

Island Rock Hounds, Inc.

ROCK BOTTOM FACTS

October 2011

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President's Message

Hello Rock Hounds,

It was so nice to see everyone last month! I cannot believe how fast the days have come and gone this month!

Every month I think I have all this time to work on this newsletter and before I know it, the time is here and gone, and I'm scrambling to get the newsletter done. This summer I thought I would be resourceful and began the September newsletter at the end of July. Before I knew it, July was September and I searched my email account for the started edition. Then I searched all the computers that I may have started working on the newsletter. This included several different computers located at various locations on the island! Last minute, it dawned on me that I put it on a thumb drive because the internet service went down! So then I searched for which thumb drive had the newsletter. This month's newsletter I started the day after our meeting. So why am I still working on it on 10/05/11?

Talking about last month's meeting, thanks to the great photography by Pat O'Rourke that she and I were able to provide a slide presentation and give you a feel for Wildacres- a wonderful experience and Iceland. Pictures do not do that island justice!

Jonathan Schaffer wowed us with his fossil collecting trip to the northwest. He brought in some wonderful specimens. Jonathan not only found the fossil material, he prepped the pieces! Jonathan also informed us to the amount of time and effort it takes to find dinosaur bones, and piece them together. It was a pleasure to listen to him as he enthusiastically described his recent fossil collecting trip, with our former club member Jim Quigley!

Hope to see you on October 12th !
Cheryl Neary, President

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- October 8-9 1st Annual "Old Fashioned" Outdoor Rock Swap 'n Sell
Sponsored by New Jersey Mineralogical Society
Glenburne Estate
- October 12 7:00pm 2012 Show Meeting
7:45 pm Hands- On with Leslie Mauer
- October 14-16 New York State Geological Association (NYSGA)
Hosted by Syracuse University and Central New York
Professional Geologists (CNYPG), Syracuse
- October 15-16 38th Annual Gem & Mineral Show
Bristol, Ct.
- October 29 Garvies Point
10:00 am
- November 5-6 Stamford Mineralogical Society Annual Gem, Mineral,
Jewelry & Fossil Show
Greenwich, Ct
- November 12-13 Fall New York City Gem & Mineral Show
Holiday Inn Midtown Manhattan, on West 57th Street
- Dec 3-4 Suffolk Gem & Mineral Club
Briarcliff College, Patchogue, NY
- March 23-25 IRH 2012 Show



Dave Cascio

Marvin Schlesinger

Peg Stein

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY
October
Babes!**

Barbara Albrecht

Nancy Colburn

Gail Siena

Normunds Treijs

Field Trip:

Oct 29, 2011 to Garvies Point
@10:00 am

Please let Janice know by the end
of our meeting whether you will
be attending. Please give her a
contact number as well!

Unfortunately, the County is
planning on closing the museum!

Special Thanks
to Joan Murray for
volunteering to handle the
October's Hospitality

BETWEEN A ROCK & A HARD PLACE:

A SYNOPSIS OF SEPTEMBER'S MEETING:

OUR ANNUAL SHOW & TELL WAS SUCCESSFUL!
IT WAS A PLEASURE TO SEE EVERYONE-

NEW BUSINESS:



OCTOBER MEETING:

HANDS-ON with Leslie Maurer

WE WILL BE CRAFTING A "S" PIN WITH BEADS!

BRING YOUR TOOLS AND A TOWEL.

2012 SHOW

MEETING: Our first show meeting will be held prior to the **OCTOBER** general meeting at 7:00. See you all there!



2013 Eastern Federation Mineralogical & Lapidary Society Convention Show:

Jointly Hosted by IRH & Suffolk Gem & Mineral Club

April 2013 @ the Long Island Sheraton conveniently located off LIE exit 53

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 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:

10 Least Likely Swimming Holes

Excerpt from ASSE.org {Contributed by Susan Ciervo-Boyle}

1. Democratic Republic of the Congo's Nyiragongo Crater, home to the world's largest permanent lava lake.
2. Any body of water in China which almost all lakes and rivers are under toxic attack by algal blooms
3. Russia's Lake Karachay, the most polluted water on the planet
4. Any exploding lake such as Lake Kivu in Rwanda; Lakes Monoun and Nyos in Cameroon
5. Berkley Pit in Butte, Mt. filled with arsenic
6. Costa Rica's Laguna Caliente filled with sulfuric acid
7. Subglacial Lake Vostok, a bit chilly at 3° C
8. Dominica's Boiling Lake
9. Amazon Basin with its candiru (toothpick fish) which reportedly invade and parasite's the human urethra
10. Northern & eastern beaches of Australia home to lethal box jellyfish

2012 Show News: March 24-25,2012

This year we have a new venue for our show. We will be hosting the show at the Holiday Inn conveniently located off of the Long Island Expressway and Northern State Parkway in Plainview.

