

CRACK 'N CAB



Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse, PO Box 2801, Syracuse, NY
web <http://www.gmss.us> Volume 50 Issue 7, July 2020
209 Oswego St (Ponderosa Plaza), Unit 15, Liverpool, NY

Yes, Rockhounds, There Will Be a July Meeting!



From homedecorgayam005.blogspot.com

Oh,
So
Sorry...



From spvridoulatuitgard.ohabeh.com

Our Featured Guest Will Be...
See Page 2 for more info!

Also, Featured Facebook Pages
See Pages 6 and 7



Soft Serve Truck

President's Message

Cheryl Brown



We are FINALLY going to meet together! **Our July 20th meeting will be held outside at 7:00 pm at the clubhouse in the parking lot.** We will

have a **Skippy's ice cream truck** (club treat) providing soft serve. Toppings will be served by designated club members. **Masks are mandatory.** *Bring your rocks for a tailgate rock swap.* We won't have a speaker and the Junior Rockhounds won't have a formal meeting, but we can certainly do a lot of socially distanced visiting.

The **one piece of business** that needs to be conducted **is our annual election**, which usually takes place in June.

The slate of candidates is:

President: Dick Lyons
 Vice President: Kris Boronczyk
 Secretary: Cathy Patterson
 Treasurer: Mary Davis
 Sergeant at Arms: John Sweeney

Our board talked about a number of different options for moving forward at our July meeting. **The August picnic will likely need to be quite different.** The Camillus Erie Canal Park may not be available because of the COVID restrictions and there was concern expressed about having homemade food. We talked about having a catered event or bringing in food trucks. As a result, **it may get moved to the September meeting night.** A survey will be going out soon so we can get your feedback. It is very important, so please watch your email for it.

On a happy note, **Len and Susan Sharp** have donated a number of rock related books and are planning to donate some fluorescent and radiologic rocks to the club. Thank you so much for your donations. Susan will also be our speaker in October where she will describe the rocks they are donating. They will have additional fossils, rocks and books for sale, too.

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.

GMSs Board Meeting Minutes July 7, 2020

GMSS Clubhouse 7:00 PM

13 Board and other members were present with one joining in on speaker phone as ZOOM was not working.

July GMSS Social July 20 7:00 PM

A Skippy ice cream truck has been secured. We would need 50 guests to attend for it to be cost effective so an email blast will go out as a reminder and we ask everyone to contact a club officer to let us know if you will be coming. **This will be FREE to club members!** We would need 6 servers to dispense toppings to avoid crowding.

There will be NO SUMMER, August PICNIC this year.

September 21, 2020 Meeting 7:00 PM

A food truck could be hired for all to buy their own picnic food items in lieu of the August picnic. We will NOT be bringing in any home prepared food items. Eating outdoors at sanitized club tables, weather providing, will be the protocol for this meeting. There would be NO indoor meeting, as such, due to space constraints for social distancing. We could tailgate rock swap/sell in the parking lot, there could be raffle tickets to buy for select mineral specimens. Also, a silent auction might be possible. We all want to get reconnected to rock collecting and being with each other but... there's that pesky pandemic! Look for an email blast as a reminder and call, text, email ahead to let Board members know you will be coming.

October 19, 2020 Meeting 7:00 PM

Len and Susan Sharp have donated books and would like to donate fluorescent/radioactive mineral specimens to the club. Susan Sharp has volunteered to be the speaker at the October 19th meeting at the clubhouse. **The club auction traditionally scheduled for October will be put off until the spring of 2021.**

(Report continues on Page 3)

GMSS Clubhouse

We will continue to rent the same space where we are for another 3 years.

EFMLS Convention Show

Our hosting the 2021 EFMLS show and convention is still on at this date.

Christmas Brunch and Club Party

We are looking into the possibility of having our annual party in early December. Location, price, and date all are in the works. Look for more details later.

Club Board Officers

This slate will be voted on at the July 20 meeting.

