Wayne County Gem and Mineral Club News

June, 2018 — **Always Looking for Places to Dig!**

Hunting for wavellite in Pennsylvania *(see page 6)*

http://www.wcgmc.org/

FACEBOOK link

"Logging" Carboniferous trees in Jermyn, PA on May 5th

Next Club Meeting
Friday June 8th, 7:00 PM

Presbyterian Church, Maple Court, Newark, NY

PROGRAM: Mineral Bingo

- Play Mineral Bingo and win big prizes
- Field Trip Planning
- GemFest Wrap-Up
- As always, bring your new acquisitions

WCGMC Workshop

As of press time for the June newsletter, a date for a June workshop has not yet been selected. We should have a time selected before GemFest. Look for it in June on the webpage, on Facebook, or ask at the show.

Field Trips

Check page 7 for our field trip schedule. The overnight trip in June is the 16th and 17th to four collecting sites in western Massachusetts. You can still go, but you do need to contact Fred Haynes to learn of the plans and you will need to make motel reservations fairly quickly. There are several day trips to select from also.

Wayne County Gem & Mineral Club

Gem Fest 2018

Sat. June 2 10-5
Sun. June 3 10-4
Bring a friend, tell a neighbor

Location:

Greater Canandaigua Civic Center
250 N. Bloomfield Rd, Canandaigua

$3 Admission, Kids 12 & under FREE

FAMILY FUN with Soapstone Carving, Wire Wrapping, Sluice, Scavenger Hunt for kids, Fossil Corner with dinosaur, rock painting, 17 Vendors, Exhibits, Free Prizes, and much much more

UVBob Fluorescent Mineral Showing several times each day

Gems, Minerals, Fossils, Beads & Jewelry

visit http://www.wcgmc.org/ for details

Greenhouse/Solarium/Storage Barn : ROCK HOUSE

BY KATHLEEN CAPPON

In 1998 I started preparing a two-acre garden/woods area for a future greenhouse and pond. This small area was within the 10-plus acres of what is my tree and groundcover farm. The pond would be for recreational swimming and for irrigation of the various plants. I decided to discontinue a vegetable garden, cut down a half acre of trees and locate a contractor to build the pond. Prior to this construction a lot of sand, stone and gravel were brought to the site for later use. One load provided the base for the future post and beam style greenhouse to be placed next to an existing log style barn.

1999 was a very dry spring and summer so the acre pond was successfully completed by October. On the gravel pad, I constructed the "skeleton" of the 16 ft. x 18 ft. greenhouse which would have 23 glass windows with clear greenhouse sheathing for the front roof and Undura solid panels for the backside of the gable roof. The windows were recycled from when Marion Elementary School replaced all their windows in 1995 along with 9 opaque fiberglass panels from the gymnasium! These windows plus recycled jalousie windows for ventilation were encased in the 4x4 and 4x6 beam structure. The rafters and purlins were recycled pressure treated lumber from Alpco.

The roof was completed after the final construction in 2003. Then "green-housing" began. Several years of growing young vegetable and flower plants was fun at first but then became frustrating and not profitable when all the young plants in the greenhouse would be nibbled off by invading chipmunks or devoured by rabbits when set out in the rows. Finally, going to the local farm markets to get fresh produce seemed to be a lot easier! What now should be done with the greenhouse ???

Ahh… maybe a solarium! a sitting room or a party house when it gets to be 80 degrees inside. Later on, the idea of a portable hot tub room worked well until it got below freezing requiring that the tub be fully drained and winterized. Well, it was great for storing lumber for future projects. Things would stay dry and I could do wood working , sanding and sawing on warmer fall and early winter days. The question still came up...this building wasn't being used effectively. A better idea had to be thought out. The building sat for a few seasons.

