

# Island Rock Hounds, Inc.

# ROCK BOTTOM FACTS

## October 2016

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HOSPITALITY (Monthly by members)

Bellmore Memorial Library  
2288 Bedford Avenue

## President's Message

Dear Members -

It is with a sadden heart that I report that our beloved member Tom Gangi has passed away on Wednesday, October 5<sup>th</sup>. I know that I speak for the whole club when I say he will be missed.

Due to events at the Bellmore Library, our formal meeting was cancelled this month, but will resume again next month, November 9<sup>th</sup>. (Either upstairs or downstairs – surprise each month!)

However, we will be attending the New York Mineral Club's Opal Banquet on Wed. Oct 19<sup>th</sup> - there is still time to join us- just let me know if you plan on attending. The club is paying half of the dinner amount.

We are hosting a bus trip on Nov.6<sup>th</sup> – more information inside.

The agenda for next our November meeting is a tribute to Tom Gangi. Tom's family members have been invited to attend our meeting as we discuss the many things that Tom has done for this club – which meant a great deal to him.

Our Holiday dinner will be at Olive Garden. Please let me know if you are planning on attending- we will need a headcount.

Hope to see everyone at the November meeting, if not before!  
*(Hint- field trip!!)*

*Cheryl Neary*  
President, Island Rockhounds

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## Upcoming Events:

**November 6 7:00am -7:00pm Bus Trip – Harnessing our waterways**

**November 12 10:00 am -6:00pm NYMC – Holiday Inn**  
**13 11:00am – 5:00pm 440 W57th St., NYC**

**December 3 & 4 10:00am -5:00 pm SGMC – Our Lady Of Mt. Carmel**  
**No. Ocean Ave., Patchogue**

### Upcoming Field trips:

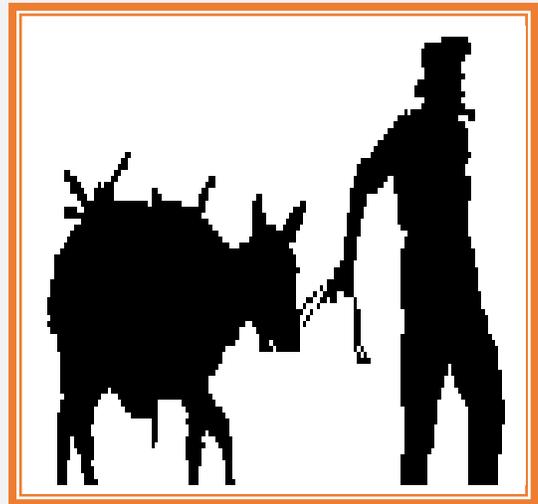
**November 6<sup>th</sup>**

*Bus trip to a NY Canal and Dam (see page 4)*

*Pierrepont, NY-Uvatie & Tremolite – May 2017*

**August 18-22<sup>nd</sup>** –Kentucky Solar Eclipse  
*hosted by SGMC*

Anyone with any ideas for future trips, please see  
Roberta Besso or Cheryl Neary



***Happy Birthday  
to our  
September  
Babes!***

**Barbara Albrecht**

**Nancy Colburn**

**Marvin Schlesinger**

**Gail Siena**

Time to think about renewing  
your membership!

Individual \$15.00

Family \$ 25.00

Still a bargain!

## BETWEEN A ROCK & A HARD PLACE:

### A SYNOPSIS OF LAST MONTH'S MEETING:

In September we had our "Show & Tell" of what we did over the summer. We spoke about the show in 2017 and Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> Field trip (see page 4 for more info)

**This month: No Meeting!!!**

**Due to the Library cannot accommodate our group**

**However, all members are invited to the New York Mineralogical Club Banquet held on October 19<sup>th</sup> at the Holiday Inn @ 57<sup>th</sup> St. The cost is \$30.00/person. The club will pay half for all attending. This years' banquet theme is opals.**

**November 9<sup>th</sup> meeting-**

**Please join us as we pay tribute to Tom Gangi.**

**Tom was a very active member and he truly loved being a member of the club. Tom's family will be at the meeting to hear our stories – and remembrance of such an enthusiastic member, who for many years held many offices in the club, as well as positions in the EFMLS; presented many lectures to us with the last presentation on how he made the chain out of a solid block of wood!**

