



Paul T. Monti

August 12, 1946 - August 26, 2022

Paul T. Monti of Raynham, formerly of Braintree, passed away peacefully at Baypointe Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Brockton on Friday, August 26th, 2022. He was 76.

Paul was born and raised in Braintree, one of thirteen children, and graduated from Braintree High School Class of 1964. As a student, he participated in Braintree's track and field and was an avid reader. After graduation, Paul attended Bridgewater State University to obtain a bachelor's degree in education. With that, Paul became a teacher at Stoughton High School teaching earth sciences. He was incredibly passionate about teaching his students about the earth and the oceans. One of his highlights each academic year was organizing a deep sea fishing field trip. It was on one of these trips that Paul caught his legendary wolf fish, which was almost as tall as himself, for which he was always proud of because of how big and rare it was.

Paul was a super proud Dad who raised his children in Raynham and remained very active in their lives; coaching everything from their soccer to basketball teams. A true lover of nature, Paul could often be found working in his garden (adorned with sunflowers, which were his favorite), fishing, and raising butterflies. He also enjoyed softball and was active at St. Ann Church in Raynham.

Paul had many passions and one was mineralogy, collecting precious stones and polishing rocks were a few of his favorite pastimes. He owned his own mine in Herkimer, New York where he spent countless hours excavating with his friends. A fine member of our Club.

On June 21, 2006 Paul's life changed in a fundamental way when his son Sergeant First Class Jared C. Monti was killed in action in Nuristan Province, Afghanistan.

Shortly after Jared's passing Paul became an advocate for gold star families and was never prouder than when Jared posthumously received The Medal of Honor at the White House from President Barack Obama. Paul's life mission after Jared passed was to make sure no soldier is forgotten. He started Operation Flags For Vets, Monti's Run, the SFC Jared C. Monti Charitable Foundation, and dedicated much of his time supporting many other organizations and giving speeches all over the country.

A loving father, brother, advocate, and teacher to all of those who had the pleasure of knowing him, Paul will be deeply missed.

Paul is predeceased by his parents, Joseph B. Monti and Mary Silverio, and his beloved son, Staff Sergeant Jared C. Monti.

Loving father of Niccole T. Monti and her husband Waldo of NC and Timothy J. Monti and his wife Jennifer of OK. Loving brother of Marianne, Frani, Matt, Marguerite, Anne, Tony, Rita, Jean, Michael, Jimmy, Patricia, and the late Joseph. Also survived by many loving nieces, nephews, relatives, and friends.

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Jimmy, Patricia, and the late Joseph. Also survived by many loving nieces, nephews, relatives, and friends.

RIP

SE Massachusetts Mineral Club



OutCroppings

September 2022

Incorporated April 8, 1970

**Meetings held on the second Thursday of each month at 7:30pm
(excluding July and August)**

**Meetings are held at the Rockland Eagles Hall
29 Park Street, Rockland, MA 02370**

Next Meeting September 8, 2022

President: Walter Schell wshell1191@gmail.com

Vice President: Sara Ostrander naturespeaks2you@gmail.com

Secretary: Melissa Claire Prario mcporario@gmail.com

Treasurer: Dr. Robert Chasen drchasen@comcast.net
Newsletter Editor: Larry Ryan zone859@verizon.net



Come digging with us!

A Message from President Walter Schell

.Greetings to all our members,

I hope you all have had a great season digging this summer. We've had a bunch of successful trips so far, with some more still to come. We are closing in on the fall and the best digging weather ahead of us, if you haven't had a chance to get out there yet now is the time.

I hope to see you all at the meeting September 8th, bring your diggings to show off, we'd love to see them. We hope to have our agenda set in place by then and are always looking for your input to make things better.

We have several members who are dealing with health issues and have not been able to join us, we want to let you know we miss you and hope you will be back with us soon!

Get well,our prayers are with you.

