

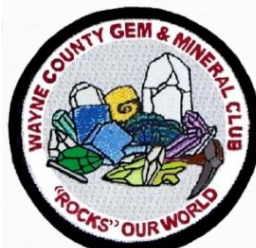
Wayne County Gem and Mineral Club News

October, 2022

Always Looking for Places to Dig!

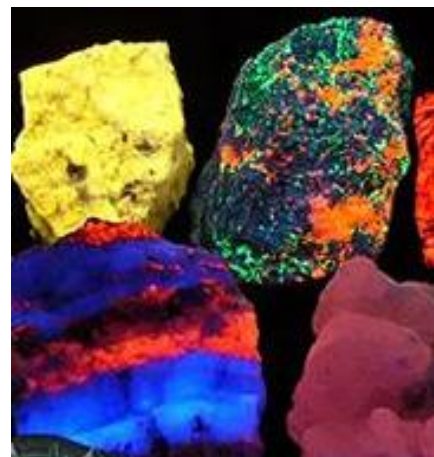


Checking out Thunder Eggs at the September Workshop Raffle -- more pictures on page 7



<http://www.wcgmclub.org>

FACEBOOK link



Learn all about mineral fluorescence at our October 14th club meeting

October Meeting

Friday **October 14th**, 7:00 PM.

Park Presbyterian Church,
Maple Court, Newark, NY

**Program: Fluorescence: History,
Mechanism and Applications**

By Howard Heitner

When an object emits light of a longer wavelength than the light it absorbs, this phenomenon is called fluorescence. The word comes from the mineral fluorite. The name was given by George Stokes in 1852 who did some of the earliest experiments. The actual physics of fluorescence was not explained until 50 years later. Fluorescence has many practical applications in medical devices, radiation detection and chemical analysis. A lot of minerals fluoresce and that has made fluorescence an exciting part of mineral collecting and prospecting. The talk will cover some of the history of mineral fluorescence and the ultraviolet sources available to today's collector.

If you are interested in learning a bit about fluorescence before the meeting, check out [this Geology.com link](http://thisgeology.com)

Saturday Club Workshop

October 15th

(10:00 AM until mid-afternoon)

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

Eye protection is required.

Training on equipment is available.

\$5/adult to offset maintenance costs.



Mary



George



Mario's lace agate



October is upon us, which usually marks the last month with reasonably safe and comfortable chances for rockhounding in the Northeast. Although we weren't able to get a club dig organized, we do have a lot of club and mineral-related activities going on this month to hopefully fill your month full of mineral joy!

Some of us attended the October 1st Dolomite Products Open House at its Penfield Quarry where we were able to see their mining equipment, learn about the quarry operations, gaze longingly at some nice selenite and calcite crystals in some of the rock piles, get free ice cream, and enjoy an informative guided bus tour presented by the quarry's geologist. The tour was so neat that Laura and her son Arthur went on it at least twice. I'm not sure if they snuck on for a third trip around! While it was unfortunate that specimen collection wasn't on offer at the Dolomite Products quarries this year due to liability issues and bad apples not following the rules at previous open dig days, it was still wonderful of the ownership and staff to put on this fantastic and generous open house for the community.

I can't make the previous statement about bad apples not following rules and proper rockhounding etiquette without reminding everyone to be very respectful when digging on private property. This is, of course, always true, but especially when members of an official club. We are expected to know how to behave, how to be safe, show respect for the property and the property owners, and be good emissaries of the hobby. One person annoying a property owner can cause a site to be shut down for the lifetime of that owner. We have seen several favorite quarries as well as a few private sites closed to collecting for these reasons just in the last few years. Just remember, be safe, be respectful, and follow any rules set out by the site owners/representatives so that we can keep collecting at favorite locations for years to come.

Next on the docket for the month is the special trip to American Rock Salt's Hampton Corners Mine on **Friday, October 7th**. Unfortunately, this was limited to only 20 members due to capacity limits on the tour

vehicle, so a random selection was conducted of attendees at the September General Meeting where the mine's geologist, Bill Glenn, gave a fantastic presentation about the history and operations of the mine. Those who were selected have been contacted, so if you didn't get picked this year; make sure to keep an eye out since we'll be doing this again when we're able to get other people a chance to go tour an active underground mine. Also, the selection process was weighted so that people who are more active and contribute more to the club received more entries into the drawing, so it pays to be an active member coming to meetings & field trips, helping with events like the gem show and picnic, performing at the holiday party, or providing talks/lectures/displays at club functions!

