



# MICROMOUNTERS OF NEW ENGLAND NEWSLETTER

*The MMNE was organized on November 8, 1966 for the purpose of promoting the study of minerals that require a microscope*

No. 243

February 2003

## OFFICERS 2002-2003

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**Next Meeting**  
Burlington, MA Public  
Library 10:00AM to  
3:00PM, Snow date  
same site 2/22

**Map and directions**  
*are on the back page*

Dues are \$10/person  
or \$15/family for the  
calendar year,  
payable to MMNE  
and mailed to the  
membership  
chairperson

## EDITOR'S REPORT FOR 2002/2003

The *Newsletter* is published nine times per year, in September, October, November, January, February, March, April and May, as well as a summer issue which comes out in May or early June.

As of December 31, 2002 the MMNE had a total of seventy-three active memberships including both individuals and family units. Sixty-seven of the active members live in one of the six New England states. Five are life memberships. There are also nine editors with whom newsletters are exchanged, giving us a current circulation of eighty-two.

The *Newsletter* usually is six pages with an occasional additional insert. Postage and printing costs typically run \$70 per month, or \$630 per year.

## NEW ENGLAND MICROMOUNT GROUPS

The MMNE is the only rock and mineral club in the New England area (to your editor's knowledge) which is dedicated to micromounting. There are, however, at least two other New England mineral clubs which have micromount subgroups which hold their own meetings. The North Shore Rock and Mineral Club has had a micromount subgroup for a number of years which meets monthly at the home of John and Margaret Stewart in Burlington, MA on the second Wednesday of each month. For more information call John or Margaret at (781) 272-0854.

The Connecticut Valley Mineral Club (CVMC) has had a couple of informal micromount meetings over the past several years. The CVMC is planning on resuming these meetings on a more regular basis. A planning meeting is set up for Saturday, March 1, at the home of Fred Wilda in Hatfield, MA from 1:00PM - 5:00PM. Anyone interested in attending or participating should contact Mike Swanson for further information at (413) 773-3867 or via e-mail [msmicros@crocker.com](mailto:msmicros@crocker.com).

## NEWRY MINERAL PARK

From Woody Thompson, Maine Geologic Survey

*A new State property that will include several of Maine's most famous mineral localities, including the Dunton tourmaline mine, in a beautiful mountain setting.*

The Oxford Hills in Western Maine are known throughout the world as a prolific source of gems such as tourmaline, amethyst, and aquamarine, as well as many are mineral species. Thousands of people come to Maine every year to search for these minerals in the rock piles left behind from earlier mining operations. Historic mining for feldspar and gem tourmaline in the town of Newry opened up several deposits rich in uncommon minerals. These mines are located on a scenic mountain top that also offers great opportunities for hiking, geologic studies, and other outdoor recreation.

Many popular mineral collecting sites in Maine have been closed to the public in recent years due to encroaching development and other factors. But the State of Maine now has the opportunity to acquire a 100 acre tract of land in Newry that encompasses the famous Dunton tourmaline mine and six other neighboring quarries.

The Maine Geologic Survey (of the Department of Conservation) has launched a fundraising drive to purchase the Newry mines for a permanent park whose principal use would be for recreational mineral collecting. Partners in this effort include the Maine Mineral Symposium Association, the Federation of Maine Mineral and Gem Clubs, and the Threshold to Maine Resource Conservation and Development Commission. A 11 mineral hobbyists, earth science students, educators, and outdoor enthusiasts will benefit from the Newry Mineral Park. The Land for Maine's Future Board has made a generous pledge toward the purchase price, but most of the funds to acquire the property must be raised from other sources. The Maine Geologic Survey is committed to this effort, and we are asking mineral clubs

*Continued on page 5*

The **Newsletter** is the official publication of the Micromounters of New England (MMNE). The last by-laws revision was 1966. The MMNE is a member of the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies (EFMLS) (<<http://www.efmls.org/efmls/>>) and the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) (<http://www.afms.org>). Material from the **Newsletter** may be copied in other rock and mineral publications if credit is given to the author and the **Newsletter** unless the author has reserved all rights in which case written permission must be obtained from the author. If there are questions regarding copying contact the editor. The club address is c/o the Corresponding Secretary. Meetings are held monthly, September through May, except for December, and usually on an informal basis in the July and August. Sites rotate and will be posted in the **Newsletter** as far in advance as possible. Visitors are welcome to attend all meetings. Bring a microscope and light source if you have one.

