It is finally field collecting season in North America. For those not fortunate enough to live in the southwestern part of the continent these summer months provide a brief opportunity to personally collect material for one’s own collection. Unfortunately, this is proving to be more and more difficult. In the last 40 years, the accessible collecting sites have been shrinking rapidly. Many good localities on public lands have been placed under claim due to the increase of value of mineral specimens. Federal and State lands are being removed from collecting by regulation in much of the country. Access roads are disappearing due to lack of funding for improvements. Environmental and protectionist lobbies are strong and very effective in blocking public access and multiple use of lands. Many private lands, mines, and quarries which used to welcome or at least tolerate collecting are now posted due to owners’ liabilities. Environmental regulations have forced reclamation on previously productive mine dumps and safety concerns are causing many underground mines to have portals sealed.

A few years ago almost anywhere in the country, one could choose from a half dozen places within an hour drive of home to spend an afternoon picking up rocks. Now most trips involve planning, securing permission, and increased effort, not to mention a day’s paycheck in gas. All that being said, those who are dedicated still manage. Fee digs are becoming more popular. Claim jumping and covert collecting on public lands still goes on. Any young collector who is reasonably successful soon realizes that most trips out are to private or protected land and that low profile is the best policy. Many of the country’s best field collectors remain unknown for this reason. Get out there and bang some rock.
NATIONAL OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: Allan Young, 315 East Carter St., Boise, ID 83706; allanyoung@msn.com
VICE PRESIDENT: Gloria Staebler, PO Box 11613, Denver, CO 80211; gloria@lithographie.org
SECRETARY: Mark Mauthner, 1737 San Pablo Dr., San Marcos, CA 92078; mmauthner@gmail.com
TREASURER: Carol Smith, 1731 Daphne St., Bloomfield, CO 80021; smith72@comcast.net
NEWLETTER EDITOR: John Lindell, 25714 26th Ave. S.E., Ravensdale, WA 98051; lindell4@aol.com
WEBMASTER: Jim Etzwiler, 19011 312th Ave NE, Duvall, WA 98019; kd7bat@arrl.net
PAST PRESIDENT: Julian Gray, 524 Robin Lane S.E., Marietta, GA 30067; julian.gray@comcast.net

NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Term expires 2012:
  Jim Etzwiler; kd7bat@arrl.net
  Jim Hurlbut; jfh@earthlink.net
  Mark Mauthner; mmauthner@gmail.com
  John Lindell; lindell4@aol.com

Term expires 2013:
  Julian Gray; julian.gray@comcast.net
  Virgil Lueth; wvlueh@nmt.edu
  Regina Aumente; RAumente@aol.com
  Carol Smith; smith72@comcast.net

Term expires 2014:
  Allan Young; allanyoung@msn.com
  Gloria Staebler; gloria@lithographie.org
  Aaron Weiting; pdxpounder@hotmail.com
  Nelson Shaffer; shaffern@indiana.edu

CHAPTER PRESIDENTS (ALSO BOARD MEMBERS)

COLORADO CHAPTER: Pete Modreski; pmodreski@aol.com
MIDWEST CHAPTER: Bob Harman; bobannhar@aol.com
PACIFIC NORTHWEST CHAPTER: Bob Meyer; pyrite111@hotmail.com
PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER: Arnold Mogal; pioche@verizon.net
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER: Bob Reynolds; rreynolds220@comcast.net
MISSISSIPPI VALLEY CHAPTER: Larry Nuelle; lnuelle@shawneelink.net

EX-OFFICIO BOARD MEMBERS

ROCKS & MINERALS MAGAZINE: Marie Huizing; rocksandminerals@fuse.net
MINERALOGICAL RECORD MAGAZINE: Wendell Wilson; minrecord@comcast.net
MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA: Alex Speer; j_a_speer@minsocam.org
FM NATIONAL BOARD WILL MEET IN SEPTEMBER IN DENVER

Friends of Mineralogy National Board of Directors will meet at Denver in conjunction with the Denver Mineral Show. The meeting will be held on Friday, September 16 at 3:30pm at the Denver Merchandise Mart. Interested members are encouraged to attend. This is a good opportunity for board members, chapter representatives, committee members and club members at large to voice issues and concerns and to report on activities.

