

CRACK 'N CAB



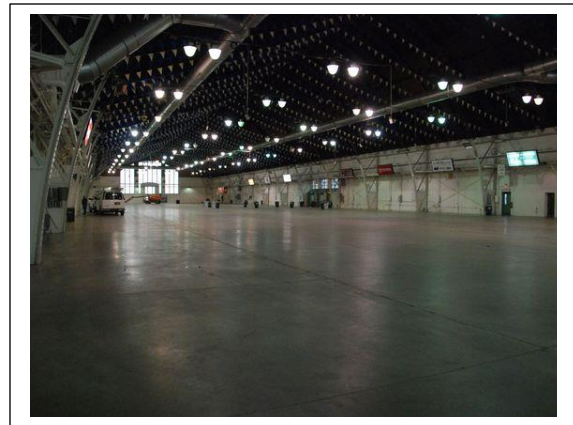
Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse, PO Box 2801, Syracuse, NY
web <http://www.gmss.us>* Volume 51 Issue 1, January 2021
209 Oswego St (Ponderosa Plaza), Unit 15, Liverpool, NY

Happy New Year!

Will it bring this...



or will it be this?



*We don't know if there'll be a Show,
But we'll try again this year!*

It's Back: "Gems From the Public Library" – Page 4

"Zoom in" for a January Meeting Update - Page 2 & 4

*** Wonder Where the Website Went? - See Page 2 & 5**

New Feature: "New York Mineral of the Month" – Page 6

President's Message

Dick Lyons



Last year was a difficult time for you and our club. We had to cancel **our show** last July. If enough people receive the vaccine by July, we will have a show this year.

Like many other clubs, we decided not to have any field trips last year. We hope that will change this year.

Both the Che-Hanna and Buffalo Clubs are planning on having **shows in March** (see Page 4). The West Springfield Show is planned for August. No word from the Albany Club for February.

We also had to change the format of our monthly meetings. At our board meeting this month, it was proposed that we have a **ZOOM meeting for January** instead of a meeting at the clubhouse. John Sweeney will show a video as mentioned in this newsletter (see Page 4).

Our club's website was removed by our provider in early December. I am not tech savvy person, but we needed a new website as soon as possible. There was no time to get bids from several website providers and spend at least another month looking at bids. The board made a decision at the monthly meeting to hire our former webmaster, Dana Schwartz, to set up a new website (see Page 5).

Dick Lyons

Secretary's Report

Cathy Patterson

Executive Board Meeting Minutes

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

The Gem and Mineral Society of Syracuse Board of Directors met at the club house in Ponderosa Plaza Tuesday January 5, 2021. The meeting was called to order by President **Dick Lyons** at 7:00 PM. Seven members and one guest were present. There was no Board of Directors meeting scheduled in December 2020.

Website Proposal

Since our website had been taken down as of December 10, 2020 by our web host Go Daddy the necessity to have a web presence was critical. Former webmaster for the Gem and Mineral Society of Syracuse, Dana Schwartz, was invited to this meeting to present her proposal for creating a new web presence for the GMSS. Dana Schwartz is a website designer familiar with our club workings. She presented her proposal, and it was discussed among those present at the meeting. **Cheryl Brown** made a motion to accept Mrs. Schwartz's proposal and it was seconded by **Larry Petry**. The motion was carried to have Dana Schwartz of World of Dana Design become our new Webmaster beginning immediately.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer, Mary Davis was unable to attend this meeting. There was no report.

Mineral Shows

There seems to be no information from the Albany club of their annual show usually held in February. It must be assumed that due to COVID 19, all activities at the Albany State Museum, where the club holds its show, are cancelled. The Buffalo Club show held at the Hamburg Fairgrounds is scheduled to go forward March 20-21, 2021. The Che-Hanna Show in Pennsylvania, 111 Lake Rd. Wysox, PA, is scheduled for March 27-28, 2021. **The GMSS annual show is scheduled for July 10-11, 2021 at the Fairgrounds in Syracuse.** This will also be the annual Eastern Federation Convention. Whether it will be able to go forward is uncertain.

