

CRACK 'N CAB



Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse, PO Box 2801, Syracuse, NY
web: <https://www.gmss.club> Volume 56 Issue 2, Feb. 2026
209 Oswego St (Francesca's Plaza), Unit 15, Liverpool, NY

February 16 Club Meeting

Mohs Hardness Scale			
	Mineral Name	Scale Number	Common Object
↑ Increasing Hardness	Diamond	10	
	Corundum	9	Masonry Drill Bit (8.5)
	Topaz	8	
	Quartz	7	Steel Nail (6.5)
	Orthoclase	6	Knife/Glass Plate (5.5)
	Apatite	5	
	Fluorite	4	Copper Penny (3.5)
	Calcite	3	
	Gypsum	2	Fingernail (2.5)
	Talc	1	

“Mineral Identification”

Jeff Huard & John Sweeney - 7 pm

Going back to some of the basics!

See what to bring with you! - Page 2,5

At 6:30 pm – The Knowledge Corner:

“The Uniqueness of Quartz” in 15 minutes

Junior Rockhounds Meet at 6:30 pm

Making 3-D Printed Dinosaurs!

Let's Get This Gemworld Show on the Road!



See who's talking at the Learning Center - See Page 11

Gem and Mineral Society of Syracuse
59th Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil and Jewelry Show
Center of Progress Building, NYS Fairgrounds,
581 State Fair Blvd., Syracuse, NY

Red Garnet White Herkimer Diamond Blue Calcite

Saturday, July 11, 2026 10am – 6pm
Sunday, July 12, 2026 10am – 4pm

\$8.00 per person
Children under 12 with an adult get in free
(cash only at the door)

Minerals – Fossils
Crystals – Jewelry
Demonstrations
Lectures
Metaphysical Practitioners
Geode Cracking
Youth Area with a sludge and lots of activities

www.gmss.club
www.facebook.com/gemandmineralsyr/

Our 75th Anniversary Celebrations! GMSS Members Remembered Pages 3-4 The Decade of the 1950s – Page 4



“Dinosaur Story” Impressions – Pages 9 – 10

The Selenite Story -

See Page 7 and 8

Photo by Judy Cook



President's Message

Matt Klinger



With the advent of the new year, our 75th, lots of opportunities to serve our club arise. We need a whole new slate of officers, committees are forming, field trip leaders will be needed, and so on. Do not be afraid to step up and take on the

mantle of leadership. Our club has a lot of people with years of experience that will step up and help you. If you are approached by one of the Nominating Committee, please hear what they have to say.

Please remember to bring [to the Feb. meeting] a specimen from your collection to place in a grab bag. These bags will be given away at our 75th Anniversary Party [at the March meeting]. As always, if you have any questions feel free to contact me.

Clean your tools folks, we're one month closer to digging season!!

Matt

Secretary's Report

Marie Mastracco

GMSS Board Meeting – Feb. 3, 2026

President Matt Klinger called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM Larry Petry acted as secretary in Marie's absence.

President, Matt Klinger

NOTICE: If committee chairpersons are not going to be at the Board Meeting, they have to submit email reports.

Matt will send an email about possible library meetings to Jen Hilliard, Education Committee.

Vice President: Jeff Huard

Feb. program will be "Mineral ID" with John Sweeney. Dave Millis will do Knowledge Corner on Quartz. Suggestions were given for future programs.

Field Trips: Dave Arcaro will be arranging.

Sgt. At Arms, Kristin White - no report

Treasurer, Linda Clark:

EFMLS: paid dues, insurance, Scholarship Fund.

National Grid: issue solved – new meter didn't work. Sending 3-month bill for meeting side.

Update on finances:

- Provided Dec. income and expenditure figures.

IRS: Linda is actively working on our taxes.

NYS Insurance Fund: sent estimate bill for 22-23; Linda resending forms to fix.

Secretary, Marie Mastracco: Absent

Newsletter, Larry Petry:

- Information for Crack N Cab is due Wed., Feb. 4, by 11:00 PM.

Webmaster & interim Librarian, Amanda Lytle: Absent

Facebook Administrator, Judy Cook:

Posted MOST free for seniors on Fridays.

Gem World Show Chair, Cheryl Brown:

- Next meeting is February 24, 2026, at 7:00 PM.

- Got committees set.

- Display cases – Jeff Huard will do; Keith Gilmer will help (from home) but not coordinate.

Lapidary Committee: Steve Shorey, Bill Verge'

- January classes low due to the weather.

- Lapidary Equipment: the machine is on its way.

Tracy Criscione, Jr. Rockhound Committee: Absent

Membership Committee, Cheryl Brown no report

Jill Hillard, Education Committee: Absent

Other Business:

Discussed doing something special for our 75th Anniversary at the March meeting. Cheryl Brown will order a sheet cake. Matt will call Jamie to see about possibly getting pizza donated. Judy will bring soda. Members are asked to bring in a specimen to the **Feb. meeting** to donate for grab bags in March.

