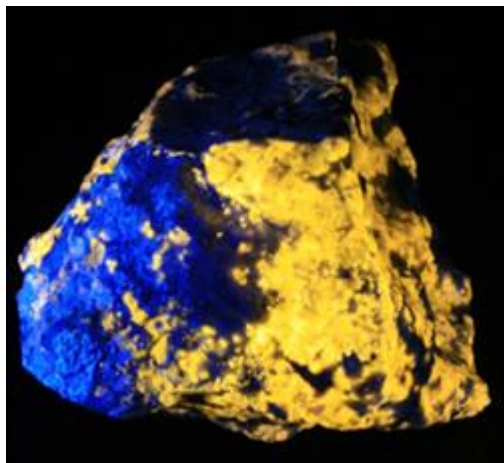


# Wayne County Gem and Mineral Club News

April, 2015

Always Looking for Places to Dig!



Recognize this ? (see page 4)



Website

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



Sandy and Rich Wirth's contribution to Wayne County Gem and Mineral Club's Purple Mineral Night (see page 2 for more)

## Club Meeting, Friday April 10th, 7 PM

Presbyterian Church, Maple Court, Newark, NY

### Program: New York Fossil Night

Bring your New York Fossils: Bring them to show, bring your extras to swap, bring your unknowns for others to identify.



Gastropods



Brachiopods



Trilobites

And bring your calendars for April-June !

## Club Workshop, Saturday, April 11th

When: 10:00 AM til mid afternoon, Sat. April 11<sup>th</sup>

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

Rules: BYOR (Bring your own rocks) to saw, grind, polish, or even facet. Training on equipment is available. Eye protection is recommended. \$5/visit for adult club members, children are free

## Sunday April 19, Ken St. John Mineral sale

Ken is selling rocks and minerals in his barn/warehouse in Mt. Upton, NY. Lots of fluorescents and much more. Contact Ken for details (and see page 7)

## Upcoming WCGMC Field Trips

### Wednesday April 1: Ace of Diamonds

It is opening day for "diamond" hunting and WCGMC will be there. Check club website on March 31 or call the mine itself at 315-891-3855, but barring a late March storm, access to the first diamonds should be possible.

Meet at the mine gate on Route 28 at 9 AM.

### Saturday April 4, Erie Canal

Collect from the Rochester Shale near Long Pond Road before the Canal level rises.

### Saturday April 18, 2014, East Bethany

Collect fossils in two different Centerfield Limestone locations, easy access

### Sat.-Sun. May 2-3, Pennsylvania

Mt. Pleasant Mills Quarries, Jermy, Carbondale

For contact info and details, see page 7



Digging wavellite at Mt. Pleasant Mills in April 2014.





## Mineral Musings by Fred Haynes



### Purple Minerals Majesty

Since the days of the Roman Empire, purple has been the color of royalty. As a combination of red and blue, purple is not a spectral color and therefore lacks a defining spectral wavelength. However, that has not prevented people from claiming purple to be their absolutely favorite color. Women build their wardrobes around their purple dresses, folks paint their bedrooms purple, gardeners plan their seasonal blooms from tulips to irises to petunias, and yes mineral collectors must have plenty of purple in their displays. Fortunately they have some wonderfully gorgeous minerals from which to choose.

March 13<sup>th</sup> was **Purple Mineral Night** for the Wayne County Club. Members brought in their purple minerals and we all drooled over them. Naturally there was lots of amethyst in attendance. Simple clear quartz ( $\text{SiO}_2$ ) is colored to various shades of purple when small amounts ( $< 20$  ppm) of iron (Fe) replace Si when the quartz is naturally exposed to ionizing irradiation. The smaller iron atom leads to lattice distortions that effect light passage imparting the color variation. With a hardness of 7, amethyst makes a wonderful gemstone as well as a colorful mineral specimen.

