

CRACK 'N CAB



Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse, PO Box 2801, Syracuse, NY
web <https://www.syracusegemociety.com> Volume 51 Issue 11, **November 2021**
209 Oswego St (Ponderosa Plaza), Unit 15, Liverpool, NY



“ANNUAL” FALL AUCTION

**Monday, November 15 – Doors
Will Open at 6:00 pm
John Sweeney will be our
auctioneer!**

**Please review the Auction Rules which
are posted on Page 5 in this newsletter.**

If you are planning to bring something for the auction, there are a couple short forms you need to fill out beforehand. The doors to the clubhouse will be open by 6:00. Please come early to fill out the necessary paperwork.



Oct. 18 Meeting Review
Adam Sawicki talks about opals
See Page 6 & 7



Holiday Party
December 19, 2021
12 noon to 4 pm
See Page 3

President's Message

Dick Lyons



I was surprised that we made a profit of over \$5,900. from **our Fall show**. It was more important to let our show dealers and customers know that our club is still active in spite of the virus.

We are now making plans for **our July 2022 show**. The Center of Progress Building is now reserved for the second weekend again. Contracts have been sent out to our previous retail, wholesale, and metaphysical vendors. Cheryl Brown and I spoke with several wholesale dealers at the West Springfield Show. So far, we have received only positive replies. We are going to need all of your help to have another successful show next year.

There are still several shows in the next few months. I encourage you attend at least one event. I also hope that **the Albany show**, under the direction of Mike Hawkins, will happen again next February.

As mentioned in this newsletter, the program for **our meeting this month** will be an auction. Please bring plenty of money for your successful bids along with material to be auctioned.

I encourage you join us at **our holiday party** at Bella Domani on December 19th. Unless you call Cheryl Brown, your last chance to be added to the list will be at our November meeting.

Dick Lyons

Secretary's Reports

Charlie Brown

Member Meeting, 10-18-21

At the beginning of the meeting, members signed in for attendance and membership renewals continued. Information regarding the Holiday Party was shared, and sign-up lists were available. The upcoming Replacement Show final report and lessons learned meeting to be held on Tuesday, October 26th at 7 PM was announced. Adam Sawicki of A&S Opals, LLC, Saratoga, NY, was our guest speaker and made an interesting and informative presentation about opals. All opals are not the same. There are grading scales for them that speak to their color, pattern, brightness, water content, and hardness. The classification of opals also reflects where they come from geographically. From Adam's presentation, opals from Australia would seem to be most desirable to collect and own for their stability and water content. Numerous rocks were offered as door prizes by member Dave Millis and by the club.

Respectfully submitted,
Charlie Brown

Executive Board Meeting Minutes

The GMSS Board meets the first Tuesday of the month at the clubhouse in Liverpool (Ponderosa Plaza) behind Heid's at 7:00 PM. GMSS members are welcome to attend.

Executive Board Meeting Minutes, 11-3-2021

The meeting was called to order by President Dick Lyons. Webmaster Dana Schwartz was not in attendance.

The **Junior Rockhounds** will not be meeting this month due to leader Rick Moore being out of town.

President Lyons updated the Board regarding our **affiliation with EFMLS**, changes to their organization's Board, and issues pertaining to our organization's insurance coverage through EFMLS.

Our **Treasurer** briefed the Board on bank account issues that have arisen that apparently stem from confusion on the part of the bank by our change in treasurer office holder. Mary is working on resolving this. The **Budget and Audit Committees** will be meeting this month.

Our required annual officer **Conflict of Interest Forms** will be filled out at our November meeting.

President Lyons identified **six rock collections** that we need to undertake processing work on to permit display in the meeting room.

Work on **next year's annual show** is underway with updated contracts having been sent out to previous and new potential vendors, the application for the State Fair building having been submitted and accepted, and our **first Show Committee Meeting being scheduled for January 25th**.

Our **November 15th meeting** will be our bi-annual **club auction** of rock, mineral, and fossil related items.

Lapidary Workshop open times are changing from Wednesdays to Saturdays. Saturday open workshop times will be from 1 PM to 4 PM beginning on November 6th. Also, The Marie Cole Workshop will be offering a three-week Lapidary Process and Equipment Orientation Course beginning on

Saturday, November 13th. The course times will be Saturdays from 10 AM 'til noon. The course will run for a total of 6 hours and the cost will be \$50. Class size will be limited to 6 students per course. The instruction will result in your learning lapidary processes, how to use the equipment and tools, the production of a finished cabochon, and the ability to use the Marie Cole Workshop facility, tools, and equipment after completing the six-hour course. Our instructors are Steve Shorey and Bill Verge. Steve is an accomplished lapidary hobbyist and Bill is a retired jeweler.

