

UPCOMING SHOWS

And Events - 2018

May 19-20 Celinka Show
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, No. Ocean Ave., Patchogue

May 21- 27 Wildacres, Spring Session

June 23-24 New York Summer Show, Watson Hotel, NY

EFMLS Convention & Show

The 2019 (68th) EFMLS Convention will be held in Monroe, New York, hosted by the Orange County Mineral Society. The dates for the convention and show will be Friday, May 31st to Sunday, June 2nd . .

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

March-May 2018

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 7:00pm.

Refreshments served at 7:00 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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Liaison –	Cheryl Neary	516.449.5341 cell	Director – Michael Jung	631.698.3018

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:
2017 - 2018

May 21st - Lecture - Brett Bennington
June 18th - Bragging Rites (Lucy Jackson and I will be crusing Alaska! - that's what I am bragging about!!)



Message from the Prez:

Hi all –
It has been a whirl wind of a month!

We had the bus trip to the Museum. It was a great day. Thanks to the NYC Mineral Club and Mitch Portnoy, who met our bus at the museum, and brought each of the participants a polished agate cabochon suitable for setting into a ring, bracelet or necklace – or just as a display piece!

This weekend is the Celinka Show – please support our member dealers by visiting the show! There is always a good reason to buy a rock or mineral , piece of jewelry-necklaces, rings, pins, beads – right?!

This month Dr. Brett Bennington of Hofstra will be our guest speaker!

See you Monday!

- February: Michael Correale
Kelly Dohery
Marilyn Inkle
Fran Katsar
Michael Katsar
Joe LaBarca
Pat Seostrom
- March Roberta Besso
Leona Keeley
Rebecca LaBarca
Charles Runko
Ryan Winston
- April Donna Dholakia
Kenny Klecak
Edna Randall
Linda Zisa
- May Ron Casani
Thomas Keeley
Cheryl Neary
Elizabeth Rizzo

Let the Adventures Begin!

LIMAGS Field Trips:

Springfield, MA – August 11th 2018

\$40.00 per person

Deposit of \$20.00 required –cash or check by 5/21/18

Balance due 6/18/18

More information of follow for the above

Wildacres Fall Session

Plan Ahead!

Alfredo Petrov will be the guest presenter for the Fall Session of Wildacres-

Please see last page for the classes offered for the September 3-9,2018 session

I truly love Wildacres – and I wish you all could take the week off to spend some enjoyable quality time with fellow rockhounds!

Anyone interested in helping Kenny Klecak fund his trip to the mysterious Machu Pichu, he is selling part of his collection –

Call Kenny at 631-649-5272 to make arrangements

Machu Picchu, located in Peru, built by the Incas possibly as a royal estate in the 15th century and later abandoned sits at a elevation of 7,970 feet above seal level. In 1983 Machu Pichu was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site and voted one of the New Seven Wonders of the World in a worldwide internet poll!

Pebble Pups!

Next Meeting – Saturday June 2, 2018

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm –

Dinosaurs



Outside The Box

Synopsis of Last Few Month's Meeting:

Februray: We started our year off with a fun night – Trivia Night

March: Lecture by Chris Visco – Rocks Remember

April; Hands-on with Kerry Dicker - Cattails

I am sure all had a great time!

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 Cheryl!)

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!

If you know of any child interested in joining a Pebbles Pup Club

Please have them contact either

Robin Wiley at rwiley@optonline.net

Or Cheryl Neary at ciervo.neary@gmail.com

Museum of Natural History Field trip:

Joe LaBarca:

The American Museum of Natural History bus trip today was interesting, informative and exhausting. Thankfully, at the end of the day, our bus was waiting just outside the museum exit. We went to five special museum events today. Most interesting was the Butterfly Room. This was a closed area with thousands of butterflies with beautiful coloring. We waited for a butterfly to land on my hand which ultimately happened with a little help of orange juice on my finger tips. Pictures and video keep this memory. The last special event was the planetarium. Today's show was on 'Dark Matter'. This matter and energy make up 97% of our universe. As the name implies, this matter is unseen and referred to as dark matter. The planetarium show is always a delight and informative. A great day for all.

