

CRACK 'N CAB



Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse, PO Box 2801, Syracuse, NY
web <https://syracusegemsociety.com> Volume 51 Issue 4, April 2021
209 Oswego St (Ponderosa Plaza), Unit 15, Liverpool, NY

More on our 70th Anniversary!
See More Memories: Pages 7 - 9

April 19 Meeting, 7:30 pm @ the Clubhouse



Dave Millis,
The “Rock Doc”
Presents:
“Mineral
Identification”

See more information – Pg 4

***SEATING IS VERY LIMITED – YOU MUST
CALL KRIS B. 315-487-5202 TO RESERVE
YOUR SEAT***

“New York Mineral of the Month” – Page 5

March Meeting Review – Page 6 and 7

President's Message

Dick Lyons



We will have a show this year if an adequate number of people are fully vaccinated. The following list indicates the progression of the number of people in New York State who have received both shots.

1/15	73,523	.4%
2/16	924,475	4.8%
3/16	2,160,663	11.1%
4/4	4,151,808	21.3%

Educated Estimates:

5/4	37%
6/4	57%
7/4	79%

Unless there is a drastic increase over the next two months, we will not have a show, or the number of customers will still be limited with restrictions. Lee and David Seaward, who own Two Hawks, will not attend if there are restrictions or an attendee limit.

The State Fair is being planned to start on August 20th for 18 Days. One more month should raise the percentage to an acceptable number with some restrictions.

Our final decision for the show will be made at the Show Committee or the Board meeting in May.

Dick Lyons

2021 GemWorld Show Committee Meeting

Our next meeting is April 26th at 7:00 at the clubhouse. We are still making plans for our show and EFMLS Convention. Come join us to find out how you can help. We need everyone!

Cheryl Brown

Secretary's Report

Cathy Patterson

Executive Board Meeting Minutes

The GMSS Board (usually) meets the first Tuesday of the month at the clubhouse in Ponderosa Plaza 7:00 PM. GMSS members are welcome to attend.

Executive Board Meeting Minutes April 6, 2021

The Board meets 7:00 PM the first Tuesday of the month at the clubhouse in Liverpool (Ponderosa Plaza) behind Heid's. Present were 11 board members and club members. The meeting was called to order by President Dick Lyons at 7:00 PM.

Nominations Committee

Keith Gilmer has served as Nominating Committee Chairman for the last several years. This year only one position is open to be filled, that of club secretary. Keith and his committee will seek someone to fill this position. GMSS officers serve 2 years.

Conflict of Interest Form

All board members were given a copy of the Conflict of Interest form. This needs to be read and signed annually.

Treasurer's Report

Mary Davis, club Treasurer provided information on how our funds are shaping up with our 2021 show dealers sending in their contracts.

Website Report

Our website designer, Dana Schwartz, is working on updating our website. She will be adding email addresses and websites of our 2021 dealers for people to refer to on our website. She continues to list club activities to the club pages as this news becomes available.

Show Committee

Cheryl Brown updated the board to how the show plans are shaping up. As far as we know the show will go on as scheduled. The youth area will be reduced in size. We will follow all COVID-19 safety protocols in place at the time of our show. We are to host the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical Societies (EFMLS) convention. So far, we have 50 retail dealers committed and 6 wholesale dealers coming to our July 10-11, 2021 show at the Center of Progress building at the New York State Fairgrounds. The next Show Committee meeting will be April 28, 7:00 PM at the clubhouse.

Other Mineral Shows

Wayne County Club scheduled for June 5-6 has been canceled. The Herkimer Mineral Show is scheduled for
(continued on next page)

July 17-18.

The East Coast Mineral Show in West Springfield, MA is August 13-15.

Bead Society

The Bead Society that has met at our clubhouse the last year has decided to move their meetings to St. Ann's Church.

Programs

The April 19 program on mineral identification will be presented by Dave Millis. Come 6:30 PM with rock specimens you would like to have Dave identify.

The May 17 meeting will be our annual auction. More information on this will follow. The auction can be held outdoors.

The June 21 meeting will be our annual work night to prepare for our July show. Ice cream will be on hand for our refreshment.

