

CRACK 'N CAB



Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse, PO Box 2801, Syracuse, NY
web: <https://www.gmss.club> Volume 56 Issue 3, Mar. 2026
209 Oswego St (Francesca's Plaza), Unit 15, Liverpool, NY

Let's Party Like It's 1951!



The party animals at the Syracuse Mineral Club's 1st Anniversary, March 14, 1952. They celebrated with cookies and ice cream. Founder Richard L. Slyvester is holding the plaque – where is that now?

Celebrating 75 Years! **March 16 Club Meeting**

**7 pm - Food, Fun and
Special Presentations!**

**Test your knowledge of who
and what you remember**

The Gemworld Show's the thing...

Gem and Mineral Society of Syracuse
59th Annual Gem, Mineral,
Fossil and Jewelry Show

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

Diamond Jubilee Celebrating 75 years of our Club

Red Garnet White Herkimer Diamond Blue Calcite

Saturday, July 11, 2026 10am – 6pm
Sunday, July 12, 2026 10am – 4pm

\$8.00 per person
Children under 12
with an adult
get in free
(cash only at the door)

www.gmss.club
www.facebook.com/gemandmineralsyr/

Minerals – Fossils
Crystals – Jewelry
Demonstrations
Lectures
Metaphysical Practitioners
Geode Cracking
Youth Area with a sludge
and lots of activities

Our 59th annual show, but celebrating 60 years – *what?*
See Page 5

**More Learning Center
Presentations – See
Page 11**

Our 75th Anniversary Celebrations! **GMSS Members Remembered Pages 3-5** **The Decade of the 1960s – Page 5**

“Mineral Identification” Summary – Pages 10 – 11

“The Uniqueness of Quartz” - See Page 9 and 10



Photos by Judy Cook

President's Message

Matt Klinger



We invite you to join us as we celebrate our 75th Anniversary as a club: **Monday, March 16 at 7pm** at the clubhouse.

There will be food, fun, and special presentations of our history. You won't want to miss it! -Matt



Provided by Amanda Lytle

Secretary's Report

Marie Mastracco

General Meeting - February 16, 2026

President Matt Klinger called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

President, Matt Klinger

- Reminded members that we will be celebrating our 75th Anniversary next month/ March 2026 meeting. We will have food, fun and grab bags.

-**Liverpool Public Library** is hosting *A Day of Earth Science and Related Activities* to students in grades 4-8. The event

will take place at the library, 310 Tulip St. on **Thursday, August 13, 2026, between 9:00 am and 3:45 pm.** Volunteers are needed for only 2 hours. No experience necessary. Dave Millis offered to present for us and will bring materials to present. If anyone would like to support Dave, contact Amanda Lytle: librarian@gmss.club.

-**Clark Reservation STEM Program** is hosting *Earth Sciences and Systems Cycling of Materials Over Time*. The event will take place at Clark Reservation State Park, E. Seneca Tnpk, Jamesville, NY on **Friday, August 14, 2026, from 9:30am -3:00 pm.** They are looking for volunteers. No experience necessary; just bring your sense of adventure. They have the activities planned out. Contact Amanda Lytle: librarian@gmss.club.

-**Paine Branch Library in Eastwood** is hosting "Unearth a Story" for its Summer reading program from **July 27-August 1, 2026**, at the library, 113 Nichols Ave. Club has been asked to present dinosaurs, fossils, rocks to children & teens. Matt has offered to present for us. If anyone would like to participate & support Matt, contact Amanda Lytle: librarian@gmss.club.

-**Open positions:** John Sweeney, Past President, encouraged members to consider filling positions that will be coming open. He explained the process along with general expectations. Nominations to be held in June and the positions will start in September.

-**WildAcres Scholarship opportunity:** Candace Cain was the lucky winner to be entered in a chance to win a scholarship to WildAcres in North Carolina.

-**Rockhound of the Year:** to be announced at March's meeting. Amanda Lytle motioned to adjourn the meeting, Marie Mastracco seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Marie Mastracco, Secretary

GMSS Board Meeting – Mar. 3, 2026

President Matt Klinger called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

President, Matt Klinger

-Board position openings: We are still in need of candidates for the positions that will need to be filled in September.

-GMSS March Anniversary party: Two presentations.

-Insurance coverage: Option of increasing insurance coverage. Will revisit when we obtain price for increase.

Vice President, Jeff Huard

Food for March Anniversary Party: Has not heard back about food purchase for party. Marie will check for prices and relay information.

Sgt. At Arms, Kristin White (absent) No report.

Treasurer, Linda Clark: Report sent in.

Update on finances. Provided income & expenditure figures.

Secretary, Marie Mastracco:

February Board Minutes sent to all members of the Board.

John Sweeny made the motion for approval of the minutes.

Cheryl Brown seconded the motion. All in favor. No nays.

Newsletter, Larry Petry: Information for Crack N Cab is due Wed., Mar. 4, by 11:00 PM.

Show Committee Chair: Cheryl Brown

Show Committee Meeting: Provided written outline of items and who will be responsible.

