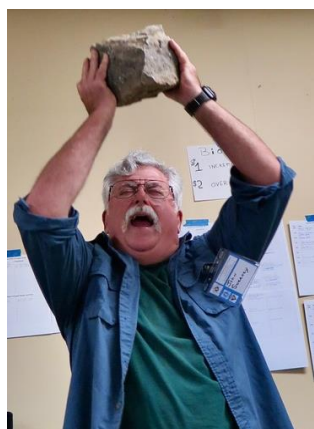


CRACK 'N CAB



Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse, PO Box 2801, Syracuse, NY
web: <https://www.gmss.club> Volume 54 Issue 11, Nov. 2024
209 Oswego St (Ponderosa Plaza), Unit 15, Liverpool, NY

Club Meeting – It's the Fall Auction!



Photos by Judy Cook



Mon., Nov. 18

Doors Open at 6:00 pm;

Auction Starts at 7:00 PM!

Will John Sweeney still
be our Auctioneer?

**Please review the Auction
Rules which are on Page 9.**

Remembering Bill Viel – Pages 3 & 4

"Gnats in Copal?" – by our
Southern Correspondent – **Page 5**

Hafner's Fall Festival – Page 9-11

October Meeting Review –

See Photos, Pages 11 – 15

Christmas/Holiday Party Information - Page 7



Photo by Judy Cook



Rocks
and
Caves
Down
South

By The
Criscione
Family

President's Message

Matt Klinger



In last month's letter I asked you to find the "Gem" in the picture. Were you able to find it? The "Gem" was the fact that I was Happy. Happy doing something I really enjoy. Looking for

(Photo by Judy Cook) Herks is another Gem for me [See above – Editor]. What's yours? Have you had time to go out and enjoy the fresh air and excitedly search for what makes you happy? If not, you better hurry - Old Man Winter is closing in fast.

Much is happening with the club. **We're talking about forming a committee to set up displays at local libraries and schools.** We're still looking for people to help our Sergeant at Arms to tidy up the club. Please check the Hospitality sign-up sheet and put your name down to bring in a snack at one of our meetings.

I'm looking forward to our **upcoming auction** as well as our upcoming **Christmas party (see Pg. 7).** This is going to be a great year and I'm glad I will be spending it with you. Be well and I'll see you at the next meeting.

Please look for the sign-up sheets at the meeting and put your name down for one of the committees.

- Matt Klinger

Secretary's Report

Teresa Arnold

GMSS Board Meeting - November 6, 2024

Meeting was called to order by President, Matt Klinger at 7PM

President: Matt Klinger: Turned over to Cathy Patterson and Dick Lyons:

- Cathy spoke about Bill Viel and requested anecdotes from members for his obituary.
- Cathy discussed the **December Holiday party (see Pg. 7)**, meal consideration and cost sharing with club – Dave Arcaro will call tomorrow and finalize.
- Cathy asked if we would approve her placing flyers about the club in the Baldwinsville Library – everyone thought it was a great idea and thought of other libraries in the area to place flyers as well. We will convene a committee to work on placing a display case in one of the libraries.
- Dick discussed the 2025 Show and the fact that tables for vendors are \$10 more this year, making it \$110. per table. We have 13 retail, 3 wholesale and 1 metaphysical vendor with signed contracts so far.
- Dick also addressed the insurance we have on contents of the club house. We think \$25,000 is too low and he will research the cost for increasing the limit to \$50,000.
- **Holiday Party is on December 15th (see Pg. 7)** this year – a little later than usual, but that's what was open. We will be unable to collect for Toys for Tots this year due to the lateness, they will have already distributed toys by that time. We will still collect non-perishable food for the Food Bank and a small (\$10 to \$15) gift for the gift exchange.

Treasurer – Linda Sweeney (absent – no report)

Secretary – Teresa Arnold (minutes will be in the Newsletter).

Editor – Larry Petry

- Deadline for submissions for the newsletter is 11PM Thursday, 11/7/24.

Vice President – Dave Arcaro

- **Fred Haynes – Garnet Beach Sand on Lake Erie** – is only available to speak in **April**, so we will move the April Auction to March and book him then.
- **Amanda** will speak in **January** (no meeting in Dec.).
- Dave wants to get a **field trip** together to go to **Corning Glass Museum**. He will call to see if there is a program they can offer to us as a group.
- On **November 17th**, Dave will host a **field trip to Deep Springs** (trilobites, etc.)
- On **Black Friday, November 29th**, there will be a **field trip to Cayuga Junction** for eurypterids.
- If you are interested in any field trip, call Dave to get on the list: 315-935-3627.

Webmaster – Amanda Lytle

- Auction (November) information is up on the website.

(Continued on Page 3)

Facebook – Judy Cook

- Has posted Hafner's pictures. Information about the upcoming November Auction will be posted.

Show Chair – Cheryl Brown (absent – no report)**Lapidary** – Bill Verge

- Class in progress, next class will start in January. He reports that people have cancelled from the last 2 classes at the last minute.

Junior Rockhounds – Tracey Criscione and Rick Moore (Absent, no report)**Grants and Gifts report** – Jamie Cary and Amanda Lytle

- Jamie was unavailable (but see her report, below), and Amanda requested to schedule 20 to 30 minutes at an upcoming meeting for Jamie to report.

