



"God Bless  
America"



## THE STREAKPLATE

NORTHERN BERKSHIRE MINERAL CLUB  
North Adams, Massachusetts

VOLUME 54 NUMBER 3  
June 2012

Visit us on the web at <http://nbmclub.webs.com>

---

---

### Meeting Place and Time

**DATE:** *Saturday, July 14, 2012*    **TIME :**    *11:00AM*

**LOCATION:**    **The Vermont Museum of Mining and Minerals**  
55 Pleasant Street, Grafton, VT

**PROGRAM:**    **Summer Picnic and Museum Tour**

Sue Hadden, Director of the museum, has invited us to tour the museum and her private collection at her residence. She has also offered to let us use her grounds for a picnic and a swim in her pond. See below for more details.



---

### Summer Picnic and Museum Tour



Sue Hadden is the director of the Vermont Museum of Mining and Minerals and is also the co-author of the Eden Mills, Vermont chapter of American Mineral Treasures. Sue has graciously offered to give us a tour of the museum as well as her private collection at home. According to club member Ken Carlson, who also co-authored the Eden Mills piece, Sue's private collection is very nice and will not disappoint. In addition Sue has offered the use of her grounds for the club picnic including the swimming pond if it is hot.

An accurate headcount is needed for this event so please contact me by email at [lmichon@rcn.com](mailto:lmichon@rcn.com) or by phone at 413-446-1893. I will be able to provide transportation from North Adams for anyone who would like to attend. It is approximately a two hour drive from North Adams to Grafton, Vt. This is a very special opportunity to view a fabulous collection, you will not want to miss this one.

## *Plan to help at the Gem Show This September*

Our 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show will be held September 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012. Your help is needed to make this a success. We are adding geode cracking and gem sand screening activities this year for the children. We will need help setting up and running these activities. In addition club members will be able to exhibit choice pieces from their collection this year with one case set aside just for club children to display their collections. We also discussed the possibility of setting up a fluorescent display area. Please contact me if you can help organize any of these new activities and to put in hours at the door. Contact Larry at 413-446-1893 or be email at [lmichon@rcn.com](mailto:lmichon@rcn.com). Let's make this the best show ever!

### *Chrysanthemum Stone*



I purchased a Chinese chrysanthemum stone at the Gilsum Rock Swap last Saturday. I've been interested in these for years and thought I would tell you a little about them. It's an ornamental stone displaying chrysanthemum-like patterns in a contrasting matrix. Marketed specimens are often highlighted by selective painting of the matrix with a dye to over-emphasise the crystal pattern, which in the process obliterates some of it.

The composition of chrysanthemum stone is variable. Material from the "classic" occurrence at Yonghe in Liuyang County of Hunan Province consists of celestine, but specimens recovered from outcrops of the same strata at other places in the area are mostly mixtures of calcite, chalcedony and minor dolomite which replace earlier celestine (Yan et al., 2001). Material from another well known occurrence at Laibin of Guangxi Province consists of strontianite (Zhang and Li, 1999). More recently, holmquistite "suns" in a light schist matrix from the Altay pegmatite field have been traded in China as chrysanthemum stones as well (Wang et al., 2009).

Japanese "chrysanthemum stone" is aragonite (or calcite pseudomorphs after aragonite) in schalstein matrix.

According to Ancient History, the Three Gorges of China were once filled with lush green forests through which a crystal clear river serenely flowed. To this paradise came twelve evil spirits determined to destroy all the surrounding beauty. They set to work devastating the thick foliage, and turning the clear, gentle river into a bed of mud and muck causing people to flee these wastelands in search of more habitable grounds. One day the seventh daughter of the heavenly empress had wandered off in play and found herself in the ravaged Three Gorges. The pillaging of Mother Nature by the evil spirits angered and upset this seventh daughter who was determined to use her powers to destroy these spirits. She called upon thunder and lightning to aid her in this task, and for seven days they waged a ruthless war against those spirits. She succeeded in their destruction, but at an even greater cost once again to the Three Gorges, for the war caused more plight to the once beautiful paradise. Now she must do something to redeem the value of the Three Gorges. This daughter then went back to heaven to gather the seeds of the most beautiful heavenly flowers. Returning, she then planted the seeds in the Three Gorges. Many years later the devastation was replaced by the most magnificent, blooming flowers. Once again the Three Gorges flourished with lush foliage and crystal clear waters truly becoming a heavenly place on earth. The Chrysanthemum stones were planted by the seventh daughter as a reminder to all of the power of the heavenly spirits

## *Native American Legends Series*

### *The First World*

#### *A Navajo Legend*

The First World, Ni'hodilqil, was black as black wool. It had four corners, and over these appeared four clouds. These four clouds contained within themselves the elements of the First World. They were in color, black, white, blue, and yellow.

The Black Cloud represented the Female Being or Substance. For as a child sleeps when being nursed, so life slept in the darkness of the Female Being. The White Cloud represented the Male Being or Substance. He was the Dawn, the Light-Which-Awakens, of the First World.

