



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

BOWEN-LITE

WWW.RIMH.US



CUMBERLANDITE –OFFICIAL STATE ROCK



BOWENITE – OFFICIAL STATE MINERAL

Volume 54

Issue 2

February 2016

RIMH 2016

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



Upcoming Meeting Details

There are no general meetings in February. They start in March.

I'll give you the dates when I get confirmation from CCRI.

There will be executive meetings in February though.

Executive Meeting date for February is:

Tuesday February 2nd. 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.



RIMH FIELD TRIP

Location: Harvard Museum of Natural History
26 Oxford Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts, just past Harvard Yard.
Date: Sunday, Feb. 21, 2016
Time: (see below)

This museum is a must-see for any rock hound, beginner to seasoned veteran. Many spectacular specimens, including many from New England and New York, with detailed descriptions of the specimens. Beside the geological exhibits, there are many other interesting exhibits that you can see. Go to their website for details of and directions to the museum. You can drive there or take the train. Go to their website for driving directions and the MBTA website for train schedules. **We can plan on meeting there at 10 am, but time is not important as we will not be on any group tour.** If you arrive later, just pay the admission and proceed to the exhibits.

General Admission (*includes all exhibits*).

Adults: \$12.00

Non-Harvard students with I.D.: \$10.00

Seniors (65+): \$10.00

Children ages 3–18: \$8.00

Children under 3: Free

[Free for members](#)

Open daily, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

The Harvard Museum of Natural History is located at 26 Oxford Street, Cambridge.

View the *neighborhood map* on their website

They strongly suggest arriving by public transportation as parking near the museum is very limited. Please see the parking section below about where and how to park near the museum.

Public Transportation

Taking the [MBTA Subway](#)

Take the Red Line to the Harvard Square stop. Walk through Harvard Yard and down Oxford Street one block. The Harvard Museum of Natural History is the large brick building on your right, just a six-minute walk from Harvard Square.

Taking the [MBTA Commuter Rail](#)

Take the Fitchburg Line to Porter Square. Walk 50 yards on Somerville Avenue, cross the tracks on the bridge, and bear right onto Oxford Street and continue to #26. The museum is less than a mile from Porter Square.

South County Art Association SCULPTURE CLASSES



STONE CARVING

This stone carving class will help beginner or advanced student alike learn techniques required for stone sculpture. Using hand tools, students will receive instruction with all the stages of stone shaping, including rough shaping, finishing, polishing, and mounting of a stone sculpture. Alabaster is available for purchase from the instructor. Students should bring a 1 1/2 lb. soft iron mallet, a medium point-chisel, a 2 - tooth stone chisel, a flat stone chisel, safety glasses, and thin work gloves.

Alan Wynne & Patty Wynne
8 weeks, Feb 20 - April 9
Saturdays 10 AM – 1 PM
\$110 members / \$135 non-members
Enrollment status: OPEN
[Click Here](#) to register for this class.

South County Art Association
Helme House
2587 Kingstown Road
Kingston, RI 02881
Phone: 401-783-2195
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Member submission by Captain Bill

Gemstone of the Month

AMETHYST



Finished Gem



Amethyst rough

Amethyst is a well-known mineral and gemstone. It is the purple variety of the mineral [Quartz](#), and it's most valuable and prized variety. Its name derives from the Greek "amethystos", which means "not drunken", as Amethyst in antiquity was thought to ward off drunkenness. The color of some Amethyst specimens, from certain localities slowly fade upon prolonged exposure to light. When used as a gemstone, Amethyst is often heat treated to deepen the color, or to transform it into [Citrine](#). Some varieties may also change to a light green color, which is given the trade name "Prasiolite", or "Green Amethyst", as it is more commonly known in the gem trade. - See more at: <http://www.minerals.net/mineral/amethyst.aspx#sthash.pWPDjgOn.dpuf> next page

Amethyst continued from page 3

Chemical formula SiO_2 Silicon Dioxide

Color is caused by impurities of Iron and manganese

Streak white

Fracture conchoidal

In the U.S., fine Amethyst crystals comes from the Four Peaks (in the Mazatzal Mountains), Gila Co., Arizona; in the Pohndorf Mine, Jefferson Co., Montana; Crystal Park, Beaverhead Co., Montana; the Pennoyer Mine at Redfeather Lakes, Larimer Co., Colorado; and at Deer Hill, Oxford Co., Maine. There are several good localities in the Carolinas, specifically Statesville, Iredell Co., North Carolina; the Reel Mine, Iron Station, Lincoln Co., North Carolina; and Abbeville Co., South Carolina (the Diamond Hill Quartz Mine and the Ellis Jones Mine). A recently productive location producing deep purple crystals is Jackson's Crossroads, Wilkes Co., Georgia. Diamond Hill in Ashaway, Hopkinton, Washington Co., Rhode Island is known for the rare [scepters](#) that were found there. Amethyst is also found in the [traprock](#) quarries of Passaic Co., New Jersey, specifically at the Upper New Street Quarry in Paterson and at Prospect Park. - See more at: <http://www.minerals.net/mineral/amethyst.aspx#sthash.pWPdJgOn.dpuf>

Fossil of the Month Orthoceras

Orthoceras was an ancient **mollusk** that lived more than 400 million years ago. The name means straight horn, referring to the characteristic long, straight, conical shell. The preserved shell is all that remains of this ancestor of our modern-day squid.