Then it happened!! After retirement I started collecting rocks again like I used to do as a kid. In 2014, I joined the Wayne County Gem & Mineral Club. I already had many yard rocks of my own, but after joining the club I had quite a few more! Nothing like Glenn, Linda or Bill, but nonetheless, how inspiring and what fun all the field trips were. I now have a mineral and fossil collection in the house in two beautiful antique cabinets. Five other cabinets contain many stones but they are not as visible . But what should I do with the favorite yard rocks? What can I do with all the rocks I will collect in the future?

Kathleen Cappon and her greenhouse, er hot tub room, er ROCK HOUSE SOLARIUM. Sometimes the third time is truly the charm.

… continued on next page (see ROCK HOUSE SOLARIUM)

ROCK HOUSE SOLARIUM *(continued)*

Wow!!! An excellent USE for the building which I will now call the **Rock House Solarium**. It will be an occasional place for the portable hot tub with a few hanging plants and air ferns, a refreshment table with a few chairs, strings of colored lights and a heater. A place where, like our club shop, one can see and enjoy the rocks, but on a much smaller scale.

I have yet to complete the interior by attaching the reflective walls, ceilings and trim. Then, the many rustic shelves will be built on three of the walls. All of these materials were discarded or recycled items that I have found or picked up from different building sites. After completion it will fill up with rocks quickly.

The thing is, rocks do not require a special soil bedding base to grow on. All of you remember the instructions for keeping a "Pet Rock" ! They don't need to be watered or fertilized. Chipmunks will not gnaw at them and rabbits don't seem to bother the yard rocks. The old greenhouse has had a metamorphosis. I am finally happy to have a rock and mineral "house" where I can enjoy and display my growing collection.

==========

Can you name me?





- I form trigonal crystals with hardness of 3.5-4.
- I'm many colors, but cherished when pink.
- I am the National Gemstone of Argentina.
- I am also the state Mineral of Colorado.
- In fact, a Colorado specimen is on a US stamp.
- You might find me on the MA field trip in June.
- I'm heavy with a specific gravity of 3.5-3.7.
- You can find me in hydrothermal veins.
- I'm often associated with silver!
- I am a carbonate mineral.
- Think Tsumeb!

for answer, see page 8

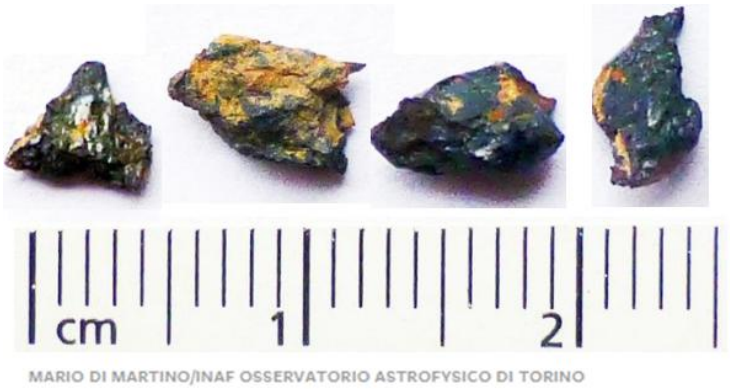
Stephen Mayer recently found this 5.5 cm eurypterid near Cayuga Junction on the east side of Cayuga Lake. It is most likely *Eurypterus remipes*. You can visit Stephen and some of his eurypterids at GemFest June 2-3.

Photo by S. Mayer

Mineral Musing

By Fred Haynes

We all dream of finding that special rock, one that is totally unique, one that can hold that center position on the top shelf of our mineral cabinet. Yes, that perfect piece we can be proud to display while telling the story of how we found it. In 1996, a geologist working for the Egyptian Geological Survey had his dream fulfilled. Aly Barakat was studying Libyan desert glass formed 26 million years ago, presumably by a meteorite impact, when he made his incredible find. As a geologist he knew that the colorful broken pebbles he found deep in the Saharan desert were unique, but it took more than two decades to learn how special they truly are.



Several pieces of the Hypathia stone, discovered by Aly Barakat in 1996. So what makes them so special?

