



WAYNE COUNTY GEM AND MINERAL CLUB NEWS

VOLUME 35 No. 06 JUNE 2009



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President's Message

Looks like we're in NYS Springtime Mode. Air conditioning when it hits 84⁰ during the day and lighting the woodstove because it's 35⁰ at night. Don't you love it? We're collecting junk 2X4's & assorted construction timber to take to Herkimer for campfire wood. Remember NYS has a restriction on moving wood that hasn't been kiln-dried more than 50 miles. They're trying to curb the spread of pests & disease so let's do our part. Please call us at 607-868-4649 or e-mail me at batnpill@empacc.net if you can help clean up our tools and supplies at the Margaret Hastings claim on Friday, 6/5/09. We're leaving the parking area at the NYS Thruway- Exit 42 at 7 AM that morning. A quick stop at Ilion to collect flowstone first - then on to Hastings. After that, we'll check out Bill's farmer friend's field stone cast off pile in the vicinity of M. Hastings. In past years, Bill's had good success looking things over in the late spring in that area after the land's been turned over also. Can you imagine your backpack full of Herkimers? I've gotten calls from as far away as Vancouver, British Columbia about our EFTA dig at Herkimer so a nice assortment of folks should be showing up if you wish to exchange some of your specimens. Our June meeting will be brief & occur on Sat. evening after dinner at Herkimer KOA due to a scheduling conflict at the church the weekend of Newarkfest. We're looking forward to this weekend and hope to see you there!



The Valley of Fossils—(story about the 5/23/09 dig)

Twas a picture perfect day when we meandered through the valley near Cameron NY recently. It'd been dry and many creek beds were easily entered and explored. The valley runs east-west unlike the lands to the north so I pondered how the latest glacier affected this region. Did it stop just north of here?. Every creek we looked at was rich with some type of fossil. The gem of the day was an 8" ammonite that Sue Hoch found. As fortune would have it, it broke when they were removing it but is a nice specimen anyway. Nothing a little Elmer's can't fix. Try as he may, Bill couldn't talk her out of this one. Bugs weren't in great abundance and there was shade as needed. A local country store offers good lunches, gasoline and any hardware you might need including welding supplies. Not many shopping malls in this area. Another good find was drinking water available roadside. The collectors were ready to fill their canteens when we learned of this resource from the local folks. Farms and houses dot the valley and the people were open and friendly. All of these things made this a locale we'd like to return to and spend another day collecting and relaxing. (See page 2)

"OCTOBER SHOW" NEWS---

The Wayne County 2009 in Newark, NY show will have set up on Oct. 2 for the show on Oct 3rd and 4th. The American Hobby Shop is looking for people to do exciting displays for up to 6 cases for the use. Flyers will be available soon. Pass this info! Andrea Kords (315) 986-1171

National parks to offer fee-free weekends

by Kiran Khalid (CNN) -- It's hardly a bailout, but the federal government is hoping that waiving fees at national parks will help boost local economies across the country. All 147 National Park Service sites that charge entry fees will waive them for three weekends this summer. On three weekends this summer, the National Park Service will offer fee-free weekends to encourage cash-strapped families to visit the parks. Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar announced the initiative Tuesday at a news conference at Cuyahoga Valley National Park in Ohio. "National parks also serve as powerful economic engines for local communities, and we hope that promoting visitation will give a small shot in the arm to businesses in the area," Salazar said. Many national parks were bracing for a busy summer, and this improves the tourism forecast, said George Price, superintendent of Cape Cod National Seashore. "Sometimes, when the economy downturns, places like the seashore see an upsurge because people choose to stay closer to home," Price said. "Visitation will be very strong this year. The question will be how much people will actually spend when they come to visit." All 147 National Park Service sites that charge entry fees will waive them for June 20 and 21, July 18 and 19, and August 15 and 16. Those fees range from \$3 to \$25. Last year, national parks attracted more than 275 million recreation visits. www.cnn.com/2009/TRAVEL/06/02/parks.waive.fees

KUDOS- Thank you to Mother Nature for bringing the nice weather after a long winter! Got anyone to cheer on? Email your message to this e-address: {waynecounty.gemaandmineralclub@yahoo.com} before the 22nd of each month and submit it!

