

CRACK 'N CAB



Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse, PO Box 2801, Syracuse, NY
web: <https://www.gmss.club> Volume 54 Issue 1, Jan. 2024
209 Oswego St (Ponderosa Plaza), Unit 15, Liverpool, NY

Happy New Year!

What's in Store for 2024?

January 15 – Field Trip Tales

February 19 - A Treasured Trilobite

March 18 – Marie Cole Skill Center

April & May - To Be Announced (Auction?)

June 17 – Worknight for the Big Show

July 13 & 14 – The Annual Show at Fairgrounds!

August 4 – Club Picnic at Erie Canal Park

- See “Upcoming Events” on Page 5

Also in this issue:

Next GMSS Lapidary Classes begin on January 13, 10 AM!

1 Spot left – See Page 5

“A Gemstone Story to “Ring” in the New Year” – See Page 5

Wildacres, NC: May 13- 19 – See Page 7

President's Message

John Sweeney



Happy New Year's. We've already had our first board meeting and we're off to good start for the year. We'll have some club **members presenting on field trips in January** and **Lee Levesque will have signed copies of the newly published book, Herkulees Medusa & The Baby**

available. It is about his ultimate field trip experience during which he found his giant Herkimers. Lee is heading off to the Tucson show to show off his trophies with some help from the funds Tim Hart helped him raise at club events over the last few months and a couple of new GMSS T-shirts so he can represent the club and central New York as well. Good luck to you Lee.

As always, we're looking for some participants in various activities around the club. **I would like to reorganize, record and collate the specimens in the club's cases and collection** so we know what we have and where it is. We have a computer to record the data. We need to mark many of the specimens with permanent numbers, photograph them and catalogue the results so we have a proper record and manifest for a variety of reasons. Part of this idea is to make room for some new and different displays as was discussed at our most recent board meeting. **We need to finish up a UV display and get it up and running** and possibly reorganize the whole case layout in the meeting room and create some swing space to rotate club member displays in and out. By the way **we are also looking for club members to display their materials in these temporary spaces.** I guarantee you will learn a lot about the rocks and collecting if you participate. Right now, I'm looking for a few afternoon/evenings a month, possibly weekend days here and there.

What are YOU doing? Those **knowledge corners** we do in the beginning of the meeting are for everyone. The idea is to share what you are doing. You don't have to be an expert. If you are a beginner wire wrapper, bring in a few pieces show us the tools and maybe the books you are reading. YOU might turn someone on to something new or you may get some suggestions. If

you've got some new technology UV lights or a magnifier, tell us about them. If you like to collect fossils in Tully, bring a few in and tell us about it. If you're a beader, show us your stuff. The idea here is to share. Don't be shy. There are a lot of activities floating around under this GMSS umbrella and as fellow club members we should be sharing our interests. We'll have some sign-up sheets around to reserve a spot. Yes, your president is infected with the New Year's bug. All things are possible!

For those of you looking for a more formal learning experience **The Eastern Federation's Wild Acres program** registration is now open for a spring session in May. They offer multi day classes at a retreat in North Carolina. Classes in Beading, Chain mail making, Faceting, Silversmithing and other subjects are offered. Room and board are provided as part of the tuition.

See you at the meeting.

John Sweeney, President

Executive Board Meeting January 2, 2024 Minutes

Called to Order at 7PM by John Sweeney

President: (John Sweeney)

Diamond Dan publications: still working on it.

Advertising in Newsletter as a revenue source? Committee will meet to review possibility and price, etc. Amanda Lytle, Cheryl Brown and John Sweeney. Will discuss with Eastern.

Secretary Report: (Teresa Arnold)

Accept Minutes (December 2023): Motion to accept by Cheryl Brown. second Steve S. / accepted unanimously.

Treasurer Report: (Linda Sweeney)

In December, we took in \$6923.06, and we spent \$2246.91. Money is starting to come in from vendors for the 2024 Show.

VP report: (Cathy not here / John reported)

January meeting will feature members telling about field trips they went on in 2023; Knowledge Corner (Dave Millis)

February meeting will feature Dave Arcaro discussing trilobites (specifically *Dipleuria deokayi*)

Web Mistress (Amanda Lytle)

Will post club activities with photos, looking into adding video. Will overhaul things on study page.

