

CRACK 'N CAB



Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse, PO Box 2801, Syracuse, NY
web <http://www.gmss.us> Volume 49 Issue 10, November 2019
209 Oswego St (Ponderosa Plaza), Unit 15, Liverpool, NY

November 18 7:30 pm Susan Sharp will speak on “The Amazing and Unique World of Trilobites”

Susan Sharp (photo below, on the right) MS, Mississippi State University, retired Earth Science and Astrobiology teacher, Phoenix HS, adjunct instructor of Astrobiology at SUNY ESF, Syracuse, and lecturer for the Oasis Senior Education Program, Syracuse. Avid collector of various rock specimens and fossils; with a particular interest in fluorescent minerals, amber, meteorites, dinosaur fossils, and shark teeth. Susan enjoys a special interest in ancient ruins and travelling with her husband, Len, as they connect the geology and history of regions around the world. Their next adventure: Pompeii, Italy; Ephesus, Turkey; and Athens, Greece in December!



Trilobites were one of the most diverse type of marine invertebrates that lived during the Paleozoic Era. Their extremely important, archetypal fossils are symbolic of an archaic world that once dominated the ancient seas. They persisted for close to 300 million years – almost twice as long as the dinosaurs – but what made them so successful, so unique? The sea is now gone, and New York State has become a goldmine for Devonian Trilobite hunters. If you’ve missed out, this will be your chance! Our complete Trilobite collection, along with our Dinosaur fossil collection will be on display and for sale!

Also at the meeting, Dick Lyons will have beautiful specimens of petrified wood that you can purchase. These come from the 6,500-acre DoBell Ranch, next to the Petrified Forest National Park in Arizona.

6:30 pm: Junior Rockhounds Youth Meeting

This month the Junior Rockhounds will engage in a *hands-on exploration* of fossils from Arizona, Delaware, Florida, New York, North Carolina, Texas, Utah and Wyoming along with a few goodies from Peru, Madagascar and Morocco. Hope to see you there at 6:30 pm on November 18th.

2019 Rockhound of the Year – See Page 5

President's Message

Cheryl Brown



Hello GMSS Rockhounds!
The **Holiday Party** will be held at the Empire Room on the NYS Fairgrounds on **December 15th** from noon to 4pm. It will be catered by Brian at Daniella's.

Come join us for good food, fun and fellowship. The cost is \$20 for members and \$25.00 for non-members. Please bring an unwrapped gift for Toys-For-Tots and an unwrapped gift for the gift exchange. Please sign up at the November meeting or let me know you are planning to attend. We will be collecting non-perishable food items at the November meeting instead of at the Holiday Party this year. Please bring your donations for the Assumption Church food pantry to the November club meeting.

Open Workshop Dates

Come join us in the workshop. Bring your project to work on.

Thursday, November 14th
Thursday, December 5th
Thursday, December 19th

From 6:30 to 9pm

Secretary's Report

Cathy Patterson

Executive Board Meeting Minutes Nov. 4, 2019 - GMSS Clubhouse

The meeting was called to order at the clubhouse at 7:00 PM a day early due to Election Day obligations of several members. All board members were present as well as past presidents and other club members.

Holiday Party December 15, 2019 noon – 4PM Daniella's Restaurant at the Empire Room at the State Fair. Attending members and guests are asked to please bring an unwrapped toy for Toys for Tots, a club tradition, as well as an unwrapped gift to share. There will be entertainment, delicious food, and good fun among all those attending. Members pay \$20 and guests \$25. Please plan to attend. It will be fun! A printed menu

will be available at the November 18 meeting. You may pay for the luncheon at that meeting.

The **November 18 meeting** will feature geology educator, Susan Sharp who will speak about trilobites. She will bring trilobite and dinosaur items for sale. We are also bringing back a 50¢ table of "stocking stuffer" minerals.

We are sad to learn our hardworking **Treasurer** Linda Clark is stepping down from this position at the end of the club year in September 2020. We are in search of her trainee replacement as soon as possible. Please contact President Cheryl Brown if you can step up to take this position.

Treasurer's Report Some questions arose about the club possibly overlapping some club insurance. This was not the case though the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical Societies (EFMLS), to which we pay club dues, is increasing slightly per member.