The Hypathia stone (named after the famous 5th century woman astronomer, Hypathia of Alexandria) belied early interpretation. Its chemistry and mineralogy just did not match any known terrestrial or extraterristrial source. Originally it was thought that Barakat's stones might have come from the nucleus of a comet that had fallen in the Libyan desert. Further, it made sense that the impact, if large enough, could have generated the more common Libyan glass by melting the Saharan sands that it struck. But studies over the past two decades seem to preclude that origin for the Hypathia Stones. First, the stones contain too much carbon and almost no silica. This is contrary to all known extraterrestrial rocks.

The answer, or at least the start of an answer, may have come from a very recent study conducted at the University of Johannesburg (Belyanin et. al., 2018). Working with infinitesimal grains inside the Hypathia stone fragments, the researchers found moissanite (silicon carbide), an unknown nickel phosphide phase, a silver iodine phosphide phase, and even native aluminum. Nothing like this is known from our solar system, causing Belyanin to conclude the that "these grains are unique within our solar system".

So what might this all mean? The South Africtan researchers suggest that these sub-centimeter sized fragments may provide insight into our little region of the universe at a time before our solar system formed. In other words, more than 4.6 billion years ago. They suggest "the assembly probably occurred in the early solar nebula". Apparently if they are part of our solar system, then theories on the origin of the solar system will need some revision. Needless to say these small rocks will be subjected to a bit more study.

Maybe we should help these folks out by going to look for some more, maybe some bigger ones would be nice? Or maybe we've found some already and don't know it? Just think, you could buy a grab bag for a buck at the show next weekend and discover a rock that predates our solar system. And then you would have fulfilled your dream. OK, maybe not, but I'm going to keep my eye open for sure. Maybe I can find one big enough to make a sphere?

References:

Belyanin, G. A., 2018 Petrography of the carbonaceous, diamond-bearing stone "Hypatia" from southwest Egypt: A contribution to the debate on its origin, Geochima et Cosmochimica Acta, v. 223, p. 462-492.

Jorgenson, A., 2018, The Hypathia stone's composition leaves researchers questioning where and how it formed, Astronomy online, Jan. 18, 2018.

Ara Barakat was looking for and researching Libyan glass like this when he made his discovery. Dated at 26 million years old, this glass material also has an enigmatic history, although most favor an origin from impact features and fusion of sand. Could the Hypathia Stone and Libyan Glass tell a cause and effect story?

Sterling Hills Zinc Mine
A Fluorescent Paradise
by Ken St. John

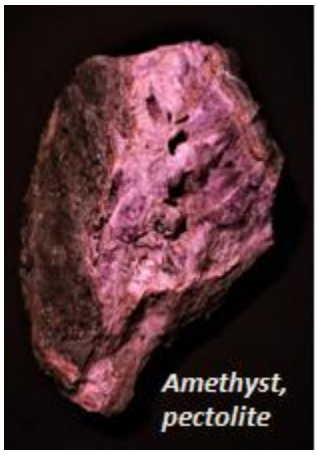
Editor's Note: In mid-April, about ten intrepid WCGMC diggers accompanied the UV Nomads and two other Mid-Atlantic clubs on a day of digging at the Sterling Hills Zinc Mine in New Jersey. We thank the UV Nomads for inviting us along on this trip. The following is reprinted with permission from their newsletter, UV Normads Chronicle.

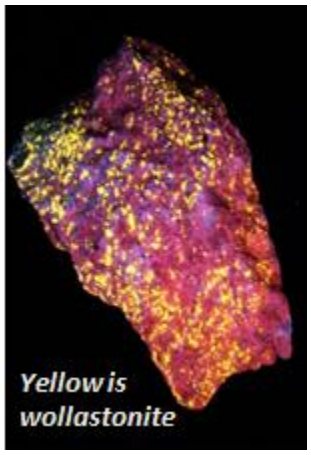
First and foremost, thank you Tom Pankratz. Tom was the driving force behind this trip and the chief wrangler during it. His was a tough job well done.

I sent out a request for feedback relative to the whole affair. I can summarize by saying that there was something for everyone, but not everyone loved everything. Except for the weather which was dead solid perfect, and maybe the illumination of the newly exposed rock face which was an impressive sight.

