

# CRACK 'N CAB

Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse, PO Box 2801, Syracuse, NY  
web <http://www.gmss.us> Volume 46 Issue 5 May 2016



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## Monday, May 16<sup>th</sup> "Display Techniques Q & A" Presentation by Keith Gilmer

Keith will talk about preparing a Mineral or Fossil or general Hobby Related Craft Display for GemWorld50 Show. GMSS is looking for a few great exhibit displays. Sign up at the May meeting, gather more information, and discuss what you would like to do with Keith. He hopes to get some good feedback from all who would choose to present an exhibit display. Let's make it a great exhibit area for 2016.

The show is fast approaching and he is calling on all those members who have stuff you have found, bought or made to display for exhibition. If you cannot fill a display case yourself Keith can help you share a case with another club member.

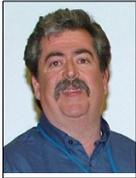
Remember, this is our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary show and we want it to be spectacular. We are hoping for at least 30 cases for the exhibition area this year. If you have something special you would like to share as an exhibit display please contact Keith by phone [315-307-1283] or e-mail [krgilmer@verizon.net](mailto:krgilmer@verizon.net) and sign up for a case (or two). **This year the theme is GOLD** for our 50<sup>th</sup> golden anniversary. We hope to get a great turnout for some great displays!



Pics from Brickyard RD



### President's Message



**John Sweeney - President  
May 2016**

#### President Message

If you get a call in the next few weeks or are approached at the next meeting and asked to become an officer of the club, you won't have to give your social security number and it's not an identity theft scam. It's your nominating committee doing what their supposed to be doing. That is organizing a slate of officers for next year. Come on down. Join in the fun. Working with others in the club as an officer has helped me to get to know some really creative, intelligent and dedicated people who have become very good friends. It has also allowed me to make meaningful contributions toward a club and a hobby I care about. Offices in rotation are secretary, treasurer, Vice president and president. You can use your own server, ask the board to build a wall or make everyone feel the burn. All perspectives are welcome. We're a little short of seventeen contenders so feel free to throw your hat in the ring.

I worked with Keith Gilmer, Ed Suchon and Mark Grassmyer on Saturday organizing and repairing the cases for this year's show. We have forty - five ready to go and we're looking for people to display collections during the show. This month's program at our meeting will be on setting up and displaying in a case, as well as proper labeling techniques. After working on the cases Linda and I stopped by the club. We caught Joanne Suchon just wrapping up a Saturday workshop. While there I worked on some silver while Linda worked on some stones a friend had brought her from Europe. We do have workshop at this club and that's a great thing. Its open a couple of days a week and we can all use it. If you are not familiar with the equipment come and take a class. We'll have sign up sheets at the next meeting for upcoming Wed night classes. We are also looking for others who would like to teach classes. We have had several requests for a wire wrapping class. If you have a skill you'd like to teach let me know we have the place to do it.

The show is coming and we have a lot to do to prepare. June will be our work night and we're looking at a lot of slots to be filled for the show to run smoothly so please sign up to help at the show. We will have sign ups at the meeting.

I hope someone got out to Penfield and found something good. If you did, bring it to the meeting. See you there.

### Secretary's Report



**Cheryl Brown - Secretary  
Meeting Minutes**

#### General Meeting April 18, 2016

Rick Moore gave an interesting presentation titled the *Evolution of Minerals on Earth*. He referenced Robert M. Hazen's book *The Story of the Earth, the First 4.5 Billion Years, From Stardust to Living Planet*. (available from the Onondaga County Library as an ebook or hard cover book) The first element formed after the Big Bang was hydrogen; helium was second. The first mineral formed was the diamond.

After a short break, President John Sweeney opened the business portion of the meeting. He stated we are still looking for a new club meeting location. If you have any thoughts or ideas, please contact him.

John also referenced the proposed state required Conflict of Interest policy. This will be an addendum to our Club Constitution and was published in April's Crack and Cab. He opened the floor for discussion and stated it would be voted on for acceptance at the May meeting.

Dick Lyons reported that the Show Committee continues to meet once a month. Please sign up on the sheets in the front of the room to volunteer to help during the two day show. There are volunteer opportunities in security, the club booth, ticket selling, and in the youth area.

Our next field trip will be 9am Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup> at the Syracuse Sand and Gravel pit on Brickyard Road. There will be selenite with hematite and calcite specimens.

There is a work day MAY 7 at BC Storage in East Syracuse to refurbish our club display cases.

There will be a rock and equipment sale at Harry Perkin's home on May 21<sup>st</sup> from 8am to 6pm. Come and find some treasures.

Our May meeting will feature a demonstration on how to set up a display case for the show. Linda Tanner and Anne Fitzgerald will be providing the meeting snack.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Cheryl Brown

**Board Meeting  
May 3, 2016**

The Nominating Committee is seeking candidates interested in assuming the offices of President, Vice President or Secretary. Per our Constitution, these offices need to be filled by new people. The election will be held at our June meeting.

