



UPCOMING SHOWS

2014

- Feb. 15-16 **Capital Gem & Mineral**
NYS Museum
Albany, New York
- March 1-2 **NYC Mineral Club**
Holiday Inn, W57th St., NYC
- March 15-16 **IRH Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Show**
Old Bethpage Restoration Village. Bethpage
- July 26-27 **LIMAGS 33rd Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Show**
Mattituck High School, Mattituck, NY

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

www.suffolkgem.com

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Bohemia, L.I., NY
11716



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

February 2014

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 –	Kerry Dicker	631-277-0994	Director - Elaine Casani	631-567-3342
Vice President –	Kerry Ann Hilliard	631-277-0994	Director- Charles Runko	631-486-4549
Treasurer -	Roberta Besso	631-666-8023	Director – Martin Besso	631-666-8023
Co-Treasurer -	Ron Casani	631-567-3342	Director –John King	
Secretary –	Cheryl Neary (cell)	516-449-5341	Historian –Kerry Ann Hilliard	631-277-0994
Liaison –	Charles Runko	631-486-4549		

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

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



MICHAEL CORREALE
LIAM ROONEY
KAREN EICHELBERGER
JOHN FITZPATRICK
MARILYN INKLES
FRAN & MIKE KATSAR
PAT SEASTROM
PAUL SIEGEL

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

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

2014

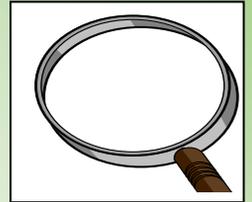
February 3rd - Dream Catchers

March 17th - Irish Rocks lecture

April 21st - Lecture by Mitch Portnoy

May 19th - wire-wrapping of shark teeth

June 16th -Lecture by Chris Visco



This Month Meeting: Dream Catchers

The traditional dream catcher has been part of Native American culture for generations, in which negative dreams were caught in the web and expire when the first rays of sun struck them thereby protecting the sleeping individual. Positive dreams would pass through the hole, down the feathers to the sleeping individual.

The club will be supplying feathers and beads, however, feel free to bring your own feathers or beads.

Bring scissors and pliers.

Upcoming Field Trip(s):

Bus trip to the American Museum of Natural History is planned for February 8th. The cost for the bus trip is \$40.00/ person. Members in good standing will receive \$20.00 Refund on the bus.

There is also an entrance fee for the museum. (See next page) Payment must be made at 02/03/14 Meeting.



LIMAG trip to Pa – 1st weekend in May

Anyone interested in trip to Danville, Kentucky Labor Day Weekend 2014, please speak with Cheryl. A deposit of \$100.00 will be required by the March meeting.

DUES are Overdue!!!

Please send in your membership fee to:
Roberta Besso@ 109 Jordan St. Bay Shore, NY 11706
in order to continue to receive club benefits or pay at meeting!
\$15.00 – Individual
\$25.00- Family

Start thinking about Wildacres!!

There will be two (2) fun and exciting sessions again this year. The Spring Session is April 7th -13th. Why not plan ahead and decide to go? (See last page for class listing & instructors)

Safety Matters – Wear the Mask for the Task

by Ellery Borow, EFMLS Safety Chair

Perhaps you have heard the expression “Wear the right mask for the task at hand.” Then again perhaps you may not have heard of it seeing’s how I just made it up. Because it rhymes, it may be more memorable as a safety message. Catch phrases are handy for making a safety guideline a rememberable guideline. What the expression “wear the right mask for the task” is meant to convey is the message that for many rockhounds, silver and goldsmiths, lapidary tasks and so on, wearing a specific for the task mask may be advisable.

Rockhound tasks often involve being in an area of dry, wind-blown dust. For such situations a simple, properly fitted, dust mask would be suitable for protecting the lungs from air-born dust.

Silver and gold smithing operations may also involve dry dust such as when using rouge or polishing powder to finish a piece of work. Smithing tasks may also involve fumes from soldering and pickling operations. A dry dust type of mask would not offer suitable protection to the lungs from the detrimental effect of soldering fumes. Masks providing protection from harmful fumes would be a more appropriate choice. Even under the best of circumstances where a suitable ventilation system is being used during soldering operations, wearing a mask for protection from vapors may be advisable. Lapidary tasks, on the other hand, usually involve the need for lung protection from the presence of wet dust. Wet dust requires a different type of mask – one that catches the dust but does not block the flow of air to the lungs. A standard dry dust mask would rapidly clog and be rendered useless when used in a wet dust environment. Another common material used in lapidary tasks is the mixing and application of epoxy resins. Epoxies, as I’m sure you have noted from reading the safety labels, emit volatiles that are harmful if inhaled. Labels on epoxies usually stress using the product in a well-ventilated area. If the usage is in an area not all that well ventilated, a mask suitable for epoxy vapors may be used.

Were one to look in any reasonably complete safety equipment catalog, one would find a bewildering array of safety masks made by numerous vendors and suitable for every imaginable task. No brief safety article can mention all the various products available for rockhound, smithing and lapidary tasks but catalog sales representatives could easily offer mask guidance for your particular needs. Even in modestly equipped hardware and building supply stores one may be able to find masks suitable to the task at hand.

The takeaway message in all this discussion is that your lungs are important and need to be protected. There are numerous safety masks which can offer that protection. The trick is to choose the mask which fits the task. Actually, a similar statement may be made for many rockhound tasks - use the right hammer and chisel, select the right safety goggles, wear the right footwear, choose the right gloves, and so on.

