

# CRACK 'N CAB



Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse, PO Box 2801, Syracuse, NY  
web <http://www.gmss.us> Volume 49 Issue 11, December 2019  
209 Oswego St (Ponderosa Plaza), Unit 15, Liverpool, NY

Come, enjoy celebrating **Christmas Yet to Come**



Sunday, Dec. 15, Noon to 4 pm – Daniella's at The Empire Room



Don't forget to bring an unwrapped **Christmas Present** for Toys for Tots!

See inside for photos of **Christmas Past**

## President's Message

Cheryl Brown



Happy Holidays GMSS Rockhounds!

'Tis the season for family, friends and food. If you haven't signed up for our **Holiday Party**, it's not too late. Please call me or email me by **December 10<sup>th</sup>** if you would

still like to attend. My contact information is at the end (back page) of this newsletter. Don't forget your unwrapped toy for Toys for Tots and an unwrapped item for the gift exchange.

Central New Yorkers are a tough bunch, but the weather can shut everything down. If the conditions are such that you don't feel safe traveling on a meeting night, please stay home. There will be an email blast sent out to those who have an email address on file if the meeting is canceled. There will also be a closing message on the Spectrum crawler. We haven't been able to get the local channels to include us on their crawler. If you have any question about a meeting, please call me.

## Secretary's Report

Cathy Patterson

### Executive Board Meeting Minutes Dec. 3, 2019, 7:00 pm - GMSS Clubhouse

The GMSS Board meets the first Tuesday of the month at the clubhouse in Ponderosa Plaza Liverpool at 7:00 PM. There were 12 members in attendance.

**Holiday Party**, Sunday, December 15 noon – 4:00 at Daniella's Empire Room State Fairgrounds. Our annual event is \$20 per GMSS member and \$25 per nonmember. The club will subsidize the remainder of the cost for everyone. We are hoping to have 50 in attendance. Please send your check (ASAP) for the luncheon to the **Treasurer, P.O. Box 22801, Syracuse, NY 13220**. There will be entertainment, fine food and delicious desserts. Come and enjoy the season with good club member friends and friends to become! Please bring an unwrapped gift to share for the exchange as well as an unwrapped toy for Toys for Tots.

**EFMLS** (Eastern Federation of Mineralogical Societies) will hold its annual convention in Hickory, NC in late March. We will need 2 delegates there to represent our club.

The **Bead Society of Central New York**, a large club specializing in fine seed bead jewelry making, may like to join our club. Aspects of this new, large group joining us were discussed. More information is forthcoming about this possible merger.

**Treasurer's Report** – 2020 Catalogs for William Holland, a lapidary school, in Young Harris, GA were shared. This famous location for intensive classes in all things lapidary is open in early spring to late fall. These catalogs will be available to look at during the Christmas party in December. They can be ordered online and sent to your home. Classes are a week long, and are in all aspects of lapidary hobby. Lapidaryschool.org.

**Budget Committee** revisited much discussion about a few items regarding the proposed 2020 budget. Following that the budget was voted on and unanimously accepted.

**Lithographie Ltd. mineral calendars** are available for purchase for \$12 + shipping. This year's beautiful calendar features minerals of Colorado. Check this out at [www.lithographie.org](http://www.lithographie.org) and on Facebook.

**Show Committee** had much discussion about security costs for our show. John Sweeney offered to check out alternative means of securing the best security for our 2020 show at the fairgrounds.

**Youth group** is bursting at the seams! There is barely enough room to hold all the youth and their parents prior to our regular meetings. We are going to take steps to make more room for this group in the near future.

**Lapidary Committee** reports classes in PMC and polymer clay will be scheduled in February and March. More information on this to follow.

**Housekeeping Committee** will meet Saturday January 11, 2020 noon – 2:00 to give our clubhouse a good cleaning. Call Cheryl Brown to say you will come help.

**Hospitality Committee** reports that **Donna Coleman and Bob and Joan Livingston** will bring treats to the January meeting. More volunteers are welcome each month! Please Call, text, or email Cathy Patterson if you can also bring treats. The club provides beverages.

