

UPCOMING SHOWS

2015

July 18-19th

Herkimer, New York

Herkimer Diamond Festival & Gem Show

Organized by: Village of Herkimer, Business & Professional Association

Methodist Church (127 North Prospect Street)

July 25th -26th

**LIMAGS- 35th Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry
Cutchogue Eat Elementary School – New Location!!!!!!
34900Main Road, Cutchogue**

September 19-20

[Mid-Hudson Valley Gem & Mineral Society](#)

46th Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil Show & Sale

September 25-27

Island Rock Hounds – *Building America- Railroads @*

October 2-4

Old Bethpage Village Restoration – Long Island Fair

For other Gem and Mineral shows: <http://www.amfed.org/EFMLS/calendar.htm>

www.suffolkgem.com

P. O. Box 302
Bohemia, L.I., NY
11716



*To promote cultural, educational, and
scientific interest in mineralogy, and
develop member's skills in lapidary arts
and jewelry crafts*

June 2015

THE CONGLOMERATE

The Monthly Newsletter of the Suffolk Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.

Monthly Club meetings held at the Bay Shore-Brightwaters Library, Montauk Highway, Brightwaters starting at 8:00pm.

Refreshments served at 7:30 pm.

OFFICERS

*The Conglomerate Editor - Cheryl Neary
Club Webmaster - Kerry Dicker*

President – Cheryl Neary	516.449.5341 cell	Director - Elaine Casani	631-567-3342
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Treasurer - Roberta Besso	631-666-8023	Director – John King	631-775-7035
Secretary – Kerry Ann Hilliard	631-277-0994	Director –Rebecca LaBarca	516-768-4438
Liaison – Cheryl Neary	516.449.5341 cell	Historian –Kerry Ann Hilliard	631-277-0994

Cell phones are to be turned off during all Club meetings.

More importantly, there should be no disturbances during any guest presentations.



Happy Birthday
Wishes!
May Your Year Be
Filled
with Hugs & Kisses!

June:

Trudy Kusche
Nick Mercurio
Mario Serrano
Agridina Ruiz

July:

Denise Buss
Elaine Casani
Jean Coleman
Mary Correale
PJ Gerald
Lucy Jackson
Fred Kruger
Joan Neary

August:

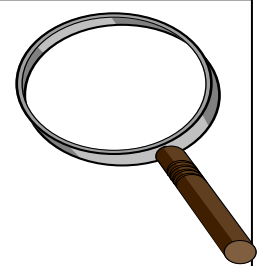
Amanda Biekskas
John Coleman
Elaine Colon
Amy Gerald
Mary Weippert

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS: 2015

June 15th – “Bragging Rites”- See Below

NOTE DATE CHANGE

August 1st - **Picnic**
August 2nd (Raindate)



So what is and how does Bragging Rights work? It is simple

1. At this point I challenge you to bring to the meeting one or all specimens in the following category:

- A. Your best self-collected (found) rock, mineral or fossil
- B. Your best hand-made lapidary piece. For example: bracelet, ring, sphere, bolo
- C. Best purchased (bought) rock, mineral, fossil
- D. Best bought piece of lapidary piece

2. You will present the item and try to convince the audience why yours is the best - in 3 minutes or less per group

3. Your peers will each cast a ballot to determine the winner of bragging rights

So what does bragging rights get you... A certificate and the knowledge that you had the best until next year!

So please join us for an entertaining evening. It is a version of show and tell, remember those days when in kindergarten everyone was always so excited for show and tell!

PS:

Rebecca stopped one evening at my house to graciously donate to our auction and commented she did not have a chance to win bragging rights based on what she viewed. Not so- I am not bringing anything but my enthusiasm!

Well, although a nice compliment, I must remind everyone unlike other professions where you hear someone comment “oh he/ she is a plumber, yet our facets drip” - well I think geologists just can't stop collecting and collecting. My daughters told me years ago that they fear someday my floors will collapse!

Let the Adventures Begin!

Local events are around the corner for us this summer:

- The LIMAGS show is July 25th – 26th at Cutchogue
- Picnic date has been changed to August 1st with a raindate of August 2nd - The reason for the change is that this year, the Village of Herkimer is having their first Annual Herkimer



Diamond Festival, an event featuring vendors specializing in Gems, Crafters, Direct Sale Vendors, psychics, antiques, food vendors and entertainment. The event is being held on July 18th and 19th

Have you informed Roberta what dish you plan to bring? When planning your dish, plan on feeding at least 15 people, although more show – there is usually a selection of food. Also remember, if yours is really good - everyone will want some !

