



# 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. 241

November 2002

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### Next Meeting

Saturday  
November 16  
Chelmsford, MA  
Public Library  
Doors open at 10AM  
*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

## ATTENTION

### MEETING TIME AND PLACE CHANGE

The time and place for the November meeting have been changed. The Burlington Library is not available because of repairs to the meeting room. The meeting will be held at the Chelmsford, MA Public Library on Saturday, November 16. Doors open at 10AM.

## IN MEMORIAM

Julia Fielding, wife of Herb

Julia Clark, wife of the late Jim

Ted Stanescki, husband of Ilene

Les Hitchings, husband of Marge  
(See memorial on page 2)

Condolences from the MMNE family.

## IN MEMORIAM

I am sad to say that the MMNE has lost one of its members. Ted Stanescki passed away on August 22<sup>nd</sup>. He will be sadly missed by all. I personally considered Ted as one of my friends and so did many other people. We had a lot of great times together collecting and mounting minerals. He was a wonderful man, husband and father. I loved to hear him whistle while he worked on an outcrop looking for anything that was out of the ordinary. He was a man full of life and always brought a smile to anyone that he talked or joked with. On behalf of the membership we send our condolences to his widow, Ilene Stanescki.

Brian Porter

## Micromounters of New England Summer and Early Autumn 2002

The summer of 2002 was a busy one for the Micromounters of New England despite the miserable dryness and intense heat.

Many MMNE members made the trip to Mont St.-Hilaire, Quebec in May, July and September.

Some extensive excavating by Bob Whitmore at Palermo #1 attracted several of our members. Dana Jewell took the honors at the Sunapee Show with a decidedly non-micro specimen of blue apatite (3 inches across) that he and Inge discovered dump digging. Like, totally amazing.

On July 20<sup>th</sup> nineteen members of our club gathered at Pam and Gordon Jackson's lovely home in Canterbury, NH. Despite a very warm day, we all enjoyed the cool comfortable setting in their shaded barn. It was delightful getting caught up on all our friends' doings while we enjoyed the delicious potluck lunch. Many giveaways were available that day. Vera Fogg had brought a flat of Forrest Fogg's micros. Gene Bearss and Pat Barker contributed specimens from the collection of Gene Mechler. Inge and Dana Jewell donated items from their spring cleaning, and our host had some interesting things he had collected this year.

We certainly appreciated Pam and Gordon's hospitality and enjoyed the guided tours of the house and garden given by their daughter, Jennifer, who was home briefly before she started her teaching profession.

Unfortunately there was a sad note that day when Herb Fielding arrived to tell us that Julie was in the Lakes Regional Hospital and not expected to live much longer. She passed away two weeks later. Our deepest sympathy to Herb.

Dozens of Micromounters showed up at the East Coast Gem and Mineral Show in Springfield on August 10<sup>th</sup> despite the 90-degree temps.

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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) (cf <<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 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  
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### CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

#### November 2002

- 1-3 - MM Society of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History Symposium. 1 Wade Oval, University Circle, Cleveland, OH. Contact: Richard Green, 1745 13th St., Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44223, (330) 929-2395, jgreen2@neo.rr.com
- 2/3 - Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show. Stamford Mineralogical Society. Rippowam Center, 381 High Ridge Road, Stamford, CT. Contact: Kevin O'Donnell at (203) 261-6395
- 16 - MMNE meeting. Chelmsford Public Library, Chelmsford, MA.
- 15-17 - Annual Gem and Mineral Show and Sale. Montreal Gem and Mineral Club, 2002 Hippodrome de Montreal, Montreal, Quebec.  
<http://montrealgemmineralclub.ca>
- 23 - CMMA fall workshop. Travelodge, Burlington, ON.
- 23 - Jewelry, Gem and Mineral Show. Worcester Mineral Club, 10 - 5. National Guard Armory, 700 Lincoln St., Worcester, MA. I-290, Exit 22.

### ATTENTION

A membership application form is enclosed. Please fill it out and return it to the membership chairperson with your dues.

Brian Porter  
 355 Walsh Ave.  
 Newington, CT 06111

Dues are due on or before January 15, 2003. Your last copy of the *Newsletter* will be the January 2003 issue if dues are not received by January 15, 2003.

