



UPCOMING SHOWS & Events

July 13 th -14 th	10-6/10-4	Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse SRC @ Onondaga Community College
July 20 th	11:00-?	Picnic – Hecksher State Park Field 1
July 27-28	10:00-5:00	31 st Annual Gem, Mineral Jewelry & Fossil Show Mattituck –Cutchogue High School
August 10 th		Springfield Bus Trip

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 2013

THE CONGLOMERATE

The Monthly Bulletin 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 -	Eileen Godwin	631-623-6862
Secretary -	Kerry Ann Hilliard	631-277-0994	Director -	Cheryl Neary (cell)	516-449-5341
Liaison -	Charles Runko (cell)	631-486-4549	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.



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

JUNE: Kerryann Hilliard
Trudy Kusche
Nick Mercurio
Mario Serrano
Barbara Gustafson
Michele Pasciuiti
Mark Chanin
Stephanie Iaccino
Agridina Ruiz

JULY: Denise Buss
Elaine Casani
Jean Coleman
Mary Correale
Joan Neary
Fred Kruger
Jenine Saccent

AUGUST: Amanda Bielskas
John Coleman
Elaine Colon
Bruce Winston

Field Trips:

Springfield Bus Trip: Saturday, August 10th.
If interested please see KerryAnn. Payment in full (\$38.00)
will be required.

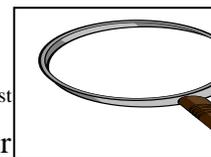
We have been invited to visit
Old Mine Park in Trumbull, Ct.
By Skip & Ruth Gray
(attendees at the EFMLS
Convention). If interested see Cheryl.



2013 UPCOMING MEETINGS

Save the Dates!

June 17th -Lecture-
No meetings July-August
Picnic - July 20th (Raindate - July 21st)
Meetings resume in September



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Mark Chanin Jason Cruz
Stephanie Iaccino Diane Peterson
Jean Bianca Paul Robert Allen
Linda Zisa

This Month's Meeting: 06/17/12

Club member Ruth Coffey will be presenting a lecture
on the impact of Super Storm Sandy on the Fire Island
and the lighthouse.

Margaret Hasting: Herkimer Diamond Claim

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

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.

Picnic Time @ Hecksher State Park!

Saturday, July 20th (Rain date: Sunday, July 21st)
Field 1 @ 11:00am

Plan on bringing chairs and a dish to share.
Notify Roberta (631.666.8023) with your choice of a
dish!

Let the Adventures Begin!

By the time you receive this bulletin (clubs have bulletins, the federation prints a newsletter), hopefully you all had time to recuperate and recharge!

I would like to dedicate this column to all the volunteers, because without you there would be no show.

Both clubs have the similar mission statements. I have reprinted ours from our cover page:

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

Our shows have proven that we are fulfilling the mission statement. I personally received a variety of accolades for our clubs for the show.

Again, the credits are for all the volunteers!

At this time, I would also like to acknowledge several people who not only 'stepped up to the plate', but gave it their all.

Kerry Dickers-Show Chairperson

Elaine Casani- Dealer Chair

Roberta Besso -Show Treasurer

Kerry Ann Hilliard- Security (dedicated- sick as a dog & there!) & Club Table Chair

Denise Buss- Admission Chair

Eileen Godwin- Children's Activity Chair

Charley Runko- Showcase Chair

Marty Besso- Publicity Chair

Ron Casani- Set-up Chair

Behind the scenes, many thanks to Robin Wiley- she did a great job in the signs, programs, scavenger hunt boxes.....

Throughout the course of the show I heard quite a few people comment on the time requirements for such a show. For those of you who volunteered at the show, yes, it may seem a considerable amount of time, but not nearly the amount of time your Chairs have spent. Any show is a huge undertaking. Again, it is impossible for a not-for-profit to undertake such a chore without the volunteers of the organization. Again- THANKS!



