



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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Edited by Paul Koczwanski pakman844@aol.com
*If anyone would like to submit an article or anything for future publication let me know



Upcoming Meeting Details

Executive Meeting date in September is:
Tuesday September 6th. All meetings start at 7pm.

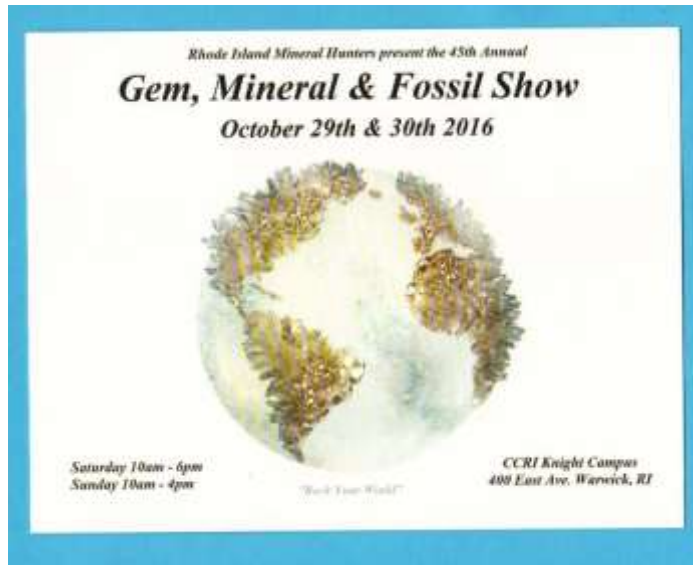
This year meetings will be held at Lou Fazzinas' rock shop
(Apple Valley Minerals)
7 Homestead Avenue
Smith field, RI 02917
*Homestead is off Farnum Pike.

Next general meeting: September 13th at CCRI Warwick
***** Room 1134 *****

Our guest speaker will be Paul Monti who will do a presentation on collecting Herkimer Diamonds and other quartz specimens.

Our last meeting was the RIMH annual picnic. The picnic was at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Hecker. A special thank you goes out to Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Hecker for their hospitality. The well attended meeting was fun with great food and the swap table had some interesting items on it.





SEPTEMBER 2016 FIELD TRIPS

I've got some bad news about upcoming field trips.

P.J. Keating, Acushnet, scheduled for 09/10 has been canceled due to some kind of quarry problem. It is uncertain if we can be rescheduled this year.

Also, the October field trip to Betts Manganese mine has been canceled. As most of you know the land is owned by Earth Dance studios. First they said we would not be able to go there, then we could, now we can't again. A big event that was postponed earlier in the summer has been rescheduled for 10/15/16 so we don't have access to the tailings. No other dates are available this year

Anyone with ideas of somewhere we can go on these weekends, please let me know.

09/17, 18 – SHARON, VT Concretions and Gold Panning

This is a joint venture with the South East Mass. Mineral Club. Most likely we will do concretions on Saturday and gold panning on Sunday. You can either attend both days or just one day. More details will be forthcoming after I talk with the field trip leader from S.E.M.M.C. (I will be the leader for RIMH).

If interested, call or e-mail me. russojoel@gmail.com 401-942-3394.

Joel Russo

Gemstone of the month

Sapphire



Sapphire is the most precious and valuable blue gemstone. It is a very desirable gemstone due to its excellent color, hardness, durability, and luster. In the gem trade, Sapphire without any color prefix refers

to the blue variety of the mineral [Corundum](#). However, the term Sapphire encompasses all other gem varieties and colors of Corundum as well, excluding [Ruby](#), the red variety of Corundum, which has its own name since antiquity. The main source for natural sapphires in the US is in the State of Montana.

Sapphire is usually [heat treated](#) to intensify the blue color, as well as remove [inclusions](#) to increase clarity. It is standard industry practice to heat treat Sapphire gemstones, and most Sapphires used as gemstones have been heat treated. Sapphire with a natural, unheated color is much more valuable than the heat treated material, and gemstones of good quality can be extremely costly. Sapphires are sometimes colored through [diffusion treatment](#), which artificially alters the color of the original gemstone. [Diffused](#) Sapphires colors include deep blue, bright yellow, bright orange and orange-red. The diffusion is often done by heat treating a stone in a beryllium metal overlay. Diffused Sapphire gemstones are fairly inexpensive despite their desirable color. Because of all the color treatments and enhancements performed to Sapphire gemstones, this information should always be fully disclosed to the buyer, and Sapphire should only be purchased from highly reputable dealers.

Chemical Formula	Al ₂ O ₃
Color	White, Colorless, Blue, Green, Yellow, Orange, Brown, Pink, Purple, Gray, Black, Multicolored
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

For more information see minerals.net

Fossil of the Month Mammoth Tusk



The **Columbian mammoth** (*Mammuthus columbi*) is an extinct species of [mammoth](#) that inhabited North America as far north as the northern United States and as far south as Costa Rica during the [Pleistocene](#) epoch. It was one of the last in a line of mammoth species, beginning with [M. subplanifrons](#) in the early [Pleistocene](#). The Columbian mammoth evolved from the [steppe mammoth](#), which entered North America from Asia about 1.5 million years ago. The [pygmy mammoths](#) of the [Channel Islands of California](#) evolved from Columbian mammoths. The closest [extant](#) relative of the Columbian and other mammoths is the [Asian elephant](#).

Reaching 4 m (13 ft) at the shoulders and 8–10 tons (18,000–22,000 lb) in weight, the Columbian mammoth was one of the largest species of mammoth. It had long, curved tusks and four [molars](#), which were replaced six times during the lifetime of an individual. It most likely used its tusks and trunk like modern elephants—for manipulating objects, fighting, and foraging. Bones, hair, dung and stomach contents have been discovered, but no preserved carcasses are known. The Columbian mammoth preferred open areas, such as [parkland](#) landscapes, and fed on sage, grass, and other plants. It did not live in the Arctic regions of Canada, which were instead inhabited by [woolly mammoths](#). The ranges of the two species may have overlapped, and genetic evidence suggests that they interbred. Several sites contain the skeletons of multiple Columbian mammoths, either because they died in a single incident such as a [flash flood](#), or because these locations were natural traps in which individuals accumulated over time.

For a few thousand years prior to their extinction, Columbian mammoths coexisted in North America with [Paleoamericans](#) – the first humans to inhabit the Americas – who hunted them for food, used their bones for making tools, and depicted them in ancient art. Columbian mammoth remains have been found in association with [Clovis culture](#) artifacts; these remains may have stemmed either from hunting or from scavenging. The Columbian mammoth disappeared at the end of the Pleistocene around 11,000 years ago, most likely as a result of habitat loss caused by [climate change](#), hunting by humans, or a combination of both. For more information see Wikipedia