

Minutes of the 01/21/03 Westside Board Meeting

Dave Sanders opened the meeting at 7:45pm.

The Treasurers report was read. West Seattle Rock Club donated \$100.00 to the Mineral Council.

Wagonmaster Report

Field Trip list for 2003 draft reviewed and revised.

The Westside board advises that the combined meeting usually scheduled for first weekend in August be moved to August 16-17 so that it will not conflict with Federation show duties our officers have.

It is on the list tentatively scheduled for August 16-17 subject to approval by the Eastside board members. List revisions will be submitted to webmaster.

Norma will try to track down the Canadian wagonmasters field trip list if it is out for 2003.

Old Business

Kathy Earnst will get a copy of Walker Valley Lease and change address for billing since we cannot locate a copy and Bob O'Brien is on active duty and unavailable.

New Business

Washington Prospectors Gold show is announced for March 1-2.

Dues are payable now for clubs.

All club's newsletters to be submitted to Glenn Morita.

Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully Submitted,
Norma Kikkert, Secretary

Oklahoma Rose Rock

Barite roses consist of reddish-brown sandy crystals of barite (barium sulfate) in petal-like clusters that resemble a rose in full bloom. They are composed of sand and barite in nearly equal proportions and were designated the official state rock of Oklahoma in 1968.

Barite roses are only found in Oklahoma and a few whitish gray and yellow ones across the Kansas line.

A somewhat similar mineral, selenite, a form of gypsum, is often mistaken for barite roses.

Selenite is found in many places, such as Egypt, California, Texas, Libya, etc. However, barite roses are very scarce, particularly the best roses. These roses may be seen at the Timberlake Rose Rock Museum in Noble, Oklahoma.

from The Rockfinder via The Petrified Digest 10/02

Sugilite

Sugilite is named after a Japanese geologist, Kenichi Sugi, who discovered the first specimens in Japan in 1944. It is a rare ore ranging in color from pink to purple and is mainly found in the Kalahari Desert in the Republic of South Africa, with smaller deposits in Japan and Canada.

It usually occurs in pegmatites of alkaline magmas and crystallizes in opaque masses. It occasionally occurs as small crystals or inclusions within quartz and very rarely in a translucent gemmy form known as "gel". It is frequently found in combination with manganese (black streaks) and sometimes with richterite (blue).

It has been called the "love" stone, and the stone for the "New Age", and is said to alleviate all types of physical and emotional discomfort and negativity.

from sugiliteco.com via Rock Rollers 11/02

Paper Coal

Curious Relics of the Coal Age

Paper coal is known from only two areas in the entire world - the Moscow basin of central Russia and Parke County, Indiana. The Hoosier deposit was discovered by the Indiana Geological Survey in 1958 in the high wall of a strip coal mine near Rockville. Natural outcrops of paper coal were later found along streams in northern Parke County.

Leafy in texture, paper coal resembles a stack of scorched paper and is composed of a waxy coating of ancient leaves and twigs. Indiana paper coal consists mostly of fragments of seed fern that bridged the gap between primitive plants and today's seed-bearing plants, that have been extinct for more than 200 million years.

Preservation of the fragile cuticles indicates that they were deposited in quiet lagoons. In paper coal, the original plant material has been oxidized and the more resistant cuticles have been left behind.

from Indiana Geological Survey, Dept. of Natural Resources, via Gems & Friends, 11/01, via Stone Age News 1/03

Hints and Tips

A word about jasper. You will find jasper is much more difficult to polish than agate, mainly because many varieties are "earthy" and porous, and many others contain hematite, which is very difficult to polish.

If you are on a field trip, a good way to test the jasper is to wet it. If it absorbs water and dries rapidly, it will not polish well. If it stays wet and does not dry right away, it contains a high amount of chalcedony (quartz) and will take a good polish. Most jaspers will polish well on leather and Linde A, and good results can also be obtained with tin oxide on either leather or felt. Always remember that a fine sanding job is the secret of good polishing.

from The Laphound New of the Victoria Lapidary & Mineral Society, via The Pebble Trails 1/03