



# The Treasure Chest

NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH JERSEY MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY  
Charter Member of the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical & Lapidary  
Societies and affiliated with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies



Volume 71, Issue 1

www.NoJMS.webs.com

Thursday, January 8, 2015

711<sup>th</sup> Meeting – Thursday, January 8, 2015

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Social/Mineral Sales.....6:30 PM  
Meeting.....7:30 PM  
Program..... 8:00PM - 9:00PM

2015 marks my 7th year with NoJMS. Being elected Club President this year is very humbling, and I am looking forward to serving our membership.

### PROGRAM

“TBD”

### Speaker

TBD

### Mineral Madness

The last 4 years have seen great change in our club, including renewed activities, new shows, club t-shirts, numerous field trips, and a vastly increased membership, and I hope to continue growing, promoting and improving NoJMS, and making our club an enjoyable experience for all. Keeping us a vibrant and active club is what we have strived for in the last few years and what I want to continue doing in the future.

### PURPOSE

The North Jersey Mineralogical Society is a non-profit, educational organization founded in 1945 whose goal is to bring together people with an interest in Earth Sciences in general and mineral studies in particular. Guests and prospective members are always welcome. Young people under 17 years of age are welcome to attend if accompanied by a parent or adult friend.

Looking back over the last few months, we have experienced some heartbreak with the passing of some of our senior members and friends, Greta Troy, Don Lapham, Tom Benson, and Sarna Strom. They were all good friends and will be missed by all of us. On the other hand, our club has gained new members and friends, and have built some new relationships that will take us forward into the future.

### FOR INFORMATION

Jeff Wilson 973-293-7911 or buckwood4@yahoo.com  
Steve Wien nojms.newsletter@gmail.com

**If inclement weather might cause meeting cancellation**, call the museum, one of the officers, or check the club website. If the meeting is not canceled, please use good judgment regarding the driving conditions in your area and if driving, be careful!

Finally, we are 2 months away from our biggest event of the year, our Clifton Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show, which will be held on March 14 & 15. This show is where our club makes 90% of our yearly income, and pays for all the member "perks" and activities throughout the year. As always, we remind everyone that the key to making this show work is one word: Volunteering!!!! We have specific needs during the show that can only be filled by club members volunteering their time and effort. So, I present to everyone a list of what is needed and when. Please, think about it, plan for it, and make some time during the show to pitch in!

### SEND DUES TO:

Arlene Castleman  
126 St. Rte. 46 – 40A  
Lodi, NJ 07664  
973-591-1942

### OFFICERS FOR 2015

President Jeff Wilson  
1st VP Ron Schulz  
2nd VP Dave Shapiro  
Secretary Laura Brecka  
Treasurer Arlene Castleman  
Assoc. Treas. Mike Machette  
Newsletter Steve Wien  
Trustees Bryan Davis  
Bob Allen  
Jess Jacobson

Individual members: \$12.00  
Married couples: \$18.00  
Add. Family: \$6.00 ea  
Junior members: \$5.00

### Day/Time/Help needed:

- Friday 2pm-8pm - Table set-up and dealer assistance
- Saturday 10am-6pm - Front Table Help, and Club Member presence in the show
- Sunday 10am-4pm - Front Table Help, and Club Member presence in the show
- Sunday 4pm-8pm - Breakdown/Cleanup

I will be presenting a sign-up sheet at the January and February meetings. Please sign up and volunteer!!

Jeff Wilson – President

**No.JMS MEMBERS PASS****DONALD LAPHAM**

Donald S., Jr., 83, of Norwood, passed away on Monday, October 27, 2014. Beloved husband of Audray (nee Wood). Loving father of Donald S. Lapham, III of Lockport, NY and Kenneth J. Lapham and his partner Sue A. Nilsson of Jersey City. Dear brother of Richard of TN and the late Patricia Maston.

Donald was a US Army Veteran of the Korean War and was awarded the Purple Heart. He retired as an experimental machinist from Astronautics in Little Falls. He was an avid collector of minerals and fossils.

**THOMAS BENSON**

Thomas A. Benson Jr. EWING TOWNSHIP Thomas Anthony Benson, 77, of Ewing Township, NJ, passed away on Dec. 2, 2014, at the University Medical Center of Princeton. Born in Manhattan, NY, Mr. Benson was a lifelong Mercer County resident. An Army veteran, he was educated at Trenton Boys Catholic, Mercer County College, and Rutgers University. He received his master's in city and regional planning, cum laude, from Rutgers University. Thomas retired after 35 years of service as a personnel management analyst with the State of New Jersey, Department of Personnel. Tom was a leading researcher and investigator on unidentified flying objects (UFOs). He served as state section director and investigator for the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON). A social activist, Tom marched with Martin Luther King for freedom. A good father, he was instrumental in sparking his daughter's and son's interests. An avid collector of Christmas and Halloween decorations, Tom was known for his magical displays. Predeceased by his father and mother, Thomas and Ann Benson, he is survived by his wife, Melanie; his daughter, Marisa; son, Alan; sister, Susan; sister-in-law, Eileen Simzak and husband Jack; sister-in-law Susan Miller; niece, Nancy Miller, and nephews, Andrew and Stephen Miller.

