

Wayne County Gem and Mineral Club News

April, 2022

Always Looking for Places to Dig!



Another Ice Story (page 5)



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



*It is time to go find one of these
(or two or six) - see page 2*

Next Club Meeting

Friday **April 8th**, 7:00 PM.

Park Presbyterian Church,
Maple Court, Newark, NY

**Program: The Rocks That Built
Western New York**

by Tyler Lucero

Come learn about all the rocks in our neck of the woods that have been used for building stone. Tyler is a geologist and local historian who will tell us all about cobblestone, red sandstone, and much more. **See page 3 for more detail and a bit about our guest this month.**



The one-room Roe schoolhouse on Route 89 in Wolcott is a cobblestone classic located just two miles from our club workshop.

Saturday Club Workshop – April 9th (10:00 AM until mid-afternoon)

Where: 6676 E. Port Bay Rd, Wolcott, NY

Eye protection is required.

Training on equipment is available.

\$5/adult to offset maintenance costs.

Wayne County Gem & Mineral Club

**We're
back!**

**Gem Fest
2022**



**Sat. June 4 10-5
Sun. June 5 10-4**

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

\$4 Admission, Kids 12 & under FREE

Soapstone Carving, Wire Wrapping, Sluice,
Vendors, Exhibits, Free Prizes, Scavenger
Hunt, Rock painting, Jerry's Dinosaur, our
famous Rock Grab bags, and much more

Gems, Minerals, Fossils, Beads & Jewelry

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



This month our newsletter is filled with follow-up stories. I like that because it shows me that people read our newsletter! Remember, it is never the wrong time to sit down and send me a few words about your latest adventure, learning, or lapidary creation. Pictures work too!

Brian Dear is a fossil and sand collector from a sister club in St. Catharine's Ontario. Like Kathleen Cappon, he enjoyed some time in Florida this winter and also came home with some fossils. His story in this newsletter follows Kathleen's from [last month's issue](#). He even used a similar floating sieve! I thank the Niagara Peninsula Geological Society for allowing us to share his story from their newsletter.

Ice seems to be the theme this winter. First, I wrote about [ice balls in February](#). Then, a reader finds them on Lake Ontario and reports for [the March issue](#). These stories reminded Ed Smith of a pretty amazing ice event in Sodus some 15 years ago and Ed dug into his archives to share some pictures for this month's issue.



Sterling Nature Center also got into the act when Lake Ontario decided to line up the remaining ice along its shoreline on March 16th. Photo from Sterling Nature Center Facebook Page

It is snowing lightly as I work on the April issue, but soon all this ice will be gone and another winter will have passed. It will be time to stash the snow shovels and windshield scrapers and find our rock hammers and chisels. In fact our first collecting gathering of the year is less than a week away as I write this.

And with that in mind, I would like to add my condolences to the Smith family and to the Ace of Diamonds crew. We will be there, dressed in orange, on April 1, but it will not be the same to walk into the store and not be greeted by Ted.

Ted Smith, owner of Ace of Diamonds Mine since 1996, passed away on March 7th, 2022. Ted was 75 years old.

[Link: Ted Smith obituary](#)



from the Ace of Diamonds Facebook Page



Ace of Diamonds Mine & Campground

March 21 at 5:34 PM · 🌐

In honor of Ted Smith, we will be offering a \$2 discount off of children and adult admissions opening weekend at The Ace of Diamonds Mine (Friday April 1st, Saturday April 2nd and Sunday April 3rd) to anyone who wears Ted's favorite color, ORANGE!!!!. We are currently busy getting ready to open for another amazing year at the Ace and we hope to see you there!!!

**WCGMC Field Trip: Friday April 1
Ace of Diamonds, Middleville, NY
Mine opens at 9:00 AM**

The Rocks That Built Western New York by Tyler Lucero



It's not an accident that about 80% of the country's cobblestone structures are located within 75 miles of Rochester, with 210 surviving and past examples in Wayne County alone, more than any other county. And that's not all: from cobblestones to picturesque cemeteries, and red sandstone curbs to old mills, our area's unique architectural heritage is, in part, a reflection of its singular geological history.

