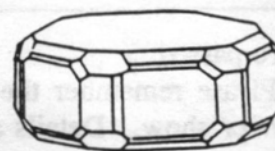


# FM friends of mineralogy

affiliated with the mineralogical record



METAVAUXITE  
 $\text{Fe Al}_2(\text{PO}_4)_2(\text{OH})_2 \cdot 8\text{H}_2\text{O}$



FLUORAPATITE  
 $\text{Ca}_5(\text{PO}_4)_3\text{F}$

## FM Newsletter

No. 2

April, May, June, 1994

### President's Message

Friends of Mineralogy is hosting a social hour at the 1994 Denver Gem and Mineral show in September for all members and prospective members. We will be providing FREE DONUTS (no, they will not be low cal), coffee, tea (hot & iced), and good companionship at 10 AM, Saturday, September 17 (1994) at the Denver Merchandise Mart. Check the Denver Show program for the exact room. This is a chance for those of you who commonly have good ideas, but never have time to write to your board of directors, to present these ideas to the board in person. Somewhere between 25% and 50% of your board members will be present. Please bring any friends who might be potential members to the social hour.

This is a last call for members to update their FM membership file by sending in the "Membership Data and Interest Sheet" (another copy enclosed with this newsletter). Please mail your completed sheet as soon as possible to Mike Kokinos, FM Treasurer, 46620 Doe St., Shingle Springs, CA 95682. FM will only be as good as the membership makes it--we need to interact more, and that's difficult to do without a good "address book." So, please update your data sheet and send it to Mike. The 1994 Membership Directory will be going to the printers in September, so fill out your form TODAY.

★ Karen Wenrich, President

### Note\$ from the Treas\$urer

### MEMBER DATA AND INTEREST SHEET

Please complete your member data and interest sheet (included with the 1st quarter newsletter). Approximately 10% have forwarded sheets to date.

### CHAPTERS

We need lead time to publish the new directory. All chapters still have members who have not paid their 1994 dues. Only those members paid through 1994 will be included in the directory.

New chapter members information should be sent to me as soon as possible. Many new chapter members do not receive the first National newsletter they are entitled to receive. This is because of lag time from becoming chapter members to the date the information is sent to me.

### FINANCIAL DATA

Thanks to Beau Gordon's efforts in obtaining several new national members actual dues receipts are ahead of budgeted.

There are a few National members that still haven't paid their 1994 dues. I would appreciate receiving your \$10.00 by August 15.

★ Michael Kokinos, Treasurer

### SECRETARY'S SCRATCHINGS

Be sure to return your member data sheet. We are reprinting the form in this issue of the newsletter. The effort to curtail all collecting on certain federal lands has been dropped for now. A great public outcry apparently was heard and heeded by the bureaucrats. The FM bylaw changes

were passed.

Please remember the September meeting at the Denver show. Details are shown on page 6. The Denver show is a very good one that you should try to attend sometime. This could be your year! Be certain to note the call for papers for the Tucson show.

Thanks to various contributors. Hope you are having a wonderful and productive summer. See you all in Denver!

★ Nelson Shaffer

### FM Dealers Association Formed

The FM Dealers Association which was formed at the annual meeting in Tucson is composed of mineral dealers who are members of the Friends of Mineralogy. The basic concept is to enhance mineral appreciation and education through increasing FM membership by offering a discount policy. Members of the Dealers Association will extend a minimum 10% discount to other FM members. If a dealer normally offers a discount to general buyers, then an additional 10% over the standard discount should be offered to FM members. Some dealer members also encourage membership by providing FM membership applications telling potential members of FM benefits. This approach has been very successful for Beau Gordon who has signed up 25 new members and 15 dealers in less than six months. A list of dealers and further details will appear in a forthcoming newsletter. Guidelines for the Dealers Association follow. Dealers interested in joining should contact Beau Gordon, P.O. Box 6214, Rome GA 30162-6214.

