

CRACK 'N CAB



Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse, PO Box 2801, Syracuse, NY
web <https://www.syracusegemsociety.com> Volume 52 Issue 10, **October 2022**
209 Oswego St (Ponderosa Plaza), Unit 15, Liverpool, NY

New Officers Slate Elected & Inducted

September Program Speaker a No Show!

Claims 'Medical Event' Excuse; Now On for October 17th Program



New officers elected at September meeting include (left to right): Skylar Haar, Secretary; Cathy Patterson, Vice President; Linda Clark (in framed photo), Treasurer; and John Sweeney, President. Long-time member Bob Livingston presided at the swearing in ceremony. (Photo by Judy Cook).

September Meeting Photos:
See Page 7

October 17th Meeting Information:
See Pages 2, 4 and 6

Lapidary Center Open House -
Oct. 17 @ 6:30 – 7:30 pm

Chuck Hafner's Garden Center
Festival – Oct. 22 & 23, 11-4:
See Page 3, 4 and 6



Created by Amanda Lytle

President's Message

John Sweeney



Greetings fellow club members: As I sit here trying to think of what to write in my first president's message, I am time traveling a bit to having done this before in the past and to various times and events in the club over the years. The club and its members have

changed quite a bit over the years; but, in many ways as always things have stayed the same. When I was a new member, more than anything, I wanted to learn to cut and polish stone and to do jewelry. However, the club didn't have a shop and all the people who did it worked more or less privately at home. For lack of a better way to say it these were the old guys (boy I'm glad there are no mirrors nearby), who'd been around forever and seemed to run everything. Well, being new and having just moved to Syracuse I was reticent to talk and ask questions and although I've never been accused of being shy, I felt like one of our newer members so aptly put it, "like a party crasher" and maybe a little or a lot out my league. As simply as I can put this, "don't feel that way." Those same people I was intimidated by, invited me to their homes, shared knowledge and got me started on a twenty plus year journey through lapidary and jewelry making and all the other aspects of our hobby that have and still do bring me a lot of joy, fun and knowledge. Along the way I've made many good friends. After all what fun is all the stuff we learn if we can't share it? So don't be shy when it comes learning about the club or the hobby or helping out. We have a lot of talented people, who if you give them a chance and ask, I'm sure would love to help you out.

On the same note I'd like to say how excited I am after the first general meeting of the year and the first board meeting (which, by the way, all club members are invited to). I met some new members who seemed very talented and interested and who I'd like to get to know better and collaborate with. At the board meeting I was impressed with the work that's already been done on **establishing a new website**, working out new protocols for recordkeeping and communication and setting up new programs and speakers. We're already in the planning stages for next year's show and the **lapidary studio** is open for business and

waiting for new and returning artists. We're working on getting some **new classes** going and we're looking towards changing up the meeting format a little.

Starting with the October meeting, we are going to have a silent auction before the meetings. This will be for the club members to share their extra bounty and to help other members to build their collections. **See more on this in the following article on silent auctions (see Page 4).**

I would also like to start up what I'll call "**knowledge corners.**" This would be a time and place right before the meetings where we can tap one of our resident experts to meet free form with a small group before a meeting and share knowledge of a particular subject. It could be on identifying rocks or fossils or what to expect on a certain field trip, or how to set up a display case. Maybe your forte is tumbling stones, or fluorescent minerals. We're going to need to get a few people involved here and yes that means some volunteers. These informal chats would last for fifteen or twenty minutes and take place before the regular meetings. So, **though the regular meeting time will start at the current time of 7:30 pm, those of you looking forward to an auction or a little more interaction and expertise can show up early and have a little more fun.**

I am looking forward to a great upcoming year, my email is in the newsletter if you'd like to contact me or grab me at a meeting. Even if I look busy, I've got time for you.

Sincerely John Sweeney

Now go out and collect some rocks.

Secretary's Reports

Skylar Haas

Monthly Member Meeting - September 19, 2022

At the beginning of the meeting, members renewed their membership dues.

