

EFMLS NEWS

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



FABULOUS FALL AT WILDACRES

by Steve Weinberger, WA Committee Chair

Get ready to be a part of a fabulous fall EFMLS Wildacres Workshop! The dates are September 4 - 10, 2017 and our speaker in residence is Timothy Morgan. The line-up of classes as always is stellar so you can exercise your creative juices and learn (or reinforce) a new skill. See page 11 for the complete list.

And don't forget about the spring session either. Speaker-in-Residence Bob Jones is planning on his usual six entertaining and educational talks and like Tim, will be with us on campus for the entire session. Like cannot be better!

A week long session at the lovely Wildacres Retreat is \$410 per person which includes your tuition, room and board plus gratuities for the Retreat permanent staff. Meals are served family style in the lovely Wildacres dining room and bedrooms are lovely, each with it's own private bathroom. Classes are held in the numerous, well-equipped Wildacres classroom facilities.

EFMLS has been holding workshops at the Wildacres Retreat since 1973 and over the years, our sessions have grown in both content and variety. Past Speakers-in-Residence have included a variety of museum curators, gem and jewelry experts, authors and mineralogists. Over the years, many of our speakers have asked to come back and we've been delighted to have them because of their popularity. Bob for example is making his 10th? or so appearance with us and he's never failed to enthuse us with his personality and knowledge.

Wildacres sessions include other activities besides classes. Our activity day usually includes the opportunity to participate in an organized field trip, a fun tail gate session where you and your friends can sell or swap items you've brought, a few short educational programs given by some of your fellow participants, or a chance to go off and explore the area on your own. We also have a terrific auction where we sell hobby related items and on another evening a "show and tell" where we can all learn about the "other" classes that were offered during the session and see things that were made in them. We also sometimes have a fun night with humorous stories and skits, musical interludes and horrific puns.



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If you've never attended an EFMLS Wildacres Workshop, or if you've been there before, now's your chance. Look over the classes being offered, fill in that registration form (page 12) write your tuition check, and pop it in the mail. The earlier you register the better your chance of getting into the class or classes of your choice!

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NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Dave Korzendorfer, President

Moving Into 2017

The January EFMLS News was sent electronically in December instead of the usual snail mail paper distribution. I know that I find that format more user friendly, as it is easy to distribute to club members—I urge you to consider doing the same for your club members. Many club members are not even aware of the EFMLS, and this is one way to make them aware of issues we all face, and to offer a forum to share ideas. Carolyn Weinberger, who has been the editor of the Newsletter for a long time, has been doing a great job keeping it going. Carolyn relies on the EFMLS Committee chairs to submit information to the bulletin periodically, so let's be sure we all help her out by sending her articles and notes.



Last month's President's note was a recap and update of a series of articles about the health of your club. The original work was authored by Bob Livingston and appeared in the EFMLS News about 10 years ago. At the end of that note last month we left off with a promise of a list of ideas that have proven successful for other clubs in helping them grow. We are still compiling the list, but I wanted to put forth one of those ideas we currently have—creating a “high-energy” environment at your annual club show (or similar event) that will make your club more attractive to potential new members. Creating this environment could include the following:

- Set up an active area for kids that gets them involved.
- Consider offering games, free samples, and perhaps a “Treasure Hunt” to encourage them to move about the show in search of answers.
- Tailor your Treasure Hunt to include answers found in the exhibits as well as at dealer booths or club table.
- Have a club table to provide a place for interested guests and members to get information and find out about your club.

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GOING DIGITAL

You may have noticed that the last few issues of the EFMLS News have been e-mailed rather than using USPS for distribution. Comments made by numerous club officers have indicated that this is their preferred way of receiving the News...and we're now glad to oblige.

But there is a catch! We'll need to be certain that we have the correct e-mail addresses for your club officers (president, secretary, editor, liaison). If one of these changes, just take a minute or two and send us the update so that you're club won't miss an issue.

And, because this is such an easy and rapid way to communicate, please consider forwarding the EFMLS News to your members each month.

NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

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•Make sure to staff your club table with members who are outgoing and enjoy sharing information. Have information on your club activities, copies of some bulletins, and membership applications.

•Appoint a greeter at your check-in table or the door to welcome people to the show.

At our most recent annual meeting in Rochester, former EFMLS president Larry Heath made a proposal to form a group to begin looking at the EFMLS committee structure this year. If anyone is interested in working with Larry on this, I suggest that you reach out to him to let him know of your interest. We also are looking at how EFMLS uses technology in the organization. That working group will be chaired by me, and we will have an initial teleconference call to discuss those issues in the second half of February. If anyone is interested in joining that discussion group, please contact me for the call-in information. As an FYI, we have established a free teleconference call number for EFMLS needs. If anyone needs to set up a teleconference call for EFMLS business, please contact me for the call in number and passwords.

Preliminary plans are coming together for the 2017 Annual Meeting / Convention in Bristol, Connecticut. In addition to the Friday night Cracker Barrel, there will be a forum on Saturday to discuss Lapidary Center issues, followed by a tour of the club's lap center. Look for more information about the upcoming convention in this and future EFMLS News.

I want to wish everyone a very happy, healthy New Year going into 2017. If you have any suggestions for improving EFMLS, I would appreciate hearing from you. Please feel free to email or phone me. Contact information for all the EFMLS officers is in the monthly Newsletters, on the website, or in the Directory.

Dave

EASTERN FOUNDATION FUN

by Michael Kessler, EFF Chair

The Eastern Foundation Fund would like to once again recognize the generous donation in December to the fund made by Wendel and Jo Ann Mohr of Gaithersburg, MD. It is people like the Mohrs who keep our fund able to function in the interests of our hobby. We send our heartfelt thank you to them, and wish them the best of all the next holidays.

We intend to mention all the donors to the Eastern Foundation Fund at the next convention and on these pages. Individuals, couples or clubs may make donations. These contributions may be made in memory of a member who passed away or as an outright donation rather than a memorial. A donation to the fund makes a very thoughtful gift to remember our loved ones or to appreciate members who have contributed so much of their time to our clubs.

