

CRACK 'N CAB



Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse, PO Box 2801, Syracuse, NY
web <http://www.gmss.us> Volume 50 Issue 2, February 2020
209 Oswego St (Ponderosa Plaza), Unit 15, Liverpool, NY

**February 17, 2020 Meeting
7:30 pm @ the Clubhouse**

**Our Featured Speaker:
Geologist Stephen Mayer**

He will give a presentation entitled: “Collecting Sea Scorpions from Phelps, NY with special section on *Buffalopterus Pustulosus* from Stevensville, Ontario, Canada”

He will present some of his research published in the NYSGA Field Trip Guidebook 2019 hosted at Hobart and William Smith Colleges, Geneva, NY along with some amazing fossils!

Mayer is part of the Wayne County Gem and Mineral Club, and has had several articles published in their newsletter



**Do you want to be a Geologist Trainee or Assistant Geologist?
See Page 9 for NYS job opportunities**

President's Message

Cheryl Brown



It's February but not too early to think about summer and the opportunity to take classes.

Crystal Grove in Herkimer is holding two wire wrapping classes on June 13th. The beginners' class will start at 12 noon and the intermediate / advanced class will start at 3:00. The cost is \$45 for each class. Google crystal grove wire wrapping classes for more information. Opening day of their mining season will begin on April 15th.

Also, **Wildacres**, in Little Switzerland, NC has two sessions of classes. They are sponsored by Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies (EFMLS). The Spring session runs from May 18 through May 24 and the Fall session runs from August 24 through August 30. The classes are taught by experts in their respective fields. For more details go to efmls.org/wildacres.

We will be holding classes at the clubhouse beginning this Spring. More details will be following.

Secretary's Report

Cathy Patterson

Executive Board Meeting Minutes

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

Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse Board Meeting February 4, 2020 Clubhouse 7:00 PM

16 club members were present.

Nominating Committee – Keith Gilmer Chair

Kris Boronczyk will run for Vice President. We still need someone to volunteer for Treasurer and Sergeant at Arms. The committee will present its slate of officers in April to be voted on at the June meeting. Please consider becoming involved at the officer level. Let Keith or Cheryl know if you are interested.

Upcoming Meeting Programs:

February – Stephen Mayer will talk about our state fossil the eurypterid

March – Laurel Saiz will talk about the Split Rock Disaster

April – semiannual club auction

May – Susan Sharp ultraviolet rocks

June – GemWorld work night and ice cream sundaes!

Show Committee – next meeting will be February 25 at 7:00 pm at the clubhouse.

Work Day revisited We need to clean and fill display cases at a future date.

History Committee

Going through many archives we have found a stash of old photos, newsletters, and other documents that need to be labeled and protected in special boxes for posterity. Cathy Patterson and Donna Dow will work on this project and seek help from other long-time members to get things in order.

Wildacres

This is a twice a year retreat for rockhounds sponsored by the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical Societies. Classes are held at the lodging facility in North Carolina. Week-long classes in the quiet mountains will inspire you. Several members have attended sessions over the years. Cheryl Brown plans to attend the fall session in August.

Treasurer's Report

Show contract money is coming in and clubhouse rental money is going out. EFMLS club insurance has been paid.

Membership Committee

We currently have 120 paid members. Dues are to be paid September and October each year. If you have not yet paid your dues, please do so ASAP.

Lapidary Committee

The clubhouse is open Wednesday afternoons 1:00 – 4:00 and alternating Thursday evenings 6:30 – 9:00PM for those wishing to work on lapidary projects. February evening workshops will be Thursday 2/13 and 2/27. As always please contact Cathy Patterson if you are coming otherwise, we will not open up.

Hospitality Committee

Mary Davis has volunteered to head up the committee. She will need volunteers to bring treats to each meeting. Offer to help set up and tear down the treat table, please. Thank you, Mary!

Sunshine

We sent rockhound healing wishes to **Bill Viel, Keith Gilmer, Rick Moore, Bob Livingston, Cheryl Brown** hoping for sunnier days ahead! Please notify Cathy Patterson if you know of a member needing get well wishes.

