



# CRYSTALS AND CABS

## Newsletter of the Capital Mineral Club

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### Capital Mineral Club News

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The Capital Mineral Club membership meeting will be on Saturday, January 4th 2020 at 2:00 PM at The Salvation Army Building, Concord, NH.

This month the speaker is Al Falster, his talk will be on the Emmons Mine. Minerals of the Month. Many club members have visited this location, so bring in your Emmons specimens for other members to view.

Thank you to Polly Lowe & Sharon Palmer for bringing the refreshments for the November meeting.

#### Welcome New Members

No New Members

**2020 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 www.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  
www.northshorerock.org

**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 www.senhmineralclub.org

**Presidential Gem & Mineral Society:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of month at 6:30pm. Jefferson Town Hall, 698 Presidential Hwy, Jefferson, NH 03583



## 2019 Year-End Party Report

### Charles Forsberg, Chair

Some 30 members joined together to bring the year to a joyous end. Special thanks go to **Angela Pratt** for supplying the groceries and miscellaneous table stuff. **Dave Buchanan** and helpers cooked the turkeys and all the stuffing and kept it hot for all of us to enjoy. **Julie Jewett** supplied the ham for all to feast on and **Mary Bubnis** prepared the mashed potatoes and kept it warm to the last serving. This year we served food sooner and to the last serving I have not heard a disagreeable word. And a special thanks to all who filled my belly.

The table setup was as last year using the round tables staggered down the room to allow for easy access by everyone. The changes (2018) to the Yankee Swap and the Valade collection awards were continued this 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. The categories are now simplified to four. This year there were 6 submissions in two categories. Twenty one (21) ballots were cast.

**\*\*BEST MINERAL OF NEW HAMPSHIRE** Category A-1 [3 submissions]

**CARBO-APATITE**, from **North Groton**, submitted by **Martin Kippley**, Rollinsford, NH

**\*\*BEST MINERAL OUTSIDE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE** Category A-2 [3 submissions]

**CALCITE**, from Nova Scotia, submitted by **Kathleen Welker**, Cornish, NH

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 [NO submission]

**\*\*BEST LAPIDARY – CABOCHON** Category B-2 [NO submission]

### The Yankee Swap

The Yankee Swap is revised to promote efficiency when we have a large group of persons participating. 25 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 order of tickets gave the last person called 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 respective 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 unknown prize. **Heidi Chaney** (Canterbury, NH) was the winner and will be awarded a prize at an upcoming official meeting. 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.

# JANUARY MEETING



**Presented by:  
Al Falster**

## THE EMMONS PEGMATITE

Greenwood  
Oxford County, Maine

Al was the lead author of an article on the Emmons Pegmatite in the Nov - Dec 2019 issue of *Rocks & Minerals*. Almost weekly, year round, Al collects at the Emmons Mine which is the primary exposure of the pegmatite.

His research on this pegmatite has identified many minerals new to the location and now the Emmons is the pegmatite with the most species in all of Maine (currently 122). Recently the new mineral tantalowodginite was identified from the Emmons and Al was on the team that worked on getting this new mineral approved. There are a few unknowns from his work that may also result in more new species.



Fluorapatite  
3 cm. across  
collected by Ray & Tony in 2008  
Don Dallaire collection



Tantalowodginite with black rim of wodginite  
12 cm. across  
Jim Nizamoff collection  
from Emmons Mine collection

The Emmons pegmatite is located on the eastern slope of Uncle Tom Mountain in Greenwood, Maine and was discovered in the early 1900s. Feldspar mining commenced in 1931 and was only sporadically mined for that commercial mineral.

In the early 1990s Ray Sprague and mining partner Tony Wielkiewicz arranged a deal to mine for mineral specimens and they continued for approximately 20 years. The mine is now privately owned and only pre-arranged field trips by clubs are permitted.



Above: Bertrandite  
2.3 cm. tall  
collected by Terry Crowell in 2016

Right: Muscovite crystal with  
hydroxylherderite and albite  
11 cm. tall  
collected by Don Dallaire in  
2006



Left: Lithiophilite  
5.5 cm. tall  
collected by Ray & Tony in  
2006  
Don Dallaire collection and  
photo  
Right: Etched beryl  
6 cm. across  
collected by Win Harding in  
2017





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Keep on Rockin' in the Free World

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**WE'RE ON THE WEB**

**[WWW.CAPITALMINERALCLUB.ORG](http://WWW.CAPITALMINERALCLUB.ORG)**

<b>Capital Mineral Club Meetings &amp; Events</b>	<b>Gem &amp; Mineral Shows</b>
<b>January 4, 2020</b>	<b>February 22-23, 2020</b>
Club Meeting: <b>2:00PM</b>	27th Annual James Campbell Memorial Gem, Mineral, Fossil Show & Sale, Albany, NY
Speaker: <b>Al Falster</b>	<b>March 7-8, 2020</b>
<b>March 7, 2020</b>	48th Annual Mineral, Gem & Jewelry Show, Meriden, CT
Club Meeting: <b>2:00PM</b>	<b>March 28-29, 2020</b>
Speaker: TBD	Connecticut Valley Mineral Club, Mineral, Jewelry & Fossil Show, Hadley, MA
<b>April 4, 2020</b>	<b>April 18-19, 2020</b>
Club Meeting: <b>2:00PM</b>	37th Annual Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show Brick South-Thompsons Point, Portland, ME
Speaker: <b>Kevin Downey</b>	
<b>May 2, 2020</b>	
Club Meeting: <b>2:00PM</b>	
Speaker: TBD	
<b>June 6, 2020</b>	
Club Meeting: <b>2:00PM</b>	
Speaker: TBD	