

# CRACK 'N CAB

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

## Bead Program Monday, March 21st

### Special points of interest:

- Beading Group meets at 6:30 PM.
- Youth Group meets at 6:30 PM.
- Regular Meeting starts at 7:30 PM.
- Refreshments offered after the program.
- Guests are always welcome.

Find out why there are so many beaders lately and why they are finding this hobby so much fun. Discover how beading and rock collecting really are related. Learn a little history about how long people have been beading. This month our bead group members will bring in pieces they've made to "show and tell". Our devoted mineral collectors might just find something of interest in what they have to say about the beauty of formed



and polished rough material they so love, design, and wear.

The beaders may not have actual swimming eurypterids (see photo

below) like the fossil guys last month, but we have beads!

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### Upcoming GMSS Programs

Photo by L. Patterson from last month's program —>

**March Mineral/Fossil Competition** (see February newsletter for rules and guidelines) The Lapidary Program will be presented by the bead group.  
**April Auction** Check out page 7 for rules and guidelines for this popular program in April.

**May Lapidary Competition** Rules and guidelines will be published in the April newsletter. The mineral program will be announced next month.  
**June Work Night** as usual to prepare for the July show July 9-10. Come prepared to get the job done



then reward yourself with a make-your-own ice cream sundae.

**July - Gem World 2005** Cargill Building, State Fairground. July 9-10.

## President's Message

Field collecting specimens is to me one of the great joys of this hobby. It gets me outside. It's always rewarding to find a nice piece to add to your collection. It gives one a sense of accomplishment and it is usually the result of some sort of sharing. In this regard, it's a little ironic. Fossils and minerals are inherently valuable to most collectors; yet, they are always telling each other about sites where these same items can be found and how to find them. In a sense, most hobbyists in this field share what's most valuable to them by passing on this information. Whether it's a fellow club member, the owner of a local rock shop, a helpful local, or a book, most of us eventually make our finds with someone else's help. At that point, it is our skill, the luck of the draw and or hard work that end up influencing the outcome. The important part is that we are out there asking and looking and that we are often supplied with a helpful answer. The hard part is smiling or perhaps not smiling when the person you just told about a site comes back with bigger and better specimens than you.

Anyone know where I can find an aquamarine? It is March's stone of the month. Bring one in if you have it. They are a little less common than some of the other stones we've looked at so far.

Great job on last month's superb fossil presentations to Dave, Tim, and Jay and thanks to John Davis for his "Collecting Safety" lecture.

**John Sweeney**  
Club President



Photo by L. Patterson

## AFMS Convention News

*Submitted by Bob Livingston*

### St. Louis to Host the National Show This Summer

Whereas, this weekend, March 19 and 20, is the Eastern Federation show in nearby Sayre, PA (98 miles and 2 hours southwest of here on the PA border), the National AFMS Show and convention will be August 16 - 21 in St. Louis. It would be a great tie in with a mid-west vacation which is why we are giving you early notice. St. Louis bills itself as where the West begins and is the home of the Cardinals Baseball Team, the huge Anheuser Busch Brewery, lots of neat museums/historic sites, a great zoo, St. Louis Botanical Gardens, plus the famous Gateway Arch historic site of where the Lewis and Clark expedition set off 150 years ago. Special anniversary happenings are celebrating the event this summer. Plus you can take neat paddle wheel boat trips on the Mississippi and hear great jazz and Dixieland music. And they tell us great Bar B-Q abounds as do super restaurants and Six Flags over Mid-America.

Two hours west is neat stuff to see regarding our hobby at the Missouri School of Mines in Rolla, MO and last but not least is the fabulous family entertainment town with so much to see and do at Branson, MO, that is about a half-day drive southwest of St. Louis. A great time and for sure worth it when you are that close.

Think about a super vacation by the Mississippi in August. To help you plan and give you the complete scoop, refer to the club's website at: <http://convention.stleearthsci.org> for field trip info, lodging particulars and all the forms for

registration etc. GO, have a great time!