Steve Shorey was awarded "2022 Rockhound of the Year" for all of his hard work with the lapidary workshop. Congratulations, Steve! (see photo on Pg 7)

Kris Boronczyk presented a summary of his recent trip to Wildacres in Little Switzerland, NC.

Our very own, long-time, loyal member, Bill Livingston, swore in the **GMSS officers for the 2022-2023 club year. President** - John Sweeney; **Vice President** - Cathy Patterson; **Secretary** - Skylar Haas; **Treasurer** - Linda Clark Sweeney. **Sergeant at Arms** - Matt Klinger was not in attendance. John Sweeney and Cathy Patterson both spoke to the club

about their goals for the coming year as a group and organization. Cathy Patterson encouraged all members to come up with ideas for field trips and programs. If you have any suggestions, please submit them to the club! All club members introduced themselves at the request of John Sweeney.

GMSS will be attending Chuck Hafner's Garden Center Festival on October 22nd and 23rd. Anyone who is interested in volunteering during the festival, please contact Cheryl Brown.

Next year's annual GMSS picnic will take place on August 6, 2023, at the Erie Canal Park in Camillus, NY.

Show Committee Meeting – September 27, 2022

Discussion about the EFLMS Annual Convention that was attended by John Sweeney and Cheryl Brown.

General discussion about Gemworld 2023:

- Began assigning members to each subcategory as coordinators.
- Discussed some needs that will make the show run more efficiently.
- Discussed logistics of setting up and breaking down the show.
- Discussed additional tasks we will need to carry out as hosts of the EFLMS Convention.

Executive Board Meeting – October 4, 2022

The meeting was called to order by President John Sweeney.

September's general meeting minutes were read and discussed. Secretary Skylar Haas made a motion to approve the minutes, Vice President Cathy Patterson seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Sergeant at Arms – Matt Klinger; Webmaster – Amanda Lytle; and Editor – Larry Petry, all need to be sworn in. **John Sweeney made a motion to have them sworn in at our October general meeting.** Cheryl Brown seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Treasurer Linda Clark Sweeney reported a budget for this coming 2022-2023 year is on hold. Once all treasury documents are transferred over to Linda for the term year 2021-2022, a budget will be created. The club is also **looking for an audit committee** which needs to be comprised of two members.

Vice President Cathy Patterson discussed her goals of retaining new members and how we as a club can keep them coming back. Ideas for retention were discussed.

Webmaster Amanda Lytle reports that the new website is almost ready. She has set a goal for the domain name to be ready by the end of the month. There was discussion on a few changes that need to be made to the new site.

Judy Cook reports that **Facebook** is going well. She posted photos of the induction of the new members from September 19th, and she posted Steve Shorey receiving his "2022 Rockhound of the Year" plaque. She will be at the **Chuck Hafner's Garden Center Festival when GMSS is attending on October 22nd and 23rd.** She will be posting live photos and updates.

Our **Lapidary team, Steve Shorey and Bill Verge** stated that they need more people to participate in the Marie Cole Workshop. John Sweeney suggested that we do an open house/tour of the Workshop. Bill and Steve agreed and will be having an **Open House/tour of the Workshop an hour before our next general meeting starts on October 17th at 6:30 P.M.**, the general meeting will begin at 7:30 P.M.

Show Committee Chairperson Cheryl Brown reports that contracts are already coming in for the 2023 show. The **next meeting for the Show Committee will be on October 25th at 7 P.M.**

The GMSS's **Christmas Party** will be **at Bella Domani on December 11th from 12 P.M. – 4 P.M.** The menu and pricing will be available soon. Bring a gift to swap (no more than \$10). Also remember to bring food pantry and/or Toys for Tots items.

Linda Clark Sweeney made a motion to adjourn the meeting, all members present seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted,
Skylar Haas

Show Committee Meeting

Come find out how you can help at the annual show. Lots of opportunities to work in publicity, set-up, tear-down, the club booth, the youth area, security, and convention preparation.

The next meeting is October 25 at 7:00 at the clubhouse.

