

CRACK 'N CAB

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

Volume XXXIII Issue 2

February 2003

Special points of interest:

The internet is a great place to get information on the hobby. Check out the possibilities on Page 4, "Web Resources".

Have you heard about the effort to create a special mineral park open to collectors and hobbyists. See page 5 - **Newry Mineral Park**.

The **Lapidary Contest** is coming sooner than you may think. (March 17, 2003) See page 7 for the rules.

Dr. Steven Chamberlain will be here Feb. 17th at 7:30 PM. Don't miss this program!

Dr. Chamberlain's topic on the 17th will be "**Cataloging Your Mineral Collection**".

His presentation will include 30 or 40 slides of recently acquired mineral specimens and describe the numbering system he used to catalog his collection. This information is applicable not only for use in mineral, but also fossil, micro-mount or most any other type of collection. Steve will also show us the different methods used to attach cataloging information to the specimens. There are newer methods now being used that may be of interest to all. Join us for this special program by our fellow club member, Dr. Steven Chamberlain



Steve Chamberlain and trusty slide projector.

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Sunshine News

Kay & Don Smith are doing OK but not traveling much yet. **Dick Stimer** is going to rehab and reportedly feeling good. **Bill Norris** is taking it easy and building up his strength. I have heard that **Ruth Komrowski** is suffering from a bad head cold. **Gene Ridall's** mother is in the hospital for diagnosis. Let's send get well wishes to everyone mentioned and hope all a swift recovery.

Condolences to **Betty Witworth** on the recent loss of her brother.

If you have sunshine news concerning any club member, please notify the Editor so that it can be included in the next issue of the "Crack 'N Cab".

A Warm Welcome to New Members

Please extend a warm welcome to the following new members:

Dick Ackerman of Sherill

Virginia Adcook of Fayetteville

David Arcaro of Syracuse

Heather LaFever of Syracuse

Ann Napoletan of Syracuse

President's Message

I don't know about the rest of you, but I'm tired of all these ice crystals lying around. I want to go dig for some real crystals, fossils or rocks, instead of digging out the walks, driveways and cars. I guess we are lucky to be in a hobby that has an indoor side to it. This winter I've been setting up a new display case, organizing my collection, trying my hand at some lapidary arts and reading up on minerals... calm down folks, I still like the fossils best. But the cabin fever is starting....

Last week my snow blower picked up a rock (what a noise) and bounced it off a tree. It came back and landed near me, in the driveway. I stopped to pick it up, first because I didn't want it to go crashing through the machine again and second because it's the first rock I've seen outdoors in months. It turned out to be a round section of a horn coral about 2 inches long. I was happy – 3 feet of snow and I'm lucky enough to find a fossil!

I stopped to study the intricate details preserved in the rock on the broken end. The internal structure of the animal was all there. The minerals had slowly replaced the organic compounds molecule by molecule. It's simply amazing.

It was about then I realized this was probably a piece of a horn coral I had already found, and put in the flowerbed. Digging through the snow with the toe of my boot, proved me right... I had lost the driveway and had the snow blower running through the flowerbed chopping up some of my extra fossils. Now, I was not happy. Guess I better get some markers or I won't have any rocks left in the garden. (Who cares about the flowers)?

I put the piece of coral in my pant's pocket, intending on taking it inside to study better. But as I pulled the machine back onto the driveway, it became clear that the fossil was just too cold to keep in my pocket! So I tossed it back into the snow about where the flowers and other fossils are. I think, I hope. Guess I'll find out next summer when I'm out mowing the lawn and wishing it would cool off so I could go rock hunting.

Jay Tinker
Club President



Rochester Mineral Symposium

Mark your calendar for the annual Rochester Mineralogical Symposium April 3, 4, 5, 6, 2003.

Radisson Inn Rochester
175 Jefferson Road
Rochester, NY 14623
(585) 475-19190

Early registration deadline for the symposium is March 3. Pick up a form at the February meeting or contact **Helen Chamberlain** - Registrar (315) 682-6023 for more information.

Lecture topics of interest are Minerals of China, Mineralogy of Silver, Minerals of New Zealand, and What's New In Minerals with Bill Pinch. There will be a silent auction, dinner, shopping, and many guest speakers. If you're into mineralogy, don't miss this annual event.

