

CRACK 'N CAB



Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse, PO Box 2801, Syracuse, NY
web <https://www.syracusegemsociety.com> Volume 53 Issue 3, **March 2023**
209 Oswego St (Ponderosa Plaza), Unit 15, Liverpool, NY

Monday, Mar. 20 Meeting: “The Tucson Show Experiences”



Courtesy Tucson Gem & Mineral Society

The first show was held in 1955, and has expanded greatly over the years. It's now billed as the largest, oldest and most prestigious show. **Judy Cook, Carlotta Brown** and others will share their experiences.

Also: Field Trip Etiquette by Dave Arcaro;
Collecting Opportunities with Dave Millis

Also in this issue:

Rochester Field Trip Photo Review – Pages 4 & 5

Upcoming April Field Trip Info. – Pages 5 & 6

Area Spring Shows – Pages 6 - 8

February 20, 2023 Meeting:

Amazing Amber (Christopher Albrecht was pretty good, too!)

Story and Photo Review -

Pages 9 – 13



Photo by Judy Cook

President's Message

John Sweeney



I left you last month as I was going to clean off my tools and find my muck boots. I did both and was ready early Sat the 11th for a **great field trip** led by **Stephen Mayer** and **Dave Arcaro**. We had a great day, and everyone found something. It was hard to decide what the best part of the day was. Riding out to Rochester

with Dave Arcaro gave us a chance to catch up. It had been a while since we were collecting together. We rendezvoused with other members in a parking lot and caravanned to the site. Once at the site we agreed on some ground rules about responsible collecting and got to know one another better. Faces I see at the meetings became friends, as we bantered and worked the Rochester shale for our finds. Chrissy went out for donuts and snacks at one point and yes, it was a two-



donut day. Thank you, Chrissy. Later, several of us shared our lunches instead of leaving because we were having a great time and getting into some nice finds, and no one wanted to leave. I found **two almost completely intact trilobites** and lots of pieces while splitting the shale and Dave found a beautiful one perfectly centered in a nice slab. Great specimens! I'll include pictures here.

shale and Dave found a beautiful one perfectly centered in a nice slab. Great specimens! I'll include pictures here.



(Editor: more on the field trip on Pages 4 and 5)

At one point later in the day, with the sun shining and the temperature almost to fifty, I took a break and just enjoyed the sun beating on my face and the geese

floating by on the water. We dug late into the afternoon and compared our finds as we met back at the cars and talked about how to prep our fossils. What a great day!

Amanda Lytle is posting collecting tips and advice on our **website** (www.syracusegemsociety.com) in an ongoing post so you might want to check it out.

Dave Arcaro will be talking about collecting etiquette, field trip readiness and related topics at **this month's meeting**. **Dave Millis** is going to share a quick anecdote on true north, will be talking about some upcoming trips and collecting opportunities as well. Yes, spring is on its way. Our **main speakers** this month will be talking about a more involved type of field trip. **Judy Cook**, **Carlotta Brown** and possibly a few others will be talking about **visiting Tucson, Arizona during January** when the large gem shows are running. It is an extravaganza every rockhound should experience at least once. Closer to home the club is **field tripping to the Colgate University museum** in April, more on that elsewhere in this newsletter (*see Pages 5 and 6*).

Last month we had an excellent **talk on amber** by **Christopher Albrecht**. It was standing-room-only attendance and rightly so as he put on a great presentation. He brought amber for the club to purchase for an amber polishing day which we are in the process of setting up. And he was very generous in donating extra amber to the kids' group, the club and the lapidary program at BOCES where I teach. It's not often we get to handle museum quality specimens, get an Entomology lesson on 60-million-year-old bug identification and lessons on mineralogy in the same evening. His talk was inspiring, informative, understandable and entertaining. Thank You, Christopher.

On more mundane issues, yet very important, **we need a club Secretary as part of the board and a Hospitality Coordinator**. Please speak to me or any of the board members if you are interested and we will explain the duties involved.

Thank You **Ed Adamski** for your generous donation of books, specimens, and gem-setting tools to the club. They will be well used.

John Sweeney

Secretary's Reports

Board Meeting Minutes March 7, 2023

The meeting was called to order by President John Sweeney with 12 members present.

Secretary Report

- 1 We are looking for a person to fill the secretary position following Skylar's resignation. We thank her for an excellent job doing the secretary duties.
2. Cathy Patterson has agreed to be temporary secretary until a replacement can be found.

