

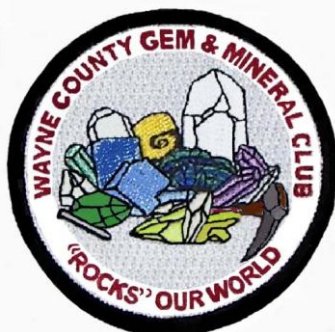
Wayne County Gem and Mineral Club News

May, 2014

Always Looking for Places to Dig!



Phacops rana from Penn-Dixie
Collected by Gary Thomas on Dig with the
Experts in 2013. Try your luck this May.



Website

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



Club members: join us at Alden on May 10th.
This pyritized ammonite and nodules on
matrix and cephalopods were dug at the site
by Linda Schmidt Gall in 2013.

Field Trips this Month

Saturday May 3, 2014

Dolomite Products Co. Inc. has announced that the annual Penfield Quarry Open House will be Saturday May 3rd from 7:00 AM to noon. They ask that all visitors arrive by 6:50 AM for sign-in and a safety briefing. Penfield Quarry is located at 746 Whalen Road.

All ages are welcome - children must be well-supervised & wear a bicycle helmet, safety glasses & sturdy footwear. Adults must wear a hard hat, safety glasses & sturdy footwear (steel-toed boots, although not required, are a good idea if you have them).

Saturday May 10, 2014 - Alden, NY

Our first 2014 visit to Spring Creek in Alden to dig for pyritized fossils (ammonites, cephalopods, trilobites) and nodules. The Middle Devonian Ludlowville shale is the host for these irresistible treasures. Expect water and mud. We will meet (and park) at the Dollar General store on Route 20 in Alden at 10:00 AM (see page 7).

Saturday May 17, 2014 Penn-Dixie Fossil Park

This famous site in Hamburg, NY is hosting its 10th annual "Dig with the Experts" day from 9 AM – 4 PM. For \$30 (\$25 for Penn-Dixie members) the paleontologists on staff will help you dig in a previously prepared area. Pre-registration is required for this event, but the rest of the site is open that day with \$7/adult, \$6/child digging fee. Visit <http://www.penndixie.org> for additional detail.

Saturday-Sunday May 31-June 1, 2014

This will be our first sojourn north to St. Lawrence County this year. We will visit Benson Mines in Star Lake, NY on Saturday and stop at skarn roadcuts in Fine NY in the late afternoon. After dark we will visit the Rose Road contact metamorphism zones with our black lights to scope out the scapolite and other minerals. For the hearty Greenwood Creek State Forest campground with limited facilities is just "across" the highway. Motels are scarce and fill fast so plan soon. After a night's rest we'll spend Sunday at Rose Road. The dumps at Valentine Mine can be visited in Harrisville if you have room on the way home.

At this time, we plan to convene at the IGA parking lot in Star Lake at 10:00 AM Saturday to meet our guide into Benson Mines, but all intending to go should contact either Bill Chapman or Fred Haynes to insure you learn of any updates in plans.

see Page 7 for more 2014 Field Trip news

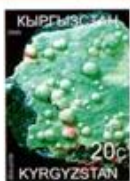
Next Meeting: May 9, 2014

7:00 PM, First Presbyterian Church, Newark, NY

Field Trip (reviews and planning) and Show news galore and then a presentation:

"Silicates Simplified" by David Millis

Come learn some interesting facts about this most common (and important) set of rock forming minerals



Mineral Musings by Fred Haynes



This past week I had the pleasure of attending the Rochester Mineralogical Symposium at the Rochester Radisson Motel and Conference Center. It was the 41st annual such event, but it was my first! What a fine way to welcome spring weather and add encouragement and motivation for an active collecting season. Imagine well over 200 mineral enthusiasts converging for three days to share mineral stories, discuss technical learnings, sell/buy minerals, and otherwise just enjoy the company of others in the hobby.

Invited talks included talks on famous locations in Europe (*The Cairngorms in Scotland* by Roy Starkey, *The Sulfur Mines of Sicily* by Dr. Renato Pagano, *The Volodarsk Chamber Pegmatites of Ukraine* by Peter Lyckberg, *The Branchville Pegmatite of Connecticut* by Ted Johnson, and *The Mount Antero Pegmatites in Colorado* by Mark Jacobson. You may be familiar with that last one, a site that has been publicized of late by the Prospectors TV show on the Weather Channel. These talks included much more than minerals, and in most the historic information or personal experiences shared was every bit as interesting as the geology and mineralogy.

