



WAYNE COUNTY GEM AND MINERAL CLUB NEWS VOLUME 40 #4 APRIL 2012



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President's Message

Greetings Everyone,

It's strange to be in a different environment. I had to think what I would miss the most on a 3-week vacation and hands down it was my desktop computer. The laptop is nice but the wealth of contact information, maps [not to mention my favorite games] & familiar programming formats to work with, makes my production of the WCGMC Newsletter possible this month. Bill gives me daily updates on local NY events and I pass on what's going on in beautiful North Carolina this week.

The Che-Hanna Show in Athens, PA broke their own attendance records. The gentleman from the Carnegie Institute helped identify some of Bill's fossils & specimens he was unsure of. Many thanks to him for that. Our WCGMC show fliers made it to both the Athens Show & the Buffalo Show thanks to Bill C. & Don Lapham.

Please consider where we should be putting up posters or handing out flyers for our June Show. I'm heading up the advertising for this so all your input is needed. I've contacted all the national rock magazines so the listing will be included in their magazines in a timely fashion. The quarter page flyers were put out at the Capital District, Buffalo and Che-Hanna Shows. The fliers are in this edition. Please copy and distribute where you can. Which publications do you and your neighbors read? Any feedback relating to free advertising opportunities I should pursue would be appreciated. Radio, public TV, online, etc. What's the best way to reach the children in our area? These are the things I need to know so please e-mail me at batnpill@empacc.net or call 607-868-4649 or 585-269-8085. I'm still checking my e-mail twice a day while I'm on vacation so we can exchange ideas.

Leaving New York when it was in the 70's was not my first choice but the weather was perfect on the way down. The first fully blossomed Magnolia tree was just north of Harrisburg PA. Virginia was green with new growth on bushes and grasses long enough to mow. It was a wise choice to ride with the windows up and the A/C going. Raleigh News had film where it looked like rain falling that night but no...it was just the pollen in the air so thick it covered everything left outside.

Met up with the Tar Heels Mineral Club where we put together 425 grab bags for the upcoming club show to be held at the State Fair Grounds March 30-31, & April 1. Twenty-five hundred postcards were addressed and stamped also. It's a huge show and I'm going to get to be part of it! I'm pretty excited. Cyndy Hummel, show chairperson, couldn't give me an idea of their attendance because they don't charge admission. I'm going to see if I can come up with something to help determine that.

Finally, I went to the first dig at a working commercial mine in Hiddenite, NC in 25 years. This was not the tourist attraction nearby. I've written more on this later on in this edition. Many digs are upcoming so check here and the website for details and changes. Be careful & have some fun!

Pat

So this is what we're looking for...

By Pat Chapman

The first exploratory dig on March 23, 2012 was set up MAGMA [Mountain Area Gem & Mineral Association] at the North American Emerald Mine [NAEM] which drew over 200 participants who paid \$30 - \$40 a head to dig for the day. Jamie Hill, mine owner and collector, found the largest emerald ever found in North America on this property so our hopes were high. Anything up to \$10,000 we could keep. The mine stepped in after that & claimed anything in excess of that amount. The weather was perfect and the line was long to check in and pay the necessary funds. It was close to 9:45 when we received the safety talk from Randi, office manager and Safety Officer of the Day and the only one I know of who has a cowgirl hard hat. The crowd was orderly as fees were collected and the hike into the pit started. The mine provided a pickup to haul those with limited mobility & aching backs up and down into the digging area. Shayne, NAEM employee and our driver, gave me his cell # so I wouldn't get stuck in any one place too long which me and my bladder were eternally grateful for.



First emerald found. Photo by Pat Chapman

There were more and more of us utilizing this service as the day wore on. Shayne offered me a suggestion where I might want to try digging which was pretty level. Since they had been blasting, Randi told me the emeralds could be anywhere so I chose some gravel and soil mixture to dig through. Ended up that Shayne's suggested digging area was close...REAL close. The first emerald found was within 25 feet of where I was digging. There was a clay swallow with some puddles where some real rockhounds were getting down and dirty in the clay while others were working other parts of the quarry.

There's basically a Gneiss matrix in this open pit quarry that's blue in color which rivals Dolostone in hardness. Very few tried to break it apart with the hand tools we were allowed. Those that did soon gave up even with 12 pound hammers and good chisels. A top coat of red clay was in evidence at the top then blue gneiss mixed with swirled veins of white and smokey quartz circled the main pit ending in an acre pond at the bottom. One group of collectors worked near the water found green mica with spots of rutile and smokey quartz. I dug on the main level where I met Libby & Kevin Barrieault. Theirs was the first emerald found on Friday.

There are 93 acres owned by NAEM but the areas where we could collect were clearly marked by lines or spray paint. NAEM is continuing to develop other areas so who knows what they will find next. MAGMA has scheduled another treasure hunt there on Friday, April 20th and Sat. April 21st. 8 AM to 6PM both days. You can keep what you collect up to a value of \$10,000. Cost is \$40 per day to dig and you must be a MAGMA member. Membership can be free or you can buy a couple of different levels of memberships which give you different perks. For more information, contact Rick Crocks at magma@wncrocks.com, write to MAGMA Club P.O. Box 542, Leicester, NC 28748 or log onto www.wncrocks.com. Good Luck!

