My slide show at the February MMNE Zoom meeting included two photos of a Bob Janules field collected botryoidal quartz specimen. Bob reminded me of a 1991 article he wrote for the Nashua Mineral Society newsletter on this find. A copy of this article is reproduced below.
- Tom Mortimer

Mineral Collecting in the Raymond Area
Part Two — Quartz Ridge and Flint Hill Quarry

by Bob Janules

There is, in the Raymond-Nottingham area, a ridge that extends for several miles composed primarily of quartz. Of interest to collectors is the fact that pockets occur within this quartz drift—pockets often filled with numerous quartz crystals. Doubly terminated "floater" crystals that grow in the pocket without attachment to the cavity wall are commonly encountered here.

The Flint Hill Quarry was part of this ridge, where quartz had been mined out in the past. On my first visit to the quarry, in 1979, I was lucky enough to open a small pocked containing a couple dozen crystals. One of them remains a favorite thumbnail of mine. It is a flat, tabular, doubly terminated crystal perched upon another crystal, this one of long-prismatic habit. Another memorable pocket was opened January of 1980, not at the quarry, but by the access road. There were hundreds of quartz crystals in this pocket, although many of them were small. Matrix pieces came out damaged on that day, primarily because the pocket mud was frozen solid. This pocket was near the silver prospect, a well-like shaft dug into the rock. Apparently, the grey-black streaks that ran through the milky quartz were argentiferous.

Unfortunately, the quarry and surrounding area have given way to development, and trespassing is not allowed. The quartz ridge extends beyond this, however, and runs parallel to Route 156. If one were to climb the ridge and go a ways down the other side at about the Raymond-Nottingham town boundary, other collecting areas would be encountered. Pockets are visible in the boulders of the area, and work with sledge hammers might be productive.

It was here that I found a large boulder some years back that was composed mostly of compact goethite. I chipped off some of it and found cavities lined with drusey quartz, producing a sparkling effect. At a later date, Bill Higgins of Exeter and Bill Brown of Raymond attacked this same boulder with sledges and opened up numerous cavities where chalcedony of many bright colors lay under the sparkling quartz. I returned after being informed of this, and was pleased that enough of the boulder was left and I was able to obtain a number of these interesting pieces. In this area, quartz crystals coated with a thin, pink layer of chalcedony are occasionally encountered. These could very easily be mistaken for rose quartz crystals.

As of a couple of years ago, mineral collecting was allowed in this area. I am not sure that this is the case today, but if you like quartz crystals, maybe with the added enhancement of blue, yellow or pink chalcedony, you might want to check this locality out.

13 mm field of view. Grape botryoids of pinkish quartz crystals.