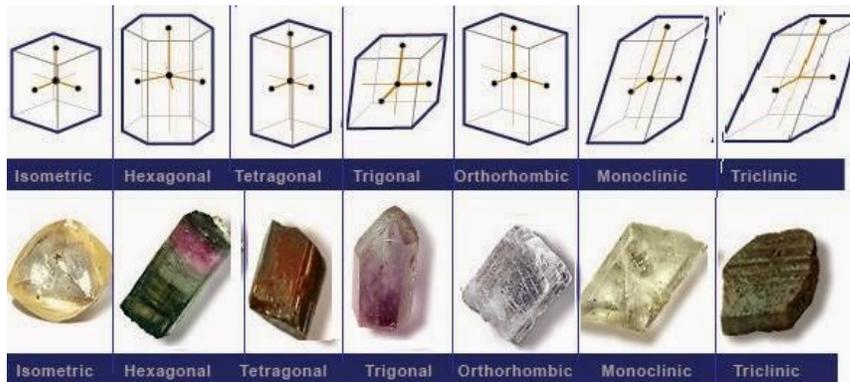


CRACK 'N CAB

Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse, PO Box 2801, Syracuse, NY
Volume 45 Issue 5 May 2015



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**The Program
on May 18
7:30 PM at the
Shoppingtown
Clubhouse
"Crystal
Systems: the
Good, the Bad,
and the Ugly"
Presented by
Dr David Millis**



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We will start with some examples of crystal systems and crystal shapes for common minerals, then describe, by analogy, how they are measured (non-technical). Talk will be about the missing system and go through other unusual differences between crystal systems and crystal shapes/habits. Throughout the talk, Dave will ask questions, your correct answer may win you a mineral specimen. Dr. Millis, who has a Ph.D. in Physics, is known as the "Rock Doc". He was the Rockhound of the Year 2014, Che-Hanna Rock and Mineral Club, Sayre, PA. He is the author of "Rock Collecting in New York" which includes 40 sites and maps of the Adirondacks. His book is available from the GMSS Library. To make a long story short, he has led field trips and presented to groups in places too numerous to mention. Come and hear from someone who has likely "has done everything twice"

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GemWorld 2015 - Update from Judy Cook - Learning Center Coord.

Presentations by the MOST

Saturday July 11th at noon

Sarah Akin will present "Colder than Ice: Dry Ice, Liquid Nitrogen and the Water Cycle." Sarah will focus on the properties of dry ice and liquid nitrogen, and uses them to make clouds and discuss the water cycle. These are sub-zero materials that will amaze students of all ages. Audiences will learn about phase changes, the effects of extreme cold on an object and explore some of the similarities and differences between carbon dioxide, nitrogen and water.



Sunday July 12th at noon

Consistent with our show theme "Fossils of New York State" the MOST will present a Fossil Workshop.

President's Message



John Sweeney - President

May 2015

I'm looking forward to Dave Millis' talk this month on crystal structures. Maybe he can shed some light on the on few of the specimens we collected out at the Penfield Quarry open house last Saturday. The quarry owners opened the doors at 6:45 am for the safety talk and from 7am till noon we were allowed to explore and collect to our heart's content. While we were there, we caught up with members of various area clubs, met with fellow collectors from as far away as Maryland and Ohio and in general had a good time. Our trophies included some nice dolomite specimens, some sphaeralite, selinite and a small a fluorite crystal in a dolomite pocket. This is a great trip opportunity; but it only happens once a year. If you are interested, you should mark your calendar for next year. They even gave kids rides in the giant quarry trucks. The Walworth Quarry which is located in the same area near Rochester has their open house in the fall and is also famous for fluorite collecting.

Speaking of once a year events our show is coming up in July. Our June meeting will be a work night to prep for the show. Please remember to sign up for the various positions we need help with to run a successful show. We need people to help with everything from security and set up, to ticket sales and running the club booth. Sign-up sheets will be available at the next two meetings. Keith Gilmer is looking for people who would like to set up their own displays in the club cases for the show and I am still looking for any of our own in- house lapidary and metal artists to help fill a case.

There will be a vote on the change in the bylaws which increases our dues at the May meeting and we will also be confirming a slate of officers for next year. The nominating committee is looking for a Sargent at Arms to augment our current slate ,however, please remember if you are a member in good standing you can run for any elected position in the club in fact you are encouraged to do so. Contact Keith Gilmer the chairman of the nominating committee to be added to be the slate or stand up at the May meeting. Club officers are elected at the June

meeting and take office for the upcoming year in September. By the way we are still looking for a hospitality chairperson and we are looking for help with the youth group.

The club has a new short wave black light that that can be used in conjunction with our existing lights to view specimens. Thank you, Yvonne Leblanc, for getting that together as part of our traveling display.

