

Wayne County Gem and Mineral Club News

June, 2019

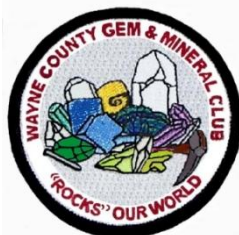
Always Looking for Places to Dig!



Flemingsburg, Kentucky – Route 11



Jerry Bastedo (center) led us to fossil sites in three states in late April (see page 5)



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



WCGMC May workshop

June Meeting

Friday June 14th, 7:00 PM

Park Presbyterian Church, Maple Court, Newark, NY

Program: Make a Garnet !!

What, you say, how does one “make” a garnet? Well, you will just have to come to the June meeting and find out.

This will be an excellent program for craft oriented folks and for children. It should be fun for all.

There will be no Friday club meeting in July. The August meeting is the club picnic on August 17th (10:00 AM until mid-afternoon) in Wolcott and the workshop will be open then also. You will not want to miss that event.

Upcoming WCGMC Workshop **June 8th**

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.

Membership Renewal Offer

At GemFest we will be offering an incentive for new members to join at a discount by paying through Sept. 2020. We have a similar offer to 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^h) 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 GemFest, the June meeting, or 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

Are you ready for GemFest? I think I am. I hope I am. We will all soon find out how ready we are. Next weekend will be here very soon. At our May meeting some of you signed up to help with set-up on Friday, and/or on Saturday/Sunday, but anyone who can spare some time, even 2 hours, we can certainly use the help.

We hope we have done a good job "spreading the word" of our event, but if you are reading this message and it is still May, perhaps you can help. We need everyone to put on their thinking caps and come up with ways to let folks know of our show.

Here are some ideas: tell or remind your friends and neighbors, print a flyer from our webpage and send it to school with your children or grandchildren or with them to baseball or Scouts, post a flyer on the bulletin board at work. If you are a Facebook user share the event posting from our webpage; share it to friends or within local Facebook Groups to which you belong. We are told that word of mouth is perhaps the absolute best way to reach the most people. I hope you have seen some of our 75 road signs that were distributed to members and planted along the region's highways.

We wish all of our dealers a safe trip to Canandaigua. We look forward to renewing our friendship with each of you. Do let us know if there is anything we can do to help you. Our club continues to grow and we anticipate having lots of helping hands available all weekend.

Hope to see you all next weekend in Canandaigua.

*Thanks to Dolomite Products Co. for
hosting another fine Mineral Collecting
Open House at Penfield Quarry on May 4th*



The May meeting was Fossil Night and Kathleen Cappon brought a couple of her Silurian stromatolites from the Lockport Formation behind her home and some "softer" and younger varieties that were good enough to eat.



Is Linda about to juggle three Kentucky geodes?



Teresa

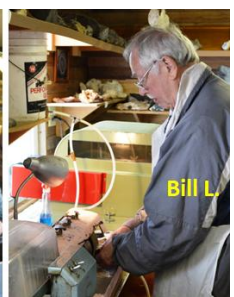


Heidi



Scott

Nancy



Bill



The Extraordinary George Frederick Kunz

by Shannon Phillips, GMSS



Editor's Note: How many of you know what kunzite is? Some of you might know it to be the pink gem variety of spodumene, a lithium-bearing pyroxene. But, how many know who it was named after? I bet that is a harder question. Well, Shannon Phillips from the Syracuse Gem and Mineral Society (GMSS) was gifted some kunzite for Christmas and decided to learn more. She learned kunzite was named after a New Yorker and wrote a very nice piece about it for the January 2018 Crack and Cab, the GMSS newsletter. Her piece was awarded 6th place in the 2018 National Newsletter Article Competition conducted by the American Federation of Mineral Societies. I think WCGMC readers will enjoy her learnings also.

By Shannon Phillips



One of my favorite Christmas gifts this past year was 320 carats of raw kunzite.

I already owned several pieces of the pale pink stone in jewelry, although I don't usually gravitate toward that color, but this new parcel contains rough pieces of the mineral in that are colorless, violet, and green in addition to pink. Technically, only the pink and lavender varieties are correctly identified as kunzite, named for the self-taught and wildly successful mineralogist George Frederick Kunz.

