



The Rockhound's Bark

March 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.

This month's meeting will feature a presentation on lapidary by T. Spence.

Contributions from John Lowry and William Blinn over the past several months have given me time to become familiar with the club and its



Crazy lace agate

activities and it has been appreciated. This new format for the newsletter will make it faster and easier to produce. Over the next several months I hope to expand the newsletter and add more illustrations and how-to articles. Let me know if you have suggestions for stories and format changes.

The Founding of the "Mineralogical Record"

Submitted by John Lowry

Ref: Min.Rec. Jan-Feb 2004
Min.Rec. Nov-Dec 2008

On Friday February thirteenth, 1970 the Friends of Mineralogy was formed at a meeting held in conjunction with the annual Tucson show. During the discussions, John White, an employee of the Mineral Sciences Department of the Smithsonian Institution, presented his vision for a new publication to serve mineral collectors.

At that time Mr. White felt that the hobby was poorly served by the current publications [Rocks & Minerals and Mineral Digest]. His proposal was accepted by the Friends of Mineralogy and support, in the form of articles and financing followed.

The name for the publication was to be "The Mineralogical Journal" however that name was taken by a Japanese publication. As Mr. White was located in Washington DC, the word "Record" was suggested, being that "The Congressional Record" was the written legacy of the US Congress. In June 1970, five thousand copies of the first issue of the Mineralogical Record

were distributed. [there was a further reprint of six hundred issues to meet demand for the publication]

That year, three more issues were published. In 1971, the schedule changed to six issues per year and that bimonthly format has been maintained through the years.

The early years were lean with volunteers helping with many of the tasks associated with producing a publication. Subscriptions, dealer advertisements and an annual mineral auction at the Tucson show provided ongoing finances until the publication became self sufficient.

Currently, the "Mineralogical Record" is in its thirty-ninth year of existence. In 1976 the position of Editor was transferred to Dr Wendell Wilson who still acts in that capacity. The monthly circulation is now fifty-eight hundred copies and subscribers consider the Record an important adjunct to their mineral collection.

NEWSLETTER
SUBMISSION DEADLINE
April 15, 2009
Email to:
driscoll@allstream.net

MINUTES OF FEBRUARY MEETING

By William Blink

Old Business:

Lack of the executive access to the bank account was again discussed. A motion was carried that Ken & Ron be requested to get a Bank draft for the total amount of the account and get it to Terry. Terry and Bill will then set up an account where we have access.

The May 9th mineral, agate, fossil show at the museum is on hold due to availability of the room. Victor will keep us informed about other dates.

Bill read paragraph from a survey "Portrait of a Rockhound" which has been conducted on the internet. This survey showed that members main interest was in the same area as our club, 63 percent, 26 percent agate. Fossils were not included in this survey. So guess we are average!

Bill Harrington reported that the first or third week of May would be a good time for the trip to Kennetcook/Cheverie

Bill and Victor will have possible dates for the Ross Creek trip at the March meeting.

It is hoped that members take an interest in these trips, remember others are giving up their time to do them for you.

New Business

Bill informed the group that the insurance with the Gem & Mineral Federation of Canada has been paid.

Arrangements are being made to have T. Spence do a presentation on lapidary. Bill hope to get him for the March meeting.

Doug Bowes has agreed to do a presentation on "fluorescence" some time in the fall.

A sheet was passed around for hat color and it was decided to order 24 Burgundy and 12 Red hats. Bill also had a picture of the design to be stitched on the hats. They should be here by next meeting and are \$10.00 each.

NEW "G" WORDS

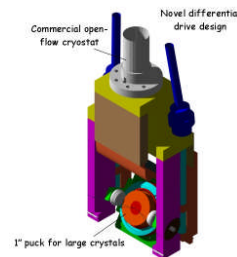
Submitted by John Lowry

GANGUE - worthless rock and earthy matter surrounding a mineral of interest.

GREISEN - an altered form of granite that is composed of quartz and mica.

GONIOMETER- an instrument used to measure the angles between crystal faces. Invention of the contact goniometer in 1780 facilitated the study of crystal forms and lead to the foundations of crystallography. In 1809 the reflecting goniometer was invented which allowed for more accurate measurements. The logo of the Mineralogical Record is derived from a photograph of

a goniometer that originally belonged to the Smithsonian and was subsequently traded to the magazine.



2009 EXECUTIVE

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William Blinn

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Fred Walsh

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Arlene Driscoll

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