



# ROCK PICKENS

ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY ROCK & MINERAL CLUB

Date: January 2026



**Next meeting is...March 10<sup>th</sup>, 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: 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**

**3715 County Rt. 14**

**Madrid, NY 13660**

## **2026 Gem, Mineral, Fossil, and Jewelry Shows**

### **February**

**21-22: Crystal Fest.** 281 Baker St. Corning, NY.  
Saturday 10-6 pm, Sunday 10-4 pm.

### **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.



**And a Happy New year!**

**Visit us at:**

**[www.stlawrencecountymineralclub.org](http://www.stlawrencecountymineralclub.org)**

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



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## June

### **19-21: Gem Street USA**

Buffalo Marriot Niagara, 1340 Milesport Hwy.  
Amherst, NY

## 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

Sunday the 14<sup>th</sup> at 1:00. Bob Taillon made the motion and Melissa Zeallor 2<sup>nd</sup>. Preston Zeallor asked that 12 and under are free and to check if there is a kid's menu.

- Preston gave a report on their Halloween set-up in Parishville. Barb came to help them out as well. There were not a lot of little kids, but still a good crowd. There were fire truck rides and donuts. Preston and Melissa gave out candy from our club and "glow-in-the dark" sticks.
- Joanna deLorraine asked about sending a gift card to Glenn Simonelli, our webmaster who has generously taken care of our website for many years. Lori made the motion to go ahead and Bob Taillon 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion.
- Bill and Joanna will be sending out the Officer Election ballots shortly.

## Minutes of the November 11<sup>h</sup> Meeting:

### **Minutes of the November 11<sup>th</sup> 2025 Meeting**

- Our meeting was supposed to be at the Canton Library. We were not notified that the library would be closed that day. Had to do some quick rescheduling and instead we went to Sergie's for pizza and the meeting.
- We went around the room with the customary introductions.
- Dave Millis gave a talk on dinosaurs with lots of notes on the different periods in which they lived. Thank you, Dave!
- We talked about where to have the annual Christmas party. Mentioned were Sergie's, Lobster House, and NY Pizza. We voted on having it at the Lobster House in Norwood, on

## Mineral of the Month

### **Silver**



**Silver has been used for jewelry and coins for over 5,000 years—ancient Egyptians even called it "white gold."**



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**Native element:** Silver is one of the few metals found in nature in its pure form, known as “native silver.”

**Best conductor:** Of all metals, silver conducts electricity (and heat) better than any other.

**Antimicrobial powers:** Silver naturally kills bacteria, which is why it's used in wound dressings and water filters.

**Tarnish trouble:** Silver tarnishes when exposed to sulfur compounds in the air, forming black silver sulfide.

**Treasure troves:** The largest silver mine in history was in Potosí, Bolivia—so rich it funded much of the Spanish Empire.

**Space traveler:** NASA uses silver-coated fabrics in spacesuits to help regulate astronauts' body temperatures.

**Magic mirrors:** Ancient people polished silver to create some of the earliest mirrors.

**World's largest nugget:** The biggest native silver nugget ever found weighed around 4,000 pounds (about 1,800 kg).

**Edible sparkle:** Tiny amounts of silver, called vark, are used in decorative food in India and the Middle East.

**Super reflector:** Silver reflects visible light better than any other metal, making it perfect for telescopes and solar panels.



**Native Silver**



**Native Silver Wire**

Source: [www.diamonddanpublications.com](http://www.diamonddanpublications.com)



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## Notes From the President:



**Hi mineral collecting friends:** it sure feels good to be entering the new year with a strong “cast of characters” as I’ve lightheartedly referred to our newly elected Club Officers. Linda Schnittger, our new President, is sure to bring new ideas and creativity to our playbook, and I’m looking forward to helping her out in every way possible in “Retirement” LOL. I am continuing as “Show Chair” but with important additions of “Co-Chairs” yet to be named. The idea is to help other up-and-coming club members familiarize themselves with the details involved in putting on our “Annual Show.” At first, it seemed like a dauntingly insurmountable task when it fell upon me to do more than 20 years ago. Someone once remarked “It all just seems to come together,” referring to the show. I thought to myself: *“that’s because someone behind the scenes has been spending lots and lots and LOTS OF time making darned good and sure that it does come together!”*