Like many of us, Kunz began collecting at an early age. His father, a German immigrant, was a baker with an interest in natural history. His mother, originally from Switzerland, raised George and his five younger siblings, first on the island of

Manhattan, and later in Hoboken, NJ. At the time Kunz was living in New York, major excavations for buildings and subways were underway. There were ample opportunities for a boy to scramble down into the diggings and come away with a pocketful of treasure. After the family moved to New Jersey, Kunz became especially interested in collecting zeolite minerals from the Palisades and Watchung Mountains. It is difficult to determine how, but Kunz is reported to have begun trading minerals with European collectors, perhaps his parents had contacts in that part of the world. By the age of 14 he had created a collection of over 4,000 specimens, all labeled and identified, that he sold to the University of Minnesota in the 1870s. Kunz would go on to build several more important collections during his lifetime.

Although Kunz had little formal schooling in mineralogy, geology, or gemology, his unwavering dedication was all he needed to make a career of his passion for gemstones. Around 1875, Kunz took a 27-1/2 carat green tourmaline, most likely acquired from Augustus C. Hamlin, M.D., whose family had been mining tourmaline in Maine for several decades, to the most prominent jeweler in New York and, allowing the stone's beauty to speak for itself, sold Charles Tiffany, founder of Tiffany & Company, his first tourmaline. After several other sales of semi precious stones, Kunz was offered a position as a gemologist for the most prominent jeweler in New York. He was 23 years old. Kunz continued to work for the company for 53 years, eventually becoming its vice-president.

During his time with Tiffany, Kunz changed the gemstone market forever by introducing colored gemstones to the company's upscale clientele. Although colored stones were, and remain, far less expensive than diamonds, Kunz himself wrote, "it seemed to me that many ladies, even those who could afford the gesture of diamond tiara and pearl choker, would be happy to array themselves in the endless gorgeous colors of these unexploited gems. As I looked over a collection of them, with the sunlight imprisoned in the sea green depths of the tourmaline, lapping at the facets of the watery-blue aquamarine, flooding the blood-red cup of the garnet, glancing from the ice-blue edges of the beryl,

melting in the misty nebula of the moonstone, entangled in the fringes of the moss agate, brilliantly concentrated in the metallic zircon, forming a milky star in the heart of the illusive star sapphire-bow, I thought, could a woman ever resist their appeal?" (Kunz, 1937)

Kunz traveled the world to bring an array of previously unseen gemstones into the public purview. In 1902, Kunz was the first to identify pink colored crystals as a unique variety of spodumene. Subsequently, the mineral was named in his honor. Fashions change over the years, but, despite the diamond industry's heavy influence over the market, particularly for engagement rings, colored stones are

more popular than ever for everyday wear and for bridal jewelry.

In addition to this contribution to the world of gemology, Kunz was also a prolific writer who published over 300 books and articles during his lifetime, offering his knowledge, perspectives, and adventures for amateurs and professionals to enjoy and study into the modern day. Many of Kunz's books and articles are no longer limited by copyrights and are available online free of charge. His legacy is secure through his publications, the many collections he helped to build, and, most importantly, by the popularity of scores of semi precious stones we still enjoy.

References:

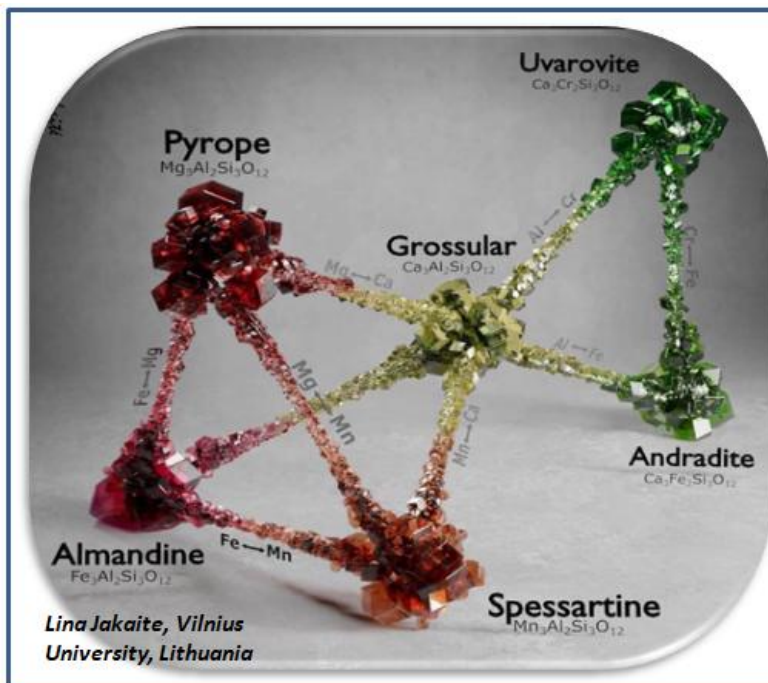
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I stumbled on this interesting graphic on a public Facebook page. The six major end member Garnet group minerals are depicted with their chemical relationships. The typical natural colors for each end member is shown and the connecting bars indicate that mixtures can occur between some, but not all, of the minerals.

