



WAYNE COUNTY GEM AND MINERAL CLUB NEWS

Volume 39 Number 1 January 2011



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Happy New Year



*The temperature's 40, what does this mean?
Is the earth still warming? The sun
clearly glows*

*If that is true, the furnace shouldn't
blow.*

*But round and round the electric meter
spins*

*Ring up profits for NYSEG and kin.
If this keeps up, a dig can be planned
Maybe south of Lake Ontario - look if we
can*

*It's hard to stay home and do the grueling
tasks*

*Of sorting the rocks, making labels that
last.*

*Maybe a museum should be on our list
Then if it snows it won't alter our bliss.
Lastly, in closing, I wish all you well
and hope that your New Year is jolly &
swell!*



Pat



Field Trip Planning

January 4th, 2011 at 5:30 PM

Rowe's House 580 Rt.88 Newark NY

All interested folks make up the Field Trip Planning Committee. You will plan the 2011 Field Trip Schedule. Didn't get to collect what you want? Now's the time to make your wishes known. Rocky's cooking some chili so bring your appetite and ideas. Questions? Call Bill C. at 607-868-4649.

Walworth Quarry

By Ken St. John

This fall's trip to the Walworth Quarry was my first. I was there as a member of the Wayne County club and in the course of the lead up to the trip I was invited to take my kids on the dig. Kid rules seemed simple enough – hard shoes, safety glasses and a bike helmet – no problem there. As the weekend approached my eldest dropped out leaving only me and 5 year old Isaac.

We checked in and met Pat Chapman who organized the dig for her club. We made our introductions, signed in and took seats over in the corner. It looked to me that Isaac was the only kid there, certainly the youngest and smallest. During check in, I recognized a few faces from earlier digs with Wayne County and from our club, but for us social hour could wait. The quarry manager briefed us and offered assistance. We got in our car and set out as a part of the convoy. Walworth is a working quarry. It is a huge hole in the ground with big machines, big trucks, heavy equipment and lots of rocks and dirt everywhere. This is the stuff kids like us dream of and Isaac went from real talkative to real quiet and back several times before we hit our designated level. We parked, got out of the car and I got that “mosquito over a nudist camp” feeling. I didn't know where to begin.

We'd been to the State Museum and had seen a Fluorite crystal from Walworth so we knew what to look for, but we were surrounded by tons and tons of dolomite blocks, rocks and boulders. We'd have to get out the big hammers to find Fluorite. Like every novice collector, I found some nice little Dolomite crystals (probably of the “leaveitrite” variety) and tossed them in the bucket. No matter what, we wouldn't be shut out. There is an anxiety formed by the combination of inexperience and needing to justify the trip that doesn't go away until you find what you come for. I've felt it at every new location and have found that the best way to work through it is to put my head down and dig, so we did. Isaac and I started pounding rocks.

It didn't take long to figure out that you could pound rocks for a very long time and come up empty at Walworth. Success demanded that you find a particular rock to pound, one with vugs. We walked around a bit and a glint of a crystal caught my eye from half way up a slope. We climbed up and sure enough here was a rock with a vug and in that vug was a little Fluorite crystal – the object of our search. Now, we could pound with a purpose. To little avail. I ended up breaking the crystal out and sticking it in my pocket.

“Daddy, I've got to go to the bathroom.” All stop. We load into the car and drive back up past all of the neat equipment and go into the office to use the facilities. We take the time to chat with Pat and have a snack. Isaac shows off the crystal and grudgingly hands it over to me to put in my pocket. Rule one of collecting with kids – take charge of the finds. Their pockets are not to be trusted. Encouraged, we return to the pile and resume the search. After a while it begins to set in that there is a good deal more hunting to do. We walk around, look at the geese and the clouds, and generally enjoy the day. I pick up a piece of Dolomite with Sphalerite in it, asking a guy nearby what it was. Good going, another specimen for the collection. Rule two of collecting with kids – keep moving around. Changing the scenery is necessary and with Isaac, that meant doing about anything other than collecting minerals. Not a bad thing, but not an ice blue Fluorite cube either.

It was at about this point that I noticed that we were one hammer short. Rich Stein's warnings came flooding back to me as I realized that I'd committed the sin of losing a hammer. We looked and looked, but couldn't find it. We knew where it should be, because we'd only been in one spot, but it must have fallen into a crack and disappeared. Off to the quarry guys to tell them as instructed. They took it in stride and we went back to our search. As bad as I felt, it seemed like they'd done this before and Sunday morning I found out why.

