



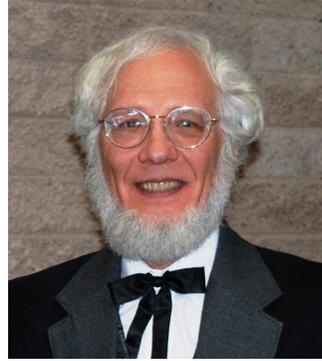
to promote, support, protect and expand the collection of mineral specimens and to further the recognition of the scientific, economic and aesthetic value of minerals and collecting mineral specimens

BULLETIN OF FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Mark Jacobson

Three months have passed since the last newsletter near the end of winter. Now in Colorado, we are having nice 70-80 degree days, but unfortunately with almost no rain. Meanwhile, our chapters and mineral clubs have started their field trip seasons and

individual collectors are researching new areas to go to or continued investigation in old areas.

FM National is gearing up for our February 2023 joint symposium with the Mineralogical Society of America and the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show®. The show theme is silica minerals which strictly speaking are quartz, agate (used here as a generic term for cryptocrystalline quartz), opal, cristobalite, and tridymite. For broader appeal we will still be happy to accept other silicate talks on feldspars, micas, pyroxene, or amphiboles [editor's note: see more on page 7].

Please consider giving a talk. We will continue to be pleased to have remote speakers, presenting to a live audience. There will still be a free online abstract booklet with a handful of paper booklets available at the symposium.

At the Denver Gem and Mineral Show®, FM will be judging the best educational cases for an institution and a non-institution award, meaning an individual or a group of individuals representing themselves. Educational cases are not restricted to the show theme, which in Denver is "Collecting Colorado." This theme, the show organizers hope, will bring out the best, interesting, curious, and strange minerals, fossils, and maybe Colorado mining artifacts for exhibition.

Our chapters are also busy with different field trips and their own symposia which should be noted in the chapter reports which follow. In addition, the Strategic Vision Committee, concerning planning of where FM should focus and what metrics we should use to track our plan, is being developed. Along with these activities, FM continues to provide members and new members the ability to pay national dues online at the national website. Our current, 2022 total FM membership stands at 398. Membership declined during COVID; we can hope

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ONLINE RESOURCES



WEBSITE:

friendsofmineralogy.org



CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

friendsofmineralogy.org/calendar-of-events



FACEBOOK:

Official page: @FriendsofMineralogy

Public group: Friends of Mineralogy community



INSTAGRAM:

@friendsofmineralogy

(President's Message, continued from page 1)

that with the decline of COVID, FM will continue to expand our activities and membership and maybe even exceed our pre-COVID membership.

Our activities are solely dependent on volunteers. If you have an idea of what we as an organization should do, please approach any member of the board (which includes chapter presidents or their designated representative). To get your idea done, you just have to talk to us and provide the manpower to “get-er-done.” We are receptive but all members on our board are involved in numerous other mineralogic activities and potentially still earning a cash income so may be “maxed out” on volunteer work.

The board has also revised and approved the plan for adding another journal to be considered for the Best Article of the Year Awards. With this change, we will continue awarding the best articles from the *Mineralogical Record*, *Rocks & Minerals*, *Mineral News*, and *Mineral Monographs* after the year ends. The new magazine to be judged is *Elements*, which is a joint magazine published by an international consortium of 18 scientific societies. This bi-monthly (six issues a year) magazine covers all dimensions of the fields of mineralogy, geochemistry, and petrology. Each article is written for a scientific generalist to understand and appreciate with all the articles in a single issue having a common theme such as pegmatites, mineralogy of Mars, or a mineral group such as apatite. The magazine can be obtained for free by being a member of any of the eighteen societies that sponsor *Elements* or by direct purchase [editor's note: see more on page 4].

– Mark Ivan Jacobson



NEWSLETTER EDITOR

THANK YOU, BETH!

Since 2015 Beth Heesacker has diligently served as the FM National newsletter editor, getting out news of our chapters and national activities to our membership four times a year. After seven years, Beth has decided to retire from this appointed position. These have been very busy years for her with several Tucson symposia, revision of the National bylaws, installation of several new Executive Board members, and the formation of a new chapter in Virginia. Through all these activities, Beth has accurately and on time delivered an attractive and thick newsletter. The Executive Board thanks Beth for her many contributions to FM – **thank you!**

POSITION OPENING: NEWSLETTER EDITOR

We are looking for a new bulletin editor who is willing to take on the role of assembling the newsletter from chapter contributions and sending it out to our membership. The newsletter editor does not need to be on the board – any FM member is eligible. The National Board is happy to work with any volunteer in getting oriented to the position.

Contact friendsofmineralogy@gmail.com if you are interested!



ELEMENTS ADDED FOR BEST ARTICLE AWARD

After the 2022 National Board Meeting, Alex Schauss discussed the addition of the *Canadian Mineralogist* for the best article of the year awards (as approved during the 2022 board meeting) with key individuals of the Mineralogical Association of Canada (MAC), publishers of the *Canadian Mineralogist*, and the Mineralogical Society of America (MSA). They recommended that we instead choose *Elements* (published jointly by MAC, MSA, and others), as it contains articles with broader appeal to mineralogical enthusiasts and would be easier to judge.

Alex noted that he had “the support of the key individuals in MAC and MSA along with that of Alex Speer and John Rakovan to have Friends of Mineralogy judge an *Elements* best article of the year.”

Alex made a formal motion to the board by email on May 25, 2022 “to change the awarding of a best article of the year from the *Canadian Mineralogist* to the *Elements* magazine.” Erin Delventhal seconded the motion. The board agreed by a majority that this motion could be voted on by email and approved/rejected with the final tally due by June 24, 2022 (30 days to vote).

17 votes were submitted from the 20 board members, all voting yes to approve the change, thus the motion has passed and is now approved. Those voting yes were: Matt McGill, Jessica Robertson, Alex Venzke, Bruce Bridenbecker, Bill Stephens, Pete Modreski, Alex Schauss, Mark Jacobson, Linda Smith, Thomas Hale, David Shapiro, Bill Besse, Jeanine Mielecki, Erin Delventhal, Don Buchanan, Laurence Nuelle, and Alfredo Petrov.

– Mark Jacobson, FM President



FM NATIONAL LOGO

At the FM National Board meeting in Tucson last February, a committee composed of either board members or people nominated by chapters to make a recommendation on a new or revised logo was formed.

