
The Rockhound's Bark

The Nova Scotia Mineral and Gem Society Newsletter

February 2009



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.

2009 EXECUTIVE

President:	William Blinn
Vice President:	Fred Walsh
Secretary/Bark Editor:	Arlene Driscoll
Treasurer:	Terry Collett
Librarian:	Herb Malle

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

MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE NOW DUE

Membership fees are due in January. Please fill out the form on the next page and bring with you to the next meeting or mail it to Terry along with \$20. We would like to be sure we have your most current information.

NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting will be Saturday, February 28, at 7:30 p.m. This month's program is a video presentation on the Crystal Caves by Ken McKenzie.

MINUTES OF JANUARY MEETING

Bill reported that May 9th 2009 would be the date for the Mineral, Lapidary, and Fossil Show at the NS Geology Museum and the Prospectors would like to bring their brochure to advertise their event on May 23.

Bill and Ken will arrange to meet at the bank to change signing authority for the club bank account.

Please contact Bill with any corrections that may be needed in the "Finding Agates and Minerals around the Bay of Fundy" brochure as it will be reprinted for this year's shows.

During the November meeting Bill passed around a survey regarding main interests –ie: lapidary, minerals, fossils, etc. Future presentations will be based on the results of these surveys. Eg: Lapidary demonstration/workshop, faceting, jewelry making, etc. E-mail Bill or Arlene with suggestions.

Members also expressed interest in organizing field trips to Cheverie, Ross Creek, etc. It was suggested that we distribute a list of members, their e-mail addresses and phone numbers so they could organize field trips among themselves. (We will need permission from each member to distribute this info due to the Canada Privacy Act – Arlene will send an e-mail requesting consent).

Bill Harrington will lead a field trip to Kennetcook for fossils. Victor and Bill B. will organize one to Ross Creek for June.

Bill asked for membership to approve presentation of plaque to Eldon George at Parrsboro Show. Terry made motion, Seconded by Herb. Motion passed.

Bill proposed we get club ball caps made, he will get a price for next meeting.

Next up was the presentation by Ken McKenzie on his trip to Iceland.

UPCOMING EVENT

By John Lowry

If you are interested in minerals, consider attending the Maine Mineral Symposium which is being held May 8-10 in Augusta, Maine. [approximately one hour south of Bangor on I 95]

The weekend will provide an exposure to an interesting variety of educational lectures, opportunities to meet collectors from new localities and the possibility of obtaining some new specimens from the selection of mineral dealers. On Sunday, there will be a field trip to a secret location. [unlike N S, the best collecting sites in Maine are closed to the public-in past years the Symposium has been allowed access to some notable collecting areas]

Registration for the weekend is \$15 and can be paid when you arrive.

The complete Program for the weekend can be found in the Maine Geological Survey website or by searching for "Maine Mineral Symposium"

NEW WORD - TRIBOLUMINESCENCE

By John Lowry

This is the property of some materials to emit visible light when they are crushed, struck, scratched or physically manipulated. The exact method by which the light is generated is still not established fully, however it has been agreed that the breaking of asymmetrical crystalline bonds is part of the process.

This phenomenon can be observed in the breaking of sugar crystals [particularly "Wint-O-Green Life Savers"], tearing cloth-based adhesive tape and the interaction between certain minerals.



Sphalerite, which is the principle ore of zinc, is said to show this property quite consistently.

Other minerals in which this can be demonstrated are amblygonite, lepidolite [two sources of lithium], calcite, feldspars, fluorite, mica, pectolite, and quartz.

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION DEADLINE

March 15, 2009

E-mail to driscoll@allstream.net

Nova Scotia Mineral and Gem Society

Membership Application

Payment

Current NSMGS membership dues are \$20 per family (up to two adults and two children). The dues cover membership from January 1 to December 31, 2009.

Payment (Check One): ___ Cheque ___ Cash Total Amount Enclosed: _____

Personal Info

Name of Principal Applicant: _____

Names of Additional Family Members to be Covered: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Alternative: _____

E-mail (If Applicable): _____

Willing to read The Bark on the web (Yes/No) and/or receive other notices via e-mail (Yes/No)?

Areas of Interest

Please rate your areas of interest (1 (*most important*) thru 6 (*least important*)): ___ Minerals, ___ Fossils, ___ Gems, ___ Lapidary, ___ Geology, ___ Other (Specify)

Conditions Of Membership

By submitting this application with payment, the applicant agrees to abide by all conditions of membership as stated in the constitution and releases the Society and its members from any liability associated with Society activities.

I have read and understand the conditions of membership.

Signature: _____

Signature of parent/guardian if under 18 years of age: _____

Date: _____