Friends of Mineralogy Newsletter Volume 38: Issue 3 Friends of Mineralogy Newsletter Volume 38 Issue 3

August, 2008



### **President's Message**

Dear Friends of Mineralogy,

I hope this newsletter find you sorting through some of the material you've recently collected, or cleaning the shelves in your display cabinet and rearranging some of your treasures, or getting ready to head off to a show with a enough resources to "significantly add" to your collections. In other words, I hope you've had a productive summer of collecting, researching, or just enjoying the many aspects of the mineral hobby. Summer is the time to "make hay" so to speak.

Unlike last year, I have not had much time to field collect or even attend many shows (sad to say, only one). Instead, I have spent most of my summer attending research conferences where most things are admittedly "mineralogically esoteric." One of the most fundamental things I've learned at these meetings is that mineralogy is far from "dead." Minerals are still the fundamental building blocks of things geologic and are studied to the "nth" degree. If you have been paying attention to the Mars exploration programs, Martian mineralogy is all the rage and is considered a fundamental component in the search for life or past life on the planet. We are even discovering mineralogical byproducts of life that we never would have considered "biologic" prior to the discovery of sulfur-based life forms at deep-sea vents, hot springs, deep subsurface and other extreme environments. Some scientists even propose amino acids, critical for the development of live were formed on a clay mineral tem-

plates. The list of fascinating mineralogical research is long and complex. This community is highly populated with bright young and enthusiastic researchers highly interested in mineralogy – that's the biggest thing I've learned on my "summer vacation."

So why do you hear that "mineralogy is dead" and our hobby will soon disappear? Like most things, interest is quite cyclic. I have noticed a greater interest in mineralogy by the college students here at New Mexico Tech over the last 3 to 5 years. Why is that? Is it because of the latest "sexy" discoveries about mineralogy on Mars, ocean floor life, and new generation analytical equipment? Probably so, just as those people who made the decisions for such scientific investments intended, over 20 years ago (your tax money at work by the way). With curiosity kindled, many inquisitive humans broaden their horizons and expand their interests into many more fields "mineralogic" and the hobby lives on.

I heard many folks lament a "graying of the hobby" in conversations at shows and in club meetings. With so many more activities open to young people, will mineralogy and mineral collecting be forgotten? I think not. Of all the things mineralogical that fascinate, entertain, and inspire curiosity in you, do you think in will not in others? Little children visiting our museum still shout and jump when looking at fantastic specimens and treasure their samples they take home. Planting the seeds of interest by hosting shows, convening symposia, and promoting

the hobby will bring others into the fold. If we do our teaching and nurturing, there is nothing to fear about "graying." It has been my experience that those who are retired have the most time to pursue their hobbies and are more active. Don't forget many of our kindred mineral enthusiasts "picked it up again" after retiring. As if they ever lost their fascination in minerals...

Virgil W. Lueth, President

### Friends of Mineralogy Board Meeting

4:00 p.m.

Friday, 12 September, 2008

Room K42

(same as last year)

**Denver Merchandise Mart** 

### Pacific Northwest Chapter submitted by Wes Gannaway

# The Northwest Chapter of the Friends of Mineralogy 34th Annual Show and Symposium

## Minerals of Canada

October 17-19, 2007
Red Lion Inn, Kelso, Washington
Free Admission to the Mineral Show and Dealers
Main Floor Dealers

EARTHS TREASURES: Richard Kennedy LEHIGH MINERALS: Jim and Yolanda McEwen OXCART MINERALS: Priscilla & Hollis Oxley PACIFIC RIM MINERALS: John Meek

Room Dealers in the North Hallway selling minerals from the Pacific Northwest and worldwide locations

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**

### Friends of Mineralogy, SE Chapter Annual Fall Symposium August 16, 2008 9am-1pm "Gemstones"



#### **Guest Speakers:**

Bob Cook: "Jacksons Crossroads Amethyst Site"

Ed Spear: "Hiddenite Emeralds" Terry Huizig: "Madagascar Trip" Karen McGinn: "Diamonds" Cost: \$10.00 if registration in by 8/8/08; \$15.00 at door

Pre-register: 770-386-0576 ext. 400

### Tellus Northwest Georgia Science Museum 100 Tellus Drive, White, GA

(Near Cartersville, GA. Exit 293 off I-75)



Leadville Field Symposium 2007

Carol Smith Photo

### **Southern California Chapter**

# Summer Fun! When the Mojave Desert gets hot, the SCFM goes inside!

Part of the mission of the Southern California Chapter of the Friends of Mineralogy (SCFM) is to promote awareness of the study of minerals and rocks. This goal is reached, in part, by working with local museums to help manage their collections of geologic specimens. Member expertise and knowledge can help make the presentation of the museums 'collections better and more understandable to their visitors.