In the East, at the place where the Black Cloud and the White Cloud met, First Man, Atse'hastqin was formed; and with him was formed the white corn, perfect in shape, with kernels covering the whole ear. Dolionot i'ni is the name of this first seed corn, and it is also the name of the place where the Black Cloud and the White Cloud met.

The First World was small in size, a floating island in mist or water. On it there grew one tree, a pine tree, which was later brought to the present world for firewood.

Man was not, however, in his present form. The conception was of a male and a female being who were to become man and woman. The creatures of the First World are thought of as the Mist People; they had no definite form, but were to change to men, beasts, birds, and reptiles of this world.

Now on the western side of the First World, in a place that later was to become the Land of Sunset, there appeared the Blue Cloud, and opposite it there appeared the Yellow Cloud. Where they came together First Woman was formed, and with her the yellow corn. This ear of corn was also perfect. With First Woman there came the white shell and the turquoise and the yucca.

First Man stood on the eastern side of the First World. He represented the Dawn and was the Life Giver. First Woman stood opposite in the West. She represented Darkness and Death.

First Man burned a crystal for a fire. The crystal belonged to the male and was the symbol of the mind and of clear seeing. When First Man burned it, it was the mind's awakening.

First Woman burned her turquoise for a fire. They saw each other's lights in the distance. When the Black Cloud and the White Cloud rose higher in the sky, First Man set out to find the turquoise light. He went twice without success, and again a third time; then he broke a forked branch from his tree, and, looking through the fork, he marked the place where the light burned. And the fourth time he walked to it and found smoke coming from a home.

"Here is the home I could not find," First Man said.

First Woman answered: "Oh, it is you. I saw you walking around and I wondered why you did not come."

Again the same thing happened when the Blue Cloud and the Yellow Cloud rose higher in the sky. First Woman saw a light and she went out to find it. Three times she was unsuccessful, but the fourth time she saw the smoke and she found the home of First Man.

"I wondered what this thing could be," she said.

"I saw you walking and I wondered why you did not come to me," First Man answered.

First Woman saw that First Man had a crystal for a fire, and she saw that it was stronger than her turquoise fire. And as she was thinking, First Man spoke to her. "Why do you not come with your fire and we will live together." The woman agreed to this. So instead of the man going to the woman, as is the custom now, the woman went to the man.

About this time there came another person, the Great-Coyote-Who-Was- Formed-in-the-Water, and he was in the form of a male being. He told the two that he had been hatched from an egg. He knew all that was under the water and all that was in the skies.

First Man placed this person ahead of himself in all things. The three began to plan what was to come to pass; and while they were thus occupied another being came to them. He also had the form of a man, but he wore a hairy coat, lined with white fur, that fell to his knees and was belted in at the waist. His name was Atse'hashke', First Angry or Coyote.

He said to the three: "You believe that you were the first persons. You are mistaken. I was living when you were formed."

Then four beings came together. They were yellow in color and were called the ts'ts'na. or wasp people. They knew the secret of shooting evil and could harm others. They were very powerful.

This made eight people.

Four more beings came. They were small in size and wore red shirts and had little black eyes. They were the naazo'zi or spider ants. They knew how to sting, and were a great people.

After these came a whole crowd of beings. Dark colored they were, with thick lips and dark, protruding eyes. They were the wolazhi'ni, the black ants. They also knew the secret of shooting evil and were powerful; but they killed each other steadily.

By this time there were many people. Then came a multitude of little creatures. They were peaceful and harmless, but the odor from them was unpleasant. They were called the wolazhi'ni nlchu nigí, meaning that which emits an odor.

And after the wasps and the different ant people there came the beetles, dragonflies, bat people, the Spider Man and Woman, and the Salt Man and Woman, and others that rightfully had no definite form but were among those people who peopled the First World. And this world, being small in size, became crowded, and the people quarreled and fought among themselves, and in all ways made living very unhappy.

**President:**

*Larry Michon*  
P.O. Box 297  
North Adams, MA 01247 413-663-8430  
Email: lmichon@rcn.com

**Vice-President:**

*Position is open*

**Treasurer:**

*Darlene Bruzzi*  
P.O. Box 1122  
Hinsdale, MA 01235 413-665-2193  
Email: darbruzzi@gmail.com

**Secretary:**

*Position is open*

**COMMITTEES****Programs:**

**Annual Show Committee:**  
*Cheryl Gasperetti and Larry Michon*

**Field Trips:**

*Position is open*

**Streakplate Editor:**

*Larry Michon, 413-663-8430*  
lmichon@rcn.com

"The Club" was founded in 1959. The purpose of the club is to develop and educate students, the community, and our members in the field of mineralogy, including the formation of rocks and minerals, the collection of minerals, their identification and display, and in the lapidary art of cutting, polishing and faceting; and to serve the educational needs of the communities in which club members live.

