



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

# BOWEN-LITE

WWW.RIMH.US



CUMBERLANDITE –OFFICIAL STATE ROCK

BOWENITE – OFFICIAL STATE MINERAL

Volume 56

Issue 1

January 2018

RIMH 2018

## RIMH

### Officers

President Bill Wilson  
Vice President Sherri Blennerhassett  
Secretary Jen Davis  
Treasurer Claire Cooper

### Board Members

Steve Emma(President emeritus ) Ernie Zielinski  
Buck Leach Lou Fazzina  
Tony Cesana Dante Caprara  
Bill Neal Don Fail

### Departments/ Committees

Rachel Cesana - Field Trip Coordinator  
Leo Doucet – Membership Person  
Bill Neal - Librarian  
Tony Cesana – Show Chairman  
Tony Cesana - Parliamentarian  
Bill Wilson - Historian

Webmaster - Bruce Hecker [bbhecker@cox.net](mailto:bbhecker@cox.net)

Edited by Paul Koczwanski [pakman844@aol.com](mailto:pakman844@aol.com)

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



Happy New Year

### Upcoming Meeting Details

Executive Meeting date in January is:  
Tuesday January 8th. 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.

There is no general meeting for this month .  
Congratulations to new board members and thanks to all those members who have served.



From Tony and Rachel Cesana

Rachel and I run an open house on Friday evenings to talk all things club related. If members have specimens that they need ID help we have a good scope. We will do tumble polish classes and wire wrap learning also field trimming classes are available.

Please contact us by Thursday of that week. This is available every Friday.

phone number 401-766-9076

email [a\\_cesana@verizon.net](mailto:a_cesana@verizon.net)

#### PROPOSED FIELD TRIPS

### To be Announced

A note from the field trip coordinator Rachel Cesana

If anyone knows of any places we can go for a field trip please let her know. She wants to line up some places for the upcoming year. Please relay all pertinent information to her such as place names, contacts(property owners and/ or persons in charge), phone numbers or other

means of contact. Rachel's phone number is (401) 766-9076. Email [a\\_cesana@verizon.net](mailto:a_cesana@verizon.net)

#### Member Submissions and News

Here is the list of winners from the Christmas Party.

Ralph L. Carr Jr. Award went to William Dutcher

Cecil Foster Award went to Joel Russo

Birger Andersen Award went to Neal Cavanaugh

Sal Avella Best Self-Collected Fossil Award went to Neal Cavanaugh

Albert Johnson Founder Award went to Lou Fazzina

Eugene Reynolds Award went to Tony Cesana

## Mineral of the Month

**In this continuing series, I am providing information for those members who are new to the field of mineral collecting and need to know what you are looking for when you go out on field trips or just on your own. Some common minerals you may see but, might not know what they are. This month, I will be looking into the mineral ; Tremolite**

Tremolite and Actinolite are two very similar minerals that form a series with each other and essentially share the same chemical formula. Tremolite has a greater presence of magnesium over iron, whereas Actinolite has a greater presence of iron over magnesium.

Tremolite and Actinolite share several recognized varieties. Mountain Leather, a thickly fibrous and leathery variety, has a silky luster, a soft felt-like feel, and elastic fibers. Nephrite, another fibrous variety, is made up of tough, interlocking fibers, so dense that the fibers are not discernible.

Actinolite and Tremolite both contain a form of asbestos which is made of movable and elastic fibers. Actinolite asbestos is less common; most forms are in fact Tremolite. This form of the mineral contains significant health hazards and should never be brought near the mouth. If its fibers or particles enter the lungs, they can cause asbestosis. Asbestosis is a lung disease caused by inhalation of asbestos particles, which causes several cancers, particularly lung cancer and mesothelioma. Symptoms of asbestosis do not arise until about 20 years after the inhalation. Due to the hazards, washing hands after handling specimens is highly recommended. Many mineral collectors avoid collecting asbestos minerals out of safety concerns.

The finely fibrous variety of Tremolite is used for industrial asbestos. Although fibrous Serpentine is the main source of asbestos, Tremolite and Actinolite are also asbestos producers. Because it is not affected by fire and is a poor heat conductor, asbestos is used in fire retardant devices and for heat protection.

The variety Nephrite is used as the gemstone Jade. Although most forms of Nephrite Jade are of the Actinolite type, Tremolite may also form Jade, which is generally lighter in color than the more common Actinolite form of Jade.

In the U.S., the lilac Hexagonite variety is well-known at Balmat, Fowler, Edwards, and Richville, all in St. Lawrence Co., New York. Excellent green Tremolite comes from West Pierrepont, St. Lawrence Co., New York. Very good Tremolite crystals also come from nearby Diana, Lewis Co., New York. Radiating sprays come from Canaan, Litchfield Co., Connecticut; and a fibrous form from Ashland, Middlesex Co., Massachusetts. Tremolite crystal masses have come from Franklin and Sparta, Sussex Co., New Jersey.

Common mineral associations : [Albite](#), [Barite](#), [Chlorite](#), [Epidote](#), [Muscovite](#), [Serpentine](#), [Talc](#), [Calcite](#)

## Tremolite continued from page 3

Chemical Formula $\text{Ca}_2(\text{Mg,Fe})_5\text{Si}_8\text{O}_{22}(\text{OH})_2$	
<b>Composition</b>	Basic magnesium, calcium, iron silicate
<b>Color</b>	White, light to dark gray, black, light yellow, light to dark green, emerald green, pink to purple. Rarely colorless.
<b>Streak</b>	Colorless
<b>Hardness</b>	5 - 6
<b>Crystal System</b>	Monoclinic
<b>Crystal Forms and Aggregates</b>	As elongated <b>prismatic</b> crystals, in <b>bladed</b> groups, <b>columnar</b> , <b>fibrous</b> , <b>reticulated</b> and <b>acicular</b> . Also occurs <b>radiating</b> , as <b>wheat sheaf</b> formations, as thin hairlike masses, and as tough interlocking <b>fibers</b> which may appear <b>massive</b> .
<b>Transparency</b>	Transparent to translucent
<b>Specific Gravity</b>	2.9 - 3.2
<b>Luster</b>	Vitreous, silky
<b>Cleavage</b>	2,2 - prismatic
<b>Fracture</b>	Uneven, splintery
<b>Tenacity</b>	Brittle. Fibrous forms are elastic.



For more information see [Minerals.net](http://Minerals.net) and [Minedat](http://Minedat)

