

UPCOMING SHOWS

October 12th and 13th
6th Annual Fall Gem & Mineral Show
Freeport Recreation Center
130 East Merrick Road
Freeport, New York, LI, NY
10:00 a.m. - 5 p.m.

For information: 631-781-8410



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

OCTOBER 2002

THE CONGLOMERATE

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

CLUB OFFICERS

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Director - Doreen Wilson

The Conglomerate:

Editor - Judi Wines

Co-Editor - Marty Besso

OOPS !

Due to a scheduling mix-up at our September meeting, our speaker from The Eyes of Learning Institute was unable to present his informative presentation. But, he has graciously agreed to give his program at our October 21 meeting. Don't miss this interesting talk.

Next Meeting October 21st

Daniel Akner of The Eyes of Learning will talk on the metaphysical qualities of gems and minerals as well as spot readings for the audience. Raised by a family of psychics, he has served the spiritual community for over 30 years. Daniel has spoken all over Long Island on a range of topics from crystal lore, astrology and dream interpretation to past lives, astral projection, and of course, psychic phenomena. He has been featured in Newsday, cable TV, and has received art grants for his paintings.

For more information check out www.danielakner.com.

As always, refreshments will be served.

Club Elections for 2003

Nominations are open for next year's officers and directors. Any active member (who has attended a minimum of four regular meetings in the past 12 months) in

good standing (paid dues for the current year) is eligible. If you are interested, contact Marty Besso. The slate of names will be nominated at the November meeting and elected at the January meeting.

Did you know?

Herb Baker passed away earlier this year. His sister is interested in selling his gem and mineral collection as well as some other "treasures". If interested, please call Roberta at 516-627-7885.

Club Shirts

We are finalizing the new logo for the Club's shirts. We will discuss this further at the meeting.

Annual Club Show

Good news ! Plans are rolling ahead for our annual show to take place December 14th & 15th.

This year it will be at the beautiful new ballroom at the State University at Stony Brook. This show looks to be our best ever, the location is wonderful, and the vendors are ready. All we need now is **YOU**. This is our largest event of the year, and the money the Club earns at the show finances our trips, picnic, Christmas dinner, lapidary

supplies, and speakers for the upcoming year.

The Club relies on all of our members to help fill the volunteer positions. We need people to man the entrance table and take the admission fee, people for the membership table to talk to others about the Club and to answer questions, and security people to walk the ballroom floor to let their presence be known and to be goodwill ambassadors for the Club. There are also other activities such as poster distribution in the local areas and set up (Friday) and clean up (Sunday) at the show.

Our veteran members know what fun this event is, and for our newer members, it's a good time to get to know your fellow Club members and also learn more about our fascinating hobby.

Please see Elaine Casani or Marty Besso Our Show Chairpersons and sign up to help.

Is It Real Amber?

At our last meeting, a member asked how to tell real amber from fake. As your editor, I felt this question was worth looking into, since I didn't know the answer and felt it might be of interest to other members as well.

First, a little background on amber. Although commonly referred to as tree sap, amber is not. Sap is the substance in the heart of the tree providing nutrients to the tree, while resins flows just under the bark and protects the tree when it is penetrated by boring insects or loses a branch to storm damage. Resin has that wonderful piney smell we associate with pine trees, this is due to the chemicals in it known as terpenes.

Now how do we tell the real amber from the plastic fakes?

One way that doesn't mar the sample is to wash it with soap and water and rinse with just water then lick the piece slowly several times and allow the taste to linger. The taste will be very subtle real amber will have almost not taste at all just a very slight tingly sensation on the tongue. Most forgeries have a very distinct nasty taste.

Another way to tell that will mar a fake is to take a few drops of nail polish remover and drop them on the surface of the piece. If the surface becomes tacky or the nail polish remover takes on the color of the sample being tested, you have found a fake. Real amber will not be harmed nor dissolved from this test.

Amber also is buoyant in salt water. To do this test, mix 1 part salt to 2 parts water, allowing the salt to dissolve completely. Drop the sample into the mixture, real amber will float, plastic or copal (immature resin) will drop like a rock.

Just thought I'd give you a few hints on how to care for your amber. Things that you should avoid contacting your amber are strong soaps, detergent, commercial jewelry cleaning solutions, also some common things that can harm your amber are lard, salad oil, butter, oven. or burner heat, and also being left near heating ducts or in direct sunlight for prolonged periods. Amber jewelry should always be stored in a soft cloth and never left to rub against other jewelry, and of course, never put your amber jewelry in a ultrasonic or steam cleaner. To clean it, use tepid water and a soft cloth, to restore the polish rub with a soft cloth and olive oil and wipe clean. In the event of slight surface damage, hand rubbing on a denim pant leg with eventually restore its luster.



