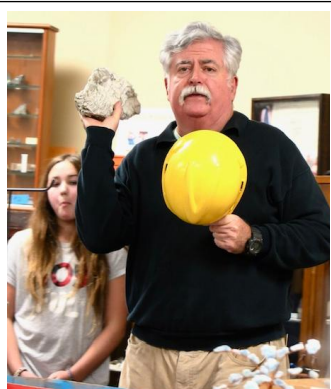


CRACK 'N CAB



Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse, PO Box 2801, Syracuse, NY
web: <https://www.gmss.club> Volume 55 Issue 11, Nov. 2025
209 Oswego St (Ponderosa Plaza), Unit 15, Liverpool, NY

Club Meeting – It's Our Fall Auction!



Photos by Judy Cook



Mon., Nov. 17

Doors Open at 6:00 pm;

Auction Starts at 7:00 PM!

And, yes, John Sweeney will still be our Auctioneer!

Please review the REVISED Auction Rules on Page 5.



October Meeting Review – “History of Limestone” Page 11

“Dinosaurs Should Matter To Conservationists”

Guest Writer – Pages 7- 9

Lapidary Contest Winners! See Pages 12 -13

Christmas/Holiday Party Information – See Page 7



Photos by Judy Cook



President's Message

Matt Klinger



Happy November everyone! Boy is there a lot to go over. Next year most of the Board of Directors will be ending their terms and will need to be replaced. The offices of the President, Vice President, Treasurer, Sergeant at Arms and, possibly, Show Chair.

Please give serious thought to stepping into service for our club. If you have a question about any of these offices, please feel free to ask.

Our **Christmas party** is fast approaching (See **Page 7**). **Our November meeting will be the last time you will be able to secure your spot at the party so please bring your checkbook to the meeting.** We would also like you to step up and volunteer to help decorate the restaurant. Bring a new unwrapped gift for Toys for Tots and a gift for the exchange and food for the Food Bank. This is going to be a very stressful time for our less fortunate brothers and sisters. Please be generous.

A message to all chairmen - if you need financial support, get in touch with Amanda or Jamie to see how to procure donations or a grant to help you out.

Have a blessed Thanksgiving everyone.
Matt

Secretary's Report

Marie Mastracco

GMSS Board Meeting – Nov. 6, 2025

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

President, Matt Klinger:

Revisited the ongoing vendor issue

-Discussed the need for their appropriate behavior and options of addressing it with them.

-Matt will contact Cheryl Brown, Show Committee Chair, to schedule a conference call with them. Call will address our expectations going forward.

Board position openings:

-Identified the following positions will be open next year: President, Vice-President, Sergeant at Arms and Treasurer. Potential opening of Show Chair. Suggested we start recruiting now as people may need to shadow on the position.

Vice President, Dave Arcaro:

Christmas Party:

-Five volunteers have stepped up to assist with the party. They contacted Dave last month after the general meeting. One of the five will fill in for Dave on the day of the party.
-Dave addressed questions that were reviewed at the last general meeting. Questions were asked and opinions were given.
-Need a final head count. We will be feeding the Marines.
-After process, **it was agreed that children under 15 years of age will be admitted for half price.**
-Other than half price admittance charge, no changes have been made as of last general meeting.

Treasurer, Linda Clark:

Provided incoming and outgoing numbers for September. On schedule with expectations.

Insurance:

-Discussed the amount we are paying for insurance. Need more clarity regarding what specifically is covered by our insurance as well as insurance via EFMLS. To be revisited.

Discussion of open Treasurer seat next year:

-Discussed expectations, workload and potential conflict of interest with other committees.
-Discussion of potential nominees.
-It is unclear if another member mentioned is open to filling the Show Committee Chair.
-Cheryl Brown had voiced interest in the Treasurer seat. Matt will contact her as well as the other member for clarity regarding.

Sgt. At Arms, Kristin White (not present)

Gemworld Show Chair, Budget Committee: Cheryl Brown (not present)

Lapidary Committee: Steve Shorey

-Classes are booked and running as planned. Class openings run into February 2026.
-Marie Mastracco asked to revisit a topic that was previously discussed regarding those members who only

sign up to take the class and do not provide support or help with our mission.

-Identified those few who have stepped up as well as those who may not be on a committee or may not attend meetings but do offer their help.

-Pro: of the added membership money was observed. Con: of the lack of support and help provided by many of those members was observed.

-Discussion surrounding how to get silent members more involved and become a working member of our organization. Identified having more activities to draw them in such as the auction, contests and guest speakers.

Newsletter, Larry Petry:

Info. for Crack and Cab is due Thurs., Nov 6, by 11:00 PM.

Interim Club Librarian and Webmaster, Amanda Lytle Website:

-Site visits in last 30 days: 799; Visits in last 7 days: 174

-Our site visits were up 84% on Monday, November 3, 2025.

Overall, GMSS. Club continues to hold a 94% performance rating.

-Discussion of purchasing a disclaimer regarding data collection on the website. Estimated at \$14.99. It was agreed this is a good idea. Amanda will shop around.

Library:

-We have some older Rock and Gem magazines that have hands-on projects that the Education Committee may be interested in. She will follow up with Jen.