Over the years the show has grown and grown. Starting out in fields in Pierrepont in the early days of the founding fathers, then moving to the Pierrepont Fire Department and fields, we tried for years to be an outside based show with free admission. And we succeeded in that mission for a good many years. We were so successful that I guess others took notice and thought, well, maybe we should charge them (our club) more money to rent the facilities. So, when the Pierrepont Fire department abruptly raised our entrance fee one year, I decided to move to a

different venue. It was a scenario that was to be repeated several times in fact. Our next move was to the Sportsman’s club in Canton. That was a very nice place for several years until it went belly-up. It was always well taken care of, expansive grounds, and well mowed, like a golf course. Imagine Joanna’s and my consternation the day we went to the site, maybe a week before our last show there, only to see the place looking like a hayfield, literally. It was a disaster! We called the person of record for the Sportsman’s Club who assured us that he would “have it mowed.” We were aghast when we returned a couple days later to see a spot outside the clubhouse no bigger than a couple picnic tables that he’d mowed! So now whadda heck do we do?! Luckily, two of our members came to the rescue and hayed the whole field themselves. This person of record came to the show and was amazed at how many vendors were there and how many patrons came to our club’s show.

So, the next year it was off to Madrid. They had a nice facility and nice grounds, located on the flood plain of the Grass River. We had several good shows there; but alas when the townsfolk saw how much of a draw the St. Lawrence Rock & Mineral Show was, they imagined an opportunity to raise more revenues. Off we go! Again... This time to the Canton Pavilion, where our venue is now. That proved to be a good move. For the most part we enjoyed decent weather during our stays in Madrid, except for the year we were set up on the flood plain and it rained. It wasn’t fun for patrons nor vendors to be ankle deep in water during the show, not at all. At the Canton Pavilion, no such worries.

I must share this one last little story with you. We’ve been at the Canton Pavilion for some time now, and it has proven to be a really fine venue. We reluctantly had to begin charging admission fees, just to cover rental expenses, but we made a go of it and changed with the times. Eventually there too the time came when the townsfolk decided that renting their facility to our club might be a little more profitable. When I caught wind of that, I drafted an email to the Pavilion director reminding them that we came there looking for a new venue and the reasons why and by golly we could just as easily leave there and look again for a new one. After a day or two I decided perhaps I should tone that draft email down. But it



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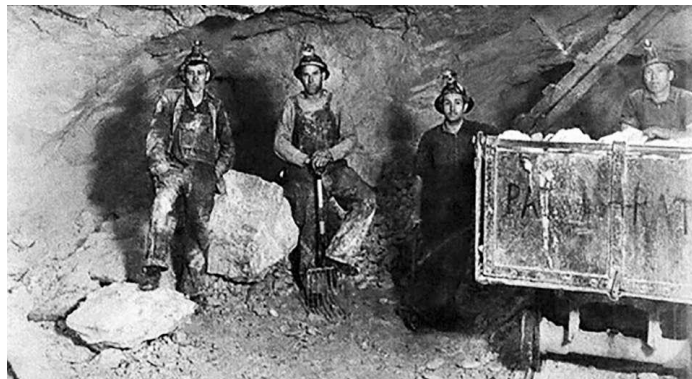
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was nowhere to be found in my "Drafts" folder! Fearing the worst, I searched the "Sent" email file. There it was. Somehow or other the silly thing had gotten loose on me! Uh oh.... Shortly thereafter I received an email from the **Director**. Madam Director reassured me that there would be no fee increases at least for the near future and that she would deal with the new Code Enforcement Officers' picayune, detailed, to-do list. (That's another story).

