

# CRACK 'N CAB

Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse, PO Box 2801, Syracuse, NY  
web <http://www.gmss.us> Volume 46 Issue 7 Jul-Aug 2016



## In This Issue

Secretary Rpt	2
Jr Rockhounds	2
Events	4
Show Notes	4
Book Review	4
Fossil Dig	5

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See [gmss.us](http://gmss.us)  
Web Page for  
Events and up  
to date local  
info.

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**Reminder**  
Your  
Membership  
Renewal is due  
in Septmber.  
Your  
participation is  
vital. Come  
join the fun!

To submit  
questions,  
corrections,  
requests, news,  
pictures and  
suggestions for  
our club please  
send an email.  
See back page  
for all email  
addresses.



Picnic ^

## Summer Fun!



GemWorld50 ^



Field Trip to Crystal Grove ^

### President's Message



**John Sweeney - President  
Jul-Aug 2016**

Not available at publication.

### Secretary's Report



**Cheryl Brown - Secretary  
Meeting Minutes**

### General Meeting June 20, 2016

Our meeting started with the presentation of a \$500.00 scholarship to Tom LaBarge. He is a club member and a senior graduating from Westhill High School this June. Tom will be attending the University of Montana this Fall to study Paleontology. Tom's parents were able to join us for the meeting presentation as well.

Next, we moved into the show work night activity of stuffing straws for the straw draw. The business portion of the meeting began with the election of new officers. The proposed slate of new officers was uncontested, so as stated in our Constitution, the Secretary, Cheryl Brown, cast the deciding ballot on behalf of the membership. Sincere thanks to Keith Gilmer as nominating committee Chairperson and to those who assisted him. Congratulations to the new officers who will take office at our September meeting:

Mark Grasmeyer, President  
Harold Jones, Vice President  
Judith Jones, Secretary  
Linda Sweeney Clark, Treasurer  
Ed Suchon, Sargent-at-Arms

John Sweeney encouraged all present to attend the annual picnic to be held on August 7<sup>th</sup> at Sims Store at Erie Canal Park in Camillus beginning at 12 noon. The club will supply the meat, drinks and paper goods. If your last name begins with the letters A through L, bring a sweet (dessert). If

your last name begins with the letters M through Z, bring a savory (salad, cold casseroles, etc.)

The meeting concluded with the door prize drawings and an ice cream social.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Cheryl Brown

### Board Meeting July 5, 2016

We discussed final specifics for the upcoming GemWorld show. John Sweeney obtained the last of the one ounce of gold, which will be the show Grand Prize.

Dick Lyons reported that the name badges were finished and that the door tickets and prize drawing tickets were printed.

The purpose of the meeting was to assure that everything was ready to go for the show. We determined that it was and left the meeting knowing that the show would be a success. Many thanks to our show chairman, Dick Lyons, for his leadership and thoroughness.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Cheryl Brown

### Junior Rockhounds

August is a crazy month, with everyone trying to squeeze in the last bits of summer fun before school starts again. Because of a multitude of scheduling conflicts, we are not going to meet in August.

We will begin regular meetings again in September on the 17<sup>th</sup> at the clubhouse and will continue to meet on the third Saturday of the month, except for November, when we will meet on the second Saturday, November 11.

I'm planning a trip to the Museum of the Earth in Ithaca, NY this fall. It's a bit of a drive, but it will tie in nicely with the Fossils badge. They have an outstanding collection of fossils and other exhibits I'm sure the kids will enjoy. Club members will be able to get a family pass for free admission. With any luck, the weather will be good and we can take a walk in Taughannock gorge after our visit.

The Junior Rockhounds have been offered the opportunity to volunteer at the new sluice attraction at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo. While all the details aren't worked out yet, this will be a great opportunity for the kids to put their identification skills to use and talk to people their age about the club and why they might want to become members. This type of

activity will also contribute to the requirements for the Leadership badge.

Please note that memberships expire at the end of August and must be renewed in September. A family membership is \$15. I can accept membership renewals at the September meeting, or you can bring the form (on the website [GMSS.US](http://GMSS.US)) to a regular club meeting on the third Monday of the month.

I'm looking forward to seeing you in September. If you have any suggestions for the coming year, I would love to hear them.

