

CRACK 'N CAB

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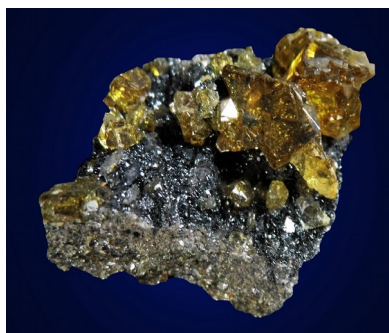
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3 inch
ROCK HOUND
bumper/window
Stickers
will be on sale for
only \$1 at Club
meetings



To submit
questions,
corrections,
requests, news,
pictures and
suggestions for
our newsletter
and/or web
page
www.gmss.us
contact our
Editor at
editorgmss@gmail.com



Sphalerite

**Presentation Monday Feb 15
by Dr. Steve Chamberlain
7:30 PM at the Clubhouse**

This month we will be honored with a presentation by Dr. Steve Chamberlain. He will discuss his new book (in progress) on Bower Powers Farm in Pierrepont, NY. This book will offer a detailed explanation of the area and various landowners. It will also provide very specific information about the specimens found there **(see 3 pictures above)**. This will be a new and definitive description of this collecting site.

Don't miss this opportunity to learn about this internationally renowned geological location.

Dr. Chamberlain holds a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering with a minor in mineralogy from MIT, and a PhD in neuroscience from Syracuse University. In retirement, he serves as the volunteer coordinator of the Center for Mineralogy at the New York State Museum, Albany, and is the longtime chairman of the Rochester Mineralogical Symposium, which has received the Carnegie Mineralogical Award. He also serves as the Scientific Editor of "The Hosta Journal" for the American Hosta Society.

As a mineral collector, Steve's interests have centered on the mineralogy of New York State. His large collection (25,000+ cataloged specimens) is slowly being donated to the New York State Museum. He and Dr. George Robinson wrote "The Collector's Guide to the Minerals of New York State". (Copies available from the Onondaga County Public Library)



Manganocummingtonite



BariteHematite

President's Message



**John Sweeney - President
February 2016**

President Message 2/5/16

I was recently in Belize in Central America. While there taking some time off from usual vacation activities we ended shopping in the small fishing village of Placencia. While there, I met several artisans who were making jewelry and the thing that struck me was how easily we struck up conversations and became friends while talking about our passions rock collecting and working with stones and metals.

A nice specimen of amethyst or well cut piece of kyanite has a universal appeal. As we chatted with the store owner while perusing her inventory our conversation moved from polishing stones to metal working techniques and where to locally collect. We identified some stones for her. She shared tips on polishing the local corals and buying jade being brought across the border from Guatemala. She explained that any local jade was most likely an antiquity from the Mayans and was best left alone. I guess what really struck me about the conversation was how easily we fell into familiar rhythms and concerns. Despite our different backgrounds and nationalities we were both concerned about removing scratches and getting a good polish on our projects as well as getting good solid mounts on our stones. If it wasn't for the lilt of her Caribbean accent the conversation could have easily been taking place in the workshop at the club. I guess in the end it shows we're all a lot more alike than different. So next time you go somewhere talk to someone about your hobby. You're likely to bring home more from your trip than a specimen or jewelry you'll bring friendship.

Don't forget the auction is coming up so start digging your stuff out now. I'm looking forward to hearing club member Dr Steven Chamberlain speak at this month's meeting. Steve is always interesting and informative and an expert in New York state mineralogy. There will be sign ups for the Lapidary and metal smithing classes starting in February

at this month's meeting. See you at the meeting.

Secretary's Report



**Cheryl Brown - Secretary
Meeting Minutes**

General Meeting January 18, 2016

Meeting was canceled due to inclement weather. Rescheduled for April 18.

Board Meeting February 2, 2016

Mark Grasmeyer handily managed the meeting in the absence of John and Linda, who were out of town. Preparations are continuing for the bus trip to the Albany Gem and Mineral show on February 13th. If you are interested in joining us, contact Mark Grasmeyer at vp@gmss.us to reserve a seat. We will be leaving from behind Helping Hounds at Shoppingtown Mall at 8am. We'll have dinner at the *99 Restaurant* on the way home and be back around 10pm.

The Gem World show committee met on January 26th. Dick Lyons asked us to send him suggestions and thoughts regarding advertising for the upcoming show. Ed Suchon brought in pictures from the 2015 show, which can be used to advertise our upcoming show. The next show committee meeting will be held on February 23 at the Gem Diner on Spencer Street at 7pm. Come at 6 if you want to order dinner. The meeting is open to all members.

