

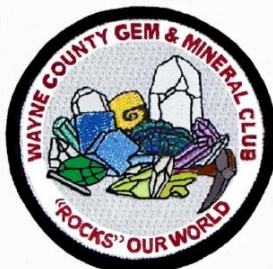
# Wayne County Gem and Mineral Club News

May, 2018

Always Looking for Places to Dig!



Gates Public Library on March 24th.  
"Geology Rocks" (see page 5)



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



Ace of Diamonds, March 31, 2018

Ace of Diamonds on Opening Day.  
Herkimer Hunting (see page 4)

## Next Club Meeting Friday May 11<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM

Presbyterian Church, Maple Court, Newark, NY

### PROGRAM: April/May finds and Summer plans

- Come see what we found in New Jersey in April and Pennsylvania in May.
- Come plan to join us for summer plans.
- Sign up to help at GemFest  
Oh, and there will be a surprise activity of some sort to test your skills and win a rock..

### WCGMC Workshop - May 19th

When: 10:00 AM til mid-afternoon

Where: The Weiler's Barn and Club Workshop  
6676 E. Port Bay Rd, Wolcott, NY

Rules: Bring your own rocks to saw, grind, polish, or even facet. Training on equipment is available. Eye protection is required.  
\$5/adult to offset maintenance costs.

## Overnight trips in 2018

We have planned several overnight trips, about one a month, through the collecting season. We ask that you sign up for these trips if you think you are attending. Just send a note to Fred Haynes to get "on the list". This helps with logistics planning like permissions and lodging.

Sign-up sheets will be available at club events also.

April 14-15- New Jersey (oops, you missed it!)  
May 4-6 - Central Pennsylvania (apply soon!)  
June 16-18 – Western Massachusetts  
July 14-22 – Bancroft, Ontario and more  
August 31- Sept 3 - Kentucky (quarries/geodes)  
September - Adirondacks and/or Virginia  
October – November – somewhere south!

See page 7 for a bit more detail about each trip and for leader names

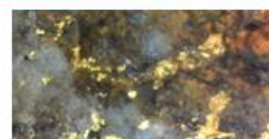


"Jerry the Geologist" and his pet dino and UVBob and his fluorescent rocks are coming to GemFest June 2-3. Are you?



## zOrb 65x Digital Microscope

BY FRED HAYNES



I purchased a new toy in March. I acquired a Carson zOrb 65x Digital Microscope. Although not a tool for advanced photographers, I hoped that it would give me a simple tool for illustrating details I could not depict well with my Nikon. And for \$50 I decided it was worthy of an experiment.

The egg-shaped camera arrived with virtually no instructions, but included a note to upload software. Once uploaded the camera almost works by itself. Heck, I even figured it out! Open the software on the computer and plug the camera into a USB port. The camera LCD lights immediately come on and the image from the camera pops up onto the screen. The digital microscope comes with a focus ring and two plastic attachments that help stabilize the camera above the object to be photographed. Depress the shutter release atop the camera and bingo, a jpg picture file is stored on the computer.

I decided that my first subject mineral would be the millimeter sized bright green pyromorphite from the Manhan Mine in Loudville, MA, a site detailed in the [November 2017 newsletter](#) and one the club plans to visit on its upcoming June trip. If you are lucky there can be bright orange wulfenites with the pyromorphite. I was not lucky!



**Pyromorphite from the Manhan Mine in Loudville, MA.** The field of view is about 2mm and the crystals average 200 microns in length. The lead phosphate spindles represent a secondary mineral after galena and sit inside the cubic-shaped boxwork left by the dissolution of galena.

OK, that is really neat and a great improvement over any standard lens or phone camera, but the zOrb digital camera does have serious limitations. The depth of field is very limited. You can surely see that only a small portion of the pyromorphite spindles are in reasonably sharp focus. This is accentuated by the lack of a tripod to steady the camera. I was, however, fairly impressed by the lighting provided by the LED lights mounted inside the device and the color matches the specimen well. I cropped the pictures a bit, but did nothing else to them once on the computer.

