



OCMS SHALE MAIL



Join us for our monthly meeting via zoom on October 9, 2020 at 6:30 pm. As you can see it's a good time with exceptional visuals so pull up your couch, make a coffee and join us for a little rock hound socialization. SEE YOU ALL THERE!

Collection: T. Johnson
 Photographer: H. Moritz
 Overall Size: 3" X 3"
 FOV:
 Locality: Bett's Manganese mines
 Collection: Al Patrie

RHODONITE BUTTERFLY CARVING
 On MILKY QUARTZ xl (STAFFORD SPRINGS, CT)

Massachusetts State Gem Stone

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Mailing Address:

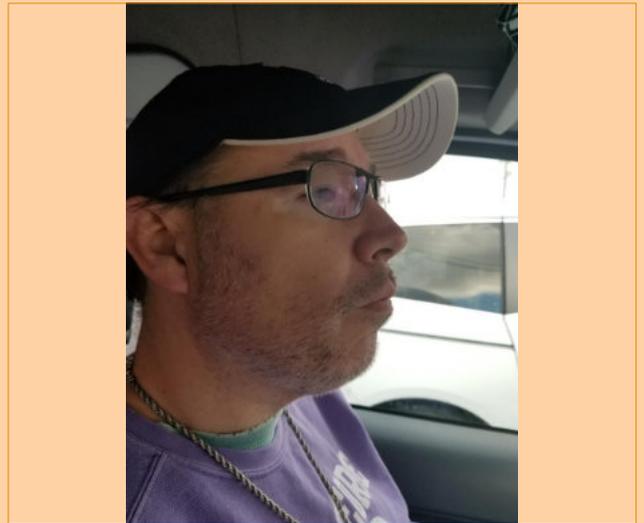
254 Rt. 17K, Suite 204, Newburgh, NY 12550-8300

“Deep Time”

Derek Yoost

Come Join Derek Yoost on October 9th at 6:30 pm via Zoom, for what looks to be a very tantalizing presentation. You should get a link to the monthly meeting via email, if you don't get and email with a link to the meeting please contact Mark Kucera VP of Programs.

“Deep Time” is the concept of geologic time. The philosophical concept of deep time was developed in the 18th century by Scottish geologist James Hutton (1726 -1797). His “system of the habitable earth” was a deistic mechanism keeping the world eternally suitable for humans. The modern concept of “Deep Time” shows huge changes over the age of the earth which has been determined to be, after a long and complex history of developments, around 4.55 billion years. Derek will be exploring and discussing this concept, and looking into the less often discussed pre-history of earth in its formative years up to 4 billion or so years ago. Various geologic scales and perspectives will be discussed in this presentation. Please attend for this intriguing topic - a NOT to be missed presentation.



My passion for fossil collecting started when I was 10 years old and has never stopped since. Starting at the age of 14, I worked in a rock shop (Jim's Gems) in Wayne NJ and gleaned a vast knowledge for the collecting and lapidary hobby. For the past 27 years, my collection has grown to include fossil amber, fish, reptiles, and mammals that are unique to New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and Maryland. I also collect local minerals from New Jersey, shells, bones, meteorites and other natural history items and artifacts. This hobby has brought me to many interesting localities and fascinating people. I also maintain a web site on my favorite fossil collecting site, Big Brook at njfossils.net. To date, I would guess that my favorite fossil that I found is the insect (a blood sucking Midge that may have feed on dinosaurs) that I found in Cretaceous aged sediment in Sayreville NJ. It was new to science and was eventually named after me (*Culicoides yoosti*).

“PANDEMIC”

Alison Pacut

Living through this pandemic is the hardest thing any of us have had to do in our lifetime. We are used to coming and going as we please, “bare faced”. Washing our hands and using sanitizer was a matter of hygiene not a matter of life and death.

Covid-19 does not care who you are or how powerful you are, it does not distinguish between Republican, Democrat, black, white, Chinese, Canadian, or any other nationality. Today Covid even entered the front door of the United States White House.

The virus has been running rampant in the United States since February. We have been told by our Doctors and Scientists to stay in our own homes as much as possible. Stay away from crowded areas, wear a mask when your out. Social distance at least 6 feet from others when you do have to leave the sanctity of your own home.

It is not natural for humans to be alone. We are social beings wanting and needing to be together. We even feel comfort when in large crowded areas full of strangers. During this time, many of us are lonely and depressed.

As rock hound we miss our senior center. We miss the face to face interludes with our fellow members. Meetings have become a virtual thing and personal meetings a thing of the past. We miss the excitement of planning and going on a club field trip. How about shows, how much do

we miss walking through a show trying to find a treasure to take home.

What can we do? How can we stay safe yet combat the rock hound blues? Have you put the family in the car for a ride to nowhere? At this time of your John wanted to go peeping. At first I was like what the heck is peeping? I soon learned that peeping is looking at all the fall colors as we drive through different areas. Another thing you can do while driving is look at the landscape for signs of geologic changes over time. Perhaps you will come across a road cut where you can get out of the car and do a little collecting.

