



UPCOMING SHOWS

2014

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

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 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 – Martin Besso	631-666-8023
Treasurer -	Roberta Besso	631-666-8023		
Co-treasurer	Ron Casani	631.567.3342	Director – John King	
Secretary –	Cheryl Neary	516.449.5341 cell	Director – Charles Runko)	631-486-4549
Liaison –	Charles Runko	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.



June:
Nick Mercurio
Mario Serrano
Agrisina Ruiz

July:
Denise Buss
Elaine Casani
Jean Coleman
Mary Correale
PJ Gerdali
Lucy Jackson
Fred Kruger
Joan Neary

August:
Amanda Biekskas
John Coleman
Elaine Colon
Amy Gerdali
Mary Weippert

Happy Birthday

Wishes!

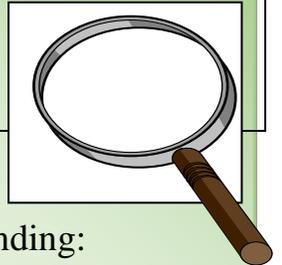
May Your Year Be

Filled

with Hugs & Kisses!

UPCOMING MEETINGS: 2014

June 16th - Lecture
by Chris Visco



Member in Good Standing:
Attends (4) Meetings
Contributes Time to Club Functions:
ie/ Club Show
Celinka Show- Club Table
Sign up for Refreshments (Monthly)
Ask what else you can do!

⋮
Picnic Time-

Saturday July 12th

Please join us at Heckscher State
Park!

Please call Roberta and let her
know what dish you are bringing!

**Please join us this month for an
exciting evening with Chris Visco –
Chris will lecture us on dinosaurs
found in New York!**

(I am not talking about our members!)

Every year the SGMC hosts a picnic in which the hamburger, hot dogs / rolls, condiments, along with fresh corn on the cob, and drinks are supplied by club. There is an informal swap and sale of rocks & fossils- Please plan on attending with your family- simply let Roberta know how many to expect!



Let the Adventures Begin!



Sharks! The name alone can cause panic especially when one is at the beach...however, these marine predators support the health of oceans world-wide! The majority of the skeleton of sharks or chondrichthyans, is composed of cartilage, with the main exceptions being the teeth and dermal ossicles, which usually enameloid and vertebral centra, which do calcify. Teeth are the most common part of the shark that fossilizes; however, it is not uncommon to also find individual vertebral centra in the same sediments.

Throughout the lifetime of a shark, teeth are shed. The number can range in the thousands! Sharks can use approximately 20,000 teeth in a lifetime! Fossilized teeth occur when teeth sink to the seafloor and are quickly covered by sediment. Rapid burial is important for fossilization. The sediments act to protect the teeth from weathering, abrasion and scavenging that could occur if the teeth were exposed. Burial limits exposure to oxygen and bacteria responsible for decay.

Fossil shark teeth occur through a process known as permineralization, in which water seeps down through the sediments and over the teeth. The water carries a variety of minerals that are deposited into the open pores in the teeth. Silica and calcite are the most common minerals; however, other local minerals can be deposited as well, and react with trace amounts of oxygen, creating a multitude of colors ranging from blue/grey to black to orange/red to white to green.

There are a number of ways to determine if a shark tooth is a fossil or modern. Color can be an indicator-fossils usually are darker in color. Where the tooth is found is another indicator- if found on the beach today- it would be a good indicator that sharks have been in the vicinity!



Outside the Box

Last month members wire-wrapped a shark tooth! Thanks again to Kerry Ann for providing the instruction for the nights' activity!

All who participated went home with a lovely new tooth!



Sharks are born with a complete set of teeth and never run out of teeth. If one is lost, another spins forward from the rows and rows of backup teeth. Typically a shark loses a tooth a week. Sharks average out to 15 rows of teeth in each jaw. Although most have 5 and then there is the bull shark that has 50 rows of teeth.

Sharks have the most powerful jaws on the planet. Unlike most animals' jaws, both the sharks' upper and lower jaws move.

Each type of shark has a different shaped tooth depending on their diet.

The tooth of the megalodon range from 3 1/2 – 7 inches long and can weigh more than a pound!

This article is from the American Geode Webpage:

For all members, Charles Snider is a member of the Island Rockhounds and the Nassau and New York City clubs. He, along with Joe Krabak, are the founders of American Geode. Please take the time to view their website



"Every Geode is a mystery until it's cracked...and then it is a wonder"

The Beauty, the Fun, and the Rockhound Experience that is Wildacres

on MAY 26, 2014 by CHARLES S in GEOLOGY, UNCATEGORIZED

When Joe called me about Wildacres, I had never heard of the place. He did not know much but anecdotal background from our friends at the Nassau Mineral Club. We did some research, got permission and week long passes from our respective girlfriends, and we were on a roadtrip! The drive from New York City to Wildacres can take a day, but if you plan a ahead, stay overnight in nearby Asheville, North Carolina and make a journey of it. We found a great bar scene, numerous local beers on tap, and varied menu at a pub and brewery called "Wicked Weed." If we did not have to hit the road the following morning for Wildacres, we'd have shut down the place.

Now the directions to Wildacres may be confusing, as the location is remote, but once you find it, you exclaim to yourself "Wow! This place IS remote." The grounds, the trails, the layout of the cabins makes the grounds very walkable, the temperature is mild, the humidity is low, and the air is clean.