New Business?? None at this point

Meeting was adjourned by President, Matt Klinger at 8PM

Respectfully Submitted:
Teresa Arnold, Secretary

Purpose Statement Report

Currently, we have accomplished introducing the purpose statement to the members and collected their insights.



These insights were put into a word cloud. This allows us to look at data in a more creative way. The larger words are things that were mentioned more often when the members answered the 3 questions. The smaller words were not mentioned as much. The themes that came to the top included

- Knowledge
- Learn/Learning
- Lapidary
- Show
- Field Trips
- Speakers

There were some personal shoutouts for Bill Verge, Steve Shorey, and Dave Millis.

Next Steps

We would like to present this word cloud to the membership at the next meeting and start working toward developing a purpose statement. The purpose statement should answer the question Why do we exist as a club? It should also be no longer than 3 sentences. **Ideally, I could use about 20 minutes during the next meeting to get this launched.**

Moving forward, we will use a collaborative approach through Google for everyone to add to and wordsmith the Purpose Statement throughout the month of December. We will ask for participation through Newsletter blasts.

In tandem, we need to identify who owns the data we need to look at the club holistically. Data needs to be in an electronic format. This will allow us to look for patterns, strengths of the club, and areas of opportunity.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,
Jamie Cary

William C. Viel, Jr

1950 - 2024



Bill and Sharon Viel were very active in the Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse and enjoyed assisting with the annual Gem Show and the many friends they made in their years as Board Members. Bill and Sharon were recognized as Rockhounds of the Year in 2018 for their many contributions to our club. (Photo by Judy Cook)

In the early morning of Tuesday, October 1st, 2024, William C. Viel, Jr, joined his beloved wife Sharon in eternity after an extended hospital stay at Upstate Hospital.

Billy was born on January 21, 1950, in Staunton, Virginia to Jean Butler Viel and William C. Viel (predeceased). His family moved to Syracuse when he was 12 years old, and this is where he called home. He graduated from

Nottingham High School and was a proud member of the Syracuse Fire Department from 1978-2004. Since 1997, he worked alongside family and friends who he always treated like family running Gannon Pest Control. Billy was an amazing mentor, friend, and leader to everyone at Gannon Pest Control.

Billy is survived by his brother, David Viel of League City, Texas, his children; Mena Viel, William (Sabrina) Viel, Jennifer Savastino, and "bonus" son Fred Hoige. Also, Nephew Morgen (Lauren) Viel, Niece Tayler (Jared) Havard, and great nieces Sloan and Olivia Viel of League City, TX. His children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews were his pride and joy. His granddaughter, Isabella, will forever remember her Papa for always being the father she needed, whenever she needed him. Isabella and Joshua will always cherish the Saturday play dates with Grandma and Papa. Papa always tolerated whatever silliness those two devised. Colin, Daniel, Isabella, Joshua, Dominick, Luca and Natalie have gained another guardian angel that will forever be by their side.

Billy was an avid Coin Collector and Civil War historian. Billy and Sharon were very active in the Gem and Mineral Society of Syracuse; enjoyed assisting with the annual Gem Show and the many friends they made in their years as board members. Sunday dinners, family game nights, and epic Christmas's were some of their favorite activities. They were also annual visitors to Topsail Island, NC.

Billy will always be remembered for his welcoming smile, easy disposition, and the ability to make everyone feel like family. Most who knew him referred to him as Papa Billy or Uncle Billy. He was loved and respected by so many and will be missed by his immediate family, extended family, and everyone that had the opportunity to know him.

Billy's family would like to thank the amazing Doctors & Nurses on Floor 6H of the Upstate Hospital MICU. They truly cared for our Dad and we will always be grateful for the love & compassionate care they showed toward him.

A memorial service was held on Monday, October 7, 2024, at 7PM at Edward J. Ryan and Son Funeral Home, 3180 Bellevue Ave. Burial was private. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Syracuse Challenger Baseball; 148 Summerhaven Drive South, East Syracuse NY 13057.

Our Rockhound Family Says, "Goodbye" to Long-Time Member Bill Viel

By Cathy Patterson

As a rockhound "family" we have stories to tell about our good family member Bill Viel.

Bill was a man of many facets. Bill owned Gannon Pest Control of Syracuse, He was a long-time helper at our annual shows, a fantastic cook, a loving husband, and much more!

Bob Livingston remembers about 15 years ago, or so, Bill offered to have our board meetings at his Gannon Pest control

office. There was always fresh brewed coffee and sodas offered by Bill while we handled club business. This was a generous offer. We eventually met at the Little Gem Diner, now the Gem Diner, appropriately named for our rockhound business meetings.

Bill was man-in-charge of handling Security at our annual show. Doors and entry points were covered with our club volunteers which he oversaw. He took his job seriously. In addition to security matters he was also a rental truck driver who sometimes, singlehandedly or with one other member, loaded up the truck of all the club supplies for our shows. This happened when Labor Ready guys didn't/couldn't show up. It was a herculean effort by one or two men! Though Bill had a few medical issues that made lifting heavy items painful he did so with grace. Few know this fact, but Bill sometimes gave, out of his own pocket, extra tip money to the Labor Ready guys out of the generosity of his heart. He understood the value of kindness to his fellow man.

