

# Wayne County Gem and Mineral Club News

December, 2019

Always Looking for Places to Dig!



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



The machines were busy in November. They will be busy again on December 7<sup>th</sup>.

We ground garnets in November (see page 6 for more workshop activity)

## WCGMC HOLIDAY PARTY

**Friday December 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM.**  
**Park Presbyterian Church,**  
**Maple Court, Newark, NY**

Yes, our Holiday Party is fast approaching and if you have not yet signed up to attend, you should do it right NOW: just **send an e-mail to Fred Haynes** ([fredmhaynes55@gmail.com](mailto:fredmhaynes55@gmail.com)). Include number and names from your party that plan to attend. Just like the August picnic, you bring a dish to pass, club provides meat and potatoes.  
**DOORS OPEN AT 6:00 PM.**

## Upcoming WCGMC Workshops **December 7<sup>th</sup> and January 18<sup>th</sup>**

When: 10:00 AM until mid-afternoon

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

Rules: Bring your own rocks.

Training on equipment is available.

Eye protection is required.

\$5/adult to offset maintenance costs.

Did we mention that if you need a rock to cut, carve or otherwise mutilate at the workshop you can always get one from the Weiler rock pile out back? Just 50 cents/pound and it will be yours.

## WCGMC Monthly Contest

Somewhere in this newsletter you will find a statement that reads **"The special mineral/fossil for December is xxxxx"**. Find that statement, remember the mineral or fossil listed, and come prepared to enter a raffle at the December 13th party to win a fine prize. I guess we will see how many folks read the newsletter! Don't share the code word or your chances to win will be reduced!

Our treasurer reports that we have had very good dues renewal response this year and that is good. But not everyone has been a good boy or girl. If you want to know if you are up to date with your due payments, just open [our webpage](#) and scroll down the main menu. If you have renewed, your last name will appear in the list of members for 2019-2020. If it does not, you know what to do! Jump to the membership page, print out a form, and follow the directions. You must be an active member to attend the Christmas Party, but you can make your payment at the event.

**WEATHER:** Yes, it is that time of year. An e-mail note will be distributed if a Friday meeting must be cancelled (or check Facebook). Or call Bill Lesniak (315-483-8061, Fred Haynes (585-203-1733, or Linda Schmidtgal (315-365-2448).



## President's Message Linda Schmidtgal

Winter sure arrived in full fury this past month and I don't like it one bit. It will be months before I can go collecting again. It is not even December yet as I write this and I'm ready for April.

BUT, on the bright side December does mean one big party for WCGMC. We hold it at our regular meeting location in Newark on our regular meeting night, the second Friday of December, but that is about all that is regular about it. So far about 70 of you have spoken up that you will join us and that is wonderful. I am sure there are a few more folks who just need one more gentle push. AND HERE IT IS: SIGN UP FOR THE WCGMC PARTY. I'm the President so I get to use capital letters once in a while.

But don't stop there. In addition to eating and partying and certainly rocks, we are planning a "talent" show for the party. And the talent is you. If you want to tell a joke or two, lead a song, play a musical instrument, perform some sort of fabulous feat, or .... then just give me a call or e-mail and I will add you to the line-up. So far we have several adventurous members willing to display their "talent":, but we could use more. Expect to have fun and laugh a lot this year.

The workshop carries on through the winter. The building is heated and as long as the roads are passable the fun goes on. We'll try to have at least one Saturday each month. Remember we need help there also. Glenn does a lot and it is wonderful to have such a facility, but if you are there around 3 PM when things are winding down, ask if you can help put something away or clean a saw.

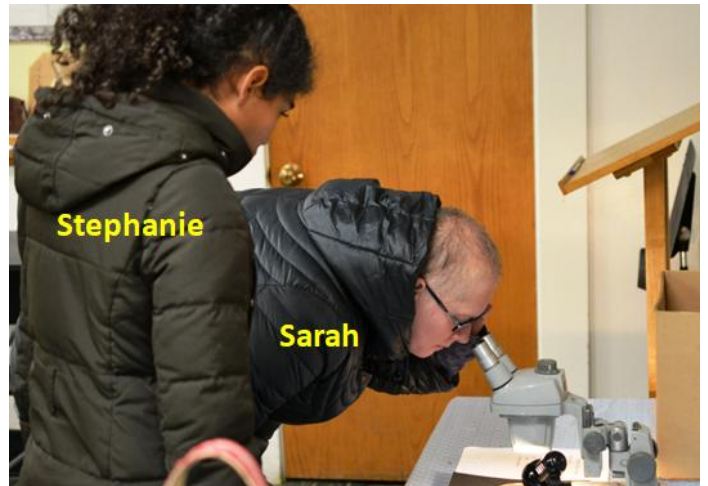
On January 10<sup>th</sup>, we will hold our "Best of the Year" competition at our regular meeting. The full set of categories has yet to be determined, but expect Best Mineral, Best Fossil, Best Lapidary Creation, Most Unique Purchase, and, of course, the infamous Ugliest Find. You can enter one piece into each category and everyone present will get an opportunity to vote. It was tons of fun last year and, of course, there are prizes for winners.

