

GE LETTER

Volume 74

Number 9

May 2023

Banquet Speaker

May 5, 2023

"New York's Finest Fossils".

Dr. Lisa Amati attended the University of Wyoming, Kent State University, and the University of Oklahoma before taking a position as a paleontology professor in the Department of Geology at SUNY Potsdam in 2004. While there, she continued her work on Cambrian and Ordovician trilobites from New York along with her students.

In 2015, Dr. Amati accepted the position of State Paleontologist and now works out of the New York State Museum. She continues her research on trilobites and is currently in the process of helping to design new exhibits for the New York State Museum focusing on Paleozoic invertebrates and Devonian plants of New York.

You still have time to make your reservations to attend. Send your check to Laretta Parmalee, 31 Ellen Dr. Buffalo, NY 14225; for \$25.00 per person attending by April 26, 2023. Also, remember to bring a door prize for each person attending, so everyone has one to take home with them. There is a reservation form with this newsletter. We will also have the installation of new officers for the next year. Hope to see you there.

Memorial Weekend Field Trip

We are planning a Field Trip to the Southeast Missouri Barite District over the 2023 Memorial Day weekend (Friday May 26 through Monday May 29).

A local mineral collector will guide us to 3 local quarries/mines where quartz, calcite and barite crystal specimens can be collected. We will be basing our trip in Bonne Terre, MO and the longest drive will be a two hour ride on Sunday (Saturday will be a one hour drive and Friday and Monday will be less than 30 minute drives). The drive from Buffalo to Bonne Terre is approximately 13 hours. I will be staying at the Super 8 in Bonne Terre.

Friday May 26, 2023: Haunted Ridge Drusy Quartz locality. This is a public site (similar to the Herkimer Diamond mines in Central NY). It is digging in soil and clay, no hard rock. Specimens are plates and hemispheres of drusy quartz. Admission is free, but there is a charge of \$30 per 5 gallon bucket (the fee can be adjusted for larger or smaller buckets). Rocks larger than a bucket are charged per piece. No hammers or chisels are allowed (also no dogs unless a service animal). Your vehicle is parked in their backyard and you and your tools will be shuttled into the dig sites using ATVs. Bring your own buckets or they have them available for a few dollars.

<https://www.mindat.org/loc-423778.html> <https://www.facebook.com/people/Haunted-Ridge-Rocks/100066722716926/>

Saturday May 27, 2023: Abandoned quarry, Viburnum, MO area. This is a semi-abandoned quarry that was used to produce road stone for the underground lead zinc mine operations in the area. Pockets of drusy quartz with large pagoda style calcite crystals can be found (I have one that measures 7 inches tall, they are commonly 1 to 2 inches long). Plates of drusy quartz are scattered around the quarry that have dropped from the soil above the walls. This is a good quarry to use a gasoline rock saw if you have one. We can drive right into the quarry but low clearance vehicles may need to be left behind to form a couple carpools.

Sunday May 28, 2023: Working quarry, Eminence, MO. This is a working quarry where you can find platy calcite crystals (yellow and sometimes red) in pockets. There is also fine, white drusy quartz in limestone cavities. The quarry actively blasts so fresh material is being exposed. This quarry requires hard hats, reflective clothing and steel toed boots. We can drive easily into the quarry from the road.

<https://www.mindat.org/loc-211853.html>

Monday May 29, 2023: Abandoned Barite Mine, Potosi, MO. This is an old abandoned "mine" in the woods just outside the town of Potosi, MO. There will be a nominal fee to collect all you want. Mining ended at this site in the 1950's and consisted of bulldozers scraping the surface to expose the shallow barite layers. Collecting is along the fringes of the bulldozer cuts where the barite didn't get removed. Drusy quartz is the most prevalent mineral to collect but barite will be available. We will drive a short distance on a gravel driveway and park at the edge of the woods. <https://www.mindat.org/loc-16897.html>

You may notice that there is not a lot of public information on these sites (via Mindat) as they are known to the locals and not widely advertised, so this is a unique opportunity. Please contact me directly if you are planning to attend as I would like to

know who and how many are attending (just reply to this email is fine).

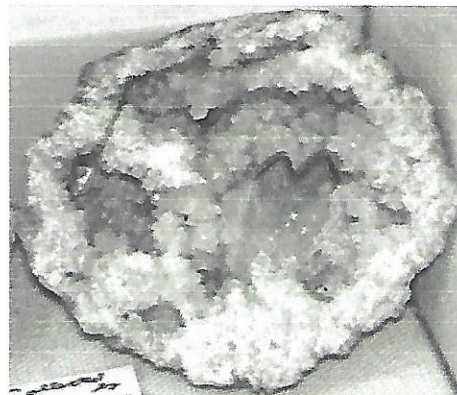
Hard hats, steel toed shoes, eye protection, reflective clothing, and long pants are required in the quarries (not Haunted Ridge or the Barite mine). Gloves and sunscreen are recommended. Supervised children are allowed. Gas powered saws and tools are allowed.

