

CRACK 'N CAB

Volume 45
Issue 2
February 2015

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

Inside This Issue:

President's Message	2
Meeting Minutes	2
GMSS Library	3
Field Trips Programs Shows & Events	3-4
Books from PRI, etc.	4
Your Feedback	4
Salute to John Davis	5



Tourmaline and Quartz



Tourmaline



Uralite

The Program on February 16 **Presenter Dr. Steve Chamberlain** **7:30 PM at the Clubhouse**

This month 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 area and various landowners. It will also provide very specific information about the specimens found there (**see pictures above**). This will be a new and definitive description of this collecting site.

Don't miss this opportunity to learn about this internationally renowned geological location.

Dr. Chamberlain holds a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering with a minor in mineralogy from MIT, and a PhD in neuroscience from Syracuse University. In retirement, he serves as the volunteer coordinator of the Center for Mineralogy at the New York State Museum, Albany and is the longtime chairman of the Rochester Mineralogical Symposium, which has received the Carnegie Mineralogical Award. He also serves as the Scientific Editor of "*The Hosta Journal*" for the American Hosta Society.

As a mineral collector, Steve's interests have centered on the mineralogy of New York State. His large collection (25,000+ cataloged specimens) is slowly being donated to the New York State Museum. He and Dr. George Robinson wrote "*The Collector's Guide to the Minerals of New York State*".

We Need You!

We welcome your news, comments, articles, upcoming events, collecting site reviews and comments, photos, and your ideas/feedback in general. We will return your originals per your request. You can send US Mail or email to our Editor at editor@gmss.us
Thanks in advance!

At 6:45pm we have a short video overview of 10 geologic oddities including the White Cliffs of Dover, the Eisreisenwalg Ice Caves in Austria, the Moeraki Boulders in New Zealand and the Tsingy badlands in Madagascar.

In case of bad weather and a club event is postponed a notice will be sent to your email address, if we have it, posted on our web site www.gmss.us and on local TV stations.

President's Message



John Sweeney - President

February 2015

Your Club wants you! Mark Grasmeyer has arranged a bus trip to the Albany club show at the New York state museum on February 14th and we still have spaces on the bus. So come on down. Treat your sweetheart to a day of travel and a rock extravaganza Contact Mark for details. This should be a lot of fun.

Thank you Mark for presiding over the January meeting and thank you Jay Tinker for what I hear was an excellent presentation on fossils. Anyone who has walked by our window display in the mall lately, (good job Yvonne), will know that Dr Steven Chamberlain will be presenting on his work about the Power's farm at the February meeting. The Power's farm is a popular collecting site within easy striking distance of Syracuse where black tourmaline, quartz specimens and host of other minerals can be found. It should be an excellent talk. Steve is a long time member and an engaging speaker.

Its not too late to sign up for the lapidary and silver working classes starting on the 11th and 12th of February. Show up at 5:00pm and we'll sign you up for one of the last few spots or you can contact Joanne Suchon ahead of time. We are looking at other skill center programs. Is wire wrapping or mineral ID or perhaps beading or flint knapping your forte? Then why not share your interest with other club members during a class or program? Contact me or Joanne Suchon if your interested or have some ideas.

Don't forget the Wild Acres Seminars are coming up. You can find out more and sign up for these classes in the beautiful mountains of North Carolina at our next meeting.

The skill center is open Saturdays for those of you wishing to do some work or have got cabin fever and need a place to be around rocks. See you at the meeting.

Meeting Minutes



Cheryl Brown - Secretary

**General Meeting
January 19, 2015**

The meeting started on a high note as we welcomed four new members and one renewing member. Rick had a very interesting video about the fossils found in the Burgess Shale in Canada playing before the meeting started. This was a great intro into

our topic of the night, *Fossils of New York State*, presented by Jay Tinker.

John and Linda are in Florida, so the meeting was led by *Mark Grasmeyer*. He started by highlighting the upcoming trip to the Albany Gem and Mineral show. It will be held at the Albany Museum on February 14 and 15. A bus has been secured and it will leave from Shoppingtown Mall at 8AM on the 14th.