The soft body lived in the last open-ended segment at the large end of the conical shell. As the body grew and the housing segment became too small, a dividing wall, called the **septa**, grew to separate the old “home chamber” from the new one. The differences in the composition of these shell parts allowed for differences in fossilization so the parts can be seen. The **siphuncle** is a tube that runs the entire length of the shell, through each of the chambers. This tube had two functions. Once filled with water, the nautiloid could force the water out, propelling itself backward with a kind of jet propulsion. By releasing the water and leaving air space, the tube could serve as a buoyancy device allowing the animal to rise and lower itself to different depths. These straight shelled nautiloids ranged in size from less than a centimeter to more than 14 feet long! All the living relatives of these nautiloids, squid, octopus, cuttlefish, and nautilus are predators, and we can assume that orthoceras was also a hunter of the Paleozoic seas, possibly having trilobites for breakfast!. The siphuncle is the line running down the center from head to tail. The septa are the short curved lines that run across or side to side.

For more information see [fossils facts and finds .com](http://fossils.factsandfinds.com)

A Message from President Wilson

Greetings to all:

Well here I am again - at the helm. I want to assure the membership that this is not a new situation for me and hopefully, the RIMH will continue to run smoothly and grow steadily. Attendance at meetings is certainly up.

We will start our "active" season at the March 8, 2016 meeting with our annual safety talk. I know many of our veteran collectors have heard this talk before but review is always a good thing. For our new members, we want to make sure that they do not get hurt when out collecting on our field trips. Safety is important.

At this time I will also be introducing some of my ideas for new programs and changes to some existing programs. Details will be explained at the meeting. Do not worry, the changes are not drastic!

Tony Cesana is offering to teach classes at his home on rock specimen trimming. He would like classes of 5 - 10 people at a time. You would be working on your own specimens. There would be two class sessions per group on Friday night. Anyone interested please contact Tony.

In April, our auction will take place. Members need to decide if they want to buy or sell or both. Now is the time to start rounding up specimens for auction and making sure they are properly labeled. There will be more on this later. That is all for now. See you at the meeting

** Member submission Boston Mineral Auction

Boston Auction Article

As everyone should know the Boston Mineral Society has one of the biggest auctions in this area every year. It is an auction well worth going to even if you don't buy anything. The specimens are great and the bidding is fast and furious. And for anyone wanting to see how to run an auction, the set-up, labeling, and efficiency of the auction is worth noting.

I always have fun at the voice auction, throwing out a beginning bid and seeing myself blown out of the water as the bidding goes through the roof. Neither Leo nor I won any voice bids. That being said Leo Doucet and I were there for the fun of the silent auction and to bid mostly on the hundreds of box lots there.

The box lots were great with nearly 200 great box lots of minerals, books, and fossils. Everyone scatters to locate the things they like, making notes of the box numbers and location so they can quickly get to them towards the end of the auction. It is impossible to bid on all that you want! I looked at and bid on some fossil footprints and some very nice mineral specimens. Of course everyone else was doing the same. At about 2 o'clock they announced that the silent auction would end in a few minutes so make your final bids. What a frenzy! Everyone trying to get their last bids in. Then the countdown; 2 minutes, 1 minute, 30 seconds, and the final 10 second countdown. You just hope that you get at least one

successful bid in as everyone is rushing to jot down their bids on the cards in the boxes. Then, "everyone out of the area" and everyone is moved out from the box lot area. If you even try to get a bid in past the close you are disqualified from the bidding. Everyone leaves peaceably. And then you wait. Volunteers scurrying sorting all the same boxes, and then only then do you get to see what you have won. I was bidder # 133 and low and behold I had a stack of 4 boxes. I had won somethings. Yeah! No fossils though, someone else was quicker. Oh well. But I did get 3 wonderful boxes of minerals. Some very nice apatite crystals, quartz crystals, large pyrite and magnetite crystals, as well as amethysts, and other assorted specimens. Probably 60 or 70 specimens. I'll have plenty to do this winter now as the snow is on the ground. And I am looking forward to our auction in April.

Steve Emma

Here is info on some other club's near future mineral shows and auctions.

Their webpage address is enclosed if anyone wants to go to the website.

We have mutual relations with both of the clubs. We publicize and send out info to them and they do the same for us.

The Southeastern Massachusetts Mineral Club (SEMMC)

WWW.SEMMC.ORG

Auction March 29th

The Mitchell Memorial Club

29 Elm Street (just of Rt 28)

Middleboro, MA 02346

Lapidary and Mineral Society of Central Connecticut (LMSCC)

WWW.LMSCC.ORG

Gem and Mineral Show

March 5th and 6th

Maloney High School

Gravel Street

Meriden, Ct.