May Tailgate Get Together

Ed and Joanne Suchon have volunteered to host a good old-fashioned tailgate sale and swap event at their home in Warners. Gather your minerals, hobby tools, etc. to sell or swap. More details coming this spring.

The annual **Albany rock and mineral show** held at the New York State Museum is coming soon..... February 22. **Dick Lyons will have his van ready to travel with a few club members.** It is a good show in a lovely building.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Patterson, Club Secretary

Geo Lexis (Puzzle) By Anne Fitzgerald

“Hot Topic”

At our January 2020 meeting, our members “erupted” in applause after Rick Moore “spewed out” all kinds of interesting facts and connections about volcanoes. In case you missed the meeting (see photos on Pages 7 - 9), clues are provided for two of the words below. (These words were new to me until now.)

Unscramble these letters to find volcano-associated words. Answers are on Page 5 of this newsletter.

wolf

ideastor

alav

phrate (Clue: debris from volcanoes)

dopiantes (Clue: opposite parts of the earth)

nextinctio

gamma

Upcoming Events

January 1, 2020 – Wildacres registration begins. Dates are May 18 – 24 and August 24 – 30. Tuition for each session is \$435 per person which includes room, board and gratuity for the staff. See wildacres.org.

February 9 – “Winter Free Day,” Museum of the Earth, 1259 Trumansburg Rd, Ithaca. 10 am – 5 pm. Admission is free. Priweb.org

February 13 – Thursday Open Workshop, 6:30 – 9 pm. See Special Note at the end.

**February 17 Jr Rockhounds Meeting 6:30 pm
Full Membership Meeting 7:30 pm**
Our speaker will be Geologist Stephen Mayer

February 22-23 - New York State Academy of Mineralogy Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show & Sale New York State Museum, Empire State Plaza, 222 Madison Ave, Albany, NY. 10 am – 5 pm. Admission \$5. nysam.org

February 25 – GMSS Show Committee Meeting 7 pm at the Clubhouse.

February 27 – Thursday Open Workshop, 6:30 – 9 pm. See Special Note at the end.

March 1 – EFMLS Convention registration forms are due to Catawba Valley Gem & Mineral Club.

March 7-8 – 57th Annual Earth Science and Mineral Show by Delaware Mineralogical Society. DoubleTree by Hilton, 4727 Concord Pike (Rt 202), Wilmington, DE. Sat. 10 am – 5 pm, Sun. 11 am – 5 pm. Adults \$6, Seniors \$5, Youth 12 – 16 \$4, Kids under 12 and scouts in uniform with an adult free. delminisociety.net/marchshow.

March 8 – “Winter Free Day,” Museum of the Earth, 1259 Trumansburg Rd, Ithaca. 10 am – 5 pm. Admission is free. Priweb.org

**March 16 Jr Rockhounds Meeting 6:30 pm
Full Membership Meeting 7:30 pm**

Our speaker will be OCC Journalism Professor Laurel Saiz. Her topic will be “The Split Rock Disaster.” (Note: this is the correct date).

March 21-22 – 52nd Gem-Mineral-Fossil Show by Buffalo Geological Society. Erie County Fairgrounds in Hamburg, NY – Market, Grange & State Police buildings. Saturday 10 am – 6 pm, Sunday 10 am – 5 pm. Adults \$6, scouts in uniform and kids under 12 are free. Bgsny.org

March 27-30 – Annual EFMLS Convention, hosted by the Catawba Valley Gem and Mineral Club, Hickory, NC. Efmls.org. Also, **50th Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Show** at Hickory NC Metro Convention Center. Friday & Saturday 9 am – 6 pm, Sunday 10 am – 5 pm. \$5 good all three days, kids 12 and under, scouts free. cvgmc.com/SpecialEvents.

