

EFMLS NEWS

Information for Members of the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical & Lapidary Societies



Volume 67, Number 7
May 2020

WILDACRES SPRING SESSION CANCELLED

From Steve Weinberger, Chair, Wildacres Workshop Committee:

It is now official: Wildacres will be closed the entire month of May, which means that our EFMLS spring session will not be held. Refunds will be issued to all registered participants.

At this time, the August session is still scheduled to be held and we will keep you informed of any changes.

COVID-19

We continue to send our gratitude, thanks and appreciation to all our first responders, medical personnel, truckers, grocery and pharmacy workers, garbage collectors, and all who are risking their lives for us -- many belong to our clubs. Keep these heroes in your thoughts and prayers that they remain safe and healthy.

Several clubs have lost members to the virus. Let us also remember them and their families and friends in their time of grieving. May they all rest in peace.

Rockhounds are safety minded people and we are sure you are doing your part to help contain this unprecedented virus -- wearing a mask and social distancing when out in public and staying home except for basic necessities (groceries, medicine). You may have the virus and show no symptoms and, thus, unwillingly spread it. The CDC has updated its list of symptoms which can be found on their website at www.CDC.gov. See *Safety Matters* article on page 4.

Many clubs have cancelled their meetings while several other clubs are meeting virtually or via phone. Shows have been hit the hardest with almost all club shows cancelled during April and some now in May and even into June. In most cases, these cancellations have put a financial hardship on the club's finances. Vendors who rely on the club shows for income are also being hit financially. If you are planning to attend a show, check before you leave home to determine whether or not it has been cancelled. Let's hope things get back to where clubs can safely resume their meetings, field trips, shows, swaps, etc. See *Visit a Show or Swap* on page 8.

From the Editor

Communications and involvement are our keys to success.

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EFMLS News is the official newsletter of the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies, Inc.

EFMLS 1st VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Community, Cooperation, Communication, Kindness - we rockhounds are a good group of people. We teach, we learn, we share, we enjoy what we do and share that joy with others.

In these times of Covid-19 virus concerns we are using all our skills, abilities and amazing attributes to maximize our helping with keeping our hobby involved and active. We are reaching out to our fellow club members, our family and friends, and our neighbors as best we can and as respectfully as possible... each to our ability to do so.

How are you and your club managing to stay active? Virtual meetings, Zooming and connecting, texting, tweeting, communicating with Skype, Facebooking, and, even, phone calling are enabling us to keep in touch with one another. They are helping us to stay connected with our members and our loved ones.

All this communication and comprehension are doing my heart good. To hear how our rockhound community is serving and helping with mask making, assisting in food pantries, helping neighbors in need, offering virtual hobby classes, donating to those in need of help of some kind... and so much more, really exemplify what we do and who we are. I'm proud to be a rockhound.

Summer is fast approaching with its plethora of field trips, picnics, shows, and all manner of club activity. It will require some cleverness to engage in our usual level of activity. Compromise and adaptation will be watchwords. Yet, I'm sure we, with our creativity, resourcefulness, and determination, will find ways to keep our community and hobby safe, strong, connected and active.

In the Federation, we are you. The EFMLS is comprised of people who are members of bead, fossil, lapidary, geology, jewelry and rock & mineral clubs. The people in the Federation serve their home clubs in a variety of positions including club bulletin editor, president, treasurer, liaison, committee chair, and so on. These dedicated people, with their love and devotion to the hobby, also serve in the Federation. It is a pleasure to

serve with these people. It is amazing to learn that with all that activity they also help with community effort, hold day jobs, raise families, offer their time to other volunteering endeavors -- truly engaged people one and all.

In the Federation, right now as you read this, there is behind the scene effort to prepare for a revised convention date, run a BEAC contest, prepare a directory, revise a convention packet, encourage safety effort, promote each one teaching one, keep our finances on track, distribute programs, monitor insurance, prepare for an auction, manage Wildacres, work the web, and, gee, it is a mighty long list... Feel free to check it out in the EFMLS News. Truly amazing people.

It is a good time to be a rockhound. It is always a good time to be a rockhound. Thank you for your dedication, your service and sharing your joys. Thank you for sharing kindnesses.