So here we are today, a healthy, thriving, club, looking to the future and new year with new Officers and a fresh new slate out ahead of us. It sure feels good! The new Pres and I have already talked about the possibility of having a new field trip sometime this year, looking for "Yooperlites." (Google that one...It's cool.) We have a good mix of vendors, all of whom like to come to our show, not only because of the attractiveness of it and how we do it but also because they tell us we are just plain nice up here. Plus, we're just about the least expensive cost per table show anywhere. Topping that off is our location in the NW Adirondacks near the St. Lawrence Seaway, the Thousand Islands and Alexandria Bay, Canada, and other great vacation locations. Several have told us that the St. Lawrence show is their favorite show! And that's a good thing to hear.

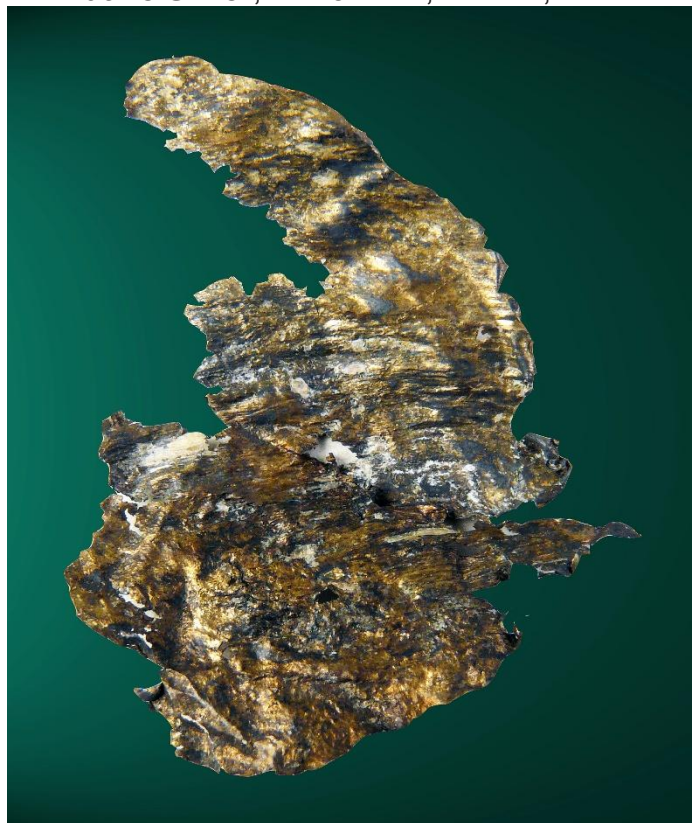
Attendance has grown over the years to almost 1,500 patrons, thanks to the hard work and perseverance of you, our members. We have "special Ops," like Dino Zacks' (and family) "Mineral kits for Kids" and that very popular special Op of Dino's, the "Kid's Fluorescent Mineral Hunt" held on Friday evenings before showtime.

Well, that's almost all for now folks. I'm looking forward to this and upcoming years and to helping upping our game - so to speak - with a steadier mix of field trips and working to integrate PayPal and Venmo more into our transactions and banking architecture. All I can say right now, in the words of our grandson is: "OK, Let's Go!"



I happened upon this old photo of Balmat miners while looking for photos of native silver from the Balmat mines, thought you might enjoy it...

**Native Silver; No. 3 Mine, Balmat, NY**



From **Collector's Guide to the Balmat Mining District : St. Lawrence County, New York**  
Steve Chamberlain and Marian Lupulescu,  
David G. Bailey, William deLorraine



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## Minutes of the December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025 Christmas Dinner Party and Meeting

- The dinner/meeting came to order at 1:00 PM. Introductions went around the room.
- There were 18 in attendance at the annual Christmas Dinner Party in Norwood at the Lobster House.
- Elections took place earlier in December for Officers for (2026-2028) by online voting. Current President, Bill deLorraine, and Joanna, Current Secretary, sent out 79 emails to club members for the voting process, using "Election Buddy". 21 members voted; the following candidates ran unopposed and announced at the event by the retiring President as having "won by landslides".

**President-** Linda Schnittger

**VP-** Gary Garlough

**Secretary-** Amanda Fogg

**Treasurer-** Ashley Meade

- Everyone enjoyed a great dinner and drawings were held for all to win a gift.

The next Club meeting is on March 10<sup>th</sup> downstairs in the Paige room at the Canton, NY Library, 5:30 PM.