

# Island Rock Hounds, Inc.

# ROCK BOTTOM FACTS

## December 2016

Website: [www.islandrockhounds.org](http://www.islandrockhounds.org)  
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### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Jennie Cascio	(516) 221-5335
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Cheryl Neary	
Bellmore Memorial Library 2288 Bedford Avenue Bellmore, NY 11710	

## President's Message

Dear Fellow Members:

Every year I say the same thing-

Where did this year go?

The holidays are fast approaching! Just in time for the holidays, the weather outside is getting colder and in some areas – snow, snow, snow!

This month we will be celebrating the Holidays with a dinner at the Olive Garden in Westbury. We have had the dinner there now for a few years and everyone has always enjoyed themselves. For only \$10.00, your share, you have a choice of dinner entrees, along with a choice of soup or salad, dessert and beverage (of course, you are on your own for any alcoholic beverages!)

I hope to see you all on December 14<sup>th</sup>!

Also, our January meeting is now the third Wednesday due to conflict with Library.

Your dues are now due – you can bring your dues to the Holiday Party or the January meeting, or send to Janet Zenk.

Season Greetings to all!

Hope to see you all next Wednesday.

*Cheryl Neary*  
President, Island Rockhounds

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

March 5-6<sup>th</sup> NYMC show @ Holiday Inn 440 W 57<sup>th</sup> St

March 11 12<sup>th</sup> IRH Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry  
Old Bethpage Restoration Village

For Other Gem & Mineral shows visit: [www.amfed.org/EFMLS/calendar.htm](http://www.amfed.org/EFMLS/calendar.htm)

### Upcoming Field trips:

Spring 2017: Dated TBD

1. Bus trip to Rosendale Cement Mine & D&H Canal Museum
2. May- Dig in St. Lawrence County
3. Wildacres – May 21 -27<sup>th</sup> (
4. August 11-15-- Trip to Michigan – Upper Penninsula
5. August 18-22 – Trip to Kentucky for Fluorites, Geodes, and witness Solar Eclipse on 8/21/17 (with Catawba Valley Gem & Mineral Club)



*Happy Birthday  
to our  
December  
Babes!*

Marty Besso

Bill Cascio

Beth Zakar

Dues are Due!

\$15.00 Individual



\$25.00 Family

See Janet Zenk

Need volunteer to be on  
Nominating Committee!  
Please see Cheryl

## BETWEEN A ROCK & A HARD PLACE:

### A SYNOPSIS OF NOVEMBERS'S MEETING:

Tribute to Tom Gangi and John Andersen –movers and shakers of the club. Stories were shared by the members and families of Tom & John.  
They will be missed by all!

# December Meeting: December 14, 2016

## Happy Holidays Party!



### Olive Garden

**Address:** 1246 Old Country Rd, Westbury, NY 11590

**Phone:** (516) 683-3377

Please call either Nancy Colburn

516.334.4398

or Cheryl Neary 516.449.5341

## RSVO: by Tuesday 12/13/16

**January Meeting is postponed to the third Wednesday due to Library Conflict  
01.18.17**

**Time to think about our Annual Auction!**

Please bring donations to the meetings!

### 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 Rockhounds Newsletter  
ciervo.neary@gmail.com

## On the Road Again- Harnessing Our Waterways: Canals & Dams

One of the most significant dams built in New York State is located in Westchester County. The dam has impacted the history of the City of New York.

After the American Revolution, the island of Manhattan' population grew rapidly. At that time, Manhattan was surrounded by brackish waters with limited fresh water available. As the city's population grew, so did the effluent; liquid waste discharged into the waterways of the growing city.

The population relied on obtaining their fresh water from cisterns and from natural springs located to the north of what then was the city; basically south of Wall Street in lower Manhattan.

Now we will take a side trip back into time -just in case you do not remember! The area later known as the New York Colony was originally inhabitant by the Lenape, an Algonquin people, who hunted, fished and farmed in the area between the Delaware and Hudson Rivers. At the beginning of the 16th century, Europeans, such as Giovanni da Verrazzano, an Italian explorer in service to King Francis I of France, chartered the Atlantic coast of North American between the Carolinas and Newfoundland in search of a route to Asia.

