

# CRACK 'N CAB



Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse, Inc. PO Box 2801, Syracuse, NY  
web: <https://www.gmss.club> Volume 56 Issue 6, June 2026  
209 Oswego St (Francesca's Plaza), Unit 15, Liverpool, NY

## June Work Night for Our Show!

Get Ready to Stuff Straws and Fill Sluice Bags

**Monday, June 15, 7 PM**



Photos by Judy Cook

### Special Pre-Show Edition Important Information:

“What goes on at the Show?” - Pg 5  
Show volunteer positions need to be filled –  
See Boxes on Pages 5 and 6

### AND: Ice Cream Social! \*

\*after our work is done, cleaned up and you've  
signed up to volunteer at the Show

Plus: Election of Next Year's Officers:  
**Slate of Officers – See Page 2**

**GMSS Needs You! 1  
Month to Go to Our  
Gemworld Show!**  
Final Show Committee  
meeting: June 30th. **Work  
Sign-up sheets will be at  
the June 15 Work Night  
meeting.** Please add your  
name as an active worker!



### Our 75th Anniversary Celebrations! The Decade of the 1990s – Page 6

**My Wildacres Experience: Page 4**

**The Last Puzzle? – Page 7**

**May Meeting Review - See  
Photos Pages 9 and 10**

**Learning Center at the Show -  
Dylan Arcaro: “The Bone Huts of Eastern  
Europe” – Page 11**

## President's Message

Matt Klinger



(Sent from my iPhone)  
Happy June everyone. Our next meeting is the Work meeting. Please come and help get ready for the big show. By the way, ice cream will be served after the work is done - hoorah!! While you're there take a minute to sign up for what work you would like to do at the show. There are plenty of slots waiting

for you to fill them.

Our new Vice President, Jeff Huard, is doing a great job. Make it a point to say hi to him and ask him about what will be going on this year.

Wait until you see the great job Penny did with the signs and posters.

I have to sign off - my Granddaughter is graduating tonight.

TTFN. Matt

### Current Slate of Officers up for vote at the June 15th meeting:

**President: Kris Boronczyk**  
**Vice President: Jeff Huard**  
**Secretary: Teresa Arnold**  
**Treasurer: Laura Coleman**  
**Sgt. at Arms: John Sweeney**

**Terms start September 1st, 2026.**

## Secretary's Report

Marie Mastracco

### GMSS Board Meeting – June 2, 2026

President Matt Klinger called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

**President, Matt Klinger**

- Board Positions: All open positions have nominees.
- Show Volunteers: **We still have openings for show volunteers. We will urge members to sign up at the June meeting.**

- Garage Inventory: Matt and John will meet Saturday morning (9 am – Noon) to go through the inventory.

### **Vice President, Jeff Huard**

- General meeting June 15. Please attend and urge others to attend. We will work together to assemble straws for the Straw Draw at the Club Booth at the Show. Ice Cream Social to follow.
- Field trips reviewed. No changes or additions from last announcement at our General Meeting.
- **Annual picnic:** Reviewed plans for picnic on **August 3**.  
\* See Treasurer Linda Clark's report (below) for details.
- Christmas Party: Cheryl stated that Christmas party bookings have begun. Jeff to get a committee set up. We have a cook. A bigger venue will be needed this year. Topic tabled.
- "Fluorescent Moments with Linda": Linda will present a new fluorescent stone from her collection at the beginning of each meeting. This will likely begin in September.

### **Treasurer, Linda Clark**

- **Boat Ride at Annual Picnic:** Discussed options for a boat ride that is no longer included in our park rental fee. After discussing pros/cons of options to provide this activity, John Sweeney made the **motion** to offer the boat ride at a ticket price of \$2.00 per person. If less than 20 people are interested, we will not purchase this extra activity. Kristen seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- **Red T-Shirts:** There is a sign-up sheet on the back wall for new volunteers who need a red T-Shirt for the show as well as others who would like to purchase one of their own. Members will be reminded at the June meeting to sign up if interested.
- **75th Anniversary T-Shirts:** The Board discussed a T-Shirt commemorating our 75th Anniversary. A new screen would need to be purchased for the design. The Board voted to use option # 3 that Amanda provided. Linda will provide the cost and color options at the June 15th meeting.
- Linda paid for the show venue at the State Fair as well as normal monthly operating costs.

