



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 5

www.NoJMS.webs.com

Thursday, June 11, 2015

715th Meeting – Thursday, June 11, 2015

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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

Hello, All!

This will be our last meeting before our summer break. Our speaker for June will be Bill Butkowsky who will be speaking about New Jersey Trap Rocks. Our next meeting will be in September, and that meeting is our annual "Brag Nite", where you can bring in your finds from the past year and talk rocks with friends.

PROGRAM

"New Jersey Trap Rocks"

Speaker

Bill Butkowsky

Mineral Madness

This has been an interesting spring, to say the least. Our hobby has seen some changes, some good, and some bad, in the first half of 2015. We have seen 2 classic collecting localities close. We have seen major transitions in major shows in New Jersey. We have seen some great new field trips on the calendars. Some worked out, some did not. We have seen major faces in the hobby pass away. We have seen many new faces join in. All of these things will lead to our hobby staying fresh, as well as providing challenges 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.

In all of this, NoJMS has remained strong and steady, moving ahead with positive attitudes and excitement that we are getting to be known for.

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!

There is some more excitement on the horizon for our club. We are working on additional field trips for the fall season, as well as our annual picnic and Holiday party to wrap up the year.

Our meteorite drawing has been a big hit so far! We will be drawing for the grand prize at our Holiday Party, so every member has the chance to win this extraordinary specimen, graciously donated by Derek Yoost. Tickets are \$5 each, and you can enter as many times as you'd like. See Jeff for tickets!

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

I hope everyone has a great summer!

Jeff Wilson – President

NOTE FROM OUR TREASURER

We need you to please pay your dues via check as we have a lot of fun activities planned for the year. Thank you.

A 380 Million Year Old Tree Grows in New York

by Jeff Wilson

Tucked away in the Upstate New York town of Gilboa, in Schoharie County, lies an amazing "forest" of fossilized trees (not petrified), that is amazing paleontologists, scientists, and fossil enthusiasts alike. Along the side of NY State Route 990V, near the Schoharie Reservoir Dam, is a display of some of the most unusual fossils ever unearthed in New York, or anywhere else.

In 1850, a local preacher named Samuel Lockwood discovered some very unusual rock formations in the streambed of the Schoharie Creek, after a flood event. In the 1920's, during the construction of the dam, a nearby quarry revealed more of these unusual fossils. Then, in 2004, during a rehabilitation of the dam, additional fossils were again uncovered! What were these strange formations?

It ends up they were the remains of an ancient forest of ARCHAETERIS trees, dating back to the Devonian period, 360-400 million years ago. The identifying piece of the puzzle was discovered in 2004, when the "crown" of the tree was found in the streambed at the dam site, confirming what scientists had thought. The town of Gilboa set up the fossil display along the road, with an informative kiosk explaining the fossils, several years ago. Upon the 2004 discovery, the town built a fossil museum around the corner, to tie in the entire story of the fossils.

If you happen to be travelling in this area of NY State, it is definitely worth a visit.



Sterling Hill Swap Report

by Jeff Wilson

As in any outdoor show, the weather is always a factor. This was no exception for our Spring swap. The crowds were light, and the skies threatened rain both days, but for the most part, it remained dry, and there was very little wind. The temperatures were comfortable, and we did get a glimpse of sun every now and then. We had 24 dealers on Saturday, and 18 on Sunday. But a majority of our dealers had brisk sales during the show, and there was a lot of swapping!! This was the intent of the show from the very beginning. An "Old Fashioned Rock Swap" was what we wanted, and this time, a lot of swapping did happen, and everyone had fun doing it! We had no parking problems, and there was a steady flow of customers most of the weekend.

Again, the wonderful folks at Sterling Hill were extremely accommodating and opened up the facility to anyone who wanted to stay overnight. The new enclosed pavilion was superb, and really provided a wonderful space to those who wanted to be protected from the weather.

NoJMS donated 1/2 of our table fees to Sterling Hill as a Thank You for their hospitality.

Overall, it was a fun weekend at Sterling Hill!

New Bulk Buying Program:

The NoJMS board agreed to try out a "bulk buying" program for our society, wherein we buy mineral and fossil supplies in large volume in order to get a discount, and then sell them to club members at cost to pass these discounts onto members. Our first foray into this program was an order of 10,000 paperboard fold-up boxes from Mineral & Fossil Supply, Inc. These boxes will be available for sale at the February meeting at a discount price to members who are current on their dues. Boxes that are left after the February meeting will be brought to the Clifton show for sale to members as well as non-members (non-members prices will be higher). Depending on the success of the program, future bulk buys on additional boxes as well as other items will be considered. Questions or suggestions regarding the program can be sent to Bryan Davis at blimer4evr@yahoo.com.

FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE FOR 2015

June 2015 - National Limestone Quarry, Middleburg, Pa.

June, 2015 - Big Brook for Shark's teeth and other fossils

August, 2015 - Big Brook 2 for Shark's teeth and other fossils

Autumn, 2015 - National Limestone Quarry, Mt. Pleasant Mills, Pa.

Montague, NJ for Quartz Crystals

NE Pennsylvania trip (Carbondale fossils, Scranton Coal Mine, Greentown Country Store)

Details will be available at upcoming club meetings or you can contact Dave Shapiro at dshapiro33@gmail.com

MINUTES OF THE 714th NoJMS MEETING

The meeting was called to order by the president, Jeff Wilson, on Thursday, May 14, 2015.

There was a cursory review of recent gem and mineral shows. The annual NY-NJ Metro Show, on April 10-12, 2015, had a preponderance of fossil, bead and jewelry vendors. Fortunately, the unique dinosaur replicas were installed, to add a bit of frivolity. Rockhounds could sift through the variety of specimens.

The Franklin NJ-NJESA Annual Show and Swap, on April 25-26, 2015, included an outstanding fluorescent section, pleasant conditions for the outside vendors and the pricier booths for some inside vendors.

Arlene Castleman, the treasurer, stated that the club's account is financially healthy.

The drawing for a 13 ½ lb. meteorite, donated by Derrick Yost, is a new feature. It is possible to purchase raffle tickets throughout the remainder of the year. Ultimately, this will culminate with a winner, at the holiday party. Some very lucky person is going to be the recipient of an unusual, extravagant rarity.

Dave Shapiro, the field trip captain, reported on the May 9, 2015 experience at the Martin Limestone/Kurtz Quarry. Collecting was scarce but the interesting geology and camaraderie compensated. He reminded the attendees that the next day, May 15, 2015, would be the

trip to the Inversand property, in Mantua, NJ, to look for fossils.

The anticipated Mineral Madness ritual did take place.

The club was lucky to have Steve Okulewicz as a speaker, once again. He is a professor of Geology, at Hofstra University, and his credentials include certification and licensing as a professional geologist. He has been the author of more than 45 geological publications, three geology books and various training manuals for the US Environmental Protection Agency.

The presentation was titled "Earthquakes and Fault Zones of NY/NJ/PA." Earthquakes create seismic waves that are caused by the sudden release of energy in the earth's crust. Rupturing of geological faults is the primary cause of earthquakes followed by other events such as volcanic activity, landslides, mine blasts and nuclear tests. Lots of information was accompanied by diagrams, charts and touches of humor. It was an enjoyable combination to have the sharing of knowledge with such a personable delivery.

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.

The Club T-Shirts Are In!

The shirts will be available for sale at the April meeting for \$5 each for members! Sizes available are S, M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL, XXXXL.

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 18 & 19, 2015 - Herkimer, NY - Herkimer Diamond Festival (Details in Jeff's article above)

<http://www.herkimergemshow.com>



September 26 & 27, 2015 - Franklin, NJ - Annual Autumn Show & Swap, Franklin School

September 26 & 27, 2015 - Ogdensburg, NJ - Annual Sterling Hill Garage Sale

October 3, 2015 - Macungie, Pa. - Annual Autumn Mineralfest, Memorial Park, Macungie

December 4,5,&6, 2015 - Edison, NJ - **NEW SHOW!** The WINTER NY/NJ Metro Show, at the NJ Exposition Center, Edison, NJ

2016 SHOWS/EVENTS

July 7-10, 2016 - Cedarburg, Wisconsin - 1st Annual National AGATE Exposition & Symposium. 77+ Dealers. July 7 - Agate Symposium, July 8-10 - National Agate Exposition. Cedarburg High School, Evergreen Blvd. Cedarburg, Wis.

Supplemental (E-Newsletter Only)

Sterling Hill Swap Photos
By Steve Wien



West Nyack Field Trip Photos - May 30, 2015
Photos by Dave Shapiro





A 380 Million Year Old Tree Grows in New York

Photos by Jeff Wilson