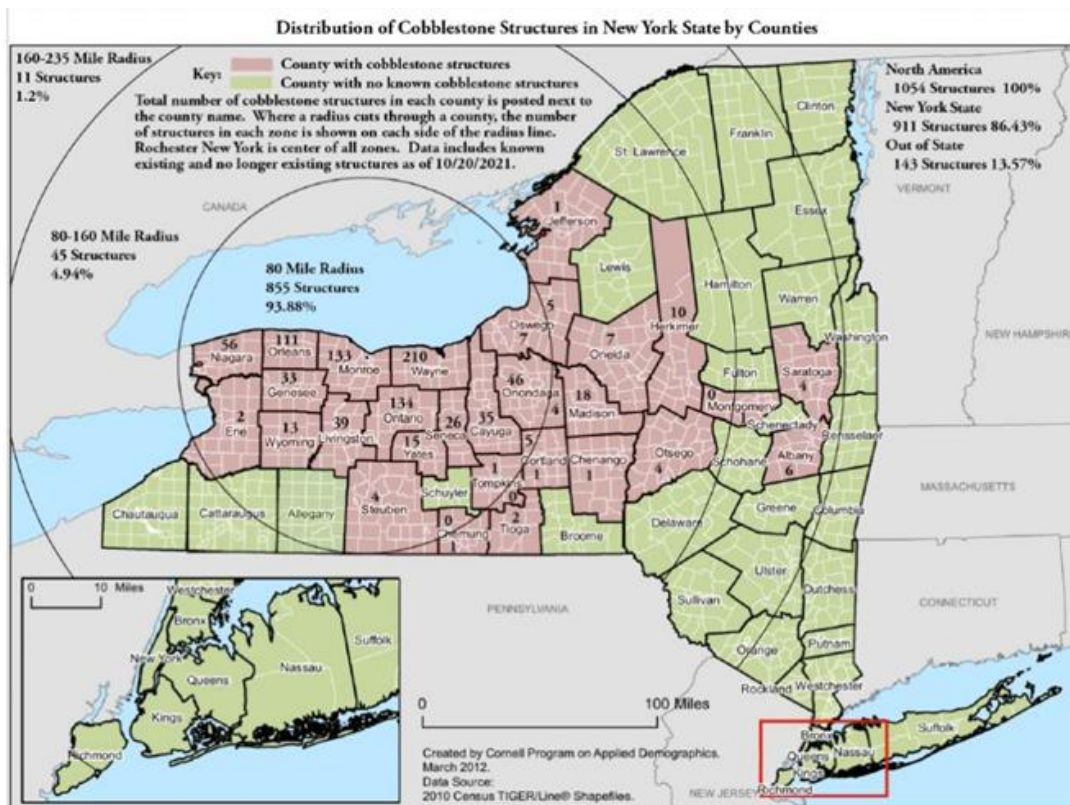
Ancient shallow seas and more recent Ice Age glaciers have given local architects the palette of materials and landscapes they have used to give our community form over time, making our buildings and public places an ongoing dialog between the natural and human worlds. In this talk, we'll eavesdrop on that dialog, linking some of our most treasured landmarks with the ancient geologic processes that made them possible, and that influence their preservation today.

About Tyler Lucero:

Tyler Lucero has connected people to our natural and human heritage as an interpreter at the Genesee Country Village & Museum; a science teacher in the Rochester City School District; a naturalist at West Irondequoit's Helmer Nature Center; a Preservation Planner at the Landmark Society of Western New York; and an interpretive ranger at Rocky Mountain National Park.

Tyler studied geology and history at Brown University, and has traveled widely to wild and historic places across the United States, but loves the people, landscape, and history of his native Western New York best. You can catch many of his other talks on local natural and human history through the Rochester Brainery:

<https://rochesterbrainery.com/collections/tyler-lucero>



Local limestone and sandstone were used in the construction of Rochester's first City Hall in the mid-1870s; their differing properties account for their different conditions today.

