

CRACK 'N CAB



Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse, PO Box 2801, Syracuse, NY
web <http://www.gmss.us> Volume 50 Issue 1, January 2020
209 Oswego St (Ponderosa Plaza), Unit 15, Liverpool, NY

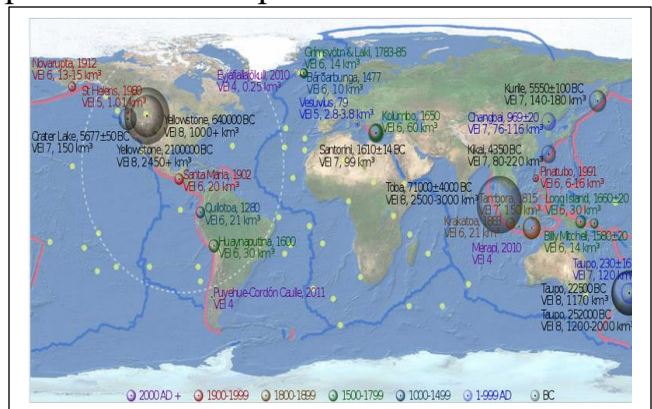
Happy New Year!

Monday, January 20 – Club Meeting – Rick Moore will speak at 7:30 pm.

He will present "**Volcanoes, Asteroids and Life on Earth.**" We'll look at how continental drift helps form volcanoes. Then explore famous eruptions from Mt. St.

Helens to the Yellowstone "Super" Volcanoes and compare their effects on the surrounding area and life. Finally, we'll throw in Chixulub and explore the amount of damage that can be unleashed by an asteroid that hits the Earth with an explosive yield of over **100 trillion tons of TNT.**

At the kid's group meeting at 6:30 pm, Rick Moore will talk about different types of volcanoes and the ways that continental drift helps create those volcanoes.



Tuesday, January 28 – 2020 Show Committee Meeting 7 pm at the clubhouse, with Show Chairman, Dick Lyons (*Yikes! The Show at the State Fairgrounds is only 6 months away!*)

Wildacres Retreat Registration Is Now Open!

Dates for classes are May 18 – 24 and August 24 – 30 in the mountains of North Carolina - See more information on Page 6

President's Message

Cheryl Brown



Happy New Year! Best wishes for a prosperous, healthy new year! We are looking forward to an exciting year of great speakers and adventurous field trips. Stay tuned for more information.

We will be holding elections in June. **The offices of Vice President, Treasurer and Sargent-at-Arms are open and up for election this year.**

If you are interested in any of these positions or even just finding out more about the responsibilities, please talk to a board member or Keith Gilmer, head of the Nominating Committee.

Joanne Suchon is organizing a couple interesting classes with outside teachers.

She has talked to Jonna Weaver who teaches polymer clay classes and Irena Mick who teaches precious metal clay (PMC) classes. There is no date set yet, but there will be an 'interest' sign-up sheet at the January meeting.

Our first Show Committee meeting will be January 28 at the clubhouse at 7:00. Some of us meet at Francesca's for dinner between 5:30 and 6:00, if you would like to join us.

As I wrote in the December newsletter, if the conditions are such that you don't feel safe traveling on a meeting night, please stay home. There will be an email blast sent out to those who have an email address on file if the meeting is canceled. There will also be a closing message on the Spectrum crawler. We haven't been able to get the local channels to include us on their crawler. If you have **any** question about a meeting, please call me before you head out. My number is on the last page of this newsletter.

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.

Board Meeting Tuesday January 7, 2020 Clubhouse - 7:00 PM
11 members were present.

Compensation for EFMLS Convention Delegates – It was decided to keep the usual compensation amount at \$400 per delegate for the 2020 EFMLS Convention in March 2020. This

helps defray the cost of travel and lodging when held out of town. The following year, 2021, our club will be hosting this convention in Syracuse. A new formula for compensation will be developed for the following years. **Cheryl Brown** and **Rick Moore** will be delegated for this year's convention.

Bead Society incorporation into GMSS - This is tabled for a future date.

Nominating Committee

We will need to fill 3 positions; Vice President, Sergeant at Arms, and Treasurer for the 2020-2021 year. A Nominating Committee will be appointed in February to search for candidates for these positions on the board. Stay tuned.

Upcoming Programs

January – Rick Moore will be speaking

February - TBA

March – Laurel Saiz will speak about the Split Rock Disaster

April – Semi-Annual Auction

May – TBA

Junior Rockhounds

We are looking at enlarging the Youth Group meeting area which is crowded. We are proud of Rick Moore's great work with the youth and wish them to have more room to spread out.