Sterling Hill has something for everyone but not a lot for anyone unless you work a bit. This makes it a hard to rate as a destination.

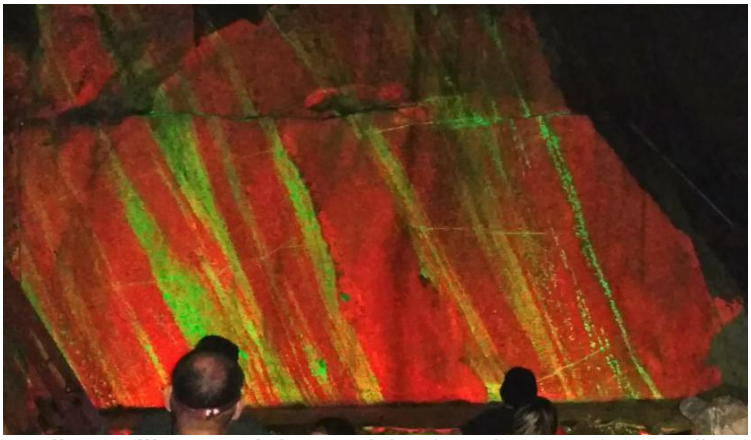
The Wayne County contingent found pleasure on the "minerals from everywhere else" pile but weren't that impressed by the side trip to the orebody outcrop. That sentiment was just the opposite for some of the more experienced fluorescent collectors who saw nothing but fluorescent digging possibilities at the outcrop. I collected the amethyst with pectolite at the lower left because I liked it. Didn't need it, liked it.





The opportunities to collect out back seemed to be a bit limited. My comments about the "Wolly Boulder" (wollsatonite) were wrong. It had pretty much been reduced to some manageable chunks and we weren't allowed to go back up the hill to look for more. Collectible, but not spectacular (see photo – lower right).

Folks new to the location were probably the most impressed. Sterling Hill occupies a special place in American history as well as in our hobby. Our society has slowly moved away from the land. We don't understand where things come from or the effort it takes to make anything. Milk comes from the store, gas from the pump and power flows out of the wall as easily as water into the sink. Sterling Hill speaks to the reality of mining in all of its aspects offering enlightenment to those who listen and spend a moment thinking about what they heard. For that reason alone, it's worth the visit.



Sterling Hills at Night: Eight foot by ten foot wall of fluorescent minerals. Red is calcite, green is willemite,

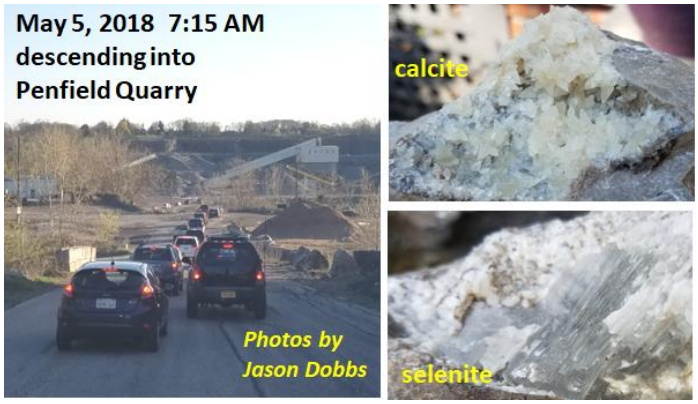
---

Editor's note: As Ken notes, the donated mineral and rock piles outside the Sterling Hills Mine were a special treat this year, or maybe we were just there first! We found more wire silver and cobalt arsenide minerals there than in our last two trips to Cobalt, Ontario! And there were numerous zeolites and decent New Jersey prehnite. We wish we knew where the yellow fluorite cubes atop dolomite were from. We found two very nice large boulders of colorful Massachusetts rhodonite. Well they were colorful pink on the inside; the outside was pyrolusite black! And I even liked the trachyte porphyry pieces which I believe are from Bannockburn in the Timishkaming District of Ontario, They will add to my growing igneous rock collection.

