



WAYNE COUNTY GEM AND MINERAL CLUB NEWS

VOLUME 34 No. 1 JANUARY 2008



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President's Message

Happy New Year, 2008, to everyone! Thanks for spending some more of your time with us of the Wayne County Gem and Mineral Club the past year of 2007. I hope that 2008 will be a special one filled with good memories for you and yours. Our club will need your individual, unique, and special talents to make this club successful with the upcoming year's activities and events schedule. Assist the field trip chair in planning a field trip. Share special memories with the newsletter readers by submitting an article or photo. Volunteer refreshments or door prizes at a meeting or club event. Recruit new members. Help plan a children's activity for one of the meetings. Join a committee or ask to start one up about a topic that interests you. Our club is a collective, built, and kept alive, by the individual talents and efforts of all members: young, old and in-between. What say you, my fellow? Let's chat.



Your President, Stan

10 New Year's Resolutions for Geologists

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New Year's Day is the traditional time to make new resolutions, but a birthday or the start of school or any other day works too. Just as every place is at the center of a round world, so is today always the central point between past and future—the only time when a change in direction is possible.

- 1. See more rocks!** This one is easy. Seeing more rocks makes you a better geologist, whether you're an enthusiast or a professional. At the same time, look more closely at rocks too, the minerals and fossils and features they contain, and don't forget the landforms where they crop out.
- 2. Make a realistic life list.** Everyone says they want to see the dinosaur beds of the Gobi desert, an Antarctic glacier and the fall of a meteorite, but how many of us will ever actually succeed with that kind of life list? Better to make a list of geologic sites and destinations that you have a fair chance of completing. Better to make a list that matters by (1) having a time limit on it and (2) forcing you to go a little farther than before, not hopelessly farther.
- 3. Take a field trip.** Anyone can do this, and it always stretches your mind. If you're attending a meeting, see what field trips are offered in the days before and afterward. If you're at home, get a field-trip guide for your region; pick one and follow the road log and locality notes on your own. Or join a local interest group, whether it's for rockhounds, fossil hunters or geoscientists, and enjoy some time in the field with them. You can even repeat a field trip but with different routes and schedules—sites can look completely new this way. See page 3.

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 <cscrystals2@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!**

Potassium Feldspar (Microcline)

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Feldspars are a group of closely related minerals that together make up the majority of the Earth's crust. All of them have a hardness of 6 on the Mohs scale, so any glassy mineral that's slightly softer than quartz is very likely to be a feldspar. But a thorough knowledge of the feldspars is what separates geologists from the rest of us. The feldspars fall into two groups, the plagioclase feldspars and the alkali feldspars (most of which are potassium feldspars or K-feldspars). All of them are based on the silica group, a cluster of atoms consisting of silicon and oxygen, which in the feldspars forms rigid three-dimensional interlocking frameworks. Microcline is a potassium feldspar. Unlike the plagioclase group, which varies in composition, potassium feldspar has the same formula, $KAlSi_3O_8$, but varies in crystal structure depending on the temperature it formed at. Microcline is the stable form of potassium feldspar below about 400° C. Orthoclase and sanidine are stable above 500° C and 900° C, respectively, but endure as long as they need to at the surface as metastable species. The high potassium content and high strength of K-feldspar make it the best mineral for potassium-argon dating. Alkali feldspar can also contain sodium (Na) in place of the potassium, but once Na exceeds K the mineral is considered albite, which is part of the plagioclase series. In the field, it usually isn't worth figuring out the exact feldspar you have in your hand. Field workers generally just write down "K-spar" and leave it at that until they can get to the laboratory. The deep green color of this mineral, the amazonite variety of microcline, makes it stand out in a pretty homogeneous field. The color is from the presence of lead. Microcline has a minor use as an abrasive mineral. Igneous rocks in which the feldspar is all or mostly alkali feldspar are called syenite (if quartz is rare or absent) or syenogranite (if quartz is abundant). Igneous rocks with both plagioclase and alkali feldspars are called monzonite (if quartz is rare or absent) or monzogranite (if quartz is abundant). Study the QAP classification system of igneous rocks.