Sunshine Committee

Cards of get well and cheer were sent out to Rick Moore who had knee surgery and Sharon Viel who was hospitalized with complications from chemotherapy. We send healing wishes to both.

Lapidary Committee

Steve Shorey continues to open up the clubhouse for those wishing to work on lapidary projects. The cost is \$5 for machine maintenance. You must have been schooled on the use of the machinery to work here. Anyone wishing to do their own projects (beading, wire wrap, etc.) or use the club library may do so Wednesdays 1:00 – 4:00. Thank you, Steve.

Junior Rockhounds

No meeting information was available to report. They are not meeting yet.

Facebook Presence

Thank you Judy Cook for maintaining the GMSS presence on Facebook.

Other

Linda Clark asked to purchase a small display case that the club had bought from Harry Perkins' estate sale. It wasn't being used by the club. *A motion was made to offer the display case for sale to Linda and it was seconded by Mark Grasmeyer.* It was sold for \$25, the price the club paid.

The meeting was concluded at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Patterson GMSS Secretary

Geo Lexis (Puzzle) By Anne Fitzgerald

"April Showers"

If April showers bring May flowers, just think of what those showers may do over time to stone! Add the wind and the sun, and you've got weathering. Weathering over time can destroy or degrade stone, and hence, the buildings they are made of. And so builders have always wanted to know what rocks hold up the best. There are quick tests of durability, but a better test would be just to leave the stone out and see what happens. There is a test for that. The whole idea started out as just a presentation back in 1876 for the Philadelphia Centennial Exposition. A wall with various types of stone was displayed. The display was a delight for the viewers, and so admired, the wall was placed in the Smithsonian Institution. I'm guessing a non-geology person decided they wanted room for something else, and so in 1942 a committee was formed to determine a better use for the wall. And so now in Gaithersburg Maryland, a "test" wall stands out in the open for the purpose of studying the impact of weathering over the years.

Unscramble the following to find various building materials.

See how you held up on another page of this newsletter.

blarme

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rateltie

zarquitte

The solution is on Page 5 of this newsletter.

Upcoming Events

April 17 - 18 – Corning, New York: Annual Crystal Fest Spring Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show, sponsored by The Finger Lakes Gem, Mineral & Fossil Club; USW Local 1000, 100 Nasser Civic Center Plaza, Corning, NY Sat. 10am - 6pm, Sun. 10am - 4pm; Adults \$3 Children 12 & under & Scouts in uniform FREE with Adult. 8 Dealers selling Crystals-Minerals-Fossils-Jewelry-Gems-Beads-Wire Wrapped Jewelry-Metaphysical Stones. *Masks will be required to enter; if you don't have one, we will provide one.*

<https://www.facebook.com/events/817612722297982/>

April 19, 2021 GMSS meeting - 7:30 pm
Dave Millis, "The Rock Doc," will be our speaker. His subject is: "Mineral Identification"

This month Dave Millis returns to give us a hands-on experience identifying some common and not-so-common rocks and minerals. You may learn new rock identification skills or sharpen your current skills. This will be like a return to Earth Science 101. With John Davis, our long-time rock identifier gone a few years now, and many of us not collecting much anymore, it's time to begin sharpening our own rock ID knowledge so we, too can possibly become a future "John Davis."

Dave really knows his rocks and minerals so *if you have a rock or mineral you'd like identified, bring it to the April meeting, 6:30 pm, prior to the program at 7:30 pm and he'll give it a go to tell you what it is.*

The program is designed to review the basics of rock types and the 7 basic properties of minerals. You'll also learn 3 extra interesting properties that are rarely taught. Everyone will get a bag with 5 minerals (2 are crystals) to keep. By the end of class, you'll be able to identify these minerals. As always everyone will go home with prizes especially if you can identify any of the great variety of quartz specimens he will bring. Come for a great night of Rockin' with Dave April 19.

You must contact Kris B. at 315-487-5202 to reserve your seat!

April 26, 2021 –NYS Fair Show Committee meeting – 7 pm at the Club House, led by Cheryl Brown.

