Wayne County Gem and Mineral Club News

March, 2015 **Always Looking for Places to Dig!**

Another way to collect minerals (see page 2)

Website
http://www.wcgmc.org/

See page 6

Can you see the round feature in this rock? Win $500 if you can identify it's origin (see Contest on page 3 for details).

Club Meeting, Friday March 13th, 7 PM

Presbyterian Church, Maple Court, Newark, NY

Program: Bring your purple minerals

Bring your amethyst, your fluorite, your hexagonite, etc.: Bring both mineral specimens and lapidary stones. We'll share and view what folks have.

And we'll get serious on details of our spring field trips. Come with your calendars and your collecting wishes.

Club Workshop, Saturday. March 7th

The club workshop will be open again from 10:00 to 3:00 PM. Bring your rocks to saw and polish. The workshop is open to all paid club members for a small donation on each visit.

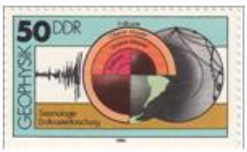
When: 10:00 AM til mid afternoon, Sat. March 7th
Where: The Weiler's Barn and Workshop
6676 E. Port Bay Rd, Wolcott, NY
Rules: BYOR (Bring your own rocks) to saw, grind, polish, or even facet. Training on equipment is available. Eye protection is recommended.

Rochester Lapidary Club Invited Workshop, Saturday. March 14th, 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM

For details, see page 6

Our club president Glenn Weiler helps Abby grind an agate at the February club workshop.

WINTER WEATHER: An e-mail note will be sent to members if a Friday meeting must be cancelled. Or call Bill Lesniak (315-483-8061), Fred Haynes (585-203-1733) or Glenn Weiler (315-594-8478)



Mineral Musings
by Fred Haynes

Another way to collect minerals

It is the middle of February in upstate New York and the weather outside is not particularly conducive to mineral and fossil digs. Yes, I can plan, and I am. Yes, I can clean and organize last year's bounty, and I try to make time for that, but even the rocks in the garden remain covered and out of reach. BUT, there is another way to collect minerals in the winter and I keep busy doing just that when the spirit moves. They can be collected on postage stamps.

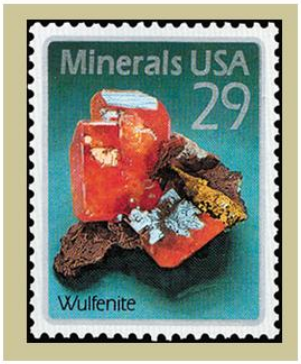
Did you know that there is an international organization of folks who collect gems and minerals on postage stamps? They call themselves the Gems, Minerals and Jewelry Study Unit (GMJSU) and they are one of 52 affiliate organizations of the American Topical Association (ATA), a philatelic organization with almost 3000 thematic stamp collectors worldwide. The GMJSU publishes a quarterly newsletter called Philagems International and maintains an Excel spreadsheet listing all stamps depicting minerals, gems, and mining. At last count there are over 2700 listings although many reflect sets of stamps so the list of actual stamps is larger. Of those listings, over 1500 are identified as strictly mineral stamps and over 400 as gem stamps. Over 90 countries are represented on the list.

First Day cover from the 1974 Mineral Heritage Set: The first day ceremony was held at the 1974 National Gem and Mineral Show in Lincoln, Nebraska.

The United States has issued two sets of mineral stamps. In 1973, four 10 cent denomination diamond shaped stamps were issued depicting mineral specimens from the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History. The tourmaline specimen is from the Tourmaline Queen Mine in San Diego County, California and since the stamp was issued the specimen has been affectionately dubbed the "Postage Stamp Tourmaline."

The Postage Stamp Tourmaline (upper left) and the stamp depicting the famous specimen. The designer benefitted from a pen and ink drawing (upper right) by Wendell Wilson (editor of the Mineralogical Record).

Nineteen years later and with a postal rate that had almost tripled, a second set of four stamps was issued. One of these, the Red Cloud wulfenite stamp, may be my favorite mineral stamp of all. I have collected at the Red Cloud Mine, without much success, and believe the thick brilliantly red wulfenite from that mine is simply exquisite.