March 28-29 - 51st Annual Gem, & Mineral Show sponsored by the Che-Hanna Rock & Mineral Club. Wysox Volunteer Fire Co. Social Hall, 22 Lake Rd, Wysox, PA. Saturday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm, Sunday 10:00 am - 4:00 pm. Adults \$3, Students \$1, kids under 8 free. chehannarocks.com/show.

April 4-5 – 51st Annual Gem and Mineral Show by the New York Southern Tier Geology Club 2020 at the Johnson City Senior Center, 30 Brocton St., Johnson City, New York. Show times are Saturday from 9am to 5 pm. and Sunday 10 am to 4 pm. Adults \$4.00, Children under 12 free with paying adult. Contact Thomas Ogden - 96 W.

Main St., Bainbridge, N.Y. 13733. 607-967-8552
stonecuttertom@yahoo.com.

April 20 – Our Semi-Annual Auction Night!

April 25-26 - Annual Franklin Mineral Show

Sponsored by NJESA, and the Franklin-Ogdensburg Mineralogical Society. Held in the Fluorescent Mineral Capital of the World. Indoor Show & Outdoor Swap. Show: Saturday 9 am – 5 pm, Sunday 10 am – 4 pm. Littell Community Center, 12 Munsonhurst Rd, #12, Franklin, NJ. Adults \$7, Kids 6-16 \$4. fomsnj.org/Events.

May 16–18 Annual “Dig With the Experts” for

fossils. Penn Dixie Fossil Park, 4050 North St, Blasdell, NY. 9 am – 4 pm. Admission varies by day; reserve by April 15th to guarantee a spot. PennDixie.org

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.**

The Gem and Mineral club is looking to have classes in metal clay with a master teacher **Kris Walton**. The price will be around \$80.00 – truly well worth the experience.

Joanna Weaver is a seasoned teacher of many years in polymer clay jewelry and her class is \$25.00.

Kelly Diamond has a studio downtown and is a teacher in metalsmithing and will teach a class in spinner rings. Price to be announced.

All classes will be one-day classes. Times and days for classes will be announced. Sign up sheets will be at our next club meeting. Any questions you might have I can answer at our club meeting. Hope to see you there.

Joanne Suchon 315-440-4098

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 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.



Amethyst crystals from the GMSS collection. Originally part of the collection from Cheryl Brown's parents. Photo by Judy Cook.

February: Amethyst

The word “amethyst” comes from the Koine Greek *amethystos*, from a-, “not” and methysko/methyo, “intoxicate,” or, “not drunken,” referencing the belief that the stone would protect its owner from drunkenness. The ancient Greeks wore it and carved drinking vessels from it in the belief it would prevent intoxication. Medieval European soldiers wore amethyst amulets as protection in battle, believing amethysts heal people and kept them cool headed. It was also considered a symbol of royalty and used to decorate English regalia.

Up until the 18th century, amethyst was considered one of the most valuable gemstones (along with diamond, sapphire, ruby and emerald). But, since the discovery of extensive deposits were found in Brazil, it has lost much of its value.

The finest crystalline amethyst occurs in geodes in volcanic rocks in India, Uruguay and Brazil. In the United States amethyst occurs in many locations, including Arizona, Colorado, Texas, Pennsylvania and the Lake Superior region. The largest amethyst mine in North America is in Thunder Bay, Ontario.

Amethyst is a purple variety of quartz (SiO_2 – silicon dioxide). Its violet color is a result of irradiation, impurities of iron or other transition metals, and the presence of other trace elements. Its hardness on the Mohs scale is 7, the same as quartz, making it suitable for use in jewelry.