Make your thoughtful donation to the **Eastern Foundation Fund**, and mail it to:

Michael Kessler
4 Longfellow Road
East Stroudsburg, PA 18301

RIISING TO THE TOP

by Betsy Oberheim, Each One Teach One Chair

Did you sit and look at your coke or champagne over the holidays; its fascinating how those little bubbles rise up out of no where and head for the top!! We have people like that in our club. They appear at a meeting and suddenly they "rise to the top" and become an officer and wonderful worker. We desperately need these people to keep our club alive and healthy!!! And they need to hear how they are appreciated and valued!! My point: Each One Teach One would like to honor the members who take their caring and knowledge out into the community. And Rock Hound of the year would like to honor the ones who are so indispensable to your club. All it takes is a paragraph to tell Ellery or I what they do and we can set about acclaiming them and giving them the attention they deserve.

I hope your are doing good and that your holiday was wonderful. Here's to a healthy and happy 2017!!

SAFETY MATTERS: SEEING THE LIGHT?

by Ellery Borow, EFMLS Safety Chair

If you are seeing the light, the ultra violet (UV) light that is, there may be a problem. Many of the shows I visit offer a display / exhibit / darkened booth highlighting the amazing effects of ultra violet reactive minerals for show patrons to see. Such displays are really great to see at shows because they offer a view of minerals and rocks most folks never have the opportunity to see.

While many of the UV exhibits I have seen offer sufficient safeguards for the public, some could be better at protecting the club members working the display and the general public.

In your exhibit are folks provided with sufficient eye protection and bare skin protection? Is sufficient attention being paid to reflective surfaces? Are the lights angled sufficiently well to illuminate the minerals and rocks and keep the UV rays out of patron's eyes?

Even short term exposures to UV can have harmful effects. One of the examples I like to cite is about UV reflections. Take the story of a group of people out on a boat and enjoying some sport (catch and release) fishing. Imagine that all the folks are wearing baseball caps with visors to protect their heads and faces from harmful UV ray sunburn effects. At the end of the day there will be folks showing no signs of sunburn because they wore the proper amount of sun screen. There are also most likely going to be folks at the end of the day who are quite sunburned, right to the very underside edge of the baseball cap where its head band touches the forehead.

How might the sun's harmful UV rays have reached under the visor right to the persons forehead to create a sunburn in an area the should have been protected by the visor? In a word, the answer is -- reflections. The surface of the ocean is not flat, it is covered by waves. Those waves act as curved reflectors to reflect the sun's harmful UV waves

upward and right underneath a persons visor-covered forehead. The same can happen on a smaller scale in a show's UV mineral booth. UV can be reflected by some mineral surfaces up onto the bare skin and unprotected eyes of show patrons and club members tending to the booth.

Under most circumstances the amount of exposure is relatively minimal, except for those who remain in the booth for extended periods of time - such as the folks tending to the booth and those curious show patrons who just can't get enough of the beauty and curiosity of UV illuminated minerals. Some suggested solutions to UV overexposure include:

- Wear eye protection for extended viewing or working in the vicinity of UV light
- Wear sunscreen protection on exposed skin
- Minimize reflections of UV light toward viewers - reflections may come from the display material and / or the minerals themselves
- Angle the UV lights so no one, especially small children, can kneel down and look up into the UV lamp housing or bulbs
- Offer protective eye-wear temporarily to patrons who wish to use it, even if for short exposure times
- Take periodic breaks from being under strong UV illumination.

We encourage shows to offer exhibits of UV minerals and rocks because such displays always seem to be a great attraction. We also encourage sufficient protections and safeguards be utilized with such exhibits. As always, we hope you safely see the light because your safety matters.

DUES REMINDER

from Jean Charsky, Treasurer

Some of our EFMLS clubs have not yet sent in their 2017 dues and club information forms. If you're among the missing, please take a few moments, fill out the form on page 13 and remit both to the address shown at the bottom of the form. A copy of the form should also be sent to the Directory editor. **IMPORTANT:** Please be certain to include at least one e-mail address for one of your officers!

CONSERVATION AND LEGISLATION – IMPORTANT NEWS

by Mike Nelson, PLAC Chair for the Rocky Mountain Federation via Scott Peters, EFMLS Conservation Chair

ON MARCH 30, 2009, the Paleontological Resources Preservation Act (PRPA) became law on lands managed by various agencies of the federal government. The law had been through numerous drafts before approval by the U.S. Congress and subsequent signing by President Obama. Although in 1999 the Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittee asked federal agencies to prepare a report on fossil resource management, most rockhounds and many professional paleontologists believed that any new regulations would be written to protect vertebrate fossils (in my opinion). However, unbeknownst to most amateur fossil collectors, the United States Forest Service (USFS) published (May 23, 2013) draft regulations concerning the collection of invertebrate fossils and plant remains on land managed by the Agency. The comment period was 60 days and the Agency received few legitimate (non-form letters) concerns. Candidly, the proposal caught most rockhounds “off guard” and it was tough for rock and mineral clubs to organize informative responses. In my opinion, rockhounds lost many, many collecting privileges associated with invertebrate fossils as the proposed rules are now codified as 80 FR 21588. However, in defense of the USFS, the Agency was simply interpreting tenets of the PRPA, and that is the magic word, at least for me – interpretation.

In December 2016, proposed regulations for lands managed by the Department of Interior’s Bureau of Land Management (BLM); National Park Service [NPS]; Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS); and Bureau of Reclamation (BR) were published in the Federal Register and became available for comments (received no later than February 6, 2017).

The proposed rule [of Interior] would address the management, collection, and curation of paleontological resources from federal lands using scientific principles and expertise, including collection in accordance with permits; curation in an approved repository; and maintenance of confidentiality of specific locality data.

Most of the proposed regulations (formally known as “A Proposed Rule” by the Land Management Bureau and the Fish and Wildlife Service, posted on 12/7/2016),(1) but specifically subparts A through H, applies to all four bureaus – BLM, FWS, BR, NPS. Parts A through H are also very similar, perhaps mostly identical, to current USFS regulations (80 FR 21588). However, Part I of the proposed rules

notes some differences between Interior (BLM and BR) and the USFS regulations regarding actual field collecting of common fossil plants and invertebrates. I should also note that PRPA does not allow casual collecting in areas administered by NPS or FWS.