We recently met with representatives of the Shoppingtown Mall and we are negotiating with them to possibly extend our lease for another year at the present location or possibly at a different location in the mall while they sort out changes in the future of the property.

I'm writing this the day before mother's day at my mom's dining room table in Virginia and I feel like I'm time traveling back to when I wrote essays here as a kid. Thanks mom and I hope all the mothers out there have a great mother's day.

Meeting Minutes



Cheryl Brown - Secretary
Meeting Minutes

General Meeting April 20, 2015

Our speaker this month was Dr. Robert Darling, Distinguished Teaching Professor in the SUNY Cortland Geology Department. He presented a very informative lecture and slide show titled *Unusual Minerals of the Adirondacks*. Some of the minerals he spoke about were prismatic from Moose River; serendibite from Johnsbury; kornespine and sapphirine from Warrensburg; monticellite, harkerite and akermanite from Cascade Slide; dumortierite from the Benson Mines; micro-sapphire from Port Leyden; topaz found just north of Port Leyden; and cristobalite from Gore Mountain.

These are all considered to be meta-igneous minerals transformed by elevated pressure and temperatures. It was noted that all the minerals in the Adirondacks are fractured because continued tectonism outlasted the metamorphic processes.

Bob and Joan Livingston went to the Eastern Federation Conference in Hickory, NC in March. A number of our members won prizes for their contributions in our *Crack and Cab* newsletter.

Ann Fitzgerald won 4th place for her *From Penguins to Pork Chops* article. Cathy Patterson won a prize for her Sunshine Corner. John Sweeney won 4th place for one of his President's message. The best newsletter for 2014 prize, a stone pinnacle, went to Keith Gilmer. Congratulations to all for a job well done!

Mark Grasmeyer reported that Saturday, May 2nd, from 6:45am to noon is the **Penfield Quarry Open House**, 746 Whalen Rd., Penfield, NY. All ages are welcome. It is open to the public! Hard hats (children may wear bicycle helmets), safety glasses, enclosed footwear, plus long pants are required. Expect to find fluorite, calcite, selenite, sphalerite, galena and fossils.

Dave Millis (the Rock Doc) is hosting a trip to **Bancroft, Ontario, Canada on July 21st and 22nd**. Dave also announced that he had been named *2014 Rockhound of the Year* by the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies. Congratulations Dave! He will be teaching his mica dragonfly class again at our club picnic.

A get well card for Loren Patterson, who is recovering from a heart attack in Florida, was passed around. We all wish Loren and Cathy the best for a speedy recovery.

Our *Skill Center* sign-up sheets were made available. **The next set of classes will start soon. Please contact John Sweeney or Joanne Suchon if you are interested in either the lapidary or silversmithing classes.**

The sign-up sheets for *Gem World Show* volunteers were available. **There is still a need for Thursday and Friday setup help, security, ticket sales, the show booth and Sunday tear-down help. Please sign-up for a shift in one or more of these positions. We need all the help we can get to ensure a successful show.**

The Club is still in need of a Hospitality Chairperson. The duties include:

1. set-up (and later reconfigure), the furniture and fixtures of the meeting room to accommodate the assembly meetings
2. arrange for snacks and refreshments at meetings
3. greet and log-in members and guests
4. assist with supportive duties during meetings identified by the President.

Please consider volunteering to coordinate this meeting function (see President, John Sweeney).

The Executive Board discussed and voted to raise our membership dues at their April meeting. The change to the Constitution was presented to the membership at the April general meeting and opened to discussion. It was explained that current dues rates do not cover our Club's expenses. For example, the USPS rate to mail the *Crack and Cab* is \$12.00 per year, which exceeds an individual's current dues. Additionally, the Club is assessed \$2.35 per member in dues to the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies (EFMLS) annually as well as \$6.00 per person for liability insurance coverage through the EFMLS. Finally, we expect we will have to pay more in rent when we move the clubhouse. A question was raised as to whether the club's net bank balance was going up or down. The answer is: It is going up a little, but our expenses will be going up, also.

The Constitution currently says:

Adult membership - \$6.00

Junior membership - \$3.00

Family membership - \$9.00

Life membership - one half the adult membership fee

The proposed new annual charge is:

Adult membership - \$10.00

Junior membership - \$5.00

Family membership - \$15.00

Life membership - one half the adult membership fee

This proposed amendment to the Constitution will be open to discussion and voted on by members present at our May general meeting. A complete copy of our Bylaws is available on our web site:

[gmss.us/about/constitution /view](http://gmss.us/about/constitution/view)

On a sad note, it was reported that Schuyler (Sky) Alverson from St. Lawrence County passed away April 19, 2015.

