

CRACK 'N CAB



Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse, PO Box 2801, Syracuse, NY
web: <https://www.gmss.club> Volume 54 Issue 5, May 2024
209 Oswego St (Ponderosa Plaza), Unit 15, Liverpool, NY

It's Time For—

The Spring Club Auction!

Monday, May 20

Doors Open @ 6pm

Auction Starts @ 7



Please review the Auction Rules which are posted on Page 4 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.



April Meeting Review:
Lee's Tucson Experience
Door Prize Discussions
See Pages 9 - 11

Photos by Judy Cook

Slate of Officers – Page 2

Junior Rockhounds' April Meeting – See Page 12

Next GMSS Lapidary Classes begin on May 11 at 10 AM!

President's Message

John Sweeney



There's a lot going on this month. Those of you signed up for **Wildacres** will be hitting the road soon. Field trips are happening, and lapidary classes are in full swing. Wire wrapping classes and metal piercing classes are going on as well and there are lots of shows to visit. Our kid's group, the **Junior Rockhounds**, met

at the end of April and **will be meeting again May 25th at 1:00p.m.**

We are well into **show planning** and starting physical prep for the show. We have quite a few commitments for fluorescent cases, and **we are looking for people to commit to displaying in our regular cases.** We'll be checking in with people and making calls to see who would like to display. Make it easy on us and **use the case registration sign up on our website.** While you are in there, look at all the information on displaying and labeling. **Amanda our web mistress** has done an excellent job covering the ins, outs and how tos. So don't be shy, show us your stuff. Please come early. **This month's meeting will start off with a brief business meeting at 7:00pm** (yes, a half hour early) so that we can **present a slate of officers for next year's board** seats and have time to wade through a rather large field of auction materials. **There is still time to throw your hat in the ring for the elections**, if you are so inclined. We are looking for a President, Vice President and Sergeant at Arms.

Yes, it's **spring auction time**, so be ready to bid. We have some beautiful items to auction. The auction rules, dates of classes and other information are listed later in the bulletin and on our website <https://gmss.club/>. Look to our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/gemandmineralsyr> to get a look at some of the upcoming auction items.

Work Night for the show **will be in June** and there are sign- up sheets already up at the club, listing the positions we need filled to run the show smoothly.

Between Newsletters you can always check out our website and Facebook page for more information on club activities and up to date info.

So go out and find some rocks while the sun is shining. Don't forget the ban de soleil!
See you at the meeting.

John Sweeney
pres@gmss.club

Secretary's Reports

Teresa Arnold

Executive Board Meeting May 7, 2024 Minutes

President: John Sweeney: Opened meeting at 7PM

Slate of officers: President – Matt Klinger

Vice President – Dave Arcaro

Secretary – Teresa Arnold

Treasurer – Linda Sweeney

Sgt. At Arms – John Sweeney

Will be posted in next newsletter, at May meeting, and will ask for any nominations from the floor. Voting will take place at the June Work Meeting.

Auction (May 20 meeting): members may donate unlimited items, but only 2 personal items for sale each. **Auction will begin at 7PM** following a brief business meeting.

EFMLS Convention delegates are John Sweeney and Larry Petry. Alternate delegate is Linda Clark.

Secretary: Teresa Arnold:

RE: minutes from April: Motion to accept by Cheryl Brown; second by Cathy Patterson; approved unanimously.

Treasurer: Linda Sweeney:

Purchased "The World of Fluorescent Minerals" for library. Cheryl Brown will check in auction items at the door.

T shirts – still taking orders.

Will ask new landlord to install grab bars in both bathrooms. EFMLS Scholarship fund \$357.88 – Motion to send this amount to EFMLS by Linda, second Dave Arcaro, approved unanimously.

Vice President: Cathy Patterson:

Night trip to Lake Ontario with Jim Guinta TBA – will send around a sign-up sheet and let people know it will be a last-minute trip due to weather conditions.

May 20th Auction is all set.

June 17th is Work Night for the July Show. We will have ice cream with toppings after filling sluice bags and stuffing straws.

Web Mistress: Amanda Lytle:

1. **GoDaddy Product Renewals 4/29/24**

Domain name and domain protection \$57.16

2. **Site Updates**

(All updates are promoted on the home page and links can be accessed right from there: <https://gmss.club>)

Top Feature:

Refreshed image for May auction event. Please review content on Auction Info Page.

"What's Hot" Sub features:

Display Case online sign up & resources updated for building our exhibits, UV specs, and display case dimensions. Content

re-organized. Labels section updated. Added UV fire safety notice about lights during gem show.

NYS Geological attraction promo added to Library page (Chimney Bluffs State Park).

Added Clubhouse Community gallery to promote in-house activities & workshops. Added member message to see Crack 'N Cab newsletter for upcoming in-house activities postings.

Junior Rockhounds May meeting promo plus New JR Rockhound Meeting info updated in Memberships page.

New series of educational videos in the Library & Field Trips page.

