

# CRACK 'N CAB

Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse, Inc.  
P.O. Box 801 , Syracuse, NY 13201

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April 2014

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## BRILLIANT SPARKLE FROM MOTHER EARTH!



The photo on the left is of a brilliant round cut diamond. Diamond, the most famed and fabled of all gemstones, is very unique in many ways. Renowned for being the hardest substance on earth, its sparkling fire, durability, and rarity make Diamond the most prized of all gems. No gemstone contains as much allure and interest as does Diamond. The photo is from <[www.minerals.net/gemstone/diamond\\_gemstone.aspx](http://www.minerals.net/gemstone/diamond_gemstone.aspx)>. The photo on the right is of a gem quality uncut diamond. It is listed as #61250, Diamond (2.17 carat gem-grade 'cuttable' colorless complex crystal), from the Orapa Mine, Botswana. The photo is from <[www.johnbetts-fineminerals.com/jhbnyc/diam6.htm](http://www.johnbetts-fineminerals.com/jhbnyc/diam6.htm)>.

ENJOY THE NATURAL WONDERS OF THE EARTH.

## THE PROGRAM FOR APRIL 21ST IS: 'THE ANNUAL CLUB AUCTION' PRESENTED BY THE GMSS MEMBERS

The springtime is here and it's that time to hold our annual Club Auction. The auction rules were to be published in the March edition but will instead be in this edition. Sellers, be sure to have currently paid club dues and be a member in good standing. Buyers, bring plenty of cash to purchase your new found treasures. I'm truly not certain who will be serving as auctioneer this year, but the auction will be a great event not to be missed. There will NOT be a Marie Cole material sale/auction preceding the April meeting. Look for another sale of this material in May. Be sure to attend this meeting and to may find a special something you didn't even know you always wanted.

IT'S ALWAYS A PLEASURE TO FIND A GREAT TREASURE!

## President's Message

**April 2014:**

Well, winter has finally subsided and the snow is mostly gone. This means it's time to get those rocking tools out and start digging. Fossils and minerals are just lying there waiting for you to unbury them. Check your newsletter for the up and coming field trips.

We are in the thick of preparing for our Gem Show and need more involvement from members as well as volunteers to work the show. We are going to need more people for security as we are dealing with the Jazz Fest going on just outside. Please sign up at the club meeting and help us make this a successful show.

While you are out there, on your own searching for fossils or minerals, search out new locations to share with the other members as well as the field trip committee for future club trip opportunities. Any suggestions for trips would be greatly appreciated by the committee as we are always looking for new sites.

Be sure to make this meeting as it is our annual club auction. Be sure to bring your items to sell and your cash to buy as it is each member's participation that makes the auction better for everyone. If you have doubles or more of a mineral or fossil and would like to part with some of them, this is your chance, and also to make some money and possibly expand your collection with new materials at the same time.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the club auction meeting this month. Keep digging, be safe and stay healthy, but most of all, HAVE FUN.



**Ray Highbrown,  
Club President**

## Editor's Notes

**from Keith Gilmer**

As we prepare for our upcoming gem show in July it has struck me lately how much we have to accomplish in such a short period of time. Those of us working on the Show Committee are doing what we can to help out. We should NEVER lose sight of the common purpose and goal to make our show the best it can be. We must also NEVER lose sight of respecting and appreciating the contributions of ANY club member offering their assistance. When we openly disrespect club members sacrificing time and effort to improve our show's development we undermine that development for the entire event. Let's remember to work together in the spirit of cooperation to present a show that is truly representative of the GMSS. Good cooperations make for great expectations.

## Show Committee Meeting News

**from Keith Gilmer**

According to Show Committee chair, **Dick Lyons**, the next Show Committee meeting will take place on April 24<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at the clubhouse in Shoppingtown. We have a lot of ground to cover and many things yet to do. Some of the current advertising strategies will need re-evaluation, as well as specialized security issues for the show. Now that the JazzFest is occurring concurrently with our show there will be many challenges [and possibly some benefits] to the substantial increase in patron presence.

Show Committee meetings are open to all GMSS members who want to participate in an active role to help develop and present our show. We entertain and consider your ideas and suggestions and very much appreciate your involvement in helping out. Please consider offering your time, talent, and ingenuity to all those who work to make our show special and great. Thanks.