Sections of the meeting are also devoted to shorter submitted papers, many by graduate

students studying mineralogy or related topics. The best student paper was awarded to Sean Kelly from Miami University of Ohio for an excellent talk on apatite halogen chemistry

The keynote address Thursday evening was a humorous discussion entitled "Grenville Grunge – Dispelling the Myth". Canadian Michael Bainbridge "examined this self-deprecating tendency local folks seem to delight in perpetuating" by highlighting some of the finer specimens the region around Bancroft has produced. And, of course, a highlight of the show was the annual one hour presentation of "What's New in Minerals" by Jeff Scovil, wonderful not only for the terrific geographically organized review of new finds, but also for the stunning photography Jeff produces of the specimens.

As if the talks and technical sessions were not enough a full floor of the Radisson was devoted to dealers where quality mineral specimens were available for purchase. Add auctions (both silent and called) and the chance to meet both local and worldwide collectors for a fully packed mineral event unlike any other. It was my first RMS, but it will not be my last. Those of us fortunate to live so close to such an event are most fortunate. If you have any interest in the mineralogy, the geology or the history behind the world's more famous collecting sites, you may wish to mark April 23rd-26th on your 2015 calendar and consider attending.

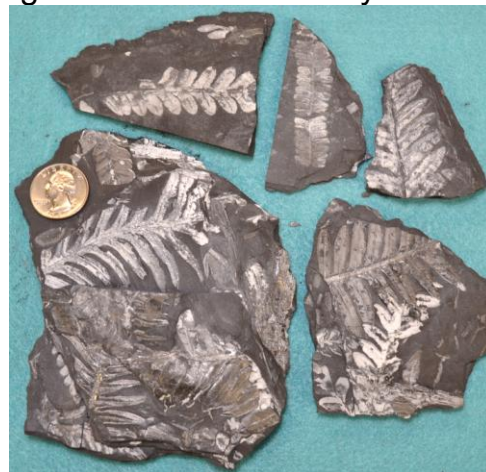
More scenes from our April trip to Pennsylvania. See page 3-4 for "the full story".



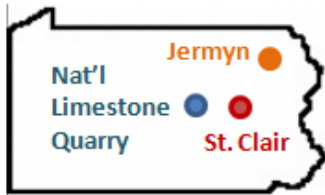
Upon cleaning, Andrew Zioto discovered a doubly terminated quartz crystal amongst two sizes of wavellite balls. Photo by A. Zioto



Bill Lesniak is about to do a little "trimming" of a travertine specimen at Middlebury Quarry.



Examples of the Pennsylvanian age pyrophyllite decorated fern fossils from St. Clair.



SITE OF THE MONTH

By Fred Haynes

Wavellite and more in Pennsylvania

Technically, Mount Pleasant Mills is not in New York, but I am going to claim editor's license to divert this month's "Site of the Month" south of the border and to invoke multiple sites. You see, on April 12th and 13th, thirteen Wayne County Club members gathered up their passports and headed south across the border in search of warmer weather and mineral/fossil treasure. We found both!

With temperatures well into the 70's, the group converged on National Limestone Quarry in Mount Pleasant Mills where we were cheerfully greeted by the quarry owner Eric Stahl, who had cleared the road to the ridge atop the quarry in anticipation of our visit. Up we went, backing in the final section until we were all lined up adjacent to one of the wavellite spots atop the hill and collecting commenced.



It may not appear impressive, but for many years this roadcut and a few others like it along the dirt road capping the ridge have been visited by collectors from near and far seeking yellow green wavellite balls. There is ample wavellite everywhere, but most fractures have insufficient aperture to permit full balls of wavellite to grow and exposed fracture surfaces show radiating sprays or broken crystals. In addition, every surface is also coated with dust and stained with iron oxide. Washing is generally required to evaluate the nature and color of the wavellite. Fortunately, it is a short walk to the cars and material that looks promising can be easily loaded for cleaning once home.

Wavellite is a hydrated aluminum phosphate and it is precipitated from groundwaters as they percolate downward through the fractured Silurian siliceous sandstone. The source of the phosphate is not completely clear, but virtually all fracture surfaces show some evidence of the mineral and the color seems to deepen a bit with depth. There is little doubt that the tree and soil covered ridge behind the "miners" in the picture hides many a precious wavellite seam for future generations of collectors. Let us all hope that the site remains accessible to Wayne County Club and other collecting clubs.

Folks may bring better specimens to the May meeting once they have scrubbed them and I may even find better once I completely clean and perhaps split my pieces to expose additional fracture surfaces, but at this point, the small cabinet specimen depicted below is my "best of species." It certainly illustrates the color and character of the fracture coating phosphate.



