CRACK 'N CAB

Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse, PO Box 2801, Syracuse, NY
web http://www.gmss.us Volume 50 Issue 8, August 2020
209 Oswego St (Ponderosa Plaza), Unit 15, Liverpool, NY

Masked Bandits Voted In As New Slate of Club Officers!

The suspects have been rounded up and have been identified as (left to right): Show Chairman Cheryl Brown, President Dick Lyons, Vice President Chris Boronczyk, Sergeant-at-Arms John Sweeny, Secretary Cathy Patterson and Treasurer Mary Davis. They will be forced to serve their term after being sworn in at the September meeting. More photos (all by Judy Cook) on Page 8 & 9.

Also:

Remembering Carrie Gannett – Page 3

"Preparing Fossils with an Air Abrasive" – Page 6

President's Message
Cheryl Brown

Congratulations to **our newly elected officers**! They were voted in at the July ice cream social meeting. They **will be installed at our September meeting.** Thank you to everyone who came. It was SO good to see everyone again.

We won't have a meeting in August and unfortunately our usual picnic had to be canceled because the venue couldn't open. **The picnic will be moved to the September meeting.** It will be a catered event and details will follow in the coming days. **There will be a tail gate/rock swap in lieu of a speaker**. This will be another social event to catch-up with one another. ***Masks will be mandatory, and this will be strictly enforced for the comfort and security of all our members.***

Some may not have heard that long time member **Carrie Gannett** passed away last month. Her obituary is printed later in the newsletter. She was a pillar in our club and will be greatly missed. Our deepest condolences go out to her family and to all who knew her.

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.

Gem and Mineral Society of Syracuse August 2020 Minutes

This month there was no Board meeting as the GMSS generally does not have a Board meeting in August. We will meet on September 1, 2020.

July 20, 2020 - The club held a special ice cream social/club meeting in the parking lot adjacent to the clubhouse in Ponderosa Plaza in Liverpool. About 30 people attended, adhering to COVID virus safety guidelines, wearing masks and social distancing. Several members set up tailgate tables to sell/swap hobby related items. The Skippy ice cream truck was on hand for free ice cream cones and dishes with an additional club table set up for ice cream toppings.

A short meeting took place led by President Cheryl Brown. Our new officers, uncontested, were elected by a unanimous vote and a deciding vote by the Secretary Cathy Patterson. Our new officers for 2020-2021 are;

President- Dick Lyons
Vice President -Kris Boronczyk
Treasurer -Mary Davis
Secretary- Cathy Patterson
Sergeant at Arms – John Sweeney

We thank outgoing officers Cheryl Brown President, who will take on the job of 2021 Show Chairman, Ed Suchon-Sergeant at Arms, and Linda Clark who served as Treasurer for several years. Kudos to all for a fine job serving your club!

Dave Millis spoke about the St. Lawrence Club having a field trip event Friday, August 21-23, 2020. The usual format for this club's end of summer show, auction, picnic had to be changed due to the COVID virus restrictions. If anyone is interested in going on the field trips please contact Bill Delorraine, club trip leader and officer. Contact **Cheryl Brown** or **Dick Lyons** for phone/text information. Dave Millis, field tripper extraordinaire, will be on hand for the weekend doing craft classes outdoors as well as being field trip assistant. Northern New York is an excellent spot for pegmatite formation collecting. Details can be gotten from the St. Lawrence Gem Club website or Bill Delorraine.

There will be no August club picnic this year.
We are looking into having a September picnic/meeting. Possible program ideas are a club raffle of specimens, outdoor food trucks for a picnic, swapping and maybe silent auction. More information about the September 21 meeting will be in the next newsletter.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Carrie Gannett Long Time Member Passes.

It is with great sadness we report our longtime friend and member Carrie Gannett passed away July 16. She was a regular at club meetings for years often with her good friend John Davis who was our resident mineral expert.

