

CRACK 'N CAB

Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse, PO Box 2801, Syracuse, NY
 web <http://www.gmss.us> Volume 46 Issue 4 April 2016



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3 inch
ROCK HOUND
 bumper/window
 Stickers
 will be on sale for
 only \$1 at Club
 meetings and
 GemWorld50



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

Monday, April 18th "Mineral Evolution" Presentation by Rick Moore

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 more information.

GEMWORLD50 - Golden Anniversary OUR 50TH YEAR GEM, MINERAL, FOSSIL and JEWELRY SHOW



www.gmss.us

Gem and Mineral Society of Syracuse, Inc.

Sat. July 9 10am – 6pm

Sun. July 10 10am – 4pm



Onondaga Community College

SRC Arena

4585 West Seneca Turnpike
 Syracuse NY 13215

(Use West Seneca Turnpike entrance)

Grand Prize – Ounce of Gold
 Minerals, Fossils, Beads, Jewelry, Cut Stones, and Supplies
 Over 60 Retail and Wholesale Dealers
 Educational Exhibits and Demonstrations
 Kids' activities
 Wheelchair accessible
*Donation \$7 adults WEEKEND PASS –
 Scouts in uniform & under 12 FREE with adult
 This flier good for \$1 discount off the weekend two day pass*

VISIT THE METAPHYSICAL PRACTITIONERS IN THE
 ROOM TO THE RIGHT OF THE SRC MAIN ENTRANCE.



President's Message



**John Sweeney - President
April 2016**

President Message

At this month's meeting April 18th we will be putting forth a motion to change the club's constitution in order to add a Conflict of Interest policy for board members and officers. As I mentioned in last month's message this is to keep us current with new tax laws. The vote for the measure will be during next month's meeting.

During the last several months we have been looking at possible new homes for the club. We have not yet found quite what we are looking for, so the search continues. Contact me or other members of the board if you have suggestion.

The auction at last month's meeting was a success and I was glad to see a packed house as the bidding began. Kudos to the club members who met the weekends before the auction to help sort and collate specimens, as well as to the runners, the bookkeepers and my fellow auctioneer Rick Moore who all helped to make the evening a success. This goes out to all of you who brought in goods to be auctioned as well. There were some leftover materials and some other pieces held in reserve for a sale at the May meeting.

What pleased me most at the last meeting was the number of new faces in the crowd. Welcome new members.

The show committee is working on our fiftieth annual show and there will be sign up sheets starting to appear at the meetings for working the various show positions that need to be filled. Please sign up early.

The collecting season is upon us. I heard a group or two made it out to the opening of mines in the Herkimer area and brought back some nice Herkimer diamonds. Mark Grassmeyer our vice president is working on some good field trips for the season so stay tuned to the website, the Face book page and newsletter so you're not left at home. See you at the meeting. Bring your finds.

Secretary's Report



**Cheryl Brown - Secretary
Meeting Minutes**

General Meeting March 21, 2016

Auction Night! Thanks to one and all who helped make the evening a success!

Respectfully Submitted,
Cheryl Brown

Board Meeting April 5, 2016

We are still looking for a new home for the club. After touring the location in East Syracuse, many questions and concerns were raised. While still keeping it on the table, it has been decided to look further.

The state required Conflict of Interest policy was presented to the membership at the February meeting. The policy must be added to our Constitution. A copy has been added to this newsletter for your review. It will be presented and discussed at the April meeting, and voted on at the May meeting.

The Nominating Committee is in place with Keith Gilmer serving as chairman. The offices of President, Vice President and Secretary are up for election in June. Please consider putting your name in for one of these offices, or nominate someone.

Mark Grasmeyer went to the Ace of Diamonds opening near Herkimer on April 2nd. It rained, but he had a successful trip. Mark is working on setting up field trips for the year – stay tuned.

Rick Moore will be our speaker at the April meeting. His topic will be *The Evolution of Minerals*. Ed and Joanne Suchon will bring the snack to the April meeting.

The May meeting will feature a demonstration on how to set up a display case. This is meant to encourage you to set up a display case at the July

GemWorld show. There will also be a mineral specimen sale at our May meeting.