## Beading News

By Cathy Patterson

### March Program

At this month's general meeting, March 21, the bead group members will do a short program about what they've been up to collectively and individually. Some of the things we'll talk about are; how we got into beading, ways we're using beads in different craft projects, a bit about the properties of the stones themselves, the history of beading, and where the bead material originates. We want to let everyone know there's more to beading than stringing beads on thread!



### Bead Group Meeting

For our 6:30PM meeting time, come with the things you'll be showing off at the program later on. If you have the rough stone material matching, your semi-precious beads bring that too. Also, if you have a good website or catalogs you like to order from bring them. Some of us are starting to buy materials for spring designs and we can share with each other where the good buys for those supplies can be found.

### Direction for April

Let's talk about what we'd like to do April 18 when we get together again. Are we getting enough time to work on a project at our 6:30 meeting time? Do we want to discuss a particular topic related to beading? Where do we go from here?

**Exec. Board Minutes - 2/14**

7 members present: Meeting called to order 7:25 PM by **Secretary - Cathy Patterson**

**Old Business:****Lou Budell Gem, Mineral & Fossil, Jewelry Show July 9-10**

Discussion of new location took place. We will have more space at the Cargill building and we are down to 2 days instead of 3 from last year.

**Bob Livingston Microscope Camera**

We have a professional size microscope with camera and light for sale. Discussion of how to proceed took place. Anyone wanting such an instrument should contact a board member ASAP

**Bob Livingston Show Chairman**

Someone is still needed to step up and act as show chairman. This person would delegate jobs, already in place, and oversee the running of the show. Guidance will be provided.

**Discussion of Constitution and By-Laws**

The constitution needs revising as the last time this was done was in the early '90's. John Davis provided minutes from the last Constitution Committee meeting, years ago, and discussion of the revisions took place. The committee will again meet to get the proposed changes in writing. Discussion at the March meeting may take place regarding this.

**New Business****Dave Arcaro Dig in Chittenango**

Dave proposed to approach the Parks Dept. in Chittenango to get permission to dig at the road cut there. Some board members expressed concern for legal/safety reasons; however, Dave was given

the go ahead to pursue his talks with the parks department and maybe this site can be opened up to club members.

**Cathy Patterson Stipend for Officers to Attend the EFMLS Convention**

Cathy asked that the editor and president receive a stipend for dinner/breakfast expenses incurred when they attend EFMLS functions. A vote will be taken on this at the March board meeting.

**February Program**

Jay Tinker, Dave Arcaro, Tim Hart will present a program on fossils found in their travels. **Eurypterids, Trilobites and their Cousins** is the title. John Davis will give a short talk about safety on field trips. John Celebrates his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday and will bring the refreshments to the Meeting Feb. 21.

**Upcoming Programs**

March - Mineral/Fossil Competition and Lapidary Program (Bead Group)

April - Auction Night

May - Lapidary Competition and Mineral Program presented by Dave Millis

June - Work Night before the July show

July - No Program - GEMWORLD Show

August - No program - Annual Club Picnic

**Bob Livingston Donation to EFMLS Auction**

Our club always donates a nice auction item for the EFMLS convention show. We decided to select one for the upcoming show in Sayre, PA

**Jay Tinker PRI**

A faceting machine may be for sale from the PRI. Jay will get back to us with details.

Our club was asked if we would donate money to the PRI to help publish a fossil book. Jay will get

back to the group with more details.

**Dave Arcaro Members Sell at July Show**

Dave asked the Board to consider allowing members to sell a few self-collected specimens at the Club Booth at the July show. Some discussion took place and it was tabled until the March Board meeting. Meeting adjourned at

9:00PM

**Cathy Patterson  
Secretary**



*Photo by L. Patterson*

**Time for a Road Trip to PRI!**

*Submitted by Jay Tinker*

At this month's meeting, we will be deciding on the date for a trip to CNY's newest Natural History museum in Ithaca, NY.

