

THE TREASURE CHEST

NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH JERSEY
MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

Charter Member of The Eastern Federation of Mineralocal & Lapidary Societies
and affiliated with The American Federation of Mineralogical Societies

VOLUME 64, ISSUE 8

THURSDAY, OCT 9, 2008

648th MEETING

Time..... Social—Mineral Sales.....6:30PM
Meeting.....7:30PM
Program.....8:00PM-9:00PM
When..... Thursday, October 9, 2008
Where.... The Paterson Museum — (phone 973-321-1260)
2 Market Street, Paterson, NJ 07501-1704
Editor:..... Jack R. Troy, 48 Beverly Rd., Hawthorne, NJ 07506
973-423-5225 — e-mail: troy39@optonline.net

DIRECTIONS

For those unsure of a route to the museum, these directions should help. You can get to the museum via Rt. 80 using exit 57a,b or Rt. 19 north, following the signs to downtown Paterson. Left at the first light, (follow red dots) left again at the next light (Market St.) and then two and a half blocks to the museum on your left. You could also come north on McBride Ave. from Rt 46 in West Paterson to Overlook Park, right at light to next light, left at Burger King and 100 ft. to museum entrance on your right. A winding but safe route to a paved, fenced and well lit parking lot.

PURPOSE

The North Jersey Mineralogical Soc. is a non-profit, educational organization founded in 1945 whose goal is to bring together people with an interest in the Earth Sciences in general and mineral studies in particular. Guests and prospective members are always welcome. Young people under 17 years of age are welcome to attend if accompanied by a parent or adult friend.

FOR INFORMATION CALL

Rolf Schudel (201-925-2716) or Mel Pollinger (201-791-9826). Call the the museum or one of the officers if inclement weather might cause meeting cancelation.

EDITOR'S COMMENT

If you make sure we have your correct e-mail address, you will be notified of any short time field trips. Without it, we have no way to contact you and you will probably miss out on some good trips.

SEND DUES TO

Treasurer, Pro-tem
79 Lakeside Ave.
Pompton Lks, NJ 07442
973-405-1480
Individual members: \$12.00
Married couples \$18.00
Additional family members
are \$6.00 each
Junior members: \$5.00

OFFICERS FOR 2008

President.....Juan Gonzalez
1st VP.....Robert Horn
2nd VP.....open
Secretary.....open
Treasurer.....open
Assoc. Treas.....open
3 yr trustee.....Arlene Castleman
2 yr Trustee.....Mel Pollinger
1 yr Trustee.....Robert Santee

PROGRAM

We have an exceptional program scheduled for this evening, "Gemstone Collecting in Madagascar". It will be present by Nancy Schuring of Devon Fine Jewelry, 303 Franklin Avenue, Wyckoff, NJ. Her power-point presentation travelogue will show the country, the people, the minerals and the rough and cut gemstones of this red island country.

We will visit the Retafu Mine for pink and green tourmalines, Visit gem dealers, see all natural colored stones of citrine, sapphire, aquamarine beryl, spessartine garnet, island jasper and more. We will also visit the Il-a-ka-ka sapphire mining region, source of Diego Sapphires. We'll learn of American Tom Cushman and his founding of the Institute of Gemmology of Madagascar. We'll visit the capital city of Antananarivo, aka Tana, by the locals. We'll visit Toliana and Antsirbse too! Many specimens will be on display.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS

Normally, I would have a complete report on the Franklin show in this copy of our newsletter, but the date was so close to our mailing date, there simply wasn't time. So, we have a mini-report. The weather



was terrible for the whole show, foggy and damp on Saturday. Sunday was not much better, but there was a better turnout. It was breezy and sprinkled for most



of the day, but that didn't stop us die hard collectors. Jason Baskin showed up with his daughter and a few rocks to sell. She's only a few months old, but he thought that it was time for her to get acquainted with the

rock collecting hobby and some of the crazy people that are involved. There was a better crowd on Sunday, more dealers and more people, all in spite of some intermittent showers. There is always a change in the dealers that attend the show. This year we missed seeing Martin's Minerals and Fowler's wire-wrap. I wonder if the gas price is causing change?

FIELD TRIP TO TILCON QUARRY, PROSPECT PK, NJ



We were able to schedule a short notice field trip in early July into the Tilcon quarry in Prospect Park. We were approved for an attendance of 12 members but more than double that amount showed up. We

have to make sure that anyone who wants to collect should be approved by our Field Trip chairperson so that the number of people is controlled. It turned out that collecting that day was excellent and one of our members opened a large pocket (4 ft. wide) of prehnite. See photo below. Several flats of specimens



came out of that pocket, the piece below being one of the better specimens. Most of the pieces had a sprinkling of laumontite on the surface. No one else claimed any fantastic mineral discoveries. But with rock type like that shown in the photo above, there was bound to be other minerals found. What a joy to go into a quarry when they are in a productive zone. Several older (but young) members were there including Steve Barry and Rolf Schudel. Pictured below right is our field trip chairperson, Hada Bitar. OK Hada, where is your pick and specimen bag? How about some more trips???



