

# EFMLS NEWS

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



Volume 67, Number 11  
October 2020

## **IMPORTANT -- EFMLS INSURANCE NOTICE**

EFMLS has received a three-month extension of our insurance program as the current virus has reduced our collecting and show opportunities. If your club has a proof of insurance certificate, please check and verify that it is good through February 15, 2021. If not, please contact Eileen Wimmer, (315) 671-8833, to get a corrected certificate. We do not have specifics or rates at this time for 2021's insurance program.

We are planning to collect money for insurance during the month of January 2021. While 2021 membership dues are not being collected as announced previously, EFMLS directory information will be needed along with the insurance information.

Information will be posted to the EFMLS.org website as it becomes available. Please ensure the people in your club responsible for these actions are informed of this and any changes as they occur.

*Gary Bergholdt, EFMLS Treasurer*

## **CONVENTION – REMINDERS & UPDATES**

The 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention is scheduled for October 23-25, 2020, sponsored by the Catawba Valley Gem and Mineral Society in Hickory, North Carolina. The complete 2020 Convention Pack can be found at <https://efmls.org/annual-convention> Please note the following regarding the Annual Meeting:

### **DELEGATE REGISTRATION:**

Even though your club may have registered for the March meeting, **a new Director and Delegate form needs to be filed with the secretary to be able to vote at the October 23, 2020 meeting.** Note, the form needs to be signed by an officer of your club to be valid. The **deadline** for receipt of the form is **October 8, 2020.** If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [beisenacher@comcast.net](mailto:beisenacher@comcast.net). The Director and Delegate Registration Form can be found on page 13. This Form must be filed with the secretary whether your club will be attending in person or through Zoom.

*Beverly Eisenacher, EFMLS Secretary*

**NOTE:** *If you plan to attend the meeting via Zoom, you need to register on Zoom*  
at: [https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0pdOyorD0qEtyK\\_DnwwnflER8eMQKgyp50](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0pdOyorD0qEtyK_DnwwnflER8eMQKgyp50)

*(Convention Reminders and Updates Continued on pages 2- 4)*

## EFMLS OFFICERS

2019-2020

DAVID NOCK	<b>President</b>	davidnock at gmail.com
ELLERY BOROW	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Vice President</b>	rocknellery at fairpoint.com
LAURA SIMMONS	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President</b>	president at gmspb.org
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Editor contact information: [efmlsnews.editor@gmail.com](mailto:efmlsnews.editor@gmail.com), phone 973-993-3192 or mail at  
52 Harrison Street, Morristown, New Jersey 07960

The EFMLS website can be found at [www.EFMLS.org](http://www.EFMLS.org).

**Deadline is the first of each month prior to publication date** (i.e., March 1 for April issue). No issue is normally published during July nor August. Non-commercial reprint permission is granted unless otherwise reserved.

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## CONVENTION – REMINDERS & UPDATES *(continued from page 1)*

### SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES:

#### EFMLS Convention Schedule of Activities:

Friday, October 23... ~~Presidents round table @ Hampton INN Center at 4 PM~~ – **CANCELLED**

Friday, October 23...annual business meeting @ Hickory Metro Convention Center at 7 PM (cash bar at 6:30)

Saturday, October 24...Editor's breakfast @ Hampton Inn at 8:00 am. (\$5.00)

Saturday, October 24 ...EFMLS Auction @ Hickory Metro Convention Center @ 1:30

Saturday, October 24...Awards Banquet @Hickory Metro Convention Center at 7 pm (Pulled pork BBQ, BBQ chicken, and Salmon/potato salad/baked beans/cold slaw/apple cobbler with ice cream ...\$40)

Monday, October 26...Field trip to Propst Farm for Sapphires. Meet in Lobby of the Hampton Inn at 8:30am. \$20.00 **dig fee payable at site**. (cash only).

### CONVENTION REGISTRATION:

The Convention Registration Form can be found on page 14 Registration **deadline** is **October 1, 2020**.

### CONVENTION MEETING LOCATON AND HOTEL REGISTRATION INFORMATION:

EFMLS Convention Hotel: the Hampton Inn is well suited since it is adjacent to the Hickory Metro Convention Center and a walk of one to two minutes. It is located at 1956 13<sup>th</sup> Ave. Dr. SE. A block of rooms has been

set aside for convention delegates at \$119 plus tax. Mention that you are with the EFMLS Convention when calling 828.624.2000.

### **COMPETITIVE & NON-COMPETITIVE EXHIBITS:**

If you registered previously or plan to enter an exhibit for either competitive or non-competitive showcases, you, too, need to re-register. The registration form containing information on exhibiting and registration can be found on page 15.

*Larry Huffman, General Show Chairman*

### **OFFICER & COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Updates of officer and committee reports are due to the EFMLS Secretary ([beisenacher@comcast.com](mailto:beisenacher@comcast.com)) no later than October 8, 2020. If you have no changes in the report submitted earlier this year, let the Secretary know.

### **2020 ANNUAL AUCTION:**

For those of you who have participated in this event, you can't wait to hear the words of our auctioneers, "Do I have a bid for this item?" and "Going, going, sold!"