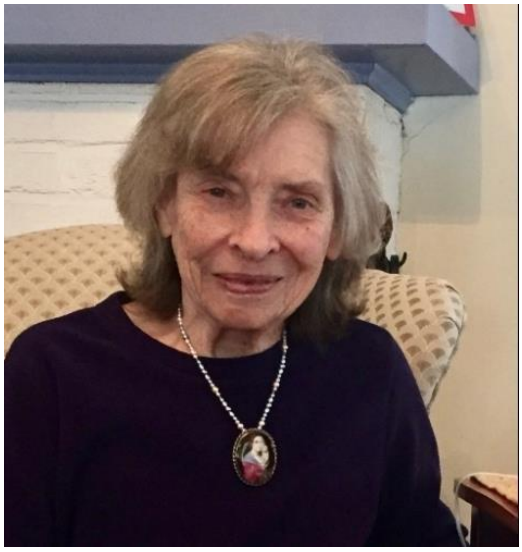
Her passion in the club was making jewelry using semi-precious stone beads. She started the Bead Group back in 2004. Beading was the "new thing" back then. The group took off like fire! Guest speakers and demonstrators often came together to learn stringing techniques, how to select good quality beads, where to find good deals on beads and findings, etc. Often times the Bead Group met on other days at the church just to socialize and work on projects . This was in the days when the club was meeting at the Presbyterian Church on Genesee St. in Syracuse. The Gem and Mineral Society grew noticeably thanks to Carrie's efforts. Attendance at meetings increased. Up until that point the emphasis was more on minerals and fossils with some lapidary interest. Carrie brought new life into the club through the Bead

Group, "the dark side," as some hard core, original club members called it.

She was a vendor at our show and at many other craft shows around the county selling her beautiful beaded necklaces, earrings and bracelets.

Carrie had a thriving antiques business while raising her 5 children in Jordan, NY. She was a Justice of the Peace in the town court and was active politically in the 1970's. A graduate of The Newhouse School at Syracuse University, Carrie earned her degree in political science and public relations. She was a passionate writer, historian, singer in community chorus groups, a wonderful gardener, dog lover (poodles especially), and friend to the GMSS. She will be missed by her many friends.

Caroline "Carrie" Gannett
1934 - 2020



Caroline "Carrie" Gannett July 16, 2020 Caroline "Carrie" Gannett passed away on July 16th at her home in Geddes, NY with her children, her grandchildren, and her loving poodle "Chex" at her side. Carrie's last days with her family were comfortable and safe thanks to her team of in-house caregivers and the generous work and care of Hospice. Carrie was born on Aug 8th, 1934 in Lowville, NY to Edward and Meribeth Schermerhorn. Her family moved to Syracuse while she was a teenager, where she attended Solvay High School. While working at GE in Liverpool, Carrie met George Gannett, whom she married and had 5 children. While raising her children in Jordan NY, Carrie started and ran a private antique business from her home, and eventually an antique shop in Elbridge. Most of her inventory was obtained while on long family camping trips that also included stops at various auctions and other antique shops. While in Jordan, Carrie was also very active in local politics while serving as a Justice of the Peace in the town court. In 1979, she returned to college to obtain her degree in political science and public relations from the Newhouse School at Syracuse University, which allowed her to also pursue her passions for writing and politics in addition to her passion for history that the antique business had provided. She worked as the director of Public Relations at Watertown Hospital and then as an editor at the Courier Gazette weekly newspaper while living in Newark NY. Subsequently, she moved back to Syracuse, and took on a position as the director of the Manlius Historical Society, merging her passion for history and antiques with her public relations education. After retiring from the museum, Carrie turned her attention to additional pursuits. She loved to travel around both the country and the world, highlighted by her favorite trip to Egypt in 1999. She was an active member of the Coterie Club, the CNY Gem club, the Onondaga Hill Antiques Club, sang in various vocal groups and started a Beading Group, based on her love of fine gems and jewelry making. She spent an entire decade making and selling custom jewelry while also continuing all her other interests and cultivating an ever-expanding beautiful garden at her home in Geddes. Throughout her retirement, she was a tireless promoter of these various interests and wrote papers, gave talks, organized meetings and workshops and in general, simply inspired others with her passion and her quest for continuing knowledge. She is predeceased by her mother Meribeth, her father Edward and her brother John Schermerhorn. She is survived by her five children Paul (Debbie) Gannett of East Sandwich MA, Lynn (Mike) Fall of Syracuse NY, Leslie (Paul) Gorman of North Tonawanda NY, Greg (Michele) Gannett of Cicero and Sarah (Brian) Cole of Reston VA, as well as her sister-in-law Ruth "Micki" Schermerhorn of Skaneateles and her tirelessly giving nephew and neighbor, Sean (Areli) Schermerhorn in Geddes. Carrie passed away covered up with her prized blanket that was adorned with the names of all her loved grandchildren – Marie, Anna, Paul David, Kelly, Katie, Cara, Bailey, Jordan, Carly and Amelia. The Memorial Services for Carrie are still being determined as the families determine how to allow for friends and family to attend from out of state. They will be available from her online obituary posted at www.edwardjryanandson.com at a later date. Please share condolences at edwardjryanandson.com .

