

CRACK 'N CAB



Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse, PO Box 2801, Syracuse, NY
web <http://www.gmss.us> Volume 47 Issue 3 March 2017

Help - We need you!

You can help at this year's
GemWorld Show July 15-16
Sign up for any job(s) -
We need your help in all these areas!!
Event set up on Friday for the Club Booth,
Youth Area and Display Cases
Assist Dealers Check-in and Setup
During the Show, *make some new friends* and
Distribute Event/Club Handouts and Greet Folks
as they enter the show
Ticket Sales, Security (floor and door monitors)
Club Booth Meet and Greet
Youth area help/supervision



PLUS You get this Really Cool RED Volunteer T-SHIRT ↑ ↑ ↑
SIGN UP - at the next *Club Meeting* on March 20 or the *Show*
Committee meeting on March 28 or Email Dick Lyons at
show@gmss.us or Phone 672-5328

Upcoming Events

Mar 18 Jr Rockhounds
Mar 20 Club Group Meeting - 2016 Video - Biggest 2016 Mineral Shows
Mar 28 Show Committee Meeting
Apr 4 GMSS Board Meeting

Show News

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

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

<http://www.oflibrary.org/>

Apr 20-23 44th Rochester Mineralogical Symposium.

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

May 20-21 Southern Vermont Rock & Gem Show, Bennington, info call 808-375-6782

**May 22-May 27 Spring 2017 EFMLS
Workshop at Wildacres**

**Jul 15-16 GemWorld 2017 - "Treasures
of the Earth"**

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

**Geo Lexis (Puzzle)
By Anne Fitzgerald**

Last month we learned a little bit about unconformity.

Here is another cool word I found. It sounds like something bad one might say at a party and then regret. This word represents something even more scary.

Oblique-Slip Fault

A definition: A fault that has both horizontal and vertical elements of displacement (Definition from Geology.com)

A description: In a strike-slip fault, rocks scrape sideways past one another. The amount of sideways slip is called the heave. The San Andreas Fault, which runs along the west coast of North America, is a famous example.

The rocks in an oblique-slip fault slide past each other, and also up and down in a diagonal movement.

(Description from Fact Monster TM)

My amateur research found that there is at least one Oblique-Slip Fault in New York State in the Manhattan area.

Lots of other words can be found in the word Oblique Slip-Fault. See how many words you can find of three letters or more.

Answers can be found on page 5 of this newsletter.

**On the Road Again
By Anne Andrianos**

In February, Dan and I had the pleasure of traveling to our neighboring state, Connecticut, for a family visit and exploration. Over the years, we have heard about the Peabody Museum of Natural History in New Haven, "it's a real gem"! We were ready for a great day.

Our daughter-in-law, Katie, provided the ride and was our guide to the museum on February 16, Martin Luther King Day, a holiday which was truly celebrated at the Peabody. First, the admission and parking fees were waived, which was a gift for all. (Weekday admission fee is \$13 adult, \$9 senior, \$6 child, parking is \$5. Admission and parking is **free** on weekends).

As we approached the museum, we were greeted by the "Torosaurus" a bronze dinosaur created in by paleontologists, artists, and volunteers. The 3m (9ft) tall, 7m (21ft) long, 3.33 **metric ton** (7,350 **lb**) statue was sculpted in clay and cast in bronze, and set on a 4m (13 ft) tall granite base. The reproduction of *T. latus* is scientifically faithful of *T. latus*, and its skin is based on the fossilized skin impressions left by a *Chasmosaurus*. What a nice "Hello" and an indicator of things to come! We entered the museum with lively community members honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. who strove to raise awareness about urban environmental issues and public health concerns that affected communities of color. Dr. King was a pioneer in these efforts.

Before describing the exhibits, it is worthwhile to discover the Museum's history. In the 18th century educational institutions were acquiring "curiosities". Systematic collecting of specimens began at Yale in 1802 with the appointment of Benjamin Silliman, Professor of Chemistry and Natural History. The outstanding mineral collection Silliman built was used in his early teaching day of geology and mineralogy. The 1800's were

dynamic times for early scientists. It was a time of world wide travel devoted study of the earth's history, the development of theories regarding evolution, and species collection development. George Peabody, hugely successful financier, founded Yale's Museum of Natural History in 1866 with a gift of \$150,000. The Peabody is a very old museum and great care of acquisitions, renovations of paintings and dioramas have taken place over 2 centuries. It is awe inspiring to think of the work entailed to preserve the riches brought to New Haven so many years ago.

The Peabody is a "do-able" museum. Give yourself at least 4 hours, but a full day would be better. Collections are contained on 3 floors and laid out in an easy to follow path. A Brontosaurus skeleton occupies the Great Hall (2 stories high!) and the 110 foot long "Age of Reptiles" fresco can be seen on the East wall. Display cases in the Great Hall contain remarkable displays of bones and fossils of various prehistoric animals. Native American exhibit is rich in items from tribes of the Plains and the Southwest. The Hall of Mammalian Evolution (Cenozoic Era - 65 million years ago to the present) is on the 1st floor, but we had difficulty reaching it due to a musical stage erected for MLK Day events (more later).



Up to the 2nd Floor...Unfortunately for us, but a great opportunity for New Haven, were the many community organization present to educate the public about environmental issues. They provided quizzes and games, for children, information on recycling and composting, climate change, care of animals and the environment. The organizers, with tables and chairs, prevented us from viewing displays behind them. Oh well, guess we will have to return.

The 3rd Floor contains beautiful dioramas of both North American and Southern New England wildlife and habitats. These are exquisite and carefully detailed renditions of regional wildlife and the environment. The interaction of various life forms at different times of day/night was impressive. My favorite was the awesome brown bear...maybe 8 feet tall with long powerful claws. Stunning!

Brown bear claws are longer and less curved than those of black bears.



Most spectacular, however, was the "Birds of Connecticut" display. Over 700 individual birds were perched in species specific poses which was wonderful to view. The wide diversity of size, wing span, color, beaks, feet/claws was amazing! Four in-depth displays about plumage, migration, breeding, etc. provided additional information.

The meteor exhibit, of course, was Dan's favorite. On exhibition was the 1,635 pound meteorite from Red River, Texas, meteorites from the first recorded meteorite fall in the New World at Weston, Connecticut, and other rare meteors. Read about the discovery of the Red River meteorites and its travel to the Peabody at <http://peabody.yale.edu/collections/mineralogy-and-meteoritics/red-river-meteorite>



We also visited the impressive Hall of Minerals. The Peabody boasts of a remarkable collection of minerals developed by James Wright Dana, considered the Father of Mineralogy. Specimens included many with intriguing properties such as fluorescence, magnetism and radioactivity.



Two large globes provided another interesting display. The "4-foot globe" uses the latest satellite images to depict tectonic plates, the deepest ocean trenches, the most active volcanoes, the regions of greatest

earthquake hazard, and the highest mountains. The digital video globe, called the Magic Planet Globe, displays real-time weather and earthquake information and a dramatic animation of the shifting continents from today back 400 million years.

Finally, as we were leaving the museum, an African drumming concert was taking place. Over 25 gifted percussionists were playing drums of different sizes producing an incredible symphony of rhythm and sound. At times it sounded as if the drums were communicating to each other. One could imagine being out of doors, years and years ago, hearing the drums sending messages out for miles in all directions. This was the perfect ending to our day.

This wraps up our tour, but there was much more to see and enjoy which is why you need a full day to appreciate the Peabody and we need to return. The Peabody website is full of information on the collections, exhibits, events, and all things Peabody. Check at <http://peabody.yale.edu/>

We needed a good lunch before going to the museum and Katie brought us to the best pizza restaurant in New Haven, Frank Pepe Pizzeria Napoletana. We chatted for 25 minutes in this campus hang-out, but the pizza was well worth the wait!

Dinosaur enthusiasts! Did you know that Connecticut was once inhabited by several types of Dinosaurs? The [Connecticut Dinosaur Trail](#), is a collaboration of five of the state's per-eminent tourist attractions, featuring dinosaurs. They include the [Connecticut](#)

[Science Center, Dinosaur State Park](#), and [The Dinosaur Place at Nature's Art Village](#). Each property offers exhibits and programs about dinosaurs and paleontology that draw on the rich history of dinosaur research and fossil discovery in the Connecticut Valley. Last August at the East Coast Gem, Mineral and Fossil show, Dan and I met Nicholas G. McDonald who wrote the book *Window into the Jurassic World*. See: <http://www.dinosaurstatepark.org/Jurassic-book-samples.html> He encouraged us to visit Dinosaur State Park for an exciting day learning about pre-historic life in the Connecticut Trail. For more information check out the website <http://www.ctvisit.com/listings/connecticut-dinosaur-trail>

Pictures from Judy Cook



Bus trip - Albany State Museum

The great fringe benefit of this Gem & Mineral Show is the fun of seeing this wonderful museum. [Mike Hawkins](#), Mineralogy Collections Manager Emeritus, gave our group a presentation in the mineralogy area of the museum. There are some really outstanding world class exhibits of specimens on display from all around New York State.

**Speaker Dr. Steve Chamberlain
at GMSS Feb meeting**



***** Happy 102! *****

February meeting we celebrated the 102nd Birthday of John Davis. He still has that zest for life and a healthy appetite. He ate a good size bowl of chili, then a bowl of coffee ice cream followed by chocolate cake. God Bless him!



Educational Sessions could use some help. Of course, if moving stuff is your thing, consider the setup team on Friday or the tear down team on Sunday. Just for fun, you can put together a Display Case. Share your ideas, gems, minerals, fossils and jewelry.

**GMSS
Library**

The Club has a great library! It contains books, magazines and other reference materials dealing with rocks, minerals, fossils, lapidary arts and jewelry crafting and design. The library is in the Clubhouse.

You might want to come early to browse before a meeting.

Lists of our items available are listed on the Club Web Site -

- <http://gmss.us/resources/library/books>
- <http://gmss.us/resources/library/booklets>
- <http://gmss.us/resources/library/zines>
- <http://gmss.us/resources/library/pamphlets>
- <http://gmss.us/resources/library/media>

To borrow, sign the item out and place the card in the box in the bookcase.

We request that items be returned at the following meeting, (let us know if you need more time) and arrangements can be made. Contact **Steve Albro** at a meeting or email him at fitzalbro@gmail.com

Geo Lexis puzzle quiz from page 2 A

bell	last	plots
blue	list	quest
bolt	lot	quell
fall	piles	tell
falls	pills	tube
fat	pique	upset
flat	plot	

Scoring:
 0-5 It's not your fault!
 6-15 Earth shaking!
 16 or more: Magma Nificent!



**Mark Grasmeyer
President
March 2016**

Hello GMSS Rockhounds... It's hard to believe **GemWorld 2017** is only a few months away. Dick Lyons and his Planning Committee have been working hard to make this year's show the best ever. Their meetings are open to all Club members. This year's theme is **Treasures of the Earth**. Now for the sales pitch... We need lots of volunteers to work on one or more team(s). Security is always important but the Youth Area Club Booth and



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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 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*
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- Sgt at Arms*
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- Show Chair GemWorld 2017*
Dick Lyons 672-5328 show@gmss.us
- Club Library*
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