



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

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RIMH 2018

## RIMH

### Officers

President Bill Wilson  
Vice President Sherri Blennerhassett  
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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

Edited/photos by Paul Koczwanski pakman844@aol.com

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



Iced Tree

### Upcoming Meeting Details

Executive Meeting date in March is:  
Tuesday March 27th. All meetings start at 7pm  
AND WILL BE THE LAST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH

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.

The General meeting will be March 13<sup>th</sup> at 7pm  
CCRI Warwick campus . The room should be 1130.  
The Guest speaker will be Tony Cesana and the  
subject will be "safety first and foremost". The April  
auction will be held the second Friday of April in lieu  
of the regular meeting.



Spring snow

The show committee is looking for one or two more volunteers to plan the show. Also ask everyone to pencil in the last weekend of October to help in one way or another many hands make light work

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 TRIP MARCH 24<sup>th</sup> :

**Where:** Quabbin Shaft #10 Hardwick MA - GPS +42.377188 N -72.162173 W

Meet at Phillips Shopping Plaza, Ware, Ma - GPS +42.254757 N -72.252751 W

**Trip Leader:** Rachel Cesana

**When:** Saturday, March 24, 2018 AT 9:30

**Tools needed:** Small garden tools, rock hammer, loop, material to rap finds in.

**Dress:** Dress for Late March weather conditions

**Minerals to be found:** Babingtonite, epidote, fluorite and many others – mostly micros, but very nice! (*See below for full list of minerals at this location*). Also, the scenery here is stunning, even at this time of the year! This tailing pile is the result of the tunneling done to bring the Quabbin Reservoir water to Boston..

**Directions:** From RT 146 north or RT 395 north (which ever is easier from your locality) take RT I 90 west in MA. From RT I 90 take the exit for RT 32 north (Palmer MA). Follow RT 32 north to Ware MA. Look for Phillips Plaza on your right. It takes about 2 hrs to get there from Providence so give yourself extra time in case of traffic delays. We will park here and car pool the rest of the way as there is room for only about 4 vehicles. Please be at the Phillips Plaza by 9:30 am. Look for red Jeep Liberty.

From Phillip's Plaza take right onto Rt. 32 and follow thru Hardwick . here it splits into 32 and 32a. make sure to follow Rt. 32. Watch for Shunpike Rd (it has a sign for a kiln and railroad tracks crossing Shunpike) Take left onto Shunpike and follow to end then take right onto Prouty Rd. Follow past small farms til you get to Taylor Hill Rd (there is a larger farm here with a large sign) take left onto Taylor and follow til you go over small bridge, gate will be on the right. **Do Not Block Gate.** Walk straight in at the gate about half a mile. You will see what looks like a large cement sewer cover.. Take right through woods here to tailing piles. There is a path.

## Mineral List

<a href="#">Albite</a>	<a href="#">Fluorite</a>	<a href="#">Limonite</a>	<a href="#">Sphalerite</a>
<a href="#">'Allanite'</a>	<a href="#">Galena</a>	<a href="#">Magnetite</a>	<a href="#">'Stilbite'</a>
<a href="#">Anglesite</a>	<a href="#">Goethite</a>	<a href="#">Microcline</a>	<a href="#">Thomsonite-Ca</a>
<a href="#">'Apatite'</a>	<a href="#">Gypsum</a>	<a href="#">Opal</a>	<a href="#">Titanite</a>
<a href="#">'Apophyllite'</a>	<a href="#">var: Selenite</a>	<a href="#">var: Opal-AN</a>	<a href="#">Tremolite ?</a>
<a href="#">Babingtonite</a>	<a href="#">'Heulandite'</a>	<a href="#">Orthoclase</a>	<a href="#">Zircon</a>
<a href="#">Calcite</a>	<a href="#">Ilmenite</a>	<a href="#">Prehnite</a>	
<a href="#">'Chlorite Group'</a>	<a href="#">'K Feldspar</a>	<a href="#">Pyrite</a>	
<a href="#">Epidote</a>	<a href="#">var: Adularia'</a>	<a href="#">Quartz</a>	
	<a href="#">Laumontite</a>	<a href="#">Rutile</a>	

### FUTURE PLANNED TRIPS...KEEP THESE DATES IN MIND

APRIL 21 SNEECH POND COPPER MINE, CUMBERLAND ,R.I.  
VARIOUS COPPER MINERALS

MAY 5TH SIMPSON QUARRY S. GLASTONBURY, C.T.  
BERYL, TORBENITE, QUARTZ, MICA, ALBITE

JUNE 23 & 24 GILSUM ROCK SWAP AND SHOW (OUTDOORS)

THERE WILL BE MORE BUT THESE ARE STARTER TRIPS FOR OUR NEW MEMBERS AS THERE IS ENOUGH EASILY FOUND SPECIMENS TO TEACH HOW TO COLLECT. LATER TRIPS WILL BE MORE COMPLICATED AND INTERESTING.  
STILL TRYING TO FIND CONTACT PERSONS FOR THESE TRIPS.