1. Members (of the Dealers Association) must be members of FM.
2. Intent is to increase FM membership, while helping to preserve the integrity of discounts.
3. We in no way are attempting to tell dealers how to conduct their business, however "cost" of membership in the Dealers Association is a minimum 10% discount on purchases to other members of FM.

4. Participants will be listed in the FM newsletter and Directory as supporters of FM. Such listing is not a recommendation nor should it imply FM suggestion to support only listed dealers.

★ Beau Gordon, Dealers Association

### FM Mineral Locality Index Project:

In our last newsletter we gave a brief update of FM's long-term project, the Mineral Locality Index. Here, we'd like to give a complete listing of the current status of work on each state. This information has been collected, and authors and workers contacted, by Art Smith, Al Kidwell, and myself. The last newsletter's preliminary report was incomplete--for example, we missed Wisconsin, which is well under way by William Cordua, of the University of Wisconsin at River Falls. If any member who reads this recognized other people who have state indices in progress which we have omitted, please contact Pete (8075 W. Fremont Dr., Littleton, CO 80123; tele. 303-978-9926; fax 303-236-5603; e-mail pmodresk@gccmail.cr.usgs.gov) or one of the other committed members.

Likewise, please contact us if you would like to volunteer to help with one of the other states, or know someone else who might like to do so. If you would like to volunteer to help one of the people who is already working on a given state, please contact that person directly. Addresses are not included here, but should be found in the latest FM membership list; if you have trouble getting in touch with someone, please contact Pete, Art, or Al.

Our immediate goal is to produce locality indices for all 50 states. Most of the individual indices are being published as they are completed in *Rocks and Minerals* or *Mineralogical Record*. Another option (not yet used) would be for FM to print copies of an individual state's index and make them available at nominal cost; another would be to print, in loose-leaf form (and/or electronically) an index including as many states as are currently completed. Our ultimate goal, which I feel we are still committed to, is to publish a single volume containing all the



states of the U.S. To prepare a complete volume would also require going back and putting all the previously published state indices into a compatible electronic/word processor form--thus, we'll need some volunteers to do this work, (and to update the information for states long completed, like Colorado and Michigan). With indices for  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the states published and more than half of the rest under way, we are at the point where we can begin to make some serious plans about the form of final publication.

A number of FM members have been eager to get to work on a locality index for countries outside the U.S. We want to do this too, but our immediate goal is to finish the U.S.; then, we can enlist the members who have offered to work on Mexico, Canada, and the rest of the world.

The attached list was compiled by Art Smith, and is complete to the best of our knowledge as of July 1994. We look forward to getting more help and finishing the project!

#### STATUS OF FM STATE MINERAL LOCALITY INDICES - JUNE 1994

Alabama	Rheams, K.F. and Dean, L.S., 1993, complete but not published, Bob Cook to review
Alaska	
Arizona	
Arkansas	Smith, A.E., 1988, <u>R&amp;M</u> 63:104-125
California	Kampf, A.R. et al, 1989, <u>MR</u> 20:129-142
Colorado	Muntyan, B., 1979, <u>MR</u> 10:323-328
Connecticut	Marcelle Weber
Delaware	
Florida	Murowchick, Bernie
Georgia	Gordon, J.B., <u>R&amp;M</u> 64:184-208
Hawaii	preliminary research, A.E. Smith, Joel Bartsch
Idaho	Ream, Lanny, preliminary index submitted
Illinois	
Indiana	Huizing, T. and Russel, R., 1986,

