

Penn Dixie Chronicle

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE HAMBURG NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Winter 2019

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Closed; *Members welcome anytime weather permits.*

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Director's Note

Hello again! A winter snow storm has given me the opportunity to relax at home and reflect a little on the previous year. Looking back, 2018 was a barnburner. In April, we opened the season with our annual Earth Day Cleanup -- in freezing temps! It was so cold that we rented an outdoor heater to keep our helpers warm.

May brought warmer weather, two sold out days of Dig with the Experts -- an attendance record, and a new collaboration with a local arts organization -- the Cass Project. As a result, (our first ever) Resident Artist Bonnie Rush created a trilobite-shaped labyrinth in an unused and very tranquil part of our park. We look forward to showcasing this asset for many years to come.

Thanks to several big donations, including new roofing from Kayes Roofing & Construction in Cheektowaga, Penn Dixie was able to completely renovate our two large pavilions this summer. I thank the volunteers who painted and repaired these vital structures which help us serve our mission of hands-on science education. And, thanks to the Burkett Family, we now have solar power -- to recharge our mobile cash registers -- at Penn Dixie!

In June we received a grant from the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Legacy Funds for design of a new visitor center at Penn Dixie. This grant moved our longtime dreams one step closer to reality and we are very excited about

the renderings created by Abstract Architecture. Next steps: planning, planning, and more planning. After we collect more input from our stakeholders -- including YOU -- we'll unveil our capital campaign later this year.

Speak of development: I'm thrilled that Elizabeth Schiavoni rejoined Penn Dixie in 2018 after a brief stint elsewhere. Maybe she missed our fossils? In any case, we certainly missed Elizabeth's strong writing skills and diligence in seeking grant opportunities. While she is not (yet) full time, we were fortunate to receive additional funding from Erie County -- for the second year in a row for those keeping count -- which will allow us to promote Elizabeth to manager of our new development division. She now has two days each week to focus on growing our organization and raising funds for a building!

August brought perfect weather for our attempt to set the Guinness World Record for World's Largest Fossil Dig at Penn Dixie. As of press time, we're still awaiting the final verdict. However, I'm confident that our 905 guests did the job needed to put Penn Dixie on the world record map! Oh -- speak of maps! Hamburg, NY is now 'Home of the Trilobite' thanks to the passage of a special resolution by the Town of Hamburg. I thank Supervisor Jim Shaw and the Hamburg Town Board for this special recognition. Official merchandise coming soon. ;-)

In October, HNHS board member Tammy Russell and I traveled to Oneonta, NY and

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DIG INTO MEMBERSHIP!

BENEFITS INCLUDE:

1. Support conservation of the Penn Dixie Site, a 54-acre preserve in Blasdell, NY
2. Unlimited free admission to the #1 fossil park in the U.S., science lectures, and for most special programs and astronomy nights
3. Discount admission for summer camps, Dig with the Experts, and other special programs
4. Receive The Penn Dixie Chronicle newsletter
5. Receive Penn Dixie eNews updates
6. Merchandise and partner discounts – see our website for the latest info
7. Support the science education efforts of the Hamburg Natural History Society, a 501(c)(3) charitable nonprofit

Membership Categories:

- **STUDENT** (*K-12 or College*):
1-year \$25 • 2-year \$35
- **SENIOR** (*65 & up*):
1-year \$25 • 2-year \$35
- **INDIVIDUAL**
1-year \$30 • 2-year \$45
- **FAMILY** (*2 adults and all household children*):
1-year \$45 • 2-year \$70
- **GRANDPARENTS** (*2 grandparents and 5 grandchildren*):
1-year \$50 • 2-year \$85
- **ASSOCIATE** (*includes fossil set*):
\$80/year
- **CORPORATE** (*includes fossil set and guided tour for 10*): \$100/year
- **PATRON** (*includes fossil set and guided tour for 10*): \$100/year

JOIN ONLINE AT
penndixie.org

Complete an application at the site,
or call 716-627-4560 to request a
paper application via mail.

Educator's Note



Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season! 2018 was a big year for Penn Dixie. 2019 looks to be just as exciting.

Winter is allowing us to prepare for another great season filled with fossils and fun. Preparations are already underway for our field trip season. Thanks to generous donations, all children visiting Penn Dixie on field trips will have a garden trowel to use during their visit and their own Penn Dixie treasure box to hold their fossils. We are eagerly looking forward to our 2019 field trips.