Grants, Gifts and Fundraising:

-Amanda is asking that we forward projects to her that we need and would like funding for. Amanda asked that we forward the project details, items needed as well as the cost needed to carry out the project.

Facebook and Photographer Extraordinaire, Judy Cook:

Facebook page has a 4k following.

-Discussed the potential for including more club information such as trips and other activities as they develop to attract more interest and potentially more members.

Secretary, Marie Mastracco: No report.

Tracy Criscione, Jr. Rockhound Committee: (not present).

Jill Hillard, Education Committee: (not present).

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 pm, motion seconded by Marie Mastracco. Meeting adjourned by Matt Klinger at 8:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Marie Mastracco, Secretary

GMSS Impromptu Board Meeting Minutes **Oct. 20, 2025**

President Matt Klinger called the meeting to order at 8:15 PM
Present: President Matt Klinger, Vice-President Dave Arcaro, Treasurer Linda Clark, Sgt. at Arms Kristin White, Editor Larry Petry, Gemworld Show Chair Cheryl Brown, Lapidary Committee Steve Shorey, Secretary Marie Mastracco, Facebook Administrator Judy Cook.

President, Matt Klinger:

Announced the purpose of the meeting regarding the Christmas Party tickets and decoration funding.

Christmas Party Ticket Price:

Discussion of the ticket price, given the new location.

Discussed the options of \$20 or \$25 per ticket. Cheryl Brown suggested a compromise of \$22 which all voted in favor. No nays.

Cost for Christmas Decorations:

Discussed what was purchased last year, the price paid, as well as the potential for more items needed to purchase for this year. Dave Arcaro motioned for \$150 allowance. All voted in favor. No nays.

President Matt Klinger motioned for the meeting to be adjourned. Dave Arcaro seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Marie Mastracco, Secretary

Membership

If you haven't renewed your membership yet, stop at the front desk to renew it at the November meeting.

Individual - \$15.00

Family - \$20.00

Youth - \$10.00

Life Members - \$5.00

Cash or check

If you are unable to attend the meeting, please send your dues to the PO Box. Also, please let me know if there are any changes in your information. Thank you!

Field Trip News

Diamond Mountain field trip

by Judy Cook

Attended by Jamie and her son Logan, Kelly, Xia (Sue), Shelia and Mike.

It was cold, it was damp, but that didn't deter club members from prospecting for Herkimer Diamonds at Diamond Mountain.



Sheila Himmelman and Mike Yandle. Mike found some nice ones!



The diamond on the right was dug out of the dirt by a non-club member. He travelled here from NYC.

GMSS Auction Rules:

1. Only paid-up GMSS club members can sell items. Anyone can bid on auction items.
2. The auction begins promptly at **7:00 pm**. If you are selling items, please come early to obtain the **two** auction label forms. Set your items up on the auction tables. **Come early - the doors will be open by 6:00 pm.**
3. Each item must have **two** completed auction labels. One is a description form for each item, which will be given to the successful bidder (Mineral name and location collected). The second form will be given to the treasurer for the club records and to give correct payment.
4. **There is an upper limit of 4 bid items per person; 8 bid items per family.**
5. This is not a silent auction. Each bidder will be given a number on a sign to hold up.
6. Any material with a specified minimum bid that does not sell will be returned to the seller.
7. The club will retain 15% of the selling price. The full selling price of the *donated* items will be given to the club.
8. The highest bidder wins the auctioned item. Runners will deliver each item to the winning bidder and collect the payment for that item. Bidders need not leave their chairs. **BIDDERS, PLEASE BRING PLENTY OF CASH.** Items selling for more than \$15.00 can be purchased by personal check. All other items will be cash only. We have no means for swiping credit cards.
9. Sellers cannot bid on their own items.
10. Checks may be mailed to those winning sellers; most likely in December, shortly after the meeting November 17th.

This hidden gem Upstate NY museum with dino bones you can touch is on the brink of extinction

Published: Oct. 29, 2025, 12:20 p.m. Syracuse.com
By Samantha House

A hidden gem of a museum with a treasure trove of fossils carefully tucked inside sits perched above Cayuga Lake.

With over 7 million specimens, including a mastodon skeleton found in Upstate New York, the Paleontological Research Institution and its Museum of the Earth boast one of the largest fossil collections in the United States. It is a place where visitors can touch dinosaur bones and even take-home fossils. But the museum is now on the brink of extinction. If the Paleontological Research Institution doesn't raise \$1 million for its mortgage payment by New Year's Eve, the Museum of the Earth in Ithaca will be foreclosed, WBNG reported on Monday.

The Paleontological Research Institution (PRI) was founded in 1932 by Gilbert Harris, a Cornell University professor.

To showcase its extensive collection, PRI debuted the Museum of the Earth in 2003. The natural history museum opened in the town of Ithaca, filling its displays with fossils from around New York and the world — including the Hyde Park mastodon, a nearly complete mastodon skeleton excavated by the Finger Lakes-based institute in 2000.

The Museum of the Earth has been in financial peril since a group of donors neglected to fulfill a \$30 million, 20-year pledge, Allmon told the Ithaca Voice in January.

The donors had pledged to give the museum over \$1 million a year, funds that the museum relied on to cover much of its operating budget, officials said in a statement posted on the museum's website.

"Neither the annual pledges for the past couple years nor the larger long-term pledges — which were expected by now — have been paid," officials said.