John Sweeney made the Motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Cheryl Brown. Meeting adjourned by Matt Klinger at 7:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Petry, Acting Secretary

BAG O' BOOKS
Sale
Bundled-Up Themes
Mystery Grab Packs
\$5 Each!
 AT THE CLUBHOUSE
 SATURDAYS-LAPIDARY HOURS
 All Thru January
 'til Gone!
 SALES WILL HELP FUND BOARD GAMES
 FOR CLUB SOCIAL GATHERINGS!

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.

OUR FOUNDER



Richard L. Sylvester



Richard Sylvester at rest (left). Sunday, Oct. 12, 1952, Eastern Federation field trip to Buckwheat dump (below, left), Trotter's Mine

(below, right) Franklin, NJ. Club Archives



<https://www.franklinmineralmuseum.org/activities/>

<https://www.mindat.org/loc-3960.html>

GMSS members who have touched my life or I've been told about

By Bob Livingston, Past President

This March will be exactly the beginning of our Diamond Jubilee year since the club started by Richard Sylvester was born.

Elizabeth Henes, Liverpool, and **John Davis**, whom many of us knew, were early Life members. John was a big-time mineral collector and a batch of his minerals are in the NYS Museum in Albany. Over several years I had the pleasure of collecting with John and we were in Canada the 1997 Labor Day weekend Princess

Di was killed in an auto accident. There is a case of John's minerals in our clubhouse. I did not know member **Henry Les** but he was outstanding in precise stone cutting to create small lapidary pictures and his amazing work was featured in *Lapidary Journal* articles back in the early 1970s. His wife, **Carolyn**, also a later club president, took over their jewelry and supplies

business mid-70s. Sterling silver was about \$7 per ounce and they sold a lot of it back then. (\$75 today makes it tough.) She worked hard to build an award collection of Wulfenites which she displayed in competition at many Federation shows in the 90s.

Next comes to mind a good friend, **Dick Stimer** who was one of a couple members who envisioned and started our annual club show. In the 1970s they were held annually at Mondale's auction house in Nedrow. Only about 20 or less dealers. Stimer used to hand pick and load north country minerals into his poor station wagon and bring back here to sell. He also used to stop and go underground in Pitcher, OK and haul home a sagging van of Galena minerals to retail and wholesale. Dick and I spent scores of hours chatting about our hobby at his kitchen table. He had ideas galore. I really miss Dick. But back then in Nedrow, the club ladies **Marian Springs** and **Eula Bethard** were known as Happy Cookers and they sold hot dogs, burgers and refreshments at our show for extra \$ for the club treasury. **George Springs**, husband of Marian, was club newsletter editor for many years in 70s and into the 80s. Back then the club had a balky printing machine, and so hubby and wife had to print the issue, staple and fold it; put stamps and affix labels and mail same. That was some ordeal I heard.

Having gotten hooked on this hobby at a BOCES class in the mid-70s, my first attending a show was 1979. And there I met **Harry** and **Irene Perkins**. Both became presidents of GMSS and were lifetime members. They did excellent hand-fashioned jewelry and were dealers in GemWorld. (I recall being fascinated with a lady, sorry I forgot her name, who polished opals back then on a slow rotating wooden spool.) The Perkins' later paired to cut/ polish from rough rock a Squash Blossom necklace that was so impressive *Rock and Gem* featured it as a cover story in the 90s. Harry, H&I Rocks club dealer, was big time in the dealer/ table set up of our annual show and that role has passed on to their daughter **Kip** whom we all know is active in club doings, and **Dick Lyons**. Dick as we know wears many hats, past president, dealer chair, creator of final program floorplan, supplier of petrified wood, St. Lawrence club interface.

Member **Art Grant**, world renown gemstone faceter was a dealer in GemWorld who put in many eye-popping cases of his crowning touches. **Paul Dunning** was a active member who was instrumental in getting the protective Insurance needed by clubs that has been offered by Eastern Federation for 40 some years. Paul became president of Eastern Federation. Engineer **Tom Smith** from Rochester was an active member (had a job weekdays in Syracuse) and was outspoken treasurer and president. Oh, and **Jim** and **Marion Wheaton** were club members from Williamson out in Wayne County. Jim had

unbelievable energy to really swing a sledge and that got him literally tons of self-collected minerals from Herkimer, quarries out east of Rochester as well as up North in St. Lawrence County. For about twenty years they would sit at the table to sell GemWorld tickets and announce hour-after-hour at our

show till bad health caught up to them. Over the years GMSS has been blessed with many "doers."

