

CRACK 'N CAB



Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse, PO Box 2801, Syracuse, NY
web: <https://www.gmss.club> Volume 56 Issue 5, May 2026
209 Oswego St (Francesca's Plaza), Unit 15, Liverpool, NY

Multiple May Meeting Messages



Photos by Judy Cook
Selenite sample



Calcite crystals

Selenite at 6:30 Knowledge Corner;
Cheryl on our July Show; Officer elections
update; Special Rock Sale for GMSS; and
a Calcite program, too!

**NOTICE: The Mineral & Fossil Contest – has
been postponed until the Fall – stay tuned**

Lapidary Contest entrants – see special Show
message for you – Page 11

**Our 75th Anniversary Celebrations!
The Decade of the 1980s – Page 5**

**April's Awesome Auction
Action – See Photos Pages 9 - 11**

Two Months to the Gemworld Show!

Our next Show Committee
meeting is **May 26th**.

**Work Sign-up sheets will
be at the May 18th general
meeting.** Please add your
name as an active worker!



Photo by Judy Cook

President's Message

Matt Klinger



Hear Ye! Hear Ye! It is time for all good members to come to the aid of their club. We are still looking for someone to take over the position of President and the office of Secretary. We have the other offices covered. Don't be afraid to step up, you will have a great deal

of help from past officers.

Our Show is fast approaching so please take the time to add your name to the sign-up sheets on the wall at the club.

The Wayne County club has several field trips scheduled. See our V.P. Jeff Huard or our Editor Larry Petry for details.

In your travels if you come across someone that has a depth of knowledge in one or more of the club's areas of focus ask them if they would like to be a speaker at one of our meetings. If they agree, let Jeff Huard know how to contact that person and set up a night for them to speak.

I hope the month of May is a good one for you and yours.

Matt

A Plea from One of Your Fellow Members

By Bob Livingston

We members are family. I have met many of my best and lasting friends at our GMSS club. At the GMSS May 5th Board meeting, I was thrown back in my seat to hear our Nominating Committee keeps getting turned down when approaching candidates (you all) for president. A boat or ship without somebody to steer would likely go nowhere but round in circles. I am sure in this our 75th year you must realize more than ever we need new blood to assume the reins of our very successful hobby club. Consider it please...

Two years after I joined and I was still working at Carrier, I was tapped to be Treasurer. I could have

said NO, too busy etc. But I agreed to give it a go. And a few years later when approached to be President I did not back away but took up the challenge for two years. It was fulfilling and not a horrible chore. I got to work with scores of wonderful fellow members. We were all aiming to do our best in moving GMSS forward. Introduced new ideas and had two successful money-making shows. So one of you out there needs to volunteer or say OK I will give it a go when approached. It's common sense: we can't operate without a leader -- club President. In my heart I know one of you will Just Do It -- step up. And remember you will not be alone -- all our current and former board members will have your back. Just as they helped me my many years ago, they will help you and see to it you have a rewarding time at the helm. Thank you, whomever, for agreeing.

Bob Livingston, Past President

Secretary's Report Marie Mastracco

GMSS Board Meeting – May 5, 2026

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

President, Matt Klinger

-Revisited open Board positions. Linda Clark nominated Laura Coleman for the treasurer position. Linda Clark and Cheryl Brown nominated John Sweeney for Sgt. at Arms. Jeff Huard has agreed to continue as VP. Others may run as well. President and Secretary positions are still open.

-Encouraged members present to sign up to volunteer for the show in July. Encouraged those present to encourage other members.

-The Mineral Contest is postponed until the Fall. Kip will keep us posted.

Vice President, Jeff Huard

-Discussed presentations for our next General Meeting.
-Revisited Field Trip opportunities in the near future.

Sgt. At Arms, Kristin White

Will be printing out duties for the open positions to be available at the General Meeting.

Treasurer, Linda Clark

-Received a piece of mail for signature. The item did not have identifying information. Asked if anyone was expecting an item in the mail. It was not claimed.

-CE200: the cancelation for Disability insurance dated May 22, 2026, is need of approval by May 28, 2026. Linda could not approve it due to security issues on the account. Dick can get into the account and will approve it.

