

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

Club Group Meeting Monday is Monday January 21 Rick Moore will speak at 7:30 pm Topic to will be "Evolution of Dinosaurs to Birds"

Recently, fossils of early birds and their most immediate predecessors have been collected at an unprecedented rate from Mesozoic-aged rocks worldwide. This wealth of new fossils has settled the century-old controversy of the origin of birds. Today, we can safely declare that birds evolved from a group of dinosaurs known as maniraptoran theropods-generally small meat-eating dinosaurs that include Velociraptor of Jurassic Park fame.

The web page photo https://evolution.berkeley.edu/evolibrary/article/evograms_06 shows specific dinosaur to bird changes. They included much more than just feathers! Come to our meeting and find out more!

At 6:30 pm the Junior Rockhounds will do a Geologic Timeline.

Heaven Can Wait, but Wildacres May 20 - 26 Won't by Bob Livingston

Where else can you go and for \$425 have a week of lodging with private bath, all meals, and learn a great skill or two in some cases, surrounded by beautiful mountain views, clean air and wonderful new friends but Wildacres Workshop in North Carolina. Having been there 9 times, believe me it is just the greatest R&R. Just ask GMSS members Linda and Kris Boroncyck who have been once and are signed up to go again for the session this May. They can't wait for a second wonderful week for them to get here.

Here are courses being offered by truly helpful instructors where you come home with up to 4 completed projects to show off, wear or display. Cabbing I & II, Wirewrapping I & II, Silversmithing I & II, Copper Form Folding, Geology I & II (only a lot more knowledge from these two). The foregoing are 2-day sessions each so you can get two in. The following two are 4-day sessions: Faceting where you actually come home with a brilliant stone that YOU faceted. And last but not least Soapstone Carving where most stay the whole 4 days. (Part of your club dues goes to help offset cost of EFMLS offerings like this.)

For gosh sakes look into this, as just being there relaxing and rocking in chairs on porches and chatting with fellow rockhounds while taking in the new flowering bushes and mountain views is a bit of Heaven on Earth. I can't recall anyone not coming home satisfied and wanting more. Check it out at the email address in our club newsletter for complete write ups on the courses and more info. Get registered as some of these classes fill up pretty fast. Can't make it in May, there is a second session in September.

Going to either one will be an experience you will never regret, I predict.

President's Message Cheryl Brown



Judy Cook is our interim secretary replacement as Donna Dow recovers from shoulder surgery. Thanks Judy! We wish Donna a speedy recovery and soon return to her duties.

We will be cleaning the clubhouse and organizing the collections to bring out specimens to be displayed in our new display cases. There will be a sign-up sheet at the next meeting, so we can plan work teams and coordinate the work to be done.

Please join us at the Gem Diner on January 29th for our first GemWorld 2019 Committee meeting. Come for dinner at 6pm. The meeting start time is 7 pm.

April 1 Opening Day at Ace of Diamonds – Wayne County Gem & Mineral Club will be there.

Toys for Tots

Thank you again for your donations to Toys for Tots that were brought to the Holiday Party. Ever wonder what happens to all those toys? Charlie and Cheryl Brown found out. We volunteered at the Salvation Army Christmas Bureau distribution this year. To our surprise, the toys were unloaded from Toys for Tots boxes!

Families sign-up to receive toys and food according to the number and ages of their children. On distribution day, volunteers act as guides for those families as they move around the room selecting age appropriate toys. It's a very well-organized operation, but they always need volunteer guides. This would be a great community service opportunity for us as a club. I will send out information in November as the date gets closer.



Club Minutes By Judy Cook



Donna Dow, club secretary, is recovering from surgery and will be healing for a few months. Motion was made and passed to have Judy Cook act as interim secretary.

Club member Len Sharp has been downsizing his collection and has offered the club first choice on the sale of some of his specimens at wholesale pricing. It was discussed at the Board meetings for quite a few months. The Board voted to purchase 2 outstanding specimens of Keichousarus hui, aquatic reptiles from the Triassic period, 245 million years ago. They will be featured in a display case in the clubhouse.

The Club will have a **Work Day at the Clubhouse on Saturday January 26th from 11am to 3pm** to help organize the back storage area. The club will be most appreciative of any members willing to help with this venture.

