



May 2010

The Rockhound's Bark

News

The next meeting will be held at the Museum on May 29, 2010 .

The presentations for May are "Cleaning and Trimming Minerals" and "Answering Your Questions". These presentations will cover how to trim and clean your "finds" and the "experts" in the club will answer all your questions. Remember to bring any specimens that you may want identified.

MINUTES OF APRIL MEETING

By Arlene Driscoll

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

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.

Old Business

The new website is still not built but the old one is still up and running.

Bill reported that a bank account for the club had still not been opened due to availability to sign the papers. Bill will attempt to get that set up by next month.

Bill needs definite times for your scheduled shift at the Parrsboro Show. Please let him know as soon as possible what shift you can work.

The Black Rock Light trip will be held on May 8. Email Bill by May 6 if you have a problem.

The Prospectors Association has their Panning Clinic that same day in Moose River. If you are planning to attend, be aware that there are lots of black flies.

New Business

The club currently owns a microscope, trimmer and 3 UV lights (2 small & 1 Large) Should we keep them or sell them off as there is really no place to keep them and they are not in great shape. Members decided that everything should be sold to the highest bidder at the next meeting, with the exception of the large UV light which will be kept for club use.

The club received an invitation to the Museum Gala Re-Opening and a request to have the museum attend a meeting to let members know the plans for the museum.

Gordon Stewart brought in two books which he recommended to the members.

A Crack at The Edge of the World and Map That Changed the World by Simon Winchester. He also recommended that we try to add them to the club library. Herb will check out the price and availability. It was also recommended that we purchase more magazines for the library such as Rock & Gem, etc.

Gem and Mineral Federation of Canada

Code of Conduct for Canadian Collectors

Respecting the Earth Sciences

1. Know and comply with all public laws and local ordinances governing the excavating, collecting, removing and exporting of specimens.
2. Enter and collect on private lands only with the consent of the owner and on public lands only with any necessary permits. Respect any occupier's privacy and carry proper identification. Leave all gates as you find them and do not interfere with livestock or equipment.
3. Do not expose others or yourself to unnecessary injury. Use proper safety equipment and apparel. Do not undermine rock surfaces or collect alone in isolated areas.
4. Avoid any unnecessary disturbance to the environment. Plants and animals may be inadvertently displaced or destroyed through thoughtless action. Restore the collecting site to its original status by filling in any excavations and leaving it cleaner than you found it.
5. Preserve sites for future generations by keeping collecting to a minimum unless the site is scheduled for destruction. Specimens should not be ruined by indiscriminate hammering or the use of inadequate equipment.
6. Promptly catalogue, identify and preserve specimens collected, for your own knowledge and that of other collectors.
7. Ensure that proper provision has been made for the ultimate disposition of your collections and notes to appropriate institutions or persons to preserve this Heritage for future generations.
8. Report unique geological, paleontological and mineralogical occurrences, particularly vertebrate finds, to your nearest museum, university, or the Geological Survey of Canada.
9. Immediately disclose to the appropriate authority, offences of public law relating to the Earth Sciences or the flagrant abuses of this Code committed by any collector.
10. Foster public interest in geological sites and their wise use and conservation. This includes public leadership and education as to the intrinsic values of our rich Canadian Mineralogical and Paleontological Heritage.

The summer will offer many opportunities for collecting so please keep this code of conduct in mind as you explore.

Clean Up Your Act – Safely, Please

by Ted Rieth, AFMS Safety Chair.
From AFMS Newsletter, June 2009

The lovely, sparkly, near pristine specimens many of us 'collect' at rock, gem, and mineral shows hardly ever are found in that condition in Nature. Those who collect 'in the wild' will have some cleaning chores in front of them, whether planning to sell those specimens, or add them to a personal collection.

In almost any venture, simple is better than complex, and less hazard is better than more. However, if you truly know the specimen you have and the nature of the surface contaminant, then by all means use complex cleaning methods with hazardous chemicals (if that is the needed methodology), but do so safely. An important key to any cleaning is to know your specimen and know its contaminant. This means to know each in terms of Mohs hardness and chemical make-up. Hardness will guide one in mechanical cleaning options, while the chemistry will dictate specific cleaning materials.

Cleaning methods, from simple/safe to complex/less safe, may be outlined as follows: •Soak in or clean under running water, using a bristle brush. •Same as above, but add a cleaning agent, such as household detergent, to the water. This will help 'wet' the surface contaminant and allow it to be flushed away more readily. •If appropriate, use a brass brush (Mohs 3.5 – 5) or steel dental pick (harder). This is where knowledge of the base mineral hardness is useful. The tool needs to be harder than the contaminant, but less hard than the base material. Of course, test on an obscure area first to confirm suitability.

One very interesting cleaning option I saw is to use Soft Scrub cleaner (ground calcium carbonate in a detergent base) and a battery powered toothbrush. To give credit, the following link provides an excellent write-up: <[home page.mac.com/rasprague/PegShop/extras/brush/brush.html](http://home.page.mac.com/rasprague/PegShop/extras/brush/brush.html)>. Use equipment such as ultrasonic cleaners (good for more fragile specimens) or small sand blasters to remove tough scale on minerals, while following all manufacturer use and safety recommendations. Use an acid/water solution for those known, hard to remove contaminants. Oxalic acid and hydrochloric (Muriatic) acids are typically used for cleaning of quartz. Both are available in hardware stores. Another useful link for specific procedures using acids is at: <www.rockhounds.com/rockshop/john_betts/clean1.html>.

Events

**Bead Oasis Show at
WTCC
July 16, 17, 18, 2010
www.oasisshows.com**

**Parrsboro Rock and
Gem Show
August 20, 21 22, 2010**

Black Rock Lighthouse Field Trip

By Bill Blinn

The trip to Black Rock Lighthouse was enjoyable, but chilly. In total 5 people took the tour. We found a bit of Stilbite and some Natrolite. Here are a couple of pictures



**Deadline for the
June Newsletter is
June 15**

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

QUESTIONS PROPOSED SO FAR FOR MAY

2009 EXECUTIVE

President:
William Blinn

Vice President:
Fred Walsh

Secretary/Bark Editor:
Arlene Driscoll

Treasurer:
Terry Collett

Librarian:
Herb Malle

Massachusetts and Connecticut basalts (which may be a bit more mafic than the Nova Scotian basalts) have a very notable presence of Datolite, Prehnite, and Babingtonite. North Mountain basalt shows little or no Babingtonite and Datolite rare amounts of Prehnite. Any ideas about the difference?

How do you make /print specimen identification labels?"

I am interested in knowing where I can find Nova Scotian trilobites to observe, photograph and excavate or buy. I will bring some trilobites that I have for identification.