

# CRACK 'N CAB

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

Volume XXXIII Issue 3

March 2003

## **Special points of interest:**

A very special, high value mineral specimen will be among the door prizes awarded at the March meeting with strings attached.



The **Lapidary Contest** is now. (March 17, 2003) The rules were printed in the February Crack 'N Cab. With all the recent graduates from the Bob Livingston Skills Center the competition should be intense. Let's have a good participation in the Lapidary Contest.

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

This program may seem like de'ja vu, but due to the severe weather causing the cancellation of the February meeting we are fortunate that Dr. Chamberlain has agreed to try, try again. Dr. Chamberlain's topic on the 17th will again 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. 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.

### **Inside this issue:**

<i>President's Message</i>	2
<i>Executive Board Meeting Minutes</i>	2
<i>Coming Events &amp; Reg. Meeting Minutes</i>	3
<i>EFMLS News</i>	4
<i>AFMS News</i>	4
<i>Mineral Contest Rules</i>	5

### **Refreshments**

Refreshments will be provided by Ruth Burgess and Virginia Adcook. There is a rumor they might be featuring a St. Patrick's Day theme.

### **Sunshine News**

Word came to us just after the February issue was printed that Irene Perkins fell in Florida and broke her sternum. It is very painful and she has to sleep for the time being sitting up in a chair. We do wish Irene speedy relief from this and hope she and Harry can better enjoy the rest of their Winter stay in the Sunshine state.

Anyone who wishes may send Irene a card at: Irene Perkins; Ocean Grove Resort, Site 70; 4225 Highway 1A; St. Augustine, FL 32084.

### **A Warm Welcome to a New Member**

Please extend a warm welcome to the following new member:

Mike Putman of Oneida, NY



### Executive Board Meeting Minutes – Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>

Nine members of the Executive Committee met February 10 in the Community Room of Carousel Center, with President **Jay Tinker** presiding.

Much of the meeting was devoted to the selection of a hotel to house the American Federation and Eastern Federation members that will be attending our 2004 show. **John Davis** and **Bob Livingston** contacted four hotels: the Marx, Double Tree, Ramada and Holiday Inn. Cost of the Marx was the highest at \$119 a night. The other three were all about \$90. The Executive Committee for a number of reasons, including a full breakfast for guests, the ballroom for meetings, and nearby eating-places, chose the Ramada Inn at 1305 Buckley Road.

This year's show was also discussed. The Rochester club was contacted to see if we could borrow their sluice to replace the mini-mine. Dealers are being sought for three open spaces and a replacement is being sought for a fossil dealer who dropped out. This year's theme will be beryl.

**John Davis** and **Gene Ridall** updated the committee on our display at the MOST. A sign is being made to identify the club section at the Imax.

### President's Message

Several years ago my wife went to a convention in Scotland and I got to tag along. Of course I managed to find a rock shop while she was stuck in meetings. I thought I'd buy myself a souvenir. Trouble was the rock shop was full of rocks from the United States, Morocco and Brazil, nothing from the United Kingdom. Oh well.

Just last month my wife and I went to visit our German exchange student and her family. After a year of living in the Tinker house, Katharina knew I'd want to find a rock shop. First she took us into Berlin to their Natural History Museum. It was wonderful. Archaeopteryx was one of the earliest birds and is probably the most famous bird fossil. This Berlin Natural History museum houses all the Archaeopteryx fossils ever found – there are only seven of them. We saw cases of fossils, and minerals, most of them from Germany.

So what did I find when we got to the rock shop? Rocks from the United States, Morocco, Brazil and now Russia. They had Herkimer Diamonds and New York Devonian fossils.

When we asked if there were any specimens from Germany, the clerk said she wasn't sure – the owner was in Quartzite, Arizona. Buying more merchandise.

In a thorough search of the shop, one dusty fossil from central Germany was found. Not what I was expecting, but at least it was a fossil. I guess the locals could care less about what is in their own area – they probably know where best to dig.

I guess I've learned something here. Check ahead of time. So I've been in contact with our Brazilian exchange student, to see if he would go scout out the rock shops there, just in case I ever get to Brazil. Mean while there is a lot right here in our own back yards, its just covered with snow – still!

**Jay Tinker**  
Club President



**Judy Tinker** at the Berlin Natural History Museum, trying to imagine what she'd do if her husband found one of these Crinoid (Sea Lilies) fossils and wanted to bring it home.

### Correction

In the February 2003 issue of the Crack 'N Cab, an article was reprinted on page 4 from the February 2002 issue of the Shin-Skinner News entitled "**February Birthstone – Amethyst**".

Please Note: Due to an oversight, credit for the article was not given to the author, **Thomas Bourne** a member of the Che-Hanna club.

## Coming Events

from George Everett

### March

**15-16:** 39<sup>th</sup> 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:** 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Gem, Jewelry and Fossil Show, sponsored by the Tampa Bay Mineral & Science Club. Florida State Fairgrounds, Tampa, FL

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

**22-23:** 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Gem & Mineral Show sponsored by the **Che 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:** 26<sup>th</sup> 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:** 20<sup>th</sup> 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:** 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show, sponsored by the **New York Southern Tier Geology Club**. Senior Citizen Center, Johnson City, N.Y.