Treasurer Report

1. The year-end report is still a work in progress, almost finished.
2. When the year-end report is complete the Audit Committee will do a financial audit for 2022.
3. the Vice President, Cathy Patterson, will sign on to the club financial account to be able to sign checks.
4. The Budget Committee will meet soon to discuss, change, and approve the 2023 club budget.

VP Report- Programs and Field Trips Programs

1. The **February** meeting on **amber with Christopher Albrecht** was a success! We had a record number of attendees and several new members joined. The kids' group also had activity. Christopher will be invited to return in early May to help us clean the amber we've purchased and ID each for insects.
2. **March 20 program** – This will be member led. We'll hear about field safety and field trip etiquette. There will be a show and tell about the winter trip to Rochester for fossils. Information and sign up for the April 1 field trip to Colgate University geology department led by Susan Sharp will follow. If time permits we'll hear about the 2023 Tucson Show, who went and what they experienced.
3. **April 17 program** will be about **New York State Geology** led by **Len and Susan Sharp** who are presenting also at Oasis.
4. **May 15** will be our **semiannual club auction**.
5. **June 19** will be our usual **Work Night** when we prepare for the July show. We want many to participate! This is our EFMLS Convention show.

Field Trips

1. Members in good standing who register prior to the trip are invited. We need a definite count and a club site leader to be present. These are NOT open to any and all as some sites are on private land and there may be a limit to how many can attend. Rules will be discussed at the March meeting.
2. There will be an April 1 field trip to Colgate University in Hamilton, a 1 hour drive. We'll carpool from the clubhouse.
3. There may be another fossil dig in March, weather permitting.

Website - Amanda Lytle

The club website www.syracusegemsociety.com is up and running. Please view it.

Facebook - Judy Cook

Check out our Facebook presence at Gem and Mineral Society of Syracuse.

Membership – Cheryl Brown

We are currently at 145 paid members.

Junior Rockhounds – Rick Moore

At the February meeting we had 3 children attend.

Hospitality

The Sweeney-Clarks will provide chili and corn chips at the March meeting. As always, we are always looking for members to bring refreshments.

Lapidary Committee - Steve Shorey

Steve Shorey reported that he has students learning lapidary skills 10AM – 1:00. After class anyone who has been trained in the use of our lapidary equipment may come in to work on their own projects. We are currently making cabochons. A repair is necessary on one of our machines. We are looking for the correct drive belt.

2023 Show – Cheryl Brown

1. We continue to meet Saturdays 11:00 – 3:00 to work on table favors. We should be complete by the end of April. We are about 1/3 done.
2. We are looking for a geode-cracking vendor at this time.
3. We are looking for a large wholesale vendor.
4. The show schedule is July 14-16 with set up Friday July 14.

New

1. We received a donation of tools.
2. We are looking to consolidate items in 2 storage rooms and remove a wall, opening up more space in the annex where the lapidary and youth group are set up.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:40PM, Seconded. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Patterson interim Secretary

Welcome New Members!

Since the beginning of the year, we have had a number of returning and new members. We would like to extend a hearty welcome to everyone. We have an exciting year planned with numerous field trips, our annual July gem and mineral show where we are hosting the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies (EFMLS) convention and great speakers at our monthly meetings. Please get involved with your club. There are many volunteer opportunities where your skills and talents can be utilized. See President John Sweeney who can direct you to the appropriate committee head.

Geo Lexis (Puzzle) By Anne Fitzgerald

“Life Under Mars?”

Is there or was there life on Mars? Those are burning questions. A cooler question may be: Was there life under the surface of Mars?

On the surface, the weather and conditions for life may have been fleeting, but under the surface, conditions could have been more stable. In fact, scientists have calculated that conditions four billion years ago under the surface of Mars are similar to conditions on the subsurface of Earth today where microbes are thriving.

Radiation was needed way back when to break water into hydrogen, and thorium and potassium have been found on the crust of Mars, inferring the existence of uranium, suggesting the possible existence of microbes. Since we humans are part star stuff with lots of microbes, just think what or who may have lurked below the surface of Mars.

See if you can unearth the following word puzzles. These are common expressions. Don't underthink it! The solution is on Page 8 of this newsletter.

zero
temperatures

ground
digging

the surface
what lies

basement
ground

coffee ground ground ground

ground stop

Field Trip News

Dave Arcaro

February 11, we had several hardy fossil collectors heading to Rochester to meet trip leader Stephen Mayer of PRI. Stephen agreed to show our small group a special spot along the canal to

find specimens. As for the trip, there were 10 participants, for what started off as a chilly morning, which got warmer as the day progressed. I think everyone came away with specimens. John Sweeney and I found 2 complete Dalmanites trilobites, though John broke the head off the one.





