

CRACK 'N CAB



Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse, Inc. PO Box 2801, Syracuse, NY
web: <https://www.gmss.club> Volume 56 Issue 7, July 2026
209 Oswego St (Francesca's Plaza), Unit 15, Liverpool, NY

The Big Show is Here!



Center of Progress Bldg
Saturday, July 11, 10-6
Sunday, July 12, 10-4

Special Show Edition

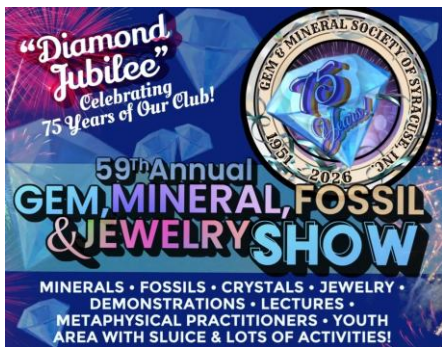
Important Information:

Retail Dealers List - Pages 8 – 10

Wholesale Dealers List - Pg 10

Metaphysical Center – Page 11

Learning Center Speakers – Page 11-12



See President's Message

On Election of Next Year's Officers

Plus: **Slate of Officers – Page 2**

Our 75th Anniversary Celebration!
The Decade of the 2000s – Page 5-6

Another Wildacres Experience: Page 4



June Work Night
Meeting - See Photos
Pages 12 through 15

Aug. Club Picnic Info. – Pg 6

President's Message

Matt Klinger



To All Club Members:
The president, moi, is declaring that the **Annual Picnic (see Page 6) will be a **special meeting**. At that time we will present our**

candidates for officers to the club and vote on them. If anyone outside of the slate presented wants to declare that they would like to run for office, they must be present at the picnic.

Signed,
Matthew Klinger
Club President

Current Slate of Officers up for vote at the Aug. 2nd (Picnic) meeting:

President: Kris Boronczyk
Vice President: Jeff Huard
Secretary: Teresa Arnold
Treasurer: Laura Coleman
Sgt. at Arms: John Sweeney
Terms start September 2026.

Secretary's Report

Marie Mastracco

GMSS Board Meeting – July 7, 2026

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

President, Matt Klinger

- Board Positions: **A special meeting will be held on August 2, 2026, to vote on nominees.** Officers will be sworn in at the September 21st club meeting.
- Presentations: Matt presented at the Paine Library today and will present again on Monday, July 13, 2026.

- Access to security cameras provided with details.

Vice President, Jeff Huard

- **Annual picnic, August 2, 2026:** Reviewed details for picnic. Drinks, ice and condiments are now taken care of. Cookers have been arranged.

- **September Meeting:** "Fluorescent Moments with Linda": Linda will present a new fluorescent stone from her collection at the beginning of the meeting.

Treasurer, Linda Clark

- Picnic and boat ride at the picnic: Both have been paid for.
- T-Shirts: in the works and will be available on time.
- Table Hopping: Bill received and will be paid.
- If anyone has bills to be paid, please get them to Linda ASAP.

Sgt. At Arms, Kristen White (absent)

Secretary, Marie Mastracco - No news to report.

Newsletter/Editor, Larry Petry (absent)

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

- Grants: Asked for input regarding specifics we will be seeking grants for.
- Corporate Records binder has been updated. We need the 5013-C paperwork placed the binder. Theresa thinks a copy is in the past Secretary notes binder. If needed, Cheryl has a copy.

Facebook and Photographer, Judy Cook

- GEMWORLD Posts: Learning Center schedule and presenters, Metaphysical Center practitioners, Grand prize at GEMWORLD as well as continuous advertisements for GEMWORLD at the State Fairgrounds on July 11th and 12th.
- GMSS in-house posts: Pictures of our June 15 meeting preparing for our GEMWORLD Club Booth Straw Draw.
- Additional Posts: NYS Museum, Penn Dixie Fossil Park and Nature Center, and the Museum of Science & Technology-MOST.

Gem World Show Chair, Cheryl Brown

- Discussed specifics of the Grand Prize raffle and the Postcard raffle.
- Purchased another 40 lbs. of tumbled stones for the show which brings us to 80 lbs.
- Cheryl will provide 5 packs of 4 (free) tickets to the radio station in advertisement.

Lapidary Committee, Steve Shorey (absent)

Jr. Rockhound Committee, Tracy Criscione (absent)

- Is out of state on business; found a replacement to fill in.

Membership Committee, Cheryl Brown

- Cheryl reported that we now have over 176 members.

Education Committee, Jill Hillard (absent)

New Business

- Kip announced the Mineral Contest will be held in September 2027 and the Lapidary Contest will be held in October 2027. More information to follow.

