

MINI MINERS MONTHLY

Vol. 3 No. 6

June 2009



Women, Girls & Mineral Collecting

When I was a little Mini Miner, my mother taught me that women and girls can be anything they want to be. They can be teachers and scientists and musicians and carpenters. They can collect dolls if they want to. And they can collect minerals if they want to.

There was a time when mineral collecting was a hobby for the men and boys, and the ladies came along with them. Today, however, women are very involved, and very important, in mineral collecting. So, this issue of *Mini Miners Monthly* is dedicated to the women and girls who collect minerals.

This is a different *Mini Miners Monthly* than we have ever done before. It is devoted to the women and girls in the world of mineral collecting. In this issue you will meet one of the best-known mineral collector today, Mrs. Gail Spann. She is pictured here with her husband, Jim. Together they have a very fine mineral collection. You will also meet Dr. Sally Zeller, a professional geologist and university professor. Mineral artist and businesswoman, Brandy Naugle, shares her talents with us. We will also tell you about a very important organization for women called *Women in Mining* (WIM, for short). There are also many minerals named after women. You will find a fun project here to challenge you to discover who some of these women are.

Of course, you will also meet some young lady mineral collectors. I also received a special nomination for a mineral club leader who has worked with and inspired many, many generations of young mineral collectors. Her name is Mitty Scarpato.

It is our hope that the young lady Mini Miners out there will be inspired to dream of becoming geologists, mineralogists, mineral dealers, mining engineers, mineral dealers, gemologists, jewelers or any occupation that is related to minerals and mineralogy.

*Above: Gail Spann and her husband, Jim.
Right: Dr. Sally Zeller with her penguin friends on Seal Island, Antarctic Peninsula.*





Gail Patricia Spann

Gail Patricia Spann and her husband, Jim, live in Rockwall, Texas. For many years she owned and operated a fine art and framing shop. She is a very, very busy lady. Gail is active in bicycling and is the Texas ambassador for the League of American Bicyclists. She is also a very serious and accomplished mineral collector. Gail travels all over the United States to participate in cycling and mineral events. She often gives talks and is always ready to visit with people and talk about the things she loves in life. Her picture here is a great one of Gail: she is *always* smiling. One of her sayings is, "Life, by the way, is really fun." Gail enjoys every minute of it. Below are a number of mineral specimens from the Spann's collection. From left to right wulfenite, aquamarine, tourmaline, Pyromorphite and kunzite.

We asked Gail some questions about mineral collecting. Here are her thoughts.

In what ways do you see girls and women changing the mineral collecting hobby?

Women are social and entertain in a different way than men do. I know that we often show our collection and I clean house, buy the groceries, cook the meals and decorate the house in preparation. I like to be sure guests are made to feel welcome and then go about looking at our minerals with them. When other women come, I let the other ladies know that they are welcome and we get to know each other before moving on to minerals. The men, in general, are right off to the cabinets where they challenge each other to "guess what this is". Also, women travel in groups and so you seldom see women alone when they shop for minerals. Women shop in groups.

Would you encourage young women to pursue a career in the mineral collecting hobby?

Young women should pursue any field that interests them. If a young lady desires to be a mineral dealer or work in the field of mining, she should follow her dreams.

How are women mineral collectors unique from men collectors?

Women are more into the look, beauty and color of minerals. For example, women are drawn, so often, to those minerals that have colorful crystals and a slight sparkly affect. Women display their minerals better also, incorporating them into the decor of the house and less into keeping them in flats under beds. When it comes to purchasing minerals, women will take longer to shop for a bargain and will wait till the "one that calls their name" is available. We enjoy seeing shapes in our minerals and often communicate that when showing minerals to other women. I have names for the minerals pictured here.



I call the wulfenite a piece of butterscotch. To me, the aquamarine looks like an airplane propeller so I call it "the propeller aquamarine." What does the tourmaline look like? The Space Shuttle, so it is "the Space Shuttle Tourmaline."

What wisdom would you offer young women and girls to help them find success and satisfaction in mineral collecting?

Find other women in local rockhound clubs and learn from those that actually do dig. Buy mineral publications and read them. Go to shows with others to see pricing, availability and comparison. Go to Museums, meet the people who work there, ask questions. They really don't mind! Buy minerals on auctions that have low starting prices, see what you can find that appeals to you and start collecting a few pieces as reference. If you really do like it, collect it. I have found that collecting is a constant evolving thing, you move on to other minerals while still loving those you first collected.

