

Island Rock Hounds, Inc.

ROCK BOTTOM FACTS

April 2011

Website: www.islandrockhounds.org

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President's Message

Hello all,

Welcome to spring! Even though March did not go out like a lamb I am still glad to see this past winter leave. The first order of business is a big Thank You to all who helped out at the show. All the numbers are not in yet but I believe this show was as successful as our other shows. A special thank you to Cheryl and Nancy for making the impossible happen again. This month we have a special treat, Joe DeCristoforo of Amazon Imports will be giving a lecture on South American Gems. I have been lucky enough to have attended a lecture by Joe before and can assure you that his lecture will be engaging. As the warm weather approaches its time to spend more time outside and to participate in one of my favorite activities - digging for rocks. Keep an eye on the calendar of events and go to shows, go on digs and enjoy nature.

Hope to see you all on Wednesday,

Janice Kowalski
President, Island Rockhounds

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Side Note:

Pat o'Rourke, Janet Zenk & I will be away at Wildacres during our April Meeting. Hopefully, we will be learning new skills and new subjects to share with everyone at future meetings. We'll be thinking of you on 04/13/11!

UPCOMING EVENTS

- | | | |
|----------------|----------------|---|
| April 13 | 7:45pm | Lecture: Joe DeCristoforo : South American Gems |
| April 11-17 | | Wildacres Spring Classes Dr. Gene LeBerge –Speaker in Residence |
| April 30-May 1 | | 39 th Annual NJESA Show Sponsored by the Franklin-Ogendsburg Mineralogical Society in conjunction with the NJ Earth Sciences Assoc. & Sterling Hill Mining Museum, Franklin School, Franklin, NJ |
| June 4-5 | 10-5pm | Celinka Unlimited, Patchogue, NY |
| June 11 | | One-day LIMAG Bus Field Trip to Harrisburg, Pa – Mineral & fossil collecting; Gold Panning \$ 75.00 |
| July 7-10 | | EFMLS /AFMS Convention & Show hosted by Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse
Show dates: July 9-10 |
| July 16-17 | | 2-day IRH Bus Trip to Luray Caverns; Field collecting – Northern Va. Est. \$ 230.00pp Requires \$50.00 deposit pp |
| July 30-31 | 10am-5pm | 30 th Annual LIMAGS Mineral, Gem Jewelry & Fossil Show |
| August 6 | Raindate 08/07 | Annual Picnic Hosted by SGMC @ Heckscher Park |
| Sept. 5-11 | | Wildacres Fall Classes-Dr. Steve Chamberlain- Speaker in Residence |
| Sept. 17-18 | | 42 nd Annual Mid- Hudson Annual Show, Dutchess County Fairgrounds |



***Happy
Birthday***

April Babes

Johanna Kramer

Karen Ottendorfer

**2011 Meetings:
Mark Your Calendars!**

April 13 – Speaker – Joe DeCristoforo : South American Gems

May 11 – Speaker –Joe Austin- Meteorites

June 8- Auction (start saving your \$\$\$\$)

Summer Picnic-hosted by SGMC

Sat. August 6 (Raindate Sun.Aug. 7)

Bus Trip to Harrisburg, Pa June 11- \$ 75.00

Bus Trip to Luray Caverns- July 16-17

Estimate cost \$ 230.00 per person

Non-refundable deposit of \$50.00/person is being accepted NOW!

Bus Trip Springfield, Ma- Sat. 08/13/11 @ \$36.00/person (LIMAGS)

BETWEEN A ROCK & A HARD PLACE:

A SYNOPSIS OF MARCH'S MEETING: New member Beth Akar demonstrated techniques used to create stain and fused glass. Besides the excellent lecture, she brought in quite a few pieces she designed. Beth enjoys abstract art and many of her pieces are designed as such. Beth also created necklaces out of copper. She has taught herself the art of enameling and cloisonné. One of the necklaces she designed had copper wild animals. It was a lovely piece, admired by many. Interestingly- Janet Zenk remarked the necklace reminded her of an American Indian design with the animal fetishes and then the question-why are they called fetishes? See answer on page 5.

