



# ROCK PICKKENS

ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY ROCK & MINERAL CLUB

Date: February 2014

## February 2014

No meeting scheduled for February, instead, see "Upcoming Shows" section; in lieu of the meeting we can go to the Albany mineral show. Interested? Call 287-4652.

**President: William deLorraine**

**Vice President: Scott Sutherland**

**Secretary: Joanna deLorraine**

**Treasurer: Chris Sutherland**

**Field Trip Coordinator:**

**Jerry Curcio**

**Newsletter Editor: Bill deLorraine**

**Webmaster: Glenn Simonelli**

## 2014 Membership Dues from August 2013 to August 2014

**Please make sure we have your current e-mail address**

We strive to send all newsletters by e-mail

**315-287-4652 or [wdellie@gmail.com](mailto:wdellie@gmail.com)**

Please mail dues to: **Chris Sutherland; Treasurer, 287 Cty. Rd. 29, Canton, NY 13617**

**Single Membership: \$10.00.**  
**Family Membership: (Family members under the same roof at the same mailing address): \$20.00**

## THE CLUB'S WEBSITE:

[www.stLawrencecountymineralclub.org](http://www.stLawrencecountymineralclub.org)

## Upcoming Shows 2014

### February 2014

15-16—ALBANY, NEW YORK: Annual show; Capital District Mineral Club; New York State Museum; Empire Plaza, 260 Madison Ave.; Daily 10-5; adults \$5, children free; guided museum mineral gallery tours; contact Michael Hawkins, 3140 CEC, Albany, NY 12230, (518) 486-2011; e-mail: [mhawkins@mail.nysed.gov](mailto:mhawkins@mail.nysed.gov)

### March:

**8-9: Clifton, NJ** - 25th Annual Clifton/North Jersey Gem & Mineral Show, Sponsored by the North Jersey Mineralogical Society. 10am - 5pm at the Pope John Center, 775 Valley Road, Clifton, NJ

**22-23: Hamburg, NY** - 46th Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil Show sponsored by the Buffalo Geological Society. The Fairgrounds Market & Grange Buildings, Hamburg, NY.

**22-23: Sayre, PA** - 45th Annual Che-Hanna Rock & Mineral Club Show will be held on March 22 (9-5) and March 23 (10-4). Held in the Athens Twp. Vol. Fire Hall, Sayre, PA Contact 570-928-9238 [uvbob@epix.net](mailto:uvbob@epix.net)

### April:

5-6—FREEPORT, NEW YORK: Show and sale; Kaleidoscope Gem Shows; Freeport Recreation Center; 130 E. Merrick Rd.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; adults \$5.50, children (12 and under) free; dealers, minerals, gems, jewelry, fossils, beads, goldsmith and silversmith; contact Ralph Gose, PO Box 1418, Melville, NY 11747, (631) 271-8411; email: [Ralph\\_gose@kaleidoscopegemshows.com](mailto:Ralph_gose@kaleidoscopegemshows.com); Web site: [www.kaleidoscopegemshows.com](http://www.kaleidoscopegemshows.com)

5-6—JOHNSON CITY, NEW YORK: Annual show; New York Southern Tier Geological Club; Johnson City Senior Citizens

Center; 30 Brocton St.; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4; adults \$3, children (under 12) free; club exhibits, silent auctions, dealers, minerals, fossils, gems, jewelry, beads; contact Al Conklin, 187 Forest Hill Rd., Apalachin, NY 13732, (607) 625-4140; e-mail: [allanconklin@aol.com](mailto:allanconklin@aol.com)

11-13 -- NY-NJ Mineral and Fossil Show: [www.NY-NJgemshow.com](http://www.NY-NJgemshow.com)

24-27 - 41st **Rochester Mineralogical Symposium**; Radisson Hotel, Rochester Airport at 175 Jefferson Road, **Rochester, NY** 14623

**Available now:** "Collector's Guide to the Minerals of New York State" by Drs. [Steven Chamberlain](#) and [George Robinson](#). It's listed on Amazon.com. We should consider buying multiple copies through the club; half the price to be paid by club member, half thru funds. Cogitate on this and we'll vote next mtg.

### Minutes from the Last Meeting.

There were 4 people in attendance at the January meeting held on Wed. January 5<sup>th</sup>. Pot luck dinner was held and the door prize, a rainbow-hued labradorite specimen, was won by Joanna deLorraine. We talked about the ongoing "UV bottle drive" noting that you do not have to actually bring in your bottles, just bring the monies collected which will go towards purchasing black lights for the children's fluorescent mineral hunt. Bill announced that Jerry Curcio would head up the guaranteed pocket at Herkimer. Jerry also agreed to assume duties of Field Trip Coordinator; many thanks for that, Jerry.



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We need a volunteer for Program Coordinator. Please let Bill know if you would be interested in helping with this. Dealer/vendor invitations will be sent out beginning in April. Jim spoke about getting the schools more involved and maybe boy scouts. Hands-on knowledge base. We need to have more discussion and programs at meetings. Bill mentioned maybe having club members putting together specimen boxes at a future meeting. We would need to buy the boxes. Maybe getting more involved in mineral photography; Jim spoke with John Betts about this. Getting more on the website; including upcoming events, speakers at meetings, etc.

Please send articles that you would like included in the upcoming newsletters to: [wdellie@gmail.com](mailto:wdellie@gmail.com)

## 2014 UV Light Bottle Drive:

This past year we conducted a fund-raising campaign for purchasing additional black lights for the "Kids Fluorescent Mineral Hunt" headed up by Dino Zack, Dr. of things fluorescent and glow in the dark. Dino has done a wonderful job over the years for the club. Many thanks to Dino from all of us! We purchased two new lights this year; one from contributions and another donated by club member Bruno Balduci. Let's regenerate in 2014!

Q: What do you call a benzene ring with iron atoms replacing the carbon atoms?

A: A ferrous wheel.

## **Mineral of the Month:**

### Labradorite

Labradorite is an unusual mineral. It can display a beautiful iridescent play of colors, caused by internal "fractures" in the mineral that reflect light back and forth, dispersing it into different colors. This effect, known as labradorescence, gives Labradorite its appeal and fame. Specimens sold to collectors are usually polished or sliced by dealers to fully bring out this effect. Sliced slabs are sometimes sold by dealers in water, which enhances the effect. Labradorite belongs to the Plagioclase Feldspar group, an isomorphous solid solution series. Albite is one member, containing sodium and no calcium. The other end member, Anorthite, contains calcium and no sodium. Labradorite is an intermediary member of this series. Labradorite is considered by some authorities as a variety of Anorthite rather than a separate mineral.

The acclaimed Dana's System of Mineralogy lists Labradorite as an individual mineral, whereas the IMA does not recognize it as individual mineral species, but rather a sodium-rich variety of Anorthite.

Editor's note: parentheses around "fractures" are mine. The internal structure of this mineral is comprised of a myriad of very thin, parallel, twin planes that act like diffraction gratings, breaking light up into different wavelengths, somewhat like a prism does, so that we see iridescent blues and greens when light strikes the mineral. Plagioclase feldspars are recognized in the field by fine striations on cleavage faces caused by the twinning referred to as "polysynthetic twinning".