3. LOOKING FOR NEW CONTENT/ CONTENT REVIEW:

Display Case Exhibits - If anyone has anything else to add about Exhibiting at our club events, please let me know. I'll tap Joey Rivera to see if he can offer extra UV exhibiting advice that could help people out by show meeting.

Field trips page: Would like someone (Dave Arcaro?) to review the Field Trips page for any content corrections / additions in Tips and Advice. Can even be suggestions for links to helpful articles, blogs, etc.

JR Rockhounds: Do the kids need any resources posted on the site for help with their projects?

Facebook: Judy Cook:

Speakers for the show are lined up and being highlighted in FB

Membership: Cheryl Brown:

We currently have 162 members; 1 new family and 2 returning members.

Jr. Rockhounds: Tracy Criscione and Rick Moore (not present): per John, the group has 4 or 5 members and is starting out well. Dave Arcaro is going to do a fossil presentation for them, and we are providing a new Devonian fossil field guide identification book for them.

Hospitality: Doria McIntosh (not present):

No refreshments needed until September meeting.

Club Picnic will be Sunday, August 4th at the Lake Forest Sportsman's Club near Brewerton. Will look into having BBQ for this year.

Lapidary: Steve Shorey:

Starting a new class on Saturday May 11th.

Dave Millis will offer his copper ring and wire wrapping classes again on May 25th (maybe a conflict with Youth meeting) and June 22nd.

Show: Cheryl Brown:

Proposed ad to be placed in the "What's Hot" publication for the Blues Fest at the Fairgrounds. Will cost \$360.00.

Motion by Cathy Paterson; second Teresa Arnold; approved unanimously.

Show sales: a lot of items for sale.

Building: John Sweeney:

Collections: Kammer, still collating; some will go for auction and some for sale at show.

Working on freeing up a case here. Planning to re-organize our collection, make room for rotating exhibits.

Sgt. At Arms: Matt Klinger: No report

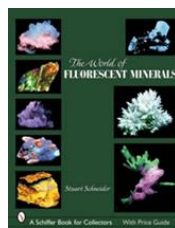
New Business: None

Meeting Adjourned at 8:45PM by John Sweeney.

Respectfully Submitted,
Teresa Arnold

NIGHT COLLECTING TRIP ALONG LAKE ONTARIO

Warm/clear night along Lake Ontario beckons to intrepid collectors of fluorescent rocks. Member, Jim Guinta, is interested in getting a group of rockhounds together to collect those lovely glowing rocks. Date/time is yet to be set and is determined by the weather. **A sign-up sheet will be posted at the clubhouse in May and June.** If interested leave your name and all contact information so Jim can contact you when conditions look good. You will need your own short/longwave lights to spot the rocks along the shore. Feel the glow!



New Fluorescents Book Available in Library

Librarian, Steve Albro, has purchased a dazzling book on fluorescent minerals for us to sign out. Those in the fluorescent wing of the club will be very interested! Thanks,

Steve!

WWW.GMSS.CLUB

If you haven't visited the club website yet you should, pronto! Amanda, our superb webmaster, has been working on our website continually making it a world-class site highlighting our wonderful hobby club, Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse! We ROCK! Thank you, Amanda! We're on Facebook too! Thank you, Judy Cook!

Got Kids? Grandkids? Like Rocks?

We are starting up, again, youth group meetings. Thanks to Tracey, Rock Doc, and Rick for planning activities on select **Saturdays** for the Pepple Pup group. The more kids the merrier! With warmer weather coming actual collecting trips may be in the works. **Check the clubhouse wall for notices about youth group meetings.**

Rock & Gem Magazine

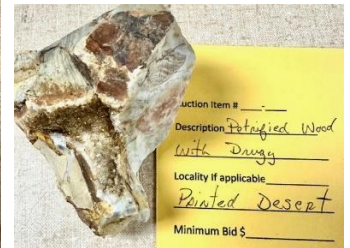
Interesting, colorful articles on all kinds of rock collecting adventures around the country, highlights of certain mineral finds, bench tips for home lapidaries, historical earth science articles, and lots more are in these bimonthly magazines. Yes, the club has many past copies you can sign out. Yes, you can subscribe and get this gem of a magazine sent directly to your mailbox. Many club rockhounds have subscribed for years to this and love it! More in-depth mineral publications are also available for sign out in our club library.

www.rockngem.com/rg524 or 844-3306373

GMSS Auction Rules:

1. Only paid-up GMSS club members can sell items. Anyone can bid on auction items.
2. The auction begins promptly at **7:00 pm**. If you are selling items, please come early to obtain the two auction label forms. Set your items up on the auction tables. **Come early - the doors will be open by 6:00 pm.**
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 and to give correct payment.
4. **There is an upper limit of 2 bid items per person; 4 bid items per family.** This is reduced from previous auctions due to the time it takes to complete the auction and how many items we will be putting in from the acquired collection.
5. This is *not* a silent auction. Each bidder will be given a number on a sign to display. Please remember to hold it up for the auctioneer to see.
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.