- Picnic: Will need a head count at next meeting to identify whether we have enough people for the boat ride. Boat holds 28 people at \$100 charge for the day.
- Letter of thank you from the EFMLS Scholarship Fund for our donation.
- National Grid: National Grid corrected their errors, and we are now paid in full to date.
- Erie Niagara Insurance policy has been paid.
- DHA Management: Linda will call the owner to ask if the water and electric bill can be sent to our PO Box.
- Income from April auction: \$732.00

Secretary, Marie Mastracco

No updates. Minutes were approved at the General Meeting in April.

Editor, Larry Petry

Newsletter deadline is Wed., May 5, by 11pm.

Webmaster, Interim Librarian, Amanda Lytle (absent, written report provided)

- Website Domain renewed.
- GemWorld was updated.
- Working on backup project to provide for the July and August summer programs to include hands-on activities.
- Volunteers needed to test the projects and lesson.

Facebook, Judy Cook

- Posted advertisement for the Gemworld Show in July.
- Posted information regarding field trips available at the Museum of Science and Technology.
- Posted pictures of our annual Spring Auction.
- Posted information for Wegman's Community Days at the Museum of the Earth.

Show Chairman, Cheryl Brown

Committee met on April 28th. Cheryl and Dick are reviewing the floor plan.

Lapidary, Steve Shorey (present), Bill Verge (absent)

- Advanced class starts this Saturday.
- Money from Thursday evenings was given to Treasurer.
- Bill sent message to the President regarding the casting machine. He has been unable to liquidate the machine on Facebook and was not able to have it repaired. Kristin White made the *motion* to donate it to BOCES. Marie Mastracco seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Jr. Rockhounds, Tracy Criscione (absent)

Matt will contact her for information and update.

Membership, Cheryl Brown: 167 members.

Education, Jen Hilliard (absent)

- Matt will contact Jen for update.
- Discussion of potential opportunities to connect with.

New Business:

Robin Burgess provided information on her family's Burgess Estate Rock Sale. Robin is only advertising this to members of GMSS.

John Sweeney made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Kristin White seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Marie Mastracco, Secretary

Sunshine News

Cathy Patterson



Rain lately and Followed By Sun

Many GMSS members were in attendance at **Keith Gilmer's** memorial service April 11. We said good-bye to our much loved and

appreciated fellow rockhound, Keith.

Cards were sent to **Celestine Drake** who recently lost her husband. We are sorry about Celestine's absence from club events but fully understand this rough time for her and her family.

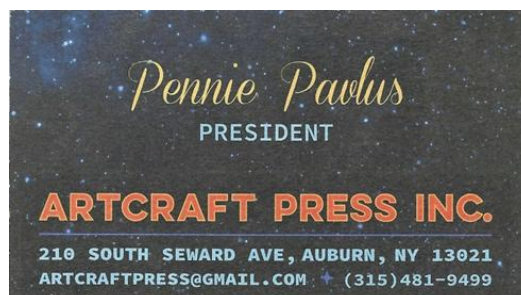
Larry Petry also lost his mother-in-law in April.

Long time security head for years at our annual summer show, **Tom Grudzinski** passed in April. A card was sent to his family. We will miss his familiar face and help keeping our show secure and safe.

Most recently we lost long time member **Ron Lewandowski** suddenly. If you ever shopped in wholesale at South Pacific Beads, you most likely were helped by Ron. He worked at South Pacific helping stock the huge bead displays and handled cashing out folks for years. A card was sent to his sister **Cindy Napierkowski**, also a life member.

Gary Angelaro, owner of our mall, and others, as well as the Francesca's Restaurant across the parking lot was sent a thank you for his very generous donation of multiple pizzas. These made our 75th club anniversary extra special.

To all the many GMSS superstars who prepared grab bags filled with rocky surprises, who spread out the treat table with "Martha Stewart" style, and who worked tirelessly getting the slide program created showing our many club photos over the years we send Kudos!! Laurels, and Accolades! When everyone lends a hand, the club runs smoothly. Bravo to us!!



With this issue of the Crack 'N Cab, we say hello to Pennie Pawlus, our new

printer and fellow Club member!

