



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

BOWEN-LITE

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CUMBERLANDITE –OFFICIAL STATE ROCK

BOWENITE – OFFICIAL STATE MINERAL

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RIMH 2021

RIMH

Officers

President Alicia Benoit (23)* phone Phone 508-847-4796

Email Rock.n.the.house360@gmail.com

Immediate past interim President Tony Cesana (23)*

Vice President Tobias Lederberg (23)

Secretary Lisa Benoit (23)

Treasurer Dante Caprara(23)*

Board Members

Ernie Zielinski (20)* Mary Carlos (22)*

Anne Hecker (22) * Lou Fazzina (20)*

Rachel Cesana (21) * Bruce Hecker(21)*

Tony Cesana (23) Don Mello

Departments/ Committees

Alicia Benoit - Field Trip Coordinator

Elena Holden – Membership Person

Bill Neal - Librarian

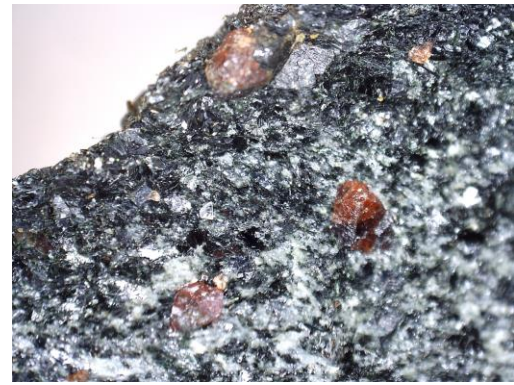
vacant – Show Chairman

Tony Cesana - Parliamentarian

vacant - Historian

Webmaster – Bruce Hecker

Edited/photos by Paul Koczwanski pakman844@aol.com*If anyone would like to submit an article or anything for future publication let me know



micro mineral specimen garnet/babingtonite

Upcoming Meeting Details

Executive Board Meetings are normally on the last Tuesday of the month at 7pm.

Normally, executive meetings will be held at Lou Fazzinas' rock shop (Apple Valley Minerals)
7 Homestead Avenue
Smith field, RI 02917

*Homestead is off Farnum Pike.

There will be a virtual general meeting. The meeting will be Tuesday April 13th. The executive board meeting this month will also be virtual

For additional information , see below..



Magnetic
Micro-meteorite
specimen

News

Our guest speaker for the March meeting was Frank Puglia from NASA who presented a very informative ,geology centered, program on the recent Mars rover landing. The presentation was very interesting. Mr. Puglia opened it up to questions regarding Mars and NASA related programs at the end.

Elections for this year were held at this meeting. The slate was as follows Alicia Benoit President , Tobias Ledbeder Vice President , Dante Caprara Treasurer, Lou Fazina 3 year term executive board , Don Mello 3 year term executive board and Mary Carlos 2 year term executive board . Congratulations to the new President, Officers and board members.

****We are in dire need for someone to take over the Show Chair job. Without a show chair they will be no show and thus no funds coming in to run the club. If allowed to continue along those lines the club will cease to exist. It sounds daunting however with running by committee is not that daunting. I will continue to do the largest portion of the job in being the vendor liaison and floor plan coordinator.**

******Field Trip**** To be announced**

Proposed Schedule for 2021 General Meetings

March	9th	Election officers for 2021	Short Safety talk	Frank Puglia from NASA will speak about geology of Mars
April	13th	Annual Auction	(postponed)	
May	11th	Short Business Meeting	Talk	Ernie Zielinski Rare Gems
June	8th	Short Business Meeting	Talk	Bill Wilson Mineral Identification
July	13th	Short Business Meeting	Talk	Paul Monti Herkimer Diamonds
August	14th	Club Picnic	place to be determined	12:00 pm
Sept	14th	Short Business Meeting	Talk	to be determined
October	12th	Short Business Meeting	Talk	All things show Rachel to give display case demo
November	9th	Short Business Meeting	Talk	Fritz Connecticut Geology
December	3rd	Christmas party	more info to come	

There is a proposed Rock and Mineral Auction coming up. The details are being worked out and I will let you know as soon as possible. If you want to put some things up for auction, please gather some rocks, minerals and specimens of the best quality. They don't want to put average to low grade materials on the auction block.