What is the most rewarding and satisfying aspect of mineral collecting for you personally?

The fact that I have a wonderful husband who also collects and goes to shows alongside me. It makes for a fun relationship when we both enjoy all the same aspects of our hobby. We love to be social so that is a satisfying portion of collecting as well. We have crawled into mines together and love that we are there as a couple. I owned an art gallery for most of my life and now that I am retired from that world, it is a pleasure to shift into the fabulous world of rocks and minerals, even the black and white ones are beautiful to us.

Is there anything special you would like to say from your heart for the young women and girls who are interested in minerals and mineral collecting?

Don't let anyone deter you from collecting. Many women have, and do, collect. Never be ashamed of liking any mineral or for never going in the field to dig. Collectors come in all ways to this wonderful hobby. Some dig and find their own, others purchase at shows and some on the web. There is no right or wrong way to collect. It is a pure joy to learn about the history of minerals and who owned them before us, but it is also a joy to sit and just look at the beauty of each and every one. We all started somewhere and we all learned as we went. It is about enjoying our beloved hobby.

Thank you very much, Gail, for your thoughtful and beautiful answers. You are an inspiration!

Mineral Patch Special

6 Mineral Patches (3 inch patches) and 1 Diamond Dan patch
Includes quartz, calcite, pyrite, gypsum, fluorite, and garnet

Only \$12, postage paid

Make Checks Payable to Diamond Dan Publications,
P.O. Box 143, Manchester, NY 14504

Visit our website to see the patches in full color ~ www.diamonddanpublications.net



Mineral People & Mineral Careers

Hopefully you are not tired of word searches yet. In this word search puzzle you will find the names of people and jobs that are related to minerals and mineral collecting. Would one of these careers be right for you?

M	I	N	E	R	A	L	O	G	I	S	T	O	P	A
A	I	A	A	R	O	N	J	E	W	E	L	E	R	Q
R	I	N	C	C	H	E	A	T	H	E	R	T	O	L
I	P	X	E	U	H	A	N	N	A	H	I	E	F	I
E	U	B	N	R	T	Y	L	L	A	S	M	E	E	F
H	B	W	G	I	A	V	M	I	T	T	Y	A	S	T
U	L	M	I	E	J	L	W	E	S	L	E	Y	S	S
I	I	I	N	M	O	E	D	I	T	O	R	A	O	I
Z	S	K	E	M	I	L	Y	E	D	F	G	U	R	G
I	H	E	E	V	N	N	E	V	A	E	H	T	B	O
N	E	B	R	A	N	D	Y	H	I	L	I	H	O	L
G	R	C	O	L	L	E	C	T	O	R	E	O	K	O
L	Y	N	N	V	A	R	O	N	W	H	Y	R	W	M
S	C	I	N	E	Z	S	K	E	L	L	I	P	U	E
M	I	N	E	R	V	T	S	I	G	O	L	O	E	G

The following mineral careers and people are in this word search puzzle. They are also found in this issue of Mini Miners Monthly. They can be left to right, right to left, up, down or diagonal.

mineralogist, miner, engineer, gemologist, author, geologist, artist, mineral dealer, jeweler, editor, publisher, WIM, professor, Marie Huizing, Lynn Varon, Sally, Curie, Heaven, Brandy, Emily, Heather, Mitty, Szenics, Kelli, Collector

KELLI MARCOU ~ JEWELER, GEMOLOGIST, BUSINESS OWNER

Women in Mining

Women in Mining (WIM for short) was founded in 1972 in Denver, Colorado, by several women who wanted to know more about the mining industry. Today, the most important goal of WIM is to educate both the members and the public about the mining industries. You might be surprised to learn that women *and men* can join this organization. Education about minerals is what WIM does all across the country. They work to educate students, teachers and the public about how important minerals are in our daily lives. In fact, their favorite saying is, "If it isn't *GROWN*, it has to be *MINED*!" They also create and pass out educational materials about minerals.

