



Chippers' Chatter

Newsletter of the Chesapeake Gem & Mineral Society
Baltimore, Maryland <chesapeake.rockclub.us>
Volume 52 Number 9
October 2008

Program Notes

By Mike
Hakulin

In lieu of any program notes this month, we will just invite everyone to come and participate in the October auction.

Starts at 7:30pm

Bring money, bring friends, and please, don't forget to bring something for the club table.

President's Message

Thanks to the club members who volunteered to man the tables at the Atlantic Coast Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show. I appreciate your help.

New Editor Found

Mike Hakulin, a member of our club, has agreed to be Chippers Chatter's new editor. Carolyn Weinberger said, Mike will do the assembling and editing and she will print, mail or e-mail them out to our members. Thanks Carolyn for your help. Mike, I appreciate your accepting this position.

Gilbert Charlton

What we are, Who we are, and Where we are in a nutshell:

The Chesapeake Gem & Mineral Society is a Member of the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical & Lapidary Societies and is Affiliated with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies.

The Chesapeake Gem & Mineral Society was established in order to allow its members to gain knowledge and skills in various phases of the Earth Science field. Through field trips, exhibitions, and cooperation with other societies, we endeavor to further not only our own knowledge, but also that of the general public.

Meetings are held on the 2nd Friday of each month except August at the Women's Club of Catonsville, St. Timothy's Lane & Frederick Rd in Catonsville, MD. Meetings begin at 7:30 P.m. and visitors are always welcome.

Dues are \$10 for individuals, \$15 for husband and wife, and \$20 for family memberships.

Deadline for submitting articles or comments is the 15th of each month.

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Our esteemed Officerhood:

President - Gil Charlton

Vice President - John Buchleitner

Recording Secretary - Earle Pfetzing

Corresponding Sec'y - Phyllis Dyer

Treasurer - Marilyn Cornish

Directors: 2008 **2008-09**

Sidney Berlin Steve Dyer

Wendy Stanne Gary White

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Note: I will accept articles and commentary via email, Fax, or regular mail.

Guest Editor:

Carolyn Weinberger

Committee Chairs

Auctions - Lynne Luger and Bernie Emery

Directory (address changes) - Lloyd & Arlene Gleeson

Field Trips - Dave Fordyce

Greeters - Ray Petrisko, Al Pribula, Earl Pfetzing

Hospitality - Liz & Wendy Stanne

Legislation - Dave Fordyce

Library - Tony Wilner

Mineral of the Month - Steve Weinberger

Personals/Announcements/ Sunshine - Patricia Smith and Lynn Luger

Programs - Richard Hoff, Keith Kaneda & Tony Wilner

Safety - Johnny Johnsson

Show - Bernie Emery and Lynne Luger

Showcase - Steve Dyer

Telephone Chain (This will become increasingly important in the coming months):

Lynne Luger

Phyllis Dyer

Dawn Johnsson

Mary Chandler

Liz Stanne

Wendy Stanne

Good Stuff Follows

Goodies 'N Such

by Liz & Wendy Stanne

Thank you to our members who brought in the wonderful treats for our September meeting! Everyone enjoyed the generous and delicious offerings of, to name a few: cake, cheeses, veggies, strawberries & cream and home made bread!

We look forward to our fabulous October Auction, when the following members are scheduled to supply the goodies.

Steve & Phyllis Dyer
Lynne Luger
Mary Chandler &
Patricia Smith

Pssst...Have you heard the news? There's a new fashion blog, plus the latest fall trends and hair styles at StyleList.com. <<ed. You didn't think I would edit this tidbit out did you? Checked it out and it wasn't that bad. >>

Mineral of the Month

by Steve Weinberger

Since October is our auction, we will not have time to talk about the mineral of the month, but we can still be thinking about minerals.

Minerals have had economic importance since earliest human times. Here is a list of some of our more important elements and minerals.

