



GEM SCOOPS



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Pendleton District Gem and Mineral Society

May 2011

2011 Lapidary and Jewelry Workshops

Ponderings From the Podium

Last month at this time we were still experiencing winter-like weather, but for the last few days (and the foreseeable future) it looks like summer has arrived. Now, instead of worrying about keeping warm and dry, we need to be concerned about keeping hydrated and not getting overheated. Heat can kill folks so be careful out there.

In that regard — out there that is — don't forget the field trip to Diamond Hill on Sunday, 15 May. Ted went to a lot of work to arrange this on a weekend so that the folks who work on weekdays could have a collecting opportunity.

Fred's program on the William Holland and Wildacres Lapidary Schools could be one of the most beneficial you have attended. No matter how long you have been in lapidary arts there are undoubtedly some areas in which you can still benefit from the classes they offer,

We plan on restarting the Door Prize Lottery at this meeting, so don't forget to go through your rock and mineral surplus pile and bring a goodly amount of those goodies to donate to recharge our Door Prize larder.

Larry

NEXT MEETING June 20, 2011

The June meeting will be about Radon, which is caused by radiation from some of the radio-active minerals in this part of the country.

MAY MEETING

DATE: Wednesday, May 18, 2011, 7:00 p.m.

PLACE: Clemson-Central Library, 105 Commons Way, Central
(From the intersection of US 123 and SC93, head NE on SC 93 for 2.4 miles. Turn right on Commons Way. Can't miss it!)

TOPIC: 2011 Lapidary and Jewelry Workshops

SPEAKER: Fred Sias, SFMS South Carolina Director

PROGRAM: Fred will talk about the workshops presented by the SFMS each year at Wildacres and the William Holland School of Lapidary Arts. He will also show pictures of the Facilities and the Classrooms.

Fred Sias will also provide refreshments. Refreshments will be set up about 7:00 p.m. and the meeting will start at about 7:15. Visitors are always welcome.

Door Prize Raffle to Resume

To the new members: For many years the PDGMS has sponsored a door-prize raffle at club meetings. We call them "Door Prizes" but it is actually a raffle and the club will have a "Door Prize Chairman" who brings the mineral specimens that will be raffled off at the end of the meeting.

During the meeting and until the drawing, the Door Prize Chair will have tickets for sale at 25 cents each or five for a dollar. Proceeds go to replenishing the door prize inventory. Each ticket is in two parts with duplicate numbers on each part. Put one ticket in box that will be passed around and from which the winning tickets will be drawn at the end of the meeting. Winners will select from several specimens as their numbers are drawn.

If you would like to help startup our door prize inventory, please bring specimens to the next meeting.

Pendleton District Gem and Mineral Society Minutes of General Meeting April 20, 2011

Location: Central/Clemson Library Meeting Room.

Attendance: 19, including 2 visitors.

President, Larry Boller, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed the visitors. Refreshments were provided by Brenda Tartaglia.

Program: Ted Wallenius moderated a round-table discussion of

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2011 Officers

President:	Larry Boller	864-296-8077
V.P.:	Ed Overly	864-328-3057
Secretary:	Cecelia Jackson	864-261-3580
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2011 Directors

Dave Cicimurri	864-650-7115
Jim Duzenberry	864-654-5741
Fred Sias	864-654-6833
Rich Warner	864-654-0913

General Meeting Minutes (Continued)

“Rules for mineral collecting and recreational gold prospecting on public lands.” The attendees were Ray Bergeron, Zone Geologist for 6 states for the United States Forest Service (USFS), based in Columbia; Knight Cox, Clemson Forest Manager; Rick Jacquot, President, Mountain Area Gem and Mineral Association, based in Asheville, NC. Rick Jacquot’s unique organization has 3,000 members, holds programs and field trips everywhere.

Public lands include property controlled by the USFS, Clemson University, state and national parks, and Department of Natural Resources lands.

Rick Jacquot handed out a map of the Ray Mine in North Carolina, and its status as a collecting site was discussed in great detail. The Grimshaw mine was closed because people violated a 100-foot setback from the stream. The only digging site in NC is at the Ray Mine and if the rules there are disregarded it too will be closed.

Ray Bergeron related that the USFS may use gates to close shafts because of white nose syndrome, a fatal fungal disease affecting bats. Bat populations may have to be killed off to preempt its spread. Mineral Collecting and Prospecting “Permits” are issued by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). “Letters of Authorization” are issued by the USFS, The rules are pretty much determined by the individual District Rangers, and they have great leeway on how they regulate such activities in their districts. There apparently is a difference between mineral gold panning and mineral collection. USFS can issue permits to collect on the surface for small/home/non-commercial projects. Ray Bergeron can be reached at (803) 561-4040 or emailed at rbergeron@FS.Fed.US..

It was noted that rocks found on shoreline of Lake Hartwell (particularly on the Georgia side) cannot be picked up without the hazard that the collector



Silversmithing workshop at an SFMS Workshop. There are 12 individual workbenches with acetylene gas piped to torches into each position.

may be subject to fines and other possible penalties.

The Clemson Forest uses USFS rules according to Mike Cox. You may need a state permit for collecting in the Oconee Point area, however, no excavation or sluicing is permitted.

Business Meeting: Previous meeting minutes were approved. The treasurer’s report was provided by Larry Boller.

Old Business: Larry again mentioned the Committee Chair vacancies that include: Field Trip, Door Prize and Youth. Ed Overly still needs an assistant for the Program Committee.

Members were reminded to bring samples to the next meeting to be given out as door prizes or for a raffle.

New Business: Ted will prepare a new brochure. Chris Cicimurri, of the Clemson Gem and Mineral Museum, previously suggested to Larry the possibility of getting several area clubs together from Greenville, Greenwood, and Augusta to hold a rock swap/show near the Clemson Gem and Mineral Museum. Demonstrations could be in-

cluded. Planning is underway with an early fall target date. She asked that the members be advised that the museum is looking for volunteers.

Regina contacted Bill Bridwell who agreed to present a program at the June meeting about *Radon*, a radioactive gas caused by naturally occurring radioactive minerals.

Ted will look into a field trip to look for quartz at the Diamond Hill Mine, which is just south of Anderson, near Antreville. It was also mentioned that Hoot Owl Mine is 3 hours away in Spruce Pines and people have found beryl there in the past.

Respectfully submitted,

Regina Kerns,
Acting Secretary

Don’t forget to bring any surplus mineral specimens to help us start a new “Door Prize” inventory. Drawings will be held at each meeting and we like to see visitors start their collection with a specimen from our meeting.