



January, 2009

President's Message

Dear Friends of Mineralogy,

Customarily, outgoing presidents look back on their tenures and reflect on what was accomplished (or not accomplished). Or they hope to write something profound and leave the membership excited about the organization. While reading a bit of Charles Dickens this holiday season (the Christmas Carol is a must read every year at our house), I was inspired to write a letter (based on the book) analyzing the ghosts of FM; past, present, and future. Unfortunately, I am not well versed in the past history of FM and what I do know comes mostly from folklore. The present is what it is and I don't want to call-out any Scrooges among the membership. Finally I am loath to try and predict the future of such a diverse organization. Apparently my predictive skills are quite poor, the evidence is apparent in the recent reports on my retirement portfolio.

Instead of A Christmas Carol, the opening lines of A Tale of Two Cities comes to mind...it was the best of times, it was the worst of times. During times of significant social or economic change (some might say stress) people often change habits and interests. That can be good or bad for mineral collecting.

I am anxious to see what transpires

at Tucson this year. Will as many people make the trip with the ailing economy? Are folks going to open their wallet to buy specimens? Will the economic pressures on the economy as whole force mineral prices down? Or will minerals, being the rare and "one of a kind" objects that they are, maintain value or become more expensive (like gold prices during economic downturns)? We can only wait and see how the "mineral economy" responds.

Will more collectors turn toward more frugal activities? Perhaps we'll see an upturn in self-collecting and greater interest in joining local mineral groups. Memberships in social and scientific societies are quite inexpensive given the benefits of membership. The opportunities to find worthwhile activities in such organizations are numerous as well as establishing rewarding social interactions. It might be time for us to actively welcome more people into the collecting "fold" so to speak. Share your hobby with your neighbors and co-workers. Perhaps in these "worst of times" we introduce more folks to the good times of mineral collecting.

My goal as president of FM was to accomplish at least one thing a year and to leave the organization still in good financial shape. I feel I managed that, but

still feel a bit saddened by things not accomplished. Work, personal life, and other commitments all conspire to temper the enthusiasm one has when entering the position. Life's realities force you to budget your time and it becomes apparent where your real priorities lie. It has been a pleasure to serve the membership of FM and meet so many of you. I hope you contemplate how you might help the organization; after all, the success of FM depends on its members.

I wish you all a happy, healthy, and rewarding New Year.

Virgil W. Lueth, President

Annual FM General Meeting and Social

will be held Tuesday, Feb. 10th, 4 - 6 p.m., in the restaurant at InnSuites. There will be a short business meeting followed by refreshments and a chance to socialize. All FM members are encouraged to take this opportunity to hear what is going on, voice their opinions, and get a chance to meet other members.

Pacific Northwest Chapter submitted by Wes Gannaway

Our 2009 Symposium was a success with a larger number of members attending. Our speakers were all excellent. The Canada theme was reflected in the displays, which were all exceptional. Sharleen Harvey “retired” from her active participation in the symposium but will still grace us with her presence in the future. Sharleen has been active in the Northwest Chapter since her role in the founding of the Friends of Mineralogy.

The theme for our next symposium will be “Africa”, and will be held at the Red Lion Inn in Kelso, Washington on October 16, 17, and 18, 2009.

The annual field trip to Washington Pass took place on August 8, 9, and 10, and was a success as far as collecting went. In spite of the weather (a heavy rainstorm), nice specimens were collected at the pass. Camping at the Klipchuck Campground near Mazama, Washington was a bit subdued as several members bailed out their tents. Hopefully the weather will be more co-operative next year when we meet again. The 2009 meet will be on August 7, 8, and 9. Everyone is welcome.

Southeast Chapter

The SE Chapter is actively seeking a new President to take the helm. Anita Westlake, current President, is “retiring” after serving two terms.

Excitement is building as our symposiums attract more and more attendees. This past summer our annual symposium was graciously hosted by the new Tellus: Northwest Georgia Science Museum (formerly Weinman Mineral Museum) in Cartersville, GA.

