

(Continued from page 10)

a secondary formation, sitting on the rocks rather than in matrix. Crystal sizes ranged from "drusy" to almost a 1/2". The base material of the hill appeared to be a mixture of sandstone and marine sediment, due to the sand grained sized, marine fossils that made up the soil. Also easily removed, were pieces of banded black & white chert. Some are virtually solid black. A couple actually show fracturing and "re-cementing". One specimen looks as though 1 piece of black chert was broken into 4-5 pieces, then cemented together with drusy quartz.



View of one of the boulders Dylan came across with crystals in a vug. (Photograph by Dylan Porter.)

I walked away feeling fortunate for finding anything, actually quite proud of the 15+ specimens, considering being so unprepared.

Identification of the bladed crystals

My assumption was that I had found one of the unique forms of quartz. I realized the crystals were a secondary formation, but their shape gave me doubts of my assessment. My understanding of low pressure quartz formation does not include any crystals larger than a couple of mm., much less flat.

Showing the crystals to fellow Georgia Mineral members, there seemed to be a 40% chance that it was quartz, but no one was quite sure. At our next GMS meeting, I was shocked to see the exact same crystals, on the Door prize Table, labeled as Barite from Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA.! These were much more golden, and displayable, than what I had found! I couldn't help wonder who had been in California recently, and obviously better prepared than I. It turns out, the door prizes came from one of the donated collections to GMS, handled by Kim Cochran. Armed with this new information, I tried a web search on "Palos Verdes Peninsula geology" instead of "Laguna beach geology" Sure enough, links with a wealth of information came up. It turns out, the area is quite well known for its geology and quite popular for its barite specimens! Well, I may be intelligent, but I sure don't feel very smart sometimes. I humbly submit a few internet links for your information and specimen collecting enjoyment at the end of this article.

Things to keep in mind (or things I've humbly learned):

- Give yourself time to research the surrounding area, not just the immediate area or town of your trip,

- Mineral and Geological societies may not have complete field trip info, but may give info that will help you get further along in your search. (Local Universities also),
- Tourist town searches may only return the most popular area pastimes, and
- Lighthouses are typically built on solid ground, and by extension, this solid ground may contain minerals that are specimen worthy.

As always:

- Be careful of removing any existing vegetation, especially on hillsides in erosion prone areas,
- Refill any holes you dig, and
- Leave some for the next person.

Happy Hunting!!

The Visitor info below was provided by:

<http://www.sanpedrochamber.com/champint/ptviclhs.htm>

Lighthouse history: It was built in 1926 by the US Lighthouse Service. Point Vicente was named in 1792 by English explorer George Vancouver in honor of his friend Father Vicente Santa Maria of Mission San Buenaventura.

Lighthouse facts: The two million candlepower white light is developed from a fifteen-watt bulb focused through a handcrafted five-foot lens. Made in Paris in 1886, the lens saw forty years of service in Alaska before being brought to the Peninsula. The 67 foot high tower is perched on a cliff, resulting in a light source 197 feet above sea level, which can be seen twenty miles at sea.

In 1939, the U.S. Coast Guard became responsible for its maintenance and operation. With the Addition of a radio station and helicopter service, it has become the U.S. Coast Guard's principal communications center in Southern California, as well as the base for numerous rescue operations.

Geology of Palos Verdes Peninsula: Department of Geological Sciences and Center For Los Angeles Basin Subsurface Geology (CLABSG), At California State University, Long Beach, http://seis.natsci.csulb.edu/VIRTUAL_FIELD/Palos_Verdes/pvma_in.htm. A wonderfully detailed site, with information on the geology of southern California as well.

Further information: Southern California Mineral Society field trip article of the Palos Verdes Peninsula, http://www.mineralsocal.org/bulletin/2002/2002_aug.htm

**SOUTHEAST FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES
ANNUAL SHOW – DECEMBER 10 – 12, 2004 -
NORCROSS, GEORGIA
HOSTED BY: THE GEORGIA MINERAL SOCIETY**

APPLICATION FOR COMPETITIVE AND NON-COMPETITIVE EXHIBITS

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Please check appropriate space: Competitive: _____ Non-competitive: _____

Division: _____ Class: _____ Exhibitor Group: _____

(Consult AFMS Uniform Rules, 8th edition, updated 2004, to correctly fill in the spaces for a competitive display application) The latest edition with updates may be downloaded from www.amfed.org/rules, click on “download rules.”

There will be about 15 to 20 federation style cases available for loan. These will be allotted on a “first come” basis. Interior dimensions of the cases are 22 ¾ x 23 x 46 ¼. They require two 75 watt bulbs, standard bases. Maximum electrical power allowed for each exhibit is 150 watts.

If you are furnishing your own case, please give correct exterior dimensions of the case. Maximum electrical power allowed for each exhibit is 150 watts.

Non-competitive exhibits, please write a brief description of the display on the back of this form.

Competitive Exhibitors must sign the following statement, except for those entering Division E (Educational). See AFMS UR Page E-2, Rule 17.9.

I CERTIFY THAT ALL THE MATERIALS EXHIBITED IN COMPETITION ARE MY PERSONAL PROPERTY, AND THAT ALL WORKMANSHIP EXHIBITED WAS DONE BY ME AS REQUIRED BY THE RULES.

Competitor's Signature: _____

Society: _____

City and State: _____

Club Officer's Signature and Title: _____

Date of Birth (Junior Competition only): _____

Date of Form: _____

Mail forms to:

Competitive Exhibits
Jay Gorday
1690 Granger CT
Atlanta, GA 30341

Non-competitive Exhibits
Jim Flora
PO Box 605
Hiawassee, GA 30546

All completed forms must be received by the respective exhibits chairman by no later than November 1, 2004.