Keith Gilmer will form a group to refurbish the show display cases. They will meet in March or April depending on the weather and go to our storage unit to work. Let him know if you are interested in helping.

Curt Lindy assembled a booklet of information providing an overview of numerous organizations and groups our club might consider donating to this year. The donation committee reviewed Curt's submission, considered some additional found information, and has proposed donation amounts and a 'to whom list' with some reciprocal requirements. The recommendations will be further considered and voted on at the March board meeting.

The proposed Conflict of Interest policy was again passed out for further review. It will be reviewed and voted on at the March board meeting. We are still looking for a new meeting place. Please let John Sweeney know if you have any suggestions.

Our speaker at the February meeting will be Dr. Steve Chamberlain. Cheryl Brown and Donna Dow will be providing the snacks.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cheryl Brown

**Your Dues – How do we benefit
from being a member of Eastern
Federation and affiliated with
American Federation?
by Bob Livingston**

-- Affordable and necessary insurance to let us collect on sanctioned field trips in quarries, public lands, etc. Second is insurance which covers accidents at club meetings or the annual show.

-- Lending library of over 600 hobby-related slide and video programs regarding aspects of our hobby. This is way underutilized by GMSS.

-- Annual Directory of over 130 EFMLS clubs, their officers and contact information. This is a great asset when considering vacation travel, and you can time things to attend a show where you plan to visit in other state. Highlighted are all the movers and shakers plus all the contests & programs available to clubs and members.

-- Monthly EFMLS News and AFMS Newsletters which our President and Editor receive and can keep us abreast of helpful or interesting happenings

-- Listing of our annual GemWorld show in the newsletter for 3 months to broaden potential attendance.

-- Wildacres workshops in NC mountains where you meet wonderful folks from all over and learn to make great jewelry and related items that you take home to wear and/ display. All for only \$400 per person and two sessions each covering approx 12 different classes. This year: Spring session May 9-15; Fall is Sept. 5-9. Register now.

-- Annual raffles with really nice items up for grabs. (Our member John Baumler bought one

ticket for \$5 and won the incredible 5500 ct faceted CZ gem a few years back. It takes 2 hands to hold and has been displayed at GemWorld.)

-- Opportunity to be nominated and elected to prominent position of leadership. Bob Livingston, Carl Miller and Loren Patterson have been honored to serve as President of EFMLS for one year each. Cathy Patterson was Secretary and Lou Budell was Treasurer for many years.

-- Contests to show off club activities and shine with top awards in many cases: Bulletin Editors contest where Keith Gilmer took top awards and now it can be Dan? Also are Webmaster contests, Each One Teach One which Dave Millis has been honored, Rockhound of the Years which many of us have been honored, All American Club award which GMSS has won 3 times, and the list goes on.

-- The top award "Citation" given annually to a person who has served the Eastern Federation in special ways for many years. Sort of like a Lifetime Achievement award. Carl Miller and Bob Livingston have had that bestowed on them.

-- Annual convention and show; this year in October in Rochester, NY where there is an annual meeting with election of officers and a Cracker Barrel session for clubs to exchange ideas or address mutual problems and kick around possible solutions. Also at the show there is opportunity for each of us to enter a display in competition and hopefully garner a nice award of certificate or maybe even a trophy. This would be where Bulletin Editors and Webmasters awards are presented. There will also be an auction of "Good Stuff" on Saturday of show there.

-- Hobby-related supplies and pamphlets found on last page of the annual EFMLS Directory

-- Access to ALAA which is an important organization very active in the West that works hard to keep the government from closing access to hobbyist specimens collecting on public lands *It's a great deal. Too often we forget how much we have available to us for around \$5 per club member.*

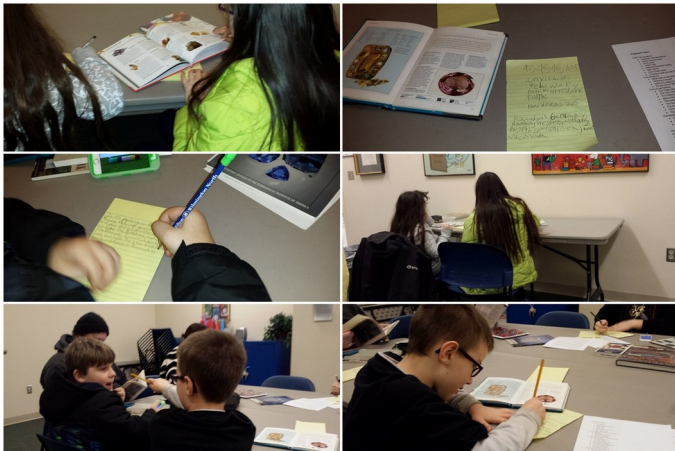
**Junior Rockhounds
By Shannon Phillips**

The first Junior Rockhounds meeting of the new year took place on January 16, 2016. The meeting started in the clubhouse with a presentation of

the Rocks and Minerals badge earned by participants in November. Those who were unable to attend will get their badge at the next meeting. After a brief introduction to the objectives of the Communication badge, the six youth and six adults headed to the DeWitt Library, downstairs in the mall, where we used the Buckland Room as a home base for the children to conduct research on a topic of their choice.