## Appreciation for Refreshments

**from Keith Gilmer**

For the April auction meeting refreshments will be provided by **Linda Tanner, Anne Fitzgerald, and Joanne Suchon**. How about that; find some amazing treasures to buy and have some delicious treasures to try, wow. Many thanks go out to you all.

## Meeting(s) Minutes Report

### Executive Board Meeting: [4-1-14]

There were 15 people at the board meeting. It was a little loud but everyone contributed ideas on making our show better. **Dick Lyons** had announced that we just received our SRC show contract. YAY!! Now we can breathe a little easier. Since we are going to be sharing the SRC parking lot with the Jazz Fest, we are developing/considering ideas on how to use signage around the parking area to invite some of the festival patrons into our show. The Executive Board has voted to raise admission the price at the door to \$7.00. This will help bring in extra revenue to help pay for the show expense's. The Board also voted to deduct one dollar off with a coupon presented at the door.

We are asking everyone to please bring in an item to sell at our Club Auction meeting. Remember, it must be a mineral, fossil, lapidary item, or jewelry. What ever it sells for, 15% of it goes to the club. We are arranging another lapidary class for the first part of May. Look for an announcement in this edition for the dates/times of upcoming classes. Thus far, these have been great classes taught by **John Sweeney**. If you have any questions please call **Joanne Suchon** at 315-672-3904.

**John and Linda Sweeney** attended the EFMLS Convention in Plymouth Meeting, Pennsylvania. Look for a mention of their experiences in this edition. There is a great need and desire to build our youth group membership up. Vice-President and Webmaster, **Rick Moore**, discussed a potential of several [11 or so] new youth members through the Cub Scouts in Manlius. They need to earn merit badges for scouting and may also foster a continuing interest in our hobby. Our youth membership group generally meets on the third Saturday of each month from 11am to 1pm.

There has been some suggestion about having *Constant Contact* as an e-mail and newsletter contact service. There was with much discussion regarding this and it was ultimately voted down by the Board.

It has been suggested that we all, out there, please look deep into our closets, cellars, and garages to see if we can bring in some of your excess rocks, minerals, and slabs for our 25 cent sales table? We really need to start fresh.

### General Club Meeting: [3-17-14]

Introduction of new members and visitors kicked off the March club meeting. Several new members and visitors were in attendance.

**Ed Suchon** and **Rick Moore** gave a great presentation and demonstration on eBay usage with proper and secure procedures. Ed even showed how a complete purchase was made using the 'PayPal' finance account.

**Rick Moore** spoke to the entire meeting group about the Cub Scout troop from Manlius that we could help sponsor for their Geology merit badge. It would be a great opportunity for expanding the youth membership [and getting interested parents involved too].

The members who volunteered to bring food to next month's meeting are: **Linda Tanner**, **Joanne Suchon**, and **Anne Fitzgerald**. Many thanks go out to them for their contribution.

Sign up for the next scheduled lapidary classes is closing in. Please sign up at the April meeting as the classes will start on May 1<sup>st</sup>. To sign up please see **Joanne Suchon** or call her at 315-672-3904.

**John and Linda Sweeney** are going to represent us at the EFMLS Convention the weekend of March 29<sup>th</sup>. They will be sharing their experience of attending the convention at the April club meeting.

Respectfully  
submitted,  
**Joanne Suchon**,  
Club Secretary



## Lapidary Class Upcoming Schedule

from Keith Gilmer

**John Sweeney** sent some information on the next group of scheduled lapidary classes. They will begin on May 1<sup>st</sup> and run for [4] weeks each Thursday. They will be from 5pm - 7:30pm and the tuition will be \$40.00 per person. If anyone attended the *WILDACRES* retreat and has some finished lapidary or jewelry work please bring it to the April meeting to show it off. These classes are becoming more popular and are wonderful opportunities to meet other members, learn lapidary skills and techniques, and be more involved with our club. So don't let life grind you down, grind down a 'cab' instead!

