

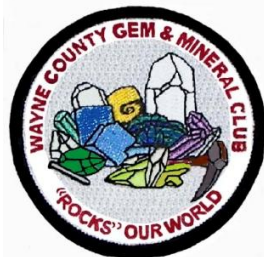
Wayne County Gem and Mineral Club News

November, 2018

Always Looking for Places to Dig!



SAND – (see page 3)



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



Meet Our New President: Linda Schmidt Gall
(see page 2)

WCGMC Next Club Meeting Friday Nov 9, 2018

Presbyterian Church, Maple Court, Newark, NY

THE KEWEENAW: ITS MINES AND MINERALS, THEN AND NOW



Jim Hird, Wayne County Gem and Mineral Club Talk Fall 2018

Jim Hird is visiting western New York from his home state of West Virginia and will tell us all about the mines and minerals of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Jim grew up in western New York before earning Mechanical Engineering and Mining Engineering degrees from Michigan Tech. While there, he fell in love with the Upper Peninsula and despite a career as an engineer in the coal mines of West Virginia, he has returned to the UP whenever he can. His license plate in West Virginia says it all. It is WVYOOPER. Jim is a full-fledged Yooper and he'll share his enthusiasm with us at our November meeting.

November WCGMC Workshop Saturday November 10th

When: 10:00 AM til mid-afternoon

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

Rules: Bring your own rocks

Training on equipment is available.

Eye protection is required.

\$5/adult to offset maintenance costs.

WCGMC Officers for 2018-2020

President: Linda Schmidt Gall

Vice President: Fred Haynes

Treasurer: Bill Lesniak

Secretary: Debbie Breeze

Board of Directors:

Bob Linderberg (for 2 years)

Heidi Morgenstern (for 2 years)

Holly Ann Woodworth (for 1 year)

Gary Thomas (for 1 year)

Past President Glenn Weiler will remain on the board for two years as Past President.

WCGMC thanks all "retiring" officers for their service to the club. None are going anywhere, just stepping aside for others to volunteer.

President's Message

Linda Schmidtgal



Wow, WCGMC President, such an honor and such a responsibility. I hope I do not let you down. The appointment brings back memories and causes me to reflect. How did this all happen? Where did my love or rocks come from?

We have to go back a few years (OK, decades) to when I first got hooked on rocks. In the mid 80's and for the next 20 years my husband and I traveled all over North America. But we did it a little different than most tourists. We looked for it to be more of an adventure. From 2 weeks to a month every year we traveled by motorcycle. My husband would do the driving and I told him where to go!!!

We have been in 48 of 50 states, 10 of 13 Canadian Provinces, and Northern Mexico on the motorcycle. We visited 32 National Parks. Our longest trip was to Alaska at 9,950 miles. Rocks were everywhere. Every time I could, I picked up a rock and found a space in the saddlebags to bring it home. Space was restricted, but I was getting hooked.

Then, in 2006 we took a couple trips to North Dakota with a pickup and brought home about 3,000 lbs of petrified wood (from private land!). The largest weighed in at 700 lbs. I have fashioned my gardens around my collection of "wood".



The larger piece of North Dakota petrified wood in front of Linda weighs 700 pounds!

The beauty that is in our country is jaw dropping. Every place was exciting and memorable. It would rain some everyday in Alaska. In Denver we were chased out by a snow storm that was behind us a couple hours for 2 days. In all those miles we only had one break down in Nova Scotia that delayed us a day and no near accidents. Also in Canada we saw the rear end of a moose a lot closer than we considered comfortable. In Alaska two bear cubs blocked the road while playing and we knew mama had to be close by so we just waited until they toddled off and we could travel on safely.

Every picture holds a thousand words with the incredible rocks, formations, and beautiful colors but that would make this story a little long. I wanted to bring them all home but had to settle for one at special locations. I would mail home rocks with clothes wrapped around them. To look back, I would like to have toured California more extensively since there is so much there but that will have to wait for my next life, I guess. Though we still own our motorcycles, we haven't taken a trip in many years.....bad knees. Now when we go it is in a more conventional vehicle and I can bring home lots and lots of rocks.