May 1—Midland Park, NJ: Annual show; The North Jersey Mineralogical Society; Midland Park High School, 250 Prospect St.; Sat. 10-5; \$5; Outdoor show — COVID safety measure compliant — 25 dealers offering a wide array of rocks, fossils, minerals, and crystals, among other items. RAIN DATE: Sunday, May 2.; contact Jeff Wilson, 14 Beach Dr., MONTAGUE, NJ 07827, (607)

287-9963; Email: buckwood4@yahoo.com; Website: nojms.webs.com

May 4, 2021 – GMSS Board Meeting – 7 pm at the Clubhouse.

MAY 8 – 9 - Canandaigua, NY: Quartz Fest Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Show, sponsored by The Finger Lakes Gem, Mineral & Fossil Club; Greater Canandaigua Civic Center, 250 N Bloomfield Rd, Canandaigua, NY. Sat. 10am – 6pm, Sun. 10 am – 4 pm; Adults \$5, Children 12 and under & Scouts in uniform FREE with Adult. Crystals - Minerals - Fossils - Jewelry - Wirewrapping - Geodes & More, 17 dealers. *Masks are required to enter the show. Please maintain social distancing. There may be a line to enter the show as we need to limit the amount of people in the Civic Center.*

<https://www.facebook.com/events/265717108375696/>

May 17, 2021 GMSS meeting - 7:30 pm
Our Club Auction is back. We hope! Stay tuned for more information.

May 31, 2021 –NYS Fair Show Committee meeting – 7 pm at the Club House, led by Cheryl Brown. We hope!

June 1, 2021 – GMSS Board Meeting – 7 pm at the Clubhouse.

JUN 5 – 6 -Corning, NY: Finger Lakes Gem, Mineral and Fossil Club Gem Show, sponsored by The Finger Lakes Gem, Mineral & Fossil Club; USW Local 1000, 100 Nasser Civic Center Plaza, Corning, NY. Sat. 10am - 6pm, Sun. 10am - 4pm; Adults \$3, Children 12 and under & Scouts in uniform FREE with Adult. Crystals, Minerals, Fossils, Jewelry, Gems, Wirewrapping, Metaphysical stones & More. *Masks must be worn to enter the Gem Show. Please practice social distancing.*

<https://www.facebook.com/events/3658170617585147/>

June 5—Maungie, PA: Annual show; Pennsylvania Earth Sciences Association; Macungie Memorial Park, 50 Poplar St.; Sat. 8:30-3; Admission \$2; Spring Mineralfest - *will be either mostly indoor or all outdoor depending on local COVID precaution ordinances at the time - face masks must be worn;* contact Mandy Apgar; Website:

<https://www.facebook.com/Pennsylvania-Earth-Sciences-Association-PESA-mineralfest-and-clubs-1555170821375067/>

June 21, 2021 GMSS meeting - 7:30 pm

It will be a modified work night for the GemWorld Show and Eastern Federation Convention. *We hope!* As a bribe, we expect to have our friend "Skippy" show up!

Wednesday Workshop

Steve Shorey has opened the **lapidary workshop** again on **Wednesday afternoons from 1 to 4.** If you have taken John Sweeney's Lapidary class, you can use the club equipment. The cost is \$5.00.

Are you ready to get out of the house? You can also bring a non-lapidary project in to the Wednesday workshop from 1 to 4 as well. No charge. Just bring all your own tools and supplies.

Answers to Geo Lexis

blarme	marble
tangire	granite
nestnoads	sandstone
tales	slate
slatab	basalt
esigns	gneiss
rateltie	laterite
zarquitte	quartzite

Sources and further reading:
 P.E. Stutzman and J.R. Clifton, "Stone Exposure Test Wall at NIST," in Proceedings of Degradation of Natural Stone, J.F. Labuz, ed., American Society of Civil Engineers Annual meeting, Minneapolis, MN, 1997.

J. Stoughton/NIST.gov.

Thankyouforreadingmysources.com.

New York Mineral of the Month



Barite from St. Joe Mine, Balmat, St. Lawrence Co.



Barite from ZCA Hyatt Mine, Talcville, St. Lawrence Co.

