UPCOMING SHOWS

2014

May 17-18 — **Celinka's– Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil and Jewelry Show**
Our Lady of Mount Carmel
North Ocean Avenue
Patchogue, NY

July26-27 — **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

April 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.

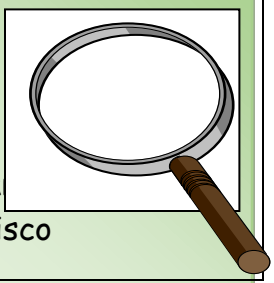
Helen Badoyannis

Happy Birthday Wishes!

May Your Year Be Filled

with Hugs & Kisses!

UPCOMING MEETINGS: 2013-2014



April 21st -Malachite lecture
Presented by Mitch Portnoy
May 19th- Wire wrapping of Sha
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!

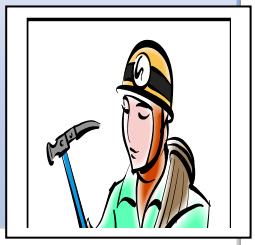
This month we are excited to welcome Mitch Portnoy as our guest lecturer, speaking about Malachite.

Mitch is the president of the NYC Mineral Club.

Picnic Time-
Saturday July 12th
Please join us at Heckscher State Park!

Upcoming Field Trip(s):

LIMAGS is sponsoring a trip on May 2-4th to St. Claire's, Pennsylvania for fossil ferns. A $25.00 deposit is required. This is a caravan trip, which includes a trip to a coal mine and visiting the abandoned town of Centralia, visiting & collecting in Bear Valley.



Anyone interested in the trip to Danville, Kentucky Labor Day Weekend 2014, please speak with Cheryl. A deposit of $100.00 will be required by the April meeting.

Let the Adventures Begin!

The Blarney Castle is more than the Blarney Stone- a stone which many have kissed over the years, including yours truly- and endowed with the gift of gab! (No not me!)

History

In the 10th *ce*ntury, the first castle was a wooden structure. This structure was replaced by a stone structure around 1210 AD. The entrance faced north and stood 20 feet high. Cormac McCarthy, King of Munster in 1314 supplied Robert the Bruce of Scotland with soldiers to fight England in the Battle of Bannockburn. The soldiers defeated England's King Edward II and Bruce presented to the McCarthy Clan the Stone of Destiny. This stone was placed in the Blarney Castle's battlement.

In 1446, Dermot McCarthy, King of Munster built the third and existing castle. He enlarged the Castle and reinstalled the fabled Blarney Stone. The lower walls of the castele are 15 feet high and built on an angle. As the height increases, the narrower the structure becomes.

In the late 1500's, Queen Elizabeth I commissioned the land to be taken from the McCarthy Clan. The clan found ways to delay negotiations, which frustrated the Queen.

During the Confederate War (1641-1652), the tower wall was destroyed by gunfire. When Lord Broghill, General to Oliver Cromwell, entered the property he discovered that all but two servants had left via a cave.

At the end of the war, Cromwell seized several properties, massacred two-thirds of the Irish population and converted most of the country to Protestantism.

The McCarthy clan reclaimed the Blarney Castle in 1661 after King Charles II ascended to the English throne. However, in 1688, Donough McCarthy, Earl of Clancarty, joined forces with the Jacobites of Scotland and was taken prisoner during the 1690 battle for Cork by the Duke of Malborough, an ancestor of Winston Chruchill. He escaped from the Tower of London and fled to France.

Outside

the

Box!

A synopsis of last month's meeting

I had the pleasure of being last month's lecturer. We traveled to Ireland via a DVD which was hosted by one of the owners of a Connemara Marble mine – Steve Walsh. We toured the whole island of Ireland, starting on the southeast coast and headed west, north, east and south –ending at one of Ireland's most famous castles- Blarney Castle.

In the next two centuries, Blarney Castle changed ownership numerous times.

Since the late 1800s, visitors have converged on Blarney Castle to ascend the stairs and kiss the Blarney Stone. Past visitors include Winston Churchill and President William H. Taft. In 2006, Discovery's Travel Channel listed kissing the Blarney Stone as one of the 99 things to do before you die. According to DiscoverIreland.com, more than 200,000 people visit Blarney Castle annually.

At one time, visitors had to be held by the ankles and lowered head first over the battlements. The Stone itself is still set in the wall below the battlements. To kiss it, one has to lean backwards (holding on to an iron railing) from the parapet walk.

SGMC Meeting Lecture

Malachite

Ornamental & Collectible

Mitchell Portnoy

President

New York Mineralogical Club

Monday, April 21, 2014

Bayshore-Brightwaters Public Library