

GEOLETTER

Volume 78

Number 1

September 2026

From The President

o Craig Posmantur

There are a couple of important events coming up sooner than you can imagine. First is the annual Picnic on Saturday September 12, 2026 at the North Forest Pavilion in Williamsville. For those unfamiliar with the site, it is on North Forest Road, near Main Street right behind the Tops store. The time is from 12 noon to 5pm. The BGS will be providing hotdogs, hamburgers, pop, water & condiments. We ask that you bring a dish to pass; salads, desserts, whatever are always enjoyed.

Second is the Reinstein Woods Fall Fest on Saturday September 19, 2026 at Reinstein Woods Park on Como Park Blvd. in Depew. The time is from 9:30am to 4pm. Anyone who wants to help for about an hour is welcome. Just show up; You'll see the BGS tablecloth & tent.

There is an important development that needs to be addressed. We are looking for some new blood on the BGS board of directors. I have been informed that several will be stepping down after this year and we could use your help. More on this matter in up coming issues.

From The President. Continueg on page 2



Annual Family Picnic / Swap Meet

**Saturday September 12,
12 noon to 5 pm**

**North Forest Park Shelter
(Behind Tops market)**

85 North Forest Road, Williamsville, NY



The club will provide the meat, rolls, soft drinks, condiments.

Bring a dish to share, your own table service, (cups, plates, silverware, etc.)

Come early, swap stories, summer finds. Have a good time

Enjoy good food. Old friends, and make new ones.

From The President. Continued
from page 1

The Bus-trip to The Carnegie Museum in Pittsburgh on Saturday August 8, 2026 was enjoyed by a full busload of Rockhounds. This was the first of a series of trips the BGS will be organizing in the coming months.



The BGS Rockhounds.

(C. Postmantur)



GOLD variety ELECTRUM
Washington
(C. Postmantur)



Don Lapham was making sure everyone on the trip saw the hemimorphite (picture right) that was on display. He was saying that the specimen was the most valuable item in the mineral hall. The radioactive mineral display attracted a good crowd and the fossils of Pennsylvania was of interest to quite a few. They were commenting that having a speaker on the subject might be a good change of pace. Most everyone was awed by the dinosaur display and the interactive system that was in place. You could look up the number of real bones in the critters as well as how many were casts. A truly remarkable museum.



Hemimorphite colored by Greenockite (cadmium yellow)
from the Lone Pine Mine, Joplin, Missouri.
The specimen weighs 36 lbs.
(D. Lapham)

Buffalo Museum of Science Spotlight

<https://www.sciencebuff.org>



About the Buffalo Museum of Science

Before the Buffalo Museum of Science (BMS) had a permanent location at 1020 Humboldt Parkway, the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences (BSNS) was founded in 1861, consisting of scientists, both professional and amateur. Collectors of the Society displayed specimens in rooms at the New York and Erie County Bank and the Buffalo Public Library (now the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library). Some of these displays included casts of mammoths and mastodons, as well as the Society's large collection of eurypterids from the Bertie formation.

In 1920, the BSNS opened a location for a museum on Elmwood Avenue. The small space had exhibits focused on the importance of the geology and paleontology of the Niagara Frontier, displaying local fossils and minerals. Needing to expand, president of the BSNS, Chauncey J. Hamlin secured a new location on the northwest corner of Humboldt Parkway where construction started in 1925 and the Museum opened to the public on January 19th, 1929.

Today, the Geology Department at the Buffalo Museum of Science holds specimens from Western New York and around the world with an extensive collection of rocks, minerals, and fossils.



Eurypterus remipes E1058
Buffalo Cement Company Quarry
Bertie Formation

BGS and BSNS Affiliation

Through our affiliates program, the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences holds mutually supportive and reciprocal relationships with many community organizations sharing the goal of promoting science and science literacy. The BSNS and the Buffalo Geological Society have had a close relationship for decades, and continue to work together through outreach programs, special events, and many collaborative projects promoting the study of the natural world around us.

Upcoming Events at the Museum

Lecture Information:

Dr. Marcella Baiz, University at Buffalo

September 16 at 7pm. Science Buff Lecture/33rd Annual Vaughan Lecture (<https://www.sciencebuff.org/event/science-buff-lecture-with-dr-marcella-baiz-university-at-buffalo/>)

From Genomes to Microbiomes: Determining the Consequences of Speciation in Birds

More than 11,000 bird species inhabit our planet today, displaying an extraordinary array of forms, colors, and behaviors. How did this remarkable diversity evolve, and what makes each species unique? Learn how both genomes and gut microbiomes can provide valuable insights into avian biodiversity.

