

CRACK 'N CAB

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

Your
participation is
appreciated.
Come join the
fun!

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

September Meeting September 19

Speaker – Len Sharp

**Topic - Blast from the Past (aka Dinosaur
Armageddon)**

**Len Sharp: MS, CAS, retired Earth
Science teacher, Liverpool High
School and adjunct professor of
Education at LeMoyne College.
Presidential Awardee in Science
Teaching and National Science
Teachers Association Distinguished
Teacher. Instructor has explored and
the hiked through all 50 states as
well as trekked and studied on all seven continents.**



**His presentation will include the historical development of
the Impact Theory and his involvement with the Woods Hole
Institute's team of scientists that were aboard the JOIDES
Resolution that discovered the ocean Core that clearly gave
evidence of the asteroid's impact on what is called the
Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico circa 65 million years ago.**

↓ Photos from GemWorld50 ↓



President's Message



John Sweeney - President September 2016

September is here and it with begins a change of seasons. I hope everyone had a good summer. Our show in July was a success. Thanks to all the hard work put in by our show committee, the various volunteers and especially the show committee chair Dick Lyons. Once again good show Dick.

Our picnic was well attended and the food great. The grill masters, Rick Moore, Mark Grasmeyer and Steve Albro did a good job on a hot day. Thanks to the RocDoc for providing geode cutting, classes, lots of door prizes and some games. I saw a lot swapping going on which is always good. Whoever made the German potato salad several of us want your recipe. We looked up and the white bowl was gone!

With vacations over and fall starting we are back to business so to speak. We have a new slate of officers being sworn in at the September meeting. Our very capable Vice President Mark Grasmeyer will be our new president. The Joneses, Judith and Harold, will be our new secretary and Vice President respectively. Ed Suchon will stay Sergeant at Arms and Linda Sweeney will stay on as treasurer. Rick Moore and Dan Andrianos will also stay on as web master and editor. Thank you all ahead of time for your upcoming efforts.

Being club president for the last two years has been very rewarding. It has been a pleasure working with the board and non- board members to move the club along on its mission. Cheryl Brown as our secretary kept us organized and keeps impeccable notes. She also took over a lot of the membership committee duties. Mark Grasmeyer has found interesting field trips and pertinent speakers for our monthly meetings. Dick Lyons worked out the show details with the show committee. Ed Suchon kept the meetings organized and the club house in order. Linda Sweeney kept our finances straight. Rick Moore kept the web site current and worked with social media to make our presence better known. Dan Andrianos made sure it was all documented and kept the club informed with his work on the newsletter and website. By the way he wants

everyone to write articles. It's your newsletter too!

Running this organization is a group effort. You don't have to be an elected official or board member to weigh in. Bob Livingston has been at nearly every board meeting for the last several years his sage advice has been well received. The same holds true for Joanne Suchon and Kurt Lindy. Shannon Phillips has been running the Junior Rockhounds. Steve Albro our librarian, Judy Cook, Bill and Sharon Viel and a host of others appear at meetings when they feel they can contribute. I guess what I'm trying to get at here is twofold. I would like to thank all of those who have helped run the club during for the last two years during my term and I would like to invite everyone to come and weigh in at future meetings. I will still be on the board as past president so I will look forward to seeing you there.

There will be Sign-up sheets for Upcoming lapidary classes at the September meeting. Classes will run Thursday nights 6 to 8:30 PM from Sept 29th to Oct 17th for a total of eight classes. Contact me to sign up.

Winter's not here yet, so go out and collect. One of my favorite digs it the open house at Walworth quarry it is Oct. 8th this year

Secretary's Report



Cheryl Brown - Secretary Meeting Minutes

General Meeting August 7, 2016

Our annual picnic was held at Sims store in Camillus Park and took the place of a regular meeting. A special thanks to Mark Grasmeyer, Rick Moore and Steve Albro for their burger and sausage master chefery. Dave Millis entertained us with some games with minerals as prizes. There was tailgating and geode cutting as well as boat trips down the canal.