I can't forget **Gene Ridall** who was a dealer in our show, and I bought my first mineral, from India, from him. Gene was President twice and was show dealer chair for over a decade. He was arm twister for officer candidates each May. Many of us remember talker Gene, and a case of his minerals is in our meeting room for you to view. Right here I will highlight two teachers - **Cathy Patterson** and **Tim Hart**. Both gave talks willingly to groups like schools and libraries. Tim is hooked on Herks and over the years on his own or leading field trips unearthed some beauties which he showed or offered in

our auction. BTW, over the years the club auctions have been widely attended and put some \$ in the club's coffers. Cathy and **Loren** have over the years been active members with he being newsletter editor winning neat awards over many years. She was secretary officer in club and Eastern and most recently as GMSS VP. Loren was Eastern Federation president. Cathy ran the club booth for many years and created a manual of various jobs necessary to pull off our annual show. **Dave Zobkiw** was a good friend who had a unique way of handling GemWorld - he would knock himself out for truck loading and unloading with cold sodas and case setups. Then he always paid for a GemWorld ticket and bought scores of nice minerals many of which after years of enjoyment have been given/ sold to NYS museum in Albany.

Bill and **Margaret Norris** were long-time members of the club who together created nice jewelry pieces to sell as dealers in our show. Margaret was president, Bill was newsletter editor as well as treasurer for many years. Like no one else, Bill was a stickler for Robert's Rules and could stir up members, but he meant well with his suggestions. Then there was **Fred** and **Carolyn Rhue**. He got hold of scores of mineral collecting sites in the East. If he was not leading a trip he was go to guy for maps/ directions. He too was newsletter editor and printer for several years. **Jim Meier** and wife **Debbie** were GemWorld dealers. For many years, he before Dick, had a program that would churn out show floorplans. **Richie** is their son and also GemWorld dealer now. And we can never forget **Florence Ribas** and all her Friday show food planning, setup of sandwiches, salads and drinks, followed by ordering and controlling a feeding frenzy of some 18 large pizzas at Sunday show close.

Many of us knew **Lou Budell** was a man with many hats. He was mineral collector from Arkansas to New England and St. Lawrence County. Add to that fact, Lou was an excellent gemstone carver and he enthusiastically wore many on his chest. Lou was largely instrumental in show dealer location and set-up. Two more hats -- he served many years as GMSS treasurer plus treasurer of

Eastern Federation at the same time. Another kingpin for a short time before moving to Virginia was **Carl Miller**. I lost a bet to Carl proving on several occasions that he solely alone, I kid you not, could do the tracking and accounting and same night payment (everything) without a hitch at the club auctions. Amazing.

I will end here with **Jim Baldini** who moved here from New Jersey and rose to be GMSS president. He remains the only president we lost while he was head of GMSS. Too bad, as Jim had a lot of ideas he wanted to implement. Every winter during Tucson Shows he and several buddies would search the deserts for micro mineral materials which they trimmed in messy hotel room, and he brought back East by the thousands.

My apologies to folks I have missed that were more memorable in your case. Simply put – it gives you an opportunity to talk about them in the next few months herein as well. As my contribution to the history files, I will continue this with about the same length starting with two PhDs next month.

It will be our actual anniversary month.

(September 2001 Crack N Cab)

Syracuse Club History - By Bob Livingston

Decade of the 1950s

The Formative Years - The Syracuse Club was organized March 2, 1951 with 8 persons present at the first meeting in Lyman Hall at Syracuse University. The first two officers were: President, Richard L. Sylvester, and Secretary, Guenever Pendray. Interestingly, Richard Sylvester, an employee of the New York Central Railroad, used his railroad pass to travel regularly to mineral meetings at the Rochester Mineral Club. After a while, tiring somewhat of this monthly trek, Sylvester planted the seeds to begin a club in Syracuse.

The club name chosen at the first meeting was "Syracuse Mineral Club". Dues in the beginning were \$1 per year. The first program of the new club used slides and was entitled "The Syracuse Mineral and Gem Collection", by Dr. Chute of Syracuse University. Sixteen people attended the club's first field trip in June 1951, at Jamesville Quarry. Between June and October 1951 there were six more organized field trips to Chittenango Falls, Split Rock, Clintonville, Perryville Stone Quarry, and Gouverneur, NY. In 1952, a series of talks, "Know Your Minerals" was presented by Dr. Chute. The first anniversary celebration included 22 people enjoying ice cream & cookies. In 1952 the club paid \$5 to join the Eastern Federation plus 10c per member. Prizes were donated and many wonderful picnics were held at member's homes. Presidents this decade were: R. Sylvester, G. Henes, J. Raleigh, W. White, W. Addis, S. Torpey, D. Pudney, and D. Barron.

