



The Tidewater Prospector



Newsletter for the Tidewater Gem and Mineral Society, April 2017, Virginia Beach, VA

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John "Mac" Davis
1927 - 2014



Notes from the President

by Robin Stoughton

Would like to wish everyone a HAPPY EASTER!! Thanks to Martin and Bill for doing an awesome job as auctioneers last month. Was disappointed in the member turnout for our annual auction, but thanks to all the members who did come and they got some great deals.

Our next regular meeting will be Friday, May 19th at 7:30pm. If any members would like to bring their rocks or other items they have made, etc. to sell at the meeting, you are welcome to do so.

Our position of 2nd V.P. is currently vacant due to Kenneth having to step down due to work. The 2nd VP is also responsible for programs, so if any member in good standing would like to fill that position, please let me know.

Our annual club picnic/rock swap/sale will be on Saturday, June 17th from 10:00-5:00. The club will provide the hotdogs and burgers. We ask that all who attend bring a side dish to share and a lapidary related item that will be put in next years auction. If you have tables, please bring them to set up on. If you will need a table let me know at the May meeting. I am inviting the Richmond Club and the Peninsula Club to attend also.

Our April show will be Friday, April 21st, 12-6, Sat. April 22nd, 10-5 and Sun. April 23rd 10-5. Setup will be on Thursday, April 20th from 1:00-7:00. Volunteers will need to meet at the storage unit at 1:00pm. If you need directions or the code to get in, please call Bill or me. I will not

be able to help so I need members to volunteer to do our setup and pack up. Bill cannot fit everything from storage in his truck so one or two members will have to help take items in their vehicle. We need volunteers all weekend and also need members to demonstrate, whether it be cabbing, wire wrapping, beading or whatever you do.

Remember, all volunteers get their name in a drawing in May. There will be two options for the winner to choose from this year.

We still have display cases available. If you want to do one you will need to let me know ASAP, otherwise the cases will remain in storage. So far, we have Sandy and Carl Barton, and Tom Parnell doing cases.

Workshop: The machines will be at the show if members would like to make something. If members would like to come by the house to cut rocks, you can call Bill and let him know when you would like to stop by. His cell is 757-343-8656.

At the end of the month, Bill and I will be having a rock sale at our house. It will be on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, April 28th, 29th, 30th. You will need to call for a time to come as there is limited parking on the street. Bill's cell is 343-8656 and my cell is 822-9631. There will be cutting rough, slabs and a huge selection of assorted rocks.

Hospitality: Thanks to everyone who brought snacks last month. All members are welcome to bring snacks to any of our meetings.

REMINDER: No meeting this month due to the show.

REMINDER: All newsletter input needs to be to Brooks by the 3rd of each month. If you are going to be late sending in your input, PLEASE be considerate and let Brooks know.

Learn Something New

by Ken Dearborn

People have been enhancing gemstones since they first picked up a colorful shiny rock and rubbed it clean. However, the recent proliferation of enhancement methods and the tendency for sales people to be less than forthcoming about the true nature of a gemstone has caused the buying public to become leery. The GIA has made it a priority to teach their students to identify enhanced gemstones. Here are a few of their pointers on the subject of Topaz.



Pink - while pink topaz occurs naturally, it can also be produced by thermal enhancement. Brownish yellow to orange “Imperial” topaz, when heated, will turn pink. This thermal treatment causes a change in the stone’s short-wave UV fluorescence. A natural stone will fluoresce very weakly or “moderate chalky yellow-green.” A treated stone will fluoresce much stronger.

Green - green topaz is very rare in nature and therefore enhancement should be suspected. A recent arrival, “Ocean Green Topaz” is being sold alongside the more common irradiated blue topaz. The original topaz material is believed to have come from Sri Lanka. Like the blue, these stones, ranging from yellow-green to blue-green, are also potentially radioactive. Their color is unstable and is reported to fade back to a pale blue after less than 12 hours of exposure to sunlight.