- *President – Dick Lyons*
- *Vice President – Kris Boronczyk*
- *Treasurer – Mary Davis*
- *Sergeant-at-Arms – John Sweeney*
- *Secretary – Cathy Patterson*

Treasurer's Report

We have lost our 2020 show income but are still solvent. Bills have been paid and checks have been returned to our dealers when this year's show was canceled.

Lapidary Committee

Steve Shorey has just reopened the workshop for those wishing to use the machines (\$5 for use and previous training on their use required) as well as anyone who wishes to bead, use the library or work on other lapidary projects. The clubhouse is open Wednesdays 1:00 – 4:00. Thank you, Steve!

The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Patterson GMSS Secretary

A Thank You to President Cheryl Brown

In mid-June, the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical & Lapidary Societies (EFMLS) held its first virtual (Zoom) Board of Directors Meeting. The goal of this gathering was for Presidents of our Mineral Societies to share with one another- some of what they have

experienced in their organizations during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Dealing with cancelled/postponed shows and not having monthly meetings were the main topics of discussion.

Over 20 local Mineral Society Presidents in the eastern U.S. attended this round table discussion along with other Federation personnel from around the country. Most local Society Presidents were surprised to learn before the meeting that they are a Director (President Director) of the EFMLS Board of Directors. From the beginning when the Eastern Federation was formed 70 years ago, the local Presidents had always been an integral part of the organization. However, it took a pandemic in which time afforded the discovery from Federation archives, to realize that we could have already had a closer relationship by utilizing virtual/online platforms.

I am grateful that we had all of these Presidents wanting to take part in their Federation for the first time in, well, a very long time. This was your President, Cheryl Brown, who shared and gave feedback on what we've all been enduring over the past few months. This was the primary purpose of this informal gathering. As you would imagine, most other Societies are feeling and going through similar situations. Thanks again, Cheryl!



Respectfully,
David Nock
President@efmls.org
EFMLS.org

Geo Lexis (Puzzle) By Anne Fitzgerald

“From No-Show to Yes-Show”

I find it interesting that “No-Show” and “No-Go” are both words. “No-Go” is actually slang, but close enough to make it to the dictionary. However, Yes-Show and Yes-Go are not words...yet. But hey, if we use them enough, they may make it to the dictionary one day. While we have no show this year, we can take this time to reflect, plan ahead, and think positive.

Many club members help every year, and they deserve some rest. So, for everyone who has helped in the past, think of this time off as a reward for your hard work.

Any new members or those who haven't been able to help in the past, perhaps next year will be your time to shine. People who like to educate might find their place in the youth area. Designers and crafters might want to think about arranging or contributing to a display. If you are more interested in fields like law enforcement, you could volunteer for security duty. If you like to give out information, you could help at the club booth.

Unscramble the following for ideas on how you can be a part of what geologists like to call: The Greatest Show “On Earth.”

The solution is on Page 6 of this newsletter.

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upset

natiocdue

Upcoming Events

July 20 – GMSS Outside Ice Cream Social & Annual Election (See pages 2 and 3)

July 25 – 26 Quartz Fest 2020 hosted by the Finger Lakes Gem, Mineral & Fossil Club at the Greater Canandaigua Civic Center, 250 W. Bloomfield Rd. Sat. 10 – 6, Sun. 10 – 4. Adults \$5, kids under 12 and Scouts in uniform free with adult. (*Masks required inside the Civic Center*)

For more info- FLGMFC@icloud.com

July 25 – 26 Annual Show of the Orange County Mineral Society at Museum Village, Monroe, NY. Sat & Sun 10 – 4, outdoors rain or shine. Adults \$5, Seniors \$3, scouts in uniform & kids under 12 Free. ocmsny.org

August 17 – No Club Picnic, sort of, maybe see Page 2 and September 21 information.

September 21 – GMSS Club Meeting, of some sort – see Page 2 for information.

Stay tuned for further developments

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.

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.



Oval facet ruby (AfricaGems)



N.C. ruby crystals © www.johnbetts-fineminerals.com

July: Ruby

“Good advice is rarer than rubies.” - Salman Rushdie

“Aren’t you forgetting the ruby slippers?” - Glinda, the Good Witch of the North, “The Wizard of Oz” movie

Yes, rubies are rare – more difficult to find than diamonds or emeralds. And, the ancient Hindus believed that rubies were a sign of protection from evil and rubbing them on the skin improved physical and mental health, improving blood circulation. Others claim they bring good luck.