Attendance at our Gemstones” symposium was at an all-time high partly because it was held in conjunction with Marty Zinn’s 1st annual Southeastern Gem and Mineral Show in Cartersville, and was purposefully located right next to the new museum.

Many members of the SE Chapter have worked long hours as volunteers, helping to get Tellus up and running by opening day: January 12, 2008. We have installed cases, cleaned specimens, edited labels; you name it. Because the SE Chapter has enjoyed a great relationship with the museum, we have mutually benefited from our association throughout the years. I highly recommend and encourage other chapters to get involved with their local science museums.

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!

January 19, 2009

To: Friends of Mineralogy

Re: Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee for the Friends of Mineralogy is pleased to submit the following nominations for members of the Board of Directors for the period of 2009-2012:

Jim Etzwiler is an aerospace engineer by training. He has been active in collecting and studying minerals for about the last 15 years. He started out in a local study group which introduced him to the Pacific Northwest Friends of Mineralogy. Participation at several levels increased and he later was elected as president of PNWFM. At the national level he has attended most of the membership and board meetings for the last eight years representing PNWFM and for about the last four years he has been maintaining the National FM web site. Jim also participates in the Pacific Northwest Micro-Mineral Study group and the Society of Mineral Museum Professionals.

James F. Hurlbut has been an active volunteer at the Denver Museum of Natural History for over 20 years and is well known for his work on the Paul Seel micromount collection. He has many publications on minerals to his credit and has taught a continuing education course on the rocks and minerals of Colorado. Jim is past president of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies, immediate past treasurer of FM, and a member of many mineralogical and scientific organizations.

Mark Mauthner has been involved with minerals all his life. He was born in a mining camp in Canada's Yukon Territory and for the last 20 years, Mark has been predominantly occupied with mineral museum activities, beginning with the M.Y. Williams Geological Museum at the University of British Columbia (where he also earned his MSc in geology) as assistant curator. Mark spent a year as an exploration geologist before getting involved in the conception, design, building and serving as director/curator of the Pacific Mineral Museum. In 2002, Mark was lured to the U.S. as an associate curator of the Houston Museum of Natural Science and more recently as assistant curator and data management specialist for the Gemological Institute of America Museum. In addition to being involved in designing and developing all of the Pacific Mineral Museum's exhibits, Mark curated a major gold exhibit at the PMM and co-curated another major gold exhibit at the Houston Museum of Natural Science. During his years of museum involvement he has also produced over 30 show exhibits, given more than 40 lectures, taught at a prospecting school, given grade school talks and written many articles on minerals and mineral localities

Dr. Art Soregaroli is a retired geologist who has served in a wide variety of significant positions in the private sector with brief forays into academia and the Geological Survey of Canada. He is still an active consultant to the private sector. Art is a collector and a long-time director of FM and past president of the British Columbia Museum of Mining.

Carol Smith is former president of the Greater Denver Area Gem and Mineral Council. Her interest in minerals dates to 1976, when she met her husband Bill. They have collaborated on a number of magazine articles for *Rocks and Minerals* and *The Mineralogical Record*. She worked in local government as a computer programmer/analyst and has been involved in Democratic politics in Boulder County, Colorado. Carol grows orchids and is addicted to murder mysteries.

The above nominees have all expressed their willingness to serve on the Board of Directors, if elected. A ballot for the election of directors is included with this report for publication (facing page); to be completed by members and mailed prior to February 1, 2006, to the Vice-President of FM, Virgil Lueth, New Mexico Institute of Mining & Technology, 801 Leroy Place, Socorro, NM 87801. **You may also vote via email. Please email your vote to: smith72@comcast.net**

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Smith, Anthony Nikischer, and Art Soregaroli

FM Nominating Committee

Southern California Chapter submitted by Jennifer Rohl

Museum Assistance Program

August was a great time to be in the Mojave Desert – particularly in a cool museum! The Southern California Friends of Mineralogy (SCFM) convened for a curatorial work day at the Mojave River Valley Museum (MRVM) in Barstow.

