



# MICROMOUNTERS OF NEW ENGLAND

The MMNE was organized on November 5, 1966 for the purpose of promoting the study of minerals that require a microscope.

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Dues are \$6.00 per year and  
are due on January 1st,  
payable to the Treasurer

Contributions of news items  
for the Bulletin are welcome  
and should be sent to the  
Editor.

This bulletin may be quoted if  
credit is given. Club address  
is c/o Editor.

## NEXT MONTH

There will be no meeting of the  
MMNE in December. The next  
meeting will be Sunday, January  
12, 1992, at Boston University.

November 1991

Newsletter #154

Our next regular meeting of the MMNE will be Saturday, November 16, 1991 at the Auburn Public Library. This meeting will coincide with the Worcester Club show, which is held down the street from the library at the Yankee Drummer Inn.

President Ralph Carr will present a slide program focusing on New England Minerals (with emphasis on Rhode Island and micromounts).

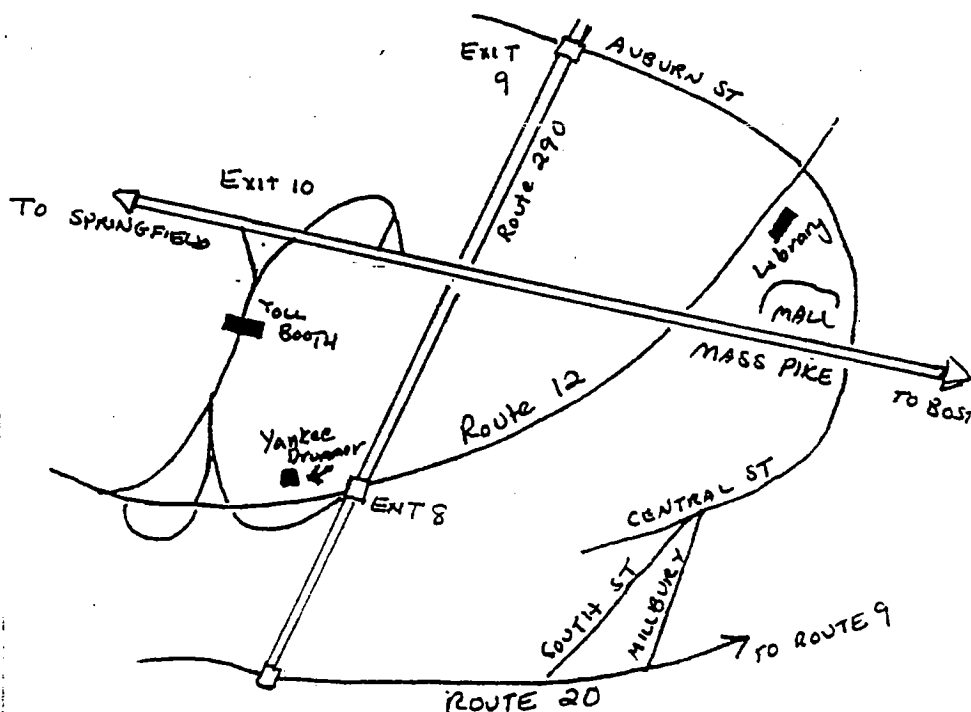
### Congratulations!

Those who were at the Foggs' already know that member Angie Teixeira received a first place award at the Eastern Federation Meeting in Tampa, Florida, (September 1991) for article on "Bowenite -- The Rhode Island State Mineral", which first appeared in the Program Book for last May's Northeast Meeting. Congratulations for the award and for the excellent article.

We've recently learned that at the March 1991 meeting of the Monmouth (NJ) Mineral and Gem Club, our MMNE member John Ebner received the "Golden Microscope" for his contributions to micromounting.

November is our last regular meeting until next year. Dues are due in January. However, Janet Cares will be accepting dues from anyone who would like to pay at the November meeting.

(Editor's note: Sorry this bulletin is a little shorter than normal, but I'm in the process of changing software packages, and my trying to learn to duplicate what I do from one to another takes a little time.)



## Microtips from Neal Yedlin

The following useful tips were gleaned from old issues of Rocks and Minerals. They appeared in the late Neal Yedlin's column, "The Micromounter".

