

Che-Hanna Rock & Mineral Club, Inc.

The Shin-Skinner News — August 2020

August

16

Our monthly club meeting will be a picnic on Sunday, August 16, starting at 11:00 am; eating will commence at 1:00 pm. There will be many activities.



The August 22 & 23 St Lawrence County show has been cancelled, of course. However, there will be some field-tripping at the same time. See "Northern New York Field Trips" on page 2.



We had a field trip Saturday, July 11, at the Deep Springs Road Quarry, Earlville, NY. It's a fossil location, Middle Devonian (Givetian) shale.

Some members also went there the next weekend.



Our last meeting was the well-attended July picnic. There was good food and plenty of fun. Also, a bit of club business.



You probably notice that almost everything announced in this bulletin has already happened. I'm sorry for the publication delay. However, I wanted to print everything generous contributors provided to me, and document events, at least as they were supposed to happen.

Add our club address to your email software's address book:

chehannarocks1969@gmail.com

Visit us at our website: <http://www.chehannarocks.com>

We Talk To Each Other - We Help Each Other - We Teach Each Other - We Smile A Lot!

President's Message

Hello, it's early August and I hope everyone is safe and healthy.

I just got back from the junior rock hounds trip to Myers Garden. I was quite impressed with what he has built there and highly recommend any should go if you get the chance.

Our August meeting is Sunday the 16th at the Satterlee Creek Environmental Center. We will have hamburgers & hot dogs, please bring a dish to pass.

On Monday the 17th the Eastern Federation will have a Board of Directors meeting via Zoom. Inga attended the last one. Trish and myself will attend this one. If anybody would be interested in being our representative please let me know and I'll try to arrange it.

Hope to see you at the picnic.

—Bruce Benish

August Picnic

Sunday August 16 is Che-Hanna picnic at the Litchfield SCEC Pavilion. Please bring a dish to pass and your table service. Hot dogs and hamburgers will be provided. We will meet at 11:00 am and eat at 1:00 pm.

Please bring your own serving spoon to be used for serving your family only, and not for eating. Save the messiest dish for last.

PLEASE DO NOT PARK PAST THE SIGNS AT THE BUILDING.

Dave Millis is bringing his saw, some geodes he got at the NEPA picnic, geo clue with new lima beans, dice game, and his mica creations to demonstrate.

I texted him that the kids will be making fake amber fossils — Jello with gummies. I'm bringing a cooler to put them in to solidify. They are making a sundial, adults can make some too, and then slime, cloud dough and a cornstarch concoction, depending on the age of the kids.

—Inga

Northern New York Field Trips

The St Lawrence County Rock & Mineral Club show, in Canton NY, on August 22 and 23 has, of course, been canceled. They are, however, putting together a weekend event. The event is for members of various clubs including ours.

Saturday is field trip day with the Benson mine at 9am in Star Lake. Club members of the Canton club are already paid. Other club members pay \$10 each. It's worth every penny.

Recent rains have made the roads worse and it is recommended you use a higher clearance vehicle. While helmets & safety shoes are not required, long pants are; sandals and sneakers are not allowed.

Sunday is picnic and craft day. We eat at noon and crafts start at 1 and end when "the last dog is hung." That expression is from the "Pirates of the Caribbean."

Craft will have at least two for adults and two for kids under 12. Adults can do the kids classes if they wait their turn.

The site's not confirmed but best guess is Gouverneur Community pavilion. There are 4 of them.

Also not confirmed is geode cutting at 9am. If you want this activity call Bill. 315-287-4652. He can answer that question and most of the others.

I'll be managing the classes and expect help, especially with the kids.

One final note: I intended to stay over Sunday and go home about 8am Monday with a field trip to the Hermitage Road blue calcite location (old site, not Rose Road). They said they'd put new loads by the gate for us, but when I checked, they hadn't, so that stop is canceled. I might pick a new site but have to check it out first. My number is 305-395-9560.

Bill is working on permission to go to the Sterling Iron mine. Nothing yet.

—Dave Millis

John Milligan "Knitting"



July Club Meeting

It was a hot Sunday. 24 members attended. Covid precautions were followed. Before we had lunch, some geodes were cut. John Morgan brought some specimens from home to cut down.

The pebble pups had a good time. Inga had a lot of different projects for them to work on.

Bruce Benish was fire starter and chef; hamburgers and hot dogs were served. Trish Benish did a nice job organizing the other food items, following Covid rules.

John Milligan brought supplies to demonstrate how to do Viking knitting (*weaving chains from fine metal wire*).

Trish Benish read the treasurer's report and it was submitted for audit.

