

CRACK 'N CAB

Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse, Inc.
P.O. Box 801 Syracuse, NY 13201

Volume XXXIII Issue 10

December 2003

Special Points of interest!

The Annual Holiday Brunch will be on Sunday, December 14th at 12:00 noon and a pleasant memory by the time you read this.

Beading Group forming !

Read all about it on page 4.

What are these people smiling about? See page 3.



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November Meeting Well Attended!



Photos by Loren Patterson

Michael Hawkins, collections manager for the New York State Museum in Albany, was our featured speaker at the November 17th meeting. Mike's program pushed the attendance to more than fifty, making it the best attended club event of the year except for the Holiday Brunch at the Glen Loch which has about 55 signed up. Mike's talk stressed the important role that club's like the GMSS play in support of the New York State Museum. Mike showed us some slides of the notable mineral specimens in the museum's collection and talked about specimens belonging to some of our club members on loan to the museum. This loan program enriches the display cases on view without increasing costs to the museum.

Program for January – Show and Tell

Bring in something you've collected - be it mineral or fossil and let's have fun with that old grade school favorite **Show and Tell**.

January is a good time for telling tales of how you found that perfect fossil, how you worked all day extracting that perfect crystal from the matrix rock, and how you located the missing specimen for your collection. Bring in your "stuff" and practice your public speaking skills while entertaining us and maybe teaching some old dogs and new pups a thing or two about our favorite hobby.

No need for shyness, "We're all in this together," as TV comic Red Green says, so let's have some fun January 19 at 7:30PM.

December Meeting

Remember, there is no regular meeting in December. The Holiday Brunch on December 14th at the Glen Loch replaces our normal meeting.

Sunshine News

Harry Perkins was recently ill, but is doing much better now and hopes to be able to join us on the 14th. After recent knee surgery, **Tim Hart** is recovering well and is back to work.

Cathy Patterson is limping after recent foot surgery but plans to attend the "brunch" on crutches if necessary.

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed for future months refreshments. See Joan or Bob Livingston to sign up for bringing cookies or any other goodies for any meeting in 2004.

President's Message

The other day I was moving the last of the winter's supply of firewood in under cover, as it was starting to snow. Trudging back and forth in the same path, my boots created a muddy mess, and a stone turned up. Of course, I had to pause to check it out. It was just a small red-banded sand stone, but it was so smooth I pocketed it. The thing looked like it had spent several weeks in a rock tumbler and was ready for the last polishing stage. I wondered at all the steps nature had used to do this and where this rock had come from? The glaciers must have dropped it here just for me to find in the mud that day.



Jay Tinker
Photo by
L. Patterson

I think back over the years, and all the other finds I've made while not rock hunting. As a kid, while skipping stones, I would look at each rock before throwing it. That's how I found a delicate feather-like fossil coral. In college on a back packing trip, the other students' backpacks got lighter as our food was consumed – mine became heavier. Much heavier.

One time, while waiting to connect with some other families, my kids discovered the gravel parking lot we were waiting in, was full of fossils. Not for long. They filled their pockets, then my pockets with large sections of crinoid stems and horned coral fragments. They would have been happy spending the day there.

Roto-tilling a garden always produces rocks to look over. As does, planting trees or flowers. Even the worst day of fishing is always made better by some rock finds. Raking and even mowing the lawn sometimes becomes more

interesting with a rock or two. Ever go canoeing and worry about sinking the boat? Then there are walks along the road, hikes, trips to the beach, all full of more fun for us. How boring it must be for the non-rock hounds to suffer through these events. It must be like.... like shoveling snow – just a boring job that must be endured, over, and over. Which reminds me – I have to go clear the driveway again today.

So this holiday season, go save another bored human being – infect them with rock hounding!

Jay Tinker
Club President

Regular Meeting Minutes Nov

*Submitted by Rollie Allen,
Secretary*



Rollie Allen
Photo by
L. Patterson

Michael Hawkins, minerals collection manager for the New York State Museum in Albany, and the guest speaker at our November meeting, urged a close relationship with the Gem and Mineral Club to enhance exhibits at the museum.

He credited clubs like ours with the growth and success of the Albany museum. His interesting talk and slide show gave us a view of the history of the museum since its inception as the New York State Geological Survey of 1836.

