



# ROCKPICKENS

ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY ROCK & MINERAL CLUB Date: December 2016

## December 2016

Next meeting is Saturday, December 10th, 6:00 PM at "The Club" in Canton, NY at our annual Christmas Party. Please call 287-4652 to sign up for the dinner now; we are extending the deadline to attend the dinner in case you haven't already signed up.

**President: William deLorraine**

**Vice President: Lisa Garlough**

**Secretary: Joanna deLorraine**

**Treasurer: Ashley Meade**

**Show Chairperson: Gary Garlough**

**Newsletter Editor: Bill deLorraine**

**Webmaster: Glenn Simonelli**

### Club Members

**Please pay your annual dues; many of us did not catch up annual dues at the show.**

Please mail dues to:  
**Ashley Meade, Treasurer**  
**3715 CR 14**  
**Madrid, NY 13660**

**Please ensure that we have your current e-mail address!**

We strive to send all newsletters by e-mail

**Single Membership: \$10.00; Family Membership: (Family members under the same roof at the same mailing address): \$20.00**

**Contact information:**

**315-287-4652 or**  
**wdellie@gmail.com**

## THE CLUB'S WEBSITE:

[www.stLawrencecountymineralclub.org](http://www.stLawrencecountymineralclub.org)



## Minutes from the November Meeting.

Nine members attended the November meeting. The meeting was called to order at 6:30. Bill read the treasurer's report. Joanna read the minutes from the October Meeting. Minutes were approved by Barb and Sue seconded. Bill announced that Dr. Chiarenzelli had an idea how to distribute the \$500.00 scholarship given to St. Lawrence University. He said to "stretch it out" they could purchase a gift card at the Brewer Book Store; with his added 10% discount the gift card's value to the scholarship recipient is \$550.00. Bill asked if anyone had other localities to add to the "Noteworthy Minerals of St. Law. Co. list. There is one; Owl's Head Mountain which has a brown mineral -- moonstone. Owl's Head is south of Malone.. George Robinson and Bill talked about the boundaries of the region that we would include in "Noteworthy Minerals" of Northern NY. W. Carthage would be included. The next "Mineral of the Month" will be hexazgonite. Please send articles and photo contributions to augment and enhance the newsletter. Bill had a suggestion for our show next year -- give out tickets to all attendees --



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with 10 winners of a \$10.00 gift certificate, redeemable from our dealers out on the floor. An advertising budget was passed for \$600 in 2017. Wes Jennings made the motion and George Robinson 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Bill noted that we are still looking for an Advertising Chair, and Treasurer as of the end of the year. Field Trips: Bob, Scott and Wes will suggest trips for 2017, e-mail back and forth with Bill on suggestions. Also check with Fred Haynes, the Wayne Co. Mineral Club goes on many field trips throughout the year. There was lots of talk about Bension Mines. Bill said that George Pierson would be willing to bring his equipment in himself for a donation from the clubs attending. Date will be set for sometime in 2017. A member asked what the best way to clean barite would be. George said "Iron Out would be safer. Do not use oxalic acid on limestone or calcite. Herkimer diamonds are best to use iron out or hydrochloric acid". Wes also noted there is a quarry in Bloomindale, Rt. 3, that has found some quartz. George also said the mineral ID table was busy both days of the show. He mentioned the one thing that might be helpful is to have a gemologist at our show also. The club agreed that we would not have a Christmas gift exchange at our party this year. Sue Robinson brought a copy of George's new book, "Everything you want to know from Rock and Minerals". George also said he is toying with the idea of offering a course in mineralogy at St. Lawrence University during the winter months. Could possibly be weekend or daytime. This would benefit our club and also the students at St. Lawrence. He said just have suggestions on what you would like to learn about. The course would be free and consist of geology and chemistry. This would give the students a chance to meet us and learn about collecting, and we would learn from them. George will

keep us posted. Wes noted that he will be giving free talks at the Wild Center on jewelry making. Mostly for kids if anyone would like to attend.

## Message From the Prez

The annual Christmas dinner is Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> at "The Club" in Canton, NY, 6:00 pm. (5:30 for Cocktails). There will be two drawings; one for a centerpiece and one for a mineral specimen. **Guest speaker is Dr. James D Carl. Dr. Carl will be talking about artifacts from the archaeological dig at Jamestown, Virginia. Digging began in 1994 when, to everyone's surprise, the remnants of the 1607 fort at this first permanent English settlement in North America were first discovered. The fort had not been washed away by the James River as everyone thought. Promises to be a really interesting presentation!**

Please let us know your choice of menu. Please call us or send an e-mail to [wdellie@gmail.com](mailto:wdellie@gmail.com) with your dinner choice and how many will attend. A stipend of \$8.00 to each current member will be given at the dinner.

Dinner choices are:

- Prime Rib** \$17.99 (salads are \$3.95 extra)
- Chicken Monterey** \$12.00 (salad extra)
- Haddock** \$13.00 (salad extra)
- Pasta Primavera** (salad included)

***In Remembrance: George W. Person, 78 years old, long time guide and caretaker to the Star Lake Bension Mines, has passed on. George will be remembered for his generosity to our club and many others by making himself available for tours of the Bension Mines for so many to enjoy. He was born in Syracuse and earned degrees in both Syracuse University and SUNY Oswego. George was a true Renaissance Man. George will be remembered as an inventor, visionary, story teller, entrepreneur, history buff, problem solver, superb craftsman, globe traveler, curious student, teacher, community historian and friend to all.***



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Gemmy Hexagonite (1)



[Fred Haynes](#) (From the Wayne County Newsletter) This 8" piece from Balmat displays several gemmy 1-2" long purple hexagonite crystals. (Wayne County Newsletter)



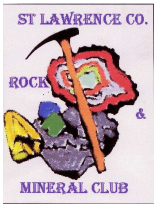
*Hexagonite from Ken Rowe's collection.*

Note: Hexagonite is unique to New York. Found only in several locations in upstate New York the purple variety of tremolite is colored by a small amount of manganese (Mn) in the crystal structure. Interestingly, it was named hexagonite when originally thought to be a hexagonal form of tremolite. However, it is monoclinic. Technically, hexagonite is not recognized as a separate mineral species, but is just a varietal form of tremolite.



Gemmy Hexagonite (2)

(Photo to left is from Wayne County newsletter)



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\*Just a reminder that there will be a short business meeting after the dinner party and that we will be voting on new club by-laws. We have a volunteer for Advertising Chair and we are seeking a volunteer to fill the Treasurer's position.

The photo above is of a specimen that once resided in my mineral display cabinet. Here is my "Hexagonite story". Many years an international mineral dealer of some stature saw it on display and immediately offered me \$500 for it. I thought, "wow, that's nice". I didn't want to part with it but upon further reflection and with some explanation from the dealer, I ended up selling the specimen to him. Here's how the deal went down. He explained that he intended to have a gemstone cut and faceted from it and it would have been the largest and best of its kind in existence. There was enough gemmy material in addition to cut another gemstone from the piece that he would in turn give to Joanna and me. I thought that the prospect of one of my stones ending up providing a world class gem was "way so cool" so I ended up selling the specimen to the gentleman right there on the spot. Not too long thereafter I heard back from same gentleman. Powerful lights back in the shop revealed internal flaws rendering the specimen unsuitable for cutting and faceting. However, the dealer would nevertheless keep it for "specimen value". Months later I happened to see it on the web when, by chance, I did a search for "hexagonite". It was offered for sale on a website for over \$7,000 and was described as having been obtained from "an old Balmat estate". So this piece not only has good specimen value but also great story value!