

CRACK 'N CAB

**Volume 45
Issue 1
January 2015**

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



Pictures Courtesy of Jay Tinker

**The Program on January 19
Jay Tinker – Fossils in Central New York
7:30 PM at the Clubhouse**

**Inside this
issue:**

President's Message	2
Meeting Minutes	2
Note from Joan Livingston	3
Field Trips	3
Programs	4
Shows & Events	4
Wildacres	4
Contests	5
Classes	5
C'NC 45th Birthday	5

Former GMSS president, Jay Tinker, will discuss finding and collecting CNY fossils. Jay grew up playing with Devonian fossils along Grout Brook in Scott, New York. He was the most paleontologically oriented President of GMSS in recent memory and continues to actively convert the uninitiated into actual fossil collectors. He has delivered great presentations at our meetings in the past and has provided frequent exhibit displays for our annual gem show.

Jay has done almost everything at the Paleontological Research Institution (PRI) in Ithaca from working at their exhibit at the New York State Fair, to driving their T. Rex skull cast around to rock shows, and helping with the Hyde Park mastodon excavation. He has worked in local schools, ranging from Head Start to college geology clubs. He has his own traveling teaching collection that he uses!

Don't miss a great opportunity to learn about the geological history in our own back yard!

**Submitting Articles
and Other
Information/Requests
to Us**

Our Newsletter welcomes your comments, articles, news, and suggestions. You can send US Mail or email to our Newsletter Editor at editor@gmss.us As needed, we can send timely emails to club members. Thanks in advance for your help!

Weather Alerts

In case of inclement weather and a club event has to be postponed:

- a notice will be sent to your email address, if we have it
- information will also be provided by local television stations
- a notice will be posted on our web site www.gmsss.us

President's Message



January 2015

John Sweeney - President

It is Mid-January and its cold here in Central NY. What was that? Did you ask, "How cold is it? I saw a Chicken crossing the road with a Capon..." I've been studying crystal growth on my single pane windows. Or, as Thornton Wilder said, "Its so cold the dogs are sticking to the sidewalk".

It's a good time to collate your rocks, plan and dream about next year's collecting as the days get longer and hopefully find some time to turn a few of those finds from last year into nice jewelry. I always like working with the torch this time of the year. The big shows in Tucson, AZ will be taking place over the next several weeks as will the shows and gatherings in Quartzite, AZ. Those of you planning your calendar out a little further might want to look at attending the Spring Wildacres workshops in North Carolina. The dates are May 14-18. There are classes on everything from silversmithing to scrimshawing. The tuition includes room and board and is very reasonable.

Those of you looking for activities a little closer to home can sign up for lapidary and silver classes at our own skill center. They will be starting back up the second week February. Cabbing will run for four weeks on Wednesdays and the silver classes will be on Thursdays for six weeks.

If having two feet of snow over your digging spots has got you down, *Rick Moore and Dick Lyons could use your help*. They are still unpacking and arranging the Gildersleeve collection at the clubhouse. It is great opportunity to handle a lot of specimens and learn what a lot of local materials look like from two experienced rock hounds. They are working most Saturdays and I'm sure would love the help and a chance to share their expertise.

It is a little cold to immerse yourself in Skaneateles Lake, but if you're interested in fossils, I'm sure you'll want to immerse yourself in *Jay Tinker's talk on fossils* at this month's

meeting. I know there is already a few horn coral taking up residence in our display window at the mall anticipating the event.

Vice President Mark Grasmeyer will be presiding over this month's meeting. He's been working on a field trip to Albany for their annual show. There will be sign-up sheets for the trip to Albany and the skill center classes at the next meeting.

The show committee led by Dick Lyons is doing a bang up job arranging this year's show. Several group members came to the clubhouse in on Thursday January 8th to take care of some housekeeping chores. Thank you all.

Help!

We are looking for:

- a *hospitality chairman* to help coordinate food etc. during the meetings.
- a few *able bodied volunteers* to help continue the maintenance activities including some painting, plumbing and ceiling tile replacement.
- someone to teach a wire wrapping class*. Contact me or Joanne Suchon if this sounds like you.
- folks to help Dick and Rick unpack and arrange the Gildersleeve collection – Saturdays.

The days are already getting longer. In a few short months you'll be you'll be collecting alfresco. In the meantime, cut a cab at the skill center on Saturdays and think about how you'll want some of this snow in July while your digging for Herkimers or panning for Garnets at Gore.