*Amethyst comes from the ancient Greek word "methystos" which means intoxicated. It was believed that drinking from an amethyst tankard protected one from becoming drunk!*



Fred Haynes set his on purple felt including a number from his miniature fluorite collection. Apparently, the Smithsonian agrees that purple minerals rock.

Of course, fluorite ( $\text{CaF}_2$ ) comes in many colors, but there was no shortage of purple fluorite on display. Fluorite is probably the most useful of the purple minerals. Cubic in form, fluorite is used as a flux in smelting, as an additive to glass and enamels, in optics, and for generating hydrofluoric acid. It is also a key ingredient in most of today's toothpastes.



Kathleen Cappon came with really nice large cabinet pieces of both amethyst and fluorite.



Linda Schmidt Gall cheated a little adding some very nice polished cabochons she has been working on to spruce up her display. The picture rock in the lower right is a stunner.

There were not many of the brilliantly iridescent copper sulfides, bornite (aka. peacock ore or covellite) to view. There was one bladed covellite ( $\text{CuS}$ ) specimen from Summittville, Colorado in Fred's box (middle row, second from right), but it appears WCGMC needs to go to Arizona for some copper mineral collecting. We should have gone in February to escape the arctic month while spending time and \$\$\$ at the Tucson show!





**In full disclosure your editor had to look up charoite when Bill Chapman displayed this 3" wide polished slab.**

Charoite,  $K(Ca,Na)_2Si_4O_{10}(OH,F) \cdot H_2O$ , is a rare silicate mineral found only in a remote location in Siberia, Russia and was not identified and named until 1978. It is named for the Chara River. Although always massive in form, the unusual swirling, fibrous appearance and the brilliant purple color make it a lapidary favorite. It is a product of limestone alteration in the presence of a very high potassium-bearing syenite intrusion.



**Russia featured charoite on a postage stamp in 2000.**

In addition to mineral specimens and polished pieces, there were gems on display. With a hardness of 7 and often perfectly clear, amethyst has the distinction of being the birthstone of February.



**Ed Smith displayed amethyst in all its forms from raw crystalline mineral specimen, to polished cabochons, to fully faceted gems. All in view are his creations, well after mother nature did her part.**

One cannot complete a discussion of purple minerals in New York without discussing hexagonite. A small amount of Mn substituting in the lattice of tremolite imparts a purple color to the amphibole mineral. Balmat, NY is well known for the occurrence of hexagonite as a product of regional and contact metamorphism of dolomites in proximity to silicate rocks.



**Ken Rowe had one of the many hexagonite samples on display on Purple Mineral Night.**



**Sue Hoch took the concept of Purple Mineral Night to a entirely different level !**

So, what is next, you ask? Well, before we do green mineral night to see who has any emeralds or malachite, we are going to spend April's meeting admiring each other's New York fossils. I cannot wait to see what Sue wears next month!

**ROSE ROAD**  
**Pitcairn, NY**



## SITE OF THE MONTH

**By Ken St. John**

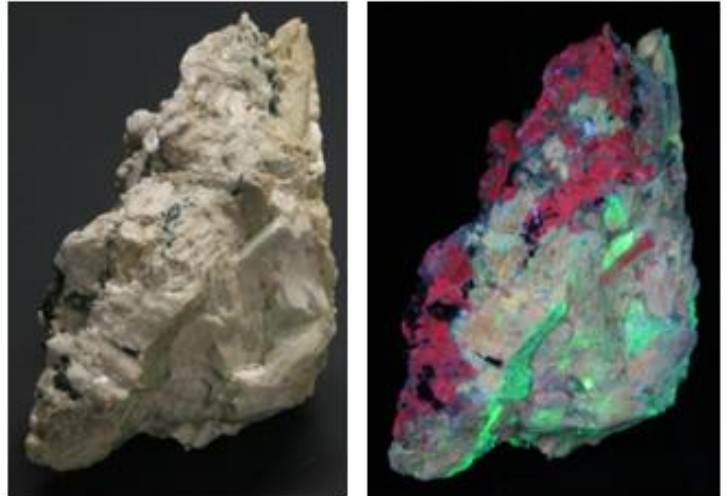
### Rose Road Fluorescent Minerals

To be honest, I can't remember when I made my first trip to the Rose Rd. site in Pitcairn. It was a few years ago and Bill Chapman was involved in the introduction to the site. My first visit was a daytime affair with the Wayne County club in search of titanite. I do recall that titanite was something new to me at the time and that I was excited to be there with the club and my kids.

