

CRACK 'N CAB

**Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse
PO Box 2801, Syracuse, NY 13220**

**Volume XLIV
Issue 10
October 2014**

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Basalt Columns

Large eruptions of basalt lava may create deep flows of molten rock. As the rock slowly cools it shrinks slightly. The stresses cause jointing in several different planes, and columns of rock form with a generally hexagonal shape, like pencils.



The flow shown here is at Sheepeaters Cliff, in Yellowstone National Park. Note that there is a strongly developed horizontal jointing here, too.

Source: <http://geology.about.com/library/bl/images/blbasaltcolumns.htm>

**THE PROGRAM FOR OCTOBER 20 IS:
GMSS ANNUAL SHOW AND TELL DISPLAY
CONTEST BY CLUB MEMBERS**

This month we will have our annual display contest with entries in 3 categories:

- minerals***
- fossils***
- lapidary and jewelry***

Rather than have formal judges with formal rules, we will leave the judging open to the membership. The rules are simple, everything displayed must have been created or acquired in the last year - hand made, self-collected, silver picked, anything goes.

Each member can vote for their favorite display in each category by dropping a colored chit next to the display. A short club meeting will precede the contest voting.

Please come early to set up BEFORE the meeting starts. Keep the displays reasonable in size so that everyone will have a uncramped space for their treasures.

Don't miss the opportunity to share both your passion and knowledge with your fellow members and have fun.

President's Message

October 2014:

Club President - John Sweeney

It's fall and I always look forward to getting closer to rock hounding activities during this period. There is still some collecting to be done before the weather closes in, but as we move inside there are the meetings, lapidary work, some sorting and labeling to be done, and a lot more.

As we start a new term in the club, I'm pleased to work with the newly elected board members and returning ones. I'm looking for some members to fill spots in committees that can help with everything from the kids group to maintaining the club premises. We'll have some sign-up sheets at the next meeting. We're looking for help with hospitality, Rick could use some help on the web committee, and Keith and Dan are always looking for people to submit articles to the newsletter. We could also use some help on the education committee.

We're starting fall classes at the skills center and we'll be running four week courses in lapidary and silver working, starting the 22nd of October. Sign-ups will be at the Clubhouse, with more information and available at the monthly meeting on the 23rd.

I'm excited and honored to be club president again and I'd like everyone to feel free to contact me with ideas and suggestions on how we can make our club the organization we want it to be.

Meeting Minutes Report



Cheryl Brown - Club Secretary

Executive Board Meeting (10-7-2014)

The new board met for the first time and reviewed the state of the Club. It was agreed that it would be best practice to have a routine

financial audit conducted with the passing of the Treasurer's baton. It was noted that file copies of our bylaws with different publication dates contain different information. The discrepancies will be compiled and the results presented to the membership. The Secretary will be responsible for maintaining the official organization record of bylaws going forward.

President John Sweeney reviewed the Club committees. It was recommended that a new membership form be filled out by all members to facilitate updating of contact information and to enlist more participation on club committees.

Dick Lyons reported that the 2015 Show contracts were mailed out on September 8th. He mailed out 47 retail and 11 wholesale contracts. The Show theme is 'New York Fossil Legacy'. There will be information presented to the club throughout the coming months regarding New York fossils.

The Education committee has an outreach program to local schools. They have been going to Minetto and are finding that it is too far for the children to subsequently come to meetings. It was suggested that the outreach program contact local schools to see if there is interest in having presentations. It was proposed that our monthly meeting agenda be changed so the program portion of the meeting be held first with the business meeting later.

A volunteer is needed to head-up the Housekeeping committee. A general clean-up day will be announced in the near future. Also, some maintenance issues need to be addressed such as painting, lighting, and railing bracing.

John Sweeney and Joanne Suchon will begin the silversmithing classes on October 30th at the club house. Lapidary classes will begin on Wednesday, October 29th if six interested students sign up. Contact John or Joanne if you would like to take a class.

The family of past members Dick and Elsie Gildersleeve are donating their collection of specimens to the Club. This includes 3 wall mounted display cases of micro-mounts and a floor display case with larger specimens. They are also donating the contents of their rock room.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cheryl Brown

General Club Meeting (9 -15-2014) From Joanne Suchon

The election of new board members completed and voting done by ballot, the consensus is in.

The new Officers are:

President - John Sweeney

Vice President - Mark Grasmeyer

Treasurer - Linda Sweeney Clark

Secretary - Cheryl Brown

Sargent-at-Arms - Bob Livingston

Continuing in their Positions:

Webmaster - Rick More

Editor - Keith Gilmer

One ballot and the voting was done. We now have a new team of board members that are looking forward to serving you.