At the Buffalo show in late March, I purchased a rather ugly galena piece from Morocco because it had a couple small clusters of barely visible proustite crystals perched atop it. Proustite is a sulfosalt ( $\text{Ag}_3\text{AsS}_3$ ), often called ruby silver for its brilliant color. Well, they were small to the naked eye or even to a 20x loop, but my powerful 65x zOrb digital microscope found them easily and captured their brilliant hue with ease.



**Proustite on galena from Morocco.** Field of view is about 2 mm across. For those of you metrically challenged, 2mm is just under one eighth of an inch.

Given its weaknesses, the camera/microscope is best suited for flat surfaces, and it will work well with my second hobby, stamp collecting. But there are geologic subjects that are quite flat. Have you ever wondered what the sutures on an ammonite might look like? Well, I happened to have one lying around so I wiped off the dust and stuck him under the

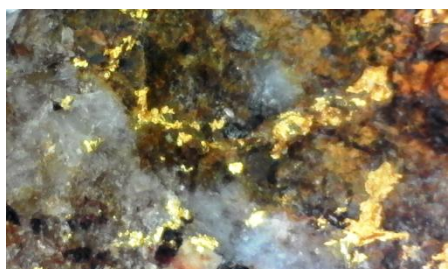
powerful vision of "zOrba". I've even given it a new name now!



Someone brighter than me can perhaps inform us of the Genus of this fellow from the suture pattern. All I can do is show the detail of the pattern with my new toy. Now let's imagine how that critter grew those elegant sutures (and why).



Naturally I had to test out the thing on my best piece of personally found gold ore. Back in the ancient past, the decade of the 1980's, I was scrambling around the desert southwest in search of gold. I even found a little in the Brooklyn Mine of the Dale Mining District of southern California. Now I can make the micron-size flecks look huge with my powerful zOrba. Yes, I know, I am still not rich.



**Yes, that is gold.** The largest flecks approach 50 microns in size.

For those of you joining us in PA the first weekend of May, our first stop will be Mt. Pleasant Mills and we will drive atop the quarry in search of wavellite. We'll try to find it as fully formed green bortyoidal balls lining fractures in the host sandstone. The kind of specimen that sit well in the cabinet without the help of magnification. Perhaps we will even find some like this piece.



Wavellite, a hydrated aluminum phosphate, from Mt. Pleasant Mills, PA, collected by the author in 2014.

But more than likely we will find flattened broken sprays of colorful wavellite lining thin fractures. But that too is pretty nice and even more impressive when magnified and preserved digitally by the power of zOrba.



Radial wavellite spray displaying multiple growth periods. Field of view is 3mm across.

If you can accept that this is more of a toy and a tool for viewing small objects and not a camera

capable of producing high quality images then it may be worth the \$50 that it costs. In addition to the single shot mode with which all these pictures were taken, the camera has a timer option and also a video mode: imagine watching a tiny insect crawl across a leaf. I have yet to try these operating modes. I do not regret my purchase and I imagine you will see more of zOrba's work in future newsletters. She's beside me right now!

You can learn more about the zOrb digital microscope by visiting [this webpage](#) or by watching [this instructional video](#) on youtube

## Wayne County Gem & Mineral Club

### GemFest-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,  
20 Vendors, Exhibits, Free Prizes,  
and much much more

**UVBob Fluorescent Mineral**  
Showing several times each day



**Gems, Minerals, Fossils, Beads & Jewelry**

visit <http://www.wcgmclub.org/> for details

## Herk Hunting

### March 31



The unofficial kick-off collecting event for WCGMC is Opening Day for the Ace of Diamonds site in Middletown, NY. Most years this is April 1, a fitting day for crazy rock hounds to try to separate Herkimer "diamonds" from melting snow at one of our favorite local sites. But this year April 1 was Easter and the site opened a day early. Since we all suffer from FOMO (Fear Of Missing Out) we naturally had to go on Saturday for Opening Day.

The weather on March 31<sup>st</sup> was better than any other day in March and better than what followed for the first two weeks of April. Sun and near 50 degree weather made diamond picking fun for all 15 WCGMC members that ventured to the site. The owners had moved a large amount of new dolostone atop the piles and everyone I spoke to found vugs with diamonds. But rather than ramble on with words, here are some "action" pictures from Opening Day.