At our big show Bill, and wife Sharon, enjoyed walking around and looking at mineral specimens, picking out special stones, and buying special jewelry items. Sharon was especially in love with larimar from the Dominican Republic. That beautiful blue color of larimar looked terrific on Sharon. Bill once purchased a lovely larimar bracelet, made by member Lorraine Markley, just for Sharon. She always wore a piece of blue jewelry that was a gift Bill bought her.

Immediately following the end of our July shows Bill and Sharon high tailed it to Topsail Island, NC for 3 weeks of peaceful R and R. They well deserved it! I'll bet Sharon looked terrific wearing a larimar pendant that Bill bought her at the show on her sun-tanned skin.

As for his pest control business, once he encountered a swarm of nasty wasps that had occupied the entrance of our rental bay. Naturally this was the day we had to unload the bay of club supplies for the annual show. Being the pest control expert, the problem was dealt with successfully. Cathy Patterson called on him more than once to eradicate ground bee nests around her yard. Bill would show up pronto, suit up in his white Kevlar uniform and make history of the problem thus saving Cathy trips to the ER. Other members too called on Bill to help them with stinging insects. John Sweeney mentioned that when he was teaching Building Trades class at BOCES sometimes the crew would encounter carpenter ants or wasps and had to call on Bill to eliminate the problem.

Bill's homemade chili was legendary! Oh, how we looked forward to Bill bringing in a crockpot filled with delicious chili for one of our fall program night's refreshments. Such fond memories are these!

A few years back Bill and Sharon were named **Rockhound Couple of the Year** for all their contributions to the club. I feel confident that Sharon and Bill are reunited in rockhound heaven. What we do for one another is we recognize what our long-time members, and short-time members, contribute to the good of the club. We feel like a Rockhound Family. We care about each other, recognize our contributions, and show appreciation. That's how a good, successful family operates.

Gnats in Copal?

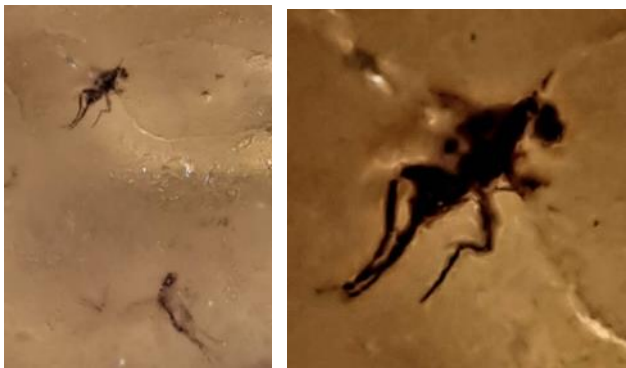
By Stephen Mayer

Here is my first contribution since moving to South Carolina. I visited the Greenville Gem, Mineral and Fossil show and purchased two specimens. The dealer exhibited about 30 quarter-size specimens labeled Columbian Amber. Upon close inspection, he pointed out to me two in particular which entombed insects. Being specialized in the stratigraphy and paleontology of the Devonian and Silurian invertebrates of NY as



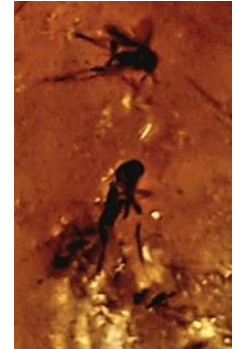
well as fossil preparation, I know nothing of insects in Amber. I brought them home and examined both pieces under my

binocular microscope and using approximately 14X magnification actually noted 6 insects in one piece and 7 insects in the other piece. Photographing them proved very difficult as my camera does not attach to the microscope, so multiple photos were carefully taken with a smart phone. I apologize for the poorer quality, yet here is the best I could do.



I would like to point out that Google refers to Columbian "Amber" as actually Columbian "Copal". My understanding is that Copal is sap from deciduous trees and true Amber is resin from coniferous trees. Another distinguishing characteristic according to Google is that Copal is between 5000 and 5 million years old whereas Amber, particularly Baltic Amber, is about 40 million years old.

The insects appear to be some kind of gnat and are about the size of a pen point. They bring to mind the modern-day No-see-ums from the Gulf Coast of Florida and whether in some way they are related. Luckily, they are no longer biting!



So, if anyone can provide additional insight into Columbian Amber vs Columbian Copal, it is much appreciated. Additionally, if anyone can provide identification of these insects, it too is much appreciated.



