

Wayne County Gem and Mineral Club News

April, 2018

Always Looking for Places to Dig!



The workshop was busy on March 3rd.



<http://www.wcgmc.org/>

FACEBOOK link



The raffle table at the March auction.
For more on the event, see page 4

Next Club Meeting Friday April 13th, 7:00 PM

Presbyterian Church, Maple Court, Newark, NY

PROGRAM: LAPIDARY PROJECTS

- Bring along a lapidary project or piece that you are creating/have created or purchased to show and share. Spend a minute describing what it is, how you created it, and/or why it interests you.
- Bring a piece you plan to work on and seek ideas on how to proceed.

NOTE: The April meeting will be held upstairs in the lounge of the church as the basement is not available that evening. Enter the church on the south side of the building, or exactly opposite the normal meeting entry point.

April WCGMC Workshop Saturday April 7th

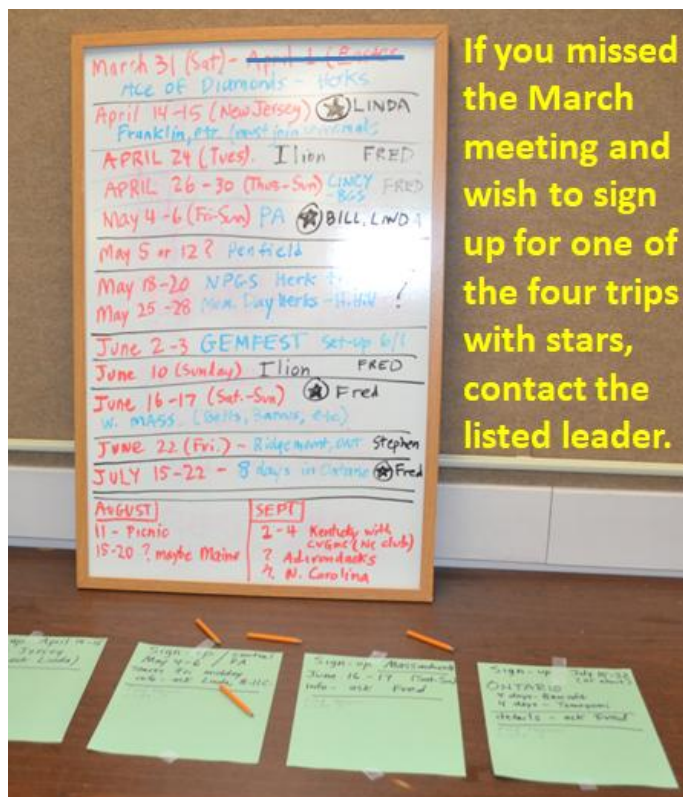
When: 10:00 AM til mid-afternoon

Where: The Weiler's Barn and Club Workshop
6676 E. Port Bay Rd, Wolcott, NY

Rules: Bring your own rocks to saw, grind, polish, or even facet. Training on equipment is available. Eye protection is required.
\$5/adult to offset maintenance costs.

WCGMC is Going Places in 2018

Our tentative field trip schedule can be found on page 7. We introduced much of this at our March meeting and had sign-up sheets for the first four overnight trips. If you wish information on these or want to sign up, please contact the leader listed for the trip.



