

Convention/Show Information for the EFMLS Annual Convention

October 20—22, 2017
Bristol, Connecticut

Welcome from the Bristol Gem and Mineral Club

The Bristol Gem and Mineral Club invites you to join us for our 45th Annual Gem and Mineral show, which will be held in conjunction with the 67th EFMLS Annual Convention. The event takes place from Friday through Sunday, October 20—22, 2017 in Bristol, Connecticut. Our club is excited to host the convention and we look forward to all the excitement and camaraderie that comes with the convention. The theme of the show is Connecticut Rocks, featuring minerals of Connecticut and Southern New England, and we plan to have many exhibits showing off the wonderful variety of mineral assemblages from both the state and neighboring New England states.

Bristol is pretty much in the center of Connecticut. It is a short drive from Bradley International Airport, located between Hartford and Springfield, Massachusetts, but can also be reached by car from the airports in New York City or northern New Jersey (Newark). The City of Bristol is home to the high-tech satellite dishes of ESPN, the American Clock and Watch Museum, the New England Carousel Museum, and The Family Center's Imagine Nation Museum, the State's newest museum for children. Attractions in Hartford and the surrounding communities include the Mark Twain House, the Connecticut Science Center, Dinosaur State Park, Yale Peabody Museum (and the new David Friend Hall for minerals and gems), Mystic Seaport and Aquarium, and two world-class casinos—Foxwoods and Mohegan Sun.

October is a wonderful time of the year to be in New England. The fall foliage is at its peak, and there are typically tons of local activities going on, such as apple and pumpkin festivals. The Sunday field trip to the Connecticut Mining Museum will take you on winding country roads at the best time to view the colorful foliage.

The Show

Our Gem and Mineral Show takes place at the Douglas Beals Senior/Community Center at 240 Stafford Avenue in Bristol, Connecticut. Show hours are Saturday 9:30-5 and Sunday 10-4. The show has 20 dealers, featuring gems, jewelry, mineral specimens, fossils, and crystals. We also have hands-on educational exhibits, door prizes, children's games and activities, an extensive menu of food & refreshments, and free parking.

Convention Hotel

The convention hotel is the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel—it is 3 miles from the main show, and about a 10-minute drive. The hotel has a salt water indoor heated pool, a restaurant, lounge, workout room with sauna, business center, free wireless Internet access, and guest laundry room. The room rate for either 2 doubles or 1 king is \$129 per night plus tax. All rooms are non-smoking. Please call (860) 589-7766 before September 22nd, and mention "Eastern Federation of Mineral and Lapidary Societies Room Block" to get the convention rate. The hotel's address is 42 Century Drive in Bristol, just off Exit 31 of Interstate I-84.

The hotel is across the street from the ESPN broadcasting complex. You never know who you might see at breakfast.

If you prefer a different hotel, other nearby accommodations include Motel 6, Holiday Inn Express, and others on Rt. 10 (Queen St.) in Southington. If you need information on camping, please contact us (contact information at end).

Convention Activities

Friday

1:00 – 4:00 pm Friday, October 20. Convention Registration. Registration and welcome bag may be picked up at the Doubletree Hotel.

4:00 pm Friday, October 20. Cracker Barrel Meeting. The EFMLS Annual Convention kicks off with the Cracker Barrel meeting at the Doubletree Hotel. The Cracker Barrel is an informal discussion of issues without the usual parliamentary procedure of the annual meeting.

7:00 pm Friday, October 20. Annual Meeting. The Annual meeting will be held at the Doubletree Hotel.

Saturday

9:30 am Saturday, October 21. Show opens at the Beals Senior/Community Center.

2:30 pm Saturday, October 21. EFMLS Auction. The EFMLS auction will be held on Saturday afternoon, in a separate room down the hall from the main show at the Beals Senior/Community Center. Bring your specimen donations to the auction and lots of cash and enthusiasm for bidding.

