



# The Tidewater Prospector



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

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John "Mac" Davis  
1927 - 2014



## Notes from the President

by Robin Stoughton

Hope everyone is enjoying the summer as it will be gone before you know it.

Thanks to all members who helped at our July show and congratulations to Bonnie Conklin on winning the drawing for the subscription to Rock & Gem. Happy Birthday to everyone who has a birthday this month!

**REMINDER:** All input for the newsletter needs to be to Brooks by the 3rd of the month.

This will be our last meeting at our current location and we will be making some grab bags for our program. Our meeting in September will be at the new location, Memorial United Methodist Church, 804 Gammon Road, Virginia Beach, VA. (It is off Indian River Road)

Bill and I just got back from the Franklin wholesale show. We were able to get several different items for the club's grab bags including some fossils. We need to make around 600 grab bags so that they are ready for the October show and the next one in April.

I will not be at the October show, except for setup, so I need members to

run the show as you did last year. We will have the new grab bags out, so that should be really good. Please mark your calendars for the show and also think about doing a display. The October show dates are 6th-8th with setup on the 5th.

I need members to think about doing some of our programs as we do not have a program chair at this time. November is open for any member who wants to do the program.

See you at the meeting.

**Hospitality:** Thanks to everyone who brought snacks to last month's meeting.



**Workshop:** We will be making grab bags at our next workshop on Saturday, August 19th from 10-4. We will start making the bags at our meeting the night before. We need to make around 600 bags so we will be busy. All the bags will need to be stamped also. We will be making the kids grab bags and some fossil bags. In September we will continue making the \$10. grab bags at the meeting.

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**Welcome New Members !!!**  
\*\*\*\*\*  
**Barbara DRORI**  
**Rachel PHANSAVATH**  
**John GRAY**  
**William GRAY**  
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## Reflections of the Treasures of the Earth Show

by Roger Tiangco

**OH Yes! OH Yes!** - Once again, on the Treasure of the Earth show, July 14 -16,2017 at the Virginia Beach Convention Center. All of us Rocks and Minerals enthusiasts, have the most pleasurable experience one can ask for. Our TGMS club participation to the show, was greatly felt in the show. And Yes, our club did raised substantial amount of money that keep us afloat. We have two (2) display cases that earned “cudos” and appreciations in addition to the mesmerizing “Fluorescent “minerals under the supervision of Mr. Roger Blackman.

**DISPLAY CASE# 1 THE VIRGINIA DIG!** Under the auspices of Mr. Tom Leary and the Central Virginia Gold Prospectors, have presented mineral specimens as follows: Garnets and Staurolites – measuring around 10“ x 3”. Some Limonites pieces. Magnetites, some measured at 4“ x 2”. Quartz Crystals, very presentable sizes and transparency. Kyanites: there were 16 pieces of gem-grade quality, the elongated blades of which ranges from 5” x 2”. One huge Kyanite- measured at 9“ x 8“ and weighs 3 lbs. Another feature was the two good-sized glass vials of Gold!

**DISPLAY CASE #2** Under the auspices of Mr. Bill Stoughton, our eyes luxuriate in the phenomenal design of Mother Nature imbedded within the unassuming polished slabs and their origin as follows:

M00KITE /Australia, PETRIFIED WOOD/ Arizona, CHEETAH JASPER/Brazil, PLASMA JASPER/California JASPER/Idaho, OCEAN JASPER/Madagascar, IMPERIAL JASPER/Mexico, UNAKITE/Virginia, GRAVEYARD PLUME AGATE, PICTURE JASPERS, BIGGS CANYON JASPER/Oregon.

The suspenseful drawing for polished Septarian nodule that boast the sparkling druzy quartz within the specimen, over 7- inch in height, and weigh more or less 5 lbs. was the Club’s highlight of the show – and the Winner is: Ms. Kymber Rodgers - **CONGRATULATIONS!**

## Treasurer's Two Cents

by Lloyd Schiffelbian

July was a busy month for the club's treasury with the **Treasurer's of the Earth Gem Show**, as well as the club meeting the next weekend. At the Gem Show, total club sales totaled \$1,159, which is better than most years. This total included \$901 from all grab bag, slab and specimen sales, \$159 from the septarian specimen raffle, \$60 from membership sales, and \$39 from the silent auction. At the club meeting, the paid raffle raised \$27 and two new members joined the club.



Club expenses for July were **higher than usual** because the club is running out of adult grab bags (\$10), fossil grab bags (\$4) and children grab bags (\$1). As a result, members at the club meeting voted to advance our President \$2,000 to purchase various specimens at the July Gem Show in Franklin, N.C. to make enough grab bags

to last for another 1-2 years. In addition, the club spent \$59.90 to purchase a one year **Rock & Gem** subscription



for the April and July show's volunteer raffle winners - **Sandee BARTON** and **Bonnie CONKLIN**.

Two new members joined the club at the show. Please welcome **Barbara DRORI** and **Rachel PHANSAVATH!** Two new members also joined at the club meeting. Please welcome **John GRAY** and **William GRAY!** That brings total club members to 90 adults and 6 children. The treasury balance is about \$2,870.

## July Meeting Minutes

by Cheri Jackson

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

Guests and new members were welcomed.

Lloyd gave a Treasurer's report.

It was announced that the September meeting would be the membership making grab bags for the TOTE show.

Robin and Bill were going to have to go to the Franklin Show to get more supplies for the club.

A motion was made to give them money for material and gas to go down there and voted on by the members.

We will no longer be doing fossil bags as the supplies have become too costly.

There will be a workshop the next day from 10 - 3 with a signup sheet on the front table.

The drawing for the volunteer prize from the TOTE show was held and Bonnie Conklin was the big winner.

We then had our drawings for raffle and door prizes.

The meeting was then turned over to Bill Stoughton who did a wonderful program on his recent trip out west.

He had many great pictures and specimens to show and it was a very interesting program.

The meeting was adjourned at 9 pm.

## To Avoid Haze on a Cabochon

by Bill White

Yes, it is possible to cloud or haze a cabochon in the final polishing step. There are at least two reasons this happens. Some stones will haze under the influence of most polishing compounds due to their



physical structure. These are usually soft materials below seven on the Mohs scale, such as obsidian, sodalite, malachite, variscite, etc. A good rule of thumb is: any stone that will dull and haze when used in a ring or pendant will also do so during the polishing stages. When you run into one of these babies that just must be added to your personal collection, your best buy is to stay with diamond all the way.

However, in most cases this problem occurs because of the person holding the dopstick. Improper sanding can leave a nip or fuzzy surface. A buildup of heat can create a flaw early in one of the sanding stages, scaling over and locking in the dull haze you are trying to overcome. This part of the problem can happen with most lapidary material. So avoid all heat buildup in your sanding operations.

It is absolutely essential to have a clean stone before polishing. Be certain extender fluid, soap, oily finger residue, etc., is removed. Any contaminates will mingle with the polishing agent and become part of the stone's surface. What should be a sparkling, flawless gem is cloudy and hazy and not an object of beauty. Only by going back and resanding to remove all traces of this microfilm can the problem be corrected.

(From *Rocky Mountain News* 9/82 via ARKANSAS ROCKHOUND NEWS 3/01) via T-Town Rockhound 4/01



**WON'T BE LONG NOW!!!**

## Virginia Pegmatites: Morefield

by Hans Adler

Few rocks capture the interest of mineral collectors as much as do the pegmatites. Pegmatites are typically very coarse-grained and, hence, have been the source of some of the world's largest crystals as well as choicest mineral specimens and gemstones.

Generalizing for the sake of simplicity, pegmatites are a late-stage byproduct of granite emplacement in the earth's crust. Some are associated with other igneous rocks, but these are ordinarily of minor significance.

When granites crystallize from their magmas, the minerals normally formed are quartz, alkalic feldspars such as orthoclase, microcline, and albite, and lesser amounts of muscovite and biotite mica. With the exception of the micas, these minerals contain little or no water. Consequently, the liquid fraction of the granite magma accumulates in the late stages of granite formation. The fluids have a relatively high concentration of volatile chemical elements, leading to the formation of mineral crystals of exceptionally large size that are a distinctive feature of pegmatites.

Pegmatites form at the margins of granite intrusives, often in dike-like or lens-like projections extending from the roofs of the granites into the surrounding rocks. They sometimes also occur within the granite itself. Most granite pegmatites are mineralogically and chemically similar to the granite from which they originated, although always much more coarse-grained. These pegmatites, which consist almost entirely of quartz, feldspar, and mica, are known as "simple pegmatites". They are ordinarily devoid of interesting collectible minerals.

The late-stage granitic solutions are sometimes enriched in chemical elements that normally do not enter into the structures of the granite-forming minerals. When present, these elements are usually the last to come out of solution as the pegmatites crystallize. They typically include lithium, beryllium, rubidium, boron, tantalum, niobium, tin, rare earths, fluorine, and chlorine, and some of the minerals commonly formed by or containing them are topaz, monazite, beryl, phenacite, tourmaline, zinnwaldite, columbite-tantalite, cassiterite, allanite, and ber-

trandite, among others. All of those listed have been reported occurring at the Morefield mine near Amelia, Virginia. Pegmatites containing significant amounts of such minerals in addition to the usual assortment of quartz, feldspars, and mica are known as "complex pegmatites".