**Sgt. At Arms, Kristen White** No items to discuss.

### **Secretary, Marie Mastracco**

- Estate Sale: Reviewed an email received from a lady who would like to sell her mother's rock/gem collection. Those members interested are to contact Marie.

### **Newsletter/Editor, Larry Petry**

- Newsletter deadline is Wed., June 3, by 11 pm.
- Linda will send Larry a notice for the newsletter regarding the picnic boat ride and the T-Shirts.

**Webmaster, Grants and Gifts Coordinator and Interim Librarian, Amanda Lytle**

- Amanda continues to inventory and catalog magazines and books. She is looking for a volunteer(s) who can re-file club archives and organize office records at the clubhouse. Involves pulling out & carrying containers to and from office room and filing documents back into their correct place. 2-4 hours max time. Boxes weigh 3-5 lbs max. Volunteer opportunities are still available. Please contact her. No experience is necessary.

- Fundraising: Amanda is also looking for club members to join our club's fundraising program - help with applying for grants, sponsorships, planning & organizing club fundraiser activities for 2026-27 season. She needs at least one experienced individual, but anyone interested in building fundraising skills is welcome! Contact: [webmaster@gmss.club](mailto:webmaster@gmss.club)

**Facebook, Judy Cook**

- Posts: Show advertisement and our Sunday Learning Center speaker Calvin K. Prothro who will speak on Asteroids and Meteorites.

**Gem World Show Chair, Cheryl Brown**

- All Show paperwork has been submitted to the State Fair.  
- Secured Postal non-profit exemption for mailings.  
- Cheryl negotiated with The Dinosaur (WOLF radio) for 2 weeks of advertising; also includes WSEN radio. There will be 18 show ads in the first week, 102 the week of the show.

**Lapidary Committee, Steve Shorey, Bill Verge'**

- 10" slab saw: Recently broken.  
- Bill Verge provided a written estimate of cost for the HighTec Lap that is not functioning at capacity due to incompatible laps. It was also estimated that the cost of a new blade for the slab saw is about \$60 plus shipping. John Sweeny made the *motion* to accept the estimate provided for the HighTec Lap at \$211.20 plus postage, plus an additional \$60 and shipping for the slab saw. Jeff Huard seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.  
- Advanced Class: The Lapidary Lab just completed their first advanced class.

**Jr. Rockhound Committee, Tracy Criscione (absent)**

**Membership, Cheryl Brown:** over 170 members.

**Education Committee, Jill Hillard (absent)**

- John Sweeny read a letter that Linda received from the White Branch Library at 763 Butternut St in Syracuse. The library is seeking volunteers to present for about one hour on a topic related to gems, minerals, fossils or rocks for their "Unearth a Story" theme. Those volunteers interested, please contact Matt. Kristen will contact the library to let her know we are working on identifying a volunteer.

John Sweeny made the *motion* to adjourn the meeting. Cheryl Brown seconded. Motion carried. Meeting ended at 8:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marie Mastracco, Secretary

**NOTICES TO ALL MEMBERS:**

If you would like a **boat ride** on the Erie Canal during our **August picnic (see Page 8)**, please



**sign up at the June 15 meeting and pay \$2/person.** If we get at least 20 people to

sign up and pay, the club will pay for the rest of the cost. If not, you will be on your own to pay full price at the general store for your ride.

If you are a **new** member of our club, and you signed up to work at least 4 hours at our show, you can sign up for a **free red tee shirt at the June 15th meeting**. If you already received a red tee shirt, but need a new one, you can sign up and pay \$12(SM-XL) or \$15(2X or larger). Shirts will be handed out at the show.

