

Announcing the 2019 BMC Specimen Competition

Tuesday, November 12

Every year, all members of the BMC are invited to bring in specimens to enter them in the club's specimen competition. The specimens go into specific categories, and all the members present vote to determine the winners. Here are the details:

Twelve Self-Collected Categories for Individual Specimens:

1. Connecticut or Rhode Island
2. Maine
3. Massachusetts
4. New Hampshire
5. Vermont or New York
6. Outside New England or New York
7. Previous Year (November 2018 through the present)
8. 2019 BMC field trip
9. Fossil (any locality)
10. Thumbnail Specimen (any specimen that fits in a 1 inch perky box; any mineral species or locality)
11. Ugliest
12. Self-Collected Best of Show (1st & 2nd Place)

Five Open Competition Categories for Individual Specimens:

1. New England (VT, NH, ME, MA, CT, and RI)
2. Outside New England
3. Thumbnail Specimen (any mineral species or locality)
4. Featured Mineral Species: Dioptase
5. Featured Group: Carbonates

One Lapidary Category, Self-Created Lapidary:

This must be original, self-created work that can include faceted, carved or polished stones; stones incorporated into an object; self-made jewelry using stones plus silver, gold, or other metal alloys. Entries can include single items or collections of up to 4 items of the same type (e.g., 4 cabochons of different shapes and materials, 4 faceted gems, a wire-wrapped necklace and earring set).

Rules for Individual Specimen Categories:

- All specimens must be accompanied by a label indicating mineral species, specific locality, and approximate collection date (if self-collected). You may also include your name on the label but are not required to.
- For all self-collected categories, each specimen submitted must have been personally collected by the BMC member submitting it.
- For the open competition categories, the specimen can be self-collected, purchased, gifted, or bartered for.
- Members may submit up to 2 specimens in each category.
- Judging will be done by everyone present using ballots supplied at the meeting.
- There will be only one winner in each category except the self-collected best of show (1st and 2nd place awards).
- Only self-collected specimens are eligible for best of show awards.
- A single specimen cannot be entered in more than one category.
- Winning specimens will be recorded and will be ineligible for entry in future specimen contests (but may be combined with other specimens in a display in future years).
- Other than the 2019 BMC field trip and the previous year categories, there is no date restriction on self-collected specimens.

Specimen Display Competition

The fourth competition is for displays of 10 or more mineral or fossil specimens organized around a single theme of the exhibitor's choosing (1st and 2nd place awards will be made in this category). The specimens can be self-collected, purchased, or bartered for.

Rules for the Display Competition:

- Since the space for displays is limited, each display should be no bigger than 36" X 24".
- Each BMC member entering a display must provide his/her own display case or a display

board. Fancy cases are not needed; a 30" X 20" piece of black foam core is sufficient.

- Each specimen must be accompanied by a label indicating species and locality.
- The BMC member entering a display is free to choose his or her own theme; for instance, a specific mineral species, locality, region, environment or mineralogical property.

Judging will be done by everyone present using ballots supplied at the meeting. To encourage good labeling and thoughtful arrangement of specimens, judging is based on a point system that awards up to 35 points for specimen quality, up to 5 points for labeling, and up to 10 points for presentation.

For any questions, please contact Kevin Czaja.