

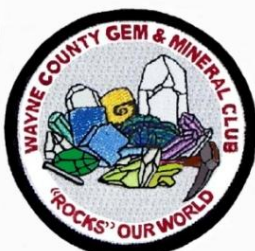
Wayne County Gem and Mineral Club News

April, 2023

Always Looking for Places to Dig!



Carnelian agate (see page 5)



<http://www.wcgmc.org>

FACEBOOK link



Kathleen Cappon brought her newest acquisitions from a month in Florida to the March meeting.

April Meeting

Friday, **April 14th**, 7:00 PM.

Park Presbyterian Church,
Maple Court, Newark, NY

(upstairs in the church this month)

Program: What is Wire Wrapping?
by Kim Pandina

Wire wrapping: what is it, and how did they do that? Have you ever asked yourself or someone else those questions?

I have the answers for you and more. You will learn about the history of wire working and my background. I will also answer questions you have about wire wrapping. Hope to see you there!



Field Trip Season is Beginning in April with three opportunities.

The first field trip is already in the works, and perhaps this newsletter is reaching you in time for this to serve as a very late final announcement! Yup, **we will (or did!) travel to Ace of Diamonds on April 1st** for Opening Day of Herkimer Hunting Season. **For those who go, please join us for a group photo at noon near the office.**

There are two additional trips that our Field Trip coordinator Teresa Ferris has planned for April. See page 7 for details and links to more information for an April 22nd trip to New Jersey and a fossil dig April 29th at Penn-Dixie Fossil Park in Hamburg. If you attend the April club meeting you can inquire further about these trips or you obtain info from Teresa by signing-up.

Teresa's email is rockhoundingft@gmail.com

Saturday Workshop: April 15th (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

The May workshop will be on May 13th.



It's April, which is the most exciting month of the year for me since it marks our traditional kick off for the rockhounding season with a dig at Ace of Diamonds on April 1st. Although the weather looks a wee bit unpleasant, I'd invite everyone to come be April Fools together and brave it anyhow in search of those lovely Herkimer Diamonds for two reasons. First, it happens to fall on a Saturday, so no need to take a day off work to come dig. Second (and most importantly) we'd like to show our support for the folks that operate Ace of Diamonds - they may have a very short season this year depending on how the court case they're involved in goes. The next decision in the case is expected April 12th, and if it doesn't go in their favor, there might only be 11 days of Herk digging at Ace this year. The Smiths have always been kind and pleasant with our club, so let's all start the season out digging together in the lovely upstate NY weather and support them while doing so!

Speaking of rockhounding, for those of you who didn't make last month's general meeting, Teresa has done an amazing job at lining up a number of planned digs for us this season, so keep an eye out for her bulletins and sign ups! (Also, we do NOT blame you at all if you were among the many who chose not to attend last month...the roads were absolutely horrible and those crazy diehards who did make it looked at each other with suspicion at our collective sanity - but most especially at Bob who drove up from deep in the Southern Tier...talk about a dedicated rockhead!)

Hopefully this awful weather will be well behind us by our April meeting. Make sure you join us for this month's meeting. ***Remember, we are meeting upstairs this month as the church is using the basement this month only.***

We'll have a presentation from Kim Pandina of Panda Jewels in Rochester. She has over 15 years of experience in jewelry design and is looking forward to sharing her knowledge on wire wrapping with us so that we can have new ideas for what to do with our polished finds. Her designs are definitely not your typical high volume simple items of jewelry, but often feature creatively shaped precious metal

that artfully display polished stones. Don't miss out on the chance for some excellent education!

Also coming up soon is our annual gem show, GemFest. Check out the flyer below and my more detailed message specific to that event on page 6.

Wayne County Gem & Mineral Club

Gem Fest

2023



Sat. June 3 10-5
Sun. June 4 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

A WCGMC Outreach Event in Webster



On March 25th Fred Haynes took his egg crates and rocks/minerals to the Webster Library. Over 70 kids went home with a new rock collection!

