

# Wayne County Gem and Mineral Club News

January, 2020

Always Looking for Places to Dig!



Christmas 2019 (more pictures on page 6)



<http://www.wcgmc.org>

**FACEBOOK link**



December workshop fun (more on pg. 6))

## First Club Meeting of 2020

Friday January 10<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM.

Park Presbyterian Church,  
Maple Court, Newark, NY

Program: **Best of 2019** (see pg. 2)  
**Club Election –Director positions**

## Upcoming WCGMC Workshops January 18<sup>th</sup> and February 15<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

Don't forget: Somewhere in this newsletter you will find a statement that reads **"The special mineral/fossil for January is xxxxx"**. Find that statement, remember the mineral or fossil listed, and come prepared to enter a raffle at the January 10<sup>th</sup> meeting to win a fine prize. Don't share the code word or your chances to win will be reduced!

## ELECTION IN JANUARY

Wayne County Gem and Mineral Club will be having an election at our January 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. Most of our positions are two-year positions and we are just entering the second year of service for our President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary and two of four Directors. But, the four director positions are staggered such that two are open for election each year.

This year we have three nominated members running to fill two Director positions on the Board. Club members present at the January meeting will receive a ballot listing the three nominated (listed below) and will be asked to vote for two. Two officers will count the ballots during the meeting and we will announce the new directors at the end of the meeting.

### Running for two positions as WCGMC Directors:

James Keeler

Gary Thomas

Holly Ann Woodworth

**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 Schmidt Gall

It is time to turn the page from 2019 to 2020. It is time to reflect, but more importantly time to look ahead. I much prefer to think of what is to come rather than what has already gone by, but before I do, I have one important reflection to pass along.

From the bottom of my heart, I wish to thank all who helped with the club's wonderful Holiday celebration. The fun we all had would not have been possible without a lot of effort by a lot of people. Kathleen Cappon could not be there, but she helped decorate the room for several hours Friday morning. And how about that cheese filled eurypterid she created? Then, in the afternoon Sara and Stephanie Chetney, Nancy Guilfoyle, and Debbie Breese helped set 92 place settings (we ended up with 96 in attendance!). The ham and potatoes arrived just after 5 PM, all cooked and prepared by Eva Jane Weiler. The preparations were complete when all of you arrived and filled the food and dessert tables. By 7 PM the food line was moving, the feasting began, and I could start breathing again. Thank you all.



**Who knew a eurypterid could taste so good? Who knew they were green? Kathleen's "cheesy" creation was a highlight of the Holiday spread.**

I had no idea we had so much talent in the club. Nancy ran a great matching game for the 12 kids in attendance and also shared an astronomy piece she had created in her musical past. We learned Ed can juggle, Bill Lesniak can do magic, and Donna and Beth can rewrite songs. Who would have thought they would both pick the same song to alter. Two of our youngsters demonstrated their talents; we enjoyed tap dancing by Stephanie Chetney and heard Sami Woodworth sing Rudolph while she

strummed the music on her pink guitar. It was probably a letdown to see Fred and me attempt to perform an Abbott and Costello routine. I had practiced, but it was clear Fred had not! (LOL) I'm not sure what I thought when I heard that Beth Webster had taped the whole 38 minutes of the "Talent" Show and placed it on our Facebook page.

Now we look ahead. We cannot collect in January and February, but we can still get together and have fun. At our January meeting we will see what everyone collected and constructed in 2019. We'll have seven contests (listed below along with the rules) to determine who found the best specimens and did the best lapidary work. Everyone present will be a judge and we'll dip into our club inventory for some nice prizes for those who win.

For the fourth year in row, the February meeting will be a club auction. As in the past we'll have multiple styles of auctions, culminating with a called event that is always fun. If you haven't started saving your nickels, dimes, quarters, and \$20 bills, you had better start now.

Hope everyone has a most Happy New Year. If you are traveling do so safely. I hope to see you all at the winter meetings and workshops.