Answers to Geo Lexis

wolf	flow
ideastor	asteroid
alav	lava
phrate (Clue: debris from volcanoes)	tephra
dopiantes (Clue: opposite parts of the earth)	antipodes
nextinctio	extinction
gamma	magma

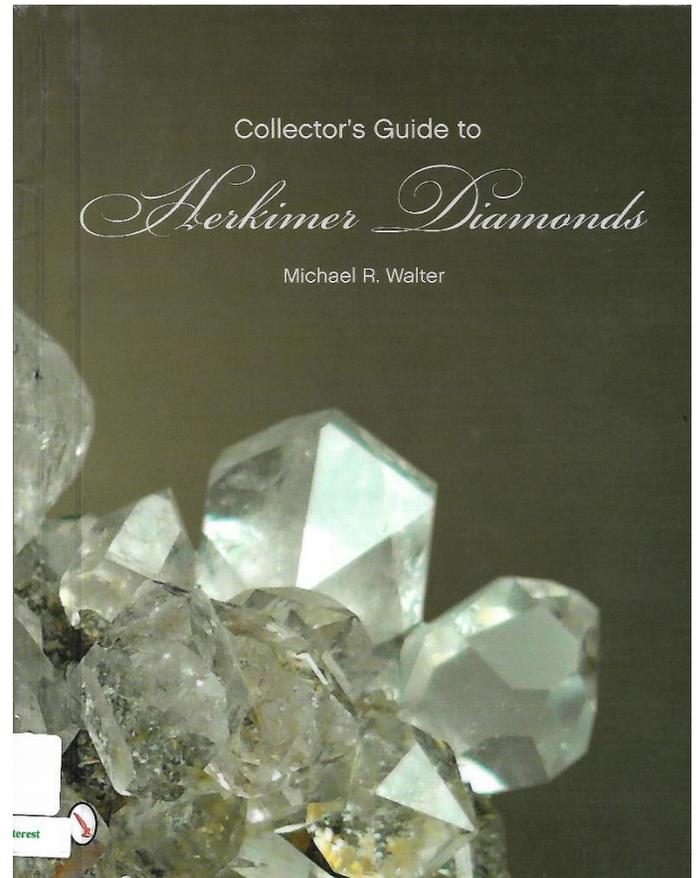
Source: Rick Moore

Crystal Grove Awards

On January 27, Crystal Grove Diamond Mine & Campground received the Barbara V. Sprakers Tourism Award! It was such a good night, with amazing foods, drinks, company and small businesses alike.

Along with the award from the Chamber of Commerce, they also received a Congressional Record from U.S. Representative Elise Stefanik, a Certificate of Recognition from The Congress, a Certificate of Merit from Senator James Tedisco and another Certificate of Merit from Assemblyman Robert Smullen.

A "Gem" from the Public Library



Copyright 2014 by Michael R. Walter

Collector's Guide to Herkimer Diamonds by Michael R. Walter, published by Schiffer Publishing, Ltd, is the first published guide to Herkimer "diamonds." This 96-page book has more than 210 color images of specimens, associated minerals and photos from the field. The text includes recent scientific information regarding the geological and mineralogical history of this special form of quartz. It tells where they can currently be found as well as descriptions of historic locations. The book details specific methods used to effectively field collect Herkimer diamonds, and includes photos of mining methods and discusses collection strategy. In addition, it lists the mines, gear needed, how to prepare specimens and mineral collections. This is a comprehensive guide for the collector of these well-known, unique and much sought-after minerals, provided by a seasoned field collector.

The author, Michael R. Walter, is a retired public-school teacher of earth science and geology. He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees at the State University of New York at Potsdam. During

the summer months he is a professional miner of mineral specimens and runs an active mineral specimen business that focuses on the minerals of New York State, Canada and China. He has field-collected minerals for over 45 years and Herkimer diamonds for over 35 years. His published works includes numerous lay and professional articles in the field of specimen mineralogy.

You can find this book through the Onondaga County Public Library system – 549.68 WAL ...and read more about it during those cold, snowy, dreary mid-winter days when you're stuck inside (and aren't updating your own collection)!

Joe Kaplewski Awarded at Detroit Show

For his displays of Herkimer Diamonds, Joe received the Best of Show Award for the Non-Show Theme Display last October at the Detroit Show. He did not receive a certificate but a check for \$100. By the way, they paid the cost of the trip along with a free booth. The Detroit show is sponsored by the Michigan Mineralogical Society.