Geo Lexis (Puzzle) By Anne Fitzgerald

"Dog Days and Dahlias"

Club member Donna Dow gave me dahlia bulbs last year to plant in my garden this spring. I kept them in the basement just as she suggested and in spring, they had pretty pink shoots and were ready to plant. They grew up about two feet tall and were dark green and lush. The buds appeared in mid summer, right on schedule. I couldn't wait until they bloomed so I could snap some photos and email them to Donna. But then one day the woodchuck, who had left them alone all spring and early summer, suddenly decided he needed a salad. I scared him away, but he snuck back and ate all but four branches. For some reason, he left the buds (probably saving these for dessert someday.) I brought one of the bud branches indoors, just in case he eats the rest. I looked around my garden to see if there was anything left he might not eat. Only the lemon balm is safe. (He must not be a lemon guy.) And since we are approaching the dog days of summer, there will be no more planting this season. Always looking for that silver lining, I decided there are some pretty things in the garden the woodchuck will not eat. Those things are rocks. So, in that spirit, unscramble the following to find some ideas for rocks you could place in your garden, or wherever you need some simple low-maintenance beauty. The solution is on Page 6 of this newsletter.

vala sckor

nitearg

enotsdans

vargel ape

ckor virre

enotsgalf

loubders

tzauqr

Upcoming Events

August 17 – NO Meeting

August 21 – 23 – St Lawrence Club field trip – see Page 2 for more information.

September 21 – GMSS meeting/catered picnic – *stay tuned for further developments*

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.

Birthstone of the Month

The History of Birthstones

The first century A.D. Jewish historian Josephus believed there was a connection between the 12 gemstones in the breastplate of Aaron, the first High Priest (Exodus 28:15 – 21) that represented the 12 tribes of Israel, the 12 months of the year and the 12 signs of the zodiac. There is also a & under list of 12 Foundation Stones of the New Jerusalem in Revelation 21:19 – 20.

Over the centuries, and in different cultures, the list of birthstones changes.

(Continued on next page)

Rough peridot crystal


Peridot gemstone from Pakistan

August: Peridot, Sardonyx & Spinel

August is another month that has (at least) three birthstones!

Peridot The word "peridot" is derived from the Arabic word *faridat,* meaning "gem." It may also come from the Greek word *peridona*, which means "giving plenty." The Egyptians called it the "gem of the Sun," believing it protected wearers from terrors of the night and had special healing powers. Roman soldiers wore peridot ring in battle because it symbolized strength and provided protection against their enemies. In Hawaiian creation stories, peridot was called the "tears of Madame Pele," the goddess of volcanoes and fire, and the creator of the Hawaiian Islands.

Peridot has often been confused with emerald. Peridot is the rare gem-quality chrysolite variety of the mineral olivine, in the Silicates group. Olivine makes up much of the earth's mantle and is common in basaltic volcanic lavas – like in Hawaii - and some deep-seated igneous rocks rich in magnesium and low in quartz. It can also sometimes be found in certain types of meteorites.

The original mining of peridot goes back to the second millennium B.C. on the tiny volcanic Egyptian island of Topazios or Zebirget/Zabargad (St. John's Island) in the Red Sea. It is believed some of Cleopatra's famous emerald collection were actually peridots.

Some of the major current sources of this gemstone are Afghanistan, Myanmar (Burma), Brazil, China, Ethiopia, Pakistan, Russia, Sri Lanka and Vietnam. In the United States a large deposit can be found at the San Carlos Apache Indian Reservation in Arizona.

