

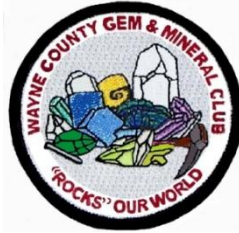
Wayne County Gem and Mineral Club News

February, 2020

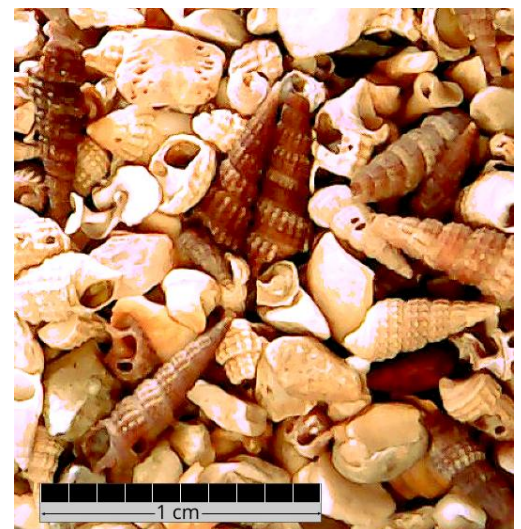
Always Looking for Places to Dig!



Best of 2019 Judging in January (see page 6)



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



Jim's gastropod stew (see page 4)

Next Club Meeting

Friday **February 14th**, 7:00 PM.

Park Presbyterian Church,
Maple Court, Newark, NY

Program: **Annual Club Auction**

Read our President's message on page 2 for details. This is a highlight of our winter schedule.

March 13th Meeting

Program: **Echinoderms – Extinct and Modern Animals**

by Stephen Mayer

Come learn about crinoids, starfish, sea urchins and more from a very unique phylum of invertebrate marine animals.

Upcoming WCGMC Workshops

February 15th and March 21st

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.

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? It might be covered in snow, but if you can dig it out it can be yours for just 50 cents/pound!.

WCGMC Monthly Contest

Don't forget: Somewhere in this newsletter you will find a statement that reads **"The special mineral/fossil for February is xxxxx"**. Find that statement, remember the mineral or fossil listed, and come prepared to enter a raffle at the February 14th meeting to win a fine prize. Don't share the code word or your chances to win will be reduced!

WEATHER: Yes, it is that time of year. An e-mail note will be distributed if a Friday meeting must be cancelled (or check Facebook). Or call Bill Lesniak (315-483-8061), Fred Haynes (585-203-1733), or Linda Schmidtgal (315-365-2448).



President's Message Linda Schmidt Gall

Thanks to all who brought specimens for the January "Best of 2019" contest and all members that helped determine the winners. We are all winners just getting together to talk about minerals. More on that event elsewhere in this newsletter

We held our election for two board positions at the January meeting. It was a close election. We welcome James Keeler and Gary Thomas to their two year positions. I'd like to personally thank Holly Woodworth for being a board member for the last 2 years. Working together as a team, we get things done.

Thanks also goes to those who bring snacks for everyone to enjoy to our monthly meetings. It is very thoughtful and appreciated. I never imagined Stonehenge would taste so good. Thank you, Rick and Denise Leszczenski (see page 6).

February is coming and that means the club's annual auction. I am selecting a range of specimens for the event. If anyone wants to donate one or two pieces, it is always appreciated. They will be placed in the final actual bidding auction. Please have a description tag attached.

In addition to the standard called event, we'll have a silent "around the table" auction, a sealed-bid auction and a raffle ticket auction. Everyone who attends will get a few free raffle tickets for the raffle auction and more will be available for purchase. Save your pennies but bring your checkbook on February 14th. Buy your sweetheart a mineral instead of flowers for Valentine's Day. Keep dreaming of Spring.

The money raised by the auction funds equipment for the workshop or whatever else is needed. The attendance at the workshop is increasing consistently. Everyone has a great time. Thanks to the Weilers for providing a place for us to gather.

Linda



Some activity for last February's auction: the sealed-bid auction on the left and the silent auction on the right.
Photos by F. Haynes

Only nine dedicated WCGMC artisans ventured out through the snow to the January workshop. They were rewarded with plenty of access to the saws and polishing equipment. And better yet, they all made it home safely with their priceless creations.