Gemworld Advertising: Provided information/options and price outline. John Sweeny motioned to purchase 2 1/4-pg ads in Rock & Gem. Matt Klinger seconded the motion. All were in favor. No nays.

Membership Committee: Cheryl Brown

We have over 150 members!

Lapidary Committee: Steve Shorey (absent)

No report provided.

Webmaster & interim Librarian, Amanda Lytle: Report provided.

-Website: Webhosting Starter-looking for replacement option.

-Library: Continued Library clean up and organization. Thank you to Cheryl Brown for selling the 2-3 \$5 book bundles. Will be seeking volunteers to assist with reorganizing, inventory and cataloging items. Book reviews to promote the library's resources and reading expected to be available to members in the future.

-Liverpool and Eastwood Library Summer Programs: Clark Reservation STEM Program, Aug. 14, 2026, cancelled. Volunteer and program issues.

-Liverpool Library, August 13, 2026, Dave Mills presenting. Vice-President, Jeff Huard will also be present. Looking for more volunteers for August 13th.

-President, Matt Klinger will present at the Eastwood Library in July 2026.

Facebook Administrator, Judy Cook:

Posted information: GMSS 59th Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil and Jewelry Show; February 2026 General Meeting presentation; February Beading class; Penn Dixie Fossil Park and Nature Center-Dig With the Experts June 13 & 14, 2026.

Tracy Criscione, Jr. Rockhound Committee: (absent)

No report provided.

Jill Hilliard, Education Committee: (absent)

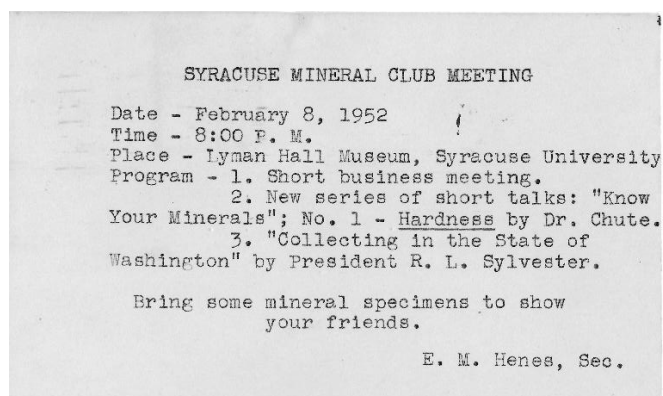
No report provided.

Marie Mastracco made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Larry Petry seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned by President, Matt Klinger at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Marie Mastracco, Secretary

Happy 75th Anniversary!

The Gem and Mineral Society of Syracuse began March 2, 1951. Richard Sylvester, an employee of NY Central Railroad, was tired of taking the train to Rochester for mineral club meetings. He met with six Central New York people who were also interested in geology and rockhounding - the hobby of searching for gem and mineral specimens - and formed the Syracuse group. The first meetings were held in Lyman Hall at Syracuse University.



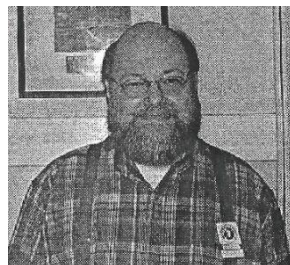
Postcard reminder sent for the February 1952 meeting; this one sent to GMSS founder Richard L. Sylvester's address in Syracuse. Note their meeting was on "Know Your Minerals." (Club archives)

Getting to know members as I did

("75th" continued from February)

by Bob Livingston, Past-President

OK, we start with life-member and oft-featured-speaker **Dr. Steven Chamberlain**. Over 50+ years Steve built an



impressive mineral collection featuring NY State Minerals. Many were self-collected or traded, others from the dealer rooms/auctions of the Rochester Mineralogical Symposium which he spearheaded for over 30 years.

Member wife **Helen** was registrar of the same. Since retirement from SU, Steve, as scientific editor of the *Hosta Journal*, has keyed on the many gorgeous Hostas and colorful perennials he added to his show-place yard. I was privileged to join Steve and 100-year-old **John Davis** for lunch mid-week for most of 3 years. I learned lots from them. Steve also authored/co-authored several

mineral books. Over the past 10 years, with a helper, he has trimmed, labeled, cataloged and donated many thousands of minerals to the N Y State Museum in Albany. Over the years, he has had at least two proteges, **Hunter Berthelot** (below) and **Michael Shi**, both ESM students at the time.

Back in the 90s we had two members, **Dick Depew** who did faceting at GemWorld and showed his tray of stones to interested lookers. **Shamus Walker** too liked to show off work as he ground and polished the many cabs he had in various stages of finish.

I got to appreciate member **Marge Hughs** for her talents in creating cabs and fine jewelry which she featured and sold at our annual show. She ran the meetings "goodies table" for many years. Now a lady many will remember - **Joy Berthelot** who was famous for her hats, quips and flowers which she graciously handed out. Her son **Hunter** was a collector of NY State minerals like Herkimers and Pyrite from a now closed Nedrow site along I 81. He was also a protege of **Gene Ridall**. His Dad **Victor** stayed quiet in background. Years ago, we had a club treasurer with excellent lapidary skills, **Evelyn Wolfe** from Oswego County. Some of her beautiful jewelry pieces made it into a featured Sunday "Stars" magazine interview back in the 90s.

