

CRACK 'N CAB



Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse, Inc. PO Box 2801, Syracuse, NY
web: <https://gmssa.club> Volume 56 Issue 9, Sept. 2026
209 Oswego St (Francesca's Plaza), Unit 15, Liverpool, NY

Happy New (Fiscal) Year!

September Starts a New Season!



Photo by Judy Cook

September 21st 7pm Meeting:
"Fluorescent Moment With Linda"

(Re)Election & Installation
of Club Officers – See Pg 2

Mineral & Fossil Contest

Judging: See Rules - Pg 5

Program Speaker: David Iannicello

"Syracuse Salt: A brief history and
New Beginning of The Salt City"

See details on Page 9

Our 75th Anniversary Celebration!

20 Years Ago... – See Page 4

2026 Scholarship Award Announcement -See Page 7



Photo by Judy Cook

Lapidary Classes Schedule -
See Page 6

Don't forget that the Lapidary
Contest is coming up in
October! See contest rules on
Page 8.

President's Message

Matt Klinger



Our outgoing on-the-lam President failed to turn in his final President's Message of his term by the newsletter's well-established submission deadline, so we'll have to go on without it. We wish him well in his future endeavors.

All we can offer is this

last, final, brief statement from him:

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

Matthew Klinger
Club President

Update – We did get a message from Matt: Sent from my iPhone: Larry I just found out my email didn't go through. I did write a piece, and it was sent. (The new "The dog ate my homework"?)

And here's hoping our incoming President will have his thoughts together and time to contribute a monthly message (that doesn't get eaten by his phone) to encourage all our Club members.

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

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

Officers will be sworn in at the Sept. 21st general meeting.

Secretary's Report Teresa Arnold (sub)

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM by President Matt Klinger

President: Matt Klinger

Matt reported that since Marie is not present to "certify" the elected officers (election took place at the August Picnic), we will have to hold a second election at the September 21 General Meeting. Teresa Arnold is acting as substitute Secretary for tonight's Board Meeting but is not able to certify the election.

Vice President: Jeff Huard

- The program for the September 21st General Meeting is TBA. Linda Adams will have a short program on fluorescent minerals in the Learning Corner.

- There are **upcoming gem shows in Clayton and Altamont** (see Page 6 and 7 for list).

- Bob Livingston suggested using programs that are available through the Eastern Federation. Jeff will look into that.

- The picnic was a success. People enjoyed the day, the food was good and there were activities provided. The boat ride was good. Next year, we will split the alphabet differently, as there were too many desserts. (And that's a bad thing?)

- The date of the **Christmas Party** will be changed to **Dec. 13th** to allow us to man a Club Booth at a show hosted by Rich Meyer. This will be a great opportunity to promote the club to the public. **More information about the Christmas Party will be available at September's General Meeting.**

- We still plan on collecting Toys for Tots and inviting the Marines to the party.

- Cheryl will order additional tumbled stones and we will have the Straw Draw at Rich's Show in Dec.

The **Christmas Party Committee** is: Jeff H, Judy C, Amanda L, John S, Kris and Linda B, and Linda A. Anyone else interested, see Jeff.

Sargent at Arms: Kristen White - No report

Treasurer Report: Linda Sweeney

- Linda reported that the Show was a success this year.

- We will be looking for a HS or College student going into the field of geology for a \$500. scholarship.

- We discussed renting our club space to other groups needing occasional space for meetings, etc.

- There are still some T-shirts to be picked up. See Linda.

- Linda will no longer be Treasurer, but she has offered to continue to organize the T-shirts for the show. She will continue to take care of the Ice Cream for work night; She will continue to coordinate the Byrne Dairy things

for the show (coffee, donuts, etc.). She is also willing to be an assistant to the Treasurer (with no voting rights).

- An **Audit** will be performed by Linda S, Laura C, and Kris B.

- **Budget Committee is:** Jeff H, Kris B, Laura C, and Cheryl B.

- There will be committee sign-up sheets (with descriptions of duties) put up soon.

Secretary Report: Teresa Arnold (sub)

Teresa will be sending minutes to all Board members as well as the Editor.

