

Island Rock Hounds, Inc.

ROCK BOTTOM FACTS

May 2011

Website: www.islandrockhounds.org

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President's Message

Hello Rockhounds,

As I have mentioned before, now that the warm weather is here, my thoughts always turn to the outdoors. With this in mind, our guest speaker last month, Joe DiCristoforo, only made me think more about different rock adventures. His lecture was engaging and, if I had the money and time, would love to go see some of the places he spoke about.

This month our thoughts turn to the sky. Joe Austin, a long time member of the Nassau Gem and Mineral Club, will be sharing his knowledge of meteorites with us in what promises to be an interesting lecture.

Keep an eye out for your newsletter, there are some interesting field trips being planned and as always a gem & mineral show worth visiting. Next month is our Annual Rock Auction. This is one of my favorite events so don't forget to bring your money and get ready to bid!

As always, if you are interested in finding out about where to go digging; the best upcoming shows; or an idea for our club, please come and see me. The success of this club is really measured by its members involvement.

See you on Wednesday,

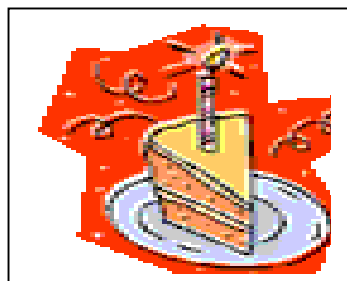
Janice Kowalski
President, Island Rockhounds

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UPCOMING EVENTS

May 11	07:00pm 07:45pm	IRH Board Budget Meeting- all welcomed to attend General Meeting: Guest Speaker- Joe Austin, Meteorites
June 4-5	10-5pm	Celinka Unlimited Briarcliff College, Patchogue, NY 10-5 (Sat/Sun)
June 11		9 th Annual Rock Swap & Sale (see page 4)
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 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		42 nd 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***

May Babes

Rita Batenback
Jennie Cascio
Janice Kowalski
Cheryl Neary
Joan Ott

**2011 Meetings:
Mark Your Calendars!**

May 11 – Speaker –Joe Austin- Meteorites
June 8- Auction (start saving 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 APRIL'S MEETING:

JOE DeCristoforo entertained us with his slide presentation on the mineral locales in Brazil. Throughout the slide presentation Joe directed our attention to the size of the mines. Basically, the mines are small in size and found in the slopes of the mountains. Each slide for the different mines depicted a fairly small entranceway for the mines. Remember, the size of the mine does not matter when you are able to mine the beautiful gem quality minerals!

NEW BUSINESS:

April 13, 2011: General Meeting @ 7:45 pm – Joe Austin - Meteorites

Be prepared to travel through space as seen in “the eyes of a meteorite”. Joe has collected a vast knowledge on the subject of meteorites through his intense hobby. Joe has visited our club several times throughout the years and each time we seem to be shouting...tell me more!

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????) (This is your last chance!)

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 DONATIONS THIS MONTH FOR NEXT MONTH'S AUCTION!

Cheryl Neary, Editor

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What's Happening Inter-State:

9th Annual Rock Swap and Sale

Saturday June 11, 2011

9-4

Rain or Shine

Sponsored by the Connecticut Antique Machinery Association, Inc. and the Danbury Mineralogical Society to benefit the Connecticut Museum of Mining and Mineral Science.

To be held at the museum grounds of the Connecticut Antique Machinery Association,
1 mile north of Kent, CT on Route 7 (31 Kent-Cornwall Road)

Swapping only \$10, Swapping-selling \$25

Rocks, minerals, fossils, jewelry for sale and trade.

Tour the new wing of the mining museum. New vendors welcome.

The museum will be selling specimens from the John Schroder collection.

For information and directions check our website at www.ctamachinery.com or call
(860) 927-0050 (museum) or John Pawloski (860) 354-0296

Note from the Editor: I heard this is a nice museum to visit!

