FM Newsletter

President’s Message

The social hour at the Denver Gem and Mineral Show gave many of us the opportunity to meet and talk to FM members who were strangers to us—besides that, the donuts were great. We are planning to have a social function in conjunction with the annual February FM meeting in Tucson. This will be an opportunity for many of you to come, meet new faces, and voice your opinions on issues and make suggestions on projects that you would like FM to undertake. We also welcome volunteers to help with projects—two of our volunteers from this past year are now running for membership on the board of directors. We are working on the new membership directory and in the process have noticed several addresses and names which some of us know are not correct. We will correct what we know about, but for those who have not sent in their member data sheets, the information in the directory will only be as current as what is in our files from the past. Unfortunately, many of the chapters have not been keeping the national files updated. So, if you have moved recently and are concerned that your chapter might not have updated your information in the national files, please contact our treasurer, Mike Kokinos. We are working on providing more services to our members. Along those lines please read the book review in this newsletter describing a recently published (1994), beautifully-illustrated book by one of our members, Werner Lieber. Werner is also an "associate photographer" for the Mineralogical Record.

★ Karen Wenrich, President

No, 3 July, August, September 1994

Note$ from the Treasurer

DIRECTORY

The directory will take longer to produce than expected. By the fifteenth of September, some chapters still hadn’t sent me their updated roster. It is best to start with an accurate directory even if it is delayed.

DUES

Dues and the directory go hand in hand. Some of the chapters haven’t sent in the balance of their 1994 dues or final changes for the directory. National members who haven’t paid 1994 dues have this last opportunity to pay their $10.00. Please mail your dues to Mike Kokinos, 4620 Doe St., Shingle Springs, CA 95682-8478.

BYLAWS

There were only five votes against the bylaw change. A couple of them were concerned that mail balloting was not authorized. The point is well taken. I suggest one of them propose a further revision to Article VI, Section 1. The language could read "Amendments to the Articles of Incorporation or to these bylaws shall be made only by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the ballots cast at the annual meeting. Mail ballots shall be included with the newsletter published immediately before the annual general meeting."

★ Michael Kokinos, Treasurer
SECRETARY’S SCRATCHINGS

This newsletter contains several reports about FM activities around the country. The level of dedication and activity exhibited by FM members is really astounding. We are trying a few new features with this issue. Reports of the Denver Show by Regina Aumente Modreski, Colorado Chapter and the Butte Show by John Cornish, Pacific Northwest Chapter highlight show activities. The Washington Pass trip was summarized by Ray Lasmanis, Pacific Northwest Chapter. President Karen Wenrich contributed a book review. An excellent slate of nominees for Board of Director positions has been suggested by Al Kidwell and the Nominations Committee. Be sure to vote! As usual please contact me or other officers if you have comments, suggestions, or contributions.

★ Nelson Shaffer, Secretary

Chapter News

Colorado Chapter

The big event of this quarter for the Chapter was the Denver Mineral Show held September 16 to 18 (see below for the report by Regina). During the Chapter’s meeting on September 8, Dr. Peter Modreski spoke about his trip to St. Petersburg and the Kola Peninsula of Russia. Reports of Colorado diamond mining developments and a short item about zeolites appeared in the newsletter. It was also reported that the original U.S.G.S. Bulletin 114 about Colorado minerals was reprinted by a commercial group and is now available.

The new Minerals of Colorado update manuscript was printed and submitted for final review. This awesome effort spearheaded by Gene Foord amounts to more than 1600 pages including a 201 page bibliography and represents the work of many Chapter members. The Denver Museum of Natural History has proposed to help publish the book and projections are that finished copies may be available in 1996. Ideas, suggestions, and opinions about publication details were solicited from members.

DENVER SHOW 1994

Pyrite may have been the featured mineral at the 1994 Denver Show, but the probable star of the show was a fabulous rhodochrosite from the Sweet Home Mine, a matrix specimen thickly covered with about two dozen one- to two-inch, cherry-red rhombs. Destined for a museum in Europe, it was displayed by Bryan Lees of the Collector’s Edge.