Community museums often contain excellent specimens from local geological formations and outcrops. But because these museums are often minimally staffed they can, soon become overwhelmed by donations of all types of objects. Paperwork and record keeping may take a back seat to museum services that seem to relate more directly to visitors. Yet recordkeeping is vital for maintaining mineral collections.

One of the museums that the SCFM is pleased to partner with is the Mojave River Valley Museum (MRVM) in Barstow. This museum came into existence in more than 30 years ago, and had a complex specimen inventory system. As the responsibility for inventory management was passed from person to person over the years, computer files and hard copy records were lost. The SCFM made attempts to help resurrect the existing system to no avail. The museum decided to start a new, user-friendly system for earth science specimens that would preserve original specimen inventory numbers in case the original inventory was relocated.

#### SCFM identified two challenges:

- Multiple specimens were stored or stacked in large boxes "by donor" or "by category". To help this situation, SCFM provided MRVM with funds to build wooden cases with adjustable drawers to hold earth science specimens arranged systematically.
- 2. The computer inventory system was not user friendly. It took large amounts of time to number and to enter data on a single specimen. Since only incomplete records could be located, the MRVM made the decision to start a new inventory system with only basic description and locality data along with instituting a system for assigning identification numbers to the specimens. Excel was chosen for its straightforward interface, its wide installation and user base, its ability to sort by category, and the likelihood continued program support, unlike more technical proprietary software.

At this writing, SCFM funds have produced the first of three specimen cabinets. The computer inventory has started. The fresh look of the reorganized museum has prompted new interest in a "Minerals of the Mojave" exhibit that will include loaned specimens from the collections of SCFM and Mineral Society of Southern California members along with newly-cataloged specimens from the MRVM collections.

Bob Reynolds

President, SCFM

#### 29th Annual New Mexico Mineral Symposium

The New Mexico Mineral Symposium provides a forum for both professionals and amateurs interested in mineralogy. During the meeting, new mineral occurrences and research projects are highlighted in both formal presentations and informal discussions. All aspects of mineralogy and associated fields are discussed.

Approximately twelve, thirty-minute presentations are presented during the formal portion of the symposium. Most of the papers concentrate on mineral occurrences of the states and nations surrounding New Mexico. This includes the "Four Corners" region of the American southwest along with Texas and Mexico. Informal "tailgating" sessions are held throughout the weekend in local motels and from the backs of cars in the parking lots. The symposium concludes with a silent auction to benefit the New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources Mineral Museum.

The symposium will be held November 7-9, 2008, in Socorro, New Mexico. The presentations, banquet, and silent auction are held on the campus of New Mexico Tech in the Macey Convention Center. Registration, which includes continental breakfast and all coffee breaks on both days, is \$30 for adults, \$25 for seniors, and \$15 for students (with ID). Registration also includes a Proceedings volume.

Sponsors for the symposium include: Friends of Mineralogy (National), Albuquerque Gem and Mineral Club, Chaparral Rockhounds, Los Alamos Geological Society, New Mexico Geological Society Foundation, New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources, and the City of Socorro.

The second announcement and program will be available at the Denver Gem and Mineral Show this September. You can also request an announcement and program by contacting the New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources (575) 835-5490 or visiting the symposium website: http://geoinfo.nmt.edu/museum/minsymp/home.html

#### 30th FM-TGMS-MSA MINERALOGICAL SYMPOSIUM - CALL FOR PAPERS

The thirtieth annual Mineralogical Symposium sponsored jointly by the Friends of Mineralogy, the Tucson Gem and Mineral Society, and the Mineralogical Society of America will be held in conjunction with the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show, Saturday, February 14, 2009. The topic of the symposium is "Mineral Oddities". Presentations on descriptive mineralogy, paragenesis, and related subjects are welcome. An audience of amateur and professional mineralogists and geologists is expected.

