

The Splendor of Quartz 2004

by Bob Livingston, Syracuse (Host) Club

As I write this, it's March 1, the snow is melting pretty fast, birds are migrating North. Think July, think lots of fun and think Syracuse, where a great show and convention awaits in less than 90 days from the time you read this.

Recently I had an E-mail from a former president of EFMSL who said, "Your articles about the Syracuse convention are making me think maybe I should get packing my bags now." Obviously, that is good to hear as we have a strong cadre of dedicated Syracuse club members working long and hard to bring you a super show and convention. We continue to add things - latest being a realistic Canadian quarry exhibit with unbelievably huge crystals.

In this issue we give you several websites so you can really start searching and formulating your vacation plans in earnest. Central New York is a neat area that I bet many of you have never visited. So, we encourage you to build in some extra days to maximize what this area has in store. Remember it has been 7 years since "American" has been in the East (Mississippi) and the American convention/show has never been in New York before? I will detail several Herkimer digging sites as well. We will close with a real need for your help/cooperation.

First, a note about making reservations at the Ramada Inn (Headquarters Hotel). You cannot use the national 800 number to get the rate or room. Instead, call 315.457.8670 and tell them you want a room for the Eastern Federation convention. Rate will be \$89 including a cooked to order breakfast.

Helpful websites for the visiting nitty gritty for you: www.iloveny.com. This will let you see the regions of interest: Finger Lakes (where the Syracuse convention and show will be) and Leatherstocking Country (area where the Herkimer Diamond digging places are located). I suggest you contact above site for their nifty 1/4" thick booklet "I love NY-New York State Travel Guide and Vacation Map." They also have a toll-free phone - 1.800.CALLNYS.

Syracuse Convention and Visitors Bureau - can tell you every and anything you might wish to know about the area in and around Syracuse within a 25-mile radius. Phone: 1.800.234.4797. Website www.VisitSyracuse.org.

Coveted Herkimer locations (all fee locations: - driving time from Syracuse, 1 hour and 30 minutes. Here, is the info so you can make some good judgements, plus we list the nearest (timewise) to Syracuse first and furthers by perhaps 12 miles, last:

Treasure Mountain Diamond Mine, Little Falls, NY. This is the newest of the four we will cover, plus it is the one made famous when those quartz scepters began hitting the market from there in the mid 90s. Their website has outstanding photos and says it is "Easy Digging," which granted is easier than the next two, but decent hammer/chisel work for the most part. They have camping. www.treasuremtnmining.com. E-mail: [E-](mailto:info@TreasureMtn.com)

info@TreasureMtn.com. Phone: 315.823.7625.

Herkimer Diamond Devel., just north of Herkimer, NY - has a huge rock shop and displays. Serious miners get set-up here early in the season as they do at Ace, which makes getting a good spot kind hard for a short timer. Great crystals if you are lucky enough to hit a pocket of them. This one and Ace are hard rock ledge mining requiring sledges, chisels, wedges, strong back, patience and lots of energy, luck or a 6th sense in smelling out a pocket. www.herkimerdiamond.com or E-mail: diamonds@ntcnet.com. There is a KOA nearby.

Ace of Diamonds Mine - Their property butts up to the previous one. Digging conditions are similar. Most people think they need to work at the wall which has all the complications noted above. In so doing, you are staring at a vertical wall probably 10 to 12 feet high. Others, however, are pretty successful busting up the rubble and or screening herks from same. We were unable to find a website, but their phone number to get literature or whatever is: 315.891.3855. Also, here is a great website which will let you see exactly what you will be dealing with digging at either second or third location above - www.Towercrystals.com. (All four locations rent tools.)

Last, but not least, is Crystal Grove, St. Johnsville, NY. Each of the Eastern Federation packets, planned to be mailed 3rd week of March, will have a special discounted flier from here. Why? They offered them and albeit a few miles further drive, for a novice wanting to get some Herkimers, this is probably the "easiest" of the four places. They bill themselves as "a Gem of a place!" I have seen very nice specimens from here, but note I didn't say best specimens - two and three would be hard to beat for quality/clarity. However, for family fun this is our pick. We convention goers get group rate \$2 off discounts on the reasonable camping and the daily fee.