Some people look at rockhounds as if we are crazy. ROCKS???? Maybe we are a bit goofy at times, but when we are collecting we are enjoying nature's beauty. At 70 years old I am trying to keep moving and keep looking for that beauty. Although I have to admit when I am carrying a heavy backpack that is full of rocks, I have thought that my other collection would be a lot easier – antique buttons. They are a whole lot easier to carry. Buttons/Rocks? Buttons/Rocks? Buttons/Rocks??? I will have to stay with both, I guess.





Collecting In-Between

By Jim Rienhardt



Rock to sand to rock: Rock collectors collect on both ends. So do I, but I also collect from the middle – the sand. And, I am not alone. There are many, many people who collect sand and have tens of thousands of samples. But why, isn't sand uninteresting? The same may be said by someone who doesn't understand collecting rocks.



Take a close look. Those tiny grains are rocks in themselves. Some are individual minerals. Some are broken shells, sea urchin pieces, forams, maybe even shark's teeth to name a few. The sand on the left is biogenic, the grains of the middle sand are well rounded, and the beach sand on the right contains both mineral grains and biogenics.

All of it tells a story. Chances are that the rock and mineral pieces started out somewhere far away. A book by Michael Welland, [*"Sand, The Never-Ending Story"*](#), traces the journey of a grain of sand from the ice age in the Adirondack Mountains to the Chesapeake Bay and on to the Atlantic Ocean. Another book to consider is [*"A Grain of Sand: Nature's Secret Wonder"*](#) by Gary Greenberg. The three dimensional microphotography of sand in this publication is fantastic.

Sand viewed as a whole in any one place has a particular color and texture. When samples of these sands are brought together and displayed the differences are obvious: from white through the rainbow to black in color, from very fine-grained to coarse. Some collectors also collect what someone familiar with the nomenclature would not classify as sand. Geologists define sediments based on grain size using the Wentworth Scale. Material between 1/16th of a mm to 2mm in diameter are defined as

sand-sized particles. Smaller particles are called silt, and larger ones are called gravel. To "officially" be a sand deposit, over 80% of the grains present should fall into the sand size range, however, the grain sizes can be very different in any sample and the sand can be classified further by how well sorted it is. Silt and small pebbles (up to 5mm) samples are also collected, making the collection more diverse – and more interesting.

While most sand collectors start out with samples from their travels, eventually they discover other collectors and begin trading. Along with what friends bring from travels and the trades, a collection begins to grow and can become quite large. A magically growing collection is not news to rock and fossil collectors. The difference is that the sand samples take up less space and are easier to display. Avid collectors have thousands of samples and may have whole rooms devoted to their collections.



How sand is displayed is as varied as the collectors. My collection is in 15ml vials with cork tops. I like the way it looks and the small containers are easy to transport when I do educational sessions.

Like my collection, some collectors use all consistent sized containers and display them on shelves or custom built racks. Others use random bottles and jars. Some of the most creative displays I have seen

(continued on next page)

are shadow box frames with a picture of the collection site and sand with shells or stones from the same place. Others may use flat coin boxes and store them in drawers

Unlike rocks and minerals, sand is not sold. Collectors are adamant that sand samples be traded, not sold, and anyone suggesting selling sand in one of the many Facebook groups is quickly chastised. Some active sand collector Facebook groups are [Sand Collectors United](#), [Sand Collectors](#), and [Sand Swappers Only](#). Check these groups to see how active they are and view examples of some collections. There are also many websites devoted to the hobby of sand collecting. On the web visit: <http://www.sand-atlas.com>, (The Sand Atlas) or <https://sandcollectors.org>, The International Sand Collectors Society.

A German collector with over 7000 samples has a wonderful website:

<https://www.sand.world/sand-sammlung/index>.

Be sure to click "EN" in the upper right corner for the English version of the site. There are many more, but these will give a good idea of how extensive the hobby is and how diverse sand can be. Some of the more interesting samples you may see are pictures of glass sand and star sand.

