



CRYSTALS AND CABS

Newsletter of the Capital Mineral Club
Concord, New Hampshire

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March 2010

Volume 10 Issue 7

Capital Mineral Club News

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Editors Note:

The deadline to get info to me for publication will be the 3rd Saturday of every month

- My e-mail address:
steffenh@comcast.net
- CMC Website:
www.capitalmineralclub.org
- Website designed and maintained by:
Robin Edgewood-Reece &
Steffen Hermanns
- If submitting material to the newsletter the editor requests that it be sent in Microsoft Word format. This will help in getting the newsletter together.

The Capital Mineral Club membership meeting will be on Saturday, March 6th at 2:00 PM at the Audubon Society Building on Silk Farm Road in Concord, NH, a board of directors meeting will be held at 12:00 PM before the regular business meeting.

This Months refreshments will be provided by Terry and Annette. Michael Dyber will be giving a presentation on "Gems From The Mind". Mineral of the month are gem carvings.

Thanks To Bill Brown for bringing last months presentation and also thanks to Howard and Bea Ewing for bringing refreshments.

2010 MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE! MEMBERSHIP RATES:

Adult Single \$10 per year; Family \$15 per year(2 Adults);
Please make checks payable to the
"CAPITAL MINERAL CLUB"
and submit or mail them to:
Steffen Hermanns
7133 Oak Hill Road
Loudon, NH 03307

Mineral Clubs - Meeting Dates

Saco Valley Gem and Mineral Club: 3rd Thursday of each month at the Tin Mt. Conservation Center, Albany, NH – 7:00 PM
www.sacovalleygmc.com

Keene: 1st Saturday of each month at Keene State College, Science Bldg. Room SCIC 126, Keene, NH – 7:00 PM
keenemineralclub.50webs.com

Nashua: The Nashua Club has been absolved due to lack of membership

North Shore (MA): 3rd Friday of each month, St. Paul Episcopal Church, Washington St., Peabody, MA – 7:30 PM

Boston Mineral Club: 1st Tuesday of each month, Harvard University Geological Lecture Hall, 24 Oxford St., Cambridge, MA – 7:30 PM
www.bostonmineralclub.org

Southeastern NH Mineral Club: 2nd Wednesday of each month, St John's Methodist Church, 28 Cataract Ave., Dover, NH – 7:00 PM
senhmineralclub.org

Presidential Gem and Mineral Society: 2nd Friday of month at 7: 00 P.M. North Country Education Services Center; 300 Gorham Hill; Gorham, NH



These are the minutes of the February 6th, 2010 meeting of the Capital Mineral Club. The meeting was held at the Audubon Society Building on Silk Farm Road in Concord, New Hampshire. President Bob Whitmore called the meeting to order at 2:07pm. There were 27 members present.

Secretary's report: A motion was made by Pat Barker to accept the January minutes as posted in the newsletter seconded by Peter Cram, the membership passed the motion.

Treasurers report: Steffen Hermanns read the Treasures report for Don Dallaire, a motion to accept was made by Frances Gill and seconded by Howard Ewing the membership passed the motion.

Correspondence: Mineral Show in Meriden Conn. Flyers.

Old Business: Last month's meeting the club voted to accept the applicant for the CMC scholarship to Kristen Camp, the club will give her \$3,000 toward her thesis; this is the scholarship amount from 2008 and 2009. Bob Whitmore passed out Kristen's budget for what it will cost her for this project. Once complete Kristen will give the club a presentation on her work and give the club a copy of her completed thesis.

Sent out Email about getting money in for the Maine trip after today if the money is not in by today's meeting the list is open to the first people that get their money in. If more than 22 people sign up then they can still go however the lodging will be their responsibility, you can camp at the Poland mining camps, the cost will be the same. Currently there are 19 people signed up and paid to go. Emmons on Saturday and the Weisenton on Sunday.

New Business: Martin Kippley brought up a field trip to Ruggles mine sometime in the summer.

Bob Whitmore mentioned the first Sunday in March trip up to Palermo Mine to view the Ice. Anyone who is interested in going should meet at the gate at 10am.

John McCrory bought up field trip to Palermo, and possibly blasting at the mine or equipment rental for the club.

Bill Brown will ask Jim Tovey about a field trip to the Tripp Mine.

Charles Forsberg presented the awards for the collecting competition held at the December Meeting. Winners of the Plaque were Bill Brown for best mineral for the Marcasite from New York and Jim Tovey for the Lapidary award. The labels were made for the people that won and are required to display their winning entries at the club show in August.

Old books and Lapidary journals for the taking on the tables.

Pearl Nadeau and Jen Carroll have volunteered to help with the newsletter and website.

Need a nominating committee for May elections, need President, Auditor, and on Director.

Door Prizes: Thank you to Mike Undercofler and Pat Barker for donating door prize specimens.

Bill Brown, John McCrory, Frances Gill, Howard Ewing and Jon Herndon

Meeting adjourned at 2:50pm.

The presentation on The Gem Hunter in Afghanistan was played.

respectfully submitted.

Steffen Hermanns

Secretary

**Capital Mineral Club
Concord, New Hampshire**

Research on Lapis Lazuli

I checked with the local library to see what they had on lapis, their reference section only had a couple books and I borrowed one which had a number of pictures showing the use of lapis and I will bring the book to our next meeting if anyone is interested in seeing them.

