



The Buffalo Geological Society

Geoletter

April, 2025

Something to pick at from your President

Hello member(s),

I hope everyone had a chance to get out to the gem and mineral show! It was great to see so many displays focused on minerals, rocks and fossils from New York State. The new cases helped show off all those beautiful treasures collected by many of our own members. Hopefully you had a chance to see the specimens from the Ortin Collection. Those specimens came from Ward's Science and were some of the first collected from those locations. We had a great showing at Dinofest, THANK YOU to Don, Craig and Ryan for running the table during this event. We have our April talk on herkimers found at the Russell Family Farm. The weather is getting nicer so watch those emails for trip information or other opportunities. The Russell Family has opened the mine for a few select dates for hand digging and power tool digs. Please

read more below about the specifics! Don't forget to sign up for the May banquet!

Thank you and as always I hope to see you at our next meeting or event!

Keith Rowe

President of BGS

Upcoming Trips

- 2025 Dig dates for the Russell Family Farm (Herkimers). See on right
- A tentative bus trip in June 2025 is being organized, so please look for details.
- Missouri trip is planned for the 1st week of April. For more information, reach out to Don.
- A spring trip to the Russell Family Farm to dig for Herkimers is full and a wait list has started. Please email Buffaloryan.716@gmail.com to get on the list.
- 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!**

Russell Family Mine Calendar

10 available passes offered per day

Send reservation requests to
russellfamilymine@gmail.com

Provide: Date request, Contact Info

MAY

May 7th, May 8th, May 9th
May 24th, May 25, May 26th-Booked
Buffalo Gem Club

JUNE

June 4th, June 5th, June 6th, June 7th

JULY

July 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th
July 17th, 18th, 19, 20th,
July 21 st, July 22 nd

AUGUST

August 6th, 7th, 8th
August 9th Saturday - Club Availability

SEPTEMBER

September 10 th, September 11 th, 12 th
September 13 th - Club Availability
September 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th

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.*

April 4th, 2025: Michael McElwee is giving a presentation on what is being found at the Russell Farm. From the age of 12 Michael became interested in minerals & fossils and his mother Joyce was very supportive of his passion and became hers as well. Growing up in the central Finger Lakes region allowed for access to numerous collecting sites across New York State within a day's drive, from digging the quarries of Western NY to the mineral rich areas of St. Lawrence County and of course the famous Herkimer County area for Herkimer Diamonds. For the last few years Michael has set his sights on Little Falls, NY, famous for the rare black stemmed Herkimer Quartz scepters and exceptional Smokey Skeletal Quartz. By chance Michael met Bob Russell when looking to buy some top Little Falls crystals, Bob and his wife Wendy own property on the south side of Little Falls and have operated the private Russell Family Mine for the last 20 years. Michael was invited to dig at their mine that summer at their top mine and found many great finds, later that year Bob took Michael to the lower layer where they were starting to find some exciting discoveries. Seeing the potential Michael and Bob formed a partnership to work the new dig which is named The Blue Waters Ledge Mine, Michael brought his excavator and other mining equipment to establish a suitable trail to the remote untouched hillside. Now with a successful 2024 season completed they are gearing up for an even bigger and better season pushing further into the mountain to unlock the treasures within. Michael's talk this April will be a first hand account of what it's like developing and running a mine site and show the rewards it can produce. As a preview to Michael's talk he will have a display case at this year's BGS Gem Show featuring his greatest finds from the Russell Family Mine and you can visit him at the Finger Lakes Minerals booth! *Picture of Robert Russel Left and center Micheal.



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

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

Past Trips, Meetings and Events

March 7th: Our live auction was very successful. Many members brought 4 items for the auction. All proceeds went to the seller and all the pretties went home with the buyer. There were a few good bidding wars and everyone seemed to leave happy. As always the coffee and dessert bar was A+.

March 15th/16th: The Gem and Mineral Show was a big success. We had many returning vendors and a few new faces on the floor. The mini mine and sluice area was a hit and visited by many. Please see the Rock Spotlight area for more information about the big show!

March 22nd, 2025: Don, Craig and Ryan held down the table for over 3,000 people on Saturday, March 22nd. The Buffalo Science Museum held Dinofest. While other vendors and organisations were present the BGS table was a major hit. Don drew in visitors using fluorescent minerals/rocks and Craig shared the stories behind many of his dinosaur items. Ryan brought a few different dinosaur items, one of which was a dinosaur cube that was green under shortwave and yellow under longwave UV light.



