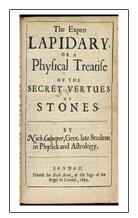
# CRACK 'N CAB

Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse, PO Box 2801, Syracuse, NY web <a href="http://www.gmss.us">http://www.gmss.us</a> Volume 50 Issue 3, March 2020 209 Oswego St (Ponderosa Plaza), Unit 15, Liverpool, NY

### March 16, 2020 Meeting

7:30 pm @ the Clubhouse

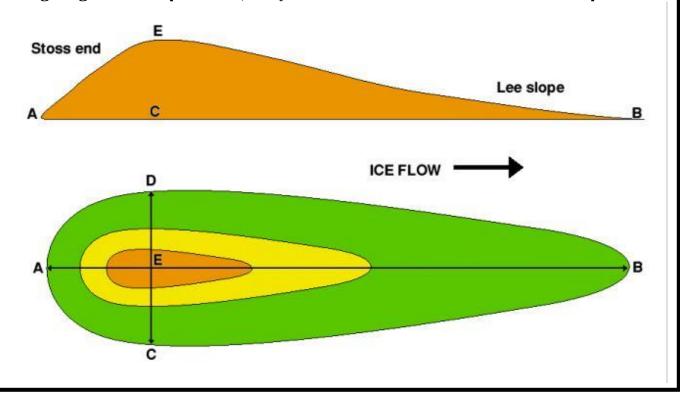


**Featured Speaker - John Sweeney** 

Presenting via video: "The Lapidary Arts"

# 6:30 pm: Junior Rockhounds Youth Meeting with Rick Moore "Glaciers, Drumlins and the Finger Lakes"

A geological time trip back 25,000 years to when ICE ruled the Northern Hemisphere



### **President's Message**

Cheryl Brown



I received an email from the Copper County Rock and Mineral club in Michigan. They are willing to swap their local copper and other minerals with clubs around

the country and asked if we would like to participate. The board thought it would be a good idea and decided to open it up to club members. So, if you have some NY state rocks you would like to donate, bring them to the March meeting. These should be specimens under a pound as we will be mailing the box to Michigan. They can be minerals or slabs. Thanks for participating.

While you are sorting through your collection, set aside all those duplicates and bring them to the **Suchon's Rock Swap** at their home in Warners on **May 30**<sup>th</sup>. It will be from 10 to 3. Bring cash and go home with those items you need to complete your collection.

Would you like to get to know everyone in the club? You can serve as the **Membership Chair**. Donna Dow has decided to step down from that position, so we will be looking for someone to take her place in September. Thank you, Donna, for your service!

The weather is starting to break which means it's time to think about field trips. The first one to take place will be to **Ace of Diamonds** on Wednesday, April 1<sup>st</sup>. There will be a sign-up sheet at the March meeting to see how many people are interested in going then. **Penn Dixie** will open on April 25<sup>th</sup>, so this will be our next trip.

### **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.

March 3, 2020 Gem and Mineral Society of Syracuse Board Meeting 7:00 PM Club House 14 members were present.

**Nominating Committee** – Four positions; Vice President, Sergeant at Arms, Treasurer and Membership Chairman, need to be filled for the 2020-2021 year. The following have expressed interest in these positions:

### Vice President – Kris Boronczyk Sergeant at Arms – John Sweeney

**Treasurer** – needed and prior experience is appreciated in keeping finances. Thank you, Linda Sweeney, for your years of service!

**Membership Chairman** – open in September 2020. Thank you, Donna Dow, for doing this job superbly! Please contact **Cheryl Brown** if you would like to be considered for any of these positions.

**Programs** – What with illness this season there have been some changes in our speaker line up. Our speaker Laurel Saiz speaking on the Split Rock Disaster in March is postponed. We will instead have a program on lapidary with **John Sweeney** speaking.

April Program – Annual Club Auction!