**12-13:** 20<sup>th</sup> 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).

### May

18: Annual Chesapeake Gem & Mineral Show at Goucher. NOTE: THIS IS A SUNDAY. Goucher College, Kraushaar Auditorium Pavilion, Dulaney Valley Rd just off I-695; Towson, MD

### June

7: Spring Mineralfest, sponsored by the Pennsylvania Earth Sciences Association, Inc. Macungie Memorial Park, Macungie, PA

### July

**12-13: Syracuse Jewelry, Mineral & Fossil Show** Sponsored by the Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse. NY State Fairgrounds, Center of Progress Bldg., Syracuse, NY

## Reg. Meeting Minutes – Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>, 2002

We had 45 people on hand for this "Sapphire Gem Gravel sifting" night. Several folks found some, it remains to be seen if any were big enough to facet.

President Jay Tinker called the meeting to order at 8:30.

Bob Livingston was allowed to give the required talk on the big prize he won in the September meeting drawing. Following this, he took home the 3" polished blue sphere.

Treasurer Lou Budell collected the money for the holiday brunch from many members. It was announced that we should be sure and bring an unwrapped toy for Toys for Tots to our brunch the first weekend in December at the Glen Loch restaurant.

Door prizes were drawn and the scholarship can was passed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bob Livingston, pinch hitting for Rollie Allen

## Wildacres Workshops

Our own Bob Livingston was the main spark plug behind a brand new, full color brochure with colored photos even, on Wildacres. (We will have copies at the meeting beginning with March, for interested persons.) Bob wrote the copy and directed the production of same working with Jay Lininger who not only generously donated his time but that of his graphics staff in doing the computer artwork. Jay is the Publisher of Matrix, a unique magazine that covers history and lore of old mining locations. Good stories and beautiful photography for mineral collectors.

For anyone who has never been, Wildacres is a neat place where you can learn new mineral or jewelry, carving and stone-cutting skills, and meet wonderful rockhounds from all over the U.S. in a beautiful and relaxing mountain setting. It is one of the perks of membership in our Gem and Mineral Society of Syracuse, as only members of EFMLS clubs can attend.

First this year, of these annual educational workshops, will be held this spring, May 16 - 22, with special speaker Gordon Austin. Gordon is a contributing Editor to Colored Stones magazine plus he is a cabochon cutter and gemstone and mineral wholesaler. (So anyone going will not only see some great stuff, but also most likely have the opportunity to buy some on "tailgateday.")

The second 2003 session will be right after Labor Day, September 2 - 8, with special speaker Fred Ward, journalist and authority on gems and gemology. This is Fred's second trip to Wildacres. Either session promises to be very interesting and lots of fun.

Sign up forms plus the schedule of courses will be at the March and April club meetings. Price including meals and private room and bath for the 6-day session is \$275 each. Like the brochure says -- we do not like having this our "Best Kept Secret . . . Try it once and you'll love it and want more." Many hundreds have done just that over the last 3 decades.

**EFMLS News – Wildacres 2003**

from Esther Dunn, Wildacres Functioning Committee

Do you like to... laugh? learn new things?  
 rock in a rocking chair?  
 enjoy good clean unpolluted air?  
 eat great food?  
 meet new people?  
 explore the countryside?  
 browse in museums, rock shops?



If you answered yes to any one of the above, then the EFMLS Wildacres Workshops are the place for you! Come and join those of us who have discovered and fallen in love with Wildacres.

We think we have a terrific program. Now in our 29th year, the EFMLS Wildacres experience has grown from a "sit and watch" program to a "do and participate" one. Each year has proven to be far superior to the ones before. Come join us and find out why everyone loves Wildacres.

The first session will have Gordon Austin, retired Gems Commodity Expert for the U.S. Government. The dates are May 16 - 22. Fall will feature Fred Ward, noted author and gemologist. Dates are September 2 - 8.

Both sessions begin in the afternoon of the starting date and end just after breakfast on the last date given. The cost for the week is \$270 per person. This covers housing in modern "motel style" rooms with private bath, all meals and tuition to the classes you take. There is usually a modest additional fee for materials used in class (metals for example).

We've included an application form in this issue of EFMLS News along with a listing of the classes we plan on offering for each session. If you take a "4 day class" then that's all you can take during the week. If you elect to take a "2 day" class, you then have the opportunity of taking 2 different classes. Whatever you sign up for now can be changed during orientation (if space allows) and we know that whatever choices you make will be good ones. You'll have fun, learn a lot and enjoy the week. Some of the classes to be offered:

**Spring: May 16 - 22**

4-day classes:

Micromounting & Microphotography  
 Faceting  
 Certified Judging

2-day classes

Cabochon Making  
 Wire craft Jewelry  
 Soapstone Carving  
 Silversmithing

**Fall: September 2 - 8**

4-day classes

Micromounting & Microphotography  
 Faceting  
 Certified Judging

2-day classes

Filigree Jewelry  
 Silversmithing  
 Soapstone Carving  
 Cabochon Making  
 Wire craft Jewelry

*From EFMLS News Mar03***AFMS News****AFMS Endowment Fund News**

from Dee Holland, Chairman

The AFMS Endowment Fund has received the generous contributions from: Wendell and Ann Mohr - EFMLS  
 Fossils For Fun, Sacramento, CA -CFMS

We thank you for your generous contributions.