Bob and James are "talking saws" while Glenn works in the background.
Photo by L. Schmidt Gall



Teresa completed these two pendants at the January workshop: azurite and malachite on the left and a beaded piece of petrified wood on the right. Wow!

Photos by T. Ferris



Quartzite

by Nancy Guilfoyle



By the time you all are reading this, I will have been in Arizona for a month or more, enjoying the desert sunsets, the wonderful rocks, and, yes, the lack of snow. I'll be here another couple months, until I hear that the snow is gone for good and the buds are appearing on the trees in New York. Only then will I return home. This is my second winter in the desert southwest and I am enjoying this one as much as or more than the first.

So how did this happen? Well, when I retired over a year ago, I started searching the internet for spots I might like to visit over the winter. My online search kept ending up in the same place: Quartzite, Arizona. Everything I read said the town was friendly, the rocks were plentiful and neat, and the winter climate was wonderful. So last winter I loaded up my Toyota Sienna and headed southwest.

The town of Quartzite has a full-time population of just 3500, but winter population is typically over 250,000 and they say over one million people spend some time there each winter. Basically everyone who is there is either an RVer, a rockhound, or both. I wanted to do an experiment with minimalism, dry camping on BLM land. This was certainly the spot.

As soon as I got there last winter I joined the Quartzite Roadrunner Gem and Mineral Club. There was a field trip and meeting every week. I attended them all. There were workshops most every day. I tried to learn fast. For the adventurous (like me!) there were fluorescent mineral trips in the evening. Through January, February and March there were different rock and mineral shows every week. There were special events (Hobo stew nights, community service opportunities, rockhound get togethers) virtually around the clock. And just like WCGMC, I found the people friendly and interesting.

I loved the geometry of the mountains, the play of sunlight across the desert, particularly at sunset. I suppose at sunrise also! I loved the natural rock, and it was literally everywhere. As a member of the Quartzite Club I had access to their equipment and I tried to learn which direction was best to cut the banded chalcedony, how to follow the lines of the rock, or even when to go free form and let my creativity take over.



I feel at home in the desert. This trip was just a couple of weeks ago (on January 14th), to a spot in Earp, California, just 35 miles from Quartzite. We are out looking for purple chalcedony, to match my shirt!

I will likely never be a true artisan. I have tremendous respect for the talents of those who create intricate wire wraps that blend perfectly with the stone. My goal, since I lack that talent, is to focus on the stone, and just let the wire be the media that shows the stone. I don't want the wire to get in the way of the stone. To me an interesting pendant does not have to include a highly worked stone. An interesting color, pattern, or shape of a natural stone might make it a candidate just as it was found (like those in the title box). Even fossils work for me. The ridges in a brachiopod seem perfect for wire.



Here are a few of my stones, just waiting for my creative juices to kick in.

Yes, I miss all my friends back in western New York and with WCGMC. But I do not miss my shovel and my winter coat. Mark my words, I will return (most likely in April) and like last year, I imagine I will be full of stories. I imagine I will also be laden down with stones from the desert southwest to share. See you soon, well not too soon!

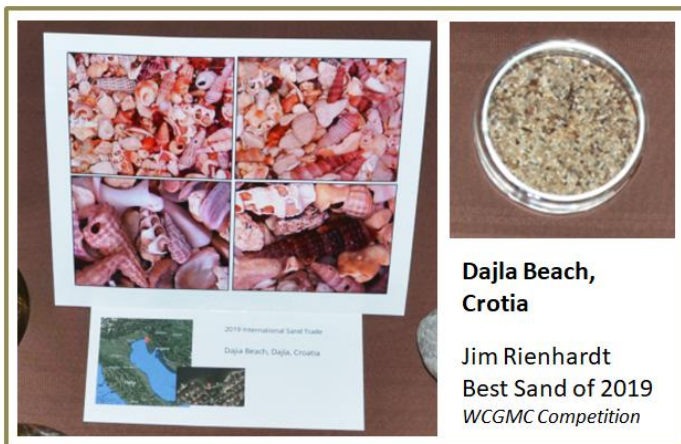
The WCGMC Sand Page

This year, WCGMC introduced a new category in our Best of 2019 Contest. We called it "Most Interesting Sand". It could be self-collected or obtained by trade. There were five entries, pretty good considering we did not even have a sand section in the club until mid-year.