#### R&M 61:135-151

Iowa	
Kansas	
Kentucky	Alan Goldstein
Louisiana	Smith, A.E., 1994, <u>R&amp;M</u> 63:156-162
Maine	Vandall King
Maryland	
Massachusetts	Vandall King, Carl Franais, and others, in prep.
Michigan	Morris, T., Jr., 1983, <u>R&amp;M</u> 58:107-112
Minnesota	Southwick, D., Assist. Director MN Geol. Sur.
Mississippi	Bograd, Michael (MS Geol. Survey)
Missouri	Williams, G.A., 1993, manuscript completed
Montana	Manuscript submitted to P.J.M.
Nebraska	Scott Williams
Nevada	Basin and Range Chapter, completed
New Hampshire	Smith, A. E., 1994, completed being checked
New Jersey	Pete Modreski, 1994 in progress
New Mexico	DeMark, R.S., 1992, <u>R&amp;M</u> 67:314-327, 330-331
New York	
North Carolina	Wilson, W.F., and Mckenzie, B.J., 1985, <u>R&amp;M</u> 60:84-93, 99, not a true index
North Dakota	
Ohio	Carlson, E.H., 1990, <u>R&amp;M</u> 65:512-540 partial
Oklahoma	A.E. Smith & Joe Lobell
Oregon	Mike Groben and others, in preparation
Pennsylvania	
Rhode Island	Vandall King, in preparation
South Carolina	
South Dakota	
Tennessee	Elrod, Lewis (?)
Texas	Smith, A.E., <u>R&amp;M</u> 66:196-224
Utah	Richardson, P.D. et al, 1993, <u>R&amp;M</u> 58:381-393 partial (?)8
Vermont	Janet Cares and others, in preparation

Virginia Penick, D.A., R&M 60:164-170  
Washington Ream, L.R., R&M 66:286-299  
West Virginia  
Wisconsin Bill Cordua, 1994 in progress  
Wyoming Hausel, W.D., 1993, complete, expanding

★ Pete Modreski - Locality Comcmitee, Board of Directors

## Chapter News

### Colorado Chapter

New member Bruce Geller was put right to work by presenting a talk "Mineralogy of Boulder County Tellurides" to the April 14 meeting of the Colorado Chapter. An extensive alert about proposed regulations affecting collectors (reprinted in last FM newsletter), a brief article about using the petrographic microscope to identify minerals, and information about the Rock Springs swap and field trip appeared in the chapter newsletter.

The group met May 14 and held a silent auction and a "wild" verbal auction to raise funds for the Colorado minerals update. It was reported that almost 40% of the stocks of Chapter-sponsored books about Antero Aquamarines by Mark Jacobson have been sold by the end of March. Sounds like you had better order your copy before they get to the bottom of the beryl.

### Great Basin Chapter

The Chapter met in late March and discussed field trip procedures and plans. Several members attended a field trip to the Kingston Range (California) amethyst locality and collected several nice specimens. Steve Scott discussed the Nevada Map Atlas that shows all passable roads in the state. Sounds like a valuable book!

The April meeting featured a slide show by Steve Scott of the Tucson (1994) meeting and of field trips to the Searchlight and Goodsprings areas. Bruce Hurley reported information about fossil fish collecting in the Kemmer, Wyoming region and offered to set up a field trip. New member, Nick

Stellavato, was welcomed.

The focus of May's meeting was discussion of the Third Annual Great Basin Mineral Symposium that will be held October 15 and 16. The Clark County Heritage Museum in Henderson, Nevada, will be host of the symposium and the Las Vegas Gem Club will be a cosponsor. Walt Lombardo, symposium chair described the planned program and speakers and sought volunteers to assist various areas. Marilyn Mills, Treasurer, requested budget estimates for FM activities connected with the Symposium.

Concern was expressed about diminishing access to collecting areas as highlighted by recent designation (by the Federal government) of large parts of the Mojave Desert and the Spring Mountain Ranges as "protected areas." The very cogent point was made that by prohibiting collecting fossil and mineral treasures near the surface are doomed to destruction by weathering and erosion.

### Indiana (Midwest) Chapter

The Midwest Chapter met at the 30th Cincinnati Mineral show on April 30 where Terry Wallace gave a talk "Earthquakes! When is the Next Big One." A new logo drawn by Fred Lewes that better reflected the wider geographic coverage was presented. Trips to Corydon, Indiana, and Irvington, Kentucky, were made May 7 as arranged by Mike Davis, field trip chair. Several options for supporting mineral education projects were discussed.

