



## UPCOMING SHOWS

Nothing locally at this time



[www.suffolkgem.com](http://www.suffolkgem.com)

P. O. Box 302  
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11716



DECEMBER 2005

# THE CONGLOMERATE

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

Monthly Club meetings held at the Bay Shore-Brightwaters Library, Montauk Highway, Brightwaters starting at 8:00pm

## 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

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### Next Meeting – January

There is no meeting for the month of December.

Due to the Holiday on Jan. 16<sup>th</sup>, our next meeting may possibly be on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month. We will be confirming that date with the library as to availability. Check January’s newsletter for exact date.

### Last Meeting

- Vice President Kerry Dicker lead the group in making an heirloom ornament hook.
- Judi and Tom Wines presented slides from the Philadelphia Beadfest in October. It was decided the Club would sponsor a one-day bus trip to the event in October 2006.
- The slate for Club officers for 2006 was not completed at the time of the meeting. However, at the board meeting on November 26<sup>th</sup>, Marty Besso and Charley Runko requested their names be entered for the open positions of president and director, respectively.

### Annual Club Show Status

Despite the snowy weather, paid attendance was 778 with total attendance exceeding 1,000! Treasurer Roberta Besso will provide the financial results of the December show at our Holiday Dinner.

This year’s grand prizewinner was Mario Pironti of Farmingville, NY.

### Stepping to the Plate in 2006

The following is the slate of officer positions for 2006:

- President – Marty Besso
- Vice President- Kerry Dicker
- Treasurer- Roberta Besso
- Recording Secretary – Tom Wines

- Corresponding Secretary – Judi Wines
- Directors-
  - Elaine Casani
  - Charley Runko
  - Dorothy Scott

### Annual Holiday Dinner

Mark your calendar for Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup>.



We will again hold our dinner at Papa Joe’s (450 Commack Road Deer Park, NY (631) 242-8902) starting at 5:00pm and ending at 9:00pm. A silent action will also be held. Members are encouraged to donate some items for the auction. The cost for members is \$8.

**If you plan on attending, your payment must be made now.** Please send your check payable to “Suffolk Gem & Mineral Club” at Box 302, Bohemia, NY 11716. Please give Roberta Besso a call (631-666-8023) to inform her “the check is in the mail”.

### Club Sweatshirts



We were able to obtain prices for embroidered “logo” sweatshirts. They range from \$25.00 to \$32.00

depending on type (hooded, zippered, etc.). Since the Club will not be ordering in bulk, members will have to complete an order form with payment (check or cash) **before** the sweatshirts are ordered. We expect to submit all orders to the vendor on Tuesday, January 23, after the Club membership meeting. Forms will be available at the Holiday Dinner and at the membership meeting.

### **Note from Ruth Coffey<sup>1</sup>**

“This past month I was awarded a very generous scholarship by the Club, for which I want to give my deepest thanks. After I graduated Wellesley College in 2003 with a BA in Geology, I began to miss fieldtrips around the country and studying my favorite minerals, but more I began to miss the connection with people who shared my love and admiration of the world around us, as well as my fascination with fossils and minerals.



So upon moving back home to Long Island, I began to haunt the gem and mineral shows that I had gone to regularly as a kid. At one of those shows, I met Marty and Roberta Besso, who introduced me to the Suffolk Gem and Mineral Club. Since then, it has been so wonderful to be a part of a warm and open group where there is such emphasis on the exchange of ideas, whether on fossil and gem hunting, jewelry making or simply life experiences. I have learned so much in getting to know you all, and so I thank you most sincerely for your openness, your warmth and your generosity.

“In return for this generosity, I thought I would share a brief description of the research I have been working on for the past year. I am currently pursuing my doctoral degree in Marine and Atmospheric Science at the Marine Sciences Research Center at Stony Brook University. My research in the field of geological oceanography is on the phenomenon known as submarine groundwater discharge. Submarine groundwater discharge (SGD) is the vertical flux of water across the sediment-sea interface. This flux includes both fresh groundwater as well as recirculated saline groundwater and is driven by water table

elevation and the tides. While the existence of submarine groundwater discharge has been known for thousands of years (the first documented “reference” is in the biblical book of Job), the importance of SGD has only recently been recognized by the scientific community. Particular interest in SGD is due to its affect on local salinity as well as its role in transporting nutrients and contaminants into coastal waters.