As the GIA points out, the “greatest challenge faced by the gem and jewelry trade during the 1990’s was the detection, identification and disclosure of gem treatments.” Obviously this will be true in the 21st century as well. It behooves us all to be aware of the market place.

from Del Air Bulletin 10/01 via Golden Spike News 11/01

Brad's Bench Tips for April

by Brad Smith

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.

CHEAPER & BETTER PICKLE



Most jewelers use a granular pickle mixed with water. The active ingredient is sodium bisulfate. This can be purchased 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.

See all Brad's jewelry books at
[Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](https://www.amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)

Franklin Furnace

by Hans Adler

Back in the late 1940s, when I had the good fortune to visit the zinc mine at Franklin, New Jersey, on a field trip by our Economic Geology class, we referred to the locality as Franklin Furnace. The name dates back to at least the days of the American



Revolution for the furnace used at the time to process the iron ore mined nearby. The old furnace was rebuilt in 1832 and operated until 1844. The name in its original form was probably Franklin's furnace alluding to the association of a William Franklin with the enterprise.

The Franklin ore body, as well as that at Sterling Hill three miles away, was originally worked by several independent companies that combined to become the New Jersey Zinc Company in 1897. The ore at Franklin consisted chiefly of zincite (zinc oxide), franklinite (zinc iron oxide), willemite (zinc silicate), and tephroite (manganese silicate) in a matrix of manganese-bearing calcite. Most of the ore was fine-grained, but crystals of all of the ore minerals have occasionally been found up to several inches in size. The deposit produced manganese and iron in addition to zinc. Zinc mining began about 1840, and the mine operated until 1954 when the ore was completely worked out.

The deposit at Franklin is unusual and the mineralogy unique, having no exact counterpart elsewhere in the world. The occurrence of zinc in the form of the oxide (zincite) and silicate (willemite) instead of its usual ore form, i.e., the zinc sulfide, sphalerite, has puzzled many investigators, and numerous theories as to the ore's origin have been proposed. Geologically, the region consists of ancient (pre-Cambrian) granite gneisses and crystalline marble cut by pegmatite dikes and numerous small veins, with the ore body largely associated with the marble.

Over 230 different minerals, a few questionable, some needing verification, some rare, and others only locally abundant, have been reported. Many have been found nowhere else, making the deposit a

mineralogist's and collector's paradise. Another attractive feature is the abundance of brilliantly fluorescing minerals, particularly calcite and willemite. In addition, at least 25 others have been recorded.

Dispersed within the Franklin ore are bodies of skarn composed mostly of minerals produced by the reaction of silica, alumina, iron, and magnesium with the limestone marble. These contributed considerably to the diversity of mineral varieties in the deposit. The skarn comprised between one-fifth and one-third of the ore body and has been the source of several tons of collectible specimens. Numerous mineralized veins consisting largely of manganoan calcite cut the ore body. Roughly seventy five different vein minerals have been identified many of which were probably formed by the reworking of pre-existing ore minerals.

Practically all of the mineral specimens in collections now owned by individuals or in museums have come from the picking tables near the shaft heads or from miners who were made aware of their value. Permission for anyone to visit the mine while it was still working was, reportedly, a great, rarely-granted, opportunity. It was my, and my Columbia University graduate-school classmates', good fortune, therefore, to have been able to visit the underground workings and to help ourselves to a half-dozen or so specimens from the ore-transporting belt. I still have the few pieces I collected some of which fluoresce nicely.

Calcite appears to be the most abundant and widespread of the fluorescent minerals. Its fluorescence, usually in shades of red, pink, or salmon, varies with its manganese content and shows up best in short-wave ultraviolet radiation.

The marble itself, composed mainly of calcite, does, however, not fluoresce. The more common and abundant of the fluorescent minerals in addition to calcite and willemite are as follows (some of the material may only occasionally show fluorescence): apatite, axinite, barite, corundum (in the marble), diopside, esperite, fluorite, hardystonite, hodgkinsonite, margarosanite, norbergite, sphalerite (more so at Sterling Hill), tremolite, and wollastonite. I'll be happy to provide a complete list with the fluorescent colors to anyone interested.

