

Wayne County Gem and Mineral Club News

September, 2018 Always Looking for Places to Dig!



Kathleen Cappon has a special chimney (see page 2)



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



WCGMC Annual Picnic - August 11

WCGMC Picnic drew over 50 on August 11th: a great time for all (see pgs. 6 & 7)

First Fall Club Meeting Friday Sept. 14th, 7:00 PM

Presbyterian Church, Maple Court, Newark, NY

PROGRAM: Calcium and Calcite

Presenter: Dave Millis (Rock Doc)

In keeping with the theme, we ask members to bring their favorite calcite specimens to show. Calcite comes in many forms and virtually every color of the rainbow. Let's see how many we can collectively bring to the meeting.

September WCGMC Workshop September 15th

Many likely have new rocks from this summer's collecting. Come cut and polish them. Use the new club saws (we have two new ones in 2018).

When: 10:00 AM til mid-afternoon

Where: The Weiler's Barn and Club Workshop
6676 E. Port Bay Rd, Wolcott, NY

Rules: Bring your own rocks to saw, grind, polish, or even facet. Training on equipment is available. Eye protection is required. \$5/adult to offset maintenance costs.

WCGMC Elections

WCGMC officers serve two year terms and elections occur in the fall of even numbered years.

As announced at the picnic, the club has formed a nominating committee and is moving ahead towards closing nominations in September and formally announcing the ballot. The committee consists of Bill Lesniak (Dirtman300@aol.com), Bob Linderbery (bootmanblues@gmail.com), and Ed Smith (DSmith340@rochester.rr.com). If you wish to volunteer for an office please contact one of these members before (or at) the September club meeting. Elections will be held at the October meeting.

If there are multiple nominations for a position elections will be by written ballot. If only one person is nominated for each position, an election by group ballot will be held at the October meeting.

The following folks have been nominated:

President: Linda Schmidtgal

Vice President: Fred Haynes

Treasurer: Bill Lesniak

Secretary: Debbie Breeze

Board of Directors: The club has 4 director positions. Gary Thomas has 1 year remaining. Fred and Linda held Director positions, so we certainly need volunteers here.

Past President Glenn Weiler will remain on the Board for two years.

See the [club constitution](#) for more details.



The Long Long Chimney

By Kathleen Cappon



This is a story about how I dreamed of having a large stone chimney on my future home. The idea was inspired by seeing the stone pillars at the entrance of Fair Haven State Park each time my family went there in the 1950's.

Some of you may remember the movie "The Long Long Trailer" starring Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz. They purchase a travel trailer to go cross country and at each new place Lucy picks up a sentimental or pretty rock to bring home.

Throughout the story, the axles become stressed and the trailer is weaving on and off the road (sounds like what some of us "rock-hounders" experience on our trips). It is a hilarious, must see movie and the rock collecting part of it makes me laugh even today considering what I planned on doing 30-some years ago.

There was an idea behind my obsessive rock picking!! Each time I went on a trip with my vehicle or on a trip with others, my family or friends would say: "Oh... she's getting another rock to bring home." My idea was that someday all these "rocks" from special places would end up in a big fireplace or chimney in the log home I would build.

The log home was constructed in 1985. The large cement block chimney was constructed in the front of the house with two flues and a wide base. Tabs were placed between all of the mortar joints to accommodate future stonework. It was sealed, stained, and left waiting without facing until 2001.

As the years passed, I collected rocks from anywhere and everywhere. Most are from New York State, but locations in other states offered beautiful hedgerow stones and water washed rocks from swift flowing streams or at camping areas. I have visited all of the Great Lakes and brought back stones from each lakeshore. All of the Finger Lakes in New York have produced nice specimens.



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Lower Silurian
Grimsby Sandstone



Devonian Onondaga
Limestone with chert

sandstones near Pultneyville. The smooth, round black and white cobbles would also add to the varied look of the future chimney.



My favorites were the Turtle Stones (septarian nodules) frequently found around Canandaigua Lake or in the ravines around Hemlock Lake. I had these stones cut in half with the idea of placing them in a large "rosette" design on the lower front face of the chimney.



On the upper part of the chimney I designed a special cross symbol that has Native American origins. The stones from Williamson and Pultneyville along Lake Ontario were perfect for this design. The center stone of the rosette-like cross stands for love. The other four "arms" of the cross symbolize Friendship, Consideration, Respect and Trust.