EXCERPT: A meteorite strike near home?

"One evening in 1894, at a farmhouse in Fishers, Ontario County, New York, the Woolston family heard a roar that shook their home. Had something struck the ground? A search of their property the next morning revealed a huge hole fifteen feet across and thirty feet deep. Dirt had been thrown up in all directions. Recognizing an unusual geologic phenomenon had occurred; Mr. Woolston contacted Herman Leroy Fairchild, professor of geology at the University of Rochester. The next day the professor was at the site exploring the cavity. Soil samples were taken by wagon to the university. Henry A. Ward of Ward's Natural Science Museum, and his assistant Frank Pugsley of Pittsford, dug away trying to find the meteorite presumed to have created the hole. The digging was not successful and no meteorite was ever found (Fisher, 1987)."

Originally published in the *Proceedings of the Rochester Academy of Science*, Volume 18 Number 2, November 1998, the entire paper "Herman Leroy Fairchild: An Early Promoter and Defender of Meteorite Impact Cratering" (complete with citation references) by Jutta Siefert Dudley, can be found by reading it on the Rochester Academy of Science's website. She is on the board of Directors of RAS and gives presentation of the research. Volume 18 may be purchased through the Serials and Binding Dept of the Rush Reeves Library, U of R, as well. Contact Jutta Dudley director1@rasny.org or RAS *Bulletin* editor editor@rasny.org Send mail to: Rochester Academy of Science, Inc. P.O. Box 92642 Rochester, NY 14692



1 Sue Hoch finds ammonite 2. President of the convoy 3. The sign



4. Sue Hoch is quite happy about brachiopods.

UPCOMING WCGM CLUB MEETINGS

NO JUNE 2009 meetings!

Regular meetings for the month of June has been cancelled due to Newarkfest.

There will be a dig at Herkimer Diamonds mines on the weekend of June 5th. For those who attend that dig, there will be an ad hoc meeting at the campsite. Contact Bill and Pat Chapman.



July 2009—

Stay tuned for the announcement of the July 2009 gathering. Typically, an informal meeting is held at the annual club picnic.

JUNE HAPPENINGS!! By Pat Chapman

June 5, 2009 [Friday] No WCGMC meeting due to Newarkfest.

June 5, 2009 Friday Hastings Claim Clean-up & check out possibilities of new claim. Further exploration near Ilion for flowstone & Herkimer Diamonds near Little Falls. Meet at 7 AM at NYS Thruway Exit 42. Contact: Bill Chapman at batnpill@empacc.net or phone 607-868-4649 for info. & sign up.

June 6 & 7 [Saturday & Sunday] EFTA Dig.
...Herkimer Diamond Mines & KOA Campgrounds... Middleville, NY Looking for "Herkimer Diamonds" (Quartz Crystals). *Saturday* The Mine is opening a new pit at noon on Sat. between Pit #2 & the Ace of Diamonds. Facilities on site. Meet at 8 AM at mine entrance. Informal meeting/Pot luck supper with dish to pass Saturday at 6 PM at Chapman's KOA cottage - the first one next to mine entrance. Campfire & Rock Auction to follow. *Sunday morning...* a pancake breakfast is offered at the KOA for a nominal cost. Meet at 8 at the mine entrance. Contact: Bill Chapman batnpill@empacc.net or phone 607-868-4649 for info. & sign up.

Scouting Geology Day Postponed

Publicity problems have forced us to postpone our Geology Day program. There is a Webalos Camping Program Sept. 19th & 20th and the Cub Scouts have a major gathering on Oct. 17th. We are in the process of talking with the organizer of these events in hopes to take our program there eliminating the need for publicity, reserving a space and reaching young people we probably wouldn't reach otherwise. Merit badge counselors who have not viewed the required video need to review that before the fall. It's being passed around or is online. Further information will follow as soon as we know more. Thanks for all your work making this happen people - even though a couple of months late! -----By Pat Chapman

ROCK-HOUNDING AND FINDING

U. S.A. in JUNE 2009

6: Macungie, PA - Spring Mineralfest sponsored by the Pennsylvania Earth Science Association. Macungie Memorial Park, Macungie, PA.

