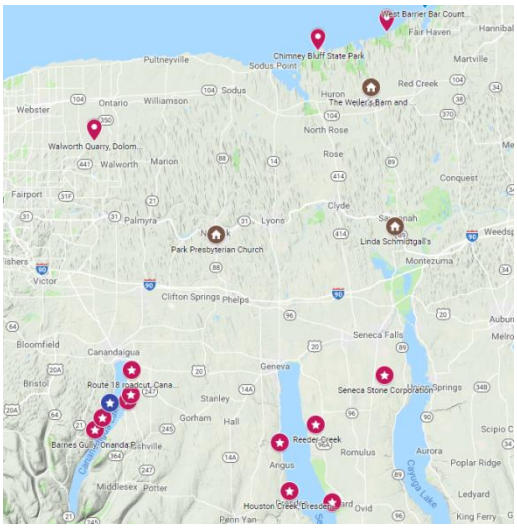
Wayne County Gem and Mineral Club News

April, 2019 **Always Looking for Places to Dig!**



A new club tool --- see page 6

http://www.wcgmc.org

FACEBOOK link

Kathleen was tuning her drill core at the March workshop. Ask her about it !!

April Meeting

Friday April 12th, 7:00 PM

Park Presbyterian Church, Maple Court, Newark, NY

Program: Radioactive Minerals

By Kathleen Cappon

Come prepared to learn all about radioactive minerals and the elements causing them to be radioactive. See them respond to a Geiger counter.

If you have any radioactive minerals bring them along (uraninite, euxenite, carnotite, betafite, etc.). We will measure their radioactivity and compare them to Kathleen's and to those of the club.

If you have a Geiger counter, bring it to the meeting and we will compare the responses among all counters at the meeting.

Upcoming WCGMC Workshop
April 20th

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.

For those who pre-ordered the new club T-shirt, you will be able to pay for them and pick them up at the April meeting. Bring cash or check.

GemFest is only two months away

Wayne County Gem & Mineral Club

Gem Fest 2019

Sat. June 1 10-5 Sun. June 2 10-4

Greater Canandaigua Civic Center
250 N. Bloomfield Rd, Canandaigua

$3 Admission, Kids under 12 FREE

Vendors, Exhibits, Free Prizes, Sluice
Art Crafts, Scavenger Hunt, Demos, UVBob
Visit www.wcgmc.org for details

We will need lots of help setting up GemFest on Friday May 31st (grab bags and sluice bags to fill, craft sites to prepare, club table, dealers to assist, exhibits, and more). And then we will need even more help during the show. Of course it all has to be "put away" late Sunday afternoon. It is a lot of fun to be a part of a smoothly functioning team!

President's Message

Linda Schmidtgall

Spring is trying to happen and we have a full season ahead for rock collecting. A great year is planned. March 30th at the Ace of Diamonds will kick it off. We have picked before in snow. This year it might be rain, but it is still fun to be out there.

When you get home and look over your crystals (those that did not melt in the car) you can clean them in soapy tepid water. If they have an orange or rusty color you can put them in oxalic acid. This acid can be purchased in hardware stores or online. Use 1 cup of acid and 1 gallon of tepid water. This solution can be used multiple times until it turns a lime green color.

BEFORE placing the stones in the solution put them in tepid water. This fills cracks with water allowing less acid into the cracks to discolor them. Leave the crystals in solution for 5-7 days. Or, if you have an old crock pot, set it on low and let the heated solution speed up the process. It should only take several hours at this setting. Turn the crock pot off and let it stand until back to room temperature. DO NOT REMOVE WHILE HOT as you risk fracturing them with such a rapid temperature change.

Once the crystals have cooled, rinse them with tepid water and soak them in water with a bit of baking soda to neutralize any remaining acid. They can be buffed with terry cloth to achieve a nice luster.

The black material on or inside the "diamonds" is anthraxolite (a form of bitumen). Look closely inside your diamond. You may see an inclusion with a vapor bubble; these are called enhydros by collectors and fluid inclusions by geologists.

