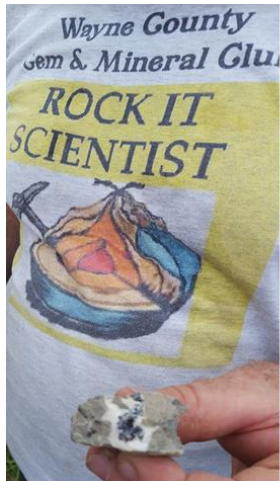


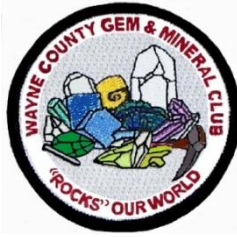
Wayne County Gem and Mineral Club News

June, 2020

Always Looking for Places to Dig!



When can we go collecting again? (see Teresa Ferris' collage on page 7)



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



Ooids from the Bahamas



Forams from Guam

Mario Errico – sand photos (pg. 6)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Saturday, August 15th
Annual WCGMC Picnic

6676 E. Port Bay Rd, Wolcott, NY

We are hopeful that by mid-August we will be able to gather for our annual picnic/workshop/rock extravaganza. That we can once again meet to enjoy our common interest together. Details will follow in the July newsletter, but for now, please set aside the date of August 15th.

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We have no scheduled workshop or meeting in June. We'll make decisions on this each month.

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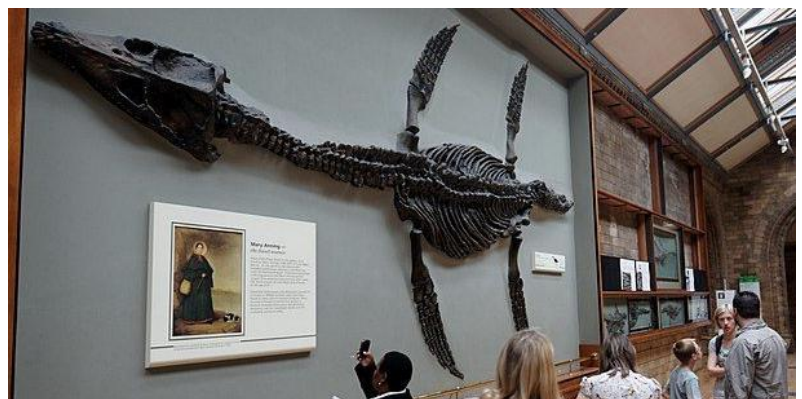
Our field trip calendar is also empty, but we can report that Ace of Diamonds in Middleville, NY has partially re-opened. As of May 29th the campground is open and folks camping in one of the 18 sites on the property are able to collect. There is no day collecting and will not be until further notice. Reservations are required to camp and the sites are filling fast. Visit the [Ace of Diamonds webpage](#) for updated and additional information.

See Linda's column on page 2 for more.

Mary Anning
by Fred Haynes



I am a member of the Rochester Academy of Science Fossil Section. In the April 2020 newsletter (called the Fossiletter), Michael Greiner wrote a wonderful biographic note on Mary Anning touching aspects of her professional accomplishments and her personal life. Mary was an early 19th century paleontologist in England who is credited with discovering and describing several Cretaceous marine reptiles including *Plesiosaurus* and *Ichthyosaurus*.



The fossil *Plesiosaurus* discovered by Mary Anning in 1823 is on display in the Green Hall of the London Natural History Museum. To this day it remains the finest complete fossil of the giant Cretaceous marine reptile.

Continued on Page 3 (see Mary Anning)



President's Message

Linda Schmidtgaill

Man, have these last couple of months been long. I suppose I have caught up on a lot of work at home and in the yard, but I sure would rather be collecting rocks with my rockhound friends.

It snuck up on all of us, but Ace of Diamonds did just announce that it was opening this past weekend (May 29th), but only to campers. I guess campgrounds are able to open, but not other activities, like day collecting. So, four of us managed to get a couple of his sites and spend two days collecting this weekend. We did our best to stay six rock hammers apart and practice social distancing. It was not the same as our typical large group, but it was, at least, a start that we can build from.