The group of SCFM members included four college students (Danielle, Megan, Cathy and Dan). It focused on the inventory of exhibit specimens, collections, and geology storage organization. Two tall exhibit cases contained 72 cubic feet of minerals from one donor. The challenge was to inventory the specimens, affix an accession number to each, enter data on a spread sheet, and return the specimens to the cases in educational groupings.

The remainder of the same collection was not on exhibit, and these specimens were identified and numbered, or placed in a category with recommendations for deaccessioning. A third task involved organizing the geologic specimens in storage. Rocks were sorted from the minerals, and the minerals arranged in a modified Dana system. The group was able to complete these three tasks and depart by six PM with a real feeling of accomplishment! (R. Reynolds)

Donations to Museums

The SCFM museum assistance program has involved some of our members who help museums even though they can not drive distances from their homes. Several members donate duplicate and extra mineral specimens to the SCFM for distribution to southern California museums. One member donated approximately 120 specimens, which southern California about their interest in receiving geographically local specimens or specimens from a wider area. (R. Reynolds)

SCFM Fall Mineral Locality Symposium

The SCFM held its fall symposium at the Desert Discovery Center in Barstow, California. The topic was “Tools for Mineral Identification”. Presentations included: “Lasers in Geology: A Two-Part Analysis of Lasers for Destructive and Non-Destructive Testing of Rocks and Minerals” by Megan Shadrick (CSUSB); “An Introduction to Mineral Identification Via X-Ray Diffractometer (XRD): The Powder Diffraction Method and Common Applications” by Danielle Montgomery (CSUSB); “An Overview of the Method and Applications of Whole Rock Analysis of San Antonio Canyon's Igneous Rock Assemblage through X-Ray Fluorescence”, by Daniel Heaton (SDSU); and “Describing New Minerals: Tools, Techniques and Problems” by Dr. Tony Kampf, Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History. Abstracts of the first three presentations are on the SCFM website, <http://www.mineralsocal.org/scfm/index.html>.

Two field trips were included as a part of the symposium: a brief Saturday afternoon field trip to the A. O. Prospects near Lenwood for desclozite and vanadanite and a Sunday field trip to the famous Blue Bell Claims near Baker for linarite, caledonite and many other rare minerals.

2008 Best Article Awards

Each year, Friends of Mineralogy recognizes the best article in *Rocks and Minerals*, *Mineralogical Record*, and *extraLapis English*. This year we are also selecting the best article in the *Mineral News*. The authors will be recognized at the Tucson Gem and Mineral Society Show during the banquet Saturday evening, February 14, 2009. The 2008 Best Article winners are as follows:

Rocks and Minerals: J. Marty and W. Wise, *Minerals from the Hidden Treasure and other mines in the Ophir District, Tooele County, Utah*, v. 83, n. 1

Mineralogical Record: D. London, *Barite Roses of Oklahoma*, v. 39, n. 4

extraLapis English: P. Powhat, *The Garnet Group: fifteen species, endless variety*, *extraLapis English* no. 9 Garnet.

Mineral News: J. Rumrill, *Splitters vs. Lumpers and their influence on species creation*, v. 24, n. 3

The 30th Annual
FM-MSA-TGMS
Tucson Mineralogical Symposium Schedule

Mineral Oddities

Saturday, February 14, 2008
Tucson Convention Center

- 10:00 a.m. Introductory Remarks
Symposium Co-Chairs Julian C. Gray and Robert B. Cook
- 10:05 An unusual and wide variety of smithsonite pseudomorphs from the
Magdalena district, New Mexico
Virgil W. Lueth and Robert W. Eveleth
- 10:30 Sakura Ishi (“ Cherry Blossom Stones ”) from Kameoka, Japan: Mica
pseudomorphs of complex cordierite-indialite intergrowths
John Rakovan
- 11:00 Among the pyrites: Odd Faces, Strange Habits, Peculiar Associations
and Twins Gone Wild
Bob Morgan
- 11:30 Agate, opal, and thundereggs, how they form and why, a perennial puzzle
Pete Modreski

FM Board of Directors Meeting

Fri. Feb. 13th, 7:30 a.m.

