



Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club



ROCK TALK

MARCH 2024

26 MARCH 2024 at 1900 (7 PM)

Meeting at OLD WALDORF SCHOOL

(next to the Waldorf JayCees Hall)

North of the RT 301 / RT 5 Intersection

MARCH PROGRAM

"It's a Mystery"

A "volunteer and program" should be named shortly so be ready for that in March..

If you are desirous of doing a program, PLEASE contact Jill soonest!

IN THIS EDITION

Sugar Plums Dancing in My Head

Lherzolite

Pink Sunstone

MINUTES

Old Waldorf School, Waldorf, MD

Without a Monthly meeting, there are no minutes to be published.

Editor's Ramblings

This will be the first meeting of the calendar year! This will be the true start for the new President (of the club), Tim Smith. Tim has been in the club for multiple years and will be leading us through the next years of the club in many ways.

If you done some collecting over the past few months, bring some of the material to show to the others!!

Chestnut Ridge Quartz Crystals or BUST!

Yes, Dave has set up our annual trip to Chestnut Ridge in the mountains of Virginia for Saturday, 23 March. OF COURSE, it will be weather dependent since Mother Nature has been a bit "finicky" lately. It has been a hot spot for the club in 2010, 2011, 2018, 2019, 2022, and 2023. One can read each story and see some of the results from each visit on the SMRMC.ORG website homepage under FIELD TRIPS. It is not a trip for the faint of heart or one with physical disabilities that would not be able to make the steep (45 degrees in places) climb to the locations where we have consistently found great quartz crystals in singles and clusters. Memory has it that it is about a mile hike up to the top [1200-1300 ft vertical rise]. BUT the rewards are worth the trip.

Dave will email all of the trip details/requirements to club members and how to sign up.



IN THE MARCH 2024 ROCK TALK:	
TOPICS	PAGE
Minutes	1
Table of Contents	2
Programs / Refreshments	2
Calendar of Events /Odds and Ends	3
"Sugar Plums Dancing in My Head"	5
Study Identifies Lherzolite as a Source Rock for Diamond Deposits	11
Pink Sunstone	12
SMRMC Staff	17
Items Wanted/For Sale	17

2024 PROGRAMS/REFRESHMENTS SCHEDULE		
MONTH	PROGRAM	REFRESHMENTS
26 MAR 2024	TBD	Vycki and Bernie
23 APR 2024	Quarry Safety, Rich Simcsak	Trisha Y.
28 MAY 2024	TBD	Teresa and Alton
25 JUN 2024	TBD	Kenny S.
23 JUL 2024	TBD	Kurt and Sue
27 AUG 2024	CLUB AUCTION	POT LUCK
24 SEP 2024	TBD	Jill
22 OCT 2024	TBD	Polly, Al, & Carole
26 NOV 2024	TBD	TBD
TBA DEC 2024	Holiday Party	POT LUCK

Program Volunteers, Dates TBD:

1. Kenny Jameson – Local Rocks and Minerals, i.e Patuxent River Stones
2. Kenny Sams – Opals
3. Diane Etherton – Maryland Geologic Provinces
4. Jill Lee – Summer Astronomy

Dates are tentative. Changes are possible due to a multitude of reasons that are always beyond our control.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

8-9 March 2024—RICHBORO, PENNSYLVANIA: Annual show; Leidy Microscopic Society; Advent Lutheran Church, 45 Worthington Mill Rd, 916 Senator Rd; Fri. 12-6, Sat. 9-6; \$25 for half table ; \$40 for full table; visitors fee - \$5 on Friday, \$10 on Saturday and includes lunch; Micromount Symposium-two guest speakers, silent auctions, free giveaways, sell, trade, swap micromounts, lunch on Saturday included; contact Donald McAlarnen, (610) 247-5097; Email: donmcalarnen@outlook.com; Website: <https://leidymicroscopical.com>

16-17 March 2024 - GAITHERSBURG, MARYLAND. 58th Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Show; Sponsored by the Gem, Lapidary & Mineral Society of Montgomery County, MD. Saturday 10-6 and Sunday 11-5. Ages 12 and over \$6. Children (11 and Under) are FREE. Scouts in Uniform, 4H youth with 4H Identification are FREE. More info at: www.glmsmc.com

