

CRACK 'N CAB



Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse, PO Box 2801, Syracuse, NY
web <https://www.syracusegemsociety.com> Volume 52 Issue 2, **February 2022**
209 Oswego St (Ponderosa Plaza), Unit 15, Liverpool, NY



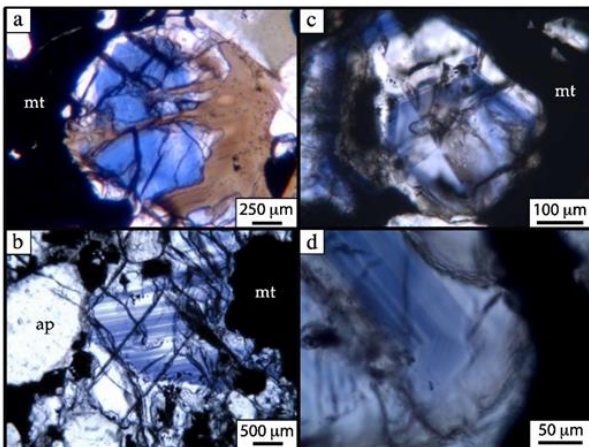
Happy February!



February 21, 2022 Meeting
7:30 pm @ the Clubhouse

Our Featured Speaker:
Professor Robert Darling
Distinguished Teaching Professor of
Geology at SUNY Cortland

*“Microscopic Blue Sapphires
from the Western Adirondacks”*



Find out what these images are when
you join us at the February 21st meeting

**Marie Cole Activity
Center Report and
Lapidary Graduates -
See Pages 3 & 6**

President's Message

Dick Lyons



The number of those currently infected with the virus is going down in New York State. A few of you know that my wife and I had the virus in January. I considered it was only like the flu with no temperature. We had the three shots.

We are planning on having a **monthly meeting on February 21st**. Dr. Darling from SUNY Cortland will be speaking about a location in the Western Adirondack Mountains. Please wear a mask at the meeting.

Our **first show committee meeting** will be on **February 22nd** and will be led by our fearless leader, Cheryl Brown.

We are considering a **field trip this April** to one of the Herkimer Diamond mines. Lord's Corners, where you will find horn coral, is on are list of possible field trips. There are a number of collecting sites in St. Lawrence County where we can collect for a fee or free later this year.

I will mention again that the **Buffalo Club** is planning on having their **annual show on March 19th & 20th** at the Erie County Fairgrounds. The **Che-Hanna Rock & Mineral Club** is planning on having their **show the following weekend** as mentioned in our December CRACK 'N CAB. The show is located just a few miles South of the PA state line.

Once again, the **West Springfield Show** is being planned for **August 12th through the 14th**. If we have enough people signed up for this show, a bus rental is a possibility at a reasonable cost per person.

Dick Lyons

Secretary's Reports

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, 1-4-22 & Member Meeting, 1-17-22

The meetings were cancelled by President Dick Lyons.

Executive Board Meeting, 2-1-22

The meeting was called to order by President Dick Lyons. Sgt. at Arms John Sweeney, Webmaster Dana Schwartz, and Junior Rockhound leader Rick Moore were not in attendance.

Webmaster Dana Schwartz has requested photos and other input for including on the website. All officers are asked to check that they are receiving communications from our domain name.

Treasurer Mary Davis reported balances in our checking and savings accounts. She indicated 41 vendors are signed-up for our July show with 34 contracts having been returned to date. A breakdown of the vendor categories signed-up was enumerated. Mary shared her findings in following-up on the Audit Committee meeting recommendation that we pursue partnering with a different financial institution for our banking needs. Subsequently, a motion was made and approved by the Board to move our accounts to Empower. The annual rental fee for our off-site storage unit will be going up in July. Mary is in the process of completing and submitting our requested annual report to EFMLS for insurance purposes, to include our current office holders, and club membership information. The EFMLS request for this information was delayed by changes in EFMLS operation during 2021.

President Lyons indicated that Eastern Federation MLS member club insurance coverage has been secured with Brown & Brown Upstate

(Continued on next page)

for the new renewal period.

