



The Helena Mineral Society Newsletter



Gem, Mineral, and Geological Education and Experience

October 2010

From The Editor:

In This Issue:

Page 1:

From the Editor

Page 2

Coming Events

Page 3:

Tidbits

Page 4:

Classifieds

Rhodonite is this month's mineral. The name comes from the Greek, *rhodon*, or “rose” pertaining to it's usual color. There are two varieties of rhodonite; bustamite is a calcian variety and in fowelrite, zinc substitutes for manganese.

Chemical composition is manganese calcium silicate. Hardness is 5.5 to 6.5. Iron and zinc are common substitutes for the manganese.

Rhodonite is translucent to transparent. It is commonly pink in color, but can also be red, brownish red and red-brown.

Rhodonite can be formed in large masses during the metamorphism of manganese ores. These masses of rhodonite occur in many places in the world but, crystals and gem quality materials seem to be quite rare.

Fine crystals of rhodonite have been found in Franklin, New Jersey, Sweden and New South Wales, Australia.

Locally, fine cabochon quality rhodonite is common in Butte, MT. This material can have inclusions of iron pyrite, black manganese oxide, rhodochrosite, calcite and quartz.

Rhodonite is commonly cut into cabochons for necklaces, rings and earrings, ornamental objects and has even been cut into wall tiles for the Moscow subway.

If you are lucky enough to find a crystal specimen of this material, it will make a fine addition to any collection.

**Helena Mineral Society
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*******NOTICE*******

If you are going to the Sally Ann crystal claim, a female mountain lion has been seen in the area. Use caution with children and pets.

Sunday October 24- weed spraying at the Miss Beverly sapphire claim. If you can help contact Martin Landry at 431-8081.

Donations are being accepted for live and silent auctions at the 2010 Helena Mineral Society's annual Christmas party. If you have items for donation contact Gary Parisi at 442-1226.

The 2010 Helena Mineral Society's annual Christmas party will be held on December 4, 2010 at the Hannaford Street Church. Dinner starts at 6:00 PM followed by a live auction. Please bring your favorite side dish to share. HMS will provide ham, turkey, plates, napkins and eating utensils.

Now is the time to start thinking about collecting areas you would like to go next year. If you have suggestions on areas to collect at contact Martin Landry at 431-8081.

If you know of someone who would have a topic of interest to speak of at a HMS meeting, contact David Jordan at 443-0348.

With the cooler weather approaching, now is the time to go through all the treasures that were collected this year. Clean, label and mount the specimens.

Next regular meeting, November 11, 2010

Miss Beverly photos: upper left courtesy, Martin Landry all others courtesy, Jan Smith.



If you have pictures or articles to submit for the newsletter or a mineral you would like to learn more about, contact Gary Parisi at 442-1226 or gjparisi72@yahoo.com. HMS can make this a better newsletter with you help. Thanks to Martin and Jan for the photo submissions.

Meetings

The Helena Mineral Society meets at the Mountain West Bank located on Montana Avenue between Aspen and Poplar. Meetings are the second Thursday of every month at 7:00 pm. There is no regular meeting for the month of December. See you there! Friends, guests, and new members are always welcome

To place a classified ad, please see me in person at one of our regular meetings or you may e-mail me (Gary) with your information at gjparisi72@yahoo.com. Ad will run in the newsletter for that month only unless specifically requested to run longer.

Pictures and Articles Needed:

If you have a picture that you want to share, please send it to me, along with a short description of the activity, where it took place, and when, and I'll put it in the newsletter. If you'd like to share your field trip adventures with those members who are unable to attend, please feel free to contribute to the newsletter. Just e-mail me your experiences, and I'll make sure they're entered. Remember, this is your newsletter, and your contributions make it better.

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