THE LIFE OF A EURYPTERID IN THE SILURIAN SEAS

BY STEPHEN MAYER

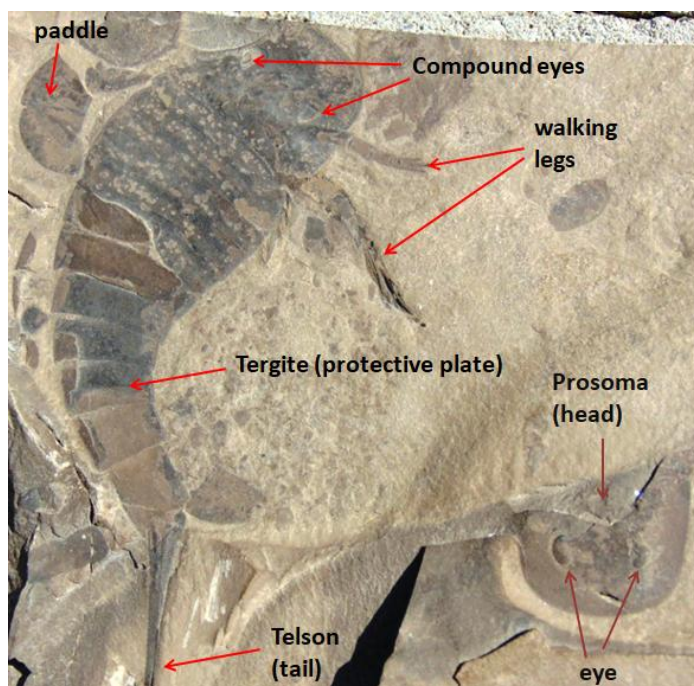


In 1984, the New York State legislature asked school children to select an official State Fossil. The eurypterid, *Eurypterus remipes*, was chosen. Although extremely rare worldwide, eurypterids are found throughout western and central New York and southern Ontario. They have been the focus of numerous studies dating from the early 1900's.

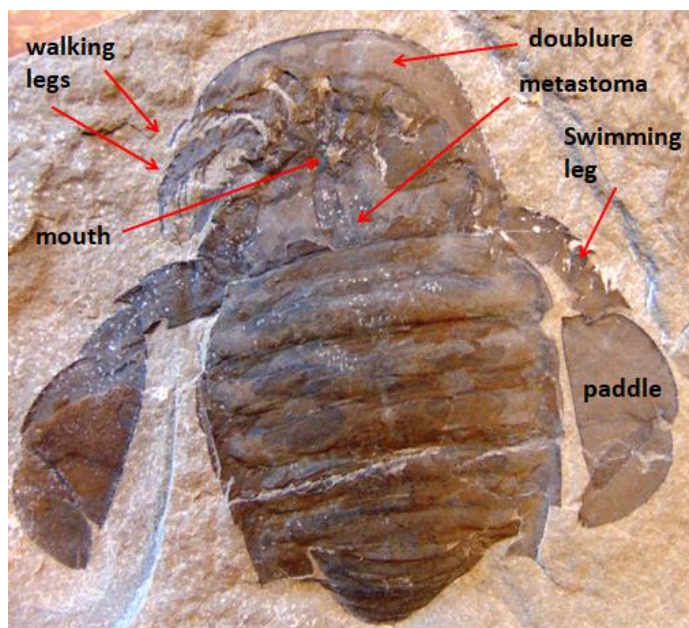
All arthropods grow by moulting (ecdysis) of their exoskeleton and eurypterids were no exception. However, in the fossil record how does one tell if the fossil is a moult or a carcass? The majority of eurypterid specimens have been interpreted as being "cast exuviae (cuticle) from the frequent moulting of growing individuals", according to Clarke and Ruedemann, 1912, Batt 1999, as well as several other authors. The most commonly found separate elements of fossil eurypterids are the head (known as the prosoma) and the suture cuticle beneath the head known as the doublure. Both are nearly always products of ecdysis. Although scattered parts could be from the decomposition of decaying animals, it is almost impossible to determine if a complete specimen is a moult or a carcass and therefore collectors are content just having a complete eurypterid in their collection.

Like all animals, eurypterids grew to many sizes. Specimens of *E. remipes* from the Silurian Bertie Group Fiddlers Green Formation are typically smaller on average than *E. lacustris* from the overlying Williamsville Formation documented by Vrazo and Braddy, 2011. However, there is little difference in minimum to maximum size of the two species.

Vrazo and Braddy (2011) have proposed a new idea referred to as the "mass-mate-spawn-moult" hypothesis of eurypterid paleoecology. The interpretation is that males and females would have amassed at a specific shallow water, possibly lagoonal, breeding area to mate, similar to the modern-day horseshoe crab *Limulus*. After mating, males left the area and returned to deeper water, whereas the females remained to spawn and subsequently moult before migrating back to deeper water. After their eggs hatched, eurypterid larvae and juveniles remained in these breeding grounds until mature and then migrated basinward. Of course, the males moulted as well but the researchers found a greater abundance of female exuviae at the different study sites.



Eurypterus remipes 165 mm (~6 inches) long from Fiddlers Green, Phelps Member: a New York specimen of the New York State Fossil species,
collected by Stephen Mayer.



