



UPCOMING SHOWS

& Events

- September 14-16 EFMLS Convention @ Harrisburg, Pa
- September 15-16 Rhinebeck Show- New Location- Poughkeepsie
- September 28-30 84th Annual New York State Geological Association
Hamilton College, Clinton, NY
- September 29-30 100 Years of Girl Scouting, Camp Hero, Montauk
Need Volunteers!
- September 29-30 Franklin, New Jersey Show (Washington Ave School)
- November 10-11 Fall NYC Gem & Mineral Show
Holiday Inn, Midtown Manhattan (57th & 10th Avenue)

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*

September 2012

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.

CLUB OFFICERS

*The Conglomerate Editor - Cheryl Neary
Club Webmaster - Kerry Dicker / Eileen Godwin*

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 – Dorothy Scott	631-281-8555
Secretary –	Kerry Ann Hilliard	631-277-0994	Director –Cheryl Neary (cell)	516-449-5341
Liaison -	Charles Runko (cell)	631-486-4549	<i>Historian - Kerry Ann Hilliard</i>	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.



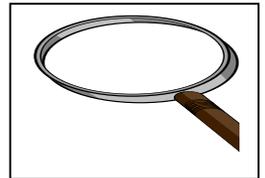
Happy
Birthday
Wishes!
May Your Year
Be Filled
with Hugs &
Kisses!

Barbara Bruce
Tom Dicker
Ryan Dicker
Joanna Engelhardt
Paul Engelhardt
Joe Kuri
Nick Lembo
Tina Lembo
Marlene Rust
Debbie Winston
Kathleen Mindlin

2012 UPCOMING MEETINGS

Save the Dates!

September 17, 2012- Lecture
October 15, 2012-Hands-On
November 19,2012-Lecture
December 17,2012- Show & Tell
January 6, 2013 **SUNDAY**- Dinner
February 4, 2013- **1st Monday (due to Holiday)**
March 18, 2013- TBA
April 15, 2013- TBA
May 20, 2013-TBA
June 17, 2013-TBA
Picnic – date to be announced



This Month's Meeting: 09/17/12

Please join us this month for a lively lecture on “ the end of the world as we know it”.

Chris Visco retired from the Sachem School District where he taught Earth Science and Astronomy. He presently teaches Earth Science classes at Suffolk Community College.

Check out the New Website-

Thanks to Janice Kowalski, Kerry Dicker and KerryAnn Hilliard that our website is up and running! Kerry Dicker and Eileen Godwin have volunteered to update at least monthly.....view the pictures; find out what is going on in our rock & roll club.....www.suffolkgem.com

Thank You for a Great Picnic

To Roberta and Mary Besso
For another successful and fun picnic!

Field Trips:

October 12-13th: Margaret Hastings with LIMAGS

Spring/Summer 2013-
Poland Mines, Maine (LIMAGS)

Any suggestions- please see
Cheryl Neary



Congratulations to this year's Scholarship Recipient - Ruth Coffey. She was awarded the scholarship at this year's picnic in July.

Please see page 4 for Ruth's response for the recognition.

Ruth, besides being a student working towards her PhD, she also works at the National Park by Smith's Point.

Perhaps one day Ruth can share some of her insights on her research with us!

Let the Adventures Begin!

This year the theme for this column will be Quartz since Our show prize for the December show is Citrine

So appropriate that the mineral we are concentrating on this year is the same abundant mineral found on Long Island, since the 2013 show will be on Long Island Lighthouses and Geology!

Yes, Long Island is comprised of layers of sand, a naturally occurring, granular material whose composition is silica (silicon dioxide (SiO₂)) better known as quartz!

Quartz is the most common mineral found on Earth, in nearly every geological environment and a constituent in the majority of rock types!

Quartz is found in a multitude of varieties, colors, habits and shapes which produce hundreds of unique possibilities and combinations. For instance, a quartz specimen may be twinned, druzy, prismatic, pyramidal, concretionary, geoidal, coated, phantomed, sceptered, tapered, banded, stalactitic, microcrystalline, macrocrystalline, cryptocrystalline, banded.....and so on!

