



CRYSTALS AND CABS

Newsletter of the Capital Mineral Club
Concord, New Hampshire

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Capital Mineral Club News

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The Capital Mineral Club membership meeting will be on Saturday, October 3rd at 2:00 PM at The Salvation Army Building, Concord, NH.

Thank you to Bill Brown for providing refreshments for last month.

This months speaker will be **John Whitney** from **Rocks to Gems**. He will be talking about collecting **Agatized Coral** from the state of Florida. John has been collecting rocks for longer than he can remember. **“A man can never have enough rocks”** is John’s philosophy.

This months refreshments will be provided by Doug Peck.

Welcome New Members

- Jackie Fulton, Loudon, NH
- Paul Poe, Strafford, NH
- Steven Jonasch, Center Barnstead, NH
- Drew & Rachel Divers, Gilmanton, NH
- Winnie & Hannah Harding, Milford, NH

2015 Club Dues are Due, please send your membership renewals to Steffen Hermanns and make check payable to Capital Mineral Club,

Editors Note:

The **deadline** to get info to me for publication will be the **3rd 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: 3rd Tuesday of each month at the Tin Mt. Conservation Center, Albany, NH – 7:00 PM www.sacovalleygmc.com

Keene: 1st Saturday of each month at Keene State College, Science Bldg. Room SCIC 126, Keene, NH – 7:00 PM keenemineralclub.50webs.com

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

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

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

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

Capital Mineral Club minutes September 5, 2015

Al Falster opened the meeting at 2 pm with an informative presentation on crystallography.

The business meeting was called to order at 3:40pm by acting president, Don Dallaire, (31 members and 2 guests were present.)

There were no minutes available for the meeting in June 2015.

The treasurer's report for May 1 through August 31 was presented by Don Dallaire. Motion to accept by Brad Lewis, second by Michelle Johnson – vote to accept by members.

Don stated that he will present the results of the audit of the club books at the October 2015 meeting. He mentioned that the auditor has requested a change in procedure which he will implement immediately: Requests by members for reimbursement by the club for monies spent must be submitted as complete items. If there is income to the club occurring at the same time, that item must be also submitted as a whole amount. Both income and expenses must be visible as individual items in the club books.

Old Business:

Don Dallaire stated that the summary of the show, activities and finances, will be presented at the October meeting.

Mike Codero reported that the Poland Mining Camp trip was very successful. Bill Ernst will place an article about it in the club newsletter.

New Business:

Bill Brown asked whether there was interest in a return visit to the garnet locality in Greenville. There was a general positive response. Bill will organize the date, time, and location to meet. He will give the information to Steffen Hermanns for distribution to all members by email. Once the email information is given, members should plan to meet at the date, time, location specified without further confirmation by Bill.

A member asked about a cookout at Palermo. Mike Codero stated that there will be a cookout in October and that Steffen will send out the information to all members.

Gordon Jackson, show chairman, gave thanks to all those who helped with the show. There will be a meeting at his house at 6pm on September 21, 2015, to discuss the 2015 and 2016 shows. All members are welcome, water and cookies will be provided but if you need to eat dinner during the meeting, please bring your own food.

Gordon stated that he WILL NOT be chairman of the 2016 show. He feels that he has done it enough years (at least 10) and "It is time for new blood". Also, his youngest daughter's wedding will be at his house in early August and so both he AND Pam will not be available to do planning for the show.

Brad Lewis stated that he has spoken with the O. C. White Company about microscopes and lighting. They are very willing to have people visit to check out their equipment which is high end, both technically and financially. Contact him for more information on how to set up an appointment with the company.

Don Dallaire stated that a board meeting will be held before the October club meeting. Steffen will send out the details to all members. All members are welcome to attend.

Don Dallaire sent out a call for articles for the newsletter.

Door Prizes were won by Don Divers and Winnie Harding.

New members presented were: Jackie Poulton, Paul Poe, Steven Jonash, Drew Divers, and Rachel Divers. (sorry about any mis-spellings!) Moved to accept by Steffen Hermanns, second by Bill Adams – vote to accept by members.

The meeting was adjourned at 4pm.

Submitted by Kathy Dallaire, acting recording secretary.

Program for October

“Collecting Agatized Coral, Florida State”

By John Whitney

Over the past few years, John Whitney of Whitney’s Rocks To Gems has found some of the most exquisite and highly-desired agatized coral in the world. Agatized Coral is 20-30 million years old and is Florida’s State Stone. John has been collecting rocks for longer than he can remember. “A man can never have enough rocks” is John’s philosophy. Growing up on a Maine farm, his mother was endlessly emptying John’s pockets full of rocks. John attended the University of Maine, receiving his BS degree in Plants and Soils. After that, he owned and operated Whitney’s Farm for 17 years. From there his experiences, interests evolved and expanded.



John Whitney holding Songo Pond Beryl for Don Dallaire and Carl Francis to admire.



Collecting agatized coral in Florida rivers may be hazardous to your health.