Respectfully submitted,
Charlie Brown

Membership Reminder

If you haven't paid your dues yet, it's not too late! Please send it in to:
GMSS
PO Box 2801
Syracuse, NY 13220



Holiday Party

December 19, 2021
12 noon to 4 pm

Bella Domani
5988 Taft Road
North Syracuse

\$16.00 members

\$20.00 non-members

Sign-up at the November meeting or email Cheryl at gmsrocks@gmail.com

Geo Lexis (Puzzle) By Anne Fitzgerald

"Myth Information"

A geomyth is a legend that helps to explain a geological incident. Although the word "geomythology" has been around since the late 1960's, it is a new word for me. A new word can change my thinking.

A myth, to me, was always something wrong or untrue, or just a story to explain science not yet discovered. There are stories of a giant catfish thrashing around underground, bears and monkeys building bridges, and gods playing dodge-ball with boulders.

Then I read the story of the hermit turned saint who tamed the fires in his town and became a local hero. Once I heard this story, my concept of myth changed. I no longer have to dismiss the myth to get to the science. And scientists are learning more and more how much they can learn from legends.

Scientists are able to determine the approximate eruption time of a volcano thanks to Saint Calogero of Italy who allegedly drove the "devil fires" out. Since Saint Calogero was a real guy, and since he lived between AD 524- AD 562 at the location of an old eruption, that helps to narrow down the time frame of the actual volcano. The only thing left to ponder is how he got those fires out.

Perhaps we should be calling him the patron saint of the fire extinguisher.

Unscramble the following to discover georealities with mythological origins. Answers are on Page 5 of this newsletter (in case you myth any.)

doolfs
aprovs
karthequase
manisust
skeal
starrec
sandlis

Upcoming Events

November 13-14—HAMBURG, NEW YORK: Retail show; Gem Street USA – Buffalo Show ; The Fairgrounds at Hamburg (Grange Building), 5600 McKinley Parkway, Hamburg, New York 14075; Fri., Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-4; Admission Fee \$6; kids under 12 Free with a Paid Adult; We are bringing together fine jewelers, talented artists, mineral experts and knowledgeable collectors who search the world over for the earth's most cherished gems, minerals and fossils. Plus, handmade jewelry and beads and other finds needed for those who make their own jewelry.

November 13-14—NEW YORK, NEW YORK: Retail show; New York Gems Jewelry and Mineral Show ; The High School of Fashion Industries , 225 West 24th St , 24448 89th Ave; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; Admission Fee \$6; kids' admission Free with a Paid Adult; New Location -- Fashion Height School 225 West 24th St, GYM 3rd FL Selected dealers from near and far selling exquisite minerals, gemstones, jewelry, beads, rocks, crystals; hourly door prizes. Contact: Mohamed Bary (347) 247-6568, email barygems@gmail.com, Web, barygems.com ; contact Mohamed Bary, PO Box 260041, Bellerose, NY 11426.

November 15 – GMSS meeting – 7:30 pm
Our semi-annual Club Auction is being planned!
Gather up your rock, mineral, and fossil treasures that you wish to sell! John Sweeney will be our treasured auctioneer.

November 20- 21—CORNING, NEW YORK: Retail show; Crystal Fest Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show; Sponsored by The Finger Lakes Gem, Mineral and Fossil Club. USW Local 1000, 100 Nasser Civic Center Plaza, Corning, NY; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; Adults \$3, Children 12 & under & Scouts in uniform FREE with Adult. Cash at the door, vendors take both Cash and Cards. Crystals, Minerals, Fossils, Jewelry, Gems, Wirewrapping, Metaphysical stones & Geode Breaking! Masks are "NOT" required only recommended for unvaccinated visitors to the show.

November 20-21—LEBANON, PENNSYLVANIA:
Wholesale and retail show; Mid-Atlantic Gem and Mineral Association; Lebanon PA Fairgrounds and Expo, 80 Rocherty Rd, PO Box 352; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 11-4; \$6, Children under 12 free; The Gem Miner's Holiday Show is a premier Gem, Jewelry, Gift, Bead, Mineral, Fossil & Craft Show featuring demonstrations and Artist's tables. This is a yearly exhibition and sale of some of the finest products & collectibles available to the connoisseur of Earth's treasures. Free parking.; contact Teresa Schwab, PO Box 352, Monrovia, MD 21770, (301) 807-9745; Email: beadware@rcn.com; Website: www.gem-show.com

Lapidary Classes

Starting November 13
at the Clubhouse
10:00am - 12:00 Noon

3 weeks

\$50.00

Contact Bill Verge
617-872-4528 or
b.verge@comcast.net

Open Lab

New Hours at
the Clubhouse

Saturdays

1:00pm - 4:00pm

Starting November 6
\$5.00 fee

If you are planning to bring something for the auction, there are a couple short forms you need to fill out beforehand. The doors to the clubhouse will be open by 6:00. Please come early to fill out the necessary paperwork.