The Dutch West India Company sent approximately 30 families to live and work in the tiny settlement on the 172- acre "Nutten Island" known today as Governors Island. The island is located in the Upper New York Bay, less than a mile from the southern tip of Manhattan Island and less than a quarter of a mile from Brooklyn. Native Americans of the Manhattan region referred to the island as *Paggank* – "nut island" believed to be named as so due to the large number of hickory, oak and chestnut trees. The Dutch explorer Adriaen Block called it *Noten Eylant*, which translates in English to Nutten Island. The settlement became known as New Amsterdam.

In 1626, Governor General Peter Minuit purchased the much larger Manhattan Island from the native inhabitants by trading goods. Approximately less than 1,000 people lived in New Amsterdam, when in 1664, the Dutch surrendered the colony to the English who renamed it the Province of New York after the Duke of York and Albany, the brother of King Charles II of England and later renamed New York and Vermont.. The original boundaries of the New York Colony included present-day NYS, NJ, Delaware, Vermont, and bordering parts of present-day Maine, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Pennsylvania.

The landscape of the New York Colony included lowlands from Lake Ontario along the Canadian border, mountains in the northeast, and the Atlantic coastal plains. Much of the land was suitable for farmland and wheat was one of the major crops produced. Natural resources in the New York Colony included agricultural land, coal, furs, forestry and iron ore. The climate was hot summers with cold winters, making it more difficult for diseases to thrive in the winters, as it did in the southern colony of North America.

It is estimated that approximately one-third of the battles of the American Revolution were fought on the New York Colony soil. In 1760, the city's population grew to approximately 18,000. By 1776, the population was at 22,000 and less than 35 years later to a population of approximately 202,000. After the Revolution, the population included immigrants from Netherlands, England, France and

Germany; indentured servants and African slaves.

Okay- now back to the fresh water supply-

The early settlers of Manhattan obtained water from shallow, privately- owned wells and from the Collect Pond, which now sits under the Criminal Courts Building. The first public well was dug in front of the fort located at Bowling Green in the late 1600s. In 1776, a reservoir was constructed between Pearl & White Streets, on the eastside of Broadway with hollowed logs laid in the main streets to distribute water.

The birth of the Chase Manhattan Bank had its roots as the Manhattan Company, which in 1800 pumped water into the reservoir from a well installed at Reade and Centre Streets and distributed the water through wooden mains to the community. Aaron Burr founded The Manhattan Company in September of 1799 in a house located on Wall Street, after an epidemic of yellow fever in 1798, with the aim of bringing clean water to the city from the Bronx River, but in fact designed as a front for the creation of New York's second bank, rivaling Alexander Hamilton's Bank of New York.

By 1830, a public water supply was erected at Broadway and 13<sup>th</sup> Street with an elevated 220,000 gallon tank installed receiving water from a 112 foot deep, 16 foot wide well built into solid rock to a depth of 98 feet.

As the City's population increased, the well water became more polluted and supply was insufficient. To supplement the supply of fresh water, water was drawn from cisterns and a few fresh water springs in the northern part of Manhattan.

In 1832, DeWitt Clinton suggested using the Croton River as a source of potable water. In 1834, the State Legislature permitted NYC to venture beyond the city borders for water.

Thus, the City decided it was in their best interest to impound water from the Croton River, in what is now Westchester County. An aqueduct was built to carry water from what is now known as the Old Croton Aqueduct. The aqueduct had a capacity of 90 million gallons per day. Other reservoirs were built, east of the Hudson River, claiming the Croton River watershed in both Westchester and Putnam Counties since 1842. The system relied on mountain water flowing into the upstate reservoirs and delivered to the city through gravity feed system, a remarkable network of tunnels and aqueducts through diverse geological terranes. The aqueduct at an elevation of 166 feet was constructed 50 feet high, rock-filled timber crib dam with granite masonry by 1842.

As early as 1880, the Aqueduct Commission started acquiring land for the New Croton Dam and Aqueduct System. In order to harness the Croton's Rivers three branches, 7,000 acres of land was needed. Twenty square miles of land was needed to build the new Croton Dam. Homes, barns, stores, churches, schools, grist, saw and flour mills and four town and over 400 farms were condemned and taken over to build the dam. Six cemeteries were relocated with over 1500 bodies along with their stones and fences.

The Croton Quarry Company was formed and obtained the Millstone Hill Quarry near Hunter Brook, providing the dark gabbro stone for the inside portions of the Dam. Seventeen miles of track were laid between Peekskill and the Quarry, on leased land. Work began in 1892, with the riverbed excavated to a depth of 130 feet. In order to drain the riverbed a canal was dug into the rocky hillside 1,000 feet in length and 200 feet wide. The new enlarged reservoir was completed in 1905, and is approximately 9 miles long holding approximately 19 billion gallons of water at full capacity.

