

HUI PŌHAKU 'Ō HAWAII

Rock & Mineral Society of Hawai'i, Inc.



Meeting Times

MEETING

Wednesday
August 22, 2018

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

Next Months Topic
The Good, The Bad,
The Ugly, and the
Regrets.

LAPIDARY

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

MEMBERSHIP
DUE COSTS 2018
Single: \$10.00
Family: \$15.00

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Hawai'i, Inc.
P.O. Box 23020
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Botryoidal Minerals By Dean Sakabe

August's mineral topic happens to be "Botryoidal Minerals". This is not any one type of mineral, but rather the crystal habit that the mineral happened to take. The Botryoidal crystal habit is interesting both for its unique shape, and the fact that it is commonly adopted by a number of quite different minerals. Botryoidal is derived from the Greek word *botrus*, meaning "bunch of grapes", referring to tiny crystals occurring in closely interlocking spherical masses or "bubbles" which often look like bunches of grapes.



Malachite, Star of the Congo Mine, Shaba Province, Congo



Grape Agate, Mamuju, Indonesia

Botryoidal crystal formations can be popular with mineral collectors. Botryoidal gemstones can also be cut into cabochons, carvings or ornamental objects, as they often are cut to display their patterns. There are wide variation in appearance, based on whether the bubbles are large or small, also uniform in size or made of different sizes, further if the botryoidal surface is confined to recesses, if the surface is further covered

Botryoidal Minerals



Azurite and Malachite on Sandstone, Nacimiento Mine, Sandoval

with druzy crystals. Additionally, when cutting the material, The Botryoidal surface is sometimes left in its natural roundish state or they can be flattened out to show some of the bubbles or the orbicular patterns left by the bubble.

There are some minerals, such as Malachite, which are often found in Botryoidal form, whereas others like Tourmaline are rarely found in Botryoidal form, so they are often kept as mineral



Tourmaline , Palelni mine, Momeik Township, Myanmar

specimens. Another odd type of Botryoidal formation is the case of Fire Agates. Here the Iron Oxide layer of the botryoidal formation is totally encased within clear to a translucent brownish chalcedony. In this instance one has to carefully grind down thru the clear chalcedony so that you uncover the iron oxide layer, without grinding thru the prized iron oxide layer.

So as you probably guessed, this will be a short writeup as we are talking not about any particular mineral, just the one odd crystal habit that a mineral might take.

A short list of minerals that can be found in botryoidal habit are Chalcedony, Hematite, Goethite, Fluorite, Malachite, Chrysocolla, Azurite, Jade, Phrenite, Smithsonite, and sometimes Tourquoise.



Fire agate, Aguascalientes, Mexico

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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.

ROCK SHOW POSTERS

Have you seen the two large foam board back posters or know where they are.

Please contact Keith Kruger, we need to get the show dates updated on these.

From Keith Kruger :

Show Reminders:

If you have signed up to be a vendor at the show, please don't forget to bring your General Excise License.

The new law concerning the sale of Ivory and other animal products is now in effect. If you have questions about any items you plan to sell, check the following links online:

http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2016/bills/SB2647_HD2_.htm

http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2016/bills/GM1226_PDF

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