

EFMLS NEWS

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



Volume 67, Number 6
April 2020

2020 EFMLS CONVENTION POSTPONED

As announced earlier this month, the 2020 EFMLS Convention scheduled for March 27-30, 2020 has been postponed until October 23-25, 2020. Due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) the Catawba Valley Gem and Mineral Club voted to postpone their show to October 23-25. Since the Catawba Valley Club was voted as the EFMLS convention site for 2020, the EFMLS convention was also postponed until then. More information on the details of the October convention will be forthcoming in the months to come in *EFMLS News* and on the EFMLS.org website.

WILDACRES SPRING SESSION UPDATE

From Steve Weinberger, Chair, Wildacres Workshop Committee

I spoke with the head of the Wildacres Foundation and he explained that the facility will be closed all of April due to the coronavirus. He will make a decision in April as to whether or not to also close in May.

If it has to be closed, it will be in plenty of time to notify all registrants and refund fees. If Wildacres would be open, but we all feel that it would not be safe, again, this will be in sufficient time to let everyone know.

Let's hope that we all stay well and can keep working on our hobbies at home.

EFMLS MEMBERSHIP CARDS DELAYED

Supplies Committee Chairman, Alan Holmes, is receiving a lot of requests for the EFMLS membership cards and wants to assure you that "EFMLS is in the process of ordering new membership cards and as soon as they have been printed, they will be sent out."

APPRECIATION, THANKS AND GRATITUDE

Our gratitude, thanks and appreciation to all our first responders, medical personnel, truckers, grocery and pharmacy workers, and all who are risking their lives for us, many who belong to our clubs. Their dedication is praise worthy.

Communications and involvement are our keys to success.

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August. Non-commercial reprint permission is granted unless otherwise reserved.

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

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

The COVID-19 (Coronavirus) is highly contagious, and we hope that all of you are taking the proper precautions to keep safe and healthy – social distance, regularly washing hands, etc. (See Safety Matters article on page 4.) The following quote, author unknown, is also appropriate:

“Also, Highly Contagious is – Kindness, patience, love, enthusiasm and a positive attitude. Don’t wait to catch it from others, be the carrier.”

A MESSAGE FROM ALAA

March 24, 2020 – We, at ALAA, want to extend our sincere concern for all of you all over these United States. It’s been troubling times for all of us. This global corona virus pandemic is affecting all of our families, our businesses, our communities, even our way of life. We urge you to take precautions for your safety and health and that of your families. We are strong, we are Americans and we have been through trying times in the past. Nothing will keep us down.

Let’s all hope and pray that this curse will come to an end soon and we can get back to what recreational rockhounds do best – Collect Rocks.

So, Rock ON!
Association

Shirley Leeson, the Officers and Directors of American Lands Access

EDITORS CORNER

BEAC RULE CHANGE

Editors are our clubs’ communicators. They are doing a phenomenal job of keeping their clubs’ memberships informed. With so many cancellations and postponements due to the coronavirus, it is not an easy task to

keep up with all the changes. With social distancing and limited numbers of people who can congregate, we hope that this pandemic will end sooner rather than later. We sincerely thank and appreciate all editors hard work in getting messages and news out there despite the obstacles that are being put in their paths.

Many clubs are attaching the web address for the *EFMLS News* and the *AFMS Newsletter* along with their e-mails attaching their newsletter. This brought up the question of duplication. If you copy an article from either of these publications or mention information from them, it counts on your BEAC Bulletin Contest score sheet as having fulfilled the requirement of news of EFMLS or AFMS. However, if you do send the whole newsletters separately, it does not count toward fulfilling this requirement and, if you have no other information on EFMLS nor AFMS, major points are deducted from your score.

