



OutCroppings August 2021

www.semhc.com

Incorporated April 8, 1970

Meetings held on the second Thursday of each month at 7:30pm (excluding July and August)
in Room 130 of the Conant Science Building at Bridgewater State University,
14 Park St., Bridgewater, MA

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A Message from New President Walter Schell

Message from the Editor

WE WILL BE ONLY BE PRODUCING AN EMAIL EDITION OF THE SEMMC NEWSLETTER

Hello Everyone! This year there will be an August Issue due to the fact I am trying new things to arouse interest in the club. Please send any stories and pictures of your digging this summer and what you found, so we can show people what Rock and Mineral Collecting is all about. Also send photos of your best "finds" while a member. We can have a best of the best picture page.

Larry

Field Trip Agenda

Field collecting trips are open to SEMMC members only, as our insurance policy covers members only. Please bring your SEMMC Membership card with you.

All participants of field trips are required to contact trip leaders at least 48 hours in advance of trip date.

Schedules may change. Please contact the host to confirm date, time and details.

Some trips may be eliminated, added, or altered depending on weather and other circumstances.

However, please remember we do have a club claim in Fonda, NY and it is open year-round, weather permitting.

Next Outing Scheduled

**Aug. 15 Lunenburg, MA
Trip Leader Suzanne Wall**

**Aug. ? Hewitt Gem Mine
Trip Leader Suzanne Wall**

As the collecting season proceeds please keep an eye out for up coming field trips. As always, we care about your safety first so with that being said; ENJOY!

The American Federation of Mineralogical Societies "Code of Ethics"

- ◆ I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without permission from the owner.
- ◆ I will keep informed on all laws, regulations or rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.
- ◆ I will, to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.
- ◆ I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.
- ◆ I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind such as fences, signs, buildings, etc.
- ◆ I will leave all gates as found.
- ◆ I will build fires only in designated or safe places and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.
- ◆ I will discard no burning material - matches, cigarettes, etc.
- ◆ I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.
- ◆ I will not contaminate wells, creeks, or other water supplies.
- ◆ I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can

reasonably use.

- ◆ I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.
- ◆ I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.
- ◆ I will cooperate with field-trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.
- ◆ I will report to my club or federation officers, Bureau of Land Management or other authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.
- ◆ I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.
- ◆ I will observe the "Golden Rule", will use Good Outdoor Manners and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and Public Image of Rockhounds everywhere.

SAFETY BULLETIN



Safety Tip = All geological sites present hazards of varying degrees and further hazardous situations can develop during a visit. Falling rock is a particular hazard and it should not be assumed that any rock face in an active, inactive, abandoned or historic quarry, or forming a natural cliff, is safe. Vehicle movements present a major hazard at active quarries.



**PREVENT
LYME
DISEASE!**

- WEAR REPELLENT
- CHECK FOR TICKS DAILY
- SHOWER SOON AFTER BEING OUTDOORS
- CALL YOUR DOCTOR IF YOU GET A FEVER OR RASH

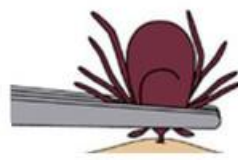
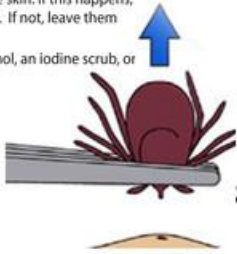


For more information:
www.cdc.gov



How to remove a tick


1. If a tick is attached to you, use fine-tipped tweezers to grasp the tick at the surface of your skin.
2. Pull the tick straight up and out. Don't twist or jerk the tick—this can cause the mouth parts to break off and stay in the skin. If this happens, remove the mouth parts with tweezers if you can. If not, leave them alone and let your skin heal.
3. Clean the bite and your hands with rubbing alcohol, an iodine scrub, or soap and water.

4. You may get a small bump or redness that goes away in 1-2 days, like a mosquito bite. This is not a sign that you have Lyme disease.

Note: Do not put hot matches, nail polish, or petroleum jelly on the tick to try to make it pull away from your skin.

