



Rhode Island Mineral Hunters  
A 501 (c) (3) HP Organization

# BOWEN-LITE

WWW.RIMH.US



CUMBERLANDITE –OFFICIAL STATE ROCK

BOWENITE – OFFICIAL STATE MINERAL

Volume 54

Issue 4

April 2016

RIMH 2016

## RIMH

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Edited by Paul Koczwanski pakman844@aol.com

\*If anyone would like to submit an article or anything for future publication let me know



Glacial outcrop

## Upcoming Meeting Details

Executive Meeting date in April is:  
Tuesday April 5th. All meetings start at 7pm.

This year meetings will be held at Lou Fazzinas' rock shop  
(Apple Valley Minerals)  
7 Homestead Avenue  
Smith field, RI 02917  
\*Homestead is off Farnum Pike.

Next general meeting: April 12<sup>th</sup> at CCRI Warwick

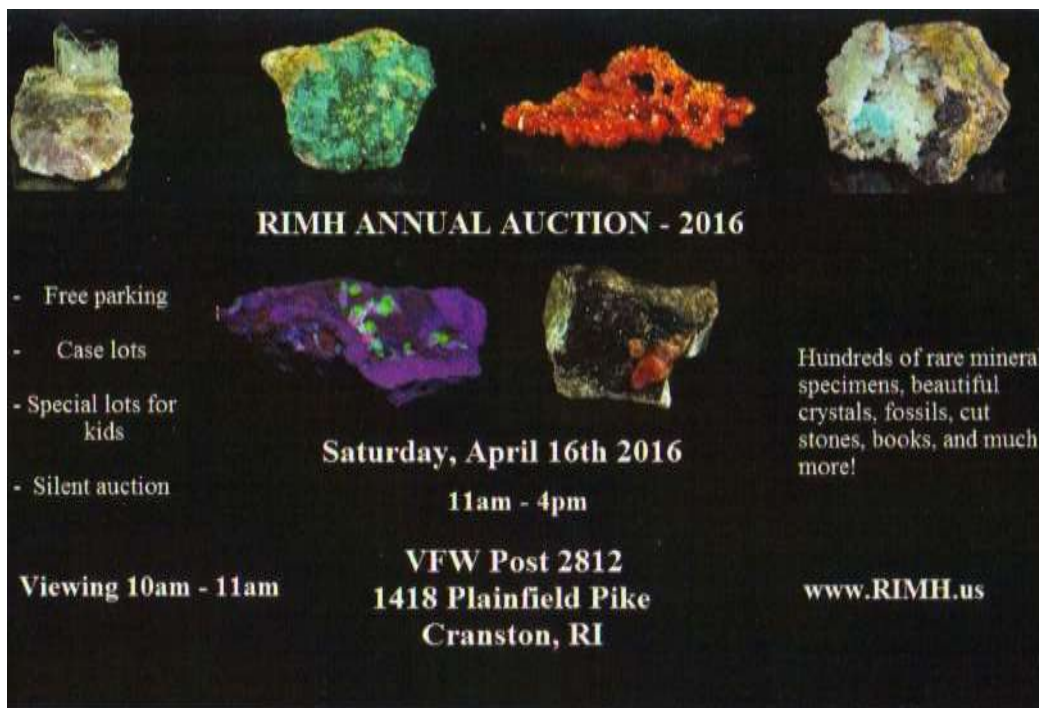
\*\*\*\*\* Room 1134 \*\*\*\*\*

We learned at the last meeting that if you would like to attend a field trip, some useful tools would be a good rock hammer, steel toed boots, bug spray, a construction type helmet, a hyper green or orange vest, a mallet, a chisel, pry bar, newspaper for wrapping your finds and a bottle or two of water.



Layers of soil deposits over thousands of years

## Come to the auction



**RIMH ANNUAL AUCTION - 2016**

- Free parking
- Case lots
- Special lots for kids
- Silent auction

Hundreds of rare mineral specimens, beautiful crystals, fossils, cut stones, books, and much more!

**Saturday, April 16th 2016**  
11am - 4pm

**Viewing 10am - 11am**

**VFW Post 2812**  
**1418 Plainfield Pike**  
**Cranston, RI**

[www.RIMH.us](http://www.RIMH.us)

## Upcoming Field Trips

### **RIMH FIELD TRIP PROPOSAL    April 09**

**Destination:** Sneech Pond Copper Mine, Staples Road, Cumberland, RI

**Date(s)/time of trip:** Saturday, Apr. 09, 2016 9:00 am

**Trip leader:** Joel Russo, Home 401-942-3394, cell 401-500-8802 [russojoel@gmail.com](mailto:russojoel@gmail.com)

**Alternate leader:** Steve Emma, 401-751-5215 [steve@steveemma.com](mailto:steve@steveemma.com)

**Carpool/caravan location:** Because of limited parking, we will meet at Diamond Hill State Park parking lot and caravan over from there in as few vehicles as possible.

**Type of collecting:** Mine dumps.

**What can be found?** Copper minerals, actinolite, magnetite

Continued

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**Tools/equipment:** : hammers & small sledges, garden tools, wedges, prybars, spray bottle w/water, protective eyewear, close-toed shoes, **bug spray**, and always, *common sense*. There are no sanitary facilities at this site.

