



UPCOMING SHOWS

Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse
EFMLS and AFMS
July 9th, 10th, and 11th
 New York State Fairgrounds
 Syracuse, NY

Long Island Mineral & Geological Society, Inc.
 23rd Annual Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show
July 24th and 25th
 Mattituck High School – Main Road
 Mattituck, NY

East Coast Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show
 17th Annual Show
August 13th, 14th, and 15th
 Better Living Center
 West Springfield, MA
 For more info: www/mzexpos.com

Village of Freeport – Recreation & Parks Dept.
 Annual Summer Gem and Mineral & Show
August 28th and 29th
 Freeport Recreation Center
 Freeport, NY
 For more info: 516-781-8410

New Jersey Mineralogical Society, Inc.
 33rd Annual Gem & Mineral Show
September 11th (Rain date Sept. 12th)
 Fanwood Train Station
 Fanwood, NJ
 For more info: 732-469-1047

Nassau Mineral Club, Inc. of Long Island
 42nd Annual Jewelry, Gem & Mineral Show
November 13th and 14th
 SUNY College – Clarke Center
 Old Westbury, NY

www.suffolkgem.com

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JUNE 2004

THE CONGLOMERATE

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

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The Conglomerate:

Editor - Judi Wines

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Next Meeting - June 21st

Marty Besso will lead the group in wire wrapping tumbled stones. Pieces created by participants at the May meeting will be able to pick up their “works of art” at this meeting and finish them off. Participants are encouraged to bring their tools. There will be a \$3.00 charge for materials for non-members.

As always, refreshments will be served.

At the Prior Meeting

Jane Irvine instructed on dichroic glass making.

Chris Marotta and *Marty Besso* spoke on the trip to Red Hill, PA on May 1st and 2nd.

We also viewed a NOVA video with a portion devoted to the Red Hill site.

Summer Vacation

As it is the Club’s custom, there will be no membership meetings for the months of **July and August**. Meetings will resume on September 20th.

What’s Your Wishes?

The Club’s officers continually attempt to schedule diverse and interesting presentations and hands-on demonstrations as well as appealing field and bus trips to suit the desires of the members. But, we really would like your input for future endeavors. Please speak to me or any one of the other officers with your suggestions.

Tom Wines, Pres.

Annual Club Picnic

The Club picnic is stated for Saturday, August 7th at Hecksher State Park (Parking Lot #1) starting at 10:00am. To ensure the purchase of an adequate amount of provisions, we must know as soon as possible if you are planning to attend. There will be a signup sheet at the June meeting or you can call Roberta Besso at (631) 666-8023.

Also, it is expected each one bring a covered dish that can be shared. Please inform Roberta of what you intend to bring to the picnic.

In Remembrance

It is with our deepest sympathy in noting the passing on May 6th of *Norma Donofrio*, longtime Club member and wife of past Club President Joseph Donofrio.

In Our Prayers

Director Doreen Wilson has recently been hospitalized at Stony Brook Hospital. We wish her a speedy recovery.

Club Machinery Raffle

Since there has been little interest in the purchase of tickets, it has been decided to raffle the used grinder-cutter machine at the Club’s annual show in December.

Bulk Specimens

Member *Paul Engelhardt* is looking into the possibility of purchases of mineral specimens in bulk and then passing the savings along to members. If you are interested in this proposal, please call Paul at 631-589-0742.

EMFLS Annual Raffle

The Club has purchased 50 raffle tickets offered by the Eastern Foundation for eight beautiful and unique prizes:

- Multi-gem Stone Watch (Ladies)
- Citrine Ring 14KT gold (Ladies)
- Malachite cabochon 30x40mm wire-wrapped in 14K gold
- Sugilite cabochon 30x40mm wire-wrapped in 14K gold
- Peanut wood sphere 4 inch from Australia
- Barite specimens (2) from Qujin, Yunan Providence, China, and
- Cut and polished ammonite

We will hold our own raffle if any pieces are won by the Club.

17th East Coast Show - August 14th

There will be a joint-club sponsored bus trip to the Springfield, MA gem and mineral show. Since this a joint venture with other area clubs, we will need **at least ten (10) Club members** participating. The cost of the bus trip is \$10.00 for members (\$15.00 – non-members) which is payable in advance. There will be a signup sheet at the June meeting or contact Roberta Besso if you are interested in this event.

Cultured Pearls

by Club Member Mitch Gluck

The Pearl is the birthstone for the month of June. In grading cultured pearls the following must be considered: Color, Luster, Spotting, Shape, Size, Make and Nacre thickness.

A pearl's color usually refers to a combination of bodycolor and overtone.¹ Bodycolor is the basic color of the pearl like pink, white, cream, blue and others, while the overtone refers to the colors that overlie the body color like rose and green to name a few.

Luster is how well light reflects from the surface of the pearl. Pearls can have a high to very high luster when the reflection is sharp and bright or it can be dull when the reflection is weak, fuzzy or diffused.

Spotting on a pearl refers to the extent of which the surface of the pearl has bumps or spots also called blemishes. Of course these decrease the value of a pearl.

Pearls are divided into three categories by their shape. Round is the most popular and easiest shape to grade. Fancy shaped pearls include pear shaped, button, and mabe to name a few. Baroque are irregular and distorted shaped pearls.

Nacre refers to how well the pearl was coated within the mollusk and is the thickness of the pearls coat. In nacre thinness you can see the nucleus of the pearl. If you can see the nucleus this means it has less durability and value. In jewelry stores when buying pearl necklaces we look at what is referred to as the make, meaning how well each pearl matches the other and how well they blend together and have a look of uniformity.

Used Equipment For Sale

Upon the passing of Club Member Walter Bigelow, his daughter is selling the following equipment:

- 8" two-wheel grinder w/ motor and side lap
- 8" saw
- 6" vertical polisher
- 6" trim saw
- 8" horizontal polisher and grinder
- 10" Raytech saw with auto. feed
- Belt sander/grinder – Rockwell Model #371
- Rock splitter
- Small polisher, and
- Two tumblers

For more info, contact Marty Besso at (631) 666-8023. All items are negotiable.



¹ GIA Colored stones Vol. #31