

CRACK 'N CAB

Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse, PO Box 2801, Syracuse, NY
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See gmss.us
Web Page for
more info

Your
participation is
appreciated.
Come join the
fun!

Don't Forget
Membership
Renewals

Submit
questions,
requests, news,
pictures,
suggestions or
volunteer to
help the club
Hospitality
Committee. Send
email or tell us
at the next Club
meeting

November 21 General Meeting Show and Tell

One of the best parts of belonging to the Club is the learning about collecting, showing, creating, and studying rocks and minerals. Our meetings and trips, that include sharing information about your finds, creations and skills, are the best. This month YOU can talk about what you love. Come learn, teach, share, argue & mock. (maybe not argue & mock) Its all about the "F" word (that's right, FUN!). See you on the 21st.

2016 GMSS Holiday Celebration

Sunday, December 4 from 11am till 2pm at "Traditions at the Links" located at 5900 N Burdick Street, East Syracuse. What is included: Pretty decorations, table favors, "sing along" carols and music with John Wilson like last two years. There will be Door prizes, Santa stuff, plus OUR "Eat Hearty" Hot Buffet including Garden Salad, Chicken Francaise, Bow-tie pasta with brocolli in Alfredo Sauce, Yukon Gold oven-roasted potatoes, sauteed garden vegetables, warm rolls, fresh brewed coffee and tea. Desserts: double yummys of Chocolate Decadence or Turtle Cheesecake. (Cash bar throughout.)
Price - Members \$15. Non-member guests, \$20 (the non-subsidized cost.)

PLEASE! PLEASE! bring non-perishable foods (canned goods, pastry mixes etc.) for the needy. **PLUS** we need you to bring an unwrapped toy for Toys for Tots. Donating to this Marine helping hand program has been our Club's tradition for 20+ years.

You can sign up and pay at our November 21 meeting and be there with family and friends on December 4 for a memorable, good time. Alternative: you can mail your check to our Treasurer, Linda Clark (address - see back page) no later than November 28th. See you all there December 4!

"Your Holiday Fun Committee"

President's Message



Mark Grasmeyer
President
October 2016

Hello GMSS Rockhounds...

Last week I had the pleasure of leading a delegation to Rochester for the 2016 Eastern Federation Annual Meeting. I was a little nervous because it was my first time. Quickly, I realized a group of that many rockhounds would be a good time. Friday evening started with a cracker barrel session with all the Delegates. It was interesting and informative with lots of personalities and just as many opinions. Saturday's program included a trip to the Rochester Club Show, a tour of an incredible personal collection, and a grand banquet. The evening speaker was a fourth grade teacher who had devoted a lifetime to the study of amber. The weekend wrapped up with a Publication Awards Breakfast. GMSS received some awards for: Reach One and Teach One, Rockhound of the Year, Newsletter, and even some youth awards.

I capped off a busy week by touring four possible locations for our new clubhouse. Although none of the sites worked out we have a much better idea of what's out there and what we can expect to spend on rent.

I hope to see all of you at our next meeting, where we will unveil the details of our Holiday Celebration December 4th at Traditions.

Secretary's Report

General meeting October 17, 2016

We had a great speaker, Linda Iveny, SU School of Earth Science. She spoke about climate change and global warming.

We have been looking at new places to move our club to. We will be looking at 300 Parkview Dr in North Syracuse.

Sharon Thomson and Donna Coleman will be bringing refreshments to the November meeting. We will have a signup sheet to start our show preparation for our GMSS Show, July 15 and 16 2017.

Respectfully Submitted,
Judith Jones

GMSS BOARD MEETING November 1 2016

Old business, still looking for a new place. The places we are looking at are either too far away or cost too much. Please keep looking and bring any place you can think of to Mark Grasmeyer's attention.

Holiday party will be December 4 and will cost \$15 per person for members & \$20 per person for non-members.

Eastern Federation awards will be given out at our November general meeting.

New Business, the show is coming along; sign-up sheets will be out for volunteers and workers.

We need someone who knows Facebook real well to educate us on the details and the social realm of the use of it.

We now have 88 members.

We will discuss upcoming trips at our next meeting and get a signup sheet going.

Treasurer's audit is done and went well.

Respectfully Submitted,
Judith Jones

Junior Rockhounds From Shannon Phillips

The November meeting of the Junior Rockhounds will be postponed until **December 3**, when we will take a group field trip to the Museum of the Earth in Ithaca. Details forthcoming!

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

Send us your suggestions for field trips and meeting speakers! Contact Harold Jones at vp@gmss.us or talk to him at a Club Meeting.

