



**WAYNE COUNTY
GEM AND MINERAL CLUB
NEWS**
VOLUME 34 No. 5 MAY 2008



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President's Message

Hey! You! Yeah, YOU! Wanna help with the club's float? Newarkfest is almost here and this is our annual debate to the community. We Need this to be a really...fine looking...spectacular float! My fellows and I will be needing lots of help and supervision. Call me directly, or get in touch with another member to find when we are going to be getting together and what we will need to have in terms of supplies and equipment. In the meantime, have a great time around here now that the snow is GONE!! Yippee!



Your President,
Stan

Pat's givin' us a tidbit of Gold

WCGMC board member, Pat Chapman, suggests that anyone interested in gold prospecting read the following announcement recently posted on the website, "va-gold.org". It is copied below:

"In January 2008, I contacted (by mail) the owners of the property surrounding both the upstream and downstream portions of Contrary Creek. This was an attempt to (1) get actual owners permission to prospect on the surrounding land and creeks, and (2) find out what rules they had for prospectors. The upstream owner (the property upstream of the 522 overpass) did not contact me back. The owner of the downstream property (below the 522 overpass and downstream towards Lake Anna) did contact me back. The downstream owner said he would be on the creek to supervise some independent conservation and water quality related activities, and said he would like to meet there and talk about his concerns. He came down to the creek that next weekend. We spoke for about an hour, and he detailed the reasons why he was going to post the property as private. For years, the owners of the 1,000 acre property surrounding the creek did not "mind" the activities occurring. However, about 4-5 years ago, he started to notice that people were digging "bear caves" into the banks, undercutting and killing trees and vegetation. He started to find huge piles of rocks pile up onto the banks. He described the 2nd tailing pile landscape as "mars-like" and disgusting to look at. He spoke of the piles of trash left on the banks and in the woods. He was basically fed up with what was happening to the area. Feeling his frustration in the conversation, I asked him if he would consider allowing an "organization" of responsible prospectors to continue to utilize the land as long as rules were followed and observed. He said "I'd like that". Well, I didn't need any more than that to understand that this was the only way to preserve prospecting on Contrary Creek. During the next few weeks, I drew up a lease, created the maps, developed the rules, and created the CCPO website. The final lease was drawn on 20 March (continued on next page)

Visit A Show or NEFTA dig in 2008

--- May 10, 2008...Rochester Lapidary Society...Open House at Penfield Quarry, 746 Whalen Rd., Penfield, NY. Fluorite, Calcite, Dolomite, Selenite, Galena. No facilities. Safety gear required: steel toe, goggles, hard hats, long pants. Sign release 6:45am. Dig 7-11:30am. Contact Cindi at kcnewman@frontiernet.net. May 10, 2008..... Pennsylvania Earth Science Association.....8:am - Silver Hill Quarry - Narvin, PA - meet at quarry entrance/parking lot - 747 Yellow Hill Rd contact - Mike Rose @ 570-595-3787 or e-mail to poconorose@peoplepc.com May 24- 26, 2008. North Shore Rock and Mineral Club. Hickory Hill, Fonda New York. Herkimer "Diamonds". Facilities & Camping/RV's. Tools- from hard rock mining- dolomitic limestone, heavy sledges and wedges to small raking and digging tools. Parking next to site. Contact Joe Grace joegrace@msn.com May 24, 2008....Capital District Mineral Club...Schoharie, NY...for small pyrite nodules. No facilities. Contact Bob at phartig@nycap.rr.com or 518-842-5948. May 29- Sunday June 1, 2008. North Shore Rock and Mineral Club. Hickory Hill, Fonda New York. Herkimer "Diamonds". Facilities & Camping/RV's. Tools- from hard rock mining- dolomitic limestone, heavy sledges and wedges to small raking and digging tools. Parking next to site. Contact Joe Grace at joegrace@msn.com June 7 or 8 ?, 2008...Wayne County Gem & Min. Club...Gore Mt.- Barton Mine, NY...for Gore Mt. garnet. Group taken in – pay by the lb of what you take. Contact Bill at batnpill@empacc.net or 607-868-4649. June 28, 2008...Mid-Hudson Gem and Mineral...Fonda, NY...for Herkimer Diamonds at the Hastings Mine. No restriction on age. No facilities. Contact Carolyn Reynard at sunstone3@hvc.rr.com for directions and instructions.