Wavellite from National Limestone Quarry.

The sandstone is also home to an interesting suite of Silurian fossils. Several species of brachiopods, occasionally coated by wavellite were found and Scott Jones scored a really nice full gastropod.

Mid-afternoon we descended into the limestone quarry in search of calcite and stronthianite.



National Limestone Quarry, Mount Pleasant Mills, Pa.

After getting our fill of drusy calcite, but no vug-filling stronthianite, we decided to drive the 12 miles to visit National Limestone's second quarry in Middleburg. There we found some nice purple fluorite color floating in the white calcite. No free standing crystals, but the color is intense. Orange calcite formed as travertine within a cave exposed during the quarrying was the big find in the late afternoon. A couple large pieces displaying multiple 2-3" diameter stalactite growth rested defiantly along the quarry walls. Two were reduced to manageable size and winched onto vehicles for transport north of the border. The team effort is captured below!

Sunday was a day for fern fossils. For those who have not been to St. Clair, Pa. the Pennsylvanian age Llewellyn Formation there is noted for its fern fossils. Fern leaf and stalks alike settled into low oxygen muddy lacustrine environments where they were covered by fine black sediment. During burial they were pyritized, but upon uplift and oxidation the

pyrite has been replaced by pyrophyllite, a bright white hydrated aluminum silicate. The hillside near St. Clair is literally covered with them and digging for more requires a mere rock pick.



Fern fossils in the Llewellyn shale, St. Clair, NY

On to Jermyn (north of Scranton) in the late afternoon to collect larger fern and tree fossils of the same geologic age.. The Lycopodiophyta (sometimes called Lycopods) are common in the Pennsylvanian Period and are often found preserved adjacent to coal seams and hence in coal mine dumps such as those in Jermyn.

And when it was all over, everyone filled up with cheap(er) Pennsylvania gas and we passed through customs back into New York.. All were tired and perhaps sore, but very happy with their new possessions. Ask Linda Schmidtgal to see the largest travertine piece in it's new home.

Glenn Weiler, Susie Hoch, Bill Chapman, Linda Schmidtgal, and Jerry Donahue working together.



Preparation

Measurement

Lifting ...

Job is Complete

EFMLS Wildacres Fall Workshop

If you have ever thought of attending an Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies (EFMLS) Wildacres workshop, this year may be your chance. As of this week, there are still openings available in their one week fall event scheduled for September 1-7. At an elevation of 3,300; Wildacres is situated on Pompey's Knob, just off the Blue Ridge Parkway in Little Switzerland, North Carolina.

A week at an EFMLS Wildacres Workshop includes room & board, all classes and lectures for only \$350 per person. Over 60% of the cost of attending Wildacres is underwritten through the generosity of the Blumenthal Foundation. For a complete list of the lectures and learning opportunities at the event, check out their website <http://efmls-wildacres.org/>.

Note, the EFMLS is an organization of over 100 gem, mineral, and lapidary clubs throughout the eastern United States.

35th Annual Champlain Valley Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Show

July 26th -27th 10:00AM – 5:00 PM

**Tuttle Middle School
500 Dorset Street
South Burlington, VT**

<http://www.burlingtongemandmineralclub.org/>

48th Annual Syracuse Mineral, Fossil and Jewelry Show

Sat. July 12th 10:00AM – 6:00 PM

Sun. July 13th 10:00AM – 4:00 PM

**SRC Arena and Events Center
4585 West Seneca Turnpike, Syracuse**

**Featuring: Minerals and Fossils of
the Lockport Formation**

Wayne County Gem & Mineral Club

Gem Fest 2014

Sat. June 7 10-5

Sun. June 8 10-4

(Former) St. Michael's School
Rt. 88 (320 S. Main St.), Newark, NY



\$3 Admission Kids 12 & under Free

Youth Programs

Cubs-Boy Scouts Sat. 1-2

Girl Scouts/4H Sun. 1-2

Hands-On Activities

Soapstone Carving

Wirewrapping

UV Bob's Ultraviolet Show

Gems, Minerals, Fossils, Beads & Jewelry

map and more program info on reverse

WCGMC – Always Looking for Places to Dig
visit <http://www.wcgmc.org/> for details

Gem Fest 2014

Sat. June 7 10-5 Sun. June 8 10-4



UV Bob's Ultraviolet Light Show
3 shows on Sat. and 2 on Sun.

Lectures:

Sat. 11AM Dave Millis "Silicates Simplified"

Sun. 11AM Fred Haynes "Minerals on Stamps"

Displays by club members young and old.