Authors wishing to present a paper should submit a 200-300 word abstract to Julian C. Gray, Weinman Mineral Museum, P.O. Box 3663, Cartersville, Georgia, 30120; phone 770-386-0576, extension 415; fax 770-386-0600; email juliang@weinmanmuseum.org. Presentations will be twenty minutes in length with a brief question and answer period. Abstracts must be submitted by August 1, 2008 and will be published in *The Mineralogical Record* (subject to approval by the editor).



#### 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!

### **Colorado Chapter**

#### Preservation - What 's Up?

#### **News from the FMCC Preservation Committee**

The Preservation Committee presented a plan to the Board in March of this year, identifying several areas FMCC can address in the preservation arena. These include increasing awareness of preservation issues among FM members and the public at large, preserving important mineral localities, preserving access to collecting localities, preserving mineral specimens and preserving and disseminating information on the history, scientific, esthetic and educational value of minerals.

Some of these activities lend themselves to immediate action, while others will require extensive discussion, exploration and a long-term perspective. In some cases, competing interests such as balancing preservation against collecting access will have to be balanced.

#### I. Awareness

We have begun placing a brief article in each newsletter – "Preservation – What's up", and a companion article, "The Museum Corner", soliciting input from Colorado museums having collections related to minerals, mining and related history. In July FMCC will conducted a survey of member interests and satisfaction, including issues relating to preservation.

#### II. Preserving Access to mineral collecting localities

By November, the Preservation Committee plans to establish a collaborative Task Force on potential road closures affecting access to Colorado collecting localities, and to complete a preliminary assessment of the feasibility of negotiating access to privately held (or government-controlled) sites such as the Lone Tree peridot locality, including the possibility of creating a State "Peridot Park" at that locality.

#### **III. Preserving Important Localities**

The preservation of important localities is a longer-term issue. FMCC needs to determine whether there are localities that, as an alternative to development, closure and reclamation or other actions permanently closing all access, should be preserved for educational, scientific or other special uses.

The committee is developing a panel presentation on alternatives to mine closures for presentation at the Denver Show, and assessing the status of proposed mine closures in Colorado that may affect collecting and/or scientific access to mines of mineralogical significance.

Preservation of scientific and historical records of mineralogically important localities is important. In instances where the site itself cannot be preserved FMCC will seek to collaborate with museums, educational institutions and historical societies to optimize preservation of and access to records.

In 2008, the Committee will begin exploring ways in which FMCC can encourage preservation of such records. The Committee will also explore with the State Historical Society the potential for gathering audio/video-taped accounts from individuals having special knowledge of mining or collecting in Colorado.

#### IV. Preserving Specimens for Public, Research and Educational Access

To encourage collection, curation and study of collections by amateur collectors, the Committee will develop a program on development and curation of a private collection, to be offered to gem and mineral clubs in the area. In presenting this information, the Committee believes that we should stress the responsibility of collectors to assure the future of specimens they collect.

The Committee is deeply concerned about the loss of valuable specimens and important information about their provenance through careless dispersal of private collections by collectors or their estates. The committee seeks to preserve collections or surplus materials facing discard or neglect by such means as consulting to estates; supporting acquisition of specimens by Colorado museums; and assisting museums in

disposition of de-accessioned materials.

In 2008, we will begin by beginning work on a resource directory for estates and for collectors wishing to dispose of their collections, and making known FMCC's willingness to assist museums with

In 2008, we will begin by beginning work on a resource directory for estates and for collectors wishing to dispose of their collections, and making known FMCC's willingness to assist museums with acquisition or disposal of specimens.

#### V. Disseminating Information and Teaching Materials

There is a need and opportunity to increase awareness & understanding of the history, scientific, esthetic and educational value of minerals, and the history of mines and other mineral localities in Colorado.

This year, we plan to focus on supporting teachers of earth sciences in the K-12 schools. We plan to develop a brief directory of teaching resources to be distributed to teachers at the Denver Show and similar venues. This hand-out will include information about teaching materials available from the CSM Museum, USGS, the Ft. Collins Rockhounds and other organizations, and a directory of museums, mines and other resources offering educational tours and activities, including the student tours offered at the Denver Show.

The Committee will also explore the potential for FMCC collaboration with USGS and CSM teacher-support programs, and teacher-support activities of other clubs to maximize availability of labeled specimens and other teaching materials.

Any member interested in helping with any of these activities is encouraged to contact Committee Chair Richard Parsons at 303-838-8859 or Richard.parsons@att.net.

