

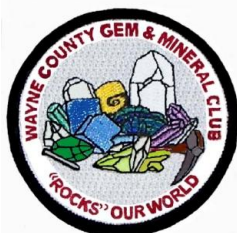
Wayne County Gem and Mineral Club News

October, 2017

Always Looking for Places to Dig!



Massachusetts State Gemstone: Do you know what it is? (see page 2)



<http://www.wcgmc.org/>
[FACEBOOK link](#)



Now what is Glenn up to at the club workshop? (see page 5)

Next Club Meeting

Friday October 13th, 7:00 PM

Presbyterian Church, Maple Court, Newark, NY

PROGRAM: Tips and Tricks on Cleaning those Special Finds, by Dave Millis

The night's program will involve both discussion and demonstrations on how to clean minerals. Bring some "dirty" ones of your own for advice or even practice.

WCGMC Rock Sale

Sunday October 1, 2017 (1-4 PM)

1267 Wiley Rd., Savannah, NY

Linda Schmidtgal's home/garage

Large and small rocks for sale at highly discounted rates, mostly by the pound (includes obsidian, Mexican onyx, rhyolite, jasper and much much more). Come prepared to trim them to whatever size you want.

Saturday, October 21st

WCGMC Saturday workshop

When: 10:00 AM til mid afternoon

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

Rules: BYOR (Bring your own rocks) to saw, grind, polish or even facet. Training on equipment is available. **Eye protection is required.** \$5/adult to offset maintenance costs

Walworth Quarry Open House

Dolomite Products Walworth Quarry Open House is October 7th-8th (Sat. 7-2, Sun 7-12.), 1200 Atlantic Ave. in Walworth. Arrive early for safety talk and sign in. Normal quarry PPE (personal protective equipment) required. Hard hat or bicycle helmet to be worn at all times. Sturdy shoes, preferably steel toe, required. No flip flops, sandals, etc. Wear long sleeves and long pants. **SPECIAL BULLETIN:** WCGMC will be breaking in its new club rock saw.

Safety glasses are a must. Dolostone is hard. Rock hammer & chisel suggested. The office area has a rest room. Coffee & doughnuts for Saturday diggers during sign in. Water, snack, sunscreen, flashlight are some items you might consider.

People from many states gather for this annual mineral hunt. Everyone may not find a prize fluorite, but everyone is ensured to have fun..

It is time to renew your membership.

Renewal for the 2017-2018 year is due in September. We thank the 40 members who took advantage of our show offer to renew in June. Others can renew at the October meeting or mail payment to: WCGMC, P.O. Box 4, Newark, NY 14513. Just \$15 individual, \$20 family for a full year of fun. Check the home page of the club website if you are uncertain of your membership status.



WCGMC IS ALWAYS LOOKING FOR NEW PLACES TO DIG

by Fred Haynes and Linda Schmidtgal



You know the club motto: **WCGMC is always looking for new places to dig.** Well, this fall we are looking into New England for opportunities to include in our 2018 field trip season. In late September, the authors of this note scouted out four sites in western Massachusetts and are happy to report that several of them could form the basis of a trip to that region. In mid-October a similar trip is scheduled to additional sites in western Connecticut.

Without a doubt, the highlight of the Massachusetts trip was collecting rhodonite at the Betts Manganese Mine in Plainfield, MA. Rhodonite is the Official State Gemstone of Massachusetts and after a few hours hunting in the dumps it was easy to see why. After the location's Minerals Coordinator, Rick Cernak, showed us the two quarries on the property and the location of the dumps, we set to work pounding and breaking rocks covered by dark black dirty manganese oxide.

Most yielded the host rock, schist, or rocks loaded with magnetite and sometimes carbonate, including tan or pale pink rhodochrosite. There is also spessartine garnet, typically as small crystals or as massive light orange-red rock. But on occasion the brown-black oxide coated rock broke to expose the beautiful pink color of massive rhodonite (see photo on page 1) or a layered rock featuring rhodonite with magnetite (see photo to the right). Come see some in person at the next club meeting. We will both be cutting and polishing at the next workshop.

We also visited the Barrus Farm pegmatite in Goshen with Rick Cernak. The prize there would be goshenite, a colorless form of beryl which is actually named for the location. While that is apparently somewhat uncommon and also hard to distinguish from quartz, dark blue elbaite tourmaline set into white quartz/feldspar/muscovite is abundant. Some of the muscovite is yellow-green, some is even pink. And the list of minerals from the site is actually rather long ([see Mindat posting](#)).

Both the Betts Mine and the Barrus pegmatite are fee sites on private property that can only be visited by clubs and only by pre-arrangement, which is exactly what WCGMC just might try to do some fine spring weekend in 2018.



Fred works on exposing some rhodonite. The yellow arrow points to a piece in the pile below.

Photo by Linda Schmidtgal.



This photo of layered rhodonite on the forest floor does not show the color well. It is very pink.