Sledge hammers, rock hammers, chisels, pry bars, etc are recommended as this is hard rock breaking (except at Haunted Ridge which is digging only). Shovels, trowels, prying sticks such as chopsticks or plastic tent stakes are helpful for soil and clay digging at Haunted Ridge and the Potosi Barite mine. Do not bring carpenter hammers as they can shatter. Food and drinks are recommended as we will be far from civilization for most of the day. I have also used a beach umbrella if the weather is hot as there is no shade from the sun in the quarries. I expect that each day we will attempt to arrive at the sites at 9 AM, so for the longer drives we will need to leave the hotel around 7 AM.

Expect to find crystals of Quartz, Calcite, and Barite.

There is a local tourist attraction where underground boat tours can be taken in an old abandoned lead mine: <https://www.bonnetteremine.com/newpage>

Don Lapham, Mineral Field Trip Chairman



Buffalo Geological Society Spring Coming Events

April 27-30, 2023, 7th Annual BGS trip to Cincinnati to collect Ordovician and Silurian fossils. Contact Jerry Bastedo, at jcbastedo@gmail.com for details and information.

April 26 - Continuing Education Group – meeting at 8:35 am at the Masonic Hall on Sweet Home Rd.

May 5 – Annual Banquet and Installation of New Officers Classics Five Restaurant – Terrace Room – Menu and reservation is enclosed. Please return by April 25, 2023

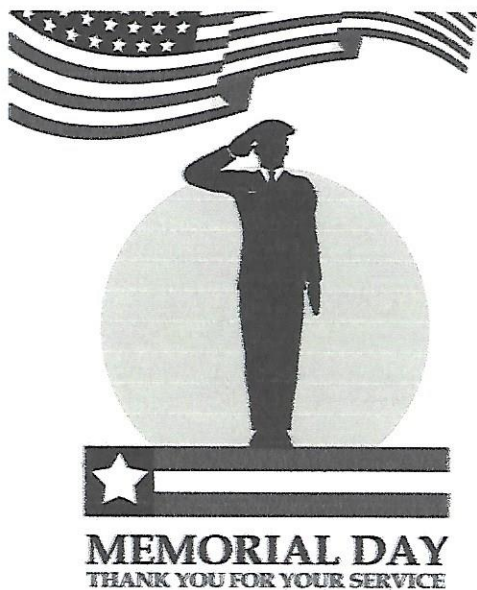
May 11- BGS Board Meeting 7:00pm

May 26 – 29 Field Trip to Bonne Terre, Missouri. Contact Don Lapham if interested in attending. See page 1 & 2 for the itinerary.

May 31 - Continuing Education Group – meeting at 8:35 am at the Masonic Hall on Sweet Home Rd.

June 8-11, 2023, BGS trip to the Calvert Cliffs to collect sharks teeth and other fossils. Contact Jerry Bastedo, at jcbastedo@gmail.com for details and information.

FIELD TRIP INFORMATION WILL BE SENT VIA E-MAIL. MAKE SURE WE HAVE YOUR CURRENT/CORRECT ADDRESS





Buffalo Geological Society Banquet

May 5, 2023

Classics Five Restaurant – Terrace Room

2425 Niagara Falls Blvd. Amherst, NY 14226

\$25.00 per person

6:00pm Cash Bar

Appetizers

7pm – Dinner Buffet

8pm –Speaker: Lisa Amati “New York’s Finest Fossils”

& Installation of New Officers

Drawing for Door Prizes

Payment due

by April 25, 2023

DINNER BUFFET INCLUDES

Warm Rolls & Butter

Chef Salad with Dressings

Pasta Salad

Parmesan Crusted Chicken

Sliced Roast Beef

Pasta Marinara

Herb Roasted Potatoes

Roasted Vegetable Blend

Coffee, Decaf and Hot Tea

Dessert Ice Cream

Vegetarian Dinner Available

By April 25, 2023 return a check to Buffalo Geological Society, for \$25.00 per person to: Laretta Parmalee, 31 Ellen Drive Buffalo, NY 14225. **REMEMBER THAT WE ASK EACH ATTENDEE TO BRING A RAFFLE GIFT (DOOR PRIZE) SO THAT EACH ATTENDEE GOES HOME WITH A GIFT! THANK YOU!**

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Number Attending _____ Amount _____ Vegetarian Dinner (How Many?) _____

