



Rhode Island Mineral Hunters
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

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

HAPPY 4th of July



Upcoming Meeting Details

Executive Meeting date in July is:
Tuesday July 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: July 12th at CCRI Warwick

***** Room 1134 *****

In the last meeting, President Wilson taught us about luster and identifying minerals in the field. Luster is a way of reducing the possibilities of stone candidates when you are trying to identify what you have found. President Wilson brought samples of diverse stones and minerals with specific lusters for comparison.



RIMH FIELD TRIP - Clark Hill Quarries 07/10/2016

Destination: Clark Hill Quarries, East Hampton, CT

Date(s) of trip: Sunday July 10 9:00 AM

Trip Leader: Joel Russo **phone:** [401-942-3394](tel:401-942-3394) russojoel@gmail.com

Alternate Trip leader: Steve Emma [401-751-5215](tel:401-751-5215) steve@stevemma.com

Carpool/caravan location: make your own arrangements **Type of collecting:** Dumps, hard rock

What can be found? Beryl (var. aquamarine), book mica, garnet, tourmaline, pegmatite minerals, 5 different varieties of quartz
Check Clark Hill Quarries at www.mindat.org for a complete list.

Tools/equipment: small gardening tools, digging tools, rock hammer, chisels, pry bar, small sledge, safety glasses, screen sieve, wrapping materials, food, water, insect repellent **Clothing:** dress for variable weather, long pants and shirts as ticks are present.

Special information: many other pegmatite dumps are located in the same vicinity and worth visiting. **Please call at least 48 hours in advance to register with trip leader. It can be very hot at this time of year so make sure you bring enough drinks to remain well hydrated!!!**

Directions: GPS Coordinates: 41 deg. 35' 38" North, 72 deg. 32' 28" West 41.593889 North, -72.540000 West (decimal)

South of Providence: 95 S to 102 S (exit 5A) to 165 W to 138 W to 395 S to 2 W to

66 W (exit 13) in Marlborough.

Follow 66 W for 2.3 mi

Turn R on Staeth Rd for 0.5 mi

Continue onto Lake Dr for 1.7 mi

Turn R onto Clark Hill Rd

Turn R onto Woodchoppers Rd

North of Providence: 295 S or 95 S to 6 W to 395 S to 2 W to 66 W (exit 13) in Marlborough.

Follow 66 W for 2.3 mi

Turn R on Staeth Rd for 0.5 mi

Continue onto Lake Dr for 1.7 mi

Turn R onto Clark Hill Rd

Turn R onto Woodchoppers Rd

Once on Woodchoppers Road, you will see a spot with large boulders and tree stumps – park there

FIELD TRIP: MAINE MINERAL ADVENTURES - July 23-24 2016

Maine Mineral Adventures is run by Jody and Zoltan Matolcsy. They run well-respected guided digs to some of the best quarries in Maine. Saturday's dig has not been decided on yet, but it will be to an excellent locality. Sunday's dig will be at famous Mt. Mica where Jody said they have found a spot in the tailings pile that has been producing nice material (*go to their website digmainegems.com for more information on the numerous quarries they have available for digging – some of which are not open to the normal public*). MHRM members Bill Long and his son Billy have gone on digs with them several times and have never been disappointed. They can also supply diggers with all the necessary tools to dig at these locations or you can bring your own (*not sure if there is a fee for using their tools. I personally will bring my own tools*). The Matolcsys are very helpful and will help you locate the best spots and digging techniques for particular areas. They also supply tanks of water and a sluice for cleaning material. There is a \$65 daily fee, but going as a club it will be discounted. If 10 or more go, the fee will be \$40 daily.. This trip is flexible meaning you can go either or both days, however, I must know your specific plans.

As far as lodging, the Mollyockett Motel which is literally a stones throw from the their building, is booked solid because of a wedding that weekend. I'm staying 15 minutes away at **The Inn at the Rostay, 186 Mayville Road, Bethel, ME**. There are other places in Bethel.

Any questions, call or email me.....Joel Russo

Destination: Maine Mineral Adventures, 1132 So. Main St., Woodstock, ME

Date(s)/time of trip: July 23 &24, 2016

Trip leader: Joel Russo, H 401-942-3394, C 401-500-8802, russojoel@gmail.com

Alternate leader: Steve Emma, 401-751-5215, steve@steveemma.com

Carpool/caravan location: Meet at location, make own travel arrangements

Type of collecting: Hard rock tailings, quarry dumps

What can be found? Go to the digmainegems.com website for specifics

Tools/equipment: Hammers, sledges, prybars, wedges, garden tools & shovels, sifters, container(s) for specimens, safety glasses, bug and tick spray, paper to wrap specimens in

Clothing: Dress for summer weather conditions, plus hard-toed shoes, long pants, safety glasses, reflective vest, hard hat.

Special information: *Please call at least 48 hours in advance to register with trip leader otherwise you will not be allowed on this trip.*

It can be very hot at this time of year so make sure you bring enough drinks to remain well hydrated !!!