<https://www.syracuse.com/news/2025/10/this-hidden-gem-upstate-ny-museum-with-dino-bones-you-can-touch-is-on-the-brink-of-extinction.html>

Geo Lexis (Puzzle) By Anne Fitzgerald

"Pencils Up!"

Geology seems to find us wherever we go. On a recent vacation to Lake George, my plan was to visit family, relax, and do some hiking. The hiking trail led us to an old, abandoned graphite mine, which lead me on a path to research and discovery about one of my favorite writing instruments.

It was a sad day in my office when I informed the supply girl that we were out of pencils. She replied that she and I were the only ones using pencils anymore, so we had to bring our own. Though not a problem financially, it troubled me to think my coworkers were no longer using pencils. That was a decade ago, and I'm still one of the very few.

The history of pencils goes way, way back, at least to 3200 BCE when lead styluses were used by the Romans, who, as we know, had no fear of lead.

Pencil-like instruments were also used in the 1500's to mark sheep before sheep were given individual names like "Dolly."

Before the 1800's, lots of people wanted pencils, but mass production was not yet practical. Two things were needed, a machine, and lots of graphite.



Dixon open pit mine in Graphite, 1890 mine)
and even a town named "Graphite." The open pit mine in Graphite



There is a town at the north of Lake George named Ticonderoga, one of the big names in pencils since the 1800's. There is also a town named Hague (where we found the abandoned graphite

Mr. Dixon of Dixon/Ticonderoga gets credit for the first pencil machines, ones that could turn out a bunch at the same time. He used the graphite from the graphite mines around Ticonderoga. Just think, he could have named those pencils after



himself (saving the cost of some letters) or Hague, or

Graphite but instead gave credit to the town, which had historical familiarity and patriotic roots



and was more conducive to marketing. Today, Ticonderoga is also famous for their Star Trek Museum, besides being a pencil-pushing town.

As we all know, pencils were often called "lead pencils" incorrectly, confusing and scaring literal people like me. Let's bring them back and call them "graphite" pencils.

See if you can figure out the correct name of these misleading names. If you get any wrong, just remember the official Ticonderoga Pencil slogan, "Erasing Means You're Learning." (See Page 9)

Misleading Name	Correct Name?
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Ceylon Opal	
Cape Emerald	
Arizona Ruby	
Bohemian Ruby	
Star of India	
Neil Diamond	

Lapidary Classes Begin February

14, 21, 28

For great information about the class

EMAIL
Bill Vergé
at
weverge@gmail.com

Lapidary Lab

NOTE: The Lapidary Lab is looking for a volunteer to help on a weekday evenings. Need lapidary knowledge, experience and working knowledge of the lab, equipment and procedure. Need to have previously taken the classes. Contact Bill Vergé @ weverge@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

Nov 17 – GMSS meeting – 7 pm at the Clubhouse. November we will hold our **Annual Fall Auction!** See Rules, Page 5.

Tues., Nov. 18 – 6:30 – 7:30 pm, Liverpool Library – “Travel Through Time With Paleoecology” they will be hosting two members of SU's Paleoecology Lab as they talk about paleoecology and their work, plus showing us some samples. *This is a hybrid event. Attend in-person or register to receive the Zoom meeting information.*

<https://lpl.libcal.com/event/15197630>

Fri. Nov. 28 - 10 - 11 am, Liverpool Library - looking at 3D-printed models of dinosaur (and other creature) teeth to determine what and how they ate. (Best for ages 5-8,) Here's the link for the [Dino Diet Exploration](#).

Dec. 2 – GMSS Board meeting – 7 pm at the Clubhouse. All are invited.

Sun., December 7 – Annual Club Holiday Party – Noon – 4 pm See information details below.



Holiday Party

December 7, 12 to 4

Island Escape

7 Syracuse St, Baldwinsville

\$22 each adult

Bring:

- Unwrapped toy for Toys for Tots
 - Unwrapped gift to swap
 - Non-perishable food to donate
- Sign-up at the October meeting

Kip is looking for small minerals to put into the table favor bags. Please bring any minerals, fossils, and crystals you would like to donate. Thanks!

Please bring cash or check to the November 17th meeting and get on the sign-up list.

Dinosaurs Should Matter To Conservationists

Matthew Ellerbeck (Dinosaur Devoted)

