



Convention/Show Information for the AFMS/EFMLS Annual Convention July 6-10, 2011 "Gems Along the Erie Canal" Syracuse, New York



Welcome from the Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse

www.gmss.us

The Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse invites you to join us for our 45th Annual Gem and Mineral Show **July 9-10, 2011, "Gems Along the Erie Canal"** which will be held in conjunction with the 60th EFMLS and the 61st AFMS Annual Convention. The convention takes place from Wednesday, through Sunday, July 6-10, 2011 in Syracuse, New York. Our club enjoyed hosting the combined convention so much in 2004 that we're doing it again! We look forward to all the excitement and camaraderie that comes with the convention and our annual show. In keeping with our Erie Canal theme we plan to have many exhibits showing off the wonderful variety of minerals and fossils from this historically important area of New York State. Come discover New York and its geologic wonders!

Central New York - Syracuse

The Syracuse area, also known as Upstate New York, is pretty much in the center of New York State. The convention location is a short drive from Syracuse Hancock International Airport in North Syracuse. The convention host hotel, **Ramada Inn Syracuse** on Buckley Rd. is centrally located at the crossroads of the New York State Thruway, I-90 (EW) and Interstate 81 (NS). Syracuse boasts Syracuse University, home of the "Orange Men" basketball team, the Erie Canal Museum in downtown Syracuse site of the Weighlock Building on the former canal which is now Erie Blvd., the Museum of Science and Technology, M.O.S.T, with its fabulous Bristol IMAX theater, a thriving summertime music and arts scene, the downtown Everson Art Museum, the newly restored 1856 Camillus Erie Canal Park, the only one of its kind in New York, Central New York's premier shopping destination- Carousel Mall, as well as several nearby lakes and nature trails and farmers markets, and a short drive to our famous Wine Country in the Finger Lakes. Syracuse is a happening place in the summer!

Summer is a wonderful time of the year to be in New York State. The weather is warm, 80's, and usually sunny. We're famous for our changeable weather thanks to the Lake Ontario about 40 minutes away, but we're requesting excellent weather from Mother Nature for our field trips following the show on Monday and Tuesday. Heading east, half way between Syracuse and Albany, the capital, are the famous Herkimer diamond dig areas and fossil locations which are also along the old Erie Canal. The New York State Museum at Albany is home to the finest collection of New York State Minerals many of which were collected and donated by several of our own Gem & Mineral Society members of past years.

The Show

Our 45th annual show will be held in the huge Americraft Center of Progress Building at the New York State Fairgrounds, 581 State Fair Blvd., Syracuse, NY, 13209 (315) 487-7711, off Route 690 in Syracuse. Show hours are Saturday 10AM-6PM and Sunday 10AM-4PM. The show has 60 retail and wholesale dealers (with more still being added), featuring gems, jewelry, mineral specimens, fossils, and crystals. We also have hands-on educational exhibits and demonstrations, hourly door prizes, children's activities, lectures and workshops, a restaurant in the building, and free parking. In the adjacent building there will be a **Psychic Fair and Holistic Expo** <http://metaphysicaltimes.com/homepage.html>

Convention Hotel

The convention hotel, the **Ramada Inn, 1305 Buckley Road, Syracuse, NY**, (315) 457-8670, is 6 miles from the main show, about an 11-minute drive. The 2 floor hotel has a new, indoor heated pool, a restaurant, lounge, exercise room, business center, and free wireless Internet access. The special convention room rate is **\$99 per night plus tax**. This includes a hot buffet breakfast. All rooms are non-smoking. Please call the hotel before April 1, 2011 and mention "EFMLS -AFMS Convention" to get the convention rate.

If you prefer a different hotel, other nearby accommodations include **Maplewood Inn**, 400 7th North St. Liverpool, **Best Western Fairgrounds** 670 State Fair Blvd., **Microtel Inn & Suites**, Baldwinsville, **Wingate Inn Syracuse** 6947 Winchell Rd., Warners, **Comfort Inn** 7010 Interstate Island Rd. Syracuse, **Quality Inn**, 1308 Buckley Rd. North Syracuse to name a few. There are many more in the area.