Get me that one Dad.



Jerry breaks out the heavy artillery.



Two very different techniques.



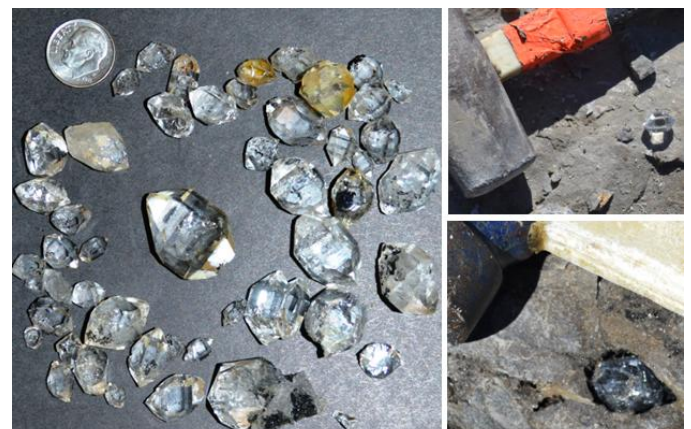
The Websters were there.



Guess I need this picture so I can be immortalized also!



Ed caught me at work. Mary has found a nice one.



My haul for the day on the left. A couple others as they popped out of the hard dolostone.



The now infamous Wayne County Gem and Mineral Club egg crate rock and mineral collections stepped out just a little further last month, all the way to the west side of Rochester. On March 24<sup>th</sup>, Fred Haynes took the program to the Gates Public Library. In a three hour period, 53 kids built their collections by gluing labels onto egg crates and then picking out their favorites from the bins. They learned that there are three kinds of rocks, and went home with two of each. Six minerals completed the collection. Amethyst from Thunder Bay from our 2016 trip remains the highlight, although fishing out magnetite with a magnet glued to a popsicle stick is popular also. Unless we head back to western Ontario, the amethyst will be gone soon, but have no fear, Arkansas quartz from our November, 2017 trip is waiting to take its place!

GemFest and hopefully these same kids will get to learn more about the wonders of rocks, minerals, and fossils by attending that celebration of geology also.



**Sometimes you can even collect rocks in a library!** Fred Haynes shows it can be fun for "kids" of all ages.

**GEOLOGY ROCKS!**

**Saturday, March 24th // 1 pm - 4 pm**

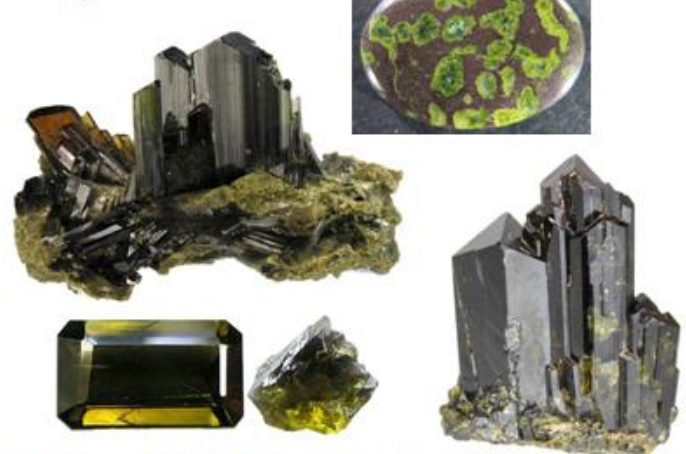
Meet local geologist, Fred Haynes, and learn about New York geology and its rocks and minerals! Fred will be set up in our atrium and ready to talk with you! You can even go home with an egg crate full of minerals you personally select. You can also bring along any rocks/fossils for identification.

For all ages, and no registration is required.

The library called the program "Geology Rocks" and advertised the event on their Facebook page and on library bulletin boards. There was a steady stream of families coming to learn about rocks and take home a collection.