We collect garnets that are about half almandine and half pyrope at Gore Mountain and the Hooper Mine in the Adirondacks. The garnets at the Lewis Mine (wollastonite location) are grossular with an andradite component. Those of us who venture to the Betts Mn Mine in western MA find small spessartine garnets. Look carefully at most mineral shows and someone will have brilliant green uvarovite garnets, often from the Ural Mountains in Russia.



FOUR DAYS OF FOSSIL COLLECTING AROUND CINCINNATI BY FRED HAYNES



Several WCGMC fossil enthusiasts joined the Buffalo Geological Society's annual fossil trip to the Cincinnati area in late April. We thank Jerry Bastedo for organizing yet another fine outing into the Ordovician rocks surrounding the Cincinnati Arch. All told we visited 11 roadcuts in three states during our 4 days in the area. And we found fossils at all of them! Down there they say that if there is rock exposed in a roadcut there will be fossils. From my experiences to date, I firmly believe this statement.

We collected hundreds, perhaps thousands, of the common Ordovician brachiopods and horn corals that seem to be ubiquitous and I added to my collection of *Solenapora* from the site in Flemingsburg, Kentucky ([see April 2019 newsletter](#)), but I'd like to focus on two locations and special finds that folks made at other Kentucky sites.

By far the highlight fossils found on this trip were a number of isorophid edrioasteroids found at a roadcut outside Maysville, Kentucky. Edrioasteroids are the official city fossil of Cincinnati. But they are not as easy to find as many of the other fossils in the region. They are echinoderms (spiny-skinned animals with 5-fold symmetry) that attach themselves to hard substrates like other fossils or hardgrounds.



WCGMC member Peter Kisselburg found this nice plate with three edrioasteroids. Noting the curved arms (ambulacra) extending from the centrally located mouth, we believe these are *Isorophus cincinnatiensis*.

The largest one is about one half inch in diameter.
Photo by P. Kisselburgh

Perhaps my favorite find of the trip was several *Archimedes* sp. bryozoan, so named for the screw shaped appearance of their axial columns. We ventured into the Mississippian south of Louisville, to sites in Wax and Leitchfield, Kentucky to find these unique animals. We also collected *Pentremites* sp. at both these Mississippian sites. *Pentremites* are small nut-shaped blastoids. Like edrioasteroids and crinoids, these carry the unique 5-fold symmetry of all echinoderms.



A few of my Mississippian finds from Wax, Kentucky. Crinoids on the left, blastoids surrounding the quarter, the unique *Archimedes* bryozoa and some small, but complete, brachiopods on the right.

If you come to GemFest, ask me about Horn Coral Heaven in Ohio about an hour north of Cincinnati. We collect Devonian *Heliophyllum halli* by the bucket load. In the Late Ordovician Whitewater Formation around Cincinnati they collect *Gregwinkia canadensis* just as easily. I have not cleaned mine yet from this trip, but once I do, I imagine I will let you see some in a future newsletter.



How about this for a roadcut! And yes, that is my Honda Accord with the trunk open ready to receive some fossils.



Fred Haynes reviews the three major rock groups and the rock cycle with 6th grade students at the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Seneca County's Outdoor Field Day on May 15th at Sampson State Park. Ten classrooms of students rotated through ten different "venues" during the day of outdoor science. Each left the event with a better understanding of the world around them and from this Geology session they all left with a horn coral from Lord's Corner, a 385 million year old Middle Devonian coral!

This is a wonderful event that WCGMC has been a part of for many years. The coordinator of the event gave each presenter this note when we arrived.

On behalf of the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Seneca County and Seneca County 4-H Youth Development, we would like to say Thank You. By presenting a workshop at Outdoor Education Field Day, you and your organization have contributed greatly to our 6th grade students and our community overall.

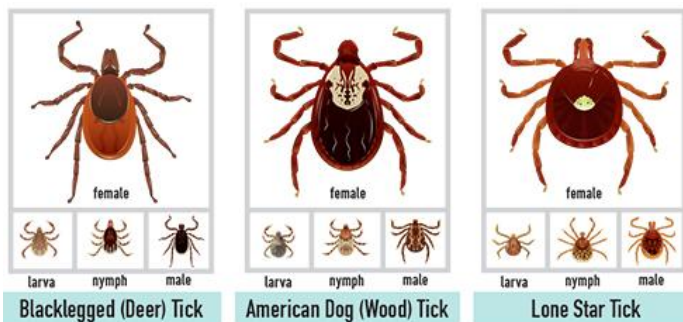
This year we have a most impressive group of presenters, to include local conservation groups, state and federal agencies, wildlife managers, scientists, non-profit organizations, nature centers, and more. The communication and outdoor education efforts taking place today serve as a representation of natural resource conservation, STEM education, and youth development at its finest.