THE ACTUAL SPECIMEN

The Red Cloud wulfenite stamp of Sept., 17, 1992 was designed by Leonard Buckley from the specimen that remains on display at the Baird Auditorium of the Smithsonian.

I'd like to have that Red Cloud specimen in my collection, but I have settled for having the stamp and several versions of First Day covers. The other stamps in this set reflect equally famous mineral locations. See if you can pick them out in the collage of mineral stamps a bit lower in this column.

By expanding your collecting worldwide, the variety and beauty of the stamps is amazing. Some come in large sets of many denominations and even sizes, others come as single stamps. Some commemorate minerals from the issuing country, others simply depict beautiful minerals or gems. At this point I think I will just let some pictures do the talking.

Are you short on space? Are your flats of dirty minerals from last year stacked in the corner of the basement or the garage? Not sure where you will put your finds from next summer? Did you make a mess in the sink cleaning minerals? Well, a good collection of minerals on stamps sits in a 2-3" space on a bookcase and generally requires no cleaning. I just had to move mine from a 2" loose-leaf binder to a 3" binder and now I have room for many more acquisitions. It was not a messy job. I did not need soap and water and chemicals and none of them broke when I tried to move them.

Another great thing about stamps: with a few notable exceptions most stamps depicting minerals are much more affordable than the minerals themselves. Whether you collect them mint (with gum and unused) or after circulation and therefore cancelled, or whether you collect just the stamps themselves or prefer First Day Cover envelopes like the American Heritage envelope on the previous page, most can be purchased for a few dollars and many for much less than that. It is not hard to get started, but be careful, much like the real thing, it can be quite addictive.

Wayne County Gem & Mineral Club

Gem Fest 2015

Sat. June 6 10-5
Sun. June 7 10-4

NEW LOCATION

Greater Canandaigua Civic Center
250 N. Bloomfield Rd, Canandaigua

Soapstone Carving, Wire Wrapping, Sluice
Vendors, Exhibits, Free Prizes, and much more

UV Bob's Ultraviolet Show

Gems, Minerals, Fossils, Beads & Jewelry

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

Paleontology Contest – Got your attention?

Yes, that's right, a $500 prize is being offered by the University of California at Riverside for the best natural explanation of these spherical seafloor features found at the interface of Ordovician sandstones and mudstones in Wisconsin. The contest is open to anyone; entries must be in by March 11th. A short video by the professor sponsoring the contest and additional observational material to consider can be found on the website link at the base of this column. Even if you don't wish to enter the contest, it is interesting that a baffling geological dilemma has been turned into an online contest. What do you think they are? Bring your idea to the March club meeting.

Can you identify these Ordovician features?
For details of the contest visit:
http://ringmaster.cs.ucr.edu/Rings.html

Fossil of the Month

By Stephen Mayer

Dipleura dekayi – A Middle Devonian Trilobite of New York State

Whether collected by oneself in a creek bed, road cut or quarry or just simply observed in a museum's exhibit, trilobites have fascinated people for thousands of years. Excavation of early burial grounds 50,000 years old have revealed trilobites with human remains (AMNH, 2015). Their fossil forms have been the basis of numerous studies by everyone from paleontologists to school children.

Trilobites are extinct arthropods distantly related to the modern marine lobsters and horseshoe crabs. In the Burgess Shale in the rugged high peaks of the mountains of British Columbia, Canada an amazing group of soft-bodied organisms have been found including *Trilobitamorpha* – fossils that appear to be like trilobites but just have not fully evolved yet. Then true trilobites first appeared during the Cambrian Period about 521 million years ago during the "Cambrian Explosion" as a result of the development of a chitinous exoskeleton which permitted fossilization of these organisms.

From www.fossilmall.com website

Trilobites became one of the most successful groups of organisms, surviving for almost 270 million years before becoming extinct at the end of the Permian. More than 20,000 species have been described with diverse anatomical features as complex eyes and spiny appendages to blind simple forms. They ranged in size from a few millimeters to a couple of feet long. Some trilobites were nektonic (swimmers) while others were epifaunal (living on the sediment substrate). There were also infaunal species that burrowed in the sediments. Some were active predators while others were more passive detritus feeders.