The WIM Chapters around the country do workshops, set up tables and booths at rock and mineral shows, and show many different items that we use in our lives every day that are made out of materials that come from minerals. This is what they say on their website: "An important part of each workshop is to bring the minerals industry to attendee's everyday life by showing the many products made from each mineral and/or rock provided. A simple way is to put out a variety of products, such as gum, aspirin, roofing shingles, Tums, crayons, paper, etc., out and have the group match these to the mineral/rock samples provided. Most people are amazed how much mining impacts their daily lives."

Check out Women In Mining on their website. Who knows? Maybe YOU will be a mining engineer, mining geologist or mine manager when you grow up!

www.womeninmining.org

Introducing Heaven R.



She is digging and collecting minerals now, but someday Heaven R. from Maine may very well own her own mine and mineral shop. Heaven is eight years old and at the end of second grade in school. She started her interest in "shiny rocks" when she was about one or two years old when she took walks in her neighborhood with her parents and siblings. She is very interested in Minerals from Maine. Her favorite is Garnets, also her mom's birthstone. She joined the mineral club a little over a year ago and is the only girl in the group. She reads articles online and researches minerals of Maine. She wants to own a Gem Store. She dreams to own her own mine where she can hunt for gems and make jewelry out of them.

Dr. Sally Zellers



Dr. Zellers and Diamond Dan went to college together. We studied minerals and fossils and geological sciences. After graduation we lost track of each other. But, thanks to Facebook, we found each other again - 25 years after graduation!

Dr. Zellers, please tell us about yourself.

I attended elementary through high school in Ridgefield, Connecticut, but prior to the age of seven, I lived with my family in Colombia, Peru, California, Missouri, New York and New Jersey. I went to college at the University of Rochester, attended school in Alaska, and completed graduate school at The University of Texas.

For my work, I study foraminifera, which are tiny fossils that occur in the mud on the seafloor. These fossils are smaller than the period at the end of this sentence. Foraminifera can help geoscientists determine the geologic history of an area and can be used to determine the age of sediment and rocks. As a geologist for Texaco, I used to study these fossils in order to search for oil and gas in places such as Nigeria and China.

Now I am a professor at the University of Central Missouri where I teach courses in geology and meteorology. I also advise students who want to become earth science teachers. I teach college students about minerals, rocks, and maps. My school has a small, but nice mineral collection, much of which came from mines in southeast Missouri.

When you were in school, did someone special introduce you to geology and inspire you to become a geologist? *All my teachers were great and I think I was inspired by all of them. It was not a teacher, but my mother, who first encourage me to study college geology. She reminded me how much I had enjoyed ninth grade Earth Science. I took the class and, of course, I was hooked for life.*

What is the most exciting experience you have had as a geologist? *The most exciting was my first voyage to Antarctica. I joined a group of geoscientists studying the sea floor near the Antarctic Peninsula. I was in charge of taking sediment samples of the seafloor. While in Antarctica, I hiked on a glacier and saw many leopard seals, elephant seals, and many birds, including penguins. Here is a picture of me with my penguins.*

As a teacher and a professional geologist, what advice would you offer girls and young ladies who are interested in minerals, mineralogy and geology in general? *I think it is great when anyone is interested in minerals. Keep up your interest by continuing to collect, trade, attend gem and mineral shows, and read about minerals and their formation. Museums, various websites, and this newsletter are great places to learn more about minerals. If you want a career related to minerals, mining, and geology, take as many science and math classes that you can in High School. Also, be curious and ask a lot of questions. The most successful geologists I have known are people who ask a lot of questions and who love to learn. As you can see, I have had a fun career as a geologist, which has taken me across the world. I hope that your love a minerals will also take you on many adventures in your life.*

