

# CRACK 'N CAB



Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse, PO Box 2801, Syracuse, NY  
web <https://www.syracusegemsociety.com> Volume 51 Issue 12, December 2021  
209 Oswego St (Ponderosa Plaza), Unit 15, Liverpool, NY



**This man was NOT our auctioneer!  
See who took his place, on Page 7**



**President Dick Lyons wonders  
who is our Rockhound of the  
Year – See more on Page 6**

## Fall Auction Review

(Monday, November 15 Meeting)

***See what amateur auctioneer  
replaced our seasoned veteran!***

***Read one person's story of her  
auction adventure!***

***And discover who was named our  
Rockhound of the Year for 2021!***

**All this and more in this,  
Our "semi" Holiday Issue!**



## *Holiday Party*

**December 19, 2021**

**12 noon to 4 pm**

**See Page 4**

## President's Message

Dick Lyons



We had a successful **auction at our November meeting** thanks to David Arcaro who filled in for John Sweeney. John suffered an injury to one of his knees and came to the meeting on crutches.

As of yesterday, we have received **completed contracts** from 26 retail dealers, one wholesale dealer, and one metaphysical practitioner. It is still early to receive the contracts since we gave them a deadline of January 31st to return the form.

We are still associated with the **Eastern Federation**. They are **looking for candidates** to replace the current officers. This is a great opportunity to get to know active members of other clubs in the Federation. Please let me know if you are interested.

There are still several shows in the next few months. A few are listed in this issue of the CRACK 'N CAB. I encourage you to attend at least one event.

I hope to see many of you at our **holiday party at Bella Domani on December 19th. Your last chance to be added to the list is to call Cheryl Brown as soon as possible.**

Dick Lyons

## Secretary's Reports

Charlie Brown

### Member Meeting & Auction, 11-15-21

Many members arrived early to register for bidding at **our bi-annual auction** or to register items for sale at the auction. At the beginning of the meeting, President Lyons presented the club's **Rockhound of the Year Award to Dave Millis**, announced the upcoming **Holiday Party on December 19th**, explained the change in the cost to attend, and encouraged members to sign-up as a headcount is needed by the restaurant the first week of December.

The November newsletter had advertised that John Sweeney was to be our auctioneer, but John's unanticipated health problem prevented that. Although the need for an auctioneer was not shared until shortly before the meeting began, numerous members immediately volunteered to help in any way needed. Dave Arcaro enthusiastically volunteered to start as auctioneer with at least three others by his side willing to assist if needed. Mark Grasmeyer, Matt Klinger, and Bill Verge all served as auction runners, too, along with young Oliver who was greatly enjoyed by all. The auction was well attended and executed smoothly with Judy Cook, Mary Davis, and Cheryl Brown recording the transactions and collecting bid monies.

As always, the auction was interesting, humorous, and fun for all. The club benefitted significantly by members' participation in the exchange of 'stuff' AND by the generous donations some members contributed to the auction event that will benefit our Marie Cole Lapidary Workshop and its operation in Suite 14.

Respectfully submitted,  
Charlie Brown

### Executive Board Meeting Minutes

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

### Executive Board Meeting Minutes, 12-7-2021

The meeting was called to order by President Dick Lyons. Vice President Kris Boronczyk and Jr. Rockhound leader Rick Moore were not in attendance.

**Conflict of Interest Forms** were completed by each Board Member.

**Webmaster Dana Schwartz** updated the Board regarding Internet operating expenses, website formatting nuances, forwarding communication methods to her for accomplishing website additions or updates, and how she and Keith will be working together to mentor Keith on website maintenance and development in the coming months as Keith becomes schooled in programming language. An annual contract with the web designer was discussed, approved, and signed by President Lyons and Dana.

The upcoming **Holiday Party on December 19th** was determined to be viable with 31 participants. Cheryl Brown is to submit info for the newsletter pertaining to the collection of items for donation at the party and

(Continued on next page)

for the gift exchange for all those attending.

Discussion of table decorations / favors for the party were discussed and to be taken care of by Mary.

**Treasurer Mary Davis** spoke at some length pertaining to the audit committee meeting and their recommendations. Cathy Patterson, Judy Cook, Bob Livingston, and Mary were participants in the committee meeting. Further investigation of a possible change of the banking institution to work with is being pursued.