The next day, the crowd had thinned and we were in with the die-hards. I reminded the quarry manager about the lost hammer and pointed out its location with as much specificity as possible. He warmed up a loader and dug out the entire area around the rock to keep them busy for years mean much to them. They didn't that little problem, the manager came he'd been since Christmas – he gave around for a while, dug up and out toward a rusted hulk of a crashed into the steel framework his own because he sure knew how to kids (there were two by now) a ride in one of the huge quarry trucks. They went up and down the hill and around the digs for a couple of laps. It must be nice to be 5 years old and have every adult in the place envious.



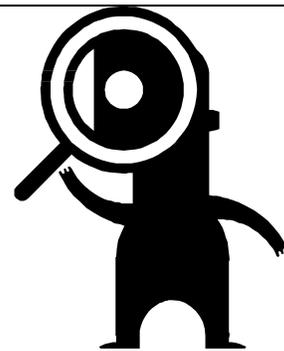
lost tool and piled it to the side. They had enough and the few bucket loads set aside really didn't find the hammer. They buried it. After tending to over and made one little boy happier than Isaac a ride in the loader. They tooled dumped a few buckets full of rocks then set structure that was sitting nearby. Boom, they and pushed it around for a bit. I figure he had kids of make mine happy. It got better. They offered all of the kids (there were two by now) a ride in one of the huge quarry trucks. They went up and down the hill and around the digs for a couple of laps. It must be nice to be 5 years old and have every adult in the place envious.

The quarry folks had a tracked vehicle with a giant jackhammer like device that they used to break up boulders for us. We'd walk around and find something and wait for a bit. The guy with the hammer would creak and rattle up and Bam, Bam, Bam, the rock to pieces. I'd found an interesting rock and asked Bob Ballard to help saw it apart. Bob helped out and we marked a few boulders to break. A few seconds of loud pounding and we were looking at misc. Gypsum crystals, some nice Fluorites in Dolomite and some real nice crystals in a vug that we couldn't really get at. Pat Chapman rolled up watched and entertained Isaac as we slaved over saw, chisel and sledge, but at the end of the day (literally) we had to flip the boulder over and leave it for the next time.

We'll keep going back to Walworth. Our techniques will get better, our tools will improve and we'll find more and better crystals, but the next trip won't be the first trip and the ride in the truck will never again be as nice.

Refreshment Volunteers Needed!

Sign up on the list at the next meeting so we can rotate this duty. Our fearless leader has too many hats at this time and is becoming a hot head.



Still looking for an editor. Anybody out there?

Help keep us together.

Help keep Pat from going crazy.

HELP!

Huge amber deposit discovered in India

<http://esciencenews.com/articles/2010/10/25/huge.amber.deposit.discovered.india>

Published: Monday, October 25, 2010 - 14:51 in [Paleontology & Archaeology](#)

Those who are proud to have a piece of amber that holds a little animal trapped in it maybe should not continue to read this. For what can be seen in the millions of years-old tree resin is almost always just a paper-thin façade. If sliced down the middle, you would find no more than a hollow space covered in some sort of "insect photo wallpaper." This does not apply to the amber Bonn paleontologist Professor Dr. Jes Rust and his colleagues have been looking at for two years. The lumps that resemble herbal cough drops are "full of it," containing numerous insect bodies, some of which are extremely well preserved, despite the fact that they have been there for 50 million years. Better yet: The petrified resin is also very easily convinced to release its contents again. "The amber has not been completely polymerized, allowing it to be dissolved easily," explains Rust. They have so far found more than 700 arthropods from 55 different genera – mostly insects, but also spiders, mites, and plant parts.

The dirty brown lumps come from the coast of the NW India's Gujarat province. Their contents cast a new light on the history of the sub-continent, which is said to have "broken off" from the East African land mass 160 million years ago to float through the oceans in isolation – at the high speed of about 20 centimeters per year. And only about 50 million years ago, India collided with Asia in a crash that caused the land to fold up into the Himalayas.

If that were true, India would have been completely isolated for 100 million years. This time should have been sufficient to give rise to a unique flora and fauna. The Indian amber was formed 53 million years ago. So it shows, similar to an old photo, what life looked like in India just before the collision with the Asian continent. This snapshot should then primarily show animal species that do not exist elsewhere.

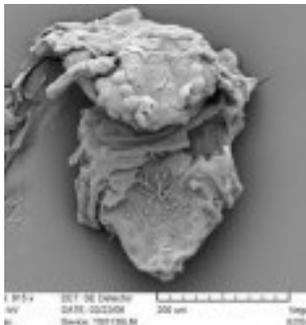
Island-hopping before the big crash

But just that is not the case: Similar insect fossils as in Gujarat have also been found in Europe and even in Central America. "This indicates that there was a lively exchange of species before our amber formed," Rust thinks. There may have been long chains of volcanic islands on the border between the continental plates – just like in Japan or Indonesia today. The insect species in India and Asia could have mingled by "island-hopping" – and also many million years before the big crash. And from Asia, they would then have spread further.