22-24 March 2024 - VIRGINIA BEACH, VA - Treasures of the Earth. Fri Noon - 6PM; Sat/Sun 1000 to 5PM Located at 1000 19th Street, Virginia Beach Convention Center, Virginia Beach, VA. 23451 Website: <http://treasuresoftheearth.com>

23-24 March 2024 - CHICOPEE, MASSACHUSETTS Connecticut Valley Mineral Club presents the 2024 Western Mass Mineral Show. Sat. 9:30-5, Sun. 9:30-3:30 Admission \$5. Children 12 and under Free with paid adult. Scouts in uniform Free with paid adult. Free mineral specimen for children. — Featuring door prizes, vendors, enthusiasts, mineral experts, and collectors.

8-9 June 2024 - WEST FRIENDSHIP, MD Retail & Wholesale Vendors with Wholesale Only Trade area. Hourly Door Prizes and Grand Prize Drawing. \$6 Admission Children under 12 Free. Howard County Fairgrounds, 2210 Fairgrounds Road, West Friendship, MD 21794. www.gem-show.com.. Website will have updates. 301-807-9745

ODDS AND ENDS

EDITORS NOTE: *I may forward an email from ROCKCHASING.COM if the article(s) are worthy for sharing with the club members. IF anyone gets to their "FULL POINT" with too much information - PLEASE tell me and I will stop it's dissemination to those members not wanting the email.*

Largest Gold Nugget Ever Found Weighed The Same As An Adult Man

<https://www.iflscience.com/largest-gold-nugget-ever-found-weighed-the-same-as-an-adult-man-72778>

Asteroid 33 Polyhymnia May Contain Elements Outside The Periodic Table

<https://www.iflscience.com/asteroid-33-polyhymnia-may-contain-elements-outside-the-periodic-table-72775>

Finding Diamonds Just Got Easier Thanks To A New Discovery

<https://www.iflscience.com/finding-diamonds-just-got-easier-thanks-to-a-new-discovery-72877>

Allende Meteorite: The Space Rock That Fell To Earth Containing Extraterrestrial Proteins And Dust Older Than The Sun

<https://www.iflscience.com/extraterrestrial-proteins-dust-older-than-the-sun-and-more-was-found-in-this-space-rock-72864>

Scottish scientists discover 'very strange' fossilized 'Chinese dragon' that is 240 million years old

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-13118581/fossilized-chinese-dragon-scottish-scientist.html>

America's \$232 billion lithium industry could drain billions of gallons of water from Colorado River and residential wells because Civil War-era law doesn't limit how much mines can use

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-13030597/America-lithium-industry-drain-water-resources-Colorado-river.html>

Agatized Wood: Gemstone, Value, Uses

<https://www.geologyin.com/2024/02/agatized-wood-gemstone-value-uses.html>

Rare and Valuable Gemstones: From Alexandrite to Red Beryl

<https://geologyscience.com/gallery/geologic-lists/rare-and-valuable-gemstones-from-alexandrite-to-red-beryl/>

The Most Famous Diamonds in the World

<https://geologyscience.com/gallery/geologic-lists/the-most-famous-diamonds-in-the-world/>

Scientists just discovered a massive reservoir of helium beneath Minnesota

<https://www.livescience.com/planet-earth/geology/scientists-just-discovered-a-massive-reservoir-of-helium-beneath-minnesota>

Earth's oldest forest is discovered near a Butlin's in Somerset: Fossilised woodland dates back 390 million years - beating the previous record holder in New York by 4 million years

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-13168289/oldest-forest-discovered-near-Butlins.html>

'Once in a lifetime' comet larger than Mount Everest could become visible to the naked eye in the coming weeks - here's how to see it

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-13186315/Once-lifetime-comet-Mount-Everest-visible.html>