Outdoor Education Field Day has been a part of this community for more than half a century, and we appreciate your being a part of that legacy. Thank you for your participation and support!

*Nathan Kennedy
4-H Development Educator
Cornell Cooperative Extension of Seneca County*



Spring has arrived and while we welcome the warmer weather and the outdoor activities that come with it, that same warm weather brings with it the threat of those insidious little arachnids called ticks. We are told that the past milder than average winter is expected to translate to a particularly bad year for ticks. Given that, it is even more important that each and every one of us remains vigilant all summer.



There are three tick species that are a human health concern in New York: the blacklegged tick (deer tick), the lone star tick, and the American dog tick.

[from Cornell College Agriculture webpage](#)

If in tick habitat (just about anywhere outside and off pavement) wear light colored clothing with long pants tucked into socks. Clothes can be treated with tick-killing permethrin (usually applied from a spray can), but be sure you read the instructions and apply properly. Your skin doesn't like this stuff either. Over the counter repellents for ticks and mosquitoes also work, but understand their health implications also.

If you do have an unfortunate encounter with a tick (one that has embedded himself under your skin), don't panic as it is important that you remove the tick properly. The only recommended method is to use a small tweezers, grab the tick close to the skin, and gently pull up. **Carry a tweezers with you!**

Protect your pets: They can get ticks also, and naturally they can bring them into your house. And, don't scare off that possum in the back yard. He can eat over one thousand ticks in a season. He attracts them with his scent and then grooms meticulously.

For much more on tick awareness, you might want to peruse the [Cornell College of Agriculture and Life Sciences webpages on Ticks and Tick Transmitted Disease](#). There are new learnings every year and it is best to stay current with this knowledge. Ticks are a real threat to us in western New York.

Wayne County Gem and Mineral Club 2019 Schedule *last update May 25*

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.

JUNE 1 and JUNE 2: GEMFEST in Canandaigua

(Friday May 31 is set-up day and we would love your help)

June 8th – Monthly Workshop June 14th – Month meeting

June 21st to 24th - New England – VT for clay concretions on Friday, western MA sites on Saturday, Gilsum Rock Swap on Sunday, Monday options for those able to stay. Draft of trip plan is available.

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

July 20th-24th 4-7 day trip to the pegmatites of Maine – James Keeler (james@jkeeler.com) is working to plan this trip. Let James know if you want to learn more.

July 31st to August 10th – 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 17th – Club Picnic at the Weiler's (workshop location) --- Mark your calendars: this is a highlight of our summer season (details to follow next month).

August 24th -- Tentative Date – Green's Landing for fossils. Joint trip with RAS

August 30th – Sept 3rd - 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) – a long weekend in the western lowlands of the Adirondacks

Day trips to Herkimer country and to local fossil sites will be added each month. If anyone would like to suggest a location or would like to plan/lead a trip let us know.

2019 GEMWORLD - "The Beauty of Gems & Minerals" OUR 53RD YEAR
GEM, MINERAL, FOSSIL & JEWELRY SHOW
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

Gem Fest 2019
 Sat. June 1 10-5 Sun. June 2 10-4

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Wayne County Gem & Mineral Contacts

ELECTED OFFICERS (NEWLY ELECTED)

President - Linda Schmidtgal
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 Vice President - Fred Haynes
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 Secretary - Debbie Breeze
debbiegb55@hotmail.com 585-289-6989
 Treasurer - Bill Lesniak
Dirtman300@aol.com 315-483-8061

Board of Directors

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 Bob Linderbery bootmanblues@gmail.com
 Heidi Morgenstern morgensternheidi@rocketmail.com
 Holly Ann Woodworth autum14513@yahoo.com

Past President - Glenn Weiler gwexterior@gmail.com

Visit us on Facebook:

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

APPOINTED POSITIONS

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 Fred Haynes – Newsletter Editor
fredmhaynes55@gmail.com 585-203-1733

Bill Lesniak – Website Coordinator
 Glenn Weiler – Workshop Coordinator
gwexterior@gmail.com 315-594-8478
 Linda Schmidtgal – 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

The Public is always welcome
 First Class: Dated, Meetings & Time Values



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