Editor Report: Larry Petry -Deadline for newsletter submissions is 11PM, Wed., Sept. 2, 2026.

Webmaster Report: Amanda Lytle

- Amanda reported on outreach efforts we participated in this year: Dave M, Tim H, Amanda and Matt attended various programs at Libraries and schools. We plan to do more of this in the future.

- Amanda is putting together a brochure on the club to be handed out to people to promote the club.

- She is putting together a tracking form for outreach participation.

- She talked about potential sponsorships for the show. Cheryl reported that we had 3 for this year's show, but the more, the better.

- We were given the opportunity to set up at Chuck Hafner's during **Clayscapes'** upcoming **Pottery Market, Oct. 3rd and 4th**. Cheryl is checking with Hafner's to see if it is possible (*Update: No room*). If so, we will set up like we did last year and will hopefully attract the many visitors attending Clayscape's event.

- Amanda will update the Board Member email list with the new Board Members' emails.

Facebook: Judy Cook

Judy recently posted some of Lee L's videos of his recent "marathon" Herkimer diamond mining.

Show Committee: Cheryl Brown

Cheryl reports we had a very successful show this year!!

Lapidary Report: Bill Verge' / Steve Shorey

- Sept, Oct, and Nov classes are filled, Dec. is still open.

- Equipment is all working well.

Jr. Rockhounds Report: Tracy Criscione - No Report

Meeting Adjourned by Matt Klinger at 9PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Teresa Arnold (Acting) Secretary GMSS

It's Membership Renewal Month!



Stop at the front desk to renew your membership at the September meeting.

Individual - \$15.00

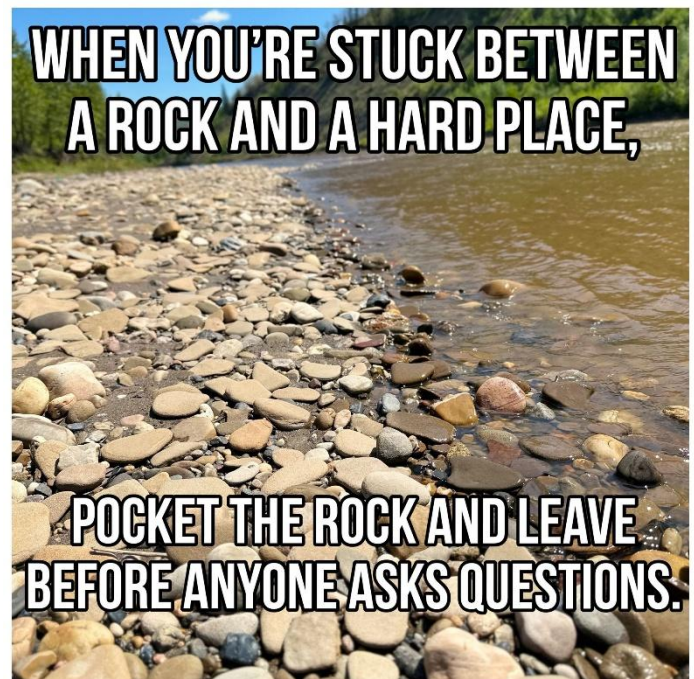
Family - \$20.00

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 us know if there are any changes in your information. Thank you!



From Rockchasing:

https://rockchasing.com/?utm_source=rock-chasing.beehiiv.com&utm_medium=newsletter&utm_campaign=8-13-26&bhlid=e54db2dff3d2f66354134a2562689d10973c4865

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.

Blast from the Past! 20 Years Ago.....September 2006

President: **Cathy Patterson**

Vice President: **Len Sharp**

Treasurer: **Lou Budell**

Secretary: **Judy Cook**

Show Chairman: To Be Announced!

Sergeant at Arms: **Rollie Allen**

Editor: **Loren Patterson**

The program for the September meeting was Show and Tell where members showed what they collected over the summer or bought (silver picked). New members were introduced and time was available for getting acquainted.

Loren Patterson won Third Place Trophy Award for small bulletins. It was awarded at the AFMS convention in Nashville, TN which he and Cathy attended.