On a sad note, we recently lost a long-time member of the club, Pat Hilts, who loved collecting Herkimers and went digging whenever she could. She was a great lady. I will miss her.

I also want to thank Jim Reinhardt for giving us a different perspective on rocks and collecting. His take on sand collecting was very interesting and it doesn't take up much room in your house (or in your suitcase when collecting).

Your President, Linda

Jim Reinhardt addresses WCGMC about the hobby of sand collecting at our March meeting. He shared how a small but dedicated group of collectors share their hobby trading samples by mail. Jim has received sand specimens from around the world. He asks that we all consider him when we are out and about and see a special sand. He does not need much. His 15 ml sample vials are about 2" tall and 1" in circumference.

Karen Wilkins watches her grandson Brody inspect some of Jim's sand samples up close and personal.

Pat Hilts (1940 – 2019)

WCGMC lost a long-time member on March 12th after a lengthy illness. Pat Chapman provides the following about our fellow collector and friend.

Originally from the Watertown area, Pat and her family relocated to the Middlesex area in Yates County where she spent most of her life. Pat was a champion archer, helping bow makers demonstrate their products. She continued bow hunting deer from tree stands near her home until her final years. Pat loved minerals, watching Tiger Woods play golf and trying her luck at the Finger Lakes Casino and Racetrack.

Pat was a long time member of our club. Though not a meeting person, she never missed an opportunity to go on club digs, often with Bill (Chapman). Herkimer diamonds and Alden (for pyrite) were her favorite places to visit.

I know it is not yet April as I write this and that I need to be patient. There will be plenty of collecting opportunities in the coming months. Spring is here and with it the snow is just about gone and the collecting season is about to begin in earnest. WCGMC will visit Ace of Diamonds on March 30th and I've been out hunting fossils once already.

But I was impatient earlier this week and decided to venture to western Connecticut to follow up on a couple of leads I had uncovered over the winter by searching geologic literature and old maps. I hoped I could find places the club could return to later in the year. I was after kyanite and staurolite or whatever other neat metamorphic minerals I might happen upon, maybe a four-pound garnet? Anyway, one day last week I packed up the chisels, the hammers and the gloves, loaded the backseat with snacks and chocolate and pointed my aging Honda Accord towards the east.

It was an easy drive and I had left really early. By noon or so I had located the first site I wanted to investigate. The old geologic map noted kyanite in granulite facies metamorphic rocks on the side of a small hill in a rural area. The land was on a State Forest with some trails, but the two k's (marking kyanite) on the 1930's vintage geology map I had discovered were distant from any trail so it was cross country hiking. I set out, first to find rocks, then to find outcrop, and I hoped large bright blue kyanite.

The walk was generally easy and visibility through the forest was excellent. There was little low level vegetation to block the path or the view and only a bit of remaining snow in places. A few small pieces of schist float contained mica and miniscule garnets, but nothing worth a second look, leaverite for sure. After perhaps an hour (I had lost track of time) I happened upon a couple of granitic boulders that must have been glacial erratics. Interesting, and I hit one a few times, but it resisted and I did not see much reason in being persistent.

Soon after that, I saw a low ridge running parallel to the contours on the small hill I was climbing and I bee-lined it to the outcrop. It was schist, but the weathered surface was dull, locally iron-stained, and partially covered by lichen and moss. It did appear, though, that I was smack on the location where one of the k's on that old map had been placed. It was time to break out the hammer and knock off the weathered surface.

The first several breaks exposed fresher rock, but the breaks were aligned with weaknesses in the schist and they were iron stained. When I finally broke into truly fresh rock, I was rewarded with blue bladed kyanite. It wasn't Minas Gerais (Brazil) quality blue, but it was blue and it was kyanite. I found a crack running further into the outcrop and tried to get deeper. The exposure surfaces were getting even bluer, the blades were getting longer. I was in heaven. How could I have been so lucky and this was only the first of several planned stops on this trip.

