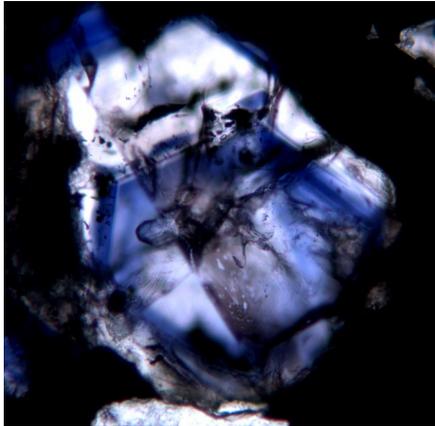


# CRACK 'N CAB

Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse, PO Box 2801, Syracuse, NY  
Volume 45 Issue 4 April 2015



*Microscopic sapphire from Port Leydan*

**The Program on April 20  
Unusual Minerals of the Adirondacks  
7:30 at the Shoppingtown Clubhouse**



*Prismatic melt texture*



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Our guest speaker for April is Dr Robert S. Darling who will speak about "Unusual Minerals of the Adirondacks" (see specimens above) Dr Darling is a Distinguished Teaching Professor of Geology at SUNY Cortland. His talk will reflect his research over the past several years in the Adirondack Region of Northern New York State. One of his research interests is "Petrogenesis of Adirondack Igneous and Metamorphic Rocks".

Students and colleagues alike have offered praise for his work: "He has become somewhat of a legend with his work in the Adirondacks. His field guides relating to conferences are utilized by many professionals that I now interact with routinely," wrote a former student, now working in the geology field. "I would not hesitate to put him in the top three experts on the geology of the Adirondacks in the world."

"Truly great teachers, such as Bob, see little distinction between teaching in the classroom and outside," wrote Christopher McRoberts, a SUNY Cortland Professor of Geology.

The recipient of eight grants, including three from the National Science Foundation, he is a member of the New York State Geological Association. Dr Darling holds a Masters Degree in Geology from Idaho State University and a Geology PhD from Syracuse University. He is a Member of the Geological Society of America and is a Research Associate (Mineralogy), New York State Museum. He is the author of numerous journal articles, guidebook articles, and maps. He also serves on the Brauer Education Center Committee of Environmental & Outdoor Ed (CEOE). (Reminder: Our club has a visit to the Brauer Education Center planned for June 5-7.).

Don't miss this opportunity to learn about minerals in this beautiful and scenic area from a very knowledgeable presenter.

## President's Message



**John Sweeney - President**

**April 2015**

The temperature and the ice on the lake behind my house are signs that winter is still trying to hold on to us; yet, spring is here nevertheless. Our first outdoor trip, a jaunt to Green Lakes, was a lot of fun and informative as local park naturalists explained the formation of the lake and some of its anomalies.

With spring comes our preparation for GemWorld 2015 in July. Please make time in your schedule to volunteer and attend the show. Sign-up sheets will be available at the April meeting. Keith Gilmer is looking for people who would like to set up displays in club cases. Anyone who has taken our lapidary or metal classes at the club can display their pieces in a case that I'll be putting together. You can contact me by email, phone or at any meeting.

Dr. Robert Darling, a Distinguished Teaching Professor in the Department of Geology at SUNY Cortland is speaking at our April meeting. His talk is about his research in the Adirondacks.

We are still looking for a new clubhouse space as the mall management has not completed their plan for renovations. We are looking in various areas around Syracuse and the suburbs. In addition, the Board is proposing higher club dues for members. The membership vote on this will be at a regular meeting soon. This increase will help cover higher insurance costs, "Crack 'N Cab" printing and mailing and a, likely, large increase in clubhouse rent. More details are included on page 5 in this month's newsletter. Still a great deal when you consider the cost going to a movie.

The show committee is working hard to increase attendance. We will use social media outlets like facebook to help get the word out. Brielle Dailey has volunteered to work with Rick Moore, our webmaster, on this. Members should check out and feel free to add to the information posted on our web and facebook pages and to write articles for the "Crack 'N Cab". This is your club and we would love to hear your ideas. Rick, Brielle and Dan are telling me they have plenty of space. So whether you put a message in a bottle, type something up on the old IBM Selectric or snap

some pictures with your iPhone, get your info to these folks and they will get it out there. Check out the last C'NC page or our web page (gmss.us) for contact info.