**Holiday Dinner @ Olive Garden, Westbury      Wednesday, December 14,2016  
Mark your calendars!**

### **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

## **Field Trip – Harnessing Our Waterways**

**Please join us as we visit the D&H Canal Museum in High Falls, NY**

**We will be taking a charter bus from Long Island with 2 stops at either:  
Exit 63 or Exit 49**

**And**

**Exit 41 or 36**

**(Depends on attendance)**

**We will be meeting with Bill Merchant of the Museum, who opened up for  
the day just for us!**

**He will provide a lecture about the canal at the museum and guide the walk.**

**Weather permitting – flea market @ Grady Park**

**Time permitting we may ride to the Rondout Reservoir**

**Dinner at Cracker Barrel**

**Cost \$25.00/ person members    \$30.00 / person Non-members**



## **On the Road Again – Building America –Harnessing waterways-Canals &Dams**

**Do you know who the “Father of the Erie Canal” is?**

Here is a few hints-

1. American politician who served as a US Senator, Mayor of NYC and the sixth Governor of New York
2. Organized the New York Historical Society in 1804 and was its president
3. Regent of the University of New York from 1808 to 1825
4. Freemason and Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of NY
5. Died in 1828 at an age of 58 and was buried in Brooklyn, NY
6. Mineral named after him
7. Approximately sixteen towns and eight USA counties are named for him

Did you guess DeWitt Clinton? During his term as governor he was responsible for the construction of the Erie Canal from the eastern shore of Lake Erie to the upper Hudson River. Many referred to this project as impracticable and called it “DeWitts or Clinton’s Ditch” or “Clinton’s Folly”. The DeWitt Ditch or Folly became reality after legislature appropriated \$7 million for construction and the canal was finished in 1825 connecting the waters from the East to the West. The cost of freight between Buffalo and Albany dropped over tenfold, even with the state recouping funds it spent on the project through tolls along the canal.

DeWitt served for fifteen years as Canal Commissioner and actively promoted the building of both the Erie and Champlain Canals. NYS at that time was a land of forest, swamps and underbrush and the western part of the state was considered unreachable and uninhabitable. The distance proposed was 363 miles. Thomas Jefferson refused to support the canal stating that it was a splendid project that may take a century to build! However, De Witt Clinton, then mayor of NYC believed that the canal was crucial to the development of NYS. In July of 1817, ground was broken at Utica, NY and construction began simultaneously toe the east and west and continued for eight years.

It was written by Page Smith that the canal obsessed and enchanted Americans in the fall of 1825. “It was taken to be a symbol of the boundless potentialities of the country and its resilience and its hope.”<sup>1</sup>

Also notable about the Erie Canal is that it provided impressive revenue for NYS. The Erie Canal also survived the rise of the railroad with tonnage on the canal continuing to increase until it peaked in 1872.

The bronzy plates in high temperature marble matrix is known as the mineral Clintonite. The type locality for Clintonite is Amity, Town of Warwick, Orange County, NY. Clintonite is monoclinic in crystal form. Clintonite is a calcium magnesium aluminum phyllosilicate mineral, member of the mica group, referred to as the “brittle” micas. Clintonite was named in 1843 by American geologist William Williams Mather, English amateur geologist John Finch and Dr. William Horton of Orange County in honor of DeWitt Clinton. Clinton was a naturalist and one of the original surveyors of the route of the Erie Canal.

<sup>1</sup>xroads.virgina.edu Site created and maintained by Janet Haven as part of the American Studies at the University of Virginia

## News from NYSDEC:

### **DEC Announces \$441,091 in Grants to Protect Hudson River**

#### **Funding Will Help Hudson River Estuary Communities Protect Water Quality, Increase Storm Resiliency**

A total of \$441,091 in grants will go to 10 projects to help communities in the Hudson River Estuary watershed protect water quality and habitats, conserve open space, and increase storm resiliency, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Basil Seggos announced today.

"The Hudson River and its Valley are critical players in the history of New York State. The Hudson River Estuary Program was created to ensure that proud history continues into the present by helping New Yorkers enjoy, protect, and revitalize the river," Commissioner Seggos said. "From the federal dam at Troy to the Verrazano Narrows in New York City, the Hudson River Estuary Program invests in protecting our natural resources like clean water, vital ecosystems, fish, wildlife, and habitats, while supporting stronger, more resilient communities up and down its banks."

New York's Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) provides the grants and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) Hudson River Estuary program (HREP) will administer the funds. These grants support planning for local stewardship of the river environment to help achieve the goals of the 2015-2020 Hudson River Estuary Action Agenda. The awards also align with Regional Economic Development Council (REDC) strategies, including supporting land conservation and park projects that link town centers with open space, cultural, and heritage sites, and protecting clean water and ecological resources that are buffers to public parks.

The awarded grants are:

#### **City of Kingston (Ulster County) - \$24,500**

The City of Kingston will complete a community-driven Open Space Plan to preserve, protect, and enhance natural areas. The plan will identify and prioritize green space, water, and natural resources, as well as parks, natural, historic and cultural resources. The plan will also promote sustainable development and serve as a framework for land-use planning and protection.