**Work Day at the Clubhouse
Jan. 11, 2020
Photos by Judy Cook**



Getting "pointed instructions" from the boss!



Quick – can you name all of these?



Did you plug it in?



You're doing a great job, Cathy.



These two STILL look like they're up to something.



You break it, you bought it!



Please – don't cut off the thumb!



Hey – what is this thing?



Hmm...does he really know what he's doing?

"Volcanoes, Asteroids and Life on Earth"

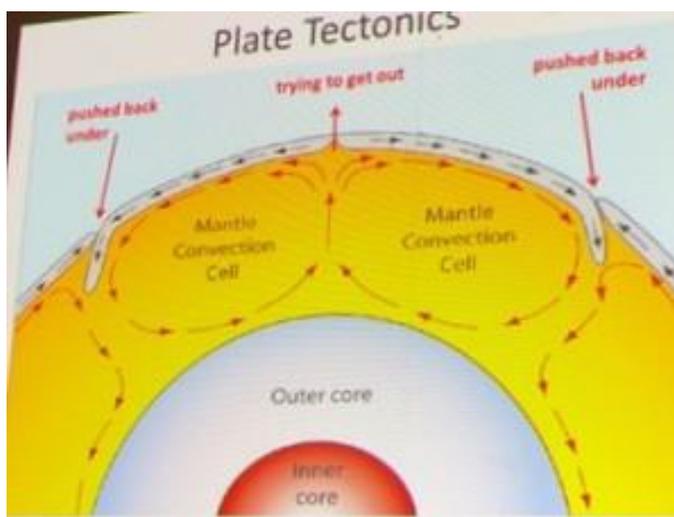
January 20, 2020 presented by Rick Moore

Rick gave us a great program with lots of fascinating information. A capsule summary of his presentation follows below.



A Little Background on Me

- ❖ Geologist for 49 years
 - ❖ BS Geology @ Brockport State
 - ❖ MS Geology @ Syracuse University
- ❖ Senior Research Geologist for 18 years
 - ❖ "Multiple Working Hypotheses"
- ❖ own and have read 350+ books on Geology
 - ❖ published b/w 1830 & 2019, including classics
 - ❖ "Principles of Geology", Charles Lyell, 3 volumes 1830-1833
 - ❖ "Geology of New York", Lardner Vanuxem, 1842
 - ❖ all 22 of Stephen Jay Gould's brilliant books
 - ❖ 50 on Evolution, Dinosaurs and Extinction



Toba (74,000 years ago) VEI 8

Known from Physical Evidence

- ❖ 100 times more powerful than Tambora
- ❖ 200,000 megatons TNT
- ❖ eruption column 30 to 50 miles high
- ❖ pyroclastic flows covered ~7700 square miles
- ❖ ~6 billion tons sulfur dioxide into atmosphere

Tambora (1815) VEI 7

- ❖ largest eruption in historic time
 - ❖ explosive power of 2000 megatons TNT
 - ❖ 36 cubic miles of tephra (150 times Mt. St. Helens)
 - ❖ eruption column reached a height of 28 miles
 - ❖ tsunamis killed more than 36,000 people
 - ❖ explosions could be heard 3,000 miles away
- ❖ 1816 was the famous "Year without a Summer."
 - ❖ minimum temps were down ~5°F in the Northern Hemisphere from late spring to early autumn
 - ❖ failed crops & famine killed ~ 92,000 people

Krakatoa (1883) VEI 6

- ❖ explosive power of 200 megatons TNT
 - ❖ could be heard 2,900 miles away
- ❖ 5 cubic miles of tephra
 - ❖ lowered global temps by 2° F
 - ❖ temperatures did not return to normal until 1888
 - ❖ caused vivid red sunsets that persisted for 3 years
- ❖ ash fell on Singapore 500 miles north
 - ❖ Cocos (Keeling) Island 720 miles southwest
 - ❖ ships as far as 3800 miles west-northwest
- ❖ 165 coastal villages were destroyed
 - ❖ tsunamis killed 36,417 people