Finally, as previously stated, with all "Syracuse" has to do to make this event come off the way you expect us to, we have no choice but to rely on all of you for exhibit cases. Make this your year to "shine." What we'd like to have is a good geographic representation. We believe that we are getting some great exhibits from several California, Northwest and Rocky Mountain members. We also need you folks coming from Southeast, Midwest and South Central to share with our show goers some of your neat stuff too. Easterners, you too need to heed the advice of our President Matt Charsky, and let the whole world see your good stuff in the light of day. Our target is 100 or more cases, which is huge for the East. With everybody's help we can do it. Think of it as, "if you don't do it, it won't get done."

Make plans now to meet your friends old and new, in Syracuse. Registration forms can be downloaded from the web at www.AmFed.org/EFMSL.

Next Issue: Our scheduled field collecting trips (Biggest on Friday, July 9) and other stuff. Any Questions? labudel@dreamscape.com.

From *A.F.M.S. Newsletter* (4/014)

April 2004

The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc.

LOOKING AHEAD

2004 REGIONAL FEDERATION SHOWS & CONVENTIONS

California Federation/Mariposa Show & Convention
Mariposa County Fairgrounds, May 28-30, 2004
Hosts: Mariposa County Gem & Mineral Society

Eastern Federation & American Federation
Combined EFMLS/AFMS Convention & Show
Syracuse, NY, July 8-11, 2004
Hosts: Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse

Midwest Federation
Cedar Rapids, Iowa
April 23-25, 2004

Northwest Federation Annual Convention & Show
Boise, Idaho
July 23-25, 2004

Rocky Mountain Federation Annual Convention & Show
Wichita, KS
April 23-25, 2004
Hosts: Wichita Gem & Mineral Society

South Central Federation Annual Convention & Show
Houston, TX
September 24-26, 2004
Hosts: Houston Gem & Mineral Society

Southeast Federation Annual Convention & Show
Norcross, GA
December 10-12, 2004
Hosts: The Georgia Mineral Society

CLUB & SOCIETY SHOWS/SWAPS

April 24-25, 2004, Memphis, TN - Memphis Archaeological & Geological Society. 25th Annual Mid-America Mineral, Fossil, Jewelry Show, Pipkin Building, Midsouth Fairgrounds, Central and East Parkway. Hours: 24th, 9:00 A.M.-6:00 P.M.; 25th, 10:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M. Contact: W.C. McDaniel at 901.274.7706 or cfmcdaniel@worldnet.att.net. Web link at www.memphisgeology.org.

May 1-2, 2004, North Charleston, SC - Lowcountry Gem & Mineral Society. Performing Arts Center, Montague Avenue, North Charleston, SC. Hours: 1st, 10:00 A.M.-6:00 P.M. and 2nd, 10:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M. Contact: Karen Havenstein at fossil@comcast.net. SFMS Board Meeting on May 1, 2004.

May 7-9, 2004, Marietta, GA - The Georgia Mineral Society. The 36th Annual Gem and Mineral Mother's Day Weekend Show. Cobb County Civic Center, 548 S. Marietta Parkway (at Fairgrounds Street), Marietta, GA 30339. Hours: 7th and 8th, 10:00 A.M.-6:00 P.M.; 9th, Noon-5:00 P.M. Door Prizes and Free Admission/Parking. Auction open to public on 8th at 2:00 P.M. Contact: Jay Gorday at 770.986.0822 or gms@gaminerol.org. Web link at <http://gaminerol.org/may-show.htm>.

June 5-6, 2004, Birmingham, AL - Alabama Mineral & Lapidary Society. 31st Tannehill Gem, Mineral, and Jewelry Show at Tannehill Furnace historical Park near Birmingham, AL. Hours: 5th and 6th: 9:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M. Show admission free to public with \$1 to \$2 admission fee to enter the park. Contact Rick Kittinger, 1612 Coleburg Circle, Hoover, AL 35226 or Rick.Kittinger@bellsouth.com.

