



President's Message

Dear Friends of Mineralogy,

The Tucson show was a just a little bit fabulous this year. Magnificent displays of minerals from the American Mineral Treasures project in conjunction with the publishing of a book of the same name made it perhaps a "once in a lifetime" event. The opportunity to view some of this country's most famous mineral specimens, all in one place, was a treat. If you missed it, you should at least buy the book – all the best pieces, all in one place, and you don't have to leave home. FM members Gloria Staebler and Wendell Wilson edited the book and they did a fantastic job.

The Board of Directors met in Tucson on a rainy Friday. In my opinion, the most important piece of work we accomplished was the establishment of "honorary membership" awards for people who have made outstanding contributions to FM. This award will be given infrequently and only for contributions above and beyond the normal amount of volunteerism we need from our members to be a successful organization. This year we selected three people for the award: Dr. Werner Lieber, Mrs. Kay Robertson, and Martin "Marty" Zinn. Dr. Lieber helped establish the best photo-

graph awards that have morphed into the award for best paper in *LapisEnglish*. Kay Robertson was instrumental in establishing the awards given to the best educational exhibits for individuals and institutions at the Tucson Show. Marty Zinn has always heartily supported FM and routinely provides the room and reception for the FM annual membership meeting at the Tucson Show. The Board felt it was important to acknowledge these people who, through their actions, also acknowledge that FM is important. Honorary members will receive lifetime membership and a certificate acknowledging their contributions.

We established another award for best article in another publication. This will be given to the author who writes the best article in *Mineral News*. In order to better promote the hobby, the Board believes we need to support those publications that actively promote the hobby. Like the awards for best article in the other periodicals (*Rocks and Minerals*, *Mineralogical Record*, and *LapisEnglish*, *Mineral News* will also receive a \$200 award to help defray the cost of publication.

To see what else we've been up to, please peruse the minutes of

the meeting published in this newsletter. If you have suggestions or comments on how we can better accomplish the goals of FM, please contact your chapter president, any local director, or me. Their contact information is also listed in this newsletter along with mine.

I hope spring is arriving in your part of the country. It's time for the snow to melt off the outcrops and the frost to have finished heaving those geodes, agates, or fossils out of the soils. Perhaps it's time to buy new hammers and chisels, lay in a supply of mineral wrap, and check the collecting pack for the proper supplies. The time is now to obtain those maps of potential collecting sites and plan the collecting season's adventures. Get out there and have fun!

Virgil W. Lueth, President
vlueth@nmt.edu

Friends of Mineralogy 2008 Board Meeting Minutes
February 15, Innsuites Hotel

16 Board members were present

Call to Order—President Virgil Lueth called the meeting to order at 7:35 am

Minutes of the Last Meeting—The minutes from the 2007 meeting in Tucson were accepted as printed in the newsletter. The Board agreed to hold a second meeting in 2008 in conjunction with the Denver 2008 show. Details to be announced.

Treasurers Report—Regina Aumente read the Treasurer's report. FM had \$2600 in expenses and \$4000 in income in 2007. We currently have some \$17,700 in our bank accounts. Regina projects a budget for 2008 that is comparable to that of 2007. She would like another signer on the bank account and expressed disappointment with the rate of return on our CD and suggested that we look for a more favorable rate. The Treasurer's report was accepted as read.

Nominating Committee—Virgil reported for the Nominating committee. Eleven paper ballots were returned to Virgil and four to Carol Smith. Those 15 voters unanimously elected the entire slate of nominees to the Board. Virgil asked whether there was any desire on the part of the Board to downsize, but the consensus was that the size of the Board was fine as it now stands.

Awards—Julian Gray presented the 2007 FM best article award winners:

The award for *The Mineralogical Record* went to G. Favreau, J.E., Dietrich, N. Meisser, J. Brugger, L. Ait Haddouch and L. Maacha for "Famous Mineral Localities: Bou Azzer, Morocco" (v. 38, n. 5 p. 338).

The award for *Rocks and Minerals* (this was the toughest call because there were so many fine articles to choose from) went to S.M. Carlson, G.W. Robinson, M.J. Elder, J.A., Jaszczak, and T.J. Bornhorst for "Greenockite and associated Uranium-Vanadium minerals from the Huron River Uranium Prospect, Baraga County, Michigan" (v. 82, n. 4, p. 298).

