



Buffalo Geological Society, Inc.

c/o Heritage Discovery Center
100 Lee Street
Buffalo, NY 14210

CONGRATULATIONS & THANK YOU

Congratulations and thank you to all the Buffalo Geological Society members and volunteers for the extremely successful 56th Annual Gem-Mineral-Fossil Show on March 14 & 15, 2026. This was a great team effort that introduced over 4,000 children and adults, which included 640 children, to many aspects of geology. “Ancient Life of New York” was the theme and once again there were some incredible exhibits from members featured at the show. Special thanks goes out to the Orton Museum at The Ohio State University, the Buffalo Museum of Science, the New York State Museum for their exhibits of New York fossils, and Past and Present for their dinosaurs. The exhibits and the organizations in the NYS Police Building instilled an interest in geology to children and adults. The Stream Table, from the Fredonia Geology Department was a huge hit with all. Dino Zack, P.G., Senior Geologist/Project Manager with AECOM Technical Services, provided a presentation on “Fluorescent Minerals” on Saturday and on Sunday Dr. Kevin Williams, Professor and Planetarium Director at Buffalo State University provided a presentation on “Back to the Moon: Lunar Geology and the Artemis II Mission” in the afternoon. The Herkimer “Diamond” exhibit, with large Herkimer ‘Diamond’ crystals from Lee Levesque III was a huge draw from the crowds of visitors. The Girl Scouts had another successful year selling their cookies. There were over 33 vendors in rocks, minerals, fossils, cut stones and jewelry. Many of these unique items could be taken home at a reasonable price. Visitors could watch their jewelry sized, geodes cracked and fluorescent rocks change colors right before their eyes.

Thank you to our demonstrators – Darlene Almeter, Dr. Loren Babcock, Bonnie Hird, Bill and Marilyn Broad, Gerry Kloc, Joe LaRussa, and Rich Myers – who interacted with the public on fossil cleaning and preparation; tumblers; gem tree creations; capping of a variety of stones; viewing of geological specimens through microscopes; identification of fossils and minerals; and answering questions about a variety of geological topics and specimens throughout the show. The Mini-mine for children was a huge success and tons of specimens were mined and taken to a new home. The Mining for Minerals operation was popular with the children and adults alike. Over a 945 bags of minerals were washed and went home with the miners. The club also sold out over 638 mineral grab bags during the show.

We thank all those who volunteered loading the truck on Wednesday before the show, those helping with setup on Friday, helping with admissions, the club table, the dismantling of the show, and getting all the cases and equipment back to the box car on Sunday. Special thanks to our dealer co-chairs – Walt and Sandra Drabek – for their roles in coordinating the Dealers, monitoring their payments and answering their questions. They were also of assistance in designing the building layouts and creating our brochure and id badges.

The 57th Annual Show will be featuring “Fluorites” on March 20-21, 2027, in the Grange-Market Place Buildings at the Erie County Fairgrounds. Mark your calendar for this family fun-filled event. Thank you all again for your help and support of this annual event introducing the public to our great hobby.

**Jerry Bastedo
Show Chair
Buffalo Geological Society, Inc.**