The logo was generated several decades ago, and some people feel it should be replaced with a more modern approach. One objection to the old logo is the mineral specimen in the center of the logo. No one seems to know what it is supposed to be or who drew it. One possible update would be to replace the specimen with something that is known. Another possibility would be to design a logo that has no mineral specimen as part of it. There are many possibilities to be discussed.

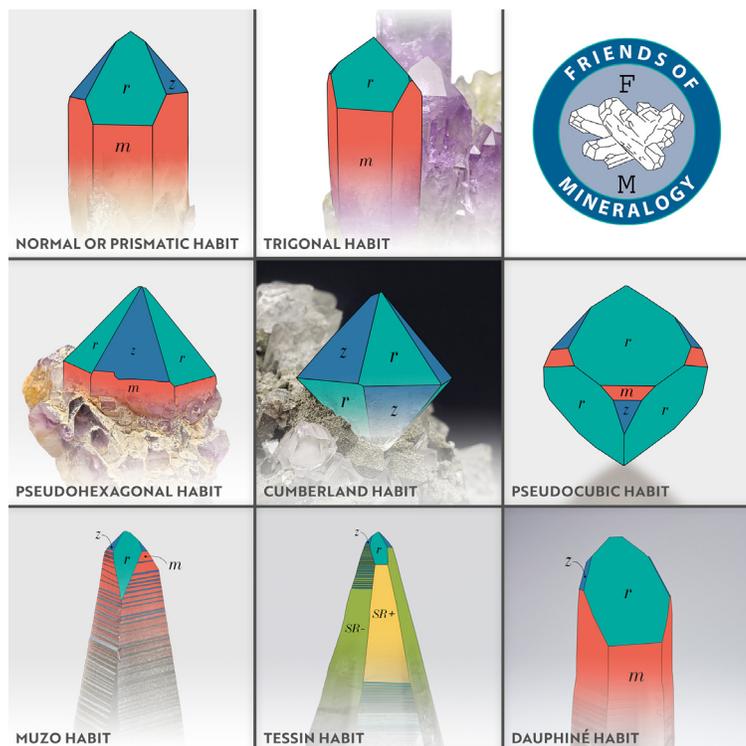
– William Besse
FM National Board Member & Past President
wwbesse@gmail.com



POSITION OPENINGS: LOGO COMMITTEE

We need volunteers for this committee. If you are interested in working on this committee or have thoughts on whether the logo should be replaced or updated or neither, please contact Bill Besse at wwbesse@gmail.com!

OUTREACH COMMITTEE – QUARTZ HABIT SERIES



The Outreach Committee has continued with its initiative to increase interactions between FM National and its chapters, affiliates, and the general public.

One of our larger social media projects this year has been an educational series on the **crystallography of quartz**, including discussion of forms, habits, twinning, and more – a special thanks to Amir Akhavan, creator of [The Quartz Page](#), for his many insights and for assisting our team when we ran into questions! The series is designed as an introductory level discussion (though sprinkled with tidbits for the experts too!) of some concepts of crystallography using quartz as an example to illustrate these ideas with the continuity of a single mineral species.

The series is ongoing – we have more to cover regarding twinning and intend to

branch out from crystallography to also cover mechanisms of coloration and other features. We are also working on ways to make this (and other) content available for use by chapters, other organizations, educators, etc. – please stay tuned and feel free to reach out to us with questions or comments at fmnationaloutreach@gmail.com!

In case you missed it, a collection of the posts regarding quartz habits can be viewed on Facebook here: [Intro to Quartz Habits](#).



STRATEGIC VISION SURVEY

The Friends of Mineralogy Strategic Vision Committee is developing FM’s first five-year strategic plan to help guide the organization forward. Our team requests input from FM members to inform this process. The survey will take about five minutes to complete, and you will be notified that your submission was recorded. The survey results will be compiled and help the committee finalize a draft of the strategic plan. Please stay tuned via the FM National Newsletter and social media for updates and news regarding the findings.

Please complete the survey by August 1 – thank you!

You are encouraged to complete the survey online!

Alternatively, the survey can be printed to submit by email or snail-mail (*see the following page*).

CLICK HERE TO COMPLETE THE SURVEY ONLINE!

The survey below can be printed and emailed or snail-mailed by **August 1** to:

Thomas Hale

2447 Kessler Road NE

Roanoke, Virginia 24012

friendsofmineralogy.virginia@gmail.com

ADMIN QUESTIONS (OPTIONAL)

How long have you been a member of Friends of Mineralogy? _____

What chapter are you affiliated with (if any)? _____

Do you now or have you ever held any leadership positions within FM (circle one)? Yes No

SURVEY QUESTIONS

The following questions use a five-point scale to help aggregate membership responses. Please circle a number for each statement to indicate whether you (1) Strongly Disagree, (2) Disagree, (3) Neutral, (4) Agree, and (5) Strongly Agree. Please provide honest responses; your submissions will remain confidential and your answers will help inform the future success of this organization.

1. I understand the difference between my regional chapter and FM National. 1 2 3 4 5
2. I am informed about FM National projects and objectives. 1 2 3 4 5
3. I am aware of what other FM chapters are doing. 1 2 3 4 5
4. FM is an accessible and welcoming organization to new members. 1 2 3 4 5
5. I am willing to volunteer for FM National projects and programming. 1 2 3 4 5
6. I am willing to volunteer for FM Chapter projects and programming. 1 2 3 4 5
7. FM National should provide programming and resources for FM chapters. 1 2 3 4 5
8. FM National should play a larger role with engaging and supporting regional chapters. 1 2 3 4 5
9. FM as a brand is well-known across the mineral community. 1 2 3 4 5
10. I am happy as a member of Friends of Mineralogy. 1 2 3 4 5
11. FM is going in the right direction. 1 2 3 4 5
12. My chapter actively meets and creates programming and networking opportunities
for members. 1 2 3 4 5
13. My chapter is engaged with education and community outreach programming. 1 2 3 4 5
14. My chapter emphasizes field trips as an integral part of the organization. 1 2 3 4 5
15. My chapter has active membership engagement. 1 2 3 4 5
16. My chapter has a social media account or messaging platform to stay in touch. 1 2 3 4 5
17. My chapter provides submissions to the FM national newsletter. 1 2 3 4 5
18. My chapter provides the FM national newsletter to members three times a year. 1 2 3 4 5

TUCSON MINERAL SYMPOSIUM

SILICA MINERALS – QUARTZ, AGATE,
OPAL, TRIDYMITE, AND CRISTOBALITE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2023 • TUCSON CONVENTION CENTER, TUCSON, AZ



photo by Erin Delventhal

THE 41ST FM-TGMS-MSA TUCSON MINERAL SYMPOSIUM

The 41st Tucson Mineral Symposium, held in conjunction with the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show®, will take place on Saturday, February 11, 2023. This symposium is co-sponsored by the Tucson Gem and Mineral Society, the Friends of Mineralogy, and the Mineralogical Society of America. As a tie-in with the show, the symposium theme complements the show theme:

“Silica minerals – quartz, agate, opal, tridymite, and cristobalite.”

