

An Amazing New Mineral Discovery in New York

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Glenn Rhein lives in the hamlet of Amity, New York, about 5 miles from the picturesque village of Warwick. He constructs new homes for a living, and like most other people of his neighborhood, had no idea of what was lying underneath him. At the entrance to Amity there is an old sign stating that Amity is a historically rich mineral locality, but most residents are unfamiliar with the exact details.

The town of Warwick, in which Amity is located, required Glenn and his brother to hire a geologist in order for them to subdivide their property. The geologist did his survey, but he did not find anything of interest relating to the subdivision. However, he did inform Glenn that the area was rich in rare and interesting minerals. This aroused Glenn's curiosity and he started searching for minerals himself, but also found nothing. After a few years living on his property, Glenn eventually found a small trail of crystals that really got him wondering what lies underneath his property.

In summer 2010, when Glenn was digging with his tractor on his property, he hit some very large and interesting-looking crystals. He had no idea what these were or what their value was, and did not know who to ask for help. Glenn did some research online. He came across the Mindat website, and found the Mindat message board. Glenn decided to make a post on the forum to reach out to anyone in the mineral community who could help him. He made his very first post on the website, stating the following: "Massive amphibole crystals found in Warwick, New York. Any feedback or comments welcomed." He then posted a picture of some giant unknown crystals.

Almost immediately, several mineral enthusiasts reached out to Glenn and offered to help. He was eventually connected with important geologists and museum staff such as Mike Hawkins and Marian Lupulescu (New York State Museum), Earl Verbeek (Sterling Hill Museum), George Robinson (A.E. Seaman Mineral Museum) and Lance Kearns (James Madison University). These mineral experts assisted Glenn in identifying the minerals being found, as well as the geological setting. Glenn learned from everyone who visited his deposit and also corresponded with many experts on Mindat. He continuously posted photos and received feedback on his postings. In a very short time, Glenn had learned a tremendous amount about minerals and about the deposit on his property. He is now very familiar as well as fascinated with all his new finds.

Glenn regularly searches and digs in and around his property seeking for the hidden treasures that lie beneath the earth. These include giant well-formed crystals, beautifully fluorescent minerals, and several rare species. Glenn has donated many of his outstanding finds to various museums, and maintains a fine collection of his own. His personal collection features some of his best finds since the beginning of his discovery. The NY/NJ Gem and Mineral show had the distinct honor of having Glenn exhibit some of his greatest minerals in the Special Exhibit

section, and his display fascinated attendees. Aside from the amazing crystals he showcased, he brought some very large crystallized boulders, and set up a fluorescent display exhibit.

About Amity

The hamlet of Amity is located only 13 miles north of the world-famous mineral locality of Franklin, New Jersey. Amity is in the same marble formation as Franklin, and although each mineral deposit is unique, they have many similarities. One of the most amazing aspects of Glenn's discovery in Amity is the abundance of strongly fluorescent minerals that are there, similar but different to the nearby Franklin deposit.

The most coveted mineral of Glenn's deposit and of the Amity area is spinel. Although most spinel crystals are opaque and dark, Glenn has found pink and red crystals on occasion. The largest crystals of the Rhein property are scapolite and diopside. Other important minerals of the deposit include titanite, chondrodite, apatite, graphite, phlogopite, serpentine, pargasite, edenite, fluoro-edenite, fluorite, fluoro-tremolite, norbergite, pyrrhotite, uvite, corundum, azurite, malachite, and zircon.

Hershel Friedman, founder of Minerals.net, has recently produced a video documentary about Glenn and his discovery. The video explains the geological formation, describes how Glenn found the material, and looks at the various excavation sites on Glenn's property. The video also looks at some of the best minerals Glenn has found and showcases his fluorescent collection. The video can be seen at www.minerals.net/videos. To read the Mindat forum dedicated to this topic started by Glenn, visit <http://tinyurl.com/dxh3nye>. (President's note: An alternative to getting there is to go to mindat.org and type in "massive crystals" in the keyword search on the left side of the home page. The link to Glenn's thread will be the first one that pops up. Glenn and his wife Karen are tremendously gracious hosts – I've visited twice – and Glenn is a great guy to go collecting with!)



Glenn Rhein on his property in Warwick, NY (not pictured is his gracious wife, Karen, who very understandingly lets Glenn dig holes around their property. (Photo: Hershel Friedman)



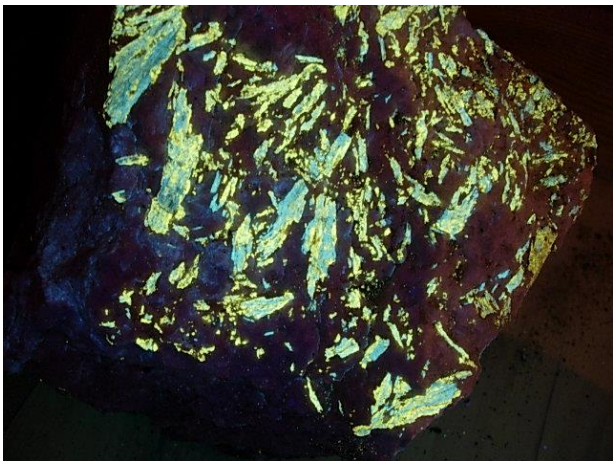
Massive amphibole crystals found in Warwick, New York. (Photo: Glenn Rhein)



Super iron out makes all the difference. 20 minutes in the ultrasonic cleaner. (Photo: Glenn Rhein)



Some pictures of the Tremolite- Norbergite without UV. (Photo: Glenn Rhein)



Tremolite and norbergite. (Photo: Glenn Rhein)



This Scapolite (Meionite) cleaned up really well. (Photo: Glenn Rhein)



Some of the Chondroditites are half green! (Photo: Glenn Rhein)



Graphite butterfly, in a slightly weathered Hornblende matrix – Glenn carefully removed the matrix to expose the Graphite. (Photo: Glenn Rhein)



Nice shiny black Spinel on Chondrodite 3/4 to 1-1/4 inches overall (Photo: Glenn Rhein)



Display at the Mid-Hudson show in Rhinebeck, NY (Photo: Elizabeth Triano)