Rebecca LaBarca:

My Adventures on Earth Day:

Taking a bus to the AMNH was a nice relaxing start to the day. The best part about the day was that our trip included every special exhibit in the museum for an affordable price. As an added bonus I kept bumping into friends from the gem club. We started our journey under the ocean by learning about current technology used to learn about creatures that seem so alien to us land animals. We moved on to find out about our senses. I was glad that this exhibit included more than an elementary level tour. A perfect add on to this included a visit to the butterfly exhibit. All of us tried to snap pictures like crazy and then finally just gave up so we could truly enjoy the sight of butterflies flying all around and even on us. Intermission included an overpriced lunch at the cafe but it was quickly forgotten as we moved on to see the 3D movie called "Amazon Adventures". This story followed Henry Bates from London as he goes to the Brazilian Amazon Rainforest. Bates discovered many organisms that mimicked other organisms that were toxic. He believed to his core that these creatures must've developed the ability to match the toxic organisms. Eventually we find that Bates helped provide Darwin with proof for his theory of evolution. Then we went to the Rose Center to see a planetarium show about dark matter. The show provided us with a brief history of how we discovered proof of the Big Bang (cosmic background radiation first discovered by the horn telescope), then the fact that the universe is expanding (redshift of other stars) and finally showed us how there is some matter that we are unable to "see" but the amount of mass out there proves the existence of "dark matter". Furthermore dark energy seems to be pushing the expansion of the universe to faster rates than before. After that show many of us wandered into the Gottesman Hall of Planet Earth to admire the various forms of rocks and volcano activity. As we finished our day we all piled on to the comfy bus to be driven home.

Joe Kuri:

While I had liked all of the special exhibits of our recent trip to the American Museum of National History by far my favorite exhibit had been the "Unseen Oceans". Of course the high tech features of the this particular exhibit was the seashore animation as you walked through the entranceway to this exhibit and the shark's tank animation where you could watch and see continually moving sea creatures just like a real aquarium were very enjoyable, but I found the most interesting part was just how much we have advanced with our deep sea exploration. With approximately 70% of our earth's surface being comprised of water, in the past we have always to had our knowledge of the oceans had been limited due to its depth. However, this exhibit showed some of the robotic controlled submersibles which have been designed to overcome that barrier and are now able to withstand the most tremendous confining pressure of these waters. This exhibit showed us the different type of undersea vessels being utilized as well as videos showing what the ocean floor looked like at different depths, both the topography as well as the different life forms. And some of the deep sea creatures were quite different from any undersea life we had ever seen in the more shallow waters. Even photography was taken down at the bottom of the Marianna trench, the deepest part of our ocean at around 7 miles which I found to be simply amazing!

