



Eastern Indiana Gem & Geological Society

ROCK PICKINGS

April 2018

P.O. Box 1724 • Richmond, IN 47375 • eiggs.weebly.com • facebook.com/EasternIndianaGemGeologicalSocietyEIGGS

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Memberships:

Annual dues
\$15 Individuals
\$20 Families

Please send dues to:

EIGGS
PO Box 1724
Richmond, IN 47375

3 Next meeting: Thursday, May 3, 6:30 p.m. at the Clubhouse

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Hi, Fellow Rock Buddies:

What a wonderful and productive Saturday we had at the rock club. Together we accomplished many tasks. Unfortunately, Mother Nature had other plans for our outside projects, so they will get completed another day. A sincere thank you to all those who showed up and put in the hard work. It is greatly appreciated. Pizza and soda was had by all, as well as wonderful fellowship.

Joe Mueller did a great job on the air conditioner.

It turned out beautifully. Mona was our "Mrs. Tidy Bowl" and made the bathrooms shine. Tim Merrill and Dave Straw cleaned the large slab saw. Wow, what

a job, and they did it right. Bobby Shaffer, Jim Lucas and Tim worked in the lab and cleaned all the shelves. I'd like to hire them for my house. John Morse checked the trim saws and took one home with him to replace bearings.

Marty Lucas, Nikki Merrill and Mark Lisota worked upstairs and cleaned up all the ceiling tiles that had fallen, and vacuumed and dusted everything. It looks beautiful.

Mary Ann Morse, Angie Shaffer, Hailee Shaffer, Erna Jacob and Peggy Fritz cleaned the library, which now looks fabulous. Judy Burton worked on the closet in the bathroom and worked with Jim Fritz, Scott Gibson, and Matt Rudicil in the garage -- a great start to organizing and inventory management. So again, a heartfelt thank you for all your time and energy for our club. Please forgive me if I missed anyone.

I look forward to seeing you all at our next monthly meeting, May 3, 6:30 p.m.

Be there or be square!

Deb Chagares :)

Facebook Friends

A special thanks to everyone who helped get the word out about the show by sharing the EIGGS show posts with friends on Facebook. Grassroots Facebook promotional campaigns work! If you haven't followed the EIGGS page yet, please do so.

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MEETING MINUTES: APRIL 5, 2018

MONA JONES, SECRETARY

ATTENDANCE: Jean Blue, Steve Blue, Judy Burton, Deb Chagares, Reneé Doty, Peggy Fritz, Jim Fritz, Mona Jones, Estel Jones, John LaMont, Jim Lucas, Gene Mays, Tim Merrill, Nikki Merrill, Joe Mueller, Angie Shaffer, Hailee Shaffer, Dave Straw, Bob Vetter, Joe Wirrig.

I. Call to order at 6:32 p.m.

II. Introductory comments

• **Show:** President Deb Chagares thanked everyone who worked before, during and after the Gem and Mineral show. According to Deb, this year's show was a huge success -- the best ever. The club's Facebook page is largely the reason for the huge success for an increase in the admissions. Last year admissions: 1,970 and this year's admissions 2,453, more than half the admissions stated they had heard about the show on Facebook. Thanks to Lisa Morris for the great job with the Facebook outreach.

• **New members:** Peggy and Jim Fritz were introduced. Both excited to start learning more about the club and training. Reneé Doty is another new member.

III. Old business

A. Shop reminders: Deb Chagares announced there will be a shop reminder list on the doors stating what needs to be done before closing the shop for the night. Following this list will ensure that nothing is left undone at closing.

B. Upcoming Club Clean-up Day: April 14, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Club will provide pizza and drinks.

- 1) Paint doors interior and exterior
- 2) Finish the area surrounding the air conditioner unit in the workshop
- 3) Clean the upstairs where the ceiling tiles have fallen.
- 4) Masonry work / tuck point (Scott and Mark)
- 5) Mower maintenance (Dave Straw)

There is a place on the club's web site for members to sign up.

C. Training The club has 16 new members that will need to be trained. New member training will continue to be on Tuesday evenings. Following is a list of trainers: Judy Burton, Deb Chagares, Mona Jones, Jim and Marty Lucas, John and Mary Ann Morse, Angie Shaffer.

IV. New business

A. Monthly work sessions: Suggested a work day once a month to work on things for next year's Gem and Mineral show. Instead of on an evening that members come in to the club to work on their own projects. On a Saturday 4 hours we are going to work just on show projects.

B. Check Facebook closed group for club opening and closing updates in case of a weather reason for not opening

V. Committee Reports

A. Show report:

• Jim Lucas says they need cabs and polished slabs for the silent auction next

year. He suggests that members work on a piece or two each week and not wait till the month or two before the show to get things done. Jim will pick out stone that needs cut, slabbed and polished and have it available for interested members to work on.

• Grab bags did not sale well at the show, and the board is considering not offering them next year.

• In the silent auction, we need to make sure the name of the stone is on every specimen we have laid out.