Wayne County Gem & Mineral Club Presents

Gem Fest NY-STYLE

June 2-3, 2012

Sat. 10-5 Sun. 10-4



St. Michael's School
Rt. 88, Newark, NY
(see other side for directions)

Hands-On Activities* Field Trips*Vendors*Displays

\$3 Admission
Kids 12 & under Free

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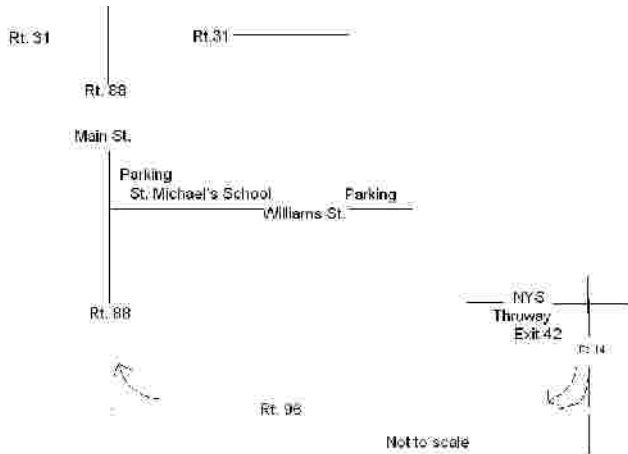
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St. Michael's School
320 S. Main St.
Newark, NY

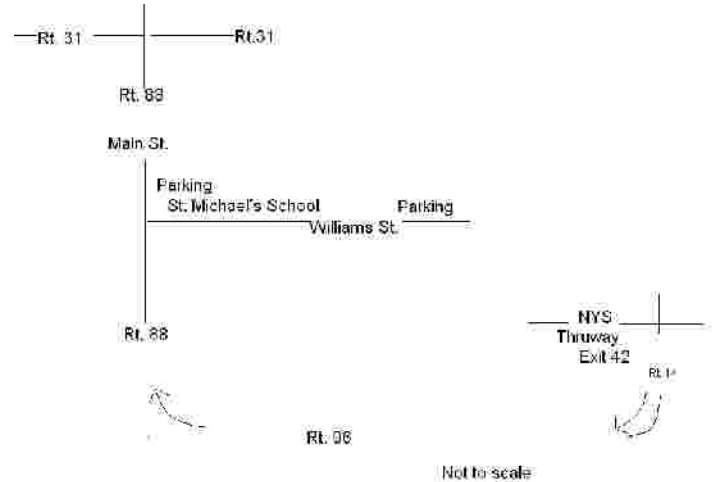
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For more info check our website at
www.wcgmc.org

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320 S. Main St.
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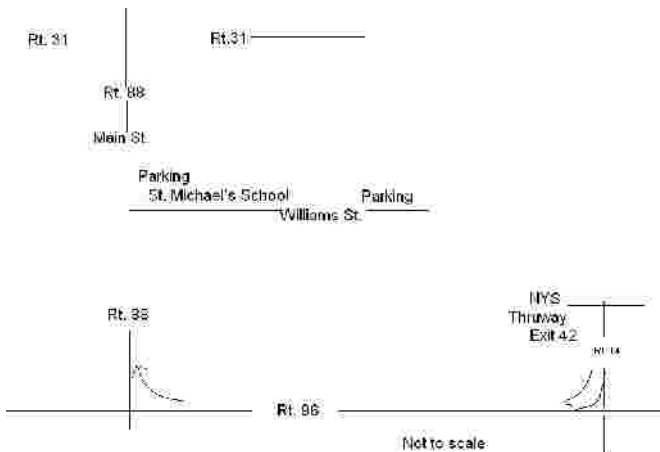
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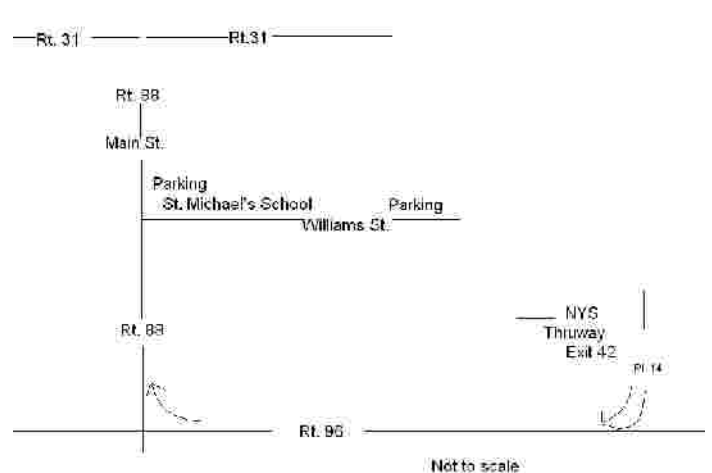
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**April 20-21-22 WCGMC Herkimer Field Trip -
Camp at the Ace of Diamonds Mine & Campgrounds**

84 State Route 28 [Herkimer St.] Middleville, NY 13406 (315) 891-3855

Take exit 30 [Herkimer Exit] from the NYS Thruway. Take Mohawk St. to Rt. 28 North. Many restaurants and stores here. Stock up. Follow Rt. 28 north for approximately 6-7 miles past the KOA. The Ace of Diamonds is on the left side of the road.