Geo Lexis (Puzzle) By Anne Fitzgerald

"Finding Time For Fossils"

It's easy to think of Paleontology as a modern science. We assume our hunter-gatherer ancestors were so busy hunting and gathering they had no time to stop and smell the mosasaurs. (Mosasaurs are a group of marine reptiles that would have lived in the Cretaceous Period.)



Thomas Miller (c) / Badlands Natural History Association

The appreciation of fossils, however, goes way back in time for the world, and way back in our country's history.

Adrienne Mayor in her books like The First Fossil Hunters explores theories about the connections between found fossils and their confirmation to ancient people of mythological figures. While not everyone agrees with her theories, these theories do open our minds to more questions. (Was Thor really a dinosaur?)



One of the more recent and well-documented finds took place in 1725 when enslaved workers were digging in the Stono River in South Carolina and found a tooth which undoubtedly made them miss the country they came from. That tooth looked like an African elephant tooth but turned out to be the tooth of a woolly mammoth. Similar teeth, dug up by enslaved people in Virginia, were given to Thomas Jefferson, inspiring him to send Lewis and Clark to look for living animals to match the teeth way before dental x-rays were invented. Benjamin Franklin and George Washington were also interested in fossils despite all the other important stuff they had going on in their lives.

Even more recently, in 1930, Bertha Parker Pallan Cody, a Native American archaeologist, found a giant sloth skull in a cave with ancient human tools which proved that humans and giant sloths lived together at the same time (way before 1930 and maybe not in harmony.)



playbookpro.ru

While Bertha may have had a busy life, that particular day of fossil-finding was well worth the effort to the rest of us.

So if you think you have no time for fossils, think again.

If you prefer not to think about fossils, maybe you would like to try a mostly unrelated puzzle.

Puzzle: How well did you read, and can you remember these highlights from our January issue? No peeking (except for me, only so I could ensure accuracy of the answers). Answers are on Page 7.

Who went "undercover" at our holiday party?
Who read "The Night Before Christmas" at our holiday party?
What animal has no trouble stalking and attacking clams?
How much will a "bag of books" cost you?
Can you name the museum that was recently saved financially?

Beginning Thursday

January 8, 2026

The Marie Cole Lab will be open

Every Thursday

6 pm to 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 pm to 4 pm

Upcoming Events

Feb 16 – GMSS meeting – 7 pm at the Clubhouse. "Mineral ID" by Jeff Huard and John Sweeney. **Please remember to bring [to the Feb. meeting] a specimen from your vast collection to place in a grab bag. These bags will be given away at our 75th Anniversary Party [at**

the March meeting]. The 6:30 pm 15-minute Knowledge Corner talk by Dave Millis will be about the uniqueness of quartz when compared to all other minerals will be explained. More than 20 kinds of quartz. Also, talk will cover other high-temperature quartzes. If time permits, he will also describe left- and right-handed quartz crystals. If you have complete or nearly complete quartz crystals that you would like to know if they are left- or right-handed, however they must be doubly terminated and about an 1" or larger. Not all crystals can be identified but most Herkimer Diamonds can be.

Junior Rockhounds at 6:30 pm - I will be bringing 3d printed dinosaurs to put together and talking about dinosaurs. - Tracey

SAT., Feb 21 – The Beading Group – 1-4 pm at the Clubhouse. All are invited. **See more information on Page 7.**

Feb 24 – Gemworld 2026 Show Committee meeting – 7 pm at the Clubhouse.

Mar 3 – GMSS Board meeting – 7 pm at the Clubhouse. All are invited.

Mar 16 – GMSS meeting – 7 pm at the Clubhouse. **75th Anniversary Celebration! Pizza, cake, grab bag, mores.**

Mar 24 – Gemworld 2026 Show Committee meeting – 7 pm at the Clubhouse.

Upcoming Spring Shows:

Mar 7-8—MERIDEN, CT: Annual show; The Lapidary & Mineral Society of Conrol CT; Maloney High School, Gravel St; Sat. 9:30-5, Sun. 10-4; \$5 adults, children under 12 are free; Minerals, Gemstones, Fossils, Crystals, Jewelry, Exhibits, & much more. Wholesale dealer on site; contact John Kringel; Website: www.LMSCC.org

Mar 7-8—WILMINGTON, DE: Annual show; Delaware Mineralogical Society, Inc; DoubleTree by Hilton, 4727 Concord Pike (Rt-202); Sat. 10-5, Sun. 11-5; Seniors (60+) \$6, Adults (18 - 59) \$7 (\$5 with coupon), Juniors (12 – 17) \$4, Scouts in uniform & children under 12 free when accompanied by a paying adult. Tickets only sold at the door; 62nd Annual Earth Science Gem & Mineral Show Family Friendly: educational exhibits of mineral, lapidary & fossil specimens; a roster of fine dealers of minerals, fossils, gems, jewelry & lapidary supplies, & a children's area, where youngsters may purchase inexpensive minerals & fossils; contact Dianne Soccio; Email: dmsrocksshowchair@gmail.com; Website: www.DMSrocks.org

