



# CRACK 'N CAB

Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse, PO Box 2801, Syracuse, NY  
web <http://www.gmss.us> Volume 49 Issue 3, March 2019  
209 Oswego St (Ponderosa Plaza), Unit 15, Liverpool, NY

## Club Group Meeting, Monday, March 18<sup>th</sup>

Rick Moore was our featured speaker at our January meeting, which was canceled due to extreme cold.

He agreed to give his talk this month instead.

The topic will be “Evolution of Dinosaurs into Birds”.

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



The Berlin specimen of *Archaeopteryx lithographica*.

**President's Message**

Cheryl Brown



Hello GMSS Rockhounds! Donna Dow has returned as our secretary. A big THANK YOU to Judy Cook who stepped in as our interim secretary!

I am in touch with Christopher Albrecht, the amber guy, to arrange a date for him to come and polish amber with us. He will bring amber from the Dominican. The price and date are not set as yet, but there will be an 'I am interested' sign-up sheet at the March meeting. Elections will be held in June. The office of secretary will be open because Donna has reached her term limit. Also, Dan, our intrepid newsletter editor, is stepping down. If you are interested in getting more involved with the inner workings of the club by taking on one of these offices, please let Keith Gilmer, head of the nominating committee, know.

**Secretary's Report**

Donna Dow

**Executive Board Meeting Minutes**

**March 5, 2019**

Changes to the club's constitution are in continued discussion.

Cheryl Brown mentioned a set of metal casting equipment being offered for sale to our club. More on this in the next newsletter.



Don't forget the auction for the April meeting. There are always great buys at this popular and well attended event. Look for details later in this month's newsletter.

Show topics included: details on the cost to run the show this year, table and curtain prices, need to contact security guards, and meeting with Dee to hash out the advertising details for this year. Show dates this year July 12, 13 and 14. Sign-up sheets for working at the show will be out at the meetings. There is a job for everyone in the club. Please sign-up for a job because we will need everyone to help this year.

WORK NIGHT for the show will be June 17th, you can look forward to an ice cream sundae put on by Linda and John Sweeney after all of the work stuffing straws.

Treasurer Linda Sweeney Clark gave a report. The storage unit that houses all of our display cases and a lot of show equipment continues to go up in cost. A new unit closer to Liverpool or the State Fairgrounds will be looked into.

Respectfully submitted,  
Donna Dow

**Geo Lexis (Puzzle)**

By Anne Fitzgerald

**Rhyming Rocks**

Can you think of a gem, mineral, or rock that rhymes with each sentence below? Answers are on another page of this newsletter.

1. This gem has a green shade:
2. This mineral can be found out west:
3. Named for a czar and green in daylight:
4. March birthstone and easy to clean:



The mastodon skeleton at the New York Museum. Six of us went to the Albany show in February and had a wonderful time.

Len Sharp gave a very interesting presentation about three cities buried by volcanoes at the February meeting.



**Upcoming Events**

**March 16 – 11 to 3 Work Day at the Clubhouse.** General cleaning and maintenance work.

**March 17 – 1:30 to 5:00 Bead Society of CNY** meeting at the clubhouse. All are welcome!

**March 18 – 6:30 Junior Rockhound Meeting**  
**7:30 General Meeting** at the clubhouse

**March 22 – 24 – Buffalo Gem and Mineral Show.** Hamburg-Erie County Fairgrounds

**April 1 – Field trip to Ace of Diamonds opening day** – weather dependent. Leave the clubhouse at 8:30. Sign-up at the March meeting.

Other field trips are being planned. If you have any suggestions, please give them to Dick Lyons.

**May 4 – Junior Rockhound Class.** Create a drilled stone pendant or learn wire-wrapping fundamentals. At the clubhouse, 10 to 1. \$15 per person.

**June 1, 2 – Wayne County Gem and Mineral Club Show.** Greater Canandaigua Civic Center

**July 13, 14 – GemWorld Show.** Center of Progress Building, NYS Fairgrounds (new venue)

**August 9 – 11 – Easy Coast Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show.** West Springfield, MA

**August 24, 25 – St. Lawrence County Rock and Mineral Show.** Canton, NY

**October 26, 27 – Rochester Gem, Mineral, Jewelry and Fossil Show and Sale.** Rochester, NY

**Marie Cole Open Workshop Times**

The workshop is open to anyone who has completed a GMSS sponsored lapidary class. The workshop usage fee is \$5.00 per person per session. Wednesday afternoons 1:00PM to 4:00PM

**Wayne County Gem & Mineral Club**  
**Gem Fest 2019**  
Sat. June 1 10-5 Sun. June 2 10-4  
Greater Canandaigua Civic Center  
250 N. Bloomfield Rd, Canandaigua  
\$3 Admission, Kids under 12 FREE  
Vendors, Exhibits, Free Prizes, Sluice  
Art Crafts, Scavenger Hunt, Demos, UVBob  
Visit [www.wcgmc.org](http://www.wcgmc.org) for details



### **Bloodstone - The other March birthstone**

Bloodstone (also known as 'heliotrope' in Greek which means "sun turning") is the original birthstone for March.

Today, bloodstone, aquamarine and jasper are all considered birthstones for March. Perhaps this is surprising since bloodstones are usually green with red flecks and far from sun-colored.