Yellowstone Supervolcano

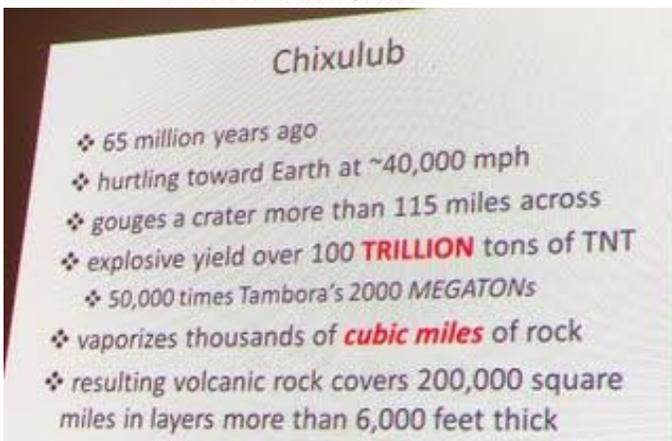
3 known eruptions while at Yellowstone

- ❖ 2.1 million years ago VEI 8
 - ❖ 10 million times bigger than 2004 Mt. St. Helens
- ❖ 1.7 million years ago VEI 7
 - ❖ 1 million times bigger than 2004 Mt. St. Helens
- ❖ 640,000 years ago VEI 8
 - ❖ 4.5 million times bigger than 2004 Mt. St. Helens



Chixulub, Deccan Traps Double Whamy

- ❖ being the Antipode to the Deccan Traps, the Chixulub impact set off a massive seismic wave that would have travelled thru the mantle *in both directions*
- ❖ when the 2 waves met at the source of the traps, there would have been a major surge in volcanic activity
- ❖ indeed, 75% of the Deccan Traps lava flows formed *after* the Chixulub impact



JOB OPPORTUNITIES:

Geologist Trainee

Assistant Geologist

<https://www.cs.ny.gov/examannouncements/announcements/oc/26-765.cfm>

Written Test To Be Held:

March 28, 2020

You may be assigned to either Saturday or Sunday.

Please refer to the information below.

Applications Must Be Submitted or Postmarked By

February 12, 2020

[Download Announcement](#)

You may be assigned to either Saturday or Sunday to take your test. The Department of Civil Service reserves the right to administer tests either online or with paper booklets and answer sheets. Your admission notice will tell you whether your test will be administered online. You cannot request a day in advance or change your scheduled day.

IMPORTANT: Unless waived, you must pay the non-refundable processing fee. For information on fee waivers, visit <https://www.cs.ny.gov/examannouncements/types/oc/appinfo.cfm##Fee>. It is important that you verify that you entered the correct examination number and title on your online or paper application prior to submitting. If you apply online, you should immediately review your email confirmation notice to verify that you applied for the correct examination. If you do not receive a confirmation number after submitting your online application, your application was NOT received by the Department of Civil Service. No late applications will be accepted after the filing deadline has passed.





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

-President:

Cheryl Brown 315-708-9122 pres@gmail.com

-Vice-President:

Dick Lyons 315-672-5328 vp@gmss.us

-Treasurer:

Linda Clark Sweeney 315-668-8470 treasurer@gmss.us

-Secretary: Cathy Patterson secretary@gmss.us

-Jr Rockhounds & Web:

Rick Moore webmaster@gmss.us

-Membership Chair: Donna Dow

-Hospitality Chair: Mary Davis

-Sgt at Arms: Ed Suchon sgtatarms@gmss.us

-GemWorld Show Chair:

Dick Lyons 315-672-5328 show@gmss.us

-Club Librarian:

Steve Albro 607-756-2298 library@gmss.us

-Lapidary Committee Contact:

Joanne Suchon 315-440-4098

-Newsletter:

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

-Facebook: Judy Cook

-Photographers Extraordinaire:

Judy Cook, Steve Albro