Presentations on silica minerals that include their descriptive mineralogy, mineralogical structure, paragenesis, classic and new localities, and related subjects are welcome. Although the emphasis is on silica minerals, presentations on other silica-bearing minerals such as feldspars, zeolites, micas, amphiboles and pyroxenes will be considered.

An audience of amateur and professional mineralogists and geologists is expected.

Interested speakers should first submit their desired talk title for a presentation length of 25 minutes (or 20 minutes plus 5 minutes for questions). There will be 10 minutes between talks to handle introductions, and computer and sound. There will only be lapel microphones, so speakers are not restricted to being behind the podium.

See more details at: friendsofmineralogy.org/call-for-papers

Presentation titles must be submitted prior to July 31, 2022. Abstracts, presentation images, speaker biographies, and photographic headshots must be submitted prior to September 1, 2022.

Please send submitted titles (and later abstracts and speaker biographies) by one of the provided three methods:

By mail: Mark Ivan Jacobson 1714 S. Clarkson St., Denver, CO 80210

By email: friendsofmineralogy@gmail.com

By submitting the form online: friendsofmineralogy.org/call-for-papers



REPORT ON RE-OPENING THE MOUNT PLEASANT MILLS, SNYDER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA WAVELLITE OCCURRENCE

by Bill Stephens, PG
EFMLS 1st VP & Region IV RVP
President, Pennsylvania Chapter

Many of you are aware of the wavellite deposit at the National Limestone Quarry at Mount Pleasant Mills (NLQ-MPM), Pennsylvania, located approximately 40 minutes north of Harrisburg in Snyder County, PA. Many of you have seen my PowerPoint presentation at least once ©. For those of you that haven't and by way of a refresher for those that have, green was discovered by the Mount Pleasant Mills quarry owner Eric Stahl in the early 2000s while clearing a perimeter roadway on the upper bench of the quarry along the southerly property line. He invited a local rockhound/expert collector or two to investigate, they did some digging and confirmed the species to be wavellite. They mined a bit, word got out and clubs began asking permission to come and dig.

Wavellite and associated species identified at the site including planerite are phosphates, largely of mineralogical interest, though non-specimen grade wavellite had been mined around the turn of the 20th century at another site in PA for matches. It blew up and that was that (Stefanic, Michael, Master's Thesis). The type and classic locality for specimen quality wavellite in the US is in Arkansas, and pretty much any mineralogy/mineral book you pick up that has example photographs of wavellite will show a color specimen from Arkansas. What we now realize is that specimens from NLQ-MPM rival any from Arkansas in size and quality, and the deposit is just being explored. MPM wavellite is not documented in the literature beyond an abstract two paragraphs long in a proceedings book (Rochester I believe) from the mid-2000s.

I first visited this site in 2015 (I think) and had great success. I went back several times as the first time the adit was open and we were able to get at the veins in solid rock, not spoils. I and others got some killer specimens. I prepared my first PowerPoint Presentation that year and have updated and amended it every year since. In 2017 I started considering developing a peer-reviewed article, probably for Mineralogical Record, and teamed up with Ron Sloto, formerly of the USGS and now retired but doing independent research at West Chester University on PA minerals, to work toward the goal of publishing the definitive guide to MPM wavellite. A death in the family while onsite followed by other work-related commitments and COVID forced me to postpone my efforts until this year. Ron had already submitted his article (analysis, mineralogy), which has been accepted for publication in the Mineralogical Record.



Needs some cleaning but greening. Love the shimmer.

I spoke with Eric again after several years, explained what I wanted to do, and paid to conduct excavation work for specimen recovery and geological work before the first club was scheduled to arrive on April 9th, 2022. Over the last few years, the site and road had become overgrown, and fresh specimens were unobtainable on short half-day club trips – as productivity dropped off to near nothing, so did the digging. As part of the excavation mission, I had Eric’s son clear the road, so it was passable for any vehicle, and remove the waste overburden and expand the hole first downward, and then forward. We built up the ramped portion of the roadway with waste spoils to soften the grade change which left room to place new spoils in the old mined-out section and allow room to build a pad for the track hoe over the mined-out area.

Machine-assisted excavation and documentation of wavellite veins was conducted 5 days over a period of about a month, with other geologic work ongoing. With some help from Ryan Klockner, hundreds if not thousands of specimens were recovered and the variation in color size and habit was impressive. Ryan found a specimen with a ¾” lemon-colored free-standing ball.

Look at the images below showing the quarry and westerly wavellite pit as of April 13, 2022. If you visit the quarry, I left a poster with Eric that he shows to all the visiting clubs and includes the two aerials below and Photographs 1 & 2.





Photograph 1: View looking easterly at the conclusion of the limited Machine-Assisted Geologic Exploration of the Westerly (Upper) Wavellite Adit/Pit. Previously existing spoils were used to build up and berm the road. New spoils that do contain specimens of wavellite overlooked during the exploration. The active workings extend below the cardboard box easterly into the wall. The westerly side of the pit contains no wavellite. Wavellite extends from the lower left (westerly, exposed) shoulder of the excavation to 3 feet off the southerly wall (road), down about 16 feet, and easterly toward the easterly pit.



Photograph 3: View looking easterly along Lime Ridge showing the color change between the ridge-forming Old Port Formation (tan) and the Keyser & Tonoloway Formations (gray) currently being mined.



Photograph 4: View looking westerly from the easterly (Lower) Wavellite Adit up the road toward the westerly pit.