National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases
Division of Vector Borne Diseases | Bacterial Diseases Branch



Mineral of the Month

When traveling around the country
And you want a place to prospect,
Go to
www.mindat.org



We like minerals too!

Member's Corner

Dues are due by August 1, 2021

Sonora Caverns, Texas



[Trip Video](#)

Mary and I headed to Texas for our granddaughter's graduation from the University of Texas at Austin. We had planned on seeing Dallas on the trip but Mother Nature had other ideas for us. Strong thunder storms and flooding in the Dallas area caused us to turn west, so west we went! While we were on the road out of Marfa, we saw Sonora Caverns on our map. What a find! Do you like calcite? Everywhere you looked you were amazed at what you could see. Caves ran off in all directions and when we were at the "deepest" level (157 ft.) for the hiking trail, there were areas that led downward from there. There wasn't a piece of stone in the whole system. Temperature and humidity can affect hikers so listen to your guide on what to wear. There are also other rules that must be strictly followed, such as DO NOT TOUCH ANYTHING! Texas Law. It is over a mile for the complete trip and so well worth the effort!

History

The Mayfield family began its ranching operations in Sonora Texas around the turn of the 20th Century. An opening in the rocks was found in the southern part of the ranch when a dog chased a raccoon into this 20-inch opening. Locals began exploring the cave sometime in the early 20's. They could go back about 500 feet from the entrance to a fifty-foot deep pit. This section of the Cave was eventually known as Mayfield Cave. Labor day weekend, 1955, the discovery of a lifetime took place on the Mayfield Ranch near the town of Sonora, Texas. Two weeks prior to that weekend, three speleologists, Bob Crisman, Bart Crisman and James Estes from Abilene, Texas were exploring another well-known cave in Sutton County. They exited the cave around three p.m. and headed to the Mayfield Ranch to take a look at a cave known as Mayfield Cave. They entered the cave and eventually made their way to a large room with a deep pit blocking further progress. High on the other side of this pit were seemingly inaccessible passages that continued, but pressed for time, they left the cave.

This story was told to other cavers. Labor day weekend, Danny Sheffield, Jack Allen, Claude Head and Jack Prince crossed a narrow, sloping ledge, high on top of the right hand side of the big pit, and reached the passages on the other side. Stories of bizarre formations and untold beauty began circulating among members of the caving community.

Jack Burch, a caver from Oklahoma saw the cavern for the first time in 1956. He began to see human impact in the caverns in places where there shouldn't have been any damage. His vision was to develop the cavern to stop this

destruction and preserve the cavern for future generations. Development started in 1959. The Caverns of Sonora was opened to the public July 16, 1960.

www.cavernsofsonora.com

Best of the Best!

Got a good picture of your best Find?



Beryl, Aquamarine, CT.

Massachusetts State Rock

Pudding Stone



The Roxbury Puddingstone, sometimes called Roxbury Conglomerate, became the state rock or rock emblem of the Commonwealth on May 23, 1983.

Roxbury Puddingstone is a puddingstone or conglomerate stone that forms the bedrock underlying most of Roxbury, Massachusetts, and now part of the City of Boston. Puddingstone (aka pudding stone, plum pudding stone) is a common name used mainly in England for a conglomerate consisting of well-rounded clasts whose colors are in such marked contrast with the abundant fine-grained matrix or cement that the rock suggests an old fashioned plum pudding. A prime example is the lower Eocene Hertfordshire Puddingstone in England, composed of black or brown flint pebbles cemented by white silica with or without brown iron hydroxide. Roxbury puddingstone did not originate in the Boston area. No one knows for sure where this rock formed; it has some affinities with rocks found in West Africa, and also shares traits with some South American rocks. Geologists do agree that the Roxbury Conglomerate was deposited between 600 million and 570 million years ago somewhere in the Southern Hemisphere. Plate tectonics carried it into North America about 200 million years later.

Information on Roxbury Conglomerate was taken from internet sources such as but not limited to Wikipedia, Mindat.org, Nature, google search engine. Compiled by the Editor.

[Full Description](#)

This monument to the 20th Massachusetts Infantry, located at the Gettysburg Battlefield, is made from Roxbury Conglomerate.



