

# Wayne County Gem and Mineral Club News

May, 2017

Always Looking for Places to Dig!



*Eurypterus lacustris* from Ridgemount, Ontario (see p. 2-3)



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

[FACEBOOK link](#)



The workshop was busy in April. Sixteen artisans were in action cutting, polishing and making spheres. (see p.7)

## Next Club Meeting Friday May 12<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM

Presbyterian Church, Maple Court, Newark, NY

PROGRAM: **The Many Forms of Quartz**

*Presentation by Dave Millis*

## WCGMC May Workshop Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup>

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 facet. Training on equipment is available. Eye protection is recommended. \$5/adult to offset maintenance costs

**Penfield Quarry Open House is May 6<sup>th</sup>** see page 4

**PENFIELD QUARRY, MAY, 2014**



**WCGMC is always looking for places to dig.**

For our current schedule of activities, turn/scroll to page 7

Wayne County Gem & Mineral Club

24<sup>th</sup> annual **Gem Fest**  
**2017**



Sat. June 3 10-5  
Sun. June 4 10-4

### LOCATION

Greater Canandaigua Civic Center  
250 N. Bloomfield Rd, Canandaigua, NY

**\$3 Admission, Kids 12 & under FREE**

Soapstone Carving, Wire Wrapping, Sluice  
Vendors, Exhibits, Free Prizes, Scavenger Hunt

[UV Bob's Ultraviolet Show](#)

**Gems, Minerals, Fossils, Beads & Jewelry**

visit <http://www.wcgmc.org/> for details

It is time to get busy planning GemFest. Our biggest need from members before the event is "getting the word out". Facebook users can share the club posts. Flyers can be printed from the club webpage and distributed to schools, churches, and other public groups/locations. We have 50 or so roadside signs to post; come to the May meeting and agree to post some. Be creative: any/all help in advertising the event will help us continue to grow GemFest.

see page 4 to learn what has worked before



## THE MANY FACES OF RIDGEMOUNT

BY WAYNE DAVEY & STEPHEN MAYER



Ridgemount Quarry in Fort Erie, Ontario is famous for its Eurypterid-bearing strata. Upper Silurian Bertie Group limestones are exposed predominantly at the surface; and it is these rocks that are so reluctant to give up their fossils. The topmost layer known as the Williamsville B Formation, consists of 6 to 8 inches of barren, unproductive, silty, calcareous shale. These rocks need to be cleared before getting to the underlying fossiliferous layers of the Williamsville A Formation.

Prior to February 2016 the owners of Ridgemount set aside a portion of the quarry to allow collecting fossils, however, in March 2016, they relocated the collecting area to a much smaller section. Here the collecting is difficult, digging is hard, very hard and days go by without finding anything other than tiny fragments of eurypterids. It is not uncommon to move several tons of rock with nothing to show for it.



**The new collecting area during the WCGMC trip last May. WCGMC will visit this year on June 16<sup>th</sup>.**

Photo by F. Haynes

Persistence, however, does pay off. With enough hours invested, extraordinary fossils can be found. One of us (WD) is very fortunate to live less than ten minutes from Ridgemount and has been able to visit the quarry most Fridays throughout the year, even in winter. As long as there is little or no snow cover and the weather isn't too bad (snowing or raining too hard) and the temperature is about 20F or above WD will try his luck. Some winter days are more pleasant than the blistering hot days of summer, and it's never crowded.

Although folks needed to work hard for the fossils in the original area, they were more easily obtained than from the new location. The new area that has been set aside for collectors in the last year has proven to be a real challenge. Tons of material had to be cleared. The rock is harder to split than the previous area. Most visitors to Ridgemount come once, complain bitterly about the seemingly impenetrable, sharp, ugly rock, and the inherent lack of fossils. Then they leave, never to be seen again. That's unfortunate as the reality is that a very diverse assemblage of species, although sparse, can be found and typically exhibit excellent fossil preservation.

In the past year, Wayne has found several complete *Eurypterus lacustris*, including the specimen depicted on the front page, parts of four other species of eurypterid, two species of horseshoe crab, phyllocarids, plants including *Cooksonia* and a possible undescribed alga as well as a few other fossils.