The Bulletin Editors Advisory Committee discussed this duplication and felt if an editor is sending out the *EFMLS News* and/or the *AFMS Newsletter*, they ARE informing their membership of news from EFMLS and/or AFMS and, therefore, are fulfilling this requirement. This conclusion presented another problem. The Committee also recognized that the judges have no way of knowing that you have attached them in your e-mail. The solution is for you to state somewhere in your newsletter that you are separately attaching *EFMLS News* and/or *AFMS Newsletter* with your bulletin e-mail. If you do, you will automatically receive the point credits for fulfilling the requirement of news of EFMLS and/or AFMS. Note, this does not mean that you cannot have separate articles regarding EFMLS nor AFMS and get credit for them.

If you have any questions or concerns about this change, we would like to hear from you. Also, if you are not already doing so, please put the BEAC chair on your newsletter exchange mailing list. All bulletins received are read. Thank you to all who already send them.

Mary Bateman, BEAC Chairman, mbateman1@verizon.net

CLUB ROCKHOUND OF THE YEAR (ACROY) SUPPORTING QUICKLY

Some extraordinary club members support their clubs quickly -- they see something that needs to be done and don't wait for permission, they just step in and do what needs to be done -- immediately.

This message is dedicated to those who, in this time of the COVID-19 virus contagion, act quickly. Many club members don't do just rocks. They volunteer here and there, support this or that activity, or join in on one good cause or another. They support not just their rock club but humanity in general and special needs, too, with one kindness after another. Please don't discount support being just one smile, one effort at a time.

To those dedicated and quick-acting people we offer our thanks. Your work is appreciated and so is your kindnesses.

Many praise-worthy folks hardly ever make noise. They seem to mostly escape all notice whatsoever. While they may not seek praise or congratulations, they certainly deserve it. So, how about making a little noise and offer your club thank you for your deserving members.

That's where we come in. 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

announcement we offer is 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 description of your honoree's effort, their name, the name of their club, and the name of the submitter. Then send the information to me to do the rest. My contact information is at the end of this article.

There are a few rules we need to follow:

The club may only submit one honoree for their Club Rockhound of the Year (or two names in the event of a couple) per year. 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
rocknellery@fairpoint.com, P.O. Box 47, Waterville, ME 04309-0047

SAFETY MATTERS

COVID-19

Pulling together to accomplish club goals is what we do -- shows, field trips, educational programs and all manner of activities require a good deal of preparatory effort. A new common activity now faces us, and our fellow club members. With a twister, we head to the shelter before it's in our neighborhood. With a flood, we head to high ground before the roads are inundated. In this instance there is a virus for which we need to prepare well before it is in our community or our town.

The problems associated with this virus, Covid-19, are nationwide, worldwide. As responsible rock people and club members we should consider being a part of the solution rather than the problem. We do, after all, think of ourselves as leaders. It's what we do.

Vast quantities of information bits are circulating in the various media concerning the Covid-19 contagion. Some of the information is sound, some borders on rumor. Because the facts are still coming in, it is urged that one have the most accurate information to be safe and act safely. Reputable and trusted sources for Covid-19 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 have the most current advice.

Here is the not-so-short list of activities and means to be safe as of this writing:

- Check with reputable sources to stay informed
- Watch for symptoms - dry cough, fever, chest pains (respiratory distress) and shortness of breath. Additional reported and beginning signs can include loss of sense of smell and gastro- intestinal unease.
- As the community itself is part of the risk, and indeed Covid-19 infected folks may, in the early stages, not realize they have the virus until symptoms show up. It is wise to exercise all pertinent cautions.

