



President's Message

Dear Friends of Mineralogy,

As the summer season winds down I find myself reflecting on the reasons people collect minerals (or anything for that matter). This was brought on by a series of events that happened over the summer that rekindled by own collecting urge; something that I thought I had vanquished the last time I moved to a new house. If this reads a bit like "what I did on my summer vacation" I apologize up front. However, I think it is important to occasionally reflect on what and why in order to best keep everything in proper perspective.

I was contacted by the family of a New Mexico Tech alumnus (he was actually a New Mexico School of Mines alum) about his mineral collection coming to our mineral museum. Pictures of the collection were provided and eventually the material arrived. Much of it consisted of carvings and gem materials obtained during the alum 's travels. The wide variety of materials and types of carvings filled a niche in our collections that I had always hoped to improve. Although I am a bit of a mineral "purist" myself, the selection of various materials and obvious care put into the collection made me pause to appreciate the fact that what I might consider worthy of collecting is not universal.

The American Federation of Mineral Societies held a convention this summer in Roswell. I try to attend all local shows in the state so I helped conduct a mini-symposium and led a post-convention field trip. We visited the famous New Mexico localities of Hansonburg (Blanchard)

and Magdalena (Kelly) in addition to a few lesser-known places. The mine owner at the Blanchard kindly opened some of the tunnels for collecting. I stayed outside and collected with others who chose not to go inside. We exposed some very fine cerussite pseudomorphs of galena in fluorite and some linarite after galena. Pieces good enough that I would have considered adding them to my collection (if I had one). The collecting bug had me in full fever and I relished the experience, rediscovering why it was I loved field collecting. Was it the exertion of banging on the rock, the finding of something hidden, the touching of a truly beautiful object, or the money/prestige of selling/owning the piece?

Later in the summer we received a collection from an old friend of the museum who spent his collecting life pursuing mineral species, both with hammer and "silver pick." Many of the specimens are merely "smears on a rock" or metallic gray sulfosalts and other rare element combinations. The scientist in me loves such things, especially sulfosalts (a topic of my dissertation). I would have a hard time convincing anyone the pieces are aesthetic. Regardless of their humble appearances, the owner would become animated discussing the acquisition and the nature of the mineral and you could sense how the inner beauty was apparent to him. I get a thrill out of seeing a rare minerals and the prospect of preserving them, so we are obviously kindred spirits in that regard.

So what is the purpose of relating these stories to you? Mainly to remind everyone that there are many motivations for collecting. I don't believe that any particular one is better than another. We

often get fixated on "the best" or "the one and only" (probably because they get the most exposure in magazines and gossip) and forget that it is the personal joy we derive from mineral collecting that is important. As the Friends of Mineralogy we have a responsibility to encourage all aspects of mineral collecting hobby, be they aesthetic, scientific, field-collected, or purchased. Part of our mission is to be an inclusive group that accommodates the wide diversity of collecting philosophies. By attempting to perceive the beauty others see, we develop a wider appreciation of mineralogy and other people. Happy collecting, for whatever reasons you find enjoyable.

Virgil W. Lueth, President

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Do not forget the informal
Board of Directors meeting
Friday, September
14th at 3:30 in the small
meeting room.

Pacific Northwest Chapter

The Chapter will hold its 33rd Annual Show and Symposium, **Minerals of the American Southwest**, on October 19-21, 2007 at the Red Lion Inn in Kelso, Washington. Free Admission to the Mineral Show and Dealers

Main Floor Dealers will include LEHIGH MINERALS, OXCART MINERALS, and PACIFIC RIM MINERALS. Room Dealers in the north hallway, selling minerals from the Pacific Northwest and worldwide locations.

NOTE: Some room dealers may be closed during the symposium programs

Sixteen world class displays of minerals including a case from the Northwest 's finest mineral museum: The Rice Museum in Hillsboro, Oregon.

Visit our webpage at www.pnwfm.org for more information.

Southeast Chapter submitted by Bruce Steinmetz

The theme for our 2007 symposium is "Mining in the Southeast". It is dedicated to historic and current mining activities and their minerals. It will be held on Saturday, November 3rd, 2007, at the Holiday Inn Cartersville, GA (I-75 exit 293 in front of the Weinman Mineral Museum).

We are currently calling for speakers who have expertise in this area. The goal is to have seven speakers presenting in half hour sessions, so each talk will need to be 20-25 minutes with a few minutes for Q&A and transition time.

If you are interested, please contact Jose Santamaria, SE/FM Vice President joses@weinmanmuseum.org or 770.386.0576

Mississippi Valley Chapter submitted by Bruce Steinmetz

This Mississippi Valley Chapter will be holding their annual symposium on October 13 2007. The topic for this year will be Salt Mining in Kansas. Some details are still being finalized, but interested persons can contact Bruce Stinemetz by phone in the evening at (816) 795-1641 or by email at bruce.stinemetz@SSA.gov

Other Symposia submitted by Sharleen Harvey

New Mexico Mineral Symposium

"Minerals of the Four-Corners States" will be held November 10 & 11, 2007 at the Macey Center, New Mexico Institute of Mining & Technology, Socorro, New Mexico. Sponsored by: Friends of Mineralogy, New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources, Albuquerque Gem and Mineral Club, Los Alamos Geological Society, New Mexico Geological Society, and Chaparral Rockhounds. More information at <http://geoinfo.nmt.edu/museum/minsymp/home.html>.