Cheryl Brown made the ***motion*** to adjourn the meeting. John Sweeney seconded. Motion carried. Meeting ended at 8:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Marie Mastracco, Secretary

July Sunshine News

Cathy Patterson

Recently, cheer up/ get well cards were sent to Kip **Perkins**



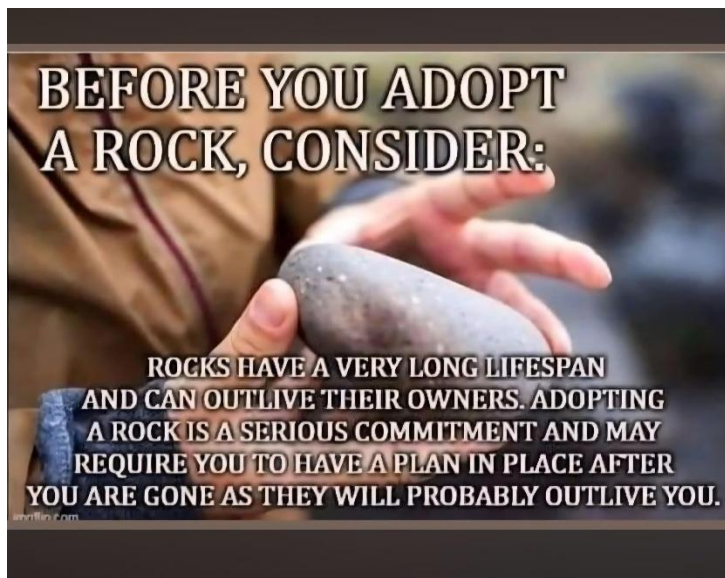
who recently had surgery and is slowly recovering her strength. We wish Kip healing crystal energy to get through this bumpy spot.

Yvonne Liblanc, long-time member, is out of the hospital and feeling better after a heart procedure. Rose quartz healing vibes are going to her.

We learned that **Doria McIntosh** will be moving out of the area to be closer to family. We understand and wish her well and much happiness.

Dale Shinneman experienced much illness as a result of a tick bite. She is much better now but does not want to repeat this awful illness. We wish Dale much wellness and good cheer.

Rockhounds in the field **BEWARE OF TICK BITES!** You know the risks and must take precautions. This summer, in particular, is a bad one due to extreme heat. They seem to be more abundant. That goes for stinging bees too! Stay safe!



Submitted by Dale Shinneman

Another View of the 2026 Wildacres Experience

By John Sweeney

Day One: North Carolina Bound

After numerous days of packing planning, we're heading south. Today's goal, make it to Charlottesville Va. a nine-hour run pretty much straight down Route 81. The car is packed with rock hunting tools, sledges, pry bars, sifting screens, five-gallon buckets, gold pans, various other sundry tools which to coax minerals from the earth and streams of the mineral rich mountains of Western North Carolina. We have clothes for several climates: it's fifty here when we're leaving Syracuse. We're traveling to the mountains where the elevation is over 3,000 feet and the lowlands in the Carolinas and Virginia are in 80s. We've got work boots and gloves, flip-flops, regular shoes and fleece as well as raingear and shorts. The purpose of the trip is two-fold. We're going prospecting /rock hunting and we're taking in a week at the Wildacres retreat near Spruce Pine and Little Switzerland North Carolina in order to take some jewelry making classes.

Wildacres is an interesting place. It is a non-profit organization tied in with the Blumenthal Corporation on 1,200 acres of land on top of a mountain in Southwest North Carolina. There are dorms, a dining hall, workshops and studios, an amphitheater, an auditorium and a variety of multi-purpose spaces. Throughout the year they host a variety of organizations for retreats and educational endeavors. The Eastern Federation of Mineralogical Societies (EFMLS) has been hosting classes for members there for over 53 years, always in the spring and often in the fall as well. The content of the classes varies by year and the organization. In our case the classes offered were: Beginning Cabochon making, stone and metal inlay, faceting, the geology of pegmatites, metal clay, fused glass, Viking knit chain making and wire wrapping. There are usually silversmithing classes, maybe intarsia, mineral identification, and a host of other subjects related to the needs and wants of the attendees. The teachers are all professionals in their areas and generally teach elsewhere or are at least high-level craft workers.

Day Two, Three and ½ 4

Up and at em! Breakfast at a local Thai eatery purple taro root pancakes with bacon awesome! Six and one half hours to go through beautiful mountain scenery. Stay on Route 81 till you hit Tennessee, take a right back into North Carolina and you are there. Be ready for some switchbacks and curves and more than a few changes in elevation. We traveled through seven states and crossed the Eastern Continental divide several times. Beautiful! Since we were a few days early for our Wildacres activities, rock hounding was on the agenda. Earlier research had pointed us towards Burnsville where the Ray Mine, a pegmatite formation and onetime mica mine is now part of the Pisgah National Forest. It is free and open for surface collecting (your tax dollars at work) with Aquamarine, garnet and moonstone being the most sought-after minerals there. We found

garnet, lots of mica, some beryl, black tourmaline, and quite a bit of moonstone. The highlights were one 25-pound chunk of quartz with several garnets, the beryl crystals, mica and black tourmaline all in one piece and few larger pieces of white moonstone which is turning out to be some nice cabbing material. Collecting here can be a little arduous. You are pretty much going straight up and down a wooded mountainside that is essentially an old mine dump composed of rocks and boulders that has been grown over. But what beautiful rocks they are - mainly very white albite with mica and white quartz inclusions. The ground literally sparkles in the sunlight with all the mica and whiteness of pegmatite debris. We had some good success here and decided to come back twice more. We ate at great Mexican Restaurant in Burnsville and spent the night in local motels.