We need a hospitality chairperson to help organize the fun part of our meetings and we need help with childrens' activities and working with our junior rockhounds. If this sounds like you, contact me.

The sun is out, the weather is above freezing, its time to get out and look for rocks!

## Meeting Minutes



**Cheryl Brown - Secretary**

**Board Meeting Minutes  
April 7, 2015**

**General Meeting  
March 16, 2015**

It was Auction Night! John Sweeney was our enthusiastic auctioneer ably assisted by Rick Moore, Chuck Galuski, Hunter Bertholot and Steve Albro. A fun time was had by all and folks went home with new treasures.

There were a few announcements. Keith and Dorothy Gilmer were presented with a framed certificate in recognition of their being the '2014 Rockhounds of the Year'.

## Wanted



**Show Volunteers**

- \* Security
  - \* Ticket Sales
  - \* Show Booth
  - \* Show Cases
  - \* Set-up/Tear-down
- See Dick Lyons**

Dick Lyons said the first **Show Committee** meeting will be held at **7:00 on March 27<sup>th</sup>** at the Clubhouse. Sign-up sheets were passed around for show volunteers. If you were unable to be at the meeting, the need for volunteers is still great. There are openings for assistance during the Thursday table set-up, Friday vendor help, security, ticket sales, and staffing the show booth. Contact Keith Gilmer if you are interested in filling a display case.

A donation of \$100.00 (\$25.00 for each) was made to the AFMLS Scholarship Foundation Fund in memory of John Barrow, Gene Ridal, Tom Trusilo, and Lou Budell. An additional \$285.00, which was collected from the 'Kitty' and from the quarters box sales, was included in the check.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Cheryl Brown

### **Executive Board Meeting April 7, 2015**

It was determined, after much discussion, that we will continue to look for a new clubhouse location. The urgency has been removed, though, since the Mall management is waiting for the Town of Dewitt to make a determination regarding taxes before they begin their renovation project. The Mall has offered us the option of moving to a different location in the Mall, but they will require us to be open during Mall hours.

After our show in July, we will return the contents of our current storage unit to a larger one and begin to clean out the clubhouse in anticipation of our upcoming move.

We have hired *Koenig Advertising* to create a unified look in our Gem World Show advertising. They will generate online advertising, print advertising for the newspaper as well as posters, postcards and flyers, TV ads on Time Warner Cable, and create a Facebook page. The fee to the show vendors has been increased to cover the cost of hiring this agency.

All the vendor spaces are now filled for the show. The roster of speakers is also being filled.

Linda Clark has requests that anyone who wants money for show expenditures fill out a request form, give it to Dick Lyons for OK, he then will give it to Linda. This will provide accountability and control over spending.

**Note:** The next **Show Committee** meeting will be **7:00 on April 27** at the Shoppingtown Clubhouse.

Rick Moore passed out a fact sheet about all the different social media tools that are available. It compared and contrasted them and was very informative.

Mark Grasmeyer reported on the field trip to Green Lakes on March 28<sup>th</sup>. Thirteen people attended including three children braving the ice and snow. It was a beautiful day, though, topped off by hotdogs cooked over a fire.

Naturalists from both Green Lakes and Clark Reservation guided us and have regular tours of the parks, which are local gems of geologic wonder.

Mark said the June 6<sup>th</sup> field trip to Brauer Field Station outside Albany is no longer an overnight trip because we are not affiliated with Cortland State. There will be more details as the date approaches.

Bob and Joan Livingston traveled to the Eastern Federation Conference in Hickory, NC, where they were delegates. They took several items from our club to be donated, which brought \$120.00 for the scholarship fund at the auction.

Mark Grasmeyer reported the Outreach Committee is letting the Marcellus Girl and Boy Scouts, and Jowanio School know about our programs that are available for presentation.

A motion was made and approved by the Board that our annual membership dues be raised. The change will be presented at the April general meeting for discussion, posted in the May Crack and Cab, and voted on by the membership at the May general meeting as this requires a revision to the club Constitution.

The Hospitality Committee is still looking for a Chairperson. Would you please consider

taking on this assignment? You can find the description of the responsibilities in Section VII, Section 8 of the Constitution.

