

CRACK 'N CAB

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

Volume XXXIII Issue 8

October 2003

Special Points of interest!

The **Annual Holiday Brunch** will be on Sunday, December 14th at 12:00 noon. Be sure to keep that day open to join your fellow rock hounds for our traditional holiday feast. Don't forget to make your reservations at either this next meeting or the November meeting. For details on the holiday brunch see page 4.

Walworth Quarry is having an OPEN HOUSE on November 8th. See page 4 for the details.

Don't forget, this weekend is the **EFMLS convention** and the 34th Annual Show sponsored by the Mid-Hudson Valley Gem & Mineral Society in Poughkeepsie, NY. It's not often that you can find a show and convention this close to home. We urge members to support this show as we will be looking for some support for our show next July.

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The Annual Mineral & Fossil Auction!



Time to find all those extra specimens, tools, supplies or other hobby related items and bring some to the meeting for this always well attended sale. Members can sell up to 5 items or **donate** any amount to the club. Guests are always welcome at the auction as buyers but cannot sell. See the Auction Rules on page 7.

The September 2003 Wildacres auction for the EFMLS featured Bruce Gaber as auctioneer with many donated items to choose from. _____ Photo by Loren Patterson

Refreshments:

October refreshments will be provided by Gloria Royer. Volunteers are needed for future months. See Joan or Bob Livingston to sign up for bringing cookies or any other goodies for any meeting this coming year. If you have a special treat you like to make, we would enjoy a taste.

Sunshine News:

Our sincere condolences to member **Betty Witworth** for the loss of her daughter, Carol.

Rollie Allen is up and about after a recent surgery.

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". See back page for contact information.

Youth Group

Don't forget the youth group will meet at the usual time, 6:30 PM, Monday, Oct. 20th

Library News

Check out the new volumes acquired during the recent Wildacres session. (Page 2)

Executive Meeting Minutes

Five members of the executive Committee met briefly September 11 at President Jay Tinker's house to discuss current business. It was decided to order 50 T-shirts designed by Bruce and Cathy Gaber to go to workers at next year's big Gem and Mineral show. The shirts will also be available for attendees from the American Federation and Eastern Federation who want a souvenir from the show.

Bob Livingston asked who would be club delegates to the October Eastern Federation meeting and Jay was to check this.

Jay said the Paleontological Research Institute in Ithaca had asked if the club could help pay for reprints of its book of minerals and fossils and it was decided that we can't help at this time because of unknown expenses for next year's big Gem show.

Rollie Allen
Secretary



Photo by Loren Patterson

Regular Meeting Minutes 9/15

President Jay Tinker had sad news at the beginning of the September meeting -- the death of Betty Witworth's daughter, Carol.

Jay announced that PRI would dedicate its new museum at 1:30 p.m. Sept. 25 for those who might like to attend.

Tim Hart said there would be a field trip Sept. 28 to Alden, near Buffalo, where microcite can be found in shale.

In the drawing for door prizes, winners were: **Chris Johnson, Marie Cole, Margaret Norris, Joan Livingston** and **Sarah Herrmann**.

Gene Ridall asked if arrangements had been made for a holiday party. Since no one was sure, Gene said he would check with the Glen Loch. **Ruth Burgess** suggested that the party be held after Christmas. The date will be decided in October.

Gene wondered if the MOST might share in the cost of having the head cast of Sue, the largest T-Rex skeleton ever found, for exhibit at the museum and at our 2004 show. MOST is planning a new emphasis on earth science, and Sue would help bring visitors to the museum and to our show. **Vic Cole** moved that we pay the \$300 weekly rental cost of Sue to help MOST with its tight budget. John Baumler seconded and the members voted yes.

September's special program featured our fellow club members who went to Wildacres this September and short remarks by those who attended. All praised the training they received in various arts.

Bob Livingston displayed his emerald-cut citrine and he praised the featured speaker at the retreat center -- Fred Ward of the Bethesda area of Washington D.C.