Programs

Vice President **Kris Boronczyk**, who is in charge of
(Continued on next page)

programs, was absent at this meeting, but it was agreed by Kris and those present that due to the COVID situation and winter weather concerns instead of the regularly scheduled, January, in person program featuring Dave Millis we should have a ZOOM meeting with the topic to be determined. **John Sweeney**, Sergeant at Arms, has agreed to set up a program, to be determined, via ZOOM that we can all “attend” safely. Information on how to attend the ZOOM meeting will appear elsewhere in this newsletter.

Field Trips

Kris Boronczyk, field trip planner says all trips are on hold until a much later date.

Lapidary Committee

The workshop is open Wednesdays at the Clubhouse from 1:00-4:00. A fee of \$5.00 is collected for those working on the lapidary equipment. Any club member may come in on these Wednesdays to work on their own beading, jewelry, or related projects also.

Junior Rockhounds

Meetings are suspended until it is safe to meet in person. There was nothing to report on the junior group.

Hospitality

Mary Davis, hospitality coordinator, was unable to attend the meeting. There will be no refreshments served at meetings for the foreseeable future due to COVID.

EFMLS Convention 2021

The next Show Committee meeting will meet at the club house Monday, January 25, 2021 at 7:00 PM. **Cheryl Brown**, Show Chairman, will update us on the details of our show preparations.

Facebook

Facebook coordinator **Judy Cook** mentioned some good additions she has put on our page. Check out Gem and Mineral Society of Syracuse on Facebook. Thank you, Judy.

Other Business

Dick Lyons has donated **The Book of Stones, Who They Are and What They Teach** to the club library. Thank you, Dick!

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Patterson, Club Secretary

Geo Lexis (Puzzle) By Anne Fitzgerald

“Redefining Treasure”

Don't you love when people (or governments) redefine words to suit their own interests? That's exactly what the British government did. They had the brilliant idea they could redefine the word “treasure.”

According to Nora McGreevy, in SMITHSONIANMAG.COM:

“ With the creation of the 1996 Treasure Act, the United Kingdom’s government defined treasure -legally speaking - very narrowly: Finds are only designated as such if they’re more than 300 years old, made of gold or silver, or found alongside artifacts containing precious metals. (Rules vary in Scotland and Northern Ireland.) Once reported as treasure, an object becomes the property of the state; its finder is legally required to turn the artifact over to authorities for public display at national or local museums.”

Some people spend their whole lives looking for treasure. Others happen upon treasure while they are not looking. Like the ten-dollar bill I found on my tenth birthday in the woods in the Adirondacks, my favorite kind of treasure would be something unexpectedly found and deemed by the finder to be awesome. What an ethical challenge that would have been if I was required to turn my ten-dollar bill over to authorities. I would have had to plea for a redefinition of my treasure as a “gift from the forest.” It would be wonderful if I were hiking in England and found an artifact, but only if there were no precious metals nearby. (Perhaps I might try hiking instead in Scotland.) And would I know a precious metal if I found one? Unscramble the following for a list of some precious metals. And since the UK has done it, we might as well all think up our own definitions of treasure.

**DOLG
RIVELS
LAPLAMIUD
SMUTHIB
MUIDOHR
DUIMNI
LILMUYERB**

The solution is on Page 5 of this newsletter.

Upcoming Events

January 18, 2021 GMSS meeting - 7:30 pm (via Zoom) Program change: John Sweeney will present "Hyde Park Mastodon." It all started with the pond...

January 25, 2021 – 1st NYS Fair Show Committee meeting – 7 pm at the Club House, led by Cheryl Brown.

February 15, 2021 GMSS meeting - 7:30 pm - TBA.

March 20-21—BUFFALO, NEW YORK: Annual show; Buffalo Geological Society; Erie County Fairgrounds (use South Park Ave entrance), 5600 McKinley Pkwy, Hamburg; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; Adults \$6, free admission for scouts in uniform and children age 12 and under; Non-profit exhibitors, demonstrators, dealers selling minerals, fossils, gems, jewelry, and activities for children; contact Jerry Bastedo; Email: jcbastedo@gmail.com; Website: bgsny.org.