Every year I am amazed at the wonderful items donated and the generosity of the participants. I also know that you can get some very amazing items for a great price. All proceeds fund the principal of the Eastern Foundation Fund. The interest generated from the fund is used to support a variety of EFMLS special programs, which you and your club benefit from!

If you are interested in donating items, please email me at [ciervo.neary@gmail.com](mailto:ciervo.neary@gmail.com) or call or text me at 516.449.5341 to inform me what items you will be sending and I will give you an address to ship them to.

The auction is to be held on Saturday, **October 24, 2020 at 2:00pm**. Hope to see you there! **Bring money!**

Thank you all in advance for your participation. Going, going, sold!

*Cheryl Neary, Auction Committee Chair*

### **FROM THE CONVENTION PACKET:**

By registering and attending this Convention in person, you are acknowledging and accepting responsibility for the potential risk of exposure to the Coronavirus. You also agree to hold harmless, the EFMLS, in the event of contracting COVID-19 as a result of attending this Convention.

PLEASE check all available information resources for traveling to North Carolina. You may wish to start here: <https://www.nc.gov/covid-19/covid-19-travel-resources>. Check all resources from state and local Public Health Agencies that may help you plan your trip and your stay so that you can protect yourself and your fellow human.

# NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

**Editor's Note:** The following is reprinted here for your reference as it appeared in the March issue of the *EFMLS News*. The date of Annual Meeting has been updated. The slate by the Nominating Committee will also appear in the Convention Packet.

The Nominating Committee presents the following slate for election at the upcoming convention's annual meeting on Friday, [October 23, 2020 at 7:00 PM]:

## OFFICERS:

**Ellery Borow** for **President**

**Laura Simmons** for **1<sup>st</sup> Vice President**

**Bill Stephens** for **2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President**

**Gary Bergholdt** will run for another two-year term as our **Treasurer**

**Mark Kucera** will run for the **Secretary** position

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

**Dan Record** will run for one of the two open positions on the Nominating Committee

**Carrie Meyers** will run for the remaining Nominating Committee position.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathleen Collins  
Nominating Committee, Chair

# EFMLS 1<sup>st</sup> VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## THE POWER OF PASSIONATE PEOPLE

A story, if I may - I have been collecting since I was this tall (I'm pointing to just above my knee - I was tall for my height). That was when I was 5 or 6 years in age. Around that time, I had started digging holes in our family driveway to excavate small bits of granite-looking material. The specimens found exhibited deep red garnet crystals of perhaps one, two or maybe three millimeters in diameter.

At a young age I was a rock and mineral collector--and not only a mineral collector but, a micro-mineral collector. The passion in my digging was evidenced in the large number of holes I dug on my quest. Digging much to the chagrin of my parents I might add. I must say though, I had the presence of mind to fill in the holes I dug, even then.

It is the reference to passion I want to discuss here -- the passions of discovery. In rock clubs there is a good measure of passion. One finds the passion of sharing what one collects, the passion of putting on the perfect program, the passion of making the best possible club bulletin - no matter if it is post card size or a 48 page work of profound proportions. One will find examples of the passion of putting on the best meeting, forming the best cabochon, the best jewelry. Passions in clubs are evidenced in all we do. One does not need to look

far in our clubs to find additional evidence of passion. No doubt one may see numerous examples of passions all around. Take the lady who has just finished work on a cabochon having the most perfect pattern well aligned with the stone's axis and combined with a polish that is as good, or better, than that found on any mirror. One might well imagine the passion, pride, and pleasure radiating from her eyes, her smile, and the energetic glow radiating from her very being.

This hobby is filled full of passions. Please note that by admiring that lady's perfect handiwork you made her day extra special. Yes, you made more passion happen - so how about going out and making another person's day special as they, in turn, share their own passions of collecting or lapidary or mineral identifying, or being the best editor ever, or whatever. There is a lot to be passionate about--so how about sharing some of yours.

*Ellery Borow, EFMLS 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President*

## **AFMS ENDOWMENT FUND**

Monies generated from ticket sales are invested and the interest generated from these investments is used for a variety of projects that benefit the regional federation member clubs. The AFMS Junior Program, chaired by Jim Brace-Thompson is a wonderful example of how the interest is utilized!

Over the last years, Carolyn Weinberger, EFMLS representative, always managed to have the EFMLS as the leading seller of tickets and the most amount of money collected for the Endowment Fund. Let's keep this run alive!

Prizes to be won in the annual drawing are all donated by individuals and clubs from across the United States. If you would like to make a donation, please contact me as soon as possible. Donations are advertised via the AFMS Newsletter (if received in time for the next issue) and on the AFMS website with the donor receiving credit. The specimen has a weight limit of five (5) pounds and a minimum monetary value of \$75.00.

The specimen may be a piece of jewelry, rock, mineral, fossil or lapidary tools – again the weight limit and monetary value are key factors but remember – we want people to purchase the tickets because the articles are worth it!