We will also be taking orders for **75th Anniversary** tee shirts. **Sign up at the June 15th meeting and pay \$12(SM-XL) or \$15(2XL and larger).**

**EFMLS Wildacres Workshop 2026**

A full report on the May event, along with information about next year, is available at: <https://efmls.org/news/current-newsletter/>

It also has information about the **EFLMS Convention: Friday, Oct. 16th through Mon., Oct. 19th in Kanawha, WV.**

# My Wildacres Experience

By Matt Klinger

On April 9th I set out for the Wildacres Retreat center to participate in the EFMLS retreat. I wasn't sure what to expect but I was really looking forward to the experience. The trip was long up until I left the main roads to drive up into the Blue Ridge Mountains where the retreat center is



located. The roads were very narrow and very twisted; there were a lot of sharp curves and switch backs. When I finally reached the road up to the center, I was greeted by a

sign that said, "You are now leaving the real world". I thought that that was great. I loved it! Driving up the walled-in road you were greeted by beautiful expanses of Mountain Laurel, stately trees, and incredible views of the mountains that surround the area. Once you're at the top you are greeted by the center itself. The buildings were beautifully designed with a rustic look that made it all very inviting. I couldn't wait to get out of my car and explore everything! It was all very organic as if the center just sprouted up out of the ground. There is a patio between the two residence buildings that looks out to the surrounding mountains including Mt. Mitchell, the tallest peak on the East Coast. The patio is made of locally sourced stone with all of the railings and benches made of raw poles cut from the trees that surround the center. The patio also had rocking chairs scattered around too, which turned out to be very popular with the participants.

At registration we were assigned to our rooms, and we received the schedule of events. I moved my gear to my room where I met my roommate, Dr. Mike Wise. Imagine my surprise when I found out that my roommate was also my instructor. Nick, Robert Weldon, and Matt Mike as he likes to be called, is known all over the world for his work on Pegmatites. Those of us who were lucky enough to take his course found Mike to be a very humble, funny guy. He was able to take a subject that is extremely complex and present it in such a way as to make it fun. I was interested in Pegmatites before I took Mike's class now, I guess you could say I'm fairly obsessed with them.

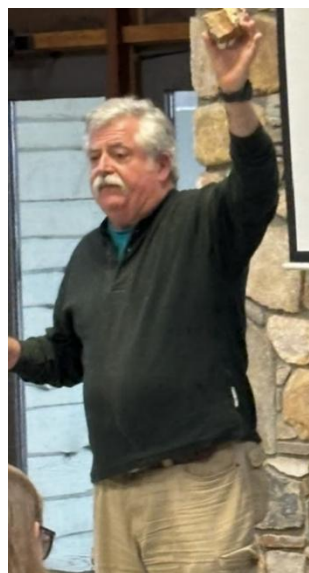


What we are to bring home and spread around.

Our Speaker-in-Residence turned out to be Mr. Robert Weldon, one of the preeminent photographers of gems and minerals in the world. His work for the Gemological Institute of America has been published in all of the most important publications concerned with the study of gems. Robert had a lot of great stories to go along with his photos. From London to the mines of Columbia, he has seen and photographed the most beautiful and historically important treasures the world has seen. I'm so glad that I had the opportunity to attend Wildacres and I intend to get back there as often as I can.



My classmates.



John and Ann (top right) and Gigi, Linda Clark Sweeney's sister (bottom right), at show and tell.

## What Goes on at the July Show?

By Cheryl Brown (May 2023 C'NC)

Our annual show is what funds the club throughout the year. This is our major fundraiser. But more importantly, it is a great opportunity to get to know other club members and like-minded people in the community.

There are lots of things to do over the Show weekend: **We begin Friday at 8 am with setting-up** the tables for the vendors, setting up our Club Booth, the Youth Area Activities, and the Learning Center Area. Then **we welcome the vendors** throughout the afternoon and early evening and help them any way we can as they set up. Additionally, **Display Cases** are set-up and filled by club members and some vendors.

**Saturday:** the fun begins! The first people our customers see are the **ticket sellers**, then they are helped with their wristbands by the **inside greeters** who give them a program and direct them to our Club Booth.

**The Club Booth is the heart of the show!** Lots of activities happen here. There is the 25-cent Straw Draw, hourly drawings, and the Grand Prize drawings. Folks will be asking lots of questions here but if you are new to the club, there will be lots of veterans around to help out.