The next picnic will be at Satterlee Creek in Litchfield PA, August 16th.

As of now, we will be having our meetings at the Sayre High School cafeteria.

There was discussion about various places for a field trip.

The Benish's, Frank Meadows, Dave Mills, Inga and Duane Wells went to the quarry in Earlville NY for fossils. John Morgan and Mary Walter, with 3 non-members, went the following weekend. It was

an easy site, an easy walk, and very easy prospecting, I didn't even get my hammer out of my bag.

Dave Mills will be doing the program for September, on pegmatites.

Dave did a show-and-tell of specimens he brought back from his trip out West.

It was discussed about the club purchasing a microphone and a projection screen.

Meeting was adjourned.

—Mary Walter

In Memoriam - Betty Derstine

Elizabeth (Betty) Y. Derstine, age 82, of Ridgebury Township, passed away at home from natural causes with her family at her side. Betty was born Aug. 26, 1937 in Harleysville, Pennsylvania, daughter of the late Allen and Maggie (Moyer) Young. She attended local schools and on Jan. 1, 1957 married the late Abraham (Abe) Derstine. Betty was a retired real estate agent for Century 21 and later at America's Choice. She was a member of the Bentley Creek Wesleyan Church.

Surviving are her three sons, Lynn Derstine of Ridgebury Township, Leslie and Amy Derstine of Watonga, Oklahoma, Ralph Derstine of Scott City, Kansas; seven grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; brothers, Stewart Young, Earl Young, Russell Young and several nieces, nephews, cousins, friends and caregivers, Brooke Hartwick and Margrit Wiebach.

Betty was predeceased by her parents; a brother, Harold Young; and her husband Abraham (Abe) Derstine on Jan. 1, 2018.

Services were August 3 at the Bentley Creek Wesleyan Church, Gillett, PA. followed by interment in South Litchfield Cemetery.

Memorials in Betty's memory may be made to the Bentley Creek Wesleyan Church, 13255 Berwick Turnpike, Gillett, PA 16925.

Milestone



One of our longest standing members, Mrs Gloria Dick, has a birthday next month: she will turn 90 on September 1.

While not one of the founding members of Che-Hanna, she and her family (husband D.H., son David—your editor, and daughter April) joined the next year. She's held many positions, helping to run the club and shows.

This means she has been a member of Che-Hanna almost two-thirds of her life, and collecting rocks, minerals, fossils, and artifacts longer than that.

Junior Rockhounds

The next Pebble Pup meeting will be at in conjunction with the August 16th picnic at Satterlee Creek Environmental Center. We will start at 11:00 A.M.

We will be making "amber" fossils that can be consumed. At 11:30 we will make working Sundials. While those are drying - we will make Slime, as everyone requested. The kids 5 and under will make a cornstarch and water concoction called Oobleck by Dr. Seuss. I hear the kids really like having their hands in that.

The older kids, with help of an adult, will make "Slime" using school glue and a borax water activator. They will need adult help making sure the water is the right temperature which is the key to successful slime. I have learned that baking soda can help to bring the slime to right consistency. There are so many recipes for these amalgamations or concoctions. I'll stick with the one I did last year because it held up well in heat and humidity.

Please feel free to share your favorite recipe on my Rockhound site. It is a public site with kids/families in mind. There are many rockhound sites. Mine has only 56 members that are basically local folks with an interest in Che-Hanna Rock and Mineral Club activities. I share photos from the kids' meetings and some interesting post from museums, PBS Eons and some kid-friendly paleontologists. I know the current families are members. At the July picnic, we made volcanoes, painted fossils and did some panning for gold/pyrite and many other interesting minerals and ores. I have been told everyone had fun.

To keep with social distancing, I brought 3 tubs and placed them near the bridge by the creek for gold panning. I wasn't sure if there would be water in the creek. Bruce turned on the water spigot at the lodge and the Lindhorst family helped fill gallon jugs with water and lug them to the tubs in the shade of the big maple trees by the picnic tables next to the creek. I gave Rand Lindhorst one of my old galvanized pails and wouldn't you know it, the bucket had a small hole. He is good sport. Not sure what I was thinking, I could have had to tubs by the lodge. 94 degree heat is not my friend!

At the September meeting, we will grow crystals and make fossil imprints. We are hoping to have some more field trips this summer and Herkimer digging in September when it hopefully cools down a bit.

—Stay cool, well and safe,
Inga



Junior Field Trip

The Junior Rockhounds are planning a field trip to Myers Garden on Sunday, August 9. We plan to meet there at 11 A.M. Stay as long as you like. I told him to plan on about 2 hours.