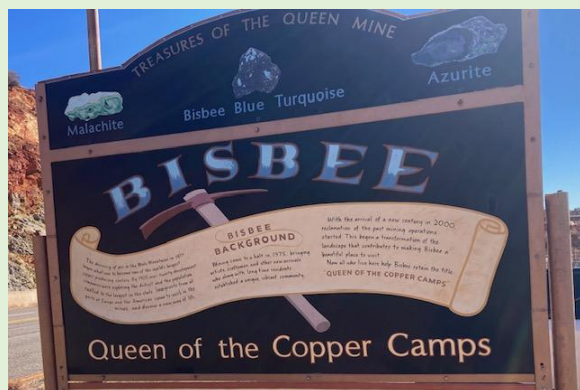
**FACEBOOK Page Is Growing!!
Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club**

Kurt is maintaining our ever growing FACEBOOK Page and is looking for pictures of the club members collections and description of where those items were collected. This social media effort is helping share what this club is doing and can help it expand even further.

If you are not "FACEBOOK Friendly" or "Computer Savy", Kurt is happy to assist you in navigating these "internet waters" safely to share your stories.

**“Sugar Plums Dancing in My Head” --
- Our Arizona and California Trip Feb-
March 2024** by Dave Lines

Have you ever dreamed about finding great rocks? Beautiful rocks? Lots of them? What if you knew right where they were --- but you lived too far away to get them? 3,000 miles away? It is sort of like the night before Christmas. Sometimes that is me the night before a long trip --- which is really supposed to be about visiting family and old friends --- but hopefully will allow a little time to fit in some rockhounding. ☺ We arrived in Phoenix on Tuesday (Feb 27th) and drove 200 miles southeast through Tucson to the little town of Sonoita to stay with dear friends who had lived in La Plata (MD) for many years. A full schedule of non-rockhound activities was already planned by our hosts each day of our 3 day/4 night visit. After some tactful re-negotiation by my wife, I had a chance to rockhound and the use of our rental car for the “middle” day of our visit. I left their house on that morning and headed to the town of Bisbee.



Arizona calls itself “The Copper State” --- for good reason. According to Google, Arizona has been the leading copper producing state for over 100 years

and currently mines 68% of all USA copper. And Bisbee is one of its copper mining towns. It has plenty of history and boasts many mines. The most famous is the “Copper Queen” which still conducts underground mining tours for visitors. The Bisbee Museum is a great place to see some world class specimens of copper minerals like azurite, malachite and chrysocolla as well as hundreds of mining relics. Evidence of mining is everywhere.



The “Lavender Pit” is a huge open pit mine (named for the mining engineer in charge of mining it) just south of downtown. A little further is the company town of Warren which was built to house the miners. The town is dwarfed and partially surrounded by huge, mountain-sized piles of tailings. Most of the homes in Warren are very modest, but a few are very large mansions which sit high above the rest of the town as homes for the mining big wigs.

Modern mining methods are also visible outside of town --- for example, new plastic lined leach ponds. Reprocessing the old tailings --- especially for silver, gold, and other minerals (over 300 minerals have been identified --- is now feasible. And

nearly everything is behind tall chain link fences festooned with “No Trespassing” signs. That is a problem for casual rock collectors. I solved it by locating the old railroad beds where the tracks have been removed. Outside of town, these track beds extend for miles and miles.



Interestingly, these were not posted and were easily accessible. Within a few minutes of searching, I found plenty of green malachite coatings on many rocks all along the edges of the old rail beds --- especially where the roadbeds cut through solid rock as well as where the beds were built up across depressions and gulleys.

There was also an abundance of slag in the railroad beds from historic smelting operations. Some interesting finds included pyrite, chalcopyrite and iridescent hematite. I had fun looking. On the way back to our host’s house I stopped in the “A to Z Rock Shop” (cool name for an AZ rock shop) in the town of Sierra Vista.



I spent about 30 minutes talking with the owner and showing him my finds -- who was surprised and pleased that I had found a place to rockhound and had found so much. I also purchased a few Bisbee specimens from him. I especially like the native copper piece with its interesting botryoidal crystal pattern.



Fast forward to Saturday March 2nd, when we flew to California to visit Ann’s sister in San Luis Obispo (SLO) which is located near the coast halfway between Los Angeles and San Francisco. On the first full day there, we took a long sightseeing drive through the mountains north of SLO and then downhill toward the ocean. The well-

above-average rainfall had turned the brown mountain pastures to bright green. The scenery was very picturesque and stunningly beautiful. After a delicious lunch in Cambria, we went to nearby “Moonstone Beach” where I spent about 30 minutes searching for moonstones (not feldspar moonstones, but translucent, well tumbled, almost clear agates). The only ones I found were very tiny (less than pea sized), but pretty. I also found some other polished rocks of mostly jasper and chert. No jade, but I was looking.