If anyone is interested, [the Ace of Diamonds website](#) should carry updated information on what is open and available and how to make a reservation.



Social distancing while collecting (above) and later at the campfire, Ace of Diamonds May 29th, 2020.



Your editor did not go to Ace of Diamonds for "Opening Day", but did find this Herkimer resting next to a few violets while doing some weeding in his backyard.



Stephen Mayer went fishing in the Seneca Lake Canal in May. He caught this Common Rudd, which according to Wikipedia, is an invasive species from Russia and Europe that is now found in many parts of the Great Lakes region. Related to carp, rudds like shallow weedy areas where they consume large volumes of plants and other foods important to indigenous species

Two of our GemFest dealers provided online contact information that we are happy to pass along.

Brian McGrath (Brown Dog Natural Creations), aka, the Salt Lamp King, can be reached at BrianMcGrath@gmail.com or on his website at www.naturalbrowndog.com

Paul and Cathy Stalker (Stones by Stalkers) show material at [Stonesbystalkers.com](https://www.stonesbystalkers.com) and also post on the [North East Gemshows Facebook Group](#) page.

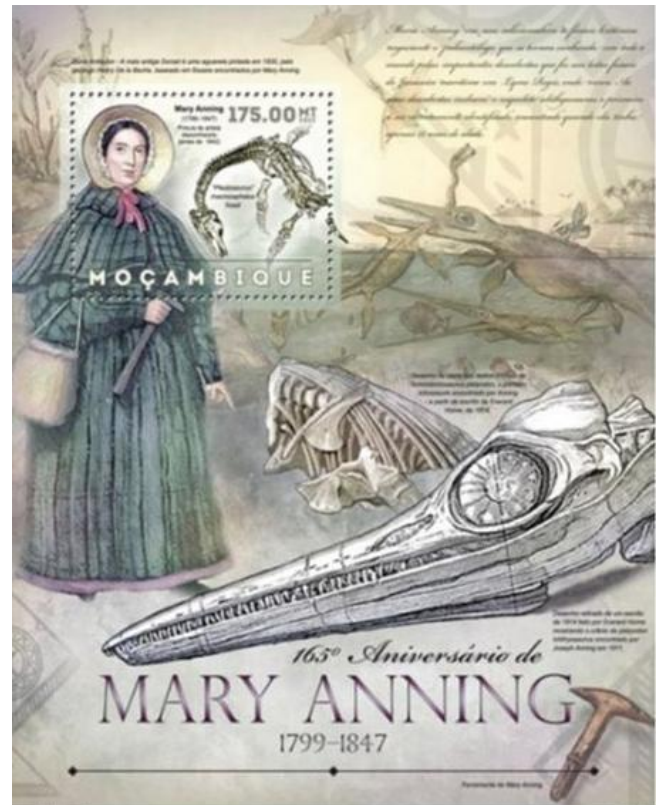
If any of our other GemFest dealers want us to list a contact in the next newsletter, just send a note to me (fredmhaynes55@gmail.com).

Mary Anning (continued from page 1)

As some of you likely know I collect postage stamps with a thematic specialty of geology on stamps. This includes minerals, fossils, dinosaurs, volcanoes, and yes, famous geologists. After reading the RAS article I wondered if Mary Anning had ever been commemorated on a postage stamp. I was not aware of any Mary Anning stamps, but I did know where to look for them. And I found a few.

