

# Island Rock Hounds, Inc.

# ROCK BOTTOM FACTS

## December 2018 – January 2019

Website: [www.islandrockhounds.org](http://www.islandrockhounds.org)  
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Bellmore Memorial Library  
 2288 Bedford Avenue  
 Bellmore, NY 11710

## President's Message

Hello Fellow Rockhounds,

Where has time gone! Every year the time seems to go by quicker and quicker!

Our Holiday Party was on December 5<sup>th</sup> at the Olive Garden in Westbury. It was well attended and I believe everyone enjoyed themselves!

**The January meeting has been cancelled due to conflicts.**

As a reminder, our February meeting has been changed to February 20<sup>th</sup> due to a conflict with the Library.

*Janice Kowalski*  
 President  
 Island Rock Hounds



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## UPCOMING EVENTS

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>
	<b>2019</b>	
<b>March 2-3</b>	<b>NYC Mineral Show</b>	<b>Watson Hotel, NYC</b>
<b>March 9-10</b>	<b>IRH Show</b>	<b>Old Bethpage</b>
<b>May 31- June 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>EFMLS Convention &amp; Show</b>	<b>Monroe, NY</b>

The 2019 (68th) EFMLS Convention will be held in Monroe, New York, hosted by the Orange County Mineral Society.

### Upcoming Field trips:

Spring – UConn – Avery Point & Yale – Peabody Museum  
More details to follow!

Michigan or Bust – August 2019!  
More information to follow!





***Happy Birthday  
to our  
December / January  
Babes!***

**December:**  
**Bill Cascio**

**January:**  
Pat O'Rourke  
Elfreide Schoendorf  
Nancy Walordy

**Dues are Due!**  
Please plan on paying dues  
at the February Meeting!  
(if you have not already  
done so !)

Member Bill Gangi has moved  
to Arizona!  
Good Luck and Visit us when in  
New York!

## BETWEEN A ROCK & A HARD PLACE:

### A SYNOPSIS OF NOVEMBER & DECEMBER MEETING:

The November meeting was a lecture by our now fellow member Elizabeth Wiesemann who had us exploring the World of Opals. She did a wonderful presentation which she will share with you if you so request it.

The December meeting was our annual Holiday gathering at the Olive Garden. All had a wonderful time- and it was great seeing Elfreide and Walter!

January 9h Meeting has been cancelled due to conflicts.  
See you February 20<sup>th</sup> – note date change:  
Hands- on - polishing amber

### Important Dates:

Wednesday, February 20, 2019 – Monthly meeting

Friday – Sunday – March 8-10, 2019 – Show – Need Volunteers!

### As a reminder:

Please donate Auction items – we are collecting now so that we know what we will have to offer for this fun & entertaining evening  
The auction will be held in May of 2019

### AS A REMINDER:

Please wear 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).**

*Cheryl Neary*

Editor, Island Rock Hounds Bulletin  
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## On the Road Again- Building America: Highways & Byways

This month we will travel down the Lincoln Highway! The concept of the Lincoln Highway developed in 1912, when the railroads were still the mode for interstate transport for both household goods and people. Roads were maintained by local communities, with many States constitution prohibiting payment for internal improvements, such as road projects.

Carl G. Fisher, an automobile enthusiast and racer, manufacturer of Prest-o-Lite – compressed carbide- gas headlights used on most of the early cars and the builder of the Indianapolis Speedway,(and in the 1920's known as the promoter and builder of Miami) was the creator of the idea for a transcontinental highway later to be named the Lincoln Highway.

In 1912 he began promoting the idea and was able to raise \$1 million in pledges, but was disappointed when Henry Ford, the biggest automaker of his day, refused to contribute. Ford believed that the government, not private individuals or companies should be building the roads for the United States.

On July 1, 1913, a group consisting of industry officials and automobile enthusiasts established the Lincoln Highway Association (LHA). Abraham Lincoln was one of Fisher's heroes. The name Lincoln however was only chosen after Congress rejected a proposal for a "Lincoln Memorial Road", which was submitted by another organization, with the road to extend from Washington to Gettysburg, and instead Congress authorized the Lincoln Memorial which resides on the Mall in Washington D.C.

The group had decided that the Lincoln Highway would have its terminus in New York City and San Francisco. They sought a direct possible route to tie both cities together by a rock road. The roads east of the Mississippi were basically in much better shape than the roads to the west – which were old trails used either by animals or the Indians. To determine the best roads to use for the western section of the road, Fisher and the LHA's "Trail-Blazer" tour set out from Indianapolis in 17 cars and 2 trucks – the same day the LHA established its headquarters in Detroit – July 1, 1913. After 34 days of a highly publicized event the Trail Blazers paraded down Market Street in San Francisco before thousands of cheering public. The Trail-Blazers returned to Indianapolis - this time by means of the railroad!

