



# FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY NATIONAL NEWSLETTER

Volume 44, No.1

January 2014

*to promote, support, protect and expand the collection of mineral specimens and to further the recognition of the scientific, economic and aesthetic value of minerals and collecting mineral specimens.*

## Inside this issue:

President's Message	2
Contacts	3
Elections	4-5
Tucson Speakers	6
Denver Reports	7
Local Chapters	8
Barriers to Field Collecting Letter	14



## TUCSON 2014

### “DIAMONDS, GEMS, SILVER, AND GOLD”

The annual Tucson show is almost here. This is the show at which Friends of Mineralogy was born and is the place to which the group returns each year to conduct its business and socialize. FM also mans an information booth at the main show and assists in putting on the speaker program and case competitions. Make sure you drop in to say “Hi” at the meetings or volunteer to help out with the FM booth.

Friends of Mineralogy will hold it's annual General Membership meeting on Tuesday, February 11th from 4pm to 6pm at the Hotel Tucson in the restaurant. Members are encouraged to attend to express their opinions on how the organization is doing and where it should be headed.

FM National Board meeting will be held Saturday, February 15th at 8:30am at the Hotel Tucson restaurant. This is the meeting at which the Board conducts the business of the organization. Board members and local chapter representatives need to attend.



Specimens and photos by Allan Young  
DIAMOND, Kasai River Alluvials, Democratic Republic of Congo, 1.5 cm (21.5 cts)  
SILVER, Himmelsfurst Mine, Freiberg, Saxony, Germany, 2.6 cm  
GOLD, Eldorado County, California, 2.3 cm (ex Albert Burrage Collection)

Specimen and photo by John Lindell  
ELBAITE, Himalayah Mine, San Diego Co, California, 9cm

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Every so often, in any organization, it is sometimes good to take a step back and assess how well that organization is fulfilling its intended goals and objectives. As such, I have been giving a lot of thought lately regarding how the National Friends of Mineralogy can do a better job in this regard. The National FM serves as sort of an umbrella organization, providing a legal framework under which the various chapters operate. It also involves itself in certain mineralogical issues of national or regional importance, such as lending its support to mineral museums which are struggling to remain open to the public. And as all of you know by now, we encourage authorship of mineralogical articles by presenting awards annually for the best of these in four different publications. Additionally, we also recognize the best educational exhibits at the Tucson (and now Denver) mineral shows, and we co-sponsor the annual symposium held in conjunction with the TGMS Show. All well and good, but are there areas where the National organization we can do more? I think so.



Mineral symposia provide an ideal forum for those interested in minerals to get together and share not only information but also their enthusiasm for the hobby. Some of our local chapters already hold annual events, and I would like to see the National FM help and encourage those that do not. I recently attended (my first time) the annual New Mexico Mineralogical Symposium, one that the National FM has annually supported, and had an absolutely great time "talking rocks" for three days. I would like to see our organization become more involved in supporting other symposia of this type nationwide, and thus help to promote participation in FM.

If you have been attending mineral shows for a number of years like I have, you cannot help but notice that our mineral collecting ranks have been gradually been getting older. There has been lots of discussion about why this is but unfortunately there is no one simple solution. All we can do as a group is try to whittle away at the problem a piece at a time, and I would welcome any suggestions you might have. On a personal level, I have been periodically providing a nephew of mine with mineral specimens and books, hoping to spark an interest in the science and hobby. So far, so good.

One of the issues that has concerned me for some time is the gradual erosion of our field collecting opportunities, whether it be on private or public lands. In this issue, we have included an editorial by Clyde Spencer, President of the Midwest Chapter, which was recently included in their newsletter. And while you may not agree with all of opinions expressed, he brings up some good points and it is certainly worth the read. The American Federation of Mineralogical Societies has historically taken the lead on this issue as it relates to public lands, but there may be more we can do as an organization. Participation in the decision-making process is key.

Finally, it goes without saying that we as an organization exist because of our local chapters. They are the heart and soul of FM. The National organization should be doing all it can to foster and support its chapters, and help them thrive. To this end, we will be discussing some ways to do this at our upcoming Board meeting in Tucson. On Tuesday afternoon of Show Week, we will be holding our annual membership meeting, which is your chance to voice any ideas you might have to improve our organization. Look for the announcement in this Newsletter. I hope to see you there.

