

# UPCOMING SHOWS

2017

September 16 & 17 LI Fair – Old Bethpage Restoration Village  
September 23 & 24 (Island Rock Hounds Booth)

November 11 10:00 am -6:00pm NYMC – Watson Hotel (formerly Holiday Inn)  
12 11:00am – 5:00pm 440 W57th St., NYC

December 2 & 3 10:00am -5:00 pm SGMC – Our Lady Of Mt. Carmel  
No. Ocean Ave., Patchogue

## EFMLS Convention & Show

The 2017 (66th) EFMLS Convention will be held in conjunction with the 45th Annual Gem and Mineral Show in Bristol, Connecticut, hosted by the Bristol Gem and Mineral Club. The dates for the convention and show will be Friday, October 20 to Sunday, October 22. The Double Tree by Hilton Hotel is the convention "hotel," located in Bristol, about 3 miles from the show location.

*For other Gem and Mineral shows:* <http://www.amfed.org/EFMLS/calendar.htm>

[www.suffolkgem.com](http://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*

September 2017

# 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
Vice President –	Kerry Dicker	631-277-0994	Director – Lucy Jackson	631- 289-2328
Treasurer -	Roberta Besso	631-666-8023	Director - John King	631-775-7035
Asst. treasure	Joe LaBarca	631-242-5290	Director –Debbie Winston	516-238-8370
Secretary –	Rebecca LaBarca	516-768-4438	Director –Pat Seostrom	631.654.0746
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!

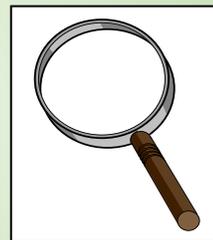
*Jessica Miller*

*Josephine Buttacy*

*Adam Aschkenas*

### UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS: 2017

*September 18<sup>th</sup> - Lecture on Opals :  
 Mitch Potroy & Dr. Vivien Gornitz*  
*October 16<sup>th</sup> - Hands-on/Lecture*  
*November 20<sup>th</sup> - Hands- on*  
*December 18<sup>th</sup> - Auction*  
*January 2018 - Holiday Dinner*



### Message from the Prez:

Sorry this is out so late –  
 Where does the time g?

Please plan on attending the meeting on Monday,  
 September 18<sup>th</sup> – it will be a wonderful evening of  
 learning and fun-

We need to start the meeting by 7:15 to allow our  
 speakers time for their presentation and for any  
 questions.

I will briefly discuss the bus trip scheduled for  
 October 14<sup>th</sup> as well-

Hope to see you on the 18<sup>th</sup> !

Cheryl Neary  
 Ciervo.neary@gmail.com

This month we will be having a special presentation by  
 Mitch Portnoy and Dr. Vivien Gornitz.  
 Dr. Gornitz is a Professor at NASA Goddard Institute  
 for Space Studies located at Columbia University.  
 Mitch is the president of the New York Mineralogical  
 Club.



A rich seam of iridescent opal encased in matrix  
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Opal>

## Let the Adventures Begin!

**Field Trips for 2017:  
October 14<sup>th</sup> - Bus Trip**

**Island Rock Hounds is sponsoring a bus trip to High Falls / Rosendale NY –**

**More information to follow:**

**Cost – Bus \$ 35.00**

**Dinner - \$ 25.00**

Spring 2018 – Plum Island - TBD

**Any suggestions????**

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

Please have them contact either

Robin Wiley at [rcwiley@optonline.net](mailto:rcwiley@optonline.net)

Or Cheryl Neary at [ciervo.neary@gmail.com](mailto:ciervo.neary@gmail.com)



## Outside The Box

Synopsis of Last Month's Meeting:

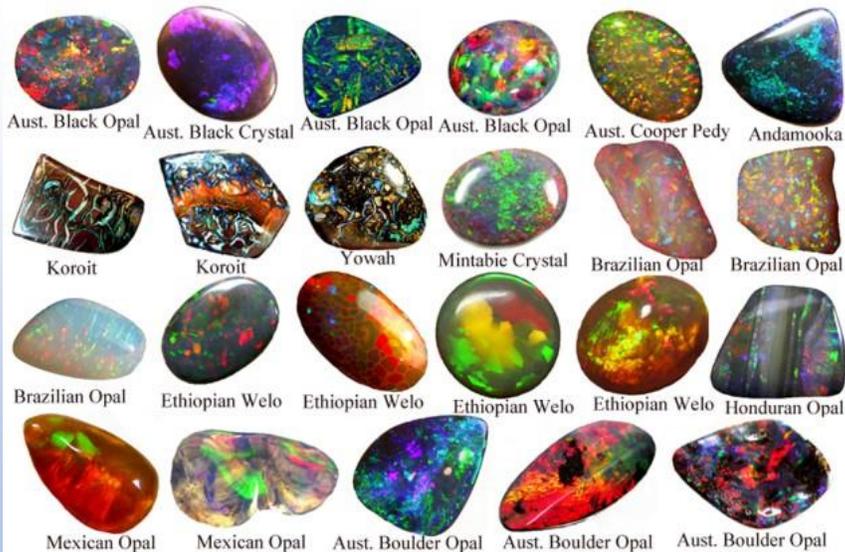
**Bragging Rights!**

Thanks to all participants and to our winners-

PS- We will be handing out the certificates in October due to time constraints in September.

### OPALS OF THE WORLD

(C) Opalauctions 2013



The above chart is from the website:

<https://www.opalauctions.com/learn/opal-information/opals-from-all-over-the-world>

### **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!**

I consider myself lucky to have had the opportunity this year to travel to Kentucky. This trip came about when Kerry (Dicker) suggested the Suffolk Gem & Mineral Club take a field trip to KY to witness the eclipse, and perhaps collect geodes. I asked Harry (Polly) of the Catawba Valley Gem & Mineral Club, if it was at all possible to arrange for our group to collect on the McClure Farm. Being that the eclipse was two weeks earlier than the CVGMC annual geode hunting field trip, I was surprised and overjoyed to hear that the CVGMC decided to change their Labor Day weekend field trip to coincide with our planned weekend. I was excited too because my sister and her husband now live in KY, not too far from our base in Harrodsburg, near Danville and I prepared plans to visit with them and to witness 98% of totality at their Science Hill residence. Both my mom and my brother ventured south to visit with them while I was out amongst the rocks.

For many of us from the north, our travels began on Thursday – allowing for a leisurely drive to our destination in Harrodsburg, while many of the CVGMC members started their trek to the west on Friday morning. I heard from Harry that James from Missouri, along with his dog Onyx and some of his interested collectors would also be meeting us – but I had no idea that they represented several states, such as CT, TX, IA, OH and IN.

Friday night after dinner at the Golf Resort, we had the first of the rocks swaps and plans to meet for the first field trip planned for Caldwell Stone Quarry, Saturday morning. The quarry is an active quarry and we were able to collect until 12pm, before the trucks started rolling in. This was followed by a geode hunt. Although we first drove to McClure's farm in Rockcastle County, due to circumstances we ended up collecting in Lincoln County at the home of Phillip Daly. This also allowed many of us to purchase some fine mineral specimens from the proud owner of the KY Rock Mobile! (and there was a bathroom at his facility – where many of the troop ventured to!)

Sunday found us at the Faircloth Mine on Mundys Landing Rd. in Woodford County – as we searched for fluorite. Mundys Landing was once a port across the Kentucky River established by Thomas Munday in the early 1800s.

On Monday, many of the northern group left for parts further south to witness 100% totality and for those that continued to collect, a trip to the river of the McClure farm for geodes. I was informed that the goats ran into the barn when the sun's rays were blocked and the roosters started crowing when the darkness receded to light.

So this is our exciting weekend in a “geode”. Now I want to share information that I found interesting about the area that we travelled through or collected at during that weekend.

As I drove down to KY and back to NY, I commented that I spotted license plates from possibly near-by states and thought to myself- you need to brush up on your geography and so here we go: Kentucky borders seven states. To the north is Indiana (IN) and Ohio (OH); to the east is West Virginia (WV) and to the southeast is Virginia; to the south is Tennessee and to the west is Missouri and the northwest is Illinois (IL). Remember this later as we discuss the geodes. Rivers define Kentucky's borders except on the south.

Driving down I-64 from West Virginia and crossing the Ohio River, the first city encountered in KY is Ashland. What you notice is the manufacturing plants to the east. What you do not know is that Ashland was settled by the Poage family from the Shenandoah Valley in 1786. The family travelled to the area, which was originally named Poage Landing via the Cumberland Gap.

