
The Rockhound's Bark

The Nova Scotia Mineral and Gem Society Newsletter

May 2006



ABOUT THE SOCIETY

Meetings are held the last Saturday of each month, September-November and January-May, 7:30 - 10:00 p.m. in the auditorium (Lower Level) of the N.S. Museum of Natural History, 1747 Summer St., Halifax. Dues are \$20/year, payable in January of each year.

2005-2006 EXECUTIVE

President:	Ronnie Van Dommelen
Vice President:	Fred Walsh
Secretary:	Imelda O'Toole
Treasurer:	Terry Collett
Bark Editor:	Ken McKenzie
Librarian:	Doug Bowes

SOCIETY'S MAILING ADDRESS

The Nova Scotia Mineral and Gem Society
c/o NS Museum of Natural History
1747 Summer Street, Halifax, N.S., B3H 3A6

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION DEADLINE

September 23, 2006.

NEXT MEETING

By Ronnie Van Dommelen

Fluorescent fanatics take note! The May meeting will be a talk and display on fluorescent minerals. We will have two speakers. The first will be our own Doug Bowes. He will be joined by special guest Jacques Poulin from Montreal. Both are members of the Fluorescent Mineral Society and long time collectors of these fascinating minerals. Doug has put on an excellent show for us in the past and this will no doubt also be a great evening.

I have been told that Jacques will bring special ultraviolet lights that radiate in four distinct wavelength ranges. Typically we only have two (shortwave and longwave). These midwave bands may hold special surprises, so bring in minerals you think might fluoresce.

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S MINERAL QUIZ

By Ken McKenzie

1. evaporites
2. Windsor Group
3. gypsum
4. the Carboniferous Period
5. dissolution in weak acid
6. marl
7. aragonite (orthorhombic, as opposed to calcite, which is trigonal)
8. blue: azurite $[\text{Cu}_3(\text{OH})_2(\text{CO}_3)_2]$
green: malachite $[\text{Cu}_2(\text{OH})_2\text{CO}_3]$
9. true
10. Carbonates tend to form in the presence of water; searching for signs of past water is a major goal of Mars exploration.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

By Mel O`Toole

April 29, 2006

At the meeting, some people had received *the Bark* by post the previous Thursday. The people who read it on the internet did not receive it until the day of the meeting and some had not had a chance to read it.

Old Business

The minutes were accepted by Terry with Fred as second. The field trip to Dunbrack mine went well until the owners of the property objected to people collecting from the site. In future it may not be possible to go collecting there.

New Business

Ronnie will make up a membership list for the next meeting and hopefully send out e-mail list of members, phone numbers and e-mails.

R. Saat from the Netherlands is offering a "nice big slab of stromatolite" from Germany. His email address is: rini.saat@chello.nl. He is asking \$1200 for that and \$465 for a large agate from Morocco 610x120x15mm.

If the planned trip to Amethyst Cove does not take place in May as hoped perhaps there could be one later. Any ideas for field trips or programmes welcomed.

FLUORESCENT MINERAL WEB SITES

By Ronnie Van Dommelen (April 2001),
updated by Ken McKenzie (May 2006)

This month we feature a selection of websites with related to fluorescent minerals. These are some of the better sites that I found. In particular, the Franklin Mineral Websites are outstanding. They do an excellent job of describing one of the most important mineral localities on the planet, and the best for fluorescent minerals.

Franklin Mineral Websites (franklinsterlinghill.com/)

The Fluorescent Mineral Society
(www.uvminerals.org/)

Ken's Fluorescent Minerals
(users.rcn.com/kenx/)

Sam's Fluorescent Lamp Page
(members.misty.com/don/f-lamp.html)

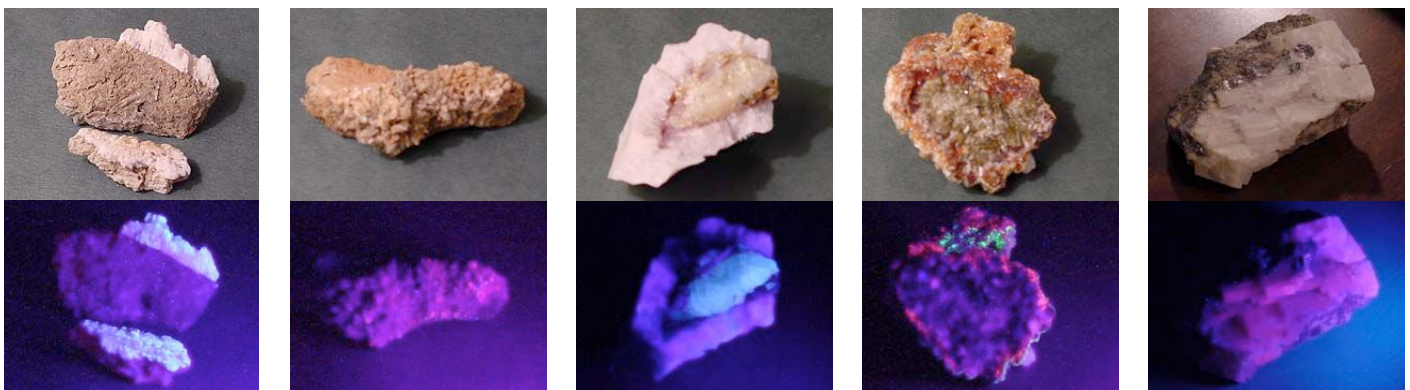
Charles Ward's Fluorescent Minerals
(www.fluorescentminerals.com)

Lewie's Fluorescent Mineral Page
(www.geocities.com/RainForest/9911/)

THE FLUORESCENT MINERALS
(www.galleries.com/minerals/fluoresc.htm)

Franklin Minerals
(www.simplethinking.com/franklinminerals/fmm%20fluorescent%20exhibit.shtml)

N.S.M.G.S. Fluorescent Mineral Page
(www.accesswave.ca/~nsmgs/activities/fluorescents.html)



Nova Scotian specimens from Ken McKenzie's collection photographed in both visible (top) and ultraviolet (bottom) light, left to right: fluorite (Cheverie); dogtooth calcite (Cheverie); calcite, amethyst, and quartz (Amethyst Cove); calcite on sandstone (unknown locality), barite and galena (Walton).