This article and the pictures on the following page are intended as a summary and a visual aid of the many species found at Ridgemount. Perhaps the pictures will be useful to those of you who choose to attend the WCGMC trip on Friday June 16<sup>th</sup>.

For additional information we suggest the following references:

Batt, R. J., 1999, An Examination of Eurypterid Occurrences in the Williamsville Formation (Bertie Group) Exposed in Ridgemount Quarry, NYSGA 71<sup>st</sup> Ann. Mtg. Guidebook, p. B58-B67.

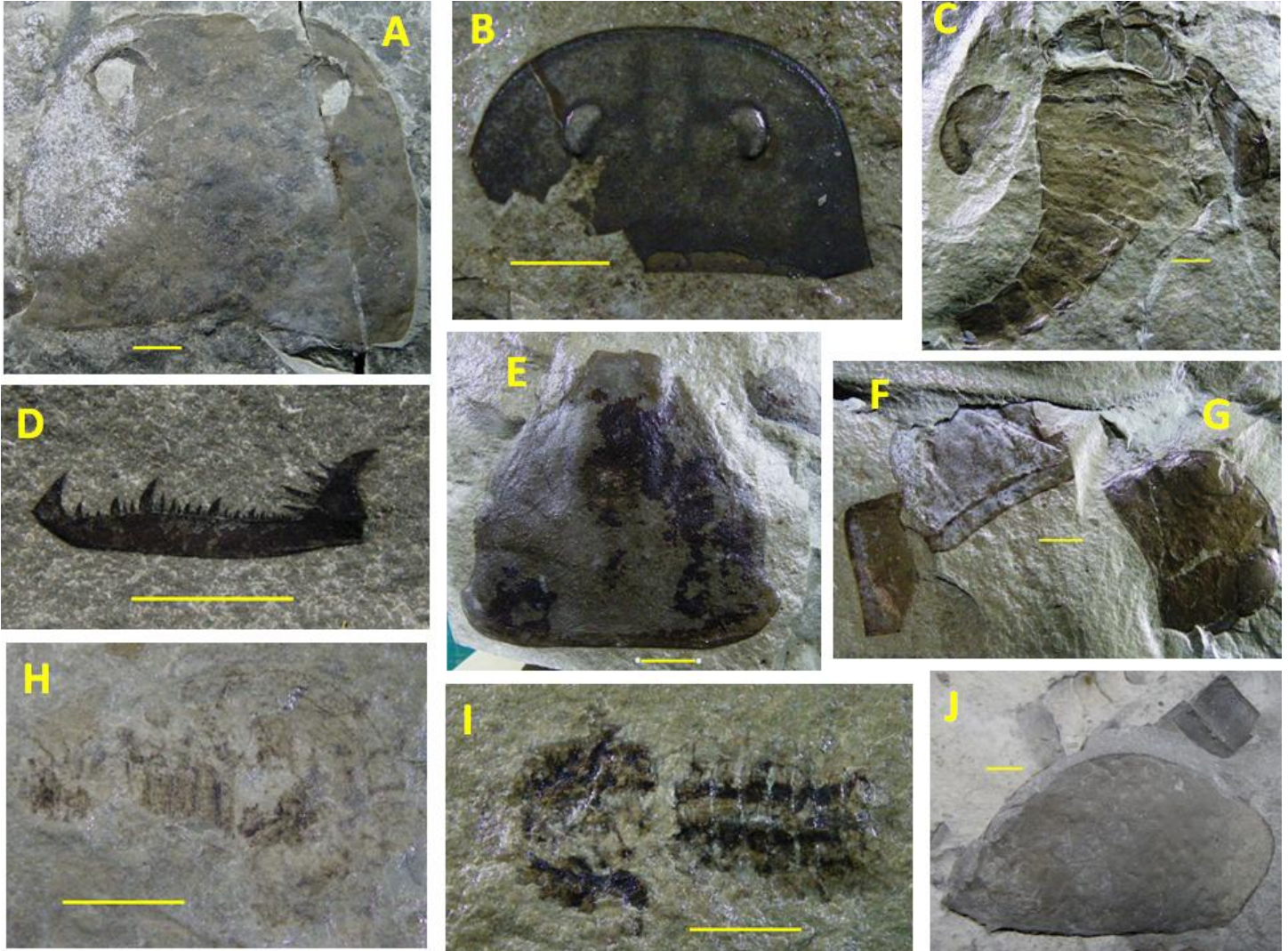
Clarke, J.M., and Ruedemann, R. , 1912. The Eurypterida of New York: New York State Museum Memoir 14, Albany, NY 628 p. — [download from NY State Library site](#)