The pegmatite at the Morefield mine is of the complex type and is one of only a few of this kind in the state. In addition to the above-



mentioned minerals, spessartine, a manganese-aluminum garnet with potential gem qualities, has been reported, and amazonite, a light-green to greenish-blue microcline feldspar used in making cabochons, beads, and other ornaments, is common and easily collected. Cleavelandite, an interesting intergrowth of albite feldspar plates, is also found here. Other nearby complex pegmatites of interest are the Rutherford properties west of the Morefield occurrence and the Herbb mines to the north in Powhatan County.

There are over 220 known pegmatite deposits in Virginia. Most occur in the Piedmont physiographic province largely in two broad belts, one extending from Amelia to Spotsylvania and the other between Martinsville and Lynchburg. Only a few exceed 250 feet in length and many appear to pinch out at a depth of 30 feet or less. Those that have been mined have produced primarily feldspar and mica. Quartz and kaolin, a clay mineral formed from the weathering decomposition of feldspar, have also occasionally been commercially recovered. Amazonstone, some gemstones, beryl, columbite-tantalite, phenacite, and monazite have been mentioned as co-products of mica and feldspar mining in Amelia County and beryl at the Herbb No. 2 mine. Overall, a total of 83 different minerals have been reported, most from the handful of complex pegmatites in the state.

## Ways and Means

by Roger Tiangco

Another inspirational meeting was what we have on 21<sup>st</sup> of July 2017. The dull drums of the day to me all of a sudden seemed to disappear, upon seeing the smiling faces and exchanging of pleasantries with our TGMS colleagues. Their unfailing fiduciary support for our Club's financial health will always be remembered. Following were the gems and minerals that have boost our enthusiasms:

**TOPAZ:** It's mine! It's mine! - The excited winner cannot help herself – but to rejoice when her ticket number was drawn from the jar. This faceted, heart-shaped gemstone – is of over 7 carats and measured at 12 mm x 11 mm. and pale blue color. Ordinarily, the name TO-PAZ was the term used for the yellowish gemstones – for thousands of years. This high temperature mineral, as we already know, occurs with albite, tourmaline and quartz, in granite pegmatites. Aside from its popular golden-yellow color, we have a variety of other colors. We have clear transparent ones that rivals the beryl Goshenite, the royal-blue ones that rivals the blue Sapphire, and the pale blue color or what was termed as “Swiss Blue” Topaz, that rivals the Aquamarine - and is extremely rare. Topaz is made of aluminum, silicon and other gaseous elements. They are of orthorhombic crystals, and exhibits striation that parallel the long axis of the crystal. We call this long axis as the “cleavage”. The presence of cleavage, make Topaz more fragile gemstone hence, the tenacity for breakage seldom unrestrained. Topaz is the State rock of TEXAS. Other best collecting areas: California, Colorado, New Hampshire and Utah.



**HALITE:** “Puzzled-look”, was the winner's reaction when she beheld this glittering-druzy like mineral specimen, it measured at 12 inch x 4 inch x 3 inch and it weighs 3 lbs. HALITE, the

natural form of rock-salt, is a mineral form of sodium chloride. It has isometric crystals with perfect cleavage. For millions of years, the nanno,nanno skeletal remains of single-celled bacterial impurities have given some Halite unusual pastel colors. The predominating color of the Halite that the lady won – was Pink! This sodium-chloride mineral, has been used since pre-historic times and there is no substitute for it, when it comes to Nutrition or in Industry. Layers of rock-salt mark areas where seas dried up in ancient times. In many places, Salt is still made by evaporating sea water in shallow basins. Salt and some related minerals – like calcium borax and magnesium are part of the “alkali”, which make some soils difficult to use for Agriculture. In addition to its use in food and as preservative, Salt is essential in Chemical industries. It is used in the manufacture of soda-ash for glass products, soap making and in Metallurgy. Chlorine in salt is used as a bleach component and also for water purification. Best collecting areas: California, Kansas, Michigan and New York.

