



# CRYSTALS AND CABS

## Newsletter of the Capital Mineral Club

President - Steffen Hermanns, 7133 Oak Hill Road, Loudon, NH 03307, Phone (603) 783-4121 Email: steffenh@comcast.net

Vice President - Charles Forsberg, P.O. Box 1, North Sutton, NH 03260 Phone (603) 927-4955 Email: c\_forsberg@mctttelecom.com

Secretary - Angela Pratt, 10 Ashwood Court, Atkinson, NH 03811 Phone (603) 236-2331 Email: angle7461@comcast.net

Treasurer - Michele Johnson, 111 White Plains Rd. Webster, NH 03303 Phone (603)-648-2133 Email: sansbijoux@yahoo.com

January 2019

Volume 19 Issue 1

### Capital Mineral Club News

#### Inside this issue:

Meeting Minutes	2
Party Chairman's report	3
January Presentation	5
Display Materials	6
MMGM Letter	7
Calendar of events	8

The Capital Mineral Club membership meeting will be on Saturday, **January 5th at 2:00 PM** at The Salvation Army Building, Concord, NH.

This month we will have a slide presentation from past member Ernie Schlichter who was on this trip with Bill Metropolis and Eric Asselborn in the French Alps. This has been digitized by Don Dallaire.

There will be a **Board of Directors meeting @ 10:00am on Jan 5, 2019** before the regular meeting.

**Remember there will not be a February Meeting.** But like last year there was a workshop which might be possible this year. Watch your email for details.

#### Welcome New Members

Ronald Blanchard, Milford, NH Craig Kowalchuk, Concord, NH

**2019 Club Dues are due, please send your membership dues to:**

**Steffen Hermanns, 7133 Oak Hill Road, Loudon, NH 03307**

**Make check payable to Capital Mineral Club. Dues are \$10.00 per member.**

#### Editors Note:

The **deadline** to get info to me for publication will be the **3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday** of every month

- My e-mail address:  
pfcram@comcast.net
- CMC Website:  
www.capitalmineralclub.org
- Website designed and maintained by:  
Peter Cram & Steffen Hermanns
- If submitting material to the newsletter the editor requests that it be sent in Microsoft Word format. This will help in getting the newsletter together.

#### Mineral Clubs - Meeting Dates

**Saco Valley Gem and Mineral Club:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at the Tin Mt. Conservation Center, Albany, NH – 7:00 PM  
www.sacovalleygmc.com

**Keene:** 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month in the conference room of the Southwest Community Services building at 34 Cypress St. Keene, NH – 6:00 - 8:30 PM keenemineralclub.50webs.com

**North Shore (MA):** 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month, Hamilton Wenham Community House, 284 Bay Rd, South Hamilton, MA – 7:45 PM

**Boston Mineral Club:** 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month, Harvard University Geological Lecture Hall, 24 Oxford St., Cambridge, MA – 7:30 PM www.bostonmineralclub.org

**Southeastern NH Mineral Club:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month, St John's Methodist Church, 28 Cataract Ave., Dover, NH – 7:00 PM senhmineralclub.org

**Presidential Gem and Mineral Society:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of month at 7: 00 P.M. North Country Education Services Center; 300 Gorham Hill; Gorham, NH



There are no minutes from the December meeting as this month was the Capital Mineral Clubs Annual Holiday Party and Collecting Competition. There were 45 members who attended this festive event.

**Meeting Minutes:** Tabled until the January meeting.

**Treasurer's report:** Tabled until the January meeting.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** Tabled until the January meeting.

**New Memberships:** None

**Door Prizes:** None

## The Yankee Swap

The Yankee Swap was revised this year to promote efficiency when we have a large group of persons participating. Thirty four people brought gifts and were given a raffle ticket to participate. All members remained at their respective tables after dinner and the gifts were handed out to each member with right of refusal should they be receiving their own. The emcee then called out ten (10) tickets and those members came to the end of the room. After this callout the remaining members opened their gifts and exposed them on their table. The last ticket called allowed the person to walk once down the center of the line of tables and swap their unopened gift with something on the table. That person then took their seat and opened up the gift they were holding. When all ten ticket holders had taken their seat a grand prize ticket was drawn for an extra ham. **Steffen Hermanns** was the winner and he promptly donated it to the Salvation Army. Total time for the entire Yankee Swap was less than 30 minutes and I believe everyone was satisfied and left happy after we cleaned up our mess.