“The Rule”

So, what are some of the proposed items in Interior’s new rules and regulations – hereafter known as the Rule? I will only hit on a few sections as the proposed Rule, as published in the Federal Register, is tens of pages long.

Mining claims

The Rule does not impose additional requirements regarding fossil collecting activities on permitted lands associated with general mining or mineral laws. It appears that if you have a permitted mining claim the fossil plants and invertebrates are fair game for any collecting (§ 49.15 ...states that the proposed rule does not impose additional requirements on activities permitted under the general mining or mineral laws). Does this mean that if you are mining sedimentary rocks for minerals (such as barite or uranium) that any and all invertebrates may be collected? I don’t know; however, that seems to be a reasonable assumption to me. But remember, my interpretation of various regulations and codifications found in the Federal Register may be subject to suspect. I do know, however, that a mining claim will not be approved by an Agency simply to allow a person/ company to collect fossils. Any approved mining claim must include some sort of a commodity and fossils are not such.

The mining claim section of the Rule is an interesting one. Around this part of the country one permitted mining claim would create more surface disturbance, and could destroy more fossils, than all the Colorado rockhounds added together. BLM and USFS manage multi-purpose lands; however, some activities are much higher on the pecking order than rockhounding.

Archaeological resources

Fossils found in an archaeological context are archaeological resources, and are not considered paleontological resources. It is always best to not disturb archaeological resources.

1.) “The Proposed Rule” permalink: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2016/12/07/2016-29244/paleontological-resources-preservation> or short url: <https://goo.gl/idd1nz>; see Land Management Bureau at: <https://www.federalregister.gov/agencies/land-management-bureau>; Fish and Wildlife Service at: <https://www.fws.gov>.

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“Other resources”

An authorized federal officer at BLM or USFS (the person in charge) may decide that specific rocks/ minerals, such as coal, chalk beds, diatomites, etc. are not subject to PRPA rules as paleontological resources. However, there are a myriad of other federal regulations that may protect them.

Petrified Wood

The Department of Interior has specific Agency regulations concerning the collection of petrified wood on their managed lands:

Petrified wood is managed as a paleontological resource when on or from lands administered by NPS, Reclamation, and FWS. On lands administered by BLM, petrified wood (defined by the Petrified Wood Act of 1962, Pub. L. 87- 713, 76 Stat. 652, Sept. 28, 1962 as agatized, opalized, petrified, or silicified wood, or any material formed by the replacement of wood by silica or other matter, and identified as a mineral material under the Materials Act of 1947) is subject to commercial sale at 43 CFR part 3600 and free use regulations at 43 CFR part 3622. Therefore, on BLM lands, petrified wood may be managed as a paleontological resource, but the savings provisions in PRPA (16 U.S.C. 470aaa-10) prevent the imposition of additional restrictions on the sale or free use of petrified wood. When it is not subject to sale or free use, petrified wood on BLM-administered lands may be managed as a paleontological resource and/or under the authority of the FLPMA.(2)

My old and used mind fails to understand this latter statement! Why would not all petrified wood collected on BLM-managed land be free use?

Indian Lands

PRPA rules do not apply to “Indian lands.” However, lands managed by Native Americans always have collecting rules so avoid trespassing.

What’s “casual” and what’s “common”?

A federal authorized officer may restrict access or close a collecting area at any time. Therefore, fossil collecting on federal lands will now essentially involve a visit or call to an agency office.

Microfossils, such as *foraminifera* and *radiolarians*, are

paleontological resources and are subject to collecting rules – except if you are drilling a permitted energy well. The drilling bit may then grind up as many microfossils as the driller pleases. Yes, that last sentence was cynical.

Most individual rockhound collecting of invertebrate and plant fossils (excluding petrified wood) falls under the definition of “casual collecting”; therefore, such individuals may collect on BLM lands that are not restricted or closed – lands such as BLM-administered national monuments would be closed. The Rule notes casual collectors may collect *common invertebrate and common plant paleontological resources...casually. Common invertebrate and common plant paleontological resources are invertebrate or plant fossils that have been established by the bureaus, based on available scientific information and current professional standards, as having ordinary occurrence and widespread distribution.* But, and there are many “buts” in the Rule, *not all invertebrate or plant paleontological resources are common. When in doubt, collectors should err on the side of caution and collect only the resources that they know are common.* In other words, pay a visit to an Agency to find out what fossils an officer has decided are “common.”

Defining “Casual collecting”

So, what is a casual collector as defined by the Rule? *Casual collecting means the collecting without a permit of a reasonable amount of common invertebrate or plant paleontological resources for non-commercial personal use, either by surface collection or the use of non-powered hand tools, resulting in only negligible disturbance to the Earth’s surface or paleontological or other resources.*

Although this seems a restrictive definition, it is much better than the USFS definition: *casual collecting is generally happenstance without intentional planning or preparation..., the view of casual collecting as an activity that generally occurs by chance without planning or preparation.* The “good thing” about the Rule and the USFS regulations is that they clarify the allowance of collecting certain fossils from their managed lands.

But here are additional “buts” of the Rule. The casual collector may only collect 25 pounds per day, not to ex-

2.) In the Code of Federal Regulation, Part 3600 – Mineral Materials Disposal, see 43 CFR part 3600 at: <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2015-title43-vol2/xml/CFR-2015-title43-vol2-part3600.xml> or short url: <https://goo.gl/GSqHqF>; see CFR part 3622 at short url: <https://goo.gl/301UP9>; FLPMA is the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976.

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ceed 100 pounds per year – and this weight includes matrix. This part of the Rule was modified after the codified collecting rules long established for petrified wood; however, there is a big difference between specimens of petrified wood and invertebrate fossils. Petrified wood is usually collected without matrix, while many invertebrate fossils are collected with matrix.

Rockhounds do not want to take a chance of breaking the specimen by chipping away the matrix in the field. Collectors also may not pool a total weight with their buddy in order to collect larger specimens. What does this mean for the collection of larger fossils weighing over 25 pounds? I don't know. Perhaps it indicates a permit is required? However, an issued permit requires that a collector give up his/her specimen to a museum or repository!

Collectors also may not disturb over 1 square yard of the landscape, and your digging buddy must be at least ten feet away from your land disturbance. I am uncertain if a collector may have several disturbances per day? At any rate, like all good rockhounds, collectors must fill in their disturbance holes.