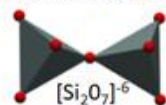
It was the Saturday before Easter and the library held an Easter cupcake decorating program on the same day and lots of youngsters spent the afternoon learning about rocks and decorating cupcakes! Naturally, we handed out flyers for

### Can you name me?



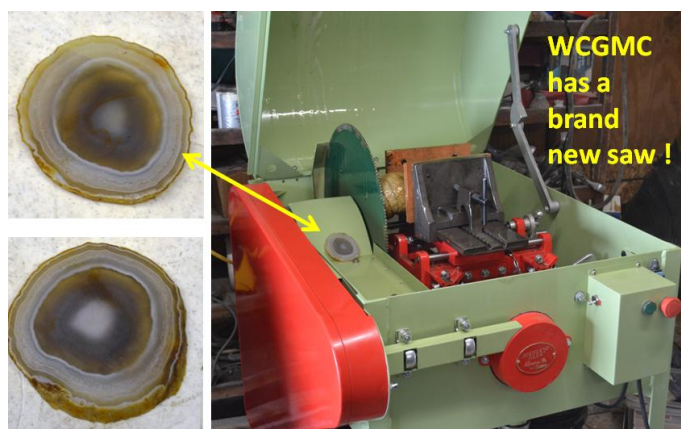
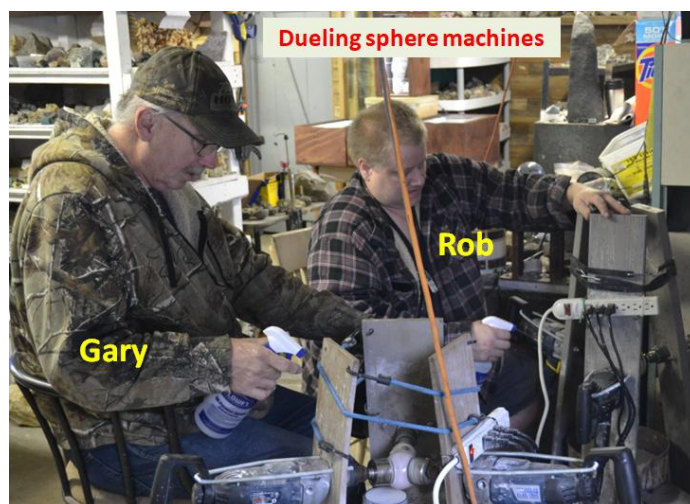
- I am an abundant rock-forming mineral.
- I am generally secondary in origin.
- I'm green, often dark green, sometimes brown
- I occur in marble and other metamorphic rocks.
- I form by hydrothermal alteration of igneous rocks.
- I grow in vugs in amygdaloidal basalt.
- You can find me in unakite and skarns.
- I can be a gemstone with hardness of 6-7.
- I am a sorosilicate mineral.


for answer, see page 6



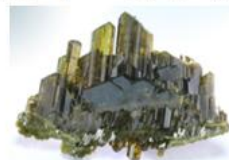
## WCGCM April Workshop

The workshop was a busy place on April 7<sup>th</sup>. Two new members and many “not so new” ones ventured out to cut and polish their favorite stones.





**I am epidote.**  
 $\{Ca_2\}\{Al_2Fe^{3+}\}(Si_2O_7)(SiO_4)O(OH)$



*from pg 5*

*epidote in unakite*

## Wayne County Gem and Mineral Club 2018 Field Trips *last update April 23*

We kicked off the collecting season with three trips in April. As you can see below, much more is planned. Come to the meetings to provide further input. Contact the listed leader for details. ***For the overnight trips we ask that you get yourself onto the list of possible attendees with the listed leader as soon as possible.*** Once we know the level of interest, logistics can be better worked. Contact Fred Haynes or Linda Schmidtgal if you have any general questions. **Please check this page each month and the webpage for changes; WCGMC field trip planning is flexible!.**

May 4-6 (central **Pennsylvania**, Mt. Pleasant Mills, etc.) (Leaders – Bill Chapman, Fred Haynes)

May 5 - Penfield Quarry Open House (7 AM – noon) --

May 18-20 Herkimer collecting opportunities with Niagara Peninsula Geol. Club (contact Fred Haynes)

May 25-28 (Memorial Day weekend) – collecting Herkimers, Hickory Hills should be open (info-Gary Thomas)

June 1-3 GEMFEST in Canandaigua

June 10 (Sunday) – Ilion for travertine (for a second time!)