• Also have a sign-up sheet that members will give their availability to volunteer at the show. I.e. 2 hours, 4 hours or if the volunteer has limitations (due to working hours, health limitations) - list area (s) volunteer is able to work. This sign-up sheet will be available at the meetings months prior to the show.

• The club made \$1,500 on the raffle, which is the most that has ever been made. Looking for ideas for the raffle for the 2020 show.

• Looking into getting six-foot tables for the meeting room and using the eight-foot tables for the show.

B. Treasurer report: Angie Shaffer

INCOME: \$12,000 including show income

DEBIT: \$ 2,900 including show expenses and utilities

C. Maintenance Report: Scott Gibson has/is meeting with contractors to work on the different areas that are on the list for this year's maintenance/repair of the club. He has estimates for the roof repair, and repairing the floor in the meeting room.

VI. Other Business

A. New keys: Jim Lucas will be meeting with a locksmith to re-key the locks to the club, cost \$130. There will be a waiver to sign for anyone receiving a key. Along with the waiver there will be a list of responsibilities that goes along with having the key.

B. Building plan: The board is looking into a two-year plan for the building: possibly running heating ducts into the meeting room and the library, adding gravel for the parking area out front, fixing electrical problems and plumbing.

C. Upcoming shows: Troy Show: April 28-29. There is always an updated list of upcoming shows on the web site, and they are posted on the Facebook public page, as well.

VII. Motion to adjourn: Joe Wirrig made a motion to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by John LaMont. Meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

🔧 CLUB CLEAN-UP DAY, APRIL 14

Thanks to all who helped with the chores!

Judy Burton	Nikki Merrill
Deb Chagares	Tim Merrill
Jim Fritz	John Morse
Peggy Fritz	Mary Ann Morse
Scott Gibson	Joe Mueller
Erna Jacob	Matt Rudicil
Mona Jones	Angie Shaffer
Mark Lisota	Bobby Shaffer
Jim Lucas	Hailee Shaffer
Marty Lucas	Dave Straw



■ Tim Merrill and Bobby Shaffer may still be in the basement; has anyone checked? Erna Jacob, Hailee Shaffer, Mary Ann Morse and Peggy Fritz helped transform the library. Dave Straw worked on the saws and other projects.



🏆 TROY SHOW APRIL 28-29

This sparkling amethyst cathedral, straight from the Tuscon Gem Show, will be the raffle grand prize for the Miami County Gem & Mineral Club Show in Troy, Ohio, April 28-29. This cathedral from Brazil weighs approximately 50 pounds. It is over 24 inches tall and is nine inches wide.

This piece has beautiful well-defined dark crystals, some lighter purple crystals and some white calcite crystals, as well. The calcite crystals should fluoresce.

Tickets will be on sale at the show and in advance. Tickets will be six for \$5 or \$1 apiece. If you wish to purchase tickets, please see Joe Wirrig, Judy Burton or Lisa Morris.

April 28-29—TROY, OH: Annual show; Miami County Gem and Mineral Club, Miami County Fairgrounds, Duke Lundgard Building; 650 North County Road 25-A; Saturday 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Adults \$2, Seniors \$2, Students/Children free; Mineral ID, dealers, specimens, fossils, jewelry, gems, silent auctions, demonstrations, gold panning, sluicing, geode cracking, children's activities, door prizes.; contact Dewey Buck, 100 Windmere Drive, Troy, OH 45373, (937)-335-4375; e-mail: manningsrockshop@gmail.com; Web site: <https://mcgamc.org/>





APRIL 28 SALE INVITATION: WABASH, IN



Dear EIGGS Members:

I would like to extend an invitation for your club to come to our Rock sale on Saturday April 28. I know... it coincides with the Troy show, but perhaps someone would like to add some great rough material to their collection as well!

We are moving and it's time to part ways with my husband and his father's rock collection. The gathering started in the 1950s. The Turritella Agate was hand picked from the riverbed in Wyoming. The Petrified was also hand collected.

The sale runs Saturday April 28, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. Prices are very reasonable! See photos.

The address is:

3034 E State Road 524

Wabash, IN 46992

(just 2 hours from Richmond)

<http://bit.ly/cliftonrocksale>

My email address is: declimail@gmail.com

DeAnne Dragstrem Clifton



MAY 12-13 OPEN HOUSE: DOWAGIAC, MI

Hello,

I will be holding a Rock and Mineral Open House May 12 and 13 from noon till 5 p.m. It will have over 30,000 pounds of material available, including 20,000 pounds of mixed lapidary and minerals starting at \$2 per pound. There will be a lot of new and exciting things available now.

For those of you who have been to my open houses in the past, this is all new material from several recently purchased collections; you will not see any of the rocks from previous open houses. All new stock!

These new items come from several collections including the Starbucks from Vicksburg MI, Richards collection from Broken Arrow, OK, and one other collection from Elkhart, IN. Lots of goodies for the whole family!

For the first time, I will have two clearance tables; one table will be \$5-10 a specimen, the other will be the dollar table.