6-7: Birmingham, AL - 36th Annual Tannehill Gem, Mineral, Fossil, & Jewelry Show Alabama Lapidary & Mineral Society. Sat: 9AM- 5PM; Sun: 9AM-5PM Tannehill Ironworks Historical State Park. FREE with paid admission to state park. Show contact: Gene Blackerby, 205-807-6777 Email: gene@lapidaryclub.com <http://lapidaryclub.com>=

27-28: Gilsum, NH - The town of Gilsum, located in Monadnock Region in southwestern NH, will once again host thousands of people from all over the U.S. who will attend the Gilsum Rock Swap and Mineral Show. 70+ dealers, swappers, distributors, and collectors can buy, sell, or swap beryl, quartz crystals, semi-precious stones, and rocks and minerals of all sorts. Displays range from newly found rough specimens to fossils, prized collector's pieces and hand crafted jewelry. The event is at Gilsum Elementary School grounds, Rte 10 in Gilsum, just north of Keene, NH, and about 2 hrs from Boston. Show hours are 8AM to 6PM Saturday and 8AM to 4PM Sunday. Gilsum's many mines operated until the 1940s and yielded feldspar, mica and beryl. Most are abandoned, although one, the Beauregard mine, is available to mineral clubs through arrangement. Today collectors prize other minerals such as beryl. Maps showing locations of local mines are available during the show.

The Town of Gilsum has opened its doors for the event. Activities include a rock climbing wall on Sat. daily pancake brunch, bake sale, book sale, a traditional Sat. night New England ham & bean supper with all you can eat pies and a chicken BBQ dinner on Sunday. Free admission, donations accepted. Proceeds go to youth recreation community programs. Tom Julius, PO Bx 76, Gilsum, NH, 03448; call 603.357-9636; or send e-mail to gilsumrocks@gmail.com.

27-28: State College, PA - Nittany Gem & Mineral Show sponsored by the Nittany Mineralogical Society. Mt. Nittany Middle School, State College, PA

New Late Cretaceous macrobaenid turtle with Asian affinities from the High Canadian Arctic: Dispersal via ice-free polar routes

Deborah Vandermark¹, John A. Tarduno^{1,2}, Donald B. Brinkman³, Rory D. Cottrell¹, **Stephanie Mason**¹ ¹Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of Rochester, Rochester, New York 14627, USA ²Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Rochester, Rochester, New York 14627, USA ³Royal Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology, P.O. Box 7500, Drumheller, Alberta T0J 0Y0, Canada

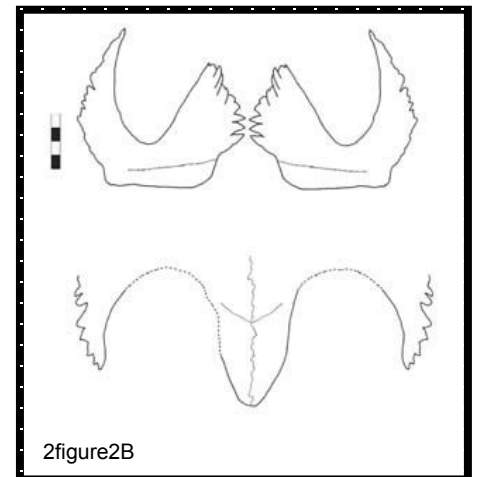
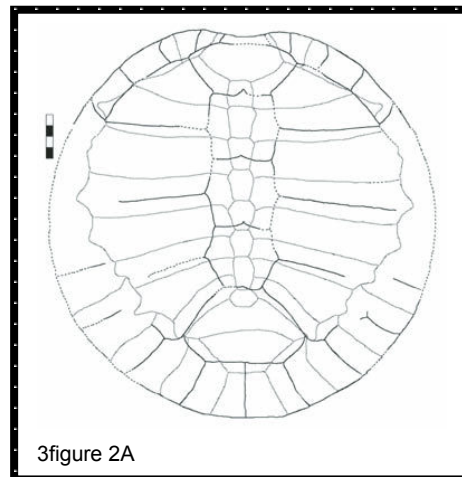
(Downloaded from geology.gsapubs.org on 6 February 2009- © 2009 Geological Society of America)