In 1989 , John became a registered Soil Scientist, and wetland specialist. All the while rock collecting, John expanded his interests in collecting from Maine to Florida approximately 12 years ago. Then in 2005, John and his wife, Debbie, had the opportunity to make a large purchase of new material from the famous Mount Mica Quarry in Paris, Maine. John and Debbie started their Rocks to Gems business. Today, rocks have been come full circle for John, and Debbie is now the one endlessly emptying his pockets full of rocks. John will have just returned from another agatized coral expedition just in time for our meeting.

{ Information provided by Debbie Whitney }

Rocky Mountain High Part 2.

On Friday, Gordon and I decided to take a day off and visit Ray Berry, an old time collector. Gordon had met him years ago and collected on his claims in Colorado. Since we were due at Ray's at 1:00PM it made no sense to drive the 40 miles to the Smoky Hawk just to turn around and make the 1:00 appointment so we decided to visit the Rocky Mountain Dinosaur Research Center in Woodland Park. It is a small museum but very well done. It has a full Paleontology lab and works on assembling fossil skeletal remains for museums all over the world. An interesting and educational stop if you are in the area.

We got to Ray's house at 1:00PM as scheduled. Although he has endured some physical challenges lately and was currently housebound he proved to be an enthusiastic host. He showed us his collection and we were amazed at the quantity and quality of the specimens he had. There was quite a bit of mineral conversation and the afternoon slipped by quickly. Armed with seeing the large amazonite and smoky quartz crystals we had renewed energy to keep on digging for the next few days.



Nanotyrannus lancensis

Pronounced (NAN-o-tye-RAN-us lan-SEN-sis)

One of the most controversial dinosaurs of this century is *Nanotyrannus lancensis*. It was originally based on a skull collected in 1942 by David Hosbrook Dunkle and mistakenly described in 1946 by Charles W. Gilmore as a *Gorgosaurus*.



Right: Tour guide explaining exhibit

Left: Cast of controversial dinosaur that evidence points to new species while others claim it to be an immature T-Rex.

Saturday morning arrived, day 3 and we were up bright and early reaching the gate at the bottom of the steep road to the Smoky Hawk before Joe got there. There were several other cars there and we learned there was an organized field trip by a local mineral club that day. When Joe arrived we talked to him and said we could work on some other area and free up some of the limited parking for field trip participants. We thought we might go to a locality that Ray Berry suggested below the Smoky Hawk where he found large 10 cm amazonite crystals. Joe said that that would be fine but we might want to try his most northern claim in the area and gave us directions. Gordon and I decided to work where Joe had suggested.

The claim Joe sent us to is approximately 675 meters (2200 feet) from the Smoky Hawk as the crow flies in a northwesterly direction. By the primitive road it is approximately 1.6 kilometers (1 mile). We parked by the gate to this particular claim and started looking around.



Above left: Gate to northern claim area.



Above right: Area we were prospecting.

Below: Gordon digging away.



Below: Our take for the day, 8 good smoky quartz crystals. Note circled crystal since this is important to the later part of the story.



I began to dig along the side of the road where some pegmatite was showing but soon realized that debris would go into Joe's access road and that was not acceptable so I quit on this site. This is the first inclination that we should have purchased large shovels instead of just a pick and cultivator. There was no way I would be able to remove what I would be dropping down in the road with just a small folding shovel.

Gordon was looking around above me so I picked up my tools and started prospecting uphill toward Gordon. When I got to Gordon he was expanding two shallow holes dug by a previous prospector. There was a bit of pegmatite showing so I began helping Gordon dig deeper. Soon we hit hard rock about 2 feet below the original surface. I began using the pick to pull up some of the hard rock and it appeared to be a harder pegmatite. All of a sudden a smoky quartz shard approximately 11 X 3 cm appeared showing 2 sharp crystal faces. We started being hopeful. A bit more work and a 2.2 cm smoky quartz crystal on a white quartz shard came out and the digging intensified. After a while we had 8 smoky quartz crystals of varied sizes and we knew we were not shut out on this trip. After a while we did not find any more crystals and we wondered if that was the end. I wasn't so sure. Anyway we packed up and went back to the motel.



*Left: Steepnes
of road to
claims - no 4
wheel drive,
don't even try.
Right: Dorris
family claim
marker.*



It was now Sunday, day 4, and Joe does not work at the claim on Sunday so the gate to the Smoky Hawk remains locked. Gordon and I decided to try the spot below the Smoky Hawk that Ray Berry found large amazonite crystals. It was a short hike and we started digging. It is a relatively large hand excavation for the area. Without shovels we could not dig out the bottom so we dug into the wall. We had no idea where the crystals had been found. There were some signs of thin pegmatite but we were disappointed with no increase in mineralization. After digging for several hours we decided to look around to see if there was a more promising site. Again this area was full of shallow pits with no signs of smoky quartz, microcline or any other mineral. A decision to leave was made by thunderstorms that were coming over the mountains.



*Above: Excavation by me on Sunday.
Right: Gordon's excavation and exploratory
trench*

I did notice the wildflowers in the area that were quite nice and took several pictures of them..