Peridot has a hardness of 6.5 – 7 on the Mohs Hardness Scale. It is soluble in hydrochloric acid. It is a popular and affordable gemstone, used in all sorts of jewelry – bracelets, earrings, necklaces and rings. But they should be stored carefully to avoid scratching by gems with greater hardness. And it's not a good idea to wear them doing housework or gardening.

Sardonyx is a combination of two types of the layered mineral chalcedony which forms a brownish -red, zebra-striped gemstone with white bands. The word combines *sard* (a reference to Sardis in ancient Persia – now Turkey – where the red mineral was found) with the Greek *onyx*, meaning "fingernail" or "claw." Sard is easily confused with carnelian, another type of chalcedony that is softer and lighter in color. Sardonyx is a variation of onyx, a semi-precious stone of the silica mineral agate, and has a 6.5 – 7 on the Mohs Hardness Scale.

The popularity of sardonyx dates back more than 4,000 years to the Second Dynasty of Egypt. Ancient Greek and Roman soldiers went into battle wearing talismans or rings engraved with images of heroes and gods like Hercules and Mars. They believed the stone would harness the bravery of those figures, giving the warriors courage, victory and protection on the battlefield.

Fine examples of sardonyx come from India. Other sources include Brazil, Czech Republic, Germany, Madagascar, Slovakia and Uruguay.

It is readily available and relatively inexpensive to use as beads and jewelry. It can be carved into brooches, cameos and intaglios. As with peridot, care should be taken wearing it, especially as a ring.

Red octahedral spinel crystals

© www.johnbetts-fineminerals.com.

Red ruby spinel

AfricaGems

Spinel has often been confused with ruby and pink sapphire, although it comes in a wide variety of colors. The word "spinel" comes from the Latin *spina*, meaning "thorn," in reference to its sharp crystal shape.

Red spinel was believed to be a remedy for blood loss and inflammatory diseases, as well as easing anger and promoting harmony.

Spinel, a magnesium-aluminum oxide, has a hardness of 8 on the Mohs Hardness Scale, and is resistant to chipping or breaking. It has an octahedral crystal structure. It is a mineral of metamorphosed limestone and low-silica igneous pegmatites.

Spinel is found in many locations, including Australia, Brazil, Cambodia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand and Vietnam. It is commonly found in the metamorphosed limestone of the New York – New Jersey highlands belt. Other places include Massachusetts, Montana and North Carolina.

It is a durable gem for rings and other jewelry, suitable for everyday purposes.

Answers to Geo Lexis

vala sckor	lava rocks
nitearg	granite
enotsdans	sandstone
vargel ape	pea gravel
ckor virre	river rock
enotsgalf	flagstone
loubders	boulders
tzauqr	quartz

Sources:
https://www.plantedwell.com/
http://www.household-decoration.com/
Donna Dow

Editor's Note: This article first appeared in the July 2020 Wayne County Gem and Mineral Club newsletter.

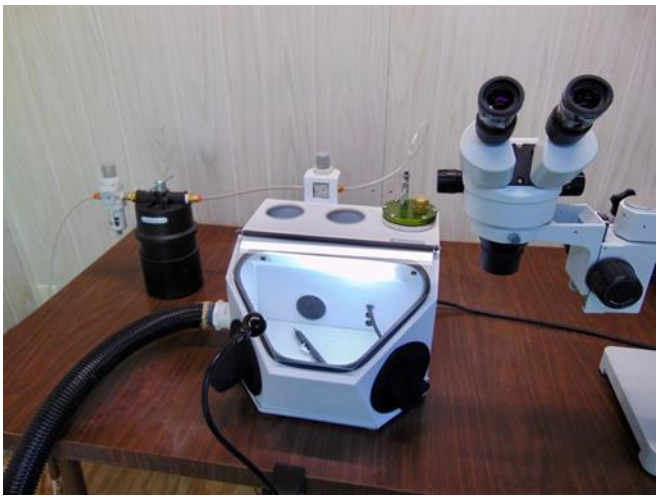
Preparing Fossils with an Air Abrasive

By Stephen Mayer

Most of my articles for the WCGMC Newsletter over the past 7 years have dealt with various fossilized groups of animals, their biostratigraphy and paleoecology. This article focuses on the preparation of fossils which are readily found in the Finger Lakes of New York. I will briefly describe some of the equipment used as well as some basic techniques I have learned during our isolation during the COVID pandemic.