Auction Guidelines

Monthly Meeting Silent Auction Guidelines:

The purpose of these auctions is to promote a little sharing, help members grow their collections and to have some fun. There is no seller premium that goes back to the club like we will still have on the larger auction night where some larger sales and surplus sales are held to help fund the club activities. **We will need a person or two to help run this.** Please let me know if you are interested.

- 1) Arrive early enough to fill out auction forms
- 2) Forms should explain what the item is, where it came from if you know and have a minimum bid if applicable. **Please put your name on the form so people know who to pay.**
- 3) Since this is a new activity let's keep the maximum **two pieces per member** auction pieces for sale per auction till we get this up and running
- 4) Sales should be cash and proceeds will go directly to the person auctioning. So have cash if you're bidding and bring some change if you are auctioning (We're trying to keep this easy, user friendly, fast and fun)
- 5) The auction will start at 7:00pm and last for 15 minutes. That will give you 15 minutes to settle up and settle down before the meeting starts.
- 6) Bids will be in increments of not less than 25 cents. Larger bids I'm sure will be welcome.
- 7) At the fifteen-minute mark, bidding will stop. The monitor will collect the sheets and pass them back to the owners who can then collect their money from the winning bidder.
- 8) Please be courteous, no crowding the sheets and no body checking.
- 9) The club reserves the right to change the rules.

Hafner's Outreach

On **October 22 and 23 from 11 to 4** we have been invited to be at **Hafner's at 7265 Buckley Rd (corner of Taft Road)** to let the community know who GMSS is and what we are about. If you would like to join us, please let Cheryl Brown know (315-708-9122). You can be a demonstrator, sell items related to the gem, mineral, and lapidary hobby (as long as you have a tax ID number) or engage children with a simple jewelry making activity. We're open to any other thoughts and ideas since this will be a great advertising opportunity for the club.

News on Upcoming Programs

By Cathy Patterson

October 17, 2022

Our next meeting is Monday October 17, but it will start at 7:00, a bit earlier. We normally meet the third Monday of the month, 7:30 PM at the clubhouse. This month we are trying something different! At the October 4 Board meeting it was agreed we'd spend **7:00 – 7:30 having a silent auction**. Members can offer up to 2 items for the auction. We'll have the forms and pencils set up at the head tables. If you want a minimum starting bid, please state that on your auction form. By 7:30 many of us will go home with some new lapidary, mineral, fossil, or bead items and perhaps a few more dollars your pocket. For this silent auction members can keep 100% of the winning bid on their sheet. Our regular BIG auction is a little different. Stay tuned for more details on that coming up as our program at the November meeting.

While all this is going on **there will be at least one "interest area"** run by knowledgeable GMSS members where folks can bring rocks/ fossils to be identified. This is a good pace to learn how to identify field collected rocks. We'd like to get back to educating our members so newer members can eventually become wise, sage rockhounds for more new members! Let's share our knowledge with enthusiasm!

Larry Petry, esteemed newsletter editor, is also VP of the Syracuse Stamp Club. He'll be presenting a **talk about "Minerals on US Stamps"**. The minerals featured are tourmaline, rhodochrosite, azurite, copper, variscite, wulfenite and turquoise. *If you have any examples of these please bring them!* Thank you, Larry. If time allows, **Bill Verge and Steve Shorey** agreed to talk about the **Marie Cole Lapidary Center**. They may also have an "open house" 7:00 – 7:30 the same night.

November 21, 2022 Program

This will be our annual club auction night. It's a fast-paced exciting event! Members can offer up to 5 items to sell and unlimited offerings if proceeds go to the club. Members keep 85% of the winning bid with the club receiving 15%. This is a stellar opportunity to beef up your collection, pick up jewelry items, beads, crystals, and tools at terrific prices. It's great, fast paced fun! Do NOT miss it!