President Lyons provided an update to the Board regarding our **Eastern Federation MLS insurance** coverage that is being reviewed by Brown & Brown Upstate for the next renewal period, EFMLS executive board 'how-to-proceed' decisions that are being considered in light of the unusual events of 2021, and the EFMLS seeking officers to replace current officers for the upcoming election. The status of the **host for the EFMLS 2022 Annual Convention** has not been verified as yet. Our organization may be asked to do it. Names of GMSS officers to receive the EFMLS monthly newsletter will be sent to the appropriate contact person.

President Lyons reported that he had investigated our organization qualifying for a not-for-profit bulk mailing discount. It seems that we are not eligible for the reduced rate. Currently, 27 vendors have returned show contracts. The 1st meeting of our GMSS 2022 Annual Show Committee is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, January 25 at 7 PM.

No annual Albany mineral show has been scheduled in the New Year as of this time. Pandemic considerations seem to be preventing the use of the usual museum facility building.

**Marie Cole Workshop** contact Steve Shorey reports that:

1. *Workshop Open Times* have changed from Wednesdays to Saturdays. Saturday open workshop times are now from 1 PM to 4 PM. The participation fee is \$5.00 per session.
2. The three-week *Lapidary Process & Equipment Orientation Course* is available on an on-going basis. The course is available on Saturdays from 10 AM 'til noon. The course runs for a total of 6 hours, costs \$50, and can be scheduled for Saturdays that suit your availability.

The instruction will result in your learning lapidary processes, how to use the equipment and tools, the production of a finished cabochon, and the ability to use the Marie Cole

Workshop facility, tools, and equipment after completing the 6-hour course.

Our instructors are Steve Shorey and Bill Verge. Steve is an accomplished lapidary hobbyist and Bill is a retired jeweler.

To enroll in the course and schedule your class sessions contact Bill Verge at 617-872-4528 or [b.verge@comcast.net](mailto:b.verge@comcast.net)

Respectfully submitted,  
Charlie Brown

## Lapidary Classes

Saturdays

10:00 am – 12 noon

3 weeks

when you are available

\$50.00

Contact Bill Verge

617-872-4528

or [b.verge@comcast.net](mailto:b.verge@comcast.net)

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## Open Lab

New hours at the

Clubhouse

Saturdays

1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

\$5.00



## Donation Information

Please bring food items to the Holiday Party on December 19<sup>th</sup> which will be donated to a local food pantry. Please make sure items have not gone past their expiration date.

I saw the following on Facebook and found it interesting and extremely helpful. *Items that need refrigeration or are perishable should be left to the food pantry, though.*

1. Everyone donates Kraft Mac and Cheese in the box. They can rarely use it because it needs milk and butter which is hard to get from regular food banks.
2. Boxed milk is a treasure since kids need it for cereal which they get a lot of.
3. Everyone donates pasta sauce and spaghetti noodles.
4. They cannot eat all the awesome canned veggies and soup unless you include a can opener or buy cans with pop tops.
5. Oil is a luxury but is needed for Rice-a-Roni which they also get a lot of.
6. Spices or salt and pepper would be a real Christmas gift.
7. Tea bags and coffee make them feel like you care.
8. Sugar and flour are treats.
9. They fawn over fresh produce donated by farmers and grocery stores.
10. Seeds are cool in Spring and Summer because growing can be easy for some.
11. They rarely get fresh meat.
12. Tuna and crackers make a good lunch.
13. Hamburger Helper goes nowhere without ground beef.
14. They get lots of peanut butter and jelly but usually not sandwich bread.
15. Butter or margarine is nice too.
16. Eggs are a real commodity.
17. Cake mix and frosting make it possible to make a child's birthday cake.
18. Dishwashing detergent is very expensive and is always appreciated.
19. Feminine hygiene products are a luxury and women will cry over that.
20. Diapers are extremely expensive.
21. Everyone loves Stove Top Stuffing.

Thanks!!



## Holiday Party

December 19, 2021

12 noon – 4pm

Bella Domani

5988 East Taft Road

North Syracuse

- Bring an unwrapped item for the gift exchange
- Bring food items for donation to a local food pantry (**see the donation information, left**)
- Do Not bring in toys – the “Toys For Tots” giveaway will have already taken place.

