

Wayne County Gem and Mineral Club News

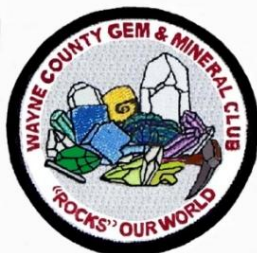


November, 2021

Always Looking for Places to Dig!



Have you been to our workshop?



<http://www.wcgmc.org>

FACEBOOK link



Do you know what this is? See page 5

Next Club Meeting

Friday **November 12th**, 7:00 PM.

Park Presbyterian Church,
Maple Court, Newark, NY

Program:

A FOSSIL EXTRAVAGANZA

- A presentation on Echinoderms by **Stephen Mayer** (see page. 3)
- Fossil show and tell by **Kathleen Cappon** who has returned from Florida (see page 4)
- Fossil giveaways from the club collection
- Fossil displays by all members who want to bring something to show others

Kid's Program: Have you heard of a rock turkey? Holly Woodworth will help kids make their own. Bring a rock if you have a favorite, but the club will have some also.



CHRISTMAS PARTY WILL BE FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10th See more on page 2.
Please sign up.

Saturday Club Workshops

November 13th & December 4th
(10:00AM until mid-afternoon)

Where: 6676 E. Port Bay Rd, Wolcott, NY

A mask must be worn when

Inside the shop.

Eye protection is required.

Training on equipment is available.

\$5/adult to offset maintenance costs.

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**Congratulations to our newly
elected club officers:**

WCGMC Election Results

President: James Keeler

Vice President: Holly Woodworth

Treasuer: Bill Lesniak

Secretary: Beth Webster

Board of Directors

One Year Term: Heidi Morgenstern

Bob Linderberry

Two Year Term: Karen Wilkins

Ed Smith

Past President: Linda Schmidtgal



First off, I'd like to thank everyone for giving me the opportunity to serve WCGMC as its next president. I've gained a tremendous amount of knowledge, enjoyment, and camaraderie from the club as a member; in no small part due to the excellent leadership and member participation that has shaped WCGMC into the club it is today. I have some very large shoes to fill, but will endeavor to continue to maintain the spirit of the club so that all members will continue to have the great experiences that I've enjoyed.

One of my guiding principles is that leadership exists to serve club members, so I look forward to hearing your suggestions for how we can best provide you with the resources, knowledge, and opportunities to help grow your love of this hobby. We have a lot of members with different backgrounds and perspectives and some things will be easier to implement than others. I cannot promise that every request or desire can be accomplished but I will do my best to take all feedback into consideration and try to incorporate those elements when possible.

I would also love to hear from people who would be interested in taking a more active role in club operations. There is a lot of work that goes into making everything fun and functional. I'd be particularly interested in hearing from folks who are willing to help with field trip planning and coordination. We have had many excellent trips in recent years but it's a job that takes a lot of time and effort; so if we could spread the load, we could have more field trips while also building and growing the skillset and experience required to be a field trip leader among more members. Fred is still planning to be involved, and I plan to orchestrate and lead one field trip per year myself since our trips are one of my favorite parts of the club, but the more people we can get involved the lighter the load is on the rest of us. If you're interested, let me know!

We have a great talk on echinoderms planned for this month's meeting to be given by Stephen Mayer. If you missed his previous presentation on

eurypterids, you missed a fascinating and informative presentation. Stephen has done an excellent job preparing fossil specimens and has been involved in some scholarly analysis in the field as well, but don't let that scare you away from his talk. He makes the information accessible and entertaining so that we can all learn about the history and fascinating specimens left behind by the creatures that existed long before humans arrived on the planet.

I've been delighted to see the turnout increasing from the first in-person General Meeting we had in September to even more attendees in October. I'm hoping we'll continue to see the participation level ramp up to pre-COVID levels as the comfort level and awareness that we're back in full operation increases. We survived the deepest part of the COVID crisis (many thanks to the club officers for finding ways to keep us going!) and were able to have some careful gatherings, but we always have so much more fun when we're enjoying our passion for rocks, minerals, gems, and fossils together!

Thank you again for giving me this chance to give back to the club and I look forward to the next two years of keeping WCGMC the vibrant and enjoyable club that it's been for all of us!

James

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT: WCGMC has rented the Marbleton Fire Hall (6416 Silver Hill Rd in Newark) for our annual Christmas party and banquet. The event will be on Friday evening December 10th and will include all the normal festivities. Linda Schmidtgal is the "party planner" again this year so you can rest assured it will be an event you will not want to miss.

Details will follow, but for now, we are asking folks to sign up for the party by sending a note to Fred Haynes (fredmhaynes55@gmail.com) with the number of folks from your family that will be attending. The club will provide meat and drinks and those who attend are asked to bring a dish or dessert to share.

Mark your calendar and send Fred a note.