- If one experiences the symptoms or suspects they may have been in contact with the virus, contact your health care provider, clinic, or hospital to let them know your concerns. They may suggest visiting the facility or some other course of action. By contacting the health care provider first it gives them a heads-up of your situation so they can make preparations if a visit is warranted. Notification is a wise precaution because one would not want to spread virus to others unintentionally, especially in any doctor's office or health care facility where patients may already have compromised health.
- As Covid-19 transmission appears to be primarily via lung exhalation, it is wise to maintain a social and physical distance from others. Six feet is a recommended minimum with 10 feet a suggested preference
- Many recommendations exist to avoid gatherings of people. Recommendations have decreased from gatherings of 250 people, to 100, to 50 to 10 to now as few as two. Common sense should be used in abundance.
- In certain instances a suitable face mask is suggested. A well fitted N-95 mask appears to work well with restricting transmission. Note - the words "well fitted." Beards impair a good fit. Surgical masks appear to be less effective.
- In certain instances gloves are suggested.
- Though respiration is thought to be the primary means of transmission, it is wise to keep from using hands to rub your face, especially eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Though older people appear to suffer the worst effects of the virus, anyone, that's anyone, can suffer serious results from the infection. Compromised immune and respiratory systems are particularly vulnerable, although, apparently-healthy people may also suffer serious consequences. The latest mortality rate is between 5 times and 25 times the average flu. This is serious.
- As of this writing there is no known anti-virus for Covid-19. Estimates run from late fall 2020 to summer of 2021 for a reliable, effective and available anti-virus drug (the later estimate is from the CDC).
- If uncertain of infection, get tested. But be aware, if one is exposed, it may take a few to several days for the virus to replicate sufficiently for the test to detect the presence of the virus.
- Doctors suggest the usual precautions of good diet, sufficient sleep, exercise periodically, get a flu shot. In addition, common sense should prevail.
- Frequently wash hands for 20 seconds with soap and flowing water. This helps keep the virus from eyes, nose and mouth by casual or intentional touch by hands. If hand washing for 20 seconds is not available, cleansing with a hand sanitizer having a high alcohol content is recommended.
- Use ample common sense. The stores will not run out of it.

Please remain vigilant and reasonable about being safe -- because your safety matters. We are sure, as a responsible rockhound, one would not want to bring a virus back to one's home nor family, nor bring it from one's family to another family. Please be safe.

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

Ellery Borow, EFMLS/AFMS Safety Chairman

CLUB SPOTLIGHT OF THE MONTH

MICROMOUNTERS OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA

Historically speaking, Dr. Paul Desautels, curator of the Smithsonian's Gem and Mineral collection gave a class on crystallography at the Mineralogical Society of the District of Columbia mineral club in 1966. He advised attendees to form their own micromineral study group while identifying minerals using a microscope. In 1967 the Micromineralogists

of the National Capital Area micromineral club was formed in Washington DC. Meetings were originally held in members' homes to study crystal systems, classifications, minerals, etc. Today they meet in a local nature center in Arlington, VA with microscopes for monthly meetings. They usually have a short educational program, allowing for more time to view and exchange microminerals. Members enjoy finding rare crystals in micromineral form. They basically photograph minerals using a microscope or bellows, because microminerals require ten power or greater magnification for identification. One club member photographs snowflakes outdoors each time it snows.

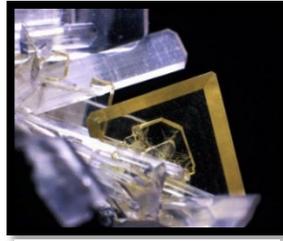
Each spring the club holds its Atlantic Micromounters' Conference for a weekend consisting of a keynote speaker, auctions, micromineral dealers, and geology fellowship. Each year, for community awareness, they demonstrate their hobby at two local mineral shows. Members bring their microscopes and invite guests to view microminerals. They introduce the use of a microscope to many children, while encouraging an interest in geology aligning with STEM. Their monthly newsletter is called The Mineral Mite. Their club website is www.dcmicrominerals.org. It contains a club history as well as many photomicrographs of rare and unusual microminerals. Newsletters are archived, along with a 50th Anniversary feature.



