



Volume 38 Number 3

July 2012

4TH SOUTHERN AFRICAN MINERAL SYMPOSIUM 2012



FIRST CIRCULAR

A one-day symposium highlighting the minerals and mineral / gemstone deposits of southern Africa will be held.

Important Information

Date: Saturday 17th November 2012
Venue: Council for Geoscience, Silverton, Pretoria
Cost: To be determined. Will be announced in the Second Circular
Deadline: Reply to this announcement by 30th June 2012
Enquiries: Contact the Symposium Chairman - Allan Fraser: mineralman@telkomsa.net

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Apologies for the rush and lack of content on this newsletter but Ali and I are leaving for Namibia to tour the Erongo District with loads still to do, catch you all when we get back☺

New Members

A warm welcome to recently joined members, Coral Banks, Cynthia Gillespie, Harold Braack, Ruth Maguire and Debbie Woolf (Debbie is a Manager at MINDAT, for those that don't know, Mindat.org is the largest mineral database and mineralogy reference website on the internet. This site contains worldwide data on minerals, mineral collecting, mineral localities and other mineralogical information.) may your association with SAMS be long and fruitful.

Report Back

ARGENT LEAD MINE

15.04.2012 (by Graham Reeks)

Not many people turned up for the outing. In fact apart from myself and my son Ian, it was only Patrick, Schalk and Roake Lessing and his family who attended. We started at the trench on the east side of the main shaft and removed about 80 cm of the vein down about 40 cm. When it was broken open the one piece had some very nice straw cerussite. The crystals are about 5 mm long white on a yellowish/orange background of most probably iron oxides. The difficulty is going to be in the trimming, oh well such is life. Later on we all moved to the slag dump. After some vigorous pick work opening up a gas bubble area, about a metre in diameter on the surface of the slag, we were all soon picking up some very nice specimens of royal blue linarite crystals. After doing some more digging I started to find good specimens of wroewolfeite, langite and cerussite and handed them to Patrick and Schalk. Schalk on a visit to my house today, on showing me a trimmed micro of gemmy clear cerrusite in slag, was then told that he also had on the same specimen a couple of nice hexagonal crystals of leadhillite.

It just goes to prove that the site is still one of the best we have for micros and is still full of nice surprises.

(Graham also reported he thought he had found a new mineral, sphalerite, from this site but then realised he and Walter had found it there before, although it is very rear.)

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Report Back

OLIFANTSPOORT MINE

17.06.2012 (by Stephen Gomersall)

This was the most members I have ever seen attend an outing. I personally don't have to go to Olifantspoort again as we found enough to keep us ooh' ing and ah' ing for a long time to come (I'm joking Graham!) I haven't even begun working on the material and already have plenty micro boxes full, but more next time and hopefully a more detailed report from Graham.



Photo's by Alison

Micro Mount Boxes

Graham Reeks still has loads of plastic micro-mount boxes. Orders for Micro-mount boxes may be placed with him at anytime by phone or e-mail the cost is R 90 per 100 boxes.

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Upcoming Course

For the members attending the course on “**The Origin, Occurrence and Association of Minerals**” outside of the normal SAMS meetings, Graham suggested a time per session of 3 hours on a Saturday, with the course being held at Graham’s home in Weltevreden Park. The course would cover the nine units in the notes spread over the following proposed dates:

Sat 11th August - Unit 3 Rock types (very hands-on)

Sat 8th September Unit 4 Formation of mineral deposits

Sat 1st December - Units 5 & 6 Continue with the formation of mineral deposits.

The last three units will be dealt with in January and February next year.

Interested members are to confirm their attendance with Graham Reeks. A notice will be sent out to all members who showed an interest in the course last year when the original orders for copies of the notes were taken and paid for. Unfortunately Horst was handling the names and that list has not been found. Will all members who are still interested in the course please let Graham or Mike know by the 15th April so that a new list can be generated. Please note that details of the meetings will only be sent out to those who are on the list so it is up to you to let them know. You need to know that to benefit from the course that you should attend all of the sessions. The second unit is especially important as it will be a hands-on session looking and feeling the various rock types in which minerals can be found. Knowing the rock types will help you predict where minerals can be found.

Graham confirmed that the cost of a copying and binding the course notes was now R95.00 per copy. Payment to Graham is required before the order for the extra copies can be placed. Please advise Graham if you require a copy.

Graham can be contacted at 011 679 4382 or 084 518 9865 or uniwit@lantic.net

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Books for Sale

ANITA WILSON a member of the South African Micromount Society who lives in Bryanston, Johannesburg has some old books for sale (please see list distributed by Mike for titles). She has quoted selling prices from ABE books which are shown in US \$ prices. Do not be put off by these prices, they are just a guide. It is up to you to make her an offer when you see the book. She does not want the problem of having to package and post the book so this notice is only of interest if you can make arrangements to go and see her to purchase the books.

Her contact details are:

Mrs Anita Wilson

Tel 011 706-6335 or E-mail acmw@mweb.co.za

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Dates of Meetings and Outings for 2012:

The provisional program for 2012 is as follows:

Meetings & Venue:

July 14 Sat - Graham Reeks

Sept 15 Sat - Wolf Windisch

Nov 17 Sat - 4TH SOUTHERN AFRICAN MINERAL SYMPOSIUM 2012

Outings & Venue:

Aug 19 Sun - Leeuwenkloof

Oct 21 Sun - Stravoren or TBA

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Tail End:

In the latest Edition of The Mineral Record, May – June 2012, Volume 43, Number 3, There is a fantastic article on The Micromineral Photos of Christian Rewitzer, defiantly worth a read.

As a by the way from myself, is everybody happy so far with the Newsletter and content?