



CRYSTALS AND CABS

Newsletter of the Capital Mineral Club Concord, New Hampshire

President - Gordon Jackson, PO Box 600, Canterbury, NH 03224, Phone (603) 783-4493 Email gsj8544@aol.com
 Vice President - Tony Howd, 22A Ryan Road, Goffstown, NH 03043, Phone (603) 497-2863 Email tony_h@comcast.net
 Secretary - Steffen Hermanns, 7133 Oak Hill Rd., Loudon, NH 03307, Phone (603) 783-4121 Email steffenh@comcast.net
 Treasurer - Don Dallaire, 829 Candia Rd., Chester, NH 03036, Phone (603) 483-8467 Email dadallaire@hotmail.com

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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: 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, October 4th at 2:00 PM at the Salvation Army Building, corner of Fruit St. and Pleasant St. Concord, NH.

Our Speaker for October is Bob Whitmore who will be talking about Gemstones and the rough they come from. Expect to find out about how some unlikely material can produce a fine gemstone. Bob will have actual gemstones to show us and I expect some from material we wouldn't normally think of creating a gem with.

Our advertised speaker from Harvard had an unexpected conflict and will give a talk later to the club. Our field trip to the Harvard Mineralogical Museum is still scheduled for October 18th and details of the trip will be discussed at the meeting. Mineral of the month: Bring in minerals with "Gem Potential".

Refreshments will be provided by Jon Herndon, Thanks to Martha Martel, Charles Forsberg and Gordon Jackson for providing Septembers refreshments.

Welcome New Members
 Jeff A. Divers Gilmanton Iron Works, 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



These are the minutes of the September 6th, 2014 meeting of the Capital Mineral Club. The meeting was held at the Salvation Army Building on Clinton Street in Concord, New Hampshire. The Meeting was called to order at 2:00pm, there were 27 members present, which included the speaker Jon Herndon.

Meeting Minutes: No Minutes for June meeting

Treasures Report: Donald Dallaire presented the treasurers report. A motion made to accept by Jon Herndon, seconded by Martha Martel, passed the membership.

Field Trips: Harvard Mineral Museum October 18th, club will have a bus and interested members will be paying \$25 towards this trip Gordon requested that the club spend up to \$1000.00. Motion made by Mike Cordero, Seconded by Jon Herndon, this will be voted on at the October meeting.

Scholarship Committee: None

Old Business: If anyone has any videos or ideas about some instructional discussions that can be put on the web such as our monthly speakers.

New Business: The Club Show went well, although we had about 58 less attendees then last year. Tables cost a bit more this year. We had good feedback on our displays, the club table all ran smoothly and the cookout sold 70 dinners this year. Next year we will need some more publicity and a chairman to run it. A date for a board meeting will be announced soon. Directors meeting at Gordon Jacksons house later in September to be announced.

New Memberships: Jody Sue Plant Holderness, NH, Mike Plant Holderness, NH, Dennis, Laurie, Marley and Logan Heidel Milford, NH, Chris Buerkle Winthrop, MA, Larry Heath Kingston, NH, Richard Currier Concord, NH, Donald Divers Belmont, NH, Joseph Reilly Milford, NH, Motion to accept new members made by Don Dallaire, seconded by Carlos Gristiani, passed the membership.

Door Prizes: Donated by, Pat Barker, Jon Herndon. Won by Gary Bono, Doug Peck, Jon Herndon, Pat Barker, Jody Plant, Mike Plant, Howard Ewing, Ellen Oberkotter, Don Dallaire, Steffen Hermanns, Bob Wilkin, Nicholas Hadshi, Gordon Jackson, Karla Roth and Charles Forsberg.

Jon Herndon gave his presentation on minerals of the Ossipees before the membership meeting.

Adjourned Meeting at 3:40pm

Respectfully submitted
Steffen Hermanns
Secretary

**Capital Mineral Club
Concord, New Hampshire**

Message from the President

CHANGE FROM FESTIVAL TO SHOW

The mineral show started its first year August 22 & 23, 1964 as the "New Hampshire Mineral Roundup" and by Club vote the following year changed to "New Hampshire Gem & Mineral Festival". In 1988 we changed to become the "Capital Mineral Club Gem & Mineral Festival". The next change came in 2005 when we called the Festival "Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Festival" presented by the Capital Mineral Club. In 2008 we again called the Festival "Capital Mineral Club Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Festival" which carries us to the present. I am proposing we change from FESTIVAL to SHOW as we go forward. We would, as we NEED, to print NEW signs, etc., to make the change. This would probably be completed by 2016 or 2017, with all printed material and advertising showing the changes for this show forward. My reasoning is small but I think the connotation of SHOW more accurately conveys what we offer. Festival is a time of celebration, a show is a cause to be seen.

