

WASHINGTON COUNTY ROCKHOUNDS COMMUNIQUE



APRIL 2019

ISSUE 1

About the Washington County Gem and Mineral Society (WCGMS)

WCGMS is the home of the Washington County Rockhounds. WCGMS meets the first Saturday of every month except July and September. The meeting begins at 10:30 AM. The goal of WCGMS is to provide information and education about earth science and the rockhounding hobby. To find out more about WCGMS please visit its Facebook page, Washington County Gem and Mineral Society – Maine. WCGMS is a 501(c)(3) and a Member of the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical & Lapidary Societies, Inc.

WCGMS Officers

President – Theresa Peek

Vice President – Nancy Tintle

Secretary – Jean Lombardi

Treasurer – Chris Peek

WCGMS Contact Information

WashingtonCountyGMS@gmail.com

207-417-0524

Rockhound Communiqué Monthly Features

President's Message

Greetings, and thank you for reading our first newsletter!

Our first newsletter includes the standard rock and mineral newsletter type stuff – my message, meeting minutes, etc. I've also "borrowed" a few articles from two of our fellow Maine clubs. I want to make specific mention of one of them. The Maine Mineralogical & Geological Society has a great youth, or junior's program. This is something I hope we can develop as well. So, starting with the April meeting, we will have a youth rock box as well. If you have something you are willing to part with, let's start stuffing the box!

On a more personal note, Chris and I had an interesting winter. We left Maine shortly after our January meeting and headed to Texas. We first hit the rock and mineral show in Fredericksburg Texas. After visiting family, we then headed to Tucson for the largest rock and mineral show in the world. This year Tucson had 48 venues. We got there on Monday and left on Saturday and managed to get to four of the 48 venues. We returned to Texas and hit three more shows there – Clear Lake (outside of Houston), Robstown (outside of Corpus Christi), and San Antonio. After some more time visiting family, we left Texas and headed back north...by the way of another show, this one in Chambersburg Pennsylvania. We didn't do any rock collecting on our trip, but we did do a fair amount of buying in Tucson. So much so that with our purchases and with some stuff we had left in Texas from our move, we had to buy a small trainer.

Here's to a nice spring so we can do some collecting!

Theresa

Meeting Minutes

Date: January 5, 2019

Location: Machias Bay Area Chamber of Commerce

Presenter: Chris Peek

Topic: Confessions of a Rockhound

Number in Attendance: 9 (all members)

New Business:

Applications and Application Amendments have been submitted. So far, we have not heard back from the Eastern Federation.

There is no scheduled speaker for February, and the weather can be tricky. Therefore, it was voted that the February 2nd meeting would be cancelled.

The March 2nd meeting, weather permitting, will be located at the Washington County Community College. It may be an informal show and sharing, or there may be a presenter.

We are always looking for presenters, please let Theresa know if you are interested in presenting or if you know of someone who might be interested in presenting.

Ideas were presented to hold meetings in the field. Jeff Orchard presented several ideas for field meetings, some of these included Big Hill Mine in Pembroke and glacial deposits in Meddybemps.

Theresa is in the process of putting together an Electronic Newsletter. Please send any articles or pictures you would like included in the newsletter to Theresa.

Presentation: Chris Peek, along with Theresa, shared many of their rockhounding experiences – the good, the bad, and the ugly! Chris showed several fossils from Texas, along with other rocks that he and Theresa collected or acquired over the years.

Announcements:

New England Mineral Conference in Newry, Maine May 10th through 12th. Registering for the conference allows you to attend the field trip on Sunday the 12th.

Poland Springs Mining Camp offers pegmatite mineral mining packages. Chris and Theresa have plans to do some collecting there in June.

Show and Tell: Some of the members brought mineral, rock, and fossil samples, all from Washington County.

Door Prize:

This was the first meeting that included a door prize. We would like to include a door prize at all upcoming meetings. Rock related door prize donations are welcome; if you have something to donate, please bring it to a meeting.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer will provide a report at our May meeting and in the next Communiqué.

News and Information

Exciting news! Our application to be part of the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical & Lapidary Societies, Inc. has been approved and the IRS has approved our 501(c)(3) status. More information about both will be provided at our May meeting and in the next Communiqué

Upcoming Meetings

May 4th – Machias Chamber of Commerce – 10:30 to noon – Mineral Collecting in Maine

Our speaker is Brett Leighton of Leighton & Sons and of the Maine Tourmaline Guys. Brett has been around the rock and mineral world for years and has been lucky enough to collect at many of the mines in Maine. Brett will tell us about collecting in Maine and show us pictures and finds from his mining experiences.

June 1st – Washington County Community College – 10:30 to noon – Topic and presenter TBD – if you are interested in presenting, please email washingtoncountygms@gmail.com

July – no meeting

Rockhound Communiqué Special Features

From the Maine Mineralogical & Geological Society's November 2018 Newsletter



Not good enough to keep, but too good to toss!

Ever have that dilemma? This is a neat rock—interesting enough to make me pick it up and look at it, but gee, I already have a couple like it Do I really want to carry it home? But if I leave it behind, will anybody else notice it and enjoy finding it?

