

Gene Bears Memoriam

By Duane Levitt

As reported by the New England Mineral Association, November, 2014

Sad to report: rockhounding friend Gene Bearss passed away about a week ago. We're posting this tribute written by Duane Levitt.

"It is with great sadness that we note the passing of Gene Bearss of Sanford, Maine last Thursday, November 13th. Gene was a longtime member of the mineral collecting fraternity. He had a great love of minerals of all sorts from micros to "boat anchors" and was happiest when he was out collecting. He was also very willing to share his knowledge and was never too busy to help others and 'look at a specimen' or several dozen specimens. His expertise covered a wide range of areas - he was especially fond of pegmatite phosphate minerals and was instrumental in discovering, identifying (as a new species), and naming the mineral Kosnarite, a potassium zirconium phosphate found more or less simultaneously at Mt. Mica, Paris, Maine and Black Mountain, Rumford, Maine (type localities). He also added to the list of species from the deposits at Franklin and Ogdensburg (Sterling Hill) in New Jersey. He was a member of New England Micromounters and was recently inducted into their Hall of Fame. He studied and collected extensively at the Estes Quarry in Baldwin where he is credited with finding, among many other things, probably the finest Fairfieldite specimens to come from Maine to date. He died of a heart attack, in his truck, at Mineral Hill, New Hampshire doing what he loved best. Rock on old friend, Rock on. ~Duane Levitt"



Kosnarite
Locality: Mount Mica Quarry, Paris, Oxford Co., Maine, USA
Field of view ~ 1.3 mm
Collected by Gene Bearss
Photo © Scott Whittemore

Gene Bearss at the 2009 MMNE Symposium. An early member of the MMNE, Gene is an honorary lifetime member of the club in recognition of his many contributions.