In contrast to trying to ship quantities of rocks, shipping sand domestically is simple enough. Small plastic bags containing the usual trade amount of 30 ml can be stuffed into USPS Priority Mail boxes and shipped for a very reasonable price. International rates, even to Canada, are, however, expensive. The same box shipped within the US for \$7 is \$24 to send out of the country. Regardless of the cost, avid collectors are willing to spend a fair amount on shipping to expand their collection. My first box in the mail contained about 20 samples from a collector in Canada who sent them just to help get me started.

My modest collection only contains 260 samples currently. This grows by leaps now and then when I receive a package from a collector friend in Washington State or Portugal. My nephew, who I inspired to start collecting, says he has another 270 samples for me! Time to build a new display case!

Sand is everywhere. Beaches may be the first thought, but sand mounds and sand mines are abundant also. I found a sand deposit across the road from Raquette Lake in the Adirondacks that appeared to be a glacial kame that was primarily granite sand in composition.

Even though my collection is small, I have sand from all over the world and many colors and textures. Keep sand collectors in mind when traveling. Collect a cup full or so and put it in a Zip-loc™ bag with collection site information. I would be glad to take it off your hands, unless you get the sand bug yourself. (Jim Rienhardt: siderious@gmail.com)

For anyone interested, Jim will be giving a talk on a completely different topic at a November session of DEAR (Daytime Education at Recreation) in Penfield.

Threats from Space: NEOs and PHOs

Jim Rienhardt, NASA JPL Solar System Ambassador

Reg. No.	Day	Date	Time	Fee
466410-15	Thu	Nov 15	11:00AM-12:30PM	Free
1 class				Penfield Community Center

In June of 2018, The United States National Science and Technology Council issued the NATIONAL NEAR-EARTH OBJECT PREPAREDNESS STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN. NEOs, Near Earth Objects, and PHOs, Potential Hazardous Objects, are asteroids, meteoroids and comets. Learn about these objects, the potential hazards, and what is being done to mitigate threats. Impact crater samples on loan from the Planetary Science Institute and Jim's personal meteorite samples will be available to view.

Registration is required. Visit Penfieldrec.org



October Workshop Scenes



ROCKS FROM THE SKY “AMAZING GEOLOGY”



Those of you who frequent the Geologyin.com webpage, or who are members of the Facebook Group “Amazing Geology” may have seen these stories in mid-October. It is a lesson in always keeping your eye on the rocks around you. Or perhaps to watch the sky for falling rocks!

[Extracted from October 16 Geologyin.com:](http://Geologyin.com)

A rock that was being used as a barn doorstep on a farm in Michigan is actually a massive meteorite worth over \$100,000. The sixth largest meteorite recorded in Michigan has just been rediscovered.



This 22-lb. (10 kilograms) meteorite is believed to have touched down in the 1930s.

The owner said he noticed the rock holding a door open at a farm he was about to buy in Edmore in 1988. He said the farmer told him it was a meteorite that plunged to Earth in the 1930s – making “a heck of a noise when it hit” — and that he and his dad dug out the still-warm rock from a crater they found the next morning.

Earlier this year he was reading about Michigan residents searching for meteorites and decided to bring his space rock to Central Michigan University for evaluation. Professor Mona Sirbescu examined the oddly shaped rock and found it to be composed of 88% iron and 12% nickel. This determination has been verified by scientists at the Smithsonian Institute and now there are multiple museums vying to own the rare meteorite.

Moral of this story: check out all those unusual rocks hanging around as door stops at estate sales.

And just one day later, [from October 17 Geologyin.com](http://Geologyin.com)

A 30,800-kilogram meteorite unearthed in Argentina in 2016 is purported to be the second largest meteorite ever found on earth. The iron-nickel meteorite was uncovered in Campo del Cielo (meaning "Field of Heaven") in an area on the border between the provinces of Chaco and Santiago del Estero, or about 1000 km northwest of Buenos Aires..



The Argentina meteorite has been named Canceledo, after the closest town to its discovery location.

This surreal region of northern Argentina is blistered with meteorite craters - at least 26 cover an area of just 3 km by 19.2 km (1.8 x 11.9 miles). The region is thought to have been impacted by a powerful meteor shower between 4,200 and 4,700 years ago. To date, over 100 tons of space debris have been excavated from the site.