Facebook (Judy Cook)

Will add links and videos (Judy states that photos get more attention than videos to the casual reader).

Membership (Cheryl Brown)

New rates posted / we currently have 149 members.

Jr. Rockhounds (Rick Moore / not present)

Looking for ways to boost the program.

Hospitality: Members slated to bring refreshments to the November will bring to January meeting instead Jeremy Roland, Deb Killian, Bill Verge and Chris Lane. Cathy P. will contact them to remind.

Lapidary Committee (Steve Shorey)

Classes going well, have 1 spot open for upcoming class. Everyone enjoys the classes / so far, 39 have taken them. Looking into adding additional classes IE: metal piercing? Soapstone carving? Amber polishing?

Show (Cheryl Brown)

John and Cheryl are meeting with Kris B. to look at the firehouse in Lakeland for a potential winter show. Show meetings begin in January (last Tues of the month – 1/30/24)
Wildacres registration has started.

Newsletter Editor (Larry Petry) Articles due Wed. at 11PM

Building Use – (John Sweeney)

We need to collate, catalog, and decide how to use the collections we have. We have more than we can conceivably use and will sell some, store some and use some for door prizes and auction items. We need to get the clubhouse cleaned out and more organized, including the display cases and the layout of the meeting room. Dave Arcaro had ideas for display cases. We will look into some rotating collections for display cases: IE: member interests – fossils, lapidary, jewelry making, gemstones, soapstone carving, kid's collections, fluorescents, etc.

Meeting adjourned at 9PM

Respectfully submitted,
Teresa Arnold / Secretary

A Gemstone Story to “Ring” in the New Year

By Shannon Phillips

I had never seen the ring until Granny gave it to me. She was in her early 70s and quite healthy, but, she said, she wanted to pass on her jewelry to her grandchildren while she was still alive and well so she could see us enjoying it. Because we share a birth month, November, I got Granny's birthstone ring. Every November, I wear it every day to celebrate our special relationship. One Thanksgiving, I asked Granny where she got the ring she had given to me. She blushed about eight shades of pink and revealed that it had been a gift from the young man who was courting her before she met my grandfather, who she married in 1949.



Granny died last September at the age of 98. Her heart gave out just two days after I'd spent an afternoon laughing with her, joking about the cat that had wandered into my house because I'd left the back door open. On November 1, putting on the ring felt especially important. I decided to walk down Main Street in Cortland on my lunch break to have it cleaned by the local jeweler; it had been a while, and the golden stone just didn't sparkle as I knew it could.

A couple of times over the years, I've asked jewelers (okay, mall jewelers) if they could tell if the stone was topaz or citrine and the answer was always no, not without extensive testing. I never questioned that it was one of the two, because, after all, it was a birthstone ring. The stone had always been a little perplexing. I knew it was very unlikely that it was topaz; it was much too dark. However, it also lacked the washed-out color often found in heat-treated amethyst.

Robinson Family Jewelers was very quiet shortly after noon on a Wednesday when I took the ring in. Before cleaning my ring, Amanda, the owner's daughter, removed a diamond ring from the ultrasonic cleaner. Her father mentioned it was an old mine cut and I asked if I could see it while I waited, noting that I'm interested in all kinds of gems. Amanda, a trained geologist who left field work to go into business with her father, eagerly pulled out trays of loose stones and we talked about the collection of unique gems they had, including some tsavorite garnets and a trapiche sapphire. She also showed me a garnet and a pink tourmaline she'd collected on a trip to California. I thoroughly enjoyed our conversation. As I'm sure anyone reading this knows, it's not often you encounter another mineral enthusiast in the wild. When Amanda removed my ring from the cleaner, I shared my curiosity about the color of the stone. She suggested we test it and pulled out a small machine, touching the stone with a probe. She looked puzzled and tested it again, this time calling her father, Jerry, from the back room. She showed him the ring and told him it was testing harder than citrine or topaz. He took a look at it and said, "that's because you have an

orange sapphire there." I was shocked. My skepticism about the color finally made sense. I'm well aware that color is not a reliable means of identification, but as soon as he said it, the gem looked just like an orange sapphire. I felt like I was on *Antiques Roadshow* and had been told that a nice family heirloom was much nicer than I could have imagined.