FIELD TRIP CHAIRMAN(S)

Last summer for the first Saturday in July & August we had a cookout and collecting at Palermo and a trip to Hoyt Hill. We could repeat them this coming summer, replace them or add additional trips.. What we need is someone or two to grab hold and plan a trip TO POLAND SPRINGS MINING CAMP, MOAT MOUNTAIN, SHELBURNE LEAD MINE, WOODS PROSPECT or one of the many other places that a club can go too. I would think if there were several trips the participation would be manageable. What we need is someone to take hold. One of the bonuses of being the trip coordinator is doing something you want. SEE ME AT THE MEETING OR CALL.

PUBLICITY CHAIRMAN

We are approaching the time for contacting the media about our upcoming Show. We need someone to step forward to fill the gap. As with the field trip chairman - SEE ME AT THE MEETING OR CALL

OCTOBER 18th TRIP TO HARVARD

I am having trouble getting answers but a bus is doable. Without the full details at this time my suggestions is members would sign up at the October meeting, \$20.00 nonrefundable with the Club paying for the bus and entry fee to the Museum. Lunch will be on your own. We would leave Concord at 8:00 am, stop at Exit 5, I-93 in Londonderry for a pick up and on to Harvard, returning from Harvard at 4:00 pm which would probable get you back in Concord about 5:30. The size of the bus controls some of the cost. My suggestion at this point ranges from 24 to 37 passengers which would limit the numbers and be a first come first serve. The entry fee is about \$10. (\$11 for adults, \$9 for seniors). I did here someone whisper closer to \$9. If you drove a car you would need to obtain a parking pass which for Saturdays cost \$7. I will have a sign-up sheet at the meeting or if you can't make the meeting but want to go, call. You will be responsible for the \$20 fee at that point.

GRANT PROGRAM

It has been a desire to be able to do something for earth science in New Hampshire's public schools. Earth science is taught in the third and fourth grades though I don't think it is limited to those grades. At the moment we have contacted the New Hampshire Dept. of Education and currently waiting for contact. We have talked to the NH Geological Society of possibly piggy backing on their program which has similar goals. Fred Wilda will be our November program speaker and will talk briefly about the Massachusetts program their Club has and give us some information and CD's on their endeavors. Again to be successful we need someone or committee to make this move forward. I hope to have some more information for the meeting

Your out going President, Gordon Jackson

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE TAMMINEN PITS

by Katie Tamminen

A few months after we bought our farm in the summer of 1930, Mr. William Donahue of New York knocked at the door asking permission to prospect the property. We gave him permission, with the understanding that he was to fill in his excavation when he finished. Mr. Donahue had a map of Oxford County on which he had marked certain areas that he thought should contain feldspar and other minerals. To our surprise, he had places marked in our pasture and field. He found feldspar in our pasture, but the field excavation was a failure, and he filled it in.

On September 18, 1930, we leased our pasture to Mr. Donahue for five years. Later, Oxford Mining and Milling Company of West Paris leased it from him. Almost immediately they ran into several kinds of minerals, the most unusual being the combination of pollucite and petalite as it was first discovered on the Isle of Elba. Also, very small specimens of pollucite crystals, at that time the only ones ever found in the United States, were discovered. We have never seen one ourselves, but understand they are cubic. About 500 pounds of pollucite were mined at that time.

In 1948 we operated the mine for a few months. As we were getting through, we blasted into a large pocket of quartz. We found several thousand individual crystals in wet clay, and dozens of beautiful clusters.

In September, 1951, we leased the mine to the United Feldspar and Mineral Corporation. Years before, they had bought out the Oxford Mining and Milling Company. Now the company has changed hands again and is owned by the Bell Mineral Company. The mine was in operation for four months in the fall of 1951, closing for the winter at New Years, opening up again in April, and closing in the middle of August. Just before Christmas they reopened it and planned to work through the winter. Last summer nearly every blast opened up a pocket, sometimes large, sometimes small, but always interesting.

The walls of the pit are quite colorful most of the time with pinite, montmorillonite, cleavelandite, lepidolite and altered spodumene showing. Last summer there was a lovely crystal of amblygonite about 16 inches across, in the pit wall. The face had been blown off, affording an excellent view of both the inside and outside. The outer coat was red, which is a characteristic of the amblygonite in this pit. Surrounding the crystal was cleavelandite, montmorillonite, and a large mass of altered spodumene. We wished we had a color film in the camera when that was discovered, as we missed the opportunity of taking a nice picture.