MMGS Field Trip Director Wanda Turcotte has “been there, done that” and has found a way to deal with those borderline specimens on club field trips. The box pictured above was placed in a prominent place during the Emmons quarry field trip in October to collect material suitable for MMGS’s educational outreach activities. Now a neat rock that you find but that doesn’t necessarily fill a spot in your collection can find a home with a youngster who will also think it’s pretty darned cool.

From the Penobscot Mineral & Lapidary Club's February 2019 Bulletin

7th Annual New England Mineral Conference

by Jan Morrison - January 25, 2019

The 7th Annual New England Mineral Conference (NEMC) will be held Friday, May 10 through Sun., May 12, 2018 at the Grand Summit Resort Hotel and Conference Center at Sunday River, Newry, Maine. Presentations on both New England and non-New England topics are scheduled on Friday evening and during the day on Saturday. In addition, there is a Friday evening banquet, mineral displays and exhibits, and both a voice and a silent auction in support of the conference. Dealers can be visited by registrants from Friday afternoon through Saturday evening (except during the presentations). The weekend culminates with a field trip on Sunday.

An exciting feature of the conference is Education Day a fee-free event for students in grades 3-12, which occurs on Friday, May 10. On Education Day students can visit over 20 different stations to learn about minerals and geology. There is also a juried Poster Contest which gives the opportunity for students to submit a research project about anything relating to the rocks and minerals of New England. Winning posters in each category will be displayed throughout the conference.

For further information about the conference please visit:

<https://www.nemineral.org/2019/conference/index.html>

For information about Education Day/Poster Contest please visit:

https://www.nemineral.org/2019/education/education_day.html

The New England Mineral Conference is a division of the non-profit New England Mineral Association, a 501(c)(3) organization.



A List of Minerals to Avoid Putting in Water

by Samantha McCarty - January 5, 2019

This is a basic list of minerals you should avoid handling in water.
Always Use Precautions when handling or cleaning minerals
This is not a complete list of all minerals. Please use best judgement

Alteration	Dissolve	Rust	Toxic
Beaverite (Crumble)	Alum	Galena	Azurite (Sulfuric Acid)
Carnelian (Fracture in Salt Water)	Angelite	Hematite	Bastnaesite
Desert Rose (Fracture)	Anhydrite	Lodestone	Chalcopyrite (Sulfuric Acid)
Ferrimolybdate (Soft / Damage)	Borax	Magnetite	Coloradoite (Mercury + Tellurium)
Fossils (Soft / Damage)**	Calcite		Cerussite (Lead)
Fuchsite (Flake)	Celestite		Chalcanthite (Lead)
Guerinite (Soft / Damage)	Geyserite		Cinnabar (Mercury)
Gypsum (Soft / Damage)	Halite		Crocoite (Chromium)
Kyanite (Flake / Damage)	Hanksite		Euchroite
Lepidolite (Flake)	Labradorite		Galena (Lead)
Malachite (Break in Hot Water)	Newberyite		Granite (Radon or Uranium) **
Mica (Flake)	Selenite		Hutchinsonite (Thallium)
Moldavite (Break in Hot Water)	Suphurite		Lapis Lazuli (Pyrite Inclusions)
Muscovite (Flake)	Sylvinite		Lead
Obsidian	Ulexite		Malachite (In Rough)
Opals (If Dry Prior will Crack or Break)			Marcasite (Sulfuric Acid)
Pearls (Lose Luster)			Meteorite (Toxic Metals + Materials)**
Pumice (Soft / Damage)			Orpiment (Arsenic)
Purpurite (Sensitive)			Realgar
Sandstone (Soft / Damage)			Saleeite (Uranium)
Turquoise (Fade)			Stibnite (Lead Antimony)
Zoisite (Flake)			Torbernite (Radioactive)
			Uraninite (Radioactive)
			Uranium (Radioactive)
			Uranophane (Radioactive)
			Vanadinite (Lead)
			Wulfenite (Lead + Molybdenum)
			Zircon (Radioactive)

** = Not All , Take Precautions + Use Best Judgement

References

http://www.HealingCrystals.com/crystals_that_can_be_damaged_by_Liquids_articles_11217.htm
<http://www.InterdimensionalHealingLight.com/test.html>
<http://www.recreativeresources.com/Spiritual-Center/Crystal-caution-list.htm>
<http://www.listverse.com/2013/03/07/10-most-deadly-rocks-and-minerals/>

WASHINGTON COUNTY GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.

Membership Application for 2019

Please select one:

Individual membership (must be 18 or older) - \$12 _____

Two-person membership (one person must be 18 or older) - \$20 _____

Family membership (up to four people - one person must be 18 or older) - \$24 _____

additional people may be added for an extra \$6 per person _____

Number of additional people _____

Household Information:

Mailing Address _____

Town or City, State _____

Postal Code _____

Telephone No. _____

Member Information:

<i>First Name</i>	<i>Last Name</i>	<i>Email Address</i>	<i>Age (if under 18)</i>
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Make checks payable to: Washington County Gem and Mineral Society (WCGMS)

Mail application and dues to: WCGMS, PO Box 65, Eastport, ME 04631