NATIONAL DUES

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, Carol Smith, 1731 Daphne Street, Broomfield, CO 80020-1157 (mail: smith72@comcast.net). 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.

Elbaite from the Oceanview Mine, San Diego Co., California. Photo by Mark Mauthner.
FM LOBBIES FOR MINERAL COLLECTORS

Friends of Mineralogy President, Allan Young has long been an advocate of maintaining access to public lands for recreational mineral collecting. This is consistent with the goals of FM. A letter was recently sent to the State of New Mexico expressing concerns over the planned closure of the New Mexico Rockhound State Park. Hopefully this statement addressing the issue will help keep the park open. The letter and the New Mexico Governor’s letter in response appear below.

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State of New Mexico
Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department
State Parks Division
1220 S. St. Francis Drive
P. O. Box 1147
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Re: Rockhound State Park Draft Management Plan

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Friends of Mineralogy is a not-for-profit national organization of mineral collectors, educators, museum curators and scientists. Founded in 1978, it is devoted to promoting, supporting, protecting and expanding the collection of mineral specimens, and to furthering the recognition of the scientific, economic and aesthetic value of minerals.

We were surprised and concerned to learn of your plans to disallow rockhounding in Rockhound State Park, a place that was originally established for just that purpose. Rockhounding is a wholesome recreational activity, just as is hiking, camping, mountain biking, rock climbing, etc. It is one that the entire family can enjoy, and can be particularly educational for children. Rockhound State Park has provided the public with an opportunity that not many such places in the United States have. Many tourists have made it a point to stop there because of this rare opportunity. The pleasure and educational benefits it provides the public is a wise use of this resource, and one that the State should embrace instead of eliminate. On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Friends of Mineralogy, I therefore urge you to reconsider your plans to eliminate rockhounding from this park.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Allan Young, President
Friends of Mineralogy
310 East Carter Street
Boise, ID 83706
allanyoung@msn.com

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State of New Mexico

Susana Martinez
Governor

April 1, 2011

Mr. Allan Young
President
Friends of Mineralogy
315 East Carter Street
Boise, Idaho 83706-5274

Dear Mr. Young,

Thank you for your recent correspondence regarding your concerns. I appreciate you bringing this to my attention.

Given the nature of your inquiry, I have forwarded your letter to the Energy, Minerals & Natural Resources Department, office of the Cabinet Secretary. This office can be reached at (505) 476-3200.

I trust that you will be hearing from the Energy, Minerals & Natural Resources Department in the near future to help address your concerns. Thank you again for contacting me and allowing me the opportunity to be of service.

Sincerely,

Susana Martinez
Governor

SMtv
GOD AND THE EPA

The following was entered into the Congressional Record No.155 part III, (Proceedings and debates of the 93rd Congress) by The Honorable Andrew J Hinshaw, House of Representatives.

In the beginning God created heaven and earth. He was faced with a class action suit for failing to file an environmental impact statement with HEPA (Heavenly Environmental Protection Agency), an angelically staffed agency dedicated to keeping the universe pollution free.

Upon completion of his construction permit application and environmental impact statement, God appeared before the HEPA Council to answer questions. When asked why he began these projects in the first place, he simply replied that he liked to be creative. This was not considered adequate reasoning and he would be required to substantiate this further. HEPA was unable to see any practical use for earth since “the earth was void and empty and darkness was upon the face of the deep”.

Then God said: “LET THERE BE LIGHT”. He should never have brought up this point since one member of the Council was active in the Sierra-angel Club and immediately protested, asking “how was the light to be made?” Would there be strip mining? What about thermal pollution? Air pollution? God explained the light would come from a huge ball of fire. Nobody on the Council really understood this but it was provisionally accepted assuming (1) there would be no smog or smoke resulting from the ball of fire, (2) a separate burning permit would be required and (3) since continuous light would be a waste of energy it should be dark at least one-half of the time. So God agreed to divide light and darkness and he would call the light Day and the darkness Night. (The Council expressed no interest with in-house semantics.)

When asked how the earth would be covered, God said, “Let there be firmament made amidst the waters: and let it divide the waters from the waters”. One ecologically radical Council member accused him of double talk, but the Council tabled action since God would be required to first file for a permit from the ABLM (Angellic Bureau of Land Management) and further would be required to obtain water permits from appropriate agencies involved.