DESCRIPTION (continued from last newsletter) (Fig. 2B). Remnants of limb and girdle elements are visible on the surface, including a scapula and undetermined limb bones. The shell resembles those of macrobaenids generally in being smooth, low domed, and in having a reduced cruciate plastron with weakly developed buttresses (Sukhanov, 2000). The large size of the carapace and absence of costal-peripheral fenestrae indicate that the specimen is from a mature individual. Although the length of the carapace (36 cm) is comparable to that of other Late Cretaceous macrobaenids such as *Judithemys sukhanovi* (e.g., see Parham and Hutchison, 2003), the width (~34 cm) and smoothly curved edges give the carapace a rather circular appearance. A slight depression extends along the midline of the carapace and is bordered by bulges that become more prominent anteriorly. The depression and inflated borders impart an m-shaped anterior profile to the carapace, a feature that has been noted previously for that of the Campanian macrobaenid *J. sukhanovi* (Parham and Hutchison, 2003). The nuchal bone is wider than long when measured along its anterior edge, and although this differs from that of other Late Cretaceous eucryptodirans from Axel Heiberg (Brinkman and Tarduno, 2005), it is well known in macrobaenids. As in most macrobaenids, a pronounced nuchal emargination is present on the carapace of *Aurorachelys*. Eight neurals are present, the first being rectangular in outline, and the remaining hexagonal. The eighth neural differs from the preceding neurals in being both smaller and shorter. Two suprapygals are present, both having a triangular-shaped outline with their widest ends contacting, and the first suprapygial being wider than the second. The pygal is much shorter than wide, as in *J. sukhanovi* (Parham and Hutchison, 2003). The anterior peripherals are short and narrow, but become wider posteriorly (specifically from peripherals 8–11), giving the carapace a slightly flared appearance. A notch is present on the ventral surface of peripheral 8, likely marking the location of articulation of the hypoplastral buttress. The cervical scute is trapezoidal, wider than long, and is restricted to the nuchal bone, as in *J. sukhanovi*. The first and fifth vertebral scutes are wider than long, whereas the second to fourth scutes are subequal in length and width. The anterior marginal-pleural sulci coincide with peripheral and costal sutures. Posteriorly, the pleural scutes extend onto the peripherals, and the twelfth marginal scutes extend onto the second suprapygial scutes. Faint traces of the pectoral and abdominal sulci are present on the hyoplastron. A smooth edge of finished bone extends along the medial margin of the hyoplastron, just posterior to the pectoral sulcus, suggesting the presence of a fenestra between the hyoplastron and hypoplastron, similar to plastra of *Osteopygis emarginatus* (e.g., see Parham, 2005) and other macrobaenids (except *J. sukhanovi*; see Parham and Hutchison, 2003). Unlike the plastron of *O. emarginatus*, however, a tight sutural contact between the hyoplastron and xiphiplastron in *Aurorachelys* indicates that a fenestra was not developed between these elements.

RELATIONSHIPS Parham and Hutchison (2003) subdivided the Macrobaenidae into a group of Early Cretaceous taxa in which the shell is <30 cm in length and the neurals are generally rectangular in shape, and a group of Late Cretaceous and Paleocene taxa in which the shell is >30 cm in length and the neurals have a well-formed hexagonal shape. Their cladistic analysis suggests that at least some macrobaenids (including the large-bodied Late Cretaceous taxa) may be more closely related to crown-group cryptodirans than to other Early Cretaceous macrobaenids. Nessov (1986) suggested that the large-bodied Late Cretaceous macrobaenids are closely related to cheloniids. To assess the position of *Aurorachelys* within macrobaenids, a cladistic analysis was undertaken. The data set used by Parham and Hutchison (2003) was used as a basis for this analysis. Three additional characters were added to reflect the differences between Early and Late Cretaceous macrobaenids recognized by Parham and Hutchison (2003), and to reflect the differences between macrobaenids and chelonioids. A list of the characters used and the data matrix are shown in the GSA Data Repository. In the resulting majority rule cladogram, *Aurorachelys* is a sister taxon to *Judithemys*, and these are sister taxa to crown-group cryptodira (Fig. 3). *****