Day Three and one half

We got up early and ran up to the Ray Mine to get one big chunk of moonstone we'd left up by the creek. Then it was off though Spruce Pine and up the mountain to Wildacres. Many more curves, hairpin turns and changes in elevations, some beautiful vistas and a few 'whoa look at that drop off there' and we arrived at the top of the mountain. Check in was well organized and in short order 60-some-odd people were assigned rooms, checked in, given maps, itineraries and class assignments for the week. Dinner was in a large dining hall that seats around 150 people. Tables seat eight to ten people; meals are served family style and there is a nice salad bar. People with special dietary needs were well taken care of and from what I heard everyone liked the food. I definitely put on a few pounds.

Day Four

The large brass bell in the courtyard rings at 7:30 am to make sure everyone is up and moving. The bell rings again at 8:00 am to signal breakfast is being served. Breakfast was from 8:00 am - 9:00 when classes started. Classes were most days from 9:00 - 12:00 with a lunch break and then back to class. Classes ended at 5:00 pm and dinner was served. Most evenings, our guest speaker Robert Weldon renowned GIA photographer and journalist revealed us with masterful slide shows on everything from tips on



Matt Klinger relaxing in Canteen with friends.

photographing gems to the intricacies of accessing and documenting some of the most fabulous gemstones. After the evening talks, we often retreated to the canteen or a variety of porches for informal gatherings and conversations. Sounds like busy days and they were. Busy with working on projects and busy with making new

friends and acquaintances

Classes: Two, Three, Five, Six

The class I was enrolled in was Inlay. I'll call it an advanced class in that everyone had some experience with silverwork and cutting and polishing stone. It involved combining



Knife handle and material for inlay project under construction



Inlay ring in process

different types of stone and silver layers to make a single piece which was then mounted in a silver necklace. Other pieces we completed involved handles for two knives and a channel ring. The shops had nicely designed individual work areas with soldering stations. There were surrounding benches with cabbing machines, enough for each student to use. Our teacher Chuck Brown outlined the projects we were going to

make, did a nice job of demonstrating the method and set us to work while answering the inevitable questions as they came with patience and wry good humor. There were four full days of class and a bye day in the middle of the week where you could choose from a couple of field trip options. After the field trips there was a tailgating session in the parking lot where you could buy and swap materials and jewelry. Friday night the "the good stuff auction" was held. The good stuff was everything from signed photoprints by Robert Weldon to handmade pieces by the instructors and students. Equipment, slabs, cut and uncut stone gift baskets signed books, and a plethora of items were all bid on.



Sweeney up to same old tricks at the GOOD stuff auction.

Our last night there students from each class presented us with what their class did, and everyone's projects were out on display. The presentations ranged from bawdy descriptions of jewelry methods to full on roasts of the instructors and there was usually an explanation somewhere in there amongst the laughter of what everyone did in class. The tables were filled with projects of really excellent work. I think that if you had asked any of the students on their first day if they could have produced what they did you would

have received a resounding "No." Good instructors and engaging people made that a resounding "Yes."

That in itself is a certain kind of magic, yet there is something else that happens at Wildacres as well. Between all the class workings and the talks and the field trips bonds grow and friends are made. That is the true magic of the place. There were people from Florida to Maine and even out west most strangers to each other on day one yet by the end of the week they became friends. How nice it was to get home after several days on the road home and to open emails from people hoping we got home all right and planning to get together again. All in all an excellent adventure! Would I go back? Definitely.

So how do you make this happen? The EFMLS will be putting out registration info around the beginning of the year with class lists and dates.

This year the registration was around \$550 for the week of lodging, food, and classes. Some classes had other material fees added on. The EFMLS will be offering two scholarships, and individual clubs often offer tuition scholarships as well. So keep an eye out. I hope to see you there. This was my first trip there and I will be back next year.

EFMLS Wildacres Workshop 2026

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

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



NYS Museum specimen, pyrite in acid-etched limestone from the Rt 81 construction, Tully, NY. This was collected by Steve Chamberlain and donated to the State Museum. Photo by Steve Condon

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

The New Millennium (2000s)

Peter Faes Sr. and Gene Ridall were the first two club presidents. Games and contests were begun at the annual picnic thanks to **D. Millis** and **C. Smith**. A feature article on the club and show was in the July 8, "STARS" magazine in The Syracuse Newspapers. The CRACK 'N CAB was awarded "Best Mini Bulletin in the US" in 2000. The club hosted this 2001 EFMLS Show and Convention in Syracuse, July 2001 - Member **Bob Livingston** was elected in 2001 for office of EFMLS President. The club celebrated its Golden Anniversary July 2001 with a big banquet, special minerals speaker, anniversary cake, and 23K Gold for nearly all banquet attendees. Lots of GOLD and special museum exhibits highlight the 2001 show where an operating ore train and colorful quilts are displayed for the first time. Nearly 45 tables full of merchandise, educational exhibits and demonstrations filled the 2001 show. We currently have more than 30 Life Members. Thanks for digging out most of this information goes to: **Heidi Leuke, Dick Stimer, Bill Norris, Bob Livingston, Ruth Burgess and Sue MacInnis** {EFMLS Historian}.