Allan Young

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## NATIONAL OFFICERS

**PRESIDENT:** Allan Young, 315 East Carter St., Boise, ID 83706; [allanyoung@msn.com](mailto:allanyoung@msn.com)  
**VICE PRESIDENT:** Gloria Staebler, PO Box 11613, Denver, CO 80211; [gloria@lithographie.org](mailto:gloria@lithographie.org)  
**SECRETARY:** Mark Mauthner, 1737 San Pablo Dr., San Marcos, CA 92078; [mmauthner@gmail.com](mailto:mmauthner@gmail.com)  
**TREASURER:** Carol Smith, 5085 W 136th Ave, Apt 308, Broomfield, CO 80023; [smith72@comcast.net](mailto:smith72@comcast.net)  
**WEBMASTER:** Jim Etzwiler, 19011 312<sup>th</sup> Ave NE, Duvall, WA 98019; [kd7bat@arri.net](mailto:kd7bat@arri.net)  
**NEWSLETTER EDITOR:** John Lindell, 25714 268<sup>th</sup> Ave S.E., Ravensdale, WA 98051; [lindell4@aol.com](mailto:lindell4@aol.com)

## NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Term expires 2014:

Allan Young; [allanyoung@msn.com](mailto:allanyoung@msn.com)  
Gloria Staebler; [gloria@lithographie.org](mailto:gloria@lithographie.org)  
Aaron Weiting; [pdxpounder@hotmail.com](mailto:pdxpounder@hotmail.com)  
Nelson Shaffer; [shaffern@indiana.edu](mailto:shaffern@indiana.edu)

### Term expires 2015:

Jim Etzwiler; [kd7bat@arri.net](mailto:kd7bat@arri.net)  
Mark Mauthner; [mmauthner@gmail.com](mailto:mmauthner@gmail.com)  
Sue Liebetrau; [liebetraum@msn.com](mailto:liebetraum@msn.com)  
John Lindell; [lindell4@aol.com](mailto:lindell4@aol.com)

### Term expires 2016

Bob Meyer; [pyrite111@hotmail.com](mailto:pyrite111@hotmail.com)  
Virgil Lueth; [vwlueth@nmt.edu](mailto:vwlueth@nmt.edu)  
Regina Aumente; [RAumente@aol.com](mailto:RAumente@aol.com)  
Carol Smith; [smith72@comcast.net](mailto:smith72@comcast.net)

## CHAPTER PRESIDENTS (ALSO BOARD MEMBERS)

**COLORADO CHAPTER:** Mark Jacobson; [markivanjacobson@gmail.com](mailto:markivanjacobson@gmail.com)  
**MIDWEST CHAPTER:** Clyde Spencer; [c\\_spencer123@att.net](mailto:c_spencer123@att.net)  
**PACIFIC NORTHWEST CHAPTER:** Bruce Kelley; [bruce.kelley@gmail.com](mailto:bruce.kelley@gmail.com)  
**PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER:** acting webmaster Ron Sloto; [rasloto@aol.com](mailto:rasloto@aol.com)  
**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER:** Bob Reynolds; [rreynolds220@verizon.net](mailto:rreynolds220@verizon.net)  
**MISSISSIPPI VALLEY CHAPTER:** Larry Nuelle; [lnuelle@shawneelink.net](mailto:lnuelle@shawneelink.net)  
**NEW JERSEY CHAPTER:** KC Dalby; [fluorite1@aol.com](mailto:fluorite1@aol.com)

## EX-OFFICIO BOARD MEMBERS

**ROCKS & MINERALS MAGAZINE:** Marie Huizing; [rocksandminerals@fuse.net](mailto:rocksandminerals@fuse.net)  
**MINERALOGICAL RECORD MAGAZINE:** Wendell Wilson; [minrecord@comcast.net](mailto:minrecord@comcast.net)  
**MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA:** Julian Gray; [JulianG@telluseum.org](mailto:JulianG@telluseum.org)

**The Nominating Committee for the Friends of Mineralogy is pleased to submit the following nominations for Board of Directors positions for the period of 2014– 2017:**

**Allan Young** is a registered professional mining engineer with over 30 years experience in the mining industry in the western U.S. and Latin America. He is currently employed by Bureau of Land Management as the Idaho State Program Lead for surface management of locatable minerals and Mining Law Administration. He was fortunate to have worked at the Idaho mine in Colorado for several years before it closed, and while he had become interested in minerals before that, this experience really whetted his appetite for collecting. He collects thumbnail size minerals and enjoys field collecting with friends, primarily in Idaho. He has served on the FM Board since 2005 and as FM President since 2011.

**Alex Schauss** grew up in New York City and there had the privilege of seeing or handling many of the finest mineral specimens in the world while mentored by Dr. Frederick H. Pough at the American Museum of Natural History. He earned bachelor and master degrees from the University of New Mexico and holds a PhD in psychology, with an interest in the role of mineral imbalances and toxicity on brain function. He has authored several books and professional papers on this and related subjects. He has attended 44 TGMS shows since 1967, has been active in several gem and mineral clubs over the years and is a long-time member of the Pacific Northwest Chapter of the Friends of Mineralogy.

**Gloria Staebler** has served on the Friends of Mineralogy National Chapter Board of Directors for the past 11 years. She is past newsletter editor and has variously served as Secretary and Vice-President. Gloria received her B.S. in Mathematics and Computer Science from Wesleyan University. As founder of Lithographie, Ltd., she publishes mineralogy-related books, calendars, and the "MINERAL" monograph series, the latter had its begins as the licensed English-language version of the German mineralogical monograph series "extraLapis." Gloria has coedited 18 books in the monograph series as well as a number of out-of-series titles, including "Collecting Arizona" and the award-winning and highly regarded "American Mineral Treasures. Gloria is currently working on several projects including a new edition of John Sinkankas' classic "Mineralogy for Amateurs."

**Nelson Shaffer** has been a member of Friends of Mineralogy since 1977. He is a founding member of the Midwest Chapter of FM and has served in various officer positions for that group. He acted as president of the National FM for two years after serving as vice president, and other positions and has been a member of the board of directors for several years. Nelson is FM representative to the American Geologic Institute. Nelson has set up the FM outreach booth at the Tucson Show for the past eight years and made many other outreach efforts. Nelson holds degrees in geology from the Ohio State University (1972 and 1974) and from Indiana University (1996). He has published more than 120 papers, abstracts, maps, or book chapters about geology and has headed many field trips, most recently the Midwest Chapter Field Symposium about Geodes in Indiana and Kentucky. A long time collector, researcher, writer, and teacher, Nelson has studied minerals for many years and tries always to share his fascination, and to attract others to the field.

Please take the time to support Friends of Mineralogy by voting. You may vote for up to four positions from the nominated candidates or by writing in candidates of your choice who would be willing to serve. Ballot votes may be sent by e-mail to Mark Mauthner at [mmauthner@gmail.com](mailto:mmauthner@gmail.com) or by post to Mark Mauthner ,663 South Rancho Santa Fe Road, #615, San Marco, CA 92078. Ballots must be submitted before the Board meeting on February 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Ballot for Friends of Mineralogy Board of Directors—term 2014 –2017**

Vote for up to four positions

☐ Alex Schauss☐ Nelson Shaffer☐ Gloria Stabler☐ Allan Young

write in \_\_\_\_\_

write in \_\_\_\_\_

write in \_\_\_\_\_

write in \_\_\_\_\_

**FM INFO OUTREACH BOOTH**

Friends of Mineralogy each year has an informational booth in the mezzanine of the main convention center in Tucson. Nelson Shaffer, who coordinates this, needs volunteers to help staff the FM outreach booth and materials to aid this effort. FM gives away hundreds of flyers, meeting announcements, mineral information sheets, and other FM related materials at the booth. Usually it also gives away small mineral samples when available, especially to the kids. If your chapter or you as an individual can provide any informational material or hand out specimens, please contact Nelson as soon as possible. Also let Nelson know if you can do an hour or two as a volunteer in the booth and schedule a time when you are available.

Nelson R. Shaffer, Ph.D.

Phone: 812-855-2687

Fax: 812-855-2862

[shaffern@indiana.edu](mailto:shaffern@indiana.edu)

**35<sup>th</sup> Annual FM-TGMS-MSA  
Mineralogical Symposium  
Diamond  
10 am to 3:00 pm Saturday February 15, 2014  
Crystal Ballroom, Tucson Convention Center**

10:00 to 10:05 am	Welcome and Introductory Remarks	Julian Gray
10:05 to 10:30 am	The Colorado-Wyoming State Line diamond-	Peter J. Modreski
10:30 to 11:00 am	Colorful Australian Diamonds	Penny Williamson
11:00 to 11:30 am	Diamonds of Russia. History and present day (a review)	Victor K. Garandin, Michael .B. Leybov
11:30 am to 12:00 pm	What's new with Big Blue? Recent research on the Hope and other blue diamonds	Jeffery .E. Post, Eloïse Gaillou, D. Rost, J.E. Butler
12:00 to 1:30 pm	<b>Lunch Break</b>	
1:30 to 2:00 pm	Investigation of gem materials using 405nm laser spectroscopy	Henry Barwood
2:00 to 2:30 pm	"Star" (sector zoned) diamonds from Zimbabwe	John Rakovan, Eloïse Gaillou, Jeffrey E. Post, John A. Jaszczak, John H. Betts
2:30 to 3:00 pm	Diamond Crystal Collection of Paul Seel at the	James F. Hurlbut



Photo from internet

**From Russia with love**

**FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY**  
**2013 FALL MEETING**  
**Denver, Colorado**  
**September 13, 2013**

The meeting was called to order by President Allan Young at 3:30 pm with approximately 20 persons in attendance. As there was not a quorum present, no FM business was conducted.

Officer and committee reports were given. Julian Gray reported on plans for the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual FM-TGMS-MSA Mineralogical Symposium, with the theme entitled "Diamond." He stated that presenters were still needed. A discussion was held regarding a possible change in date, time and venue for the annual FM Board meeting in Tucson. Allan stated that he would poll the board members to see what the majority prefers. The problem with emailed newsletters bouncing back was discussed and it was speculated that some recipients spam settings perhaps needed to be adjusted. Virgil Lueth reported that he was working on a draft of recommended by-law changes. There was some discussion regarding videotaping FM symposiums and then selling the DVD, with copyright issues being a concern.

