

Hobby Mineral Collecting at Deer Hill

USDA
Forest Service

White Mountain
National Forest

Saco Ranger District

Geology: The Deer Hill amethyst locality is a pegmatite of granitic composition. The term pegmatite simply means that the individual mineral grains are relatively large; upwards of 3-5 cm. where as in granite the average individual grain size is much smaller. This location has produced a large amount of amethyst (purple quartz) along with many other minerals, including feldspars of many varieties, beryl, garnet, columbite, pyrite, and muscovite. The collecting area on Deer Hill is located on the south east side of the hill where you can dig through glacial sediments under the surficial deposits.

Location: Stow, Maine. Follow Rte.113 to Deer Hill Rd. in No. Chatham, NH. Follow Deer Hill Rd. 2.2 miles to the Deer Hill Mineral Collecting Area trailhead and self-service pay station. Follow the yellow blazed hiking trail for .1 miles to a fork in the trail. Bear right for .4 miles to permit area 1, left for .4 miles to permit areas 2 and 3. Hobby mineral collecting is only allowed in these designated areas marked by a blue painted boundary.

Mineral Collecting Tips:

For best results, use a shovel and a sifting screen to find amethyst crystals located in the sandy soil. A hand trowel and gloves are also recommended. Bring ziplock baggies or newspaper for specimens collected and a field guide for rocks and minerals.

General Information: A permit is required to collect mineral specimens from the Deer Hill Site. This permit is free, and can be obtained at the Deer Hill Trailhead.

For more information contact: Saco Ranger Station
33 Kancamagus Highway
Conway, NH 03818
603-447-5448