Page 4 May 2001 Crack 'N Cab

Colossal 50th Anniversary Celebration!

It is that time to spread the word about this great show we are going to have July 14th and 15th. We have pulled all the stops and will have THE Golden Dagger that was given to a US Vice President by the King of Saudi Arabia plus some mineral specimens including gold; we will have a case of gold nuggets from the Carnegie Museum in Pittsburgh (their first time in our show); Harvard Museum will provide a nifty case of minerals. We will have a wonderful case of minerals including, (you guessed it) gold from the Bill Pinch collection in Rochester; Art Grant will have a super case of his cut stones. Herkimer diamonds like last year will be back to fill two cases, plus an unbelievable case of fossils from

George Powell in Virginia. Top that off with an exhibit from the New York State Museum and several competitive exhibits coming in from EFMLS people and that would be Fantastic Show. But we have the phenomenal Glow in the Dark Fluorescent tent display by Bob McGuire of the Che-Hanna PA club making a return and for the first time an operating ore train layout from the local model train club. There will be three events for kids and all the goodies from 52 retail dealers and 11 wholesale dealers. All in all, it will be a wonderful weekend to remember.

Our celebration of the club's 50th Anniversary is Saturday night at the awards dinner at the Holiday Inn, Farrell Road. Social hour (cash bar) is from 6-7 p.m. The dinner begins at 7 p.m. and the best part is, the club is absorbing a goodly share of the cost as our treat for being good workers and PR people in getting the public to come and see this 2001 SUPER SHOW. Back to the dinner. For only \$10 we get to enjoy a dinner which would vary from \$26 prime rib to either chicken or stuffed sole which would cost in the \$18 to \$20 range. Plus you get to see and hear the special guest speaker, Carl Francis, curator of the Harvard Museum talk on minerals. In addition, you will get to take home a vial of 23K gold! The celebration of this July 14th night and the entire weekend will never be repeated in our lifetimes. So make note and plan to be there. See our treasurer, Lou Budell, for reservations.

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.*

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

July 11 & 12 – Gemworld 2026 Show at the Center of Progress Bldg. Fri., July 10 is setup day, starting 8 am. We need every member's help!

SAT., July 18 – The Beading Group - 1-4 pm at the Clubhouse. All are invited. **See more information on Page 7.**

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



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

Also, please don't park in front of the mural.

Summer Rockhound Picnic!

FUN! (all activities are subject to change)

- Dave "Rock Doc" Millis will teach a **new craft class** at 11 am only.
- He'll have his **diamond saw** set up for rock cutting. Kids can cut rocks!
- Dave will also bring his **GeoClue game** to test our knowledge of minerals.
- All are encouraged to do some **rockhound tailgate selling** so bring cash and some of your good stuff to sell - beads, jewelry, cabs, fossils, mineral specimens, etc. We'll set up spots on tables to sell your stuff before the food is ready to eat.
- **Canal Boat Rides** are available for a fee.

FOOD!

We'll **start eating about Noon** if possible. ***If your last name begins with the letters A-N, bring a sweet dish (dessert). If your last name begins with the letters O-Z you bring a savory dish.*** The Club will provide burgers, hotdogs, coneys, sausages, condiments, water, cups, plates, etc. The club will provide lemonade, iced tea, and some water. If you prefer to bring your own that's fine. If you have dietary restrictions, please plan to bring what you need.

Grill guys and gals We need help grilling. There will be sausages, hot dogs, and burgers. Vegans bring what you wish! This will be a fun day to eat with rockhound friends in a nice outdoor setting.

Email: eventcoordinator@gem-show.com; Website: www.gem-show.com

Upcoming Summer Shows:

July 11-12—SYRACUSE, New York: Annual wholesale & retail show & sale; Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse, Inc; Center of Progress Building, NYS Fairgrounds, 581 State Fair Blvd; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; \$8 Adults, Free for children under 12 & scouts in uniform with paid adult admission; tickets only sold at the door. More than 60 retail & wholesale dealers from New York & out of state, demonstrators, display cases, & expanded Youth Activities Center for children with sludge, stone carving, jewelry making, fossil dig & much more. Family friendly. Free educational speakers both days. Metaphysical practitioners. 25 cent "Straw Draw," rock sale. You can pick out a geode & watch the dealer crack it; fluorescent displays. Vendors will be selling minerals, fossils, gems, crystals, jewelry, beads, slabs, cabs, & jewelry-making supplies. Hourly door prizes; end-of-show 2 GRAND PRIZES on Sunday (attendance not required to win). Free Parking. Contact Show Chair Cheryl Brown, Email: show@gmss.club; Website: www.gmss.club; Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/gemandmineralsyr>