May Program – Rick Moore or Dave Millis will be speakers. Dave has been doing some serious collecting in the southwest and will have much to talk about. Rick is giving lectures to various groups and has an interesting book he may share. Show Committee meeting is March 24 at 7:00PM at the club house.

#### Field Trips

There are several upcoming trip opportunities! Stay tuned for updates on further details. Winter seems almost gone but you never know.....!

April 1- Ace of Diamonds opens for Herkimer diamond collecting. Cole Hill in Sangerfield is a trilobite-collecting site opening soon. We are checking into collecting at the Syracuse Sand and Gravel site. Penn Dixie in Hamburg (fossils) opens April 25. We were surprised to learn that the Penfield Quarry, a big site for collecting fluorites, may be closed to rock collecting as it was sold and is being developed.

Club Rock Sale/Swap May 30 at Joanne and Ed Suchon's home in Warners. Bring your rocks, minerals, lapidary items to swap or sell! This sale will be HUGE! Details will follow.

Michigan Rock Swap A rockhound from Michigan is looking to swap minerals/rocks from copper country. He is looking for New York specimens. More about this at the next meeting, March 20.

**Treasurer's Report** Taxes and EFMLS insurance for our club members have been paid. The monthly "kitty" passed around at

meetings to collect 25¢ from anyone not wearing their name badge and \$1.00 for anyone celebrating a birthday as well as money collected from the 25¢ and 50¢ table of mineral specimens is adding up nicely! These monies are sent to the EFMLS Scholarship Program. Thank you!

**Thursday Night Open Workshop** will be suspended for the time being. There is a Wednesday open lapidary workshop each week. The cost to use equipment is just \$5 each week. This helps defray cost of machine wear and tear. Thank you, **Steve Shorey**, for opening up and overseeing this workshop!

**Youth Group** will meet as usual 6:30 PM before the regular meeting. The topic this month is "Glaciers, Drumlins, and the Finger Lakes." Thank you, Rick Moore, for your excellent work with our youth!

Hospitality – Sharon and Bill Viel will treat us this month to their delicious home-cooked chili! Thank you! Our Hospitality Chairman Mary Davis will be asking for volunteers to bring treats to the upcoming meetings. Please get involved in your club and volunteer.

**Facebook** – Thanks go to **Judy Cook** for adding to our Facebook page regularly. You can keep abreast of what the club is up to here.

**Sunshine** – Several of our members have had "a bad day" this past month and cards were sent to them. **Len and Susan Sharp** are currently recovering from hospital stays. Get well and stay well! Collecting season is just around the corner.

Respectfully submitted, Cathy Patterson Secretary

### Geo Lexis (Puzzle) By Anne Fitzgerald

### "New Spring Things"

Spring starts us thinking of all the new things growing. It's amazing to think about all the places where things can grow. Things even grow on rocks. There is even a name for plants that grow on rocks. Plants that grow on rocks are called **Lithophytes**.

See how many scrambled **Lithophytes** you can find below. The solutions are on Page 6 of this newsletter.

chidsor

egale

nerfs

soms

nelich

### **Upcoming Events**

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

March 16 Jr Rockhounds Meeting 6:30 pm Rick Moore will speak on "Glaciers, Drumlins & the Finger Lakes."

Full Membership Meeting 7:30 pm John Sweeney will give a presentation, with video, on lapidary arts.

March 17 – St. Patrick's Day A truly "rocky" event:



Sham**Rocks** (also available in shake form).

And I'm not sure how many people will be kissing the old Blarney **Stone** this year!



March 21-22 – 52nd Annual 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. Also, 50th Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Show at Hickory NC Metro Convention Center. Friday & Saturday 9 am – 6 pm, Sunday 10 am – 5 pm. \$5 good all three days, kids 12 and under, scouts in uniform free. cvgmc.com/SpecialEvents.

