

# NEMC 2025

## Speaker's Bios



### **Don Dallaire** **“The Twisted Tale of the Charlie Bragg Phenakite’s Trip from the Orchard Pit”**

**Don Dallaire** was born in Manchester, NH in 1946 and attended St. Anselm College and the University of New Hampshire earning an MBA degree in 1970. He spent 37 years in the banking industry, retiring in 2007. He sits as a trusted adviser on the board of NEMA, serves us as a dedicated

volunteer throughout the Conference.

In 1971 when his administrative assistant came back from a vacation with her husband, she talked about the mines they visited. That piqued Don’s interest. He went on a collecting trip with her husband and mineral collecting became a passion.

We are grateful for Don’s huge support during the Conference and throughout the year. You’ll find him in the Exhibit Room setting up cases and probably a display of his own (with Gordon Jackson), and he’ll be serving as our emcee throughout the weekend and working to keep us on time. Near the end of our time at Sunday River, he’ll be helping to wrangle the crowd and encouraging higher bids at our live auction, as well.

But on Saturday, you’ll want to find your way into the ballroom and hear his talk. This year, Don brings us the fun and true talk about a specimen collected by Charlie Bragg; a specimen that was not identified as what species it was until a later date, and the location where it was found was noted at an even later date! It turned out to be a phenakite from the Orchard Pit, and his talk will describe how it was identified and the associated minerals at the Orchard Pit. A history of the Orchard & Bennett mine will be included.



### **Patrick Leverone** **“Meteorites at the Maine Mineral & Gem Museum”**

#### **Meteorites at the Maine Mineral & Gem Museum**

The Maine Mineral & Gem Museum (MMGM), located 20 minutes from the conference venue in Bethel, has perhaps the largest and best meteorite exhibit in North America. The Museum’s collections include more rocks from the Moon and Mars than anywhere else in the world, even NASA, and examples of nearly every type of meteorite known today. This presentation will focus on these unusual rocks from

space and what we can learn from them, as well as the MMGM's AllSky7 camera systems installed at several locations around Maine to automatically detect meteors and track their trajectory.

Patrick Leverone is Meteorite Project Director at the MMGM, where he has worked since April 2023. While he is also a fan of pegmatites and their extraordinary minerals, which attracted him to volunteer at the Museum in early 2020, Patrick quickly developed an interest in meteorites. He now devotes his time to guiding visitors through the impressive Meteorite Gallery, and to other meteorite-related tasks at the MMGM: collections work, exhibit development, education, outreach, and publicity. With a B.S. in Chemistry from Tufts University (2019), Patrick also aims to advance meteorite research at the Museum.



### **Kevin Czaja**

#### **“Highlights from Research on the Minerals of the Turner Mine, Marlow, NH”**

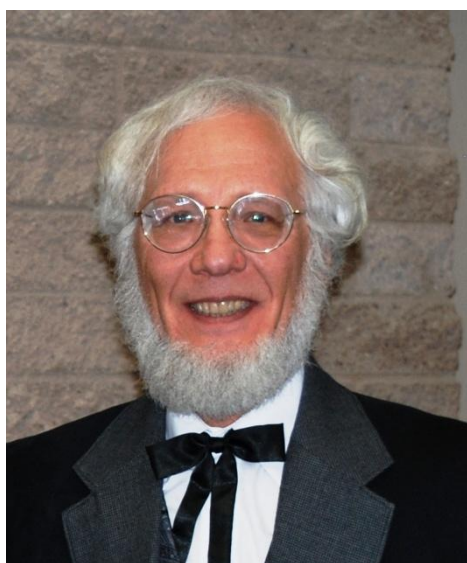
Kevin Czaja is the Assistant Curator at the Mineralogical & Geological Museum at Harvard University where he has worked for over 27 years. He has been passionately interested in minerals ever since he was about 7 years old and discovered shiny green prehnite in the “trap-rock” (basalt) road-fill he found not far from where he grew up in Rockfall, Middlesex County, Connecticut. His particular strengths include mineral species identification, northeastern U.S. regional mineralogy and pegmatite phosphate mineralogy. A longtime director and past president of the Boston Mineral Club, Kevin has M.A.’s from Harvard University and the University at Albany, and a B.A. from the University of Connecticut. His most recent work has focused

on a somewhat obscure New England occurrence of Manganese dominant phosphate mineralization in southeastern New Hampshire. This effort has now culminated in the following article being recently published in *Rocks and Minerals* magazine: “Minerals of the Turner Mine, A Little-Known Phosphate Rich Granite Pegmatite in Marlow, Cheshire County, New Hampshire.” For the 2025 edition of the New England Mineral Conference, Kevin will discuss some of the highlight discoveries from this research.

About the Turner Mine: “The Turner mine is located in Marlow, Cheshire County, New Hampshire, is a rare source (at least in New Hampshire) for elbaite crystals. It also features an extensive suite of Mn-dominant secondary phosphate species as well as lithium and uranium species yet, surprisingly, the locality has been largely overlooked by the mineral collecting community. I became interested in the mine after seeing posts in the early 2000s on Mindat by mineral collector and



writer Fred Davis illustrating attractive salmon lithiophilite and other uranium minerals that he collected. At the time Mindat had less than 20 total minerals cited as occurring at the Turner Mine, and virtually no secondary phosphates were listed. To me, this seemed unusual for a New England granite pegmatite deposit featuring lithiophilite. With dreams of finding the 21<sup>st</sup> century version of the Fallow Quarry in Branchville, Connecticut, I started visiting the mine and immediately saw evidence of a rich suite of secondary phosphates. Although, I did not find a new location for the exceptionally rare Branchville phosphates such as fillovite or natrophilite (yet!), I did however find that quarry featured some of the best triploidite I had yet seen, and many other rare species. In the end, after many hours of EDS and Raman work, the research effort more than doubled the list of species occurring at the quarry (54 at present), which included 18 secondary phosphates, 2 carbonates, 3 zeolites, and 2 arsenates!”



