

# Friends of Mineralogy

A Quarterly Newsletter



VOLUME 31, ISSUE 3

JULY-SEPTEMBER, 2001

## President's Message

Dear Friends,

The events of September 11, 2001 dominate our thoughts and will continue to have a profound effect on our lives. People interested in specimen mineralogy live across the globe. Many or all of us have friends and colleagues in far-flung parts of this global network. Our friends and colleagues closer to home have been affected in many ways. I, for one, will look at our common interest in mineralogy as a unifying factor in this time of anxiety and uncertainty.

The Tucson 'experience' is looming on the horizon. Although many people are anxious about traveling and other aspects of our lives, there WILL be minerals in Tucson. The program for the annual symposium is listed in this newsletter. This program reflects the global nature of today's society with scientists from North America who travel the world and partner with those on other continents and mineralogists from other parts of the globe who will be traveling to Tucson to share their work with us. We look forward to a very successful annual symposium in 2002 and meeting with our international colleagues.

We have one more newsletter this year that will have a slate of officers and board members for 2002. If you are interested in serving FM in some capacity, please let me know ([serikssn@vt.edu](mailto:serikssn@vt.edu) or 540-951-8030). Several of our present board members and officers have changed jobs and have other personal commitments for next year. We need a larger involvement of members to make an active volunteer organization.

And, lastly, please visit FM's website [www.friendsofmineralogy.org](http://www.friendsofmineralogy.org). Chuck Miller has been great in designing and implementing this work. Websites are always in development, so let us know what you like and what you would like to see on this site.

Stay well and best wishes to all of you,

Susan Eriksson  
President

**For Immediate Release: October 11, 2001**

**Contact:** Regina Aumente, 303-978-9926, [Raumente@aol.com](mailto:Raumente@aol.com)

### **PROCEEDS OF 2001 DENVER GEM AND MINERAL SHOW DONATED TO RED CROSS LIBERTY FUND**

Members of the mineral, fossil, and lapidary community in Denver, Colorado were significantly impacted by the tragedy of September 11, 2001. The annual Denver Gem and Mineral Show was scheduled to begin on September 14<sup>th</sup>. Vendors, exhibitors, and visitors from all over the world were in Denver or en route when, suddenly, the world was no longer quite the same. Many exhibitors and visitors could not get to Denver due to airport shut-downs. As the nation's attention was riveted on the events in New York and Washington, a gem and mineral show no longer seemed quite relevant. Cancellation of the show was considered and rejected. Too many people had put in hundreds of hours of work, traveled thousands of miles, and spent large sums of money to make the show happen.

In view of the tragedy, the organization did not feel it was right to just go on as if nothing had

happened. The members of the Denver Show Committee, with the consent of their parent organization, the Greater Denver Area Gem and Mineral Council, decided to donate all proceeds from admission receipts to a charity to help the victims of September 11<sup>th</sup>. Martin Zinn, organizer of the Colorado Fossil Expo, also agreed to donate his share of the admission receipts, and Danny Duke, of the International Gem and Jewelry Show, provided an additional \$1,000 for the fund. As a result of this agreement, \$25,637.15 from admissions and individual contributions was donated to the Liberty Fund of the Red Cross on October 11, 2001.

The Greater Denver Area Gem and Mineral Council is a non-profit organization of ten mineral, fossil, gem, lapidary, and bead hobby clubs in the Denver area. The organizations have a combined total of 1400 members. The members of the Council sponsor and produce the annual Denver Gem and Mineral Show. Proceeds of the show are normally used for donations to education and research in the earth sciences and lapidary arts.

## **AGI GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS MONTHLY REVIEW**

**SEPTEMBER 2001**

### **Changed Priorities on Capitol Hill**

In early September, Congress was bogged down in partisan bickering on all fronts. The appropriations process was even further behind than usual, and efforts to produce comprehensive energy legislation had slowed in the Senate as gasoline prices fell. Congressional leaders had abandoned hopes of an early in session until Christmas. The biggest political imperative was to avoid dipping into the Social Security surplus. It all seems like a long time ago.