The winners of the Best Article and Best Educational exhibit awards at the Tucson Show were given, and it was announced that for the first time Best Educational exhibit awards for the Denver Show would also be made. Chapter presidents were reminded how important it was to get their news into the National Newsletter editor, John Lindell. Allan announced that the Board had voted to make a donation to the New Mexico Mineralogical Symposium, but may also consider supporting other symposiums in the future, and possibly set an annual donation limit. An update on the locality index, a possible Boy Scout merit badge for mineralogy, and the rumored closing of the Rutgers Museum was also provided. The New Jersey FM Chapter was announced and welcomed as a new addition to the FM group of chapters.

A National Science Foundation-supported survey to investigate characteristics of science hobbyists was discussed. They were seeking participation from FM members on this survey. An interesting presentation was made by Sarah Timm on new software for cataloging geological collections, "Electronic Geological Management System" or "EGEMS," which could also be used by mineral hobbyists to catalogue their collections.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:00 pm.

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**DENVER CASE AWARDS**

This year Friend's of Mineralogy gave out two framed award certificates for best educational cases in the Denver Show.

The two award recipients were:

Individual: Richard Tripp for "What is a Concretion/ What is a Geode?" (2 cases)

Institutional: California Academy of Sciences for "What does it mean to be a tourmaline?"

This was the first year that Friends of Mineralogy has participated in making these awards. It is hoped that this will become an annual undertaking.

Jeff Self's Colorado fluorite case at the 2013 Tucson show.



## 2013-2014 news from the Colorado Chapter of FM

The Chapter held meetings in January, March, May, September, and November. Bulletins were published preceding each of those meetings. The presentations for the year were Joseph Smyth on *X-ray diffraction and X-ray crystallography*; Pete Modreski on *Gem tourmaline mining in Maine* and Markus Raschke on *The alkaline granite minerals of the Golden Horn Batholith, Washington Pass, Northern Cascade Mountains, Washington*. In March, the society viewed the Giant Crystals Video and shared tales and pictures from Tucson. In May, the silent auction took the place of an oral presentation. Miscellaneous articles were published in our Chapter newsletter as well as a listing of other geologic and mineralogic presentations being made in the Denver and surrounding areas, compiled by Pete Modreski.

During the year, Jeff Self, Donna Ware, and Lee Brown recorded interviews with old-time miners as part of the "Miners Oral History project." Eventually these recordings will form a significant body of data for later historical researchers.

The Chapter at the end of 2013 had 46 members, of which 8 are out-of-state. Our meetings usually have 20 attendees. Our meetings are held in the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. Financially, the Chapter is stable. The society still functions as a bridge between the numerous local mineral & rock clubs and museum support groups; most of our members are also members of those clubs. Joint activities are not unusual.

We (FMCC) will be co-sponsoring a San Juan Symposium with the Friends of Geology Museum, Colorado School of Mines to be held in September 2014. The meeting location will be in the San Juan Mountains area. Details will follow in our Chapter newsletter as they are confirmed.



Fluvial nodule of amethyst and smoky quartz from the South Platte River, Adams County, CO found by Bill Hutchinson.

## SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY

Fall Symposium, October 20, 2013: The SCFM fall symposium was hosted by Prof. Bridenbecker (SCFM treasurer) at Copper Mountain College in Joshua Tree, Ca. Forty attendees viewed a demonstration of an excellent collection of historic mining equipment presented by Tom Koch. This demonstration was followed by Jim Wharff describing mines and mining activity in relationship to fluctuating economics of the last century.



Jim Wharff present the detailed history of the Dale Mining District, southeast of Twentynine Palms, CA.



Tom Koch describing usage of historic mining equipment

Saturday afternoon's trip examined the structure of the northwest trending auriferous quartz veins in the Dale District. Structural remains allowed speculation about the milling and ore concentration methods at each major mine.



: Gold nuggets from the Dale Mining District



Jim Wharff describing auriferous quartz vein in sh



Concrete structures remain at Gold Crown Mill



Gourmet dinners were prepared in a flat sand wash among Smoke Trees in bloom.

Sunday's trip to the Surplus Salt ponds on Danby Playa provided an introduction to the methods of halite concentration.



Solar concentration of brine in trench



Large crystals of halite were obtained by students, and free samples were given to all attendees.



Surplus Salt stockpiled at Milligan.

Spring Symposium, March 22, 23, 2014, will also be held at Copper Mountain College in Joshua Tree, Ca. The tentative theme will be "Oxidation of Sulfide Deposits" with presentations by Ty Schuling (SCFM vice president) and Bob Reynolds (SCFM president). The associated trip will visit oxidized copper deposits south and west of the Whipple Mountains, near Vidal Junction, CA.