March 27-28—WYSOX, PENNSYLVANIA: Annual show; Che-Hanna Rock & Mineral Club, Inc.; Wysox Volunteer Fire Hall, 111 Lake St.; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4; Adults \$3, students \$1, and free admission for children age 8 and under; Special exhibits, fluorescent programs, dealers selling minerals, fossils, gems, jewelry, geode cutting, and activities for children; contact Bob McGuire, PA; Email: uvbob1942@gmail.com; Website: chehannarocks.com

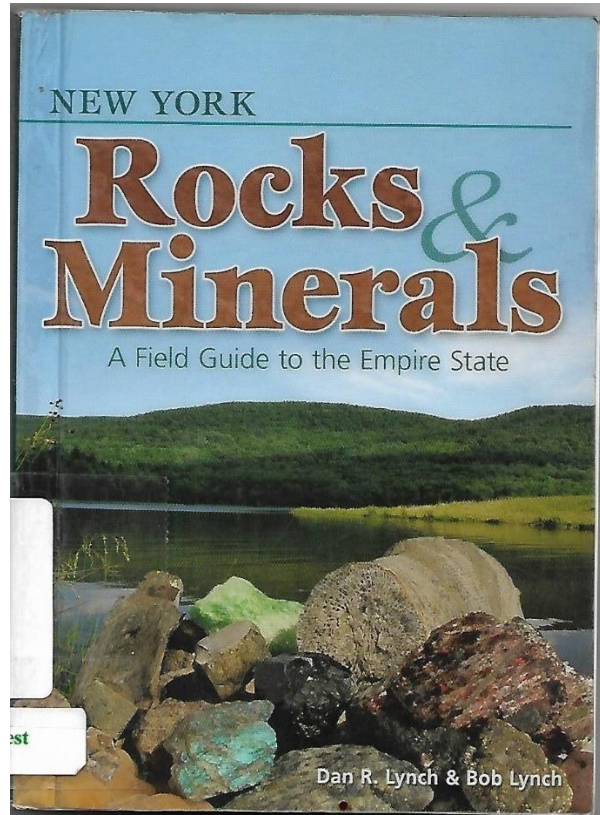
April 10-11—JOHNSON CITY, NEW YORK: Annual show; New York Southern Tier Geology Club; Johnson City Senior Center, 30 Brocton St. ; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4; Adults \$4, free admission for children under 12 when accompanied by a paying adult; Dealers selling various minerals and fossils, jewelry and gemstones, beads and supplies; demonstrations and displays, and show will be held in adherence with regulations related to COVID-19 restrictions - masks must be worn and access may be limited; contact Thomas Ogden, 96 West Main St., Bainbridge, NY 13733, (607) 967-8552; Email: stonecutterton@yahoo.com; Website: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Nonprofit-Organization/New-York-Southern-Tier-Geology-Club-571826199572927/>

Wednesday Workshop

Steve Shorey has opened the **lapidary workshop** again on **Wednesday afternoons from 1 to 4.** If you have taken John Sweeney's Lapidary class, you can use the club equipment. The cost is \$5.00.

Are you ready to get out of the house? You can also bring a non-lapidary project in to the Wednesday workshop from 1 to 4 as well. No charge. Just bring all your own tools and supplies.

A "Gem" from the Public Library



Copyright 2016 Dan R. Lynch & Bob Lynch, Published by Adventure Publications.

New York Rocks & Minerals, A Field Guide to the Empire State by Dan R. Lynch & Bob Lynch, a father and son duo, is published by Adventure Publications in Cambridge, MN. For more on the publisher, go to <https://www.adventurepublications.net>.

From the back cover:
"Full-color photos and the details you need to know for identifying and collecting:

- Incredible, sharp, full-color photos: the authors know rocks, and they took
(Continued on next page)

their own photographs to depict the detail needed for identification – no need to guess from line drawings.

- Comprehensive entries: photos and facts for 105 rocks and minerals.
- Easy-to-use format: quickly find what you need to know and where to look.”

This is a maybe-front-pocket sized (4 ½” x 6”) book. It begins with some terms and definitions, a brief overview of New York’s geology, precautions and preparations and a Quick Identification Guide. Then, it proceeds alphabetically on a two-page spread to describe the rocks and minerals found in New York State locations. Each spread includes a map showing the primary occurrence of that item, along with information on environment, what to look for, size, color, how common, notes and where to look. For our Central New York area there are about 29 entries, from Aragonite to Stronianite, and several listings for fossil types.