Dick Lyons, show chairman, announced the **1st Gemworld2019 Show Committee** meeting will be held at the **Gem Diner on Tuesday Jan 29th at 7pm**. Those would like to have dinner should arrive by 6pm. Show vendor contracts were mailed out September 10th. This year our show is moving to the State Fairgrounds because the SRC Arena is not available. Tables

set up will be Friday morning July 12th at the Center of Progress Building, dealer set-up will commence from 1pm to 9pm.

Rick Moore will be the speaker at our **January 21st Club Group meeting at 7:30pm**, topic to be **"Evolution of Dinosaurs to Birds"**. Prior to that, at 6:30 the **Junior Rockhounds will be doing a Geologic Timeline**.

The Club is carpooling to the New York State Museum in **Albany for the 25th Annual James Campbell Memorial Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show and Sale February 23**. The Show is co-sponsored by the Capital District Mineral Club and the New York Academy of Mineralogy. Show proceeds benefit the Museum's mineral acquisition fund.

We would like to have Saturday lapidary classes for kids and adults consisting of such things as jewelry making, metal working and wire wrapping. Stay tuned for more info as it develops.

Respectfully submitted
Judy Cook

Crack 'N Cab Newsletter Delivery

Our Newsletter is published 11 times a year. Email your newsletter and web page questions to editorgmss@gmail.com

Dig!

February 19 at 2 PM - Onondaga Free Library Dig! The show is presented by 2 field Paleontologists, Mike and Roberta Straka. They will be talking about digs they have been on, showing bones and other fossils they have found or have received. They travel with a small museum of pictures and fossils to look at it – and a replica of an actual DIG!. They play trivia games and more. Call the library at (315 492-1727) for more info or to register.

Top Spots For Gem Hunting In The US Top 8 Places to Go Gem Hunting On Your Next Family Vacation

Similar to the therapeutic relaxation of tossing a fishing line or hand-pressing fresh dough, a methodic hunt of natural resources—that is, finding gems—is worth a vacation, too. Consider taking a vacation to one of these geologically rich destinations and you might just find enough gemstones or precious metals to pay for the trip, because you can keep everything you find. You're to have a good time looking—even if you come up empty.

Hiddenite Gem Mines, North Carolina

Famously popular, Hiddenite Gem Mines is known for the discovery of some of the largest gems in the world. Comprised of several mines, Hiddenite Gem Mine's group includes Emerald Hollow Mine—which is open for public mining—Adams Mine and NAEM (North American Emerald Mine). At this Great Smoky Mountain-area mine in Franklin, North Carolina, about 60 miles southwest of Blowing Rock, you might find rubies, sapphires, garnets, and rutile. Your admission fee gets you two buckets, a screen box, and a seat cushion, which you use at the flume line. For a dollar extra, you can get a shade umbrella. Admission: \$15 for ages 12 and up, \$10 for kids 6 to 11; free for ages 5 and under. Address: 484 Emerald Hollow Mine Dr, Hiddenite, NC 28636.

Crater of Diamonds State Park, Arkansas

The Crater of Diamonds volcanic pipe is part of a 95-million-year-old eroded volcano. The deeply sourced lamproite magma, from the upper mantle, brought the diamonds to the surface. The diamonds had crystallized in the cratonic root of the continent long before and were sampled by the magma as it rose to the surface. For a fee of a few dollars you can enter the mine, search all day and keep any diamonds that you find. In addition to diamonds, you might find one of the many colorful gemstones that occur naturally there. These include: amethyst, agate, jasper, garnet, peridot, hematite and many others. Crater of Diamonds State Park is a 911-acre (369 ha) Arkansas state park in Pike County, Arkansas, in the United States. In addition to diamonds, visitors may find semi-precious gems

such as amethyst, agate, and jasper or approximately 40 other minerals such as garnet, phlogopite, quartz, baryte, and calcite. Address: 209 State Park Rd, Murfreesboro, AR 71958.

