

# Rockin' Around

A publication of the Maine Mineralogical & Geological Society

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What happened here? Find out on pages 6-7.

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Visit [www.mainemineralclub.org](http://www.mainemineralclub.org) often  
for up-to-date MMGS information and announcements

## MMGS Officers

### President

Paul Ledman  
[cape1863@yahoo.com](mailto:cape1863@yahoo.com)

### Vice President

Mark Libbey 333-1644  
[mimark@earthlink.net](mailto:mimark@earthlink.net)

### Treasurer (Acting)

Larry Turcotte (603) 522-6686  
[mmgsmembership@gmail.com](mailto:mmgsmembership@gmail.com)

### Asst. Treasurer for Membership

Larry Turcotte (603) 522-6686  
[mmgsmembership@gmail.com](mailto:mmgsmembership@gmail.com)

### Secretary

Clay Carkin 729-2244  
[clayton\\_carkin\\_4535@Comcast.net](mailto:clayton_carkin_4535@Comcast.net)

### Newsletter Editor

Ed Clopton 854-1219  
[edclop@myfairpoint.net](mailto:edclop@myfairpoint.net)

### Silent Auctions

(vacant)

### Program Director

Clay Carkin 729-5976  
[clayton\\_carkin\\_4535@Comcast.net](mailto:clayton_carkin_4535@Comcast.net)

### Field Trip Director

Wanda Turcotte (603) 522-6686  
[mmgsdiginfo@gmail.com](mailto:mmgsdiginfo@gmail.com)

### Trustees (year term ends)

Ed Clopton ('17) 854-1219  
[edclop@myfairpoint.net](mailto:edclop@myfairpoint.net)

Mary Fraser ('18) 781-4553  
[rfraser@maine.rr.com](mailto:rfraser@maine.rr.com)

Kermit Smyth ('17) 725-8420  
[kcsmaine@netscape.net](mailto:kcsmaine@netscape.net)

Robbie Walker ('18)  
[rockinhound1@gmail.com](mailto:rockinhound1@gmail.com)

### Junior Program

Roland Charles  
[roland\\_charlie\\_charles@hotmail.com](mailto:roland_charlie_charles@hotmail.com)

### Webmaster

Patrick Bigos 363-8918  
[webmaster@mainemineralclub.org](mailto:webmaster@mainemineralclub.org)

### Mineral Show Director

Steve Bridge 893-7953  
[sbridge@sicme.edu](mailto:sbridge@sicme.edu)

### Ham & Weeks Director

Jim Powers 978-372-3349  
[jimvytetepowers@comcast.net](mailto:jimvytetepowers@comcast.net)

### Ham & Weeks Assistant

John Clevesy 978-373-1037  
[jaclevesy@comcast.net](mailto:jaclevesy@comcast.net)

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 Please submit newsletter items to the Editor on or before the last day of the month for the next month's issue.

## President's Message

Paul Ledman, MMGS President

It's dig season. It's also tick season, so be careful on all your outdoor adventures. If you choose not to be careful, more information on tick-borne diseases can be found on Maine Med's website...  
<http://www.mmcri.org/home/webSubContent.php?list=webcontentlive&id=107&catID=4&subCatID=19>.

Seriously, be careful. Wanda has put together quite a field trip schedule and we want people to have a good and healthy experience.

On a more uplifting note, our new website is almost ready to hit the big time. The week's delay in getting it up and visible is due to the fact that we have to wait for the transfer of our account by the ISP provider. As soon as they are done, we'll be able to go live. This marks another major evolution for the club. Until now, volunteers (meaning Patrick Bigos) have handled the website. With so much more going on with the club, it was too much for one person to take on so we decided to use a professional hosting service. Many thanks to Roy Clark at Pine Point Creative for making this an easy process.

We're also getting ready for our June 17<sup>th</sup> auction that will feature a variety of material from the Scholl collection and from other collections as well. Stay tuned and mark your calendar for this event. See you then.

### *Looking for something in a previous issue?*

MMGS newsletters from ~~2007~~ now 1992! though the current issue are available online.

Download a copy from the MMGS website [here](#).



