



SHALE MAIL

JUNE 2020

Orange County Mineral Society, Inc

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Our next meeting is scheduled for Friday June 12th, 2020 at 6:30 pm and will be held digitally on Zoom do to covid-19. Details will be emailed to you, if you don't receive the email please contact Heather Shields or Mark Kucera.

Speaker: Ted Johnson

Topic: Rocks & Minerals of Massachusetts



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A Little Bit About Ted

By: Ted Johnson & Alison Pacut

In 1960, at the tender age of eleven, Ted Johnson began collecting minerals at Paterson, New Jersey.

Besides his interest in minerals and geology, Ted has a keen interest in all nature. However, it was his interest in history that fostered his specialization in historic mining areas, such as Cornwall, England; Laurion, Greece; Broken Hill, Australia, etc.

Ted is an avid Traveler which ultimately causes him to visit these areas to learn about the geology, minerals, natural history and culture.

He has collected minerals in many of the U.S. States and traveled to countries such as England, Greece, Russia, Mexico, Canada, Greenland, Italy and others.

Ted specializes in New England minerals and pegmatite minerals of worldwide localities. To support his obsessions he started the Yankee Mineral and Gem co. In 1984. Ted celebrated it's 30th anniversary in 2014!

Rocks & Minerals of Mass. Cont.

By: Ted Johnson

1. Western Massachusetts

We start with Richmond, which is the northern extension of the CT-NY-MA iron mining belt, and Type Locality of Gibbsite. Moving east into the highlands are the famous pegmatites at Walnut Hill, Goshen area and Blandford. Other famous mines include the Davis Pyrite mine, Bett's Manganese mine, Chester Emery mine and Manhan Lead mine.

Finally, we have a series of Traprock and related quarries that start at the CT border and run generally north to Northfield. These include the Lanes quarries, Hampden Quarry, Notch Quarry, Mt. Tom quarry and Cheapside quarry and others.

2. Central Massachusetts

This area has the famous limestone quarries near Bolton and the colonial era Graphite mine near Sturbridge. The Royalston area is well known for its Aquamarine. Lancaster is the classic locality for Chistolite. The Rollstone quarry near Fitchburg has produced nice Schorl and related minerals.

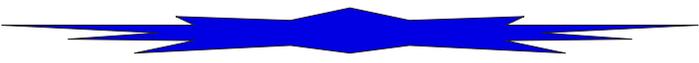
3. Northeast of Boston

North of Boston are the old granite quarries near Rockport. Also, Blueberry Hill quarry near Woburn and the quarries near Roxbury. Also some interesting minerals found near Haverill, Medford and others.

4. Southeast of Boston

Some highlighted areas are near Quincy, Brookline, Wrentham and the alpine veins of Acushnet.

Finally, some rocks collected by the Native Americans in Massachusetts, mostly for utilitarian purposes.



Friday June 12th Presentation Rocks & Minerals of Mass.

Ted Johnson will be presenting via Zoom 6.30 pm

Massachusetts has a rich history of mining dating back to the colonial and even pre-colonial times.

Each region of Massachusetts has a wide range of minerals. Many of the minerals shown are from well known MA collectors, such as Tony Thurston, John Marshall, Al Sebela, Bob Betts, Andrew Toussaint, Al Patrie, the Delanos, Wilbur Elwell, Paul Young, Warren Johansson and others.

Presidents Message

By: Mike Tedford

Please join us via ZOOM for our business meeting and lecture this Friday, June 12, 2020 at 6:30 PM. You can log into the meeting via zoom with your smart phone or computer. You can watch even if you do not have a camera on your computer. Catch up on the latest scoop on field trips and finds , with special attention to our upcoming Mineral Sale at Museum Village.