This open house is at a new location please note!

106 Green Street

Dowagiac MI 49047

Thank you!
Everett Harrington
Minerals Plus



Everett Harrington was our newest vendor at the Richmond Gem and Mineral show.



MAY 19 FIELD TRIP: FLINT RIDGE, OHIO

Mike Manning will lead a field trip to Flint Ridge, Ohio, Saturday, May 19. Flint Ridge is a nearly eight-mile-long vein of high-quality flint located in eastern Ohio.

If you want to go, please RSVP on the EIGGS web site <http://eiggs.weebly.com/may-19-flint-ridge-trip.html>

Mike says: To go to Flint Ridge, we will leave from the McDonalds on Rt. 202 (Huber Heights) near I-70 at 8 a.m.. If it is calling for some rain, I will still be going unless it is going to be thunderstorms all day.

We will travel to the Nether's farm. The drive time is about two hours from where we are meeting. It is just east of Columbus near Newark, Ohio. Maps can be given out the day of the trip.

The cost last year was 50 cents a pound plus a \$7 entrance fee. No minimum or maximum. You can make it in any vehicle. You just park the vehicle

and get out to collect flint.

There will be some holes open to collect in or good flint can be picked up anywhere in the property. It is easy collecting unless you want to get in the holes and dig on one of the flint ledges. You won't go home empty-handed.

Wear long pants and sturdy shoes. Also, gloves are a must since the flint is sharp. If you have a rock hammer, you can bring it to chip the flint. Some people bring more heavy equipment if they plan to attack the ledge (ie. sledge hammers, chisels, shovel, pry bar etc.), but this is not necessary.

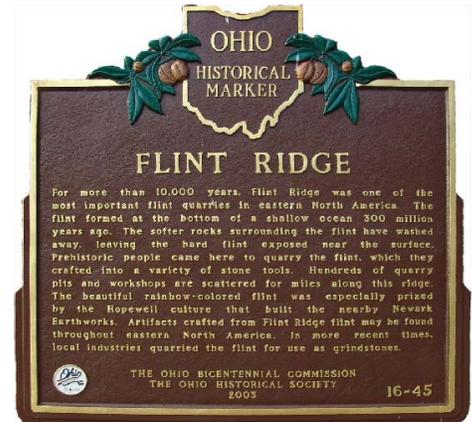
If you plan to chip the flint, **MAKE SURE TO BRING AND WEAR SAFETY GLASSES OR GOGGLES.** I will have extra hammers with me you can use, but I do not furnish goggles. Bring a bucket or pack to put your treasures in. Some people like to wrap their good crystals in newspaper or paper towels.

Bring water to drink and a sack lunch. If we have enough people going, we can set up a table and

have a shared lunch.

You can leave any time you feel like it. Once you find out how to get there, you can figure out how to return back to the interstate. There is a porta-potty on the premises.

If you have further questions, you can call me 937-681-0264 (cell) 937-552-4705 (home)



JUNE 22 OR 23 FIELD TRIP: BLUESPRING CAVERNS

It isn't every day that you can explore both a cavern AND a rock show in the same day. A trip to the Bedford, Indiana, gem and mineral show June 22-24 would give you the chance to do just that since Bedford is also the home of Bluespring Caverns.

Bluespring Caverns contains 21 miles (34 km) of surveyed passages. It has the longest known subterranean river in the United States with approximately three miles (4.8 km) of navigable river.

Visitors can take a one-hour river cruise through the cave where they will observe rock formations and the wildlife, including the rare sightless Northern Cavefish, which is abundant in this cave system.

The cave and adjacent museum are open daily from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and tours run nearly every hour. Ticket prices are regularly \$18 for adults and \$10 for children ages 3-18. Children under age 3 are free. Groups of 12 or more can take advantage of a group rate with \$14 adult tickets and \$8 children's tickets.

If a group from the club wants to go, we could arrange carpools and book a group tour. If interested, RSVP at <http://eiggs.weebly.com/june-22-bluespring-caverns.html>

There is a somewhat steep 400' walk both into and out of the cave. The temperature in the cave is 52 degrees, so a jacket is recommended.

According to Wikipedia, "The cave system was discovered as early as the 19th century. Up until 1913, the entrance used was the exodus of a spring which drained into the White River. However, a dam completed in 1913 on the White River closed off this entrance. In 1940, a second entrance was created after a severe storm passed through the area. A small pond on the farm of George Colglazier vanished overnight, becoming a sinkhole, and the present



Visitors enjoy a boat tour through Bluespring Caverns. <http://www.indianacavetrail.com>

day entrance into the cave system.

Soon word of the new opening to Bluespring Caverns spread and the Colglazier family welcomed visitors from around the world as people descended on the small farm to explore the caverns.

The cave was formed in two types of limestone, Indiana and St. Louis, separated by a thin layer of shale.

Bluespring Caverns is one of four 'show caves' in Indiana. The other three are Marengo Cave, Wyandotte Caves, and Squire Boone Caverns."



