



UPCOMING SHOWS

Island Rock Hounds, Inc.

Gems, Minerals, and Fossils

March 19-20, 2005

Westbury High School

Post Road and Jericho Turnpike

Old Westbury, NY



Village of Freeport

Recreation & Park Dept.

30th Annual Gem & Mineral Show

April 9-10, 2005

Freeport Recreation Center

130 E. Merrick Road

Freeport, NY



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



M A R C H 2 0 0 5

THE CONGLOMERATE

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

Monthly Club meetings held at the Bay Shore-Brightwaters Library, Montauk Highway, Bay Shore 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 – March 21st

- There will be a hands-on demonstration on creating a step ladder beaded bracelet with elastic cord. The Club will provide materials to make one bracelet or, if you prefer, bring your own beads. Once you learn this basic beading stitch, you will be able to create unlimited variations. Participants should bring a small towel to prevent the beads from wandering away.
- Elaine Casani and Marty Besso will give a presentation on their recent trip to the gem and mineral show in Tucson, AZ.
- Tom Wines will show photos of the bus trip to the Capital District Gem Show in Albany on February 26th.

Last Meeting

- Joe DeChristoforo of Amazon Imports spoke on valuing colored stones.

Keep the Treasurer Happy

If there is a yellow-colored notice attached, we have not received your dues for 2005.

Say “Cheese”

Club officers are reminded to wear their Club shirts for the photo shoot at the March meeting.

Minerals, Minerals Everywhere¹

New York State is a veritable treasure chest of minerals. When extracted and processed, the value of New York’s mineral products exceeds \$1 billion annually. Crushed stone is the Empire State’s leading mineral commodity. New York routinely ranks between 10th and 15th of the 50 states in value of non-fuel mineral resources.

The following is a sample of the numerous minerals found in New York State:

Garnet is New York State’s official gem, and is used for sandpaper, for polishing glass and metal, and for water filtration. One of the largest garnet mines in the world is located in the Adirondacks.

Calcite is used in paint, paper, plastics, and rubber, and is one of the primary ingredients in the manufacture of Portland cement.

Gypsum, once mined in western New York, is used in wallboard, plaster and other similar construction materials. Gypsum is also widely used to improve soils in agricultural and horticultural applications.

Sphalerite is mined in the northwestern Adirondack region for zinc ore. Zinc is used to make tires and galvanized steel and is found in nails, door knobs, fireworks, sun screen and medicines.

Halite (salt) is mined primarily in central and western New York. Common uses include table salt, as a road de-icer, and chemical and food manufacturing. New York ranks third among the states in salt production.

Talc is a soft mineral and is the “talcum” in baby powder. Mined in the northwest Adirondacks, it is used as filler in paper and ceramics.

Herkimer Diamonds are exceptionally clear and well-developed quartz crystals making the Mohawk Valley famous among mineral and rock collectors. Quartz is used in glass, clocks, watches insulation, televisions, radios and computers.

Wollastonite is used in ceramic tile, paint, dental cleaning, match heads, billiard balls, electrical panels, and automotive parts. New York is the world’s leading supplier of premium quality wollastonite.



¹ Reprinted from the August 2004 issue of *Conservationist* magazine written by Steve Potter and Bill Cooper.