July 18-19—ESSEX JUNCTION, VT: Annual show; Burlington Gem & Mineral Club; Champlain Valley Exposition, 105 Pearl St; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; \$5 adults (16-59), \$3 seniors (60+), children under 16 free with paying adult; Come to the 45th Annual Champlain Valley Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show — the largest gem, mineral & fossil show in Vermont! Thousands of beautiful natural specimens & jewelry are available at affordable prices. Exhibits, demonstrations, raffle, silent auctions, door prizes, minerals & fossils; contact Felicia Edwards; Email: vtbgmc@gmail.com; Website: <http://www.burlingtongemandmineralclub.org/show.html>

July 18-19—ERIE, PA: Show & sale; Gem City Rock & Mineral Society; Zem Zem Shriners Banquet & Conference Center, 2525 West 38th St, Corner of West 38th and Zuck Rd; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; Adults \$4, Children under 12 free; Dealers Door Prizes Activities for Kids Crystals-Fossils-Geodes-Jewelry-Beads; contact Robert Gallivan, (814) 636-7317; Email: gallivan427@gmail.com

July 25-26—LANCASTER, PA: Annual show; Lancaster County Fossil & Mineral Club; Lancaster Farm & Home Center, 1383 Arcadia Rd; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9:30-4; Adults \$5, Students K-12 \$1, Under 5 free, Cash Only. Admissions purchased Saturday valid both days; An incredible selection of fossils, gems, minerals & crystals. Handcrafted jewelry & eclectic curiosities available for sale. Free expert specimen analysis. Family-friendly educational interactive learning activities. Free parking & handicapped accessible; contact Catherine P Haefner; Email: lcfmc@lanastercountyfossilandmineralclub.org; Website: www.lanastercountyfossilandmineralclub.org Facebook - Lancaster County Fossil and Mineral Club

Aug 21-23—LEBANON, PA: Wholesale & retail show; Mid-Atlantic Gem & Mineral Association dba Gem Miner's Jubilee; Lebanon Valley Expo & Fairgrounds, 80 Rocherty Rd; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; \$6; children under 12 free; Discount coupon on website; demonstrations; outdoor section; free & handicapped parking; contact Tamie Simpson, (810) 919-4386;

Aug 29-30—CANTON, NY: Annual show; St. Lawrence Rock & Mineral Club; Canton Pavilion, 90 Lincoln St; Sat. 9-4:30, Sun. 9-3; \$5, Kids 12 & Under Free; Add to your collection or browse beautiful handcrafted jewelry, mineral specimens, crystals, gems & fossils, too. Awesome fluorescent minerals tents; contact William deLorraine; Website: www.stlawrencecountymineralclub.org

The Bead Group

Our next meeting will be on **Saturday, July 18th from 1:00 to 4:00** at the Clubhouse. It will cost \$5 each for use of the clubhouse. We will continue to work on setting cabochons using beads. Please contact Cheryl Brown at either 315-708-9122 (text) or gmssrocks@gmail.com if you are planning on coming. I will give you the materials list so you can bring your own supplies.

Welcome New Members

Brian Case
Jennifer Coffey
Jonathan Mokry
Julia Ruman



Quilt made by Dale Shinneman to be raffled off at Gemworld 2026.

GMSS 2026 Show Dealers with E-mail Addresses

Please support our vendors. Various contact information is provided below. Some also have websites, Facebook pages, eBay stores, Etsy sites.

RETAIL DEALERS & DEMONSTRATORS

("Booth #" D=Demonstrator)

{100} Highland Rock
(Rich Eisenman & Joanna Chen)

P.O. Box 540, Pittstown, NJ 08867

highlandrock2@gmail.com

* 20% Fossils, 20% Jewelry, 20% Minerals; Fine Gems, Spheres, Carvings, & Findings/Settings

{102} Rising Aurora

Clayton, NY auroraxia@yahoo.com

{104} T & H Treasures (Joe Kapelewski)

Pennellville, NY m1jkap@winstream.net

* Herkimers, Crystals, Minerals

{105} Malachite & Gems of Africa

(Max, Helen & Odile Mpovi)

Greece, NY gemsafrika2@hotmail.com

* 40% Cutting, 30% Beads, 20% Jewelry, 10% Fine Gems

{106} Ellie Gem Arts (Great Opals)

{Ellie Wilson}

P.O. Box 37181, Raleigh, NC 27627

greatopals@gmail.com elliegemarts@gmail.com

* 70% Jewelry, 10% Minerals, 10% Fossils, 10% Beads

{107} B & R Crystal Cavern

NY randip325@gmail.com

{109-D} Linda Boronczyk Designs

Syracuse, NY lindaboronczyk@me.com

* 40% Jewelry, 20% Minerals, 20% Cutting Material

{110} GMSS Club Booth (Linda A.)

