

# CRACK 'N CAB



Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse, PO Box 2801, Syracuse, NY  
web: <https://www.gmss.club> Volume 54 Issue 8, Aug. 2024  
209 Oswego St (Ponderosa Plaza), Unit 15, Liverpool, NY

## An "Olympic" Effort

## 2024 Gemworld Show – What a Glow!



**Judy's  
Gemworld  
Journal:  
Photo  
Review –  
Pages 10-16**

(Photo by Judy Cook)



## **A Clubhouse Find From *Way* Down Under**

by award-winning writer  
Amanda Lytle Pages 4-7

**Field Trip News– Page 8 & 17**

## President's Message

John Sweeney



Sunday night (Aug. 11), 9:30 pm, in a fog-like drizzle I watched three strangers unloading the 26-foot box truck. I turned to see Jeff who'd been with me since Thursday morning try once again to pull the kink out of his back as he grabbed another stanchion and carried it into the storage area. Bad planning? Bad communication? Apathy? Bad karma? I wondered as I chuckled to myself how did I get here?

No, not a new novella by yours truly; but some thoughts that passed through my mind as we put away the gear from this year's show. My knee hurt, it was raining, and I wondered where the other 160-some-odd members of the club were and why Jeff Huord and I were the only members here with three people we had to pay work extra hours at what had once been a team effort by club members to stow our show gear. I'd seen members working at the show all weekend. I laid out the space on Thursday with a good crew; Friday we had lots of people for set up. Saturday and Sunday we had quite few people for security, manning the booths and settling some unexpected technology issues as Keith Gilmer, our traditional tech specialist, had been taken to the hospital in an ambulance. So, what happened here? Why am I boo hooing? Well, most of the people I saw and worked with all weekend were the same people. They are the ones who come to the meetings, show up on workdays and come to board meetings on a regular basis. And there was nowhere near our current membership of 160 plus people. As the old saying goes many hands make light work and when people are stretched too thin things don't get done or get half done and problems steam roll from there. Not to mention the effect of carrying someone else's weight has on attitudes. You know I don't even want to hear this either, much less write about it. So, short and sweet: if you are a member of this club, then act like it: show up and do what's needed. If there are blank spots on the sign-in sheets for jobs, fill them out and show up. This entity is not a virtual endeavor. On a lighter note, the theme of our show - The Magic of Fluorescents - went over big this year with a lot of great cases displayed under UV lights. Thank you again to John Dean of FS Hunter for supplying great lights for the show. Thank YOU everyone who worked hard to make the show a success this year. At our August board and show debrief meeting we heard a lot of good information on where things could be improved and where they went right. Show up at the show committee meetings if you have suggestions or just want to help streamline this event.

Coming up In September we will have a partial changing of the guard in our leadership positions. **Matt Klinger** will be our new President. **Dave Arcaro** will be our new Vice President. **Kristen White** will be our new Sergeant at Arms. **Linda Sweeney** will stay on as Treasurer. Editor **Larry Petry** will stay in place. **Theresa Arnold** will continue as Secretary. **Amanda Lytle** will continue as Web Mistress **Cheryl Brown** will continue as Show Chair. I will stay on the board replacing Dick Lyons as Past President. Please help and support Matt, Dave and Kristen as new board members and the rest of the board to keep the club running successfully and continue improving in our mission. Thank You **Cathy Patterson** for being a go to Vice President and **Matt Klinger** for your time as Sergeant at Arms. I couldn't make the picnic this year, but I hear it went well. Thank You all that made it possible. See you at the meeting in September.

John Sweeney  
[Pres.@GMSS.club](mailto:Pres.@GMSS.club)

## Secretary's Report Teresa Arnold

### GMSS Board Meeting - August 6, 2024 Meeting and 2024 Show Debrief

Meeting called to order at 7PM by President, John Sweeney

#### President: John Sweeney

- Still working on cataloging club specimens.
- Looking into creating a permanent fluorescent case with lights to be obtained from John Dean or Joey Rivera
- John purchased a black tent for \$163.00 which we did not use for the show, *motion made to keep the tent for our future use* – Cheryl Brown motioned; Dave Arcaro seconded; approved unanimously.

#### Secretary: Teresa Arnold

- Motion to accept July minutes as in Crack N Cab – Larry Petry motioned; Cheryl Brown seconded; approved unanimously.
- No General Meeting minutes for June, as it was a work meeting.

#### Treasurer: Linda Sweeney

- June expenditures: \$21,489. - intake: \$4819.
- We received a letter from the Federation thanking us for our contribution of \$357.88 to their scholarship fund.