The **Budget Committee** met November 4, 5:00 PM prior to the Board Meeting. A new budget has been adopted for the remainder of the 2019 – 2020 year with a few changes.

Junior Rockhounds, under the leadership of Rick Moore, is seeing good growth! There are new junior members coming in each month. Thank you, Rick for all you do!

Lapidary Committee reported the experimental Thursday open lapidary workshop time was attended by 3 people. The next open time will be November 14, 2019 6:30 – 9:00PM at the clubhouse. Anyone can come to use the library, work on lapidary projects, do beading, or work on any hobby related projects using the club space. There will be no formal classes or lessons. There will be no November 28 workshop because of Thanksgiving. It is hoped we can open the clubhouse every other Thursday most months if interest is there. Open times in December will be announced at a later date. In addition, the clubhouse is open Wednesdays for those working on lapidary projects during the day.

Housekeeping – The club will purchase a closed cabinet for meeting refreshments.

Hospitality Committee will be responsible for making sure we have refreshments at each meeting, by getting commitments from club members, and for getting volunteers to set up the refreshment table and cleaning up after the **November 18** meeting. We ask someone to please volunteer for this committee. **Joann and Ed Souchon** have volunteered to bring refreshments to the November 18 meeting. Thank you!

Our expert **webmaster, Rick Moore** is stepping down from this position soon and would like to train a new webmaster. If you have the skills and desire to do this important job for the club, please see Cheryl Brown. Rick, after investigating several website providers, shared with the group a less expensive, more modern, and dynamic option, Wordpress.com. The Board voted to change to this new service. We thank Judy Cook for her excellent work adding to **Facebook** posts.

The **EFMLS Annual Convention** is to be held in Hickory, NC in March. Two delegates from the GMSS will need to attend. More information about this convention is forthcoming.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Patterson GMSS Secretary

Geo Lexis (Puzzle) By Anne Fitzgerald

“Famous Rocks”

Legends about famous rocks are hard to prove. The composition of those rocks, however, are hard to dispute.

For each famous rock, unscramble the words on the right to find the composition.

Answers are on Page 6 of this newsletter.

Plymouth Rock, USA	nargite
Blarney Stone, Ireland	smilenote
Uluru/Ayers Rock, Australia	netosdans
Balancing Rock, Canada	slatab
Perce Rock, Canada	leahs

Upcoming Events

**November 14 – Thursday Open Workshop,
6:30 – 9 pm** – See Special Note.

**November 17 – Bead Society Meeting,
1:30 – 5:00 pm**

The monthly meeting of the Bead Society of Central New York will be held at the GMSS Clubhouse. All are welcome!

**November 18 - Jr Rockhounds Meeting 6:30
Full Membership Meeting 7:30**

Our speaker is Susan Sharp. Her topic will be “The Amazing and Unique World of Trilobites.” **Also, please bring a non-perishable food item to be distributed to a local food pantry.**

November 23-24: Fairfax, Virginia

28th Annual Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show
Organized by: Northern Virginia Mineral Club

Dewberry Hall, Johnson Center, George Mason University (4400 University Drive).
Saturday 10 am – 6 pm, Sunday 10 am – 4 pm.
Admission: \$6 Adults, \$4 Seniors, \$3 Teens (13 – 17), Kids 12 & under free.

November 23-24: Worcester, Massachusetts

44th Annual Worcester Mineral Club Show featuring jewelry, gems, fossils, and minerals; 16 dealers, exhibits, demonstrations, activities for children. National Guard Armory, 701 Lincoln St.; Sat. 9:30 am -5 pm, Sun. 10 am -4:30 pm; Admission: Adults \$6, Students and Seniors \$5, Kids 12 and under free. Worcestermineralclub.org

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!



The Pilgrims go “Rock” hunting.

**December 5 – Thursday Open Workshop,
6:30 – 9 pm** – See Special Note.

December 15 – Holiday Party Brunch at Daniella’s at The Empire Room, NYS Fairgrounds. Noon – 4 pm. Reservations and payment are due by November 18th. **Please bring a gift to exchange, and an unwrapped toy for Toys for Tots.**

**December 19 – Thursday Open Workshop,
6:30 – 9 pm** – See Special Note.

Special Note on Thursday Open Workshops:

Anyone interested in joining Cathy P and Linda S at the clubhouse, bring your own project and materials (beading, wire wrapping, rock-related crafts, etc.). The Lapidary room will be open for those cleared to use the equipment (\$5). The library will be available for use (ID rocks, read a magazine, check out a book, etc.). Bring a snack and a drink for yourself or pick up dinner nearby. Text or call 315-480-8907 to let us know you're coming.