Three aspects of fossil preparation immediately apparent are the equipment needed is very expensive, it is very time consuming and patience is a requirement, which may be the most difficult part. When fossils are collected in the field, invariably they are covered with some degree of surrounding rock, after all the best preservation occurs during rapid burial.

Several manufacturers sell equipment to remove this matrix. Comco and S.S. White air abrasives are commonly used and range in cost from about $4000 - $9000. However, Integral Systems makes an air abrasive for about $1000, which is primarily used in the dental industry, but has the right components for fossil preparation (Fig. 1, below).



There are several in-depth papers regarding the pros and cons of air abrasives used in these units. The three most common materials are Aluminum Oxide (Al_2O_3), Dolomite powder ($CaMg(CO_3)_2$), and Sodium bicarbonate, also commonly known as baking soda ($NaHCO_3$). Each powder has a different hardness on the Moh's Scale at 9, 3.5-4 and 2.5 respectively. Similarly, these powders range in price from $185 for 50 lbs of Al_2O_3 , $16 for 50 lbs of dolomite, and $1 per 1 lb box of baking soda with multiple boxes required per fossil. Depending on the hardness of the encasing rock determines which powder should be selected.

The principle used here is that air under high pressure from a compressor passes first through an air dryer removing any moisture in the system, then through a container holding the abrasive, picking up the powder and forcing it into a stylus pen smashing the particles against the rock and removing the matrix surrounding the fossil. Both powder and rock debris can be removed from the chamber by a simple shop vacuum to an elaborate dust collection system. The fossil is viewed under a microscope during this process to ensure detailed precision and not to damage the specimen.

If the specimen is heavily covered by rock matrix a Dremel or air scribe is needed to first remove some matrix to speed up the process but even so preparation can take hours, days and even months depending on the intricacies of the fossil; for example, if one may be preparing a basic bivalve or an extremely spinose trilobite.

Eldredgeops rana as collected from the Windom Shale, NY before preparation.

Same specimens after preparation with Aluminum oxide.

Air abrasion is an excellent technique for cleaning fossils, albeit time consuming and expensive but the results are well worth the patience.

In The News…

Miner who discovered the largest tanzanite gems ever has now found a third – and it's worth millions

Khrysgiana Pineda USA TODAY
Published 2:59 p.m. ET Aug. 4, 2020

A Tanzanian miner made another discovery of one of the rarest gemstones on Earth, possibly earning the small-scale miner millions of dollars — again.

Saniniu Laizer, 52, recently discovered the rare, dark violet-blue tanzanite gem, weighing 14 pounds. Tanzanite is only found in northern Tanzania and is valued based on its rarity, color and clarity.

The gem is valued at 4.7 billion Tanzanian shillings, or $2 million, the BBC reported, and is among the dwindling number of Tanzanite left in the world.

Laizer, who has 30 children, told the BBC on Monday that he plans to use the money build a school and a health facility in his Simanjiro district community in the northern Manyara region.

He also said his earnings would not change his lifestyle, and plans to continue caring for his 2,000 cows.

Laizer became a millionaire in June when he found the two largest tanzanite stones ever unearthed in the country. The gemstones were also discovered in Manyara, surrounded by a government perimeter meant to control cross-border smuggling of precious gemstones, The Standard reported.

I **really** *should check what's in* **my** *backyard.*

Fool's Gold May Not Be Worthless After All

Researchers find novel way to make it magnetic
By Arden Dier, Newser Staff
Posted Jul 31, 2020 9:53 AM CDT
Updated Aug 2, 2020 6:44 AM CDT

(NEWSER) –Pyrite has the look of gold but Pyrite has the look of gold but, historically, none of the value—hence the nickname fool's gold. But researchers have now come up with a way to make the commonly found mineral much more appealing—and in the process, they induced magnetism electrically in a non-magnetic material for the first time, per New Atlas. Few materials exhibit the strongest form of magnetism, known as ferromagnetism. But researchers at the University of Minnesota transformed non-magnetic pyrite, also known as iron sulfide, into such a material. They first placed pyrite in contact with an electrolyte-rich solution similar to Gatorade, per Fox News. They then applied one volt of electricity—less voltage than a household battery, per a release.

