

UPCOMING SHOWS

2016

May 14-15
10am -5pm

Celinka Show
Our Lady of Mount Carmel
Patchogue

July 30-31
10am- 5pm

Long Island Mineral & Geology Society
Cutchogue East Elementary School
Cutchogue

For other Gem and Mineral shows: <http://www.amfed.org/EFMLS/calendar.htm>

www.suffolkgem.com

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



March 2016

*To promote cultural, educational, and
scientific interest in mineralogy, and
develop member's skills in lapidary arts
and jewelry crafts*

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.

Refreshments served at 7:30 pm.

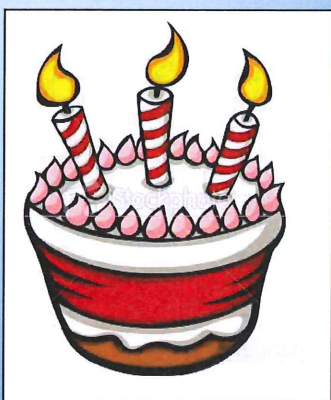
OFFICERS

The Conglomerate Editor - Cheryl Neary
Club Webmaster - Kerry Dicker

President –	Cheryl Neary	516.449.5341 cell	Director - Elaine Casani	631-567-3342
Vice President –	Kerry Dicker	631-277-0994	Director – Lucy Jackson	631- 289-2328
Treasurer -	Roberta Besso	631-666-8023		
Asst. treasure	Joe LaBarca	631-242-5290	Director – John King	631-775-7035
Secretary –	Rebecca LaBarca	516-768-4438	Director –Debbie Winston	516-238-8370
Liaison –	Cheryl Neary	516.449.5341 cell	Director& Historian –Kerry Ann Hilliard	631-277-0994

Cell phones are to be turned off during all Club meetings.

More importantly, there should be no disturbances during any guest presentations.



March
Birthdays!

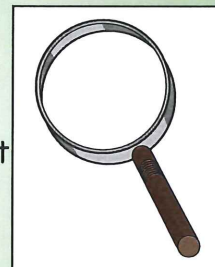
Roberta Besso
Michael Greve
Leona Keeley
Rebecca La Barca
Hugo Ruiz
Charley Runko
Ryan Winston
Regina Vorwald

Happy Birthday
Wishes!
May Your Year Be
Filled
with Hugs & Kisses!

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS: -

2016

March 21st - Lecture- John Pesek - Silicate Minerals
April 18th - Lecture -
May 16th - Gem Trees
with Carol Pesek
June 20 - Annual Bragging Right



What do you know about Silicate Minerals?

Come find out

This month our own John Pesek will be the feature guest speaker. He will introduce you to the most common, the largest and perhaps the most interesting of Earth's minerals, including quartz, feldspar, mica, amphibole, pyroxene and olivine.

- Silicate Minerals: Contains silica and oxygen. 75% of all minerals.

Some Silicate Minerals



Fig. 2.19
Copyright © 2013 Ryan P. Murphy

Oops!My Mistake!
Congratulations to.....
Kerry Ann Dicker
as both a Director and Historian!
Also, our scrapbooker!



Let the Adventures Begin!

New York Wants to Turn off Niagara Falls

JAN 25, 2016 01:26 PM ET // BY **DANNY CLEMENS, DISCOVER**

The American side of Niagara Falls could soon run dry, if a new proposal from the New York State Office of Parks achieves regulatory approval.

Earlier this month, the agency **announced its intention** to temporarily dewater American Falls and Bridal Veil Falls, two of three adjacent waterfalls collectively known as Niagara Falls, to replace a series of aging bridges that connect various parts of Niagara Falls State Park.

Over a century old, the concrete arch bridges cross over the Niagara River to provide pedestrian access to Goat Island. Since their construction in 1900, the structures have deteriorated significantly; they were closed in 2004, when park authorities ordered the construction two temporary bridges above the ailing concrete overpasses.

A new **environmental impact reported** concluded that the original bridges are too significantly deteriorated to be successfully rehabilitated, and must be completely replaced.

Officials explain that the replacement bridges must be constructed “‘in the dry’ [...] to ensure that the new foundations are firmly anchored to bedrock” and to facilitate the complete removal of the original bridge once it is demolished.

While dewatering Niagara Falls may seem like a task of Herculean proportions, more than 80 percent of the Niagara River flows over Canada’s Horseshoe Falls. A cofferdam will redirect the entire river over Horseshoe Falls, leaving the much smaller American Falls and Bridal Veil Falls dry.



Outside The Box

In February, Kerry Dicker showed us all how to create a chainmaille bracelet using jump rings



Ryan was pleased with his progress!

What is a Member in Good Standing?

One that:

- **Attends (4) Meetings**
- **Contributes Time to Club Show or the Celinka Show-at the Club Table**

(If you are unable to attend the show, there is other show activities you can volunteer for- please see Elaine or Cheryl!