Once my design was completed I started to gather up all of the stones and rocks collected over the years and organize them into piles for the front, sides and the peak. The largest rocks were for the base and were placed in a separate pile. The year was now 2001. For several years, I had been looking for an

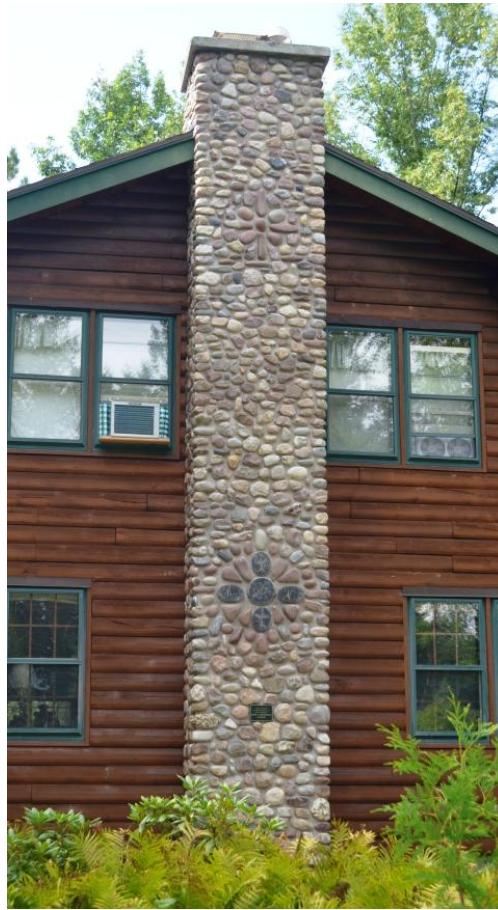
Every location gave up one or two specially patterned, unusual stones characteristic to that area. The ones from Lake Ontario were exceptional, especially the Medina

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exceptional “old school” Italian stone mason. I found someone local and the summer-long project began.

As the scaffolds and materials were being delivered, I laid out the entire pattern of the chimney from bottom to top on part of the driveway and on all of the gravel sidewalks surrounding the chimney. Each layer of the plan started to take shape. It was slow progress, just two or three feet could be added each day.

I wanted to have the mason keep track of the special patterns of the rosettes. We agreed to mark the patterns with numbers written using chalk on the stones in a clockwise fashion. When transferred to the face of the



chimney, this insured they would be in the correct order. This project went on from mid-June until late September. The stonemason said that this was a masterpiece and in all his years, one of his most interesting and memorable jobs!!

The pictures, (thanks to Fred Haynes) are worth a thousand words! You see, compulsive rock picking while travelling and hoarding yard rocks can have a positive outcome. It just might take time for it all to come together.



The dedication of my self-built estate resides on the chimney.



Look who I saw at the Stone Tool Craftsman Show at Letchworth State Park on August 24th: yup, it is club member **Craig Stephens** peddling his rocks and minerals. Others had minerals for sale although the bulk of material and artisans were focused on knapping. Hence, lots of obsidian, flint, and chert, both raw and knapped into arrowheads, etc. or probably even knapped to order if you wanted. I found a group of knappers willing to teach me about four of the New York formations that yield knappable chert and I now have my own little collection. You will probably hear about that in a future club newsletter.



Bill Chapman (left) and Fred Haynes (right) collecting garnets in River Valley, Ontario in August.

The garnet in Fred's right hand is the smallest one in the photo on page 5. Bill, Fred and Linda Schmidtgal spent 6 days north of the border visiting locations in Eganville, North Bay, Cobalt, and Bancroft. They will have lots of beryl, apatite, colonial coral, garnets, fluororichterite, and even a bit of silver to show at meetings this fall. Canadian minerals will once again be popular in the grab bags at next GemFest.

Photo by L. Schmidtgal

The Art of Falling

by Linda Schmidtgal

Rockhounds have to learn how to fall. It is actually very important to do it with grace. BUT make sure someone is watching or you will waste a good fall. It seems I take at least one great trip down a hill or something every year. A few I recall are:

A couple years ago on April 1 at the Ace of Diamonds it was snowing but there we were looking for diamonds. We found lots of crystals only to have them melt between our fingers. It was a mineral for a second. Anyway, I was standing on top of the pile and people were talking about what they had found. I dug in my pocket and pulled out my pieces to show but at the same moment I lost my balance and went headfirst down the hill on the rocks.....everyone gasped. But in a flash I popped up and outstretched my hand; I still had all my diamonds. No marbles perhaps, but that is another story.