I posted the above to Fossil Forum at the continued heckling of Dave Arcaro. A person replied back as copied here:

Hello! There are no proven amber locations in Columbia. And yes, all the pieces sold as columbian amber are actually copal! Yes. There has been an unverified report of a spot that supposedly was amber but during testing none of the pieces were confirmed. All samples tested out as much younger. Most in the 10,000-year range. A few less than 500 years. But most between 10k and 1 Mya. A few years back I read a report that a group of scientists dug a bunch of test pits in various regions and all of the material they recovered and tested was copal. Columbian copal typically range from 10,000 years to 1 mill. With some being even younger.... There are many, many sellers that list it as columbian amber or young amber. Because amber is generally considered more collectible and valuable than copal but there are no known amber deposits in Columbia. All amber and copal are technically resins. The difference is as the resin ages it loses volatile chemicals and hardens. Most

are considered amber at around 5 Mya depending on conditions. There are a couple scientists that think it's more accurate to call it resin, ancient resin, and fossilized resin instead of resin, copal, and amber. Because copal is still hardening and not as brittle it is often found in larger chunks. But it is far more prone to crazing and fracturing as it ages. Also, Columbian copal is often hardened in an autoclave to make it hard enough to polish and use for jewelry which is why it's sometimes known as fake amber copal and amber can be from many different trees. It's the amount of volatile chemicals inside that determines whether it's amber or copal. The oldest amber that has been found is 320 million years old. For instance, Burmese amber is from the Cretaceous. Baltic is between 34 and 54 million years and so forth.

Hope this helps answer your question!

Edited by Randyw

Welcome to New Members in November

Heather Wilhelm

Barbara & Laurel Harte-Westover

Membership Reminder

If you haven't renewed your membership yet, it's not too late!

You can mail it to the post office box
or bring it with you to the November 18th meeting.

Individual \$15.00

Family \$20.00

Youth \$10.00

Life Members \$5.00

Geo Lexis (Puzzle) By Anne Fitzgerald

"Giving Back"

It only took 230 years, but on Friday, September 27, 2024, part of a treaty was finally honored when Honeywell International returned 1,000 acres of land at the headwaters of Onondaga Creek to the original owners, the Onondaga Nation.



Tadodaho Sid Hill of the Onondaga Nation, at right, and Nation attorney Joe Heath stand next Onondaga Creek, part of the parcel of 1000 acres given back to the Onondaga Nation. Mike Greenlar | Central Current.

New York State, the Department of Environmental Conservation, the US Department of the Interior and Honeywell International agreed to give back the land outright. The land was not "set aside" or "reserved" but given. The land was given with one restriction: that "The Nation will rely on its Traditional Ecological Knowledge to protect and restore the land."

This was a great team effort and compromise to help our planet, and it made me think about the many little things I should be doing.

Here are some ideas to get you warmed up for a puzzle: When you go rock collecting, bring some of your old rocks. For every rock you take, leave one behind.

If you see trash, pick up a piece of trash for every rock (or fossil) you find.

Bring a refillable drink container with you when you go to outdoor events.

Watch for and pick up blowing cups and paper cups at picnics.

When you are done eating, throw away your trash or place it in a bag immediately so it doesn't blow away.

Offer to clean up for others.

Unscramble the following to discover words that describe more ways we can help our land. Answers are on Page 8.

postcom

nurtre

suree

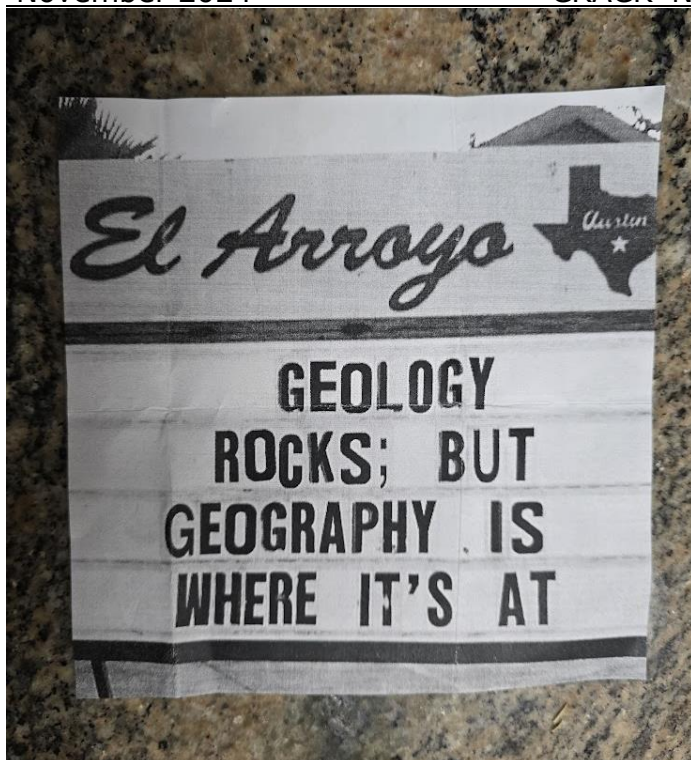
echangex

promive

chaneen

wroger

planter



Submitted by Dale Shinneman

Upcoming Events

Sun., Nov. 17 - Field Trip planned for Deep Springs Road. This hunt will be for **Devonian fossils**. Interested members should contact Dave Arcaro by phone call or text to 315-935-3627, or email darc2667@aol.com, to sign up. We will **meet at the clubhouse no later than 7:45 am and leave promptly at 8:00am.** Members may stay as long as they like. There is a chance we may visit another site the same day if enough members are interested.

Nov. 18 - GMSS meeting - 7:00 pm at the Clubhouse. **Annual Fall Auction!**

Black Friday, Nov. 29 - Field trip planned to Cayuga Junction. This hunt will be to "shop" for **Eurypterid fossils**. Interested members should contact Dave Arcaro by phone call or text to 315-935-3627, or email darc2667@aol.com, to sign up.