## And In the News...

**Diamond delivers long-sought mineral from the deep Earth**

Alexandra Witze [nature.com](https://www.nature.com) 11 November 2021



Small black specks in a diamond from an African mine have turned out to be a vital ingredient of the deep Earth, identified in nature for the first time after decades of searching. Davemaoite is mostly calcium silicate, but it can scavenge radioactive isotopes of uranium, thorium and potassium, making it a player in how heat moves through the deep Earth.

This diamond holds tiny black specks of davemaoite, a mineral formed at high temperature and pressure in the deep Earth. Credit: Aaron Celestian, Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County

## Geo Lexis (Puzzle) By Anne Fitzgerald

### "Once Upon a Zircon"

As the end of the year approaches, birthstones make me think of beginnings and endings. One of December's birthstones is zircon. With a letter at the end of the alphabet and a story that goes back to the beginning of the Earth, zircons can tell us what was going on billions of years ago.

Zircon is considered the oldest mineral on Earth. What exactly is a mineral? I was really confused when I found that some minerals are considered grandfathered, discredited, questionable, doubtful and even hypothetical.

But thankfully, in 1985, the International Mineralogical Association clarified and simplified the previous definitions. Most importantly, they made one definition official: "A mineral is an element or chemical compound that is normally crystalline and that has been formed as a result of geological processes." And a key geological process is a vulcanization.

Scientists lucky enough to find uranium in zircon from volcanoes can calculate the date of that zircon because of uranium's slow rate of decay. So far, they have been able to go back four billion years!

Other minerals can also help us establish timelines. Halite found in salt mines in Lansing NY is evidence of the great inland sea that existed there 385 million years ago.

Who knows what other stories minerals can tell us? Unscramble the following to find some common minerals. If you need help, there is a happy ending on Page X of this newsletter.

lacy  
tnrage  
ticcale  
timedolo  
teapita  
phitrage  
ityper

## Upcoming Events

**December 19 – GMSS Holiday Party – 12-4 pm** Brunch at Bella Domani, 5988 Taft Rd, N. Syracuse. **Remember:** bring an unwrapped

present for the Gift Exchange. Also, non-perishable food item(s). Thank you!

*Happy New Year!*

### **January 4 – GMSS Board meeting? – 7pm**

If you can come up with a reason for the Board to meet, you'll have to convince our esteemed President.

### **January 17 – GMSS meeting – 7:30 pm**

Kris Boronczyk and John Sweeney will come up with something of interest, so stay tuned!

### **January 25 – 1st NYS Fair 2022 Show Committee meeting – 7 pm at the Clubhouse, led by Cheryl Brown.**

### **Feb 1 – GMSS Board meeting – 7 pm**

All are invited.

### **February 21 – GMSS meeting – 7:30 pm**

You'll have to wait for more information on this one, too.

### **February 22 – NYS Fair 2022 Show Committee meeting – 7 pm at the Clubhouse, led by Cheryl Brown.**

**March 5-6—MERIDEN, CONNETICUT:** Annual show; The Lapidary & Mineral Society of Central CT; Maloney High School, Gravel Street; Sat. 9:30-5, Sun. 10-4; \$5 adults; under 12 free; minerals, crystals, fossils, jewelry, and more; contact Tom Benedict; Email: [tbenedict@ymail.com](mailto:tbenedict@ymail.com); Website: [www.lmscc.org](http://www.lmscc.org)

**March 5-6—WILMINGTON, DELAWARE:** Annual show; Delaware Mineralogical Society, Inc; DoubleTree by Hilton, 4727 Concord Pike (Rt-202) ; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 11-5; Adults \$6, Seniors \$5, Juniors \$4, children under 12 and scouts in uniform free with adult; Mineral, lapidary and fossil exhibits. Displays from regional and university museums. Outstanding dealers. Quality specimen raffles. Free door raffle. Lapidary demonstrations. Children's booth where youngsters may purchase inexpensive minerals and fossils ; contact Elaine Kipp ; Email: [kippekip@hotmail.com](mailto:kippekip@hotmail.com); Website: [www.DMSrocks.org](http://www.DMSrocks.org) - Note this is the new website.

