



# The Buffalo Geological Society

## Geoletter

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February, 2026

### Something to pick at from your President

Dear Members,

It's that time of year again where events are starting to take place around WNY. Please look over the sections below to find out about somethings going on here in WNY. We are looking for volunteers for our Gem and Mineral Show as well as several other opportunities at schools and welcome centers. March 18th we will be visiting South Buffalo Charter School, March 21st and 22nd we will be at the Buffalo Museum of Science for DINOfest from 10am to 5pm. April 24th from 6pm to 8pm we will be set up at the WNT Welcome Center on Grand Island. If you are interested in volunteering please reach out to me (Keith) with dates and times. On another note we are working on planning trips to either the Royal Ontario Museum, PRI or the Carnegie Museum. There will be some cost to you and a possibility of going behind the scenes.

Look for more information soon. A note for the Gem and Mineral show. Sand Cline will not be coming this year so we will have his spot filled with a vendor.

Kind regards,

Keith Rowe

President of BGS

## Upcoming Trips

- 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!**
- If you have a suggestion on a trip or activity please let us know!!!!

## Upcoming Speakers/Meetings

(Meetings are the 1st Friday of each month Oct.- April, Doors open at 7pm with the speaker starting at 7:30pm)

*\*\*\*\*\*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.*

**March, 2026: Voice Auction:** Our March monthly meeting is our annual Live Auction. A variety of mineral specimens, fossils, jewelry, books, and rock hounding equipment provided by our members will be up for bid. The auction is cash-only, and members may bring up to four items to be auctioned off. All proceeds go to the seller, to be paid immediately following placing a winning bid. The general public is welcome to attend and bid on items. Set-up begins at 6:30 PM, with the viewing of items starting at 7. The live auction begins at 7:30 PM.

**April 3rd, 2026:** Our guest speaker, Dr. Jonathan Hendricks, who is the Associate Director of Science Communication at the Paleontological Research Institution. He will be presenting on the PRI exhibit, "Year of the Devonian." Dr. Jonathan Hendricks is Associate Director of Science Communication at the Paleontological Research Institution, where he oversees PRI's publications program and online outreach

initiatives, including [Earth@Home](#) and the [Digital Atlas of Ancient Life](#). Prior to coming to PRI, Jon was an Associate Professor of Geology at San Jose State University. He currently serves as the Chief Financial Officer of the Paleontological Society. His research is focused on the systematics and evolution of Neogene mollusks from the western Atlantic.

**May 1st, 2026: (Starting at 6pm)** We will be hosting our annual banquet at Sean Parick's and the speaker will be Scott McKenzie. The title for the talk will be "Geologic Mysteries". "Find out about the sudden appearance of a gigantic ring, the location of diamond ore volcanoes in NY, what may have killed the last mastodon, and possible Inca solar power. Four cutting edge topics that will make you question how well we know our own planet!". Scott McKenzie is a semi-retired paleontologist from Mercyhurst University in Erie. He is an award winning instructor with over 70 scientific publications. Fossils he has found are now at the Carnegie Museum, the Smithsonian, Buffalo Museum of Science and the London Natural History Museum.

## **Past Trips, Meetings and Events**

**February 2026:** Buffalo Geological Society's monthly meeting on February 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm featured a presentation from Dr. Howard Heitner titled "Pseudomorphs, Trickster Mineral Specimens". Dr. Heitner has been collecting minerals for sixty years. He started as a field collector, collecting in New York, New Jersey, Maine, and other states. The word pseudomorph was first used by Hauy in 1801. In Greek it means "false shape". A pseudomorph is a mineral that has the external crystal shape of another mineral. The subject of pseudomorphs was first written about in detail by the 19<sup>th</sup> century German mineralogist Johann Blum. Pseudomorphs were later classified by the mineralogist Strunz in 1982. The talk covered the various theories of how pseudomorphs form. In some cases the second mineral is similar in composition to the original mineral. In those cases, the mechanism is a chemical reaction. In other cases, the two minerals are not similar and the mechanism of pseudomorph formation is more complicated. There is still controversy about the formation of some pseudomorphs. The talk was illustrated with pictures of both common and rare pseudomorphs.