ISHPEMING, MI TRIP IN PLANNING STAGES



■ By Chad Knutsen - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=58527497>

The Miami County Rock & Gem Club (Troy club) is planning another field trip to the Ishpeming Show in Michigan to collect Kona dolomite, specular hematite, and jaspilite, and our club is invited. This is in conjunction with the Ishpeming Rock and Mineral Club show on August 4.

On Friday, Aug. 3 there is a trip planned to the Republic Mine and surrounding area where one can find beryl, red jasper, tourmaline, iron ore, hematite, jaspilite and specular hematite.

Sunday, Aug. 5 there is a trip planned to the Lindberg Quarry, where the primary find will be kona dolomite. Monday, Aug. 6 a tentative trip is planned to the Gold Mine.

If you are interested, please sign up for more information at <http://eiggs.weebly.com/aug-ishpeming-mi-trip.html>

For more information on rockhounding in the area, check <http://www.exploringthenorth.com/rocks/east.html> for a great list of collection sites.

Aug. 4—ISHPEMING, MI: Ishpeming Rock & Mineral Club, Ishpeming Elks Club; 597 Lake Shore Dr. Saturday 9:30-4:30. Free admission. There will be a kids' area, silent auction, hourly prizes, raffle, demonstrations. Web site: www.ishpemingrocks.org



TENTATIVE HERKIMER, NY TRIP PLANNED

Sometime in July, members of the Miami County Gem and Mineral Club hope to go to Herkimer, NY, to dig for Herkimer diamonds, and EIGGS members are invited along. This trip is still in the tentative planning stages, but if you are interested, please follow this link to add your name to the list so you will receive updates on the trip. <http://eiggs.weebly.com/july-herkimer-ny-trip.html>

from Wikipedia

Herkimer diamonds are not actually diamonds, but are double-terminated quartz crystals discovered within exposed outcrops of dolostone in and around Herkimer County, New York and the Mohawk River Valley.

The "diamond" in their name is due to both their clarity and natural faceting - crystals possess double termination points and 18 total faces (six on each point, six around the center). Double-point quartz crystals may be found in sites around the world, but only those mined in Herkimer County can be given this name.



Geologists discovered exposed dolostone in Herkimer County outcroppings and began mining there, leading to the "Herkimer diamond" moniker. Herkimer diamonds became widely recognized after workmen discovered them in large quantities while cutting into the Mohawk River Valley dolostone in the late 18th century. Because the first discovery sites were in the village of Middleville and in the city of Little Falls, respectively, the crystal is also known as a Middleville diamond or a Little Falls diamond.

The geologic history of these crystals began about 500 million years ago in a shallow sea which was receiving sediments from the ancient Adirondak Mountains to the north. The calcium and magnesium carbonate sediments accumulated and lithified to form the dolostone bedrock exposed as the Little Falls Dolostone today.

While buried, cavities were formed by acidic waters forming the vugs in which



■ By Rob Lavinsky, iRocks.com – CC-BY-SA-3.0, CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=10153384> & https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Herkimer_diamond#/media/File:Quartz-210874.jpg

the quartz crystals formed. While the dolostone unit is Cambrian in age, the quartz within the vugs seems to have formed during the Carboniferous Period. Waxy organic material, silicon dioxide and pyrite (iron sulfide) was present as minor constituents of rock made of dolomite and calcite.

As sediment buried the rock and temperatures rose, crystals grew in the cavities very slowly, resulting in quartz crystals of exceptional clarity. Inclusions can be found in these crystals that provide clues to the origins of the Herkimer diamonds. Found within the inclusions are solids, liquids (salt water or petroleum), gases (most often carbon dioxide), two- and three-phase inclusions, and negative (uniaxial) crystals. Anthraconite is the most common solid inclusion.

For more information on how to collect Herkimer diamonds, check out the following link: <https://geology.com/articles/herkimer-diamonds.shtml>



2017 ISHPEMING, MICHIGAN TRIP REVIEW

by Mike Manning

Last August, I took my grandson and we headed up to the upper peninsula and the Ishpeming, Michigan show. It is a shame that more members could not make this show and field trips since it was very enjoyable.

We got there a few days before the show and spent some time looking for red jasper in hematite on some iron mine spoil piles. We also went to see "Jasper Knob," which is an area that has beautiful banded jasper and hematite.

On Friday, we arrived at our field trip meeting place to go to the Champion Iron Mine. We met about 9:30 and traveled in a convoy of about 25 cars to the closed mine. We signed our waiver forms and paid our \$10.

The leader led to us to two separate spoil piles to look for hematite and some banded jasper. It was easy to get all you needed in a short time. I brought back some great garden rocks for Mary's flower garden. When the sun comes out, they sparkle like a silver lode. One beautiful boulder I wanted to take home weighed about two tons (It stayed at the mine!!!) I did dig up a beautiful 300 pound piece, which because of my back, I decided to leave, but a group of individuals decided to take anyway.