Ellery Borow, EFMLS First Vice President

EDITORS CORNER

First, a big round of applause and thanks to the many editors who have faithfully produced their clubs' newsletters during this difficult time. In the majority of clubs, the editor is the one who has the responsibility of making sure that the membership is informed. A newsletter is key to keeping the lines of communication open between the club and its membership. Given today's environment, that communication is more important than ever. You are doing a great job and our hats are off to you.

Because the March EFMLS convention was postponed until October, some editors are asking when the results for the EFMLS BEAC 2020 contest will be announced. It has been a long-standing policy that the results are released at the Editors Breakfast at the annual convention. Since the convention has been postponed, and keeping with policy, the results will be announced at the Editors Breakfast in October.

We entered quite a few entries into the AFMS BEAC contest whose results will be announced at the AFMS convention. Since the AFMS convention is the week before the EFMLS convention, the AFMS results will, therefore, be announced before EFMLS results. EFMLS and AFMS results will be announced at the EFMLS Editors Breakfast. In the past the AFMS convention has been held numerous times before the EFMLS convention and each time the EFMLS BEAC results were not released before the EFMLS convention.

If this is confusing or you have any questions, please feel free to contact the BEAC Chair, Mary Bateman at mbateman1@verizon.net or via phone at 973-993-3192.

Mary Bateman, BEAC Chairman, mbateman1@verizon.net

CLUB ROCKHOUND OF THE YEAR (ACROY) RECOGNIZING THE NEW

Clubs are now facing a myriad of new situations while dealing with the Covid-19 requirements. Our usual ways of having club meetings, running shows, producing bulletins, arranging club picnics, engaging the public are facing a need to accommodate various state mandates as well as practical needs. With these circumstances, new ideas, hidden talents, dedicated people are stepping forward to do what is needed.

While many folks in clubs are honored as a club rockhound of the year by having served year after year, meeting after meeting in service to the club, that is not a requirement for being honored in the CROY program.

Members who work with special one-time activities, unique programs, creative projects and short-term leadership or assistance in specific rolls may also be named as an honoree. Perhaps to face the new situations talented people step forward to play a part in the new club planning and implementation activities. In other words, please keep your eyes open to recognize anyone who shows outstanding service to your club.

We on the AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year committee offer you the opportunity to publicly laud the effort of your deserving and dedicated members for their effort to serve. The public announcements we offer are to have your honorees name and dedication mentioned in the pages of the EFMLS and AFMS Newsletters. We would appreciate being of service in honoring your dedicated members. All we need from you is a brief 70-word description of your honoree's effort, their name, the name of your club, and the name of the submitter. Then send the information to me to do the rest. My contact information is listed immediately after this article.

There are a few rules we need to use:

The club may only submit one honoree per year for their Club Rockhound of the Year (or two names in the event of a couple). The club may, in addition, also offer the name of a junior member. Anyone in the club may offer the honoree's name. The club may use any selection criteria they wish to select their honoree. Those are some fairly easy rules.

Please let's work together to honor your dedicated members. Thank you for letting us help.

Ellery Borow, Chair EFMLS CROY Committee
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SAFETY MATTERS

SIZE MATTERS

Size matters with safety masks and so does fit. While there is special concern about wearing safety masks due to the Covid-19 virus issues, we as rockhounds have numerous reasons for wearing masks.

Most of the mask use in our hobbies revolves around dust - dust from rock drilling, grinding dust, hammering dust, rock sawing dust. Most, but not all, of that dust may be controlled by keeping things wet. The rest may be mitigated by wearing a suitable dust mask. Another use for masks is with regard to chemical fumes. For fume mitigation much more stringent requirements are made of masks and will be discussed in a future Safety Matters article.

The reason for this timely mask story relates to our hobby but perhaps more importantly is in regard to the Covid-19 virus problem. Not all masks are the same so how we select, use, and wear the mask makes a difference. For use in our hobby activities, and for all intent and purposes, most dust masks well match the tasks we regularly face.

Virus protection masks require numerous additional considerations. Is one concerned about inhaling air containing droplets, particles, or some carrier of a Covid-19 virus? Is one concerned with exhaling air with particles which may, unknowingly, carry the Covid-19 virus? How long will we need to wear the mask? What are the proximity to possible virus issues? We need to make decisions about what we want the mask to accomplish. Masks being used for Covid-19 include surgical masks, N-95 masks, painters masks, dust masks, VOC masks, many, many types of home-made masks, as well as ski masks, scarves pulled over face, kerchiefs, sleeved arm held across mouth and nose. Well, books can be written about all those options. For now it is wise to, if one can find masks in the store, read the information on the mask's packaging and select a mask suitable

for virus mitigation. Virus are indeed very small however, the particles they ride on are generally quite a bit larger in size. It is currently thought safe to use N-95 masks, the others offer varying degrees of protection depending upon one's needs. Please check trusted sources for information on mask types, use, and recommendations.