We need someone to redecorate the front window. Do you have an idea? Please contact John Sweeney if you would like to put your creative talent to work.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cheryl Brown

Junior Rockhounds By Shannon Phillips

At the March Junior Rockhounds Meeting, we welcomed two new members, Lucien (9) and Blaise (6), with their dad, Bob. They discovered the club while walking through Shoppingtown. A club member showed them around and gave them a membership application, so thank you, whoever you are, we are so glad to add another family!

At our meeting, we worked on finishing up two badges that we began earlier this year: Communication and Gemstone Lore and Legend. Six months into the AFMS Badge Program, the kids are doing a great job completing the activities required to earn badges. For those of you unfamiliar with the program, The American Federation of Mineralogical Societies/Junior Rockhounds of America, has a wonderful program, much like the badge programs of Scouting organizations, that allows our young members to complete requirements to earn badges, which are provided to the club as one of the benefits of belonging to the AFMS. There are twenty badges that kids can earn, and each one requires at least three activities. Upon completion of six badges, participants are awarded the Rockhound Badge, and if they complete all twenty, they receive a Rock Star tack pin. So far, we've had two participants complete Earth Processes, twelve complete Rocks and Minerals, six Communication, and five Gemstone Lore and Legend. We complete the required activities at meetings, sometimes spreading them over multiple months. You may have noticed some of the posters created by members hanging near the back wall of the clubhouse. We are eagerly anticipating collecting the Field Trip badge with our upcoming trip to Crystal Grove on April 16.

For the April meeting, the Junior Rockhounds and their families should meet at the clubhouse at 9:00 am to depart for Crystal Grove in St. Johnsville. Details regarding entry fee, lunch, and supplies were emailed on April 9.

First of the Season! By Shannon Phillips



On April 1, Michael and I headed to Middleville for Ace of Diamond's opening day. We arrived in the rain at about 10:30, and the site was packed with rockhounds eager for a fresh season of treasure hunting. Moments after arriving, we found a couple of small diamonds and, appetites whetted, scoured the site for more. After walking the pit, we settled at the far side where we met the president of the Wayne County Gem & Mineral Club, Glenn Weiler. Glen showed us an incredible pocket he'd discovered by smashing open some of the new material deposited there for the season. While I lamented that I would never find anything that good, Michael reasoned that if there were other pockets to be found, he would find them, which indeed he did. While I was resting in the van with Sandy (fighting off a stomach bug that made my contributions to the dig minimal) Michael discovered what we now refer to as the "Mango Pocket." In the pocket were four clustered diamonds, along with a couple of loose ones. While I'm really sad that I wasn't there for the initial discovery, I'm so excited that Michael's perseverance paid off. In addition to this group, we found half a dozen other nice matrix pieces and a few loose stones. All in all, a very successful day of mining!

At home, we have many, many pieces of matrix with Herkimers of varying quality. When looking at some of them, it's very easy to tell that they should remain intact as display pieces. Others, it's not so clear. Could we pop out a few sparklies if we removed just a bit more of the dolomite? Is there something else hiding just below the surface? Many of the pieces we bring home become experiments in extraction methods with varying degrees of success. Using a bricklayer's hammer, I was able to remove a $\frac{3}{4}$ " diamond buried deep in the matrix. Alas, I didn't take a "before" photo because I fully expected to smash

the crystal to bits. The chisel end of that hammer is incredibly effective for chipping away at the very solid rock. I'm sure it didn't hurt that the hammer was new.

Once we are done messing around with the stones, the question becomes how to display them. Currently, we have every window sill and bookshelf covered with bits and pieces of rock. Some of them are beautiful. Some of them, well, they have a nice personality. Many of them end up in the garden where occasionally I will pick one up and wonder how that particular rock was deemed unworthy to be indoors. Display is really becoming an issue. I'm looking forward to the May meeting about setting up a display for the show because I'm hoping some of the tips will help at home.

Although opening day was intermittently very rainy, it turned out to be the best day of the weekend. With the snow on Saturday and Sunday, I doubt other miners enjoyed their visits as much as we did. I do hope, however, anyone intrepid enough to go out was rewarded. I'm looking forward to a great collecting season and wish all of you the same!