This winter and spring we also look forward to our lecture series. It's another fun way to learn about different aspects of science and history. We are lucky to have some very interesting talks lined up on a variety of topics. We will learn about

Director's Note - continued

delivered a resolution of our own to Mr. Abdul Majid Butt, Chairperson of the Kashmir Triassic Fossil Park in India. We pledged to cooperate with Mr. Butt and his team to help them get their park -- a geological treasure like Penn Dixie -- up and running. And, we gave Mr. Butt several tokens of Penn Dixie to share with his board of directors. If you are ever in Kashmir, be on the lookout for folks wearing Penn Dixie tee shirts!

November's fundraiser -- now named Hops 'N Rocks -- gave us one more record: our largest fundraiser to date! We hosted 210 guests -- about

mastodons from the Hiscock site here in New York from Dr. Richard Laub, the history of steel plants from the Steel Plant Museum, the study of dinosaurs from PaleoJoe, and much more! Details and a complete list of this year's talks are posted on our website.

Teachers make your field trip reservations now for your end of the school year field trip! Engage your students with a hands-on learning experience. Field trips can be tailored to your school's needs. Penn Dixie can also bring our Earth's history right into your classroom with our in-school programs! With both our field trips and in-school programs, your students will have a better understanding of what Earth was like 380 million of years ago, along with their very own fossils to take home with them. For more information on site visits, to book your group visits, or anything else please call me at (716) 627-4560 or email at holly@penndixie.org.

Holly
Director of Education

40 more than 2017 -- at Buffalo Riverworks for an evening of auctions, merriment, and good feelings about the future. Our volunteer board of directors raised \$15,727 in support of Penn Dixie programming and operations, allowing us to head full steam into 2019.

We've been on an excellent run thanks to the support of our growing community of members, visitors, volunteers, supporters, and staff, and can't wait to share more good news with you this year!

Dr. Phil

New Ticketing System



Beginning in April, for the first time Penn Dixie will offer daily admission tickets via our website. Our guests will be able to purchase tickets for any day of the season -- at regular prices -- to arrive and have a more expeditious expedition. In the spirit of our mission, tickets will be paperless! We plan to update our tour offerings as well.



BANKING | INSURANCE | INVESTMENTS
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

Our 2019 Season

Open weekends beginning April 27

Open daily beginning June 17

Weekends only beginning September 7

Final day of season October 20

Winter/Spring 2019 Calendar

UPDATED
1/28/19**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 7:00 PM**

TALES OF MASTODONS (AND OTHERS) FROM THE HISCOCK SITE

By Dr. Richard S. Laub

Hiscock is a paleontological and archaeological site in northern Genesee County. It was excavated by the Buffalo Museum of Science from 1983 to 2011, revealing a rich record of changing faunas, floras, cultures and environments over the past 13,500 years. From the late Ice Age, through the period of the virgin forest, to the time of European settlement, we found confirmation of much that we had expected. However, there were also many surprises, such that what we thought we were getting into at the beginning had changed dramatically by the time we came out the other end.

One point that was driven home is that, more often than not, the most important objects are the small ones, which can so easily be overlooked.

An illustrated presentation with specimens in the auditorium of the Gateway Executive Office Building, 3556 Lake Shore Rd. Blasdell, NY. Admission \$4, or FREE to Penn Dixie members and their guests. No registration needed.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 7:00 PM

AN ARCHEOLOGIST'S PERSPECTIVE

By Dr. Caitlin Chaves Yates

An illustrated presentation with specimens in the auditorium of the Gateway Executive Office Building, 3556 Lake Shore Rd. Blasdell, NY. Admission \$4, or FREE to Penn Dixie members and their guests. No registration needed.

**SATURDAY, MARCH 23
AND SUNDAY, MARCH 24**

PENN DIXIE EXHIBIT AT THE BUFFALO GEM & MINERAL SHOW

Held in the Events Center at the Erie County Fairgrounds, Hamburg, NY.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 7:00 PM

SCIENCE TALK TBA

By Don Williams, President of the Steel Plant Museum of WNY

An illustrated presentation in the auditorium of the Gateway Executive Office Building, 3556 Lake Shore Rd. Blasdell, NY. Admission \$4, or FREE to Penn Dixie members and their guests. No registration needed.

SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 10 AM TO 2 PM

EARTH DAY AT PENN DIXIE

Join our team of volunteers as we perform the annual cleanup of Penn Dixie and prepare to reopen to the public. No registration needed. FREE admission and pizza for all of our helpers!