Figure 2. Line drawing reconstructions. A: Carapace. B: Plastron. Scale bar = 4 cm. Abbreviations: c—costal; cs—cervical scute; hyo—hyoplastron; hyp—hypoplastron; m—marginal; nu—nuchal; p—peripheral; pas—pectoral-abdominal scale sulci; ple—pleural; py—pygal; sp1, sp2—suprapygals; xip, xiphiplastron—1, 4, 8, neurals.

(EDITOR'S NOTE- This is the article that also resulted from Stephanie Mason's Artic Trip. She said they named the find "Hugo". Figures 2a and 2b are to the right of this caption, while figure 3 will be in the next edition of this newsletter. Due to the overall size of the article, the newsletter will show it in segments. Please read or better, subscribe to "Geology" to read the entire article at one time. Thank you, Steph!)



FOREST SERVICE CLOSES CAVES AND MINES TO PROTECT BATS IN SOUTHEAST

ATLANTA – Most caves and mines on National Forests in the southeastern United States are being closed for one year in an effort to protect bats, according to Regional Forester Liz Agpaoa. “We are working to stop the uncontrolled spread of White Nose Syndrome (WNS) among bat species,” she said. “The closures will allow scientists and land managers time to work together and study the fungus, learn how it spreads and how to best address it.” Under the 12-month closure order signed by Agpaoa on May 21, 2009, all caves and abandoned mines on national forests and units in 13 Southeastern states from Oklahoma to Virginia and Florida will be closed unless posted as open. All uses would be prohibited except organized rescue efforts and other actions specifically authorized by the agency. White Nose Syndrome, or WNS, is named for a white fungus that appears on the faces, ears, wings and feet of hibernating bats. Scientists are trying to determine how WNS affects bats. The disease causes bats to come out of hibernation severely underweight. In a desperate attempt to avoid starving, the affected bats are often seen flying during the day. They are looking for food, but the insects they normally eat in the spring are not yet available. Once a colony is affected, the fungus spreads rapidly and may kill 90 percent of bats at the hibernation site in just two years.

FOREST SERVICE CLOSES CAVES AND MINES TO PROTECT BATS— 2/2/2

Bats are a natural and important part of forests and help control forest and agricultural insect pests. Scientists believe the WNS fungus is spread bat-to-bat as they cluster in caves and mines, and it may be unknowingly transferred from one cave or mine to another on the footwear and gear of humans. Infected caves and mines may not show obvious signs of its presence. No reported human illnesses have been attributed to the fungus. “The syndrome has already affected caves in Virginia in close proximity to the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests,” said Dennis Krusac, Threatened and Endangered Species Specialist for the Forest Service’s Southern Region. “Staying out of caves and mines is the one thing we can do right now to slow the further spread of the fungus.” The closure order was implemented in hopes of protecting some of the largest bat populations in the country, Krusac said. Many national forests in the Southern Region are home to several species of bats, including the federally endangered Indiana bat, Virginia big-eared bat, gray bat and Ozark big-eared bats. Nearly 500,000 bats have died as a result of WNS in the New England and Mid-Atlantic states, including almost 25,000 Indiana bats. Caves and Abandoned Mines are closed Within the National Forests in North Carolina due to a mysterious disease, White nose Syndrome, bats are dying by the hundreds of thousands in the Northeast. Caves and abandoned mines on all North Carolina National Forest lands are closed to prevent the possible spread of the disease. Thank you for your cooperation in avoiding these sites and helping to protect our bat populations in the Southeast.