In ancient India, the Sanskrit word for ruby was *ratnaraj* which loosely translates to “king of the gemstones” because of its rarity, its hardness (second to the diamond), beauty and supposed mystical powers. It symbolizes love, passion, energy and success. Burmese warriors believed they made them invincible in battle. Noblemen in India and China adorned their armor and scabbards with them. Medieval Europeans thought rubies bestowed wisdom, health, wealth and success in love.

The word “ruby” is derived from the Latin word *ruber* meaning “red” (how clever!). Long association with the blood life force, in Indian jewelry ruby was a symbol of power and youthful energy.

Ruby is the red variety of the mineral corundum (aluminum oxide), the color coming from traces of the metal chromium. Corundum grows in aluminum-rich, silica-poor pegmatites and forms in igneous and metamorphic rocks. It is in the Oxides Group, with a hardness of 9.0 on the Mohs Scale. Ruby crystals tend to be tabular to prismatic. It is a tough and durable gem, but can be subject to chipping and fracturing, so care is needed to handle it properly.

One of the oldest sources of valuable rubies is Myanmar (formerly Burma), going back more than 500 years. The mines in the Mogok Valley region have rubies that have an exceptional color and a glowing fluorescence. Another significant source is in the Mong Hsu area of Myanmar.

Other long-standing locations include deposits along the border between Thailand and Cambodia, Afghanistan, Australia, Brazil, Colombia, India, Japan, Pakistan, Sri Lanka,

More modern sources of the gem include Vietnam, Mozambique and Madagascar.

And, of course, here in the United States, one of the closer places that is famous for gem mining, and where you can find rubies is in North Carolina. There are a number of dig-it-yourself mines, several in the Franklin, NC area, which makes the modest claim of being the “Gem Capital of the World.”

Ruby is a very popular gemstone, used extensively in all forms of jewelry. They can be faceted and set in fine jewelry, they can be polished and tumbled for use in crafts and handmade items, or they can be cut by lapidary experts into cabochons.

Answers to Geo Lexis

nestopoas	soapstone
saidply	display
thobo	booth
hyout	youth
riscytue	security
upset	setup
naticocdue	education

Sources: dictionary.com,
 Many friendly reminders from hardworking club members over the years.

“As Seen on Facebook”

If you're bored and have time on your hands, the following are some great Facebook pages to check out, and maybe join!

Let's start out with an easy one:

Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse



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.

And this one is from our friends down the road in Wayne County:

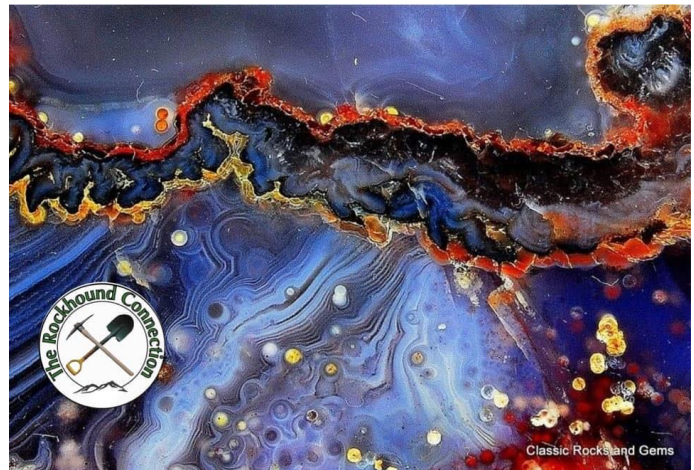
Wayne County Gem and Mineral Club



A group of active field collectors in western New York (minerals and fossils) who enjoy getting together to share their interest. Group meetings second Friday of the month in Newark, NY, one Saturday a month at a club workshop, and as often as possible in the field.

