

Micromounters Hall of Fame

Gene Bearss

1939-2014

Inducted in 2003

Gene Bearss has been collecting minerals since 1967, when he first became fascinated by the minerals of Magnet Cove, Arkansas, while serving with the U.S. Navy. He obtained his first microscope in 1975, and has been micromounting ever since. Although he is interested in specimens in all sizes, he has an impressive assemblage of approximately 9,000 micromounts, a substantial portion of which represents selfcollected material from classic mines in the New England, New Jersey, and Arkansas areas.



Gene's ability as a collector, combined with his knowledge of minerals, have borne fruit in the discovery of two new species, kosnarite and mccrillisite, which he found and gave to the late Eugene Foord for description. Gene added to his already strong reputation for generosity by ensuring that the remainder of material he had discovered was circulated among the collecting and scientific community for preservation and research.

A member of the Micromounters of New England (MMNE) since 1979, Gene has been a strong supporter of the group, both in plain volunteer work in planning, setting up and running events and as a speaker when the occasion demanded.

In terms of support to the micromounting community outside of New England, Gene has authored and co-authored numerous papers that have appeared in magazines and newsletters, including the Mineralogical Record and Rocks & Minerals. He has contributed to both volumes of the Mineralogy of Maine (King, et al, 1994 and 2000) and has written on the mineralogy of the Franklin and Sterling Hill area in New Jersey.

Gene Bearss has demonstrated over a period of more than twenty-five years that he has the drive, initiative, knowledge, and generosity to others required to make him a welcome member of the Micromounters Hall of Fame.