



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

BOWEN-LITE

WWW.RIMH.US



CUMBERLANDITE –OFFICIAL STATE ROCK



BOWENITE – OFFICIAL STATE MINERAL

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



Upcoming Meeting Details

Executive Meeting date for March is:
Tuesday March 1st. 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: March 8th at CCRI Warwick

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

Topics will be safety and specimen identification

Southern New England's first stone hunters

Approximately 12,000 years ago groups of people started to inhabit this land we call Southern New England. These people were nomadic hunter /gatherers who camped close to the ocean in the summer and inland in winter. These were the Paleo Native American people. Campsites have been found in Ipswich, Salem, Canton and the Plymouth/Middleborough region of Massachusetts. These people had followed the newly exposed lands from retreating glaciers into this region following animal herds.

These people needed to use stone tools to survive. Stone tools were made from many different materials and were made for different purposes. At this point in history, the main tools were knives, hide working tools and spears. Bows and arrows had not been introduced here yet.

The ancient stone tool makers had to rely on locally sourced materials unless they brought material from other regions with them. The material had to be something that they could make sharp and tough enough to go through thick hides of animals of this period such as mastodons or mammoths, bears and caribou. The stone had to be brittle enough to chip and flake. The stone tool makers liked to use flint(chert) and quartzite. Flint is not common in southern New England. As time progressed, there were other stone types used such as quartz, argillite, porphyry and felsite.

With the introduction of villages and permanent settlements, came needs for different stone types like fine grained granite and steatite. More in upcoming articles



FOSSIL OF THE MONTH **Blastoid,**



Any member of an extinct class (Blastoidea) of echinoderms, animals related to the modern starfish and sea lilies, These existed from the Middle Ordovician to the Late Permian periods (from 472 million to 251 million years ago). Blastoids were sedentary animals anchored to the seafloor by a stemlike column of circular plates. Unlike other echinoderms, blastoids were characterized by a regularity of structure; the blastoid body region consisted of 13 plates of calcium carbonate, an external framework, or skeleton, arranged in 3 circles about the body. See more Britannica.com

GEMSTONE OF THE MONTH

AQUAMARINE



Aquamarine rough



Finished gemstone

Aquamarine, named for the Latin phrase "water of the sea", is the blue to blue-green variety Beryl. Beryl also contains other gem varieties, including Emerald, and some lesser known varieties such as Morganite and Heliodor. Aquamarine ranges in color from a faint light blue to blue and bluish-green, with lighter colored stones being the more common type. Light green Beryl can be transformed into Aquamarine if heated to 750° F (400° C). The green hues in most Aquamarine can also be removed through heat treatment.

Chemical Formula $\text{Be}_3\text{Al}_2\text{SiO}_6$ **Color** Blue **Hardness** 7.5 - 8.0 **Crystal System** Hexagonal **Refractive Index** 1.57 - 1.58 **SG** 2.6 - 2.8 **Transparency** Transparent to translucent **Double Refraction** .006 **Luster** Vitreous **Cleavage** 3,1 - basal **Mineral Class** Beryl (**Aquamarine**)

- See more at: http://www.minerals.net/gemstone/aquamarine_gemstone.aspx#sthash.yQZHRi2e.dpuf

4th Annual New England Mineral Conference

The *4th Annual New England Mineral Conference* will be held from Friday, May 6 –Sunday, May 8, 2016 at the Grand Summit Resort Hotel and Conference Center at Sunday River, Newry, Maine. The conference is a division of the non-profit *New England Mineral Association* and was developed as an educational event to promote further knowledge in the fields of mineralogy and geology. Lectures on both New England and non-New England topics are scheduled on Friday evening and Saturday. In addition, there will be mineral exhibits, a voice and a silent auction in support of the conference, and a separate room for the *Micromounters of New England*. Dealers can be visited in their hotel rooms from Friday afternoon through Saturday evening (except during the presentations). The weekend culminates with a field trip on Sunday, usually to an area not open to the general public. For further information please visit: www.nemineralconference.org

Two important educational features of the conference for students in grades 3-12 are *Education Day* (May 6) and the *Poster Contest*. The poster contest gives a chance for students to do a research project about anything relating to the rocks and minerals of New England. The students will display the information on a poster, which then will be submitted electronically. The posters will be judged according to grade level, and the winning posters will be displayed at the conference from May 6-7. For additional information about *Education Day* and the *Poster Contest* please visit: www.nemineraleducation.org
May 6-May 8, 2016: *4th Annual New England Mineral Conference*, Grand Summit Resort Hotel & Conference Center at Sunday River, Newry, Maine. The conference includes educational presentations, exhibits, dealers, auctions, and a field trip. The conference also sponsors an *Education Day/Poster Contest* for children in grades 3-12. For further details visit: www.nemineralconference.org and www.nemineraleducation.org

RIMH Auction

Slated for April 16th 2016

VFW Post 2812

1418 Plainfield Pike

Cranston, RI

More information to follow in the future

2016 AUCTION INFORMATION



SAVE THE DATE

The annual Southeastern Massachusetts Mineral Club auction is coming March 19, 2016

MARK YOUR CALENDAR.

The location is the **Mitchell Memorial Club**, 29 Elm Street Middleboro, MA. The time is from 10:00 AM to 3:30 PM. There will be a 50/50 raffle, free food and drink. Plenty of free parking and new for this year there will be free gift bags for kids twelve and under. Also we have a Silent Auction table for kids!