



ROCK PICKENS



ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY ROCK & MINERAL CLUB Date: April, 2023

Our next scheduled mineral club meeting is at the Canton Library, April 5th, 6:00 PM

President: William deLorraine
Vice President: Scott Sutherland
Secretary: Joanna deLorraine
Treasurer: Paisley Kodama
Field Trip Coordinators: Gary Garlough & Noah King
Webmaster: Glen Simonelli

Effective January 01, 2023 – December 31, 2023

www.stlawrencecountymineralclub.org
e-mail: wdellie@gmail.com

Rock On!



***** Club Dues *****

Dues are only **\$15.00** for a Single Membership and **\$25.00** for Family Memberships (*per household @ the same mailing address*) and run through December 31st, 2023

Make checks payable to: **St. Lawrence Rock and Mineral Club** and mail them to:

William deLorraine; President
St. Lawrence Rock and Mineral Club
1 Indian Head Trail
Gouverneur, NY 13642-3438

Upcoming Gem, Mineral, Fossil and Jewelry Shows

April 1-2—JOHNSON CITY , NEW YORK: Annual show; New York Southern Tier Geology Club; Johnson City Senior Center, 30 Brocton St; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4; Adult \$4 Kids free under 12; 47th Annual Gem and Mineral show. Various Vendors selling Rocks, Minerals, Gemstones, Crystals, Fossils, Silent Auction, Food and Drinks available for sale ; contact Thomas Ogden, (607) 967-8552; Email: stonecutterton@yahoo.com

April 20-23, 2023. Rochester Mineralogical Symposium; (online this year)

April 15-16—FREEPORT, NEW YORK: Retail show; Freeport Gem and Mineral Show; Freeport Recreation Center, 130 E Merrick Rd; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4:30; \$5.50. Children under 12 free with adult; Beautiful displays of minerals, fossils, gemstones, beads, and jewelry for sale. Drawings for \$10 gift certificate every hour to be spent at any booth ; contact Evelyn Gose, (631) 271-8411; Email: evelyn_gose@kaleidoscopegemshows.com; Website: kaleidoscopegemshows.com

May 13-14: Finger lakes Gem, Mineral & Fossil Quartz Fest; Canandaigua Civic Center, 250 North Bloomfield Rd. Canandaigua, NY



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May 20-21: SW VT Mineral Club's Mineral Show; Grace Christian School Bennington, VT
Sat. 10-4 Sunday 10-3 \$5.00 Admission 802-375-6782

July 8-9—SYRACUSE, NEW YORK: Annual show; Gem and Mineral Society of Syracuse; Center of Progress Building, NYS Fairgrounds, 581 State Fair Blvd; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; \$7 for adults, children under 12 free; 56 Quality Retail and 5 Wholesale Vendors, 6 Metaphysical Practitioners On-going Lapidary, Faceting and Jewelry-making Demonstrations Activities for the Children Lectures on Saturday and Sunday; contact Cheryl Brown, (315) 708-9122; Email:gmsrocks@gmail.com; Website: syracusegemsociety.com

August 3 - 6, Rockhound Gemboree; The largest gem and mineral show in Canada.
bancroftontario.com/rockhound-Gemboree/

August 26-27—CANTON, NY: Annual show; St. Lawrence County Rock & Mineral Club; Canton, NY. The Pavilion, 90 Lincoln St; Sat. 9-4:30; Sun. 9-3; Adults \$4, Children 12 & under free;
Contact: William deLorraine,(315)287-2560;
Email:wdellie@gmail.com;
www.stlawrencecountyminealclub.org

Field Trips for 2023

April 15th, Macomb, NY. Leaving McDonald's in Gouverneur at 9:00 AM

Future field trips:
Fluorescent Mineral Hunt, May 13th

Gardenscape Quarry TBA
Hall Farm, North Gouverneur TBA
Benson Mines TBA Early in August
Power's Farm During our annual show

Notes & Minutes from the March 15th Meeting:

Bill welcomed everyone and we went 'round the table with introductions.

Congratulations to Brandon Rawson making the President's list at SUNY Potsdam!

Paisley Kadoma gave the Treasurer's report.