With the common use of N-95 masks there too are issues to be addressed. Actually, many of the other mask options have similar issues. Is the mask the right size? Size does matter. For a small face, such as with children, the N-95 may not fit sufficiently well to offer suitable protection. A mask's fit around the contours of the nose can be a problem area. Many of the better masks have special spongy sealing foam to seal around the nose. Some masks have a thin metal strip which can be pressed around the nose to contour the mask and ensure a proper fit around the nose. If air is moving in or out around the mask edges, especially in the nose area the mask's effectiveness is greatly reduced. If one's glasses are being fogged while wearing a mask that is a classic sign the mask's fit is not as effective as it should be. A hand moved close to the mask's perimeter can be used to detect air leaks around a mask. The breeze of moving air can easily be detected by your hand as it is moved around the mask as one is breathing in and out.

The take-aways are: one needs to select a suitable mask for the task, and the mask's size and fit must also be correct.

Sources of additional information include:

WHO - World Health Organization

CDC - Center for Disease Control

NIH - National Institute of Health

NIAD - National Institute of Allergies and Infectious Diseases

Checking with the above sources, as well as your own personal and trusted sources, plus your state and local sources, would be wise in order to have the most current safety mask advice.

Your safety does matter. Please be extra cautious in this current Covid-19 virus day and age.

The disclaimer - understand that this article does not profess to offer medical advice but merely compiles data from several sources about masks and the Covid-19 virus. For current information please check with trusted sources.

Ellery Borow, EFMLS/AFMS Safety Chairman

CLUB SPOTLIGHT OF THE MONTH

WASHINGTON COUNTY GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY

Starting the Washington County Gem and Mineral Society (WCGMS) (Maine) was the dream of Theresa and Chris Peek. The Peeks, who were in the process of moving from the Houston, Texas area to Perry Maine, thought that having a gem and mineral club would be great for the community. It has been a bit of a bumpy ride since Washington County is very large and a bit remote.

WCGMS had its first meeting in January 2018 in Calais, Maine, which is on the Canadian border. Since Washington County is so large WCGMS alternates its meetings between three locations, Calais, Pembroke, and Machias. (Calais is the furthest north meeting location and Machias is the furthest south – they are about 75 minutes apart.) The club tries to meet monthly, which can be a challenge in the winter due to weather. After missing a few winter meetings in 2018 and 2019, WCGMS change its meeting schedule to skip February and March.

Every meeting has a show and tell which is usually the highlight of the meetings as club members love seeing what each other has found. Meetings often feature a guest speaker, but unfortunately being remote the club sometime struggles to

find people able to speak. Some of WCGMS's meeting highlights have been holding an information session during the Perry Bicentennial Celebration – the club maintained a table at the Perry School to tell people about the club and to discuss the extensive mineral and rock collection that was dedicated to the school by a former Perry resident. The December meeting is dedicated to children's activities centered around earth science. At the 2018 December meeting there was one child, at the 2019 meeting there was four. WCGMS has also sponsored a couple of field trips to Perry Agate Beach.

WCGMS has had some help from the Houston Gem and Mineral Society (HGMS). HGMS has provided WCGMS with some rock and mineral kits to help WCGMS with educational outreach. WCGMS has submitted several grant proposals and has been awarded \$1500 by one of our local banks, The First. The funds will be used to create a mobile lapidary lab for teaching young people (and adults) the art of cutting and polishing stones. WCGMS has two schools interested in participating in the mobile lapidary lab; both of the schools are part of Maine Indian Education.

Theresa Peek, President, Washington County Gem and Mineral Society

VOLUNTEER AT THE SMITHSONIAN SHARES GREAT PROGRAMS

Volunteering at the Smithsonian brings some interesting adventures, which I want to share with you.

