

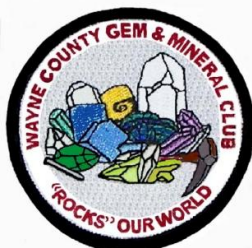
Wayne County Gem and Mineral Club News

September, 2015

Always Looking for Places to Dig!



WCGMC rockhounds at work in Eganville, Ontario. Go to page 2 to see what Glenn was extracting with the saw.



Website

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



Green's Landing trilobite



Glenn and Ken work the sphere machine at the club picnic (see pg 6)

Club Meeting, Friday Sept. 11, 7:00 PM

Presbyterian Church, Maple Court, Newark, NY

Program: "Crystal Structures"
by Dave Millis

And bring your summer finds (minerals and fossils) to show to others. Trading is always possible too.

We plan to start having a monthly open workshop date in October.

Upcoming WCGMC Field Trips

Sat. August 29th – Alden, NY for pyritized fossils in Ledyard shale. See [June-July 2014 WCGMC News](#) for more site info. Meet at Dollar General Store on Rte. 20 in Alden at 10 AM or go directly in if you know the path. *Leader – Bill Chapman*

Thursday – Saturday (Sept. 17th-20th) – St. Lawrence Co. Saturday is Benson Mines and Rose Road with SUNY-Plattsburgh students. Thurs. and Fri. will include Selleck Road, Powers Farm, & other sites depending on interest of those present. (see pg. 7 for detail) *Leader – Fred Haynes*

WCGMC and RAS Joint Fossil Dig

By Fred Haynes

It was a large, enthusiastic group of all ages from two local clubs that gathered on August 9th to trek into Green's Landing on a fossil hunt. Stephen Mayer led the WCGMC contingent while Dan Krisher (also a WCGMC member) led the Rochester Academy of Science Fossil Group. The total group numbered 27 with about an equal number from each organization. It was a wonderful way for folks in each group to meet fellow fossil enthusiasts while doing what they enjoy most, digging in the Middle Devonian. And Green's Landing was ready for us with as diverse and prolific assemblage of fossils as one could imagine.

Continued on page 4 – see Joint Fossil Trip



Eyes to the ground: The Jaycox member exposure in Green's Landing offers great exposure of both the Green's Landing Coral Bed and the Cottage City Coral Bed. And there is far more than coral to be found!



Mineral Musings by Fred Haynes



Canada 2015 (Part 2. Eganville, Ont.) By Fred Haynes

After 3 nights in Cobalt (see [August WCGMC News](#)), we headed to Eganville in search of more collecting adventure.

Although the primary objective of our trek back to the Grenville Province was minerals, our first stop was at a limestone quarry where large cephalopods and coral could be found. The Haley Quarry, 8 miles southeast of Eganville, exposes the Lindsey and Verulam Formations of the Upper Ordovician Ottawa Group which are known for their large cephalopods, some of which are exposed in nearby [Bonnecherre caves](#).



Bill and Gary examine a find in the Haley Quarry.

Although we found nothing comparing to the 6-8' straight shelled cephalopods known to the region we did find several 4-6" long, 2-3" diameter specimens like the one in the upper left below. Bill Chapman even found a large *Isotelus* trilobite and *Favosites* colonies were abundant: a good afternoon of fossil hunting after the drive down from Cobalt.



cephalopod



Sponge?



Favosites coral



Isotelus trilobite

Haley Quarry,
Douglass,
Ontario

Upper Ordovician
Ottawa Group
(Lindsey or Verulam Fm.)



Worm burrows

It was back to the Grenville and calcite-vein dike minerals on Thursday at a new favorite haunt, the Miller property 20 miles west of Eganville near Clear Lake. The owner had cleared new land since last year and we focused our attention there, digging apatite, titanite, biotite, and even some nice feldspar. We did not, however, unearth any half-inch zircons which have been reportedly found on the new diggings on the location.



At one location the feldspar is amazonite and one 6-8" clot required some heavy digging. The surrounding quartz did not yield its treasure easily. The chisels and the chisellers got a workout, but eventually this little piece of Canada did go back to the US.