### Join Our Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/mainemineralclub/>

## **Know someone who wants to join MMGS?**

*Download a membership application for them*

*from the MMGS website, [www.mainemineralclub.org](http://www.mainemineralclub.org).*

## Maine Mineralogical & Geological Society

### Upcoming Events



<u>Date</u>	<u>Meeting Description</u>
May 20	Carl Francis, A Bicentennial Look at Greenwood Mines and Mining
<i>All Summer: Field Trip Season!</i>	
September 16	Steve Bridge, "Unearthed! Remarkable Predecessors and Storied Artifacts of the Saint Josph's College Campus"

Meetings are held on the third Saturday of the month, except second Saturday in April due to our annual show.

We meet on the University of Southern Maine campus in Portland. Members and nonmembers alike are welcome at all of the evening's activities. The business meeting is from 5:00-6:30; Juniors meet 5:30-6:30; a potluck supper (please bring a dish to share) from 6:30-7:00; general meeting and program at 7:00. Bring an item for Show & Tell and get a specimen to take home!

Meeting Location: Room 1 (ground floor) Payson Smith Hall on the USM campus, Portland. Park on Falmouth Street; in Lot P10 off Falmouth Street; or in Lot P4 off Brighton Avenue.

## May Program: A Bicentennial Look at Greenwood Mines and Mining

Last year the town of Greenwood celebrated its bicentennial. Dr. Carl Francis, retired curator of the Harvard Mineral Museum and currently on the staff of the Maine Mineral and Gem Museum in Bethel, presented "A Bicentennial Look at Greenwood Mines and Mining" as part of the celebration. Carl brings that presentation to Portland on May 20 for the May meeting of MMGS.

Notes on Carl's talk last July, provided by Clay Carkin: Carl's talk featured noteworthy Greenwood miners like Frank and Stan Perham, Nestor Tamminen, George (Shavey) Noyes, Tim Heath, Ray Sprague, and Tony Wielkiewicz. Greenwood miners worked over a dozen feldspar and mica mines during the heyday of Greenwood mining, including the Emmons, Harvard, Hayes, Morgan pit, Tamminen, Tiger Bill, Waisanen, and Witt Hill.

Program photos included mines, miners, and select mineral specimens from the Greenwood mines. Amazingly MMGM has over 1000 mineral specimens from the Greenwood mines. Some noteworthy specimens from Greenwood in the MMGM collection are a quartz pseudomorph from Harvard, fluorapatite from the Morgan Pit, hydroxylherderite groups from the Morgan Pit, a lithiophilite eye from the Nestor Tamminen collection, and a blue and purple fluorapatite mined by Frank Perham at Tamminen! The program was attended by over 30 people.

Dr. Carl A. Francis earned his Bachelors degree in geology from Amherst College in 1971 and his Master's and Doctorate from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. His professional interests include mineralogy and the geology of pegmatites. Carl retired in 2011 after thirty-four years as curator of the Harvard University Mineralogical Museum. He also taught museum studies in the Harvard Extension School for twenty years. Carl received the Carnegie Mineralogical Award for 1992 from the Hillman Foundation of the Carnegie Museum of Natural History. He is a Fellow of the Mineralogical Society of America and served as chairman of the International Mineralogical Association Commission on Museums. Carl has been a consulting editor of "Rocks & Minerals" since 1980 and has written numerous articles for the magazine.



**Junior MMGS Club Meeting Announcement!**  
**Do you like rocks, fossils, crystals and volcanoes? If you answered YES then you have to check out what is coming to the Portland area for youths!**

**WHAT: Junior Maine Mineralogical & Geological Society club meetings**

**WHEN: Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month (2nd Saturday in April), 5:30 to 6:30 PM**

**WHERE: Room 41 Payson Smith Hall (Ground Floor), Falmouth Street, University of Southern Maine**

**WHO: Any child (ages 6 to 18) and their family are welcome to come learn about rocks, fossils, volcanoes, crystals and more!**

**WHY: MMGS is looking to involve the youths of the Southern Maine area. We have Rockhounding knowledge to share!**



**May topic: Maps, Map Reading, and Different Kinds of Maps!**

*For More Information:*

- Visit [www.mainemineralclub.org](http://www.mainemineralclub.org)
- Visit our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/mainemineralclub/timeline](https://www.facebook.com/mainemineralclub/timeline)

**To contact the junior group, e-mail [Roland Charles \(click here\)](#) or call him at (207) 751-4825.**

## Secretary's Minutes

MAINE MINERALOGICAL AND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY APRIL 15 , 2017 MEETING  
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MAINE PAYSON SMITH HALL ROOM #1

The business meeting started at 5:25 p.m. with Steve Bridge, Paul Ledman, Patrick Bigos, Larry Turcotte, Kermit Smyth, Mark Libbey, Mary Fraser, Ed Clopton, Robbie Walker and Wanda Turcotte

The Secretary and Treasurer's reports were accepted and approved as read.

