



CRYSTALS AND CABS

Newsletter of the Capital Mineral Club
Concord, New Hampshire

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April 2016

Volume 16 Issue 7

Capital Mineral Club News

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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.

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

Thank you to Karla Ruth & Nick Hadshi for providing refreshments last month.

This month's speaker will be Dr. Carl Francis is known to many of our members and has given the club many presentations through the years. He was curator of the Mineralogical and Geological Museum at Harvard from 1977-2011. His retirement was brief, however, since he joined the staff of the Maine Mineral and Gem Museum in Bethel, Maine shortly after retiring from Harvard. Minerals of the month: see page 4.

This Months Refreshments will be provided by Natalie Undercofler.

2016 Club dues are due, please send your membership renewals to Steffen Hermanns. Make check payable: Capital Mineral Club . Dues are \$10.00 per member.

Welcome New Members

Mary Bubnis, Loudon, NH John J. Jonasch, Alton, NH Stanley Hicks, Kingston, NH Gary Tilden, East Kingston, NH Andrew Gaunt, Newton Junction, NH Anne, Liz, Valerie and Natalie Soule, North Sutton, NH

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



The March meeting of the Capital Mineral club was held at the Salvation Army building in Concord NH on March 5th 2016. Meeting came to order at 2:04 and began with a presentation by Bill Adams entitled "Rattlesnakes and Rocks". Bill told several stories of mineral collecting in Brasil, with a few rattlesnake adventures making an appearance in them. After a break the meeting resumed.

Business meeting was called to order at 3:40.

The minutes as appearing in the newsletter were accepted. Because Don is out of town, Gordon read the treasurer's report. Some humourous comments about Don depleting the funds on a condo in Tucson were provided. Treasurer's report was accepted.

Old business - Gordon said there was little progress to report on the mineral kit project. He mentioned that it would be good to update the website to make it simpler for teachers to apply for grants, perhaps with clearer guidelines. Volunteers are needed at some point to review those applications. Once the website is up to snuff, postcards can go out advertising it. Pat asked if Gordon is collecting minerals for the kits yet, but he said he has a lot already, and will let the club know when they can contribute. Gary mentioned that public schools have fixed a curriculum and the kits should be tailored to it. Bob W. said he knows there are about 20 specimens teachers need, and they like them loose rather than glued down.

Charlie said he was having some difficulty putting field trips together. He found a book with many sites listed, and read out some of the names to see, by a show of hands, how much interest the various sites stirred up, as well as any information on the places that members might have. Discussion followed on how to get a trip to be club-sanctioned, as that provides liability coverage for the landowner. Mike suggested some paper would be useful, to show that participants had obtained club sanctioning. Tabled with a suggestion that the board look into it.

New business - Tony would like to make short videos that we can use as advertising to encourage people to come to the show. Much discussion was had on the EFMLS membership cards and their relative usefulness; it was agreed that they provide no legal protection, nor should they be used to imply that you are engaged in a club-sanctioned activity. They sometimes can get you into a mining site for a discount, but are overall of limited use.

Pat B. talked about collecting stamps with mineral themes, and she has some related memorabilia she is willing to share.

Steffen mentioned a need for a show meeting at Gordon's house. March 15th at 6:00 was scheduled, and a board meeting will be held then as well.

Seven new members were introduced and accepted, and the door prizes were distributed. Meeting adjourned at 4:29.

Door prizes were not recorded.

Respectfully submitted
Ellen Oberkotter
Secretary

April Meeting Presentation

“Minerals of Stow, Lovell and Stoneham, Maine”

presented by: **Dr. Carl Francis**

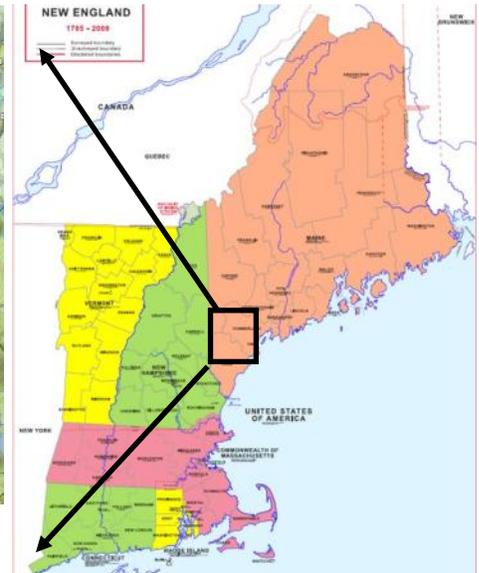


Dr. Carl Francis is known to many of our members and has given the club many presentations through the years. He was curator of the Mineralogical and Geological Museum at Harvard from 1977-2011. His retirement was brief, however, since he joined the staff of the Maine Mineral and Gem Museum in Bethel, Maine shortly after retiring from Harvard.