June 18, the Chapter met at the Lawrence County Mineral Show in Bloomington, Indiana. Your very own Nelson Shaffer spoke about "Meteorites." Vice President Al Sicree lead the meeting for Hal Roepke who was teaching field geology out west. A new educational display coordinated by Al and Sylvia Sicree was exhibited May 7-8 at the Troy, Ohio Show. A trip to Junction, Ohio was held June 25 and a trip to Danville, Kentucky to collect fluorite, sphalerite, barite, calcite, and quartz was scheduled for July.



### Pacific Northwest Chapter

New members Dan and Lorna Guthrie were welcomed at the March 26 meeting that featured discussion of the Puget Sound Mineral Show. The Chapter had a table and two display cases as well as several individual displays at that show. The theme for the September symposium will be calcite.

A volunteer was sought to edit a Bulletin of the chapter in conjunction with the Symposium. Former editor Bob Smith offered to assist. A suggestion to develop a Chapter scrapbook was advanced. President John Cornish offered to handle printing of a Chapter business card. Minutes were summarized by Keith Ikerd.

After business concluded several members shared Tucson talk and recounted collecting events. John Lindell showed collecting vanadinite and descloizite at the Ramsey Mine and offered free specimens. Will Engdahl brought hematites from the Vita Grande Mine near Quartzite. Dealer Jack Frasl gave impressions from that perspective. Ray Lasmanis showed slides of Arizona and details of some of his collecting stops. He also provided samples from Copper Basin, Arizona. Bob Boggs brought a microscope to view micros and several other members brought flats of various minerals.

John Cornish reported on the May 7 - 8 field trip to the Northwest Micro Mineral Study Group where Bob Boggs revealed his techniques for taking microphotos, Lenny Ream gave "trips" to pegmatites of Nevada, and Brendan Laurs gave a memorable slide talk about his Pakistan trip to collect pegmatite minerals. Richard and Helen Rice then hosted the group who were wowed by their fine mineral displays.

### Pennsylvania Chapter

The Chapter Memorial Fund committee (Juliet Reed, Arnold Mogel, and Tania Rice) awarded grants to graduate students Jenifer Ann Zarnowsky of Temple University for study of a serpentine-rich ultramafic body in West Chester and to Andrew Sicree of Penn State to study organics in sphalerites at Friedensville and Mississippi Valley-type deposits.

Several members received positive recognition. Margaret (Marge) Matula, Chapter Membership Chair was awarded the Golden Microscope Award by the Lower Bucks County Club at the Micromount '94 show. Karl Brubaker and his wife Jean were awarded life memberships by the Mineralogical Society of Pennsylvania for their many mineralogic contributions. The Chapter noted a Mineralogical Record article about the French Creek Mine written by Ronald Sloto and Lana Dickenson. Juliet Reed hosted an open house of the Vaux Collection at Bryn Mawr College that featured a talk by Al Jehle.

The Chapter newsletter contained requests for help from John Scott of Kutztown University for information about collecting sites or minerals in Delaware County and from Peter Livens of the University of Delaware for French Creek tourmalines. An article about the Moore's Mill phosphate mineral locality rounded out the Pennsylvania news.

### Southern California Chapter

The group met March 19 at the San Bernardino County Museum in Redlands in conjunction with the Mineral Locality Symposium. The group was asked by the MSSC to cooperate in producing the Glendale show. Potential speakers for the show theme, California Gemstones, were discussed. Cal Graeber and Mike Gray will be speakers with Gordon Austin and other potential speakers. Bob Reynolds, Chapter President, suggested a display on birthday gemstones, a list of which was provided by Jessie Hardman. The group acknowledged Les Lomax for his numerous donations of fine specimens. Tom Russell and Don Layton are new members of the Chapter.