Bookish Things From The Clubhouse Library

Is it Okay to Quit on a Book?

Quitting on a book is totally fine. But if the Quitter's Guilt gets the best of us—there's a nifty workaround.

It's something I just learned for when I can't finish a book for whatever reason - like too many pages, it's a hard read, not relevant to me at this time, boring, time limits, etc. And to satisfy the need for some type of closure with it, even if my reasons have reasons—I can journal a “DNF” List.

That's short for a “Did Not Finish” List.

If I got a book I just can't get through, I can add it to my list of “DNF books” with a note on what it was about the book that wasn't clicking for me. So far, it's being helpful for getting back into enjoying reading again. It creates some fun tracking and self-reflection stuff for my journaling hobby too, which has an element to it that's quite satisfying in itself.

The DNF List (among other really good hobby-reading tips) came from Joel Snape in his “The Best Way to Build a Daily Reading Habit in 2025” vlog on YouTube.

But...how do we know when we're accidentally building a habit of quitting difficult things? Maybe that's where this list comes in handy to track specific trends as well.

New Books on The Shelf!

We just received a gem of a book for our Club library's collection, donated by Ann Pool: “Gems and Minerals of America: A Guide to Rock Collecting” by Jay Ellis Ransom.

This book has a feast of content on geology basics, mineralogy, and tips and advice on collecting at mines - all in the States.

I wish I had more time to read enough of it to write an actual review, but I'm too excited not to at least share my first impressions on just the way this book reads. Several pages in, and I fell in love with it.

The author's writing style and expressiveness has a refreshingly easy “reading flow” for an information-packed book, which feels warmly characteristic of the 1950s-70s writing style. I'm sure there's a legitimate term for that aspect of a well-written book,

but it's a two for the price of one on both learning content and for enjoying some reading practice (no lies, we're all in that boat from our phones).

Two other donations by Ann that are greatly appreciated: “Roadside Geology of Vermont and New Hampshire,” and “Rocks and Minerals: A Golden Nature Guide” which will be allocated to our next book sale to help raise funds for future community projects.

Thank you Ann for your contribution!

While We're Under Construction...

Our Clubhouse Library is open for business.

Feel free to browse the shelves. They're filled with a variety of reading goodies on Rocks, Minerals, Fossils, Rockhounding & Geology-related topics for your earthly reading ventures.

An easy book sign-out and returns shelf has been added on the top shelf. It's a help-yourself setup, so just make sure to use the sign-out sheet when taking out a book.

Book returns are due a month after the date it's signed out (or next meeting date), if you'd like a longer time just let me know.

Library is open during lapidary lab hours and clubhouse meetings. It's located in the little corner room office of the clubhouse (with the white door).

Inside the corner room along the left-side wall, you'll see the shelving lined with collections of books and magazines.

In case you didn't know our club has a library, you do now!

Library Volunteer Appreciation:

A special thanks to Penny Hutson, Mallory Hutson, and Kristin White for helping to improve the Library. They have moved volumes of materials around—all things I couldn't do myself.

They also assembled the self-checkout and returns shelf and helped set in motion new ideas for community projects while bringing some long-standing library improvement efforts closer to completion. We are truly grateful for their time, energy, and dedication.

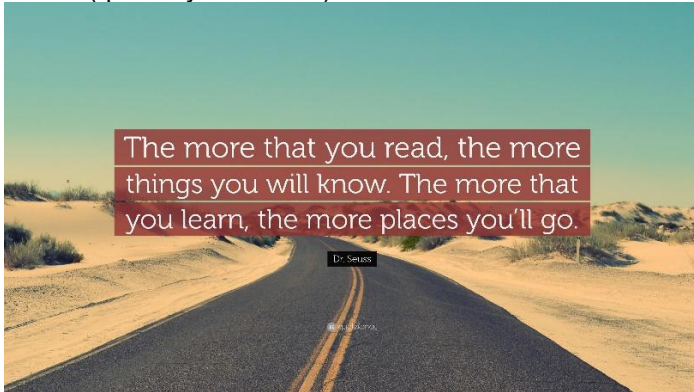
(Continued on Page 5)

Our Library Committee now has four members: Kristen White, Marie Mastracco, Penny and Mallory Hutson.