In the 80s and 90s our GemWorld show featured **Wes Henderson** who dressed and acted the part of an Old Prospector. Kids loved the colorful stones he would pull from his pockets. Wife and club worker was **Doris**. For years **Otis** and **Betty Witworth** from New Jersey put in a case of "Stones of the Bible." They created from rough every one of those that filled their chock-full case. Betty eventually moved to Fulton to be closer to a daughter. She bought Genie Cabbers plus polishing machines for a class setup in her home. Because I helped a lot in the setup and wiring, she named the lapidary shop where she conducted classes after me. It ran three years till she passed. It was forerunner to the Marie Cole Lab we proudly have now. **Marie** and **Vic Cole** were active GMSS members. After Vic retired they often wintered in Australia and Hong Kong. At each place she looked for attractive bargain items in rough form to make jewelry. Many of her finds became part of the start-up for the Marie Cole shop.

Of course everybody knows Rock Doc **Dave Millis** who drives to our meetings from Northern Pennsylvania. Down from 8, he's now active in 3 clubs. For years, he went out to New Mexico and Texas to prospect for, and collect, a van full of minerals for home. (Many become giveaways at meetings/ picnics.) Until 5 years ago, when not out west, he fished in the Florida Keys. Amazing – but over a dozen winters Dave caught 123,000 fish to release or give away. In the past he led field trips for many clubs and a few times for all Eastern Federation clubs. We appreciate his August picnic set-up and games.

It was member **Carrie Gannett** who started a club beading group that really caught on.

Don and **Kay Smith** from Cortland were active members, and she was a poet who wrote a neat poem for our 60th anniversary. They were regulars learning lapidary skills at Wildacres, where I first met them.

Next, **Steve Albro**, club librarian for years, and **Anne Fitzgerald** also drive to meetings from Cortland. Anne creates that Geo Lexis puzzle each month for our Crack 'N Cab.

Carlotta Brown of New York City came to Syracuse to get into local real estate. She is a past president of GMSS who sells her own and others' creations at her GemWorld booth. She has taught many how to do simple creative jewelry using cheap aluminum or copper wire. Of course if you have the buckos, you can use her teachings to make yourself something of Sterling Silver.

A past member is **Franko** originally from Brooklyn and now West Virginia. Now a member of the "Rockhound Hall of Fame," Franko learned wire-wrapping under master **Jim Fowler**, one of the U.S. best. For years, Franko was a dealer-soother during GemWorld setup. He also had a booth featuring 12 cases of his creations in our show.

Joan Livingston, a GMSS "Strawdraw" worker, was assisted many years with meeting hospitality by **Sharon Viel** who also ran the club booth at GemWorld for many years. Her husband, **Bill**, drove the big set-up truck for our show and honchoed the hired workers setting up and re-storing our show materials. (I just learned former member and psychic **Dave Bennett** recently passed. God Bless his Soul.)

The **Gilmores**, **Keith** and **Dorothy** are active members. Dorothy has the main job lining up help and with others, selling tickets at our two-day annual GemWorld. Keith has been the main spark plug for encouraging persons to do the exhibit cases which highlight our show. He has been a key player in getting members to agree to run for the various open club offices each year. Keith, we wish you continued success with your health issues. I guess, before I forget, I, **Bob Livingston**, am past-president of both our Syracuse club (1994 and 1995) and also Eastern Federation (2002) of which our club is one of about 90+ member clubs Maine to Florida. During my term as Syracuse president I began the show-closing Sunday night pizza extravaganza which all loved. Too bad we're not allowed to do it now. I also got a 5-gallon bucket full of Sapphire gem gravels shipped from Montana for a jam-packed club program "Finders Keepers."

Ruth and **Volney Burgess** were life members. Ruth brought back East a lot of minerals and cutting rough from her many trips to Arizona visiting family. Ruth sold lots at her annual garage sales. She was also a willing worker, often at the Wholesale check-in table. **Jay**

Tinker member/exhibitor is big on fossils and collected many, especially Trilobites near I 81 in Tully.

John Sweeney "auctioneer extraordinaire," past-president twice of our club, now drives the big truck and works with the hired-workers to get our stuff into place at GemWorld and back into storage. As a BOCES instructor in Jewelry stone cutting and/ mountings, he is good schmoozer and demonstrates cabbing at our show and funnels a lot of new members to our club. His wife, **Linda Clark**, is also a beader and treasurer it seems forever. She pays our club bills, keeps the books, reports her finances to the board and keeps the club from trouble with the IRS, other suppliers and show dealers. Linda, you will be hard to replace.

Cheryl Brown, another beader, is past president of our club and has been a key player at GemWorld for years. Many recent years she has been and continues as show chairman. Working closely with **Dick Lyons**, it takes a lot to keep our 50 plus dealers happy. Let's give a plug right here to deadline-strict **Larry Petry**, award-winning editor of our Crack 'n Cab newsletter. Thanks, guy, for a superb job every month.

