

Wayne County Gem and Mineral Club News



June, 2023

Always Looking for Places to Dig!



Collecting in Pennsylvania (see pg. 5)



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



soapstone carving at GemFest

June Meeting

Friday, **June 9th**, 7:00 PM.
Park Presbyterian Church,
Maple Court, Newark, NY

Program: Winter Rockhounding in Quartzite, Arizona

By Nancy Guilfoyle

Nancy spent much of the winter in and around Quartzite, Arizona collecting, perfecting her lapidary skills, and experiencing a vastly different type of winter (weather and culturally) than we have in western New York. She will share her experiences with us on Friday night. Come learn about rockhounding in the desert southwest and see what Arizona looks like in February!



Field Trip Season is underway: for news of upcoming trips, see page 7

WCGMC PICNIC is August 26th

If you have not yet signed up for our all day picnic event outside the workshop in Wolcott, you can do so by sending an email to Teresa Ferris at (rockhoundingft@gmail.com).

The club will provide chicken and potatoes. Members bring a dish to pass (vegetable, salad or dessert). We'll eat around noon, but the fun starts mid-morning and continues into late afternoon. More details in the July-August newsletter.

Saturday Workshop: June 10th
(10:00 AM until mid-afternoon)

Where: 6676 E. Port Bay Rd, Wolcott, NY

Eye protection is required.

Training on equipment is available.

\$5/adult to offset maintenance costs

The July and August newsletters will be combined into a single summer issue which, if the editor can meet his commitment, should be published in mid-July.

President's Message

James Keeler



Hello everyone and happy June!

Prime rockhounding season is upon us, and we have a lot of club happenings this season thanks to the hard work of our Field Trip Coordinator, Teresa Ferris. She did a wonderful job planning a fun May weekend at the National Limestone Quarries in Pennsylvania that many of us were able to attend and collect a lot of nice crystals at. A big thank you to her for planning and coordinating that dig, to everyone who participated and attended, and to Eric Stahl for graciously hosting the club at his business once again!



Our newsletter editor holds up an aerial photograph of the Middleburg Quarry while owner Eric Stahl points out the locations of recent blasts and where “good stuff” can be found.

We have another couple of digs planned this month – one along Chesapeake Bay in Maryland and another for a new Herkimer diamond mining location. Keep your eyes out for Teresa’s emails, announcements at monthly meetings, sign-up lists, and page 7 of our newsletters for more information.

Speaking of Herkimer diamond mining, the club’s favorite locality that’s served as the bookends for our field trip season each year for as long as I’ve been a member (and certainly many years before that), Ace of Diamonds, is currently experiencing some serious difficulties regarding a legal dispute that they’ve been struggling with for the past few years. I would strongly encourage members to check out the GoFundMe site that Anna Smith, the current owner

and daughter of Ted Smith that many of us got to know over the years, has put up to explain their current situation. She is asking for help from the community to support her efforts to keep the mine in the family and open for rockhounds. The link is: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/please-help-save-our-familys-mine-from-auction>.

Even if you choose not to contribute, I encourage people who would like to support them to go visit and dig there this season. Not only will the dig fees help them, but if they’re not successful in their legal battle, then who knows when the location will be open for rockhounds again. This might be the final season we have to collect from there for some time. Despite the lack of fresh commercial tailings and current prohibitions against mining the walls (as mandated by the courts), there are still beautiful water clear double terminated Herkimer diamonds to be found. Everyone that went opening day went home with at least a handful. I saw someone post a picture online last month of a fairly large Herk that they found there this season.

In other club news, Nancy Guilfoyle has offered to talk to us about her “snowbirding” season in the Southwest for the June General Meeting. She winters over in Arizona each year and spends time with some great clubs in that region participating in digs at famous locations like Burro Creek. She also creates wonderful lapidary creations at their workshop. You may have seen some of them at GemFest this past weekend. I’ve seen the slides from her talk and it was really quite amazing to see the completely different geography as well as some of the local color in the region.



Nancy Guilfoyle (on the left) discussing some of her creations with visitors to Gemfest on June 3rd in Canandaigua.

Also, this month is our annual GemFest. By the time the newsletter is published, we will have held our annual event and will have enjoyed the hard work we put into making a family friendly, community-minded event together. Thank you to all who helped to make our GemFest a success.

Another club announcement I'd like to make is that we need people who might be interested in volunteering their time and leadership skills to think about running for a Club Officer position this fall. We'll be nominating candidates at the September meeting, so if you'd like to put your hat in the ring to help the club out, please do so!

On that note, I'd like to extend my apologies as I don't feel that I have been able to put the level of attention into serving as President that the club needs to sustain the same level of engagement that we had during the previous two administrations. I don't want to subject the club to another term as "second fiddle" since I've felt like we haven't been thriving as well as we had before my tenure, so I may not be running for President again this fall. I certainly plan to continue to take an active role in helping the club out as much as I'm able, whether it's as Past President or another position, and if my workload becomes less demanding at my job I'll throw my hat in the ring again to see if the membership wants to give me another chance at giving club operations the full attention they deserve.

