

March 2023



OCMS SHALE MAIL



**Welcome to an in-person meeting Friday
March 10th, 2023 at 6:30 pm!**

See you at: 81 Laroe Rd Chester, **NY** (Town of Chester Recreation Senior Center), (From KINGS HWY, Turn left on Laroe Rd by UPS office building)

[CLICK FOR MAP](#)

2023 CALENDAR

Mar 10 - Superstition Wilderness
Apr 14 - Lecture
May 12 - Lecture
Jun 3-4 Sat Mineral Show and Sale
Jul 14 - Lecture
Aug 11 - Lecture
Sep 9 - Rock BBQ - **Saturday**
Oct 13 - Lecture
Nov 10 - Lecture
Dec 8. - Christmas Party 2023

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Mailing Address:

254 Rt. 17K, Suite 204, Newburgh, NY 12550-8300

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE & MINUTES!

By: Mike Tedford

President's Message



Three months until Show time. Please attend our March 10 meeting at the senior center. We will be discussing the preparations for the June 3-4 Mineral Show and Sale at Museum Village. We welcome any new suggestions for discussions regarding the show and meeting activities. Raffle, field trips, and more will be topics of interest. Refreshments will include our own freshly brewed coffee and maybe a few surprises. Our newest member, Dylan Gagler, will give us a unique presentation with a few aspects including geologic aspects, photos and specimens from his Arizona field trip. This is a unique opportunity to share his field trip with us. Hope to see you all at our meeting Friday.

Minutes of the Meeting

OCMSNY February 2023 Meeting Minutes:

OCMSNY attendance sheets were completed, Attendance 27. Name tags were issued at this

meeting. Meeting preparations included refreshments: Club-brewed coffee, doughnuts, cookies, brownies and more. The raffle table included 16 specimens. OCMSNY president Mike Tedford called the meeting to order at approximately 6:35 PM, welcoming the attendees who each introduced themselves to the meeting. The business meeting portion was deferred until after the presentation.

Archaeologist William Sandy from Westtown, NY presented The Production and Use of Fossil Crinoid Beads in North America. He discussed some fossil features, the history, use and archaeology of fossilized crinoid bead. He included some of the detailed findings of the Medline sites he worked in Montgomery, NY.

The business meeting reconvened. Members confirmed they are receiving the emailed Shale Mail, and the January meeting minutes were accepted. Ron Nelson read the balances of the main checking account and show account. He mentioned the vendors are registering for the June 3-4, 2023. Mineral Show and Sale. Mike Tedford mentioned that the classic club patches and hats were on order with the original vendor Stadri in NY. More possibilities of field trips and mineral shows were discussed briefly. There are still openings at Wild Acres workshops this year.. Keep an ear out for possibly tagging along on a trip with any other club. Our website and Facebook page continue to be updated. Our March presentation is still to be determined. The 16 unique raffle specimens were enjoyed by the members. The club camaraderie continued until approximately 900pm.



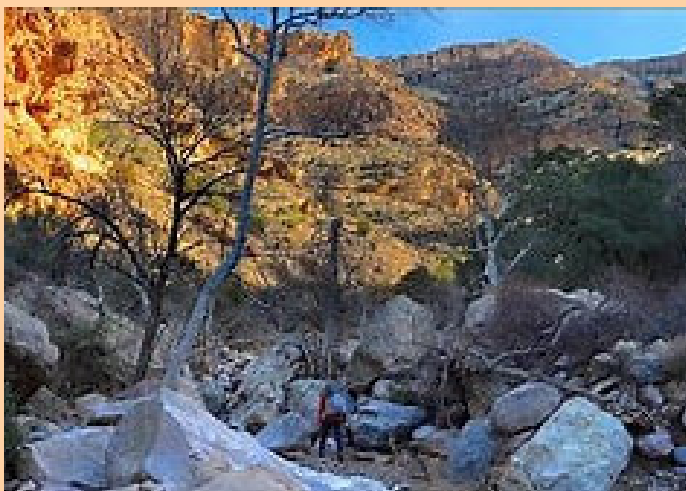
"Superstition Wilderness"

Please join Dylan Gagler at the Senior Center, March 10th for an exciting presentation on Backpacking and Rock-hounding in Arizona's Superstition Wilderness

Bio: Dylan Gagler has a BS in geology from Stony Brook University and a MS in geological studies from Arizona State University. He has done field work in the Turkana Basin of Northern Kenya, studying the origin of early humans, and



in Yellowstone National Park, studying the interactions between geochemistry and microbiology in hot spring ecosystems. He is currently a bio-informatics analyst at NYU Langone working in a lab that studies multiple myeloma, a form of bone marrow/blood cancer. Ivy Green has a BS in



Film Studies from Vassar College and uncanny ability to find cool rocks. She is a writer/producer at MSNBC, loves dogs and pigs, and makes and sells art (@thecupcake_dog on Instagram).