*Linda*

**At our November meeting** Fred Haynes reviewed the 7-day collecting trip to Ontario with a short program and a mineral quiz. Holly Woodworth bested all others on the quiz and won a large Ontario garnet. But no one went home empty-handed.



**There were lots of giveaways from our October trip to Canada at our November meeting.** And it looks like someone brought their leftover Halloween candy also!



**There was sand to look at also.** Jim Rienhardt brought a microscope and sand from Puerto Rico that contained a variety of tiny shells and some sea urchin spicules.



**There were finds from our Ontario trip to see: apatite from Eganville for starters.**



# The WCGMC Sand Page

## Sentimental Sands by Kathleen Cappon



I must confess that I am now an arenophile! My interest began three years ago after finding a very old corked glass vial of oolitic sand from North Africa at an estate sale (see photo beside the headline). The estate belonged to a Science professor who, around 1904, began collecting sand from many places in the world.

After Jim Reinhardt's first presentation to the Club last year, I caught the "bug" and was inspired to start collecting. When I read up on the hobby, I began to think about the places I would start getting samples, what categories to choose, and some unique containers in which to store the sand.

I decided to start collecting locally from all the favorite or special spots that I visited as a child with my family and cousins. Every weekend there was a picnic, clambake or swim day at almost all the state and local parks! All these places had a few common denominators: me, collecting rocks, frogs, bugs, turtles; and, of course, sand. As a kid, though, it would come home in my sneakers.



I am 5 years old in this picture at Webster Park. My love of all things outdoors started young.

Fast forward, and now as an adult, sand is not only a fond memory, but a more scientific interest. All through the summer, I collected samples from locations along Lake Ontario from Hamlin Beach, Webster Park, Fairhaven, and all the way to the St. Lawrence River. Later in the summer, my collecting

included all the camping areas of my childhood, most of the Finger Lakes, and four lakes in the Adirondacks. Some future thoughts are to collect sand from local and statewide gravel pits for sand deposits left from the retreating ice sheet.

Most places I collected were public areas and did not require permission. However, Jim's advice about asking permission is important for any private area. Letting a property owner or park staff know briefly about sand collecting and what you will be doing is also wise. One could look suspicious carrying around zip-loc bags in and out of cars or "swapping" them with other collectors in the parking areas!

Well ... so far I have sand from:

- My first home off Highland Ave. below Pinnacle Hill (Glacial)
- Summerville Beach, where my Grandparents lived
- All of the parks and beaches I visited as a kid
- Our first cottage near Sandy Pond in 1958
- The sand dune "bowls" along Lakeview Preserve, where us "kids" had wild bonfire parties
- The spot where I ran a boat aground onto the sand point where Renshaw Bay exits into Lake Ontario
- The spot at Lakeview Preserve where us kids found a pack of Bravos and some FULL bottles of Budweiser washed up on the beach. We smoked and drank all of them !!

The list can go on.....

But I did not stop there. This summer, I have traded some of my sand and in turn, have received many sand samples from Jim Reinhardt and from Fred Haynes. My new sands come from many U.S. states, places the club has travelled to collect rock, and from countries around the world. I have asked my friends who plan to travel to any place exotic to bring me back a small bag of sand. They say: "Bring what? Naturally, an explanation must follow!"

I have had great fun putting together the materials needed to collect sand. It is not expensive and takes up much less space than rocks. I ordered 20ml corked jars on-line. The bags, scoops and screen sifters were a Dollar Store deal. A really nice kid's scientific microscope with dual lights was a great find at Goodwill. The best item to house the collection was a wooden tool chest with felt lined drawers from Harbor Freight! A friend got an explanation of my latest hobby and gave me a large pack of unused address labels. Maybe I can learn from Fred how to print these as now I am hand writing the information.