(Continued on next page)

December 11 will be our annual Christmas Brunch 12:00 – 4:00 at Bella Domani Restaurant, 5988 East Taft Rd., Syracuse. More information is coming at the October meeting and November newsletter. The fellowship among our rockhound family is festive. An unwrapped gift \$10, suggested value, is a fun gift exchange and the food is delicious.

Upcoming programs are being planned. Stay informed via our newsletter, our meetings, and soon to be our new website! Please note as VP I will be planning these programs and I need/want your input. What do you want to learn? See me, call me, text me, or drop your ideas in the suggestion box at the sign in table. Tell me what your interest is so we can get the right speakers in. Many of our knowledgeable members might like to present a short talk on their specialty. Let's learn from each other.

Post COVID Fantastic News!

We'll be having refreshments again after 3 long years! John Sweeney, Amanda Lytle, Cathy Patterson, and Judy Cook agreed to serve as the first hospitality team. Bravo! We will be refreshed after the October program. Thank you! We'll be asking for another team of 4 to bring treats to the November 21 meeting. Please say yes.

Field Trips

As we wind down on field trips into fall, I would like those who are field collecting to contact me. We can always plan for spring and summer 2023. Trips could also include museums, Albany, PRI in Ithaca. How about a show?

- Crystal Fest November 19, 20, 100 Nasser Civic Center Plaza, Corning, NY
- Finger Lakes Holiday Show, November 26, 27, American Legion Canandaigua Post, 454 North Main St. Canandaigua

Have you discovered a great place to rockhound that you'd care to share with fellow members? Hearing stories of collecting can be fun.

Membership Reminder

If you haven't renewed your membership yet, it's not too late! You can mail it to the post office box or bring it with you to the October 17th meeting.

Adults \$10.00

Family \$15.00

Youth \$5.00

Life Members \$5.00

Geo Lexis (Puzzle) By Anne Fitzgerald

"Warning Rocks and Worry Stones"

When traveling as a kid, I was instantly terrified when I saw a sign that warned: "Falling Rock Zone." I wore out my worry stones thinking a huge boulder would crash from a cliff onto our car. I never saw a rock fall from one of these zones, and in fact, damage and injury from highway rock falls are rare.

There are far bigger perils to worry about, and our ancestors knew this. (They did not have highway signs to distract them.) Our ancestors were so thoughtful they created "Warning Rocks" and "Hunger Stones" as a gift to future generations. Carved with chisels, in the language of the locals, "Warning Rocks" have been found going back 500 years in our history.

In Japan, "Tsunami Stones" are found along coastlines. "Hunger Stones" have recently been found in Europe, warning of drought. Too bad these drought warnings were only found during a real drought, when part of the Elbe River had already dried out. My guess is, in this case, we missed the "Early Warning Rocks" and found the "Told You So" rocks. I saw a sign on Route 81 on my way to the last meeting. That sign said, "Fallen Rock Zone." (Apparently the rocks had already fallen.) So besides "Told You So" rocks, we also have "Told You So" signs!

Unscramble the following to find rocks that can be used for "Warning Carving." Perplexed? Wipe your slate clean and turn to another page of this newsletter for the solution.

sterabala
niterag
wackeygre
stoneemil
blearm
stonesnad
stonespoas

Upcoming Events

Oct. 8—MONT CLARE, PA: Annual show; Philadelphia Mineralogical Society; St Michaels Grove, 400 Jacobs St; Sat. 10-6; \$5 Adults, under 13 free, scouts in uniform free; Mineral Treasures Outdoor Show Minerals, Fossils, Gem sales, Kids Activities & Free Specimens, Snack Bar, Picnic Grounds, Free Parking, Indoor Restrooms; contact Don McAlarnen; Email: donmcalarnen@outlook.com; Website: www.phillyrocks.org

Oct. 15-16—BRISTOL, CT: Annual show; Bristol Gem & Mineral Club; Douglas Beals Bristol Senior Center, 240 Stafford Ave, 127 Herschel Ave; Sat. 9:30-5, Sun. 10-4; \$5; contact Michael Zagielski, (860) 997-3350; Email: mzagielski@comcast.net

OCT. 17 – GMSS meeting – 7:30 pm, Additional Board Members will be sworn in. The “Minerals & Crystals on U.S. Stamps” program by Larry Petry is scheduled...again. Steve Shorey & Bill Verge will talk about what’s on the other side of the wall (the Lapidary Center!). **And, we’ll have snacks again!** (*Wear your nametag badges – you’ve been warned!*)

OCT. 22 -23 – Chuck Hafner’s Garden Center Festival, 11 am – 4 pm both days. There will be GMSS info. & handouts, activities and items for sale (see Page 3 & 4).