The count down is again around seven weeks until our rescheduled Mineral Sale at Museum Village July 25-26, 2020. You notice I called it Mineral Sale. It used to be announced mineral show and sale. We should probably favor more sale than show to be more in line with Covid 19 phased reopening. We really have a unique mix of vendors, prospectors, collectors and miners who all bring something different each year. In past years we had many other attractions and activities to attract scouts, families and children. Group activities may still be discouraged during our sale. Details are not yet known. If phases continue propitiously, social distancing and crowd control will still be upon us in the third week of phase 4 during our show/sale. We have a chance to space the vendors in the Museum Village outdoor venue to satisfy safety concerns. The Orange County Covid statistics have improved dramatically even with far more people out and about.

Show Announcement

Ron Nelson sent an email informing us of the new dates for our Orange County Show are July 25th and 26th . The St Columbia Show in Chester date has also moved. The new date for Chester is now August 1 and August 2. If you know of upcoming shows or events our members may be interested in please email me the news for submission in the Shale Mail. If you have any questions or concerns about this drop him an email.

A Note From The Editor

By: Alison Pacut

I am still looking for submissions from all the members of this club. As stated last month I would like to run a special column entitled An Orange County Club Rock Hound! It's a great way for us to get to know more about our fellow club members. All you have to do is write a story about how you became a hobbyist, how old you were, what you collected, did you collect with someone or were you a lone collector etc, etc, etc.

What kind of minerals or fossils do you collect? Do you have a favorite specimen? How about writing an article about your collection or collections! Hey is there a special trip you took in the past? We would like to hear all about it! Perhaps you know a lot about a specific earth science subject, they make great articles for our newsletter too! Submit articles to pacutgarnet@gmail.com.

When you are out collecting this summer perhaps write a little about your trip and take a photo or two with your cell phone for submission. Its fun to read about fellow members and their trips. As things return to a somewhat normal state perhaps field trips will commence. While out on field-trips take a photo and let us all know how it went and what got collected.

To make a long story short the more member participation we have in the Shale Mail the more interesting it will be!



Response Requested

Please let me know that you are reading the Shale Mail and what you think about it? Do you have suggestions on content? Would you like to help with the Shale Mail? Please make a comment about the Shale Mail to pacutgarnet@gmail.com.

Minutes of the Meeting

May 8, 2020

By: Mark Kucerat

Conducted on Zoom. Participation was around twenty-six people on twenty connections.

Minutes: president Mike Tedford called the meeting to order. Mike welcomed everyone. He introduced David Nock and Carrie Meyers as the EFMLS President and Region 3 Vice President. Cheryl Neary, EFMLS Region 2 Vice President and an AFMS officer also was welcomed. Mike also shared the current status of the COVID pandemic in Orange County and the possible impact on our June show.

The minutes of the May 8th meeting had been sent out with the Shale Mail. The minutes were accepted.

Treasurer's report: The treasurers report was read by Ron Nelson and accepted.

Committee Reports:

Webmaster/FB:

Programs: Under the circumstances Mike said we would be using Zoom for future meetings. Invites will be sent via email each month, we encourage everyone to join us. When the status changes concerning our meeting we will email the information out as well as post it in the Shale Mail.

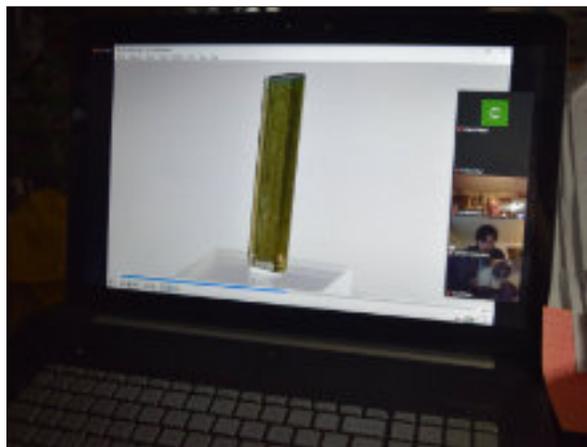
Show Report: Barring any catastrophe concerning the pandemic the date for our show is set for July 25th and 26th.

Ron has 24 vendors signed up for the show already. The museum is currently planning to reopen at the end of May. New committees to support Ron as show chairman were discussed.