The Council asked if there would be only water and firmament and God said, “Let the earth bring forth the green herb, and such as may seed, the fruit tree yielding fruit after its kind, which may have seeded itself upon the earth”. The Council agreed, as long as native seed would be used. About future development God also said, “Let the waters bring forth the creeping creatures having life, and the fowl that may fly over the earth”. Here again, the Council took no formal action since this would require approval of the Game and Fish Commission coordinated with the Heavenly Wildlife Federation and Audubongelic Society.

It appeared everything was in order until God stated he wanted to complete the project in six days, at which time he was advised by the Council that his timing was completely out of the question…..the HEPA would require a minimum of 180 days to review the application and environmental impact statement, then there would be public hearings. It would take 10 to 12 months before a permit could be granted.

And God said, “TO HELL WITH IT…..”
The Rice Northwest Museum of Rocks and Minerals held a retirement party for Curator Rudy Tschernich on Saturday, April 30th. Approximately 150 friends and associates attended and enjoyed cake, coffee, and visiting with Rudy. “Fred” Ramstad, member of the museum’s Board of Directors, presented Rudy a plaque honoring him for his lifetime of service in the field of mineralogy. She also read a letter of appreciation from Sharleen Harvey, Rice Museum Co-Founder.

“I first met Rudy Tschernich on a roadside covered with basalt boulders filled with zeolites near Goble, Oregon. He was just a college age kid then, with a passion for zeolites. It was a weekend outing with my parents, my husband and kids, Rudy and John Cowles with his microscope. We had a great time and found some neat specimens. It was the first outing of many, many, over the years with these same folks and dozens of others. Rudy and John Cowles, together, generated unending enthusiasm for field collecting in the Northwest and also for the identification, care and preparation of the specimens collected.

When the Friends of Mineralogy came to the Pacific Northwest, Rudy was among the small group that formed the Pacific Northwest Chapter and was best known for his pickup’s license plate “ZEOLITE”. I don’t know where that license plate is now. I seem to remember that it was sold at one of the Friends of Mineralogy symposium auctions.

At the time the Rices were making decisions about the future of their collection and their desire to keep the collection intact, Rudy was the first to write them a letter, encouraging them to form a museum where all of the mineral collectors in the Pacific Northwest could participate and enjoy. That letter had a profound influence on my parent’s decision to found the Rice Museum.

After the Rices passed away, I was left with the job of caring for the collection. Within a couple of years, I began having difficulty with my sight and hearing and my husband wanted to take his arthritis to Arizona for the winters. It was time for me to find someone else to care for the collections. Because of his passion for the minerals, the museum, the profession, and the hobby, I knew Rudy would be my first choice. I asked him if he would be interested. He told me that he would be retiring from the Post Office in a couple of years and after that, would like to have the job. Rudy brought his tremendous knowledge and skills to the museum. His generosity, many talents, and perseverance literally produced the Northwest Minerals Gallery, so named upon his insistence, to let the world know what wonderful mineral specimens are found in the Pacific Northwest. The Rice Museum and all of its visitors will forever be grateful and proud that the Rice Museum houses the Rudy Tschernich collection of Zeolites.”

Sharleen Harvey, Co-Founder
Rice NW Museum of Rocks and Minerals
ANNOUNCEMENT: JOB OPENING

MUSEUM CURATOR
RICE NORTHWEST MUSEUM OF ROCKS AND MINERALS
Hillsboro, Oregon

The Rice Northwest Museum of Rocks and Minerals is a private non-profit IRS 501(c)3 operating foundation, located in the former residence of Richard and Helen Rice, a facility that is listed on the National Register of Historic Sites. The museum houses one of the finest mineral collections in the Pacific Northwest. It features superb collections of crystallized minerals, various lapidary arts, fossils, fluorescent minerals, and an outstanding teaching collection of meteorites developed by the Cascadia Meteorite Laboratory of Portland State University.

To curate the collections, The Rice Museum is seeking an energetic, talented professional who has a proven record of accepting new ideas and working cooperatively within a group setting with colleagues, supervisors and subordinates to advance institutional goals while maintaining excellent interpersonal relations.

