

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-July-2019** (after the picnic). 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.

OFFICERS

President: **Dave Millis**
 Vice-Pres: **Bob McGuire** uvbob1942@gmail.com
 Secretary: **Anna Markevitch** aimdingo@stny.rr.com
 Treasurer & member chair: **Trish Benish**
patriciabenish@gmail.com
 Immed. Past Pres. **Bob McGuire**
uvbob1942@gmail.com

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

BOARD MEMBERS

Jeff Benish, Bruce Benish, Mary Walter

APPOINTED

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 Librarian: **Bruce Benish**
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Mark your calendars ...

Sun, July 21 - get together at noon (diamond saw set up by 10:00) — Che-Hanna monthly summer meeting & picnic — Satterlee Creek Pavilion

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

Next month is our second picnic. I'll have the diamond saw set up by about 10 a.m. It will probably be running several times during the picnic. Trish is to bring the hamburgs and hot dogs. Bring a dish to pass, your table service and a drink. Cooking usually starts about 12:30 and eating starts a little before 1 p.m.

As decided at the last meeting, there will be a "silly game" which I haven't thought of yet and the dice game. If there are prizes left we will have a raffle, as always.

The meeting will be brief. I have a fossil collecting trip to describe and need to know if we should plan it.

Someone, please bring me the latest copy of the by-laws and a current membership list.

Let's hope everyone is well by then and we get a large group. See you all there. Location and date are in the minutes.

—*Dave Millis, President*

Sunshine Report

Hope you all are enjoying this crazy weather. Where is summer? That's the question. Mother Nature sure doesn't want to cooperate and give us anything nice. We have a couple nice days and then more wet, rainy, and windy days.

Happy Birthday for July to Cameron Shepler, 4th; Helen Tracy, 8th; Chaunty Leljedahl, 15th; Carli Yeager-Hall, 18th; Ann McBeth, 24th; and Bella Sites, 31st. Hope you all have a nice day.

Good news!!! Inga does not have to have surgery on her hand. The Doctor said to leave it as it is.....a little crooked, but manageable.

Get well to Sandy Keener whose back has been bothering after a fall at home. Speedy recovery to her.

Had a nice phone chat with Helen Tracy. She's doing pretty good and getting around the best she can with her walker. She does little things around her apartment . Nice to hear she's doing well.

Get well to Marv Remaley who had surgery on his nose. All came out well and he's much better.

Sympathy to family and many, many friends of Ken Silvy who has passed away. He was a big part of our Che-Hanna Show as a dealer. He was a super funny guy and always a smile. He will be so missed by all who knew him.

If you know of anyone who needs some cheer or a card or phone call, please let me know and I'll take care of it.

Hope to see you all at the July picnic, the 21st, at Satterlee Creek Park. Meet at noon. Bring a dish to pass and your table service. Please bring tick spray as you never know where the little buggers are. I had another one a couple weeks ago and am waiting for the testing to come back to see if I need further treatment.

—*JoAnn*



Here are some more notes from the presentation Dave Millis gave in May, based on the encyclopedic paleontology book, "Prehistoric Life: The Definitive Visual History of Life on Earth", published by "DK".

(more) Prehistoric Life Presentation

Special Fossils

Three kinds of special fossils are type, index and key. There may be more kinds. Type is the easiest to describe as it is the first fossil of a new species. It is rarely the best, just the first. Its importance depends on whether a better specimen is found. It remains THE type fossil.

Index fossils were most important during research before radioactivity was discovered. It is still important, especially to amateur collectors. To the scientists their information has been checked, rechecked, double checked, and known so well that when a new fossil show up, they immediately know when it lived. This is aided by both knowing which fossils are the older (or younger) (relative age) and the absolute age of the rock strata. Some fossils from this group became key fossils, but first were used as index fossils.

The relative ordering of fossils from oldest to newest is done by matches of the same species in rocks from different parts of the world. Sometimes, more than one species is needed to do this, but the result is that fossils not found at one site but found at the second site can be ordered into a record of life. Virtually, the entire record is known to some extent. A problem arises when the index fossils live too long leaving overlaps in the record. Refinement continues.

I need to tell you a story and then explain the difference between the way scientists and amateurs collect. And then make a point.

