

Island Rock Hounds, Inc.

ROCK BOTTOM FACTS

February 2012

Website: www.islandrockhounds.org

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Bellmore Memorial Library
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Bellmore, NY 11710
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President's Message

Hello Rockhounds,

Well I have been doing something I haven't done in years, and that is to stay home from both jobs and cancel all meetings and social activities so that I could properly recuperate from being sick. It was killing me!

So, it is now my fourth day, and I figured I should do something resourceful and that would be work on the newsletter- so here it is! (Out of work 8 days!!!)

It's Leap Year- hope you are all ready to leap in and volunteer for the show! It will be here before you know it. There will be a show meeting this month at 7pm – so plan on being there!

This is a first for us at the Holiday Inn. We want to make it a very pleasurable experience for all involved; our club, the vendors and the Holiday Inn. This will only be possible if we are all prepared and know our roles in it.

I will be working on the floor plan to present it to the club at the show meeting. Of course this may change based on the number of tables acquired by the remaining vendors.

The mailing list is being assembled as we speak with the post cards being sent the week of our meeting.
See you all Wed.

Cheryl Neary, President

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2012 UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb. 08th @ 7:00pm
@ 7:45pm

Special Show Meeting
General Meeting

March 23-25

Island Rock Hounds Annual Show

April 10 -15

Wildacres : *The speaker-in-residence and making a return visit, is none other than world renowned photographer Jeff Scovil. You've seen his fabulous work in all the mineral and gem magazines, books and calendars. Jeff's bound to enhance his talks with really wonderful photographs!*

Tuition for the week will be \$350 per person.

September 3 – 9

Wildacres: *Our speaker-in-residence will be Julian Gray, of the Tellus Science Museum in Cartersville, GA. This will be Julian's first visit to Wildacres and we're excited to have him. Like Jeff in spring, Julian will be giving 6 talks during the week.*

Tuition for this session will be \$370 per person.



Happy Birthday

To Our February Babes!

John Andersen

**Dues \$ \$ \$
Are NOW Past Due**

Dues have been increased to the following amounts for the 2012 Year (and is still quite a bargain!):

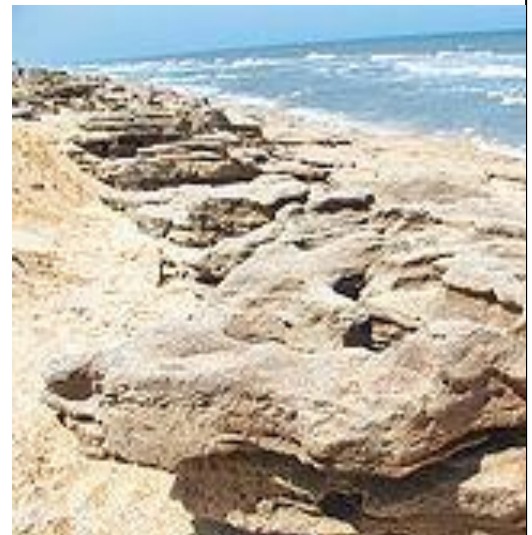
Individual\$15.00

Family\$ 25.00

Janet Zenk is collecting dues this month. Remember, dues must be paid no later than Feb, 2012. Since Janet will be in Florida send her a check, payable to IRH to her home at:

194 West Islip Road
West Islip, NY 11795-4552

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This is a coquina outcrop similar to the outcrop that Sue, Kathy and I walked to while we visited this past December. Sue was a perfect host and she opened her home to Kathy and I. Sue lives in Highland Beach. This is just south of DelRay Beach (A real swinging town!) and north of Boca Raton and Fort Lauderdale. See page 4 for more information.

BETWEEN A ROCK & A HARD PLACE:

A SYNOPSIS OF JANUARY'S MEETING:

Members Gail & Rich Siena provided direction on the beading of a necklace. Gail created the kits which included the silk thread, beads, needle, spacers and directions. Each person who participated went home with lovely lariat necklace. The club purchased the kits for the members.

NEW BUSINESS:

FEBRUARY MEETING: 02/08/12

[This month's meeting will be presented by Bellmore's Treasures Unlimited](#)

Mike McMeekin is the owner of Treasure Unlimited, a metal detecting store located on Merrick Rd in Bellmore. He is a noted scuba diver and treasure hunter. He will be discussing some of the interesting dives he has made over the years in the black waters of our southern rivers.

We need volunteers for the Hospitality for the months of March, April, May and June. You would be required to bring to the meeting a cold drink, milk, either vegetable or fruit platters. You have a \$25.00 budget.

If we do not get any volunteers we can pick from the hat!

Thanks again to Izzy & Howard Katz for donating the bagels/ rolls /donuts/ and other goodies!!!

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).

AUCTION:

Please start donating specimens, jewelry, etc. for this years' auction to be held in the month of June.

Cheryl Neary

Editor, Island Rockhounds Newsletter

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Tidbits!

Leap Year

The day February 29th is considered Leap Day in the Gregorian Calendar and usually occurs every 4 years. This day is added to the Calendar to correct the earth orbit around the sun. The Gregorian calendar, is a modification of the calendar utilized by the Romans and the Julian calendar. The Roman calendar originated as a lunisolar calendar and many of the days were named after the syzgies of the moon, {For example, Kalendae or calends "calendar", and the full moon (Idus or ide)}. The early Romans synchronized the months with the first crescent moon following a new moon, thereby having some months with 29 days and others with more days. In the Roman calendar, every other year the month of February (which was the last month of their year) was shortened and a leap month (Intercalaris) was added in an attempt to realign cycles with the solar calendar.

The astronomer, Sosigenes of Alexandria, Egypt was requested by Julius Caesar to devise a better calendar than the Roman calendar. The Julian Calendar was adopted with months of 30 or 31 days length, keeping February at 28 days, thus abandoning aligning the months with the lunar cycles. When necessary, a 29th day is added! The algorithm for determining if a year is a leap year is as follows: The year needs to be divisible by 4; not by 100 unless also divisible by 400. Thus the decades 1700, 1800, 1900 are divisible by 4, and by 100; however not by 400, and therefore not leap years; the year 2000 was divisible by 4, 100 and 400- thus leap year!

Coquina

As many of you are aware, I visited Sue Melazzi & Kathy Kerrigan in December. Sue lives in Highland Beach and one day we walked the beach for quite awhile collecting sea shells. We walked south along the coast to an outcrop of rock. Sue asked me if I knew what type of rock it was and I did! It was coquina. The rock is a sedimentary rock, formed by a mixture of small marine clams, crushed oyster and mollusk shells, fragmented coral, crinoids, red and white sands calcite and clay. It is relatively soft when quarried and hardens years later at surface exposures. The word coquina is from the Spanish word for cockleshell. Formations are found along the east coast of Florida, and as far inland as 20 miles. Variations can be found as far north as North Carolina.

Schedule 2011-2012:

February 8- Treasures Unlimited (Bellmore) Lecture- Metal Detecting/Black Waters
March 14- "Show Preparation"
April 11- Tom Gangi - Lecture- Metal Working
May 9- Hands-on project
June 13- Annual Auction

On The Road Again..... Lewis & Clark Trail

Now that you know the story behind the Lewis & Clark expedition, we will start traveling through the terrains and terranes that Lewis & Clark traveled through on their expedition to discover a northwest passage. So what is the difference between terrain and terrane?

Basically, the word terrain's originally meaning was used to describe a geographic area; the lie of the land while the term terrane's original meaning was used to describe fault -bounded crustal blocks that preserved a geological record distinct from adjacent terranes.

The term terrain, or land relief is the vertical and horizontal dimension of land surface, synonymous with topography. The term bathymetry is used to describe the relief underwater. The terrain affects the distribution of surface water flow; weather patterns; and suitability for human settlement. Geomorphology is the study of the formation of terrain or topography based on the processes of geology, erosion, and tectonic, as well as extraterrestrial (meteorite impacts).

The concept of terranes was based on studies in the 1970s of the complicated Canadian Cordilleran orogenic(mountain-building) margin of North America. The term was introduced in a paper "Cordilleran suspect terranes" in 1980 to describe the stratigraphic and tectonic compositional nature of the North American plate. Years later the term was further developed causing controversy about its meaning. Remember that in the early 1960s the theory of plate tectonics and continental drift created a revolution in the earth sciences. After being verified and refined by many scientists, the concepts of plates moving and sea floor spreading have generated the realization that all geological processes are affected either directly or indirectly by these processes, and the field of geology has changed forever!

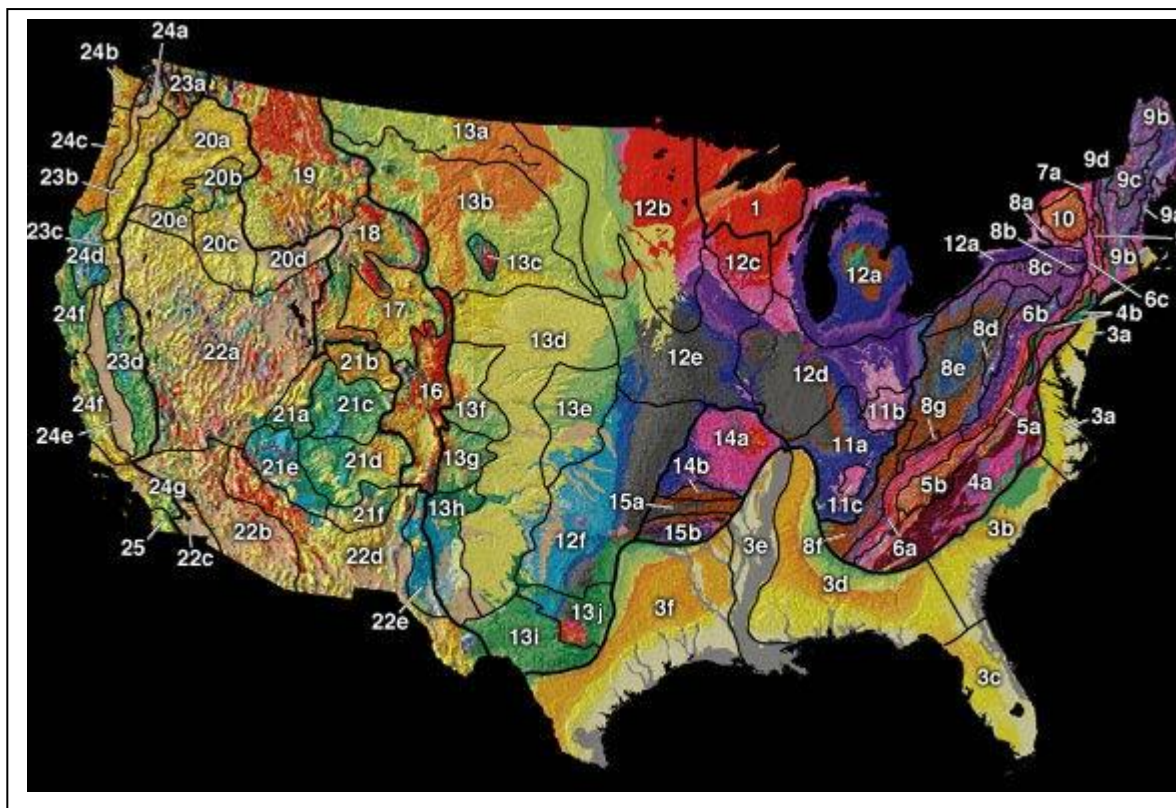
Now at this point I like to wander a little off course, and test some of the older members' memories! Years ago, Chris Visco spoke to us about an author John McPhee and a simple statement in one of his books. Does anyone remember? Hint: member Kathy Kerrigan liked the profound phrase so much that she incorporated the phrase in her email address! (Read on for the answer!) Anyway, if you never read any of John McPhee's work, I highly suggest them. John McPhee wrote over 30 books. A few of his books are" non-fiction novel that delve into the geological aspects, terrains and terranes along the 40th parallel of the United States. Books include, Basin & Range, In Suspect Terrain, Rising from the Plains and Assembling California. In 1999, he won a Pulitzer Prize for the book, Annals of the Former World, an updated compilation of the four previously listed books, along with the addition of his fifth book, Crossing the Craton. The book is based on a series of road trips with noted geologists. So it was on one of these road trips that a geologist informs him that " rocks remember" - yes a profound phrase.

His research into the subject is quite extensive and reminds me of another favorite author of mine, James Michener. His sagas are so detailed into historical, geographical and geological minutia – well, I loved them and thought what a great way to learn the subjects. (I have been told by many that his books are too detailed for them and that they lost interest in reading- to which I say "Oh well- you're lost!")

Now for a quick geographic lesson about the continental US- In 1917, a noted American geologist, geographer and scientist, Nevin Fenneman presented the USGS with a map of the United States divided into eight (8) regions. In the 1930s he further developed the spatial relationships to include a total of 25 provinces and 85 sections which were published in two huge volumes; Physiography of the west US and -the east US. In 2004, the USGS created a wonderful website: A Tapestry of Time & Terrain (<http://tapestry.usgs.gov>) which incorporates the physiography as developed by Fenneman overlain by the age of the rocks; hence a beautiful kaleidoscope of geologic processes which include but are not limited to volcanism, mountain building, continental collisions and subduction, erosion and glaciations.

Now back to Lewis & Clark.....they traveled through a territory which consists today of 11 states and of the eight physiographic regions, the expedition transversed at least four (4) of the regions: Interior Plains, Rocky Mountain System, Intermontane Plateaus and Pacific Mountains System.

The expedition crossed the imaginary line of the Great Continental Divide, which sits atop a continuous ridge of mountain summits; the crests of the Rocky Mountains, which divides the continent into two drainage areas. In the US, there is also an eastern continental divide which separates the drainage east of the Mississippi, running from NY to Florida along the Appalachian Mountains. The city of Atlanta in Georgia sits atop the divide.



USGS map- Tapestry of Time & Terrain