The Curator is responsible for the organization, documentation, and presentation of the museum’s collections, the purchase of new acquisitions, the receiving and processing of specimen donations, development of the educational program including the instruction of varying numbers of part-time employees and volunteers. In addition, this person is directed by the Board of Directors to work with the Museum Director in recruiting volunteers, fund raising, special events, and outreach to the local community. The museum maintains a strong educational program for local schools, home school students, youth groups, and individuals.

QUALIFICATIONS:

BS degree in a natural science field (mineralogy and/or geology), or extensive knowledge and experience in the management of earth science collections.
Curator should be qualified to be on Board of Directors and willing to perform duties associated with that position, including but not limited to, participation in budget planning and projections and fund raising.
Ability to manage and direct subordinates and volunteers and to recruit and train volunteers.
Experience and comfort with, and aptitude for, small office computer software programs is required, as is some familiarity with database software. Experience with MS Office products preferred, and knowledge of Superbase software for collection catalogue helpful.
Experience in photography, specifically of mineral specimens, is preferred.
Must have basic experience in the cleaning, trimming, and preservation of earth science specimens.
It is necessary for the successful candidate to have the physical ability to do basic bending, stooping, and climbing, as well as the strength to lift up to fifty pounds.
Must have the ability to effectively communicate with a wide variety of audiences, students, teachers, business professionals, and the general public; and to plan, prepare and present programs and displays for various age groups, gem and mineral shows, school science fairs and other community events.
With Museum support, must maintain membership in appropriate professional organizations and be knowledgeable about their guidelines.
Special conditions:

The Curator is prohibited from having a second job or a business of selling minerals.
All minerals, gems, or books given to the curator are considered property of the museum.
If the Curator has a personal mineral collection, expansion is limited while in service of the museum. Personal field collected specimens, acquired on Curator’s personal time, are allowed. Personal acquisition of any other specimens requires Board of Directors knowledge and approval.

This is a full time position; salary commensurate with experience, plus benefits. Review of applications begins immediately and continues until the position is filled. Applicants should send a cover letter, resume, and salary history to (no phone calls or faxes):

Rice Northwest Museum of Rocks and Minerals
Attention: Melena Wallace, Corporate Secretary
20270 SW Pecan St., Aloha, Oregon 97006
Review of the Spring Mineral Locality Symposium

March 19, 2011
Fallbrook Gem & Mineral Society Museum
Fallbrook, CA

San Diego County, Mineral and Mining History, Garth Bricker, FGMSC
Garth Bricker grew up in the Fallbrook area and took part in mining some of the pegmatites as a young man. He particularly remembered being present at the White Queen mine when giant quartz crystals, aquamarine and morganite were discovered in one of the pockets.

The Future of Rock Hounding: Petrified Pups Program, John Printz, WGMSC
John Printz described a program developed by the Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club to engage the enthusiasm of children in the rock hounding activity. Participating youngsters can earn a variety of badges and participate in field trips to collecting localities. This program has helped increase club membership and has introduced the hobby to a whole new generation.

The Pala Chief Mine, Bob Dawson
Bob Dawson discussed the history of the Pala Chief Mine and what he is mining today. His presentation was an introduction to Sunday's field trip.

A silent auction was held after the presentations where participants purchased a variety of minerals donated by members. Some of the specimens included: smokey quartz from the Oceanview mine in Pala, fluorite from New Mexico, malachite with quartz and barite, and grossular garnet.

Afternoon field trip — “All that Glitters”, San Diego Museum of Natural History
After lunch about 20 of the 50 symposium attendees drove down to see the San Diego Museum of Natural History's "All That Glitters", a stunning selection of spectacular natural mineral crystals, exquisite jewelry and works of art (April 2010 – May 2011).
Field Trip – Pala Chief Mine

March 20, 2011

There were 19 attendees. We met Bob Dawson at Magee Road in Pala. He led us through several levels of the mine, explaining the composition of the pegmatite and how he follows the signs of mineralization and stringers to find gem-bearing pockets. We spent 4 hours screening and digging in a tailing pile at the portal to the lowest level where he is currently tunneling. One person found a football-sized quartz crystal. Others found nice pieces of aquamarine, spodumene/kunzite, tourmaline (including one really nice terminated spar), tourmalinated quartz and interesting feldspar crystals.
Field Trip #2 – Pala Chief Mine

Sunday, April 17

26 attendees led by Bob Dawson, Dr. Don Buchanan and Dr. Michael McKibben, including 14 Valley College geology students and 9 mineralogy students from University of California, Riverside. Screens for working Pala Chief Mine dump were provided by SCFM & FGMS. Water was provided to wash the clay and dirt from the potential specimens.