DEC. 3 - GMSS Board meeting - 7 pm at the Clubhouse. All are invited.

Sun., December 15 - Annual Club Holiday Party - Noon - 4 pm See information details to the right.



Christmas in November???

Christmas Party Planning

It's official! We are planning our annual holiday party, and we want you there! We'll have plenty of delicious food, door prizes, time to relax with rockhound friends, and plenty of photo ops in front of the Christmas tree. This is always a fun event, so please plan to attend.

- **Bella Domani - 5988 E Taft Rd., Syracuse** (North Syracuse, just down the road from the main Post Office, and the DMV). Plenty of parking, no stairs, comfortable accommodations
- **Sunday December 15, Noon - 4:00 pm**
- **\$24 (estimated) per person (club members)**
- **Holiday brunch menu:**
Fresh-made omelet to order with a variety of fillings, Belgium waffles, ham, bacon, sausage, penne pasta with vodka sauce, spinach ambrosia salad, fresh fruit salad, assorted breakfast pastries, coffee and tea.
- **Food Pantry:** Please bring a non-perishable food pantry item (*We delivered 2 truckloads of food to 2 Food Pantries last year! Much appreciated!*)
- **Gift Exchange:** Please bring an unwrapped, \$10 value, gift to swap, hobby related, or not. *Last year we had wine, holiday dishes, jewelry, mineral specimens, and all sorts of fun and useful items.* There will be NO stealing gifts once claimed at this giveaway. You like it? You keep it!

Please bring cash or check to the November 18th meeting and get on the sign-up list.

Lapidary Classes at The Gem and Mineral Society of Syracuse

By Bill Vergé

One of the most valuable assets to the members of the GMSS is the availability to the club's cutting lab. The club has a well-equipped cutting lab that our members can use for all sorts of lapidary processes.

Members can use this equipment by taking either of two courses:

GMSS Member John Sweeney teaches a jewelry course at BOCES which includes a lapidary program.

The second way is to take the Lapidary class that is offered at our own facility by Bill Vergé and Steve Shorey. **Our classes are usually offered on Saturday mornings beginning at 10am for 2 hours for three consecutive Saturdays.** Eligibility for these classes are: you must be a member of the GMSS (if you are not we can sign you up), 16 years old or older. If you are 13 to 15 years old you can take the classes, but you must be accompanied by an adult member during the classes. The adult can also be taking the class at the same time.

For information on the GMSS Lapidary class contact:

Bill Vergé

Text 617-872-4528, or Email at
b.verge@comcast.net

Upcoming Fall Shows:

Nov. 9-10—ANSONIA, CT: Annual show; East Coast Gem & Mineral Society; Emmett Obrien Technical High School, 141 Prindle Ave; Sat. 9:30-5, Sun. 10-4; \$6 adults, \$3 Veterans, Kids under 12 are Free with paying adult; *Admission \$5 if you like/follow our FB, or Instagram or RSVP to our events page *Dealers we may have a few booths left. *Join us for "Let's ROCK Southern CT" Crystal, Fossil, Gem, Jewelry, Lapidary, Metaphysical, & Mineral Show. Kids workshop is no charge they will reveal crystals to have; contact Crystal Moon, (203) 581-3691; Email: info@eastcoastgemandmineralsociety.org; Website: eastcoastgemandmineralsociety28.godaddysites.com/

Nov. 15-17—LEBANON, PA: Wholesale & retail show; Mid-Atlantic Gem & Mineral Association/dba Gem Miner's Holiday

Show; Lebanon PA Expo & Fairgrounds, 80 Rocherty Rd; Fri. 12-6, Sat. 10-5, Sun. 11-4; \$6; children under 12 free. Discount coupon on website; The Gem Miner's Holiday Show is an exhibition of beads, fine jewelry, gems, minerals, fossils, gift & craft items. Two Wholesale Trade rooms. Hourly & Grand Prize Drawings. In its 17th year. Free & handicapped parking; contact Teresa Schwab, (301) 807-97; Email: eventcoordinator@gem-show.com; Website: www.gem-show.com

Nov. 16-17—HAUPPAGUE, NY: Annual show; Suffolk Gem & Mineral Club; I.B.E.W. Local 25 Hall, 370 Motor Pkwy; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4:30; \$6 adults; kids under 12 free; More than 25 vendors selling minerals, jewelry, beads, fossils & semi-precious cut stones as well as various gift items. Kids activities include geode cracking, scavenger hunt & games. Hourly door prizes & show grand prize. Visit www.suffolkgem.com for information & reduced admission flyer; contact Ronald Casani, (631) 377-8964; Email: rtc.laser@gmail.com; Website: www.suffolkgem.com

Nov. 23-24—WEBSTER, MA: Annual show; Worcester Mineral Club; St Joseph School Nowak Gymnasium, 50 Lincoln St; Sat. 9-4, Sun. 10-4; Adults \$6, Seniors & Students \$5, 12 & under Free, Scouts in uniform free; 20 + Vendors, Mineral Identification, Faceting Demo, Cabochon Demo, Slab Cutting Demo, Wire Wrapping Demo, Raffles, Hourly Door Prizes, Educational Displays, Geode Splitting, free grab bags for children & much more; contact Darlene Fohlin, WMC Show Chairperson, (860) 428-4148; Email: Hunzo.dgf@gmail.com; Website: www.Worcestermineralclub.org