The Club Picnic is tentatively scheduled for August 16<sup>th</sup> at Sims Store in the Erie Canal Park, Camillus.

Our next meeting is April 20<sup>th</sup> with guest speaker Robert Darling. His topic will be *Unusual Minerals of the Adirondacks*.

Respectfully Submitted,  
**Cheryl Brown**

### Upcoming Shows and Events

**For specific information and travel arrangements, places/times to meet for car pools, contact Mark Grasmeyer (317-1350) email [vp@gmss.us](mailto:vp@gmss.us) or ask for details at a Club Meeting before a trip. Dates are subject to change.**

**June 6 Brauer Education Center approx 8 Miles SW of Albany** – Fossilized Devonian Limestone, fossilized small stromatolite reef. Guided tour/field trip..

**In the works, Split Rock in Camillus...**

**Field trips can be arranged anytime if a group is interested.**

*Provide your suggestions to Mark Grasmeyer or at a monthly board/club meeting. In case of bad weather and a club event is postponed, a notice will be sent to your email address, our web site and if possible cable TV 10.*

### GMSS Meetings Etc. 2015

Before General Meetings from 6:30 until the start of the meeting items from the Marie Cole collection will be on sale. All of your cash donations support our club. We may show hobby related videos before our meetings.

**April 27 Monday** – Show Committee 7 PM. At the clubhouse

**May 5 – Tuesday** - Board Meeting 6:30-9PM Clubhouse. Open to all.

**May 9 – Saturday** – Crack 'N Cab article submission deadline.

**May 18 – Monday** - General Meeting – 7:30 David B Millis "The Rock Doc" from Friendsville PA  
**"Crystal Systems: The Good the Bad and The**

Page 4

**Ugly"** According to the Rock Doc "Guaranteed to be Non\_Scientific.", at the clubhouse.

### Rock-Mineral-Fossil-Lapidary Events

**April 24-27 Rochester Mineralogical Symposium, Rochester, NY**

**April 25 Sterling Hill Super Dig - Ogdensburg, New Jersey**



Wayne County Gem & Mineral Club  
**Gem Fest 2015**

Sat. June 6 10-5  
Sun. June 7 10-4

**NEW LOCATION**  
Greater Canandaigua Civic Center  
250 N. Bloomfield Rd, Canandaigua

Soapstone Carving, Wire Wrapping, Sluice  
Vendors, Exhibits, Free Prizes, and much more

[UV Bob's Ultraviolet Show](#)

**Gems, Minerals, Fossils, Beads & Jewelry**

visit <http://www.wcgmcc.org/> for details

**June 6-7  
Wayne County  
Gemfest  
Canandaigua  
NY**

**And, of course, the best is right here!  
July 11 & 12 GemWorld – GMSS 49<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Show at the SRC Arena**

**July 18-19 Herkimer Diamond  
Festival/Show, Herkimer, NY**

**August 7-9 West Springfield, Massachusetts  
(\*possible GMSS Group Bus Trip)**

**August 22-23 Madrid, NY 51<sup>st</sup> Annual St  
Lawrence County Rock & Mineral Club Show**

**October 14 National Fossil Day**

### Classes at the Clubhouse

John Sweeney & Joanne Suchon handle sign-ups for smithing and lapidary classes. Contact Joanne our Class Coordinator/Chairperson at our next Meeting for more information. You can also call her at [672-3904](tel:672-3904)

### Clubhouse Hours Extended

Joanne and Ed Suchon supervise the clubhouse on Saturdays April through June from 1:30 to 4pm. In addition to our Saturday hours, Linda Sweeney/Clark and Cheryl Brown will be opening

the clubhouse Wednesdays in May and June The room will be open from 2 to 5pm.

On these days, members can to work on personal hobby related projects including lapidary, beading, wire wrapping, etc. If you work with the clubs lapidary equipment, the cost to you will be \$5 per session. All other facility use is free. In all cases, you will need to set up and clean the equipment and your work space.

**Free Online Courses**

**Coursera** provides universal access to the world's best education, partnering with top universities and organizations to offer courses for anyone to take, for free. You can select all or just the lectures that interest you. A good one, starting soon - **The Dynamic Earth: A Course for Educators May 4 – May 30**

<https://www.coursera.org/course/amnhearth>

How and why is the Earth constantly changing? How do scientists reconstruct events in Earth's geologic history? This course explores the origin and evolution of the Earth and provides resources for educational use.