Mar 13-14—RICHBORO, PA: Annual show; Leidy Microscopic Society; Advent Lutheran Church, 45 Worthington Mill Rd; Fri. 12-6, Sat. 9-6; Visitor's Fee (no table): \$5, Friday & \$10, Saturday (includes lunch), Table space (for 2 days): \$30, (half) & \$45, (full table, 6ft); Speaker/presentation on each day; contact Donald McAlarnen, (610) 247-5097; Email:

donmcalarnen@outlook.com; Website: <https://leidymicroscopical.com>

Mar. 14-15—HAMBURG, NY: "Ancient Life of New York" is being featured at the **Buffalo Geological Society's** 56th Annual Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show on March 14-15, 2026, **at the Erie County Fairgrounds** in the Grange, Market Place & New York State Police Buildings in Hamburg, NY, on Saturday, 9 am-6 pm, March 14, 2026, & Sunday, 10 am-5 pm, March 15, 2026. Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, students, teachers, the public, Charter School students & faculty, & rockhounds are welcome. More than 33 dealers selling gems, beads, minerals, fossils, & jewelry, selling their items from around the world. Sat. 11 am – "Fluorescent Minerals of Northern NYS" by Dino Zack; Sun. 1pm – "Back to the Moon: Lunar Geology and the Artemis II Misson" by Dr. Kevin Williams. A food vendor will be available. Adults are \$7 each, scouts in uniform & children under 12 are FREE. A 2-day admission for \$10 each is also available. Door prizes are drawn hourly. FREE parking. Wheelchair & stroller accessible. For any additional information or questions, please contact Jerry Bastedo, Show Chairman, at jcbastedo@gmail.com. <https://www.bgsny.org/annual-show>

Mar 14-15—NEW YORK, NY: Wholesale & retail show; New York Gems Jewelry & Mineral Show; Metropolitan Pavilion, 123 West 18th St; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; \$15 for Saturday & Sunday; The oldest Gem, jewelry & Mineral Show in New York City. Lots of your favorite dealers. Retail & wholesale dealers. Hourly door prizes. Sponsored by the New York Mineralogical Club; contact Mohamed Bary, (347) 247-6568; Email: barygems@gmail.com; Website: barygems.com

Mar 21-22—GAITHERSBURG, MD: Annual show; Gem, Lapidary & Mineral Society of Montgomery County; Montgomery County Fairgrounds, 16 Chestnut St, Building #6; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-4; \$7 Ages 12 & older, ages 11 & under free; Enjoy hands-on demonstrations & free specimens for the kids. Young explorers will love the free Mini Mine, & everyone can try their luck with door prizes & a raffle. Don't miss the fluorescent mineral room with its glowing specimens. 20+ vendors & 30+ exhibits. Free parking; contact Holly Heighes; Email: info@glmsmc.com; Website: www.glmsmc.com

Mar 28-29—PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA: Annual show; Philadelphia Mineralogical Society & Delaware Valley Paleontological Society; Lu Lu Temple, 5140 Butler Pike; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; Adults: \$7, Kids under 12: 2 Scouts in uniform free; contact Douglas M Klieger, (610) 316-80; Email: dklieger@verizon.net; Website: www.phillyrocks.org

Mar 28-29—CANTON, OH: Annual show; Stark County Gem & Mineral Club; Stark County Fairgrounds, 305 Wertz Ave, Arts Building; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-5; Cash only. Adults \$5, Seniors \$4, Children 6-14 \$1, Scouts in uniform Free; Exhibits of fossils, minerals, & fluorescent rocks. Kids' activities (Games, Silent Auction, & Door Prizes). Geode cracker. Adult Silent Auction & Door Prizes. Vendors of rocks, fluorescent rocks, minerals & fossil specimens, beads, handmade jewelry, & novelties. Food truck with great food; contact Terrie Shockling, (609) 505-0060; Email: terrieA@snip.net; Website: Facebook: Stark County Ohio Gem & Mineral Club

Answers to Geo Lexis

The Marine

John Sweeney

the walrus

\$5

The Paleontological Research Institution
(Better known as the Museum of the Earth
because the real name is so hard to pronounce.)