Visit the AFMS Website

www.AMFED.ORG

12 Reasons Why You Should Be a Rockhound

1. Since the Bible days, the rich and poor alike have sought rare and beautiful stones.
2. If you put your money into something big, like a house, you can't hide it from crooks and ruthless rulers. But if you put your money into small, rare, priceless stones, you can hide it.
3. Money can burn. Gemstones have already gone through fire and are millions of years old and will be just as valuable hundreds of years from now.
4. Dollar bills can be printed at the will of the government, but collectable stones and fossils cannot be manufactured at will. They are a work of God.
5. Cars rust. Gems don't
6. Furs get eaten by moths. Gems and mineral specimens, and fossils don't.
7. The history of the world can be seen in a unique fossil.
8. Most stones can be made into beautiful, flattering jewelry.
9. The "conversation piece" factor of a rare stone or mineral specimen is greater than that of a coffee table book.
10. You can make money in this industry. Note all the jewelry stores.
11. You can find friends out there hunting for rocks.
12. You can feel wonderfully satisfied when you find that rare, precious, unusual specimen.

via Rocks Digest Vol. 9 No. 2 1997 and Rockhounds Herald Nov. 2001

**Life is like a lapidary wheel
And whether it grinds you down
Or polishes you up
Depends on what you're made of.**

Author and source unknown.

Executive Board Meeting Minutes – Jan. 13,'03

Six members were present.

The treasurer reported as of January 13th we had 134 paid up members.

President, Jay Tinker proposed that he would contact PRI in order to see if the cast of the T-Rex skull would be available for display at our annual Gem Show in July.

Bob Livingston said he would do the program for the April meeting. Topic to be announced (Leaverites).

Meeting was adjourned early.

Regular Meeting Minutes – Jan. 20, '03**January Shivers**

Rockhounds must be a special breed because 20 people, including the speaker, turned out for the January 20th meeting of our club. The weather was bad, with heavy snow and cold temperatures. Many organizations did not meet that night and announced cancellations on radio and television.

The brave souls who attended heard an interesting talk by **Dr. Robert M. Ross** from the Paleontological Research Institute in Ithaca. Dr. Ross showed slides of the architectural plans and development of the soon-to-open Museum of the Earth and explained the concept of the museum. He said the museum was designed to represent a gorge leading down to Cayuga Lake. The museum will feature the Hyde Park Mastodon (club President **Jay Tinker** helped dig it up), the Right Whale #2030 and a mural, Rocks of Ages, Sands of Time by Barbara Page.

PRI staff helped to clean the beached Right Whale after burying it in tons of manure to hasten deterioration of its flesh.

Dr. Ross said a main goal of the museum is to provide an active place where people can work and learn. Children will be encouraged to dig through mud from the site of the Hyde Park Mastodon in search of fossils. Visitors will be able to explore three worlds presented in the main exhibition areas: "Beneath an Ancient Sea", "Where Dinosaurs Walked", and "A World Carved by Ice." The museum will open this summer.

The meeting was an abbreviated one because of the weather, but we still had time for refreshments and the monthly drawing. **Doris Henderson** filled in for Tim Hart in providing refreshments. Winners in the drawing were **Phyllis Boyden** (a guest from Groton), **Ben Thomas** and **Rollie Allen**.

Roland Allen
Secretary

Coming Events**February**

22-23: 10th Annual James Campbell Memorial Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show & Sale, co-sponsored by **The New York State Museum** and the **Capital District Mineral Club**, Inc. New York State Museum, Empire Plaza, Albany, N.Y.

22-23: 44th Annual Mississippi Gem & Mineral Show sponsored by the Mississippi Gem & Mineral Society. Mississippi State Fairgrounds, Trade Mart; Jackson, MS

March

1-2: 40th Annual Earth Science Gem & Mineral Show sponsored by the Delaware Mineralogical Society. Waterfall Banquet & Conference Center (formerly Brandywine Terrace), 3416 Philadelphia Pike; Claymont, DE

1-2: New York City Gem & Mineral Show, sponsored by Excalibur Minerals and hosted by the **New York Mineralogical Club**. Holiday Inn Midtown Manhattan, West 57th Street, New York City

7-9, 2003: 15th Annual Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show, sponsored by the Aiken & Augusta Gem & Mineral Societies. Julian Smith Casino, 2200 Broad St., Augusta, GA.

15-16: 39th Annual Gem-Mineral-Fossil Show, sponsored by the Gem, Lapidary, & Mineral Society of Montgomery County, MD, Inc. Montgomery County Fairgrounds, 16 Chestnut Street, Gaithersburg, MD

15-16: 44th Annual Gem, Jewelry and Fossil Show, sponsored by the Tampa Bay Mineral & Science Club. Florida State Fairgrounds, Tampa, FL

22-23: 35th Annual Gem Mineral Fossil Show, sponsored by the **Buffalo Geological Society**. Erie County Fairgrounds, Hamburg, NY.