Perhaps you know of a public collecting site like Herkimer or Ace of Diamonds Mine that you can travel to. If you do go to a site like this chances are masks will be mandatory, social distance and keep yourself and your family safe.



This is a great hobby for keeping busy! If your interested in research perhaps you could write an article for your really nice editor. Your can write about any topic that encases this hobby inside and out. Add a photo or not to go with the article.

Have you sorted out your collection yet? Have you made all the tags and replaced the degraded ones? Maybe some of you are into lapidary work and have your own machines. Make some slabs and cabs. Wire wrap them and make a Christmas necklace for that someone special.

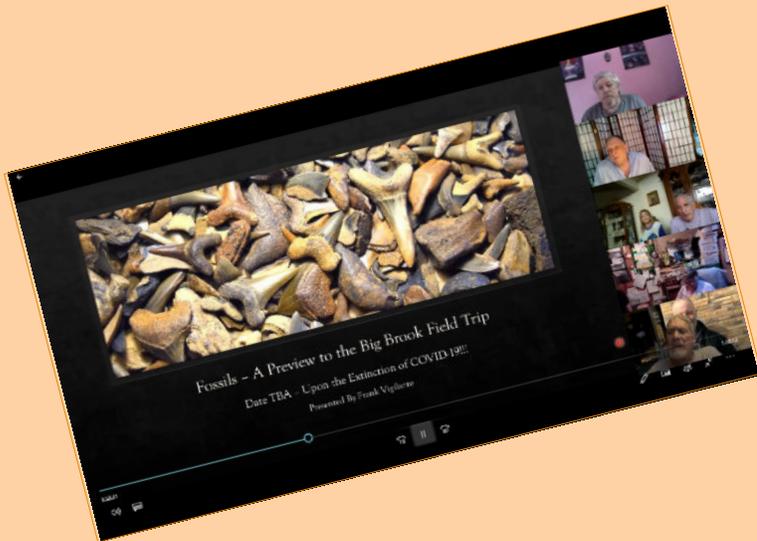
“PANDEMIC”

Cont.

Alison Pacut

We Will Miss You!

Take a field trip to your basement. Drag your family along. Dig through the old boxes and see what you can find. What treasures are there for you to discover. Bring them to a meeting to show everyone or write an article about the experience and your findings for the Shale Mail.



In conclusion, spark up your cell phone, your computer, your tablet or your I pod and join us on zoom the second Friday of each month for our meetings. The speakers are awesome, the presentations are so easy to see and it's a great social event with other members of our society. Bring your own donuts and coffee! The link for these meetings are sent to your email. If you don't get it please contact me or Mark Kucera and let us know. Officer contact information is on the last page of this newsletter. I hope to see you all at the next meeting with Derek Yoost. STAY SAFE EVERYONE!

It is with great sadness I have to tell you that Jim Fowler the grandfather of wire-wrapping has passed. Jim was a vendor in many, many shows around the area and always greeted us with a big smile. He and his wife Selina always made time in their busy schedule for a bit of conversation.

Click on the link below to see Jim's u tube presentation about how his career began.

[I h t t p s : / /
www.youtube.com/
watch?v=rNCyg8R9fls](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rNCyg8R9fls)



BBQ

Thanks Maggie and Ron Nelson for all your hard work setting up and making the food for this years BBQ. We all had a great time!

3rd Annual South Jersey Gem, Jewelry, Mineral & Fossil Outdoor Show

Date: October 17, 2020

Rain Date: October 18, 2020

Location: 1721 Springdale Road Cherry Hill, NJ 08054

Show Time: Saturday @ 10:00am – 5:00pm

Website: www.sjmineralshow.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/sjmineralshow

Federations News & Newsletters

Lizzie Triano

AFMS http://www.amfed.org/afms_news.htm

EFMLS News <https://efmls.org/newsletter>

We've been following the drama as the EFMLS Old Guard fights to keep control of -- What, Exactly?

That's what we can't figure out. Prez Nock and a number of other volunteers have been working hard to bring the Federation into the 21st century, and while so doing return autonomy and connections to the clubs which are the reason for its existence. You might say they are working to increase our ROI. The Federation is sitting on a lot of our money, and what do we see for it?

Aside from field trip insurance, and an antiquated library, seems like it is mostly PR & attitude.

We participated in a couple of Zoom meetings and a Federation conference call recently. To update last month's observation ... David is not a redhead, but we have dubbed him an honorary ginger. Last week he was totally rocking a great Doctor Strange vibe.

He also gets out in the field. How many of us can relate to that T-shirt: "I just care about rocks, and mabe like 5 people"?

Nock's tenure ends at the beginning of November, and we thank him heartily, and wish him well. Of course the best way we can show appre-

ciation for all the hard work by Nock, the By-Laws Committee, and others, is to keep up the momentum to improve OUR Federation. The EFMLS as it currently exists has too much inertia of the "moldy status quo" kind, and not enough of the 'cost of living increases" kind.

Meanwhile, support updating our Federation By-Laws, and pay attention to EFMLS elections, because they can be sketchy too.