Being safe involves making good choices. Please be informed, please be safe.

Class & Instructor Description Wildacres Spring Classes April 7 – 13th

Forms available on-line. See January 2014 EFMLS Newsletter

Cabochons – Basic Bernie Emery	Learn to transform a piece of rock into a shiny, well-formed cabochon. You will learn the use of the trim saw as well as basics of grinding, sanding and polishing. Slabs are provided or students may use their own with approval of the instructor. Please bring an apron and safety glasses. 2-day class offered first semester. No prior experience necessary.
Cabochons – Intermediate Bernie Emery	Learn to cut different shapes and the techniques needed to do so. Please bring an apron and safety glasses. Slabs are provided or students may use their own with approval of the instructor. Please bring an apron and safety glasses. Prerequisite: Students must have prior experience with cabbing and use of the trim saw. 2-day class offered second semester.
Chainmaille Pat Baker	Learn the ancient art of chainmaille using jump rings to make beautiful and functional items. Students will learn different weaves to make one or more pieces of jewelry. Projects may be copper, sterling silver, argentium or other metals. 2-day class offered first semester. No prior experience necessary.
Enameling Basics Mia Schulman	Learn how to apply powdered glass to copper and fine silver to create lovely earrings, pendants and pins. Find out about the many types of enamel and how to use them. Several techniques will be taught including sifting, using stencils, wet packing, Sgraffito and Cloisonne. 4-day class. No prior experience necessary.
Faceting Steve Weinberger	Students will learn to cut and polish a 57-facet round brilliant gemstone. In addition, they will learn how to identify well-cut stones, select rough material and see whether or not they enjoy this fascinating aspect of the hobby. Students are asked to bring an Optivisor (#7 or #9) and an apron. 4-day class. No prior experience necessary.
Geology I Rob Robinson	A basic introduction to rocks and minerals and the study of the earth. The class will include a discussion and class activity about how geologists interpret rocks to tell geologic history related to their formation, deformation and sequence and timing of events. Weather permitting there will be a field trip to local rock exposures to illustrate local rock types, their deformation types, and how a geologist maps and interprets structures (only limited walking is required.) Please bring a loupe or other magnification, hiking boots or sturdy shoes and outdoor clothes for the half-day field trips. Geologic hammer and safety glasses are also desirable. (Do not bring a nail hammer – they are unsafe to hit rocks.) 2-day class offered first semester. No prior experience necessary.
Fused Glass Becky Edmundson	Fused glass is the art of cutting and layering pieces of glass and then firing them in a kiln. Dichroic coated glass gives a 3-D look. Students will learn the basics of cutting and firing the glass and will complete at least 2 pieces. Students are asked to bring safety glasses and, if you own them a glass cutter and breaking pliers. No prior experience necessary. 2-day class offered second semester.
Micromounting Carolyn Weinberger	Micromounting is the art of preparing small mineral specimens so they can be best viewed under a microscope. You will learn the process of making “mounts” and learn to appreciate the beauty of these tiny, often perfect specimens. Students are asked to bring a stereo microscope and illumination for same if they have one. No prior experience necessary. 2-day class offered first semester.
Pewter Fabrication Bruce Gaber	Learn to make functional and decorative objects from a wonderfully versatile metal. Pewter is easy to work and easy to solder. This allows us to make a variety of forms in a much shorter time than working in silver. Pewter finishes can range from a glossy high luster to a deep rich matte. It can be embellished by embossing and by the addition of an etch or patina. Join us as we explore this most ancient and traditional material. Modern pewter contains no lead. 4-day class. No prior experience needed.
Silversmithing Basic Richard Meszler	- Have fun learning the basics of working silver sheet and wire to fabricate jewelry. The projects will introduce you to annealing and bending/shaping/texturing metal, soldering, piercing and polishing. 2-day class offered 1st semester. No prior experience necessary.
Silversmithing Intermediate Richard Meszler	- Continue your education working with metals by doing a more complex project. You will learn to make a bezel and bail in which you will set a cabochon to make a pendant. Prerequisite: Basic silversmithing experience including soldering. 2-day class offered 2nd semester.
Viking Knit Pat Baker	Learn an ancient and EASY way to make a flexible chain from fine silver wire. A little like spool knitting, you can make your chain into a bracelet and a necklace with a few clips of the cutters, 4 bead caps and a wrapped loop at each end. Will also make beautiful Sterling Silver “S” hooks for closures. 2-day class offered second semester. No prior experience necessary.
Wirewrapped Jewelry - Basic Beverly Johnson	We will begin by learning to make a cross which can be done in sizes suitable for a pendant, bracelet charm or for earrings. All students will also complete a bracelet and earrings. 2-day class offered first semester. No prior experience necessary.
Wirewrapped Jewelry Intermediate Beverly Johnson	- Our first project for this class will be a pendant featuring a cabochon. Several finishing touches will be taught, including unusual and seldom seen techniques such as a bow tie or pineapple top. If time permits you will also complete a bracelet featuring a cabochon, or a choice of other projects may be available. Special request: If you would bring a silver dollar along you will learn how to transform it into a lovely piece of jewelry. Prerequisite: Basic wirewrapping skills will be needed. 2-day class offered second semester.