Clubs and individuals interested in purchasing tickets (**\$5 each or 5 for \$20**) may do so by sending their check (payable to AFMS Endowment Fund) to me at:

PO Box 2444  
Hickory, NC 28603-2444

Please be certain to include your name, address and phone number with your request as well as a self-addressed, stamped envelope. **Deadline for mail purchase is October 3, 2020.**

Several EFMLS clubs purchase blocks of tickets using any prizes won as door prizes at club events. This is a nice way to support the Endowment (and programs your club may benefit from) and possibly reward members.

However, this year, after polling all the Federation Representatives, it was decided to postpone the actual drawing to next year (2021). The reason was because many shows were cancelled due to concerns of COVID-19. Without the opportunity to ask for donations, whether through the sale of tickets or through receiving specimen donations, it was decided to hold aside the tickets from this year separately. Tickets sales were extremely low. We will be holding a special raffle next year for the 2020 ticket holders (for every 100 tickets that have been sold in 2020 there will be a gift card value at \$100.00).

*Larry Huffman, AFMS-EFMLS Representative*

## **SAFETY – MASKS MATTER**

Just spoke with a physician who is head of a state's Center for Disease Control. One of the topics discussed was that masks matter when it comes to COVID-19 transmission-- and so does other face protection. Some notes:

Keeping physically distant, as in over six feet, is good but sometimes that will not be sufficiently safe considering aerosols and air currents. Mask wearing is a highly recommended compliment to distancing.

The longer the exposure time of people (even outdoor people) the greater the risk.

Masks need not be hospital/surgical grade or similar to N-95 standards (NIOSH) for brief passing contact. For contact times over 10 to 20 minutes consider a higher grade mask than many of the ones offered for sale at most retail stores and in catalogs, and many of the homemade masks. Because there are no standards to which many of the current commercial offering adhere, caution is warranted. Greater caution is advised for most homemade designs and fabrics.

Masks should fit well around chin, cheeks and especially nose contours. Better masks have bendable strips that allow the mask to be contoured around and snugly fit the nose area.

A tightly fitting mask does restrict and affect air flow and oxygen/CO2 levels so check with a professional for fit testing as well as suitability to address various health conditions that might be affected by mask wearing.

Masks are made with numerous fabrics. Some fabrics are better than others for COVID-19 mitigation. If there is any doubt as to when additional protection is needed consult with a professional or utilize a known surgical or N-95 mask.

Homemade masks convey some measure of protection but must be worn correctly to be most effective. A mask must fit well and be worn to cover the mouth and nose. A mask is not an ornament - it is a measure of commitment to safety. That said, many masks come printed with various imaginative designs. One can make a statement with mask wearing.

Another mask to consider is a face shield style headware that extends from forehead to below the chin as well as extending from ear to ear. A face shield adds a modicum of additional protection for COVID-19 transmission. Mask first, face shield second. Goggles with side shields and eyeglasses also offer a modicum of

additional protection. Combined with a mask, face and eye coverings, aid in preventing COVID-19 transmission especially for those in prolonged contact with others. Remember, persons carrying transmissible COVID-19 can be asymptomatic.

If one has or feels any difficulty with breathing while wearing a mask, have that difficulty checked by a professional. There may be an undiagnosed condition that needs to be addressed.

There needs to be a common-sense judgement of what situations and environments need additional protection and attention. There are no one-mask-fits-all scenarios.

Along with mask wearing consider additional precautions of glove wearing, hand washing, and distancing while in contact with health-compromised individuals or while in situations where one cannot be safe just by physical distancing.

Sources of additional information include:

WHO - World Health Organization

CDC - Center for Disease Control

NIH - National Institute of Health

NIAD - National Institute of Allergies and Infectious Diseases

NIOSH - National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health

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 mask advice.

Your safety matters. Please be extra cautious in this current COVID-19 virus day and age.

**The disclaimer** - understand that this article does not profess to offer medical advice but merely compiles data from several sources about masks and the COVID-19 virus. For current information please check with trusted sources.

*Ellery Borow, Safety Chairman*

## **SUPPORT OUR JUNIOR MEMBERS**

### **Editor's Note:**

Many of our junior members are not only active in the hobby, but are being creative during this uncertain time. Trent Meyers is one of those juniors.

Trent, a junior member of the Central Pennsylvania Rock and Gem Club, has received numerous awards for his writings from both the EFMLS and AFMS, and was featured in a recent *Rock and Gem Magazine* article. When Trent's mother, Region 3 Vice President, first asked that we acknowledge Trent's request to put his volunteered program in the newsletter, we knew this was a way to support our junior members. Since Trent is working through his club and not charging for the following, we decided we could include his request in the newsletter. It has been a policy of EFMLS News that commercial, for hire or other events that are not affiliated with a member society are not accepted for the newsletter. The following, in his own words, are Trent's volunteering to do a Zoom program for clubs:

## VOLUNTEERING TO DO A PROGRAM

Hi, my name is Trent Meyers and I'm an upcoming junior in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and, yes, my mom is the Region 3 VP for the EFMLS. I am a member of multiple rock and mineral clubs in the surrounding area, including the Central Pennsylvania Rock and Mineral Club where I recently gave a presentation on fluorescent minerals over Zoom. I'm here to offer to present the same presentation if your club does Zoom meetings. The presentation is on fluorescent minerals and is about 45 minutes long. You may think that I'm too young but my mineralogical resume already includes several in person presentations and several zoom presentations on fluorescent minerals. Of course, I can provide references but instead I've included a link to an article that was written about my fluorescent fascination in *Rock & Gem Magazine*. In this time of social distancing I think it is more important than ever to connect with fellow rockhounds and continue meetings.