The site is a wooded outcrop beside a phone tower road. No problem at all in getting to the place. There are essentially two parts to the site up and downhill and during the first visit we pretty much worked the downhill location. My nicest pieces contained wollastonite, titanite, apatite, albite and diopside. The titanite is a dark brownish color while the diopside is a rather coarse light purple massive mineral. Mixed with green apatite and white wollastonite specimens were both interesting and attractive.

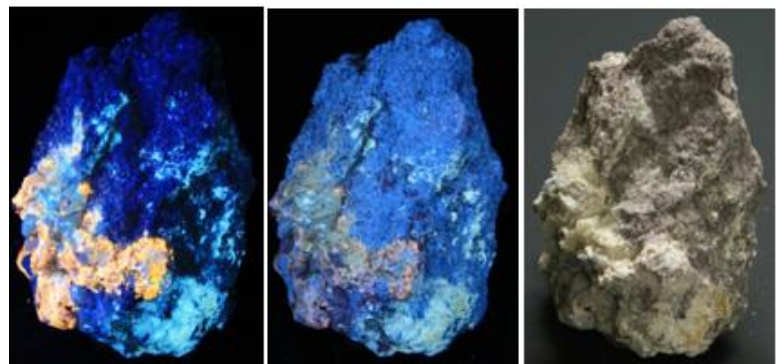
It was much later when doing a routine sweep of my collection with a short wave UV light that I discovered that the Rose Rd. rocks were more interesting under the UV light than they were in daylight. It's not unusual to see a three color response with wollastonite fluorescing a light tan, albite a cherry red, and an invisible coating glowing a bright green. As a member of the Fluorescent Mineral Society and a Franklin collector, I was impressed. So were the other FMS members to whom I showed the pieces at the annual meeting. From then on, I collect at Rose Rd. with an eye toward the fluorescent.

For me, Rose Rd. has become as much of a source of fluorescent minerals and a site of night digs as it is for the daylight collecting. On later night digs the search was broadened to include the uphill site and long wave lights were added. A short wave UV emits light with a wavelength of 253 nm, a long wave light varies in wavelength, but is typically in the 365nm range. Visible purple light is in the low 400's. Minerals that fluoresce brightly in short wave might not glow at all in long wave and vice versa. Some minerals will fluoresce in both, but almost never with the



This 4" high piece is from my first trip to the site. On the left is a plain light photograph. On the right the same specimen is shown in UVC (253nm) light. The albite fluoresces cherry red, the wollastonite tan and an unidentified coating is bright green.

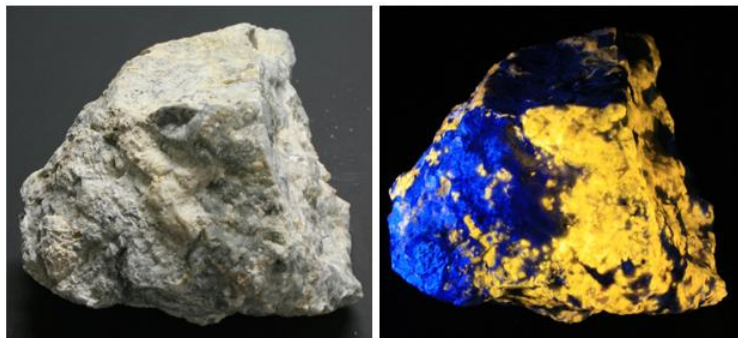
same intensity or color response. There are many more short wave fluorescing minerals than long wave. This general rule is upheld at Rose Rd. The main long wave fluorescing mineral is scapolite often associated with analcime. In short wave, we find diopside, albite, edenite, fluoredenite, phlogopite mica and to a lesser degree analcime and scapolite. Identifications have been done at Bucknell University by X-Ray diffraction.