Steve reported on the show, comparing this year's net with the past two years, and we broke our attendance and income records, IN SPITE OF THE SNOW! He reviewed his list of which aspects of our efforts were the most successful, along with areas in which there is room for improvement. He solicited feedback and suggestions from those present, and the room gave him a well-earned round of applause for another successful show!

Among those changes which were considered most beneficial were the use of lunch coupons instead of pizza delivery, a new and improved vendor check-in process, improved flow at admissions, and the addition of more vendors on the upper running track, along with the super grand prize offering. Some things that didn't work out so well were the weather, obviously, and the overall performance of the kids corner. Two problems there were determined to be that the advertising to the schools wasn't timed optimally, and that some of the 'treasure' material set aside from the Scholl collection proved to be less than suitable for their purposes, so they ran out. The Silent Auction also ran out of material, as demand was greater than anticipated.

One major issue was a general shortage of volunteers. Steve requested that stipends be approved for the hiring of 3 more students next year to help out, and provide relief, and the motion for this was seconded and heartily approved. Also approved was a remedial 1/2 stipend for a student who helped out this year, at half pay.

Paul reported on several pending issues:

The size of the meeting room is no longer adequate most of the time, so he has looked into the availability of other rooms on campus. Of the possibilities presented by USM, moving down the hall to Rm. 41 seems most feasible.

Ed was thanked for another great newsletter, and attendees were encouraged to submit articles.

We are still in need of a Treasurer. Paul suggested that it might be time to look into hiring a bookkeeper to take care of the more mundane aspects of the job. It was pointed out that a professional would likely have better knowledge of laws pertaining to non-profits, so that this could work to our advantage, as well as helping the Treasurer's job be less daunting.

The membership and field trip reports were given, then the business meeting was adjourned for the potluck dinner at 6:20 p.m.

After the sumptuous potluck supper, at the general meeting, several new members introduced themselves, and many interesting specimens were passed around and admired.

The learning activity at the Junior Program was about Sand, its origins and compositions from different places, which those who attended enjoyed immensely.

The program at the general meeting was presented by Trustee Mary Fraser, who had put together a game of Mineral Jeopardy. Everyone had a great time puzzling over the questions to the answers, and some of the 1000-pointers had everyone stumped!!

Respectfully submitted,  
Wanda Turcotte

### **Your Newsletter wants Your Photos!**

Rocks—Geological Scenery—Lapidary Creations—Museums—Field Trips

**OR** Write a note about somewhere you have been, a rock show or museum you have visited, an earth science news item, a favorite specimen or locality

## MMGS Members Spruce Up Auburn City Mineral Collection

By Ed Clopton



The city of Auburn has a small collection of mineral specimens, mostly from various quarries on Mt. Apatite, that has been alternately displayed and stored for many years. The collection has moved from place to place during its lifetime, moving most recently four years ago from downstairs in City Hall to its present location near the parking skywalk ramp on the second floor.

During that latest move the display case was jostled around and the labels and specimens became mixed up. City Councilor Leroy Walker had tried ever since, without success, to get someone to straighten out the display.

Finally he turned to Mamie Anthoine Ney, Director of the Auburn Public Library, for advice and she in turn contacted MMGS President Paul Ledman. At the March MMGS meeting, Paul asked whether someone wanted to take on the task, and I volunteered.

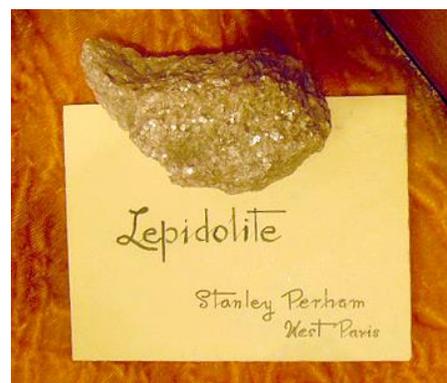
After a number of e-mails back and forth with Director Ney, on May 4 Bethany and I headed for Auburn to work on the display. Since our contact had been with the library director, we assumed that's where the display was located and turned up there at the appointed time. After a lot of head-scratching and several phone calls by two helpful library staffers we made our way to City Hall where Councilor Walker was waiting for us.

