



ROCK PICKENS



ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY ROCK & MINERAL CLUB

Date: February/March/April 2026



Next meeting was...April 14, 2026 @ the Canton Free Library at 5:30 PM

Below is the list of newly elected Officers and Chairs for 2026-2028

President: Linda Schnittger
Vice President: Gary Garlough
Secretary: Amanda Fogg
Treasurer: Ashley Meade
Field Trip Coordinator: Preston Zeallor
Field Trip Scout: Noah King
Safety Coordinator: James Taylor
Newsletter Editor: William deLorraine
Newsletter Assistant Editor: Amanda Fogg
Show Chair: William deLorraine
Advertising: William & Joanna deLorraine
Webmaster: Glen Simonelli

Effective: January 01, 2026 - December 31, 2028

Club Dues

Dues are only **\$15.00** for a Single membership and **\$25.00** for Family memberships

(Memberships are *renewable now* and run through 12-31-26)

(Family memberships cover family members residing at the same household with the same USPS mailing address)

Make checks payable to: **St. Lawrence Rock and Mineral Club** and mail them to:

Ashley Meade; Treasurer

St. Lawrence Rock & Mineral Club

3715 County Rt. 14

Madrid, NY 13660



2026 Gem, Mineral, Fossil, and Jewelry Shows

March

14-15: The Buffalo Geological Society Inc. 56th annual Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show. Erie County Fairgrounds, Hamburg, NY.

April

11-12: Albany Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Show. Polish Community Center, 225 Washington Ave Ext Albany, NY 12205.

Saturday 10-5 pm, Sunday 10-4 pm.

Visit us at:

www.stlawrencecountymineralclub.org

Here you will find **upcoming events**, notes from club meetings, pictures, membership applications, and much more!



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Gem, Mineral, Fossil, and Jewelry Shows. Continued

June

19-21: Gem Street USA

Buffalo Marriot Niagara, 1340 Milesport Hwy.
Amherst, NY

July

18-19 Herkimer Diamond Gem Show: Herkimer

County Fairgrounds, Frankfort, NY

Admission \$6.00

Sat. 9-5 Sun. 10-5

August

14-16: East Coast Gem & Mineral Show

1305 Memorial Ave. W. Springfield, MA

29-30: St. Lawrence County Rock & Mineral Show. 90 Lincoln St. Canton, NY.

Admission \$5.00 children under 12 free

November

13-15: Gem St. USA

Hamburg, NY Fairgrounds

Minutes From the March Meeting:

- The club's new president, Linda Schnittger, called the meeting to order at 5:37pm.

We began with introductions.

- The treasurer was not yet present when the treasurer's report was requested. Joanna de Lorraine gave a

rough estimate of \$11,000 in the club's account.

- The wire wrapping class report was given by Melissa Zeallor:

- January's class at the library was attended by 3 people. The project that day

was wire wrapped pendants.

- February's class at the Knights of Columbus in Canton was attended by 9 adult members and 6 kids. The project was sun catchers.

- The beginning balance was \$314 from the donation from Barry and his grill sale. The classes brought in a total of \$60. After the \$40 building rental fees and \$63.12 supply fee, there is a remaining balance of \$270.88 in the fund for supplies and rental fees.

- The next class is scheduled for March 22nd from 1-3pm at the Knights of Columbus in Canton.

• New Business:

1. Thanks to the donations from Jeff Cherienzelli, a retired St. Lawrence University professor, our club has many specimens to prepare for sale at our show. Assorted sizes of specimen boxes are needed. Heather O'Hara mentioned that she may be able to provide them. Volunteers are needed to assist in the counting, sorting, boxing, and labeling. Linda proposed a



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10am meeting on March 28th at the club's storage shed. All agreed.

2. A 200th anniversary celebration for the town of Pierrepont is scheduled for August 15th. Bill de Lorraine suggested that Bob Taillon or Heather O'Hara might want to be vendors. Heather declined as she has 8 shows this year. She said that she would advertise our club show at each venue. Further discussion of any club participation in the celebration will happen at a later date.

3. Scholarships to St. Lawrence University and SUNY Potsdam in the past have totaled \$1,000-\$1,500. Bill mentioned that the geology department from SLU suggested that all the money go to SUNY this year as their geology department has broken up. Heather suggested four \$500 scholarships be given. Bill also suggests a total of \$2,000 for SUNY. Heather makes a motion for four \$500 scholarships. Ashley Meade seconded the motion. All in favor.

