



SHALE MAIL

MAY 2020



Orange County Mineral Society, Inc

[OCMS Website](#)

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Our next meeting is scheduled for Friday May 8th, 2020 at 6:30 pm and will be held digitally on Zoom do to covid-19. Details will be emailed to you, if you don't receive the email please contact Heather Shields or Mark Kucera.

Speaker: Jeff Fast
Topic: Connecticut Minerals



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Connecticut Minerals

By: Jeff Fast

If we haven't met before, let me say "Hello!" And introduce myself. I'm Jeff Fast, and this is me in front of a (newly opened!) Crystal pocket in Herkimer, New York.



I've been buying and selling minerals since 1992.

I've been selling rocks and minerals since 1995. It started by accident. I was collecting milky quartz in Connecticut when I hit a vein that a few friends and I followed STRAIGHT DOWN for almost 20 feet (I'm not kidding). We were looking for the best piece of our collection. We wound up with thousands of nice crystals. I still have 5 good specimens from that find, but the others were the start of this business.

Note from Mark Kucera: Jeff will be joining us on Zoom Friday May 8th at 6 PM. He will speak on Connecticut minerals in general with a focus on the Gillette Quarry. The Gillette Quarry items are from the Joel Sweet collection. Joel Sweet was a long time member of the Meriden Mineral Club in Connecticut and field collector of Connecticut minerals. He was also Jeff Fast's collecting partner for about twenty years. The photo and caption came from Jeff's website.

Presidents Message

By: Mike Tedford

Please join us via zoom at our usual time, 6:30 PM this Friday 8 May 2020. Feel free to partake of your own refreshments during the meeting. Following our brief business meeting, Mark Kucera will turn the zoom control over for a shared presentation by Jeff Fast. You do NOT need a camera on your computer to watch the zoom meeting. You also do NOT need a microphone if you do not want to speak at our meeting... So if you just want to watch and listen, you should be able to on the computer you use for your email.

Please feel free to volunteer to lead or join in a committee to help with a. Membership, b. Show vendors outreach, c. Museum Village site planning. These are intended to share some of the the treasurer and show chairman responsibilities among members.

Many thanks to Dr Alex Bartholomew for his April 2020 zoom presentation on the lower Hudson valley geology and geologic history.

See you on Friday in good health. Remember to wash your hands frequently and even shower once in awhile.

IF YOU WRITE, I WILL PUBLISH!

I would like to publish a special column in the newsletter each month that features one of our members. It's a great way for us to get to know a little more about one another. Just write your story about how you became a rock-hound, maybe include your first few trips, how you got into your first rock club or society. Perhaps non-rock-hounds you knew at the time didn't understand and had funny reactions.

This column will only succeed if I get submissions from all of you. If you would like to write more than one that's fine too. The more I get the longer this column will remain in the Shale Mail.

Don't worry about when to write it because I have a file prepared on my computer to receive them so if I get too many that's fine I will add one per month until they have all been published.

I look forward to reading all about you!

By: Alison Pacut

Minutes of the Meeting

April 10, 2020

By: John Pacut

Minutes: president Mike Tedford called the meeting to order. He asked for any changes from the last meeting. At 8 pm there was a motion to accept.

Treasurer's report: It was mentioned that Ron was not well but is feeling better as of this Shale Mail. Therefore, there was no Treasurer's report.

Committee Reports: Mike Tedford would like to set up a membership committee, a vendor Outreach committee, a Museum Village layout committee, & a vendor list committee. If you are interested in volunteering for one of these committees please contact Mike.

Webmaster/FB: Heather has gone from two to one Facebook page.

Programs: Under the circumstances Mike said we would be using Zoom for future meetings. Invites will be sent via email each month, we encourage everyone to join us. The May speaker will be announced in that email.

Show Report: As of this point the June Show is still on.

Shale Mail Report: John Pacut will write articles that match up with the current topics of the monthly speakers. Alison is asking that each club member write an article about how they got into collecting rocks and minerals and a bit of background to where they are today.

Old business: scholarships have been put on hold to see what happens with our show caused by possible virus restrictions. The EFMLS convention was canceled & has been tentatively rescheduled for October.