Bloodstone is a silicon dioxide and a variety of chalcedony, which is a form of cryptocrystalline quartz. It is a dark green color gemstone with red spots on it. The gemstone is technically a green jasper with presence of iron oxide giving the stone the red spots. These red spots are what gave the gem the name 'bloodstone'. The deep green color of the stone is due to the presence of masses of chlorite in the gem. Sometimes jasper with yellow or other colors are also present, but those multi-colored jaspers are usually called "fancy jasper".

Many bloodstones are also found with no red spots at all. Some of them have brown spots, while a few exhibit multicolored inclusions. Being a variety of chalcedony, it is a cryptocrystalline quartz, meaning that the individual crystals are too small and cannot be easily distinguished under a light microscope. It belongs to the trigonal crystal system. There are two types of bloodstone: heliotrope and plasma. Plasma is very deep green, opaque, with little or no red in it, and some may have yellowish spots. Heliotrope is somewhat translucent, lighter colored and has red in it.

Legend has it that bloodstone was first formed when drops of the Christ's blood-stained stone at the foot of the cross. It is for this reason that the gem is also known as the 'martyr's stone'. If we touch the stone, it feels heavy. There is often some confusion between jasper and bloodstone. Fancy jasper is sometimes called bloodstone and bloodstone is sometimes called blood jasper. Jasper and bloodstone are different though closely related stones, two of them being chalcedony forms of quartz.

### **Geo Lexis Solution:**

1. This gem has a green shade: Jade
2. This mineral can be found out west: Amethyst
3. Named for a czar and green in daylight: Alexandrite
4. March birthstone and easy to clean: Aquamarine

### **GMSS Auction Rules**

1. Only club members can sell items. Anyone can bid on auction items.
2. The auction begins at 7:30. If you are selling items, please come early to obtain the auction label forms and set your items up on the auction tables. The doors will be open by 6:30.
3. Each item must have a completed auction label. Sellers, please provide a description form for each item, which will be given to the successful bidder. (Mineral name and location collected)
4. There is an upper limit of five (5) items per seller. There is no maximum limit for the number of items donated to the club.
5. This is not a silent auction. Each bidder will be given a number on a sign to display.
6. Any material with a specified minimum bid that does not sell will be returned to the seller.
7. The club will retain 15% of the selling price. The full selling price of the donated items will be given to the club.
8. The highest bidder wins the auctioned item. Runners will deliver each item to the winning bidder and collect the payment for that item. Bidders need not leave their chairs. **BIDDERS PLEASE BRING PLENTY OF CASH.** Items selling for more than \$15.00 can be purchased by personal check. All other items will be cash only.
9. Sellers cannot bid on their own items.

## Ammolite

An organic gemstone with a spectacular flash of iridescent colors!



**Ammolite cabochons:** Three Ammolite cabochons made from material mined from the Bearpaw Formation at the Aurora Ammolite Mine in Alberta, Canada. All of these cabochons are assembled triplet stones with a transparent quartz cap. The two rectangular stones are 12 x 5 millimeters in size, and the oval-shaped stone is 10 x 8 millimeters in size.

### What is Ammolite?

Gem-quality Ammolite produces a spectacular display of iridescent color when it is observed in reflected light. The colors of an individual stone can run the full range of the visible spectrum or be limited to just one or two colors. The color display can rival fine *opal* and *labradorite* in its intensity and beauty.

Ammolite is a trade name given to a thin iridescent aragonite shell material that is found on two species of extinct ammonite fossils (*Platoniceras meeki* and *Platoniceras intercalare*). Other less-frequently used trade names for Ammolite are "Calcenite" and "Korite." It is also known simply as "ammonite shell."

Ammolite is a rare material. All of the world's commercial production comes from a small area along the St. Mary River in southwestern Alberta, Canada. There, two companies mine Ammolite from thin layers in the Bearpaw Formation where the ammonite fossils are found.



**Iridescent ammonite fossil**



### Geology of Alberta Ammonite

The story of Ammolite begins about 70 to 75 million years ago when forces within the Earth were building the Rocky Mountains in what is now northwestern North America. The area on the east side of the mountains was covered by a broad body of water known as the Western Interior Seaway. It connected what is now the Gulf of Mexico to the Arctic Ocean.

Rains falling on the eastern flank of the young Rocky Mountains washed sediments into the seaway. These sediments accumulated and eventually formed a rock unit known as the Bearpaw Formation. The Bearpaw is composed primarily of marine shale but contains some thin sandstones and layers of volcanic ash.

The Western Interior Seaway contained many forms of life, including bony fish, shellfish, sharks, sea turtles, and ammonites. Ammonites (the source organisms for Ammolite) are an extinct group of marine invertebrates that possessed a tightly coiled shell similar to the modern Nautilus. The ammonites in the seaway grew to a diameter of up to one meter - but most were about 1/4 to 1/2 that size.

When the ammonites died, their shells fell to the bottom of the seaway and were covered with sediment. Many of them served as a nucleus for the formation of siderite concretions which are now found in the Bearpaw Formation. The ammonite fossils within these concretions sometimes have an outer shell layer composed of gem-quality Ammolite.

Excerpted from an article on <https://geology.com>

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**Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse**  
**PO Box 2801**  
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 Time Dated Material



[www.amfed.org](http://www.amfed.org)   [www.amfed.org/efmls](http://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 - 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

## GMSS Officers/Contacts

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*-Hospitality Committee Chair & Members* **\*We are looking for volunteers\*** contact Donna Dow at [secretary@gmss.us](mailto:secretary@gmss.us) or Sharon Thomson to help