Children look forward to **the Youth Activities area** where they can pan for specimens in the sluice, make a bracelet, and carve soapstone. They can also participate in a show-wide treasure hunt.

**There are lots of other jobs that aren't as visible.** There are **doors that need to be watched** and the **Wholesale area check-in table** to be monitored. **Security** is one of the more important jobs. It is an unfortunate reality that some people have sticky fingers. Our security folks walk around the show looking for anything suspicious. We have police onsite who can be contacted if we see something.

**Sunday** is a repeat of Saturday until 4:00 when the show closes. We **break down the Club Booth, youth area and the display cases**. Everything previously brought to the Show on Friday morning from our off-site storage unit is loaded back onto a truck and returned to storage.

All in all, it is a fast-moving, fun weekend. And you can take a break and do some shopping, too.

**Sign up for a shift and be part of the fun.** Get to know some new friends. ***Sign-up sheets will be available at the June meeting.***

## CALLING ALL CLUB MEMBERS

Our annual show is on **July 11th and 12th** in the Center of Progress Building at the NYS Fairgrounds.

We need help in **all** areas on all three days.

**Set-up is Fri., July 10th starting at 8AM.**

We need help setting up tables, the Club Booth and display cases.

**Club Booth** – the needs have been identified in the all-important Club Booth in another box (see next box).

- **Security** - we will need people to sit at 6 doors during the show as well as people walking around watching for shoplifters.
- **Tickets** - we need 2 people per hour to sell tickets.
- **Inside greeters** – we need 2 people per hour to make sure wristbands are put on and to hand out flyers.
- **Youth Area** – the youth area is fairly well covered, but they can always use extra help.
- **Wholesale Door** – we need people to check in wholesale shoppers & stamp their hands.
- **Tear-down** – we need *lots* of help taking down the youth area, Club Booth, Learning Center, and display cases.

***We need everyone's help.***

If you would like to help, please email Cheryl at [gmssrocks@gmail.com](mailto:gmssrocks@gmail.com). Thanks!

**If you need a red T-shirt, please sign up for one.**

***Thank you all for helping to make our show a success! Without you, it wouldn't be possible.***

## Request for Show Donations

The Club is asking for donations of "gently used" stone Bracelets, key chains, or pendants in good condition to use as part of our straw draw's "Special Prizes" category.

**You can bring them to the June 15th Club meeting**

## **CLUB BOOTH VOLUNTEERS WANTED**

We need MANY volunteers to run this important booth. Saturday 10-4:00 are "rocking" busy so we'll need lots of people to work. Two-hour shifts are preferable, so you get to know how to run things but give us any time you have. We'll take any and all volunteers, ESPECIALLY NEW MEMBERS!

Free admission to the show can be had by folks giving the club at least 4 hours of volunteer time at any of the many job spots we have to fill during the weekend. Sunday morning is generally lightly attended, then in the afternoon it picks up.

### **Saturday**

**9:15-noon** (4 minimum) 2 for Straw Draw, 1 for magazines and memberships, 1 for backup/auction set up at 9:15AM lights on, cases clean, supplies in order, etc.

**Noon -2:00** (4) 2 for Straw Draw, 1 for magazine sales and memberships, 1 for backup/auction

**2:00 – 4:00** (3) 2 for Straw Draw, 1 for auction, memberships, etc.

**4:00 – 6:00** (3) 2 for Straw Draw, 1 for auction etc.

### **Sunday**

**9:15 – 10:00** set up, cleaning, lights on, supplies ready, etc.

**10:00 – noon** (3-4) for Straw Draw, memberships, back up/auction

**Noon – 2:00** (4) Straw Draw, auction, etc.

**2:00 – 4:00** (3-4) Straw Draw

**4:00 – 4: ?** Clean up crew- put away supplies, fold table covers, disassemble show cases, pick winners of GRAND PRIZE, etc. This will take 30 minutes at least.

**Lapidary Contest Entrants:**  
Your entries from the Lapidary Contest will have a display case for you to show off your work at our July Gemworld Show. For more information, contact Kip Perkins.