#### Officers for 2001/2002

President: Jim Cahoon, 31 Parker St., Maynard, MA 01754  
 Vice President: Bob Janules, 17 Woodard Rd., Merrimack, NH 03054  
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### CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

#### February 2003

- 7-8 - Second Annual SE Micromounters Winter Gathering  
 Advent Christian Village, Dowling Park, FL.  
 Info @ <http://ns1.rfci.net/earl/wintermicro>
- 14 - Tucson, AZ Micromount Symposium
- 15 - MMNE meeting, Burlington, MA Public Library  
 10:00AM to 3:00PM, snow date same site 2/22

#### March 2003

- 1-2 - Meriden Mineral Mineral-Fossil-Gem Show  
 Maloney High School, Gravel St., Meriden, CT  
 Sat. 9:30 - 5:00, Sun. 10:00 - 4:00, Exit 16 off I-91,  
 West on E. Main St., 3rd Right.
- 15 - MMNE meeting, Auburn MA Public Library  
 9:00AM to 3:00PM, snow date same site 3/22
- 22-23 - Gem and Mineral Show. Conn. Valley Mineral Club,  
 Best Western Colonial Inn. East Windsor, CT  
 Exit 45 off I-91.

#### April 2003

- 3-5 - Rochester Symposium, Micromounters Playroom
- 11-13 Atlantic Micromounters Conference, Tysons Westpark  
 Hotel, McLean, VA. Contact Steve Weinberger  
 (410) 833-7926. E-mail: [cweinber@bcpl.net](mailto:cweinber@bcpl.net)
- 19 - MMNE annual business meeting, Northboro, MA  
 Public Library, 9:30AM to 3:00PM
- 26-27 - Trotter Dump Field Trip, Franklin, NJ  
 contact your own club NEFTA representative  
 Sterling Hill Mine open for digging on Sunday

#### May 2003

- 2-4 - CMMA Annual Micromount Conference
- 9 - 11 Maine Mineral Symposium. Contact Woodrow  
 Thompson, Maine Geologic Survey, 22 State House  
 Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0022. (207) 287-7178  
[woodrow.b.thompson@state.me.us](mailto:woodrow.b.thompson@state.me.us)  
[www.maine.gov/doc/nrmc/mgs/mincolec/sympnews.htm](http://www.maine.gov/doc/nrmc/mgs/mincolec/sympnews.htm)
- 17 - MMNE Reunion Meeting, Marlboro, MA Moose Lodge  
 9:00AM to 4:00PM

#### June 2003

- 20 - 22 - Northern California Micromount Symposium,  
 Pollock Pines

### WEB SITES AND OTHER REFERENCES OF MINERALOGICAL INTEREST

- XTALDRAW - An interactive computer graphics program that displays, manipulates and analyzes ball and stick, polyhedral and thermal ellipsoid colored drawings of any crystal structure or molecule.  
[www.infotech.nv.utexas.edu/crystal/](http://www.infotech.nv.utexas.edu/crystal/)
- IMA - Has listings of all mineral names including new ones.  
[www.geo.vu.nl/users/ima-cnmmn](http://www.geo.vu.nl/users/ima-cnmmn)
- Mineral Spectroscopy Server, California Institute of Tech.  
[www.minerals.gps.caltech.edu/](http://www.minerals.gps.caltech.edu/)
- Mineral Madness - A program put on for the public at the Peabody Museum, Harvard University  
[www.news.harvard.edu/gazette/2001/03.08/24-minerals.html](http://www.news.harvard.edu/gazette/2001/03.08/24-minerals.html)
- Orchard Pit Mine, Maine. Includes geologic map of the mine and photos of the mine and minerals  
[www.coromotominerals.com/index.html](http://www.coromotominerals.com/index.html)
- Berry Mine, Maine. Info about the mine as well as a great list of collecting sites in the US along with history of many mines.  
<http://members.aol.com/Gemelbaite/BerryGemMine.html>
- Journal of Pegmatology. Entry level and advanced geologic info about pegmatites.  
[www.pegmatology.com](http://www.pegmatology.com)
- Poland Mining Camp. Vacation site with cabins in the woods. Host technical classes and workshops.  
[www.pegmatology.com/maine\\_pegcamp.htm](http://www.pegmatology.com/maine_pegcamp.htm)  
[www.pegmatology.com/pegcamp.htm](http://www.pegmatology.com/pegcamp.htm)  
<http://homepage.mac.com/rasprague/PegShop/home.html>
- Maine Geologic Survey. Host of Maine Mineral Show  
[www.state.me.us/doc/nrmc/mincolec/sympnews.htm](http://www.state.me.us/doc/nrmc/mincolec/sympnews.htm)
- Newry Mineral Park. See article elsewhere in the Newsletter.  
[www.state.me.us/doc/nrmc/mincolec/newry.htm](http://www.state.me.us/doc/nrmc/mincolec/newry.htm)