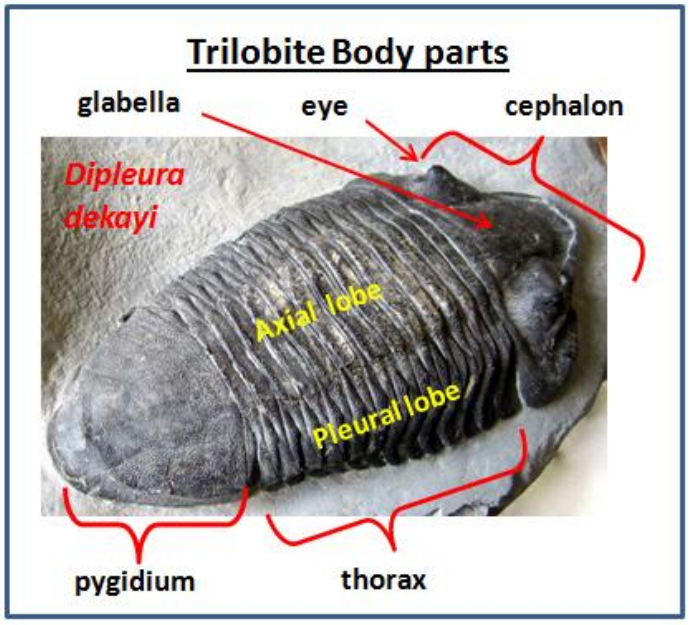
The scientific classification of trilobites is broken down from Kingdom Animalia, Phylum Arthropoda, Class Trilobita, and then into as many as ten Orders. This paper will focus on one trilobite in the Order Phacopida. The species *Dipleura dekayi* was first described by Green in 1832 from a locality in the Middle Devonian (Givetian) of the Hamilton Group of the Skaneateles Formation in New York.

Dipleura dekayi commonly occurs in the sandy shales and shaly sandstones in eastern Onondaga and Madison Counties of New York at the base of the Delphi Station Member of the Skaneateles Formation (Cooper, 1935). Specimens are somewhat less common but may also be found scattered in siltstones throughout the rest of the Hamilton Group. Individual specimens of *Dipleura dekayi* can reach about 15 cm (6 inches) in length attaining adult characteristics at about 11-40 mm (.38 – 1.5 inches).

Middle Devonian *Dipleura dekayi* from Hamilton Group, Skaneateles Formation, Delphi Station Member, New York (fossil on the right is 20 cm) from AMNH website

The most notable characteristics in the adult are the presence of segmentation only on the thorax with the complete loss of segmentation on the glabella and pygidium, as well as the loss of the thoracic axial lobe. The immature forms have the axis well developed on the thorax and tail and have a strongly segmented glabella (Cooper, 1935). The eyes are somewhat raised above the glabella suggesting an adaptation for better vision. Riccardo Levi-Setti (1995) speculates that the turret-like eyes of many trilobites protruding from the cephalon could have

been useful as watchtowers above the seafloor while still concealing of the hunter below a layer of sand. From this vantage point, a surprise attack on an unwary prey would certainly lead to a tasty meal. This mechanism for feeding has been observed in some modern crustaceans including the deadly Mantis Shrimp.



In summary, trilobites were a marvelous evolutionary success in which *Dipleura dekayi* was just one species. Although extensive research has been completed on trilobites, much can still be learned from this fascinating group. Happy hunting.

References:

Cooper, G.A. 1935, Young Stages of the Devonian Trilobite *Dipleura Dekayi* Green, Journal of Paleontology, Vol. 9, No. 1 pp. 3-5.

Levi-Setti, Riccardo,1995, Trilobites. The University of Chicago Press, 2nd ed., p. 342.

WWW.AMNH.org/our-research/paleontology/faq/trilobite-website, 2015. Twenty Trilobite Fast Facts.

EDITOR'S NOTE: It is perhaps worth noting that fine specimens of *Dipleura dekayi* have been found on two recent WCGMC digs.

In 2013, Gary Thomas recovered a complete enrolled specimen on a dig along Cole Hill Road in North Brookefield. Gary has named his pet trilobite "phred".