Looking back on the week, the quality of the education makes you realize you paid a tenth of what others pay for the mineral and gemology education. Joe and I are both self-taught geologists, and rockhounds, so the week-long lectures by professional dealer Leonard Himes was perfect. From how to rockhound and find minerals, to how to clean your minerals, to tutorials on what equipment you can, and should, or should not buy, to what to do with your collection once it outgrows its space,,,,,this was a high-quality education that took into respect that we were amateurs, some advanced, but we were not professionals. I doubt anyone was bored by any topic.

Complementing this was the faceting class. Joe and I both spoke how we could not have been luckier to have the group we did all working independently, yet together on our respective citrines. In the end we crafted a finer stone than most found in retail stores, and for self-taught geologists/gemologists, we both left feeling like we had completed and passed a college course on gem-cutting.

The camaraderie was fun, warm, full of laughs, we were all in the same boat together for the week. From the chance to sell, buy, barter and trade with the fellow campers during a tailgate, to the auction of items donated by the group, you left with as much as you gave away. Joe and I sold and donated our trademark geodes, and peridot from the Apache Mine. Feel free on your way to Wildacres to stock up on spirits, or beer or wine if that's your thing for while there is no bar there, the nearest place to buy wine or beer is a 30 minute drive. Feel free to have a glass after class, after you are done using lapidary equipment and saws.

The food was good, ranged from your chicken, beef or fish, something different each night plus an all-you-can-eat salad bar. The rooms were lodge style cabin rooms. Very nice to keep your window open at night, personal bathroom and shower, double beds were great for what little time you spent in your room.

The grounds, the lodges, the buildings are a rockhounds paradise. The dining hall has impressive gem and mineral display cases with gem and stone folk-art as well as museum quality and rare specimens.

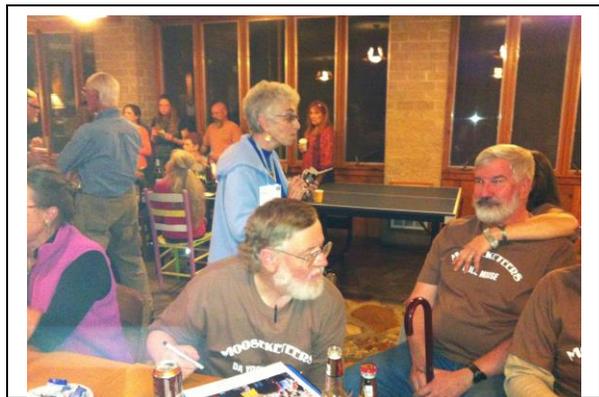
The field trip to Mitchell County for thulite and garnet was well worth the trip, and based on what you found, could pay for the trip. Now on the way there our mini-van got stuck going up the hill to the mine site, and I ordered everyone to evacuate as I was going to go down with the boat of a mini-van, but our crew got out and pushed me up the hill. Unbeknownst to our fellow rockhounds that day, on our drive back we jumped out at different outcrops and banged away with our chisels and hammers for more unique gemstones and minerals from North Carolina.

The final day was a warm farewell with our friends at “rock camp,” and a new confidence in our talent, and knowledge, and experience in gemology, rockhounding, geology, identifying and appraising gems and minerals.

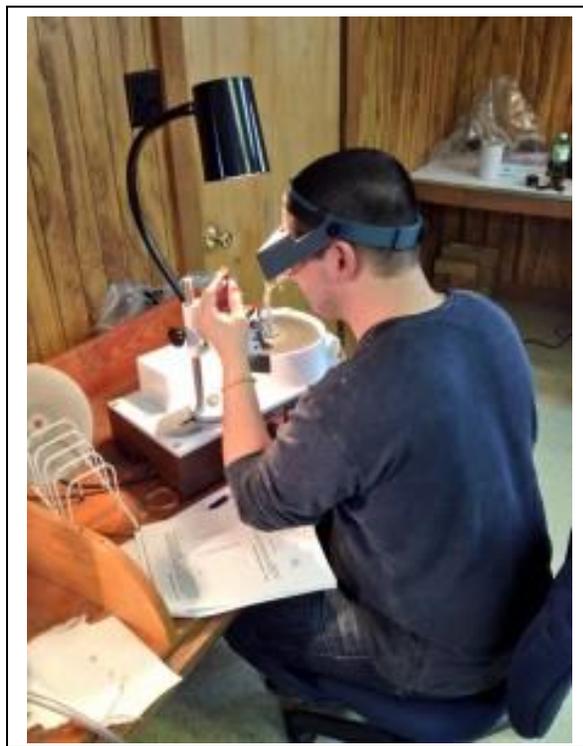
To close, if you are also self-taught geologist, gemologist or rockhound and would like a “crash course” then Wildacres is the place for you. If you are seeking a vacation to relax, enjoy clever conversation and learn a new craft, or practice a lapidary hobby of yours with expert guidance, then Wildacres is the place for you. I think we all appreciate the outdoors, the spring, and nature, and there is plenty of that at Wildacres. Thank you to the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies (EFMLS) for sponsoring, and arranging this annual spring and fall retreat.



The hard work pays off!



Enjoying everyone's company!



Joe busy at work!