The following minerals have been found in this pit:

Quartz crystals, individual and clusters, some in parallel groupings and beautiful flat ones. Some pseudo-cubic that are unusual and pretty. Also smoky, milky, drusy phantoms, some with moveable bubbles and one citrine.

Feldspars of different kinds including Cleavelandite and Albite, massive and crystals.

Muscovite and Lithia Mica

Cookeite in pink, purple, green and grey.

Soodumene in green and pink.

Amblygonite

Tourmalines in black, black and green, all green and watermelon - a few gem-quality.

Cassiterite, brownish black.

Columbite, black.

Sphalerite, black.

Manganianatite, green (fluoresces).

Purple Apatite.

Pinite, dark red.

Montmorillonite, pink.

Beryl, green and pink Caesium.

Tollucite, Peralite, and a few Ferderites.

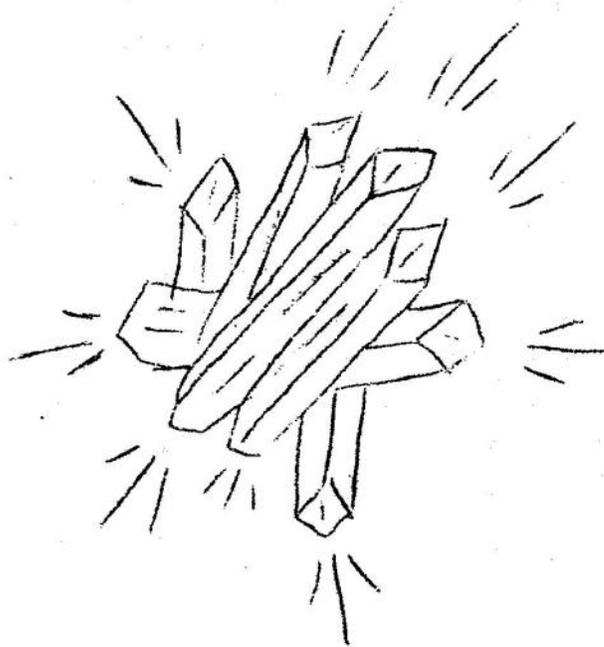
Dendrites.

Some of the Feldspar fluoresces blue. We have read that some feldspars carry traces of Scheelite and that would account for it. Last fall a beautiful specimen of purple fluorite was found at the edge of the pit by a collector but we keep wonderin if someone had dropped it. We have been told that someone found a nice specimen of amethyst last summer. Amethyst should occur in this pit and we are hoping it shows up one of these days.

There is another pit by the brook in the valley that was found by a neighbor. It was first operated on his side and later on ours, and was worked before this upper pit was opened. That mine produced a lot of good feldspar and some beautiful smoky quartz crystals, some as much as a foot high. Also flat crystals and some gem-quality amethyst and aquamarines were found.

One pocket of unusual tourmalines we especially remember. They were no thicker than the lead in a pencil, shading from green to purple about four or five inches long. They were loose in the pocket. Much to our regret we have none of the nice minerals from that pit.

We hope to get an outstanding collection of quartz and have a good start. Any of these specimens mentioned can be seen whenever we are home and we'll be glad to show them to fellow rock-hounds.





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

Capital Mineral Club Meetings & Events

OCTOBER 4, 2014

Club Meeting: **2:00PM**
Speaker: Robert Whitmore Gemstones & Gem Rough
Refreshments Jon Herndon

NOVEMBER 1, 2014

Club Meeting: **2:00PM**
Speaker: Fred Wilda, Minerals of Loudville
Refreshments Anna Wilken

DECEMBER 6, 2014

Holiday Party: **12:00PM**

JANUARY 3, 2015

Club Meeting: **2:00PM**
Speaker: TBD
Refreshments TBD

FEBUARY 2015

NO MEETING SCHEDULED

MARCH 7, 2015

Club Meeting: **2:00PM**
Speaker: TBD
Refreshments Mike Cordero

Gem & Mineral Shows

November 1-2 2014: BREWER, MAINE: 10th Annual Rock and Gem Show; Penobscot Mineral & Lapidary Club; Brewer Auditorium; 203 State St.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; adults \$2, students (over 12) \$2, children (under 12) free with adult; 20 dealers, rocks, minerals, gemstones, beads, jewelry, silver and gold jewelry, Maine minerals and tourmaline, gold panning information and equipment, silent auctions, door prize, raffles; contact Jim White, 54 Gilbert St., Orono, ME 04473, (207) 866-2546; e-mail: jameshwhite@myfairpoint.net; Web site: www.penobscotminerallapidaryclub.com

August 29-30 2015: CONCORD, NH: 52nd 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