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 14-22 (**Ontario**, Bancroft and Temagami, 3-4 days at each location (info- Fred Haynes)

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

August – weekend day trip to Green's Landing (joint with RAS Fossil Section). There will be others like this.

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

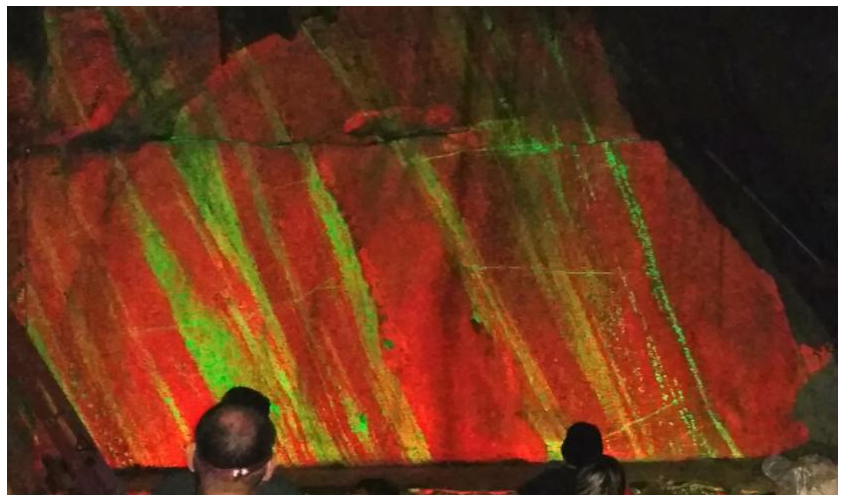
September – **Adirondack** weekend mid-month and/or Virginia trip with GMSVP of VA

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.

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You are going to have to wait until next month to learn and see more about our successful April trip to New Jersey for Sterling Hills fluorescent minerals, prehnite, and even amber, but we would like to take a moment to thank the UV Nomads Club (and WCGMC member Ken St. John) for setting up the dig at Sterling Hills Museum site and the Hamburg Mine location in Franklin. Even better that he scheduled it for a weekend when we could escape an ice storm in western New York and travel just 5 hours south and enjoy a 75 degrees sunny day. We were the first group to see the new fluorescent wall fully displayed at the bottom of the Sterling Hills Mine Quarry. They hired Italian marble cutters to remove a slab of brilliant fluorescent green willemite

and red calcite 10' wide and 8' high. The slab was removed in three pieces and will soon be on display at the New York Natural History Museum. Sterling Hills outcrop will be covered and protected so it will not tarnish as the original wall had.



**Sterling Hills at night!**

*Photo by Ed Smith*

## Wayne County Gem & Mineral Contacts

### ELECTED OFFICERS

Glenn Weiler – President [gwexterior@gmail.com](mailto:gwexterior@gmail.com)  
315-594-8478

Jerry Donahue – VP [Chester145322@yahoo.com](mailto:Chester145322@yahoo.com)  
585-548-3200

Eva Jane Weiler – Secretary [gwexterior@gmail.com](mailto:gwexterior@gmail.com)  
315-594-8478

Bill Lesniak – Treasurer/Webmaster  
[Dirtman300@aol.com](mailto:Dirtman300@aol.com) 315-483-8061

### Board of Directors

Ken Rowe [gotrox88@twc.com](mailto:gotrox88@twc.com) 315-331-1438

Linda Schmidtgal [lees@tds.net](mailto:lees@tds.net) 315-365-2448

Gary Thomas [gftthomas956@gmail.com](mailto:gftthomas956@gmail.com) 585-489-2162

Fred Haynes [fredmhaynes55@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:batnpill@empacc.net) 607-868-4649

Fred Haynes – Newsletter Editor  
[fredmhaynes55@gmail.com](mailto:fredmhaynes55@gmail.com) 585-203-1733

Bill Lesniak – Website Coordinator

Glenn Weiler – Workshop Coordinator

Linda Schmidtgal – Collection Curator

Eric Elias: GEMFEST Show Chair

[thecrystalnetwork@hotmail.com](mailto:thecrystalnetwork@hotmail.com)

Fred Haynes – Facebook Administrator

Club meets 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

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



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