

# September 2021



# OCMS SHALE MAIL



**Members join us for our club picnic, Saturday September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 12:00 pm!**

**For BBQ information see Page # 3 of this publication!**



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## Mailing Address:

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## Minutes of the Meeting!

**August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021.**

**Business Meeting:** Mike Tedford brought the meeting to order on August 13<sup>th</sup>. The July 9<sup>th</sup> Minutes were approved as written in the Shale Mail.

**Treasurer's report:** The report was read by Mike Tedford. It looked good, was accepted and approved.

**Programs:** There will be no speaker at our September meeting due to our annual BBQ which is scheduled for September 11<sup>th</sup> see page 3.

**Show Report:** There was a question about what happens to the money raised for the club at the show. Mike reminded everyone that money is kept in the show account to cover the costs of next years show and our club has monthly expenses of \$200-\$300.

**Membership Report:** We look forward to seeing all our members new & old at the club BBQ.

**Field Trips:** There are no field trips coming up but Mike suggested visiting museums. The Museum of Natural History in New York City has a new gem & mineral display (check out sneak peek on the last page of this publication). Parking is not good there so consider taking a train.

**Shale Mail Report:** I am looking for articles from members &/or Officers on any topic related to our hobby.

Adjourn business meeting: Motion and accepted.

## President's Message!

Welcome OCMSNY members and New members to our third live LIVE meeting of the year, on Saturday 9/11/2021 at Hansen Park pavilion, Westtown. No senior center meeting Friday and no zoom aspect to this meeting. This is an outdoor meeting with plenty of room for social distancing. In light of the upswing in Orange County COVID cases, we will observe and respect current guidelines for masks and safety.

Bring an appetite and your specialty to share as the club provides the barbecue meats. Please let Ron know what you might bring, Also consider a jacket, insect repellent, your favorite lawn game, etc. If you have any new mineral specimens to show or trade, please bring them along.

We will not have a speaker at this fun event. We are also interested in planning field trips, or other activities according to members' interests. The pavilion there has a kitchen and barbecue. Horseshoe pits and sports fields are there also.

Please sign up for what side dish, salad or desert you might bring to augment the OCMS-provided ribs, burgers & dogs.

Our next meetings will be: 10/08/2021 Meeting, Senior Center 11/12/2021 Meeting, Senior Center 12/10/2021 Meeting, Holiday Pot Luck Dinner and Mineral auction.



# Rock BBQ Meeting 2021

As we try to get some normalcy in this time of loon-icy our Rock BBQ Meeting is on! Yes, that's right it is scheduled for September 11<sup>th</sup>. I do hope to see all our members for this big social event! Get out of the house for some good food and great conversation with your fellow OCMS members!

If you plan on attending, please **email Ron** at: [rn33@optimum.net](mailto:rn33@optimum.net) to let him know how many in your party will be attending as well as what dish you will bring with you.

Item suggestions are as follows:

- Potato Salad
- Mixed salad
- Chile
- ice
- Bottled water
- Macaroni salad
- Fruits or fruit salad
- Vegetable tray
- Assorted canned soda
- Or your personal specialty



The **club will supply** all the meats, condiments, plates, forks, spoons, napkins, charcoal and the lighter.

Last Year we had a small attendance but everyone had a great time! Let's make history this year for the best Rock BBQ yet!



**When:** September 11, 2021

**Where:** Hansen Memorial Park

For those of you with **GPS** the coordinates are:

**Latitude:** 41.3347222

**Longitude:** -74.5688889

**GNIS ID:** 2440154

**Time:** Noon - 5 pm although you can show up a little early to help with set-up

**You must be a member in good standing to attend for insurance purposes. Or, sign-up at the BBQ**



## R.I.P. Andy!



Some of you may recognize and even know Andy Brodeur from the Connecticut Valley Mineral Club. Andy was always there to lead a field trip or to help other clubs and even the EFMLS with field trip safety tips. Sadly I am including Andy's obituary in this newsletter.

"Andrew Moore Brodeur, 57, of Southampton passed away at home with his loving family by his side on July 14. He was born in Northampton on October 8, 1963, to the late Paul E. & Martha J. (Moore) Brodeur.

Andy was a hard worker throughout his whole life. He worked in construction for about 20 years and worked at J&E Precision where he learned to be a lathe operator for 17 years and was also a firefighter and EMT on the Southampton Fire Department. He loved

being out in nature from digging for rocks to camping and spent many years hunting and fishing and never went anywhere without his camera. Andy saw beauty in everything that surrounded him and never passed up the opportunity to snap a picture.

He leaves his loving children April M. Brodeur of Southampton, Glenda M. Baranowski & her husband Ron of Florence, Lynsey E. Brodeur of Southampton, his son Kyle E. Brodeur of Southampton. His grandson Roman Andrew Baranowski of Florence, a brother Dana Brodeur of Eastampton, his sister Martha Parent and her husband Arthur of North Carolina, a niece Michelle Parent and nephew Morgan Brodeur along with his girlfriend Sharon Mckechnie of Chicopee.