The Chapter held a May 14 meeting at the Costa Mesa show but details were not available at press time. A meeting is planned for July 17 at the Fallbrook Historical Society building.

Name	Last
------	------

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_

State or Province

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_ Computer

The following information is requested

1. Are you interested in meeting FM me

2. Are you willing to show them your

3. Are you interested in trading spec

4. Are you willing to exchange mine

- collecting localities? yes

- localities?
- 
- yes
- 
- no
- 
- som

- \_\_\_\_\_no \_\_\_\_\_sometimes

- Raymond, Chapter President, suggested a display on

- ### 8. Collecting specialties

9. Your profession or occupation\_\_\_\_\_

10. Company, agency, or institution \_\_\_\_\_

11. Do you speak to amateur groups? \_\_\_\_\_

- Microscope work?      X-ray diffract.

13. Are you a mineral dealer? \_\_\_\_\_  
Are you interested in joining  
Association", whose dealers offer  
regularly priced merchandise? \_\_\_\_\_



## DENVER 94

Regina Modreski

As the featured mineral at the 1994 Denver Show, large quantities of pyrite will be glittering among the more familiar Denver show offerings of Colorado amazonite and fabulous Sweet Home Mine rhodochrosite. Of course the 100 exhibits and 100 dealers at the Merchandise Mart club-sponsored show, and 700 to 800 more dealers at seven independent shows, will offer all that the mineral, fossil, or gem collector could want.

The Denver Gem and Mineral Show is scheduled for September 16-18, 1994, at the Denver Merchandise Mart, just north of downtown Denver on 58th Avenue east of I-25. Satellite shows open September 14. Virtually all of the best mineral and fossil dealers can be found in Denver, without the overcrowding and high motel prices of some shows. This year, for the first time, FM will have an informal social gathering at the Denver show, at 10:00 a.m. Saturday morning in the Meeting Room at the Mart. The show, by the way, is sponsored by an association of ten clubs, which includes the Colorado chapter of FM.

Two new features to look for at the Denver Show this year are an Artists' Room, with original mineral and mining art exhibited for sale, and an International Room, with dealers from a number of countries, who are in the U.S. for the first time.

For a brochure with details on all shows and area accommodations, or for exhibit information, contact the Denver Show at P.O. Box 621444, Littleton, CO 80162, or phone (303)-233-2516.

### SCHEDULE - 1994

#### FRIDAY (9/16)

- 1:30-2:00 pm Society of Mineral Museums Professionals Board Meeting (speaker's room)
- 2:00-3:00 pm Society of Mineral Museums Professionals General Meeting (speaker's room)
- 4:00-5:00 pm Pyrites and Pyritized Fossils from Ohio and the Midwest," John Medici

#### SATURDAY (9/17)

- 10 pm Friends of Mineralogy National Meeting (Meeting Room)
- 10:00-10:45 am "Dinosaurs for Kids," Neal Larson, Black Hills Natural History Museum (TBA)
- 11:00-12:00 am "Tyrannosaurus Rex Through the Ages," Brent Breithaupt, University of Wyoming Geology Museum (speaker's room)
- 1:00-2:00 pm "Minerals, Myths, and Magic: The Hidden Power of Gems," Joseph Peters, American Museum of Natural History (speaker's room)
- 2:00-3:00 pm Colorado Federation Meeting (meeting room)
- 3:30-4:00 pm "Beads, Ancient to Modern Uses," Doris Kemp, Lizzadro Museum of Lapidary Art (speaker's room)
- 6:30-9:30 pm SATURDAY NIGHT SPECIAL**
  - 6:30-7:30 silent auction benefiting "Rocks and Minerals" plus snacks and cash bar
  - 7:30-8:00 awards presentations
  - 8:00-9:00 Dr. John Sinkankas presents "The Development of Mineralogical Illustration in Books"