22-23: 34th Annual Gem & Mineral Show sponsored by the **Ch Hanna Rock & Mineral Club**. Athens Township Volunteer Fire Hall, Herrick Av; Sayre, PA

April

3-6: Rochester Mineralogical Symposium at the Radisson Inn, 175 Jefferson Road, Rochester, NY contact Registrar: Helen Chamberlain 315-682-6023

5-6: Philadelphia Mineral Treasures and Fossil Fair 2003 Annual Show and Sale, sponsored by the Philadelphia Mineralogical Society and the Delaware Valley Paleontological Society. Lulu Temple; 5140 Butler Pike; Plymouth Meeting, PA

11-13: 26th Annual Atlantic Micromounters Conference sponsored by the Micro mineralogists of the National Capitol Area. Contact Steve Weinberger (cweinber@bcpl.net) for info and registration.

12-13: 20th Annual Rock and Mineral Show, sponsored by the Maine Mineralogical and Geological Society. Finley Gym, University of New England, 716 Stevens Ave., Portland, ME (I-95, exit 8).

12-13: 34th Annual Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show, sponsored by the **New York Southern Tier Geology Club**. Senior Citizen Center, Johnson City, N.Y.

Web Resources

By Loren Patterson

At this time of year, it's difficult to do field trips. You can't see the rocks when they're covered with snow. If you have access to a computer however, it's a great time to go rock hounding on the World Wide Web. On any given Website, there can be a number of links to other websites with untold treasures. A good place to start is with the AFMS site: <http://www.amfed.org>

Also, you really should check out our own EFMLS Website, which has a huge database of newsletters and a library full of reliable information. Their address is: <http://www.amfed.org/efmls>

If you would like to do some collecting of Michigan copper specimens, the best Website is: <http://www.ccrmc.info/> The time to go is around the first week in August which is called Keweenaw Week. This is probably the best-organized field trip you will ever go on. These folks have been doing these trips for a long time and it's a great experience.

If you are looking for information to inspire your youngsters, this is an excellent place for finding out about the Cenozoic, the Precambrian, the Paleozoic, and more. The address is: <http://www.ucmp.berkeley.edu/exhibit/geology.html>

In or around Tulsa, OK, for Tulsa Rock & Mineral programs try this address: <http://www.ttownrockhound.org/>

The Website that I have enjoyed the most is reserved for people over 55 years of age. If you have a friend or family member who has this qualification, you can go too. The address is: <http://www.elderhostel.org/>

Our last Elderhostel trip was in April 2002. The trip was to the Grand Canyon. We were housed in a new hotel on the Hualapai Reservation that covers much of the western area of the Grand Canyon. Elderhostel programs typically include your housing and nearly all of your meals for the week. It's a good way to extend learning an area of interest and meet others with similar interests. Our Elderhostel group consisted of about 25 people from all over the country, some singles, some couples ranging in age from 55 to late seventies. We had some classroom activities and a field trip almost everyday. One fieldtrip was by SUV/van down Diamond Creek Canyon with frequent stops to walk and look at the terrain and plant life. The trips were led by a geologist and a biologist, Mike & Joanne Young, from Arizona Yavapai College. On the major fieldtrip of the week, the group and Cathy and I enjoyed a helicopter ride from the canyon rim down to the shore of the Colorado River 3 or 4 persons at a time. Our group then boarded four inflatable motor launches for the trip down the river to Lake Mead. The Hualapai people operated the boats and knew the river well. We managed to get in the same boat as the geologist, who pointed out many points of interest. It was a beautiful day for a smooth boat ride on the Colorado River in the middle of the Grand Canyon with a geologist for a guide. For a couple of rockhounds, does it get any better than this?

Carnivore Dinosaur Footprint

from Terry Cirrincione

Imagine a sand bank next to a stream way back in the very Early Jurassic period. An Anomoepus dinosaur, one of the earliest carnivore dinosaurs, approaches, looking for water and any prey he can find. He spies a smaller dinosaur, gives chase, and in one blow sinks his teeth into its neck and then devours it. After drinking water from the cool stream, he walks away, leaving footprints in the soft sand bank.



Now we are in present time, and here is one of its footprints. This is a choice specimen donated by Glenn Zamenski of the American Fossil Federation and the Maryland Geological Society, and it can be yours if your name is selected at the raffle drawing. When the raffle tickets go on sale, buy some; take a chance on winning some wonderful prize. Help support the EFMLS at the same time.

