



# WAYNE COUNTY GEM AND MINERAL CLUB NEWS

*Volume 36 Number 11 November 2010*



## New 2010-2011 OFFICERS

### PRESIDENT

Pat Chapman  
607-868-4649

batnpill@empacc.net

### VICE PRESIDENT

Glenn Weiler  
315-594-8478

### SECRETARY

Eva Jane Weiler  
315-594-8478

### TREASURER/ MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Bill Lesniak  
315-483-8061

### FIELD TRIP CHAIR

Bill Chapman  
607-868-4649

### DIRECTORS

Jerold Donahue  
315-548-3200

Ken and Rocky Rowe  
315-331-1438

Terry Wilson  
315-462-9222

### Mini-Miners

Bill Chapman  
607-868-4649

## Have you seen our press release?

*"The Wayne County Gem & Mineral Club is having an Open House for the public on Friday, November 12th from 6:30 PM to 8 PM at the Park Presbyterian Church, Rt. 88 in Newark. Free rock collections for the kids, jewelry & cutting demonstrations & more. Bring the kids, bring your folks or bring a friend. Makes no difference - everyone's invited. The cookies are good and the milk is cold. This event is free and we're waiting to meet you!"*

*We have cast our net to several local papers. Let's see what it yields. The meeting will be a little different this month due to the Open House. If you have a couple of flats of rocks to sell, something you'd like to display or something you enjoy collecting, bring it! We'll open the doors at 6:00 PM so everyone can set up. **We need folks to bring cookies** for our multiple visitors, rock specimens for the giveaway and help setting up so there'll be something for everyone to do...tables, signs, etc...*

*Many hands make light work so I hope to see YOU there. Pat*

*P.S. Anyone seeing our press release please clip and bring it. Thanks!*

## Club member puts in display at local library



Club member, Bill Lesniak has a display presently at the Sodus Community Library, 17 Maple Ave., on "Minerals From New York". Most of the minerals have been collected or traded for by him. If you're in the Sodus area, feel free to stop in and take a look. It will be there until mid-November. Click here for hours (<http://www.owwl.org/directory/sodus>).

# WCGMC 10-8-10 Meeting Minutes

Mini-Miners dug for fossils in Newark this month. Buckets of shale containing fossils from the Canandaigua area were presented and identified by Sue Hoch for the young and old to search thru.

The minutes of Sept. 10, 2010 were approved as read. Motion made & seconded by Jerry & Terry.

The Treasurer's Report was approved as read and is on file for audit. Motion made & seconded by Glen & Ken.

After discussion, it was discovered that the missing dues-paid-but-not-credited-to-them individual was Dick Lyons. It's been requested that all renewing members file another application to help us update our information.

The club has rented a rock saw for the Walworth Dig this weekend. Permission to buy doughnuts also approved. Ken has a bag of tools that was left at a quarry dig last year. Please identify and claim it. This will also be announced at the dig this weekend.

Bill Lesniak has been notifying the insurance company of our field trips/digs this year in addition to publication in our newsletter.

Our Open House is next month. Postcards will be mailed out to the families who attended the show at St. Michael's earlier this month by Dave Kords. We still need egg cartons for the upcoming giveaways so drop them off with a Board member. Pat suggested having small stations next month...i.e. box making, jewelry demonstrations, whatever our members have an interest in and wish to display. There will be an orientation to setting up a collection, meteorite display, Native American things, etc. We will set up at 6:00PM and run the Open House 6:30-8:00 PM. Can everyone bring some cookies for our refreshments next month? It would be appreciated.

**New Business:** Bill Lesniak has requested we move all the checking funds into one account – the small one we currently have. It's set up as a business account where the other is a personal account classification. This motion was made & approved. Motion made by Jerry & seconded by Glen.

The Christmas Party was discussed briefly. The members want one and Van King has agreed to present a program to us at this event. Further planning will continue at our Nov. meeting.

Jerry, Bill L., Ken, Glenn & Bill C. will help run the Boy Scout program on Oct. 23 of this month.

The postcard work detail scheduled has been partially completed by e-mail. The remaining names and addresses were not available at meeting time so this has been postponed.