One of the dinosaurs, brontosaurus, was removed from the species list. Then put back on the list a few years later. Comparisons of the known fossils indicated it was really a diplodocus. A new find indicated it was in fact a unique species. The whole point of this story is that the new find had been in storage for years. Most new finds are found in storage at schools and institutes. Scientists typically collect everything they can as quickly as they can because they have to get back to work, which typically does not allow time to analyze all the fossils. Amateurs work differently.

This might be an amateur's story. He collects trilobites. He has some of the index fossils and wants to find trilobites he doesn't have. He checks a rock layer to determine if the trilobite he wants is up or down and digs accordingly. Other fossils found might be good and he might save them for any number of reasons, but once he gets the trilobite, it's time to move to a different level/site. Index fossils are thus, important to amateurs and "old Hat" to scientists.

The third kind of special fossils is called key. Key fossils are most important for a variety on reasons. Only two are described: Glossopteris and short-lived plankton.

Glossopteris is a plant that likes to have its roots in cold water. The appearance or disappearance on this fossil designates shore line. Mostly, used to delineate the border of Gondwana and the break-up into Australia, Africa, South America, and India, it also designates latitude.

Any creature that exists for only a geologic short time designates age and accordingly, reduces the overlap in the geologic record. In particular, diatoms and forams (foraminiferans) evolve often, even if the habitat doesn't change. That sentence needs to be explained.

Evolution proceeds at different rates for different reasons. Not to say anything bad about Darwin, but gradual evolution is too slow; we know this now. The impetus that spurs evolution is habitat change which causes the loss of species and leaves gaps for other creatures to evolve to fill. In the last 50my, ice events have caused extinctions followed by diversity. So, now there are many more species than ever before.

Another example is the initial mass diversity 542mya. One or more of the kingdoms of the domains, bacteria and archaea, took about 3 billion years to increase the oxygen content of the atmosphere to the critical point at which time marine life exploded. In a "geologic microsecond" many of the major groups still alive today evolved. Once the niches were filled the evolution rate decreased.

Adding to the concept that new habitat spurs evolution, here are comments on the work of Alfred Wegener and Mesosaurus (the first land reptile to evolve to live in the ocean.) His work, proposing continental drift, published in 1915 indicated South America and Africa were joined. The impetus for this evolution was probably new sea habitat as the two continents separated.

Only four key fossils are required to substantiate that Gondwana included what is now South America, Africa, India, Australia, and Antarctica. The two not already named are Cynognathus and Lystrosaurus, terrestrial reptiles.



More Che-Hanna Outreach

Inga and I were at the Sayre library to put on a "Space based" program. I did some talking about the astronomy aspects and mining in outer space and Inga got them looking at minerals to build and get rockets into space. Some of these kids are really sharp.

—Bob



Editor's Note

Just a reminder to anyone who might have a hankering to see their writing in print: I'll put almost anything related to our hobbies in the Shin-Skinner.

You can always email me out of the blue or, send me note if you have an idea for something.

I think news and information that people can't already get off the Internet is especially interesting.

Upcoming Shows



July 7-8... ERIE, PA:

Annual show; Gem City Rock & Mineral Society; McDowell Intermediate High School, 3320 Caughey Rd; Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5; Adults \$4, seniors \$3.50, children under 12 free; contact James Trimble, 109 Miles Ave, Girard, PA 16417, 814-460-9299; jtrimble57@gmail.com; GemCityRockClub.org

July 12-14... SYRACUSE, NY:

Annual show; Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse, NY; Center of Progress Bldg New York State Fair, 575 State Fair Boulevard; Sat 10-6, Sun 10-4; adults \$7, free admission for children under 12 and scouts in uniform; More than 60 dealers, several demonstrators, displays, cracking geode opportunities, and activities for children; contact Dick Lyons, c/o GMSS PO Box 2801, Syracuse, NY; membership@gmss.us; Website: <http://www.gmss.us>

July 20-21... FRANKFORT, NY (UTICA):

Annual show; Paradise Outfitters; Herkimer County Fairgrounds, 135 Cemetery Street; Sat 9-6, Sun 10-5; Adults \$5, children 12 and under free; 5th Annual Herkimer Diamond, Gem & Mineral Show & Festival, vendors offering gems, minerals, crystals, & fossils, demonstrations, & displays; contact Billie Jo, 518-568-2914; info@HerkGemShow.com; Website: <http://www.herkgemshow.com/>