

# Wayne County Gem and Mineral Club News

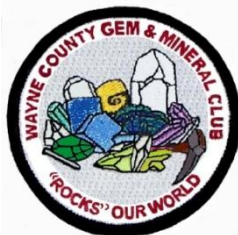
September, 2019

Always Looking for Places to Dig!



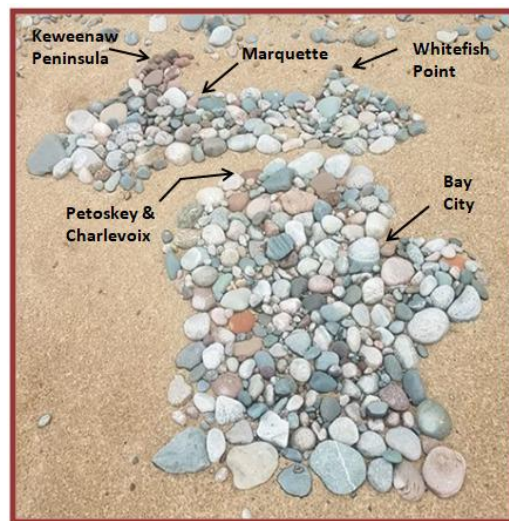
What is this? Rocks for dessert?

For more picnic pictures, see page 6



<http://www.wcgmc.org>

**FACEBOOK link**



Some of the places we visited on our 13-day trip to Michigan. see more inside

## Our first two fall meetings are set

7:00 PM Park Presbyterian Church,  
Maple Court, Newark, NY

Friday September 13th

**Program: Beginning of Life**

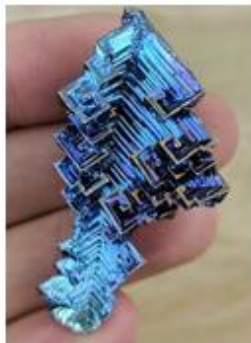
**By Dave Millis**

**And ...** Fred Haynes and Jim Rienhardt plan to swap about 25 sand samples. Come see their sands and watch the trade go down! Maybe there are others among us who would like to become arenophiles? (see story on page 4)

Friday October 11th

**Program: Show, brag, swap,  
share your 2019 finds**

**And ..** Inga Wells will demonstrate how bismuth can be grown. Come watch the crystals grow!



## Upcoming WCGMC Workshop **September 14th**

When: 10:00 AM until mid-afternoon

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

Rules: Bring your own rocks.

Training on equipment is available.

Eye protection is required.

\$5/adult to offset maintenance costs.

Mark your calendars for future workshops on October 19<sup>th</sup> and November 9<sup>th</sup>.

Did we mention that if you need a rock to cut, carve or otherwise mutilate at the workshop you can always get one from the Weiler rock pile out back. Just 50 cents/pound and it will be yours.



The rock pile was a busy place during the picnic last month. But there are still plenty of rocks left.





## President's Message Linda Schmidt Gall

Wow, August has sure been a busy month. It started with a 13-day trip to Michigan with four other WCGMC trippers. We joined the Ishpeming Mineral Club for two field trips in the Iron District around Marquette and then the Copper Country Rock and Mineral Club for four consecutive digs in copper-rich mine dumps on the Keweenaw Peninsula. It was fun to meet rock hounds from both clubs and to dig something completely different. In addition to collecting on their organized trips we also took New York rocks with us to trade during evening events.



**Fred took this picture of Bill, Donna, Ed, and me** before we crossed the Mackinac Bridge onto the Upper Peninsula. And yes, Fred did obtain a sample of this beach sand!

Speaking of evening events, we spent three late evenings on the western beaches of the Keweenaw Peninsula watching the sunsets over Lake Superior and then hunting for "yooperlites" with our black lights. Fred likes to call them sodalite-bearing syenites, but "yooperlites" is fine with me. They are so easy to spot with long-wave lights which we each purchased at a rock shop in Allouez. We were not back into our airbnb home, also in Allouez, until after 11:30 on these evenings, but the successful hunts made all this worthwhile.

On the drive up, we had stopped in the Lower Peninsula of Michigan (near Charlevoix and on Lake Michigan), to hunt for Petoskey stones and I talked my car mates to returning there on the drive home. I don't think I had to twist Bill and Fred's arms too much for the "slight" detour. Anyway, that is why there were so many Petoskey stones in the free rock bucket at the picnic. Hopefully all of you who wanted one, got one.



**Fred took this picture of the rest of us, looking at the variety of rocks on Gratiot River County Beach and waiting for the sun to set.** It did and we walked the beach with our lights. Amazingly, each day as we were leaving with our "yooperlites" at ~11:00 PM, others were just arriving to search for the darn things. Every day the Lake Superior surf turns the rocks over and exposes new ones.



