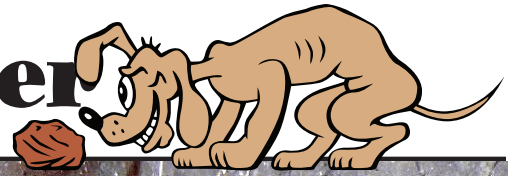


Port Moody Rock & Gem Newsletter



November 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: Chandra Collett

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:

November 30, 2006

January 25, 2007

Port Moody Rock Club Website:

www.portmoodyrockclub.com

BC Society Website:

www.lapidary.bc.ca

The cure for boredom
is curiosity.
There is no cure
for curiosity.
Dorothy Parker

Rock of the Month

Hairy Gems

We think of rocks as hard, strong and boring. Then, all of a sudden, we are faced with something unearthly, almost unnatural. How could anything like this exist in the harsh, natural



Natrolite

www.geopolis-fr.com

world? Unfortunately, many of these crystal oddities are extremely delicate. They are seldom displayed because of the great possibility of destroying their fragile beauty. So, I have taken the idea of introducing you to some wonderful hairy gems.

Natrolite is a common and popular zeolite mineral. Its radiating sprays of ice clear acicular crystals are a hallmark of this mineral and makes a fine specimen.

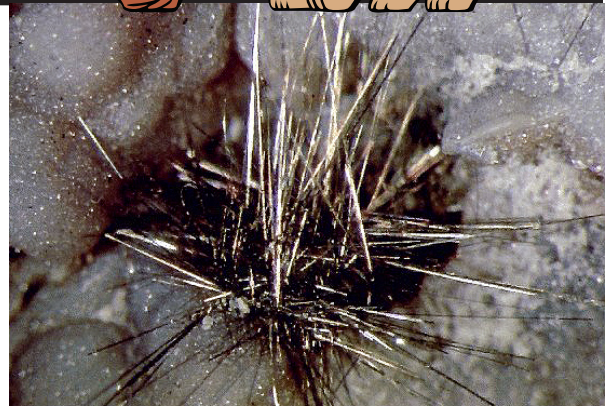


Blue, hairy crystals of cyanotrichite from Arizona
photo by Lou Perloff
www.webmineral.com

Cyanotrichite is a wonderfully colored mineral. Its bright azure to sky blue color is very impressive. Cyanotrichite typically forms acicular or hair like crystals aggregated into radial clusters, tufts and sprays. The color is very impressive for such tiny crystals. It is an aptly named mineral since cyano and trich are derived from the Greek for blue and hair, respectively. It is formed from the oxidation of copper ore minerals along with other oxidation zone minerals.

Millerite is one of a few sulfide minerals that form fine acicular crystals that appear as hair-like fibers aggregated into sprays. It is a real bonus to quartz geode collectors from Indiana to Kansas to open up a geode and find a spray of brassy millerite crystals tucked inside. Millerite is also called "Capillary Pyrite" since it has a brassy yellow color that is close to the color of pyrite. When found as brassy sprays inside of sparkling clear quartz geodes, millerite can make a wonderfully attractive and interesting mineral.

Tremolite is a relatively common mineral in some metamorphic rocks. One variety is composed of microscopically fibrous crystals called asbestos.



Fragile, aricular crystals of metallic yellow millerite in a vug from Kentucky

photo by Lou Perloff www.webmineral.com

Other minerals also form asbestos such as serpentine. Another variety of tremolite is called "mountain leather" or "mountain cork" and is an oddity in the mineral world. The tremolite fibers form a felted mass that has all the appearances and feel of a piece of cloth.



Tremolite www.nysam.org

Rutile is an interesting, varied and important mineral. Rutile is a major ore of titanium, a metal used for high tech alloys because of its light weight, high strength and resistance to corrosion. Rutile is also unwittingly of major importance to the gemstone



Rutile Crystals
www.mineralsweb.com

markets. It forms its own interesting and beautiful mineral specimens. Microscopic inclusions of rutile in quartz, tourmaline, ruby, sapphire and other gemstones, produces light effects such as cat's eye and asterisms (stars). A beautiful stone produced by large inclusions of golden rutile needles in clear quartz is called rutilated quartz.

Fragile, ethereal crystals, nature always surprises us with something new and delightful. Keep your eyes open, you never know what nature will show you next.

researched by:

Rose Kapp

reference:

www.galleries.com



Natrolite www.washingtonminerals.com

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Summer Events

- BBQ Workshop at Ken's for show was a success.
- Wire wrapping was done in June with a good turn out.
- Big Blue is now working.
- 3 new members.

Executive Meeting, Sept 19, 2006

- New shop assistance will be Richard for evening and H.B. for daytime.
- Flat lap has finally arrived.
- "Wearables" needed for library showcase, Oct 1 to Nov 1.