Liverpool, NY www.gmss.club

* Everything Club related

{111} GMSS Club Rock Sale (Dave & Steve)

Liverpool, NY www.gmss.com

* Rock Sale

{112} L & L Art Craft

KY silverbridge66@yahoo.com

* 70% Jewelry, 20% Minerals, 10% Fossils

{114} Jan Crystals & Minerals (Rahim Jan)

The Bronx, NY jancrystalsminerals@gmail.com

* 97% Minerals, 3% Beads, Fossils, Fine Gems

{116} Multi-Faceted Minerals

NY multifacetedminerals79@gmail.com

{118} C & I International

calisantost@gmail.com

{119} Lee's Herkimer Diamond Jewelry

Oswego, NY leethree82@yahoo.com

* Herkimer Diamonds

{120} Celestial Gemstones (Vivian Xue)

Monroe Township, NJ

celestialgemstone@yahoo.com

* 90% Beads, 10% Loose Stone Pieces

{121} Mister Crystals (Michael A. Whitton)

Ilion, NY mawhitton66@yahoo.com

* 90% Minerals, 8% Fossils, 2% Jewelry

{201} This and That Minerals

Summerville, SC dbprivitera@gmail.com

{202} Bench 22 Creations

(Salina Khan) Clearwater, FL

bench22creations@gmail.com

* 50% Fine Gems, 40% Jewelry, Findings, 10% Rough

{203} Edgerson, Inc. (Mark Kilmer)

P.O. Box 61, Johnstown, NY 12095

president@fultonmontgomeryny.org

* 40% Fossils, 20% Minerals, 20% Décor, & 10% Jewelry

{205} Adirondack Fine Minerals (Scott Gordon)

Saratoga Springs, NY sgordon@adkfineminerals.com

* 80% Minerals, 20% All Other

{206} PACE Yourself (Pat & Bill Chapman)

Prattsburgh, NY batnpill@empacc.net

* 45% Minerals, 50% Jewelry, 5% Tools

{208} Handcrafted Chains (Janet & Joe Trosino)

Pine City, NY janettrosino@yahoo.com

* 80% Jewelry, 20% Worry Stones & Figurines

{210} Amber America

(Urszula Tomasik & Charlie Imer)

P.O. Box 126, Bath, PA 18014

info@amberamerica.com

* 90% Jewelry & 10% Minerals

{212} Jessie's GemsMA jessgems@aol.com

* 80% Minerals, 10% Fossils, 10% Jewelry

{214} Past & Present (Glen & Abigail LaPlaca)Blasdell, NY fossils1@verizon.net

* 80% Fossils, 5% Minerals, 5% Books, 10% Science Kits

{215} Golden Spiral VitalityWestern NY goldenpiralvitality@gmail.com**{216} Crystal Cove (Jason Shopiro & Xaver Sacchetti) N. Syracuse, NY**crystalcovesyracuse@gmail.com

* 70% Minerals, 10% Fossils, 20% All Other

{218} J & J Jewelry (Lily & James Lang)Culpeper, VA 22701 lilylang2003@yahoo.comxiaoyansn1234@gmail.com

* 50% Minerals, 15% Wire Wrapping, 15% Jade Carving

{219} Momma's Rocks (Chris Daniel)Akron, OH mommasks@gmail.com

* 40% Carvings, 20% Minerals, 20% Jewelry, 20% All Other

{220} Meliora Crystals & Minerals

(Jason & Linda Tomporowski) Batavia, NY

jaylinda0817@gmail.com

* 80% Minerals, 10% Fossils, 10% Resin Products

{300} A.Y.S. International, Inc. (Yacab Ansari)Floral Park, NY yaakubansari@hotmail.com

* 80% Beads, 10% Minerals, 10% Fine Gems

{301} AAA Gems & Jewels (Sarina Khan)mujewelry123@gmail.com

* 80% Minerals, 20% Jewelry

{302} Russell's Trees & Treasures

(Sherry Russell)

North Liberty, IN sherry.russell01@yahoo.com

* 40% Gem Trees, 30% Beads, 30% All Other

{304} Gneiss Guy Minerals & FossilsOntario, Canada kdardano@yahoo.com**{305} Global Pathways Jewelry**

(Colleen & Jim Pratt)

Burlington, VT vtpathways@gmail.com

* 40% Jewelry, 40% Minerals, 10% Fossils, 10% All Other

{306} Bary Gems, Inc. (Mohamed Bary)

PO Box 260041, Bellmore, NY 11426

barygems@gmail.com

* 50% Jewelry, 40% Fine Gems, 10% Minerals

{309} GTG Gems Corp.Jackson Heights, NY gtg.usa1@gmail.com

* Jewelry & Fine Gems

{310} Ridge Valley Original Gems

(Richard & Amanda Meier)

Liverpool, NY arorighinals@yahoo.com

* 20% each- Minerals, Beads, Fine Gems, 40% All Other

{312} Excellence America (Syed Hassan)Ocala, FL excellenceamericallc@gmail.com

* 70% Minerals, 20% Fossils, 10% All Other

{313} Just Keep A Rockin'NJ gsmoldovany@gmail.com

* 95% Minerals, 5% Jewelry

{314} Crystal Concentrics (Kyle Russell)Somerville, MA crystalconcentrics@gmail.com