(Editor's Note: The following is additional information Dave Millis has provided as a follow-up to his September presentation, "Prehistoric Life")

Sourcing Earth's Oxygen: Trees

By Dave Millis

The general feeling in the world today is that destroying the rainforest would deplete earth's oxygen with devastating consequences. This is what happens when conclusions are made with insufficient data. The conclusion is wrong. Before drawing a conclusion like that, we must measure both the amount created and the amount used by the rainforest. This has now been done, and the finding is that the rainforest uses all the oxygen produced by photosynthesis. The rainforest is a closed system.

As a tree grows, it builds new cells. The casing is made during the photosynthesis which makes sugars with strings of molecules – CH₂O. Six of them is sugar; chains of six become cellulose – cell casings. The cell is not empty; the contents include DNA, RNA, a cell nucleus and others. These parts are created by the tree by using other minerals such as nitrogen and phosphorus and burning sugars with oxygen for power. Thus, the tree consumes oxygen, too.

The statement that the rainforest creates 20% of earth's oxygen may be accurate, but the rainforest uses it all.

Robert Walker, BSc 1st Class, MHum York UN, Postgrad Study at Wolfson College, Oxford, has studied sourcing earth's oxygen and concluded that the oxygen comes mostly from the ocean. He says, "Note, 70 to 80% of the Oxygen comes from algae and the ocean." Also, if all plants were destroyed by some freak of nature "it would take 1000s of years" for the O₂ level to drop. "Plenty of time for plants to grow back."

Dee Francis Padamadan, Technical director of Pellegnini, Unite Kingdom says, "A large mature tree consumes so much oxygen that, after photosynthesis, it would not have any left to add back into the atmosphere."

I checked on deciduous trees like we have in the northeast. They too burn oxygen – to stay alive in the winter, and of course, when they grow, so we are not getting much O₂ from them.

Conifers might photosynthesize in the winter, but

they must burn sugars to protect the needles. But they help. Seven or eight conifers produce enough extra oxygen for one human (Note: same as deciduous trees).

Speculations: It seems that all trees regulate their size to match their ability to produce all the oxygen they need and little more. The original photosynthesizing plants evolved when oxygen was in short supply. Later tree-sized plants colonized the land and out-stripped earth's supply of oxygen, at the end of the Devonian. Pollution is one of the known factors causing the mass extinction. This is when trees evolved to create enough for themselves and so, had to limit their growth. If they grow too fast, they use more than they can make.

Mica Castle Makes a Move to Area Museum

Dave Millis reported that the mica castle that was at the GMSS Clubhouse went on permanent display at the Gouveneur Museum, 30 Church St., on October 2 as part of their extensive local Mineral Collection. The collection includes specimens of at least 19 minerals, some very rare, and others found only in the Gouveneur area.

The museum is open year-round on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 1 – 3 pm. Admission is free. Gouveneurmuseum.com

Holiday Party

Brunch at Daniella's at the
Empire Room, State Fair
December 15th Noon – 4 pm

Members \$20/Non-members \$25

Reservations and payment due
by November 18th

Judy Cook 2019 Rockhound of the Year



Submitted by Cheryl Brown, President

The Gem and Mineral Society of Syracuse is pleased to recognize **Judy Cook** as our *2019 Rockhound of the Year*. Judy has been our dedicated Facebook editor for a number of years. She takes photographs of all our club events and posts them regularly. This year we moved our annual show location and were worried our customers wouldn't find us. Judy posted new pictures and tidbits about the show every day for several months preceding the show. This played a big part in our

having the largest attendance at our show this year in the history of our club. According to the records, the July Facebook posting engagements were up 846% over the month of June. We have over 2,255 regular followers as of July. Thank you, Judy, for helping make our show a success, and for all you do behind the scenes throughout the year to make our organization all that it is!

And here is Judy's response:

"I should mention I started doing Facebook for the club since April of last year. I think my first post was the 67th Birthday cake for GMSS.