But the amber itself also raises questions. While it happens rather frequently that plants or animals get stuck in tree resin and end up covered by it, they usually decay over time. "In our amber, however, some resin component seems to have preserved the insects," says Rust.

In addition, the resin obviously comes from the family of Dipterocarpaceae, which today has its main range in the Indo-Malayan region. Until now it was thought that this type of plant had its heyday 25 million years ago. Jes Rust comments, "The Indian amber proves that extensive tropical forests of Dipterocarpaceae must already have existed there more than 50 million years ago. That is a big surprise."

Source: [University of Bonn](#)



New species of multi-horned dinosaurs unearthed in Utah

Published: Thursday, September 23, 2010 - 10:30 in [Paleontology & Archaeology](#)
<http://esciencenews.com/articles/2010/09/23/new.species.multi.horned.dinosaurs.unearthed.utah>

"A giant rhino with a ridiculously supersized head." "Fifteen long, pointed sideways oriented eye horns: one over the nose, one atop each eye, one at the tip of each cheek bone, and ten across the rear margin of the bony frill."

"A horned face: large horn over the nose and short, blunt eye horns that project strongly to the side."

Such phrases have been used to describe two newly discovered species of dinosaurs with looks only a mother could love. Still, they are drawing the attention and inspiring the imagination of scientists and lay people alike.

Announced today in *PLoS ONE*, the online open-access journal produced by the Public Library of Science, two new species of horned dinosaurs--*Utahceratops gettyi* and *Kosmoceratops richardsoni*--have been found in Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in southern Utah. Close relatives of the famous Triceratops, these giant plant eaters were once inhabitants of the "lost island continent" of Laramidia, a swampy, subtropical setting formed when a shallow sea flooded the central region of North America, isolating the eastern and western portions of the continent for millions of years during the late Cretaceous period.

"My enthusiasm for these findings is threefold," said Raymond Bernor, program director of the Sedimentary Geology and Paleobiology Program at the National Science Foundation (NSF). "First, researchers discovered two new, exciting dinosaur species. Second, the research has accomplished a major advance in understanding the biogeographic provinciality of Western North American dinosaur communities that apparently included separate northern and southern populations. And third, this discovery has inspired future discoveries in the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, which has now emerged as one of the most important paleontological reserves in the world."

But what about these ugly, horned creatures ... Although much speculation has ensued about the function of the ceratopsian horns and frills of these prehistoric monsters--from fighting off predators to recognizing other members of the same species or controlling body temperature--the dominant idea today is that these features functioned first and foremost to enhance reproductive success. Scott Sampson, first author on the paper, explains, "Most of these bizarre features would have made lousy weapons to fend off predators. It's far more likely that they were used to intimidate or do battle with rivals of the same sex, as well as to attract individuals of the opposite sex."



Reconstructed skeleton of *Utahceratops* with known elements in yellow



Reconstructed skeleton of *Kosmoceratops richardsoni* with known elements in yellow

Source: [National Science Foundation](#)

Wayne County Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.

Meetings held 2nd Friday of each month
Mini-Miner Program at 6:15 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. 30th

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.efta.biz

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



The Public is always welcome!

First Class:Dated, Meetings & Time Valued

Upcoming Events

January 2011:

4 WCGMC Field Trip Committee Meets at Rowe's 580 Rt. 88 South in Newark:5:30 PM Everyone's invited.

14 WCGMC Mini-Miners 6:15 PM WCGMC Monthly Meeting: 7PM Program: Rocky Rowe teaches "Making Beads".

February 2011

26-27 18th Annual James Campbell Memorial Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show - Albany, New York: New York State Museum, Empire Plaza, Madison Ave. Saturday & Sunday 10-5. General Admission \$6 (includes Flower Show). Children under 12: Free. 25 dealers, museum tours, fossil & mineral ID. *WCGMC members will carpool and attend on Sat.* [Snow date: Sunday] Further details at upcoming meetings.

March 2011

26-27: Sayre, PA - 42nd Annual Gem & Mineral Show sponsored by the Che-Hanna Rock & Mineral Club.

Athens Township Volunteer Fire Hall, Sayre, PA.

26-27: Hamburg, NY - 43rd Annual Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show "Elephants in Your Backyard" sponsored by the Buffalo Geological Society. Erie Co. Fairgrounds, Hamburg, NY.

April 2011

1-3: Elkridge, MD - Annual Atlantic Micromounters Conference sponsored by the Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area. MHA Conference Center, Elkridge, MD. Registration: S. Weinberger <cscystals2@verizon.net>.