Lou Budell took wire wrapping and had a pendant of brown garnet found at a mine before the show. Lou also took silver smithing.

John Davis also showed his creation from the silver smithing class. He also mounted a tiny diamond on a squirrel's whisker.

Ruth Burgess took soapstone carving at both Wildacres sessions and club members were impressed with her carving of an ocean pier with seagull on top and a moored rowboat.

The beautiful setting in the Blue Ridge Mountains impressed Carrie Gannet. She took cabbings and wire wrapping and showed her fine creations.

Joan Livingston showed the attractive collage she made at Wildacres.

Bob Livingston ended the program with a trick he learned at Wildacres. By bending a tape measure he lined up the birth dates of **Elizabeth Russell** and **Dick Ackerman**, one at a time, so that the flip side of the tape measure showed their ages.

Rollie Allen
Secretary



Photo by Loren Patterson

Library News

by Cathy Patterson, Librarian

During the September Wildacres session we (eight members) were fortunate to have as the featured speaker at the evening and some morning lectures, the multi-talented, Fred Ward. Mr. Ward is a retired free-lance photojournalist, whose clients included National Geographic and some very large newspapers. Since retiring from his free-lance work, he has written several gem books, which include many of his famous photos. The club was able to acquire 7 signed volumes of Fred's gem series to bring back for our club library.

President's Message

It's Open, but will Never Be Done

PRI's Museum of the Earth is now open to the public. The Grand Opening was on September 27th, with many of the staff and volunteers working all through the night before to be sure they were ready. Over 70% of the permanent exhibits are completed and installed. The remaining 30% is mainly the audio visual theaters, and they should be completed by sometime in November. Because of this the admission price is discounted for the month of October. After the completion of the main exhibits, the museum will then have an ever-changing array of temporary exhibits, changing every few months.

The stars of the 18,000 square foot museum are the 44-foot right whale skeleton hanging from the ceiling at the entrance and the Hyde Park Mastodon skeleton. The right whale died in 1999 off the New Jersey coast after becoming entangled in fishing nets. The mastodon died over 11,600 years ago after a fight with another male mastodon. Both skeletons are the actual bones mounted for the public to view.

The Hyde Park Mastodon's skeleton is mounted on a steel framework custom designed to hold each bone without damaging it. No holes were drilled or

adhesives use in the mounting of this animal. There is this one toe bone that they keep finding loose on the floor. I suggested duct-tape, but Jim Sherpa, the mastodon curator just keeps snapping it back in place – he says at least the right knee cap isn't falling off and rolling away any more.

The two tusks mounted in the skeleton are plastic casts of the real



Photo by Jay Tinker

tusks, painted to look exactly like the originals. One original tusk is on display at the animal's feet, so you can compare them. It was felt the real tusks weigh too much for the steel framework to safely hold.

Other favorites with the visitors are the armored fish of the Devonian World, and the Dinosaur models of the Jurassic World. There is a Fossil Lab, where kids of all ages can search through shale, finding fossils and learning facts about our world. There is a Dino Lab to explore the many new and exciting facts about those amazing animals. There is also the Ice Age Lab for other hands on work and learning.

This past weekend, visitors could watch a Triceratops leg bone being slowly and carefully removed from its plaster jacket in the Museum's Prep Lab. The leg bone had been collected 90 years ago and is just now being pieced back together. Visitors also watch on a monitor the view seen through the microscope as work was done on a full-grown horse skull that would fit in the palm of your hand, and was smaller than most dog skulls. The Prep Lab has large windows that open, and steps so even the smallest visitor can watch the work and ask questions of real Paleontologists (or when I'm there... a fake Paleontologist wannabe).



Jay
Tinker
Club President

Photo by Loren Patterson

For more information visit:

<http://museumoftheearth.org/> or
call: 607/273-6623

On the Lighter Side

If it's a rock larger than 10 inches in diameter, it's called a **boulder**.