#### **Vassar College (Dutchess County) - \$50,000**

Vassar College will produce a Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) for the City of Poughkeepsie to provide baseline information on natural, historic, and cultural resources including parks, tributaries to the Hudson, the Poughkeepsie waterfront, and city trees. Vassar undergraduate students will map ash trees within city limits and propose management options to protect ash trees from the invasive emerald ash borer.

#### **Rensselaer Land Trust (Rensselaer County) - \$50,000**

Rensselaer Land Trust will recruit and train citizen scientists to collect water samples at 18

sites on four streams: the Poesten Kill, Wynants Kill, Mill Creek, and Moordener Kill. Citizens will perform simple tests for enterococcus bacteria levels. The United States Geological Survey (USGS) will help analyze and interpret the data. The assessment will be shared with the general public, municipal decision-makers, and others.

**Siena College (Albany, Dutchess, Ulster, Westchester Counties) - \$48,244**

Siena College will develop collaborative research priorities and an action plan to help watershed communities make science-based management decisions for river tributaries. The project will create a research network with other colleges to study the Kromma Kill and Patroon Creek watersheds in Albany County, Saw Kill and Walkkill River watersheds in Dutchess and Ulster counties, and Pocantico and Saw Mill River watersheds in Westchester County.

**Mohonk Preserve (Ulster County) - \$47,440**

Mohonk Preserve will create a conservation plan for the Kleine Kill and Coxing Kill watersheds on the Shawangunk Ridge. The plan will evaluate water quality, identify vulnerable species, assess invasive threats, determine the need for riparian buffers, assess the impact of current agricultural practices, and inform the siting of future trails and/or educational kiosks.

**Columbia Land Conservancy (Columbia County) - \$43,067**

Columbia Land Conservancy will create a NRI for Columbia County, encompassing 22 municipalities in the upper Hudson River estuary watershed. The Conservancy will gather and analyze existing data about the physical, biological, and cultural aspects of the landscape and identify lands important for resiliency to climate change. The information will be shared with local municipalities.

**Onondaga Environmental Institute, Inc., (Rensselaer County) - \$42,840**

Onondaga Environmental Institute will develop a Watershed Plan for the Poestenkill Creek using water quality assessments and biological surveys. The plan will help identify areas with the greatest conservation need in the watershed, as well as species of concern and potential stream restoration sites.

**Rensselaer Land Trust (Rensselaer County) - \$35,000**

The Rensselaer Land Trust will work with municipalities and residents to develop a conservation plan to guide land conservation in Rensselaer County. The project will inventory and map natural resources, significant open spaces, and landscape features. The Land Trust will also assess which lands are conservation priorities. The Rensselaer County Conservation Plan and associated outreach materials will be distributed to municipalities and partners, and at public workshops.

**Riverkeeper (Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Ulster and Westchester Counties) - \$50,000**

This grant will support Riverkeeper's community science water-quality projects throughout the Hudson River Estuary that monitor fecal indicator bacteria and support the development of

Wallkill River watersheds and the Harlem, Bronx, and East rivers in New York City. Data collection and water sample processing are being done in collaboration with the City University of New York (CUNY) Queens and Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory.

**New York City Department of Parks & Recreation (Richmond County) - \$50,000**

New York City Department of Parks & Recreation will develop a watershed plan for park land on the North Shore of Staten Island that focuses on opportunities for habitat, riparian, shoreline restoration and green infrastructure for stormwater management. The project will also develop conceptual designs for ecosystem restoration at the mouth of Harbor Brook in Snug Harbor to increase educational opportunities for partner organizations, including the Snug Harbor Cultural Center and the Staten Island Museum.

The Hudson River Estuary Program helps people enjoy, protect, and revitalize the Hudson River and its valley. Created in 1987 through the Hudson River Estuary Management Act, the program focuses on the tidal Hudson and adjacent watershed from the federal dam at Troy to the Verrazano Narrows in New York City. For more information about the [Hudson River Estuary Program](http://www.dec.ny.gov/press/press.html), visit the DEC website.

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

**Congratulations to Irene Stern for her award winning photo at the Long Island Fair!**



Last year, Irene was one of the few who volunteered at the Long Island Fair. While there she discovered that she could enter her passion for photography in the Fair contest. She submitted numerous photographs in various categories and won first place for that cute little frog, for a seascape and a few honorable mentions.

**Thank you to all who donated time at this years' Long Island Fair:**

Mary Haugh, Nancy Colburn, Irene Stern, Janice Kowalski, Nancy Walordy  
It was rewarding to hear how many people can back to the fair for our sluice-  
It was successful for our club!  
Special thanks to Mary Haugh for preparing the signage and paperwork.  
More in the November bulletin-