**January 2nd, 2026:** Speaker and long time member Dale Russel spoke about his trip to Iceland. Dale focused on the geology, zoology, weather and culture of the island.

**December 5th:** Pot Luck Dinner and auction

**Over the summer and into September** we visited our usual spots and a new quarry in Albion, NY. The Eagle Harbor Quarry in Albion, NY was a freshly blasted quarry. While not many specimens other than dog tooth calcite were found it offered a glimpse of something

different. This quarry is a sand and gravel quarry. In the quarry you could see the sand layer that sits on top of the bedrock. This sand had lots of treasures inside, gneiss, polished fossil “soup”, and other glacial debris was found. A member even found a greenish log which he believed was buried during the ice age. So while not petrified still a cool find. Another notable find was dog tooth calcite covered in natural petroleum. As an added bonus the owner was on sight and gave us a great run down of the geologic layers and history of this newer quarry.

## Continuing Education

Continuing Ed. will meet on January 29th, 2026.

## Events and Upcoming Shows

- **Finger Lakes Gem and Mineral Show** February 21 & 22, 2026 at the VFW Post 524 281 Baker Street Corning, NY 14830. Saturday 10am to 6pm and Sunday 10am to 4pm
- **Albany Gem and Mineral Show** April 11th & 12th, 2026 at the Polish Community Center 225 Washington Ave Ext, Albany, NY 12205. Saturday 10am to 5pm and Sunday 10am to 4pm
- **Buffalo Gem and Mineral Show, March 14th and 15th, 2026 at the Hamburg Fair Grounds in Hamburg, NY. Saturday 9am to 6pm and Sunday 10am to 5pm.**
- **Quartzfest (Finger Lakes Gem and Mineral Club)** May 9th and 10th, 2026 at the Greater Canandaigua Civic Center 250 N. Bloomfield Rd Canandaigua, NY. Saturday the show will run from 10am to 6pm and Sunday from 10am to 4pm

The Buffalo Geological Society, Inc.  
56th ANNUAL  
**GEM MINERAL FOSSIL SHOW**  
**ANCIENT LIFE OF NEW YORK**

1 DAY ADMISSION \$7 PER PERSON  
2 DAY ADMISSION \$10 PER PERSON

**Sat. March 14, 2026 • 9 am to 6 pm**  
**Sun. March 15, 2026 • 10 am to 5 pm**  
In the Market, Grange, and NYS Police Buildings  
located at the Erie County Fairgrounds in Hamburg, NY

Mining for Minerals and Fossils  
Mini Mine for Children

A GREAT FIELD TRIP FOR THE FAMILY  
& a real hands on learning experience

ALSO EXHIBITING  
Buffalo Association of Professional Geologists  
NYS Parks & Recreation  
Paleontological Research Institute  
Reinstein Woods Nature Center  
SUNY Fredonia Geology Department

32 Dealers in minerals, fossils, jewelry and gems  
Beads • Jewelry • Presentations  
Demonstrations • Private Mineral and Fossil Collections • Unique Gifts  
DRAWINGS & REFRESHMENTS

Scouts in uniform & children 12 yrs & under FREE

- **Wayne County Gem and Mineral Show will be the first weekend in June of 2026**
- **March 21st – 22nd, 10am – 5pm DinoFEST at the Buffalo Museum of Science**
- **March 26th 5pm – 8:30pm – BGS is proud to cosponsor a lecture at the Buffalo Museum of Science: Wonderful Cambrian Beasts and Where to Find Them. For more information and to purchase tickets:**

<https://www.sciencebuff.org/event/lecture-wonderful-cambrian-beasts-and-where-to-find-them/>

- April 25th, 11am – 2pm – Growing Grand Island at the WNY Welcome Center
- August 8th – Member trip to the Carnegie Museum in Pittsburgh – Details to come!

## Rock Spotlight:

This month we will be highlighting our annual Gem and Mineral Show. Please see the press release from our Showchairman Jerry. Please reach out to Jerry if you are interested in volunteering at the show!