**WCGMC - We dig
all summer !**



WCGMC at Ace of Diamonds on Opening Day, April 1, 2014



Yes, it was April. No, the snow was not all gone. But what a glorious start to the Herkimer season. Eleven WCGMC members ventured east for opening day.



Not all the clear crystals were diamonds. Some were melting !



Linda Schmidtgall is about to get a new supply of diamonds. Can you see Susie Hoch behind her?



Fred Haynes' "diamond" chain



EvaJane's 2" matrix keeper



Andrew Zioto mining a diamond

Wayne County Gem and Mineral Club 2014 Field Trip Schedule

last update (4/29)

This list is tentative and subject to change. As the spring/summer progresses, updates will be provided in the monthly newsletter, on the website, and at club meetings. You can always contact our leader, Bill Chapman, if you are uncertain whether you have the latest information.

This month's activities are in red. Don't forget the monthly evening meeting on Friday May 9th.

May 3 (Saturday) – Penfield Quarry Open House, 746 Whalen Road, Penfield

7:00 AM – noon (arrive by 6:50 AM for safety briefing) Collect fluorite, dolomite, calcite, selenite, celestite, sphalerite and more

May 10 (Saturday) – Alden, NY for pyrite nodules and pyritized fossils Leader – Bill Chapman

Meet at Dollar General in Alden. If you need help finding the site from there, Bill Chapman will lead folks in at 10:00 AM. Arrive whenever you choose if you know the trail to the creek.

May 17 (Saturday) - Penn-Dixie Fossil Park, Hamburg, NY Leader – Gary Thomas

Dig with the Experts, \$30 fee (\$25 for members) for details: www.penndixie.org or 716-627-4560

May 31-June 1 - (Sat-Sun) - St. Lawrence County Trip #1 Leaders – Fred Haynes, Bill Chapman

Benson Mines on Saturday, Rose Road in Pitcairn on Sat. night & Sunday, (see page 1 for more info)

June 21-22 (Sat-Sun) – St. Lawrence County Trip #2 Leader – Fred Haynes

Selleck Road (tremolite, fluor-uvite), Powers Farms (dravite), and probably more

June 29 (Sunday) - date preserved for a location to be determined, perhaps a return to Alden?

July 19 (Saturday) – Canandaigua Lake excursion, multiple sites, very kid friendly

WE WON'T STOP HERE, but for now this is what is tentatively slated for 2014

SHOWS and OTHER EVENTS TO KEEP ON YOUR RADAR**JUNE 7-8 OUR SHOW IN NEWARK**

July 12-13 Syracuse Rock and Mineral Club, Syracuse

July 31- Aug 1-2 Bancroft Jamboree, Bancroft, Ontario, Canada

Aug 8-10 Springfield, MA Gem and Mineral Show

Aug 22-24 St. Lawrence County Club Show, Madrid, NY

**Another group photo from our Pennsylvania trip**

The shadows are lengthening as the group gathers for a last look in Middlebury Quarry, PA on April 12th. The travertine lift (see page 4) is about to begin!

Sterling Hills Super Dig

The lunatic blonde and the three stooges that went to the Super Dig in Franklin, NJ report that they had a very successful weekend. They came back with buckets full of glow stones, boxes of minerals from the Sterling Hill sales and more from the Franklin Mineral Show. The only thing they were missing and low on, was funds to pay for gas and meals.

Wayne County Gem & Mineral ContactsGlenn Weiler – President gwexterior@gmail.com

315-594-8478

Jerry Donahue – VP Chester145322@yahoo.com

585-548-3200

Eva Jane Weiler – Secretary gwexterior@gmail.com

315-594-8478

Bill Lesniak – Treasurer/Webmaster

Dirtman300@aol.com 315-483-8061**Board of Directors**Ken Rowe gotrox88@localnet.com 315-331-1438Susie Hoch smhrockfinder@rocketmail.com

585-794-7287

Linda Schmidtgall lees@tds.net 315-365-2448Laurie Frey lmcfaul328@aol.com 315-483-9894

Bill Chapman – Field Trip Chair

batnpill@empacc.net

607-868-4649

Fred Haynes – Newsletter Editor

fredmhaynes55@gmail.com

585-203-1733

Club meets 2nd Friday of each month.

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

Mark your calendar:**June 7-8, 2013**

Wayne County Gem and Mineral Club Show

St. Michael's School, Newark NY

Want to help? Call Pat Chapman (607-868-4649)

The Public is always welcomed
First Class: Date, Meetings & Time Valued



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