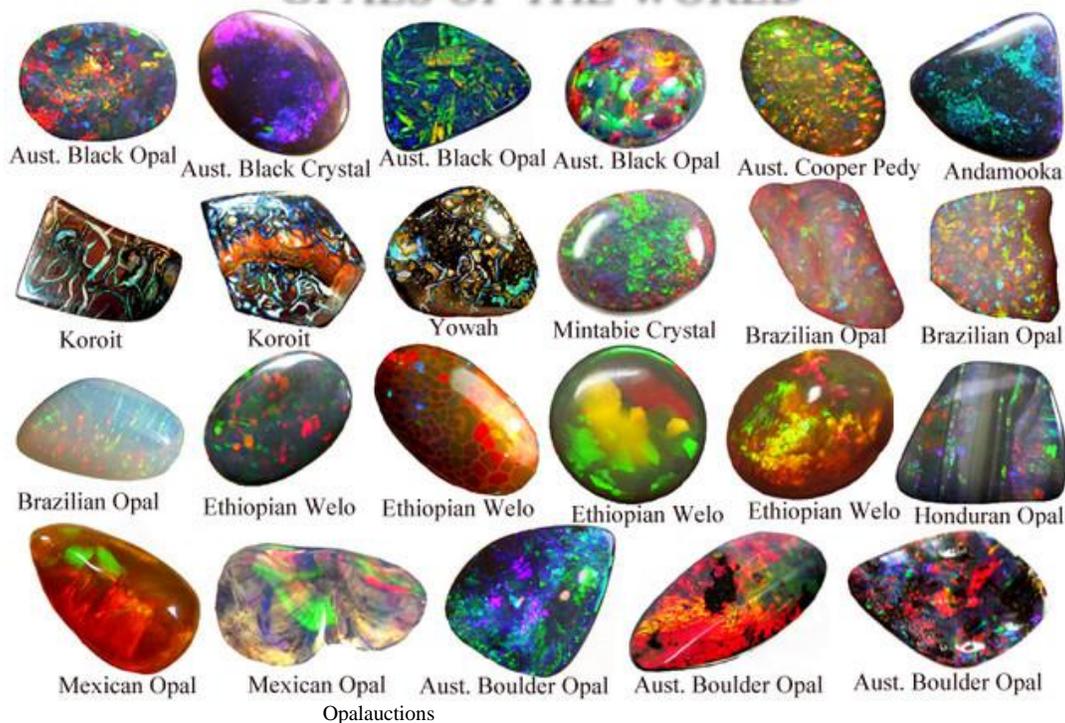
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A Few Words About Opals

By Nick Mercurio

OPALS OF THE WORLD

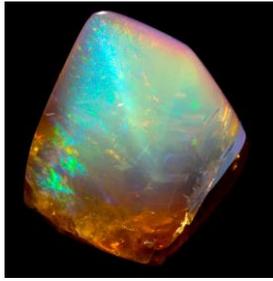
(C) Opalauctions 2013



An opal is an amorphous stone, found in veins and seams of volcanoes, deposits from hot springs and in sediments. Opals contain water (5-20% by weight) in a silica gel, resulting in physical properties that vary considerably.

Physical Properties

Crystal System	Amorphous
Chemical Formula	SiO ₂ * nH ₂ O
	Hydrous silicon dioxide
Color	White, yellow, orange, red, green, blue
Streak	White
Cleavage	None
Fracture	Conchoidal, brittle
Mohs' Hardness	5.5-6.5
Specific Gravity	1.9-2.2
Luster	Glassy, vitreous
Translucence	Opaque, translucent, transparent
Refractive Index	1.44-1.46
Fluorescence	LW,SW Inert to many colors
Solubility	Hot salt water, hydrofluoric acid



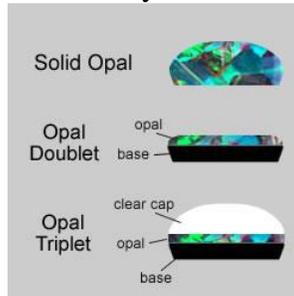
<http://www.geologyin.com>

Precious Opals

Precious opals exhibit an iridescent "play of colors", displaying all the colors of the rainbow. An electron microscope reveals that these colors, are produced by light that is diffracted by little spheres of silica gel that are layered in the stone.

When a precious opal is held in a warm hand, a more intense play of colors result.

Opal layers are often found where there are hot springs and geysers. The opal silica gel combines and flows with the hot water, filling hollows and cavities in the surrounding rock. Substantial opal layers can be produced with repeated activity. If a rich seam is formed, opal solids are mined. If the seam is a thin layer, opal slices are extracted and are used to make **triplets and doublets** for jewelry. A triplet contains 3 layers. the bottom layer is usually black basalt, the middle layer is a slice of opal, and the top layer is a cap of quartz. The quartz provides hardness, resisting scratches and chipping. A doublet, contains 2 layers



Common Opal (or Potch Opal)

Common opals are generally milky white, opaque, with a mother-of-pearl luster. without any play of color.



Fire Opal

Fire opal is a name given to transparent to translucent colorful opals, that have colors ranging from yellow to orange to red. These opals generally do not exhibit a play of colors.



Synthetic and Treated Opals

In 1974, precious opals were synthesized in the lab. Synthetic opals can be distinguished from natural opals under magnification. These opals also have a different density and porosity from natural opals and are not fluorescent under UV light.