During 2013, SCFM members and president Bob Reynolds completed four new mineral exhibits for the Mojave River Valley Museum in Barstow. Themes were focused on California and the Mojave Desert, and exhibit titles consisted of: California Quartz; Borax Mine at Boron; Mojave Saline Minerals; Minerals of the Cady Mountains.

The Southern California Chapter of the Friends of Mineralogy (SCFM) continues to provide funding for Suzanne Baltzer, a graduate student from Cal Poly, Pomona, who is studying the genesis and age relations of Rare Earth Elements in Proterozoic rocks near Crescent Peak, NV, east of the Rare Earth Mine at Mountain Pass, CA.

Robert E. Reynolds  
Present, SoCal Chapter, Friends of Mineralogy

## Pacific Northwest Chapter Update

### Minerals Galore!

We held our 39<sup>th</sup> annual symposium and yearly main event in October with the classic theme: *Minerals Galore! Alkaline Intrusive Complexes of the World*. Many of you will read that and think... "Oh! Mont Saint-Hilaire!" Yes, but there are many more; famous localities include Ilimaussaq in Greenland, and more locally, Washington Pass in the Golden Horn Batholith, a favorite collecting site for PNWFM members seeking rare minerals. All three of these were covered by the excellent and knowledgeable speakers:

**Henrik Friis** gave an "Introduction to Alkaline Mineral Occurrences", and locality reports on the Ilimaussaq complex and the Ivigtut Cryolite deposit of West Greenland.

**Randy Becker** presented an information-packed slideshow of the minerals of The Golden Horn Batholith and gave us brand new information about some previous unknowns and corrected assumptions we have been making about some Washington Pass minerals.

**David Joyce** described collecting at Calcite Vein-Dykes of the Grenville Geological Province and finished up with a great slide-show of Mont Saint-Hilaire minerals.

Naturally, there were many opportunities to expand our collections, including a continuously running silent auction and spirited live auction at the banquet as well as a dealer floor featuring Rick Kennedy's *Earth's Treasures*, Jim and Yolanda McEwen's *Lehigh Minerals*, John Meek's *Pacific Rim Minerals* and Dennis Beals' *XTAL*. In addition, the deals, networking and tall takes continued in the satellite dealers' hotel rooms until the wee hours.

As always, we had a collection of very high quality display cases, mostly in line with the theme. There have perhaps never been so many fine zektzerite specimens displayed in one place!

The evening banquet featured the presentation to **Al and Sue Liebetrau** of a Noble Witt Award for outstanding contribution to the Friends of Mineralogy goals.

Add to that the **Bob Meyer's** mineral ID quiz, the competitions for "best self-collected macro specimen" and "best self-collected micro specimen," the excellent banquet and lunch service and all around fun and this was clearly a weekend not to be missed.

Mark your calendars for our 2014 Symposium: Minerals of Colorado! October 10-12, 2014 in Kelso, Washington.

### 2014 Calendar

May 2014: Seattle Mineral Market – dates and location to be announced.

August 8-10, 2014: Washington Pass Cleanup and mineral collecting trip.

October 10-12, 2014: Our 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium: Minerals of Colorado!



Henrik Friis introduced by Allan Young



Randy Becker gives his presentation



Perhaps the world's best Zektzerite specimen with crystals over 3cm displayed by Randy Becker



A 10 inch plate of Zektzerites displayed by the Rice Museum.

ZEKTZER  
on microcline  
Washington  
Okanogan Co.  
Washington



## Midwest Chapter Friends of Mineralogy

### Secretary's Meeting minutes

Cleveland, Ohio 11/02/13

President Clyde Spencer declared a quorum and called the meeting to order; 10 FM members were in attendance, with 3 of them being officers. Officers attending were: Clyde Spencer, Jeff Spencer, and John Davis.

Call for old business went without comment

New business: State of officers was announced. The existing officers, with the exception of John Davis, have agreed to run for re-election. These officers are: Clyde Spencer (President), Jeff Spencer (Treasurer), Reggie Rose (Second VP, in charge of Field Trips), and Nelson Shaffer (Liaison Officer). Randy Marsh was introduced to the members as on the slate for First VP, in charge of Programs.

A call for nominees was made to the floor, but no additional nominees were offered.

The vote was taken to accept the slate of nominees as announced: 10 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstained

Treasurers Report: Jeff Spencer reported that there was \$843.57 in the treasury. There is a \$44 discrepancy in what we have in our account and what should be there. There are a few membership checks that apparently were lost before Jeff took over.

There was discussion on the stipend given this year to Nelson Shaffer to help off-set his expenses to attend the National FM Board meeting and staff a recruiting table in Tucson last February. The president stated that because of the condition of our treasury, the board is not in favor of a similar stipend in the future. If board members need financial assistance, they should ask National for it.