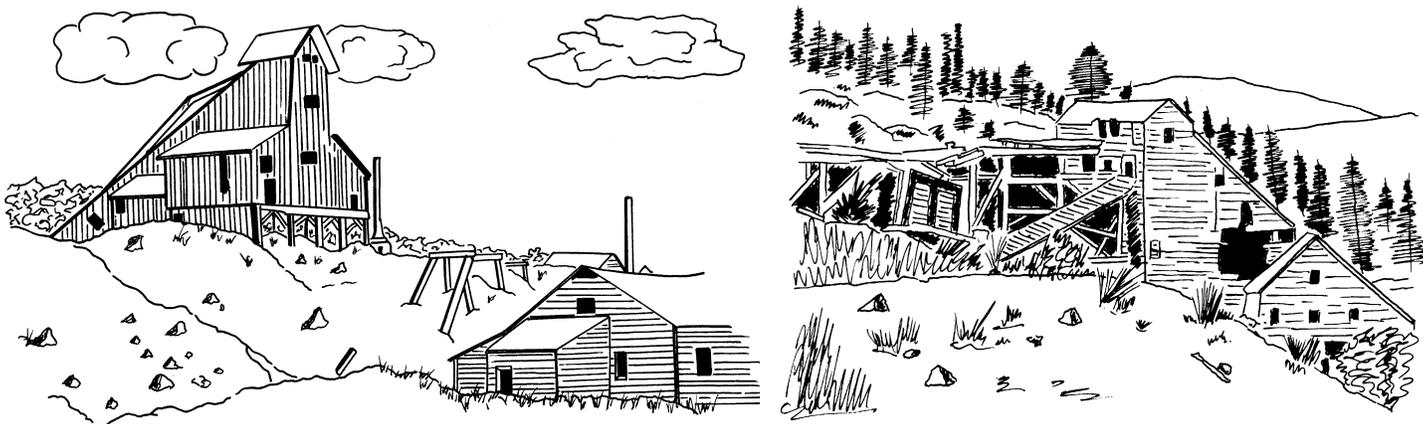
SOMETHING FOR YOU TO DO...

LET'S PLAY "STOP!"

This is a modified version of a child's game a young Mexican girl remembers from her childhood. All you will need is a pencil, paper, a watch with a second hand (or a stop watch) and a mineral handbook.

Here's how to play STOP!

Gather a bunch of your mineral collecting friends. One player recites the alphabet starting at A (A, B, C, D, ...). A second player shouts "STOP!" The player reciting the alphabet stops on the letter she just spoke. A third player, the time keeper, says "GO!" and everyone has to write as many mineral names as possible that start with the letter the first player ended on. The time keeper will give all the players only one minute to write as many mineral names as possible with that letter. The player with the most names wins that round. Be sure to have a good mineral handbook with you. Your players may get creative and start making up real-sounding mineral names. You may want to check their answers!



CREATE A MINERAL PUZZLE

You will need a mineral picture, a piece of cardboard, white glue and scissors. Select a large, colorful mineral picture. If you don't want to cut one out of a mineral magazine, draw one of your own and color it. (By the way, NEVER, NEVER, NEVER tear a picture out of a book!) Put a thin layer of white glue on the back side of the picture. Glue the page to the piece of cardboard. Put a pile of heavy books on the picture to hold it flat against the cardboard while the glue dries. Let it dry overnight. The next day, cut the picture into many random-sized pieces. You can make the pieces any shape you like. A more difficult puzzle will be one with a large number of smaller pieces. An easier puzzle will be one with a small number of large pieces. Challenge your mineral collecting friends, your parents and your siblings to put the puzzle back together. Time them. See who is the fastest.

Minerals Named After Women

Almost 100 minerals have been named after women. Some were mineral collectors. Others were scientists. Others were wives of scientists. Listed below are a number of minerals that were named after women.

Use this website (<http://www.webmineral.com/help/NameOrigin.shtml>) and discover more about the women behind these mineral names. Match these names on the left with the accurate fact about the woman after whom the mineral was named on the right.

Rosemaryite	Russian Mineralogist
Lindbergite	The discoverer of the element radium
Sklodowskite	A distinguished mineral collector. Her husband was Eugene.
Caresite	Wife of Professor Peter Wyllie
Sophiite	A French chemist
Carnotite	A Russian volcanologist and mineralogist
Marialite	A United States Geological Survey Scientist
Mcnearite	A mineral collector and dealer from Sudbury, Mass.
Rondorfite	Her full name was Maria Rosa von Rath
Olgite	A mineralogist and crystallographer from Switzerland



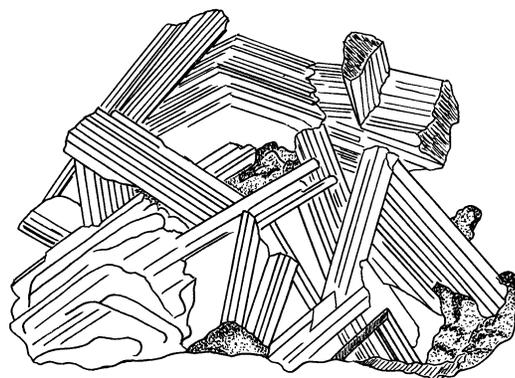
Two minerals were named after Marie Curie-Sklodowska (1867-1934), sklodowskite and curite (named after Marie and her husband, Pierre). The mineral cuprosklodowskite was originally thought to be a copper-bearing version of sklodowskite and so its name bears Marie's name.