Carl received his AB (geology) from Amherst College and his MS and PhD from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. He is interested in systematic mineralogy and the geology of pegmatites. Carl collects single crystals that clearly demonstrate unique crystal habits. He has been an Executive Editor of *Rocks & Minerals* magazine since 1980.

These 3 Maine towns are right on the NH border. The best known localities in those towns are Lord Hill quarry and the Deer Hill amethyst locality. There are numerous lesser known mines and pegmatites that produce wonderful beryl crystals as well as many other mineral specimens.

The collecting history of this area is related to the collecting history of nearby NH locations. Come to the meeting to learn all about it.



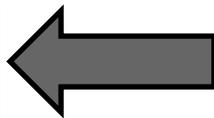
Left: Topaz crystal on albite matrix from Lord Hill quarry, Stoneham, Oxford County, Maine. Topaz crystal 16 mm tall.

Above: Map showing location of Stow, Lovell and Stoneham on the NH border. The town of Chatham, NH is to the west and Fryeburg, Maine to the south.

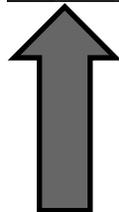
Minerals of the month

To go along with the topic of this month's presentation bring in specimens from Stow, Lovell or Stoneham, Maine. You could even bring some specimens from over the border from Chatham, NH.

We hope to see fine amethyst from Deer Hill; topaz, phenakite and other minerals from Lord Hill and fine beryl crystals from all 3 towns. There are many fine quartz crystals as well as muscovite. Topaz and phenakite from South Baldface in Chatham are most acceptable for display. Bring some specimens in so



Beryl var: aquamarine
Eastman prospect
Stow, Maine



Fluorapatite on albite
Lord Hill quarry
Stoneham, Maine



Phenakite on smoky quartz
Lord Hill quarry
Stoneham, Maine



Quartz var: amethyst
Deer Hill locality
Stow, Maine

4th Annual New England Mineral Conference

The *4th Annual New England Mineral Conference* will be held from Friday, May 6 – Sunday, May 8, 2016 at the Grand Summit Resort Hotel and Conference Center at Sunday River, Newry, Maine. The conference is a division of the non-profit *New England Mineral Association* and was developed as an educational event to promote further knowledge in the fields of mineralogy and geology. Lectures on both New England and non-New England topics are scheduled on Friday evening and Saturday. In addition, there will be mineral exhibits, a voice and a silent auction in support of the conference, and a separate room for the *Micromounters of New England*. Dealers can be visited in their hotel rooms from Friday afternoon through Saturday evening (except during the presentations). The weekend culminates with a field trip on Sunday, usually to an area not open to the general public. For further information please visit: www.nemineralconference.org .

Two important educational features of the conference for students in grades 3-12 are *Education Day* (May 6) and the *Poster Contest*. The poster contest gives a chance for students to do a research project about anything relating to the rocks and minerals of New England. The students will display the information on a poster, which then will be submitted electronically. The posters will be judged according to grade level, and the winning posters will be displayed at the conference from May 6-7. For additional information about *Education Day* and the *Poster Contest* please visit: www.nemineraleducation.org



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Keep on **ROCKIN'** in the Free World

Email: pfcram@comcast.net

WE'RE ON THE WEB
 WWW.CAPITALMINERALCLUB.ORG

2016 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>March 5, 2016 Club Meeting: 2:00PM Speaker: Bill Adams Refreshments: Karla Ruth & Nick Hadshi</p>	<p>April 2-3, 2016 : Orange, CT. 43rd Annual Mineral, Gem, Jewelry & fossil Show, Mew Haven Mineral Club, Amity Regional Middle School, Sheffield Rd, Orange, CT.</p>
<p>April 2, 2016 Club Meeting: 2:00PM Speaker: Dr. Carl Francis Refreshments: Natalie Undercofler</p>	<p>April 16-17, 2016: Haldey, MA. Western Mass. Mineral, Jewelry & Fossil Show, Connecticut Valley Mineral Club. Hadley Farms Meeting House, 41 Russell St. Hadley MA.</p>
<p>May 7, 2016 Club Meeting: 2:00PM Speaker: TBD Refreshments: The Howds</p>	<p>May 6-May 8, 2016: Newry, ME <i>4th Annual New England Mineral Conference</i>, Grand Summit Resort Hotel & Conference Center at Sunday River, Newry, Maine. The conference also sponsors an <i>Education Day/Poster Contest</i> for children in grades 3-12. For further details visit: www.nemineralconference.org and www.nemineraleducation.org.</p>
<p>June 4, 2016 Club Meeting: 2:00PM Speaker: TBD Refreshments TBD</p>	<p>June 26-27, 2016: Gilsum NH. 52nd annual Gilsum Rock Swap & Mineral Show will be held June 25-26, 2016 RAIN OR SHINE! More than 65 dealers and swappers with gems, jewelry and minerals available for sale or trade.</p> <p>August 13-15, 2016: West Springfield, MA. East Coast Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show, Eastern States Exposition, 10-6 Fri, Sat. 10-5 Sun</p>