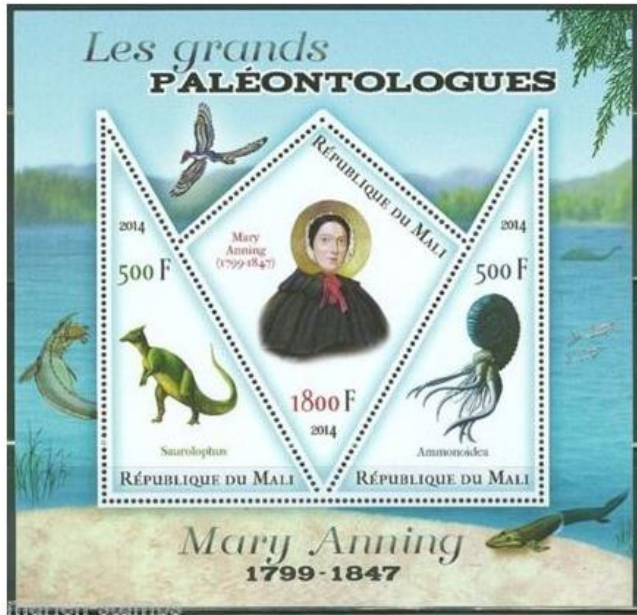
The first commemorative stamps I found honoring Mary Anning was a set of seven issued in 2012 by Mozambique (Figures 1 and 2). The set honors the 165th year of her passing. They are very nice looking stamps and include a great deal of detail about Anning, both on the stamps and in the selvages around the stamps. Six of the stamps are set into a background with a fossil plesiosaur and ichthyosaur (Figure 1). They depict various themes from Anning's paleontological research. Mary herself is depicted on two of the stamps. Personally, I like the 66 MT stamp on the lower right (and enlarged in Figure 2) with her standing beside a *Plesiosaurus dolichodeirus*, the same species, perhaps the same specimen, as that on display in the London Natural History Museum.

As is typical of many commemorative stamp sets, the highest value of the set is placed in a separate "souvenir sheet" (Figure 3). For the Mozambique set this sheet includes vivid drawings of both the fossil reptiles Anning studied and also a depiction of them in a Cretaceous Ocean. I will need to obtain these stamps in order to read the full text inscribed onto the selvage.

**FIGURE 2****FIGURE 3.****FIGURE 1.**

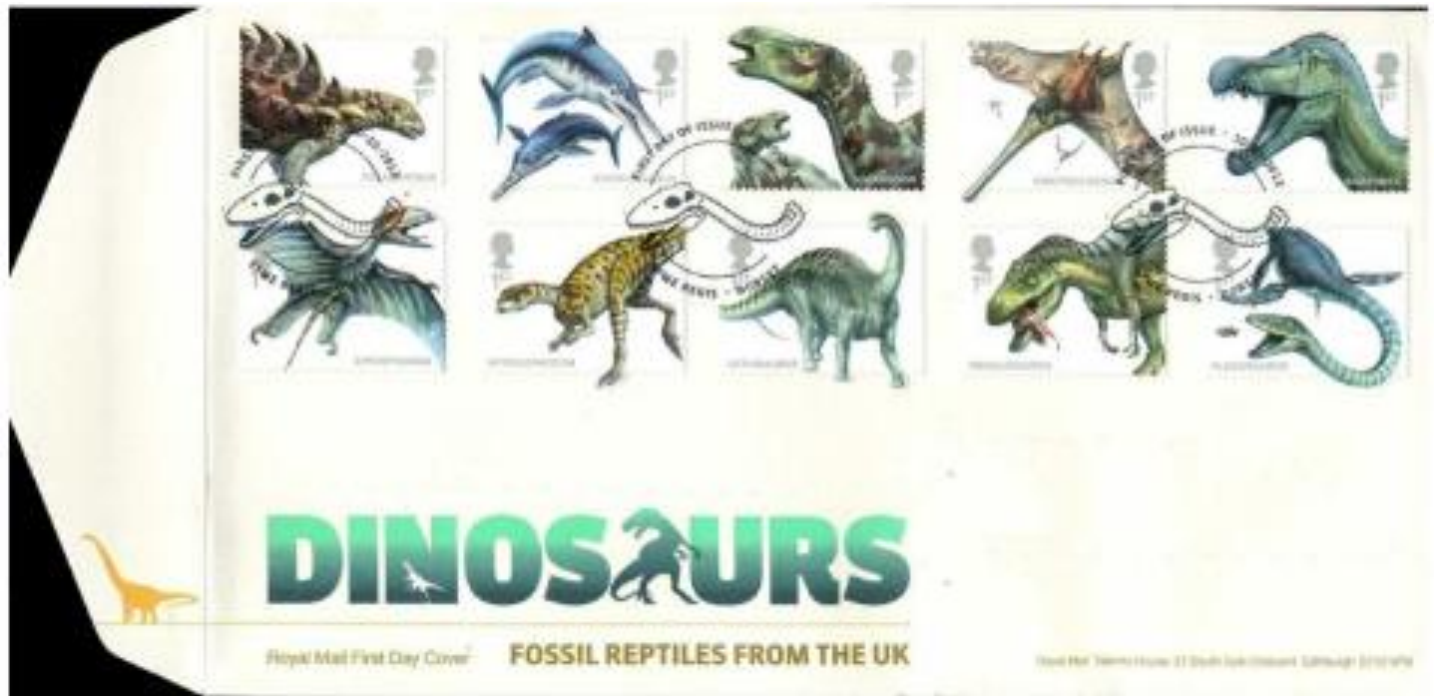
Another smaller set I found honoring Anning was a three-stamp set issued in 2014 by Mali (Figure 4, next page). The set clearly honors Mary with its high denomination stamp in the center. The secondary stamps feature *Saurolophus* and *Ammonidea*. Anning likely collected many ammonites in the Cretaceous rocks near her home, but there is no reason to feature a *Saurolophus* in a set of stamps commemorating Mary Anning. The large hadrosaur dinosaur was not discovered until 1912, a full 65 years after Anning's death. Further, it was discovered and described in Alberta, Canada. Sometimes, countries issue stamps without full consideration of their content.