The UV Nomads Fluorescent Mineral Club is a group of collectors who are willing to travel. It's all about the field trip and the discovery of what each site has to offer the fluorescent mineral collector. For more information, contact Ken St. John - uvnomad@roadrunner.com.

A Weekend in May
Penfield and Central PA

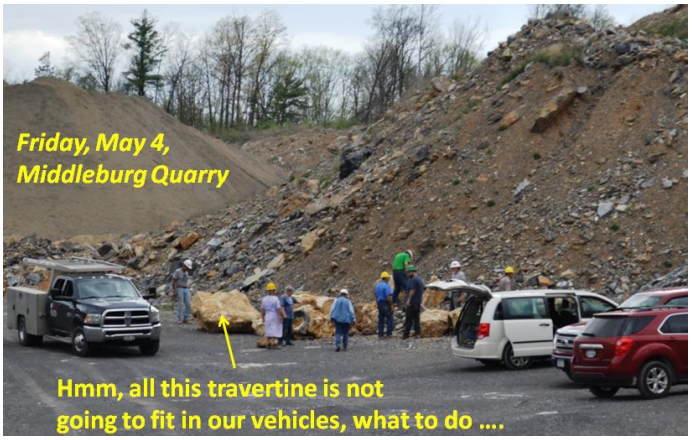
The first weekend of May split our club into two parties. Many stayed in western New York and visited Penfield Quarry on the annual Dolomite Products open house. If you check out our Facebook page you will find several had a successful day among nearly 200 collectors from across the northeast.



But others of us had planned our annual pilgrimage to central Pennsylvania for that weekend, travelling south with images of wavellite and large lepidodendron tree stumps in our vision. As usual our first stop on Friday morning was atop the National Limestone Quarry in Mount Pleasant Mills in search of sprays and balls of yellow-green wavellite (see photo on page 1). And as usual it was everywhere. Although quality pieces were scarce, there will most likely be a lot of folks finding wavellite in their GemFest $1 grab bags!

Next, we headed into the Mt. Pleasant Mills Quarry for calcite, but had been told not to dally there as the picking was really good over at the other National Limestone Quarry in Middleburg. And so it was. In mid-afternoon, owner Eric Stahl took us directly to an area that had been blasted just days before where large vugs filled with glistening calcite was just loose for the taking. He watched while we gleefully removed the bounty from the vugs (see photo atop next column). You are likely to see some of this on display at GemFest also.

The saw came out to work on the large travertine blocks. There may be over-sized spheres of flowstone appearing at the workshop soon.



Of course we could not call it a day before taking some travertine (flowstone from a cavernous region the quarry had exposed in years past).

On Saturday we made several stops for plant fossils in the Carbondale area north of Scranton. As in the past, the best collecting was in Jermyn where bark, roots, and even the occassional tree stump was unearthed. Often the best stuff pops up in the most precarious positions (see photo on page 1).

Wayne County Gem and Mineral Club 2018 Field Trips *last update May 29*

April and May were busy with trips to New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Penfield Quarry, Chimney Bluffs, and Herkimer County. As you can see below, more is planned for June. Come to the meeting on June 8th to learn more or contact the trip leader listed below. **Please check this page each month and the webpage for changes; WCGMC field trip planning is flexible!**.

June 2-3 GEMFEST in Canandaigua

June 10 (Sunday) – **Ilion** for travertine (for a second time!) ***(attend June 8th meeting for details)***

June 16-17-18 – western **Massachusetts**, rhodonite, tourmaline, galena and much more (*info-Fred Haynes)*

June 22 (Friday) - **Ridgemount, Ontario** for Eurypterids *(Leader – Stephen Mayer)*

July 14 (Saturday) – **Jaycox Run** near Geneseo (fossil collecting, joint trip with RAS)

July 14-22 (**Ontario**, Bancroft and Temagami), 3-4 days at each location. We will need to know who is going on this trip by the June meeting. *(info- Fred Haynes)*

August 4 (Saturday)– **Green's Landing** for Middle Devonian fossils (joint with RAS Fossil Section).