If it's a rock less than 2 inches in diameter it's called a **pebble**.

If it's a rock between 2 and 10 inches in diameter, it's called a **cobble**.

If you stub your toe on it, you may call it **something else!**

From Breccia 12/92 of the Santa Clara Valley Gem & Mineral Society

Coming Events*from George Everett, EFMLS News 10/03***October**

18-19: 34th Annual Show, sponsored by the **Mid-Hudson Valley Gem & Mineral Society** and the **EFMLS Annual Convention**. Mid-Hudson Civic Center, 14 Civic Center Plaza, Poughkeepsie, NY.

25: 14th annual Fluorescent Rock and Mineral Show, Ultravioletation 2003, sponsored by The Rock and Mineral Club of Lower Bucks County. The First United Methodist Church, 840 Trenton Road, Fairless Hills, PA

November

1-2: 34th Annual "Gemarama", sponsored by the Tuscarora Lapidary Society. CFS, School at Church Farm, Business Route 30 & Route 202, Exton, PA.

1 -2: Rochester Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show, sponsored by the **Rochester Lapidary Society and Mineral Section**, Rochester Academy of Science. Monroe County Fairgrounds, 2685 Calkins Road, Henrietta, NY

1 -2: 12th Annual Gem, Mineral, & Fossil Show, sponsored by the Northern Virginia Mineral Club. Student Union II Building, George Mason Univ., Fairfax, VA.

8 -9: Annual Mineral, Fossil, Gem, and Jewelry show, sponsored by the Smoky Mountain Mineral Society. Jefferson County Rescue Squad Building, 915 Industrial Park Rd, Dandridge, TN. Exit 417 off I-40, go south 0.8 mi. turn left, 2nd building on right.

21-23: The Carnegie Gem & Mineral Show, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Pittsburgh, PA.

28-30: 24th Annual Roanoke Valley Mineral and Gem Show at the Salem Civic Center, Salem, VA sponsored by the Roanoke Valley Mineral & Gem Society.

July 2004:

7 -12: Combined EFMLS/AFMS Convention & Show hosted by the **Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse**. State Fairgrounds, Syracuse, NY.

Holiday Brunch Party!

The Holiday Brunch will again be at the Glen Loch restaurant in Jamesville. There will be a full Sunday brunch with eggs and breakfast specialties plus salads and hot foods with several choices of meats. Desserts and beverages included. There will be a cash bar available. Bring your Toys for Tots toy or doll etc. donation (not wrapped), which we pass on, to the Marines for distribution to the less fortunate.

We hope you will join us for this jolly good time with our own Santa helper who will be strolling through to enrich our holiday spirit.

Date: **Sunday, December 14**

Time: Begins at **Noon**

Place: **Glen Loc Restaurant**, Jamesville, NY (Exit 2 south from I-481)

Price: **\$10** per member with dues paid by November 17th.

Guests: \$15 per guest

Payment: Pay Treasurer **Lou Budell** starting this month but no later than the November club meeting.

Walworth Open House

Saturday, NOVEMBER 8th, 2003 - 6:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

FALL "OPEN HOUSE" at Walworth Quarry, Atlantic Avenue, Walworth, New York (northeast of Rochester).

THIS EVENT IS **FREE** and IS **OPEN TO ALL** clubs in the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies. Power tools are allowed.

All members from **ANY** clubs that are planning to go should have their **CURRENT/DUES PAID MEMBERSHIP CARD** and **EFMLS** membership card with them!!

Bring a hardhat, safety footwear, glasses, water, and proper collecting tools.

