

CRACK 'N CAB

Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse, PO Box 2801, Syracuse, NY
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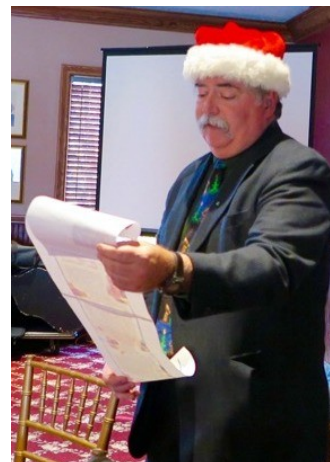
It's membership renewal time!

*You can pay at any meeting or Mail to: GMSS
PO Box 2801
Syracuse
NY 13220*

Contact our Editor at editorgmss@gmail.com to submit questions, corrections, requests, news, pictures and suggestions.

President's Message

May your world be filled with
Warmth and good cheer
This holiday season
And all throughout the year.
Celebrate the spirit of the season!



A Great Time at the GMSS Holiday Party

This year's Holiday Brunch was one of the best ever. Over 50 Members and Guests were in attendance at the Traditions Restaurant in East Syracuse. The food and fun was the best. A USMC representative was on hand for the Club's Toys for Tots donation. We recalled that Harry Perkins, who was present, was the Club's original Toys for Tots organizer. We also collected lots of food for the Food Bank of CNY. John Wilson again provided festive holiday music. With great door prizes, weather, and turnout this was a wonderful way to end the year for our club. Many thanks to the organizers Linda Clark Sweeney and Mark Grasmeyer. Next up the the big one, GMSS 50th GemWorld Celebration!





**Junior Rockhounds Report
By Shannon Phillips**



On November 21, twelve junior rockhounds, ages 6-14 gathered at the clubhouse to learn about rocks and minerals.



Rick Moore started the meeting with an interesting and informative presentation on mineral identification, after which the children were invited to explore the collection Rick brought to share and try their hand at identification. The kids built paper models of



crystal forms and looked at minerals that exhibited the shapes they were building.

The highlight of the meeting was building a collection of materials. Each club member was able to choose a specimen generously donated by Rick. In addition to this high-quality piece, the youth chose from a selection of minerals donated by community members Brian and Beth Meany in memory of Beth's mother Barbara Eberle, who had been a collector throughout her life. The couple wanted to donate her collection to a group that would appreciate it, and our youngsters certainly did! Each junior rockhound left with an egg carton full of minerals, some of which were already identified and others they could practice identifying themselves.

Through these activities, the participants completed the requirements for the Rocks and Minerals badge from the AMFS Junior Rockhound badge program. Badges will be presented at the January meeting.

There will be an informal meeting on December 19th where we will be making rock and mineral related crafts suitable for gift giving, or just treating yourself. The meeting time will be abbreviated and all children must be picked up by noon. In January, we will resume our badge program activities and our regular meeting time of 10-1.



**Cheryl Brown - Secretary
Meeting Minutes**

General Meeting Minutes November 16, 2015

Len Sharp was our speaker and his topic was Historical Earthquakes in the U.S. from 1811 to the present time. The most powerful earthquake in American history took place in Alaska in 1964, which registered 9.2 on the Richter scale. It is also the second largest earthquake ever recorded in the world. There was a quake measuring 5.8 on the Richter scale in the Massena area along the St. Lawrence fault in 1944. This was the largest recorded quake in New York.

Len compared the quakes in California to the quakes in the mid-west. Quakes in California occur in hard rock geology and typically have a 60 mile radius, while quakes in Missouri occur in soft sediments and have an 1100 mile radius. The San Francisco quake of 1906 was the deadliest in American history due to the fire that resulted after the quake. More than 3000 people died. The New Madrid, Missouri quake on December 16,

1811 was estimated to have been a magnitude 7.5 to 8, but the death toll was relatively small because the population was sparse. According to newspaper accounts and written correspondence, land waves 10' tall were observed.

Len described the difference between the Richter scale and the Mercalli intensity scale. The Richter scale is more scientific and measures the amount of energy released by an earthquake. The Mercalli intensity scale measures the observed effects of a quake on buildings and the earth. The Richter scale uses numerical values, while the Mercalli scale uses Roman numerals.

Earthquakes are the result of the forces of *tension*, the pulling apart of the earth; *conversion*, which is subduction; or *lateral*, where the earth slips past itself in opposite directions.

Len's interesting and informative presentation ended with a question and answer period. The business portion of the meeting began with information about the Albany Gem and Mineral Show, February 13, 2016.

We have chartered a bus, which will leave from the Shoppingtown parking lot behind Helping Hounds at 8AM and return at 10PM. The cost per person for the bus is \$35.00. You will be responsible for the admission to the show, which is \$5.00. We will stop for dinner at the 99 *Restaurant*. There will be a tour of the museum. Please let Mark Grasmeyer or Linda Clark-Sweeney know by January 2nd if you are interested in going. You can bring the bus fare to the January meeting.