The display is housed in a free-standing custom cabinet with solid sides and a flat glass top, about three feet by one and a half feet by one foot tall. The collection consists of about 25 modest reference specimens of several minerals characteristic of Mt. Apatite and the surrounding area: graphic granite, white and smoky quartz, pink and green tourmaline, muscovite, aquamarine beryl, cookeite, quartz, feldspar, and lepidolite. The collection also includes scapolite and a tiny cluster of brown grossular garnets (Pitts-Tenney, Minot) and two relative rarities from Mt. Apatite: a pair of acorn-sized fragments of bright pink cesium-bearing beryl (Keith mine) and a small specimen with a good cleavage of dark red rhodochrosite (Pulsifer mine).



Each specimen is labeled with a large card elegantly hand-lettered with the name, in some cases the locality, and in most cases the name of the donor, the majority being credited to Mr. and Mrs. Dudy Groves. Dudy (Irving) Groves mined extensively on Mt. Apatite (Pulsifer quarry, Dionne extension, Hole in the Ground). He and his wife Mary operated Poland Mining Camps together for many years, and Mary has continued since Dudy's

death. (Thank you to Duane Leavitt for info on the Groveses.) A few specimens are credited to "Perham", and one specifically to Stanley Perham. Spelling and terminology on the labels are quaint: crystal is spelled "crystle" both times it is used, and a crystal of muscovite edged with lavender lepidolite is called "Zonite Mica". Graphic granite is



labeled “Graphite Granite”, perhaps derived from the old 19th-century French term *granite graphite*. (The mineral graphite is not involved, but both *graphic* and the mineral name *graphite* have the same Greek root meaning “writing”.)

After removing the specimens and labels from the case and sweeping out the dust and crumbs we laid everything out on a table. A few specimens required minor cleaning. We began by matching up the most obvious specimen-label pairs—there was only one specimen of smoky quartz, for example—and then narrowing down the others by a process of elimination. In the case of the three labels for lepidolite and “purple mica”, discoloration on one label showed the approximate size and shape of the specimen that had rested on it for years. Another label, for purple apatite, had no specimen to match it. (If something were going to be pilfered from a collection of Auburn minerals, that would be a likely candidate.)

Once the specimens were paired up with their labels—which was our original assignment—we arranged them in the case, providing discreet styrofoam props for a few to show them to better advantage and fashioning a base for one quartz specimen (the “coated crystal”) that just could not be left lying on its side. An informal “jiggle test” satisfied us that the specimens should stay in their places if the case is bumped. (Being carried back downstairs would be another matter, however.)

Councilor Walker checked on our progress off and on during the two hours we spent on the project, proudly declaring to several City colleagues who passed by that the mineral display was finally getting straightened out, clearly something he has been concerned about. He is unsure about the origin of the collection, but he told us that

it already existed when he first came to work for Auburn’s Parks & Recreation Department in 1971. I believe the style of the lettering on the labels could date to the 1930s or 1940s, and the simple style of the cabinet and its bright orange crushed velvet background cloth could date from 1960, plus or minus five or ten years. With its original labels the collection remains a “period piece” to remind visitors to Auburn City Hall of the mineral heritage of the region.

Does anyone have more information about Auburn’s City Mineral Collection?



## MMGS to Swap “Rock Boxes” with California Club



The Ventura Gem & Mineral Society in Ventura, California (just up the coast from Los Angeles) has offered to swap “rock boxes” with other clubs as a way to share specimens from their own areas and receive specimens from others. The boxes have 15-18 compartments for golfball-sized specimens. The specimens should all be worthwhile pieces that represent the club’s home territory and should be properly identified and labeled as to species and locality. VGMS promises to send “really nice pieces . . . there are no ugly/scrap ‘leaverites’ in these boxes!” The

April VGMS newsletter reports that so far the club has exchanged rock boxes with clubs in Alabama, Arkansas, New York, Scotland, and Australia.

