

CRACK 'N CAB



Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse, PO Box 2801, Syracuse, NY
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209 Oswego St (Ponderosa Plaza), Unit 15, Liverpool, NY

A Look Back...



Nov. 21, 2022 Auction
Photo Review- Pages 4 - 5



Dec. 11 Holiday Party
Photo Review – Pages 6 - 8

And a Look Forward...



Jan. 16, 2023 Meeting
Stephen Mayer



Feb. 16, 2023 Meeting
Christopher Albrecht

See Page 3

President's Message

John Sweeney



It looks like winter is finally here in Central New York. Unless you like to shovel snow and use a pickax to dig, it may be a good time to look over and organize your collection or maybe work on some jewelry projects and plan next year's field trips. We had a good turnout at **our holiday party** where we

collected quite a few toys for the Marine's Toys for Tot's program and food donations for local food pantries. Thank you everyone who helped out especially Cathy Patterson and Cheryl Brown who did most of the organizing and implementing.

Our auction in November was well attended and very successful. I saw quite a few new faces there. I was also impressed by the volume and quality of the materials and specimens being auctioned off as well as the prices. There were a lot of smiling faces as people walked out the door.

As we approach the holidays and the New Year, I think we need to **look both forward and backwards**. It's been a good year for the club. We were back to having a full-fledged show at the state fairgrounds which was successful and well attended. Our membership is up and attendance at the meetings is rebounding. We have a great meeting place and a workshop that through members' diligence and work we are able to afford. Last but not least we have a great community of members. I'm looking forward to an even better next year. We have the **annual Eastern Federation of Mineral Societies convention** occurring at our show. Yes, that's a big deal; we'll need all hands-on deck. We have some great presentations coming up at our meetings and we have a really talented board working to make the regular things happen and are working on new ways to improve and grow our club.

With that being said, I'd like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays as well as a Healthy and bountiful New Year.

John Sweeney

*'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the shop
Not a mineral was stirring not even a dop*

The tools were hung on the racks with great care

In hopes that St Nicholas would soon be there.

The rockhounds were nestled all snug in their beds

While visions of cabochons danced in their heads.

Lolololol

Happy Christmas to all and to all a good night!

Secretary's Reports

Skylar Haas

Monthly Member Meeting – November 21, 2022

Our **semi-annual auction** was held. Fun was had by all attendees!

Executive Board Meeting – December 6, 2022

The meeting was called to order by President John Sweeney.

November's meeting minutes were discussed. Vice President Cathy Patterson made a motion to approve the minutes. Dick Lyons seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Vice President Cathy Patterson reported that Stephan Mayer of PRI will be our speaker at the general club meeting on January 16, 2023. Our February speaker will be Chris Albrecht, he'll be talking about amber!

Potential Spring 2023 field trips were discussed.

Treasurer Linda Clark Sweeney reported a budget for this coming 2022-2023 year is still in progress.

Webmistress Amanda Lytle reported that she has added two new pages to the website. One for the Junior Rockhounds, and another for the Marie Cole Workshop. Other website logistics were discussed. She is doing a fantastic job!

Judy Cook reports that **Facebook** is doing well. She posted photos and a video of the semi-annual auction.

Steve Shorey reported that they have had a few people come into the workshop recently. Another lapidary class will begin on January 7, 2023.

Show Committee Chairperson Cheryl Brown and **Past President Dick Lyons** reported that contracts are steadily coming in for **Gem World 2023**. **The next meeting for the Show Committee will be on January 24, 2023, at 7 P.M.**

Sergeant at Arms Matt Klinger and **Bill Vergé** have been brainstorming some wonderful ideas for cataloging and doing **inventory of the clubhouse!** A lot of assistance will be needed to help Matt complete this task. If you're familiar with the collections, your expertise would be greatly appreciated. Dates and times for inventory are TBA.

The GMSS's **Christmas Party** will be at Bella Domani on December 11th from 12 P.M. – 4 P.M.

Skylar Haas made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dick Lyons seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Skylar Haas

Geo Lexis (Puzzle) By Anne Fitzgerald

"Troglonexes and The Twilight Zone"

As our daylight shrinks into the darkness and before the dawn of the new year, it's enlightening to think about animals that prefer the darkness. Caves can be homes to these animals, and some in fact cannot live outside of caves. Scientists have even classified areas of caves and the animals who live there. The "entrance zone" is reserved for those who go in and out, probably for shelter or escape or who may hibernate (like bears, skunks, and raccoons.)

"Troglonexes" are more extended visitors to caves like spiders, bats, and moths. They spend time in "the twilight zone." I only recently learned (yesterday) "the twilight zone" is a real scientific term. Think between the dark and the light and you have the idea. Some frogs, worms, and crickets are considered "troglaphiles" and can survive outside but prefer the cave.