Meeting Minutes Report



Board Meeting (1-6-2015)

Cheryl Brown - Secretary

The first board meeting of the new year was filled with lively discussions and a surprise birthday cake for John Sweeney.

The committee heads reported on recent activity that has taken place. There is still a need for someone to head up the Hospitality Committee. *Dick Lyons* said he is waiting to hear from thirteen booth holders from last year as to whether they plan to return to this year's show. The

metaphysical practitioners will be located where the Rock Doc has had his display since they will not have a separate show this year. It was suggested that excess items from the Gildersleeve and Marie Cole collections be offered at the Club booth in return for a specified donation amount to the Club.

Yvonne Liblanc reported that the Youth Group is meeting on the third Saturday of the month at the clubhouse. Six teenagers met with her in December. There was a lengthy discussion on what can be done to reach young people, raise interest in mineralogy and subsequently raise interest in the club. *Ray Highbrown* said there are no 'GMSS Road Shows' to the local schools scheduled for the near future, but the team is ready to go when there is an opportunity. *Mark Grasmeyer* is working on securing a bus to go to the Gem and Mineral show at the Albany Museum on February 14th. It was approved contingent on half the cost of the bus being covered by riders. The cost to individuals will be \$20.00. There will be a sign-up sheet at the January 19th meeting.

The reins of the newsletter have officially been turned over to *Dan Andrianos*. Thank you again to *Keith Gilmer* for all his hard work over the years as editor!

Housekeeping Chairs, *Ed and Joanne Suchon* reported a number of items that need to be addressed. A work party will meet at the clubhouse Thursday, January 8th to survey work to be done and accomplish some tasks. Joanne also reported that lapidary and silversmithing classes will be starting again in February. Please see her at the January meeting to sign up for a class, if you are interested.

Our speaker this month will be Jay Tinker. Please check out the window display done by *Yvonne Liblanc* which highlights Jay and his fossils. Since we are now in the season of inclement weather, if you are wondering if a meeting has been canceled, there are several options for you to get information. You can look on our website, call a board member, or look at the crawler at the bottom of the local TV channels. As always, though, if you do not feel safe driving, please stay home. I'm writing this on Wednesday as the temperature is plunging and very glad the board meeting was last night and not tonight.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Cheryl Brown*

A Message to the Membership From Joan Livingston

Hi Everyone.

Two days after Christmas I suffered a stroke (blood clot) which affected my ability to speak. I was extremely lucky! I can walk and do regular chores like always. I am not sure if I will make the January meeting or not. But I do want to thank those of you who heard about my mishap and thank you and the club for the cheery cards. They do boost one's outlook. I am an impatient lady and have begun and need lots of speech therapy but those close to me say I am doing better each day. I am so grateful for the many people who have been sending healing prayers for me. Hope to see you all fairly soon.

Joan

Field Trips and Program Events

For specific information and travel arrangements, places/times to meet for car pools, contact Mark Grasmeyer (317-1350) or ask for details at a Club Meeting before trip. Dates are subject to change.

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BUS Trip to Show in Albany

The Club is chartering a bus to Albany so you can go to: **22nd Annual James Campbell Memorial Gem, Mineral, And Fossil Show & Sale on Feb 14, 2015 10:00 - 5:00 PM**

The Bus Ride fee is \$20 per person, departs 8:30 AM from the Shoppingtown parking lot (near Helping Hounds Dog Rescue). Event Admission fee is \$5 (cash only). Dinner is on your own at the Golden Corral.

Show Location: State Museum, Fourth Floor Terrace

Description: Vendors throughout the Northeast display and sell gems, jewelry, minerals, lapidary equipment, fossils and much more on the fourth floor terrace gallery. This event is co-sponsored by the Capital District Mineral Club and the New York Academy of Mineralogy. All proceeds benefit the Museum's mineral acquisition fund. For more information, contact Mark Grasmeyer at 317-1350 or vp@gmss.us or at the January 19th Meeting Please let Mark know that you plan to participate as soon as possible. All \$20 payments are due by January 28 to reserve your seat.