Treasurer's Report

The Christmas brunch had 43 paying attendees. The club subsidized half the cost of the bill at \$885.95. The club provided our own desserts and decorations. A singer/guitar player we hired made the afternoon festive. Toys for Tots representatives joined us for the brunch. We also had a gift exchange. This event was held at the State Fair in the former Empire Room.

Workshops

We continue to have Wednesday afternoon 1:00 – 4:00 lapidary workshops at the clubhouse and twice monthly Thursday evenings for anyone wishing to work on lapidary projects, use the library, or work on beading or other hobby projects. The Thursday workshops are 6:30 – 9:00 PM. January dates are 1-16-2020 and 1-30-2020. Those using the lapidary machines are requested to pay the \$5 user fee and have been trained in machine use. Please contact Cathy Patterson 315-480-8907 if you plan to come. If no one calls, we will not open the clubhouse. Check also with Cathy if the weather is bad. Two workshop instructors teaching polymer clay bead making and precious metal clay may be invited to teach small classes for GMSS members. Class size is limited to only 8. No final plans are in place yet. Stay tuned.

Hospitality

Donna Coleman and **Bob Livingston** offered to bring treats to the January 20 meeting. Contact **Cheryl Brown** if you would like to bring a refreshment. The more the merrier! We still need someone(s) to head up the hospitality committee.... Please.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Patterson Secretary

Geo Lexis (Puzzle) By Anne Fitzgerald

“New Things”

Resolutions may be hard to keep but learning new things can be part of our daily routines. I looked up new words and phrases from 2019 today and found this tidbit of interest:

“The frequency illusion (also known as the Baader-Meinhof phenomenon) is the phenomenon in which people who just learn or notice something start seeing it everywhere.”

This happened to me when we went hunting for shark teeth at Calvert Cliffs, Maryland. At first, I found none, but once I knew what to look for, they were in the sand and in the water and in the soil. Shark teeth even invaded my dreams that night. I did not know it at the time, but I was experiencing the frequency illusion!

I am wondering if the Mars scientists are also experiencing the frequency illusion now. I can only imagine them identifying one rock like one on earth, and then another and another. Eureka!

Here is a scrambled list of rocks and minerals that have already been found on Mars. Unscramble and perhaps learn something new for this year. Answers are on Page 4 of this newsletter.

vineilo
raspdelf
sblata
ngmeettia
muitatin
calisi
umpsyg
roni

Sources: https://rationalwiki.org/wiki/Frequency_illusion
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Composition_of_Mars

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. More information is on Page 6 of this newsletter. Also see wildacres.org.

January 16 – Thursday Open Workshop, 6:30 – 9 pm. See Special Note at the end.

January 19 – Bead Society Meeting, 1:30 – 5 pm. The monthly meeting of the Bead Society of Central New York will be held at the GMSS Clubhouse. All are welcome!

**January 20 - Jr Rockhounds Meeting 6:30 pm
Full Membership Meeting 7:30 pm**
Our speaker is Rick Moore. His program will be “Volcanoes, Asteroids and Life on Earth.”

January 25 – Geology Museum Open House & Mineral Sale, Rutgers State University, Geology Hall, 2nd Floor, 85 Somerset St, New Brunswick, NJ. Opens at 9 am.
geologymuseum.rutgers.edu/museumevents/annual-open-house.

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

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

**February 17 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.”

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

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. Double tree by Hilton, 4727 Concord Pike (Rt 202), Wilmington, DE. Info: geneatfossilnut.com.

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

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

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.**

Answers to Geo Lexis

vineilo	olivine
raspdelf	feldspar
sblata	basalt
ngmeettia	magnetite
muitatin	titanium
calisi	silica
umpsyg	gypsum
roni	iron

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.

image © Dorling Kindersley. For further information see: www.dkimages.com



January: Garnet

According to the American Gem Society, the word “garnet” comes from the 14th century Middle English word *gernet*, meaning “dark red.” The word is derived from the Latin *granatum*, which means “seed,” so called because of the gemstone’s resemblance to the red seeds of the pomegranate.

Garnet is a group name for a set of gems that includes almandine and pyrope (red and purplish red), spessartine (orange red), grossular – pictured above (orange, green or colorless) and demantoid and tsavorite (green). They have been found in all colors except blue. Almandine and pyrope cabochons (faceted stones) and carvings have been popular for more than 2,000 years.

The garnet is very durable (6.5 – 7.5 on the Mohs scale) and found all over the world including Wyoming, Czech Republic, Greece, Tanzania, Madagascar and India. The best spessartines and orange grossulars come from Brazil and Sri Lanka. The best demantoids come from the Ural Mountains in Russia. Mandarin Spessartite Garnets are considered to be the most rare and expensive of all garnet gemstones.