The next day, I took the rental car and headed north along Highway 1 to where San Simeon Creek entered the ocean. Thanks to the many strong storms and abundant rainfall this winter, the creek had flushed out lots of rocks as well as logs. I chose the beach on the north side of the creek which had rocks showing everywhere.

There were a lot of human footprints in the sand showing that I was not the first person there. Some people had piled up abundant driftwood. Someone had spent a great deal of time meticulously constructing a large 10-foot diameter “smiley face” out of rocks. Not just any rocks placed randomly, but color

coordinated rocks all carefully laid perfectly. But I digress.



Nearly all of the rocks were rounded and had been tumbling in the creek for eons. The best ones were smooth and solid without cracks. Because it was also low tide, I was able to wade in the shallow edges of the creek where I could easily spot some outstanding colors in the clear, flowing water. I spent several hours looking carefully and choosing the most solid and best patterned specimens. The jaspers in that area of the country have many variations. Some jasper was “brecciated” which meant the rock had been “intruded” by molten quartz or other molten material to create “broken” pieces of jasper with sharp jagged edges placed in a matrix of white quartz. Other jasper had been formed in an evenly “mixed pattern” of 2 or more colors --- common jasper color combinations were “yellow and black”, “orange and black”, and “red and black”. Some jaspers had been formed in “layers” -- a dark maroon was common. Also, jasper (and chert) in various shades of green was there. There were jaspers with single thin “lines” of white quartz across the face. Sometimes the white lines formed an

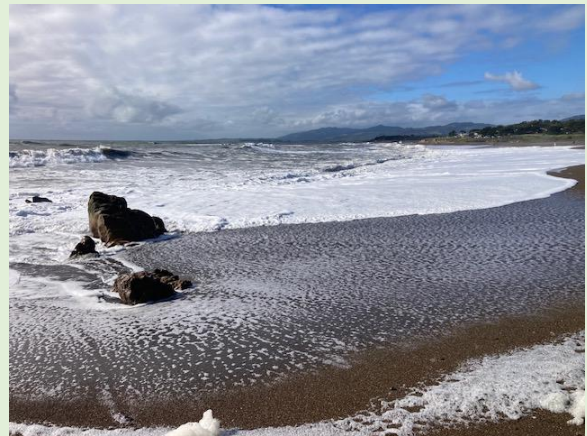
intricate pattern. I also found some translucent agate. All were interesting. They will make gorgeous cabs and spheres. I could have collected literally tons of good rocks, but I had no way to get them back to Maryland except by suitcase or US Postal Flat Rate boxes (which at \$18.40 per medium size box can get pretty expensive).



After eating lunch in the car (and sharing some with an expectant seagull), I drove to another area just north of San Simeon where Pico Creek flowed into the ocean. This beach was like the first area --- lots of colorful rocks showing and plenty of driftwood including big logs and tree limbs. Collecting was just “okay” at this location, but not as special as where I had been. After an hour there, I returned to SLO.

The next day, I went south --- first to the town of Avila where I planned to look for “deedeeite”. Deedeeite (Google it) was named for the lady (DeeDee Magri) who discovered it. She is a member of one of the local rock clubs in that area. At first, the other club members laughed at her finds -- until she shined a shortwave UV light. Wow --- her rocks fluoresced a bright “ivory” white with some pastel blue. The

material is a brecciated rhyolite that has agate or chalcedony as the “filler”. In daylight, the rock is rather drab --- a mix of gray and tan, with specks of black. It looks a bit like oatmeal. It polishes well, too. Anyway, this rock has only been found on one small section of the beach at Avila and this area is accessible only around the tip of a protruding point for a short interval at low tide. I showed up exactly one hour before the predicted low tide wearing boots about 10 inches high.