For a change, there seemed to be no particular outstanding new mineral finds among the hundreds of dealers in the club show and satellite shows. However, the club show hosted several notable firsts, including a "Geological Art Exposition" with mineral and mining art by Susan Robinson, Carl Bentley, Darrell Merke, and Julie Williams, and dinosaur art by Paul Koroschetz and Donna Braginetz. A first-time "International Room" provided space for dealers selling amber, opal, Eastern European minerals, and antiquarian books. One exhibit at the show featured diamonds mined at the Sloan kimberlite pipe in northern Colorado. Due to the initiative by Tom Michalski the U.S. Geological Survey occupied a popular booth where they distributed thousands of copies of free publications. Hopefully, these new features will return to future shows.

The Saturday morning FM social attracted some 20 to 30 members and guests for coffee, donuts, and an opportunity to chat. Members of FM Colorado Chapter, one of the sponsoring organizations of the Denver Show, provided mineral identification, a popular "Kid’s Corner" with hands-on activities, and an exhibit of aquamarines aimed at promoting the FMCC-sponsored publication Antero Aquamarine.

Saturday night festivities provided a silent auction to benefit Rocks & Minerals magazine, to the musical accompaniment of guitar and banjo. "Pyrite: Does it come from anywhere besides Peru" was the evening’s talk given by Rock Currier, who graciously and capably filled in on short notice when John Sinkankis, the previously scheduled speaker, suffered a heart attack. Another fund-
Earth Science Show in Greenfield, Indiana. The Chapter sponsored a field trip to the Lima Quarry and the Duff Quarry at Huntsville, both in Ohio, on September 17. Pyrite, fluorite, celestine, and calcite highlight specimens from this area. A trip to Maybee, Michigan, was outlined. Current president Hal Roepke sought volunteers for 1995 officer positions. The group established an outreach program to invite high school science teachers on collecting trips. Members Vern Swanson, Linda Spaulding, and Beth Ann Waltz set up booths at the Indiana State Museum at a Mineral and Fossil Day that was initiated by Ron Richards. Noted collector and author Terry Huizing suffered a heart attack but is now up and about. We all wish him the best!

Pacific Northwest Chapter

A very successful excursion to Montana for collecting and attendance at the Butte Mineral and Gem Club Show was held (see report below by John Cornish) in July. The group also conducted their 5th Annual North Cascades (Washington Pass) Clean-Up and Field Trip August 12 to 14 as reported by Ray Lasmanis.

The Chapter’s 20th annual Mineralogical Symposium featured calcite and happened September 23 to 25 at Tacoma, Washington. Pete Reynolds spoke on morphology of calcite crystals, Peter Megaw spoke about calcites from Santa Eulalia District and about skarn minerals from the Potosi Mine of Mexico, and Bob Boggs talked about photography through the microscope. Computer demonstrations chaired by Rick Dillhoff featured Pete Richards demonstrating the SHAPE program, George Gerhold showing off CD-ROM progress, and Joe Hagel giving examples of computers in mineral curating. The Noble V. Witt Award was presented at a dinner program. FM benefit auctions, displays, dealers, and a micromount seminar were also featured.

ALL CHAPTER FIELD TRIP REPORT

All total over two dozen members and guests
participated in this wonderful outing. Members from the Pacific Northwest and the Colorado Chapters of FM met in Butte, Montana for the Butte Gem & Mineral Club's Annual Show. The show was held on the Montana Tech. College campus which is also home to the World Museum of Mining and the Montana Tech. Mineral Museum, both free attractions. The show offered many superb displays of minerals both in the mineral cases of members from the Butte Club and on the tables of the many mineral dealers in attendance. Butte minerals were prominently displayed in many cases. Exciting local examples of rhodochrosite, covellite, pyrite, amethystine, and Japan-law twinned quartzes abounded.

The Butte Club for FM offered a mini-symposium in conjunction with the show for the first time this year. Three talks were presented to a standing room only crowd. The talks were in the order presented—Pegmatites: New Finds in the Butte Area, PC Mine Japan-Law Twinned & Phantomed Quartz, and finally Butte Minerals. The talks were all exceptional and very well received.

That evening a special banquet was offered and many of our group were in attendance. At the banquet representatives of the U.S. Forest Service presented the Butte Club and individual members of the club with awards for their efforts towards making Crystal Park "one of the jewels in the region." A round of applause was joyfully given for their achievements. Appropriately enough on the following day most folks met and started over to Crystal Park for a few days of collecting. The weather was warm and sunny the entire time of our get together. Many exciting finds were made by members while collecting at the "The Park."

