

November 2017

From Tony and Rachel Cesana

Rachel and I run an open house on Friday evenings to talk all things club related. If members have specimens that they need ID help we have a good scope. We will do tumble polish classes and wire wrap learning also field trimming classes are available.

Please contact us by Thursday of that week. This is available every Friday.

phone number 401-766-9076 email a cesana@verizon.net

PROPOSED FIELD TRIPS

To be Announced

A note from the field trip coordinator Rachel Cesana

If anyone knows of any places we can go for a field trip please let her know. She wants to line up some places for the upcoming year. Please relay all pertinent information to her such as place names, contacts(property owners and/ or persons in charge), phone numbers or other

means of contact. Rachel's phone number is (401) 766-9076. Email a cesana@verizon.net

Member Submissions and News

* A note from past RIMH president Bill Lema

Hello, my name is Bill Lema, a past president of the Rhode Island Mineral Hunters. I have stage 4 head/neck cancer that has now spread to my spine. It is generally thought that this type of cancer occurs because the person was a smoker, so that is the first thing I'm always asked. "Have you ever smoked?" "No, I've never smoked." On the other hand, my father smoked his whole life, inside the house, the car, everywhere.

I am asking for your help in order to get treatment at the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center in Florida. I'm not ready to give up and let this disease take me. My doctors have all praised the Moffitt Cancer Center as a great research facility that would have the ability to help me beat this disease.

But there are lots of medical bills and my limited medical insurance doesn't cover a lot. I've since had to go on disability because of the toll my cancer treatment has taken on me; and that really limits how much is available.

Please help me get the chance to become one of those who survive and beat this disease. Thank you for your help. GoFundMe.com/p/f8yn9 I just want to get out there and dig again.

William Lema

November 2017

RIMH ROCK, MINERAL and FOSSIL SHOW

** This year's RIMH Rock, Mineral and Fossil show was a great success. Thanks to all who participated

Photos from the show by Sherri Blennerhassett







Mineral of the Month

In this continuing series, I am providing information for those members who are new to the field of mineral collecting and need to know what you are looking for when you go out on field trips or just on your own. Some common minerals you may see but, might not know what they are. This month, I will be looking into the mineral ; Azurite

Azurite often occurs with green <u>Malachite</u>, which may form green stains or specks on Azurite crystals or <u>aggregate</u>s. The two minerals sometimes occur admixed or <u>banded</u> together, forming what is called "Azure-malachite" in the gem and mineral trades. A rarer Azurite mixture, known as "Bluebird", is Azurite mixed with dark red <u>Cuprite</u>. Azurite, "Azure-malachite", and "Bluebird" all have gem uses.

In some localities, the Azurite undergoes a chemical change and loses some <u>hydroxyl</u>, <u>altering</u> the Azurite to <u>Malachite</u>, but retaining the crystal shape of the original Azurite. Sometimes, only part of the Azurite is altered to Malachite, while the other part remains as Azurite. Such specimens are green on one end and blue on the other.

<u>Linarite</u> specimens are sometimes mistakenly sold as Azurite, since they both occur in the same locations and may strikingly resemble each other. However, simple tests on physical properties can accurately distinguish the two.

Chemical Formula	Cu ₃ (CO ₃) ₂ (OH) ₂	
Composition	Basic copper carbonate	
<u>Color</u>	Blue to very dark blue	
<u>Streak</u>	Light blue	
Hardness	3.5 - 4	Azurite
Crystal System	<u>Monoclinic</u>	
<u>3D Crystal Atlas</u>		

November 2017

<u>Crystal Forms</u> and Aggregates

Usually in small crystals, which are in <u>prismatic</u>, <u>tabular</u>, or <u>equidimensional</u> form. Crystals are sometime <u>striated</u>. Other forms are <u>massive</u>, <u>crusty</u>, <u>radiating</u>, <u>fibrous</u>, <u>earthy</u>, <u>columnar</u>, <u>stalactitic</u>, as thin needles, and in ball-like aggregates. Also occurs in dense groups of <u>tabular</u> or <u>prismatic</u> crystals. Azurite may also form as a <u>pseudomorph</u> over other minerals, retaining the original crystal shape of the mineral that it formed a pseudomorph over.

Transparency	Opaque. Rarely translucent on thin edges.	
Specific Gravity	3.7 - 3.9	
<u>Luster</u>	<u>Vitreous</u> or <u>dull</u>	
<u>Cleavage</u>	2,1 ; 3,2	
Fracture	Conchoidal or splintery	
Tenacity	Brittle	
<u>Complex Tests</u>	Effervesces in hydrochloric acid and soluble in ammonia	
In Group	<u>Carbonates</u>	
Striking Features	Deep blue color, blue streak, and common association with green <u>Malachite</u>	
<u>Environment</u>	As a <u>secondary</u> mineral in the <u>oxidation zone</u> of copper deposits.	
Rock Type	Sedimentary, Metamorphic	
	For more Information, see Minerals.net	