

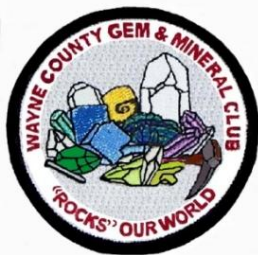
# Wayne County Gem and Mineral Club News

July, 2022

Always Looking for Places to Dig!



*GemFest 2022 (more pictures inside)*



<http://www.wcgmclub.org>

**FACEBOOK link**



*Ilion Gorge for travertine (p. 3)*

## Annual Summer Picnic

**Saturday August 20<sup>th</sup>**

**Weiler Yard, Club Workshop,  
6676 E. Port Bay Rd, Wolcott, NY**

Our big summer picnic is our next large club activity, starting at 10:00 AM on August 20<sup>th</sup>. The club will provide chicken, salt potatoes and plenty to drink. Everyone else is asked to bring a dish to pass (vegetable, salad, or dessert).

Vice President Holly Woodworth is planning the event and has designed an online survey to assist in getting a headcount to allow us to purchase and prep sufficient chicken and potatoes. The survey can be accessed [here](#). If that does not work for you, or if you have any questions or ideas for picnic activities, you can also reach Holly at [autum14513@yahoo.com](mailto:autum14513@yahoo.com).

Current plans include Rock Bingo and a small auction. Dave Millis will bring geodes and his saw and, of course, the kids (of all ages) can take a barrel ride down to the fish pond.

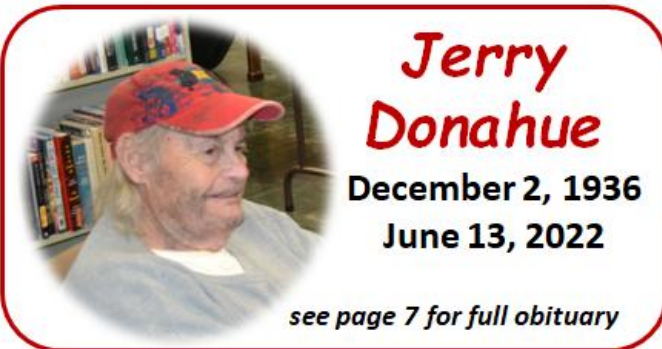
We'll need help on either Thursday or Friday to setup the big tent and hope that others can stay late on Saturday to help take it down. More details to come in the August newsletter.

## **Tentative Weekend Field Trip July 30-31, Central Pennsylvania**

Teresa Ferris is putting together a weekend field trip to Pennsylvania for the final weekend of July. At a minimum the trip will visit two quarries, Mt. Pleasant Mills Quarry for wavellite in the ridge above the quarry and then calcite, etc. in the quarry itself and the Middleburg Quarry for calcite, travertine, and perhaps fluorite. Teresa is working on other possible sites.

Teresa asks that you send a note to her at: ( [teresa.a.ferris@gmail.com](mailto:teresa.a.ferris@gmail.com) ) if you are possibly interested in attending or if you would like more information and later the full details. Letting her know of your interest soon will also help her plan the trip.

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## GemFest 2022

After two years without a show, it sure was good to be able to hold GemFest 2022, back in the Greater Canandaigua Civic Center where we had been for several years prior to the pandemic. Many of our fine dealers were back and we welcomed some new ones, but the success of GemFest is truly linked to the wonderful group of members we have who helped throughout the event.

It may not take an army to run our brand of show, but it sure takes a large platoon. At all points during both days all our activities were staffed with smiling knowledgeable members. Visitors could carve soapstone, paint a rock, use the sluice to collect small treasures, pick out fossils (and learn what they are), and work on various other lapidary crafts.

This does not even mention the nine wonderful exhibits our members provided for folks to enjoy and learn from. All summer we will feature those in the newsletter starting with the award winners in this issue on page 4.

But enough gabbing, here are a few pictures.



Gerrad Crofoot helps at the sluice.



Ed Smith at the rock painting table, and there were dinosaurs in the house, courtesy of Jerry Bastedo.



Thanks to Kathleen Cappon (right) there was live music on Sunday.



Linda Schmidt Gall concentrates on a piece of soapstone and Gary Thomas talks fossils.