The renting of a bus for this short trip is not economical because Ithaca is so close to many of us. So we decided to do a convoy down to the museum. Instead of subsidizing the bus rental, perhaps the club could cover part of the museum entrance fee. One more thing to decide Monday.

One convoy will be leaving at Noon on the selected Saturday, from the Tully Burger King's tractor-trailer parking lot. This is right off the Route 81 Tully Exit. The parking lot is the extended area of the normal lot used by the big trucks. We can always arrange other convoys as needed or we can meet at the museum itself.

The Museum of the Earth's calendar is packed this spring, but they have several Saturdays open when they could give our club a special tour, possibly with a guide. So, check out these Saturdays on your calendars and vote on March 21st. Choose from April 16<sup>th</sup> or 30<sup>th</sup> or June 18<sup>th</sup>.

## Bulletin Exchange

### How to Use a Loupe

by Cheryl Lema

Some of you may have noticed that there are a number of our members who always carry a loupe (pronounced loop) with them, and that they might use this when asked about identifying a specimen.

Since we are about to begin our collecting season, this is a good time to include something in the newsletter describing how to use a loupe. Not all the specimens you are going to find will be clearly defined to the naked eye. There are some minerals that just don't grow all that big to begin with.

The loupe is a special type of magnifying glass. It allows you to examine a specimen for chips, scratches or to examine noticeable inclusions more closely. It is a very practical tool to use, and with practice, it will become more valuable.

The correct type of loupe is a 10X, or ten power "triplet". The triplet is recommended because it corrects two problems that other types of magnifiers have:

1. Traces of color that are normally found at the outer edge of the lens.
2. Visual distortion, which is also usually found at the outer edge of the lens. The housing surrounding the lens on a loupe if it is chrome or gold could affect how you see a specimen; therefore a black housing is recommended when viewing gemstones.

The United States Federal Trade Commission requires that grading of stones must be done with a 10x magnification. Any flaw that cannot be seen with a 10x

magnification is considered nonexistent for grading purposes.

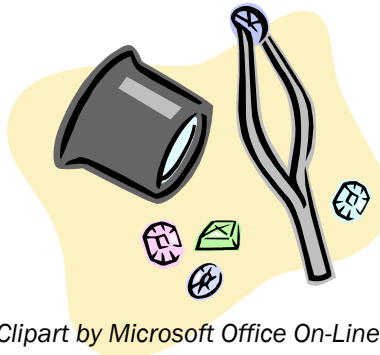
### How to Use a Loupe:

1. Hold the loupe between the thumb and forefinger of either hand.
2. Hold the specimen similarly in the other hand.
3. Bring both hands together so that the fleshy pads just below the thumbs are pushed together and braced by the lower portion of each hand just above the wrists (the wrist portion is actually a pivot point)
4. Now bring the loupe, using both hands, as close to your eye as possible. It is not necessary to remove your eyeglasses.
5. To achieve a steady hand:
  - a. With your hands still together and braced against your face...
  - b. Put your elbows on a table; or brace your arms against your chest or rib cage.

You should practice using the loupe. Keep it approximately one inch from your eye, and approximately one inch from the object you are examining.

Learn to see through it clearly; a 10X loupe can be difficult to focus in the beginning, but over time it will become easier.

Practice using it on any object that is difficult to see, such as: the pores in your skin, a strand of hair, a piece of jewelry, or any type of specimen.



Clipart by Microsoft Office On-Line

Play with the item being examined:

1. Rotate it slowly;
  2. Tilt it back and forth while rotating it;
  3. Look at it from different angles and different directions.
- Shortly, you should be able to focus easily on any specimen that you wish to examine.

