

THE TREASURE CHEST

NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH JERSEY
MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

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

VOLUME 65, ISSUE 1

THURSDAY, JAN. 8, 2009

65th MEETING

Time..... Social—Mineral Sales.....6:30PM
Meeting.....7:30PM
Program.....8:00PM-9:00PM
When..... Thursday, January 8, 2009
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

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Hello fellow club members. Thanks for the trust you placed on me. Two years ago, the club gave me the opportunity to become your president and with this position many challenges came with it. Today the club is moving at a good rate in a positive direction. All this thanks to all of you. New officers are always good for the club and some positions are still open. It will be good if others step forward and become leaders too. Our next goal is the 2009 Clifton Mineral Show in March....lets work on it and make it the best ever. Thank you! Juan Gonzalez

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

EDITOR'S COMMENT

Have you notified the editor of your current and correct e-mail address yet? We need it to mail your newsletter to you and also notify you of field trips and other important club functions.

SEND DUES TO

Juan Gonzalez
79 Lakeside Avenue
Pompton Lks, NJ 07442
973-595-6278
Individual members: \$12.00
Married couples \$18.00
Additional family members
are \$6.00 each
Junior members: \$5.00

OFFICERS FOR 2008

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

PROGRAM

Our program for January will be "Abandoned mines of New Jersey". It will be presented by Dan Lopez and Bob Mykytka of Abandoned Mines net. Their web site was formed to snapshot and catalog the numerous abandoned mines in the State of New Jersey.

These mines have a story to tell, and a few secrets to share. All mines wielded influence and had impacts on the history of our localities, Our current lives being dotted back to their presence. All are unique in everyway. Inside you will find research information during my cataloging of these mines, with some tales along the way. This is their story.

As an active field collector, I visited many mines here in NJ over the years. Once I took a long walk down an unimproved road at the southwest end of Green Pond to see if I could find an old iron mine. It was there, even if not much more than a pit showed. The one thing I found that day was a large 6 foot black snake sunning itself on the road my friend and I were following...we and the snake both took off in different directions. Along the road past the Mt. Hope mine were a large number of blackberry bushes....prolific in the early summer and good eating. Most of these mines are now historic sites and finding good mineral specimens is unlikely.

Their web site takes in much more than New Jersey. Many New York localities were talked about as well. It is a worth while visit on your computer.

In Memoriam

Joseph P. Orosz passed away on December 26, 2009, at Morristown Memorial Hospital. He was 62 years old. Born on October 6, 1946 in Elizabeth, he grew up in Cranford before moving to Rockaway Township, NJ 28 years ago. He achieved his Masters Degree in Mechanical Engineering from Stevens Institute of Technology. Joe was the Chief of the Lethal Mechanisms and Warheads Technology Branch in the Energetics and Warheads Division at Picatinny Arsenal, where he was employed for 38 years before retiring in 2006. He was the founding member of Sterling Hill Mining Museum in Ogdensburg, NJ, a life member of both the Franklin Mineral Museum in Franklin, NJ and the New York Microscopical Society. He was also a member of numerous other mineral clubs. Joseph is survived by his loving wife of 30 years, Sharon (Willison) Orosz, and his daughter Catherine Orosz, both of Rockaway Twp., NJ. He is also survived by his mother Helen Orosz, and his uncle Joseph Angelo of Linden, NJ, and his pugnacious dog Tiger.

2008 —ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

Each year we have our annual holiday party, with a guest dealer, speaker and buffet dinner. This year we had our menu mostly prepared by Rob Horn, our incoming president. I doubt that most of our members are aware that Rob's family was involved in the



restaurant business, and that Rob is an excellent cook. At the beginning of our party, the tables must be set up and the food table has to be arranged for the hot trays. Our members are not watering rocks to

make them grow but are providing water for the hot trays to keep the food warm. Below some of members are in the process of setting up tables and beginning to

cover them with red or green plastic table cloths. There was quite a selection of food that was available for our members to chose from. There is always one or more salads, pasta, Swedish meatballs, chicken, dinner rolls.



There was so much we could have fed an army. Judy and Greta set up the coffee and punch table. It



seemed like everyone who showed up early pitched in and helped. There is a lot of tasks that have to be done and many hands make for light work. We had our

President, who was masquerading as a Scandinavian with a nice ski sweater. He was plugging in the computer and getting the projection equipment ready to go. These are just some of the things that have to be done to be prepared.