Here's Just a Small Sample of Items Up for Bid!



GMSS Club Library

Yes, we have an enormous collection of all kinds of hobby-related books, pamphlets, and magazines ready for sign out. They are neatly shelved in our small office/library at the back of the clubhouse. We thank **Steve Albro** and **Amanda Lytle** for keeping such good track of our collection. If you have signed out books in the past and are no longer reading them, please return them so someone else can enjoy reading them.

Show Sign Ups

Please get your name on the **worker list for our July show** at the Center of Progress Building, NYS Fairgrounds. New members get a club T-shirt to wear when working. Everyone working a minimum of 4 hours gets free entry to the **BIGGEST CLUB RUN GEM, MINERAL, FOSSIL, BEAD show** in New York State. No kidding, we are the biggest! Don't you want to be part of this?!

Sign up for a shift and be part of the fun. Get to know some new friends. **Sign-up sheets will be available at the May meeting.**



Photos by Judy Cook

Joan Beverly Livingston, Fayetteville, NY.

Born in Rome, NY, on March 31, 1937, Joan Beverly Livingston passed from this life on Friday, April 19, 2024.



Joan was a caring soul who lit up a room with her stylish clothing and dry sense of humor. Plagued with rheumatic fever at age 9 and home from school for most of the year, she kept up with her Lyncourt School class and graduated in 1955 from Central Tech

in Syracuse.

Joan's first job was in accounting at Hathaway Bakery in Lyncourt. Her next accounting job was at the Prosperity Company, using a Comptometer, forerunner to the desk computer. She also worked in Accounts Receivable for Syracuse Supply Company and was a valued employee for more than 25 years.

In 1963, she met and married the love of her life, Robert Livingston.

Joan mothered and cared for 8 cats and dogs, and she was a volunteer for several senior organizations. She loved to travel and made many trips to Europe and also visited all 50 states. Joan attended Dewitt Community Church for more than 35 years and was a lifetime member of the Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse.

She is survived by her loving husband of 61 years, Robert, sister Shirley and husband Michael Byers, of Syracuse and a niece, Abigail Ferretti (Andrew), of Rockville, MD, and two nephews, Joshua Byers (Barbara) of Harlan, IA, and Elisha Byers (Amy), of Goshen, NY.

Memorial donations may be sent to the Humane Society of Syracuse (<https://www.humanecny.org>), Tiger Haven, in Kingsport, TN, a no-kill shelter for big cats (<https://www.tigerhaven.org>), or your favorite charity.

Joan Livingston Passes

We are so very sad to know of long-time member **Joan Livingston's** recent passing. Joan was the smiling face who greeted us at the hospitality table several years ago. Joan had a knack for finding rock-related treasures at the

many garage sales she and Bob visited over the years. Her finds were often up for sale at our August club picnics. She was an ardent animal lover who had several cats and dogs over the years. She had a kind heart, a clever wit, was a great storyteller, was a superb cook - especially desserts, a devoted wife to her rockhound husband, and a genuine classy lady! She and Bob, her husband, have both contributed so much to this club over more than 30 years. It was Super great to see "BL", **Bob Livingston**, at the last board meeting. He has been GMSS president and EFMLS president and continues to be our advisor on things related to the club show and everything else that matters to club rockhounds.

- Cathy Patterson

GMSS has been the Greatest for Joan & Bob Livingston

We joined in 1988 and it turned out to be a best move for us. For 32 years we were quite deeply involved in GemWorld and all until Joan began her health decline. Without a doubt she and I considered you all as the best and majority of our friends.

That was borne out by the large contingent of you who attended her "Celebration of Life" service in DeWitt at the end of April. I was deeply touched.

Now with my "caring for" need passed, this old man hopes to be more involved once again. And whether "newbie" or long-time member, I can assure you our club needs your help at our July show. Sign up, as it takes all hands to pull off the largest club show between Detroit and Boston.

Bob Livingston, Past President, GMSS

Who's Who in the EFMLS?

Our own Show Chairman, **Cheryl Brown**, is heading out to Little Switzerland, NC to teach classes at **Wildacres**, a retreat in the Blue Ridge Mountains. For a week, several classes are offered in faceting, beading, cab cutting, silversmith, and much more. The retreat is used by several groups starting in the spring and ending in late fall. The Eastern Federation takes a week in May to offer classes, delicious home cooked meals, do a bit of tailgate selling with folks from far and wide, go on a field collecting trip, hear lectures by prominent people in earth sciences and lapidary, and have time to rest and enjoy the beautiful mountain scenery. There are no distractions of television. Some call it heaven for rockhounds. **Linda Boronczyk**, another GMSS member, has also been an instructor. These folks do us proud!

