

Wayne County Gem and Mineral Club News

October, 2018

Always Looking for Places to Dig!



Bill Chapman: WCGMC
Rockhound of the decade (pg. 2)



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



Just a few Kentucky geodes from the WCGMC Labor Day trip (see page 6)

Next Club Meeting **Friday Oct. 12th, 7:00 PM**

Presbyterian Church, Maple Court, Newark, NY

PROGRAM: Chert, Flint, Agates, and all things Chalcedony.

We ask members to bring their favorite chalcedony (all forms of cryptocrystalline quartz count). We will review the forms of New York chert that Native Americans and modern flint knappers like to collect and knap (see page 3).

Club Elections will be held and we'll also discuss our upcoming day trips to Ace of Diamonds and Lord's Corner (see page 7).

September WCGMC Workshop **Saturday Oct. 20th**

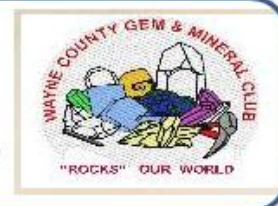
Many likely have new rocks from this summer's collecting. Come cut and polish them. Use the new club saws (we have two new ones in 2018).

When: 10:00 AM til mid-afternoon

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

Rules: Bring your own rocks to saw, grind, and polish.
Training on equipment is available.
Eye protection is required.
\$5/adult to offset maintenance costs.

WCGMC **ELECTIONS**



At the September club meeting, the Nominating Committee of Ed Smith, Bill Lesniak, and Bob Linderbery announced that all offices had nominated candidates and that there were no contested positions. All present at the October meeting will be asked to vote on the nominated individuals.

Here is the full slate of nominated officers.:

President: Linda Schmidtgal

Vice President: Fred Haynes

Treasurer: Bill Lesniak

Secretary: Debbie Breeze

Board of Directors:

Bob Linderbery (for 2 years)

Heidi Morgenstern (for 2 years)

Holly Ann Woodworth (for 1 year)

Gary Thomas has one year remaining with his position on the board.

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

See the [club constitution](#) for more details.



Rock Hound of the Decade



Bill Chapman



WCGMC does not have a Rockhound of the Year Award for 2018. The person we wish to acknowledge this year has done too much for too long for that simple title. Instead, we proudly proclaim Bill Chapman as WCGMC Rockhound of the Decade.

Over the past decade (probably more), Bill has led dozens, more like hundreds, of field trips. His pursuit of new sites led to the WCGMC slogan "Always Looking for Places to Dig". Some locations, like our annual spring trek to Pennsylvania, have become regulars on our busy schedule. His love of Herkimer Diamonds, Devonian fossils, Adirondack minerals and much more is contagious and seemingly unbounded.

But it goes beyond field trips. If you have been to a club workshop with Bill, you have seen him inspiring new members by helping them cut or polish a cabochon, or load a rock into a saw. His outreach efforts with kids are legendary. Whether at our show, or at a YMCA or Camp Good Day event, or perhaps in the field, Bill is always there with a helping hand.

For this, and for much more, we honor Bill Chapman with the title **WCGMC Rockhound of the Decade**.



Swinging a Big Hammer

**April 1, 2014
Ace of
Diamonds**

**"A Helping
Hand",
Che-Hanna
Show,
March, 2016**



**Beryl Pit,
Quadeville,
ONTARIO
August,
2018**

Pied Piper of Rockhounds



Mineral Musings New York Chert by Fred Haynes

Knapping is the shaping of flint, chert, obsidian or other suitable material through the process of chipping off small pieces, thus shaping the piece into a desirable tool, weapon, or work of art. The process takes advantage of the fracture style of cryptocrystalline quartz and glass. Lacking cleavage or any natural weaknesses quartz fractures along smooth curved surfaces which often come to very sharp edges. This property is called conchoidal fracture.



Nothing displays conchoidal fracture better than obsidian. These pieces of mahogany obsidian from Oregon were broken naturally and the curved fracture surfaces that sweep across the surface are large and highly reflective/glassy. I acquired these colorful pieces at the Stone Tool Craftsman Show at Letchworth State Park in August.

Whether knappers are generating an arrowhead, a knife or just a colorful ornamental piece, they will seek to generate regular scalloped surfaces around the piece. In addition, if the product is an arrowhead or tool, they strive to create a linear sharp edge where the conchoidal fractures come together..

There is a diverse set of knapping tools that can be used depending on the nature of the stone and the skill of the artisan. Hard hammering with a piece of quartzite or other hard material can be used to chip off large flakes and prep a stone for more detailed work. Softer hammering tools allow for more control and for knapping smaller and thinner pieces. Tools with copper or

brass tips are used to apply a sharp and sudden force to a desired location of the stone. This is referred to as pressure flaking. The angle of contact and the directness of the strike are critical to generating the desired flake.