Respectfully Submitted - Cheryl Brown

Executive Board Meeting May 5, 2015

There is good news regarding our clubhouse move. Shoppingtown management has stated that we can stay in our current location for another year, or we can move to another, larger location in the mall. The larger location will be a bit more expensive, but it will allow us to have a separate classroom area for our youth group. Heat and air conditioning will be included, too. We will continue to look for a new location outside the mall, but the pressure to leave the mall this summer has been alleviated.

June 13 Sat 10am (tentative) Youth Program

**June 15 – Mon 7pm General Meeting
Lapidary Presentation and Video at the
Clubhouse and some GemWorld work to do.**

**August 16 Sun All Day (tentative) GMSS
Picnic**

Rock-Mineral-Fossil-Lapidary Events

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

**June 6-7 Orange County Mineral Society will
host its annual Mineral, Gem, Jewelry, Fossil
SHOW SELL & SWAP see
orangecountymineralsocietyny.com**

**July 18-19 Herkimer Diamond Festival &
Show, United Methodist Church, Herkimer NY**

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

August 16 (tentative) GMSS Picnic

**August 22-23 Madrid, NY 51st Annual St
Lawrence County Rock & Mineral Club Show**

**October 11 -17 Earth Science Week
<http://www.earthsciweek.org/> & October 14
National Fossil Day**

**See More Events at EFMLS site
<http://www.amfed.org/efmls/calendar.htm>**

NEW Clubhouse Hours!

The clubhouse will be open **Saturdays** April through June and from *1:30pm to 4pm* and **ADDITIONAL HOURS ON WEDNESDAYS** in May and June from *2pm to 4:30pm*. Come work on the Lapidary equipment (you must have taken the Lapidary Course with John) OR work on a beading or silversmithing project.

Think about it!

You can receive the Crack 'N Cab Newsletter via email attachment or web link. There are **6** big pluses:

- 1) It arrives a **3+ days sooner** than US Mail
- 2) Links from the Newsletter are a **click away**.
- 3) You will **save the Club about \$12 a year**.

- 4) You will have 100% **color copies** of the C'NC
- 5) You will **never misplace** your copies of our newsletters since they are archived on our web site.
- 6) Save a tree!

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

If you have any problems/concerns RE: Newsletter delivery, send email to editor@gmss.us with a subject -"C&C delivery problem".

If you have **membership questions**, send email to secretary@gmss.us

If you have any **web page questions** or **web requests/suggestions**, please contact Rick Moore at webmaster@gmss.us

GMSS on facebook and flickr

In addition to our web site <http://www.gmss.us> our club has facebook and flickr presence if you would like to learn more, go to these sites:
facebook - club social media
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Gem-Mineral-Society-of-Syracuse/175695675873901>



flickr - club photo posting site
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/77155124@N07/>

WE NEED YOU!

Write for us! Let us know about what you have been doing, making, finding, seeing, and collecting. Send writing, photos, pictures, show critiques, prose and poetry to editor@gmss.us
June 12 – Saturday is our Crack 'N Cab article submission deadline.

ARTICLE REPRINT REQUIREMENTS

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

FREE COPY!

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

To get a complementary (PDF) copy of our newsletter send request to editor@gmss.us

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•GMSS Newsletter is Online•

New and Old Copies of the Crack 'N Cab are available online by year as follows:

<http://gmss.us/resources/newsletter/cnc-2015>

<http://gmss.us/resources/newsletter/cnc-2014>

<http://gmss.us/resources/newsletter/cnc-2013>

For years before 2013 send an email to editor@gmss.us with the specifics about your request and we will do our best to make the information available.

More GemWorld Info From Judy Cook

There are many exciting things for kids to do at our show – including the sluice, cracking a geode, soapstone carving and making jewelry! The show offers a weekend of fun for the whole family!

July 15 to 19 - Field Trip To Bancroft, Ontario Canada From Dave Millis

The first collecting day is Wednesday the 15th. The Most popular sites are [Bear Lake](#) and [Schikler](#) for apatite, calcite and fluorite, [Beryl Pit](#) for tourmaline, amazonite and beryl crystals, Miller Site, and the [Fluorrichterite](#) Road Cut.

The sites will be picked by consensus except - Thursday the 16th will be Schikler and Friday the 17th is a day you can go off on your own. Field trips start at 8 o'clock at Bancroft Campground - phone (613)332-3673 or 877-404-4160 web <http://www.bancroftcampground.ca/>; you do not have to camp there (see <http://bancroftontario.com/>). Field trips end on Sunday the 19th I am staying until Wednesday the 22nd AM

Crossing the border into Canada is easy. Avoid the 5 fires: Firerwater, Firesticks, Firearms, Fireworks, and Firecrackers. Crossing back is harder. Avoid the 5 fires. Bring your US passport. Your rocks must be free of soil that may contain biologics. The maximum purchases duty free after a 48 hour visit is \$400 per person per car. Taking pets is a bad idea. If you do, a current rabies vaccine certificate is required both ways. The best currency exchange rates are with a credit card but you will need some cash.