SATURDAY, APRIL 27

PENN DIXIE REOPENS TO THE PUBLIC

Saturdays, 9am to 5pm and Sundays, 10 am to 5 pm

SATURDAY APRIL 27, 7:45 PM

APRIL ASTRONOMY NIGHT

SATURDAY, MAY 4, 9 AM TO 11 AM

PENN DIXIE VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

Penn Dixie would not exist without our volunteers! To keep growing, we're always on the lookout for help with programming, school visits, community engagement, site maintenance, and administration. No experience necessary. We will provide all the training needed! Learn about Penn Dixie from our staff and experienced volunteers and receive the tools that you will need to make a difference. Refreshments included.

In the auditorium of the Gateway Executive Office Building, 3556 Lake Shore Rd. Blasdell, NY. Contact Dr. Holly Schreiber at holly@penndixie.org to register.

MONDAY, MAY 6, 10 AM TO 1 PM

HOMESCHOOL DAY AT PENN DIXIE

Learn about the geological history of Western New York at Penn Dixie. This special tour for homeschoolers includes a complete educational tour of Penn Dixie led by our trained educators. Students can take home all the fossils they find! Admission is \$5 per student. Students must be accompanied by an adult. No experience necessary. Program is for grades 1-12. Pre-registration is required. To register email Holly at holly@penndixie.org. Register by April 29 and receive \$1 off admission. Rain date: May 8.

FRIDAY, MAY 17, 6:30 PM

THE FOSSIL ADVENTURES OF PALEOJOE

By Joe 'PaleoJoe' Kchodl, Paleontologist, from Midland, MI

An illustrated presentation with specimens in the auditorium of the Gateway Executive Office Building, 3556 Lake Shore Rd. Blasdell, NY. Admission \$4, FREE to Penn Dixie members and their guests, or FREE to registered Dig w/ Experts guests. No registration needed.

**SATURDAY, MAY 18 AND
SUNDAY, MAY 19, 9 AM TO 4 PM**

DIG WITH THE EXPERTS

Join us for our signature event — Dig with the Experts! This is our very popular, once yearly opportunity to unearth the best, most complete, and most unexpected fossils at Penn Dixie. We'll have equipment do the heavy lifting and scientific experts on site to help with locating and identifying the best fossils. You'll have to do your share of splitting and digging, of course, but you're guaranteed to find something cool and interesting.

Tickets limited. For full info, visit <https://penndixie.org/dig-with-the-experts>



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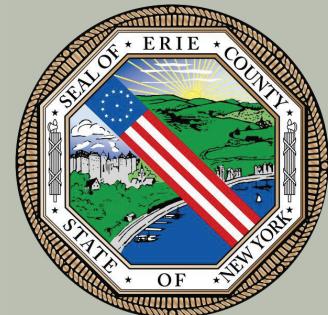
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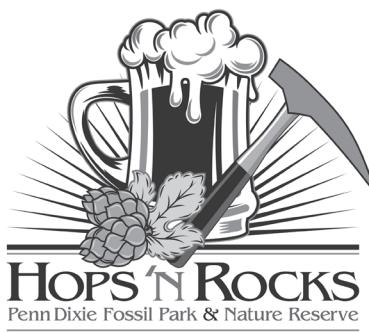
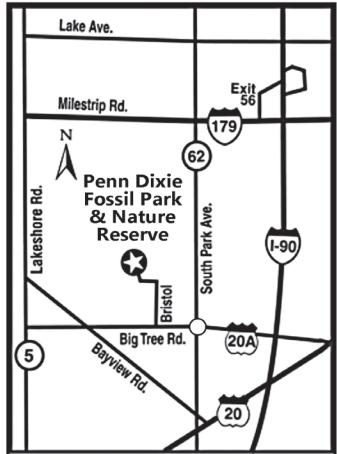
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The programs of Penn Dixie are supported by public funds from the County of Erie, the Town of Hamburg and Hamburg Gaming and by our members and friends.

Hamburg Natural History Society
3556 Lakeshore Rd. Ste. 230
Blasdell, NY 14219



UPDATE



The Board of Directors of the Hamburg Natural History Society sincerely thanks all 210 guests who attended and supported our annual fundraiser held on November 8, 2018 at Buffalo Riverworks. Through dinner tickets, sponsorships, auction sales, and donations, we raised a total of **\$15,727** for Penn Dixie -- a new record! A fun evening was made even more special thanks to appearances by Legislator Lynne Dixon, Explore & More CEO Michelle Urbanczyk, and Michael Anderson of Abstract Architecture. We thank the Blasdell Rod & Gun Club, RP Oak Hill, and Route 75 Imprints for sponsoring Hops 'N Rocks and look forward to our 2019 fundraiser.