NEXT MEETING FOR FIELD TRIP COMMITTEE MARCH 9TH AT 7 AT RACHEL CESANA'S HOUSE  
85 ST PAUL ST NORTH SMITHFIELD RI 02896  
401-766-9076  
STILL LOOKING FOR MORE VOLUNTEERS. THANKS

### 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

## Sad news to report

Robert G. Sproule Jr., age 67 of Plymouth passed away at Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital in Plymouth, MA on February 21, 2018. He was the beloved husband of Joyce (Ogden) Sproule. He was the brother of Betsy Hundertmark of Afton, Minnesota, Susan Anecki of Buffalo, Minnesota, Frederick Sproule of East Bridgewater, MA, and George Sproule of Vero Beach, Florida. He also leaves many nieces and nephews including Kelly and Timothy Sheehan of Wrentham, MA.

Robert was born in Peterborough, NH on June 15, 1950 to Robert and Lois (Austin) Sproule. Shortly after graduation Robert began college which was temporarily put on hold while he entered the United States Army where he served as a military police officer during the Vietnam war. Upon his honorable discharge from the Army, Robert was able to return to college, where he received a Bachelor's Degree from Bridgewater State College. Robert also worked as a USPS letter carrier for 10 years, serving the town of Rockland, MA. In his later years he taught Earth Science at Quincy and Mashpee High Schools. Thirty five years of his life were spent as a bass player and singer for the Ronnie Lewis and the Expedition Band. Robert's passion was finding, collecting, and researching minerals and fossils. He was past president and member of the Southeastern Massachusetts Mineral Club and the Rhode Island Mineral Hunters Club. Some of his mineral and fossil finds are prominently displayed at area museums, such as the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard University and the Springfield Science Museum in Springfield, Massachusetts. Among his many remarkable scientific discoveries was the one-of-a-kind body imprint of a larval mayfly that he named *Narragansettichnus fortunatus*, which now resides in the collection of the Peabody Museum of Natural History at Yale University. One of Robert's proudest accomplishments was unearthing not one, but two of the earliest winged insect fossils ever found. Robert worked closely with paleontologists to get his discoveries published and he authored scientific papers in renowned journals such as *Palaio* and *Atlantic Geology*.

### 6th Annual New England Mineral Conference

The *6th Annual New England Mineral Conference (NEMC)* will be held Friday, May 11 through Sun., May 13, 2018 at the Grand Summit Resort Hotel and Conference Center at Sunday River, Newry, Maine. Presentations on both New England and non-New England topics are scheduled on Friday evening and during the day on Saturday. In addition, there is a Friday evening banquet sponsored by the Maine Mineral and Gem Museum, mineral displays and exhibits, and both a voice and a silent auction in support of the conference. Dealers can be visited by registrants from Friday afternoon through Saturday evening (except during the presentations). The weekend culminates with a field trip on Sunday.

An exciting feature of the conference is *Education Day* a fee-free event for students in grades 3-12, which occurs on Friday, May 11. On *Education Day* students can visit over 20 different stations to learn about minerals and geology. There is also a juried *Poster Contest* which gives the opportunity for students to submit a research project about anything relating to the rocks and minerals of New England. Winning posters in each category will be displayed throughout the conference.

For further information about the conference please visit:

<http://www.neminealconference.org/Welcome.html>

For information about *Education Day/Poster Contest* please visit:

[www.neminealeducation.org](http://www.neminealeducation.org)

The *New England Mineral Conference* is a division of the non-profit *New England Mineral Association*.

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#### Calendar Entry for Newsletters

**May 11-May 13, 2018:** *6th Annual New England Mineral Conference*, Grand Summit Resort Hotel and Conference Center at Sunday River, Newry, Maine. The conference includes lectures, mineral exhibits, mineral dealers, auctions, a banquet, and a field trip. The NEMC also sponsors *Education Day* and a *Poster Contest* for students in grades 3-12. For further details and registration information visit: <http://www.neminealconference.org/Welcome.html> or [www.neminealeducation.org](http://www.neminealeducation.org).

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#### Contact information:

Jan Morrison, Executive Director: 207.956.2862; [jmwrites@maine.rr.com](mailto:jmwrites@maine.rr.com)

New England Mineral Association, PO Box 33, East Poland, ME 04230

Website: <http://neminealassociation.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NewEnglandMineralAssociation/>

## 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 ; Siderite

Siderite belongs to the *calcite group* of minerals, a group of related carbonates that are isomorphous with one another. They are similar in many physical properties, and may partially or fully replace one another, forming a solid solution series. All members of the calcite group crystallize in the trigonal system, and have perfect rhombohedral cleavage.

Siderite is easily altered to iron oxides. A brown Goethite replacement of Siderite is common. Limonite, an amorphous mineral, is commonly found in rhombohedral crystals, as it frequently pseudomorphs after Siderite.

Concretionary Siderite nodules are noted for containing a wide variety of flora and fauna fossils, especially in the open-pit coal mining operations of eastern Illinois and western Indiana, where these concretions are common in the rock removed before the coal veins are exposed.

<b>Chemical Formula</b>	FeCO <sub>3</sub>
<b>Composition</b>	Iron carbonate, usually containing some magnesium and calcium, sometimes also magnesium, zinc, and cobalt.
<b>Variable Formula</b>	(Fe,Mg,Ca,Mn,Zn,Co)CO <sub>3</sub>
<b>Color</b>	Light to dark brown, yellow-brown, light yellow, yellow-green, greenish-brown, gray, and white.
<b>Streak</b>	White
<b>Hardness</b>	3.5 - 4
<b>Crystal System</b>	Hexagonal