Many individuals often exhibit a profound interest in dinosaurs during their youth, yet this enthusiasm diminishes long before they reach adulthood. Only a small group of individuals consider dinosaurs in any significant manner (if at all) beyond childhood. Those who do reflect on them typically do so within the framework of them as cinematic monsters. This is quite regrettable, as dinosaurs represent an exceptionally intriguing category of animals. Recent research and fossil evidence suggest that they were considerably more intricate and complex than most individuals realize. The notion that dinosaurs were unintelligent, lumbering reptiles is far outdated. In fact, these animals had many different ways to communicate and signal, both with conspecifics and other species within their ecological communities. Many dinosaurs were adorned with crests, frills, spikes, etc., which are thought to be used for attracting mates, deterring rivals, recognizing members of their own species, and threat displays to ward off predators. Additionally, dinosaurs could communicate sonically, and many hadrosaurs (duck-billed dinosaurs) had crests that could help amplify sounds and calls. Touch also seems to be important to dinosaurs. Evidence suggests that tactile sensitivity played an important role in dinosaur biology, particularly among theropods (carnivorous dinosaurs of a group whose members are typically bipedal, i.e. Allosaurus & Tyrannosaurus). Studies of cranial foramina in large theropods such as Tyrannosaurus rex indicate the presence of extensive neurovascular canals in the facial bones, comparable to the mechanosensory structures in modern crocodilians (Carr et al., 2017; Barker et al., 2023). This suggests that the faces of these dinosaurs were highly innervated and capable of detecting fine tactile stimuli, possibly aiding in delicate tasks such as nest construction, egg handling, or social interactions in addition to feeding (Kundrát et al., 2019). In living archosaurs, such as birds and crocodilians, tactile sensitivity in the beak or snout is crucial for object manipulation, chick care, and foraging in challenging environments (Hieronymus et al., 2009). By inference through the Extant Phylogenetic Bracket (EPB), similar functions may be applied to theropods, suggesting that their tactile sense was not limited to predation but extended to complex behavioral and social roles, reinforcing the view of these animals as dynamic, behaviorally sophisticated organisms. Several lines of fossil evidence indicate that some dinosaurs engaged in direct parental or maternal care of their offspring. The classic example comes from the hadrosaur Maiasaura, whose nesting grounds in Montana revealed large communal colonies with closely spaced nests, containing eggs, hatchlings, and juveniles. All suggesting prolonged care after hatching (Horner & Makela, 1979). Troodontids and oviraptorosaurs also show evidence of brooding behavior, with adults preserved in bird-like postures atop clutches of eggs, indicating active incubation and protection of offspring (Norell et al., 1995; Clark et al.,

1999). Several theropod dinosaurs are known to have carefully arranged their eggs within nests, reflecting advanced nesting behavior and parental care. The best evidence comes from oviraptorosaurs such as *Oviraptor*, *Citipati*, and *Nemegtomaia*, whose fossils show eggs organized in concentric rings and adults preserved brooding atop nests, suggesting deliberate placement for incubation (Norell et al., 1995; Clark et al., 1999). Troodontids like *Troodon formosus* also arranged their eggs upright and partially buried in symmetrical patterns, indicating active positioning within shallow nests (Varricchio et al., 1997; Varricchio & Jackson, 2016). Some therizinosauroids show similar egg arrangements, hinting at shared nesting strategies among maniraptoran theropods (Averianov et al., 2022). Furthermore, bone histology of hatchlings from various taxa suggests that some were altricial, unable to fend for themselves, further supporting the need for sustained parental investment (Varricchio et al., 2008). These discoveries demonstrate that, much like modern birds, certain non-avian dinosaurs provided direct care to their young, representing a key step in the evolutionary continuum of reproductive strategies within Archosauria. Some dinosaurs, like the long-necked Sauropods (i.e. *Brontosaurus*), employed nesting strategies similar to that of sea turtles. Sauropods would often dig trenches or other depressions and lay mass amounts of eggs. These were often covered with sand, soil, or vegetation and left to hatch on their own. This method is strikingly different to the more parental dinosaurs, but highlights the diverse behaviors that were found across dinosauria. Modern birds are classified as dinosaurs, as they represent a very highly derived branch of theropods. However, they exhibit significant morphological differences from most dinosaur species. Consequently, it is not surprising that many naturalists, upon observing birds, draw little comparisons to their extinct relatives. However, it is important to recognize that dinosaurs exhibited a comparable level of complexity in their behaviors and survival strategies, akin to many contemporary species. Thus, they merit greater acknowledgment as remarkably successful organisms that adapted, diversified, and proliferated across the globe. Certainly, an appreciation for such misunderstood extinct forms can help strengthen a value in the Earth's extant biodiversity. Research increasingly shows that having an affinity for a particular animal, or forming close emotional connections with wildlife can serve as a gateway to a broader appreciation of nature and support for conservation. Studies indicate that individuals who feel a strong connection to animals exhibit higher empathy and stronger pro-environmental attitudes overall (Whitburn et al., 2020). Reviews also highlight that emotional and cognitive bonds with animals, such as storytelling, recognition, and empathy are powerful motivators for conservation behavior (Marzluff et al., 2017). This can apply to dinosaurs, as there's growing evidence and expert consensus suggesting that a childhood fascination with dinosaurs can serve as an early pathway into broader interest in nature, science, and conservation. While few studies examine dinosaurs specifically, related research in environmental education and psychology

supports the idea that "gateway taxa" (extinct or living) can ignite lasting curiosity about the natural world. Children who develop deep, sustained interests, like those in dinosaurs, often show stronger scientific reasoning, observational skills, and ecological awareness later in life (Alexander et al., 2008; Patrick & Tunnicliffe, 2013). These interests frequently expand from prehistoric life to modern animals, ecosystems, and environmental stewardship. Moreover, the same mechanisms that link affinity for living species to conservation concern empathy, curiosity, identification, and storytelling also operate with extinct ones. Dinosaurs offer a vivid entry point into understanding evolution, extinction, and environmental change, which can foster appreciation for biodiversity and the fragility of ecosystems. Educators often note that dinosaur enthusiasm helps children grasp concepts of adaptation and extinction, bridging to modern conservation topics like habitat loss or climate change (Patrick & Tunnicliffe, 2013). A deeper comprehension of dinosaurs can enhance the appreciation of our present natural environment for both children and adults. Moreover, it emphasizes the significance of parents fostering and supporting their children's fascination with these creatures, guaranteeing that the affection for dinosaurs does not merely become a fleeting interest. By doing this, not only is a fondness for dinosaurs and possibly a passion for environmental stewardship being solidified, but parents also have the opportunity to revive their own enthusiasm for these animals. This is especially important as over 100 species tracked by the New York State Natural Heritage Program are considered as either endangered or threatened. Equally significant, dinosaurs merit acknowledgment as the remarkable and intricate creatures they were, simply due to their intrinsic value.

