



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



President's Letter

With December's arrival, we have cold weather, the annual FM election for four new at-large directors, the announcement of the Denver Gem and Mineral Show® educational display winners, and the schedule and speakers for the February Tucson Gem and Mineral Show® symposium on the show theme – Pegmatites: Crystals Big and Beautiful. The Rocks and Minerals January-February issue, dedicated completely to the show theme had so many articles submitted and accepted that the March-April issue will also have several pegmatite articles. If you like what National Friends of Mineralogy does or even want us to do something different, please volunteer for an at-large director position or one of our non-board committees (a show or magazine judge, recommend potential directors, help out on a Tucson symposium, offer a presentation, or revise our operating FM regulations)! We need new blood and ideas. Even old people, like myself, want to move on to newer challenges. Expand our community and play a role.

Enough of my organizational pitch. For people who know me, this year's show is completely in my element. I'm excited about our speakers – top scientists bringing the latest easily digestible information about pegmatites – how they form, what's in them, where are they located, and how old are they? Be prepared to be surprised. The continental crust in Arizona, New Mexico and Colorado was all formed during one interval of Early Proterozoic time – we are all tied together – hosts more pegmatites than are known today. So prospecting is still beneficial.

Bill Stephens has volunteered to monitor a separate computer for those who will want to view the talks remotely. The visuals will be seen from a position in the audience and not the symposium speaker's computer. This will enable me to pay full attention to the symposium sound and visual equipment and help the speaker's stay on schedule, which is always a necessity. We have nine speakers, which is a full day. For those who want or need educational credits for their profession, I will be signing and providing certificates for 6 hours worth of credits. Bill deserves the credit for ensuring we continue to provide this to attendees.

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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)

This is also my goodbye as a quarterly booster for Friends of Mineralogy. I hope to have earned my place with the class of highly esteemed past FM presidents – both living and deceased (but hopefully not joining that group for a long time). I will continue as a Tucson symposium organizer but always looking for an assistant or successor. And as long as I can walk, bend and swing a hammer, I will continue searching out obscure localities, digging holes in the ground, and smashing rocks for the elusive pegmatite minerals. The friendships will remain until the end.



The National FM Board of Directors Annual Meeting

The Annual National FM Board of Directors meeting will be held on **Friday, February, 9, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. Mountain Standard Time** at **Mineral Nexus, 621 West Lester Street**, which is 2.5 blocks west of N. Oracle Road, Tucson, AZ.

The annual meeting will be a combination of in-person as well as remotely via ZOOM. This meeting will be the third hybrid meeting where ALL the chapters and directors can attend. With a Tucson Mountain Standard Time zone of 9 AM, the East Coast chapters will be able to zoom in at 11 AM and the Pacific Coast chapters can call in at 8 AM;

All FM members are also invited if they wish to attend in-person. Current Directors (12 at-large Directors and 8 chapter representatives) who wish to attend remotely will be invited by email with the zoom link provided.



Creating the annual FM Directors Meeting Agenda

For the February 2024 annual directions meeting, I will be creating agenda for the meeting. At this time, members and directors should be sending to me directly at my email address or to any other director items that they wish for us to discuss and make decisions on. The annual meeting is a decision focused meeting. Items need to be sent to me prior to January 15, 2024 so that all directors can have a copy of what the meeting will involve.

At this time, our items are:

1. Agreeing to hire or appoint a California state-based “Agent of Record” for the purpose of being the official agent to receive official California state notices and communications. This is needed since Friends of Mineralogy, at the National level is a California state registered 501(c)(3) educational non-profit. Numerous state regulations determine our annual paperwork reporting requirements.
2. Re-confirming the composition of the director nominating committee, election results vote counting committee, the social media committee, revision of FM operating regulations, and any other committees needed. This will be specifically stated for the final agenda items.
3. Dropping the Elements magazine from the Best Article of the year awards due to lack of volunteers to review.
4. Electing at the board meeting a new president, vice-president and treasurer.



Friends of Mineralogy National Board Election

The annual Friends of Mineralogy National Board election selects four candidates to serve a three-year term as at-large Board Directors on the National Board. Voting is conducted through popular vote by the national membership. For the election of 2024, Erin Delventhal/ Jeanine N. Mielecki will be tabulating results and presenting results to the National Board at the annual board meeting.