In addition to the above, opals can be dyed, heat treated, smoke treated and treated with sugar water and sulfuric acid.

Occurrence

Opals occur throughout the world in almost all geological environments.

Opal have also been found in space. In 2008, NASA found opals on Mars.

Some significant earthly locations follow ---

Australia (over 90% of world's production), Ethiopia, United States (California, Oregon, Nevada, Idaho, North Carolina), and Mexico.

The opal silicate solution, has also replaced organic material and has opalized wood, shell, and bone.

Care

Opals contain water and are porous. Over time, they will lose moisture and tend to dry out. If this happens, the opal may lose hardness, become brittle. and develop cracks.

It may also lose its opalescence, play of color.

To prevent this from happening, opals should be kept wrapped in moist cotton and periodically immersed in water, for a few hours. Only use water, **never** oil or other chemicals.

A Few Words about Opal Folklore, Superstition, and Metaphysical Properties

While gathering information for this newsletter article, I came across material concerning the above. Some of it is presented here, for those club members that have an interest in this subject area.

Folklore from

Jewels for Me - Opal Meanings Power and History

<https://www.jewelsforme.com/opal-meaning>

One bad luck tale, involved Sir Walter Scott. His 1829 novel, Anne of Geuerstein, included a person that died, after a drop of holy water fell on her opal. The public felt that the opal, was bad luck and responsible for the death. Opal sales fell and opal prices dropped 50%. The market crash lasted over 25 years.

On the other hand, the Romans felt that opals brought good luck and that the opal, encompassed the beauty, of all of the other precious stones. The Caesars gave opals to their wives to elicit hope and purity.

Other noted beliefs from: A Brief History of Opal Superstitions

<https://www.macsopals.com/opal-guide/history-opal-superstitions/>

- White Opals are unlucky unless worn by someone born in October or with Diamonds.
- Very unlucky in an engagement ring.
- Opals will lose its shine if the owner dies.
- Renders the wearer invisible Improves eyesight.
- Will help blondes keep their hair color longer.
- Will turn pale if in the presence of poison.

- Will turn pale if in the presence of poison.
- Black Opals are lucky.
- Useless as a charm to someone who is selfish.
- If used for good, it gives the power of prophecy.

And to conclude, some

Metaphysical Properties from Crystalpedia

<https://mycrystalpedia.wordpress.com/o/opal/>

- Helps recall past incarnations
- Assist one in connecting with the Angelic Realm (Angels)
- Helps one to communicate with the Elemental Realm (Fairies)
- Helps one to develop psychic abilities
- Brings out inner-beauty
- Used to draw in money and luck
- Clears emotions to create positive vibrations
- Cleans and Energizes all Chakras
- Clears and Energizes the Aura
- Helps one speak from the heart
- Helps one to overcome self-harm
- Enhances the memory
- Carry to aid in becoming invisible
- Releases inhibitions and self doubt
- Eases the process of change/transformation
- Connects with the emotions of the wearer
- Brings clarity by amplifying one's hidden emotions/desires
- It mirrors our feelings
- Facilitates Astral Projection

Sue Ciervo-Boyle:

On Earth Day the rock club visited the American Museum of Natural History. One of my favorite parts was the exhibit named “Our Senses – An Immersive Experience”. In particular, I enjoyed the “Seeing” exhibit where the surface of the walls interacted with the lights. Some of the images on the printed wall absorbed red light, others green or blue. As the color of the lights on the wall changed, only various images were able to be seen. Even though it was the same printed pattern on the wall, different patterns emerged. Under the red light we saw snakes and the green lights we saw an elephant. It was explained that white light is a mixture of many different colors of light.

Pat Soestrom:

A Visit to the Museum on Earth Day 2018:

There is no “Best Part” of the Museum of Natural History. Every display and special exhibit is a treat to the senses. After walking for what seemed hours, my grandson, Josue, and I decided to sit for awhile. “A while” turned into an hour! We sat in the Rotunda on cold granite or marble benches and watched the visitors go by. It seemed as though every country in the world and every language spoken was represented before us. It was an impressive “Movable Feast” of humanity by the thousands. It was a memorable day! It was also Josue’s birthday!

