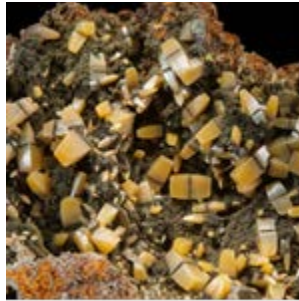


Mineral of the Month Club Newsletter

February 2015



Hello Mineral of the Month Club Member:

We are excited to have yet another wonderful month in store for you!

Featured Mineral: We kicked off the New Year with chrysocolla from Peru and this month we have wulfenite from the Ojuela Mine in Mexico. Wulfenite, an uncommon lead molybdate, is a favorite among mineral collectors for its well-developed, square, tabular crystals and colors that range from yellow and yellow-gold to yellow-orange, orange, and reddish-orange. Wulfenite was first described in 1785 in Austria and was recognized as a distinct mineral species in 1845. Although wulfenite is too soft for general jewelry use, nicely colored, uncut crystals are sometimes wrapped in silver wire for use as pendants. Because of its high lead and molybdenum content, wulfenite has one of the highest densities of all transparent minerals. To read more about wulfenite please see our extensive write-up.

Rock Hound Tidbits or information, History Etc.: One of our Club members recently asked us to explain the difference between a mineral's type locality and its classic locality so this month we decided to use wulfenite as an example in which a mineral had different *type* and *classic* localities.

Our wulfenite specimens are from the Ojuela Mine, a *classic* wulfenite locality. A *classic* locality is defined as either a locality that produces large numbers of different mineral species which the Ojuela mine does or as a site that produces specimens that best exemplify the aesthetic appeal and physical properties of a particular mineral species.

A *type* locality is defined as the locality where a mineral was first found and then later named as a mineral species. Wulfenite was first collected at the bad Bleiberg lead-mining district near Kärnten, Carinthia, Austria in 1785. Hence, wulfenite's *type* locality is Austria's Bad Bleiberg district.

To read more about type and classic localities see pages 7, 8, and 9 of the write-up. We appreciate this opportunity to explain type and classic localities, and we welcome similar

suggestions from our members. Please tell us of any specific topics that you think should be addressed in our newsletters and write-ups and we will be happy to address them.

Welcome New Members:

Welcome to our newest members Rachel B. from Utah, Shawn P. from North Carolina and Tonia W. from Ohio.

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.

Tucson Here We Come!: Christine will be visiting Tucson, Arizona, in late January and early February to attend the Tucson Gem & Mineral Show and its many satellite shows. As many of our members know, the annual Tucson gem-and-mineral show sets the international trends in mineral specimens and gemstones for the coming year. Tucson is where specimens from new finds are introduced, and where many long-held, private mineral collections are put on the market.

Coming in March: Our March Mineral of the Month will be the yellow variety of calcite from the Elk Creek locality near Dalzell in Meade County, South Dakota. These dense clusters of delicate, well-formed, translucent, yellow calcite crystals have an unusual origin—they form linings within hollow concretions in the Pierre Shale formation. Although the Elk Creek locality extends for 20 miles, most of it is on private ranch land where collecting is prohibited. Many of the most productive sites have been depleted and the supply of specimens is steadily dwindling. We were fortunate to acquire these yellow calcite specimens.

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 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.

Thanks again to all our members, and we'll visit with you again in March.

Dimitri, Mary, Christine, and Lora