Mining Fees: age 7 and under \$4.50, age 8 and older \$9.50 per day. [2011 fees – don't know if they will change] Camping Fees: \$15 per campsite for 2 people plus \$1 for each additional person. Site with electric is \$4 more. [2011 fees – don't know if they will change]

They open for the season April 1st. You will need to call and make a reservation for your family.

Snack materials available in their store and other goods available in Middleville or Herkimer. Sign up with Bill Chapman at 607-868-4649.

39th Rochester Mineralogical Symposium

Thursday April 19, 2012

2:00pm

Registration in the Back Lobby

4:00-6:00pm

Dealers and 4th Floor Hospitality Suite Open

6:00-7:45pm

Dinner in the restaurant

8:00-9:15pm

Alfredo Petrov - Minerals of Japan

9:15pm-

Dealers and Hospitality, 4th Floor

Friday, April 20, 2012

9:00am

Announcements

9:15-10:15am

R. Peter Richards - Minerals from a Natural Shale Fire

10:30-11:30am

Daniel Kile - Historic Oriented Crystal Preparations by the Firm of Steeg and Reuter, with Notes on a Few American Makers

11:30-1:30pm

Lunch and Shopping Break

1:30-5:30pm

Technical Session - Contributed Papers in Specimen Mineralogy

6:30-8:00pm

Dinner in the restaurant

8:15-9:15pm

Michael Bainbridge - News from the North! - Minerals of Canada

Saturday, April 21, 2012

9:00-10:00am

What's New in Minerals - Jeff Scovil

10:00-11:00am

What's New in Minerals - Audience

11:15-12:15pm

George Robinson - Minerals of the Lake Superior Iron Ranges

12:15-1:30pm

Lunch and Shopping Break

1:30-2:30pm

Peter Tarassoff - Dr. Andrew Fernando Holmes (1797-1860): An Early Canadian Mineral Collector and his Collection

2:45-3:45pm

Paula Pilonen - Gem Deposits of Thailand and Cambodia

5:15-6:30pm

Silent Auction (*Please consider making a donation*)

7:00-8:30pm

Dinner in the ballroom

8:30pm

Voice Auction (*Please consider making a donation*)

Sunday, April 22, 2012

9:00-10:00am

Woodrow Thompson - Collecting in England

10:15-11:15am

Terry Szenies - One of the Notable Mineral Discoveries of the 1960s: Mining for Purple Apatite at the Pulsifer Quarry, Mt. Apatite, Maine

11:30am

End of the Symposium

Wayne County

Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.

Meetings held 2nd Friday of each month

Mini-Miner Program at 6:30 P.M.

Regular Program & meeting at 7:00 P.M. at

Park Presbyterian Church

Maple Court, Newark, NY 14513

WEBSITE: **www.wcgmc.org**

Organized: 1973 Incorporated: 1976

Objective: To stimulate interest in earth sciences, collecting, classification of minerals, & in the art of gem cutting.

Fiscal Year: Oct. 1st to Sept. 30. *Dues:* Due Oct. 1st.

Juniors or students [18 yr. > w/o parent in club] \$10.00

Single Adult [over 18 years old] \$15.00

Family Membership [includes 2 adult votes & kids] \$20.00

Send dues to WCGMC

PO Box 4, Newark, NY 14513

Affiliated with the American Federation of Mineralogical

Societies [A.F.M.S.] www.amfed.org The Eastern Federation of Mineralogical

& Lapidary Societies [EFMLS] www.amfed.org/efmls

The Eastern Field Trip Alliance [E.F.T.A.] www.ef.ta.biz

WCGMC –

Always looking For New Places to Dig!

Upcoming Events

April

4/7 WCGMC Fossil & Mineral Dig Meet at McDonald's in Avon, NY Rt. 5& 20 at 9:30 AM

NOTE CHANGE! 4/18 WCGMC Monthly Meeting Wed.

The Church has flea market stuff everywhere so we're meeting at Rowe's house 3 PM

580 Rte. 88 S, Newark, NY 14853 (315) 331-1438

April 12-14-15 Mt. Pleasant Mills, PA WCGMC Field Trip –

National Limestone Quarry and surrounding area. Details & sign up call Bill Chapman 607-868-4649.

April 19 Wards Open House 1-5 PM

[Wards Natural Science in conjunction with the Symposium are spring cleaning their back shelves. Nice collecting opportunity.]

4/19 – 1/22 Rochester Mineralogical Symposium for details www.rasny.org

April 20-21-22 WCGMC Herkimer Field Trip Details on pg. 5

April 28 Sterling Hill, NJ Super Dig Details at uvworld.org.

First Class: Dated, Meetings & Time Valued

The Public is Always Welcomed



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