



**WAYNE COUNTY  
GEM AND MINERAL CLUB  
NEWS  
VOLUME 34 No. 12 DECEMBER 2008**



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**President's Message**

I write this, snow is on the ground & deer hunting season is winding down. Time to think about the holidays, family & friends and the 50 million details that make up December. Our Christmas Party is scheduled for our regular meeting night Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. It's a dish-to-share party and Andrea's cooking ham, roast beast, mashed potatoes and killer gravy. If you want to know what's on the food sign-up list started at the November meeting, check our website at [www.wcgmc.org](http://www.wcgmc.org). We'll arrive at 6:30pm to set up so anyone so inclined can pitch in and help move tables & chairs, decorate, and share joy with the rest of the worker bees. We'll dig in & eat at 7pm.

Fa la la la... There'll be a gift exchange if you care to participate. Aim for something in the \$10 range and address it to either man, woman, adult [if appropriate for either gender] or mini-miner whatever best describes yourself. [though I personally know some adults in our group who never grew up.] Purely social. Exceedingly fun. A really good time for everyone!

Hope to see you there!

*Pat - Queen Bee*



**New AFMS Webmaster Competition!**

by Dan Imel, EFMLS Webmaster

Great news!!! We have a fantastic new competition to announce! In order to recognize the hard work of our club webmasters and the importance of having a website for your club, the AFMS has approved a new competition for club websites. Through the diligent work of Phyllis George, chairperson for the AFMS Webmaster Competition committee, we're go for this next year. We're running it concurrently with the regional BEAC Newsletter competitions and are using the same deadlines so, for the EFMLS, entries are due to me by Jan.9<sup>th</sup>, 2009, the deadline for the EFMLS BEAC Competition. Have all entries in by that date. Preferred method for entries is to send me your entry via e-mail at <lapidry@aol.com>, but you may also mail entries to me at Dan Imel, 4 Lanaray Park, Fairport, NY 14450. Forms & details are available at the following website: <[www.amfed.org/efmls/afmswebmaster.htm](http://www.amfed.org/efmls/afmswebmaster.htm)> Please make sure your club webmaster knows about this new competition and encourage him or her to enter. There's still time to enter before judging begins after the Jan 9<sup>th</sup> deadline.

**Meteor Remnants Discovered** The Associated Press *The Democrat & Chronicle* Nov. 29, 2008 Pg. 2A

LLOYDMINSTER, Alberta- Scientists said Friday they had found remains of a meteor that fell to Earth in western Canada on Nov. 20. University of Calgary scientist Alan Hildebrand and graduate student Ellen Milley found several meteor fragments along the Alberta-Saskatchewan border late Thursday. They said there could be thousands of meteorite pieces strewn over a 7-square-mile area. Residents in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta reported seeing the huge fireball and hearing a sonic boom. The meteor contained about one-tenth of a kiloton of energy as it entered the atmosphere. "It would be something like a billion-watt light bulb," said Hildebrand, a meteor scientist with the Canadian space agency.

**Mammoth task to map beast DNA** THE ASSOCIATED PRESS *D&C 11/20/08 Pg2A* WASHINGTON –

Bringing *Jurassic Park* one step closer to reality, scientists have deciphered much of the genetic code of the woolly mammoth, a feat they say could allow them to recreate the shaggy, prehistoric beast in a little as a decade or two. The project marks the first time researchers have spelled out the DNA of an extinct species, and it raised the possibility that other ancient animals such as mastodons and sabertooth tigers might someday walk the Earth again. "It could be done," said Stephen Schuster, a Penn State University biochemist and co-author of the new research. "I would be surprised to see if it would take more than 10 or 20 years to do it." The million-dollar mammoth study resulted in a first draft of the animal's genome, detailing the ice age creature's more than 3 billion DNA building blocks. The research will be published in [Nov 20<sup>th</sup>, 2008] issue of the journal *Nature* also gives scientists new clues about evolution and extinction.

**On the Origin of Minerals** Friday November 14, 2008 By Andrew Alden, About.com

It's not every day that you get a whole new perspective on mineralogy, but the current issue of *American Mineralogist* delivers one: Over the lifespan of the planet Earth, the mineral kingdom has evolved from simplicity to complexity just as life has. Indeed, most of today's 4000-plus known minerals have come into being specifically because life made them possible. The notion makes intuitive sense, given that the original hot cloud that gave rise to the solar system was well mixed and must have comprised a relative handful of mineral species. Then the formation and differentiation of Earth created different chemical environments, and life pushed conditions even farther. The abstract of the paper, titled simply "Mineral Evolution," puts things succinctly: "The stages of mineral evolution arise from three primary mechanisms: (1) the progressive separation and concentration of the elements from their original relatively uniform distribution in the pre-solar nebula; (2) an increase in range of intensive variables such as pressure, temperature, and the activities of H<sub>2</sub>O, CO<sub>2</sub>, and O<sub>2</sub>; and (3) the generation of far-from-equilibrium conditions by living systems. The sequential evolution of Earth's mineralogy from chondritic simplicity to Phanerozoic complexity introduces the dimension of geologic time to mineralogy and thus provides a dynamic alternate approach to framing, and to teaching, the mineral sciences." I can just imagine the pleasure with which the paper's authors (Robert Hazen and Dominic Papineau of the Carnegie Institute plus six others) worked this idea out. Gary Ernst, a genuine grand old man in mineralogy, calls it "brehtaking" in the institute's press release. I wonder a few things. Do they count olivine as one mineral or two? The question applies to several major minerals, like biotite and plagioclase, that mineralogical "splitters" have defined into groups rather than single minerals. And how about this: have any minerals gone extinct? I'm also wondering if this grand-scale idea will end up less like the new Darwinism and more like the new Gaia hypothesis—catchy and entertaining, but scientifically barren. "Copyright 2008 by Andrew Alden, geology.about.com, reproduced under educational fair use."

