

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. 256

Summer, 2004

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Next Meeting

Saturday, July 17
Canterbury, NH
Home of Gordon Jackson
9AM to ?
Pot Luck Lunch
**Map and directions are
on the back page**

For information regarding
MEETING CANCELLATION
due to inclement weather,
contact President
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A MICROMOUNTER EXPLORES NEW HAMPSHIRE'S CONWAY GRANITE

(CONTINUED – PART 5)

THE OSSIPEE MOUNTAINS

The pluton that encompasses the Ossipee Mountains is much simpler and smaller than the White Mountain Batholith to the north. The WMB, which contains the largest exposures of Conway granite, features several partial ring dikes indicative of multiple intrusions. In contrast there is but a single complete ring of syenite rock in the Ossipees. It is a striking feature on a geological map of New Hampshire.

The mineralogy from collecting localities in the Ossipees also appears to be simpler. Accessory minerals found here do include beryllium, titanium and rare earth minerals, but species lists are shorter than those from productive areas to the north. Beryl is the only primary beryllium mineral. I have not heard of a single find of danalite, or other members of the helvite group, from any of the Ossipee Mountains. But for a single find of a niobium cerium oxide mineral, yttrium and rare earth minerals found here are restricted to the phosphate minerals monazite and xenotime. Also absent is what I call "the calcium suite", low temperature forming minerals that contain essential calcium such as epidote, milarite, bavenite, titanite and others. Despite the relatively low number of species available, fine microminerals can still be found. A number of my most prized micromounts were discovered at collecting localities in the Ossipee Mountains, especially those from Bald Mountain.

(continued on page 3)



MAY 2004 MEETING

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The **Newsletter** is the official publication of the Micromounters of New England (MMNE). The last by-laws revision was April 19, 2003. The MMNE is a member of the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies (EFMLS) (<<http://www.amfed.org/efmls>>) and the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) (<http://www.amfed.org>). Material from the *Newsletter* may be copied in other rock and mineral publications if credit is given to the author and the *Newsletter* and permission has been obtained from the author. If there are questions regarding copying contact the editor. The club address is c/o the Secretary. Meetings are held monthly, September through May, except for December, and usually on an informal basis in 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.

DUES are \$10/year for a single person and \$15/year for a family membership, levied on a calendar basis. The family membership includes two adults and all children under 18 living at the same address. One copy of the *Newsletter* will be sent on a family membership.

Officers for 2004-2005

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2004 CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

SHOWS

June

26-27 – 40th Annual Rock Swap and Mineral Show, Gilsum Elementary School and Town Recreation Fields, Rte 10, Gilsum, NH. 8-6 Saturday. 8-4 Sunday. Information: (603) 357-9639. No admission charge.

July

7-12 - EFMLS/AFMS Convention & Show. Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse. State Fairgrounds. Syracuse, NY.

August

13-15 – East Coast Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show. Eastern States Exposition. 1305 Memorial Drive, West Springfield, MA. <http://www.mzexpos.com/eastcoast.htm>

October

9-10 – 41st Annual Gem and Mineral Festival. Capital Mineral Club. Sat. 9-5. Sun. 10-4. Sunapee State Park, Rte 103, Newbury, NH. Adults - \$3, Seniors - \$2, 12 and under free with adult.

MICROMINERAL RELATED CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIUMS

July

3 – Mont St.-Hilaire collecting trip, one day only
 17 – MMNE meeting, Canterbury, NH. Home of Gordon Jackson. There will be a pot luck meal.
 24 – MSH trip, one day only

September

4 – Mont St.-Hilaire collecting trip, one day only
 18 – (Saturday) MMNE meeting, Chelmsford, MA library, 9am – 3pm

October

MMNE meeting – date and time to be determined
 22-24 – Mont St.-Hilaire collecting trip(Saturday and Symposium) and Symposium

November

20 – (Saturday) MMNE meeting, Chelmsford, MA library, 9am – 3pm

("Conway Granite" continued from page 1)

THE GULCH a.k.a. FOLSOM BROOK LOCALITY

CENTER OSS�PEE

My first collecting trip to a Conway granite location was to "The Gulch", a ravine in Center Ossipee. This locality featured moderate sized pockets reliably distributed in ledge, where a concerted effort at moving rock was usually rewarding to the collector. Smoky quartz of a fine light brown color and microcline, often as Baveno twinned crystals, were the usual specimen finds. Sceptered quartz crystals with a smoky base and amethyst tips were the most sought after specimens from this site. Scott Whittemore in the mid 1980's opened a string of pockets that produced about sixty of them. I was one of many collectors that shared in this find. Siderite rosettes and fluorite crystals round out what the locality had to offer for cabinet specimens.