[Ciurca, S.J. Jr., and Hamell, R., D., 1994](#), Late Silurian Sedimentation, Sedimentary Structures and Paleoenvironmental Settings within an Eurypterid-Bearing Sequence (Salina and Bertie Groups), Western NY and SW Ontario, NYSGA 66<sup>th</sup> Ann. Mtg. Guidebook, p. 457-488

[Vrazo, M. B., Brett, C. E., and Ciurca, S. J. Jr., 2016](#), Buried or brined? Eurypterids and evaporates in the Silurian Appalachian Basin, in *Palaeogeography, Palaeoclimatology, Palaeoecology*, v. 444, p. 48-59.



## Eurypterids and More That Can be Found at Ridgemount Quarry in Fort Erie, Ontario



All specimens and photos by Wayne Davey.

The yellow scale bar in all photos is one centimeter long.

**Ridgemount Eurypterids:** **A-** A large *Dolichopterus macrocheirus* head, a species only found occasionally, **B-** *Eurypterus dekeyi* head, **C-** *Eurypterus lacustris* – most commonly found species, distinguished from *dekeyi* by head proportions, **D-** Toothy partial claw from *Pterygotus acutiramis* **E-** *Paracarcinosoma scorpionis*, the head and a few body segments of a very rare species found in 2015 at the old quarry location, **F-** *Eurypterus lacustris* head and **G-** *Pterygotus acutiramis* head on the same slab. To the best of the authors' knowledge no complete *Pterygotus* specimens have ever been found and some collectors have been searching for over 20 years (pers. comm.).

**Other Ridgemount Fossils:** Two Species of **Horseshoe Crab**, **H-** *Bunaia* sp., a very rare species known only from Ridgemount, **I-** *Pseudoniscus* sp. with elongate, highly segmented carapace. Collectors have stated that these fossils are not uncommon at Ridgemount, but it took WD four years to find his first one, then surprisingly 6 or 7 more last year, **J-** **Phyllocarid**, *Ceratiocaris acuminata* - a fairly common species, note the abdominal segments above the carapace.

**Plants** can be found also: **K-** *Cooksonia*, an early land plant displaying internal vascular water plumbing.

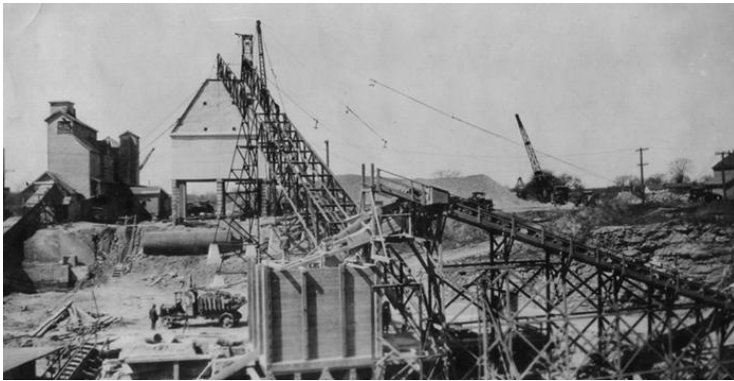




**SITE OF THE MONTH**  
**Penfield Quarry**  
 By Fred Haynes



For one Saturday morning in May, The Dolomite Group opens its Penfield Quarry (746 Whalen Rd.) to collectors. **This year that Saturday is May 6<sup>th</sup>.** They ask that folks arrive before 7:00 AM to sign in, receive an official welcome, and attend a brief safety meeting. Immediately after, everyone descends to a level in the quarry that has been set aside for collecting (see photo on page 1). Hard hats (or bicycle helmets for kids) are required as is eye protection. No open toed shoes/sandals are allowed. The collecting period is from 7 AM until noon.



