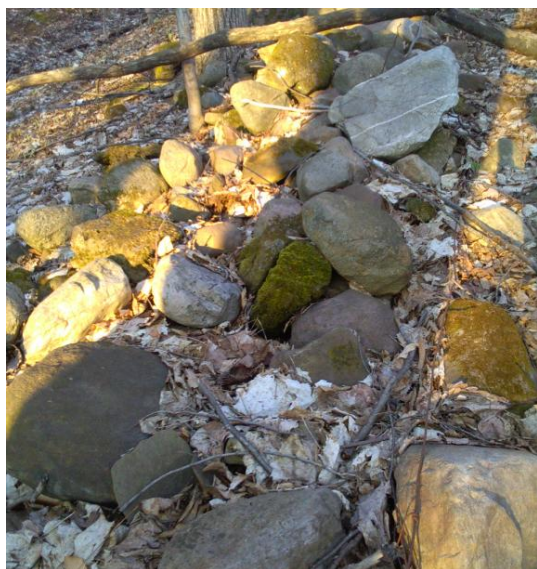


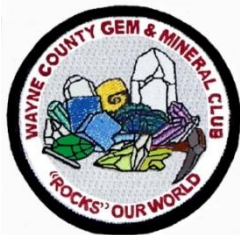
# Wayne County Gem and Mineral Club News

May, 2020

Always Looking for Places to Dig!



*Hedgerow Hunting (see page 3)*



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



*Faceting 101 (page 2)*



*Garnets (page 4)*

**Our May Meeting is canceled and there is no May Workshop scheduled.**

June 12<sup>th</sup> meeting is tentatively still on our schedule.

There are no Saturday workshop dates scheduled. As soon as it becomes safe to reconvene at our Wolcott workshop, we will re-schedule and inform everyone.

*Please send me any news that others might enjoy seeing in next month's newsletter.*

*Send to:*

*[fredmhaynes55@gmail.com](mailto:fredmhaynes55@gmail.com)*

**It is with considerable regret that WCGMC has decided to cancel GemFest 2020, which was scheduled for June 6-7 in Canandaigua.** The "rules" may be relaxed as May moves to June (we sure hope so), but the size and nature of our mineral show are just not conducive to effective social distancing. We also do not wish to risk the health and safety of our volunteer members, our wonderful vendors, or the visitors who would attend. We plan to be back, bigger and better than ever, June 5-6, 2021. Mark your calendars.



*Ace of Diamonds, April 1, 2014*

**This is what we had hoped to be doing in April. Do you think the diamonds miss us?**

## Gem Fest

by Linda Schmidt Gall & Fred Haynes

On one hand cancelling this year's GemFest was a hard decision. Our annual show the first weekend in June is a glorious event for us. It is a time to renew friendships among ourselves as we set up and conduct our big event. It is a time to play our role in helping our vendors with their livelihood and passion. For many of them mineral shows are their most profitable ventures. And the most fun of all for many of us is to see families, in particular youngsters, enjoy the many events and craft opportunities we offer. It is very gratifying to see a youngster come to the front table with a completed scavenger hunt form and select his \$1 prize item. We lost count of how many grab bags went home from this activity last June.

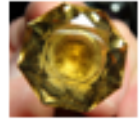
On the other hand it was an easy decision. Our show brings together folks from many regions into an arena setting where it is virtually impossible to expect adequate social distancing. And how do you tell everyone not to touch? Our craft activities seemed altogether impossible: soapstone carving, rock painting, and the sluice all involve hands-on activity and close proximity instruction. We certainly view the safety of our volunteer members, our vendors, and all our visitors to be of paramount importance. Collectively, it was clear: the prudent thing to do was to cancel the event.

We considered rescheduling to the early fall. But that would mean fitting into vendor schedules already being filled by rescheduled events and then re-advertising the event, all this assuming we could use our favorite venue or find another. No, that just did not seem best. The only viable option was to cancel and start planning for a bigger and better event in 2021. Mark your calendars for June 5-6, 2021. GemFest will be back.

We do not know when we can next meet to share our passion for minerals and our friendship again, so let's make sure we use the Facebook Page and this newsletter to remain in touch. If you put something onto the club Facebook page, it just might end up in the newsletter! And for those of you who do not use Facebook, just send me (Fred) a note. Pictures are great. This month we thank Ed Smith and Kathleen Cappon for doing just that.

## Faceting 101

by Ed Smith



What are the steps in cutting a gem stone? With time on my hands and a nice rough stone to demonstrate with, I decided to document the processes of choosing a gem pattern and a rough gem stone and then successfully cutting the rough into a finished gem.