The ledge at the Gulch has many small cavities in addition to the larger pockets. I made many trips to the locality without examining these vugs for micromount potential. A sin I rarely commit. Initially I did examine them with a loupe and finding nothing exotic I abandoned the practice. It was Dana Jewell that showed me a Gulch specimen of fine twinned tabular bertrandite. After seeing this I examined my specimens from this locality and found some as well. Clearly over the years I must have ignored good micromount material.

In addition to the bertrandite the following micro accessory minerals have been found at the Gulch: pocket beryl, monazite, magnetite, zircon, ilmenite and a bi-pyramidal crystal that may be xenotime. All of these are rather rare from this locality. One odd discovery from here made by John Herndon is a seam coated with pyrite crystals.

Easy access from the road helped make the Gulch a popular collecting locality. It lies on private property and is now unfortunately posted against trespassing.

Knox Mountain – The "Knob"

A short distance beyond the Gulch on the opposite side of the road is a foothill of Knox Mountain sometimes referred to as the "Knob." There are many talus boulders here as well as a section of ledge that has been worked for smoky quartz crystals. The smokies are of similar quality as those from the Gulch but I am not aware of any amethyst finds here. Tom Mortimer was the first to notice fine red monazite crystals in the cavities of this ledge. These are almost as good as the best from Bald Mountain. The crystals are tabular to nearly equant with a vitreous luster. Many show inclusions of small black grains of unknown identity (thorite?). I have also found at this locality microcrystals of bertrandite, fluorite, magnetite, zircon and one crystal of jet black anatase.

Other areas of Knox Mountain sound promising for exploration. Van King told me of a find of superb pocket beryls from somewhere on Knox Mountain. Large molybdenite crystals have been collected from float boulders on the flat between Knox Mountain and Connors Pond. Bob Whitmore showed me a cassiterite specimen from this mountain as well.

Gilman Notch

Gilman Notch is a ravine that lies between Grant's Peak and Oak Mountain in Ossipee. My collecting efforts there have only found siderite as an accessory mineral in the cavities. This year, however, Jim Cahoon showed me fine red microcrystals of monazite that he collected from this locality. I also know of one find of cassiterite from the Grant's Peak side of the notch. Martin Kippley has found cassiterite on Oak Mountain but I'm not clear if their source is the ravine or elsewhere on Oak Mountain. The cassiterites are black lustrous crystals showing characteristic twinning.

Next : Bald Mountain

IN MEMORIAM

WALTER ALLEN LANEJanuary 3rd, 1929 – May 8th, 2004

Walter Allen Lane died suddenly on May 8th, 2004. Other than mosquitoes, black flies and ticks, Walter loved everything about the outdoors. This love was generated early for Walter by his father. Walter was born in Tuckertown, New Jersey, on January 3rd, 1929 where his dad earned a living as a fishing guide and a waterman. In 1938 Walter's dad moved the family to Trumbull, Connecticut. There Walter's dad accepted a job as manager of a Witch Hazel distillery and factory. Here Walter learned to help in the collection of witch hazel and the processing of that bark.

After graduating from high school, Walter went to work for Southern New England Telephone Company Walter worked for "Ma Bell" until his retirement in 1983. There was one interruption in Walter's work for "Ma" Bell when he spent a two year stint in the army. (1952 – 1954). In 1949 Walter married Carolyn June Simmons and in 1954 their daughter Melanie was born. One unwelcome interruption during the period when Walt worked for "Ma" Bell was when the Witch Hazel factory and distillery burned down.

After retiring from the phone company in 1983 Walter and Carolyn left Trumbull and moved to Alfred, Maine. This move was predicated on their love of nature and of collecting minerals. Walter and Carolyn started collecting minerals in the 1960's. Walter and Carolyn were a team. While they collected together Carolyn did most of the cataloging and screening while Walter did most of the identifying and mounting. Walter was a purist; he only collected minerals suitable for micromounting. Thus, Walter and Carolyn joined the Micromounters of New England in the 1980's, shortly after moving to Maine. Walter's favorite collecting places were Palermo and Mont Saint-Hilaire. Walter and Carolyn first collected Palermo in 1974 and Mont Saint-Hilaire in 1973.

As mentioned above, Walter loved nature. He was one of the most knowledgeable people I ever met as it came to plants and animals, especially birds. During spring mating season Walt could whistle in many different species of male birds who would come looking for a competing male. Besides mineral collecting Walter loved fly fishing, but as fishing conditions changed, mineral collecting became his main hobby. Walter also enjoyed gardening with Carolyn.

Some people felt Walter was reserved and even aloof. Not so, Walter was not comfortable in a crowd. Walt was best when he was one on one with another person or when he and Carolyn were with another couple. For family, and those friends who truly knew him, Walt will always be missed.