Photo by Fred Haynes

We also visited the Manhan Lead Mine dumps in Loudville, MA and the lower mine dump areas of the Chester Emery Mines. The former is the oldest lead mine in America. Discovered in 1679, the site actually predates the American Revolution by nearly a century. Lots of quartz there, some galena, and some interesting boxwork where sulfide minerals had once resided, but we found only one example of the deep green pyromorphite for which the location is known. Perhaps if we returned with a larger group we could make a discovery similar to the find of 1999 that is documented here ([Collecting Loudville Pyromorphite by Eric Greene and John Marshall](#)).



SITE OF THE MONTH: BUSH FARM, GOUVERNEUR, NY



By Fred Haynes

A September field trip to several of our favorite sites in St. Lawrence County has become a WCGMC tradition the past several years and 2017 was no exception. We collected at Benson Mines, Rose Road, Powers Farm and other sites along the way. But this year we also returned to a site we had not visited in several years. ***We sought tourmaline and tremolite at Bush Farm on Welch Road in Gouverneur.***

The prize here is most certainly brown tourmaline, or root beer tourmaline to many. Individual crystals can be large and undamaged faces/terminations can be simply dazzling. Fortunately, the brown tourmaline is not hard to find; unfortunately, pieces with multiple undamaged faces are not common, and those with excellent and full terminations are even rarer. But once you have navigated the cow-trodden, rutted trail to the site (ask Linda about her experience with this), collecting is rather easy. You sit, you dig, you examine. If you are not totally dirty by the day's end, you have not tried hard enough and you probably do not have much to show for your effort.

that we were sane enough to stay out of the sun. Both techniques worked, or they didn't work, depending on one's perception of success. However, we did all find tourmaline. Incidentally, my hole is the one between Heidi and Linda and left of the green bucket.



Here are a few of the partially complete brown tourmalines I gathered from my hole in the foreground of the picture to the left. I am particularly pleased by the fully terminated single crystal immediately right of the quarter. All of the complex faces of a ditrigonal pyramidal crystal are on display. Too bad the long dimension is broken.

Compositionally, the tourmaline at Bush Farm is generally fluor-uvite, with calcium dominating the octahedral site in the complex borosilicate lattice structure, but there is often enough sodium in that site to cast doubt that all tourmaline from the location is fluor-uvite. Unfortunately, color alone is simply not diagnostic. One simple solution is to label your specimens from this location "brown tourmaline" unless you are fortunate enough to have an electron microprobe in your basement.

There is a second mineral worthy of collecting at Bush Farm. Brilliantly white, and often verging on gemmy, tremolite is ubiquitous. These crystals are far more likely to be fully terminated, and often are embedded in calcite that can be chemically removed. Most of us rounded out our collecting by placing some tremolite into our buckets. Much of that will require iron out treatment to remove rust stains caused by oxidation of pyrite.



WCGMC at Bush Farm: There seemed to be two methods to attack collecting at this location, an upper and lower tier

The upper tier of folks in the picture, led there by Jerry Curcio, are clearing soil and rocks off the edge of the larger of the open pits in search of tourmalines that may have been left on the pit rim during original collecting. Be forewarned, Gary will probably show you his prize find from this location ten times this winter! Meanwhile, the rest of us have taken stations inside the pit digging into the loose rubble that has likely been turned over by many before us. It may just be



Often the tourmaline and tremolite grow together into combination pieces. The tourmalines on this piece are damaged, but the tremolites are complete as they rest on a base of brown tourmaline.

The mineralization occurs in small pits within the Bush Farm pasture and like many St. Lawrence County mineral sites, the exposures are not adequate to fully appreciate the local geology or the origin of the mineralization. However, the immediate region is dominated by marbles and calc-silicate metamorphic rocks; the Gardenscape Inc. Seavey Road marble quarry is less than two miles east of Bush Farm. Lacking local granitic rocks, it has been speculated that the boron required for tourmaline may actually have a sedimentary origin before being remobilized into the tourmaline during regional metamorphism (Chamberlain and Robinson, 2013).

References:

Chamberlain, S. C. and Robinson, G. W., 2013, The Collector's Guide to the Mineral of New York State, Schiffer Publ., 96 -.

Lauf, R. J., 2011, Collector's Guide to the Tourmaline Group, Schiffer Publ., 93 p.

A few more scenes from the September trip to St. Lawrence County

Benson Mines, Star Lake, NY Sept. 16



There will be much more magnetite, blue calcite and muscovite for kids and crafts alike. And wait til you see the fluorescent and phosphorescent material from Valentine Mine. I forgot to carry my camera into Powers Farm on Friday, but we have the black tourmaline to prove we were there.

WORKSHOP SATURDAY

The WCGMC workshop was buzzing with activity at our September Saturday workshop. Over 25 budding lapidary artisans took advantage of a great late summer day to cut and polish their summer acquisitions. The weather permitted much of the equipment to be moved outside. Where better to cut or polish or pound on a piece of natural beauty than outside and with friends.