Nov. 23-24—TOLEDO, OH: Bi-Annual Show; Northwest Ohio Rockhounds; St James Lutheran Church, 4727 Sylavania Ave; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-5; FREE; Rock Identification, Geode Cracking, Fossils, Geodes & Agates, Mineral Specimens, Slabs & Rough, Handmade Jewelry, Handmade Crafts, Decorative Art & More! FREE KIDS' CRAFTS; contact Suzanne Shimatzki, (419) 376-2650; Email: sshimatzki@gmail.com; Website: www.facebook.com/NWORockhounds/

Answers to Geo Lexis

postcom	compost
nurtre	return
suree	reuse
exchangex	exchange
promive	improve
chaneen	enhance
wroger	regrow
planter	replant

Sources and further reading:

<https://www.onondaganation.org/news/2024/agreement-transferring-1000-acres-in-tulley-creek-area-completed/9/30/24>

Why We Accepted 1,000 Acres of Land Back From New York State, Sid Hill 7/6/2022

[https://centralcurrent.org/the-onondaga-nation-reclaimed-1000-acres-of-its-land-now-it-seeks-restoration/Patrick McCarthy/10/7/24](https://centralcurrent.org/the-onondaga-nation-reclaimed-1000-acres-of-its-land-now-it-seeks-restoration/Patrick%20McCarthy/10/7/24)

GMSS Auction Rules:

1. Only paid-up GMSS club members can sell items. Anyone can bid on auction items.
2. The auction begins promptly at **7:00 pm**. If you are selling items, please come early to obtain the **two** auction label forms. Set your items up on the auction tables. **Come early - the doors will be open by 6:00 pm.**
3. Each item must have **two** completed auction labels. One is a description form for each item, which will be given to the successful bidder (Mineral name and location collected). The second form will be given to the treasurer for the club records and to give correct payment.
4. **There is an upper limit of 3 bid items per person; 6 bid items per family.** This has been reduced from previous auctions due to the time it takes to complete the auction and how many items we will be putting in from the acquired collection.
5. This is not a silent auction. Each bidder will be given a number on a sign to hold up.
6. Any material with a specified minimum bid that does not sell will be returned to the seller.
7. The club will retain 15% of the selling price. The full selling price of the *donated* items will be given to the club.
8. The highest bidder wins the auctioned item. Runners will deliver each item to the winning bidder and collect the payment for that item. Bidders need not leave their chairs. **BIDDERS, PLEASE BRING PLENTY OF CASH.** Items selling for more than \$15.00 can be purchased by personal check. All other items will be cash only. We have no means for swiping credit cards.
9. Sellers cannot bid on their own items.
10. Checks may be mailed to those winning sellers; most likely in December, shortly after the meeting November 18.

Hafner's Fall Festival

October 19th and 20th from 11 - 4

Photos by Judy Cook

It was an opportunity to let the community know who GMSS is and what we are all about. We had demonstrators, people selling items

related to the gem, mineral, and lapidary hobby, and we engaged people with a simple jewelry-making activity. We also had our folks selling rocks like we did at our July show!





Lee was saying he had been mining Herkimer Diamonds for 49 days straight, he took the weekend off to display at this event. He showed me his hands - they were calloused from all his hard mining, and he said he was exhausted, and he posed a confirmation position.



Those plates set off the blue calcite nicely!



It looks like even Buddy the Elf was there!





Dave Millis is hard at work making rings (see finger).

GMSS Club Meeting Oct. 21

Photos by Judy Cook

Knowledge Corner – Dave Arcaro



Dave shows off his favorite Eurypterid fossils he collected from Litchfield with Steve Mayer.



Eurypterus remipes is an extinct distant relative of the modern king crab and sea scorpion. They were the largest of all arthropods. This creature used to swim in shallow seas during the Silurian Age over 400 million years ago. These formidable predators had grasping appendages, large swimming “paddles,” many legs, and two pairs of eyes – one

large and compound, the other small – that enabled them to pursue their prey. They crawled along the bottom of the shallow, brackish sea then covering much of what is now New York State. It became the official state fossil of New York in 1983.



Late Devonian and Carboniferous eurypterids are fossilized only in rocks from freshwater river and lakes environments, suggesting that over time eurypterids adapted to habitats where they faced less competition from other aquatic carnivores.

Eurypterids are very rare fossils worldwide; New York State is one of only a few places in the world where they can be commonly found.



New York State Museum (Albany) display of sea scorpion (*Eurypterus remipes*) fossils and model; photo by [Steve Lew on Flickr](#) (noncommercial use permitted with attribution / share alike).

Silent auction, John's jacket, & Dale



Checking auction lots. John got a nifty GMSS jacket for all his hard work for the Club.



Dale Shinneman talks about glassmaking and **uranium glass**!