Oct. 22-23—MOUNT BETHEL, PA: Annual show; Mt. Bethel Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show; Mt. Bethel Firehouse, 2341 Rt. 611; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-4; Adults \$5, Kids Free, \$1 with flyer; See amazing treasures from the Earth! Our show features Gems, Minerals, Fossils, Meteorites, Crystals, Stones, & More; contact Diana Tasco, (201) 776-6856; Email: dianatasco@yahoo.com

OCT. 25 – 2023 Show Committee meeting – 7 pm at the Clubhouse. All are invited.

NOV. 1 – GMSS Board meeting – 7 pm at the Clubhouse. All are invited.

Nov. 5—WALDORF, MD: Show & sale; Southern Maryland Rock & Mineral Club; Old Waldorf School, 3074 Crain Highway; Sat. 9-4; Adults \$5, Seniors (65+) \$4, Juniors (7 to 17) \$3, Under 7 Free; Rocks, Crystals, Fossils, Lapidary, Handcrafted Jewelry, Minerals, Holiday Gifts. Fluorescent Tent. Door Prizes. Free parking; contact Dave Lines, (240) 427-7062; Website: www.SMRMC.org

Nov. 5-6—OAKS, PA: Annual show; Tuscarora Lapidary Society; Greater Philadelphia EXPO Center, 100 Station Ave; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; Adults \$6 (\$5 with discount coupon); 2-day adult ticket \$9; children under 12 years \$1; Boy Scouts & Girl Scouts in uniform accompanied by adult scoutmaster admitted free; Gemarama: “A Rainbow of Possibilities” will feature vendors of fine gems, minerals, & jewelry. In addition, there will be numerous exhibit cases, a large demonstration area of lapidary & jewelry arts, kids’ activities, silent auctions & more.

Free parking & food available; contact Linda Green, (610) 490-5252; Email: tuscaroralapidary@gmail.com; Website: www.lapidary.org

Nov. 12-13—NEW YORK, NY: Annual show; Bary Gems Inc. & New York Mineralogical Club; The School of Fashion Industries, 225 West 24th St; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; \$6 adults; children under 12 free; Mineral, jewelry, gem & fossil dealers. hourly door prizes. Free lectures organized by New York Mineralogical Club; contact Mohamed Bary; Email: barygems@gmail.com; Website: www.barygems.com

Nov. 19-20—WEBSTER, MA: Annual show; Worcester Mineral Club; St Joseph School / Richard Nowak Gymnasium, 47 Whitcomb St; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 12-5; Kids under 12 free, seniors \$1 off; Brand new Location! 21 Vendors, exhibits, demonstrations, hourly door prizes. raffle, food, club booth, club displays. Free Parking, HCP accessible. gift bags for kids; contact Darlene Fohlin, (860) 428-4148; Email: hunzo.dgf@gmail.com

Nov. 19-20—LEBANON, PA: Wholesale & retail show; Mid-Atlantic Gem & Mineral Association (MAGMA); Lebanon Expo & Fairgrounds, 80 Rocherty Rd; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 11-4; \$6 General Admission; Children 12 & under free; The Mid-Atlantic’s premium Gem, Jewelry, Mineral & Bead Show will be conducting its 13th Annual Holiday Show focusing on jewelry crafts & holiday-related items. View the rough materials of the mineral world in its original form & after it’s transformed into refined products & jewelry; contact Teresa Schwab, (301) 807-9745; Email: beadware@rcn.com; Website: www.gem-show.com

NOV. 21 – GMSS meeting – 7:30 pm, Our Fall Auction is planned (see Page 4).