General Meeting, Sept. 28, 2006

- Faceting still on until further notice.
- Demonstration on flat lap done Sept. 23 by Geoff.
- 2 new shop assistants appointed (see Exec. Meeting above)
- Very busy with show. Lots new for this year.
- There will be one more general meeting just before the show (Oct 26).
- New sign designs were shown and accepted by members.

submitted by Shirley, secretary

Schedule for General Meeting Goodies

After every general meeting there is a round of treats and coffee. Members are encouraged to sign a schedule to bring a little something to share.

October: Marg F.

November: Marlene

January: Ken A.

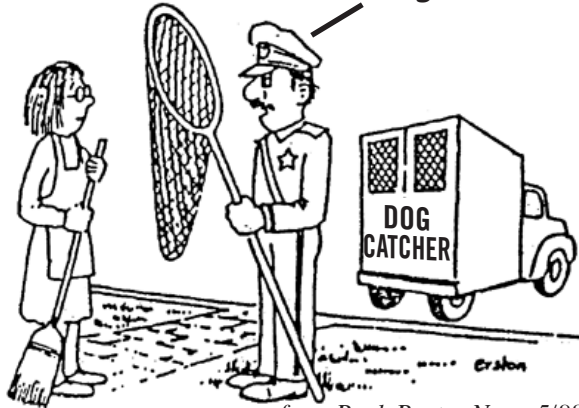
February: Rose K.

March: Lynne J.

We still need people for April and May. We will be reminding members at future meetings.

Sunshine

Well, someone called and said there was a rockhound running loose!



from Rock Buster News 5/88

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

President's Message



Scene from the BBQ Workshop this summer.

2005/2006 has been an active year for our club; so active in fact, it's easy to forget all of our accomplishments. These include:

- Rewriting and approving the Constitution, Bylaws, Club Intro Booklet, and Membership Form
- Writing a new "Workshop Rules & Guidelines" booklet
- Working with the City of Port Moody to have painting, electrical and ventilation improved in our workshop
- Displaying members' work in the Port Moody Arts Centre (titled "Rock Solid") and the Library (titled "Wearable Rocks & Gems")
- Improving ties with the City of Port Moody aka the "City of the Arts" and promoting what it means to be a "Lapidary Artist" through the Arts Centre Society
- Displaying three cases at the Society Show in March
- Hosting Silver Smithing Workshops in collaboration with the Maple Ridge Club
- Hosting a Wire Wrapping Workshop
- Improving the organization of the Annual Rock and Gem Show
- Hosting a "backyard BBQ workshop" for show prizes
- Designing and obtaining new signs for the Annual Rock and Gem Show
- Adding new equipment (flat lap) and repairing old equipment (18" slab saw)

I'd like to thank everyone for all of their efforts and support this past year. At times it can be difficult to mix volunteer hours with life's responsibilities, especially when goals are plentiful. Despite these challenges, our group has collectively invested a great deal of time to improve the club and its offerings and has seen positive results.

I look forward to another active and exciting year.

In our next newsletter issue I will share with you some goals for the coming year.

Andrew

Rock News

ALBERTA RESEARCHERS REVEAL TINY PREHISTORIC PREDATOR

The first account of a *Horolodectes sunae* was published in the September issue of the *Journal of Paleontology*. The scientists assume the creature was likely a tree dweller measuring between 10 and 15 centimetres long, including its tail. It lived during the beginning of the age of mammals, about 60 million years ago in a subtropical swamp in what is now central Alberta.

Jeff Holubitsky, CanWest News Service, National Post, Oct 17, 2006

UPCOMING EVENTS

Rock Oddities!
FREAKY • FANTASTIC • WEIRD • BIZARRE • AMUSING



The Port Moody Rock & Gem Club presents the 2006 Annual Show

Saturday & Sunday • Oct. 28 & 29, 2006
10:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Kyle Centre • 125 Kyle Street • Port Moody

rock displays, dealers, demonstrations, silent auction, kids crafts corner
workshop, fabulous food, members sales table, hourly door prizes, spin & win

for more information, check out
www.portmoodyrockclub.com

The 2007 BC GEM SHOW

Minerals of the Pacific Rim April 13, 14 & 15, 2006

Friday: 10:00am - 8:00pm

Saturday: 10:00am - 6:00pm

Sunday: 10:00am - 6:00pm

Ag-Rec Building,
Central Fraser Valley Fairgrds
32470-Haida Dr., Abbotsford

Admission: Adults - \$6.00,

Students (6 - 17) - \$2.00,

Under 6 - Free

Displays of gemstones, crystals and minerals from member clubs. Collections of hand-crafted jewellery and silversmithing.

Demonstrations of lapidary, sculpting, faceting, silver-smithing, wire wrapping, gold panning and more.

This is Canada's largest gem show with 30 dealers carrying supplies for the hobby, specimens of crystals, minerals, cutting material and many gift items.

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

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