## SALVATION ARMY

Each year we help the SA with their annual gifting program for area youngsters. This year the SA had some 300 families they were working with and, well, I'll pass along their abbreviated comments.

*"On behalf of the families and children, we thank you whole-heartedly for supporting those in needs during the Christmas season. Your years of dedication to Rocks and Minerals have shown in the thoughtfulness of the generous gifts you provided this year. Four children expressed a wish for learning/educational material of this nature. You went above and beyond expectations. My volunteers and I are impressed. We truly appreciate your caring spirit."* [Salvation Army]

Thanks to Jeff MacFawn, Michele Johnson, and members of our Club.

## 2018 Year-End Party Chairman's Report

Charles Forsberg

Some 45 members joined together to bring the year to a joyous end. The food was varied and delicious. The table setup was as last year using the round tables staggered down the room to allow for easy access by everyone.

There were some changes to the Yankee Swap and the Valade collection awards. The only suggestion I have for next year is some way to serve the food hot. Food that is warmed in the oven for any length of time tends to dry out and lose tenderness. We have the resources to do better next year.

### Vince Valade Awards

Vince began this award program in 1995 to allow that minerals collected by members might be judged and recognized to all members. The program evolved over the years to include minerals, micromounts, lapidary, jewelry and best overall. The problem with any program of complexity is to set it up for anyone to manage. This year the categories were simplified to four. Altogether there were 9 submissions by 8 members.

#### BEST MINERAL OF NEW HAMPSHIRE Category A-1 [2 submissions]



#### **BERYL-Variety Aqua Marine, from Palermo mines.**

This winning beryl specimen was discovered by **Angela Pratt** after an old dump was turned over by an excavator. It was certainly an unexpected find after spending 6 hours poking around in the spoils. The next day the Palermo crew went looking for the cast of this mineral, and they found it. The specimen exceeds 6 inches in length.

Other honorable submission:

A submission by Terry Crowell from Palermo of vivianite, a phosphate mineral, recovered from a new site at the mine.

#### BEST MINERAL OUTSIDE NEW HAMPSHIRE Category A-2 [4 submissions]



#### **MESOLITE-from Arizona**

This winning mesolite specimen was found by **Robert (Bob) Wilken** who worked 2 hours in a secret New Mexico site. Bob says that mesolite is a fragile member of the zeolite group, and forms almost exclusively in delicate, needle-like crystal habits. [www.minerals.net](http://www.minerals.net)

Other honorable submissions:

1. Petrified wood found in Arizona by Dawn Quirk.
2. Azurite found by Chris Buerkle in Arizona.
3. A very rare blue beryl-variety aquamarine-found in an Arizona pegmatite by Bob York.

The lapidary categories includes all types of minerals that are cut, faceted, carved and polished by the hand of man to become the central setting in jewelry. The minerals should be of natural origin and not synthetic in any way. This does not preclude that some minerals might be altered by heating, etc. To simplify the ballot and counting, faceted stones are not separated by size.

### **BEST LAPIDARY – FACETED**     Category B-1   [1 submission]



**Larry Welker** faceted this 5.1 carat stone from beryl of an aqua color. He calls it the kaleidoscope style, whatever that is.

Interested persons may find the following web sites of interest.

[www.gemsociety.org](http://www.gemsociety.org) and [www.gemcad.com](http://www.gemcad.com)

No other submissions.

### **BEST LAPIDARY – CABOCHON**     Category B-2   [2 submissions]



This **BLOOD STONE CABOCHON** in a silver necklace was created by **Kerry Reynolds**. Kerry says it took her 25 hours to create this jewelry piece and she has been doing lapidary work for 10 years. She says Bill Brown got her started.