Geo Lexis (Puzzle) By Anne Fitzgerald

"Learning Excursions"

If you plan to go on any field trips in the near future, you might want to bring some tips on your trips courtesy of our founding fathers. George Washington and Thomas Jefferson were fascinated by fossils. George Washington owned a 9-pound mastodon tooth and kept it all of his life. Thomas Jefferson added fossil hunting to his exhausting To-Do List for Lewis and Clark. After seeing mastodon fossils, and the bones of a giant sloth, Jefferson thought the creatures might still exist, and tasked Lewis and Clark with finding them dead, alive, or fossilized.

Thomas Jefferson was smart enough to know that if you are going to search for something (like a water passage to the Pacific Ocean) it makes a lot of sense to have lots of things on your list in case the main search doesn't work out.

Searches for one item (like the Holy Grail) often end in disaster and rarely are successful. But with a To-Do list of hundreds of items, your chances of getting some things done are pretty good. Lewis and Clark's team did indeed find fossils, recorded them, and delivered them properly to the American Philosophical Society in Philadelphia. Sadly, most of them were lost to researchers who got so excited they forgot to document them properly. The most well documented surviving fossil was a fish jaw, last seen at the Academy of Natural Science at Drexel University, Philadelphia. But no one seems to know where it is now.

So, while you are doing your fossil hunting, don't forget to be on the lookout for other things. And don't forget to do your labeling and recording and get a receipt if you donate or sell your item so you can know the last known location in case your fossil makes history someday.

Match the year to the following expeditions. Explore all the pages of this newsletter for the answers.

Geo Lexis Questions

Neal Armstrong's Exploration of The Moon
Captain Cook's Exploration of Hawaii
Alexander Mackenzie's Peace River Expedition (Canada)
Dr David Livingstone's search for the source of the Nile
Charles Darwin's voyage
Marco Polo's voyage to lots of places
Vasco da Gama's voyage to India

Years of Exploring

1271-1295
1969
1497-1499
1866-1871
1792-1793
1778
1831-1836

We need everyone's help.

If you would like to help, please email Cheryl at gmsrocks@gmail.com. Thanks!

If you need a red T-shirt, please sign up for one.

Thank you all for helping to make our show a success! Without you, it wouldn't be possible.

Next Show Committee Meeting Tues., May 28 at 7:00

All are welcome!
**Come find out what our July
show is all about!**

Upcoming Events

MAY 20 – GMSS meeting – 7:00 pm, Club Spring Auction; Present slate of Officers for 9/24 to 9/25: President, Vice President and Sergeant-at-Arms. (Note: no refreshments being provided at this meeting)

Saturday, MAY 25 – Junior Rockhounds meeting - 1 – 2 pm at the Clubhouse.

MAY 28 – "The Magic of Fluorescents" Show Committee meeting - 7 pm at the Clubhouse. All are invited.

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

JUNE 17 – GMSS meeting – 7:30 pm, Officers Election and Work Night for our July Show! Stuff straws and sluice bags, plus any other tasks that need doing before the Show. Also, Ice Cream eating!

JUNE 25 – (Last-minute) “The Magic of Fluorescents” Show Committee meeting
- 7 pm at the Clubhouse. All are invited.

JULY 13-14 – The Gemworld Show!
Fri. setup starting 8 am. Sat. Show 10 am – 6 pm. Sun. Show 10 am – 4 pm

AUG. 4 (Sun.)– GMSS Club Picnic – Lake Forest Sportsman Club, 9403 Bear Springs Rd, Brewerton between Mud Mill Rd. and Orangeport Rd. *More information to come.*



Next GMSS Lapidary Classes begin on May 11, 10 AM !

Any Member or Non-Member interested in taking the three-week beginning Lapidary class please contact Bill Vergé at:
b.verge@comcast.net

or text 617-872-4528 for more information.

This is the class you need if you would like to use any of the Club's Lapidary equipment in the Marie Cole Lab.

GMSS Members \$60; Non-Members \$75 (Includes Membership to GMSS!)

Bill Vergé

Upcoming Spring Shows:

May 18-19—NORTH OLMSTED, OH: Annual show; Parma Lapidary Club; North Olmsted Soccer Sportplex, 31515 Lorain Rd; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; \$6 adults, Children under 12 & scouts in uniform free when accompanied by an adult; 55th Annual Rock 'A Rama Jewelry, Gem, Crystal, Fossil & Mineral Show; contact Show Chair; Email: showchair@parmalapidaryclub.com; Website: www.parmalapidaryclub.com

May 18-19—BENNINGTON, VT: Annual show; Southwestern Vermont Mineral & Gem Club, Inc; Grace Christian School, 104 Kocher Dr; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; Adults

\$5. Kids FREE; contact Bill Cotrofelf, (802) 375-6782; Email: cotrofelfdauto@comcast.net

May 24-26—SALEM, VA: Annual show; Salem Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show; Salem Civic Center, 1001 Roanoke Blvd; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-4; 18 & older: \$8, 11-17: \$2, 10 & under: Free; Featuring the finest Gems, Minerals, Jewelry, Fossils, Meteorites & Beads from Around The World; contact Alan Koch; Email: agmjs3@gmail.com; Website: www.americangemshow.com