**Penfield Quarry in 1928.**

Photo from The Dolomite Group webpage.

Penfield Quarry was established in 1920 as a rock aggregate quarry in the Silurian Lockport Dolostone. The quarry operators supply more than 20 different styles and sizes of crushed dolostone product for use in construction, road fill, landscape, etc. Penfield is only one of the regional quarries operated by The Dolomite Group. Walworth Quarry, which holds a similar Open House in October, is another.

The dolostone rock is hard, no, it is very hard! Rock hammers and chisels are a must to break rock. Larger sledges are even better. Conventional hammers are not designed for this sort of work and are unsafe as they can break rather than the rock. Of course, there are smaller rocks around and you might be lucky just searching in the parking area or along the edge of the larger pieces.

The prize is a large colorful, perhaps transparent, cubic fluorite sitting in a vug and perhaps accompanied by bright white rhombohedral dolomite crystals. But the vugs can also contain dogtooth calcite, selenite (crystalline gypsum), sphalerite, and even, occasionally

galena. Chain coral (halysites) and other fossils can be found in the dolostone.



**Penfield Fluorite:** WCGMC member Bob Hiler grew up on a fruit farm in Penfield and has been collecting at the quarry for much of his life. In fact, his collection of western New York fluorites was featured in the **"Mineral Collections in the American Northeast"**, a wonderful 450 page supplement volume to the Mineralogical Record July-August 2016 issue. Bob's fluorite depicted here is 3.8 cm on side, resting comfortably on a bed of white dolomite.

*Photo by Jeff Scovil (Min. Rec., 2016)*

## GEMFEST ADVERTISING

Last year WCGMC collected over 400 e-mail addresses and 120 street addresses from patrons. We will use these to remind folks of this year's show. But we collected some other interesting data also. On the information form, we asked where folks had learned of our show. Almost 700 people provided input, or about 90% of those who filled out the form. Bill Lesniak spent some time this winter compiling the data which tell us to keep using road signs and to encourage all of you to tell your friends, distribute flyers, and share information on Facebook. Here is the input listed in decreasing order:

<b>ROAD SIGN</b>	167	24.4%
<b>FROM A FRIEND</b>	117	17.1%
<b>SHOW FLYER</b>	94	13.7%
<b>FACEBOOK</b>	80	10.4%
<b>NEWSPAPER</b>	54	7.9%
<b>INTERNET</b>	50	7.3%
<b>E-MAIL</b>	22	3.2%
<b>POSTCARD MAIL</b>	8	1.2%
<b>OTHER</b>	92	13.5%

## Wire Weaving by Holly Worsham

THE VIRGINIA PEN



*Editor's Note: I know there is significant interest in wire wrapping or wire weaving within WCGMC. This illustrated and informative tutorial was published in the March issue of the Virginia Pen, the newsletter of the Gem and Mineral Society of the Virginia Peninsula. This is an abbreviated version of Holly's note. Her full article is available [here](#).*

Wire weaving is becoming a very popular way to wrap cabochons or any desired object. The craft involves taking multiple gauge wires and weaving different patterns to add additional dimension and design in a manner that keeps the stone secure. There are no glues or heating tools used.

The width of your cabochon usually determines the width of your weave or multiple weaves secured together. You need to have your weaving or multiple weaves wide enough to secure the stone in place. The most common wire combination is a 20-gauge base wire and a 26-gauge weaving wire. A good rule of thumb is to have a 6-gauge difference in the two wires to get good contrast (but this is not cast in stone, pun intended).