**SARNA STROM**

Sarna Strom passed away at her home in the care of her daughter Cindy on December 11th.

Sarna truly found her focus and inspiration through her mineral and fossil collecting. It was a passion of hers even before she and her daughter started buying and selling professionally as Rough 'N Tumbled in 1995.

Being an avid rockhound kept Sarna happy and healthy and very active. She loved finding new specimens, their geology and beauty, and traveling to shows, and shared that love with all who knew her. Sarna particularly tried to bring young people into the hobby. She always made sure to put out some \$2-\$3 rocks so that kids could buy them and start their own collections. She also deeply loved animals.



**Sarna Strom, 1933-2014**

**2014 HOLIDAY PARTY!**

by Jeff Wilson

Our 2014 Holiday Party was a super success. 82 Club members attended and enjoyed the festivities and the minerals! The Brownstone again catered the event, and the food was fantastic. Ron Schulz put together a superb selection of mineral and fossil specimens for auction and door prize giveaways, which he obtained from Juan Gonzales, Al Lombardi, Jack Troy and others. We also gave away amethyst centerpieces which were placed at every table. We had a voice and silent auction to close out the party. We had plenty of seating available this year, and everyone was comfortable and had a great day! Also at the party, we announced the winner of the club Logo contest! Our winner was Steve Dougherty, with our runner up being Mike Dunton, and second runner up being Raina Rendiza. Thanks to all who entered!



**Youthful Ingenuity makes a Big Statement**

by Jeff Wilson

My friends in the Wayne County Gem & Mineral Society in Upstate New York brought this to my attention this past fall, and once I saw the story, I just had to share it with our club. I have always been impressed with accounts of individuals who took it upon themselves to achieve something great, but when the individuals are kids, it makes the story all the more impressive. This is one of those stories.

In a quiet suburb of Rochester, New York, 4 teen and pre-teen amateur paleontologists are enlightening the public on the joys and fun of fossil collecting.....by opening their own Fossil Museum!

The 4 kids, who call themselves "The Fossil Fellas" have become so popular in the town of Canandigua, that word spread far and wide of their incredible collection of local fossils.

"The Fossil Fellas" are 14 year old twins, Ian & Devon Underwood, 13 year old Isaiah Smith, and 12 year old Dominic Vigneri. They also receive assistance from Willow Smith, Isaiah's sister. They are a ragtag band of amateur fossil hunters, who just happen to live right along the Rochester Shale belt, which is a prolific fossil producing area. The 4 have been collecting fossils for years at numerous localities in their local area, and have amassed a huge collection of amazing fossils during their young lives. They go on "Expiditions" up to 3 times a week, weather permitting, to collect fossils. Some sites are right in their neighborhood, such as Shortsville Creek, but others require their "transportation department" (dad-Steve) to get involved. As they found specimens, they required the assistance of their science teachers at school, and the resources on the internet to identify and explain every one of their finds. They diligently logged, labeled, and segregated all of their finds as time went on. They learned that their fossils are from the paleozoic and mesozoic eras, between 350 and 500 million years old. Their collection became so large, that during the spring of 2014, they decided they needed to share it with their community. They were proud of their finds, and they wanted to figure out how to share their passion for fossils. So, after mush asking and negotiating, the twin's parents allowed the boys to set up a "Fossil Museum" in their garage.

"The Fossil Fellas Museum" opened during the summer of 2014 and almost immediately began grabbing the attention of locals. The group set out to explain their finds to the general public, and to discuss fossil

collecting to any interested parties. That was how the museum idea came about. The fellas made signs out of plywood scraps and hung them in the neighborhood and on the garage and attracted the attention of locals and of people passing through the area. Their collection of over 2,000 specimens wowed everyone who visited the museum and paid the \$1.00 admission fee. The fellas gave every visitor a guided tour of every set of specimens and then brought the visitors to table where they offered some specimens for sale. Some visitors were so impressed with their efforts, that they contacted some local newspapers and TV stations, explaining the museum and the kids who were running it. 3 newspapers visited the museum, followed by a reporter from a Rochester television station, who broadcast a 3 minute story on the fellas. After the free publicity, even more visitors came to the museum. Over the summer, the boys reported 128 visitors, including the Wayne County Gem & Mineral Society on a field trip, with all their proceeds from the admission fee and fossil sales going into a account to pay for future fossil collecting trips and collecting gear. When asked by reporters why they did all of this, they said "We wanted to share our passion for fossil collecting and earth's natural history with everyone."

