



UPCOMING SHOWS

Million Dollar Show
33rd Annual NJ Earth Science Association
April 23-24, 2005
Franklin School
Washington Ave.
Franklin, NJ



For show flyers/discount coupons, go to SUFFOLKGEM.COM/upcoming_shows.htm

www.suffolkgem.com

P. O. Box 302
Bohemia, L.I., NY
11716



APRIL 2005

THE CONGLOMERATE

The Monthly Newsletter of the Suffolk Gem & Mineral Club Inc.

CLUB OFFICERS

President – Thomas Wines	631-472-4395	Director - Elaine Casani	631-567-3342
Vice President - Kerry Dicker	631-277-0994	Director – Dorothy Scott	631-281-8555
Treasurer - Roberta Besso	631-666-8023	Director - Gretchen Golden	631-730-6858
Corres. Sec’y. – Kandy Miller	631-928-5219	Club Liaison – Charles Runko (cell)	631-988-0789
Recording Sec’y. – Judi Wines	631-472-4395		

The Conglomerate: *Editor – Judi Wines Co-Editor – Marty Besso*

+++++

Next Meeting – April 18th

Gary Volwald will speak on “The Geology of Long Island”.

Last Meeting

- Judi Wines led a hands-on demonstration on creating a step ladder beaded bracelet with elastic cord
- Elaine Casani and Marty Besso give a presentation on their recent trip to the gem and mineral show in Tucson, AZ.
- Tom Wines showed photos of the bus trip to the Capital District Gem Show in Albany.
- Edith Heinlein announced Marty Besso won the Rock and Mineral Trivia Quiz.

Hats off to Tom and Kerry Dicker

On April 9th, Tom and Kerry represented the Club at a Suffolk County Boy Scouts Cub event held at the Longwood Estates in Middle Island, NY. This was for all Cub Scouts from the ages of 6 to 10 to learn what is in their community, learn about a new hobby or learn about a technique that they can use.

Trotter Dump Dig

There is a triple site dig on April 23rd and 24th in Franklin and Ogdensburg, NJ that includes the Trotter Mineral Dump, The Buckwheat Dump, and The Sterling Hill Dig. The Club will be co-sponsoring any members that are interested in attending the Buckwheat Dump site on Saturday, April 23rd. Attendance is by advance reservation only. For details, visit: <http://www.uvworld.org>

Fossil Dig in Pennsylvania

See attached sheet describing a one-day trip on April 30, 2005 sponsored by the **New York Paleontological Society** covering the fossil forests (Saint Clair area) and marine Devonian fossils (Deer

Lake area).

For additional information, contact Chris Marotta at FossilGuy@suffolkgem.com.

Possible Fossil Dig in NY

Club member, Josephine Buttacy, mentioned her brother has a vast collection of fossils on his property in Spencer, NY. He is willing to allow Club members to collect specimens this summer. Since this will be a one-day caravan, we need to know how many members are interested in is trip. If interested, contact Josephine at 631-969-1233.

Annual Summer Picnic-Check Your Calendar

In the past, the Club’s officers would determine the date of the picnic. This year we would like the membership to select a date. We will vote on this at the April meeting.

The Federation Box Swap

Michael Kessler, EFMLS VP Region II, has been running a program for the past year of trading through the mails. Members can also take advantage of this by trading through the postal service things that they have collected and have doubles they don’t know how to keep. Just ten pounds of specimens at one time are labeled, packed for travel, and posted to another club. If you are interested, contact Mike at: quartz7228@aol.com or at 4 Longfellow Road, East Stroudsburg, PA 18301.

AFMS Endowment Fund

The Club has purchased \$50 worth of raffle tickets in support of the Fund with the drawing to be held on August 20th, 2005 at the combined AFMS/MWF Convention in St. Louis, MO. Prizes include minerals specimens, geodes, pendants, gems, sculptures, fossils and a Pecos Diamond Gemtree.

**FOSSIL FORESTS OF PENNSYLVANIA - SAINT
CLAIR AREA, PENNSYLVANIA
AND
MARINE DEVONIAN FOSSILS - DEER LAKE AREA**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 2005 - MEET BETWEEN
11:00 & 11:15 A.M.**

We'll begin the day with a brief stop at a marine Devonian site (Hamilton Gp., Mahantango Fm.). Fossils include brachiopods, gastropods (snails), cephalopods (nautilus-like creatures) and pelecypods ("clams"), and trilobites.