**Saturday, April 1 Field Trip to Colgate University
Geology Department**

Member Susan Sharp has arranged a trip to the **Geology Department of Colgate University in Hamilton, NY.** Professor Peck has agreed to give us a tour of his fine facilities. We'll dine out in



Photos by Dave Arcaro

town after and be home in time for afternoon activities. Below is the schedule. **We need to know how many are interested by March 25, please.** We will meet at the clubhouse and carpool if you wish.

Tentative Schedule:

8:00 AM – Depart from clubhouse in Liverpool.
9:30 AM - Arrive at Colgate University, Hamilton, NY.
9:30-10:30 AM - Tour on our own – Geology Museum (first floor), followed by Fluorescent Minerals (second floor), next to Vis Lab theater. *Restroom break.*
10:30 AM – 11:00 AM - Vis Lab – movie “Sea Monsters: A Prehistoric Adventure” (30 Minutes).
11:00 – 12:00 PM - Vis Lab – movie “Violent Universe: Catastrophes of the Cosmos” (30 minutes) followed by a Sky Talk with Joe Eakin, Director of Science Outreach
12:00 – 1:00 PM - Geology Department tour (x-ray, electron microscope, etc.) mineral and eurypterid collections presented by Dr. William Peck, Professor and Chair. Additional time if needed.
1:15 PM - Depart Colgate University, Hamilton for lunch. Meet at Rusch’s Bar and Grill Restaurant in Hamilton then depart for home.

For those who register I will provide this itinerary and driving directions. We hope to have a good turnout!

Contact Cathy Patterson 315-480-8907 talk/text

cathyville@gmail.com

Questions?? sysharp@aol.com

Upcoming Events

Show Committee

Our next Show Committee meeting is **Tuesday, March 28 at 7:00 pm** at the clubhouse.

We are still busy **making wire wrapped trees** for the convention banquet table favors. Join us this **Saturday, March 11 and/or March 18 at 11:00.**

MAR. 20 – GMSS meeting – 7:30 pm, Proposed: “The Tucson Show Experiences.” *If you’ve been to the show, contact Cathy Patterson.* Also, silent auction (7 pm), Knowledge Corner - **Dave Millis** will talk about quartz; show and tell about varieties and where they get their colors. Last, quartz radios will be described.

MAR. 28 – “New York Rocks” Show Committee meeting - 7 pm at the Clubhouse. All are invited.

APR. 4 – GMSS Board meeting – 7 pm at the Clubhouse. All are invited.

APR. 17 – GMSS meeting – 7:30 pm, Len & Susan Sharp will speak about “New York State Geology.” Also, silent auction (7 pm), Knowledge Corner.

APR. 28 – “New York Rocks” Show Committee meeting - 7 pm at the Clubhouse. All are invited.

Upcoming Spring Shows:

The Buffalo Geological Society, Inc. 53rd ANNUAL Gem Mineral Fossil Show DINOSAURS are coming!

Sat. March 18, 2023 9 am to 7 pm

Sun. March 19, 2023 9 am to 6 pm

1 DAY
ADMISSION
\$7
PER PERSON

In the Market, Grange, and
NYS Police Buildings located on
the Fairgrounds in Hamburg, NY

2 DAY
ADMISSION
\$10
PER PERSON



NEW
Mining for Minerals and Fossils
Mini Mine for Children
A GREAT FIELD TRIP FOR THE FAMILY
& a real learning experience

ALSO SHOWING
DISPLAYS & INFORMATION
NYS Parks & Recreation
Reinstein Woods Nature Center
Buffalo Association of Professional Geologists
Paleontological Research Institute
Penn Dixie

Demonstrations • Beads • Jewelry • Presentations
Private Gem Collections • Unique Gifts
DRAWINGS & REFRESHMENTS

Scouts in uniform & children 12 yrs & under FREE

March 11-12—NEW YORK, NY: Show & sale; New York Mineralogical Club; High School of Fashion Industries, 225 West 24th St New York GYM 3rd Floor; Sat. 10-6, Sat. 11-5; Admission \$6 per person & 12 years under free with a paid adult; Free lectures & hourly door prices, dealers from far & near with a large selection; contact Mohamed Bary, (347) 247-6568; Email: barygems@gmail.com; Website: barygems.com