We will be sending out tickets to all the AFMS Endowment Fund committee people immediately. Pictures of the items that will be raffled off in Ventura are being taken now and will be up on the AFMS Website as soon as possible. A commemorative Cast Iron Dutch Oven celebrating the Lewis and Clark Expedition will be in a separate drawing. In addition there will be an Indian-made five strand turquoise nugget necklace with earrings, a channel pendant, an Indian style tomahawk and an intarsia pendant. A 1.5-carat goshenite beryl set in 14k gold pendant has also been received. Other donations will be gratefully accepted....



Dee Holland, AFMS Endowment Fund Chair

[hollandd@salmoninternet.com](mailto:hollandd@salmoninternet.com)

and

[shirleyleeson@email.msn.com](mailto:shirleyleeson@email.msn.com)

please send inquiries to both e-mails.

*From AFMS News Mar03*

From The Tektite 3/97  
 via Beehive Buzzer 3/00

*from Scribe CD 2002*

### Mineral & Fossil Specimen Contest Rules

1. Members in good standing may enter specimens collected personally, that have not been entered in a prior Mineral Contest of the Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse, as well as specimens purchased. See Silver Pick rules below. Limit one entry per category.
2. Divisions- Senior Division - members 18 years of age and over  
Junior Division - members under 18 years of age.
3. Categories: Minerals: a) Cabinet specimens - 2x3" or larger  
b) Thumbnails and miniatures - under 2x3"  
c) Micro-minerals, mounted or not mounted, requiring magnification.  
d) Suites - a group of specimens of any size from one location.  
(Micromounts excluded because of judging time limitations)  
Fossils: one specimen, any size
4. Specimens may be mounted or not mounted, cleaned, trimmed, etc. to make them more attractive but may not be lacquered or otherwise coated (except fossils).
5. Points in judging will be awarded by the following schedule:

	<b>3A+3B</b>	<b>3C</b>	<b>3D</b>	<b>Fossils</b>
<b>QUALITY</b>	50	40	60	50
<b>RARITY</b>	30	30	20	25
<b>LABLING</b>	10	10	10	15
<b>ORIENTATION</b>		10		
<b>SHOWMANSHIP</b>	10	10	10	10

**Quality:** freedom from damage; attractiveness, aesthetic appeal, luster

**Rarity:** rareness, which increases a specimen's desirability as a species, locality, crystal form, etc.

**Labeling:** Minerals: a) Species (Fleisher's "Glossary of Mineral Species" is a suggested reference)

b) Variety if appropriate

c) Locality

Fossils: a) Phylum and class

b) Locality, including geological period and rock formation if possible

Correct spelling is important. Do **NOT** put your name on the label.

Competitors are encouraged to provide a second label with information about the rarity or significance of the specimen.

Orientation: Competitors entering micro minerals are encouraged to include a microscope if possible.

Otherwise micros should be oriented to view from above.

6. Prizes for self-collected entries: Awards will be based on point achievement only.

**First Place** - a blue ribbon for highest score with a minimum of 80 points

**Second Place** - a red ribbon for second highest score with a minimum of 70 points.

**Third Place** - a yellow ribbon for third highest score with a minimum of 60 points

In addition, all specimens scoring over 60 points will receive an honorable mention if a ribbon is not awarded

The entry, which receives the highest number of points, will receive the Best-of Show Award - a ribbon and a year's subscription to Mineralogical Record Magazine.

7. Silver Pick (purchased specimen) Contest: For members who purchased their entry during the past year. Categories are the same as in #3 above. Judging and points will be the same, but no ribbons will be issued.

8. The club shall provide 2 qualified judges who will indicate, on a scorecard with each entry, the points awarded and any helpful comments for the competitor's information (time permitting).

9. The contest may be entered by proxy.

P.O. Box 801  
Syracuse, New York 13201



First Class Mail

March 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

<b>President</b>	<b>Jay Tinker</b>	<b>696-8274</b>
<b>Vice-President</b>	<b>Kurt Schindler</b>	<b>623-7685</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Lou Budell</b>	<b>673-1891</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Roland Allen</b>	<b>xxx-xxxx</b>
<b>Show Chairmen</b>	<b>John Davis &amp; Gene Ridall</b>	
<b>Sergeant-at-Arms</b>	<b>David Zobkiw</b>	<b>xxxxxxx</b>

---

Librarian	Cathy Patterson	638-8817
Sunshine	Gloria Royer	677-3730
Refreshments	Joan Livingston	446-4505
Editor	Loren Patterson	638-8817
	7725 Van Buren Rd.	
	Baldwinsville, NY 13027	

loren.patterson@att.net

Permission is hereby granted to reprint material contained in the Crack 'N Cab if proper credit is given to the author, if known, and this bulletin.