*Linda*

### Best of 2019 Competition to be held at January 10<sup>th</sup> meeting

Be recognized and win prizes for the  
best minerals, rocks, and fossils  
collected by WCGMC members in 2019

#### General rules

- Must be self collected, except #7
- Label piece, provide identity and location  
BUT NOT YOUR NAME
- Limit one entry per person per category,  
but you may enter all categories
- All present that evening will be judges

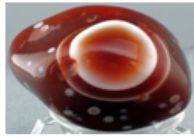
#### Categories

- Best mineral/rock collected in New York
- Best mineral/rock collected outside NY
- Best fossil collected
- Most interesting sand collected
- Best lapidary creation of your own
- UGLIEST rock/fossil of the year
- Favorite show purchase in 2019.



## My 2020 Vision

by Fred Haynes



Many people make New Year's Resolutions. Or perhaps just some people still practice the time old tradition of making personal promises and then breaking them? I am going to forego that doomed-to-fail endeavour this year and replace it with a vision statement. Someone told me Vision Statements are still in vogue. I am going to call it **My 2020 Vision** and each month (or until I grow tired of the exercise) I will check in to see how well I am maintaining my 2020 Vision.

My 2020 Vision revolves around one word: **MORE**

**MORE Collecting:** It may seem daunting, but I am going to try and get out collecting more days in 2020 than I did in 2019. Since I have not counted the days this past year, I will have to do this by feel rather than by direct count, but then I am a geologist and not an engineer or accountant so feel is just fine for me. I hope many of you can join me as I fulfill this part of my vision.

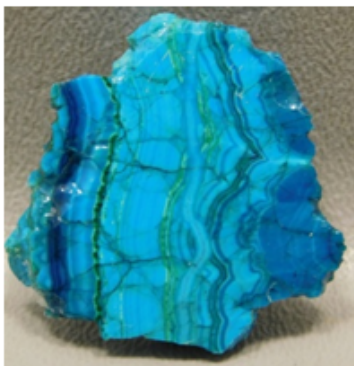
**MORE Giving:** I have collected rocks, minerals, fossils with giving in mind for several years, but I am losing the battle of space in my garage. Collecting with others in mind is fun, but one does need to process the specimens and find folks to receive them. What started out as an idea to add enjoyment to those days in the field is fast becoming a necessity. Rocks take up space. I will start working on this part of my 2020 Vision by trying to bring something to give (translation: get rid of) to each WCGMC meeting. However, don't expect 2" Herkimers or slabs of native silver.

**MORE Writing:** This one should be easy. As you may have noticed elsewhere in this esteemed publication, Jim Rienhardt and I are starting a second club newsletter. My ideas for the new Sand Times are pretty much endless. I now have over 300 sands in my collection and most of them are deserving of individual attention. I plan to give many of them that attention during the winter months. They each carry a story worth telling. Simply put: if I write more, I learn more.

**MORE Research:** Writing requires research and the internet certainly makes that more possible than ever. Often I start out to learn something about a location I visited or a mineral/fossil I have acquired and stumble on a note or learning that is completely unrelated to the original search. I could have added more learning as a separate line item, but that seems to be more a result rather than a vision.

**MORE Fun:** If I can fulfill my 2020 Vision above, there is no question that I can have more fun this year. If I collect more, I will enjoy more time in the field with my friends (more fun). If I give more, I will receive the satisfaction associated with gifting (more fun). The smiles of those who receive a WCGMC egg crate of minerals go a long way. If I write more, I learn more (more fun). More fun + more fun + more fun will equal an incredible year.

Much of my motivation to fulfill each aspect of my 2020 Vision comes from you, my fellow members of WCGMC. The club has grown rapidly over the past several years. Each new member brings new interests, new experiences, and new knowledge to the group. And yes, each member can bring new vision towards the club's future success. What is more, if you bring a new idea this year it can be part of your 2020 vision!



