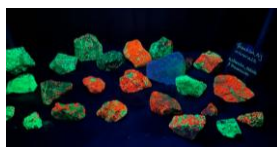


CRACK 'N CAB



Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse, Inc. PO Box 2801, Syracuse, NY
web: <https://www.gmss.club> Volume 56 Issue 8, Aug. 2026
209 Oswego St (Francesca's Plaza), Unit 15, Liverpool, NY

Wow! That was Quite a Show!



Attendance Up from 2025
Photos Pages 5 - 12

Special Post-Show Edition

Kids enjoyed the Minecraft theme!

See Photos Pages 7 & 8

Metaphysical Center – Page 9

Display Cases – Page 10

4 Grand Prize Winners - Pg 11

Learning Center Speakers – Page 11

See President's Message
And Our New Officers – Page 2



Our 75th Anniversary Celebration!
New Officers in 2008 – See Page 2

The Picnic & Polling; Eating & Election: Page 2, 13



Photos by Judy Cook

Don't forget that the Mineral & Fossil Contest is coming in September! So clean up those collected Minerals and Fossils. See contest rules on Page 3.

President's Message

Matt Klinger



Summer is here. I hope everyone gets a chance to get out and find some great specimens for your collection. I highly recommend getting some swimming in too, maybe a walk on the beach or scarfing enough ice cream to sink a battleship!!

I would like everyone to pat yourself on the back. Once again, because of you, the Show was a rousing success! It looks as though we will be able to stay in our current location another year. If you have any suggestions for next year, write them down and bring them to our next meeting in September.

The picnic was fun, with great food, skills taught by the Rock Doc, selling specimens and, last but not least, voting in next year's Officers (see the list below). Thank you all for your participation.

On a personal note I would like to thank everyone for making my time as your President a real Joy. I have enjoyed it all. Again, thank you.

Matthew Klinger
Club President

Our Slate of New Officers voted in at the Aug. 2nd (Picnic) meeting:

President: Kris Boronczyk

Vice President: Jeff Huard

Secretary: Teresa Arnold

Treasurer: Laura Coleman

Sgt. at Arms: John Sweeney

Terms start September 2026. Officers will be sworn in at the Sept. 21st meeting.

Happy 75th Anniversary!

The Gem and Mineral Society of Syracuse began March 2, 1951. Richard Sylvester, an employee of NY Central Railroad, was tired of taking the train to Rochester for mineral club meetings. He met with six Central New York people who were also interested in geology and rockhounding - the hobby of searching for gem and mineral specimens - and formed the Syracuse group. The first meetings were held in Lyman Hall at Syracuse University.

And speaking of new officers, here's a blast from the past.

Crack 'N Cab October 2008, Page 1



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.

October 2008 CRACK 'N CAB Page 2

President's Message

It is with great pleasure that I write my first article for our newsletter. Last month I was elected President and I am sincerely grateful for the opportunity to serve our club. I was warmly welcomed to our club from the first day I walked into the meeting in 2006. The interested and generous attitude of the members stuck with me after I left my first meeting. It keeps me coming back every month and for every event, I'm sure this is the reason that we continue to add members every month!

I am planning to help our club, with our new Vice President, Dick Lyons, expand to serve our increasing needs of its members and the community at large. I would like to increase education of our members by having more identification training at every meeting and some weekend seminars. With hard work and concentration, we will be able to find a building of our own for meetings and classes.

Our next regular meeting is Monday, October 20th at the First Presbyterian Church Rectory Hall, 620 West Genesee St. Syracuse, behind the church. The program begins at 7:30 with the business meeting. After that, we will have our annual auction our biggest fundraiser of the year!

We ask that everyone bring a canned or boxed food item to the October and November meetings for the local Food Pantry.

Our Christmas party will be at Drumlin's Restaurant on Sunday, December 7th. Please bring an unwrapped toy for the 61st Anniversary of Toys for Tots Program to the Christmas Brunch. We thank you for your generous

donations of past years!

We desperately need volunteers to help with our committees. Needed in particular are volunteers for the Newsletter, Membership, and Hospitality Committees. If you are interested in helping in any way, please see me and look for the sign up sheet at the meeting. If you haven't signed up to bring treats in 2009 please do so on the sign in sheet at the back table.

Club President
Carlotta Brown

Don't forget that the Mineral & Fossil Contest is coming up in September! So clean up those collected Minerals and Fossils. See contest rules right below.

