



# CRACK 'N CAB

Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse, PO Box 2801, Syracuse, NY  
web <http://www.gmss.us> Volume 49 Issue 2, February 2019  
209 Oswego St (Ponderosa Plaza), Unit 15, Liverpool, NY

## February Meeting Featured Speaker Len Sharp

### ***Tale of Three Cities Buried by Catastrophic Volcanic Eruptions:***

***Akrotiri 1640 BCE, Santorini, Greece***

***Pompeii, Italy 79 CE***

***St. Pierre, St. 1902 CE, Martinique***

Three cities forever “frozen” in their historical time, which gives us a “snapshot” into the daily lives of people existing at the moment of the cataclysmic eruption that essentially “blasted” them from the face of the Earth.

Is Akrotiri (Thera, 1625 BC) the source of Plato’s Atlantis? Why are there no great treasures or human remains found in Akrotiri’s ruins? What happen to the ancient Minoan?

What was the seaport of Pompeii (Vesuvius, 79 AD) like before disaster struck? Why were there so many lives loss at Pompeii? What do the human remains of stone body casts tell us?

Mt. Pelee (1902) gave the Martinique populous plenty of time to escape, but still 31,000+ persons perished. Why? What kind of volcanic rocks were responsible for the burials of the three cities?

### President's Message

Cheryl Brown



Hello GMSS Rockhounds! The canceling of the January meeting revealed a glaring problem with communication. Several members who don't have email didn't receive word that the meeting was canceled and went to

the clubhouse (sorry). As a result, two things have happened. First, Janet Kolodzie has agreed to head a phone tree committee. If you would like to have your name on and be part of the phone tree, there will be a sign-up sheet at the February meeting. Or, you can email me, and I will pass your information on to her. Second, there will be a notice posted on the crawler on Spectrum News and at syracuse.com. Hopefully, between these three methods of communication, this won't happen again.

We are looking forward to having Len Sharp speak at our February meeting. In addition to speaking, he will be bringing some of his petrified wood and igneous rock for sale to any club members who are interested.

### Secretary's Report

Judy Cook

### Executive Board Meeting Minutes

#### February 5, 2019

The Work Day scheduled in January to help organize the collections and set up displays in the clubhouse was postponed. The new date is **Saturday, March 16th**, 11am to 3pm. There will be a sign-up sheet at the February meeting



There is still work being discussed on possible constitution changes.

Cheryl Brown is getting quotes for tables, chairs, pipe and drape, etc. for our show in July while Dick Lyons is in Michigan. SRC Arena provided us with chairs free of charge so we will have to shoulder that expense at the Fairgrounds.

The next GEMWORLD 2019 Show Committee meeting will be held at the Gem Diner on Tuesday **February 26th** at 7pm. Those who would like to have dinner should arrive by 6pm.

Club member Len Sharp, retired earth science teacher and Presidential awardee in science teaching, will be our featured speaker at the 7:30pm, **February 18th** club meeting. He will be discussing cities that have been covered by volcanoes.

Prior to the regular club meeting, Rick Moore will be leading the Junior Rockhounds at 6:30pm on a discussion of Deep Time and exploration of events over the past 4.6 billion years.

Rick will be our featured speaker at the March meeting with the talk on 'Dinosaurs to Birds' since our January meeting was canceled due to the cold.

And in April – Auction - everyone loves an Auction!!!

The Club is carpooling **February 23rd** to the New York State Museum in Albany for the 25th Annual James Campbell Memorial Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show. One can enjoy the show and then take in the exhibits at the impressive Museum. There will be a sign-up sheet at the club meeting.

Then, for the next field trip, join the club on opening day **April 1st** at Ace of Diamonds, in Middleville, NY.

There will be an announcement in March on upcoming classes, which will be offered at the clubhouse.

Snacks for the February meeting will be provided by Kim O'Neil, Judy Cook and Linda and John Sweeney.

Respectfully submitted,  
Judy Cook

### Upcoming Events

**February 17 – 1:30 to 5:00 Bead Society of CNY** meeting at the clubhouse. All are welcome!

**February 19 at 2 PM - Onondaga Free Library Dig!** The show is presented by 2 field Paleontologists, Mike and Roberta Straka. They will be talking about digs they have been on, showing bones and other fossils they have found or have received. They travel with a small museum of pictures and fossils to look at it – and a replica of an actual DIG! They play trivia games and more. Call the library at (315-492-1727) for more information or to register.

**Marie Cole Open Workshop Times**

The workshop is open to anyone who has completed a GMSS sponsored lapidary class. The workshop usage fee is \$5.00 per person per session. Wednesday afternoons 1:00PM to 4:00PM

Geo Lexis (Puzzle)  
By Anne Fitzgerald

Find the vertical gem in this poem.

Winter brings cold and snow  
On snow. We snow blow, we shovel, and how!  
People hope to see spring, or at least one more thing,  
A salter, a digger, a plow.  
Loaded up parking lots, friends leaving the state,  
And wishes we could hibernate.  
All of these things just help us endure.  
For spring is winter's wonder cure.

Stumped?

The solution is further down in this newsletter.



