

Port Moody Rock & Gem Newsletter



December 2006

Editor: Rose Kapp (roszay@shaw.ca)



website:

www.portmoodyrockclub.com

President: Andrew Danneffel

Vice President: Warren Edwards

Past President: Drew Rekunyk

Secretary: Shirley Edwards

Treasurer: Al Strome

Membership: Sonja Stubbings

Workshop: Cecil Smith,

Andrew Danneffel,

Bill McCracken, Ken Ayres,

Geoff Cameron, Warren Edwards

Newsletter: Rose Kapp

Society Delegates:

Gary Richards (Sr.)

Drew/Diane Rekunyk (Int.)

Ken Ayres (Jr.)

General Meetings:

Last Thursday of each month
(except June, July, Aug. Dec)

7:30 PM, Arts Centre,

St. Johns St., Port Moody

Next Meetings:

January 25, 2007

Port Moody Rock Club Website:

www.portmoodyrockclub.com

BC Society Website:

www.lapidary.bc.ca

There has been only
one Christmas

- the rest are
anniversaries.

W.J. Cameron

Rock of the Month



Azurite is a soft (Mohs Hardness: 3.5-4), deep blue copper mineral produced by weathering of copper ore deposits. It is also known as Chessylite after the Chessy-les-Mines near Lyon, France, where striking specimens have been found. The mineral has been known since ancient times, and was mentioned in Pliny the Elder's Natural History under the Greek name kuanos, and the Latin name caeruleum. The word azure is derived from the Arabic word for blue.

Green malachite is closely associated with azurite in many ways. Not only do they occur together, they also have a similar formulae. Malachite can also replace azurite, making a pseudomorph, or an exact copy of an azurite crystal (only now instead of being blue, it would be green). Azurite paints made centuries ago have undergone this transformation with paintings of beautiful blue skies now a most unusual green hue! Thankfully for mineralogists and collectors, this transformation is one of the most aesthetically pleasing in the mineral kingdom. Although the malachite may soften the sharpness of the azurite crystal, it generally leaves the specimen intact and a whole range of transformations from pure azurite to pure malachite can be obtained.

Azurite has been used as a blue mineral pigment for centuries. It is considered a minor ore of copper although its significance has been more impressive in the past; mostly because it is found associated with other more valuable copper ores.

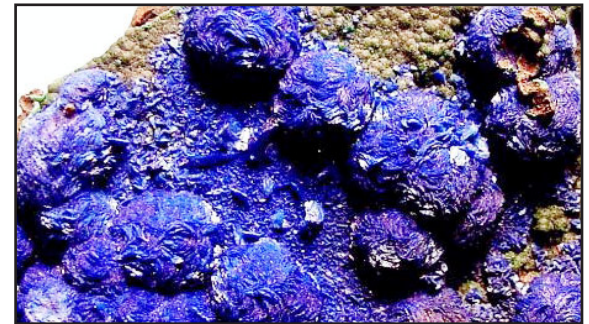
Azurite is used occasionally in jewelry, but its softness and tendency to lose its deep blue color as it weathers into malachite tend to limit this. Heating destroys azurite easily, so all mounting of azurite specimens must be done at room temperature.

The intense color of azurite makes it popular as a collector's stone. Fine crystal clusters, nodular specimens, and interesting and beautiful combinations with malachite are important pieces in anyone's mineral collection.

However, bright light, heat, and open air all tend to reduce the intensity of its color over time. To help preserve the deep blue color of a pristine azurite specimen, collectors should use a cool, dark, sealed storage environment similar to that of its original natural setting.

All copper minerals are toxic and should not be

ingested. However, the toxicity risk is far less than that of heavy metal minerals such as cinnabar, so ordinary handling of azurite poses no significant threat. In common with soluble copper minerals and copper metal itself, azurite poses a significant toxicity threat to aquatic life and should not be used as a decorative stone in fresh or (especially) salt-water aquariums.



PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

- Color is azure, deep blue or pale blue.
- Luster is vitreous to dull depending on habit.
- Transparency: Transparent if in thin crystals, otherwise translucent to opaque.
- Crystal System is monoclinic; 2/m.
- Crystal Habits crystals are irregular blades with wedge shaped terminations. Also, aggregate crusts and radiating, botryoidal, nodular and earthy masses.
- Cleavage is good in one direction and fair in another.
- Fracture is conchoidal and brittle.
- Specific Gravity is 3.7+ (heavier than average).
- Streak is blue.
- Associated Minerals are numerous and include malachite limonite, calcite, cerussite, quartz, chalcocite, native copper, cuprite, chrysocolla, aurichalcite, shattuckite, lironite, connellite and other oxidized copper minerals.
- Notable Occurrences include numerous localities worldwide, but special localities produce some outstanding specimens especially from Lasal, Utah; Bisbee, Arizona and New Mexico, USA; Mexico; Tsumeb, Namibia; Shaba, Congo; Toussit, Morocco; Australia and in many locations in Europe.

researched by: Rose Kapp

reference: www.galleries.com, en.wikipedia.org

photos: Cochise College, skywalker.cochise.edu

Rock News

ROCKS & CRYSTALS



2007 CALENDAR

LOVELY ROCK CALENDAR

A 2007 'Rocks & Crystals' 28-page, 16-month wall calendar is now available from WestPub Inc. The calendar contains large full color images of beautifully lit rock and crystal specimens, including two smaller inset images on each date page. The calendar measures 12" wide by 24" deep when opened, suitable for wall-hanging. Also includes the last 4 months of 2006. PRICE: \$10.99 US. For more info or ordering, go to: <http://stores.westpubinc.com/StoreFront.bok>

Sunshine

Calvin and Hobbes



IT'S A SEDIMENTARY ROCK, FORMED BY SEDIMENT DEPOSITS, AS OPPOSED TO, SAY, AN IGNEOUS ROCK, WHICH IS VOLCANIC IN ORIGIN.



WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

MON. Lapidary 8:30 AM - 12 noon
TUES. Lapidary 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
WED. Faceting 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
THURS. Lapidary 8:30 AM - 12 noon

For faceting, contact Bill McCracken at 604-469-1726

Show Review

Thanks to everyone who helped with the show this year. With a door count of over 940 visitors we broke the record for 'busiest show to date' and came very close to our goal of 1000 visitors. Initial counting suggests this show was also the most successful revenue-wise.

Many British Columbia Lapidary Society executives were contacted by impressed visitors after Saturday and told our show was a 'must see'. We visited with some of them and were even told by one key individual that our show was 'the best, bar none'.

We also received very positive feedback from the Arts Centre Society in Port Moody whose President was seen visiting on both days. The Tri-City news came by to take more pictures for inclusion in an upcoming issue. Kids were also heard chatting with their parents about how much fun the show was.

Andrew

Meeting Highlights

General Meeting, Oct. 26, 2006

- Membership is now due
- Hans' 100th birthday tea is at Kyle Centre on Nov. 26
- Still need volunteers for show, please contact Ken Ayres or Shirley Edwards
- Councilor Mike Clay of Port Moody will officially open the show
- Club has 2 new members, Rex Walker & Anna Wong
- Instead of executive meeting there was a show meeting on November 19th. Lots of new suggestions and ideas for next year's show

Highlights for Nov General Meeting

- Christmas Potluck will be December 15th at Kyle Centre in Port Moody @ 6:30 PM
- Hans' birthday mug/beer stein was greatly appreciated
- Silversmithing on Mondays from 7:00 - 9:00 PM
- Rock show was successful and thanks to everyone
- President, Vice President, Secretary are staying for another term; Al Strome was elected as Treasurer

submitted by Shirley, secretary

Rock News



Happy 100th Birthday
 Hans Golz!

UPCOMING EVENTS



WINTER POTLUCK SUPPER

Friday, December 15th at 6:30 PM at Kyle Centre in PoMo. Bring something delicious to share, your family, dishes, cutlery, mug/cups Coffee, tea, pop, and juice will be provided.

YALE BAR FIELD TRIP

Sun. Jan. 14, 2007

Meeting place: 9:00AM, Bridal Falls Coffee Shop Fraser River materials. In case of snow this far upstream, we may choose a downstream bar. In case of complete white-out, trip will be cancelled. Leader: Harley Waterson, 604-590-3289

* Please be aware that if the weather is bad, field trips at this time of year may be cancelled. Check with the leader of the trip to be sure. Weather conditions up the valley may be different than here closer to the coast.

For more information, check the society web site: www.lapidary.bc.ca/gemshow

US wagon master trips are listed at: www.mineralcouncil.org

Schedule for General Meeting Goodies

After every general meeting there is a round of treats and coffee. Here's a reminder who's next on the list of supplying goodies.

January: Ken A.
 February: Rose K.
 March: Lynne J.
 April: Bill M.
 May: Sonja