

Mineral of the Month Club Newsletter

July 2016



Featured Mineral: For July, we are featuring the garnet-group mineral almandine from Paraíba, Brazil. These specimens were collected in the Borborema Pegmatite Province, a pegmatite zone that has yielded rare minerals for industrial use and many fine mineral specimens for collectors. Our specimens consist of clusters of translucent, red, almandine crystals on a matrix of white, massive quartz.

The word “garnet” does not refer to a species, but to a group of 15 closely related, nesosilicate minerals. All garnet-group members crystallize in the cubic (isometric) system as dodecahedrons or trapezohedrons with rhombic (diamond-shaped) or modified-rhombic faces. Although garnet-group minerals are most familiar in shades of red, they actually occur in every color except blue. Garnets are popular gemstones and have interesting industrial uses. Be sure to read the special section of our write-up titled “The Garnet-Group Minerals” for insight into this fascinating group of minerals.

A reminder that each month the featured mineral is available to purchase in larger sizes and can be found in the “Featured Mineral Platinum Letter” which has photos, sizing and pricing information. The Featured Mineral Platinum Letter can be found in the monthly email that goes out to all members. If you do not have a computer we can mail it to you, just let Christine know.

Behind the Scenes: As an explanation to our new members, the write-up accompanying each Mineral of the Month specimen is divided into two parts: an “Overview” and a “Comprehensive Write-up.” The Overview is a fast-read or “nutshell” condensation of the information in the Comprehensive Write-up. The Comprehensive Write-up is a detailed presentation that covers composition and structure, collecting localities, jewelry and decorative uses, history and lore, technological uses, and the specimen’s locality—almost everything there is to know about that particular Mineral of the Month. Also included in the each Comprehensive Write-up is a special section that deals with a mineralogical topic related to that particular mineral.

Memberships: Welcome to Tim E. from Texas and a warm thank you to all our members who renewed for yet another year!

Summertime Fun with Minerals: As mentioned in our previous newsletter, the 2016 East Coast Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show will be held in West Springfield, Massachusetts, August 12-14. This largest gem-and-mineral show in the eastern United States will feature 200 retail vendors of gems, minerals, fossils, jewelry, and related items, along with special mineral exhibits, distinguished speakers, and gifts and activities for children. The East Coast Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show is held in the Better Living Center at the Eastern States Exposition, located just one mile off Interstate 91 in West Springfield.

Coming in August: Our Mineral of the Month for August will be aquamarine, the blue variety of beryl, from Erongo Mountain in Namibia. These are composite specimens in which needle-like, jet-black crystals of the tourmaline-group mineral schorl are included within the hexagonal prisms of translucent aquamarine.

We Are Here For You: We are here for you and all your collecting needs. If you have any questions please contact Christine or Lora at the office, by telephone at #1-800-941-5594 or via e-mail at christine@celestialearthminerals.com or Lora@celestialearthminerals.com

We hope members will refer to our extensive, on-line, informational resources that we have compiled as a reference to answer mineral-related questions. The Celestial Earth Minerals website (www.celestialearthminerals.com), home of the Mineral of the Month Club, also provides ordering information, membership-renewal services, and listings of monthly offers. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Club manager Christine during regular business hours by telephone at 1-800-941-5594 or via e-mail at christine@celestialearthminerals.com.

Thanks again to all our members, and we'll visit with you again in August with our 246th consecutive mailing of Mineral of the Month specimens and write-ups.

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