Presentation Highlights: Rock-hounding during a 3 day, 33 mile backpacking trip through the Superstition Wilderness, just on the outskirts of the Phoenix Metro area. Geologically speaking, the Superstitions are a giant collapsed volcanic caldera and features many common volcanic rock types including tuff, dacite, rhyolite, and in the eroding river canyons you can find some more appealing quartz deposits including agates, jaspers, and chalcedonies. These higher quality quartz deposits are thought to be the result of groundwater percolating through the "still warm" volcanic materials. The area is not known for rock-hounding but this goes to show that cool rocks to be found anywhere!

Dylan's presentation will cover the geology of the Superstitions, a "trip report" of the backpacking route they did, a showcasing of some of the rocks they found, and an overview of a day spent in the old Copper Mining town of Bisbee, AZ.



Click the photo to be transported to the museum website.

Crinoid Presentation

By: John Pacut



William Sandy taught at the Department of Anthropology, Montclair State University and Farleigh Dickenson College and does archaeology in the Middle Atlantic. William does research in Historical Archaeology, Paleoethno Botany and Flotation Archaeology. His work in the Walkill Valley in New York and New Jersey regarding columnal crinoid samplings of native Americans. The use of flotation devices to sample seeds and crinoid pieces to give a better picture of native Americans and their habits many years ago. Beads have been used for over 2,300 years by Native Americans.

A crinoid is a marine echinoderm (Sea Lilly). It has 3 main parts a holdfast that at-

taches to the bottom of the sea floor, a stem of columnals, and a calyx that contains the feeding parts of the plants. A calyx that contains feathery appendages that feed the mouth parts.

Tremendous archaeological and paleontological discoveries, spanning much of the past 12,900 years have come almost routine of late in the Walkill River drainage in Orange County, New York and Sussex County New Jersey. This area has long been famous for the abundant remains of extinct ice age fauna and numerous important Native American sites.

In summary, please check out William Sandy's articles on this topic:

[Graves and Garbage: The Hard Life of an Archeologist](#)

and

[Dig turns up ancient artifacts at upstate NY site:](#)

Or even

[The Intersecting Crossroads of Paleontology and Archeology: When are Fossils Considered Artifacts?](#)



BIGGS PICTURE JASPER!

By: Keith Chip Allen

Biggs picture jasper and the discovery thereof played a vital role in the evolution of the lapidary field. Many a lapidarist would not be involved with this fine hobby if it had not been for their awe struck inspiration in seeing a polished slab or cab of Biggs Picture Jasper...no other jasper created such a "gold rush of excitement," as did the Biggs Jasper discovery of



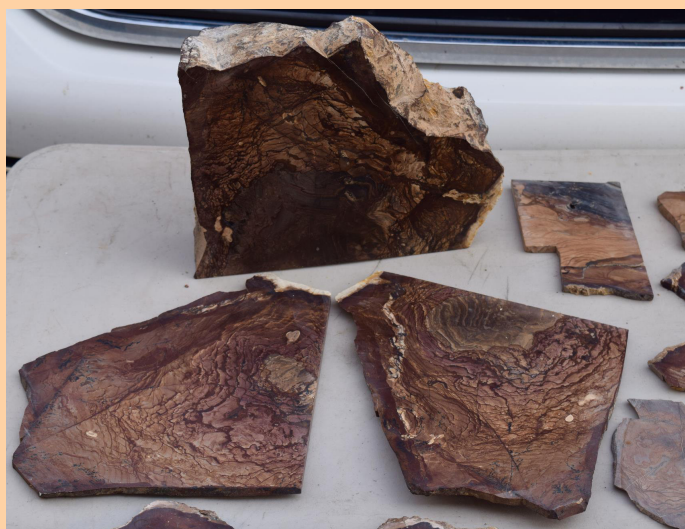
1964.

Like all jaspers, Biggs has variety. any lapidarist knows about the most rare, Blue Sky Biggs and Blue Biggs Jasper. The old Biggs is another variety, Black Biggs, Rufus Biggs, which has a higher manganese content but takes a glossy finish. It is the layered variety of Biggs, that really sets it apart from the traditional



Biggs. One has to cut with the strata to get the best picture. The Purple Biggs also came out of

Rufus...there exist a lot of flavors in the Rufus Biggs, but perhaps one of the most exciting is the Rufus Blue Biggs. It may very well be one of the most significant discoveries in lapidary history. There's also Lace Biggs which is the most plentiful. The Washington Biggs is so much like Biggs Jct Biggs that one can hardly tell the difference and the Fulton Canyon Biggs, which is a couple miles west of Biggs Jct. It comes in big boulders and some beautiful pieces have been mined from those quarries but there are a lot of problems with pitting.