Having met the immediate needs of the crisis -- granting war powers, providing \$40 billion in emergency funds, and giving recognition to victims and heroic rescue workers -- Congress at month's end was beginning the process of re-focusing on prior concerns but in an entirely new

context. As Congress takes up old business, many of the old divisions are gradually replacing the extraordinary unity that followed September 11<sup>th</sup>. But the rancor is largely gone, holding out hope that reasonable compromises can be found in order to keep things moving ahead. Typical was the call by Sen. John McCain (R-AZ), reported in Greenwire, to set aside old "habits of partisanship and parochialism" and unify behind the president.

Although national defense, economic stimulus, and airport security measures are clearly at center stage, the president has announced that education remains a top priority for his administration and that he wants an education bill on his desk in October. The White House is wrangling with congressional appropriators over final spending numbers for fiscal year (FY) 2002, which began October 1st. The government is currently running under a two-week continuing resolution at FY 2001 levels. Energy policy is making a comeback based on national security concerns rather than consumer demands. More on each of these topics follows.

### **Appropriations End Game**

After delays related to the tragic events of September 11<sup>th</sup> and an ever-changing list of priorities, Congress appears poised to steam forward with the appropriation bills. None of the 13 bills were ready for the president's signature on October 1st, the start of FY 2002. Despite missing the deadline and running on a continuing resolution, Congress is determined to keep all the bills separate, instead of the omnibus package that has become the norm in recent years. The House and Senate have appointed conferees for seven bills that have passed both chambers. They also have agreed on spending levels for the bills and have tentative agreement with the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) as well. But the major sticking point right now between Congress and OMB is whether or not OMB will put the final numbers in writing -- House Democrats are particularly concerned about being labeled budget-busters in the elections next year. As soon as the final numbers are released, both the House and the Senate are ready to move several of the bills swiftly, including three key geoscience-related bills -- Interior, Energy & Water, and Commerce. More information on appropriations is available at <http://www.agiweb.org/gap/legis107/appropsfy2002.html>.

## **Education Bill Containing Santorum Amendment Still Pending**

After President Bush signaled that overhauling federal educational programs remained a top priority of the administration, a House-Senate conference has returned to work hammering out a final compromise bill. Meetings have taken place behind closed doors with a tight lock on information. Science education groups are largely being forced to watch from the sidelines as deals are made over the size and scope of new federal math and science partnership programs. Efforts are still ongoing to remove a Senate-passed resolution that singles out biological evolution as a controversial theory. In late August, the leaders of 80 scientific and educational organizations sent a joint letter to Congress opposing the Sense of the Senate resolution introduced by Sen. Rick Santorum (R-PA). Since that time, a number of additional organizations have signed on to the letter, including several AGI member societies and the federation of biomedical societies that have powered growth of the National Institutes of Health. The letter and current list of 95 signatories can be viewed at <http://www.agiweb.org/gap/legis107/evolutionletter.html>. In the past month, groups opposed to the teaching of evolution have stepped up efforts to use the Santorum resolution to lobby school boards to teach Intelligent Design theory and other forms of creationism. More at <http://www.agiweb.org/gap/legis.html#evolution>.

## **House Science Committee Looks at NSF Research Priorities**

The House Science Subcommittee on Research held a hearing on September 6th regarding the National Science Foundation's (NSF) management and planning for large research projects, including NSF's Major Research Equipment (MRE) account and research facilities. NSF Director Rita Colwell, National Science Board Vice Chair Anita Jones, and NSF Inspector General Christine Boesz testified on how the agency prioritizes and manages these large projects. Jones explained that under the current system the science board reviews and

prioritizes proposed major projects. NSF then works to stay within funding parameters provided by the Office of Management and Budget. Committee members questioned the witnesses on what other steps the agency takes to help insure that priority projects are maintained in the budget and what can be done to improve this process. The first earth science MRE project, EarthScope, was included in the FY 2001 NSF request after receiving National Science Board approval. Congress did not fund it, however, and there were no new starts in the FY 2002 budget request. Hopes are high that EarthScope will be included in NSF's FY 2003 request. More information on the hearing is available on the subcommittee's website at <http://www.house.gov/science/research/reshearings.htm>.