We were amazed by the number of people walking around focused intently on their cell phones as they sought out Pokémon characters to capture.

A good time was had by all on a perfect weather day.

Board Meeting September 6, 2016

The search for a new meeting location is ongoing. If you have any suggestions, please forward them to Mark Grasmeyer at president@gmss.us.

Dick Lyons reported that the Herkimer and Erie gem and mineral clubs changed their show dates when they learned that our show dates had to be changed. Only one vendor has indicated they cannot attend our show because of the date change. In case you haven't heard, there will be a sports camp at OCC during our usual show dates. Therefore, our show dates had to be moved to July 15 and 16, 2017.

Mark Grasmeyer reported that there will be a field trip to Walwrath quarry October 8 and 9 to look for dolomite, fluorite, selenite, sphalerite, celestine, gypsum and fossils. Field trips to Paradise Falls and to the Syracuse sand and gravel pit near Warners are being planned for the future. Stay tuned for details.

The Eastern Federation of Mineral and Lapidary Societies (EFMLS) Convention will be held in Rochester October 21 through 23. If you are interested in attending and would like to stay overnight, contact Linda Sweeney-Clark as soon as possible. She has reserved several rooms at the Radisson Hotel.

Judith and Harold Jones have been our meeting Hospitality Chairs. Having been elected to be our Secretary and Vice President respectively, we are in need of a new Hospitality Chairperson. The duties and responsibilities include forming a committee to assist with the following:

- to arrange and later restore the meeting room set-up to accommodate the monthly meetings;
- to arrange for refreshments at meetings;
- to greet and register members and guests

Are you interested in taking a lapidary or silversmithing class? See John Sweeney at the September meeting to sign up.

The September meeting is our annual membership renewal meeting. Please see Cheryl Brown to pay your dues. They are \$10.00 for a single adult, \$15.00 for a family, \$5.00 for a junior member between the ages of 10 and 18, and \$5.00 for a life member (member for 20+ continuous years).

Respectfully Submitted,
Cheryl Brown

Junior Rockhounds

The Junior Rockhounds will be meeting this Saturday, September 17, at the GMSS Clubhouse in Shoppingtown Mall from 10am-1pm. We will start off our new "year" by welcoming new members, reconnecting with existing members, and having some fun with minerals. If you have something you'd like to share, a favorite specimen, something you collected over the summer, anything mineral or fossil related, please bring it along.

Just a reminder that club membership runs from September to August, so memberships should be renewed this month. Family memberships are \$15 annually. If you would like to pay dues you can use the application on page. If you cannot be at the general meeting, send the completed to the PO Box on the form. If you could please let me know if you're planning on coming, it would be very helpful to have a rough idea of numbers for snacks. If you have any questions, you can respond to via email kidsrock@gmss.us

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

Send us your suggestions for field trips! For more information contact Harold Jones at vp@gmss.us or talk to him at a Club Meeting.

Sep 17 The Junior Rockhounds will be meeting at the GMSS Clubhouse in Shoppingtown Mall from 10am-1pm.

Oct 8-9 Walworth – Sat. 7-2, Sun. 7-noon – 1200 Atlantic Ave Walworth NY 14568 [entrance on Tiffany Rd. about 1,000 feet north of Atlantic Ave. & Canandaigua RD] <http://dolomitegroup.com/>

What's to be found Minerals - dolomite, fluorite, selenite, sphalerite, celestine, gypsum Fossils - stromatolite, coral, crinoid and clam Plus - Glacial Polish

Safety Meeting Mandatory – sign in 6:45 AM PPE [Personal Protective Equipment] Needed – Hard Hat, Bicycle Helmet for young people, steel toed/sturdy shoes, safety glasses, long sleeved shirts & pants. You also need to

bring a Bucket, chisel, rock hammer, sunscreen and water bottle.