Images from johnbetts-fineminerals.com

Barite (the American spelling, as opposed to "baryte" in the United Kingdom) is derived from the Greek word "*barys*," meaning heavy, referring to its high specific weight or density. The mineral has a hardness of 3 – 3.5 on the Mohs Scale. It is composed of barium sulfate and is very common. It can be found in sedimentary rock in lead-zinc veins in limestone and dolostone, as concretions in sandstone (sometimes forming "barite desert rose"), in hot spring deposits and with hematite ore.

Most barite is used as a weighting agent for drilling fluids in oil and gas exploration. It is also used as a white pigment in paint, and a weighted filler for textiles, paper and rubber. It is also used in the medical field in x-ray diagnostic tests.

Barite can be found in hills and mountains, lowlands, outcrops and road cuts and mines and quarries. The Balmat-Edwards, Gouverneur and Macomb areas of St. Lawrence County have been very productive. Barite can be found in limestone in the southern half of New York State, such as Monroe County.

"The weight of rocks collected is proportional to the square of the distance from your car and doubles for every 10 degrees of the hill you must climb."

From Osage Hills Gems via Glacial Drifter, October 1990

March 15, 2021- DAVE Millis presents "Pegmatites"

Photos by Judy Cook



Dave Millis gave a presentation on pegmatites from an atomic, geochemical, mineralogical and usage perspective, complete with visual aids!

Dave Millis has been a serious rock collector since 1971 after he graduated with his PhD in atomic physics from Clarkson University in Potsdam, NY. Potsdam is in the middle of Northern New York's pegmatite region. As many of us did, Dave got hooked on rock collecting in his teens when he found a piece of obsidian on a trip out west. Dave currently is a member of 6 clubs, life member of 3.

Pegmatites are igneous rocks, formed from water that separates during the final stages of the magma's slow crystallization at high temperature and pressure at depth.

In early stages of crystallization, ions that form high-temperature minerals are depleted from the melt. Rare ions become concentrated in the melt and in the excluded water. These ions can form the rare minerals often found in pegmatites and are the primary commercial source of lithium (that forms spodumene), cesium and beryllium (that forms beryl) and other elements.



BERYLLIUM + LITHIUM

MINERAL	FORMULA	DENSITY	OXIDE/RATIO	WHOLE LOT LOAD	NOW
BERYL	$Be_3Al_2Si_6O_{18}$	48	$BeO \ 9/25$	\$55	\$350K
BERTRANDITE	$Be_2Si_2O_7(OH)_2$	46	$BeO \ 7/25$	\$290	1.9 million
SPODUMENE	$Li_2Si_2O_6$	3.0	$Li_2O \ 14/30$		
COCKSCITE	$LiAl(Si_4Al)O_{16}(OH)_2$	1.8	$Li_2O \ 7/15$		

ABOUT THE SAME AS BERYLLIUM

Most pegmatites are composed of feldspar, quartz and mica, similar to granite. They form large interlocking crystals, usually larger than one inch. Most are intrusive rocks, found in sheets of rocks (dikes and veins) near large masses of intrusive igneous rocks called plutons. Examples are the Palisades Sill of NY-NJ, Stone Mountain, GA and the Sierra Nevada Batholith in CA.

Pegmatite is mined for industrial minerals, including mica. This is used for components of fireproofing, electrical insulators for circuit boards, optical filters, paint filler, cosmetics and other products. The Benson Mines in southern St. Lawrence County, where Dave gets his mica, has pegmatite in its center.

Lithium is used in aircraft parts and in batteries. Beryllium is used for armor plating and high-revolution machinery. Feldspar is a primary ingredient in the making of glass and ceramics.

