

# Mineral of the Month Club



## Featured Mineral- Lapis Lazuli September 2014

Hello Mineral of the Month Club Member :

The featured mineral for September is lazurite, a basic sodium calcium aluminum sulfate chlorosilicate. Lazurite is best known as the primary mineral component of the gemstone lapis lazuli and the cause of its distinctive, deep, royal-blue color. Our specimens consist of rough lapis lazuli that was collected in the Sar-e-Sang district in the Kokcha Valley, Badakhshān Province, Afghanistan. Sar-e-Sang has provided the world's finest lapis lazuli for more than 6,000 years and is also the type locality for lazurite.

As a gemstone, lapis lazuli is judged by the intensity and depth of its royal-blue color, fineness of grain, minimal "streaking" of white calcite, and inclusions of numerous, glittering bits of golden pyrite. All these features must be present to produce a fine lapis-lazuli gemstone. Deep royal-blue is the signature color of fine lapis lazuli. If white calcite is present, it must be in quantities and patterns that enhance, rather than detract, from the basic blue color. Fineness of grain is necessary for the stone to take a high polish. Finally, included bits of pyrite highlight the basic blue color to create an appearance that gemologists have described as a "star-filled night sky."

Our specially selected specimens display all of these gemstone qualities. Several members have asked if these specimens are suitable for cutting and polishing. The answer is yes. Our Platinum Level specimens consist of gem-quality rough that can be fashioned into beautiful and valuable lapis-lazuli gemstones. It is, of course, up to the individual whether he or she chooses to keep the specimen intact as a display piece or fashion it into gems.

Just email or call Christine, who will personally pick a specimen that meets the color, size, and overall visual appeal that you desire.

As always we thank you for being a part of the Mineral of the Month Club Community,

Many Blessings,

Dimitri, Mary, Christine, and Lora

# Featured Mineral

## Lapis Lazulli



Specimen Size: 1" x 1.5" x 1" to 1.5" x 2.5" x 1"  
Price range: \$40.00 to \$55.00

These rough gemstone specimens have a classic royal-blue color with glittering bits of brassy pyrite. Many have a bit of marble matrix in them as well.

See the following page for our polished lapis lazuli beauties.

# Featured Mineral

## Lapis Lazuli



Specimen Sizes: 2" x 3" to 4" x 4"  
Price range: \$45.00 to \$125.00



# Further Information

## Coming in October



**Pentagonite- India**

You can look forward to pentagonite as the featured mineral in October. Bright-blue Pentagonite is a rare mineral that is known to occur only in India and the United States. A calcium oxyvanadium silicate, it is dimorphic with cavansite (our Mineral of the Month for November 2012). Pentagonite and cavansite are chemically identical, crystallize in the orthorhombic system yet they differ in their crystal-lattice structures and crystal habits. They consist of spherical sprays of bright-blue pentagonite crystals that contrast beautifully against an off-white matrix of the zeolite mineral heulandite-(Ca). A real crowd pleaser!

**We love to hear from our members, so please call or email anytime!**

**Discounts available:** If you order 4 or more minerals from the Featured Mineral letter and/or the Offering sheet you will receive a 10% discount on your mineral purchase.

**Ordering:** To place an order you can call #800-941-5594 or email [christlne@celestialearthminerals.com](mailto:christlne@celestialearthminerals.com)

**Shipping:** As always, shipping is free in the United States.

**Specimen size:** All our specimens are approximate in size.

**Method of payment:** We accept, Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover, PayPal and checks.

*Please make checks payable to Celestial Earth Stones.*

