

A Beginner's Guide To Surfing For Collectors

MINERALS, FOSSILS AND THE INTERNET

Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse

RICK MOORE

- ✘ The purpose of this class is to INTRODUCE you to using the internet to enhance your knowledge and enjoyment of Mineral and Fossil collecting.
 - + Other Clubs and Professional Societies
 - + Online Databases and other “educational” sites
 - + Using discussion groups to get help
 - + Site seeing – finding galleries of fine specimens
 - + Shop with care

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- ✘ Not enough time to visit every site/URL during the presentation, but we will visit the most interesting and useful ones.

CLUBS AND FEDERATIONS



GMSS – Gem and Mineral Society of Syracuse

<http://www.gmss.us>

Bob's US club list www.rockhounds.com/rockshop/clublist.shtml

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EFMLS – Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies

www.amfed.org/efmls

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AFMS – American Federation of Mineral Societies

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AFMS – American Federation of Mineral Societies

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In general, Fossil collectors are under-represented by topic-specific Federations and Clubs

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PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Limit discussion to those that are open and easily accessible by the average collector !

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PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS



IMA – International Mineralogical Association

www.ima-mineralogy.org

Most useful : IMA/CNMNC List of minerals www.ima-mineralogy.org/IMAlistmin.html

Also of Interest : the links page

www.ima-mineralogy.org/links.html

especially **Tools for Mineralogists**

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and **Collector's Corner**

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MSA - Mineralogical Society of America www.minsocam.org

Most useful : **Ask A Mineralogist**

v-board.minsocam.org/v-board/start.html

Also of interest : **Collector's Corner**

www.minsocam.org/MSA/collectors_corner/index.htm

Mineralogy For Kids

www.mineralogy4kids.org

Elements Magazine

www.elementsmagazine.org

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www.mineralogy4kids.org

Elements Magazine

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Friends of Mineralogy www.friendsofmineralogy.org/

Most Useful : FMF Minerals Forum

www.mineral-forum.com/message-board/

Also of Interest : The Mineralogical Record

www.minrec.org

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PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS



Society of Vertebrate Paleontology www.vertpaleo.org

Most useful : Old Bones - the URL for this blog is ridiculously long !!

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The Paleontological Society www.paleosoc.org

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Also of Interest : Education www.paleosoc.org/ed_resources.html

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MORE www.paleo.cc/kpaleo/paleorgs.htm

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DATABASES - MINERALS

× mindat.org - mineral and locality database

- + Versatile search engine www.mindat.org/searchmenu.php
- + 41,111 mineral names (inc. synonyms, varieties, etc) - 455,313 photos
- + 231,179 different worldwide localities
- + Blog with dozens of contributors www.mindat.org/blogindex.php
- + Articles by international mineral collectors www.mindat.org/articleindex.php

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× webmineral.com – mineralogy database

- + 4,714 mineral species
- + Comprehensive descriptions with detailed, interactive crystallography
- + Mineral ID using property tables www.webmineral.com/determin.shtml
- + Image gallery linked to descriptions www.webmineral.com/specimens/index.php
- + Java applet for examining crystal forms www.webmineral.com/java/index.php?alpha=A

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× Mineral and Gemstone Kingdom www.minerals.net/MineralMain.aspx

- + Detailed info on ~290 “most important” minerals
- + Photo gallery www.minerals.net/MineralImages/A.aspx
- + Glossary of mineral-related terms www.minerals.net/Mineral_Glossary_of_Terms/all.aspx

DATABASES - FOSSILS

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- ✗ complex interfaces often require you to know the complete taxonomy to get anywhere
- ✗ www.fossils.com is a clothing store !!

DATABASES - FOSSILS

- × FossilRecord www.fossilrecord.net
 - + Date-a-Clade www.fossilrecord.net/dateaclade/index.html
 - × Tree of life – modern emphasis
 - + Fossil Record Database www.fossilrecord.net/fossilrecord/index.html

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- × Paleobiology Database paleodb.org/cgi-bin/bridge.pl

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 - + most major museums have searchable databases of their collections

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- × **Museums**
 - + most major museums have searchable databases of their collections
- × **State Geologic Surveys – usually user friendly**
 - + New York www.nysm.nysed.gov/nysgs/collections/paleo.html
 - + Illinois www.isgs.uiuc.edu/education/earthsci/paleo.shtml