Intimidated by virtual meetings? Don't be! I can walk you through the steps to set up a zoom meeting if needed. My calendar is filling fast so book your date now! Email me at [tmeyers705@comcast.net](mailto:tmeyers705@comcast.net) or call 717-314-5375 with any questions, more information or to schedule a presentation.

<https://www.rockngem.com/spotlight-on-juniors-trent-meyers-and-his-glowing-fascination/9>

Thanks, Trent Meyers



Our thoughts, prayers and condolences continue to be with the grieving loved ones and friends of those who have lost the battle with their lives to the coronavirus.

EFMLS President David Nock is asking all societies/clubs to submit the names of anyone in your club that has passed away since May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019. When the person passed and any other helpful information such as a brief biography and a picture should be sent to [efmlsinc@gmail.com](mailto:efmlsinc@gmail.com).

## VISIT A SHOW OR SWAP

**Editor's Note:** *If you are considering attending any of the events listed below, not marked cancelled nor postponed, 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. 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 August 10 for September and/or October events or 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](mailto:EFMLSNews.editor@gmail.com).

June 13 – **POSTPONED TO JANUARY 16, 2021** Newton, MA -- 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](mailto:mharitos@comcast.net), [www.bostonmineralclub.org](http://www.bostonmineralclub.org).

October 3 – Macungie, PA – 2020 Autumn Mineralfest sponsored by the Pennsylvania Earth Science Association, Macungie Memorial Park, Macungie, PA 8:30 Am to 3:00 PM. Adult admission \$2.00. Free admission and mineral specimens for children under 12. For more information go to <http://www.mineralfest.com/home.html>.

October 10-11 – Ogdensburg, NJ -- Annual Autumn Outdoor Rock Swap and Sale by the North Jersey Mineralogical Society, Sterling Museum. Masks are required. 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM. Free admission and parking. Information: <https://nojms.webs.com/north-jersey-swap-n-sell>

October 17 – **Rain date October 18** -- Cherry Hill, NJ -- 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual South Jersey Gem, Jewelry, Mineral and Fossil Show hosted by the South Jersey Gem, Mineral & Fossil Society. Saturday 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM at the Jewish Federation of Southern New Jersey Annex Building, 1721 Springdale Road, Cherry Hill. The show will be held outdoors and face coverings will be required along with social distancing. For more information: [sjmineralsow@gmail.com](mailto:sjmineralsow@gmail.com)

October 23-25 – Hickory, NC – 50<sup>th</sup> annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Show sponsored by the Catawba Valley Gem and Mineral Club and the EFMLS Annual Meeting and Convention. Hickory Metro Convention Center, 1960 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue Drive SE, Hickory, NC 28602. Friday and Saturday 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM, Sunday 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM. Admission \$5 adults (good for all 3 days). For uniformed law enforcement, military, scouts, approved youth groups and ages 12 and under admission is free. Contact Dean Russell ([cvgmsecretary@Aol.com](mailto:cvgmsecretary@Aol.com) or 828-303-1448) or for all Show information go to [www.cvgmc.com/SpecialEvents.html](http://www.cvgmc.com/SpecialEvents.html)

October 31 – **CANCELLED** - Fairless Hills, PA – The Rock and Mineral Club of Lower Bucks County, PA and the UV Nomads of the Fluorescent Mineral present “Ultraviolation 2020” are the First United Methodist Church, 840 Trenton Road, Fairless Hills, PA. 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM. Cost \$2.00 donation, children 12 and under free. Information: Lee McIlvaine [uvgeologist@yahoo.com](mailto:uvgeologist@yahoo.com) or 215-713-8020.

## DID YOU KNOW...

- In May 2019 the first discovered intermediate black hole at 142 times the mass of the sun was detected. Until this time, it was thought that collapses could not create stellar black holes much bigger than 70 times the mass of our sun. “Small black holes” are about the size of a small city and are called stellar black holes. “Supermassive black holes” are millions and even billions of times more massive than the sun and at which entire galaxies may revolve.

*AOL News article September 3, 2020*

- An ant found in an amber fossil (called the Hell Ant) was unlike today's ants with a recurved mandible that swung upward. The mouthparts of the 16 known species of the hell ant hinged shut vertically while the modern-day ant mouthparts hinge horizontally.

Reported in *Current Biology, Science, smithsonianmag.com* August 10 2020

- According to scientists, most likely heading for again, another eruption, is Iceland's most active volcano.

<https://phys.org/news/2020-08-iceland-volcano-eruption.html>

## **JEWELRY, GEMS, AND MINERALS IN A COVID-19 WORLD**

Excerpted from *The Dopstick*, newsletter of the Gem, Lapidary and Mineral Society of the District of Columbia, August 2020, and written by Denise Nelson, President of GMLS/DC. Denise is a well-known gemologist and appraiser who has been a resident speaker at Wildacres and has traveled the globe exploring gems and jewelry.

