

# Wayne County Gem and Mineral Club News

July, 2019

Always Looking for Places to Dig!



What are they doing? (see page 4)



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



More GemFest pictures on page 6

## The annual PICNIC Saturday, August 17<sup>th</sup>

- When:** 10:00 AM til mid-afternoon. We will plan to eat between noon and 1:00 PM. There will be a full "slate" of activities before and after the feast.
- Where:** The Weiler's Barn and Club Workshop  
6676 E. Port Bay Rd, Wolcott, NY
- Food:** The club will provide chicken, potatoes and drinks. Bring a side dish or dessert to share.
- Other:** Bring an outdoor chair. Come prepared to have fun!
- Workshop:** Yes, the workshop will be open.  
Bring rocks to show, share, cut or polish.

If you did not sign up to attend while at the June meeting, **PLEASE send a quick note to Fred Haynes** ([fredmhaynes55@gmail.com](mailto:fredmhaynes55@gmail.com)) **with an RSVP and a head count.** We need to make sure we have enough chicken and potatoes for all.

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*There will be no Friday night club meeting in July or August. The next meeting in Newark will be **Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> in September.***

## Membership Renewal Offer

At GemFest we offered an incentive for new members to join at a discount by paying through Sept. 2020 and eight families elected to join our growing family. We have a similar offer for current members who wish to renew.

The club's current membership year runs until September 30, 2019 and if you are a member your renewal is not due until then. However, if you opt to renew before, or at, the picnic (August 17<sup>th</sup>) then the fee for renewal will be reduced by \$5. This means your renewal for 2019-2020 would be \$10 for an individual and \$15 for a family. That amounts to a 33% saving for an individual or a 25% saving for a family membership. What a great deal!

An objective in making this offer is to make life easier on our treasurer while also offering members a great deal. With over 100 members now, chasing down folks between October and the end of the year is not fun for our treasurer. He needs an accurate count of members to pay our annual insurance premium which is based on membership.

You can renew by sending payment to:  
**WCGMC, Bill Lesniak**  
**P.O. Box 4,**  
**Newark, NY 14513**  
or by bringing payment to the picnic.

You can further help Bill out by printing and filling out the form from our webpage, noting clearly any updates/changes in address, e-mail or phone number.



## President's Message

**Linda Schmidt Gall**



Well team, we did it again and better than ever. GemFest 2019 was a great success. Attendance has increased every year since we moved the event to the Canandaigua Civic Center. This year's attendance of 1400 included 350 youngsters! Participation in the sluice, stone carving, and stone painting increased 30% over last year. The scavenger hunt is always enjoyed by so many. The front club table was constantly busy both days. We distributed over 430 grab bags.

The vendors I spoke with were extremely happy. The reason for this great success was all the members who gave an hour up to 3 days in addition to the countless hours of preparation prior to the event. I just can't say thank you enough. Some of our show events and helpful members can be seen "doing their thing" in the photo collage on page 6.

Now it is the start of our 2020 show. Help us think of ways to improve and start collecting minerals from the digs we attend. Last week, the Massachusetts trip was the start and next is Maine. Anywhere you go remember to bring home extra for the club. With six minerals/rocks in each grab bag we are likely to need over 3000 specimens next year for the grab bags alone.

Thank you all again and see you at the picnic.

## Some scenes from the June Workshop

Photos by H. Morgenstern



**Heidi**



**Nancy**



**Glenn**



**Amanda**



**Stephanie**

**Bob**



**Ed**



**Brown Dog (Brian McGrath) was at GemFest with his salt lamps**



**Bill**



**Lorna**



**Sara**



*How  
many  
"stones"*



## TWO SPECIAL GEMFEST AWARDS



*Best  
exhibit*

At this year's GemFest we conducted a contest for "guessing" the number of stones in a large glass jar and also asked all attendees to vote for their favorite exhibit. It was just two more ways visitors to GemFest could get directly involved in the festivities.

How many of you reading this took a guess at how many stones were in the jar? There were 252 entries and 15% of those were within 10 of the correct answer. However, only one entry had it exactly correct. WCGMC member Nikki Chase nailed it exactly with her guess of 142 stones. For those interested in statistics, the answers ranged from 49 to 1010! For her perfect answer Nikki won the jar and all the stones.



**Our President Linda Schmidt Gall hands over the jar of stones to Nikki Chase at our June 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. Her daughter Clara looks excited as well.**

There were 11 club member exhibits this year and once again we asked all present to vote on their favorite exhibit and 142 did exactly that. All exhibits received votes and several attendees commented on how hard it was to pick their favorite. They all were deserving of recognition and this newsletter will feature each of them in the coming months.

But in the end, there was a clear winner. Andrea Weldin and Gerrad Crofoot took that honor receiving 40 votes for their display entitled "Rocky Rainbow" which featured a stunning display of mostly self-collected rocks and minerals set atop a rainbow. But it may have been the poem they wrote alongside the display of specimens that captured the interest of the esteemed judges. Andrea and Gerrad will receive their \$50 reward at the club picnic in August. Glenn Weiler's exhibit of polished spheres placed second.