This 4" by 3" specimen from the downhill site appears in long wave at left (bright yellow scapolite with blue analcime), short wave in the center (dull blue diopside) and room light. All photos were taken with a tripod mounted Canon I2 megapixel digital SLR, using the camera's automatic focus and settings. The specimens were set on black foam core board. The SW pictures were lit by a pair of 95 watt lamps set to either side, while the LW shots deployed a pair of hand held lights, perhaps 20 watts in total, arranged much closer to the specimens.

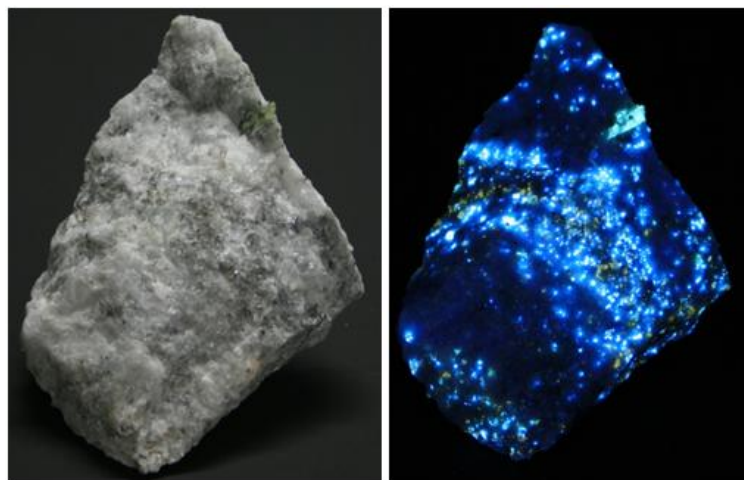


Beginning UV mineral collectors will often start with inexpensive long wave lights. This puts them at a bit of a disadvantage when the numbers of long wave fluorescing minerals are concerned, but not at Rose Rd. Brilliant yellow long wave fluorescing scapolite is scattered all through the woods at the foot of the downhill site giving beginning collectors all the material they need to sort through for hours. Relatively tiny amounts of corundum were also discovered in the scapolite in the area. There is also a small amount of fluorescent (blue) analcime and non-fluorescent nephrite in the downhill scapolite.



The piece above is shown in room light to the left and long wave on the right. The main fluorescent responses are from the scapolite (bright yellow/ orange) and the analcime (blue). The piece is a rough pyramid 8 inches on a side.

Moving uphill, the short wave fluorescing albite (see first photos) becomes more prevalent, but we also find a few marble boulders that contain fluoredenite (bright sky blue), phlogopite mica (bright yellow) and a few crystals of edenite (bright light green).



These two photos show a hand sized piece of the marble boulder found adjacent to the uphill site. The fluorescent minerals are fluoredenite (bright blue), phlogopite mica (yellow) and a small edenite crystal (light green) to the upper right. Although the band of fluorescent minerals is visible in daylight, it certainly does not stand out. The mineralized banding was first recognized and collected during a Wayne County Club night time collecting trip last May.

Rose Road is a site that offers something to almost everyone (no fossils). You can collect classic Adirondack specimens such as apatite, wollastonite and titanite closely associated with highly fluorescent scapolite, analcime and albite. There are traces of corundum and edenite and some of the best blue calcite ever seen.