## ON CARESITE-3T COLLECTED IN MAY, 2002, AND OPTICS THEREOF.

Wm. A. Henderson, Jr  
47 Robin Ridge Drive  
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On the May, 2002, trip to the Poudrette Quarry, I spent some time collecting in a large blast of nepheline syenite on level seven. Others collecting in the same blast were Mike Swanson, Robin Tibbit, Peter Tarassoff and Hans Swartz. Mirolitic cavities were scarce, but I found three only a few feet apart which yielded very interesting unknowns subsequently identified as caresite-3T.

The first, my U485, showed orange, red-brown, red, pink grading to yellow, and yellow crystals of caresite-3T up to 2.5 mm in size. Some of the crystals showed color zoning from red to yellow along the length; others were color zoned across the c-face. Crystals varied from tabular through equant to columnar in habit, were hexagonal or pseudo-hexagonal, and showed prism, dipyrmaid and c-faces. A single red-brown crystal showed an hour glass figure, while some of the yellow crystals were markedly flattened by a very low dipyrmaid. Associated species were natrolite, analcime, calcite and donnayite.

My unknown U493, from a second cavity, showed very sharp, equant to columnar, brown crystals of caresite-3T to 2 mm in size. Crystal forms seen were what looked like a hexagonal prism and the c-face. Alternating wide and narrow faces in the prism zone hinted at the trigonal, not hexagonal, symmetry of caresite-3T. Associated species were calcite, pectolite, fluorite, aegirine, magnesio-arfvedsonite or richterite, and a feldspar.

The third cavity produced only a single 3x4 cm specimen (my U489), half covered with perhaps the most spectacular crystals of caresite. The 1-2 mm crystals were trigonal, short columnar to equant, and showed a major and a minor rhombohedron and the c-face. On some crystals, the c-face or base was slightly cavernous, while on others the c-face was partially coated with unknown, tiny, white crystals. The caresite-3T crystals were transparent to translucent and a bright yellow to honey brown in color. Associated with them were very pretty, equant, equal sized crystals of calcite plus aegirine, analcime, siderite and a (burbankite family?) species.

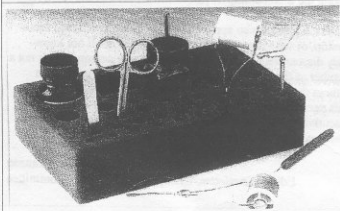
All these crystals plus a specimen collected by Robin Tibbit gave a vigorous evolution of carbon dioxide in 1:4 HCl and, unlike so many other Hilaire carbonates, showed no REE absorption lines. Using my polarizing microscope and a spindle stage, I found all four unknowns to be uniaxial negative, and to have indices placing them in the charmarite/caresite/quintinite group of Hilaire minerals. I might mention here that optics will readily place unknown, apparently hexagonal, Hilaire carbonates in their proper group; i.e., the donnayite, burbankite, synchysite or calcite groups; and will quickly identify similar appearing carbonates such as cordylite. In most cases, optics will identify species within each group as well. The indices I found for my U485 and U493 crystals were similar but varied slightly from those for my U489 material and that of Robin Tibbit's. All four sets of indices were slightly different from those reported for the known members of the charmarite/caresite/quintinite group, but were closest to those for caresite-3T. Subsequently, Andy McDonald was kind enough to determine the XRD spectra of my U485 and U489, both of which he identified as caresite-3T.

These caresites appear to be among the finest ever collected at Mt. St-Hilaire.

The above may be of interest to others who collected in the same blast. It also demonstrates the value to amateurs of being able to use a polarizing microscope. I might add that, while we were collecting, we were all assuming that these yellow crystals were donnayites.

Bill Henderson

Ed. Comment: Similar material was collected at a second blast in the nepheline syenite in October, 2002. Some of this may also prove to be caresite-3T with further examination.