**March 11-12—RICHBORO, PENNSYLVANIA:** Annual show; Leidy Microscopic Society ; Advent Lutheran Church, 45 Worthington Mill Rd , 916 Senator Rd; Fri. 12-6, Sat. 9-6; \$25 half table / \$40 whole table for two days; 45th Annual Leidy Micromount Symposium - Micromount sales, Silent Auctions, Give-Away Tables, Speakers; contact Donald McAlarnen, 916 Senator Rd, East Norriton, PA 19403-4033, (610) 247-5097; Email: [donmcalarnen@outlook.com](mailto:donmcalarnen@outlook.com); Website: <https://efmls.org/societies/leidy-microscopical-society/>

**March 25-27—HICKORY, NORTH CAROLINA:** Annual show; Catawba Valley Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.; Hickory Metro Convention Center, 1960 13th Ave Drive, SE, 5254 Olde School Drive; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; Admission is \$5.00 good

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for all three days. Children 12 and under free. Law enforcement active or retired military with credentials, scouts and leaders in uniform free ; 28+ vendors selling a variety of gems, minerals, fossils and jewelry; contact Dean Russell, 5254 Olde School Drive, Hickory, NC 28602, (828) 303-1448; Email: cvgmcsecretary@aol.com; Website: Dean Russell

**March 26-27—PLYMOUTH MEETING, PENNSYLVANIA:** Annual show; Philadelphia Mineralogical Society and Delaware Valley Paleontological Society; Plymouth Meeting, Pennsylvania, 5140 Butler Pike; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; \$7.00 adults, \$2.00 kids 12 & under. All uniformed scouts are free; Mineral Treasures and Fossil Fair. Demonstrations by the Leidy Microscopical Society. Fossils, minerals, gems, speakers and exhibits ; contact Douglas M Klieger, PA; Email: dklieger@verizon.net; Website: [www.philamineralsociety.org](http://www.philamineralsociety.org)

**March 26-27—WYSOX, PENNSYLVANIA:** Annual show; Che-Hanna Rock & Mineral Club; Wysox Volunteer Fire Co. Social Hall, 111 Lake Road; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4; Adults - \$3, Students \$1, under 8 free; Special exhibit from Susquehanna River Archaeological Center. Member exhibits. Kids activities. Dealers selling minerals, gems, fossils, jewelry and lapidary. Door prizes; contact Bob McGuire, PO Box 224, Lopez, PA 18628, (570) 928-9238; Email: uvbob1942@gmail.com; Website: [www.chehannarocks.com](http://www.chehannarocks.com)

**March 26-27—CHICOPEE, MASSACHUSETTS:** Annual show; Western Mass Mineral, Jewelry & Fossil Show sponsored by the Connecticut Valley Mineral Club; Castle of Knights Meeting and Banquet House, 1599 Memorial Dr.,; Sat. 9:30-5, Sun. 9:30-3:30; Admission \$5; 12 and under free with paid adult; Scouts in uniform free; New location, free parking, free mineral specimens for children, door prize drawing, postcard drawing, a non-profit educational organization ; contact Barbara Meyer, CVMC Show Co-Chairperson, 17 Shadowbrook Estates, South Hadley, MA 01075, (978) 394-3144; Email: bimeyer56@yahoo.com; Website: <https://cvmineralclub.org>