June 1—MACUNGIE, PA: Annual show; Pennsylvania Earth Sciences Association (PESA); Macungie Memorial Park, 50 Poplar St; Sat. 8:30-3; Free; Fossils, gems, & minerals from six continents & outer space on over 100 tables indoors & out featuring a fluorescent mineral room & other goodies; contact Mandy Appar; Email: pesanewsletter@yahoo.com; Website: www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064902032245

June 1-2—CANANDAIGUA, NY: Annual show; Wayne County Gem & Mineral Club; Greater Canandaigua Civic Center, 250 North Bloomfield Rd; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; \$5 for adults, Free for children 12 & under; GemFest is a family friendly event with plenty of demonstrations & activities for all ages in addition to a solid variety of quality vendors! We strive to have a number of no-cost activities that are kid-friendly like rock painting, soapstone carving, a scavenger hunt, & Jerry & his dinosaur; contact James Keeler; Email: jamesrocks@jkeeler.com; Website: wcgmc.org

Wayne County Gem & Mineral Club



GemFest 2024

Sat., June 1st – 10a-5p
Sun., June 2nd – 10a-4p

Greater Canandaigua Civic Center
250 N. Bloomfield Rd, Canandaigua, NY

\$5 Admission, Kids 12 & under FREE

Soapstone Carving, Wire Wrapping, Sluice, Vendors, Exhibits, Free Prizes, Scavenger Hunt, Rock painting, Jerry's Dinosaur, our famous Rock Grab bags, and much more

Gems, Minerals, Fossils, Beads & Jewelry



GEM & MINERAL SHOW AND SALE

M A Y 18 & 19, 2024

**GRACE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
104 KOCHER DRIVE
BENNINGTON, VERMONT**

**SATURDAY 10AM - 4PM
SUNDAY 10AM - 3PM
\$5.00 ADULT ADMISSION
KIDS - FREE
MORE INFO: CONTACT
Bill 802-375-6782**

"If any of your Club members decide to make the long drive to our show, we will admit them FREE with their current dues card from your Club." – Bill Cotrofeld (It's only 3 hours from our Clubhouse!)

June 8—KENT, CT: Annual show; Connecticut Museum of Mining & Mineral Science; Connecticut Antique Machinery Campus, 31 Kent-Cornwall Rd (RT 7); Sat. 9-4; FREE; 30 plus dealers from the Northeast selling minerals, fossils, gemstones, beads. Tour the museum's new exhibits. New dealers welcome; contact John Pawloski; Email: j.a.pawloski@att.net

June 8-9—W. FRIENDSHIP, MD: Wholesale & retail show; Mid-Atlantic Gem & Mineral Association/dba Gem Miner's Spring Show; Howard County Maryland Fairgrounds, 2210 Fairgrounds Rd; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 11-4; \$6, children under 12 free, Discount coupon offered on website; The Gem Miner's Spring Show is an exhibition of beads, fine jewelry, gems,

minerals, fossils, gift & craft items. New Wholesale section. Hourly & grand door prizes. In its 3rd year. Free & handicapped parking; contact Teresa Schwab, (301) 807-9745; Email: eventcoordinator@gem-show.com; Website: www.gem-show.com

July 13-14—SYRACUSE, NY: Annual show; Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse, Inc; Center of Progress Building at the New York State Fairgrounds, 575 State Fair Blvd; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; \$8 Adults, Free for children under 12 & scouts in uniform with paid adult admission; More than 60 retail & wholesale dealers, several demonstrators, displays, & activities for children. You can pick out a geode and watch the dealer crack it. Vendors will be selling minerals, fossils, crystals, jewelry, beads, cabs, & jewelry-making supplies; contact Cheryl Brown, Email: show@gmss.club; Website: www.gmss.club



Gem and Mineral Society of Syracuse

57th Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil and Jewelry Show



Photo by Howie516

\$8.00 per person

Children under 12 with an adult get in free

Center of Progress Building
New York State Fairgrounds
581 State Fair Blvd.
Syracuse, NY

The Magic of Fluorescents
Saturday, July 13, 2024 10am – 6pm
Sunday, July 14, 2024 10am – 4pm

**Minerals – Fossils – Crystals – Jewelry
Demonstrations – Lectures
Metaphysical
Geode Cracking
Youth area with a sluice
Fun for the entire family**

Answers to Geo Lexis

N. Armstrong's Exploration of The Moon	1969
Captain Cook's Exploration of Hawaii	1778
A. Mackenzie's Peace River Expedition (Canada)	1792-1793
Dr Livingstone's search for the source of the Nile	1866-1871
Charles Darwin's voyage	1831-1836
Marco Polo's voyage to lots of places	1271-1295
Vasco da Gama's voyage to India	1497 to 1499

Sources and further reading:

<https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/fossils-of-the-lewis-and-clark-expedition.htm#>

<https://www.history.com/news/lewis-and-clark-animals-american-west>

<https://lewis-clark.org/sciences/geology/paleontology/fossil-specimens/>

The Fossil Specimens *The paleontological discoveries*

By Earle E. Spamer & Richard M. McCourt

<https://www.mountvernon.org/library/digitalhistory/digital-encyclopedia/article/george-washingtons-mastodon-tooth/John-Gibbs>

Mount Vernon Ladies' Association

en.wikipedia.org

<https://www.cheapflights.com/news/10-great-expeditions-that-changed-the-world>

April 15, 2024 - Club Meeting

Photos and notes by Judy Cook

Jeff Huord gave a presentation on the February door prize



Jeff won the February door prize - Celestine, also known as Celestite. Great presentation, he even did a power point!