We of the Pacific Northwest Chapter would like to thank everyone who was able to attend this great gathering. Even with some of our logistics problems (The symposium location and FM meeting room not being ready for us until just before the talks, and an incorrect zip code printed on the National Application Form sending the mail somewhere in Southern California!) everyone pulled together and offered up smiling faces. Our only wish was that more of an opportunity could have presented itself for us to discuss our own local chapters and that more members could have attended. We all had a wonderful time and hope that sometime in the future this type of trip will be offered again. Thank you all again.

★ John Cornish

FIFTH ANNUAL FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY
WASHINGTON PASS CLEAN UP AND COLLECTING WEEKEND, AUG. 12-14, 1994

This year the turn out was down from 1993. Two of the FM officers could not attend because, as Dept. of Natural Resources employees, they were out fighting the record setting forest fires. In fact, a fire was burning not far from the Klipchuck Campground and filled the valley with smoke. Nonetheless, sixteen members and guests did arrive by Friday night.

Saturday morning our clean up plan fell apart as U.S. Forest Service staff were diverted to the fires. Eventually members headed out in the field to collect at the Silver Star pullout, Mile Post 164, and the base of Liberty Bell Mountain. The usual suite of minerals was found. The most significant discovery was made by Randy Becker with Lanny Ream: a fifth boulder was found to contain the very rare mineral calciohialalrite. Chapter president John Cornish was also present and excavated smoky quartz crystals from the pocket. Everyone enjoyed comparing notes with Bob Boggs and Don Howard, two of the experts on rare minerals of the Golden Horn Batholith.

By Saturday afternoon we managed to contact the Forest Service and they supplied us with bags and gloves retrieved from fire camps. Instead of roadside garbage, they asked us to pick noxious weeds. Some took the opportunity to pick weeds during the cool evening while others spent Sunday morning pulling up tansy, knapweed, and thistle. Some garbage was also collected including a mangled 30 MPH road sign. A good time was had
by all.

Note: there is a good description of minerals from this area in "Minerals of the Golden Horn Batholith, Okanogan County, Washington" by Randy Becker in Rocks and Minerals, Volume 66, November/December 1991.

★ Raymond Lasmanis

Pennsylvania Chapter

Jennifer Warnowsky, recent recipient of the Chapter Memorial Fund Award, presented a paper with her advisor, Dr. George W. Myer, about mineralogy and petrology of the ultramafic body in West Chester Quadrangle. They reported three new Pennsylvania minerals, buamite, neporite, and pecoraite. The Carnegie Museum has acquired and displayed an outstanding new specimen of rhodochrosite from the Sweet Home Mine, Alma, Colorado and part of a suite of minerals from the former Soviet Union as selected by Collections Manager and by FM member Marc Wilson.

Henry Decker, FM member and former President of the Mineralogical Society of Pennsylvania, passed away on August 24. A memorial scholarship fund has been established in his name.

Southern California Chapter

Garth Bricker hosted the July 17 meeting at the Fallbrook Historical Society building. A mineral symposium was planned for October 1 and 2 at the San Bernardino County Museum with speakers Jeff Scovill talking about photographing large specimens and Arizona vanadinites, Rod Burrough speaking on fluorescent mineral localities, and William Rader telling about minerals of the Santa Monica Mountains. A silent auction, a favorite slides show, and the still famous pot luck supper were followed by mineral workshops and an infamous left-over pot luck luncheon.

The November meeting will be held November 13 at the Pasadena Show at the Glendale Civic Auditorium. The meeting will host a mineral symposium that features gemstones of California.

BOOK CORNER

Amethyst

Amethyst is a chemically simple, relatively-common, yet, widely coveted variety of quartz. Is this just another book describing another mineral--no, this reviewer doesn’t think so. This book is so multifaceted that anyone who owns more than one mineral book will not be able to resist adding Amethyst to their library. The exquisite illustrations in this book lead the reader through the history, properties, and localities of amethyst:

Amethyst is not only sought for its specimen value, but also for its gem qualities. Ancient Egyptians worked this violet-colored quartz from volcanic rocks near present-day Assuan, producing gem carvings and jewelry. The Greeks called the stone "amethystos," which means "not intoxicating" from the belief that it prevented drunkenness. It was used to decorate valuable robes, crowns, scepters, and royal swords. The use of amethyst goes back 5,000 years. Amethyst is still treasured today, particularly by those born in the month of February for which amethyst is the "birthstone." One of the more important amethyst localities in the past was Idar-Oberstein, which is still the center of the German cutting and jewelry industry. Unfortunately, their amethyst supply was almost exhausted during the 19th century, so the stone cutters looked toward Brazil for the source of their rough material. Today, the Brazilian and Uruguayan resources are among the most important and productive in the world. Almost 200 localities in 38 countries are discussed and visually documented with crisp, sharp color and black and
white photographs. Many of the historic locality photographs are tastefully presented in sepiatone. An entire chapter is devoted to the physical and chemical properties of amethyst including an extensive discussion on the causes of color in amethyst.