By now, most people have had ample opportunity to access the economic damage the outbreak of COVID-19 has caused during the past 5 months. The jewelry, gem, and mineral world has not been spared. However, this pandemic has revealed the vibrant, resilient, and creative spirit of those within the industry. Many have lost their jobs, but many have also stepped up and shared their knowledge, experiences, and advice via videoconferences and webinars....

...Never could anyone have imagined that around the globe people would remain locked inside their homes in fear for their health and their very lives! The retail shops we knew as fun, relaxing places to browse and purchase the item we needed—or fell in love with—have changed, maybe never to return as we knew them. In no time, enterprising individuals tried to make the best of an undeniably tragic situation. In the meantime, huge companies are benefitting from spiking mail orders, and prices continue to increase. Now, after months of watching all kinds of storefronts being boarded up, everyone's home has become their castle—or prison. Discussions of what could have prepared us for the current world need to be welcomed, and the jewelry and mineral businesses around the world have had to adapt quickly. Mining, shipping, cutting factories, and international trade are currently on shaky ground, with the United States—its biggest consumer—shut down. Retail dealers have been hard hit, but many have found ways to sell, create, and deliver gems and fine jewelry online or to move toward personal, appointment-only sales. This trend actually started years ago as rent for retail space became unaffordable for family-owned stores. With gold prices rising, inventories became smaller, and many stores closed for good. The appointment-only, office, or in-home sales—once only available to high-end clients—may now become an even more common way of doing business. Downsizing in inventory and in new purchases shrinks wholesale markets overall. However, since wealth is still out there, brand names, collectible rare pieces, antiques, finely crafted items, or one-of-a-kind creations remain in demand, which may keep virtual auctions going until live auctions become possible again.

Importantly, please select carefully who gets your support and your business! Choose the establishment that assures your safety, the appraiser who seats you at least 6 feet away in a well-ventilated space, and the teacher who prefers to teach via teleconferencing. Pick the jeweler who will order or make precisely what you want. And, answer the friend who sends pictures of his collection and expects a reply. Also, please be aware of many current gold-purchasing scams due to rising prices. And watch out for the gems and minerals offered for sale by overseas entities pretending to be local.

For our clubs in this area, money saved is one earned! Currently, there are no live meetings, no costs for renting meeting places, no speaker fees, no travel expenses, no field trips, or other overhead. Members do not have to drive to meetings or contribute in other ways. Yet, the loss of personal interaction, sharing a hobby, hands-on-learning, designing ideas, attending educational events, participating in shows, and touring museums takes a mental toll. Hopefully, our mutual interest in gems and minerals brings some happiness until the world returns to normal.

We all do miss each other, but don't let it paralyze you! You are still needed, appreciated, and it is still a beautiful world! What brought you joy before COVID-19? Admiring your gem collection? Creating something unique? Sharing and showing off your personal collection? Teaching? We all are incredibly lucky that we live in a time when contact with others is easy, and we can still pursue and share our hobbies. Zooming—whether with individuals or with groups—can connect you with others and assure you that everyone is still there and safe. Share, care, and pick up the phone!...

...stay safe and well, until we meet again!

## **SIMPLE TESTS FOR IDENTIFYING TRUE AMBER**

From the Delaware Valley Earth Science newsletter, *DVESScapades*, September 2020. Original article by Gary Platt was published by DVESS December 1994.

Since the screening of "Jurassic Park," interest in the mineral amber has grown significantly. Unfortunately, so has the quality of fake amber coming on to the market. Some of these pieces have insect inclusions skillfully placed in the body of the matrix.

The British National History Museum recently discovered that a bee preserved in amber thought to be one of the oldest known examples of this particular species was in fact a fake and probably no more than 150 years old (More on this bee later) evidence of this nature, that even the best can be fooled, should alert all collectors to the possibility of being misled or simply cheated.

In some cases, copal, which is tree resin which has not yet fully fossilized to amber and may be anything up to 3-4 million years old, is described as true amber. Debate still rages in the UK about certain Kenyan deposits as to whether they should be called copal or amber and I have heard of similar arguments concerning deposits in South America.

There are a number of simple tests which can be carried out on amber to check its authenticity. I have listed here all the basic methods I have come across. More sophisticated and complex tests are possible, but they require access to laboratory equipment. These more complex tests include: refraction index, polarized light test for ambroid (conglomerated and pressed) amber, precise specific gravity and melting point.

When examining a specimen, you should try at least 3 of the following methods detailed here. If the item in question fails any one of these tests, it could well mean the piece is not true amber.

**TEST 1: HARDNESS** – Amber has a hardness on Moh's scale in the region of 2-3. Using appropriate scratch sticks, it should be reasonably straightforward to test the sample under question.

**TEST 2: HOT NEEDLE** – Heat a needle point in a flame until glowing red and then push the point into the sample for testing. With copal, the needle melts the material quicker than amber and omits a light fragrant odor. Amber when tested does not melt as quickly as the copal and omits sooty fumes.