About The Author:

From a young age, Matthew Ellerbeck has been fascinated by dinosaurs. His love and passion for dinosaurs inspired



him to create Dinosaur Devoted, an outreach education project dedicated to sharing that wonder with others. Through his work, Matthew strives to foster a deeper public understanding of dinosaur paleobiology

and to dispel the outdated notion of dinosaurs as dull, cold-blooded monsters. For more information:

www.dinosaurdevoted.com

Selected References

Barker, C. T., et al. (2023). Neurovascular anatomy and sensory function of the tyrannosaurid facial skeleton. *Scientific Reports*, 13, 3834. Carr, T. D., Vann, D. R., & Rigby, J. K. (2017). Craniofacial features of tyrannosaurid dinosaurs and inference of sensory function. *Acta Palaeontologica Polonica*, 62(1), 1–16. Hieronymus, T. L., Witmer, L. M., Tanke, D. H., & Currie, P. J. (2009). Cranial integumentary specializations in dinosaurs: Evidence from the

neurovascular system. *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology*, 29(3), 607–633. Kundrát, M., et al. (2019). Facial sensitivity in non-avian theropods inferred from foramina distribution. *Anatomical Record*, 302(6), 1049–1062. Von Düring, M. (1974). The ultrastructure of cutaneous sensory nerve endings in reptiles and birds. *Advances in Anatomy, Embryology, and Cell Biology*, 48, 1–48. Clark, J. M., Norell, M. A., & Chiappe, L. M. (1999). An oviraptorid skeleton from the Late Cretaceous of Ukhaa Tolgod, Mongolia, preserved in an avian-like brooding position over an oviraptorid nest. *American Museum Novitates*, 3265, 1–36. Horner, J. R., & Makela, R. (1979). Nest of juveniles provides evidence of family structure among dinosaurs. *Nature*, 282(5736), 296–298. Norell, M. A., Clark, J. M., Chiappe, L. M., & Dashzeveg, D. (1995). A nesting dinosaur. *Nature*, 378(6559), 774–776. Varricchio, D. J., Horner, J. R., & Jackson, F. D. (2008). Reproduction in Mesozoic birds and evolution of the modern avian reproductive mode. *Auk*, 125(3), 664–671.

Upcoming Fall Shows:

Nov. 8-9 - Ansonia, CT - Crystal, Fossil, Gem, Jewelry, Lapidary, Metaphysical & Mineral Show at Emmet O'Brien Technical High School, 141 Prindle Ave, Ansonia, CT. Sponsored by the East Coast Gem & Mineral Society. Event times: 9:30 AM - 5:30 PM on Saturday & 10 AM - 5 PM on Sunday. For information, visit Annual Show - East Coast Gem & Mineral Society.

Nov. 8-9—Bellrose, NY: Show & sale; New York Gems, Jewelry & Mineral Show; Metropolitan Pavilion, 5th Floor, 115 W 18th St; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; Entry Ticket \$15 for the two days; The Oldest Gem, Jewelry & Mineral Show in New York City Sponsored by the New York Mineralogical Club Lots of your Favorite Dealers Retail & Wholesale. Hourly Door Prizes; contact Mohamed Bary, (347) 247-6568; Email: barygems@gmail.com

Nov. 14-16—Lebanon, PA: Wholesale & retail show; Mid-Atlantic Gem & Mineral Assoc./dba Gem Miner's Holiday Show; Lebanon PA Expo & Fairgrounds, 80 Rocherty Rd; Fri. 12-6, Sat. 10-5, Sun. 11-4; \$6, Discount coupon on website; children 12 & under & Veterans free; New Friday hours; two wholesale rooms; Demonstrations; contact Teresa Schwab, (301) 807-9745; Email: eventcoordinator@gem-show.com; Website: www.gem-show.com

Nov. 22-23—Webster, MA: Annual show; Worcester Mineral Club; St Joseph School, 50 Lincoln St; Sat. 9-4, Sun. 10-4; Adults - \$6; Seniors & students - \$5; Children under 12 - Free; Scouts in Uniform - Free; contact William Robsky

Nov. 22-23—Toledo, OH Show and sale; Northwest Ohio Rockhounds; St James Lutheran Church, 4727 Sylvania Ave; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-5; Free admission; Free Kid's Activities Rock Identification, Geode Cracking, Mineral Specimens, and Fossils. Slab, Rough, and Polished Materials Handmade Jewelry and Crafts Decorative Art and more; contact Suzanne Shimatzki, (419) 376-2650; Email: sshimatzki@gmail.com; Website: <https://www.facebook.com/NWORockhounds/>