Wayne County Wins! With 210 registered cobblestone buildings, our county beats all others. And it is not even close! Come to the meeting to learn why. But there is more than cobblestone to talk about, like Rochester's first City Hall.



Republished, with permission, from The Pink Dolomite Saddle, March 2022, the monthly Bulletin of the Niagara Peninsula Geological Society

The adventure of a lifetime, well, in the top ten of my adventures anyway: “fossicking” on Charlie Creek, with Mike, a young college student who had kindly volunteered to take a day off to lead me on a fossil hunting expedition to one of his secret locations. Charlie Creek is a tributary of the Peace River that runs through Hardee and Polk Counties before entering the Peace River in Gardner, Florida. The creek is named after Seminole chief Charlie Apoka

It was sunny and 71° as we loaded his kayak with backpacks, snacks, water, shovels and sifting screens and waded into the creek. We pushed and pulled the kayak through the warm, dark, tea-colored water and over submerged logs. Our pant legs would snag on hidden branches as we ducked under fallen trees (all the while keeping an eye out for gators and poisonous snakes!).

Most of the time the water was only ankle to knee depth with only an occasional, unexpected drop off to the chest. We looked for areas of gravel along the sandy bottom, where the fossils like to hide. When we found suitable material we shoveled gravel onto sifting screens (1/4 inch mesh) designed to float on the water. Fines wash through, coarse matter is picked out. If you are lucky treasures can be found.

I was amazed at the abundance of fossil material in the gravel and thankful to Mike who was able to identify most of the material for me. The bounty included shark teeth, gator teeth, gar scales, horse teeth, turtle shell fragments, sting ray mouth plates and barbs, dugong ribs (Sea Cows) and even a few partial mastodon teeth. I carried out another 15 pounds or so of misc bone fragments, most too small to identify. They could have come from ancient camels, bison, horses, giant sloth, mammoth, mastodon, whale, porpoise, armadillos, bear, tortoise, rhinoceros, glyptodont, or any number of other creatures that roamed or swam in the waters of Florida 2.5 to 5.3 million years ago.

Our adventure took us downstream for 3 hours and a more exhausting 3.5 hours back up stream with many stops along the way to seek out these long hidden fossilized treasures. It was definitely a day to remember, a special thank you to my friend and guide, Mike, for tolerating all my questions and keeping me safe. Mike made what I considered the best find of the day, a small piece of Mastodon Tusk (ivory) which he generously offered for my collection. It was definitely a day to remember.



A bit of the fossil bounty from a day on Charlie Creek: shark teeth on the left and sting ray mouth plates on the right.

Ice on Lake Ontario

by Ed Smth

Considering the temperature outside right now I should not jinx things for the Ace of Diamonds field trip on April 1st by talking about ice and an ice storm. But, I live on Sodus Bay and watching the annual ice buildup has been a pastime of mine for several decades.

The recent articles in our club newsletter about ice along Lake Ontario reminded me of a rather special ice event about fifteen years ago. But first let's talk about how fast the ice can form on Lake Ontario and what kind of depth it can reach.

When the temperature and wind are right (or wrong depending on your perspective), it is not unusual to see six feet generated over night and ten to twelve feet total during the winter. The ice formations are often unique and always interesting. When ice begins to form with a 20 degree night time temperature and some moderate wind, maybe 15 MPH, you have good conditions to make a lot of ice.

Ice keeps forming until it becomes undercut. Then wind-driven waves splash out rather than over thus cutting off building more ice depth. It is amazing to see six or seven feet of ice depth generated between sundown one day and sunrise the next. The waves can wash blow holes in the ice from below causing a geyser. These are entertaining to watch, but don't walk around the ice during the springtime. You just don't know how thick the ice is right under your feet.



Crescent Beach on Lake Ontario the day after a major winter windstorm I did not know it at the time, but aren't those ice balls littered atop the ice?