Exhibitors of the Club, UNITE! from Keith Gilmer

The show is fast approaching and I am calling on all those members who have material to display for exhibition. Remember this is our 50th anniversary show and we want it to be spectacular. I am 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 me by phone [315-307-1283] or e-mail kgilmer@verizon.net and sign up for a case (or two). **This year the theme is GOLD** for our 50th golden anniversary. I hope to get a great turnout for some great displays!

Also, there will be a display case analysis, reconstruction and repair workshop at the storage shed on **Saturday, May 7th** for all those hearty souls that want to put the cases together and conduct some minor repairs if needed. I would like to have a least [8] people to attend this workshop to insure that our cases are ready for the 50th anniversary show. **Please save the date to commit some time and effort to a worthwhile endeavor. Thank you in advance!**

A poem: COMMON THINGS

The things I prize of greatest worth are just the
common things of earth
The Sun, the rain, the rocks, the trees -- the
flowers, the gems there to please
clouds that pass, sun/ stars that shine,
mountains, valleys all are mine
Rivers, lakes and perfect breeze are treasures
none can take from me.
Oh God is here on every hand -- Upon the seas
upon the land
And day-by-day my thanks I give, that with these
common things I live.

Slight adaptation from Floyd I Pratt poem, 1940s, by nephew
Bob Livingston

MEMBER PROFILE: KEITH GILMER "THE MALACHITE MANIAC"

I was a youth member at around 10 or 11 in the 1970's and was very excited about being in an organization that focused on rock, mineral, and fossil collecting as well as the artistic expressions of lapidary and jewelry making. I had my heart set on geology as a career and my 1st major in college was geology. Many things in my life changed over the years, but as I discovered later in life, my enjoyment from collecting minerals never really waned. I was re-introduced to the GMSS by **Gene Ridall** who at the time [2006-2007] was dating my sister-in-law. With both charm and some insistence he talked me into rejoining and eventually into becoming the newsletter editor.



When I took up collecting again I felt that I would focus my attention on one specific mineral that I really liked a lot. The choice was simple (for me). I was absolutely fascinated with malachite from my childhood after seeing a beautiful illustrated article in an Arizona Highways magazine. I decided; it was malachite all right! Upon rejoining the club I exclaimed my new title as the **"Malachite Maniac"**. Since that time I have made several presentations and have had my collection exhibited for display at the annual show since 2008. Malachite moves me and speaks to me like no other mineral I have ever seen.

I mentioned earlier that Gene Ridall talked me into the position of newsletter editor. Well I took the reins from 2008 to 2014. I recall 2011 especially because of the duel conventions from EFMLS and AMFS during our show. It was a hectic year and the Bulletin Editors Advisory Committee competition would be awarding the honors to the best newsletters and written materials from both the eastern region and the national contributors. I was pleased, (and extremely surprised) in winning the #1 spot for the 'small' bulletins from the national competition and the #2 spot for the eastern regional competition. I also discovered that the greatest compliments came from my fellow club members during my tenure as editor. I found that although the competitive awards are special, the appreciation of the GMSS is always what I remember most fondly.

I am the exhibit chairman and coordinator for the annual show. I believe I took on that role in 2009 or 2010. Since then I have enjoyed working with exhibitors and have been very pleased and proud of the quality of the presented materials. Once again for the 2011 show with the duel conventions there were many challenges to face and overcome. In addition to the club member exhibitors there would be a national display competition with many more exhibitors involved from all over the country. In total, there were 50+ exhibition displays presented at that show. I received high praise from the national judges and some of the EFMLS and AFMS officers, as well as a lot of GMSS club members.

I would just say that being a member of this club [again] has been a challenging, exhilarating, stimulating, and rewarding experience. I have rekindled knowledge from my past and have learned many new things from so many members, and I have met people dedicated to the purpose, spirit, and destiny of this organization. I can't think of a better way to express the many aspects of our hobby the way we do with the dynamic variety of backgrounds and experiences we have as club members. We all have something to share that will benefit another. In the GMSS we always have that opportunity. The "Malachite Maniac" is here to stay!



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.gmss.us/> and on local TV stations.

