

# The Buffalo Geological Society

## Geoletter

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December, 2024

### Something to pick at from your President

Hello everyone,

First a big apology to Marilyn Broad, for spelling her name wrong in the last email. We appreciate your efforts and dedication to not only maintaining the news letter but also passing the torch onto the next generation. Marilyn, THANK YOU! At our board meeting we discussed upcoming speakers, banquet details, auctions, the gem show and our annual potluck. Vendor payments have started to come in and the waitlist is growing for our big show in March! We will be in need of volunteers so please sign up for a time slot at one of our in person meetings or contact Jerry our Show Chairman. We will have a special silent auction on June 8th, 2025 in addition to our silent auction during the December 2024 meeting and voice auction in early March. So please



stay posted and mark your calendars for more details. We are also considering a new location for our banquet next year, any suggestions would be welcomed. Our annual potluck and silent auction is planned for our December 2024 meeting. Please bring a dish to pass, your own utensils and some items for the auction. This auction is cash only and more details can be found below. We also discussed the WNY Earth Science Day event. While we all agreed that the event was a positive experience, discussions on why attendance was low centered around the location. We are currently investigating other opinions for a venue/location for this event. We also agreed that allowing some club members or vendors to sell items like rock samples was a positive way to boost attendance and appeal.

Happy Holidays and safe travels,

Keith Rowe

## Upcoming Trips

- A tentative bus trip in June 2025 is being organized, so please look for details.
- Craig P. our VP has contacted many of the other rock and mineral clubs in NYS. Due to the fact we are all under The Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies we are all covered by the same insurance. This means that most clubs have agreed to allow our club members to join in on trips. That being said if you hear about a trip another club is running let us know and we can add it in the newsletter!

**\*\*\*\*We will more than likely not have another field trip this year but watch the weather.**

## Upcoming Speakers/Meetings (Meetings are the 1st Friday of each month Oct.- April)

*\*\*\*\*Meetings will not be canceled based on Buffalo Public Schools closing, rather current weather or weather predictions for the area will cause cancellation of meetings/events. If we cancel due to weather we can still meet via ZOOM. Please watch emails, social media, the radio and local news stations for notifications.*

**December 6th, 2024: Potluck/Silent Auction:**

**Potluck:** Our annual potluck will be held before our silent auction. The potluck will start at 6:30pm, please bring a dish to pass. The BGS will have roast beef, rolls and drinks (Coffee, pop, water) available. Please bring your own silverware.

**Silent Auction:** Each member is allowed to bring up to 10 items to auction off. Upon arrival if you wish to put items in the auction, pick up your slips from the Treasurer, who will enter your name on the master sheet. List each item under the description section and a minimum bid if desired for each item. Then you must place the items on the display table. This being said please arrive early to sign in if you are bringing items for the auction. When bidding begins at ~ 7:30pm mark you bid and initials on the slip by your desired items. Check back often, as you may need to bid if someone has raised your bid. When the President calls a halt to the bidding, the items with no bid will be returned to their owners, and the other items will be picked up by the highest bidder. You will have to pay the Treasurer for the items. Previous owners will be paid after their items are paid for.

**January 3rd, 2025:** Dr. Sullivan: Buffalo State Geology Department

**February 7th, 2025:** Dr. Kevin Williams: Geomorphologist/Planetary Geologist



**March 7th, 2025:** Live Auction. Members are allowed to bring in up to 4 items for the auction. We will need runners so bring some young rockhounds and lots of money! More information in the upcoming newsletter.

**April 4th, 2025:** Michael McElwee is giving a presentation on what is being found at the Russell Farm. The Russell Farm is a private Herkimer Diamond mine that Michael has had the opportunity to be digging in. They have found all sorts of amazing specimens and Michael is going to not only be talking about the geological history of the area but also showing off some of the specimens he has collected at the mine in 2024.

**May 2nd, 2025:** BGS Banquet: Dr. Mckenzie will be joining us for a second time to talk to us about meteorites. Dr. Mckenzie not only has a wealth of knowledge on the subject but has an impressive collection of meteorites. Do you have a meteorite or think you have one? Well bring it along for some Q and A with Dr. Mckenzie.

\*\*\*Please bring one item per-person for the gift raffle so that everyone leaves with a prize.

