

# Mineral of the Month Club



## Offering Sheet November 2015

This month's offering consists of four special offers from China and the United States. The colors range from forest green in the fluorite, creamy peach in the dolomite, bright silver in the muscovite and multicolored, adularescent-blue-green-white in the peristite.

Shapes include hexagonal stacks of platy crystals in the muscovite, botryoidal hemispheres in the fluorite, clusters of gently curved rhombohedrons in the dolomite.

Two great resources for mineral terminology, our own glossary of minerals & Mindat's Glossary. Click on the links below for more information:

<https://celestialearthminerals.com/mineral-glossary/>  
<http://www.mindat.org/glossary.php>

**"Christine's Pick"** for the month is the muscovite mica from Western North Carolina. From the minute I laid eyes on them at The Tucson Gem & Mineral Show I knew not only did I have to have one to add to my collection, but I had to get them to put on the monthly offering sheet for you! Needless to say, I grabbed every piece that the vendor had. Not only do they have an amber translucency which is rarely seen in muscovite, mica but they have that pearlized shimmer that I just love. See page one for all the details.

Take a gander of what we have and let Christine and Lora know which one's you will be adding to your collection.

Warmest Regards,

Dimitri, Mary, Christine, and Lora



**Specimen size:** 1" x 1.5" to 2.5" x 6.25"  
**Price:** \$35.00- \$175.00

## **Muscovite (Mica)- Chris's Pick**

The photo does not do this specimen justice. Mica in and of itself may not be "rare" but the beauty of these babies is.

The Kings Mountain district of Cleveland County, North Carolina, is known for its granite-pegmatite minerals, especially the mica-group mineral muscovite, or potassium aluminum silicate. These specimens consist of clusters of compact, stacked muscovite "books," each with a distinct, hexagonal shape. The opaque, platy surfaces have a bright, silvery luster, but when viewed from the edge with intense backlighting, the same books exhibit a translucency with a soft, amber color.



**Specimen sizes:** 2.5" x 3" to 2.5" x 6"  
**Price:** \$100.00- \$275.00

## **Green Fluorite- variety**

### **Botryoidal**

At the Springfield Massachusetts show this year everyone was falling over these newly found specimens, so we just had to grab up several pieces for our members. What I liked about them is that these Forest Green masses are also translucent to transparent.

Collected at Xinyang in Henan Province, China, these specimens consist of botryoidal masses of fluorite, or calcium fluoride. The botryoidal surface is made up of joined, hemispherical groups of fluorite; each hemisphere has a bright luster and a glitter that changes with the viewing angle. The semitransparent nature of the fluorite lends depth and richness to the forest-green color, making these specimens especially desirable as display pieces.



**Specimen size:** 1" x 1" to 2.75" x 3.5"  
**Price range:** \$35.00- \$275.00

## Peristerite

Each year there is one vendor who we like to purchase from at the Springfield, Massachusetts show, Mike. He is a teacher, a fellow rock hound and usually has a few new surprises from upstate New York for us. This year it was the peristerite.

These specimens are a variety of albite, or sodium aluminum silicate, are from the Ellis Farm in St. Lawrence County, New York, and consist of a large section of an albite crystal showing slight iridescence and sometimes adulescence (as seen in moonstone and labradorite). Each specimen exhibits the optical phenomenon of adulescence and has a bright, blue-green-white sheen that comes from light reflecting from layers of albite microcrystals. When cut and polished, this gemstone is marketed as "labradorite."



**Specimen size:** 2.4" x 3.0" x 6.0"  
**Price range:** \$45.00- \$125.00

## Dolomite

The Black Rock Quarry in Hoxie, Lawrence County, Arkansas, has long provided fine specimens of dolomite, or calcium magnesium carbonate. These specimens consist of dense clusters of translucent, doubly terminated, saddle-shaped, rhombohedral dolomite crystals, each gently curved and with an attractive peach color and a soft, silky-to-pearly luster. The dolomite crystal clusters rest atop a matrix of fine-grained, gray chert.

# Still Available From Last Month:



**Specimen size:** 2" x 2.5" to 3.75" x 5.5"  
**Price:** \$75.00- \$300.00

## Butterfly Phantom Calcite

Collected from the Potosí Mine in Santa Eulalia, Chihuahua, Mexico, these specimens are sections of large, translucent, scalenohedral, "dogtooth" crystals of calcite, or calcium carbonate. Each specimen exhibits lustrous, well-formed crystal faces; a mix of distinct white, amber, and maroon coloration; and large, plainly visible inclusions of "phantom" crystals.



**Specimen sizes:** 1.5" x 2" to 3.5" x 4.5"  
**Price:** \$25.00 to \$55.00

## Halite

These specimens of halite, or sodium chloride, consist of intricate clusters of well-developed, slightly elongated cubes. Collected from Michigan's Detroit Salt Mine, these sharp-edged, colorless, transparent crystals exhibit smooth, lustrous, glassy faces and rest atop a matrix of massive, gray-brown halite. They also display a bright, blue fluorescence under ultraviolet light.



**Specimen size:** 3" x 4" to 5" x 8"  
**Price range:** \$19.00 to \$40.00

## Dendrites

These specimens from the Solnhoffen Quarry in Germany consist of dendritic patterns of black manganese oxides that contrast sharply with a buff-colored matrix of fine-grained limestone. The dendrites appear as rows of tiny, beautifully detailed, tree-shaped etchings atop the smooth limestone bedding planes. Although they may appear to be fossils, these dendrites are actually of mineralogical origin.

# Further Information

**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@celestiaearthminerals.com](mailto:christlne@celestiaearthminerals.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.***

**Wish lists...** If you are looking for something specific, please let us know and we will do our best to find it for you!