This restrictive regulation on land disturbance continues to be a problem for me. If the BLM really wants to stop major land disturbance, then I suggest examining extensive disturbance by domestic livestock, off-trail ATV and OHV riders, and even off-trail mountain bikers and hikers (among others). I support these multi-use land activities, in moderation, but simply want to point out that land disturbance by rockhounds is minimal compared to these other largescale activities.

“Casual collecting” at odds with research

Casually collected fossils may only be used in a personal collection and may not be sold, bartered, used for financial gain, or research! I presume this section also means that club members may not use the collected common plants and animals in their club silent auctions. What about gifting a common plant or invertebrate during a club gift exchange? Does bartering mean that fossil interest groups may not trade collected fossil specimens? I don't have those answers.

But to me the interesting aspect of this tenet is that the casual collector may not use his/her collected fossils for research! The federal agencies want the collector to get a permit if any of the fossils are used in a research project. I presume the point behind this requirement is to make

certain that fossils in the research project are documented as to provenance and placed in an accredited repository. However, I would like to suggest that any casually collected fossils could be turned over voluntarily over to a repository before results of the research are reported. A case in point – our rock club-sponsored Pebble Pups and Junior Scientists collect fossils and actually write up reports (sometimes published) and present results at meetings where abstracts are refereed. How can an agency expect a group of Pebble Pups to submit a permit application (see below)?

Another set of questions, then, involves the definition of research. If a collector completes a study on a casually collected fossils and later presents information on such organisms at a rock/mineral club meeting – is this research? What if the collector “publishes” results of their study in a club or federation newsletter, or on a Blog – is this research? Questions to be answered. I do not want some of these restrictive clauses in the Rule to stifle the interest of our children and young adults.

As with the USFS regulations, the Rule requires that only hand tools may be used in collecting fossils. These excavation tools may not be motorized and must be light and small enough to be hand-carried by one person. Does this mean that my geological hammer may not be carried in my backpack, or must it be hand-carried? Does it mean that I cannot bring along a two-wheel cart to pack a 25-pound specimen back to the vehicle (my knees will not allow carrying 25 pounds plus equipment)? Luckily, Interior listened to criticism directed at USFS over their regulation about size of collecting tools – *but not large tools such as full-sized shovels or pick axes*. I don't have any trouble carrying a full-size shovel in my hand!

Unfortunately, Interior chose not to rid the regulations of the permitting process for small groups of rockhounds. I argued against this rule implemented by the USFS without success. As I read the rules, and perhaps they are beyond my comprehension, it is my understanding that groups of rockhounds heading out to collect some invertebrate fossils must have a permit. I can understand permitting a group of professionals going out to quarry a marine limestone looking for specific ammonites. I cannot understand requiring a permit in order for a club's fossil interest group, or a group of Pebble Pups, heading out on a beautiful fall afternoon to do some prospecting for fossils!

If a group of Pebble Pups, some as young as six years old, go fossil hunting at a locality where both common

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and uncommon invertebrate fossils may be found, then a permit is required (as I try to understand the Rule). For example, I can envision local localities, actually a number of old quarries, where there is a mixture of common and uncommon lower Paleozoic fossils represented. These quarries have been prospected for years and rockhounds have almost always submitted their interesting specimens to museums and repositories. However, the permitting process is a very onerous experience for “ordinary” rockhounds., so So what happens? Collection without a permit continues, with loss of interesting specimens heading to a museum due to a fear of prosecution, or collecting stops and children and adult rockhounds simply drop out.

Assume that a permitted fossil prospecting activity could be pulled off, please note that all prospectors must deposit their fossil finds in a designated repository. Can you imagine taking kids on a fossil hunt and then taking away their finds? In addition, the rules and regulations concerning report writing are onerous (for most rockhounds) and would require additional time.

As a former classroom instructor, I could not imagine applying for a permit every time I took my students fossil hunting. Certainly, a permit was required whenever a student researcher was out collecting fossils and describing stratigraphy – these collected fossils were deposited in a repository. In fact, during my early days of writing environmental impact statements (fossils) for projects crossing federal lands I devised my own permits (with approval from the agencies) from items like logging permits. I am not against permits; however, I simply want to allow for some slack with non-professional collectors.

In addition, mandating that all permittees must deposit their fossils in an approved repository creates other concerns since the requirements for establishing a repository are pretty stiff. Most colleges and universities with a scientific staff have something, a museum or curated collection, that could qualify as a repository. But what about the poor old group of rockhounds – would nearby repositories curate their specimens without monetary assistance (*Permittee is responsible for the costs, monetary and otherwise, of the permitted activity, including fieldwork, data analysis, report preparation, curation of the collection and its associated records consistent with subpart C of this part*)? I don't know. Once fossils are collected under a permit they remain the property of the Agency in perpetuity. Even if a federal authorized officer removes the collected fossils

from the research collection the specimens still remain in repository collection “somewhere.”

My comments pertain to only a small part of the Rule but are, in my opinion, most directly related to fossil collecting by rockhounds and other amateurs. I want members of our rock and mineral clubs, including Pebble Pups and Junior Scientists, to have an opportunity to collect fossils without fear of “breaking the law.” I want these members to have an opportunity to study and photograph and learn about specimens without fear their work is research and requires a permit. I want members, especially younger members, to have an opportunity to present information at professional meetings about their fossil finds without fear their study requires a permit. But, I would also expect the mentors of the collector to require fossil specimens be offered to a museum and/or repository along with appropriate provenance information. I believe there must be some middle ground in this entire permitting and land disturbance issue. If not, we may begin to lose generations of future STEM graduates that our nation badly needs.

With that said, please note that I have several friends and acquaintances working in the federal agencies. In fact, I take pride in the fact that some Agency paleontologists were my students and we have remained friends for decades—they do excellent work. In visiting with these paleontologists, I have found they are, in their opinion, constrained by federal law found in the PRPA. Perhaps they are; however, I still believe in compromise and middle ground and “working things out.” Is this possible with the rules in the PRPA? I don't know. Could interpretation of PRPA regulations be less “strict.” I don't know.