Educational Note of the Day: In recent years the geological-powers-that-be ruled that the white Dolomite crystals shall be know as Dolomite and the gray hard abundant matrix material will be called Dolostone. Dolostone or dolomite rock is a sedimentary carbonate rock that contains a high percentage of the mineral dolomite. In old U.S.G.S. publications it was referred to as magnesian limestone. -Wikipedia For more information check Wikipedia's site <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dolomite#Properties> (Source WCGMC - Fred Haynes)

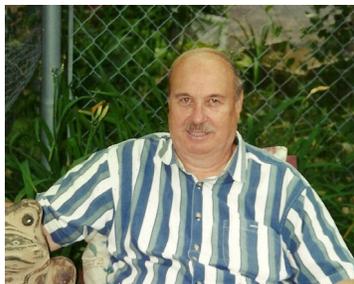
Oct 21 EFMLS Annual Meeting, Rochester, NY

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

My Story of Our Hobby from an Octogenarian's View

by Bob Livingston

In 1976 I got into our hobby by taking a jewelry-making course at BOCES locally (take note John Sweeney). From there we began searching in the Rock & Gem and other hobby magazines for shows out West during the Spring and Summer and most years planned a vacation to coincide with one of the interesting shows, especially if collecting was tied in. Joan and I did that maybe eight times until we joined GMSS in 1988. Got way off the beaten path in rental cars at least 3 different times where the situation became dicey but we made it back out fortunately. I am not sure why we dragged our feet so long before joining? I was a member one year and was asked to become Treasurer (club had only 15% of the treasury as now). Next came VP and in 1994 I was honored to become president of GMSS.



Most Rewarding Experiences -- For Eastern Federation I use to be a judge of Original Articles

submitted for the annual Bulletin Editors' Contest. And we went and loved going to the Wildacres Workshop in NC. That exposure led to being asked to be nominated for EFMLS 2nd VP in 2000, thru the chairs to 1st VP in 2001 and getting the top job of president of Eastern in 2002. That meant trying to satisfy 138 vastly different clubs, Maine to Florida at that time. I learned a lot and my administration accomplished several good things. In 2007 at the Eastern convention held in Newark, NY, I guess for the work I had done thru the years, as a huge surprise, I received the coveted EFMLS Citation Award. Only one person is so honored per year. (So when folks come knocking on your door asking you to take an office in our club, say YES and look what you too might accomplish.)

Best Time Field Collecting -- I drove and tagged along with fellow member John Davis who had the advantage of collecting at the Frontier Quarry in Lockport, NY many years prior. John remembered a good spot there for Dolomite XLs and even many years later his keen eye found a productive spot. We set to work and I probably came out of there with 20 pounds of decent minerals. Normally I come home pretty much skunked as unlike many of you, I don't seem to get the right vibes for finding "keepers."

Most Fun at a Show -- Without a doubt this was at the national AFMS show in Moab, Utah probably 15-years back. The town, not far from Arches National Monument held their show in a horse arena with dirt floor. But being in an area of plentiful cutting material, every 20 minutes the local club members would dump a fresh 5-gallon bucket of mostly Jasper and Agate cutting rough in the middle of an area the size of a boxing ring. Then 12 to 20 of us vultures would dive in to grab a share of the booty. Like the floor, the cost was dirt cheap. It was easy pickings as they say, tons of fun and we brought home some nice cutting stuff from the West. It was a real kick, believe me. For sure the Arches area is spectacular to see.

Most Fun and Learning -- Definitely it was the approximately six times Joan and I went to the

Wildacres Workshops just off the Blue Ridge Parkway in Little Switzerland, North Carolina. We most often went to the September session and in so doing, we learned stuff in 10 or 12 classes from good instructors there. Plus one learns much from the featured speaker in her or his 6 talks. The peace and views there are just maybe a slice of Heaven, so when you have the opportunity to go -- GO! It is a wonderful experience to learn and make some neat stuff for yourself or to give to family. Plus you meet the nicest people there from all over. Many become lasting friends. And, it's only 745 miles from Syracuse. Two drivers, one day easy.

