



**WAYNE COUNTY
GEM AND MINERAL CLUB
NEWS**
VOLUME 34 No. 7 JULY 2008



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President's Message

Hi! Ya know, they say a picture says 1,000 words. Well- I think this issue will tell ya-all ALL about all the fun that WGC MC has in warmth! See ya at Dr. Chamberlain's Lecture at the next meeting! ---Your President, Stan



**JUNE 2008 NEWARK, NY
ROSE PARADE
WCGMC ENTERS ANOTHER
FLOAT:
"All that Glitters is not Gold"**

Photos contributed by Pat Chapman



Wheaton Collection News:

As the Wheatons downsize and move into their new home, rock-hound helpers were finding that their move mission is not “moving” as quickly as predicted. Mike Hawkins and his wife, Ellen, arrived from Albany’s NYS Museum to review their decades-old collection. They purchased a number of fine items for the NYS Museum. During the packing and sorting, the helping rock elves found a rare and vital part of WCGMC history. The original minute book containing minutes from the club’s first official meeting in 1973, as Marion and Jim Wheaton were among the founders of the WCGMC, and Marion was the first secretary.

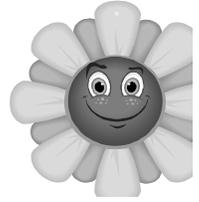


The Pirrello Mastodon Bones _By Marion Wheaton

In the Spring of 1973, George Fisk of Marion, NY was cleaning a drainage ditch on the celery farm of John Pirrello in the Town of Arcadia, Wayne County, north of Newark, NY. He noted the large bones as he dug, but thought them possibly to be from a very large horse. Never revealing his find to anyone, until the last week of August 1973 when he was refueling, so was James Wheaton of East Williamson, NY also refueling his tanks, they both worked for Claude J. Nevlezer, Inc., and he showed Jim the bones. Jim told George that the bones must be from a huge animal many years ago and that he could take them to the Lakeshore Gem Club meeting as John Lenhard of Hannibal, NY could identify them for George. George took Jim to the spot where he had seen the bones in April 1973. They found many bones on the ground and picked them up. Jim being a rock collector, took the bones to the meeting and John Lenhard identified them as from a MASTODON. George was NOT interested in the bone find, so the following evening, Sept. 10th, Jim and his wife, Marion, went to see John Pirrello, the land owner, to tell him of the bones found and showed them to him. Jim asked permission to dig for more bones. Mr. Pirrello told him to go ahead and he could have whatever bones he found. The Wheaton family, Jim, his wife, Marion, and daughter, Diane, went to the site on Sept. 11th taking with them a photographer, Les Buell, of East Williamson, NY who is a member of the Wayne County Historical Society. Les had previously viewed the bones at the Wheaton home. He phoned Marjory Allen, county historian at the Wayne County Museum in Lyons, NY to tell her about the find. She asked if he would take photos of “an actual Mastodon dig in Wayne County” as it would be a first ever done. He took many photos. Jim Wheaton found 12 rib bones, [one being the largest rib found at that time of a Mastodon], he found the huge rear ankle bone and toe bones that when the State Scientists [who were brought to the site to do excavating] thought it was from a MAMMOTH. Mr. Pirrello had phoned the NY State Museum about the bones. Jim Wheaton was asked to stop digging, as the state has their own way to dig bones. When Dr. Edgar Reilly, Zoologist from the State Museum came to view the bones found by the Wheatons, he noted how LARGE they were AND SO WELL PRESERVED. A major dig for more bones and to TEST THE SOIL at the site was planned. A zoologist, biologist, archaeologist, paleontologist, and workers came from the State Museum. October 2nd to 4th soil samples were taken. Carbon-14 tests were done afterwards on the bones and soil. A coring preparer was brought in for soil samples. (continued last pg)

UPCOMING WCGM CLUB MEETINGS

JULY 11, 2007 (Friday) Special meeting! Dr. Steve Chamberlain of the State Museum presentation: "Tourmalines of New York" at 7:30PM. Everyone bring refreshments. Park Presbyterian Church, Newark



AUG 8, 2007 (Friday) Park Presbyterian Church, Newark
Board meeting at 7pm. Regular meeting at 7:30pm
Mini-Miners meeting at 7:30pm.
_____ refreshments --- _____ door prize

CLUB NEWS TO dig - Kudos, too!

1. There will be a review coming up of the revised By-Laws for the election of officers this fall.
2. Bill Lesniak reports that the EFTA Website is up & running with this year's field trips. www.efta.biz
4. **Plz: submit newsletter articles in writing BEFORE the 22nd of the month.**
5. **MOTOR HOME** for sale. Call Stan for info. 315-462-3282.
6. Are you getting these newsletters? Please contact the editor if not.