March 28-29 - 51st Annual Gem & Mineral Show sponsored by the Che-Hanna Rock & Mineral Club. Wysox Volunteer Fire Co. Social Hall, 111 Lake Rd, Wysox, PA. Saturday 9 am - 5 pm, Sunday 10 am - 4 pm. Adults \$3, Students \$1, kids under 8 free. chehannarocks.com/show.

March 28-29 Western Mass. Mineral, Jewelry & Fossil Show sponsored by the Connecticut Valley Mineral Club of Springfield, MA. Hadley Farms Meeting @ Hampton Village Barn Shops, 41 Russell St (Rt 9), Hadley, MA. Saturday 9:30 am - 5 pm, Sunday 9:30 am - 4 pm. \$5 admission, kids 12 and under & scouts in uniform free. Westernmassmineralshow.com.

**April 1** – **Ace of Diamonds Opening Day** (no foolin!) 84 Herkimer St, Middleville, NY. Open 7 days a week through Oct. 31, 9 am – 5 pm. \$10 age 8 and older, \$5 ages 4-7, ages 3 and younger free. herkimerdiamonds.com

April 4-5 – 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Gem and Mineral Show by the New York Southern Tier Geology Club 2020 at the Johnson City Senior Center, 30 Brocton St., Johnson City, New York. Saturday 9 am - 5 pm, Sunday 10 am - 4 pm. Adults \$4.00, kids under 12 free with paid adult. Contact Thomas Ogden - 96 W. Main St., Bainbridge, N.Y. 13733. (607) 967-8552 stonecuttertom@yahoo.com.

**April 4-5 Annual North Jersey Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show** by the North Jersey Mineralogical Society. Midland Park High School, 250 Prospect St, Midland Park, NJ. Saturday 10 am – 5 pm, Sunday 10 am – 4 pm. Adults \$5, Seniors \$4, kids under 12 & scouts in uniform free. nojms.webs.com/annual-show.

April 4-5 2020 New Haven Mineral Club 47th Annual Show. Amity Middle School, 100 Ohman Ave, Orange Ct. Saturday 9:30 am – 5 pm, Sunday 10 am – 4:30 pm. newhavenmineralclub.org.



There's nothing fishy going on here! This beautifully beaded fish is on display at the clubhouse and is the first of many items that will be auctioned off that night. Photo by John Sweeney (our auctioneer).

### 47<sup>th</sup> Rochester Mineralogical Symposium April 23 – 26, 2020

Radisson Hotel Rochester Airport (585) 475-1910 175 Jefferson Rd, Rochester, NY 14623

Early Registration Deadline: March 19, 2020 contactrms@hotmail.com (804) 517-6709

This four-day event in Rochester is an international event with attendees and speakers from multiple continents converging in western New York. Mineral collectors, dealers, exhibitors and researchers convene for technical sessions by day, and "shopping" and storytelling by night. Book dealers, a micromount room, dozens of exhibits and a great Saturday afternoon silent auction share the room with almost three days of technical talks. The full schedule and registration form are available online at: <a href="www.rasny.org">www.rasny.org</a>/MinSymp. The fee for the full symposium is \$120, but single day admission is also available. Also visit: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/RochesterSymposium/">https://www.facebook.com/RochesterSymposium/</a>

### **April 25-26 - Annual Franklin Mineral Show**

Sponsored by NJESA, and the Franklin-Ogdensburg Mineralogical Society. Held in the Fluorescent Mineral Capital of the World. Indoor Show & Outdoor Swap. Show: Saturday 9 am – 5 pm, Sunday 10 am – 4 pm. Littell Community Center, 12 Munsonhurst Rd, #12, Franklin, NJ. Adults \$7, Kids 6-16 \$4. fomsnj.org/Events.



To register for classes, go to the following website: http://www.theurbanbeader.com/metal-immersion-syracuse-2020/ 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

### **Wednesday Workshop**

Steve Shorey runs the lapidary workshop 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.

The Gem and Mineral Club is looking to have classes in metal clay with a master teacher **Kris Walton**. The price will be around \$80.00 – truly well worth the experience.

