

HUI PŌHAKU 'Ō HAWAI'I

Rock & Mineral Society of Hawai'i, Inc.



Meeting Times

MEETING

Wednesday
July 26, 2017

6:15-8:00 pm
Makiki District Park
Admin Building

NEXT MONTH

Quartz (varietals and Chlorine) and Hawaiian Olivine

LAPIDARY

Every Thursday
6:00-8:30pm
Makiki District Park
2nd floor Arts and
Crafts Bldg

MEMBERSHIP

DUE COSTS 2017

Single: \$10.00
Family: \$15.00

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Hawai'i, Inc.
P.O. Box 23020
Honolulu, HI
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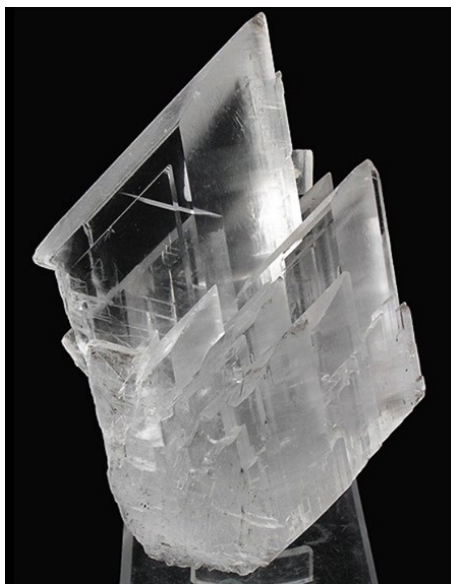
Selenite By Dean Sakabe

The mineral for July is Selenite. The name "Selenite" is synonymous with gypsum, and has been used to describe the transparent variety of Gypsum. This is opposed to Satin Spar (which is the fibrous variety) and Alabaster (which is the fine-grained massive form). Selenite came from the Greek "σεληνη" (the moon), derived most likely from its pale bluish reflections.



Gypsum, Red River Floodway, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

Gypsum, a fairly common sulfate mineral of with great commercial importance. It is a hydrated calcium sulfate ($\text{CaSO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$). In well developed crystals the mineral is commonly called Selenite. There is a fibrous massive variety with a silky luster, this is called Satin Spar; it is translucent and opalescent. Satin Spar is valued for its ornamental uses and in jewelry. There is also a fine grained, massive variety called Alabaster. This is carved and polished for statuary and ornamental uses.



Gypsum, Naica, Mun.de Saucillo, Chihuahua, Mexico

Gypsum occurs in extensive beds associated with other evaporative minerals (e.g., anhydrite and halite), particularly in Permian and Triassic sedimentary formations. It is deposited from ocean brine, followed by anhydrite and halite. It also occurs in considerable quantity in saline lakes and salt pans. Additionally it is an important constituent of cap rock. Such as the anhydrite-gypsum rock forming a covering on the salt domes of

Selenite

Texas and Louisiana. It also commonly forms from the hydration of anhydrite by surface waters and/or groundwater, thus, many gypsiferous strata grade rocks morph into anhydrite rocks. This replacement causes a 30 percent to 50 percent volume increase and results in intense, tight folding of the remaining anhydrite layers. Gypsum also occurs in limestones, dolomitic limestones, and some shales.

Gypsum deposits occur in many countries, such as Spain and Thailand. The leading producers of Gypsum products are the United States, Turkey, and Russia. In Canada, gypsum is produced for export in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. In France, gypsum is common in the marls and clays of the Paris Basin (hence the name Plaster of Paris), and especially in Montmartre.



Gypsum, Banska Stiavnica, Slovakia

The largest gypsum crystals were found in the Braden mine in Chile. These exceed 3 meters (about 10 feet) in length and 0.4 meters (about 1.5 feet) in diameter. Unfortunately the mine is now closed water has filled this massive crystal area.

Crude gypsum is used as a fluxing agent, fertilizer, filler in paper and textiles, and as a retarder in Portland cement. About three-fourths of the total production is calcined for use as Plaster of Paris and as building materials (Gypsum Board).



Ram's head Gypsum, Touissit, L'oriental Region, Morocco

At the White Sands National Monument in New Mexico. The attraction is the white glistening "sand" dunes. It is 225 sq miles, with an average depth of 30 feet. The amazing thing about this is that it is not sand. It is Gypsum sand, eroded from the nearby mountains. In addition to the gypsum dunefields, this national Monument happens to hold one of the largest concentration of Cenozoic footprints in the US. There are preserved tracks of dire wolves, Sabertooth Cats, Mam-

moths, Giant Camels, and Ground Sloths.

Finally as Marcus writes : Selenite roses from Oahu,Hawaii are some of the few minerals I can actually collect in Hawaii. They are very young, as our islands.

WE HAVE A FACEBOOK PAGE! LET'S GO LIKE IT!

HTTP://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/PAGES/ROCK-AND-MINERAL-SOCIETY-OF-HAWAII/103902329673700?v=WALL&REF=SGM
 MAHALO TO MARKUS FOR ESTABLISHING OUR *ROCK FACE!*

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Newsletter Editor

The Rock & Mineral Society meets on the 4th Wednesday of each month (except for adjusted dates in November and December) at the Makiki District Park, 6:15-8 pm. Enter from Keeaumoku Street. Parking is free but limited.

The Newsletter is published monthly, some days prior to the meetings and is distributed in electronic format by email (Adobe Acrobat PDF file attachment). Printed copies are "snail" mailed to those who do not have email. The electronic format usually contains full-color images; the print version may be limited to B&W due to reproduction costs.

DOOR PRIZES

Please note that we have instituted door prize drawings at our monthly meetings. Because of Hawaii's gambling laws, these drawings cannot be conducted in the common "raffle" format where tickets are sold. Rather, each *paid* member attending the meeting will receive a drawing ticket upon request. A voluntary donation of \$1.00 is requested and encouraged. Drawings will be conducted at the end of the meeting with available prizes awarded in random order. You must be present to win. Please remember: if you win a prize, please bring one to the next meeting. This helps to keep our drawings going. Thank you.

Selenite roses found in Hawaii are basically crystallized surf and a young mineral as are our islands. Waves hit the (often rugged) coastline and the ocean spray blows on to the land. Sulfate and calcium in the ocean water catch a ride in the ocean spray blows on to the land. Sulfate and calcium in the ocean water catch a ride in the ocean spray and as separate chemicals "land" along the coast. Rain washes the chemicals into the ground, where they find each other and crystallize as selenite or gypsum as the surrounding environment dries out, or the (rain) evaporated. If the conditions are right they can form shapes reminiscent of roses. Hence the name, from a few millimeters to many inches in size. Geologically speaking Selenite roses are very young and might be only decades or a few centuries old (this is based on the only scientific source I could find so far). So it is safe to say that you are reading this, Selenite Roses are still growing in our islands.



Selenite, Hawaii Kai area, Oahu

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