DinoFEST:

November 7th and 8th 10am-5pm @ the Buffalo Museum of Science

Travel back millions of years at DinoFEST: Roar & Explore Weekend! Discover the science behind Earth's most fascinating prehistoric creatures through hands-on activities, live demonstrations, and immersive experiences for explorers of all ages.

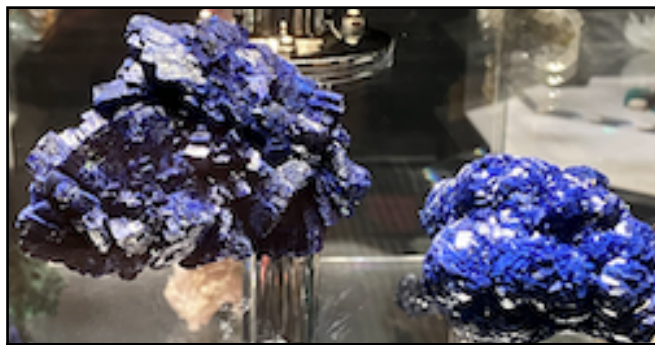
Carnegie Museum continued from page 2



CALCITE on dolomite from Batesville, Arkansas
The calcite is nearly 8 inches long (D. Lapham)



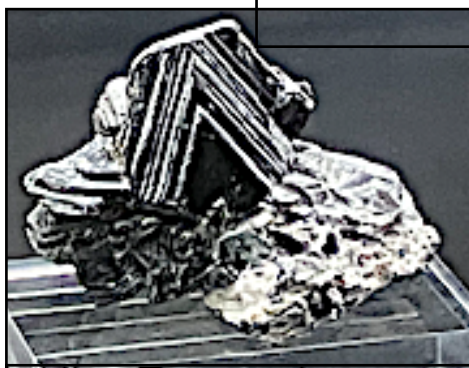
Svstematic Mineral Collection



AZURITE.
China. Utah
(G. LaPlaca)



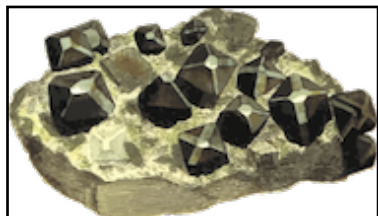
FLUORITE (G. LaPlaca)



CLINOCLORE (G. LaPlaca)

BGS Fellowship Meeting

The Fellowship Meeting will be held on September 30, 2026 at 8:35 am at the Masonic Temple at 841 Sweet Home Road. After breakfast there is a presentation and discussion on a geology related topic. As a topic Craig is asking everyone to bring something they found this summer as part of a show and tell.



The BGS would like to welcome a portion of all the new members. The whole list of newbies will be posted in subsequent issues. The first group to be recognized is:

Nicholas Bowen
Laurie Stutzman
Ruby Matricardi
Jason Green
Devan Harden
Jennifer Neuroth
Johnathan Samol
Deborah Diebold
Jennifer Reinagel

Brenton Wood
Brian Blastovits
Alexander Huerta
Elizabeth Freck-Belen
Joann Lamprecht
Natalie Smith
James Bingert
Kristen Reetz
Sommer O'Donnell



“FLUORITE”

MARCH 20-21, 2027

**BUFFALO GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY'S
57th ANNUAL GEM-MINERAL-FOSSIL SHOW
by Jerry Bastedo, Show Chairman**

“FLUORITE” is being featured at the Buffalo Geological Society’s 57th Annual Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show on March 20-21, 2027, at the Erie County Fairgrounds in the Grange and Market Place Buildings in Hamburg, NY. Hours on Saturday, March 20, 2027, 9 am-6 pm, and on Sunday March 21, 2027, 10 am-5 pm. Admission is \$7/person, \$10 for 2 days and children 12 and under FREE.

This annual show provides an instant museum of Buffalo Geological Society Members’ fossils, minerals, and jewelry. Past and Present will have some of their dinosaur models available for viewing, along with actual dinosaur bones recently acquired. Fluorite exhibits will be on display from The New York State Museum, The Orton Museum, from The Ohio State University, and the Buffalo Museum of Science. A Fluorescent mineral exhibit will be available.