Gene Bearss, Sanford, Maine



Dick Stenberg and Jim Parella



May 2004 Meeting

Bob Janules Display of Conway Granite Minerals

MAY 15, 2004 MAY REUNION MEETING AT THE ELKS HALL, HUDSON, MA

The May 2004 Reunion Meeting was a great success. I feel sure every one of the 41 members present (out of membership of fewer than 90) had an excellent time. If anyone went home empty-handed, it certainly wasn't the fault of the numerous people who donated specimens to the Give-a-way and Sales Tables.

It was so nice to have Edna Lerer (and her dish of candy) back with us, and she and Hal Herard did a spectacular job setting up the Sales Table. The Silent Auction Table was organized by Jim Cahoon and maintained by Bob Wilken. It was such a relief that Margaret Stewart had recovered from her very prolonged bronchial cough. Good to have both Margaret and John back at the Registration Table where they welcomed people as they came in. Thanks to Gene Bearss, Mike Swanson, Bob Wilken, Bob Janules, Hal Herard, Jim Warner, Jim Parella, George and Doug Rambo, as well as Betty Sevens, Phyllis Leighton, Gordon Jackson and Pat for getting there early and set up the room for 9:00am. There was a lot to do, moving the tables and chairs close to the electric outlet, organizing the tables, and trying to black-out the windows for the slide program. It was so nice to see Dick Stenberg, Elaine Sole, Angie Teixeira, Mike Kieron, and Vera Fogg. We miss seeing them more often. Happily the caterer arrived early, too, with coffee already made so that the snack table could be arranged right off. The caterer also provided drinks at mid-morning which on such a warm day was greatly appreciated.

Brisk selling at the Sales Table continued through the morning. Thanks to all the many people who had contributed including the Cares, Bob Janules, and Gene Bearss, and many, many others. The Give-a-way Table was very busy. I noticed the Rambos had donated some interesting minerals mounted in those attractive plastic boxes. Other people had mounted specimens on cards for easy inspection: some were even mounted in plastic boxes. After a busy morning everyone was ready for the excellent catered lunch that appeared promptly at noon. Most everyone was pleased with the choice of foods.

After lunch Gene introduced the speaker, Bob Janules, who spoke on The Minerals of the Conway Granite. He had set up a handsome display case of some of the minerals from the locales where he has collected. We, therefore, had an opportunity to see many of minerals "in person". After his excellent presentation Pat Barker thanked him and Mike Swanson, our bulletin editor, for publishing Bob's articles in the Club bulletin and for Bob's pictures in color over the Internet.

Toward the end of the day, the Silent Auction was closed, and people collected their treasures. Pat was especially pleased to discover a moving bubble in a quartz specimen from Lunenburg, MA that she had purchased at the Silent Auction. Gene Bearss and Inge Burggraf Jewell had given outstanding specimens for door prizes. Marilyn Dodge had donated an attractive poster of gold pictures, and Steve Cares had donated a microscope for the raffle! All these prizes were eagerly snapped up by the lucky winners.

Special thanks to Hal Herard who donated \$50 to the MMNE as part of his proceeds from making and selling specimen cabinets.

Welcome to new member Carlos Gristani who joined at the meeting. (12 Jambard Rd., Hollis, NH 03049, phone: (603) 465-6292, and e-mail address: carlosg@charter.net.)

Submitted by Pat Barker, Secretary

Treasurers Report for the May 2004 Meeting – submitted by Anna Wilken

Income

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| 41 Members | \$845.00 |
| 1 new member stayed only 3 hours | 5.00 |
| Silent Auction | 174.50 |
| Sales Table | 670.50 |
| Raffle | 66.00 |

Expenses

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| Hudson Lodge of Elks | \$350.00 |
| Mary's Catering, 42 meals | 554.40 |
| Rental of Projector Screen | 17.25 |
| 60 Booklets, printing | <u>58.80</u> |
| NET | \$789.60 |

MISCELLANEOUS WEBSITES OF POSSIBLE INTEREST

Georgia Mineral Society

www.gamineral.org.start

Fairly extensive site with lots of info and some nice pictures

Microbrush, superfine – tiny tufted brush that can remove dust specs from micros (?static electricity)