From EFMLS News – Feb 03

February Birthstone - Amethyst

Amethyst is crystalline purple quartz found in volcanic extruding rocks. Although Brazil is the principal commercial source for amethyst, it is found in many localities around the world. In the U.S. and Canada, many of us have found amethyst in places from Maine to North Carolina, to Thunder Bay, Canada. Thus, we have learned that amethyst comes in a variety of color, some pale, nearly colorless, some very black and opaque. The best amethyst is a transparent rich purple in color. The highest quality amethyst comes from Siberia, Russia. Very fine quality material comes from Uruguay and Bahia.

Since amethyst is a variety of quartz, its credentials are those of Quartz: hardness is 7 on the Moh's scale; specific gravity is 2.65-2.66, and the refractive index is 1.54-1.55 (for the benefit of our faceters).

The name amethyst derives from the Greek word which means "without drunkenness", and both the Greeks and Romans used it to protect themselves from overindulgence in strong drink. In fact, amethysts were inlaid in goblets to protect the user from intoxication. Amethyst has long been known as the stone of royalty, and to this day, Roman Catholic bishops wear the "Bishop's Stone," i.e. amethyst, on the second finger of their right hands to symbolize their ecclesiastic status.

It is said that amethyst has remarkable influences enhancing your mind, your intuition, and your insights concerning practical things. When wearing an amethyst, you won't be tempted to drink too much, and when held in your left hand or worn around your neck, you can use it as an aid to get in touch with your inner self. If you are seeking greater intuition, keep an amethyst in your collection.

References: Mella, Dorothee L., Stone Power 1986 Sinkankas, John, A.G.S. Gem Cutting – A Lapidarist's Manual 1962
From Shin-Skinner News 2

An Invitation - Newry Mineral Park

from Woody Thompson, Maine Geological Survey



An invitation to mineral collectors, science teachers, and everyone interested in Maine's natural history to help establish the

Newry Mineral Park

A new State property that will include several of Maine's most famous mineral localities, including the Dunton tourmaline mine, in a beautiful mountain setting!

The Oxford Hills in western Maine are known throughout the world as a prolific source of gems such as tourmaline, amethyst, and aquamarine, as well as many rare mineral species. Thousands of people come to Maine every year to search for these minerals in the rock piles left behind from earlier mining operations. Historic mining for feldspar and gem tourmaline in the town of Newry opened up several deposits rich in uncommon minerals. These mines are located on a scenic mountaintop that also offers great opportunities for hiking, geologic studies, and other outdoor recreation.

Many popular mineral collecting sites in Maine have been closed to the public in recent years due to encroaching development and other factors. But the State of Maine now has the opportunity to acquire a 100-acre tract of land in Newry that encompasses the famous Dunton tourmaline mine and six other neighboring quarries.

The Maine Geological Survey (of the Department of Conservation) has launched a fund-raising drive to purchase the Newry mines for a permanent park whose principal use would be for recreational mineral collecting. Partners in this effort include the Maine Mineral Symposium Association, the Federation of Maine Mineral and Gem Clubs, and the Threshold to Maine Resource Conservation and Development Commission.

All mineral hobbyists, earth science students, educators, and outdoor enthusiasts will benefit from the Newry Mineral Park. The Land for Maine's Future board has made a generous pledge toward the purchase price, but most of the funds to acquire the property must be raised from other sources. The Maine Geological Survey is committed to this effort, and we are asking mineral clubs and individuals to help by donating to the park acquisition fund.

Contributions are tax-deductible and will be acknowledged. Donations of \$100 or more will receive a special recognition certificate! Please print and fill out the form below:

Enclosed is my donation in the following amount to help establish the Newry Mineral Park:

_____ \$25 _____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ \$500 _____ \$1000 _____ Other amount: \$ _____

Name(s) _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone number / e-mail address: _____

Please make your check payable to "Newry Mineral Park" and send with this form to:

Newry Mineral Park
c/o Maine Geological Survey
22 State House Station Augusta, ME 04333-0022

Visit the Maine Geological Survey's website for further developments and progress reports:

<http://www.state.me.us/doc/nrimc/mgs/mgs.html>

NEW SLIDE PROGRAMS AVAILABLE

from Inga Wells, Program Librarian



The EFMLS Program librarian is happy to announce the 3 award-winning programs from the 2002 AFMS Program competitions are now available. We have 2 copies of each program in our library. To receive the distinction of Highest Honor the program must receive a score of 95 or above.