We were fortunate to have Beth volunteer at our Show- as she worked with interested parties in the technique of stainglass. Thanks Beth!

NEW BUSINESS:

April 13, 2011: General Meeting @ 7:45 pm – Joe DeCristoforo : South American Gems
Be prepared to travel to South America with Joe as he lectures on the gems and minerals of South America. Joe has spoken to our club previously, and has only scratched a tiny piece of the activity encountered through the years!

Nominating Committee- There is still time to join the fun and excitement of being a Board Member! Please see Joan if interested!!

To date the Nominating Committee has solicited the following:

President – Cheryl Neary (Anybody Else????)

Vice-president- Nancy Colburn

Treasurer- Nancy Walordy

Secretary- Peg Stein

SHOW NEWS:

Again, I believe it was a successful show thanks to all the members who participated. We had a few mistakes which we have learned from, which will make for a better show next year! (Let's keep the momentum going!) Since the show, the board has met and discussed ideas for the next few years. The final show figures have not been calculated as of the date of this writing. However, since the club is in need of new showcases, it has been decided that a get-together is planned for the volunteers on Sunday, August 21, 2011 at Mae Ciervo's house in Dix Hills, rather than a formal luncheon at a restaurant. More information to follow! **THANK YOU** –I'm already counting on you for next year!

AS A REMINDER -:

Please start wearing your IRH badge at the meetings! We have new members and it would help everyone with matching the names with the faces! Also, as an incentive, if you wear our badge you will be eligible for an additional chance to win the monthly raffle.

If you misplaced your badge, the cost of the replacement badge is \$1.00. Please speak to Janet Zenk (Membership).

AUCTION –Please start donating for this years' auction to be held in the month of June.

Cheryl Neary

Editor, Island Rockhounds Newslette
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SAVE ROCKHOUND STATE PARK

Email Message from Carolyn & Steve Weinberger (EFMLS)

Rockhound State Park is located near Deming, New Mexico on 249 acres that was dedicated on June 17, 1966 by Governor Jack Campbell. The property was donated to the State Parks Division in 1964 by the Deming Ranchettes development company. The name of the Park is derived from the fact that the Park's original intent was to cater to rock collectors.

The Park was originally founded upon rock collecting, a popular recreational activity in the 1960s. Common at Rockhound is a variety of minerals, including perlite, thunder eggs, jasper, geodes, agate, rhyolite, and quartz. Rockhound sits at the base of the Little Florida Mountains, which are comprised of a late tertiary volcanic rock that includes interbedded fanglomerate intruded by rhyolite domes and dikes. These volcanic units are between 22 and 38 million years old and appear to extend less than 600 feet deep below ground.

Today the practice of collecting rocks at Rockhound State Park and on other public lands is no longer considered a recreational activity by those who are charged with the management of our public lands. In fact the park is trying to make it a misdemeanor to remove any geological or biological item from within Rockhound State Park.

In the beginning visitors were encouraged to collect rock and mineral specimens for personal non commercial use up to 25 pounds per visit.

The fate of Rockhound State Park has not yet been completely sealed. The process has started to remove rock collecting from the park and most of the published state literature has already deleted any reference to our hobby of Rockhounding. The final decision must have input from the public on the changes to the Rockhound State Park Management Plan. That plan is currently being revised and has been released for public comment. In the management plan revision all reference to Rockhounding in Rockhound State Park has been removed and replaced with fines and legal actions for removing rocks and minerals. Even the name is being changed from Rockhound State Park to "Florida Mountains State Park"

To save Rockhound State Park and to maintain our hobby within the park will take a lot of effort from the Rockhound Community. and Many letters will need to be written to the managers and elected officials of New Mexico letting them know that Rockhounding is a responsible recreational activity and exceptions to the rules should be made at Rockhound State Park. A writing campaign helped to save the California State Rock, Serpentine, and it can help in New Mexico to save Rockhound State Park. Time is running out for Rockhound State Park. Your input is needed now. The change process has started.

