



CRYSTALS AND CABS

Newsletter of the Capital Mineral Club Concord, New Hampshire

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May 2011

Volume 11 Issue 8

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:
steffenh@comcast.net
- CMC Website:
www.capitalmineralclub.org
- Website designed and maintained by:
Robin Edgewood-Reece &
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, May 7th at 2:00 PM at the Audubon Society Building on Silk Farm Road in Concord, NH, a board of directors meeting will be held at 12:00 PM before the regular business meeting.

This Months refreshments will be provided by Steffen Hermanns. Thanks to Pearl Nadeau for April refreshments.

Ted Johnson will be our speaker for the month doing his presentation he gave at this years Rochester Mineral Symposium. Mineral of the month will be minerals of New England.

Officer Elections will be held this month, see the list of nominees on page 4

2011 MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE!

MEMBERSHIP RATES: Adult Single \$10 per year

There is no more family rate

Please make checks payable to the "CAPITAL MINERAL CLUB"

and submit or mail them to:

Steffen Hermanns
7133 Oak Hill Road
Loudon, NH 03307

Mineral Clubs - Meeting Dates

Saco Valley Gem and Mineral Club: 3rd Thursday 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

Nashua: The Nashua Club is in a period of suspension of many of its traditional activities, but a core group of members plans to continue with some field trips and group participation at the Gilsum Rock Swap.

North Shore (MA): 3rd Friday of each month, St. Paul Episcopal Church, Washington St., Peabody, MA – 7:30 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



These are the minutes of the April 2nd, 2011 meeting of the Capital Mineral Club. The meeting was held at the Audubon Society Building on Silk Farm Road in Concord, New Hampshire.

Meeting called to order at 2:07 pm by President Charles Forsberg, there were 32 members 2 Guests and the speaker present.

Secretary's report: Last month's minutes got lost somewhere. Gordon makes a motion to not accept Bill Burroughs seconded passed by membership.

Treasurers' report: A correction was made to last month's treasures report to pay for the shipping on the club cases 422.09 which we were not originally billed for. A motion to accept was made by Bill Burroughs and seconded by Ellen Oberkotter the membership passed the motion.

Show Committee: Meeting to be held at Gordon Jackson's at 6:00pm Thursday April 7th.

Displays: Audubon and DES and Little Nature Museum.

Correspondence: Little Nature Museum would like CMC to setup a display at their museum. Topsfield flyers, Champlain Valley show.

Old Business:

Grant Committee: We need a new Grant Committee, Don Dalliare, Robert Wilken and Robert Whitmore and Norman Miner have been appointed. \$1000.00 to Kristen Kamp and one potential candidate for the Peg Camp for \$500.00 in 2011.

Membership lists and there upkeep as well as the website were discussed, Steffen to provide more info. Dues are due.

Field Trips Toveco Tripp Mine on August 20th 2011 with a fee of \$10.00 per member limit of 22, currently 26 signed up.

Bill Brown trip to Alden NY on September 9th through the 11th; motels and campground nearby; need to sign-up by May meeting.

Poland Mining Camps July 22-24 \$100.00 per person limit of 22 people in cabins sign up asap.

Jon Herndon at the gulch in Ossipee NH good for new collectors June 18th rain day the 19th.

New Business:

Bill Brown made motion to buy Sweatshirts for the mineral competition winners, Don Dallaire seconded, passed by membership, Bill Brown will take care of getting them made

New Membership application from Nancy M. Thellen of Laconia NH presented motion made by Board to accept the new member and seconded by Martha Martel; motion passed by the membership.

Door Prize donations by Mike Undercofler and Peter Cram

Door Prizes: Jack Gill, Steffen Hermanns, Gordon Jackson, John McCrory, Charles Forsberg and Frances Gill

Speaker: Matt Fulgham, Afghanistan and Pakistan.; Meeting adjourned at 4:00pm.

Respectfully submitted, Steffen Hermanns

CMC Secretary

**Capital Mineral Club
Concord, New Hampshire**

Gilsum Explorations to Walpole Wanderings and the Chickering Mine

Spring is nearly upon us. It was a long dreary winter. We are anxious to get out and renew our explorations of New England. New Hampshire is our favorite mineral collecting area. The annual Gilsum Rock Swap and Mineral Show is fast approaching and we have a date as dealers for the 25th and 26th of June.