The mystery was solved but left me with more questions. Questions that I will never have the chance to ask my Granny. Did Granny truly believe that the ring was a November birthstone? Did the mysterious beau know that it was sapphire? Surely sapphire must have been a more expensive stone than citrine in the 1940s, as it is today. Could the ring have been an engagement ring? Is it even a natural sapphire or is it synthetic? There are no markings on the ring, likely the result of resizing, but it does test as 14k gold.

I will never know more about the ring's provenance than I do now, which is perplexing, but unalterable. I will remember, however, as all of us should while identifying gemstones and minerals, that we should not allow what we *think* we know to prevent us from keeping an open mind to discover the facts.

I will forever be grateful that my Granny, Alice Rowe, had the foresight to share her treasures while she had many years left to see us enjoy them. I will wear our 'birthstone' each November and imagine her delight at the surprise that it isn't our birthstone at all.



Check out our almost-still brand-new web address:

WWW.GMSS.CLUB



Easy to Remember!



Easy to Tell Your Friends!

(GMSS = *Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse*)

Lots of cool, up-to-date information!

Geo Lexis (Puzzle) By Anne Fitzgerald

"Little Mistakes"

Every year "making less (should be "fewer" – Ed.) mistakes" is a candidate for my New Year's Resolution.

We tend to think of all mistakes as bad. Our brains get all crazy when we make them, and some are so bad that lives can be ruined. Some can cause great confusion or disappointment (like finding "gold" that turns out to be iron pyrite.) But what if, instead of lumping mistakes all into one bad category, we could categorize our mistakes, and make things a little easier on ourselves? So here are some proposed categories from my life experience:

Critical Errors (Life or Death Mistakes)

Don't do these. They can ruin lives.

Socially Critical Errors (Terribly Embarrassing Mistakes) Don't do these. They can ruin lives.

Educational Errors - Otherwise known as Evolution (Mistakes that make us learn our lesson and do something differently.) Proceed with caution.

Eureka Errors (Mistakes with unexpected but beneficial results) Proceed at full power.

Here are two examples of Eureka Errors, and you'll need to guess the rest.

First there is the tea bag. The story goes that a tea merchant used silk packages to keep parcels of tea separated. He did not include directions, so people thought all they needed to do was add boiling water to the packages. I'm not sure the silk infusion was healthy, but the packaging worked. Tea also was supposedly invented by accident when a tree leaf fell into boiling water. There was no steep learning curve there. (Just drink it!)

The microwave was invented when an engineer had a chocolate bar in his pocket while working with a magnetron. The mystery of why a brilliant scientist would keep chocolate in his pocket has never been solved.

See if you can guess the inventions that came about via these accidents. Educational Errors are acceptable! My New Year's Resolution is now established. I hereby vow to make more mistakes.

The Accident:

Moldy fungus.

No luck in trying to invent a non-toxic stain remover for walls.

Burned wine.

Forgetting to wash one's hands after a chemistry experiment. (This could have been a critical error but lead to one sweet invention.)

The answers are on Page 6 of this newsletter.

Upcoming Events

JAN. 15 – GMSS meeting – 7:30 pm at the Clubhouse. **“Field Collecting”** will be presented by our very own Field Collectors! **Jeremy Wrolstad, Tim Hart, Dave Millis**, and others will tell us how their collecting trips went. They'll bring some of what they found, tell us what they learned about the site, what they had to watch out for, and give us ideas about planning similar trips ourselves. Come with questions to ask them that night. There will also be a short business meeting prior to their short 45-minute talk and **refreshments** will be available after (provided by Jeremy Roland, Deb Killian, Bill Verge and Chris Lane).

JAN. 30, 2024 – 1st Show Committee meeting – 7 pm at the Clubhouse. All are invited.

FEB. 6, 2024 – GMSS Board meeting – 7 pm at the Clubhouse. All are invited.

FEB. 19 – GMSS meeting – 7:30 pm at the Clubhouse. **“Dipleura dekayi – A CNY Classic”** Dave Arcaro will talk about a treasured trilobite - its characteristics, commonality and the journey in finding them.



Devonian Trilobite *Dipleura dekayi*, from The Museum of the Earth, Ithaca, NY.

FEB. 27, 2024 – Show Committee meeting – 7 pm at the Clubhouse. All are invited.

MAR. 5, 2024 – GMSS Board meeting – 7 pm at the Clubhouse. All are invited.