- Springfield Bus Trip August 8 - Did you sign up for the field trip?

Then there is also the Wildacres session that August 25th -30th . I am planning on attending again - this time former member Sue Melazzi (now of Highland Park, FL) will be my roommate! It is a worthwhile venture and I'm sure you will not want to miss it!

Wildacres Awaits You!



Outside The Box

Kerry taught all beading techniques and all made beautiful bracelets-

Thanks Kerry!!

Prior to the meeting in June I will do a short presentation about my Wildacres experience:



What is a Member in Good Standing?

One that:

- Attends (4) Meetings
- Contributes Time to Club Show or the Celinka Show-at the Club Table

(If you are unable to attend the show, there is other show activities you can volunteer for- please see Elaine or Cheryl!

- Participates in Club Fundraisers

Remember-this is your club!

This club needs you to participate, in order for the club to grow-

If you have any suggestions for a program, please speak to one of the Board members listed above. If you have an idea for a field trip, please speak to a Board member as well!

Did you hear that the High Bridge was reopening for pedestrian and bike traffic in NYC ? Do you know anything about the High Bridge? Well, in case you are interested I will take you on a short journey about High Bridge and NYC water supply and what I consider some interesting information.

First- I am sure you all have seen the beautiful steel deck arch bridge at some point in your life while stuck in traffic on the Cross Bronx Expressway? It is located near the Major Deegan Expressway (built in 1956) on the Bronx side and the Harlem River Drive (built in 1964) in Manhattan - and spans the Harlem River for approximately a quarter of a mile. Yes,- it is the bridge with the beautiful arches which supports the platform of the bridge and is appropriately named as it stands almost 140 feet above the Harlem River.

The construction of the bridge began in 1839 and opened in 1848, with its walkway completed in 1864. This became a popular spot to promenade and the walkways' popularity led to the buildings of restaurants, hotels and an amusement park. However, the bridge was built not to transport people but as a passageway for water! High Bridge is a remnant of the Croton Reservoir.

The oldest bridge in New York City connects Highbridge Park in Manhattan at West 174th Street with West 170th Street in the Bronx. A 200-foot water tower sits at the foot of the High Bridge, in the Highbridge Park – and I am sure you have also seen this pencil-like structure from a trip or two on the Cross Bronx! This tower was built in 1872 to equalize water pressure from the Croton Aqueduct and built in conjunction with the Highbridge Reservoir which supplied water to the northern Manhattan neighborhoods. The Croton Aqueduct was NYC first water supply system built between 1837 and 1847. It replaced the wells, springs and ponds used until then, utilizing water from the Croton River in what is now known as Westchester, the summer home to many of the City's wealthiest at the time. The Old Croton Aqueduct supplied Manhattan between the years of 1842 -1959. The Croton River was dammed to supply water for NYC, six miles upstream of where the Croton River enters the Hudson River. The dam measures 50 feet in height by 270 feet long. The Croton Reservoir which has a holding capacity of 36 million gallons was once the home to 400 acres of farms and homes and the Town of Southeast. Southeast was noted for the Borden Milk Factory. The residents of Southeast were also employed by local businesses – the railroad and the local iron mines. Their properties were condemned and although legal actions were taken to avoid the seizure of their land, the State of NY determined that as long as they were fairly compensated, NYC had the right to condemn property in order to ensure an adequate clean water supply. Thus for 41.5 miles, gravity-fed water travels through large iron pipes through twelve tunnels and numerous bridges carrying water to the City, a project that cost over 12 million dollars. However, many city parks are the results of the building of the water supply network, such as Bryant, Jerome, Highbridge, and Highland, and significant features in others such as Union Square and Central Park.