**GemFest 2019 winning exhibit: Rocky Rainbow by Andrea Weldin and Gerrad Crofoot.**

Photo by A, Weldin

The creativity of our exhibitors is clearly exemplified by the original poem displayed on the left side of their exhibit:

There's a Rocky Rainbow  
here in front of thee  
Because everywhere you go  
different colors you will see

You see some are shiny  
and some are dull  
Then some are big  
and some are small

Red, orange and yellow  
start of the crew  
Under them you see  
green, blue and purple too.

And did you know white  
is all the colors in one?  
It's where the light spectrum  
starts all the fun

So even when there is no  
rainbow way up high  
Take a walk and look down  
around you instead of in the the sky

The world around you  
is full of different hues  
So pick up a few "Rocks"  
as there's so many to choose.



## WCGMC makes Garnets

by Fred Haynes



Garnets are isometric. The crystal structure for all 14 recognized garnet minerals is built on three equal and perpendicular axes. But unlike pyrite, the most common isometric form of garnets is not a simple cube, but rather a more complicated and interesting polyhedron called a **regular or pentagonal dodecahedron**.

Dodecahedrons are polyhedrons (solid forms with multiple planar faces) with twelve flat surfaces. There are several variations, but in a regular dodecahedron those surfaces are all five-sided pentagons. In addition to the 12 pentagonal faces, regular dodecahedrons have 30 edges, 20 vertices, and 160 diagonals. And you thought isometric minerals were simple!

The dodecahedron is one of five so-called Platonic solids, first described by Plato about 350 BCE ([Wolfram Math World](#)). Plato described the five solid forms rather simply. He equated the **cube** with earth, the **tetrahedron** with the "element" fire, the **icosahedron** with water, the **octahedron** with air, and the **dodecahedron** with the stuff of which the constellations and heaven were made (Cromwell, 1997)..

Mineral collectors today have a different perspective on crystal forms and most immediately associate the dodecahedron with garnet. There are variations in the crystal form of garnets and not all garnets are pentagonal dodecahedrons (Minerals.net), but that did not stop WCGMC from "making" perfect (and large) garnets at its June meeting.

Rather than using Mg, Fe, Al, Si and other elements nature uses to build spectacular colorful garnets in a multitude of geologic environments, we used cardboard, crayons, scissors, two-sided tape supported with a healthy dose of imagination. Some of the creations were true works of art. Everyone had fun and went home with a new appreciation for the complexity of Euclidian geometry. Well, maybe that is stretching things some.

I could go on about the wonderful simplicity, yet surprising complexity of isometric mineral forms, but I think a few pictures from our June activity will probably be more appreciated. For more on garnets, check out the [January, 2016 WCGMC newsletter](#).



**Dodecahedron kits:** It started with simple kits purchased from Dollar Tree stores in the area. I cheated and made my "garnet" ahead of the meeting and also brought some real garnets and stamps with garnets. I know garnets are not color-zoned on their faces. I declare artistic license.



It took Teamwork



OK, not everyone made garnets! But everyone did have fun.

### References:

Cromwell, P. R., 1997, Polyhedra, Cambridge Univ. Press, pp. 51-57.

Garnets: Great Balls of Fire, 2008, Lithographie LLC, 98 p.

[Minerals.net, The Garnet Mineral Group](#)

[Wolfram Math World Website](#) – Platonic Solid.html





## SITE OF THE MONTH

**Barrus Farm pegmatite** by Fred Haynes



The Barrus Farm pegmatite outside the small hamlet of Lithia, MA has become a regular stop on WCGMC's western New England field trip each of the past three years. It is not a large site and the pegmatite there has never been quarried, but it does hold a special place in the world of gemology. It is the type locality for goshenite, which is white beryl. Yale University mineralogist Charles Sheppard identified the Barrus Farm white beryl in 1884 and named it after the town of Goshen about 3 miles east of the location.



Does this group look ready to dig? Photo by R. Cernak

Ten members of WCGMC visited the site on June 22<sup>nd</sup>. We were hosted by Rick Cernak, who stewards the site for the Barrus family as the location lies in the woods immediately behind their farm home. We spent three hours there and most of us did go home with at least one small sample of goshenite-bearing pegmatite. Identification of goshenite is difficult because it looks a bit like quartz, which is ubiquitous within the pegmatite, however the quartz is generally smoky or at least a bit cloudy. When in doubt we asked Rick, who could confirm, or in most cases tells us it was "just quartz". Rick also found several pieces containing the white beryl and graciously "donated" them to those of us who had not found our own.

Goshenite is not the only collectible mineral at the site. There is abundant tourmaline (bluish-black elbaite), spodumene (greenish-tan) and a pretty yellow-green muscovite (which is present in the upper half of the sample depicted in the title box). Occasionally the muscovite is even pink.



Searching for goshenite on a rock pile at Barrus Farm.