**Bill took home the best Petoskey stones.** He did not show Fred and me these until it was time to go so we would not be tempted to look for more! I cannot wait to see these polished. Have you finished polishing them yet Bill?

Soon after we were home from Michigan, it was picnic time. Thank you Glenn and Eva Jane for deciding to order the larger "shade" tent for the yard. Turned out we did not need a 60' by 40' tent for shade, but instead for liquid sunshine. I just wish it had not been so loud when I was trying to speak. Perhaps most of you were quite happy not to hear me!

As many of you read this I am likely off to Kentucky on another joint club trip, this time with the Catawba Valley Gem and Mineral Club of Hickory, NC. We enjoyed hunting for fluorites and geodes with them last Labor Day weekend and a few of us are joining them again.

Alas, that brings us into the waning months of the summer collecting season, but it also means fall meetings the second Friday of every month and Saturday workshops. I hope many of you in the area can join us for monthly meetings or workshops.



## Wayne County Gem and Mineral Club

**Rock Hounds of the Year****Ken and Rocky Rowe****Celebrating 35 years of service**

Linda Schmidtgal  
WCGMC President  
August, 2019



WCGMC is proud and honored to present the 2019 Rockhound of the Year Award to Ken and Rocky Rowe. Over the past three and a half decades (yes 35 years) Ken and Rocky Rowe have been members, officers, show chairs, and field trip leaders, all the while watching the ebb and flow of the club over those years. Ken is a Past President and perennial field trip leader and Rocky's time as secretary is measured in decades, not years. If you have attended any of the past 5 GemFest events in Canandaigua you have met Rocky. She has handled admissions from opening to closing on both days.

While 35 years may seem like a long time to most of us, it may not seem so to Ken and Rocky. You see, the couple has been married for 69 years! Which may beg the question, why did it take them so long to join the WCGMC? Ken laughed at this thought, simply stating, "We were busy raising 8 kids; is it necessary to say more?"

Since joining our little family of rock hounds the Rowe's have travelled the country collecting rocks and visiting other clubs. Ken noted visiting Quartzite, Arizona as a highlight of those trips. But both Ken and Rocky quickly come back to their New York roots noting that their absolute favorite dig sites are in their own home state.

Ken made a point to acknowledge our club's founders, Jim and Marion Wheaton for introducing them to so many interesting places in our great state. From the Adirondacks to Herkimer country and, of course, to the quarries in our own backyard, Ken and Rocky have fond memories of all. When asked to pick out a favorite moment, Ken did not hesitate: "It has to be the 3.5" clear fluorite I found at Walworth around the turn of the century". That piece now resides in the State Museum in Albany. But he quickly added that there were many other great trips over the years.

Way back in 1995, the Finger Lakes Times honored the couple and their passion for rock hounding in a long article with the catchy title "Newark pair happy to have marriage on the rocks". The paper made note of the Rowes not only for their love of minerals, but also for the educational opportunities at area schools and community events in which they participated. It has been 24 years since that article and all of it would be just as true today as it was then.



President Linda Schmidtgal presents Ken and Rocky Rowe with *Rockhounds of the Year* award for their 35 years of membership and service to the club.

**Can you name this mineral ?**

- I'm usually green.
- I am the green mineral in unakite.
- I'm found in amgydaloidal basalt.
- I am a sorosilicate.
- My hardness is 6-7.
- I am a metamorphic mineral.

See page 7 for answer







## Mineral Musing

### Arenophilia by Fred Haynes



I have a confession to make. I have become an arenophile. Fortunately, it is not illegal (unless trespassing while doing it or [if you are in Sardinia](#)), and it should not be harmful to my health. I would say it is generally not contagious, but I did catch it this past spring when Jim Rienhardt introduced us to the hobby in our [November 2018 newsletter](#) and later at the March meeting. I did not realize I was hooked until this summer. While collecting minerals on trips to Maine and in Michigan, I looked for sands to collect and proceeded to fill quart freezer bags at a few dozen locations along lakes, rivers, and even from glacial deposits. You see an "arenophile" is a lover of sand. The word is derived from the Latin "arena" (sand) and the Greek "phil" (love).



**Left:** I am sampling garnet-magnetite rich sand that has accumulated on the Lake Superior shore line at Whitefish Point. Yes, there were some neat rocks there also.

Photo by L. Schmidtgal

**Right:** That same sand, home and under a digital microscope. The pink and red grains are all garnet. The black grains are magnetite. I am not sure what the green grains are. Notice that the magnetite grains are generally smaller; this is because magnetite is dense and the sorting is generally controlled by a combination of weight and density. The average sand grain is about 0.25-0.5 mm in diameter, so this is a medium grained sand.