According to "Pegmatites of New York State: The Batchellerville pegmatite" (by Abigail Seadler – American Geoscience Institute, Alexandria, VA; Marian Lupulescu – New
(continued on next page)

York State Museum, Albany, NY; and David Bailey – Hamilton College, Clinton, NY):

“There are approximately 25 significant pegmatite bodies known in New York, and they can be placed into six different geologic/geographic groups:

- A. The Bedford pegmatite district...at Valhalla in Westchester County, and the small pegmatite bodies in the...metamorphic rocks of the Manhattan Prong (NYC);
- B. The Cranberry Creek (Mayfield), Batchellerville, Greenfield, Day (Overlook) and Corinth belt...in the southern Adirondack Highlands;
- C. The Crown Point, Rose Rock, Spar Bed Hill, Chestertown and Fort Ann... in the central-eastern Adirondack Highlands;
- D. The Scott Farm-Benson Mines...belt in the northwestern Adirondack Highlands;
- E. The Lyons Falls and Stiles Farm...in the western Adirondacks; and
- F. The McLearn and other small pegmatite bodies in the Adirondack Lowlands.

“By world standards, the list of mineral species found in New York pegmatites is modest, although museum-quality specimens of columbite...beryl, chrysoberyl, amazonite, sillimanite, molybdenite and schorl have been collected. At some locations, secondary minerals formed at the expense of primary igneous minerals.”

Note: Dave’s presentation is available on GMSS’s Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/gemandmineralsyr>

CLUB TO HEAR WEIS

Joseph H. Weis of the General Electric Co. will speak on “Mineral Deposits of Northeastern United States” at the monthly Meeting of the Syracuse Gem And Mineral Club at 8 p.m. to-morrow in Room 117 Lyman Hall, Syracuse University campus.

From *THE POST-STANDARD*, Thurs., Jan. 10, 1957

More Highlights of GMSS Celebrating 70 Years

Location of Mondore Auto Building



From the *Cortland*

Standard, Fri., March 10, 1972: “2 ½ miles north of Lafayette, N.Y., on Rt. 11 or 2 ½ miles south of Exit 14 off Rt. 81.”

Mineral Exhibit At Public Library

A wide variety of precious, semi-precious and synthetic precious stones and minerals will be exhibited by the Syracuse Mineral Club for a month starting Saturday at the Public Library. Joseph T. Raleigh is chairman of the exhibit.

Sapphires, rubies, opal, turquoise, jade, tourmaline and many other stones will be included in the display.

George W. Henes is president of the Syracuse Mineral Club, which meets monthly on the second Friday in Lyman Hall, Syracuse University. Other officers are Miss Guenever Pendray, vice-president; Miss Margaret Thorpe, recording secretary; and Miss Elizabeth M. Henes, corresponding secretary and treasurer.

From *THE POST-STANDARD*, Wed., Sept. 2, 1953

Pickax, Strong Arm Produce 'Diamonds'

By CONNIE MEYER
If you want to carry home a few carats of diamonds at the end of a picnic, a sturdy pickaxe and no fear of aching muscles.

Just down to Middleville in Herkimer County, and dig up a few of the gems that have been found in this area.

The sport for hard work of being a professional prospector in Herkimer County diamonds is growing more popular each year.

I went with Miss Wilma Long and Mrs. Andrew Schrod- er, members of the Syracuse Gem and Mineral Club, the other day to Schroeder's diamond quarry, just south of Middleville on Route 23.

They were armed with heavy hand hammers, pickaxes and shovels. I took only a 10-cent trowel, but nevertheless I managed to pry out a few quite respectable sized diamonds from the Schroeder rock quarry.

The diamonds actually are quartz crystals, Miss Long

said, but are unique for their size and quantity and their double terminated—see photo—shape. They resemble diamonds because their cut hexagonal facets are almost symmetrical.

The "diamonds" are sometimes made into jewelry and are favored by amateur gem collectors. They are so abundant that they literally fall out of the rocks in 25-acre running north of the Mohawk flow through Herkimer and Montgomery Counties.

Schroeder's big rock quarry

makes it easy to be a prospector. You pay a dollar a day per prospect for a prospect for you can cut out as much rock as you want.

While there our companions were members of a gem club from Cleveland. One a diamond set stone dealer from Glen a man from California and others from New York City and Canada.

"This is a good crowd," said Miss Long, who operates the Gem School of Mass. It "during the regular summer season, there might be 250 people here on a Saturday or Sunday."