6:00 pm Saturday, October 21. Awards Banquet. The awards banquet will be at the Doubletree Hotel. The evening will open with a cash bar at 6 pm and a buffet dinner will be at 7 PM. The cost of the dinner is \$42.00 per person. Please indicate the number of dinner tickets you want on your registration form. Your dinner ticket will be in the welcome bag when you check-in for the convention. Special diets and requirements can be accommodated, but you must indicate these on the form.

In addition to great food, there will also be speeches, presentation of awards, a special guest speaker, and installation of new officers.

Sunday

8:00 am Sunday, October 22. Editors' Breakfast. The Editors' Breakfast will be held at the Doubletree Hotel. The breakfast will be a full buffet featuring hot and cold items. The cost is \$20 per person. On the accompanying registration form please indicate the number of breakfast tickets you want. Your breakfast ticket will be in your welcome bag when you check-in for the convention. If you have special dietary needs, please indicate these on the form.

9:00 am Sunday, October 22. Field Trip. We are planning to host a field trip to western Connecticut to visit the newly renovated Connecticut Mining Museum in Kent. At the museum, Jack Pawlowski, the founder and curator of the Mining Museum will greet you. Jack is always happy to host visitors to the museum, and show off its displays of mining history and local mineralogy. The drive to Kent will take you through the prettiest part of New England at the prettiest time of the year, and may include a stop at a local country store for lunch and a drive to two nearby covered bridges.

We are trying to get access to one of Connecticut's most prolific collecting sites for prehnite and other minerals in the basalt trap rock that has been closed to collectors for the past 10 years or so. IF we are successful, this trip will likely be limited in number and may include a small access fee to pay for a mine foreman to be on site. We will maintain a first come list based on the order we

receive convention reservations. IF we are successful in gaining access we will post that information in the EFMLS News as soon as we know. Attendees to this site will be required to have hard hats and steel-toed boots as well as safety glasses to work in the quarry.

Exhibits

One area where we have focused our attentions is on the exhibits for the convention. As usual, we hope some of you will consider exhibiting your cases competitively. I know this is a long-standing event at the conventions and our members are anxious to learn about competitive exhibiting as an extension of the hobby. Please complete the Application for Competitive Exhibit form.

As an alternative to competitive exhibits, club members and delegates are invited to put together a noncompetitive exhibit. We will also be inviting all the local clubs to enter a club case of Connecticut or New England minerals so that the public and visiting delegates have an opportunity to see the rich assemblage of minerals from our region. Use the Application for Noncompetitive and Shared Exhibit form to indicate your participation in a noncompetitive exhibit.

As another idea for exhibits, we are hoping to have "shared" displays. We are inviting all visiting delegates to bring along mineral or fossil specimens from their home states so that we can all learn more about what each state has to offer the collector. We will set aside a number of cases that will be used to show those specimens brought in by delegates. Our hope is that we can get material from each state in the Federation so that we can see the differences in mineral and fossil specimens within our region. Please consider bringing 3 or 4 specimens from your home state to the convention. We'll combine specimens from multiple delegates as needed to fill cases. Use the Application for Noncompetitive and Shared Exhibit form to indicate your participation in a shared exhibit. If known, indicate any other club or person you are planning to share exhibit space with.

Deadlines and Money (this is the important part)

- Deadline for exhibit forms is September 15, 2017. No exceptions!
- Deadline for reserving a room at the Doubletree Convention rate is September 22, 2017.
- Deadline for Convention Registration form is September 30, 2017.
- Deadline for Delegate Registration form is October 5, 2017 (to Bev Eisenacher, EFMLS Secretary)
- Please make all checks payable to Bristol Gem and Mineral Club.
- The convention registration fee of \$15 will cover your admission to the show (both days).

If You Have Questions

Katie Collins, Region I Vice President has agreed to act as the Convention/Club liaison. If you have any questions about the convention, the club, Bristol, or Connecticut, please contact her. You may also contact Dave Korzendorfer, President of the EFMLS and Vice-President of the Bristol Club.

You may reach Katie at (860) 659-2026; email: kathleenc55@cox.net

You may reach Dave at (860) 651-9980; email: dkorzend27@comcast.net

Hope to see many of you in October!!