## Amethyst February's Birthstone

(Re-printed from The American Gem Society)

Amethyst is purple quartz and is a beautiful blend of violet and red that can be found in every corner of the earth. The name comes from the Ancient



Greek, derived from the word "methustos," which means "intoxicated." Ancient Greeks and Romans believed it could ward off the intoxicating powers of Bacchus and also was said to keep the wearer clear-headed and quick-witted. Throughout history,

the gemstone has been associated with many myths, legends, religions, and numerous cultures. English regalia were even decorated with amethysts during the Middle Ages to symbolize royalty. Amethyst jewelry has been found and dated as early as 2000 BC.

Some historical accounts say that Saint Valentine had an amethyst ring carved with an image of Cupid. And for those familiar with Old Testament history, amethyst was one of the twelve gemstones that represented the twelve tribes of Israel.

For many years, amethyst was held to be one of the most precious gemstones, often favored by royalty or exclusively by the clergy as a symbol for the deity of Christ. It was even held for many years in the same regard as the diamond. It wasn't until the discovery of more abundant supplies of amethyst that it became a gemstone enjoyed by more than just the wealthiest buyers.

Many wearers of amethyst throughout history and even today prize the gem for its symbolism as well as its beauty. Leonard da Vinci once said that amethyst helps to quicken intelligence and get rid of evil thoughts. Other qualities like peace, stability, courage and strength are said to be derived from this gemstone.

Today, many wearers simply prize the amethyst for its beautiful shade and the way it complements both warm and cool colors.

Amethyst, as previously mentioned, is composed of quartz, which is the second most abundant material found in the Earth's crust. Amethyst gets its color from irradiation, iron impurities and the presence of trace elements. Its hardness (a 7 on the Mohs scale) is the same as other quartz, which makes it a durable and lasting option for jewelry.

While amethyst is most commonly recognized to be a purple color, the gemstone can actually range from a light pinkish violet to a deep purple that can read more blue or red, depending on the light. Sometimes, even the same stone can have layers or color variants, so the way the gemstone is cut is important to the way the color shows in a finished piece.

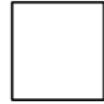
Amethyst often occurs in geodes or in the cavities of granitic rocks. It can be found all over the world, including the United States, Canada, Brazil and Zambia.

The amethyst is not only the February birthstone, it is also used to celebrate the 6th and 17th year of marriage.

Geo Lexis Solution: OPAL



**Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse**  
**PO Box 2801**  
**Syracuse, New York 13220**  
**First Class Mail**  
**March 2018**  
 Time Dated Material



[www.amfed.org](http://www.amfed.org)   [www.amfed.org/efmls](http://www.amfed.org/efmls)   [Future Rockhounds](#)

Eight people organized the Gem and Mineral Society of Syracuse in 1951. Since that time it has grown in membership to include adults, families, and young folk. The Society was incorporated in 1969 under the same name.

The objectives of the Society are to stimulate interest in mineralogy, paleontology, and the lapidary arts. Member interests include collecting, identification, and display of minerals, gems, fossils. Members share and develop their artistic skills in jewelry design and creation.

Our monthly meetings provide social and educational experiences. Field trips give collectors chances to find specimens and enjoy the out of doors, exercise and time with old and new friends.

**Meetings - 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month**  
**Future Rockhounds @ 6:30 - General Meeting @ 7:30**  
**(NO Meetings Jul, Aug, Dec)**  
**209 Oswego St (Ponderosa Plaza) Unit 14 & 15, Liverpool, NY**  
**Visitors are ALWAYS welcome!**

See online Newsletter <http://gmss.us/resources/newsletter>  
 You can also visit our facebook and flickr pages  
**Annual member dues**

**Adult \$10 • Family/Couple \$15 • Junior \$5 • Life \$5**

If you would like to join or renew membership download the application form (PDF), see <http://gmss.us/about/membershipform.pdf> You can get a form at a meeting or send requests to **GMSS, PO Box 2801, Syracuse, NY 13220** We will mail an application/renewal form to you.

## GMSS Officers/Contacts

*-President*

Cheryl Brown 315-708-9122 [gmssrocks@gmail.com](mailto:gmssrocks@gmail.com)

*-Vice-President*

Dick Lyons 315-672-5328 [show@gmss.us](mailto:show@gmss.us)

*-Jr Rockhounds & Web*

Rick Moore [webmaster@gmss.us](mailto:webmaster@gmss.us)

*-Treasurer*

Linda Sweeney Clark 315-668-8470 [treasurer@gmss.us](mailto:treasurer@gmss.us)

*-Secretary, Membership Chair, Hospitality*

Donna Dow [secretary@gmss.us](mailto:secretary@gmss.us)

*-Sgt at Arms*

-Ed Suchon [sgtatarms@gmss.us](mailto:sgtatarms@gmss.us)

*-GemWorld Show Chair*

Dick Lyons 315-672-5328 [show@gmss.us](mailto:show@gmss.us)

*-Club Library*

Steve Albro 607-756-2298 [library@gmss.us](mailto:library@gmss.us)

*-Lapidary Committee Contact*

Joanne Suchon 315-440-4098

*-Newsletter & Web*

Dan Andrianos 315-492-6437 [editorgmss@gmail.com](mailto:editorgmss@gmail.com)

*-Facebook*

Judy Cook

*-Photographers Extraordinaire*

Judy Cook, Steve Albro

*-Hospitality Committee Chair & Members* **\*We are looking for volunteers\*** contact Donna Dow at [secretary@gmss.us](mailto:secretary@gmss.us) or Sharon Thomson to help