## Field Trips and Program Events

### GMSS 2014 Field Trips & Shows Wish List

For any additional specific information and travel arrangements contact  
Dick Lyons (672-5328)

### GMSS Planned 2014 Field Trips (Distance/Approx. Time from Shoppingtown) (Dates Subject To Change)

**May 10<sup>th</sup>, (Saturday):** Alden, NY; Pyritized Fossils 139 miles, about 2½ hrs.

**June 14<sup>th</sup>, (Saturday):** Sangerfield, NY Cole Hill Rd.; Fossils 43 miles, 1+ hrs. & Sheds, NY Fossils 23 miles, ½+ hrs.

Lord's Corners (Rts. 20 & 80) Horn Coral 20 miles, ½ hr.

October ?: Walworth Quarry Open House 84 miles, about 1½ hrs.

#### St. Lawrence County Sites

Harrisville, NY Blue Calcite & Wollastonite [FREE] 107 miles, 2 hrs.

Rose Road Pitcairn, NY Green & Purple Diopside, Titanite, Albite, Wollastonite & Blue Calcite [FEE] 114 miles, 2¼ hrs.

Selleck Rd. W. Pierrepont, NY Green Tremolite-Actinolite [FREE] 132 miles, 2½ hrs.

Owen Prospect 135 Irish Settlement Rd. Pierrepont, NY North of Powers Farm location Several other minerals found here [FEE] approx 132 miles, 2½ hrs.

For information on places/times to meet for car pool trips contact Dick Lyons [672-5328] or ask for more details at a club meeting prior to the trip.

**Field trips can be arranged at anytime if a group of club members are interested. Please indicate your commitment to a certain field trip or show attendance event so that specific travel (and possibly lodging) arrangement can be confirmed.**

**Planned 2014 Shows**  
**(For Additional Information Contact Dick Lyons)**

**April 24-27:** Rochester Mineralogical Symposium; Radisson Hotel

**April 26-27:** SuperDig in Sterling Hills & Franklin, NJ Show

**June 7-8:** Wayne County Show @ 320 S. Main St. Newark, NY (former St. Michael's School)

**July 31-August 2:** Annual Gemboree; Bancroft, Ontario, Canada

**August 8-10:** West Springfield, MA Show at the Big E →→ Club Bus Trip on 9th.

**August 22-24:** St. Lawrence Club Show; Madrid, NY

*As always, if you have any suggestion for show venues please don't hesitate to present them to Dick Lyons or at a monthly board/club meeting.*

### GMSS 2014 Meeting Programs

→ **May:** The program for May is **Len and Susan Sharp** who will be presenting a discussion on a fossil topic to be described when it becomes available. Len and his wife Susan have spoken in the past with very educational and enlightening information. Be sure not to miss this meeting as it will be a great opportunity to gain special insight into geological history.

→ **June:** The program for June will be our annual worknight meeting. This year we should focus on wrapping up the final details of preparation for the gem show in July. All show committee members as well as sub-committee chairmen should attend this very important meeting as it will be the LAST official time we will meet to finalize the plans and provisions for our show. Be sure to support our show and volunteer to help where you can.

→ **July:** The really big 'shoe' is here! Our 47<sup>th</sup> annual GemWorld gem show will be underway. We will be making some changes this year and next to make our show the best that it can be. If you want to be more involved with show planning or want to offer your time and effort to help work certain necessary and important job at the show please don't hesitate to see Dick Lyons our Show Chairman, or perhaps you could attend a Show Committee meeting to get in on the pre-planning and development of this amazing annual event.