My grandson, Spencer, enjoyed the trip and really liked picking up the taconite pellets on the spoil piles. These brown iron balls were partly-processed and made it easier to move the iron ore to the smelters. After about five hours of collecting, we decided we had all we wanted and headed back into town.

The next morning (Saturday), we went to the Ishpeming Show to look at the wares about 30 vendors had to sell. Besides plenty of beautiful copper, there were other minerals, slabs and fossils. There was one dealer from whom I bought a few Lake Superior agates.

After the show, we had most of the rest of the day open so we decided to drive up to upper most peninsula and stopped at a old copper mine -- The Quincy Mine -- and took a great tour into the buildings and down into the mine to see how the



Last year Mike Manning and his grandson Spencer traveled to Ishpeming, Michigan to collect some Michigan minerals. They plan to make the trip again this year.



copper was mined. It was very interesting and very fascinating to see how and where the copper was mined. The mine was on the fourth level of over 20 some levels. The levels below us were now filled with water.

Seeing how the copper was mined gave me new respect for the strength and stamina these miners went through to make a living for their families. Many lost their lives due to harsh conditions and accidents.

On Sunday at noon we went with the club to the Kona Dolomite Mine to collect some Kona Dolomite. Again we signed the waivers and paid our \$10. As before, the club members running the field trips were very helpful and there was plenty of dolomite to go around. Although it is soft (about 4 in hardness), it can be made into bookends, cabs and polished pieces. While on these field trips we ran into rock hound friends from Michigan and Cincinnati, Ohio.

The next day, we headed home by way of the Gem Shop in Cedarburg, WI, to look at their rough, and to pick up some 2018 agate and jasper calendars. The next day two tired rockhounds made it home and proceeded to unpack rock goodies.

My grandson's comments were: "I can't wait to go next year!" I agree with him!



Michigan Copper nugget found by members of the Central Michigan Lapidary & Mineral Society.



Jaspelite, or "banded iron," is a combination of jasper and hematite. It can be collected at Jasper Knob in Ishpeming, MI.



Pink patterned Kona dolomite can also be found in the Ishpeming, Michigan, area.

AFMS PRESIDENT ENCOURAGES MEMBERS TO VOLUNTEER

by Sandy Fuller, President, American Federation of Mineral Societies

Have you thanked a volunteer today? Each year, in mid-April, Americans and Canadians take time out of their busy schedules to recognize the tremendous contributions many by millions of volunteers from all walks of life and fields of interest.



In our clubs, volunteers are essential to each and every club. From officers to greeters, and all the other tasks, large and small, volunteers create a sense of community and caring.

In a healthy club, 100% of the members are also club volunteers. They help at club meetings and events by welcoming new and old, sharing skills, leading activities and providing critical behind the scenes support with newsletters, web sites, shop maintenance and the myriad of tasks essential for group success.

Volunteering is rewarding. Research shows that volunteers are happier and healthier. In fact, the more a person volunteers the happier they are. In addition, skills developed through volunteering often help advance careers.

Finally, volunteering is a great way to get to know people. Within our clubs we have people from all walks of life. Bound by our common passion, the camaraderie developed as we work together often transcends any differences and helps to build long lasting friendships. It's a win-win for everybody.

So, take time today to thank a volunteer and join them in helping to make your club better. Your own well-being depends on it.

For more information on the benefits of volunteering, check out this article: <https://www.helpguide.org/articles/healthy-living/volunteering-and-its-surprising-benefits.htm>



MFW PRESIDENT EXPLAINS MWF INSURANCE

by David Root, MWF President

We will start off this month's festivities with a message from the MWF Webmaster: "When you send in date change/correction requests please include what month or state you are talking about. It makes things so much easier. Thank you."



Our MWF insurance has played a prominent role in my 2018 so far, and I've become aware that there is some confusion and misinformation out there. So I am going to bravely attempt to clear some of it up.

The reason we need insurance is because the owners of field trip properties and show venues would be unlikely to allow us to use their facilities unless they knew we had insurance to protect them from potential liability. Of course individual clubs could purchase their own insurance, but I doubt they could get better rates than what the buying power of 108 clubs affords the MWF.

And in case you wondered, a 501(c) organization can be sued, and it is possible that the officers of that organization could also be held liable. This is unlikely as long as those officers act as a reasonably prudent person acting in good faith would, following normal and usual practices. If a club failed to have insurance, it would be easy for a lawyer to argue that the board had failed to act in a "reasonably prudent" fashion, and individual board members could be included as defendants in the case.

Clubs are distinct in the types of events they offer, the rules they

follow and their level of participation. With 108 clubs to deal with, it would be a logistical nightmare to try to come up with individualized pricing for every club based on its unique situation. As with all insurance, the greater the risk potential, the greater the cost. So logically the more people there are in a club, the more people are likely to attend an event and the greater the potential risk.

This is the basis of our pricing model, a fixed per-person rate times the number of members in that club. It doesn't matter if a person is a member of more than one club. They're a full-fledged member of both clubs with all the rights and privileges afforded a member, so they should be counted as such.