www.wcgm.org

The Rockhound Connection



A place for Rockhounds to connect and share everything from information and pics to locations to dig and hook up for trips. We have a Saturday Market here where you can post items for sale and links to albums on your page to more. The Saturday market is like a rock show where you can buy/sale/trade on-line. Please post all "For Sale" posts on Saturday only. See ya at the market or out in the field. Till then think of pretty rocks and smile 😊

I started this group as a fun place for Rockhounds to meet and Connect for information, trips, and sharing pictures of our finds. I have always found that Rockhounds as a group are some of the nicest people out there, who love to share the passion they have for the hobby. Rockhounding is a many faceted wonderful hobby with many ways to have fun (there's that word again) from simply being out there and finding pretty rocks to carving to faceting and knapping. All I ask of members here is to be nice to one another and please save "For Sale" ads for The Saturday Market, which I envisioned as an online rock and gem show every weekend. So have fun and think of pretty rocks and smile.

Amateur Geology and Rock Collecting



This group is for all people interested in rocks, crystals and minerals. It's a place to show off your collections and to help in identification.

Fluorescent Minerals



We invite you to join the FMS and learn more about the fascinating world of fluorescence. Fluorescent Mineral Society members receive numerous publications, participate in forum discussions, and have access to a repository of special interest to the serious fluorescent mineral collector.

Your FMS membership includes:

- Bi-monthly issues of the UV Waves Newsletter
- Access to expanded member discussion forums
- Annual or biennial issues of the Journal of the FMS

- Online access to an archive of UV Waves Newsletters and past email discussions
<https://www.uvminerals.org>

Paleo Joe



PaleoJoe has spent a lifetime collecting fossils. He has developed three traveling museum exhibits highlighting fossil of our ancient past. As a children's book author, he has visited hundreds of schools, rock clubs, churches and public libraries speaking about fossil and our ancient paleontological history...as well as dinosaurs. He continues his digs and often leads the public on fossil digs. His desire to educate, inform and entertain resulted in being awarded the Katherine Palmer Award in paleontology from the Paleontological Research Institute in New York.

Finger Lakes Gem, Mineral & Fossil Club



The Club was established in 1999 and is the only club in Canandaigua and Ontario County, NY. The club promotes interest in field collecting, preservation and study of minerals and fossils and to promote interest in the lapidary arts.

In The News...

With 2 Rocks, Small-Scale Miner Strikes It Rich Saniniu Laizer earns \$3.4M from sale of 2 largest known tanzanite gems

By [Arden Dier](#), Newser Staff

Posted Jun 25, 2020 10:05 AM CDT

Updated Jun 28, 2020 10:09 AM CDT



Saniniu Laizer holds the tanzanite gemstones he mined last week. Thought to be the largest ever found, they've just sold for \$3.4 million. (Tanzania Ministry of Minerals)

(NEWSER) – A miner in Tanzania has become an overnight millionaire with the discovery and sale of the two largest known tanzanite gemstones ever found. Until last week, the largest known chunk of tanzanite—one of the world's rarest gemstones, believed to be found only in a small northern region of the East African nation—weighed 7.2 pounds. Then Saniniu Laizer, a small-scale miner with a government license to prospect for the gem, pulled up two pieces weighing 20.4 pounds and 11.25 pounds, respectively, per [Al Jazeera](#). On Wednesday, Laizer, who has four wives and more than 30 children, promised "a big party" and the slaughter of a cow after selling the two multihued gemstones to the country's mining ministry for \$3.4 million, reports the [BBC](#). The 52-year-old Laizer also vowed to invest in his own Simanjiro district in the Manyara region.

Court: Fossils Worth Millions Belong to Montana Family

By Newser Editors and Wire Services

Posted Jun 24, 2020 8:21 AM CDT

(NEWSER) – Dinosaur fossils worth millions of dollars unearthed on a Montana ranch belong to the owners of the land's surface rights, not the owners of the mineral rights, a US appeals court ruled. The June 17 ruling by the 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals upheld a 2016 decision by US District Judge Susan Watters of Billings that found dinosaur fossils were part of the surface estate, not the mineral estate, in cases of split ownership. The surface rights where the fossils were found are owned by Mary Ann and Lige Murray. "The composition of minerals found in the fossils does not make them

valuable or worthless," Watters wrote, per the [AP](#). "Instead the value turns on characteristics other than mineral composition, such as the completeness of the specimen, the species of dinosaur, and how well it is preserved."