Morefield Mine, Amelia, Virginia

The Morefield Gem Mine is a unique experience for children and adults alike. The mine is a great introduction to minerals and mineral collecting at a real mine. The mine is a great introduction for anyone, any age, who wants to find rocks, minerals, and gems and learn to identify them. No less than 10 minerals species can be found on any day and with experience, time, and depending on what is being mined underground, more of the almost 80 mineral species occurring in the Morefield pegmatite can be found. Address: 13400 Butlers Rd, Amelia Court House, VA 23002.

Crystal Grove Diamond Mine, St. Johnsville, New York

New York is home to Broadway shows, plenty of shopping, Times Square, and the Statue of Liberty, but did you know New York is a great place to mine for gemstones? Crystal Grove Diamond Mine is the place to go to find Herkimer diamonds, beautiful quartz crystals that are fun to mine. These crystals were first discovered in New York, and the perfect clarity of some of these stones makes them very popular with gem hunters. Address: 161 Co Rd 114, St Johnsville, NY 13452.

Royal Peacock Mine, Virgin Valley, Nevada

Since 1981, the Royal Peacock Opal Mine has been open to the public as a pay-to-dig mine. It has yielded countless world-class precious opal specimens during that time. Digging isn't cheap, though. They charge \$180 per person per day to dig in the fire-opal-rich bank area and \$75 to dig in the mine dumps and tailings (piles of rock extracted from the mine). Address: 10 Virgin Valley Rd, Denio, NV 89404. Himalaya Mine, Mesa Grande District, California

The Himalaya Tourmaline Mine is located near Santa Ysabel, CA at Lake Henshaw in the beautiful Mesa Grande.

Visitors can dig at Lake Henshaw Resort where they will dig and screen through ore from the world famous Himalaya Mine. Many minerals can be found including pink and green tourmaline, black tourmaline, quartz crystals, spessertine garnet, lepidolite, clevelandite, and a variety of others. Adult Dig \$75, youth 13 years old to 15 years old half price (\$37.50), children 12 years old and under are

free with paying adult. Address: 26142 CA-76, Santa Ysabel, CA 92070.

Gold 'N Gem Grubbin' mine, Gold Nugget Ln, Cleveland, Georgia

It started as a commercial gold mine and opened to the public in 1984. At Gold n Gem Grubbin you can pan for gold and screen for gemstones in a convenient sluices sitting comfortably under shade trees with a view of our 7 acre lake. The mine's trained staff will teach you the art of gold panning just like the old timers did it! What you may Find Gold, Gemstones (Rubies, Emeralds, Sapphires, Amethyst, Garnets). There is no admission fee, we have free parking and handicap facilities. Address: 75 Gold Nugget Ln, Cleveland, GA 30528.

Ron Coleman Mining, Jessieville, Arkansas

Ron Coleman Mining has been the premiere destination for hands-on mining and precious gem gifts for nearly 30 years. Families and visitors come from all over the country to see our mine in Jessieville, Arkansas, and to dig their own gems. This mine was and is the most productive quartz mine in Arkansas. It has been producing quartz crystals in large quantities since 1943. Address: 211 Crystal Ridge Ln, Jessieville, AR 71949.

From <http://www.geologyin.com/2016/09/top-spots-for-gem-hunting-in-us.html#zBA1EOP2HTJ3CLA>.

**Software for a Mineral Collection Catalog
Reprinted from Mini Miners Monthly,
September 2018
via The Rockhound 11/18**

There are a few nice software programs you can purchase to keep records of the mineral specimens in your collection. Here is some information to help you:

(NOTE: The companies that produce these software programs have not paid "Mini Miners Monthly" to be mentioned in this issue. The programs have not been tested and reviewed. This is a list to help you find this resource for your collecting experience.)

Carles Millan Mineral Software (Freeware)

<http://www.carlesmillan.cat/min/main.php>

Free software for cataloging mineral collections.

Mineral Desk

<https://www.mineraldesk.com/pricing/> Free

software for cataloging mineral collections. You can download a 30 day free trial. Then you can choose

from their payment options. This is a powerful and complete computerized cataloging system.

A Simple Excel File Catalog System (Freeware)
<http://www.johnbetts-fineminerals.com/jhbnyc/articles/labels.htm>

Free software for cataloging mineral collections. This is very, very simple. But it is also very, very easy to use. Nothing fancy. Just useful. You will find it at the bottom of the web page, marked as "Excel." Get on the internet and search for collection cataloging software programs.