By requirement of the Friends of Mineralogy National by-laws, four two-year executive Director positions when they expire, (President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer) must be filled from officers of the Board of Directors during the annual meeting of the Board. Nominations from the floor are accepted. During the upcoming year (2023), the open positions that require a new candidate to be elected by the board is the president, vice president, and treasurer.

Current Board Directors who are continuing in their current executive position is Jeanine N. Mielecki, who will be finishing her first year as Secretary.

Voting to determine the four at-large Director positions is by vote of the general membership. As a member of the Friends of Mineralogy, you are strongly encouraged to vote! Just voting is a sign of your support for the organization. Submit up to four candidate choices by using one of these two methods:

(continued on next page)



(Friends of Mineralogy National Board Election, continued from page 4)

1) Electronically by email to friendsofmineralogy@gmail.com where Erin Delventhal and Jeanine N. Mielecki will tabulate the votes for the FM National Elections Committee, Emailed votes must be received by Tuesday, February 6, 2024.

2) Hard copy by mail to Mark Jacobson, 1714 S. Clarkson St., Denver, CO 80210, Mailed votes must be postmarked by Wednesday, January 31, 2024.

The candidates running for the at-large Director positions this year are presented below and on the following pages.

Choose four of the candidates. The candidates are:



Nicole Childs

From a young age, Nicole was forced to empty pocketfuls of rocks collected off the playground. A childhood spent digging in the dirt translated into a passion for geology that led her away from Pennsylvania to Stanford University, where she graduated with her BSc in Geological and Environmental Science in 2018. After undergrad, Nicole spent the next four years engulfed in the world of minerals, working as a collections manager for the Rock Currier Living Trust and volunteering as a librarian for the Rock H. Currier Digital Library on mindat. Her work exposed her to geological specimens from around the world and left her with a soft-spot for lead minerals, fossil-mineral associations, and minerals from Pennsylvania. Nicole is currently a member of the Colorado Chapter of Friends of Mineralogy and works for the Denver Museum of

Nature and Science as the assistant collections manager for gems and minerals.



Ashley Palafox

Ashley Palafox is a collector with a passion for the mineral community and a strong desire to make our hobby as welcoming as possible to all.

Formerly a member of the Young Mineral Collectors (YMC) leadership team, Ashley helped to coordinate and set up display cases at the TGMS main show to give members an opportunity to show off their collections. She also worked on YMC's online presence and led the creation of the educational articles initiative, which allowed members with special interests or expertise to share their knowledge with the group and the community more broadly.

After several decades of her childhood fascination with rocks being put on the back burner, Ashley took up collecting again as an adult and has been collecting seriously for nearly a decade. She has put in two TGMS displays in recent years, including a Collector Spotlight through YMC featuring her own collection and an educational group case with the "Smith Squad", showcasing the collections of several women smithsonite aficionados.

Ashley works in a clinical laboratory and lives in Oakland, California with her husband, three cats, and about 12,000 books.



Alfredo Petrov

Alfredo is a bit of a vagabond who dissipated his youth in England, Germany, Lebanon, and Ethiopia, and then got slightly more serious about life and came to the USA to study geology in San Diego. During his student years he worked part time in the mineral department of the San Diego Natural History Museum, where he was inspired by then curator Dr. Russ MacFall to collect micromounts, a passion that continues. After graduation, he worked for four years as editor of research papers at various universities in Japan and then, just like Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid, Alfredo discovered that Bolivia was the perfect place to hide away from societies with lots of rules. Having escaped to that remote country, he spent a few years working on geological research and ecology projects, playing impoverished organic farmer, and growing his micromount collection, until one day he fell under the dubious influence of an itinerant California mineral dealer with the unlikely name of Rock Currier, under whose expert tutelage Alfredo learned to eke out a living crawling around miserable dirty rat holes in South America's steaming jungles and freezing peaks, collecting stones to feed the insatiable cravings of northern hemisphere crystal addicts. After twelve years in Bolivia, he moved back to the USA to spy on American mineral collectors in an attempt to discover what it is they actually DO with all those ugly and peculiar rocks he had been foisting on them over the years. He supports himself during this ongoing quest by working for his late mentor Rock Currier's company Jewel Tunnel, selling minerals at shows mostly in Japan and Europe, translating mineralogical literature into English, guiding other foolhardy collectors to places where they can energetically dig up crystals with their own eager grubby fingers, along with unpaid volunteer activities like being on the management team of Mindat.org ever since its public launch 20 years ago, and a member of its board of directors aka the Hudson Institute of Mineralogy, and publishing numerous articles for mineral collectors in various North American and European journals. He dreams of internationalizing the activities of the Friends of Mineralogy, creating partnerships with like-minded organizations abroad for mutual benefit.