What I do know is that these new laws (USFS) and the proposed Rule (Interior) are almost impossible to enforce – I am not advocating breaking the law but simply stating my strong opinion that collecting of invertebrate fossils on federal lands will go underground. Unlike vertebrate fossils, where poachers are interested in selling their unlawfully collected specimens, rockhounds collecting invertebrate fossils are interested in building up a personal collection, trading specimens with club members, and perhaps most importantly helping young children and their schools build collections. Also unlike the somewhat easily identified vertebrate fossils (yep, that is a dinosaur skull, so leave it alone), invertebrate fossils are much more difficult to identify. I am guessing that most rockhound amateurs will have great difficulty identifying uncommon fossils (need a permit) from common fossils (casual collecting).

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What You can do

So, what advice can I offer? Take the time to read, or attempt to read, the Proposed Rule at the Federal Register (short url: goo.gl/idd1nz). After this little chore, rockhounds should submit personal comments, or even pooled comments by several members of the club; however, it is best to not use form letters. Also, remember as you comment:

- Provide first and last name, city, state, & country. All other fields of information are optional. Keep in mind that much of this information is publicly viewable.

- Comments may be typed in the box provided or they may be uploaded as attachments (Word docs or PDFs only).

- Comments may be brief or in-depth/wellresearched. Comments with facts to support them are much more useful (e.g., examples of overlooked scenarios). Keep comments civil and straightforward. Comments using offensive terms, threats, or other inappropriate language will be disregarded.

- **Comments on the proposed rule must be received by February 6, 2017.**

And finally, stop in Agency offices (especially BLM and USFS) and visit with the geologists—they are a nice group of people. The paleontologists in both the USFS and the BLM are stationed few and far between. But again, if you are in their area stop in and converse with them.

Perhaps I am just a crusty old guy remembering “the good old days” of collecting. But perhaps I am just an old guy seriously worried about the impact of the Rule (and USGS regulations) on school children, Pebble Pups, rockhounds, and interested amateurs. I want to find a common ground with the USFS and Interior in the permitting processes, the land disturbance issues and the collecting limits. Will it happen? Another question that I cannot answer.

VISIT A SHOW

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13: 28th Annual Chesapeake Gem & Mineral Show hosted by the Chesapeake Gem & Mineral Society. Ruhl Armory, I-695 at exit 26 south, Towson, MD. Contact: Bernie at <bernieje@comcast.net>

20-21: 49th Annual “World of Gems and Minerals” Rock, Mineral, Fossil and Jewelry Show sponsored by the Berks Mineralogical Society. Leesport Farmers Market, Leesport, PA. Contact: Jim Woodshick brwoodpile@yahoo.com.

CONVENTION 2017

by Dave Korzendorfer, EFMLS President

Mark your calendar for the 2017 EFMLS Annual Convention—the weekend of October 20 - 22, in Bristol, Connecticut. Mid-October is typically peak time for fall color, which can be spectacular. We’ll have lots of activities planned for those who come, including road logs for those who want to drive and experience quaint New England, with the reds and golds of fall foliage juxtaposed with rock walls, winding roads, old cemeteries, and white churches.

Connecticut is a small state in size, but is very rich in mineral diversity. The pegmatites in the central valley region produced many fine gem-quality beryl and tourmaline crystals, as well as most other pegmatite suite minerals. Thanks to being at the site of multiple plate collisions, Connecticut is composed of all three rock types, and minerals occur in a wide variety of geologic terrains. The metamorphic terrains produced abundant garnet (the state mineral), kyanite, and other metamorphic minerals. World-class Bristol chalcocite crystals were formed at the contact of sedimentary rocks and volcanic extrusive rocks. The theme of the show is “Connecticut Rocks,” with a focus on the mineralogy of the state, and there will be a Saturday talk on the Geologic History of Connecticut. Yale’s Peabody Museum and the Connecticut Mining Museum are short drives from the show location, and the Harvard Museum is only a 2-hour drive away.

We hope to see you all at the convention.

June:

3 - 4: 43rd Annual Tannehill Gem, Mineral, Fossil, & Jewelry Show sponsored by the Alabama Mineral & Lapidary Society of Birmingham, AL. at the Tannehill Ironworks State Park 12632 Confederate Parkway Mc Calla, AL. 35111 Contact: Cathy Kellogg <tannehillgemshow@gmail.com>

September:

22-23: 53rd Annual Atlantic Coast Gem, Mineral, Jewelry & Fossil Show hosted by the Gem Cutters Guild of Baltimore. Howard Co. Fairgrounds, West Friendship, MD.

October:

21-22: 45th Annual Gem & Mineral Show and 67th Eastern Federation Convention. Beals Community Center, 240 Stafford Ave., Bristol, Connecticut.