- Halite (salt) was probably one of the first food additives for both flavor and preservation

- Sulfur is found in great deposits on top of salt domes. Sulfur is also the non-metallic portion of sulfides such as Hauerite (MnS_2), Pyrite (FeS_2), Acanthite (Ag_2F), Bismuthinite (Bi_2S_3), Galena (PbS), to name just a few. Probably the most important compound used in industry is sulfuric acid.

- Garnet is used as an abrasive in garnet paper in place of sandpaper. Diamond also is an excellent abrasive, as all faceters know.

- Fluorite is used as a flux in steel making. It also is used to make white enamel coatings for utensils and fixtures. Fluoride is added to toothpaste and water supplies to help prevent cavities.

- Zirconium (zircon and baddeleyite) is used to make certain steels that resist shock and stress conditions. The thermal stability and “low neutron capture” makes zirconium ideal for nuclear power plants.

- Strontium (celestite, strontianite) is used in fireworks to produce red colors. It is also used to recover sugar from sugar beets and added to paints to add brightness.

Minutes

Submitted by Earle Pfetzing
Recording Secretary

Lynne Luger, standing in for the president, called the September meeting of the Chesapeake Gem & Mineral Society to order at 7:47 PM. Lynne announced that Becky Kays had resigned as editor due to continuing health problems. Becky was thanked for her service to the club, as was Carolyn Weinberger who has been filling in that job temporarily. Lynne said that the search for a new editor is underway.

Treasurer Marilyn Cornish indicated that the club is solvent and in good financial condition.

Field trips planned for the near future include one to Valley Quarry in Gettysburg on September 20th and to Hunting Hill Quarry on September 21st. Those interested were asked to contact Ed Goldberg for the Valley Quarry trip and Dave Fordyce for the Hunting Hill Trip. Safety Chair Johnny Johnsson gave several trips for safe driving.

Liz Stanne reported that the refreshment schedule for 2008 is complete, but anyone not signed up can certainly bring refreshments at any time as well.

Bernie Emery reminded members that the October meeting is an auction. Starting time is 7:30 P.M. Those who have items for sale should call Bernie or Lynne a week ahead to reserve selling space. Some additional items from Ken Boulter will also be up for sale.

Members were advised that Ruhl Armory has been reserved for May 2009 for our annual show. In addition, the club will have an information table at the upcoming Gem Cutters' Show at Howard County Fairgrounds September 27-28 and volunteers are needed to talk with the public.

The Mineral of the Month was the carbonate group and members brought in calcites, magnesite, siderite, rhodochrosite, smithsonite and others scarcer carbonates to display.

The Showcase featured rhodochrosite, williamsite and agate cabochons from Bernie Emery, Keith Kaneda and Steve Dyer.

Following the break, the members were treated to a DVD program on the Sweet Home Rhodochrosite Mine near Alma, Colorado. The video traced the history of the mine from its modest beginnings as a silver mine in the 1870's through its rebirth as a producer of world-class rhodochrosite specimens. The DVD contained a lot of footage on the underground mining and how mineralogical science was used to guide the search for rhodochrosite.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:08 P.M.

Editor's Corner:

Hello everyone! I hope with your help to continue the tradition of having an outstanding newsletter. Several things I am working on at this time include: adding a listing of upcoming shows, articles on things of interest to all, and book and magazine reviews.

With regards to shows, if you know of a show please send me some information to put in the newsletter. I will be checking out Rock & Gem magazine for shows. I know a lot of members subscribe to magazines and periodicals. If you have the time, please send me an article or a brief comment of what you think about the most current issues. I am thinking about finding a replacement for the late "Lapidary Journal." The current replacement just doesn't do much for me.

This leads in to another item I am researching. I have sent an email to the editors of Colored Stone magazine asking for permission to abstract gists of some of their more interesting articles. Will keep you posted on developments. Check out their website at colored-stone.com

Remember the newsletter is only going to be as good as you make it. If no one participates it is going to look kind of skinny.

Mike H

See you at the auction.

p.s. Be on the look out for "Royal Sahara Jasper" at upcoming shows according to Colored Stone's new on-line GemMail. Supposed to be great stuff!