It was not enough boot. I waited for about 15 minutes while I watched the pattern of waves trying to figure out when I could scoot across about 20 yards when the water was low enough. I finally took my chances and ran across one of those times -

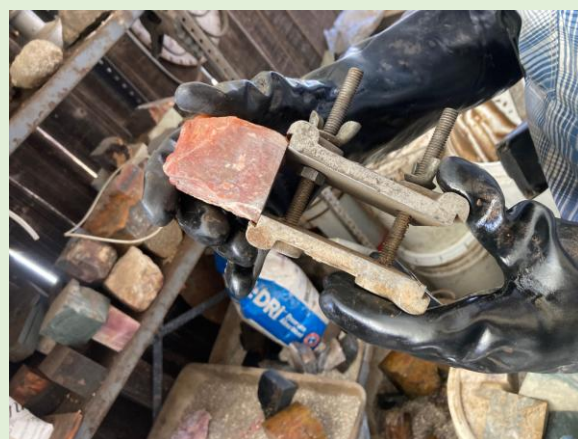
-- and hoped the tide would continue to fall so I could get back again.



Meanwhile I had that small portion of the beach to myself. Near the upper edge of the beach, there were plenty of rocks ranging from fist sized to as big as a basketball. After I found my first piece of deedeelite, it was easier to see. Anyway, I collected about 10 pieces and decided to leave because the tide was beginning to come back in.

I continued my trip south to Nipomo where I visited Wes Lingerfelt --- my rockhound buddy of 20+ years. I had emailed Wes and his wife Jeannie about a month before to tell them I was coming to CA. Wes greeted me with a hardy handshake and a big hug. It had been five

years since my last visit. When I showed Wes my deedeelite finds, he brought out a UV light and, after checking them for fluorescence, declared that I had found some good ones. Then I spent the next several hours following him around talking while he was simultaneously cutting various rocks on 3 different rock saws and doing the initial rough grinding of a new 4-inch sphere on one of his four sphere making machines. I peppered him with questions the entire time about the finer points of sphere making --- which is clearly his specialty (see "SphereHeaven.com"). Wes, who is 7 years my senior, is very generous and kept giving me cut offs of various rocks as we went back and forth between the machines.



I showed him pictures of my two rock saws and asked his advice about the style of the jig he makes for cutting the 45-degree angles required for turning a rock “cube” into the “soccer ball shape” that is needed for the first stage in a sphere making machine. He gave me several jigs. We had a great reunion. He is brilliant and very innovative --- after all, he is a retired rocket scientist from Vandenberg AFB. Reluctantly in the late afternoon, I left and returned to SLO. It was a good visit.

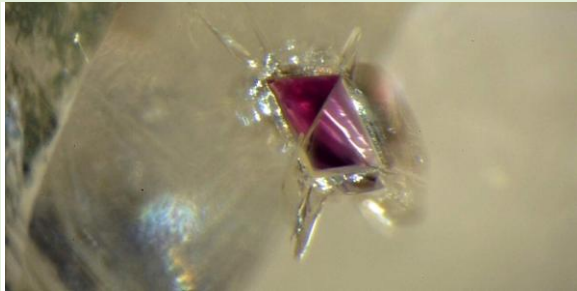
boxes of my AZ and CA “rock finds” were already sitting on our back porch when we arrived. As of this writing (March 12th), I have received 5 of the 6 boxes --- one more is still “in transit”.



Ann and I returned to MD on March 6th. Three (3) of the six (6) Flat Rate USPS

Study Identifies Lherzolite as a Source Rock for Diamond Deposits

<https://www.geologyin.com/2019/05/study-identifies-lherzolite-as-source.html>



Lherzolitic garnet inclusion inside a diamond collected from the De Beers Group Victor Mine. Photo courtesy of Anetta Banas.

A startling discovery has the potential to change diamond exploration in Canada and around the world.

Research by geologists from the University of Alberta and De Beers Group, the world's largest diamond company, showed that "economic" diamond deposits can come from lherzolitic diamond substrates, a common rock type in Earth's mantle, which until now had only been peripherally associated with diamond formation.

"The outcome of the project fundamentally changes our understanding of where diamonds come from," said U of A geologist Thomas Stachel, the Canada Research Chair in Diamonds.