June 11-13, 2004, Charlotte, NC - Charlotte Gem & Mineral Club. Oasis Shrine Center, Charlotte, NC. The show is located in the university area just off of I-85 at exit 45, a very short run off the interstate. Hours: 11th and 12th, 10:00 A.M. - 7:00 P.M.; 13th, 10:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. Contact: Dealer chairperson, Becky Strickland, 5110 Kistler Ave., Charlotte, NC 28205, 04.537.6010, e-mail at jsrskat@msn.com.

July 21-25, 2004, Franklin, NC - The Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, NC. Macon County Community Building, 1288 GA Hwy, Franklin, NC. Hours: 21st through 24th, 10:00 A.M.-6:00 P.M.; 25th, Noon-5:00 P.M. Contact: Fred Plesner at willa@dnet.net.

September 3-6, 2004, Hendersonville, NC - Henderson county Gem and Mineral Society. 23rd Annual Gem and Mineral Spectacular & Sale. Whitmire Activity Building, Lily Pond Road, Hendersonville, NC. Hours: 3rd, 4th & 5th, 10:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.; 6th, 1:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. Contact: Margaret L. Johnson, P.O. Box 6391, Hendersonville, NC 28739-6391, 828.692.12.49.

September 4, 2004, Hendersonville, NC - Henderson County Gem and Mineral Society. 15th Annual Micromount Symposium, Salvation Army Building, Grove Street between 3rd and 4th Avenues, Hendersonville, NC. Hours: 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. Contact: Emily Adams, 355 Pelham Road, Greenville, SC 29615, 864.271.3877.

September 10-12, 2004, Winston-Salem, NC - Forsyth Gem and Mineral Club. 33rd Annual Gem and Mineral Show, Education Building, Dixie Classic Fairgrounds, Gate 5, Deacon Blvd. Hours: 11th & 12th, 10:00 A.M. - 7:00 P.M.; 12th, 12:00 Noon - 6:00 P.M. Contact: Paul Burton, Show Chairman, 2001 Walker Road, Winston-Salem, NC 27106, 336.924.8510.

September 18-19, 2004, Jacksonville, FL- Jacksonville Gem & Mineral Society. Hours: 18th, 10:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.; 19th, 10:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. Contact: Mary Chambliss, vorey Towers@msn.com.

September 25-26, 2004, Hiddenite, NC - Western Piedmont Mineral & Gem Society. 16th Annual Hiddenite Gem & Mineral Show, Hiddenite Educational Complex, Sulpher Springs Road, Hiddenite, NC. Hours: 25th, 9:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M., 26th, 12 Noon - 5:00 P.M. Rock Swap, 26th, 12:00 noon - 4:00 P.M. Minerals Only! NO DEALERS!. Contacts: Jerry Hedrick, 828.396.4576 and/or Linda Moser, 828.459.7622.

October 2-3, 2004, Lexington, KY - Rockhounds of Central Kentucky. 14th Annual Show, National Guard Armory, Airport Road. Hours: 2nd, 10:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M. and 3rd, 12:00 Noon - 5:00 P.M. Adults \$1, Children 6-12, 50 cents, max \$3/family. Contact Dawkins, 502.695.4444.

October 8-10, 2004, Huntsville, AL - Huntsville Gem and Mineral Society. Von Braun Civic Center. Hours: 8th and 9th, 10:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M. and 3rd, 12:00 Noon-5:00 P.M. Contact: Tony Smith at 256.852.3210 or tsmith@ercnet.com.

REMEMBER - to insure your show is listed here, send a written notice to the Lodestar Editor: Carolyn L. Daniels, 3660 Prince Way, Tucker, GA 30084-8317 or email at: dpdaniels@mindspring.com. ALL SFMS CLUBS ARE ALSO ENCOURAGED TO REGISTER THEIR EVENT LISTINGS ON THE SFMS WEBSITE AT: <http://www.amfed.org/sfms>. Choose "Submission Guidelines" under the SFMS Shows Column heading to find out how to apply.

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