Your president,

Walter

A Message from the Editor

Greetings!

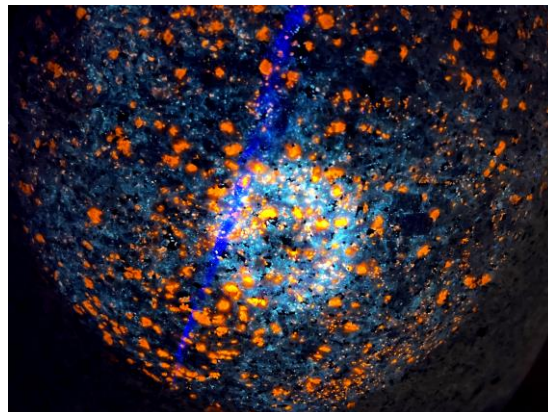
Another Great Club Summer! Digs across New England, New York, Nova Scotia and various places across the country! We are picking up new members and they are joining in the hunts. Welcome to them all! Also we have some members “under the weather” and could use some thoughts and prayers. Ask an E Board Member about them.

Larry

[SEMMC Facebook Page](#)

Keep in touch with our Facebook Page to get the sudden additions to the digging schedule!

Up Coming Digs September 23, 7PM



Fluorescent sodalite/Syenite

**Larry and Mary Leaders
Bring any UV Flashlights you have.
Beach Same as last year.**

Finding the stones is not a problem using the proper light. The best light is the **Convoy C8**. It can be purchased at www.yooperlite.com. There are others on the market to be sure, but this company started the frenzy and it comes in a few days.



**September 25
Beryl Mountain
Acworth, New Hampshire
Sara Ostrander is Lead**

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.

The Club Rules for our claim can be found on the website.



Mineral of the Month
[Herkimer Diamonds](#)



Story From American Geode!

Herkimer Diamond History and Heritage

Now the source and formation of Herkimer Diamonds is of particular interest to us here at American Geode because the Herkimer Diamond was formed in “pockets” not unlike the pockets that formed geodes. Most quartz crystals grow, over the course of millions of years attached to a matrix, attached to the surrounding rock or stone. So in those formations only one end of the quartz crystal grows to its point. With Herkimer Diamonds forming inside pockets, freed from the surrounding matrix stone, they grow points on both ends.

The Herkimer Diamond began forming nearly 500 million years ago in pockets within a sedimentary rock called Dolostone (Dolomite and Limestone). Sedimentary rock, different from its two cousins Igneous rock and Metamorphic rock, is formed by layers of mineral and organic matter under hundreds of million years of pressure. As more layers of

mineral and organic matter are deposited, this increases the pressure and weight on the lower and earlier layers of sedimentary rock below. The Dolostone covered Herkimer County during the Cambrian Age, when Herkimer County was also the bottom of the sea that spanned across North America. Now this is the part of the Herkimer Diamond formation that is similar to the way geodes are formed: organic material, plants and sea life would die and be buried under new layers of sedimentary stone. When these plants and other sea life would decompose under the rock, they release gases, and this gas is what formed the "pocket." Evidence of this organic, plant material succumbing to decomposition is clear when you see the black shiny flakes of Anthraxolite that surround or leak from these pockets. Anthraxolite is a carbon compound and by-product formed when organic material breaks down.

So as the organic material decayed and broke down it became a gas, trapped below layers of sedimentary stone. Air creates its own pressure inside a substance, so the air pressure was carving out its own cavity from the inside out. These air pockets became the pockets we rockhounds discover as we crumble, break, and peel away layers of the dolostone. Over the course of 200-250 million years the layers of sedimentary rock increased and grew, and this increased the pressure and heat on the buried dolostone. Also inside each of these air pockets were various quartz and carbon elements and other compounds "feeling the heat" from being buried below layers of sedimentary rock. Under this pressure of the sedimentary layers of rock, and the ensuing heat, the quartz and other compounds inside these pockets began to transform themselves. Finally, over the course of 300 million years, the glaciers that sat atop Herkimer County began to melt, and washed away layers of the sedimentary rock, and allowed the compounds and elements inside these pockets to cool down and then crystallize.