#### SUNDAY (9/18)

- 11:00-12:00 am "Minerals and Murphey's Law," George Robinson, Canadian Museum of Nature (speaker's room)
- 1:00-2:00 pm "Minerals in Archaeology," Dr. Jean DeMouthe, California Academy of Sciences (speaker's room)
- 2:30-3:30 pm "The Mineral and Gem Mines of Minas Gerais, Brazil," Dr. Anthony Kampf, Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County (speaker's room)

**CALL FOR PAPERS**  
**16TH FM-TGMS-MSA**  
**MINERALOGICAL SYMPOSIUM**

The 16th Mineralogical Symposium sponsored jointly by Friends of Mineralogy, the Tucson Gem and Mineral Society, and the Mineralogical Society of America will be held in conjunction with the 41st Tucson Gem and Mineral Show, Saturday, February 11, 1995. The topic of the symposium will be **topaz** -- the theme mineral for the show. Papers on descriptive mineralogy, paragenesis, classic and new localities, etc. are invited. An audience of knowledgeable amateurs as well as professional mineralogists and geologists is expected.

If you wish to present a paper, please write or call (**immediately**) Mr. Beau Gordon, Symposium Chair (P.O. Box 6214, Rome, GA 30162; Tel: 706-291-4618), or Dr. Robert B. Cook, Symposium Co-Chair (Department of Geology, 210 Petrie Hall, Auburn University, Auburn, AL 36849; Tel: 205-844-4282, with your topic, a few sentences describing the paper, and your address and phone number. Presentations will be 15 or 20 minutes in length followed by a period for questions. Upon acceptance of topics all authors will be required to submit a substantive 200-300 word abstract by September 1, 1994 (**firm date**). Those abstracts will be published in the January-February issue of the Mineralogical Record (subject to the approval of the editor), which will be available for sale at the 41st Tucson Gem and Mineral Show.

**PREVIEW of 17th Symposium**

The theme for the 1996 FM mineralogical symposium has been established! It is "Fluorescence and Luminescence of Minerals." The symposium will be co-sponsored by FM, TGMS, MSA, and the Fluorescent Mineral Society (FMS). 1996 is the 25th anniversary of the founding of the FMS, and that society will be sponsoring a number of special exhibits and events at the 1996 Tucson show, including co-sponsorship of the symposium. Calcite will be the feature mineral of the 1996 Tucson Show, but fluorescence will be a companion theme. Pete Modreski will be the symposium chair. A call for papers will be published later.

**COLLECTING ON FEDERAL LANDS**  
**A THOUGHTFUL APPROACH**

Al Kidwell - Past President

**Background:**

The USDA, Forest Service is responsible for administering over 191 million acres of federal lands comprising 156 National Forests within 43 states and one protectorate. Much of this land is of prime interest to mineral collectors but agency policy concerning access to the minerals in those lands for collecting varies from forest to forest. Two actions the Forest Service took earlier this year are of great interest to the mineral collecting community and point to the need for this major land managing agency to develop a clear, reasonable and workable policy that will allow and encourage access to minerals on National Forests for collecting and rockhounding purposes.

In February of this year the Forest Service sent a representative, John Nichols (Ouachita National Forest, Hot Springs, Arkansas), to the annual Tucson Gem and Mineral Society Show in Tucson, Arizona. I have known Mr. Nichols for a number of years. He is a geologist from the Minerals and Geology side of the Forest Service and is also personally involved in the mineral collecting and rockhounding community in Arkansas. The Forest Service presence at the show was an important formal outreach to the mineral collecting and



rockhounding community.

A Forest Service booth and exhibit Mr. Nichols set up and staffed along with other Forest Service personnel at the show displayed mineral collecting opportunities on many National Forests and afforded thousands of people from across the country the opportunity to learn more about accessing forests they were interested in. Mr. Nichols was also invited to address the national meeting of the Friends of Mineralogy during the show, where it was further shown that the Forest Service was taking a real interest in encouraging and providing opportunities to the mineral collecting community on National Forest lands.