Mineral & Fossil Contest Rules

- Members in good standing may enter specimens personally collected that have not been entered in a prior mineral contest of the Gem & Mineral Society of Syr. as well as specimens purchased. See Silver Pick rules below. **Limit one entry per category.**
- Divisions-. Senior Division - members 18 years of age and over Junior Division - members under 18 years of age.
- Categories: **Minerals:**
 - Cabinet specimens - 2x3" or larger
 - Thumbnails and miniatures - under 2x3"
 - Micro-minerals, mounted or not mounted, requiring magnification.
 - Suites - a group of specimens of any size from one location. (Micromounts excluded because of judging time limitations)**Fossils:** one specimen, any size
- Specimens may be mounted or not mounted, cleaned, trimmed, etc. to make them more attractive but may not be lacquered or otherwise coated (except fossils). Points in judging will be awarded by the following schedule:

	3A+3B	3C	3D	Fossils
<u>QUALITY</u>	<u>70</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>70</u>	<u>65</u>
<u>RARITY</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>LABELING</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>15</u>
ORIENTATION		10		
SHOWMANSHIP	10	10	10	10

Quality: freedom from damage; attractiveness, aesthetic appeal, luster.

Rarity: rareness, which increases a specimen's desirability as a species, locality, crystal form, etc.

Labeling: Minerals:

- Species (Fleisher's "Glossary of Mineral Species" is a suggested reference)
- Variety if appropriate
- Locality

Fossils:

- Phylum and class
- Locality, including geological period and rock formation if possible

Correct spelling is important. Do NOT put your name on the label.

Competitors are encouraged to provide a second label with information about the rarity or significance of the specimen.

Orientation: Competitors entering micro minerals are encouraged to include a microscope if possible. Otherwise, micros should be oriented to view from above.

- Prizes for self-collected entries: Awards will be based on point achievement only.

First Place - a blue ribbon for highest score with a minimum of 80 points.

Second Place - a red ribbon for second highest score with a minimum of 70 points.

Third Place - a yellow ribbon for third highest score with a minimum of 60 points.

In addition, all specimens scoring over 60 points will receive an honorable mention if a ribbon is not awarded.

7. Silver Pick (purchased specimen) Contest: For members who purchased their entry during the past year. Categories are the same as in #3 above. Judging and points will be the same, but no ribbons will be issued.

8. The club shall provide 2 qualified judges who will indicate, on a scorecard with each entry, the points awarded, and any helpful comments for the competitor's information (time permitting).

9. The contest may be entered by proxy.

Kip Perkins will be registering starting at 6:30 with judging to begin around 7:00. Once the judges are done, ribbons will be awarded. She will announce the winners, then club members will be able to see the specimens.

Geo Lexis (Puzzle) By Anne Fitzgerald

Editor's Note: Anne has announced that she is stepping away from doing the word puzzle for the newsletter.

Anne said, "It's not an easy decision; But it feels like the right moment to turn the page and **let someone else take a crack at the puzzle grid.** I'm sure there are probably members out there who have considered 'I could do that...' OR 'I could Do that!' "OK, *members, here's your chance. Let me know.*

The Marie Cole Lapidary Lab is open every **Thursday 6-9 pm**

Jamie Cary is the Assistant Supervisor
All grinding, polishing and 6-inch saws are available
The 10-inch saws will **NOT** be available for use.
\$7 fee for the use of the Lab.
Saturday hours are 1 - 4 pm

Upcoming Events

Sept 1 – GMSS Board meeting – 7 pm at the Clubhouse. All are invited, but especially new and old Board members.

SAT., Sept 19 – The Beading Group - 1-4 pm at the Clubhouse. All are invited. **See more information on Page 5.**

Sept 21 – GMSS meeting – 7 pm at the Clubhouse. Installation of new Officers (see Page 2). "Fluorescent Moment with Linda." **Mineral and Fossil Contest** judging.

Oct 6 – GMSS Board meeting – 7 pm at the Clubhouse. All are invited.

SAT., Oct 17 – The Beading Group - 1-4 pm at the Clubhouse. All are invited.

Oct 19 – GMSS meeting – 7 pm at the Clubhouse. "Fluorescent Moment with Linda." **Lapidary Contest** judging. Rules in Sept. Crack 'N Cab.

WED., Nov 4 – GMSS Board meeting – 7 pm at the Clubhouse. All are invited.

Nov 16 – GMSS meeting – 7 pm at the Clubhouse. Usually it's the Fall Auction.

SAT., Nov 21 – The Beading Group - 1-4 pm at the Clubhouse. All are invited.