**Joanna Weaver** is a seasoned teacher of many years in polymer clay jewelry and her class is \$25.00.

**Kelly Diamond** has a studio downtown and is a teacher in metalsmithing and will teach a class in spinner rings. Price to be announced.

All classes will be one-day classes. Times and days for classes will be announced. Sign up sheets will be at our next club meeting. Any questions you might have I can answer at our club meeting. Hope to see you there.

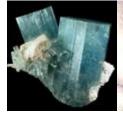
Joanne Suchon 315-440-4098

### **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 & under 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.





### March: Aquamarine and Bloodstone

There are two birthstones for the month of March!

The word "aquamarine" is derived from the Latin words for water and the sea. This gemstone was once believed to protect sailors against all sorts of mishaps and to guarantee them a safe voyage. The serene blue of the gem was said to cool the temper, promote peace and allow the wearer to remain calm and levelheaded.

In the Middle Ages, many believed just wearing the stone was a literal antidote to poisoning. The Romans believed if you carved a frog into a piece of aquamarine jewelry, it would help reconcile differences between enemies and make new friends. They also believed it provided energy and cured laziness. The Sumerians, Egyptians and Hebrews admired the gem, and many warriors would wear it into battle to bring victory.

Aquamarine is a blue, or cyan, variety of beryl, a pegmatite mineral, in the silicate group. It has a hardness of 7.5 – 8.0 on the Mohs Hardness Scale. It occurs in various shades found in Brazil, Columbia, Pakistan, Madagascar, Nigeria, Zambia and Mozambique. In the United States, it can be found in central Colorado, Wyoming, California and Idaho. Like many beryls, aquamarine forms large crystals suitable for sizeable gems and carvings. It is a popular gem for rings, earrings, necklaces and other jewelry forms.

Aquamarine took over Bloodstone as the primary modern birthstone for March in 1952. Bloodstone was the March birthstone in the ancient Roman, Polish, Arabic, Hebrew and Hindu calendar. It is also known as heliotrope, from the Greek *helios* for "Sun" and *trepein* "to turn," derived from ancient ideas about how the mineral reflect light. It's a

cryptocrystalline mixture of quartz occurring as jasper (opaque) or chalcedony (translucent). The "classic" bloodstone is opaque green jasper with red inclusions of iron oxide, especially hematite. The red inclusions are supposed to resemble spots of blood, hence the name.

The gemstone was used by Babylonians to make seals and amulets, and was believed to have healing powers, especially for blood disorders. They used it in their divination, and the Egyptians believed it helped them defeat their enemies, bestow courage, increased their strength or made them invisible, as reported by Pliny the Elder in the 1<sup>st</sup> century. Others believed the gem could help control or change the weather, win legal battles or give the gift of prophecy. It's sometimes called the "martyr's stone," as legend says it was created when drops of Christ's blood stained jasper at the foot of the Cross.

Bloodstone is in the silicate group, the quartz class, with a hexagonal crystal system. Its hardness is 7 on the Mohr Hardness Scale. Sources of bloodstone found in an embedded form in riverbeds and rocks include India, Madagascar, Brazil, China, Australia and Germany.

Bloodstone is often cut into cabochons and beads, where it is used in bracelets and necklaces, and sometimes rings.

### Answers to Geo Lexis

chidsor orchids

egale algae

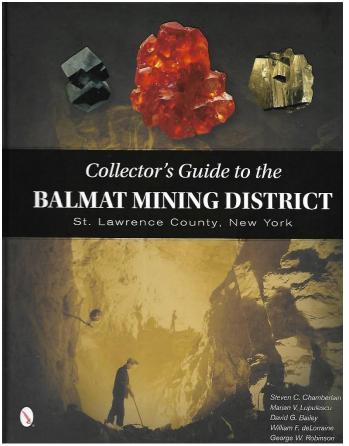
nerfs ferns

soms moss

nelich lichen

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org

### A "Gem" from our <u>Club</u> Library



Copyright 2018 by Steven C. Chamberlain

Collector's Guide to the Balmat Mining District by Steven C. Chamberlain et al, published by Schiffer Publishing, Ltd, is one of several locally oriented books by this author and publisher.