## **Chapter News**

### **Midwest Chapter**

Mark Sherwood

#### **2001 Seminar:**

The planned date for the 2001 Friends of Mineralogy Seminar will be the weekend of November 2-3-4, 2001. The planned theme is "Mineralogy of Arkansas Intrusives" with particular emphasis on the mineralogy of Magnet Cove. Like the 2000 seminar a mix of lectures and field work is planned. Tentative field trip sites include several sites in Magnet Cove, Wilson Hot Springs (Potash Sulfur Springs), Highway 51 (Midstates) Quarry, Diamond Jo Quarry and nepheline syenite quarries in Little Rock. At this time, we expect to send out formal announcements and registration forms in August. Activities are planned beginning Friday morning, November 2 and ending about noon, Sunday November 4.

### **Midwest Chapter**

Dwaine Edington, President

The next meeting of the Midwest Chapter will be held on November 3rd, 2001 in Cleveland, Ohio. The meeting will be held in connection with The Micromineral Symposium, Cleveland Museum of Natural History. Contact Bill Cook, 216-381-9003.

### **Pacific-Northwest Chapter**

The PNWFM Symposium, a "Rainbow of Minerals", was held at the Red Lion Hotel in Kelso, Washington September 28 - 30. The chapter invited the northwest region of the Fluorescent Mineral Society to join us for this year's program about colorful minerals.

The symposium opened with a program by Don Newsome featuring a hands on presentation of "Fluorescent Minerals - Simple to Sublime." Jesse Fisher presented a program about "Recent work at the Rogerly Mine, Weardale, England" and another on the "Gem and Rare Element Pegmatites of Southern California." Sharleen Harvey showed a slide program on her recent visits to the Purple Passion Mine and Hogan Claim near Wickensburg Arizona documenting the "Fuzzy Wulfenites and Five-color Fluorescent Specimens."

The symposium floor housed four prominent mineral dealers, sixteen colorful exhibits and a "Micromounters' Corner". An adjacent room held eight spectacular fluorescent mineral exhibits. Fifteen "satellite" dealers occupied the north wing of hotel rooms. The dealers, exhibits and micromount program were open to the general public at no charge and were very well received. Eighty-seven members and guests participated in the program. A PNWFM benefit auction was held and generated \$1043.00 for the chapter treasury.

The chapter held its annual business meeting and awards presentation. New officers were elected and the "Noble Witt Award" was presented this year to Harvey Gordon for his many years of service to the mineralogical community and especially to the PNWFM Chapter. GOOD TIME WAS HAD BY ALL. Sharleen Harvey, PNWFM President (Retired)

### **Southern California Chapter**

The Southern California Chapter will hold a Mineral Collectors Workshop, Saturday, November 3, 2001 at the Maturango Museum in Ridgecrest, CA. A field trip on the 4th will focus on the Pegmatities and Skarn Deposits of the Owens

Valley. The MSSC Pasadena Show will be held on December 8-9, 2001 at the Pasadena Center.

The SoCal Chapter may be accessed via the web at [www.mineralsocal.org](http://www.mineralsocal.org).  
Mary Aruta, Secretary.

### **Southeast Chapter**

The Southeast Chapter held its annual fall symposium and meeting at the McClung Museum in Knoxville, TN on October 13-14, 2001. Titled: Mississippi Valley Type Deposits II- Non-Metallic Minerals, the program also featured collecting at the Ballard Mine, Sweetwater, Tennessee.

### **Pennsylvania Chapter**

Roland Bounds

The PA Chapter for FM will be having its annual Mineral Symposium, benefit auction and field trip on the first weekend of November. November 2 through 4, 2001. The theme of this year's symposium is pseudomorphs and the following people will be speakers: Phil Betancourt, David Ellis, John Medici, and Terry Huizing. The symposium will include a few dealers for between talk sales as well as a buffet lunch. It will be held at the Brandywine Terrace in Wilmington, DE. For more information contact George Rambo at 1-302-798-4163. Annual elections will be held later in the year.