Pierre and Marie Curie discovered the element *radium*.

Left: A Polish stamp with a portrait of Marie Curie-Sklodowska

The deep green mineral called *szenicsite* was discovered in Chile by Terry and Marissa Szenics. This mineral named was officially approved in 1994. The Szenics are American mineral collectors and mineral dealers. *Szenicsite* contains the elements copper and molybdenum. Marissa Szenics was born in 1950.

Left: A specimen of Szenicsite.



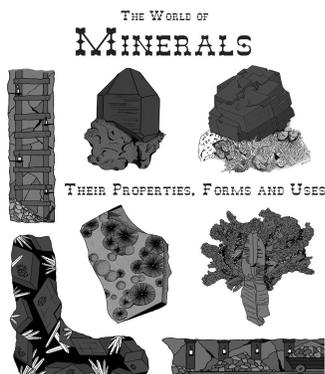
Mitty Scarpato, a Mentor to Young Mineral Collectors



A "mentor" is a person who works with and teaches someone to become better at something. Mitty Scarpato is a mentor to many, many children who are interested in minerals. Her friend, Dr. Karla Bouck, wrote to us and nominated Mitty as deserving of special recognition for all she has done for young mineral collectors and students. Dr. Bouck wrote this information about Mitty: *"I would like to nominate Mitty Scarpato for special recognition in the Women, Girls and Mineral Collecting issue. She was the Pebble Pup Leader of the Conejo Gem and Mineral Club for many years and handed a highly suc-*

*cessful and organized program to my husband and I to run. She is currently our youth Education Group leader. She teaches about minerals, rocks and geology to our local schools that are woefully lacking in science education due to extreme budget cuts in the State of California. The kids and teachers love her visits to their schools. She did an outstanding job organizing our youth room and show program at our Pageant of Gems show. She is also our club Secretary. She is an avid collector and extremely helpful to all club members during field trips. She also makes very nice displays of her collections to share with others at various fairs and shows. **Mitty Scarpato is an inspiration to all the women in our club, both young and old.***

Mineral Activity Books Special



RECEIVE

The World of Minerals, Minerals of the USA, Mineral Oddities, GOLD! and Corundum Carl's Great Crystal Adventure for only \$10 (postage paid)

Order now and you will also receive the official Diamond Dan patch and our new Garnet patch at no extra charge.

Make checks payable to: Diamond Dan Publications, P.O. Box 143, Manchester, NY 14504



Introducing Emily R.

This is Emily R. She is 9 years old and likes to do lapidary work. However, she is a mineral collector at heart. She loves to go to the tourmaline mines in the Pala District near San Diego. Emily has a whole collection of tourmaline. She has several colors including watermelon that she collected herself. Her dad's friends bring her minerals also, because they like to help her build her collection. She keeps them all together in neat groups in her room. Last year was her first year entering

the Ventura County Fair and she "cleaned up" in her class. Emily won 8 ribbons in the fossil and mineral divisions with her collections. She especially likes the collecting part because her dad is a rockhound and this is their special thing to do together. Her mom takes her to the junior lapidary classes. Emily hasn't decided if she wants to have a career in the mineral field, but she will definitely be a rockhound when she grows up!

Introducing Heather E.

Heather is 8 years old. At the age of five, Heather loved anything that sparkled, especially glitter and gemstones. When her mom and grandma explained where these beautiful faceted stones came from, she instantly asked to go dig up the back yard. She and her mom joined a local rock, mineral and fossil club in August 2008. Ten weeks later a club member introduced her to a cabbing machine and she cut her first two cabochons (a dinosaur bone and goldstone) that afternoon. Her bedroom and bathroom contain numerous display cabinets labeled with rough, polished and cut gemstones, as well as hundreds of fossils. Now that she's collected so many pieces, she shares extras with her friends. Heather's attended many field trips with her club collecting moonstone, garnets, rutile, amazonite and fossils just to name a few. Last weekend she

joined other club members who were cleaning out and reorganizing the group's storage shed. On a quiet afternoon, this little eight year old can be found with her loupe in one hand and a cut gemstone in the other. By far, diamonds are her favorite. For the last two years she's wanted to become a gemologist. Many girls her age love Hannah Montana and video games, but not Heather. She loves digging in the dirt, the Diamond Dan website and her subscription to "Mini Miners Monthly"!