Thanks too to **Judy Cook**, our Facebook master, club photographer, and lecture honcho for our annual GemWorld. **Rick Moore**, a board member for many years, ran the Sluice in the Youth area of GemWorld. **Steve Shorey** was master key to getting the Marie Cole Lab running as is today and is aptly assisted by **Bill Verge** who drives a good distance to our clubhouse. Now we have **Jamie Cary** running the lab to newbies and others on Thursday evenings. All together they keep those machines turning, so the gem makers keep learning and stay Happy.

Where would we be without the untiring work of **Amanda Lytle** who is not only our Webmaster but also acting Librarian and records/club history organizer. She sure stays GMSS busy.

Dave Arcaro is mainly our Mr. Field Trip guy. He also served as club VP for a year plus.

Matt Klinger is injecting new ideas and for me, doing a fine job as our president. He knows not where the bodies, but the minerals are buried in Mohawk Valley and further locations in New England and PA. Those who go along or meet at collecting sites come home with some nice goodies, I hear.

Concluding here is our Sergeant-at-Arms, **Kristin White**. Relatively new to Syracuse from PA, Kristin maintains our meeting room and slams a loud whack with the Gavel at board meetings. She offers many ideas, which we need from all. Put *your suggestions* in the club "Suggestion Box" up front.

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(September 2001 Crack N Cab)

Syracuse Club History - By Bob Livingston

Decade of the 1960s

Heydays of Collecting - Swaps were popular at the time around Central New York and drew many people into fossils and minerals. The hobby was very strong then. **Jeff Palin** and **Ron Waddell** each built museum-type collections they were very proud of and enjoyed sharing with others. Jeff's was primarily calcite and Ron's was a broader spectrum that included micros. The Syracuse Club had a booth at the State Fair for several years promoting the hobby and our club. The few shows in the area that were quite good were **Auburn, Watertown, Dunkirk, Endicott, Gouverneur, Elmira** and **Horseheads**. Today, only the Southern Tier and Horseheads shows remain. In 1966, Syracuse's first show was under the guidance of **Dick Stimer**. This was the very first GemWorld show. In the second year it moved to **Mondore's Auto Auction** building in **LaFayette** and a rock swap was added outdoors.

This decade was really the heyday of collecting and some popular sites were: **Maydoc, Lynnhurst, and Bancroft, Ontario, Pierrepont, Saranac Lake, and Chittenango Falls, NY**. Unfortunately, many of the big collector names in the club are no longer, with us; people like **George and Marian Springs, The Bethards, Don Briggs, Bill Radway, Ron Waddell, the Gildersleeves, Don Bruzinski, Jeff Palin & Fred Ruhe**. Fortunately, we still have from those days: **John Davis, Dick Stimer** and **Gene Ridall**. Presidents this decade were: **R. Waddell, J. Davis, E. Nesbitt, J. Palin, G. Castor, J. Raleigh, D. Stimer, J. Hucoldt**.



JUNE 1976 Editor: Geo. Springs, 3158 Midland Ave., Syracuse, N.Y. 13205

GEMWORLD '76

NEXT MONTH, ON JULY 24th AND JULY 25th, THE GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY OF SYRACUSE, INC. WILL HOLD IT'S 10th ANNUAL GEM & MINERAL SHOW. DEALER SPACE IN THE BUILDING IS FILLED AND THERE WILL BE SPACES OUTSIDE FOR 50 DEALERS.

WITH THIS ISSUE, IS A SAMPLE OF THE SHOW "FLYER". THESE WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE JUNE MEETING. PICK UP SOME AND PLACE THEM WHERE YOU FEEL THEY WILL BRING US THE MOST PUBLICITY.

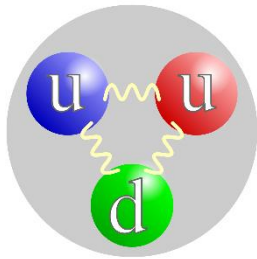
IF YOU WANT TO CONTRIBUTE MONEY FOR THE FOOD TO BE SOLD AT OUR CAFETERIA AT THE GEMWORLD '76, PLEASE SEND YOUR CHECK FOR \$2.50 (PER FAMILY) MADE OUT TO THE GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY OF SYRACUSE, INC. TO EULA BETHARD, 320 FERGERSON AVENUE, NORTH SYRACUSE, N.Y. 13212 OR BRING THE MONEY TO HER AT EITHER THE JUNE OR JULY MEETINGS. ALL OF THE FOOD WILL BE PREPARED AT THE AUCTION BUILDING.

If Gemworld '76 was the 10th annual, that would seem to indicate the first show was in 1967, right? Try it on your fingers. In any case, we were showless in 2020 because of the COVID closure – Editor.

**Geo Lexis (Puzzle)
By Anne Fitzgerald**

"Fun with Physics"

When I was in high school, only the smart and brave students took physics, so I didn't. I was neither brave nor smart but I had just started hearing about quarks which had me charmed. I was charmed by this tiny unknowable, strange world that was now much smaller and bigger than humans had ever imagined. I thought the word quark was a combination of the words quirk and



dork but I was wrong. The word quarks was actually taken from a James Joyce novel read by a well-read physicist named Murray Gell-Mann. My generation had a new "smallest particle" to think about. Quarks and leptons are the newest

smallest particles and so-far indivisible.