New Hampshire offers plenty to do and see if you are interested in minerals and collecting. Much of the rewards of collecting there come from doing advanced research on a prospect, paying attention to customers at the show and following any hopeful leads. This article is a short summary our progress in exploration of the Granite state and how our experiences have matured us.

Linda and I have been traveling to the beautiful state of New Hampshire since 1996. Each annual visit provides us with more geographical and geological knowledge of the state. As active rockhounds, we try to locate and explore at least one new location on each visit. Our annual trip to Gilsum is often a vehicle to acquire new information and expand our list of available sites to collect. Both the list and our experience in locating sites is growing but between 1996 and 2001 tourism was our main goal and actual collecting was sporadic. Something closer to trying to chase down wild geese.

During our first year, 1996, we visited Ruggles Mine, Grafton, NH. There we picked up plates of mica. Not knowing a whole lot about rocks and minerals at the time, we probably let a lot of interesting samples get past us.

In 1997 we made a concentrated effort to follow-up in our search for old mines and prospects along the Gilsum Mine Road. This rural two-lane macadam road leaves Rt 10 just south of Gilsum and takes travelers in a northwesterly direction toward Alstead. We drove up and down this stretch of road from both directions. Not far up the road from Gilsum it was easy to note what remained of the Blister Mine on the left side of the road. We managed to locate the outer entrance to the area known as Big Mine and Island Mine. We retrieved albite, feldspar, garnet and nice biotite mica for our efforts.

The year of 1998, a beautiful Fall day in October, we had our first significant rockhounding experience by an invitation to collect the famous William Wise Mine near Westmoreland, NH. A co-owner of the mine, Jim Tovey, invited us up to collect with a local mineral club. Due to a misunderstanding, We showed up a week early. But without an unkind word, Jim allowed us to remain and collect. We carried out some fine, world-class grade "B" green fluorite that day and made a solid friendship with one of New England's living legends of rockhounding.

From 1999 until 2001 we poked along. We tried to locate mines surrounding Gilsum; having some 60 plus from which to choose. We experienced little to show for our efforts. Finally, we experienced success. The wild geese were flying again.

In October of 2004, after three years of hearing stories and following bad clues or incomplete details, we located the Stoddard Mine. Inadvertently we were again in gratitude to Jim Tovey. Directed toward a friend and member of the Capital Mineral Club (Concord, NH) during the Sunapee Mineral Show, we acquired specific landmarks to follow to seek the location. Interesting quartz, barite and fluorites were our treasured pieces from there. After that, for whatever reason, we experienced another dry period between 2005 and 2006.

In June 2006, we were at our stand in Gilsum talking with a couple from the Walpole area. They asked us if we had collected a Mine Ledge, Surry. Subsequently we were given road names and directions to the hematite and goethite bearing site. The following year, 2007, with time to collect before the show, we drove to the location and collected there but we had no further leads.

By 2008, we were bound and determined to successfully research, explore, identify and locate more locations. Our efforts were rewarded with a trifecta of collecting locations. Aided by our friend Jim, we were invited to explore one of his previous mining operations, Beauregard Mine.

During this same period of time, I was heavily investigating the Internet and all available books or periodicals for New Hampshire mine sites. Somehow I was able to connect with a collector who had explored the Turner Mine up near Marlow, NH. We corresponded and I began to get a general idea as to where to look. Gilsum area maps placed our intended target close enough to Tovey properties that I once, and again, relied on our acquaintance for details. Jim's directions to the Turner cross referenced those of my Internet contact. We actually hooked up with a

couple from Quakertown, PA who had been to the Turner with an experienced New York collector. All pieces fitting together, we were able to hike up to Turner Mine on a beautiful, almost fall-like Monday after-the-show to collect spodumene, garnet, small pieces of beryl and schorl tourmaline from there.

In 2008, we not only collected the Beaugard Mine and first investigated the Turner, but we actually began an exploration of the Connecticut River Valley between Bellows Falls and Walpole. At that time, it was an article by Rob Beard that helped place us at the power plant near the falls and out on the rocks to search for rounded river stones bearing sillimanite. We had driven up from Brattleboro to Walpole and crossed the river twice in search of the connecting road to the island. The rockhound blood in us told us to gather the "turkey track" sillimanite-laden stones and come back another time" to visit tourist spots.

In 2009, after almost a dozen years of exploring and asking questions around Cheshire and Sullivan Counties, we fell on difficult times. A New Jersey-related collecting accident placed Linda out of commission for five months. That period from end-of-May until almost April of 2010 was like going off drugs. Almost any rockhounding or rock and mineral activity, besides just walking, had us both side-lined. But we bounced back in 2010.