Alex Venzke

I am a mineral collector originally from the Washington, D.C. area who has been seriously collecting minerals for almost 8 years now, but I've had a "collection" and been picking up rocks since I was a young child. I graduated from Beloit College in Wisconsin in 2017 with a BSc in Geology and a BA in History. I am a member of the Northern Virginia Mineral Club, Mineralogical Society of the District of Columbia, and the Geological Society of Washington. Also a part of the leadership team of the Young Mineral Collectors group, a member of the mindat.org management team, I was a co-founder and a charter member of the Friends of Mineralogy Virginia Chapter. I love the opportunity to expand my involvement in the national mineral community in my position on the FM national board.



TUCSON MINERAL SYMPOSIUM



In conjunction with the Mineralogical Society of America and the Tucson Gem & Mineral Society®, Friends of Mineralogy is pleased to announce the **42nd Annual Tucson Mineral Symposium**.

Pegmatites: Crystals Big & Beautiful

Saturday, February 10, 2024

Nine speakers have volunteered to give talks at the joint pegmatite symposium. The abstract booklet with the schedule for the talks will be posted online soon after it is completed, prior to December 2023. The speakers and their titles are listed below in no particular order.

- Michael Menzies – Gem pegmatites
- David London - Gem-Forming Cavities in Pegmatites
- Robert F. Martin - Cleavelandite: only crystals small and beautiful
- Michael Wise - Pegmatites: Earth's Most Amazing Rocks
- Markus Raschke - The South Platte pegmatite district of Colorado: new insights into mineralogy, petrogenesis, and rare-earth element fractionation
- Myles Felch - Maine's spodumene-bearing pegmatites
- Peter Lyckberg - Chamber Pegmatites of Volyn, Ukraine
- Roy Bassoo - Trace elements in Texas topaz and their petrogenetic significance
- Calvin Mako (speaker) and Carson Richardson - Geochronology of REE-bearing Proterozoic pegmatites in the Arizona pegmatite belt



*The 42th FM-TGMS-MSA Tucson Mineral Symposium,
Theme “Pegmatites – Crystals Big and Beautiful”
Saturday, February 10, 2024, Tucson Convention
Center, Tucson, AZ*

10:00 AM	Opening of symposium
10:00-10:15 AM	Introduction by symposium chair, Mark Jacobson
10:15 – 10:45 AM	Michael Wise, Pegmatites: Earth’s Most Amazing Rocks
10:45 - 10:55 AM	break
10:55 - 11:25 AM	Michael Menzies, Gem Pegmatites
11:25- 11:35 AM	break
11:35 – 12:05 AM	David London, Gem-Forming Cavities in Pegmatites
12:05 - 1:30 PM	Lunch
1:30 – 2:00 PM	Robert F. Martin, Cleavelandite: Only Crystals Small and Beautiful
2:00 - 2:10 PM	break
2:10 - 2:40 PM	Roy Bassoo, Trace Elements in Texas Topaz and Their Petrogenetic Significance
2:40 - 2:50 PM	break
2:50 – 3:20 PM	Peter Lyckberg, Chamber Pegmatites of Volyn, Ukraine
3:20 – 3:40 PM	extended break
3:40 – 4:10 PM	Calvin Mako (speaker) and Carson Richardson, Geochronology of REE-bearing Proterozoic Pegmatites in the Arizona Pegmatite Belt
4:10 – 4:20 PM	break
4:20 – 4:50 PM	Markus Raschke, The South Platte Pegmatite District of Colorado: New Insights into Mineralogy, Petrogenesis, and Rare-earth Element Fractionation
4:50 PM	close of symposium



Official Announcement from the Pennsylvania Presidents Roundtable, The President of FMPA and the EFMLS:

By Bill Stephens, FM Pennsylvania Chapter president

An informal collaborative group of Pennsylvania club Presidents/EFMLS member organizations, the Pennsylvania Presidents Roundtable (PPR), initiated this fall by CRPRM President, EFMLS 2nd VP and Social Media Director Andrew “Dirtman” Eppig, at my suggestion participated in a presentation by New Jersey FM Chapter President and Geology 365 creator Ryan Klockner covering the general features of Geology 365, but most particularly of the Presenters database set up within Geology 365. This feature, adapted from his mentoring program code last year, is the ideal platform to host presenters, their profiles and catalogue of presentations that will allow member organizations to search the database by topic, mineral species or group, location or speaker without pestering or exposing the presenters to random calls and such. The platform provides for a “handshake” process where those seeking a presentation for their organization can reach out to the presenter to request a specific presentation and the presenter can respond without divulging sensitive contact information until the actual engagement is agreed upon.

Presenters do not need to be club or EFMLS member organization members. As a matter of fact, members can be individuals of any club or just individuals interested in other aspects of Geology 365 such as the collection management features the free club website, events notification and such, and actual presenters with no club affiliation. Ryan built Geology 365 for everyone interested in gems and minerals.

We can solicit those we know have given talks before and invite them to log into Geology 365 to set up their profile and input their catalogue. Help me get the word out. Leverage your relationships. Ryan will assist as needed with your login and password. I plan to start with a host of presenters who have presented at our symposia or the Tucson Symposia in recent years. Not to name names, but I’m sure you would recognize many of them. Once they have logged in and have their profiles and catalogue input it’s easy to update as necessary and also easy for any clubs logged in to search the database and initiate the handshake.

Ryan and I (Bill Stephens) discussed this last year at the Friends of Mineralogy National Annual Meeting and the code had been completed middle of 2022, but unfortunately I had not seen an opportunity to promote it for a successful launch until last week when the PPR participants were on hand to hear Ryan’s presentation. It was so well received, as it should be, that we all decided to start utilizing it and populating the presenter’s database with our talks. I now have 13 of my presentations listed on Geology 365’s presenter database. This initiative has the full support of FM National and several of our member clubs are now jumping onboard.

Perhaps the most important consideration other than the code already exists and works fantastic, is that it’s completely free. Ryan has generously created and maintains Geology 365 for the benefit of all clubs in the U.S.A. and abroad in memory of his father who taught him to love mineral collecting. I plan to take advantage of the collection management software at some point.

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(Official Announcement, continued from page 9)

As President of FMPA and the EFMLS, we at FMPA will be adopting many features of Geology 365 going forward including the speaker database as our organization has many gifted speakers with many presentations in the bag. As President of EFMLS, I am inviting all of our member clubs officers to check it out, try it out and see for yourselves. You do not have to use the website feature to use the presenter, events and other features, you just have to get set up with a username and password as President of your club and go from there. Ryan will be happy to assist but be respectful of his time as this is a labor of love and the tutorial will need to be scheduled in advance. He might actually have this recorded on the site so maybe all you need to get started is a username and password, and a handshake with the presenter!

I hope to have Ryan make his presentation to the next EFMLS Executive Board meeting and we'll see how we might be able to provide a link to Geology 365 from our website for you convenience.

Good luck and let us know what you think.

Take a few moments to review Geology 365 on the web, login and provide on his website your thoughts, questions and input. If you wish to participate, set up and input your presenter's profile and the title of your presentation.



Kay Robertson Educational Display Awards

Denver Gem and Mineral Show, the upstairs part of the Hardrock Summit Show, Colorado Convention Center, Denver, Colorado
September 15-18, 2023

The Kay Robertson display awards are presented to an institution and an individual or group of individuals who exhibited a visually appealing case with an educational theme. These awards are done both at the Denver Gem and Mineral Show® and the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show®. The decision was made by several judges, working completely independently, using mutually agreed committee guidelines. Coordination and compiling the decisions of the judges is traditionally delegated to the Friends of Mineralogy Vice-President, who this year is Erin Delventhal. The award is named after long time FM member, Kay Robertson, who had frequently advocated for more mineral oriented educational displays at gem and mineral shows.



Figure 1. Display of Topaz from Colorado and worldwide localities from the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, assembled by Nicole Childs and Nicole Neu-Yagle, collection managers. Mark Jacobson photograph.

The Kay Robertson display award to an institution was made to the Denver Museum of Nature and Science for the theme Titillating Topaz. The case was organized by Nicole Childs and Nicole Neu-Yagle, Assistant collection managers. The display highlighted some of the better topaz crystals in their worldwide collection, including some exceptional Colorado crystals, the color differences in topaz, as well as the challenge of identifying etched topaz from other etched gem minerals.



