

EFMLS NEWS

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



Volume 67, Number 8
June-July 2020

WILDACRES AUGUST SESSION

Registration Still Open

From Wildacres Workshop Committee:

At this time, the August session is still scheduled to be held and we will keep you informed of any changes. After practicing staying home with the coronavirus, imagine a week of no cooking and no housekeeping. But most of all, imagine a week of meeting with fellow hobbyists and learning something new or honing skills you already have. How about being in the outdoors breathing all that fresh mountain air?

There is still time to sign up for the August 24-30 session of Wildacres. A final list of the classes is on page 9 and the registration form can be found on page 12 or at www.EFMLS.org/wildacres. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Steve Weinberger (Chair), Pam Bryant (Director) or Suzie Milligan (Registrar). Their contact information can be found on page 11 under Wildacres Workshop Committee.



Patio at Wildacres By Pam Bryant



Entrance to Offices & Rooms at Wildacres by Pam Bryant

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Communications and involvement are our keys to success.

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2019-2020

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EFMLS 1st VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Having lived a long time with rocks in my head, or rather, minerals on my mind, I have been around a great many people, fellow rockhounds, who impress me. They are clever, resourceful, creative, dedicated, generous, thoughtful, determined, and curious minded people. Little gets in the way of rockhounds enjoying, engaging, and sharing their hobby.

The Covid-19 virus pandemic is a time which challenges our usual rockhound routines. It is also a time for rockhounds to utilize our abilities to do what we do best -- be resourceful, creative, dedicated, and all the rest.

Field trips can be coordinated to maintain polite and social distances. Shows can be rescheduled. Meetings can be virtual or zoomed. All manner of fossil, lapidary, bead, jewelry and mineral lessons can be offered over internet access. Club bulletins can be e-mailed. Club and member connections can be maintained by video chat, Facebook, e-mail, innumerable social media, over-the-fence face time, phone calls, even USPS mail. We communicate well and, without doubt, have the ability to do even better. Our resourcefulness can open a window to show one another how we can not only help maintain our community of rockhounds but our hometown community as well. We communicate well and together we can do this.

The Covid-19 virus will keep us on our toes for a while -- sanitize our hands and groceries or not, six feet of distance or maybe ten, meeting head count limits of 10, or 20 or 30 or... We will need to keep adapting as we learn more about how to best manage until vaccines or other measures can offer some security and safety. We can be flexible.

Until we reach a certain level of understanding we will need to utilize our best abilities and a shoe box full of common sense to keep up with what adaptations we will need to make. Together we can do this. You can do this. Our clubs can do this. What a great rockhound community! Feels good to be part of it.

Time to step down from my hand sanitizing soap box and clean my groceries, or not. Please stay well and take things one day at a time. Thanks for being strong, and kind.

Ellery Borow, EFMLS First Vice President

A NOTE FROM REGION II VICE PRESIDENT CHERYL NEARY

In this unprecedented time, changes have occurred that effect all of our lives, our work and our social activities. Humans are social animals. We enjoy the company of our families, friends, and co-workers. However, our senses have been affected – the sense of touch especially. Remember the AT&T commercial –reach out and touch someone? Think about this, a phone company is asking you to reach out and touch someone with their product– not physically touch but hear or see that someone -- touch their lives. Well we can still reach out and touch someone!

Maybe not physically – but emotionally we can reach out and let someone know we are thinking about them! Yes, we can call on the phone, we can e-mail, send a note or two through the mail and we can Zoom (or any other transmission vehicle).

A few weeks ago I had the pleasure of seeing a presentation via Zoom. The Orange County Mineral Club of New York, the same club that held the convention last year, invited their members and others to attend their “new” mode of a meeting. One thing that I noted was that the members on the invite were genuinely happy to see the other club members – and friends -- even if the amount of time was limited.

The following week, the New York Mineral Club invited their members and other clubs to join their YouTube presentation. Both lectures were by Jeff Fast. Jeff Fast of Mineral Movies provided a glimpse into several mineral localities in the state of Connecticut. The presentation was very similar, they both were excellent and both had great questions asked and answered during the sessions.

To me the YouTube presentation was perhaps a bit easier to view and hear and with such a large audience it probably is the better instrument to utilize. Whereas, the Zoom meeting had a more social environment, because there was a voice interaction between club members and the presenter and you could view the members while watching the presentation.

The Long Island clubs are also having a Zoom meeting in June. What is nice about this venue is that many other club members can join into the presentation, if invited. The “if” is because each transmission vehicle has limitations as to the number of invites that can be utilized.

For many small clubs the free version will work. For larger clubs, an investment would be required. The amount of money required I do not know, and it may not be all that much. If interested, it would be worth checking into.

I, for one, am anxiously looking forward to an actual physical meeting. I know most of the members of my clubs, enjoy socializing at the meetings and participating in the monthly meetings – whether hands-on or a presentation. I think that it would also be a good idea to utilize one of the transmission vehicles as well, especially for your members that are homebound or perhaps away on vacation or due to work obligations and cannot attend the actual meeting.

So hopefully, the next few weeks will bring better weather for the various locations in the EFMLS. Go out and enjoy yourselves. Take in nature – you may even see things a bit different after being somewhat homebound. Connect with your members. Connect with other clubs – let’s bring back a part of history when you had pen pals and sister clubs. I challenge any club and their member(s) to reach out to another club either in your region or in one of the other regions.

You should have received access to the EFMLS Directory found on the website. This directory will have information about the various club members in the Federation. If you did not receive the directory– contact your Regional Vice President. The listing can be found on page 11 under Regional Vice Presidents.

There are eight regions in our Federation. Contact your Regional Vice President if you have any questions, issues or any comments. If you decided to reach out to another club or region's club – let your Regional VP know and please let me know! My information can also be found on page 11 under Regional Vice Presidents.
Rock on!

EACH ONE TEACH ONE

We have the winner selected, plaque made, speech ready...now all that remains is to be able to present the winner at the convention...sigh!!! But in the meantime, please be thinking of someone in your club who shares, teaches, makes others aware of his/her/their interest in rocks, minerals, jewelry, fossils, geology, etc. – all the wonderful aspects of our hobby. With the regulations in effect now, we can't actually go out to the public to share, but maybe someone has done it in the past, or plans to in the future. If so, please send me their information so I can be ready for the 2020 award. And, if we are unable to present one for this year, I will be reminding (nagging) you to nominate someone after the next convention! Until then, be safe.

Betsy Oberheim, Chair, EFMLS Each One Teach One Committee

CLUB ROCKHOUND OF THE YEAR (ACROY) ANOTHER REASON

Yes, there is yet another reason to honor one of your own in the AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year (ACROY) program. Clubs are now facing a myriad of new situations requiring the best of communication. With so many clubs having to make alternate accommodations or put their regular meetings on hold due to Covid-19 requirements, a premium is now being placed on good club member communications. So there is likely a member or members in your club making extraordinary efforts to keep the lines of communication open whether they be face to face (respecting appropriate social distancing recommendations) or on cell phones or some of the many and varied means of communication via the internet. This effort deserves recognition. And that is where we come in.

The ACROY program is available to all EFMLS clubs as a means to recognize members who go above and beyond in service to their club. Here is how it works. Your club selects a member who well serves their club. You write a brief perhaps 70-word description of that member's dedication, and send it to me. Then we take your write up and place it in the pages of the AFMS and EFMLS news to honor your member's dedicated service and let other clubs join in the honoring.

There are a few rules: The club may only submit one honoree for their Club Rockhound of the Year (or two names in the event of a couple) per year. The club may, in addition, also offer the name of a junior member. Anyone in the club may offer the honoree's name. The club may use any selection criteria they wish to select their honoree. Easy right.

Hope to hear from you because without doubt there are a great many deserving members in our clubs. Let's work together and help honor your dedicated members.

Ellery Borow, Chair EFMLS CROY Committee
rocknellery@fairpoint.com, P.O. Box 47, Waterville, ME 04309-0047

SAFETY MATTERS COMMUNICATIONS

Why is communication a matter of safety? Sometimes it is not a matter that communication is needed but what method of communication would be most effective.

In the past a club's bulletin distributed the word regarding safety matters. Things have changed. Now we have an instant age where communication is, shall we say, a bit faster. I get it, it's how we live now-a-days. Faster is better. But it's only better if the message gets to where it needs to go and in a timely manner. It used to be that most folks had a land line telephone for such messages. Telephones still serve that purpose, however, while some people still have land lines, you can't take it (a land line) with you.

How does your club contact its members in an emergency? One can start with a land line and cell phone calls. Instead, some members may prefer internet options - FacePage, Yahoot, Gaggles, Twitting, Link-Out, Swype, D-Mail, Slap Chat, Taxting, WhatsDown, ... whatever. Say one member uses Yahoot exclusively, and another only Face Page, and a third only Twitts? Does your club have a list of the internet contact preferences for each member's household, or a reliable cell number?

Is it really necessary to have an emergency contact method for each and every member household? Well, maybe, maybe not. How often might such a list be needed? The answer to that is easy -- hopefully as seldom as possible. Most reasons for contacting members are usually not urgent. The main reason for making note of the many ways to contact members is to raise the 'what if' awareness.

Having many options for contacting members is great. However, the one charged with doing the contacting needs to have access to all those many internet options as well. One answer to that is to have several people as contactors - each knowledgeable with several internet options. Another answer is to utilize a super-connected internet expert. In an internet-connected world it's good to have options.

Be safe out there on the internet and with Covid-19. Be safe with doing what we need to do to manage in this ever changing world and it's new normal. Your safety matters.

Ellery Borow, EFMLS/AFMS Safety Chairman

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

At this time we sure do have a problem making contact with our Pebble pups, but one thing is going strong; the Rockhound Connection on Facebook features a contest for Pebblepups on the third (3rd) Saturday of the month. The committee of 13 post some really crazy pictures of rock faces (real and contrived), scenes in agates, etc., and games that the kids write in and name, count, tell stories, etc. about them! It is really growing, this month we had thousands of comments, and dozens of winners! We send out rocks, crystals, wirewrapped slab or crystal necklaces, mini-mines, T-shirts, etc.; the kids often write back and send pictures of their smiles and rocks! It is a great feeling! They are from all over the U.S.! We do what we can to encourage kids to rockhound, think creatively, enjoy the hobby and the outdoors. I want to invite you, if you are on Facebook, to visit the Rockhound Connection, and drop in on the third (3rd) Saturday, to share the fun and laughter and creativity!

Betsy Oberheim, Chair, EFMLS Junior Activities Committee

CLUB SPOTLIGHT OF THE MONTH

Club Spotlight of the Month will resume with the August-September issue. If you would like to have your club spotlighted, please contact the editor at efmlsnews.editor@gmail.com.



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.

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.

June – **CANCELLED** The William Holland School has cancelled all programs/classes through June. While it is EFMLS News' policy not to endorse commercial programs, many of you have signed up for classes to attend at William Holland. This is listed as a service message only and is not meant as an endorsement nor non-endorsement of William Holland.

June 6-7 – Annual Show of the Orange County Mineral Society of New York. Both days 10:00 AM-4:00 PM, adults \$5, seniors \$3, free admission for scouts in uniform and children under 12. Museum Village, Monroe, NY. INFO: Ron Nelson, m33@optimum.net. www.ocmsny.org or <https://www.facebook.com/events/464623690971301>.

June 13 – **POSTPONED TO JANUARY 16, 2021** Boston Mineral Club Annual Auction, 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM, American Legion Nonantum Post 440, 295 California Street, Newton, MA. Includes voice auction of more than 200 lots of mineral specimens, gems, equipment and reference material, with a silent auction of more than 100 flats of mineral specimen, lapidary rough, equipment and books. INFO: Mike Haritos, 857-991-2294, mharitos@comcast.net, www.bostonmineralclub.org.

June 13 – Annual Show Danbury Mineralogical Society with Connecticut Antique Machinery Association, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM, Connecticut Antique Machinery Association ground, 31 Kent Cornwall Road, Kent, CT. 20th Annual Mineral and Gem Show to benefit the Connecticut Museum of Mining and Mineral Science. Free admission. Contact: John Pawloski, 860-927-0050, <http://www.ctamachinery.com/>

June 27-28 – **CANCELLED** Summer 2020 New York City Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show, Watson Hotel at 57th Street (440 W. 57th Street and 9th Avenue). Hosted by the New York Mineralogical Club and Excalibur Mineral Corp. Production. 10:00 AM-6:00 PM Saturday and 11:00 AM-5:00 PM Sunday. INFO: 434-964-0875 or visit www.newyorkmineralogicalclub.org/calendar

July 11-12 – **CANCELLED** 54th Annual Gem World Show, New York State Fairgrounds sponsored by the Gem, Lapidary and Mineral Society of Syracuse, NY. Retail dealers, wholesale sections, demonstrations, lectures and many kids activities. Show opens 10:00 AM daily. Adults \$7.00, kids under 12 with adult and Scouts in uniform, Free. INFO: dicklyons@gmss.us.