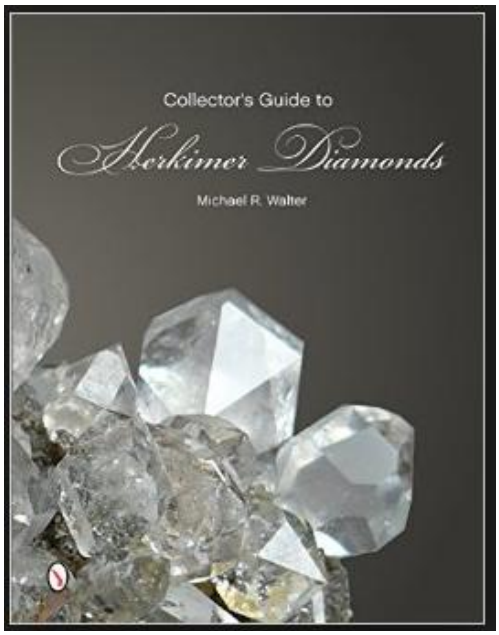
Last July, the Underwood twins (alias the Fossil Fellas), unearthed two *Dipluera dekayi* thorax and pygidium specimens in the Jaycox Member of the Ludlowville Fm., at Deep Run. The specimen on the right is 50 cm high. We have no word if the boys have named their finds.

Tricolor goodcookie

Yee gads, another editor error! The trilobite cookies at the January meeting were inaccurately credited in the Feb. newsletter. They were provided by Scott Jones. How I could forget that after eating about 7 of them myself I do not know. Thanks to the several members who pointed this out to me. Scott was nicer; he just called me Mike when he next saw me.

According to the Mayan Calendar (left), the World should have ended last month. However, the Oreo cookie clearly tells us otherwise. Fortunately, the Oreo cookie was more accurate than the Mayan Calendar.

Book Review: Herkimer Diamonds



All New York mineral collectors have a soft spot for Herkimer diamonds and now there is a comprehensive book dedicated to one of our favorite minerals. Thanks to Mike Walter, a teacher and mineral dealer by trade, but a true collector by heart, we can learn more about the little (and sometimes not so little) doubly terminated clear quartz crystals than most thought probably could be known. Mike's book has sections on geology, on history, on the individual mines, and on collecting and cleaning techniques. He provides hints on where and how to collect and the tools to use. I particularly like the section on crystal forms and inclusions, which Mike aptly calls "Variations on a Theme". And all of this is supported by over 230 figures, most of which depict a "Herk", or a set of them, spectacularly photographed. In total, 96 full size pages of pure bliss for any Herkimer lover. This 2015 book is a must own for anyone who has pounded on the 500 Million Year old Little Falls dolostone in search of the perfect crystals that grew in dissolution vugs ~325 million years ago. And the best for last: the list price on the Schiffer Earth Science Monograph is just $19.99 and I was able to order online for a bit less.

And don't forget, the WCGMC visits Ace of Diamonds Mine on opening day (April 1) to get our very own "Herks".

Rochester Lapidary Society: March 14

The Rochester Lapidary Society has cordially invited Wayne County Gem and Mineral Club members to an open house on March 14th. This is a Saturday workshop at the Rochester School for the Deaf. The hours will be from 11 AM to 3 PM. On display will be numerous faceting machines, lapidary saws, cabochon making machines and a sphere making machine. Come see what a typical workshop is all about for someone that likes to abuse rocks and make little pieces out of big pieces. Current and finished projects will be on display. Bring a rock to cut or polish.

Visit their website for directions and a map to the workshop at Westervelt Hall, 1545 St. Paul Street in Rochester: http://www.rochesterlapidary.org/. Contact Ed Smith (dsmith340@rochester.rr.com or 585-370-2773 for details.

Three Upcoming Events

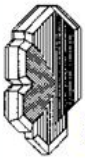
The Buffalo Geological Society, Inc.
47TH ANNUAL
Gem Mineral Fossil Show
Sat, March 21, 2015 • 10am-6pm | Sun, March 22, 2015 • 10am-5pm
$5 Per Person • Special 2 Day Admission $7 • Scouts in Uniform & Children 12 Yrs & Under FREE

A GREAT FIELD TRIP FOR THE FAMILY
& a real learning experience
ALSO SHOWING
Displays & Information
- NYS Museum
- NYS Parks & Recreation
- NYS Dept. of Environment & Conservation
- Penn Dixie

MINI-MINE & GRANDPA'S CORNER
for the youngest Geologists & Scientists.
Bead Stringing, Sand Art & more...