The Werner Leiber Award for the best article in *extraLapis English* went to M. Weibel for "Rainbows, Harlequins and Pins Afire: Play of Color in Opal" (No. 10: Opal, p. 14).

Jose, Julian and Virgil agreed to do the judging to determine the best educational cases at the show. The winner for the best institutional case went to the Gemological Institute of America & Geo-Literary Society and for the best individual case went to Georg Gebhard. All of the award winners were given at the Saturday night TGMS banquet. Sharleen requested that Julian forward the awardees to her for inclusion in the ads that run in our affiliated publications.

The suggestion was made that FM establish a new award for the best article to appear in the *Mineral News*. Skip moved to establish the new award. The motion was seconded and unanimously accepted. As is the case with the other publication awards, a \$200 gift to Mineral News would accompany the award. The first award will be given in 2009 for the articles appearing in 2008.

Publicity—Sharleen Harvey reported that the full page offered us in *The Mineralogical Record* and the ¼ page offered in *Rocks and Minerals* are being kept updated with rotating content. She is likewise working with webmaster Jim Etzwiler to keep the website updated. She is trying to keep the AGI website updated with Symposia information, but requested that the chapters get symposium information to her in a timely manner so that there is ample time to get the word out. Sharleen announced that she is stepping down as publicity chair and from the Board. She has done a wonderful job, and it will be very difficult to replace her.

Website—Jim Etzwiler is doing a nice job with the web site, which is continuously expanding.

Newsletter—Virgil complimented Carol Smith's work on the newsletter, which is going out on a much more regular basis since Carol took over as editor.

FM Case—Bill Dameron put the FM case together this year. He asked for and got a volunteer to help him to dismantle the case at the end of the show.

Symposium—Julian Gray was very positive about this year's symposium. He had secured a good many speakers around the show theme "American Mineral Treasures." The 2009 show theme is "Mineral Oddities," and Julian is already beginning to plan for the symposium.

Affiliations—There were no MSA members present at the meeting, nor was Nelson Shaffer present to discuss our affiliation with AGI. Bill Dameron successfully established a new affiliation with Mineralogical Association of Canada. We need to list that affiliation in our newsletter and website and publicity needs to begin to maintain an ad in *Elements*.

Meetings and Socials—Regina reported that it is expensive to have the social and general meeting at the InnSuites, but that Marty Zinn would continue to subsidize the meetings at least in 2009. This year, the social cost \$530.00, all of which was paid for by Marty.

Honorary Membership—Virgil proposed that we establish an honorary, lifetime membership for "individuals providing outstanding service to the organization." Julian moved that the honorary membership be established. The motion was seconded and approved by the Board.

Virgil proposed offering honorary memberships in the first year to Marty Zinn, who has hosted our meetings and socials for many years, and to Werner Leiber, who makes a substantial financial contribution to FM each year along with establishing the mineral photography award that have been changed to the *extraLapis English* award. Bill Dameron then nominated Kay Robertson for establishing the educational case award and for her years of service to FM. It was unanimously agreed that all three would be given honorary, lifetime memberships.

Bill Dameron is having a plaque made for each, and Virgil is drafting letters to notify the recipients.

Symposia Support—Virgil requested \$300 to support the New Mexico Mineral Symposium. Pete Modreski moved that our financial support of that even continue and the Board agreed. Virgil abstained from voting.

Informal requests were made for FM to support the Minerals and Museums (M&M6) Meeting to be held at the Colorado School of Mines in Golden in September of this year. The meeting is looking for an organization to sponsor the poster session on opening night. As no formal request was made, no motion was made to support the event. The issue will be addressed via an email vote should a formal request for support be presented.

Chapter Reports—The Mississippi Valley chapter had some trouble getting their symposium organized in enough time to have it publicized, but they are trying to get better organized under the leadership of their new President Larry Nuele.

Pete Modreski read the Colorado chapter report. They had a successful 2½-day symposium in Leadville. Larry Havens in their new president.

The Pacific Northwest chapter held its 33rd Annual Symposium and Meeting in October. The theme was "Minerals of the Southwest." They also held their annual trip to Washington Pass, where several members "participating in the breaking up of an amazonite boulder at the milepost 164 locality."