In case you are hungry after the visit, I usually stop for lunch in Spencer at the Pizza place or the deli in the grocery store and eat at one of pavilions at Nichols Pond in Spencer. You are welcome to brown bag a lunch to eat at the gardens.

Younger kids might not have as much endurance as the older ones. That's OK; leave when you have to go.

The main reason we are going there is to look at largest sponge fossil ever found. It has its own house. We are also taking a look at the sundial Wayne built to get an idea what they are used for and so on. I love his "pond below time" and all of the rocks and fossils around it.

He has a working water-driven mill, with all the parts in working order. He has a huge collection of working machinery & tools. He knows how to build & fix stuff. Kids can see what it took for their ancestors to farm this land. I think there are 8 different buildings full of interesting stuff & a covered bridge over the creek. Wayne makes interesting landscaping ornaments out of spare parts and the first person to find the large fake black snake will get a prize from me. I might have the kids find more critters.

I think some of the men in the club might enjoy this place. You can google it for photos and more detail. You can call and make arrangements for a visit.

Fee: There's a donation jar near visitor log by his brick collections and picnic pavilion. I sort of expect that we leave a few dollars as we would when visiting any good museum. He has never turned away anyone that wants to see his stuff.

The address is 1071 Michigan Hollow Rd, Spencer, NY 14883. His phone is 607-589-4572

Directions: From the Valley take Route 34 North toward Ithaca. The millage from the intersection of Chemung St and Rt 34N in Waverly (where the Dandy is) to Van Etten is 14 miles. At the stop sign in Van Etten make a right turn to stay on 34 N. In Spencer, at the 4 way stop, turn left to follow 34 N. toward Ithaca. After 3.5 miles, just past the North Spencer Christian Academy, make a right turn onto Michigan Hollow Rd. After 2.1 miles, at the intersection with Hillview Rd, Myers Garden will be on your right. You can park along both sides of the road. There is a good turnaround at Bald Hill Road a few meters up the the road.

Wayne has a "gator" for those of you that can't walk over to the mill or other places.

Please contact me if you have any questions and concerns.

—Inga Wells,
607-425-7426

Sunshine Report

Hope you all are having a nice summer. As good as you can with the virus going around and cases keep going up.

Sympathy from the club to the family of Betty Derstine on her recent passing. She was a good, early club member and a friend to all. She will be missed.

Hope everyone had an enjoyable time at the picnic. We were not able to make it with other things that had come up. Hope to make the August picnic.

Get well wishes to anyone who may be feeling under the weather and in need of some cheer. Hope you all will feel better soon. Our weather has been hot and humid so makes for some tough times for some.

Take care, stay safe, keep your distance and WASH YOUR HANDS!!

—JoAnn,
Miss Sunshine

Che-Hanna Rock & Mineral Club, Inc.
 9516 N. Rome Rd., Athens, PA 18810



PURPOSE: The club was organized in 1962 in Sayre, PA to assemble for the purpose of studying and collecting rock, mineral, fossil, and shell specimens, and to develop skills in the lapidary arts. We are members of the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical & Lapidary Societies (EFMLS) and the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS).

DUES are payable to the treasurer BY January 1st of each year. After that date membership will be terminated. Make checks payable to Che-Hanna Rock & Mineral Club, Inc. as follows: \$12.00 for Family; \$8.00 for Subscribing Patron; \$8.00 for Individual and Junior members (under age 17) not covered by a family membership.

MEETINGS are held at the Sayre High School (on Lockhart St) at 7:00 PM in the cafeteria, the 2nd Wednesday each month, except JUNE, JULY, AUGUST, and DECEMBER. Those meetings and events (and any changes) will be announced in this newsletter, with location and schedule, as well as on our website chehannarocks.com. Visitors are always welcome.

FIELD TRIPS are scheduled regularly from May through September; dates and details will be announced in this newsletter and on the club website.

ARTICLES submitted for publishing should be emailed to the editor using any text (ASCII) format; attempt will be made to use whatever is sent. Please make paragraphs obvious.

Deadline for submissions to the next Shin-Skinner issue is **23-August-2020**. Whatever you send me is likely to get published, so please **clearly mark** any part you don't want to see in print. Articles without by-line are written by the editor.

Permission is hereby granted Eastern Federation or American Federation member clubs to reprint material contained in the Shin-Skinner News providing proper credit is given to the author or photographer, if known, and Shin-Skinner News. If you use anything, an email note to the editor would be appreciated.

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 Immed. Past Pres. **Dave Millis**

BOARD meetings are held at 6PM on odd-numbered months unless special meetings are called by the president.

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Duane Wells, Jeff Benish, Frank Meadows

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