## **Clear Out Your Mineral/Lapidary Scraps!**

We need a large quantity of interesting/sparkly minerals, rocks, and fossils, all no bigger than thumbnail size to fit into sluice bags for the kids at our July show. We have MUCH blue calcite but need some fossils, shark teeth, garnet and the like. Please start collecting and bring them to the JUNE 15th Work Night meeting. The kids will LOVE it!

## **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.

(September 2001 Crack N Cab)

**Syracuse Club History** - By Bob Livingston

### **Decade of the 1990s**

A fundraising auction to benefit the New York State Museum and sponsored by this club was held at the Burnet Park Zoo. There were 40 collapsible exhibit cases constructed over 4 years. Member C. Les was awarded her "Masters" in EFMLS competitive exhibiting. In 1995, we received tax-exempt status as a 501C-3 educational non-profit organization. We won the coveted All American Club Award for '96 (No. 2 in the entire US). Six GMSS members held various EFMLS positions. Several club picnics were held at Erie Canal Park, Dewitt, at Marcellus Park, Marcellus and North Syracuse Village Park, North Syracuse, NY. Harold Spath was twice elected EFMLS Region III Vice President. Our 40th Anniversary was celebrated in '91. Shirley Greenberg, EFMLS President, spoke. The banquet was catered by church folk in the West Genesee church hall.

In 1994, we hosted a very 'HOT' EFMLS Show/Convention. Mike Price of TV Channel Nine did a 'Good News' broadcast from our show that year. Tradition for the ice cream social on Work Night came into being, as did 'Finders Keepers' wintertime gem hunt for Sapphires in '94 The club tried paid TV for first time for three years running in mid '90s. Club member Steve Chamberlain went down in the Alvin research sub two and a half miles deep in the mid-Atlantic trench. Our 45th Anniversary was celebrated December 1996, at Top of the Hill Restaurant, in Camillus, NY. A very nice Syracuse Newspapers article

was written about our club and featured member, **E. Wolfe**. Presidents of the decade were: **H. Spath Sr., L. Budell** (two different times in three and a half years), **B. Livingston, (Jim) Baldini** (believed to be our only club President to die in office), and **P. Faes Sr.**

## Geo Lexis (Puzzle) By Anne Fitzgerald

### "Cleaning Up"



The Hunga Tonga–Hunga Ha'apai volcanic eruption on 15 January 2022. Image taken from a video of the eruption. Credit: Tonga Geological Services

In the South Pacific Ocean, in the Kingdom of Tonga, there is a volcano named Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai (pronounced huhng-ah TONG-ah huhng-ah hah-ah-PIE) or something like "A Tong! I'm hungry...Ahh Pie!" Only a small part of this volcano rises above sea level, but just this small part was all scientists needed to determine that:

volcanoes can clean up after themselves. After the January 2022 eruption of the Hunga volcano, scientists found that the methane produced by the volcano was significantly reduced leaving a high level of formaldehyde, a short-lived by-product when methane is destroyed.

Salt-water and sunlight played a role and produced chlorine which helped destroy the methane and clear the air. The findings give great hope to humans who want to reduce the amount of methane in our atmosphere (and in barns.)

Dust up your brain and see if you can match up these partial names for chemicals that can be used for cleaning the air. No worries if you can't brush away those cobwebs. The answers will all be clear on Page 8 of this newsletter.

Fix the Mis-match:

|           |              |
|-----------|--------------|
| Activated | Dioxide      |
| Sodium    | Carbon       |
| Titanium  | Permanganate |
| Potassium | Bicarbonate  |

**Editor's Note:** Anne has announced that she is stepping away from doing the word puzzle for the newsletter, and this will "probably" be her last one.

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!' and the next issue would be their chance."