I struggled a bit to stretch myself so I could reach deeper into the crevice to reach what appeared to me to be a bluish sheen, bluer than anything I had extracted so far. Suddenly a voice rang out, "What are you doing". I was petrified. I thought I was all alone and fairly deep into the Connecticut forest. "Stop kicking me", my wife exclaimed as I suddenly woke up from my dream. There was no kyanite in the bed, the Honda Accord was safely in the garage beneath me, and I was sweating rather profusely.

On the bright side, I had not gone collecting at a location where it is not allowed. One can collect in one's bed whenever one wants, spouse permitting. Maybe next month I will obtain the necessary permissions in Connecticut and make that trip for real. It will be déjà vu all over again.

So you thought the kyanite with garnet picture at the end of this article was one that I found? Nope, that's what I dreamed it looked like. The one in the picture is actually from somewhere in Russia. I found it online just like the Connecticut locations. I do, however, own several copies of the Kenya stamp with kyanite in the title box to the upper left.

SITE OF THE MONTH

Flemingsburg, Kentucky by Fred Haynes

Yes, we are going all the way to Kentucky for a fossil location for April's site of the month. A long, but fairly non-descript roadcut on State Route 11 in Flemingsburg is on the radar for us because at least four members of WCGMC plan to collect at the site in late April. We will be doing so on a 4-day, 7-site trip led by Jerry Bastedo and the Buffalo Geological Society. If anyone else wants to join us, check out the calendar on page 7.

WCGMC visited the Flemingsburg roadcut last Labor Day en route to meeting CVGMC in central Kentucky. Most of the fossils we found were in the weathered talus that Linda is searching and not in the bedded strata that Ed and Glenn are exploring.

Just as western New York is known for its wonderful diversity in Middle Devonian fossils, southwest Ohio, northern Kentucky and southeast Indiana are famous for their Ordovician invertebrate fossils As in New York, trilobites are arguably the prize, but there are diverse and abundant brachiopods, coral, gastropods, and cephalopods. But since the rocks are 65 million years older than our Middle Devonian (450 mya vs. 285 mya), the genera are completely different.

The geography is different also. The best Middle Devonian exposures in western New York seem to be along creeks, particularly those draining into the Finger Lakes. Glacial cover is extensive and most road cuts do not extend to the Paleozoic bedrock. Given the absence of glacial cover and a bit more overall topography, road cuts all around the Cincinnati Arch expose the full Ordovician section and offer fossil hunters easy access. It is said that where there is a roadcut in the Cincinnati area there are fossils.

The Flemingsburg site is about 80 miles southeast of Cincinnati and 3 miles south of Flemingsburg, Kentucky. The State Route 11 roadcuts are a little more than a decade old, the result of blasting during highway widening projects in 2005 and 2006. The rubbly-weathered shales and grain-supported limestones of the Corryville member of the Grant Lake Formation exposed by the road work contain the full suite of Upper Ordovician fossils for which the Cincinnati Arch region is known. Collectors have well over a quarter of a mile and perhaps a dozen separate roadcuts from which to collect.

Full undamaged orthid brachiopods are probably the most prolific and evident invertebrate fossils weathering from the less resistant shaly limestones. Two genera dominate, *Vindlandostrophia* and *Herbetella*. Spend some time there and you will go home with many of both. Vindlandostrophia are interesting as the genus name is relatively new. These brachiopods used to be known as *Platystrophia*, however Zuykov and Harper (2007) re-assigned many to the genus *Vinlandostrophia* based on shell morphology (Hartsthorn et. al., 2016). There are at least three different species of *Vinlandostrophia* at the site, perhaps more.

These are all *Vindlandostrophia* brachiopods. The larger one in the upper left is likely *Vinlandostrophia ponderosa.* I like the smaller one in the center on matrix. It may be hard to see, but the specimen above the quarter is a geodized brach with calcite crystals growing towards a hollow center.

However I found two other fossils that also interested me. First, I like bryozoans (see April 2017 newsletter) and that phylum is well represented in the roadcut. Fan-like bryozoa called *Constellaria sp.* can be found and other species often coat the ubiquitous brachiopods. And then there are the *Solenopora*, which look like fossil brains, or at least they do to me. These often wrinkled and generally lumpy masses have long been thought to be calcareous red algae mounds and they may well be, but recently some researchers have proposed that they might be sponges.