Sources and further reading:

<https://www.brown.edu/news/2024-09-23/fossils>

<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/fossils/pre-1492-ad-fossils-native-people.htm> History of Paleontology in the National Park Service—Santucci, V. L. (page 2 of 9)

<http://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-024-02027-y> Craig Howe and Lukas Rieppel June 18, 2024

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/the-first-fossil-finders-in-north-america-were-enslaved-and-indigenous-people-180981615/> Christian Elliott 2/22/2023

https://www.siarchives.si.edu/collections/auth_per_fbr_eacp22_4

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_paleontology_in_the_United_States

<https://science.howstuffworks.com/dictionary/famous-scientists/physicists/native-american-scientists.htm> 8 Native American Scientists You Should Know. By: Dave Roos | Updated: Apr 16, 2024

<https://www.museumoftheearth.org/daring-to-dig/bio/chin>
Karen Chin

The Reconstituted Bead Group

We are bringing back the **GMSS Bead Group** after several years' absence. We had so much fun doing bead embroidery that we decided to keep it going.

Our meeting will be on Saturday, February 21st from 1:00 to 4:00 at the Clubhouse. It will cost \$5.00 each for use of the clubhouse.

Please **contact Cheryl Brown** at either gmsrocks@gmail.com or 315-708-9122 (text) if you are planning on coming. I will give you the materials list so you can bring your own supplies, or you can get a kit there for a nominal fee.

Show Committee

Our next Show Committee meeting will be **Tuesday, February 24 at 7:00** at the clubhouse. Come find out about our July *GemWorld* show and how you can get involved. **All able-bodied club members who live within 50 miles of the clubhouse are expected to work at the show as a condition of membership.** There is a job for everyone! This is the fundraiser which supports our club and enables us to maintain our clubhouse.

January 19, 2026 Club Meeting

Photos by Judy Cook

Knowledge Corner: Dave Millis

The Selenite Story. Spoiler Alert: It's really gypsum (the plasterboard and drywall stuff)!

It's composed of calcium sulfate dihydrate (contains two water molecules), rates a soft 2 on the Mohs Hardness scale, and is characterized by its transparent to translucent appearance, vitreous luster, with well-formed, often tabular or bladed monoclinic crystals. It is soluble in water.

It is primarily associated with evaporite deposits, formed through the evaporation of saline water in arid environments.

It can be found in mines, caves or desert environments. Famous locations include the Naica Mine in Chihuahua, Mexico; the Wieliczka Salt Mine in Poland; White Sands National Monument in New Mexico; and some areas around Syracuse.

The name is derived from the Greek word for "moon" because of its pearly, moon-like luster. Other varieties include Satin Spar, Desert Rose, Gypsum Flower, Selenite Rosettes, Alabaster, and Fishtail Selenite.



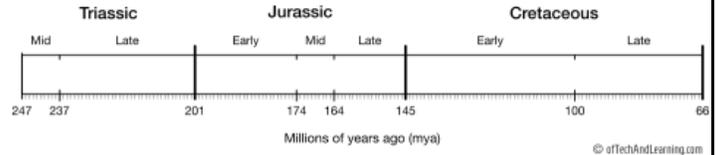
Program: "The Story of Dinosaurs"

It only took Dave an hour to tell. but it covered a lot of time. A supposition story.



The Fayetteville, NY selenite samples donated by Judy Cook.

The Age of Dinosaurs in the Mesozoic Era



The scale begins at the beginning of the middle Triassic period, 247 million years ago (mya). This is just before the first dinosaur, *Nyasasaurus*, appeared about 243 mya. The other side of the scale is the K-T boundary, the end of the Cretaceous period 66 mya when the dinosaurs (and many other species) became extinct.

The Devonian Period began around 419 million years ago and ended 358 million years ago. This period was characterized by the rapid evolution and diversification of land-based plants and animals. Scientists suggest that the first tetrapods that inhabited the land were amphibians, and the first arthropods that colonized the land were wingless insects and arachnids. Vegetation was just beginning to grow on land, and the soil had a reddish color.

The Permian Period ended with the second and most destructive mass extinction, known as the Permian-Triassic Extinction ("the Great Dying"), eliminating about 96% of marine and 70% of land species.

The Mesozoic Era ("Age of the Dinosaurs") saw the development of dinosaurs ("terrible lizards"), marine reptiles, fish, mammals and flying animals.

Triassic Period

Initial appearance of dinosaurs (Archosaurs – "ruling lizards") late in the period diversified into pterosaurs, crocodiles; typically small, bipedal carnivores; "lizard-hipped" versus "bird-hipped". Rise of early marine reptiles. Evolution of therapsids ("mammal-like reptiles") into the first true mammals. *Lystroraurus* ("shovel lizard") survived the Permian-Triassic extinction event; had only two tusk-like teeth and bird-like beak. Earth was the supercontinent Pangea.