Continuing Education

Just a reminder that we will be meeting on Wednesday February 26, 2025 at 835 am at Sweet Home Masonic Hall, 641 Sweet Home Road, Eggertsville NY 14226. We will be discussing upcoming excursions at some local venues for our pleasure. We will also be watching some YOUTUBE clips on various aspects of Geology.

Events and Upcoming Shows

- **Crystal Fest Presented by the Finger Lakes Gem, Mineral, and fossil Club**
 - April 26th/27th, 2025
 - 10am-6pm and 10am-4pm
 - USW Local 1000, 100 Nasser Civic Center Plaza Corning, NY
- **Rock Sale May 10th - 11th**
 - Howard Heitner of the Wayne County Rock Club is having a sale to thin his

collection. More information to follow.

- **2025 Albany Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Show Mar. 29th/30th, 2025**
 - 10am-5pm and 10am-4pm
 - Polish Community Center 225 Washington Ave Ext, Albany, NY 12205

- **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

- **Quartz Fest Presented by the Finger Lakes Gem, Mineral, and fossil Club**
 - May 10th/11th, 2025
 - 10am-6pm and 10am-4pm
 - Greater Canandaigua Civic Center, 250 N. Bloomfield Road, Canandaigua, NY

- **Memorial Day Collecting Trip to The Russell Family Mine**
 - Little Falls, NY
 - May 24th, 25th, 26th, 2025
 - Fee Dig: Not covered by club
 - No power tools allowed

- **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

- **Annual Picnic**
 - Sept. 5th, 2025 12pm-5pm
 - N. Forest Pavilion Amherst, NY

- **BGS Earth Science Day Event**
 - Oct. 4th, 2025
 - 65 Great Arrow Street Buffalo, NY 14216 (Tapestry Charter School)
 - Vendors and set up TBD
 - Please reach out to [Ryan Frost \(Buffaloryan.716@gmail.com\)](mailto:Buffaloryan.716@gmail.com) if you are interested in attending as a vendor or have an idea for one. This is an

educational event that will allow some vending of geologic goods.

Rock Spotlight: The Buffalo Gem and Mineral Show

The People.....







The Rocks.....







No. _____
Quartz, Scepter
 Pottsville
 Mineral
 Berks Co., Pa.
 Locality

No. _____
Fluorite, pale blue
 Mineral
 Berks Co., Pa.
 Locality

No. _____
Calcite in Agate
 Mineral
 Berks Co., Pa.
 Locality

No. _____
 Apophite, dissolved
 Calc
 Re

No. _____
Quartz & Dolomite



Eurypterid
 arctosaurus
 Upper Silurian
 Bertie Group
 Western N.Y.

Pterygotus sp.
 Upper Silurian
 Herkimer Co., New York
 The Largest Arthropod that ever lived
 Grew to over 8 feet long!

Rugose Horn Coral
 Ordovician
 Cayuga

Phacops rana
 Middle Devonian
 Moscow Formation
 Fall Brook, Genesee, New York

Tenticularia
 Devonian
 Lockport

Trilobite
 New York

Trilobite

Trilobite
Basiderbacia sp.

Sources:

- Pictures from Don Lamham III
- Pictures from Michael McElwee
- Pictures from Ryan Frost

****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

Financial Update

- New members: None to report at this time
- Note from the Treasurer: Accounts are balanced, a donation to the masonic hall was made due to the use of the facility by the Continuing Ed program.

History of the BGS

The society was originally formed on February 2nd, 1938 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 that 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.....716-864-2701
- Membership Chairman
 - Jeanne Phillips.....716-838-5786
- Field trip Chairmen:
 - Jerry Bastedo.....716-864-2701
 - Don Lapham III.....716-438-3794
 - Joe Sullivan.....716-823-8371
- Directors
 - Jerry Bastedo.....716-864-2701
 - 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
 - Laretta Parmalee.....716-603-4700
 - Ron Schmidt.....716-688-6405
- Hospitality
 - Judy Russell.....716-691-9702
- Newsletter Editor
 - Ryan Frost.....Buffaloryan.716@gmail.com (716)712-6600
- Webmaster:
 - Lucy LaPlaca.....716-667-3115

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



