

# GE LETTER

Volume 77

June 2026

## From The President

o Craig Posmantur

I want to thank all the members who have voted me in as President again. The time has flown by since I last was in office. I would like to particularly thank Keith Rowe for an outstanding tenure as President for the past four years.

There have been a number of accomplishments that have been made with Keith Rowe at the helm including a memorandum of understanding with the Buffalo Museum of Science which has resulted in the BGS's sponsoring a renowned speaker at the museum, numerous school presentations incorporating STEM programs, technological advances to have ZOOM meetings with out-of-town speakers and the continuation of other endeavors. All these activities are resulting in a growing attendance at all the venues we have gone to as well as seeing that the community is becoming more engaged in what we are offering. It is encouraging to see people being

From The President continued 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

receptive to the events that we are organizing and that the participants continue to be amenable to expanding their knowledge of the natural world.

I would like to thank, in advance, the BGS Board members for their assistance in the operation of the Society as well as their insights into how to make the functions of the group as successful as they could be.

The annual banquet was held at Sean Patrick's Restaurant, Getzville, NY. The speaker was Scott McKenzie who gave a presentation on the "Mysteries of Geology?". The banquet also saw us install the new Officers and Directors of the BGS.

I would like to welcome the 69 new members that signed up at our annual show. I hope that you will be able to attend & participate in the activities that the BGS will be engaged in during the summer.

The BGS Geology Continuing Education Forum meetings are on hiatus for the summer. If there is a change in plans, an email will be sent.

For those not familiar with the Forum, it is a semi-structured meeting where we start off with breakfast then proceed to discuss geological, albeit primarily paleontological, topics and set up occasional excursions to collect specimens. Everyone is welcome and it is a fantastic program to foster fellowship and good will.

There are a couple of important events coming up sooner than you can imagine. First we are having a bus trip to the Carnegie Museum in Pittsburgh, on Saturday, August 8, 2026. The cost is \$10. per person but act quickly as we ONLY have 4 seats remaining. First come, First served and money talks.

Second is the annual Picnic on Saturday September 12, 2026 at the North Forest Pavilion in Williamsville. More info will be sent in August.

## 2027 BUFFALO GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY GEM, MINERAL & FOSSIL SHOW

2027 Buffalo Geological Society Gem, Mineral & Fossil show will be held in the Grange and Market Place building on March 20-21. The theme for the show is FLUORITES. So check your collections for your favorite Fluorites and display them at the BGS Show to share with attendees and club members.



## Upcoming Field Trips

A number of Field Trips are listed in the "Coming Events". Don Lapham will email more information about the trips just before the trips.

Lockport and Niagara Quarries are subject to local schedules at the quarry and may be rescheduled. Also depending on what is being found, we may concentrate on one quarry more than another. You must be 18 or older., Hard hats, Steel Toed boots and reflective safety clothing required.

**Natovenator polydontus,  
illustrated by Yusik Choi.**

This dinosaur may have had a body like a duck's – Its fossilized skeleton has features reminiscent of modern waterfowl and aquatic reptiles. A dinosaur unearthed in Mongolia is making a splash among paleontologists, as its sleek physique adds potential evidence to the idea that some dinos were suited for life in the water. In a new study published in *Communications Biology*, a well-preserved skeleton from the Hermin Tsav fossil formation in Mongolia, found in rocks from the Upper Cretaceous (dating to about 100 million to 66 million years ago) was analyzed by vertebrate paleontologist Yuong-Nam Lee and colleagues at Seoul National University in South Korea.



The new dinosaur, named *Natovenator polydontus*, may be the first known nonbird dinosaur to have possessed a streamlined body comparable to that of modern diving birds. It is thought that *Natovenator* and other closely related dinosaurs may have been swimming predators, using its forelimbs when swimming and eating small fish. This dinosaur may have had a body like a duck's (sciencenews.org). Source: Nikk

Ogasa, *Science News*, December 1, 2022. *Black Hills, South Dakota and Wyoming* by Larry Maltby. This article by Larry Maltby is a fantastic guide to the numerous geological wonders of the Black Hills of South Dakota and Wyoming. You will find this website extremely fascinating to explore.

The photography of the many sites described is first class and makes one wish to visit this area of our country. When visiting this website, it offers links to the following geological places: Black Elk Peak; Custer State Park which includes State Park Agates, Sylvan Lake, and The Needles; Custer, SD; Jewel Cave National Monument; Teepee Canyon; Hill City, SD; Wind Cave National Park; Hot Springs, SD which includes Mammoth Site; Fossil Cycad National Monument; Parker Peak; Rapid City, SD which includes South Dakota School of Mines and Technology; Karst Geology along the I-90 Corridor; and Devil's Tower, WY.