On the Road Again-

This month we will be traveling to the hills of North Carolina. During our last meeting in April, Janet Pat and I were at Wildacres – each of us participating in different workshops, and attending lectures by the guest speaker Dr. Gene La Berge. Dr. LaBerge is a native of Wisconsin. Both he and his wife, Sally, are geologists and have traveled extensively for research and recreation. His adventures have taken us to Africa (Namibia), Alaska, Canada, Michigan and of course-Wisconsin!

To recap our trip, we flew out of Kennedy Airport to Charlotte, NC. Our adventure began as we tried to rent a car for the week from a rather well-known car rental agency- who began with a quote of \$1100.00! However, after they realized that we thought the quote was absurd, we later signed for \$ 362.00 – Big difference! Although not appreciating the fact that they thought we would just go along with what I would consider a scam and clouding the day, the weather was glorious and the day was beautiful , almost 90 degrees! We drove to our hotel which was located “uptown”. We were located by the Conference Center. We enjoyed an afternoon stroll through the area, and enjoyed some time at a museum which depicted the growth of the area from a rural town to the bustling city noted today as the second largest financial district in the US.

The following morning we were off to Wildacres! I thought I was Mario Andretti climbing the hills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Pat and Janet on the other hand had other ideas!

We had a great time at Wildacres and will share our “masterpieces” with you at our next meeting!

On the Road Again (continued).....

On our free day we traveled to Asheville, and enjoyed the Biltmore, the largest residence in the United States, built by George Washington Vanderbilt. We were joined by a member of the Northern Virginia club, Pat Rehill. This day was gorgeous as well! We had a great time exploring the floors of the house and viewing the property – acres of land, with the French Broad River flowing through.

And it is the river and mountains of the Blue Ridge that I will be speaking about! The French Broad River is the largest watercourse in Western North Carolina. The Cherokee Nation first settled the area. In 1540, the Spanish explorer Hernando De Soto visited the area seeking treasures. The river basin was eventually occupied by English-speaking settlers, who named the river the French Broad River because it flowed west toward the lands claimed by French explorers and fur traders. The river's headwaters are west of Rosman in Transylvania County and flows approximately 70 miles to the Tennessee border, for a total of 210 miles.

The French Broad River has many interesting characteristics:

- First, it is one of the oldest rivers in the world. North Carolina also has the New River, claimed to be older than the French Broad River!
- Secondly, unlike other rivers of the southern Appalachians, the French Broad River flows in a northward semicircle, cradled between the Tennessee Valley Divide and the Pisgah Ridge. First the river flows to the northeast, turns north at Asheville and then flows to the northwest.
- The River reaches its highest North Carolina elevation at 6,400 feet with the lowest elevation in the state at 1,240 feet at the state line between NC and Tennessee. The river is wider than others in the NC region. (However, east of the Eastern Continental Divide is the English Broad River)!

The Blue Ridge Province is a mountainous range approximately 200 miles long and between 15 to 50 miles wide in North Carolina. There are 43 peaks which exceed an elevation of 6,000 feet, including eastern North America's highest peak, Mount Mitchell at an elevation of 6,684 feet above sea level. The mountains of North Carolina are estimated to be 500 million years old, one of the oldest mountains in the world. The basement rock is older than 1 billion years old. The mountain formations are comprised of varied geologic events which include a series of continents crashing together and then splitting apart, and erosion.

Modern geologists believe that the mountain-building events happened between 500 and 250 million years ago, when parts of the continent of Europe and Africa collided with North America, two separate times. When the continents separated the second time, the Atlantic Ocean was formed. The second collision produced the beginning of today's mountain topography – causing the faults and folds found in the mountainous terrain from Maine to Georgia.

When the continents collided, older rocks, comprised of layered metamorphic rocks- gneiss and schist were shoved up and over the younger material. The southern Appalachians contain mineral wealth, with over 300 different minerals, including gold, silver, garnets, sapphires, rubies and emeralds. Also mined for its economic importance is mica and feldspars.