The kids chose topics ranging from the curse of the Hope diamond to dinosaurs and not one of them complained about being in the library on a Saturday! Look for articles written by junior members in this newsletter and in upcoming editions.

Our next meeting will be held on February 20 from 10:00-1:00 in the clubhouse.



Amethyst
by Finnegan Coons

Since Amethyst is the February birthstone, I'm going to tell you about amethyst. Amethyst is a hardness of 7 and they are found worldwide. Did you know that Uruguay, Brazil and South Africa are where the best quality specimens are found? They're often found lining geodes. Their color is violet to purple and they have no cleavage. Amethyst's luster is glass-like. Isn't Amethyst cool? My favorite gemstone is amethyst because of its color. What is your favorite gemstone?

Club Events and Field Trips

Send us your Field Trip suggestions! For information about travel arrangements, meeting times and car pooling, contact Mark Grasmeyer text or voice 317-

1350. You can get info at any Club Meeting. Trip details are subject to change, so it is best to contact Mark before an event.

In case of bad weather and a club event is postponed, a notice will be sent to your email address, if we have it, posted on our web site <http://www.gmsss.us/> and on local TV stations.

**Current Club and General
Rock-Mineral-Fossil-Lapidary Events
see updated events list at
<http://gmsss.us/events>**

February 13 The 23rd Annual James Campbell Memorial Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show and Sale; Empire Plaza, Albany; Sat. 10AM-5PM

Bus departs Shoppingtown (behind Helping Hounds Dog Rescue) 8AM (don't be late) - returns 10PM. Dinner will be at the 99 Restaurant on the way home. BUS FEE \$35 per person - for reservation text/phone Mark Grasmeyer at 317-1350 note: Event Admission \$5 (cash) see <http://www.nysm.nysed.gov/programs/minerals/>

Feb 17 eight weekly classes 6-8pm, fee is \$80. Contact John Sweeney 668-8470

Feb 20 10AM Jr Rockhounds

Feb 23 7PM Show Committee Meeting, Gem Diner

Mar 19 10AM Jr Rockhounds – tentative

Mar 21 7PM – Group Meeting - Member AUCTION & SALE Guaranteed Fun! Buyers & Sellers Come on Down!
See web page for Rules
<http://gmsss.us/about/about-gmsss/GMSSAuctionRules2010.pdf>

Apr 2-3 Buffalo Geological Society Gem Mineral and Fossil Show at the Hamburg Fairgrounds with the focus on Crinoids.

Apr 14-Apr 17 43rd Rochester Mineralogical Symposium - 10 Great Invited Speakers, Auctions, Fellowship, Exhibits and Technical Sessions! For more info go to <http://www.rasny.org/minsymp/43rd%20RMS%20Registration%20Letter.pdf>

Apr 16 10AM Jr Rockhounds – tentative

Apr 18 7PM Group Meeting Rick Moore will discuss "Mineral Evolution"

In 2008, a new theory was proposed that the mineralogy of terrestrial planets and moons evolved as a consequence of changes in various physical, chemical, and biological processes. These changes, in turn, lead to the formation of new mineral species. Rick will discuss what happened along the way in the 4.5 billion years and the 10 "stages" of the Earth's geologic history. Changes occurred in available mineral components and expanded the diversity of mineral species. See <https://hazen.carnegiescience.edu/research/mineral-evolution> for background and a preview.

May 9-15 Spring 2016 EFMLS Workshop at Wildacres, N Carolina
See writeup in EFMLS Newsletter - <http://www.amfed.org/efmls/efdec15web.pdf> and <http://efmls-wildacres.org/>

May 16 7PM Group Meeting - Preparing a Mineral or Fossil or general Hobby Related Craft Display for GemWorld50 Show. Creating a display case

May 21 10AM Jr Rockhounds - tentative

May 21-22 Southern Vermont Mineral, Rock & Gem Show - Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-3. Adults: \$5. Kids- free. Co-sponsored by the Southwestern Vermont Mineral & Gem Club. @ Grace Christian School, Kocher DR (across from K-Mart Plaza), Bennington, VT Info: Bill Cotrofeld 802-375-6782

July 9-10, 2016 GemWorld 50th Anniversary! SAVE THE DATE.