Dick Lyons gave us an update on the upcoming Syracuse Gem World show. The dates will be July 11 and 12 and it will be located at the SRC Arena on the OCC campus. Jazz Fest will not be held on that weekend, so access will be much easier. Volunteers are needed for the Club booth and for security. Please consider spending some time in either capacity. There is also a need for members to setup and fill display cases, which will be positioned around the perimeter of the show.

Thank you to Housekeeping Chairs, *Joanne and Ed Suchon* who led the team in making needed plumbing and electrical repairs. If you are interested in being part of the team, please see Joanne or Ed. There are a lot of projects (skilled and unskilled) that need to be undertaken.

Rick Moore, our webmaster, requested that any information sent to Dan Andrianos, the newsletter editor, be cc'd to him as well. Rick has also revised the website - www.gmss.us. Do you have a question? Select the *About* tab, then the *Contact Us* tab. A page with links to the appropriate person will open.

The Skill Center classes will be starting again in February. If you are interested, please contact *Joanne Suchon* to sign up. The classes are Lapidary on Wednesday night and Silversmithing on Thursday. Both classes run for 4 weeks and cost \$60.00 each.

Bob Livingston reminded us that Wildacres, in North Carolina, is accepting reservations for their week-long classes in May and August. Go to the website at <http://efmls-wildacres.org> to see the list of class offerings.

Dr. Steve Chamberlain will be our featured speaker at the February 16th meeting. His topic will be fluorescent minerals from the Powers Farm in Pierpont, NY, St. Lawrence County.

Do you tumble stones? The Feather River Lapidary and Mineral Society in California is sponsoring a Tumbled Stone competition. Go to their website at www.featherriverrocks.org for more information. You could win the top prize of \$250.00!

Mark Grasmeyer is arranging field trips. There will be a walk around Green Lakes and video presentation with a park naturalist. In April, a trip to collect Herkimer diamonds. In June, we will go to Brauer Field Station, outside Albany.

Rick Moore won a beautiful celestite crystal, which was the door prize at the Christmas Party. As a consequence, he gave a short talk about it.

Our speaker, *Jay Tinker* had a table full of New York State fossils, including a whole Eurypterid, the New York State fossil. It was fascinating to see the number and variety of fossils that could be found in our own backyard. He gave us a tip for preserving pyrites – cover them with clear nail polish to prevent them from degrading into a white powder after exposure to the air.

Jay showed us what is new to paleontology. He had a ¾ scale model of a Velociraptor claw made on a 3D printer. He also had a tiny T-Rex skull and a trilobite formed on the printer. He said researchers are now using this technology to study fossils.

Jay said there would be a test at the end of his presentation. It is: bring in a fossil from New York State to the next 'Show and Tell'.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cheryl Brown

GMSS Library

GMSS has a great lending library located in the club meeting hall in Shoppingtown. It contains books, magazines and other reference materials dealing with rocks, minerals, fossils, lapidary arts and jewelry crafting and design. Our gmss.us web page contains a list of all library holdings. Just click the "Resources" tab at the top of the page, then "Library".

The library is open before and during monthly meetings. Please sign and date the card in each book/media item and put it in the checkout box in the bookcase. Items checked out can be returned at the next meeting. Contact **Steve Albro at library@gmss.us or phone (607)756-2298** with your questions or to renew your borrowed item.

Currently there are items out (missing) with no checkout card in the box. You can help. Please call Steve now if you have any item that may not have been checked out or is more than one month past due. Thanks in advance for your help! Also, we are looking for more shelving so please let us know if you see new or used shelving at a reasonable price.

Upcoming Shows and Events

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

Feb 14 Albany Show Bus departs 8 AM, from Shoppingtown

March Date TBA Green Lakes State Park Fayetteville, NY – Guided Trek

June 5, 6, 7 Weekend at Brauer Education Center approx 8 Miles SW of Albany – Fossilized Devonian Limestone, fossilized small stromatolite reef. More details soon.

Field trips can be arranged anytime if a group is interested.

Please indicate your interest in a field trip or show event so travel/lodging arrangements can be confirmed. Provide your suggestions to Mark Grasmeyer or at a monthly board/club meeting.