Our club editor caught me climbing this mountain of ice, dirt, dolostone, and diamonds at Ace of Diamonds, but fortunately he did not have his camera out when I fell off it head first!

A year or so later we were coming out of the Bush farm and as usual I was carrying a heavy backpack. We were trying to traverse a cow pasture where cows had made deep hoof prints in the mud. I didn't make it. As I fell my backpack slipped up onto my head and I was

stuck. I yelled to my two companions to help me. I was laughing so hard because my only fear was if my face was in a cow plop. I was lucky this time; it was only mud.

Last fall at just after 5:00 AM several of us were packing a van in anticipation of heading off into the darkness for another adventure (all the way to Arkansas actually). I turned around in my excitement and tripped over my own suitcase. I went flat on my face. As usual I had a nice audience and they came to my rescue. I banged my knee but that was not going to end my trip. We had a great time and I got my share of Arkansas quartz, Tennessee crinoids and North Carolina kyanite.

Of course sometimes one can get a little help causing the fall. While standing next to another collector who was doing some sort of a demonstration, he accidentally started to lose his balance and he fell into me. He then caught his balance but there was no hope for me. I tried to fall as gracefully as possible but what can you do in 2 seconds. I did again though, have a great audience. The perpetrator of my fall and another collector quickly got me to my feet. A few bandages later I was back to filling my bucket with rocks. He was so apologetic and I reassured him that it was an accident.....but HE WILL hear from my attorney. Tee Hee I could buy a lot of rocks then. Well, we are still collecting together. I just stand a little farther away but not too far. I still have to have my audience the next time I go down.

Editor's Note: OK, I will fess up. It is I who knocked Linda down last April on the ridge above the Mt. Pleasant Mills Quarry in Pennsylvania. But I am innocent of any involvement in those other falls.



Sorry, officer, but the crystal was small and I didn't think chiselling it out would lead to this. BUT look, I got the crystal!



Mineral Musings

Isometric Minerals by Fred Haynes



Perhaps you are familiar with mineral dealer David Joyce's song about "Crystal Systems" and the refrains about the isometric system. They go something like this:

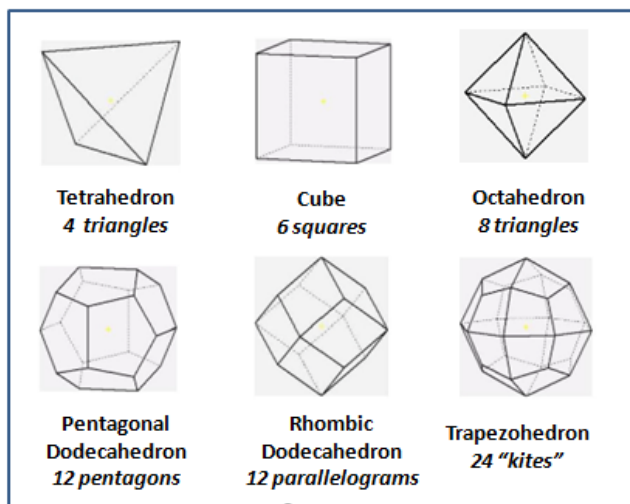
*"Isometric minerals are easy to adore
A visual geometric symphony
Simple, succinct, and understandable
Equal axes at 90 degrees
Equal axes at 90 degrees"*

*There's something truly special about a cube
An octahedron is so classy
The pyritohedron is so cute
The tetrahedron is just sassy
The tetrahedron is just sassy*

*The dodecahedron is so cool
Parallelograms knock off my socks
Trapezohedrons make me drool
The isometric system really rocks
The isometric system really rocks"*

You can hear the remaining verses and lyrics [here](#). And read a review of his full CD in our [July 2017 newsletter](#). You will find that David is not as complimentary about the other crystal systems.

BUT, did you know that despite the myriad of modified isometric forms that minerals like pyrite, galena or fluorite can display, there are only six basic isometric crystal forms. It is the interesting and often complex interplay and superpositioning of these forms that create the aesthetic beauty.