June of 2010 put us where we belonged, back at Gilsum for the 46th annual Rock Swap and Mineral Show. This vacation/show visit back to a favorite area and surroundings turned out to probably the most fun we have had in a while. We again returned to collect at the Bellows Falls plant on the Connecticut River between Bellows Falls (VT) and Walpole, New Hampshire. We revisited Turner Mine and unexpectedly gained some information on two more collecting sites while talking with local people during the show.

A day before heading back to PA, we located the Chickering Mine near Walpole, NH. A brief exploratory pointed us toward some great potential on a return trip. We also came near to locating the Beryl Mountain location but lacked details for an exact location and exploratory. We sidelined that trip for another year.

For 2011, we are looking forward to our annual show at Gilsum and further exploration of our two prospects from the Summer of 2010.

Article by Don Kauffman, member from Reading, PA

Slate of officers for 2011- 2012 Presented by the Nominating Committee

Charles Forsberg	President	Martha Martel	Vice-President
Don Dallaire	Treasurer	Steffen Hermanns	Secretary
Vacant	Director 2011- 2013	Vacant	Auditor 2011 - 2013
Current 2010 - 2012 Officer Positions			
Scott Higgins	Director	Peter Cram	Auditor

I have chosen to leave vacant the director and auditor positions since I felt a new member should be nominated for these positions and have an opportunity to see what the club is about. I am hoping there are newer members who will come forward. My confession is that I am poor on names and unfamiliar where you come from. I was always bad and it doesn't improve with age. Anyway if you would like to give it a try, see me before someone nominates an old standby.

The other thing I have made up several envelopes with festival flyers. One of the biggest draws to the show is word of mouth. There is about 40 flyers in each envelope, if you leave a flyer at the doctors, dentist, lawyer or councilors office, at your table at the diner, restaurant or cafeteria in 40 trips at least 40 people times our membership would mean several thousand flyers seen by a least one person. Talk the show up. The more people we bring into the show, the more people can see our smiling faces. I would argue that we are the second best show in New England. We need the attendance to keep it that way. With that thought, if there are members willing to work on publicity and contact media, please see Scott Higgins.

Gordon Jackson



Steffen Hermanns

Editor

7133 Oak Hill Road
Loudon, NH 03307

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

Email: steffenh@comcast.net

WE'RE ON THE WEB
WWW.CAPITALMINERALCLUB.ORG

**2011 Club Dues are due please send your dues to Steffen Hermanns
If your dues are not paid by the end of May you will be dropped from
the Club and assumed you no longer want to be a member.**

Capital Mineral Club Meetings & Events

MAY 7, 2011

Board of Directors Meeting: **12:00PM**

Club Meeting: **2:00PM**

Speaker: Ted Johnson

Refreshments: Steffen Hermanns

JULY 22-24 2011

Poland Mining Camp

AUGUST 20, 2011

Field Trip to the Tripp Mine

SEPTEMBER 3, 2011

Board of Directors Meeting: **12:00PM**

Club Meeting: **2:00PM**

Speaker: Woody Thompson

Refreshments: Edna Whitmore

SEPTEMBER 9-11, 2011

Field Trip to Alden NY

Gem & Mineral Shows

May 13-15— 22nd Annual Maine Mineral Symposium.

The Senator Inn, Western Avenue, Augusta, Maine

Contact: Woodrow Thompson woodrow.b.thompson@maine.gov 207-622-7178

June 11 Connecticut Museum of Mining and Mineral Science

Rock swap and sale. Contact j.a.pawlowski@att.net

June 25-26— 47th Annual Gilsun Rock Swap.

Gilsun Elementary School and Community Center. Contact: Robert

Mitchell gilsunrocks@gmail.com 603-357-9636

August 12-14—West Springfield, MA. East Coast Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show,

Better Living Center at the Eastern States

Exposition, 1305 Memorial Dr. Info.—mzexpos@aol.com, or

www.mzexpos.com.

August 27-28 2011 — CONCORD, NH: 48th Annual Gem,

Mineral and Jewelry Festival— Capital Mineral Club, Everett

Arena, Concord, NH, Sat 9am to 5pm, Sun 10am to 4pm,

www.capitalmineralclub.org, steffenh@capitalmineralclub.org