#### The History and Minerals of the Darwin Mines

Lead oxide minerals were discovered in mid 1870s in the Darwin area southeast of Lone Pine in the Inyo Mountains. By 1880 three smelters had been built. From 1880 to World War I the mines were dormant after the initial miners gave up on the gold, silver, lead and zinc deposits. After WWI there was some intermittent activity. In the late 1940's and early 1950's slag from the early mining was hauled off for mineral reclaiming.

Radiore Company constructed an adit, approximately 3,000 feet into the mountain to the area of the Defience mine. They had little success with their endeavor and sold to out the Anaconda Company in about 1945. Anaconda worked the mine for only a short time when they discovered the Defiance pipe, a vertical pipe about 40 feet across of nearly pure anglesite. This anglesite was very rich in silver, over 100 ounces per ton. With this discovery Anaconda paid for the mine in about 2-3 months. This shaft is mined down to the 1,300 foot level. Anaconda then extended the Radiore tunnel about 7,000 feet more connecting the Defience mine with the Thompson mine so that both mines could be worked through one haulage tunnel. The Thompson mine has different mineral deposition than the Defience Mine. The Thompson the deposits are more bedded creating very large ore deposits containing much higher grade silver.

In 1968 West Hills Exploration's geologists came down to California to see the Darwin mining area. They drilled exploratory holes into the area between 500 to 600 feet and found solid ores. West Hills Exploration mined the Darwin hillside from 1968 to 1977.

After West Hills quit, Anaconda, Quintana and Blue Ridge companies did considerable exploratory drilling. All three drilled from both underground and the surface. The results of this drilling showed considerable tonnage of silver, zinc, and copper between the 2,500 and 3,000 foot level. There is every reason to believe that the ore extends even deeper. Stone Brothers Construction Company obtained the mine three years ago with intention of mining silver, lead, zinc, and copper along with considerable tungsten. They are in the permitting process for reactivating the mine.

Excerpted from SCFM Symposium Paul Skinner's Presentation

April 26, 2008

Lone Pine, California

### Midwest Chapter submitted by Dave Straw

#### Midwest Chapter News

The Midwest Chapter has recently held field trips to quarries operated by Shelly Materials (was Stoneco, Inc) in both Auglaize and Lime City, Ohio. At the Auglaize quarry, some very nice gemmy crystals of sphalerite were found, and at Lime City, a lot of blue Celestine was collected by most people on the trip.

A symposium on the Central Kentucky mineral district is being organized by Alan Goldstein. It will be held Nov. 1-2, 2008 and be centered at Shaker Village near Harrodsburg, KY. The event will include field trips, a banquet with several speakers and a swap/sale. See our website <a href="www.indiana.edu/~minerals">www.indiana.edu/~minerals</a> for more information and how to join us.

We will also participate in Geofest at the Indiana State Museum in Indianapolis on Oct. 24-26.

### The Denver Gem and Mineral Show September 12 –14, 2008 Program Schedule

#### **Saturday**

10am: Show opens to public

1pm: Peter J. Modreski - Starting a Mineral Collection

2pm: Beth Simmons - Colorado Scientific Society's Collection - the Foundation of Colorado Museums

3pm: Ray Hill - The Land Beneath the World

4pm: Steven Veatch - From Mineral Strike to Meteor Strike: Guffey and the Freshwater Mining District,

Colorado

Saturday Night Special in the Palm Court of the Denver Merchandise Mart Main Building

6pm – 7:30pm: Silent Auction for the benefit of Rocks & Minerals magazine. Musical entertainment to be announced. (Refreshments and a cash bar)

7:30pm - 8pm: Awards Presentations

8pm - 9pm: Presentation by Mark I. Jacobson - Antero Aquamarines ... Minerals from the Mount Antero-White Mountain Region, Chaffee County, Colorado

#### Sunday

1pm: Panel organized by Richard Parsons - Alternatives to Mine Closures

2pm: Ray Hill - Mineral Treasures from the Mount Brussilof Mine, Radium Hot Springs, British Columbia, Canada

3pm: Presentation by Mark Cole - A History of Fluorescent Minerals from the Ilimaussaq Complex South Greenland

#### **National Officers**

#### **FM Leadership**

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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; 303-4639-9090.



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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 2008, your dues are overdue, and this might be the last newsletter you receive.

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#### 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 2008 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.