**Nov 15 Beginner Wirewrapping Class
by Linda Boronczyk. Runs from Tuesday,
November 15th – to December 6th from
6pm-8pm Course consists of 4 weekly
(Tuesday) classes. For information call Linda
at 487-5202.**

**MON May 22–SUN May 27, 2017
Spring 2017 EFMLS Workshop at Wildacres
Speaker-in-Residence - Bob Jones**

**By Shannon Phillips
Mining Techniques**

I love watching mining shows on TV. A few days ago, I watched a program on Nova about gemstones. During the show, people visited several types of mines. I've watched lots of other mining shows and, reflecting on all of the different types of mines, I started wondering what geological conditions necessitate the different types of mining?



There are two ways to extract material from the Earth: surface mining and sub-surface (underground) mining. How material is mined partly depends on whether or not the desired substance is found in a primary or secondary deposit. Availability of resources also plays a role. In some areas of the world, mining is not mechanized; people are doing all of the digging by hand. Obviously, manual labor accomplishes very different results than machinery such as a backhoe. Because there are so many conditions to be accounted for, it's impossible to address mining for any particular treasure under the umbrella of a specific type of mining. With that in mind, let's take a look at some of the types of mines that are used to extract gemstones and precious metals.

Perhaps the most famous (and infamous) of all mines are diamond mines. Images of open pit mining with forced labor often come to mind in association with so-called "blood diamonds," which are mined in war-torn areas, particularly in

Africa, to fund ongoing conflicts. Open pit mining is one of the most widely used methods of mining, whether illegally, such as in conflict areas, or legally. Diamond mines, some of the world's largest, exist primarily in Africa and Russia, although one of the top ten largest diamond mines is in Australia. Open-pit mining is used when the desired material is located close to the surface. Often, this method is used to access a primary deposit, and less frequently large alluvial deposits are mined this way. Because diamond is thrust toward the surface during eruptions, surface mining is usually very productive. Once a kimberlite pipe is discovered and assessed for productivity, large areas of overburden (the earth covering the layer where the target material, or pay dirt, is located) are removed. The sides of the pit are terraced to allow for access roads and to prevent collapse. In some cases, the terraces themselves are access points for gem/ore bearing rocks. Aside from diamonds, emerald, copper, and gold are also mined in this way.

The other common type of mining is alluvial mining. Alluvial deposits occur when water flows through mineral rich areas, usually mountains, and deposits the material it picks up in another location. Alluvium can be deposited by glaciers as well, although it is less likely that precious material would be concentrated enough to support commercial mining. Most famously, sapphires are mined in alluvial deposits created by flowing water. Desirable sapphires come from Sri Lanka and Africa— Tanzania in particular— where alluvial mining is done by hand using relatively primitive methods. Alluvial mining is simple: dig out bags or buckets full of gravel and wash it to reveal the presence of sapphires. In most cases, the gravel is collected by digging one deep shaft vertically, then digging out horizontally. Timber is used to reinforce the tunnels, but working underground is inherently dangerous. Accidents involving cave-ins and poor air quality are not uncommon. In many places where alluvial mining is now ubiquitous in small-scale operations, such as Africa and the Middle East, development initiatives taken by governments could lead to larger-scale mining in the future.

Another, safer, type of alluvial mining is panning, which we are all familiar with in the search for gold. Also called placer mining, material is scooped up from the bed of a river or stream and washed so that heavier material sinks to the bottom. Formerly accomplished only by hand,

placer mining is now commonly performed with the use of dredges, which can be small enough for a person to carry or very large floating barges for commercial operations. Gravel is either dug up or vacuumed from the bottom of a river or stream and run through a sluice where gold is deposited, while water and lighter materials flow out. I have recently heard of small amounts of gold being collected by panning in Seneca Lake tributaries. This gold was deposited by glaciers in small amounts. Although not enough to produce any real value, finding even the smallest flake of gold would be worth the effort of panning, in my opinion.

As hobbyists in New York, most of us practice surface mining. Herkimer Diamonds, black tourmaline, quartz, calcite, and fluorite are just a few of the minerals we gather by digging and hammering. Some of these minerals can be found in rivers and streams as the result of erosion. Although not exactly alluvial deposits, it's not uncommon to find minerals which form in pegmatites along rivers that run through the mountains where they occur. For example, in 2013, we found a large and beautiful chunk of Labradorite in the Jay River in Ausable, NY.

As it turns out, the type of mining required to extract precious gems and ores is primarily determined by forces of nature. If minerals and ores stay where they are formed, surface mining is possible. The amount of material formed there determines whether or not large scale pit mining is profitable. If material is moved, particularly by water, techniques for extracting alluvial deposits, usually a single shaft with extending tunnels are employed. As we collect at locales around New York, I'm glad to be working on the surface!