Upcoming Summer/Fall Shows:

Aug 21-23—LEBANON, PA: Wholesale & retail show; Mid-Atlantic Gem & Mineral Association dba Gem Miner's Jubilee; Lebanon Valley Expo & Fairgrounds, 80 Rocherty Rd; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; \$6; children under 12 free; Discount coupon on website; demonstrations; outdoor section; free & handicapped parking; contact Tamie Simpson, (810) 919-4386; Email: eventcoordinator@gem-show.com; Website: www.gem-show.com

Aug 29-30—CANTON, NY: Annual show; St. Lawrence Rock & Mineral Club; Canton Pavilion, 90 Lincoln St; Sat. 9-4:30, Sun. 9-3; \$5, Kids 12 & Under Free; Add to your collection or browse beautiful handcrafted jewelry, mineral specimens, crystals, gems & fossils, too. Awesome fluorescent minerals tents; contact William deLorraine; Website: www.stlawrencecountymineralclub.org

Aug 29-30—FREEPORT, NY: Show; Kaleidoscope Gem Shows; Freeport Recreation Center, 130 E Merrick Rd; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4:30; \$6, Adults, Children under 12 free with adult; The show features dealers selling minerals, fossils, gems, jewelry, & beads. Come see the beautiful displays. Chat with the dealers about their items. Personally select the items you treasure. Fun for all ages; contact Evelyn Gose, (631) 271-8411; Email: evelyn_gose@kaleidoscopegemshows.com; Website: www.kaleidoscopegemshows.com

Sept 11-13—BOWLING GREEN, OH: Annual show; Toledo Gem & Rockhound Club; Wood County Fairground Pratt Pavilion, 13800 W Poe Rd; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; \$6 Adults, Children 12 & under & scouts in uniform Free; 30,000 sq ft of wonderful vendors offering jewelry, minerals, rocks, crystals, fossils, beads, & many related items from all over the world. The club also provides educational displays, lapidary demonstrations, children's activities, scholarship raffle & so much more; contact Jerri A Heer, (419) 344-9999; Email: jheerx6@aol.com; Website: www.rockyreader.com

Sept 12-13—NEW MILFORD, CT: Annual show; Danbury Mineralogical Society; New Milford High School, 388 Danbury Rd; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; \$5 per person, \$4 for seniors, kids under 12 & scouts in uniform free; contact Dan McAuliffe; Email: mstrmac29@comcast.net; Website: www.danburymineralogicalsociety.weebly.com

Sept 18-20—MIDDLEBURG HEIGHTS, OH: Annual show; Gemstreet USA; Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds, 19201 Bagley Rd; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-4; \$6, Kids 12 & under are free; Visit GemstreetUSA.com for a \$1 coupon. Plenty of free parking. Gem mining for all ages; contact Melanie Hawkins, (330) 861-3646; Email: foursistersproductions; Website: www.gemstreetusa.com

Sept 18-20—FISHERSVILLE, VA: Show & sale; Shenandoah Valley Gem & Mineral Society; The Augusta Expo,

277 Expo Rd; Fri. 2-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; \$5 adults; \$3 Seniors & Students; Under 12 & Scouts/military in uniform Free; Education wing with displays; information booths; contact Scott Gregory, (727) 542-9723; Email: sgregory357@hotmail.com; Website: https://www.shenandoahvalleyrockclub.org/annual_svgms_show.html

Sept 19-20—POUGHKEEPSIE, NY: Show & sale; Mid-Hudson Valley Gem & Mineral Society Inc; Gold's Gym & Family Sports Center, 258 Titusville Rd; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; \$6 General Admission; Children 12 & under free with adult; Over 30 vendors, geology displays, free rocks for kids, sluice rock find, lapidary demos, hourly prizes; contact Linda Wuest, (845) 626-7136; Email: garnet327@hvc.rr.com; Website: www.mhvgms.org

Sept 26-27—ALTAMONT, NY: Retail show; Earthly Treasures Expo; Altamont Fairgrounds, NY146 & Arlington St; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; Adult \$5, Children 12 & under free; Explore a massive selection of minerals & crystals, fossils, jewelry, geode cracking, UV-reactive & fluorescent minerals, polished stones, carvings, spheres & family-friendly activities; contact Amanda M; Email: info@earthlytreasuresexpo.com; Website: <https://www.earthlytreasuresexpo.com>

Sept 26-27—HARRISBURG, PA: Annual show; Central Pennsylvania Rock & Mineral Club; Zembo Shrine Auditorium, 2801 N. Third St; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; Admission is \$5 with a show card available online, \$6 without, 12 & under - free; Wide variety of minerals, beads, gems, fossils, & unique rocks. Enjoy the Wheel of Rocks, silent auction, dig for rocks & gems at the mini-mine & see "glowing" rocks in the fluorescent tent! There will be prize drawings & food/drink will be available for purchase; contact Brittany Fussell; Email: 22gneiss@gmail.com