Bio -- Grad of Alfred State Tech and Columbia College, Marketing. 30-year career at Carrier with best job being 8- years as National Advertising Manager, Carrier brand, where annually, I got to spend over 15-million bucks of somebody else's money and looked forward to going to work every Monday morning to repeat the process. Have been with Roger Staubach, Dallas Cowboys, at his new home at the time in Dallas with 9 bedrooms and 11 Carrier outdoor air condensers. Saw his young son Jeffrey playing with Dad's Heisman in his trophy room. I've been on TV shoots in Hollywood with singer Rita Moreno and dined at renowned Chasens restaurant, Earl Weaver, coach of Baltimore Orioles at the prestigious Rangoon Raquette Club in LA and Vic Tayback of the TV show Alice where he played the feisty cook, Mel. I recall, to get his lines right on a radio commercial he had to remove his dental partial. Somewhere I have an autographed photo of Mel and a league baseball signed by Earl. My job also took me to Paris for planning plus an animated TV shoot in London. New York City was almost a monthly run. All on somebody else's nickel. Everybody should have a crack at a "great memories" job like I did. My boss liked me and guys, that is half of the battle.

Served 18 months in the US Army in Germany on the same small post with Elvis and saw him come and go off post most every day as girls from all over Europe came trying to get a glimpse or his autograph. Retired now 23 mostly fun and wonderful years.



Bob getting "Presidential Award" from EFMLS President L. Vandergraft, 2012.

Man Made Mineralogical Wonders of the World by Shannon Phillips

Humans have always felt the urge to manipulate their environments. From their earliest days, homo sapiens have decorated living spaces; cave paintings date back about 40,000 years. Prehistoric painters used natural earth pigments including minerals limonite and hematite, [red ochre](#) (hematite), [yellow ochre](#) (goethite), [umber](#) (a natural mixture of iron and manganese oxides and hydroxides), charcoal from the fire ([carbon black](#)), burnt bones ([bone black](#)), and white from limestone or chalk ([lime white](#)).

Over time, of course, techniques for decorative arts have become more advanced. Great monuments have been carved into landscapes all over the world. From Mount Rushmore in South Dakota to Christ the Redeemer in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil to The Leshan Giant Buddha in the [Sichuan](#) province in [China](#), evidence of human ingenuity is preserved indelibly in stone. In addition to these monolithic creations, there are lesser-known wonders of a smaller scale, created from various minerals and rocks, scattered throughout various locales.

The Wieliczka Salt Mine in Wieliczka, Poland is one such wonder. This enormous mine, in operation from the 1200s until 1996, is not only a historically significant producer of salt, but also a testament to the creativity of generations of miners. Within the 178 miles of tunnels and open spaces, scores of statues and four chapels have

been carved from the halite by miners over Wieliczka's long history. The origins of the tradition are unclear. Perhaps miners began carving devotional statues from a desire for divine protection in their treacherous work, as many of the carvings are freestanding statues of saints and religious figures. Saint Kinga, the Polish princess-turned-patron-saint features prominently. More recently, Pope John Paul II has been memorialized in the gray blocks of halite that make up the walls. There are also relief carvings of well-known Biblical scenes such as the Last Supper. Miners have even created underground chapels— cavernous rooms with ornately carved altars and chandeliers made from halite that has been purified and recrystallized to resemble glass. Masses and musical events are held in these chambers, which have been consecrated by the Catholic church.

There is a more whimsical side to Wieliczka, however. Many carvings depict scenes from mythology or fairy tales, including gnomes and dragons. Perhaps miners sought to relieve the drudgery of working underground with these light-hearted characters. Perhaps they saw themselves as the dragons, guarding a valuable hoard. Whatever their inspiration, these carvings draw over a million visitors annually to the gray halite chambers deep under the ground.