**May Meeting Refreshments Provided by
Dorothy Gilmer
Ann Fitzgerald
Sharon Thompson
Thank You!**

Collecting with Kids
by Shannon Phillips

It's been a long winter. A really, really long winter for collectors. Now that the snow has finally melted (although it's snowing as I write this) we can finally see the ground that will yield this season's buried treasure.

As eager as I've been to get out in the field, the wait has been even tougher for the junior rockhounds in my household. All winter long, we've been identifying fossils and examining Herkimer diamonds we found last



Ellie in Carbondale, PA where we were collecting Utica Shale

summer. We've been dreaming of the fabulous finds we'll make this summer. Our twelve year old, Ellie, has become obsessed with the cartoon *Steven Universe*, in which the main characters (with the exception of the titular Steven) are gems in human form. She has dreamed of finding rose quartz, lapis lazuli, amethyst, sodalite, and other semiprecious stones. Although she won't find most of them here in CNY, her enthusiasm prompted our first field trip of 2015. The time has finally come to get back out there and collect!

Because of its easy access, we chose the rockcut alongside Route 20 in Pompey Center for some quick fossil collecting on April 12th. When we arrived, a class from Syracuse University was collecting at the site. They gladly shared the area with Ellie, Jacob, and Ben, even showing some of their best finds to the kids, including a nice *phacops* trilobite. The professor also identified a *spyroceras* Ben found.

The kids' first finds were mostly molds, until they realized that they could find full form cephalopods, brachiopods, clams, and gastropods. Ellie intrepidly tried to dig specimens out of the wall, only to learn they were concretions, not fossils. Jacob and Ben scoured the ground and eventually found some nice specimens of cephalopods. They hit the jackpot when we discovered the first *bembexia* gastropods near the far end of the rockcut. Ben collected fortyseven of them, in various states of preservation, along with four other spiralshelled examples.

Our next trip was the much anticipated return to Herkimer Diamond Mines on April 18th. All three kids took eagerly to the field, which was more crowded than I've ever seen it. By scavenging through the broken rocks near the ledges, the



Jacob at Herkimer

boys were able to discover some very nice perfect crystals. Ellie, who last year dubbed herself the "calcite queen," found some lovely specimens of that mineral. Although she likes herks, the focus of her quest truly is calcite. Jacob discovered the greatest number of perfect gems he has found on any of the three diamond hunting trips he's been on. Ben, through his persistent focus, was able to collect many "tiny perfects," as we call them, and used one of them to create the ring he plans to give his future wife, even though he's just ten years old.

Collecting with kids isn't all fun. They get hot and tired far more quickly than adults do and are much more easily distracted. We deal with those field hazards by bringing plenty of snacks, drinks, and battery powered electronics (Nintendo DS games and iPads) so they can take breaks in the car. Collecting in accessible areas makes it easy to allow them to rest without the adults when they need to. At

Herkimer, we discovered that wandering around themuseum/shop inspired the kids to get back out in the field by reminding them of the possibilities. Sometimes just looking at what we've already found gives them the inspiration they need to keep trying.

Another way to keep young collectors happy is to trick them. Last year, on our first trilobite trip to Little Falls, Ben was becoming frustrated because he was not finding trilobites in the



black shale. I had *Jacob and Ben at Little Falls in front of Utica Shale* before and knew what to look for, so I suggested that Ben walk with me. Scanning the ground, I quickly located a partial trilobite in a rock and pretended to trip. He looked down and noticed the fossil. As soon as he found one, he started finding more. The same thing happened in Pompey. I had found a couple of *bembexia* and Ben was angry that he'd found none. Digging through the stones at the bottom of the hill, I placed my fossils where he would find them. After he did, he was off and running collecting on his own. I don't know why having one of what you're looking for leads to finding more, but it seems to work every time.

Collecting with kids is more fun than it is frustrating, although it certainly can be both. I've learned to take young collectors to places that I'm already familiar with so that I am not so intent on collecting that I get angry with kids for preventing me from looking. The main point of taking them is to introduce them to the hobby, to foster a love of and appreciation for the mineralogy and paleontology of our area. Seeing the natural world through their eyes is always a treat and their excitement at finding a great specimen is a joy all its own.

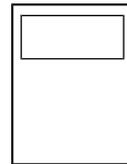


Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse
P.O. Box 2801
Syracuse, New York 13220

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May 2015

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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 2nd floor near Sears).

Visitors are ALWAYS welcome

Current 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.

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Meeting Refreshments (looking for volunteers!)