#### Vice President: Cathy Patterson

- Picnic was held on August 4th: 50 members attended. Thanks to everyone who helped, including

**Mark Grasmeyer** for ordering and picking up the meat and cheese; **Scott Carey** for being grill master; **Steve Albro** for his assistance with putting everything together. **Dave Millis** provided hours of entertainment with geode cutting, wire wrapping rings, stone polishing, etc. **Tracy Criscione** provided youth group entertainment with a volcano eruption.

- We discussed renting the pavilion only until 3PM, as most are gone by then; also, will be moving to the first Saturday in August instead of Sunday.
- The only issues were people arriving too early for the park's liking; parking and having only 1 standard-sized grill to cook all the meat required. Otherwise, everything was perfect!! Thanks everyone!!!
- Field trip with James Guinta to Lake Ontario is temporarily on hold. More information TBA.
- Field trip to Diamond Mountain to be arranged soon.
- Will plan a trip to the Museum of the Earth in Ithaca soon.

#### **Web Mistress: Amanda Lytle**

- Amanda will discuss fundraising at the next board meeting.

#### **Facebook: Judy Cook**

- Picnic pictures posted.

#### **Membership: Cheryl Brown**

- We gained some new members through the Show this year, numbers not yet confirmed.
- September is Membership Month.

#### **Jr. Rockhounds - No report**

#### **Hospitality:**

- Cathy Patterson will bring a cake for the September meeting; Linda Adams will bring cider.

#### **Lapidary: Steve Shorey / Bill Verge'**

- New class starting September 7th at 10AM.

#### **Building: Collection: John Sweeney**

- John will streamline a case for a multilight UV display that will fit in the clubhouse easily.
- Grab bars for the bathroom: *motion made for the club to purchase, and our landlord will install.* Motion made by Dick Lyons; Cathy Patterson seconded; approved unanimously.

#### **Show Debrief: Cheryl Brown / Dick Lyons**

- The 2024 Gem Show is over – from all reports, it was our most financially successful show to date!! This show is our bread and butter – it is our

main fund-raising event, and an astronomical amount of work goes into planning and executing each year. There are many members involved in the process, but the drivers are **Cheryl Brown** and **Dick Lyons** – you cannot even begin to imagine the amount of work they put into this – we are grateful to both of you, as well as to all who help throughout the year and at the actual show.

• The absolute main take away from the show was the fact that we have over 150 members...and there is only a fraction of this number involved in helping to run our **MAIN FUNDRAISER!** No amount of help is too little – you don't have to be able to lift and carry heavy objects; there are plenty of jobs that take little to no physical effort. We would like to see the number of volunteers helping out for the show increase by a lot!!! Come on, people, this is **YOUR CLUB!!**

- We discussed many ways to tweak things, some big and some small, to make things run smoother in the coming years. If you have comments, concerns or ideas for improvement, please let us know.
- We discussed some vendor concerns / ideas for improvement. Addressed the unloading / loading process to make it easier for all.
- The rock sale table was a success, thanks to all involved in that: and to **Amanda, Steve** and **Bill** for all the sorting they did to prepare.
- The Club Booth was a success: Straw Draw was, as usual, a big hit!
- The Youth Area was well attended – the kids had a blast!
- The Learning Center, aside from some A/V issues was successful – we had a stellar lineup of speakers!!
- We will be moving a few things around next year ...come help and you'll see!!
- We discussed updating our Windows program on our computer to avoid future issues with presentations. *Motion was made* by Cheryl Brown; seconded by Cathy Patterson; approved unanimously.

There is just not enough space here to thank every individual who volunteered their time to help make this such a successful show – you know who you are, and we know who you are, and we thank you for your time and dedication. Here's to an even more successful 2025 Show!!!

Respectfully Submitted  
Teresa Arnold, Secretary



## Show Chair Message

Thank you to all who worked during our show. You helped make it a huge success.

We will need even more help next year. There were some significant holes in this year's show that will need to be filled.

**Show Committee meetings will start again in January in preparation for next year's show.** Please plan to attend so you can find out all that is entailed in putting on a successful show and where you can help. There are lots of opportunities for you.

We need everyone to participate as this is our major funding source which enables us to maintain the clubhouse and lapidary area. This isn't the time to sit back and let others do the work. We all need to do our part as members.

Cheryl Brown

## Summer Gem & Mineral Show

By Cathy Patterson

Once again it was a great pleasure working at our wonderful show July 13-14 at the Syracuse Fairgrounds! I have such pride in this club when I see all we bring to the people in Central New York. There were museum-quality specimens, many member exhibits to dazzle the eye and educate the public, fluorescent exhibits ablaze in color, beads, jewelry, and fossils galore! Where else can you see so much natural beauty on display in one place and WE DID IT!!