Jurassic Period

Pangea break into Laurasia (north) and Gondwana (south). Age of Reptiles "Golden age" of dinosaurs; giant herbivore sauropods – Brachiosaurus and Diplodocus – were prominent, large carnivorous theropods –

Allosaurus, Ceratosaurus, Megalosaurus. Emergence of pterosaurs – Pterodactylus, Dimorphodon; feathered bird-like Archaeopteryx. Ocean dwellers – ichthyosaurs (“fish lizards”), plesiosaurs, pliosaurs.

Cretaceous Period

Landmasses close to present-day positions. Appearance of diverse flowering plants. Many well-known dinosaurs reached maximum diversity and dominated – Tyrannosaurus Rex, Triceratops, Velociraptor. Sauropods reached greater sizes and heights. *Spinosaurus* (“irritator”) was the largest carnivorous dinosaur. Flying reptiles – pterosaurs, Quetzalcoatlus; large marine reptiles – plesiosaurs and mosasaurs.

The Great Extinction

The Mesozoic Era ended with the Cretaceous-Paleogene extinction event, caused extinction of all non-avian dinosaur groups. Meteor impact on the Yucatan Peninsula raised huge dust clouds, also large amount of volcanic activity in India area. Resulted in the extinction of about 75% of all species on Earth.



The “wrong” stegosaurus in Scranton. Everhart-museum.org

And remember, “It’s just a story.”

New dinosaur fossils found during parking lot construction at Dinosaur National Monument

As of now, scientists believe the fossils belong to **Diplodocus**, a large, long-necked dinosaur.

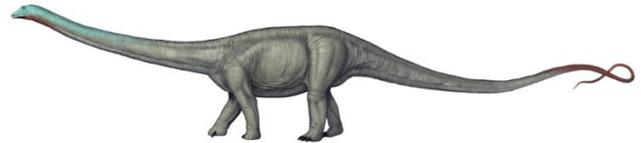
By: Stephanie Butzer Posted 11:43 PM, Jan 19, 2026
and last updated 9:00 AM, Jan 20, 2026

DINOSAUR, Colo. — Dinosaur National Monument continues to live up to its name and storied history with the discovery of new dinosaur fossils.

The National Park Service (NPS) reported on Jan. 16 that recent parking lot construction near the monument’s Quarry Exhibit Hall revealed dinosaur fossils — the first fossil excavations since 1924 at that spot.



Dinosaur National Monument staff work on excavated dinosaur fossils in the Quarry Exhibit Hall Parking Lot. NPS/ReBecca Hunt-Foster



Diplodocus longus NPS / Bob Walters and Tess Kissinger

<https://www.denver7.com/news/environment/new-dinosaur-fossils-found-during-parking-lot-construction-at-dinosaur-national-monument>

And in Other Dinosaur News

Discovery of *Lystrosaurus* and a scientific revolution • Museum of Northern Arizona

By David D. Gillette, Colbert Curator of Vertebrate Paleontology, Museum of Northern Arizona
Published Nov 30, 2018 in the Arizona Daily Sun

In December of 1967, New Zealand geologists mapping 240-million-year-old Triassic rocks in the desolate interior of Antarctica stumbled upon some fragmentary bones. A few months later they brought the fragments to paleontologist Edwin H. Colbert for identification.

Colbert recognized the bones as an extinct labyrinthodont amphibian **Lystrosaurus**, so named for details in their characteristic teeth. Like modern frogs and salamanders, these distant relatives from the Permian



Lystrosaurus statue by Margaret Colbert
Courtesy of the Colbert Library Trust

and Triassic Periods could never have swum across the cold, salty water of the Antarctic Sea from other southern continents, nor survived the frozen

landscape of Antarctica. Colbert and other paleontologists had struggled with the new ideas of drifting continents, but he knew instantly this discovery would be a decisive, paleontological blow to the long-held theory of fixed continents. He and two New Zealand paleontologists published an article in *Science* the following year entitled "Triassic Amphibian from Antarctica." The paper drew immediate attention, including from the Office of Polar Studies at the National Science Foundation.

<https://musnaz.org/about/press-room/science-saturday-lystrosaurus/>

And as they say, the rest is history (making)

Scientists solve the mystery of Europe's missing dinosaurs. Spoiler alert! They were never actually missing

by Paul Arnold, Phys.org edited by Gaby Clark, reviewed by Robert Egan January 8, 2026

Ceratopsians were horned, beaked dinosaurs that once stomped their way all over North America and Asia during the Late Cretaceous period, about 80 million years ago. Their abundance in the fossil records of these continents, which were connected by land bridges and island chains near Europe (an island archipelago at the time), suggests they should also have roamed the European continent. However, only a small handful of possible ceratopsian bones had ever been found, and even these were disputed due to poor preservation and anatomical similarities to other dinosaurs. So, where did they go? Had they simply vanished or never actually set foot in Europe?