***continued on next page***



I am going to store my sands in this neat wooden tool chest. Maybe I will need two or three of them before I am done?

Sand collecting has certainly become an exciting new “sub”-hobby of our rock and mineral club. Each and every one of us experiences sand during their lifetime and all have enjoyed the feel of warm sand on their feet during a day at the beach. Sand under a microscope can show us a whole new world of “rock collecting,” one that took Mother Nature millions of years to create. Maybe those of you in the club can start collecting in your own way. You may go “all out” or just be an occasional collector who brings back a container or two from their favorite trip to Florida or the Caribbean Islands.

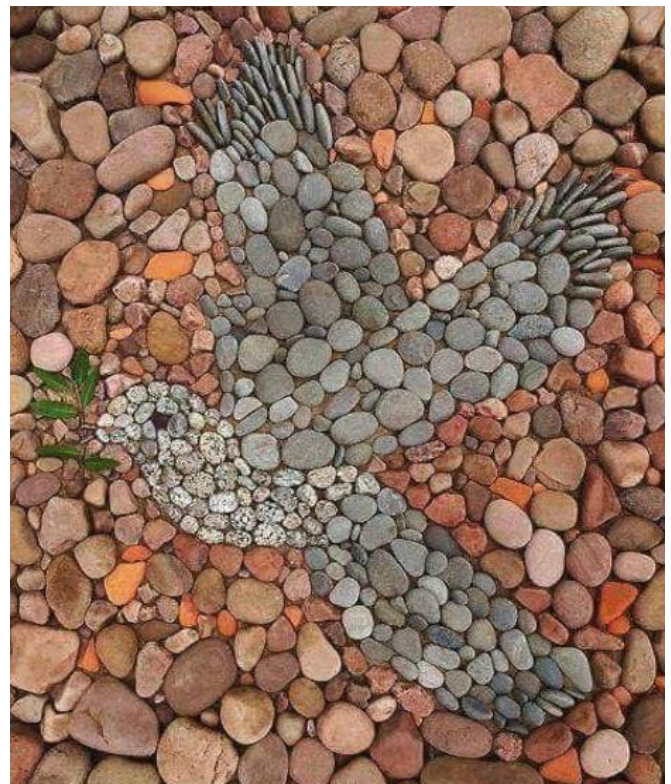
I fondly remember my Mother as a different type of sand collector...She was the one who brushed it off me and combed it out of my hair when my brothers buried me in it at Summerville Beach. If we grilled hots that day and one rolled off into the sand she would say: “Go wash it off in the lake and put it back on the fire” At Sandy Pond, Mom would constantly sweep the floors of the cottage or shake out the bedding, ridding the sheets of the nightly sand deposits from us kids swimming and playing on the beach all day. Little did she know that someday her daughter would come full cycle and rekindle her interest in that very sand !

### Can you name this mineral ?

- I am a hexagonal cyclosilicate.
- I have been called the garbage pail of minerals due to my chemistry.
- I’m hard, 7 – 7.5 on Moh’s scale.
- I come in virtually all colors, although black is most common.
- I’m a sought-after gemstone.
- I’m found in granites and pegmatites, and also in metamorphic schist and marble.
- I am a birthstone in the fall.
- I come in over 20 different “flavors”.



See page 7 for answer



**Now isn't this cool!** We could do something like this with Lake Ontario stones: ordinary rocks, extraordinary art. *from Facebook post in Great Lakes Rocks and Minerals FB Group*



## My First Wire Wrap by Karen Wilkins



Last year I purchased a small piece of uncut orbicular jasper at the Wayne County bulk rock sale. I really had no idea what I would do with it, but I liked the colors and the patterns. And the price was certainly right. I think I paid a whole dollar for the one pound piece.

I took it to the club workshop and learned how to cut and polish a slabbed piece. I liked it even more after that and realized I wanted to work it into a pendant of some kind. Lacking confidence that I could produce a nice symmetric piece I opted for a free-form design that worked well with the eyes of the jasper. Members of the club helped me understand the grinding and polishing process with the club's wonderful equipment. We are so lucky to have so many knowledgeable, helpful and friendly members willing to help rookies get started.

As I was prepping the piece I gave some thought to the next step. How would I wire wrap it? I'd never done that before and at first the task seemed daunting. I looked at wrapped pieces at several mineral shows and online and decided that a free-form wire wrap was best for an amateur. Copper seemed to match the colors of the piece best and was also aligned with my pocketbook; I can graduate to silver later. Inspired by a couple of online YouTube videos I ordered some 20-gauge and 22-gauge copper wire and set to work.



**Karen Wilkins models her first wire wrapping, orbicular jasper in copper, at the November 2<sup>nd</sup> club workshop.**  
Photos by F. Haynes

With no previous experience I had no real plan, but simply monkeyed with the wire until I got something I was satisfied with. I knew I did not want to cover much of the stone - after all I am a rockhound first and foremost. So, the primary wirework would have to be off to the side. After aborting the first few attempts I landed on one that seemed to show off the stone and one that I was willing to wear.

I may be hooked. I have cut and worked a few others since this piece and acquired more potential rocks at this year's club sale and at shows. I have been busy at the workshop the past two months with these new pieces. I hope my relatives will like the homemade pendants that they are about to receive for Christmas!



**Karen Wilkins mounts a piece of chrysoprase into the slabbing saw.** By next month this piece (or pieces?) will be wire wrapped and Christmas wrapped, unless, of course, it turns out so well that Karen keeps it! Yes, that is Karen's son Jeff, busy in the background.

Photo by F. Haynes



**What is the difference between these two pictures?** Time is up.  
**ANSWER:** The ham on the left can be cured. The one on the right cannot.





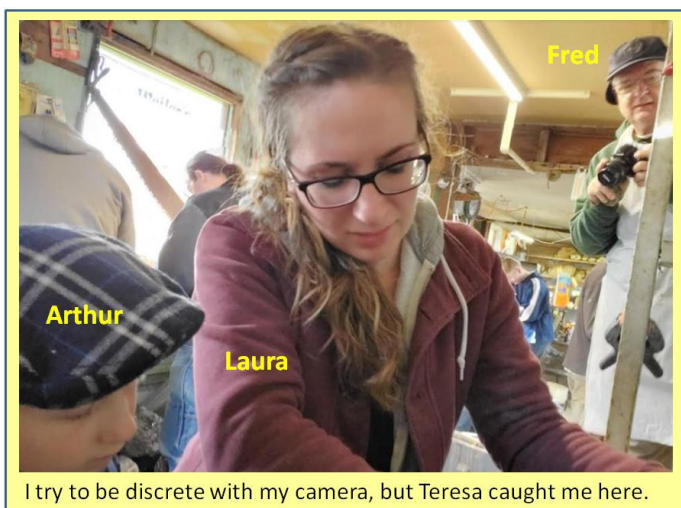
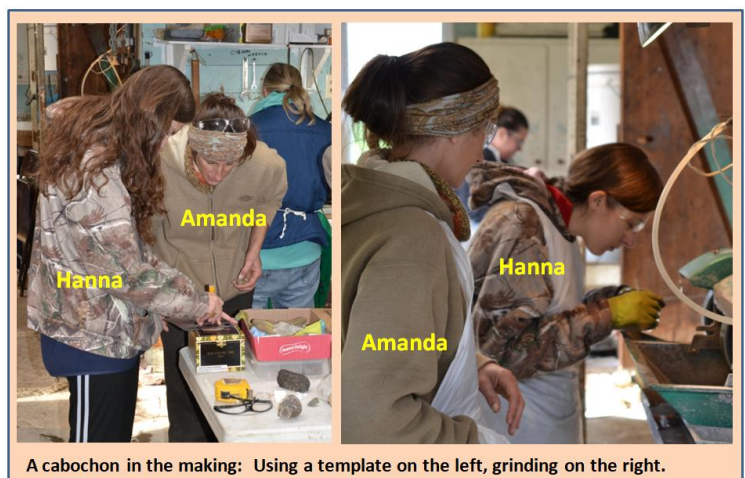
## WCGMC Workshop fun Twice in November



*Herkimers  
inside  
spheres*

If you have attended any of our Saturday workshops you know how much fun we have. If you have not yet attended, why not? If you are worried about not knowing how to use the equipment, there are plenty of folks present who are more than willing to share their knowledge of how to use the equipment. If you don't have a rock to cut or polish there are plenty of extra ones all over the workshop and, until it snows, outside in the rock pile. Do come check it out.

It was double the fun in November with two well-attended workshops. This month the workshop is early, December 7<sup>th</sup>. I suspect many will be working on a Christmas gift for the WCGMC Newsletter editor. Did you know his favorite color is red? But if you have to miss that one, we will be at it again on January 18<sup>th</sup> and February 15<sup>th</sup>. The workroom is heated, the company is great, and we have rocks! What more could anyone want on a winter Saturday?





## Wayne County Gem and Mineral Club Schedule

*last update Nov 26*

We have entered that brief transition period between collecting seasons 2019 and 2020. For the next month or two we'll have a big party, hone our skills as amateur artisans, and get together monthly to share rock stories and dream about next year. But before you know it minerals will stop falling from the sky and we'll be planning new trips to be tormented by mosquitoes while collecting rocks. Watch this space as the new year arrives to see what we plan to do next year. We assure all that we will be out and about as much as ever again in 2020,

December 7<sup>th</sup> – Our final workshop of 2019 (see page 1)

**December 13<sup>th</sup> – WCGMC Annual Holiday Party Extravaganza (see pages 1 and 2)**

January 10<sup>th</sup> – monthly meeting in Newark (Best Finds of 2019 and more, details to come)

January 18<sup>th</sup> – first workshop of 2020

February 14<sup>th</sup> – WCGMC Annual Winter Auction (multiple versions, always a fun event)

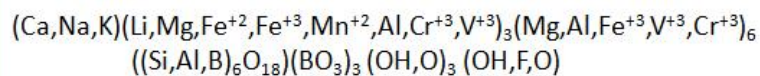
February 15<sup>th</sup> – tentative date for the February workshop



**Another outreach event at the workshop:** On November 17<sup>th</sup> an after school church group of youngsters came for some learning and fun. Glenn showed them rocks outside, and then they ventured into the workshop to learn about how we extract resources from rocks and then to cut some small geodes.

### I am Tourmaline

*answer from page 4*



*understand why I am called the garbage pail of minerals?*



**NO, I am not the Mineral of the month, KEEP LOOKING!**

## Wayne County Gem & Mineral Contacts

### ELECTED OFFICERS (NEWLY ELECTED)

President - Linda Schmidtgall  
[lees@tds.net](mailto:lees@tds.net) 315-365-2448  
 Vice-President - Fred Haynes  
[fredmhaynes55@gmail.com](mailto:fredmhaynes55@gmail.com) 585-203-1733  
 Secretary - Debbie Breeze  
[debbiegb55@hotmail.com](mailto:debbiegb55@hotmail.com) 585-289-6989  
 Treasurer - Bill Lesniak  
[Dirtman300@aol.com](mailto:Dirtman300@aol.com) 315-483-8061

### Board of Directors

Gary Thomas [gftthomas956@gmail.com](mailto:gftthomas956@gmail.com)  
 Bob Linderbery [bootmanblues@gmail.com](mailto:bootmanblues@gmail.com)  
 Heidi Morgenstern [morgensternheidi@rocketmail.com](mailto:morgensternheidi@rocketmail.com)  
 Holly Ann Woodworth [autum14513@yahoo.com](mailto:autum14513@yahoo.com)

Past President - Glenn Weiler [gwexterior@gmail.com](mailto:gwexterior@gmail.com)

Visit us on Facebook:

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

The special fossil for December is Horn Coral.

### APPOINTED POSITIONS

Bill Chapman – Field Trip Chair  
[batnpill@empacc.net](mailto:batnpill@empacc.net) 607-868-4649  
 Fred Haynes – Newsletter Editor  
[fredmhaynes55@gmail.com](mailto:fredmhaynes55@gmail.com) 585-203-1733  
 Bill Lesniak – Website Coordinator  
 Glenn Weiler – Workshop Coordinator  
[gwexterior@gmail.com](mailto:gwexterior@gmail.com) 315-594-8478  
 Linda Schmidtgall – Collection Curator  
 Eric Elias: GEMFEST Show Chair  
[thecrystalnetwork@hotmail.com](mailto:thecrystalnetwork@hotmail.com)  
 Fred Haynes – Facebook Administrator  
 Jim Rienhardt – Sand Chapter [siderious@gmail.com](mailto:siderious@gmail.com)

Club meets 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

The Public is always welcomed  
 First Class, Dated, Meetings & Time Values



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