Ways and Means

by Roger Tiangco

WHERE'S THE BEEF?

WHERE'S THE BEEF? Hi ya all! Guess what – another fun and enjoyable evening was observed on our Monthly Meeting of March 17, 2017. Yes siree! We have the much awaited TGMS Auction for 2017. Yes, we do have so many goodies, tid-bits, and must-have items, colorful faceted gemstones, rocks and minerals specimens, hand-crafted jewelries, rock-hound gizmos among other things, that were up for bidding. We did observed meager attendance, however, the fun and camaraderie reign supreme. Some of the goodies that will now have a new home are as follows:



JADE/JADEITE: The lady winner of this partly polished slice of gem mineral cannot hide her joyfulness – as though she hit a jackpot! And who wouldn't be? The mineral

specimen could well be over 15 oz. in weight, about 7-inch long, ¾ inch thick, and very uniform green color. Jade is a metamorphic mineral, occurring with prehnite and vesuvianite, in lode thermal deposits and composed mainly of sodium aluminum silicate with some calcium and iron. As we are already aware of – ancient culture of the Orient, as well as the Mayan empire, on the other side of the globe, preferred Jade as a cult gemstone for rendering thanks to the Gods – hence, the name calling “Jewel of Heaven”. The emerald-green Imperial jade, was most sought-after, by collectors, same with the mutton-fat white color. Jade is often veined and flecked with emerald green color – due to traces of chromium. Other colors such as yellow, orange, brown, pink and violet shades can be attributed to the traces of calcium, iron and manganese as pigment agent. Jade is the State rock of Wyoming. Other best collecting areas: Alaska and California.

GOLD: When the Auction Captain pulled out the big vial of glass containing the gold-

GOLD

leaf specimens, everybody have their eye-popping excitement. Fierce bidding does ensued. As we have known already, Gold has monetary standard totally acceptable medium of international exchange. Industrially speaking, Gold is used as spacecraft Vernier for rocket engines, also in modern car catalyst. Gold is also prime ingredient for government treasury coins, art-forms, jewelries and even for dental uses. The lady-winner was so ecstatic to say the least, to have won this malleable soft and sectile metal. Latest economy news, as of this writing – Gold per ounce, is hovering from \$1200.00 - \$1300.00 per ounce! World over, especially the early Egyptians and Chinese, have regarded Gold as the “Royal Metal”. And as we have mentioned before – Europe’s lust for Gold helped launched voyages of explorations that started the era of New World. Alchemists of the Middle-Ages, believe that drinking Gold and Lead solutions, will lead to “eternal youth”. Gold is where you find it – gold deposited from hydrothermal solutions does not always end up in what can properly called “veins”. A typical gold vein, is a far cry from the popular image of easily recognizable and spectacular display of golden brilliance. Fact is, gold is not visible except upon close inspection. Hydrothermal deposition of gold is almost always accompanied by rust stains called “gossan”. Gold is the state mineral of Alaska. Other best collecting areas: California, Georgia, North Carolina and Virginia.

FOSSILS: As mentioned before, any organic remains/ records of animal or plant life, replaced by mineral substance, or perhaps it just stayed undisturbed “as is” are fossils, the element of time must be considered though – say, thousands of years ago, millions years ago, etc. Counting annual growth rings in a tree trunk, will reveal how old the tree is. Similarly, varves or layers of sediment deposited annually in glacial lakes can be counted to determine how long ago, the lakes have existed. Following the discovery of radioactivity – scientists were able to assign numerical values to the geologic time scale and determine how many years ago, the various eras, periods and epochs began and ended. It is astonishing that fossils can be unearthed at all,