...from the Constitution of The Northern Berkshire Mineral Club

**The Crystal Healing Corner**

*By Darlene Bruzzi*

**May-Serpentine**

Serpentine is a magnesium silicate mineral with a hardness of between 2 to 5.5. It does not form macroscopic crystals but rather monoclinic, orthorhombic or hexagonal in dense masses or fibrous forms. It is not associated with any particular star sign, and works with all chakras. The name Serpentine derived from the similarity of the green colors and texture to the skin of some snakes. Serpentine colors go from pale yellow-green to deep forest green to almost black, and often contains Magnetite. The famous Connemara Marble of Ireland is a mixture of Serpentine and Marble. Serpentine is found in many places but the most important ones are in Great Britain, South Africa, Brazil, China, India, Italy, and USA. We recently took a trip to the Danby Marble Quarry in Danby, VT, where we were able to get some nice pieces of the forest-green Serpentine.

Because of its association to serpents { aka snakes }, it is one of the best stones to use for awakening the kundalini energy we all have, said to reside at the base of the spine and wrapped three and one half times around the sacrum. Awakening the kundalini often brings intense psychic and spiritual phenomena. Most often reported is the sensation of a serpent of fire rising up in the spine, working its way up through all the chakras, then emerging from the crown chakra much like the snake hovering over the head of the Sphinx. This is similar to what kundalini yoga sees as enlightenment. Serpentine activates and regulates the kundalini energy bringing about a safe and balanced awakening of these energies.

There are many ways to work with Serpentine to bring about kundalini awakening, but here is one way, called "body lay-out meditation". While laying down place a Serpentine stone at the base chakra and one at the crown chakra and hold one in each hand. If you have a practitioner or helper available, have them hold a Serpentine stone in each hand and starting at the base make passes up and down the spine for 15 to 30 minutes, or until intuition tells you to stop. To augment the process other stones may be brought in as well such as; Tibetan Tektite, Jet and/or Moldavite placed on the chakras, or any other stone you feel drawn to use.

Serpentine is also a good stone to place on the meridian points to help clear blockages and to allow healthy energies to flow naturally. Due to psychic wounds from one's family or culture an endless cycle of repeating patterns of defense and aggression occurs. This energy is now running rampant throughout our whole world today. Serpentine with Magnetite, carried, worn or meditated with, is very helpful in clearing those energies out and bringing in the energies of peace and joy to the individual which then reverberates to the outer world.

Serpentine harmonizes well with Seraphinite especially in the healing and rewiring of unhealthy brain patterns. Herderite, Phenacite, Natrolite, Scolecite and Azeztulite help to stimulate the higher brain areas. Jet and Tibetan Tektite reinforce Serpentine's energies in awakening the kundalini energy. Other stones that work well with Serpentine are; Amethyst, Moonstone, Libyan Gold Tektite, Golden Labradorite, Zincite, Tiger Eye, Emerald, Green Jade, Purple Jade and Strombolite.

Serpentine also has the power to connect to the matrix of evolution for the Earth herself. Although a common stone, its energies are anything but that. By meditating and working with Serpentine one can access the history, learning and evolutionary story of all of Nature in all of the dimensions in which the planet exists. These histories also include those of the fairy domains, the devic realms, the plant and animal kingdoms and the mineral kingdom. The frequency of Serpentine allows one to access the stored cumulative knowledge of the natural world.

Because Serpentine often contains Magnetite it also acts as a recorder of Earth changes and shifts through the geologic and energetic patterns of this metamorphic stone. This also allows one to perceive future shifts and Earth changes, allowing one to act as a midwife/healer for the planet. Historically Serpentine was used by the Romans as a protection stone against the powers of darkness. Legend says beakers made from Serpentine would shatter when in contact with poison. Bowls and other vessels were often made from Serpentine for this reason. I would imagine the royalty and ruling class would of needed this feature. In the Middle Ages medicine was kept in Serpentine containers because it also increased the healing powers of the medicine as well as kept it fresh longer. In China, aphrodisiacs, healing and magic potions were drunk from specially shaped Serpentine beakers. In the 19th century people became aware of the fire-resistant qualities of Serpentine and used it in many materials and fabrics. In the America's, ancient civilizations as well as now, Serpentine was known as a guardian of vital energy and a soul protector against the dark invisible powers. In ancient times Serpentine was seen as a talisman, worn or carried to protect against demons and to promote fertility. Today it is still used to protect against snake-bites, poison, and magic spells. In India and China it is often incorporated into alters, temple decorations and carvings, a protective stone that brings peace.

Serpentine is also used to treat disorders such as; cardiac irregularities, kidney disorders, stomach and bowel troubles, and menstrual problems. It can also even out mood swings and calms the wearer in stressful hectic situations.

Serpentine should be discharged under warm running water and charged overnight with Rock Crystals, but should only be charged a few hours in the sunlight, it is important that Serpentine should not become too hot.

SOURCES: Healing Crystals and Gemstones, by Flora Peschek-Bohmer and Gisela Schreiber , p. 256-257  
The Book Of Stones, Who They Are and What They Do, by Robert Simmons and Naisha Ahsian , p. 355-356