Set-up day at GemFest as club members fill grab bags in anticipation of the weekend festivities. We filled and distributed 450 grab bags. We hope everyone that went home with one (or more!) is happy with their new possessions.



## Ilion Gorge for Travertine

by Teresa Ferris



I chose to lead my first field trip on Sunday June 12<sup>th</sup>. About ten club members hiked into Ilion Gorge, which is one of my favorite local spots and it was a success! Everyone loved checking out the new landscape that the winter brought us. I am not sure when or exactly what caused the collapse but three large shale boulders laced with orange travertine had fallen from the ledge into the river. Linda Schmidtgal referred to the over-sized blocks as Papa Bear, Mama Bear, and Baby Bear. Papa Bear was the size of half a small house!



**There were plenty of new surfaces to explore at Ilion Gorge.** Everyone went home with a few nice pieces and would like to go back sometime soon.

We also located the seam of satin spar (fibrous form of gypsum) that Matt Weiler had found a few years ago.



**There were a lot of nifty pockets and one big pocket about two feet wide by a foot deep.** It appeared as if that pocket had been worked on the past few months since the collapse but it was still cool to look at. The travertine appears to be glowing in the sunlight as Rob Bancroft peeks in.



**On our way in, Bill Lesniak noticed a newt watching us.** I was good; I did not bring him home to be my pet.



**Heidi Morgenstern in action:** Apparently the collar on the chisel is not large enough. Fortunately, there is no audio with these pictures.



**Rob cleans a piece of travertine in the creek while Bill checks out a large block of calcified moss that had fallen into the creek.**

*All photos by Teresa Ferris*



## The Winning Exhibit at GemFest

As in past years, WCGMC asked visitors to GemFest to vote for their favorite club display. This year's event was highly contested, but Heidi Morgenstern's collection of her gem tree creations which she entitled "Peace Trees", received the most votes and Heidi was awarded the \$50 prize and the prestigious and priceless title of Best Exhibitor for 2022.



**Heidi Morgenstern's award winning exhibit of "Peace Trees"**

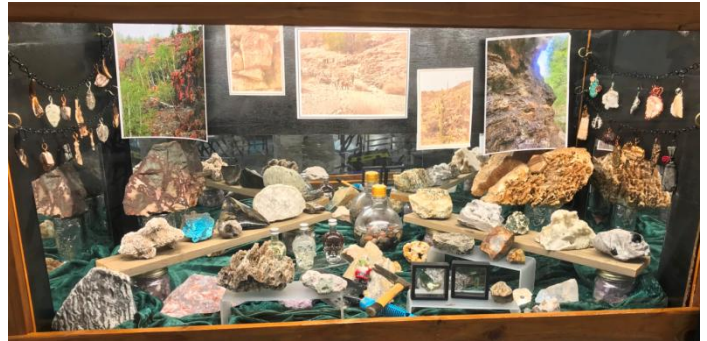


**Her trees were so unique and diverse that a close-up of a few of them is well deserved.** Your editor likes the one on the right mounted on a piece of graphic granite from a New England pegmatite.

It should be noted that two other exhibits were not far behind Heidi's exhibit in the voting and all 9 club exhibits received multiple votes. Second place went to Lindsay Varga. Nancy Guilfoyle and Teresa Ferris earned third place with their combined exhibit.



**Lindsay Varga won second place with this unique exhibit.**



**Nancy Guilfoyle and Teresa Ferris combined their unique possessions and exhibiting skills into a third place selection.**

All nine exhibits received multiple votes from those who attended and the overall row of exhibits clearly displayed the diversity and talent of our club members. We'll highlight some of the other exhibits, which included eurypterids, mammoths and mastodons, and sand collecting in future newsletters.

The exhibit that travelled the longest distance to be included in our show came from West Virginia. Jim and Bonnie Hird attended the show and Jim brought with him an exquisite display of datolites from the Upper Peninsula of Michigan simply entitled "The Many Moods of Datolite."