Wavellite "Astroturf" ©



"Pina Colada" wavellite

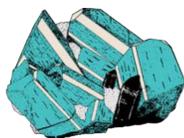


"Peas Popping"

The specimens pictured above are typical and can be found during regular collecting activities. My geological work is ongoing, and you may see me up there some Saturday during a club dig. If you are interested in going, you must belong to or join a club that is scheduled to or can schedule a trip with the quarry owner. An onsite safety meeting and the owner's orientation and Christian testimony usually take place at the Middleburg quarry and collecting usually starts at Middleburg and ends up at MPM. Both quarries produce nice calcite, strontianite, some fluorite, and occasional celestite, but the wavellite is only on the upper bench at MPM.

No individuals are permitted in the quarry and safety gear, as well as insurance and sign-in sheets are required. If you want to know more about this site, feel free to shoot me an email (bstephens@stephensenv.com), or check out my Facebook page. Contact the National Limestone Quarry, Inc. quarry owner Eric Stahl at 570-837-1635 to schedule your club for a trip. Happy Hunting!





FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY
COLORADO CHAPTER

Colorado Chapter

friendsofmineralogycolorado.org

– No report for this issue –



Midwest Chapter

fommidwest.org

– No report for this issue –



Mississippi Valley Chapter

– No report for this issue –



New Jersey Chapter

fomnj.wordpress.com

Field Trip Reports for the Spring 2022 Season

Amethyst collecting site & the Gap Nickel Mine, Lancaster County

April 16 • joint trip with NoJMS, FM-NJ, PESA

Attendees: Groundhog Dave Shapiro, “Great” Dane Transue, Mike “the Pie Man” Dunton, “Mailman” David Mailman with Izzy, Linda Lovstad, Gary Quam, Anders Todd, Will Truszkowski, Dana Cappa, John Langone, April Rumfield, John and Gayle Montgomery, Kenny Napolitano with family, Gregg and Kelli Steuben and family, Rolf Schudel Jr., Dawn Hill, and Kimmy Brancato

We had great weather for our trip to Lancaster. The Amethyst field yielded some specimens of clear to the deep purple amethyst this location is known for. Most were smaller clusters, but a couple of good size points were found. We had a lot of new members and families enjoying their hunt for the treasure. Rolf Schudel had the find of the day with a 5- or 6-point Amethyst cluster of generous size on matrix. After a couple of hours of field collecting, 11 of us ventured over to the Gap Nickel Mine which is just a short drive away. The Gap Nickel Mine tailings are known for their colorful appearance when you first

approach. There are golds, purples, greens, and oranges from the ore staining everything else it comes in contact with, and schist is found on everything. Chalcopyrite is the main find with pyrrhotite and hornblende being mentioned by some collectors. Mike “Pie Man” Dunton believes he may have a piece with a minor amount of millerite present.

Lang Shaft and Hamburg Mine, Franklin, NJ • afternoon to night dig

May 21 • joint trip with NoJMS, FM-NJ, and FOMS

Attendees: “Franklin Phil” Phil Crabb, “Groundhog” Dave Shapiro, Dave “Lermanator” Lerman, Suzanne, Jarrath and Nate Shaw, Linda Lovstad, Gary Quam, Sean Stimac, Michael Kelly, Connor Williams, Dawn Hill, Gary Moldovany, with stop-ins by: “Rock Queen” Stephanie Koles, John Postas, Lauren Anderson, and Steven Kuitems

It was most definitely a hot and humid afternoon, on this outing. However, the weather did not prevent these folks from coming out to the High St. property for this afternoon into evening dig. Jarrath Shaw definitely had the finds of the day, with a handsome, somewhat cherty sussexite piece; one or two pieces with some hardystonite and clinohedrite; an unknown which is possibly a genthelvite or similar mineral, some daylight-reactive green willemite, and others. Dave Lerman also found a nice piece or two of the daylight-reactive green willemite, among other finds. Gary Quam once again found some of the multi-color fluorescent calcite he previously found, and a possible greenockite find (mystery yellowish powdery material). Various sphalerites and willemite/calcites were also found throughout the afternoon.

As always, we thanked Phil for the collecting opportunity, and hope to return in the Fall.

Tripp Mine No 1 trip, Alstead, NH • afternoon to night dig

June 11 • joint trip with NoJMS, FM-NJ, DMS

Attendees: “Groundhog” Dave Shapiro, Bobby Allen, John Langone, John Van Wagenen, Micah and Sidney Raab, Tom Biegel, Micki and John Riess, Kevin Cooper and Tia Buttcher, Al and Bonny Rogers, Jack & Jackie Sangillo, and Dawn Hill

This was an outstanding trip for the clubs, as it was our first outing there/up to NH. An abundance of pegmatite material was available for digging, breaking, scanning, whatever the heart’s desire, and we all had interesting finds. Several folks had outstanding beryl finds of 1-inch to up to 5-inches, and one lucky member found a soda can-sized complete beryl crystal. Lots of schorl tourmaline, quartz, feldspars, garnets, and other minerals were collected there in abundance.



Pacific Northwest Chapter

pnwfm.org

– No report for this issue –





Pennsylvania Chapter

rasloto.com/FM

The FM-PA Chapter has been very busy the first half of this year. I'm pleased to report that we have secured our venue for our annual symposium on November 12 & 13, 2022 and we will be returning to the Brightside Opportunities Center in Lancaster PA, and the meeting will be hybrid so feel free to join us remotely if you cannot attend in person. See the flyer below.

Our Symposium is of great value, particularly for students and licensed professionals needing inexpensive continuing education credits (5). The talks/speakers and field trip venue are TBD. Dr. Steve Lindberg (UPJ) and I are working on a talk for the New Paris Quarry near Bedford, PA, known for fluorite and fossils, and long utilized as a training site for the University of Pittsburgh, Johnstown campus (UPJ). Dr. Lindberg leads regular trips to the site for collecting and geologic education, and since being purchased by the neighboring farm landowner, it is likely that it will remain preserved for that function far into the future. The quarry is no longer active.

Steve and I met years ago when I started attending the Field Conference of PA Geologists (FCPG) to help maintain my PG licenses. He has also long been associated with the Treasures of the Earth facility in PA, and after he hosted a pre-conference field trip to that facility where they make replicas of dinosaurs and, of course, sell rocks, I invited him to speak at the Delaware Mineralogical Society's "Symposium at the Show," which I ran a few years ago. He's a great, engaging speaker and I look forward to him speaking at our symposium this fall.