Some of the mineral specimens recovered from both trips included: tourmalinated quartz, schorl, aquamarine, morganite, cleavelandite, clear beryl, kunzite, and pink tourmaline.

San Bernardino Valley College students with Dr. Don Buchanan

UC Riverside students with Dr. Michael McKibben

Bob Harman, Midwest Chapter President had a two case display of Indiana geodes at the recent Cincinnati show. Other chapter members also displayed at this show which is well known for it’s high quality displays each year.

Members of the Chapter have gone on several field trips to regional quarries this spring with several significant finds by lucky collectors.

Peggy Fisherkeller of Indianapolis is the new chapter treasurer after the untimely passing in March of Len Gritzer the previous treasurer.

Respectfully submitted, Bob Harman, President.
The Rice Northwest Museum of Rocks and Minerals held a retirement party for Curator Rudy Tschernich on Saturday, April 30th. Rudy is a founding member of the Pacific Northwest chapter of FM and is still very active in the group. Approximately 150 friends and associates attended the event. “Fred” Ramstad, member of the museum’s Board of Directors, presented Rudy with a plaque honoring him for his lifetime of service in the field of mineralogy. She also read a letter of appreciation from Sharleen Harvey, Rice Museum Co-Founder. Rudy has decided that his next project will be to compile a collecting history and mineralogy of the Washington Pass area Golden Horn Batholith.

Another Seattle Mineral Market has come and gone, the fourth, and this one brought a full cadre of dealers, with all available spaces filled. Attendance was also brisk, and dealers reported mixed results as to their level of sales. Despite competition this year from the West Coast Mineral Show in Southern California and the NCMA meeting, both held on the same weekend, the Seattle Mineral Market seems to be gaining traction, and attendees and dealers came from across the United States and Canada to attend the show. The show was significant from the standpoint of PNWFM as well. About 30 percent of the members were able to make it to the show and attended the general business meeting in the afternoon for the second year in a row.
Everything is a go for the August 12 – 14, WA Pass Clean Up Campout. Friday night there will be a happy hour at camp! Saturday morning is designated for working. On both Friday and Saturday nights members will go up with the UV lights to look for zektzerite. Saturday night will be a pot luck dinner for all. Bring repellant and cortisone crème for the nasty bugs. Klipchuck Campground is near mp174 about 8 miles from the summit.

Work continues on the 37th Annual Symposium to be held October 14-16 in Kelso, Washington. The theme will be “Famous Mineral Localities of Mexico” and will feature speakers Dr. Terry Wallace, Dr. Peter Megaw, and Tom Moore. At least 16 displays will feature Mexican minerals from some of the best collections in the PNW including the Rice Museum. Main floor dealers and dozens of room dealers should provide plenty of material for purchase. The Saturday evening banquet and auction is always a great time. This is one of the premier serious collector parties in the country and should not be missed.
Mineral Locality Symposium

Minerals of the Mojave Desert
Saturday, October 22, 2011

Lectures & Field Trip. See page 2 for Registration and Lodging Information

Sunday, October 23, 2011

Field Observations: High clearance vehicles required. Tentative localities:
Blue Bell Mine, Otto Mtn., Halloran Turquoise District, Cady Mts.

Sponsored By
Sponsored by Southern California Chapter Friends of Mineralogy in conjunction with the Gem & Mineral Council of the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County

Desert Studies Center
Field station of the California State University [CSU]
http://biology.fullerton.edu/dsc/

Located between Barstow and Las Vegas at Soda Springs in California (60 miles east of Barstow, eight miles southwest of Baker). To reach the Center, take I-15 (the Mojave Freeway) to Zzyzx Road. Drive south on Zzyzx Road four miles to the Center. Zzyzx Road is unpaved for most of its length, but is graded and should be driven slowly.