For Sale

Bob Cotrofeld, a former club member, has moved and has the following for sale. I don't know how much is left, but contact him if you are interested in any of the following equipment or books. He has sent this to a number of clubs, so I wouldn't wait if you are interested. He can be reached at 802-375-6782

Lapidary Equipment for Sale Prices are negotiable

- Gesswein – motor & flex-shaft - \$75.00
- Dumore Hi-Speed Sensative Drill –
8226-9160 – complete unit - \$250.00
- Super Rock Clamp – Alta Industries -
\$50.00
- Stereo Microscope – MBS-9 – complete
with many sets of magnifying pieces -
\$475.00
- Magnifiers – Loupes – GemOro – 10xLED
Lightloupe - \$14.95
- Magnifiers – Loupes – Avant – 16x -
\$19.95

New Books

- The Collectors Guide to Minerals of New
York State, S. Chamberlain - \$17.50
- Collectors Guide to Herkimer Diamonds,
Michael Walter - \$17.50
- Rockhounding in New York - \$17.50
- Rockhounding in New England - \$18.50
- Field Guide to Rocks and Minerals -
\$17.50
- New York Rocks and Minerals, Don & Bob
Lynch - \$12.50
- Collector's Guide to the Black Tourmaline
of Pierrepont, NY, S. Chamberlain - \$19.95
- Rocks and Minerals - \$10.00
- Collector's Guide to Balmat Mining District,
S. Chamberlain - \$30.00
- Field Collecting Minerals in the Empire
State, Michael Walter - \$45.00
- Minerals of the Grenville Province – New
York, Ontario, and Quebec, \$30.00

The team at Rock & Gem is excited to announce the first full digital issue of *Illustrious Opals* is now available! Scroll down and click the REGISTER NOW button. You will be directed to a landing page where you enter your name & email. It takes 10 seconds. Hit submit. Within a few seconds, you will get an email where you can click the link to get your copy. You only have to do this once. From here on, you will get an email for the other 3 Free issues in the series.

You can also register directly on www.rockngem.com, however I have provided this below to make it more convenient.

Thank you and ENJOY!

Tracy Alvarez
Ad Sales Exec
Talvarez@Beckett.com
972-490-5212



Our Rock & Gem team is excited to announce the launch of the new limited-edition *Illustrious Opals* series. Think of it as a BONUS, because we love our readers, and we know you can't get enough of everything related to rocks, gems, minerals, lapidary and fossils.

Each issue of *Illustrious Opals* features unique columns, articles, and special elements. The Rock & Gem *Illustrious Opals* digital issue is available for FREE, but only for a limited time.

Click on the link below and register to receive the *Illustrious Opals* digital issue for FREE.

[Register Now](#)

In the first issue you'll find:

- Articles about cause of color in opals and carving an opal fleur-de-lis
- Columns about opal terminology and additional opal references
- Profiles of businesses serving those with an interest in opals
- Showcase of unique opal specimens

Enjoy and be well,

The Rock & Gem Team

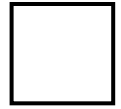
Rock & Gem Mobile App is available on [Android](#) and [iOS](#).
DOWNLOAD NOW.





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/efmls [Future Rockhounds](#)

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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 gmssrocks@gmail.com

-Vice-President:

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Linda Sweeney Clark 315-668-8470 treasurer@gmss.us

-Secretary: Cathy Patterson secretary@gmss.com

-Jr Rockhounds:

Rick Moore kidsrock@gmss.us

-Membership Chair: Donna Dow

-Sgt at Arms: Ed Suchon sgtatarms@gmss.us

-GemWorld Show Chair:

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-Club Librarian:

Steve Albro 607-756-2298 library@gmss.us

-Lapidary Committee Contact:

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-Website:

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-Facebook: Judy Cook

-Photographers Extraordinaire:

Judy Cook, Steve Albro

-Hospitality Committee Chair: Mary Davis

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