**Jim Hird's datolite exhibit at GemFest.**



**Glenn Weiler had his large home-made tumbler running along with a bucket of free tumbled rocks. Kathleen Cappon's Mammoth and Mastodon display is in the background.**



## Splendid Sands Calendar

July, 2022

Navagio Beach, Zakynthos Island  
Ionian Islands, Greece



Photo by Leo Kenney

by Leo Kenney, Kate Clover & Carol Hopper Brill

Zakynthos, also called Zante, is the third largest of the Ionian Islands, a string of more than a hundred small and medium-sized islands located west of mainland Greece in the Ionian Sea. The island is roughly triangular in shape with three distinct regions. Mountains rise from the jagged coastline in the northwest. The center is flat and fertile. The eastern and southern regions include beautiful beaches and bays.

Greece is the most seismically active area of Europe, and the Ionian islands occupy a geo-dynamically important area. Three tectonic plates meet in the region: the Eurasian, the Mediterranean (African) and the Anatolian. These plates are in constant motion with the African plate being subducted beneath the European plate. Seismic tremors are common throughout the region.

Navagio Beach is an exposed cove on the west coast of the island. It is also called Shipwreck Beach, so named after a freighter ran aground and was abandoned in an October 1980 storm. The vessel rests buried in grains of the white limestone sand.

## *How many taconite pellets?*



Our annual guessing contest of how many in a jar involved taconite pellets collected during a WCGMC Field Trip to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan in August 2019. You can read more about taconite in our [October 2019 newsletter](#), a page of which is shown behind the jar. Over 125 entries spanned the range from 8 to a million. I don't think some folks took it completely seriously.

But Joe Swick from Webster did. He guessed 3350 which was just a bit lower than the actual number of 3415. A summary of the results is revealing. Nearly 125 folks entered the contest and only 21 of those guesses exceed the actual number (less than 17%). Given guesses as high as one million, the average guess is a rather meaningless statistic, but the median guess of 1235 clearly indicates how hard it is to appreciate the true number of taconite pellets.



Club Secretary Beth Webster delivered Joe his winning globe of polished stones. We also welcome the Swick family to WCGMC as one of eight families to join the club at GemFest.

## Tick Tips

by Fred Haynes

**A disclaimer:** *I am not an expert on ticks or on tick-borne diseases. However I have encountered a few in recent years and done a little research on the topic that might be of use to rockhounds and outdoor enthusiasts in general. or just serve as a reminder.*

I will start by saying that I have not seen a single tick so far in 2022. This is despite being outdoors 3-4 times a week crawling in the bushes to photograph a flower or some moss, trying to see the bottom of a mushroom to identify it, collecting fossils or my next sand sample, or, most recently, picking berries. I have been in deer country where ticks should be. So, I wonder, could it be that the permethrin that I have liberally applied to my field shirts, pants, and socks actually works to ward off the little buggers? Who knows, but as a scientist, I would have to say that the evidence is suggestive that it might.



**Just spray it on, wait for it to dry, turn the clothes over and apply to the other side.**

Back in April, I laid several sets of field clothes across the driveway on a warm sunny day and sprayed them with Permethrin. The bottle says good for 4 washings and up to 6 weeks so I have just applied a second application. The experiment continues.

In past years, when I was less diligent about treating my clothing or applying any sort of repellent, I have seen many ticks and actually have had two embedded. I mashed the first while extracting it from my stomach. The second was last summer and it had found soft tissue in my eyelid. I thought I had a black zit until I looked closely and saw the thing had little legs. I went to the urgent care clinic to have that one extracted.

Both were sent out for "analysis". The first came back inconclusive, I guess I had destroyed him and not preserved enough for them to identify the species or test for pathogens. The second was a deer tick nymph (the worst of all types). However, he tested negative for any known tick diseases. Whew! Both times my doctor started me on a round on antibiotics. I continued the full ten-day treatment the first time, but stopped the second time when the negative test results were received.

In New York State you can send your ticks to the [Upstate New York Tick Testing Laboratory](#) in Syracuse. Just follow the directions on the webpage and mail the critter to them. Their webpage has some interesting statistics. Since 2019 they have analyzed over 21,400 ticks and found that 33.5% of them carried at least one disease. Only 70 of the reported ticks came from Wayne County. Onondaga County (Syracuse) leads the state with over 2480 ticks. Of course, this statistic may be somewhat influenced by the location of the testing facility!