Camping

Limited campsites with hook-ups are available at the Fairgrounds. Reservations must be made in advance and are on a first come –first served basis. Cost is \$25.00 per day.

Convention Activities

Wednesday, July 6

12:00 pm Convention Registration. Ramada Inn, 1305 Buckley Rd. Syracuse

Registration and welcome bag may be picked up at the Ramada.

2:00 PM AFMS Uniform Rules Meeting Ramada Inn coffee, tea

Thursday July 7

8:00 am – Convention Registration - Ramada Inn

Set up for AFMS meeting coffee, tea

9:00 am AFMS Annual Meeting - Ramada Inn

AFMS Scholarship Foundation Meeting follows - Ramada Inn

12:30 PM Presidents' Luncheon summer picnic on the patio all are invited - Ramada Inn

4:30 pm Cracker Barrel (social hour) - Erie Canal Park Camillus The park offers narrated boat rides up the canal to the unique, newly restored aqueduct. Also on site Sim's Store Museum, combines the old-fashioned charm of an 1856 canal store complete with exhibits, early photos, maps of the canal with models of locks, aqueducts and canal boats. The Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse will provide light refreshments. Some may take the boat ride and others may want to walk the tow path trail or just relax under the pavilion.

Friday July 8

8:00 am Convention Registration – Ramada Inn

10:00 am show set up at fairgrounds competitive exhibit judging may begin when set up is complete

6:30 PM Sign in for EFMLS Annual Meeting – Ramada Inn

7:00PM EFMLS Annual Business Meeting – Ramada Inn beverages will be provided

Saturday July 9

10:00 am "Gems Along the Erie Canal - 45th Gem, Mineral , Fossil , and Jewelry Show" opens at the NYS Fairground

2:00 pm EFMLS Endowment Fund Auction - Fairgrounds Bring your specimen donations to the auction and lots of cash and enthusiasm for bidding.

6:00 pm EFMLS/AFMS Awards Banquet – Ramada Inn The evening will open with social hour and cash bar prior to the dinner.

7:00 pm Awards Banquet In addition to great food, there will also be speeches, presentation of awards, installation of new officers, and a special guest speaker, the most notable, senior editor of **Rock and Gem Magazine** and Rockhound extraordinaire, **Bob Jones**. Please indicate your entrée of choice on the Registration Form. If you have special dietary needs, please indicate these on the form.

Sunday July 10

8:00 am Breakfast With the Editors and Webmasters - Ramada Inn

A delicious, breakfast buffet includes scrambled eggs, French toast, your choice of bacon or sausage, assorted pastries, chilled juices, coffee, tea, and decaf. The cost is \$15 per person. For those staying at the Ramada Inn your breakfast is free (included in your room fee). On the accompanying registration form please indicate the number of breakfast tickets you want. Your breakfast ticket will be in your welcome bag when you check in for the convention. If you have special dietary needs, please indicate these on the form.

10:00 am – 4 pm Show at New York State Fairgrounds

Exhibits

One area where we have focused our attention is on the exhibits for the convention. As usual, we hope some of you will consider exhibiting your cases competitively. I know this is a long-standing event at the conventions and our members are anxious to learn about competitive exhibiting as an extension of the hobby. Please complete the **Application for Competitive Exhibit** form in this packet.

As an alternative to competitive exhibits, club members and delegates are invited to put together a noncompetitive exhibit. Use the **Application for Noncompetitive and Shared Exhibit** form to indicate your participation in a noncompetitive exhibit.

Deadlines and \$\$

Deadlines and Money (this is the important part)

- Deadline for exhibit forms is **May 15, 2011**.
- Deadline for registration forms is **June 1, 2011**.
- Please make all checks payable to GMSS (Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse). Please mail your registration forms to:

**Lou Budell
2718 Falls Rd.
Marcellus, NY 13108**

??? If You Have Questions

Please contact **Cathy Patterson, Show Chairman, 315-638-8817 (home) or 315-480-8907 (cell)**
cathypatterson@verizon.net

For registration form answers please contact **Lou Budell 315-673-1891 loubudell@gmss.us**

We look forward to seeing you in July 2011!