Introduction By President Benoit

Hello RIMH Members!

I am extremely honored to accept the role as President and look forward to getting to know members and share my passion for geology and mineral collecting. Although I am no geologist, I have learned so much by leading field trips in and around New England and New York over the past two years. However, I have to thank my mom for nurturing my love of rocks and nature. She encouraged my collecting as a child and taught me how wonderful and fascinating nature really is. I still remember the buckets of Quartz crystals and Geodes my parents brought home from one of their trips, it was the day I truly fell in love with minerals. The crystal clusters were absolutely breathtaking and the feeling of being the first person to see inside a Geode I just cracked open was thrilling. I started collecting locally after that and even ventured down to the Hiddenite area in North Carolina for Rubies, Emeralds and Garnets. I eventually traced my parent's trip and went to The Crater of Diamonds and Mt. Ida in Arkansas and then traveled north to Missouri and Iowa for Geodes. Although I didn't find any diamonds, I did lose a boot and almost had a free mud mask treatment. Thankfully, my arms saved me by about an inch but were now sunk in mud a little past my elbow. I don't think I ever laughed so hard and the locals got a good chuckle out of it as well. It was hard and exhausting work chipping away at the hard layers of compacted dirt with a pick-axe in sweltering 100 degree weather, but it was worth all the blood, sweat and tears to find those precious Geodes. All and all, it was an amazing experience and it left me with some of my greatest memories.

All my collecting adventures were only with family until four years ago when I finally joined my first mineral club. I went on a few field trips during the first two years but never attended any meetings. I felt disconnected and really had a take it or leave it feeling. One night, I finally decided to attend a meeting to see what it was all about. The people were kind and welcoming and the presentation was educational and most importantly, interesting. I realized that this was what I was missing. Being able to share experiences, get help with identification and discuss the topics I was so passionate about with other people who felt the same way was absolutely exhilarating! I loved it so much, a few months later I became their Field Trip Coordinator. I was all in!

Before coordinating and leading trips, I really didn't know a whole heck of a lot about minerals or where to look when I visited a location. It was like stabbing around in the dark so I just ended up surface picking for what I call, "pretties" which are a.k.a. Christmas lights if you ask my nieces. I've learned a lot but nothing was as valuable as listening and discovering that most members felt the same as I did when I started; overwhelmed, intimidated and just plain old lost when it came to collecting. This inspired me to have educational learning sessions before the start of each collecting trip and focus presentations on localities, identification of minerals and host rocks, and assessing the location environment in more layman terms. Of course, I want to ensure members of all knowledge levels have presentations of interest so we will offer a good mix of both.

I want to share with you the five areas of interest in which my goals are focused. This is the first time I've been in a President's position, so I'll need a little helping hand and feedback from everyone in order

to accomplish them successfully. They are education, member engagement, increasing memberships, updating and revitalizing all forms of communication (website, newsletter and social media), and most importantly...having FUN! As the saying goes, "it takes a village to raise a child"; the club is our baby and we are all needed in order to shape it into what we envision. We all have a voice and ability to effect change; it just takes one small step forward. Let's take that step together! I look forward to meeting and collecting with you soon! From my family to yours, be well and stay healthy.

Sincerely,

Alicia Benoit

We are in the process of updating the by-laws and will present to the entire club for a minimum of two months via the newsletter before a vote is taken.

Due to the current pandemic and uncertainty of resolution of the disease, All future in person meetings will be cancelled until further notice. The general meetings will start as zoom meetings. We will get you information as it becomes available and will keep you informed as to meetings, progress and when we will resume our normal procedures.

New information will be in the newsletter each month and additional information will be sent in separate emails as they become available.

If you have any information to pass along, please let me know.

***Anyone who paid their dues in 2019 for the year 2020 will not have to pay again until 2021. Anyone who paid this year already will be paid through 2022.