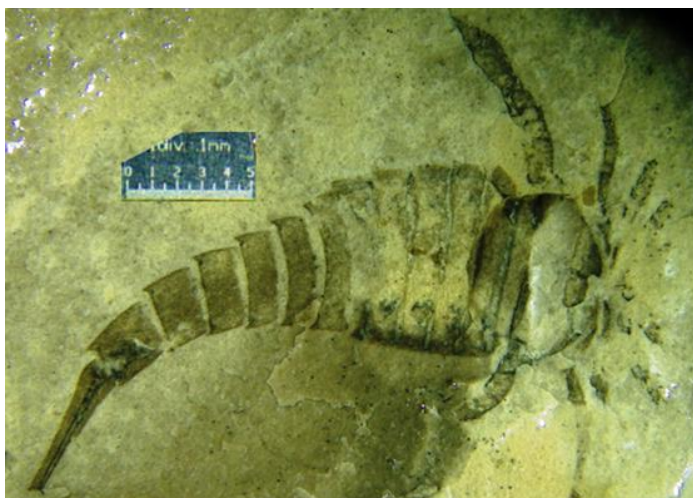
Eurypterus lacustris 75 mm long from Williamsville A Ridgemoor Quarry, Ontario, Canada
collected by Wayne Davey.

Currently, fellow club member Wayne Davey and I, in collaboration with Sam Ciorca, are conducting an unbiased census of species collected from Ridgemoor Quarry and locations in Phelps, New

York. Gary Thomas has joined us and will be assisting in the field research in Phelps, New York, where the Ellicott Creek Breccia Member, which overlies the Phelps member of the Fiddlers Green Formation, has yielded numerous unique specimens including the poorly described *Eurypterus laculatus* (pers. comm. Ciurca, 2018). We have already discovered hundreds of juvenile eurypterids which we believe constitute nurseries at both localities. With additional field research, we hope to relate our findings to the mass-mate-spawn-moult hypothesis proposed by Vrazo and Braddy (2011).

Of course if you are like Sam Ciurca, Wayne Davey and me, you are not content to have one specimen, or even two or three. You could say we are obsessed with finding the next eurypterid and the more we collect the more we want to discover and learn. For this reason we are grateful to the Wayne County Gem and Mineral Club for helping us with site permissions and for otherwise supporting our field research efforts.

The next time you are out collecting fossils, take a moment to think about the paleoenvironment indicated by the rocks and what the animal might have been experiencing during its life. One opportunity to do this will be Friday June 22nd, when Wayne and I will lead a WCGMC field trip to Ridgemount Quarry in Ontario. This trip will afford you an opportunity to collect eurypterids at what just might be the premier locality in the world. We also plan to share our learnings at a club meeting in the fall after a full summer season of site visits and research.



If you are lucky at Ridgemount Quarry you might find a small *Eurypterus laculatus*. And you too can speculate whether your find is a moult or the final resting spot of a Silurian eurypterid. Wayne Davey collected this 26 mm long specimen from the Ellicott Creek Breccia.

References

Batt, R.J., 1999. An Examination of Eurypterid Occurrences in the Williamsville Formation (Bertie Group) exposed in Ridgemount Quarry. New York State Geological Association 71st Annual Meeting and Guidebook, SUNY Fredonia, NY, pp. 59-67.

Ciurca, S.J., Jr. and Hamell, R.D., 1994. Late Silurian Sedimentation, Sedimentary Structures and Paleoenvironmental settings within an Eurypterid Bearing Sequence (Salina and Bertie Groups), Western New York State and Southwestern Ontario, Canada in NYSGA Field Trip Guidebook 66th Annual Meeting, p.457-488.

Clarke, J.M. and Ruedemann, R. 1912. The Eurypterida of New York. New York State Museum Memoir 14, vol 1-2.

Vrazo, M.B. and Braddy, S.J., 2011. Testing the "Mass-Moult-Mate" Hypothesis of Eurypterid Paleogeography, Palaeogeography, Palaeoclimatology, Palaeoecology. 311, pp 63-73.

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Wayne County Gem & Mineral Club

25th
annual **Gem Fest**
2018



Sat. June 2 10-5
Sun. June 3 10-4

LOCATION

Greater Canandaigua Civic Center
250 N. Bloomfield Rd, Canandaigua, NY

\$3 Admission, Kids 12 & under FREE

Soapstone Carving, Wire Wrapping, Sluice
Vendors, Exhibits, Free Prizes, Scavenger Hunt

UV Bob's Ultraviolet Show

Gems, Minerals, Fossils, Beads & Jewelry

visit <http://www.wcgmc.org/> for details

GEMFEST is just around the corner. Mark the dates on your calendars and please plan to help us pull off another successful show. We have even bigger plans this year than last and will need all hands on deck to pull it off.