WANTED:

Wayne County Historian, Peter Evans, invites an interested member or members of 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. Call the Historian's office during weekday business hours for more info. The next WHO meeting is in January 2008 in the town of Wolcott, NY.

UPCOMING WCGM CLUB MEETINGS

January 11, 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. Becky and Ron- refreshments. No door prizes.



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.

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

CLUB NEWS TO DIG - KUDOS, TOO!

1. With gas prices steadily increasing, it is not only eco-friendly, but it's just plain economical for our members to consider car-pooling when possible. Think about it. Grab your buddy rock-hound and drive carefully!
2. KUDOS' to Ken and Roxanne Rowe, Dave and Andrea Kords, who arranged the annual dinner in December. KUDOS' to all the great cooks out there, as well as to Julie Zeller for her decorations.
3. DUES ARE DUE! Contact Bill Lesniak, Treasurer, as soon as possible. See the information on the back cover of this newsletter for details.
4. "Diamond Dan" has publications for young people interested in gems & minerals!
Call: 585-289-4936.
5. **Plz: submit newsletter articles in writing BEFORE the 22nd of the month.**
6. **Jim and Marion Wheaton received a congratulations letter from NYS last month.**

5. Beef up your field equipment.

Here's another easy one. From a specialized pry bar to a better GPS unit, there's something new that will make your activities more productive. But also consider donating old field clothing and equipment to your car trunk. Someone saved my hide once in 2005 by pulling out an extra poncho. And you can never have too many magnifiers.

6. Get a local geologic map.

Researchers are always revising and improving the old maps, not just with new observations but with new explanations based on contemporary theories. Government agencies have extensive programs for publishing maps of bedrock, surficial deposits, soils and hazard susceptibility. Make use of this tax-supported asset. And one way or another, let a child stare at a geologic map and help it make sense to him or her. Maps can bring a kid's mind to life.

7. Speak up on a geologic issue.

Even if you don't know much about geology, you know more than most voters—and most government officials. If you think, as I do, that civilization would run better if it worked within its geologic constraints, then we have a lifetime's work ahead and this year is time to get started. This resolution is easy to satisfy with a letter-to-the-editor, or even a thoughtful post on a popular blog. But if you have the credentials, consider speaking to an organized group or testifying at a government hearing.

8. Try a new journal.

I say "journal" because that's what I read, but there is something for you whatever your level, starting with general-interest publications like *Scientific American* or, for geology, *Geotimes*. I'll even let a subscription to my free weekly e-mail newsletter satisfy this one. At the professional level, a possibility is to use the prepaid plans from GSA and AGU that let you pick a certain number of individual articles from a whole range of journals. (That's my resolution.) I also think professionals should read a few popular geology books, just to know what the public is

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, 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!!

from GSA and AGU that let you pick a certain number of individual articles from a whole range of journals. (That's my resolution.) I also think professionals should read a few popular geology books, just to know what the public is learning.

9. Put together a hazard kit.

Every place has some sort of hazard that involves Earth science. Mine is earthquake, but some of my neighbors also face floods, landslides, liquefaction and wildfire too. List all of yours, then learn what you need to get through at least three days without housing or power in good shape. Put together a survival kit. This is a resolution that all of us are bound to fail, because there's never enough preparation—after securing yourself, work on your neighborhood, workplace and city next.

10. Share your knowledge.

This resolution is an element of some of the previous ones. But what I mean here is to talk about geology to non-geologists, talk about science to nonscientists, talk about your version of the landscape to people who do other outdoor activities. I have a special request for geologists that I've been making for many years: Add something of your own to the Web, something in your own words and from your own heart. For geology to assume the role it deserves, more people must learn what geologists know, what moves them and how their discipline is practiced.



Stamp

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