Leptons were sadly not given a funny name, so they are not mentioned as frequently as quarks. Since we cannot



see quarks or leptons, the only way to find anything smaller is to keep building better smashing machines. And in fact in April of 2025, the CERN smashers found

evidence of a possible new hypothetical particle. Since still in the hypothetical stage, and because I'm not smart enough to explain it (or understand it) I won't spoil the fun. I will just give one hint. The new possible particle may be the result of a quark/anti-quark state also known as "quarkonium." That sounds like a state I might want to live in. As the particles get smaller, our world of knowledge gets bigger. It's hard to keep up, and even Albert Einstein had to focus. (Some would say he kept his "ion" the prize.) But physics, as incomprehensible as it seems, sure can be fun.

See if you can guess the answers to these physics-related word puzzles. Answers on Page 8.

Here is a sample:

Question: What do journalists and electrons have in common?

Answer: They both spin.

Questions with Physics-Related Answers:

Opposite of old tron

Campaign chant for Ronald Reagan

Some believe this was the name of the very first man

Part-time orchestra director

Fabulous train driver

NOTE: All the Advanced Lapidary classes are full! EMAIL BILL VERGE' weverge@gmail.com TO GET ON THE WAITING LIST FOR THE NEXT CLASS.

The Marie Cole Lapidary Lab is open every Thursday 6-9 pm

Jamie Cary is the Assistant Supervisor

All grinding, polishing and 6-inch saws are available

The 10-inch saws will NOT be available for use.

\$7 fee for the use of the Lab.

Saturday hours are 1 - 4 pm

Don't forget that the Mineral Contest is coming in May! So clean up those collected Minerals. More information coming in the April Crack N Cab.

Upcoming Events

Mar 16 – GMSS meeting – 7 pm at the Clubhouse. **75th Anniversary Celebration!** *Pizza, cake, grab bags, and more fun. Plus: Girl Scout cookies - special door prizes!*

SAT., Mar 21 – The Beading Group - 1-4 pm at the Clubhouse. All are invited. **See more information on Page 7.**

Mar 24 – Gemworld 2026 Show Committee meeting – 7 pm at the Clubhouse.

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

SAT., Apr 18 – Field Trip – Deep Springs Road. This is an excellent site for Devonian fossils. This will be open to the Syracuse club as well as the Wayne County Club. Contact Dave

Arcaro by text at 315-935-3627 to sign up or with questions.

Apr 20 – GMSS meeting – 7 pm at the Clubhouse. **Our Annual Spring Auction!**

SAT-SUN, April 25-26 – Field Trip – Sterling Hill Mine Sale & Rockhounding.

We have been invited to go with the Wayne County Club to this one. Details by the March club meeting. Contact Dave Arcaro by text at 315-935-3627 to sign up or with questions.

Apr 28 – Gemworld 2026 Show Committee meeting – 7 pm at the Clubhouse.

Upcoming Spring Shows:

Mar 7-8—MERIDEN, CT: Annual show; The Lapidary & Mineral Society of Conrol CT; Maloney High School, Gravel St; Sat. 9:30-5, Sun. 10-4; \$5 adults, children under 12 are free; Minerals, Gemstones, Fossils, Crystals, Jewelry, Exhibits, & much more. Wholesale dealer on site; contact John Kringel; Website: www.LMSCC.org

Mar 7-8—WILMINGTON, DE: Annual show; Delaware Mineralogical Society, Inc; DoubleTree by Hilton, 4727 Concord Pike (Rt-202); Sat. 10-5, Sun. 11-5; Seniors (60+) \$6, Adults (18 - 59) \$7 (\$5 with coupon), Juniors (12 – 17) \$4, Scouts in uniform & children under 12 free when accompanied by a paying adult. Tickets only sold at the door; 62nd Annual Earth Science Gem & Mineral Show Family Friendly: educational exhibits of mineral, lapidary & fossil specimens; a roster of fine dealers of minerals, fossils, gems, jewelry & lapidary supplies, & a children's area, where youngsters may purchase inexpensive minerals & fossils; contact Dianne Soccio; Email: dmsrockshowchair@gmail.com; Website: www.DMSrocks.org

Mar 13-14—RICHBORO, PA: Annual show; Leidy Microscopic Society; Advent Lutheran Church, 45 Worthington Mill Rd; Fri. 12-6, Sat. 9-6; Visitor's Fee (no table): \$5, Friday & \$10, Saturday (includes lunch), Table space (for 2 days): \$30, (half) & \$45, (full table, 6ft); Speaker/presentation on each day; contact Donald McAlarnen, (610) 247-5097; Email: donmcalarnen@outlook.com; Website: <https://leidymicroscopical.com>