### MMNE Member to Join Micromounter's Hall of Fame in 2003

Doug Rambo

Congratulations to MMNE member Gene Bearss of Sanford, Maine on his upcoming induction into the Micromounter's Hall of Fame (MMHoF) in September 2003. The announcement was made officially at the Paul Desautels Micromount Symposium, which was sponsored by the Baltimore (MD) Mineralogical Symposium on September 13-15, 2002. Gene is entering the MMHoF under the status of "Modern" Micromounter (post 1939 activity).

It was a great honor for my dad, George, and I to submit Gene Bearss for consideration to the MMHoF Selection Committee in April of 2002. Initially, we had hoped to get the nomination in 2001, but when I had contacted MMHoF member Quintin Wight for information on the protocol for doing so, the deadline for nominations was just hours away and not feasible for 2001 consideration.

Many people contributed information that was used to compile the letter for Gene's nomination. Among them were Gene's long-time collecting partner Art Smith of Houston, TX, who provided us with some detailed information of Gene's accomplishments; Pat Barker and Norm Biggart, who provided an outstanding chronology of Gene's years in MMNE and many of his talks to other clubs in New England; Bob Janules, who supplied excellent material for some of Gene's published works; and Dr. Robert Jenkins, a Delaware member of the Franklin-Ogdenburg Mineral Society, who was able to supply us with article references and copies of articles that Gene had contributed to regarding collecting finds at Franklin, New Jersey.

Congratulations Gene and thanks for all of the work you have done in micro-mineralogy over the years.

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## IN MEMORIAM

Les Hitchings, a long-time friend and member of the MMNE and NSRMC, passed away on June 20, 2002. All who knew him miss him very much. His two sons, with their children and grand-children, came down from Alaska just before he died. Marge, his wife, went back with them to Alaska for a month or so. She attended our meeting at Vera Fogg's in October, along with Herb Fielding, who lost his wife Julia on August 4, 2002.

One day, years ago, Johnny (Stewart) was driving along Rte. 1 in Saugus, and was stopped by an accident two cars ahead. He got out and saw a girl pinned under her car, with one leg in the door. Just then someone passed him, going to help. It was Les. He was a fireman, but off duty at the time. Les was a Saugus Fireman, as was his father and his grand-father, a family tradition.

Les was introduced to mineralogy by one of his sons, and became an avid collector. He had several cases of absolutely beautiful minerals, and began collecting micromounts in later years. Mont St. Hilaire was one of his favorite collecting areas, and he and Marge joined us there many times, with Palmer Sevrens and Betty, Jim Clark, Herb Fielding and Pat Barker.

Submitted by Margaret Stewart

*Continued from previous page - MMHoF*

We would like to invite as many members as possible of the Micromounters of New England to join us the weekend of September 12-14, 2003 in Elkridge, MD to celebrate the induction of Gene Bearss into the Micromounter's Hall of Fame. Give us a call (1-302-798-4163) or an e-mail (drambo@wserve.com), and I can provide you with the contact information for the symposium.

(Ed.) Previous members of the MMNE who have been inducted into the MMHoF

Gunnar Bjareby,  
Bill Henderson  
Marcelle Weber  
Steve and Janet Cares,  
John Ebner.

The late Hatfield Goudey, a long time micromount collector and dealer will also be inducted in the Old Timer category.

## CONTINUING THE REVISIONS OF THE BY-LAWS

MMNE members submitted the following comments and suggestions regarding the proposed changes which are included here with comments from the By-Laws Committee (BLC).

Article 2. Section 2. Insert "Candidates for" at the beginning of the second sentence. (BLC) Agree.

Article 2. Section 4. Comment: "What real good is it?" regarding honorary membership. (BLC) The Committee's thoughts are that it gives the MMNE a way to honor or say thank you to people who might not be micromounters but who have been staunch supporters of the club over the years. This group might include museum directors, professional mineralogists, and dealers among others. As opposed to "Life" membership which includes a subscription to the Newsletter, honorary membership does not include a Newsletter.

Article 2. Section 5. "If you don't go (to the meetings), why are you getting the notice (newsletter) and voting". (Ed.) My thought are that there are a few people who have been members for many years, whose service to the club has been above and beyond simple membership activities, who deserve to be continued as members even if they no longer can participate.