### Can you name this mineral ?

- I am sky blue in color.
- I am somewhat hygroscopic.
- I often grow in botryoidal form.
- I'm soft when pure (2.5-3.5), but harder when silica content increases.
- I contain a metal used in wiring.
- I'm a secondary mineral in mines in the southwest United States.



see page 7 for answer

## The WCGMC Sand Page

### Sand Cleaning by Jim Rienhardt

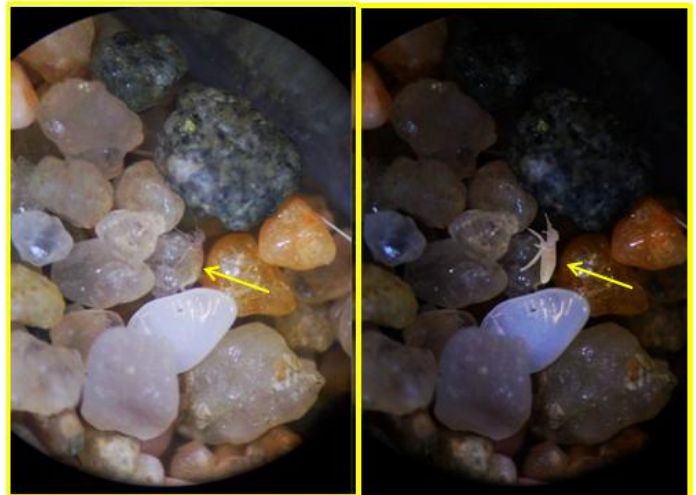


Should you clean your sand? The best advice is – YES! And it is especially important if you intend to trade. The main reason to clean your sand is that insect eggs, tiny insects, and bacteria can, and do, reside in sand. Bacteria in sand could cause all kinds of problems. I have not yet heard of there being an issue with bacteria in sand, but why take the chance? Imagine getting sand from the shore of one of the most polluted rivers in the world, the Ganges, or even from a beach along Lake Erie. Wouldn't you like to know that it had been cleaned?

Cleaning can consist of sifting and washing and/or heating. Personally, I prefer not to sift sand. This limits the sample grain size and removes some of what may naturally be found at the location, small pebbles, shells, glass, etc. If you want to remove larger material you could use hardware cloth to take out the really big stuff. To limit your collection to only the grains that fall within the official definition of sand, however, you need to use a 2 mm mesh screen and then a .06 mm mesh to take out the silt. If you are really into the science of it you would need a sediment sifting set, which is expensive, but you could then add data about the percentages of grain sizes in your sample. Most collectors don't care about that much detail.

Sifting isn't cleaning though. To clean your sand, you can run clear water through the sand by putting the sand in a shallow container and letting the water running over the sand rinse away the lighter materials as you swish your fingers through. You should continue to do this until the water is clear. In addition to clearing out pollen and other light tiny organic material, this process can also remove clay and other fine material that might be adhering to the sand grains. Think it as cleaning the sand grains

However, this will not kill the bacteria. Heating the sand will kill much of it. Put it in an oven at 250°F until dry and once dry for at least another 10 minutes. This should kill most bacteria. Another method is to pour alcohol into the sand; this is a requirement if you are sending samples to the International Sand Collectors Society (ISCS).



**The image on the left contains a small insect of about one half millimeter in length.** Can you see it? The right image is the same with the creature highlighted to help you find it. Sand inhabitants can be hard to see even under magnification.



**This picture of a critter within sand was posted in the Facebook Group Sand Collectors United on November 4, 2019 by Marty Moretti.** The white sand is from Tuscany in Italy. Another member of the group identified the resident as an ant lion larva. He's cute, but I don't think I want him residing in my sand collection.

**ANNOUNCEMENT:** WCGMC is embarking on a new adventure. Members will be receiving a second newsletter, one dedicated to Sand Collecting. The first issue will appear about the same time as this January newsletter. Fred Haynes and Jim Rienhardt will co-edit the quarterly newsletter called the **WCGMC Sand Times**. As with the regular newsletter, the Sand Times will be archived on our webpage. Ask Fred or Jim about it.





Each December, The Pantone Color Institute announces their "Color of The Year" for the coming twelve months. Everyone from furniture makers to jewelry designers to car companies, and, I suppose, to mineral dealers, takes notice as they plan their upcoming year products.

**The Pantone Color of the year for 2020 is Classic Blue.** In making this announcement on December 11th, Pantone describes Classic Blue as "where sky and sea meet" and they suggest that folks who want to sport the 2020 color do so through "accent pieces such as a scarf or a watch strap, or perhaps a vase or candle for your home or office." This is all well and good, but mineral enthusiasts might want to know what mineral best typifies this choice.