That's pretty deep for a bunch of 12-14 year old kids!!

After the success of their museum, the boys, along with a couple friends, opened a website to further share their passion and to show off their specimens. Fossilfellas.com tells all about the museum and even offers a photo gallery of the boys' finds to assist others in identifying fossils they find. They even offer to take fossil hunters on expeditions by request and a fee!

Talk about ingenious kids! It is amazing what can be done when there is true passion behind it!!

The museum can be found at: 108 Park Ave. in Canandigua, New York. You can call for information at (585)393-9696, or visit their website at [www.fossilfellas.com](http://www.fossilfellas.com). More information can be found at [www.youngeyesonscience.com](http://www.youngeyesonscience.com).

**March 14 & 15, 2014  
Clifton, NJ**

**26<sup>th</sup> Annual Clifton/North Jersey Gem &  
Mineral Show  
775 Valley Rd. (Just off Rt.3/46) Clifton, NJ  
See website for more details!**

**Northeast Pennsylvania Roundup!**

by Jeff Wilson

Nov. 15, 2014

13 Club members attended this fun trip on a cold and blustery day, but a great time was had by everyone. After driving to Scranton, Pa, our group enjoyed a cool underground tour of the Lackawanna Coal Mine, led by miner Lee, who told stories and explained the history and challenges of underground coal mining in the 19th and 20th centuries in Pennsylvania. It was a great tour that everyone enjoyed. We then drove to nearby Carbondale, where we had lunch and then collected various plant fossils in shale from the waste pile of the Carbondale strip mine. Many great fern and calamites fossils were collected as well as a couple fossilized seed pods and grasses, as well as some iron nodules and coal specimens. Lastly, we drove to Greentown and visited the 84 Country Store. Well, to say the least, this was the most AWESOME part of the trip!!!! Behind the store, there are tens of thousands of mineral and fossil specimens for sale. Owner Craig was giving BEYOND AMAZING deals to our members, and everyone walked out with their arms full, buckets full, and boxes full of great specimens at prices that we found hard to believe!!! Here are just a few finds that members hauled home from the Country Store that were "out of this world" and had everyone clamoring to find more!: An amazing array of spectacular Franklin specimens (we stayed well after dark to light'em up with the UV lights) including some of the better Hardystonite specimens we have seen, and a few "scores!", stunning Colorado amazonites, Sapphires in matrix from Limecrest Quarry, huge plates of amazingly intricate selenites, Chalcopyrite cubes in schist from central Pennsylvania, some very unique black quartz crystals, lapidary material galore, beautiful agates from Michigan and elsewhere, and finally, a large stunning plate of beautiful deep green malachite. A totally unreal experience, and we were all thankful to Craig and the wonderful staff at the Greentown Country Store! Attending this cool trip were: Jeff Wilson, trip leader, Derek Yoost, Diana Tasco, Bob Allen, Dave Shapiro, Stan Shapiro, Brian Voorman, Lisa Brown, Glenn Orzepowski, Li-Wan Orzepowski, Alaine Mack, George Mack, and Mike Dunton.