Andrew's wake was Saturday July 17, 2021 from 1-3PM followed by a prayer service at 3PM at Boucher – O'Brien Funeral Home, 7 Pleasant St. Eastampton.

R.I.P. Andy!



# Metaphysical Properties

By: Keith Allen

The belief in the magical metaphysical healing powers of rocks, crystals and minerals is not new. Belief in the supernatural healing properties of rocks, crystals and minerals bringing peace, wellness and protection goes back beyond recorded history. There are ancient legends that trace rocks, minerals and crystals back to the creation of the Earth and the Universe.

History is rich with stories about the mystical and magical power stones and minerals, including legends from Atlantis, Egypt, Sumeria, Babylonia, the Hindu culture, Greece and Rome. Every culture has its own beliefs about specific stones, and those beliefs are often tied to that culture's history, geography, and spiritual practices.

The earliest records of crystal healing come from ancient Egypt. The Ebers papyrus states the medicinal uses of many different rocks and minerals. Healing with crystals is also recorded in India's Ayurvedic records and in traditional Chinese medicine from around five thousand years ago. Several shamanistic cultures practice crystal healing, including the Inuit of Canada.

The modern day resurgence of interest in the metaphysical healing powers of rocks and minerals combines a lot of the old information. Even today beliefs will vary. In most of these listings, I included some metaphysical properties of select rock, crystal or mineral.



**Amethyst:** Protection against fear and feelings of guilt, instilling calmness, alleviating anxiety, and pleasant dreams.

**Chrysocolla:** Stimulating the throat chakra is at the top of this list because it helps us to communicate more effectively. It also strengthens the overall vibration of health and is great for teachers.



**Clear Quartz:** Supporting professionals in the artistic community, musicians, those who work in media fields, and doctors. Useful in the treatment of migraine headaches, vertigo, or motion sickness.



**Fluorite:** Clearing a confused mind. This is such a great stone for determining your life path, which is often overlooked in the chaos of the everyday. Also terrific for stimulating the third eye.



**Hemetite:** Intuition & mental clarity, blood circulation, willpower & courage.



**Jasper:** Alleviating stress, promoting tranquility, deepening focus, and banishing harmful or negative thoughts. Thought to lend support emotionally to strengthen self-discipline and promotes grounding energies.



# Metaphysical Properties - cont.



**Labradorite:** Times of transformation and finding your inner courage. This stone is also an amazing motivator, a great tool for communication, and for those who want to find their deeper purpose.

**Pyrite:** Protection against bad energy and psychic attacks, raising confidence levels especially in leadership roles, cutting out negative thought patterns, and clearing the lower chakras.



**Lapis:** Harnessing wisdom, spiritual enlightenment, creativity.



**Rose Quartz:** Healing emotional wounds, cultivating divine love, improving compassion & friendships.



**Malachite:** Strengthening the immune system, travel, treatment of travel sickness & vertigo.

**Sodalite:** Courage, wisdom, and harmonious relationships with loved ones.



**Moonstone:** Healing the feminine nature we all carry within us. It's also great for that time of the month, and highlights the power of clairvoyance and intuition.



**Tiger Eye:** Courage, focus, prosperity, protection.



**Obsidian:** Protecting against negative energy. Obsidian is actually thought to absorb it, and even block things like psychic attack. Use this stone during tough times or situations.

**On behalf of the Orange County Mineral Society I would like to thank Keith & Deb Allen for the use of all these awesome and informative articles!**

# The Chain That Saved The Colonies

If you were able to attend the meeting on August 13<sup>th</sup> you probably left a happy person. Doc Bayne presented an awesome lecture on “Sterling Forest”, Doc Bayne was the environmental educator at Sterling Forest. When he retired they decided not to continue the program. Doc became president of the newly formed “Friends of Sterling Forest Group”, so he could continue educating the public.

When Doc was a kid his family was really into history and luckily his grandfather, brother and father worked for the railroad so they had free passes. Once a month they would hop a train and visit a historical site. West Point was a once a year trip.

Sterling Forest was first discovered in 1736. Pieces of magnetite stuck out of the ground, its crystals were brittle making it easy to chop into little pieces so they began mining the iron at Sterling Forest.

Iron ore/magnetite is 60% to 70% iron ore and 35% to 40% other minerals. The veins go down for at least a mile. Workers would follow the vein, put it into baskets, bring it out then sell it to the local blacksmiths.



The black smith needed to get his fire scorching hot, place the magnetite into the fire until it turns completely red then hammer it. As they hammer the other materials fly out in the form of sparks making this process rather dangerous.

However, they continued to heat and hammer until there were no sparks left leaving only a piece of metal.

In 1738, a bloomer was built. It had a blooming fire with two bellows run by a waterwheel in the stream and anvils called blooms. They were put into the fire and keep them heating for an allotted time period. When the blooms came out of the fire the crews worked it. Done this way there was very shallow spark. This was sold to the blacksmiths so they could work it and reshape it with no sparks.