On October 31, 1913, the LHA dedicated the route of the Lincoln Highway, with ceremonies in hundreds of cities in the 13 states along the route. Iowa State Engineer Thomas H. MacDonald summarized the enthusiasm for the rock road stating that this would lead to construction of connected routes and eventually to "great transcontinental highways".

It was because of the overwhelming enthusiasm for good road that the federal government became involved in building paved roads and the creation of the numbered US routes in 1920s. It is thanks to the LHA and the Lincoln Highway that the Federal Highway Administration and the Interstate Highway System became an entity.

The following is from the article "The Lincoln Highway" by Richard F. Weingroff found on the Federal Highway Administration website (<https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/infrastructure/lincoln.cfm>)

"Some segments of the Lincoln Highway followed historic roads.

- In the East, the Lincoln Highway incorporated a road laid out by Dutch colonists of New Jersey before 1675.
- The route in Pennsylvania followed the 62-mile Philadelphia to Lancaster Pike, the first extensive turnpike in the United States (completed in 1796), and a British military trail built in 1758 by General John Forbes of England from Chambersburg to Pittsburgh during the French and Indian War. It was later known as the Pittsburgh Road and the Conestoga Road.
- A section in Ohio followed an ancient Indian trail known as the Ridge Road.
- In the West, the Lincoln Highway used sections of the Mormon Trail (the route along which Brigham Young led his Mormon followers to Utah), as well as the route of the Overland Stage Line and the Pony Express.
- Entering California, a motorist on the Lincoln Highway crossed the Sierra Nevada through Donner Pass, named after the Donner Party, which became stranded after attempting to cross through the pass too late in the winter of 1846-1847, or could follow an alternate route that was once a pioneer stage coach route."

Other interesting facts in Richard F. Weingroff's article are:

"Over the years, the Lincoln Highway became little more than a memory, with relics and reminders along the way:

- Some segments of U.S. 30 still carry the name, as in Pennsylvania.
- Roads in some cities, such as Ames, Iowa, are still known as "Lincoln Way."
- A few of the 3,000 Boy Scout markers can still be found along the old route.
- Near Elkhorn, Nebraska, a stretch of Lincoln Highway paved with brick has been preserved by a local historical group.
- A bridge with railings spelling out "LINCOLN HIGHWAY" remained in use as part of Route E-66 in Tama County, Iowa.
- Restaurants, motels, and gas stations in many locations still carry a Lincoln-related name.
- In Wamsutter, Wyoming, on the Continental Divide along old U.S. 30, a monument was erected in 1938 to Henry B. Joy, President of the LHA during its early years. The inscription describes Joy as one "who saw realized the dream of a continuous improved highway from the Atlantic to the Pacific." Not far from the memorial, a motorist could see an abandoned stretch of the Lincoln Highway, weeds growing through the cracks in the pavement, along its modern reincarnation, I-80."

## How Green is Your Christmas Tree?

[Christmas trees have a long history](#) and have become a major agricultural industry in the US. In recent years, more people have had the “real or fake” debate. A common misconception is that artificial trees are more environmentally friendly than cutting down live ones. However, artificial trees are made with non-biodegradable plastics and metals, and sometimes even contain toxins like lead. The toxins remain indefinitely once you dispose of the tree, taking up increasingly scarce landfill space.

[Fresh-cut Christmas trees are a renewable, recyclable and sustainable resource](#). Saying “no” to a live tree won’t save a tree from being cut down. Christmas trees are grown solely to become Christmas trees, and those farms help stabilize soil, protect water supplies, and provide habitat for wildlife. While growing, trees absorb carbon dioxide from the air and emit fresh oxygen, thus helping with climate change.

After the holidays, natural trees can be chipped for mulch, put in brush piles to create wildlife habitat, or even used for shoreline stabilization. Real trees are recycled more than 90 percent of the time, or will eventually break down on their own. Another way to enjoy a Christmas tree is to buy a live, potted tree from a local grower, and then replant it in the spring.



## Wildlife, Fish, and Marine Life Newsletter

### Bald Eagle Viewing in Winter



Winter is a great time to [view bald eagles](#) in New York State. [Viewing from a safe distance](#) and at planned observation sites can offer an exhilarating and memorable experience. Wintering eagles begin arriving in December and concentrations peak in January and February. Most are heading back to their nests by mid-March.

The Hudson River, the Upper Delaware River watershed, and sections of the St. Lawrence River are great places to view eagles in the winter. It has become a popular off-season activity in the Upper Delaware Valley. DEC maintains two well-marked viewing areas in the [Mongaup Valley](#) on the Rio and Mongaup Falls reservoirs.

The following tips will help you to have the best possible experience:

- Use binoculars or spotting scopes instead of trying to get a little closer
- Don't do anything to try to make the bird fly
- Respect private property and avoid restricted areas

- Scan the tree line for eagles that are perched in the tree tops
- Look overhead for eagles soaring high in the sky
- Arrive early (7 a.m. - 9 a.m.) or stay late (4 p.m. - 5 p.m.), when eagles are most active
- Be patient – this is the key to successful viewing

**Warning:** [Harassing, disturbing, or injuring a bald eagle is illegal.](#)

If you want to help protect and manage bald eagles, sign up to participate in the [Mid-Winter Bald Eagle Survey](#).

## Michigan or Bust! August 2019

This year there will be a field trip to Michigan.

I haven't gotten all the details worked out as of yet, but I want you to consider joining me for a wonderful week or two in the State of Michigan

The plan is to be in Michigan for the Ishpeming Gem & Mineral show which is usually the first Saturday in August. This show is a one-day show. Usually there is a field trip available the Friday before the show or the Sunday after the show.

We will be visiting the A. E. Seaman Mineral Museum of Michigan Technological University, located in Houghton. It is the official mineral museum of the state of Michigan and it is a heritage site of the Keweenaw National Historical Park. The museum features the largest public exhibit and finest collection of minerals from the Great Lakes region and world's best collection of Michigan minerals. The museum also hosts field trips however, it is the third week of July.

We are also attempting to make arrangements for a boat to transport us to a part on Lake Superior for the collection of agates.

If you are interested, please speak to me.

## Fun Facts about Michigan

Map is from:

<https://www.infoplease.com/atlas/michigan>



- Michigan borders four of the five Great Lakes
- It has over 10,000 lakes and the longest freshwater shoreline in the world
- The Mackinac Bridge connects Michigan's Upper and Lower Peninsulas
- Lake Michigan is the only Great Lake that is entirely within the United States
- No matter where you are in Michigan, you are always within 85 miles of a Great Lake

The above information is from: Ducksters Educational

<https://www.ducksters.com/geography/state.php?State=Michigan>

The following is from: National Geographic Kids

<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/explore/states/michigan/#michigan-tigers.jpg>

Four of the Great Lakes share borders with Michigan: Superior, Huron, Michigan, and Erie. No wonder it's sometimes called the Great Lakes State! It's bordered by [Indiana](#), [Ohio](#), and [Wisconsin](#) in the south, and the Great Lakes and [Canada](#) in the east, north, and west. It's also the only U.S. state that's split into two big pieces: the Upper Peninsula in the north and the Lower Peninsula—known as “the mitten”—in the south. They're connected by the five-mile Mackinac Bridge.

The Upper Peninsula is forested with low hills. It includes the state's highest point, Mount Arvon—but even that's a relatively short 1,979 feet.

The Lower Peninsula is mostly flat with some hills in the north. It's also home to thousands of miles of shoreline, including Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, where 400-foot dunes give a clear view of Lake Michigan.

Over 40 percent of the state is covered in water—that's more than any other state! Michigan even has islands, including Isle Royale, a national park in the middle of Lake Superior.

**It is show time folks!**

**Please let Cheryl know what position you are interested in manning for the annual show in March!**

**We need volunteers for the position of club table; admission; children games: food handler and security.**

**Plenty of positions available!!!**

Island Rock Hounds  
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## Affiliate Member of:

Eastern Federation of Mineralogical & Lapidary Societies



American Federation of Mineralogical Societies



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### Purpose and Objective

The purpose and objectives of the Island Rock Hounds, Inc. are to conduct a non-profit, non-political organization to provide the members opportunities for work study and stimulate in the public and membership, scientific and educational interest in geology, mineralogy, paleontology, archaeology and related earth sciences, as lapidary craftsmanship, gemology, and related subjects, and to offer a cultural and social exchange for persons interested in the aforementioned.

### General Membership Meetings:

Bellmore Public Library  
2288 Bedford Avenue Bellmore, NY 11710

Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month (except July & August) at 7:30 PM