I knew practically nothing about knapping when I attended the Stone Tool Craftsman Show, but hoped that I could learn a bit about the various cherts in New York that the Native Americans used and that modern craftsmen seek for their art. Turns out there are multiple suitable chert units in the Paleozoic Era sedimentary rocks of New York.



These four New York artisans were busily knapping away when I happened on their booth at the Fair: from left to right (Mike McGrath, Brennan Nelson, Bruce Boda, and Garrick Malone). Mike's brother, Brian, is a WCGMC member and a dealer at GemFest (Brown Dog Minerals). Collectively, they were a wealth of information on New York chert and had examples of four different New York cherts right there in their booth. I acquired raw pieces and knapped points from each of the cherts from their combined stock.

The most prolific of these cherts, and the only one I had knowledge of before attending, is the Silurian Onondaga chert. But I did not know that there were Eastern and Western varieties. Western cherts from our region are quite clean and knap well although they can contain small dolomite rhombs and occasional pyrite. Sometimes they have gray streaks that offset the blacker color of the main stone. My arrowhead (next page) has gray streaks that add to its appeal. Eastern cherts are virtually isotopic (uniform in all directions) but can contain chalcedonized fossils and other impurities. Knappers seek chert that lacks impurities except for color variation.

Speaking of color, most New York cherts are quite dark, gray or almost black. The Onondaga cherts are affectionately referred to as "Stinky chert" because they contain residual hydrocarbon material that is released when they are knapped.

The Ordovician Normanskill Chert of eastern New York is also sought by knappers because it has a dark greenish color and often displays banding that can be worked into the piece. However, the green color is caused by small amounts of clay that has been converted to chlorite during metamorphism which can interfere with the knappability of the chert. There are several known old quarry sites for Normanskill chert in the southeast portion of New York State. Mike McGrath believes that the Normanskill Chert is the most beautiful knappable material in all of New York State.

Another New York chert that is frequently used by knappers is the Esopus chert found in the southeastern part of the state. This Devonian chert can be laced with seams adding to its character, however my raw piece and small point are uniformly dark grey.

The final example of New York chert I was able to obtain was from the Ordovician Snake Hill Formation in Saratoga County. These cherts are very black and were deposited in a shallow marine basin adjacent to the Taconic highlands.



My raw and knapped pieces from five different Paleozoic chert horizons in New York. The Normanskill arrowhead was actually cut and knapped from the raw piece to its left. It is distinctly greener than all the other NY cherts I acquired. Can you see the vertical gray streaks in the western NY Onondaga chert (upper left)?

References:

McGrath, M, 2006, Flintknapping,, website:
http://www.susquehanna-wd.com/susquehanna_wd_home_page.html

Prothero, D., and Lavin, L, 1990, [Chert petrography and its potential as an analytical tool in archeology](#), GSA Cent. Vol. #4, p. 561-584.

Not all Chert is Dark: Ohio Flint

Perhaps the most famous knappable chert in the eastern US is found along Flint Ridge in central Ohio. Once cherished by Native Americans across the northeast for stone tools and weapons, Ohio flint continues to be highly sought for its colorful patterns and knappability. One ancient quarry site along [Flint Ridge](#) is an Ohio State Memorial and museum and flint is the official Ohio State Gemstone.

Several of us stopped at one of the better known locations for Ohio flint on our drive to Kentucky this past month. Chert/flint from [Nethers Farm](#) in Hopewell, Ohio is known for its black and white banding often overprinted by bright red and/or yellow streaks. Some spectacular knives, arrowheads, and other forms have been knapped from Ohio flint. Knappers seek colorful chert for their work, but the Pennsylvanian age flint in Ohio also contains pockets and vugs that are lined by clear drusy quartz. The site is certainly worth a visit if you are in the area.



Eva Jane, Matt, and Linda look for flint and drusy quartz at Nethers Farm. Most of the rock on the dump is chert and the selection process is mostly based on colors, shape, and patterns in the cryptocrystalline quartz.



A bit of my colorful Ohio Flint: I'm not likely to take up knapping, but I can certainly see why people do.

Can you name me?