That started a whole new industry in Sterling. Charcoal! A charcoal pit is not a hole in the



ground, it's a flat area. The roots of the trees all have to be dug out because they would burn and let air into the charcoal pit eventually burning it all up. The wait until there were ten or twelve pits ready then, after the roots are all removed, a triangle is made in the middle. Logs are stacked in there and sod is put up against them and dusted with dirt then it's lit. It will burn for about two days. The Colliers which are the tenders of the pits walked around them stomping the ground to keep the air out of the pits or the fire would burn out of control losing all the charcoal. It just needed to smolder. When it was done the dirt was broken off the top and the charcoal is exposed ready for collecting and transport. They fill their baskets to be carried physically or on mules or wagons down to the bloomers to heat the ore.

# The Chain That Saved The Colonies=Cont.

In 1750 the iron abdicated and England petitioned the colonies to make pig iron. At first they were just going to take the coal until England found out the colonists had iron. All the pig iron was to go to England.



England showed the colonists how to make blast furnaces. In this way they could make the pig iron quicker and easier. First, they lower the charcoal, magnetite ore and limestone into the furnace. The limestone melts making a puddle in the charcoal. The Iron ore melts and flow into that limestone puddle then right to the bottom of the furnace. The furnace was being heated via two giant bellows fourteen feet long thus, creating liquid iron. Over the top were two ports. These ports would transport the 30% to 40% of the other minerals or the slag away from the iron. Closing the slag port and opening the sow port (bottom port) they could create slits. These slits



had to be all the same size so they could fit into the hauls of the ships.

At Sterling the first blast furnace was built in 1751. The limestone was like a sponge which would explode if thrown into a 2000 degree furnace. To remedy that they used a lime kiln to get the water out.

To be able to make products out of the pig iron a forge is needed. Usually the forge would sit beside the furnace. In 1745 a forge was built in Bellville . England closed it down in 1750 outlawing forges in the colonies. All pig iron was to go to England where they would create products and sell them back to the colonies at twice the price. This created hard feelings among the colonists.

While Doc Bayne was scouting the Sterling Forest area he actually found a forge in 2008. He was told there were nine iron mines but found an incredible forty-one mines. Fun Fact: England supplied the materials for the colonists to create the great chain.

In 1647, Saugus Iron Works had built a furnace with a forge right next to it. The colonists rebuilt them so they could produce pig iron that did not have to be turned over to England. They could take the pig iron, heat it in the furnace, put it in the trip hammer to hammer it into a U shape. The pig is shaped flat and curved on the bottom but with the trip hammer it can be made square so many products can be made.

By 1778 the British have had enough. Why? The colonists are not sending enough pig iron. Why was the big chain needed? Britain wanted to attack the colonies. They planned to come down from Canada. They were going to come from the Atlantic with supply loaded ships for their troops. The plan was to sail down the Hudson to supply their troops that were on land planning to attack the colony's. Cunningly, they stretched the chain across the Hudson preventing the ships from passing.

# The Chain That Saved The Colonies-Cont.

In 1777, they tried to bar English ships at Fort Montgomery using a chain. The British attacked by land and stole the chain. The colonists regrouped and felt that West point would give them a strategic advantage.

Where the chain was to go there were mountains on both sides of the river. There is an S turn right there preventing a ship from making the turn under sail. The captain would need to drop his sails, come to a complete stop, launch two long boats to take the ship around the S turn. Once they cleared the S turn he would have to reload the long boats and put his sails back up to continue on his way.

Where the chain was placed the river was 202 feet deep at that section of the S turn. They put big stakes in the ground with rocks on it and a pulley. That's how the chain was anchored on both sides of the river. They floated the chain on Kings tree logs, which were meant only for England.

For added security, they built 15 forts. Some facing the river, some facing the land ensuring the British were unable to attack by land or by river. The fire power was so great where the ships would have to stop to make the S turn that the British didn't even attempt it.



In Doc's quest to find the links of the great chain he discovered that many sites thought they had the real links while in fact they were not. There was documentation that some sites had

real links while in fact they were missing. Some he found later, others he did not. There were some links that were able to be taken by anyone so Doc got them moved and secured.

Thank you Doc for taking the time to teach us the difference between the links. This is just one of the advantages of coming to the meetings in person. Although articles in the Shale Mail seem complete there is a lot of information that don't make the article.

Other advantages to attending meetings in person include face to face socialization and snacks. It seems like a scary thing to come indoors with people after what we have been through with the pandemic. However, if you are fully vaccinated come join us. There is no one saying you can't continue to practice safety measures to protect against possible infection. Wear a mask and continue with social distancing. There are plenty of clean table so families can sit together yet distance yourselves from others.

Snacks, wow! At this meeting there was coffee and bottles of water to drink. There were donuts and cookies to snack on before, during and after the meeting.

Please come join us for our BBQ this coming Saturday and our next meeting October 8<sup>th</sup>. If you are feeling sick PLEASE STAY HOME!



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