Folklore legend has it that the garnet can bring peace, prosperity and good health to the home. It also symbolized deep and lasting friendship.

These were the headlines last month:

“The World’s Oldest Forest Has 385-Million-Year-Old Tree Roots” – *Smithsonian* magazine

“Evidence of world’s oldest forest unearthed in upstate New York” – *New York Post*

A research team led by faculty at Binghamton

University of the State University of New York discovered the ancient fossilized forest while sifting through soil in a sandstone quarry in the rural town of Cairo, Greene County, about 35 miles south of Albany and 10 miles west of the Hudson River, in the Catskill Mountains region.

Question: Does this mean New York was the original Garden of Eden?

FOR SALE:

<p>A8: Dinosaur egg clutch in matrix (4 Hadrosaur eggs) – Herbivore. Ornithischian duck-billed dinosaur; known for its flat-billed mouth containing thousands of teeth suitable for grinding food and its nesting habits</p>	<p>Value: \$3000 SALE PRICE: \$600</p>	<p>Age: Cretaceous 84 million years old</p>	<p>Hunan Province, China</p>
<p>A9: Dinosaur egg pair in matrix (2 Troodon eggs) - Carnivore, raptor. Rare Coelurosaurian bird-like dinosaur; known as the world’s smartest dinosaur</p>	<p>Value: \$1000 SALE PRICE: \$600</p>	<p>Age: Cretaceous 75 million years old</p>	<p>China</p>

SPECIAL SALE VALUE – \$1000

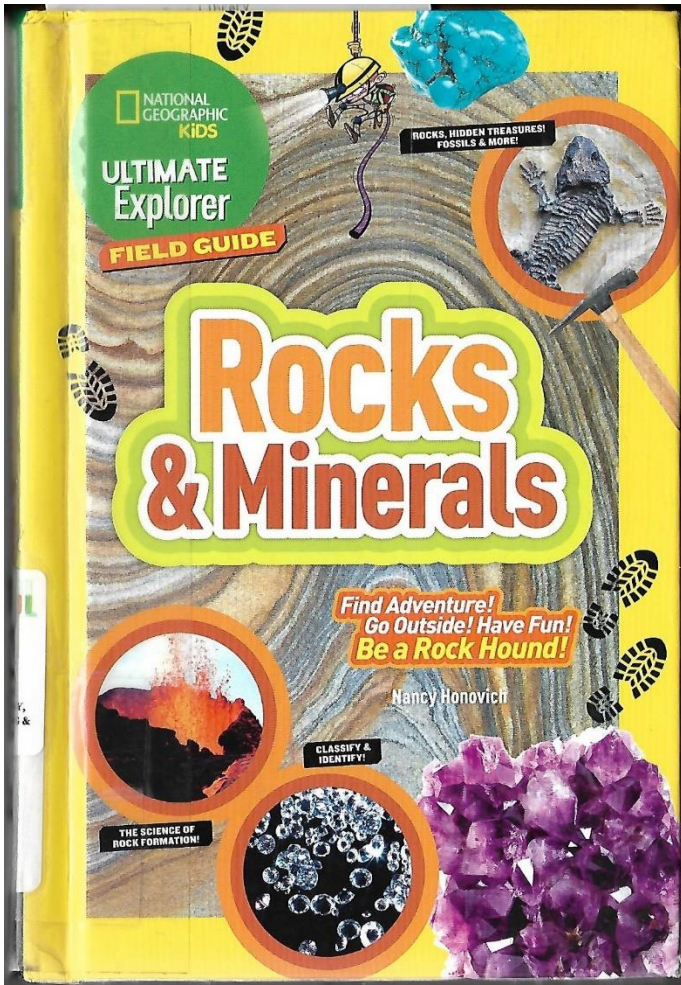
for Hadrosaur and Troodon egg matrix purchased together



Contact: Len Sharp, 315-439-4296, wsharp1@twcnyc.nyrr.com

A "Gem" from the Public Library

This one's for the kids (or the kid in you!)



Copyright 2016 by National Geographic Society

The *National Geographic Kids Ultimate Explorer Field Guide: Rocks and Minerals* sounds like a long title, but it's a color-filled book for identifying and learning more about the rocks and minerals that can be found on our planet. The book includes 184 great color photos of rocks and minerals, with information to identify what you've found. It also has history behind how humans have used rocks and minerals, and how they got their names. There are activities to explore different properties of rock and minerals, and there are lots of facts and jokes to keep you informed and amused.

You can find this book through the Onondaga County Public Library system – J 552 HON ...and read more about it during those cold, snowy, dreary mid-winter days when you're stuck inside!

