



WAYNE COUNTY GEM AND MINERAL CLUB NEWS

VOLUME 34 No. 2 February 2008



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February's Message

Since the heart of winter has been upon us, I have been gazing out the window at the whiteness a lot. Rocks of years-gone-by called out to me, so my attention turned inward and I reacquainted myself with those previously collected specimens like the old friends they are. Dusted a few off and tried to decide which can compare to the stuff you collected in the past. *Bragging Rights – Mine is Bigger than Yours* came out of this mid-winter funk. Organize, label and bring them in! Let's see what you've got - fossils, minerals, eBay-bought & more. Don't be afraid to strut your stuff. Be the envy of the neighborhood & have some fun as well at our next meeting – Feb. 8th at 7:30 PM. Rules and regulations can be found later in this newsletter. Hope to see everyone there! Now if I can only get Bill to haul in those big pieces of Glacial Polish I collected...

Pat

An Old Mining Camp and the Homeless Vets

The Yahoo group "Amethyst Ranch" is a site that chats about a project to restore a historic mining camp (and could be a potential model for similar restorations elsewhere) which could make a difference for some disabled homeless veterans. Disabled veteran's new plan for a resource management proposal for public lands used in a way to restore disabled veterans independence and finance rehabilitation relating to small mines, geology, mining trades, materials processing businesses etc. The group's topics includes gathering information, sponsors & support for the "Amethyst Ranch" project currently underway south of Tucson, Arizona and for proposed reintroduction of the Homestead Act, mining claim patents, etc. to foundation other communities efforts to help homeless & disabled veterans, as in the 1911 Weeks Law.

The "Amethyst Ranch" has a mineral lease and several patented claims that members who are considering sharing with disabled homeless veterans. People associated with the "Amethyst Ranch" are permitted to restore an old mining camp, operate mines, make films, and run a guide service. The project is documented in HD video (oldtombstonestudio.com), ores & mineral specimens mined & marketed, etc. The project needs sponsors & start-up capital or bartered use of equipment, an RV, etc to get it going and to spread word to inform & inspire other towns where local resources can make a difference for our heroes in similar ways. The Yahoo group "Amethyst Ranch", is also a forum that invites discussion and help in developing the example and convincing Congress it's a good plan to restore Homestead Rights. (Frank Lavoie and also "e.how.com")

Visit A Show in 2008 **FEB 22-24: Jackson, MS** - 49th Annual Gem, Mineral, Jewelry & Fossil Show and 58th Annual EFMLS Convention hosted by the Mississippi Gem & Mineral Society. Trade Mart Building, MS State Fairgrounds, Jackson, MS. **FEB 23-24: Albany, NY** - 15th Annual James Campbell Memorial Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show sponsored by the Capital District Mineral Club and NY State Academy of Mineralogy. New York State Museum, Empire Plaza, Albany, NY. **MARCH 1-2: Newark (Stanton), DE** - 45th Annual Earth Science Gem & Mineral Show sponsored by the Delaware Mineralogical Society. Delaware Technical & Community College, Churchmans Rd (Rt 58) (I-95, exit 4B), Newark (Stanton), DE. **MARCH 8-9: Clifton, NJ** - Annual Clifton Gem & Mineral Show Sponsored by the North Jersey Mineralogical Society. Pope John Paul II Elementary School, 775 Valley Road, Clifton, NJ located 220 yards north of the intersection of Route 3 & Route 46. Saturday 10-5 and Sunday 10-5. Contact Bob Horn (908) 813-0808 e-mail: Mineraldog@Comcast.net **MARCH 15-16: Gaithersburg, MD** - Annual Gem and Mineral Show sponsored by the Gem, Lapidary & Mineral Society of Montgomery Co., MD. Montgomery Co. Fairgrounds, Gaithersburg, MD. **MARCH 15-16: Hicksville, NY** - 36th Annual Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show sponsored by The Island Rockhounds. Holy Family School Auditorium, Hicksville, NY. **MARCH 28-30: Elkridge, MD** - Atlantic Micromounters Conference. MHA Conference Center, Elkridge, MD. Contact S. Weinberger <cscystals2@verizon.net> for registration. **MARCH 29-30: Sayre, PA** - 29th Annual Rock & Mineral Show sponsored by the Che-Hanna Rock & Mineral Club. Athens Twp. Volunteer Fire Hall, 211 Herrick Av; Sayre, PA **APRIL 26-27: Franklin, NJ** - 36th Annual New Jersey Earth Science Association Gem & Mineral Show sponsored by the Franklin-Ogdensburg Mineralogical Society, NJ Earth Science Assoc. & Sterling Hill Mining Museum. Franklin School/Washington Av; Franklin, NJ. **MAY 24: Towson, MD** - Chesapeake Gem & Mineral Show sponsored by the Chesapeake Gem & Mineral Society. NEW LOCATION: Ruhl Armory, 1035 York Rd (MD 45 just off I-695); Towson, Maryland. **HOPE TO SEE YOU ON THE ROAD!**