WILDACRES SPRING CLASSES – MAY 22 – 28, 2017 – SPEAKER-IN-RESIDENCE: BOB JONES

Class & Instructor	Description
Beading: New Beads Mia Schulman	You will be creating pendants and earrings using beads that have from 2 to 4 holes each! They will be square, triangular, and rectangular in shape in combination with regular one-holed beads. 2-day class offered first semester. No prior experience necessary.
Beading: Peyote Bracelet Mia Schulman	Pendants will be created using Delicata beads and the Peyote stitch (also called Gourd stitch). This is an off-loom bead-weaving technique using a fine needle and beading thread. People who look at your pendant usually want to feel it because it is so intriguing. 2- day class offered second semester. No prior experience necessary.
Cabochons – Basic Bernie Emery	Learn to transform a piece of rock into a shiny, well-formed cabochon. You will learn the use of the trim saw as well as basics of grinding, sanding and polishing. Slabs are provided or students September use their own with approval of the instructor. Please bring an apron and safety glasses. 2-day class offered first semester. No prior experience necessary.
Cabochons - Intermediate Bernie Emery	Learn to cut different shapes and the techniques needed to do so. Slabs are provided or students September use their own with approval of the instructor. Please bring an apron and safety glasses. Prerequisite: Students must have prior experience with cabbing and use of the trim saw. 2-day class offered second semester.
Faceting Larry Heath	Students will learn to cut and polish a 57-facet round brilliant gemstone. In addition, they will learn how to identify well-cut stones, select rough material and see whether or not they enjoy this fascinating aspect of the hobby. Students are asked to bring an Optivisor (#7 or #9) and an apron. 4-day class. No prior experience necessary.
Introduction to Gemology Tim Morgan	What is the ideal color of ruby? Where do diamonds come from? What country is a leading producer of gems? What is gemology? How are gems formed? How are they classified? Answers to these questions, and more, offered in this class. Session includes discussion of organic gems and their appeal to the public. Lots of hands on-rough, specimens, finished stones-as examples. No Prerequisite. 2-day class offered 1st semester.
Intermediate Gemology Tim Morgan	How does one examine and evaluate a gemstone? How does a loupe aid such evaluation? A dichroscope? An emerald (Chelsea) filter? Course considers these questions and issues such as Mohs scale of hardness, inorganic gemstones, how gems are sold, what to look for when shopping for gemstones, and the care and feeding of your gems. Lots of hands on-rough, specimens, finished stones-as examples. Prerequisite- Introduction to Gemology. 2-day class offered 2nd semester.
Gem Trees - Basic Ellie Pitts	Students will learn the basics to create at least two gem trees with optional instructions and supplies available for more trees and patterns, as time permits. Students will learn to cut, twist, and assemble wire branches according to a pattern. Please bring either reading glasses or an optivisor. Tools will be available in class, but it would be helpful to bring your own jewelry pliers. Students may bring their own base rocks (Base rocks should be from 1-1/2" to 5" wide; small bases must have enough weight to hold a mini tree upright.) . No prior experience needed, but students must be able to work with small objects, twist wire, and handle the smell of adhesive glue. 2-day class offered 1st semester.
Gem Trees - Intermediate Ellie Pitts	Students with prior experience will create two gem trees in class from more complicated patterns, as well as recognize how their technique changes how the tree will look. Bring reading glasses or an optivisor. Tools will be available to share, but it would be helpful to bring your own pliers and cutters . If you bring your own wire, I recommend Artistic Wire 24ga, since generic craft wires can break when twisted tightly. You may bring your own base rocks (1 1/2" to 5"), Two day class, second semester. Prerequisite: Gem Tree 1 or prior experience with twisting wire and working with gem tree patterns. Advanced students may enroll during Gem Trees I or II and work independently with supplies and suggestions available. 2-day class offered 2nd semester.
Mineral Identification Mike Wise	Students will learn the basic skills needed to identify a wide variety of rock-forming and "exotic" minerals. This class will focus on "non-destructive" and "semi-destructive" tests that the beginner can use to aid in mineral identification. 4-day class. No prior experience necessary.
Silversmithing - Basic Richard Meszler	Have fun learning the basics of working silver sheet and wire to fabricate jewelry. The projects will introduce you to annealing/bending/shaping/texturing metal, soldering, piercing and polishing. Students will receive a kit containing the necessary metals and supplies to complete these projects as well as a detailed written step by step description of each project. 2-day class offered 1st semester. No prior experience necessary
Silversmithing - Intermediate Richard Meszler	Continue your education working with metals by doing a more complex project. You will learn to make a bezel setting & bail into which you will set a cabochon to make a pendant. Students will receive a kit containing the necessary metals and supplies to complete this project as well as a detailed written step by step description of each project. Prerequisite: Basic silversmithing experience including soldering. 2-day class offered 2nd semester.
Soapstone Carving Sandy Cline	This class will provide a general introduction to the carving of soapstone. You will develop a working knowledge of the material, tools, safe handling issues and the methods used to complete a carving. You will produce a simple piece and progress to making a more advanced sculpture of your choice. The development of your own personal style will be encouraged. No prior experience needed. 2-day class offered both semesters.

WILDACRES FALL CLASSES – SEPTEMBER 4 – 10, 2017.

SPEAKER-IN-RESIDENCE: TIM MORGAN

CLASS & INSTRUCTOR	DESCRIPTION
Chainmaille - Basic Roger Campbell	Learn the ancient art of chainmaille using non-soldered copper jumpings. Students will learn different weaves while completing class projects. All tools will be provided. An optivisor or other magnification would be helpful. 2-day class offered first semester. No prior experience necessary.
Chainmaille - Continued Roger Campbell	The 2nd semester class will be a short review of chainmaille and students will learn additional weaves. All tools will be provided. An optivisor or other magnification would be helpful. 2-day class offered second semester.
Faceting – Steve Weinberger	Students will learn to cut and polish a 57-facet round brilliant gemstone. In addition they will how to identify well-cut stones, select rough material and see whether they enjoy this fascinating aspect of the hobby. Students are asked to bring an optivisor and/or jeweler’s loupe if you have one. 4-day class. No prior experience necessary.
Intarsia – Beginning John Milligan	Intarsia is the making of a geometric design using a variety of stones cut to precision and fitted together to form a pattern while leaving no gaps between the pieces. In this course, students will learn the beginning skills of Intarsia by melding together stones of various colors and patterns to form a finished cabochon. Students should bring an Optivisor. Prerequisite: Must have cabbing experience. Two day class offered both semesters.
Silversmithing – Basic Richard Meszler	Have fun learning the basics of working silver sheet and wire to fabricate jewelry. The projects will introduce you to annealing/bending/shaping/texturing metal, soldering, piercing and polishing. Students will receive a kit containing the necessary metals and supplies to complete these projects as well as a detailed written step by step description of each project. 2-day class offered 1st semester. No prior experience necessary.
Silversmithing – Intermediate Richard Meszler	Continue your education working with metals by doing a more complex project. You will learn to make a bezel setting & bail into which you will set a cabochon to make a pendant. Students will receive a kit containing the necessary metals and supplies to complete this project as well as a detailed written step by step description of each project. Prerequisite: Basic silversmithing experience including soldering.
Take Your Story – Make Your Story Bruce Gaber	In this lively workshop you’ll learn the basics of photography (both technical and aesthetic). Then with some simple guiding assignments we’re out the door to take our best shots. Finally, working in teams, we’ll assembly our images to tell our own personal stories. Bring your point-and-shoot, DLSR, or smartphone. This is a four day class.
Wire Wrapping – Jacqueline Campbell	Using pliers, gold-filled or sterling silver wire, assorted beads or gemstones, and a few basic wirecraft techniques, learn how to create your own fashion rings, bracelets, pendants and earrings to add that perfect accent to your jewelry wardrobe or to give as gifts. All tools and materials will be provided.
Session I	Session I: Designed for beginners, participants will make an adjustable ring, two bracelets, a pendant and two pairs of earrings. 2-day class offered first semester.
Session II	Session II: Designed for those with some experience (or a brave beginner) participants will make a fitted ring, two pairs of earrings, a cabochon pendant and a bracelet. 2-day class offered second semester.