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

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 – Field trip of the year will take place on April 16, 2016 at Crystal Grove Diamond Mine and Campground, St. Johnsville, NY <http://crystalgrove.com/>

Apr 23-24 Innovative Beads Expo, Liverpool, NY, The Holiday Inn, 441 Electronics Parkway, Liverpool, NY <http://www.innovativebeadsexpo.com/>

APR 30-MAY 1 The Mineralogical Society of Northeastern Pennsylvania - Treasures of The Earth 2016 - 13th Annual Show & Sale at Oblates of St. Joseph, 1880 Hwy 315, Pittston, PA 18640 <http://www.msnepa.org>

May 3 GMSS Board Meeting – TBA

May 7 Crack 'N Cab ARTICLE DEADLINE

May 7 There will be a display case analysis, reconstruction and repair workshop at the storage shed. Contact Keith Gilmer by phone [315-307-1283] or e-mail kgilmer@verizon.net

May 7-8 Finger Lakes Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Show Greater Canandaigua Civic Center, Canandaigua, NY

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. Also, a general discussion on creating a great display for your collection.

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 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.

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>

Club Workshop days and hours

Joanne Suchon will open the Club Workshop on *Saturdays and Mondays from 10:00-1:00*. Please call her at (315)440-4098 if you would like to attend. If no one calls, she may not be there.

Calling all Rockhounds!

If you can help, or just like to have fun, our first Junior Rockhound field trip of the year will take

place on **April 16, 2016 at Crystal Grove Diamond Mine and Campground, Saint Johnsville, NY** - <http://crystalgrove.com/>. We will meet at the Clubhouse in the Shoppingtown Mall at 9:00 am. Meeting at the clubhouse will allow us the opportunity to carpool. If you have room in your vehicle and are willing to offer others a ride, please respond to the group email with how many seats you have. If you need a ride, please respond to the group with the number of seats you need. We will depart the Clubhouse at 9:15 am; please do your best to be prompt. Unless we hear from you (you can call or text Shannon Phillips at (607)749-3214), we will be leaving at 9:15 and you can meet us at Crystal Grove. Meeting is not an attempt to caravan, necessarily, I think with GPS we can all find our way, but I do want to have the opportunity to make sure everyone has a ride and get the kids excited. We will make a pit stop at the Oneida rest area at approximately 10:00 am. If for any reason you'd like to meet us there, that would work. Please remember that Route 90 is a toll road and be prepared for that. Upon arrival, we will meet at the office area in order to get our entry bands.

GemWorld News From Judy Cook

The Learning Center at GemWorld offers free presentations for show goers.. It is on the upper level of the SRC Arena. The MOST -The Museum of Science and Technology - will once again be back with some exciting Science-on-the-Go shows!

Saturday July 9th 12 pm MOST - Interconnected: Energy, Life and Water

Connorlyn Gaffney will be using interactive demonstrations to teach important environmental science concepts and promote conservation.

Come learn how much energy different types of light bulbs use. Learn the importance of decomposition in the circle of life. Come feel and dance in a cloud as Connorlyn experiments with liquid nitrogen, and she discusses the importance of the water cycle. Kids feel free to bring your parents, they will love this just as much as you.



**Sunday July 10th
12 pm MOST - It's All About Size**

Connorlyn

Gaffney will discuss some of the concepts of nanoscience. On the nanoscale, things are a billionth of a meter and have unique astounding properties. When does water defy the force of gravity? How can a material be both a liquid and solid - while also withstanding the powerful force of a hammer? Connorlyn will bring these amazing micro properties to a full size demonstration along with other surprising phenomena. Kids and adults will marvel at the nanoscale science and how it and technology can change our world.



**AUCTION
PICTURES
from Steve
Albro**



**Mark
Grasmeyer's
Pictures
from the
April 2nd Trip
by 5 intrepid
GMSS
members to
Ace of
Diamonds
Mine,
Middleville,
NY**



NOTICE:

**THE NEXT FOUR PAGES CONTAIN A
NEW CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY
REQUIRED FOR ALL NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATIONS**

Each member of the Board of Directors of the Gem and Mineral Society of Syracuse will be completing one of these forms annually. You may ask questions about this at the next monthly meeting or via email to Cheryl Brown secretary@gmss.us



Conflict of Interest Policy and Annual Form

Article I

Purpose

We believe the trust and confidence of our members and other supporters depend on our continuing to maintain the highest standards of ethical and lawful conduct. It is the Gem and Mineral Society of Syracuse's (GMSS) position that all individuals involved with its mission must comport themselves so that there is not even the appearance of conflict between personal interests and those of GMSS. To ensure the continuity of its high standards of conduct, GMSS desires to set forth the common understandings that must exist among the members of its community regarding practices.