August 11 – Saturday (WCGMC PICNIC, MARK THIS DATE)

August 31-Sept 3 (Labor Day) – 3 day plus trip to **Kentucky** with CVGMC of NC (fluorite, geodes, etc.)

September **– Adirondack** weekend mid-month and/or **Virginia** trip with GMSVP of VA

We will work to line up day trips with the Rochester Academy of Science Fossil Group as we have in past years and we'll likely get to Bethany Center, the Lake Ontario shoreline, and other familiar local sites all through the field season. But, if all that is not enough for you, tell us what you would like to do and/or offer to lead an additional trip.

==========

UPCOMING GEM AND MINERAL SHOWS

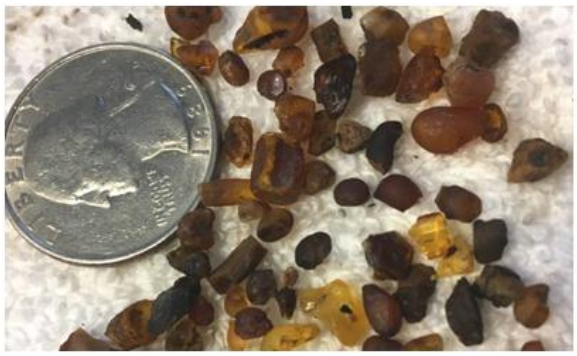
June 2-3: GemFest 2018, Our big event in the Greater Canandaigua Civic Center
visit WCGMC Show page

July 14-15 2018 GemWorld – Gem and Mineral Society of Syracuse, Onondaga Community College SRC Arena, see ad on page 3, visit GMSS show page for details

July 21-22 Herkimer Diamond Gem Show and Festival, Herkimer County Fairgrounds, visit Herkgemshow.com for details

==========

A select and hardy few of us (9 to be exact) decided to carry on after the Sterling Hills Dig (see page 5) to collect amber in the Sayreville clays. Unfortunately the brilliant Saturday weather left us and it was cold, muddy, and breezy, but we persevered until we succeeded.



OK, they are small, but it is amber, and we actually went back on May 6th for bigger pieces and ticks. But that is another story you can ask us about!

Photo by Ed Smith

Wayne County Gem & Mineral Contacts

ELECTED OFFICERS

Glenn Weiler – President gwexterior@gmail.com
315-594-8478
Jerry Donahue – VP Chester145322@yahoo.com
585-548-3200
Eva Jane Weiler – Secretary gwexterior@gmail.com
315-594-8478
Bill Lesniak – Treasurer/Webmaster
Dirtman300@aol.com 315-483-8061

Board of Directors

Ken Rowe gotrox88@twc.com 315-331-1438
Linda Schmidtgall lees@tds.net 315-365-2448
Gary Thomas gfthomas956@gmail.com 585-489-2162
Fred Haynes fredmhaynes55@gmail.com 585-203-1733

Visit us on Facebook:
https://www.facebook.com/groups/1675855046010058/

APPOINTED POSITIONS

Bill Chapman – Field Trip Chair
batnpill@empacc.net 607-868-4649
Fred Haynes – Newsletter Editor
fredmhaynes55@gmail.com 585-203-1733

Bill Lesniak – Website Coordinator
Glenn Weiler – Workshop Coordinator
Linda Schmidtgall – Collection Curator
Eric Elias: GEMFEST Show Chair
thecrystalnetwork@hotmail.com
Fred Haynes – Facebook Administrator

Club meets 2nd 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

too easy, right !
I am rhodochrosite.
$MnCO_3$ *from pg 3*
U.S stamp issued in 1974.
Specimen from Sweet Home Mine, Alma, Colorado

The Public is always welcome!
First Class: Date, Meetings & Time Valued
Wayne County Gem and Mineral Club
P.O. Box 4
Newark, New York 14513