Mar. 14-15—HAMBURG, NY: "Ancient Life of New York" is being featured at the **Buffalo Geological Society's** 56th Annual Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show on March 14-15, 2026, **at the Erie County Fairgrounds** in the Grange, Market Place & New York State Police Buildings in Hamburg, NY, on Saturday, 9 am-6 pm, March 14, 2026, & Sunday, 10 am-5 pm, March 15, 2026. Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, students, teachers, the public, Charter School students & faculty, & rockhounds are welcome. More than 33 dealers selling gems, beads, minerals, fossils, & jewelry, selling their items from around the world. Sat. 11 am – "Fluorescent Minerals of Northern NYS" by Dino Zack; Sun. 1pm – "Back to the Moon: Lunar Geology and the Artemis II Misson" by Dr. Kevin Williams. A food vendor will be available. Adults are

\$7 each, scouts in uniform & children under 12 are FREE. A 2-day admission for \$10 each is also available. Door prizes are drawn hourly. FREE parking. Wheelchair & stroller accessible. For any additional information or questions, please contact Jerry Bastedo, Show Chairman, at icbastedo@gmail.com. <https://www.bgsny.org/annual-show>

Mar 14-15—NEW YORK, NY: Wholesale & retail show; New York Gems Jewelry & Mineral Show; Metropolitan Pavilion, 123 West 18th St; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; \$15 for Saturday & Sunday; The oldest Gem, jewelry & Mineral Show in New York City. Lots of your favorite dealers. Retail & wholesale dealers. Hourly door prizes. Sponsored by the New York Mineralogical Club; contact Mohamed Bary, (347) 247-6568; Email: barygems@gmail.com; Website: barygems.com

Mar 21-22—GAITHERSBURG, MD: Annual show; Gem, Lapidary & Mineral Society of Montgomery County; Montgomery County Fairgrounds, 16 Chestnut St, Building #6; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-4; \$7 Ages 12 & older, ages 11 & under free; Enjoy hands-on demonstrations & free specimens for the kids. Young explorers will love the free Mini Mine, & everyone can try their luck with door prizes & a raffle. Don't miss the fluorescent mineral room with its glowing specimens. 20+ vendors & 30+ exhibits. Free parking; contact Holly Heighes; Email: info@glmsmc.com; Website: www.glmsmc.com

Mar 21-22—CHICOPEE, MA: Annual show; Connecticut Valley Mineral Club; Castle of Knights, 1599 Memorial Dr; Sat. 9:30-5, Sun. 9:30-3:30; \$5 per person. Children under 12 & scouts in uniform free with paid adult; Free parking. Free mineral

specimen for children. Door prizes. Exhibits. Food available on site; contact Diane Burl; Email: cvmcnewsletter2020@gmail.com

9:30AM – 5PM Sunday 10AM - 4:30PM Admission 6.00 Children under 12 FREE Info: newhavenmineralclub.org

56th ANNUAL GEM & MINERAL SHOW
By Che-Hanna Rock & Mineral Club, Inc.
 website: chehannarocks.com
March 28, 2026 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
March 29, 2026 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
WYSOX VOL. FIRE CO. SOCIAL HALL
111 LAKE ROAD, WYSOX, PA
 SPECIAL EXHIBIT BY
Susquehanna River Archaeological Center
FLUORESCENT MINERAL PROGRAMS BY UV-BOB
 Saturday programs at 11:00 – 1:00 – 3:00 Sunday programs 12:00 & 2:00
COME AND MAKE A CABOCHON OF YOUR VERY OWN
BUY A GEODE AND HAVE IT CUT OPEN
BE THE FIRST TO SEE WHAT IS INSIDE
EXHIBITS OF MINERALS, GEMS, & INDIAN ARTIFACTS
DEALERS WITH MINERALS, GEMSTONES, FOSSILS, JEWELRY AND
HOBBY SUPPLIES A COOL MINI-MINE FOR KIDS
DOOR PRIZES, food available
ADMISSION: Adults \$3.00 * Students \$1.00 * Under 8 Free

April 11-12 - Midland Park, NJ - 36th Annual North Jersey Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show; Midland Park High School, 250 Prospect St, Midland Park, NJ 07432; Sat 10-5; Sun 10-4 Food truck on site, door prizes, show is inside so rain or shine.

Apr 25-26—TROY, OH: Annual show; Miami County Gem & Mineral Show; Miami County Fairgrounds - Duke Building, 650 N. Co Rd 25A; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; Adults \$3, free admission for children under 18; contact Dewey Buck, (937) 308-3012; Email: deweybuck12@gmail.com; Website: www.mcgamc.com

Apr 25-26—CUYAHOGA FALLS, OH: Show & sale; Akron Mineral Society & Summit Lapidary Club; Emidio & Sons Expo Center, 48 E. Bath Rd; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; Adults \$6, Seniors (55+) & High School & College Students \$5, Children 7-14 \$1, Scouts in Uniform & Children 6 & Under Free; Celebrating 50 years - 1976 to 2026. We expect 40 vendors with a large variety of products. We will have geode cracking, a gem mine, children's craft table, demonstrations of lapidary arts, silent auction, food trucks, handicap accessible; contact Evelyn Tryon, (330) 673-9664; Email: etjtryon@juno.com; Website: summitlapidaryclub.com/gemboree