Even if you weren't lucky enough to be able to go on the mine tour on the 7th, this weekend still has plenty of opportunities for bulking up your mineral collection. Bill and Pat Chapman are having a mineral sale at their house on **Saturday, October 8th and Sunday, October 9th**. Check out page 3 for further details on this opportunity. I have heard of the treasure horde of minerals available at the Chapmans'. You won't want to miss out!

Friday, October 14th is our monthly meeting and we'll have a presentation on fluorescence in minerals entitled "Fluorescence, History, Mechanism and Applications" presented by a newer member of the club, Dr. Howard Heitner. Dr. Heitner has a background in mining history and mineral specimen collection with over 60 years of experience. Come join us for Howard's fantastic presentation on the causes and applications of fluorescence in minerals, and feel free to bring your own fluorescent specimens if you'd like to have a bit of show & tell or ask questions!

Howard will also have a number of mineral specimens for sale, so bring some extra cash and show up during the social portion of the meeting if you'd like to pick up some nice pieces. He had some of his specimens for sale at the club picnic this summer, and there were some very good pieces for reasonable prices available.

Regarding club meeting approximate timetables, we have a social portion of the meeting where people are free to mill about and converse/socialize (6:30-7p), a club "business" meeting where we go over the formal items (treasury status, dues reminders, etc.) and announcements (upcoming activities, field trips, etc.) that typically runs from 7-7:30 or 8p depending

on how much we have to discuss, and a presentation or activity which we generally plan to run between 8-9p. These are approximate times for the meeting structure and execution, and I'll do my best to try to keep things moving for us in this framework. Apologies for having the meeting run a bit late on folks last month – I underestimated how long my portion of the business meeting would take and how thorough the wonderful presentation would be!

Another note since I'm apparently wearing a slightly grumpy hat this month and feeling a need to make educational reminder: **Please be respectful during meeting presentations** – we are able to bring in some pretty interesting speakers, some of whom travel fair distances to donate their time to share knowledge with us. If we don't respect them by quietly paying attention while they're speaking, they're very unlikely to come back; and we're likely to develop a reputation as "that rude club" among their peers and further reduce the pool of willing speakers we're able to host. Also, it's very distracting for the members who are trying to pay attention. If you want to have a conversation with someone between 7-9p when the more structured portion of the meeting is being held, please step outside to do so.

Saturday, October 15th is our monthly workshop at the Weiler's. Make sure to come on by to cut some slabs or cab up some of the goodies you buy at the Chapman's the weekend prior! Of course, you're always welcome to work on any other projects, too. We had a great time last month at the workshop and had a good turnout. We are truly fortunate to have such a well-maintained workshop space graciously available to us behind the Weiler's home in Wolcott. Be sure to come join in the fun!

The weekend of **October 22nd & 23rd** provides another mineral collection enhancement opportunity. The Rochester Gem & Mineral show will be that weekend and is held at the Total Sports Experience in East Rochester, which is right off 490. (see flyer on page 5). They have several dealers that we do not have at our show, so it's a good chance to shop around for more slabs or that special specimen you're looking for to add to your collection. There are also a number of family friendly activities similar to those we have at our show, so it's fun for the whole family.

Well, that's enough of my rambling (and slight grumbling) for this month – hopefully everyone finds a few mineral activities this month to keep them busy

despite our inability to get a last-minute dig in! I hope to see you all a bunch of times this month at the various goings on!

