

Morse Brook Pyrite Locality, Easton NH
Tom Mortimer

After seeing a couple of pyrite specimens in the Harvard Museum in Boston, Tom Mortimer convinced Curt LaPlante to try and hunt down the site on Saturday May 2, 2008. The first problem was trying to find a Moss Brook in Easton, New Hampshire. No such brook! There were 12 brooks crossing the main state highway through Easton. It was shaping up to be another waltz in the woods titling at wind mills. One of the brooks in Easton was named Morse and that would be the first brook they would investigate.

On the way past Lost River, Tom wanted to stop and look at a couple of road cuts. He had a tip that some small seams of rhodonite was to be found. With a stiff cold wind and a pelting drizzle pestering the two men, Tom scooped a pant load of self-collected specimens.

Next, the two men drove past the Wildwood campground area and headed up NH 116. They drove north along the highway trying to determine which of the many brooks and wet areas was Morse Brook. After a couple of false starts they felt they had the location right. If they were unlucky, it would be a day of trudging up many brooks looking for signs of pyrite mineralization.

Today would not be one of frustration. Within a couple of hundred feet of walking in the forest along the brook, it was obvious they were in the right spot. The hunch that Moss Brook was really Morse Brook proved correct.

Despite the cold temperatures and an off and on drizzle, the pair spent a good part of the day exploring the ledges and float boulders. Pyrite was uncommonly common. Much of the pyrite had crystal faces but they most often were rooted in an anhedral mass. The pyrite was generally weathered and very friable. Finding whole crystals was rare. There were many multi-inch masses of pyrite that were poorly formed.

Both men found several specimens that will make good representative pieces for their collections. Later trimming at home proved to be difficult on the larger pieces.

Pyrite, Morse Brook, Easton, NH
Specimen is 2 inches across