**TEST 3: SOLUBILITY** – Copal will dissolve in acetone. This test can be done by dispensing the acetone from an eye dropper onto a clean surface of the test specimen. Place one drop on the surface of the test piece and allow to evaporate, then place a second drop on the same area. Copal will become tacky; amber will remain unaffected by contact with acetone.

**TEST 4: UV** – Copal under a short-wave UV light shows hardly any colour change. Amber fluoresces a pale shade of blue.

**TEST 5: FRICTION** -- Rub the specimen vigorously on a soft cloth. True amber may omit a faint resinous fragrance but copal may actually begin to soften and the surface become sticky. Amber will also become heavily charged with static electricity and will easily pick up small pieces of loose paper.

**TEST 6: TASTE** – This test was introduced to me by an antique trader who specialized in amber beads. She explained that one of the most reliable tests she used was to taste the amber specimen after washing it in mild soap water and then plain water. Whilst she could make no distinction between copal and amber, she could easily identify plastics and other common substitutes because of their unpleasant or chemical taste. Amber has hardly any taste at all. As a method for identification, I have not seen this procedure recorded elsewhere. I can vouch for its effectiveness as a non-destructive method of differentiating between amber and certain other substances often misleadingly labeled amber.

**TEST 7: INCLUSIONS** – Infrequently amber contains flora or fauna inclusions. Correctly identifying the trapped insect or plant should be an excellent indicator of a piece's authenticity. Most inclusions from ancient amber are of species which are now extinct.

**TEST 8: FLOTATION (Specific Gravity)** – Mix 23gms of standard table salt with 200ml of luke warm water. Stir until completely dissolved. Amber should float in such a mixture and some copals together with various plastics sink.

Now back to the bee I mentioned earlier. I am afraid that only the seventh of these tests would have identified this particular fake. The item consisted of a block of true amber into which had been drilled a hole large enough to receive the dead bee. Amber which had been melted was then poured back over the insect, encasing it in a genuine amber prison.

Anyone wishing to find out more about amber in general or these test methods specifically would do well to consult one of three books currently available on amber, they are:

*Life In Amber*, George O. Poinar, Jr., Stanford University Press ISBN: 0-8047-2001-0

*The Quest for Life in Amber*, George O. Poinar, Jr., Stanford University Press

*AMBER – The Golden Gem of the Ages*, Patty C. Rice, The Kosciuszko Foundation, Inc.

ISBN 0-917-00720-5

## CLUB OF THE MONTH

If you would like your club to be highlighted as a Club of the Month, please contact the editor at [efmsnew.editor@gmail.com](mailto:efmsnew.editor@gmail.com) or 973-993-3192.

## REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS (RVP'S)

<b>Region 1</b>	Ellery Borow	1-207-547-3154	rocknellery at fairpoint.com
<b>Region 2</b>	Cheryl Neary	1-516-449-5341	ciervo.neary at gmail.com
<b>Region 3</b>	Carrie Meyers	1-717-314-5375	cmeyers8 at comcast.net
<b>Region 4</b>	Bill Stephens	1-302- 540-3453	bstephens at stephensv.com
<b>Region 5</b>	Susie Lamb	1-304-989-7558	lambcheryl at hotmail.com
<b>Region 6</b>	Larry Huffman	1-828-612-4469	ldhuff314 at embarqmail.com
<b>Region 7</b>	Joe Cooper	1-706-499-9322	jcooper@hallcounty.org
<b>Region 8</b>	Michelle Renne	1-561-644-2323	tfhae2 at gmail.com