We now have a new person working with Keith Gilmer on the GMSS Newsletter. Dan Andrianos will be replacing Keith in transition for in 2015. Welcome aboard, Dan!

The Rock Doc gave a wonderful talk on zeolite, the earths crust, Feldspar and the chemical composition of these minerals including his scientific rotating hat.

The Marie Cole sale was successful thanks to everyone who bought some really nice rough agate and jasper, some beautiful slabs and, of course, very unique beads. This money goes to the lapidary department to help maintain the classes and workshops. A big thank you to each and everyone of you.

Ray Highbrown was presented with a plaque for his two years of service as Club President. Thank you, Ray!

AFMS Notes



The American Federation of Mineralogical and Societies website www.amfed.org (GMSS is a member) has helpful information including:

-List of Club Sites for all 50 states

www.amfed.org/club.htm

-Other Links (Links to Sites of Interest) page

www.amfed.org/other.htm has the following 16

topic areas with very good details-

Rockhounding

Government Links

General Links

Just for Minerals

Just for Fossils

Lapidary Schools

Online Maps

Publications

Publications (Online)

Museums

Sites For Educators

Other Organizations

Software

Homebuilt Equipment

How To

Other Site's Link Pages

Web Search Services

-Kids Corner Page

www.amfed.org/kids.htm

-Newsletter Page

www.amfed.org/afms_news.htm

EFMLS Notes



The Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies website www.amfed.org/efml (GMSS is a member) has helpful information including:

-East Coast Club List

www.amfed.org/efmls/clubs.htm

-Links to Club/Rock Related sites

www.amfed.org/efmls/links.htm

-Online library

www.amfed.org/efmls/library.htm

-Calendar

www.amfed.org/efmls/calendar.htm

-Newsletter

www.amfed.org/efmls/newsletters.htm

The Largest...

Largest land animal fossil Dreadnoughtus -

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-09-05/behemoth-argentine-dinosaur-dreadnoughtus-made-t-rex-look-puny/5721220>

Worlds Largest Fossil Wilderness

<http://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/the-worlds-largest-fossil-wilderness-30745943/?no-ist>

Largest Mineral Crystals on Record (2)

http://www.minsocam.org/msa/collectors_corner/arc/large_crystals.htm

and

<http://www.johnbetts-fineminerals.com/jhbnyc/articles/bigxls.htm>

Field Trips and Program Events

For any additional specific information and travel arrangements contact Mark Grasmeyer (317-1350)

GMSS Upcoming 2014-2015 Field Trips Distance/Approx. Drive Time from Shoppingtown - Dates Subject To Change

For information on places/times to meet for car pool trips contact Mark Grasmeyer 317-1350 or ask for details at a Club Meeting.

Lafayette, NY Lord's Corners [Rts. 20 & 80] Horn Coral 20 miles, ½ hr.

St. Lawrence County Sites

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

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

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

Pierrepont, NY Owen Prospect [135 Irish Settlement Rd.] (North of Powers Farm location) several minerals [\$] ~132 miles, 2½ hrs.

Field trips can be arranged at anytime if a group of club members is interested. Please indicate your commitment to any field trip or show event so specific travel (and possible lodging) arrangements can be confirmed.

If you have any suggestion for show venues please don't hesitate to present them to Mark Grasmeyer or at a monthly board/club meeting.

GMSS 2014 Meeting Programs

→ **November:** On the 17th **Len Sharp** will be the featured speaker for the November meeting. He will be discussing his trip to Mt. St. Helens along with a slide show presentation and samples from the site. He went on this trip just a few weeks after the eruption. Don't miss a great presentation on a very interesting subject from a fantastic speaker.

→ **December:** GMSS Christmas Brunch **December 7**, Noon-4PM at Barbagallo's Restaurant, 6344 E Molloy Rd, East Syracuse - Phone 437-7715
Adults - \$15
Children under 14 - \$7.50 - under 5 free
Menu - Baked Ziti, Vegetable Medley, Hot Roasted Potatoes, Hot Roast Beef, Hot Italian Meatballs, Sausage Peppers and Onions, Relishes, Italian Bread and Butter
Coffee, Tea, Soda
Cash bar (can be purchased outside the banquet area)
Desserts-TBA

Please bring a new unwrapped gift for "Toys for Tots"

→ **January:** TBA see web page for more details

Upcoming Shows

October 25-26, 2014: Bead Show and Sale sponsored by the Bead Society of Central New York - hours 10AM-5PM at Simon Parise VFW Post, 6996 E Taft RD, **East Syracuse, NY**
Admission \$3, Children 14 and under Free.