It became clear that the mineral collecting and rockhounding community could play an important role in facilitating the forest Service outreach efforts. I approached Mr. Nichols for help in putting together an informal group of collectors, professionals, and others with interest in this subject that we both know and worked with, in Hot Springs when I would be there in April. The sole intent of this informal group was to attempt to look at both the mineral collecting community and the Forest Service's needs and desires regarding mineral collecting and then to explore the best avenue to help both sides draw closer together for mutual understanding and cooperation.

In the meantime, the Law Enforcement side of the Forest Service developed proposed regulations concerning a number of problem issues on National Forests that required stronger enforcement authority. Unfortunately, one of the issues involved tighter regulation of mineral collecting that as proposed would have prevented or severely restricted mineral collecting on National Forests altogether. Fortunately, the proposed regulations were abandoned after a significant outcry from the mineral collecting community further showed the importance mineral collecting holds to a very large segment of our population. The unrelated actions from the Minerals and Geology side and from the Law Enforcement side of the Forest Service has placed more emphasis on the need to bring the mineral collecting community into a closer and more positive relationship with the Forest Service.

## **SUGGESTED POLICY CONCERNING ACCESS OF EARTH SCIENCE COLLECTORS TO NATIONAL FORESTS**

**June 1994**

A meeting was held on Monday, April 11, 1994, in Hot Springs, Arkansas to discuss USDA-Forest Service procedures and the earth science collectors, including mineral collecting and rockhounding, access to National Forests, and potential interaction by the collecting community with the Forest Service. Attendance at this meeting included:

Dr. Albert L. Kidwell (Houston, Texas)--Mineral collector and retired geologist, and past president of Friends of Mineralogy

J. Michael Howard (Little Rock, Arkansas)--Mineralogist and staff geologist with the State of Arkansas Geological Commission

Henry deLinde (Little Rock, Arkansas)--Noted amateur mineralogist, mineral historian, advocate, and locator of several prime mineral collecting localities in Arkansas

William Willis (Hot Springs, Arkansas)--Staff Geologist with Weyerhaeuser Co. and current president of the Hot Springs Geology Club

Charles Steuart (Hot Springs, Arkansas)--Mining Engineer for Malvern Minerals Co., avid mineral collector and past president of the Hot Springs Geology Club

John Nichols (Hot Springs, Arkansas)--Forest Geologist on the Ouachita National Forest

Others that were unable to attend but are part of this effort:

Debbie Baldwin (Mt. Ida, Arkansas)--Coordinator for the Mount Ida Chamber of Commerce (Mt. Ida, the "Quartz Crystal Capital of the world") which hosts an annual Quartz Crystal festival and dig

Neil Suneson (Norman, Oklahoma)--Paleontologist, and Staff Geologist for the State of Oklahoma Geological Survey

It was discussed that the Forest Service at the national level has made efforts recently to reach the mineral collecting and rockhounding community across the country. Many opportunities to collect minerals exist on a number of National Forests. However, there is no national policy pertaining to mineral collecting on National Forests. Consequently, local forest policies often vary widely from encouraging mineral collecting to discouraging mineral collecting.

Equally evident was the need for insight into who the mineral collecting community is composed of, what activities are typically associated with mineral collecting, and why access to mineral collecting localities is important, to help the Forest administrators better work with this segment of our society. Therefore, it was recognized that an essential component to the intent of this meeting included first defining as best as possible the categories of earth science collectors with regard to their needs. The following categories were identified and profiles of participants in each category along with observations of activity levels and other relevant information were addressed:

#### 1. Casual Collector Category

**Profile:** Individual/Family with moderate educational interest in rocks and minerals but generally with little or no specialized earth science background. A.K.A. "rockhouser".