We talked about field trips for the year. We set a date of April 15th to go to Macomb for white quartz. Leaving McDonalds parking lot in Gouverneur by caravan at 9:00. Parking also available next door at the Community Bank parking lot. Other places discussed included the fluorescent hunt, May 13th, meeting at Bob's Market in Balmat and Gardenscape Quarry (TBA), Benson Mines, early in August and the Hall Farm, North Gouverneur, for tremolite

Bill talked about getting new metal shelving for our storage shed. The old plastic shelves are bending under the weight. He passed around diagrams of what they would look like. Two units of 4 shelves, 8' tall. Bob made the motion for Bill to purchase the shelving and Paisley 2nd. The motion carried.

We voted on raising the admission to our show by one dollar. It is now \$4.00 for adults. Barb made the motion and Brandon 2nd; motion carried

A vendor has been contacted for supplying ATM during our annual show. Waiting to hear back.



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It was noted that we need items for our silent auction which is held both days of the show.

We will add this to our vendor forms. Each vendor will be asked for a donation.

Brandon Rawson won the door prize -- a specimen of aragonite. After some discussion we decided to keep our vendor table fees the same. We are still one of the less expensive show venues for vendors anywhere!

Notes From the President:

As of this writing, invitation letters have been sent via email (new this year) to prospective vendors at our 2023 annual show; a very few are being sent via USPS aka "snail mail". We realized huge postage and energy savings by sending out these invitations via email notes and attachments; already we are getting responses and are in the process of filling up the 2023 Planogram with our old friends who are setting up. We may look into setting up a PayPal form of payment wherein vendors could prepay utilizing that vehicle, don't know how that's going to work out. Any ideas from the membership are welcome! We ran into one situation where a person wants to set up one table, but wants 5 people to be registered. Does that mean 5 chairs for that table? I think we'll get two as in the past, but it does raise the idea of having a minimum \$50 set-up requirement. Any ideas on that also welcome and appreciated.

We did well on several fronts with respect to our auction last season by going all day long and "silent". I do miss the "live" auction but we were able to close shop at a good hour in the day and lots more people had the chance to participate. As well, we raised lots more \$\$\$. I donated many specimens from my personal collection to facilitate a part of this and plan to

continue doing so for the foreseeable future. It cannot last forever! I inserted language into the vendor's invitation letter to the effect that the club expects a donation to the silent auction, rather than "we hope"--type language. Also, I really hope that fellow collectors like you-all out there will contribute to this cause, generously, as well.

Because of your energy and hard work last season we raised enough monies to generously fund scholarships to SUNY Potsdam and St. Lawrence University Geology departments. We will have enough dollars to rent tables and chairs and a tent for this year's show plus acquire specimens for the mineral kites for kids and the Kid's fluorescent mineral hunt. It's lookin' to be a good forecast!

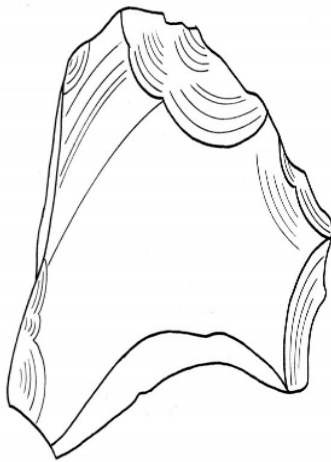
Joanna and I are making a trip to the storage bin soon so we can measure dimensions exactly in preparation for ordering new shelving from Uline catalog. When that arrives, we'll schedule a work day to remove the old plastic shelves, install the new, stackable shelving, sort out our inventories, then restock the shelves. It'll be a fun, team effort. I think we're going to gain a lot of much-needed useable space in the process.

Dino has been doing a tremendous amount of behind the scenes work tabulating mineral inventories as well, and hats off to him and family for all the work they do for the club -- the fluorescent mineral hunt, preparing mineral specimens, the Mineral Kits for Kids...

--Bill--

Mineral of the Month

WHAT IS OPAL?

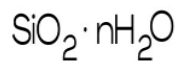


Above: Common Opal. It is butterscotch yellow. This specimen was found in Virgin Valley, Humboldt County, Nevada.

Below: Common opal with black dendrites of manganese mineral from Austria.



Opal has the same chemical formula as quartz - almost. Opal also contains water in its chemical formula. It is *hydrated silica*. Its chemical formula is



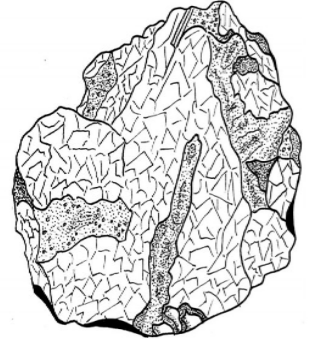
There is another difference: Opal *does not* have a crystal form. In all other ways it is a mineral, except this one important fact.