### Reference:

*Matlins, Antoinette, PG. Colored Gemstones: The Antoinette Matline Buying Guide, Woodstock, VT; GemStone Press, 2001.*  
*from The Bowen-Lite, Apr 03, via Rock Buster News, Mar 04*

## Sale of Jay Lininger's Minerals

from Joe Dague

Announcement has been made of the pending auction sale of the mineral collection of the late Jay Lininger. The sale will be held on Friday, May 6, beginning at 1 P.M. and Saturday, May 7 beginning at 9 A.M. at Yingling's Auction Gallery, 1980 Baltimore Pike, Gettysburg, MD. There will be a viewing of all auction items on Thursday, May 6 from noon until 8 P.M. and on Friday beginning at 9 A.M.

Complete details, terms of sale and registration information can be obtained on Yingling's website <[www.yinglingsauction.com](http://www.yinglingsauction.com)> or by calling the gallery at 717-334-1568. A sales catalogue will be available soon and can be obtained at a cost of \$6 from J.A. Dague, 1296 Falling Spring Rd; Chambersburg, PA 17201-9009. Jay's collection is one of the best Pennsylvania mineral collections, but also includes many worldwide specimens.

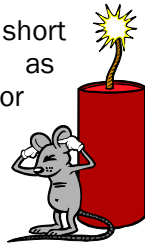
### EFMLS News – Safety First

#### HEARING SAFETY

by Bill Klose, EFMLS Safety Chair

Hearing loss affects about 28 million people in the United States. About 10 million of these people received this damage as a result of exposure to loud noises. More than 20 million Americans are exposed to hazardous levels of noise on a regular basis that could result in Noise Induced Hearing Loss or NIHL. Occupational noise exposure is the most common cause of NIHL, but non-occupational exposure, such as live or recorded high volume music, airplanes, automobiles and recreational vehicles, household tools and some appliances, are also major contributors to NIHL.

Very loud sounds of short duration, such as explosions, gunfire, or loud banging, can produce immediate, severe, and permanent loss of hearing.



Longer exposure to less intense levels of sound over time exacts a gradual toll on hearing, initially without the person's awareness. The louder the level of noise, and the longer the duration of exposure, the greater the potential for permanent damage.

The best method for protecting ourselves from NIHL is to eliminate or reduce the intensity of the noise source and the time of exposure. The next best prevention method is to wear hearing protection in the form of ear plugs (disposable or fitted) or earmuffs when faced with potential exposure to noise.

Rock hounds are most commonly exposed to noise while in vehicles on the way to and from collecting. Some collecting sites contain

industrial equipment that can generate considerable amounts of noise. When at these sites it is best to wear the same level of protection that the workers at the site are wearing, as the employer has determined the level of protection required for the protection of his employees.

Rock hounds also use hammers and even large portable gasoline engine powered diamond saws at collecting sites to recover specimens and should protect their hearing with earplugs or earmuffs.

Back in the shop, hammers and rotating equipment such as diamond saws, grinding wheels, rock hammers, rock trimmers, etc., contribute to the noise level along with everyday activities around the house such as music, television, household appliances, and power equipment (such as lawn mowers). Consider wearing ear plus or earmuffs when appropriate to prevent NIHL

from EFMLS News Mar 05  
<Clipart by Microsoft On-Line>

#### Visit Our Website

You can view news about EFMLS (Eastern Federation of Mineralogical & Lapidary Societies) online through our club website, at [www.gmss.us](http://www.gmss.us) then click on EFMLS for all federation news, upcoming shows, the EFMLS monthly newsletters, Wildacres information and schedule, and several links to federations throughout the country. There is also a link to the American Federation as well. The Crack 'N Cab is also on line in color each month. If you'd like to receive your newsletter online instead of by mail let Loren know and he'll add you to the e-mail list.

### JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

by Kathy Hrechka, EFMLS  
Junior Activities Chair

Junior mineral collectors are very important to the growth and longevity of our clubs. The American Federation along with the Eastern Federation is reaching out to juniors who are interested in our mineral hobby. The AFMS has a great Merit Badge Program recently designed by Jim Brace-Thompson, Junior Chair ([see page 6 this newsletter](#)). For more details, email him at [jbraceth@adelphia.net](mailto:jbraceth@adelphia.net), or phone (805-659-3577). The EFMLS has an extensive slide and video collection just for juniors. The Eastern Federation Directory 2004 contains a complete listing on pp. 22-33. To obtain programs, contact Richard Harrison at [rlh-ss@infoblvd.net](mailto:rlh-ss@infoblvd.net), or phone (607) 698-4933. For any questions or junior interest, contact me at: [kkhrechka@msn.com](mailto:kkhrechka@msn.com).

#### Jacob C. Roof

Mr. Roof, 85, of Osborne Street, Auburn, died Tuesday, February 22, 2005 at the Cayuga County Nursing Home. Mr. Roof was born in Syracuse, the son of the late Arthur L. and Rose E. Robillard Roof, and resided in Auburn for most of his life.

He was a veteran of WORLD War II and served with the Army for 20 years, retiring in 1960. He was employed by Alco Products for 20 years and was a past member of the Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse.

from *The Citizen, Auburn, NY*  
February 25, 2005

## Shop Hints

### The Three "Z's"

Just as butter, buttermilk and milk are three different things, so are zircon, zirconium and zirconia.

**Zircon** is a natural stone that can be faceted like a diamond.

**Zirconium** is a metal. During the nuclear accident in Pennsylvania, the bubble allowed the temperature to rise so high that the Zirconium tubes in which the uranium pellets are contained cracked and warped.

**Cubic Zirconia** is the ultimate diamond simulate now on the market.

from Owyhee Gem, Nov 01, via  
Rock Buster News, Apr04

## AFMS News

**HAVING FUN - JUNIOR  
ACTIVITIES FIRST  
MERIT BADGES  
AWARDED - AND OUR  
FIRST FRA ROCKHOUND**



by Jim Brace-Thompson, AFMS Junior  
Activities Chair

It gives me much pleasure to introduce you to two young people who hold distinct positions of honor in our new AFMS/FRA Merit Badge Program: Rhena A.V. South and Kristopher J. Helms of the Memphis Archaeology & Geology Society (MAGS). Rhena and Kristopher are the very first juniors in the U.S. to earn FRA Merit Badges! And not just one badge; Kristopher has earned 4 and Rhena 6. Thus, Rhena also becomes our first junior member to be awarded the FRA "Rockhound" badge! My congratulations to both Rhena and Kristopher. This month's column is dedicated to them.

Rhena, age 9, started picking up pretty rocks when she was 3 and enjoys sharing what she finds and learns. For instance, at a recent club meeting, she made toothpaste from minerals, displayed obsidian, and demonstrated a volcanic eruption. An active Junior Girl Scout, she earned 20 Girl Scout badges and 10 Girl Scout program patches in 2004 alone. She also earned a Lewis & Clark Patch, Earth Science Week Badge, and a Junior Arkansas Naturalist Badge. She won the 2004 Southeast Federation Junior Youth of the Year Award. She was also a finalist in the Earth Science Week Visual Arts Contest for October 2004. Rhena loves the outdoors, reading, animals, sci-fi movies, and playing on the PS2. In addition to her rock collection, she has a collection of 100 purses, including a number of unique antique purses. She likes to go on field trips, to museums, flea markets, antique stores, and the movies and keeps a journal of her varied activities.

Kristopher, age 12, is Rhena's stepbrother, and he loves music as well as rocks. He's played the piano since he was 6 and the flute since age 9. He loves animals, especially his cat and dog, and also enjoys doing experiments and building things and always has a project going with one kit or another. He started collecting rocks when he was 8. He doesn't get to go on as many field trips as he would like, but still manages to find time for field trips, visits to museums, PS2 games, travel, and the movies. In addition to earning 4 FRA Merit Badges, he has earned a Lewis & Clark Patch and an Earth Science Week Badge, and joined Rhena in demonstrating how to make toothpaste and with a volcano demonstration to his fellow club

members. He wrote his first article about the hobby on dolomite, which will appear in the February issue of the MAGS newsletter. He doesn't want to be called a "pebble pup" by Rhena anymore, so we hope to award him with 2 more FRA Merit Badges in order to see him graduate to official "Rockhound" very soon!

