

# CRACK 'N CAB

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March 2015

## Inside This Issue:

President's  
Message 2

Meeting  
Minutes 2

Shows & Events  
Poem 3

Classes,  
Subscription,  
Delivery,  
General and  
Officer Emails 4

Notice &  
Correction 4

Metaphysical  
Room Notes 5

Test: Is it  
Jade? 5

## 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](mailto:editor@gmss.us). Thanks in advance!

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

The Program  
on March 16

Annual Club  
Auction

Seller Setup  
at 6:30 PM  
and Bidding  
Begins at 7:30  
Shoppingtown  
Clubhouse



Spring is here and it is time for our Annual Auction. Bidders, bring enthusiasm, loud voices and plenty of cash to pay for your new found treasures! This once a year event will be fun so do not miss it!

### How It Works

- Members In Good Standing Can Sell. Sellers cannot bid on their own items. Otherwise, anyone can bid.
- The auction begins at 7:30 PM. If you are selling items, come early to complete auction label Forms and set up your items for display. The doors will open at 6:30 PM for everyone.
- Sellers must complete auction labels for each item to be given to the winning bidder, (e.g.: mineral name and location collected).
- A seller can put up to 5 items for bid. 15% of the winning bid will go to the club There is no limit on the number of donated items for bid. 100% of the winning bid will go to the club.
- This is a live auction. All bids will be indicated by a vocal "Huzzah!", or equivalent, and displaying your bidder ID card.
- Any item with a minimum bid that does not sell will be returned to the seller.
- The highest bidder wins the auctioned item. Runners deliver each item to the winning bidder and collects the payment. Bidders need not leave their chairs. Items selling for more than \$15.00 can be paid for by personal checks. All other items are cash only.

**COME JOIN THE FUN!**

## President's Message



**John Sweeney - President**

**February 2015**

As many of you have read and heard in the local media Shoppingtown Mall is making plans to remodel sections of the mall where our meeting hall is located. Unfortunately our space will be one of the areas undergoing transition. We are currently looking at other spaces in the mall and working with the management there, as well looking at other possibilities outside the mall. Our current space usage is a little over Thirteen hundred square feet and we need bathroom facilities and access to water for the shop. We are looking for a centrally located space. If you have any suggestions feel free to contact me.

Last month Dr. Steven Chamberlain gave us a preliminary look at his work on the Bowers Power farm in St. Lawrence County. His presentation included splendid photos of many of the unique specimens, which have been found at the site and a history of the exploration and geology of the tract. Once again, thank you Steve for an excellent evening.

John Davis, our most senior member, turned 100 years old. I hope we can keep up with him.

Going once, going twice, the annual GMSS auction will be taking place this month. Get out to the shed, hunt around in the garage, don't forget the basement, clear out space in your cabinets and bring in those fine specimens, materials and tools you would like to part with. Don't forget to bring money. We don't want you going home empty handed. The rules for the auction are published on the website and here in the "Crack and Cab"

The clocks have just been reset for spring, the days are getting longer and warmer, and I can actually see rocks emerging from under the snow at the end of the driveway. Yes, winter will actually go away soon and we'll be able to get out and go collecting. So while you're down looking for all that stuff to bring into, don't for

get to dust off your collecting gear and start looking at a map.

Don't forget Wild Acres sign up if you are interested in honing your skills at a beautiful retreat in the Mountains of North Carolina.

## Meeting Minutes



**Cheryl Brown - Secretary**

**General Meeting  
February 16, 2015**

The meeting was dedicated to **John Davis** as we joined him in celebrating his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

There were balloons, commemorative currency, cake and the singing of *Happy Birthday* with wishes for many more.

*[Photo: thanks to Judy Cook]*



*Dr. Steve Chamberlain* was our guest speaker. He gave an informative presentation about the Bower Powers site in St. Lawrence County where beautiful black tourmaline specimens can be found. He gave an interesting history of the site telling of the initial tourmaline discovery by R. T. Cross in 1854.

Steve showed photographs of beautiful specimens of tourmaline, fluor apatite, quartz and magnesium hornblende found at the Bower Powers site. He explained that although mineral books refer to tourmaline as a single entity, the specimens have two distinct layers. The outside layer is dravite and the inside layer is fluoruvite. There isn't much differentiation between the layers since they are both dark brown in color.

We all agreed we were ready to make a road trip to St. Lawrence County to do some digging – after the snow melts, that is.

Steve wrapped up the lecture with an extended Q and A session.

**>>> continued page 4**

### 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](mailto:vp@gmss.us) or ask for details at a Club Meeting before a trip. Dates are subject to change.

**March 28 Green Lakes State Park** Fayetteville  
Field trip at Green Lakes. We will meet at the Beach Parking Lot at 1 PM The guided walk will feature information on the formation of Green Lakes and the big question Why is it GREEN? We hope to have a small campfire going to warm up after the Hike. Please dress appropriately for the weather.