Freeware can be useful but often has limitations.

Source - Dec 2018 Rockbuster News, Central PA Rock and Mineral Club

*Editor note - For more info see <http://www.rockhounds.com/rockshop/database.shtml>

**A Poem
 Something of My Own
 From Bob Livingston**

I was going down the path of life,
 Kind of sad and dreary you see,
 When I picked up a rock
 And it changed life for me.
 I began to be interested
 In fossils, slabbing and such;
 I had never thought I'd find
 A hobby that I loved so much.
 My children had told me
 To leave them alone
 That I needed an interest --
 Something all of my own.
 Now every weekend
 Rockhounding I'm gone

and my children both cry

"Mama, you're never home."

I've even learned to cab,

A little jewelry I do.

I'm making gem trees

And doing beading, too.

So if you need something

to make your spirit light

Just go hunt a rock --

Your future will be bright.

* Source Rocky Echoes, Jackson, MS by Janie Hand

55th Annual Show
 Cedar Valley Rocks & Minerals Society
 Presents its
2019 GEM, MINERAL & FOSSIL SHOW
 this year hosting
 American Federation of Mineralogical Societies National Show
 Midwest Federation of Mineralogical & Geological Societies Regional Show
 Saturday March 23 - 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
 Sunday, March 24 - 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
 Hawkeye Downs Expo Center
 4400 6th Street SW, Cedar Rapids, Iowa

GEODES
 Iowa's Mysterious State Rock
 Also Featuring a T-Rex Skull

PROGRAMS
 Programs on Theme-Related Topics
 Call ahead or check our website for Speakers & Times

DEMONSTRATIONS
 Tumbling
 Glass Bead Making
 Cabbing, Beading
 Silversmithing
 Flint Knapping
 Geode Cracking

PEBBLE PIT FOR KIDS
 1r, 5r, 10r, 25r, & 50r Items
 \$1 Rock & Mineral Kits

HOT FOOD
 Hawkeye Downs Concessions

SLUICE FOR MINERALS (Kids & Adults)
MANY ITEMS FOR SALE, INCLUDING:
 Books Fossils Jewelry Minerals Book Ends
 Opals Agates Carvings Seashells Petrified Wood
 Slabs Geodes Crystals Tumblers Lapidary Equip.
 Gems Beads Spheres Meteorites Jewelry Findings

DISPLAYS
 Geodes
 Minerals
 Crystals
 Fossils
 Amethyst
 Crinoids, Artifacts
 Petrified Wood
 Polished Stones
 Spheres, Agates

SILENT AUCTION
 Geodes, Minerals, Crystals, etc.

DONATIONS REQUESTED
 Adults \$3.00
 Students \$1.00
 (12-18)
 Children Free
 (Under 12)
 Youth Groups Free
 (weekend)

PROFITS GO TO SCHOLARSHIPS
 NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ACCIDENTS

CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT
 ONLY SERVICE DOGS ALLOWED

For Additional Information, Contact
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 For program, dealer, and show updates, check www.cedarvalleyrockminerals.org

**Newsletter Problems?
 Send email to editorgmss@gmail.com**

Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse
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Time Dated Material



About US

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 and GMSS became a 501(c)(3) Public Non-Profit organization. The objectives of the Society are to stimulate interest in mineralogy, geology, 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 and fun! Field trips give collectors chances to learn, find specimens and enjoy the out of doors, and provide exercise and fun with old and new friends.

Club Meetings - 3rd Monday of the month

Guests are ALWAYS welcome!

See our online Newsletter for meeting topics

<http://gmss.us/resources/newsletter>

Jr Rockhounds @ 6:30 - General Meeting @ 7:30

(NOT Jul-GemWorld, Aug-Picnic, Dec-Holiday Party)

209 Oswego St (Ponderosa Plaza) Unit 14 & 15, Liverpool, NY

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.

GMSS is affiliated with

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies - <http://www.amfed.org>

and *Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies*

<http://www.amfed.org/efmls>

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Judy Cook

-Photographers Extraordinaire

Judy Cook, Steve Albro

-Hospitality Committee Chair & Members ***We are**

looking for volunteers* contact Donna Dow at secretary@gmss.us or Sharon Thomson to help