**Clothing:** Dress for early spring conditions

**Special information:** Please call 48 hrs in advance. Make sure you bring bug spray!!!

**Driving directions:**

**To Diamond Hill State Park**

**GPS COORDS: 42.002396 N -71.418946 W**

From **I-295 either direction**, take exit 11 and head north on **RT 114** (Diamond Hill Road) for 4.0 miles. Pull into the parking lot on the right at Diamond Hill State Park. The parking lot is almost directly across the street from the Ice Cream Machine Creamery

**RIMH FIELD TRIP PROPOSAL April 17**

**Destination:** North Attleboro Compost Site (*Emma's Pit*)

**Date(s)/time of trip:** Sunday, April 17, 2016, 9:00 am (*Day after the auction*)

**Trip leader:** Steve Emma [steve@steveemma.com](mailto:steve@steveemma.com) 401-751-5215

**Alternate leader:** Joel Russo [russojoel@gmail.com](mailto:russojoel@gmail.com) 401-942-3394, c 401-500-8802

**Carpool/caravan location:** make your own arrangements

**Type of collecting:** Shale ledge

**What can be found?** Exceptionally detailed fern fossils

**Tools/equipment:** Small sledges, rock hammer shovel, small prybars, old putty knife or butter knife to separate layers

**Clothing:** Dress for early spring weather conditions. Also it can be damp under foot, so wear water proof footwear, **bug spray**

**Special information:** ***Please call at least 48 hours in advance to register with trip leader.***

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**Driving directions/map:** From south, take 95 north to Attleboro exit 5 (route 152).

Left off the exit (there is a light at the end of the exit) and then take a left at the next light (about 100 yards from the exit light).

That is Route 152. Go about 4 or 5 miles and you will get to a series of strip malls and businesses. Plain Street is on the right at the gas station.

If you get to the MacDonal'd's you have missed it. Proceed about a mile or so you will see the Boro's Sand and Gravel.

Immediately after this is the compost dump. There is a metal gate at the entrance and 30 yards after that is a red gate to the Plainville water pumping station.

Park on the right shoulder anywhere. We will be walking in about 600 yards on road then on a gravel path to the pit.

**From points north of Attleboro take 95 south to Route 152 (exit 5) and proceed as above.**

For those who are late.

Walk up the Plainville pumping station road about 500 yards. It will turn slightly to the left. About 20 yards after this slight turn see a red/yellow hydrant, 20 yards after this is an opening on the left to a gravel path. Walk up this gravel path about 200 yards to the top of a slight hill.

Off to the left are some shrub pines and aspens, site is on the left

## Southern New England's first stone hunters

Continued from March issue

Once the people started to thrive in their villages, the need for more tools arose. The need for improved cooking tools started. It was about this time you see cultivation of crops among them the introduction of corn from the west. The indigenous people took long smooth small grained stone and crafted grinding pestles, indented the ends of logs for mortars and began to industrialize the grinding of dried corn and other grains. Other tools from this period were stone axes, hoes and hammer stones. These tools were made by a pecking action that chipped away the stone until they reached the desired shape. Small bowls were made from pecking this stone or made with another stone called steatite. Steatite, a form of talc, was a great



**Axe**

Continued next page



**Pestle**

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choice for bowls. It didn't crack like the fine grained granite materials, when exposed to high heat and larger pots made from this material meant more people could be fed a hot meal. Other items could be made from this material because it was easy to carve. Such things like platters, ornaments and pipes came into use. Another tool we see come into existence at this time is a better hunting tool. It is called an Atl-Atl. This was essentially a stick that helped a hunter throw a spear further with greater velocity and more accuracy. The Atl-Atl was a straight stick about 18 to 24 inches long with a notch at one end. The stick had weight attached to it and a spear was placed into the notch. You would hold the stick and spear in your throwing hand and throw the spear. The weighted stick created a fulcrum on which the energy from your throw was increased and concentrated on the spear. You could now kill dangerous game animals from distance saving the hunter from injury.

More in the next issue..

Gem of the Month

Diamond

**System:**

Isometric

**Colour:**

Colourless, yellowish to ...

**Lustre:**

Adamantine, Greasy

**Hardness:**

10

**Name:**

From Greek "adamas", 'invincible'. First known use by Manlius (A.D. 16) and Pliny (A.D. 100).

**Polymorph of:**

[Chaoite](#), [Graphite](#), [Lonsdaleite](#)



Diamond is the hardest natural substance known. It is formed deep in the mantle, and is only brought to the surface via kimberlite pipes, lamprophyres, eclogites and other rocks that originate deep within the mantle. It is also found in alluvial deposits, along with quartz, corundum, zircon and other minerals, derived from such rocks, and in certain meteorites.

Diamonds can be found in the US at Crater of Diamonds State Park Mufreesboro, Arkansas

See more at [minedat.org](http://minedat.org)

Fossil of the month

**Calamites**

**Calamites**, genus of [tree](#)-sized, [spore](#)-bearing [plants](#) that lived during the [Carboniferous](#) and [Permian periods](#) (about 360 to 250 million years ago). *Calamites* had a well-defined node-internode architecture similar to modern [horsetails](#), and its branches and [leaves](#) emerged in whorls from these nodes. Its upright [stems](#) were woody and connected by an underground runner; however, the central part of the stem was hollow, and [fossils](#) of *Calamites* are commonly preserved as casts of this hollow central portion. *Calamites* grew to 20 meters (about 66 feet) tall, standing mostly along the sandy banks of rivers, and had the ability to sprout vigorously from underground [rhizomes](#) when the upper portions of the plant were damaged. The remains of *Calamites* and other treelike plants from the Carboniferous Period were transformed into the [coal](#) used as a source of [energy](#) today. A virtually identical plant from the [Triassic Period](#) (about 250 to 200 million years ago) is called *Neocalamites*. Encyclopedia Britannica