Jose Santamaria reported that the Southeast chapter membership is growing around the TELLUS museum and while the growth is positive, there is some fear that it is becoming a Georgia chapter, without much representation from the rest of the southeast. They are, however, working on outreach. They are happily solvent and offered Marie Huizing a donation for the Rocks and Minerals color fund.

Regina noted that the chapters are very lax in getting their dues into national in a timely manner and asked that all of the chapter representatives ask their respective treasurers to get their dues into us in a more timely manner.

Adjournment—The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Gloria Staebler, Secretary

Pacific Northwest Chapter submitted by Wes Gannaway

We will be having a spring meeting at Western Washington University in Bellingham at the end of April. Our annual Washington Pass trip is scheduled for August 8, 9, and 10. We will meet at the Klipchuck Campground about 10 minutes drive east of the Washington Pass Summit. Details will be in the next newsletter. Our symposium is on schedule and more details will be in the next newsletter and flyers will be mailed out. Have a nice summer collecting. Wes Gannaway, NW Chapter

Midwest Chapter submitted by Dave Straw

Nelson Shaffer set up the Friends of Mineralogy booth at the Tucson show. It was manned by several people from various chapters throughout the show. Thanks to all who helped. Nelson was also in charge of setup and teardown of a display of Indiana minerals at Tucson. The materials for display were loaned by Peggy Fisherkeller at the Indiana State Museum in Indianapolis.

We have yet to hold any field trips, but several in Ohio and Indiana are being planned by Ernie Carlson. Also, Alan Goldstein is planning a symposium for November 1 & 2 on the Central Kentucky Mineral District. Headquarters will be at the Shaker Village near Harrodsburg, Kentucky. Current plans are for visits to two active quarries and several abandoned mine dumps. Emphasis will be on education. There will be a banquet Saturday evening with at least six speakers planned. Before the banquet there will be a swap and sale. Participants will be limited to 50 people. More information will be forthcoming later in the year.

All of our members who plan to participate in field trips will be updating their MSHA safety training at classes in the foreseeable future. We are looking forward to another great year.

Submitted by Dave Straw

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 16, 2008. 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).

MSA Policy Statement Open Comment Period: "Preservation of Natural History Collections: Minerals and Rocks"

At its Fall 2007 meeting the Mineralogical Society of America (MSA) Council approved a process for submitting, evaluating, and adopting position statements. MSA already has received a proposed position statement to review – from George E. Harlow, Society of Mineral Museum Professionals (SMMP) Representative to MSA and MSA member about the preservation of natural history collections. In the past year, several important mineral collections from universities and natural history museums have been disassembled and sold, and many others face an uncertain future. Such threats to historic mineral collections are all too frequent among universities, which typically lack a formal policy to deal with the irreplaceable specimens they house. As the largest international society of professionals who are dedicated to the study of geological specimens, the Mineralogical Society of America bears a special responsibility to protect our mineralogical heritage.

Proposed Position Statement

Mineral and rock collections are foundations for the study of our planet. We require their preservation. They serve as a record - often the only record -- of deposits and outcrops that offer unique insight into Earth's ancient history. Classic and type localities for minerals and rocks are rapidly disappearing as the result of mining, construction, and landfill practices that destroy geologically significant sites. Institutional collections frequently comprise the only extant samples of these scientific treasures. Colleges, universities, and museums that have sponsored the creation of geological collections also have a responsibility for maintaining them. This obligation includes sustaining the physical integrity of samples, organizing them within a professionally accepted intellectual framework, and making them accessible for scientific research and education. In the unfortunate event that the leadership at the curating institution deems the collection no longer relevant to the pursuit of the institution's mission, then the release of the collection must follow formal guidelines that best ensure the preservation and use of the collection as intended.

This statement was reviewed by the MSA Executive Committee, not to accept or reject it, but to determine if the topic falls within the purview of MSA, adoption will not pose an undue financial or legal risk to MSA, and the position statement meets an unquantifiable standard for reasonableness. The Executive Committee believes that it meets this minimal threshold and was approved. Upon approval by the Executive Committee, the statement is posted on the MSA website for 3 months for commentary by anyone. The Executive Committee will re-consider the statement in light of the public comments, and if and how the statement should be revised, before asking Council to consider and approve it. A position statement approved by the MSA Council becomes the organization's official stand on the issue of interest. Every 4 years, the Council will re-assess the statement.