## **Election of Officers 2010-2012**

Pat Chapman – President

Glenn Weiler – Vice President

Eva Jane Weiler – Secretary

Bill Lesniak – Treasurer

Jerry Donahue – Board of Director

Terry Wilson – Board of Director

Pat reviewed safety guidelines & rock hounding etiquette for quarry and field trip collecting. Respect & concern for others should always be a foremost concern for us all.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30PM

Respectfully submitted,  
Eva Jane Weiler

*Note: Bill Lesniak sent the following clarification – The insurance company is notified when we visit a location which requires their specific name on the insurance paperwork. Otherwise, a record of the event in the minutes or newsletter is all that is required.*

## A Visit to the Morefield Mine

By Ken St. John



For the second time in the last year business took me to the vicinity of the Morefield Mine in Amelia Court House, Virginia. I took advantage of circumstance and arranged a visit to the mine and an underground tour with the owner, Sam Dunaway. Sam and his wife Sharon run the mine as a tourist business and include underground tours as one of their offerings. However, they manage their time carefully and are only open by appointment and then only for certain times of the year. Howe Caverns - it's not.

In researching the mine prior to my first visit, I stumbled upon an exhibit at the Smithsonian (on line) that featured three mines. The Copper Queen (I recall), Sterling Hill, and Morefield. By far, Morefield is the smallest, and like Sterling, it is accessible to the public. Unlike Sterling, Morefield is an active mine with mining operations continually on-going. The main ore being mined is Amazonite used for jewelry. Sam stocks his store with various types of Mica, some Tantalite, Quartz, Topaz (including some clear crystals), and Clevelandite along with the Amazonite and bits of other rarely occurring pegmatite minerals. He has the rarest and best pieces on permanent display. The rest of the mine output is salted, crushed and dumped in collection areas.

Morefield is a complex pegmatite. In New York we're said to have only two such deposits one of which is Batchellerville. Morefield is unique in that the mine is in the heart of the pegmatite. You are inside looking out.

The tour is quite strenuous. The mine is accessed by a series of vertical ladders made of wet 2 x 4's and re-bar. There are three levels on the tour - 30, 45 and 60 feet (the 100 foot level is flooded). I asked Sam what the criterion of physical fitness was for a visitor. His reply was a sobering, "You've got to be able to get yourself out." Since I was at the 45 foot level when I asked that question, I guessed that I'd passed the test, but I was reminded that I was underground.



### *Morefield Mine continued...*

Since Morefield is a working mine, your tour begins with a safety briefing and a strapping on of an emergency breather. You fill out a release and stick it to the IN side of the pegboard. One good thing is that Sam has strung lights in the tour areas. Morefield is not a truly dark mine.

Imagine your hand straight and on edge. This is essentially the shape of the Morefield pegmatite. At many places in the mine, the pegmatite body has been mined away leaving the Gneiss country rock exposed on both sides of the shaft. At others, the Feldspar, Quartz and Mica are still on the walls. Tour rules require that nothing be disturbed from the mine. You walk along the drift as Sam points out Garnets, different Micas, Topaz, Clevelandite, Beryl, Fluorite, and about a dozen other mineral oddities. I've been in the mine twice and each time, Sam has bent over and found something new.

Morefield apparently has gone through several formative periods. At a point about two thirds along the shaft, the pegmatite is split by a Diabase (basalt) dike. At another, the deposit is offset and is twice as wide indicating that the pegmatite was split or folded and pressed back upon itself.

Thousands of hours have been spent trying to sort out Morefield's geologic history. I asked Sam a question about the subject and his reply was, "You figure it out." No one knows for sure and speculation is part of the tour.

At various points along the drift, you see signs of the different pegmatite zones from contact to quartz core, but at no point do you see the whole picture clearly. One obvious issue is that the core is pinched and discontinuous. It's not as cut and dried as a book would lead you to believe. You can see obvious fracturing of the pegmatite rock as the dike intruded, but a few feet away you will see fractures telling a different story. The feldspar has expanded laterally into cracks in the Gneiss in several places, but not in others. Morefield is a place of contradiction. It is also a place of beauty. The Amazonite on the walls and ceilings is astounding, and as a collector, you want to chip off a chunk. However, you are in a mine, and for a minute, you think as a miner. The green of the ore becomes the green of money and you see the value in getting the stuff blasted out and hauled to the surface.