Yes, the digging of that amazonite was tiring.

The newly cleared location is pictured on page one where five of our crew are exploring for treasure and Glenn is operating the rock saw. The target of his attention is a long

calcite-based slab covered with large terminated black pyroxene and two large red apatites. Once recovered it looked like this!



Five proud rockhounds with their prize: from left to right: Bill Chapman, Glenn Weiler, Linda Schmidtgal, Matt Weiler, and Gary Thomas. Can you spot the two large apatites near Linda's knee? Each is about 4" long and 2" in diameter and they present a nice symmetric balance to the meter tall piece featuring dark pyroxene crystals. You can see this piece if you visit Linda in Savannah.



The next stop was the Beryl Pit near Quadville.

This site hosts a complex pegmatite with great mineralogical variety. Recalling our 2014 experience at the border, we tried to avoid too much radioactive euxenite and aeschynite and ended up focusing on a region of pink feldspar with large green beryl crystals in the floor of the quarry. Everyone ended up a nice piece or two from this hole, but the site also yielded tourmaline (var. schorl), cleavandite, and even a little purple fluorite. The Beryl pit is a private pay site that is a must stop for anyone visiting the eastern end of the Bancroft district.



Green beryl in pink feldspar. The Canadian \$2 coin (a toonie) is 28mm in diameter, just over one inch.

Our final stop on the trip was much simpler from a mineralogy point of view. We visited the Burgess Mine and collected corundum. The syenite is deficient in silica (and rich in aluminum) such that corundum (simple Al_2O_3) forms instead of all the aluminum being consumed in silicate minerals like feldspars. Lots of steely grey crystals with slight ruby sheen to be found, the trick is to find crystalline, terminated specimen.



Collecting corundum in the Burgess Mine rock face. Better luck was encountered on the dumps across the road and by the small beaver dam lake.



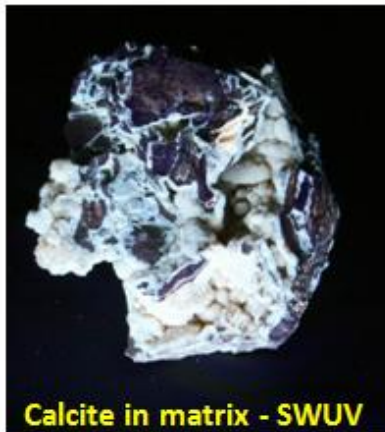
We were in moose country all week, but it was not until the final day that we saw our first moose. She did not stay around long, but Eva Jane did get this picture from the car. She had two calves, but they escaped before the cameras were out. You can spot the head of one of the calves on the shore behind the trees and just in front of mom.

Ilion Gorge Fluorescence

by Ken St. John

My son, Isaac, and I joined the club on the field trip to the Jerusalem Road Gorge in Ilion earlier this year (see [July 2015 WCGMC News](#)). In sorting through the material we brought back (yes, we left the deer skeleton) I exposed the rocks and minerals to UV light. I thought that I'd share the pictures.

Our first find was some calcite that Isaac retrieved from the opposite side of the gorge. The piece is interesting in daylight for all of the calcite formations and patterns, but exposure to Short Wave UV really gets your interest. Calcite often fluoresces and we're used to seeing the bright orange / red fluorescence from Sterling Hill and Franklin, New Jersey and from Eganville, Ontario. As shown below, the Jerusalem Hill calcite fluoresces brightly blue/white.



The specimen above measures roughly 5 inches in both directions and is 1.5" thick.

The real surprise came when I lamped a piece of the satin spar gypsum that Matt Weiler had discovered in the shale bank just downstream from the main travertine area. As seen below, the gypsum which is bright white in daylight glows blue in UVA light.



The gypsum piece is 4" long, 3" deep and 1.5" high.

I used a powerful UV display lamp set close to the specimens to obtain these photographs. There is a bit of the violet of the lamp reflected by the gypsum (center bottom of the picture). The gypsum benefits the most from higher power as its fluorescent response is maybe half that of the calcite.