The beauty of exposing the rocks to UV is that it adds an entire dimension to collecting. The classic problem faced by fluorescent collectors is the cost of equipment. Special short wave emitting field lights sell for hundreds of dollars while a long wave hand held light can be had for under \$20. On Rose Rd. an inexpensive long wave light is all any collector needs to light up the forest floor. On Rose Rd. anyone can be introduced to the wonders of night collecting with a UV light. Combining the ease of access, the variety of specimens and the ease of night collecting makes Rose Rd. a very special place.

#### Editor's Note:

*Rose Road is a privately owned fee site off Route 3 near Pitcairn, NY. In recent years, the owner, who lives on site, has been amenable to club visits except during hunting season (turkey in spring and deer in fall).*

Steve Chamberlain and George Robinson have published two excellent reviews of the site.

**Chamberlain, S.C., & Robinson, G. W., 2013,** The Collector's Guide to the Minerals of New York State, Schiffer Publishing Ltd., p. 46-49.

**Robinson, G. W., & Chamberlain, S.C., 2014,** Three and a Half Skarns, in NYSGA 86<sup>th</sup> Annual Mtg. Field Trip Guidebook, pgs.98-112.

The uphill location Ken refers to in his report is the wollastonite skarn of Chamberlain and Robinson. Those authors refer to the more recently discovered scapolite-rich downhill site as the purple diopside mound (PDM).

Much of the tan wollastonite has been replaced by fine grained diopside. We believe the identification, by repeated X-Ray diffraction, of edenite and fluoredenite, and perhaps also nephrite, is new for this location. At least for the small edenite crystals hidden in the marble, it seems that night collecting with UV lights may have been instrumental in their detection.

Wayne County Gem &amp; Mineral Club

# Gem Fest 2015

Sat. June 6 10-5

Sun. June 7 10-4



## NEW LOCATION

Greater Canandaigua Civic Center  
250 N. Bloomfield Rd, Canandaigua

Soapstone Carving, Wire Wrapping, Sluice  
Vendors, Exhibits, Free Prizes, and much more

UV Bob's Ultraviolet Show

Gems, Minerals, Fossils, Beads & Jewelry

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

**March 14, 2014** – It was too early for WCGMC members to be “Looking for Places to Dig”, but not too early to be out in the community.



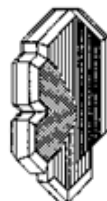
Bill (above) and Pat Chapman joined others at Camp Good Days in a fund raiser for the Finger Lakes Nature Museum. They set up the sluice, talked about ways and places to collect minerals and Bill presented fluorescent minerals.

While Bill and Pat were in Mendon, eight club members travelled to Rochester to a workshop open house hosted by the Rochester Lapidary Society. The two sphere making machines were a highlight, and it was good to make new friends with others who enjoy our fine hobby. Thank you to Ed Smith for setting up the visit and to the many Rochester Club members who shared their workshop and their time with us.

That same Saturday the Middle School Science Olympiad held its regional event at St. John Fisher College in Rochester and at least five club members were there coaching in the Fossil Event and helping with the 17 event overall program. In fact, our own Bill Lesniak was awarded the “Coach of the Year” award for the Midwestern New York region for his work with the Sodus Team and also with the overall regional event. Congratulations to Bill for a job well done.



I just got my MRI catscan back. Doc says I have mineral fever. There is no known cure. The only treatment is to spend more time collecting. Condition is not fatal, but it is most likely a permanent affliction.



## 42<sup>nd</sup> Rochester Mineralogical Symposium

**April 23-26, 2015**

Radisson Hotel, Rochester Airport

175 Jefferson Road, Rochester, NY 14623

<http://www.rasny.org/minsymposium/mineralsymp.htm>

## WCGMC 2015 Field Trip Schedule

last update (3/27/2015)

Collecting season is upon us! This list is an early snapshot of our plans. You should always contact the trip leader for details and possible changes. Or come to our monthly meeting and help plan. As the snow melts and spring becomes a reality, this list will firm up and additional dates will be added with each newsletter, and on the website. You can always contact our trip leader, Bill Chapman, if you are uncertain whether you have the latest information.