Morefield is run on the "Seven Dwarfs" mining method. Lots of hand work. Blasts will knock material from walls and faces, but from there, it's pick and shovel time. Not that blasts aren't impressive. The ground shakes, the steel plates covering the main shaft rattle up and down and birds fly from the trees.

But after the smoke clears and the dust settles, there are several tons of rubble to be moved and all the glamour has been turned into wet, back breaking work the result of which is the basis of income for the miner and his family. In a way, Morefield makes a social statement about simpler times, but it makes it in a complex, beautiful and barely understood way.

## **Editor Wanted**

**We need YOU! Help us if you can.  
No news would make for a gloomy day.**



call 607-868-4649

# Dolomite Open House — Walworth

by P. Chapman

Two days of sunshine, Fluorite and diggers - must be heaven. Thanks to Mike Bagney and the Dolomite Group, over 100 rockhounds from Buffalo to Albany, Canada to Boston, New England & into the Midwest toiled and were rewarded with fluorite, calcite, sphalerite, fossils & more. Kids found joy riding in the huge earth movers and at the checkout, everyone reported they found fluorite - clear, yellow, purple, pink & blue. The new expansion blast had some interesting specimens exposed and the new pile driver rockbuster machine made short work of older boulders too large to cut before. Pretty exciting stuff!



## Cub Scouts



One day...Many Tigers... First graders are Tiger Cubs who graced our presence this year at Midlakes H.S.. We were part of their Nature theme. Carving creations of soapstone & starting their rock collections filled the day. **Thanks to Terry Wilson, Glenn Weiler & Bill Chapman**, the boys developed a taste for geology. Mark your calendars - the next scouting event will be May 14<sup>th</sup> in Phelps for the older boys & we've been invited to participate. Let's turn out to help!

## Wayne County Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.

Meetings held 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month

Mini-Miner Program at 6:15 P.M.

Regular Program & meeting at 7:00 P.M. at

Park Presbyterian Church

Maple Court, Newark, NY 14513

WEBSITE: [www.wcgmc.org](http://www.wcgmc.org)

Organized: 1973 Incorporated: 1976

Objective: To stimulate interest in earth sciences, in collecting and classification of minerals, and in the art of gem cutting.

Fiscal Year: Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> to Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> Dues: Due Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>.

Juniors or students [18 yr.> w/o parent in club] \$10.00

Single Adult [over 18 years old] \$15.00

Family Membership [includes 2 adult votes & kids] \$20.00

Send dues to WCGMC, PO Box 4, Newark, NY 14513

Affiliated with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies

[A.F.M.S.] [www.amfed.org](http://www.amfed.org),

The Eastern Federation of Mineralogical & Lapidary Societies

[EFMLS] [www.amfed.org/efmls](http://www.amfed.org/efmls) &

The Eastern Field Trip Alliance [E.F.T.A.] [www.efta.biz](http://www.efta.biz)

***The Public is always  
Welcome!***



**Wayne County Gem  
and Mineral Club**

**P.O. Box 4**

**Newark, New York 14513**

## Upcoming Nov. Events

### 6 WCGMC Field Trip

Meet at 8AM at parking lot of CMAC/FLCC on County Road 18 in Canandaigua. Trilobite & fossil search up the ditch there. Then onto Bristol and Honeoye. Bring rock hammer, digging tool, chisels, bucket, bright orange clothing, safety glasses, sunscreen, something to eat and drink. We'll be near some food vendors so something can be picked up locally. Questions? Call Bill Chapman at 607-868-4649 or e-mail [batnpill@empacc.net](mailto:batnpill@empacc.net).

**6-7: Exton, PA - Gemarama 2010** sponsored by the Tuscarora Lapidary Society. CFS, The School at Church Farm, Exton, PA.

### 12: WCGMC Open House

Doors open & we set up at 6 PM.

Open House 6:30 – 8 PM

**13-14: New York, NY - New York City Gem & Mineral Show** sponsored by the New York Mineralogical Club. Holiday Inn – Midtown (57th St.), New York, NY.