Keep an eye out while walking through Boston's Fenway area and you may stumble across other monuments made of Pudding Stone!





Keep an eye out for others!



An exposed ledge of Roxbury Conglomerate

Savin Hill, Boston

Photo by Editor

Massachusetts State Mineral

Babingtonite



About Babingtonite

Babingtonite is a calcium iron manganese inosilicate mineral with the formula $\text{Ca}_2(\text{Fe},\text{Mn})\text{FeSi}_5\text{O}_{14}(\text{OH})$. It is unusual in that iron(III) completely replaces the aluminium so typical of silicate minerals. It is a very dark green to black translucent (in thin crystals or splinters) mineral crystallizing in the triclinic system with typically radial short prismatic clusters and drusy coatings. It occurs with zeolite minerals in cavities in volcanic rocks. Babingtonite contains both iron(II) and iron(III) and shows weak magnetism. It has a Mohs hardness of 5.5 to 6 and a specific gravity of 3.3.

It was first described in 1824 from samples from Arendal, Aust-Agder, Norway (which is its type locality) and was named after the Irish physician and mineralogist William Babington (1757–1833).

It is the official mineral (mineral emblem) of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The first published report of babingtonite in Massachusetts was by Francis Alger in 1844, who credited Thomas Nuttall with its discovery in Charlestown (now Somerville). The location was the Granite Street quarry, formerly known as the Milk Row quarry.

Named after Dr. William Babington physician and mineralogist, one of the founders of the Geological Society of London, who during his life gained the respect and admiration of all with whom he had come in contact, both by his skill as a physician and by the elevation of his character. Born in Ireland in 1756, at the age of twenty-one he became an assistant surgeon at the Haslar Naval Hospital, and four years later was appointed apothecary to Guy's Hospital, London, of which for some years he was also the physician. Though he made no notable contribution to science, he wrote several acceptable works on chemistry and mineralogy and it was at his house that in 1807 the gathering took place which led to the formation of the Geological Society, the first president of which was that “staunch geological Tory” George Bellas Greenough. Babington himself served as president in 1822 of the Society he had assisted to found. He was also one of the founders of the Hunterian Society. Described by Geikie as “a kindly, bland and courteous veteran”, one of his last public actions **before he became a victim to an epidemic of influenza** was to preside over the Priestley centenary celebrations. It was said that history does not recall a physician more loved and respected than Babington, and it was this wide-spread admiration for his character which led to the erection of his statue in St. Paul's Cathedral. The statue is a noble piece of work by Behnes. At his death, Babington was buried in St. Mary Aldermanbury in the City. He left several children and one of his daughters became the wife of Dr. Richard Bright, the discoverer of ‘Bright's disease’.

The finest quality Babingtonite in America has come from the state of Massachusetts. Although the Commonwealth is not overly blessed with mineral resources, it is one of the few locations in the world where this usually jet black material with a brilliant submetallic luster is found. The Legislature adopted Babingtonite in April of 1971 as Massachusetts' official state mineral

Information on babingtonite was taken from internet sources such as but not limited to Wikipedia, Mindat.org, Nature, google search engine. Compiled by the Editor.

Where to find Babingtonite in Massachusetts

Many quarries in Hamden and Franklin Counties contain specimens. Consult www.mindat.org for information regarding where to dig.



[Iceland Volcano](#)

Southeastern Massachusetts Mineral Club



Memberships run from August 1st to July 31

\$20.00 per Family per year Dues

“Hey, someone gave me these “Rocks”

What are they?



Come Join Us and find out!

Membership Form

Your dues help keep us going. Dues pay for the newsletter, correspondence, refreshments, speakers, and a host of other expenses. Dues are as follows:

-Individual Membership \$15.00 Yearly Dues with e-mail newsletter-

-Family Membership * \$20.00 Yearly Dues with e-mail newsletter-

*** Family Membership must list all family members as of September 1 of the membership year.**

Tear off and return with your payment made out to SEMMC, Inc.

Date _____

Name(s) _____

Children _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip code _____

Phone(s) _____

Email address _____

Southeastern Massachusetts Mineral Club

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