Saturday: Tentative Lecture & Activities Schedule

9:00 am Registration
10:00 Welcome – Dr. William F. Frech, DSC Director
10:15 Mojave Desert – A Brief Stratigraphic & Structural History
10:30 The Blue Bell Mine – Dr. Robert Housley
11:15 Soda Lake Salt Production – R. Fulton, followed by walking tour of the salt works
12:00 Lunch Break
1:00 pm Minerals of the Mohawk Mine – Robert Reynolds
1:30 Minerals of Otto Mountain, Baker – Joe Marty
2:00 1,000 Years of Mining History: Halloran Turquoise – Robert Reynolds
2:30 Afternoon Field Trip Otto Mountain. Silent Auction upon return.
6:30 Banquet at the Desert Studies Center
7:30 Evening Keynote Speaker – Dr. Kampf: “California – Treasure Trove of New Minerals”
Synopsis: More new mineral species have been discovered in California than in any other state. With 14 new species approved in the last few years, the number now stands at 135, greater than the nearest competitor, New Jersey, which has 75. California's geological diversity is responsible for its great mineralogical diversity. While New Jersey's large number of new species is principally from the remarkable Franklin/Sterling Hill deposits, California boasts a large number of deposits with unusual mineralogies. This program will highlight California's top 12 deposits (or types of deposits) for new minerals, with special emphasis on the most active current sources in the Mojave Desert.

Reply to this notice - Indicate your intent to participate (Bob Reynolds - rreynolds220@verizon.net).

Second Notice will call for advance registration (approx. $75) for meals (L & D Saturday/S Sunday), bunk and showers. Bring your own bedding and toiletries. Registration $50: Saturday & Sunday - meals but no bunk. There is no self-contained camping at the Desert Studies Center. Registration is limited. Bring snacks and beverages for field trips.

Options: Motels in Baker, CA (Bun Boy, 760-733-4363; Wills Fargo, 760-733-4477)
Motels in Barstow (50 miles west)
Famous Mineral Localities of Mexico

Featured Speakers

Dr. Terry Wallace
“The Guanajuato District”
“The Fresnillo District”

Dr. Peter Megaw
“The Santa Eulalia District”
“The Milpillas Mine”

Tom Moore
“The Ojuela Mine I and II”

Main Floor Dealers

EARTH’S TREASURES: Richard Kennedy
LEHIGH MINERALS: Jim and Yolanda McEwen
PACIFIC RIM MINERALS: John Meek
Others to be determined

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

Featuring at least sixteen world class mineral displays, including
a display from the Northwest’s finest mineral museum:
The Rice Northwest Museum of Rocks and Minerals

Free Admission to the Mineral Show and Dealers

Visit our webpage at www.pnwfm.org for more information
32nd Annual New Mexico Mineral Symposium
and
3rd Mining Artifact Collectors Association Symposium

12-13 November 2011
Macey Center, New Mexico Tech
Socorro, New Mexico

Co-sponsored by Friends of Mineralogy

For information:
575-835-5140
http://geoinfo.nmt.edu/museum/
FM AFFILIATES

The Friends of Mineralogy is a long-time affiliate of The Mineralogical Record magazine. The magazine was founded in 1970 by John White, who was at that time a curator in the Mineral Sciences Department of the Smithsonian Institution. With the initial help of a financial backer, Arthur Montgomery, White succeeded in launching and bootstrapping the fledgling publication to the point where it was marginally self-sustaining. After seven years as editor and publisher, White stepped aside for a new Editor, Wendell Wilson. Since then the Mineralogical Record has grown steadily in size, quality and prominence, thanks to the contributions of over 700 authors, photographers, artists, advertisers and donors. It has become a collective labor of love on the part of the entire mineralogical community worldwide. It is the only journal to have a new mineral species named in its honor (minrecordite), and it is the only journal to have received the Carnegie Mineralogical Award. Subscriptions, back issues, books and a variety of free databases are available online at www.MineralogicalRecord.com.

ROCKS & MINERALS

For Everyone Interested in Minerals, Rocks & Fossils
www.rocksandminerals.org

MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

If you are interested in earth, planetary, industrial, or biologic minerals or mineral-like materials, you may want to learn about the Mineralogical Society of America.

3633 Concordia Pkwy St. 300
Chevy Chase, MD 20815 USA
phone: +1 (301) 652-9950
fax: +1 (301) 652-9951
website: www.mssao.org