# “ANCIENT LIFE OF NEW YORK”

MARCH 14-15, 2026

**BUFFALO GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY’S  
56<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GEM-MINERAL-FOSSIL SHOW**

by

**Jerry Bastedo, Show Chairman**

**“ANCIENT LIFE OF NEW YORK”** is being featured at the Buffalo Geological Society’s 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show on March 14-15, 2026, at the Erie County Fairgrounds in the Grange, Market Place and New York State Police Buildings in Hamburg, NY, on Saturday, 9 am-6 pm, March 14, 2026, and Sunday, 10 am-5 pm, March 15 2026.

This annual show provides an instant museum of Buffalo Geological Society **Members’ fossils, minerals, and jewelry**; demonstrators; the **famous Mini-Mine** for young collectors; the **mining operation** for children and adults; **mineral and fossil identification**; and a variety of non-profit exhibitors. This highly educational family event affords attendees the opportunity to interact with demonstrators who work with minerals and gems. **Demonstrators** include fossil preparation, jewelry designers, and other lapidary artists. **Sandy Cline, internationally renowned soapstone** carver from Burleigh Falls, Ontario, Canada, will be demonstrating his art of carving wildlife forms from soapstone and will have several for sale. **Past and Present** will have some of their dinosaur models available for viewing, along with actual dinosaur bones recently acquired. **The New York State Museum** will be bringing two exhibits of New York State classic fossils from New York. The **Orton Museum, from The Ohio State University**, will have two exhibits from famous paleontologists **James Hall** and other early paleontologists that worked in New York. The **Buffalo Museum of Science** will have an exhibit of New York fossils. A **Fluorescent mineral** exhibit will be available.

In addition, there will be over **33 dealers** selling gems, beads, minerals, fossils, and jewelry from around the world. A **food vendor** and **hourly door prizes** will be available.

Young scientists can visit the **“Mini-Mine”** that offers them the chance to search for mineral specimens in a simulated mine setting. The **mining operation** is for young miners (under 100 years of age) who can search for minerals and fossils in a bag of sand that they wash. All who attend can experience hands-on fun and learn something new about the geological sciences. **Professional Geologists** will be available to discuss what geologists do and what types of jobs are present in the area for geologists. **Boy and Girl Scouts** will be able to earn badge requirements during the show. The **Geology Department from SUNY Fredonia** will have a stream table demonstrating how rivers behave when water flows change.

**Fluorescent Minerals of Northern New York State** will be presented by Dino Zack, P.G., CPG, STS Senior Geologist/Project Manager, AECOM Technical Services, Inc. on Saturday, March 14 from 11:00 AM to 11:30 AM in the New York State Police Building. No preregistrations are required.

**Back to the Moon: Lunar Geology and the Artemis II Mission** will be presented by Dr. Kevin Williams, Professor and Planetarium Director at Buffalo State University, on Sunday, March 15 from 1:00 PM to 1:30 PM in the New York State Police Building. No preregistrations are required.

Last year's show drew over 4,291 children and adults. Families come from all over Western and Central New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Canada to take part in this event. This is a perfect family field trip to learn more about the geological sciences. Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, students, teachers, the public, and rock hounds are welcome. Adults are \$7 each, scouts in uniform and children under 12 are FREE. A 2-day admission for \$10 each is also available. Door prizes are drawn hourly. **FREE parking.** Wheel chair and stroller accessible. For any additional information or questions, please contact Jerry Bastedo, Show Chairman, at [jcbastedo@gmail.com](mailto:jcbastedo@gmail.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)

## 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
  - Ryan Frost.....716-712-6600
  - Andrew Monteforte.....
  - Dale Russell.....716-691-9702
  - Loretta Parmalee.....716-603-4700
  - Ron Schmidt.....716-688-6405
- **Hospitality**
  - Judy Russell.....716-691-9702
- **Newsletter Editor**
  - Ryan Frost.....[Buffaloryan.716@gmail.com](mailto:Buffaloryan.716@gmail.com) (716)712-6600
- **Webmaster:**
  - Lucy LaPlaca.....716-667-3115

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



