11	Forsyth Gem & Mineral Club Show Winston-Salem, NC
September 16	TGMS Meeting
September 16-18	Ashville, NC Gem Show
September 24	Willis Mountain Field Trip, Dillwyn, VA
September 30 – Oct 2	MAGMA “Land of The Sky” Gem Show, Swannanoa, NC
October 7 – 9	VAB TOTE Show
October 21	TGMS Meeting
October 28 – 30	Pipsico Field Trip
November 12	Richmond Gem & Mineral Society Rock Sale and Swap
November 18	TGMS Meeting
December 9	TGMS Holiday Party
December 9 – 11	Asheville, NC Gem Show

PEBBLE PUPS

Attention parents! If you would like for your child to participate in the Pebble Pups activity, please arrive no later than 7 p.m. Also, it is highly recommended and appreciated that you contact Rosanne Hinshaw by phone (text and voice mail are ok) at 757-409-9794 by the Wednesday before the meeting. Let her know how many children you are bringing so that adequate materials can be brought.

In addition, if your child has completed an activity, please send a copy of it to her at Rosanne.hinshaw1523@hotmail.com. Make sure you include your child's name and activity completed. A photo of your child doing the activity with a small explanation by the child would be acceptable. All submissions will be sent to the editor for publication in the newsletter, and validate credit of completion for patches and certificates. If your child would like to talk about their activity at the next meeting instead, please let her know in advance. Thanks.

FIELD TRIP SCOOP!

**Willis Mountain Dig
30 Willis Mt. Plant Lane
Dillwyn, VA 23936**

Thankfully, the Lynchburg club has invited us to attend the annual Willis Mountain Kyanite Mine dig on September 24th from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. This dig is limited too so **sign up is required** no later than September 16th by calling Kelley Finch at 757-630-6607.

Willis Mountain is what's known as a monadnock...very similar to Graves Mountain in Georgia. The kyanite exposure has resisted weathering better than the surrounding area and has left us a beautiful outcrop. The center of the mountain has mostly been mined away. However, there is still plenty of mineral to be discovered: white kyanite blades in massive kyanite quartzites; pyrite, quartz; hematite (some with iridescence); red mica; green mica; apatite; blue kyanite & pale green trolleite. Some of the white kyanite and quartz here have a beautiful light blue fluorescence. Although much rarer, some of the white kyanite will have a red fluorescence. The apatite is yellow so ring your shortwave lamp and a blackout cloth.



This year, there are a few changes to the requirements:

Safety: Everyone must plan to arrive at the office parking lot between 7:30AM and no later than 8:30AM to read and sign the updated Liability Form, Hazard Training & Recognition Check List Form and to the mandatory safety briefing before entering the mine at 9:00AM. As the Fieldtrip Chair for TGMS I will be acting as one of the "Safety Officials" for the dig. Prior to the safety briefing I need to meet with each TGMS member in attendance to inspect your gear, review your paperwork and answer any questions you may have. Keep in mind that this is an active working mine and one of the very few sites in VA that is still open for collecting. Not obeying **ALL** the safety rules will cause this site to be closed to all future collecting. Failure to have the required equipment or to follow safety rules will result in you being asked to leave and may prohibit you from attending future field trips. It is typically hot and windy on the mountain so hydrate yourself several days in advance and bring water to stay hydrated

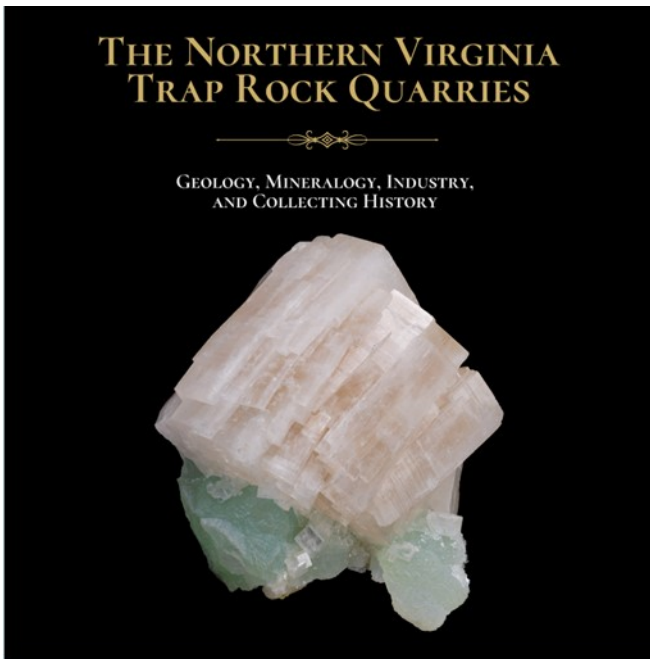
Equipment: The standard quarry safety gear **REQUIRED** is a **hard hat with a manufacturer's date of 5 years or less, safety glasses**, respiratory protection from rock dust (recommended), **wheel chocks** and **ONLY STEEL OR REINFORCED COMPOSITE TOED BOOTS, NO SPORT SHOES OR TENNIS SHOES WILL BE ALLOWED. THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS!** Also required are **long pants** and **gloves**. Suggested items are: hammer & chisels, wrapping paper, buckets, water, a short wave blacklight & blackout cloth and a camera. Since we get to drive our cars into the mine, hand carts are not needed but if you do bring one, you will need wheel chocks for it too....many people use a large rock or log.