WCGMC Annual Auction

What a grand evening we had on March 9th at our annual club auction. About 40 members attended and over 30 individuals placed winning bids during the fun filled evening. Our auctioneer extraordinaire, Linda Schmidtgal, had selected over 65 items from the club collection and with a few member donations., there were over 75 lots to tempt folks. Nothing was left out and very few went bidless!. There were minerals, fossils, rocks, and lapidary/jewelry items. There were large crystals, crystal clusters, polished stones and slabs, and rough lapidary rocks. Truly, something for everyone!

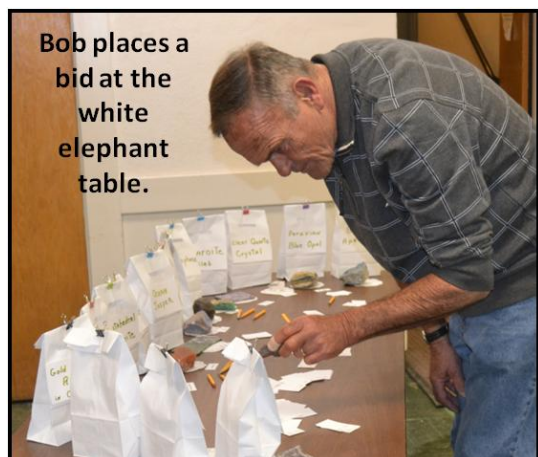


The Master of the Auction

Linda

Nine folks paid to play poker for one of these. Ed Smith drew to a flush and won.

Linda had set up five different auction types. There was a raffle table, a white elephant style bid table, a table for "kids only" (hard to define with this group), and, of course, a spirited called auction of about 25 items capped the evening. There was even a poker hand played for a nice large malachite piece.



Bob places a bid at the white elephant table.

WCGMC thanks all who attended and participated in the festive evening. The club raised \$1050 during the evening, which will be used to maintain our growing workshop and to fund collecting fees required on some of the club's field trips. On your next workshop visit you will see the newest addition, a new medium sized saw that you can all use to trim and prep your newly acquired auction pieces,



On the left: Action at the silent auction table. Put your raffle tickets in the bags at the kid's only table on the right.

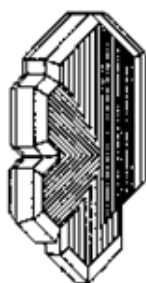


Photos from [Views of the Mahantango](#) webpage

for answer, see page 6

Can you name me?

- I am an invertebrate marine fossil.
- I lived in the Middle Devonian Period (390-380 million years ago)
- I can be found in the Hamilton Group sedimentary rocks in western New York.
- I was a sessile creature and a filter feeder, deploying a lophophore to filter nutrients from sea water.
- I am an articulate form of my Phylum.
- I'm extinct, but there are members of my phylum alive in today's oceans.
- Easy part – name my Phylum
- Not so easy - Genus and Species



**45th Rochester
Mineralogical Symposium
April 19-22, 2018**

**Radisson Hotel Rochester Airport
175 Jefferson Road, Rochester, NY**

For more info: <http://www.rasny.org/>



The Wonder of Tucson in February

BY DONNA SMITH



I am assuming that many of our members have been to the Tucson Gem & Mineral Show, but I want to encourage those who have not to go sometime. This February was my first visit and it was a jaw-dropping experience for me.

This event is THE largest of its kind in the world. The main show at the Convention Center is hosted by the Tucson Gem & Mineral Society, Inc. They had a club booth where I got a warm welcome. This year's theme was "Crystals and Crystal Forms". They focus on education and they had obtained specimens from Carnegie Mellon, the Smithsonian, and museums in Toronto, Scotland and Los Angeles to complement pieces from their own collections. The large event is run exclusively by volunteers, just like our very own GemFest in Canandaigua.



The displays at the Main Show were colorful and breathtaking. Look at that amazonite with smoky quartz in the middle of the middle row!



And then there was this: a wondrous display of the multitude of crystal forms that our favorite minerals display, all cut in wood. One could stand there for hours soaking in all that information.