We thank **Webmaster Rick Moore** for providing good internet coverage on our web page [www.gmss.us](http://www.gmss.us) and **Judy Cook** who regularly adds to our Gem and Mineral Society of Syracuse Facebook presence! Kudos!

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Patterson GMSS Secretary

## Geo Lexis (Puzzle) By Anne Fitzgerald

### “Lift Your Spirits”

Rocks, gems, minerals, and sometimes people can lift our spirits.

Unscramble the following to discover gems, minerals, and rocks associated with the spirit world.

Answers are on Page 4 of this newsletter.

teaga	chitealam
nobsiadi	trufloei
mathetic	vaal
themyast	amortlunie

## Upcoming Events

### December 14-15 – Miami Mineralogical and Lapidary Guild Semi-annual Show and Sale.

Evelyn Greer Park, 8200 SW 124 St, Pinecrest, FL. 10 am – 5 pm daily. Admission: \$6, children under 12 free. Info: miamigemandmineral.com.

**December 15 – Holiday Party Brunch at Daniella's at The Empire Room, NYS Fairgrounds. Noon – 4 pm.** Reservations and payment were due by November 18th. **Please bring an unwrapped gift to exchange, and an unwrapped toy for Toys for Tots.**

**December 19 – Thursday Open Workshop, 6:30 – 9 pm – See Special Note.**

### **MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

Were you naughty... or nice?



**Household coal**



**Gold in quartz vein**

Images © Dorling Kindersley. For further information see:

[www.dkimages.com](http://www.dkimages.com)

**January 1, 2020 – Wildacres registration begins.** More information will be coming in our January newsletter. Also see [wilacres.org](http://wilacres.org).

**January 11 – Philadelphia Mineralogical Society Swap & Sell**, Cathedral Village, 600 E. Cathedral Rd, Philadelphia, PA. 9 am – Noon. Free admission. [phillyrocks.org/welcome/4522757094](http://phillyrocks.org/welcome/4522757094).

**January 20 – Jr Rockhounds Meeting 6:30 Full Membership Meeting 7:30**  
Program to be announced in January newsletter.

**January 25 – Geology Museum Open House & Mineral Sale**, Rutgers State University, Geology Hall, 2nd Floor, 85 Somerset St, New Brunswick, NJ. Opens at 9 am. [geologymuseum.rutgers.edu/museumevents/annual-open-house](http://geologymuseum.rutgers.edu/museumevents/annual-open-house).

**March 7-8 – 57th Annual Earth Science and Mineral Show** by Delaware Mineralogical Society. Double tree by Hilton, 4727 Concord Pike (Rt 202), Wilmington, DE. Info: [geneatfossilnut.com](http://geneatfossilnut.com).

**March 21-22 – 52<sup>nd</sup> Gem-Mineral-Fossil Show** by Buffalo Geological Society. The Fairgrounds in Hamburg, NY – Market, Grange & State Police buildings.

**March 27-30 – Annual EFMLS Convention**, hosted by the Catawba Valley Gem and Mineral Club, Hickory, NC.

### **Special Note on Thursday Open Workshops:**

Anyone interested in joining Cathy P and Linda S at the clubhouse, bring your own project and materials (beading, wire wrapping, rock-related crafts, etc.). The Lapidary room will be open for those cleared to use the equipment (\$5). The library will be available for use (ID rocks, read a magazine, check out a book, etc.). Bring a snack and a drink for yourself or pick up dinner nearby. Text or call 315-480-8907 to let us know you're coming.

Lapidary Workshop will be open Wednesdays Dec. 11th and 18th from 1pm to 4pm, and Thursday, Dec. 19th from 6:30 - 9pm. Please call Joanne Suchon for any questions and updates on the weather. 315-440-4098.

