

Granite Reflections

*"We do not know what things look like, as you say, we know what things are like. It must be a very limited thing, this seeing."
- Aunt Beast, Wrinkle in Time, Madeleine L'Engle*

Seeing is believing – or not! How did the "White" Mountains get named?

"Common" knowledge suggests the name refers to snowcapped mountains. The reality is different and deeper than snow. "White" refers to the sunlight reflecting off the exposed faces on the mountains. Naysayers claim this idea is a myth. But last June,



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I took the Canon Mountain tramway on a glorious sunny day. As I walked the rim trail and looked out over the Franconia range – Mounts Lafayette, Lincoln, Little Haystack, and Mount Liberty – sure enough, the faces and cliffs shown shiny and bright – white! – from the mica imbedded in the granite.

This idea seems an apt way to begin a column that will traverse a lot of different trails; explore and explode some myths about what we think we know; and celebrate the ways in which we often hold on to "truths" that are not that at all. My journey

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