Special thanks to all who worked to make our show a success but special thanks to **John Sweeney** for building the fluorescent tent and loading and unloading all our show supplies; **Linda Clark Sweeney**, our treasurer, who made a gazillion trips to each of the 3 booth areas and tallied all our expenses, **Linda Adams** and crew for making the Club Booth a welcoming first stop; **Mairead O'Neil** and her crew for setting up and running the very successful Youth Area; **Dave Arcaro** for making sure our large space was safe and secure; **Dorothy Gilmer** who made sure we had enough ticket sellers at the front doors; **Judy Cook** for planning excellent speakers both days of the show AND for getting the Metaphysical Center set up; **Steve Shorey** and crew who successfully set up our first ever rock sale booth; **Dave Millis** who set up a ring-making table for visitors to create their own wire wrap jewelry to take home; **Dick Lyons** who for several years has been our very successful vendor coordinator and floor plan layout person; and **Cheryl Brown**, leader extraordinaire, our most excellent show chairman who has a very gifted and talented crew working tirelessly prior to the show to make it the huge success that it consistently is.

Next year we'd like to see even more club members learning the ropes of putting on the biggest club-run show in New York State. It is a perfect way to learn more about the club you belong to and to make new friends, so you feel like part of the group.



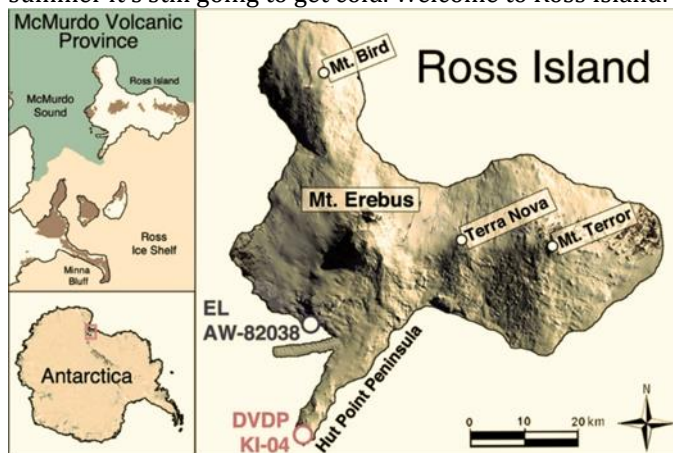
## The Life of Erebus, and Secrets of The Erebus Crystal

By Amanda Lytle

Let's adventure for a moment to a volcanic Island in Antarctica. We can't get there from South America, it's a trip around the other side of the world with our first stop at Christchurch, New Zealand.

From Christchurch, we'll cross the Southern Ocean over to the Ross Sea, reaching our destination nestled between West Antarctica and East Antarctica's South Victoria Land.

Get ready to zip up your polar jackets: even with the austral summer it's still going to get cold. Welcome to Ross Island.



Ross Island in East Antarctica below New Zealand, where Mt. Erebus is located. Scott and McMurdo Research Stations (Hut Point Peninsula) are 20 miles from Erebus. (Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International)

As the home of two famous scientific bases, a graveyard for extinct volcanics, and keeper of artifacts from the Heroic Age of Exploration, Ross Island is also home to one of the most active and rarest volcanoes in the world. It's the majestic companion standing in the ancient snow-covered backdrop to McMurdo and Scott research stations, including a summer population of tourists, science and tech students, Adelie penguins and Weddell seals.

Meet Mt. Erebus.

Erebus is the only one of its kind with a persistent lava lake, surrounded by an irony of subzero temperatures and year-round ice. One of the rarest lavas, formerly known as Kenyte, percolates from its summit crater.



Mount Erebus, smoking in the backdrop of Ross Island's ancient snowscape. Since Antarctica is one of the largest deserts in the world, this snow can be up to millions of years old. (Image credit: wikimedia commons)

For the past 100 years on record, Erebus has been actively erupting and with its central position, I've wondered if it was like Hawaii where the Island owes its existence to the volcano. Volcanics did play a part with Ross Island, which was also once part of the mainland that split away. Although temporarily stalled, the eastern and western portions of the continent are actively tearing apart. Having its connection to the West Antarctic Rift System, Erebus tells us that Antarctica's fate is not yet over.

In essence, Gondwana is still breaking apart.

Mt. Erebus began its early life as a broad-platform shield volcano producing a basanitic lava. Today it's evolved on top of its former shield into a stratovolcano with a lava output almost completely different from most of the world's volcanics, called Anorthoclase-Phyric-Phonolite. This lava produces a rock called phonolite which forms unusually large crystals of Anorthoclase: the Erebus Crystal.



The Summit of Mt. Erebus. Mt. Erebus has three craters, including the active Main Crater emitting strombolian eruptions, and an older, inactive one called Side Crater. (Image credit: wikimedia commons)

Strangely enough, a sample of Erebus' Anorthoclase found its way to our clubhouse collection last year with donated



specimens from the Antarctic. The crystals were sealed in a baggie and, personally, they looked like dirty shards of 'rock' spray-painted with a white coating. Inside the baggie was a little label that read: "Anorthoclase. Summit of Mt. Erebus. Ross Island, Antarctica."