The 1st meeting of our **GMSS 2022 Annual Show Committee** is to be held on **Tuesday, February 22 at 7 PM** at our clubhouse.

No annual Albany mineral show is to be held this year due to pandemic social distancing concerns. **The Buffalo Show** at the Hamburg Fairgrounds is scheduled for 3/20 & 3/21. **The Che-Hanna Show** in Wysox, PA is scheduled for 3/27 & 3/28. **Dr. Robert Darling**, Distinguish Professor of Geology from SUNY Cortland, will be our guest speaker at our February 21st meeting. He'll be talking about *Microscopic Blue Sapphires from the Adirondacks*.

Marie Cole Workshop instructor **Steve Shorey** reported that:

1. **Workshop Open Times** continue to be from 1 PM to 4 PM on Saturdays. 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 course instruction results 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.

Five individuals have graduated the course to date. (See the article on Page 6) The course has resulted in new members for our club.

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

Additional workshop *How-to Classes* are being planned for March. They will be advertised in the near future. A Board discussion ensued focused

on how much as a minimum is to be charged GMSS member participants in any classes to be offered at our club using the club facilities. After significant discussion it was determined that the minimum fee for participants is to be:

- adults \$10 per hour plus the cost of any needed materials or tools;
- students under the age of 12, \$5 per hour plus the cost of any needed.

Judy Cook reports that our numbers of Facebook likes and followers continue to grow amazingly!

Keith Gilmer has volunteered to head-up our **Nominating Committee** for obtaining the new officers needed for organization year 2022-2023 that commences in September. Per our Constitution, all officer positions have a two-year term limit. If you would like to be involved in a leadership position in the organization, individuals are being sought to serve as President, Vice President, Secretary, and Sergeant-at-Arms. **Our annual election will be held in June.**

President Lyons has called for a **Work Day to be held on Saturday, March 5th from 10 AM to 2 PM.** The purpose will be to do routine clean-up in the meeting room and workshop area, library organization work, display cabinet set-up work, and final processing of previously donated rock samples and fossils before our upcoming April Auction.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlie Brown



Mendonomasightings.com

Geo Lexis (Puzzle) By Anne Fitzgerald

"The Salt of The Earth"

While I try to appreciate gifts from our planet *throughout* the year, in winter I am particularly grateful for salt. Salt can melt a frozen sidewalk and make food crispy. We have the word "salary" because Roman soldiers were paid in salt. Salt in fact, was considered more valuable than gold in the old days, and maybe still today. (Just try splashing gold on your sidewalk or on your french fries.)

"To sit above the salt" was a place of distinction. Spilling salt was bad luck. Throwing salt was good luck. There sure was a lot of salt flying around in the old days. Salt extraction goes back 8,000 years, and historians have found that ancient people had some of the same uses for salt as we do.

Unscramble the following to discover some of the many uses of salt. See how seasoned you really are on another page of this newsletter. And if someone someday calls you "The Salt of The Earth" be sure to say thank you!

A solution is on Page 4 of this newsletter.

rebat

ganninc

cynerruc

yingrd

xulf

vationrepres

gnatnin

drate

Upcoming Events

February 21 – GMSS meeting – 7:30 pm

Our speaker will be Professor Robert Darling, Distinguished Professor of Geology at SUNY Cortland. His topic will be "Microscopic Blue Sapphires from the Western Adirondacks."

February 22 – 1st NYS Fair 2022 Show Committee meeting – 7 pm at the Clubhouse, led by Cheryl Brown.

March 1 – GMSS Board meeting – 7 pm at the Clubhouse. All are invited.