The MMGS board has chosen to participate, with Ed Clopton coordinating. In the coming weeks we will assemble a box to send to Ventura from material we have on hand from the Scholl collection, Gene Bearss donations, and items donated by individual members.

What will MMGS do with the specimens we receive? VGMS adds some of the specimens they receive to museum-style displays in their clubhouse and makes others available in their silent auctions. VGMS is hosting the American Federation of Mineral Societies annual convention this summer, and they plan to mount a display about the project featuring the boxes they receive. MMGS doesn't have a clubhouse, but we may offer the specimens we receive at our silent auction and/or at a future live auction, depending on the nature of the material. We might also offer the entire set as a single auction lot or add the specimens to our Show & Tell door prize selection.



## Meteorites and the Origin of the Solar System

A Third Thursday program at the Maine Mineral and Gem Museum

Article and photos by Clay Carkin

The Maine Mineral and Gem Museum in Bethel, Maine has an ongoing education program, open to the public, on the third Thursday of every month at 3:00 pm. Their April 20th program was slightly different. It was held at 7:00 pm preceded by an one-hour reception at 6:00 pm

As a first for the Maine Mineral and Gem Museum, this program featured the well known geophysicist Dr. Henning Haack who spoke about the origins of the solar system. Dr. Haack has an amazing background in geophysics, astronomy, and meteorites. He also searches for meteorites in Antarctica, Cape York, and Greenland. He had an asteroid named in his honor called Asteroid 7005-Henning Haack.



Dr. Henning Haack

Prior to Dr. Haack's program attendees were invited to look at some of the museum's own meteorite collection while sampling wine, cheese, crackers, fruit, and juices. The museum was overflowing with visitors curious to see displays of museum quality meteorites from around the world.

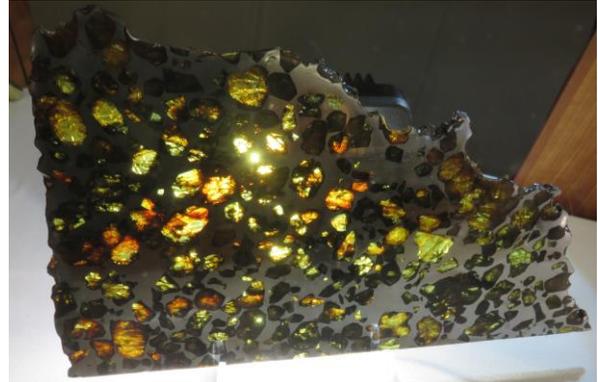
Promptly at 7:00 pm Barbara Barrett introduced Dr. Haack, a tall, thin and bearded Dane with a grand accent. Dr. Haack began his program by connecting to the audience with an meteor experience that Mainers related to. It was the May 17, 2016 fireball seen heading toward the Rangeley area. Meteorites likely fell in the surrounding area and a search for the meteorite was conducted by MMGM volunteers, but nothing was found. Fascinating to see again was the fireball video footage of the meteor ripping down through the atmosphere over New England states.

Continuing with the theme of observations of meteorite falls Dr. Haack talked about and told stories of falls in Denmark. The first find was by a lady

living near Copenhagen that heard on the evening news that a meteorite had fallen. Amazingly, the next morning she went out of her house and found the meteorite by her front step! Another incident was of a masonry worker in Copenhagen who heard what he thought was a car crash in the night. He found 12 pounds of meteorites in his front yard the next morning.

Another amazing meteorite incident Dr. Haack related to was called the “Melina story”. A 6 year old girl named Melina Jensen in Herlev, Denmark was told by her parents to look for freshly fallen meteorites from the same event. During recess at her school Melina thought she would go looking for them on her school’s athletic field. She found a meteorite and brought it to her teacher. Her teacher told her “Its not a meteorite!” Melina in the meantime had fun writing on the tar with the specimen and then brought it home. Her parents informed her that it was indeed a meteorite!!!!

Meteorites document the formation of our solar system. Meteorites are approximately 35 million years older than the earth. Amazingly meteorites contain all of the elements on the Periodic Table. There are several varieties of meteorites depending on their source. Most meteorites come from the asteroid belt. Iron meteorites are fragments of the core of an asteroid. Pallasite meteorites (containing metal and olivine) come from the core or mantle of an asteroid. Stony meteorites come from the crust of asteroids. There are meteorites called Eucrites that specifically come from the asteroid Vesta. Did you know there are even meteorites from the moon and Mars? Martian meteorites were once basalts that came from volcanoes on Mars.