1. **Making North America: Kirk R. Johnson** (born 1960) is an American scientist, author, curator, and museum administrator, and is currently serving as Director of [Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History](#). Dr. Johnson is the host of the [PBS Nova series, "Making North America,"](#) which is a three-part series that describes the shaping of [North America](#), which aired on November 4, 11 and 18, 2015.
2. **Polar Extremes:** In this new PBS NOVA two-hour special, renowned paleontologist Kirk Johnson takes us on an epic adventure through time at the polar extremes of our planet. Following a trail of strange fossils found in all the wrong places—beech trees in Antarctica, hippo-like mammals in the Arctic—Johnson uncovers the bizarre history of the poles, from miles-high ice sheets to warm polar forests teeming with life. What caused such dramatic changes at the ends of the Earth? And what can the past reveal about our planet's climate today—and in the future? (Premiered February 5, 2020), Simply Google it.

I hope you enjoy the PBS NOVA documentaries featuring Kirk Johnson

Kathy Hrechka, Mincromineralogists of the National Capital Area Editor & Smithsonian GGM volunteer



Our thoughts, prayers and condolences to the grieving loved ones and friends of those who have lost the battle with their lives to the coronavirus.

DID YOU KNOW

... if you are having difficulty finding masks or feel they are way too expensive, you can make your own. Just search “Make a Facemask” in your computer’s search engine and you will be surprised at how many different style masks you can make AND how many sites are out there – some even have a video to guide you.

...that rainfall could have been the trigger for the 2018 eruption of the Hawaiian Kilauea Volcano. The smithsonianmag.com reports that *Nature* published research that indicated the eruption was caused by the unusual amount of rainfall (46.69 inches) that fell around the time of the eruption. The huge amount of water saturated the ground enough to put enough pressure on the ground to cause fractures that in turn released magma. The full story can be found at www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/rainfall-eruption-hawaiian-volcano-kilauea-180974718/?utm_source=smithsoniandaily&utm_medium...

...Darryl Powell of Diamond Dan Publications has expanded “Mini Miners Monthly” issue with a brand new coloring book and many pages of hands-on activities for young mineral enthusiasts. He has “given permission, and encouragement, to share this issue with anyone you can. Pass it around. Email it to all your family and friends. Email it to your teachers and invite them to email it to their students.” “It is free.”

“During this Corona Virus “stay at home” season, this may be a small source of enjoyment and help make the time at home meaningful.” It is our understanding that this is free. Contact Darryl Powell at e-mail—powellpublicationsgroup@gmail.com; Diamond Dan Publications at www.diamonddanpublications.net; by phone at 585-278-3047; or by mail at 671 Lakeside Circle, #1019, Pompano Beach, FL 33060.

Your children will appreciate having a new activity.

Thanks to Bob Livingston, Gem, Lapidary and Mineral Society of Syracuse, NY for passing this on to us.

A.F.M.S. NEWSLETTER

The May 2020 A.F.M.S. Newsletter was not available at the time the May EFMLS News was sent, however, it will be available soon on the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies website at http://www.amfed.org/news/n2020_05.pdf.

VISIT A SHOW OR SWAP

Editor’s Note: If you are considering attending any of the events listed below, please check with the contact listed before leaving home. The Coronavirus (COVID-19) has forced many clubs to either postpone or cancel regularly scheduled events which include meetings, shows, swaps, etc. Those that have notified us that they are cancelled or postponed are so noted. Not all postponement dates have been re-scheduled.

If you’d like to see your club show, swap or other public event listed here, please send your information to the editor by the first of the month preceding the event. For example, if your event is March 2, you may want to submit it on January 1 so that it appears in two issues of EFMLS News (February and March). In any event, the minimum amount of time needed is the first of the month preceding the event, i.e. if event is January 2, to have it listed, your information should be in by December 1 to be listed in the January issue. Send to EFMLSNews.editor@gmail.com.

May 2-3 – **CANCELLED** North Shore Rock and Mineral club 57th Annual New England Gem & Mineral Show. Saturday, May 2 (9:00 AM--5:00 PM), Sunday, May 3 (10:00 AM—4:00 PM), Topsfield Fairgrounds, Coolidge Hall, Route 1, Topsfield, MA (GPS: 207 Boston Street, Topsfield, MA. Free Parking. Admission \$6.00, seniors \$4.00, children under 12 free. INFO: www.northshorerock.org or nsmc@verizon.net.