A Short but Memorable Collecting Trip by Howard Heitner

Sometimes it pays to have your contact information near the word “mineral” out there in cyber space. Usually I would hear from someone with something to sell or inviting me to a show. But, a few years ago I got an email from a fellow who I will call Joe. He said that his brother-in-law (who I will call Sam) was working on an active construction site in Greenwich (a wealthy Connecticut town) and came across a “vein of amethyst” and they would like to know if it was valuable enough to start to recover it. He sent a picture that definitely looked like amethyst. I told him that I would certainly be willing to come up and have a look. We agreed on the next Saturday, when the weather forecast seemed good.

I followed their directions and pulled into a narrow side road and parked on a spot that looked solid. There was a shallow excavation, but I saw no bare rock. I called Sam on my phone and he came by a little later. I looked at the few pieces he had pulled out. To my great surprise, I was invited to go into the excavation with some of the crew. Everything was covered with mud. They pointed to the amethyst location and used a huge excavator to scoop up what looked like a cubic yard of muddy rock that they dumped in front of us. I poked through the pile with them using my hands and a pry bar. It reminded me of digging through the red mud in Arkansas for quartz crystals. I filled up my bucket and it was time to go. The crew had other places to be.

At home I washed off my treasures and found that the crystals were covered with black “stuff.” I was able to clean them with Iron-out and a water gun. Unfortunately, many of the pieces were dinged. I advised Joe and Sam that to recover anything usable it would have to be dug out carefully by hand. Their excavator had played rough with the crystals. I put them in touch with a dealer who was familiar with Connecticut specimens. He advised them to keep building the house. Time is money in the construction business and Sam was on a tight schedule. I was invited back to the site and they generously gave me a few more pieces. Shortly after the entire bottom of the excavation where I had collected my specimens was covered with gravel and concrete poured.

As a collector who has either traded for or bought most of my collection, I assign special value to the few that I have personally collected. It may seem strange, but I was so fortunate to go on a collecting trip that lasted less than an hour.



Here are pictures of two specimens that came out relatively unscathed. The clear to milky quartz only showed terminal faces on a base of massive material. The amethyst was a thin layer just below the crystal faces. Top cluster is 9 cm across, lower specimen is 7 cm across.

The Best of 2022

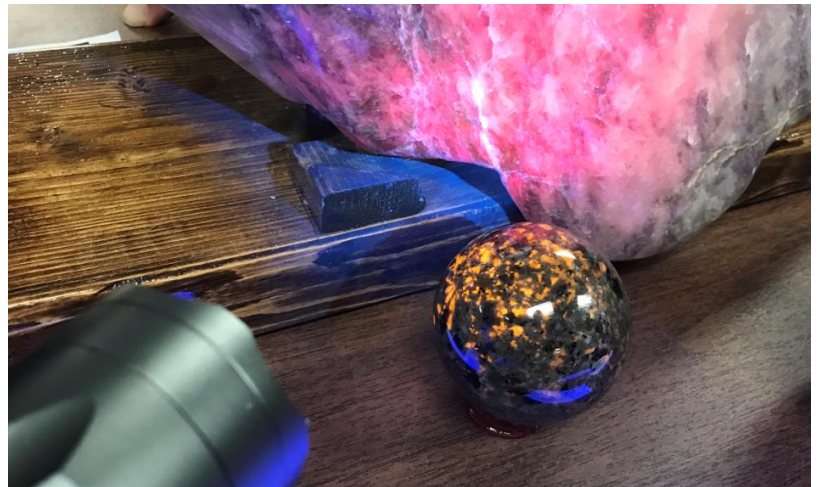
A late winter snowstorm prevented some from attending our annual best of the year selections, but the twenty or so enthusiastic members who attended the March meeting had fun making the selections in seven separate categories (Best mineral collected in NY, Best NY fossil, Best collected outside NY, Best fossil from outside NY, Best lapidary creation, Favorite sand(s), Favorite show purchase, and Ugliest rock. Yes, WCGMC even has an award for the ugliest rock of the year, and there were lots of entries into this category. Even leaverite gets collected by this group.



Everyone in attendance got to be a judge, placing their votes into paper bags next to their favorites. When the votes were counted we had our seven winning pieces.



The winners were brought together for a group photo.