We have a lot of members who would like to go collecting. Anywhere that you can find crystals as big as golf balls. You have to set a reasonable criteria for the quality of your specimen, and that size is a good start.

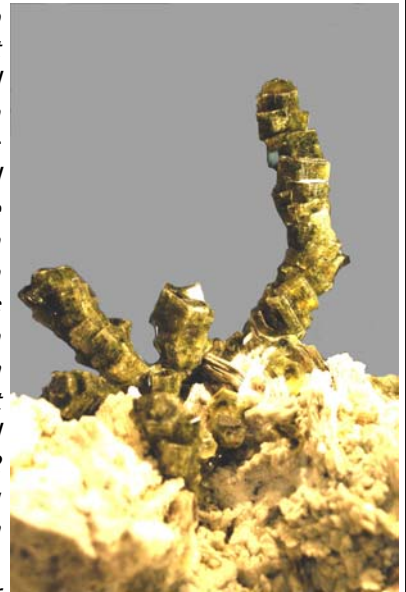


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THE SPRINGFIELD SHOW: PART TWO

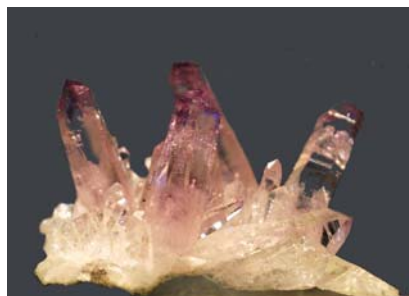
Each of us who attend show look at different things. I tend to be a "thing" person and like to take photos of displays and mineral specimens. The piece at right is a common mineral but in an unusual and esthetic form. It is apatite from Brazil and carried a price tag of \$125,000. It is a large piece, and measured almost 12 inches high including the base, which was a light colored feldspar. There were other apatite minerals shown including the purple fluorapatite from Mt. Mica, Auburn, Me. Although the asking price for this specimen was not displayed, I was told that it was \$65,000. The range of colors of some of the minerals is really extraordinary. The purple fluorite below was a terrific example of color zoning in minerals. It carried a price tag of \$2500 and was from China. There was a lot of fluorite specimens available in many colors and from many different localities. In addition to the orange colored piece below, (which was priced at \$3000), there were a couple of botryoidal pieces available from other localities. From India there was some cream colored single balls and from another locality there was a botryoidal specimen of a light purple color. Really quite nice. As I wandered through the show, I took a photo of those minerals that caught my attention (CONT)



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THE SPRINGFIELD SHOW: CONTINUED



I've heard rumors that there are some people who collect only quartz. There is a wide variety of quartz specimens and include the light amethyst shown at left and the smokey crystals mixed in with

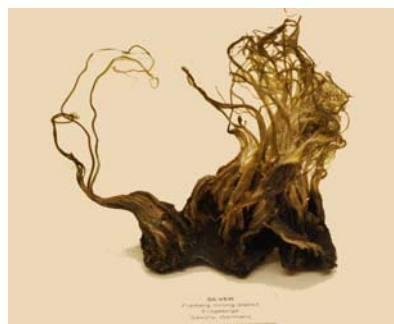
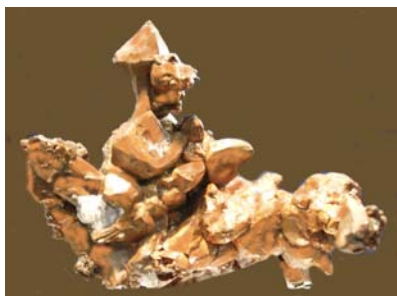
blue-green. amazonite from Colorado shown at right. The specimen below left is a rare twin that had been collected by Dick Gaines, probably in the early 1950's. It is so rare that this specimen is the only known example of this type of twinning. It's hard to believe that so few collectors specialize in twins. Most have at best one or two examples of twinning. The common twins include calcite, quartz, spinel and one or two others. One of the interesting things about quartz is the inter-growths and inclusions. Inclusions include other minerals, such as the rutile in quartz shown below right. Below left is an exceptional specimen of well



crystallized brookite in a quartz cluster from Pakistan. I don't know of very many localities that produce fine quality specimens of brookite. Arkansas is the only place that comes to mind but not in the high quality specimens like those from Pakistan. The specimens that have come out of Pakistan and Afghanistan are truly exceptional. If you were willing to spend a few hundred dollars, you could have acquired some fine mineral specimens.



There are always a few samples of the native elements available for purchase. I thought that the copper from Michigan at right was a nice esthetic sample. There has been quite a lot of copper on the market in the last few years. The wire silver from Europe (below left) is not seen on the market very often. A few years back, someone in Europe found that they could make very real looking wire silver that looked like it was from Norway. There was also some gold from several localities. California continues to produce very fine specimens of crystallized gold. The tourmaline cluster at



right was in Herb's collection. It was not for sale but it was a beauty. The specimen below left was a radiating specimen of stibnite. I've seen a number of these in the last few years and should have bought



one a few years back while the price was reasonable. Some of the dealers had a good selection of very good samples of the mineral. Another one that has been on and off the market over the last

few years is scheelite on muscovite from China. These crystals can be 4-5 inches in diameter. Although often with dings, they could be purchased at reasonable prices...this one wanted \$2,000. So reasonable that I bought one for my collection. So the rule is, If you want to acquire good minerals for your collection, make sure you go to the good shows!