## Past Trips and Events

### November 1st, 2024: Scott McKenzie

The Friday Nov 1st, 2024 meeting featuring guest speaker Scott McKenzie on Dinosaur Secrets was extremely insightful into the world of dinosaurs and what we know or don't know about them. Dr. McKenzie's ability to speak about the scientific evidence and current body of knowledge surrounding dinosaurs allowed for the entire audience to stay engaged. A common theme of the talk was that the horns of dinosaurs and other animals are up to 33% larger than what is seen in fossilized remains. This is because the root or base is preserved while the keratin sheath does not. Multiple dinosaurs were discussed including T. Rex, Allosaurus, Spinosaurus, Triceratops, Ankylosaurus, and Sauropods. One striking point of the night was when Dr. McKenzie brought up the fact that every T. Rex skull found has asymmetrical ear holes and small boney horn bases near the eye socket. Two T. Rex skeletons can be seen in the Carnegie Museum of Natural History in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania with these features. In the present day Owls have asymmetrical ear holes that they use to pinpoint the source of sound at night. It begs the question "Did T. Rex hunt at night with teeth over 15 inches long (Root included)?". Dr. McKenzie mentioned he would be interested in visiting us again to speak about Meteorites. Thank you very much Dr. McKenzie for your time and for sharing so much with us!



## Continuing Education

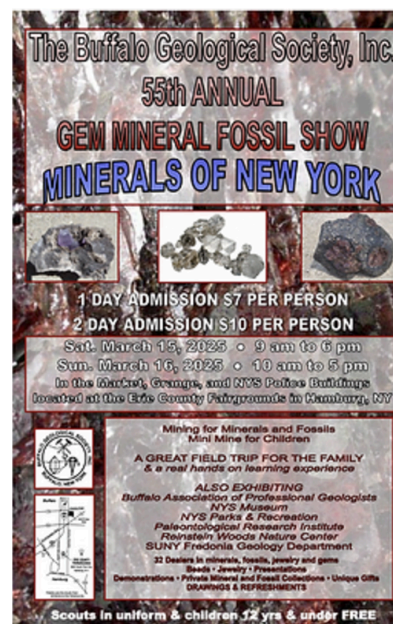
The Continuing Education Program is going to meet Nov. 27th, 2024 at 8:35am in the Sweethome Masonic Lodge. Breakfast will be served around 9am and will consist of pancakes, various jams, and a meat. Please contact Vice President Craig for more information The Continuing Education Program aims to continue shared learning and connection within the BGS. Various topics are discussed at each meeting.

## Events and Upcoming Shows

- Crystals Fest (Finger Lakes Gem and Mineral Club)
  - Nov 23/24, 2024.
  - 100 Nasser Civic Center Plaza, Corning, NY
  - Sat. 10am-6pm, & Sun. 10am-4pm
- Finger Lakes Holiday Gem and Mineral Show
  - Nov 30/Dec. 1st, 2024.



- American Legion, Canandaigua, NY 14424
- Sat. 10am-6pm, & Sun. 10am-4pm
- Buffalo Gem and Mineral show Mar. 15/16, 2025
  - Volunteers needed so mark your calendars now!!!!
- Buffalo Geological Society Banquet
  - May 2, 2025
  - Classics Five Restaurant-Terrace Room 2425 Niagara Falls Blvd. Amherst, NY
  - 6pm Cash Bar
  - Payment of \$25.00 per person due by April 25, 2025



\*\*\*\*\*Sign up/payment form will be in the January newsletter at the latest.

- Silent Auction
  - June 6th, 2025
  - 100 Lee st. Buffalo, NY
  - Very special club items will be auctioned off
  - Details to follow in the future newsletters, similar to December's meeting

## Rock Spotlight

Wavellite, a botryoidal mineral with a vitreous or greasy luster can come in a variety of colors and is often found in low grade metamorphic rocks high in aluminum. The chemical formula of wavellite is  $\text{Al}_3(\text{PO}_4)_2(\text{OH},\text{F})_3 \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$ . Wavellite forms due to hydrothermal events which are high in fluorine, aluminum and phosphorus. Most often wavellite from Arkansas or Pennsylvania is a green color and can sometimes be found with other associated minerals. At the Pennsylvania location the wavellite (pictured to the right) is found on sandstone and sometimes with quartz. Fossil gastropods, and brachiopods have also been found in the sandstone which researchers believe provided the phosphorus to create the wavellite. The location in Pennsylvania was found in 2005 by Bob Weaver from Lititz, PA. Bob Weaver was a notable collector and prospector from Pennsylvania. Bob moved out west and while spending time there became under question for