Life reconstruction of *Ajkaceratops kozmai*.
Credit: *Nature* (2026). DOI: 10.1038/s41586-025-09897-w

According to new research published in the journal *Nature*, they were not absent, but here all the time. The problem was that paleontologists had misidentified them as a completely different group of dinosaurs.

<https://phys.org/news/2026-01-scientists-mystery-europe-dinosaurs-spoiler.html>

Ooops!

Ammonites survived asteroid impact that killed off dinosaurs, new evidence suggests

by Paul Arnold, Phys.org edited by Lisa Lock, reviewed by Robert Egan January 7, 2026

In the aftermath of the giant asteroid that crashed into the Yucatan Peninsula about 66 million years ago, approximately 75% of all species on Earth were wiped out, including the dinosaurs. Among those thought to have perished at this K-Pg (Cretaceous-Paleogene)

boundary were the **ammonites**. These were coiled-shelled mollusks with long tentacles related to modern octopuses and squids, and they are known today for their distinctive spiral-shaped fossils.

However, a new study published in *Scientific Reports* suggests that these marine creatures survived the initial mass extinction event.

If these findings are correct, they solve one mystery but leave us with another. Previous research has suggested that some ammonite populations may have hung on for up to 68,000 years after the asteroid crashed into the planet. So if the impact itself didn't deliver a fatal blow, what exactly finished them off? It is a question the study authors are wondering about, too.

<https://phys.org/news/2026-01-ammonites-survived-asteroid-impact-dinosaurs.html>

And that is why the science is NEVER "settled."

Dinosaurs discovered in 2025 that surprised paleontologists

Janet Loehrke USA TODAY Updated Dec. 28, 2025, 12:34 p.m. In 2025, scientists have named several new dinosaur species and are learning new facts about the remarkable lives of dinosaurs.



Paleontologists have found a 'Dragon prince' dinosaur – which may be a missing link in the **Tyrannosaurus** family tree – and a dinosaur with its skeletal

Image courtesy of Julius Csotonyi for Darla Zelenitsky, Univ. of Calgary. remains covered with remarkably long spiky bones that reach several feet. These are just some of the new discoveries found by researchers this year.

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/graphics/2025/12/28/new-dinosaur-species-2025/87276495007/>

Well, I guess there is something "new" under the sun!

So, don't believe everything you read in the papers – except this one, of course!



What's better than dinosaurs on stamps? Thanks, Donna C.!

Gemworld 2026

Talk at Learning Center on Saturday July 11th

Get the Lead Out: Geology and History of Graphite Mining in the Adirondack Mountains

The mineral graphite (sometimes called Plumbago in the 19th century) was mined from rocks around Ticonderoga, New York from about 1850 through the 1920s. In the heyday of mining at the turn of the 20th century, a dozen mines extracted and milled graphite and mining towns grew up around some of the largest of them. The graphite was sold as a high-temperature material for crucibles and foundry molds, lubricants for metal gears, a coating material for stoves, and of course for pencils. The graphite itself formed during igneous and metamorphic activity one billion years ago, when rocks of the Adirondacks were buried in roots of a mountain belt similar to the modern Himalayas. This talk will explore the history of this mining district, the geologic origin of the graphite, and the geologic history of the Adirondack Mountains.

William Peck is a geology professor at Colgate University, where he teaches Mineralogy and Geochemistry. His research with students focusses on the geologic evolution of the Adirondacks.



Photos supplied by William Peck



Gem and Mineral Society of Syracuse
59th Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil and Jewelry Show
 Center of Progress Building, NYS Fairgrounds
 581 State Fair Blvd., Syracuse, NY

Red Garnet White Herkimer Diamond Blue Calcite

Saturday, July 11, 2026 10am – 6pm
Sunday, July 12, 2026 10am – 4pm

<p>\$8.00 per person Children under 12 with an adult get in free (cash only at the door)</p> <p>www.gmss.club www.facebook.com/gemandmineralsyr/</p>	<p>Minerals – Fossils Crystals – Jewelry Demonstrations Lectures Metaphysical Practitioners Geode Cracking Youth Area with a sluice and lots of activities</p>
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Welcome New Members

- Garrett Erkenbeck**
- Michael Leone**
- Pierre McElroy**
- Byron Norelius**
- Penelope Obermeit**
- Jeremiah Toles**



Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse
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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 Klingner pres@gmss.club

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

-Treasurer: Linda Clark treasurer@gmss.club

-Secretary: Marie Mastracco
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-Jr Rockhounds: Tracey Criscione
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-Membership Chair: members@gmss.club

-Sgt at Arms: Kristin White
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-GemWorld Show Chair: Cheryl Brown
 315-708-9122 show@gmss.club

-Interim Club Librarian: Amanda Lytle
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-Website: Amanda Lytle
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-Photographer Extraordinaire: Judy Cook
-Hospitality Committee Chair: Doria McIntosh
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