Finally, look around at some of the recent articles* related to our hobby – regardless of the stupid pandemic – and compare their enthusiastic, forward-looking, cooperative approach and general professionalism with the caviling, paranoia, and broken logic of much of the EFMLS Executive Board. Request the transcript (transcript or recording – not the minutes) of the clandestine EFMLS telephone conference call on Thursday, September 10th if you would like to read an example of their behavior (good luck with that).

"What does the future hold for us ..." by Munich Show CEO Christoph Keilmann (which you can read it in its entirety on Kristalle, est. 1971's Facebook page at:

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?id=551215778261300&story_fbid=3154557354593783

A fine Tucson report by Rocky Krichbaum (AKA Rocky Houndenstein on Facebook), which appeared in the March issue of Steve Sorrell's dazzling online magazine, Monthly Mineral Chronicles. <https://sorrellpublications.com/>



BBQ Collage



Mediterranean Red Coral

Debra Allen

What is Red Coral?

Red coral, or *Corallium rubrum*, is a branch-forming coral species found in the Mediterranean Sea and is the most valuable of all precious corals. Similarly structured red corals located in the Pacific Ocean are also being harvested for jewelry. Unlike reef corals, red coral is found deep in the sea (up to 600 meters)⁴ and builds treelike formations rather than bulk masses. It's also the only species that is red, both inside and out; other corals owe their color to a thin outer layer of algae.



Red coral grows between 0.2 and 2 centimeters in length, and between 0.24 and 1.32 millimeters in diameter, annually. Due to commercialized fishing, it's now uncommon for the species to reach its historical full size of 30 to 50 centimeters¹.

Corals, red varieties included, are a colonizing creature and build their calcium carbonate skeleton slowly via multiple generations of inhabitants. While red corals do not provide as dense a habitat structure as reef-creating species, their branches are “some of the only three-dimensional structures...in a way that creates hiding places or shelter,” said John Hocevar, Greenpeace oceans campaign director.

History of Red Coral

Red coral, according to archaeologists, has been prized since the Neolithic era, when it was harvested for ornamental usage. Minoan and Mycenaean civilizations have been documented using red coral for jewelry and decoration.

The red coral trade achieved particular effi-



ciency in ancient Greece, when fishermen developed an implement, dubbed “St. Andrew’s Cross” — intersecting wooden planks covered in netting — that when dragged across the Mediterranean seabed break coral off its rocky anchoring, along with any additional flora and fauna in its path².

What is Dredging?

The bulk of the Mediterranean’s red coral population was lost at the hands of “dredging,” a harvesting technique that “is like clear-cutting for the ocean,” said Greenpeace’s Hocevar. “You can probably compare it to hunting for squirrels with a bulldozer in the forest — it destroys everything around it.”

Dredging practices were outlawed by the European Union in 1994³, but in the lead-up to its abolition, “you had people arrange to have a lot of red and pink coral taken out of the Mediterranean before the ban went into place — which reduced the amount [of red coral] left in a very rapid moment,” said Spalding. “Now we see more sustainable harvesting practices, but they focus on a much smaller basis of biomass.”

Mediterranean Red Coral

Debra Allen

Today in Italy, red coral branches are harvested with chisels by a limited contingent of 100 licensed scuba divers who are only allowed to fish in rotating sea beds from May through September.



Regardless, it would take immense conservation efforts to restore the Mediterranean's red coral population to pre-dredging numbers. According to The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean: "Sardinia, Sicily, and parts of the French and Spanish seacoasts all had significant *Corallium* banks in the 1950s, but most have been overexploited and are no longer commercially viable."

Ocean pH Change

Worldwide, coral faces deficits beyond overfishing. Mass-mortality events and ocean temperature shifts have stalled red coral's recovery. "We have a tremendous amount of temperature, chemistry and other threats to coral, which means you have to be very certain that harvesting methods are not exceeding the abilities of animals to reproduce [in this environment]," said Spalding.

Shortly after the EU's dredging ban, red coral off the coast of Provence, France, experienced a mass-mortality event, with a fungal and proto-

zoan disease "linked to temperature anomalies"4 killing millions of colonies in 1999. In 2003, 40 percent of colonies off the nearby coast of Marseille were affected in another environmental catastrophe5.

Besides temperature hikes, an atmospheric increase in carbon dioxide — the byproduct of burning fossil fuels — has led to an acidification of ocean water worldwide. For coral, living in acidic water, "is like putting chalk in a jar of vinegar," Spalding said, and impedes the coral's ability to grow.



Red coral growth rates have already been observed to be slowing. According to a report published by The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean: "Throughout the Mediterranean, *C. rubrum* populations have shown a dramatic decrease in their size, age, structure and reproductive output over the last 20 years."

OCMS members are covered by Society-sponsored insurance.

OCMS Disclaimer

The editor and the OCMS are not responsible for the accuracy or authenticities of information in the articles accepted for publication, nor are the opinions expressed therein necessarily those of the officers of the OCMS or the editor.



Directory of Rock Shops and Geology Attractions

[Virtual Museum of Geology](#)

[National Museum of Natural History](#)

[The Natural History Museum](#)

[The World Wide Museum of Natural History](#)

[Geo-science Education](#)

[Home Hobby's Rock Collecting](#)

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