*OK, members, here's your chance. Let me know.*

**NOTE: All the Advanced Lapidary classes are full! EMAIL BILL VERGE' [weverge@gmail.com](mailto:weverge@gmail.com) TO GET ON THE WAITING LIST FOR THE NEXT CLASS.**

**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**

**The Mineral & Fossil Contest has been postponed to the Fall. Stay tuned for more information.**

## Upcoming Events

**June 15 – GMSS meeting – 7 pm** at the Clubhouse. "Gemworld Show Work Night" And Ice Cream Social!

**SAT., June 20 – The Beading Group - 1-4 pm** at the Clubhouse. All are invited. **See more information on Page 8.**

**June 30 – Gemworld 2026 Show Committee meeting – 7 pm** at the Clubhouse. *Last meeting before the Show!*

**July 11 & 12 – Gemworld 2026– Show at the Center of Progress Bldg. Fri., July 10 is setup day. Put it on your calendar now. We need every member's help!**

**Sunday, August 2 - Club picnic. 11:00 am-**



**4:00 pm at Erie Canal Park, 5750 Devoe Rd., Camillus**  
at the pavilion reserved just for us.  
**DO NOT ARRIVE BEFORE 11 AM!**

Also, please don't park in front of the mural. We'll start eating about Noon if possible. *If your last name begins with the letters A-N, bring a sweet dish (dessert). If your last name begins with the letters Q-Z you bring a savory dish.*

## Upcoming Spring Shows:

**June 6—KENT, CT:** Annual show; Connecticut Museum of Mining & Mineral Science; Connecticut Antique Machinery Assoc Campus, 31 Kent-Cornwall Rd; Sat. 10-4; Free; America's 250th special exhibit: A Tribute To The American Coal Miner. New Vendors Welcome; contact John Pawloski, (860) 927-0050; Email: [j.a.pawloski@att.net](mailto:j.a.pawloski@att.net); Website: CAMA.org

**June 6-7—CANANDAIGUA, NY:** Annual show; Wayne County Gem & Mineral Club; Greater Canandaigua Civic Center, 250 N Bloomfield Rd; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; \$5 Admission, Kids 12 & under FREE; Hourly Door Prize Raffle, Soapstone Carving, Sluice, Rock Painting, Kids Scavenger Hunt, Wire Wrapping Classes (complimentary), Cabochon Making Demonstrations, 20+ Vendors, Exciting Educational Exhibits - Jerry the Geologist's Dinosaurs & Fossils, Fluorescent Minerals, & Many More; contact Chelsea; Email: [chelseaabbott72@gmail.com](mailto:chelseaabbott72@gmail.com); Website: <https://wcgmc.org/gemshow/>

**June 6-7 - Monroe, NY -** Orange County Mineral Society, New York, Orange County Mineral Show, NY June 6: 10-5 & June 7: 10-4, Special Admission for Show & Museum Adults - \$5.00 Seniors - \$3.00. Scouts in Uniform & Kids Under 12 Free. FREE Gift for kids 12 & under. Museum Village, 1010 Rt 17M, Monroe, NY 10950 Featuring: Artisans, Craftsmen, Collectors, Dealers & Exhibitors. On display: "Harry" The Most Complete Mastodon found in Harriman, NY. Extensive Local Mineral Collections. Exhibits, Demonstrations, Educational Displays, New Fluorescent Mineral Display. Food & Refreshments available for purchase. Free Parking. Contact Ron Nelson, Chairman e-mail [m33@icloud.com](mailto:m33@icloud.com) website: <https://www.ocmsny.org>

**June 6-7—MANSFIELD, OH:** Annual show; Mid-Ohio Mineral & Fossil Club; Richland County Fairgrounds, 750 North Home Rd; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; Adults \$5, Seniors \$4, Children 6-16 \$3, Children 5 & Under Free; Gem, Mineral, Jewelry, Bead, & Fossil Show - Grand Prize Drawing, Door Prizes Every Hour, Silent Auctions Every Hour, Kid Activity Zone, Geode Breaking; contact Tom Kottyan; Email: [themineralhouse75@gmail.com](mailto:themineralhouse75@gmail.com); Website: <http://www.midohiomineralandfossilclub.com>