Coming Soon!**(Distance/Approx. Drive Time from Shoppingtown)***St. Lawrence County Sites***Harrisville, NY** Blue Calcite & Wollastonite
[FREE] 107 miles, 2 hrs.(Rose RD) **Pitcairn, NY** Green & Purple Diopside,
Titanite, Albite, Wollastonite & Blue Calcite [\$]
114 miles, 2¼ hrs.(Selleck RD W) **Pierrepont, NY** Green Tremolite-
Actinolite [FREE] 132 miles, 2½ hrs.(135 Irish Settlement RD) Owen Prospect
Pierrepont, NY - North of Powers Farm location
Several Minerals [\$] ~132 miles, 2½ hrs.**Field trips can be arranged anytime if a
group of club members are 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 2015 Meeting Programs**Before **EVERY** general meeting beginning at 6:30
until the start of the meeting at 7:30, items from
the Marie Cole collection will be on sale. Items
available include rocks, minerals, jewelry and
more. All of your cash donations go to help
support our club.

→ **February 16:** In February we will be honored
with a presentation by Dr. Steve Chamberlain. He
will discuss his new book (in progress) on Bower-
Powers farm in Pierrepont, NY. This book will offer
a detailed explanation of the history of the
geographic area and various landowners. It will
also provide very specific information on the
specimens found in the area. This will be a new
and definitive description of this collecting site.
Don't miss this opportunity to learn about an
internationally known and renowned geological
location.

→ **March 16:** March brings the spring time and
the Annual Club Auction. We will be auctioning
items that pertain to and reflect the various
aspects of our hobby. The auction rules are
available on the website and printed copies will be
made available at the clubhouse. You need to be
member in good standing with currently paid dues
[payment in/after September 2014] in order to
sell. Cash only and come early to inspect the
items up for bidding. Remember, treasures are
often in the eye of the beholder.

Page 4

Board Meetings Are Open to All

Next Board Meetings will be
February 3, March 3, and April 7
Get more information at the general meeting.

Upcoming Shows and Events

**April 11-12: Johnson City, NY - The Annual
New York Southern Tier Geology Club Show**
will be held at the Johnson City Senior Citizens
Center, 30 Brocton Ave., Johnson City, NY. The
dates are April 11th (9-5) and April 12th (10-4).
Contact Tom Ogden 607-967-8552
tandjodgen@stny.rr.com

**April 23-26, 2015
42nd Rochester Mineralogical Symposium**
Rochester Academy of Science
Radisson Hotel Rochester Airport at 175 Jefferson
Road Rochester, NY 14623
web page <http://www.rasny.org/>
Technical Session - Friday, April 24th
**Call for Papers Submission Deadline - January 31,
2015**

The Rochester Mineralogical Symposium is soliciting
abstracts for short papers in topics of specimen
mineralogy, including species mineralogy, topographic
mineralogy, crystallography, history of mineralogy, and
issues of mineral curation. [Click Here](#) for details.

**Great Wildacres Workshop Awaits
YOU May 19-24
by Bob Livingston**

Location for this great learning experience re facets of
our hobby is just outside Little Switzerland, NC right
along the back to nature Blue Ridge Parkway. For a
paltry \$390 each, here is what you get during your 5
1/2 days there:

- Private Room with bath and all linens provided
- Quiet good night's sleep
- Decent 3 Squares per day food
- Escape from TV
- Rocking chairs on porches with breathtaking views
of mountains and spring flowers
- Mountain clean air (3450 feet)
- Relaxation, wonderful conversations with like folks
from all over the country
- And yes, classes where you can begin to master two
new skills from choice of 16 subjects offered
- Noted speaker gives five different lectures during
your stay (this session, it's well known and respected
Bob Jones, Senior Editor of Rock & Gem Magazine)
- "Free day" for field trips, shopping and tailgating in
the afternoon in the parking lot

- Canteen for snacks, ping pong and good chit chat
- Showtime where you get to show off what you made and see amazing projects completed by your peers
- Take home your completed projects plus a new confidence, memories of a fabulous time with many new friends.

Get a headstart on more information: <www.efmls-wildacres.org> I will have forms and class details, and a more comprehensive overview at our January 19 meeting. Give serious thought, but don't dilly dally too long as popular classes tend to fill up fairly early. Registration just began January 1. Our librarians went just last Fall and will gladly tell you of their great experience. And Joan and I have been (8) or more times and we always enjoyed ourselves, and learned much. GO -- You won't be sorry. It's approx. 750 miles, but you can make it home to Syracuse in one dawn-to-dark day.

July 11 & 12 GemWorld - GMSS 49th Annual Show at the SRC Arena

Contests & Competitions

Feather River Lapidary & Society Mineral 6th Annual Worldwide Rock Tumbling Contest

Cash prizes awarded.

