

CRACK 'N CAB



Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse, PO Box 2801, Syracuse, NY
web <http://www.gmss.us> Volume 47 Issue 2 February 2017

February 20 General Meeting

Dr. Steven Chamberlain - "Findings at the Rose Road Localities, Pitcairn, NY"

This month we will be honored with a presentation by Dr. Steve Chamberlain. He will discuss The Rose Road Localities, Pitcairn, NY. The two adjacent localities just off Rose Road are very interesting, productive collecting localities that are still open for collecting. He is leading a group in preparing a definitive book about the history, geology, and mineralogy of these localities. His lecture will give a synopsis of what we know. This material has never been presented in public before.

Dr. Chamberlain holds a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering with a minor in mineralogy from MIT, and a PhD in neuroscience from Syracuse University. In retirement, he serves as the volunteer coordinator of the Center for Mineralogy at the New York State Museum, Albany, and is the longtime chairman of the Rochester Mineralogical Symposium, which has received the Carnegie Mineralogical Award. He also serves as the Scientific Editor of "The Hosta Journal" for the American Hosta Society. As a mineral collector, Steve's interests have centered on the mineralogy of New York State. His large collection (25,000+ cataloged specimens) is slowly being donated to the New York State Museum. His most recent book published by Schiffer Books is entitled "Collector's Guide to the Black Tourmaline of Pierrepont, New York" is available from amazon books.



Left - Blue Fluorapatite crystals in is 8.2 cm across. Collected By our speaker Sept 24, 2007

Right - Titanite 5.7-cm single xl by the late William S. Condon

Events

Feb 18 - 10AM Jr Rockhounds Meeting

Building, labeling, and storing collections. If you have a collection to share, bring all or part of it for a fun show and tell. Of course, you will take home some cool new items to add to your collections.

**

Feb 18 GMSS Bus Trip to NY State Museum Show & Sale, New York State Museum- Adults \$35, Children \$15. Contact Mark Grasmeyer at phone 317-1350

**

Mar 25-26 Buffalo Geological Mineral & Fossil Show - Fairgrounds, Hamburg, NY <http://bgsny.org/>

Mar 26-27 48th Annual Che-Hanna Gem & Mineral Show Che-Hanna, Wysox, PA

**

April 8th Second Annual "Geology Day" sponsored by the Friends of Onondaga Free Library for Rockhounds of all ages.

There will be 2 Presentations

- Kids presentation 11AM-12:30 PM - "New York State Treasure Hunt!" Shannon Philips will display rocks, minerals and fossils of New York and explain their origins. This will be a hands on event for children from 7-14 (AND their parents).

- Adult Presentation 2-3:30 PM - From Syracuse's GemWorld to Tucson Arizona's "MEGA" Show, Keith and Dorothy will share insights, observations and experiences from these and other show venues. Come hear their entertaining stories! Keith and Dorothy Gilmer will take **the audience on a guided tour via** their power point presentation.

For more information please check the OFL website <http://www.oflibrary.org/>

**

Apr 20-23 44th Rochester Mineralogical Symposium. Info from RMS - It is our pleasure to announce the program for the 44 th RMS. This year our speaker roster again includes both familiar names and some who have never spoken here before. As always, the array of topics has something for everyone.

<http://www.rasny.org/MinSymp/>

**

May 22-May 27 Spring 2017 EFMLS Workshop at Wildacres
Speaker-in-Residence - Bob Jones

**

Jul 15-16 GemWorld 2017 - "Treasures From the Earth"

**

Sep 30- Oct 1 Cave House Museum 1st Annual Geology Gem, Fossil & Mineral Show, Cobleskill NY

**

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



President's Message

Mark Grasmeyer
February 2016

Hello GMSS Rockhounds... I hope this message finds everybody warm and safe during this winter season. One way to get excited about the upcoming collecting season is to visit a Gem and Mineral Show. The Club will be heading down the road to Albany next week. We still have room on the bus and will probably accept anyone that shows up that morning. The Buffalo Show is coming up in a couple of weeks. That show is a really good one for our younger Rockhounds. The Che-Hanna Show is also coming up, if you want to travel a little south.

While I have your attention, I would like to mention the Jr Rockhound trip to Museum of the Earth, Ithaca. We would like to have a good turnout of age groups. And, of course, Dick Lyons and the GemWorld 2017 (Treasures of the Earth) Planning Committee will be meeting monthly to organize and finalize Show details. The Committee welcomes all club members to help in one (or more) of the work groups. This year we will face a new challenge, since the show is one week later this year.

Geo Lexis (Puzzle) By Anne Fitzgerald

Here is a fun geology word I found. Some might say this word describes me, but it's really one of the words we hardly ever use unless we are talking about rocks!

Lots of other words can be found within this word also. Read the definitions, then play along to see how many words you can find in the word:

Unconformity

For example: the word "function" can be found. The words should be three letters or more. Count up all the words you can find. Proper names and obscenities don't count! Some possible answers are listed on page 5.

Definition of unconformity

1. 1 archaic: lack of conformity
2. 2a: lack of continuity in deposition between rock strata in contact corresponding to a period of nondeposition, weathering, or erosion: the surface of contact between **unconformable** strata

From: <https://www.merriamwebster.com/dictionary/unconformity>

unconformity - A level where sedimentary rocks cover an older rock surface partly removed by erosion. The level marks a time gap.

From: Dictionary of Unfamiliar Words by Diagram Group Copyright © 2008 by Diagram Visual, Information Limited

My own definition: A place where rocks go every which way.

We have examples of unconformity in New York State. Many fine pictures can be found on the internet.

Herkimer diamonds By Benjamin Wilbur, Jr Rockhound

Herkimer diamonds are a form of quartz that look like diamonds by the way they grow. They have sixteen sides and most of the time they are pretty, but sometimes ugly because they get broken when you try to get them out of the rocks. They also can be chipped and cracked.



Crystal Grove Big one ↑



Tiny Perfects ↑

There are a lot of places that have Herkimer diamonds even though not all of them are in Herkimer. Some of those places are Crystal Grove, Ace of Diamonds, Herkimer Diamond Mines, and Hickory Hill. My favorite place to find Herkimer Diamonds so far is Herkimer Diamond Mines. I like the gift shop where they sell a lot of cool rocks and you can make jewelry out of the diamonds you find. There are generally nice people there. The biggest diamond I found was at Crystal Grove and it was very exciting. I think the best way to look for Herkimer Diamonds is to scavenge because I'm too lazy to break open rocks. I'm perfectly happy with the ones I've found from looking on

the ground. This summer I need to go to Ace of Diamonds because I haven't been there yet. I'm looking forward to finding more Herkimer Diamonds.

Reaching Across Generations By Shannon Phillips

As most members know, the Junior Rockhounds participate in the AFMS Future Rockhounds of America badge program. One badge that the kids will be working on this year is Reaching Across Generations. While the Junior Rockhounds of the GMSS have incredibly supportive parents, many of them are rockhounds by default. The experiences we provide for the young people in our club would be greatly enhanced by the knowledge and enthusiasm of the general membership of the GMSS.

According to the author of the Badge Program, Jim Brace-Thompson, the Reaching Across Generations "badge and its activities were developed by Erica Nathan of the Coquina Kids of Florida after senior member John Withey of their host club, the Tomoka Gem & Mineral Society, passed away. Erica dedicates this badge to the memory and honor of John Withey." The primary activity to earn this badge is for each Junior Rockhound to spend six hours with a senior member who can share his or her expertise and interest with the youth.

Because Junior Rockhounds rarely have the opportunity to attend general membership meetings, I have been seeking ways to create opportunities to connect the kids to club members who may be interested in becoming mentors. The first event organized for this purpose will be the trip to The Museum of the Earth on May 18. Club members will meet in the Museum classroom at 11:00, where we will have a brief talk by Museum Education Director Maureen Bickley, who will share information about how specimens are acquired, selected, and prepared for display. A brief tour will follow her talk with time to explore afterward. My hope is that Junior Rockhounds and their parents can be paired up by interest with veteran members to get to know each other while viewing the displays and paving the way for future interactions.

In addition to spending time with a senior member, Junior Rockhounds must complete at least two other activities from the following list: Make a list of the five most important things your senior member taught you; Write a paragraph about the best moment you had with your senior member. With your senior member's permission, submit it to your newsletter editor for publication; Find, take, or draw a picture of your senior member; Find out about a specimen that is special to your senior member. Write a paragraph describing the specimen and tell why it is special, or give a presentation about it at one of your club meetings; Make a memory box. Place anything from your previous activities in the box.

Many times, young people are intimidated by talking to adults, especially when kids perceive them as experts. With rockhounding as our common interest and some activities to guide us, these interactions should be much easier than they might typically be. In the coming months, I hope to provide other opportunities for the Junior Rockhounds to benefit from the knowledge and guidance of mentors. By creating intergenerational connections, we strengthen our club membership and ensure its future success. The boys and girls we have in our group range in age from 6-14. They are smart, funny, and have a variety of geology related interests. I enjoy working with them immensely and I'm sure you will too. If you are interested in becoming a mentor, please contact me, Shannon Phillips, or Ronna Schindler so we can plan to introduce you to a youth with common interests.

**Great way to start the New Year
A visit to the Luray Caverns!**

Anne Andrianos

Dan and I had the good fortune of visiting Luray Caverns recently with our daughter, son-in-law and 8 year old grandson. And it was better than we ever dreamed!

We took a 90 minute drive through the beautiful "snow free" Virginia countryside to Luray Caverns which is a privately owned and operated multi-site operation. Many sites were open for business, and we will tell you about them later.

The big draw was the docent led Luray Caverns tour with tours starting every 20 minutes. Tickets included admission to the Caverns and 3 other attractions. Prices were: \$27 adult, \$23 senior, \$14 child. We waited only a few minutes before heading underground. It is hard to describe the beauty, the fantastic shapes and colors of the stalactites, stalagmites, columns, flows and dripstone formations. "Saracens Tent", a huge array of stalactites, is beyond description! Around each corner another ancient creation awaited, delighting the eye and sparking the imagination. Many enjoyed the concert performed on the Stalacpipe Organ. My favorites were the "draping" forms. Just like an undulating piece of fabric, ribbons of color (minerals) flowed through the stone, creating a near translucent appearance. At Water falling at an angle caused this formation. Interestingly, the formations are growing at the rate of 1 inch per 120 years.

Intriguing stories of how the caverns were found (it was called "The Discovery of the Century" in 1878), how formations were named and Cavern legends were described by the docent, who answered a multitude of questions. The tour lasted 50 minutes and then we returned to, you guessed it, the gift shop.

Next we off to the museums. Adjacent to the Caverns was the Toy Town Junction display, which features toys, dolls, board games, etc. dating from 1865 to the present. A fine electric train, complete with hundreds of Playmobils operated in the center of the room.

Next was the Car and Carriage Caravan Museum, which was a real surprise! Imagine viewing 17 horse drawn carriages, hacks, and carts, human pushed or pedaled buggies and bicycles in one place! Continuing on you can admire 51 beautifully restored/maintained vehicles (1892 to 1941). I am not really a fan of this type of museum, but the more I observed the more impressed I became!

Finally, we arrived at the Luray Valley Museum. (That is **my** kind of museum!) Beginning with the earliest of times, the Luray Valley story is described in words, dioramas, and specimens. The history of Native peoples, the experiences of early immigrants and settlers, followed by the impact of the Civil War on the region was detailed. Unfortunately, we were not able to complete the tour as time ran out, so, we will return.

Closed were the Garden Maze, the Rope Adventure, and Gem Sluice which we would also

enjoy seeing....well maybe not the Rope Adventure!

This trip was enhanced additional information supplied by our son-in-law (he had visited the Caverns before) and the questions and the antics of Owen, our Junior Rockhound!

Luray is a lovey small town with several cafes and shops within minutes of the Caverns. We has a tasty and substantial lunch at the West Main Market. To fortify us for the ride home, we enjoyed Southern pies at the Coffee Grounds Cafe.

For more information check out these websites:
<http://luraycaverns.com/>
<http://luraycaverns.com/discover/lurayvalleymuseum>



Dream Lake creates a perfect reflection of stalactites hanging from the ceiling.

To conclude our adventure, the next day, Dan and Owen cracked a dozen geodes to see what other beautiful secrets Mother Earth had in store.

Geode Cracking Results ↓



Cracking geodes with a hammer and old sock ↓



Some Answers to the Geo Lexis Puzzle on page 2:

con	function	on	rot
conform	mint	not	run
coon	moon	nun	ton
fit	moot	omit	too
foot	mort	roof	torn
form	no	root	yum
from			

Scoring:

If you got 25 or more: You are a rock star.

If you got 10-24 right: You should rock on.

If you got 0-9 right: You are a brilliant scientist who never liked English.

Lorraine Markley's Latest turquoise creations

A member since 2002, Lorraine's jewelry incorporates semi precious gemstones, Bali and hill tribe silver, Swarovski crystal and other natural materials. She has been invited to show her work in September at Cazenovia Artisans.





Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse
P.O. Box 2801
Syracuse, New York 13220
First Class Mail
Feb 2017
 Time Dated Material



www.amfed.org



www.amfed.org/efmls



scribe.rbnet.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.

General Meeting 3rd 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!

You can also visit our facebook and flickr pages.

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 request to the address at the top of this page and we will US mail an application/renewal form to you.

Web – <http://www.gmss.us>

Club Officers 2016-2017

- President*
Mark Grasmeyer 317-1350 pres@gmss.us
- Vice-President*
Harold Jones vp@gmss.us
- Jr Rockhounds*
Shannon Phillips kidsrock@gmss.us
- Treasurer*
Linda Sweeney Clark 668-8470 treasurer@gmss.us
- Secretary*
Judith Jones secretary@gmss.us
- Membership Chair*
Cheryl Brown 708-9122 membership@gmss.us
- Sgt at Arms*
Ed Suchon 672-3904 sgtatarms@gmss.us
- Show Chair GemWorld 2017*
Dick Lyons 672-5328 show@gmss.us
- Club Library*
Steve Albro 607-756-2298 library@gmss.us
- We Care Program (Get Well & Condolences Contact)*
Cathy Patterson 480-8907 sunshine@gmss.us
- Web Page/facebook/flickr*
Rick Moore 834-7442 webmaster@gmss.us
- CnC Newsletter & Web Events/News Pages*
Dan Andrianos 492-6437 editorgmss@gmail.com
- Photographers Extraordinaire*
Judy Cook, Steve Albro
- Hospitality Committee Chair*
Donna Dow