They are:

Video Tape # V569 "Recovery of the Hyde Park Mastodon" by Jay Tinker. Jay Tinker produced this program as a "Power Point" program on CD-ROM. Through the wonders of technology, he transferred it to VHS video and 35 mm slide program. The video is 20 minutes long and there are 72 slides. The program is also available on a CD. For the CD version, please order #103CD - "Recovery of the Hyde Park Mastodon".

This program is a 1st place winner with Highest Honors in the "Special Class" of the 2002 AFMS Program Competition. It shows the detailed process and complications encountered while extricating and preserving mastodon remains from a backyard pond in Hyde Park, near Poughkeepsie, NY, home of the Mid-Hudson Valley Gem & Mineral Society (host of the EFMLS 2003 Convention & Show)

Jay is the current President of the Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse, NY. He is an avid fossil collector and a faithful volunteer at the Paleontological Research Institute (PRI) in Ithaca, NY. Jay participated as a PRI volunteer in the recovery of this ice-age animal. I think you'll like the program as much as I do. More information about the Mastodon Projects may be found on the PRI Website: <www.Priweb.org>. This program is an excellent choice for junior clubs meetings.

Slide program # 104 "DATOLITE: Crystals, Diversity and Color" earned 1st place, with Highest Honors, in the Educational Class. Wayne W. Sukow from the Northern Virginia Club created the program. There are 64 slides in the set.

He presents a close-up look at datolite specimens from around the world. Samples from each location have unique characteristics. Some are attractive cabinet specimens while others are best appreciated under magnification. It's an excellent program for micro-mounting clubs. There are some breathtaking and interesting close-up views of specimens. Some slides are of the same specimen, viewed from different angles. After viewing this fascinating program, I have a better appreciation for this somewhat unusual mineral.

Slide Program #105 "In Search of South Dakota's Fairburn Agate" is another great program from Doug Moore and Don Kelman, members of the Heart of Wisconsin Gem & Mineral Society, MWF. I received Highest Honor in the Field Trip class. This 140-slide program takes you on a journey to find

the colorful and rare Fairburn Agates. These agates are found in the area around the Black Hills of N.D and are the state's gemstone. There are several other agates and rocks found from the same vicinity, which are often mistaken for Fairburns. Doug and Don show where to hunt, what to look for, and what can be found along the way. This program with it's marvelous close up of colorful agates and entertaining narrative is well suited for any club, whether they want to learn more about agates or find information on where and how to find them. Fieldtrips and agates are a winning combination.

Now, some more good programs you can request.

Don and Doug's program #94 is the most requested program from the EFMLS library. It's a primer on agates. It comes highly recommended by many clubs.

The second most requested program is #97 Pseudomorphs by Michael Shaw, Stillwater Mineral & Gem Soc., RMF. It earned 1st place in 2000 AFMS Program competition. [Michael is the son of Elaine and Milt Shaw. Milt is the soapstone instructor at the EFMLS Wildacres Workshops.]

The Philadelphia Mineralogical Soc. requested it recently and this is what they had to say in e-mail: "Program was very well received. Members who had seen EFMLS programs from many years ago were impressed with quality of program and photographs. Program had good balance - enough technical material to be interesting and educational - and not enough to get boring. A poll was taken after the program if there was interest in having a speaker on the subject if one could be arranged. Response was very positive for more on pseudomorphs. Stan Molchanow."

A heartfelt thanks to Stan and all of the others who provided feedback and information on how their club members responded to the programs. The EFMLS Library has many excellent programs on minerals, geology, fossils fieldtrips, lapidary and many other topics. Try them - you'll like them.

For a complete program listing see your EFMLS Directory - page 20 to 30.

A very big thanks to Wendell Mohr of the Gem, Lapidary and Mineral Society of Montgomery County, MD. He worked hard to make certain that each of your favorite slide programs has a duplicate set. I appreciate that he took the time to number each slide.

To order these or any other programs in the EFMLS Program Library all you need do is contact me in one of three ways e-mail at <itwells@clarityconnect.com> Snail mail at 616 W Green St; Ithaca, NY 14850 or telephone at 607-275-8121.

When you reserve programs you will need to give your club name and meeting date as well as your name and address. Be
(Continued on page 7)

P.O. Box 801
Syracuse, New York 13201



First Class Mail

February 2003

Time Dated Material



Crack 'N Cab

Gem and Mineral Society of Syracuse, Inc.

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



Officers 2002-2003

President	Jay Tinker	696-8274
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Treasurer	Lou Budell	673-1891
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