**News from the Convention Delegates**

**from John and  
Linda Sweeney**

We recently attended the EFMLS Convention in Plymouth Meeting, PA as delegates from our club. We attended The 'Cracker Barrel' and Annual Meeting on Friday night where ballots were cast for next year's slate of officers. By laws revision, enlarging club memberships, and how to grow the youth memberships were also discussed among other things. Our club donated a specimen of dolomite to the Scholarship Auction. On Saturday we visited the show, bid at the auction and attended the Banquet, where we were treated to a talk by **Dr. Ryan Mathur** the AFMS scholarship honoree. We enjoyed meeting with club members from many clubs along the east coast and were introduced to **David Brandon**, our region three EFMLS vice president. David said he is looking forward to interacting with the GMSS. On Sunday morning we went to the Editor's Breakfast where many awards were handed out to the club editors, webmasters and club members for articles and contributions throughout the year. We were thrilled to accept five awards for our club, including three for **Keith Gilmer** and one each for **Ray Highbrown** and **Tim Hart**. They will receive their certificates at the April meeting. The next EFMLS Convention will be held in Hickory, North Carolina, in March 2015. Plan ahead to attend the convention, word is there will be some good Carolina Bar-B-Que being served. Submit a showcase or an article to the Crack & Cab this year. You too can be a winner and help our club be recognized. There are, also, youth awards handed out for written articles and drawings. We'd love to see our website entered again next year for another try at winning a certificate or plaque. The more we enter, the more recognition our club receives. One final note, Wildacres is a workshop retreat put on by the EFMLS in two sessions one spring and one fall. The booking for the fall session in September is now underway. The classes offered range from faceting to geology to wire wrapping and silver-smithing. This is a great opportunity and is inexpensive at \$390 for a week in the mountains of North Carolina including the classes, room, and board!

**Auction Rules for Buyers/Sellers**

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Apologetically offered in this edition as it was missed in the March edition:

- 1) Only club members can sell items. If you have not renewed your membership, please send your membership dues to our Post Office Box PRIOR to the October meeting. Anyone can bid on auction items.
- 2) The auction begins at 7:30 PM. For those who are selling items please come early to obtain the auction label forms and set up your items on the display tables. The doors will be open by 6:30 PM.
- 3) Each item must have a completed auction label. Sellers please provide a description form for each item to be given with the item to the successful bidder, (example: mineral name and location collected).
- 4) There is an upper limit of five (5) items per seller. There is no maximum limit for the number of items donated to the club.
- 5) This is not a silent auction. All bids will be indicated by a vocal "Huzzah!" (or equivalent) and flaunting your bidder's ID number on the supplied sign.
- 6) Any material with a specified minimum bid that does not sell will be returned to the seller.
- 7) The club will retain 15% of the selling price. The full selling price of the donated items will be given to the club.
- 8) The highest bidder wins the auctioned item. Runners will deliver each item to the winning bidder and collect a payment for that item. Bidders need not leave their chairs. **BIDDERS PLEASE BRING PLENTY OF CASH.** Items selling for more than \$15.00 can be purchased by personal checks. All other items will be cash only.
- 9) Sellers cannot bid on their own items.

**Poetic Notes**

**from Keith Gilmer**

MAYBE YOU'LL FIND A TREASURE,  
BRINGING JOY THAT NO ONE CAN MEASURE,  
AND HELP THE CLUB OUT,  
WITHOUT ANY DOUBT,  
CONSEQUENTLY GIVING DOUBLE THE PLEASURE.

THE AUCTION IS JUST THE PLACE,  
TO IMPROVE THE EXPRESSION OF GRACE,  
WITH BUYING AND SELLING,  
THE TRUTH IN THE TELLING,  
GOOD FEELINGS ABOUND ON EACH FACE.

## AFMS News



Be sure to visit the AFMS website to find useful information and their newsletter. You can find the link from our website under the 'about' tab then the 'affiliations' tab or just go to: <[www.amfed.org](http://www.amfed.org)>

### AFMS Convention News

The 2014 AFMS / RMFMS Convention will be held this coming July 9 - 13 in Tulsa, OK and from all the preliminary reports we've received, attendees are in for a treat.

Tulsa is the second largest city in Oklahoma and the 46th largest in the U.S. First settled between 1828 and 1836 by the Lochapoka Bank of Creek Indians, the city played a major role in the U.S. oil industry, at one time nicknamed "The Oil Capital of the World".

Located on the Arkansas River at the foothills of the Ozarks, the city houses two world-renowned art museums, as well as professional opera and ballet companies. The area also has a major concentration of art deco architecture. The Tulsa Port of Catoosa is the most inland river port in the U.S. with access to international waterways and the city is the home to two Universities - Oral Roberts and the University of Tulsa.

This year's show will include many working demonstrations, special exhibits, competitive and non-competitive exhibits, many dealers from around the country, and an expanded children's area with many rock related activities. Programs will be presented throughout the show, door prizes will be given away every hour, and there will be a continuous silent auction. We hope to have field trips in conjunction with the show if we can finalize the arrangements.

The headquarters hotel for the convention will be the Hilton Garden Inn at 4518 East Skelly Drive, Tulsa OK. The room rate will be \$89.00/night for a king or queen room, \$119.00/night for a suite and breakfast is included. To make reservation you may call 918-878-7777 or go to the website at: <[hiltongardeninn.hilton.com/en/gi/groups/personalized/T/TULMDGI-ROCKS-20140707/index.jhtml?WT.mc\\_id=POG](http://hiltongardeninn.hilton.com/en/gi/groups/personalized/T/TULMDGI-ROCKS-20140707/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG)>.

You can download all the convention forms by visiting the AFMS website <[www.amfed.org](http://www.amfed.org)> and clicking on the show header on the home page.

Deadline for making all reservations is June 16, 2014. Addresses for mailing competitive and non-competitive entry forms as well as convention

registrations (including the banquet and all officers luncheon) are on the respective forms.  
**taken from the April 2014 edition**

## Bulletin Exchange

### Mars Atmosphere May Have Been Trapped Inside Planet's Rocks

by Becky Oskin

The atmosphere of Mars may not have escaped into space billions of years ago, scientists say. Instead, the bulk of Mars' carbon dioxide gas could be locked inside Martian rocks.

Most of Mars' carbon dioxide vanished about 4 billion years ago, leaving a cold planet covered in a thin veneer of gas. But a new analysis of a Martian meteorite claims that some of the carbon dioxide disappeared into Mars itself, and not out into space as previous studies have suggested.

"This is the first direct evidence of how carbon dioxide is removed, trapped and stored on Mars," said Tim Tomkinson, lead study author and a geochemist at the University of Glasgow in the United Kingdom. "We can find out amazing things about Mars from the very small amount of sample that we have."

Tomkinson and his colleagues probed the history of the Mars atmosphere by analyzing minerals in a tiny slice of the Lafayette meteorite, a Mars rock blasted toward Earth 11 million years ago. The Lafayette is one of several Martian meteorites called the Nakhilites, thought to have been ejected out of a vast volcanic plateau by a comet impact.

The meteorites are 1.3-billion-year-old basalt, a volcanic rock rich in the mineral olivine. Long before their space journey, water altered the rock, leaving behind microscopic fractures filled with clays and carbonates. Radiometric dating indicates these minerals formed some 625 million years ago. The research is detailed in the Oct. 22 edition of the journal *Nature Communications*.

Tomkinson's team discovered that Lafayette's siderite, an iron-rich carbonate mineral, formed through carbonation. (This is the same process proposed for carbon sequestration on Earth.) When water and carbon dioxide gas combine with olivine minerals in the basalt, the ensuing chemical reaction creates carbonate and silicate minerals, trapping the gas.

The results mean liquid water flowed on Mars within the last 700 million years, either from geothermal or hydrothermal heating, Tomkinson

**con't on pg 7 →**

## EFMLS News



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### Un-Sung Praise

by **Ellery Borow,**  
**ACROY Chair**

It is time for a change from un-sung praises to be heralded, proclaimed and sung praises. In the AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year program we would like to herald, proclaim and sing the praises of the helpful, supporting, volunteering, and all 'round generous with their effort to grow our club's members.

Every club has good folks within their ranks who do under-appreciated, dedicated and even outstanding work to support their club.

We would like to encourage you or perhaps your club to send the name of these dedicated members, a brief write-up (100 words or less) of what they do to support the club, your name as the submitter, and club affiliation so that we can proudly announce to all EFMLS clubs who your fabulous member is.

But wait, as they say, there's more!!! We will even see that your honoree is heralded and praises sung in the AFMS Newsletter so that clubs and club members across the country know how fortunate you are. Such a deal!

The details...Clubs may submit the name of one member (or two if a couple) and the name of one junior member per year for this honor. Next year you may select another honoree. Send the information noted above to me (address is in April 2014 issue) and I'll do the rest.

