



The Buffalo Geological Society

Geoletter

October, 2025

Something to pick at from your President

Hello member(s),

Not much to say this month. We have started our monthly meetings and Nov should be a good one focusing on Cretaceous impacts in the Gulf of America. In December we will have our annual pot luck dinner and auction. Mark your calendars as it's always a good time! We will also be sending out ballots for voting for board positions. Please look for those in the near future. The Earth Science Day event went well however we had low attendance probably due to the great weather. Thank you to all who helped out, showed up and volunteered!

Best!

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!

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.

November 7th: Speaker Michael Grenier will be giving us a presentation on the Cretaceous Impact in the Gulf of "America".

Past Trips, Meetings and Events

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

Crag our VP will be in touch about plans and upcoming topics. Look for his communication as we move further into the fall and winter seasons.

Events and Upcoming Shows

- **Camp and Dig:** Oct. 25th-26th, 2025 Rockswap, Campfire, Food sharing, Herkimer Diamonds (This is not a BGS event). Email Herkimermountain.com or call 475-216-9191 for more information or bookings.
- **Rochester Gem and Mineral Show:** Oct. 25th/26th. Admission is \$7.00 kids 12 and under are free. 435 West Commercial Street, East Rochester, NY 14445

Rock Spotlight:

Vesper Peak Garnets

The Vesper Peak garnet mine, also known as the 48-55 Prospect, has a fascinating geological and collecting history rooted in the rugged terrain of the North Cascades in Snohomish County, Washington. The 48-55 Prospect is situated in the Sultan Mining District and lies within the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. As of October 2025 the Vesper Peak garnet claim is owned by Washington Native Michael Yager. The site is extremely remote, located at an elevation of over 6,200 feet. It was historically accessible only by helicopter or strenuous hiking. The mine is renowned for producing grossular garnets ($\text{Ca}_3\text{Al}_2(\text{SiO}_4)_3$) of the variety known as Hessonite, which range from green to orange and form sharp, lustrous dodecahedral crystals. Some garnets show modified cubic faces, these are the only garnets in the world to exhibit this structure! Other minerals found include calcite, clinozoisite, and ferro-axinite, making it a rich site for mineral collectors. The garnet deposit is part of a skarn formation on Vesper Peak, created by contact metasomatism—a process where hot magma intrudes into surrounding limestone, altering its mineral composition. This skarn formed adjacent to a tonalite intrusion (Squire Creek stock) during the Oligocene epoch (about 33.9 to 23 million years ago), affecting Jurassic-age sedimentary rocks like ribbon chert.





Garnets with cubic faces circled

Sources:

Claim owner: Michael Yager
Photo of cubic faces: irocks.com
Editor Ryan Frost

**** 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

Financial Update

- Note from the Treasurer: Accounts are balanced/taxes submitted, and checks from vendors for the 2026 Gem show are coming in.

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
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****For contact information please see our website <https://www.bgsny.org/>