One of the features that we added this year was a silent auction. It was never one of my Favorite things, but many people seem to like it. While this was



going on, I thought that I would take a walk through the museum to see what progress has been made on the mineral display. It is currently closed so that the interior of the display area can be completed. For those of you who haven't wandered through the



museum, it is worth a close look. A large section at the west end of the hall is devoted to John P. Holland and two of the early submarines he developed. He was considered the father of the modern submarine. One of

the early subs sank in the Passaic River but was later rescued for display as an important artifact. When you look at the structure of the subs, it becomes apparent that the only way they could have sunk an enemy ship was to ram them with their pointed prow. There are many other historic artifacts featured at the museum.

Several fire fighting pieces of equipment were on display. There was some serious fires in the city that burned several square blocks. Another well known name was the Colt company



who made revolvers that were used in the western states. The pictures below one of those, a serial one "Texas model in a presentation case. They have a number of display pieces worth a look. The photos



Colt Paterson No. 5 "Texas" Model Revolver
Serial no. 1; .36 caliber, 7 1/2" barrel. Possibly the rarest Colt known. Formerly in the William Locke Collection and purchased by him from a family in Paterson, whose forebearers had worked in the Colt facility.

MISCELLANEOUS QUARTZ SPECIMENS

There are few minerals whose form and color are as varied as quartz. It occurs in the New Jersey trap rock quarries well crystallized and in many other areas as less attractive specimens. I visited a locality in Quebec some years back called the Adams Quartz Mine. At the time I was there collecting was not good.....unless you went into Mr. Adams crystal shed.



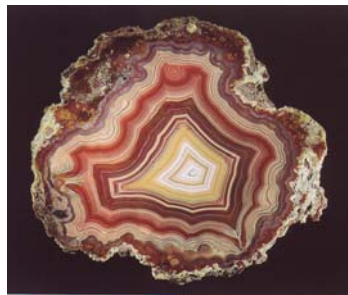
You could buy nice pieces of quartz for \$1.00 per pound. Gaston spoke no English but luckily, his nephew was there and he spoke English. I picked out some nice pieces, the piece below

being about 5" across. A few years back, a local dealer got the rights to the "Spruce Claim" in Washington. It was not easy collecting, but he came out with some beautiful specimens showing scepter-Jap law twinned specimens. The picture below



is about 12 inches across. I don't recall seeing very many of these specimens being offered for sale. On hearing the lecture and seeing the slides of the steep mountain locality, anything collected would have had to be hand carried down the

mountain to transportation. Advanced collectors like George, occasionally will take a break to charge up on an available quartz crystal. I'm not sure how this worked, but I trust George's description of how much better he felt after getting a charge! I should have asked him whether it made any difference whether he used his right hand or left. When I took this photo, we were standing in the middle of the Coleman Quartz which is handled by fork lift and tractor-trailer.



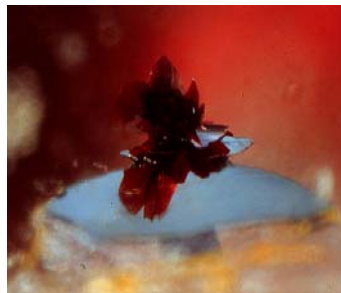
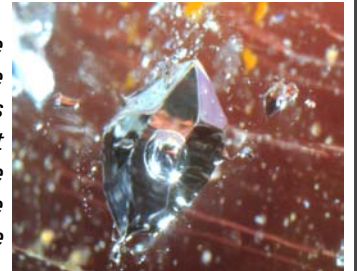
One of the common forms of quartz is agate. It is fairly common in the United States but the high quality agate mostly comes from the west coast and Mexico. The finest is "Laguna agate", shown pictured at the left. The

agate below is a less common variety, showing quartz pseudomorph after aragonite. These are very good samples of some of the agate from Mexico.. Below left is a sample of agate from the Atlas Mountains of Morocco. Although known for some time, it is only in the past couple of years that they have been coming into the country.