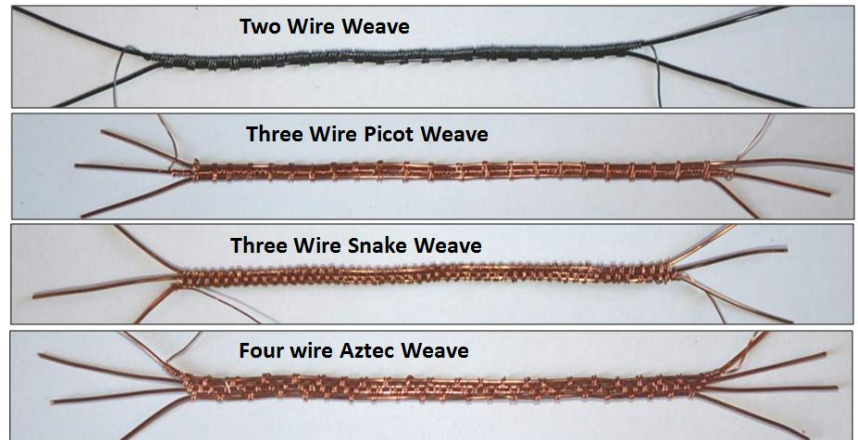
The thinnest weave is the basic 2 wire weave and you can do a variety of different combinations to come up with a variety of



Here are a few of my first pieces.

Photo by Holly Worsham, Virginia Pen.

different weaves. In this example of the basic **Two Wire Weave**. I wrapped the weaving wire around the bottom base wire in a coil fashion 5 times and then around both base wires 3 times. The combinations can be whatever you want them to be; it is up to you.



The first 3-wire weave presented is the **Picot Weave**. In this method, you start by coiling your weaving wire around your base wire on the middle wire. The number of times is up to you. The configuration here is 8 coils around the middle wire and 2 times around all 3 base wires. In the 3-wire **Snake Weave** you coil around the bottom two base wires twice and then the two base wires twice in an alternating fashion. As with the other weaves you can create your own combination in the number of times you wrap around your base wires.

The final weave depicted above is the **Aztec Weave**, which uses four wires. You begin by securing your wire to your bottom base wire with a single coil. Then you add your second base wire and wrap around twice, add a third base wire and wrap around the second and third base wire two times. Add your fourth base wire and wrap around the third and fourth base wire two times. (You can keep adding the number of base wires you need to fit your stone). Once you reach your last base wire you work your way back down wrapping two base wires at a time. Then repeat until you get the length you need to fit your stone.

To learn more about wire weaving, I suggest the Wire Wrap Tips and Tutorial Group on Facebook. It is a closed group that you can request to join. People from all over the planet post completed projects, ask and answer questions and the group has a FILE section located near the top of the page where you can get additional information that members have posted.

The most economical way to obtain wire is to purchase copper wire at Home Depot or Lowe's and then strip off the insulation, un-strand the wire and then recoil on a spool. You can also purchase bare copper wire on spools at Home Depot.com and have the order delivered free to the store for pick up. Gauge wires available were 18g, 22g, and 24g.



### Early Field Trips or.. It Beats Shoveling Snow

WCGMC did not let the grass start to grow before starting the field season. On March 28<sup>th</sup>, seven of us ventured to Francis Rd. and Bethany Center Road to collect corals and more from the Darian Submember of the Wanakah Shale and the Centerfield Limestone. It was like picking up acorns under an oak tree. Fossils were everywhere. And, of course three days later 18 club members could be counted among the many collectors present for Opening Day of Herkimer Season at the Ace of Diamonds Mine in Middleville. Collecting season has officially commenced.

East Bethany, NY March 28<sup>th</sup>



**Ace of  
Diamonds  
Mine  
April 1**





## Wayne County Gem and Mineral Club Field Trip Schedule - last update April 17, 2017

Items listed in bold print are pretty much set, those not in bold print are considered tentative. We have multiple leaders and a busy schedule. Inquire if information here is not complete.