Shale Mail Report:

Old business:

New business:



Zoom Meeting Adgenda

June 12, 2020

By: Mike Tedford

Call to order: 6:30 PM Thank you Mark Kucera for hosting ZOOM

Welcome: Introduction of officers and members.

Review and acceptance of May minutes

Committee/officers reports:

Treasurer

Show Chairman

Membership Chairperson

Field trips

Other Shows

Next meetings schedule July, August, September, October, November, December. Zoom/senior center/Hansen Park

Webmaster

Shale Mail Editor

Facebook update

Mail Chimp update

Other old business

New business:

Adjourn business meeting: for Ted Johnson's Zoom presentation on Rocks and Minerals of Massachusetts.

An Orange County Club Rock Hound!

By: Alison Pacut

Wow! I really am a late bloomer! Before 2012, when I saw a rock it was just a rock. When I saw a mineral it was just a rock. Then I came to New York and met my soon to be husband John. He taught me how to fish. Took me on my first party boat experience on the ocean which I had never seen before. Then the big one, John taught me that rocks are not for throwing at people, or cars. There is also a thing called a mineral. People actually collect them too. At first I was like really, John your kinda weird!

One day I was in search of something else John and I could do together as a couple. I came across the MHVG&MS web page. When John got home I asked him if he knew there was a mineral society in Poughkeepsie and asked if we could join. Obviously we did just that and there we were, I became the editor of the newsletter and the membership person while John became the president.

I am realizing that learning environmental issues and geology is no easy task. It's a slow sometimes painful road, rock hard! So to learn how to properly edit the newsletter, eventually create a web page for them to be proud of and to get a better understanding that there is a difference between a rock and a mineral I went back to school. I took digital media to help me with the technical stuff and geology 101 to get a grip on the rock and mineral stuff.

School was a lot of work but well worth it. Not long after beginning the geology 101 course I actually identified some cabs we bought at the Albany show. I was proud as a peacock! I am finally starting to get the rock foundation I have been longing for.

Now here I am, I have been a member of the Orange County Club for almost a year now! John and I joined at the picnic last year. I love the club picnic it's always such a great place to socialize and just en-

joy one an others company.

John and I began attending meetings in November 2019 and OH! The following month was the Christmas Dinner! It was just wonderful with so much to eat and the eggnog was so good! You all welcomed us with open arms and here we are John is your secretary and I am the new editor of the Shale Mail. I hope you are all enjoying it so far.

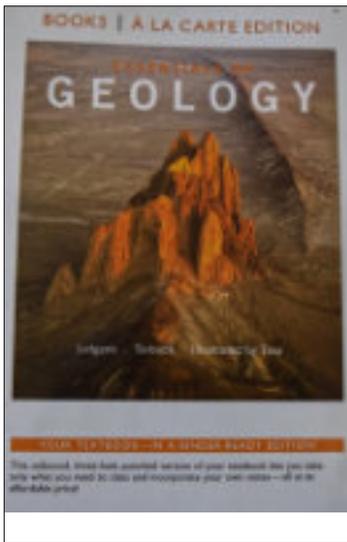
Early in 2019 John and I also attended our very first EFMLS convention and guess who the hosts were, Yep it was you, the Orange County Club. We were not members here yet but oh the convention was magical. I had never been to such a fun filled event in my life! Everyone was so kind and friendly, it was fun socializing with everyone at the conclusion of the meetings. We gladly attended the show, where we spent over budget again and the editors breakfast where I won the grand prize!

It wasn't long after that that John and I were called upon for a EFMLS ad hoc committee which looked into pricing for a new website for the EFMLS. Then I was asked to be the new chair person for the website contest for the EFMLS, a title I still hold.

I am looking forward to an end of the covid-19 crisis so that we can get back to conducting our clubs face to face once again. It may not be the same as it was before but at least somewhat normal. It's difficult to create the newsletter with out events, photos of members and meetings. Oh! And don't forget the donuts!