Anorthoclase specimens, aka 'Erebus Crystals' from the club's Antarctic Collection. These Anorthoclase are a favorite for introducing field work to students during their first year abroad in Antarctic Studies. Our club's samples likely collected by a student.

Written on the box of Antarctic specimens was the year 1993.

For sure it's a burning mystery not knowing about who collected these Anorthoclase and why they were collected. The year and location looked tons more adventurous than its samples which looked like somebody sniped some chips of rock off a mountainside for a quick souvenir.

As a layperson without the science background, it's difficult to understand an unfamiliar and uninteresting-looking specimen, yet the adventure to be extracted from its locality was almost intoxicating to think about.

Back in East Antarctica, for 250,000 years on Ross Island, Erebus was throwing bombs of this Anorthoclase-rich phonolite lava, coating over the flanks and summit cones of its former basanitic shield and tephritic past. Cooling into porphyrite rock, the phonolite formed very large phenocrysts and megacrysts of the Anorthoclase within a contrasting groundmass of the rock's fine-grained minerals. The rock eroded away from the crystals, leaving loads of them behind in the decomposed rubble.

The Erebus Crystal is in no way a gemstone. It's ugly, uninteresting to behold, but with these sampled little pieces there was soon to be a secret that educationally and historically justifies them as a beautiful piece of the Antarctic.

Since they're reported to be found everywhere the phonolite lava flowed, I couldn't uncover an explanation on

what was so alluring about collecting these crystals at Erebus' summit. The label with the samples seems to beg for a legitimate scenario that explains it and what the collector was doing with them. All I've found is that the Summit is where these crystals are frequently sampled by geologists for collecting data: Mt. Erebus' Anorthoclase have special properties for science, and a good portion are melt inclusions from the Earth's mantle. These inclusions provide data about volcanism and tectonic processes like in Rift Systems to expand our understanding of planetary changes. Likely our club's own sample may have played a role with this science back in 1993. It's fascinating to think about.

Eventually a 'yin-yang' of scenarios were uncovered about the Erebus Crystal, which one of is more dark in nature, while another had turned out incredibly enlightening. What I wasn't expecting was learning that a volcano, let alone an Antarctic one can be hailed as a global teacher, safe space and a benevolent beast all rolled into one giant package.

When it comes to the phrase "safe volcano to work with," Mt. Erebus wouldn't be my pick with the harsh conditions to endure in the Antarctic. Despite Erebus being the Greek God of Chaos, field team experts explain that Mt. Erebus is the most physically accessible, stable for collecting samples, to conduct observations, set up instruments and retrieve for repairs. Praised as a great natural laboratory, this extreme Island Volcano also allows logistical support of the nearby research stations as they're only 20 miles out.

Lead Investigator Phil Kyle from New Mexico Tech which operates a year-round volcanic observatory, states that "Erebus represents the model volcano and provides a lot of insight into how volcanoes work."

For decades through National Science Foundation and University Antarctic study programs, Erebus has been the designated training ground for field research in the Antarctic environment and in volcanism, which involves a four to six weeks-long work experience. Other volcanoes having Erebus' ideal features are too dangerous because they're in regions either occupied by political instability or the terrain's incompatible for safe helicopter landing.

Volcanologist Clive Oppenheimer of University of Cambridge recalled working at Ethiopia's Erta Ale volcano where he wound up almost kidnapped with an AK-47 pointed to his head. When it comes to Antarctica, in his words, "You're not going to get that around here."

It turned out that The Erebus Crystals are a preferred choice for students to work with during their first season in field research at their University's Antarctic study program. They're easy to collect from the volcano, and many students pick these Anorthoclase for their graduate and postdoctoral thesis work.

Anorthoclase from Erebus are attractive in their unusual growth and have unique properties with the volcanic-tectonic settings they're tied to, which creates a variety of

research topics for these students. In a way, while Erebus is the training ground for Antarctic field work, its crystals are a training specimen.

A feldspar mineral, Anorthoclase is related to albite and sanidine feldspars. They're chemically expressed as  $(\text{Na}, \text{K})\text{AlSi}_3\text{O}_8$ , an albite that's replaced anywhere from over a tenth to a third of its sodium with potassium. It grows in a triclinic geometric shape, and its colors are white, yellow, brown, black, gray, reddish, colorless and greyish pink.

The Anorthoclase 'Erebus Crystal' grows up to a bit over three-inches, rhombic to triclinic in shape, and a third of its makeup being melt inclusions from the Earth's mantle. The white 'spray paint' mentioned earlier is a mineral called kenyaite.

### Crossing into the Dark Side of Collecting

There's a long-held tradition of research facility staff pocketing samples of these Anorthoclase feldspars for souvenirs on return home.