How is it Formed

- Celestine is a pretty unique mineral because it forms in some interesting ways. It's usually found in sedimentary rocks, which are like layers of rock that pile up over time.
- These rocks form when minerals like celestine dissolve in water and then the water disappears, leaving tiny celestine crystals behind.
- Sometimes, celestine also forms near volcanoes or where hot underground water flows.
- The conditions have to be just right for celestine to form, like having the perfect mix of chemicals and the right amount of pressure and temperature. It's like nature's very own recipe for creating something amazing!

Where It Can Be Found

- Celestine can be found From Libya to Egypt, the sugar sands of Madagascar, the rain-soaked skies of Britain, Peru's mystical mountains, and even as far as Canada, Mexico, Germany and Poland – Celestine seems to be a stone that has fallen from a cluster of stars and ended up in all these far-flung places.

Celestine (mineral)

- is a mineral consisting of strontium sulfate (SrSO_4). The mineral is named for its occasional delicate blue color. Celestine and the carbonate mineral strontianite are the principal sources of the element strontium, commonly used in fireworks and in various metal alloys.



Spiritual Aspects of Celestine

- Celestine is often associated with divine power and is thought to increase understanding, higher consciousness, as well as mindfulness when used in meditation and prayer.
- Celestine can help many different ailments. It treats disorders of the eyes and ears, and soothes muscle tension and headaches by calming both the mind and the body together.
- Celestine also eliminates toxins in the body. Mentally, celestine brings an overall calm and balance. It encourages inner peace, sleep, and powers of compassion, love, friendship, fertility, growth, spirituality and reconciliation. It is also useful for remembering dreams and has always been thought to attract good fortune.
- Celestine is thought to be a great stone for creative people, as it aids in helping the wearer to access his intuitive creativity. It also encourages a great openness to new experiences, helping the wearer rid the fear that may come along with such experiences.

Linda Adams gave a great presentation on amethyst, the March door prize



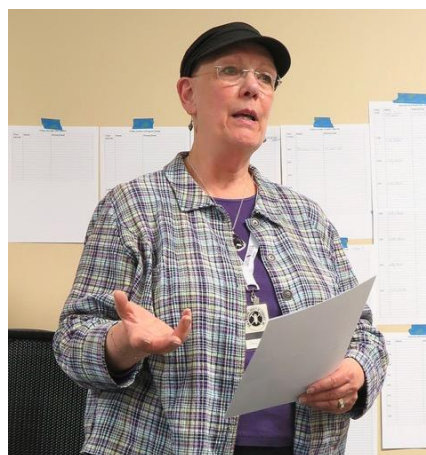
Linda Adams gave a wonderful presentation on her March door prize - amethyst. She even included at the end of her presentation 3 questions she asked the audience. The lucky winning people that answered were bestowed a bag of rock goodies!

Etymology and Occurrence

- Celestine derives its name from the Latin word caelestis meaning celestial which in turn is derived from the Latin word caelum meaning sky or heaven.
- Celestine occurs as crystals, and also in compact massive, and fibrous forms. It is mostly found in sedimentary rocks, often associated with the minerals gypsum, anhydrite, and halite. On occasion in some localities, it may also be found with sulfur inclusions.
- The mineral is found worldwide, usually in small quantities. Pale blue crystal specimens are found in Madagascar. White and orange variants also occurred at Yate, Bristol, UK, where it was extracted for commercial purposes until April 1991. [\[10\]](#)

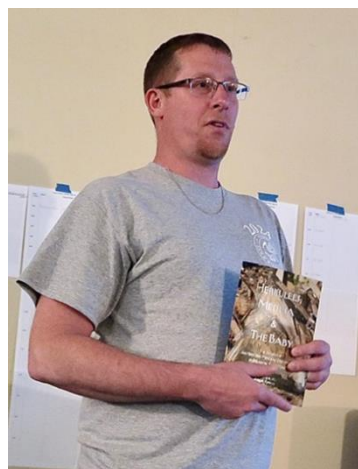
Rock Doc - cabochons

Dave Millis brought a collection of some of the cabochons he shaped and polished. He wanted me to take a photo of that one particular cabochon that has silver but he is not quite sure what the rest is.



Show chairman Cheryl Brown asking members to please sign up for show duties during the next couple of club meetings - a variety of jobs available with numerous shifts.

