

March 25, 2013

To whom it may concern,

My name is Toby Chadburn. I am the field trip chairman for the Oxford County Gem and Mineral Association. I, unfortunately could not make it to the meeting tonight, but felt it was important to write a letter on the importance of Mt. Apatite to our club and to the individual collector.

As the Field Trip Chairman, my job is to organize field trips for each season. One trip that we always schedule is to the Mt. Apatite Quarries. Mt. Apatite is a very valuable resource, not only to our club, but for rock clubs throughout the state, as well as the individual rock collector. Every so often clubs from other states make the trip to Maine to explore the quarries at Mt. Apatite. The Mt. Apatite Quarries are one of the very few places, if not the only quarry where the individual rock collector can go and collect and study rocks without being a member of an organized rock club.

Mt. Apatite was once world famous for the gems that were found there. Since the first discovery of tourmaline, thousands of people have visited the quarries in hopes of finding something nice that the miners either missed or decided to leave behind. Still today, many people visit the quarries and a lucky few are able to take home a piece of history.

Another reason for the importance of Mt. Apatite is the fact that its owned by a city. A city that has kept it open for all to enjoy. Most quarries are either privately owned or are being actively worked by miners and are off limits to not only the individual collector, but to rock clubs as well. Each year seems to bring closure to more and more quarries. So to have a quarry that is open to everyone is unheard of.

When my wife and I became interested in rock collecting years ago, some friends suggested Mt. Apaptite. They said we could park at the Armory and walk up to the quarries. Since then we go to Mt. Apatite quite often every season to study and collect specimens. This year, we hope to start a new tradition and bring our two year old daughter to Mt. Apatite to watch her explore the trails and pick up the "pretty rocks".

I was once an individual collector and now am in charge of a rock clubs field trips and I've never forgot the beauty or importance of Mt. Apatite.

I hope to look forward to many more years of collecting at this wonderful location.

Sincerely,

Toby A. Chadburn