New business: Alex Bartholomew mentioned a wonderful radio show called "Know your Watershed" it's on WIOXradio.org or 93.5 on the FM dial. Tues April 28th is the next show

Know Your Watershed

Drs. Robert and Johanna Titus and Alex Bartholomew explore the Catskills region's eco-system rivers, dams, creeks, and geology



Alternate Tuesday evenings 6 – 7 pm

Zoom Meeting Adgenda

May 08, 2020

By: Mike Tedford

Call to order: 6:30 PM Thank you Mark Kucera for hosting ZOOM

Welcome: best wishes for everyone's good health, meeting events summary, Best wishes for Ron Nelson's continued recovery

Review and acceptance of March minutes

Committee/officers reports:

a. Treasurer update pending

b. 6-7 June OCMSNY mineral show update pending, Museum Village to open in May, Mike Sosler will keep us in mind for schedule changes. Call for committee formation for membership, vendor outreach, Museum Village site layout diagram/guide. We welcome any ideas or insights from our members and member vendors.

New York State remains on Pause, significant Covid 19 incidence in NY City, Westchester, Bergen, Rockland. Less in Orange. Even less so in Dutchess, Putnam, Ulster, Sullivan, Pike. Phased opening with at least 14 days between stages, not well-defined for Orange and surrounding areas. Attracting people from "other areas" poses a problem during the recovery phase of the COVID 19 Pandemic.

c. Facebook

d. OCMSNY.org

e. Shale Mail

f. Field trips and shows

New business:

Adjourn business meeting: for Jeff Fast's Zoom presentation.

“Ten Million Thirsty People”

By: John Pacut

The Orange County Club was blessed to hear Dr. Merguerian’s lecture on the history of the NYC water supply system. He began with describing the sources of ground water with rain and volcanic/magma being the primary sources. It was interesting to find out that 3.5% of magma is water. He then went into the soil types that contained the most water around NYC. Out of the four different types the cretaceous sands which are closest to the bedrock have the most water. It was the daunting task of the early settlers of NYC to acquire these different types of water. Around 1600 there was a large pond which provided the initial water supply with wooden pipes to the early settlers. This was quickly over utilized and polluted so new sources had to be found. Several wells had been started by various engineers that drilled wells with one notable one by Erin Burr to provide water to approximately 1400 subscribers. As the city grew the population expanded to 3.5 million people, various projects were undertaken to provide water on that scale, the first of which was the exploration of the Croton water shed. Later the Catskill and Delaware water sheds were added between the three they equaled the size of the state of Delaware.

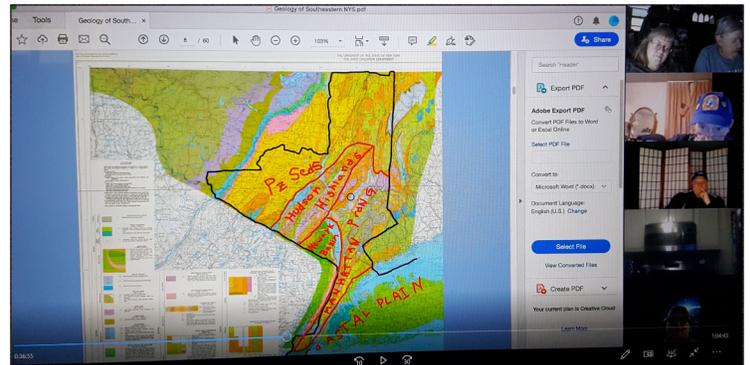
NYC presently uses 1,350,000,000 gallons per day for over 8,000,000 residents. This is just part of the story. The rest can be found at www.dukelabs.com under the for teachers tab. Look at Dr. Charles Merguerian’s article “A History of the New York Water Supply System”.

Geology of South East NY State

By: John Pacut

Alex Bartholomew's lecture on the geology of Southeast New York State was enjoyable.

