

# CRACK 'N CAB



Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse, PO Box 2801, Syracuse, NY  
web <http://www.gmss.us> Volume 47 Issue 9 October 2017  
209 Oswego St (Ponderosa Plaza), Unit 15, Liverpool, NY

## Monthly Meeting October 16 at Our New Clubhouse Presentation by Dave Millis – “The Roc Doc”

CLEANING AND PREPARING MINERAL SPECIMENS or “Now that your mineral specimens are home from the field... what do you do with them?”

Having given this talk to many clubs over the years and having fine tuned the process, Dave will educate all us mineral and fossil collectors in the art of cleaning and prepping our specimens for display and crafting. A box of dirty rocks can generally sit in their box in the cellar for years and never be properly put on display for all to enjoy. Dave will bring a web camera, projector, and his computer so all can see what he is doing to small specimens to clean them up. He suggests if members want to bring 1 small specimen, perhaps iron stained, no larger than 2” to be cleaned he’ll be glad to give it a go and you’ll go home spotless. We’ll be seeing how he uses oxalic acid and hydrochloric acid to clean specimens. So many of us have asked how do we clean our minerals safely? Come to the October 16 general meeting and you’ll learn how, the right way.



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## December 2 is a BIG Day where YOU can Sell Your Hobby Stuff By Bob Livingston

Your GMSS board is making a sales opportunity for all of us to sell off some of our excess to persons outside (& in) our club from 10am to 4pm on Saturday December 2 at our new meeting room at Ponderosa Plaza in Liverpool. Why? -- because our club is sold out after the Shoppingtown sale, yet Central New Yorkers are coming to our website and Facebook clamoring for more.

Promotion of the sale will be via Facebook as well as the GMSS website.

Any questions will be addressed at our October and November club meetings, but each GMSS member-family will be allowed one table on which to place your priced items for sale. Space reservations will be on a signup sheet at the October meeting. There probably will not be enough tables at the club, so later "signups" will likely have to bring your own. Keep in mind that this is just prior to the December holidays and many folks will be shopping for suitable gifts to please. Beads, jewelry, crystals, hobby books and on and on. Who knows?

Promotion of the sale will be via Facebook as well as the GMSS website. Give it a whirl. Remember, nothing ventured, nothing gained.

### President's Message

Mark Grasmeyer

Hello GMSS Rockhounds...

I hope you all are enjoying this mild Central New York Fall season. It was so great to have our first meeting in our new meeting space. The lighting is great, the air conditioning works and the parking is more than adequate. Our work sessions this summer gave us an opportunity to sample all the local restaurants. We think the meeting room and library are in pretty good shape and the Marie Cole Skills Center should be up and running soon. If you have not toured the facility please give me a call. I should be available for the next couple of weeks before my next trip to Arizona. Of course, we would welcome any help fine tuning the space, even if you can give us a hand unpacking and organizing our "stuff".



While you begin your holiday plans, please save two dates in December on December 2th we are planning to have an Open House/Holiday Sale. If you are interested in setting up a table, let someone on the Lapidary Committee know. The other date to remember is our Annual Holiday Brunch on Sunday December 10th. More info will be available soon.  
See you on the 16th...

### Secretary's Report

#### Meeting Minutes, Executive Board Meeting, 10-3-17

The move out of Shoppingtown is complete, the walk through was done and paper work is on file.



Bob and Joan Livingston are going to represent our club at the Eastern Federation meeting coming up October 20-22. Thank you for representing us Bob and Joan.

Signage for the new club is being priced. This is for the hanging sign in front by the main road.

We have discussed having an open house on a Saturday for area teachers to introduce our club and the Junior Rockhound program.

The club rock sale weighed in at just over 1000 lbs of rock being sold. Much of the draw came from Craig's List and Facebook postings.

Upcoming programs: for October Dave Millis will talk about how to clean up your rock finds and in November will have a talk about local Green Lake with all of its unique features.

The Holiday Party date is set for Sunday, December 10th. Location and time to follow. We will be planning a sale here for our club members to sell their hand crafted items, fossils, minerals, etc. Date set for December 2nd, tentative time 10am to 4pm

This year we will take a bus trip to Buffalo in March. Please note changes with the bus trips. From now forward when we take a trip we need payment in full for each individual making the trip 1 MONTH PRIOR TO TRIP DATE. Date and particulars about the March bus trip to Buffalo at the next meeting.

The lapidary committee made various recommendations to the board concerning the set up and running of the lapidary shop and the facilities best use in general.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Donna Dow**  
**Club Secretary**

#### General Club Meeting Sept 18, 2017

Hi everyone,  
1st meeting in the new club house!  
New club officers were installed this evening:  
President-Mark Grasmeyer  
Vice-President-Cheryl Brown  
Secretary-Donna Dow  
Treasurer-Linda Clark  
Sgt.-at-arms-Charlie Brown

We still need a volunteer to take over the duties of the hospitality committee.