Outside the BOX! A synopsis of last month's meeting

At last month's meeting, many volunteered to make the wishing well bags, one of the children's game at the joint show which is now history! Thanks to Paul for a great job while manning the wishing well! Let's fast forward- we have a show in December which we now need to prepare for. Let's start early by having volunteers sign-up. Please see Kerry!

Continued:

That brings me to the following:

I hope everyone has a better understanding for the work that both Elaine Casani and Marty Besso have been undertaking for our club for numerous years.

Both Elaine and Marty have been Show Chair and Dealer Chair for I cannot count number of years! I believe many of you got a taste of the number of hours in the past both have dedicated to the club for all the past successes of the shows.

If you have not done so already, please take the time to acknowledge all the hard work, which includes, planning and finding the venue; advertising, placing signs; finding dealers..... and more!

What amazes me is all the energy they have! Thanks to Elaine and Marty for all the hours you have spent to make this club and our shows a huge success!

I would also like to acknowledge Gary Vorwald and Chris Marotta as volunteer lecturers- both wonderful presentations.

Additionally, thanks to Gary Vorwald's Science Olympiads who spent hours identifying and answering questions.

Thanks to all you great volunteers!!

2013 Joint Show: EFMLS Convention

The EFMLS Convention 2013

by Ruth Gray (Connecticut)

Though this is not essential information, my husband Skip and I were celebrating our 40th Wedding Anniversary at the EFMLS convention on Long Island. About 10 years ago, we joined several rock and mineral clubs in Connecticut. We were about to become empty nesters. All of our friends suggested that we find a hobby that we could share - something to keep us together once our son was on his own. You guessed it! We really took to rock collecting!

Celebration is in our blood. There is nothing ordinary in our lives. Everything becomes an event, a reason to celebrate life. The Port Jefferson Ferry had us disembarking before 3 PM on Friday, the 31st of May. About an hour later we arrived at the Long Island Sheraton on Motor Parkway. The lobby felt like the inside of a cavern, resembled one too, with all of its industrial decor in wood, stone, and metal, not to mention the dim lighting and abounding neutrals on every surface.

From the start, the people were welcoming. One of the Executive Board members brought a chair to me when she saw me standing on the edge of the presentation area for the Cracker Barrel! As with other like conventions, the focus was on the success of every member club in the EFMLS. Delegates and others are there to serve and grow clubs in every way possible.

Meeting the Executive Board: The men and women who volunteer are knowledgeable and devoted to our hobby. The hours they put into their respective duties is outstanding. They do it because of their desire to keep excellence and accountability at the forefront of collecting and sharing.

A major theme: People are the reason for the ongoing enjoyment of Rock and Mineral Clubs. The greatest desire we have at present is to learn how to appeal to younger generations to keep the clubs viable. We happen to have quite a number of younger folks joining us in our home clubs. Sharing our successes in this area and making suggestions through our organization is crucial to the continuation of our hobby.

The Long Island RockHounds and Suffolk Gem & Mineral Club made their joint show a wonderland of opportunity for all ages. The location, mentioned above, was totally accessible to everyone. On the way to the Show area, they strategically placed kid-friendly activities (a lot of adults availed themselves of these, too), including a sluice! Energetic, happy people oversaw the games and sluice. Inside, were dealers whose wares appealed to every age and stage of collecting and interest.

Supporting clubs had tables on Day one of the Show. Opportunities were constant for attendees to speak with, ask questions of, pick up free materials from, and purchase materials from club representatives - Presidents on down to members. We brought home a supply of materials from the Manhattan club to use and utilize as a springboard for new ideas for our clubs.

At the Awards Banquet, we were introduced to two Stony Brook University students whose presentations sparked interest and questions. They are recipients of scholarships provided by the AMFS (the parent organization of the EFMLS). These were young adults, whose educations are aiming them toward lifework in geological/rock and mineral fields. Their professor, Dr. Gil Hanson, not only spoke to us about the geology of Long Island, but also offered us a field trip to the North Shore at Caumsett State Park.