Occasionally, the water and ice escape the lake. This is not as entertaining if you own lakefront property. The two pictures below are from such an event in Sodus Bay about 15 years ago. They depict cottages on Crescent Beach, the barrier between Sodus Bay and Lake Ontario. This is a dynamic place in the best of circumstances, but on that particular night sixty MPH wind gusts were strong enough for the lake spray to reach the cottages 60-80' from the edge of the ice. The winds persisted long enough to build a thick coating of ice on anything it reached. The icicles grew on an angle, very cool, unless you own the place! The thickness of the ice built up on the porch railings was amazing. There is a normal railing inside all that ice. How it did not collapse with all that weight I'll never know. It is a dynamic world we live in.



WC

Splendid Sands Calendar

April, 2022

Rio Mine, Rio Marina, Elba Island, ITALY



Photo by Leo Kenney

by Leo Kenney, Kate Clover & Carol Hopper Brill

The history of the island of Elba in the Tyrrhenian Sea includes the beginning of iron ore mining in the 8th Century BC by Etruscans. Over the years, the mines expanded and mining continued non-stop until 1981 when, after nearly 3000 years the mining era ended.

Today, the region is a mineral park dedicated to showcasing the area's rich geological, historical, and cultural resources. It is also on UNESCO's "World Heritage Provisional List of Geological Sites" as "one of the most important and famous mineralogical and historic mining locations."

The Etruscans named the island Ilva, meaning iron. They knew that having metal for tools and weapons put their people at an advantage, and they fought to defend their resource. In 250 BC, the Romans and Etruscans battled over the mines. The Romans won and they produced iron tools from the ore to gain dominance in the region.

The rocks around Rio Marina are varied including schist, marbles, marbles, quartzites, and carbonate rocks. Seen here in the coarse sand are iron-stained minerals (including quartz) and rocks, granular hematite grains, dolostone, and opaque iron minerals.

WCGMC March Workshop



Photos by Heidi Morgenstern



Photo by Beth Webster

Our March club meeting demonstrated the diversity of our members. James Keeler led the program for the evening which included a presentation on the properties of minerals and their identification in sand samples. Everyone in attendance (and the place was packed!) had an opportunity to build a home test kit of their own including an acid bottle, a magnet, a streak plate, some hardness tools and a little tray to put them all in.



Our own mineral identification kits

Photo by Beth Webster



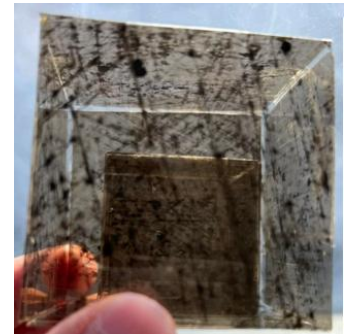
Kathleen Cappon talks about a whale vertebra section she acquired at a flea market while in Florida.

But, we did not stop there. Kathleen was back from a month in Florida (see last month's newsletter) and she brought some fossils and other finds to show and share (see lower left).



Dave Millis came up from Pennsylvania with a sailing ship built from muscovite collected from Benson Mines in Star Lake.

Dave also had mica sheets for folks to peel and cut. He showed how the cut pieces could be assembled into perfect cubes. There is never a dull moment at a WCGMC meeting. Next month the topic will be cobblestone buildings. Will you be there? I bet the fella below will be!



Wayne County Gem & Mineral Contacts

ELECTED OFFICERS

President – James Keeler

[jamesrocks\(at\)keeler.com](mailto:jamesrocks(at)keeler.com)

Vice-President – Holly Woodworth

[autum14513\(at\)yahoo.com](mailto:autum14513(at)yahoo.com)

Secretary – Beth Webster

Treasurer - Bill Lesniak

Board of Directors

Bob Linderbery

Heidi Morgenstern

Karen Wilkins

Ed Smith

Past President – Linda Schmidtgal

Visit us on Facebook:

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

APPOINTED POSITIONS

Bill Chapman – Field Trip Chair

Stephen Mayer - Fossil Field Trip Leader

Fred Haynes – Newsletter Editor

[fredmhaynes55\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:fredmhaynes55(at)gmail.com)

Bill Lesniak – Website Coordinator

Glenn Weiler – Workshop Coordinator

Linda Schmidtgal – Collection Curator

Fred Haynes – Facebook Administrator

Jim Rienhardt – Sand Chapter

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