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Driving directions/map:

GPS: Latitude N44 20'50" Longitude W70 33'46"

Take Interstate 95 to Gray, ME (exit 63). Follow Rt. 26 north for approx. 35 miles. They are located next to the Mollyockett Motel on Rt. 26 (1148 S. Main St.), Woodstock, Me

Lessons Learned

When you are a hobbyist, you have to realize the inherent dangers of enjoying your hobby. There are sacrifices, dangers and pitfalls. Such was the fate of my thumb. I was on a recent fossil dig, enjoying my hobby and splitting stones to look for those elusive pieces of history. I removed a piece of stone that looked promising and took my rock hammer in hand. I was going to release that latent fossil from the rock. I raised the hammer and with mighty force, sent the hammer forward toward that rock. At the last moment, my thumb decided to save that stone from destruction and bravely dove in the path of my speeding hammer. My thumb took the blow for the stone and was flattened. My thumb was struck with tremendous force and at once started to bleed. I immediately noticed that there was something wrong and said to myself "um...ouch". I wrapped my thumb in my shirt, felt a little sick for a moment and moved away from the dig area. Alas, I wasn't going to give that rock or my thumb the satisfaction of their planned diversion of my fun. I kept my thumb at bay, wrapped in my shirt, went back to that rock and split it with my left hand. Well, everyone knows the results. There was nothing of value inside that stone. You expect to see a reward for your pain. The only thing I saw was stars, the red of blood and the black of graphite. I tenaciously continued digging in that spot for several hours afterward and recovered several pieces that I found acceptable.

The lesson's I learned that day were that I am very strong, hammers and thumbs don't get along and that paying attention to what you are doing is very important. My thumb is healing nicely and will never do that again....

Gemstone of the Month Ruby



Ruby is distinguished for its bright red color, being the most famed and fabled red gemstone. Beside for its bright color, it is a most desirable gem due to its [hardness](#), durability, luster, and rarity. Transparent rubies of large sizes are even rarer than [Diamonds](#). Ruby is the red variety of the mineral [Corundum](#). [Sapphire](#), the other gem variety of Corundum, encompasses all colors of Corundum aside from red. In essence, Ruby is a red Sapphire, since Ruby and Sapphire are identical in all properties except for color. However, because of the special allure and historical significance, Ruby has always been classified as an individual gemstone, and is never identified as a form of Sapphire (though some purplish-red colors may straddle the line of being classified as either Ruby or Sapphire).

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Chemical Formula	Al ₂ O ₃
Color	Red
Hardness	9
Crystal System	Hexagonal
Refractive Index	1.76 - 1.77
SG	3.9 - 4.1
Transparency	Transparent to opaque
Double Refraction	.0008
Luster	Vitreous to adamantine
Cleavage	None, but may exhibit parting
Mineral Class	Corundum

The center of Ruby gemstone trade is in Bangkok, Thailand. The Chantaburi Province in Thailand has always been an important source of Rubies, producing gems with excellent clarity but with less desirable browner tones. However, the color of Thai Rubies are able to be improved by [heat treatment](#). The Thai Ruby deposits were exhausted in the 1980's.

The most valuable Rubies with the finest natural color come from Mogok, Burma (Myanmar). There are strict trade embargoes and restrictions again Burma for its human rights violations, and several countries, especially the United States, ban any exports from this county. The Ruby mines of Mogok have been under the tight control of the Junta government; however, a new very significant Ruby source was discovered in Burma in 1992 in Mong Hsu. The color of these Rubies aren't as good as Mogok, but they too can be improved through [heat treatment](#).

In 2000, new Ruby sources were discovered in Madagascar (in Vatomandry and Andilamena). These deposits turned out to be very extensive and productive, and Madagascar is now one of the leaders in Ruby output. Other important Ruby sources include Sri Lanka, India, Cambodia, Vietnam, Tanzania, and Mozambique. Other sources of Ruby include Afghanistan, Pakistan, Tajikstan, Australia, and the U.S. (North Carolina). For more information see [minerals.net](#)



TURITELLA

Fossil of the Month Gastropod



SNAILS

Description: Gastropods are the most diverse and abundant type of mollusks, with nearly 35,000 living and 15,000 fossil species identified so far. The group includes snails, slugs, conchs, whelks, and limpets. Like the familiar snail, most gastropods have a single coiled shell (slugs being a notable exception). A variety of fossil gastropods occur in the Pennsylvanian and Permian rocks of eastern Kansas.

The earliest undisputed gastropods date from the Late [Cambrian Period](#), around 500 million years ago. Some paleontologists think gastropods are even older, based on a small, shelly fossil called *Aldanella*, known from Lower Cambrian rocks, but others think *Aldanella* is a worm. Either way, by the end of the Cambrian, gastropods were abundant and diverse, and they continue to be so up to the present day.

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The earliest gastropods were exclusively marine, but by the [Mesozoic Era](#), about 248 million years ago, many had adapted to terrestrial and freshwater environments. During their long history, gastropods have developed many different ways of obtaining food. Some are carnivores, while others are herbivores, omnivores, deposit feeders, scavengers, suspension feeders, and parasites. Some carnivorous gastropods use their radula to rasp through the shells of other gastropods or [bivalves](#), drilling a neat, round hole, through which they inject a muscle relaxant. Fossil shells with drill holes are evidence of gastropod predation, probably dating back to the [Devonian Period](#) (415 to 360 million years ago).

The long fossil record and present-day abundance and diversity of gastropods attests to their evolutionary success. Over time, they have withstood a number of major [extinction events](#) that wiped out other creatures.

In Kansas, fossils of marine snails are common in the [Pennsylvanian](#) and [Permian](#) rocks of the eastern part of the state and in the [Cretaceous](#) rocks farther west. Fossils of terrestrial and freshwater snails are also common in some [Pleistocene](#) deposits in northwestern and northeastern Kansas.

For more information see:

Kansas Geological Survey

Updated August 1, 2005

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Comments to webadmin@kgs.ku.edu

<http://www.kgs.ku.edu/Extension/fossils/gastropod.html>