At the Webmaster's breakfast, we learned the benefits available to each and every club from the EFMLS. Their website offers us information for our bulletins and meetings ad infinitum. All we have to do is avail ourselves of it!

Many thanks to all of the Island RockHounds and Suffolk Gem & Mineral Club members whose warm welcome and encouragement, made the EFMLS 2013 Convention a memorable event for us.

Caumsett State Park Field Trip

by Ruth Gray

"Be in the lobby at 9:15 AM," Cheryl had said. Sure enough, she and Nancy were there to take us to Caumsett State Park. Upon reaching our destination, we met Naturalist Virginia along with Dr. Gil Hanson and his wife Janet. We were excited. The rain stopped. The skies cleared, and we were walking along the North Shore. Never before have we seen anything like this!

Hurricane Sandy devastated this area last autumn (2012). New York State crews completed clean-up of the shoreline just three days ago. Immediately, we could see the cliffs and their incredible formations caused by advancing glaciers in the past. They thrust upward their clay, sand, soil and rocks on what is now the North Shore of Long Island. Impressive!!! Being led and taught by Dr. Hanson is incomprehensible. He loves this area of the Island. That is clear.

He is seeing new material revealed as we advance. In his quiet and steady voice, he points out formations and explains how they came to be here. Using words like topsets, foresets, and bottom sets, Dr. Hanson shows us geology on-site. We see the till and loess at the top of the area. Below are the glacial outwash, sand and gravel. Occasionally we see immense rocks and boulders - just appearing through the loess or having fallen somewhere between there and the shoreline itself. In Long Island Sound are massive boulders - many taller than we are.

Colorful! The Cretaceous sediments that were pushed up appear to be cemented together. All of the pebbles and stones that are part of that material are made from quartz. Amazing! What a beautiful thing to behold! We handle these rocks, turning them over and over, sharing them with our peers, discussing their contents and how beautiful they are.

Most people never have opportunities like this once they are out of college. Here we are stopping to look closely at desk-size boulders, outcroppings of clay and gullies containing recently washed-out material. Dr. Hanson uses two hand tools to clear away small amounts of material revealing colorful clay formations. We suddenly realize that we are approaching cliff swallows whose nests are burrowed into the clay formations! Dr. Hanson had told us about this. Seeing this with our own eyes has a wondrous effect on each of us. We are mesmerized. We are spellbound. We are in awe.

Time encroaches upon us. We walk away - richer and aware of something at once old and new, thankful for something to treasure for the rest of our lives.

Many thanks to Dr. Gil Hanson for conducting this field trip and sharing his passion for rock and mineral formations with us.

Congratulations to Kerry Dicker for placing in the Webmaster's Competition!

Since Kerry has become our club's webmaster she has enthusiastically been updating the site. For those of you who are not acquainted with the website, Kerry only became involved in less than a year and strives to keep it 'up to the minute'. For someone with no experience with the web, she has achieved a great accomplishment!

I personally have been remised in searching our site to find out vital information; such as dates of meetings and the evening programs. Take the time and review the site- it changes after every meeting- and enjoy!

This column will be dedicated to AFMS and EFMLS information:

This years' Cracker Barrel session at the EFMLS Convention concentrated on increasing membership and disseminating information to the membership. There are many programs offered by both organizations.

Please note- the Cracker Barrel is just a name for the informal program, there are neither crackers or barrels!

We as a club have been remised in not utilizing the programs, and I hope in the future, starting NOW that we can encourage the participation in both our federation and our parent federation.

Your liaison, Charley Runko can share with you the monthly information.

However, you too can search the websites for information and the current newsletters. For your convenience I have enclosed the information: (note: the same email address- easy to remember!)

AMFS www.amfed.org

EFMLS www.amfed.org