The next site is the world famous quarry at St. Clair, a site that our Society has not visited for many years. The fossils here are renowned for their beauty. Fossils representing the ancestors of almost all living plants are found in the Llewellyn Formation of Eastern Pennsylvania. The gray shales of this site produce some of the finest specimens of fossil plants from the Mid to Upper Pennsylvanian Period in the world, during which time this area was covered by coastal swamps periodically inundated by marine incursions. Many fossils are coated with pyrophyllite - a whitish mineral that makes the fossil stand out in contrast to the dark gray matrix - a phenomena basically found only in this quarry, making them so sought after.

The fossil flora consists of extinct water loving plants and trees, some of which grew to over a hundred feet in height. Included are leaflets and fronds of ferns, including the now extinct seed ferns, believed by most paleobotanists to be ancestral to all modern seed plants. Also found are the whorled leaves of sphenopsid plants - represented today by the scouring rushes - including the leaves and parts of the trunk of the giant *Calamites*. Also found are the bark and leaves of the tree-like *Lepidodendron*, and parts of one of the earliest conifers *Cordaites*. Preservation is usually excellent, and fine specimens are very common.

The Field Trip Leader will be **Donald Phillips**. A field guide by Erich Rose and Donald Phillips will be provided for those attending.

TRANSPORTATION:

The Bus: There will be a bus provided for those members without cars. Due to the length of the drive to the sites and back, we must leave early. There will be two locations at which you can meet the bus for this trip.

The bus will pick up at Polytechnic University in the Metrotech complex at 333 Jay Street in downtown Brooklyn at 7:00 A.M., and again at Columbus Circle in Manhattan (near the Maine Monument - the one with gold statuary on top) at 8:00 A.M. There is a parking lot parking across the street from the Brooklyn location. We'll be returning at about 7:00 P.M. to Columbus Circle and then at 8:00 P.M. in Brooklyn. You can pick up or get off the bus at either location. The bus is a full coach bus equipped with a rest room. We will have a brief rest / eating stop on the way up, and again on the return trip.

The cost for those going by bus is **\$28.**

Directions by Car : 1) The most direct way is to get Interstate 78 **West** to exit # 9 in Pennsylvania. Then, take Rte. 61 **North** toward Pottsville, Frackville, etc. About a mile north of Exit 9 on Rte. 61 there is a Burger King restaurant on the right. Turn right at the intersection just before the restaurant (Jetson Drive) to enter the Burger King. We will meet up here approximately 11:00-11:15 A.M. 2) You could also take Interstate 80 **West** to Exit 36, then take Rte. 61 **South**. Go about 22 miles down this until you pass the town of Port Clinton, and keep an eye out for the Burger King mentioned above.

REGISTRATION: Regardless of how you plan to attend, you must register! To register, please contact Don Phillips as soon as possible at 718-260-3780, or by Email at dphillip@poly.edu Remember to mention if you wish to go by car or bus, how many are attending, and whether you want a field guide or not (there is a charge for this *only* if you are going by car - see above). Please leave your name and phone number, and he'll get back to you with a confirmation. You may register at our April meeting, but, because spaces on the bus may fill rapidly, it's best you register beforehand. [Note: Although it should not be an obstacle for most people, there is a steep descent of about 30 feet along one of the trails. The rest of the trails & sites are fairly level.]

All those going by bus must pay in advance - your registration will not be considered complete *until* we receive your payment. Please mail a check for **\$28** to *Pennsylvania Field Trip, New York Paleontological Society, P.O. Box 287, Planetarium Station, 127 West 83rd St., New York, NY 10024*. Make the check payable to the New York Paleontological Society. All registrations will be confirmed. There can be no refunds for cancellations - however, there may be substitutions. *Note: All those attending through the Society must be members of the New York Paleontological Society.*

TOOLS : Hammers and chisels. Geology hammers are fine. Since the rock is liable to chip, **GOGGLES OR SAFETY GLASSES ARE REQUIRED. STURDY ANKLE HIGH BOOTS OR SHOES ARE ALSO RECOMMENDED.** You will need newspaper for wrapping your finds, and bags to store them for the trip home.

CLOTHING: Since both sites are located in the mountains of Pennsylvania, it may be cooler than in New York City. Dress in layers with sweaters or light coats. Since the sites are in the open, a sun hat and sunblock might be a good idea. Also, if the weather is threatening, don't forget your rain gear. You may want to bring insect spray to protect against the possibility of ticks. Repellents with a DEET content of 50% or better are most effective.

FOOD: Since it may be hot, bring along water and beverages. You may also wish to bring along a box lunch.

WAIVER: EACH individual wishing to go must sign a waiver form.

* * * *