**LAZURITE:** The lady-winner of this “hard-to-find” mineral specimen, was all-smile upon learning that her ticket number was the one called out to claim this



prize. This Lazurite specimen measured at 34 mm x 22 mm and it weighs over 10 grams. As we are aware of already – LAZURITE is a silicate of sodium, calcium and aluminum with some sulfur. Lazurite forms in association with Pyrite, Calcite and Diopside in hornfels of contact metamorphic rocks. The opaque vivid blue, light blue or violet-blue mineral consisting largely of Lazurite and with whole lot of calcite, diopside and pyrite, is a rock which we called “Lapis Lazuli”. This mineral, is usually veined or spotted. Lapis Lazuli's value depends on uniformity of color with no pyrites – some collectors prefer Lazurite/LapisLazuli with flecks of pyrites though. Best collecting areas: California and Colorado.

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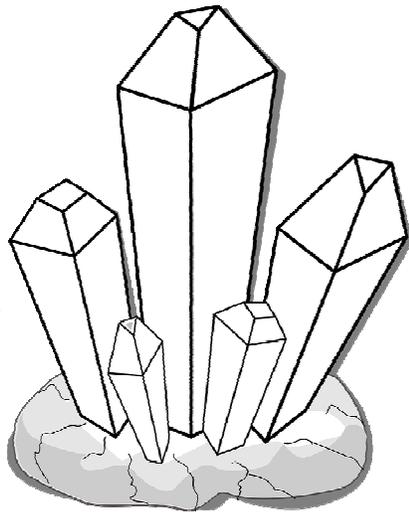
**AMETHYST:**

The excited lady-winner of this precious gemstone will now provide a loving home to this well polished gem. It is "baroque-shaped" slab of rich violet



purple color with a tinge of green, evenly distributed in bands and regular arches. This gemstone measured at 34 mm x 30 mm and it weighs over 19 grams. Amethyst is generally made of mineral silicon dioxide, it is the most highly prized variety of Quartz. Amethyst from the fluid associated with intrusive magmatic phenomena. This gem-variety of Quartz are mostly found in pegmatitic hydrothermal deposits. But like other Quartz minerals, it can also be found in metamorphic and sedimentary rocks. Amethyst was well known in old Europe – as preventive of drunkenness. "Methyo" in Greek means "drunk" - but the letter "a" prefixed to the word, reversed the meaning – hence, amethyst - "not to be drunk". Best collecting areas: Arkansas, California, Colorado, Georgia, New Jersey and Virginia.

**QUARTZ CRYSTAL:** A hint of sky-blue color, was enough for everybody to wish they could own this transparent mineral specimen. From the matrix – rose prominently hexagonal clear crystals. It measured at 52 mm x 34 mm and weighs over 45 grams! The lady-winner was with mouth agape in excitement, when her ticket number



was called to claim the prize! Quartz – as we already know, is a very important rock forming mineral that develops in various environments. Principally a constituent of contact metamorphic rock, it is most present in hydrothermal replacement deposits. Quartz is usually associated with albite and orthoclase in granite pegmatites. As we are already

aware of – in addition, to being valued as gemstone, the Quartz crystal when cut at an angle to its axis, pressure on it generates minute electrical charge. This phenomena make Quartz, of great industrial importance – in radio, television, radar and so many other uses. This particular Quartz specimen that the lady won was from Minas Gerais, Brazil. Best collecting areas: Arkansas, New York, North Carolina and Virginia.

**FREE RAFFLES:** Our give-away prizes includes: Druzy Geode specimen, Hexagonal Quartz specimens, Polished Tigers Eye, and Unakite slab.



**The World's Largest and Oldest Meteorite**

The world's largest and oldest meteorite has been discovered in China near

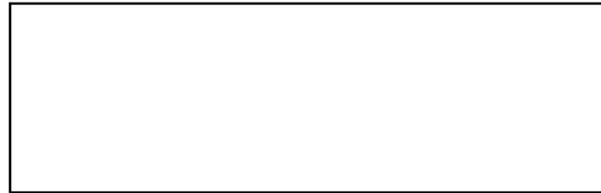


the northeast city of Shenyang. The meteorite, locally called Haushita Hill, is estimated to be 4.5 to 4.6 billion years old and fell to earth 1.9 billion years ago. The meteorite mound is 600 feet long, 250 feet wide and about 300 feet deep. It weighs about 2 million tons and is covered with granite. The meteorite is older than any natural earth rock. The site is planned to be a state protected nature reserve.

Northwest Newsletter 10/00 via Del Air Bulletin 6/01 via Golden Spike News 8/01



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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>

Our meeting in August is on Friday the 18th at 7:30 pm at Princess Anne Plaza United Methodist Church located at 208 South Plaza Trail, Virginia Beach, VA

This month's program will be stuffing grab bags for the October TOTE show.