Article 2. Section 5. Insert "in" before "arrears is last sentence. (BLC) Agree.

Article 2. Section 7. Comment: "Arrears too?" (BLC). As far as the committee is concerned the answer is "no", because as soon as they are in arrears they are not dues paying members.

Article 2. Section 9. Comment: "The time for this may be too short?" (BLC). There is no fixed time period for the process as the section is written.

Article 2. Section 10. Comment: "Something about the process of the renewal hearings should be stated." (BLC). This is not an easy issue to deal with, but the MMNE needs a mechanism for dealing with problem members both for expulsion and to deny renewal of membership. Perhaps we should follow the format of Article 2. Section 9, i.e., The Executive Committee may, at a regular meeting, recommend that the membership deny a request for membership renewal to any member who breaks the AFMS or EFMLS code of ethics or whose attitude or conduct is considered extremely detrimental to the welfare of the MMNE. Such a determination may be made only after the member has been given an opportunity to show cause why the denial of membership is not justified. A quorum of the Executive Committee must meet with the member prior to the regular meeting at which the denial is discussed and voted on. All members of the Executive

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Committee must be notified by the corresponding secretary of the planned meeting with the member. *(Comments please. This is new territory for the by-laws!!!)*

Article 3. Section 6. Typo present and corrected.

Please read Article 9 dealing with the disposal of property should the MMNE disband. Our only asserts are whatever cash exists in the treasury at the time of disbanding, but there should be some defined place for this to go, preferable to a non-profit site, so that the Feds do not get it.

Articles 5 - 10 are listed with recommended changes starting on page 4. Please read these over and make any comments you wish. If the membership can iron out any major objections through the medium of the Newsletter, passing the revised set of by-laws at the annual April business meeting will be very short and quick.

#### PLEASE READ THIS

Most MMNE members are members of other clubs, however I am not. Therefore, I do not have easy access to other clubs' by-laws. We, the By-laws Committee, needs input from the membership regarding some particularly sticky issues in the revision of our by-laws, particularly Article 2, sections 9 and 10, and Article 9. If anyone can give us suggestions, or even copies of by-laws from other clubs, this process would be much easier for all of us.

Thank you. Mike Swanson, Chair, By-Laws Committee

Send comments to me either by e-mail or snail mail. Both addresses are on the masthead.

The following is the second (and last) part of the proposed revisions to the by-laws.

#### ARTICLE 5

##### Meetings and Elections

Section 1. Meetings shall be held at such time and place as arranged by the President or member designated by the President to perform this function. [may be designated by the Program Committee.]

*Comment: do we want to specify regular meetings in September, October, November, January, February, March and April with a symposium in May - and note possible additional meetings during the summer months?*

*Continued next column*

Section 2. The annual business meeting for the election of officers and the submission of reports of officers and committees shall be held during the regular meeting in April or at any other time agreed to by a two-thirds vote of a quorum of the members. [members only shall be held prior to the regular meeting in the spring. Annual reports of officers and committees shall be given at this time.]

Section 3. A slate of officers [and one director] shall be published in the Newsletter and presented one meeting prior to the annual business meeting. Additional nominations from the floor may be made at this time followed by the oral acceptance of the nominees. [A ballot] An absentee ballot shall be made from these names and mailed via the Newsletter to every member to be returned to the recording secretary prior to the annual business meeting. Ballots both absentee and those cast at the annual business meeting, will be counted by a committee of two members who will report the results of the voting at the [annual] meeting.

Section 4. 10% of the members, but not less than 10 members, shall form a quorum for the purpose of elections or the transaction of business.

#### Article 6

##### Dues

Section 1. [The annual dues shall be four dollars, payable in advance.] Dues shall be payable on or before January 1st of each calendar year and shall not be prorated. The amount of the dues shall be adequate for the necessary expenses of the MMNE as demonstrated by the Treasurer's report, and shall be approved by a majority vote of the members when a quorum is present. Any change in the amount of dues will become effective on January 1 of the next calendar year.

Section 2. A member shall be considered in arrears if dues for the current year are not paid prior to [the annual meeting.] January 1st of the current year. There will be a 30 day grace period during which the member will not be relieved of duties as an officer or committee member, but the member will be considered to be in arrears during that time. No Newsletter will be sent to any member in arrears. All members will receive the January Newsletter since it will be mailed prior to January 1st.