(Lithuanian) Baltic Amber (Part 3) --“ insects, about 12% are spiders, 1,5% belong to other groups of animals and only 0,5% of inclusions are plants. The form of natural amber pieces reveals the process of amber formation. They might be of internal origin was formed when resin filled chinks inside trees or between the bark and trunk; external amber was formed at the bark then heavy secretion of resin arose from cut places as a sign of disease. Externally formed amber has a variety of typical forms, such drops and stalactites. Mostly Baltic amber is yellow but there are plenty of delicate tints - from light yellow to dark brown, orange, reddish brown, almost white. Even green and blue amber is found. Not always amber is even colored: there are unique combinations of two or more colors and tints - sometimes they make magnificent artistic compositions. Amber can be absolutely transparent or totally opaque. Colors of amber were influenced by changes in resin when it leaked out: evaporating volatile elements could form in transparent resin plenty of gas microbubbles, which "roiled" the resin (yellow amber); this intensive process in 1 sq. mm of resin could make up to 1 million such bubbles (white amber). Blue tint formed then FeS₂ admixtures got in resin fallen on soil-amber of blue tint is the most rare. Green amber formed when small parts of plants got in the resin, black amber - when resin mixed up with soil, small parts of wood bark.” ambergallery.lt/english/muziejus.htm

(GOLD continued from front page) and delivered to the owner for signature. It was signed and returned to me, all parties agreeing on the contents. So here's the deal: 1. Contrary Creek is no longer a "do-what-you-want" prospecting property absorbing abuse from countless irresponsible individuals. 2. The lease is effective immediately, 21 April 2008. 3. The Contrary Creek Prospectors Organization (CCPO) is hereby formed. 4. Annual membership to the CCPO is free. However, there are three membership requirements: - Attend the one 1-hour membership meeting to understand the rules. - Sign the letter of agreement in the membership package. - Perform 6-hours of maintenance during the course of the year. Only 3 hours for this year as 2008 is almost half over already... 5. The property will be posted on 26 April 2008. All persons trespassing after the property is posted will be held accountable in accordance with the trespassing laws outlined in Virginia Code § 18.2-119. The Louisa County Sherriff and VSP will be notified by the property owner once the property is posted. 6. The CCPO website is up and running and outlines only the BASIC rules. Membership packages contain the detailed rules. These will not be mailed out and will only be hand-delivered during the membership meetings.

7. The lease is final. The rules in the lease are final. There are no variations or exceptions to the rules. If you don't like them, find another place to prospect. We're trying to maintain a respectable prospecting atmosphere on Contrary, and this is the only way to do it with the owners blessing.

I will need some help with the organization. There's a couple specific areas outlined on the website. If you're interested, please let me know. Steve Sekula (Sempr) has already volunteered to be the Property Maintenance Director. I've paid for the lease out of pocket and don't really care if I get it back. CCPO fundraisers (T-shirt sales, raffles, bingo, etc.) will help pay for next years (continued)

UPCOMING WCGM CLUB MEETINGS

MAY 9, 2007 (Friday) NO GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING TONIGHT. MEMBERS WHO WILL BE CAMPING AT THE KOA CAMP GROUNDS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND A CAMPFIRE BOARD MEETING. CONTACT PAT CHAPMAN FOR DETAILS.



JUNE 13, 2007 (Friday) Park Presbyterian Church, Maple Court, Newark, NY.
Use the North door entrance on Church Street. Please drive carefully!
Board of Director's Meeting 7-7:30pm General Membership meeting starts at 7:30pm.
Mini-miner's meet at 7pm. _____ refreshments _____ door prizes.

CLUB NEWS TO dig - Kudos, too!