But first, why do this at all? It would certainly be easier to simply buy a gem stone. Hobby gem cutters spend more time making points meet and accurately reproducing the designer's pattern. Most gems you see are made with a variety of skill, care and quality cutting. Remember, if you are cutting for a job, you get paid for the finished weight, more carats equal more money, and if it takes you less time you can cut more. Consequently some stones are cut at different angles than a designer intended in order to preserve more of the original rough. More finished weight means more money. Maybe you can blast through a stone fast. Who cares if the meets don't really meet perfectly?

I like to cut my own gem stones to see the light, the color and the sparkle in a finished stone, with all of that being my creation. To take a personally selected rough chunk and turn it into what the designer planned is a tremendous experiment and experience.

But enough words, let's get starting cutting a rough stone into a gem!

**Editor's Note:** Ed Smith has produced a wonderful document, complete with more than 50 photos, illustrating the full process of creating a 15.2mm, 12 carat light smoky quartz gem. It is too long for this newsletter, but you can find it and follow Ed's effort from start to finish on our webpage. Just click this link, [www.wcgmc.org/resources/Faceting101\\_Ed\\_Smith.pdf](http://www.wcgmc.org/resources/Faceting101_Ed_Smith.pdf) to learn (and see) how Ed turned the rough stone on the left into the polished gem on the right.





## Hedgerow Treasures

by Kathleen Cappon



Once in a while some of us rock hounds will come upon a few other finds in our obsessive search for unusual rocks. Some examples are: a drill bit in an old mine dump, an old farm tool dumped over the edge of a creek bed, even an arrowhead or a stone artifact. These finds may lead us into collecting objects other than just rocks.

I am going to write about some interesting items I have found in the hedgerows in what are called "Farm Dumps." From these isolated spots, I have found many antique bottles, jars, vaseline glass, farm tools, and horse shoes! In recent weeks, I expanded my search boundaries and gotten permission to walk the hedgerows of several older farms in Wayne County. I loaded the finds, including my beloved yard rocks, onto my sled and pulled them to the edge of the road to load and take home.

Before the days of trash pick-up or recycling, people in farm communities would collect their non-burnable trash and transport it to the back lot. Often the most convenient dumping area was the hedgerow where it would lie for many decades or more than a century.



**On the left:** a few examples of items found : a cobalt blue Milk of Magnesia bottle, a Valase milk glass cold cream jar, a Jergens lotion bottle, a Clicquot Club ginger ale bottle, and two of many horse shoes. **On the right** some hedgerow rocks I've hauled home over the years.

I know the locations of a half dozen of these "dumps" and have dug out some pretty nice collectibles over the years. I have also learned that if the farm house was built of ashlar stone, cobble stone or medina

stone, you were sure to find older things back in the dump!

Long ago, horses sometimes would lose a shoe while plowing or skidding rocks to the hedgerow. If one of the lost shoes was plowed up the next season, it was tossed to the edge of the field. The larger horseshoe in the picture is that of a draft horse who, most likely, pulled the huge glacial boulders to the hedgerow.

The green bottle in the picture is my favorite. It is a circa 1920 Clicquot Club ginger ale bottle. This bottling company was founded in 1881 by Henry Millis of Millis, Massachusetts. He first bottled sparkling cider that was named after a famous French champagne called "Clicquot". The company was later sold to Horace Kimball around 1902. Millis introduced the "Kleek-O" Eskimo boy holding a bottle of ginger ale. This unique advertising took off and the company did extremely well. The last name the company had later in the 60's was Cott Beverages. You can see an image of Kleek-O on the bottom of my bottle in the title box of this story.

There is a lot of history buried not only in farm dumps but in ancient dumps as far back as Roman times and even farther such as Neanderthal campsites. Objects found in these places, whether recent or very old, tell us a lot about the people connected with them.

Perhaps a million or so years into the future, a Galactic Rock and Mineral Club (GRMC) will beam their field trip group down to Earth. One of the "rock hound" members may find in layers of hardened ash and silt, not only fossils but a green glass object with a human-like figure holding that same artifact!



**Some of my finds this year.** I like the banded layered red sandstone and the coral in limestone on the left. That's my orange collecting sled in the back.