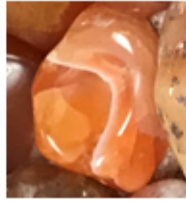


Two of this year's winners were notable for their fluorescence: Bob Linderberg's huge hexagonite piece won best NY piece and Karen Wilkins' sodalite syenite ("yooperlite") sphere was the preference of the judges for best show purchase.



Glenn Weiler's newest sphere is cut from a septarian nodule he acquired from a collection in Pennsylvania. I bet we will see this 4.5" beauty in next year's Best of the Year competition.

Carnelian Agates showing off at the February meeting



At our February meeting Linda spread out a large collection of Carnelian agates, virtually filling a 6' table with sparkling orange agate. They had been languishing in our club collection for a decade in raw form and Linda decided to tumble them in January. It took the whole month and a bit of February, but they were ready by meeting day.



raw Carnelian agate



Can you count the Carnelian agates? There were fewer at the end of the meeting after club members had selected their favorites at bargain basement prices.



Didn't Linda do a wonderful job tumbling them?



Once the table was "open for business" the collectors came forward looking for the best of the best.

So what, exactly, is Carnelian agate? Technically speaking Carnelian is an orange-colored formed variety of chalcedony (cryptocrystalline quartz). Unlike jasper, Carnelian is translucent, although sometimes only near or at the edges. Individual pieces are often a solid color, but prized pieces do display lighter and darker zones or even cloudy areas. Carnelian is considered a semi-precious gemstone and it is certainly a widely used jewelry gemstone used as beads for necklaces and as cabochons for wire wrapping.

WCGMC acquired this Carnelian as part of a 2014 donation from Elizabeth Cowger. We do not know the geologic source of the beautiful agates. Wikipedia notes Peru, Sri Lanka, and Thailand as primary sources of high grade Carnelian, but that it has also been found in Indonesia, Brazil, India, Siberia, and Germany.



Will we see things like this in next year's Best Lapidary Creation competition?

Splendid Sands Calendar

April, 2023

**Davao Gulf, near Talikud Island,
Phillippines**



Photo by Leo Kenney

by Leo Kenney, Kate Clover & Carol Hopper Brill

Known for its beaches and coral reef sanctuary, Talikud Island sits near the top of the Davao Gulf, a deep bay on the southeastern coast of Mindanao. As with many tropical beach sands, we recognize reef dwellers: coralline algae, scleractinian corals and octocorals (the red tube), forams, bryozoans, tubeworms, snails, crabs, and urchins. But there is more to the story of this biotic sand. As a reef is eroded by waves and biological activity, skeletal debris can be swept down reef channels and into deeper waters.

This sample provides an example. It was dredged from 180 m (594 ft) depth, far below the living reef. Here, calcium carbonate reef sediments like these may become lithified or cemented together forming limestone. Yet deeper, water chemistry changes yet again and the limestone can be dissolved. Just such conditions exist south of Talikud Island where the seafloor drops precipitously to ~2,000 m (6,600 ft) and continues to plummet at the mouth of Davao Gulf to more than 3000'm (9,900 ft).

Gem Fest 2023

By James Keeler

We'll be hosting our annual GemFest at the Canandaigua Civic Center the weekend of June 3-4. Not only does this mean a chance to shop for all manner of gem & mineral delights from our fantastic vendors, but also a chance to show the community how fun the treasures of the earth can be.

To ensure a successful weekend, we'll need plenty of volunteers to help out with the following activities:

Ongoing, but last two weeks of May especially: distribute fliers and notices, post on social media, and strategically deploy road signs so people know about the show: ***I'm also looking for someone to specifically help me out with social media marketing and other additional advertising. If this sounds like something you're interested in and have some familiarity with, let me know!*

May workshop day - Help prepare club event materials (sluice, soapstone carving) & grab bags.

Friday, June 2nd is show setup. Saturday & Sunday - Show operations (front desk, run activities, security, and more). Sunday afternoon – breakdown/ cleanup

GemFest is our biggest club fundraiser of the year and helps us keep the workshop running, allows us to purchase new equipment, and helps us to keep running the variety of activities that we do. Please pitch in where you can to help us make it a success.