**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.**

*Provide your suggestions to Mark Grasmeyer or at a monthly board/club meeting.*

### GMSS Meetings 2015

Before General Meetings 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](mailto:webmaster@gmss.us) or 834-7442 to provide topics and feedback.

**April 6** - Board Meeting 6:30-9PM Clubhouse.  
Open to all.

**April 20** – General Meeting -Presentation entitled **"Unusual Minerals of the Adirondacks"**. The guest speaker will be Dr. Robert S. Darling. Dr. Darling is a professor and the Chair of the Geology Department at SUNY Cortland. It will be an interesting talk reflecting his research over the past several years of the Adirondack region of upper New York state.

### Rock-Mineral-Fossil-Lapidary Events

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

**March 28-29: 65th Annual EFMLS Convention hosted by the Catawba Valley Gem & Mineral Club. Hickory Metroplex, Hickory, NC. EFMLS Annual Meeting on Friday, March 27.**

**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**

**April 25 Sterling Hill Super Dig - Ogdensburg, New Jersey**

**June 6-7 Wayne County Gemfest, Canandaigua, NY**

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

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

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

**August 7-9 – West Springfield, Massachusetts (\*possible GMSS Group Bus Trip)**

**August 22-23 – Madrid, NY 51<sup>st</sup> Annual St Lawrence County Rock & Mineral Club Show**

**October 14 – National Fossil Day**

### A Poem From Keith Gilmer

The Springtime's almost here,  
Rockhounds can stand and cheer,  
But snow still stands,  
Across the lands,  
Covering everything far and near.

When does it all go,  
Maybe soon I don't know,  
So then we will see,  
Just what treasures will be  
Underneath the deep winter snow.  
Let's have a trip in the spring,  
Enjoy what nature will bring,  
We'll find some great pieces,  
Our collection increases,  
Celebrating this rockhounding thing!

## Classes at the Clubhouse

John Sweeney & Joanne Suchon handle sign-ups 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)

## Crack 'N Cab

If you have a high-speed Internet connection, why not get your Crack 'N Cab via email?

Three big pluses:

- 1) your newsletter is in color.
- 2) It arrives a minimum of 2 days sooner than snail mail
- 3) you will save the club about \$5.40 a year.

Think it over and then join the many other members already enjoying a full color newsletter with click-able links in the newsletter text. We just might save a few trees too.

If you would like to be **added** to the Crack 'N Cab email list, send an email message to [editor@gmss.us](mailto:editor@gmss.us) with a subject -"C&C email only".

Also, 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 the "Blast List", send an email message to [editor@gmss.us](mailto:editor@gmss.us) with a subject -"subscribe blast list".

If you have any problems/concerns **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](mailto:treasurer@gmss.us) or to our PO Box address.

## Club Officer Email Addresses

[editor@gmss.us](mailto:editor@gmss.us) -Crack 'N Cab & Blast List  
[webmaster@gmss.us](mailto:webmaster@gmss.us) - <http://gmss.us>  
[pres@gmss.us](mailto:pres@gmss.us) - [vp@gmss.us](mailto:vp@gmss.us)  
[secretary@gmss.us](mailto:secretary@gmss.us) - [treasurer@gmss.us](mailto:treasurer@gmss.us)  
[library@gmss.us](mailto:library@gmss.us) - Club Library  
[show@gmss.us](mailto:show@gmss.us) - Gemworld 2015  
[sunshine@gmss.us](mailto:sunshine@gmss.us)

>>> continued from pg 2

*John Sweeney* led an abbreviated Business meeting with a few reminders. Next month is the annual Auction. You must be a member in good standing in order to sell. Please read the rules, which are located in this month's newsletter.

Next month, sign-up sheets for helping at the July Gem World Show will be available.

Please consider volunteering to serve on the Show Committee or sign-up to be on the Security committee or to help at the Show Booth. There will also be sign-up sheets for anyone who would like to set up a display case.

*Dick Lyons* showed us a sample of the \$1.00 off coupons that will be available for advance promotional distribution.

*Keith Gilmer* said he will be creating a malachite display in the clubhouse window for next month's meeting.

Just a reminder - the Buffalo Geological Society Gem, Mineral and Fossil show will be held March 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> at the fairgrounds in Hamburg, NY.

An enjoyable time was had by all at the Gem and Mineral show in Albany on February 14<sup>th</sup>. Mark your calendars for the Springfield, MA Gem and Mineral show on August 8<sup>th</sup>. If there is enough interest, we will rent another bus to make the trip.

*Dick Lyons* has asked for our help. He loaned his copy of *Minerals of St. Lawrence Valley* to someone in our group, but can't remember who it was. If you have it, please return it to him. Thanks!

