

UPCOMING SHOWS

2016

July 5th

Special Meeting of NYMC

Guest Speaker: Dr. Eric Scerri (See page 3)

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



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

June 2016

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
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Asst. treasure	Joe LaBarca	631-242-5290	Director –Debbie Winston	516-238-8370
Secretary –	Rebecca LaBarca	516-768-4438	Director& Historian –Kerry Ann Hilliard	631-277-0994
Liaison –	Cheryl Neary	516.449.5341 cell		

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!

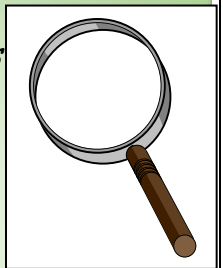
UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS: -

2016

June 20 - Annual Bragging Rights
Bring in your favorite

1. Self-collected and / or
2. Purchased

Rock, mineral, fossil Or -
Lapidary work-
Convince us why yours is the best!



June, July & August Birthdays!

June:	July:	August:
Trudy Kusche	Denise Buss	Elaine Colon
Nick Mercurio	Elaine Casani	Amy Gerald
Mario Serrano	Jean Coleman	
Agripina Ruiz	Mary Correal	
	PJ Gerald	
	Lucy Jackson	
	Fred Kruger	
	Joan Neary	

New Date for Picnic:

Saturday, July 23rd

Rain date:

Sunday, July 24th

Please pay for the **Springfield** trip this month if you have not as of yet!

Date: Saturday, August 13th

Cost: \$ 38.00 for all. Members in good standing will be refunded \$18.00 on the bus. No shows for bus do not receive a refund.

July15-17: Herkimer Festival Trip (car pool). Anyone interested let Cheryl know so that we can inform LIMAGS

Message from the Prez:

This year the Board has been extremely busy and we were tasked with updating the by-laws which has not been done in numerous years.

The initial review took place last Fall and we were hoping to have them posted to you before our new year in February.

As you are quite aware, that did not take place! The Board voted unanimously to accept the new by-laws at our May Board meeting. As per the by-laws a copy of the revised by-laws are attached to this newsletter.

Other news is that Debbie Winston has set-up a Facebook page for the club!

Once again I am returning to Wildacres in North Carolina. I am planning on driving down on Sunday, September 4th to Charlotte. I hope if you cannot make it this year that you consider it for the future!

Let the Adventures Begin!

You are invited to attend the special meeting of the New York Mineralogical Club:

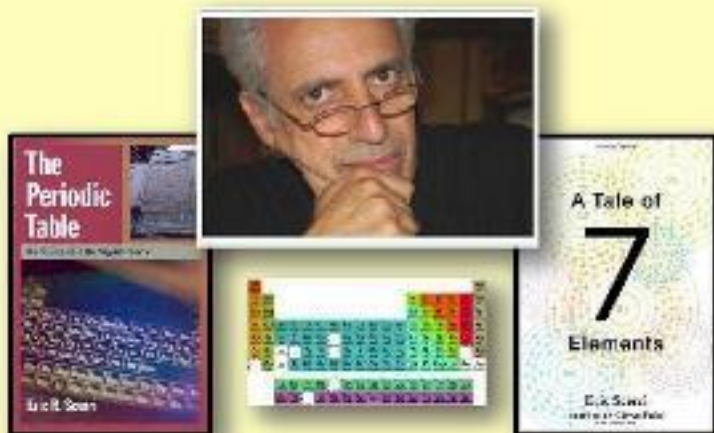
NYMC Meeting Lecture

The Periodic Table

Its Story and Its Significance

Dr. Eric Scerri

Author, Chemist, Professor, Philosopher



Tuesday Evening, July 5, 2016
Holiday Inn Midtown – 6:30 p.m.

Eric R. Scerri is a chemist, writer and philosopher of science. He is a lecturer at the University of California, Los Angeles; and the founder and editor-in-chief of *Foundations of Chemistry*, an international peer-reviewed journal covering the history and philosophy of chemistry, and chemical education.