There was considerable discussion on possible dues increases. The National FM requires us to pay \$6 for each member and does not give family discounts. With our current family discount, we are actually losing money on extra family members. Jeff Spencer provided handouts showing, 1) the current dues situation, 2) Raising the dues to \$20 for the first member and \$15 for each additional member, and 3) going with a flat \$20 per member. Jeff Spencer made a motion to amend the By Laws to require an increase in dues to \$20 per member and strike the current family membership language. Mike Royal seconded the motion. The vote was taken with 9 in favor of increasing the dues, 0 against, and 1 abstention.

Mike Royal asked where the Club T-shirt project was at and if we were still going to get them. Clyde Spencer said he would look into the status.

Paul Schwinn announced that he wouldn't be able to continue as fund raising chairman. This leaves the club with one open position on the board (Secretary) and a need to appoint a fund raising chairman. We had some discussion on possibly having an FM club show. Randy Marsh said that if anyone wanted to donate minerals to sell on eBay, he would be willing to list and sell them with 1/2 of the proceeds going to the owner and the club getting the other half.

Respectfully submitted, John Davis

Two specimens of barite and fluorite from the recent Walworth, NY dig collected by Mike Scaglione.



## CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!



### *12th Annual GeoFest - The Indiana State Museum Gem, Fossil and Mineral Show*

GeoFest dates and times are Friday, February 21, 2014, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm, Saturday, February 22, 2014, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm and Sunday, February 23, 2014, 11:00 - 4:00.

The Indiana State Museum is once again hosting GeoFest: the Indiana State Museum Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show. This is a good opportunity for our Chapter to interact with the public and to share knowledge about minerals.

The board is currently deciding whether we will have a formal presence at this event. To make this a go, we will need several volunteers to help with staffing the event and, ideally, to provide some hands-on specimens and give-aways.

If you would like to help out, please respond with your availability.

Randy Marsh - Vice President - Programs

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## **NEW JERSEY CHAPTER FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY**

NJFM continues to iron out the organizational aspects in the meetings held during 2013. Our first meeting in 2014 will be the third Wednesday in January, 2014.

High on the priority list is developing a display to be housed in the Geology Museum at Rutgers University to highlight the organization and act as a membership motivator to museum visitors. In addition, the University's Geology Club sale/symposium will be on January 25, 2014. We will be manning a membership table and offering mineral identification services to collectors.

NJFM has also signed up as a participant at the NY/NJ Mineral Show to be held in April in Edison, NJ. We are hoping to obtain membership during that three day event.

Our other two major projects are in their infancy; a listing of minerals found in New Jersey to be published in "Rocks and Minerals" and the cataloging of the Rutgers University mineral collections.

We also hope that some movement will be made on the topic of liability insurance that we have been working on in the background for several months. This would be of benefit to all the chapters by reducing their operating costs.

KC Dalby  
President, NJFM

The following is reprinted from the Midwest Chapter Friends of Mineralogy Jan/Feb 2014 Newsletter.

### Barriers to Field Collecting – Part IV



**A**s you may recollect, in three previous newsletters I talked about some of the problems that the mineral-collecting community encounters in trying to gain access to collecting localities. I didn't receive any responses, so I'll have to go this alone.

I don't have easy solutions for all the problems except to note that the solutions are primarily political. To that end, mineral collectors need to be organized and proactive. It would help to educate our legislators and increase the number of collectors (*i.e.* voters) who are concerned about the trends over the last few decades. It would also help if the public were educated about the role that mining plays in providing a comfortable, technologically advanced lifestyle. Perhaps that would help to put things in perspective and return a level of sanity that seems to be lacking in laws and regulations being passed.

Political power comes from numbers. So, FM might consider allying itself with other groups with similar concerns, such as off-highway vehicle enthusiasts and hunters (even AARPI), or at least contribute to law suits brought by organizations when a favorable decision would provide mineral collectors greater access to actual and potential collecting sites on public lands. However, because Friends of Mineralogy is a 503 (C) non-profit organization, we have to be careful not to cross the line separating educational activities from blatant lobbying. However, that doesn't prevent members from making financial contributions as individuals, nor from writing to their legislators as constituents.

Those pesky 'No Trespassing' signs have often come about for good reason. Although, it is not unheard of for people leasing grazing rights on public

land to post the land with unauthorized, unsigned 'No Trespassing' signs. While it is not always an easy or quick task to determine land

ownership, it is more important than it was decades ago. A polite request made to the landowner for permission to collect, and a willingness to sign a 'Hold Harmless' agreement, might be rewarded with the desired permission. Once a relationship is established, it might be easier in the future to gain access to the site. It can't hurt the relationship to offer a specimen to the landowner. They may well decline, but at least your generosity will be remembered, even after the bottle of Jack Daniels is gone. It shouldn't be necessary to say this, but past behavior of some collectors indicates otherwise: Your future access, and that of others, depends on your behavior! Clean up and remove any trash you find, and don't damage any structures or equipment, no matter how old. An admonition I would suggest for everything you do is to consider what the world would be like if everyone were to act as you are about to act.