John Sweeney and **Carol Hamilton Gibbs** gave a field trip safety talk to the youth group prior to their collecting trip to Alden, NY. This location was a fantastic spot to find pyritized fossils. It has been closed to collecting for years.

This was the club's 40th Anniversary. Grand Prize drawings at the 2006 show were ruby necklaces and a beautiful ruby pendant. We had **Mark Drucker** to thank for his jewelry contacts!

Bob Livingston wrote an excellent column offering kudos and accolades for all those who worked at the show. He mentioned several people who were of exceptional help that have now passed; **Dave Zobkiw, Sharon Viel, Ron Waddell, Lou Budell, Gene Ridall.**

Committees Formed

There were actual committees: Education, Field Trip, Programs, Publicity, Hospitality, Regional, National Affiliations, and Sunshine! They actually made plans and executed them!

The **Education Committee** that was formed in 2005 suggested we take more field trips such as Herkimer diamonds, Howe Caverns, Owasco Lake for fossils, Sangerfield for trilobites, Alden for pyritized fossils, Gore Mountain for garnets, Harrisville for blue calcite, and

Jamesville Quarry. Sadly in 20 years several collecting spots have been closed.

Cathy Patterson was installed as EFMLS Secretary at the West Palm Beach, FL EFMLS Convention.

At the summer picnic **Dave Millis** brought flats of free prize minerals he had collected. He conducted games so we could win his prizes. Dave has been doing this for many years, and we are so appreciative, even now, for his generosity and game/activity creation. **Pete Faes Sr.** (former president) was the clear leader by picking up all the meats, ice, water, sodas, rolls, and charcoal. **Frank Zambrotto** (master wire wrapper) was our grill master.

Cathy Patterson and **Carrie Gannett** ran the pre-meeting Beading Group. This group was new in 2004 and took off like wildfire! **Judy Cook** offered beading classes in North Syracuse. **Carrie Gannett** did likewise in Solvay.

Low-Cost Mineral Oil - Equate Delicate Baby Oil

A column on low-cost cutting oil was printed from The ROCKCOLLECTOR September 2006. It compared the cost and effectiveness of using Almag and Pella oils to baby oil. It stated that this grade of mineral oil was cheaper to use, smelled good, and was excellent for cutting stone. Light weight mineral (baby oil) is low misting, but the downside was that the rock dust doesn't settle out like it would with most other fluids. It was said that after cutting a few hundred slabs you end up with something that acts like chocolate pudding. This sludge from your saw poured into a 5-gallon bucket will return about 50% of your oil back after it sits for a couple weeks.

If you are cutting stone, what is your experience with oils?

September Sunshine News

Cathy Patterson



We continue to keep **Yvonne Liblanc** in our positive thoughts as she faces health challenges. It's good to see **Dick Lyons** on the mend well

enough for his annual drive trip out west with wife Helen. He'll be scouting for rock shops and might bring back some choice petrified wood. (nice cutting material!) **Kip Perkins**, also, is mending nicely from summer surgery. We especially thank **Larry Petry** for the continued excellent newsletter he creates every month despite his own health challenges. We appreciate YOU!! [Thanks - Editor]

If you know of a member needing a sunshine lift, please contact Cathy Patterson.

Don't forget that the Mineral & Fossil Contest is coming up on September 21st! So clean up those collected Minerals and Fossils. See contest rules right below.

Mineral & Fossil Contest Rules (for Sept. 21st Club Meeting)

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

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

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

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

Labeling: **Minerals:**

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

Fossils:

- a) Phylum and class
 - b) Locality, including geological period and rock formation if possible
- Correct spelling is important. Do NOT put your name on the label.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

9. The contest may be entered by proxy.

Geo Lexis (Puzzle) By Anne Fitzgerald

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

Anne said, "It's not an easy decision; But it feels like the right moment to turn the page and **let**

someone else take a crack at the puzzle grid.

I'm sure there are probably members out there who have considered 'I could do that...' OR 'I could Do that!' " OK, members, here's your chance. Let me know.

