UPCOMING SHOWS

2014-2015

March 14-15 — **42nd Annual IRH Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry**
Old Bethpage Restoration Village

March 27th – 29th — **EFMLS Convention and Show (& Field Trip)**
Hickory Convention Center
Hickory, North Carolina

May 16th -17th — **Celinka Show**
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel (need club volunteers to man a club table!)

July 25th -26th — **LIMAGS- Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry**
Cutchogue Eat Elementary School – New Location!!!!!!

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 2015

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 –	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
Secretary –	Kerry Ann Hilliard	631-277-0994	Director –Rebecca LaBarca	516-768-4438
Liaison –	Cheryl Neary	516.449.5341 cell	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.

Happy Birthday Wishes!

May Your Year Be Filled with Hugs & Kisses!

Roberta Besso

Leona Keeley

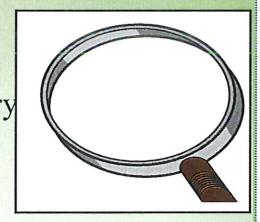
Rebecca LaBarca

Hugo Ruiz

Charles Runko

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS: 2015

March 16th -
Hands- On with Kerry Dicker
"Make a Pendant"
April 20th – Chris Visco- Rock Mystery
May 18th –Hands -on
June 15th – "Bragging Rites"- More Info to follow
July18th (19th Rain date) - Picnic



Hands On: This Month!

Please bring the following:

Various types of pliers:
Needle-nose
Round
Flat

SGMC will provide the wire and bead-
or
you can bring your own.

Cost for members- Free
Non-members $ 10.00

Exciting Fun-d- raiser for SGMC

Save the date- June 6th

Breakfast & Raffles!!!

Applebees
3870 Veterans'Memorial Hwy.
Bohemia

Let the Adventures Begin!

The Essential Guide to Gem, Mineral and Fossil Shows

by Charles Snider

(Member of IRH; NYMC & NC)

Whether you are attending a gem and mineral show for the first time that perhaps you found on a gem, mineral, and fossil show listings site, www.americangeode.com/events.php for example, or you are a veteran of gem and minerals shows, this article on shows will prove to be a valuable resource of tips to make your experience more efficient and more fun.

First, your best bet is to bring cash. You spare and save the dealer from having to pay 3-6% in credit card fees when you pay in cash. Sometimes that savings will earn you a free gift, or discount toward your second purchase. We sell geodes and gems ourselves, and can tell you from the experience of running a small business that cash is simply easier for the dealer or seller to manage and administer. So bringing cash is a "win win" for you, and for the dealers, whom you will likely see at another show!

What are the benefits of buying your gems, minerals, and fossils at a show? The answer is provenance. What does that mean? That means the dealer or seller knows the origin, travels, and story behind the mounted gemstone or fossil you are about to purchase. They can tell you its origin, how they acquired it, how long they have held it, and other interesting facts. Now does that make the piece more valuable than one whose only fact you know is what country it came from? For the serious collector or museum curator who attends shows, the provenance is everything.

Prepare before the show. Always bring a cloth bag, one of the reusable and recyclable grocery bags you can pick up at a market. They fold up nicely; you can even fold up 2-3 of them and carry them in your back pockets. Remember that you may be walking out, or walking the rest of the day with 5 to 25 pounds of gems, minerals, and fossils. You need something in which to carry them, and that something needs to have handles.

Other suggestions would be a back-pack, or the kind of messenger or Pony Express bag you can sling diagonally across your torso. Do not rely on the bags that a dealer or seller has. While they would, and do, and should offer you a bag, they will not be able to give each customer a cloth bag with handles and may not have big bags, and you may want to consolidate your gem, mineral, and fossil finds to a single bag.

Now while you are at the show, go around the booths one more time before you step out. You know that feeling of angst and frustration thinking what you should have bought, or could have bought someone for a birthday, Christmas, or other holiday? Since each gem, mineral, or fossil is the ultimate one-of-a-kind, get it now, and be at peace.

Outside The Box

Chris Visco presented a wonderful, entertaining and educational lecture on "Rocks Remember"

There is a great book you all should read:
Annals of the Former World by John McPhee.

John McPhee is an American writer considered one of the pioneers of creative non-fiction

More to come on "Rocks Remember"

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!

Go and Experience Wildacres!

A Bit of Heaven on Earth (Edited)

by Steve Weinberger, EFMLS

We just returned from Tucson and the big gem and mineral shows. I can tell you honestly that living out there with 80 degree weather for two weeks was wonderful. I can also tell you that getting off the plane and finding ourselves faced with 15 degree temperature and ice and snow on our parked car was quite a shock!

I can only imagine how those living in New England with all its bitter cold and 7+ feet of snow must have felt upon their return. While enjoying all the wonderful gems and minerals in Tucson we also had an opportunity to visit with our two Speakers-in-Residence for our EFMLS Wildacres Workshops. Both are excited to be coming once again...in fact, Bob Jones, the May 18 - 24 speaker has already given us the titles of his six talks for the week and Denise Nelson, the August 24 - 30 speaker, has already planned her talks as well. You're really in for a wonderful treat regardless of which session you can attend.

During the week you'll have an opportunity to take either one class that lasts 4 days or two classes that each last 2 days. . Room and board along with gratuities, class instruction, six talks by our Speaker-in-Residence, and much much more is only $390 per person!

Materials fees for classes are extra and will vary depending on the class (or classes) you take. In addition to the classes and the talks by our Speakers - in - Residence, you'll participate in our tail-gate session, auction, and sharing session along with time to go on a field trip or explore the beautiful Little Switzerland area and much more. In the meantime, send in your reservations for either the May or August..

Editor's Note:

Please visit the EFMLS website – March Newsletter (http://www.amfed.org/efmls/efmarch15web.pdf) for the listing of classes for both sessions at Wildacres.

Wildacres Retreat is a **conference center** offering its facilities to non-profit groups conducting educational or cultural programs on topics such as music, art, science, religion, lapidary, craft and writing. It is also available for staff and board retreats for non-profit organizations.

At an elevation of 3,300 feet, Wildacres is situated on 1,600 acres atop Pompey's Knob, a mountain near the Blue Ridge Parkway in Little Switzerland, North Carolina.

Summer is almost here!
The SGMC annual picnic will be held this year at Hecksher State Park- Parking Field 1
On Saturday, July Raindate: Sunday, July