"Troglobites" only live in caves and reside in the "dark zone" (not to be confused with the "dark side.")

Unscramble the following below to determine some types of animals that may live in the dark zone.

cashifray
pilliseedm
mprish
randesmalas

If your brain is feeling a bit scrambled, you may be relieved to know that for the next newsletter and going forward, I will be doing a new type of word puzzle. For a warmup, give this one a try. It's a common expression in the form of a word puzzle:

rock?
RU living

Still in the dark? All the solutions are on another page of this newsletter. See Page 4.

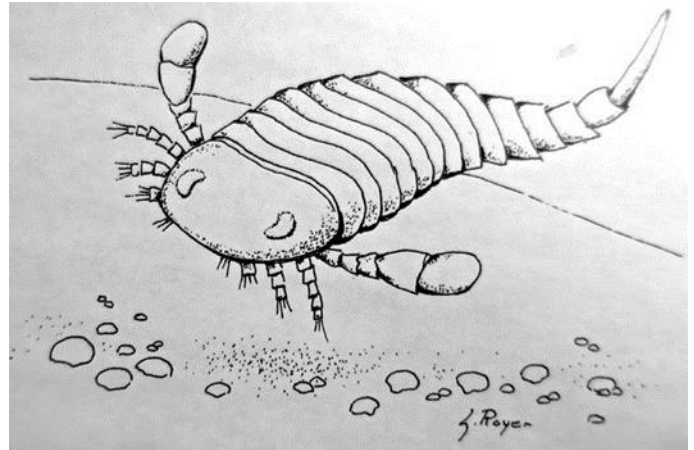
Upcoming Events

DEC. 27 – NO Show Committee meeting.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

JAN. 3 – GMSS Board meeting – 7 pm at the Clubhouse. All are invited.

JAN. 16 – GMSS meeting – 7:30 pm, Stephen Mayer will speak on "Echinoderms – Extinct and Living Marine Animals." Also, silent auction (7 pm), Knowledge Corner.



JAN. 24 – Show Committee meeting - 7 pm at the Clubhouse. All are invited.

FEB. 3 – GMSS Board meeting – 7 pm at the Clubhouse. All are invited.

FEB. 16 – GMSS meeting – 7:30 pm, Chris Albrecht will speak about "Amber." Also, silent auction (7 pm), Knowledge Corner.



Damselfly in Dominican amber, L: 4.6 cm (1 1/2 in.). Private collection. Photo: D. Grimaldi / American Museum of Natural History.

Answers to Geo Lexis

rock?

RU living = Are you living under a rock?

("RU living" is UNDER the word "rock")

Now you are ready for the new year.

Solution: Outgoing puzzle

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------|
| cashifray | crayfish |
| pilliseedm | millipedes |
| mprish | shrimp |
| randesmalas | salamanders |

Sources and Further Reading:

Debra Ronca "How Cave Biology Works" 20 April 2009.

HowStuffWorks.com.

<<https://science.howstuffworks.com/life/biology-fields/cave-biology.htm>> 11 November 2022

Fenella Saunders "The Real Twilight Zone"

<https://www.americanscientist.org/blog/science-culture/the-real-twilight-zone> 11 May 2015

Salt & Pepper Pleasantries! (Seasons Greetings!)

**NOV. 21, 2022 - Club Meeting:
Semi-annual Auction Night**

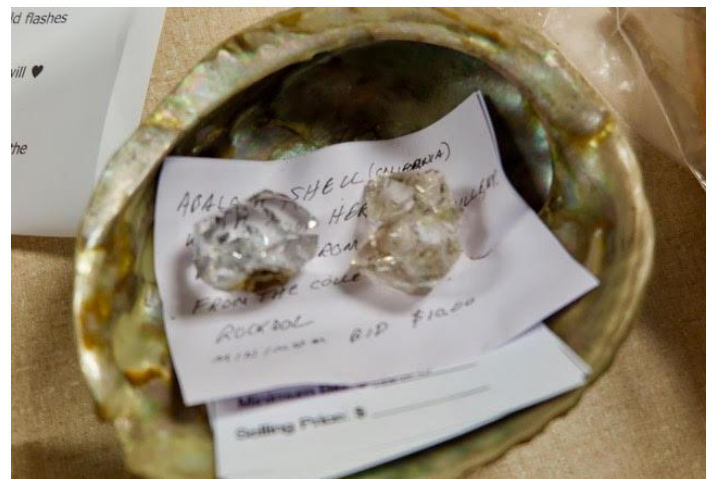
Photos by Judy Cook



A great crowd was anxiously in attendance!