2017 EFMLS Wildacres Registration

PLEASE, ONLY one person per form per session

For Office Use Only

ID # _____
Date Rec'd" _____
Amt. Paid: _____
Ck #: _____
Amt. Paid: _____
Ck #: _____
Paid in Full: _____

CHECK ONE: May 22 - 28: _____ Fall: September 4 - 10: _____

Please fill out a separate registration form for each person attending and return to SUZIE MILLIGAN, 931 Carmichael Rd; Owego, NY 13827-3320. **No registration will be accepted prior to January 1, 2017.** (To make it easier for the registrar and others, please do not change or revise this form. You September photo-copy it as needed.) Please write legibly!

Name (as you wish it to appear on your name badge): _____

Street: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone number with area code: _____ e-mail: _____

Club/Society Affiliation: _____

Fee for each session is \$410.00 per person. Deposit is \$205 per person, payable with registration.

Make checks payable to "EFMLS". Balance of fee is due 30 days prior to start of session. No postdated checks will be accepted.

Cancellation policy: If unable to attend, fees paid will be refunded if notification is given prior to one month before the session begins. No refund will be made after that date.

Circle appropriate responses:

Have you been to Wildacres before? Yes _____ No _____ Is your Club paying your tuition? Yes _____ No _____

Name of roommate: _____ (If none, one will be assigned).

Are you: Male _____ Female _____ (No single rooms are available). Are you a smoker? Yes _____ No _____
(No smoking is allowed in any building)

Do you have any physical handicaps and / or special dietary needs? Yes _____ No _____

If YES, please explain on reverse side.

Do you have a skill to demonstrate or a program to share (up to 40 minutes)? Yes _____ No _____

Class Pre-registration

See EFMLS Newsletter or Website (efmls-wildacres.org/) for class offerings.

You will either be able to take one 4-day class or two 2-day classes. All participants must take classes.

Which of the classes being offered would you like to take? **Please indicate at least 3 choices** in order of preference for each semester. You will be preregistered for classes based on your choices, but no class placement is guaranteed. Should your preferred class be unavailable for any reason you will be preregistered for another of your choices. If no alternate class preference is indicated we will pre-register you in a class of our choosing, based on availability.

1st Semester or 4 day classe choices

1 _____
2 _____
3 _____
4 _____

Second Semester

1 _____
2 _____
3 _____
4 _____

(No registrations accepted prior to January 1, 2017)

Mail to: Suzie Milligan, 931 Carmichael Rd; Owego, NY 13827-3320

If you have any questions, please contact either

Suzie Milligan, Registrar at <smilligan@stny.rr.com> or 607-687-5108 or

Pamm Bryant, Director at <pjbryant@juno.com> or 804-457-4698

2017 EFMLS Club Information Form

Please type or print clearly. Be sure to fill in all spaces!

Club Name: _____

Club Website: _____

Meeting Date: _____ Time: _____

Meeting Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

President: _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

E-mail: _____

Vice President: _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

E-mail: _____

Secretary: _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

E-mail: _____

Treasurer: _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

E-mail: _____

EFMLS Liaison: _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

E-mail: _____

CONTINUED ON OTHER SIDE

Editor: _____ Telephone: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____
E-mail: _____

Webmaster: _____ Telephone: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____
E-mail: _____

Bulletin Name: _____

Show and/or Swap Date: _____ Location: _____

Number of Members: Adults: _____ Juniors: _____ Total: _____
Are you paying for Juniors: Yes: _____ No: _____

Months Officers are: Elected: _____ Installed: _____ Take Office: _____

If you are in need of Membership Cards please contact the EFMLS Supply Chair,
K.C. Foster, 114 Mayfair Lane, Boynton Beach, FL 33426; (561) 968-5287; <katrinkaper@yahoo.com>

INFORMATION FOR THE EFMLS WEBSITE:

The EFMLS website will list the name, location and meeting time and information for your club as well as the date and location of your annual show or swap. We would like to list at least one contact person as well so that interested persons know who to contact for information about your club. Please indicate the name(s) of your contact people plus the info that you wish to have placed on the website for each. (i.e. Editor: Barkley Bigfoot, <milkbone at dogbreath.org>)

Name: _____ Office held: _____

Contact information for web: _____

Name: _____ Office held: _____

Contact information for web: _____

Do you need membership cards? Yes: _____ No: _____ Are you paying for Juniors? Yes: _____ No: _____

Please verify your check is for the correct amount (\$1.75 per voting member) and that you have completed all of the information on the form. Mail your check and one (1) copy of this form to the EFMLS Treasurer, and one (1) copy of the form to the EFMLS Directory Editor. Checks should be made payable to "EFMLS".

Jean Charsky, EFMLS Treasurer, 2430 N Glebe Rd, Arlington, VA 22207
Carolyn Weinberger, Directory Editor, PO Box 302; Glyndon, MD 21071-0302

REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS

Region I

Kathleen Collins
<kathleenc55 at cox.net>

Region II

Cheryl Neary
<ciervo.neary at gmail.com>

Region III

David Brandon
<brandonbuilds at verizon.net>

Region IV

Sarah Beth Phillips
<sphillips@ecslimited.com>

Region V

Judy Budnik
<wisoh@msn.com>

Region VI

Larry Huffman
<ldhuff314@embarqmail.com>

Region VII

Kim Cochran
770-979-8331

Region VIII

Michelle Renné
<tfhae2@gmail.com>

EFMLS COMMITTEE CHAIRS

AFMS Endowment Fund *

Carolyn Weinberger - (See page 2)