Brains or Solenopora? They may look like brains, but they are Solenopora and they were common in the loose material below Flemingsburg roadcut.

Solenopora are neat in their brain-like external form, but they also have interesting internal structure. The internal layering polishes to display the growth structure.

I will be looking for all of these and whatever else the Ordovician of northern Kentucky can offer on our trip in late April.

References:

Hartshorn, K.R., et. al., 2016, Dry Dredging the Cincinnati Arch: Field trip Guidebook, The Fossil Project, 40 p.

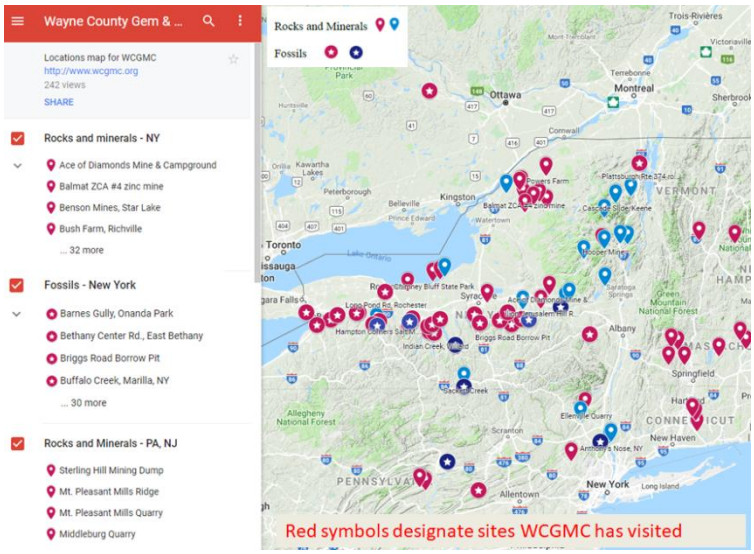
Zuykov, M., and Harper, D., 2007, Platystophis (Orthida) and new related Ordovician and Early Silurian brachiopod genera, Estonia Journal of Earth Science V. 56(1), 11-34.

WCGMC Workshop, March 16, 2019

WCGMC Interactive Map of Collecting Locations

Jim Rienhardt & Fred Haynes

WCGMC has created an online Google Map file to show locations and other information for rock, mineral, and fossil collecting as well as other interesting locations to visit. This is not intended to be a comprehensive listing of all known sites, but rather a listing of locations we have visited or know a bit about. Sites are flagged on a Google Map base and information on each can be accessed from either the map symbol or from a scrolled list. In addition to basic information, and perhaps a picture or two, there are links to articles in the WCGMC newsletter or elsewhere. The sites have been sorted by type of location (mineral vs. fossil) and by region. You can select which sites you wish to see.



When you open the map it will look something like this with a map that can be expanded or enlarged and a scrollable site listing on the left. The map will not always appear the same on entry as it will open to the state that the last user left it.

Users can select the regions or types of locations they wish to see and then expand or contract the area of the map. We have used color to distinguish sites the club has visited on official trips from those one of us has visited or researched outside of a club function. Another attribute is that when you select a site there is an arrow that will open a link using Google Maps. This will allow directions to be accessed as with any other Google map search.

At present, while the site is maturing, we are restricting access to WCGMC members. You may request access by sending an e-mail to Fred Haynes (fredmhaynes55@gmail.com). A Google account and gmail address are not absolutely necessary, however they are preferred and will ensure that you remain on the access list internal to the Google Map. Put another way, the access URL can (and will) be provided to members lacking a gmail address, but we cannot ensure it will work subsequent to any Google updates. G-mail addresses are stored within the webpage, others are not. Setting up a Google account is easy and you do not need to use it for your personal e-mail once established. Those with access will also be provided with a detailed written "User Instructions" note.