MINERAL ARTIST BRANDY NAUGLE

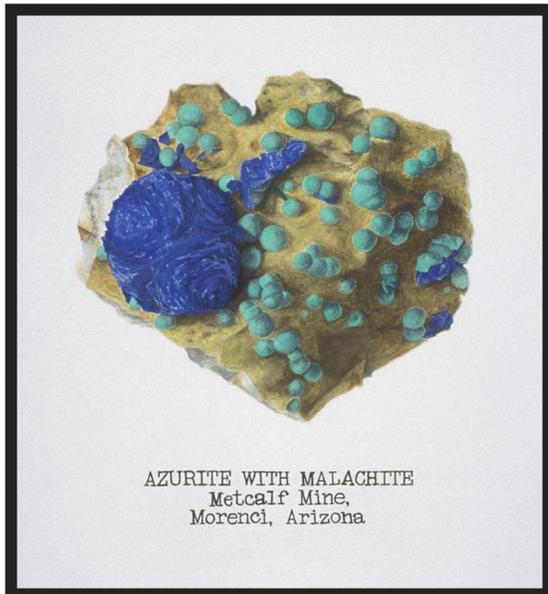


Brandy Naugle was born November 2, 1978. She was raised in Waynesboro Pennsylvania, and grew up with a strong interest in both art and rocks. Starting from the age of 6, Brandy and her father attended the Annual Chambersberg Mineral show. Under the influence of her Grandmother and parents (who are both artists themselves), Brandy developed a natural talent for art and artisan works. Combining art projects at home and at school, she went on to win numerous awards during her public school years.

In 2002, a few years after graduation, Brandy and her husband, Justin Zzyzx, began a mineral sales company and moved from the east coast to Los Angeles, California. While working on some projects, Justin requested a painting of a mineral specimen, in the tradition of old mineral paintings from historic mineral textbooks. After completing the first, an Amazonite from Teller County, Colorado, she took to a Benitoite crystal from San Benito, California and an Elbaite crystal from the Himalaya Mine, California. Once offered to their mineral customers, these works were purchased right away and she received more and more requests for her paintings.

Brandy just kept painting, turning out beautiful portraits of Epidote and Prehnite, Aquamarine, Huebnerite, Sulphohalite, Kyanite and many others. In fact, over twenty five paintings we sold before she began having them professionally photographed and cataloged on her website, BrandyNaugle.com. Spending most days doing graphic design and website coding left little time for paintings. However, during that time she has designed advertising for most major mineral dealers for the website The-Vug.com and the companion magazine of which she serves as Art Director.

Below and on the back page of this issue are some of Brandy's paintings. She is a very talented, and very busy. If you go to any of the larger mineral shows, you will eventually meet Brandy.



©2008 Diamond Dan Publications. All pictures and articles in this newsletter are property of Diamond Dan Publications and can not be copied or reused in any format (printed or electronic) without written permission of Diamond Dan Publications, P.O. Box 143, Manchester, New York 14504 or diamonddan@rochester.rr.com. Subscriptions: 12 issues (1 year) \$19.95. 24 issues (2 years) \$36.95. Electronic issue (delivered as a PDF file) is \$9.95 for 12 issues. Make checks payable to Diamond Dan Publications.

THE-VUG.COM

ALL THINGS MINERALOGICAL ONLINE



Vug (*Vuhg*) n. - A small cavity in a rock or vein, often with a mineral lining of a different composition from that of the surrounding rock.

We will be your jumping off point for searching the web for information and sales regarding our fine hobby. Like a crystal-filled void in a host rock, we hope **The-Vug** will serve as a treasure trove of information!

www.The-Vug.com

DIAMOND DAN PUBLICATIONS

P.O. Box 143

Manchester, New York 14504