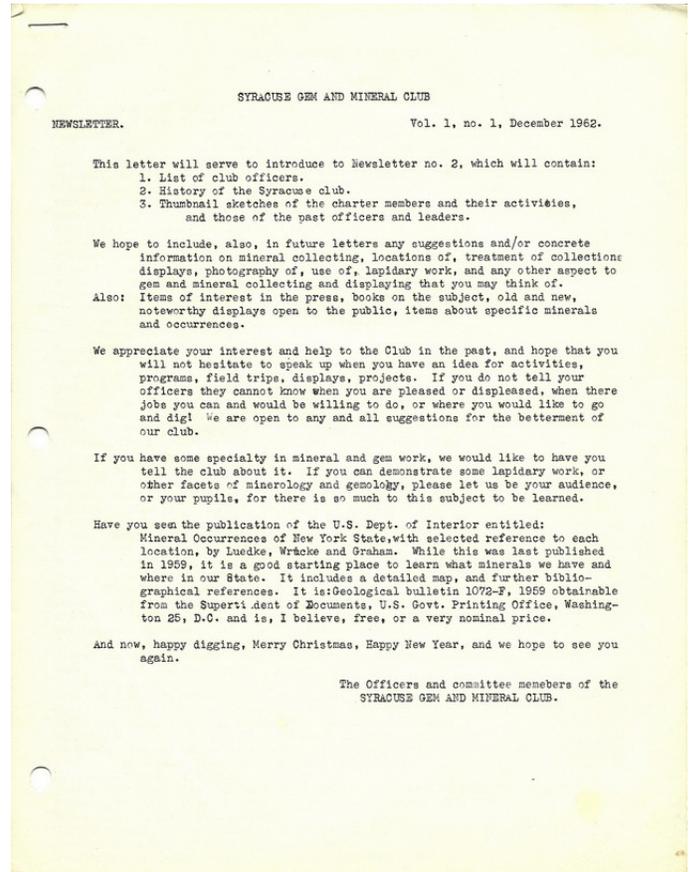
Applications accepted through June 1st 2015.
Contestants return tumbled rocks by August 15.
[Click Here](#) for details, phone 530.533.2968
email Tumbling@FeatherRiverRocks.org

Classes at the Clubhouse

John Sweeney & Joanne Suchon handle signups for silversmithing and lapidary classes. Please check with Joanne, Class Coordinator/Chairperson at our next Meeting on January 19 for more information about upcoming Lapidary and Metalsmithing Class dates. (You can also call her at [315-672-3904](tel:315-672-3904))

IT'S The CRACK 'N CAB'S 45th BIRTHDAY

File this one under "Hope you've got a magnifying glass!" As the new Editor of the Crack 'N Cab I took a look at old copies at the clubhouse. The first copy ever, in 1973, (upper right) was not called the Crack 'N Cab and the club was called the Syracuse Gem and Mineral Club. And on the right and slightly blurry, yes, in October 2008, Keith Gilmer became the newsletter editor for the C'NC. That's him, second to last, on the right.



CRACK 'N CAB

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

Volume XXXVIII
Issue 9
October 2008

New Officers

Inside this issue:

Pres's Message	2
Minutes	3
Imax Movie	4
Doc Duggan	5
Field Trip Report	5
AFMS News	6
Visit A Show	7

Photo by Bob Livingston

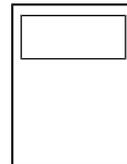


Photo shows Past Club President Gene Ridall, Treasurer Lou Budell, New Club President Carlotta Brown, New Club Vice-President Dick Lyons, Outgoing Club President Cathy Patterson, Club Secretary Sharon Viel, Sergeant-at-Arms Bill Viel, New Club Editor Keith Gilmer, and Outgoing Editor Loren Patterson.



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

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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 same 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 are ALWAYS welcome

Annual membership dues:

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

If you would like to join or renew your membership, download the application form (PDF) [click here](#) or get a form at a meeting or write to the address at the top of this page and we will mail a form to you.

Officers 2014-2015

President	John Sweeney	668-8470
Vice-President	Mark Grasmeyer	311350
Treasurer	Linda Sweeney Clark	668-8470
Secretary	Cheryl Brown	487-6009
Sergeant-at-Arms	Bob Livingston	446-4505
Show Chairman	Dick Lyons	672-5328

Librarian	Steve Albro	607-756-2298
Sunshine	Cathy Patterson	480-8907
Refreshments	[to be decided]	
CnC Editor	Dan Andrianos	492-6437
	email: editor@gmss.us	
Webmaster	Rick Moore	834-7442
	email: webmaster@gmss.us	

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To visit us on Facebook - [click here](#)

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