March 17-19—SWANNANOVA, NC: Annual show; MAGMA Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show; Land of the Sky Shrine Club, 39 Spring Cove Rd; Fri. 9-6, Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5; Free; Numerous

vendors offering a great variety of gems, minerals, fossils, jewelry, lapidary equipment, old collections & all sorts of other treasures. Our new venue has heat & air. Clean restrooms & fantastic food served daily! Free admission, Rain or shine; contact Richard Jacquot, (828) 779-4501; Email: rickjacquot@gmail.com; Website: www.AmericanRockhound.com

March 18-19—OLD BETHPAGE, NY: Show; Island Rockhounds; Bethpage Restoration Village Administration Building, 1307 Round Swamp Rd; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; \$6 for all, children free with paying adult; Jewelry, Gem, & Mineral Dealers! Club Exhibits! The last entry is 45 minutes before closing. Download a coupon on website IslandRockhounds.org for \$1 off each admission; contact Cheryl Neary; Email: IslandRockHoundsAdvertising@gmail.com; Website: IslandRockhounds.org

March 18-19—WINSTED, CT: Retail show; Silver Spiral Creations; Whiting Mills, 100 Whiting St; Sat. 10-4, Sun. 10-4; Free; Crystal, minerals, jewelry, cabochons, stone accessories; contact Lynne Patnode, (860) 459-9165; Email: Silverspiralcreations@gmail.com; Website: silverspiralcreations.com

Mar 24-26—HICKORY, NC: Annual show; Catawba Valley Gem & Mineral Club, Inc; Hickory Metro Convention Center, 1960 13th Ave. Drive, SE; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; Admission is \$6 good for all three days. Children 12 & under are admitted free. Law enforcement officers & active or retired military with credentials, Scouts & Leaders in uniform will be admitted free anytime during this 3 day event; The Facebook page with show news is Catawba Valley Gem & Mineral Club, Inc. Annual Show; contact Dean Russell, (828) 303-1448; Email: cvgmcsecretary@aol.com; Website: cvgmc.com



Like Rocks or Fossils?

Check out our Rock and Mineral Club's website

www.chehannarocks.com

53rd ANNUAL GEM & MINERAL SHOW 2023 Presented by

Che-Hanna Rock & Mineral Club, Inc.
A (501c3) not-for-profit organization

March 25, 2023 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

March 26, 2023 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

**WYSOX VOL. FIRE CO. SOCIAL HALL
111 LAKE ROAD, WYSOX, PA**

DISPLAYS – GEODES - DEALERS

**FLUORESCENT MINERAL PROGRAMS BY UV-BOB
Saturday--11am--1pm--3pm
Sunday--12 noon--2pm**

March 25-26—PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA: Annual show; Philadelphia Mineralogical Society & The Delaware Valley Paleontological Society; LU Temple, 5140 Butler Pike; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; \$7 per adult, \$2 kids 12 and under. Scouts in uniform free; Fossils, minerals, gems, speakers & exhibits. Kids mineral corner & fossil dig with free giveaways. Scouting merit badge information available. Food & door prizes throughout both days; contact Douglas M Klieger, (610) 316-8052; Email: dklieger@verizon.net; Website: phillyrocks.org

March 25-26—WYSOX, PA: Annual show; Che-Hanna Rock & Mineral Club, Inc; Wysox Vol. Fire Hall, 111 Lake Rd, PO Box 224; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4; Adults - \$3, Students - \$1, Under 8 free; Special exhibit by Susquehanna River Archaeological Center, fluorescent mineral program, kids mini-mine, geode cutting, dealers selling minerals, gems, fossils, jewelry; contact Bob McGuire, (570) 928-9238; Email: uvbob1942@gmail.com; Website: www.chehannarocks.com

March 25-26—CANTON, OH: Annual show; Stark County Gem & Mineral Show; Stark County Fairgrounds, 305 Wertz Ave; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-5; Adults \$5, Seniors 55 & older \$4, kids (6 to 14) \$1, Scouts in uniform free; Door prizes, gem & mineral dealers with lapidary items, jewelry, beads, rock slabs, gem & mineral specimens. We have a fluorescent display, kids' games, silent auction for kids & adults; contact Vicky Waltz, (330) 862-2162; Email: fwaltz46@live.com

March 31-April 2—RALEIGH, NC: Annual show; Tar Heel Gem & Mineral Club; Kerr Scott Bldg, NC Fairgrounds, 1025 Blue Ridge Rd; Fri. 3-7, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; free; Club areas – Hospitality with grab bags, free magazines, membership & raffle prize tickets, Geode of club purchased geodes, cut open, Silent Auction for both children & adults of minerals, fossils & jewelry & Demonstration with artists wire wrapping, making gem trees & cutting stones; contact Cyndy Hummel, (919) 779-6220; Email: mchummel@mindspring.com; Website: tarheelclub.org