Aug 7 Annual Club Picnic, Sims Store, Erie Canal Park, Camillus

Sep 5-11 Fall 2016 EFMLS Workshop at Wildacres, N Carolina
See writeup in EFMLS Newsletter - <http://efmls-wildacres.org/>

Oct 21 EFMLS Annual Meeting, Rochester, NY

Oct 22-23 Rochester Gem, Mineral, Jewelry & Fossil Show & Sale and 66th Annual EFMLS Convention hosted by the Rochester Lapidary Society.

Events at EFMLS site
<http://www.amfed.org/efmls/calendar.htm>

Rock and Gem Magazine Show List
<http://www.rockngem.com/ShowDatesFiles/ShowDatesDisplayAll.php?ShowState=ALL>

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What's in a Name
By Shannon Phillips

It's not often that the addition of heavy metals to the periodic table coincides with the death of a legendary heavy metal frontman. Early in January, news sources reported that fans of the late Lenny Kilmister, lead singer of the band Motorhead, had started a petition to name one of the new elements after the musician. As appealing as the idea is, there are specific rules governing the naming of elements. They can be named for mythological concepts, places, scientists, salient properties of the element, or minerals. Minerals, you say? Yes, there are a handful of elements named after minerals, but where do the minerals get their names? Much as with elements, there are strict rules governing the naming of minerals. But it wasn't always that way.

Before the International Mineralogical Society formed the Commission on New Minerals and Mineral Names, scientists identified minerals by a variety of names in the papers they submitted to journals. There was no standardization of names and a survey of journals conducted in 1955 revealed 25,000 names in use to identify 2,000 minerals. In July 2006, the Commission on New Minerals and Mineral Names and the Commission on Classification of Minerals combined to form The Commission on New Minerals, Nomenclature and Classification (CNMNC) of the International Mineralogical Association (IMA). Since the assembly of this Commission, researchers submit their findings and if the Commission approves, the new mineral and the name are approved.

Names that are likely to be accepted fall into several categories: those derived from physical characteristics of the mineral, names related to places, people (living people must approve the use of their name), and, occasionally, names based on supposed mystical properties attributed to the mineral. Many minerals and rocks have names derived from Latin or Greek. The suffix *-ite* is derived from the Greek for "rock or stone." Azurite, malachite, and carnelian are all named for the color of the stone. Naming minerals based on a location is common, but can become complicated as new deposits of material are found world-wide. For example, Labradorite is named for the the first location in which it was identified, Labrador, Canada. Most of the Labradorite on the market today, however, comes from Madagascar.

Of local interest is the world-famous Herkimer Diamond, which many assume is named for the locale in which it is found. According to Herkimer Diamond enthusiast W. David Hoisington, PhD, author of the website HerkimerHistory.com, the stone actually named for the man who lends his name to the county and town as well, Brigadier General Nicholas Herkimer. Herkimer was a general in the American Revolution, fighting with his troops at the Battle of Oriskany until his injuries prevented him from participating to the point he had to give orders leaning against the trunk of a tree. Despite its unique habit and storied history, the actual name of Herkimer Diamonds is quartz. Unlike other quartz varieties that have enough deviation in chemical structure to warrant a different appellation, Herkimer Diamonds' only special qualities are its clarity and the shape in which it grows.

Interestingly enough, minerals are not always named by the scientists who author papers introducing the claim of a new mineral species. The CNMNC of the International Mineral Association points out that "authors who have described new minerals without names do not have any priority rights on the subsequent naming of such minerals." Most times, however, the authors are the ones who submit a new name to the Committee for approval. There is a plethora of considerations that contribute to a name, including spelling, approval of the person for which a mineral is to be named (if the person is living), and avoiding the use of names of previously discrediting minerals. The organization has a strict policy against naming minerals for commercial enterprises, to avoid exploitative commercialization of the nomenclature.

In modern times, it seems as though it would be unlikely to have a name approved based on mystical qualities, but in ancient times, that was not the case. Amethyst means "not drunken" because of the belief that the stone could prevent its wearer from suffering the ill effects of overindulging. Frequently what are called trade names, common names used outside of the scientific community to identify minerals, also reveal healing or protective properties, such as spirit quartz (also known as cactus quartz). Others reflect more upon the people identifying them, such as calling pyrite "fool's gold."