If you have questions about the library or interested in volunteering/ participating in the library committee, reach out to me at library@gmss.club and include 'club member' in email subject line (so I know you're not spam!).

- Amanda Lytle, Librarian

Photo: (quote by Dr. Seuss)



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 1980s

Several member/dealers like **Dick Stimer**, the **Norris's**, the **Dornberger's**, the **Perkins**, **Carolyn Les**, **R. Crocoll** became 'regulars' taking in the Tucson show. A successful series of silver smithing and lapidary classes began in 1980. The club had 13 Life Members in 1980. A scapolite specimen from Bear Lake, Canada went on display in 1980, at the Smithsonian Institution, and was donated by our Syracuse club. A proclamation dated July 1980, by Governor Hugh Carey, declares July (in honor of our show) "Gems and Minerals Month". In 1981, Club members took the bus to Albany to tour the New York State Museum. Member **Steven Chamberlain** concluded a series of 36 interesting

articles entitled "**The Mineral Message**". A detailed membership directory was developed and distributed in 1982. **Marie Cole** regaled the membership with what it is like to live and collect and buy gem materials in Australia and the Far East. She let us see and touch beautiful samples. Member **Paul Dunning** was elected President, EFMLS, in 1982. A special showing of Bill Pinch's mineral collection to the Syracuse membership occurred in the fall of 1985. The club contracted for all of the Center of Progress Building at the State Fairgrounds for the first time in the mid '80s. Presidents this decade were: **H. Perkins**, **M. Norris**, **T. Smith**, **G. Ridall**, **C. Les**, and **H. Spath Sr.**

GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY OF SYRACUSE, INC.
presents it's 22nd annual

GEMWORLD '88

New York State Fairgrounds-Syracuse
JULY 16 10-6 **JULY 17** 10-5

Dealers • Demonstrators • Exhibits
MINERALS, FOSSILS, CUT & UNCUT GEMSTONES, CARVINGS,
BEADS, HANDMADE JEWELRY, LAPIDARY & SILVERSMITH
SUPPLIES, JEWELRY MOUNTINGS

— SPECIAL EXHIBITS —
DIAMOND CUTTING DEMONSTRATION
MINERALS OF N.Y. STATE INC.
HERKIMER 'DIAMONDS'
REPLICAS OF FAMOUS DIAMONDS

Slide Programs • Mini-Mine for Children • Door Prizes

Donation \$1.50 Under 13 FREE
50% Discount With This Advertisement

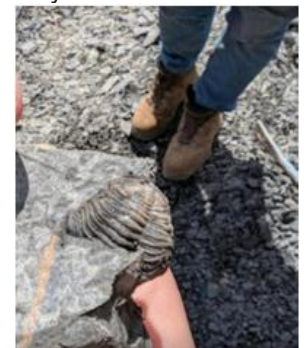
SAT., Apr 18 – Field Trip to Deep Springs Road. An excellent site for Devonian fossils. This was open to the Syracuse club and the Wayne County Gem & Mineral Club.



Photo by Teresa Ferris



Photo by James Keeler



Photos by James Keeler

Courtesy of the Wayne County Gem & Mineral May-June newsletter.

**Geo Lexis (Puzzle)
By Anne Fitzgerald**

"Sticky Stuff"

We've all found ourselves in sticky situations, but none like the poor animals who have wandered into the La Brea area of California. I say "area" because "tar pits" gives us the impression of animals falling or sinking, but in fact, just a small puddle of stickiness could seal a sloth's fate. A more accurate description would be "La Brea Asphalt Area" but who am I to reduce the drama?



Hancock Park, with the tar pits, in Los Angeles.

The area of La Brea consists of asphalt, a low-grade

crude oil mixed with saturated dirt. The oil pushes up through narrow rock cracks and evaporates, leaving the sticky stuff behind to trap whoever treads. Fortunately for us, asphalt serves as a natural preservative. When geological processes pushed up and crushed the bones and teeth, sometimes only remnants of animals and plants and insects remained. But the remains can be used to identify the victims. The first fossils were first officially recognized in 1875 by Dr. William Denton, and research continues today and has now evolved to include the tiniest fossils with the smallest of secrets.