Southern California Chapter submitted by Jennifer Rohl

Come join the Southern California Chapter of the Friends of Mineralogy at its Fall Mineral Locality Symposium on Saturday, October 20, 2007, in Amboy, California. The title of the symposium is "Sources of Iron (*terrestrial or not*) and Vanadium in the Mohave Desert". We will have a Saturday field trip to the Iron Hat Mine in the Marble Mountains, picnic dinner in Twenty-nine Palms, CA and a Sunday field trip to the Bessemer Iron Mine in the Upper Johnson Valley.

Topics that will be covered during the symposium are: Stratigraphy and Structure of the Bristol & Marble Mountains (Howard Brown, OMYA); Iron Hat Mine, Marble Mountains (Bruce Bridenbecker, CMC); Iron Ore Emplacement in the Soda Mountains (Kim Bishop, CSULA); Vanadium and California Vanadinite Localities (Paul Adams, SCFM); Meteorites in the Eastern Mojave Desert (Bob Verish, SCFM); and Bessemer Iron Mine, Upper Johnson Valley (Robert Housley, SCFM).

There will be a charge of \$20 per person that will cover a delicious catered lunch (on Saturday), the room rental and speakers' fees. The address of the meeting is: Roy's Gas & Café, 6666 National Trails Highway, Old Route 66, Amboy, CA 92304. Hotels are available in Barstow and Twenty-nine Palms. Further lodging and camping details will be posted on the SCFM website, www.mineralsocal.org/scfm.

Please R.S.V.P. to Jennifer Rohl, rohlon@yahoo.com or via cell phone (714) 293-0156 no later than October 5, 2007.



e-Newsletter

The e-newsletter saves volunteers time and FM money! Help us by getting your newsletter via email!

Ask your chapter secretary to notify National FM, alternatively you may email Regina (raumente@aol.com) or Carol (carolsmith72@msn.com) to receive this newsletter via email.

We respect your privacy and will never share or sell your email address!

FM 'S OBJECTIVES

FM 's objectives are to promote, support, protect, and expand the collection of mineral specimens and to further the recognition of the scientific, economic, and aesthetic value of minerals and collecting mineral specimens.

The Friends of Mineralogy (FM), formed at Tucson, Arizona on February 13, 1970, operates on a national level and also through regional chapters. It is open to membership by all. Our annual meeting is held in conjunction with the February 2007 Tucson "TGMS Gem and Mineral Show."

Midwest Chapter *submitted by Dave Straw*

2007 ANNUAL MIDWEST FOM SYMPOSIUM

The Friends of Mineralogy fall field symposium will feature the life of geodes - from birth to death and will be held September 29 and 30 in south central Indiana. We will meet in Bloomington, IN at 9:00 AM on Saturday September 29 and travel to classic collecting sites in the Monroe Lake area. There we shall examine well developed geodes within their host rock. We shall then view geodes that have been weathered out of the rock and transported just a bit and now reside in soils of the Ingram farms. Thence we shall go to the Bedford area to view stream geodes many of which show fossil shapes and extensive weathering. Lunch at Bedford will be followed by a trip to collect at the Salem Quarry by special permission. We shall stop briefly at the road cut east of Salem on State Route 56 to see geodes in place if time permits.

The evening will feature talks by well experienced geoders Charlie Oldham, Alan Goldstein, Dave Rush, Nelson Shaffer, Bob Harman, Jeff Smith, and other collectors. We shall stay in the Scottsburg or New Albany area Saturday night.

On Sunday we will travel to see beginning forms of geodes that include gypsum fillings. These are the so called protogeodes. We shall have time to visit Falls of the Ohio Nature Center with its world class examples of Devonian corals (sorry NO collecting here)

For those who wish we plan a trip to Corydon in the afternoon. If you wish to attend please contact Nelson Shaffer. Participation may have to be limited. Friends of Mineralogy members will be granted first slots. We are attempting to arrange a special early bird event for those who arrive Friday evening.

Nelson R. Shaffer , Indiana Geological Survey, 611 N. Walnut Grove, Bloomington, IN 47405, phone: 812-855-2687, fax: 812-855-2862, shaffern@indiana.edu



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COLORADO CHAPTER: President, Richard Parsons, (303) 838-8859, richard.parsons@att.net

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MISSISSIPPI VALLEY CHAPTER: President: Bruce Stinemetz; 2706 S Cherokee; Independence, MO 64057; (816) 936-3310 (days) (816) 795-1641 (evenings); bruce.stinemetz@ssa.gov

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MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA: *ex-Officio*, Alex Speer, j_a_speer@minsocam.org, (703) 652-9950

Friends of Mineralogy, Inc. is affiliated with The *Mineralogical Record*, *Rocks & Minerals*, The Mineralogical Society of America and the American Geological Institute. Please forward newsletter corrections/changes to Carol Smith, newsletter editor, carolsmith72@msn.com; 303-466-8723.



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WE'RE ON THE WEB!
WWW.FRIENDSOFMINERALOGY.ORG

Please check the year in the upper right hand corner of the your mailing label. If it is any number less than 2007, your dues are overdue, and this might be the last newsletter you receive.

In This Issue:

President 's letter	1
Chapter News	2-4
FM Leadership	5

**Dues Reminder —
Chapter Treasurers &
National Members**

It's that time of year again, when your annual dues payments should be remitted. Members of FM National are requested to send their dues in the amount of \$11/year to Friends of Mineralogy, c/o Regina Aumente, 6 Santa Ana Loop, Placitas, NM 87043.

Chapters should forward their 2007 dues and updated membership lists as soon as possible. Please send \$6/member to the above address.

Please help out by taking care of this small detail without a personal reminder — we are all short of time.