continued on page 4 (see Mary Anning)

Mary Anning (continued from page 3)**FIGURE 4.**

You might wonder why a former Portuguese colony in southern Africa and a land-locked, former-French colony in central Africa would honor a British paleontologist whose primary work was done with Cretaceous reptiles found in Great Britain. The answer is pretty obvious: to sell stamps to collectors like me!

You might also wonder if Great Britain has ever honored Mary Anning in its postal history. After all, Great Britain was the first country to ever issue a stamp back in 1840, seven years before Anning passed away. The answer is "sort of". In 2013, Great Britain issued an attractive set of 10 stamps depicting prehistoric animals. The set was designed to celebrate the long history of paleontology in Britain by featuring the discovery of a multitude of extinct animals in Britain by British paleontologists. Although Mary is not included in the stamps, her work is acknowledged in the descriptions provided by the British postal service. *Ichthyosaurus* and *Plesiosaurus* are both featured in the set. Figure 5 is the Postal Service's Official First Day of Issue Envelope.

**FIGURE 5.**

All of this sounds grand until the British Postal Service decided to earmark the self-adhesive set of stamps as "Dinosaurs" and print sheets and envelopes with such labels (Figure 5). Four of the stamps are not dinosaurs, but rather flying and marine animals. Errors such as this are very common among the several thousand dinosaurs (or not dinosaurs) that have been printed onto postage stamps.

If you remain curious about collecting dinosaurs (or other fossils for that matter) on postage stamps you might check out this wonderful webpage (<http://www.paleophilatelie.eu/>). It is one of the more comprehensive compilations of thematic stamps available on any topic.

My Rock Garden

By Debbie Bancroft

On rock collecting trips, I would occasionally get a larger piece that had some nice crystals in a corner or some other interesting feature. That doesn't bode well for being able to store the rocks in the limited space Mario and I have, so I decided they would be garden rocks. Soon, I began bringing back rocks specifically for the garden. Our garden had fallen into neglect of late and I had plans to enlarge it. A few years ago, I started the process by putting up a new fence and moving all the rocks deemed "garden rocks" out into the garden temporarily.

I delayed longer than I intended while trying to decide how exactly to set up a garden. Previously, I had used an old dog kennel to keep the deer out but that started falling apart. I read that you didn't have to have a high fence if you did a double fence so we started with the moderate height wire fence. I was trying to decide what I wanted to do for the decorative outer fence and had an inspiration over the winter when I was trimming the tops off our apple trees – I didn't have to decide yet, I could set up a sort of palisade around the outside as a temporary option to get the garden going.

It's amazing how quickly weeds can retake an area. Admittedly, most of it was where the expansion was occurring, so the grass hadn't been removed. But where did the dirt come from? I had thought the rocks were just hidden by the weeds - but when I started moving the rocks out of the main area, I was surprised that they were partially surrounded with soil as well.



Where did all my rocks go? My pile of rocks was now mostly buried. I needed to dig them all out.