Several people from the club will be at Derby Hill during the Bird Festival on Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup> from 10 to 5. They will be handing out information about the club and watching for birds during the annual migration. Bring binoculars and join the fun.

The Skill Center can be opened on Tuesdays and Saturdays from 12 to 3 for member use. With the good weather, please contact Joanne Suchon if you wish to attend. You are welcome to come in during those times to use the lapidary equipment if you have gone through John Sweeney's class.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Cheryl Brown

**Junior Rockhounds  
By Shannon Phillips**



On April 16, nine Junior Rockhounds and ten adults met at Crystal Grove to search for Herkimer Diamonds. The weather was absolutely perfect, club members shared tools and knowledge, and the kids celebrated every find, whether it was theirs or not. Several of the youngsters were experiencing the thrill of

the hunt for the first time and the Junior Rockhounds who had some experience stepped in to guide them, offering advice and sharing tools. I am always impressed by the willingness of Junior club members to support, encourage, and celebrate one another's success. Fortune favored all of them with great finds and all of the kids went home happy with the treasures they found.

On May 14 (note the change in date) Junior Rockhounds will meet at Adam's Eden, 4812 Cook Rd, LaFayette, NY at 10:00 am. At the camp, we will hike the trail into the gorge where we will observe geologic formations and look for fossils. After the hike, we will enjoy a potluck picnic while we share and identify our finds.

At this point, the weather forecast for next weekend looks a bit ominous. If the weather prevents us from going to Adam's Eden, we will meet at the Clubhouse and work on activities for the Fossil badge that can be done indoors. An email will be sent to active club members regarding any changes that need to be made. If you are at all unsure if the trip is still happening, call or text Shannon at 607-749-3214.

**MEMBER PROFILE  
Shannon Phillips**

I have been collecting pretty rocks and fossils since I was a child. I first visited Herkimer with my best friend's family when I was 14. As I was walking up to the site, I found a half inch diamond just lying on the ground and I was hooked. I still hav that diamond. I love mineral collecting; I've always enjoyed crystals and it's exciting to be out in the field finding them in their natural habitat.



I'm also interested in fossils. I never knew until 2014 that we could find "3-D" fossils here. I found my first one at Tinker Falls in Tully. Since then I've found loads more. I've learned so much about the geologic history of the area from rockhounding. I especially enjoy pelecypods, but my fossil-hunting goal is to find a crinoid calyx. I would also like to help my nephew, Ben, find a eurypterid someday.

My favorite class in 9th grade was Earth Science, even though everyone else hated it. I especially enjoyed studying stratigraphy, water tables, and plate tectonics. I loved rock and mineral identification labs. I originally wanted to attend Herkimer Community College so I could collect Herkimer Diamonds on the weekend. Instead, I began my college career in Bloomsburg, PA with the intention of becoming an Earth Science teacher. I changed my major, however, when I realized that the mathematics I would have to take to earn a degree in science were going to be exceedingly difficult for me. I ended up with a degree from SUNY Cortland in what comes most easily, English. Five years after I graduated (I worked as a cake decorator during that time), I returned to college to get my Master's degree in Secondary Education. I taught English 9-12 for just over a decade before leaving the profession to become an employment and training counselor for young adults in Cortland County. I still love sharing my passions with kids, however, which is why I volunteered to coordinate the Junior Rockhounds.

I joined the club in January 2015, nearly a year after Michael and I discovered our shared love of fossils. Since becoming involved with the GMSS, I've had many opportunities to grow personally. I enjoy having other club members as resources, I have taken two lapidary classes, and, like it or not, I love having the Crack 'n Cab as an outlet for me to share what I am learning about all types of rock-related topics. With Michael's encouragement, I am not afraid to hop in the car with a backpack and a bucket and drive anywhere in NY to dig up something that might be interesting, whereas I used to have to plan every little detail of a trip.

Most of all, I have enjoyed working with the enthusiastic, smart, funny kids that are members of the Junior Rockhounds. Each child in the group is eager to learn, even when we aren't studying his or her favorite topic. The kids have learned so much and are becoming confident doing their own research and collecting. The willingness with which they accept each other and include

everyone in the group, simply because they all like rocks, is truly incredible. Every meeting I am honored to be able to teach them. I've also very much enjoyed the opportunity to work with their parents. It's not always easy to make friends as an adult and I feel as though this is a group of people I can be friends with.

So far, my favorite club meetings have been those with guest speakers talking about local geology. I'm awed by the number of interesting and unique minerals we have in NY. I also loved being part of GemWorld last year and am looking forward to doing more this year. I plan to keep working with the Junior Rockhounds, and I hope to go on many more field trips.