We then took a ride west to a point were we could get a good view of Mount Antero. There was still quite a bit of snow on the mountain and it would be a few weeks before it was safe to prospect out there.

We got back to the motel Sunday night and decided to divide up the smokies to get a head start on packing. The plan for Monday was to go up to the Smoky Hawk, thank Joe for inviting us to his claims and see what was going on. We thought we would leave around noon to get back to the motel, clean up the car for return to Hertz and pack. As we divided the crystals I realized that when I wrapped the crystals , I forgot one. Refer back to photo with the crystal circled in red , that is the one I forgot. I was mad at myself for doing that. I announced to Gordon that we were going back to the northern claim before going to the Smoky Hawk.



*Above: Mount Antero still with enough snow to prevent prospecting
Remaining photos: Typical wildflowers in the Crystal Creek area.*



To be continued.....

Hitchcock Map

An email I received explaining the permanent display for the Hitchcock Map whose restoration was

Dear Don and members of the Capital Mineral Club

We're happy to let you all know that the Hitchcock map and explanation that the Club funded for conservation and framing after the NE GSA meeting at Bretton Woods in 2013 for the grand opening of the Museum of the White Mountains at Plymouth is now proudly displayed on the second floor of new James Hall. The explanation acknowledges the wonderful support you provided and directs the viewer to the restored relief map in the stairwell. We think this adds significantly to the historical and educational value of the map displays for visitors, provides a sense of the progress we have made in geologic understanding of this region over the last couple of centuries, and maybe, just maybe, will help "crystallize" earth sciences as major for some of the younger folks that wander these halls..... hope so!

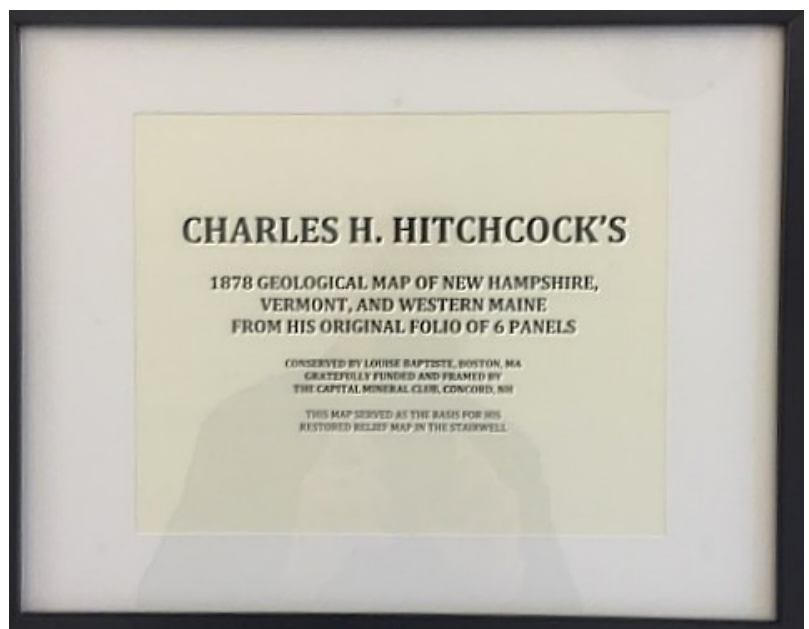
Thank you very much for your interest and support. Please come visit.

Wally

Professor Emeritus of Geology

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Email: pfcram@comcast.net

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 WWW.CAPITALMINERALCLUB.ORG

2015 Club Dues are Due, please send your membership renewals to Steffen Hermanns and make check payable to Capital Mineral Club, Dues are \$10.00 per member.

Capital Mineral Club Meetings & Events	Gem & Mineral Shows
<p>September 5, 2015 Club Meeting: 2:00PM Speaker: Al Falster, Basics of Crystallography Refreshments Bill Brown</p>	<p>October 17-18, 2015: Bristol, CT. 43rd Annual Gem & Mineral Show Bristol Gem and Mineral Club Beals Community Center (240 Stafford Avenue)</p>
<p>October 3, 2015 Club Meeting: 2:00PM Speaker: John Whitney, Florida Agatized Coral Refreshments Doug Peck</p>	<p>November 7-8, 2015: Old Greenwich, CT. 27 th Annual Show and Sale hosted by the Stamford Mineralogical Society, Eastern Greenwich Civic Center, 90 Harding Rd., Old Greenwich, CT</p>
<p>November 7, 2015 Club Meeting: 2:00PM Speaker: Peter Cristofono, N.E. mineral localities Refreshments Kerry Reynolds</p>	<p>November 21-22, 2015: Worcester, MA: 39nd Annual Mineral Show by the Worcester Mineral Club, National Guard Armory, 701 Lincoln St. Worcester, MA</p>
<p>December 5, 2015 Club Meeting: Holiday Get Together 12:00– 4:00PM Chair: Charles Forsberg</p>	
<p>January 2, 2016 Club Meeting: 2:00PM Speaker: TBD Refreshments TBD</p>	