An important question to answer right now is “why are the Herkimer Diamonds double-terminated?” The answer is that quartz does not adhere to the dolostone, therefore the quartz trapped inside these air pockets did not attach to the surrounding matrix host stone. The process left the quartz crystals free to fully crystallize unattached and allowed both of the ends to grow into fully terminated points. Many Herkimer Diamonds are found as clusters attached to one another. They adhered to one another during their crystal growth formation, but again did not adhere to the dolostone interior of the air pocket. The value of Herkimer Diamonds is determined by size and their opacity or translucence. The larger and more translucent Herkimer Diamonds are worth more to a collector or jeweler than the smaller opaque specimens. Knowing the history and background of the Herkimer Diamond however lends a premium in our opinion when you are considering adding Herkimer Diamonds to your collection. They are not commercially mined due to various New York state laws limiting mining in the state, and most of Herkimer County is being used today by happy grazing cows, sugary apple orchards, tart cherry trees, farms of squash, cabbages and onions, and wine grapes. We have recently gained access to heretofore unmined and barren acres in the Herkimer County area on the same geologic slope and ledge as the traditional Herkimer Diamond mines.

SEMMC Herkimer Diamond Claim

Our Club owns a mine claim in Fonda, New York. Any Club member and their **FAMILY** can go and dig for diamonds year round weather permitting. **Before going there for the first time, talk to someone who has been there.** Know what tools are up there, know about the water pump. Sometimes the claim is full and needs to be pumped out.

CARRY OUT YOUR DEBRIS!

You dig it? Be responsible for your own mess. It’s hard work digging for Herks, and those that frequent the place don’t want to have to clean up what you left behind. So,

GO DIG HERKIMERS!



Photos by Renata

When traveling around the country
And you want a place to prospect,

Go to

www.mindat.org

Member's Corner

Welcome New Members!

Shirts are in!



So your choices are...

SMALL - pink with black ink OR orange with black ink

MEDIUM - pink/black OR blue/white;

LARGE - pink/black OR blue/black

X LARGE - pink/black OR blue/white

XX LARGE - blue/white







Just a few of the Summer's takings.

See You **September 8, 2022**

New Club E-Mail Address

southeastmmc@gmail.com

[SEMMC FACEBOOK PAGE](#)

Officers and E Board 2023

President

Walter Schell

Vice President

Sara Ostrander

Secretary

Melissa Claire Prario

Treasurer

Dr. Robert Chasen

Asst. Treasurer

Larry Ryan

E Board

Dan Ryan Ania Dobrolinska

Tom Carter Alynne MacLean

Steve Kimball Suzanne Wall

Southeastern Massachusetts Mineral Club



Memberships are Due in August!

Please get your payment in so we can secure our resources and generate an accurate Members List. Thank You!

\$20.00 per Family per year Dues

And for that money, you are a fully insured Club Member, access to a wealth of mineral knowledge, Club digs, are held at some of the best quarries in New England, 10 scheduled Meetings per Year, September to June where knowledge and information are exchanged freely. New members learn the What, Where, How and When. Come to the next meeting and see.

Come Join Us and find out!

Scouting for new spots

We are always looking for new areas to collect from. If you are sitting at home with nothing to do, log on and find out about the history of mining in your area. Many old and abandon quarries and mines still exist throughout our region. Also there are many “ancient” sites that hold evidence of the indigenous peoples that were living here and quite possibly Viking Settlements that were here before Columbus in 1492. Take a look and see what you can find. Send me any info you have and I will publish it so all Club Members will know.

Larry

Membership Form

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.**

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

PO Box 228

E Bridgewater MA 02333-0228