AFMS Scholarship Foundation *

Steve Weinberger
<cscrystals2 at gmail.com>

AFMS Uniform Rules

B. Jay Bowman
<bjb at wildblue.net>

AFMS Ways & Means *

Cheryl Neary
<ciervo.neary at gmail.com>

All American Award *

To be appointed

Auction

Cheryl Neary (see AFMS Ways & Means)

Audit

Donald Pitkin
<pitkind at earthlink.net>

Boundaries *

Carl Miller
<kobold1 at erols.com>

Budget & Finance

Barbara Ringhiser (see page 2)

Bulletin Editors Advisory *

Mary Bateman
<mbateman1 at verizon.net>

Bylaws / Parliamentarian

Steve Weinberger
<cscrystals2 at gmail.com>

Club Rockhound of the Year *

Ellery Borow
207-547-3154

Conservation & Legislation *

Scott Peters
<slipgapdms at aol.com>

Convention Advisory

Cheryl Neary (see AFMS Ways & Means)

Directory

Carolyn Weinberger - (see Editor)

Each One Teach One

Betsy Oberheim
<Oberheim3 at comcast.net>

Eastern Foundation Fund

Michael Kessler
<quartz1313 at aol.com>

Historian

Andy Celmer
<abcpec at comcast.net>

Insurance Coordinator

Carl Miller (see Boundaries)

Junior Activities *

Gary Lohman
<lohman at verizon.net>

Operating Procedures

Steve Weinberger (see Bylaws)

Safety *

Ellery Borow - (see Club Rockhound)

Show Coordinator

Carolyn Weinberger (see page 2)

Slide & Video Librarian *

To be appointed

Supplies

K.C. Foster
<katrinkaper at yahoo.com>

Uniform Rules

David Brandon (see Region III VP)

Ways & Means (EFMLS)

Cheryl Neary (see AFMS Ways & Means)

Webmaster

Dan Imel
<lapidry at aol.com>

Wildacres Workshop Committee

Steve Weinberger, Chair
(see Bylaws)

Wildacres Continued

Ken Valko
<sssoapstone at yahoo.com >

Director

Pamm Bryant
<pbryant at junos.com>

Registrar

Suzie Milligan
<smilligan at stny.rr.com>

Nominating (Elected committee)

Mary Bateman
<mbateman1 at verizon.net>

Larry Heath (temporary chair)
<heathlg@comcast.net>

Jim Hird
<wvupper@frontiernet.net>

Larry Huffman
<ldhuff314@embarqmail.com>

Debbie Potter
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Sheryl Sims
<sesims4@cox.net>

**Also Eastern Representative
to American Federation Committee*

EFMLS NEWS

CAROLYN WEINBERGER, EDITOR
PO Box 302



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<WWW.AMFED.ORG/EFMLS>

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VISIT A SHOW

from Carolyn Weinberger

March:

4 – 5: 54th Annual Earth Science Gem & Mineral Show sponsored by the Delaware Mineralogical Society. NEW LOCATION: University of Delaware, Wilmington Campus, 2800 Penn Ave (Rt. 52), Wilmington, DE. Contact: Gene Hartstein <gene@fossilnut.com>.

11: 41st Annual Micromount Symposium sponsored by the Leidy Micromount Society. Northminster Presbyterian Church, 140 Trenton Rd; Fairless Hills, PA. Contact: Don McAlarnen don.<mcalarnen@hpe.com> or 610-584-1364.

11-12: Gem & Mineral Show sponsored by the Island Rockhounds. Old Bethpage Restoration Village (Barn), Old Bethpage, NY. Contact: Cheryl Neary <ciervo.neary@gmail.com> or 516-449-5341.

18: Auction sponsored by the Southeastern Massachusetts Mineral Club. Mitchell Memorial Club, 29 Elm St; Middleboro, MA 02346. Viewing 10 am – 11 am; Auction 11 am – 3 pm.

18-19: 53rd Annual GLMS/MC Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show sponsored by the Gem, Lapidary & Mineral Society of Montgomery Co. MD. Montgomery Co. Fairgrounds, 16 Chestnut St; Gaithersburg, MD. Contact: Doug Baum <dbaum18@aol.com>, 240-888-7485 or <glmsmc.com>

24-26: Annual Catawba Valley Gem & Mineral Show sponsored by the Catawba Valley Gem & Mineral Club. Hickory Metro Convention Center, 1960 13th Ave Dr SE; Hickory, NC 28602. Info: Dean Russell 828-303-1448 or <cvgmcsecretary@aol.com>.

25-26: 48th Annual Rock & Mineral Club Show sponsored by the Che-Hanna Rock & Mineral Club. NEW LOCATION: Wysox Volunteer Fire Co. Social Hall, 111 Lake Rd., Wysox, PA. Contact: Bob McGuire at 570-928-9238 or <uvbob@epix.net>

25-26: CVMC 2017 Show sponsored by the Connecticut Valley Mineral Club. Hadley Farms Meeting House, Rt. 9, 41 Russell St; Hadley, MA. Contact: Lee Champigny, 413-320-9741 or <pullg4fun@gmail.com> or <westernmassmineralshow.com>

25-26: Annual Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show sponsored by the Delaware Valley Paleontological Society & Philadelphia Mineralogical Society. Lulu Temple, 5140 Butler Pike, Plymouth Meeting, PA (PA Turnpike, exit 333 at I-476, exit 20). Information: <www.phillyrocks.org> or Cheryl Leibold <cleibold@verizon.net>.

April:

1 – 2: Annual Show sponsored by the New Haven Mineral Club. Amity Middle School, 100 Ohman Rd; Orange, CT 06477.

28-30: Rock, Mineral, Gem, Jewelry & Fossil Show hosted by the Central Florida Mineral and Gem Society. Florida National Guard Armory, 2809 So. Fern Creek Ave; Orlando, FL. Contact: <phayes3@cfl.rr.com>

May:

13: Annual Earth Science Show & Sale sponsored by the Rock & Mineral Club of Lower Bucks Co. PA. Christ United Methodist Church, 501 Wistar Rd; Fairless Hills, PA. Contact: Brian Schwab at 215-788-3993 or Eric Brosius at <ebrosiusrock@aol.com>

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If you are an EFMLS member club and would like to have your show or swap listed here, send information to Carolyn Weinberger, PO Box 302, Glyndon, MD 21071-0302 or <cscrystals2@gmail.com>.