This memorandum is intended to assist in understanding GMSS's policies and practices relating to business transactions to clarify principles that must guide its conduct and to provide guidance in resolving ethical and legal questions that might arise. The purpose of the Conflict of Interest Policy is to protect GMSS's interest when it is contemplating entering into a transaction or arrangement that might benefit the private interest of an officer, director, member of GMSS or employee of GMSS.

The policy is designed to ensure that all institutional decisions are made solely to promote the best interests of GMSS without favor or preference based on personal considerations and to provide the highest ethical conduct. This policy is intended to supplement, but not replace any applicable New York or federal laws governing conflicts of interest applicable to nonprofit Corporations.

Article II

Duty of Loyalty and General Requirements

1. **The Law.** Conflict of interest statutes are contained in the New York Not-for-Profit Corporation Law and focus primarily on the duty of loyalty of Board of Directors (Board) members. This duty broadly commands Board members and officers to be faithful to an organization's best interests and to refrain from using their organizational position or knowledge to advance a personal agenda at the organization's expense.
2. **Basis of Decisions.** All institutional decisions are to be made solely to promote the best interests of GMSS without favor or preference based on personal considerations and to provide the highest ethical conduct. Accordingly, with respect to their personal economic interests, GMSS officers, Board members and members should not be allowed to participate actively and aggressively as advocates in their behalf (or on behalf of other organizations in which they have a personal interest), either formally at Board or committee meetings, or informally through private contact, communication and discussion. Similarly, officers, Board members, club members, or employees may not obtain for themselves, their relatives, or their friends a material benefit of any kind from their association with GMSS, or from the knowledge gained therefrom. The fairness of transactions involving potential conflicting interests is usually analyzed by comparing them with similar transactions negotiated by parties dealing at "arm's length" – that is, parties that have no other relationship and are presumed to base their decisions on rational economic interests.
3. **Confidential Information.** In addition, one of GMSS's most valuable assets is its confidential information, which includes membership lists, research data, financial data and computer software and equipment information. The security and integrity of all confidential data must be diligently protected. Accordingly,

officers, Board members, club members, and employees should not disclose or use any confidential information involving the GMSS for personal benefit or for non-GMSS related purposes.

Article III Definitions

1. Interested Person. Any board member, officer, member of a GMSS committee, member, or employee who has a direct or indirect financial interest, defined below, is an Interested Person.
2. Financial Interest. A person has a financial interest, if a person has, directly or indirectly, through business, investment or family:
 - a. an ownership or investment interest in any entity with which GMSS has a transaction or arrangement;
 - b. a compensation arrangement with GMSS or with any entity or individual with which GMSS has a transaction or arrangement; or
 - c. a potential ownership or investment interest, or compensation arrangement with any entity or individual with which GMSS is negotiating a transaction or arrangement.
3. Compensation. Compensation includes direct and indirect remuneration as well as gifts or favors that are substantial in nature.