Contracts have been sent to the dealers and it is time for you to be thinking what you can do to help! In October we will be having a meeting to discuss responsibilities and choose chairpersons for the following: Admission, Children's Activities, Club Table, Display Showcases, Hourly Prizes, and Security.

Thank you in advance for your help!

Schedule 2011-2012:

October 12- "S" Pin – Wire wrapping taught by Leslie Maurer

November 09- Denise Buss- Presentation on her recent travel to Africa

December 14– Holiday Party

January 11- Beaded Necklace taught by Gail & Rich

February 8- Treasures Unlimited (Bellmore) Lecture- Metal Detecting/Black Waters

March 14- "ShowPreparation"

April 11- Tom Gangi - Lecture- Metal Working

May 9- Hands-on project "Lighthouse"

June 13- Annual Auction

On the Road Again.....

You can call it resourcefulness or perhaps ambition, wrapped with insight and an ingenious politician and you would be describing Thomas Jefferson and his insight to expand the borders of the newly formed nation. It was Thomas Jefferson who had pondered the economic value for years of the lands, which lay west of the Mississippi. He recognized the need for expansion, as well as the quest by other nations including France, Spain, England and Russia to expand their territories, for untold economic benefits described by earlier explorers to the region west of the Mississippi.

It was Jefferson who sensed the political forum of the day and had the foresight to send James Monroe and other ministers to Paris to negotiate the purchasing of New Orleans, a vital port at the mouth of the Mississippi. Napoleon, preparing for another war with England, surprised the ministers and offered them the opportunity to purchase the 820,000 square miles for a sum of \$15 million. This purchase doubled the size of our country, at a cost of \$0.03 per acre. To the west of this territory was the Spanish Territory and the Oregon Country; to the north the British Territory. The Pacific Coast and the land to the east had entertained both Russian and European explorers, such as George Vancouver and Sir Alexander Mackenzie who had so carefully recorded the wealth of the land.

In 1801, when Jefferson became President, 66% of Americans lived within 50 miles of the Atlantic Ocean. Jefferson never travelled more than 50 miles from Virginia's Shenandoah Valley. Yet, based on the vast number of books catalogued in his private library in Monticello, Thomas Jefferson had acquired a fascination for the land which laid to the west of the Mississippi. He read of accounts of prehistoric animals and woolly mammoths roaming the land's surface. Other accounts described erupting volcanoes and a mountain composed of pure salt. Based on his readings, he believed that Virginia's Blue Mountains might be the continent's highest mountains, and above all he believed a river, or a series of rivers connected by short portage would be the elusive Northwest Passage. It was Jefferson's quest and eagerness to discover the Northwest Passage which led him to try to organize three American expeditions to search for the passage. Each attempt was in vain, until the Lewis & Clark expedition.

This was the same Northwest Passage that throughout centuries many nations unsuccessfully attempted to find. This was the same passage that if ever found would possibly lead to the ease of trade from Europe to the Orient. Jefferson's insight was to protect the young nation's economy, and foster the growth of the nation, through trade between the continents. Jefferson believed that whatever nation found the Northwest Passage would not only control the passage, but the continent as well.

It was this quest for discovery that Jefferson specifically commissioned two men of different backgrounds and personalities to seek the Passage. The mission became known as the Corps of Discovery, and although they never discovered the Passage, what they did discover changed the course of the young nations' history and that of the Native Americans who had owned and respected the land eons before the arrival of any white man.

As stated previously, the western lands had been penetrated by various nationalities years before. The Spanish tried invading the land from the South, the Russians from the West, and the French & English from the North. Word spread of various nations of people hostile to the intrusion. Perhaps hostile wasn't the correct term to be applied, but it was the term used to identify one of the hazards our Corps of Discovery would need to focus on. Now in fairness to all sides, it seems to me that throughout all of mankind's recorded history, differing populations react the same when the land they know, respect and utilize is threatened. It is our instinct to protect what we have. How would you react if someone showed up at your house and basically said "Sorry, I need more assets, such as your house and property so that I can prosper and expand my own personal wealth." Tell me about it!

So prepared for the hostilities of the Native Americans and their fears of the unknown, our Corps of Discovery set out for what would become not only the most famous expedition of their lifetime but also for multiple of generations which reaped the rewards of their greatest discoveries, the land itself.

This expedition encountered and precisely recorded their discoveries of new plants and animals and rock formations. Also recorded was their discovery of the way of life of people of differing cultures, whom all shared a deep reverence for the land, and the mysterious powers of the earth and sky; cultures whom were peaceful and helpful for the survival of the Corps. Looking back in history, perhaps, if this great discovery received the same attention as the economic benefits of the earthly finds, life may have been incredibly different for all generations. However, history is what we have to work with and the fascinating journey is about to begin.