Fossil miners at work, with oil derricks seen in the background. 1911

Animals are still getting stuck today, but some,

like opossums and raccoons are able to get unstuck. Research is continuing, but one guess is that the cooler temperatures at night give these nocturnal creatures an advantage because the asphalt is less sticky. (The other possibility is they can read the "Keep Out" signs, some requiring at least a fourth grade reading level like "Death Trap for Meat-Eaters.") For some reason, even though

humans don't always read the "Keep Out" signs, humans have mostly also escaped. Only one young woman's remains have been found so far, and she has been dated to be about 10,000 years old now. Her skull reveals that the sticky asphalt may not have been the actual cause of her death, so humans may be right up there with raccoon and opossums with their survival skills. It's too bad we still haven't figured out the best way to fill potholes. You may want to ask your local opossum.

Unscramble the following list of animals that have been found to be victims of the La Brea Tar Pits. If you get stuck, the solution can be found on Page 8 of this newsletter.

- snobi
- lemac
- oyecto
- rede
- odg
- sego
- sohre
- nilo
- tachotes-rabot
- lwfo

NOTE: All the Advanced Lapidary classes are full! EMAIL BILL VERGE' 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.

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 May 18th Club meeting.

Upcoming Events

SAT., May 16 – The Beading Group - 1-4 pm at the Clubhouse. All are invited. **See more information on Page 8.**

May 18 – GMSS meeting – 6:30 pm
Knowledge Corner: **Selenite** is the subject. **7 pm** – July Show update; Club officers info.; Special Rock Sale promo; and a program on **Calcite** by Dave Millis. Free giveaways!

SAT-MON, May 23-25 – Field Trip - Crystal Grove Diamond Mine & Campground (St. Johnsville, NY). Again we are invited to join the Wayne County Club at this one. Some of their members are planning on camping over those dates, you can do the same or go for a day. For details, **contact Dave Arcaro** by text at 315-935-3627 to sign up or with questions.

May 26 – Gemworld 2026 Show Committee meeting – 7 pm at the Clubhouse.

SAT & SUN, May 30 & 31- 9 am - 3pm
Burgess Estate Rock Sale - Rain or Shine (no early birds), 4894 Fayetteville-Manlius Rd, Manlius - (behind/off Rt 92/ Highbridge Rd (inside garage). FOR SALE: Material from Ruth and Volney Burgess, as well as Volney's father (Volney's dad made numerous trips to Arizona in the 1970s and brought back a lot of rocks from various mining sites)
SALE ITEMS: Rocks (numerous assorted), Slabs (many cut thin), Tumbled stones, Mexican geode halves (a few whole), Beads and findings, Jewelry, Cases, and MUCH MORE!!
PRICING – Expensive items will be marked; all else – just make a fair offer
PAYMENT – Cash, check w/ driver's ID, PayPal, Venmo.
For details, **contact Robin Burgess** at 315-481-6340 or email: seaofrocks@yahoo.com.
THIS SALE WILL ONLY BE ADVERTISED TO GMSS

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

June 15 – GMSS meeting – 7 pm at the Clubhouse. "Gemworld Show Work Night"

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.

Upcoming Spring Shows:

May 9-10—DOVER, NH: Annual show; Southeastern New Hampshire Mineral Club; Dover Elks Lodge, 282 Durham Rd (Route 108); Sat. 10-4, Sun. 10-4; \$5 Adults, children under 12 Free (must be accompanied by adult); The 21st Annual Earl & Melvina Packard Rock, Gem & Mineral Show - Large venue with many fine dealers of gems, minerals, jewelry & more. Silent auction every half hour & door prize drawing every hour. Rock saws running to open your geode treasures, cabbing demonstrations both days & a Kid's Dig area; contact Brian, (207) 606-9721; Email: cshore108@yahoo.com; Website: <https://www.senhmc.org/>

May 16-17—BENNINGTON, VT: Annual show; Southwestern Vermont Mineral & Gem Club. Inc; Grace Christian School, 104 Kocher Dr; Sat. 10-4, Sun. 10-3; Adults \$5. Kids Free; contact Bill Cotrofeld, (802) 375-6782; Email: cotrofeldauto@comcast.net