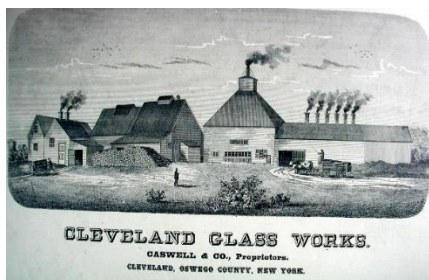


Dale displays a bullseye glass piece from 1685, taken from a Birmingham, England cathedral.



Dale discussed the history of glassmaking (it was America's first true business, in 1608 at Jamestown, VA).

In a commercial glass plant, glass is composed of silica (silicon dioxide), soda ash (sodium carbonate) and limestone (calcium carbonate). Cleveland, NY -on the north shore of Oneida



Lake – was once the home to three glass factories, because of the high-quality sand there.



Uranium glass, also known as Vaseline glass, has a green to yellow glow under long-wave ultraviolet light. It's radioactive, but its level is very low. Since the added uranium in each glassware is present only in small amounts (the amount of radiation exposure caused by uranium glass to its owner is only four millirems per year), it will not pose any negative health impact. It is safe to store one at home as long as it is used and handled correctly.

Tracy's Travelog Talk (Reader's Digest version)

Rocks and Caves Down South

By The Criscione Family

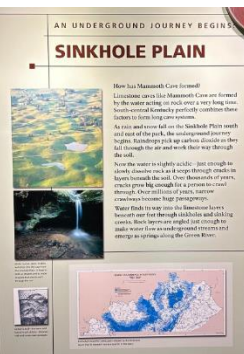


AN UNDERGROUND JOURNEY

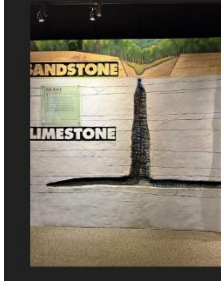
Some of the following slides are photos of the Displays in the National Park Visitor Center

At Mammoth Caves National Park in Kentucky.

Our trip was August 21-Sept 1, 2024 and started Out based in Pigeon Forge for 7 days to explore The great Smoky Mountains.



HOW ARE THE CAVES FORMED?



Mammoth cave runs through layers of limestone. This soluble soft rock readily dissolves to form cave passageways. A sandstone and limestone, layered over hundreds of millions of years make the raw materials for the Mammoth Cave system.

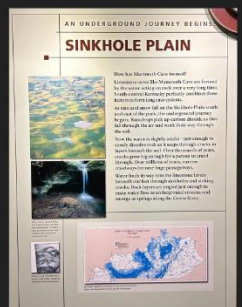
SINKHOLE PLAIN

Rain and snow fall on the sinkhole plain.

Raindrops pick up carbon dioxide as they fall through the air making the water slightly acidic.

This acidic water slowly dissolve the limestone.

Rock layers are angled just enough to let the water flow and underground streams emerge as springs along the green river.

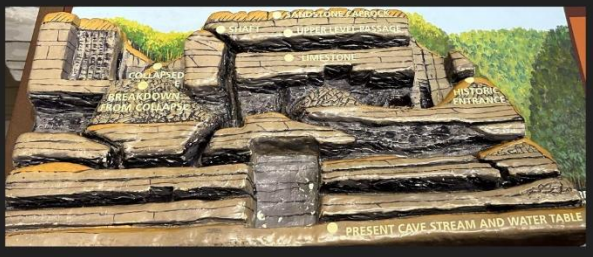


HISTORY



The Cherokee, Chickasaw and Shawnee hunted and gathered food in the Mammoth Cave region. The Federal government forced most Cherokee, Chickasaw and Shawnee Indians to relocate far from their homelands to Oklahoma in the 1830's. Today Mammoth Cave National Park works closely with American Indian nations to ensure that the Native heritage is respected and preserved at the park.

A VISUAL MODEL OF THE CAVE SYSTEM



A MASSIVE UNDERGROUND CAVE SYSTEM:

More than 426 miles of cave passage, making Mammoth Cave by far the longest known Cave system in the world.

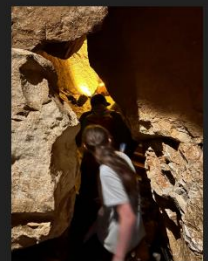


SALTPETER MINING



One of the earliest uses of the cave was a source of nitrate for producing saltpeter, a key ingredient of gunpowder. In the early 1800's enslaved African Americans were brought to the cave to produce nitrates from cave sediments. The war of 1812 increased the demand but the location was inconvenient for use during the Civil War.

WALKING THROUGH THE DARK



PATHWAYS AND BENCHES

During COVID the park was closed to the public. The National Park Service took advantage of this time to build stairs and pathways in several areas of the cave system for easier public access. I can not imagine bringing the buckets of cement down into that cave the work must have been back breaking. The tour guide let us know they were paid very well!



RUBY FALLS, TENNESSEE!!!

145 foot subterranean waterfall with a light show?!?!
Sign me up, I will drive 2 hours south for that!
Chattanooga Tennessee you did not disappoint!



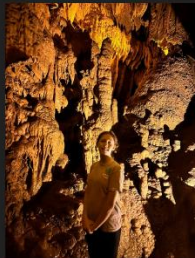
ANOTHER LOOK AT SOME OF THE IMPROVEMENTS



LIGHTING WAS ON POINT



CAVE EXPLORERS



CHATTANOOGA BATTLE PARK



NIAGARA FALLS FORMATION...Speaking of waterfalls....