Some of the men attacked the rocks with crow bars and other heavy tools. They were out of breath where they were for "rocks" of diamonds about the size of a pea and a pea.

The wife of one prospector found a diamond about seven inches long in one of these pockets.

It was quiet at the diamond grounds, except for the occasional sound of a car whirring by on the nearby road and the sporadic "cra-choo" of pickaxes.

The casual observer might have thought it was a bunch of contented staking away, except for the wailing and cussing and the nearby ferns covered by succubus' lusty perfume.

"What of the gem hunters were old children, but there was one man who had a wife about 100 or 150 and she was his.

"By mid-afternoon, we decided to try another diamond hunting ground. This one is located on State 174, a mile from Middleville, which winds northwest through picturesque farmland from Middleville to near the Old Palace Church.

The hunting was more difficult here for the diamonds were a deep woods where

some trees had literally been uprooted by the eager digging of diamond hunters.

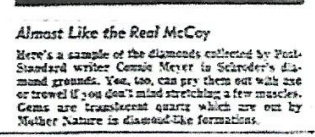
Miss Long says she favored the rock as a natural show "but" she did not by chance spot a pocket containing a 4000 large piece of the crystal.

Other members of the Gem and Mineral Club came to this Herkimer area diamond ground, and traveled to other sites in the state to search for gems.

Favorite spots are Pleasant in northern New York for black tourmaline, and near Chittenango for yellow topaz.

There is a high code of ethics among amateur prospectors, Miss Long says. "If you leave your tools or your diamond spoils and go away for a while nobody will try to take your claim," she explained.

"That's the rule of the game among all rock hunters."



Almost Like the Real McCoy

Here's a sample of the diamonds collected by Post-Standard writer Connie Meyer in Schroeder's diamond grounds. Yes, too, can pry them out with just one trowel if you don't mind strutting a few muscles. Gems are translucent quartz which is cut by Mother Nature in diamond-like formations.



She Digs for Diamonds

Miss Wilma Long of Syracuse Gem and Mineral Club picks her pickaxe through rocks at quarry near Middleville in Herkimer County. Her goal is the famed Herkimer County diamonds, prized by gem collectors all over the country. Miss Long operates South School of Music and prospects for fun on weekends.

Some of the men attacked the rocks with crow bars and other heavy tools. They were out of breath where they were for "rocks" of diamonds about the size of a pea and a pea.

The wife of one prospector found a diamond about seven inches long in one of these pockets.



LAPIDISTS AT WORK. Keith and Jane McCall of 15 Alder Lane, Cranbrook Manor, ready rocks for jewelry mountings in their basement workshop. The couple are members of the Syracuse Gem and Mineral Society and make exquisite jewelry including bracelets, the clasps, pendants, as their hobby. They have traveled throughout the United States collecting rocks to cut, polish and mount in jewelry. — Dick Bandy Photo

Ever Know A Lapidist? Meet The Keith McCalls

BY FEG BANDY
Keith and Jane McCall are lapidists. That is to say, the Cranbrook Manor couple are connoisseurs in the art of cutting stones and gems.

According to Keith, their hobby narrows down to labeling themselves as "rock hounds."

The McCalls make exquisite jewelry from rocks which they have collected from all over the United States and Canada. "Even to Herkimer diamonds," they said from nearby Herkimer, no pun.

Both very enthusiastic about their hobby, the McCalls say "by using a little imagination one can see all kinds of scenes in rocks, both realistic and artistic."

To prove their theory, Keith displayed a piece of polished moss agate in which he pointed out trees and a lake.

The finished product may end up in a charm bracelet, pendant, earrings or tie clasp. The McCall jewelry is much in demand by those persons who know of the couple's hobby.

In the basement of their split-level home at 15 Alder Lane, Mr. and Mrs. McCall have a compact workshop housing all kinds of technical machinery to cut and polish rocks and stones.

One of the things lapidists do in working on rocks is to save chips and pieces until they gather about 10 pounds and then "tumble" them in a special machine for about a month. "The machine operates quietly," the couple pointed out. Following this procedure, the tumbled rocks are put into a polishing barrel with a solution of tin oxide as a polishing

agent. The result is beautiful stones ready for jewelry mountings.