Source: Larry Maltby - *Black Hills, South Dakota and Wyoming* (mindat.org), November 7, 2022.

From *The Rockhound Register* 1/23

From: *The RockCollector* 1/23

## Bernhardt Otto Holtermann posed with a 630 pound gold nugget in Hill End, New South Wales in 1845

Born in 1838, Bernhardt Otto Holtermann was a prospector who owned part of an Australian claim where rich veins of gold were discovered after years of dry digging. Born in Germany, Holtermann set sail for Sydney, Australia in order to avoid military service. Most of his years of digging were unsuccessful and one year he even blew himself up with a premature explosion of blasting powder. This famous photo of Holtermann next to a giant “nugget” was taken by an unknown photographer before he was elected as a member for St Leonards parliament in 1882. He passed away at the age of 47.



Note: It's worthwhile to read more about Bernhardt... his Wikipedia link is: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bernhardt\\_Holtermann](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bernhardt_Holtermann)  
From: The RockCollector 12/22

## BGS Member's Mineral of the Month Spotlight



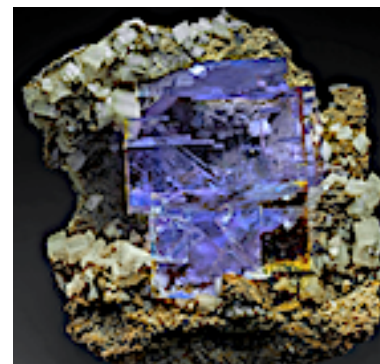
### Fluorite

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) lynchid 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 examples 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](mailto:bgsgeoletter@icloud.com). This is your Geoletter, it is only as good as the members input, so its success, depends on your contributions. What else do you want to see in the Geoletter?

## "Fossilized" News

Geoletter 9/1992

### DINOSAUR OF THE MONTH

By Dr. Rick Batt

#### THIS MONTHS FEATURE - *COMPSOGNATHUS*

At just over two feet in length and weighing as much as a hen, this was one of the smallest dinosaurs. Compsognathus roamed around what is now Europe during the Late Jurassic Period, the same time that the true giants like Brachiosaurus, Apalosaurs, and Urasaurus were common. The long tail probably aided in balance while running fast (to keep from being stepped on?). Compsognathus was one of the theropods, the group of camivorous dinosaurs that includes Aitosaurus. The small size, two strong grasping claws on each hand, and flexible neck probably made this dino a major menace to smaller, fast prey.



## Buffalo Geological Society Coming Events

June 6-7, - Wayne County Gem, Mineral and Fossil Club Gemfest, Sat. 10am to 5pm, Sun. 10am to 4pm, at Greater Canandaigua Civic Center 250 N. Bloomfield Rd. Canandaigua, NY, Adults \$5.00, Children under 12 Free

June 13-14, - Penn-Dixie Fossil Park, "Dig with the Experts" Blasdell, NY

June 14, - Field Trip - Amnze (formerly LaFarge) Quarry in Niagara Twp. NY 7:30am

June 19-21, - GemStreet USA, Buffalo Marriott Niagara in Amherst, NY

June 28, - Field Trip - Amnze (formerly LaFarge) Quarry in Lockport, NY 7:30am

July 3-5 - Field Trip - Friday July 3 through Sunday July 5: North County NY field trip to Rose Road site in Pitcairn, NY on Friday, Powers Farm in Pierrepont, NY on Saturday, and Macomb Quartz locality in Gouverneur, NY on Sunday.

July 11-12, - Syracuse Gem & Mineral Show, Sat. 10am to 6pm, Sun. 10am to 4pm, State Fairgrounds, Syracuse, NY, Center of Progress Building, 575 State Fair Blvd. Syracuse, NY, Adults \$8.00, Children under 12 Free

July 26 - Field Trip - Amnze (formerly LaFarge) Quarry in Niagara Twp. NY, 7:30am

August 2 - Summer Crystal Fest, Finger Lakes Gem, Mineral & Fossil Club, at the Steelworkers Local 1000 in Corning, NY

August 8 - Bus Trip - Carnegie Museum in Pittsburgh

August 14-16 - Field Trip - Miller Property August 14-16 - Field Trip - Miller Property, Evansville, Ontario, Canada, <https://www.mindat.org/loc-243198.html>

August 28-30 - St. Lawrence County Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show,, Sat. 9-4:30, Sun. 9-3, Canton Pavilion, 90 Lincoln St.,Canton, NY, Adults \$5.00, Children under 12 Free

September 12 - BGS Family Picnic, North Forest Park, 85 N Forest Rd., Williamsville, NY, noon - 5pm

## Club Officers

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- **Vice President**
  - Joe Sullivan  
716-823-8371
- **Treasurer:**
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Buffalo Geological Society  
Heritage Discovery Center  
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## 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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