Welcome to our quarries! We charge no fee and you may keep the specimens you find. A unique experience awaits you at these world-renowned quarries. They are open pit sites and collecting primarily occurs in the surrounding dump areas. This popular hobby is on going, weather permitting. You may wish to bring tools and a container for your specimens.

Western Maine’s extensive pegmatite mineralization offers a unique abundance of mineral varieties. PERHAM’S MUSEUM display includes fine specimens found in these quarries. Our annual mining ventures provide collectors with a wealth of fresh material.

Please allow the trees felled by the Great Ice Storm of January 1998 to add adventure to your trip!

About collecting......
Collecting minerals is an enjoyable recreational experience for all ages. Many people collect minerals purely for the joy of it; others go on to become full-time miners. Whether your goal is to have certain procedures and equipment make the experience more pleasant. The only MUST is your curiosity! A smart collector is armed with patience, optimism, ambition and persistence. We wish you good luck!

SAFETY GOGGLES to wear when chipping rocks with a hammer. They will protect your face and eyes.
ROCK PICK is a versatile, basic tool available in many sizes. It may be used to break rock, dig, drive a chisel or pry.
CHISEL the pointed type is best for starting cracks; flat chisels for widening cracks; star-points to drill holes.
SLEDGEHAMMER is good for breaking large pieces of rock or driving a wedge.
SHOVEL an army shovel or small pointed spade is best and easy to carry to the site. A shovel is necessary for screening material.
SCREEN when most sites were mined, non-gem material was the objective. Thus, excellent specimens - even gem quality crystals - went into the dump area. Most crystals are small and easily overlooked as you dig. The screen will make it easier to locate them.
Also handy...GLOVES, COLLECTING BAG, INSECT REPELLENT, FOOD & WATER (IF YOU WISH).

BASIC FIRST AID ITEMS

CAUTION! LATE OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER IS HUNTING SEASON! WEAR BLAZE ORANGE!!
QUARRY PROFILE

#1 HARVARD QUARRY  This renowned site was developed about 1870 by George "Shavey" Noyes. Harvard University mined here in 1917 and Arthur Valley mined the quarry in 1942. Since 1958, this locale has been owned by the Perham Family and explored periodically by Frank Perham. P&M Mining has developed the adjacent Morgan Pit during the past few years. The Harvard Quarry is known for fine crystals of purple apatite as well as green and black tourmaline, garnet, beryl, quartz and cokkite. Cassiterite, lepidolite, spodumene, columbite, scheelite and petalite have also been found here.

#2 TAMMINEN QUARRY  Collecting at this locale is available courtesy of the Frank Perham Family. Mining here began around 1930 and was owned for many years by the late Nestor Tamminen. The site was originally developed as a valuable source of feldspar and commercially mined by several different firms. This locale is renowned for fine quality pseudocubic quartz crystals and also produces amblygonite, pollucite, cleavelandite, montmorillonite and spodumene alterations.

#3 WAISANEN QUARRY  Mined since 1931, the Waisanen has been recognized as a source of commercially valuable mica. It was subsequently mined for both mica and feldspar. The mining operation executed by Frank Perham, in 1963, produced superb specimens of hydroxy-feldspar, bertrandite, purple apatite and magnanite specimens of parallel growth crystals of smoky quartz, Gem tourmaline, spodumene, triphylite and columbite have also been found here.

#4 NURBLE QUARRY  Various people have mined this quarry since the 1930 era. Owned by the Perham Family, the Nubble is know for producing exceptionally fine quality mica. By early in the 1940's the mica produced by this quarry was the finest grade in New England. Mining of the Nubble has also produced valuable specimens of beryllonite, chysocolla, green apatite and garnet. Gem quality rose and smoky quartz has also been found here.

#5 WHISPERING PINES QUARRY  This locale has been mined by various people since early in the 1930 era. Since 1962, it has been owned by the Perham Family and mined sporadically by Frank Perham. The Whispering Pines Quarry is best known for the production of superb gem quality rose quartz. The site is an excellent place for the novice to study pegmatite mineralization. The easy accessibility and situation makes it ideal for the small children.

DRIVING INSTRUCTIONS

QUARRIES #1, #2, #3, #4 ARE ALL LOCATED IN THE SAME AREA. From PERHAM'S, drive west on Route 219. (This takes you through West Paris Village and across the railroad track where Route 219 turns sharply, and immediately, to the right) STAY ON ROUTE 219 UNTIL IT ENDS IN GREENWOOD 5.5 MILES FROM PERHAM'S. When Route 219 ends, you will find yourself at a t-intersection with Hicks Pond just ahead and slightly to your left. Turn left and bear to the right traveling the paved road toward Norway. En route, you will pass Hicks Pond and Mud Pond located on the right. After driving 2.6 miles, make a left turn onto the Richardson Hollow Road (Check your mileage because the sign is not always in place.)

After turning onto the Richardson Hollow Road, drive 40 miles and you will reach a common parking area located on the right. Trails to Quaurries #1, #2, #3 are accessible from this parking area.

#1 HARVARD QUARRY  Directly across the road from the parking area is the trail leading through the woods to the Harvard Quarry and the Morgan Pit. A tree on the right hand side of this trail bears a bright yellow sign marked 1, in red, positioned about ten feet from the ground. A twenty-minute walk through the woods brings you to this site.

#3 WAISANEN QUARRY  To the right of the parking lot is a bright yellow sign marked 3, in red, also nailed to a large tree about ten feet from the ground. A .5 mile walk through the back of the parking lot and down the hill reaches mine dumps on both sides of the road. The water filled Waisanen Quarry is on the right.

#2 TAMMINEN QUARRY  The Tamminen Quarry is found by walking beyond the Waisanen Quarry about 10 miles. (mining operations have nearly joined the two sites.) The Tamminen Quarry is a large, open pit, which is usually water free.

#4 NURBLE QUARRY  Make the left-hand turn on the Richardson Hollow Road and drive for .70 miles. Park on the right opposite a white farmhouse. The trail leading to the Nubble Quarry is also on the right. A tree on the left-hand side of the trail bears a bright yellow sign marked, in red, 4. A ten-minute walk brings you to the quarry and accompanying dump area.

#5 WHISPERING PINES QUARRY  from PERHAM'S, drive south on Route 26 for 5.5 miles. On the left is the trail to the quarry marked by a tree with a bright yellow sign marked, in red, 5. (There is also a mailbox on the left by the quarry trail.) A two-three minute walk up the trail leads you to the quarry and dump area.

COLLECTING MANNERS: All vehicles prohibited on quarry access roads; Collecting is limited to the use of hand tools only; Overnight camping in parking areas is prohibited; Fires are strictly prohibited on our property; During mining operations, quarries will be temporarily closed; Miner's property (equipment etc.) strictly off limits; Miners are not available to assist collectors.