"(It) has the potential to cause diamond companies to retool their approach to exploration." Diamonds in ancient continental regions, such as the Canadian Shield, were thought to have

grown mainly in different types of mantle rocks.

The assumption, which has guided exploration for decades, is now being turned on its head. The research team used samples from the De Beers Group Victor Mine in the James Bay region of northern Ontario. The area, part of the Canadian Shield, is characterized by a large-scale heating event that occurred about one billion years ago, an unusual setting for a diamond mine.

The research group dated and analyzed the makeup of diamonds, their minuscule inclusions and the mantle itself, said Stachel, who is also director of the Canadian Centre for Isotopic Microanalysis.

The level of detail collected in this study couldn't be done anywhere else in the world," he said, referring to U of A analytical facilities in which almost \$30 million has been invested to enable scientists to probe the age and origins of diamonds at the micro-analytical level.

Stachel said the research results for the Victor Mine could apply to other regions around the world that experienced geologically "young" overprint, in particular in Western Canada.

"In the long run, this could make a big difference in diamond exploration," he said. The world's diamond industry is worth an estimated \$13 billion annually.

Canada is home to the world's third largest diamond industry, at \$2 billion.

Pink Sunstone

<https://geologyscience.com/gemstone/pink-sunstone/>

Pink **Sunstone** is a type of **feldspar**, characterized by its pink to reddish-pink coloration and the presence of reflective inclusions that give it a sparkling effect known as **aventurescence**. It belongs to the same mineral family as **moonstone** and **labradorite**, both of which are also known for their optical phenomena



Brief History and Discovery:

Sunstone, including the pink variety, has been known and used for centuries. Historically, it was primarily found in Norway, where it was used by ancient Vikings as a navigation aid due to its ability to polarize light and indicate the direction of the sun even in overcast conditions. Pink Sunstone, specifically, may have been discovered alongside other varieties of sunstone in these regions.

In more recent times, significant **deposits** of Pink Sunstone have been found

in various locations, including the United States, Tanzania, and Madagascar. These discoveries have led to increased interest and appreciation for this **gemstone** among collectors and jewelry enthusiasts.



Importance and Significance: Pink Sunstone holds significance both as a gemstone and as a mineral with unique **optical properties**. Its attractive pink coloration, combined with the captivating sparkle caused by light reflection off internal inclusions, makes it a sought-after material for use in jewelry. Pink Sunstone jewelry, including earrings, necklaces, and bracelets, is often prized for its beauty and rarity.

Beyond its ornamental value, Pink Sunstone carries symbolic meanings associated with love, passion, and vitality due to its warm pink hues. Some believe it to possess metaphysical properties, such as promoting creativity, enhancing intuition, and fostering emotional balance.

Geological Formation



Pink Sunstone, like other varieties of sunstone, forms in [igneous rocks](#), particularly within a type of rock called [pegmatite](#). Pegmatites are coarse-grained igneous [rocks](#) that form from the cooling of magma deep within the Earth's crust. These rocks often contain a variety of [minerals](#), including feldspar, [quartz](#), [mica](#), and various trace elements.

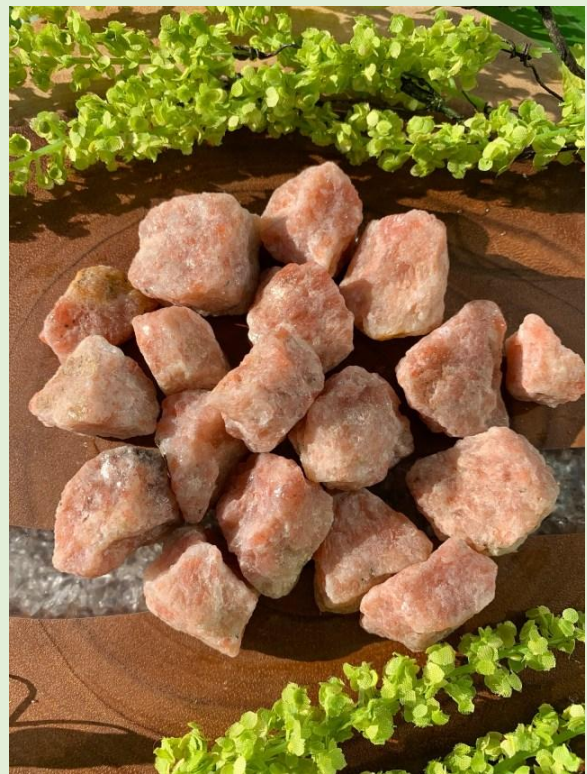
The pink coloration in Pink Sunstone is typically due to the presence of [copper](#) impurities within the feldspar crystals. As the magma cools and solidifies, these copper impurities become trapped within the feldspar matrix, giving rise to the characteristic pink to reddish-pink coloration.