The Cumberland Gap is a natural pass at an elevation of 1,640 feet, formed in the Cumberland Plateau by stream erosion. The Gap is located near the point where the states of KY, VA and TN meet, between present-day Middlesboro KY and the town of Cumberland Gap in TN. There will be more about this famous Gap later in the article(s).

In 1854 the name was changed to Ashland, after Henry Clay's Lexington estate

Note: Henry Clay was the leader of the Whig party (which upon his death disappeared but was succeeded by the Republican Party). For over forty years he served in politics; was the Secretary of State under John Quincy Adams; and the longest Speaker of the House of Representatives in the 19th century. Five times he unsuccessfully ran as a presidential candidate.

Henry Clay was known as the "Great Compromiser" for his role in the Missouri Compromise of 1820, the Tariff Compromise of 1833 and the Compromise of 1850. He is also known for the "American System" economic and political vision of America - which have been fulfilled throughout the many years.

Prior to the arrival of the Poage family, the area south of the Ohio River, was originally inhabited by the Native Americans, especially the Shawnee. Four other tribes inhabited the land what is present day Kentucky; the Cherokees, Chickasaw, Mosopelea and Yuchi.

Map of Kentucky tribes in the past: (<http://www.native-languages.org/kentucky.htm>)



What you may not know about Ashland is that its Central Park has a series of six ancient Native American mounds, believed to have been built by the Adena Culture, which spans from approximately 500 BC to 100 AD. The mounds, approximately 20 feet in diameter and 6 feet tall are comprised of layers upon layers of deceased members. The mounds served as burial, ceremonial and historical landmarks of the Adena Culture. It is possible that mound building practices may have continued as late as 1400 A.D. At least sixteen mounds were located in what is Ashland today.

Unfortunately, as is with fossil - and rock collecting-sites, development projects have eliminated many of the mounds.

Reading about the mounds reminded me of the mounds I visited in Georgia during the late 1970s, the Etowah Indian Mounds State Historic Site.

Today there are no federally recognized Indian tribes in KY. Most of the Native Americans were forced to leave KY during the Indian Removals of the 1800's and marched to Oklahoma. The Indian Removals were named the Trail of Tears by the Cherokee who were forced to leave their homeland for the government created "Indian Territory" during the winter time. Many of the Cherokee and Native Americans from other eastern tribes died on the Trail of Tears.

Brushing up on some more history of KY - the area now known as Kentucky was once part of VA. It is said the name "Kentucky" comes from an Iroquoian word 'Kentake', which means "meadow land." Note, the Iroquois were not the original native people of this region. The Iroquois nations were composed of the Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga and Seneca tribes located in the northeastern region of the North America. In the early 18<sup>th</sup> century, the Tuscaroras migrated into Iroquois country.

First, it is important to know some fun facts about the Bluegrass State of Kentucky. First, why is it called the bluegrass state? The grass is not really blue; however, the seed heads produce a bluish-purple bud, and when the plant grows to its natural height of 2'-3', it appears to be a meadow of blue. Hence, that is why Kentucky is known as the Bluegrass State. The Bluegrass regions has phosphate -rich soils due to the limestone of the Ordovician Period (445-490 mya). The Bluegrass Region pastures have produced some of the world's most famous horse farms.

Additionally, settlers from NC, VA, MD & PA, the majority of them of European descent- English, Scottish, Irish, settled in the first permanent settlements in the Bluegrass Region. In fact, did you realize that Daniel Boone was born in PA, moved as a youth to the Great Appalachian Valley of VA, then into NC, where he lived until he led settlers through the Cumberland Gap to KY, where they settled mainly in the Bluegrass Region due to area having the best agricultural land.

It was interesting to learn that the town where we stayed -Harrodsburg, originally known as Harrods Town, was named after the person who built the first permanent white settlement in KY's Bluegrass Region. James Harrod formed the first permanent white settlement in Kentucky.

Fair warning, I have found quite a bit of information that I will be sharing with you - and so I have decided that it will be best to split the article for several bulletin submissions. I plan to share some interesting geography/geology facts - along with some just general interesting facts.

Over the next few articles I will be discussing the following:

- Caldwell Stone Quarry and the Walker vein of Boyle County
- Geode belt of (remember the quick geography given above) of the states of IL IN, OH, KY & TN
- Faircloth Mine of Woodford County

