

## Scott Whittemore (died Aug 7, 2023)

Tom Mortimer

It is with great sadness that members of the Micromounters of New England learned of the passing of Scott Whittemore, in Jacksonville, FL. Scott was a MMNE member for many years prior to his moving to Florida with his wife Patty. His skill in finding, mounting, identifying, and photographing microminerals was inspirational to many.

I first met Scott through his membership in the Nashua Mineral Society. Scott opened my eyes to a much broader appreciation of the hobby, far beyond the hand specimens that I had become accustomed to field collecting. He encouraged me to join the Micromounters of New England and to purchase my first scope. Many hours were spent in the loft of his Nashua home viewing micros with his “high-end” scope. Scott had a knack for finding minerals that others had overlooked. And, he was most generous with his finds. My collection is blessed with several dozen micros gifted by Scott.

For me, Scott’s legacy is his collection of micromineral photographs. 107 of these are in his mindat.org gallery: <https://www.mindat.org/gallery-2504.html> . Scott achieved remarkable results with photos of sub-mm crystals with 35 mm slide film. He pushed the limit of depth of field with film cameras by using tiny apertures (high F stops) and multi-minute exposure times. Scott had to wait days to see his results; no instant view that we get today with digital photography.

As Florida offers few opportunities to the mineral collector, Scott pivoted to nature photography. His Facebook page was frequently updated with stunning images of birds, mammals, and insects.



Scott Whittemore and Tom Mortimer returning to beaver pond parking area after a day of Palermo Mine collecting, 1990's