**Answers to Geo Lexis**

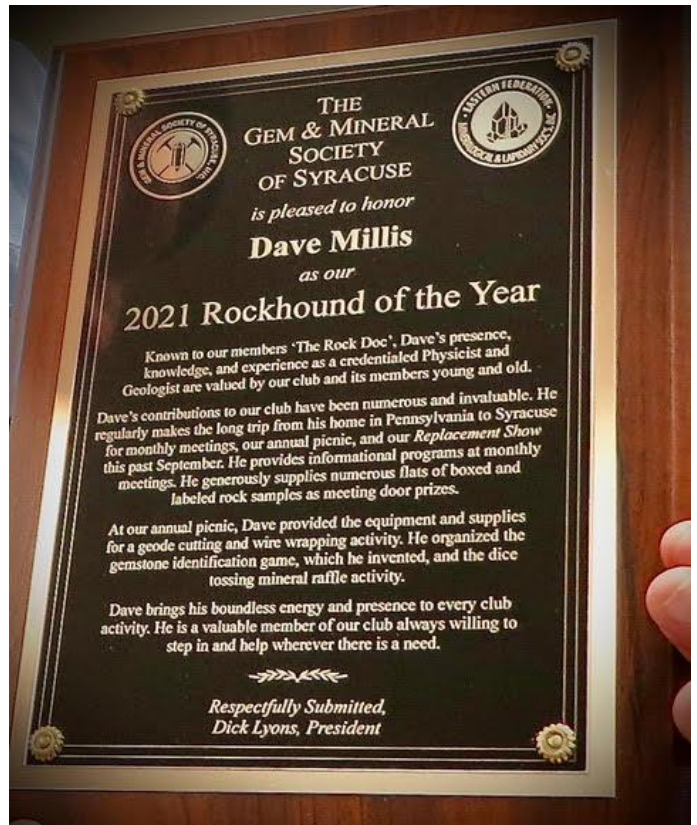
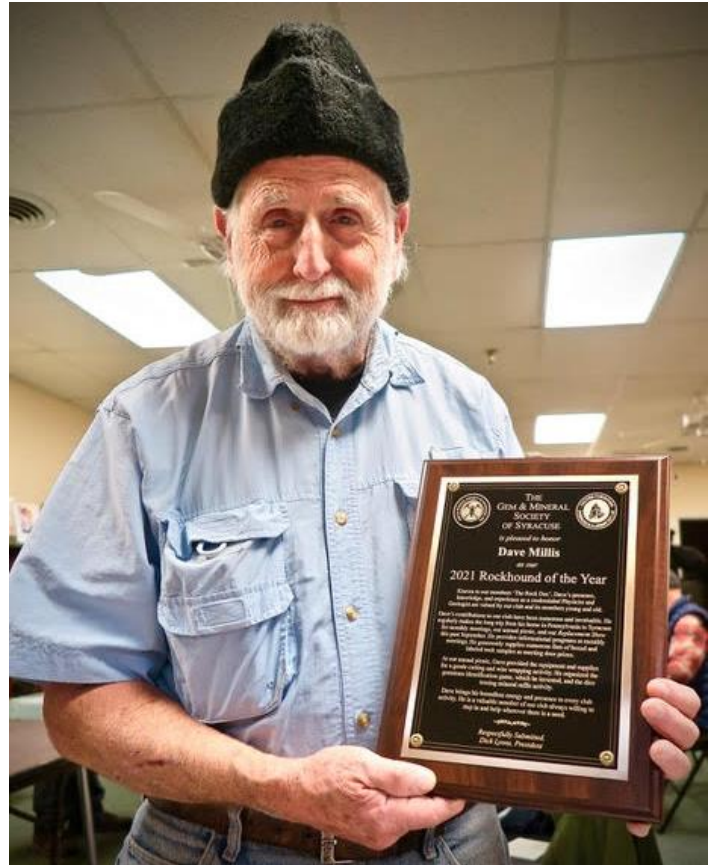
- lacy clay
- tnrage garnet
- ticcale calcite
- timedolo dolomite
- teapita apatite
- phitrage graphite
- ityper pyrite

Sources and further reading:

*"Keeping Time with Zircons"* Cypress Hansen  
<https://knowablemagazine.org/article/physical-world/2021/keeping-time-zircons>  
<https://opengeology.org/historicalgeology/earth-materials/en.wikipedia.org>

Happy Holidays!  
 The End

**2021 Rockhound of the Year: Dave Millis !**



Photos by Judy Cook



# “Annual” Fall Auction

(November 15, 2021)

Photos by Judy Cook



Dave Arcaro stepped in at the last moment to be our replacement auctioneer. Thanks, Dave!



Dave *did* need the help of a child to do the job.



So, which is better: with or without the glasses?



And he *did* try to auction off an alien spaceship.

## My Night at the Auction

Story and Photos by Amanda Lytle

The Annual Fall Auction was a fantastic night! Feisty crowd, beautiful rocks and oddities, fun bids and lots of belly laughs really hit the spot. I'm still chuckling over how much the container of jewelry pieces collected off the mall floor sold for. There's no doubt that might be a treasure chest of jewelry-repurposing goodness for someone in the lapidary crew.