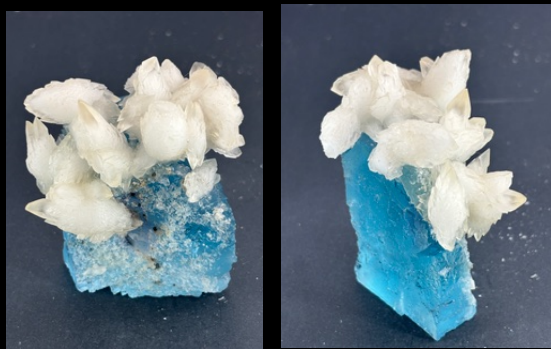
In addition, there will be over 33 dealers selling gems, beads, minerals, fossils, and jewelry from around the world. A food vendor and hourly door prizes will be available.

Last year’s show drew over 4,000 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. Additional information will be available in next month’s newsletter. For any additional information or questions, please contact Jerry Bastedo, Show Chairman, at jcbastedo@gmail.com.



**Calcite on Fluorite
Cave-in-Rock, Hardin County, Illinois**



DINO ZACK RECEIVES ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

by Jerry Bastedo

Dino Zack received the Environmental Educator of the Year award from the Nature Sanctuary Society of Western New York at their annual meeting and banquet May 21, 2026 at the Mansion at Knox Farm State Park in East Aurora, New York. Dr. Ray Vaughan, of the NSS of WNY, presented the award Dino. Congratulations Dino on receiving this award.



"Fossilized" News

From Geoletter 12/1992

THE TRAVELING MINERALOGIST by Jon Nickerson

I often feel fortunate to find a gas station open on Sunday in many rural parts of this country. Thus I was absolutely elated to find a Fluorite mine open on the Sabbath back in late May, 1986. Curious anticipation filled my mind and exuded out my sweaty palms as I drove toward one of those localities my mineralogy professor had raved about for years: Rosiclare, Illinois, home of amazing specimens of fluorite. Rosiclare is a small town perched on the southeastern rim of the Illinois Basin and the Hicks Dome.



The geologic setting of the Illinois fluorite deposits began forming approximately 1.5 billion years ago when the granitic basement rock was emplaced. Near the end of the Precambrian Era and continuing into Late Cambrian times (about 570 to 505 million years ago), tensional forces within the earth caused block faulting and rapid subsidence of the landscape. Several rifts formed during these events. One such depression was the Rough Creek Graben - Recifoot Riff, which extended from southeastern Illinois and western Kentucky through Missouri and on into Arkansas. Such rifting and subsidence allowed for water to inundate the area, forming shallow inland seas in the



Paleozoic. In Hardin County, approximately 13,000 feet of sediments were deposited between Late Cambrian and Early Pennsylvania times (about 523 to 315 million years ago). These sediments consist primarily of limestones and sandstones. Throughout the time of deposition, the area was stretched and squeezed, yielding numerous fault zones. This sequence of events is understood partly because of a later flexing and uplifting which gave rise to the Hicks Dome, a small, local uplift feature which exposes several rock types on the southeast rim of the Illinois Basin. The history of fluorite emplacement is not so obvious. Current theories postulate that metals leached from the sedimentary Strada by brine solution heated by shallow magmatic bodies. These magmatic bodies were the source of fluorine. Calcium was also put into solution by the brines. Fluorite and calcite were later deposited along faults as veins and as fissure

The Traveling Mineralogist continued on page 7

The Traveling Mineralogist continued from page 6



fillings. Vein-type ore deposits occur along faults with displacement, and are dominant in the Rosiclare area. Stratiform deposits occur along fractures and faults with little or no displacement. The Harris Creek region northeast of Rosiclare contains stratiform ore bodies which typically range from 6 to 25 feet in thickness and up to 150 feet in width. Research indicates that the temperature of fluorite deposition was approximately 142 to 145 degrees centigrade.

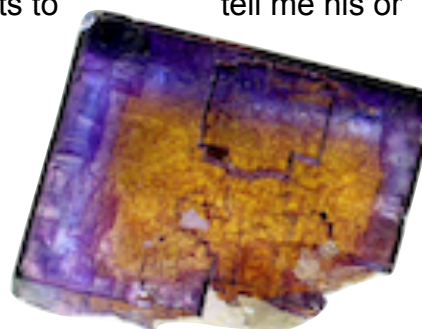
The southeastern part of Illinois was originally mined **for lead, which is associated with the fluorite as galena. Water well drillers often encounter** fluorite when drilling and occasionally abandoned such holes when this “petky” mineral was encountered. The first strong interest in fluorite, or fluorospar as it is often called, started in the late 1870's. Demand increased with the development of the open hearth furnace for making steel, as fluorite was used as a fluxing agent for removing sulfur and phosphorus. Production continued on a small scale until 1911, when milling capacity in this country greatly increased. Production peaked during World War II, then subsided with the subsidence of the steel industry in the United States.