Other honorable submission:

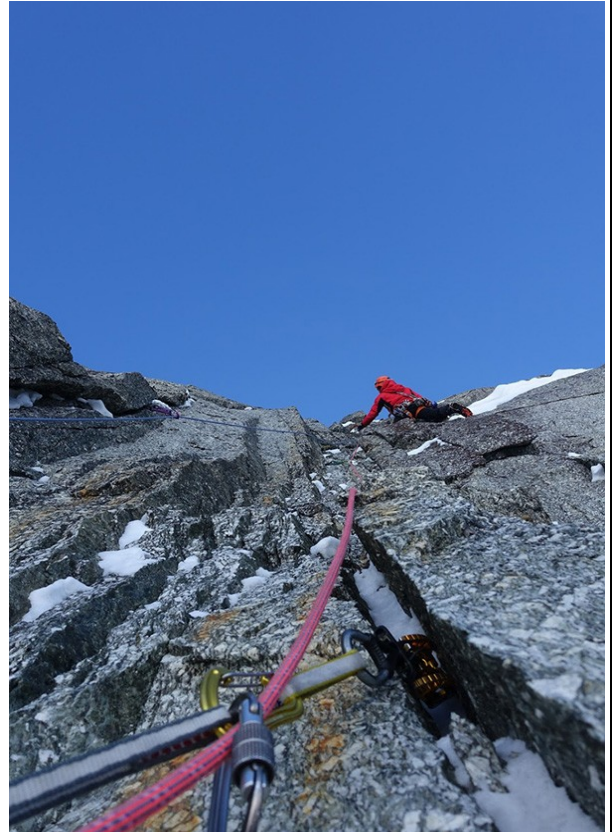
A copper malachite pin submitted by Jim Reynolds. It took him 12 hours to make and he has been doing lapidary for 10 years with a start from Bill Brown. He likes faceting and works with all minerals.

I have made slight revisions for the Valade Awards event for next year and would be happy to let someone else take over.

# January Presentation “A Safe Level Walk”

## A mineral collector’s trip of a lifetime

In June of 1994 collector Ernie Schlichter was invited to France to accompany Bill Metropolis on a visit to collector Eric Asselborn with the possibility of collecting in the French Alps. This turned out to be an incredible trip beyond all expectations.



**Smoky Quartz**  
**Les Droites**  
**Chamonix, France**

After visiting Eric at his home the trio drove to Chamonix where the collecting trip was advertised by the guides as a safe level walk for these two inexperienced “mountaineers” from the United States. Ernie had a slide presentation about the trip that he presented many years ago. I have digitized the slides and put them back together to resurrect this talk on an incredible trip to the French Alps.

Come to the meeting to see what happened and what was found.

## Don Dallaire

# Display Minerals for the January Meeting

Bring in your specimens from the Alps. Any country that includes the Alps is a candidate. Smoky quartz, fluorite, and fluorapatite are especially characteristic of the Alps.



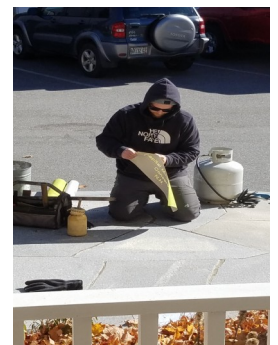
**Left: Smokey Quartz, Cavradi Gorge, Tujetsch, Grabunden Canton, Switzerland**  
**Center: Flourapatite, Central St. Gotthard Massif, Leventina, Ticino, Switzerland**  
**Right: Flourite, St.Gotthard Tunnel, Reuss Valley, Goschenen, Uri Canton, Switzerland**



## Capital Mineral Club Paver at the Maine Mineral & Gem Museum



The engraved granite paving stone the club purchased to help support the Maine Mineral & Gem Museum was engraved in October and holds a prominent place at the entrance to the museum from the parking lot. The shape of the paver is like a faceted stone and is in the center of the area to the left of the entrance as shown above. It was an interesting process. First a stencil is made, applied to the granite (see photo at right) and cemented down with a special cement. Finally the stone is sandblasted but only the letters show up since the material bounces of the stencil material.