## EFMLS COMMITTEES AND CHAIRPERSONS

<b>AFMS ENDOWMENT FUND <sup>(1)</sup></b>	Larry Huffman	828-612-4469	ldhuff314 at embarqmail.com
<b>AFMS SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION <sup>(1)</sup></b>	Steve Weinberger	410-833-7926	cscrystals2 at gmail.com
<b>AFMS WAYS AND MEANS <sup>(1)</sup></b>	To be appointed		
<b>ALL AMERICAN AWARD<sup>(1)</sup></b>	Open		
<b>AUCTION</b>	Cheryl Neary	516-499-5341	ciervo.neary at gmail.com
<b>AUDIT/REVIEW</b>	Open		
<b>BOUNDARIES <sup>(1)</sup></b>	Cyndy Hummel	919-779-6426	mchummel at mindspring.com
<b>BUDGET AND FINANCE</b>	Ellery Borow	207-547-3154	rocknellery at fairpoint.com
<b>BULLTIN EDITORS ADVISORY <sup>(1)</sup></b>	Mary Bateman	973-993-3192	mbateman1@verizon.net
<b>BYLAWS</b>	Larry Heath	603-642-8601	heathlg at comcast.net
<b>CHANGE MANAGEMENT &amp; LEADERSHIP CN</b>	Larry Heath	603-642-8601	heathlg at comcast.net
<b>CLUB ROCKHOUND OF THE YEAR <sup>(1)</sup></b>	Ellery Borow	207-547-3154	rocknellery at fairpoint.com
<b>COMMUNICATIONS</b>	David Nock	203-903-5400	davidnock at gmail.com
<b>CONSERVATION &amp; LEGISLATION <sup>(1)</sup></b>	Bill Stephens	302-540-3453	bstephens at stephensenv.com
<b>CONVENTION ADVISORY</b>	Cyndy Hummel	919-779-6426	mchummel at mindspring.com
<b>CONVENTION SHOW CHAIR</b>	Larry Huffman	828-612-4469	ldhuff314 at embarqmail.com
<b>DIRECTORY</b>	Christine Conlon	508-631-0443	efmls.directory at gmail.com
<b>EACH ONE TEACH ONE AWARD</b>	Betsy Oberheim	717-469-2243	Aoberheim3 at comcast.net
<b>EASTERN FIELD ACCESS COUNCIL</b>	Andy Brodeur	413-561-5600	rockhound1963 at gmail.com
<b>EASTERN FIELD TRIP ALIANCE (EFTA)</b>	Open		
<b>EASTERN FOUNDATION FUND</b>	Open		
<b>HISTORIAN</b>	Alan Holmes	781-447-1174	maverick323839 at comcast.net
<b>INSURANCE COORDINATOR (Acting)</b>	David Nock	203-903-5400	davidnock at gmail.com
<b>JUNIOR ACTIVITIES <sup>(1)</sup></b>	Betsy Oberheim	717-469-2243	Aoberheim3 at comcast.net
<b>LEGAL ADVISORY</b>	Open		
<b>LIBRARIAN</b>	Janice Kowalski	516-319-8883	janicekw at Hotmail.com
<b>LONG RANGE PLANNING</b>	Open		
<b>OPERATING PROCEDURES</b>	Open		
<b>PARLIAMENTARIAN</b>	RJ Harris	717-686-1600	rjharris at rjharris.com
<b>PUBLICATIONS</b>	Open		
<b>SAFETY <sup>(1)</sup></b>	Ellery Borow	207-547-3154	rocknellery at fairpoint.com
<b>SUPPLIES</b>	Alan Holmes	781-447-1174	maverick323839 at comcast.net
<b>UNIFORM RULES (Acting)</b>	Barbara Sky	636-207-8766	bskysky at aol.com
<b>WAYS AND MEANS</b>	Open		
<b>WEBMASTER</b>	Heather Shields		hmshields at optonline.net
<b>WEB SITE CONTEST</b>	Alison Pacut	845-902-8562	pacutgarnet at gmail.com
<b>WILDCRES WORKSHOP COMMITTEE</b>	Steve Weinberger, Chair	410-833-7926	cscrystals2 at gmail.com
	Gary Bergtholdt	757-876-2666	gbergholdt at gmail.com
	KC Foster	561-968-5287	katrinkaper at yahoo.com
	Mark Kucera	914-423-8360	mark_j_kucera at yahoo.com
	Ken Valko	304-436-8032	sssoapstone at yahoo.com
	Pam Bryant, Director	804-457-4698	pjbryant6 at junco.com
	Suzie Milligan, Registrar	607-687-5108	smilligan at stny.it
<b>NOMINATING COMMITTEE</b>	Katie Collins, Chair	860-659-2026	Kathleen55c at cox.net
	Matt Charksy	703-522-7415	matt2430 at comcast.net
	Betsy Oberheim	717-469-2243	Aoberheim3 at comcast.net
	Barbara Ringhiser	561-588-5458	bar5678 at aol.com
	John Speier	954-648-1874	fantyscp at Hotmail.com
	Larry Huffman	828-612-4469	ldhuff at embarqmail.com
	Bob Livingston	315-446-4505	gemguy at Verizon.net

<sup>(1)</sup> EFMLS Representative to American Federation (AFMS) committee.



*Eastern Federation*  
*of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies, Inc.*  
Affiliated with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc.



70<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL EFMLS BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

Hickory, NC March

October 23, 2020

*Please print all information requested clearly.*

**NAME OF SOCIETY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DIRECTOR:** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-MAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_  
*(The president of each society is a Director of EFMLS. Please list the president's name only if the president plans to attend this meeting.)*

**DIRECTOR'S ALTERNATE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-MAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_  
*(To represent the society if the president cannot attend the meeting)*

**DELEGATE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-MAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Elected by society members)*

**ALTERNATE DELEGATE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-MAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_  
*(To represent society if Delegate cannot attend meeting)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE AND TITLE OF SOCIETY OFFICER

**Bev Eisenacher**  
**EFMLS Secretary**  
**394 Hivner Rd.**  
**Harrisburg, PA 17111**

**From the EFMLS Constitution**  
**(Article V, Sec. 3)**

*It shall be the responsibility of each Member Society to notify the Secretary in writing of the names of its Director, Delegate and alternate who expect to attend the Annual Meeting fifteen (15) days prior to the convening date.*

Please **return by October 8, 2020** to  
Bev Eisenacher, EFMLS Secretary

**ADVANCE REGISTRATION FORM**  
**70<sup>th</sup> EASTERN FEDERATION CONVENTION**  
**Hickory, NC                      October 23-25, 2020**



Primary Registrant (Registration will be recorded under this name—please print name and title as you want them to appear on your name badge.)