Article IV Procedures

1. Duty to Disclose. In connection with any actual or possible conflict of interest, an Interested Person must disclose the existence and nature of his or her financial interest to the directors of GMSS and/or club members of any GMSS committee considering the proposed transaction or arrangement. The law does not require a prohibition of all conflicts of interests. Rather, the goal is to permit GMSS to manage conflicting interests successfully and to reach optimum decisions with knowledge of the conflicts. Accordingly, so long as the transactions are disclosed to the Board and the transactions are believed to be in the best interests of GMSS, they may lawfully be undertaken.
2. Determining Whether a Conflict of Interest Exists. After disclosure of the financial interest, the Interested Person shall leave the Board or committee meeting which the financial interest is discussed and voted upon. The remaining Board or committee members shall decide if a conflict of interest exists.
3. Procedures to Address Conflict of Interest. The following procedure shall be taken:
 - a. The President of the GMSS Board shall, if appropriate, appoint a disinterested person or committee to investigate alternatives to the proposed transaction or arrangement.
 - b. After exercising due diligence, the Board or executive committee shall determine whether GMSS can obtain a more advantageous transaction or arrangement with reasonable efforts from a person or entity that would not give rise to a conflict of interest.
 - c. If a more advantageous transaction or arrangement is not reasonably attainable under circumstance that would not give rise to a conflict of interest, the Board or executive committee shall determine by a majority vote of the disinterested directors whether the transaction or arrangement is in GMSS's best interest and for its own benefit and whether the transaction is fair and reasonable to GMSS and shall make its decision as to whether to enter into the transaction or arrangement in conformity with such determination.
4. Violation of Conflict of Interest Policy.
 - a. If the Board or a committee has reasonable cause to believe that a member of the Board, committee, officer, member or employee of GMSS has failed to disclose actual or possible conflicts of interest, it shall inform the person of the basis of such belief and afford the person an opportunity to explain the alleged failure to disclose.

- b. If, after hearing the response of the person and making such further investigation as may be warranted in the circumstances, the Board or committee determined that the person has in fact failed to disclose an actual or possible conflict of interest, it shall take appropriate disciplinary and corrective action as is needed in the circumstances, including removal from office.

Article V

Records of Proceedings

The minutes of the Board and all committees shall contain the following information:

- a. the names of the persons who disclosed or otherwise were found to have a financial interest in connection with an actual or possible conflict of interest;
- b. the nature of the financial interest;
- c. any action taken to determine whether a conflict of interest was present;
- d. the Board's or committee's decision as to whether a conflict of interest in fact existed;
- e. the names of the persons who were present for discussions and votes relating to the transaction or arrangement;
- f. the content of the discussion, including any alternative to the proposed transaction or arrangement; and
- g. a record of any votes taken in conjunction with the matter.

Article VI

Periodic Reviews

To ensure that GMSS operates in a manner consistent with its charitable purposes and that it does not engage in activities that could jeopardize its status as an organization exempt from federal income tax, periodic reviews shall be conducted to include the following subjects:

- a. Whether compensation arrangement and benefits are reasonable and are the result of arm's length bargaining.
- b. Whether any arrangements with outside service organizations conform to written policies, are properly recorded, reflect reasonable payments for goods and services, further GMSS's charitable purposes and do not result in impermissible private benefit.
- c. Whether agreements with other organizations, members or employees further GMSS's charitable purposes and do not result in impermissible private benefit.

Article VII

Annual Statements

Each officer, director, member and employee of a committee of GMSS shall annually sign and file with GMSS a statement which affirms that such person:

- a. has received a copy of the Conflict of Interest Policy; and
- b. has read and understands the Policy; and
- c. has agreed to comply with the Policy; and
- d. understands that GMSS is a charitable organization and that in order to maintain its federal tax exemption it must engage primarily in activities which accomplish one or more of its tax exempt purposes.



Annual Conflict of Interest Statement

I have read the _____ Conflict of Interest Policy and have no items to report.
(Year)

Without exception

Except as described on the attached statement

I agree to advise the Executive Board of GMSS promptly of any change in circumstances during the year which may create a potential conflict of interest.

Name _____
(print)

Name _____
(signature)

Date _____

This annual disclosure of conflicts of interest is not intended to apply to individuals who hold shares of stock or other securities in publicly held corporations that interact with GMSS in the ordinary course of business.

Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse
P.O. Box 2801
Syracuse, New York 13220
First Class Mail
April 2016
 Time Dated Material



www.amfed.org

www.amfed.org/efms

scribe.rbn.net

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) [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

-Vice-President
 Mark Grasmeyer 317-1350 vp@gmss.us

-Treasurer
 Linda Sweeney Clark 668-8470 treasurer@gmss.us

-Secretary & Membership Contact

Cheryl Brown 487-6009 secretary@gmss.us

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-Hospitality Committee - Judy and Harold Jones

Crack 'N Cab
 Newsletter of Gem & Mineral Society
 Syracuse, NY
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