



# The Buffalo Geological Society

## Geoletter

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January, 2026

### Something to pick at from your President

Hello fellow BGS members and Happy New Year's,

DURING our last board meeting we discussed many topics concerning upcoming events, trips and meetings. We also discussed past meetings and our Treasury Report. We budgeted in funds for new electronics to help with meetings, field trips (both educational and collecting), donations and scholarships. We talked about criteria for awarding scholarships and amounts as it is difficult to get many college level students to apply. One thought was to offer the scholarship to students in high school looking to go into the fields related to our club activities. If you have any input please let a board member know. We will not be doing Earth Science Day this coming year due to the low attendance but we will have other opportunities to educate the community in the near future. One of which is happening on March 18th, 2026 at South Buffalo Charter School. If you are interested in helping out please contact Craig for more information. We would like to have our sluice or mini-mine available for this event. Our annual picnic will be held on Sept. 12, 2026, more details to follow in future newsletters. Continuing Ed will meet this month on Jan. 29th and the speaking will be Walt Drabek. Scott McKenzie will be

returning as our speaker for our May banquet. The topic of Scott's talk is still TBD and the location will be at Sean Patrick's in Amherst. Please consider signing up to volunteer for our big show in March and look for your post cards in the mail for our door prize drawings. Bob Baran has also reached out asking for advice and leads on where to rock hounds while out west. If you have any suggestions please send him some information using the email sent to you from our editor.

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!**
- We will possibly be planning a trip when the nicer weather hits to Thunder Bay for Amethyst. Note: This is a 12ish hour drive and will be expensive. Cost: \$1,000.00 to \$2,000.00 for a private blast, \$170 entrance fee and \$40 per bucket.
- 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.*

**February 6th, 2026: TBD**

**March, 2026: No meeting as we have our Gem Show**

**April 3rd, 2026: TBD**

**May, 2026 we will be hosting our annual banquet at Sean Parick's**

## Past Trips, Meetings and Events

**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 Voice Auction (Details in a separate email)

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
- **Wayne County Gem and Mineral Show will be the first weekend in June of 2026**

## Rock Spotlight:

This month we will be highlighting giving back. So many of us give back in many ways. We may give talks, take time to lead trips or help point others in the right direction. As well as time and knowledge many of us donate funds and material we have collected or obtained throughout the years. In the recent past the BGS made two large donations to the Paleontological Research Institute in Ithaca, NY. One in 2023 and one last year in 2025. Last year the PRI was struggling to reach their yearly financial goal and was facing a possible closure. With the help of so many individuals and organisations they met their goal and paid off their mortgage in full!!!!!! The BGS made donations of \$1000.00. On top of the donation from the club many of us took out memberships. These funds do more than just pay the mortgage, these funds help keep programs for the public going. For more detailed information please read the attached document written by BGS board member Jerry Bastedo.

Another story of giving back came in the form of an email from BGS member Richard Myers. Richard made me aware that longtime BGS member Ruth Banick donated several specimens of dolomite to the Botanical Gardens. Next time you are there, definitely check them out in the cactus greenhouse! They will be a permanent part of the display and the staff are very excited to have gotten this donation. There will be a sign in the greenhouse to show thanks to Ruth and her late husband Bruce for their donation. As well, BGS member Glen LaPlaca (Owner of Past and Present in Blasdale, NY) has had specimens and other items on display throughout many of the greenhouses. Special thanks to Jean and Richard for helping Ruth get those specimens to the Botanical Gardens. It's because of the work of many that our world becomes a better place. If you want to give a shout to someone in the BGS or another organisation that has helped you reach out with your story so we can feature it in this newsletter. Lastly, (certainly not least) our board members do a considerable



amount of work to keep this club running. Organizing trips, talks, meetings, hosting events and being part of other events truly is a labor of love when it comes to keeping the BGS moving forward.

\*\*\*\*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

- **Note from the Treasurer:** This year we have created a budget and will be working to finalize it in the near future. Four big pieces of that budget are scholarships, repairing the mini mine, getting a larger trip in motion and getting a new piece of technology for BGS meetings. If you have suggestions please make your voice heard by contacting one of the board members or better yet coming to a board meeting. After budgeting for the 2026 year we should have a positive balance in the books of ~\$1, 615.50.

## 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
  - Laretta 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/>