**June 12-14—WEST FRIENDSHIP, MD:** Wholesale & retail show; Mid-Atlantic Gem & Mineral Association/dba Gem Miner's Spring Show; Howard County Maryland Fairgrounds, 2210 Fairgrounds Rd; Fri. 12-6, Sat. 10-5, Sun. 11-4; \$6, children 12 & under free; Demonstrations, hourly door prizes & grand prize drawings, free & handicapped parking; contact Tamie Simpson, (810) 919-4386; Email: [eventcoordinator@gem-show.com](mailto:eventcoordinator@gem-show.com); Website: [www.gem-show.com](http://www.gem-show.com)

**June 27-28—GILSUM, NH:** Annual show; Gilsum Recreation Committee; Gilsum Steam Academy, 640 Route 10; Sat. 8-6, Sun. 8-4; Free; Gilsum Rock Swap & Mineral Show is a two-day event featuring semi-precious stones, gemstone & wire-wrap jewelry, & rocks & minerals of all sorts; contact Jonathan Bialek; Website: <https://gilsum.org/rockswap/>

**July 11-12—SYRACUSE, NY:** Wholesale & retail show; Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse; NY State Fairgrounds, Center of Progress Building, 581 State Fair Blvd; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; \$8, children 12 & under free; contact Cheryl Brown; Website: [www.gmss.club](http://www.gmss.club)

## Answers to Geo Lexis

### Mis-match Solution:

Activated Carbon  
Sodium Bicarbonate  
Titanium Dioxide  
Potassium Permanganate

### Sources and further reading:

<https://www.eurekalert.org/news-releases/1127102> May 7, 2026  
<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-026-72191-4>  
van Herpen, M.M., De Smedt, I., Meidan, D. et al. Satellite quantification of enhanced methane oxidation applied to the stratospheric plume following Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai eruption. Nat Commun 17, 3746 (2026).  
<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-026-72191-4>  
[https://sciencex.com/news/2026-05-volcano-didnt-erupt-triggered-hidden.html?utm\\_source=nwletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=daily-nwletter](https://sciencex.com/news/2026-05-volcano-didnt-erupt-triggered-hidden.html?utm_source=nwletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=daily-nwletter)  
<https://capitalresin.com/5-chemicals-used-in-modern-air-filtration-systems/>

## The Bead Group

Our next meeting will be on **Saturday, June 20th from 1:00 to 4:00** at the Clubhouse. It will cost \$5.00 each for use of the clubhouse. We will continue to work on setting cabochons using beads. Please contact Cheryl Brown at either [gmsrocks@gmail.com](mailto: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.

## Show Committee

Our **final** pre-Show Committee meeting will be **Tuesday, June 30 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.

## Welcome New Members

**Anne Block  
Jenny Coble  
Robin Burgess  
Lisa Desimone  
Gregiore Grant  
Amy Jackson  
Nikki LaRowe  
Douglas & Lynette Mokry  
Lucia Murphy  
Patrick Murphy  
Brian Peters  
Stacy Potter  
Antonio Vallejo**

## May 18 Meeting Messages Knowledge Corner: Dave Millis The Subject is Selenite

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.



This slab of selenite is from a Syracuse site.



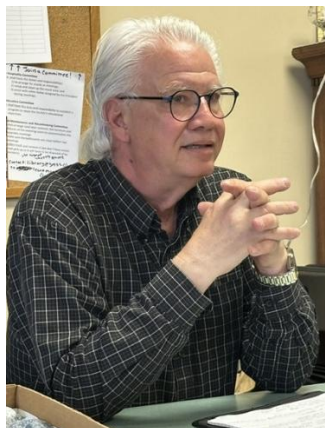
Various forms of Selenite.



Some of the free giveaways!

Selenite can exhibit chatoyancy, or the cat's eye effect, also called iridescence. It's caused by the presence of fibrous structures within the material which align perpendicularly to produce the effect.

## The Main Meeting



Vice President Jeff ran the meeting. Cheryl gave July Show updates.