(Continued on next page)



With my own bid I won, I'm very excited over it, because I'm now a proud owner of a beginner's rockhounding set. It's an old hammer, chisel and goggles bundled together, which looks like they've been everywhere and have done it all. Now, they've retired into my hands. I can't wait to gather the courage to practice on the rocks where I take my walks and hikes with the dogs.

One regret is not bidding on a bag of garnets, or the lava rocks from Hawaii. Those garnets spoke to me, although my KonMari side chirped in saying I have enough rocks and things. Then my inner rock hoarder had to chime in with, "but you don't have garnets...or lava rocks blessed by the Hawaiian gods."



It started getting late, and my imagination began conjuring up the pro's and con's of owning rocks enchanted by the supernatural forces of an island volcano. The auction was still in full swing when I left, and on my drive home, my head pondered the remaining curiosities, fossils and unique gemstones left on

the tables still being auctioned off, and who they'd wind up going home with.



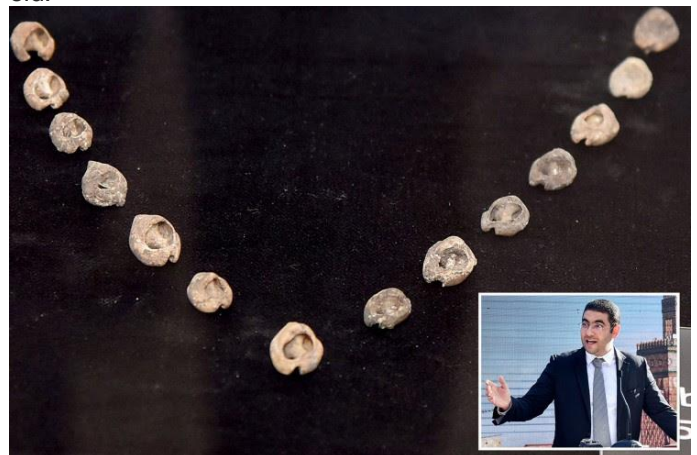
### And In the News...

## 150,000-year-old beads found to be world's oldest form of jewelry

By [Samantha Ibrahim](#) November 26, 2021 6:40pm Updated [nypost.com](#)

Even the earliest Homo sapiens adored their precious gemstones. Archaeologists digging in the Bizmoune Cave in southwest Morocco found the oldest set of jewelry known to man.

[Science Advances](#) reported that excavators discovered 33 shell beads dated between 142,000 and 150,000 years old.



Shell beads were unveiled Nov. 18 by archaeologists in Morocco, which they said are some of the oldest baubles in the world. Getty Images

While the beads themselves were sourced between 2014 and 2018, a team of archaeologists has been hard at work to secure an accurate date that the shells had been worked into baubles through extensive scientific analysis.

(Continued on next page)



A graduate student from the National Institute of Archaeological Sciences and Heritage in Rabat, El Mehdi Sehasseh, is at the helm of the study. His team used uranium dating to help conclude where and when the beads were from. The bead style was found to be most closely connected to the Aterian culture of the Middle Stone Age in North Africa.

Steven L. Kuhn, a professor of anthropology at the University of Arizona College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, was in charge of the team of paleontologists and concurred that the jewelry found was not just for embellishment, but had meaning, as well. "They were probably part of the way people expressed their identity with their clothing," Kuhn said in a press release. "They're the tip of the iceberg for that kind of human trait. They show that it was present even hundreds of thousands of years ago, and that humans were interested in communicating to bigger groups of people than their immediate friends and family."

The beads were made from sea snail shells, and measure about half-an-inch long. Holes were discovered in the center of each orb, showing that they could have been hung on strings or from clothing.

"We don't know what they meant, but they're clearly symbolic objects that were deployed in a way that other people could see them," he said.

***So, was the oldest jewelry made for the oldest profession?***

## Man Keeps a Rock For Years, Hoping It's Gold. It Turned Out to Be Far More Valuable

JACINTA BOWLER 22 NOVEMBER 2021 [sciencealert.com](https://www.sciencealert.com)

In 2015, David Hole was prospecting in Maryborough Regional Park near Melbourne, Australia. Armed with a metal detector, he discovered something out of the ordinary – a very heavy, reddish rock resting in some yellow clay.