Many "Erebus Crystals" once gifted to friends and families are now showing up on the market, becoming part of an illegal trade with other Antarctica specimens. Since 1980, the International Antarctic Treaty enforces accountability into law that removing anything from Antarctica without a permit, and selling anything from Antarctica is illegal. In a March 2024 article from The NZ Post, retired geologist Brian Storey said he recently learned about the black market when he was asked about 'Erebus Crystals' while working as an Antarctic tour guide for Heritage Expeditions.

To be honest, I loved the name Erebus Crystal, but not if it's the same name coined in an illegal trade. I was about to ditch it until I found a 2007 article from The Antarctic Sun with a research student in an interview referring to these feldspars as 'Erebus Crystals,' while enthusiastically discussing their graduate work on them.

### The Antarctic, for Peace and Science: [[www.ats.aq/e/protocol.html](http://www.ats.aq/e/protocol.html)]

Antarctica as a polar continent, has remained one of Earth's final pristine frontiers and hopefully its "natural reservation devoted to Peace and Science" continues so it will offer us the best research and discoveries possible.

Antarctic preservation protects its wildlife and environment and protects research that helps us build solutions for the future of human welfare, for the future of life enduring an evolving planet, and eventually off-planet.

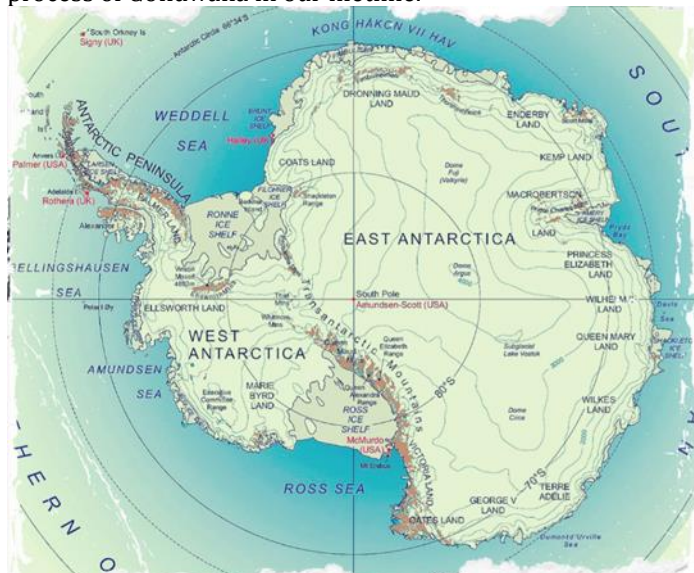
Mt. Erebus is a very young and active 'polygenetic' stratovolcano, only 1.3 million years old. With its namesake from the Royal Navy warship of polar explorer Captain James Ross, The H.M.S. Erebus, It's the southernmost active volcano in the world, producing strombolian-style eruptions with unusual Anorthoclase feldspar crystals. Our



club owns a sample of these Erebus' feldspars as a part of its Antarctica collection.

Standing at 12,448 feet tall on Ross Island, Erebus is also the sixth largest volcano in the world. Erebus is one of a few CO-2 dominant rift volcanoes with a lava lake that can be extensively studied.

The West Antarctic Rift began splitting Antarctica apart into East and West Antarctica around the mid-Cretaceous, and it's a rift setting this volcano is a part of. In a way, Erebus gives us a chance to actively witness the remaining break up process of Gondwana in our lifetime.



Map of South Pole showing East & West Antarctica, divided by TransAntarctic Mountains and the West Antarctic Rift System. Today, Antarctica is pulling itself apart. (Image credit: wikimedia commons)

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<https://www.thepost.co.nz/environment/350203435/brrrrrr-ied-treasureillegal-trade-antarcticacrystals#:~:text=The%20crystals%20can%20be%20easily,Erebus%20for%20up%20to%20%2465.>  
Geology of Southern Victoria Land, Antarctica. C.S. Cox, Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences Limited, 2012.  
Trans-Crustal structural control of CO2-Rich extensional magmatic systems revealed at Mount Erebus Antarctica, <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-022-30627-7> The Antarctic Sun. January 14, 2007; June 3, 2011  
[mindat.org/Anorthoclase\\_minerals.net/Albite](http://mindat.org/Anorthoclase_minerals.net/Albite)

To see other 'volcanic' photos from the August Club Picnic, check the September issue of Crack 'N Cab!



