

## Gilsum Rock Swap and Mineral Show to be Held June 25-26, 2016

Gilsum, NH -- The town of Gilsum, located in the scenic Monadnock Region in southwestern NH, will once again host thousands of people from all over the U.S. who will attend the Gilsum Rock Swap and Mineral Show. Here more than 65 dealers, swappers, distributors, wholesalers and collectors can buy, sell, or swap beryl, quartz crystals, semi-precious stones, and rocks and minerals of all sorts. Displays range from newly found specimens in the rough to fossils, prized collector's pieces and hand-crafted jewelry.

The event takes place at the Gilsum Elementary School grounds, Route 10 in Gilsum, just north of Keene, NH, and is about 2 hours from Boston. Show hours are 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM Saturday and 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM Sunday.

This year's event includes a two special presentations. Saturday, June 27th at 1:00 PM, geologist and collector Nancy Swing will discuss "Rockhounding in New England." Swing is a former professor of Geology and Oceanography at the Community College of Rhode Island, has been the featured speaker at the East Coast Gem and Mineral show for the last 14 years, and is a regular at the Gilsum Rock Swap & Mineral Show. Prized specimens will be on display. The presentation will be held at the Elementary School gymnasium adjacent to the field.

In addition, noted collector Steve Garza will also offer a prospecting for beginners demonstration, including the proper way to break a rock to uncover the minerals or precious stones within. That takes place at 2:00 PM at space #40 on the field.

Gilsum's many mines operated until the 1940s and yielded feldspar, mica and beryl. Most are now abandoned, although one, the Beauregard mine, is available to mineral clubs through prior arrangement. Today collectors prize other minerals such as beryl. Maps showing locations of local mines are available during the show.

Since the show's inception, the town of Gilsum has opened its doors for the event. Activities include a presentation on prospecting Saturday, daily

pancake brunch, bake sale, book sale, a traditional Saturday night New England ham and bean supper with homemade pies and a chicken barbeque dinner Sunday afternoon.

Admission is free, although donations are graciously accepted. All proceeds go to youth recreation and community programs.

For more information please contact Robert Mitchell at the Gilsum Recreation Committee, P.O. Box 76, Gilsum, NH, 03448; call 603.357-9636; or send e-mail to [gilsumrocks@gmail.com](mailto:gilsumrocks@gmail.com).