October 25-26, 2014: 45th Annual Rochester Gem, Mineral, Jewelry & Fossil Show sponsored by the Rochester Lapidary Society at the Main Street Armory, 900 E Main ST, **Rochester, NY**

February 14-15, 2015: 22nd Annual James Campbell Memorial Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show and Sale - hours 10AM-5PM at the New York State Museum, Empire State Plaza on Madison Ave, **Albany, NY**

If you are traveling, check these 3 web sites for lists of US and European shows:

<http://www.mineralevents.com/>

<http://www.the-vug.com/vug/vugshows.html>

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

GMSS Classes

John Sweeney and Joanne Suchon will begin the silversmithing and lapidary classes this month. Contact John or Joanne at the next monthly meeting on the 20th if you are interested.

Bulletin Exchange

Safety Matters - Wear The Mask for the Task

by Ellery Borow -
AFMS Safety Chair

Perhaps you have heard the expression "the right mask for the task at hand." Then again perhaps you may not have heard of it seeing's how I just made it up. Because it rhymes, it may be more memorable as a safety message. Catch phrases are handy for making a safety guideline a rememberable guideline. What the expression "wear the right mask for the task" is meant to convey is the message that for many rockhounds, silver and goldsmiths, lapidary tasks and so on, wearing a specific for the task mask may be advisable.

Rockhound tasks often involve being in an area of dry, wind-blown dust. For such situations a simple, properly fitted, dust mask would be suitable for protecting the lungs from air-born dust.

Silver and gold smithing operations may also involve dry dust such as when using rouge or polishing powder to finish a piece of work. Smithing tasks may also involve fumes from soldering and pickling operations. A dry dust type of mask would not offer suitable protection to the lungs from the detrimental effect of soldering fumes. Masks providing protection from harmful fumes would be a more appropriate choice. Even under the best of circumstances where a suitable ventilation system is being used during soldering operations, wearing a mask for protection from vapors may be advisable.

Lapidary tasks, on the other hand, usually involve the need for lung protection from the presence of wet dust. Wet dust requires a different type of mask - one that catches the dust but does not block the flow of air to the lungs. A standard dry dust mask would rapidly clog and be rendered useless when used in a wet dust environment. Another common material used in lapidary tasks is the mixing and application of epoxy resins.

Epoxies, as I'm sure you have noted from reading the safety labels, emit volatiles that are harmful if inhaled. Labels on epoxies usually stress using the product in a well-ventilated area. If the usage is in an area not all that well ventilated, a mask suitable for epoxy vapors may be used.

Were one to look in any reasonably complete safety equipment catalog, one would find a bewildering array of safety masks made by numerous vendors and suitable for every imaginable task. No brief safety article can mention all the various products available for rockhound, smithing and lapidary tasks but catalog sales representatives could easily offer mask guidance for your particular needs. Even in modestly equipped hardware and building supply stores one may be able to find masks suitable to the task at hand.

The takeaway message in all this discussion is that your lungs are important and need to be protected. There are numerous safety masks which can offer that protection. The trick is to choose the mask which fits the task. Actually, a similar statement may be made for many rockhound tasks- use the right hammer and chisel, select the right safety goggles, wear the right footwear, choose the right gloves, and so on.

Being safe involves making good choices. Please be informed, please be safe.

Source: AFMS Newsletter, February 2014, Page 7

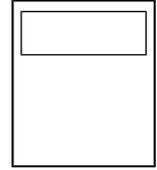
Thanks!

Cheryl Brown donated items from her parents' collection to the Club and interested members. Thank you, Cheryl, for your kindness!

Submitting Articles and Other Information/Requests to Us

Our Newsletter and Web Page welcome your comments and suggestions. They are also great venues for providing timely information to the Club. You can email our Newsletter Editor, Keith Gilmer at editor@gmss.us and webmaster, Rick Moore at webmaster@gmss.us. Thanks in advance for your interest!

**P.O. Box 2801
Syracuse, New York 13220**



First Class Mail

October 2014

Time Dated Material



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

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 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 creation.

Our monthly meetings foster social and educational experiences. Field trips give collectors opportunities to find specimens and enjoy the benefits of outdoor exercise and potential friendships.

We meet on the third 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 ALWAYS welcome

Annual membership dues:

Single Adult \$6, Family \$9, Junior - \$3

Special Honorary Life Membership - \$3

For more information contact:

GMSS, PO Box 2801

Syracuse, NY 13220



Officers 2014-2015

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