April 1-2—JOHNSON CITY, NY: Annual show; New York Southern Tier Geology Club; Johnson City Senior Center, 30 Brocton St; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4; Adult \$4 Kids free under 12 yo.; 47th Annual Gem & Mineral show. Various Vendors selling Rocks, Minerals, Gemstones, Crystals, Fossils, Silent Auction, Food & Drinks available for sale; contact Thomas Ogden, (607) 967-8552; Email: stonecutterton@yahoo.com

April 1-2—CHICOPEE, MA: Annual show; Connecticut Valley Mineral Club; Castle of Knights, 1599 Memorial Dr; Sat. 9:30-5, Sun. 9:30-3:30; Adults \$5, kids 12 & under free with paid adult, scouts in uniform free with paid adult; Free parking, free mineral specimen for kids, Door Prize Drawings, Exhibits, Food available onsite. CVMC is a non-profit educational organization; contact Barbara Meyer, (978) 394-3144; Email: bjmeyer56@yahoo.com; Website: www.cvmineralclub.org

April 15-16—FREEPORT, NY: Retail show; Freeport Gem & Mineral Show; Freeport Recreation Center, 130 E Merrick Rd; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4:30; \$5.50/ \$5 with this ad. Children under 12 free with adult; Beautiful displays of minerals, fossils, gemstones, beads, & jewelry for sale. Drawings for \$10 gift certificate every hour to be spent at any booth; contact Evelyn Gose, (631) 271-8411; Email: evelyn_gose@kaleidoscopegemshows.com; Website: kaleidoscopegemshows.com

April 22—WEST FRIENDSHIP, MD: Annual show; Chesapeake Gem & Mineral Society; Howard County

Fairgrounds, 2210 Fairgrounds Rd; Sat. 10-4; Admission is FREE; Minerals, Original Jewelry, Fossils, Rough & Cut Gemstones, Silent Auctions, Door Prizes, Free Minerals for Kids; contact Lynne Emery; Email: Chesapeakegemandmineral@gmail.com; Website: chesapeakegemandmineral.org

April 22-23—CUYAHOGA FALLS, OH: Show & sale; Akron Mineral Society & Summit Lapidary Club; Emidios Expo Center, 48 E Bath Rd, 2028 Tallmadge Rd; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; Adults \$5, Seniors (55+) \$4, Children 7-14 \$1. 6 & under & Scouts Free; Our vendors will feature Rocks, Minerals, Fossils, Gemstones, & Jewelry plus supplies. We have lapidary displays, youth activities, demonstrations of lapidary arts & mineral identification. We have geode cracking, silent auction, door prizes, food trucks. Free parking, handicap accessible; contact Evelyn Tryon, Vendor Chair, (330) 673-9664; Email: Gemboree76@gmail.com

April 29-30—DOVER, NH: Annual show; Southeastern New Hampshire Mineral Club; The Dover ELKS LODGE, 282 Durham Rd (Rte 108); daily 10-4, daily 10-4; \$5 Adults, children under 12 Free (must be accompanied by adult); Large venue with many fine dealers of Gems, Minerals, Jewelry & more. Silent auction every 1/2 hour & door prize drawing every hour. Rock saws running to open your geode treasures, cabbing demonstrations both days & a Kids Dig area; contact Brian, (207) 606-972; Email: cshore108@yahoo.com; Website: <https://www.senhmc.org/>

April 29-30—TROY, OH: Annual show; Miami County Gem & Mineral Club; Miami County Fairgrounds, 650N. Co. Rd. 25-A; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; Adults \$3 - Free admission for age 17 & under; Dealers selling minerals, fossils, specimens, jewelry & gems; Demonstrations & displays; Activities for children; contact Dewey Buck, (937) 308-3012; Email: deweybuck12@gmail.com; Website: www.mcgamc.org

Answers to Geo Lexis

- ground digging** digging underground
- the surface what lies** what lies beneath the surface
- basement ground** above-ground basement
- coffee ground ground ground** coffee grounds
- ground stop** groundbreaking (braking)

Sources and further reading:

<https://scitechdaily.com/study-shows-ancient-mars-had-the-right-conditions-for-underground-life/>Kevin Stacey, Brown University, 9/24/2018
 J.D. Tarnas, J.F. Mustard, B. Sherwood Lollar, M.S. Bramble, K.M. Cannon, A.M. Palumbo, A.-C. Plesa, Radiolytic H₂ production on Noachian Mars: Implications for

habitability and atmospheric warming, Earth and Planetary Science Letters, Volume 502, 2018, Pages 133-145, ISSN 0012-821X, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.epsl.2018.09.001>.