Couple Find Rare Purple Pearl In Their Order Of Clams AP Published: Dec 31, 2007 TBO.com ROYAL PALM BEACH - A Royal Palm Beach couple plan on having part of their dinner appraised. George and Leslie Brock found a purple pearl in their order of clams (one) Friday night at Dave's Last Resort and Raw Bar. Experts say the rare pearl could be worth thousands. Leslie Brock says it was a lucky bite, because her husband rarely orders clams. The Brocks had ordered a dozen middleneck clams from Apalachicola in the Florida Panhandle. The restaurant owners say more diners are ordering clams now, after hearing about the Brocks' find.

CLUB ROAD TRIP CARPOOL-CONVOY PLANNED FOR FEBRUARY 2008

Submitted by Pat Chapman The club's field trip chair, Bill Chapman, has a trip planned to go to the Capital Show on Feb. 24th. We'll gather at a parking area at thruway Exit 42 north of Geneva at 8AM. The parking area is south of the motel and has a driveway right off of State Rt. 14A. We can car pool to save resources & there's a Mobil (convenience) store on the other side of the motel with the normal amenities. Folks should e-mail us at batnpill@empacc.net, let us know at the meeting (February 8th) or call us at 607-8686-4649.

Fossil Shows Bird's Last Meal By Marsha Walton CNN Sci-Tech July 24, 2002 Posted: 4:27 PM EDT (2027 GMT) A turkey-sized bird that lived more than 100 million years ago is now giving paleontologists some important clues about how animals lived and evolved. The fossil of this new species, *Jeholornis prima*, was found last year in the Liaoning area of northeast China. It's not just the bones of this big bird that scientists find revealing, but its diet. The fossil shows in great detail more than 50 seeds in the bird's stomach. This is the first direct evidence of seed eating in a bird, believed to be a new adaptation for birds of the Mesozoic era. "The bird is approximately the size of a turkey, the whole skeleton is about 75 centimeters (30") long, but with feathers in the tail, it could probably be close to one meter," said Zhonghe Zhou, Chinese Academy of Sciences. Findings are described in the British journal *Nature*.

WANTED: Wayne County Historian, Peter Evans, invites the WCGMC to represent the fields of geology and geography on a local level to the WHO round-table discussions. No formal experience needed. Very casual meeting atmosphere with a brown-bag lunch. Free admittance. February 13th, 2008's meeting will be in Newark. Call the Historian's office for more info.

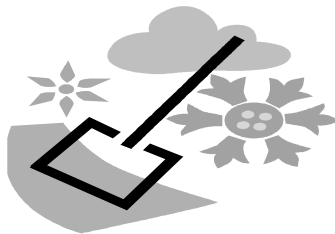
UPCOMING WCGM CLUB MEETINGS

February 8, 2007 (Friday) Park Presbyterian Church, Maple Court, Newark, NY.

Use the North door entrance on Church Street. Please drive carefully!

Board of Director's Meeting 7-7:30pm General Membership meeting starts at 7:30pm.