Some of the many and various items up for auction.





Thank you to all who participated in our Club auction! And thanks to John Sweeney for being our capable auctioneer once again.



DEC. 11 – Annual Holiday Party at Bella Domani's

Photos by Judy Cook



Look who's at the front of the line.



A couple of hungry men!



It all looks delicious. Linda is happy.



Photo by Amanda Lytle



The Marines were there to express appreciation for our donations to Toys for Tots.



Plus, gifts for the attendees to grab.



And there were donations for a food pantry, too!



Photo by Amanda Lytle



And Cathy Patterson provided a gift bag at the tables for the attendees. How nice!

Look at all the V.I.P.s that were in attendance:



And, In the News...

Two Minerals – Never Before Seen on Earth – Discovered in Massive Meteorite

By ADRIANNA MACPHERSON, UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA NOVEMBER 30, 2022 [SCITECHDAILY.COM](https://scitechdaily.com)



A slice of the El Ali meteorite, now housed in the University of Alberta's Meteorite Collection, contains two minerals never before seen on Earth. Credit: University of Alberta

At least two new minerals that have never before been seen on Earth have been discovered by a team of researchers in a 33,000-pound (15,000-kg) meteorite found in Somalia in 2020. This giant meteorite is the ninth largest ever found.

A single 70-gram slice of the meteorite was sent to the University of Alberta for classification, where the two minerals were discovered. There already appears to be a potential third mineral under consideration. Herd notes that if researchers were to obtain more samples from the massive meteorite, there's a chance that even more minerals might be found.

The two newly discovered minerals have been named elaliite and elkinstantonite. The first name, elaliite, comes from the meteorite itself, which is officially called the "El Ali" meteorite because it was found near the town of El Ali, in the Hiiraan region of Somalia. Herd named the second mineral elkinstantonite after Lindy Elkins-Tanton, vice president of the ASU Interplanetary Initiative, professor at Arizona State University's School of Earth and Space Exploration, and principal investigator of NASA's upcoming [Psyche mission](#).

Uh-oh – they cut the alien meteorite open! Don't they know what happens when you do that?

4.6 billion-year-old meteorite may reveal the origin of Earth's water

The rock is 4.6 billion years old, meaning it was around at the beginning of the solar system

By [Ben Turner](#) livescience.com



The meteorite landed in a driveway in the town of Winchcombe in February 2021 (Image credit: Trustees of the Natural History Museum)

An ancient meteorite that crash-landed on a U.K. driveway may have solved the mystery of where Earth's water came from. The 4.6 billion-year-old space rock, which landed in front of a family home in the English town of Winchcombe in February 2021, contains water that closely resembles the chemical composition of water found on Earth — presenting a possible explanation for how our planet was seeded with the life-giving substance.

The space rock, a rare carbon-rich type called a carbonaceous chondrite, was collected just a few hours after it smashed into the ground. To analyze the minerals and elements inside the rock, the researchers polished, heated and bombarded it with X-rays and lasers, revealing that it had come from an asteroid in orbit around Jupiter and that 11% of the meteorite's mass was water. The hydrogen in the asteroid's water came in two forms — normal hydrogen and the hydrogen isotope known as deuterium, which goes to make up "heavy water".

That doesn't sound like the most efficient water-delivery system, just sayin'.



Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse
PO Box 2801
Syracuse, NY 13220
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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.

2022 – 2023 GMSS Officers/Contacts

-President: John Sweeney
pres@syracusegemsociety.com

-Vice-President: Cathy Patterson
vp@syracusegemsociety.com

-Treasurer: Linda Clark
treasurer@syracusegemsociety.com

-Secretary: Skylar Haas
secretary@syracusegemsociety.com

-Jr Rockhounds: Rick Moore
kidsrock@syracusegemsociety.com

-Membership Chair: members@syracusegemsociety.com

-Sgt at Arms: Matt Klinger
sgtatarms@syracusegemsociety.com

-GemWorld Show Chair: Cheryl Brown 315-708-9122
show@syracusegemsociety.com

-Club Librarian: Steve Albro 607-756-2298
library@syracusegemsociety.com

-Lapidary Committee Contact: Steve Shorey
lapidary@syracusegemsociety.com

-Newsletter: Larry Petry 315-472-9226
editorgmss@gmail.com

-Facebook: Judy Cook
socialmedia@syracusegemsociety.com

-Website: Amanda Lytle
webmaster@syracusegemsociety.com

-Photographer Extraordinaire: Judy Cook
-Hospitality Committee Chair: Mary Davis
 315-885-4416 hospitality@syracusegemsociety.com