MAR. 18 – GMSS meeting – 7:30 pm at the Clubhouse. **“Marie Cole Skill Center”** Students/Teachers Show and Tell.

MAR. 26, 2024 – Show Committee meeting – 7 pm at the Clubhouse. All are invited.

Next GMSS Lapidary Classes begin on January 13, 10 AM!

1 opening left!

Any Member or Non-Member interested in taking the three-week beginning Lapidary class please contact Bill Vergé at: b.verge@comcast.net

or text 617-872-4528 for more information.

This is the class you need if you would like to use any of the Club's Lapidary equipment in the Marie Cole Lab.

Bill Vergé

Upcoming Winter Shows:

Jan. 24- Feb. 4—TUCSON, AZ: Annual show; JOGS Tucson Gem & Jewelry Show; Tucson Expo Center, 750 E Irvington Rd ; daily 10-5, Sun. 10-4; Registered Buyers: FREE - General Admission: \$20 - Proof of Military: FREE - Children: No Children Under 14; The show features a wide variety of products from a diverse group of vendors, including jewelry designers, manufacturers, miners, wholesalers, & jewelry liquidators from countries such as the US, Europe, Africa, India, Thailand, Mexico, Canada, Germany, Nepal, Poland, Russia, & more; contact Yelena Masenko, (213) 629-3030; Email: advertising@jogsshow.com; Website: www.jogsshow.com

Jan. 27- Feb.10—TUCSON, AZ: Wholesale & retail show; Adam Aaronson; Mineral & Fossil Marketplace, 1333 N Oracle Rd; daily 10-6; Free; Get up close to gigantic sea monsters & full-size dinosaur skeletons! The Mineral & Fossil Marketplace is growing. New container lot, large tent, & remodeled gallery host international fine minerals & one of the best fossil exhibitions in Tucson. Come find meteorites, monster crystals; contact Adam Aaronson, (520) 245-3052; Email: mineralfossilmarketplace@gmail.com; Website: www.mfmshow.com

Answers to Geo Lexis

The Accident

Moldy fungus

No luck in trying to invent a non-toxic stain remover for walls.

Burned wine

Forgetting to wash one's hands after a chemistry experiment.

The Invention

Penicillin

Play-doh

Brandy

Saccharin

Sources and further reading:

Top Ten Great Accidental Discoveries, Authors: Vanessa Allnutt, Véronique Chagnon, Catherine Genest, Verena Hütter, Translation: From French by Nadia Hassani <https://www.goethe.de/prj/mis/en/mit/tte.html>, August 2020 <https://www.rd.com/list/10-accidental-discoveries-put-to-good-use/January 6, 2001>

And, In Other News

'Giant' predator worms more than half a billion years old discovered in North Greenland

by [University of Bristol](#) JANUARY 3, 2024

Fossils of a new group of animal predators have been located in the Early Cambrian Sirius Passet fossil locality in North Greenland. These large worms may be some of the earliest carnivorous animals to have colonized the water column more than 518 million years ago, revealing a past dynasty of predators that scientists didn't know existed.

The new fossil animals have been named Timorebestia, meaning 'terror beasts' in Latin. Adorned with fins down the sides of their body, a distinct head with long antennae, massive jaw structures inside their mouth, and growing to more than 30cm in length, these were some of the largest swimming animals in the Early Cambrian times.

"We have previously known that primitive arthropods were the dominant predators during the Cambrian, such as the bizarre-looking anomalocaridids," said Dr. Jakob Vinther from the University of Bristol's Schools of Earth Sciences and Biological Sciences, a senior author on the study. "However, Timorebestia is a distant, but close, relative of living arrow worms, or chaetognaths. These are much smaller ocean predators today that feed on tiny zooplankton."

<https://phys.org/news/2024-01-giant-predator-worms-billion-years.html>

1.7 magnitude earthquake in New York City sparks small explosions

Published: Jan. 03, 2024, 6:04 a.m.

By [The Associated Press](#)

NEW YORK (AP) — A 1.7 magnitude earthquake that hit New York City early Tuesday may have caused a series of

small explosions on an island between Manhattan and Queens, officials said.

The U.S. Geological Survey reported that the quake occurred at 5:45 a.m. near the Astoria section of Queens. There were no reports of injuries or structural damage and no impacts to transit, traffic or utility services, New York City Office of Emergency Management spokesperson Aries Dela Cruz said.