The road to Rosiclare was easy to find, as was the mine. Slabs of limestone covered with 3-inch purple cubes of fluoroite graced the entrance to the mining company's office. I inquired within about permission to enter the mine. The secretary referred me to a foreman. Two assistants listened intently as the old miner informed me that the company couldn't let anyone down in the mine for insurance reasons. He directed me to a pile of scrap rock, informing me I could take as much as I wanted. The pile contained specimens of petrologic interest, but nothing rich in fluorite. As I scraped my hands turning over boulder after boulder in search for that blazing purple specimen, I heard a whistle emanating from the foreman's building. One of the foreman's helpers was waving me over. I bounded up the hill, hoping the foreman had changed his mind about my visit. No such luck. However, the helper did have good information. He eagerly instructed me to follow a road past the front office to another part of the mine where the ore directly out of the mine itself is first dumped. Sure enough, the pile was high with gray limestone streaked with purple, yellow, and white. I almost wondered if this mosaic of natural colors was the crane operator's art project. Several larger hunks of colorful limestone quickly found their way into the back of my station wagon. I felt like a kid in a candy store. Fortunate part was, fluorite doesn't rot one's teeth: it builds them.

One hand specimen from Rosiclare sits atop a cabinet over the desk in my office at work. To many, it is a decoration. Purple streaks strewn throughout limestone along with a few fossils splashed on the bottom, the specimen makes for an excellent opportunity for its inspectors to postulate as to its origin. I love asking folks who claim to be geologists to tell me his or her theory on its genesis. Especially interviewees.

Information for this article is from:

Schuberth, C.J., 1988, The Geology of Illinois: Rocks and Minerals, May/June 1988, Vol. 63, No. 3. Reinersten, D.L., 1992, Guide to the Geology of the Cave in Rock and Rosiclare area, Hardin County: Field Trip Guidebook 1992A. Department of Energy and Natural Resources, Illinois State Geological Survey, Champaign, Illinois



“Fossilized” News

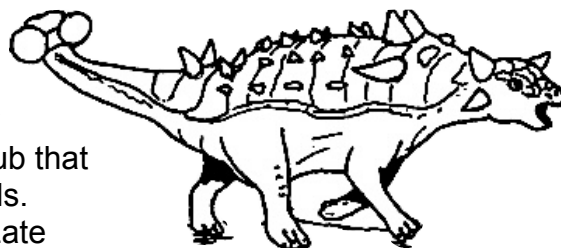
From Geoletter 11/1990

DINOSAUR OF THE MONTH

By Dr. Rick Batt

THIS MONTHS FEATURE - *Euoplocephalus*

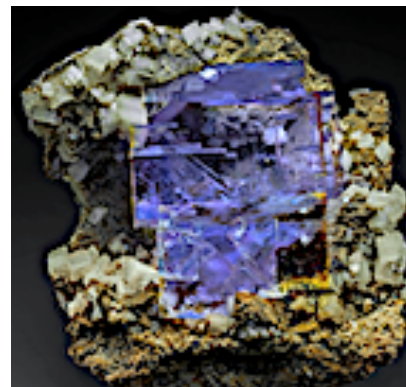
This medium-sized dinosaur (20 feet) was one of the largest of the ankylosaurs, which have large, armored heads protected by prominent horns and a body covered by bony armor plating. The tail was armed with a large bony club that could be swung at potential pests such as the tyrannosaurids. *Euoplocephalus* lived in western North America during the Late Cretaceous, just before the appearance of the more well-known *Ankylosaurus*, which it somewhat resembles but has fewer horns.

**BGS Member's Mineral of the Month Spotlight****Fluorite**

Fluorite from the Penfield Quarry (Dolomite Products Quarry) in Penfield, NY, is highly prized by collectors for its transparent to pale-blue or colorless cubic crystals, often resting on pinkish-white dolomite rhombohedrons.

These Silurian aged crystals, sometimes reaching up to 65 mm, are often prized for their clarity and intense purple-blue color, despite the locality's access being strictly limited. It is considered a classic New York mineral.

Mindat

**BGS Member's Fossil of the Month Spotlight*****Arctinurus boltoni***

Arctinurus boltoni is a large (up to 30 cm) lichid trilobite of the mid-Silurian. This trilobite reached about eight inches in length, though the normal adult carapace was about four inches. It lived in moderately deep-water in semi-tropical regions. *Arctinurus* fossils have been found in Europe and North America.