## Dave Millis's Calcite Presentation



Calcite is a rock-forming mineral with a chemical formula of  $\text{CaCO}_3$ . It is extremely common and found throughout the world in sedimentary, metamorphic, and igneous rocks. Some geologists consider it to be a "ubiquitous mineral" - one that is found everywhere. Calcite mines exist all over the world, including Mexico,

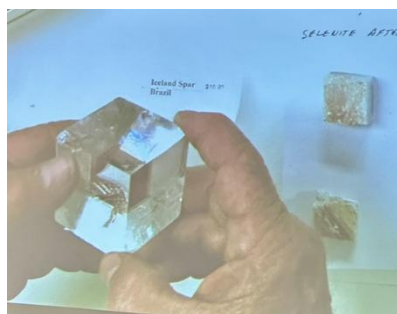
the U.S., Czech Republic, Slovakia, Romania, Iceland, Belgium and Great Britain. Italy, in particular, supplies high-quality marble and calcite crystals. Calcite will always effervesce when even cold weak acids are placed on specimens.



Some of its properties include fluorescence, phosphorescence, thermoluminescence, and triboluminescence.

The Vikings solved the mystery of navigation without a compass by using calcite to find the sun and determine direction. They are believed to have used double refracting "Iceland Spar" as a navigational tool called a "sunstone."

Photos by Judy Cook



A sample of Iceland Spar.



Other forms of calcite, including the edible one.



There were nice raffle giveaways!



## The Burgess Estate Rock Sale



Happy customers and a container of Chrysocolla (a minor ore of copper) from AZ.



## And, In Other News

### Grieving Mother Finds 3-Carat Gem at Crater of Diamonds State Park After Son and Father Die

by Good News Network May 31, 2026

A grieving mother discovered a 3.09-carat white gem at Crater of Diamonds State Park, catching a wave of emotional release and hope following a year of personal loss.

Keshia Smith planned the trip to Arkansas a year ago, joining her boyfriend and brother on the journey from Pennsylvania.

Little did she know she'd be healing from the loss of her son six months ago and would have just buried her father the week before departing.

While digging in the dirt, she spotted a heart-shaped shiny stone—a stunning white diamond—and park officials said her discovery was "meant to be."



"To me it looks like a heart. That's the first thing I saw when I found it."

She named it the Za'Novia Liberty Diamond, honoring her

grandchildren and the significance of America's 250th year.

"Moments like this remind us why Crater of Diamonds State Park is such a special place," [Park officials wrote](#) on its Facebook page.

Park staff verified the gem at the Diamond Discovery Center, confirming its natural authenticity and its weight of exactly 3.09 carats. The lucky find on April 22 was the second-largest rock pulled out this year at the southern US site.

[https://www.goodnewsnetwork.org/grieving-mother-finds-3-09-carat-diamond-at-crater-of-diamonds-state-park/?utm\\_source=newsletter.goodnewsnetwork.org&utm\\_medium=newsletter&utm\\_campaign=a-woman-walking-to-work-in-ithaca-noticed-some-bees-there-were-5-million-of-them&\\_bhlid=5ee69623c31bbeabc6f4dd16ff5f37](https://www.goodnewsnetwork.org/grieving-mother-finds-3-09-carat-diamond-at-crater-of-diamonds-state-park/?utm_source=newsletter.goodnewsnetwork.org&utm_medium=newsletter&utm_campaign=a-woman-walking-to-work-in-ithaca-noticed-some-bees-there-were-5-million-of-them&_bhlid=5ee69623c31bbeabc6f4dd16ff5f37)

## Gemworld 2026

### Learning Center - Dylan Arcaro

Dylan Arcaro will be giving a presentation Saturday,



July 11th in the Learning Center area of our show on **"The Bone Huts of Eastern Europe."**

Diorama display at the American Museum of Natural History in NYC, based on Mezhirich. Wally Gobetz/Flickr/CC BY-NC-ND 2.0



Photo by Judy Cook

Dylan will be discussing a site known as Mezhyrich in the Ukraine that contains a miniature village made of mammoth bones. He will discuss the research and findings done at this location, along with what this site can tell us about early human development.

Dylan Arcaro is 21 years old. He went to school at SUNY Morrisville for Woodworking and likes spending his time building furniture and making leather projects. He has always been fascinated by dinosaurs and fossils.





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

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