Information from: History of NYC's Water Supply System – NYCDEP

: Charles Merguerian, 2000, A History of the NYC Water Supply System



From Wheresmybackpack.com

In the Spring of 2017, we will be hosting a bus trip to both Rosendale and High Falls and possibly to New Croton Dam - More information to follow in later bulletins.

## TIDBITS:

### **2017 Show:**

**We are now in the process of working on our annual show. Although alternate locations were addressed, the outcome was bleak- and we are back at the Barn.**

## Sustainable Holidays



The holiday season with its accompanying buying, wrapping and celebrating substantially increases the amount of waste and electricity we generate. From wasteful purchases to disposable dinnerware and high electricity bills, the holiday season takes a toll on the environment. However, there are many opportunities for the consumer to be more sustainable during the holiday season. Shop locally, make your own gifts, and reduce waste to reduce your environmental impact this holiday season. Keep in mind, the best way to have a sustainable holiday is to simplify. When you simplify the holidays you often reduce your costs, stress and waste.

### Tips for Green Holiday Shopping

- **If you must shop, shop as close to home as possible in an area where stores are near each other.** Better yet, carpool with a friend or take public transportation.
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- **Consider giving a gift that is eco-friendly, such as; items made with recycled content, items that are locally produced, organic, and/or fair-trade.** Shop at nearby farmers markets, craft fairs, nurseries, and locally-owned stores.
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- **Give the gift of apps to kids with smartphones.**

- **Give gifts that encourage others to use less stuff, like a book about making crafts from reusable items, a cookbook for leftovers, or a re-usable carry-out container.**
- **Purchase gifts that are long-lasting or that can be reused and later recycled. Look for gifts that don't require batteries.** If you must buy a product that needs batteries, buy rechargeable batteries and give them with the gift.
- **Used gifts are kinder to the environment.** Consider giving vintage and used clothing, books, DVDs, CDs, sports equipment, tools, cameras, children's toys, musical instruments, etc.
- **Online shopping:** keeps you off the roads, but consider how far your purchases have to travel to get to you.
- **Give gift certificates to local museums, concerts, restaurants, theaters etc.**
- **Give a local gift:** get your favorite gardener a garden plot in a local community garden.
- **Make your own gifts:** edible gifts such as breads, cookies, cakes, dried fruits, nut mixes, canned goods, jams/jellies, or herbed vinegars make fantastic gifts. Use your arts and crafts skills to knit a scarf, crochet a hat or mittens, paint a watercolor, or design your own jewelry. Make a calendar by using family photos marked with important dates.
- **Make a donation to a non-profit organization in the name of your loved one.**
- **Instead of buying a gift, give your time and talent to your loved ones this year.**
- **Plan a "re-gift" swap with your like-minded friends and family.**
- **Bring your own reusable tote bag when shopping.**

## **Gift Wrap, Holiday Cards and Packaging**

- **Instead of wrapping a gift add a bow or ribbon to product boxes or gift boxes.**
- **Make the wrapping part of a gift.** Gardening pots are easy to fill with gardening supplies. A mixing bowl or stockpot makes an excellent package for your favorite cook.
- **Soft wrapping items like scarves, blankets, or towels are a great alternative to traditional wrapping paper. Choosing tree-less sources of wrapping paper and**

**holiday cards are friendlier on the environment than traditional wrapping paper.** Use postcards to eliminate envelopes and excess paper.

- **Be creative about giving old materials new life:** magazines, newspapers, maps, posters, children's artwork and calendars make great wrapping paper.
- **Only use the amount of wrap that you need:** loop string around gift boxes, then lay it out on paper to determine how much to cut for your gift wrap.
- **Gift bags/baskets are a great wrapping alternative and can be used over and over again.** Save clothing boxes, ribbons, bows and wrapping paper to reuse next year.
- **Avoid buying metallic and plastic wrapping paper it is not recyclable.**
- **Use last year's holiday cards to create this years "to" and "from" labels.**
- **Hide your unwrapped gifts and put clues to where they are around your house.**
- **Save trees by sending e-cards instead of paper cards.**
- **Make your own cards from paper embedded with wildflower seeds.**
- **Ask companies to ship your packages using paper instead of polystyrene packing peanuts.** If you do receive packing peanuts bring them, and other styrofoam packaging, to shipping stores for recycling.