A slice of a pallasite meteorite from the collection of the Maine Mineral and Gem Museum, backlit to highlight its transparent olivine inclusions.

In terms of a Meteorite Beauty Contest, Pallasites win hands-down! Pallasites have metal and olivine in their composition. When cut in thin slices light can pass through them giving the observer an impression of a yellow/green stained glass window! Pallasite meteorites were once part of the mantle of an asteroid. Imilac, Chile is one of the best sources for beautiful Pallasite meteorites.

Seeing a meteor (aka falling star) enter our atmosphere can be a life-changing experience. Finding a meteorite even tops seeing one! Meteorites begin their fall to earth at 479,000 feet above the earth’s surface thanks to earth’s pull of gravity. At 393,000 feet the meteor begins to melt. When they reach 328,000 they start to boil (5,000 - 18,000 degrees F.). It is at this altitude we see a flash of light. By 246,000 feet most space rocks burn up, but larger rocks make it to earth. Meteors are cruising at 25,000-160,000 mph through our atmosphere. If a meteor survives falling through the atmosphere and lands on the earth’s surface it is called a meteorite. Grape-size or larger meteors falling through the atmosphere may create a huge burst of light (almost like an explosion) which is called a fireball.



MMGS member and Trustee Robbie Walker is excited to hold a genuine piece of the moon!

So in conclusion, I have answered my own question or curiosity of why Dr. Haack was smiling from the beginning to the end of his presentation. Meteors and meteorites bring out the joy in humankind and Dr. Haack is no exception!

For more about upcoming events at the Maine Mineral and Gem Museum, visit its website, [www.mainemineralmuseum.org](http://www.mainemineralmuseum.org).

## Help Wanted!

**Treasurer:** MMGS needs a treasurer to look after our receipts, payments, and assets. The club's finances are in good order, ready for a qualified person to step in and take over. Contact Paul if you or someone you know is interested.

**Public Relations:** Contact local newspapers and community groups every month so that our meetings are publicized better. Contact Paul Ledman if you're willing to send out a few emails and make a few phone calls every month.

**Silent Auction for monthly club meetings:** For years this was a popular feature of our meetings, and we want to keep it going. If you can help, contact Paul.

We frequently have **opportunities for outreach** to groups, classes, fairs, and other events around the state. Contact Paul if you are interested.

### **YOUR MMGS**

## **MEMBER BENEFITS**

<b>Meetings and Programs</b>	We meet monthly September through May for a program on a topic of interest to members as well as a business meeting, potluck supper, and informal socializing.
<b>Field Trips</b>	MMGS arranges a series of collecting field trips each summer and fall to well-known localities around Maine, many of which are not open to the general public. Field trips are open only to current MMGS members since the club's liability insurance covers only current members.
<b>Ham &amp; Weeks mine</b>	MMGS leases the Ham & Weeks pegmatite mine in East Wakefield, New Hampshire as a collecting site for members. Current MMGS Members are welcome to collect at the mine at any time. The club periodically "turns over" the dump and occasionally blasts new rock to expose fresh material.
<b>Stereo Microscope</b>	MMGS has a stereo microscope that a member can pick up at a meeting, use at home all month, and return at the next meeting.
<b>UV light</b>	Our powerful Way Too Cool ultraviolet light (short-, mid-, and long-wave UV) and viewing box are available at every regular meeting so members (and visitors!) can check specimens for fluorescence.
<b>Study Grants</b>	MMGS members may apply for grants of up to \$500 to support projects that advance the club's mission "to promote an interest in all aspects of mineralogy and geology" ( <i>MMGS Bylaws</i> ). Possible projects include (but are not limited to) professional mineral analysis, attendance at a scientific conference, specimen photography, and preparation of educational materials. Projects must benefit the club as a whole in some way, and grant recipients are expected to make a presentation to the club about their projects upon completion.
<b>Scholarships</b>	Two scholarships of up to \$500 are available to MMGS members each year to assist with the cost of attending the annual Maine Pegmatite Workshop ("Peg Camp"), the EFMLS WildAcres Retreat in North Carolina, and similar programs.
<b>Annual Show</b>	Our annual Gem, Mineral, and Jewelry Show at St. Joseph's College in Standish every April is the largest in Maine. It features dealers from throughout the Northeast and draws visitors from across Maine and surrounding states. The show is an opportunity to add to your collection and also to display your own specimens, lapidary work, educational exhibits, etc. in the display area. Members who work a certain number of hours at the show receive show spending money (Saturday) or a free year's membership in MMGS (Sunday).