Lee and his Tucson Adventure



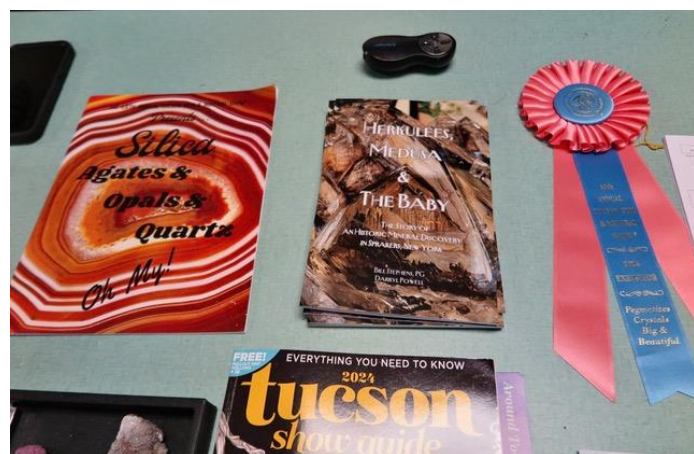
Lee told us all about his Tucson adventure. He was able to take some time to go exploring and mined some beautiful Wulfenite specimens at the Red Cloud Mine in La Paz County, Arizona, those are the bright orange crystals.



He also showed us some Vanadinite specimens and a red fluorite raspberry that brightly fluoresces that he did not find but he obtained to bring back as examples of other minerals found there.

Wulfenite was the featured mineral at the 2023 Tucson Gem and Mineral Show. He bestowed on

club member Tim Hart a cup from that show and some Wulfenite specimens. Tim was instrumental in creating a fundraiser to help Lee with his travel expenses to Tucson. Although invited to display his world class Herkimer specimens at the show, Lee was responsible for all his travel and accommodation expenses, so he was very appreciative of Tim and the club's generosity.



Lee and Wendy had quite the adventure. 1st - Airline lost their luggage so on arrival they went shopping for clothes to wear.

Luggage was found next day, and airline reimbursed them \$300. Lee was satisfied with that.

Bill Stephens, president of the EFMLS (Eastern Federation of Mineralogical & Lapidary Societies) who invited Lee to display his world class finds at this the biggest gem and mineral show in the world is pictured with Lee. Also, Lee met Brian Busse from the Prospectors TV show that aired on the Weather

Channel. Brian now lives in Colorado where he mines aquamarine.

Lee and Wendy did take time off from the show to explore the desert.



Bill Stephens, EFMLS President, with Lee.



Lee and Brian Busse, Sr.

Welcome to New Members in May

Bryan Kenny
Lauren Kenny
Pat Krims
Timothy Weigand

Junior Rockhounds April 28th Meeting

Tracey Criscione

We had a great first Saturday meeting. We made Moh's hardness kits and broke open a rock to find apatite crystals. We had some show and tell by Rick. We had 4 youth participate and are looking forward to more monthly meetings.



The next kids' meeting will be held on the 4th Saturday of May due to a conflict on the 3rd Saturday of the month, so **May 25th** is the next meeting.

We will be going on a **fossil field trip** to Deep Springs on **May 11th**. Meet at the clubhouse at 8am. **Parents required to attend** with youth members. Please text Tracey at 757-581-1323 if you plan to attend this fun and educational field trip!

Correcting an Error in the April C'NC

These two photos got switched by accident. We apologize for the error.



Marissa Perkins

Said the class transformed her business, as a silversmith and lapidary artist. She said, "the value of the class was unmatched."

(Photo by Matt Klinger)

This is the *real* Marissa Perkins



Jamie Cary found the importance of taking time out for yourself. She "took rough rocks and showed the treasure that it held." And she "uncovered the treasures that the earth has for us."

(Photo by Matt Klinger)

And *this* is the real Jamie Cary.

And, In Other News...

Fossilized Dino Footprint Points to One of the Largest Raptors Ever Discovered

by Andy Corbley May 1, 2024 Good News Network
An apex predator can be any size really, and this is exactly the sort of insight that scientists have

just gleaned from a giant dinosaur footprint found in China.

The reason it's giant is not so much because it's credit – Scott Pearson, released and Lida Xing, et al.



big—they've found many that are bigger—but

rather because it's the largest fossilized footprint of a raptor ever recorded.

Found in the province of Fujian, China, the footprint belongs to a new genus, now called *Fujianipus* meaning "foot of Fujian," and the species is called *yingliangi*. It is one of the largest raptors ever identified, and comes just under the largest estimates for *Utahraptor*.

"Raptors were good at being small," Scott Persons, assistant professor of paleontology at the College of Charleston and a member of the research team behind the discovery, told ABC News 4 WYFF. "When it comes to house cat-and coyote-sized predators, raptors were widespread and globally successful for tens of millions of years."

