



SHALE MAIL

Our next meeting is on Friday Mar 13, 2020 at 6:30 pm
At 81 Laroe Rd Chester, NY (Town of Chester Recreation Senior Center)
(From KINGS HWY, Turn left on Laroe Rd by UPS office building)

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Directory of Rock Shops and Geology Attractions

<http://www.virtualmuseumofgeology.com/>

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http://www.amfed.org/afms_news.htm

President's Message & Program

OCMSNY Mineral Show in 12 weeks.....

Our meeting this Friday will feature an amazing presentation, discussions of field trips, our June 6-7 mineral show, refreshments, mineral raffle or silent auction, and a business meeting. Our members are welcome to bring along specimens for sale or trade and set up a table of their own. Please review the February meeting minutes contained herein.

Field Trips

Our club endorses these field trips for which you may need to show your membership card:

1. [facebook.com/groups/propstfarm/photos/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/propstfarm/photos/) associated with the EFMLS convention <https://efmls.org/annual-convention> and

2. Super Diggg 2020

[SuperDiggg 2020 at Franklin NJ hosted by DVESS & Franklin](#)

Presentation

Dr. Charles Merguerian will present " Ten Million Thirsty People-Geohistory of the NYC Aqueduct." His last presentation to us featured some of the more modern and astoundingly large scale aspects of the NYC water tunnel construction.

OCMSNY Mineral Show June 6-7

We should try to set up committees to help Ron in prepping and running the mineral show at Museum Village. Suggestions from last year's show included having a committee and team to set up ticket sales and membership drive right there at the show, setting up a map and list of vendors for show attendees, membership info pamphlet, recruiting vendors and promoting the show on Facebook and all related mineral and crafts sites... and more.

Thank you Doc Bayne for our February informative and fascinating features in Reading the Woods. Mark Kucera summarized a few highlights in the meeting minutes.

See you Friday, Mike

Minutes, Speaker and Rock & Mineral Shows

The February meeting was held at the Senior Center in Chester, NY. Attendance reached around thirty-two. Mike Tedford welcomed everyone. He talked about wanting to get more field trips going and the most recent EFMLS convention that we hosted. Mike also encouraged everyone to keep an eye on our Facebook and websites, and keep the message traffic flowing. Introductions were made.

Minutes: Minutes for the January 10th meeting had been sent out with the Shale Mail. The minutes were not discussed.

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer's report was read by Ron Nelson and accepted.

Committee Reports:

Show: Ron has nine vendors signed up for the show already.

Webmaster: Heather added the ability to add your email address on the website. The separate Facebook pages were discussed briefly. Mail Chimp is being explored to see if we can benefit from using it.

Newsletter: Erin and Alison are helping with the Shale Mail. Thanks.

Field trips/digs/misc: No field trips planned near term.

Upcoming shows:

Albany	22-23 Feb
NYC	7-8 Mar
Meriden, CT	7-8 Mar
Buffalo	22-23 Mar
New Haven, CT	3-4 Apr
Midland Park - NoJMS	4-5 Apr
Southern Tier NY - Johnson City	4-5 Apr
Edison	15-19 Apr
Franklin	25-26 Apr
Freeport – Long Island	25-26 Apr
Sterling Hill Swap - NoJMS	16-17 May

Old Business: The executive board discussion on scholarships is still pending.

New Business: Nothing offered.

Program: Doc Bayne treated us to his lecture on **Reading the Woods**. If baseball analogies are allowed – Doc hit a home run off the first pitch. Between his years as a park ranger and his former life as a photographer... it was more than slightly educational and entertaining. To push the baseball aspect again, it was also an excellent Spring Training type warm-up for us. Spring is coming and knowing some of the wood lore to enjoy while out there looking for rocks and minerals can never hurt. Doc rattled off an almost endless number of interesting facts for understanding what you see while out in the woods.

Who are the first arrivals? For insects it is the springtail nymph. They are easily confused with specks of dirt on the melting snow. First amphibian? The wood frogs. Efts are the juvenile terrestrial life stage of newts. Taste testing is not recommended. Beaver pelts are the real reason the Dutch came into the area. The beaver's engineering skill for damming water flow may be a nuisance to humans but greatly assists with biodiversity in an area. Hurons are the likely reason for fish being found in many inland ponds, including the beaver ponds. Doc talked about turtles, racoons, badgers, otters and fishers. When you see stressed vegetation, there is likely an easy explanation if you know what to look for. The differences between the tent caterpillar and the

gypsy moth were explained. Some of those supposed nuisances have a life cycle matching that of birds and provides the primary sustenance for the later.

If you've ever seen acorn debris you can reasonably assume some animal has been feeding. After Doc's lecture we heard how to determine what animal left what kind of meal debris. They all have a different approach to eating. Speaking of dinner time conversation...Doc talked about examining the scats too. Plenty of evidence of what is living in the area and which animal is feeding off what. It has to go somewhere. Does it show bones? Fur? Shells? Some animals leave their scats on the trail to mark the territory, other do not want it displayed.

The full list of insects, plants and animals that Doc talked about was extensive. Before he finished the lecture, he did touch on some of the human remnants of civilization you can spot out in the woods too. Piles of rocks and the arrangement probably help determine when the area was used. Brick debris gives good hints depending on whether the brick was "pre-frog." That translates to before brickmaking became industrial. The "frog" was the impression in the brick frequently bearing some maker's mark.

Thanks for another great lecture Doc.

Raffle: A silent auction was held with about eighteen pieces.

Next Meeting: The March 13th meeting will be Dr. Charles Merguerian with "Ten Million Thirsty People – Geohistory of the NYC Aqueduct."

MK

For John Pacut

Secretary

Doc Bayne



Dr. Charles Merguerian