An Ilion stalactite: Some of the "caves" or openings in which the travertine grows in Ilion Gorge can be rather large. This 9" piece was wrestled out of its home in 3 pieces and repaired (note the arrows).



Dipping this six inch travertine stalactite into acid briefly really brought out a shine and color to the orange calcite.

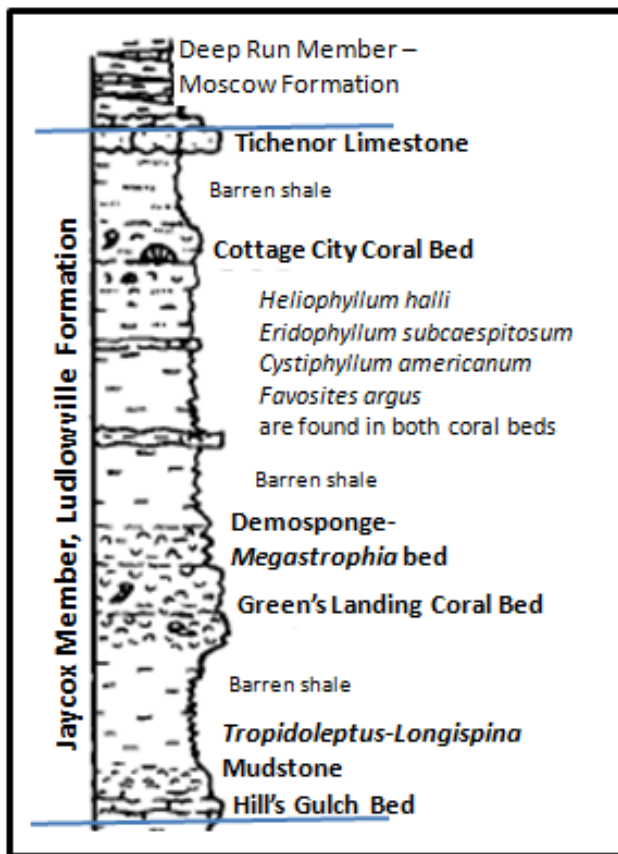
Ivan was an avid mineral collector who seldom made time to check in with his family while collecting. But, after the first day of collecting in a remote region of Alaska, and with a bit of idle time at the hotel, he noticed a computer in the lobby. He decided to send an e-mail to his wife. In a bit of a hurry, he accidentally miss-typed her address and without realizing, sent the e-mail to a widow who just returned from her husband's funeral.

The widow decided to check her email, expecting condolence messages from friends and relatives. After reading the first email she fainted. Her son rushed in to check on his mother and saw the computer screen with the message:

"To my loving wife: I know you are surprised to hear from me, but there is a computer here and we are allowed to email our loved ones. I've just been checked in. How are you and the kids? It is really nice here and a lot warmer than I had expected, but I am lonely without you. I suggest you make all the necessary arrangements and join me tomorrow."

Joint Fossil Trip (cont. from pg. 1)

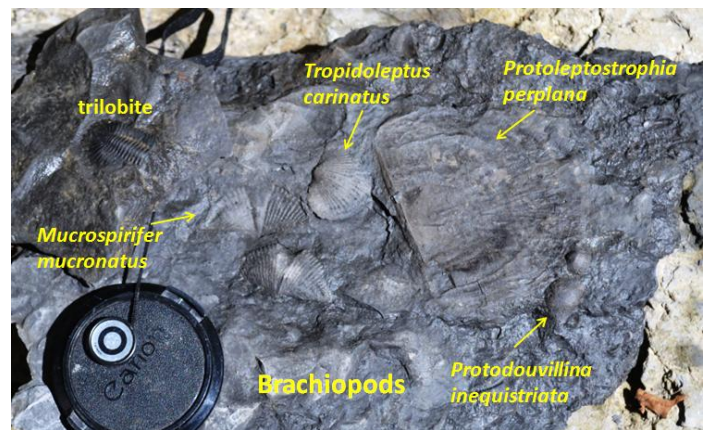
The benefit of attending a field trip with someone who has done their M.S. Geology thesis in the area is actually knowing what you are collecting and what unit you are collecting it from. At Green's Landing we traipsed upstream through several marker units in the Wanakah member of the Ludlowville Formation and then were able to isolate and collect from each fossil bearing unit in the Jaycox member because Stephen Mayer could identify them and their fossil assemblages.