Sand entries for Best of 2019

Entries included garnet-rich sands from Hamlin Beach and sand-sized garnets picked from a roadcut in Connecticut. There were Zebra Mussel shell sands from Lake Ontario and Seneca Lake. Kathleen even brought along a newly acquired digital microscope to highlight her entry. But the winner, far left above and highlighted by itself below, came all the way from Croatia via Jim Rienhardt and a trade Jim had made with a European arenophile (sand collector). Congratulations to Jim.



Winning Sand from WCGMC best of 2019 Competition

The small resort beach sand that Jim acquired is biogenic in origin, consisted of broken bits of bivalves and other invertebrates. The majority of shells in Jim's very coarse-grained sand sample are

weathered gastropods (snails) of a variety commonly referred to as "towered". We immediately think of *Turritella*, which is the most common North and South American genus of towered **marine** gastropods, but there appear to be several genus represented in the sands of Dajla Beach. Some of them may actually be fresh-water species, their shells finding their way to the beach from the land.

Jim acquired the sample from a sand collector in Italy, Daniele Martinelli, who tells Jim that the shell-rich regions are localized along the beaches of the region. Perhaps someone reading this summary can tell us more about the genus of gastropods in the sand or their origin or the general nature of the beaches there?

Look carefully and you may also see bits of small clam-like molluscs called telline. These are prized for their pleasant taste and are often found on pasta dishes throughout the Mediterranean region. The critter inside, of course, not the shell!



Dajla Beach is at the Northeast end of the Adriatic Sea, pretty much directly across the sea from Venice, Italy and the extreme western corner of Croatia



A tourist website for Dajla Beach indicates there may also be rocks to collect along the beach. The outcrop here appears to be layered sedimentary units.

see page 6 for more on our "Best of 2019" event

Charoite

by Fred Haynes



Who likes purple minerals? It seems just about everyone likes purple minerals and there will be a few choice ones at the club auction on February 14th. Someone is going to go home with a brilliant amethyst piece, but you will have to come to the auction to see how purple it is and whether it is from Brazil or Uruguay. There might also be lepidolite or bismuth or fluorite or other purple goodies.

But this note is going to focus on another purple favorite. Almost every month someone arrives at the workshop with a small slice of purple charoite. The color captures the eye first, but the mesmerizing swirling pattern of the bands of charoite is irresistible if not a bit hypnotic.

Charoite (pronounced 'char-oh-ite') is a rare monoclinic calc-silicate mineral that formed during contact metamorphism when syenitic magmas intruded limestone. Silica and potassium from the magma mix with calcium from the limestone to form the fibrous purple mineral. Given the common occurrence of syenite composition magmas and limestone it is rather surprising that this mineral is actually not more common. But it is not. It was discovered in 1940, but not described and identified until 1978 and it is still only found in one location in central Russia.

With a hardness of 5-6, charoite polishes more easily than quartz or agate, but is still hard enough to endure the stress of lapidary work. It can be weakly fluorescent (another thing to check!) and you will want to look carefully for some other rare minerals with which it is often associated (green aegerine and orange tinaksite are two such minerals). The purple prismatic crystals are often very small and fibrous and it is this property that generates the wondrous signature character to the stone. And guess what: charoite is the special mineral for February!

Recognizing its uniqueness, Russia even featured charoite on a postage stamp in 2000. The specimen

on the stamp to the left does not do justice to the mineral, but the stamp is certainly colorful.



WCGMC has these three cut, but unpolished charoite pieces in its collection. One of them will be auctioned to a lucky new owner on Valentine's Day. Will it be you?



Perhaps the winning bidder will be able to create some cabochons as beautiful as this at the next workshop?
(from Geologypage.com, 2020)

References:

[Geologypage.com, 2020](https://www.geologypage.com/2020/02/charoite-what-is-charoite-stone-how-is-charoite-formed/), Charoite: What is Charoite Stone? How is Charoite Formed?

[Webmineral.org](https://www.webmineral.org/min/charoite/), Charoite Mineral Data

Best of 2019



WCGMC Competition



And the winners are:

BEST FOSSIL FIND: Eldredgeops rana (Gary Thomas). This was also his first major fossil prep. Congrats to Gary. - *above left*

BEST MINERAL FIND: Elbaite tourmaline from Havey Quarry, Poland, Maine, collected on our club trip in July (Teresa Ferris) *above middle*

BEST LAPIDARY CREATION: faceted quartz, 288 faces and 445 carats (Ed Smith) *above right*

BEST MINERAL/ROCK FROM NEW YORK: garnet gneiss sphere from Lake Ontario shoreline (Heidi

Morgenstern), who acknowledges Glenn Weiler for help with creating the perfect sphere.