#### From the back cover:

"The Balmat Mining District in Northern New York is a former mining site known among collectors for its highly prized minerals. For more than 100 years, it was one of the world's most important sources of talc and zinc. Because most of the zinc ore was crushed underground and brought to the surface for separation, only mineral specimens brought out by miners and geologists have survived. Outstanding specimens from both the talc and zinc mines, preserved in only a few collections, are featured in this book - many for the first time. Some of the fine specimens included are hexagonite (see photo, next page), manganocummingtonite, groutite, calcite, sphalerite and magnetite. With more than 200 photographs, this book is the first comprehensive description of the history, geology and mineralogy of this important mining district."

The author, **Dr. Steven C. Chamberlain**, has contributed to almost 400 publications, including Science and Nature, and has chaired the Rochester Mineralogical Symposium for more than 30 years. Dr. Marian V. Lupulescu is the curator of geology at the New York State Museum and held a Senior Fulbright Scholarship at the California Institute of Technology. Dr. David G. Bailey is professor of geology at Hamilton College and a research associate of the New York State Museum. William F. deLorraine was the principal geologist of the zinc mines in the district for 42 years and president of the St. Lawrence County Mineral Club for many years. Dr. George W. Robinson is a retired curator who has authored more than 120 publications. including descriptions of ten new minerals. He is a Carnegie Mineralogical Award recipient. The rare species georgerobinsonite was named in his honor.

You **can't** find this book through the Onondaga County Public Library system, but our **club** does have several copies - one is on display at the clubhouse – and they are available to purchase at a discounted price of \$25. See Linda Clark Sweeney for more information.

# A select group went on a field trip to the Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show and visited the NYS Museum on Feb. 22, 2020

(These photos from the Museum by Judy Cook are from a past show)



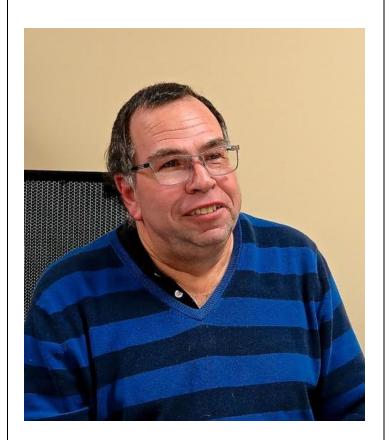


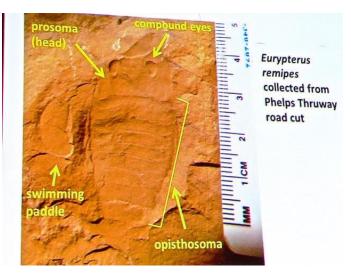


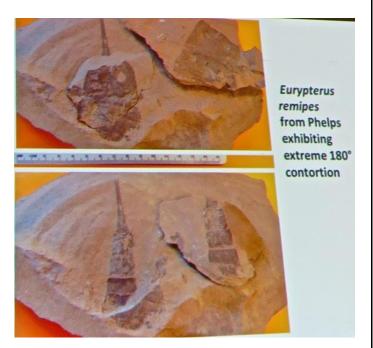
Note that this specimen of Tremolite (Hexagonite) came from the Balmat Mining District referenced in the book review article above.

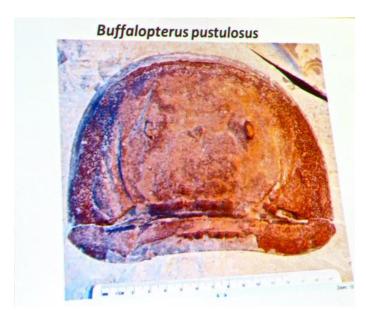
### "Collecting Sea Scorpions from Phelps, NY & Buffalopterus Pustulosus"

February 17, 2020 presented by Geologist Stephen Mayer Photos by Judy Cook









Stephen's favorite!