For any additional info, have anyone contact Ed Murphy via e-mail at: crystalaxis@aol.com.



from 2003 Scribe CD

SAFETY
FIRST
HAND TOOL
SAFETY –

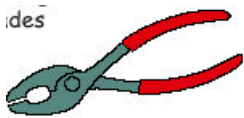


PLIERS AND
FILES

by Bill Klose

Slip joint pliers, which includes the well-known water pump pliers, have serrated jaws with a rod-gripping section and are used to hold objects. The slip joint accommodates objects of different sizes. These pliers may also have a cutting edge for cutting soft wire and nails, however cutting large or hard items will spring the jaws. Arc joint pliers are similar, but may have straight or curved jaws and will accommodate a larger variety of object sizes. The tightening of bolts or nuts with slip joint or arc joint pliers is not recommended and will usually result in damage to the nut or bolt and may lead to damaged knuckles when the pliers slip. Use wrenches for tightening nuts and bolts. Vice grip pliers are designed to provide a tighter grip, but are still not to be used to tighten nuts and bolts. Parallel jaw pliers are designed to hold flat surfaced items, such as sheets of metal.

Flat nosed and round nosed pliers have a fixed pivot jaw and curved handles and may or may not be equipped with insulated grips. The flat nosed pliers may have smooth or serrated jaws and are designed to bend light sheet metal or wire. Round nose pliers are used to make loops in soft wire.



are offset from the jaws about 15 degrees so as to provide the operator enough knuckle clearance while making flush cuts in soft metal. These pliers are designed for cutting small, light pieces of wire, cotter keys, solder, etc., and should not be used to hold or grip items. When cutting, restrain the piece that is to be cut off so it will not become a missile hazard. End cutting pliers or nippers are used to cut off wire flush to the working surface, thus keeping fingers away from the wire ends. Hand shears are made with straight or curved cutting blades and are used for cutting sheet metal. Shears are made for right-handed operators so that the cutting line is always in full view for accuracy. Straight blade shears are used for cutting straight lines and curves, while curved bladed shears are used for cutting short straight lines and curves and small intricate designs.

When using diagonal pliers, end cutting pliers, or shears, keep fingers away from the jaws and cutting edges and always wear eye protection. Do not attempt to cut material that is heavier than the tool is designed for. Do not use pliers or shears as hammers or pry bars. Keep shears sharp with an oil stone or file. Grinding is not recommended and shortens shear life. Keep pliers and shears clean and lubricate the pivot point with light oil. Store in a dry location on hooks or a shelf, protecting the cutting surfaces from contact with other tools. A thin coat of oil can be applied to protect from rust. Do not remove insulation from handles or oil insulated handles. Replace pliers that have broken handles, cutting edges or jaws.



Straight-lip flat jaw tongs have a fixed pivot point, two straight jaws and long handles and are used for placing hot items into and picking them out of pickling solution.

Files come in many types and sizes and are used in metal smithing and soap stone carving. Some general safety precautions for using files are:

1. Never use a file without a securely attached file handle (unless it is a Swiss pattern type).
2. Do not oil files that will cause the file to slide across the work, preventing fast cutting.
3. Do not use files for anything but filing.
4. Clean files often, as clogged files will scratch the work. Always use a file scorer and file cleaning brush to clean a file - do not strike against another tool or object to remove filings.
5. Store files in a file rack or box so that the file faces or edges do not touch each other or other tools. Do not store files with lubricants on them. Wrap each file with a waterproofed barrier wrapping paper.

Proper care and use of hand tools will provide the operator with long tool life, injury free.

from EFMLS News 10/03



AFMS News

**July '04
The
Pendulum
Swings Full
as
AFMS/EFMLS
Convention &
Show Moves to
Syracuse, New York**

from **Bob Livingston**



"2004" was first previewed at the AFMS convention in June in Ventura, California. The location is in the famous Finger Lakes area of upstate New York.

Full information about the show should be on the website by the end of September. Dates are **July 7 through 11** with the show at the **New York State Fairgrounds**. The 500-table show will have at least 12 wholesale dealers and 55 retail dealers. Part of the line up will include kids doings as well as spectacular exhibits from several well-known museums and collectors.