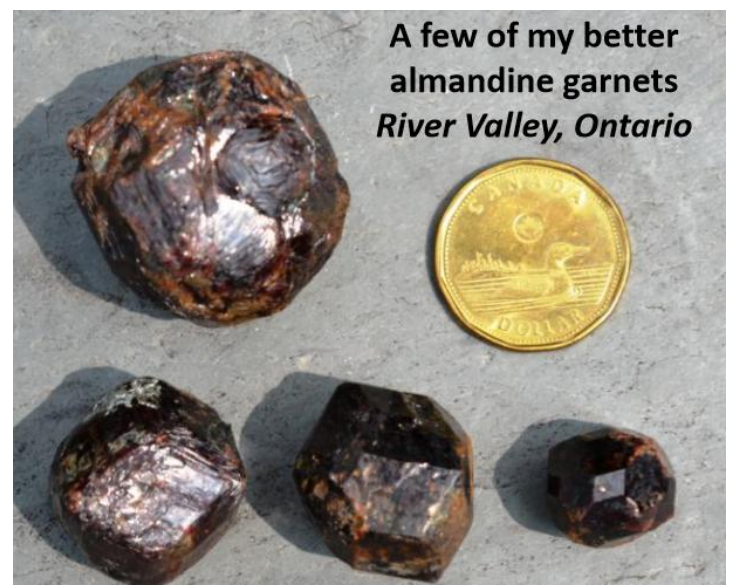


Here are the six simple forms of isometric crystals from the simple 4-sided tetrahedron (upper left) to the 24-sided trapezohedron (lower right).

It is worth noting that in the mineral world, the pentagonal dodecahedron is also referred to as a pyritohedron given that pyrite often has this isometric form. And just in case you wondered, a kite is a geometric term: a quadrilateral whose four sides can be grouped into two pairs of equal length sides that are adjacent to each other.

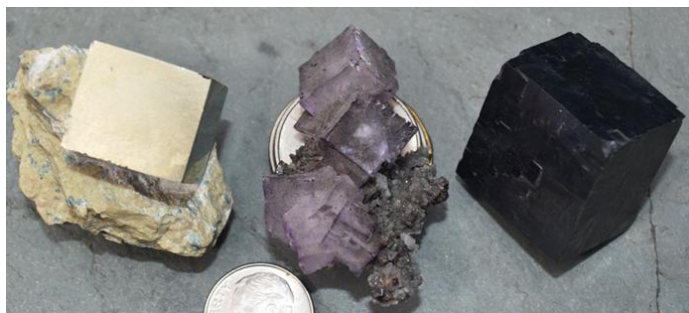
There is a very succinct and visual [webpage on Mindat](#) that depicts literally hundreds of ways these six basic forms overprint each other in the mineral world (Langerwall, 2011). Can you imagine a crystal combining pyritohedral, rhombic dodecahedral and octahedral faces? I cannot, but Langerwall presents multiple versions depending on which set dominates. And for those with additional curiosity, the Crystal Shapes Gallery of [Smorf Crystal Models](#) (Holtkamp, 2014) allows you to access these shapes by mineral. The isometric shapes are linked [here](#).

Any of us could search online for perfect examples of fluorite cubes, garnet dodecahedrons or octahedral magnetite, but I decided to see how many of these forms I could find and then photograph from my collection. It was surprisingly easy to find them, but less so to photograph them!



"The dodecahedron is so cool." We have been to River Valley, Ontario for almandine garnets three times in the past two years. I have many garnets, some as large as tennis balls, from this location, but here are five of the better rhombic dodecahedral garnets I have from that location.

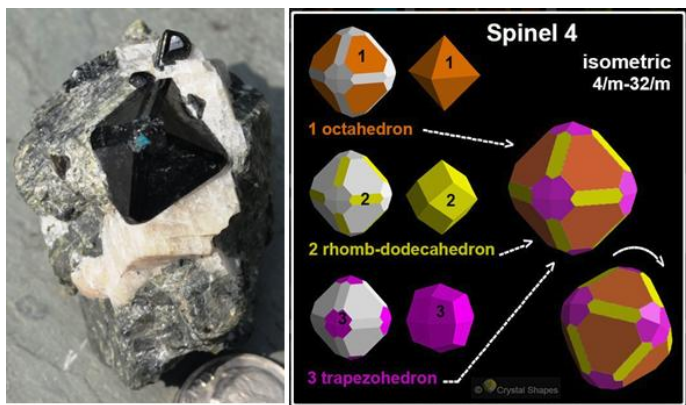
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"There is something really special about a cube:" pyrite from Navajun Mine in Spain, fluorite from Elmood, TN, and galena from the Fletcher Mine in Missouri.. The two on the right are self-collected a long time ago.