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

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

**May 14 Onondaga Audubon Bird Festival, Derby Hill, near Mexico, NY from 10am to 5pm for details see**

**<https://onondagaudubon.com/bird-festival-2/>  
GMSS will have a table & other businesses and artisans will be there.**

**May 21 ROCK SALE**

**THE ESTATE OF Harry Perkins of the H and I Rock Shop is having a rock sale to liquidate inventory on Saturday May 21.**

**Items for sale will be rough rock, cabochons, some minerals, Machinery (saws, grinders, tumblers, polishers, and lots supplies for these items.) The sale will be held at 107 Stockton Place, Syracuse, N Y 13219-Hours 8 AM to 6PM If you cannot make it on that day you can call Kip at (315)345-9883 to for info or an appointment.**

**May 14 10AM Jr Rockhounds – meet at Adam's Eden, 4812 Cook Rd, LaFayette, NY at 10:00 am.**

**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**

Wayne County Gem & Mineral Club  
**23<sup>rd</sup> annual Gem Fest 2016**  
  
**Sat. June 4 10-5**  
**Sun. June 5 10-4**  
**LOCATION**  
 Greater Canandaigua Civic Center  
 250 N. Bloomfield Rd, Canandaigua  
\$3 Admission, Kids 12 & under FREE  
 Soapstone Carving, Wire Wrapping, Sluice  
 Vendors, Exhibits, Free Prizes, and much more  
UV Bob's Ultraviolet Show  
**Gems, Minerals, Fossils, Beads & Jewelry**  
 visit <http://www.wcgm.org/> for details

**July 9-10 GemWorld 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary SAVE THE DATE.**

**July 16-17 Herkimer, New York  
 Herkimer Diamond Festival & Gem Show**

**Aug 7 GMSS 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.**

**Two Musts for Your Bucket Lists  
 by Bob Livingston**

**Memorable Wildacres Workshops in Beautiful  
 Little Switzerland, NC Blue Ridge**

This is such a great place to learn, unwind, be inspired and make new life-long friends. We have been about a dozen times and it was always so great being "on the mountain" (3450') as they like to say. Peaceful and clean air. We have experienced much and learned a lot over the years and met incredible fellow rockhounds. The lodging is fine, the views and rocking chair porches are super. And the "3-square" meals are

fine as well. You get all this for only \$400 for an unforgettable week. Modest extra charge for supplies only, in classes. Machines, tools and great instructors are included.

You have missed the Spring session but should be able to still make the fall one Sept 5-11 where Alfredo Petrov is the guest speaker for (6) talks on minerals and what it was like finding and getting them. He is a Russian who lived a lot of years in Japan, South America and down along the Hudson. You will learn so much from him as we did a few years back. Super guy! Plus, the main thing is you will take a couple classes in most instances, and bring home those creations you would have never figured you could do. One day there is a field trip normally. Plus that afternoon is tailgating where you can unload some of your extras and pickup new stuff reasonably. Toward the end there is Fun night where you will laugh your sides off or if you are a little brave or talented, you can take the stage and do your thing.

Wildacres is truly a piece of heaven not to missed in this life. In most cases, once is not enough. Make this your year to try it. Club Secretary or Treasurer have application forms.

**44<sup>th</sup> Rochester Mineralogical Symposium  
 (April 20-23, 2017)**

Runs from Thursday night with kick off speaker thru Sunday noon. Located at the Radisson near the airport, upwards of 300 mineral aficionados from around the world gather annually to hear and see the latest and swap tales and add to their collections.

Most days there are two speakers in the morning and another two in the afternoon. The two on Sunday morning end the whole 4-day run. You can register just for one day for under \$50. That "toe-in-the-water" approach allows you to see approx 2 dozen world-class cases of minerals, and gain admission to the talks that day and likewise to the dealers open at noon and night after the talks. On Saturday for an extra charge you can attend their Banquet with top meal and following is a voice auction which proves to be lots of fun for a packed house.

John Davis and I went on Friday of this year and had a good time seeing great stuff. RMS is probably the top one of its kind in the U.S. and it is only 1 1/2 hours via the Thruway. Just Do It in 2017; we only live once. GMSS members Carl Miller, Chet Parrow and Dave Zobkiw attended.



# Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse

P.O. Box 2801

Syracuse, New York 13220

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May 2016

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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 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 mail a membership form/card to you.

### Club Officers 2015-2016

**-President**

**John Sweeney 668-8470 [pres@gmss.us](mailto:pres@gmss.us)**

**-Vice-President**

**Mark Grasmeyer 317-1350 [vp@gmss.us](mailto:vp@gmss.us)**

**-Treasurer**

**Linda Sweeney Clark 668-8470 [treasurer@gmss.us](mailto:treasurer@gmss.us)**

**-Secretary & Membership Contact**

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**-Sergeant-at-Arms**

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**Dick Lyons 672-5328 [show@gmss.us](mailto:show@gmss.us)**

**-Librarian**

**Steve Albro 607-756-2298 [library@gmss.us](mailto:library@gmss.us)**

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**Judy Cook, Steve Albro**

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