The sparkling effect, known as aventurescence, is caused by the presence of reflective mineral inclusions within the feldspar crystals. These inclusions are often composed of other minerals such as [hematite](#) or [goethite](#). When light enters the stone, it interacts with these reflective

inclusions, producing the shimmering effect that is characteristic of sunstone.

The formation of Pink Sunstone can take millions of years, as the pegmatite rocks slowly cool and crystallize deep within the Earth's crust. Over time, geological processes such as uplift, erosion, and [weathering](#) can bring these sunstone-bearing rocks closer to the surface, where they may be discovered and mined for their valuable gemstone material.

Physical Characteristics



Pink Sunstone, like other varieties of sunstone, exhibits several physical characteristics that contribute to its unique appearance and beauty. Here are some of its notable physical properties:

Color: Pink Sunstone is primarily characterized by its pink to reddish-pink coloration, which can range from pale pink

to deep, vibrant shades. This color is typically caused by the presence of copper impurities within the feldspar crystals.

Aventurescence: One of the most distinctive features of Pink Sunstone is its aventurescence, which refers to the shimmering or sparkling effect observed when the stone is viewed under certain lighting conditions. This optical phenomenon is caused by the presence of reflective mineral inclusions within the feldspar crystals, such as hematite or goethite.

Transparency: Pink Sunstone is typically translucent to opaque, meaning that light can pass through it to varying degrees. The degree of transparency can influence the stone's overall appearance and how light interacts with it to produce the aventurescent effect.

Mohs Hardness: Pink Sunstone has a hardness ranging from 6 to 6.5 on the Mohs scale. While moderately hard, it is still susceptible to scratching and abrasion, particularly when compared to harder gemstones like [diamond](#) or [sapphire](#).

Lustre: Pink Sunstone exhibits a vitreous (glassy) lustre when polished, giving it a smooth and reflective surface that enhances its beauty.

Crystal Structure: Pink Sunstone belongs to the feldspar mineral group and typically exhibits a triclinic crystal structure. This crystal structure can influence the stone's optical properties and how light is refracted and reflected within its internal structure.

Cleavage: Like other feldspar minerals, Pink Sunstone displays two directions of

cleavage that intersect at approximately 90 degrees. This cleavage can affect how the stone is cut and shaped during the lapidary process.

These physical characteristics contribute to the overall allure and desirability of Pink Sunstone as a gemstone, making it a popular choice for jewelry and decorative items.

Uses and Applications



Pink Sunstone, prized for its attractive appearance and unique optical properties, finds various uses and applications:

Jewelry: One of the primary uses of Pink Sunstone is in jewelry making. The gemstone is often cut and polished into cabochons, beads, or faceted stones and set into earrings, pendants, rings, bracelets, and other jewelry pieces. Its warm pink hues and sparkling aventurescence make it a popular choice for both casual and formal jewelry designs.

Ornamental Objects: Pink Sunstone is also used to create ornamental objects and decorative items. It can be fashioned into carvings, figurines, sculptures, and other artistic pieces, showcasing its natural beauty in various forms.

Collectibles: Collectors often seek out Pink Sunstone specimens for their rarity and aesthetic appeal. Fine-quality Pink Sunstone specimens with intense coloration and strong aventurescence can command premium prices among gem and mineral enthusiasts.

Metaphysical and Spiritual Practices: Some individuals believe in the metaphysical properties of gemstones, including Pink Sunstone. It is thought to possess healing energies, promote emotional well-being, enhance creativity, and stimulate the heart chakra. As such, Pink Sunstone may be used in crystal healing practices, meditation, and spiritual rituals.