Feb. 20, 2023 - Club Meeting

Knowledge Center – Dave Millis



Photo by Mairead O'Neil

At the Monday, Feb. 20th meeting, which Cathy has called the knowledge corner, calcite was discussed. Our field trip to the Pitcairn blue calcite was the reason. This field trip is on the second Saturday in June. No other details are available at this time.

The K-Corner described calcite of many kinds, but the 15-20 minutes doesn't do it all, so only the basics were described.

First, the chemical formula was mentioned and how similar it is to the carbonic acid in soda. This is why calcite is found everywhere.

Then many colors of calcite were shown and the variety of locations.

Using a clear crystalline chunk of calcite, the cleaving properties were demonstrated with hammer and chisel.

Fluorescent properties were shown by UV light, ending with calcite from south Texas that fluoresces in two color and also phosfluoresces.

The last demo was specific to the calcite we will be collecting. One piece was acid-polished to a better color intensity.



Photo by Mairead O'Neil

(Dave Arcaro) The fossils that I brought to the last meeting were found by me in Tully. Most of the fossils were Horn corals and Favosite corals. There were also some trilobite, crinoid, brachiopods, bivalves, and Gastropods. I brought these to give to club members, as I was trying to encourage people to try their hand at fossil prepping with basic tools. All the fossils I had were still covered in matrix, to varying degrees.



Photo by Mairead O'Neil



It's Silent Auction time! Photo by Mairead O'Neil

February 20, 2023 Meeting: "Amber" Christopher Albrecht

By Cathy Patterson

Christopher began this meeting saying how, prior to hunting for amber, he does much geological research.



There is much amber in the Arizona Petrified Forest, but nothing may be taken from this park lawfully. He has searched in Wyoming in the Powder River Basin among others. Some sites are on private land requiring permission from the owners. The lignite sedimentary layer is the location to search for amber. Wind exposes rough amber not water. His collection is about 250,000 specimens!

Christopher brought several amber rough samples from the Dominican Republic. These were given to the club for members to clean using a wet lap and very slowly polishing using Zam. A small collection for the youth group was also given as a gift. We thank Christopher for these specimens. We will distribute them at a later date.

We learned that at the mines in the Dominican Republic, which are extremely tight and cramped working conditions, the rough amber coming out is then coated

with a sticky corn syrup like substance that allows one to see inclusions within. These can be leaves, small flowers, insects, animal hairs, etc. whatever was airborne and fell into the sticky sap. It is almost guaranteed that in our rough samples we will see inclusions. Christopher has expressed interest in coming back to our club on a Saturday to help us clean and polish our amber samples and identify what lies within.

At the conclusion of his talk many members brought amber samples for Christopher to identify. We found that even though some amber was bought in Eastern Europe it was still mined in the Dominican Republic. It has signature qualities that the expert can recognize.

Natural amber that is heat treated can exhibit fractures when cooling that are called "spangles." Blue and green amber fluoresces orange. If amber is all the same color, it could be synthetic, not natural.

This night we had a record attendance! We are so pleased Christopher could make it to our meeting. He spends summers as a park ranger in Olympic National Park in Washington State. He is a 28-year veteran fourth grade teacher in Brockport, NY and was honored for Teacher of the Year in 2018, inducted into the National Teachers Hall of Fame in 2019, has written 2 bestselling books in 2020 and 2021, is a marathon runner and is an extraordinary speaker! He brought a few of his books to sell after the meeting.



Some Amber "Basics"

- * Age can vary from 10-200 mya
- * 50% of all amber is from secondary deposits
- * 60% of all jewelry amber is from the Baltic region and 40% from the Dominican Republic
- * Hardness: 2.5 -3.0 on Moh's hardness scale. (What type of jewelry is NOT recommended?)