1. With gas prices steadily increasing, it is not only eco-friendly, but it's just plain economical for our members to consider car-pooling when possible. Call Pat and Bill Chapman for up-to-date information on the WCGMC road trips happenings.
2. Missed the American Hobby Shop April open house? Call 986-1171 hours / appointments.
3. Bill Lesniak reports that the EFTA Website is up & running with this year's field trips. There are three Wayne County Gem and Mineral Club digs posted along with many others from far and wide.
<http://www.efta.biz/>
4. Niagara LaFarge has been closed and the workers laid off. Also Gasport LaFarge has suffered the same fate (a minor quarry for small fossils). Everyone is suffering this year!
5. **Piz: submit newsletter articles in writing BEFORE the 22nd of the month.**
6. Contact President Stan for information on the club's float for the Newark Rose parade as soon as possible.
7. Have a nice day.

(Continued) Been there, dung that: NAU scientist gets the scoop on poop and climate change FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (2/14/08)—

"...Through the digested plants, scientists can tell what was going on in the environment at the time, such as the amount of rainfall that was occurring. The data help researchers pinpoint when different changes in the environment took place. "The plant remains in the dung allow us to determine the mosaic of plants in the local plant community. The community structure changes with changes in climate," he says. Mead's research includes tracking and comparing ancient dung DNA samples to learn about an animal's gender, food and water sources, air pollen, parasites and community structure during the Ice Age. The data allow him to determine when and how an animal evolved and became extinct. The collection includes dung from modern animals to prehistoric ground sloths and 40,000-year-old mammoths. Molecular biologists in Denmark, Australia and Canada are using pieces from NAU's dung collection to compare its DNA to dung they are finding. "To understand ancient dung, one must have a modern comparative collection, and we have one of the best there is," Mead notes. "It is extremely rare to have preserved fossil dung -- yet we have the best and most there are in any collection -- from Siberia to Tierra del Fuego to Argentina -- we have it." Most of NAU's dung collection is dried and stored wrapped in tissue inside sturdy, archival cardboard boxes. Mead opens a box of chunky 14,000-year-old mammoth dung and a slight scent of musty grass escapes. He points to the chomped blades of grass fossilized into the brown dried dung and surmises that the mammoth ate about 600 pounds of grass a day. Mead currently is working with the National Park Service to figure out when bison were introduced to the plateau region. Previous research suggests bison dispersed into the..." (Continued on last page)

(GOLD continued) "...lease, event costs, and maintenance expenses. CCPO T-Shirts are already on-hand and are available in S, M, L, XL, XXL in either blue with gold print, or chestnut with maroon print. They can be purchased at the meetings for \$15 each. More CCPO items will come as funds permit. Visit the CCPO website at <http://www.contrarycreekprospectors.org> , or www.shacksgold.com , www.contrarycreekprospectors.org , or www.nationalgoldprospector.com , or the Chapmans (see front cover).

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: americanhobbyshop.com

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!!

(Continued) Been there, dung that: NAU scientist gets the scoop on poop and climate change FLAGSTAFF, Ariz.

(2/14/08)—

Grand Canyon area more than 11,000 years ago, but with dating from dung, Mead knows that they roamed the plateau at least 23,000 years ago. He also curates dung and skeletal collections for 22 national parks. Dung from the NAU collection also finds its way into public displays in museums, including the International Wildlife Museum in Tucson, Mesa Southwest Museum in Mesa and at the National Museum in Paris. "It's no coincidence this dung collection is here," Mead says. "The Colorado Plateau is arid and replete with shelters and caves that are perfect for dung collection. Most other places in the world stay moist and the bacteria break down the dung." Mead began collecting dung during his research at the University of Arizona in the 1970s. When he came to teach at NAU in 1985, Mead brought the collection with him and has since grown it by gathering dung from zoos and remote regions throughout United States and in places such as Africa, Canada, Mexico, South America, Australia and Siberia. "Although our research is humorous," Mead says, "the data from dung is nothing to laugh about." Contact: Diane Rechel NAU Office of Public Affairs (928) 523-0611 Diane.Rechel@nau.edu

(Northern Arizona University) suggested by Bill Lesniak. Thanks, Bill!!!!!!



Stamp

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Rebecca Remington-editor
David Kords- Past President/Advisor
C/o P.O. Box 4
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First class: dated meetings and time valued.