He is a world authority on the history and philosophy of the periodic table and is the author and editor of several books in this and related fields.

Dr. Scerri was a participant in the 2014 PBS documentary film, *The Mystery of Matter*.

Dr. Scerri received his BSc from Westfield College (University of London), his Certificate in Postgraduate Study from the University of Cambridge, his MPhil from the University of Southampton, and his PhD from King's College London.



Outside The Box

THANK YOU CAROL (Pesek)-
I am sure everyone had a great time with the making of their gem trees!

Carol provided written instructions, as well as, teaching members the method for creating the trees.

Remember, all trees are different in nature!

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 Cheryll!)

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!

Wildacres In the Fall

by Steve Weinberger, Wildacres Committee Chair

What? You've never attended an EFMLS Wildacres Workshop? Do you realize what you've missed over the past 44 years? The Wildacres Retreat is located on its own private mountain, just off the Blue Ridge Parkway in Little Switzerland, NC (about an hour north of Asheville). It's run by a private not-for-profit foundation dedicated, like our Eastern Federation, to the betterment of human relations. The generosity of the Wildacres Foundation makes it possible for approximately 90 non-profit organizations, such as EFMLS, to use the facility for a variety of workshops. This May for example, we're sharing the campus with a group of cellists and members of a consortium of scientists, mathematicians and engineers. Other groups invited to use the facility include potters, astronomers, writers, story tellers, religious groups and more.

Each EFMLS Workshop features talks by a guest "speaker-in-residence". For fall, we'll have Alfredo Petrov, a well-known mineralogist and world traveler who will share some of his stories about minerals and travels to unusual places. Not to worry, Alfredo's talks will not be technical and will be of interest even to the non-mineral oriented person. He's an interesting, fun and entertaining guy who has recently had a new mineral, "Alfredopetrovite", named after him. The week includes six talks by Alfredo, about 20 hours devoted to classes, an auction, tailgate and show and tell session where everyone can see what participants have produced in classes during the week, and a mid-week Activity Day where you can go exploring or participate in the organized field trip if you wish. There is also sufficient time to relax on the wonderful porches or patio that overlook the Blue Ridge Mountains. Perhaps one of the best things about a week at an EFMLS Wildacres Workshop is that thanks to the Wildacres Foundation which underwrites a major portion of the cost for the week, tuition for the week is only \$400 per person. This fee covers room and board, gratuity for the Wildacres Retreat staff and access to one or two of the classes being offered during the week. Instructors volunteer their time and talents to teach our classes. Most have been with us before and are outstanding!

For fall, our line-up of classes is:

4-day classes:

- Faceting - Steve Weinberger
- Jewelry Design - Brenda Smith
- Polymer Clay - Barbara McGuire

2-day classes:

- Fused Glass (both basic & advanced)- Becky Edmundson
- Opal Cutting (both basic and advanced) - Cheryl Kasper
- Roadside Geology - Virginia Meador
- Uncomplicated Mineral Photography - Virginia Meador
- Silversmithing (both basic & intermediate) - Richard Meszler
- Wirewrapping (both basic & intermediate) - Pamm Bryant

For a description of each of the classes, visit the EFMLS Wildacres Workshop website. You can find registration forms there as well.

I'm looking forward to seeing you at the fall EFMLS Wildacres Workshop, September 5 - 11, 2016.

Editor's Note: I am going to Wildacres for the Fall semester. My biggest problem is figuring out what to take!

Hope to see you there!

