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

Volume 59 Issue 5 May 2021 RIMH 2021

RIMH

Officers

President Alicia Benoit (23)* phone Phone 508-847-4796
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Immediate past interim President Tony Cesana (23)*
Vice President Tobias Lederberg (23)
Secretary Lisa Benoit (23)
Treasurer Dante Caprara(23)*

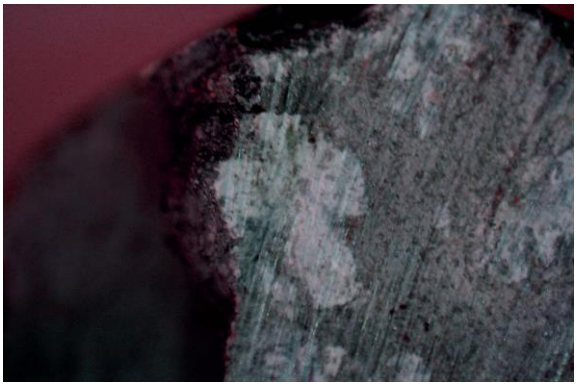
Board Members

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



Chiastolite , Massachusetts

Fossil Fern

Portsmouth, RI

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.

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There will be a virtual general meeting. The meeting will be Tuesday May 11th. The executive board meeting this month will also be virtual

For additional information , see below..

News

The RIMH Rock and Mineral Show in October will go on. We need people to step up and help with the planning and the many moving parts of the show. This will not be the responsibility of a few people but everyone. Please get involved and see what you can do to help.

****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
July 13th Short Business Meeting Talk Paul Monti Herkimer Diamonds
August 14th Club Picnic place to be determined 12:00 pm… tentative
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

Any changes will be forwarded in separate emails..

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 do not want to put average to low grade materials on the auction block.

The Space Dust Experiment

About two years ago Frank Puglia from NASA presented a talk on meteorites and brought some to show at one of our meetings. He mentioned that there was an experiment you could do and see if you could collect space dust.

Space dust are particles of dust that come to earth all day every day and deposit tons of material around the globe. Space dust can be larger pieces that you see burn up in our atmosphere and form meteor showers or pieces that enter the atmosphere lacking the mass to cause friction and burn and fall to earth. These dust particles are anywhere between a few tens of nanometers (billionth of a meter) to a millimeter. Space dust is created by comets and exploding stars. It can be bits of rock, minerals, metals or carbon rich soot-like grains smaller than grains of sand. Some are made of ice but would never survive entry into the atmosphere. Many, if not all, of the ones you can find by doing the space dust experiment are metallic. NASA, is able to collect space dust in space and examine it using their scientific instruments. They record density, weigh, size and composition. NASA studies space dust from several areas of space and space dust is often discovered in planetary rings that are only visible by backlight from the sun. A study shows that 15,000 tons of space dust hits the Earth's atmosphere, most of it burns up and 5,200 tons of space dust lands on the earth every year. Larger visible meteorites that land on earth and you can collect contribute only ten tons of material to the Earth's surface every year. Here on Earth, some of the space dust eventually became included in the development of living organisms.

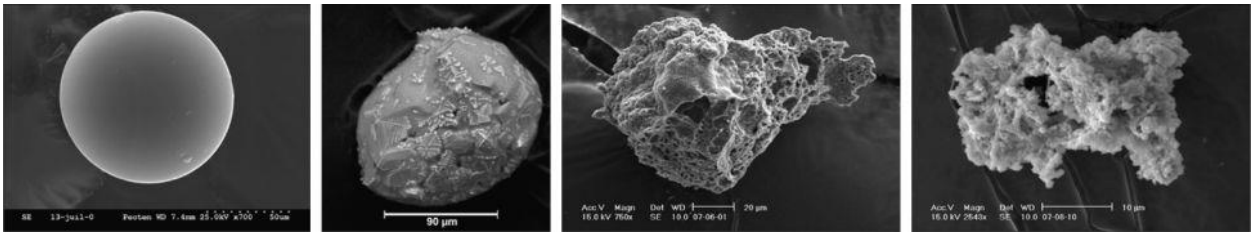
The experiment described by Frank Puglia was to take a wading pool, poke a few holes in the side so water does not accumulate, and all your material does not flow out. The pool should be weighted down with something heavy. The high walls of the pool prevent some materials from blowing into the pool. I left my pool out for about two years and took samples every six months. The pool was placed in a field with no sand to prevent possible contamination from blowing sand/dust. The material was collected by passing a magnet over the pool and picking up any magnetic sand grains. The magnetic material was sorted by date and viewed under a microscope.

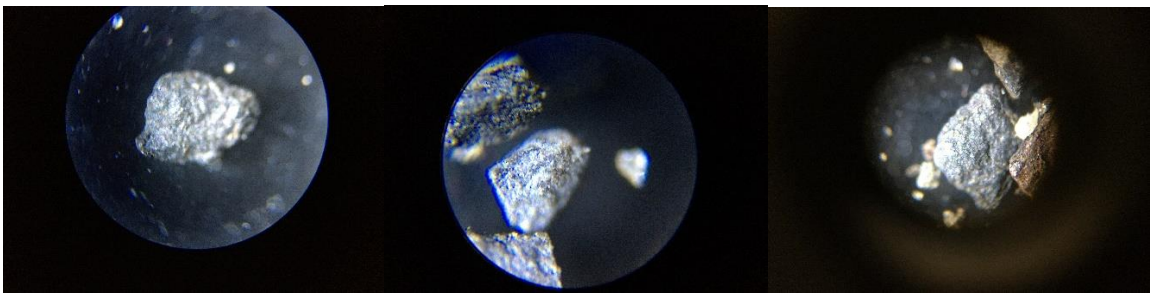
Another part of the experiment I tried was the gutters and downspouts to my house. I collected all the dust/sand from my gutters and ran a magnet around the bottoms of the downspouts to try to collect magnetic material. Each location netted magnetic material. I looked at the material with my microscope and saw that many of the magnetic grains that I collected looked like tiny meteorites, they had what appeared to be scorched or burned surfaces and some looked like they had been somewhat melted.

I recovered enough material to cover a quarter. I kept all the material aside. According to Frank Puglia from NASA, he believes that the material I got was in fact space dust however, the only way to be 100 percent certain is to take it to a lab and have it analyzed for metals that are not from earth. Because they are attracted to a magnet means that they could be bits of iron or nickel which

are found on earth and many meteorites are composed of the same material. There are about 18 minerals you can find in meteorites and then there are Metals—kamacite and taenite, schreibersite and cohenite which are found on earth only in meteorites. If these particles were tested and had any of the last four metals, they would be most likely space dust. The next step is to try to find a lab for testing.

Sources earthsky.com, space.com and NASA.gov.





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 with 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.