I have mixed feelings about backfilling any holes dug. If the hole is a potential danger to livestock or people, then it should be filled in. However, if you or others are going to be doing additional collecting at the site, having to remove the backfill, and again put it back, becomes a real pain and reduces the time available for collecting. Probably the best thing to do, if you anticipate having to dig a hole(s), is to ask the landowner what his desires are with respect to filling holes.

Which leads me to another topic. There has been talk of paying quarry operators for their time and troubles, which is usually on a Saturday. Even though many collectors would be willing to pay \$20 or more to

gain access to some of the more desirable quarries, with up to 30 collectors, we are starting to be talking about a substantial amount of money. That may well have bearings on the legal liability of the host if he is being paid. It may also be a conflict with his responsibilities and duties when he is an employee of the actual quarry owner. Probably a small gift, such as a box of chocolate or a bottle of Wild Turkey may be appreciated, depending on the individual, and would go a long ways towards cementing the relationship and providing future access. Typically, federal and corporate rules regarding reporting gifts have a threshold of about \$25. Therefore, I would suggest sweetening the deal with something that is not trivial, but is under the threshold of where it may cause problems for the recipient. That means a donation of about \$1 per collector.

We have to remember that the working quarries and mines that are potential collecting sites are in the business to make money. All the employees have a job, which unless their job description includes outreach, they are going above and beyond their job to arrange and supervise our trips. Therefore, they don't appreciate lots of phone calls asking to be able to collect. That, apparently, has been a point of friction for one classic site in Indiana. Therefore, it is probably best if there is a single point of contact representing a group, such as Friends of Mineralogy (FM). To that end, it is probably in our best interest to encourage those collectors, who are not members, to join so that the quarry operators are not dealing with numerous phone calls. Unfortunately, if outreach does happen to be in the quarry employee's job description, it is usually interpreted as supporting schools. So, something else that might be useful to us is to stress the point that education is part of our charter – we aren't just rock hounds looking for pretty rocks. A related concern is setting expectations appropriately with the host about who the collectors are, collectively, and perhaps make the host aware that it is common practice to trade minerals, which may then find their way to eBay. Also, the quarry operator, who is typically selling aggregate, probably does n't understand how important provenance is to collectors. These concerns are things that probably are primarily the concern of the field trip

coordinators. However, attention to setting expectations may avoid problems such as purportedly have occurred in the recent past.

A frustration in collecting on public land is that different agencies sometimes have different policies with regard to what can be done on 'their' land. A project that FM might undertake is to try to work through their congressmen to get, for example, the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management to have uniform policies and procedures with regard to field collecting unless there are unique conditions that justify a more restrictive policy. From personal experience, I



know that at least one National Recreation Area (Whiskeytown) in California, administered by the National Park Service, has such a restrictive policy about recreational gold panning that it would be almost impossible to actually find any gold, despite being in an area known for its past riches. When I enquired if the policies were the result of any scientific studies, I was stonewalled and never received a reply. So, one thing

that would seem reasonable to me would be legislation requiring federal agencies to develop policies based on objective scientific research, and not just listen to demands from environmental advocacy groups expressing subjective concerns about the ecosystem. The Forest Service has started to go down the same road!

The US Geological Survey identified an area in Trinity County (CA) as having significant potential for Platinum Group Minerals, second perhaps only to the Stillwater Complex (MT). Shortly afterwards, it was turned into the Chancellula Wilderness Area. The road over the mountain was bulldozed closed. Thus, putting the valuable minerals off limits, and essentially wasting the money that was spent by the USGS studying the area. When I last visited the area, there had been only five people sign in at the trailhead in the previous two years. I would recommend that FM members throughout the country write to their federal legislators to ask for laws requiring federal agencies controlling

access to, and use of, federal land be required to base their regulations not just on environmental impact studies, but scientific studies related to resource and recreation potential.

Since the rise of the environmental movement in the 1970s, the concept of 'multiple use' of public lands seems to have fallen out of use in favor of emphasis on biological preservation. The public has little appreciation for the source of the raw materials that provide them with their televisions, smart phones, computers, and automobiles. FM should do more to educate the public about the importance of mineral resources and mining to technology and the economy. Perhaps we can restore the balance of emphasis from biological preservation to the former 'multiple use.'

It doesn't help our situation that, with the exception of the aggregate industry, the importance of mining has declined in this country. The aggregate industry is doing well and has even turned to low-silica sources such as the copper-bearing basalts in the waste dumps of the closed copper mines on the Keweenaw Peninsula. The roads in northern Michigan are being paved with copper! It is a loss not only to collectors, but to the world when useful and versatile copper ends up being pavement instead of being extracted and smelted. What few metal mines that exist in the country are now 'redamated,' meaning that the waste piles and unmined ore become inaccessible after the mining is concluded. It doesn't help that the mining industry is not perceived by the general public as the supplier of the raw materials that go into their airplanes, cars, household appliances, and communication devices. Rather, it seems that the public associates mining with spoiling the environment. Thus, there is generally antagonism towards any proposed new mining activity. You might want to consider personally joining the National Mining Association (<http://www.nma.org/index.php/position-on-minerals>) as a way to keep abreast of what is happening politically.