Echnioderms

WCGMC November
Meeting Program

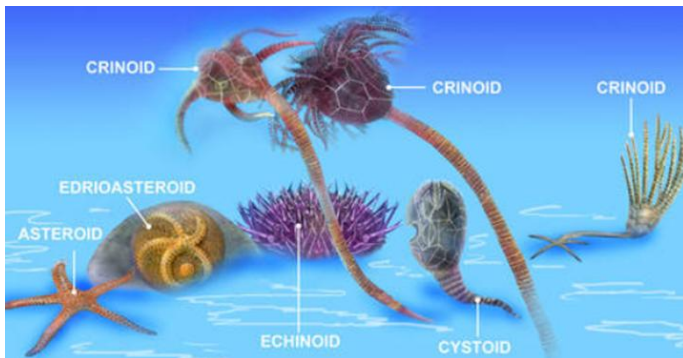


Abstract by Stephen Mayer

Echinodermata comprise one of the eleven phyla of the kingdom Animalia. Ancestral forms first appeared during the Early Cambrian and diversified through millions of years of evolution. They occupied all marine environments and scientists recognize approximately 13,000 extinct species as well as 7,000 species living today. The phylum can be further subdivided into another 11 major classes and subclasses¹ which include the Eocrinoidea, Paracrinoidea, Carpoidea, Echinoidea, Asteroidea, Ophiuroidea, Edrioasteroidea, Cystoidea, Blastoidea, Crinoidea and Holothuroidea. All share similar characteristics that separate this phylum from other clades.

As part of a Fossil Extravaganza at the November meeting, an overview will be given of each class, examining not only some of these traits but also peculiarities of these fascinating fossils as well as living echinoderms. Moreover, specimens will be profiled with locality information to permit collecting with actual fossils on display.

¹Wikipedia and other internet sources define different number of phyla and classes.



Just another fossil ?



By Stephen Mayer

At the Rochester show in October I spotted an unprepared specimen of *Flexicalymene meeki*. The small Ordovician trilobite looked like it could be improved with careful preparation so I purchased it. The label with the specimen shown in the upper two photographs read Hamilton County, Ohio.

I was pleasantly surprised to see how well the enrolled trilobite responded to simple abrasive cleaning. Almost all the clay covering the specimen was removed exposing the exoskeleton (lower two photos). After cleaning the cephalon (head) each of the pleura (thoracic segments) and the pygidium (tail) is now fully visible. The long extinct arthropod appears to be looking right at you when you stare into his eyes.

When threatened, trilobites like the *Flexicalymene meeki* would roll themselves into tight little balls in an effort to protect their soft underbodies. It appears that this Flexy did not survive his protective effort. When complete fossilized trilobites are found they are often enrolled.

It is not a *Flexicalymene meeki*, but Mauritania featured an enrolled trilobite on a postage stamp in 1972. Heck, the stamp itself is almost 50 years old, a fossil itself!



Reporting from Florida

by Kathleen Cappon



I have spent the full month of October in Florida. This is not only a beach, oyster bar, and kayaking vacation, but also another opportunity for me to collect fossils, sand, and quite a few interesting artifacts. As on my previous trips to the Sunshine state, I am staying in Clermont near the center of the state. This is an excellent central location, allowing excursions to either coast, but I also find lots to do right there in central Florida.

The Lake Wales Ridge, which bisects the state, starts near Clermont. The elevation of nearby Sugarloaf Mountain is a whopping 312 ft. above sea level! The geography of the area is much like that of the Finger Lakes. Note I said geography, not weather. Locations along the ridge provide interesting sand samples that contain materials from ancient ocean shorelines. Lake Wales Ridge extends south towards Lake Okeechobee. Over the past epochs and inter-glacial periods, the area was a series of islands that were always above sea level.

To satisfy my itch to collect sands, I have visited locations on the Gulf side, the Panhandle, and three beaches on the Atlantic Ocean including Mary Bethune Beach Park. However, the most interesting sand collecting came from the four natural spring locations I visited. Diving down to the opening of the spring (the boil) allowed me to bag sand while swimming in beautiful clear aqua water.



Bone fragments and more from Florida springs.

There were also many areas downstream to dive and collect various fossil bone fragments including those of prehistoric land/sea mammals and reptiles. After sorting, I was able to identify fragments of mastodon, dugong, turtle, alligator, shark, horse, and even a glyptodon armor plate! These fossils are most likely from the Pleistocene epoch. The creeks and rivers are plentiful "bone yards". However, it is a little safer to collect during the winter months as the live alligators are less active!



A piece of the armored plate from a glyptodont.



Pleistocene fossil gastropods and other shells from a pile at a construction site

Collecting Pleistocene fossils and coquina has become more of a challenge in recent years as the shell pits and quarries are generally off limits to anyone except members of local rock-clubs. So, I look for where trucks dump shell pit materials at a

continued on next page

construction site and then ask permission to access the piles. They may give me a strange look, but generally they are willing to allow me to look at their dirt piles. I have found that the best sites are near either the west or east coast and also south near Sarasota.

Flea markets and yard sales are plentiful in Florida and my car stops for each and every one that I spot. These sales provide another way to find unique fossils and minerals. For the most part, the seller knows the location or the story behind the specimen. A chunk of fossil coral next to some roadside discarded furniture was one find but the main prize for this trip was from a flea market where a vendor was selling a piece of mammoth tooth found offshore near Venice beach!!