Thanks for your support! See you soon,  
*Shannon*

### **Junior Rockhounds Report By Shannon Phillips**

It's been a busy month for the Junior Rockhounds of the GMSS. In June, three boys attended the meeting where we discussed ways to build a display for GemWorld 50. Using the information provided by Rick and Mark at our last meeting, the kids experimented with different minerals on different colored backgrounds, ways to create interest by varying heights, and how to choose specimens to display. We didn't make it fossil hunting, but two of our newer members enjoyed exploring the clubhouse and learning about the many treasures it contains.

Between our June meeting and GemWorld 50, quite a bit of planning went into coordinating items to display in the Junior Rockhounds case. We ended up with contributions from seven of our junior members. Janaya displayed a beautiful piece of selenite that she painstakingly removed from the packed earth of the mine on Brickyard Road, Blaise shared the super cool fulgurite that he collected on a lakeshore in Michigan, Bronwyn contributed a large and very well-formed trilobite collected in her own back yard, Ben and Xander exhibited Herkimer diamonds that they collected at Crystal Grove, and Ellie and Jacob, collectors from a young age, showed their very first rock collections. The kids also added favorite pieces such as gem trees made at our December meeting, geodes that they purchased, and even an amethyst cathedral that Xander won at a show in Rochester. The display was arranged by Janaya, Ben, and Jacob.

In addition to the club case, two of our Junior Rockhounds, Ben and Jacob, created their own display case, focused on Ben's green mineral

collection, which was surrounded by favorites from both of the boys' collections. They arranged the case completely by themselves and it looked great.

Thanks to all the kids and their parents for their hard work and for sharing their treasures with all those who attended!

On July 16, the Junior Rockhounds gathered for a fossil collecting trip in Pompey, NY. At a rock cut on the side of Route 20, eight youth and 9 adults tried their luck at gathering trilobites, brachiopods, cephalopods, and bembexia from the exposed shale. Each of the participants found something they were happy with. The hardest part of the trip for the kids was deciding what to take home and what to leave behind! We would like to have one more summer field trip on August 20 and are open to suggestions from the general membership.

Junior Rockhounds and their families are encouraged to attend the GMSS picnic on August 7, where we will distribute badges that the club members have earned from the AFMS Future Rockhounds of America Badge Program since last September. Hope to see you there!

### **Jr Rockhounds Trip to Hickory Hill May 2016 By Benjamin Wilbur**

We woke up at like 6:00 in the morning going on the road to Hickory Hill, which is only open three times a year. It's like a two hour drive to Fonda, NY and it was VERY boring and we took a lot of back roads on the way, which made it ten times more confusing for Brew and Shannon, but we got there. There were some people there already, so what we did is drove to the house down the hill and gave the owners the money so we could start finding. On the table in front of them was a lot of good looking Herkimers, like clusters and smoky crystals.

When we went back up the hill we started sifting in the dirt and all the eye could see was dirt, no rocks. After a little bit we took a rest. Shannon and I sat down on a pile of dirt. We were thinking to look in the dirt and after we looked for a bit, Brew came up and sat down and he put his hand in the dirt. He felt around him and found a humongous Herkimer! We were so mad that we didn't find it.

After a little while, a big storm rolled in, so we went in the van and played some games and mad

libs and after an hour, the storm went away. We got out went back down and we could see diamonds everywhere! The rain washed the dirt off the diamonds on the ground. We were looking at the ground and we found some good ones, some bad ones. We were all muddy after, so we went down to the house where we borrowed their hose to wash off. After a while we went back to the van and packed up all our stuff and went home with smiles on our faces.

**For Rock-Mineral-Fossil-Lapidary  
Event updates see  
<http://gmss.us>**

Send us your suggestions! For more information call or text Mark Grasmeyer (315)317-1350 or talk to him at a Club Meeting.

**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.**

## GemWorld50 Notes, Comments and Thank You!

- From CnC Editor

Dick Lyons did an outstanding job again this year, planning, organizing and making our show fun and successful! **Thank you Dick for all you do!**

- From Dick Lyons, Show Chairman

On behalf of the show committee I would like to extend a big thank-you to our club members and other volunteers who helped at our show, Every show has given us opportunities for improving future shows. We are always interested in receiving both positive and negative feedback. We have to keep in mind that our dealers are the lifeblood of the event. The attendance was down from last year. Some of our dealers had less business than last year. We were watching a group of young people with sticky fingers on Sunday. All of us should keep our eyes open for

people not paying for what they are taking home. I still feel that it was a great show. We had good attendance for the Learning Center speakers. People were interested in watching the demonstrators and checking out the display cases. The youth area was busy.