Some residents of Manhattan and Queens reported what sounded like small explosions shortly before 6 a.m. coming from Roosevelt Island, a 2-mile (3.2-kilometer)-long strip of land in the East River between the two boroughs.

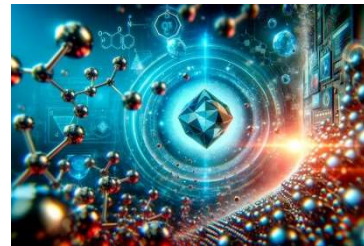
Allan Drury, a spokesperson for Consolidated Edison, said officials at the utility suspect that the quake caused the explosions, since they happened around the same time.

The New York City earthquake happened a few hours after a [2.3 magnitude quake](#) was reported in the Maryland suburbs of Washington, D.C. No injuries or damage were reported following the earlier quake either.

<https://www.syracuse.com/state/2024/01/17-magnitude-earthquake-in-new-york-city-sparks-small-explosions.html>

Puzzle Solved: New Near Unbreakable Material Rivals Diamond in Hardness

By UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH DECEMBER 24, 2023



Scientists have discovered a new class of materials, carbon nitrides, which could rival diamonds in hardness. This discovery, the result of international collaboration and decades of research, opens up

possibilities for various industrial applications due to their durability and other properties like photoluminescence and high energy density. Funded by international grants and published in *Advanced Materials*, this breakthrough marks a significant advancement in material science.

Researchers found that when carbon and nitrogen precursors were subjected to extreme heat and pressure, the resulting materials – known as carbon nitrides – were tougher than cubic boron nitride, the second hardest material after diamond.

The breakthrough opens doors for multifunctional materials to be used for industrial purposes including protective coatings for cars and spaceships, high-endurance cutting tools, solar panels, and photodetectors, experts say.

<https://scitechdaily.com/puzzle-solved-new-near-unbreakable-material-rivals-diamond-in-hardness/>

WILDACRES

MAY 13-19, 2024

Wildacres is located in a beautiful and peaceful setting on top of a mountain. Its location makes it the perfect place to unwind while learning a new, refreshing an old, or updating a skill. New participants are welcomed with open arms as well as those returning. Lifetime friendships and even marriages have been forged due to participation in Wildacres. You may arrive as a stranger, but you go home with new friends. While at Wildacres, you are exposed to the beauty of the setting, with new ideas, expert teachers and talks by a well-known speaker-in-resident.



WILDACRES – May13-19

Mark your calendar for the 2024 session at Wildacres May 13-19 for your first or another great experience on top of the mountain. Final plans are in the works and will be printed in the *EFMLS News* and updated on the website when finalized. In the meantime, you may want to plan ahead and reserve the dates on your calendar. To date, classes in Intarsia, Beading and Wire Working have been confirmed. Other class offerings are in the process of being finalized.

The Speaker-in-Residence will be Mike Colella who will be accompanied by his wife, Sue. Mike is a man of many talents and has been a professional photographer for decades and speaking on his photography and many hobbies:

- Sands of the World, discussing his collecting from around the world and will show some of the more exotic samples of his collection.
- Suiseki, the ancient art of viewing stones, its history, collecting, and how he takes stones from collection to final display. Slides and live examples will be presented.
- Wood Art, how he creates it.
- Being a Professional Photographer, from photographing gems and minerals to wines of Europe and travels to Alaska.

Our own **Cheryl Brown** will be leading a class on Beading. You will make bracelet with different size beads, and a pair of earrings to match.

For more information on Wildacres, go to:
www.efmls.org, and read the Jan. newsletter.



Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse
PO Box 2801
Syracuse, NY 13220
First Class Mail
 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.

2023 – 2024 GMSS Officers/Contacts

-President: John Sweeney pres@gmss.club

-Vice-President: Cathy Patterson vp@gmss.club

-Treasurer: Linda Clark treasurer@gmss.club

-Secretary: Teresa Arnold
secretary@gmss.club

-Jr Rockhounds: Rick Moore kidsrock@gmss.club

-Membership Chair: members@gmss.club

-Sgt at Arms: Matt Klinger sgtatarms@gmss.club

-GemWorld Show Chair: Cheryl Brown 315-708-9122
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