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 two auction label forms and set your items up on the auction tables. The doors will be open by 6:00.

3. Each item must have two completed auction labels. One is a description form for each item, which will be given to the successful bidder. (Mineral name and location collected) The second form will be given to the treasurer for the club records.

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. We have no means for swiping credit cards.

9. Sellers cannot bid on their own items.

Answers to Geo Lexis

doolfs	floods
aprovs	vapors
karthequase	earthquakes
manisust	tsunamis
skeal	lakes
starrec	craters
sandlis	islands

Sources and further reading:

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/ten-ancient-stories-and-geological-events-may-have-inspired-them-180950347/Sarah-Zielinski-April-4,2014>

<https://www.ool.co.uk/blog/geo-mythology/Kath-Bates-10/5/2018>

Geomythology: geological origins of myths and legends
DOROTHY B. VITALIANO

Adam Sawicki's Talk on Opals

October 18, 2021



Photo by Judy Cook

Adam Sawicki, owner of A & S Opals, LLC in Saratoga Springs, NY, was the speaker at our October meeting. He was one of the vendors at our September Replacement Show, and he was also featured in the December 2020 issue of Rock&Gem magazine.

Adam gave a presentation on his work in mining opals in Australia for the last eight years. He first visited the outback town of Coober Pedy, the "opal capital of the world" in northern South Australia (midway between Alice Springs and Adelaide). More recently he works with artisanal miners in Lightning Ridge – a small outback town in north-western New South Wales, near the southern border of Queensland. It's inland, midway between Brisbane and Sydney (southeast coast of Australia). Sawicki showed a video of what is involved in the mining process.

The Lightning Ridge area is a well-known center of mining black opals, as well as other opal gemstones. Sawicki is a supplier of both rough and finished opal and other Australian gemstones.



Illustration of the process Sawicki and the mining teams use to get the opal out of the ground into the truck, including the process of loading dirt into the aggie, "a cement mixture turned into a giant rock tumbler." (A&S Opals, LLC)



Results of an average day of cutting for Sawicki, who works in batches of between 50 and 100 stones at a time. (A&S Opals, LLC)

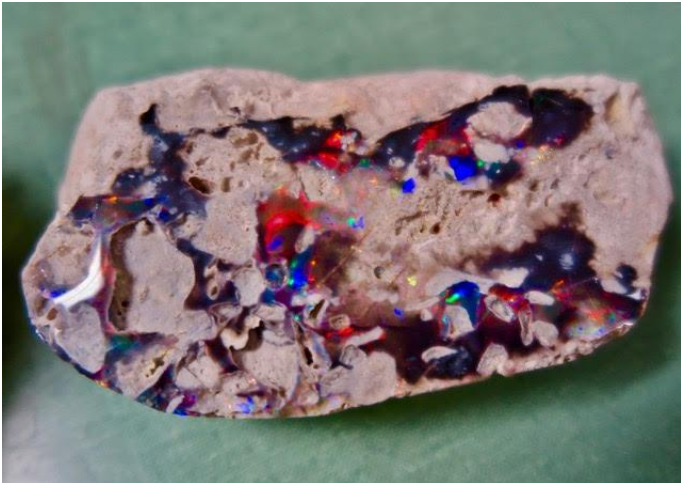
Opal is formed from a solution of silicon dioxide and water. As water seeps through sandstone, it picks up tiny particles of silica. Millions of years ago, the solution flowed into cracks and voids in the sediment as well as the volcanic areas of inland Australia. As the silica in solution was deposited and the water content gradually decreased, spheres formed in the gel. The spheres are formed by the particles of silica spontaneously adhering to other particles that form around them.

Australian opal is referred to as sedimentary opal because it is found primarily in the Mesozoic Great Artesian Basin's sedimentary rock. Australian precious opals usually contain around 5-6% water and consist of small silica spheres arranged in a regular pattern. Its hardness of 5.5 to 6.5 on the Mohs scale puts it about halfway down the range (roughly the same hardness as glass).

The color in precious opal is caused by the regular array of silica spheres and voids diffracting white light and breaking it into the colors of the spectrum.

Black opal is the most prized type of opal and may earn prices over \$10,000 USD a carat. Boulder opals also have a dark body tone but are not quite as valuable, while white opals have a light body tone and are generally the least valuable form of opal.

To find out more about Adam and his opal business, you can visit his website at: www.aandsopals.com; email at: aandsopals@gmail.com; and FaceBook at: A&SOpals LLC.

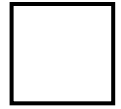


Photos by Judy Cook



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](#)

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 outdoors, 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.

2021 – 2022 GMSS Officers/Contacts

-President: Dick Lyons 315-672-5328
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-Vice-President: Kris Boronczyk 315-487-5202
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-Secretary: Charlie Brown
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 Rick Moore kidsrock@syracusegemsociety.com

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