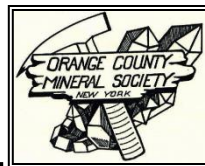




SHALE MAIL



Our next meeting is on Friday February 8, 2019 at 6:30 pm
At 2250 Goshen Tpke, Middletown, NY (Greek Church)

Orange County Mineral Society

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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

Happy Groundhog Day! The days are getting longer and surface thaws are exposing new features after the winter's heaves, thaws and erosion. This is a great time to catch a glint of a freshly uncovered quartz crystal, or new sediments in a stream. If you get a chance at some fresh air and muddy boots, this is a great time of year to beat the crowds.

If you are still planning a winter getaway to warmer climates, remember to Google or Mindat minerals at your destination for some rock hounding to add to your tourist activities.

Thanks to several members offering help on our website and show flyers. Ryan posted some new finds on our Facebook page. Please check it out! I hope he brings along

some samples to our meeting this Friday. Everyone is welcome to show and tell at our meetings. In between, please post your finds on our Facebook page.

Thanks to geologist Dan Bishuk for his presentation on trace fossils at our January meeting. It was satisfying to recognize and identify some of trace fossils as evidence of fossilized, once-living organisms, more than just some unusual patterns in the sedimentary layers we have around the world. Dan also mentioned to us his current work is with the tunnel construction under the Hudson River. We are also grateful for the invitation to attend Dan's lectures and field trips with the MidHudson club. Mark Kucera has once again summarized the presentation for our minutes, located in this Shale Mail.

Geologist Bill Prehoda will present the geology of Orange County at our meeting this Friday. His previous presentations have included discussions on his professional specialty, hydrogeology. He has great slides depicting the geologic history and current findings. See you on Friday...

Minutes, Speaker and Rock & Mineral Shows

The January meeting was held at the Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church in Middletown.

Attendance reached twenty-seven. Mike Tedford welcomed everyone and said we would let the speaker give his program initially since he was going to work later in the evening. Program: Dan Bishuk was introduced as a Professional Geologist who works for the Kiewit Corp. He is currently working on the water tunnel crossing under the Hudson River at Marlboro as their safety consultant. Dan has also worked fifteen to twenty years as an environmental consultant as well as seven or eight years as a safety consultant. Dan runs the geology class and field trip series for the Mid-Hudson (Poughkeepsie) Mineral Society. He received his Master's Degree in sedimentology and stratigraphy. Dan's topic for the presentation was Trace Fossils of New York State and Their Importance.

Dan projected a photo as members came in to build interest. He talked about it initially and asked if we had any guesses what it was. We had plenty of guesses but none were close to correct. The photo showed a *Daemonelix* (aka Devil's Corkscrew). That is the fossilized remnant of a *Palaeocastor* (ancient burrowing beaver – think in terms similar to a prairie dog) habitat. It is a "trace" fossil. It's not the beaver but it certainly shows the behavior of the beaver. Dan's lecture was entirely new information for everyone in

the room I think. He did a diligent job defining “ichnology” as the name for the study of trace fossils. By “trace” the implication is that the fossil is a result of the behavior of the organism, not the actual organism remains. Items we commonly see at shows like fossil footprints and coprolites (fossilized feces) are in the category of trace fossils since they are not the actual organism remains. Both are the result of animal behavior. That’s about the end of the easy part. Since a majority of the organisms concerned were soft bodied, very few remains of the actual organism get fossilized. The trace fossils get classified by the type of behavior that made the traces. Worm tracks, burrow holes, borings, feeding traces are all reasonably easy to picture in concept. Each has its own Latin classification term. I’ll spare you the Latin words for all the types of behavior. I’ll also spare you the Latin terms for all the different environments (Ichnofacies) that group the organisms together. As mentioned already, many of these organisms were soft bodied. Their extensive presence in coastal and marine areas makes the importance of recognizing the type of sediment important to interpreting their traces. Dan showed us examples of how a worm or insect (think trilobite maybe) or crab type organism would leave different types of tracks in clay soil vs silt vs sand. Each coastal type environment along the upland shore gives different hints and has a different name. Extending offshore, deeper and deeper, the different marine regions (shoreline vs sublittoral zone vs continental shelf...continental slope...abyss) had a different name and different community of organisms to yield another route for naming the fossils.

Dan showed many of the behavioral and environmental classification differences with numerous slides. Most of the concepts made great sense as he was explaining it. Dan actually did say he’d go easy on us with the technical terms but it didn’t feel like it. It felt like he was giving us an entire graduate level course in one sitting. I’ll probably only retain five percent of what he said but I’ve got probably twenty times more understanding of fossils than I had before his lecture. I’d never even considered dinosaur footprints as anything other than fossils. Now I know, they are really more specifically “trace” fossils. Dan knew he was teaching new material for us. He recommended the book Trace Fossil Analysis by Adolf Seilacher for more information. Dan also passed around samples of some of the fossils and took questions at the end of his lecture.

We thank Dan for coming in to break new ground and helping to stimulate a few brain cells.

After a brief break, we went back to the administrative side of the meeting. Mike gave a pitch on the benefits of membership. Check the raffle items tonight. Frank Clyne brought in some items and we have a fossil item. Introductions were made.

Minutes: Minutes for the December 14th meeting had been distributed in the Shale Mail. No review or action toward approval taken.

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

Committee Reports:

Club show and 2019 EFMLS Convention: Ron modified the dealer form from last year and sent it around. We have three dealers signed up for the show so far. Erin is helping revamp the general flyer for the 2019 show. We'll send to Stedner Printing when ready. We need to start kicking up the activity level on Facebook. We also talked about advertising and directional signs, entrance fees and the dealer count last year. Records show we had forty-five vendors. We voted to adjust the entrance fees. Twelve and under as well as Scouts in uniform are free, age 13-17 as well as senior are \$3.00, adults are \$5.00. There is a to-do-list available to help planning for the convention and show. Much of the list is unresolved questions. We should also look into the possibility of getting an ATM machine onsite. We had a suggestion last year to have a vendor map handout for visitors with shopping list type note space.

Field trips/digs/misc:

Greg asked about notice for field trips. Group emails are sent out to the active member list not the full mailing list. There have not been any recent trips.

Website: John has made a couple updates. He reported fifty-seven hits for the month. Heather said she'd like to help with the website.

Shows:

- 26 Jan - Rutgers – Saturday only
- 23-24 Feb - Albany
- 2-3 Mar - New York City
- 2-3 Mar - Meriden, CT
- 23-24 Mar - Western Massachusetts, Hadley Farms
- 3-7 Apr - Edison

Old Business: We did sign up on Mindat.org to sponsor the Location – Amity and the Mineral – Warwickite.

New Business: Ryan talked about additional things we can do on Facebook including a calendar of events. It can be open or closed. For field trips it should probably only be open to paid/active members.

Bobby Sullivan has a collection (about ninety flats, heavy on Brazil) that he is trying to sell.

Dealers are welcome to get listed in the Shale Mail. The club is also interested in keeping raffle material and kid's door prizes stocked up.

A raffle of about twenty-six items was held.

Next Meeting: February 8th will be Bill Prehoda talking about the Geology of Orange County.

Mark Kucera, Secretary



Willie Stedner has a rock shop in Ellenville: 135 Canal St, [Ellenville](#) 845-647-6493
<https://www.facebook.com/Lodes-of-Nature-128302997230479/>