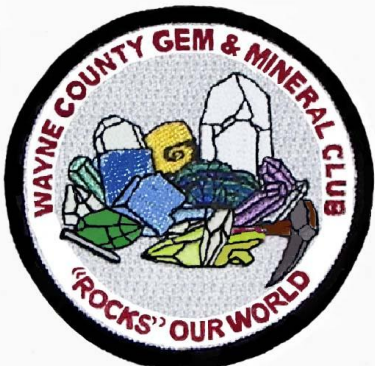


WCGMC News

December, 2013



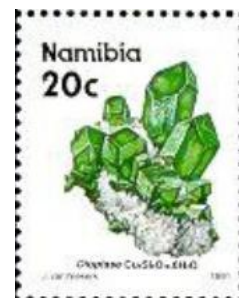
Rose Road was a hot spot for collecting and news in 2013 Twinned albite depicted here is from Walter's October article in Rock and Gem. See page 4 for more on Rose Road.



See page 2 for more pictures of the Walworth Open House in October

DECEMBER 13, Christmas Party and Dinner Park Presbyterian Church in Newark Social at 6:00, Dinner at 6:30

- The Club will provide a ham, drinks and place settings.
- Bring a dish to pass (appetizers, vegetables, desserts, holiday breads).
- Please RSVP to Eva Jane at gwexterior@gmail.com
- We will exchange club/hobby related gifts in the \$7-\$10 range
- Fred Haynes will present a program entitled "Minerals on Stamps".



A wonderful fall day at Walworth Quarry



Recognize anyone hiding under those hard hats?

**October 12-13, 2013
Dolomite Products Co. Inc.
Quarry, Walworth, NY**



Sally Wirth in search of fluorite



PHOTOS By Fred Haynes and Bill Lesniak



Mineral Musings by Fred Haynes



It is the day before Thanksgiving as I write this and I am watching all the white stuff fall outside my picture window with just a bit of trepidation. Oh, I don't mind winter and snow is very pretty, but this was my first summer of mineral/rock collecting in our new home in western New York and the snow is quietly and relentlessly covering all my new prized possessions in the garden. The deepening white blanket does not discriminate, the large vugular Lockport dolomite boulders I so carefully set into the garden, the massive white tremolite speckled with broken, but colorful root beer tourmalines from Bush farm, and even the lavender and green diopside floating in albite from Rose Road. When will I again see the large black Powers tourmalines embedded in calcite and quartz, or the wavellite coated fractures from National Limestone Quarry. Blue calcites from Valentine Mine are now non-descript white mounds on the patio and in the garden. I'm not even sure where all my trophy rocks from Walworth were laid for the winter or the sphalerite laced marble ore from Balmat.

But the beauty of the seasons is that come March (or heaven forbid April) they will be there for me to discover again. I can clean them, move them, build rock walls, design flowers around and amongst them, and otherwise simply enjoy the beauty of a pegmatite, a mineralized Silurian dolomite, a Grenville-age skarn, and a crinoid/brachiopod bearing Ludlowville shale sharing a stone cairn. But for now, it is time, of course, to label and clean the myriad of mineral specimens resting in flats in the garage, the basement, and the study.

Why do I need four flats of Selleck Road tremolite or 300 dolomite specimens from Lockport? Whether they are destined for the display cabinet, the rock pile out back or the kid's table at the next rock show each can be enjoyed multiple times before a decision need be rendered.

And, of course, winter brings with it time to study the maps and the literature in preparation for another field season. Last summer I collected with three upstate clubs, Rochester (my home club), Buffalo, and St. Lawrence. In 2014, I am looking forward to adding the Wayne County Club to the list and to expanding my circle of collecting friends to the many active members that I have met in Newark. As a retired geologist with a lifelong interest in minerals, I knew that the geologic smorgasbord that is called the Adirondacks Mountains would reach out to me, but I did not know that I would find so many others who shared my passion for the sport of mineral collecting.

Perhaps I can help a bit by rekindling the club newsletter as editor and chief photographer/story teller. But that is not a job that works well if done alone. If anyone reading this wants to write a newsletter article, or plant an idea for me to run with, or provide a picture (scenic, educational, humorous or just plain incriminating) from a trip last summer or one of a favorite specimen, just send them to fredpattyhaynes@gmail.com. I'd love to hear from all of you. I hope to see you on December 13th.