The dichotomy of reverence and playfulness is exhibited more prominently in the relatively recent hoax of the Cardiff Giant. The endeavor began in 1867 when George Hull, an atheist baffled by a preacher's literal interpretation of the Biblical passage in the book of Genesis stating that giants once lived upon the Earth, decided to test the faith of the general population by creating a giant man carved of stone and attempting to pass it off as a petrified man. To get started, Hull ordered a five ton block of gypsum from a mine in Iowa under the pretense that he wanted to commission a statue of Abraham Lincoln. With a hardness of 2 on Moh's Scale, gypsum is easy to carve. It is also relatively easy to give it the illusion of age, as Hull did with his "petrified man" by pitting the surface and applying sulfuric acid to give it a weathered look. When the statue was finished, Hull decided on a burial location in Cardiff, NY, not far from Syracuse. After a year, Hull instructed that the giant be

discovered by men hired to dig a well on the site. The unearthing of the statue that came to be known as the Cardiff Giant caused quite a sensation. Locals were eager to believe the discovery was the remains of an early man, particularly because the area was (and still is) a known fossil locale. Scientists of all types stated early on that the discovery was either a statue carved by early Jesuit visitors to the area or a complete "hum-bug." The general public was undeterred and allowed their imagination to rule. Before the public became wise to the hoax several months later, Hull had made a small fortune displaying and selling interests in the Cardiff Giant, which became one of the more valuable pieces of gypsum in US history. The Giant is on permanent display at the Farmer's Museum in Cooperstown, still drawing visitors 147 years after his "discovery,"

The Wieliczka Salt Mine and the Cardiff Giant are but two examples of the interesting and ingenious mineralogical creations crafted by human hands. There are many more, to be sure, but not all are easy to discover. If you know of any man made mineralogical wonders, I would love to hear about them!

References -

Evan Andrews, "Cardiff Giant fools the nation 145 years ago." **OCTOBER 16, 2014.**
<http://www.history.com/news/the-cardiff-giant-fools-the-nation-145-years-ago>

"Pigments through the ages." *Prehistory*. 2001 WebExhibits. Curated by [Michael Douma](#). Data compilation by Juraj Lipscher.

"About the Mine." <http://www.wieliczka-saltmine.com/>

**Say hello to our new officers at
our next meeting**

Mark Grasmeyer, President
Harold Jones, Vice President
Judith Jones, Secretary
Ed Suchon, Sargent-at-Arms

RENEW NOW!
USE THE APPLICATION ON
PAGE 7.



Membership Application 2016 - 2017

Gem and Mineral Society of Syracuse, Inc.

501c3 not-for-profit hobby club

www.gmss.us

For Office Use Only

Check # _____

Card # _____

Sent _____

Please bring this application to a meeting or mail to: **GMSS, P. O. Box 2801, Syracuse, NY 13220**

Club meetings are on the third Monday of the month September – November and January – June at Shoppingtown Mall, Dewitt, NY in the Sears wing, second floor.

Date of Application: _____

Check membership type:

Individual: \$10.00 **Renewal** (year of first membership) _____

Junior: \$5.00 **Life Membership: \$5.00**

Family Membership*: \$15.00

*A family membership is defined here as partners or single parents with children under 18 years of age as well as grandparents and their grandchildren.

Email address: (please print clearly) _____

GMSS newsletter by email

newsletter by USPS mail

Your personal information will not be shared with any other group.

Name of Applicant(s) _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

Phone _____ Cell _____

Family Membership: Please list minor family members and year of birth (used for insurance purposes and youth activities)

Members of the Gem and Mineral Society are asked to supply refreshments at a monthly meeting and to participate in club activities by serving on various committees. Please check the committee(s) you would like to serve on:

Newsletter Education Library Field Trip Planning Hospitality

Annual Show Program Planning Publicity Membership Youth Activities

Website/Internet Housekeeping Clubhouse Maintenance

Are you primarily interested in:

Fossils Minerals Jewelry/Lapidary Other _____

Tell us about yourself. Please list (on the back of this sheet) your related hobbies/skills such as rockhounding or jewelry fabrication you would like the Membership Committee to know about.



Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse

P.O. Box 2801

Syracuse, New York 13220

First Class Mail

Sep 2016

Time Dated Material



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 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 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 US mail your an application/renewal card to you.

Club Officers 2015-2016

-President

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-Treasurer

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-Jr Rockhounds

Shannon Phillips kidsrock@gmss.us

-Hospitality Committee - TBA