ROCK CITY, GEORGIA

This is an amazing place
A botanical garden for people who love rocks, gnomes, fairy tales and fluorescent things. Oh and more waterfalls!



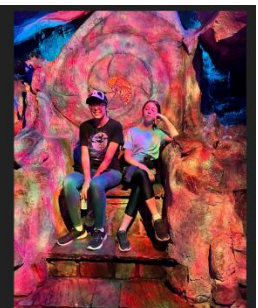
CUMBERLAND FALLS & BIG SOUTH BEND ARCH

But I digress back underground we go....



IN THE 1940'S USE OF GLOW!

Garnet and Frieda Carter developed this botanical garden in 1930 on their private estate. In the 1940's they added nursery rhyme vignettes created by Jessie Sanders. They are illuminated in black lights and appear in a series of 3D glowing dioramas.



FAT MAN'S SQUEEZE

The entire botanical garden was a winding path of trails, bridges, tunnels that was amazingly whimsical and very well done. There were also species of plants... but the rocks and boulders were amazing!



THE PARTHENON .. For our Greek Myth lover



More things made of rocks



THE END - EVERYONE HAD A GREAT TIME!

**And, In Other News****Golden Discovery: Ancient Bug Unearthed in New York After 450 Million Years**

By Yale University October 29, 2024

Researchers have unearthed an eye-catching, gold-colored fossil of a bug in New York, preserved in pyrite for 450 million years.



The holotype specimen of *Lomankus edgecombei*. Credit: Luke Parry

This specimen, Lomankus edgecombei, offers a unique glimpse into the life of ancient arthropods, showcasing its specialized appendages and shedding light on the evolutionary history preserved in Beecher's Bed, a notable fossil-rich area near Rome, NY.

"These remarkable fossils show how rapid replacement of delicate anatomical features in pyrite before they decay, which is a signature feature of Beecher's Bed, preserves critical evidence of the evolution of life in the oceans 450 million years ago," said Derek Briggs, the G. Evelyn Hutchinson Professor of Earth and Planetary Sciences in Yale's Faculty of Arts and Sciences.

<https://scitechdaily.com/golden-discovery-ancient-bug-unearthed-in-new-york-after-450-million-years/>

<https://nypost.com/2024/11/04/us-news/450-million-year-old-arachnid-relative-discovered-perfectly-preserved-in-fools-gold/>

Vast deposit of 'white gold' in Arkansas could be stunningly valuable

Elizabeth Weise USA TODAY
Published 3:21pm ET Oct 23 2024

Arkansas may be home to a vast resource that could reshape the world's energy needs: a valuable battery component called lithium that's been nicknamed "white gold" and "the new gasoline."

A release this week from the U.S. Geological Survey suggests the U.S. might have all the lithium it needs in ancient brine which dates back to the Jurassic period and is buried deep below southern Arkansas.

There could be between 5 and 19 million tons of lithium buried there, enough to meet projected world demand for lithium car batteries nine times over, the USGS said in a statement.

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2024/10/23/lithium-deposit-under-arkansas-could-fix-global-ev-battery-problem/75808246007/>

Over 130 Species: Harvard Scientists Uncover Exceptional Ancient Fossil Trove in Massachusetts

BY HARVARD UNIVERSITY OCTOBER 26, 2024

A fossil site in Massachusetts, Lantern North, dating to 320-318 million years ago, reveals a diverse ecosystem of over 130 species, including early reptiles, amphibians, and plants.

Researchers have uncovered an exceptionally well-preserved fossil site in Massachusetts, offering a rare window into terrestrial life from more than 300 million years ago.

Published in *Nature Communications*, the study reveals a diverse ecosystem of early land-dwelling animals and plants, shedding new light on a historically underexplored period.

The fossil site, called Lantern North, dates to approximately 320-318 million years ago during the early Pennsylvanian period and is located in the Wamsutta Formation of eastern North America. This predates many well-known fossil sites from the Coal Age. Researchers uncovered body and trace fossils of over 130 different species, including early reptiles, amphibians, arachnids, insects, and an array of plant fossils. Many represent some of the oldest known examples of their groups.



Credit: Richard Knecht / Harvard University years

<https://scitechdaily.com/over-130-species-harvard-scientists-uncover-exceptional-ancient-fossil-trove-in-massachusetts/>
SOUNDS LIKE A FIELD TRIP TO ME!



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



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

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

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

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

Meetings – 3rd Monday of the month
General Meeting @ 7:30 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 Bo 2801, Syracuse, NY 13220**. We will mail an application/renewal form to you.

2024 – 2025 GMSS Officers/Contacts

-President: Matt Klinger pres@gmss.club

-Vice-President: Dave Arcaro vp@gmss.club

-Treasurer: Linda Clark treasurer@gmss.club

-Secretary: Teresa Arnold
secretary@gmss.club

-Jr Rockhounds: Rick Moore kidsrock@gmss.club

-Membership Chair: members@gmss.club

-Sgt at Arms: Kristin Buskirk
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