Mar 28-29—PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA: Annual show; Philadelphia Mineralogical Society & Delaware Valley Paleontological Society; Lu Lu Temple, 5140 Butler Pike; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; Adults: \$7, Kids under 12: 2 Scouts in uniform free; contact Douglas M Klieger, (610) 316-80; Email: dklieger@verizon.net; Website: www.phillyrocks.org

July 11-12—SYRACUSE, NY: Wholesale & retail show; Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse; NY State Fairgrounds, Center of Progress Building, 581 State Fair Blvd; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; \$8, children 12 & under free; contact Cheryl Brown; Website: www.gmss.club

Mar 28-29—CANTON, OH: Annual show; Stark County Gem & Mineral Club; Stark County Fairgrounds, 305 Wertz Ave, Arts Building; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-5; Cash only. Adults \$5, Seniors \$4, Children 6-14 \$1, Scouts in uniform Free; Exhibits of fossils, minerals, & fluorescent rocks. Kids' activities (Games, Silent Auction, & Door Prizes). Geode cracker. Adult Silent Auction & Door Prizes. Vendors of rocks, fluorescent rocks, minerals & fossil specimens, beads, handmade jewelry, & novelties. Food truck with great food; contact Terrie Shockling, (609) 505-0060; Email: terrieA@snip.net; Website: Facebook: Stark County Ohio Gem & Mineral Club

Apr 4 - WEST FRIENDSHIP, MD: Annual show; Chesapeake Gem & Mineral Society; Howard County Fairgrounds, 2210 Fairgrounds Rd; Sat. 10-4; Free Admission & Parking; Chesapeake Gem & Mineral Society's 35th Annual Gem, Mineral, Jewelry & Fossil Show. Minerals, Original Jewelry, Fossils, Rough & Cut Gemstones, Silent Auctions, Door Prizes Activities for Kids; contact Lynn; Email: info.chesapeakegemandmineral@gmail.com; Website: www.chesapeakegemandmineral.org/club-show.html

Apr 11-12—JOHNSON CITY, NY: Annual show; New York Southern Tier Geology Club. Inc; Johnson City Senior Center, 30 Brocton Street, PO Box 287; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4; Admission: \$5 at Door, Kids under 12 free, cash only at door & kitchen; Featuring: Exhibits, Beads & Supplies, Minerals & Fossils, Jewelry & Gemstones, Flint Knapping, Door Prizes, Silent Auction, Food & Drink for Sale; contact Mark Smith, (807) 760-3769; Website: <https://efmls.org/clubdetails/new-york-southern-tier-geology-club-inc/>

April 11-12 - North Haven, CT - New Haven Mineral Club 50Th Annual Show Gems Minerals Fossils April 11 – 12, 2026 Clarion Inn, 201 Washington Ave, North Haven CT 06473. Saturday

Answers to Geo Lexis

Answers to Physics-Related Puzzle

<u>Questions</u>	<u>Physics-Related Answers</u>
Opposite of old tron	new tron (neutron)
Campaign Chant for Ronald Reagan	Elect Ron! (electron)
Some believe this was the name of the very first man	Adam (atom)
Part-time orchestra director	Semi-conductor
Fabulous train driver	Super-conductor

Sources and further reading:

- <https://www.physicsgurus.com/60137/why-are-quarks-called-the-way-they-are-called>
- <https://www.gps.caltech.edu/news-and-events/news/50-years-quarks-43351>
- <https://bigthink.com/hard-science/quarks-leptons-smallest-particles/> Don Lincoln 5/26/2023
- <https://www.popularmechanics.com/science/a64441369/tiny-particle-antimatter/>

The Bead Group

Our next meeting will be on Saturday, **March 21st from 1:00 to 4:00** at the Clubhouse. It will cost \$5.00 each for use of the clubhouse. Please contact Cheryl Brown at either gmsrocks@gmail.com or 315-708-9122 (text) if you are planning on coming. I will give you the materials list so you can bring your own supplies, or you can get a kit there for a nominal fee.

Show Committee

Our next Show Committee meeting will be **Tuesday, March 24 at 7:00** at the clubhouse. Come find out about our July *GemWorld* show and how you can get involved. **All able-bodied club members who live within 50 miles of the clubhouse are expected to work at the show as a condition of membership.** There is a job for everyone! This is the fundraiser which supports our club and enables us to maintain our clubhouse.

Welcome New Members

Diane Detrick
Libbi Stanton
John & Karolyn Sudler

February 16, 2026 Club Meeting

Photos by Judy Cook

Knowledge Corner: Dave Millis



Dave Millis presented *The Uniqueness of Quartz* at the Knowledge Corner at 6:30 pm. He brought specimens as well as freebies.



Quartz – SiO₂ (Silicon dioxide) – no cleavage, conchoidal fracture, Hardness: 7, vitreous to greasy luster, Specific gravity: 2.65 when pure, insoluble, unless in hydrofluoric acid. Hexagonal crystal system, tends to be horizontally striated, prisms, often terminated by rhombohedral or pyramidal shapes. Used in the manufacture of glass, paints, abrasives, refractories, electronic equipment, precision instruments.