Our insurance basically protects the club from the costs of damages caused by a member or person acting on behalf of the club (i.e. a vendor at a clubsponsored show). Here are some examples: (a) On a field trip at a quarry a club member hurts himself, hires a lawyer and sues the quarry. Our insurance would protect the quarry owner. (b) At a show a guest trips over an extension cord and is injured. Our insurance would cover that. (c) At a show held in a gym some water was spilled on the floor and one of the vendors, fearing someone would slip, threw a rubber mat over it. The floor warped and needed to be replaced. Our insurance paid all costs.

The insurance does not provide personal injury coverage to club members. Their personal insurance would be responsible for that. This subject is too complicated to be fully explained in this little message, but hopefully I cleared stuff up a little.





ON THE ROAD: FEDERATION CRAFT WORKSHOPS

by Steve Weinberger, EFMLS News --March, 2018

The Eastern Federation is most fortunate to be able to sponsor two annual week-long workshops at the fabulous Wildacres Retreat in Little Switzerland, North Carolina. If you've not yet attended one of these terrific sessions, what are you waiting for?

Each workshop features a guest speaker (Speaker-in-Residence) who lives with the group and presents six informative talks during the week. In addition, each session features a variety of classes that you take -- jewelry fabrication, faceting, wire-wrapping, beading -- to name just a few. A complete list of offerings can be found online. The registration form is there, too. <http://efmls-wildacres.org>

For the spring session, May 21-27, we have the vivacious and talented Helen Serras-Herman. Helen will share her passion for jewelry fabrication, gemstone carving and travel with us. In fall, Alfredo Petrov, noted mineral dealer and collector will be making a return visit. The mineral "alfredopetrovite" was named after him. The fall session runs from Sept. 3-9.

A bit about the Wildacres Workshops and Retreat... Located just off the Blue Ridge Parkway, about an hour north of Asheville, the Wildacres Retreat nestles on top of its own mountain called Pompey's Knob. The Retreat facility consists of two lodges each featuring a series of comfortable, semi-private bedrooms with their own bathroom.

Well-equipped classrooms are scattered throughout the campus, many equipped with specialized equipment such as capping and faceting machines, jewelry making equipment, etc.

Meals are included are served family style in a separate dining



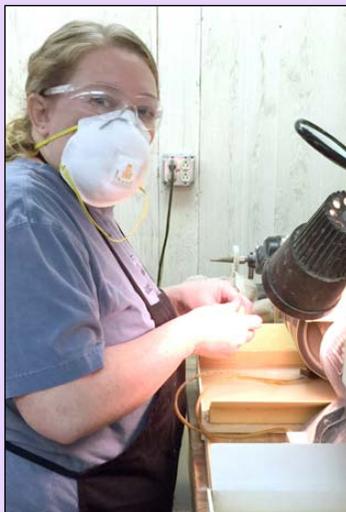
Janice Wald Freidman, <https://www.flickr.com/photos/wildacresretreat/16580837878/>

hall. All of your expenses, except materials for your classes and items you may wish to purchase in the canteen or at the annual auction, are included with your tuition. For 2018, tuition is \$425.00 per person.

What are YOU waiting for?

Classes are kept small and are assigned, based on your preferences, on a first come-first-filled basis, so we encourage you to register early to ensure your first choice. Some classes do fill rapidly, so please indicate four choices per semester so you won't be disappointed.

What are YOU waiting for?



Angie Shaffer

REMINDER: LAPIDARY LAB USAGE & HOURS

To use equipment you are required to attend at least SIX regular club meetings a year.

Participants must be trained in proper equipment usage & re-certified when required.

There is a \$2 fee per lab session for equipment usage & maintenance.

Please remember to use the sign-in book.

Tuesdays 6-8 p.m.

Tuesday is the weekly training lab -- perfect for beginners and those with intermediate skill levels since there are experts on hand to help teach basic and advanced skills.

Thursdays 6-8 p.m.

For those who have satisfactorily completed their 3-cab training, the lab is usually open on Thursdays. Call or text Mona Jones in advance to be sure someone will be there. Her number is 765-220-5712.

Sundays 6-9 p.m.

For those who have satisfactorily completed their 3-cab training, the lab is usually open on Sundays. Call or text Missy Killion in advance to be sure someone will be there. Her number is 765-960-7635.