NOV. 29 – 2023 Show Committee meeting – 7 pm at the Clubhouse. All are invited.

Answers to Geo Lexis

sterabala	alabaster
niterag	granite
wackeygre	greywacke
stoneemil	limestone
blearm	marble
stonesnad	sandstone
stonespoas	soapstone

Sources and further reading:

www.sciencealert.com/hidden-hunger-stones-reveal-drought-warnings-from-the-past

16 August 2022, By PAOLA ROSA-AQUINO

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/century-old-warnings-against-tsunamis-dot-japans-coastline-180956448/> Danny Lewis, August 31, 2015

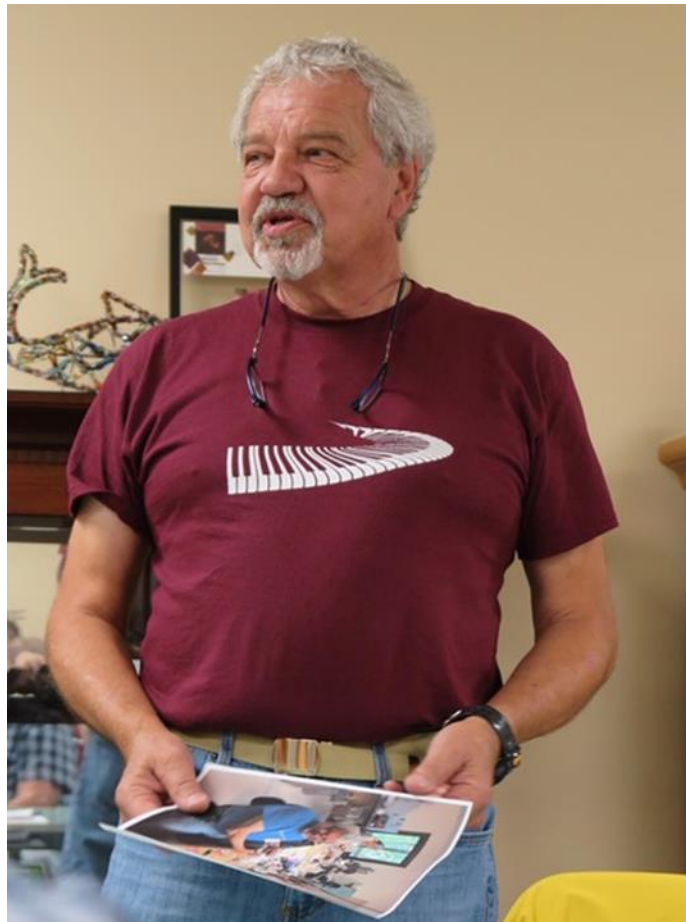
www.thesculpturestudio.com/typesOfStone.html

Sept. 19, 2022 - Club Meeting

Most photos by Judy Cook



Steve Shorey shows off his "Rockhound of the Year" award as Dick Lyons looks on. (Photo by Cathy Patterson)



Kris Boronczyk spoke about Wildacres Retreat in Little Switzerland, NC, where he went recently.

New officers being inducted by Bob Livingston



Past President Dick Lyons shakes hand with new President John Sweeney.



Dave Millis picked door prize raffle tickets and had the person select a mineral and he would give a 2-to-3-minute talk on it. Although the speaker for the night was a no show, note the framed display in the background – it's the "Minerals on Stamps" display!



Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse
PO Box 2801
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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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-Vice-President: Cathy Patterson
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-Treasurer: Linda Clark
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-Secretary: Skylar Haar
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-Jr Rockhounds: Rick Moore
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-Membership Chair: members@syracusegemsociety.com

-Sgt at Arms: Matt Klinger
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-GemWorld Show Chair: Cheryl Brown 315-708-9122
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-Club Librarian: Steve Albro 607-756-2298
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-Lapidary Committee Contact: Steve Shorey
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