Workshops will resume in January with classes to follow. Thank you. Joanne Suchon

# Holiday Party

Brunch at Daniella's at the Empire Room, State Fair  
December 15<sup>th</sup> Noon - 4 pm

Members \$20/Non-members \$25

Reservations and payment due  
by November 18th

### Answers to Geo Lexis

- agate malachite
- obsidian fluorite
- hematite lava
- amethyst tourmaline

Source: <https://spiritualgrowthguide.com>

## November 18, 2019 Program Night – Photos by Judy Cook



Dick Lyons had specimens of petrified wood available for purchase (some still available).

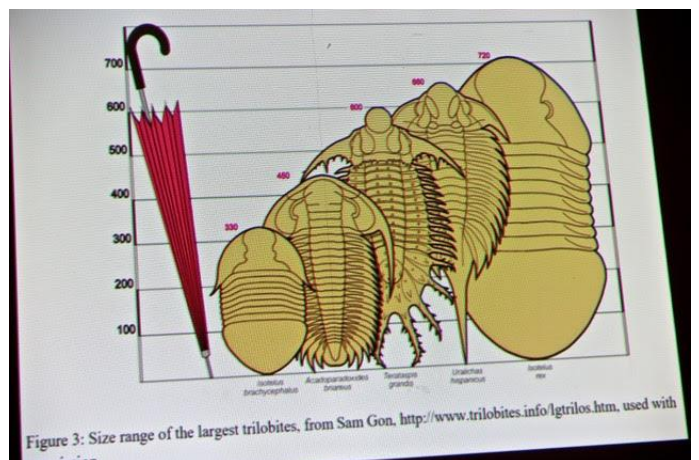
## "The Amazing and Unique World of Trilobites"



Len and Susan Sharp, our speaker.

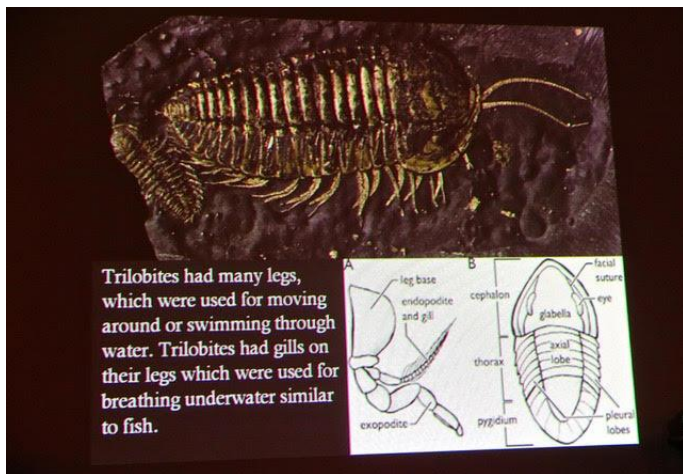
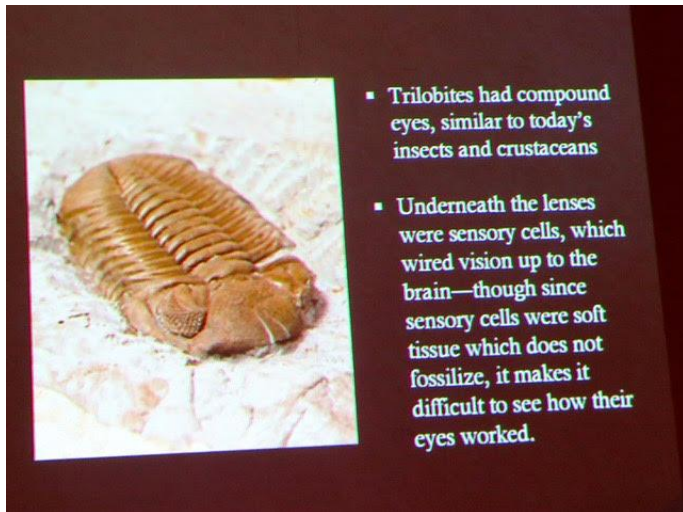


A trilobite casting.



Trilobites were one of the most diverse type of marine invertebrates that lived during the Paleozoic Era. Their extremely important, archetypal fossils are symbolic of an archaic world that once dominated the ancient seas. They persisted for close

to 300 million years – almost twice as long as the dinosaurs. The sea is now gone, and New York State has become a goldmine for Devonian Trilobite hunters.