James

Club Member Rock Sale - **October 8th -9th**

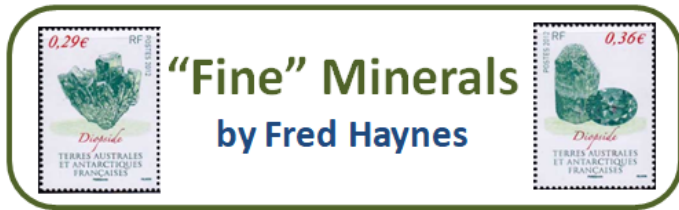
There is no Walworth dig this year, but Pat and Bill Chapman offer us a wonderful alternative. From 9 AM until 4 PM both Saturday and Sunday they will be having a rock sale at their home in Prattsburg. **(11421 County Route 78, Prattsburg, NY 14873).**

Pat writes: *Bill dug up some forgotten specimens behind the barn so we have new old rocks. It's not Walworth but will be something else to do that Columbus Day Weekend. No early birds - it'll be before coffee & it won't be a pretty sight. You might find megalodon teeth, rare minerals, lapidary equipment and even tools and books."*

We understand there may also be some Herkimer diamonds available and that there will be some Ontario specimens also. You cannot find any of that at Walworth.



Bill Chapman smashes Little Falls Dolostone to collect Herkimer diamonds.



A handful of WCGMC members got together in early September and visited three of our favorite collecting sites in St. Lawrence County. One of the sites they visited reminded me an article I wrote about that site way back in October 2014. Yes, Teresa, James, Sarah, Rob, and Sarah stopped at a roadcut gully spot in Fine, New York in search of "fine" minerals.

Your editor is behind this month and it probably shows in this newsletter, which is late and a bit shorter than usual. You can help him catch-up next month by submitting an article or even just a captioned picture. For those of you with long memories, I apologize for republishing the article I wrote eight years ago. For the rest of you, just pretend that it was written this month. Not much has changed about the site over the years.

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 Republished - [WCGMC Newsletter, October 2014](#)
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By Fred Haynes

This will be a short report on a small occurrence. And, perhaps this will be even longer than it truly deserves. But we cannot expect gem tourmaline, perfect fluorites, or complete trilobites at all our favorite haunts.

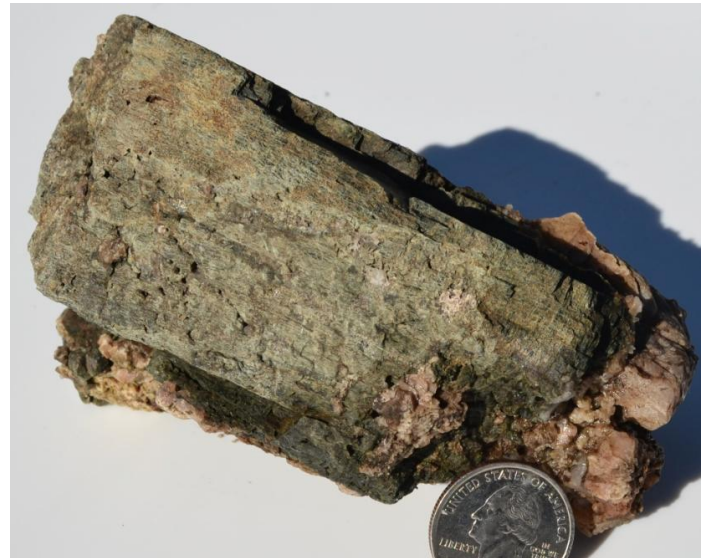
Nestled in a depression just off the intersection of Rte. 3 and Rte 58 in Fine, NY is an interesting occurrence of very coarse grained pyroxene (presumably diopside, but possibly augite) and potassium feldspar. There is associated calcite suggesting that the mineralization may have a skarn origin, but the outcrop exposures don't appear to permit an unequivocal geologic explanation for the very coarse grained open space filling mineralization.

The specimens from this location have been referred to as "aesthetically challenged" (Steve Chamberlain), and I have heard the roadcut hole called a "garbage gully" (Dick Phillips). Of course that has not precluded Dick from moving massive amounts of the material to his garden in Buffalo. Personally, I prefer the phrase "mosquito haven", but regardless of what you call it the locale is a worth a one hour stop on the way into the Adirondacks to locations like Rose

Road, Benson Mines, or points beyond. The site may have particular interest if you are in search of very large, strongly etched, dull crystalline material for your yard. It may be of less interest if you are looking for quality mineral specimens to show off under the bright lights of your living room mineral showcase.



Green mineral is cleaved pyroxene. Pink mineral is feldspar. Specimen is 1.5 inches across.