Unfortunately, the role of mineralogy has declined in real-world geology with the concerns today focused on environmental issues such as water and

energy. As a result, the number of mineralogy course offerings in most universities has declined and, therefore, the number of geology majors exposed to the wonders of mineralogy have declined. I take the position that the decisions to reduce course offerings were a mistake. If a geologist can't at least readily identify the common rock-forming minerals in a hand specimen, then they can't identify the rock. If the rock can't be identified and differentiated from similar rocks, then field mapping will be more difficult and less accurate. This ripples through the process to where even hydrologists and energy-exploration geologists may not be as competent as in previous generations. So, another suggestion I have is for those of us who care, to petition and agitate for universities to strengthen the mineralogy component of their geology curriculum.

However, before they even get to college, the younger generation might be enticed to become mineral collectors. Most people have little idea about the diversity of color and forms that minerals come in. One thing to consider is that after cleaning and trimming your field collection, you might have specimens that aren't the top-grade that you personally want to keep, either because of minor damage or duplication; instead of disposing of the leftovers, consider donating them to a local science teacher, or rockhound club. What is mundane to you just might excite some child who may then go on to try to find a better specimen.

Friends of Mineralogy might want to consider allying with additional mineralogical societies and hiring a lawyer to examine these issues and possibly even bringing a suit against the agencies impeding collecting. This is a power struggle between the tax payers who support the public lands, and the stewards who are paid with tax dollars. The stewards undoubtedly have their hearts in the right place, but the placement of their heads is highly questionable. Thus, they have had difficulty thoroughly thinking through the consequences of their policies. FM needs to assist them!



Veszelyite, Black Pine Mine, Granite Co, Montana, 2.1cm  
Specimen and photo by Allan Young



Brochantite and unknown. Copper stope, Silver Coin Mine, Humboldt Co., NV  
FOV: 2.08 x 1.52 mm  
Collected and photographed by Bruce Kelley.

## SODA MOUNTAINS, CALIFORNIA ACCESS IN JEPRODY

Hello, fellow Rockhounds!

There is an urgent need for your involvement and comment with respect to the proposed Soda Mountains Solar Project. Please share this information with your club, gem & mineral society, or whatever other group you may be involved in that would have an interest.

This project would be located on both sides of highway 15 between the Soda Mountains north of Afton Canyon, near Razor Road and just south of Zzyzyx Road. The proposed project is for a large number of solar photovoltaic cells and other related structures and would **fence off** a huge area, very likely affecting future vehicular access to the Soda Mountains. Here is a map of the proposed project's location: [http://www.blm.gov/pgdata/etc/medialib/blm/ca/pdf/Barstow/soda\\_mountain.Par.34822.File.dat/Project%20Location%20Map.pdf](http://www.blm.gov/pgdata/etc/medialib/blm/ca/pdf/Barstow/soda_mountain.Par.34822.File.dat/Project%20Location%20Map.pdf)

If you like to collect in the Soda Mountains, or you would like future generations to be able to collect there, you need to get involved or risk losing access. We need your help! Please review the documents and either attend a meeting to submit comments, or submit them in writing. **THE PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD ENDS ON MARCH 3!** Here is a link to find the documents for more information: [http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/barstow/renewableenergy/soda\\_mountain.html](http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/barstow/renewableenergy/soda_mountain.html)

Three meetings are scheduled in the next couple of weeks, one of which was added on a Saturday to allow for greater public involvement. Here is the schedule:

The Bureau of Land Management and the County of San Bernardino have scheduled two public meetings for public comment on the Soda Mountain Solar Project's draft environmental documents. Meetings are scheduled for **Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2014**, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. and **Thursday, Jan. 9, 2014**, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Comfort Suites, 2571 Fisher Blvd., Barstow.

A third meeting is scheduled for **Saturday, Jan. 11, 2014**, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Travelodge Inn and Suites Yucca Valley Meeting Room, 54850 29 Palms Highway, Yucca Valley.

**THANK YOU!**

Kim Campbell Erb  
Rockhound Activist  
Public Land Access Advocate  
[campbellsrocks@yahoo.com](mailto:campbellsrocks@yahoo.com)

## 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](http://www.MineralogicalRecord.com).

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3635 Concorde Pkwy Ste 500  
 Chantilly VA 20151-1110 USA  
 phone: +1 (703) 652-9950  
 fax: +1 (703) 652-9951  
 website: [www.minsocam.org](http://www.minsocam.org)