Developed in many geological environments – occurs in igneous, sedimentary, metamorphic rocks. Most common of all minerals. Its hardness and lack of cleavage easily distinguish it from calcite.

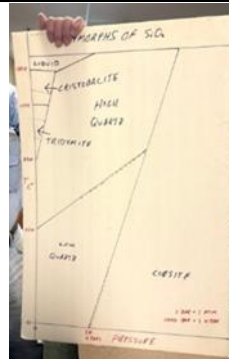
Crystals are either right- or left-handed, caused by the spiral structure of linked silicon-oxygen tetrahedra.



Pointing out the extra rectangular face.



Quartz is a many splendored thing. There are at least 20 versions/varieties, some of which are pictured here. In no exact order:
 Milky quartz, smoky quartz, rose quartz, blue quartz, rutilated quartz, dendritic quartz, yellow citrine, purple amethyst, tourmaline, Herkimer diamond (yay!), aventurine, flint, chert, tiger's eye, opal, chalcedony, agate, bloodstone, onyx, jasper, carnelian, chrysoprase, obsidian, coesite, cristobalite, tridymite.



Polymorphs of SiO₂ – When under great pressure and heat, quartz does weird things (just like the rest of us!).

Program: "Mineral Identification"



Jeff Huard, along with Past President, John Sweeny, gave a PowerPoint presentation on *Mineral Identification*.

Introduction to some of the geologic and chemical classifications influencing physical properties.

Geological – consists of 3 types of rocks:

Igneous – from cooling and solidification of magma or lava. Ex. obsidian, pumice, granite, olivine.

Metamorphic – transformation of existing rock by heat and pressure. 12% of Earth's land surface. Ex. amphibolite, slate, schist, gneiss, eclogite.

Sedimentary – formed by the cementation of particles of minerals or organic matter. 73% of Earth's land surface. 4 groups, based on formation process: clastic, biochemical, chemical, other. Ex. shale, sandstone, limestone, gypsum, chalk.

Chemical – Silicates, Halides, Carbonates, native elements, phosphates, sulphates, etc.

Silicates – silicon-oxygen compounds; make up about 90% of Earth' crust. Ex. quartz, feldspar.

Halides – fluorine, chlorine, bromine or iodine combined with a metal (sodium, potassium, calcium). Many are water soluble; low hardness of 4. Ex. – salt.

Carbonates – contain the carbonate ion, Ex. calcite, dolomite, limestone.

Native elements – composed of a single element. Ex. gold, silver, copper, diamond, graphite, sulfur. Platinum group includes rare minerals; Iron group; Semimetals have properties of both a metal and non-metal.

Relative Properties – luster, streak, cleavage/fracture, hardness, ultraviolet, magnetic, color, specific gravity/density. Minerals are identified by testing physical properties using simple tools like a magnet, glass plate, or steel file.

At our May 18 meeting, Part 2 of this program will be a hands-on experience. Bring your safety glasses!



Chili, corn bread and beverages were available to members after the meeting.

The chili was in honor and memory of Bill and Shaton Viel (see Page 4).



Gemworld 2026

Stephen Mayer Offers Two Insightful Presentations at the Learning Center, Sat., Sun.

Stephen Mayer was a Collections Assistant at the Paleontological Research Institute in Ithaca. Stephen is a graduate of SUNY Fredonia with an MS in Geological Sciences. His research has focused on Middle Devonian paleontology and stratigraphy of the Finger Lakes region of New York State.



He will present several possible theories to the cause of the End-Cretaceous extinction event which wiped out not only the dinosaurs but also 75% of all life. Leading arguments support a massive interstellar asteroid, volcanism and even a caterpillar. 66.043 million years ago was undoubtedly the worst day on planet Earth.



The second presentation is entitled **“Fossil Preparation: Techniques, Cleaning and Tools.”** He will discuss various methods of fossil preparation including the techniques that he uses for his own fossils as well as for past clients.



Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse
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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
General Meeting @ 7:00 pm
(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 \$10 – Life \$5

If you would like to join or renew membership, download the application form (PDF) see <https://gmss.club/membership-info>

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.

2025 – 2026 GMSS Officers/Contacts

-President: Matt Klinger pres@gmss.club

-Vice-President: Jeff Huard vp@gmss.club

-Treasurer: Linda Clark treasurer@gmss.club

-Secretary: Marie Mastracco
secretary@gmss.club

-Jr Rockhounds: Tracey Criscione
kidsrock@gmss.club

-Membership Chair: members@gmss.club

-Sgt at Arms: Kristin White
sgtatarms@gmss.club

-GemWorld Show Chair: Cheryl Brown
 315-708-9122 show@gmss.club

-Interim Club Librarian: Amanda Lytle
library@gmss.club

-Lapidary Committee Contact: Steve Shorey
lapidary@gmss.club

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

-Facebook: Judy Cook
socialmedia@gmss.club

-Website: Amanda Lytle
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-Photographer Extraordinaire: Judy Cook
-Hospitality Committee Chair: Doria McIntosh
 315-471-1340 hospitality@gmss.club