**Local Trilobite Hunting Sites Per Slide Show**

Provided by Amanda J. Lytle

5 Places in NY to go fossil hunting for Trilobites...

**1. Schoharie:** An hour west of Albany in Schoharie is a Devonian trilobites site. Rt. 30 passes through village. Turn east on Prospect St. Drive half a mile uphill where road veers to the left and becomes Rickard Hill Rd (County Rt. 1B). Continue up around the bend.

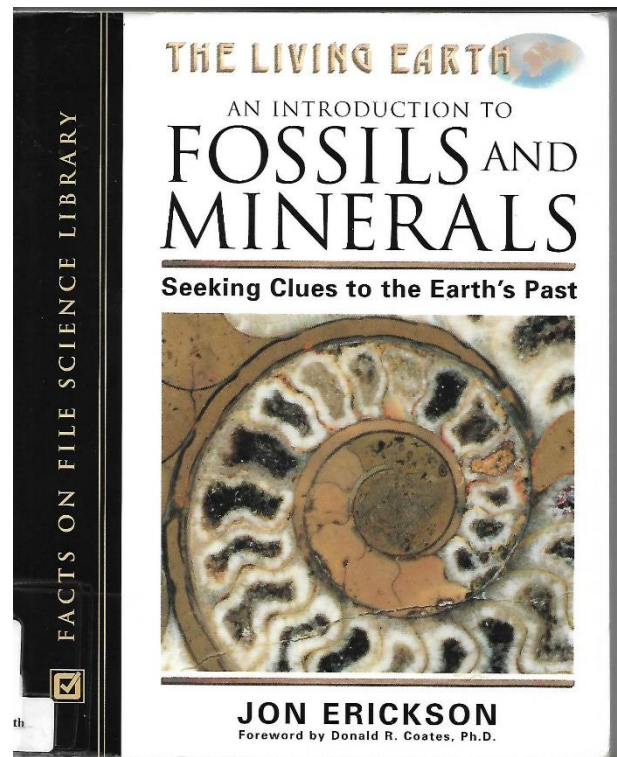
**2. Pompey-Tully Area:** land behind the Best Western hotel off the Tully exit on Rt 81. Known for the most bountiful in the country for marine fossils.

**3. Hudson Valley Catskill Region:** Covering a wide area from here west to Lake Erie, south of the Thruway down to the Pennsylvania border is a playground for Devonian fossils.

**4. 18 Mile Creek and Penn Dixie Paleontological Area:** This facility is owned and operated by the Hamburg Natural History Society and Includes fossil related activities. Located at intersection of Bristol Rd and Big Tree Rd, Blasdell.

**5: Paleontological Research Institution:** This facility has bins of shale to sift through and is located near Portland Point near the tip of Cayuga Lake. Located at 1259 Trumansburg Rd., Ithaca.

**A "Gem" from the Public Library**



Copyright 2001 by Jon Erickson

From the back cover:

“How was the earth formed? What is the current state of our planet? What will future generations learn from present times? Underlining the need for authoritative sources of material to answer

these important questions are the daily changes affecting the elements of our environment.

“Facts on File’s new The Living Earth series is a collection of highly accessible reference books on geology and Earth science topics designed for students, researchers and general readers. Jon Rickson, a geologist and accomplished geology and Earth science writer, offers an authoritative yet lively text that is complemented by a wealth of illustrations and photographs that portray the geologic wonders of our planet.

“*An Introduction to Fossils and Minerals* is a fine primer on the science of geology as it reveals the vivid history of the Earth through its fascinating natural remains and artifacts.

“Substantially revised since it was first published nearly a decade ago, this edition features:

- “A systematic treatment of Earth history, rock types, marine and terrestrial fossils, crystals, gems and precious metals that provide insights into Earth’s unique character;
- “Current data on global tectonics and faunal extinctions, including information about the demise of dinosaurs;
- “New technologies in detecting and preserving rocks and minerals; and
- “The effects of erosion and climate changes.