Please submit comments by: April 18, 2011

Fax: 505-476-3361;

Mail: 1220 S St Francis Drive, PO Box 1147, Santa Fe, NM 87505

Drop off at the park or regional office; or

E-mail: nmparks@state.nm.us

More information on Rockhound State Park, a copy of the revised Management Plan and sample letters from which you can choose your comments and points can be found on the ALAA Website www.amlands.org Please get involved and become a Rockhound Activist!

Side Note: Kathy Kerrigan & I were at this park a few years ago in what I will call our "Adventures", when rockhounding was a recreational activity. We collected a great deal of rocks that I had to reconfigure the luggage a number of times! So one suitcase went home with rocks, bottles of wine from NM, as well as a variety of pistachios! To think -- the airport security in Colorado thought I was joking when I declared, rocks, wine and nuts!

On the Road Again-

During last month's presentation, Beth had displayed a beautiful piece of jewelry that she had designed with copper. The piece had several animal shapes hanging from the chain. This piece reminded one of the members of the Zuni fetishes necklace. This got the conversation started on the word fetishes, and the topic for this month's On the Road Again!

The word *fetish* is derived from the Latin *facticius*, "artificial" and *facere*, "to make" and is an object believed to have supernatural powers or a manmade object with powers over others. Therefore, fetishism can be defined as the attribution of inherent value or powers to an object.

Originally the Portuguese developed the concept of fetishism to refer to the objects used by West African natives in their religious beliefs. Charles de Brosses, circa 1757 compared the West African religion to the magical aspects of the Ancient Egyptian religion. Auguste Comte utilized the concept to apply an evolution theory, proposing that fetishism was the most primitive stage followed by poly- and monotheism. Auguste Comte was a French philosopher and a founder of the discipline of sociology and of the doctrine of Positivism. He is regarded as the first philosopher of science. Positivism refers to philosophies of science which holds that the scientific method is the best approach to uncovering the processes by which both physical and human events occur.

Auguste Comte influence the thinking of Karl Marx, who in the 19th century appropriated the term to describe commodity fetishism as an important component of capitalism. Today, commodity and capital fetishism is a central concept of Marxism. Sigmund Freud appropriated the concept to describe a form of paraphilia where the object of affection is an inanimate object or a specific part of a person, known as a sexual fetish.

The Zuni Indians carved animal figures made from various materials to serve a ceremonial purpose for their creators. The carvings depict animals and icons integral to their culture. The most important of the indigenous material used in the carvings is turquoise, which is considered to be a sacred stone. Also utilized is serpentine, a soft stone found abundantly in the Zuni Mountains and in Arizona.

Frank Hamilton Cushing, an American anthropologist and ethnologist pioneered studies of the Zuni Indians of New Mexico by entering into their culture helped establish participant observation as a common anthropological research strategy. In 1881, he submitted the Second Annual Report of the Bureau of Ethnology, which was posthumously published as *Zuni Fetishes* in 1966, describing the Zuni world being constructed of six regions or directions. A sacred, great mountain peak is at the center of each region. Yellow mountain to the north, white mountain to the east, red mountain to the south and blue mountain to the west, multi-colored mountain above and black mountain below. Each direction represents a "Prey God" or guardian animal and is the "guardian and master" of their region. The north is represented by the yellow mountain lion; the white wolf representing the east; the red badger representing the south and the black bear represented by the color blue for the west. The multi-colored eagle represents the heavens and black mole representing the underground. The yellow mountain lion is the elder brother of all animals and the master and guardian of all regions. Each region contains an order of all the guardian animals, with the "guardian and master" animal the elder brother to all animals in that region.

These guardians are considered as having protective and healing powers. They are held by the priests of the medicine orders as if "in captivity" and act as mediators between the priests and the animals they represent.