MAINE  
MINERAL  
& GEM  
MUSEUM

June 11, 2018

Capital Mineral Club  
829 Candia Rd  
Chester, NH 03036-0000

Lawrence T.P. Stiffler, Ph.D.  
Founder

Mary McFadden, J.D.  
Founder

Archie W. "Bill" Berry, Jr. Ph.D.  
Professor Emeritus,  
University of Maine, Farmington

Don Dallaire, M.B.A.  
Retired Banker

Henry W. Minot, J.D.  
Retired Lawyer

Bob Ritchie, M.D.  
Founder and President Emeritus,  
Foundation for Blood Research

Barbra Barrett  
Director

Carl Francis, Ph.D.  
Curator

Dear Capital Mineral Club,

On behalf of MMGM's Board of Trustees, thank you for taking part in our Rock Star Opportunity Campaign. Your generous donation of \$1500.00 on June 5, 2018 is greatly appreciated. Your mineral club's name will be etched on Paver #157 and forever be a part of MMGM's history.

We are honored for your continued support in the museum and truly appreciate your friendship and generosity. We will let you know when the etching is complete.

Thank you again for your generous contribution.

With gratitude,

Barbra Barrett  
Director

*This acknowledgement affirms that MMGM provided no goods or services to the donor in exchange for this gift.*

*MMGM is a 501(c)(3) organization. All gifts are fully tax deductible according to IRS guidelines.*

PO Box 500  
99 Main Street  
Bethel, Maine 04217  
(207) 824-3036  
[www.mainemineralmuseum.org](http://www.mainemineralmuseum.org)



Peter Cram  
 Editor  
 1 Catskill Drive  
 Merrimack, NH 03054

Keep on Rockin' in the Free World

Email: pfcram@comcast.net

WE'RE ON THE WEB

WWW.CAPITALMINERALCLUB.ORG

**2019 Club Dues are due, please send your membership dues to:**

**Steffen Hermanns, 7133 Oak Hill Road, Loudon, NH 03307**

**Make check payable to Capital Mineral Club. Dues are \$10.00 per member.**

<b>Capital Mineral Club Meetings &amp; Events</b>	<b>Gem &amp; Mineral Shows</b>
<p><b>January 5, 2019</b>            Club Meeting: <b>2:00PM</b>            Speaker: Don Dallaire            Refreshments: Don Walker</p>	<p><b>January 19th, 2019</b>            Boston Mineral Club Annual Auction            295 California Street, Newton, MA</p>
<p><b>February 2, 2019</b>            Club Meeting: Workshop <b>2:00PM</b>            Refreshments: Potluck</p>	<p><b>March 2-3, 2019</b>            Meridan Mineral Club            47th Annual Mineral, Gem &amp; Jewelry Show            Meriden, CT</p>
<p><b>March 2, 2019</b>            Club Meeting: <b>2:00PM</b>            Speaker: TBD            Refreshments: Steve &amp; Denise Czaj</p>	<p><b>March 23-24, 2019</b>            Connecticut Valley Mineral, Jewelry, Fossil Show            Hadley, MA</p>
<p><b>April 6, 2019</b>            Club Meeting: <b>2:00PM</b>            Speaker: TBD            Refreshments: Shannon Wade</p>	<p><b>April 13-14, 2019</b>            Southern NH Mineral Club            15th annual Rock, Gem &amp; Mineral Show            Dover Elks Lodge, Dover, NH</p>
<p><b>May 4, 2019</b>            Club Meeting: <b>2:00PM</b>            Speaker: TBD            Refreshments: Jenn &amp; Jeff Divers</p>	<p><b>June 22-23, 2019</b>            Gilsum Rock Swap, Gilsum, NH</p> <p><b>August 09-11, 2019:</b>            East Coast Gem, Mineral, Fossil Show.            Eastern States Exposition, West Springfield, MA</p>