Moral of this story: This one is too big for Glenn's truck. Let's find one like the Michigan one.

Reference: Two October entries on the Facebook Group webpage of “Amazing Geology” and on the webpage Geologyin.com.

compiled by F. Haynes



One final word on large meteorites: Just in case you were wondering, the undisputed king of Earth-based meteorites is a 66-ton whopper called Hoba, excavated in Namibia in 1920. The Hoba meteorite has been fully uncovered from its resting place in the Otjozondjupa Region of Namibia, however due to its size, it has never been removed. It's thought to have slammed into Earth some 80,000 years ago. Incidentally, the Hoba meteorite is located less than 50 miles from the world famous mineral location of Tsumeb. Namibia was known as South West Africa (SWA) until becoming an independent nation in 1968.

Herkimers Go Royal

One of our favorite mineral collecting haunts received international attention this past month. It happened on October 12th at the royal wedding of Princess Eugenie at Windsor Castle. Meghan Markle, just five months after her wedding to Prince Harry, wore a new set of custom jewelry consisting solely of Herkimer "diamonds" set in 18 karat yellow gold. The ensemble included four rings, one bracelet, and a pair of earrings.



Some of Meghan Markle's royal wedding Herkimer jewelry. [from People.com](https://www.fox.com/story/entertainment/2018/10/12/meghan-markle-royal-wedding-jewelry-herkimer-quartz/5344444002/)

The designer, Pippa Small, referred to the Herkimer quartz crystals as "uneven, imperfect stones that are neither cut nor polished; they are very organic, simple and pure".

Maybe that is why we like them too!



Coincidentally, or perhaps not, WCGMC held its final collecting 2018 trip to the Herkimer region (Ace of Diamonds) that same weekend, on October 13th. I imagine a lot of ring and earring sized crystals were obtained, but Bob Linderberg went home with one that would not fit most jewelry. For those of us who like matrix pieces, this is called a keeper!

Wayne County Gem and Mineral Club 2018 Schedule *last update October 27*

Halloween is upon us and Thanksgiving will be here before the next newsletter, but that also means field season for us northerners has pretty much come to an end. Oh, Lake Ontario is still there for the hearty and minerals from the sky have yet to cover the fossil sites of western New York, but as I write this on October 25th, we are told to expect a "nor'easter" with cold rain this weekend. We do have four more indoor events for 2018 and hope to see lots of folks at each.

November 9th – Monthly meeting in Newark
Program: Jim Hird: **(The Keweenaw: Its Mines and Minerals, Then and Now)**

November 10th - Saturday monthly workshop (see page 1)

December 14th - Our annual Christmas and Holiday Rock Bash: (6:30 PM or come earlier to help)
More details in next newsletter, but it's basically you bring a dish to pass and club will provide meats and drinks and fun and more. We are adding a table in the back for all to bring those extra rocks collected this year for others to share. A chance to clean out the garage while helping others fill theirs!

December 15th Saturday workshop

A Busy October: Field Trips, Minerals, Fossils, a Meeting, and a Rock Sale



Wayne County Gem & Mineral Contacts

ELECTED OFFICERS (NEWLY ELECTED)

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 Debbie Breeze – Secretary
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 Bill Lesniak – Treasurer/Webmaster
Dirtman300@aol.com 315-483-8061

Board of Directors

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 Bob Linderbery bootmanblues@gmail.com
 Heidi Morgenstern morgensternheidi@rocketmail.com
 Holly Ann Woodworth autum14513@yahoo.com

Past President Glenn Weiler gwexterior@gmail.com

Visit us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1675855046010058/>

APPOINTED POSITIONS

Bill Chapman – Field Trip Chair
batnpill@empacc.net 607-868-4649
 Fred Haynes – Newsletter Editor
fredmhaynes55@gmail.com 585-203-1733

Bill Lesniak – Website Coordinator
 Glenn Weiler – Workshop Coordinator
 Linda Schmidtgall – Collection Curator
 Eric Elias: GEMFEST Show Chair
thecrystalnetwork@hotmail.com
 Fred Haynes – Facebook Administrator

Club meets 2nd 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

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