Sept 26-27—WEST FRIENDSHIP, MD: Annual show; Gem Cutters Guild of Baltimore; Howard County Fairgrounds, 222210 Fairgrounds Rd; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; Adults \$6 (no advanced reservation required; tickets available at the door). Scouts in uniform & kids 12 & under admitted free; Discover a world of natural treasures at the Gem Cutters Guild of Baltimore's annual Gem, Mineral, Jewelry & Fossil Show! This family-friendly event features award-winning exhibits, unique shopping, educational displays, & hands-on fun for all ages; contact Kay Kron; Email: classes@gemcuttersguild.com; Website: https://www.gemcuttersguild.com/content.aspx?page_id=22&club_id=331066&module_id=573315

The Bead Group

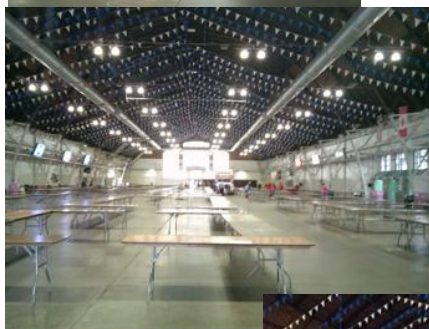
Our next meeting will be on **Saturday, August 22nd from 1:00 to 4:00** at the Clubhouse. It will cost \$5 each for use of the clubhouse. We will continue to work on setting cabochons using beads. Please contact Cheryl Brown at either 315-708-9122 (text) or gmsrocks@gmail.com if you are planning on coming. I will give you the materials list so you can bring your own supplies.

Welcome New Members

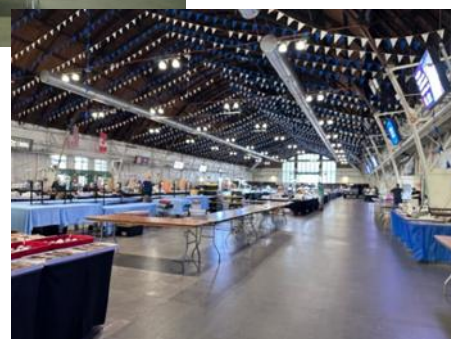
Veronica Borracci
Pat Herrick
Nancy Holtzmaster
Brielle Jodei
Zachary Johnson
Taylor Wolfe

Gemworld 2026 Show: *Our Diamond Jubilee!*

**Friday, July
 10th: Set-Up
 Day**



The Center
 of Progress
 Building
 goes from
 this...



..to this in just a couple of hours!

Then, the vendors get set up



These two look vaguely familiar



Saturday, July 11th: Let the Show Begin!



Trying to get a head?



A couple of gems!



The Youth Activities Center

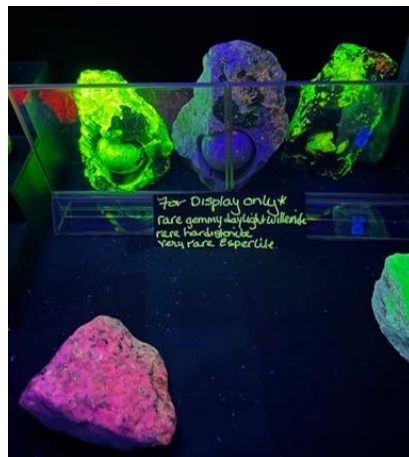


Minecraft was the name of the game

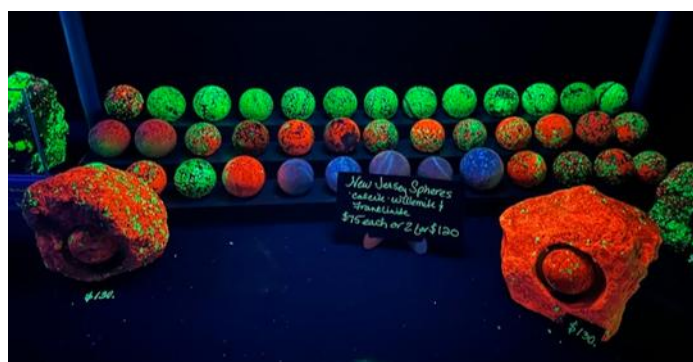


Photos (mostly) by Judy Cook

The sluice area was running over with activity



There was fun with fluorescents



Geode cutter Jeremy did a cracking good business!





