

Mineral of the Month Club Newsletter

January 2015



Hello Mineral of the Month Club Member:

First and foremost, we would like to wish you the very best for a Happy and a Healthy New Year! Thanks to you, Mineral of the Month Club will be celebrating its 19th anniversary this year and this month marks the 227th consecutive mailing of mineral specimens to our members.

Featured Mineral:

Our January featured mineral of the month is chrysocolla, a basic hydrous copper aluminum acid silicate. Chrysocolla is an oxidized copper mineral with a bright, greenish-blue color that is comparable to the color of turquoise. It has served as a minor gemstone since ancient times and continues to be used in jewelry today. Intensely colored, gem-quality, rough chrysocolla costs as much as \$100 per ounce.

Year End Special: We have a limited amount of the 2014 minerals left from the monthly offering sheets. There were beautiful specimens in a rainbow of colors and a variety of crystal shapes that represent a vast selection of localities, in 16 nations and 13 American states. Among these specimens were five quartz varieties, two calcite varieties, and four fluorite varieties. Also included are polychrome jasper, fire agate, three garnet minerals, two tourmaline minerals, and specimens of brightly colored azurite, malachite, and bornite. To help make room for our new inventory, we are making these specimens available to our members at a *15-percent discount*. This is an opportunity for our members to acquire any of the minerals that they might have missed during the past year. You can find the entire years' worth of offering sheets on the website under the Mineral of the Month Club tab.

Rock Hound Tidbits:

During the last century the relationship between mining and mineral collecting has changed radically and you can read more about this on pages 8 and 9 of the chrysocolla write-up. Of all the specimens we have sent to club members over the years, nearly 95 percent have come from

active mines or from mines that have been reopened specifically for specimen collection. We also have an article called, "Mining and Mineral Specimens", written by Steve Voynick in the "Science Behind the Minerals" section of the Reading Room on our website.

Welcome New Members:

Welcome to our newest members, Foster C. from California, James E. from Virginia, Josephine M. from Michigan, Shawn P. from North Carolina and Stephen V. from Maine.

And to all our returning members who renewed for yet another year, thank you !

Website Access to Write-ups and Newsletters:

Initially, Christine will have to set up your account for you to be able to access the member only area of the website. Please email the user name and password that you would like to use to Christine@celestialearthminerals.com. After your account is set up, Christine will notify you via email. If you want, you can change your password at any time.

Coming in February:

The featured "Mineral of the Month" for February will be wulfenite from Mexico's historic Ojuela Mine. Wulfenite has long been a favorite among collectors because of its well-developed, square, tabular crystals; yellow-to-orange-red colors; bright, adamantine luster; and its transparency or high degree of translucency. The write-up will discuss differences between classic localities and type localities.

We are here for you:

We are here for all your collecting needs. If you have any questions please contact Christine, our Mineral of the Month Club manager, by telephone at 1-800-941-5594 or via e-mail at Christine@celestialearthminerals.com.

Don't forget that *we reward referrals!* Every member that purchases a gift membership or gets a new member to join Mineral of the Month Club will receive a complimentary month added to their membership.

You can visit our Facebook pages, Mineral of the Month Club and Mineral Crew to mingle with other members and as a forum for discussions among fellow rock hounds.

Many Blessings,

Dimitri, Mary, Christine, and Lora