The "After the Dig Social" will be at the pavilion beside the office and will begin immediately following the dig at 1PM. Bring your own lunch and enjoy the opportunity to cool down, share your finds, relax and socialize with fellow rockhounds from various clubs.

TGMS PARTNERSHIPS UPDATE

NEW BOOK RELEASE: The Northern Virginia Trap Rock Quarries



Virginia has a rich mineral heritage. The Northern Virginia trap rock quarries were a source of world-class apophyllite, prehnite, and stilbite specimens which still rival the newer trap rock deposits in India. The quarries are also the source of a long list of high-quality miniature and micromount minerals specimens, including two type-locality minerals, goose-creekite and loudounite, first discovered and identified in Virginia.

In addition to its rich mineral diversity, hosting 87 different mineral species, the Northern Virginia trap rock quarries are critical to the economy of Virginia. These few trap rock quarries have provided aggregate materials supporting Northern Virginia's transportation and construction sector for decades. This publication combines a detailed review of the

region's mineralogical and geological heritage, including a deep dive into the aggregate industry and its importance in society. Through this industry and mineralogy approach the publication will be immensely useful for teacher, tourist, collectors, and nature enthusiasts wanting to learn more about Virginia's mineralogical history. Biographies of some of the most important people involved in mineral collecting in the trap rock quarries and Virginia's mineral history are presented along with many of their collecting stories, which are published here for the first time.

This is the first publication in what hopes to be a continued series of publication on Virginia's mineral heritage under Friends of Mineralogy Virginia. This is the first mineral book released in over 35 years and is the first ever in color! It is on sale now for \$35.00 via the Friends of Mineralogy Virginia website: <https://friendsofmineralogyvirginia.org/fmva-publication-series/>.

FMVA Speaker Series

FMVA hosts an incredible speaker series every, last week of the month, bringing in experts from various fields related to mineralogy and geoscience. Our speaker series is viewed by people from around the world and our growing audience brings together a diverse background of interests.



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.

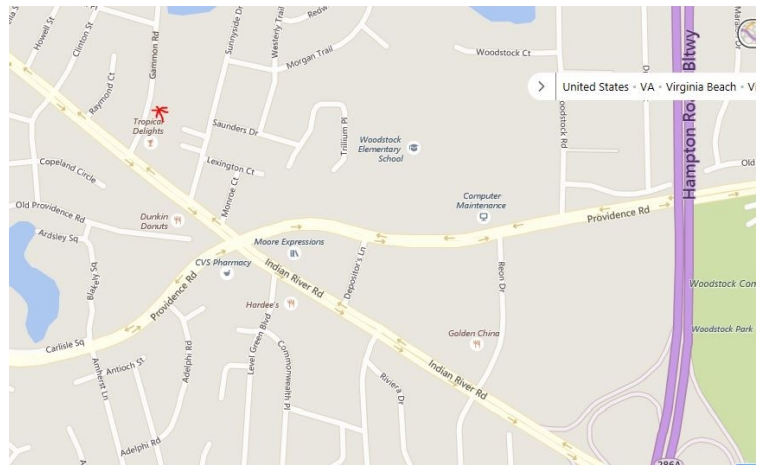
Meetings are the third Friday of each month at 7:30 PM at Memorial United Methodist Church located at 804 Gammon Road, Virginia Beach, VA Our monthly meetings are open to everyone, no admission is charged.

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.

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Our meeting in will be on
 September 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)