Lots of good stuff to gawk at



The Metaphysical Center



And there were many well-done
and educational display cases



This one is in memory of "Malachite Man" Keith Gilmer



Learning Center Speakers

"There was a wonderful array of speakers in the Learning Center at the show. The speakers all gave excellent, well-researched presentations. Many thanks to William Peck, Stephen Mayer, Calvin Prothro, Dylan Arcaro and Danielle Thayer for adding this educational and inspiring aspect to the show." -Judy Cook



And the Winners Are ...

The Diamond - Rob H. from Seneca Falls
 The Quilt - Heather B. from Fairmount
 The Fluorite - Sharon H. from Minoa
 The Amethyst - Gigi Y. from Florida

And there were volunteers, too



Making sure only the *right* people enter



Those smiles aren't fooling Teresa



Working at the Club Booth and the Straw Draw



Dave "Rock Doc" Millis had his crafts ready



Then there was the Woman of the Weekend - our Show Chair, Cheryl Brown. Great job!

"Thank you one and all for helping to make this one of our most successful shows! All your hard work is much appreciated. **Next year will be the 60th anniversary of our show.** We will start planning in January on how to make this one special. In the meantime, put up your feet and have a well-deserved rest."



And Speaking of a well-deserved rest: Our Club picnic!

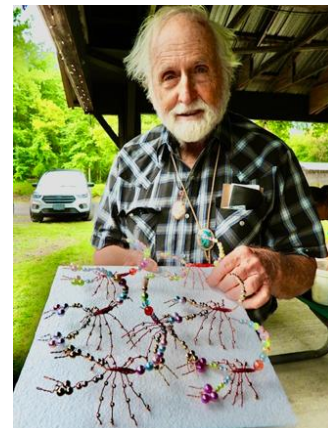
Sunday, Aug. 2nd at Erie Canal Park, Camillus



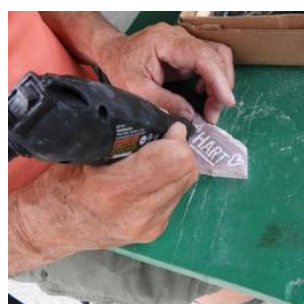
Halfway between here and there



It looks like John is giving instructions on what A-N and O-Z can eat!



Steve has his food, and Dave has his scorpion crafts



"It was a pretty decent turnout. Linda Clark had a sign-in notebook, not sure if everyone got around to signing in. The shelter made some brief rain inconsequential. It turned out pretty nice. Rock Doc did not bring the saw because of rain. People enjoyed etching. Also there was a dice game. And as always plenty of delicious food to choose from." – Chief Photographer, Judy Cook



Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse, Inc.
PO Box 2801
Syracuse, NY 13220
First Class Mail
Time-Dated Material



www.amfed.org www.amfed.org/efmls [Future Rockhounds](#)

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. Member interests include collecting, identification, and display of minerals, gems, fossils. Members share and develop their artistic skills in jewelry design and creation.

Our monthly meetings provide social and educational experiences. Field trips give collectors chances to find specimens and enjoy the out of doors, exercise and time with old and new friends.

Meetings – 3rd Monday of the month
General Meeting @ 7:00 pm
(NO meetings July, August, December)
209 Oswego St (Ponderosa Plaza) Unit 14 & 15, Liverpool, NY
Visitors are ALWAYS welcome!

See online Newsletter <https://gmss.club/crack-n-cab-newsletter>

You can also visit our Facebook Page

Annual Member Dues:

Adult \$15 – Family/Couple \$20 – Junior \$10 – Life \$5

If you would like to join or renew membership, download the application form (PDF) see <https://gmss.club/membership-info>

You can get a form at a meeting or send requests to: GMSS, PO Box 2801, Syracuse, NY 13220. We will mail an application/renewal form to you.

2025 – 2026 GMSS Officers/Contacts

-President: Matt Klinger pres@gmss.club

-Vice-President: Jeff Huard vp@gmss.club

-Treasurer: Linda Clark treasurer@gmss.club

-Secretary: Marie Mastracco
secretary@gmss.club

-Jr Rockhounds: Tracey Criscione
kidsrock@gmss.club

-Membership Chair: members@gmss.club

-Sgt at Arms: Kristin White
sqtatarms@gmss.club

-GemWorld Show Chair: Cheryl Brown
315-708-9122 show@gmss.club

-Interim Club Librarian: Amanda Lytle
library@gmss.club

-Lapidary Committee Contact: Steve Shorey
lapidary@gmss.club

-Newsletter: Larry Petry 315-472-9226
editorgmss@gmail.com

-Facebook: Judy Cook
socialmedia@gmss.club

-Website: Amanda Lytle
webmaster@gmss.club

-Photographer Extraordinaire: Judy Cook
-Hospitality Committee Chair: Doria McIntosh
315-471-1340 hospitality@gmss.club