Wavellite on sandstone, Collected by R. Frost



material he had collected. Bob was known by many to show respect and appreciation in his collecting methods, however the BLM was not convinced. Eventually interactions between Bob and the BLM became too much to shoulder and Bob unfortunately passed away. Fortunately the quarry owner is still very appreciative for the gifts his operation uncovers and for the people who "Save" those gifts from the crusher. Moving further south we find wavellite in Arkansas. The Mount Ida area, Garland County and the Montgomery County Quarry all are locations that produce wavellite. While wavellite is often found here with a blue/green color, white has been reported. Wavellite from these locations can occur with planerite, variscite, quartz, cacoxenite and a few other minerals. The phosphate needed for wavellite to form was created in an environment similar to the Pacific Coast of North America today. Phosphate from the cold, nutrient rich seawater was the source of the phosphate in the wavellite. Along with other factors the cracks in the rock formed by continental collisions millions of years prior gave space for the wavellite to form. If you do not own a specific land claim you can purchase "Gravel" from a local quarry. The local quarries use this rock for road gravel. Willie Makit an Arkansas native owns a large farm in the Mt. Ida area and is also starting a pay to dig site using rock purchased by the dump truck full.



Wavellite with planerite, collected by Willie Makit

Willie is currently charging \$75.00 per bucket and has several loads already delivered. Wavellite Junkies is an up and coming group on facebook that Willie runs, you can contact him there to schedule a dig or buy some specimens. Camping is available if you are traveling or would just like to stay on site. Arkansas and Pennsylvania are the only two locations for wavellite in the USA. The BGS usually goes on a yearly trip to the PA location in late summer/early fall and hopefully one day we can get down south to the Arkansas location.



Members at the Wavellite area Mount Pleasant Mills, PA (Left to right: Dale Russell, Don Lapham III, and Ryan Frost) Picture taken by Darlene Baxter Almeter





Sources:

- ❖ Mindat.org
- ❖ Chris Haefer, President of the Lancaster, Pennsylvania Rock and Mineral Club
- ❖ Willie Makit, Arkansas native and Wavellite pay to dig site owner
- ❖ Geologyin.com

\*\*\*\*Each month we will showcase something different from the rock, mineral and fossil world. If you have a suggest please email Ryan Frost at [Buffaloryan.716@gmail.com](mailto:Buffaloryan.716@gmail.com)

## Financial Update

- New members: (4) 3 individual and 1 family Oct-Nov
- Donations for the Gem Show have started to come in along with vendor fees.

## History of the BGS

The society was originally formed on February 2nd, 1930 as the Geological Section of the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences. Dr. Irving G. Reimann, Curator of Geology at the Buffalo Museum of Science was the first president. Its purpose is to bring people together the enjoy learning, studying, collecting, and sharing in a family atmosphere this common interest of geological sciences and related fields. These fields range from mineralogy and paleontology to

lapidary and beyond. This is accomplished by annual shows, meetings, swaps, banquets, field trips, continuing education groups, and many more monthly programs that end or begin with a social hour. **Regular meetings occur October through April on the first Friday of every month. Meetings start at 7:30pm and are free/open to the public.** Membership starts at \$15.00 for individuals and \$20.00 for families. We meet at 100 Lee street in Buffalo, NY 14210 in the Heritage Discovery Center. Meetings will not be canceled based on Buffalo Public Schools closing, rather current weather or weather predictions for the area will cause cancellation of meetings/events. If we cancel due to weather we can still meet via ZOOM. Please watch emails, social media, the radio and local news stations for notifications. The BGS is a non for profit organization 501c3 affiliate of the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences, Inc and the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies.

**Club Officers**

- **President:**
  - Keith Rowe.....716-860-1689
- **Vice President/EFMSL Delegate/Inventory Control**
  - Craig Posmantur.....716-834-8935
- **Treasurer:**
  - Chris Boyd.....716-291-1865
- **Secretary:**
  - Zeena Pawlicki.....716-536-1969
- **Show Chairmen:**
  - Jerry Bastedo.....716-627-3481
- **Membership Chairman**
  - Jeanne Phillips.....716-838-5786
- **Field trip Chairmen:**
  - Jerry Bastedo.....716-627-3481
  - Don Lapham III.....716-438-3794
  - Joe Sullivan.....716-823-8371
- **Directors**
  - Jerry Bastedo.....716-627-3481
  - Marcia Binda.....716-863-0020
  - William Broad.....716-632-8355
  - Don Lapham III.....716-438-3794
  - Paul Leuchner.....716-704-0546
  - Deb Pirson.....716-773-6078
  - Dale Russell.....716-691-9702
- **Hospitality**
  - Judy Russell.....716-691-9702
- **Newsletter Editor**
  - Ryan Frost.....[Buffaloryan.716@gmail.com](mailto:Buffaloryan.716@gmail.com)
- **Webmaster:**
  - Lucy LaPlaca.....716-667-3115

\*\*\*For contact information please see our website <https://www.bgsny.org/>