*Also, see how many other "volcanoes" you can find in this issue!*

Photo by Judy Cook

## Welcome to New Members in August

**Steven Bergstrom**  
**John Gallman**  
**Dylan Hubbs**  
**Alex Hendrickson**  
**Russell & Patti Leach**  
**LeDonna Lundstrom**  
**Marie Mastracco**  
**Tim & Elaine Nicholas**  
**Charles Smith**  
**Gary Thomas**

### Geo Lexis (Puzzle) By Anne Fitzgerald

## "Send in the Clouds"

When it's hot outside, I like to think about cold things like ice cream and sorbet and glaciers and "the ice age." I have to use quotation marks because the singular ice age I was thinking about before my research was actually one of at least five. Just when I thought it was over, it turns out that most scientists still think we are still in an ice age because (luckily) there are still those pesky ice sheets in Antarctica and Greenland.

When scientists talk about the end of the ice age, they are really talking about the most recent one when about 12,000 years ago, many animals went extinct. But that time wasn't even the worst. The worst ice age happened about 700 million years ago. Scientists still aren't sure what causes ice ages, but there is a new theory.

With advanced computer models and advanced data from spacecraft, a team of scientists propose that the sun and

the earth were behaving normally 2-3 million years ago, but clouds got in the way. The entire solar system may

have gone through what is called a "Local Ribbon of Cold Clouds" that swept away part of the heliosphere, the sun's protector, leaving the earth exposed to a huge cloud of gas that cooled the planet. For the early humans who lived on our planet, there may have been no need for sunscreen, but plenty of reasons for fur. Many animals went extinct during the ice ages.

One common word can be placed before each of these animal names to describe the extinct version of their names. The same word applies to all four.

Freezing up? The answer can be found on Page 9 of this newsletter.

#### Animal Names

sloth  
beaver  
otter  
ostrich

### September is Membership Renewal Month

Please stop at the sign-in desk to pay your dues. Please bring cash or a check. You can also mail your dues to the PO box.

Just a reminder – dues have gone up.

Individual - \$15

Family - \$20

Junior - \$10

Life Members - \$5 (Folks who have been members for 20 years)

Thank you!

## Lapidary Classes Begin September 7, 14, 21

**Duration:** 3 Consecutive Saturdays

**Location:** Gem and Mineral  
Society of Syracuse

14 Ponderosa Plaza, 208 Oswego St  
Liverpool, NY 13088

**Enrollment is very limited, so  
secure your spot today!**

To register or for more information, please contact the person below for cost as soon as you can.

Don't miss this opportunity to delve into the art of the lapidary!

Bill Vergé at

[b.verge@comcast.net](mailto:b.verge@comcast.net)

### Upcoming Events

**SEPT. 3, 2024 – GMSS Board meeting – 7 pm** at the Clubhouse. All are invited.

#### Saturday, Sept. 7 – Field Trip!

There will be a field trip for club members to **Deep Springs Road Quarry for Devonian Fossils**.

Any interested members **contact Dave Arcaro at 315-935-3627 by text or phone**. (Presumably he'll give you more information!)

We will **meet at the clubhouse at 7:45am and leave promptly by 8:00am**.

#### **September 16 Program**

Cathy Patterson

7:00-7:30 - We'll start the evening with the silent auction and Learning Center\* offerings.

7:30 - We'll have a short business meeting and swear in the new officers for the coming year.

**Matt Klinger** – President

**Dave Arcaro** – Vice President

**Teresa Arnold** – Secretary

**Linda Clark** – Treasurer

**Kristen White** - Sergeant at Arms

**Larry Petry** – award-winning EDITOR



There will be a brief meet and greet of new members then **anyone who has gone on a field collecting trip over the summer or went to a club show are asked to contact me** (Cathy Patterson [vp@gmss.club](mailto:vp@gmss.club)) to get on the talk agenda or offer suggestions. You may tell where you went, what it was like and, best of all, what you found. This is also a great time to let the board members know what kind of programs you would like to see in the upcoming months. \*Dale Shinneman will talk about [uranium glass](#) at the Learning Center!

**Junior Rockhounds** will meet again in September and the topic will be **Herkimer Diamonds**.

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

**OCT. 21 – GMSS meeting – 7:30 pm** at the Clubhouse. 7 pm – Silent Auction & Knowledge Corner.

### **Coming Summer/Fall Shows:**

**Aug. 24-25—CANTON, NY:** Annual show; St. Lawrence County Rock & Mineral Club; The Canton Pavilion, 90 Lincoln St.; Sat. 9-4:30, Sun. 9-3; \$4 Adults Children 12 < free; Over 25 vendors. Free mineral kits for kids, both days. Free kid's fluorescent mineral hunt Friday 8 PM. Field collecting trip Saturday, 9 AM. Free wire wrapping classes Sunday. Amethyst Cathedral drawing 2 PM Sunday; contact William DeLorraine, (315) 775-6286; Email: [WDELLIE@GMAIL.COM](mailto:WDELLIE@GMAIL.COM); Website: [www.Stlawrencecountymineralclub.org](http://www.Stlawrencecountymineralclub.org)