Hit it right here John. Wait, not til I move my finger: extracting calcite from a vug in a dolostone piece from Middleburg, PA



Merle learned that agates are hard!



Look at what Linda did to expose and display some apatite in calcite from Eganville, Ontario.



The saws were busy all day. Joe slabs and Bill trims.

WOLCOTT'S LARGEST KNOWN ROCK TUMBLER

You may remember Glenn's mammoth tumbler, an invention of 2016. Well, he's found a way to tumble large stones in it very successfully. He uses ceramic tumbling abrasive pellets designed for industrial use. I guess you could say his contraption looks somewhat industrial? Mostly lake stones, but also small rocks from quarries are thrown into the tire with the pellets and the thing is put in motion.

While we were there the second batch was rotating in the tire while a previous batch lay on the floor in the back room. He now needs some sort of final polishing grit to use with the wheel to turn his smooth stones in polished gems.



Glenn proudly watches his tumbler in action. A five gallon bucket of the ceramic pellets sits out front while others do their thing with stones inside the tire. The result: a pile of smooth and pretty rocks just waiting to be polished.

Wayne County Gem and Mineral Club Upcoming Schedule - last update Sept.28, 2017

Say it isn't so, the end of the collecting season is approaching. But it is not here yet, and WCGMC does have plenty of plans for October. **Bold dates are firm**, others remain tentative. And we have meetings and workshops each month for the rest of the calendar year. Keep in touch by attending meetings and workshops, visiting the webpage, checking on Facebook, or just contacting us.

- October 1 (Sunday, 1:00-4:00 PM):** sale of rough rocks from club collection, lots of variety, by the pound
Location: 1267 Wiley Rd. in Savannah (*Linda Schimdtgall's home, call her for details or directions*)
- October 7-8 (Sat. – Sun.)** – Walworth Quarry (7:00-2:00 PM Sat, 7:00-noon Sunday) Arrive early for safety briefing. Hard hats/bike helmets, safety glass, sturdy shoes are required (*contact Fred Haynes for info*).
- October 13 (Friday evening)** – Monthly Meeting in Newark (see page 1 for program information)
- October 16-18 (Mon.-Wedn.)** – Scouting trip to several CT collecting sites (*contact Fred Haynes*)
- October 21 (Saturday)** – Workshop Day at the WCGMC workshop in Wolcott (see page 1)
- October 22 (Sunday)** - Ace of Diamonds for Herkimers, a final trip before they close for the season
- November 4 (Saturday)**– Workshop Day at the WCGMC workshop in Wolcott (see page 1)
- November 10 (Friday evening)** – Monthly Meeting in Newark – Program TBA
- November 11-19 – We are planning a 9 day trip to Arkansas and other southern locations.
Arkansas for quartz, maybe wavellite, NC for pegmatites TN for fossils, and more?
Logistics and sites will be determined by those who have interest. We need commitment very soon to permit proper planning. *Talk to Linda or Fred.*

WCGMC is always looking for a place to dig.

UPCOMING SHOW OPPORTUNITIES

October 28-29 – Rochester Gem, Mineral, Jewelry, and Fossil Show and Sale (Rochester Lapidary Society), NEW LOCATION: Total Sports Experience, 435 West Commercial Street, East Rochester, NY
Visit <http://www.rochesterlapidary.org/show/index.htm> for details



**Walworth Quarry
Open House
is October 7-8**

2017-NEW LOCATION
ROCHESTER GEM, MINERAL, JEWELRY AND FOSSIL SHOW & SALE
AT OUR NEW LOCATION: TOTAL SPORTS EXPERIENCE
435 WEST COMMERCIAL STREET, EAST ROCHESTER, NY 14445
JUST OFF INTERSTATE 490
Kid's Activities, Educational Displays, Demonstrations, Raffle,
Beads, Crystals, Fossils, Minerals, Jewelry, Carvings, Spheres,
Straw Draw, Hourly Door Prizes & Much More

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28TH
10:00 A.M. TO 6:00 P.M.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29TH
10:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.

ADMISSION \$6.00
KIDS 12 & UNDER FREE WITH AN ADULT
SPECIAL: 2-DAY PASS ONLY \$9.00



Does anyone want to go agate collecting next year? The ones around Lake Superior can be quite large.

[//www.rochesterlapidary.org/show/](http://www.rochesterlapidary.org/show/)

Wayne County Gem & Mineral Contacts

ELECTED OFFICERS

Glenn Weiler – President gwexterior@gmail.com
315-594-8478
Jerry Donahue – VP Chester145322@yahoo.com
585-548-3200
Eva Jane Weiler – Secretary gwexterior@gmail.com
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Bill Lesniak – Treasurer/Webmaster
Dirtman300@aol.com 315-483-8061

Board of Directors

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Gary Thomas gftthomas956@gmail.com 585-489-2162
Fred Haynes fredmhaynes55@gmail.com 585-203-1733

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 Schmidtgal – 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 14513

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