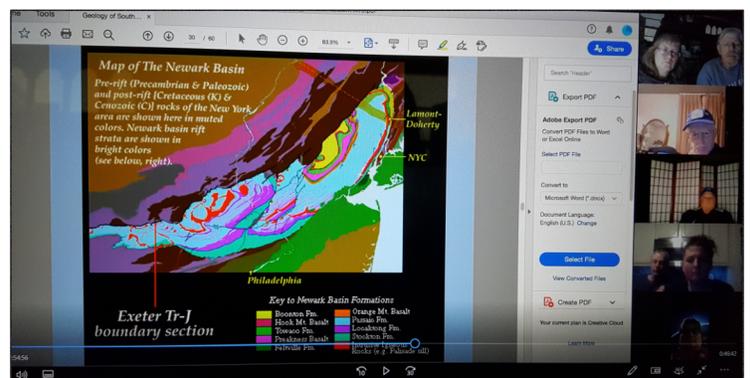
Alex first described the physiographic differences of the region. Using different charts he explained different Rock units overtime. There are five major regions one in particular is the Hudson Highlands it is a mountainous area that extends along the lower Hudson River. During the Grenville orogeny a mountainous region that extends from Labrador through Canada all along the coast through Texas was formed.



Other areas that he discussed were the Manhattan prong, Newark Basin, the Paleozoic deposition in lower Orange County and the Acadian Mountain building event.

His lecture went on to explore the various geological processes that contributed to the formation of the present day landscape. If anyone is interested in seeing the actual Zoom presentation please contact John Pacut. I would like to thank Alex for a very informative and descriptive presentation.

I would also like to thank Heather Shields and Mark Kucera for the time they took to set up Zoom. Our first time on Zoom was a great experience and no one caught Covid-19.



WHAT'S A ROCKHOUND TO DO?

By: Alison Pacut

What has happened to our world? Not long ago we were dreaming of spring, the first field trip of 2020. Where would we go? It seems like that was forever ago, when in reality it has only been a couple months. Before the normalcy of our world blew up into a pandemic that would not only control the rock-hounds of the United States but rock-hounds the world over! we were just starting to plan our year!

Are we living in a dream? I don't know about you but being able to go rock-hounding instead of going to work has occurred to me more than a few times. Yet here we are, the world has stopped! It's like a fantasy come true but instead a nightmare, when the working world stopped, the rock world came to a screeching halt too! It's not fair!

The EFMLS convention was terminated and rescheduled tentatively for October. All the upcoming gem, mineral & rock shows have been canceled or rescheduled. Club meetings have come to an end too, so we have no face to face contact with our fellow members.

Society as we knew it is over at least for the time being. We have all retracted into our own little bubbles like a turtle to his shell. As we self quarantine boredom and loneliness become our companion. Spring cleaning and yard work have become our comfort in this time of trial. It's a good time to sort the two ton of rocks, gems & fossils we have stored throughout our collection!



Poor little turtle,
stuck in his shell!

Our society has been split down the middle! On the one side stand the younger more prepared

generations. Who when faced with living in a virtual world of the future latch on with a tight embrace. While on the other side the older generations long to go out for a meet and greet. The thought of living in a bubble of their own making is depressing for them. But, we are closing the gap, we are learning how to ZOOM! Yes, The meetings we once attended the second Friday of each month have become virtual! While it was nice to see our club mates and friends familiar faces in the virtual world, it wasn't the same. I still like being able to talk face to face, give the occasional hug or shake a hand.

The virtual meeting did add a little excitement to my day too. It was a little intimidating at first, until I got it up and saw Marks face looking back at me. It was so nice to see all my friends, for once, with my bad eyes, I could see the presentation with perfect clarity. I was able to record the entire meeting minutes and the lecture right in Zoom. I saved it to my computer ready for playback anytime I need it. This was the first time I ever used zoom and I found it to be very user friendly! For those of you who were intimidated by the virtual meeting and did not attend, please join our next meeting, try it! The meeting was great!

Not only have our meetings become virtual but there are other resources that have been made available a midst this pandemic for us as well. Visit the Natural Museum of Natural History from the comfort of your home.