UPCOMING SHOWS

State & Regional <http://eiggs.weebly.com/other-upcoming-shows.html>

National <http://www.rockngem.com/ShowDatesFiles/ShowDatesDisplayAll.php?ShowState=ALL>

April 24-26—IRVINE, KY: Annual show; Mountain Mushroom Festival, Estell County School's Central Office; 253 Main Street, (Parking lot in the rear of building); Tue. 9-4, Wed. 9-4, Thu. 9-4; Admission \$10; All day Kentucky agate hunt. Easy or rough terrain trips each day.; contact Francine Bonny, Irvine City Hall, 101 Chestnut Street, Irvine, KY 40336, (606)-723-1233; e-mail: mushroomfestival@irvineonline.com; Web site: www.mountainmushroomfestival.org

April 27-29—IRVINE, KY: Annual show; Mountain Mushroom Festival, Estell County School's Central Office - Gym; 253 Main Street; Fri. 9-6, Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5; Free Admission; Agates, gems, rocks, fossils, minerals, wire wrap, wire sculpture, tool dealers & demonstrations.; contact Francine Bonny, Irvine City Hall, 101 Chestnut Street, Irvine, KY 40336, (606)-723-1233; e-mail: mushroomfestival@irvineonline.com; Web site: www.mountainmushroomfestival.org

April 28-29—TROY, OH: Annual show; Miami County Gem and Mineral Club (Formerly Brukner Gem and Mineral Club), Miami County Fairgrounds, Duke Lundgard Building; 650 North County Road 25-A; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; Adults \$2, Seniors \$2, Students/Children free admission; Mineral identification, dealers, specimens, fossils, jewelry, gems, silent auctions, demonstrations, gold panning, sluicing, geode cracking, children's activities, door prizes.; contact Dewey Buck, 100 Windmere Drive, Troy, OH 45373, (937)-335-4375; e-mail: manningsrockshop@gmail.com; Web site: <https://mcgmc.org/>

April 28-29—CUYAHOGA FALLS, OH: Show and sale; Akron Mineral Society and Summit Lapidary Club, Emidio & Sons Expo Center; 48 E Bath Rd; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; Adults \$5, Seniors \$4, Students \$4, Children \$1; Vendors, Silent Auction, demonstrations, gemstone ID, Fluorescent Minerals, Geode Cracking, Gem mine and crafts for children, Many displays, some are by our "GeoJunior" students, door prizes. handicap accessible and free parking.; contact Evelyn Tryon, Dealer Chair, 2028 Tallmadge Rd, Kent, OH 44240, (330)-673-9664; e-mail: gemboree76@gmail.com; Web site: gemboree.org

May 5-6—CINCINNATI, OH: Annual show; Cincinnati Mineral Society and Cincinnati Dry Dredgers, Sharonville Convention Center; 11355 Chester Road; Sat. 10-7, Sun. 11-5; Adults \$9; contact Terry Huizing, 5341 Thrasher Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45247, (513)-574-7142; e-mail: tehuizing@fuse.net; Web site: www.geofair.com

May 4-6—KALAMAZOO, MI: Annual show; Kalamazoo Geological and Mineral Society, Kalamazoo County Expo Center; 2900 Lake Street; Fri. 4-8, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; Adults \$4, Children 12 and under free; Occupying 20,000 sq. ft. of show space the show is a fun filled event for the whole family. Explore and discover the world of rocks, minerals, meteorites and fossils; pan for gold, learn about silver smithing, lapidary, faceting, play a game, polish a Petoskey stone, crack open a geode; all this and more can be done at the Show. Learn about geology through the many KGMS members' displays; hands on educational activities provided by Western Michigan University. This year's theme, GemStones A-Z. Breakaway from the stereotypes and discover just what types of "gemstones" tickle your fancy!; contact Jerry VanNocker, (269)-979-3348; e-mail: jervannocker@comcast.net; Web site: KalamazooRockClub.org

May 10-13—FRANKLIN, NC: Annual show; Bellpoint Promotions, Echo Valley Showplace; 6456 Sylva Rd. (across fr GLW); Thu. 9-6, Fri. 9-6, Sat. 9-6, Sun. 9-5; Free Admission; Wholesale & Retail dealers from all over the world selling minerals, fossils, gem, rough rock & beads; open to the public; across the street from GLW show.; contact Damian Belgali, (678)-852-8273; e-mail: mbellpoint@gmail.com; Web site: bellpointpromotions.com

May 12—BIGLERVILLE, PA: Show and sale; Central Penn and Franklin County Rock & Mineral Clubs, South Mountain Fairgrounds; 615 Narrows Road; Sat. 8-3; Adults/Seniors \$1, Students/Children free; 33rd annual event for viewing, buying, trading and conversation of all things rocks. Held in rustic pavilion under trees. Food stand available; contact Tom Smith; e-mail: tsmith1012@comcast.net

May 12—FAIRLESS HILLS, PA: Annual show; The Rock & Mineral Club of Lower Bucks County, Inc., Christ United Methodist Church; 501 Wistar Road; Sat. 9-3; Admission \$2, Children free; The Earth Science Show & Sale, Presented by The Rock & Mineral Club of Lower Bucks County, PA. located at the Christ United Methodist Church, 501 Wistar Road, Fairless Hills, PA; 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM; Rocks, Minerals, Fossils, Lapidary Arts, Jewelry & All Things Related to the Earth Sciences.; contact Brian Schwab, 539 Sycamore Ave., Croydon, PA 19021, (215)-788-3993; e-mail: holschw2@aol.com; Web site: rockandmineralclub.wix.com/lowerbuckscountypa

MOWING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED *Please don't make us buy a cow!*

Like to work outdoors? Want to help out your rock club?