Macrocrystalline (large crystals) include:

- Amethyst
- Citrine
- Milky quartz
- Prasiolite
- Rose quartz
- Smoky quartz.

Cryptocrystalline (minute crystals) –with the primary varieties of **chalcedony** as follows:

- Agate
- Bloodstone
- Carnelian
- Chrysoprase
- Flint
- Jasper
- Onyx
- Sard
- Sardonyx



Outside
the
Box!

A synopsis of last
month's meeting

His unusual hobby, the collection of dairy bottles, led our club member, Michael Katsar to investigate the history of Long Island's dairy industry.

This was an extremely interesting subject. Mike brought in a multitude of bottles- different shapes and sizes. Fran enlightened us that this was just a "drop of milk in the bucket" with numerous bottles stored in the basement!

Quartz: (continued):

Chemical Formula: SiO₂

Composition: Silicon dioxide

Color: Colorless

White

Purple

Pink

Brown

Black

Gray

Green

Orange

Yellow

Blue

Red

Sometimes **multicolored** or banded

Streak: White

Hardness: 7

Crystal System: Hexagonal

It's Show Time!

December 1-2, 2012

@ Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Located between Rt.112 and North Ocean Avenue.

We need volunteers to work a minimum of 6 hours for the show. Please see one of the following chairs to discuss your dedicated time(s):

Show Chairs-Elaine Casani / Marty Besso

Show Treasurer – Roberta Besso

Dealer Chair – Elaine Casani/ Marty Besso

Club- Eileen Godwin / Kerry Dicker

Set-up- Ron Casani

Admissions- Cheryl Neary

Security- KerryAnn Hilliard

Publicity/Sponsors: Eileen Godwin (NEW!) Find out about this at the meeting!

News Flash- News Flash -News Flash- News Flash- News Flash -News Flash- News

NBC reported a story about an eight –year old boy in England who discovered solidified whale “vomit” on the beach. The loaf-sized lump was found on the southern coast of England. What is news worthy about his seaside find is that it can be worth anywhere from \$15,000 - \$ 64,000.00 – not a bad find!

The “floating gold” is actually *ambergris* a solid, waxy, bile-like substance that originates in the intestines of male sperm whales and theorized to protect their stomachs from the hard, pointy beaks of squid. This substance is flammable, usually a dull gray or blackish color and regurgitated or secreted by sperm whales. Freshly produced ambergris has a fecal odor, however, as it ages, it acquires a sweet, earthy, marine, animalic scent. Hence its value- the substance has been used as an incense, fragrance, flavoring, remedy or aphrodisiac in many cultures, dating back to ancient Egypt and China.

Years ago ambergris (ambrein) was used in creating perfume and fragrance such as musk. Today, it has been displaced by synthetics, such as Ambroxam or plant-based substances such as labdanum; due to the endangered status of sperm whales, it is illegal to sell ambergris in many jurisdictions, including the USA.

Herman Melville devoted a chapter in “Moby Dick” to a discussion of ambergris and how highly prized it was in the 19th – century society. Melville wrote “Who would think, then, that such fine ladies and gentlemen should regale themselves with an essence found in the inglorious bowels of a sick whale!”

Dear Friends in the SGMC,

I am honored to have been chosen for this year’s club scholarship award, and it means so much to me that you are so supportive of my educational goals. As you may know, I have been in graduate school at Stony Brook University working towards my doctoral degree in marine and atmospheric sciences. My research has centered on investigating groundwater impacts on coastal waters and how coastal waters quality affects tourism. I have had the opportunity to travel the world to conduct my research, and now I am working on the final stages of writing my dissertation. Throughout the pursuit of my degree, I have always counted myself fortunate to have such a wonderful collection of friends in the SGMC who have supported my efforts at school. My time at Stony Brook has been made much more pleasant because of your friendship, so I want to thank you all for your generosity and support. I look forward to seeing you all at the next meeting in September.

Sincerely,
Ruth Coffey