(Museums Victoria)

He took it home and tried everything to open it, sure that there was a gold nugget inside the rock – after all, Maryborough is in the Goldfields region, where the Australian gold rush peaked in the 19th century. To break open his find, Hole tried a rock saw, an angle grinder, a drill, even dousing the thing in acid. However, not even a sledgehammer could make a crack. That's because what he was trying so hard to

open was no gold nugget. As he found out years later, it was a rare meteorite.

Unable to open the 'rock', but still intrigued, Hole took the nugget to the Melbourne Museum for identification. "It had this sculpted, dimpled look to it," Melbourne museum geologist Dermot Henry told *The Sydney Morning Herald*. "That's formed when they come through the atmosphere, they are melting on the outside, and the atmosphere sculpts them."

(Melbourne Museum)



The researchers published a scientific paper describing the 4.6-billion-year-old meteorite, which they've called Maryborough after the town near where it was found. It's a huge 17 kilograms (37.5 pounds), and after using a diamond saw to cut off a small slice, they discovered its composition has a high percentage of iron, making it a H5 ordinary chondrite. Carbon dating suggests the meteorite has been on Earth between 100 and 1,000 years, and there's been several meteor sightings between 1889 and 1951 that could correspond to its arrival on our planet. The researchers argue that the Maryborough meteorite is much rarer than gold, making it far more valuable to science. ***Now is probably as good a time as any to check your backyard for particularly heavy and hard-to-break rocks – you might be sitting on a metaphorical gold mine.***

## Huge asteroids to approach Earth in the coming weeks

Here are some asteroids approaching Earth, their size, how close they will be from us and on what day:

Dec. 11 - 1982 DB: 1,082 ft, 2.4 million miles away.

Dec. 17 - 2003 SD220: 2,595 ft, 3.4 million miles away.

Dec. 24 - 2016 TR54: 380 ft, 4 million miles away.

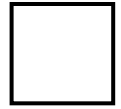
Dec. 29 - 2017 AE3: 393 ft, 2.2 million miles away.

***So, keep looking up for your "golden" opportunity!***



**Gem and Mineral Society of Syracuse**  
**P.O. Box 2801**  
**Syracuse, NY 13220**  
**First Class Mail**

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 outdoors, 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.

## 2021 – 2022 GMSS Officers/Contacts

**-President:** Dick Lyons 315-672-5328  
[pres@syracusegemsociety.com](mailto:pres@syracusegemsociety.com)

**-Vice-President:** Kris Boronczyk 315-487-5202  
[vp@syracusegemsociety.com](mailto:vp@syracusegemsociety.com)

**-Treasurer:** Mary Davis 315-885-4416  
[treasurergmss@yahoo.com](mailto:treasurergmss@yahoo.com)

**-Secretary:** Charlie Brown  
[secretary@syracusegemsociety.com](mailto:secretary@syracusegemsociety.com)

**-Jr Rockhounds:**  
 Rick Moore [kidsrock@syracusegemsociety.com](mailto:kidsrock@syracusegemsociety.com)

**-Membership Chair:** [members@syracusegemsociety.com](mailto:members@syracusegemsociety.com)

**-Sgt at Arms:** John Sweeney  
[sgtatarms@syracusegemsociety.com](mailto:sgtatarms@syracusegemsociety.com)

**-GemWorld Show Chair:** Cheryl Brown 315-708-9122  
[show@syracusegemsociety.com](mailto:show@syracusegemsociety.com)

**-Club Librarian:** Steve Albro 607-756-2298  
[library@syracusegemsociety.com](mailto:library@syracusegemsociety.com)

**-Lapidary Committee Contact:** Steve Shorey  
[lapidary@syracusegemsociety.com](mailto:lapidary@syracusegemsociety.com)

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

**-Website:** Dana Schwartz  
[webmaster@syracusegemsociety.com](mailto:webmaster@syracusegemsociety.com)

**-Facebook:** Judy Cook  
[socialmedia@syracusegemsociety.com](mailto:socialmedia@syracusegemsociety.com)

**-Photographers Extraordinaire:** Judy Cook, Steve Albro

**-Hospitality Committee Chair:** Mary Davis  
 315-885-4416 [hospitality@syracusegemsociety.com](mailto:hospitality@syracusegemsociety.com)