Club President Jay Tinker began the meeting with word that **Tim Hart** was unable to attend the meeting because he had surgery on his knee and his leg had to stay elevated while it is healing.

January's program will be show and tell where club members will tell us about interesting gems or minerals that they found or bought during the past year.

It was announced that the Eastern Federation was pleased with our club donation to the scholarship fund. Our donation was 2,900% of the normal gift to Eastern.

Elizabeth Russell, Neal Devendorf, Phyllis Preyer, and Diane Haller won door prizes.

Carol Hamilton-Gibbs provided tasty refreshments.

Executive Meeting Minutes Nov.

*Submitted by Rollie Allen,
Secretary*



Rollie Allen
Photo by
L. Patterson

Nine members of the Executive Committee met November 10th at the home of Club President Jay Tinker. They discussed programs for the year and filled in dates presented at the October meeting.

Jay said he would pick up the T-Rex skeleton July 2-3, 2004 for us to use in our big Gem and Mineral show. Jay will return the cast in August. The MOST will be able to display T-Rex the week of July 12. The cost will be \$300 a week if they want it another week.

Lou Budell filled in the board on exhibits that will be at the 2004 Gem Club show. Thirty-nine of our cases will be needed for the exhibits. We will need 10 new cases for the show. Jay will check on the availability of the 3/4 scale Mastodon for exhibit at our show.



Photo by Jay Tinker

Coming Events - 2004*From William Lema***February:**

21-22: 11th Annual James Campbell Memorial Gem & Fossil Show & Sale, co-sponsored by the New York State Academy of Mineralogy and the Capital District Mineral Club. Concourse level, south end of the Empire State Plaza, Madison Avenue, Albany, NY

27-28: 45th Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil, and Jewelry Show, sponsored by the Mississippi Gem & Mineral Society. A & I Buildings, State Fairgrounds, Jackson, MS.

March:

6 - 7: New York City Gem & Mineral Show Hosted by the New York Mineralogical Club Holiday Inn Midtown Manhattan 440 W.57th St., New York City

20-21: 40th Annual Gem-Mineral-Fossil Show sponsored by the Gem, Lapidary, & Mineral Society of Montgomery County, MD, Montgomery County Fairgrounds, 16 Chestnut Street, Gaithersburg, MD

27-28: 14th Annual Jewelry, Mineral & Fossil Show, sponsored by the Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club. Harmony Hall Regional Center, Fort Washington, MD

April:

2 - 4: 32nd Annual Atlantic Micromounters Conference. Tyson's Westpark Hotel, McLean, VA. Info and registration: Steve Weinberger, PO Box 302, Glyndon, MD 21071-0302

3 -4: 36th Annual Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show, sponsored by the Buffalo Geological Society. Erie County Fairgrounds, Hamburg, NY.

July 2004:

9-11: Combined EFMLS and AFMS Convention & Show sponsored by the Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse, NY State Fairgrounds, Exit 7 off Route 690, Syracuse, NY. (AFMS meetings July 7 & 8).

September:

25-26: 40th Annual Atlantic Coast Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show sponsored by the Gem Cutters Guild of Baltimore, Inc. Howard County Fairgrounds, I-70 at MD 32, W. Friendship, MD.

December:

6 - 7: 31st Annual Gem & Mineral Show, sponsored by the Bristol Gem & Mineral Club. Senior/Community Center, 240 Stafford Ave., Bristol, Connecticut.

*from EFMLS News 12/03***Thanks to the M.O.S.T.****Past Event - IMAX "Volcanoes of the Deep Seas" - Nov. 20th***Submitted by Loren Patterson*

The IMAX VIP preview presentation "**Volcanoes of the Deep Seas**" was certainly a big hit with our members attending the preview event by special invitation from the MOST Museum. I would like to send our special thanks to **Ann Nagle**, Director of Marketing & Public Relations for the M.O.S.T. (Museum of Science & Technology) for extending the opportunity to attend to the Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse membership. Pictured below are some of the 40 members attending, mostly from the 6:00 PM show. Members attending the 7:15 PM show were not all in this picture. All agreed they enjoyed the show and would come back again real soon.

Photo by Loren Patterson

AFMS News

They Do Listen!

from Evan Day

On September 9th, I wrote my Utah Congressman Rob Bishop concerning HR2416 and S546. I emailed the cover letter to him (plus Sen. Hatch, Sen. Bennett, Mr. Matheson, and Mr. Cannon), and then hand delivered a complete hardcopy to his Brigham City office.