## Collecting Garnets

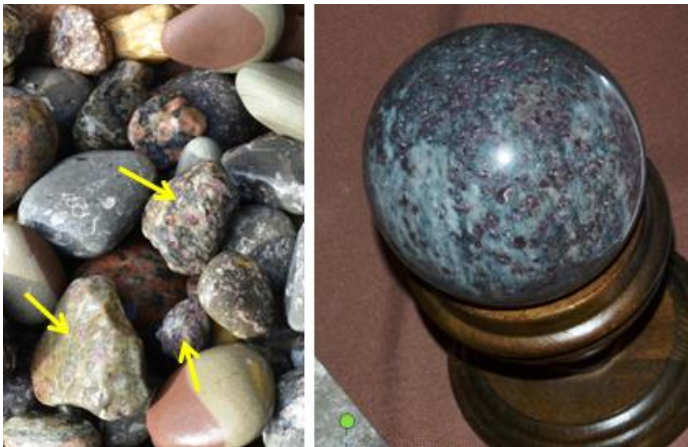
by Fred Haynes



We could not collect together or travel far in April and it appears May will be another month without a WCGMC field trip. But we certainly can reminisce a bit about past trips and finds. I've decided to do just that and with a focus. Let's think about where WCGMC has collected garnets. Not only is WCGMC "Always Looking for Places to Dig", but we are pretty good at finding them!

### New York

Of course, we should start in our own fine state, and perhaps in our own wonderful county. Several rocky beaches along Lake Ontario in Wayne County offer opportunities to collect garnets in rocks that have been carried to us by glaciers and left on the shoreline during storms. Some are fine rock specimens just as they are. Others are perfect for lapidary work.



**Lots of variety to choose from along Lake Ontario in Wayne County. Can you see the three garnet gneiss in the picture on the left?** Heidi Morgenstern found a much larger stone and won 2019 Best New York Mineral/Rock find with the polished sphere she created in our workshop.

Of course we can travel to the Adirondacks and find garnet that has not been moved by the glaciers. There are many locations with garnet, but one site WCGMC has ventured to on multiple occasions is the abandoned Hooper Mine site in North River. You won't likely find euhedral garnet here and you won't find gem quality, but if you like metamorphic rocks with large garnet porphyroblasts, this is a great site. Paradise, you might say, for folks seeking garden rocks. Just don't go during deer fly season; we made that tactical error in May, 2017.



**Hooper Mine:** Rob Webster was prepared for deer fly season with mosquito netting. On the right, my favorite Hooper Mine rock specimen of garnet gneiss, ~3" across.

### North Carolina:

On our November 2017 trip south, we visited Little Pine Garnet Mine in Marshall, North Carolina. The garnets there are hosted by a chlorite schist and they are large. Unfortunately, the surfaces are altered and all luster is gone, but some are really nice dodecahedrons.



**My best garnets from Little Pine, NC.** I collected the two on the right. The two on the left, including the largest one (2.5" across) were acquired during a trade from a Georgia collector who we met while on a field trip to Kentucky in 2018.

### Maine

Although tourmaline and other more exotic minerals get much of the attention from those who frequent the pegmatite mines in southern Maine, garnets are common there also. We collected them last summer at several locations, nice red pyrope garnets at Mount Apatite (both east and west locations) and other pegmatites. We even found andraditic garnet in a skarn (contact metamorphosed limestone) that had been blackened by uraninite coating. But my only truly photogenic Maine garnet was obtained by trade.

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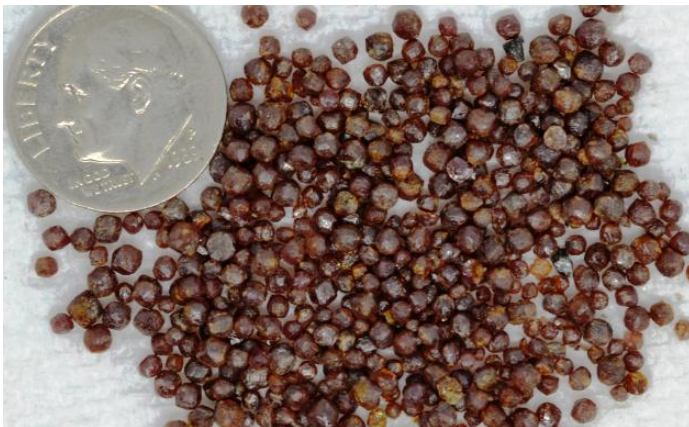


**Two almandine garnets from the Hedgehog Hill Quarry in Maine** obtained in a trade with Wanda Turcotte, who we met on a joint collecting day with the Maine Mineralogy Society last summer. It was a straight up garnet trade, these two for two similar garnets from River Valley, Ontario.

### Connecticut:

In the past, WCGMC visited Green's Farm in Roxbury. What a wonderful site, but, alas, that location has now been closed for several years. More recently, we have collected garnet in a couple of the pegmatites in the Meshomasic State Forest in central Connecticut (sites clubs can visit with permission from the state). But I'd like to feature an interesting find we made in a roadcut in Tolland, CT.