Annual dues are payable in September.

The long move out of Shoppingtown was completed the end of the month. The rock sale at our shop sold 1000 lbs. of rock! Rock was purchased by our members and by clubs and individuals.

Dave Millis will present in October.  
Len Sharp presented a talk on Egypt and the great pyramids.

Some of the people taking part in the clean out and move of the club are Bob and Joan Livingston, Dick Lyons, Rick Moore, Linda Clark,

Cathy Patterson, Steve Albro, Frank Healy, Dan Andrianos, Sharon Thomson, Cheryl and Charlie Brown, Ed and Joanne Suchone, Donna Dow and Steve Shorey.

The Lapidary Shop is a work in progress as well as the Junior Rockhound area. There is a lot of stuff over in that unit.

If I neglected to thank anyone in particular I am sorry, and please know we are all grateful for your contribution.

Respectfully Submitted,  
**Donna Dow**  
**Club Secretary**

## Club Events

**Oct 16** – Jr Rockhounds Meeting  
**Oct 16** - Monthly Group Meeting  
**Nov 7** - GMSS Board Meeting  
**Nov 20** – Monthly Group Meeting  
**Dec 2** – Rock Sale @ Clubhouse  
**Dec 10** – Holiday Brunch

## Editor's Picks - Show News & Events of Interest

**Oct 20-22** – EFMLS Convention, Bristol, CT  
<http://www.amfed.org/efmls/convention.htm>  
**Oct 28-29** - Rochester Gem, Mineral, Jewelry and Fossil Show  
**Oct 28** – Rochester Show & Sale  
<http://www.rochesterlapidary.org/show/>

## Geo Lexis (Puzzle) By Anne Fitzgerald

Our club meetings are a great place to learn new things. At our last meeting, I was telling Anne Andrianos about our recent trip to Barton Mines in the Adirondacks where Steve and I were able to sift through sand to find beautiful water-polished Garnet.

Anne said "Isn't that our state gem?" That sounded right, but I wasn't positive. Now I know for sure, so I have learned a new thing.

Here is what I found on the NYSED.gov website:

## New York State Gem - Garnet



The garnet was adopted as the State gem in 1969. The dark red garnet is an eye-appealing gem as well as a prized industrial abrasive. Barton Mines in the Adirondack Mountains is the world's largest garnet mine.  
(Info copied from NYSED.gov (They grant permission for copying for educational use.))

There is something else wonderful about Garnet. Many other words can be found in the word Garnet. I found 20 words.

See how many words you can find of three letters or more. Scoring and possible answers are on a separate page of this newsletter.

## From Shannon Phillips

### \*\*Junior Rockhound Report\*\*

The Junior Rockhounds will meet at 6:30 on Monday, October 16 at the New Clubhouse. We will play some rock related games to get to know each other and set some goals for the year, including deciding which badges to work on. School aged children and their parents are welcome to attend.

### \*\*Fall Collecting\*\*

September and October took my family on two collecting trips. Over Labor Day weekend, we headed to Jay, New York to collect Labradorite in the Ausable River. After we checked into our adorable cottage at Schulte's Family Lodge, we drove about half an hour to the river. It was a beautiful afternoon, sunny and warm, perfect for visiting the swimming spot formed by large, weathered rocks. While the kids explored the naturally formed swimming holes, Michael and I started sifting through gravel in slow-moving,

shallow areas. It didn't take long to find pieces shimmering blue in the water.

Collecting Labradorite is interesting because the rock mostly looks like nothing when it's not wet. The pieces we collected look dark gray, nothing special, when they aren't in the water. When you get them wet, however, it only takes a slight tilt to get the awesome play of color that gives this rock its appeal. Weathered out of the surrounding mountains, Labradorite finds its way into many of the streams in the Keene Valley, where it is tumbled by the water. It just takes a sunny day and some patience to find it.

After the kids made their way back to us and saw the rocks we had found, the boys joined us in searching and were quickly rewarded with shimmering pieces of their own. We stayed until the sun was too low in the sky to continue and went back to the cottage with quite a few nice pieces. The next step will be to find a way to polish the stones so that the colors are visible even when they are not wet.

On October 7, we visited Walworth Quarry. We were joined by Kendra Pearson and Paul Porter and their daughter, Bronwyn, who is a member of the Junior Rockhounds. Among us, we found some beautiful crystals of sphalerite, calcite, and fluorite. Despite the wet weather and treacherous footing, we went home happy.

We didn't collect a lot this summer, but the specimens we did collect are among my new favorites. We're hoping to get in one more trip before the end of October, but even if we don't, we've had a productive, if brief, season.



*Ausable River*



*Labradorite*

*Fluorite Cluster*

## The Rock Candy Box

By Mark Oros

I was cutting a cabochon order for a customer when a came across a extra thick slab of Laguna Agate. I decided to cut the stone into a thick lozenge shape just for fun. I placed the finished stone on my studio desk and forgot about it until one of my daughters mentioned that it looked like a piece of candy. "You know, like rock candy," she said with a laugh.

I started thinking about the concept of "rock candy" and I decided to cut several more agates into the shape of candies. I then decided to go a little further and started cutting jasper in the shape and size of chocolate truffles. I found that using Bat Cave Jasper and Owyhee Jasper (browns only) gave me scrumptious looking chocolate candies that were hard for people to stop pretending to put into their mouth, let alone put down and stop playing with them.

Several days later, I realized that Mother's Day was coming up and I needed to get my wife a present. My mind went back to the "rock candy" idea and I decided that a box of rock candies would be a unique and wonderful gift. After looking at the candy supply houses online for a proper candy box, I soon came to the conclusion that the paper and plastic boxes online were inferior to my concept of a beautifully sculptured rock candy box.

I contacted my friend and fine wood worker, Jim Tolpin, and told him about my concept of the rock candy box. Without much discussion, we both came to the conclusion to collaborate on the creation of two rock candy boxes that would be gifts for our respective wives. I sent Jim two dozen sculpted and polished "rock candies" for him to use in sizing the boxes and to select for his

own candy box. Jim worked on the candy boxes selecting Eastern Walnut, Bass Wood and Western Quilted Maple.

As the boxes were coming together, we decided that a cabochon would be perfect for ornamenting the tops of the boxes. I carved several cabochons and sent them to Jim along with some glassine truffle papers that I bought from a candy supply company online.

Jim finished the boxes and sent me mine. Then we were both off populating the candy boxes with our favorite "rock candies". The rock candy boxes were a great hit that spring as Mother's Day gifts given on the behalf of our children. Our box sits in our guest room and is a catalyst for conversation every time someone picks it up (a hard thing not to do).

I was recently reading Jim Tolpin's book, "By Hand & Eye" (a must read for every craftsman and artist), and to my surprise, discovered that Jim had used the the candy box as a project example.

Four years later, I still make "Rock Candy" when I see a delicious piece of agate or jasper.



**Newsletter Contact Info**

**Send Your address Corrections/Changes, Comments, Questions, Photos, Complaints and Articles to: Dan Andrianos, Editor email - [editorgmss@gmail.com](mailto:editorgmss@gmail.com) USPS - 4340 Young RD, Syracuse NY 13215 Phone 315-492-6437**

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**Possible Answers to Geo Lexis**  
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Answers to Geo Lexis

Scoring:

0-5 You are a Garnet in the rough.

6-10 Quality!

11-more: Gem Quality!

age art ate ear eat Gar gate get gent nag neat nag  
rag rage rat rate rent tar tear ten

**Renew Now!**

**Your Membership Renewal is due now!**

**Adult \$10 • Family/Couple \$15**

**Junior \$5 • Life \$5**

**You can bring your payment to any meeting or mail it to:**

**Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse**

**PO Box 2801**

**Syracuse, NY 13220**

**Application forms are here:**

<http://gmss.us/about/membershipform.pdf>

**Your participation and support is much appreciated .**

**Come join the fun!**

**First Meeting in Our New Home!**





**Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse**  
**P.O. Box 2801**  
**Syracuse, New York 13220**  
**First Class Mail**  
**October 2017**  
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[scribe.rbnet.net](http://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 out of doors, exercise and time with old and new friends.

General Meeting **3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month** NOT Jul, Aug, Dec  
**7:30 PM 209 Oswego St (Ponderosa Plaza) Unit 14 & 15,**  
**Liverpool, NY 13088**

**Visitors are ALWAYS welcome!**

Online Newsletter <http://gmss.us/resources/newsletter>

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 2017-2018**

*-President*

Mark Grasmeyer 317-1350 [pres@gmss.us](mailto:pres@gmss.us)

*-Vice-President & Program Chair*

Cheryl Brown [vp@gmss.us](mailto:vp@gmss.us) – [programs@gmss.us](mailto:programs@gmss.us)

*-Jr Rockhounds*

Shannon Phillips [kidsrock@gmss.us](mailto:kidsrock@gmss.us)

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*-Membership*

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*-Sgt at Arms*

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*-Club Library*

Steve Albro 607-756-2298 [library@gmss.us](mailto:library@gmss.us)

*-We Care Program (Get Well & Condolences)*

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*-Web Page/facebook/flickr*

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*-CnC Newsletter & Web Events/News Pages*

Dan Andrianos 492-6437 [editorgmss@gmail.com](mailto:editorgmss@gmail.com)

*-Photographers Extraordinaire*

Judy Cook, Steve Albro

*-Hospitality Committee Chair & Members*

Looking for Volunteers