A few years back the New Jersey-based consulting firm left mineral collectors and lapidary artisans few options as they named *Rose Quartz* the Pantone Color for 2016. It could also be argued that Pantone crossed into the geology world last year with the selection of *Living Coral* as the Color of 2019. But for 2020 the translation of their choice to mineral collecting and lapidary art is a bit more ambiguous.

Now, I'm certainly not an expert on color, but I am not colorblind either so I will offer my suggestions.



Fluorite comes in all colors. Although blue may not be the *classic* color for fluorite, the Blanchard Mine in Bingham, New Mexico sure qualifies as a *classic* fluorite locality (left above). If the cubic crystals don't rock your boat, how about octahedrons in blue (above right). Fluorite is soft, but can also be faceted (see gem in header above).

Probably my first thought when asked to name a mineral that is brilliantly blue would be azurite such as the crystal in the header to the left. I would hazard a guess that azurite might appear first on most lists and might even be the first choice if "Name a Blue Mineral" surfaced as a "Family Feud" question. But it is certainly not the only selection.

Azurite is quite soft (3.5-4 on Moh's scale) and folks with lapidary interests might want to turn their 2020 efforts to a different blue mineral. We have collected sodalite in Bancroft, Ontario and no one would turn away from a solid blue piece of lapis. With hardnesses above 5.5, both are harder than azurite or fluorite, but are also not difficult to work with in the shop. And then, of course, there is tanzanite, the birthstone for December. Need I say more about this blue mineral and brilliant gemstone? Well, I will say that tanzanite is the special mineral for January.



**We should not forget the blue apatite from Minas Gerais, Brazil.** Like tanzanite, it can be appreciated by both mineral enthusiasts and jewelers

I realize this is not a complete list of minerals and gems that might be considered "**classic blue**". Perhaps you have a favorite blue mineral that I have forgotten or neglected? Let me know and we can feature your selection in a subsequent newsletter.



## WCGMC Christmas and Holiday Extravaganza



## A Rockhound Smorgasbord with all the Fixings

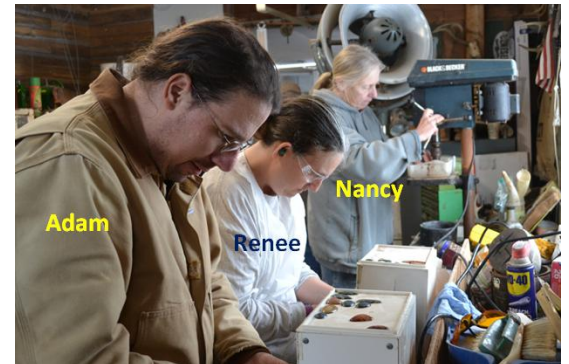


## After dinner, it was time for a talent show



You can watch the full [“Talent Show” Video](#) on our club Facebook post (Beth filmed it all!). There was singing, dancing, magic, and juggling and even a bit of comedy.

## December Workshop Fun



**I am Chrysocolla**



*answer  
from  
page 3*

Hygroscopic minerals attract water. I'll stick to your tongue!



## Wayne County Gem and Mineral Club Schedule

*last update Dec 26*

The winter months are upon us and the club will have meetings and workshops each month.

January 10<sup>th</sup> – monthly meeting in Newark (Best Finds of 2019 and more, details on page 2)