"An octahedron is so classy:" Two South American pieces from my collection depicting octahedral isometric form: pyrite from La Libertad, Peru, and magnetite from Potosí, Bolivia.



Isometric Spinel: Sometimes the crystal forms are modified and more complicated. I acquired this spinel from the Parker Mine in Quebec at last year's RMS. It is an octahedron with both dodecahedral and trapezohedral modifications. The depiction on the right is from Holtkamp,

References:

Holtkamp, M., 2014, [Smorf Crystal Models](#) – webpage
Langerwall, D., 2011, [Crystal Combinations in the Isometric System](#), mindat webpage

A Few More Pictures from the Picnic



There was this table of free rocks! And another with hundreds for a raffle. Everyone needed a box to get their specimens home.



The Rock Doc, Dave Millis, was there with lots of rocks to raffle and as always he invited the kids up first..



Mineral book author and WCGMC member Van King came with boxes of his books to hand out and sign. What a nice surprise for all.

Wayne County Gem and Mineral Club 2018 Schedule *last update August 26*

Say it ain't so. Summer is winding down and school is about to start for the youngsters in our group. But have no fear. We still have some trips upcoming and we'll get going with monthly meetings and workshops. Here is what is on the schedule right now.

August 30-Sept 6 (Labor Day PLUS) – 3 day plus trip to **Kentucky** with CVGMC of NC (fluorite, geodes, etc.) At press time (which is also close to departure date!), there are 9 members planning on this trek. We plan to visit Flint Ridge in Kentucky on the way down and several of us are headed east through Virginia and then a couple days hunting shark teeth along Chesapeake Bay. Come to the September meeting and learn how we fared.

September 14th - First Fall meeting. Calcium and Calcite (Rock Doc presents, bring calcite to show)

September 15th Saturday Workshop (see page 1)

September 21-23 – Adirondack weekend (Rose Road, Benson Mines, and more). We will have a schedule as soon as possible, but there will be sites to visit on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Contact Fred Haynes to get on a list to receive information when it is available.

October 6th and 7th – WALWORTH QUARRY OPEN HOUSE: The quarry is located at 1200 Atlantic Ave. in Walworth. The schedule will be the same as in past years: Saturday 7:00 AM until 2:00 PM, Sunday from 7:00 AM until noon. Arrive a bit early each day and congregate at the office. Dolomite Products Quarry Supt. Mike Bagne will hold a brief information and safety meeting at 7:00 AM promptly and then as the sun rises a few minutes later we can all caravan to the collecting level in the quarry. Hard hats, boots, safety glasses and long pants are required. Gloves are recommended. Kids are welcome if accompanied at all times by a parent or guardian. They may use bicycle helmets in lieu of hard hats. Collectors are seeking fluorite in vugs in the hard dolostone, but dogtooth calcite, sphalerite, selenite, celestite and galena can also be found. Of course dolomite crystals are virtually ubiquitous in the vugs. And some fossils (corals, etc.) can also be found.

October 12th – Monthly meeting, program TBA (Elections will be conducted at this meeting.)

October 20th - Saturday monthly workshop

October 21st – 3rd Annual WCGMC Inventory Rock Sale. (Linda's garage in Savannah) details to come

UPCOMING GEM AND MINERAL SHOWS

October 27-28 Rochester Gem, Mineral, Jewelry and Fossil Show, 435 West Commercial Street, East Rochester, NY www.Facebook.com/ROCGemShow



Wayne County Gem & Mineral Contacts

ELECTED OFFICERS

Glenn Weiler – President gwexterior@gmail.com
315-594-8478

Jerry Donahue – VP Chester145322@yahoo.com
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Eva Jane Weiler – Secretary gwexterior@gmail.com
315-594-8478

Bill Lesniak – Treasurer/Webmaster
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Board of Directors

Ken Rowe gotrox88@twc.com 315-331-1438

Linda Schmidtgall lees@tds.net 315-365-2448

Gary Thomas gftthomas956@gmail.com 585-489-2162

Fred Haynes fredmhaynes55@gmail.com 585-203-1733

Visit us on Facebook:

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

APPOINTED POSITIONS

Bill Chapman – Field Trip Chair
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Fred Haynes – Newsletter Editor
fredmhaynes55@gmail.com 585-203-1733

Bill Lesniak – Website Coordinator

Glenn Weiler – Workshop Coordinator

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:

Bill Lesniak (WCGMC) 7449 State St., Sodus, NY 14551

The Public is always welcomed
First Class, Dated, Meetings & Time Values



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