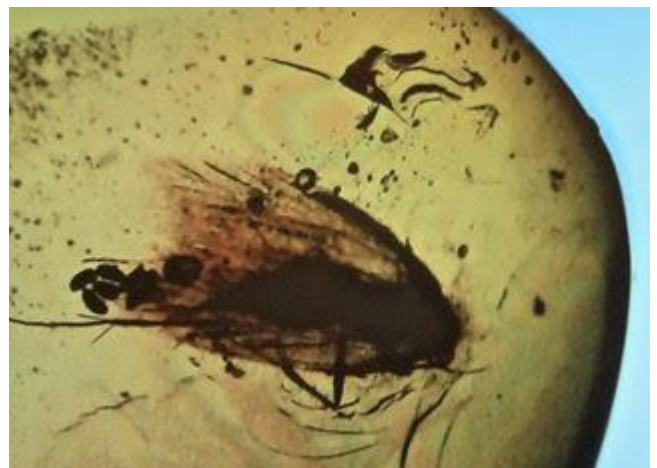
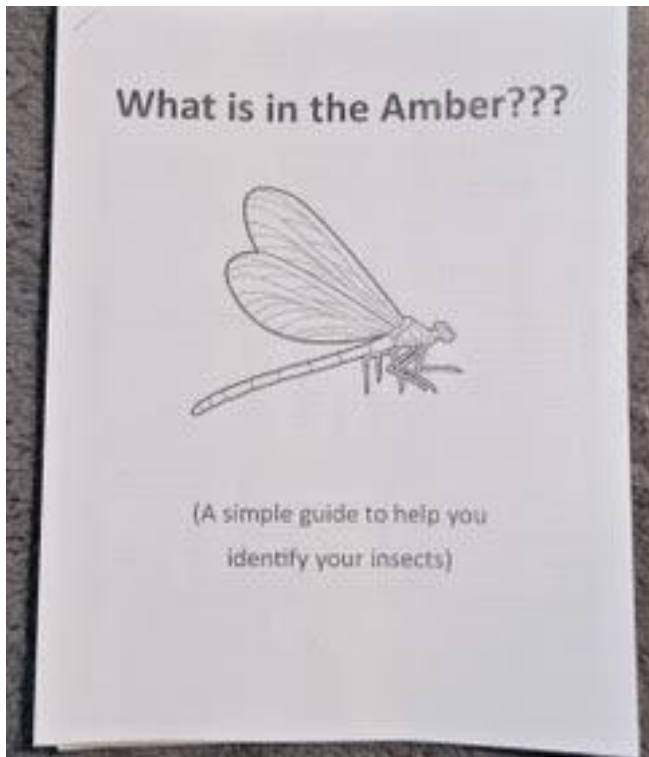
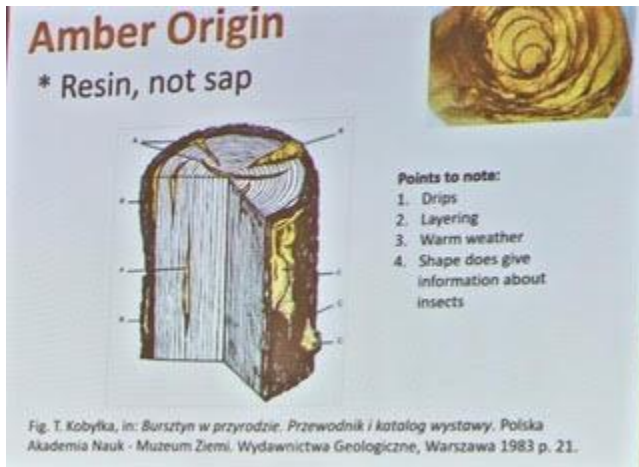
Some Amber "Basics"