Click on this link to take a virtual tour : <https://naturalhistory.si.edu/visit/virtual-tour>

Click this link to visit the Natural History Museum of London: <https://artsandculture.google.com/partner/natural-history-museum>

Perhaps virtual tours are just not your thing or maybe you have visited them, finished the house and yard work. Straightened and sorted your rock collections and just need a little taste of what has been taken away. Go for a drive with the family! Don't forget the rock hammer and a bucket or two. Look for those road cuts along the back roads. If no one is around stop and investigate, who knows you may find a little treasure to take home. No one said you couldn't self quarantine on a rock-hounding adventure!

THANK YOU FOR YOU'RE SERVICE!

I suppose it started when I was a cub scout in Chicago and given a few Golden Nature Guides from Konza, which were a series of 160-page, pocket-sized books created by [Western Publishing](#) and published under their "Golden Press" line (primarily a children's book imprint) from 1949. Edited by [Herbert S. Zim](#) and Paul Schaffer. My mother, Cele Sager, was my den mother who also was a Brownie and Girl Scout leader with Konza Banka. Mom was known as Brownie in scouts, and Konza was also a scout name. Among the books was Rock and Minerals, edited by Herbert Zim and Paul Schaffer. We were fortunate to have the Natural History Museum as well as the Field Museum and Museum of Science and Industry. There were wonderful displays, and even a coal mine in which you rode down the mine elevator and rode in a miners train car to where the coal is blasted and removed. You can see this here: <https://www.msichicago.org/explore/whats-here/exhibits/coal-mine/>

Back then all the museums, and zoos were free and we would visit frequently. We also had the Thornton Quarry, which is one of the largest aggregate quarries in the world. If you drive from here to

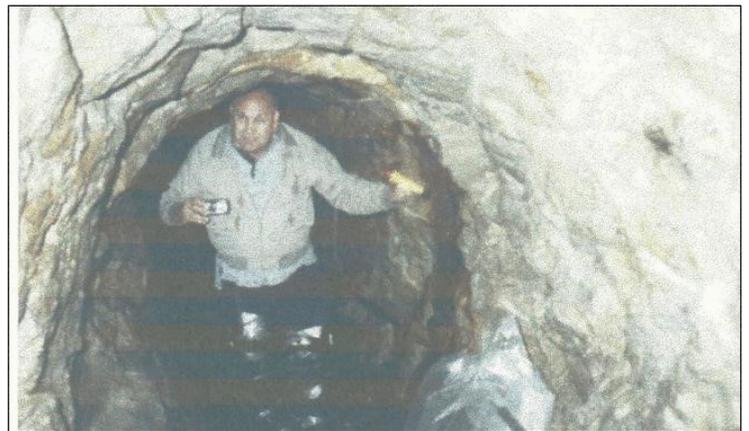


515 feet Inside Sun-Ray Tunnel

Chicago you see the quarry as you go past, before the city.

In 1953 we moved to New York, to the Ellenville area and Cragmoor on top of the mountain. At the edge of town off Berme Road is the Sun Ray Mine, originally, a Pb (lead) or Au (gold) mine consisting of

a 515 foot long tunnel. Legend has it this tunnel had something to do with Ponce de Leon. It is more well-known for its excellent spring water which was bottled and sold prior to 1910 by the Sun Ray Bottling Company (White Rock) as well as bottled for the 1938 Olympics. Shawangunk means white rock. Not far from the Tunnel is an area with abundant quartz crystals, not to mention snakes. Mom knew the land owners and we were fortunate to have a field trip there, on a hot sunny day. In an earlier Shale Mail edition there is a picture of George and one of myself



George in Tunnel

deep in the tunnel.

How I got to the club field trip and involvement is a journey, not planned, and long awaited. As a math major at New Paltz I took Geology as an elective. Richard Ordway was the author of our text, Planet Earth. He and Dr. Manos, from Historical Geology, were very engaging, and caring. One of our field trips took us by bus up the Thruway, parking on the side of the road while we used our rock hammers on a death bed along the side of the road. That would not be allowed these days. This was before they put up a guard rail. Meanwhile at home, my mother always trying something new, started making Jewelry under the guidance of a member of the Roy family of artisans in Cragmoor. Since she used gem stones, she started attending the Orange County Mineral Society, which met at the Geology Lab at OCCC. She would consistently invite me to join her, but with work and school would only occasionally attend. Larry O'Brien sponsored the club. The seating in the lab was sloped and hard wood seats, but would have many attending. Having the college collection

SERVICE! cont.

there was very handy. The club had field trips to Herkimer NY, and I was always too busy to go with her but, my nephew Frank, her grandson, would go.