MSA invites commentary by anyone, MSA member or not, on this draft statement until 31 May 2008. If you have an opinion, submit your thoughts (sorry, they can't be anonymous or profane) for posting on the MSA website along with the statement. It is hoped that comments will inform the discussions by members, the Executive Committee, and Council in the decision to accept, reject, or modify the statement once the 3-month commentary period is over (just in time for the Spring Council Meeting). The proposed statement and instructions for commenting are on the MSA website. More specifically, they are at "Proposed Policy Statements open for comments" in the left-hand column of <<http://www.minsocam.org/msa/policy.html>>.



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.

New Gem & Mineral Show in the Southeast

The southeastern United States is finally going to have an annual show or its many enthusiastic mineral, fossil, and gem dealers. The new mineral show will be located in Cartersville, Georgia, on August 15-17, 2008. Cartersville is 45 miles north of Atlanta, GA and 65 miles south of Chattanooga, TN. The show will be held in the Holiday Inn adjacent to the new Tellus Science Museum, formerly the Weinman Museum. Parking and admission are free. There is space for 90 mineral, fossil, meteorite, gem and jewelry dealers in first floor rooms, suites, ballrooms and lobby areas. The show is being conducted in coordination with the Tellus Science Museum. For more information on the show, contact Laura Delano by email at: ldandrfd@aol.com or by phone: 941-408-0362. The show is being produced by Martin Zinn Expositons, LLC, the same group that produces the Arizona, Colorado, East Coast, and West Coast Mineral and Fossil shows.