In the Lounge at InnSuites

All board members and chapter presidents or representatives should plan to attend, and should
RSVP to me (RAumente@aol.com or 505-867-0423).

Midwest Chapter submitted by Dave Straw

In September, Ernie Carlson led the Midwest Chapter on a field trip to the Graymont Dolime Quarry in Genoa, Ohio. Minerals found included celestine and fluorite. Also in September, we held a meeting at the Indy 500 Club show in Greenfield, Indiana. Ed Edington presented a talk and slide show on the geodes found near Trances, Mexico. Ed has found that some of these geodes include quartz formations that appear similar to faden quartz. In October we participated in the Geofest show at the Indiana State Museum in Indianapolis. Nelson Shaffer provided a new Friends of Mineralogy display. Our last meeting of the year was held in November at the Micro-mounters Symposium at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. We held elections at this meeting and next year Bob Harman will be our new President. During the last quarter of the year the Midwest Chapter also provided support to both the Indiana State Museum and the Clement Fluorite Museum in Marion, Kentucky.

Volunteers are needed to man the FM Information Booth in the Galleria during the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show. If you can spare an hour or two to meet new people and spread the word about FM, contact Nelson Shaffer at shaffern@indiana.edu

Mineral News was founded more than twenty years ago by Lanny Ream of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, author of the book "Idaho Minerals". Over the years, it developed a following of avid mineral collectors seeking timely information about new finds and other items of interest to the collector community. With the purchase of Mineral News by Excalibur Mineral Corp in 2003, the monthly newsletter has expanded to sixteen (16) pages a month, and it has added significant features such as frequent book reviews, photographs to supplement new mineral descriptions and a greater focus of articles directed to descriptive mineralogy.

For Subscriptions, contact

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BALLOT for ELECTION of FRIENDS of MINERALOGY NATIONAL DIRECTORS 2006 *(vote for five)*

___ Jim Etwiler

___ Jim Hurlbut

___ Mark Mauthner

___ Art Soregaroli

___ Carol Smith

(Other) _____ (Other) _____

Mail by Feb. 1, 2006: Virgil Lueth, New Mexico Institute of Mining & Technology, 801 Leroy Place, Socorro, NM 87801

or **email your ballot by Feb. 1, 2006 to:** smith72@comcast.net

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
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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
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) 439-9090
	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	wlueth@nmt.edu	(505) 835-5140
	William (Skip) Simmons	wsimmons@uno.edu	(504) 259-5105
2011	Ray Grant	raycyn@cox.net	(480) 814-9086
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	Allan Young	allanyoung@msn.com	(208) 343-7006
	Nelson Shaffer	shaffern@indiana.edu	(812) 855-2687
	Gloria Staebler	gloria@lithographie.org	(860) 267-1512

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, Bob Harman; website www.indiana.edu/~minerals

Pacific Northwest Chapter: President, Wes Gannaway, 1604 Brookwood Dr., Ferndale, WA 98248, (360)384-42B9, debnwes@comcast.net; website www.pnwfm.org

Pennsylvania Chapter: President, Doug Rambo, 316 Shipley Rd, Apt. 423, Wilmington, DE 19809, (302)739-9945, drambo417@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), reynolds220@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, reynolds220@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; 303-4639-9090.



Friends of Mineralogy
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WE'RE ON THE WEB!
WWW.FRIENDSOFCRYSTALS.ORG

Please check the year in the upper right hand corner of the your mailing label. If it is any number less than 2009, 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 we beg, plead and cajole you to remit your dues for the coming year. National members please send your check for \$11 to the treasurer, Regina Aumente, 6 Santa Ana Loop, Placitas, NM 87043. Chapters, please send your updated membership lists and dues payments as soon as possible. Your continuing support is needed so that we can afford to communicate with members, provide donations for Chapter symposia, offer awards at the Tucson show, and in other ways provide encouragement for mineral collectors.