Author **Bob Lynch** is a lapidary and jeweler who has been cutting and polishing rocks and minerals since 1973. He moved from Douglas, AZ to Two Harbors, MN in 1982 and with his wife Nancy, runs Agate City Rock Shop.

Dan R. Lynch has a degree in graphic design with an emphasis on photography from the University of Minnesota, Duluth. Working with his father Bob, Dan heads up their series of rock and mineral field guides.

You can find this book through the Onondaga County Public Library system – <https://www.onlib.org>. It is 549.68 LYN, or “Local Interest” in some libraries.

Hey, Junior Rockhounds – Check this out:

GIA GemKids

<https://gemkids.gia.edu/home>

Answers to Geo Lexis

**DOLG
RIVELS
LAPLAMIUD
SMUTHIB
MUIDOHR
DUIMNI
LILMUYERB**

**GOLD
SILVER
PALLADIUM
BISMUTH
RHODIUM
INDIUM
BERYLLIUM**

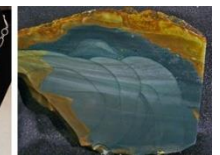
Sources:

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/what-makes-something-treasure-uk-government-proposes-new-standard-180976457/>
By Nora McGreevy
SMITHSONIANMAG.COM
DECEMBER 7, 2020

<https://www.geologypage.com/>

Introducing Our New Website!

www.syracusegemsociety.com



[Home](#) [Members](#) [Events](#) [Gem Show](#) [Library/Newsletters](#) [Links](#) [Mineralogy/Paleontology](#)
[Junior Rockhounds](#) [Beading](#) [Lapidary](#)

Our Website is under construction! Please check back as more features come online!

Clubhouse Location:

Ponderosa Plaza
209 Oswego Street
Liverpool, New York

Become a Member ([PDF File](#))
Read the December edition of the Crack N Cab newsletter! ([PDF file](#))

Website designed by Dana Schwartz of World Of DanaDesign. All copyright reserved by GMSS Syracuse.

New York Mineral of the Month



Almandine garnets in matrix

We start this new feature with the state gemstone, garnet. It is also the birthstone for January, but that's another series.

Barton Mines in the Adirondack Mountains of New York is the world's largest garnet mine, mining mostly industrial abrasive grade garnet (used for polishing glass and metal), but gemstone quality garnet is found occasionally. The Gore Mountain garnet deposit, near North River, is recognized as a world-famous geologic site.

In 1969 New York State Governor Nelson Rockefeller made the Barton garnet the state gemstone.

The garnets are very hard (hardness of 6.5 – 7.5), ball-like crystals embedded in igneous granite or metamorphic schist, usually smaller than an inch. The almandine variety (which is the state mineral of Connecticut) is very common and grows in mica schists and are the type found in the Adirondacks. Their color is dark red to reddish brown.

The gemstone can be used in all types of jewelry, including rings, earrings and pendants. It can be polished into cabochons and beads for necklaces and bracelets.



New York garnet, precision cut

And, In The News...

Reawakened Yellowstone geyser won't predict the volcanic 'big one'

By James Rogers, Fox News January 6, 2021 | 3:00pm | Updated

The famous [Steamboat geyser](#) in Yellowstone National Park won't foretell a major volcanic eruption, according to scientists.

Steamboat, which is the world's tallest active geyser, reawakened with prolific eruptions in 2018 after 34 years of sporadic activity. The geyser erupted on March 15, 2018, after 3.5 years of inactivity. Steamboat's return to activity sparked speculation that it could indicate future volcanic eruptions in the surrounding geyser basin, according to UC Berkeley's [website](#).

New research, published in the [Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences](#), suggests this is not the case. Scientists have found few indications of the movement of magma or molten rock, that would be necessary for an eruption, according to UC Berkeley. "We don't find any evidence that there is a big eruption coming. I think that is an important takeaway," said Michael Manga, a professor of earth and planetary sciences at the University of California, Berkeley and the study's senior author.

Oh, sure – just another disappointment!

LOOK: Diver finds massive shark tooth while diving on Gulf Coast

by SBG San Antonio Friday, December 18th

VENICE, Fla. ([WOAI/KABB](#)) — One Florida diver has picked up a massive find.