The evening of Wednesday, 17 Sept., he personally telephoned me to say he got the information, had checked with some of the other people in his district that I mentioned as being impacted, and said HE AGREED WITH ME! Turns out he is on the House committee and the sub-committee responsible for the bills. He is hopeful that they can be killed for this term, but Rob recognizes he is a freshman with limited clout, but will try his best. He seemed appreciative of getting a letter with specifics, from one who had read and analyzed the bills, and was personally involved in the issue - not copycat rhetoric.

I take this as a very positive sign.

[Ed. Note: Have YOU written to your Congressman yet asking that they help defeat HR2416? See the September and October issues of the *AFMS Newsletter for details on how this proposed legislation will limit our collecting rights. Our letters helped defeat the "Baucus Bill" several years ago. We can do it again! Don't delay - write your representative in Congress today.]

*Visit the AFMS Website:
www.amfed.org

from AFMS News 11/03



Shop Hints

Silversmith Tips

Silversmiths, draw your jeweler's saw through an old candle. It coats the blade and you can saw faster. Wipe a piece of chalk over your jeweler's files. It keeps metal slivers from clogging the file and you can blow them out.

Avoid scratches in silver by covering it with transparent contact paper. You can mark and saw with the paper on.

From - The Burro Express 2/99 via Rock Buster News 9/03

Protecting and Organizing Cabs

Keep polished cabochons in photo-slide protector pages. The pages fit a 3-ring binder and each page has 20 individual pockets. The cabs are easily visible, but are protected. Coin collector sheets also may be used.

From Clackamette Gem via Rock Buster News 9/02

Dangerous Dust!

When grinding and polishing, do not breathe the dust of rocks. Some materials are toxic. Tiger-eye is not some kind of harmless agate; it is quartz with asbestos fiber inclusions. The asbestos makes it shimmer and shine, but the airborne fibers are carcinogenic.

Malachite is also poisonous as a microscopic dust particle. If you breathe it, mild to very serious respiratory problems can develop.

Wear a mask when you are cutting and grinding. You can never be too careful.

from Chips via Rock Buster News 9/03

Preventing Fine Scratches

Stones sometimes develop fine, threadlike scratches while being polished on a buff. These may be due to grit that has penetrated the polish buff. One grain will do it.

To clean, hold a strip of plywood or balsa wood firmly against the spinning buff. The grit will embed itself in the wood, leaving the buff clean.

from Agatizer, via Rock Buster News 9/03

THERAPY

I think I've found inner peace.

My therapist told me a way to achieve inner peace was to finish things I had started.

Today I finished 2 bags of potato chips, a half-gallon of Rocky Road ice cream, a bottle of Zinfandel and a large box of chocolate covered cherries.

I feel better already!!

from Golden Spike News 8-9/02 via Rock Buster News 9/03

Beading Group Forming

Submitted by Cathy Patterson

Are you interested in learning to string beads?

Do you have broken strands of beads you'd like to learn how to fix?

A beading group is starting in January prior to the regular meeting time of 7:30 PM. **Carrie Gannett** and **Cathy Patterson** will kick off the New Year with this new-to-the-club venture. Let's meet at **6:30 PM** each month and see where the fun takes us! We'll wrap up in plenty of time for the regular meeting at 7:30 PM.

For more information call **Cathy Patterson** at: **638-8817**

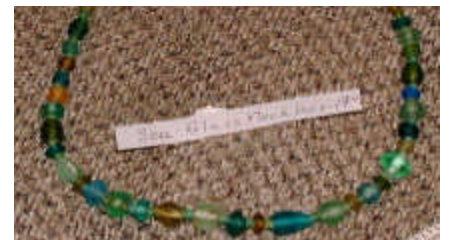


Photo by Loren Patterson

EFMLS News

THANKFULNESS, MERRIMENT, AND YOU

BY MATT CHARSKY
EFMLS PRESIDENT



By the time you read this article, each of you will be in-between festivities. You would have already celebrated a Happy Thanksgiving and now you're beginning to plan your attack for the upcoming year-end crunch of Holiday activities. As hobbyists, we have much to be thankful for and I think we've earned a little time for merriment and good cheer for all the many hours of volunteer work that we do for EFMLS and our local clubs.