MAGS Youth Director Raynee Randolph and Assistant Youth Director Sherida Helms have planned their activities for 2005 around the FRA Merit Badge Program and spent many hours working out a teaching guide to implement the program with the 10 to 15 kids who normally attend their monthly meetings. They've set the ambitious goal of having a third of their registered junior members as FRA "Rockhounds" by year's end and to get their older members more active as mentors to the younger kids. My thanks and congratulations to them. As you can see by their success with Rhena and Kristopher, they are well on their way, helping their club's kids learn while — as always — having fun!



from AFMS News Mar05

## Auction Rules

The auction will be held on Monday, April 18<sup>th</sup>. This is always a popular event so be sure to come early to register your items.

### The 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 \$0.50 up to a bid of \$5.00 at which point raises cannot be less than \$1.00.

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.

## Visit A Show

*by William Lema*

### March:

**18 - 20: 36th Annual Che-Hanna Rock & Mineral Show** and 55th EFMLS Convention. Athens Township Fire Hall, Sayre, PA. (EFMLS Annual Meeting - March 18).

**19 - 20: 33rd Annual Show** sponsored by Island Rock Hounds. Westbury High School, Post Rd. and Jericho Tpke. Old Westbury, NY.

### April:

**2-3: 37th Annual Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show** sponsored by the Buffalo Geological Society, Hamburg Fairgrounds, Hamburg, NY.

**9-10: Philadelphia Mineral Treasures and Fossil** sponsored by the Philadelphia Mineralogical Society and Delaware Paleontological Society. LuLu Temple, 5140 Butler Pike, Plymouth Meeting, PA.

**14-17: Rochester Mineralogical Symposium**, Park Plaza Hotel (formerly the Radisson) 175 Jefferson Road, Rochester Features; speakers, auctions, dinner. All things mineral including local, Mike Walter speaking on Treasure Mountain and Bower Powers

**23 - 24: 33rd Annual New Jersey Earth Science Association Gem & Mineral Show** sponsored by the Franklin-Ogdensburg Mineralogical Society, NJ Earth Science Assoc. & Sterling Hill Mining Museum. Franklin School, Washington Av., Franklin, NJ.

**April 30 - May 1: 42nd New England Gem & Mineral Show** hosted by the North Shore Rock & Mineral Club. Topsfield Fairgrounds, Coolidge Hall & Trade Building. Topsfield, MA.

**April 30 - May 1: Fulton County Mineral Show** sponsored by the Fulton County Mineral Club. Johnstown Moose Lodge, Johnstown, NY

### May:

**21: Annual Swap and Sell** at Goucher sponsored by the Chesapeake Gem & Mineral Society. Goucher College, Kraushaar Pavilion. Dulaney Valley Rd at I-695; Towson, MD.

**21: Annual Micromineral Symposium** sponsored by The Micromounters of New England. Hudson, MA Elks Club. For further information, contact Mike Swanson at (413) 773-3867 or <msmicros@crocker.com>.

*from EFMLS News Mar 05*

### July

**9-10: Syracuse Jewelry & Mineral Show** sponsored by the Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse. New location for 2005: the Cargill Exposition Center, NY State Fairgrounds, Syracuse, NY. (Exit 7 off I-690) Sat. 10-6PM, Sun. 10-4PM

P.O. Box 801

Syracuse, New York 13201



First Class Mail

March 2005

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. (Except in July, August, & December.)

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 2004-2005

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Show Chairman

to be announced

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363-2269

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