In Fujian, the track was discovered in an area of about 17,000 square feet that contains more than 240 identifiable dinosaur tracks in total. They were likely made when the animals walked through the mud near a riverside.

https://www.goodnewsnetwork.org/fossilized-footprint-points-to-one-of-the-largest-raptors-ever-discovered/?utm_campaign=newsletters&utm_medium=weekly_mailout&utm_source=03-05-2024

11-Year-Old Uncovers Giant Ichthyosaur Fossil - The Largest Marine Reptile Ever Found

By Andy Corbley April 25, 2024 Good News Network

While these fossils may not look like much, they are part of the jawbone of what is now believed to be the largest marine reptile ever to swim in the seas. The beast could have measured 82 feet long—as big as a humpback whale—but with a long narrow mouth bristling with teeth used to hunt prey much larger than krill.

Discovered in a bed of rocks near the River Severn in England, they were found in 2020 by an 11-year-old fossil-hunting enthusiast named Ruby Reynolds who frequented the area with her father, Justin.



After finding bone fragments embedded in the rock, one of which was around 8 inches long, they contacted a fossil hunter they knew named Paul de la Salle

and paleontologist Dean Lomax at the University of Bristol. As the three returned to the area in 2022, they found additional fragments that allowed them to piece together the animal's jawbone. When they were finished, they knew it belonged to an ichthyosaur, but the jawbone itself was seven feet long.

While singular in terms of its size, this ichthyosaur is similar to one found in a UK town called Lilstock, and being that both share a unique morphology from the late Triassic period, de la Salle and Lomax argue in a paper published on their discovery that this warrants the establishment of a new genus, which the authors, including Ruby Reynolds, now 15, named *Ichthyotitan severnensis*, or giant fish lizard of the Severn.

Evidence of crisscrossed collagen fibers inside the bones not only confirmed it was an ichthyosaur but also that it was still growing when it died at 82 feet (25 meters). Modern large-bodied reptiles like crocodiles and pythons tend to grow slowly and without end until they die.

Over 100 species of ichthyosaur have been identified, many of which were first found in England including the first by, coincidentally, a young girl named Mary Anning.

[11-Year-old Uncovers Giant Ichthyosaur Fossil - The Largest Marine Reptile Ever Found](#)

Mississippi man finds fossilized remains of saber-toothed tiger dating back 10,000 years

Mississippi resident Eddie Templeton recently discovered a bone that once belonged to a saber-tooth tiger. Now he wants to find one of the prehistoric creature's teeth.

Brian BroomAmaris Encinas USA TODAY NETWORK 4/23/24

It's not every day you dig up the fossilized remains of an apex predator. Unless your name is Eddie Templeton, who recently discovered the crystallized toe bone of a saber-toothed tiger in a creek bed in Yazoo County, Mississippi, according to reporting by the Clarion Ledger, part of the USA TODAY Network.



"I knew it was a mineralized bone I knew it was from the Pleistocene (Ice Age), but I didn't know what it was from," Templeton said. "It's not particularly large or impressive, but it is complete." Saber-toothed tigers, or *Smilodon fatalis*, are a species of large cat that weighed somewhere between 350 and 620 pounds, making the extinct creature larger than both the modern African lion, the Ledger reported. The pearly whites on the creature were sharp, with a "scalpel-like" quality, a descriptor given to the "elongated upper canines." Its tail, on the other hand, was more of a bobcat vibe.

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2024/04/23/saber-toothed-tiger-fossil-mississippi/73431387007/>

So, get out there. You never know what you might dig up!



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 then, it has grown in membership to include adults, families and young people. The Society was incorporated in 1969 under the same name.

The objectives of the Society are to stimulate interest in mineralogy, Paleontology and lapidary arts. Member interests include collecting, identification, and display of minerals, gems and 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
Junior Rockhounds @ 6:30 – General Meeting @ 7:30
(NO meetings July, August, December)
209 Oswego St (Ponderosa Plaza) Unit 14 & 15, Liverpool, NY
Visitors are ALWAYS welcome!

See online Newsletter <https://gmss.club/crack-n-cab-newsletter>

You can also visit our Facebook Page

Annual Member Dues

Adult \$15 – Family/Couple \$20 – Junior \$5 – Life \$5

If you would like to join or renew membership, download the application form (PDF) see <https://gmss.club/general-membership#0fb080f6-af56-4921-a12b-17cb93d2cd2c>
You can get a form at a meeting or send requests to: GMSS, PO Bo 2801, Syracuse, NY 13220. We will mail an application/renewal form to you.

2023 – 2024 GMSS Officers/Contacts

-President: John Sweeney pres@gmss.club

-Vice-President: Cathy Patterson vp@gmss.club

-Treasurer: Linda Clark treasurer@gmss.club

-Secretary: Teresa Arnold
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-Jr Rockhounds: Rick Moore kidsrock@gmss.club

-Membership Chair: members@gmss.club

-Sgt at Arms: Matt Klinger sgtatarms@gmss.club

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Past President: Dick Lyons pastpres@gmss.club

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-Photographer Extraordinaire: Judy Cook

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