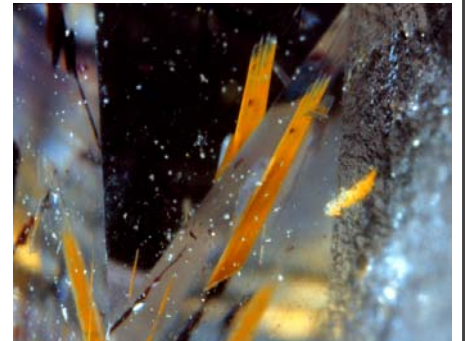
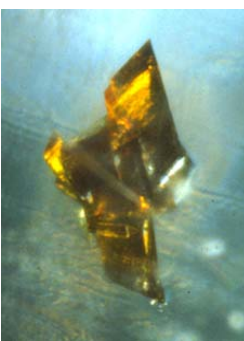


Our dealer friend, Rocko's Minerals has had a good selection at the last couple of shows. Check him out at our March show. The four pictures below are inclusions in crystals from Brandberg Mountain in

Namibia. Tending to be amethyst to smokey, there are so many different things included, that they have not all been identified. The picture at right is a bubble and it appears to be



included in a negative quartz crystal. At left is hematite crystals and below right is prehnite? Below left is unidentified....but a really terrific looking crystal, something like titanite.



EARLY FIELD TRIPS PLANS

We are in the early stages of planning for a fossil collecting trip to a well known locality, "Big Brook". Located in Marlboro Township, the locality is well known for shark teeth and arrowheads, which are found on most trips. Because collecting is done in stream beds, with water sometimes waist deep, a trip like this has to be in warmer weather....probably May or later. Sneakers of similar shoes are required for protection against cuts due to broken glass or other rubble in the stream bed.

A recent find of a large (22" long) bone from a mastodon weighed in at six pounds. Confirmation of



its identity has not yet been made. It would not be an unusual find as a number of such bones have been found in the area. If confirmed, it would be between 10-15,000 years old and would have looked somewhat like the photo shown. This find was made by an avid collector, Glenn Harbour who lives in Freehold Twp. Spends his days searching for pieces of the past, casting about for the next great thing.

Our field trip chair-person Hada Bitar will be in charge of the trip which will be lead by Mike Machette, who has collected in the area many times.

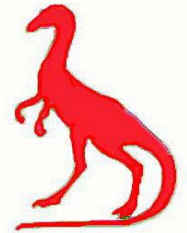
DIAMONDS ARE A GIRLS BEST FRIEND

Miners in the southern African kingdom of Lesotho have found one of the world's largest diamonds The diamond was discovered in the Letseng Mine on September 8, the company said in a statement. It has been analyzed by experts in Antwerp and found to weigh 478 carats, with very few inclusions and of outstanding color and clarity



COMING EVENTS

THE RUTGERS GEOLOGY MUSEUM:
The State University of New Jersey
AND IT'S MASCOT, THE FIGHTING
SCARLET RED DINOSAUR



PRESENTS ITS FORTY-FIRST ANNUAL
OPEN HOUSE DARWIN DAY 2009
Sat, Jan 31, 2009 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

PRESENTATIONS 123 Scott Hall

10:00 a.m. *SAMPLING THE SEA FLOOR: What we know and how we know it* Dr. Gregory Mountain, Rutgers University, New Brunswick Dept. of Earth and Planetary Sciences

11:00 a.m. *THE DAWN MISSION: Exploring the Asteroids Ceres and Vesta*, Dr. Harry McSween University of Tennessee Dept. of Earth and Planetary Sciences

2:00 p.m. *CLIMATE, ENERGY, AND OUR FUTURE:Dr. Paul Falkowski, Rutgers Univ., New Brunswick, Professor of Marine and Geological Sciences Institute of Marine and Coastal Studies.*

3:00 p.m. *THE FIRST THREE BILLION YEARS OF EVOLUTION ON THE EARTH*, Dr. Andrew Knoll, Harvard University, Dept. of Earth and Planetary Sciences.

ROCK AND MINERAL IDENTIFICATION

202 Geological Hall

MINERAL SALE 135 Scott Hall

Information: William Selden, Collections Manager at 732- 932-7243 rwselden@rci.rutgers.edu

The Museum entrance is the iron gate on the corner of George and Somerset St. in New Brunswick, NJ.

ALL EVENTS FREE NO REGISTRATION

Feb. 21-22: Albany, NY: 16th Annual James Campbell Memorial Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Show and Sale; New York State Academy of Mineralogy, Capital District Mineral Club; 4th flr, Museum, Empire State Plaza, Madison Ave.; Sat. & Sun. 10-5: admission \$6, includes NY State Flower Show; 20 mineral and fossil dealers, geological lectures, staff on hand to identify minerals and fossils; contact Michael Hawkins, Geology Collections Manager, 518-486-2911 e-mail: mhawkins@mail.nysed.gov