“Because the science of studying SGD is still in an early phase, much more work needs to be invested in studying all aspects of this complicated system, from quantifying discharge rates and estimating spatial variability to determining concentrations of compounds transported by SGD. As a community living in a coastal area, we need to be conscious of all of the factors affecting the quality of the water and how we influence the system. Poor water quality affects all aspects of coastal communities, from economies based on fisheries, recreation and tourism to wildlife diversity and ecosystem health. A good resource on SGD (though focused on Florida) can be found at the website: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/BODY\\_SG060](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/BODY_SG060).

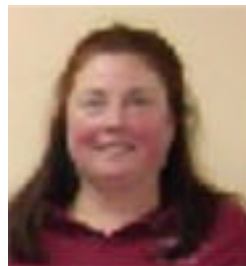


CREDITS: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

City of Miami as seen from across Biscayne Bay.

“Again, I want to thank you all for the generous scholarship supporting my education as well as all the knowledge, friendship, and laughter I’ve discovered being a part of this club.”

### **Former Director Gretchen Golden**



Gretchen has relocated to Tennessee and is interested in hearing from the members. She can be reached at:

- 
- 711 Golden Mountain Rd.  
Sparta, TN 38583
- GYEEHAA@aol.com

<sup>1</sup> \* On October 17, 2005, the Club presented Ruth a scholarship check for \$500.00

## Bus Trip to Albany

Efforts are underway for a one-day bus trip to the Capital District Mineral Club gem show on **Saturday, Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>**. As in the past, the show will be held at the New York State Museum, Empire State Plaza, Madison Ave., Albany, NY. Admission is \$5.00 that includes the New York in Bloom Flower Show.



Since the Club is not sponsoring this trip (there must be 10 members to do so), the cost of the trip is approximately \$35.00. We need to know ASAP who is interested in joining. Please call Gene Genova (President - Long Island Mineral and Geological Society) at (631) 929-3538 for additional information and reservations.

## "After the Dig" (reprise)

by Chris Marotta

In March 2004, the NYPS Newsletter published an article that I had written about the discoveries that we often make after our digs. These are those interesting or puzzling bits that strike our attention, but may not be recognized at their time of discovery. Examination later on can often reveal a wonderful unseen fossil or something new to study. I have one additional such find to share with you.



October 11<sup>th</sup> 2003, was a spectacular day for a field trip lead by Erich Rose to Schoharie, NY. The weather was wonderful; and as chance had it, it was also the local annual "Schoharie Day" (in case anyone was wondering what all that nearby musket and cannon fire was about). This was the Saturday that commemorates Schoharie's

ability to withstand a siege by British and Native Indian forces in the "Old Stone Fort". -A pivotal battle for the Mohawk Valley, during the American Revolution, that took place in a 1772 Schoharie church; built from the same limestone that we all love.

We were all enjoying the astonishingly abundant late-lower Devonian fossils from the Becraft and adjoining formations. Some people found *Orthoceras rudis* cephalopods that exceeded a foot. Others collected some bizarre *Platycerus* gastropods that can take many forms, and those golf ball-like *Hindias* ("Sponge-Bob-Round-Pants"). That day I also noticed something that was a bit odd, so I scooped it up and took it home.

December and January were cold and snowy, and with so many other finds to prepare, the cobble sized rock that had gotten my attention, just sat in the driveway. All winter it weathered. When spring came, there was time to take a better look. What made me curious was an inclusion in it, with a difference in color from all the other gray-blue toned fossils at this site. This item was reddish with glints of gold toned pyrite reflecting. It was largely cylindrical, about five inches long, somewhat spiral and irregularly proportioned; - Much too irregular to be a cast from even the strangest *Platycerus*.

This same Spring I was taking a course in Chordate Zoology. The Spiral Valve, found in the intestines of sharks and coelacanths, was one of the multitude of anatomical features discussed. This got the wheels turning... Could this strange twist indicate it may have passed through a spiral valve, and therefore be a coprolite from in the Becraft formation? I took it in to my professor, a paleoichthyologist, for examination.

His opinion... Yes, it does appear to be a coelacanth or chondrichthys coprolite. I mentioned this find to Don Phillips and he was fast to inform me of its significance. With the exception of one report of a possible bone fragment, no other vertebrate evidence is known from this site. This strange little trace fossil may be evidence that our own vertebrate phylum was present in this ancient shallow sea. Another wondrous story may have been unraveled, long after our day in the field. Another fascinating discovery made "after the dig".

## New Members

- Cathryn Byrnes – Deer Park
- Bernadette Petronio – Deer Park