## Upcoming Mineral Shows & Events

*Compiled from sources believed to be reliable. Confirm event information before traveling!*

**May 12-May 14, Newry, Maine:** 5th Annual New England Mineral Conference, Grand Summit Resort Hotel and Conference Center at Sunday River. The conference includes lectures, mineral exhibits, mineral dealers, auctions, a banquet, and a field trip. The NEMC also sponsors *Education Day* and a *Poster Contest* for students in grades 3-12. [www.nemineralconference.org](http://www.nemineralconference.org), [www.nemineraleducation.org](http://www.nemineraleducation.org).

**May 13, Fairless Hills, Pennsylvania:** Annual show, The Rock & Mineral Club of Lower Bucks County, Christ United Methodist Church, 501 Wistar Road. Brian Schwab, (215)-788-3993, [holschw2@aol.com](mailto:holschw2@aol.com).

**June 17, Chelmsford, Massachusetts:** Micromounters of New England's 2017 Gene Bearss Annual Symposium, Trinity Lutheran Church, 170 Old Westford Road. Scott Dion, 603/670-8999, or [www.micromountersofnewengland.org](http://www.micromountersofnewengland.org).

**July 8-9, Bethel, Maine:** Oxford County Mineral and Gem Association's 56th Annual Western Maine Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show, Telstar High School, Route 26. [ocmgassoc.blogspot.com/p/gem-show](http://ocmgassoc.blogspot.com/p/gem-show).

**July 29-30, South Burlington, Vermont:** Burlington Gem & Mineral Club's 38th Annual Champlain Valley Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Show, Frederick H. Tuttle Middle School, 500 Dorset Street. [www.burlingtongemandmineralclub.org](http://www.burlingtongemandmineralclub.org).

**July 29-30, Mattituck, New York:** The Long Island Mineral & Geology Society's 34th Annual Mineral Show, Mattituck High School, 15125 Main Road (Rte 25A). Karen Lotito, (631)-722-5453, [www.limineralandgeology.com](http://www.limineralandgeology.com).

**August 11-13, West Springfield, Massachusetts:** East Coast Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Show, Eastern States Exposition Center, 1305 Memorial Avenue. [www.mzexpos.com/east-coast-show](http://www.mzexpos.com/east-coast-show).

**August 26-27, Canton, New York:** St. Lawrence County Rock & Mineral Club annual show, Canton Pavillon, 90 Lincoln Street. William deLorraine, (315)-287-4652, [wdellie@gmail.com](mailto:wdellie@gmail.com), [www.stlawrencecountymineralclub.org](http://www.stlawrencecountymineralclub.org).

## 5th Annual New England Mineral Conference

The *5th Annual New England Mineral Conference (NEMC)* will be held Friday, May 12 through Sunday, May 14, 2017 at the Grand Summit Resort Hotel and Conference Center at Sunday River, Newry, Maine. Presentations on New England and non-New England topics are scheduled on Friday evening and during the day on Saturday. In addition, there will be a Friday evening banquet, mineral displays and exhibits, and voice and silent auctions in support of the conference. Dealers can be visited from Friday afternoon through Saturday evening (except during the presentations). The weekend culminates with a field trip on Sunday.

An important feature of the conference for students in grades 3-12 is *Education Day*, which occurs on Friday, May 12. On *Education Day*, students can visit over 20 different stations to learn about minerals and geology. There is also a *Poster Contest* which gives the opportunity for students to submit a research project about anything relating to the rocks and minerals of New England. All submitted posters will be displayed throughout the conference.

For further information about the conference please visit: [www.nemineralconference.org](http://www.nemineralconference.org)

For information about *Education Day/Poster Contest* please visit: [www.nemineraleducation.org](http://www.nemineraleducation.org)

The *New England Mineral Conference* is a division of the non-profit *New England Mineral Association*.

**Q:** *What chord sounded when a piano fell down the mine shaft?*

**A:** *A-flat minor!*