2020 Eastern Federation of Mineralogical & Lapidary Societies Wildacres Workshops

Imagine yourself spending a week away from all the pressures of everyday life. There's a wonderful opportunity to get away and immerse yourself in relaxing, learning a new skill or two and learning new things from a guest speaker.

You can spend a week in the mountains of **North Carolina** attending one or both of the 2020 EFMLS Workshops at **Wildacres Retreat**. Wildacres is a haven located on Pompey's Knob just off the Blue Ridge Parkway about an hour north of Asheville.

The property consists of about 1,400 mostly "wild" acres, and the facility features two large lodges with private, motel-style bedrooms, each with private bath. There are well-equipped lapidary and jewelry studios and other classroom spaces, an auditorium, library, dining hall and canteen. There are hiking trails and fantastic views of Mt. Mitchell (the highest peak of the Appalachian Mountains) and the surrounding Blue Ridge Mountains.

Each session consists of time for participants to take one or two small-group classes (one 4-day class, or two 2-day classes) and hear talks from the guest speaker at the general sessions. For the Spring Session (May 18 -24) it's **Bob Jones**, a renowned author, speaker and prolific writer and Senior Editor for *Rock and Gem Magazine*.

Spring classes include: Cabochons, Chainmaille, Faceting, Micromounting, Silversmithing, Soapstone Carving, Wire Wrapping and PMC (Precious Metal Clay). Similar classes are available at the Fall Session (August 24 - 30).

Tuition for each session this year is \$435 per person which includes room and board for the week and gratuity for the Wildacres Retreat staff. Registration is required well in advance since the facility limits attendance to 60, which includes staff.

The 2020 EFMLS Wildacres Registration form can be found at:
efmls.org/Wildacres.

Our Annual GMSS Holiday Party – 2019

Everybody had a great time at Daniella's Event & Catering Steakhouse at The Empire Room at the New York State Fairgrounds

Photos by Judy Cook



Great smile, Charlie.



These two make a "bright," lovely couple.



It looks like John Sweeney is trying to steal some food!



The food was great; just look at the line!





And these two look SO innocent!



Marine Staff Sgt. Johnson (left) and Sgt. Storms were appreciative for the toys we collected for the Toys For Tots program.



If you took any of these, you're in big trouble!



Here's our President "hard at work."



You never know what these two are up to!



John Sweeney (he's on the left) poses with our "Music Man" John Wilson (he's on the right), plus a guy they were "nuts" over, in the middle.



Santa's elves were also in attendance (sometimes also known as Janet and John Kolodzie).

"The Allure of Crystals & Geological Specimens"

Jasper52.com Newsletter Copyright 2019

Crystals and natural specimens are some of the most stunning and scientifically fascinating non-living objects in the universe. There is often remarkable symmetry within the way their atoms respond to time, pressure, and heat during the "growth" process of these beautiful objects of nature.

At this current time in history, when information about nearly anything can be gathered quickly and easily, the discovery of crystals and other non-living mineral specimens in the field requires time, focus and dedication. There's a lot of ground to cover, as it were, when it comes to "rockhounding." People who "rockhound," or dig for, discover and collect crystals, rocks and mineral specimens, are part of a lineage that dates back centuries. Rockhounds have varied goals. For some it's about creating a collection; for others, it's to study the scientific aspects of specimens. Still others incorporate geological specimens into lapidary art, or turn to crystals and other natural specimens for their reputed healing properties. Thanks to rock, gem and minerals shows, as well as various retail outlets, collectors don't necessarily have to dig to acquire the objects they desire.

To gain a better understanding of this collecting interest, we turn to self-confessed rockhound and dealer Muhammad Majid, of Minerals Paradise, to share some insight. The Majid family business in Pakistan specializes in tourmalines, morganites, aquamarines, topaz, and many lesser-known stones including tantalite, microlites and herderites.

How would you describe today's collecting market for crystals and geological specimens? How has it changed in the past few years?

Majid: The market has changed drastically. We had buyers who were buying rare minerals in the past, but now most collectors prefer the common minerals such as tourmalines, morganites and aquamarines, among others. Prices have also gone sky high in recent years.

What advice would you give someone who is just discovering an interest in collecting crystals and specimens?

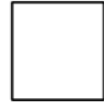
Majid: In my opinion, one should not just start collecting crystals; they should study them, their characteristics, and also their pricing, because minerals have no fixed value.

What are some of the most useful tools for collectors of crystals and natural specimens?

Majid: Having an idea about the pricing of a mineral is the most important thing. As I said, minerals and crystals have no fixed value. For this purpose, I think the Internet is the best available source.



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, Hospitality: Donna Dow

-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

-Hospitality Committee Chair & Members: *We are looking for volunteers* contact secretary@gmss.us to help