



The Helena Mineral Society Newsletter



Gem, Mineral, Geological Education and Experience

March 2016

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Upcoming Events

April 8

Show set up 1:00 pm with pot luck afterwards

April 9 & 10

Helena Gem and Mineral Show

April 21

Club Meeting 7:00 pm

Be Part of the Mineral Show

Our annual Gem and Mineral show is just around the corner; April 9th and 10th. Your help is needed to make this event happen. Every little bit helps, starting with setting up on Friday at 1:00pm (don't forget the potluck afterwards) and then helping throughout the show. Even if you only have a couple hours to give on Saturday or Sunday, we can use your help. There are many options for you to contribute!

Have you considered setting up a display case? We still have cases available. The inside dimensions are 22 1/2" by 22 1/2" by 46 1/2".

If you have any questions about display cases, call Gary Parisi at 442-1226.

Here are some examples from last year.



I hope to see you all at the show.

-Martin

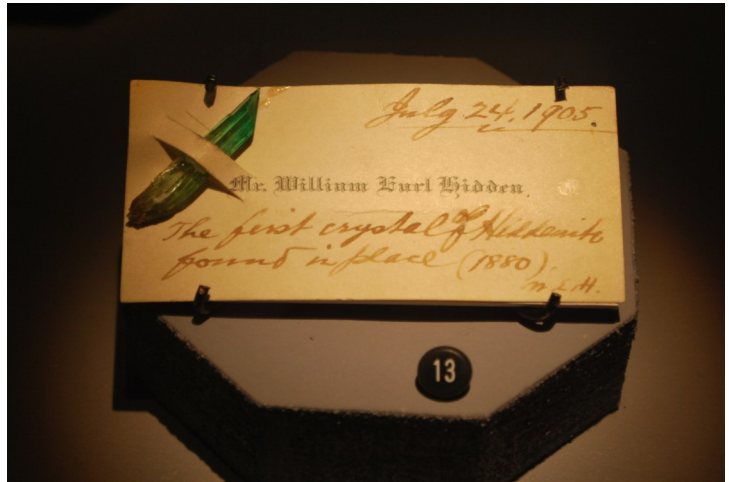
A Word From the President ~

Recently I visited the North Carolina Museum on Natural History in Raleigh North Carolina. One of the exhibits on display was a crystal of Hiddenite. Hiddenite is an emerald green variety of Spodumene, a pyroxene mineral consisting of lithium aluminium inosilicate, $\text{LiAl}(\text{SiO}_3)_2$.

Crystals were first found in 1879 in placer deposits near White Plains, North Carolina. Samples of the green mineral eventually made their way to the geologist William Earl Hidden who was prospecting in North Carolina, along with the famed gemologist George Frederick Kunz.

Hidden in turn sent the stones on to the well know mineralogist J. Lawrence Smith. Smith examined the crystals and identified them as a new variety or spodumene. Smith named the mineral "Hiddenite" in honor of William Hidden.

Recognizing the minerals potential as a gem stone, Hidden later acquired a small tract of property. In 1880 they found crystals in place in bedrock. The small town near the mines was later renamed Hiddenite in honor of the rare mineral. In recent decades deposits of hiddenite have now also been found in Afghanistan, Myanmar, Brazil, Madagascar and California.



**Helena Mineral Society
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Secretary

Open

Membership Chairman

Sally Brooks

Treasurer

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Gene Hodge
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Carolyn De Martino

Field Trip Chairman

Wayne Waters

Show Chairman

Gary Parisi
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Program Chairman

David Jordan
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Stuff n Things For Sale

Leland Stanford has the following for sale.

1. The book,
Calcite: The Mineral with the Most Forms (ExtraLapis English, No.4) \$35.00
2. ***Bounty Hunter Gold Digger Metal Detector*** with ear phones, no manual.

This will be auctioned off by bids starting at \$150.00 and sent by mail to:

Leland Stanford
150 Lincoln Road West
Helena, MT 59602

Best offer over \$150.00 wins.
Any questions please call 458-1129

Annette Stockdale is selling a
Facetron Faceting Machine. For more
information please call 406-461-8167

Sharon Liederman has a ***Mineral Collection*** for sale. The collection includes many nice Montana, African, Mexican and other specimens from around the world.

Contact her at 458-816 or leroyspuds@yahoo.com to view the specimens and price list.

Club Meetings

The Helena Mineral Society meets at the Neighborhood Center, 200 S. Cruse Ave the third Thursday of each 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.

Classified Ads

To place a classified ad, please see me in person at one of our regular meetings or you may e-mail me (Sally) with your information at sbrooks245@aol.com. Your 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. Please have all items submitted no later than the Monday following the Club meeting.

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