The vote regarding the Constitutional change to the Membership Chair's duties was taken. The changes were passed unanimously.

The Holiday brunch will be on December 6th from 11 to 2 at Traditions at the Links. Please bring an unwrapped gift for Toys for Tots and a donation for the food bank. The cost is \$15.00 per person. Hope to see you there.

I left off one of the prize winners for being a great show worker. It was Dorothy Gilmer who won the ammonite. Congratulations, Dorothy!

Snacks at our January meeting will be provided by Donna Dow and Cheryl Brown.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cheryl Brown, Secretary

Board Meeting Minutes December 1, 2015

Our Shoppingtown meeting location is still an issue. In talking to the management, we were told to check back with them in January regarding moving into a larger space. Our search for a different location is on-going. If you know of an appropriate location, please contact our president, John Sweeney.

Thank you to Dick Lyons, Rick Moore, Ed Suchon and Mark Grasmeyer who are working on the various rock collections that have been donated to the Club. They are sorting through them and separating out the items the Club will keep for display purposes and those that will be sold during our auctions and sales. It was brought up that items which are donated should be documented so they can be tracked. Congratulation to Dan Andrianos who received the 4th place prize in the AFMLS newsletter competition!

Thank you to Shannon Phillips who organized the Rock Kids day on Saturday, November 21st and to Rick Moore, who was the speaker. Rick's topic was rock identification and the children assembled field kits as the follow-up activity. There were 12 children ranging in age from 8 to 14 in attendance. A good time was had by all.

The first 2016 Gem World Show Committee meeting will be held in January. Stay tuned for dates and times as the date approaches. In the meantime, Dan Andrianos volunteered to help Dick Lyons as the demonstrator coordinator for the show. Dick indicated he will need additional volunteers to help in the Youth Area. Rick Moore is taking over as Youth Area Sluice Master. Please consider giving him a hand.

There was discussion about adding a *Conflict of Interest* policy to our Constitution since this is now required by state law for all 501(c)3 organizations. A committee was formed to draw up the changes, which will be presented first to the Board and then to our general membership.

Lapidary and silversmithing classes have wrapped up for this year. They will start again in January.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cheryl Brown, Secretary

Club Events and Field Trips

Field Trip suggestions are encouraged. For specific information and travel arrangements, meeting times and car pool locations, contact Mark Grasmeyer text or voice 317-1350 or get info at any Club Meeting. Trip details are subject to change, so it is best to reserve a spot with Mark before the event.

**Current Club and General
Rock-Mineral-Fossil-Lapidary Events
see updated events list at
<http://gmss.us/events>**

Dec 17, 21 & 28 CLUBHOUSE OPEN LAB HOURS!

The open lab hours as follows:

Thursday 12/17 from 5:30pm to 8pm

AND for 2 consecutive Mondays - 12/21 & 12/28 from 12 noon to 2pm

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Note: On these days, members can to work on personal hobby related projects including lapidary, beading, wire wrapping, etc. If you work with the Club's lapidary equipment, prior training and eye protection is required and 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.

Dec 19 Jr Rockhounds Meeting 10AM to Noon

January 5 7-8:30 PM GMSS Board Meeting at Little Gem Diner, 832 Spencer St, Syracuse

Jan 9 Newsletter Article Deadline - send to editorgmss@gmail.com

Jan 16 Jr Rockhounds - tentative

January 18 7:30-9PM GMSS Group Meeting - Shoppingtown Clubhouse

Feb 2 GMSS Board Meeting

Feb 6 Newsletter Article Deadline - send to editorgmss@gmail.com

February 13 The 23rd Annual James Campbell Memorial Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show and Sale; Empire Plaza, Albany; Sat. 10AM-5PM

Bus departs Shoppingtown (behind Helping Hounds Dog Rescue) **8AM (don't be late)** - return 10PM - BUS FEE \$35 per person - for reservation text/phone Mark Grasmeyer at 317-1350 note: Event Admission \$5 (cash) see <http://www.nysm.nysed.gov/programs/minerals/>

Feb 15 GMSS Group Meeting



Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse

P.O. Box 2801

Syracuse, New York 13220

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Crack 'N Cab
Newsletter of Gem & Mineral Society
Syracuse, NY

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. Member interests include collecting, identification, and display of minerals, gems, fossils. Members share and develop their artistic skills in jewelry design and creation.

Our monthly meetings provide social and educational experiences. Field trips give collectors chances to find specimens and enjoy the of outdoors, exercise and time with old and new friends.

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 2nd floor near Sears).

Visitors are ALWAYS welcome

Annual member dues:

Adult \$10 • Family/Couple \$15 • Junior \$5 • Life \$5

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/card to you.

Club Officers 2015-2016

-President

John Sweeney 668-8470 pres@gmss.us

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Mark Grasmeyer 317-1350 vp@gmss.us

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-Photographers Extraordinaire

Judy Cook, Steve Albro

-Hospitality Committee - Judy and Harold Jones