

Mineral of the Month Club Newsletter



September 2015

Hello and a Happy September to You!

One of my favorite times of the year is approaching, the fall! Summer time activities begin to wind down, humidity levels drop, and soon leaves will be turning beautiful colors of red, gold and brown. Wishing you all the enjoyments of autumn...

Featured Mineral: The featured mineral this month is brown Barite from The Linwood limestone Mine. Barite crystals from the Linwood Mine have long been popular with collectors. Our specimens consist of well-developed, transparent, smoky-brown barite crystals on a matrix of altered limestone. The crystals, which are sharp-edged, terminated, orthorhombic prisms, are mostly transparent, with smooth faces and a vitreous-to-pearly luster. A few years back we had this on the monthly offering and it was very popular. This year we were able to acquire enough quantity to be able to make it a featured mineral.

Limestone quarrying began at the site of the Linwood Mine in 1897. The current owner and operator, the Linwood Mining and Minerals Corporation, acquired the quarry in 1944, increased production, and later moved the operation underground. The Linwood Mine is not open to public mineral collecting because of safety and liability issues. However, when vugs containing collectible specimens of barite and other minerals are encountered during production, miners collect these crystals and sell them to mineral dealers. A detailed history and description of the Linwood Mine appear in this month's write-up.

Rock Hound Tidbits: The term luster is often used when describing a mineral specimen. The luster is determined by the texture on the surface of the mineral. The three luster categories are metallic, submetallic, and nonmetallic. Under the physical properties section of each month's write-up we include a description of the luster of the featured mineral. This month there is in-depth information about how the luster is determined and the three categories of luster on page 8 of the write-up.

F.Y.I: There is an integral “behind the scenes” person that I would like to introduce you to, *Steve Voynick*. Steve has worked with the Mineral of the Month Club since 2002. He has written all of the extensive write-ups on the featured minerals, written two articles about the Mineral of the Month Club in *Rock & Gem Magazine*, authored a slew of articles just for MOTMC members, and contributes on a technical and scientific level for us. He is invaluable to us.

A brief Bio: He has written more than 1,000 articles and is a contributing editor and science columnist with *Rock & Gem* magazine. As a former hard rock miner, he has mined Colorado molybdenum, Alaska gold, Arizona copper, and Wyoming uranium. Eight of his ten books deal with topics of minerals, mineral collecting, mining, and gemstones. He is a former member of the board of directors of the National Mining Hall of Fame & Museum

Memberships: Welcome to David L. from California, Gina M. from California and Shelby R. from Canada. Thank you to all our members who renewed for yet another year!

In the News at Mineral of the Month Club: Christine, our Mineral of the Month Club manager, and Lora, her assistant, attended the East Coast Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show in West Springfield, Massachusetts, which was held August 7-9. This is the East Coast’s largest gem-and-mineral show. Christine and Lora met with some of the 200 dealers who were present. Two of these dealers specialize in minerals from the basalt-zeolite area of northern New Jersey and the metamorphic formations of northwestern New York. Among the interesting specimens from these localities that Christine and Lora examined were datolite and composite specimens of white calcite and orange stilbite. “We spent most of our time talking with dealers,” Christine recalls. “But we were still able to view the Martin Zinn Mineral Collection, which was the show’s special exhibit.”

Many collectors are familiar with Martin Zinn, a leading gem-and-mineral-show promoter and nationally known mineral collector. The East Coast Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show is a production of Martin Zinn Expositions, L.L.C.

Coming in October: Tinalconite, a rare, pseudomorphic borate mineral from the huge evaporite-mineral deposit at Searles Lake, California. Some of these specimens also have hanksite crystals in them.

We are here for you: We are here for you and 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 there is a growing community of members on our Facebook pages called Celestial Earth Minerals and Mineral Crew/ Mineral of the Month Club, Instagram and Twitter as well as Pinterest.

Dimitri, Mary, Christine, and Lora

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