## UPCOMING WCGM CLUB MEETINGS

**DEC 12, 2007 (Friday) Park Presbyterian Church, Newark**

**Please use north door entrance**

**Annual WCGMC Holiday Season Dinner & Party**

**(Meeting and dinner Set-up starts at 6:30pm)**

**BRING A DISH TO PASS-optional gift exchange.**

**DINNER STARTS AT 7PM. Yum! Yum!**



**January 09, 2009 (Friday)**

**Regular meeting night. Board Meeting starts at 7pm.**

**Mini-miners and general meeting at 7:30pm**

## Wayne County Gem & Mineral Club Officers 2008-2009

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## ROCK-HOUNDING AND FINDING U.S.A.

**December 2008 6-7: Patchogue, NY** - "The Suffolk Gem and Mineral Club 35th Annual Holiday Gem, Mineral, Bead & Jewelry Show"; Briarcliffe College, 225 West Main Street; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; adults \$4.50, children free; minerals, gemstones, fossils, demonstrations, handcrafted jewelry, beads, chains, geodes, exhibits, and door prizes; e-mail: Martin Besso - [mb1233@optimum.net](mailto:mb1233@optimum.net) ; web site: <http://www.suffolkgem.com/>

**February 2009 21-22: Albany, NY** - 16th Annual James Campbell Memorial "Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show" sponsored by the Capital District Mineral Club and NY State Academy of Mineralogy. Museum of the Empire State, 4th Floor, Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY.

**March 2009 21-22: Gaithersburg, MD** - 45th annual show; The Gem, Lapidary & Mineral Society of Montgomery County, Maryland; Montgomery County Fairgrounds, 16 Chestnut St.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$6, children under 12 free; 45 exhibits, demonstrations, free cabochon-polishing workshop, door prizes, raffles, fossils, kids' Touch Table with specimens, fluorescent display tent, kids' mini-mine, more than 20 dealers; contact George Durland, 8600 Bunnell Dr., Potomac, MD 20854, (301) 299-8213; e-mail: [GDurland1@verizon.net](mailto:GDurland1@verizon.net); Web site: [www.glmismc.com](http://www.glmismc.com). **28-29: Holyoke, MA** - Western Massachusetts Mineral, Jewelry & Fossil Show sponsored by the Connecticut Valley Mineral Club. Holiday Inn at Ingleside, Holyoke, MA.

**October 2009 16-18: Bristol, CT** - 37th Annual Gem & Mineral Show and **59th Annual EFMLS Convention** hosted by the Bristol Gem & Mineral Club. Beals Community Center, Bristol, CT.

**WAYNE COUNTY GEM AND MINERAL CLUB, INC.**

**MEETINGS:**

Held 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday night of each month  
at 7:30pm at Park Presbyterian Church basement,  
Maple Court, Newark, NY

**WEBSITE: [www.wcgmc.org](http://www.wcgmc.org)**

**ORGANIZED:** 1973 **INC.** 1976

Affiliated with the AFML and EFMLS of Mineral  
Societies since 1973.

**OFFICERS:** Elected at the October meeting, taking  
office in November for a 2-year term.

**FISCAL YEAR:** Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> to Sept. 31<sup>st</sup>.

**\*\*NEW ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP CLASSES AND**

**DUES (due Oct 1<sup>st</sup>):**

\$10.00 JUNIOR or STUDENT

(18 yrs > with no parents in the club)

\$15.00 REGULAR or ONE SINGLE ADULT (Over  
age of 18 years old)

\$20.00 FAMILY MEMBERSHIP

(Includes 2 adult votes and children)

Send due, SASE with your info to:

WCGMC, P.O. Box 4, Newark, NY 14513

**OBJECTIVE:** TO STIMULATE INTEREST IN THE EARTH  
SCIENCES, IN COLLECTING AND CLASSIFICATION OF  
MINERALS, AND IN THE ART OF GEM CUTTING.

**The public is welcome!!**

## Rock & Gem Magazine has offered our club members a deal:

A normal subscription to *Rock & Gem* magazine is \$27.95 per year (12 issues). With this special subscription offer for club members only, we'll be eligible for a standard one-year subscription for **only \$22.95!** In addition to saving us \$5.00 off the regular subscription rate, *Rock & Gem* magazine will contribute \$6.00 per paid subscription directly back to our club treasury. This is 26 percent of the subscription price directly back to the club! They prefer our subscriptions to go in together at the same time but will accept individual subscription submissions and pay the club at a later date. A nice little fund raiser for us. If you need a gift idea for that certain rockhound in the family, open & print out the attachment to this newsletter and bring it in to our next meeting which is the Christmas Party next Friday evening, 12/12/08. Thought you might want to know! (Pat Chapman)



Stamp

**Wayne County Gem and Mineral Club**  
Rebecca Remington-editor  
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First class: dated  
meetings and time  
valued.