Michael Nastasio, who owns Black Gold Fossil Charters, says he found a shark tooth measuring nearly six inches long. Nastasio's post to Facebook says he got it last week while diving in Venice, Florida and its official measurement is just over five and 7/8 inches.



Captain Nastasio's Big Megalodon Tooth (Photo: Black Gold Fossil Charters)

Mine Waste in the Eastern Adirondacks May be Untapped, Accessible Source of Rare Earth Element Minerals

USGS, Release Date: DECEMBER 22, 2020

Waste rock from long-closed mines in the eastern Adirondack Mountains, New York, may prove valuable due to its rare earth element content, according to newly published research. The results are from [airborne](#) and [ground](#) surveys conducted by the U.S. Geological Survey and collaborators.

Rare earth elements are critical for advanced technologies such as cell phones, supermagnets, computers, medical apparatus, renewable energies and advanced defense systems. Currently, the U.S. depends heavily on imports for rare earth mineral resources.

“The possibility of accessing rare earth elements from mine waste and mill tailings is attractive partly because the minerals have already been excavated from the ground,” said USGS scientist Ryan Taylor, who led analyses of rock samples from the region. “This would reduce mining costs by making it easier to access the minerals. It also allows ‘recycling’ of discarded materials, which could help to remediate these mined areas,” he said. USGS scientists were able to detect both mineral deposits and larger mill tailings piles from airplane surveys of old iron mines that occurred in December 2015. They then analyzed samples that showed rare earth content from the deposits, waste and mill tailings.

The eastern Adirondack Mountains in upstate New York were heavily mined for iron in the 1800s and 1900s and played an important role in industrialization of the Northeast prior to and during World War II. The mining activities resulted in piles of waste rock and mill tailings (the residuals of ore processing) in various areas throughout the region.

“This inspired the USGS, New York state, and local groups to work together to analyze waste rock and tailings,” said USGS Director Dr. Jim Reilly. “We look forward to future collaborations with them and potentially other states in this emerging area of study.”

The rare earth elements are mostly contained in millimeter-size crystals known as fluorapatite that are found in deposits of iron ore. When the iron was mined, the fluorapatite was usually left behind as waste because it was considered an unwanted impurity. As the need for certain mineral resources changed with time, these waste products are now of interest. The fluorapatite has

elevated levels of heavy rare earth elements such as gadolinium, used in medical imaging; terbium, used in cell phones; and yttrium, which is used in lasers.

The amount of total rare earth elements varies from deposit to deposit, but each deposit is enriched in the heavy rare earth elements, which are far less common than the light rare earth elements. Total rare earth elements range from zero to nearly 2.2% for the waste and tailings piles and zero to nearly 4.8% for ore. Although seemingly low, these concentrations actually indicate significant potential, with the higher grades even comparable to other heavy rare earth element deposits, such as the clay deposits in South China, which are one of the primary sources for China’s rare earth elements and the primary source of the world’s heavy rare earth elements. These grades are also higher than those reported for coal fly ash, a residual of coal combustion that has also been considered a potential source of rare earth elements.

“There may be some challenges to processing the tailings for rare earth elements,” said USGS scientist and project chief Anji Shah. “While the fluorapatite contains recoverable rare earth elements, it also contains thorium, a weakly radioactive element which has economic uses but also requires careful handling.”

That thorium, however, makes mill tailings easier to locate by airplane surveys since natural, low-level radioactivity can be seen on the images, Shah explained. The airplane surveys were also helpful for detecting the iron ore bodies themselves because the iron is contained in highly magnetic crystals of magnetite. By measuring subtle variations in Earth’s magnetic field from the sky, the researchers created 3D models showing the size and shape of the deposits beneath Earth’s surface.

In addition to mine tailings in the Adirondacks, the USGS is looking into rare earth element occurrences elsewhere in the country, such as in clays in the Southeast or phosphate rocks throughout the U.S. Efforts to map rare earth-bearing formations are also ongoing at the rare earth mine in Mountain Pass, California.

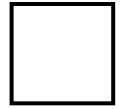


Mill tailings from mining activity at the Cheever Mine, Essex County, New York. (Credit: Anji Shah, USGS. Public domain.)



Gem and Mineral Society of Syracuse
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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 outdoors, 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.

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