- I am an isometric mineral.
- I am found in many colors.
- I am Illinois' State Mineral.
- I belong to the halide mineral group.
- I am used as flux in steel production.
- I'm #4 on Moh's Hardness Scale.
- Some of you will find me this weekend.
- I'm found in many Mississippi Valley Ore deposits (i.e. Elmwood, TN, Cave-in-Rock, IL)
- China and Mexico are leading producers.
- I often display fluorescence.

for answer, see page 8



Rochester Gem, Mineral, Jewelry and Fossil Show & Sale

Kid's Activities, Educational Displays, Demonstrations, Raffle, Beads, Crystals, Fossils, Minerals, Jewelry, Carvings, Spheres, Straw Draw, Hourly Door Prizes & Much More



AT TOTAL SPORTS EXPERIENCE
435 WEST COMMERCIAL STREET, EAST ROCHESTER, NY 14445
JUST OFF INTERSTATE 490

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27TH
10:00 A.M. TO 6:00 P.M.



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28TH
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

STUDENTS RECEIVE HALF PRICE ADMISSION WITH VALID SCHOOL ISSUED PHOTO IDENTIFICATION

<http://www.rochesterlapidary.org/show>

Facebook.com/ROCGemShow

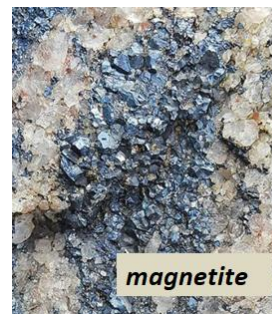
Benson Mines in September

A mid-September trip to the western lowlands of the Adirondacks has become a regular and popular adventure for WCGMC and 2018 was no exception. One of the more popular stops each year is Benson Mines in Star Lake. On Saturday September 22nd, 19 members converged on the old mine location for a day of collecting. Clark, the site caretaker, led us to the north end of the mine and the fun began. As in past years, Jerry Curcio brought a truck-load of Adirondack rocks and minerals to share with all of us. Thank you, Jerry!

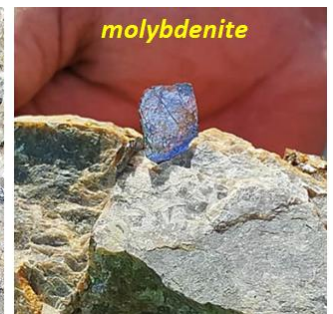
Benson Mines, Star Lake, NY September 22, 2018
day 2 of 3 in the Adirondacks



Teresa found time for a selfie.



magnetite



molybdenite

Some of the best molybdenite I have seen was collected this year.



Dave

Doug

I wonder what creation Dave Millis will make from this year's large sheets of mica? He left with a full bucket of muscovite.

Photos by Teresa Ferris

A LOT OF NEW PLACES TO DIG

By Fred Haynes

There are many reasons to plan and participate in joint club trips like our Labor Day trip to Kentucky where folks from several clubs joined together (see page 7 where we thank those who invited us). The obvious is new places and new friends and we sure encountered both during our three days in Kentucky.

But another activity I truly enjoyed was the wonderful tailgate mineral swap that was held on Saturday evening in the motel parking lot. Us northerners were able to trade New York, New England and Ontario finds that we have in abundance for southeast and central US minerals that we do not have. In addition, we learned about the sites other clubs frequent while sharing our favorite haunts. This activity exceeded my expectations and I would certainly welcome the chance to do it again just about anywhere.

I was also able to renew acquaintances with Jim and Bonnie Hird from West Virginia. Jim will be in western New York during early November and has agreed to present a program entitled "The Keweenaw: Its Mines and Minerals, Then and Now" at our November 9th meeting. Perhaps we will learn enough to plan a trip to Michigan next summer!

Six of us extended the three days in Kentucky to nine days by spending time in Ohio on the way down and Virginia and Chesapeake Bay on the way home. You will likely learn more about a number of the locations we visited in future newsletters and see specimens at club meetings, but for now, I will let a few pictures do the talking.



The whole group Saturday morning at Danville Quarry. Two of us are in "WCGMC uniform". The rock in the foreground is covered by red/purple fluorite and bladed barite. Unfortunately nothing quite like it was found out in the quarry, but Ed Smith did find a very cute purple fluorite and there were calcite and fossils for all.



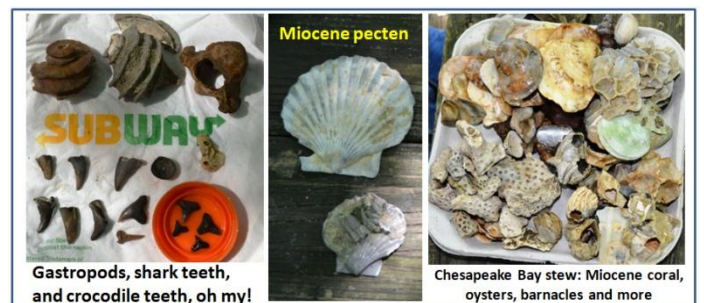
On the way down we stopped at several roadcuts. At this roadcut in Georgetown, Ohio Eva Jane said she knew which layer had the best geodized brachiopods and she scampered up the rock wall to find them.