Figure 2. Historic Miner's Lamps, from candles, lamp oil, kerosene safety lamps to carbide gas lamps. Donna Ware photograph.

The Kay Robertson display award to an individual or group of individuals was made to the Donna Ware and Jeff Self for their Historic Miner Lamps display. All the displayed lamps and artifacts are owned by Donna Ware. The case was organized by Donna Ware and Jeff Self.

REGIONAL CHAPTER REPORTS



New Jersey Chapter
fomnj.wordpress.com

Friends of Mineralogy NJ Chapter (FM-NJ) Quarterly Report – Dec 2023

FM-NJ Junior Rockhound Program: A Strong Start

In this quarter, the NJ Chapter is thrilled to announce the remarkable success of our Junior Rockhound Program. Embracing a monthly format inspired by the guidelines of the AFMS, this initiative has quickly become our chapter's crowning achievement of the year.

The flexible structure of our program allows us to tailor each session to leverage the unique strengths of our dedicated leadership team. This adaptability has been key to our success, enabling us to provide engaging and educational experiences for our young rockhounds. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the remarkable team behind this triumph: Will Pazik, Dave Shapiro, Julia Chien, Hayley Nalepa, and Ryan Klockner. Their commitment and expertise have been instrumental in shaping the program.

Currently, the program boasts 21 official junior members, with numerous younger siblings also joining the excitement. Having recently completed the "Rocks & Minerals" badge, we're now eagerly transitioning to the fascinating world of "Fossils." The enthusiasm and curiosity displayed by these young learners are truly inspiring and a testament to the program's impact.

We look forward to continuing this journey of discovery and education with our Junior Rockhounds, fostering a lifelong passion for geology in the next generation of enthusiasts.

Field Trip (10/21/2023): National Limestone Quarries

The recent visit to NLQ and the much-anticipated JVF Cookout BBQ at Jim Van Fleet's residence was a resounding success, blessed with unexpectedly pleasant weather. Eric Stahl, the owner of NLQ, generously welcomed our clubs and provided an insightful briefing on the latest quarry developments. Participants had the opportunity to explore both the Middleburg and Mt. Pleasant Mills Quarries, uncovering a variety of significant finds.

Among the highlights, Art Finkelshteyn and Paul Radziewicz discovered notable Brachiopods and Wavellite specimens, with Art also finding iridescent Calcite and a complete Brachiopod fossil in Sandstone. Other members, including Gary Quam, Ron Schulz, and Hayley Shakespeare, uncovered impressive druzy Calcite, some with vivid iron staining. Unique discoveries like Kevin Cooper's potential Turquoise or Planerite-like find, Tommy Greene's "Chicken Nugget Calcite", and Lauren Anderson-Pullinger's Tabular Coral Specimen added to the excitement. Additionally, Jim Van Fleet's exceptional hospitality during the cookout, offering a wide array of delicious food, was a highlight of the event. The trip was a testament to the successful leadership of Arthur, Hayley, Lermanator, Pie Man, and Klock Man, much appreciated by Groundhog Dave.

Field Trip (11/5/2023): Hewitt Gem Mine

The recent trip to Hewitt Gem Mine, led by Field Trip Leader Groundhog Dave, was another remarkable outing. Despite a brief spell of rain, the conditions were perfect for discovering a plethora of minerals. Thanks to Tony and his

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team's efforts in exposing fresh material, attendees found an impressive array of gemstones.

The day was filled with significant finds, including various sizes and colors of Beryl by Micki Reiss, Steve "Pickles" Wien, and Lisa "20 Questions" Bostedo. Ava Mroz and others discovered greenish Apatite and Erik Vaideka, Xander Rosenburg, and Wien uncovered gemmy green Tourmaline sprays. Pinkish Schernikite/Lepidolite and sugary "Aplite" with Spessartine garnets were other notable discoveries. Tomer Shapira, Tia Buttcher, and several others found small gemmy Spessartine garnets, while black Schorl Tourmaline was a common find.

The discovery of Torbernite sprays led to discussions about radioactive minerals. The "Groundhog Challenge" added excitement, with Tia Buttcher finding a Microlite crystal and winning her fee dig reimbursement. