

CRACK 'N CAB



Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse, PO Box 2801, Syracuse, NY
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209 Oswego St (Ponderosa Plaza), Unit 15, Liverpool, NY

Gem and Mineral Society Monthly Meeting

May 21, 2018 7:30

All Are Welcome

Featured Speaker Professor Robert Darling

From SUNY Cortland



Some of us have seen or heard of the abundant, very large Garnets from Gore Mountain and other mines in that part of the Adirondacks.

But have you ever wondered what goes on in those tight little places you can't see?

You're in luck. At the next club meeting, Dr Darling will talk with us about "The Microscopic World of Adirondack Garnet". Please join us for a fascinating presentation by this Distinguished Teaching Professor of Geology at SUNY Cortland.

Junior Rockhounds Meeting starts at 6:30

We will have a show and tell session this month. Each child may bring up to 4 specimens to show. Then they can either tell us about the specimen, ask us to tell them what we might know about it or both. This will be a round robin session, so each child will get a turn. We will continue taking turns until the main club meeting starts at 7:30.



Now at the MOST - Paleo: The Story of Life is a 3,000-square-foot exhibit, spanning 4.6 billion years in scope. The exhibit presents casts of 128 rare fossils, including Lucy, Archaeopteryx and T rex, among many others. Drawn from the world's foremost fossil collections, the Paleo exhibit showcases casts of rare fossils from the Americas, Europe, Asia, Africa and Australia – skeletons, skulls, claws and eggs gathered from prestigious museums, including the Smithsonian Institution, American Museum of Natural History, Royal Ontario Museum and Carnegie Museum, among others. Rarely available for viewing outside of their respective museums, these compelling artifacts are presented exclusively in the Paleo exhibit.

Fossils range from the earliest invertebrate marine life through the Triassic, Jurassic and Cretaceous dinosaurs to mammals and prehistoric humans. Paleo: The Story of Life explores the comprehensive story of prehistoric life on Earth. The Paleo exhibit is a visiting exhibit and will be on display through Thursday, May 31, 2018. (Information from S. Newman, MOST Science Educator)

An online catalog of the the items in the exhibit is available

<http://www.most.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Paleo-Public-Catalogue.pdf>

Geo Lexis (Puzzle) By Anne Fitzgerald

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Fluorite Photograph courtesy of the U.S. Geological Survey

Fluorite is found in places all over the world including Fayetteville, NY.

You may have heard that fluorite is fluorescent. But did you know (according to the

University of Auckland, New Zealand) some fluorite is phosphorescent and glows when heated, and other fluorite is triboluminescent and glows when crushed, struck, or scratched. So if you think you see a strange glow while rock hunting, blame it on the fluorite. Fluorite also contains lots of other words.

I found 23 words within the word Fluorite. See how many you can find. (Three letters or more.) Then see if you can find some possible answers on another page of this newsletter.

President's Message Mark Grasmeyer



Greetings GMSS Rockhounds! Well, it's May and we are in the home stretch for GemWorld 2018. Here's how you can help make this our best show ever. We need volunteer's to work at Gemworld. The setup and teardown teams require many hands. Pick up posters and coupons at this month's meeting to distribute at schools, community centers, libraries, stores and anywhere there is a community bulletin board. Please come to our Club work night on June 18th at the Clubhouse. Enjoy Ice Cream at the conclusion! We encourage you to consider filling a display case or getting together with another member to display a collection or written information about making, collecting, and what you have learned as a club member.

Our Kid's Booth Needs Your Help!

Our biggest need is for volunteers for the sluice and soapstone carving. We need at least 8 people per 2 hour shift, and there are 6 shifts. From 10-12, 12-2, 2-4, 4-6 on Saturday and 10-12, 12-2 and 2-4 on Sunday. Kids 12 and older are encouraged to help out and will get a free GMSS Kids T-shirt for volunteering.

Items are need for the sluice. Donations of minerals, gems and fossils are especially appreciated.

Other needed supplies include:

Shark's teeth

1/2" to 1" tumbled stones

1/2" to 1" minerals

50lb bags of play sand, preferably white (we use 3 or 4 bags each year)

sandwich size ziplock-style bags (we use about 400 per year)

lots of paper towels

Contact Rick Moore at webamster@gmss.us if you can help!

Minutes

Executive Board Meeting May 1, 2018

Congratulations to our intrepid newsletter Editor, Dan Andrianos! He won the Trophy for best Mini Bulletin at the April Eastern Federation Convention in Raleigh, NC.



JoAnne Suchon reported that the 4-week Saturday children's junior lapidary program was a huge success. There were 6 students and their parents in attendance. They experienced trimming and polishing slabs that JoAnne had provided. They learned how to finish them by either drilling a hole in the top of the stone and stringing them onto leather, or by wire wrapping them. They had such a good time that they asked if the class could be extended for another 4 weeks in June.

John Sweeney's adult lapidary class has been extended for another 4 weeks through the month of May.

Elections will be held during the June meeting. The slate has been set, but if you would like to add your name for consideration, please contact Keith Gilmer krgilmer@verizon.net before the May meeting.

The slate of candidates is:

President – Cheryl Brown

Vice President – Dick Lyons

Secretary – Donna Dow

Treasurer – Linda Sweeney-Clark

Sargent-at-Arms – Ed Suchon

Thank you to Keith for his hard work as the head of the Nominating Committee.

There are committees that need people to assist. Please consider stepping forward to help – many hands make light work. Committees that need personnel are:

Education Outreach

Field Trip Planning

Hospitality

Monthly Program Planning

Membership

Junior Rockhounds

Show Committee

Show Volunteer

The next **Show Committee meeting** is May 22nd at the **clubhouse**. There will be sign-up sheets for different duties at the show at our May meeting. Please sign-up for as much time as you can to help. The greatest need is security. We need people walking the floor and sitting at doors all through the show. If you sign-up to work for a minimum of 4 hours, you get into the show for free. Also, if you are new to the club or have never worked at the show and sign-up to work a minimum of 4 hours, you can get an official red GMSS T-shirt. If you would like a different color T-shirt, you can order one to purchase. There will be a sign-up sheet at the May meeting.

We are working on chartering Onondaga Coach to go to the West Springfield Gem, Mineral and Fossil show on August 11th. The cost will be \$40.00 for members and \$50.00 for non-members. There will be sign-up sheets at the May meeting. It's very important you sign-up if you are interested since we won't have a regular meeting in July or August. Also, we need to know that we have enough people to cover the cost.

Speaking of August – the annual picnic and swap meet is August 5th at Sims Store, Camillus Canal Park beginning at 12 noon. The club will provide the grilling meats and rolls. Please bring a dish to pass. If your last name begins with A to P, please bring something 'savory' (salad, pasta, vegies, casserole, etc.). If your last name begins with Q to Z, please bring a sweet or dessert.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cheryl Brown (for Donna Dow)

Upcoming Events

May 12 12:00 Lord's Hill – collect Horn Coral
Meet at the Clubhouse at 12:00. Wear boots for wading. Weather dependent.

May 20 1:30 – 5:00 Bead Society Meeting
The monthly meeting of the Bead Society. Come see what we are working on! Feel free to join us!

May 21 6:30 Jr. Rockhounds
7:30 General Meeting

Our speaker this month is Professor Robert Darling from Cortland State University. His topic will be *The Microscopic World of Adirondack Garnet*. He will present information about mineral melt and fluid inclusions in a few Adirondack garnet locations and what we can learn from them.

June 2, 3 Wayne County Gem and Mineral Club Show
Canandaigua Civic Center, 250 North Bloomfield Road, Canandaigua, NY 14424

July 14, 15 GemWorld 2018 SRC Arena on the OCC Campus, 4585 West Seneca Turnpike, Syracuse, NY 13215

July 21, 22 Herkimer Diamond Gem Show and Festival, 135 Cemetery Street, Frankfort, NY 13340

August 5 GMSS Annual Picnic and Swap Meet
Sims Store, Camillus Canal Park at 12 noon.
A to P - bring a savory dish to pass
Q to Z – bring a sweet or dessert to pass

August 10 – 12 East Coast Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show Eastern States Exposition Better Living Center, 1305 Memorial Ave., West Springfield, MA 01089

August 25, 26 St. Lawrence Gem and Mineral Show with collecting at Powers Farm

Note: please contact Cheryl Brown with field trip thoughts. Future trips to Rainbow Shores and Ace of Diamonds will be planned.

Wayne County Gem & Mineral Club

25th annual **Gem Fest**
2018



Sat. June 2 10-5
Sun. June 3 10-4

LOCATION

Greater Canandaigua Civic Center
250 N. Bloomfield Rd, Canandaigua, NY

\$3 Admission, Kids 12 & under FREE

Soapstone Carving, Wire Wrapping, Sluice
Vendors, Exhibits, Free Prizes, Scavenger Hunt

UV Bob's Ultraviolet Show

Gems, Minerals, Fossils, Beads & Jewelry

visit <http://www.wcgmc.org/> for details

Send Your Articles, Photos, Comments, Address
Corrections/Changes, Questions, Complaints to
Dan Andrianos, Editor
email - editorgmss@gmail.com
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Possible Answers to Geo Lexis

Possible answers to Geo Lexis (Fluorite)
elf, fire, flour, four, fur, left, let, lit, loft, lore, lot, our, out,
rite, roulet, rot, rut, rule, tie, tile, toe, tour, true

Scoring: 1-5: Starting to see the light.

6-20: Definitely not a dim-wit!

21 or more: Illuminating!

Report on the April Raleigh Conventions and Show by Bob Livingston

Your GMSS board had Joan and me be our club's delegates to the recent Eastern convention. Highlights:

We flew, but in rental car got lost three times primarily due to too many interstates with similar route numbers. The host hotel was very expensive and persons staying there were constantly complaining. We stayed 8 miles away in a very nice Country Inn and Suites for less than half the cost. Weather that early was almost like SYR cool and rainy.

The annual meeting was Friday night with little over 25% of Eastern member clubs represented. It tends to be a geographic thing. Meeting ran 2 hours and 10 minutes and went from Pledge of Allegiance to new challenges.

Under old business, some clubs felt that the \$400 fee for being club host of our annual conventions should be raised as a couple of recent hosts lost money doing so. After lengthy discussion with some prior host clubs' reporting not losing money it was voted to let the fee remain as is and survey all hosts from the last 12 conventions. The desired reliance on new computer and other communications technology was employed in two instances.

The monthly EFMLS Newsletter has been going out via email since last Summer instead of by postal mail and this saves a lot of postage. And it makes it easier for Editors to resend to individual club members. Also, the executive board now has a set up where they can communicate in short order via conference calls. This has already been real life tested.

New Business -- Next years convention will be in Orange County NY down by the Hudson in June. 2020 will be in Hickory, NC where that club celebrates its 50th anniversary. New President-elect is a 24/7 computer guy who hopes to "take a Giant step" in bringing Eastern into the 21st century. There was lots of discussion about the disparity of clubs in the 8 Regions of Eastern. Syracuse is in Region III, the largest with over 20 clubs in New York and Pennsylvania. Opposite that, there are regions in the south with only 3 clubs. This is important as theoretically the Regional VP or his/her associates should be visiting each club each year. Easy around NYC but impossible in Region III. Current president has taken this on as one of

her challenges. Dying off clubs is a growing concern. We currently have 111 clubs in EFMLS from Maine to Florida. (When I, Bob, was EFMLS president in 2002 we had 137. Are we doomed? I hope not. Other federations have as few as 60 clubs so we should be good for a while but the new officers are optimistic. Where this would hurt is with fewer clubs to share the cost of insurance, it is likely the costs would increase faster. (I will have the booklet of committee reports at the club meeting for any who wish to see.)

Saturday Night Awards Banquet: Super expensive with cost of \$55 for chicken or salmon and sweet ice tea and cheese cake which caterer ran short of. The Livingston's won a polished sphere which I mention in a separate article herein. A voice and silent auction of about 50 items happened in the social hour preceding the banquet and took in over \$1800.

Sunday morning Editors' breakfast it was announced that our Crack 'n Cab editor, Dan, won the Trophy Award for category of Mini Bulletins. Others in our club won for articles and I am sure we will be hearing more down the road in presentations by our President Mark. (Glad I twisted Dan's arm to Enter.)

The Show -- Two thirds the size of ours, it was a nice show of about 40 dealers put on by the Tar Heels Gem and Mineral club. Maybe 55% jewelry and lapidary and 45% minerals and fossils. Roughly 18 exhibit cases. Four were competitive. Club had a huge club booth where they sold tee shirts and \$1 grab bags. Also they did a huge business in a side booth where they sawed open hollow geodes of various sizes. These two things plus dealer fees allow them to offer free admittance to all. It is held in a building at the NC State Fairgrounds.

AND I DID WELL AT THE RAFFLE!

At the recent American and Eastern Federation convention in Raleigh there was a drawing for twenty some donated prizes which were raffled off. Not normally lucky folks, taking 5 chances, we won a very nice 5" polished sphere of petrified palm wood. It was donated and later shipped to us by a different federation club member from Oklahoma. It is really nifty and we shall treasure it. Will bring it to the May club meeting and you can see it there.

Acrostic Jewelry By Shannon Phillips

For as long as humans have had the ability to adorn themselves, they have been creating jewelry with precious and semi-precious stones. During the Victorian Era, sentimental jewelry became commonplace for the growing middle class, who used it to mourn the dead, show affection, and even express political ideology. One intriguing type of jewelry, which has recently returned to public attention, is acrostic jewelry.

You may remember acrostic poems from grade school, the ones where you write your name vertically and come up with an adjective or a sentence to describe yourself starting with each letter of your name. Even if you don't remember, it's easy to see how it works. One ingenious type of jewelry exchanged during the Victorian Era followed this style. Gemstones were arranged, most often in rings and bracelets, so that the beginning letter of each jewel combined to spell out a message. The invention of this style is attributed to a slightly earlier period, when jeweler Jean-Baptiste Mellerio (1765-1850), designer of jewels for Marie Antoinette and the French court, is credited with inventing the style. Before its adoption by the middle class, upper class "celebrities," including Napoleon Bonaparte, were known to commission pieces for loved ones.

The Victorians, who generally loved hidden messages in everything from flowers to jewelry, embraced acrostic jewelry, often symbolizing affection with words like "dear," in diamond, emerald, amethyst, and ruby, or "regards" in ruby, emerald, garnet, amethyst, ruby, diamond, and sapphire. Before diamonds became the standard for engagement rings in the 1930s, acrostic rings were sometimes used for that purpose. A meaningful word or lovers' names or initials were popular choices. Although what first comes to mind when forming a word with gemstones is a horizontal arrangement, floral arrangements were also popular, with the first letter of the message represented by the middle stone and the other letters arranged around it. Designs are as endless as the imaginations of the designers, and not all messages read in the traditional left to right order of typical written language.

The vast number of gemstones, their name variants, and jewelers' choices of stones as representatives of certain letters, can also make antique acrostic jewelry difficult to interpret. For example, letters with fewer representative stones, such as "B," which might be symbolized by any member of the beryl family, may require some trial and error to decipher. With a little bit of imagination, however, modern fans of jewelry and gemstones can understand what the piece is meant to represent.

In the past few years, modern designers have embraced the idea of acrostic jewelry, recreating designs from the past and presenting new interpretations for today's shoppers. Some designers have developed their own acrostic gemstone alphabets, standardizing choices within their lines. Single rings, stacking rings, bracelets, and lockets blend traditional with contemporary to create a resurgence in the popularity of sentimental jewelry.

Sources for more information-
 "Acrostic Engagement Rings - Dearest and Regards."
 Jewelry Shopping Guide.
<https://www.jewelryshoppingguide.com/acrostic-engagement-rings/>

Anderson, Ase. "Spell Out Your Love in Coloured Gemstones: A History of Acrostic Jewelry." The Jewellery Editor. 2 February 2015.
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Jones, Joy. "The Hidden Language of Victorian Jewelry." Joy Jones Antique and Vintage Jewelry.
<https://www.joyjonesjewelry.com/blogs/news/the-hidden-language-of-victorian-jewelry>

"Secret Messages in Jewelry - Acrostic Jewelry." GIA.
<http://4cs.gia.edu/en-us/blog/secret-messages-jewelry-acrostic-jewelry/>

Amber **By Benjamin Wilbur**

My name is Ben and this is the story about amber. The New York teacher of the year, Christopher Albrecht, came down to the club house and talked about amber. He has over 250 thousand pieces of amber in his home and some are worth more than a new car. He had all sorts of cool things trapped in amber, like two bugs mating and a whole herd of ants and even a dinosaur feather! But the most important one of all: the Burmese amber. It's the deepest red I've ever seen; it's big and glorious. He also showed all the places he's been to collecting amber, from Canada to South Carolina. He has been everywhere. This about wraps it up for this article and special thanks to Christopher Albrecht.

2017 Eastern Federation Newsletter Award Winners

- Original Educational Articles
 Third Place Award - Shannon Phillips
 "Lapidary Stone: Microcrystalline Quartz"
- Non-Technical Articles
 Sixth Place Award - Bob Livingston
 "Our Trip to the EFMLS Convention"
 Seventh Place Award - Shannon Phillips
 "Reaching Across Generations"
- Honorable Mention - Anne Andrianos
 "On the Road Again - California"
- Written Features
 Sixth Place Award - Ann Fitzgerald
 "Geo Lexis Puzzle"
- Junior Articles
 First Place Award - Benjamin Wilber
 "Herkimer Diamonds"
 Second Place Award - Benjamin Wilber
 "My First Visit to Ace of Diamonds"
- Mini Bulletins
 First Place Award - Dan Andrianos - "Crack 'N Cab"

Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse
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About US

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 and GMSS became a 501(c)(3) Public Non-Profit organization. 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 learn, find specimens and enjoy the out of doors, and provide exercise and fun with old and new friends.

Meetings - 3rd Monday of the month
Future Rockhounds @ 6:30 - General Meeting @ 7:30
(NOT Jul-GemWorld, Aug-Picnic, Dec-Holiday Party)
209 Oswego St (Ponderosa Plaza) Unit 14 & 15, Liverpool, NY
Guests are ALWAYS welcome!

See 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 membership download the application form (PDF), see <http://gmss.us/about/membershipform.pdf> You can get a form at a meeting or send requests to **GMSS, PO Box 2801, Syracuse, NY 13220** We will mail an application/renewal form to you.

GMSS is affiliated with
American Federation of Mineralogical Societies - <http://www.amfed.org>
and *Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies*
<http://www.amfed.org/efmls>

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