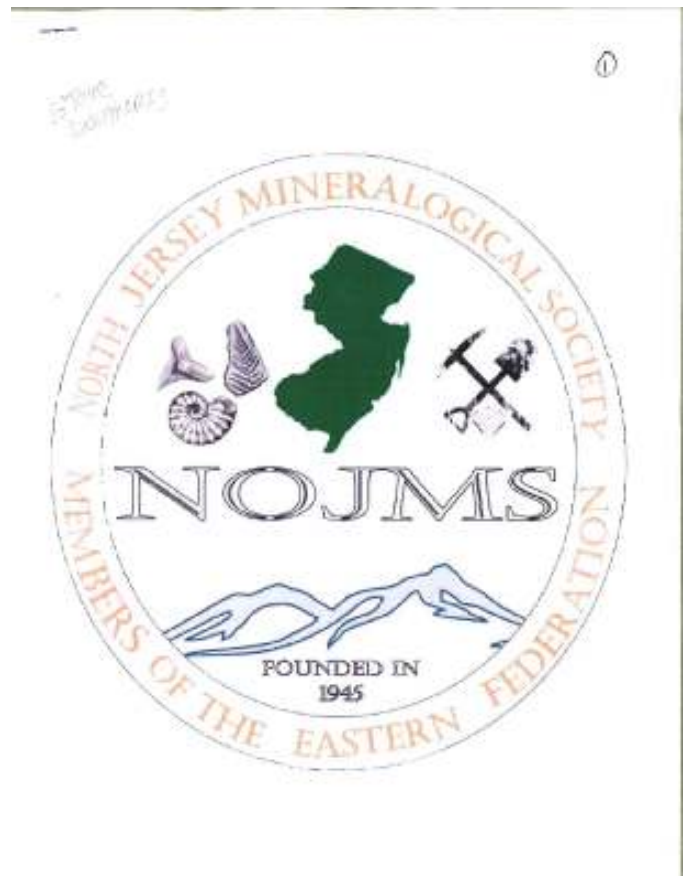
**NoJMS LOGO CONTEST!!!**

We would like to congratulate our winner, Steve Dougherty, with our runner up being Mike Dunton, and second runner up being Raina Rendiza.

The NEW club logo will be used on our t-shirts, letterheads, newsletters, and website!

The logo had to include "North Jersey Mineralogical Society", "Founded 1945", and artwork that is rock-n-mineral related (fossils, crystals, tools, gemstones, etc.).

Congratulations!!



**FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE FOR 2015**

TBD...

Details will be available at club meetings, or you can contact Dave via e-mail at [dshapiro33@gmail.com](mailto:dshapiro33@gmail.com)

**MINUTES OF THE 707<sup>th</sup> NoJMS MEETING**

The meeting was called to order by the President, Bryan Davis, on Thursday, November 13, 2014.

There was a cursory review of past trips and future events. The National Limestone Quarry has been a host to many collectors, yet our group of our 28 participants that traveled three hours was quite impressive and noted.

The official vote took place, establishing the board for 2015. The slate is:

President Jeff Wilson  
 1st VP Ron Schulz  
 2nd VP Dave Shapiro  
 Secretary Laura Brecka  
 Treasurer Arlene Castleman  
 2nd Treasurer Mike Machette  
 1st Year Trustee Bryan Davis  
 Newsletter Editor Steve Wien

The attendees anticipated having their ticket stubs drawn for the Mineral Madness. Both adults and junior members delighted in the chance to make a selection.

It is always a privilege to have Derek Yost give the presentation. The subject was "The Story of a Stone," about a meteorite, officially named North Africa 7034 but referred to as Black Beauty. It was found in 2011, in the Sahara Desert and has notoriety because it is from Mars. Derek brought in an actual piece of this meteorite for demonstration purposes. Special thanks to Derek for his willingness to share his treasure trove of knowledge, his treasure of the meteor specimen and because he is a treasure.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Laura Brecka, Secretary

**NOTE FROM OUR EDITOR**

I hope you all enjoy this month's newsletter! I am still reaching out to everyone to request that you please send something in to me relating to rocks, fossils, minerals, gems and collecting in the field. If you see an article, stumble upon news somewhere (it doesn't have to be about New Jersey), or have photos of that "prize" possession, please send it in and I will be sure it gets in the newsletter. Thank you all for your time.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Jan. 24, 2015 – Philadelphia, PA – Mineral & Fossil Swap & Sell at Cathedral Village, 600 E. Cathedral Rd., Philadelphia, PA

Feb. 14 & 15, 2015 - Albany, NY - Annual Mineral Show & Sale at the NY State Museum

March 7 & 8, 2015 – Newark, DE – Annual Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show at Delaware Technical & Community College, 400 Stanton-Christiana Rd.

**Sat. & Sun. March 14 & 15, 2015 - 25th Annual Clifton/North Jersey Gem & Mineral Show**  
**The Pope John II Center**  
**775 Valley Rd. (Just off Rt.3/46)**  
**Clifton, NJ**  
**10am-5pm Both days.**

- **25 DEALERS DISPLAYING INCREDIBLE ARRAYS OF MINERALS, FOSSILS, GEMSTONES, JEWELRY, LAPIDARY ROUGH, AND ROCKHOUDING SUPPLIES.**
- **ONE OF THE TOP GEM, MINERAL AND FOSSIL SHOWS IN THE NORTHEAST!!**

March 28 & 29, 2015 - Sayre, Pa. - Annual Che-Hanna Gem & Mineral Show at the Sayre Firehouse

March 28 & 29, 2015 - Plymouth Meeting, Pa. - The Annual Philadelphia Gem & Mineral Show

April 10, 11, 12, 2015 - Edison, NJ - The Annual NY-NJ Metro Show

<http://www.ny-nj-gemshow.com/index.php>

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Supplemental (E-Newsletter Only)

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**NOVEMBER 15, 2014 NORTHEAST PENNSYLVANIA FIELD TRIP**





**DECEMBER 7, 2014 NoJMS HOLIDAY PARTY**











**YOUTHFUL INGENUITY ARTICLE PHOTOS**



