Newry Quarries (Bell Pit, Dunton, and Nevel Quarries)

Town: Newry, Oxford County

Collecting status: The Newry Complex is now privately owned. The owners recognize the educational and scientific value of these sites and therefore will be offering public access. During the 2005-2006 seasons access will be granted to mineral clubs and their registered members only. Additionally the owners have arranged for Field Trips to be directed through the Audubon Society beginning in October of 2005. Members of mineral clubs may contact a representative of Newry Quarries at the website: *www.newryquarriesptq.com* to schedule a visit. Individuals may contact Audubon at *www.audubonmaine.com*.

Directions and means of access to the quarries will be provided by the aforementioned groups prior to the visit. Access is through a privately-owned and secured road system.

Bell Pit

Type of deposit: Granite pegmatite.

Minerals observed: actinolite, albite (including var. cleave-landite), almandine (garnet), arsenopyrite, augelite, autunite/meta-autunite, beraunite, bertrandite, beryl, beryllonite, brazilianite, carbonate-fluorapatite, cassiterite, columbite, diadochite, dravite (tourmaline), eleonorite, eosphorite, fairfieldite, fluorapatite, fluorite, goethite, gorceixite, goyazite, greenocktite, hematite, heterosite, hydroxylapatite, hydroxyl-herderite, jahnsite-(CaMnFe), jahnsite-(CaMnMn), laueite, ludlamite, magnetite, messelite, microcline, mitridatite, montebrasite, moraesite, muscovite, perhamite, petalite, phosphophyllite, pyrite, quartz, rhodochrosite, rockbridgeite, roscherite group, schoonerite, schorl (tourmaline), siderite, souzalite, sphalerite, spodumene, strunzite, switzerite-meta-switzerite, torbernite-metatorbernite, triphylite, uraninite, vivianite, wardite, whitlockite, whitmoreite, wurtzite(?), zircon. (List updated from King, 1975.)

Comments: The geology of the Newry pegmatites has been described in detail by Shainin and Dellwig (1955) and Barton and Goldsmith (1968). The Bell Pit is noted for its variety of rare phosphate minerals (King, 1980).

Dunton Quarry (Nevel tourmaline mine, Plumbago gem mine, Hall's Ridge)

Type of deposit: Granite pegmatite.

Minerals observed: albite (including var. cleavelandite), almandine (garnet), anatase, arsenopyrite, autunite/meta-autunite, beraunite, bermanite, bertrandite, beryl, beryllonite, beta-uranophane, biotite, bismuth, brazilianite, carbonate-fluorapatite, cassiterite, chalcopyrite, chrysoberyl, clarkeite(?), cookeite, crandallite, damourite, diadochite, dickinsonite, dravite (tourmaline), earlshannonite, elbaite (tourmaline), eleonorite, eosphorite, fairfieldite, ferrostrunzite, fluorapatite, fourmarierite, francolite, goethite, goyazite, hematite, heterosite, hureaulite, hydroxylapatite, hydroxyl-herderite, jahnsite-(CaMnFe), kaolinite, kivuite, landesite, laueite(?), lepidolite, löllingite, magnesiohornblende, mangangordanite, manganite(?), manganocolumbite, manganotantalite, microcline, microlite, mitridatite, montebrasite, montmorillonite, moraesite, muscovite, opal (var. hyalite), parsonsite, perhamite, petalite(?), phosphosiderite, phosphuranylite, pollucite, pyrite, quartz (including rose quartz crystals), reddingite(?), rhodochrosite, rockbridgeite, romanechite, roscherite, rutherfordine, rutile, schoonerite, schorl (tourmaline), scorzalite(?), siderite, sphalerite, spodumene, stewartite, strengite, strunzite(?), switzerite/metaswitzerite, todorokite, torbernite/metatorbernite, triphylite, triploidite, uralolite, uraninite, uranophane, ushkovite, vandendriesscheite, vanmeersscheite, vivianite, wardite, whitlockite, wodginite, wölsendorfite, xanthoxenite, zircon (var. cyrtolite). (List updated from King, 1975.)

Comments: This quarry is world-famous for its green, pink, blue, and "watermelon" tourmaline crystals, especially the large crystal pockets opened in 1972. Many rare minerals have also been found here. See articles by King (1975), McCrillis (1975), and Francis (1985). King (1975) and Perham (1987) summarized the history of the quarry.

Nevel Quarry (Twin Tunnels Quarry, United Feldspar Quarry)

Type of deposit: Granite pegmatite.

Minerals observed: albite, almandine (garnet), arsenopyrite, autunite/meta-autunite, bertrandite, beryl, bismuthinite, carbonate-fluorapatite, cassiterite, columbite, cookeite, dickinsonite(?), dravite (tourmaline), elbaite (tourmaline), eosphorite, fairfieldite, fluorapatite, fluorite, gainesite, galena, goethite, hematite, heterosite, hydroxyl-herderite, laueite, lepidolite, magnesiohornblende, microcline, microlite, mitridatite, montebrasite, muscovite, pyrite, pyrolusite, quartz, rhodochrosite, rockbridgeite, romanechite, roscherite, schorl (tourmaline), siderite, sphalerite, spodumene, tapiolite, triphylite, uraninite, vivianite, wardite, zircon (list updated from King, 1975, 1980).

Comments: Much spodumene has been collected here. Other finds include well-formed crystals of montebrasite, large masses of columbite, and purple fluorapatite crystals.