The Littleton schist is full of small (OK, tiny) 1-2 mm-sized bright red almandine garnets. It is believed that the garnets formed when the sedimentary and volcanic rock units were being metamorphosed to schist during the Acadian Orogeny (400-350 million years ago in the Devonian Period). At this time, when western New York was sitting beneath a shallow tropical inland sea and trilobites and brachiopods were enjoying themselves in and around coral reefs, very high mountains were building to our east. Subsequent erosion has exposed the metamorphic roots of these mountains.



**The Gerber Rd. roadcuts in Tolland, CT are site #9 on the [Connecticut Garnet Trail](#).** These small almandine crystals had weathered from the schist and were stuck in cracks and along the base of the steep roadcut walls.

### Massachusetts:

Most garnet in the northeast US and Canada is either almandine or pyrope or a bit of each. But at one site in Massachusetts the garnets are different. We visit Betts Manganese Mine in Plainfield, MA to seek out pink rhodonite, but there are garnets there also and they are also manganese-rich. They are spessartine, and although quite small, they are a worthy addition to anyone's garnet collection due to their unique composition.



**Honey-colored spessartine garnet integrown with quartz from the Betts Manganese Mine in Plainfield, MA.**

### Michigan:

Last summer, we poked around in the Iron Range west of Marquette and found small broken chlorite and/or chamosite replaced garnets on a couple of mine dumps near Nauganee. I saw enough to know I'd like to have a nice example, so when I saw one at the Copper Country Gem and Mineral Show later that week I added it to my collection. It is not self-collected, but it is a site I did visit!



Chamosite after almandine in a hematite schist from the Spurr Mtn. Mine in northern Michigan. The faces on this 1" garnet are perfect and display much better luster than this picture shows.

*continued on next page*



**Ontario:**

There are many garnet localities in Ontario, but two stand out in my collecting history. WCGMC has not been to the large open-pit iron quarry/mine in Marmora for several years. It was closed to collecting, then re-opened, but now closed again. But when we did visit we sure found garnet. The garnets there are andradites (calcium-iron) and were formed in limestone when diorite intrusions cooked and altered the limestone leaving magnetite worth mining and garnet/epidote/pyrite, etc. worth mineral collecting. The iron mine closed in 1979, but the dumps have been used for aggregate and when that was ongoing clubs could organize trips to the site.



**My favorite self-collected andradite garnet from Marmora is a 2" miniature with a tight cluster of crystals with a bit of quartz showing on one end.**

I have saved the best for last. For each of the past 4 years WCGMC has made sure that their Ontario collecting trip included a stop at River Valley northwest of North Bay. In fact a couple of years ago we stopped on the way to Cobalt and then again on the way back. The site is remote, it is bear country, and it is garnet heaven.



**A couple dozen River Valley almandine garnets and one lonely Canadian loony for scale.**

One can literally collect all the garnets one can carry in a few hours. From marbles to baseballs, they are hosted by biotite schist, which can be left as matrix or removed with a grinding wheel. I have done both and anyone who has attended a club meeting in the past few years has likely taken a few home with them. The glaciers are not the only transport mechanism for garnets to get from Ontario to New York.

**The WCGMC  
Sand Page**

**Garnets in  
Sand**

Sand collectors also love garnets and WCGMC member Mario Errico has been busy capturing them with his Nikon camera and stacking software.



**Mario obtained garnet-rich sand from Biddeford Pool, Maine from Leo Kenney and went to work picking out the individual 1-2mm-sized garnets.**



**And then because he could, Mario perched a single garnet grain/crystal from the Biddeford Pool sand atop two large foraminifera grains picked from a sand from Guam (also acquired from Leo Kenney). The largest foram is almost 4mm across.**



## Wayne County Gem and Mineral Club Schedule

*last update April 30*

As of May 1, there are no scheduled events on the WCGMC calendar. Man, does it hurt to have to say that. Like all of you we will be watching the early phases of the state and country re-opening and hoping that we can plan a summer trip or two and an August picnic. When Ace of Diamonds re-opens you can be sure we will let everyone know. But for now, health and safety dictate that we remain at home. This is unfortunate.....

.... just think of all the places we could go collecting if only we did not have to stay at home. =====>



## WCGMC Members Finding Ways to Keep Busy in April



Glenn Weiler prepped for Herkimer hunting by helping to demolish an old church.

03/31/2020



Karen Wilkins did some baking. I bet Jeff and Brody enjoyed these.



4/21/2020

It snowed on Bob Linderberg's truck in Elmira.



Teresa Ferris keeps polishing azurite.



Is that Rob Webster collecting garnets? Probably not, eh?



Eva Jan Weiler went to the beach for ice.

## 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 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**