July 25-26 – **CANCELLED** Burlington Gem and Mineral Club, 41st Annual Champlain Valley Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show, Champlain Valley Exposition, Essex Junction, Vermont. Dealers, exhibits, lectures, demonstrations, children's activities, silent auction, door prizes, refreshments, free parking. Saturday and Sunday 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM, \$4 Adults (16-59), seniors (60+) \$3, children under 16 free with paying adult. Handicapped accessible. INFO: Andy Simmons at bgmcmvt@yahoo.com or <http://www.burlingtongemandmineralclub.org/show.html>.

DID YOU KNOW...

According to ABC News, WLINY, News 12 and several other news outlets, you should not keep hand sanitizer with alcohol in your vehicle. Now that warmer weather has arrived/is arriving temperatures inside your car can reach as high as 180 degrees. Alcohol, as most of us in the hobby know, is highly flammable and when exposed to high temperatures can ignite. That container of alcohol sanitizer can ignite and cause some serious damage to the interior of your vehicle or set it totally on fire. Moral: For even ten minutes, do not leave hand sanitizer with alcohol in your vehicle—even if the windows are left open.

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER EFMLS NEWS

Remember that there has traditionally been no EFMLS News during July and August. However, should the need arise, we will produce a special edition during those months. If you have activities or items you wish to share for August, or beyond, and wish them to appear in the August-September issue, please send them to the editor by August 10. This includes shows, swaps, picnics, etc.; cancellations of those that you know will be cancelled, etc.

The deadline for the August-September issue will be August 10th. Please send any items to efmlsnews.editor@gmail.com. Articles, pictures, and news are always welcomed.

EDITORIAL SCAMMING

Spammers and scammers are out in full force using the COVID-19 pandemic to scare you, try to take your money, steal your identity with a whole host of ways to do so. Not only are they using scams that have been around for a while but have gotten even more brazen with even more schemes. It would take a large book to elaborate on the many scams that are out there. Here are a few done either by phone, e-mail or social media that have been identified as being those that are most prevalent right now.

- COVID-19 Text Message Phishing Scheme – Scammers pretending to be COVID-19 contact tracers_ working for local public health departments are attempting to steal private information via a text message asking everything from your address; social security and Medicare numbers; who you have been in contact with during the past XX amount of time and what those persons, names, addresses, telephone numbers, etc. are. Do not give them any information. Call and verify with your local public health department.
- Robocalls offering you respiratory masks they will never send you. They ask for your checking account number, debit or credit card numbers. Once they have these, they can wipe out your bank account(s) or maximize your credit card.
- Social media posts fraudulently seeking donations for non-existent charities or claiming to give you stimulus funds if you enter your bank account number.
- Fake testing kits, cures, “immunity” pills, and offers for protective equipment. Of course, they are going to ask you for some type of payment.
- Scammers will do all they can to make you believe they are the authority they say they are – judge, lawyer, the police, IRS agent, Medicare or Medicaid representative etc. – DO NOT give them any financial information. The IRS, and most other government agencies will not call you, they will notify you by mail. A judge, lawyer or policeman may call you and tell you that a loved one, friend or neighbor needs you to help them out with money—usually for bail. Ask to speak with the person and ask them a question that someone who does not know them will not know the answer. Even if they know the answer, hang up and call the person they are calling about. This scam has been around for a long time, however, is resurfacing again on a large scale.
- Another scam that has been around for a long time and has taken off again on a large scale --You get an e-mail from your boss, a club officer, a friend, or whomever. They say they are busy, unavailable, away, or cannot get out because of the virus, or some other excuse; then ask for your help in obtaining a prepaid card (usually PayPal, American Express, Visa or Mastercard, sometimes in the hundreds of dollars) for a charity, gift for a relative, etc., and ask you to send it an address they give you. They tell you that they will give you the money back as soon as they get home, see you or whatever. Check the e-mail address who it was sent from. Even if it is the right e-mail address, call the e-mail sender BEFORE you go out and buy that card. Chances are almost 100% it is a scam. Would you ask someone to buy even a \$50 or \$100 card by e-mail?
- Threats of taking over your computer and asking for \$XX so they do not erase your computer hard drive. This is a hard one as to whether to comply or not. First, check now that your security software is up to date and turned on before you get that call. Run it in case someone has hacked into your system. You should always make sure your security software is the current version.