**Aug. 24-25—FREEPORT, NY:** Show & sale; Kaleidoscope Gem Shows; Freeport Recreation Center, 130 E Merrick Rd; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4:30; \$6; \$5 with this notice. Children under 12 free with adult. This show features dealers selling minerals, fossils, gemstones, jewelry, & beads. Come see our beautiful displays. Chat with the dealers about their items. Select incredible minerals & fossils as well as handcrafted silver & gold jewelry & also beautiful strands of beads; contact Evelyn Gose, (631) 271-8411; Email: [evelyn\\_gose@kaleidoscopegemshows.com](mailto:evelyn_gose@kaleidoscopegemshows.com); Website: [www.kaleidoscopegemshows.com](http://www.kaleidoscopegemshows.com)

**Sept. 7-8—NEW MILFORD, CT:** Annual show; Danbury Mineralogical Society, Inc; New Milford High School, 388 Danbury Rd (Rt 7); Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; Admission CASH only: \$5 adults, \$4 seniors & full time-students w/ID. Free admission for kids 11 & under & Scouts in uniform; Hourly door prizes, Grand prize drawn at end of show. Grab bags, club info, display cases, specimen identification; contact Elizabeth A Triano; Email: [lizziewriter@comcast.net](mailto:lizziewriter@comcast.net)

**Sept. 14-15—PINE ISLAND, NY:** (Orange Co.) Annual show; Area 51 Miners; Blue Arrow Farm, 86 Glenwood Rd; Sat. 11-6, Sun. 10-4; \$10 a day for adults, \$5 for kids; The Earthbling Festival a family-friendly event that combines the beauty of geological wonders with the energy of live music! Join us for a day filled with fascinating exhibits, dazzling gemstones, & the rhythmic beats of rock-infused tunes; contact Earthbling Festival, (973) 865-2793; Email: [earthblingfestival@gmail.com](mailto:earthblingfestival@gmail.com); Website: [www.earthblingfestival.com/](http://www.earthblingfestival.com/)

**Sept. 21-22—POUGHKEEPSIE, NY:** Show & sale; Mid-Hudson Valley Gem & Mineral Society, Inc; Gold's Gym & Family Sports Center, 258 Titusville Rd; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; Adults \$6, Seniors/Students \$4, Children Under 12 FREE With Adult; 30 Dealers; Six Free Rocks for Kids at "Glitter Mountain"; Sluice at "Garnet Gulch" for treasure; Earth Science "Scavenger Hunt" for HS Students; Lapidary Demonstrations; Fluorescent Mineral display; "The World of Crystals" - displays by MHVG&MS & Vassar Geology Museum; Wholesale Dealers; contact Linda Wuest, (845) 626-7136; Email: [garnet327@hvc.rr.com](mailto:garnet327@hvc.rr.com); Website: [www.mhvgms.org](http://www.mhvgms.org)

**Sept. 28-29—HARRISBURG, PA:** Annual show; Central Pennsylvania Rock & Mineral Club; Zembo Shrine Auditorium, 2801 N. Third St; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; Admission: \$6 or \$5 with Postcard/Ad; 58th Annual Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show; contact Brittany Martin; Website: [www.rockandmineral.org/](http://www.rockandmineral.org/)

**Sept. 28-29—WEST FRIENDSHIP, MD:** Annual show; Gem Cutters Guild of Baltimore; Howard County Fairgrounds, 2210 Fairgrounds Rd; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; Adults \$6. Scouts in Uniform & Kids 12 & under admitted free! Join the Gem Cutters Guild of Baltimore for a fun, fascinating & family-friendly event featuring gems & minerals from around the world & fun activities for all ages. Award-winning displays of jewelry, gems, minerals, fossils, meteorites & lapidary art. Choice rough, slabs, tools; contact Gem Cutters Guild of Baltimore, (410) 294-0200; Email: [information@gemcuttersguild.com](mailto:information@gemcuttersguild.com); Website: [www.gemcuttersguild.com/](http://www.gemcuttersguild.com/)

### **Answers to Geo Lexis**

#### Alive

sloth  
beaver  
otter  
ostrich

#### Extinct

giant sloth  
giant beaver  
giant otter  
giant ostrich

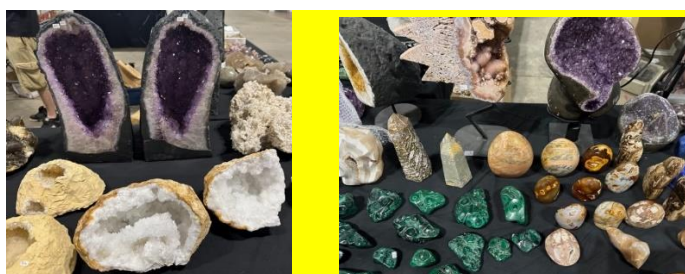
#### Sources and further reading:

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/a-giant-interstellar-cloud-may-have-once-enveloped-earth-potentially-causing-ice-ages-180984529/> Christian Thorsberg 6/14/24  
Christopher, M., Loeb, A. & Peek, J.E.G. A possible direct exposure of the Earth to the cold dense interstellar medium 2–3 Myr ago. Nat Astron (2024).  
<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41550-024-02279-8>  
<https://www.nysm.nysed.gov/exhibitions/online/ice-ages/ice-age-extinction#>  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline\\_of\\_glaciation#](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_glaciation#)  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Largest\\_prehistoric\\_animals](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Largest_prehistoric_animals)



**GMSS 2024 Show: July 13-14****Photo Journal by Judy Cook**

Specimens from Gemworld 2024



## UV Light Displays











Geodes with Stephen Woodruff



Dick Lyon (left) tells Steve Woodruff (right) how to crack open geodes.







## Club Members' Display Cases at the Show



These were a few of Joan Livingston's favorite things.







Photo by Christy Petry



Photo by Christy Petry



Photo by Christy Petry



Photo by Christy Petry



Photo by Christy Petry



## The Metaphysical Area



Sarina, Psychic Medium



The Mossy Burrow



Inner Balance Life Works



Bella Renata



Morgan's Mystic Impressions

## Learning Center speakers

### Len Sharp - "Len's Adventures to Historic and Cataclysmic Volcanic Eruptions Around the World"



Len reflected on his incredible journeys and research while exploring the Vesuvius and Pompeii ruins, Santorini, Kilauea, Mt. St. Helens, Mt. Baker, Mt. Hood and Crater Lake.

### Dino Zack - "Fluorescent Minerals of Northern New York"

Dino discussed the various types of luminescence with a detailed explanation of mineral fluorescence as well as the various ultraviolet lights.



### John Dean- "The Thrill of Fluorescent Rock Hunting"

John talked about preparation, safety and what you may encounter. He discussed rules and regulations as to what you are allowed to take from a site and touches on the science behind fluorescent minerals.







### Stephen Mayer - "Lagerstätten: Windows into the Past"

Lagerstätten are sedimentary deposits that exhibit fossils with exceptional preservation, sometimes including preserved soft tissues. Stephen reviewed some of the fossil

discoveries in the Burgess Shale Preserve in the Canadian Rockies.



**Lee Levesque III - "Hercules, Medusa and the Baby"** Lee took us back to May 28, 2023, when he made a monumental Herkimer diamond discovery. This led to having a book written, appearing at club meetings, shows, and an invitation to the largest gem and mineral show in the world at Tucson, Arizona.



### Stephen Woodruff - "Fabulous Keokuk Geodes"

Steve showed an inspiring video on how he discovers and mines the geodes at his farm in Missouri.



### Rob Katz (left) & Stephen Mayer - "Extraordinary Fauna of Fossil Lake, Utah"

Rob and Stephen gave presentations on the Green River Formation in southwestern Wyoming, which has fossils displaying extraordinary preservation.



A Big shout out to - **Jamie Cary** and her son **Logan**. They were a Godsend! They did an incredible job with tech throughout the show in the Learning Center area.  
Thank You!!!!



## Grand Prize Winners

By Cathy Patterson

This year's winners of the Grand Prizes were:

**Joey Adams** of Syracuse

**Jeff Irving** of Rochester

**Steven Bergstrom** of Liverpool

**Leslie Wright** of Kirkville

## Field Trip News

### Talcville and Rose Road Digs

(Saturday, July 27th) **Photos by Judy Cook**

**Talcville, NY for tirodite fluorescent** - Plan on uphill climb carrying rocks to your car. Bring crack hammer and chisel to break up rocks. Location is in the woods so dress accordingly and bring insect repellent. Bring long wave UV light to locate.

**Next dig site is Rose Road near Pitcairn, NY for blue calcite** - Buckets, hammers, chisels.



Led by our Rock Doc - Dave Millis

Linda (right, below) and Joey Adams, Tim Halmos (left, below) and Judy Cook attended, in search of blue calcite and fluorescent minerals.



Great field trip! We were all pretty lucky in our rock quest! Thanks, Dave!

**The next Club Field Trip is Saturday, Sept. 7th. See Page 8 for more information.**





**Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse**  
**PO Box 2801**  
**Syracuse, NY 13220**  
**First Class Mail**  
 Time-Dated Material



[www.amfed.org](http://www.amfed.org)   [www.amfed.org/efmls](http://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 - 3<sup>rd</sup> 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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**-Secretary: Teresa Arnold**  
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**-Jr Rockhounds: Rick Moore**  
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**-Membership Chair: [members@syracusegemsociety.com](mailto:members@syracusegemsociety.com)**

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