## **Holiday Decorations & Christmas Trees**

- **Energy Star qualified LED (Light Emitting Diode) lights are 90 percent more efficient than traditional Christmas lights and LED's last longer.**
- **Better yet, buy solar powered LED lights.** Connect lights to a timer to turn lights on at dusk and off when you go to bed.
- **Recycle your old holiday lights.** Each year Home Depot offers a holiday light exchange in November or recycle them at your local scrap metal dealer.
- **Go light-free: candles, the starry night sky and reflective ornaments and menorahs provide electricity-free holiday cheer.**
- **Skip the tinsel for the tree and avoid buying plastic decorations.**
-

- **Nature provides beautiful ornaments and other holiday decorations: gather a basket of evergreen branches, berries, flowers, fresh fruit, etc. and arrange as you desire, or make ornaments from twigs, bark, flowers, herbs, etc.**
- **Make edible ornaments like seed bells, suet, and pinecones with peanut butter to hang around your yard and feed the local wildlife.**
- **String together popcorn and cranberries, or make garland out of old jewelry, small stuffed animals or toys, trinkets, memorabilia, cookie cutters, buttons, etc.**
- **Cut Christmas trees are a greener choice than artificial trees.**
- **Potted Christmas trees can be replanted after the holidays and reused all year long and for years to come.** Consider buying a potted tree with a root ball that is native to your area.
- **Instead of buying a tree, decorate a tree in your backyard.**

## **Holiday Food and Green Parties**

- **Locally grown food travels fewer miles and creates fewer carbon emissions. Serve bite-sized or finger foods to minimize plate and utensil use.**
- **Use smaller serving utensils and plates to encourage smaller portions reducing the amount of food waste left on plates.**
- **Use recyclable aluminum foil instead of plastic wrap to store leftovers.**
- **Plan your menu and exactly how much food you'll need.**
- **Send electronic party invitations instead of paper invitations.**
- **Use re-usable cups, plates, silverware and utensils instead of using disposable plastic, paper or styrofoam at your party.**
- **Avoid buying individually packaged drinks.**
- **Donate leftover food to local food banks.** Compost food that is not donated.
- **Cook multiple items in the same oven and run appliances on full loads.**
- **Turn down the thermostat for your party and let your guests be the heaters.** Run your ceiling fan clockwise during the party distributing the heat throughout the house.

## Sustainable Holiday Traditions

- **Participate in the annual Christmas Day Bird Count. Take a family nature hike.** Bring a garbage bag to collect any litter you see along the way.
- **Plant a small tree to symbolize the value of nature.**
- **Bundle up and take a stroll to admire the holiday lights in your neighborhood.**
- **Bring back a fading tradition by organizing a caroling party.**

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/index.html>



From the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

## **Wildacres Time– It’s around the corner!**

**Reprinted from December 2016 EFMLS newsletter**

**Bob Jones Returns!**

by Steve Weinberger, Wildacres Committee Chair

Mark your calendar now! May 22 – 28, 2017

Bob Jones will return “to the mountain” as our Speaker-in-Residence for the spring session!

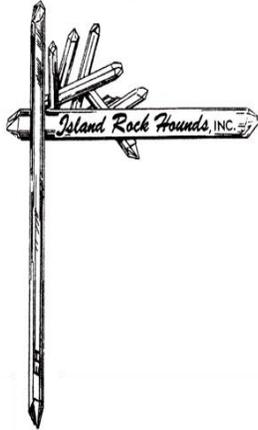
Registration will open on January 1. We’ll have class descriptions and other information in the January EFMLS News as well as information about Bob and our stellar fall session line-up as well. Tuition for 2017 will be \$400 per person and will include your room and board, and gratuity for the resident Wildacres staff. Your only additional “out of pocket” expenses will be for the materials used in the class or classes you take and monies you spend at the annual auction, in the canteen or at the tail gate. So.....



**Pictures from the Wildacres Interfaith Institute Sponsored by the Greater Carolinas Association of Rabbis website**

<http://www.highcountryucc.org/events/33rd-annual-wildacres-interfaith-institute/>

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**Affiliate Member of:**

Eastern Federation of Mineralogical & Lapidary Societies



**American Federation of Mineralogical Societies**



**American**

**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 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