The geodes pictured on page 1 came from this creek in Lincoln Co., KY. We all got muddy picking geodes



Six of us spent two full days searching for shark teeth and Miocene fossils along the Calvert Cliffs near St. Leonard, Maryland. It was 85 degrees at midday so we spent some time in the water.



Wayne County Gem and Mineral Club 2018 Schedule *last update October 1*

October will be a busy month for WCGMC. There are activities available every weekend as we wind down on another busy season.

October 6th and 7th – WALWORTH QUARRY OPEN HOUSE: The quarry is located at 1200 Atlantic Ave. in Walworth. The schedule will be the same as in past years: Saturday 7:00 AM until 2:00 PM, Sunday from 7:00 AM until noon. Arrive a bit early each day and congregate at the office. Dolomite Products Quarry Supt. Mike Bagne will hold a brief information and safety meeting at 7:00 AM promptly and then as the sun rises a few minutes later we can all caravan to the collecting level in the quarry. Hard hats, boots, safety glasses and long pants are required. Gloves are recommended. Kids are welcome if accompanied at all times by a parent or guardian. They may use bicycle helmets in lieu of hard hats. Collectors are seeking fluorite in vugs in the hard dolostone, but dogtooth calcite, sphalerite, selenite, celestite and galena can also be found. Of course dolomite crystals are virtually ubiquitous in the vugs. And some fossils (corals, etc.) can also be found.

October 12th – Monthly meeting in Newark Program: Chert! (Election will be held at this meeting).

October 13th - Ace of Diamonds in Middletown, NY (they open at 9 AM)

October 14th Lord's Corner, NY for horn corals (we will leave Denny's in Auburn at 9:30 AM)
(there will be opportunities to set up carpooling for both events at the mtg. on Friday night)

October 20th - Saturday monthly workshop (see page 1)

October 21st – 2nd Annual WCGMC Inventory Rock Sale. 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM
(Linda's garage, 1267 Wiley Rd in Savannah, less@tds.net for details),

October 27-28 Rochester Gem, Mineral, Jewelry and Fossil Show, 435 West Commercial Street,
East Rochester, NY www.Facebook.com/ROCGemShow

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)

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WCGCM had two wonderful shared field trips in September and you will be reading in this newsletter about many of the sites visited. Those who attended the September meeting already saw some of the bounty from the first trip and there are a few pictures on page 6 of this newsletter, but there will be more to share through the winter. However, at this time, we'd like to take a moment to thank members from other clubs who invited us to join them and also helped plan the successful field trips.

First, nine of us ventured to central Kentucky over Labor Day and spent three days digging with the Catawba Valley Gem and Mineral Club of Hickory, NC and others on their annual quarry and geode dig. We thank Harry Polly and CVGMC for his invite to join them (we had met Harry on our November trip that took us to North Carolina). We also thank James Johnson from Missouri for setting up the visit to Caldwell Stone Co.'s quarry in Danville, Kentucky. Six of us extended this trip to Chesapeake Bay we spent two full days walking the beach in search of Miocene invertebrate fossils and shark teeth along the Calvert Cliffs shoreline in Maryland. We have no megalodon teeth from our efforts, but we sure found smaller shark teeth, fossil bivalves and more.

Closer to home, we thank Bill deLorraine of the St. Lawrence Rock and Mineral Club for helping with the planning of our three day trip to the western Adirondack region in mid-September. Twenty-one members attended one or more of the sites. The Sunday quartz site northwest of Gouverneur was a new one for us as a club. We also thank Benson Mines property caretakers, Joe and Clark, for allowing us to visit once again. Muscovite, magnetite, sillimanite and some of the best Benson Mines molybdenite I have seen left the location.

Watch for more on these adventures in future newsletters. You are also sure to see some of our finds if you attend a meeting, drop by on workshop Saturday or attend the Inventory Rock Sale on October 21st.

Wayne County Gem & Mineral Contacts

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Visit us on Facebook:

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Fred Haynes – Newsletter Editor

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Bill Lesniak – Website Coordinator

Glenn Weiler – Workshop Coordinator

Linda Schmidtgall – Collection Curator

Eric Elias: GEMFEST Show Chair

thecrystalnetwork@hotmail.com

Fred Haynes – Facebook Administrator



I am fluorite (CaF₂)

**Good luck finding a
Walworth fluorite like
this one this coming
weekend.**

from pg 5

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



Wayne County Gem and Mineral Club
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