Minutes of the 647th Meeting of the North Jersey Mineralogical Society, Sept.11, 2008

The meeting was opened by President Juan Gonzalez. He announced that Bill Rickard, treasurer and Dianne Rickard, Secretary have decided to resign. They will be missed.

Show chairman Bob Horn has started work on plans for our annual show. The date has been set and he hopes to have flyers to hand out at the Franklin show. He will start work on the advertising. It was suggested that a phone number for information on the show be put into the flyer - also perhaps an email address. We should make clear that ours is a non-profit organization and that we let scouts in uniform in for free.

There were no committee reports. Nominations for the next election of officers will be presented at the October meeting, with elections to be held in November. We need volunteers.

Work on the mineral display at the Paterson Museum is almost completed.

Delivering the "Treasure Chest" by email has been a success. It also cuts down on our expenses. Any member with an email address is urged to take delivery that way. If your email address is available to the club, you can be notified if any collecting trips are arranged the last minute.

We then had an interesting powerpoint presentation given by John Sanfacon of Morris Museum and the Delbarton School on the subject of Jasper and related varieties of quartz.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Megerle, Secretary pro-tem

SPRINGFIELD SHOW— LOOK CLOSELY

Sometimes when you're at a show, little things slip right by you. If you spent some time looking at Herb Obodda's display cases, you might have noticed a very nice calcite rhomb show double refraction. What you



might not have noticed was that the ten dollar bill that was used to show the birefringence actually did double the ten dollar image to twenty dollars. I wish that I had a piece of calcite that good!!!

COMING EVENTS

OCT. 18-19: Bristol, CT: 36th Annual Show; Bristol Gem & Mineral Club; Beals Community Center, 240 Stafford Ave.; Sat. 9:30-5, Sun. 10-4: adults \$4, seniors \$3, children under 12 free. gems, mineral specimens, crystals, contact Dave Korzendorfer, (860) 651-9980; e-mail: bristolgem@hotmail.com;

Oct. 18-19: Johnstown, NY: Show and Sale; Fulton County Mineral Club; Johnstown Moose Lodge, Rte. 30A and Rte. 67; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; adults \$2, students \$1, children free; contact Chamber of Comm. 800-676-3858; e-mail: lenroc@frontiernet.net

Oct. 25--Fairless Hills, PA: Fluorescent Mineral Show, "Ultraviolation 2008"; Rock & Mineral Club of Lower Bucks County, PA; First United Methodist Church, 840 Trenton Rd.; Sat. 9?4; contact Chuck O'Loughlin, (856) 663-1383; e-mail: ultraviolation@yahoo.com

Oct. 25-26--Freeport, NY: Show; Village of Freeport; Freeport Recreation Center, 130 E. Merrick Rd.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; adults \$5, children under 12 free with adult; gems, minerals, jewelry, fossils, beads; contact Ralph Gose, Melville, NY 11747, 631- 271-8411; e-mail: kaleidoscopegemshows@yahoo.com

Oct.25-26: Henrietta, NY: Show; RAS Mineral Section, Rochester Lapidary Club; Monroe County Fair & Expo Center, Minet Hall, E. Henrietta Rd. and Calkins Rd.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$5, children free with adult; soapstone carving, mineral identification; contact Paul Dudley, 140 Railroad Mills Rd., Pittsford, NY 585-385-2368; e-mail: show@rasny.org

Nov. 1-2: Exton, PA: 39th Annual Show, "Gemarama 2008"; "Gemstones of South America". Hours: Tuscarora Lapidary Soc. CFS, The School at Church Farm, north side of Bus. Rte. 30, off Rte. 202, 0.5 mile west of Frazer; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; dealers, finished jewelry, cut and uncut stones, fossils, beads, tools, demonstrations, jewelry artistry, exhibits, children's activities, door prizes; contact Nancy Marks, (610) 331-2327; Web site: www.lapidary.org

Nov. 1-2: Old Greenwich, CT: Annual Show and Sale; Stamford Mineralogical Society; Eastern Greenwich Civic Center, 90 Harding Rd.; Sat. 9:30-5, Sun. 10:30-4:30; gems, jewelry, minerals, fossils; contact Nancy Mattson, 914-935-8893; e-mail: ngm11@msn.com;

Nov. 14-16: Hamburg, NY: Show and Sale, "Gemstreet USA"; Strieter Productions Inc.; Erie Co. fairgrounds, 5600 McKinley Pkwy.; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; adults \$7 (three days), seniors and students \$5 (three days), children under 12 free; minerals, fossils, hourly door prizes; contact Jane Strieter Smith, P.O. Box 770680, Lakewood, OH 44107, 216-521-4367; e-mail: janestrietersmith@ohiocoxmail.com;

JANUARY--FEBRUARY 2009:

Feb. 2-15--Tucson, AZ: Misc. Bead, Mineral, Fossil and Jewelry Shows. Check web or mineral magazines for complete information.