Rose Road, Pitcairn, NY

A Hot Spot for Collectors in 2013

By Fred Haynes

One of the more popular mineral locations for upstate New York rockhounds this year was Rose Road off Route 3 in Pitcairn, a daily fee site owned by Mr. Richard LaPlatney who lives at the property. Although the silicate skarn mineralization flanking the Grenville age white marble hill has been visited by mineral collectors dating back to 1880's the location seems to have been rejuvenated after Walter highlighted the mineralogy and collecting history in his 2007 book "Field Collecting Minerals in the Empire State".

The major "digging" there this year was focused on the first site encountered after passing LaPlatney's home just off of Rose Road. At first glance the exposed rock seems to be dominated by lavender diopside, calcite, albite and red brown phlogopite.. A Scanning Electron Microscopy/Energy Dispersive Analysis (SEM/EDA) of the lavender diopside indicated elevated Ti, likely substituting into the Mg spot in the lattice to generate the lavender color (S. Chamberlain, pers. comm.). There is also less Fe in the purple diopside than in the green version found just a few hundred feet farther up the road.

However the big find and activity this year was not in search of diopside, the light blue apatite, or even the brown titanite that is intergrown with albite and calcite. No, the main trench 20-30' uphill from the entry road was dug in search of scapolite. In the field the light blue mineral is rather unassuming, often rimmed in white where it is altering to natrolite and clays. It is usually intergrown or overgrown with calcite. But digging in the main trench or searching the discards that fell or were pitched down the hill can be rewarding.

Scapolite is a solid solution between marialite ($\text{Na}_4(\text{Al}_3\text{Si}_9\text{O}_{24})\text{Cl}$) and meionite ($\text{Ca}_4(\text{Al}_6\text{Si}_6\text{O}_{24})\text{CO}_3$) and occurrences are often an irregular mixture of the two end members. In addition to informing us that the Rose Road

scapolite is very close to a 50% mixture of the two end members Steve Chamberlain sent us a picture of intergrown scapolite crystals collected this year. The specimen is about 4" high.



Scapolite from Rose Road. Photo by Steve Chamberlain

Scapolite has two distinct cleavage directions and also fractures conchoidally such that full crystals such as these are not likely to be exposed by breaking the Rose Road skarn rock. Rather they can be exposed by dissolving encasing calcite

The Rose Road scapolite becomes much more attractive when subjected to a black light. The fluorescence is bright yellow to short wave UV. Anyone interested in fluorescent minerals must make a trip to Rose Road.

For me the highlight of my July visit to Rose Road came while walking around the satellite tower atop the hill. I was with a group of collectors from the Rochester Academy of Science when I heard from across the pad that someone had found native copper. Of course, you did, I thought, but as he approached the rest of us I could see that is exactly what he was showing us. In fact when we went back to

where he had collected it there was a small mound of crushed aggregate covered with native copper. We collected and divided the loot and sat back to reflect on what we had.

The occurrence was at the base of a large metal fence post flanking the satellite tower and a significant mass of once insulated copper wire had been ravaged along the post. It seems that lightning had likely struck the fence and remobilized the copper to the ground where it had annealed on the marble aggregate. I'm calling them copper fulgurites. The larger one in this grouping is over 4" wide and 3" high and three marble cobbles are forever joined by the annealing copper. The smallest is a great 1" thumbnail. In a region where most of the mineralization is over 1 Billion years old, my prized pieces may have formed this year !



Copper fulgurites from satellite tower off of Rose Road. Largest specimen is 3: high.

The Rose Road, Pitcairn, NY location was not only a popular target for field collectors this year, but it was also the subject of two publications.

Chamberlain and Robinson (2013), The Collector's Guide to the Minerals of New York State, Shiffer Publishing, pg. 46-49.

Walter, M. (2013), Four collecting sites in St. Lawrence County, Rock and Gem, October, p. 34-37.

Wayne County Gem & Mineral Contacts

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

Board of Directors

Ken & Rocky Rowe gotrox88@localnet.com	315-331-1438
Susie Hoch smhrockfinder@rocketmail.com	585-794-7287
Linda Schmidtgal lees@tds.net	315-365-2448
Bill Chapman – Field Trip Chairman batnpill@empacc.net	607-868-4649
Fred Haynes – Newsletter Editor fredpattyhaynes@gmail.com	585-203-1733

Club meets 2nd Friday of each month.

Mini-miner meeting at 6:30 PM. Regular meeting at 7:00 PM
Park Presbyterian Church, Maple Court, Newark, NY 14513

Website – www.wcgm.org

If you haven't paid your dues for the October, 2013-Sept. 2014 Fiscal year, you won't be able to go on all the wonderful trips we will plan for 2014. It's just \$15 individual or \$20 family for a full season of full. Send to WCGMC, P. O. Box 4, Newark, NY 14513

WCGMC - Always Looking for Places to Dig!



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



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