Nov 22-23 - Fairfax, VA - Annual Gem Mineral & Fossil Show Presented by the Northern Virginia Mineral Club Date &

Time: November 22 @ 10:00 am - November 23 @ 4:00 pm
Cost: \$6 Sponsored by the Dept of Atmospheric, Oceanic & Earth Sciences at GMU Hours Sat 10-6, Sun 10-4 Admission: Adults \$6, Seniors (65+) \$4, Teens (13-17) \$3, Children 12 & under accompanied by a adult are FREE — Scouts in Uniform are FREE — GMU Students, Faculty & Staff are FREE w/valid ID. Approximately 20 dealers with Gems, Minerals & Fossils for sale. Features: Demonstrations, Exhibits, Kids Activities & Door Prizes, Silent Auction on Sunday Use Parking Lot A, enter Lot A where adjacent to the Johnson Center. Look for our Courtesy Shuttle & Designated Walking Path to the Mineral Show. GPS: <https://novamineralclub.org/showparking> (takes you to GMU's Lot A) Website: <https://www.novamineralclub.org/events/2025-show> Email: rockclctr@gmail.com VENUE Johnson Center at the George Mason University Campus Address: 4400 University Drive Fairfax, VA 22030

Nov. 28–30 - Morristown, NJ - Annual Rock-Mineral Weekend at the Morris Museum, 6 Normandy Heights Rd, Morristown, NJ. Sponsored by the Morris Museum Mineralogical Society. Sales of gems, minerals, fossils & jewelry will take place on all three days. On only Saturday & Sunday, there will be mineral & fossil identification, guest speakers, & a Mineral Magic Show. Event times: 12 noon - 5 PM on Friday, 11 AM - 5 PM on Saturday & 1 PM - 4:30 PM on Sunday.

November 28-30 – Salem, VA - Roanoke Valley Mineral & Gem Society Show. Salem Civic Center, 1001 Roanoke Blvd, Salem, VA 24153. Friday 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM, Saturday 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM, Sunday 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM. For additional information visit: <https://www.rvmgs.org/>

Answers to Geo Lexis

Solution to Misleading Names:

Misleading Name	Correct Name
Ceylon Opal	Moonstone (not an Opal)
Cape Emerald	Green Fluorite (not an Emerald)
Arizona Ruby	Garnet (not a Ruby)
Bohemian Ruby	Garnet or red glass (not a Ruby)
Star of India	Sapphire (not a star)
Neil Diamond	Neil Diamond is his correct name, but he's a star (not a Diamond.)

Sources and Further Reading:

<https://www.backthenhistory.com/articles/the-history-of-pencils> Lauren Cabral June 5, 2024
<https://spartexpen.com/blog/the-evolution-of-pencils-a-brief-history/>
www.spartexpen.com/blog/the-evolution-of-pencils-a-brief-history/9/4/2023
<https://dixonticonderogacompany.com/about-us/>
<https://weariticonderoga.com/history>
www.rockseeker.com/rocks-and-minerals-with-weird-or-misleading-names

October 20 meeting

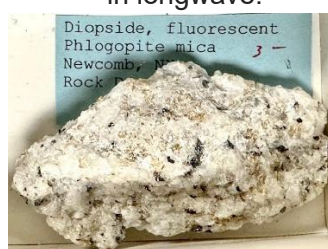
Knowledge Corner – Dave Millis “Tremolite and Diopside”



Photos by Matt Klinger



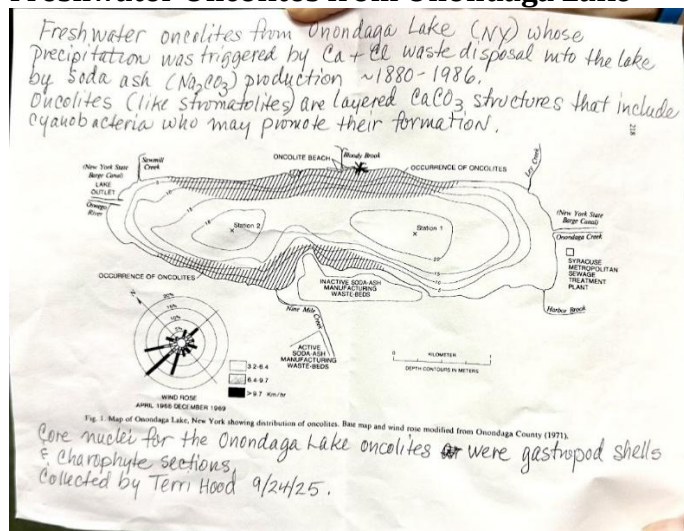
The 15-minute talk by “Rock Doc” Dave Millis: The subject was tremolite and diopside and the differences between amphiboles and pyroxenes. There were free samples on tirodite, an amphibole or diopside, a pyroxene. Both samples fluoresce. One in shortwave; one in longwave.



Tremolite (left) is a silicate mineral and member of the amphibole group. A calcium magnesium silicate, tremolite forms a solid-solution series with ferroactinolite, where iron substitutes in increasing amounts for magnesium. The color of tremolite varies with increasing iron content from colorless to white in pure tremolite to gray, gray-green, green, dark green and nearly black in other specimens. Traces of manganese may tint tremolite pink or violet. When well-formed, crystals are short to long prisms. More commonly, tremolite forms uninterminated bladed crystals, parallel aggregates of bladed crystals, or radiating groups. Tremolite and actinolite both form thin, parallel, flexible fibers up to 10 in in length, which are used commercially as asbestos. Tremolite is known as nephrite jade when it is massive and fine-grained. The mineral is abundant and widespread. It is the product of both thermal and regional metamorphism and is an indicator of metamorphic grade because it converts to diopside at high temperatures’

Diopside (right photo) is a rock-forming pyroxene mineral. It occurs in igneous and metamorphic rocks at many locations around the world. Diopside also forms during contact metamorphism of limestone and dolomites. Most of the crystalline diopside used to cut faceted gems and the granular diopside used as ornamental stone occurs in these carbonate deposits.

Freshwater Oncolites from Onondaga Lake



Onondaga Lake is a moderately saline, eutrophic lake characterized by waters rich in calcium, sodium, chloride, and bicarbonate. Large quantities of calcium carbonate precipitated in the lake result from input of excess calcium from calcium chloride wastes produced by soda-ash manufacturing. Beaches along the leeward (southeastern) side of the lake are composed almost entirely of oncolites

ranging from a few millimeters to several centimeters in maximum dimension. Offshore, in 1 to 2 m of water, the oncolites are biscuit-shaped concretions as much as 15 cm in diameter. The oncolites are composed mainly of low-magnesium calcite, but dissolution of the carbonate with dilute acid results in a mass of blue-green algal filaments of the same approximate size and shape as the original oncolite. Growth of the oncolites began at least 100 years ago.



Ken Mazalewski, our chef for the upcoming Holiday Party on Dec 7th at Island Escape in Baldwinsville, discusses the menu.
See Page 7 for more information.



Dylan Arcaro, our main speaker

Limestone is a natural, sedimentary rock that people have used in a number of ways for thousands of years. Its origins can be traced as far back as the Egyptian pyramids and is still used to this day in modern industries

and architecture.

"Architectural History of Limestone"

Here's the rundown:

Turkey – c. 9000 BC

First use at Gobekli Tepe; T-shaped megaliths



Israel – c. 7000 BC

First use of lime floor mortar; Yitahel, Galilee, Israel

Egypt – c. 2686 – 2181 BC



Used as bldg. material on the Pyramids



Rome – c. 300 BC – 72 AD

Created limestone mortar, on roads; Coliseum

Mesoamerica – 250 – 900 AD

Used for stelae and statues; Mayan kings' record

London – 1240

King Henry III
limewashed Tower of London



China – c. 700 BC – 1644 AD

Used limestone and sticky rice mortar on Great Wall



Empire State Bldg. – 1930 – 1931

Limestone used as interior and exterior paneling



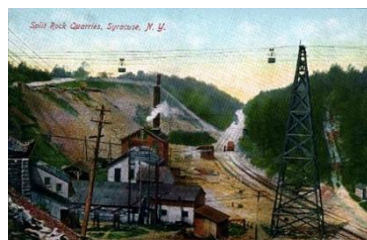
Lincoln Memorial – 1914 – 1922

Limestone used for interior walls & columns

...and Local Limestone, too

Split Rock Quarry

A limestone quarry was established in Split Rock by



Gilbert Coons around 1834. In 1880, the Solvay Process

Company expanded quarry operations, delivering limestone used for Solvay Process by an elevated conveyor about

two miles long to the industrial plant at Solvay, New York. This quarry was abandoned about 1912.

Onondaga Limestone

The Onondaga Limestone is a group of hard limestones and dolomites of Devonian age that forms geographic features in some areas in which it outcrops; in others, especially its Southern Ontario portion, the formation can be less prominent as a local surface feature.

In upstate New York and the Niagara peninsula of southern Ontario the sedimentary rocks tend to dip downward in a generally southern direction.

In several spots it is breached by geologically young streams and spectacular waterfalls are formed, such as at Chittenango Falls just east of Syracuse, Buttermilk Falls at Le Roy, and Indian Falls west of Batavia.

The following buildings contain structural Onondaga limestone:

Gridley Building



The Gridley Building, built in 1867 and known previously as the Onondaga County Savings Bank Building, is a prominent historic building on Clinton Square and Hanover Square in Syracuse. It was designed by Horatio Nelson White and was built adjacent to what was then the Erie Canal and is now Erie Boulevard.

White Memorial Building

The White Memorial Building is a Gothic-style building prominently located on the main downtown street of Syracuse. It was designed by Joseph Lyman Silsbee. It is built primarily of Ohio sandstone blocks and red brick, plus Onondaga limestone along the base.



Hall of Languages, Syracuse University

The Hall of Languages building was designed by Horatio Nelson White in the Second Empire architectural style,



and built in 1871–73. It was the first building constructed on the Syracuse University campus and the building originally

housed the entire university. It is styled after the Gridley Building in Downtown Syracuse, which was also designed by the same architect.



Tim Hart discusses the national conference he attended - **SandFest 2025**- at Sterling Nature Center in September. It was a gathering that attracted participants from 18 states including geologists, environmentalists and teachers. It was open to all interested.