Lapidary Art: Pink Sunstone is valued by lapidaries and artisans for its workability and beauty. Skilled lapidaries can cut, shape, and polish Pink Sunstone into custom designs, showcasing its natural color and aventurescent effects.

Gifts and Souvenirs: Pink Sunstone jewelry and decorative items make thoughtful gifts for special occasions such as birthdays, anniversaries, and holidays. Additionally, Pink Sunstone souvenirs serve as reminders of visits to locations where the gemstone is mined or sold.

Industrial Applications: While less common, Pink Sunstone may have industrial

applications in sectors such as optics and electronics. Its optical properties and ability to polarize light could potentially be utilized in specialized lenses or optical instruments.

Overall, Pink Sunstone's versatility and aesthetic appeal make it a prized gemstone with diverse uses and applications across various industries and practices.

Geological regions where pink sunstone is found



Pink Sunstone is primarily found in several geological regions around the world, where specific geological conditions favor its formation. Some of the notable regions where Pink Sunstone is found include:

United States (Oregon): Oregon is renowned for its deposits of Pink Sunstone, particularly in the southeastern part of the state near the towns of Plush and Lakeview. This region is known for producing high-quality Pink Sunstone with vivid coloration and strong aventurescence. The gemstone is found in placer deposits and can be mined from [basalt](#) flows and alluvial deposits.

Tanzania: Tanzania is another significant source of Pink Sunstone, particularly in the Tunduru district in the southern part of the country. Pink Sunstone from Tanzania often exhibits rich pink hues and attractive aventurescence. The gemstone is found in alluvial deposits and is mined through small-scale operations.

Madagascar: Madagascar is known for its diverse gemstone deposits, including Pink Sunstone. The gemstone is found in various regions across the country, with some notable deposits in the Antananarivo Province. Pink Sunstone from Madagascar may exhibit a range of pink shades and unique inclusions.

Norway: While historically significant for its deposits of traditional sunstone, Norway also produces Pink Sunstone in limited quantities. The gemstone is found in pegmatite deposits in the Telemark region and other areas known for sunstone mining.

These regions are known for their Pink Sunstone deposits, but the gemstone may also be found in smaller quantities in other parts of the world, including Australia, India, and Canada. However, Oregon, Tanzania, Madagascar, and Norway remain the primary sources of high-quality Pink Sunstone available in the market.



58th Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Show

Date/Time: **March 16-17, 2024 Saturday 10-6 and Sunday 11-5**

Location: **Montgomery County Fairgrounds; Building #6
16 Chestnut St. Gaithersburg MD 20877**

Featuring:

Hourly door prizes	20+ vendors of minerals, beads, fossils, gems, and jewelry
Gold panning	40+ exhibits by club members, including junior exhibits
Fluorescent minerals	Two floors of everything mineral related
Raffle prizes	Mini Mine, free minerals, and activities for children
Free parking	Demonstrations of faceting, micromineralogy, jewelry making, and physics

Children (11 and under) Free! Ages 12 and over \$6
Scouts in Uniform Free! 4H youth with 4H identification Free!
More info at: www.glmsmc.com



FROM DC, VA NOT TO SCALE

Show this flyer for \$1 off admission price
(applies to each member in your group)



The Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club
Meetings take place on the 4th Tuesday of each month at
7:00pm
Held at the OLD WALDORF SCHOOL
Next to the Waldorf JayCees Hall
3074 Crain Highway, Waldorf, MD 20601
North of the RT 301 / RT 5 intersection
We're on the web: SMRMC.ORG

SMRMC OFFICERS	
PRESIDENT Tim Smith	
Programs / Vice President Jill Lee	Membership / Vice President Vycki Borgnis
Secretary Teresa Jones	Webmaster Bob Davidson
Field Trip Chairman David Lines	Treasurer Greta G
Rock Talk Editor Rich Simcsak	FACEBOOK Coordinator Kurt Knower

ITEMS WANTED/FOR SALE

For Sale – Virginia Unakite slabs (approx ¼ inch thick) – \$0.50 per square inch (this is half off regular price). Call Dave (240) 427-7062