Detailed stratigraphy and marker fossils in the Jaycox member at Green's Landing (from Mayer et. al., 1994)



How about that for a *Naticonema lineata* gastropod!



How many of these brachiopods can you see?



Favosites argus colonial coral. Specimen on the left shows the internal costae while the whole specimen on the right displays the external polygonal corallites.

References:

Mayer, S. M, Baird, G.C., and Brett, C.E., 1994, Correlation of facies divisions in the uppermost Ludlowville (Givetian) across western and central New York State, NY State Museum Bulletin 481, p. 229-264.

[WCGMC News, November, 2014](#), pgs. 4-5

The creek at Green's Landing is privately owned and not accessible without permission of the land owner.

2015 WCGMC Annual Picnic: With Plenty of Time for:



Gary Thomas

GemFest 2015



Gary Thomas is one of the more enthusiastic fossil collectors in the club. At GemFest his display of local Devonian trilobites, corals, brachiopods was impressive. But Gary that fish on the left is not local! And, yes he does collect Herkimers also: see them all in the lower right.

WCGMC 2015 Field Trip Schedule

last update (8/27/2015)

Oh no, say it ain't so! Summer is coming to a close. Good news though, in addition to reconvening our Friday night meetings in Newark, WCGMC will continue to conduct local and regional collecting trips until the snow flies.. As usual, you should always watch the website for adds and changes, or contact the listed trip leader or Bill Chapman, if you are uncertain whether you have the latest information. This month's activities are in red.

Remember to attend a WCGMC field trip you must be a club member, or a member of an affiliated club if you do not live in our region.

Saturday August 29 – Alden, NY for pyritized fossils in Ledyard shale. See June-July 2014 WCGMC News for site details. Meet at Dollar General Store, Rte. 20 in Alden at 10 AM. *Leader-Bill Chapman*

Sept. 17-20 (Thurs.-Sun.): Finally, St. Lawrence County in 2015. We will join SUNY-Plattsburgh Geology Club on Saturday to visit Benson Mines in AM and Rose Road in PM. Still working details, but we will collect in the Adirondacks (Selleck Road, Powers Farm, etc.) on Thursday and Friday also. We have a place to stay in Star Lake Wedn. through Sat. nights. *(Contact Fred Haynes before Sept 6 if you wish details or wish to stay with us any/all evenings)*

October 3 (Sat.) – A local fossil trip to Deep Run is planned for this day. *Leader – Fred Haynes*
Meet at Deep Run Beach parking lot at 9:00 AM. Some creek walking may be required.

October 10-11 (Sat.-Sun.) - Walworth Quarry Open House (Sat 7 AM - 2 PM, Sunday 7:00 -noon). Arrive early for safety talk. Wear long pants and boots. Bring safety glasses & hard hats.
Leader – Bill Chapman

Let us know where you would like to go in the fall. There are still open weekends remaining.

SHOWS and OTHER EVENTS TO KEEP ON YOUR RADAR in the next 2 months

September 12-13: NYSGA Annual Field Meeting, Plattsburg, NY For info on symposium and field trips see:
<http://www.nysga-online.net/meetings/meeting-information>

<http://www.rochesterlapidary.org/show/index.htm>

How many can you identify? We have collected them all this past year. Answers next month

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Club meets 2nd Friday of each month starting in Sept.

Mini-miner 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. Send to WCGMC, P. O. Box 4, Newark, NY 14513

The Public is always welcomed
First Class, Dated, Meetings & Time ValuedWayne County Gem and Mineral Club
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