**About the Course**

The AMNH course The Dynamic Earth: A Course for Educators provides students with an overview of the origin and evolution of the Earth. Informed by the recently released Next Generation Science Standards, this course examines geological time scales, radiometric dating, and how scientists "read the rocks." We will explore dramatic changes in the Earth over the last 4 billion years, including how the evolution of life on Earth has affected its atmosphere. In addition to looking at geology on a global scale, participants will take to their own backyards to explore and share their local geologic history. Course participants will bring their understanding of the dynamic Earth - along with content resources, discussion questions, and assignments - into their own teaching/exploring.

What opportunities are available at the **American Museum of Natural History** as part of this class?

The Museum, located in New York City, offers many rich and diverse opportunities to explore Earth science, including, in particular, the Hall of Planet Earth. For more information, please visit [amnh.org](http://amnh.org).

**How are we doing?**

If you have an email address, you can receive Crack 'N Cab Newsletter via email. There are **4** big pluses:

- 1) It arrives a 2+ *days sooner* than US Mail
- 2) Links in the Newsletter are a *click away*.

- 3) You will *save the Club about \$6 a year*.
- 4) You get a 100% *color* copy of the C'NC

If you would like to be **added** to the Crack 'N Cab email list, send an email message to [editor@gmss.us](mailto:editor@gmss.us) with a subject -"subscribe C&C email only".

Our **email Blast List** has immediate updates, news, cancellations, meeting info/changes and other notices to club members (usually one or two a month). To **add** yourself to the Blast List, send an email message to [editor@gmss.us](mailto:editor@gmss.us) with a subject -"subscribe blast list".

If you have any problems/concerns RE: C'NC Newsletter delivery send email to the above address or to our US Mail PO Box address.

If you have **membership questions or problems** send email to [treasurer@gmss.us](mailto:treasurer@gmss.us) or to our PO Box address.

If you have any **web page questions** or **web requests/suggestions**, please contact Rick Moore at [webmaster@gmss.us](mailto:webmaster@gmss.us).

**Club Officer Email Addresses**

- <http://gmss.us> - [webmaster@gmss.us](mailto:webmaster@gmss.us) - Webmaster and primary contact for all web questions & comments
- [editor@gmss.us](mailto:editor@gmss.us) - Crack 'N Cab & Blast List
- [pres@gmss.us](mailto:pres@gmss.us) - [vp@gmss.us](mailto:vp@gmss.us)
- [secretary@gmss.us](mailto:secretary@gmss.us) - [treasurer@gmss.us](mailto:treasurer@gmss.us)
- [library@gmss.us](mailto:library@gmss.us) - Club Library
- [show@gmss.us](mailto:show@gmss.us) - Gemworld 2015
- [sunshine@gmss.us](mailto:sunshine@gmss.us)

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**Proposed Amendment to the Constitution and Bylaws**

\*\*\*\*\*

The Executive Board has proposed the following amendment to the Constitution and Bylaws. It has to be presented at the next meeting and then printed in the May issue of the Crack and Cab. It will be voted on by the membership at the May meeting. (See Constitution Section next page)

**From:**

**Article IV - Dues**

**Section 1.** Dues shall be payable September 1st. Any member whose dues are in arrears three months shall forfeit membership.

**Section 2.** Annual dues of the society shall be:

- A) Adult membership -- \$6.00
- B) Junior membership -- \$3.00
- C) Family membership -- \$9.00

D) Life membership. -- one half adult membership.

**To:**

**Article IV - Dues**

**Section 1.** Dues shall be payable September 1st. Any member whose dues are in arrears three consecutive months shall forfeit membership.

**Section 2.** Annual dues of the society shall be:

- A) Adult membership -- \$10.00
- B) Junior membership -- \$5.00
- C) Family membership -- \$15.00
- D) Life membership. -- one half adult membership

\*\*\*\*\*

**Article XII - Amendments**

This Constitution and Bylaws can be amended in any regular meeting of the Society by a two-thirds vote of those members present and voting, provided that the amendment has been submitted as a motion and in writing any previous meeting, and provided that it is published in the Society bulletin between the meetings.