When the club moved to Monroe she asked if I would drive her, which I did and that is when I became more involved. The club was looking for a new editor, and I volunteered. Early news letters were one page, hand written, and then later on typed; computers were not that common yet. Email was not yet an option, and post cards would be sent as a notice. Membership would fluctuate, but was always a warm friendly group of people, as is today. Mom was the treasurer, so she and I would get together on the weekend to put together the updated membership roll, and fill out the envelopes to send the Shale Mail. Even though I started programming computers in 1963, I was not used to using software. I wrote, not used it. My first home computer was the Commodore 64, which still works. The first word processor I used was pfs Write. As computers got better and programs improved more members had email available and we were able to cut mailing costs by sending the newsletter by email. It also enabled graphics to be included. The primary word processors became Word and Works. Not all members had both available. I cannot tell how many computers and printers I bought over the years. When Facebook and Websites became common, Frank Clyne's grandson, Matt, started a website for the club. I later started a Facebook as well. When Matt Clyne went off to school I stepped in as Webmaster. It was "learn as you go", I had not any instruction in that area. It has been a privilege serving the club, and enjoying the meetings, as part of a family. As time moves on, my bad hearing has become even worse, and Parkinson's is now a part of my life. Having had a spine surgery a while back, I have been in constant pain for years now, albeit now improving. It is wonderful to have new young blood step in, enlarging the function of the newsletter and website. A return field trip to Big Brook with Derek would be a treat to club members. Make a screen to find those shark teeth, and tall boots to walk in the stream. George used plastic bags and duct tape. A trip with Doc Baynes is another. I will wait to read about it in the new Shale Mail. Best wishes, John!

Written By: John Wheeler

Editor's Note

Firstly, I would like to acknowledge John Wheeler and the exemplary job he has done creating the Shale Mail Newsletter for our Club. Through tremendous medical issues John persevered through the years to give a newsletter as best he was able. John you deserve a medal for all you have done and I thank you!

For those of you who do not know me, my name is Alison Pacut. I am relatively new to our club and was honored to be ask to produce the Shale mail for you all. I hope I am able to live up to the expectations of this office.

But, This is your newsletter, its about the happenings and the members of this fine club therefore, it stands to reason that the members of this club need to get involved with the content of this newsletter. When you go to an event, take a photo, write a half or whole page article and email it to pacutgar-net@gmail.com.

Perhaps you could write an article on your favorite mineral or fossil. Maybe you took a memorable trip you would like to share with the club. The one thing I would really like to do is ask everyone in the club to write a half or a full page story about yourself, include when and how you got into this hobby, what exciting things led to joining the Orange County club. I would like to have a standing column each and every month for these articles depending on the response. Only you can make this happen and you would be surprised how a little thing like this can bring the members of a club closer together.

The deadline for submission each month is the 3rd Friday but don't be shy I will take them anytime throughout the month. If I have too much for one issue that will be awesome because next month I will not need to find as much content so please start writing. Taking a photo or two is easier than ever now with cell phones. But, when you send photos don't make the image smaller or make any changes to them just send them as is because I have photo editing software on my computer to fix them up a bit before going into the newsletter.

If you have any suggestions to make our newsletter better, please don't hesitate to let me know. I will be available at the meetings as well as by email and phone 845-883-0019.

By: Alison Pacut

OCMS members are covered by Society-sponsored insurance.

OCMS Disclaimer

The editor and the OCMS are not responsible for the accuracy or authenticities of information in the articles accepted for publication, nor are the opinions expressed therein necessarily those of the officers of the OCMS or the editor.



Directory of Rock Shops and Geology Attractions

[Virtual Museum of Geology](#)

[National Museum of Natural History](#)

[The Natural History Museum](#)

[The World Wide Museum of Natural History](#)

[Geo-science Education](#)

[Home Hobby's Rock Collecting](#)