## TOOL CADDY

This tool organizer is sold for fly tiers, but has proven to be very useful in keeping the micromount work bench tidy. It is made of soft foam, dimensions are 7 7/8" x 5" x 1 7/8". It is available through many of the fly fishing supply stores for approximately \$15. It has 36 recesses in which to hold glue, dropper bottles, forceps, and other tools.

### From the Editor Mineral Trade Lists in the Newsletter

Most of us have quality trade material and are interested in trading with other collectors. Unfortunately, most of the members of the MMNE have collected in the same areas and have the same material for trade. The *Newsletter* could be a good vehicle by which members could list trade material as well as a want list. The *Newsletter* circulates outside of New England, and is actively exchanged with other MM newsletter editors who might see fit to publish this kind of list in their newsletters. We usually have enough space to publish a trade/want list several times a year, or an additional loose page could be inserted monthly if there is enough interest. For the time being, this would be a free service to members. Want/trade lists will be listed as space allows.

We can also offer want or trade lists for equipment/hardware, but no sales offerings at this time.

This column will start with the March *Newsletter*, space permitting. Lists will be run for three (3) issues and may be renewed in writing or by e-mail for another three (3) issues. Copy of lists must be in the hands of the editor via either e-mail or snail mail (addresses are on the masthead) by the 15th of the preceding month. No telephone lists will be accepted. These lists will be edited if necessary.

MMNE President, Jim Cahoon, received a letter from a California collector, Al Wilkins, who is interested in trading micros with members of the MMNE. He has mostly western US specimen material - micros, TN's and fluorescents. He can be reached at Alan.J.Wilkins@kp.org.

*Continued from page 1 (Newry Mineral Park)*

and individuals to help by donating to the park acquisition fund.

The fundraising goal is \$250,000. As of Dec. 31, 2002 the sum of \$4126 had been raised.

Contributions are tax deductible and will be acknowledged. Donations of \$100 or more will receive a special recognition certificate. Please make any donations payable to "Newry Mineral Park" and send to:

Newry Mineral Park  
c/o Maine Geologic Survey  
22 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-0022

Visit the Maine Geologic Survey's website for further developments and progress reports:

<http://www.state.me.us/nrimc/mgs/mgs.htm>

Note: At its January meeting, the MMNE voted to donate \$100 to the fund.

### PRIVACY POLICY

The MMNE has no defined privacy policy regarding the dissemination of demographic data among or by the membership. Given the intrusions into individual privacy which are occurring daily, it may be advisable to establish a written policy for the MMNE. Historically an up-to-date membership list is mailed to all paid-up members (including life members) with the March issue of the *Newsletter*. This list contains, at a minimum, the name and mailing address of the member. Also requested on the new and renewal membership forms is a telephone number and e-mail address. These are included in the membership list if supplied.

It is probably advisable that the officers of the MMNE have telephone number, mailing address and e-mail address for **EACH** member, even if they are not published with the annual membership, for purposes of communication (weather cancellations, etc.) Such information would not knowingly be distributed by any of the MMNE officers to any other group or organization for any purpose. All persons receiving the membership list, would agree, as a condition of their membership, not to disseminate the list in part or in its entirety.

You will be receiving a membership list with the March *Newsletter*. If your e-mail and telephone number are not listed on the current membership list and you wish them to be, or if you wish to have them removed, please communicate that information as soon as possible so that it can be inserted in the next list. Please consider supplying a telephone number and e-mail address to the MMNE officers even if you do not have it listed on the circulated membership list.

Please send any additions or changes to the Membership Chairperson, Brian Porter, 355 Walsh Ave., Newington, CT 06111, (860) 666-4505 or e-mail at [port0202@cox.net](mailto:port0202@cox.net) as soon as possible.

### PROPOSED "PRIVACY POLICY"

All members of the MMNE are required to provide name and mailing address at the time of application for membership or renewal of membership. This information will be disseminated to the members in good standing each March via the *Newsletter*. The member may elect to have a telephone number and/or e-mail address included to facilitate communication among the membership or just to the officers of the MMNE.

Each person who applies for either new or renewal membership, or who is granted life membership, shall not knowingly disseminate this information with any person who is not a member of the MMNE, or any other group or organization without the written permission of the executive committee. This permission may be granted only with a 2/3's vote of the executive committee. Violation of this policy is grounds for summary expulsion from the MMNE.

