
HUI PŌHAKU 'O HAWAII

Rock & Mineral Society of Hawai'i, Inc.



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In Person and Zoom Meeting

Date : September 28,2022

Start Time - 6:15 P.M.

Meeting will be held in person at the Makiki Admin Bldg.

Markus will send out an email / login reminder for Zoom meeting instructions.

Topic of the Month (September)

SELENITE



SELENITE

Lubin Glowny Shafts, Poland

Selenite is one of several varieties of the mineral called Gypsum. It forms as the result of accumulated evaporated saltwater buildup over millions of years. It is very popular with rock collectors mainly for its abundant supply and affordability. Crystals can be tabular, bladed or prismatic dependent on the region / climate it is found. Normally crystals are clear to pearly white however copper oxide impurities will turn crystals Green. Blue, Yellow or Brown Selenite crystals are due to Iron or clay related impurities.

Selenite used in its most common mineral form is crushed and used in paints, drywall / building materials and fertilizer.

Selenite - Satin Spar crystals are usually clear transparent to milky pearly chatoyant crystals used in cabochons, wands, spheres, lamps, bookends, and soap stones.

Selenite Desert Rose in a crystallized rosette formation is formed from the combination of wind, rain and sand in dry arid countries such a Mexico, Morocco and Australia.

Board of Directors 2021 - 2022

President - Matthew Martin

Vice President - Jon Bly

V.P Lapidary - Dean Sakabe

Treasurer - Debbie Iijima

Secretary - Blair Ishitani

1 Year Officer - Eric DeCarlo

2 Year Officer - Teresa Hirscher

3 Year Officer - TerriLea Burnett

3 Year Officer - Roger Kwok

Business Notes from Zoom Meeting on August 24, 2022

1. Meeting Start 6:18 P.M.
2. Treasury reports as of 8/31/2022 \$3,770 checking, \$148 cash.
3. Total of 19 members attendance. Total of 4 Zoom attendees.
4. Lapidary continues every Thursday starting from Sept 8, 2022
5. Board of Directors meeting will be scheduled for Septembers meeting.

New nominations - 1 year (officer Markus), 3 year officer (Eric)
6. Club approval for reimbursement to Matt for club purchase of projector for future presentations. Matt will provide Debbie receipt. (approx. 625)
7. Eric DeCarlo - presentation of Rat Nest Mine mine in Idaho.
8. Meeting End - 7:45 P.M.



SELENITE - Red River Spillway
Manitoba, Canada

The Red River Spillway project was started Nov / 1962 and completed in March / 1969. It was built to provide significant flood control measures to protect the city of Winnipeg. The cost of the project was 63 million dollars.

Most importantly however this daunting project required the 2nd largest excavation, relocation and moving approximately 76.5 million cubic feet of earth. (The largest was the Panama Canal.)

Much of the excavated materials was mined for nickel, copper, zinc and gold to offset project costs but **most amazingly pockets of world class specimens of clear /golden orange bladed crystals were found as shown in the picture above.**

Rockhounds would try to sneak in at night under heavy security watch and risk trespassing prosecutions to retrieve these highly prized specimens. Under LV ultraviolet light these clear / golden colored crystals would shine a bright blue florescence found nowhere else in the world.

Current specimens available for sale command highly inflated prices. World class specimens is on display at the Canadian Natural History Museum.

Sadly it was estimated the 95% of these pockets were crushed as the timeline for construction excavations and mining of the reclaimed minerals would supersede all mineral collections.



CAVE OF THE CRYSTALS
Naica Mine, Chihuahua, Mexico
(note : picture of miner compared to crystal formation)

In the year 2,000 deep below a mountain near Naica, Mexico, a mining company (Industrial Penoles) came across an unexpected horseshoe shaped complex underground cave system while searching for zinc and silver.

The Cave of Crystals as it was later named is nestled 1,000 feet underground in a subterranean chamber that has enticed the world for its natural rare beauty and scientific mystery.

Huge volcanic eruptions some 26 million years ago forced hot and rich calcium sulfate minerals into caverns and gaps into the mountain Limestones. Underground cavern temperatures are 136F with approximately 96-100% humidity.

This amazing natural phenomenon created massive white milky crystals larger than telephone poles of nearly 50 feet in length, 4 feet wide and each crystal weighing over 55 tons. Crystal formations were found protruding in all directions out of the limestone walls, floors and ceilings.

Only professionally equipped geologists are allowed into the chambers and the environment is so harsh that a person could only explore a few minutes at a time. The National Geographic Society has done extensive research on these Selenite crystals.

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SELENITE LOCATIONS

1. Acicular clear / green crystals from Mt. Gunson, Pernatty Lagoon, South Australia
2. Bright orange fishtail crystals from Agrigento Prov., Sicily, Italy
3. Bladed yellow / orange crystals near Otuma Village, Paracas, Peru
4. Gypsum desert rose specimens from Samalayuca Desert, Chihuahua, Mexico



Caption