Ultimately, the CNMNC of the International Mineral Association has the final say in what a mineral is named. Considering that there are between 40 and 50 new minerals discovered annually, many of them occurring as tiny grains and in small quantities, the Committee has a lot of work to do. So if Lemmy will not have one of the new elements named for him, the journalist David Bradley has suggested the name *Lemmite* for a new mineral?

Sources

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<http://www.oakrocks.net/origin-of-names-for-rocks-and-minerals/>

Gemworld50 Demonstrators Artisans Will Display Their Skills and Crafts Before Your Eyes!

You can visit these talented folks who generously give of their time to show us different aspects of our hobby. We know you will enjoy visiting with these GMSS members and friends working with rock, gem and stone materials. Each has his/her own booth on the main floor and will be demonstrating and displaying both days of the show.

Linda Boronczyk – GMSS Club Member - Whimsical Wire Designs

Linda will demonstrate wire wrapping which is one of the oldest techniques for making handmade jewelry. Wire wrapping components (stones, beads, etc) are connected to one another using mechanical techniques with no soldering or heating of the wire. Her designs have won several awards at the New York State Fair. Currently, she spends many hours in her jewelry studio creating unusual one-of-a-kind designs.



Sandy Cline

Sandy comes to us from Ontario, Canada. His soapstone carvings are collected worldwide. He draws inspiration from his lifelong experience of closeness to nature and imbues his subjects with the life force he observes. - for more info

<http://www.soapstonesculpture.com/>



Tom Huff

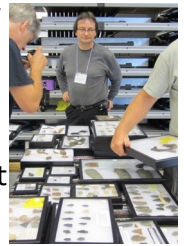
Tom, a member of the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of the Iroquois Confederacy, is a well known stone sculptor working in a variety of stones, styles, and themes - both traditional and contemporary. He also creates mixed media/found object sculpture. He addresses the current situation of Native Americans mixing cultural, stereotypical, political and autobiographical elements. - for more info

<http://www.nativerootsartistsguild.com/Carving/Tom-Huff.aspx>



Dana Klein – President, Genesee County Flint Knappers Association
Dana is a flintknapper (makes stone tools, knives, arrowheads, spear heads). Transport yourself to one of the earliest times of man in his quest for self-sufficiency. - for more info

<http://gvknappers.tripod.com/>



Jim Redden -

Jim will "play with fire" and show how to create hand made glass beads for Shelden studios. It is fascinating to watch the technique, which hints at the metamorphic processes of evolution for basic elements in the earth's crust.



John Sweeney – President, GMSS

John is a professional lapidary (cuts, polishes, and engraves gems) and a teacher of lapidary skills. John has been a BOCES lapidary instructor for the last 9 years and his classes area always full. He will be demonstrating his skill using lapidary equipment and tools to turn plain stone into beautiful specimens.



An Opportunity for You at GemWorld!

The list of opportunities to volunteer at our show includes:

- event *set up* on Friday for the club booth
- youth area
- display cases
- helping dealers check in and set up
- *New* – be a *PA announcer*
- *Pass out handouts and greet people* as they enter the show
- Also during the show
- ticket sales*
- floor security* (floor and door monitors)
- club booth* meet and greet
- youth area* help/supervision

Signup at a monthly meeting or contact Dick Lyons email show@gmss.us
phone 672-5328



Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse

P.O. Box 2801

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Crack 'N Cab
 Newsletter of Gem & Mineral Society
 Syracuse, NY
 Web - <http://www.gmss.us>

Eight people organized the Gem and Mineral Society of Syracuse in 1951. Since that time it has grown in membership to include adults, families, and young folk. The Society was incorporated in 1969 under the same name.

The objectives of the Society are to stimulate interest in mineralogy, paleontology, and the lapidary arts. Member interests include collecting, identification, and display of minerals, gems, fossils. Members share and develop their artistic skills in jewelry design and creation.

Our monthly meetings provide social and educational experiences. Field trips give collectors chances to find specimens and enjoy the of outdoors, exercise and time with old and new friends.

We meet on the third Monday of the month (NOT in July, August, December) at 7:30 PM in the Clubhouse (Shoppingtown Mall on the 2nd floor near Sears).

Visitors are ALWAYS welcome

Annual member dues:

Adult \$10 • Family/Couple \$15 • Junior \$5 • Life \$5

If you would like to join or renew your membership, download the application form (PDF) [click here](#) or get a form at a meeting or send to the address at the top of this page and we will mail a membership form/card to you.

Club Officers 2015-2016

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-Hospitality Committee - Judy and Harold Jones