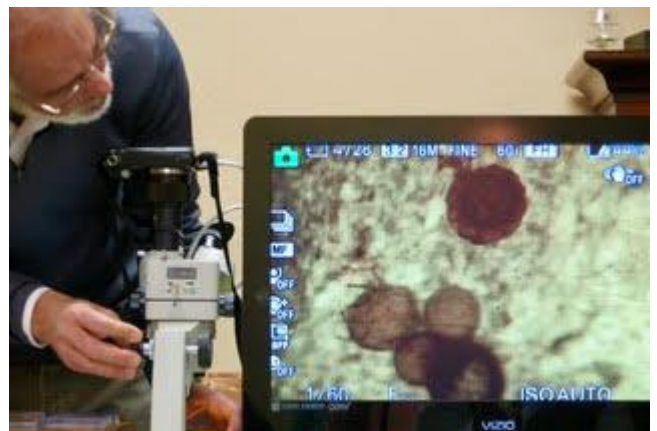
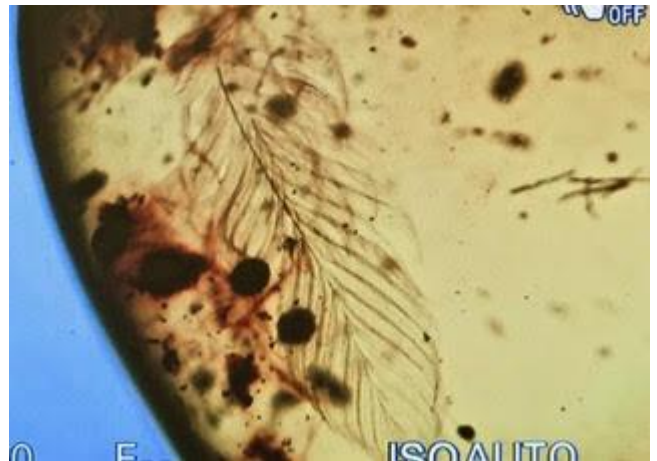
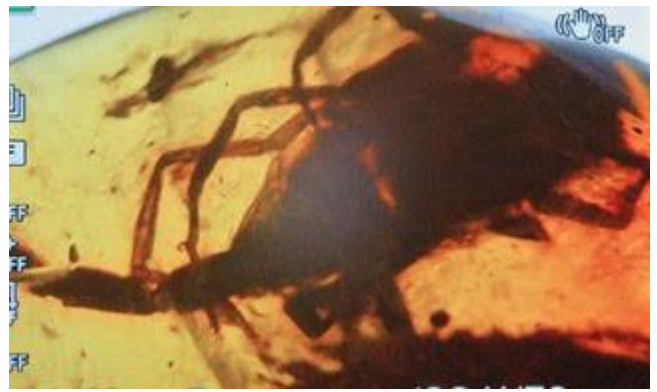
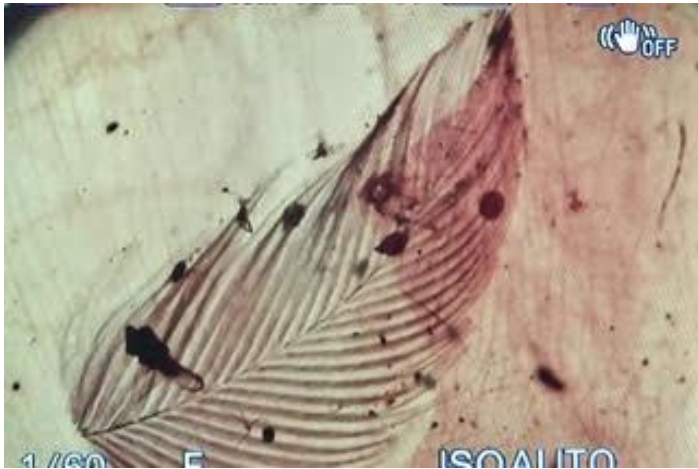
- * Copal is not fully polymerized amber (loss of oil, acids and alcohol – examples are frankincense & myrrh)
- * There are thousands of small deposits worldwide.
- * Kauri Pine (New Zealand) & Some legume trees in Africa / Central America

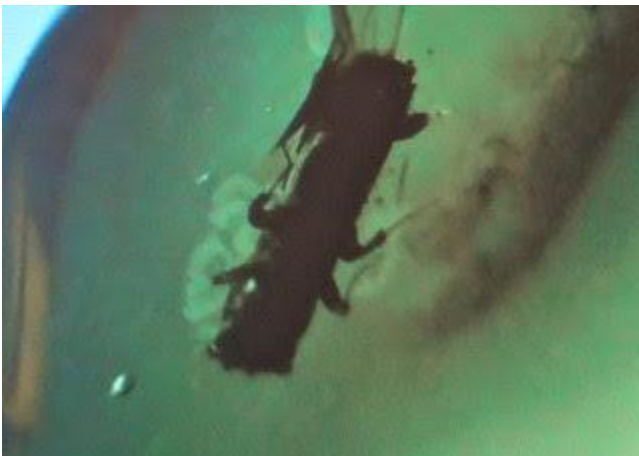
Amber vs. Copal vs. Plastic

	Alcohol Test	Scratch Test	Saltwater Test (1.04-1.10)	Hot Wire Test
Amber	N	Y	Y	Y
Copal	Y	Y	Y	Y
Plastics	N	Y	Sometimes	N

Photos by Judy Cook







Meeting participants brought in their amber:



(Left) Chuck Galuski brought in his amber treasures gotten at an estate sale. (Right) Lorraine Markley, who makes beautiful jewelry, brought in her creations with amber purchased in her travels in Europe. Photos by Judy Cook.



Christopher was more than generous in his donations to our club with amber specimens. John Sweeney had Chris pick out a few mineral specimens in appreciation.



Our club members are so generous! Joey Rivera donated to Chris some fluorescent rocks he collected on the shores of Lake Ontario and polished as well as a fluorescent flashlight.





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.

2022 – 2023 GMSS Officers/Contacts

-President: John Sweeney
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