Two excellent sites to visit to get the latest and suggestions on scammers are www.Medicare.gov/fraud for medical fraud and, to get notified about the latest scams and receive tips on how to protect yourself, www.aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork.

Stay safe and ask yourself, “Is it too good to be true?” If so, it probably is a scam.

WILDACRES AUGUST 24-30 CLASS SCHEDULE

Class	Instructor	Description
Low Tech Casting	Linda Searcy	4 Day class- For all skill levels. Experiment with low tech casting techniques using MAPP gas torches. We will explore ways to melt silver and cast silver objects using broomstraw, water, dried peas/beans/rice, coffee beans, and rock salt. You will work toward creating components that can be made into jewelry pieces. Students should be comfortable with using torches and soldering techniques.
Viking Knit	Val Johnson	1 st semester- You will learn a technique used nearly 1300 years ago by ancient people to weave a silver rope. Viking knit is also called trichinopoly chain and was used to make bracelets, trim on clothing and many other decorative objects. Once you learn the skill it is very easy and uses few tools and supplies to create stunning chains.
Wireworks	Val Johnson	2 nd semester Students will learn how to work with various tools to create sterling silver wire wrapped jewelry. You will become familiar with the techniques needed to bend and twist wire to make a bracelet and a pendant. 2 day class offered 2 nd semester. No prior experience necessary. Hazard: Wire wrapping can damage acrylic or long fingernails.
Intarsia	John Milligan	1 st semester 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.
Intarsia	John Milligan	2 nd semester- same as above
Basic Silversmithing	Richard Meszler	1 st semester 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. No prior experience necessary.

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.

A journey through Ultra-Violet and Fluorescent Minerals

Bob(UV Bob) McGuire

1st semester

Study the finding of UV light and learn about UV lamps from the start. Ugly rocks- there are no ugly rocks. Just wait until you see how they get along with UV light! Find out what's in your collection and other uses for fluorescence. Can fluorescence be photographed? In this class you will find out how to do it.

A journey through Ultra-Violet and Fluorescent Minerals

Bob (UV Bob) McGuire

2nd semester- same as above

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	Bob Livingston	315-446-4505	gemguy at Verizon.net
NOMINATING COMMITTEE			

(1) EFMLS Representative to American Federation (AFMS) committee.



2020 EFMLS Wildacres Registration

PLEASE, ONLY one person per form per session

CHECK ONE: **Spring: May 18 - 24** _____ **Fall: August 24 - 30** _____

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, 2020.** (To make it easier for the Registrar and others, please do not change or revise this form. You may photocopy it as needed.) **Please print legibly!**

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

For Office Use Only

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

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

Best phone number with area code: (____) _____ e-mail: _____

Society/Organization Affiliation: _____

Fee for each session is \$435.00 per person. Deposit is \$220 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.

Check appropriate responses:

Have you been to Wildacres before? Yes ____ No ____ Is your Society 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 a separate sheet or email Suzie (see addresses below).

Do you have any sleep issues (i.e. snoring, apnea, C-PAP, etc.)? Yes ____ No ____

Class Pre-Registration

See EFMLS Newsletter or Website (efmls.org/wildacres) 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 pre-registered for classes based on your choices, but no class placement is guaranteed. Classes are assigned on a first received, first served basis. Should your preferred class be unavailable for any reason you will be pre-registered 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 class choices

1 _____
2 _____
3 _____
4 _____

Second Semester

1 _____
2 _____
3 _____
4 _____

(No Registrations accepted prior to January 1, 2020)

Mail Registration 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 pjbryant6@juno.com or 804-457-4698