National Forests in North Carolina WNS Supplement How many mines and caves are there on National Forest lands in North Carolina? There are numerous unnamed small caves and abandoned mines on Forest lands, particularly in the mountains and on the Uwharrie National Forest in the piedmont. Blowing Springs cave and smaller caves in the Nantahala River Gorge are included in this closure. The Ray Mine area on the Appalachian District in Yancey County includes numerous small mine openings, all of which are closed with this closure order. Rock hounding is limited to exterior surface collection. Are there any caves or mines within the National Forests in North Carolina confirmed to have WNS? No. Are other agencies closing their caves and abandoned mines in North Carolina? Yes. The US Fish and Wildlife Service sent out recommendations for closure and protocols for decontamination of clothes and equipment. The Great Smoky Mountains National Park closed all caves and mines in April. Spelunking organizations across the country are supporting the effort by educating their members and encouraging cavers to avoid areas of cave closures. What about privately owned caves? Linville Caverns in McDowell County is privately owned and remains open. Bat Cave in Henderson County is owned by The Nature Conservancy. These and other privately owned caves are not regulated by this closure order. This closure order pertains only to those caves and abandoned mines found within National Forests in the Southern Region. The Eastern Region of the US Forest Service previously issued a similar closure order.

*ARTICLES CONTRIBUTED BY PAT CHAPMAN: (News Release: 1720 Peachtree Rd, Suite 750, Atlanta GA 30309
Contact: Stephanie Neal Johnson, {snjohnson@fs.fed.us} telephone (404) 347-7226, c (404) 895-1709)*

WAYNE COUNTY GEM AND MINERAL CLUB, INC.

MEETINGS:

Held 2nd Friday night of each month
at 7:30pm at Park Presbyterian Church basement,
Maple Court, Newark, NY

WEBSITE: www.wcgmc.org

ORGANIZED: 1973 **INC.** 1976

Affiliated with the AFML and EFMLS of Mineral
Societies since 1973.

OFFICERS: Elected at the October meeting, taking
office In November for a 2-year term.

FISCAL YEAR: Oct. 1st to Sept. 31st.

****NEW ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP CLASSES AND**

DUES (due Oct 1st):

\$10.00 JUNIOR or STUDENT

(18 yrs> with no parents in the club)

\$15.00 REGULAR or ONE SINGLE ADULT (Over
age of 18 years old)

\$20.00 FAMILY MEMBERSHIP

(Includes 2 adult votes and children)

Send due, SASE with your info to:

WCGMC, P.O. Box 4, Newark, NY14513

OBJECTIVE: TO STIMULATE INTEREST IN THE EARTH
SCIENCES, IN COLLECTING AND CLASSIFICATION OF
MINERALS, AND IN THE ART OF GEM CUTTING.

The public is welcome!!

100 Ultimate Things for Geology Lovers to Do!

(contributed by Bill Lesniak: <http://geotripper.blogspot.com/2008/12/100-things-youve-done-meme-geologists.html>)

- **47.** The Li River, China, to see the fantastic tower karst that appears in
- much Chinese art **48.** The Dalmation Coast of Croatia, to see the
- original Karst. **49.** The Gorge of Bhagirathi, one of the sacred
- headwaters of the Ganges, in the Indian Himalayas, where the river
- flows from an ice tunnel beneath the Gangatori Glacier into a deep
- gorge. **50.** The Goosenecks of the San Juan River, Utah, an
- impressive series of entrenched meanders. **51.** Shiprock, New
- Mexico, to see a large volcanic neck **52.** Land's End, Cornwall,
- Great Britain, for fractured granites that have feldspar crystals bigger
- than your fist. **53.** Tierra del Fuego, Chile and Argentina, to see the
- Straights of Magellan and the southernmost tip of South America.
- **54.** Mount St. Helens, Washington, to see the results of recent
- explosive volcanism. **55.** The Giant's Causeway and the Antrim
- Plateau, Northern Ireland, to see polygonally fractured basaltic flows.
- **56.** The Great Rift Valley in Africa. **57.** The Matterhorn, along the
- Swiss/Italian border, to see the classic "horn". **58.** The Carolina
- Bays, along the Carolinian and Georgian coastal plain
- **59.** The Mima Mounds near Olympia, Washington

(Continued from the last newsletter and will continue in the next newsletter)



Stamp

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First class: dated
meetings and time
valued.