Pyroxene (likely diopside?) with feldspar: Highly etched, but terminated large diopsides can be collected. The quarter is for scale, but it is also likely an accurate assessment of the value of the average specimen!

Just park your car in the open lot on the northwest corner of the intersection of routes 3 and 58, walk to the left end of the tree line, take a deep breath of fresh air, and descend about 20' down into the gully. Unless a few thousand mineral collectors with large trucks and a propensity to collect large amounts of truly grungy material have preceded you, you should see plenty of dull green pyroxene and dirty orange potassium feldspar gleaming at you in the gully

bottom. Well, it won't actually be gleaming, but you should be able to see it without a flashlight, even though the tree cover might turn noon to dusk and if your timing is wrong the mosquitoes may appear to descend in flocks.

BONUS: Once tired of competing for grungy "crystals" with mosquitoes in the dark gully you may want to walk along the route 58 towards the bridge over the Oswegatchie River. The rocks in the roadcut on the way to the bridge are varied and interesting. At one point a felsic appearing gneiss can be collected that contains visible, although small, grains of deep green diopside, purple fluorite, titanite (yes, yet another 2014 siting), and biotite. I found no grain larger than a centimeter and all are part of the rock and not free standing. But, it is an interesting rock. I did find a small black tourmaline in loose rubble along the road, but could not locate the source in the roadcut. Be careful along the road; the flora includes poison ivy.

If you have Robert Beard's 2013 Falcon Guide entitled Rockhounding New York, this second site is #60, called Fine Roadcut, in his book.



Sometimes rockhounds get hungry. Notice the ambidextrous coordination Rob is displaying: two-handed hot dog roasting!

Rochester Gem, Mineral, Jewelry and Fossil Show & Sale

Educational Displays, Beads, Crystals, Fossils, Minerals, Jewelry, Carvings, Spheres, Hourly Door Prizes & Much More

ADMISSION \$6.00

2022

Total Sports Experience

Washington St.

W. Commercial St.

TOTAL SPORTS EXPERIENCE - 435 WEST COMMERCIAL STREET, E ROCHESTER, NY 14445
JUST OFF INTERSTATE 490

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22ND
10:00 A.M. TO 6:00 P.M.



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23RD
10:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.

KIDS 12 & UNDER FREE WITH AN ADULT | SPECIAL: 2-DAY PASS ONLY \$9.00
PURCHASE GENERAL ADMISSION TICKETS AT THE DOOR, OR
ONLINE AT tinyurl.com/2022GemShowTix (Advance ticket holders can skip the line at the door.)

SAVE THE DATE

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

Facebook.com/ROCGemShow



Teresa Ferris took this picture of three wet, but happy mineral collectors last month during the "return" to Fine. From this picture, it appears the site may deserve yet another name, "soggy gully". Photo by Teresa Ferris

The curator of the WCGMC rock and mineral collection (Linda Schmidtgal) at work in the club "warehouse" in Wolcott. If you are a member and have not seen our storage container come to a Saturday workshop and take a peak.



Splendid Sands Calendar

October, 2022

Bay Beach, São Pedro & São Paulo Archipelago, BRAZIL



Photo by Leo Kenney

by Leo Kenney, Kate Clover & Carol Hopper Brill

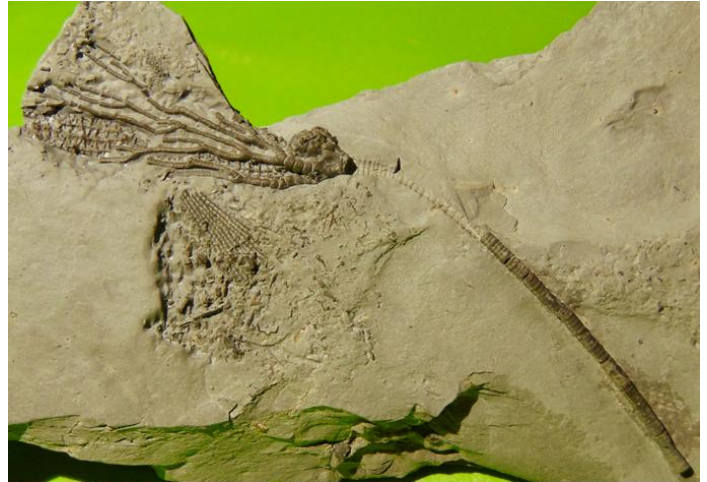
The Saint Peter and Saint Paul Archipelago (SPSPA) includes 15 small rocky islets in the central equatorial Atlantic Ocean, strategically situated on the mid-Atlantic Ridge between South America and Africa.