Meantime start thinking about giving it a boost by showing off your prized specimens or unique creations by putting in an exhibit case; either competitive or non competitive. The host club from EFMLS, the **Gem and Mineral Society of Syracuse** looks forward to having you join us for a truly good time next July.

from AFMS News 9/03

Safety on the Road

by Bill Buckner, AFMS Safety Chair

Accidents don't just happen they are caused. There are three major elements in the transportation system. 1. The driver, 2. The vehicle, and 3. The road. All three are important. Most accidents relate to the driver.

The poor or careless driver may not care for the vehicle he/she drives, may not observe traffic laws, and has little or no respect for the rights or safety of others. As a result of poor driving habits there are countless "accidents" counted every year.

We need to keep our vehicles in good condition. This includes adequate tires with correct pressure and aligned wheels, regular service to the motor, and adequate gasoline in the car. We recently went on a vacation to North Carolina and spent part of one day on Grandfather Mountain. While there we saw a family in an SUV. They were near the top of the mountain and out of gas. They were talking about coasting down the mountain until someone reminded them that they had both power steering and power brakes. Neither would work very well without the motor running.

We ourselves need to be in shape to drive or let someone who is in shape drive. To be in shape takes several things into consideration:

1. Vision, which includes peripheral vision, judging distance and speed, and night vision.

2. Hearing, horns, sirens, or screeching tires can warn you of danger. With adequate use of mirrors and being careful this can be taken care of.

3. Fatigue, try to get rest and sleep before you travel. Eat lightly. Most people get sleepy after a big meal. Take breaks ever hour or two. Try not to drive late at night when you usually sleep. Never drive when you are sleepy. Be especially careful not to drive if you are taking medications that make you drowsy or dizzy.

4. Health, if you are feeling bad and need to go somewhere let some else drive. Some diseases cause concern. Epilepsy, diabetes, heart conditions, high blood pressure, or circulation problems that can cause blackouts can be a problem. With any of the above conditions keep regular contact with your doctor and take recommended medication. Carefully note the side effects of any medications.

5. Emotions, if angry or excited, give yourself time to cool off. If worried or upset about something, try to keep your mind on your driving. If you are impatient, start your trip earlier.

Never drive around a lowered gate at a railroad crossing or try to outrun a train.

On hot days or on any days, please do not leave a child [or pet] unattended in an automobile. Hot days can kill children [or pets] and automobile robbery and/or car-jacking can take children as well as cars. Also some children can manage to get cars out of gear and cause accidents. Children are very important, remember to protect them.

Enjoy life and help others to be safe enough to enjoy life.

from AFMS News 9/03

AUCTION RULES

Only members in good standing are allowed to place items for bid. Dues should be paid prior to auction date or by check on auction night.

Anyone present may bid on items for sale.

Each member is allowed to submit up to 5 items for which the club will retain 15% of the selling price.

Members are allowed to donate items to the club in any number if the total selling price is to remain with the club.

If you feel you must place a minimum price on your item, you may. If the minimum price is not received, the item will be removed from the auction.

Minimum opening bid will be \$1.00 unless the owner of the item has indicated a greater minimum bid.

No raises will be accepted in amounts less than \$0.25.

Bidding will be by number only, so sign up and receive your bidding number when entering the meeting room on the night of the auction.

Colored slips will be available at the sign-in desk for donated items and will require the same identification as the slips with the sale items.

Items for sale (except for donations) will be placed on tables by "letters". The order of sale for the tables will be by lottery. Donations will be placed at random.

Please pay the treasurer before leaving on the night of the sale. For those persons whose sales exceed purchases, the treasurer will mail you a check for your share of the sale

Any item not picked up after the auction will become Club property and may be used for future door prizes.

P.O. Box 801
Syracuse, New York 13201



First Class Mail

October 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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Show Chairmen	John Davis & Gene Ridall	
Sergeant-at-Arms	David Zobkiw	xxxxxxx

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