"A rock hobbyist counts his treasures in tons," Keith laughed. The McCalls do not have tons of rock in their basement, but an ample supply, each piece a favorite of theirs.

The art of working with stones came about when the McCall's son studied geology at Syracuse University and always had rocks around the house. Keith Jr. is now a captain in the U.S. Army serving as a meteorologist in the Soviet Camps in Thailand.

In addition to the effect of their son's studies upon their hobby, the McCall's daughter, student fine arts at Syracuse University which urged them on to becoming lapidists. She is now Mrs. Winifred Furger of Ogdensburg, whose husband is an Air Force pilot.

The couple have another daughter, Mrs. Arnold Welton of Syracuse. Their pride and joy are four grandchildren: Haven and Donald of Seattle, Ronald and David of Syracuse.

Thousands of Keith and Jane do not end with their love of working with rocks. They are, incidentally, members of the Syracuse Gem and Mineral Society which convenes monthly in Lyman Hall at Syracuse University.

Keith has just completed a hit to suit for one of his grandchildren and his wife girls and decorative soap for Christmas gifts.

Mr. McCall has been with the General Electric Co. formerly in its high fidelity components department and now with Heavy Military. The couple moved here from Decatur, Ill.

Marcellus Weekly Observer
Thurs., Aug. 3, 1967

Local Rockhounds Join in First Gem And Mineral Show

A number of local people took part in the first show of the Syracuse Gem and Mineral Club at the State Fair grounds last week.

Included were Mr. and Mrs. L. G. Dunlap of 3600 Howlett Hill road, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Less, of Cedarvale, Mr. and Mrs. Hans Moxnier of Elbridge, and Donald Barron of Skaneateles.

Rockhounds from Connecticut, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Canada were among those displaying their collections.

Adlai B. Wheeler Sr., of Seneca Turnpike, Onondaga Hill, donated a great deal of material to the Boys' Club.

Liverpool-Salina Review
Dec. 1962

Over 2,000 Visit Gem and Mineral Show

Dealers, collectors and the curious viewed displays and demonstrations at the sixth annual show and swap of the Syracuse Gem and Mineral Society Inc. Saturday and Sunday at Mondore's Auto Auction on

SYRACUSE POST-STANDARD July 1972

Route 11 in LaFayette. Thousands of rare specimens and semiprecious stones, along with hand-crafted jewelry, were set out for public scrutiny and purchase. (Staff photo by Orazio Fresina.)

Club Displays Nature's Art

By DENNIS DENINGER

This past weekend's show by the Gem and Mineral Society of Syracuse Inc. was like an excursion into a strange dazzling cave, untouched by time or man.

On display and for sale to the more than 2,000 people who visited the exhibition Saturday and Sunday at Mondore's Auto Auction, Route 11, LaFayette, were some of the most unique and fascinating specimens of nature's art from various points around the globe.

From the literally thousands of samples open to public inspection, several stand out in the mind: clusters of amethyst, carnelian and rose

quartz which look like translucent bunches of stone grapes; tan selenite from Chihuahua, Mexico, with the angles and facets of modern sculpture; an entire fossilized fish from Maranhao, Brazil, and a collection of fulgurites, long narrow strips of sand fused by lightning.

Then there were pieces of petrified turtle shell, yours for just 75 cents a chunk; the last remaining vertebrae of ancient, unsuspecting buffalo; gastroliths, or bona fide dinosaur gizzard stones, and the famous "Detroit agate," or "Fordite," which are carved chips of hardened paint scraped from automobile assembly lines.

Of the 27 dealers displaying their wares, 17 were from the Syracuse club, with the other exhibitors coming from as far away as Neoga, Ill., and Greensboro, N.C. In addition to the tables of items for browsers, lectures, demonstrations and slide presentations were offered for those seeking to enhance their knowledge of silversmithing, of stonecutting and inlay, or of gold wire jewelry craft.

Paul Dunning, local club president, was enthusiastic about the society's sixth annual show. "This is a growing family hobby, our membership is continually increasing," he noted.