Our hobby truly has many people to thank. For one thing, we should be very appreciative for even the ability to collect the material for our hobby - whether it is gemstones, minerals, rough material, micros, or fossils. So, thank the landowner, the quarry owner, and anyone else who permits us to collect our treasures on their property. Maybe a nice thank you note would keep these sites accessible for many years to come. We should also thank all those people who got us interested in our hobbies and continue to do so -teachers, instructors, other hobbyists, etc. It's nice to share what you know with people who have the same interests that you do. Sharing information keeps the hobby going and it gives you a good feeling inside.

At this time, most clubs in the north have finished their field trips for 2003 and are now planning all kinds of gatherings and celebrations. Please try to be part of your club's camaraderie. Lots of clubs are also holding officer

elections and so some new crews of officers may need to be introduced to EFMLS. Please send Carolyn Weinberger any changes in officers as soon as you can, so we can keep our roster up-to-date.

Before you start putting your treasures away for the winter, I have a suggestion for each of you. Isn't it about time that you showed off your hobby to a large, diversified audience? I've got just the ticket with the upcoming **AFMS/EFMLS Convention in Syracuse, NY during July 9 - 11, 2004**. Start putting together a showcase (either competitive or non-competitive) to show off your hobby. If you don't think you have enough material, then find a friend to share a showcase. If that won't work, how about this idea for a great wintertime exercise for each club -put together an individual club showcase for the convention. Your club may know its area of the country very well and have talented members, but the American Federation representatives don't have a clue about individual EFMLS clubs. Here's a way for up to 150 showcases to appear in Syracuse and drive the host club wild.

Allow me to say a few words about the recent EFMLS Convention in Poughkeepsie, NY. The host club, Mid-Hudson Valley Gem and Mineral Society, was very gracious to us and put on an EFMLS Convention that they can be proud of. Many thanks to Jack Rowland and his fellow members for all their hard work. On the flip side, I was quite disappointed in the number of attendees at the Cracker Barrel, Awards Dinner, and Editor's Breakfast. This is supposed to be EFMLS's showcase, where we are receptive to individual club concerns, we recognize exceptional achievements, and we reward

writers of all kinds of hobby-related articles. Why weren't YOU there? If you have an idea of how I can boost participation at any of these functions, please let me know. **I WANT A GOOD SHOWING IN SYRACUSE!**

In closing, I hope each of you will be able to take some time out your hectic schedules this month to appreciate what your hobby means to you, what your club does for you, and what the EFMLS represents for you. Can you as a club or EFMLS member do something better in 2004 than what you did in 2003? Remember, volunteerism, is what makes the system work either on the EFMLS or club level. In-person participation at EFMLS and club functions convinces everyone of your dedication to your hobby and to your organization.

Be safe in your travels and just say no to that second piece of cake. See you in 2004.

Matt

from EFMLS News 12/03

Mineral Theft

Gene Ridall, past president of the **Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse** had his garage burgled recently and lost most of his inventory of minerals. He trades under the name "Gem Hunter Minerals".

As you attend shows be on the lookout for any individual attempting to sell minerals with the "Gem Hunter Minerals" label or someone who is not a dealer at the show you're attending trying to sell.

If you should encounter such a situation, please notify the local police immediately.

from EFMLS News 12/03

P.O. Box 801
Syracuse, New York 13201



First Class Mail

December 2003

Time Dated Material



Gem and Mineral Society of Syracuse, Inc.

Crack 'N Cab



Eight persons 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 name.

The objectives of the Society are to stimulate interest in mineralogy, paleontology, and the lapidary arts. Individual interests include collecting, identification, and display of minerals and fossils, and many aspects of jewelry design and fabrication.

The monthly meetings stimulate the social and educational factors. Frequent field trips provide collectors with opportunities to find specimens as well as to enjoy the benefits of outdoor exercise and potential friendships. The Society meets on the third Monday of every month at 7:30 PM in the Parish House of the First Presbyterian Church, 620 West Genesee Street, Syracuse, New York.

Visitors are always welcome.

Annual membership dues:

Single Adult - \$6

Junior - \$3

Family - \$9

Honorary Life Membership - \$3

For more information write to the Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse, P.O. Box 801, Syracuse, New York 13201



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696-8274

Vice-President

Tim Hart

625-4485

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