Turns out there are several Facebook Groups comprised of arenophiles who trade sands through the mail using the small USPS boxes to send 30 ml packets of sand to fellow arenophiles around the world. Jim introduced me to them also. He gets all the credit (or the blame).

I've yet to initiate an online trade, and it is costly outside the US, but I have begun processing (describing, drying and packaging packets from the 40 samples I have acquired this summer). When winter comes I suspect I will find some folks with whom to trade. Since as many as 20 samples fit into the small USPS box, it is easy to accumulate samples rapidly.

If you attend the September club meeting you will get a further introduction to arenophilia. Jim and I are planning to trade some of our sands. I will have packets prepared from Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and Michigan. Included will be sands from the shores of four Great Lakes and many rivers, and streams. There are even sands from mining areas as diverse as pegmatites in Maine to copper stamp mill sand in Michigan. The recent glaciation about 10,000 years ago left sand behind also and I have some of that.

Jim has an equally impressive list of sands to trade. We'll swap right in front of everyone at the meeting. Maybe, we can pass the affliction on to someone else. If we can convert a few others into arenophilia then perhaps we can form a subgroup within WCGMC; the Sand Clan or some other obnoxious name. We can have our own meetings and plan our own field trips. I've heard there are lots of nice sands to collect in the Caribbean.



**On the left:** 2" by 3" bags filled with 30 ml of sand I have collected this summer, all ready for trade.

**On the right:** 20 ml sand vials for my collection.

*continued on next page*



But, you do not have to go to exotic places to collect sand. Sand is virtually everywhere and once you start to look carefully you will see that no two sands are truly alike. There are differences in color and differences in mineralogy. Some sands are comprised of mineral grains, others of small bits of rock. Some sands are well sorted with respect to grain size, others are not. Individual sand grains can be well rounded or they can be angular. Grains can be polished by the transport medium (usually water) or they can be frosted (often when accumulated by wind).

Some of these differences can be seen with a hand lens, others require a microscope. I have found that the [zOrb 65x digital microscope](#) I purchased last year is quite adequate to see many of these differences and also affords a method to quickly document them.



**Digital microphotograph of sand grains from two samples obtained on this summer's WCGMC trips.** The sand at the top is from a creek in Hoosick, NY. It is coarse grained, poorly sorted, and comprised mostly of angular rock fragments. The sand in the lower picture is from Canatara Beach in Sarnia, Ontario on Lake Huron. It is medium grained, much better sorted and the grains are rounded and mostly mono-mineralic. The clearer grains are quartz.

I've got a way to go before I can call myself a full-fledged arenophile. Perhaps after a couple more collecting trips and some trading I will earn the title. And if I graduate from simply being a sand collector to actually scientifically studying the sands I obtain, then I will no longer only be an arenophile. I will also be a psammologist. I kid you not. Look it up!

## A Big WCGMC Thank You

Those of us who ventured to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan in August warmly thank two northern Michigan rock clubs for coordinating field trips and allowing us to join them. We enjoyed all 6 days of field trips with the two clubs while also attending their annual shows. We also thank Jim and Bonnie Hird for their help with logistics in both Marquette and the Keweenaw Peninsula. We hope we can repay all of our new friends some time in western New York.

Our first weekend in Michigan was spent in Marquette. We visited both the Republic Mine (banded-iron formation and magnetite) and two days later collected pretty pink banded Kona Dolomite at the Lindberg Quarry in Ishpeming. You will likely see some of the pretty stone being cut at the workshop. Both trips were set up by the **Ishpeming Mineral Club**. In between the trips we enjoyed the Ishpeming Club show and collected agates, Lake Superior beach slag, chloritized garnets, serpentinized peridotite, and even taconite.

Then it was on to the Keweenaw Peninsula and four consecutive days of hunting copper. The **Copper Country Rock and Mineral Club** planned these visits and had each large dump turned over the morning of each dig to bring more copper to the surface. We came home with lots of native copper, epidote, zeolites, chrysocolla, and chalcocite, and even a little datolite and greenstone. But we also came home with fond memories of the big lake Gitchee Gumee and a strong desire to go back and visit our new rock hound friends again. Thanks to all we meet in Yooper land.



**Linda and Bill hunt atop the Central Mine dump.** Linda has her small pin pointer metal detector while Bill has the more standard style detector. They both worked well!



## WCGMC Annual Picnic - August 17th

One of the highlights of the WCGMC season is the annual picnic at the end of the summer and 2019 was no exception. We broke our attendance record for the third or fourth straight year as 76 club and family members spent the day under the big top in Wolcott.