To protect fragile crystals when sawing or breaking a specimen, pour concentrated, warm, clear gelatin into the bug and let set until firm. This will absorb shocks inherent in breaking. If sawing, do not let coolant get warm. After working, remove gelatin by soaking or rinsing in hot water. (May, 1963)

On lettering boxes: Reader reports using acetate ink on clear box top, which etches the printing permanently into the plastic. (Sept./Oct. 1962) White ink may be used on black boxes (? , 1965)

## FYI

Steve Cares would like to give notice that after the next Northeast Meeting (May 9, 1992), he will no longer be responsible for giveaways. For some years, he and Janet were actively collecting in New England, Canada, and the Black Hills, and they accumulated a good supply of material to draw from. Today their collecting activity has slowed down, and without the stockpile from which to draw not "throwaways", but specimens already broken down and ready to mount in members' collections. Steve has assumed his job voluntarily and unofficially, but feels that now is the time to step down, and he wants to give plenty of notice so that other arrangements can be made.

We would be glad to hear from any volunteers(s) who feel that they could take over Steve's job. An alternative would be a complete change in the conduct of the meetings. Perhaps members would prefer to have workshops devoted to particular phases of micromounting such as specific minerals for localities, techniques in specimen preparation, mounting or recognition. There are many possibilities, and member input is encouraged. Try to think about it so that we can have some good discussions about it at a future meeting.

## About the Eastern Federation

(Note: Many members may want to know a little bit more about the organization to which we belong.)

The only Federation to include "Lapidary" in its name, the Eastern Federation covers the states from Maine to Florida. After Harry Woodruff of Washington D.C., attended the 1948 AFMS convention in Denver, he decided to start an Eastern Federation and joining the four existing Federations in the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies. The first meeting was at the Washington School of Gemology, attended by delegates from the Mineralogical Society of Washington, D.C., the Lapidary Club of Washington, D.C., and the Gem Cutters Guild of Baltimore, Maryland. These founder clubs were joined the following year by charter members Newark Mineralogical Society, Mineral Division of the Rochester Academy of Science, Miami Mineral and Gem Club, New Jersey Mineralogical Society (Paterson), Oxford Mineral and Gem Society (Maine), Newark Lapidary Society, and the Queens Mineralogical Society (New York). The Eastern Federation joined the AFMS at the National Show in Sacramento.

## DEDICATED TO SERVICE

For better service to members, the Federation is divided into eight regions, each with a vice president to help the clubs of a particular area. The regional vice presidents are on the Executive Committee of the Federation. This has turned out to be a strong program.

One of the special activities of the Federation is a series of workshops at Wildacres, a mountaintop retreat in North Carolina. When Henry Bonar was president of Eastern, the Blumenthals of Charlotte, founders of Wildacres, invited the Federation to hold a workshop. That first workshop on exhibiting and judging grew into annual workshops with classes in gem cutting, carving, faceting, micromounting, crystallography, and just about everything else connected with the hobby. This low-cost mountaintop learning experience is still available to all Federation members.

## SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Eastern club member Bram Terrill developed a program called "Each One Teach One". Bram felt that if each Federation member would teach even one person the basics of the earth science hobby, the future of the hobby and earth science education would be insured. Evidently, AFMS agreed, for it later adopted the program for its own use.

The Federation has an active junior program. In 1984, Lillian Turner, an Eastern Federation club member announced a \$500 a year award for AFMS junior. Lillian was also the successful chairman for the Mineral Heritage stamps.

Another valuable service of Eastern is their insurance program, which is a complete general liability policy covering all club functions of participating clubs.

Eastern publishes a widely read and well edited newsletter, as well as an annual directory. They have a very active Bulletin Aids Committee. Their official magazine is called Rocks and Minerals, the oldest magazine in this field.

Other Eastern committees correspond to AFMS committees; among them are safety, education, uniform rules, slide programs, conservation, and scholarship committees. Eastern participates in all activities of AFMS, and Eastern and AFMS past president Ken Zahn was influential in alerting the Federations to legislative activities affecting the hobby. Richard Burnham of Eastern was a founder of the Scholarship Foundation, and the endowment funds of AFMS and Regionals were the idea of Eastern Federation members Morris and Hazel Radcliff.

The Eastern Federation currently has 157+ member clubs consisting of a total number of over 10,000 individuals. The Eastern Federation has shown steady growth in numbers and services to members, and has displayed great enthusiasm for the hobby.

--Adapted from an article in Lapidary Journal, December, 1987, and distributed through Federation mailing.