May 16-17—NORTH OLMSTED, OH: Annual show; Parma Lapidary Club; Soccer Sportsplex, 31515 Lorain Rd; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; \$6 for adults (both days), free for children under 12 & Scouts in uniform; Get ready to experience the ultimate celebration of geological wonders & artistic craftsmanship at the 55th Annual Rock-a-Rama Jewelry Arts, Rock, & Gem Show; contact Ruth Sholtis-Furyes; Email: showchair@parmalapidaryclub.com; Website: <https://www.parmalapidaryclub.com/rock-a-rama>

May 16-17—MAYS LANDING, NJ: Bi-Annual Show; Cape Atlantic Rockhounds; Atlantic County 4-H Fairgrounds, 3210 US Rt. 50; Sat. 10-4, Sun. 10-4; Free Admission & Parking; Rock, Minerals, Slabs, & Cabs, Fossils, Crystals, Beads, Gems, Jewelry; contact Bob Bowman, (856) 207-1381

May 29-31—WAUSEON, OH: Annual show; State Line Gem & Mineral Society; Fulton County Fairgrounds, Junior Fair Building North of the Ohio Tnpk, Exit 34 F, 8514 SR 108; Fri. 12-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-4; Adults \$4, Seniors & Students \$3, Children under 12 Free; contact Sherman Kardatzke, (517) 673-5487; Email: saKrdatzke@gmail.com; Website: statelinegms.com

May 30—NEWTON, MA: Annual Auction; Boston Mineral Club; American Legion Nonantum Post 440, 295 California St; Sat. 10:30-5; Free; The Boston Mineral Club Annual Mineral Auction features a voice auction of more than 100 quality mineral specimens & related items for every price range. Running simultaneously, a silent auction of over 150 flats offers a wide range of items, from mineral specimens to lapidary rough, books & maps; contact Richard Piligian, (508) 254-7707; Email: rkpiligian@verizon.net

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; 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; 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 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; Website: <http://www.midohiominerallandfossilclub.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; Website: 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

Answers to Geo Lexis

Solution to Fossil Remnants Found in La Brea

snobi	bison
lemac	camel
oyecto	coyote
rede	deer
odg	dog
segoo	goose
sohre	horse
nilo	lion
tachotesh-rabot	saber-tooth cat
lwfo	wolf (or fowl)

Sources and further reading:

<https://www.laalamanac.com/history/hi02v.php>, "La Brea Woman" The Page Museum at The La Brea Tar Pits
www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/la-brea-tar-pits-sucking-visitors-millennia-paleontologists-still-finding-out-what-lies-within-ooze-180988404/ Richard Conniff April 2026
<https://tarpits.org/early-excavations>
www.detailedpedia.com/wiki/Paleobiota_of_the_La_Brea_Tar_Pits
<https://nhm.org/person/ordenana-miguel>

The Bead Group

Our next meeting will be on Saturday, **May 16th from 1:00 to 4:00** at the Clubhouse. It will cost \$5.00 each for use of the clubhouse. Please contact Cheryl Brown at either gmsrocks@gmail.com or 315-708-9122 (text) if you are planning on coming. I will give you the materials list so you can bring your own supplies, or you can get a kit there for a nominal fee.

Show Committee

Our next Show Committee meeting will be **Tuesday, May 26 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 Member

Gigi Yeager

April's Awesome Auction

Photos by Judy Cook



John Sweeney did another incredible job as auctioneer at our annual spring event! There was a full house and lots of great deals on items up for bid!



Sometimes it was a tough crowd and hard to find a bidder!



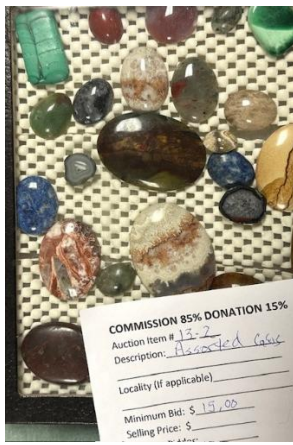
"Lots" of Auction items



Fluorite from China



Pyrite from Marmora, Ontario



Quartz crystals & hematite (left), uvite/dravite (top), sulfur.