Arctinurus was first reported during the construction of the Erie Canal through soft Silurian shales and mudstones in upstate New York. Before the late 1990s, complete *Arctinurus* fossils were very rare. The vast majority of complete specimens were commercially mined near Middleport New York, USA, in a shallow quarry in the Rochester Formation, and the trilobite is now relatively common in museum, university and private collections. *Arctinurus* tended to have epibionts attached to the **carapace**.



Wikipedia

Editors Note: The two "BGS Spotlight" sections on the previous page are your chance to share your favorite specimens or collecting story with the rest of the BGS. If you have a specimen or collecting story to share write a short description 100-200 words (.docx) plus a pic (.jpg) or two and email them to bgsgeoletter@icloud.com. This is your Geoletter, its success, depends on your contributions. This is your newsletter and the more contributors the better it will be. I encourage all of you to send me your stories of anything related to rockhounding, your special finds, your field trips, your favorite purchases and more. Again the Geoletter is only as good as the members input, so be apart of the BGS. What else do you want to see in the Geoletter?
bgsgeoletter@icloud.com

"Fossilized" News

From Geoletter 9/1998

WE'RE OLDER THAN WE THOUGHT

Long-time BGS member Marvin Hess found this article by John T. Sanford in the March, 1930 (Vol. 10, No. 7) issue of "Hobbies". Museum of Science:

"The Geological Section held its first meeting on Thursday, February 6, at the Museum. Plans for the future of the Club were discussed. The tentative program includes field trips, exhibition of collections made by Club members, informal discussions by Club members, occasional lectures, and an opportunity for the cooperative investigation of the various phases of local geology."

As you can see, the information on the back of this newsletter indicates that we were founded in 1938.

Buffalo Geological Society Coming Events

September 12 - Annual BGS Picnic / 12 noon to 5 pm

September 19 - Reinstein Woods Fall Fest at Reinstein Woods Park, Como Park Blvd., Depew. 9:30 am to 4 pm

September 19-20 - Mid-Hudson Valley Mineral Show; Hours: Sat 10 - 5 & Sun 10 - 4, Located at Gold's Gym, 258 Titusville Road, Poughkeepsie, NY

September 19-20 - Franklin Mineral Show, Franklin, NJ

September 30 - BGS Fellowship Meeting 8:35 am, Masonic Temple, 641 Sweet Home Road, Amherst, NY

October 2 - BGS Meeting 7:30 pm - speaker is Carl Fechko, "Scuba Diving for Fossils", 100 Lee Street, Buffalo, NY

October 3 & 4 - Enchanted Mountain gem, Mineral & Fossils Show; from 10 am to 5 pm daily. Located at Pock City Park, 505 A Rock City Road (Rt. 16) Olean, NY

October 8 - BGS Board Meeting 7:00 pm, 100 Lee Street, Buffalo, NY

October 24 & 25 - Rochester Gem, Mineral, Jewelry & Fossil Show & Sale sponsored by the Rochester Lapidary Society. Sat. 10 am -6 pm, Sun. 10 am -5 pm. 435 West Commercial St., east Rochester, NY 14446. Off the 490 Interstate.

October 28 - BGS Fellowship Meeting 8:35 am, Masonic Temple, 641 Sweet Home Rd, Amherst, NY

November 6 - BGS Meeting 7:30 pm - Speaker to be announced 100 Lee Street, Buffalo, NY

November 12 - BGS Board Meeting 7:00 pm, 100 Lee Street, Buffalo, NY

Club Officers

- **President:**
 - Craig Posmantur
716-834-8935
- **Vice President**
 - Joe Sullivan
716-823-8371
- **Treasurer:**
 - Chris Boyd
716-291-1865
- **Secretary:**
 - Zeena Pawlicki
716-536-1969\
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716-864-2701
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716-838-5786
- **Field Trip Leaders:**
 - Jerry Bastedo
716-864-2701
 - Don Lapham III
716-438-3794
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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
phone
 - Dale Russell
716-691-9702
 - Laurreta Parmalee
716-603-4700
 - Ron Schmidt
716-688-6405
- **Hospitality**
 - Judy Russell
716-691-9702
- **Newsletter Editor**
 - Gerald Wochadlo
bgsgeoletter@icloud.com
716-773-2822
- **Webmaster:**
 - Lucy LaPlaca
email
716-667-3115





Buffalo Geological Society
Heritage Discovery Center
100 Lee Street
Buffalo, New York 14210

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 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

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