It was enough to move positively charged molecules to the connecting areas, creating a magnetic force. "By applying the voltage, we essentially pour electrons into the material," explains lead researcher Chris Leighton. "It turns out that if you get high enough concentrations of electrons, the material wants to spontaneously become ferromagnetic." When the voltage disappeared, so did the force, according to the study published Wednesday in *Science Advances*. In other words, the magnetism can be turned on and off. "This has lots of potential," particularly for more energy-efficient computer memory devices, which would otherwise require ferromagnetic materials like iron, cobalt, and nickel, says Leighton. "Having done it with iron sulfide, we guess we can do it with other materials as well."

What a "fool" I've been all this time…

Can You Keep a Secret?

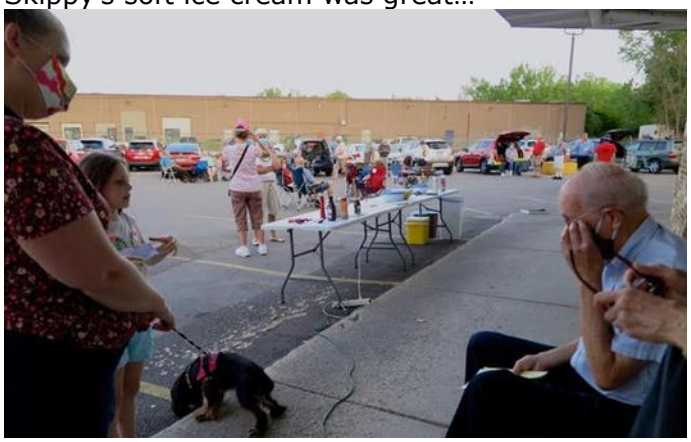
A top-secret research project has been going on in southwestern North Dakota since 2008. The initial results, published in April 2019, provide new proof that the Chixulub meteor played a major role in the extinction of the dinosaurs. In fact, the research has found detailed evidence of the events from the first minutes until a few hours after the meteor impact.

Read all about it from the link on our Facebook page or jump right to the Wikipedia article @ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tanis_(fossil_site)

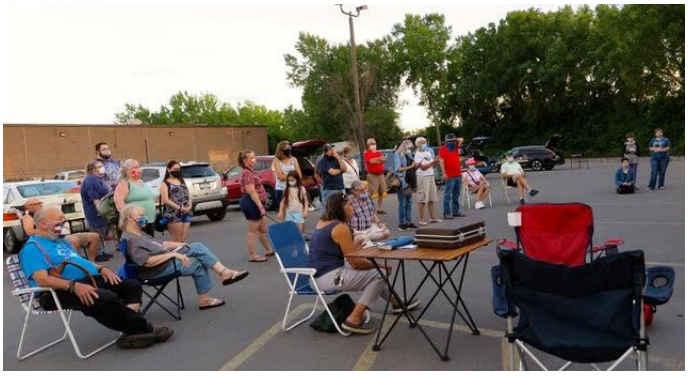
July 2020 – Ice Cream Social Distancing and birthdays, anniversaries & elections