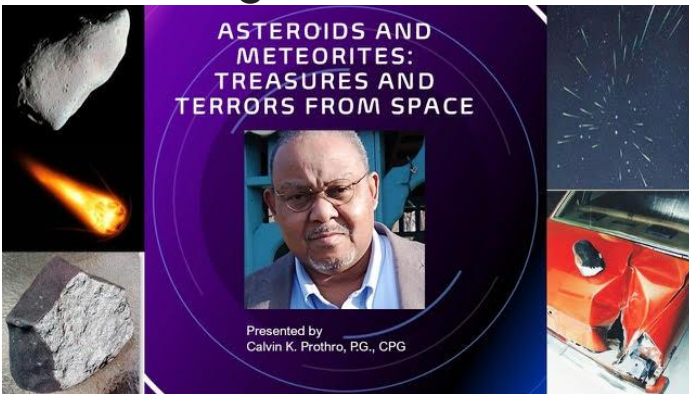
Cheryl and Linda – hard at work?



There was the fun banter from John, and he used his special "voice" when he was bidding for himself



Calvin Prothro's presentation for Learning Center at Show



Asteroids and Meteorites: Treasures and Terrors From Space

Presented by Calvin K. Prothro; P.G., CPG

Asteroids and meteorites range the gamut between scientific and intellectual curiosities to potential sources of important knowledge and great wealth. The asteroid belt may offer future locations for human settlement and jumping off points to explore the outer solar system. A single M-Type asteroid could possess substantial quantities of precious and economically important

metals, such as gold, platinum, titanium, lithium, iron, and copper, which exceed all amounts previously mined on Earth. It is estimated that there are between 50,000 and 200,000 of these types of asteroids, just waiting for us.

Nevertheless, asteroids also pose risks to our planet. Although catastrophic impacts are rare, the continuous arrival of meteorites (also known as shooting-stars) serve as a constant reminder of this threat. On a daily basis, these visitors from space bring us tantalizing clues to what may await us on the asteroids of the solar system. However, for most non-scientists they are only objects of interest to collectors and treasure hunters. Come learn about asteroids and their gifts to us, meteorites. This presentation explores the nature of asteroids and meteorites, methods for identifying them, and the knowledge that can be gained from their study.

Short Bio – Calvin K. Prothro; P.G., CPG

Calvin Prothro is an Emeritus Professor of Onondaga Community College (OCC) where he taught for 18 years. He has also been an adjunct professor or visiting instructor at SUNY Cortland, Cazenovia College, SUNY-ESF, Wells College, Tompkins-Cortland Community College, and Ithaca College, where he taught numerous courses in physical, environmental, and geosciences. He also lectured and taught courses in Astronomy and Planetary science at OCC and Cazenovia College.

Calvin is a past President of the Central New York Association of Professional Geologists (CNYAPG) and serves on the board of directors for the New York State Council of Professional Geologists (NYSCPG). He holds a BA from SUNY Geneseo in Geological Sciences and an MA in Physical Geography from Binghamton University. Calvin also has 15 years of industry experience in the fields of environmental site assessment, environmental remediation, and hydrogeologic investigations. He is also currently licensed as a Professional Geologist in the states of New York and Indiana and has been certified by The American Institute of Professional Geologists (AIPG) as a professional geologist. During his time as an environmental consultant, he was also licensed in Pennsylvania, Delaware, Illinois, Minnesota, and Tennessee.

Fun Fact: Calvin is a science fiction writer and is the author of the Dark Solar System Series, which includes three novels: *A Mission So Dark*; *In the Cold and the Dark*; and *The Devil in the Dark*, with a fourth novel (*They Only Come Out in the Dark*) to be released soon.

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.



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

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

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

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

See online Newsletter <https://gmss.club/crack-n-cab-newsletter>
 You can also visit our Facebook Page
Annual Member Dues:
Adult \$15 – Family/Couple \$20 – Junior \$10 – Life \$5

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

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

2025 – 2026 GMSS Officers/Contacts

-President: Matt Klinger pres@gmss.club

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

-Treasurer: Linda Clark treasurer@gmss.club

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