

Convention/Show Information for the EFMLS Annual Convention

**October 16—18, 2009
Bristol, Connecticut**

Welcome from the Bristol Gem and Mineral Club

The Bristol Gem and Mineral Club invites you to join us for our 37th Annual Gem and Mineral show, which will be held in conjunction with the 59th EFMLS Annual Convention. The event takes place from Friday through Sunday, October 16—18, 2009 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 *Minerals of Connecticut*, 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 (opening Spring 2009), Dinosaur State Park, Yale Peabody Museum, 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 Roxbury garnet locality and 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 (just off Rt. 6 near Stephens AutoMall). Show hours are Saturday 9:30-5 and Sunday 10-4. The show has 17 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 Clarion Hotel—it is 3 miles from the main show, and about a 10-minute drive. The hotel has an over-sized 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 \$103 per night plus tax. All rooms are non-smoking. Please call (860) 589-7766 before October 9, and mention "EFMLS Annual Convention" to get the convention rate. The hotel's address is 42 Century Drive in Bristol, just off Exit 31 of Interstate I-84, near the ESPN broadcasting complex.

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 16. Convention Registration. Registration and welcome bag may be picked up at the Clarion Hotel. After 4:00 the registration table will be moved to the Beals Senior/Community Center, the site of the Cracker Barrel and Annual Meeting.

3:00 pm Friday, October 16. Cracker Barrel Meeting. The EFMLS Annual Convention kicks off with the Cracker Barrel meeting at the Douglas Beals Senior/Community Center. The Cracker Barrel is an informal discussion of issues without the usual parliamentary procedure of the annual meeting. The Bristol Club will provide a selection of soda, juice, coffee, and tea, and afternoon snacks to keep your brain and activity level engaged.

5:30 pm Friday, October 16. Convenience Dinner. An informal Convenience Dinner will be offered to delegates who prefer to remain at the Senior/Community Center between the Cracker Barrel and Annual Meeting. The dinner will be a choice of meat or vegetarian lasagna, including salad, bread, drink, and dessert. The cost of the Convenience Dinner is \$9.00 per person. Please indicate the number of Convenience Dinner tickets on your registration form. Your tickets will be in your welcome bag when you check-in for the convention. If you prefer an alternative, you are free to choose from a wide variety of local restaurants (list will be provided in your welcome bag).

7:00 pm Friday, October 16. Annual Meeting. The Annual meeting begins at the Douglas Beals Senior/Community Center. The Bristol Club will provide a selection of soda, juice, coffee, tea, and dessert.

Saturday

9:30 am Saturday, October 17. Show opens at the Beals Senior/Community Center.

1:00 pm Saturday, October 17. Guest Speaker. Ted Johnson will give a talk at the show entitled *The Historic Mines and Minerals of Connecticut*. Ted is well known for his field collecting in the state & other parts of the world. His presentations are always well prepared, informative and entertaining.

2:30 pm Saturday, October 17. EFMLS Auction. The EFMLS auction will be held on Saturday afternoon, in a separate room down the hall from the main show. Bring your specimen donations to the auction and lots of cash and enthusiasm for bidding.

6:00 pm Saturday, October 17. Awards Banquet. The awards banquet will be at the Clarion Hotel. The evening will open with a cash bar, including a selection of snacks, at 6 PM, and the dinner will be at 7 PM. The dinner will include an appetizer of Fresh Tropical Fruit, a Mixed Greens salad with the Chef's special dressing, and a choice of dinner entrees—Roast Sirloin of Beef (sliced top sirloin with mushroom sauce), Chicken New Englander (boneless chicken breast with stuffing), or a Vegetarian Pasta dish. All meals come with rolls and butter, twice baked potato, assorted seasonal vegetables, dessert (Lemon Italian Crème Cake), and coffee or tea. The cost of the dinner is \$38.00 per person. Please indicate the number of dinner tickets you want and indicate your choice of entrée. 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 18. Editors' Breakfast. The Editors' Breakfast will be held at the Clarion 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 18. Field Trip. We are planning to host a field trip to western Connecticut to collect garnets at Green's Farm in Roxbury, Connecticut and to visit the nearby Connecticut Mining Museum in Kent. At the collecting site, it is still possible to find nice specimens of almandine garnets and staurolite. It is a very short walk through the woods to the collecting site over relatively flat terrain. There is a parking fee at the collecting site of \$3 per car (payable onsite). From Roxbury, it is a short drive to the museum where 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 Roxbury and 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.

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, 2009. No exceptions!
- Deadline for registration forms is September 30, 2009.
- Please make all checks payable to Bristol Gem and Mineral Club.
- The convention registration fee of \$8 will cover your admission to the show (both days) plus refreshments at Friday meetings.

If You Have Questions

Katie Collins, Region I Vice President and Secretary and Bulletin Editor Extraordinaire of the Bristol Club, 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 Bristol Club.

You may reach Katie at (860) 659-2026; email: kathleenc55@cox.net
You may reach Dave at (860) 651-9980; email: dkorzend@comcast.net

Hope to see many of you in October!!