* 55% Minerals, 40% Jewelry, 5% Wire Wrap

{316} Erika's Bead Creative {Erika Hartke}Buffalo, NY erika@erikasbeadcreative.com

* 80% Beads, 10% Jewelry, 10% Findings

{318-D} Lenny's Rock Shop/ Jewelry by Delores

(Deloris & Lenny Samuelson)

Popular Branch, NC

jewelrybydeloris@yahoo.comlennysrockshop@gmail.com

* 70% Cutting Material, 15% Jewelry, 15% Minerals

{319} Gullo Jewelers (Samuel J. Gullo)Painted Post, NY samgullo@icloud.com

* 75% Jewelry, 25% Fine Gems

{335} GMSS Youth Area

Hidden treasures in the sluice, soapstone carving, bracelet making, Mineral Treasure Hunt

Liverpool, NY www.gmss.com**{405} The Crescent Moon**

{Jessica & Dustin Brainard}

Sherburne, NY thecrescentmoon4@gmail.com

* 45% Minerals, 25% Wire Wrapping, 30% All Other

{411} Ack's Exotic Pets (Courtney Stewart)Cicero, NY <http://ackspets.com>spengleriden@yahoo.com

* 75% Minerals, 25% Fossils

{413} Bihn of Rocks (Bailey Bihn)
Olmstead Falls, OH baileybihn@gmail.com

{415} Stone Soul Crystals & Gems
(Jere & Lee-Anne Myers)
Queenstown, MD stonesoulcrystals@gmail.com
* Minerals, Fossils, Fine Gems, Cutting Material

{500} Giraffe's Gems
tjournier413@aol.com

{502} Golden Highway Jewelry (Xin Sun)
Clinton Township, MI goldenhwy888@gmail.com
* 100% Jewelry

{504} Greg Graupp's Cabochons
(Greg Graupp)
Lebanon, PA greggraup@yahoo.com
* 60% Cabochons, 40% Cutting & Rough Material

{506} Ethiopian Gems (Mubarek Allumani)
Falls Church, VA
eithiopianopals2016@gmail.com
* 40% Cutting, 30% Beads, 20% Jewelry, 10% Fine Gems

{510} Stone Corner Minerals

{514 -D} John Sweeney - Lapidary Demonstration
Syracuse, NY rockcutter7@yahoo.com
"The Rock Doc" (Dave Millis)
Friendship, PA www.gmss.club
* Jewelry making, Rings

{516} Unique Russian Minerals
(Alexander Balagula)
Fort Lee, NJ abalagula@verizon.net
* 35% Fine Gems, 30% Cuttings, 25% Minerals, 10% Beads

{518} T & S Seneca Lake Excursions
(Stephen & Tammy Mayer) NY
stephenmayer054@gmail.com
* Fossils

ANNEX

{602} Fluorescent/UV Display Cases



{603} Unearthed Fluorescent Minerals
{Joey Rivera & Sarah Colby}
Oswego, NY jrivera3rd@yahoo.com
* Minerals

{604A&B} Robert Smith Lapidary Art
NY roboi67@aol.com
* UV Mineral Spheres

Learning Center – See Speakers' List
information on Page 10-11

Wholesale Dealers

{W1} Howard Schlansker
(Betsy, Chip & Heide) Marshfield, MA
h.schlansker@comcast.net

{W2} Blake Brothers International
(Lenore Polak & Erik Laforge)
Milford, NH 03055
flanders@blakebrothersdirect.com

{W3} Silver Colors, Inc.
Hempstead, NY nmanaiargem@yahoo.com

{W4} GTG Gems Corp. {Ganger}
Jackson Heights, NY gtg.usa1@gmail.com

{W5} Vista Gems (Mona & Jay Khan)
PO Box 164, Skillman, NJ 08558
vistagem@gmail.com

{W6} Nicholai Amber Jewelry
(Nicholai Doumin)
Syracuse, NY nicholai.d@gmail.com

{W7} Super Time International
{Peter Wei} Gaithersburg, MD
peterwei@aol.com

{W8} Village Morocco {Mourad Yaagoub}
Sachse, TX; Liverpool, NY
villagemorocco@gmail.com

{W9} AF Silver Design Crystal
X{Peter Wei} Gaithersburg, MD
Xpeterwei@aol.com

Metaphysical Center

Angel Messenger (Bella Renata)

Contact@bellarenata.com

www.Bellarenata.com

Clairvoyant Pearl - Psychic Medium

clairvoyantpearl@yahoo.com

tootzees8@gmail.com

Mystic Grace - Psychic Medium

Sarina, psychic medium

Sarinaoracleoflight@gmail.com

Thayer's Reiki Center - reiki with crystals

thayersreikicenter@yahoo.com

Learning Center Speakers

Saturday, July 11

11:30 am - William Peck - "Get the Lead Out: Geology and History of Graphite Mining in the Adirondack Mountains"

The mineral graphite (sometimes called Plumbago in the 19th century) was mined from rocks around Ticonderoga, New York from about 1850 through the 1920s. In the heyday of mining at the turn of the 20th century, a dozen mines extracted and milled graphite, and mining towns grew up around some of the largest of them. The graphite was sold as a high-temperature material for crucibles and foundry molds, lubricants for metal gears, a coating material



for stoves, and, of course, for pencils. The graphite itself formed when rocks of the Adirondacks were buried in roots of a mountain belt similar to the modern Himalayas. This talk will explore the history of this mining district, the geologic origin of the graphite, and the geologic history of the

Adirondack Mountains.