Looking for something with

flair and out of the ordinary? May I suggest a blue and green chalcantinite, or how about a chalcedony concretion?



Making Jewelry at Home

Bill Bethard, treasurer of the Syracuse Gem and Mineral Society Inc., works in his kitchen in LaFayette, Syracuse, creating jewelry from 12 karat gold-filled wire. The pieces in the foreground are only a few of the items he will exhibit at the society's sixth annual show Saturday and Sunday at Mondore's on Route 11, LaFayette. The immense ring at left is only a rag, but everything else is gold with semiprecious stones.

Gem World Comes To Fairgrounds

Silver specimens from the Canadian Museum of Nature at Ottawa, meteorites, handmade jewelry, fossils, a gold club made of jade, inlay pictures and amber are among the exhibits shown at GemWorld '81, 25th annual gem, mineral and fossil show sponsored by the Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.

The show will be held from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., July 6; and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., July 7 in the Center of Progress Building at the New York State Fairgrounds.

There will be exhibits, demonstrations and dealers covering all phases of the study of mineral crystals,

the art of gemstone cutting, study of fossils and metallurgy. There will be a mini-mine for children to dig for minerals and fossils.

Several craftspeople will be demonstrating gemstone cutting and carving, making

jewelry mountings and using a microscope to view tiny minerals invisible to the naked eye.

Retail dealers from all over the country will be selling everything for all phases of the hobby.

GEMWORLD 1983

ANNUAL GEM, MINERAL AND JEWELRY SHOW SPONSORED BY THE GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY OF SYRACUSE, INC.

exhibits * silversmithing * carvings
dealers * minerals * fossils * micromounting
stone cutting * jewelry * door prizes

SATURDAY, JULY 23
10a.m.-6p.m.
SUNDAY, JULY 24
10a.m.-5p.m.

NEW YORK STATE FAIRGROUNDS
SYRACUSE * THRUWAY EXIT 39

Open to the public * Free parking
Donation \$1.00 - Children 12 or under free

Marcellus
Press-observer
July 3, 1991

Gem Society Slates Show

By DENNIS DENINGER

Gold wire jewelry, silversmithing and rock faceting will be featured at the sixth annual show of the Syracuse Gem and Mineral Society Inc. Saturday and Sunday at Mondore's Auto Auction on Route 11 in LaFayette.

Twenty-five dealers and hundreds of rock hounds will demonstrate their crafts and exhibit completed pieces, as well as rocks and gems in the rough. Admission is free.

The society, which has nearly 200 members, plans ahead a full year for the show, the largest in the area, according to Bill Bethard, treasurer for the group.

Bethard, an exporter in a factory, explained that the club's membership ranges "from geologists to laborers, and all in between." He became interested in the crafts about six years ago when he started cutting semiprecious stones.

Then, in 1969, he visited a jewelry show in Manhattan where he picked up a book on how to sort stones, which introduced him to what is now his favorite pastime, the fashioning of gold wire settings and ornaments.

"It's not a very expensive hobby to get started in," he said. "I put what money I earn in the sale of my items back into it, so it builds itself."

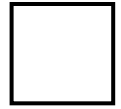
"The first thing I made," said Bethard, "was a small tiger eye ring for my daughter. I figured if she didn't care for it, I would have lost nothing. She liked it, and I just kept going."

SYRACUSE POST-STANDARD
July 20, 1972



Gem and Mineral Society of Syracuse
P.O. 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 outdoors, exercise and time with old and new friends.

Meetings - 3rd Monday of the month
Future Rockhounds @ 6:30 - General Meeting @ 7:30
(NO Meetings Jul, Aug, Dec)
209 Oswego St (Ponderosa Plaza) Unit 14 & 15, Liverpool, NY
Visitors are ALWAYS welcome!

See online Newsletter <http://gmss.us/resources/newsletter>
 You can also visit our facebook and flickr pages
Annual member dues
Adult \$10 • Family/Couple \$15 • Junior \$5 • Life \$5

If you would like to join or renew membership download the application form (PDF), see <http://gmss.us/about/membershipform.pdf> 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.

2020 – 2021 GMSS Officers/Contacts

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