If I wanted to actually start a garden, I wasn't going to be able to organize the rocks. I just pulled them out and set them any which way around the outside. As I was pulling some out, I wondered what was special about them but didn't spend much time trying to figure it out – I was on a mission to get them cleared. They can be evaluated them later, in my next phase. *If COVID-19 recovery can be accomplished in phases, so can garden building!* Of course, I broke some crystals off some smaller pieces while prying them out since I hadn't expected them to be buried. I remember carefully placing the more fragile ones on top of the sturdier ones. So much for that.



Well, it is a start: phase 1, building a rock border for our garden. Or should collecting the rocks be Phase 1? No, that's just a perpetual phase.

I only have humble plans for my garden this year. Tomatoes had been problematic the last two, so I thought I would wait on those (I'm still thinking "maybe just a plant or two" though). And my mindset for what to put in was based on what I had done in the past so I won't use the full area this year. But I am set for next year. Well, except for the fact that I still have to decide on the decorative fence and build it, and organize the rocks. But that is what phased development is all about.

The WCGMC Sand Page

Some Sand Photos by Mario Errico

I've fiddled with photography for a long time and also enjoy mineral collecting, but only recently, and encouraged by this club's activity, did I consider sand as a medium for my macrophotography. Unfortunately I did not have too many sands to photograph. Fred Haynes provided me a nice selection and then I put a note onto two Facebook Groups of sand collectors. I wrote:

I am a beginner sand collector/photographer. I only have a few samples that I have collected locally (upstate NY, USA) until Fred Haynes dropped off a box at the house.

Here is a thought: If people were willing to send me small amounts of their favorite sands, I could photograph and print some and send the digital pictures to the sand's owner as thank you "cards", at least until my collection grows enough to be able to trade. I have a nice macro photography setup, a good printer, and time on my hands (for now), so I think you'd be pleased with the results.

Within a couple of weeks, I had received boxes of sand from multiple sand collectors not only in the US, but even in Europe. I have a lot to play with now and they come from all over the world. Here are a few photos I have taken and also shared in Facebook Groups. Sand collectors are a friendly and generous group for sure.



These are glauconite pellets with quartz from the Conecuh River in Alabama. Leo Kenney sent me this sample. FOV is ~8mm across.



My wife Debbie helped me hand pick and organize these silica sponge spicules. The sand is from Kikiola Harbor in Hawaii. Suzanne Davis sent me this fine sand. FOV is 5mm across.



I hand picked some sand sized Herkimer diamonds from a sample Fred gave me. Wow, I need to go there. The Field of View (FOV) is ~8mm.



A very colorful sand with a mixture of shell fragments, quartz, and maybe quartzite? I guess it is iron-stained a bit. This is from a beach in Normandy and was sent to me by French sand collector, Aurelien Jeanne. FOV is 8mm across.

WCGMC Field Trips by Teresa Ferris



I sure miss our field trips. I was missing them so much I went back to look at some of the pictures I had taken during past trips. I sure hope we can get back to doing this again really soon.



September, 2018: Benson Mines

Star Lake, NY



Ace of Diamonds, Middletown, NY April, 2017



Yup, that's our President and Vice-President getting their feet wet!



August, 2018, Danville, KY



I really wanted this one, but no one would help me!

September, 2018,
McComb, NY

September, 2018, Fine, NY

Wayne County Gem & Mineral Contacts

ELECTED OFFICERS

President - Linda Schmidtgal
[lees\(at\)tds.net](mailto:lees(at)tds.net) 315-365-2448
Vice-President - Fred Haynes
[fredmhaynes55\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:fredmhaynes55(at)gmail.com) 585-203-1733
Secretary - Debbie Breeze
Treasurer - Bill Lesniak

Board of Directors

Gary Thomas
Bob Linderbery
Heidi Morgenstern
James Keeler

Past President - Glenn Weiler

Visit us on Facebook:

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

APPOINTED POSITIONS

Bill Chapman – Field Trip Chair

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
Eric Elias: GEMFEST Show Chair

Fred Haynes – Facebook Administrator
Jim Rienhardt – Sand Chapter

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