**Mark Jacobson**

**“The Fisher quarry pegmatite, Topsham feldspar mining district: history, geology and minerals”**

Mark Ivan Jacobson is a geologist-mineralogist specializing in pegmatites. He obtained a BS in mineralogy-geochemistry from Pennsylvania State University in 1973 and a MS in sedimentary geology from the University of California at Berkeley in 1976. After graduate school, he worked for Amoco and Chevron in oil and gas development as an earth scientist, completing 35 years with Chevron before retiring in 2013. He has collected in pegmatites in Canada, Norway, Czech Republic, China, Australia as well as most of the pegmatite districts in the United States. Besides collecting minerals, he has had numerous articles published on the geology, mineralogy, and mining-collecting histories of pegmatites since 1978 as well as three major books: “The Gems of Hiddenite, North Carolina: mining history, geology and mineralogy (2021),” “Guidebook to the pegmatites of Western Australia (2007)” and “Antero Aquamarines: Minerals from the Mount Antero - White Mountain region, Chaffee County, Colorado (1993).” He has been a consulting editor for *Rock & Minerals* since 1984, a member of the Friends of Mineralogy-Colorado Chapter since 1982, their president (2014-2016), and also the FM National president (2017-18, 2021-23).

The Fisher quarry pegmatite, Topsham feldspar mining district: history, geology and minerals

Mark Ivan Jacobson, Denver, CO and Jim Clanin, Gardnier, ME

The primary source of potassium feldspar, a critical ingredient for creating ceramic products such as plates, cups, pitchers, sculptures and other art objects, is in pegmatites. The Topsham pegmatite field in Sagadahoc county, Maine provided these raw materials to the developing pottery industry in the United States starting in the mid 1800s until 1960 when other less costly sources ended the mining for feldspar in southern Maine. The largest quarrying operations in the Topsham area, was at the Trenton quarry, Fisher-Mallet-Staples-Willes-Consolidated group and the Tedford Road group (Consolidated and Purington) quarries. Two Topsham feldspar grinding mills supported this mining activity – one along the Cathance River and the second on the east side of Topsham Village on Elm Street.. Many local mineral collectors have taken advantage of the mining by rescuing specimens before being crushed or buried in dump debris.

The 1929 discovery by Benjamin B. Burbank of topaz, lepidolite, blue elbaite, and beryl in a vug at the south end of the Fisher quarry led to its later mining by Harvard University mineralogists in July 1933. Collecting by Dudley Groves (1966), Gary Howard (1995), Cliff Treiblcock (1962, 1995) and many others, since that time has led to specimens, both from matrix and pockets of beryl, apatite, cleavelandite, elbaite, quartz crystals, and other minerals. In 1966, a small pocket of colored tourmalines were discovered.

Starting during the summer of 2013, the southernmost quarry on the Fisher pegmatite was re-opened by Jim Clanin in partnership with the landowner, Linda Barton. The initial work focused on exploiting the area where mineral pockets were last found during quarrying operations in the 1930s and documented by Burbank (1934) and Palache (1934). Between 2013 and 2019, Jim Clanin with the help of Linda Barton, Doug Smith, John Taylor, Mark Libby, Mark Stovall, and many others worked in the southern pit to open many small pockets containing green elbaites, blue topaz, quartz crystals, pink and blue gemmy beryl, albite variety cleavelandite groups, lepidolite, and dark spessartites. Within the cleavelandite masses near the vugs were recovered microlite, gahnite, apatite, columbite, spessartite, and anhedral bluish beryl.



Figure 1. Ehdrual topaz on muscovite, Black Bear pocket, south end of Fisher pegmatite, Topsham, Maine Gem and Mineral Museum specimen, ~ 6 inches tall, Mark Jacobson photo.

## Karen Webber

### “Impacts of Global Volcanism: From Cataclysmic Eruptions to Atmospheric Changes”



Karen L Webber received her BS from the University of Texas at Austin, MS from the University of New Orleans and Ph.D. from Rice University. She is a GIA Graduate Gemologist. She is part of the MP<sup>2</sup> Research Group, which relocated from the University of New Orleans to the Maine Mineral & Gem Museum (MMGM) in Bethel, ME. Her principal areas of research include the petrogenesis of pegmatites in Oxford County, Maine, crystallization dynamics of pegmatites and the geology of gem pegmatites. She is the publisher of Rubellite Press which has recently published the second edition of *Pegmatology: Pegmatite Mineralogy, Petrology & Petrogenesis*

and a revised version of *Frank C. Perham: Adventures in Maine Pegmatite Mining*. Karen and Skip Simmons were honored by the dedication of *The Canadian Mineralogist*, Vol. 54, 2016 as, A tribute to William B. 'Skip' Simmons and Karen L. Webber. The phosphate mineral Karenwebberite is named for her.