“*An Introduction to Fossils and Minerals, Revised Edition* offers an extensive index, a glossary of terms (many of which included pronunciation guides) to help readers better understand the vocabulary of geology, and a bibliography of current sources for further research.

“The Living Earth series will be an indispensable resource for general readers interested in Earth Science as well as for researchers seeking in-depth information.

“**Jon Erickson** has written several books on Earth science and geology. After serving in the U.S. Navy, he attended Arkansas Polytechnic College and received a B.S. degree in physical science. Later, he attended the University of Arkansas and earned an M.S. degree in natural science. Mr. Erickson resides in western Colorado and is currently an independent geologist.”

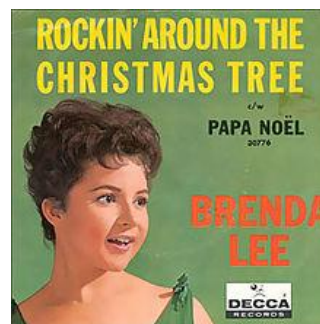
You can find this book through the Onondaga County Public Library system - 560 ERI, or “Science & Math” ...and read more about it during those cold, snowy, dreary winter days when you’re stuck inside!

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## Crack 'N Cab Newsletter Delivery and Online Options

Our Newsletter is published 11 times a year (December is issue #11). It contains GMSS information and general interest articles (provided by you, our members, by the way) about rock, mineral and gem collecting, as well as paleontology, lapidary, beading and metalworking topics. You can e-mail articles and questions to: [editorgmss@gmail.com](mailto:editorgmss@gmail.com) .

Dues-paying club members receive the C'NC Newsletter free of charge by US Mail or by e-mail as an Adobe Acrobat PDF file. Color electronic copies of our Newsletter are generally available 2 to 4 days before US Mail copies.



What every  
rockhound  
should be  
listening to  
during the  
holidays!

# The Annual GMSS Holiday Party - 2018 & 2017

Photos by Judy Cook



Good friends around the tables...



...and better yet, good food to eat!



Don't forget to bring an unwrapped gift (see above) for the Gift Exchange!



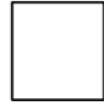
Official representatives from the North Pole were also in attendance!



Musical entertainment was enjoyed by all.



**Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse**  
**PO Box 2801**  
**Syracuse, New York 13220**  
**First Class Mail**  
**March 2018**  
 Time Dated Material



[www.amfed.org](http://www.amfed.org)   [www.amfed.org/efmls](http://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 - 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

### **-President:**

Cheryl Brown 315-708-9122 [pres@gmail.com](mailto:pres@gmail.com)

### **-Vice-President:**

Dick Lyons 315-672-5328 [vp@gmss.us](mailto:vp@gmss.us)

### **-Treasurer:**

Linda Clark Sweeney 315-668-8470 [treasurer@gmss.us](mailto:treasurer@gmss.us)

**-Secretary:** Cathy Patterson [secretary@gmss.us](mailto:secretary@gmss.us)

### **-Jr Rockhounds & Web:**

Rick Moore [webmaster@gmss.us](mailto:webmaster@gmss.us)

**-Membership Chair, Hospitality:** Donna Dow

**-Sgt at Arms:** Ed Suchon [sgtatarms@gmss.us](mailto:sgtatarms@gmss.us)

### **-GemWorld Show Chair:**

Dick Lyons 315-672-5328 [show@gmss.us](mailto:show@gmss.us)

### **-Club Librarian:**

Steve Albro 607-756-2298 [library@gmss.us](mailto:library@gmss.us)

### **-Lapidary Committee Contact:**

Joanne Suchon 315-440-4098

### **-Newsletter:**

Larry Petry 315-472-9226 [editorgmss@gmail.com](mailto:editorgmss@gmail.com)

**-Facebook:** Judy Cook

### **-Photographers Extraordinaire:**

Judy Cook, Steve Albro

**-Hospitality Committee Chair & Members: \*We are looking for volunteers\*** contact [secretary@gmss.us](mailto:secretary@gmss.us) to help