4. Preston Zeallor was not present to discuss field trips, however Melissa had news to share on his behalf. Wayne County Mineral Club has reached out to Melissa to invite our members on their trips. These include:

o April: Sterling Hill Mining Museum and Franklin, New Jersey area

o May: Crystal Grove Diamond Mine and Herkimer/Fulton/Montgomery, New York area

o June: Pleasant Mills, Pennsylvania

o July: Gardenscape, Gouverneur New York

→More information can be gathered if there is interest.

5. Regarding field trips, Bill has put together a list of ideas with contact information and plans to reach out to Diamond Mountain in Herkimer. Bob mentioned considering collecting locations in Canada, but the discussion didn't get far.

6. Linda was prompted by Bob's mention of Canada to share her show and tell for the evening: Yooperlite specimens from the Great Lakes. She suggests we consider a field trip there.

7. Regarding the annual show: the pavilion director suggests setting up on Thursday for no extra charge, so this is available to whomever wants to set up early. Bill shared the planogram for the show listing the layout and table arrangement as well as number of tables per vendor. Bill also discussed the need for a co-chair for the show. Barry is willing to bring his golf cart to help in carrying tables.



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8. A discussion about a new vendor offering metaphysical crystal readings led to questions about changing advertising to reflect such offerings.

Bob says that people interested in the metaphysical are already coming to the show, and it would be all right to advertise to draw in more. Heather agrees that a metaphysical aspect in general could be mentioned but expressed firm conviction that specific vendors should not be highlighted. No final suggestions for changes were made.

9. The treasurer, Ashley Meade, shared that she has the proper banking documents and will need the signatures of the club president and secretary after the meeting.

10. Lisa Garlough suggests the club give a farewell dinner to Bill and Joanna for 30 years of service to the club. The club would pay for Bill and Joanna's meals, and everyone else would pay for their own. Bill and Joanna should choose the location. Lisa makes a motion, and Barry seconds it. All in favor.

11. Linda asks if someone wants to step up to handle programs for each month, possibly as a chair position. They could give a PowerPoint presentation or find a speaker to come in. Bill offers to do some presentations

utilizing material from Diamond Dan. Barry nominates Bill, Gary, and Bob to give presentations.

12. Bob raised a question for the field trip during the show: should people be asked to sign up ahead of time so that people can be informed to wear proper clothing and footwear? It was discussed whether to just add wear PPE to the flyer or have people sign up in advance.

- Door Prize: a polished specimen—Orthoceras, Morocco native copper, from Keweenaw, Michigan. Bob was the winner.

- Further show and tell: Gabriel St. Martin showed his Quartzite samples from the White Rocks National Forest Area in Vermont. Bill also had Yooperlite specimens.

- Melissa motions to adjourn at 6:45pm. Ashley seconded. 22 Members attended the meeting.

Mineral of the Month: Rhodochrosite

Source: Geology.com by: [Hobart M. King](#), PhD

Rhodochrosite is [manganese carbonate mineral](#) that ranges in color from light pink to bright red. It is found in a small number of locations worldwide where other manganese



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minerals are usually present.

Rhodochrosite is sometimes used as an ore of manganese but is rarely found in economic quantities. Specimens with a wonderful pink color are used to produce highly desirable [gemstones](#). Rhodochrosite is rarely found as well-formed crystals, so crystals can be extremely valuable as [mineral](#) specimens.



Faceted gemstone



Large Tabletop

Rhodochrosite as a Gemstone

Rhodochrosite is a favorite [gemstone](#) of many people. It is often slabbed to show off its banded or concentric patterns. Most of the slabs are used to cut [cabochons](#). Cutting rhodochrosite is a difficult job because the material has perfect cleavage, and it is so soft that it can be difficult to polish. Nice, stable, slabbed material is sometimes used to make small boxes and other ornaments. The rare transparent material that is not suitable as a mineral specimen is sometimes faceted into attractive pink and red gems. The beautiful stones produced are mainly for collectors because faceted rhodochrosite is too fragile for almost any jewelry use. Rhodochrosite has a hardness of only 3.5 to 4 and has perfect cleavage in three directions. This eliminates it as a good choice as a ring or bracelet stone which might be subject to abrasion or impact. It is better suited in earrings, pins, and pendants, which are generally not subject to as much abuse as a ring.



Exquisite Crystal

Notes From the President:

