Island Rock Hounds, Inc.

ROCK BOTTOM FACTS

June 2011

Website: www.islandrockhounds.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT
Janice Kowalski (516) 431-7941

VICE-PRESIDENT
Nancy Colburn (516) 334-4398

RECORDING SECRETARY
Nancy Walordy (516) 334-8365

TREASURER
Nancy Colburn (516) 334-4398

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY
Pat O'Rourke (516) 414-2891

MEMBER AT LARGE
Karen Ottendorfer (718) 229 -2189

FIELD TRIPS
Cheryl Neary (516) 449-5341

BULLETIN EDITOR
Cheryl Neary (516) 449-5341
ciervo.neary@gmail.com

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

SHOW CHAIRPERSON
Cheryl Neary (516) 449-5341

DEALER CHAIRPERSON (S)
Nancy Colburn (516) 334-4398

MEMBERSHIP
Janet Zenk (631) 669-1728

EDUCATION
Barbara Albrecht (718) 275-6470

HISTORIAN
Nancy Colburn (516) 334-4398

LIBRARIANS
Isabel & Howie Katz (516) 378-4809

PROPERTY
Dave Cascio (516) 221-5335

HOSPITALITY
Various

Bellmore Memorial Library
2288 Bedford Avenue
Bellmore, NY 11710
(516) 785—2990

President's Message

Hello Everyone,

This month is one of my favorite events, the annual auction. I always enjoy bringing home the new gems and minerals. So remember to bring your dollars!

Well it is hard to believe but this will be my last President's message. At this month's meeting Cheryl will be sworn in and in September I will sit back and listen to the new board.

As the President I learned many things: budgets, shows, guest speakers and commitment. But the best thing that I learned was how dedicated and interesting the members of our club are. The first time I became a board member I was sure I had bitten off more than I could chew but due to the support of the board and club members I learned a great deal!

This club has been a wonderful addition to my life and I encourage all of you to get involved. You will learn so much more than geology.

See you on Wednesday,
Janice Kowalski
President Island Rockhounds.

Inside This Issue

Upcoming Events	**Page 2**
Birthday Wishes	**Page 2**
2011 Schedule	**Page 2**
Between a Rock & a Hard Place	**Page 3**
On the Road Again	**Page 4**

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 4-5	**10-5pm**	**Celinka Unlimited** **Briarcliff College, Patchogue, NY 10-5 (Sat/Sun)**
June 8	**7:45pm**	**IRH General Meeting- Annual Auction**
June 11		**9th Annual Rock Swap & Sale** Sponsored by the Connecticut Antique Machinery Association, Inc. and the Danbury Mineralogical Society to benefit the Connecticut Museum of Mining and Mineral Science.
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**	**30th Annual LIMAGS Mineral, Gem Jewelry & Fossil Show** **Riverhead High School (Note: new location)**
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		**42nd Annual Mid- Hudson Annual Show, Dutchess County Fairgrounds**
Oct. 14-16		**NYSGA -- Hosted by Central New York Association of Professional Geologists(CNYAPG) and Syracuse University** **Further details will be forthcoming**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR SUMMER BABES

June: Howard Katz, Joe Keegan, Rich Siena
Fred Stein
July: Mae Ciervo
August: Isabelle Katz, Tom Gangi
Susan Boyle, Rob Risi

2011 Meetings:
Mark Your Calendars!

Wed. June 8- Annual Auction (bring your $$$$$)
Summer Picnic-hosted by SGMC
Sat. August 6 (Raindate: Sun.Aug. 7)
Sun. August 21- Show Volunteers Appreciation luncheon

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 APRILS'S MEETING:

JOE Austin shared his enthusiasm for one of his favorite hobbies- meteorites. Joe is extremely knowledgeable about this subject and shared with us numerous facts. A big thanks to Joe!

NEW BUSINESS:

June 08, 2011: General Meeting @ 7:45 pm – Annual Auction
Bring $$$$$$$$$

The elected Board of Directors is as follows:

President – Cheryl Neary
Vice-president- Nancy Colburn
Treasurer- Nancy Walordy
Secretary- Peg Stein

SHOW NEWS:
Let's jump ahead to the year 2013- not really all that far away – matter of fact, it seems time goes by faster each day, each year! The Eastern Federation Convention and Show will be held at the Sheraton Long Island, located conveniently off the LIE at Exit 53. This will be a joint show with other Long Island rock and mineral organizations being held in the first weekend in April of 2013.

We now have a piece of the rock- so to say! Early May, members of LIMAG, Gene Genova & Ron Lupo, along with Tom Dickers of the Suffolk Gem & Mineral Club staked the claim at Margaret Hastings. The claim was paid by the four Long Island Clubs and the paths have been marked to denote this transaction. Any club member is invited to utilize the claim. Thanks to Gene, Ron & Tom, they began unearthing so that your quest for Herkimers is that much easier! There is a minimal fee ($2.00) for each entrant per day, collected by Margaret Hastings.

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 BRING YOUR MONEY!!!!

Cheryl Neary, Editor
ciervo.neary@gmail.com

On the Road Again……

Recently Pat O'Rourke and I had the pleasure of visiting the beautiful island of Iceland. You will hear more about this trip and the geological wonders of the country at a later date. What I would like to share with you today is about the folklore of Iceland and the *Huldufo'lk*- "Hidden People" – elves. The Icelandic word is from *hulda* "pertaining to secrecy" and *fo'lk* "people, folks".

Pat and I did several tours in which the tour guides mentioned the hidden people of Iceland. Matter of fact, we were informed that many building projects and road developments are altered to prevent damages to the rocks where the hidden people are believed to live. In 2004, ALCOA, an aluminum smelter, had to have a government expert certify that their chosen site for the building was free of archeological evidence including ones related to huldufolk folklore, before they could start construction. Now our tour guide informed us that once a few American tourist informed him that if they told people in the States that they certified areas for clearance of the hidden people or elves, they would have been labeled as certifiable!

Many gardens in Iceland contain tiny wooden *alfhol*,(elf houses). Some of the Icelanders also built tiny churches to convert the elves to Christianity.

So what is the origin of the hidden people? To truly understand, you need to know a little about the history of the country. First, the island was settled by the Norse who migrated across the North Atlantic in the late 9th century. The reason for the migration may have been due to the shortage of arable land in Scandinavia and due to the civil strife created by the ambitions of the Norse king Harald the Fair-haired. Historians refer typically to the year 874 as the first year of settlement, which lasted to the year 930, when the assembly of the Icelandic Commonwealth was founded in Thingvellir. The early history of the island is found in two historical records, the Islendingabok of Ari Thorgilsson and the Landnamabok both preserved in skin manuscripts. The one record lists 435 men as the initial settlers, with the majority settling in the north and southwestern portion of the island.

According to the Islendingabok, Norse settlers encountered Gael monks when they first arrived. There is no archaeological evidence of a monastic settlement from the British Isles. However, the first written source which mentions the existence of the island is a book by a monk which dates back to the year 825 in which he claimed to have met monks who stated that "darkness reigned during the winter but the summers were bright enough to pick lice from one's clothing". The island is approximately 280 miles from the island of Faroes. The island of Faroes had been visited by the Irish monks in the 500's and settled by the Norse around the year 650.

According to the Landnamabok , the first Norseman to settle the island was a viking, who named the island the "Land of Snow". The second Norseman to settle according to the Landnamabok, set three ravens free near the Faroe Islands. One raven immediately flew back on board, the second flew up into the air and returned to the ship and the third raven flew in front of the ship, which they followed to the island – Iceland.

On the Road Again (continued)…….

Over the years the Vikings raided the British Isles and brought to Iceland many Irish slaves. The Norse settlers had the alfar (elves) and the Irish slaves had the hill fairies or the Good People which over time were two separate sets of folklore, which meant the same thing.

According to one folklore, the origins of the hidden people can be traced back to Adam & Eve. Eve hid her unwashed dirty children from God and lied about their existence when asked if she had any other children. In response, God declared that what man hides from God, God will hide from man. Other Icelandic folklores claim the origin of the hidden people are from Lilith, or the fallen angels condemned to live between heaven and hell. Others connect the elves to fertility.

Political opposition to dancing began in Iceland in the early 12th century. The association of dancing with elves is noted as early as the 15th century, where folklore has the elves siding with the common people and taking revenge on a sheriff who banned dance parties. During the 13th and 14th centuries books from mainland Europe reached Iceland and may have influenced their elves folktales. Belief in the hidden people grew during the 17th and 18th centuries when Iceland was facing tough times.

There are four Icelandic holidays connected with the hidden people: New Year's Eve, Twelfth Night (January 6), Midsummer Night and Christmas night.

Several scholars have commented on the connections between the hidden people and the Icelandic natural environment. Interesting is the fact that one theologian summarized the imaginary elves and hidden people as fascinating projections of the Icelandic psyche upon nature. The elves and hidden people live in the underworld right beneath the ground in the rocks and hills. They have various human attributes, and although they live longer than humans they are born and die as we do. Traditional beliefs hold that there are both good and bad elves, light and dark elves. Light elves live closer to the gods and are Christian who worship in churches identified in rock formations or domelike caves. The dark elves live in the ground. The elves do not live in burnt lava for it is the dwelling of evil spirits and death.

One suggests that the reason for the folktales involving the elves and hidden peoples is that the Icelandic life is conditioned by a "landscape dominated by rocks twisted by volcanic action, wind and water into ferocious and alarming shapes… the imagination fastens on these natural phenomena"
It was also suggested that the oral tales concerning the Icelandic elves and trolls served as warning fables to prevent the children from wandering away from human habitats, taught them about the island's topography and history and instilled in them a fear and respect for the harsh powers of nature. The Icelandic folklore illustrates that the inhabitants have a deep reverence for the land and the mysterious powers able to cause fertility or famine – the ultrapower of the hidden people and elves mimic the ultrapower of nature- the earthquakes, avalanches and volcanoes. Indeed, the legends recorded represent the Icelandic way of life with the hidden people perhaps representing the Icelander's dream of a more perfect and happy existence.