Mike Swanson  
Editor Newsletter, Chairperson By-Laws Committee

### Proposed By-Laws Revisions

The following revisions, designated by bold print and \*\* are additions to the last set of revisions which you received. Please review prior to the Annual Meeting in April.

#### ARTICLE 1

**\*\*Section 4. The fiscal year of the MMNE shall coincide with the calendar year.\*\***

**\*\*Section 5. The membership shall vote on a budget for the next fiscal year at the annual business meeting.\*\***

#### ARTICLE 2

***THIS IS A NEW ARTICLE. SUBSEQUENT ARTICLES HAVE BEEN RENUMBERED ACCORDINGLY.***

##### **\*\*Code of Ethics**

**Section 1. No member shall use the MMNE's name or assets for personal gain.**

**Section 2. When participating in MMNE sponsored activities or any other mineral related activities, members shall conduct themselves in a manner which would reflect positively on themselves, the MMNE, and the hobby of mineralogy.**

**Section 3. Members shall conform to the By-laws of the MMNE.\*\***

#### ARTICLE 3

##### Membership

**Section 9. Expulsion of a Member. The Executive Committee may, at a regular meeting, recommend to the membership expulsion of any member who breaks the MMNE, AFMS or EFMLS code of ethics **\*\*delete "or whose attitude or conduct is considered extremely detrimental to the welfare of the MMNE"**\*\*.** Such expulsion may be made only after the member has been given an opportunity to show cause why the expulsion is not justified. A quorum of the Executive Committee must meet with member **\*\*at least thirty (30) days\*\*** prior to the regular meeting **\*\*at which expulsion is to be discussed and voted on\*\***. All members of the Executive Committee must be notified by the corresponding secretary of the planned meeting with the member. **\*\*Expulsion from membership requires a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the membership present at an MMNE meeting. A documented quorum is required.\*\***

#### ARTICLE 4

##### Officers and Their Duties

**\*\* Section 1. Any member, may run for and be voted into office. The officers of the MMNE shall consist of a President, Vice-president, **\*\*delete Recording\*\*** Secretary, **\*\*delete Corresponding Secretary,\*\*** (etc).**

**\*\* Section 2. The President shall preside at all meetings of the MMNE and shall preside as Chairman of the Executive Committee. **\*\*The President shall be empowered to sign checks in the absence of the Treasurer.\*\*****

**\*\* Section 8. The membership chairperson shall be responsible for maintaining a current membership and mailing list and shall report all additions and/or changes to the editor of the Newsletter on a timely basis. **\*\*He/she shall provide applications for prospective members, review them relative to the MMNE Code of Ethics, and present them to the membership.\*\*****

#### ARTICLE 8

##### Committees

**\*\* Section 1. All standing committees shall be appointed by the Executive Committee. Standing committees are program, nominating, **\*\*audit,\*\*** and membership.\*\***

**\*\* Section 4. An audit committee consisting of two members appointed by the Executive Committee shall examine the books prior to the annual meeting **\*\*each year\*\***.**

**\*\*One auditor shall be elected at each annual meeting for a term of two years. The chairperson of the audit committee shall be the auditor whose term expires next. No Executive committee member may serve as an auditor. The audit committee shall audit the treasurer's books and prepare an inventory of MMNE properties at the end of the fiscal year and at any other time requested by the Executive Committee. The Chairperson will present the audit report at the annual business meeting. The chairperson shall be responsible for preserving previous audit reports.\*\***

**\*\* Section 5. The nominating committee shall serve from one annual meeting to the next. The committee shall present a slate of officers at the January meeting.\*\***

#### ARTICLE 9

##### Amendments **\*\*to the By-Laws\*\***

**\*\* Section 3. The By-Laws of the MMNE shall be reviewed by a by-laws committee at least every five years (in years ending in "0" or "5" to see if any additions, deletions or modifications of the by-laws are necessary to meet the present and/or future needs of the MMNE.\*\***

#### ARTICLE 10

##### Disposal of MMNE Property and Assets.

**\*\* Upon dissolution of the MMNE and after paying all outstanding liabilities, the remaining assets may be distributed by a majority vote of the executive committee to a qualifying, non-profit organization(s) with an interest in the field of mineralogy.\*\***

#### ARTICLE 12

##### Discrimination Statement

**\*\*The MMNE membership, individually or as a group, shall not attempt to prevent membership or participation in the MMNE on the basis of age, sex, race, color, religious belief or national origin.\*\***