The next Show Committee meeting will be Tuesday, March 24 at 7 pm at the Clubhouse. Find out the latest updates on the preparations and where help is needed for GemWorld 2020 at the State Fairgrounds on July 11 and 12.

### Flashes from Dave Millis' 2020 Winter Good Times

by Bob Livingston

Not one to be here in the snow, normally Dave goes to the Keys of Florida and catches over 6,000 fish each year. After catching only 3,600 up to Christmas, he decided this was the year to head West for some of that great collecting he lucked into years past. He went furthest first to Quartsite, AZ where 200,000 snowbirds descend each winter. There he collected for near 6 weeks with a friend from there plus lots of "Roving Rockhounds," (a club out there Dave founded years back). He told me on one, the one-way drive was 62 miles and the last 30 were on a dirt road and you definitely needed 4wheel drive. On that and several other shorter trips he was concentrating on geodes (You know. the kind we love to cut when he brings his saws to club picnic). So, goody, he will maybe have "new" ones this summer! Iol. On other trips he was looking for Fluorite that fluoresces and, after brutal digging, I guess he found a few buckets over several trips. He took in several of the many rock shows that are featured in the Jan/Feb time frame whilst there in Quartsite.

Now with several hundred pounds of stash in his van he has moved on to Lordsburg, NM where a main-drag rock shop serves as gathering/ jump off spot for rockhound collectors. Dave sees his time shortening fast and his van springs getting low, so he has to be discriminating. Plus, some days he collects alone so he has to be extra careful. He has picked up a little bit more of his sought-after Fluorite. Some walkouts with heavy buckets were over 1 1/2 miles. Good thing Dave is strong and fit!

Soon he will move to his last stop in Deming, NM where the Rockhounds Museum is located. There are over 3-dozen abandoned mines within 45 minutes' drive from there that Dave intends to look over to see if any of those bear fruit as they have for him in years past. Then he has to begin the slow trip home with probably over a half-ton of goodies jammed in his van. He will be back for one of his club

shows in North PA -- CHE-Hanna end of March. Take 'er easy Dave. We look forward to hearing all about your 2 1/2 months of collecting in the sunshine.



Dear GMSS Club Members,

I'm a rockhound from Knoxville. I spent years panning for gold around the Smokies and digging for gemstones in TN, NC and GA. But then I got interested in hunting fossils out West. So far as an amateur, I have been able to discover and preserve over 150 dinosaur bones from 6 different species including 60 bones of a Triceratops and 20 bones of a T-Rex. All were discovered on private land with owner's permission.

To help other beginners avoid all the mistakes I made along the way, I developed an educational/training web site at <a href="https://www.findingadinosaur.com">https://www.findingadinosaur.com</a>. This site has over 20 chapters of "How To" information and over 300 photos of the fossils I uncovered.

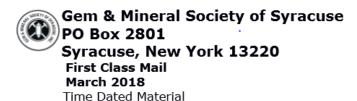
Please share this web address with those members who might like to venture out and find their own dinosaur this summer. If I can be of help, contact me anytime.

Cheers

Dick Wills

Knoxville, TN

dickwills@findingadinosaur.com









### 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 - 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 <a href="http://gmss.us/about/membershipform.pdf">http://gmss.us/about/membershipform.pdf</a> 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:

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#### -Treasurer:

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-Secretary: Cathy Patterson secretary@gmss.us

### -Jr Rockhounds & Web:

Rick Moore webmaster@gmss.us -Membership Chair: Donna Dow

-Hospitality Chair: Mary Davis 315-885-4416

shows2gou@gmail.com

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

### -GemWorld Show Chair:

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### -Club Librarian:

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#### -Lapidary Committee Contact:

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-Facebook: Judy Cook

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Judy Cook, Steve Albro