I carry a little cupped spoon with a small slot in it. The brand name is Ticked Off and you can purchase a set of 3 for \$11.00 online. I've never used mine on myself, but I have removed ticks with it from two other individuals and it worked perfectly. Catch him in the slot and lift slowly. He pops right out, alive and kicking. Apparently this is less stressful on the tick than other methods and he does not release any toxin during removal. As a result, you have a preserved live tick to mail to Syracuse.



[Here](#) is a bit more about the 2022 tick season for central New York from the Tick Testing laboratory at the Upstate Medical University.

The [CDC Tick Bite Bot](#) is another interesting site for up to date information.



**Jerry Donahue**

**December 2, 1936 –  
June 13, 2022**



**by Pat Chapman**

## **Not All Who Wander are Lost**

When I started attending WCGMC meetings, Jerry Donahue was Vice-President. He would tell all that club field trips provided him an excuse to get out and see new things. Jerry had driven over three million miles hauling freight so he was tired of highway driving. As a result, he chose the longest and most meandering route imaginable to get from point A to point B.

Jerry enjoyed finding minerals and fossils, seeing wildlife and collecting feathers or whatever else crossed his path. He found the biggest and best eurypterid that I think I have ever seen. The thing hardly fit into one of our display cases. In a word, Jerry enjoyed the outdoors, WCGMC was the perfect club for him.

Jerry's family consisted of two ex-wives, 8 kids, a brother, mucho cats and kittens, and a long-term relationship for the past decade or two of his life. Jerry had some major health care issues in the last few years of his life and his daughter Ellie found him an assisted living facility near her in Florida about a year ago where she could best oversee his health needs. She tells us that Jerry loved the beach during his time in Florida. I wonder what he found to collect there.

Whenever WCGMC ventured to the Adirondacks to collect pretty rocks, Jerry proudly told us that he had grown up there. Our visits to Benson Mines in Star Lake were some of his favorite collecting days, however there was seldom a trip that Jerry did not attend with his big old van. He collected fossils with us all over western New York and was always up for the annual trip to the central Pennsylvania quarries.

Jerry's Native American mother was a member of the Mohican clan who lived to the century mark. She instilled true Native American pride in her son which he wore his entire life. When he was of age, he joined the Coast Guard. Later, Jerry volunteered for different tasks at Ganondagan State Park, running

the Snake Run in winter and shuttling people to and from the summer events.

It was Jerry who helped Bill and me get involved in being a vendor at the Pageant of Steam in Canandaigua. Without Jerry, our little business venture, PACE Yourself, would not likely have come to be. If you attended GemFest before the pandemic, you would most likely have seen Jerry at the sluice. He enjoyed helping youngsters of all ages find and identify their treasured discoveries.

Jerry has left us, but he is far from forgotten. Many moons and club digs have passed since we last hunted rocks with Jerry but the adventures we had together remain fresh in our minds. He was an individual and a very dear friend. Jerry Donahue was 85 years old.



**Jerry in his customary spot behind the sluice at GemFest in June 2015.** Photo by F. Haynes



**Jerry enjoyed his collecting days. Here he is on March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2014, searching for Silurian fossils near Long Pond Rd in Greece.** It was about 40 degrees and windy that day, but that did not deter Jerry. Photo by F. Haynes

## Wayne County Gem & Mineral Contacts

### ELECTED OFFICERS

President – James Keeler

[jamesrocks\(at\)keeler.com](mailto:jamesrocks(at)keeler.com)

Vice-President – Holly Woodworth

[autum14513\(at\)yahoo.com](mailto:autum14513(at)yahoo.com)

Secretary – Beth Webster

Treasurer - Bill Lesniak

### Board of Directors

Bob Linderbery

Heidi Morgenstern

Karen Wilkins

Ed Smith

Past President – Linda Schmidtgal

Visit us on Facebook:

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

### APPOINTED POSITIONS

TBA – Field Trip Leader

Stephen Mayer - Fossil Field Trip Leader

Fred Haynes – Newsletter Editor

[fredmhaynes55\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:fredmhaynes55(at)gmail.com)

Bill Lesniak – Website Coordinator

Glenn Weiler – Workshop Coordinator

Linda Schmidtgal – Collection Curator

Fred Haynes – Facebook Administrator

Jim Rienhardt – Sand Chapter

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**

