

Friends of Mineralogy

A Quarterly Newsletter



VOLUME 31, ISSUE 4

OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2001

President's Message

Dear Friends of Mineralogy,

Well, Tucson is looming! FM members are probably perusing their collections, making labels, and packing their bags as they receive this newsletter. Although it is by no means a destination for all mineral collectors, curators, and such types, it seems to be an annual benchmark for the mineral community, including the Friends of Mineralogy. Our annual Board of Directors and Business Meetings take place during the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show.

Your ballot for election of new Directors for the board is included in this issue. Please vote by return mail or email! We (read "I") are late, and we do need your ballot to conduct a proper election. The individuals who are stepping forward include some former and some new board members and all have expressed an interest in active participation in some committee work during the coming year.

Although this is not an official 'president's report, I would like to summarize a few things which have happened this past year. Darcy Howard of Arkansas has recently taken over the management of our web site and will be redesigning and maintaining the information. If you have any suggestions you may contact Mike Howard who is chair of the web committee. We've planned an exciting symposium for this February, the winning photographs from the Werner Lieber Photography Contest visited the East, and we've had great newsletters.

I would like to thank Chuck Miller of Roanoke for his producing and distributing

the newsletters this year. They are professional, easy to read, and I know he's had to hit a few of us on the head to get information in on time. Chuck is leaving the board as Director and Secretary/Newsletter Editor. Thank you, Chuck, on behalf of all the FM members!

Other Directors who are leaving the board are Roland Bounds, who formerly served many terms as our treasurer and Philip Goodell from El Paso. Many thanks to you both for your service to this organization.

I can't finish this letter without mentioning the loss of two of my colleagues in mineralogy. Suzanne Cowen of the New Mexico Museum passed away earlier this year, and my good friend Joe Nagel, formerly curator of the collection at the University of British Columbia, died in a car accident in early December. Both are personal losses to me, but each of them contributed in so many ways to the care and protection of mineral collections, to the educational mission of those collections, and to the friendships that grow around this hobby and profession of minerals. We will miss them.

See you soon,
Susan

Late Addition to the FM Mineral Symposium:

Collecting in the Bush

Claus Hedegaard

Most interesting mineral localities are situated 'in the bush' - far from urban areas, devoid of even basic logistics, and often in foreign countries. Many collectors refrain from collecting abroad, and particularly so in less developed countries, even if that is where the really interesting material occurs.

The purpose of this talk is to allay those fears, and encourage you to go far and often. I will describe steps of 'collecting in the bush', ranging from early preparation in the library, cover the logistics of actually "doing" to how you bring the material back. This will be illustrated by personal experiences from collecting on five continents with an emphasis on Africa. Relative to its immense mineralogical treasures, Africa is probably the most ignored continent. Most of us are familiar with superb minerals from about a handful of localities, but in spite of their immense glory, they are barely the proverbial tip of the iceberg.

Chapter News

Midwest Chapter

Marlene Edington

The Midwest Chapter held its meeting on November 3rd at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. Chapter officers for 2002 are:

President– Nelson Shaffer

Vice President-Programs– Kim Greeman

Vice President– Field trips– George Heaton

Secretary– Albert Sicree

Treasurer– Lorraine Wright

Newsletter Editor– Marlene Edington

Colorado Chapter

Our election of chapter officers for 2002 was held at the November meeting. Pete Modreski will be president. Eunice York and Jim Hurlbut remain in office for new terms as Vice President and Treasurer respectively; and Ray Berry was nominated was nominated from the floor and elected secretary. Bruce Geller was elected for another term as a Director, in addition to which Judy Peterson and Jack Thompson remain in office for the second year of their two-year terms as Directors.

FM EDUCATION AWARD

FM sponsors non-monetary prizes at the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show for cases which help explain an aspect of mineralogy. There is no restriction on the theme, but the case should have some special "instructive" feature. In keeping with the high standards of the TGMS, they should be aesthetically pleasing and contain specimens worthy of the show. Two certificates are awarded, one for private collections and one for museums, and the winners are honored at the Saturday night banquet. Instructive cases help the hobby grow and underline its scientific basis; please consider such a feature for your case. For further information, contact Bill Dameron, FM Vice President (baritebill@aol.com).

Check The FM Website!!

www.friendsofmineralogy.org

The 23rd Annual Tucson Mineralogical Symposium
Saturday, February 16, 2002

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
New Orleans, Louisiana 70148

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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bc@na.rau.ac.za

**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

Class of 2005**BALLOT**

Tom Wilson is a charter member of the Southeast Chapter. Retired from Eastman Kodak in Rochester, NY in 1991, Tom has recently acted as volunteer curator of the Colburn Gem and Mineral Museum in Asheville, North Carolina. Tom was an active participant in organizing and treasurer for the Rochester Mineral Symposium for many, many years.

Sharleen Harvey is the immediate past president of the Pacific Northwest Chapter of FM and is curator of the Rice Mineral Museum in suburban Portland, Oregon. She is a long time collector who has been an active member and officer of many local clubs.

Ray Grant organized the superb 2001 FM symposium on Russian minerals at the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show and has just returned from 6 months in Australia! He is retired from teaching geology at Mesa Community College in Arizona but still teaches part time. Ray and his wife are collectors of Arizona minerals, and Ray is one of the authors of *Mineralogy of Arizona*.

Nelson Schaffer, a geologist with the Indiana Geological Survey, has been a president of National Friends of Mineralogy and is currently the organization's liaison with the American Geological Institute. He is very active in the Midwest Chapter and is an avid field collector in that region.

Jim McGlasson of Tucson Arizona has been a mainstay of FM for years. A collector, mineral dealer, and exploration geologist, Jim is also current president of the Tucson Gem and Mineral Society and has been an effective liaison between our two organizations.

Tom Wilson

Nelson Schaffer

Ray Grant

Jim McGlasson

Sharleen Harvey

(Vote for five)

RETURN COMPLETED BALLOT TO: Susan Eriksson
1013 Draper road
Blacksburg, VA 24060

OR INDICATE YOUR ACCEPTANCE OF THE BALLOT BY EMAIL TO: serikssn@vt.edu

Ballots must be received no later than February 8, 2002.

Masthead

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Affiliations: *The Mineralogical Record* Magazine, The Mineralogical Society of America, and the American Geological Institute

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