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Title \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Federation or Club Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Check all that apply:	AFMS Officer _____	Delegate _____	Judge _____
Demonstrator _____	EFMLS Officer _____	Alt. Delegate _____	Competitive Exhibitor _____
Dealer _____	Past President _____	Editor _____	Noncompetitive Exhibitor _____

**ALL TICKETS WILL BE IN YOUR DELEGATE BAGS**

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:** Catawba Valley Gem and Mineral Club

Please send this form and remittance to: **Terry Russell,**  
**5254 Olde School Drive, Hickory, NC 28602**

CONVENTION ACTIVITIES PLEASE USE ONE FORM PER REGISTRANT; PAYMENT CAN BE COMBINED	NUMBER	AMOUNT
Attendance at EFMLS Presidents round table, 4 PM, Friday, Oct. 23 Hampton Inn Meeting Room	_____	N/A
Attendance at EFMLS Annual Meeting, 7 PM, Friday, Oct. 23 Hickory Metro Center	_____	N/A
EFMLS Awards Banquet, 7 PM, Saturday, Oct. 24 @\$40.00 Pulled Pork BBQ, BBQ Chicken, & Salmon, Potato Salad, Baked Beans, Coleslaw, Apple Cobbler & Ice Cream	_____	_____
EFMLS Editor's Breakfast, 8 AM, Saturday, Oct. 24 @\$5.00 Hampton Inn Meeting Room	_____	_____
Convention Registration Fee @ \$5.00 (Show Admission)	_____	_____
Field trip on Monday 5/26/2020 Meet in lobby of Hampton Inn 8:30 am. Propst Farm for sapphires. \$20.00 dig fee. <b>Pay at site. (Cash)</b>	_____	_____N/A_____
<b>Total Amount Enclosed</b>	_____	_____

**Deadline for receiving REGISTRATION forms October 1, 2020**



**2020 Annual EFMLS Convention**  
**Convention and Show Host: Catawba Valley Gem and Mineral Club**

**50th Annual Show, October 23-25, 2020**

**Hickory Metro Convention Center, Hickory, NC**

Application for Competitive and Noncompetitive Exhibits

Competitive Yes \_\_\_\_\_ Non-Competitive \_\_\_\_\_  
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_ Federation or Club Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate:

Exhibitor Group: Master \_\_\_\_ Advanced \_\_\_\_ Novice \_\_\_\_ Jr. \_\_\_\_ Soc. \_\_\_\_ Jr. Soc. \_\_\_\_  
Exhibit Division \_\_\_\_ Exhibit Class \_\_\_\_\_ If Junior, give birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please supply the following information to aid us in planning your exhibit space.**

I will use my own case, YES \_\_\_\_ or NO \_\_\_\_ .

Subject of Exhibit: \_\_\_\_\_

**CERTIFICATION FOR INDIVIDUAL ADULT AND JUNIOR EXHIBITORS:** I hereby certify that all material exhibited in competition by me is my own personal property and that all lapidary and jewelry work (except minor findings or where otherwise allowed by the rules) was completed by me. I have read the current rules and agree to abide by them.

**SECURITY AND LIABILITY:** The Catawba Valley Gem and Mineral Club will house all exhibits in a building with a security system and will take reasonable precautions to protect the property and person of each exhibitor. However, it is mutually agreed that the Federation, member societies, their members, their officers or authorized agents will not be liable to any exhibitor for any damage or loss to his person or property from any cause. The exhibitor expressly waives all claims for loss, damage, or injury. Submission of the signed application for exhibitor space constitutes acceptance of all rules and regulations as outlined.

I agree to leave my exhibit on display until the show closes on Sunday, October 25, 2020.

EXHIBITOR SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

PRINT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

EXHIBITOR'S SOCIETY: \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify, as an officer of the above-named society, that the exhibitor is a member in good standing of the society and, to the best of my knowledge, is eligible to exhibit in the stated classification according to the rules.

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE TITLE DATE

**CERTIFICATION FOR SOCIETY (GROUP) AND JUNIOR SOCIETY (GROUP).** I hereby certify, as an officer of the above named Society, that the materials and/or workmanship exhibited are the property of this Society or the personal property of at least 5 members of the Society and no more than 20% of the material or workmanship exhibited are the property of any one member, and that the lapidary and jewelry exhibited are entirely (except for minor findings or where otherwise allowed by rules) the work of members of this Society. It is agreed that the exhibit will remain on display until the show closes on Sunday, October 25, 2020. I further agree to the Security and Liability statement, as listed above.

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE TITLE DATE

Use one form for each exhibit. All exhibits may be set up from 2:00-9:00 PM Thursday, October 22, 2020 and must be complete and ready to be judged by Friday, October 23, 2020 at 9:00 AM. Cases may not be taken down until 5 PM on Sunday, October 25. Please return forms to:

George Max 2020 13<sup>th</sup> St NE, Hickory, NC 28601

**DEADLINE FOR RECEIVING EXHIBIT FORMS IS October 1, 2020**



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