March 5-6—BELLEROSE, NEW YORK: Wholesale and retail show; New York Gems, Jewelry & Mineral Show Sponsored by the New York Mineralogical Club; The School of Fashion Industries Gym 3rd Floor, 225 West 24th Street; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; \$6, 12 Years & Under Free; The oldest gem jewelry & mineral show in New York City. Lots of favorite dealers. Retail and wholesale dealers. Door prizes. Free lectures by the New York Mineralogical Club; contact Mohamed Bary, 24448 89th Ave, Bellerose, NY 11426, (347) 247-6568; Email: barygems@gmail.com; Website: barygems.com

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; Website: 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: kippekipp@hotmail.com; Website: 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: donmcarnen@outlook.com; Website: <https://efmls.org/societies/leidy-microscopical-society/>

March 19-20 – HAMBURG, NEW YORK: "Fossils of New York" will be featured at the Buffalo Geological Society's 52nd Annual Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show at the Erie County Fairgrounds in the Grange, Market and New York State Police Buildings in Hamburg, NY. Demonstrators include fossil preparation, jewelry designers, other lapidary artists. In addition, over 30 dealers selling gems, beads, minerals, fossils, and jewelry items from around the world. Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5. Adults \$6, scouts in uniform and children under 12 are FREE. A 2-day admission for \$9 ea. also available. Door prizes are drawn hourly. FREE parking. Wheelchair and stroller accessible. For any additional information or questions, please contact Jerry Bastedo, Show Chairman, at jbastedo@gmail.com. Website: <https://bgsny.org>

March 21 – GMSS meeting – 7:30 pm
(Continued on next page)

Our speaker will be Calvin Prothro, Associate Professor of Geology and Planetary Sciences at Onondaga Community College.

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 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

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

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>

March 29 –NYS Fair 2022 Show Committee meeting – 7 pm at the Clubhouse, led by Cheryl Brown.

April 1 - Ace of Diamonds Mine & Campgrounds Opening Day. 84 Herkimer St, Middleville, NY 315-891-3855; herkimerdiamonds.com.

April 2-3—JOHNSON CITY, NEW YORK: Annual show; New York Southern Tier Geology Club; Johnson City Senior Center, 30 Brocton St; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4; Admission is Adults \$4.00- with coupon \$3.50 Children under 12 free; This will be our 52nd annual show. It will feature exhibits, ultraviolet display, flint knapping, minerals and fossils plus beads, jewelry, gemstones, and beading supplies. There will also be door prizes a silent auction, plus food and drinks will be available for sale; contact Thomas Ogden, 96 West Main St, Bainbridge, NY 13733, (607) 967-8552; Email: stonecuttertom@yahoo.com

APRIL 5 – GMSS Board meeting – 7 pm at the Clubhouse. All are invited.

April 15 - Herkimer Diamond Mines & KOA Resort Opening Day. 4601/4626 State Rt 28, Herkimer, NY. 315-891-3099/315-891-7355; herkimerdiamond.com.

April 15 & 22 - Crystal Grove Diamond Mine & Campground Opening Day, camping. 161 County Rd 114, St Johnsville, NY. 518-568-2914; crystalgrove.com.

April 18 – GMSS meeting – 7:30 pm Our semi-annual auction is back! Will our auctioneer John Sweeney be back as well?

April 26 –NYS Fair 2022 Show Committee meeting – 7 pm at the Clubhouse, led by Cheryl Brown.

Answers to Geo Lexis

rebart	barter
ganninc	canning
cynerruc	currency
yingrd	drying
xulf	flux
vationrepres	preservation
gnatnin	tanning
drate	trade

Sources and further reading:

wikipedia.org/wiki/salt

Philip Jones, former aircraft electrician.
www.quora.com

[Brewer's Dictionary of Phrase And Fable](#), E. Cobham Brewer, LLD.



Lapidary Classes Have Begun at the Gem and Mineral Society of Syracuse, So Come On Down

As many of you know the Gem and Mineral Society of Syracuse has begun classes in cabochon cutting in the Marie Cole Activity Center. Once members complete the class members are then able to use the cutting facilities. These classes are run by Steve Shorey and Bill Vergé. They are two hours long for three consecutive Saturday mornings from 10 AM to 12 noon.

Recently we graduated our first two classes. On Saturday December 11, 2021, **Marissa Perkins, Ryan Howe** and **Zackery Atkinson** received their Certificate of Completion. On January 22 **Melanie** and **Francis Zimmer** also received their certificate.

All members may take the class as long as they are in good standing with the club. You need not have to be there for consecutive weeks we can work around your work or vacation schedule. The fee is \$50. If you are not a member or your membership has lapsed don't let that stop you. We have applications ready for you to fill out and we can sign you up for both the club membership and cabochon cutting.