Now that "spring has sprung," we will soon need a volunteer (or a few volunteers? or a goat?) to mow the yard at the clubhouse.

The club has a nice riding mower for you to use, and you will be reimbursed for any gas you put in the mower.

Depending on the weather conditions, once the grass starts growing, it should be mowed once a week.

We will post a monthly sign-up list to help distribute the workload. If you like to "weed whack," your services would be helpful, too!

If you would like to help out with these yard chores, please contact Dave Straw and he will show you the mower, property lines, and everything else you need to know. dstraw314@gmail.com or 765-966-4249.

Rock Pickings: April 2018



**35th ANNUAL
MIAMI COUNTY GEM, MINERAL,
FOSSIL AND JEWELRY SHOW
TROY, OHIO**



**MIAMI COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
DUKE LUNDGARD BUILDING**

North End – Heated & Air Conditioned
COUNTY ROAD 25-A • TROY, OHIO

SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 2018

10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, APRIL 29, 2018

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

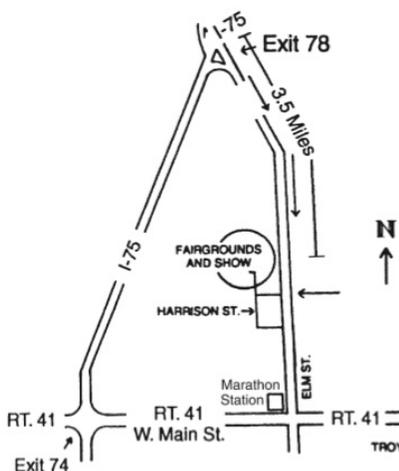
**FREE
DOOR
PRIZES**

Admission: Adults \$2.00 ~ Children Free ~ Free Parking

**FOOD
AVAILABLE**

**FREE ROCK
TO EACH
CHILD**

*Mineral Identification
by Club Members and Gary
Getz, an Ohio
Geological Consultant*



**See Gems in the
Making
Specimens - Gems
Jewelry - Rough Stone
Demonstrations -
Displays
Silent Auction
Dealers
Raffles**

Children's Activities: Wheel of Fortune - Grab Bags - Sluice - Mystery Rock

North Recommended Route: I-75 to exit 78 south on County Rd. 25-A to Fairgrounds - North Entrance

Alternate Route from Troy: South exit 74 to Rt. 41 to Elm Street to Fairgrounds to North Entrance

Show Chairman: Dewey Buck, 937-308-3012 Vendor Info: Mike Manning, 937-552-4705

11TH ANNUAL KENTUCKY AGATE, GEM, MINERAL & FOSSIL SHOW

28th Annual Mountain Mushroom Festival



April 27-30, 2018
253 Main Street, Irvine, KY

Hours: Friday, April 27 - 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday, April 28 - 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Sunday, April 29 - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Free Admission!

Large Display of Kentucky Agate
Mineral Specimen Sales
Fossil and Agate Sales
Jewelry Sales

**Join us April 24, 25, and 26 for the annual Kentucky Agate
Hunt for Rockhounds. Registration is required.**

The Mountain Mushroom Festival is April 28-29th.
For more information, including all festival events,
check the festival website:

<http://mountainmushroomfestival.org/>



GeoFair 2018

Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Show of Greater Cincinnati

www.geofair.com



Saturday May 5, 10 am - 6 pm

Sunday May 6, 11 am - 5 pm

Sharonville Convention Center

11355 Chester Road

Sharonville, OH 45246

**\$9/adult; \$3/child; uniformed scouts free;
teachers (with ID) free with paying adult**

FREE PARKING!!!

Print this Page to Get \$2 off one adult admission at the Door

2018 Flint Ridge Knap-In Schedule

Spring Knap-in Dates

Friday, May 25th 9 - 5
Saturday, May 26 9 - 5
Sunday, May 27 9 - 2

Fall Knap-in Dates

Friday, Aug 31st 9 - 5
Saturday, Sept 1st 9 - 5
Sunday, Sept 2nd 9 - 2

Everyone is Invited!

Come and join us for a fun and educational weekend. Witness craftsmen and artisans demonstrate how to make arrowheads, spears, stone tools, bows, atl-atls, stone pipes, cordage as well as other items from hide and bone. Take a nature walk through the woods on the park trails and see the remains of the ancient quarry pits left behind by the native people. Then take a tour of the museum to learn about the history and geology of Flint Ridge.

Phil Love Carl Smith Glenn Withey Roy Miller
419-632-1274 330-340-4681 330-329-7501 330-473-7041

info@roymillerflintridge.com

Held at the
Flint Ridge Ancient Quarries
& Nature Preserve
7091 Brownsville Rd
Glenford, OH 43739

Vendor's Space &
Setup Fee \$25
Event Camping \$25
1 Night Camping \$10

Admission is \$5.00
per vehicle which
includes free
Museum Admission

Hosted by: The Flint Ridge Lithic Society in conjunction with the Licking Valley Heritage Society.