So, by definition, opal is not a mineral. Opal is what mineralogists call a *mineraloid*.

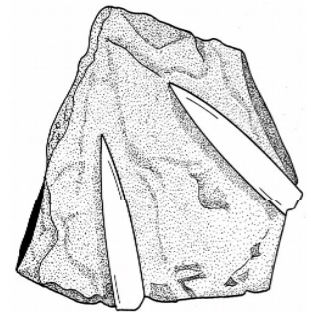
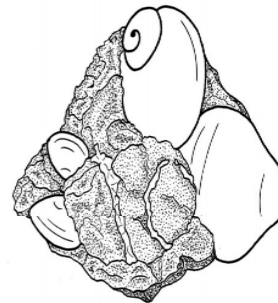
Opal is deposited at low temperatures, very often in seams of any kind of rock.

It is believed that the name *opal* originally came from the Sanskrit word, *upala*, which means *jewel*. Later in history, the ancient Greek people had the word *opalios* which came from this Sanskrit word. *Opalios* means to see a *change in color*. On the next page you will learn about precious opal, a variety of opal that has flashes of bright colors.

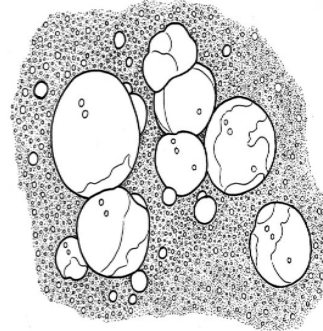
Precious Opal is a variety of opal that shows flashes of bright colors as it is turned in the light. It is 'precious' because it is very valuable as a gemstone. Turn the specimen in the light and you will see bright red, orange, purple, green, blue and yellow. Color each small section a different bright color.



Right: Precious opal from Australia.



Above: Shells that have been replaced by precious opal. To the left are bivalves and a gastropod. Above is the internal 'rod' from belemnites. These specimens are from Coober Pedy, South Australia, Australia.



Left: A group of very small opal spheres from Parma Province, Italy. They are white, and light can shine through them. (You can color them any color that makes you happy!)

Mineral
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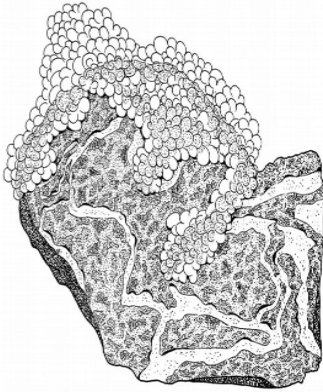
(From Diamond Dan publications) *



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Here's a puzzle, courtesy Diamond Dan:



Hyalite Opal

Hyalite is a transparent, colorless variety of opal. It is very glassy and often found in rounded masses. It is also called 'Water Opal' and 'Muller's Glass' after the man who first discovered and described it, Franz-Joseph Müller von Reichenstein. It usually is bright, fluorescent green under ultraviolet light.

Fire Opal

Fire opal is a variety of opal that is bright yellow, orange and red. It is named after its fiery red and orange color. Fire opal forms when silica-rich water seeps into cracks and holes in volcanic rock. The Mayan and Aztec peoples called it "quetzalzipollitli" which means, "the stone of the bird of paradise."



Black Opal

Black opal is a variety of precious opal that has deep, vibrant colors of green, blue, purple, red, orange. Black opals have dark blue to black body color. This dark color is caused by very small amounts of carbon and iron oxide included in the opal. Black opal from Coober Pedy, Australia is the finest in the world. It is the national gemstone of Australia.



ABOUT QUARTZ (FROM THE INTRODUCTION)

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P	I	E	Z	O	E	L	E	C	T	R	I	C	I	T	Y

Piezoelectricity; Igneous; Metamorphic; Sedimentary; Clear; Jewelry; Rice; Car; Colorful; Cold; Pulse; Glass; Skull; Crystal Ball; Laser; Telescope; Quartz (x2); Important; Flash; Lenses; Crystals; Useful; Common; Collection; Gem

(From Diamond Dan Publications)



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