I also went on the internet searching for lapis and there is so much there. It is easy to locate information by just typing in lapis or lapis lazuli in the search box and you will find some interesting web sites. Some of the information I located was very interesting and here is some of the highlights:

The finest color is an intense blue, lightly dusted with small flecks of golden pyrite. Often inferior lapis is dyed to improve its color, but they are often a very dark blue with a noticeable grey cast.

The finest lapis comes from the Badakshan area of Afghanistan. Shortugai, an Indus Valley civilization site on the Oxus river in northern Afghanistan was a mining centre for lapis lazuli. This source of lapis may be the oldest continually worked set of mines in the world, the same mines operating today having supplied the lapis of the pharaohs and the ancient Sumerians.

In the 1980's during the conflict with USSR the Afghanistan resistance fighters disassembled unexploded Soviet landmines and ordnance and used the explosives to help mine the lapis.

Lapis takes an excellent polish and has been used in jewelry, carvings, boxes, mosaics, other ornaments as well as vases. In architecture it has been used for cladding the walls and columns of palaces and churches.

When lapis is ground into powder it was mixed with oils and used to paint pictures on walls as well as decorative elements on furniture. The powdered lapis was also used by Egyptian ladies as a cosmetic eye shadow. It was also used to make ultramarine tempera paint and oil paint. It is no longer used in paint since a chemically identical synthetic variety became available.

In ancient Egypt lapis lazuli was a favorite stone for amulets and ornaments and Egyptian burial sites dating before 3000 B.C. contained thousands of jewelry items.

In addition to the Afghan deposits lapis has been found in the Andes near Ovalle, Chile, where it is usually pale, not a deep blue. Other sources are the Lake Baikal region of Russia, Siberia, Angola, Burma, Pakistan, California and Colorado in the US, as well as deposits in Canada and India.

The above is just a small sample of the information I found. I hope you will go searching to find your own bits of interesting information.

Pearl Nadeau

New Display Cases Proposal

Bob Whitmore and Donald Dallaire saw some display cases in Tucson that would replace the large cases we have now that are too big and on their last legs. The cases are made of aluminum and glass and break down easily. They fit into a carrying case about 4 inches thick, 35 inches wide and 24 inches high. The carrying cases have a handle and the edges are reinforced with aluminum. The display case and its storage case weigh approximately 65 lbs. Six of these would fit in approximately the same space as one of our large cases.

The company that manufactures and sells these cases is Arizona Case. They have a web site at www.arizonacase.com. The model we are recommending is #233 which has one glass shelf that is adjustable. The case measures 34" wide, 22" deep and 16" high. We are also suggesting that we get two LED lighting strips with each case that have 2 different temperature LED's giving a very good light to view minerals (just one temperature LED would either give you a light with more yellow tones or the other is very stark white). The cases also have a unique locking system with what is called a jewelry case lock which would make them very secure.

For 6 cases, 6 carrying cases, 12 LED lighting strips and shipping charges the whole cost would be approximately \$8,000. We are recommending the purchase of these 6 cases. No other reasonable proposal has come forward and if we try to have cases made they would not cost much less in our opinion and they likely would not be as durable.

Please come to the meeting prepared to discuss the clubs purchase of these cases, the membership could vote on the purchase in April this would insure that we have the new cases for this years show. Don Dallaire stated as treasurer we do have sufficient funds for this purchase without any adverse effect to the club funds. As treasurer I would recommend purchases such as this that benefit the club and will be a long term asset for our show and educational mission of the club.



Steffen Hermanns

Editor

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Loudon, NH 03307

Keep on **ROCKIN'** in the Free World

Email: steffenh@comcast.net

WE'RE ON THE WEB
WWW.CAPITALMINERALCLUB.ORG

2010 Club Dues are due please send your dues to Steffen Hermanns

Capital Mineral Club Meetings & Events

MARCH 6, 2010

Board of Directors Meeting: **12:00PM**
Club Meeting: **2:00PM**
Speaker: Michael Dyber - Gems from the mind
Refreshments: Terry & Annette

APRIL 3, 2010

Board of Directors Meeting: **12:00PM**
Club Meeting: **2:00PM**
Speaker: Jim Nizamoff - Mount Mica
Refreshments: Edna Whitmore

MAY 1, 2010

Board of Directors Meeting: **12:00PM**
Club Meeting: **2:00PM**
Speaker: TBA
Refreshments: John McCrory

JULY 9-11, 2010

Poland Mining Camps Field Trip

Gem & Mineral Shows

March 27-28--HOLYOKE, MASSACHUSETTS: Show; Connecticut Valley Mineral Club; Holiday Inn at Ingleside, I-91 Exit 15; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; adults \$4, children 12 and under free with adult; minerals, gemstones, jewelry, crystals, beads, fossils, lapidary and mineral arts, demonstrations, exhibits; contact Lee Champigny, (413) 320-9741; e-mail: pullG4fun@verizon.net

August 28-29 CONCORD, NH: 47th Annual Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Festival-- Capital Mineral Club, Everett Areana, Concord, NH, Sat 9am to 5pm, Sun 10am to 4pm, www.capitalmineralclub.org, steffenh@capitalmineralclub.org