Amethyst, an excellent multidisciplinary, scientifically sound, single mineral treatise, is one of the best to arrive on the market in decades. In addition, the purple linen-bound book has excellent paper quality and is generously illustrated with 154 color and 50 black and white photographs, all of which are superb in quality and composition. Although the book is in German, one doesn’t need to speak German to enjoy it—you only need to see the color purple.

FM DEALERS ASSOCIATION UPDATE

Beau Gordon tells me that the following people have become members of the FM Dealers Association and will offer discounts according to guidelines given in the last FM national newsletter. Several dealers at the Denver Show displayed signs indicating their participation in this innovative and most worthy group.

Cal Graebner
Graebner Minerals
PO Box 2347
Fallbrook CA 92028

Beau Gordon
Jendon Minerals
PO Box 6214
Rome GA 30162-6214

Arlene Handley
Handley Rock & Jewelry Supplies
6160 NE Highway 99
Vancouver WA 98665

Fred L. Gaunce, Jr.
The Miner’s Shelf
1064 Oak Moss Drive
Lawrenceville GA 30243

Keith Williams
RR 1, Box 77
Rio WV 26755

Dave Bunk Minerals
9240 W 46th #317
Wheatridge CO 80033

Steve Pullman
Whole Earth Minerals
PO Box 50008
Reno NV 89513

Carter Rich Minerals
PO Box 69
Aldie VA 22010

C. Leonard Himes
Minerals America
PO Box 540257
Orlando FL 32854

Chris Wright
Wright’s Rock Shop
3612 Albert Pike
Hot Springs National Park, AK 71913

David Lare
Jeffrey Mining Company
Rt 1 Box C-20-A1
Saulsbury TN 38067

Dan Weinrich Minerals
16216 Copperwood Lane
Grover MO 63017

John Schooler
PO Box 1021
Blue Springs MO 64015

Bernard L. Murowchick
Mineral Concepts
428 Hollingsworth Hill Ave
Lakeland Fl 33803

Morton L. Metersky
725 Cheryl Drive
Warminster PA 18974
JOE MARTY (3457 E. Silver Oak Rd., Salt Lake City, UT 84108) is an avid field collector of minerals, specializing in micromounts. He enjoys studying and photographing mineral specimens. Some of his color photographs have appeared in the Mineralogical Record and Rocks and Minerals. Joe was the 1992 president of and is now the current program chairman for the Mineral Collectors of Utah (MCU). In addition, he was the 1994 field trip chairman for the Northern California Mineralogical Association (NCMA), past president of the southeast Idaho Gem and Mineral Society, and is a member of the Great Basin Chapter, Friends of Mineralogy. Joe has published articles and given lectures on the Tintic District and Thomas Range. He lives in Salt Lake City, Utah, where he is a faculty member in the Department of Pathology and manager of the Anatomic Pathology laboratories at the University of Utah Health Sciences Center. His first trip to Tucson was in 1989 at which time he became addicted to minerals and hasn’t missed a Tucson show since!

PETER J. MODRESKI (8075 W. Fremont Drive, Littleton, CO 80123) is a Geochemist with the U.S. Geological Survey. He is a past secretary, vice-president, and president of FM, and a past president of the FM Colorado Chapter. Pete is an Executive Editor of Rocks and Minerals magazine, and he has been active in helping organize several symposia for FM the Colorado Chapter.

REGINA AUMENTE MODRESKI (8075 W. Fremont Drive, Littleton, CO 80123) is a Physical Science Technician at the U.S. Geological Survey. She has been active in local mineral clubs in Albuquerque and Denver for more than 20 years, spending most of those years as newsletter editor for the Albuquerque Gem and Mineral Club, then for the Littleton Gem and Mineral Club. For the last 10 years, Regina has been on the Denver Gem and Mineral Show Committee as Show Chairperson (1986) and Publicity Chairperson. As a member of Friends of Mineralogy Colorado Chapter, Regina served as Secretary, assisted in organizing several mineral symposia, and helps out where necessary.