GMSS Meetings 2015

Before EVERY general meeting beginning at 6:30 until the start of the meeting items from the Marie Cole collection will be on sale. All of your cash donations support our club. We are also showing videos before meetings. Contact Rick Moore at webmaster@gmss.us or 834-7442 to provide topics and feedback.

March 3 - Board Meeting 6:30-9PM Gem Diner, 832 Spencer ST, Syracuse.

March 16 - Here comes and the Annual Club Auction. It is an auction of items that pertain to and reflect all the aspects of our club. The auction rules are on the website and printed info will be made available at the clubhouse. Sellers are limited to current members (dues paid on/after September 1, 2014). Cash only-come early to inspect the items up for bidding.

March 21-22: Buffalo Geological Society, Grange and Market Bldgs, Hamburg, New York

March 28-29: 46th Che Hanna Rock & Mineral Club Gem & Mineral Show, Sayre, PA

April 11-12: Southern Tier Geology Club Johnson City, NY

April 24-27 Rochester Mineralogical Symposium, Rochester, NY

June 6-7 Wayne County Gemfest, Canandaigua, NY

July 18-19 Herkimer Diamond Festival/Show, Herkimer, NY

**And, of course, the best is right here!
July 11 & 12 GemWorld - GMSS 49th
Annual Show at the SRC Arena**

Classes at the Clubhouse

John Sweeney & Joanne Suchon handle signups for smithing and lapidary classes. Please contact Joanne our Class Coordinator/Chairperson at our next Meeting for more information. You can also call her at [672-3904](tel:672-3904)



**A post-presentation
Discussion with Jay
Tinker**

Jay displayed a lot of fossils he had collected in Upstate NY. He provided a tip on how to keep pyritized fossils from crumbling "Seal

them with a couple of coats of clear nail polish. If done thoroughly it provides the required complete seal"

Paleontology Books Available From PRI

"*Devonian Paleontology of New York*" by David Linsley – 1994 is no longer in print. Ever wanted to identify a fossil and wondered what resources might be available to you? Did you know that Special Publication #21 of the Paleontological Research Institute is available online? The 472 page volume contains 342 full page plates with line drawings of and notes on about Devonian Fossils. For those interested in the sedimentary rock formations cropping out in western New York, there is a thorough discussion of the local stratigraphy.

The best part is that the PDF download is **free** at: http://www.museumoftheearth.org/files/pubtext/Linsley_1994.pdf

This 1994 out of print book is available new for \$3,052! or used for \$38 from amazon.com. You may want to try the free online version first.

Also available -
"**Field Guide to Devonian Fossils of New York**" 2014 is the newest book on the subject:

"This is a welcome replacement for the ever-popular and out of print *Devonian Paleontology of New York* (PRI, 1994) by

David Linsley. The historical notes on early New York Devonian paleontologists are an interesting read and the section on facies — while short — gives useful background. An aspect that I particularly like is the brief summaries of diagnostic/typical features of each species; these are quite helpful for those who want to dig a bit more deeply into what makes taxa distinctive beyond the gestalt appearance. A great many amateurs, students, and professionals will find this a highly useful sourcebook." — Carlton E. Brett, Professor of Geology, University of Cincinnati

It is available at the PRI Store or online at <http://www.priweb.org/> or amazon.com

The NEW Book is available for \$18

Winter Free Day at PRI

FREE ADMISSION to the Museum of the Earth
1259 Trumansburg Road, Ithaca, NY 14850
(607) 273-6623

Free Admission Sunday, March 1st 11AM-5PM
The Museum of the Earth provides an opportunity for science enthusiasts, families, and their children to learn about our planet in a fun and engaging way.

Crack 'N Cab Membership Blast List Answers

We use email to send updates, news, cancellations, Board and General Meeting info/changes and other notices to club members. We may send one or two short emails a month.

If you would like to be **added** to this "Blast List", send an email message to editor@gmss.us with a subject -"subscribe blast list".

If you have any problems **receiving** the C'NC Newsletter send email to the above address or to our PO Box address.

If you have **membership questions or problems** send email to treasurer@gmss.us or to our PO Box address.