- **Participates in Club Fundraisers**

Remember-this is your club!

This club needs you to participate, in order for the club to grow-

If you have any suggestions for a program, please speak to one of the Board members listed above. If you have an idea for a field trip, please speak to a Board member as well!

Ask what else you can do!

Wonderful Wildacres

by Steve Weinberger, WA Committee Chair

In recent days I've spoken to a number of people who tell me that they plan on attending Wildacres this year. "Have you sent in your registration form yet?" I ask. "Not yet" is too often the reply.

If you're like the people I'm referring to, my question is "What are you waiting for?" We've put together what I think are two dynamite sessions for 2016.

The first, May 9 – 15 features Helen Serras Herman as our "speaker in residence". Helen is a world renowned glyptographer (gem stone carver) a terrific, knowledgeable speaker and a darn nice lady. She'll present several programs during the session which are sure to be of interest to everyone. Her images are always great too. (Take a look at examples of Helen's amazing work on her website.)

The second session, September 5 – 11 will feature Alfredo Petrov as the "speaker in residence". Alfredo has travelled the world and is extremely knowledgeable about minerals. Most recently, Alfredo has been honored by having a new mineral, Alfredopetrovite, named after him. He's a charming and interesting fellow and his photographs and tales about his travels are amazing.

There's nothing like a week at the Wildacres Retreat. Our sessions are always relaxing and enjoyable and you're sure to come away with new skills learned during class, new friendships made, and a better appreciation for our hobby.

So...What are you waiting for? Tuition for the entire week is \$400 per person including room and board, gratuity for the Retreat employees, and instruction given by our outstanding cadre of teachers. The only extra charge is for the materials that you use in the class or classes you take.

Meals are wholesome and tasty, rooms comfortable, the air unpolluted, and the camaraderie among participants always terrific.

So...What are you waiting for? A complete listing of classes can be found on the web site (efmls-wildacres.org) and a registration form is attached.



The AFMS Code of Ethics

I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without the owner's permission.

I will keep informed on all laws, regulations of rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.

I will to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.

I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.

I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind - fences, signs, buildings.

I will leave all gates as found.

I will build fires in designated or safe places only and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.

I will discard no burning material - matches, cigarettes, etc.

I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.

I will not contaminate wells, creeks or other water supply.

I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.

I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.

I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and Will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.

I will cooperate with field trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.

I will report to my club or Federation officers, Bureau of Land management or other authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.

I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.

I will observe the "Golden Rule", will use "Good Outdoor Manners" and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and Public "image" of rockhounds everywhere.

Sterling Hill Super Dig Saturday, April 23rd 9:00am – 11:00pm

Mine tours, historic Trotter Tunnel, Upper Mine and Mill, Blackout Tour , Nighttime illumination of the famous "Fluorescent Wall" the Fill Quarry and mineral collecting in all 3 collection areas on the property.

\$20.00 per person - Collecting fee of \$1.50 per pound

<http://superdig.com/>

Please note: the Delaware Valley Earth Science Society of New Jersey runs this event.

Last year I volunteered and will probably do so again this year. If you volunteer, you do not pay the \$20.00 and are able to do all the tours. Let me know if you are interested, so I can notify the proper personnel.

The dig is worthwhile with people coming from other countries as well!