At present Fred and Jim are the only two administrators with write permission. Sites from most recent trips within New York, New England and some within the mid-Atlantic have been entered, but we are still adding sites and will be for some time. For example, most Ontario locations we have visited have yet to be added. We encourage members to send us information on sites they may know and to identify any errors that may have crept into either the descriptive or location data. This is truly a work in progress, but it should help members when they attend our trips or when they are out on their own. The new map site is just one more reason to be a member of the club that is "Always Looking for Places to Dig".

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from Agate Collector's Worldwide Facebook page

Wayne County Gem and Mineral Club 2019 Schedule *last update March 26*

We kick off the field season with a trip to Ace of Diamonds on Opening Day. Hope to see many of you there. There will be many more to follow. **WCGMC is always looking for places to dig.**

March 30th - It is time !! Opening Day at Ace of Diamonds and we will be there. OPENING ON SATURDAY Given that the snow is gone and this weekend will be warm, Ace of Diamonds have decided to move Opening Day ahead to Saturday March 30th. We like to attend on Opening Day and have moved our trip to be there. They open at 9 AM. Ace of Diamonds can also be contacted directly (585-891-3855)

April 12th – Friday Meeting, Program: Radioactive Minerals (Kathleen Cappon) – *see page 1*
It is likely that we will have to start this meeting upstairs and move down soon after 7:00 PM. We have been told that the Red Cross is using the basement until 7:00 PM.

April 20th - WCGMC Workshop Saturday
April 20th Sterling Hills, New Jersey, an opportunity with the UV Nomads, see below on this page

April 25th -April 28th (Thursday thru Sunday): A few of us plan to join the Buffalo Geological Society on its annual trip to the Cincinnati area for fossil collection. WCGMC member and BGS field trip leader Jerry Bastedo is planning/leading this trip. *Contact Jerry or Fred Haynes for details.*

A date for the Penfield Open House (generally early May) has not yet been confirmed as of press time.

JUNE 1 and JUNE 2: GEMFEST in Canandaigua (Friday May 31 is set-up day and we will need help)

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TENTATIVE MULTI-DAY TRIPS THAT WE ARE WORKING ON FOR THIS COMING SEASON
(To receive further information when it becomes available we'll have sign-up sheets at the meeting or you can send an e-mail to Fred Haynes, fredmhaynes55@gmail.com)

June 21st to 24th - New England – iwestern MA sites on Saturday and Gilsum Rock Swap in Sunday, there will be Friday and Monday options for those available. Draft of trip plan is available.

July ?? - tentative 4-7 day trip to Maine – dates and sites TBA

July 31st to August 10th – Upper Michigan. A number of us have registered for 4 days of collecting on digs organized by the Copper Country Rock and Mineral Club and we'll spend time around Marquette and it's iron mines before that. We thank Jim Hird for helping us with logistics.

August 30th – Sept 3rd - central Kentucky with CVGMC. We may add sites en route and on return.

September (middle of month) – a long weekend in the western lowlands of the Adirondacks

Day trips to Ilion, Herkimer country, and to local fossil sites will be added each month. If anyone would like to suggest a location or would like to plan/lead a trip let us know.

Sterling Hills Dig with UV Nomads
April 20th, 2019

- full access to mine dumps, includes dump of "rocks from everywhere" that will be supplemented and freshened
- new material avaiable from "storage silos"
- special $6/pound area with better rocks
- there will be a "blackout" underground tour
- "garage" sale of other minerals

membership in UVNomads required
contact Ken St. John (uvnomad@roadrunner.com)

Wayne County Gem & Mineral Contacts

ELECTED OFFICERS (NEWLY ELECTED)

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Visit us on Facebook:
https://www.facebook.com/groups/1675855046010058/

APPOINTED POSITIONS

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Fred Haynes – Newsletter Editor
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Bill Lesniak – Website Coordinator
Glenn Weiler – Workshop Coordinator
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Linda Schmidtgall – Collection Curator
Eric Elias: GEMFEST Show Chair
thecrystalnetwork@hotmail.com
Fred Haynes – Facebook Administrator

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