Ed & I were at the main event for only one day and, of course, did not see everything. Here are a few highlights:

- I met a woman who makes the most beautiful silver jewelry. [Turza Wells](#) can be found online and on [Etsy](#) if you want to see her work. Her husband (Andrew Shows) makes the polished stones she uses. I bought a lovely "C" shaped inlaid bracelet.
- There was a woman named [Susan Judy](#) who makes large flat wall hangings of stone. Some are landscape, some geometric - some containing fossils. They were absolutely extraordinary. Her work was featured in the Feb. 2016 "Rock & Gem" magazine and is also online.
- We saw Joe Dorris and his family (from the TV show "Prospectors"). They displayed a 3 foot wide amazonite cluster that his son had pieced together. The Dorris family uses heavy machinery to excavate amazonite and smoky quartz in their Colorado Mt. mine. Joe is also the author of mineral and mining books.

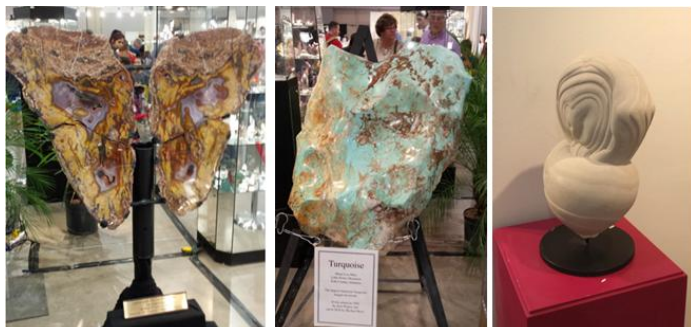


[Mindat.org](#) had an exhibit focused on the origin of mineral names. Who knew how complicated that seemingly simple process can be!

The next day we went to the 22nd Street show - several large tents filled with vendors. All-in-all there are forty-two (that's right, 42) different venues!! Many more tents and arenas and rock shops and even hotels host shows. We were there near the end and did get some end-of-show deals, but I can only imagine the pieces and artwork that had already been purchased.

continued on next page

We also went to Quartzite where we saw Ron Coleman in his booth of Arkansas crystals. Those on the November Arkansas collecting trip remember his fabulous quartz and the tour he gave of the cleaning facility in Jessieville. This time, he did not have bushel baskets of crystals for us to take home.



Some of the displays were large, in fact probably large enough to pique Glenn's collecting interest, from an agate butterfly on the left to the huge turquoise "nugget" in the middle. The piece on the right looks like a piece of art, and to a point it is! It is a large, naturally sculpted sand concretion: simply stunning.

The Convention Center was THE BEST. It was so much fun for me to see such variety in very professional exhibit cases and displays. Everyone was friendly and shared information. I did not feel that I had to "buy". It was more like being in a magnificent museum, very exciting and educational. I definitely hope to return in 2019 and plan to spend more time!!



Answer from page 4

Yep, I'm a **Brachiopod**
But did you know:

my class: Rhynchonellata
my family: Athyrididae
my genus: **Athyris**
my species: **spiriferoides**

Athyris spiriferoides from Buffalo Creek
collected by Fred Haynes, 2017



President's Message or One Big Rock

Hello everybody hope you are all fine . I'm sorry I missed the action at the auction in March. I was struck by the flu bug. I sure don't wish that on anybody. A few lines on what I have been doing. A friend Mr. Martin bought a farm in Sterling Valley, NY. They dug a large rock out of the driveway and wondered if I could grind and polish one end and sandblast a large M and house number on it. This rock really grew in several months time. When I first saw it it was 2 tons, but when I loaded it up on the trailer it had grown into a five ton boulder, or so it seemed. Well we got it done and let me tell you that thing was hard to grind, polish, and sandblast. It was hard like a rock!

We delivered it back to the farm so now I can play with my own stones, which suddenly don't look that big anymore!

