



# UPCOMING SHOWS

## & Events

- July 21 11:00-? Picnic – Hecksher State Park
- July 28-29 10:00-5:00 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Gem, Mineral Jewelry & Fossil Show  
Mattituck –Cutchogue High School
- August 11 *Springfield Bus Trip*
- September 8 New Hampshire Field Collecting-Limit to 1<sup>st</sup> 22 people
- September 15-16 EFMLS Convention @ Harrisburg, Pa

***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**



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

**June 2012**

# 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.

## CLUB OFFICERS

*The Conglomerate Editor - Cheryl Neary  
Club Webmaster - Kerry Ann Hilliard*

President –	Kerry Dicker	631-277-0994	Director - Elaine Casani	631-567-3342
Vice President –	Charles Runko (cell)	631-486-4549	Director – Martin Besso	631-666-8023
Treasurer -	Roberta Besso	631-666-8023	Director – Dorothy Scott	631-281-8555
Secretary –	Kerry Ann Hilliard	631-277-0994	Director –Cheryl Neary (cell)	516-449-5341
Liaison -	Charles Runko (cell)	631-486-4549	<i>Historian - Kerry Ann Hilliard</i>	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.**



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

Kerryann Hilliard  
Trudy Kusche  
Nick Mercurio  
Mario Sevrase  
Barbara Gustofson  
Michele Pasciuti  
Victor Carroll  
Hugo Ruiz

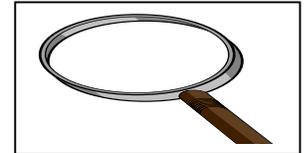
### 2012 UPCOMING MEETINGS

#### Save the Dates!

June 18-Lecture-

No meetings July-Aug

Sept. 17,2012- Lecture -TBA



Welcome New members!

Laura Rooney & son, Liam

Jenine Saccente & son, Aidan Fischer

### **This Month's Meeting: 06/18/12**

Learn about our local Dairies. View an assortment of milk and other types of bottles (1870-1950's).

Bring your own old bottle if interested on discovering its past!

## Picnic Time @ Hecksher State Park!

*Saturday, July 21<sup>st</sup> (Rain date: Sunday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>)*

Field 1 @ 11:00am

Please note the change in month!

Plan on bringing chairs and a dish to share.

Notify Roberta with your choice of dish!

Note: We will NOT be reimbursing parking fees!

### Field Trips:

Springfield Bus Trip: Saturday, August 11<sup>th</sup> .  
\$15.00 reimbursement to members of 4 months good standing

New Hampshire- Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>  
Limited space available

Sept. 15/16-EFMLS Convention  
Harrisburg, Pa



### Margaret Hasting:

#### Herkimer Diamond Claim

This year again the four clubs have joined together to purchase a claim.

The Clubs are purchasing new tools to leave at the site for you to use. They will be kept in a box with combination lock. (get the # before you go!)

The famous "Herkimer Diamond" doubly terminated quartz crystal deposits of upper New York State are World Class collecting locations.

The "Hastings" farm, a.k.a. "Diamond Acres", in Fonda, has been a renowned rockhound collecting site since the 1950s. Unlike most digging sites, an area can be reserved, called a "claim," that is solely "ours" to return to time after time for serious, multi-day digging.

**TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY!.**

See Kerry or Tom Dicker with any questions or concerns.

## Let the Adventures Begin!

Did you ever wonder why rings started to be worn?

In the animal kingdom, humans are the only creatures who seek to adorn themselves. This is done through a variety of means, such as painting or tattooing of the body or through the usage of jewelry. In fact, jewelry objects have been found that date back approximately 90,000 years.

Ancient cultures placed faith in the curative and protective powers of stones. They would carry the various "precious stones" with them. {Note the stones of ancients, although considered "precious" to their owners, are not in the "precious stone" category of modern times.} Among the earliest known treasures of the pharaohs, emeralds, rubies and sapphires were seldom used, while turquoise, jasper, lapis lazuli, carnelian and rock crystal played a substantial role, with color being an important factor. Curiously, many of the legends surrounding the benefits of certain stones were generally held all over the world. Gold and certain gems common to many parts of the globe were believed to yield similar virtues.