Respectfully Submitted,  
Cheryl Brown

*In case of bad weather and a club event is postponed, a notice will be sent to your email address, our web site and cable TV 10.*

*Clarification of Omission:  
Photo of Jay Tinker in last month's newsletter was provided by Chuck Galuski.*

**And now for something completely different...****The Metaphysical Room at Our Show**

Though the ages, stones, gems and minerals have been utilized in the metaphysical realm. Many cultures have their own beliefs about specific stones, gems and minerals and their respective healing and energetic properties. Their use goes back thousands of years in the history and legends of Babylon, Rome, Atlantis, Greece, Egypt, China, and in Hindu and Native American cultures.

In the past few years there has been a metaphysical show sponsored by Georgia Warren, publisher of the Metaphysical Times. The show took place in a separate building near our show. We always co-advertised each other. This year, Georgia is not doing it, so we decided why not have an area for practitioners who utilize stones, gems and minerals in their work? Whether you believe or not in properties associated with stones, it is always interesting to speculate and ponder.

We are very excited to have the following accomplished and talented participants in this year's all new Metaphysical Room:

Don Brennan is a Reiki Master. He teaches and practices Reiki and other energy healing techniques at the Life Center for Well-Being. Through a grant years ago, he was able to train 25 staff members at Crouse Hospital. In 2003 he helped establish the Wellness Program at Hematology/Oncology Associates of Central New York.

Dave Bennett, an energetic healer and life coach, will be offering Crystal Bio Mat Energetic Healing at the show. Dave is a near death experiencer who has appeared on radio and television, including Dr Oz, Angels Among Us, NBC national news, and PBS. His book "Voyage of Purpose" is a fascinating read. He actually drown off the California coast during a violent storm in 1983 and had a profound spiritual experience. In time, Dave went from being a chief engineer on a research vessel to manager of St. Joseph's Hospital Dialysis Program. While working there in 2000 he found he had stage IV lung and bone cancer, his spine collapsed and he now has titanium constructs in place. Dave recovered from cancer and continues on his spiritual journey to contribute to the betterment of humanity.

Cindy Griffith-Bennett will be offering Psychic Crystal Readings. Cindy is an internationally known psychic. She teaches spiritual development across the US and in Japan. She is author of the book "Soul Soothers: Mini Meditations for Busy Lives", co-author of "Voyage of Purpose" and the 2015 fall release of "Grow Your Spiritual Business". She has created multiple Meditation CD's. She is a contributing blogger for Huffington Post and a number of other magazines.

Kris Faso is known as "The Stoneman". During a reading he will ask you to pick out the stones and minerals you are attracted to. Kris grew up on the shoreline of Lake Ontario and there started his fondness for collecting stones and minerals. He believes every stone has a story to tell/ foretell, relative to our environment, history, Earth walk.

Sarina, Oracle of Light, is an internationally renown fourth generation clairvoyant psychic medium. Sarina will be offering Crystal Readings. Sarina's high rate of accuracy earned her passing the International Psychic Audition for the Edgar Cayce Panel of Professional Psychics. She is recipient of "The Edgar Cayce Legacy" for Excellence in the Psychic Development of the Soul.

The Metaphysical Room will be located on the right hand side of the SRC Arena on the entrance level. Be sure to check it out during our show July 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>!

By Judy Cook

**Are You Sure It's Jade?**

If a chip is knocked off the freshly broken surface should not sparkle in the sun. If it does, it's not jade.

If you can scratch it with a knife-point, it isn't jade.

It will be much heavier than a common rock of similar size.

Tap the specimen with a hammer. If a moon shaped fracture appears, it is agate or jasper, but not jade.

If it is jade, it will have a smooth, waxy, almost greasy look.

The only positive test for jade is x-ray analysis and specific gravity tests.

Source: Scribe Archive Disk

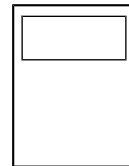


**Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse**  
**P.O. Box 2801**  
**Syracuse, New York 13220**

First Class Mail

**March 2015**

Time Dated Material



# Crack 'N Cab



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## 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 send to the address at the top of this page and we will mail a membership form to you.

**Club Officers 2014-2015**

**President - John Sweeney 668-8470 or [pres@gmss.us](mailto:pres@gmss.us)**

**Vice-President - Mark Grasmeyer 317-1350**

**Treasurer - Linda Sweeney Clark 668-8470**

**Secretary - Cheryl Brown 487-6009**

**Sergeant-at-Arms - Bob Livingston 446-4505**

**GemWorld 2015 Chair - Dick Lyons 672-5328**

**Librarian - Steve Albro 607-756-2298**

**Sunshine - Cathy Patterson 480-8907**

**Refreshments - [looking for volunteers!]**

**CnC Editor Dan Andrianos 492-6437 or [editor@gmss.us](mailto:editor@gmss.us)**

**Webmaster Rick Moore 834-7442 or [webmaster@gmss.us](mailto:webmaster@gmss.us)**

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