**Observations:** Generally short term collecting of several hours at various times throughout the year, and generally involving picking up such things as quartz crystals and/or small specimens of other rocks, minerals, and fossils, with the objective of making a small personal collection and acquiring knowledge about the rocks minerals, and fossils of the area. This could also entail the use of a gold pan in streambeds.

**Desired Policy:** Allow collecting without requiring a permit conditioned on no undue surface disturbance.

#### 2. Serious Collector Category

**Profile:** Serious collector of minerals, fossils, or rocks interested in making a meaningful personal collection, or a collection for an educational or other non-profit organization, and whose interest is of such a nature that many will often author papers and accounts of their findings that are printed for public benefit in semi-professional (i.e. mineral/geology club newsletter; special interest magazines) and/or professional publications. The serious collector often will have educational, scientific, and/or specialized study interests.

**Observations:** At the least, the "Serious Collector" Category would be limited to digging with hand tools only (with rare exceptions) and removing generally not more than a backpack full of specimens (for most types of minerals collected).

**Desired Policy:** Allow collecting without a permit conditioned on no undue surface disturbance; issue a Forest Service Prospecting Permit if an "inordinate amount" of material is to be collected. An "inordinate amount" could be defined by the type of mineral, the collecting protocol, and history of a given area, and the impact from excavating for that mineral.

#### 3. Organized Collectors Category--

**Profile:** Organized field excursions by earth science clubs (i.e. mineralogical/geological clubs) and/or other school/university or other non profit organizations generally involving 5 or more persons with the intent to



further educate the members, most of whom generally will be amateurs, and for the collection of specimens meant for a members private collections.

**Observations:** Depending on the nature and purpose of the field excursion and number of people involved, impacts from such activities will generally be non-existent to very limited with participants utilizing only hand tools such as rock hammers, scrapers, and garden trowels. Field trips are generally organized to last from 2 to 12 hours and may involve one or numerous locations.

**Desired Policy:** A permit may or may not be required dependant on the nature of the trip, destination, and collecting history in the area. However, organizing such trips often requires sufficient time that obtaining a permit would generally not be of concern.

#### 4. Scientific/Government Category

**Profile:** Scientific community and governmental entities, primarily universities and State Geological agencies, whose interest in mineral collecting is purely scientific and to increase the understanding of the technical nature of a mineral or geological formation etc., for public benefit.

**Observations:** The amount of material removed is generally no more than a backpack full. Impacts from this activity will generally be very limited.

**Desired Policy:** No permit should be necessary. However, courtesy calls or letters would be appropriate and desired.

#### 5. Commercial Operator Category

**Profile:** Persons removing minerals for sale (commercial activity), even if they declare themselves as "collectors" in Categories 1 through 3 above, should not be treated as "collectors" when their activities involve removal of minerals for sale.

**Observations:** Generally, this category will involve mechanized equipment, explosives, more extensive surface impacts, and sale of the mineral being removed. These conditions already require pre-approval under the mining laws and evaluation under environmental laws.

**Desired Policy:** The desired policy is the present policy. People removing minerals for sale already have to come under the provisions of the mining laws and regulations to remove minerals for that purpose.

It was agreed that an effort to transmit this information to appropriate representatives in the mineral collecting community would be undertaken by myself. It is our recommendation to those representatives that:

1. contact be made with the Forest Service national office in Washington D.C., in particular the Minerals and Geology Management Department, with the intent to provide information on the earth science community, assistance in helping make contact with organizations throughout that community, and to offer assistance in helping to define and develop policy that would be mutually beneficial to both the Forest Service and to the earth science community as well, and to
2. make contact with the various organizations in the earth science community to, in turn, try to establish positive and beneficial contacts with National Forests in their respective areas to offer assistance in helping to develop public collecting and interpreting opportunities.

Al Kidwell - Past President, Board of Director

Those wishing to comment on Forest Service policy can direct correspondence to:

Mr. Dave Fredley  
Assistant Director Minerals and Geology Management  
USDA - Forest Service  
14th & Independence, SW  
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