Section 3. Renewal notices will be sent out with the November Newsletter with a reminder in the January Newsletter.

*Continued page 5, second column*

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September 21 found eleven MMNE members at the annual Saco Valley Swap, Sale and Auction Day. An unusually large selection of micros was available for give-aways and for sale. The MMNE table was a popular gathering place for mineral identification and conversation. Gene Bearss was auctioneer and, as usual, his amusing high-pressured pitch brought some spirited bidding from the audience. Pete Samuelson (samuelsonite) was present to sign his new book and chat about recent finds.

On October 5th the MMNE had their usual room set aside at the Sunapee Show. Eight members were present and took turns showing interested and curious show attendees what micromounts are all about. This is the chance to meet the general public, and there were plenty of give-aways for everyone. It would have been nice to have more members to help out. Maybe next year? It was nice to have Jim Grandy present after his successful operations.

A week later 13 members gathered at Vera Fogg's to enjoy her superlative hospitality. Despite the rainy day we enjoyed the great potluck meal and a table loaded with take-away minicrystals including three flats of Forrest's micros. We welcomed Marge Hitchings back from a month in Alaska where her sons and their families live. We certainly miss Les!

President Jim Cahoon called a short business meeting to order at 1:00PM. First order of business was to tell everyone who didn't already know that Gene Bearss had been elected to the Micromounters Hall of Fame at the Baltimore Symposium. Doug Rambo wrote him up and several Hall of Famers and Club Members had written enthusiastic endorsements. Gene was elected in the first year he was nominated which is apparently unusual. Gene is our 7<sup>th</sup> Club Member so honored.

Jim Cahoon talked a little about the next May Reunion Meeting. He said that he had already paid an outstanding bill of \$150.00 to the Moose Lodge, and that he would book the Lodge for the next ten years. Members present voted to have the May Meeting on Saturdays (rather than Sundays) on the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend in May. Everyone also agreed that we should continue with the same excellent caterer.

Mike Swanson published the first segment of the proposed by-law changes in the September Bulletin. He asked members to please respond to these suggestions. He thanked Norm Biggart for his input. Mike also discussed possible changes in the duties of the Club officers.

Vera Fogg was thanked for her most generous hospitality, and she was presented with a small thank-you gift.

Submitted by Pat Barker, Corresponding Secretary

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## ARTICLE 7: Committees

Section 1. All standing committees shall be appointed by the Executive [Board] Committee. Standing committees are program, nominating, and membership.

Section 2. The number of members appointed to any standing committee shall be left to the discretion of the Executive [Board] Committee.

Section 3. Ad hoc committees may be created and members appointed by the president as necessary with simple majority approval of the Executive Committee.

Section 4. (This was moved from Article 5, Officers and their Duties) An audit [ing] committee consisting of two members appointed by the Executive [Board] Committee shall examine the books [previous] prior to the annual meeting.

## ARTICLE 8: Amendments

Section 1. All amendments to, substitutes for, or alterations of the foregoing by-laws shall be proposed in writing and mailed to the membership via the *Newsletter* and discussed at the following meeting [and absentee ballots mailed to the membership for voting]. Amendments to, substitutes for, or alterations of the by-laws shall be voted on at the annual meeting. Absentee ballots shall be mailed to the active membership via the *Newsletter* at least 30 days prior to the annual meeting. No absentee ballot shall be counted unless it is received by the corresponding secretary prior to the annual meeting. It shall require a simple majority vote of the members, including absentee ballots, or a two-thirds vote of all cast ballots if a majority of the members have not voted, to amend the by-laws.

Section 2. It shall require a two-thirds vote of [a mail ballot] the members to change the name of [this Club] the MMNE or to affiliate with other clubs or association. Any such proposed change shall be voted on only at the annual meeting. The active membership must be informed by mail of the proposed changes at least 30 days prior to the annual meeting and be supplied with an absentee ballot at that time.

## ARTICLE 9: Disposal of MMNE Property and Assets.

If the MMNE disbands, all property and assets shall be turned over to ???

## ARTICLE 10: Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in Roberts Rules of Order, Revised shall govern [this Club] the MMNE in all cases to which they are applicable and are not inconsistent with these by-laws.