### **Can Minerals Be Far Behind?**

The issue of regulation of collecting on public lands reared its head again in the form of a bill on fossil collecting introduced in Congress on October 2 by Rep. James P. McGovern. H.B. 2974 removes vertebrate fossil collecting from the realm of the amateur collector, requiring permits and mandating that the materials collected remain in the public domain. Violations could be treated as a felony and the penalties are stiff. A copy of the bill may be found on the FM website.

The 23rd Annual Tucson Mineralogical Symposium  
Saturday, February 9, 2001

Sponsored by Friends of Mineralogy-Tucson Gem and Mineral Society-Mineralogical Society of America

## Mineralogical Symposium: Minerals of Africa

**The Minerals of the Erongo Mountains,  
Erongo District, Central Namibia**

**Christopher L. Johnston**

P.O. Box 354  
Omaruru, Namibia

**The Occurrence of Diopside in  
African Mineral Deposits**

**Robert B. Cook**

Department of Geology and Geography  
Auburn University, AL 36849

**Benjamin E. Nicolson**

P.O. Box 344  
Tsumeb, Namibia

**The Reopening of the Tsumeb Mine, Namibia  
by Tsumeb Specimen Mining Ltd.**

**Robert B. Cook**

Department of Geology and Geography  
Auburn University, AL 36849

**Benjamin E. Nicolson and Ian R. Bruce**

Tsumeb Specimen Mining Ltd.  
P.O. Box 344  
Tsumeb, Namibia

**Yellow Orthoclase (Sanidine) from  
South Betroka, Madagascar**

**William B. Simmons and Alexander U. Falster**

Department of Geology and Geophysics  
University of New Orleans  
New Orleans, Louisiana

**Londonite, a New Mineral: the Cs-dominant  
Analog of Rhodizite from Madagascar**

**William B. Simmons, Alexander U. Falster,  
and Karen L. Webber**

Department of Geology and Geophysics  
University of New Orleans  
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**Federico Pezzotta**

Museo di Storia Naturale di Milano  
Corso Venezia 55  
I-20121 Milano, Italy

**The Messina Copper Mines, South Africa**

**Bruce Cairncross**

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**Mineral Highlights from Southern Africa:  
A Tour of the Desmond Sacco Collection**

**Bruce Cairncross**

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**Tourmaline from the Antandrokomby,  
Anjanabonoina and Fianarantsoa Pegmatites,  
Madagascar**

**Karen L. Webber, William B. Simmons,  
and Alexander U. Falster**

Department of Geology and Geophysics  
University of New Orleans

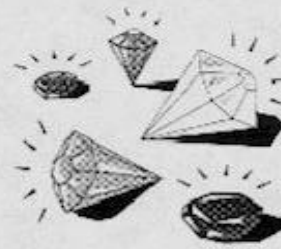
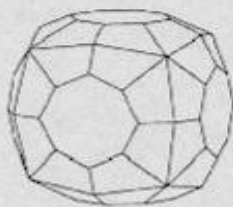
**Graphite with growth spirals from  
Arises River Marbles, Wlotzkas Baken,  
western Namibia**

**John Rakovan**

Department of Geology  
Miami University  
Oxford, Ohio

**John A. Jaszczak**

Department of Physics and the A. E. Seaman Mineral Museum  
Michigan Technological University  
Houghton, MI



## **Werner Lieber Photo Contest and Traveling Museum Exhibit**

**Sponsored by Friends of Mineralogy**

A traveling Museum exhibit will be  
created from the best photographs  
submitted for the contest

**Categories: Juniors, Amateur Adults--(a) Micro and (b) Macro Minerals,  
Professionals, and Digital/Computer-Enhanced Photography**

### **Contest Rules:**

1. Matted 8"x10" print. Mat must be 11"x14".
2. The photo must be related to the contest theme:  
**African Minerals.**
3. Each photo must have a caption with locality, bar scale or description of crystal size, photographer, category, and other information submitter deems relevant. Caption should be attached to back of mat.
4. Photos will be displayed at the 2002 Tucson Gem and Mineral Show. Photos will be judged by the FM board of directors during the annual board meeting. Winners will be announced at the FM annual meeting and awards presented at the TGMS Saturday night awards banquet.
5. All photos become the property of FM. Copyright will be retained by author, but FM has royalty free use.
6. A non-monetary award will be presented to the winners.
7. Contest deadline: November 1, 2001.
8. Mail submittals to Dr. Karen Wenrich, P.O. Box 5054, Golden, CO 80401--  
(303) 278-1218 (Phone & Fax); email: CrystalsUL@aol.com.

## PEA RIDGE MINE CLOSES

Larry Nuelle

August 28, 2001

On August 27, 2001, the Pea Ridge Iron Ore Company announced the closure of the Pea Ridge mine in Washington County, Missouri with production ceasing on that date. The shafts are to be capped and the mine to be flooded later this year. The closure affects some 117 employees.

The drilling of a magnetic anomaly delineated by an airborne magnetic survey cofunded by the U. S. Geological Survey, St. Joe Lead Co., and the Missouri Geological Survey resulted in the discovery of Pea Ridge. In 1954, St. Joe drilled the anomaly with the hopes of finding a lead deposit associated with a Precambrian knob that was speculated to be the cause of the anomaly. Rather than intersecting lead, the drill hole hit high-grade iron ore in Precambrian rhyolitic rocks. In 1957, a joint venture between Bethlehem Steel Corp. and St. Joe resulted in the formation of the Meramec Mining Co. in order to construct a mine, mill, and roasting furnace to exploit the deposit. The mine opened in 1964 as the Pea Ridge mine, a name kept for its entire life.

Pea Ridge operated at nearly full to full capacity through 1977 producing from around 0.8 million long tons to around 1.3 million long tons of iron ore pellets per year. Only magnetite was recovered for steel-making purposes. The ore was mined, crushed, and ran through a magnetic separator to recover the magnetite from the other minerals. The powdered magnetite was then combined with a binder to form iron ore pellets. The pellets were then roasted in a furnace to convert the magnetite to hematite as required by blast furnace technology.

The mine was closed as uneconomic in December 1977. Shortly after this, the St. Joe Lead Company was purchased by Fluor Corporation, which through an agreement with Homestake, formed the Doe Run Company. In the process, Pea Ridge was sold. The mine reopened as the Pea Ridge Iron Ore Company in the summer of 1979 with a much reduced

staff and production schedule. In recent years, competition with larger surface mines and the presence of unacceptable phosphate levels in the iron ore for modern furnace technology resulted in the loss of pellet contracts for Pea Ridge. Recently, production of iron ore was not used for steel making, but for specialty products such as a heavy media separation agent for clean coal technology and for specialty magnets and electronics. The mine closes after having produced approximately 50.7 million tons of iron ore.

The iron ore body at Pea Ridge consists of high-grade magnetite with minor amounts of specular hematite. Gangue minerals include fluorapatite, actinolite, and quartz. A plethora of accessory minerals is present and includes calcite, fluorite, barite, chalcopyrite, pyrite, monazite, xenotime, altaite, and others such as the rare and elusive isolated grains of electrum. For a comprehensive review of the geology and mineralogy, see my article in the Missouri mineral locality Issue of Rocks and Minerals (v 73, n 2, Mar-Apr 1998).

Pea Ridge was the last operating underground iron ore mine in North America. Its closing ends an era in Missouri iron ore production. The closing of Pea Ridge is particularly sad knowing that there is still million tons of magnetite available that will probably never be mined. I, and I am sure the entire membership of the Mississippi Valley Chapter of Friends of Mineralogy, wish nothing but the best of luck to the employees affected by the mine closure.

Check out our website!

[www.friendsofmineralogy.org](http://www.friendsofmineralogy.org)

## Masthead

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