But regardless of my own future role, we still need interested parties to help out with the responsibilities of leading the club so that we can transition the knowledge of club operations to new minds ready to pick up the reins from the experts we've had performing them so adeptly in the past like Fred, Linda, Bill L., Bill C., Glenn, and anyone else I have forgotten to mention.

One side note and caution for everyone also – there's been an increase in phishing attempts by scammers attempting to impersonate me and trick other members of the club (mostly Officers and the Board, but I want to warn everyone so that nobody gets victimized). These scammers are getting very creative in managing to coerce folks into clicking on links, opening attachments, replying to emails, or taking other actions that allow them to obtain private information or worse. Please be especially careful when receiving emails that appear to come from me. My email domain will always end in [@jkeeler.com](mailto:jkeeler.com). If you are unsure if it is me behind a message, please

text me at 607-368-6392 before taking any actions like opening a file or clicking a link.

Also, I will never ask anyone in the club (other than the Treasurer, and I'll be submitting receipts and asking for a paper check at the next meeting) to execute a financial transaction on my behalf without a phone call. Definitely don't purchase gift cards, send money electronically (PayPal, Venmo, Zelle, etc.), or do anything financial for the club without confirming it verbally with the requestor. I deal with these types of scams daily in my day job, and I don't want to see any of our members get victimized by these scams.

Speaking of cautions – I mentioned this at the May meeting, but please make sure to always keep physical safety at the forefront of your minds when rockhounding or working in the workshop. Safety glasses are especially critical since your eyes are so easily scratched by flying bits of rock and dust. They are mandatory when working in the workshop or when on a club rockhounding trip where **anyone** is hammering rocks – just because you're not the one with the hammer doesn't mean your eyes are safe since rock chips fly far & fast.



Whether in the field (Teresa Ferris at Middleburg Quarry in PA) or in the workshop (Beth Webster in Wolcott) safety comes first and protective eyewear is not only smart, but required.

Looking forward to a great summer digging season, fun times at the workshop, and, of course, a great picnic on August 26th

Your President,

James Keeler

Gem Fest

First of all, WCGMC would like to thank the dozens of club members who helped over the weekend and all of our wonderful vendors for sharing their weekend with us. We certainly had a wonderful time and we hope everyone else did also. Even the weather spared us from the summer heat that can make our venue a bit warm at times.

But rather than spend any more words, here is the weekend is a few pictures.



Kim Pandina, with a crowd around her tables



Fifteen dealers from red line to red line in the Greater Canandaigua Civic Center: minerals, fossils, rocks, jewelry and more. We hope they went home happy.



The winning exhibit from GemFest - Bill Chapman
 If you visited the 9 club exhibits, you saw the diversity of interests among our members. You were also able to vote for your favorite exhibit and many of you did. Apparently, those at the show like big, colorful rocks from New York. Bill Chapman's case, displaying just three very special rocks from upstate New York won first prize.



In the front, our famous \$1 grab bags were available (6 specimens in each bag); in the back our operating sluice was a favorite. Take home what you separate from the sand: tourmaline, shark teeth, blue calcite, and a whole lot more.



For those of you who stopped to guess how many stones were in the vase, you might want to know that the answer was 148. There were 226 entries and the winner of the vase and its contents was Meka Woodworth (left). Her sisters Sami (holding the stone-filled jar) and Kori joined in the victory celebration. Thanks to all who participated.



**WCGMC visits
Mt. Pleasant Mills Quarry – May 19th**

Our first overnight field trip of 2023 was to central Pennsylvania in mid-May. Teresa Ferris set up visits to National Limestone Quarries in both Mt. Pleasant Mills and Middleburg. These are favorite sites where active quarrying activity is almost assuredly going to expose collectible minerals and this spring was no exception.

Friday we visited Mt. Pleasant Mills, spending time in both the principal quarry (above) hunting for calcite, fluorite and occasional strontianite, and also atop the ridge in back of the quarry digging for wavellite.



hunting wavellite at Mt. Pleasant Mills



Mt. Pleasant Mills calcite: in the quarry wall (left) and a 2”wide specimen ready to be wrapped for the journey north (right).

On Saturday, it was time to explore the larger quarry in Middleburg. Lots more calcite was found, also some very purple fluorite. There was even a bit of travertine remaining from a blast many years ago that exposed a paleocave in the limestone that had been partially filled by stalactites, stalagmites, and columns of banded tan travertine.



**Middleburg
Quarry May 20th**

If you purchased a grab bag at GemFest it is quite likely that you obtained a specimen from this trip.

What does one do during the evening on an overnight collecting trip? Yes we often find a place to share dinner (see below), but this time we enjoyed an additional special treat. Teresa had arranged for us to visit James Van Fleet at his home. James showed us his collection of Franklin minerals and then was very generous letting us “dig” a bit in his garage through his “extras”. We thank Jim for his hospitality and generosity.