Photo by J. Keeler



**Elbaite tourmaline in quartz and feldspar.** I like the piece on the left which shows both the host schist (under the paper clip) and oriented tourmaline growing from the pegmatite margin.

The Barrus pegmatite is unique in that it can best be described as a boulder train occupying about 100 yards along a stream bed. The larger boulders are the size of small cars which are interspersed with smaller pegmatite float. However, none appear to be in place and bedrock exposure of the pegmatite has yet to be found. The slopes to the stream are covered and it seems likely that the resistant pegmatite in the stream bed is hidden under the forest cover. The host is micaceous schist which should be less resistant than the quartz-rich pegmatite.

The Barrus Farm pegmatite is site #32 in the 2014 Falcon Guide to Rockhounding New England by Peter Cristofono, which is a great book for rockhounds who frequent New England.



There was activity  
everywhere you looked  
at:

# GemFest 2019

Photos by Fred Haynes





## Wayne County Gem and Mineral Club 2019 Schedule last update June 30

Our summer collecting season is filling up: a couple of local day trips for fossils, a longer trip each month, and, of course, our annual picnic in August. Check your calendars and join us.

**July 13<sup>th</sup> Jaycox Run for fossils** - joint day trip with Rochester Academy of Science (RAS) Fossil Section  
(contact Fred Haynes for details)

**July 20<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> 4-7 day trip to the pegmatites of Maine** – James Keeler ([james@jkeeler.com](mailto:james@jkeeler.com)) is working to plan this trip. Let James know if you want to learn more.

**July 31<sup>st</sup> to August 10<sup>th</sup> – Upper Michigan.** A number of us have registered for 4 days of collecting on digs organized by the Copper Country Rock and Mineral Club and we'll spend time around Marquette and its iron mines before that. We thank Jim Hird for helping us with logistics.

**August 17<sup>th</sup>** – Club Picnic at the Weiler's (workshop location) --- Mark your calendars: this is a highlight of our summer season (see page 1). And don't forget to tell us how many are coming!

**August 24<sup>th</sup>** -- Green's Landing for fossils. Joint trip with RAS (Contact Fred Haynes for details)

**August 30<sup>th</sup> – Sept 3<sup>rd</sup> - central Kentucky with CVGMC.** We may add sites en route and during our return. Contact Fred Haynes to be included in updates for this trip

**September (middle of month, tentative)** – a long weekend in the western lowlands of the Adirondacks


*If anyone would like to suggest a location or would like to plan/lead a trip let us know.*

### TWO JULY SHOWS JUST A SHORT DRIVE TO OUR EAST

**2019 GEMWORLD - "The Beauty of Gems & Minerals" OUR 53RD YEAR**  
**GEM, MINERAL, FOSSIL & JEWELRY SHOW**  
[www.gmss.us](http://www.gmss.us)  
 Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse, Inc.  
**Sat. July 13 10am – 6pm**  
**Sun. July 14 10am – 4pm**  
  
**Center of Progress Building**  
 New York State Fair Grounds  
 575 State Fair Blvd. Syracuse, NY 13209

*\* 5th Annual \**  
**HERKIMER DIAMOND GEM SHOW & FESTIVAL**  
 Herkimer County Fairgrounds  
 135 Cemetery St, Frankfort, NY 13340  
**7/20 & 21, 2019**  
 Saturday 9am - 6pm, Sunday 10am - 5pm  
*Admission \$5, Children 12 and Under are Free*  
*Free Parking!*  
[www.herkimershow.com](http://www.herkimershow.com)

And our friends in St. Lawrence County will hold their August show for the 53<sup>rd</sup> Consecutive Year!!

<p><b>August 24<sup>th</sup> &amp; 25<sup>th</sup></b>  <b>53rd St. Lawrence Co.</b>  <b>Rock &amp; Mineral Club Show @ The Pavilion –</b>  <b>90 Lincoln St., Canton, NY</b></p> <p>Food concession stand is open both days. Mineral ID table. Free gem tree-making classes on Sunday. Children's fluorescent mineral hunt at dusk on Friday night, August 23<sup>rd</sup>. Free Mineral kits for children -- with labels. Field Trips: (\$5.00 per person). Powers on Sat. and Bush Farm on Sunday. Leaving @ 9:00 from the pavilion.</p>	 <p><b>ST LAWRENCE CO.</b>  <b>ROCK &amp; MINERAL CLUB</b></p>	<p><b>Admission: Adults = \$2.00</b>  <b>Children under 12 free</b></p> <p><b>Bring your unknown minerals for our experts to identify.</b></p> <p><b>For more information contact:</b>  <b>Club President: William deLorraine</b>  <b>315-287-4652, <a href="mailto:wdellie@gmail.com">wdellie@gmail.com</a></b>  <b>Or visit:</b>  <b><a href="http://stlawrencecountymineralclub.org">stlawrencecountymineralclub.org</a></b></p>
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## Wayne County Gem & Mineral Contacts

### ELECTED OFFICERS (NEWLY ELECTED)

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

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**

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



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