The Erie County Fairgounds (Market and Grange Bldgs.),
South Park Ave. Entrance, 5600 McKinley Pkwy, Hamburg, NY

42nd Rochester Mineralogical Symposium
April 23-26, 2015



Radisson Hotel
Rochester Airport
175 Jefferson Road
Rochester, NY 14623

http://www.rasny.org/minsymposium/mineralsymp.htm

Che-Hanna Rock & Mineral Club 46th Annual Gem and Mineral Show

Sat. March 28 9:00 – 5:00
Sun. March 29 10:00 -4:00
Adults $3, Students 1$, Under 8:free

Athens Township Vol. Fire Hall
211 Herrick Ave., Sayre, PA

Exhibits, UV Mineral Programs, Dealers with Minerals, Gems, Fossils, much more
http://www.chehannarocks.com/show.html

WCGMC -- Initial 2015 Field Trip Schedule

last update (2/19/2015)

This list is tentative and is here just to tell everyone we have started to plan for another busy season. We want to hear from our many diggers where they would like to go and when. Come to a meeting and participate in the planning. As the snow melts and spring becomes a reality, this list will firm up and additional dates will be added with each monthly newsletter, and on the website. You can always contact our trip leader, Bill Chapman, if you are uncertain whether you have the latest information.

Remember to attend a WCGMC field trip you must be a club member, or a member of an affiliated club if you do not live in our region. **Time to pay dues!** *Red dates are fairly firm.*

April 1 (Wednesday) – Ace of Diamonds Mine, Middleville, NY Leader – Bill Chapman
Opening day at the Herkimer diamond locale, getting them before others!
Visit http://www.herkimerdiamonds.com/

April 4 (Saturday) – Long Pond Road Park (Marina Drive) in Rochester Leader – Stephen Mayer
Targeting Dalmanites and Trimerus trilobites in the Silurian Rochester shale along the Erie Canal

April 18 or 19 (Sat. or Sunday) – TBA, probably a fossil site in the Finger Lakes Region

April 25-26 (Sat.-Sun)- Super Dig Weekend in Sterling Hill, New Jersey *(fluorescent minerals)*
Visit www.uvworld.org *to register or* http://www.sterlinghill.org/visitor/schedule.php#events

May 2-3 (Saturday-Sunday) - Likely a trip to Pennsylvania: Leader – Bill Chapman
Pleasant Mills for wavellite, calcite and fossils, and whatever more Bill can plan

May 16 (Sat.) - Penn-Dixie Fossil Park, Hamburg, NY
Dig with the Experts, $30 fee ($25 for members) see: http://www.penndixie.org or 716-627-4560

Later in the Summer
Fossil Trips proposed include Deep Run, Green's Landing, Alden, Indian Creek, Syracuse, Second Creek in Sodus, and more
Mineral trips proposed include Ontario (Bancroft, Eganville, possibly Cobalt), Ilion, Penfield, Walworth, West Pierrepont+Powers, Rose Road, and more

SHOWS and OTHER EVENTS TO KEEP ON YOUR RADAR in the next few months

March 7: Club workshop in Wolcott (10:00 AM – mid afternoon)

March 14: Joint workshop with **Rochester Lapidary Club** (Rochester) – see info on page 5
http://www.rochesterlapidary.org/events.htm

March 21-22: **Buffalo Geological Society**, Grange and Market Bldgs., Hamburg, New York (see page 5)

March 28-29: **Che Hanna Rock & Mineral Club** 46th Annual Gem & Mineral Show, Sayre, Pa (see page 6)
http://www.chehannarocks.com/show.html

April 11-12: **Southern Tier Geology Club** Annual Show, Johnson City, NY**,** Johnson City Senior Citizens Center; 30 Brockton St.; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4; adults $3, children (under 12) free

April 24-27 **Rochester Mineralogical Symposium** in Rochester, NY (more details next month)
http://www.rasny.org/minsymposium/mineralsymp.htm

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Club meets 2nd Friday of each month starting in Sept.
Mini-miner 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. Send to WCGMC, P. O. Box 4, Newark, NY 14513