For instance, amethyst was believed to keep one sober, turquoise would change color in the presence of poison.

Gemstones also had meanings; sapphires gave purity; rubies represented glory and emeralds- tranquility. At one point, the most popular stone to be set was the sapphire- the magical blue stone was attributed to curing eye disease, being a poison antidote, preserving the chastity of the wearer and preventing poverty, betrayal or wrongful conviction

*Perhaps the concept of the ring materialized as a matter of convenience, and a means and ease to carrying the stones, as they set the stones in circlets of gold, silver or bronze to be worn on their fingers.*

During the medieval period rings became popular with all classes of people. The material of the ring, iron, copper, silver or gold usually indicated the class of the wearer. In the 14<sup>th</sup> century, faceted jewels appeared in the rings.

Most civilization utilized rings in some form, including the early Egyptians, Greek and Romans. To date there has been three cultures discovered that did not make use of rings: the Assyrians (based on portraits and sculptures of the time), the Celts of Ireland and the Eskimos, as Admiral Robert Peary discovered on one of his first Arctic trips.



Outside  
the  
Box!

A synopsis of last  
month's meeting

Last month, we enjoyed the evening making rings with nickel wire and various types of beads. Kerry Ann and Kerry demonstrated a ring design that Martha Stewart taught to children using pipe cleaners!

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At the Celinka show the club table generated \$370.00 in revenue from cracking the geodes!

### Continued: Rings

The Eskimos do not wear rings due to their severe climate in which the slightest of pressure of a ring could impede circulation.

The first practical use of rings was the signet or seal ring. They developed into full use under the Romans as a method of marking official parchment documents, taking the place of a man's personal signature. The signet ring carried over in the Elizabethan times, for every merchant had his own distinctive seal with which to mark his bales of merchandise.

One of the best known rings is the Irish Claddagh - a symbol of love, friendship and loyalty. Claddagh was a fishing village on the Western edge of Galway, a city in Ireland.

Richard Joyce was very young when he embarked on a voyage to the West Indies but was captured by a pirate and sold in Algiers as a slave to a goldsmith. He worked there as the goldsmith's apprentice from about 1676 to 1690 when he was released on the orders of William III. The Goldsmith for whom he was working was so impressed by his work that he offered his daughter's hand in marriage to him as well as half his property to try and get him to stay but Joyce refused the offer and returned to Galway. There he carried on business as a highly successful goldsmith until his death. It has been suggested that Richard Joyce was the first goldsmith to make what is now the famous Irish Claddagh ring, but no-one knows for sure if that is true.

If the Claddagh is worn on the right hand with the crown inward (toward the wrist) the heart is not yet committed. If it is worn on the right hand with the crown turned outward the wearer is committed to someone.

Finally if it is worn on the left hand with the crown outward it means "Let our love and friendship reign forever, never to be separated."

**2013 Joint Show: EFMLS Convention  
Suffolk Gem & Mineral & Island Rock Hounds:**

**When: June 27, 2013**

**Where: Sheraton Long Island  
110 Motor Pkwy  
Hauppauge**

Each club has or will be designating one person to each position. The Suffolk Club presently has the following personnel assigned to the outline committees, but we still need more volunteers for this large commitment:

**Show Chair-open**

Show Treasurer – Roberta Besso

Dealer Chair – Elaine Casani

Set-up- Ron Casani

Security- Rob Risi

Publicity-Marty Besso

Admissions: **open**

Club: Kerry Dicker

Children's Activities-**open**

At our last meeting we discussed Kerry approaching several candidates for the open positions. I hope you decide to join us!

**December SGMC 2012 Show:**

**Venue: TBD**

**(If you have any ideas please speak to Elaine or Marty)**

**Enjoy Your Summer!**

See you at the Picnic!

Don't forget about Herkimer.....