I reached out to Steve about using the New Paris Quarry as a test site earlier this year while I was engaged in a mission to test out the effective mapping limits of the Mavic2 Pro drone, which is much easier to deploy than the Inspire 2, and test out using a spreadsheet developed by Oneida University that computes strike and dip data from 3 coordinate points (got wind of this tool from Dr. Martin Helmke (WCU) a couple of years ago while working on a quarry project for one of my clients). Some of you may be aware that in my daily professional life, one of my company's services is surveying, and I own survey-

(continued on next page)



FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY - Pennsylvania Chapter

SYMPOSIUM November 12, 2022 Lancaster, PA

FIELD TRIP November 13

Symposium for mineral collecting enthusiasts on **Saturday Nov. 12, 2022**

Hybrid Symposium - **ONLINE** or **IN PERSON** at

Bright Side Opportunities Center, 515 Hershey Ave., Lancaster, PA 17603

Talks by knowledgeable speakers on **Pennsylvania Mineralogy and Geology**

Sales by Select Dealers - Silent Auction - Give-away Table - Conversation

Registration: watch for registration form on our web site

Professional Geologists: Five Professional Development Hour credits available for full lecture attendance

Field Trip Location to be announced. **Sunday Nov. 13** Open only to symposium registrants.

Watch for details, registration form, changes and updates on our **web site:**

www.rasloto.com/FM

For newsletters and field trips during the year, please join our chapter!

See "Join FM" on the web site

grade GPS equipment and a robotic total station with which I can take both prism and reflector-less measurements. I have always wanted to test out “shooting” inaccessible beds, joints, and faults using the survey equipment but needed the 3-point solution math to do it. The spreadsheet works perfectly and I modified it a bit so I could export the output more efficiently. In the tests run on the New Paris Quarry, both the flight (digital orthomosaic at <1” pixel resolution with 1-foot contours as exports) and the strike and dip data were remarkable. The spreadsheet output can also be used to reconstruct a geologic section on dipping beds. Tune in to our symposium this fall and you will get to see some of this data.

The big event for me this year so far, and a big deal for many clubs in the region, was the machine dig I ran at Mount Pleasant Mills for recovery and study of the geology of wavellite at that quarry. Ryan Klockner was a big help and participated in the specimen recovery. I have attached a separate article with more details [editor’s note: see pages 8–12]. The re-opening of this pit has been a boon for collectors so far this year. I plan to offer an updated talk on this event at the symposium where a detailed discussion of the geology and trace mineral composition of wavellite at this remarkable occurrence will be discussed, and my work on the mapping and structural geology of this quarry will be illuminated. Plan on some eye-popping specimen pics. Ron Sloto has had his article on the site accepted for publication by the Mineralogical Record, but the date for publication has not yet been released.

Ron has also published another book! This time on the mines and minerals of Bucks County, Pennsylvania, which is available from Amazon. Man, what would we do without Ron? He’s amazing. And he has access to some cool instruments for study at West Chester University (WCU).

Some of our Board members, namely Bill Kochanov, PG, and others have initiated an effort to revisit and assess the status of historic collecting sites once featured in the now out-of-print PA Geological Survey “*Mineral Collecting In Pennsylvania*” book of the 1970s, commonly referred to as G-33 for short. As may be expected, most sites are closed, locations lost or redeveloped for other uses, flooded, and the like. Our efforts are designed mainly to determine if access is still possible and if so, obtain permission to access and perhaps collect at these sites. An update on progress will be forthcoming.

All for now. Cheers and Happy Hunting!

– Bill Stephens, PG

President, Pennsylvania Chapter, EFMLS 1st VP & Region IV RVP



Southern California Chapter

Southern California FM Chapter conducted its first indoors symposium in Searchlight, Nevada without COVID masks as the state of Nevada opened its facilities once again after 2 years of COVID lockdowns.

Steve Scott, retired educator and past President of the Great Basin FM Chapter, served as our principal speaker and tour guide for the March 26th weekend into the Newberry Mountains. Steve led thirty-five enthusiastic participants into the Northern Newberry Mountains between Searchlight and Lake Mead for afternoon collecting in the plutonic mountain exposure to find smoky quartz, microcline, albite, and a variety of other miarolitic pegmatite crystals found in the weathered granite plutons on Saturday. On Sunday, he guided us into the Southern Newberry Mountains en route to Laughlin Casino buffets for dinner. Twenty-five participants walked through the desert terrain on Sunday collecting quartz crystals eroded out of the granite landscape.

Fall 2022 plans for our Southern California FM Chapter will have members and guests visiting Copper Mountain Community College campus for three PowerPoint presentations. Howard Brown, retired OMYA geologist, will give a presentation on the geology of the OMYA Quarry near Amboy Crater in the Mojave Desert before taking us to the quarry NE of Amboy on October 22nd. Bruce Bridenbecker, Emeritus Geology Professor at Copper Mountain Community College, will give a presentation on Dish Hill volcanism and mineral enthusiast Marek Chorazewicz will share with us about exotic micromount minerals found at this site. More details will be provided in the fall newsletter.

– Dr. Don Buchanan
President, Southern California Chapter



Virginia Chapter

friendsofmineralogyvirginia.org

The team at Friends of Mineralogy Virginia (FMVA) has been hard at work over the last several months completing several major projects it had been planning for over the last six months. Several major milestones were accomplished since our last update including:

- Completing our **first book publication** [150 pages] on the Northern Virginia Trap Rock Quarries (*Releasing at the end of July!*)
- Creating a new **state-wide teacher manual** to update the older documents put out by our state geological survey and industry partners, which we hope will be provided to over 200 teachers per year.
- Updating the Virginia Transportation Construction Alliance (VTCA) **rock kit guides** provided to 300 teachers per year.
- Donating the first **rock and mineral display** to a local middle school through our VTCA partnership with the collaboration of seven gem societies and seven aggregate producers.
- Strengthening partnerships with our state teacher associations and building new opportunities with the **National Sand, Stone, and Gravel Association (NSSGA)**, which oversees all aggregate operations in the United States.
- Continuing to put on well-attended (avg. 40-50) **speaker series** with phenomenal guests (all of which are posted on our YouTube Channel).
- Organizing the first **Rockin' PD (field trips)** for teachers across Virginia, taking four cohorts to four different quarries over the next two months – one of which will be the Culpeper dinosaur trackway! In coordination with VTCA & VAST.
- Finishing up the second cohort of our **Rockhounding 101 Course** with two field trips and a phenomenal retention rate for membership into FMVA.