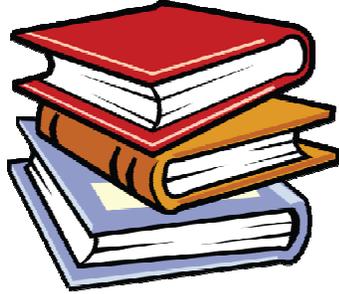
(Ways & Means, see page 6)

(Ways & Means, continued from Page 5)

because, cell tissues, even bones are extremely perishable unless quickly buried in some soft materials that later become rock hard, will decay and turn to dust. Yes! very lucky are those who had the winning bids for the age-old Trilobites, Coogliagantas, Brachiopods, Whalebones and giant Scallops. Most of these Fossils were found in sedimentary rocks, typically from geologically different from the areas of igneous or metamorphic rocks, a region of stream dissected sedimentary rock or region formerly under the sea floor.

**GEMS/
MINERAL**

BOOKS: Valuable plethora of gemstone and mineral information were book



bound and made available to us Prospectors. These fascinating books come to the Auction floor and they were bided on heavily. Books that deals on: Practical Prospecting for Minerals, Gemstones and Mineral Identification. The Art of Jewelry Making. Dopping gemstones. Preparing Stones for shaping. Smoothing and Polishing gemstones. Slab saw and Trim saw. Setting Gemstone into Jewelry. Some books that deals and contained complete cross section of every gem cutting art, they were written by the brilliant craftsmen of the gem trade. One book that caught my interest was the book on FABERGE. Tracing back to the 17th Century – the Faberge Family that lived in Picardy, North-East of France and that its members were Huguenots (protestants). They moved out of France and settled in St. Petersburg, Russia. It is where Peter Carl Faberge, better known as Carl Gustavovich, was born May 30, 1846 – the man that become the most famous Goldsmith of his time. Carl Faberge highpoint in his career was dubbed COURT JEWELER to the Tsars of Russia, he was also the appointed Goldsmith to the Court for the King of Sweden, and Norway. His jewelry works were also in the Collections of the King of Siam (now Thailand). His business has grown to such enormous proportion, that he had employed other Master goldsmith and craftsmen even outside St. Petersburg. The World Craftsmen Exhibition of 1900 in Paris – FABERGE jewelry masterpieces and

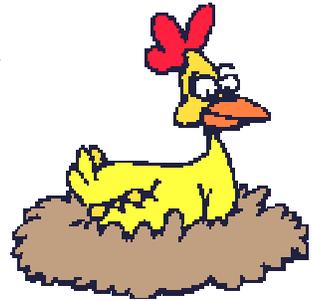
Easter Eggs – received public showing “hors concours” – meaning unquestionably no comparison!

Treasures of the Earth Show

Brooks Britt

Mark you calendars now for the three Treasures of the Earth Gem, Mineral, and jewelry shows:

The club needs volunteers for set up, manning the booth for all three days of the show and taking down and cleaning up after the show.



Come on now, support your club, we don't want to lay an egg!!!

Would also be nice if someone would step forward and volunteer to serve as Show Chair. This position has been vacant for some time, this club can not succeed without more membership support and members stepping forward.

April 21 – April 23, 2017

July 14 – July 16, 2017

Oct 6 – Oct 8, 2017

Event Times:

Friday – Noon to 6pm

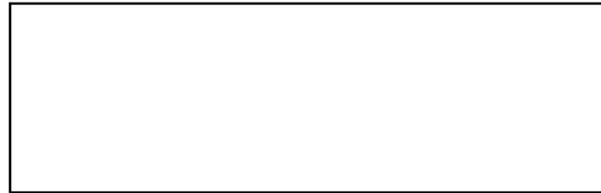
Saturday – 10am to 5pm

Sunday – 10am to 5pm





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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 Princess Anne Plaza United Methodist Church located at 208 South Plaza Trail, Virginia Beach, VA.. Our monthly meetings are open to everyone, no admission is charged.

Website <http://tgms.weebly.com/>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?id=59266572173>

There is no club meeting this month due to the Treasures of the Earth Show the same weekend.