**Remember to attend a WCGMC field trip you must be a club member, or a member of an affiliated club if you do not live in our region.**

**April 1 (Wednesday)** – Ace of Diamonds Mine, Middleville, NY Leader – Bill Chapman

Opening day at the Herkimer diamond locale, getting them before others!

Visit <http://www.herkimerdiamonds.com/>

**April 4 (Saturday)** – Long Pond Road Park (Marina Drive) in Rochester Leader – Fred Haynes

Targeting Dalmanites and Trimerus trilobites in the Silurian Rochester shale along the Erie Canal

**April 18 (Saturday)** East Bethany (2 locations in the Centerfield Limestone, corals, brachs, and more), meet at 9:30 at the convenience store located at the junction of route 20 and 63. Leader – Fred Haynes

**April 25-26 (Sat.-Sun)-** Super Dig Weekend in Sterling Hill, New Jersey (Leader – Linda Schmidt Gall)

Visit [www.uvwworld.org](http://www.uvwworld.org) to register or <http://www.sterlinghill.org/visitor/schedule.php#events>

**May 2-3 (Saturday-Sunday)** - Pennsylvania: Pleasant Mills for wavellite, calcite and fossils, Jerymn and Carbondale for plant fossils (motel in Sunbury) -- Leader – Bill Chapman

May 16 (Sat.) - Penn-Dixie Fossil Park, Hamburg, NY Dig with the Experts, \$30 fee (\$25 for members)

see: <http://www.penndixie.org> or 716-627-4560

May 25<sup>th</sup> weekend: Hickory Hills will likely be open this weekend for Herkimer picking. More info to come

July 20-26 –Bancroft, Ontario (5-6 days in/ around the “Mineral Collecting Capital of Canada”) We may add Cobalt to the agenda. Planning will continue but this will be the week Leader – Fred Haynes.

### Later in the Summer – Watch this space

Fossil Trips proposed include Deep Run, Green's Landing, Alden, Indian Creek, Syracuse area, Second Creek in Sodus, and more. Mineral trips to Ilion, Walworth, West Pierrepont+Powers, Rose Road, and more

## SHOWS and OTHER EVENTS TO KEEP ON YOUR RADAR in the next few months

**April 11-12: Southern Tier Geology Club** Annual Show, Johnson City, NY, Johnson City Senior Citizens Center; 30 Brockton St.; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4; adults \$3, children (under 12) free

**April 19<sup>th</sup> (Sunday)** – **Ken St. John sale**, 1907 Cty. Rd. 35, Mt. Upton, NY. (11:00 AM – 3:00 PM), lots of fluorescents and much more from several collections Ken has acquired, minerals from amethyst to zincite, locations from Arizona to Greenland, from mine dumps, quarries, and collections, also agates and geodes, literally two warehouses of treasure (contact Ken at [ken@accufastpps.com](mailto:ken@accufastpps.com) or 607-336-4706 for details)

**April 24-27 Rochester Mineralogical Symposium** in Rochester, NY (see page 6)

<http://www.rasny.org/minsymposium/mineralsymp.htm>

**June 6-7 -- THE BIG EVENT -- GEMFEST 2015 IN CANANDAIGUA** [www.wcgmc.org](http://www.wcgmc.org) for details

June 19-20 (Friday-Saturday) -- Bill Chapman annual rock and mineral sale in Prattsburgh (more to follow)

July 11-12 GemWorld 2015 in Syracuse visit <http://www.gmss.us/annual-show/2015-annual-show> for details



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585-203-1733

Club meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month starting in Sept.

Mini-miner 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. Send to WCGMC, P. O. Box 4, Newark, NY 14513

The Public is always welcomed  
First Class: Dates, Meetings & Time Valued



Wayne County Gem and Mineral Club  
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