



July 2009

The Rockhound's Bark

June & July News

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.

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

Membership fees were due in January. Please bring application form to a meeting or mail it to Terry along with \$20. We would like to be sure we have your most current information.

As you may have gathered by now, there was no June Newsletter. My computer crashed and is still not working quite right—guess it is time for a new and improved version.

The June field trip to Ross Creek went very well with 10 people participating and some going on to Kennetcook with Bill Harrington for a fossil hunt.

The Nova Scotia Gem and Mineral Show is being held in Parrsboro on August 14, 15 and 16.

We now have a Facebook group set up, so if you have any news, field trips planned, or just want to chat with other members, check it out. After you sign in, type Nova Scotia Mineral and Gem Society in the Search box.

THE NOVA SCOTIA GEM AND MINERAL SHOW

For information, please visit their website at:

<http://museum.gov.ns.ca/fqm/en/home/whattoseedo/gemmineralshow/default.aspx>

Show Schedule at a Glance

Friday, August 14

10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Show hours
1:00 p.m. Official Opening

Saturday, August 15

10:00 am to 7:00 p.m. Show hours

Sunday, August 16

10:00 a.m to 5:00 p.m. Show hours



RAINBOW CALSILICA

BRILLIANT NEW DISCOVERY OR OUTRAGEOUS FAKE

By Arlene Driscoll



Rainbow Calsilica from Rare Earth Mining Co., Trumbull, CT (203)378-8627. *Photo by Robert Weldon*

In 2002, a new material appeared on the Rock and Gem Show circuit. Touted as a naturally occurring microcrystalline calcite with clay minerals, from a mine in Chihuahua, Mexico. It was a hit with collectors and jewelry makers with its bright, vivid splashes of color.

A lot of collectors had doubts about its authenticity – they thought it looked “plastic”. The SSEF (Swiss Gemological Institute) bought two samples of the material at a show in France and started to perform tests on the materials as did the GIA (Gemological Institute of America). Both groups concluded

that the material was manmade, likely from clay carbonates mixed with pigments and bonded with polymer. Other theories suggested hand made with crushed tiles and drilling runoff mixed with minerals and formed over a thirty year period.

Other experts, however, continue to claim that the material is genuine, producing letters and pictures from the mining company in Mexico as “proof”.

Despite the opposing claims, I purchased a small piece of the (probably overpriced) material in Quartzsite, Arizona to make a pendant or two.

But then, my only criteria for purchase is that I have a “Pretty Rock”.

REQUESTS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS RECEIVED

IF ANYONE CAN ASSIST WITH THESE REQUESTS JUST LET ME KNOW

One of our members is selling mineral specimens at the Alderney Landing Market, on Saturdays.

The specimens are excellent and anyone starting out could improve their collection with pieces as low as \$3.00.

Hi,

I am going to be in and around Halifax and the Pictou area in early October this year for a few days and was wondering about places to go rockhounding and what rocks are there to look for. Any information you could offer would be great. Is there still amethyst around and if so what areas would that be in. I'll also be in St. John's, NL just prior to that, would you have any idea who to contact there? Look forward to any info you may have.

Regards, Barb Unger
Ripple Creek Gem and Mineral Club
Campbell River, BC
notestobarb@yahoo.ca or barbgerry@hotmail.com

East Coast Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show, West Springfield, MA
(...2009 Dealer List)

Dates: August 7–9, 2009

Description: 200 dealers from all over the U.S. and abroad, offering a variety of items related to earth sciences. Door prizes, guest speakers, museum quality exhibits, and a large wholesale section. Air-conditioned hall. Largest wholesale section in the East! [2009 Schedule of Speakers](#).

Featured Exhibitor: Gail & Jim Spann.
[Click here](#) to see photos of the 2008 displays by Herb and Monika Obodda.

Show Hours: 10 a.m.–7 p.m. Friday–Saturday, 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Sunday (Wholesale closes at 4 p.m. Sunday).

Admission: \$6 for adults and seniors; under 12 free with adult. Parking fee is \$5 per day. Pets are not permitted in the Better Living Center.

Display Case rental for dealers, contact: www.atlanticshowcases.com.

Location (click for map): [Better Living Center at the Eastern States Exposition](#), 1305 Memorial Ave., West Springfield, MA 01089.

Rooms: [Sleeping Room Reservation Form for Show \(.pdf, 32 KB\)](#)
Please provide arrival date, departure date, number of beds, smoking or non-smoking room, and how to guarantee late arrival. Free Acrobat Reader can be obtained at www.adobe.com.

*No animals permitted in exhibit hall except for service animals.

Red Beryl
Wah Wah Mtns., Utah
Frederick C. Wilda c. 2008.

Events

**East Coast Gem Show
West
Springfield, MA
August 7-9**

**Nova Scotia
Gem & Mineral
Show,
Parrsboro
August 14-16**

**Deadline for the August
Newsletter is August 15**

**Send submissions to
driscoll@allstream.net**

2009 EXECUTIVE

President:
William Blinn

Vice President:
Fred Walsh

Secretary/Bark Editor:
Arlene Driscoll

Treasurer:
Terry Collett

Librarian:
Herb Malle

MINUTES OF MAY MEETING

By Arlene Driscoll

Old Business:

New bank account has been finalized and is operational.

Bill will reschedule the Kennetcook trip at a later date.

June 20 field trip - meet at the Tim Horton's at exit 5A at 11:30 AM.

Bill will check out a source and quote for club crests.

The website is still not working.

The library is now fully organized so please try to keep it neat. There is also a binder of articles of interest to members which Bill has put together.

The Parrsboro show is August 14, 15 & 16. Our booth will be based on rocks and minerals as they are found in nature and then what they look like after

they are cleaned up or polished. We will also try to show some lapidary. It is the 51st anniversary of the show. We will have copies of the brochures and the Bark for attendees.

The club sent a thank you letter to Rick Radcliff for all his help over the years.

Terry gave a report on the club's finances and the bank balance is within acceptable limits. A motion to buy a new coffee maker was made and approved. A motion was also made to buy the David Susuki Geologic Journey CD and was approved.

Anyone going to the West Springfield show may want to check out the Harvard Museum as it is apparently worth seeing. www.hmn.harvard.edu

The theme for the September meeting will be "identification of summer findings".

WEBSITES OF INTEREST

<http://nsminerals.atspace.com>

<http://museum.gov.ns.ca/fossils/>

<http://www.mindat.org>

<http://vuprocks.com>

<http://gis3.natr.gov.ns.ca/MODB/>

<http://gis.wvdep.org/convert/>

<http://www.bayoffundytourism.com/tides/times/>

<http://www.rockngem.com/>

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/natr/MEB/pdf/ic66.htm>

<http://www.rockhounds.com/rockshop/nssites.html>

<http://www.42explore.com/rocks2.htm>

<http://www.allaboutgemstones.com/>

<http://www.rockhoundkids.com>

<http://mineralcollecting.org/>

<http://www.galleries.com/>

<http://www.minerals.net/>