We'll also be looking for club members to put together display cases to showcase gem & mineral related topics of interest. We have attendees vote and the fan favorite showcase always wins a nice prize! Think of ideas and sign up early if you're interested - we have a limited number of cases!

In addition to the returning favorite dealers, Jerry and his Dinosaur, and all of our activities being in full swing, we'll also have a food truck and several new vendors to replace a few that have retired. Our crowd was a little bit small last year since it was our first show after the pandemic, so let's spread the news about all of the exciting things we have going on and make people eager for the doors to open both days of the show!

We'll have more material, sign-ups, and specifics at the April meeting; so come on out with ideas for what you'd like to sign up for to help out!

Any questions in the meantime can be emailed to me at jamesrocks@jkeeler.com or by reaching me at (607) 368-6392 (texting preferred).



WCGMC: Always Looking for Places to Dig!



By Teresa Ferris (WCGMC Field Trip Coordinator) [rockhoundingft\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:rockhoundingft(at)gmail.com)

I am so excited for the WCGMC field trip season to begin. If this issue is released before the end of March, then it will serve as a final reminder of our annual Opening Day trip to [Ace of Diamonds in Middletown, NY](#). They open for business at 9 AM on April 1st and we'll all look for the best places to search out Herkimers and enjoy being in the company of our friends while doing what we love to do, Rockhound! But that is only the beginning. There are three other overnight trips for you to consider and another Herkimer location, all before the end of June! Full details on each trip are available for those who contact me to sign-up at the e-mail address above.

Franklin, NJ (Swap and Sale, Night Dig, etc) – Saturday April 22nd

For more information on the activities available that weekend at this world famous collecting location, visit: <https://www.franklinmineralmuseum.org/mec-category/events/>. I plan to attend separate swap and sale events at both locations and the night dig for sure. **Note:** *The Mill Site Pile Dig during the day requires pre-registration and a separate fee. Franklin has additional night digs scheduled throughout the summer*

Penn-Dixie, Hamburg – April 29, 2023

This is a public site for collecting Devonian fossils and they are opening for the season on the final Saturday of April. It is a fee site for non-Penn Dixie members (\$15/adult). I have not been there, but let's make it a club trip and learn about this world-famous fossil site together.

More details here: <https://penndixie.org/2022/04/11/opening-day-fossil-hunting/>

Central Pennsylvania – Friday and Saturday May 19th and 20th

We will visit Mt Pleasant Mills and Middleburg Quarries in PA, one quarry each day. Both quarries are owned by National Limestone Quarry Inc. and we will visit them in the order they suggest. These quarries are known for calcite, some fluorite, travertine and occasional stronthianite. Wavellite can be collected in the ridge above Mt. Pleasant Mills Quarry. Quarry rules will prevail. Bring a hard hat, long pants, protective shoes, etc.



WCGMC collection wavellite at Mt. Pleasant Mills on May 1st, 2014

Chesapeake Bay, Maryland June 17th -19th

We have reserved two dormitory style cabins at beach level for Saturday, Sunday and Monday nights at Matoaka Beach Cabins in St. Leonard, MD. At this time there are a couple spaces remaining. We will hunt for sharks teeth and Miocene fossils along the shoreline. It is just a neat place to spend a beach weekend where there are fossils to find. We may take a side trip to a second location along the coastline.



Collecting along Chesapeake Bay in August, 2018.

Diamond Mountain Mine, Little Falls, New York – June 24th

We have accepted the gracious offer from [Diamond Mountain Mining](#) for a highly-discounted club day at their Herkimer Mining location. Our day is June 24th. More details available at the April meeting.

And that takes us to July 4th! Who has an idea or two for July and August? Where would you like to go?

Wayne County Gem & Mineral Contacts

ELECTED OFFICERS

President – James Keeler

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

[Open position](#)

Past President – Linda Schmidtgal

Visit us on Facebook:

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

APPOINTED POSITIONS

Field Trip Coordinator – Teresa Ferris, **help wanted**
[rockhoundingft\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:rockhoundingft(at)gmail.com)

Fossil Field Trip Leader - Stephen Mayer

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.wcgmcc.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