If you would like to participate in the training, please call Bill Vergé at 617-872-4528. Or email b.verge@comcast.net with the heading Lapidary Class.

Respectfully Submitted, Bill Vergé



Graduates Francis & Melanie Zimmer (at right)



Marissa Perkins, Ryan Howe and Zachary Atkinson



And In the News...**Oldest Known Decorative Jewelry in Eurasia Found in Polish Cave**

Polish American Journal Jan. 2022

(Submitted by GMSS member Cindy Napiorkowski)

KRAKOW – A study by an international team of researchers has now reported the oldest known ivory pendant from Eurasia. The ornament was found at the Stajnia Cave, southeast of Czestochowa, Poland. Radio-carbon dating revealed that it was 41,500 years old.

The Stajnia Cave is a natural shelter and the site has been studied since 2006. During the excavations, a series of Neanderthal remains – animal bones and other artifacts – have been discovered.

In 2010, excavators found two fragments of an ornate ivory pendant and an awl fragment. The pendant has an oval shape with rounded margins. It also has two drilled holes and decorations on it with patterns of sequential punctures.

Mass spectrometry analysis revealed that the pendant was made from mammoth ivory and the awl from a horse bone.

“This piece of jewelry shows the great creativity and extraordinary manual skill of members of the group of Homo sapiens that

occupied the site,” said co-author Wioletta Nowaczewska of Wroclaw University.

Co-author Andrea Picin from the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig added that the ages of the ivory pendant and the bone awl finally demonstrate that the dispersal of Homo sapiens in Poland took place as early as in Central and Western Europe.

Spectacular Fossils Discovered from Prehistoric Rainforest Reveal Intimate Details from 11 Million Years Agoby Andy Corbley - January 17, 2022 goodnewsnetwork.org

Hundreds of immaculately preserved fossils recently found in Australia offer a view into the continent’s early Miocene period as clearly as in a

family photo album. Set in an iron oxide mineral known as goethite, there are leaves belonging to more than 50 species of plants, fossilized flowers, fish, insects, arachnids, even a fossilized feather. There are fossils so clear scientists were able to make out nematode worms, parasitic mussels, and the scale of a butterfly wing.



Michael Frese

Before Australia was hot, scrubby, and dry, it was covered in rainforests between 13 million and 5.3 million years ago. Atmospheric CO2 concentrations were high, creating the perfect conditions for wet and humid forests and the critters that prefer to dwell within such places. Among the notable finds is evidence of several animal behavior models we see today. A fly was turned to goethite with 12 particles of pollen attached to his head.

‘Billion-year-old’ black diamond, blasted from outer space, could fetch \$6.8MBy Hannah Sparks Jan. 17, 2022 2:37 pm nypost.com

An out-of-this-world — literally — black diamond will go to the highest bidder at Sotheby’s next month. The record-breaking, 555.55-carat gemstone, dubbed “The Enigma,” was ranked among the largest and toughest diamonds in the world, and it’s thought to have dropped here millions of years ago from outer space, according to the iconic auction house’s expert gemologists. Black diamonds like this one, also called carbonados, are formed

out of a meteoric impact to Earth, forged out of the blast from the asteroid itself. The 1-billion-year-old diamond is expected to fetch at least \$6.8 million when it hits the online block, where it will be up for bidding from Feb. 3 to Feb. 9.





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

Time Dated Material



www.amfed.org www.amfed.org/efms [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.

2021 – 2022 GMSS Officers/Contacts

-President: Dick Lyons 315-672-5328
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-Vice-President: Kris Boronczyk 315-487-5202
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-Secretary: Charlie Brown
secretary@syracusegemsociety.com

-Jr Rockhounds:
 Rick Moore kidsrock@syracusegemsociety.com

-Membership Chair: members@syracusegemsociety.com

-Sgt at Arms: John Sweeney
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-GemWorld Show Chair: Cheryl Brown 315-708-9122
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-Club Librarian: Steve Albro 607-756-2298
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