**April 28-29-30 (Trip to New Jersey (Super Dig on 29<sup>th</sup>, etc.)** Info: <http://sterlinghillssuperdig.org/>  
Leader - Linda Schmidtgal

**April 27-April 30 (BGS trip to Cincinnati)** (Fred, Stephen and Gary are going) Leader – Jerry Bastedo

**May 5-6-7 (Mt. Pleasant Mills Quarries, Carbondale, Jermyn for coal fossils)** Leader – Bill Chapman

**May 6 - Penfield Quarry Open House** (see page 4)

**May 9 (Tuesday) – Ilion – for details contact Fred Haynes to get on the trip list**

**May 23 (Tuesday) – Hooper Mine for Garnet** (might add a second day) Leader – Fred Haynes

**May 27-28 Penn Dixie Dig With Experts** <https://penndixie.org/dig-with-the-experts/>

**May 31 (Wednesday) – Paradise Falls for Herkimers** Leader – Linda Schmidtgal [\$100/person!]

**June 2-3-4 GEMFEST 2017** in Canandaigua (Mark these dates and offer to help)

**June 16 (Friday) - Ridgemount, Ontario (Eurpyterids)** Leader – Stephen Mayer

**June 17 (Sat.) -- Jaycox Creek (fossils)** (joint with RAS) – limited to 12 of us (contact Fred Haynes)

**June 23-25 (Fri-Sun) – St. Lawrence County #1** (Rose Road, Selleck Road, Gardenscape?, etc)

**July 15 (Sat.) Indian Creek** followed by Potluck Picnic at Mayer's home on Seneca Lake (details to come)

**July 17-22 (Monday-Saturday) – CANADA #1** (Bancroft, etc.) Leaders – Fred and Linda

We will likely schedule some summer day trips to places like Deep Run, Lake Ontario, etc.

**August 5 – CLUB PICNIC** (at Weiler's in Wolcott, workshop will be open)

**August 6 (Sunday)- Green's Landing fossil site (with RAS)** - Leader – Stephen Mayer

**August 12 -20 CANADA #2 (Sudbury, Cobalt, Manitoulin Island, etc.)** Led by Niagara Peninsula Geological Society, St. Catherine's, Ontario. for info contact Fred Haynes

**August 26-27 St. Lawrence County Show** (Field Trip Opportunities to Powers and Bush Farm)

We are working to plan a day trip to Seneca Stone Quarry and will also work in a trip to Deep Run and likely other area fossil sites. If you know of a site you would like to visit or cannot make a trip on this list and would like us to schedule a second visit contact any of us. **WCGMC is always looking for a place to dig.**

### TWO UPCOMING SHOW OPPORTUNITIES IN ADDITION TO GEMFEST 2017 JUNE 3-4

**May 20-21: Southern Vermont Mineral Show** – Grace Christian School, Kocher Drive, Bennington, VT  
10-5 Sat., 10-3 Sun, \$5 for adults, vendors, supplies, gold panning, etc. Call Bill at 802-375-6782

**July 15-16: Gemworld 2017** Hosted by Gem and Mineral Society of Syracuse, SRC Arena and Events Center, 4585 W. Seneca Tpke., Syracuse, Sat. 10-6, Sun 10-5, [visit this link for details](#)



Some Scenes from the April workshop.

## Wayne County Gem & Mineral Contacts

### ELECTED OFFICERS

Glenn Weiler – President [gwexterior@gmail.com](mailto:gwexterior@gmail.com)  
315-594-8478

Jerry Donahue – VP [Chester145322@yahoo.com](mailto:Chester145322@yahoo.com)  
585-548-3200

Eva Jane Weiler – Secretary [gwexterior@gmail.com](mailto:gwexterior@gmail.com)  
315-594-8478

Bill Lesniak – Treasurer/Webmaster  
[Dirtman300@aol.com](mailto:Dirtman300@aol.com) 315-483-8061

### Board of Directors

Ken Rowe [gotrox88@twc.com](mailto:gotrox88@twc.com) 315-331-1438

Linda Schmidtgall [lees@tds.net](mailto:lees@tds.net) 315-365-2448

Gary Thomas [gftthomas956@gmail.com](mailto:gftthomas956@gmail.com) 585-489-2162

Fred Haynes [fredmhaynes55@gmail.com](mailto: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](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

Linda Schmidtgall – 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 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