WCGMC Field Trip Chair, Bill Chapman, digs "real hard" at the Herkimer Field Trip May 2008...



Dr. Steve Chamberlain of the NYS State Museum to present "Tourmalines of New York" at July 11th WCGMC meeting

On July 11th, at the July meeting of the WCGMC at 7:30PM, Dr. Steve Chamberlain of the NYS State Museum will be the guest speaker. He will be presenting a lecture on the topic of the "Tourmalines of New York". Dr. Steve Chamberlain is a native of Pennsylvania who first began collecting minerals as a child. After earning a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering with a minor in mineralogy from MIT, he earned his PhD in New York State, where he began collecting NYS minerals. He has built a collection of more than 25,000 NYS specimens, which he is currently donating to the Chamberlain Collection at the New York State Museum. In retirement, he is actively pursuing mineralogical research and gardening. He is a past speaker at the St. Lawrence County and Sayre, Pa. shows. Chamberlain is a consulting editor of Rocks and Minerals, chair of the annual Rochester Mineralogical Symposium, and coordinator of the Center for Mineralogy at the NYS Museum. His talk is "Tourmalines of New York" which has been updated and expanded to include the latest research results. He'll discuss rocks to be found in St. Lawrence Co. on upcoming field trips in August. Members may bring specimens for Dr. Chamberlain to identify. Public invited—contributed by Pat Chapman

Fulgurites: Fossil Lightning

Story and Photo by Andrew Alden, About.com

When lightning strikes the ground, the result is a little tube of melted minerals called a fulgurite. (Right: A glass-lined wormhole marks the lightning's path.) In recent years fulgurites have become a staple at rock shops thanks to collection efforts in the sandy wastes of the Saharan countries. In 2007, this geological obscurity exploded as a scientific star as well.



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WAYNE COUNTY GEM AND MINERAL CLUB, INC.

MEETINGS: Held 2nd Friday night of each month at 7:30pm at Park Presbyterian Church basement, Maple Court, Newark, NY

WEBSITE: www.wcgmc.org

ORGANIZED: 1973 **INC.** 1976
Affiliated with the AFML and EFMLS of Mineral Societies since 1973.

OFFICERS: Elected at the October meeting, taking office in November for a 2-year term.

FISCAL YEAR: Oct. 1st to Sept. 31st.

****NEW ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP CLASSES**

AND DUES (due Oct 1st):

- \$10.00 JUNIOR or STUDENT
(18 yrs > with no parents in the club)
 - \$15.00 REGULAR or ONE SINGLE ADULT
(Over age of 18 years old)
 - \$20.00 FAMILY MEMBERSHIP
(Includes 2 adult votes and children)
- Send due, SASE with your info to:
WCGMC, P.O. Box 4, Newark, NY 14513

OBJECTIVE: TO STIMULATE INTEREST IN THE EARTH SCIENCES, IN COLLECTING AND CLASSIFICATION OF MINERALS, AND IN THE ART OF GEM CUTTING.

The public is welcome!!

The Pirrello Mastodon Bones By Marion Wheaton
(Continued...)

A bulldozer from NYS DOT was brought in to take off the upper layer of muck. It became mired in the marl [limy clay] layer. On Oct. 23rd, 1973 the scientists came to work for two weeks on a major dig. Four cervical neck bones were found nested together, 4 ribs & fragments of others, a thoracic spine vertebrae and fragments of others were found. Marion Wheaton went to the site every day to watch, taking photos. On Oct. 27th the rain started for many days so the dig ended. In Jan 1974, Dr. Reilly revealed details on the PIRRELLO MASTODON. Carbon-14 tests told that the mastodon died 10,340 years ago, plus or minus 170 years, in the year 8,390 B.C. Male- equivalent in age to a man in his late 40's. Probably 10 ½ feet to 11 feet tall [at shoulder]? Left rib #11 indicated a broken rib from possibly fighting with others in the herd. He suffered severe pain for 2-3 months before his death. Maybe a "loner" and left the herd? Possibly in the spring he fell thru the ice of glacial Lake Dawson & drowned. Dr. Reilly said other bones not found may have drifted in the area. 23 species of shells were found at the site. Bones found "were 5 to 10 % LARGER THAN THOSE" constructed at the NY State Museum. (REF: June-July 1974 *THE CONSERVATIONIST* magazine: "THE NEW YORK ELEPHANT HUNT" by Dr. Reilly. TV Channel 13 of Rochester & also 30 newspaper articles.) -- Contributed by Pat Chapman



Stamp

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First class: dated meetings and time valued.