**All dressed up and out
for dinner Friday night
in Mifflinville, PA.**

Splendid Sands Calendar

June, 2023
 Otter Rock Marine Reserve,
 Otter Rock, Oregon



Photo by Leo Kenney

by Leo Kenney, Kate Clover & Carol Hopper Brill

Otter Rock lies between Depot Bay and Newport on Oregon's Pacific shore. That's midway down the Oregon coastline where sandy beaches change to include rocky headlands. The small Otter Creek Marine Reserve, trapped between two prominent rocky headlands, is known for its tidepools. Submerged at high tide and exposed at low tide, the intertidal zone is home to a diverse selection of marine plants and animals.

Biogenic grains in this sand sample include blue mussel shells, purple sea urchin spines, caramel colored barnacle plates, and cone-shaped limpets. The lacy structure is a lattice-work calcified bryozoan. Branched fragments are different coralline algae, seaweeds that deposit calcium carbonate in their cell walls. One specimen has segments that are about as wide as they are tall. The purple branch with wingnut-shaped segments shows conceptacles (raised bumps) on its surface; these are reproductive features.

The black grains include basalt, which erodes from the local headlands, plus opaque grains of magnetite, ilmenite, and chromite. Light colored grains include quartz and feldspar.

Sand Collecting at GemFest



Jim Rienhardt and Fred Haynes took some of their sand collection to GemFest and tried to inspire youngsters (and a few adults also) to become sand collectors. Did they succeed? I guess only time will tell, but they did hand out samples of garnet sand from the shores of Lake Ontario in Hamlin, New York and provide tips on how to collect and look at sand.



This youngster is about to use a magnet to separate magnetite and red garnet from a Lake Ontario sample.



Biogenic grains in a tropical sand are the focus for this pair of young sand enthusiasts.


WCGMC: Always Looking for Places to Dig!


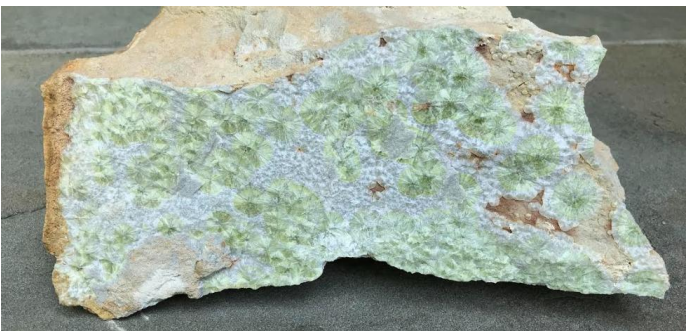
By Teresa Ferris (WCGMC Field Trip Coordinator) rockhoundingft@gmail.com

Well, our first overnight field trip was dry and full of minerals from two quarries in Pennsylvania. More on that event elsewhere in this newsletter, but I was all smiles about my big calcite find.



Now that GemFest is past, I am ready to go fossil collecting along Chesapeake Bay (Matoaka Beach in Maryland) in a week or so with about a dozen members. We hope to come home with lots of Miocene pectens, barnacles, gastropods and perhaps some shark teeth.

This issue I have decided to present the upcoming trips in calendar format. If you are interested in more detail, please contact me at the e-mail address above or call me 860-861-5736. I will also be at the club meeting on Friday night and at the workshop on Saturday. You will note that we have added a day trip to Ilion and two weekend trips to the Adirondacks (one in late July, the second in mid-August), all before the annual picnic on August 26th.



Wavellite from Mt. Pleasant Mills Quarry, PA
(May, 2023)

June 2023

Black Fly Season

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
May 28	29	30	31	Jun 1	2	3 <i>Wayne show</i>
4	5	6	7	8	9 <i>Wayne meeting</i>	10 <i>workshop</i>
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24 <i>Diamond mountain</i>
25	26	27	28	29	30	Jul 1

July 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jun 25	26	27	28	29	30	Jul 1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15 <i>Ilion, NY</i>
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29 <i>Adirondack Fine</i>
30 <i>Rose Road</i>	31	Aug 1	2	3	4	5

August 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jul 30	31	Aug 1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12 <i>Green Hills Talville</i>
13 <i>Antwerp</i>	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26 <i>WCGMC Picnic!</i>
27	28	29	30	31	Sep 1	2

Wayne County Gem & Mineral Contacts

ELECTED OFFICERS

President – James Keeler

[jamesrocks\(at\)keeler.com](mailto:jamesrocks(at)keeler.com)

Vice-President – Holly Woodworth

[autum14513\(at\)yahoo.com](mailto:autum14513(at)yahoo.com)

Secretary – Beth Webster

Treasurer - Bill Lesniak

Board of Directors

Bob Linderbery

Heidi Morgenstern

Karen Wilkins

[Open position](#)

Past President – Linda Schmidtgal

Visit us on Facebook:

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

APPOINTED POSITIONS

Field Trip Coordinator – Teresa Ferris, *help wanted*
[rockhoundingft\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:rockhoundingft(at)gmail.com)

Fossil Field Trip Leader - Stephen Mayer

Fred Haynes – Newsletter Editor

[fredmhaynes55\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:fredmhaynes55(at)gmail.com)

Bill Lesniak – Website Coordinator

Glenn Weiler – Workshop Coordinator

Linda Schmidtgal – Collection Curator

Fred Haynes – Facebook Administrator

Jim Rienhardt – Sand Chapter

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.wcgmcc.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