What's Next?

Although there has been much success, our team realizes that it is imperative that we sit down over the next several months and debrief what went well and how we can improve moving forward.

Communication has been difficult given how much we are doing, and we want to ensure everyone who wants to, can stay updated constantly. **FMVA would love to find a social media person** to assist our team in the coming months and find better ways to share our work outside of our weekly updates. Our team also recognized the massive learning curve for putting out a publication, including timelines and organizing the process. We look forward to working all of these out over the rest of 2022 for future works!

VTCA-FMVA Display Case

The sign outside the Prospect Heights Middle School in Orange said, “Education Rocks,” but inside the school, Kristen Boudreau was waiting with great anticipation for the presentation of the display case of rock and mineral specimens she won at a professional development meeting last year hosted by the Virginia Association of Science Teachers (VAST).



Calcite • Goose Creek Quarry, Loudoun Co., Virginia, USA • 6.0 cm • August Dietz collection, ex. Buck Keller • Connor Williams photo



The first-of-its-kind display case was part of an ongoing educational outreach initiative between the VTCA and FMVA. Both organizations recognize the importance of materials and minerals as the building blocks for society and the need to educate and engage with communities as demand for these critical materials rises.

Rob Lanham, the aggregates program manager of VTCA, sponsored the display case, with support from seven aggregate companies across the Commonwealth. Thomas Hale, president of FMVA, worked with six mineral societies across the state and in Delaware and Maryland to provide contributions. The case was filled by Mr. Hale and a teacher manual was provided to Kristen Boudreau with the support of Brandi Moore at FMVA. Mr. Hale gave a background of the specimens donated as well as educational materials for use by the teachers and students.

Together, VTCA and FMVA came up with the idea of presenting an educational display to a Virginia school to help bring awareness to students of their local rocks and minerals. Over 50 specimens were provided for the display case, along with materials and handouts provided by Dr. Speer and the Mineralogical Society of America (MSA). Documents ranged from NASA, USGS, AGI, GIA, and several other large institutions that embody geoscience education. FMVA’s ability to gather these minerals from across our various affiliates showed the power of collaboration and engagement with one another. Thomas emphasized that “together, we can accomplish anything.” The story of the event was provided as a press release to local news outlets in the area who will be showcasing this in their newspapers and online community news.



Northern Virginia Trap Rock Quarries Publication

Virginia has a rich mineral heritage. The Northern Virginia trap rock quarries were a source of world-class apophyllite, prehnite, and stilbite specimens which still rival the newer trap rock deposits in India. The quarries are also the source of a long list of high-quality miniature and micromount mineral specimens, including two type-locality minerals, goosecreekite and loudounite, first discovered and identified in Virginia.

In addition to its rich mineral diversity, hosting **87 different mineral species**, the Northern Virginia trap rock quarries are critical to the economy of Virginia. These few trap rock quarries have provided aggregate materials supporting Northern Virginia's transportation and construction sector for decades. This publication combines a detailed review of the region's mineralogical and geological heritage, including a deep dive into the aggregate industry and its importance in society. Through this industry and mineralogy approach, the publication will be immensely useful for teachers, tourists, collectors, and nature enthusiasts wanting to learn more about Virginia's mineralogical history. Biographies of some of the most important people involved in mineral collecting in the trap rock quarries and Virginia's mineral history are presented along with many of their collecting stories, which are published for the first time.

The first major publication on Virginia's mineral resources in thirty years.

This is the first publication in what hopes to be a continuing series of publications on Virginia's mineral heritage under FMVA. Our goal is to produce the next publication on the Amelia pegmatite district in the next two years! Throughout this process, we have worked with our new partners (such as [Diamond Dan Publications](#)) to build a growing team to continue to create future publications. Stay connected with the group on social media and join us in our effort to uncover more about Virginia's mineral resources. Below are two examples of the quality of photos and specimens you can expect from this publication! A huge shout out to our photographer, Connor Williams, for doing this incredible work.



Prehnite • Bealeton Quarry, Fauquier Co., Virginia, USA • 5.1 cm • August Dietz collection, ex. Buck Keller • Connor Williams photo



Stilbite • Goosecreek Quarry, Loudoun Co., Virginia, USA • 5.4 cm • August Dietz collection, ex. Buck Keller • Connor Williams photo

Working with FMVA

The team at FMVA would like to once again open its doors to fellow FM chapters, affiliates, and friends to join us in this ongoing journey to redefine the way we talk and educate about minerals. FMVA over the last year has developed deep ties with industry associations and the companies that extract the materials used to build the products we use in our everyday lives. While our

core team is small, we value working with other groups to accomplish bigger and greater goals. Recent discussions with the National Sand, Stone, and Gravel Association have provided possible opportunities for national projects which could aid and assist other FM chapters across the country. While this would officially be connected with FMVA, we do want to extend these opportunities across the country.

Please reach out to us if you would like to learn more about the various educational materials we are producing and the templates, guidelines, and how-to's on some of our projects. We want to share these with our FM family in hopes to deepen the overall FM brand and continue to expand our organization at the regional and national levels. Even if you are across the country, our virtual operations and business meetings are open to you no matter where you live. We encourage you to reach out and engage with us to learn more about how we can partner together in the coming months and years. **Our team is super excited to start planning for 2023 by the end of the summer, and we would love to have you there.**

Upcoming Projects & Activities

- Over the remainder of the year, FMVA will be working on institutionalizing several of these larger projects we completed this year. It is our goal to create how-to guides and templates that we can use later on to streamline our work and share with others.
- Our team will be working on planning several field trips for the end of summer and fall. We have been working with industry over the last year and the time has come to take our partnerships out into the field. One of our quarries of interest will be the Barger Quarry, on which we based our logo!
- Working on establishing a foundation budget for 2023 to support FMVA projects and activities.
- Begin the pre-planning for our next publication on the Amelia Pegmatite District.
- Coordinate with **new partners** at NSSGA, Virginia Energy, and the Virginia Master Naturalist Society to build new official partnerships.
- Begin production of the **FMVA Poster Series** (the first poster will be released in July as a limited run).