Lapidary Classes

at the

Gem and Mineral Society of Syracuse

Beginning Classes

September 12, 19, 26

October 10, 17, 24

December 5, 12, 19

Advanced Class

(must be pre approved)

November 7, 14, 21

For More Information Contact

Bill Verge

at

lapidary@gmss.club

The Marie Cole Lapidary Lab is

open every Thursday 6-9 pm

Jamie Cary is the Assistant Supervisor

All grinding, polishing and 6-inch saws are available

The 10-inch saws will **NOT** be available for use.

\$7 fee for the use of the Lab.

Saturday hours are 1 - 4 pm

Upcoming Events

SAT., Sept 19 – The Beading Group - 1-4 pm at the Clubhouse. All are invited. **See more information on Page 7.**

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

Our program speaker is **David Iannicello** of **Syracuse Salt Company**. He will discuss salt production in Syracuse, "The Salt City." See Page 9.

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

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

Oct 19 – GMSS meeting – 7 pm at the Clubhouse. "Fluorescent Moment with Linda." **Lapidary Contest** judging. Program TBA.

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

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

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

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

Sun., Dec. 13 – GMSS Club Christmas Party – Stay tuned for more information.

Upcoming Fall Shows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Bead Group

Our next meeting will be on **Saturday, September 26th 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 and will start on the necklace portion. Please contact Cheryl for more information.

Hurry – Get Your Petrified Wood!

Hello Rockhounds,

My wife and I are considering stopping again at the **Dobell Ranch** to pick up petrified wood. They have a 2,500 acre ranch **adjoining the Petrified Forest south of Holbrook, AZ.**

Our previous trips, I charged \$1.00 per pound. That will depend on how much we are charged this year.

I need to know how many club members are interested in buying the material & how many pounds you want.

Please provide your name to the following e-mail: rchlyns@aol.com or call me at **(315) 672-5328.**
Dick Lyons

2026 Scholarship Award Announcement

The Gem and Mineral Society of Syracuse is proud to announce that it will be awarding a **\$500 Scholarship** to someone attending college this fall. **Please bring this form to the September 21 Club meeting at 7PM.** One entry will be drawn from all entries. If you have any questions, please email Bill Verge' at weverge@gmail.com

Prerequisites are:

- 1: Attending an accredited college in North America
- 2: Be working full time on a Bachelor's Degree
- 3: Must be majoring in Geology or Earth Sciences

Fill out the form below and bring it Monday, September 21, 7pm, to the Club Meeting:

Student Name_____

Student address_____

Student Email or Cell Number_____

Attending College/University_____

Your Name_____

Relation to Student_____

Lapidary Contest Rules For October 19th Meeting

1. Eligibility - Any member in good standing may enter one item in each category, either in person or by proxy.

Junior Division - Age under 16.
Senior Division - 16 and over.

2. Entry must have been made by competitor, must not be signed or otherwise identified, must have been previously entered in Gem and Mineral Society of Syracuse Lapidary Competition.

3. Chains are not necessary and will not be judged in Category 105 - Jewelry.

4. Chains may be entered in Category 103 Metal craft.

5. Ribbons will be awarded as follows:

Score of 90 and above - Blue Ribbon

Score of 80 and above - Red Ribbon

Score of 70 and above - Yellow Ribbon

6. In the event of more than one blue, red, or yellow ribbon in a given category, the competitor will also receive a certificate stating "placement" i.e.: blue, first; red, second; yellow, third etc. at the discretion of the judges.

7. "Ribbon Winners" only will be announced. No scores will be given.

8. In all matters, *Decision of the Judges will be Final.*

CATEGORIES FOR ENTRIES

101 **Cabochons** - Unset only. Freeform or calibrated, natural or man-made material may be used. No Plastic allowed. *(See Notes)

102 **Faceted Stone** - Unset only. Natural or man-made material may be used. No Plastic allowed. (See notes.)

103 **Metal craft** (Fabrication) - Commercially cut stone may be used, as only metalwork will be judged.

104 **Metal craft** (Casting) - Commercially cut stone may be used, as only metalwork will be judged.

105 **Jewelry** - Stone, if used, must have been cut by competitor, as both stone and metalwork will be judged.

106 **Wire wrap** - Wirework only will be judged.

107 **Novelty** — May include chip inlay using epoxy, if desired; fused glass enamel on metal base formed by competitor. No commercial metal base may be used. Enter this category, within the rules, any item that does not fit into one of the other categories.