www.microbrush.com

Microbrush Corp., 1376 Cheyenne Ave., Grafton, WI 53024

Obtain from Lee Valley Tools – www.leevalley.com/home/main/asp

1-800-871-8158

Package of 10

BOXES

Althor Products

www.thomasregister.com/olc/althor/

1-800-688-2693

MINERAL IDENTIFICATION SOFTWARE

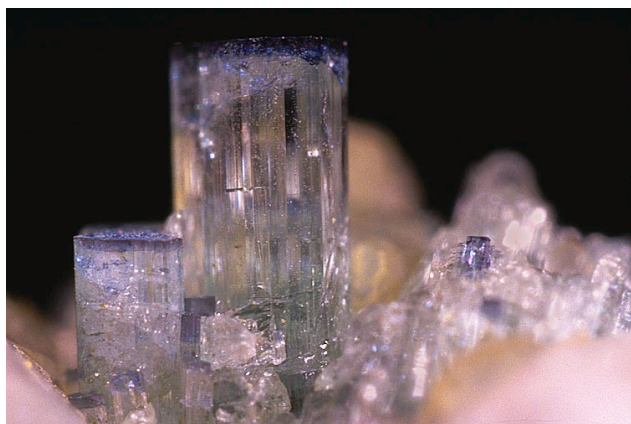
MinIdent-Win

<http://www.micronex.ca/index.php?idx=101>

Shercon

<http://www.shercon.com>

Good source for tiny colored arrows and 1/4" colored dots.



Left: Beryl

Right: Prehnite

Photographs courtesy of Scott Whittemore
The photographs were done using a bellows.



CONWAY GRANITE MINERALS

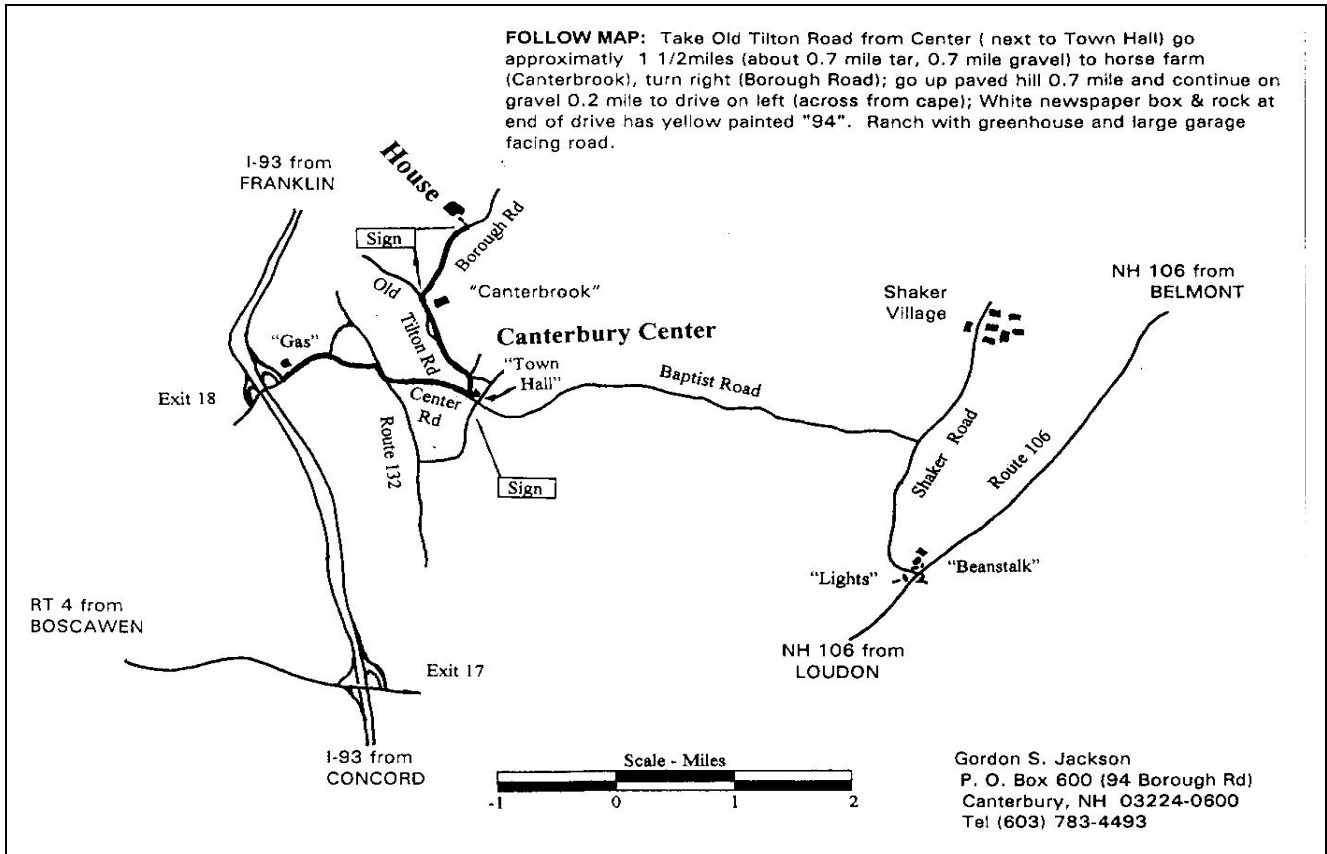
Top left: Monazite

Top right: Beryl

Left: Bertrandite

Bottom left: Amethyst
(This is not a micromount)

Photographs by Bob Janules



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