Lapidary Contest Winners!



Photos by Judy Cook



Thank You Thank You Thank You

The Lapidary Contest was a huge success, and I would like to thank all of those who participated.

I would like to thank **Cheryl Brown**, **Deb Laun**, and **Linda Boronczyk** for judging - you did an excellent job. I also want to thank **Cathy Patterson** for helping with sign in, **Matt** for opening up the club house early and moving tables for set up and **Steve Shorey** for helping me set up and return all of the lights.

The following ribbons were awarded:

Best of Show: Category 108 Jade Carving by Robin Lester

Blue Ribbon:

Category 107 Beaded Bracelet by Dale Shinneman

Red Ribbons:

Category 105 Jasper Electroform by Julie Reid

Category 104 Citrine Electroform by Ralph Reid

Category 101 Datozite Cab by Robin Lester

Cat. 103 Dragonlink Chain Bracelet by Michael Bienvenue

Yellow Ribbons:

Category 104 Blood Stone Electroform by Julie Reid

Cat. 105 Crinoid Limestone Electroform by Ralph Reid

Category 106 Wire Wrap by Sue Samair
 Cat. 103 Thor's Hammer & Knotwork Chain by James Guinta
 Congratulations to all looking forward to next year and
 hopefully more entrants.
 Thank you again.
 Kip Perkins



Kip Perkins oversaw the lapidary contest.
 Thank you, Kip!

And, In Other News

Find of the week



Lightning doesn't just strike. Sometimes, it leaves behind glass. This week's find comes from fellow Rock Chaser Randy, who discovered a long strip of fulgurite veins stretching nearly 100 feet across the sand near Blackfoot, Idaho.

The formation ran almost perfectly straight, a rare mark of where a powerful lightning bolt met the earth.

Fulgurite forms when lightning fuses sand or soil into natural glass, creating delicate tubes or veins that record the path of the strike. Each one is a frozen bolt of energy, capturing a single instant of unimaginable heat that can reach up to 30,000 degrees Celsius. They can look like rough, twisted roots on the outside, but inside they reveal smooth, glassy walls. Large or continuous veins like the ones Randy found are exceptionally uncommon. Most fulgurite specimens are only a few inches long and often break apart when collected.

From: **Rockchasing**, November 6, 2025

:rock-chasing@mail.beehiiv.com

INDIANA MAN DIGS UP 2.71-CARAT GEM AT CRATER OF DIAMONDS IN ARKANSAS

By: Sarah Reap Updated: October 2025

DEWY WHITE FOUND A 2.71-CARAT WHITE DIAMOND AT CRATER OF DIAMONDS STATE PARK IN ARKANSAS. PHOTO COURTESY OF ARKANSAS STATE PARKS



OCT. 23 (UPI) -- AN INDIANA MAN VISITING CRATER OF DIAMONDS STATE PARK IN ARKANSAS SPOTTED SOMETHING SHINY ON HIS SHOVEL AND CONFIRMED IT WAS

A 2.71-CARAT WHITE DIAMOND.

PAOLI RESIDENT DEWY WHITE SAID HE AND HIS WIFE SPENT TWO DAYS AT CRATER OF DIAMONDS STATE PARK AT THE START OF THEIR LONG ROAD TRIP, AND THEY ENJOYED THEIR TIME SO MUCH THEY DECIDED TO STOP AGAIN ON THEIR WAY HOME.

WHITE SAID HE CAME ARMED WITH SOME SCREENS HE BOUGHT FROM A STORE IN MURFREESBORO PRIOR TO HIS SECOND VISIT AND HE AND HIS WIFE ENDED UP IN THE CANARY HILL AREA BY THE SOUTH WASH PAVILION.

"A VERY NICE GENTLEMAN I MET ON MY FIRST DAY OUT HERE SUGGESTED THAT AREA," WHITE TOLD ARKANSAS STATE PARKS OFFICIALS. "HE SEEMED LIKE HE KNEW WHAT HE WAS DOING, AND IT LOOKED LIKE A NICE, SHADED SPOT." WHITE SAID HE KNEW THE OBJECT HE UNEARTHED WAS SOMETHING DIFFERENT FROM THE QUARTZ HE HAD BEEN ENCOUNTERING BEFORE IT EVEN HIT HIS SCREEN.

"IT LOOKED LIKE A METAL PIECE OF GLASS," HE SAID. "THE MINUTE I SAW IT IN MY SHOVEL, I KNEW."

THE GLITTERING GEM ON HIS SHOVEL TURNED OUT TO BE A PEA-SIZED WHITE DIAMOND WEIGHING 2.71 CARATS.

WHITE DUBBED HIS DISCOVERY THE HOPE DIAMOND, EXPLAINING IT WAS BECAUSE HE HAD HOPED TO FIND A DIAMOND.

OFFICIALS SAID THE HOPE DIAMOND IS THE FOURTH-LARGEST DIAMOND REGISTERED AT THE PARK THIS YEAR.

<https://www.arkansasstateparks.com/articles/indiana-visitor-unearths-271-carat-hope-diamond-crater-diamonds-state-park>

*It looks like it's time for a road trip.
 Just don't get hit by fulgurite!*



Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse
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: Dave Arcaro 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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-Hospitality Committee Chair: Doria McIntosh
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