"I have been organizing the Learning Center for the show since that aspect started, back in 2009 when Carlotta was president and asked me to implement. Also, I started the Metaphysical area for the show. I would always have speakers in the Learning Center from the Psychic show that Georgia Warren would host the same time as our show. Back when we were at the Fairgrounds her show would be next door in the Art and Home Center. When we moved to the SRC Arena she booked the nearby Whitney building. When she decided the 2014 show was her last, with Dick's and the boards blessing, I brought a small contingent into our show to show how rocks, gems and mineral are used in the metaphysical. I know not everyone one believes, but it is another aspect to be considered. Our show has something for everyone.

"I am deeply honored to receive this tribute."

Answers to Geo Lexis

- Plymouth Rock, USA granite
- Blarney Stone, Ireland limestone
- Uluru/Ayers Rock, Australia sandstone
- Balancing Rock, Canada basalt
- Perce Rock, Canada shale

Sources: Encyclopaedia Britannica, ScienceStruck.com, Wikipedia.org



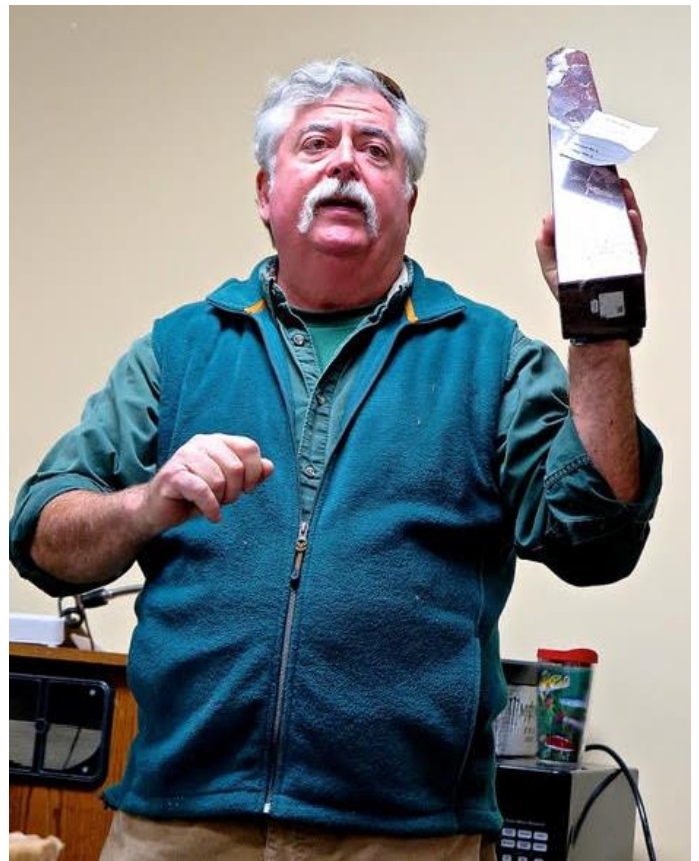
Auctioneer John Sweeney getting ready to throw the hammer at an unruly bidder!



John Sweeney and his "minions" as they sort through the good stuff.



That's either Thor's hammer, or the new gavel for the president.



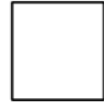
"What am I bid?"

**Annual Fall Auction Night
October 21, 2019**

Photos by Judy Cook



Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse
PO Box 2801
Syracuse, New York 13220
First Class Mail
March 2018
 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.

2019 – 2020 GMSS Officers/Contacts

-President:

Cheryl Brown 315-708-9122 pres@gmail.com

-Vice-President:

Dick Lyons 315-672-5328 vp@gmss.us

-Treasurer:

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

-Secretary: Cathy Patterson secretary@gmss.us

-Jr Rockhounds & Web:

Rick Moore webmaster@gmss.us

-Membership Chair, Hospitality: Donna Dow

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

-GemWorld Show Chair:

Dick Lyons 315-672-5328 show@gmss.us

-Club Librarian:

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

-Lapidary Committee Contact:

Joanne Suchon 315-440-4098

-Newsletter:

Larry Petry 315-472-9226 editorgmss@gmail.com

-Facebook: Judy Cook

-Photographers Extraordinaire:

Judy Cook, Steve Albro

-Hospitality Committee Chair & Members: *We are looking for volunteers* contact secretary@gmss.us to help