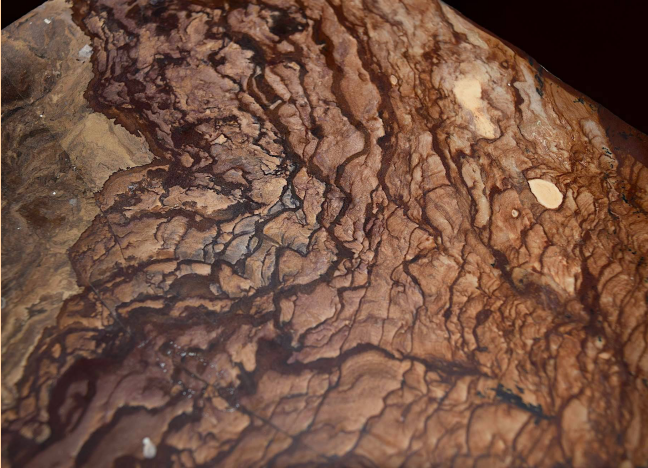
A great flood came and destroyed the canyons from the John Day River drainage, the Rufus drainage and Biggs junction drainage. Biggs Junction, Oregon was totally marooned with no way in or out, except by air. The state relief would bring in baloney and bread." The road crew was already there working on i-84 and they went to work re-building the washed out bridges. The flood had washed out these unusual looking boulders that were scattered about.

It was then that rockhounds were able to see the huge exposed deposits of Biggs Jasper. The flood waters had washed the dirt away that had concealed their hidden beauty for millions of years. Rockhounds would get the Biggs from the road crews, some road workers became rockhounds themselves...by then there was a chaotic rush to get this jasper as it was gaining international attention.

BIGGS PICTURE JASPER - Cont.

By: Keith Chip Allen

Biggs jasper seems to have developed from the muds of short-lived streams that evolved on the surface of a cooled basalt terrain. The raw materials (plastic colloids,



silica, clay and iron) came from the weathering of recent igneous rocks and were deposited in the settling basins of stream channels. Heat and pressure from volcanic activity then served to form jasper, small creeping motions led to the marbled rosettes and picture designs. Biggs jasper is sandwiched between two basalt lava flows that cover Oregon, Washington and parts of Idaho.



In a recent Face-post, someone displayed a large chunk of Biggs which he had purchased from a long time rock hound, who called it Deschutes Jasper. Deschutes is very similar to Biggs. My Biggs, shown in the pictures, was just like the one posted on Facebook and I questioned if mine was actually Biggs. Judy Elkins, who's father mined the Deschutes, with vast rock experience of this area, soon cleared that both the one on Facebook and mine were indeed Brown Biggs.

She stated that It is from the Rufus location dug by Jack Beers. Deschutes did not have the compressed linear lines that is shown in the slabs pictured. You have to look at the shape of the hills, texture and color and other



features that you have observed to make an ID.

Howard Dolph, was one of the first to get in on Biggs digs. The initial group was 25 to 30 rockhounds, including Shirts Quant, Hoot Elkins, Isami Sabota, Fred Dormier, and Jack Beers and it soon grew to hundreds. so much so that the road crew was having a hard time doing their work for fear of killing a hounder. So the supervisor demanded all rockhounds leave the area. Someone complained to then Governor McCall, who then interjected and allowed the rockhounds access to get as much of this fascinating rock out as possible before the road was paved. It was a mad rush.

Shows, Swaps & Cool Stuff!

NEW YORK GEMS, JEWELRY & MINERAL SHOW

**March
11-12, 2023**

Sat: 10AM – 6PM • Sun: 11AM – 5PM

NEW LOCATION

The School of Fashion Industries
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Castle of Knights

Meeting House

1599 Memorial Dr., Chicopee, MA
2 miles off of Mass Turnpike
(2nd Rotary)

April 1 - 2, 2023

Sat 9:30 - 5 & Sun 9:30 - 3:30

Admission: \$5

FREE Parking

12 and under FREE with paid adult
Free mineral specimen for children
Scouts in uniform FREE with paid adult
Door Prize Drawings * Exhibits
Food will be available on site

Presented by the
Connecticut Valley Mineral Club
Springfield, MA

A non-profit educational organization
Facebook – cvmineral club
For more Show info go to Club website below
www.cvmineralclub.org

ENTER A FREE DRAWING!!!

Fill out the form on the reverse side and drop it
in the box at the Show.

33RD ANNUAL NORTH JERSEY GEM, MINERAL & FOSSIL SHOW
APRIL 15TH & 16TH, 2023 - SATURDAY 10AM-5PM & SUNDAY 10AM-4PM
Midland Park High School
250 Prospect Street, Midland Park, NJ

\$1 off admission with this card *Food available on site*

Admission: Adult \$5 • Senior \$4 • Under 12, MPHS Students, Scouts in Uniform FREE

One of the best shows in the Northeast! Featuring Rocks, Minerals, Fossils, Crystals
Gemstones, Jewelry, Metaphysical, Lapidary, Rockhounding Supplies, and Much MORE!



SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2023 AT 9 AM – 5 PM

April Swap & Sell

Franklin Mineral Museum

The 8th Annual **NEW ENGLAND**
MINERAL CONFERENCE **MAY 19-21**
2023 **NEWRY, MAINE**

Grand Summit Resort Hotel & Conference Center at the Sunday River Resort

Lectures, Presentations, Displays, Exhibits,
Banquet, Dealers, Hospitality Suite,
Auctions, Field Trips

OCMS members are covered by Society-sponsored insurance.

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