Reach Out to Us!

Organization Email: friendsofmineralogy.virginia@gmail.com

Thomas Hale (President): virginiamineralproject@gmail.com

Alex Venzke (Vice-President): alex.venzke27@gmail.com

Follow FMVA on:



Pyrite on limestone matrix • Bargers Quarry, Rock-bridge Co., Virginia, USA • 2.5 cm crystal • August Dietz collection, ex. Buck Keller, Connor Williams photo



Mineral News

The Mineral Collector's Newsletter

phone: (434) 964-0875 • fax: (434) 964-1549 • website: mineralnews.com • email: news@excaliburmineral.com

Excalibur Mineral Corporation

Publishers of the Monthly Periodical *Mineral News*

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Mineral News again offered a wide range of articles in its most recent issues. Highlighting the March issue, Steve Chamberlain and Don Curtis, Jr. provided a detailed account of an obscure locality they christened “The Ravine” in Fine, New York. It involved some history, field research, and a chance meeting that resulted in locating the source of “orphaned locality” specimens in old collections labeled simply as “Fine, New York.” Ultimately, careful descent into a steep ravine that fell to the Oswegatchie River far below yielded some attractive specimens from a virtually inaccessible and nearly lost locality.

Martin Jensen shared his visit to the “back room” of the historic D.F. Wiser Mineral Collection at the ETH Zurich, Switzerland. Wiser specialized in minerals and acquired a total of 7,928 specimens over 42 years, beginning in 1830. Notable samples were described, and contact information to visit the museum was offered as well. Bill Shelton continued his series on collecting minerals by specific elements from the periodic table, and John Fox recounted a visit to the Coppertown Mining Museum in Calumet, Michigan.

Tony Nikischer described an obscure find of scalenohedral calcite crystals up to 6cm tall from Jebel Hafeet, in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi of the United Arab Emirates. Oddly shaped twins and small, clustered groups as well as single crystals were uncovered. The material had been retrieved by a Czech figure skater who dug the crystals from this unheard-of locality, and the article was well illustrated with specimen images. Among mineral collections, specimens from the UAE are rarely encountered.

The March issue also presented another excellent article by Frank Dudas and Nilanjan Chatterjee of MIT, here describing niobian chevkinite and other niobium minerals from the well-known Sheep Creek area of Montana. Detailed analytical data and SEM images gave some insight into the difficulty of properly and conclusively identifying the species involved.

The April issue trumpeted a wonderful historical research piece by Dan Kile who assembled the story of Lazard Cahn and his Zentmayer Army Hospital microscope. Illustrated with both current and historical images, the author successfully laid out the tortuous steps needed to confirm this historical mineralogical instrument.

Tony Nikischer presented an article on the old azurite specimens attributed to the Peacock Mine near Leadore, Idaho. Establishing the validity of the locality involved some careful sleuthing and first-hand accounts dating back to the 1950s, despite the fact the locality today is essentially barren and largely discounted as an azurite source. Delightful images of specimens were presented as well. John Fox described the Badger Mine and Museum in Shullsburg, Wisconsin. He offered some history of mining in the area, as well as a well-illustrated museum tour of the facility.

The May issue offered an excellent article regarding precious opal pseudomorphs after gaylusite from the Tecopa sediments in Inyo Co., California. Robert Housley, Marek Chorazewicz, and George Rossman presented some history as well as the research involved in their article. Robert Fox offered a well-illustrated story of Husson miner lamps, and Martin Jensen described the Natural History Museum of Winterthur, Switzerland from a recent, behind-the-scenes visit. Wonderful specimens were illustrated throughout the article.

Not to be outdone, Tom Rosemeyer presented a superbly illustrated article about the copper-banded agates from Michigan, and Tony Nikischer offered a book review of the Gems of Hiddenite, North Carolina by Mark Jacobson and Wade Speer. If you have not already done so, go get this excellent piece of literature!

*Mineral News is published monthly and is a consistent supporter of FM.
Subscriptions to the periodical are \$35.00 per year in the U.S.*





Mineralogical Record

Tucson, Arizona

mineralogicalrecord.com

Summer is here in Tucson, complete with blazing sun and Gila monsters. It's not a great time of year to go outside, but it is a great time to build issues for the Mineralogical Record! And we have been hard at work! The May-June issue with a wonderful article about the Capelihna deposits (fabulous titanites and epidotes among other things) is out, and we have three more very interesting issues planned to finish the year strong, and several exciting supplements that are now in preparation.

We're always looking for new articles, so if you have an idea for something you'd like to write about, please get in contact with us; we'd love to hear your proposals and help you bring them to fruition. We remain very interested in securing articles on important mineral localities, but we also welcome articles on prominent collectors and their collections, on the history of mineralogy and mineral collecting, and on museum collections.

Updates and improvements to our website (mineralogicalrecord.com) continue to be made regularly. We've recently acquired small numbers of the previously out-of-print "Mineral Collections in Colorado" supplement and the "King of Kashmir" issue. If you missed out on either of these before, here is your chance to get one before they're gone again.



ROCKS & MINERALS

Rocks & Minerals

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Headlining R&M's latest news is the announcement that Dr. John Rakovan, one of our three executive editors, is pulling up his Midwest roots and establishing new ones in the Southwest. Beginning September 1, John, a professor of mineralogy at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, will become the new senior mineral museum curator and mineralogist for the New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources in Socorro, New Mexico. He has taught at Miami since 1998 and has been on the R&M staff since 2001. However, on a more personal note, he has been our neighbor (well, less than an hour's drive away) for the past twenty-five years, and we are already missing him and Monica, although they haven't even moved yet.

Now that the show circuit is up and running again after a hiatus of two years because of COVID-19, R&M is excited to once again be participating in several special events. Look for the R&M booth at the East Coast Show in West Springfield, Massachusetts, August 12-14; the Dallas Mineral Symposium, August 19-20; and the Hardrock Summit in Denver, September 8-11. Need to renew or extend your subscription? Need to pick up missing back issues? Look for us at these shows, or just stop by to chat.