Photo by Bill Hutchinson, Colorado FM

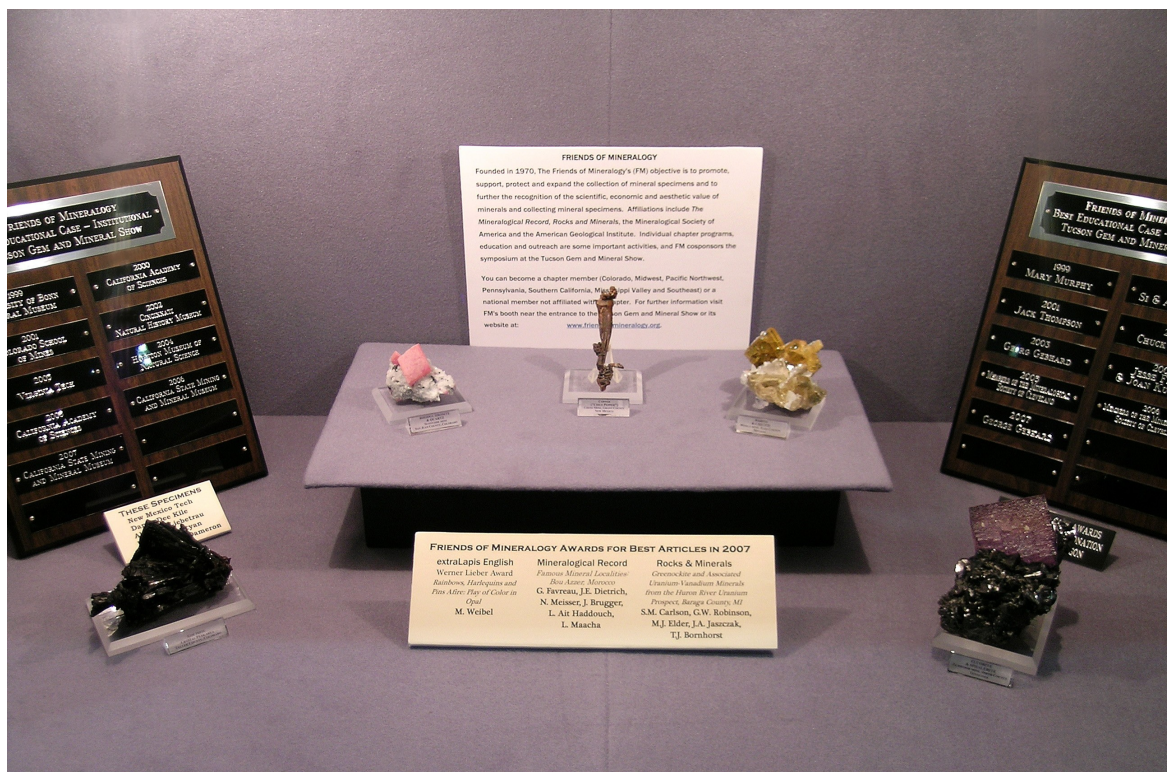


Photo by Bill Dameron, Pacific Northwest Chapter

National Officers

FM Leadership

President:	Virgil Lueth, New Mexico Tech, 801 Leroy Place, Socorro, NM 87801; wlueth@nmt.edu
Vice President:	Julian Gray, 524 Robin Lane S.E., Marietta, GA, 30067-7046; Julian.gray@comcast.net
Secretary:	Gloria Staebler, PO Box 263, East Hampton, CT 06424; gloria@lapisint.com
Treasurer:	Regina Aumente, 6 Santa Ana Loop, Placitas, NM 87043; raumente@aol.com
Editor:	Carol Smith, 1731 Daphne Street, Broomfield, CO 80020-1157, carolsmith72@msn.com
Web Master:	Jim Etzwiler; kd7bat@arrl.net
FM Web Address:	www.friendsofmineralogy.org
Past President:	Bill Dameron, 1609 NW 79th Circle, Vancouver, WA 98665; baritebill@aol.com

National Friends of Mineralogy Board of Directors

Term Expires	Name	email	Phone
2008	Ray Grant	raycyn@cox.net	(480) 814-9086
	Sharleen Harvey	bill-sharleenharvey@worldnet.att.net	503) 248-4194
	Allan Young	allanyoung@msn.com	(208) 343-7006
	Nelson Shaffer	shaffern@indiana.edu	(812) 855-2687
	Gloria Staebler	gloria@lithographie.org	(860) 267-1512
2009	James F. Hurlbut	jfhu@earthlink.net	(303) 279-7796
	Dan Kile	dekile@usgs.gov	(303) 948-2810
	Anthony J. Nikischer	info@excaliburmineral.com	(914) 739-1134
	Carol Smith	carolsmith72@msn.com	(303) 466-8723
	Art Soregaroli	arockdoc@telus.net	(604) 731-8946
2010	Regina Aumente	raumente@aol.com	(505) 867-0423
	Bill Dameron	baritebill@aol.com	(360) 546-1267
	Julian Gray	Julian.gray@comcast.net	(770) 973-3632
	Virgil Lueth	wvlueth@nmt.edu	(505) 835-5140
	William (Skip) Simmons	wsimmons@uno.edu	(504) 259-5105

Chapter Presidents (also Board Members) and ex-Officio Members

Colorado Chapter: President, Larry Havens, Lghavens@aol.com; P.O. Box 5276, Golden, CO 8-401-5276

Midwest Chapter: President, Dave Straw, 1555 Capri Lane, Richmond, IN 47374, (765) 966-4249, strawdl@aol.com; website www.indiana.edu/~minerals

Pacific Northwest Chapter: President, Wes Gannaway, 1604 Brookwood Dr., Ferndale, WA 98248, (360)384-4209, debnwes@comcast.net; website www.pnwfm.org

Pennsylvania Chapter: President, Doug Rambo, 316 Shipley Rd, Apt. 423, Wilmington, DE 19809, (302)739-9945, dram-bo417@comcast.net; Secretary, Juliet Reed, kgreed@aol.com; website: www.geocities.com/sajas.geo/FM/index.htm

Southern California Chapter: President, Bob Reynolds, 220 South Buena Vista St., Redlands, CA 92373-5129, (909) 792-3548 (H); (951) 781-7152 (B), breynolds220@verizon.net; Secretary, Jennifer Rohl, 212 Backs Lane, #C, Placentia, CA 92870; (909)781-9310, rohl@earthlink.net, website: www.mineralsocal.org/scfm/welcome.htm

Mississippi Valley Chapter: President: Larry Nuelle, breynolds220@verizon.net

Southeast Chapter: President, Anita Westlake, 1253 Spencer Avenue, East Point, GA 30344; (404) 761-7849; libawc@emory.edu; website: www.southeastfm.net

Rocks & Minerals Magazine: ex-Officio, Marie Huizing, rocksandminerals@fuse.net, (513) 574-7142

Mineralogical Record Magazine: ex-Officio, Wendell Wilson, minrec@earthlink.com, (520) 299-5274

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.



Friends of Mineralogy
c/o Carol Smith
1731 Daphne Street
Broomfield, CO 80020-1157

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
WWW.FRIENDSOFCMINERALOGY.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 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.