I did not pass out the dealer contracts for our show next year on Sunday. I had a feeling that there was a change in the works. We have been advised by the SRC staff that we will have to move our show to the following weekend next year. The college has planned a student event ending in our usual show weekend, The dates of the show next year will be July 15th and 16th. I have sent the contract by email to all of the dealers who were in our show this year. So far, only one dealer, out of many, has decided not to return next year.

With this change of show dates, there will be opportunities for you to replace some of our club members who will not be able to participate in our show next year. We need more volunteers to be involved in watching the exit doors for a couple of hours at a time. We can use more people helping out at the club booth. The Youth Area can use more volunteers. WE NEED YOU NEXT YEAR.

## Book Review New York Rocks and Minerals: A Guide to the Empire State

There is a new publication available entitled "New York Rocks and Minerals: A Guide to the Empire State". It is authored by Dan and Bob Lynch and published by Adventure Publications of Cambridge, MN. The 2016 book is available online for less than \$20 on Amazon.

For each of 105 rocks, minerals, and fossils found in New York State this book provides a page of pictures designed to illustrate the specimen's most characteristic identifying traits and an opposing page providing information on environment, what to look for to identify it, size, color, occurrence, and a notes section with other pertinent information. The format and presentation is very easy to use. In addition, beginners should enjoy the several page overview of New York geology. The 14 page "Quick Identification Guide" based on color and then expanding into other properties may be just the ticket for some.

The book does not provide specific locations where each mineral, fossil or rock type can be found or collected. Rather it provides geographic or geological regional information in the form of a small inset map for each entry. If you are looking for a book full of locations for collecting you will be disappointed.

Several WCGMC members commented favorably about the photographs used in the book. Instead of providing pictures of museum quality specimens, the book depicts average specimens much like ones a hiker or collector might encounter. Another positive is the size of the book. Measuring just 4.25" across and 6" high, the book will fit into a car's glove compartment, the outside pocket of a backpack, or even in a modest sized vest or pants pocket. It not only is a field guide, but it can be used as one!

With only a little over 100 entries covering fossils, minerals and rocks, the book is not, nor was it intended to be, a comprehensive treatise of New York rocks and minerals. For example, in the fossil area, there are separate entries for eurypterid and for trilobite, however reef builders and colonial animals are merged into single entries and brachiopods and echinoderms are merged into a single entry entitled aquatic animals. The book seems more complete for minerals. Although some like tourmaline, plagioclase, and scapolite are covered as mineral groups, the book does include somewhat exotic minerals like chrysoberyl, warwickite, tennantite, and even löllingite.

In whole, it is a useful book for the beginner or intermediate New York collector to have at his/her disposal, and, of course, most advance collectors end up acquiring all that is written about their local region anyway. For less than \$20 including shipping, most New York rockhounds will probably want one.

Collective Review by several members of the WCGMC

Source: WCGMC Newsletter -  
<http://wcgmc.org/> Editor - Fred Haynes

(If you would like to take a look at a copy of the book, it is available at the Onondaga County Library)

## Shannon's fossil dig for the juniors and the young at heart By Judy Cook

Saturday July 16th-Shannon organized a dig. I know they took a couple pictures, I took these in addition. Tim Hart did pretty well, the bembexia fossils Tim displays along side a penny for size. Also he shows a a sample of where a bembexia shell fossil is emerging from either side of the shale. My nephew Joe Domanski loved it-he found some bembexias, brachiopods as well as some trilobite sections. Shannon had quite a few juniors show up.





# Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse

P.O. Box 2801

Syracuse, New York 13220

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**Crack 'N Cab**  
 Newsletter of Gem & Mineral Society  
 Syracuse, NY  
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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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 US mail your an application/renewal card to you.

## Club Officers 2015-2016

**-President**

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**-Jr Rockhounds**

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**-Hospitality Committee - Judy and Harold Jones**