Safety Matters: Give Yourself a Hand

by Ellery Borow, EFMLS Safety Chair

Give yourself a hand, or at least a rousing round of applause if you are one of the many folks who makes a concerted effort to take care of one of your most important tools --your hands. There are many folks who earn their living through constant use of their hands. Even if you are not one of those fortunate folks it is likely that your hands are in constant use. If you think that you are one of the folks who does not use their hands all that much, try going even 1/2 an hour with one hand held behind your back, and then going on about your day. The hand behind ones back suggestion might clearly highlight how much we use our hands. If you are still unsure of the amount of your hand usage, try going even 10 minutes without use of either one. Our hands are important, give yourself some applause if you take care of your valuable asset--hands. Using my trusted, well worn, and tattered, 15th edition of Gray's Anatomy I found the Metacarpus, Carpus, Scaphoid, Cuneiform, Ulna, Radius and 22 other bones of the forearm, wrist, palm and fingers. Counting the bones of the right and left hands that's 60 bones of the body's 200 torso bones. The hands have a high percentage of the body's total bone count and ancillary tissues. It behooves us to take good care of these assets. By being good I do not mean just use of an occasional hand lotion. Indeed, hands do not deserve just good care, they deserve great care. Soon I will transition from winter's snow shoeing enjoyments to Spring's bicycle riding pleasures. During that transition I will move from using certain muscle/bone groups to other muscle/bone groups. During that transition I will awaken muscles I have not used in a while. If I do not properly prepare for the transition I will be sore in places. What that demonstrates to me is that I'm not exercising all of me sufficiently well. The same goes for hands. For the hand tasks we do frequently, we keep well exercised, for movements we seldom do, the muscles weaken. We, on occasion, do bad things to our hands. I have had days when I'm using my rock hammer so much that, at the end of the day, my fingers have frozen in the curl of my hammer handle. When I pull the hammer from my hand my fingers stay frozen in the curl -- that is not a good sign. What I should have done would have been to change activity and hand I finger position frequently over the course of the day. One other way we are bad to our hands is, and this is a really bad one that I have seen innumerable rockhounds do, hold a rock in one hand and, using the rock hammer held in the other hand, strike the rock. This activity sends shivers down my spine when I think of all the small bones in the wrist being whacked by a hammer. After all, just about all of the striking force goes through the rock and into the bones and connective tissues of the hand. Just ask any orthopedic surgeon what they think of such an activity and I'm sure you will get an earful of commentary about the un-wiseness of the act. Next for hand calamities, we see the all-too-common near misses of the hammer aiming for the end of the chisel. Ever seen one of those? They are not pretty -- and I'm not talking about the resultant air turning a blueish color. Hands do not have an easy life! What is a hand to do? Yes, lotion for hands is good, but lotion will not help a missed hammer strike on a chisel (or thumb). There are hammer guards available for chisels. A guard on the end of a chisel really can help prevent hand damage during a misplaced hammer strike. There are also numerous chisel holding devices available. There is a plethora of styles, compositions, and sizes of gloves that can prevent the many scratches, scrapes, and cuts we receive on our hands. We have available to us dirt, and flat rocks, and really great holding devices that can support/hold a rock so that it is not held in ones hand to be struck by a hammer. There are many devices and programs that can help stretch, exercise, strengthen, and increase flexibility of our hands. Although I would mention here that some of the exercise devices I have seen for strengthening ones hand can sometimes do more harm than good if used improperly -- so if in doubt about any program or device please consider consulting with a professional. Oh and hand lotion is indeed good for hands to maintain sensitivity, grip, epidermal integrity and so on. Other general hand maintenance guidelines include watching out for too many repetitive motions, avoiding shocks to the delicate hands and fingers, and taking a break from heavy hand usage tasks. I have even seen issues with too firm a grip for too long a time with hands holding on to dop sticks being used by those dedicated cabbers among us. When tackling a big job, ask for a hand. A helping hand to share a load, or relieve a stress sure can help keep our hands healthy. With proper maintenance our hands can last a lifetime -- and that is good for the hobby as well as the individual. So, please keep up the good work and give yourself a hand for a job well done. Be safe & stay safe.

2016 EFMLS Wildacres Registration

PLEASE, ONLY one person per form per session

CHECK ONE: May 9 - 15: _____ Fall: September 5 - 11: _____

Please fill out a separate registration form for each person attending and return to SUZIE MILLIGAN, 931 Carmichael Rd; Owego, NY 13827-3320. **No registration will be accepted prior to January 1, 2016.** (To make it easier for the registrar and others, please do not change or revise this form. You September photocopy it as needed.) Please write legibly!

Name (as you wish it to appear on your name badge): _____

Street: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone number with area code: _____ e-mail: _____

Club/Society Affiliation: _____

Fee for each session is \$400.00 per person. Deposit is \$200 per person, payable with registration.

Make checks payable to "EFMLS". Balance of fee is due 30 days prior to start of session. No postdated checks will be accepted.

Cancellation policy: If unable to attend, fees paid will be refunded if notification is given prior to one month before the session begins. No refund will be made after that date.

Circle appropriate responses:

Have you been to Wildacres before? Yes _____ No _____ Is your Club paying your tuition? Yes _____ No _____

Name of roommate: _____ (If none, one will be assigned).

Are you: Male _____ Female _____ (No single rooms are available). Are you a smoker? Yes _____ No _____
(No smoking is allowed in any building)

Do you have any physical handicaps and / or special dietary needs? Yes _____ No _____

If YES, please explain on reverse side.

Do you have a skill to demonstrate or a program to share (up to 40 minutes)? Yes _____ No _____

Class Pre-registration

See EFMLS Newsletter or Website (efmls-wildacres.org/) for class offerings.

You will either be able to take one 4-day class or two 2-day classes. All participants must take classes.

Which of the classes being offered would you like to take? Please indicate at least 3 choices in order of preference for each semester. You will be preregistered for classes based on your choices, but no class placement is guaranteed. Should your preferred class be unavailable for any reason you will be preregistered for another of your choices. If no alternate class preference is indicated we will pre-register you in a class of our choosing, based on availability.

1st Semester or 4 day classe choices

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Second Semester

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

(No registrations accepted prior to January 1, 2014)

Mail to: Suzie Milligan, 931 Carmichael Rd; Owego, NY 13827-3320

If you have any questions, please contact either

Suzie Milligan, Registrar at <smilligan@stny.rr.com> or 607-687-5708 or

Fran Sick, Director at <ednfran@epix.net> or 570-928-8313.