ROBERT REYNOLDS (2024 Orange Tree Lane, Redlands, CA 92373) has been the Curator of Earth Sciences at the San Bernardino County Museum in Redlands since 1967. He has special interests in mineralogical localities in southern California and in western Nevada and Arizona, in Tertiary and Pleistocene vertebrate paleontology, and in biostratigraphy. With the aid of a large corps of volunteers, Mr. Reynolds cares for more than 2 million specimens in the Museum Earth Science collections and conducts field research in San Bernardino County and surrounding regions. He is a graduate of Pasadena City College and the University of California, Riverside. A long-time member of the Southern California Chapter of the Friends of Mineralogy, he has served several terms as its President, an office he currently holds.

CREDO SCHWAB (4701 W. San Rafael St., Tampa, FL 33629-5507) is a retired chemical engineer (DuPont). He has been an FM member at large for 4 years and a mineral collector for 30 years. He is active with the Florida mineral collectors group and produced their newsletter for 2 years. Recently he has offered to do publicity/membership work for FM. The President has accepted the offer pending Board approval. Work experience was in nuclear materials at the Savannah River Plant and project engineering in the DuPont Polymer Products Division, Parkersburg, WV. Mineral collecting specialties are sulfides and isometric minerals.

ANDREW A. SICREE (Steidle Bldg., University Park, State College, PA 16802) is curator for the Earth and Minerals Science Museum at Penn State University, State College, PA. He was formerly with the Minerals Section of Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, PA. He is a Ph.D. candidate at Penn State University specializing in ore deposits research. Andrew is an avid collector since childhood.

1994 BALLOT FOR ELECTION OF F.M. DIRECTORS

Six Directors will be elected from the following highly qualified candidates. Please vote with an "X" next to the names of the Candidates of your choice. There is a space for write-in votes and you are free to use it for another candidate of your choice.

Please return your ballots to the F.M. Secretary, Nelson Shaffer, Indiana Geological Survey, 611 North Walnut Grove, Bloomington, IN 47405, before February 1, 1995. The results will be announced at the annual FM meeting in Tucson. You may use a photo copy of this ballot.

VOTE FOR ONLY SIX DIRECTORS

☐ Joe Marty
☐ Regina Modreski
☐ Credo Schwab
☐ Write-in
☐ Peter J. Modreski
☐ Robert Reynolds
☐ Andrew Sicree
FM Newsletter
Published Quarterly By: Friends of Mineralogy, Inc., affiliated with the Mineralogical Record.
Subscription: Included in annual membership fee. $10.00 national members
Editor: Nelson Shaffer, Secretary, FM
530 Cabot Ct., Bloomington, IN 47408
Letters to the Editor: All letters should be sent to The Editor at the address above.

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Elected board meeting, Tucson, AZ, February
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702-246-3711
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812-855-2867, FAX: 812-855-2862
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916-677-9333

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Until February 1995
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Anthony Kamp ■ 12923 Warren Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90066
Marie Huizing ■ 5341 Thrasher Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45246
Steven C. Chamberlain ■ 105 Academy St., Mammius, NY 13104
Patricia Barker ■ P.O. Box 810, Campton, NH 03220
Al Kidwell ■ 14403 Carolcrest, Houston, TX 77079

Until February 1996
Arlene Handley ■ 800 NW 72nd Street, Vancouver, WA 98665
Michael Kokinos ■ 4620 Doe St., Shingle Springs, CA 95682
Kay Robertson ■ 10334 Iona Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90064
Arthur Smith ■ 9118 Concho, Houston, TX 77036
Nelson Shaffer ■ 530 Cabot Ct., Bloomington, IN 47408
Richard W. Thomssen ■ P.O. Box 1656, Carson City, NV 89702

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Indiana ■ Hal Roepke 4806 W. University, Muncie, IN 47304
Pacific Northwest ■ John Cornish 40 Cedar Glen Lane, Port Angeles, WA 98362
Pennsylvania ■ A. Mogel RR1, Box 151M, Mohrsville, PA 19541
Southern California ■ Robert Reynolds 220 S. Buena Vista St., Redlands, CA 92373

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