So with that all said, let's begin the journey!

During the winter of 1803-1804, Lewis & Clark and the four dozen men recruited spent time at Camp Dubois. The camp consisted of huts they built on the Illinois side of the Mississippi, upstream from St. Louis. During this time, they gathered information from fur traders about the route ahead of them.

In March of 1804, Lewis & Clark attended a formal ceremony in St. Louis transferring upper Louisiana from France to the United States. In April, they arranged for a delegation of Osage chiefs to travel to Washington to meet with President Jefferson, part of their diplomatic duties.

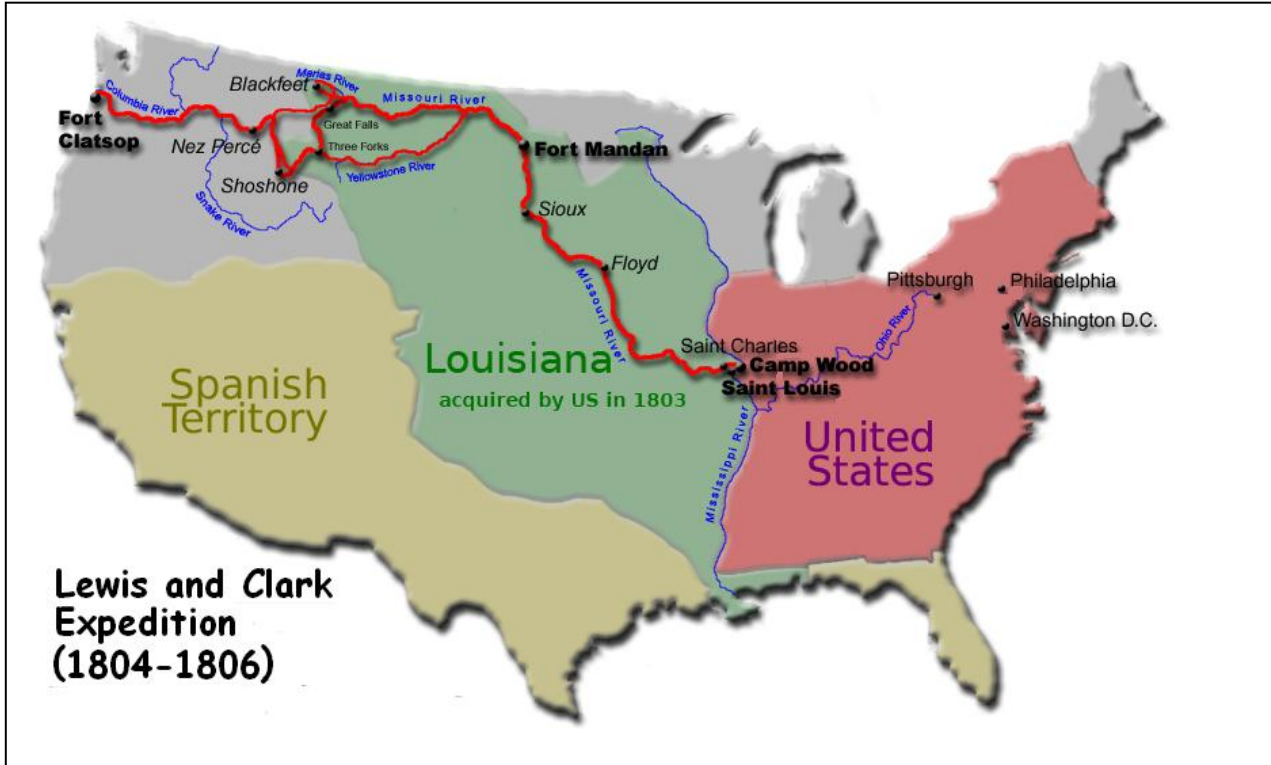
May 14, 1804, the team along with their supplies - which consisted of approximately two tons each of flour and salt pork, fifty pounds of coffee and over one hundred gallons of whiskey - sailed across the Mississippi and four and half miles up the Missouri to start their exploratory portion of their mission.

On May 25th they reached LaCharette, a cluster of dwellings less than 60 miles up the Missouri and according to Sergeant Charles Floyd journal, the last white settlement on the river.

Beginning their journey, they were greeted with bad weather- heavy rains and fierce winds. In addition, mosquitoes swarmed their faces. Despite the elements, they forged ahead. Their

greatest obstacle would be the Missouri River, filled with snags and rushing five miles in the opposite direction of their journey.

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia



Below is the famous map of Lewis and Clark's expedition. It changed mapping of northwest America by providing the first accurate depiction of the relationship of the sources of the Columbia & Missouri Rivers and the Rocky Mountains.