I am really enjoying the writing part of this newsletter and hope that you all will help me with your own "An Orange County Club Rock Hound" Stories. I would love to publish them right here so we can get to know a little more about our fellow members. If your shy to write your story send me an email with the points you want to make an I will write the story for you. Come a little early to the monthly meeting and sit down with me for a few minutes so we can get a story written or at least an outline. I will be happy to help you all out and get to know you a little better at the same time.

Who knew rocks could be so much fun!



GOSHENITE BERYL

Researched By: John Pacut

Goshenite Beryl is a mineral with a hardness of 8 out of 10 on the Mohs scale of mineral hardness. These hexagonally structured gems are made of beryllium aluminum silicate, their full chemical compound being $\text{Be}_3\text{Al}_2(\text{SiO}_3)_6$.

Goshenite is a colorless sodium-rich gem variety of beryl, a group which includes emeralds and aquamarine. Other gem beryls include heliodor and morganite.

It also appears as pale green, apple green, to bluish. All beryls are resistant to chemicals with the exception of fluoric acid. They are brittle and therefore easily damaged by knocks, have a vitreous luster, and occur with aquamarine.

Their individual crystals are sometimes enormous, up to 30ft long and weighing 25 tons. They appear as hexagonal prisms, often without terminations or bounded only by the basal pinacoid or by the combination of basal pinacoids and hexagonal dipyrramids. The prism faces are often striated.

They are very hard, light, with imperfect basal cleavage, often contains a great many inclusions, making it opaque.

They are characteristic of granite rocks and pegmatites, where they sometimes occur in enormous crystals. They are also present in very high-temperature hydrothermal deposits (greisen) associated with quartz, spodumene, cassiterite, columbite, tantalite, and other rare minerals.

Goshenite is named after a find in Goshen, Massachusetts (USA). In antiquity, eye glasses were made from colorless beryl.

Goshenite is used as imitation for diamond and emerald; by foiling the cut stone with silver or green metal foil.

Beryls are the main industrial source of beryllium, used in the nuclear industry and in light, very strong alloys in the aircraft industry. The salts are used in fluorescent lamps, in x-ray tubes and as a deoxidizer in bronze metallurgy.

BABINGTONITE

Researched By: John Pacut

Babingtonite was designated the official state mineral of Massachusetts in 1981. Massachusetts has the finest quality babingtonite in America.

Although Massachusetts is not rich in mineral resources it's one of the few locations in the world where babingtonite is found. Babingtonite is usually jet black with a brilliant luster.

It's a mineral occurring in triclinic crystals approaching pyroxene in angle and of greenish black color. It is a silicate of iron, manganese, and lime and is named after Irish physicist and mineralogist W. Babington. It belongs to a class of minerals called silicates and appears as small wedge-shaped black crystals. It is hard (5.5-6 on the mohs scale) heavy and exhibits good prismatic cleavage and uneven fracture. Crystals of babingtonite growing with prehnite of calcite can be found lining basalt, gneiss or granite cavities.

Babingtonite is a calcium iron manganese inosilicate mineral with the formula $\text{Ca}_2(\text{Fe},\text{Mn})\text{FeSi}_5\text{O}_{14}(\text{OH})$. It is unusual in that iron(III) completely replaces the aluminium so typical of silicate minerals. It is a very dark green to black translucent (in thin crystals or splinters) mineral crystalizing in the triclinic system with typically radial short prismatic clusters and druzy coatings. It occurs with zeolite minerals in cavities in volcanic rocks. Babingtonite contains both iron (II) and iron (III) and shows weak magnetism.



Babingtonite, Cheapside Quarry, Deerfield, Franklin Co, Massachusetts, USA

A JEFF FAST PRESENTATION!

The meeting of May 8th Jeff Fast gave presentation on Zoom of the most amazing mineral specimens. Most of which came from the Joel Sweet collection from the Gillette Quarry in Connecticut. Here are just a few of the examples he discussed.



A JEFF FAST PRESENTATION! CONT.



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