



Mineral of the Month Club

Newsletter

March 2015

Hello Mineral of the Month Club Member:

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

Featured Mineral: The featured mineral of the month is a yellow crystalline variety calcite from the United States. These specimens are from the Elk Creek locality in Meade County, South Dakota, they consist of dense clusters of delicate, well-formed, translucent, yellow calcite crystals that developed as linings within hollow concretions in a massive formation of shale.

We were fortunate to acquire these specimens because most of the sprawling Elk Creek locality is on private ranch land where collecting is prohibited. Also, many productive Elk Creek sites that were formerly open to collecting are now depleted, and the specimen supply is steadily dwindling.

Rock Hound Tidbits: Members may recall that we featured a red, massive variety of calcite from Mexico in November 2014 and the contrast between the two completely different forms of calcite is fascinating. Bob Jones wrote a wonderful article entitled "Crazy Calcite" in the July 2013 issue of Rock and Gem Magazine in which he discusses all the crystal systems and colors that calcite will form in. We have a copy of the article posted in our Reading Room section on our website. If you don't have access to the internet, contact Christine and she will mail you a copy.

Welcome New Members: Welcome to our newest members Mary Z. from IL. and Perry W. from KY.

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

Tucson! Christine attended the Tucson Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show for the first time this year and she absolutely loved it! It gave her the opportunity to not only buy for The Mineral of the Month Club featured minerals and monthly offerings, but to see minerals she may not otherwise have access to.

As many members know, this annual event establishes international trends and prices in mineral specimens and gemstones for the coming year. This year's show was the largest yet with

40 satellite shows and over 3,000 vendors. To see as much as possible, Christine would start each day by first plotting out which satellite shows she would attend that day and shop from as soon as they opened at 9:00 until when the shows closed at 5:00. Overall, the show runs for almost three weeks from late January through mid-February and attracts tens of thousands of visitors. It is a must see for all rock hounds.

The theme for The 2015 Tucson Gem & Mineral Show was “Minerals of Western Europe” and it was held at the Tucson Conference Center between February 12th and 15th. The specimens were from historic localities in countries like Spain, Italy, France, England, and Germany was spectacular.” The Tucson Gem & Mineral Society has exhibits, lectures and seminars as well as retail dealers and separate annual events for kids.

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 April: Our April Mineral of the Month will be a composite of gyrolite and apophyllite-(KF). Composite specimens consist of two or more minerals that are more-or-less equally prominent. Our composite specimens of gyrolite and apophyllite-(KF) provide a fine opportunity to compare the physical properties of these two minerals. The gyrolite forms translucent, white spherules and nodular aggregates of radiating, lamellar, internal crystals that contrast nicely with the well-developed, colorless, transparent apophyllite-(KF) crystals. Because we have already featured apophyllite-(KF) as our Mineral of the Month in December 2013, we will make gyrolite—a mineral we have never featured before—the primary mineral in our upcoming write-up.

Looking ahead to May, we will feature the rock-crystal variety of quartz from Arkansas. Our write-up will include a section on Arkansas’ legacy of quartz mining that goes back to prehistoric times. For June, members can expect to receive specimens of angelite, a lead-sulfate mineral from Peru.

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.

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 April.

Dimitri, Mary, Christine, and Lora