Give me a minute and I'll get my singing voice in shape - then stand back. Let the singing of the praises begin!

*taken from the April 2014 edition*

### → con't from pg 6

said. "This process could have been an even bigger player when Mars was thought to be a warmer and wetter planet," he added. "This process was still occurring when conditions were unfavorable for carbonation. It could potentially have been a much bigger mechanism when Mars had a thicker atmosphere 4 billion years ago," Tomkinson told SPACE.com.

NASA's Mars spacecraft and rovers have already found widespread carbonate deposits on the planet. And NASA's next Mars spacecraft will help probe the fate of the planet's atmosphere.

The space agency's MAVEN mission, short for Mars Atmosphere and Volatile Evolution, will test whether the volatile gases were ripped away into space or trapped on the surface in ice and rocks. One popular model suggests the atmosphere was lost to space when Mars lost its magnetic field. MAVEN's launch window opens Nov. 18.

Source: Space.com – Posted: 10/23/2013

*taken from the Bulletin of the New York Mineralogical Club, April 2014 edition*

## Rock Tumbling Contest Upcoming

### Fifth Annual World Rock Tumbling Contest (2014)

The Feather River Lapidary & Mineral Society invites you to join us for our fifth annual World Rock Tumbling Contest. This year we will be using Brazilian Agate.

#### Prizes

First place \$250.00

Second Place \$100.00

Third Place \$50.00

For more information Phone: (530) 877-7324 or Email:

<[Tumbling@FeatherRiverRocks.org](mailto:Tumbling@FeatherRiverRocks.org)>

This message is your invitation. Find the application on the website:

<[featherriverrocks.org/shows/events/rock-tumbling-contest](http://featherriverrocks.org/shows/events/rock-tumbling-contest)>. Print the application and fill out the

information, make out the check payable to FRLMS and mail to;

Feather River Lapidary & Mineral Society  
or FRLMS

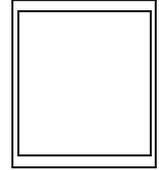
P.O. Box 2645

Oroville, CA. 95965

Entry fee this year will be \$40.00 for continental US residents. This includes shipping material to you. All others fees will be \$40.00 plus shipping. Please send correct fees and how to ship. (3LBS.) of rough Brazilian Agate will be shipped to you when application & check are approved. We will stop accepting applications June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014. [5] of your best finished rocks must be returned with a copy of entry form and must be post marked no later than August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

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*Once again, Mark Grasmeyer will be our sole entrant in this contest this year. Be sure to cheer him on, or maybe give him some competition and enter for yourself.*

**P.O. Box 801  
Syracuse, New York 13201**



First Class Mail

**April 2014**

Time Dated Material



# Crack 'N Cab



The newsletter of the **Gem and Mineral Society of Syracuse, Inc.**

Eight persons 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 name.

The objectives of the Society are to stimulate interest in mineralogy, paleontology, and the lapidary arts. Individual interests include collecting, identification, and display of minerals and fossils, and many aspects of jewelry design and fabrication.

The monthly meetings stimulate the social and educational factors. Frequent field trips provide collectors with opportunities to find specimens as well as to enjoy the benefits of outdoor exercise and potential friendships.

The Society meets on the third Monday of every month at 7:30 PM in the Clubhouse at Shoppingtown Mall on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor next to Sears, (Except in July, August, & December).

**Visitors are always welcome.**

**Annual membership dues:**

Single Adult - \$6  
Junior - \$3  
Family - \$9  
Honorary Life Membership - \$3  
For more information write to the  
Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse,  
P.O. Box 801, Syracuse, New York 13201.



**Officers 2013-2014**

<b>President</b>	<b>Ray Highbrown</b>	<b>627-0208</b>
<b>Vice-President</b>	<b>Rick Moore</b>	<b>834-7442</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Lou Budell</b>	<b>673-1891</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Joanne Suchon</b>	<b>672-3904</b>
<b>Sergeant-at-Arms</b>	<b>Bob Livingston</b>	<b>446-4505</b>
<b>Show Chairman</b>	<b>Dick Lyons</b>	<b>672-5328</b>

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Sunshine	Cathy Patterson	480-8907
Refreshments	[to be decided]	

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