Club Email Addresses

president@gmss.us
vp@gmss.us
secretary@gmss.us
treasurer@gmss.us
webmaster@gmss.us
editor@gmss.us -Crack 'N Cab
library@gmss.us - Club Library
show@gmss.us - Gemworld
sunshine@gmss.us

WOW -- 100 years young for our breathing, eating, laughing, regularly-attending Life Member John Davis!

by Bob Livingston



Let's all join in a great big SALUTE to this affable and fun-loving mineral collector since the mid 1920s who is still going strong and enjoying life with family and friends. Some highlights many would not know about John: Born in New York City on Sunday February 21, 1915, John's parents at some

point moved their family to the Kingston area where Mom's side of the family ran a thriving meat business. In those days this meant butchering and cutting meat and making sausage and selling the whole line A to Z at the family market plus delivering their meat products to a string of regular out-of-town customers. To this day John often tells tales of his "sausage years" working there midst sawdust, hefting heavy sides of beef etc.

John is a proud graduate of Columbia University. But his love of minerals began when he started collecting around age 10. Ninety years later he still admires, trims, cleans and babys 'em. His cellar is full of them neatly tucked away in their "custom" drawers. He learned early on the importance of organizing and labeling them and since the mid 1930s cataloged all so he or anyone down the line would know what they are looking at and where they came from. John joined our mineral club back in its infancy in the 1950's and has held many of the positions including President (early 60s) and more recently, several times show chairman. In the heydays of collecting it was commonplace for John and his buddies to leave home here around 3 AM and drive to Canada, collect all day and be home with their hoard late the same night. They were addicted. In addition, John has been the curator of minerals for the Syracuse University collection for at least 25 years. His favorite minerals are Calcites.

From his youth, John became interested in the new kid-on-the-block -- radio and electronics. In World War II, John served his country in the US Army. First in New Jersey and later in Hawaii where he was thrust into the infancy of Radar. John was a real "bouncer" with that radar as he got sent to England during the Nazi

bombing and later France. John said, in addition to his early-on interest and having learned all he could about this exciting new field, it was a clear case of being in the right place at the right time. Having been there, sounds real Army to me.

Following the war, John worked for Curtiss-Wright Aircraft Co. and eventually got his commercial pilots license. Up until his early 80s, John often took off in a single engine prop plane and flew all over upstate New York skies. Following Curtiss, John went to work for General Electric in their Heavy Military Division. This both in Syracuse and with lots of travel to and from Pittsfield, MA. Over lots of years before retiring from GE, John wrote scores of detailed manuals for operators and servicing personnel manning our all-important military radar units. John's overseas troubleshooting travels at GE took him to Thule, Greenland and also to installations in Turkey.

If all of this were not enough to keep ones mind active, John has long had a keen interest in collecting stamps of certain categories, specific countries. Again, he has belonged to the local Syracuse Stamp Club for ever-so-many years where he has been a hard-working member at their annual stamp show for decades. To all this, add gardening which John excelled at till not many years back when the deer invasion in Manlius bested him. He got tired of feeding deer and getting 0 tomatoes.

Even though he did not marry till age 35, John is a dedicated family man with two sons and two daughters and several grand children. He either sees the local ones frequently or talks to the out-of-state ones in phone chats. A good piece of rare beef or coffee ice cream is what lights John's fire. John Lewis Davis, this is your life, or as much as we could find out. I am sure we merely scratched the surface. The long standing statement, "Nice Guys Finish Last" is a super one for John who will be entering a second century soon.

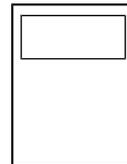
Please drop everything and make an extra effort to make the **Salute his 100th**, "evening with John" on Monday February 16 at our Shoppingtown meeting place. His gift and ours is this year's fine Talk by his mineral bud, Steve Chamberlain.





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

First Class Mail
February 2015
 Time Dated Material



Crack 'N Cab



www.amfed.org

www.amfed.org/efms

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	317-1350
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	

Visit us online at: www.gmss.us

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

Permission is granted to reprint material contained in the Crack 'N Cab if proper credit is given to the author, if known, and this bulletin.

The Crack 'N Cab Newsletter is published eleven times a year. (not July). Club Members can receive the newsletter via email and/or USPS mail.