We ate, we talked rocks, and we played games. Some took advantage of the workshop being open, others learned how to "paint" fossils with a glue-water mixture courtesy of Dave Millis. Everyone went home with lots of rocks. Those who went to New England (both trips) and to Michigan had plenty to share. But don't fret if you had to miss the picnic. There are more rocks and they will show up at some of the fall meetings.

We thank Glenn and Eva Jane Weiler for sharing their yard, barn, and cornfield with us for yet another year. The food was great and we thank all who helped make it so. How about all those fossil pasta dishes Kathleen brought?

Here are a few pictures of the festivities:



What is a rock club picnic without free rocks for everyone?



Of course the workshop was open. After all we are a rock club!



## Wayne County Gem and Mineral Club 2019 Schedule *last update August 27*

September brings shorter days, maybe cooler temperatures and school. It also means that WCGMC will return to the First Presbyterian Church in Newark for its monthly meetings and the workshop will be open one Saturday a month. But there is more!

**August 30<sup>th</sup> – Sept 3<sup>rd</sup> - central Kentucky with CVGMC.** Ohio, Tennessee, and North Carolina sites will be visited before and after the CVGMC stops over the weekend.

**September 13<sup>th</sup>** monthly meeting, **September 14<sup>th</sup>** – Saturday Workshop

An early October trip to Ontario is being considered. We'll have details at the September meeting.

**October 11<sup>th</sup>** monthly meeting, **October 19<sup>th</sup>** – Saturday Workshop

**October 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>** – likely dates of Walworth Open House (not yet confirmed)

**October 20<sup>th</sup>** – Sunday afternoon Club Sale at Linda Schmidtgal's. Watch for details next month.

**October 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>** – [Rochester Lapidary Society Gem and Mineral Show](#), Rochester, NY (see below)

**November 8<sup>th</sup>** monthly meeting, **November 9<sup>th</sup>** – Saturday Workshop

*We will likely schedule a date to visit Ace of Diamonds before it closes on October 31<sup>st</sup>.*

### 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



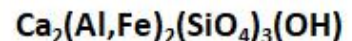
**TOTAL SPORTS EXPERIENCE - 435 WEST COMMERCIAL STREET, E ROCHESTER, NY 14445**  
JUST OFF INTERSTATE 490

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26<sup>th</sup>**  
10:00 A.M. TO 6:00 P.M.



**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27<sup>th</sup>**  
10:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.

#### EPIDOTE:



*answer from page 3*

Just a couple more pictures from the picnic, just in case you missed them on [our Facebook page](#)



Kathleen's creativity strikes again. Two of 6 dishes she provided. Edible fossils!



Can you think of a better parting shot?

## Wayne County Gem & Mineral Contacts

### ELECTED OFFICERS (NEWLY ELECTED)

President - Linda Schmidtgal  
[lees@tds.net](mailto:lees@tds.net) 315-365-2448  
 Vice-President - Fred Haynes  
[fredmhaynes55@gmail.com](mailto:fredmhaynes55@gmail.com) 585-203-1733  
 Secretary - Debbie Breeze  
[debbiegb55@hotmail.com](mailto:debbiegb55@hotmail.com) 585-289-6989  
 Treasurer - Bill Lesniak  
[Dirtman300@aol.com](mailto:Dirtman300@aol.com) 315-483-8061

### Board of Directors

Gary Thomas [gftthomas956@gmail.com](mailto:gftthomas956@gmail.com)  
 Bob Linderbery [bootmanblues@gmail.com](mailto:bootmanblues@gmail.com)  
 Heidi Morgenstern [morgensternheidi@rocketmail.com](mailto:morgensternheidi@rocketmail.com)  
 Holly Ann Woodworth [autum14513@yahoo.com](mailto:autum14513@yahoo.com)

Past President - Glenn Weiler [gwexterior@gmail.com](mailto:gwexterior@gmail.com)

Visit us on Facebook:

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

### APPOINTED POSITIONS

Bill Chapman – Field Trip Chair  
[batnpill@empacc.net](mailto:batnpill@empacc.net) 607-868-4649  
 Fred Haynes – Newsletter Editor  
[fredmhaynes55@gmail.com](mailto:fredmhaynes55@gmail.com) 585-203-1733

Bill Lesniak – Website Coordinator  
 Glenn Weiler – Workshop Coordinator  
[gwexterior@gmail.com](mailto:gwexterior@gmail.com) 315-594-8478  
 Linda Schmidtgal – Collection Curator  
 Eric Elias: GEMFEST Show Chair  
[thecrystalnetwork@hotmail.com](mailto:thecrystalnetwork@hotmail.com)  
 Fred Haynes – Facebook Administrator

Club meets 2<sup>nd</sup> 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**

The Public is always welcomed



Wayne County Gem and Mineral Club  
 P.O. Box 4  
 Newark, New York 14513