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Bio for Dan Andrianos GMSS Wannabe and Crack 'N Cab Editor

I have been the newsletter editor for about 2 years and a member of the club for 4 years. My skills in identifying rocks/minerals/fossils are marginal at best. So, to me, the Club is a great resource and great fun.

Rock and Mineral stuff I have done

-I like to go on **Field Trips** looking for fossils and minerals large and small. I can see how collecting this stuff can get out of control.

-I like to go to **Rock Shows** I can see how buying this stuff can sometimes make a man indecisive and cynical. Meteorites are a favorite as well as shiny stuff of all kinds. You have got to admit pyrite is pretty cool looking...

Best experience so far E Springfield, Massachusetts (East Coast Show).

- I like to go to **Museums** with rocks, minerals, shiny stuff, fossils, dinosaur bones – you get the picture

Worst experience – there wasn't one

-Making Stuff

Jewelry cabochons - the first one I cracked; the second one took FOREVER (at least it seemed like forever) – never completed. I now have a lot of respect for folks who make jewelry by hand. It is very unlikely I will ever muster up the patience to create any jewelry. The plan is to take my wife, Anne, to shows and buy her something nice.

-Got a Harbor Freight **Rock Tumbler** as a gift recently. Working on a plan which involves finding a good YouTube video and an unsuspecting club member with a lot of patience.

The **GMSS Newsletter** – No, I am not trying to set a record for greatest number of typographical errors, date/month/time errors, late distribution, and general confusion – it just seems to work out that way.

Other Interests

Soccer – never played well, but can still kick the ball.

Motorcycle – Its a fatal attraction. I do not recommended it for the young, who drive too fast and the old who are, you know, old.

Hiking – Like rockhounding without the heavy baggage.

Former Lives

Grew up in Syracuse, lived in Poughkeepsie, Buffalo, Tucson, Detroit, now back in Syracuse.

Fellow member Dave Millis Won a Super Award in Rochester at EFMLS Convention in October by Bob Livingston

Nominated by us, Dave's scores of hours spent each year putting on Mineral programs to clubs and teaching crafts at picnics and meetings paid off handsomely in 2016 whereupon he came in First in the federation's annual "Each One, Teach One" competition. Congratulations Dave. His special recognition award will be duly presented in the Spring when he returns from the Florida Keys where he is currently fishing daily to add to his incredible total of at least another 6,000 landed fish this Winter.

Rockhound of the Year

The Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse is pleased to recognize Rick Moore as our 2016 Rockhound of the Year. Rick is a credentialed geologist always willing to share his expertise. He is enthusiastically involved with our club's educational and public outreach programs. He frequently speaks at monthly club and Junior Rockhound meetings and offers presentations to local schools. Last year Rick provided leadership in evaluating several rock collections donated by families of former members. He continues to serve as our club's webmaster, technical adviser, and Facebook coordinator. Under his direction, the online advertising for the club's 50th anniversary reached significantly more people than in the past. Rick is an invaluable member of our organization.

Submitted by Cheryl Brown

source:

<http://www.amfed.org/efmls/efnov.16web.pdf>

Show & Tell Note from Harold Jones

For November, instead of a guest speaker, we are asking members to bring in a favorite specimen, share it with the club and tell us about it.

This can be something you collected or received from someone. It can be rocks, minerals, fossils or something you made - anything goes. I know that picking something to bring can be a tough choice, but I am sure we will enjoy hearing about whatever you choose to share with us. The important part is the story behind the specimen, and what makes it interesting to you. Maybe it is the best example of something you ever found, or maybe the interesting part is who you collected it with, or it may just be your first specimen.

Invitation to Become Famous!
The Crack 'N Cab needs folks who can provide a fresh look and new (or maybe old) ideas
Send an email to editorgmss@gmail.com or to
US Mail
Dan Andrianos
4340 Young RD
Syracuse, NY 13215
or
call 315.492.6437

More Jr Rockhound News

On October 15, the Junior Rockhounds enjoyed a pop-up field trip to Herkimer Diamond Mines. Two families attended. *Just a few minutes into the hunt, Michael Brewster →→ found a nice crystal that he extracted from a rock.* The rest of us



didn't have much luck until later, when the Porter family hit a nice vug in Mine 2 that produced three lovely stones. The younger kids were fairly successful at finding small, perfect diamonds by scavenging the dirt and looking on the ground.

The last few communications were a bit confusing, so here is the event schedule for the next few months:

November 12 - Meet at the Clubhouse from 10-1 for a gemstone craft make and take. Materials provided.

December 3 - Field trip to Museum of the Earth, Ithaca, NY. Details will be emailed.

January 21 - Meet at the Clubhouse 10-1. Activity to be determined.



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
Web - <http://www.gmss.us>

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- Hospitality Committee Chair
Donna Dow

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 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), go to <http://gmss.us/about/membershipform.pdf> 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.