May 9 – 31st **CANCELLED** Annual Gem, Mineral, Jewelry and Fossil Show of the Chesapeake Gem and Mineral Society. Saturday, 10:00 AM—4:00 PM. Ruhl Armory, Towson, MD. Free admission and parking. INFO: www.chesapeakegemandmineral.org

May 23 -- Annual Show of the Rock & Mineral Club of Lower Bucks County, Pa, 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM. Christ United Methodist Church, 501 Wistar Road, Fairhills, PA. Adults \$2, children free 12 and under. INFO: Brian Schwab, www.holschw2@aol.com. <https://sites.google.com/view/lowerbucksparocks/home> or <https://www.facebook.com/LowerBucksPARocks/>

June – **CANCELLED** The William Holland School has cancelled all programs/classes through June. While it is EFMLS News' policy not to endorse commercial programs, many of you have signed up for classes to attend at William Holland. This is listed as a service message only and is not meant as an endorsement nor non-endorsement of William Holland.

June 6-7 – Annual Show of the Orange County Mineral Society of New York. Both days 10:00 AM-4:00 PM, adults \$5, seniors \$3, free admission for scouts in uniform and children under 12. Museum Village, Monroe, NY. INFO: Ron Nelson, m33@optimum.net. www.ocmsny.org or <https://www.facebook.com/events/464623690971301>.

June 13 – Boston Mineral Club Annual Auction, 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM, American Legion Nonantum Post 440, 295 California Street, Newton, MA. Includes voice auction of more than 200 lots of mineral specimens, gems, equipment and reference material, with a silent auction of more than 100 flats of mineral specimen, lapidary rough, equipment and books. INFO: Mike Haritos, 857-991-2294, mharitos@comcast.net, www.bostonmineralclub.org.

June 13 – Annual Show Danbury Mineralogical Society with Connecticut Antique Machinery Association, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM, Connecticut Antique Machinery Association ground, 31 Kent Cornwall Road, Kent, CT. 20th Annual Mineral and Gem Show to benefit the Connecticut Museum of Mining and Mineral Science. Free admission. Contact: John Pawloski, 860-927-0050, <http://www.ctamachinery.com/>

July 11-12 – 54th Annual GemWorld Show, New York State Fairgrounds sponsored by the Gem, Lapidary and Mineral Society of Syracuse, NY. Retail dealers, wholesale sections, demonstrate ors, lectures and many kids activities. Show opens 10:00 AM daily. Adults \$7.00, kids under 12 with adult and Scouts in uniform, Free. INFO: dicklyons@gmss.us.

July 25-26 – **CANCELLED** Burlington Gem and Mineral Club, 41st Annual Champlain Valley Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show, Champlain Valley Exposition, Essex Junction, Vermont. Dealers, exhibits, lectures, demonstrations, children's activities, silent auction, door prizes, refreshments, free parking. Saturday and Sunday 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM, \$4 Adults (16-59), seniors (60+) \$3, children under 16 free with paying adult. Handicapped accessible. INFO: Andy Simmons at bgmcv@yahoo.com or <http://www.burlingtongemandmineralclub.org/show.html>.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

The first concept of continental drift first came to me as far back as 1910, when considering the map of the world, under the direct impression produced by the congruence of the coast lines on either side of the Atlantic. At first I did not pay attention to the ideas because I regarded it as improbable. In the fall of 1911, I came quite

accidentally upon a synoptic report in which I learned for the first time of paleontological evidence for a former land bridge between Brazil and Africa. As a result, I undertook a cursory examination of relevant research in the fields of geology and paleontology and this provided immediately such weighty corroboration that a conviction of the fundamental soundness of the idea took root in my mind. *Alfred L. Wegener in The Origins of Continents and Oceans (4th ed. 1929), trans. John Biram (1966).*

From the March 2020 DVESScapades, the monthly newsletter of the Delaware Valley Earth Science Society

JUNE EFMLS NEWS

Remember that there has traditionally been no EFMLS News during July and August. However, should the need arise, we will produce a special edition during those months. If you have activities or items you wish to share for June, July, or August to please have them to me by May 15. This includes shows, swaps, picnics, etc. for those months; cancellations of those that you know will be cancelled, etc. The deadline for the September issue will be August 10th. Please send any items to efmlsnews.editor@gmail.com.

Also, coming in June will be a feature article on scams – tax, IRS, charities, stimulus check, etc.

Articles and news are always welcomed.

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