How Rock Collecting Helps Kids: Our Responsibility

by Dr. Gary Lohman, Juniors Chair

EFMLS News – May 2016

Nearly every rockhound I meet is eager to explain how their interest in rocks, minerals, or fossils started when they were young. In fact, prior to the development of an increasingly media-driven society, hobbies like rock collecting were an important part of both personal and social development. With all the time spent watching television, playing video games, and tethered to social media, the sad reality is that many of today's children have never experienced the rewards of a hobby. To be clear, a hobby is not the same as organized, adult-directed, after-school activities such as Little League. Hobbies are an important means of self-discovery and expressions of personal accomplishment that help build self-esteem and resilience. Working on hobbies teaches children how to learn about things, how to set goals, make decisions, and develop a variety of problem-solving skills. Hobbies often mature into lifelong interests and sometimes even careers. Consider how thirty-plus years ago almost every kid in your neighborhood had some sort of hobby, whether it was trading baseball cards, mounting butterflies, or collecting things like stamps, or rocks. A young colleague recently expressed the financial motivation behind his degree in electrical engineering and his current interest in pursuing a master's degree in business to make him more promotable. This was in stark contrast to an older colleague, also with a degree in electrical engineering, who expressed his start in "building radios" as a child and now dissatisfied with a career that increasingly pulls him away from his technical "roots." Similar to the way trees need solid roots to grow tall and stand strong, kids need hobbies to help them develop life-long "roots" as well. As rockhounds, we already recognize the value of our hobby, so how do we help children today develop and sustain hobbies? Having participated in events with a variety of displays and demonstrations at a number of venues with children over past years, I am repeatedly reassured that kids still have innate curiosities for which hobbies form a way of tapping into. The child-like curiosity that is still awakened in us as adults through the pursuit of our hobbies is a necessary ingredient. Fortunately, geology remains fashionable among kids. Collecting rocks is interesting and learning how those rocks are geological windows into our own past is even better. Kids love to recognize patterns in nature. Cultivating a hobby takes "spare time," which is arguably the first casualty of media-driven distractions and tightly packed schedules of organized activities in today's world. Consider that by age 15, the average child has spent more time watching television than sitting in a classroom. Add to that the addictive-like effects of video games and the tether-like effect of social media and texting, and one quickly recognizes that potential "spare time" is rapidly consumed by a craving for stimulation - even to a point of over-stimulation. Childhood is followed by the adult pressures of making a living with increasingly demanding schedules. If one never learned how to appreciate and make use of "spare time" with hobbies as a child, it's not likely to be an integral part of adult life either. Hence, the first challenge is making room for "spare time." Un-tethering the child, even for a little while, from his or her media-fed environment does not have to involve draconian parental controls accompanied by screaming and door slamming. The key is to (1) set an example by making time ourselves as adults and (2) taking advantage of that time to tap into a shared child-like curiosity. This is where family-oriented events like rock shows, county fairs, STEM expos, etc. can be very important venues to help explore interests together. This is also where it is important for our clubs and their memberships to continue hosting and participating in such events. In today's financially-obsessed world, it is easy to forget that the real "value" of these events is not measured by their profitability in a purely monetary sense. The last STEM expo in which I participated with a 10x10 blackout tent filled with UV lights and fluorescent minerals captivated the interest of children and their parent's innate curiosity alike! Asking questions together, many became interested in the glowing rocks and how they could get involved also. By setting the example as role models and being prepared to provide encouragement and guidance, there is still room for hobbies in today's world. The good news is that activities like this psychologically free kids from being merely glued to computers and cell phones all day! When given the chance, children embrace the opportunity to get back to those interests we used to call "hobbies!" For want of spare time, a hobby may never develop. It takes a village as helping to make that "spare time" reality involves the time and effort of our clubs and its members supporting each other, parents, and children. The reward is that by helping a child to find a hobby, a talent may be born and a life enriched. In future articles, I intend to further explore how to inspire and guide children of different ages within the hobby.

To help you with your “Homework”

Please answer the following questions and return to Cheryl the night of our June meeting or via email at ciervo.neary@gamil.com prior to the meeting. Everyone that hands in their copy will receive an extra raffle ticket.

The following questions pertain to Earth Sciences for all you jokesters!

Is there a theme you would like to use for our December show and the newsletter for Sept.2015-June 2016?

If yes, what is it:_____

Is there a particular topic you would like discussed in the newsletter?

Topic:_____

How did you become involved with rocks, minerals, fossils & lapidary?

What activities at the club are you most interested in?

What topics from guest speakers are you interested in hearing?

Would you be interested in helping with a Pebble Pups club of the SGMC? _____

Name:_____