_____ - refreshments ANNUAL CONTEST NIGHT!



March 14, 2007 (Friday) Park Presbyterian Church, Maple Court, Newark, NY.

Use the North door entrance on Church Street. Please drive carefully!

Board of Director's Meeting 7-7:30pm General Membership meeting starts at 7:30pm.

Mini-miner's meet at 7pm. _____ refreshments _____ door prizes.

CLUB NEWS TO dig - Kudos, too!

1. Carpool!
2. The secretary is re-building the club's archives of old minutes. If any members have old club minutes from past years, especially 1973 until 2000, please donate them to the club. For information, contact Becky at 315-926-1155.
3. Dues are due!
4. "Diamond Dan" has publications for children!
Call-- 585-289-4936.
5. Plz: submit newsletter articles in writing BEFORE the 22nd of the month.
6. KUDOS' to Don Schiltz who always takes the time to duplicate interesting magazine articles and shares them with others at the meetings.
7. Sign up for refreshments and door prizes for March at the February meeting.
8. KUDOS' to Bill Chapman, who has been involved with setting up a program for the Prattsburgh School on fossils & whatnot.
9. The American Hobby Shop will be moving to a different location in Walworth soon.

"BRAGGING RIGHTS" CONTEST

On February 8, 2008 Ken Rowe will do the officiating for the traditional WCGMC contest called "Bragging Rights"..
Everyone is encouraged to participate. For more information, please contact Ken and Roxanne Rowe at 315-331-1438 before the date of the meeting. Please- try to arrive early for the meeting to set-up your display.

CATEGORIES:

- A. Any mineral that has been self-collected in NYS
- B. Any fossil that has been self-collected in NYS
- C. Any self-collected mineral
- D. Any self-collected fossil
- E. Any fossil or mineral that has been obtained by means of purchasing or by swapping
- F. Any self-made jewelry

RULES FOR THE CONTEST:

- A. A specimen that has been a previous contest winner is ineligible for display in this contest.
- B. Items must be labeled! Items must be identified by a label clearly announcing the owner's name, locality, and the name of the fossil or mineral.

AWARDS CERTIFICATES:

- A. 1st place- GOLD
- B. 2ND place-SILVER
- C. 3rd place-BRONZE

***Winners will be asked to participate in an interview for an upcoming article in the club's newsletter. Please have any written (digitalized format) material or a digitalized photo available for newsletter submission at the time of the judging.**

Thank you. (RjwR)

WAYNE COUNTY GEM AND MINERAL CLUB, INC.

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

WEBSITE: americanhobbyshop.com

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. 1st to Sept. 31st.

****NEW ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP CLASSES**

AND DUES (due Oct 1st):

\$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, NY14513

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!!

How to Find Iron Ore

The earth's core is made up of iron ore. Early man made tools and weapons from the iron ore they extracted from the earth and refined. Only meteorites carry pure iron ore, and the deposits locked away within the Earth require mining and refining. Layered deep in organic deposits, iron ore formed from the decay and transformation of that material into hematite and magnetite. Here's how to identify iron ore. **Step One:** Look for peat bogs. Early humans used the iron ore deposits that were created under great bogs. Bog iron ore was the primary source for Iron Age products. **Step Two:** Clean the mined rocks with a solution of water and soap. Wash the mined rocks thoroughly to better identify the iron ore. Look at the mined rocks closely. Iron ore has a shiny, metallic appearance within the rock. Iron ore is put down in layers and runs in "veins," much like gold. Test the mined rock ore. Using a small rare earth magnet, test each portion of the rock for traces of magnetism. If iron ore exists, it will be magnetic. Look for rust. Iron ore, if left to the elements after being extracted from the earth, will begin to exhibit rust. This oxidation is the degradation of the iron after being exposed to oxygen. (<http://www.ehow.com>)



Stamp

Wayne County Gem and Mineral Club

Rebecca Remington-editor
David Kords- Past President/Advisor
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First class: dated meetings and time valued.