– Marie Huizing, Editor-in-Chief





The Mineralogical Society of America Resources and Coming Attractions

minsocam.org

Overview

The Mineralogical Society of America (MSA) was founded in 1919 to advance mineralogy, crystallography, geochemistry, and petrology, and to promote their uses in other sciences, industry, and the arts. MSA encourages fundamental research about natural materials; supports the teaching of mineralogical concepts and procedures; and raises the scientific literacy of society on issues involving mineralogy in the widest sense. MSA encourages the preservation of mineral collections, displays, mineral localities, type minerals, and scientific data. MSA publishes the journal *American Mineralogist*, *Elements* magazine, the book series *Reviews in Mineralogy & Geochemistry*, textbooks, and monographs. To learn more about MSA's recent activities, read the 2021 Annual Report on the MSA website: minsocam.org/msa/Annual_Report/2021_MSA_Annual_Report.pdf

Anyone with an interest in mineralogy/petrology is eligible to join MSA. Information about membership is on the MSA home page: minsocam.org



Events

Minerals Day

This year will be the third annual Minerals Day (October 10, 2022, the Monday of the American Geosciences Institute's Earth Science Week). The goal of Minerals Day is to highlight the importance of mineralogy and petrology to students and teachers, the collector community, and the general public.

MSA Celebrates Minerals Day
October 10, 2022

The Value of Minerals

Events
Exciting webinars on minerals for K-12 and the general public.

Posters
Downloadable posters for K-12 and for the general public.

Resources
Educational resources on minerals from around the world.

Partners
Founding Minerals Day partner organizations.

As the International Mineralogical Association (IMA) has declared 2022 as the Year of Mineralogy, that will also be the Minerals Day theme. On Minerals Day itself, and during the rest of Earth Science Week, there will be live and recorded webinars and presentations focusing on the theme of *Minerals in Our Lives: 2022 is the Year of Mineralogy*. Webinars will focus on such topics as mineral photography, mineral-based pigments, the minerals that surround you, and much more. The Minerals Day downloadable poster will also feature these topics. For more information on Minerals Day, go to mineralsday.org.

2023 Tucson Gem and Mineral Show Symposium

MSA is once again pleased to be a co-sponsor of an event at the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show with the Friends of Mineralogy and the Tucson Gem and Mineral Society. The event is an all-day in-person and virtual symposium on the theme of Silica Minerals – Quartz, Agate, Opal, Tridymite, and Cristobalite. The symposium will be on Saturday, Feb. 11, 2023, at the Tucson Convention Center. Presentation titles must be submitted to the Friends of Mineralogy by July 31, 2022. Abstracts, presentation images, speaker biographies, and headshots must be submitted before September 1, 2022. For more information, please visit youtube.com/channel/UC43D1PLmBkChtrsNi2y7YQ.

2022 MSA Awards Events

MSA is excited to announce its 2022 awardees:

The Roebling Medal for scientific eminence in the publication of outstanding original research in mineralogy is awarded to **Dr. John Valley**, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI USA;

the Dana Medal for outstanding scientific contributions by a mid-career scientist is awarded to **Dr. Cin-Ty Lee**, Rice University, Houston, TX USA;

and the MSA Award for outstanding scientific published contributions by an early career scientist: **Dr. Benjamin Tutolo**, University of Calgary, Calgary, AB Canada

The awardees and their accomplishments will be honored at the Awards Luncheon at the annual meeting of the Geological Society of America, Denver, Colorado, October 9–12, 2022. The luncheon, on October 11, will be followed by the Awards Lectures from 3:00–5:30 PM.

MSA Communications

MSA is on social media, including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube. MSA has both a Facebook page (3,900+ followers) and a Facebook Group (66,290 members). Here, and on MSA's Instagram account are perfect places to post pictures of favorite minerals from your collections. The username for MSA's Instagram account is **minsocam**. You can find MSA's Twitter feed at **@MinSocAm**. Videos on the MSA YouTube channel (youtube.com/channel/UC43D1PLrmBkChtrsNi2y7YQ) cover a variety of exciting topics in mineralogy, petrology, crystallography, and geochemistry. Another way of linking to the mineralogy community is through the listserv MSA-Talk and its 3,525 subscribers. All are welcome to subscribe at minsocam.org/msa/MSA_Talk.html.

Mineralogy4Kids

MSA has a free, recently rebuilt website for children and their teachers with a wealth of information and activities on rocks and minerals. Mineralogy4Kids (min4kids.org) contains such content as mineral properties, identification, and groups; rock cycle; minerals in your house; minerals and crystals; and games. If you have suggestions for rock and mineral content and/or activities in the public domain that you think would enhance Mineralogy4Kids, please contact Ann Benbow in the MSA Business Office at abenbow@minsocam.org.



Contact Us

We at MSA headquarters welcome suggestions for how to be of greater use to the collector community. Please send any ideas to business@minsocam.org.



mindat.org
mindat.org

– No report for this issue –



Young Mineral Collectors

youngmineralcollectors.org

Here at Young Mineral Collectors, we have been very busy working on ongoing projects for the past few months! We are also preparing to display at the Saint Marie Aux Mines show for the first time since the club has been founded! We are grateful to the organizers of the show for allowing us to have this opportunity and excited to continue to expand our footprint around the world.

The display at SMAM will consist of minerals from around the world that display prominent single crystals either on or off matrix, and collectors from all around the world will be represented at the show. Remember – if you're a Young Mineral Collector and are interested in displaying some of your specimens watch out for the announcements on our [Facebook page!](#)

In recent months the YMC team has also been continuing many ongoing projects that have been previously developed. Two of our most exciting programs are the YMC/FM/Geology365 Mentorship Program, and one of our most exciting projects thus far: a YMC collecting field trip to Morocco!



Photo by Tama Higuchi

The Morocco 2022 field trip will bring our group members to many famous mineral collecting localities around Morocco with the assistance and guidance of Tom Praszki. Members on the trip will be allowed to collect minerals and bring the specimens home as well, which wouldn't be possible without the help of Tom! This field trip is exactly what we aim to offer through YMC – opportunities and experiences related to mineral collecting that would not be possible otherwise.

The mentorship program is another service that we are excited to bring to continue to offer. The program is a “match-maker” service where the mentee and mentor are matched based on mineral collecting interests. The goal of the program is to connect generations of mineral collectors that might not communicate otherwise and to share the knowledge of the older generation with young collectors. This program and platform (provided by geology365.com and Ryan Klockner) are great ways to learn about and catalog minerals.



Photo by Anthony Stassin



Photo by Jake Meisner



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Mineralogical Association of Canada
mineralogicalassociation.ca

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