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 - + New York www.nysm.nysed.gov/nysgs/collections/paleo.html
 - + Illinois www.isgs.uiuc.edu/education/earthsci/paleo.shtml
- × **Paleonet links** www.nhm.ac.uk/paleonet/Useful_Links.html

INFORMATION EXCHANGE

- × Ask A Mineralogist v-board.minsocam.org/v-board/start.html
- × MINDAT blog www.mindat.org/blogindex.php
- × Friends of Mineralogy Forum www.mineral-forum.com/message-board
- × Bob's "Rock Net" www.rockhounds.com/rocknet/index.shtml
- × The Fossil Forum www.thefossilforum.com

- × What's new in the mineral world ? www.minrec.org/whatsnew.asp
- × New find of minerals from New York
www.mineral-forum.com/message-board/viewtopic.php?t=1501

SITES WITH A LITTLE BIT OF EVERYTHING

- ✘ **Bob's Rock Shop** www.rockhounds.com The "Kitchen Sink" for rockhounds
 - + The table of contents is the key to successfully navigating this complex site.
www.rockhounds.com/rockshop/table.shtml
- ✘ **Fossils, Facts & Finds** www.fossils-facts-and-finds.com
- ✘ **The Paleontology Portal** www.paleoportal.org
- ✘ **Mineral Town** www.mineraltown.com
 - + Articles section is well done (even has articles on Fossils), lots of links under Others tab
- ✘ **Mineral Collector's Page** www.minerant.org/home.html
 - + European - extensive collection of links to mineralogy related sites
- ✘ **Mineral Sites** www.mineralsites.com Another site full of links
- ✘ **Mineral Atlas** www.mineralatlas.com/General%20introduction/Introduction.htm

COLLECTING SITES

- ✘ Don Kenney's List www.fossilsites.com/index.html
 - + Fossil collecting sites sorted by U.S. State and Canadian Province
- ✘ Rock Collecting Sites www.42explore.com/rocks2.htm
- ✘ *Nothing really comprehensive ... keep plugging at those search engines*

FUN STUFF

- ✘ **Diamond Dan Publications** www.diamonddanpublications.net
 - + Games, clip art, educational materials,
- ✘ **Mineralogy For Kids** www.mineralogy4kids.org
- ✘ **Museums**
- ✘ **Russian Mineral Drawings** mindraw.web.ru
- ✘ **Clip art**
 - + University of South Florida etc.usf.edu/clipart/galleries/89-geology
 - + Diamond Dan www.diamonddanpublications.net/index_files/page0011.html
 - + Arthur's Mineral Clips www.arthursclipart.org/minerals/minerals/page_01.htm
 - + <http://www.pdclipart.org/thumbnails.php?album=99>

GOOGLE IT – USE THE SEARCH ENGINES

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 - + Google Books - books.google.com
 - × Index of the world's books, many older books are available online for free

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 - + Google Scholar – scholar.google.com
 - × Mostly abstracts of articles in scholarly journals
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- × Wayback Machine archive.org/web/web.php
 - + Especially good for searching for old articles and manuscripts

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- ✘ Wayback Machine archive.org/web/web.php
 - ✘ Especially good for searching for old articles and manuscripts
- ✘ Wolfram Alpha www.wolframalpha.com
 - + “Intelligent” search engine from the brilliant minds at Mathematica
 - + Great when it works, but still has some trouble with the context of the query
 - + Power behind *Google Now* app on version 4.1 of Android (“*Jelly Bean*”)

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- ✗ Wolfram Alpha www.wolframalpha.com
 - + <http://www.wolframalpha.com/input/?i=physical+properties+of+galena>
 - + <http://www.wolframalpha.com/input/?i=tetragonal+system>

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- × Wolfram Alpha www.wolframalpha.com
 - + <http://www.wolframalpha.com/input/?i=physical+properties+of+galena>
 - + <http://www.wolframalpha.com/input/?i=tetrgonal+system>
- × Wikipedia <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki>
 - + <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trilobita>
 - + <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galena>

THE BEGINNING

- ✗ Even Rock Hounds can get big benefits from the internet.
- ✗ The more you use it, the easier it gets.

- ✗ A version of this presentation will be available via the GMSS web site in the near future.