Glenn Weiler



Wayne County Gem and Mineral Club 2018 Field Trips *last update March 26*

Spring arrived this past week and soon the snow will be gone and we are planning an active collecting season. ***For the overnight trips we ask that you get yourself onto the list of possible attendees with the listed leader as soon as possible.*** Once we know the level of interest, logistics can be better worked. There will also be several local day trips sprinkled into the schedule as the seasons progress. We'll also be seeking input at upcoming meetings. This is basically just a list with little detail. Ask for details and get on the list for that trip's news. Contact Fred Haynes or Linda Schmidtgal if you have any general questions or the leader listed for each trip with specific questions. **Please check this page each month and the webpage for changes; WCGMC field trip planning is flexible!**

March 31 (Saturday) - Opening Day at Ace of Diamonds for Herkimers – opens at 9 AM

April 14-15 (Sat-Sun) – Franklin, NJ trip with UV Nomads Club *info-Linda Schmidtgal* (NOT the SuperDig)

April 24 (Tuesday) -- Ilion for Travertine (*contact Fred Haynes*)

April 27-29 (Fri-Sun) – Fossil collecting around **Cincinnati** (BGS trip, *contact Fred Haynes for info*)

May 4-6 (central **Pennsylvania**, Mt. Pleasant Mills, etc.) (Leader – *Bill Chapman*)

May ?? - Penfield Quarry Open House (as of 3/26, date not set) – watch our webpage

May 18-20 Herkimer collecting opportunities with Niagara Peninsula Geol. Club (*contact Fred Haynes*)

May 25-28 (Memorial Day weekend) – collecting Herkimers, Hickory Hills should be open (*info-Gary Thomas*)

June 1-3 GEMFEST in Canandaigua

June 10 (Sunday) – Ilion for travertine (for a second time!)

June 16-17-18 – western **Massachusetts**, rhodonite, tourmaline, galena and much more (*info-Fred Haynes*)

June 22 (Friday) - Ridgemount, Ontario for Eurypterids (Leader – *Stephen Mayer*)

July 14-22 (**Ontario**, Bancroft and Temagami, 3-4 days at each location (*info- Fred Haynes*)

August 11 – Saturday (WCGMC PICNIC, MARK THIS DATE)

August – perhaps a 4-5 day trip to **Maine**

August 31-Sept 3 (Labor Day) – 3 day plus trip to **Kentucky** with CVGMC of NC (fluorite, geodes, etc.)

September – **Adirondack** weekend mid-month and/or Virginia trip with GMSVP of VA

We will work to line up day trips with the Rochester Academy of Science Fossil Group as we have in past years and we'll likely get to Bethany Center, the Lake Ontario shoreline, and other familiar local sites all through the field season. But, if all that is not enough for you, tell us what you would like to do and/or offer to lead an additional trip.



Yes, this Saturday is the first day of the 2018 collecting season for WCGMC. And our fearless field trip leader, Bill Chapman, is resting up and dreaming of the large Herkimers that await us. Ian is just enjoying being with his best buddy.

Photo by Pat Chapman

Wayne County Gem & Mineral Contacts

ELECTED OFFICERS

Glenn Weiler – President gwexterior@gmail.com
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Jerry Donahue – VP Chester145322@yahoo.com
585-548-3200
Eva Jane Weiler – Secretary gwexterior@gmail.com
315-594-8478
Bill Lesniak – Treasurer/Webmaster
Dirtman300@aol.com 315-483-8061

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Linda Schmidtgal lees@tds.net 315-365-2448
Gary Thomas gftthomas956@gmail.com 585-489-2162
Fred Haynes fredmhaynes55@gmail.com 585-203-1733

Visit us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1675855046010058/>

APPOINTED POSITIONS

Bill Chapman – Field Trip Chair
batnpill@empacc.net 607-868-4649
Fred Haynes – Newsletter Editor
fredmhaynes55@gmail.com 585-203-1733
Bill Lesniak – Website Coordinator
Glenn Weiler – Workshop Coordinator
Linda Schmidtgal – Collection Curator
Eric Elias: GEMFEST Show Chair
thecrystalnetwork@hotmail.com
Fred Haynes – Facebook Administrator

Club meets 2nd Friday of each month starting in Sept.
Social meeting at 6:30 PM.

Regular meeting at 7:00 PM

Park Presbyterian Church, Maple Court, Newark, NY

Website – <http://www.wcgmc.org/>

Dues are only \$15 individual or \$20 family for a full season of fun. Renewal is in October. Send to:

WCGMC, P. O. Box 4, Newark, NY 14513

The Public is always welcomed
First Class: Dated, Meetings & Time Values



Wayne County Gem and Mineral Club
P.O. Box 4
Newark, New York 14513