\*\*\*\*\*

PLEASE NOTE: A complete copy of the Constitution/Bylaws is available on our web site at:

[gmss.us/about/constitution /view](http://gmss.us/about/constitution/view)

\*\*\*\*\*

# Discovering Calcite

by Shannon Phillips, with Michael Brewster

My interest in calcite began long before our March meeting, when during the auction, Rick Moore said in passing that there are about 4,096 types of calcite crystals. My own



Shannon & Blue Calcite

experience with the mineral lead me to believe that his statement might literally be true, so I decided to do a little research. Despite the range of crystal formation in my growing personal collection, there really aren't over 4,000 types of crystals. Calcite's habits and variations make it likely, however, that it would

be possible to collect thousands of unique specimens.

The first time I remember finding calcite was when I went on a camping trip to Herkimer Diamond Mines as a sophomore in high school. While searching for Herkimers, I broke open a rock to reveal a vug with one perfect trigonal calcite crystal, about two centimeters in size, attached to the wall. That rock, which the scout leader called a cabinet specimen, was one of my prized possessions from the time I found it until the crystal was eventually broken in one of my many moves in my early twenties.

This past summer, we went on a collecting trip around the Adirondack area. One of our first stops, outside Ilion, NY took us to a creekside where dissolved calcite had precipitated in botryoidal formations on the exposed rock faces. Later, as we were searching for diopside in Pitcairn, St Lawrence County, we unexpectedly encountered a huge boulder of blue calcite on the side of a gravel road. There's no way to describe my excitement. I just started yelling, "Blue, blue, pull over!" I was able to gather some of the intergrown rhombohedron crystals. On our very circuitous route home, we stopped by Chittenengo Falls, where I found a beautiful specimen of scalenohedral (dogtooth) calcite on the side of the road.

My research on what some geologists call a "ubiquitous mineral" led me to a greater understanding of what calcite is and why it occurs in such diverse forms. Here in Central NY, we have large calcite deposits as a result of the dissolution of the shells of marine organisms that populated the shallow seas that once covered the land. The color of calcite is determined by the other minerals that are present when it is forming. In New York, we can find native calcite in clear, white, orange, and blue and shades in between. Worldwide, calcite occurs in every color imaginable. I was especially interested to learn that objects like our friend Pedro and his Mexican onyx burro (actually banded calcite), World War II gun sights, and the eyes of prehistoric trilobites have been made of calcite.





**Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse**

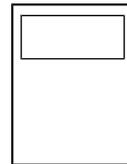
**P.O. Box 2801**

**Syracuse, New York 13220**

First Class Mail

**April 2015**

Time Dated Material



# Crack 'N Cab



[www.amfed.org](http://www.amfed.org)

[www.amfed.org/efms](http://www.amfed.org/efms)

## Newsletter of the Gem and Mineral Society of Syracuse, Inc.

Eight people 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 same 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 creation.

Our monthly meetings foster social and educational experiences. Field trips give collectors opportunities to find specimens and enjoy the benefits of outdoor exercise and potential friendships.

We meet on the third Monday of the month (NOT in July, August, December) at 7:30 PM in the Clubhouse (Shoppingtown Mall on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor near Sears).

### **Visitors are ALWAYS welcome**

#### Annual membership dues:

Single Adult \$6 - Family \$9 - Junior \$3

If you would like to join or renew your membership, download the application form (PDF) [click here](#) or get a form at a meeting or send to the address at the top of this page and we will mail a membership form to you.

### **Club Officers 2014-2015**

**President - John Sweeney 668-8470 or [pres@gmss.us](mailto:pres@gmss.us)**

**Vice-President - Mark Grasmeyer 317-1350**

**Treasurer - Linda Sweeney Clark 668-8470**

**Secretary - Cheryl Brown 487-6009**

**Sergeant-at-Arms - Bob Livingston 446-4505**

**GemWorld 2015 Chair - Dick Lyons 672-5328**

**Librarian - Steve Albro 607-756-2298**

**Sunshine - Cathy Patterson 480-8907**

**Refreshments - [looking for volunteers!]**

**CnC Editor Dan Andrianos 492-6437 or [editor@gmss.us](mailto:editor@gmss.us)**

**Webmaster Rick Moore 834-7442 or [webmaster@gmss.us](mailto:webmaster@gmss.us)**

**Visit us online at: [www.gmss.us](http://www.gmss.us)**

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