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

1:00 pm - Stephen Mayer - "Doomsday 66 MYA"

Stephen Mayer was a Collections Assistant at the Paleontological Research Institute in Ithaca. Stephen is a graduate of SUNY Fredonia with an MS in Geological Sciences. His research has focused on Middle Devonian paleontology and stratigraphy of the Finger Lakes region of New York State.



He will present several possible theories to the cause of the End-Cretaceous extinction event which wiped out not only the dinosaurs

but also 75% of all life. Leading arguments support a massive interstellar asteroid, volcanism and even a caterpillar. 66.043 million years ago was undoubtedly the worst day on planet Earth.

2:30 pm - Dylan Arcaro - "The Bone Huts of Eastern Europe"

Dylan will discuss a site known as Mezhyrich in the Ukraine that contains a miniature village made of



mammoth bones. He will discuss the research and findings done at this location, along with what this site can tell us about early human development.

Dylan Arcaro is 21 years old. He went to school at SUNY Morrisville for Woodworking and likes spending his time building

furniture and making leather projects. He has always been fascinated by dinosaurs and fossils.

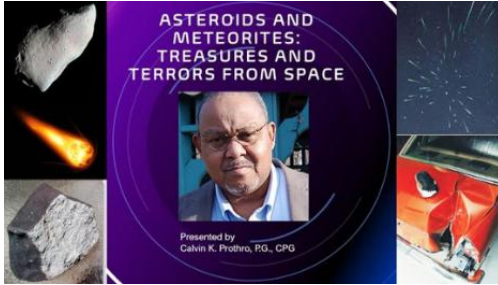
3:45 pm - Danielle Thayer - "How Sound Healing, Crystals, & Reiki Elevate & Work in Harmony with Each Other"



Danielle Thayer is a reiki master and owner of Thayer's Reiki & Zen Center. She is a regular participant in the Metaphysical Area of our show.

Sunday, July 12

12:30 pm - Calvin Prothro – “Asteroids and Meteorites: Treasures and Terrors from Space”



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. 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.

2:00 pm - Stephen Mayer – “Fossil Preparation: Techniques, Cleaning and Tips”



He will discuss various methods of fossil preparation including the techniques that he uses for his own fossils as

well as for past clients.

June 16, 2026- Club Meeting July Show Work Night

Photos by Judy Cook and Larry Petry

Filling straws for the Straw Draw



“Many hands make light work”

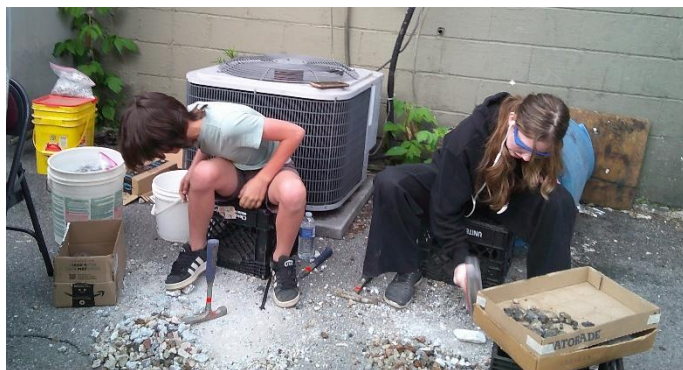




And in a secluded corner, bracelets are being assembled.



Meanwhile, out back, working on filling the sluce bags!



Then finally...there was ice cream!



And, In Other News

When you know your rock collecting has gone too far.



When fireworks open above a July 4th crowd, the show is more than light and noise. It's also a quick lesson in mineral chemistry.

Many fireworks colors depend on elements that begin in rocks and ores before they ever reach a fireworks shell. Barium, often sourced from barite, helps create bright green fireworks. Copper compounds bring out blues, one of the trickier colors for pyrotechnicians to produce. Sodium adds golden yellow, while magnesium can make an intense white flash. Titanium produces the sparkling white trails that linger after a burst. Strontium, meanwhile, helps produce bright red bursts.

A single display can contain barite-derived barium, copper compounds, sodium salts, magnesium, titanium and other materials packed into carefully timed shells, where heat turns small amounts of mineral-sourced chemistry into color across the night sky.

From RockChasing.com July 2, 2026



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
library@gmss.club

-Lapidary Committee Contact: Steve Shorey
lapidary@gmss.club

-Newsletter: Larry Petry 315-472-9226
editorgmss@gmail.com

-Facebook: Judy Cook
socialmedia@gmss.club

-Website: Amanda Lytle
webmaster@gmss.club

-Photographer Extraordinaire: Judy Cook
-Hospitality Committee Chair: Doria McIntosh
315-471-1340 hospitality@gmss.club