How did the reservoir system for NYC come about? Let's turn back the hands of time when Henry Hudson, an Englishman employed by the Dutch Trading Company, sailed into the harbor of Muhheconnituck, on the river that now bears his name in September of 1609. Hudson sailed the estuarine river, past a long, wooded island known then as Mannahatta or the "Island of Many Hills" searching for a route to China. He obviously did not find that route to China and its treasures, but he did find the natural wealths of Mannahatta, such as: forests, wetlands, rolling hills and streams. The island was also home to wildlife which included mountain lions, black bears, wolves, beavers, mink, river otters and its surrounding water home to seals, porpoises and whales; with hundreds of species of birds. At one time thirty varieties of orchids grew on the island as well! Living on this land at the time of his voyage were the Munsee Lenape, Native Americans of the northeast Algonquin culture. An earlier generation of the Lenape met Giovanni da Verrazzano, the first European explorer to enter the New York Harbor in 1524. The Lenape were largely sedentary people who had settlements in today's Chinatown, Upper East Side and Inwood, with fishing camps along the cliffs of Washington Heights and the bays of the East River. The campsites were occupied seasonally, pending the game and fish which inhabited the region.

Now a brief history lesson - The island was "purchased" by the Dutch from the Lenape Indians. This is memorialized in Inwood Hill Park, a park located on the northwestern section of Manhattan. A bronze plaque on a boulder states that local legend says this is the site near a knoll in the Spuyten Duyvil Creek where the Dutch

governor, Peter Minuit, purchased the land from the Indians for a collection of trinkets valued at 60 guilders – or roughly \$24.00. The boulder, known as Shorakkopoch or Skorakopock Rock, today sits at the spot where a tulip tree (*liriodendron tulipifera*) grew to a height of 165 feet and a girth of 20 feet, until the tree's death in 1932 at the age of 220 years. The Inwood Hill Park is noted for the tulip trees which grow tall and straight and were used to build canoes.

The land in the 1600s, was actually an archipelago – a group of islands which due to massive landfilling during the 1800s led to the formation of the present island of Manhattan.

Okay- back to the formation of the water supply. Prior to the Revolutionary War, the residents of Manhattan relied on shallow wells, water merchants and a system built and run by Christopher Colles which drew water from a series of wells and the Collect Pond. Note, that in 1677 the first public well was dug in front of the old fort at Bowling Green. During the war, two main sources of water the Collect Pond and the Tea Water Pump existed. By 1798, the 48 –acre Collect Pond became stagnant.

In the 1790's, following the Revolutionary War, NY was emerging as the nation's commercial center, with two banks- the Bank of New York and a branch of the Bank of the United States. Wealthy Federalist merchants dominated the banks services. The Bank of New York was founded by our first president's (George Washington) Secretary of Treasury, Alexander Hamilton. Republican and future Vice President of the US, Aaron Burr, wanted to open a bank to be utilized by his allies and the middle-class but Burr knew this would never be allowed by his opponents, the legislation. Burr cleverly led a group of New Yorkers, which included his political nemesis Alexander Hamilton, who later withdrew his support, and convinced the City's Common Council to allow a private company, to pipe fresh water through hollowed pine logs from the Bronx River to the lower part of Manhattan for the population of approximately 2,000 residents. Burr and his group had stressed that due to the City's lack of funds, a private company would be best suited to meet the demands of the population. The Council agreed and the Manhattan Company was formed. However, there was a provision in the state charter allowing the Manhattan Company to use surplus capital to buy stock and invest in any other monies transactions or operations not inconsistent with the law for the sole benefit of the company. That is the reason why Alexander Hamilton withdrew his support for the water company. The charter was signed into a law and although the water company did not prosper, the banking portion of the company did hence the birth of the Chase Manhattan Bank. Also remember your history- the duel between Alexander Hamilton and Aaron Burr? In 1804 Burr challenged Hamilton to a duel, which mortally wounded Hamilton.

Dissatisfied with the quality and volume of the Manhattan Company's service and the cholera epidemic in 1832, prompted the Common Council to hire Colonel DeWitt Clinton, a politician and naturalist to study new possible sources of a water supply. It was his recommendation to use the Croton River north of the City and the planning of a gravity –fed system for the passage of clean water was born.

As a side note, DeWitt Clinton advocated building a canal through upstate to connect the east with the Midwest. His opponents of the plan called it "Clinton's Ditch" but many remember him as the "Father of the Erie Canal" DeWitt Clinton was Mayor of NYC and the Governor of NYS. On a side note- it was The Bank of The Manhattan Co. who helped finance the Erie Canal, which opened in 1825.

Hence, the monumental High Bridge over the Harlem River, with its design influenced by Roman architecture stands proudly today as the gates are now open in both boroughs for pedestrian or biking passage.

I do not know about you- but I think I just might promenade the High Bridge! Do you want to join me?