108 **Carving** - It's wide open whether you use power tools or hand chisels, files, etc. as long as the work was done by the competitor.

* Notes (Applicable to Categories 101 and 102 above)
"Manmade" means reconstructed turquoise, lapis, malachite, etc. or laboratory-grown synthetics such as chrysoberyls, corundum, etc.

"PERFECT" STARTING SCORE PER CATEGORY

Judging Criteria Category Numbers (Max. Points)	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108
Design		20	35	35	35	35	40	30
Symmetry	30							
Girdle	25	20						
Meets		30						
Finish	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	25
Orientation	15							
Workman-ship			35	35	35	35		
Originality							30	30
Difficulty in Cutting Material								15

Directions for using chart: Find category(s) you wish to enter and read down in that column. Whenever points are shown, item will be judged for those criteria with point score being max in that category. All columns add to 100 points maximum at the start of judging.

See Next Page for Examples

Kip - examples for the Lapidary Contest

Kip Perkins showed examples at last September's meeting of different categories one can enter at the October lapidary contest. These beautiful pieces of jewelry and sculpture she created, and she included inlay done by her mom.



Photos by Judy Cook

September 21st Program:

David Iannicello – "Syracuse Salt: A brief history and new beginning of The Salt City"



David will speak on his father-and-daughter business - The Syracuse Salt Company. Before Syracuse became known for its snow or sports teams, it

was famous for one thing - salt. The city didn't just earn its nickname—Salt City—it mined, boiled, brined, and



built it. The salt industry wasn't a side note in Syracuse's story; it was the headline. And Syracuse

Salt Co. is proud to carry forward

the legacy of this essential mineral. Our Local Flake Salt is hand harvested from a deep well that taps into the same ancient seabed beneath Onondaga Lake. It's the same geological formation that supplied the original salt springs, reimagined with a modern, small-batch twist.



And, In Other News

Lost 'mega-escarpment' across ancient USA may explain Grand Canyon's missing billion years

by University of Southampton edited by Sadie Harley, reviewed by Robert Egan AUGUST 18, 2026 [PHYS.ORG](https://phys.org)

Scientists have found evidence that a colossal cliff stretching thousands of kilometers across ancient North America may have exposed the heart of the Grand Canyon nearly a billion years before it was carved by the Colorado River. The study, led by the University of Southampton in the UK, proposes that a vast "great escarpment" of steep rocky cliffs formed when the supercontinent Rodinia broke apart 800 million years ago.



Experts suggest the 1-kilometer-high (0.6-mile-high) cliffs extended along much of western North America, driving erosion of enormous volumes of rock and exposing an ancient crystalline basement now visible in the Grand Canyon in southern Arizona.

Lead author Thomas Gernon, a professor of Earth science at Southampton, said the Grand Canyon has a geological record spanning 2 billion years, but more than half of its rock record appears to be missing.

"The findings also shed light on the formation of the Great Unconformity, a mysterious gap in the rock record that spans over a billion years."

https://phys.org/news/2026-08-lost-mega-escarpment-ancient-usa.html?utm_source=nwletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=daily-nwletter

Illustration: Great escarpment of Laurentia. Credit: Prof Tom Gernon, University of Southampton



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



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

Eight people organized the Gem and Mineral Society of Syracuse in 1951. Since that time it has grown in membership to include adults, families, and young folk. The Society was incorporated in 1969 under the same name.

The objectives of the Society are to stimulate interest in mineralogy, paleontology, and the lapidary arts. Member interests include collecting, identification, and display of minerals, gems, fossils. Members share and develop their artistic skills in jewelry design and creation.

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

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

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

You can also visit our Facebook Page

Annual Member Dues:

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

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

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

2025 – 2026 GMSS Officers/Contacts

-President: Matt Klinger pres@gmss.club

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

-Treasurer: Linda Clark treasurer@gmss.club

-Secretary: Marie Mastracco
secretary@gmss.club

-Jr Rockhounds: Tracey Criscione
kidsrock@gmss.club

-Membership Chair: members@gmss.club

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

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

-Interim Club Librarian: Amanda Lytle
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