Photos by Judy Cook

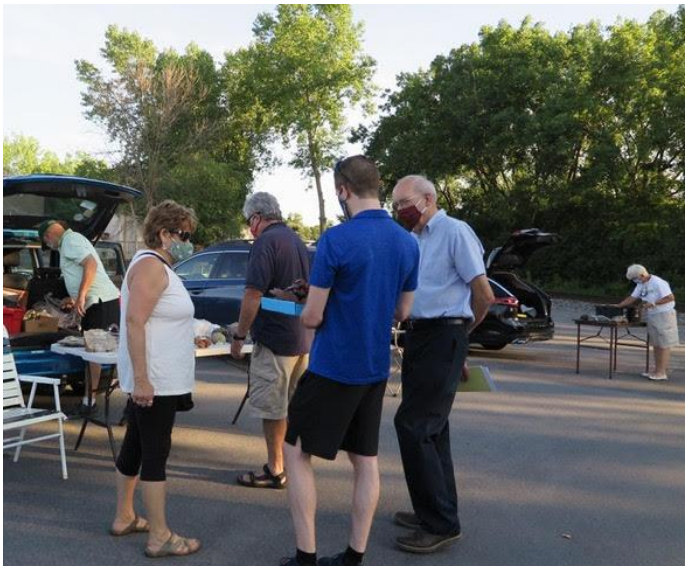
Skippy's soft ice cream was great…


…and so were all the toppings! Thanks, crew!

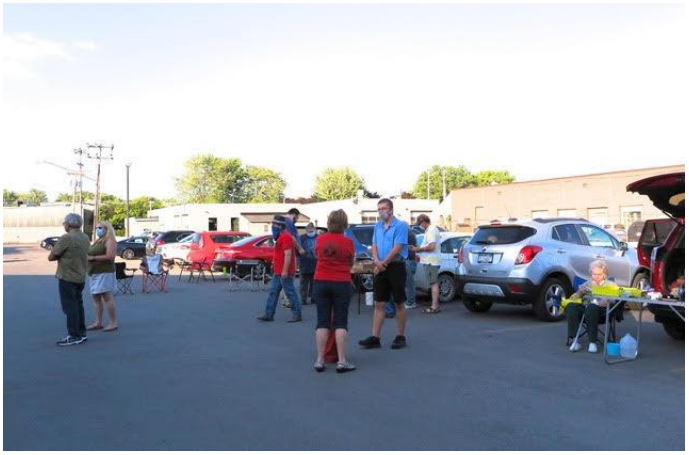
Dick Lyons making an election speech…

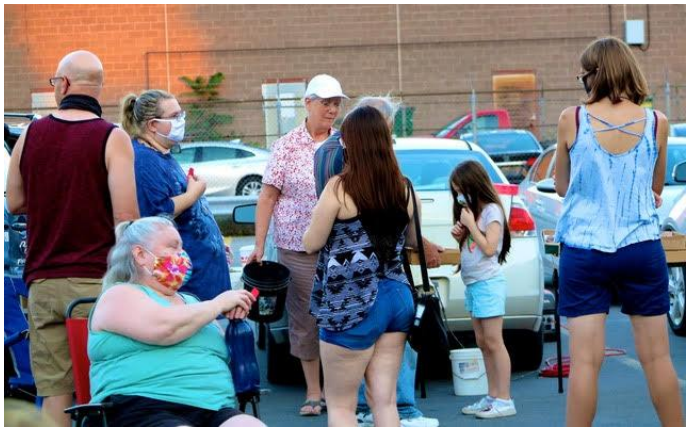


…and everybody gave their full attention.

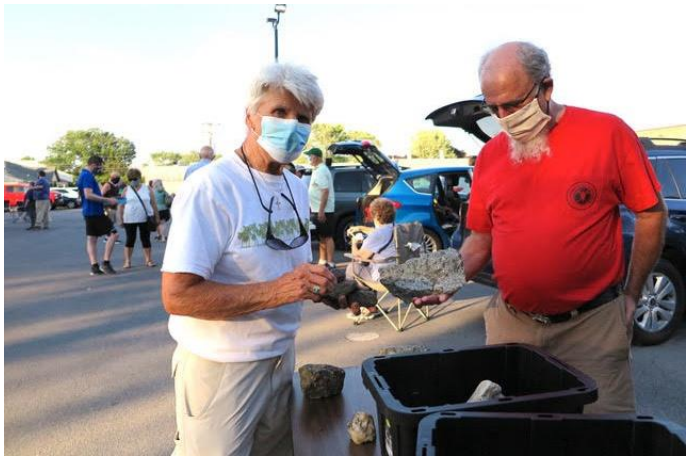


There were rocks and minerals for sale and for free.





Cheryl Brown collected all the winning raffle tickets.



These grapes look beautiful, but they're "hard" to eat.

Gem and Mineral Society of Syracuse
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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
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.

2019 – 2020 GMSS Officers/Contacts

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