In 1832, Darwin was the first geologist to examine the rocks and note that "they were not exclusively of volcanic origin." Today, scientists believe this archipelago represents the pinnacles of a submarine mountain ridge, the Atoba Ridge – one of the few places on Earth where an underwater ocean ridge has broken through to the surface of the sea.

The ultramafic (high in Fe and Mg) metamorphic rocks on SPSPA show peculiar characteristics and are called mylonites (which refers to their texture and not the rock's mineralogy). Mylonites have very fine grains, and the lineations in the rock represent shear zones. All the minerals in the rock have re-crystallized along these lineations. In addition, this sample contains fragments of barnacles and worm tubes.

In 1986, the archipelago was designated an environmentally protected area. Administratively, SPSPA belongs to Brazil, and the Brazilian Navy maintains a scientific research facility on the archipelago.

A Rare New York Crinoid Find



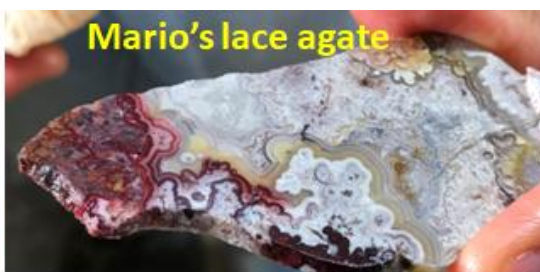
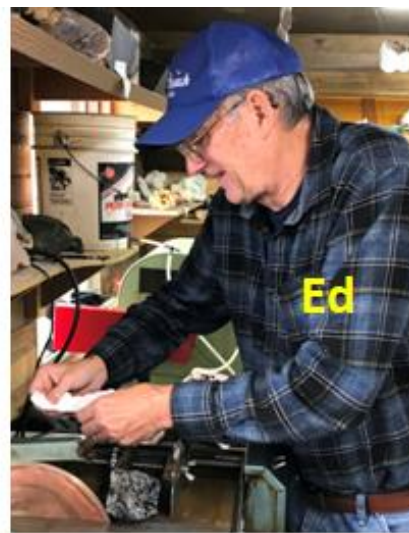
About one month ago, Stephen Mayer posted this rare complete crinoid to our club Facebook page with the following description.

"Often times years after a fossil is collected, it is finally prepared. That was the case for this crinoid found in the Genesee Valley. George McIntosh, Curator emeritus of the Rochester Museum and Science Center has tentatively identified this rare species from the Windom Member as possibly "*Botryocrinus* = '*Nassoviocrinus*' *costatus* Goldring, 1954. The species exhibits an elongated anal sac between bifurcating arms. This specimen offers a glimpse into the Middle Devonian of New York. The length of the calyx and arms is 4 cm."



If you visit Lake Ontario and can't find pretty rocks, you are not looking hard enough. Lynn Musclow posted this to our Facebook page, stating that these Lake Ontario beauties were now ready for their final polish. How many different rock types do you see?

A Typical Saturday WCGMC Workshop in Wolcott – Artisans at Play



Wayne County Gem & Mineral Contacts

ELECTED OFFICERS

President – James Keeler

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

Vice-President – Holly Woodworth

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

Secretary – Beth Webster

Treasurer - Bill Lesniak

Board of Directors

Bob Linderbery

Heidi Morgenstern

Karen Wilkins

Ed Smith

Past President – Linda Schmidtgall

Visit us on Facebook:

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

APPOINTED POSITIONS

Field Trip coordinator – Teresa Ferris, *help wanted*

Fossil Field Trip Leader - Stephen Mayer

Fred Haynes – Newsletter Editor

[fredmhaynes55\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:fredmhaynes55(at)gmail.com)

Bill Lesniak – Website Coordinator

Glenn Weiler – Workshop Coordinator

Linda Schmidtgall – 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