Wildacres Spring Classes – September 3-9, 2018 – Speaker-in-Residence: Alfredo Petrov

Class & Instructor	Description
Chasing & Repousse Morning Sherrod	This is a four day class in which students will learn the ancient art of moving metal into a three dimensional shape. This is accomplished using a set of tools called chasing liners and repousse punches. Planishing tools for smoothing and texture punches for pattern background finish off the process. All this is performed on a bowl of warm German red pitch. Lab fees include the use of all tools and materials. We will learn on copper. As you become more confident in your skills you may purchase silver sheet from the instructor or bring your own. 22 gage, 24 gage if fine for sheet metal. No experience needed.
Electro-Etching I Micha Kirby	Class will learn a design driven approach to Electro-Etching, gain knowledge using multiple masking techniques, oil based marker, and vinyl resists on copper or bronze. Using a non-caustic and non-gas producing electrolyte solutions with a low voltage power supply source to initiate etching. Class will produce two pendants and a pair of earrings . Finish with tumbling. 2-day class offered 1st semester. No experience needed.
Electro-Etching II Micha Kirby	Class will learn a design driven approach to Electro-Etching, gain knowledge using multiple masking techniques, P-n-P, and photosensitive paper as resists on copper, bronze and adding a second non-caustic solution for silver. Class will produce a pendant, cuff form and finish with tumbling. 2-day class offered 2nd semester.
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, the deformation types, and how a geologist maps and interprets structures (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 experience needed.
Geology II Rob Robinson	An overview of plate tectonics, geologic history and the geology of the Blue Ridge region and its minerals. We will discuss the geologic environments hosting mineral and gem collecting sites. Come prepared to identify some of your collecting localities to be part of this exercise. Weather permitting there will be a field trip to the Blue Ridge Museum showing local rocks and geologic history and another to see local geology. (A one-mile walk over gentle trails is required for the geology trip.) Some knowledge of basic geology preferred. Please refer to Geology I for suggested tools,. Clothing and magnification. 2-day class offered second semester.
Loop-N-Loop – Basic Chuck Bruce	Students will learn the ancient technique of fusing fine silver jump rings and linking them together into a chain. We will explore 2 different patterns - Roman Fold-over and Single Fold-over (Foxtail) and students should be able finish a bracelet and pair of earrings in each. (These ancient beautiful designs are quite different from chain maille). No prior experience is needed. 2-day class offered 1st semester
Loop-N-Loop – Advanced Chuck Bruce	Students will learn the ancient technique of fusing fine silver jump rings and linking them together into a chain. We will explore 2 different patterns - Double Fold-over (Foxtail) and Sailor's Knot; students should be able to finish a bracelet and pair of earrings in each. (These ancient beautiful designs are quite different from chain maille). No prior experience is needed, but Semester 1 helpful. 2-day class offered 2nd semester.
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/bending/shaping/texturing metal, soldering, piercing and polishing. Students will receive a kit containing the necessary metals and supplies to complete these projects as well as a detailed written step by step description of each project. 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 setting & bail into which you will set a cabochon to make a pendant. Students will receive a kit containing the necessary metals and supplies to complete this project as well as a detailed written step by step description of each project. Prerequisite: Basic silversmithing experience including soldering.
Wire Wrapping – Jacqueline Campbell	Using pliers, gold-filled or sterling silver wire, assorted beads or gemstones, and a few basic wirecraft techniques, learn how to create your own fashion rings, bracelets, pendants and earrings to add that perfect accent to your jewelry wardrobe or to give as gifts. All tools and materials will be provided. Session I: Designed for beginners, participants will make an adjustable ring, two bracelets, a pendant and two pairs of earrings. 2-day class offered first semester. Session II: Designed for those with some experience (or a brave beginner) participants will make a fitted ring, two pairs of earrings, a cabochon pendant and a bracelet. 2-day class offered second semester.