Section of a mammoth tooth

Yes, I have had a month of fun in the sun and warmth of Florida, another great trip for tropical style rock-hounding. I am happy with the 80 pounds or so of fossils and sand that I am hauling home.

Editor's Note: Kathleen will be home in time for our "Fossil Extravaganza" meeting on November 12th. She promises to bring some of her finds and perhaps might even have a few extra to pass along to club members. Sand for the arenophiles also, she proclaims.



Of course not all my time was spent hunting for fossils and sand. There are lots of oyster bars in Florida and I visited many of them. Apalachicola and Cedar Point oysters are the best.

Glyptodon

An Editor's Sidebar

How many of you reading about Kathleen's Florida adventures knew what a glyptodont was? I did not, so I looked them up.

Glyptodons were large heavily armored animals that lived during the Pleistocene Epoch and went extinct about 11,000 years ago. They were a relative of armadillos, only much larger. Adult glyptodons were the size of a Volkswagen Beetle car and weighed almost a ton. Originating in South America and migrating north, the shells on these mammals were made up of over 1000 bone scutes, called osteroderms. Kathleen's scute probably came from a species named *Glyptotherium floridanum*.



I did not know what a glyptodon was, but whoever designs stamps for Slovenia and Uruguay apparently did. The two countries included glyptodons in sets of prehistoric animals issued in 2016 and 1996, respectively.

Iceland means lava by Dotty Clark



In the middle of September I participated in a wonderful guided trip/tour to Iceland. Iceland is a country of stunningly beautiful, yet desolate landscapes. One trip that we took was particularly breathtaking and also perfect for a rockhound like me.

We took a day trip to visit the Fagradalsfjall volcano in the southwestern corner of the country and just an hour drive from the capital city of Reykjavik.. We visited a lava flow that had erupted just 5 days before our visit. The guide told us we were handling the youngest rocks on earth. Of course, that did not last long as the eruptions on the island of La Palma in the Canary Islands started the day after our visit to Fagradalsfjall. But when I collected they may have been the youngest rocks on earth.

The volcano's name is derived from three Icelandic words: fagur means fair or beautiful, dalur means dale and fjall means fall or mountain. Combine them all and you get Fagradalsfjall. The previously dormant volcano started erupting in March of this year and has sporadically erupted since then. I was lucky to be there just after its most recent eruption.



The end of the Fagradalsfjall flow that we visited in mid-September

Photo by D. Clark

They allowed us to walk right up to the recent lava and I picked up a few small samples. The rock was no longer hot, but it was very rough and there was steam coming up through vents in the distance. In

many places the lava had solidified into pahoehoe or ropy lava.



Steam coming through the lava at the end of the Fagradalsfjall flow.

Photo by D. Clark



An example of pahoehoe lava near the edge of the recent flow.

Photo by D. Clark



A few small pieces of the September 2021 flow that I was able to collect. Largest is 2" across.

Photo by F. Haynes

Splendid Sands Calendar

November 2021
North Seymour Island,
Galapagos Islands, Ecuador



Photo by Leo Kenney

by Leo Kenney, Kate Clover & Carol Hopper Brill

On the equator, the Galapagos Islands lie 560 miles west of Ecuador. This volcanic archipelago, made famous by Darwin's voyage aboard the HMS Beagle (1831-1836), is noted for its biodiversity. Though small, Isla Seymour Norte supports large colonies of blue-footed boobies and frigate birds, making it a popular destination for birders. Offshore upwelling enhances marine diversity and supports a food web including iconic marine iguanas, sea lions, and sharks.

The island's geology is equally unique and is evident in this weathered sample containing both reddish and black volcanic grains. Invertebrate diversity is on display also. Sea urchin species are represented by different spine types: a ribbed barrel shape; green sculptured columns, and needle thin shafts. Small gastropods are present in the upper right, a keyhole limpet rests near the lower right and smaller shell bits are scattered throughout the image. Coral (at 6 o'clock) is recognized by its dense texture. In contrast, barnacle skeletal plates are chalkier, like the large flat segment near center.



November WCGMC Workshop



Rob



Mary



Rob gave Fred a polished mushroom, *Scapolite* sp. from Rose Rd. It lights up under long wave UV.



Teresa



Beth

Mexican "onyx" and fossilized coral being shaped into cabochons.



The sphere machines were busy as well.

Wayne County Gem & Mineral Contacts

ELECTED OFFICERS

President – James Keeler

[jamesrocks\(at\)keeler.com](mailto:jamesrocks(at)keeler.com)

Vice-President – Holly Woodworth

[autum14513\(at\)ahoo.com](mailto:autum14513(at)ahoo.com)

Secretary – Beth Webster

Treasurer - Bill Lesniak

Board of Directors

Bob Linderbery

Heidi Morgenstern

Karen Wilkins

Ed Smith

Past President – Linda Schmidtgal

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

Fred Haynes – Facebook Administrator

Jim Rienhardt – Sand Chapter

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 14513