Wavellite
David Fryauff



Snow Crystals
Kathy Hrechka



Wulfenite, Hemimorphite
Michael Pabst



Pyrophanite
Robert Rothenberg



Atlantic Micromounters' Conference in Alexandria, Virginia

Kathy Hrechka, Editor, Micromounters of the National Capital Area



Club Meeting

Kathy Hrechka, Editor, Micromounters of the National Capitol Area



MERRILL E. DICKINSON, SR. (1934-2020) Philadelphia Mineral Society, Tuscarora Lapidary Society, Berks Mineral Society and former EFMLS President (2014-2015, resigned September 21, 2015). Merrill is also

remembered for his years of organizing field trips at Wildacres workshops. He had a private collection of rocks, minerals, gems and fossils from his local area in southeast Pennsylvania. He was generous with sharing his collectings with others. His love of the hobby led him to gem faceting and jewelry making. Merrill shared his love of being a rockhound with members of his clubs, presentations to elementary school children, at senior centers, and with the local media.

A.F.M.S. NEWSLETTER

The April 2020 A.F.M.S. Newsletter is now available on the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies website at http://www.amfed.org/news/n2020_04.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.

April 3-5 – 47th **CANCELLED** Annual Atlantic Micromounters' Conference sponsored by the Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area, Inc. Holiday Inn Express, 6055 Richmond Highway, Alexandria, VA 22303. Speakers: Michael Pabst, Scott Duresky, Steve Stuart, Michael Seeds. Special recognitions to John Ferrante, PA and Erich Grundel, NY. Sunday, April 5 – Private tour of Victor Yount's mineral collection. Lunch provided, silent and live auctions, geo fellowship. Advance Registration \$30.00, at the door \$35. REGISTRATION AND INFO: www.dcmicrominerals.org, Kathy Hrechka, conference chair, kshrechka@msn.com.

April 4 – **POSTPONED TO AUGUST 15, 2020** Chesapeake Gem and Mineral Society. Living Estate Auction for Virginia and Gary White. INFO: Lynne Emery berniejem@outlook.com.

April 4-5 – 31st **CANCELLED** Annual North Jersey Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show at Midland Park High School, 250 Prospect Street, Midland Park, NJ, sponsored by the North Jersey Mineralogical Society. 4th 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM, 5th 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM. INFO: <http://nojms.webs.com>.

April 4-5 – 2020 **CANCELLED** New Haven Mineral Club Annual Show. Amity Middle School, 100 Ohman Avenue, Orange, CT 06477. April 4 – 9:30 AM -- 5:00 PM; April 5 – 10:00 AM – 4:30 PM. INFO: Arthur Doyle, www.president@newhavenmineralclub.org.

April 5 – **CANCELLED** New York Southern Tier Geology Club. Johnson City, NY

April 18-19 – Southeastern New Hampshire Mineral Club's show. Dover Elks Lodge #184, 282 Durham Road, Dover, NH. INFO: Larry Heath heathlg@comcast.com.

April 19 – **POSTPONED** – Maine Mineralogical and Geological Society, Portland, ME

2020. Collecting starts at 9:00 AM. Registration opened on March 14th. INFO: <http://www.sterlinghillssuperdig.org>

May 2-3 – 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 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 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/>

DID YOU KNOW?

“Anthill Sand” by William Beiriger

If you look at anthills you may be surprised to find small crystals or other material surrounding the entrance to the ant nest. While excavating, ants bring a large amount of courser material to the surface.

In anthills along the Pecos River near Roswell, New Mexico, I collected small doubly terminated quartz crystals. The locals call them “Pecos Diamonds.” I placed the sand from around the nest into a small bag trying not to collect any ants in the process. After I got home and washed the sand, I found a large umber of Pecos Diamonds that ranged from 1mm to 3mm in diameter.

From: Wayne County Gem and Mineral Club Sand Times, April 2020-June 2020, Page 5

Russia’s tallest active volcano (approximately 15,580 feet), and arguably most dangerous, Klyuchevskaya Sopka, erupted in early March sending plums of ash to almost 20,000 feet. Its first recorded eruption of this about 6,000 year old volcano was in 1697 which caused other volcanoes in the area to erupt and maintain their status since that first eruption.

<https://www.ibtimes.com/highest-volcano-russia-erupts-creates-20000-foot-ash-clouds-2932685>

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