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

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

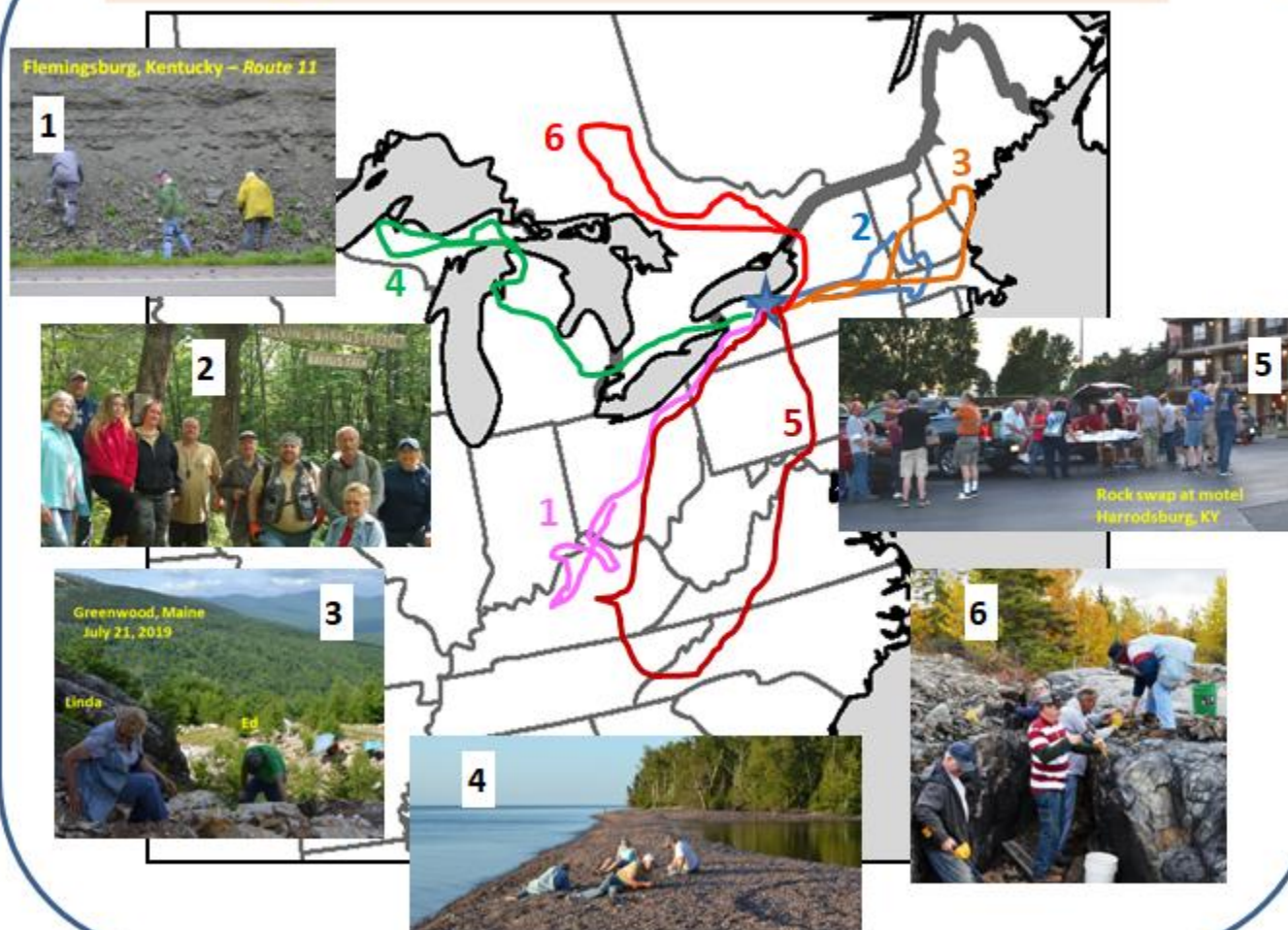
February 15<sup>th</sup> – tentative date for the February workshop

March 13<sup>th</sup> – Program: TBA, March workshop date has yet to be determined.

April 1<sup>st</sup> - *Ace of Diamonds Opening Day (A Rite of Passage for WCGMC)*

2019 was a great year for WCGMC field trips. In addition to a host of local day trips, we participated in six long trips. We are already discussing where to go in 2020.

### Overnight adventures with WCGMC in 2019



1. Cincinnati area for fossils (with BGS, April)
2. VT, NH, and western MA (June)
3. Maine pegmatites (July)
4. Upper Peninsula of Michigan (with IRMS, CCRMC, August)
5. Kentucky and beyond (with CVGMC)
6. Ontario - Bancroft, Cobalt, etc. (October)

## Wayne County Gem & Mineral Contacts

### ELECTED OFFICERS

President - Linda Schmidtgal  
[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/>

### 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 Schmidtgal – 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