FAVORITE SHOW PURCHASE: Large Ammonite (Bob Linderbery)

UGLIEST ROCK: Tie – Bob Linderbery's concretion and Gary Thomas' Walworth whatever. Come on Man, we got to do better than that next year!

MOST INTERESTING SAND: See page 4

And Kathleen Cappon's Septarian "Turtle" Stone, lower right simply wanted into the winner's picture. Who were we to argue! Stonehenge cake too!



Rick and Denise Leszczenski created Stonehenge from Rice Krispie Treats atop lemon cake. Maybe best treat can be a new category in 2020?

Wayne County Gem and Mineral Club Schedule

last update Jan 25

The winter months are upon us and the club will have meetings and workshops each month.

February 14th – **WCGMC Annual Winter Auction** (multiple versions, always a fun event)

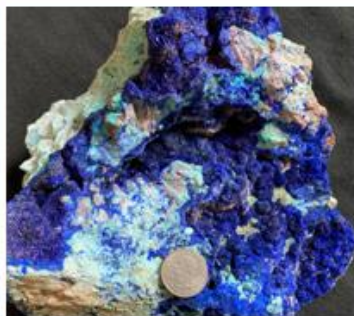
February 15th – February workshop

March 13th – Program: **Echinoderms - Extinct and Modern Animals** by Stephen Mayer

March 21st – March workshop

April 1st - *Ace of Diamonds Opening Day (A Rite of Passage for WCGMC)*

To whet your appetite, here are a few of the specimens that will be auctioned on February 14th



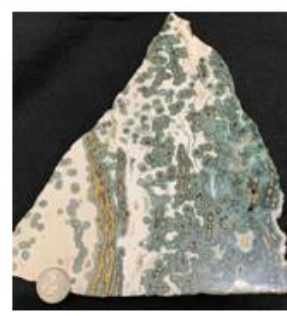
Azurite



Bismuth



Cave-in-Rock fluorite



Ocean Jasper

TWO GREAT SHOWS ON CONSECUTIVE MARCH WEEKENDS

The Buffalo Geological Society, Inc.
52ND ANNUAL
Gem Mineral Fossil Show
Meet us at "The Fairgrounds"
Sat, March 21, 2020 • 10am-6pm
Sun, March 22, 2020 • 10am-5pm
1 DAY ADMISSION PER PERSON \$6
In the Market, Grange, and NYS Police Buildings located on the Fairgrounds in Hamburg, NY
2 DAY ADMISSION PER PERSON \$9
FOSSILS

51st ANNUAL GEM & MINERAL SHOW
Presented by
Che-Hanna Rock & Mineral Club, Inc.
A (501c3) not-for-profit organization
MAR. 28, 2020 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
MAR. 29, 2020 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
**** GREAT LOCATION ****
WYSOX VOL. FIRE CO. SOCIAL HALL
111 LAKE ROAD, WYSOX, PA
OUTSTANDING GEOLOGICAL EXHIBITS
PRESENTED BY
Susquehanna River Archaeological Center
and
FLUORESCENT MINERAL PROGRAMS BY UV-BOB
Saturday--11am--1pm--3pm
Sunday--12 noon--2pm
Admission: Adults \$3.00 * Students \$1.00 * Under 8 Free

Wayne County Gem & Mineral Contacts

ELECTED OFFICERS

President - Linda Schmidtgal
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Vice-President - Fred Haynes
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Secretary - Debbie Breeze
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Treasurer - Bill Lesniak
Dirtman300@aol.com 315-483-8061

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 Bob Linderbery bootmanblues@gmail.com
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 James Keeler james@jkeeler.com

Past President - Glenn Weiler gwexterior@gmail.com

Visit us on Facebook:

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

APPOINTED POSITIONS

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Bill Lesniak – Website Coordinator

Glenn Weiler – Workshop Coordinator
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Linda Schmidtgal – Collection Curator

Eric Elias: GEMFEST Show Chair
thecrystalnetwork@hotmail.com

Fred Haynes – Facebook Administrator

Jim Rienhardt – Sand Chapter siderious@gmail.com

Club meets 2nd 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

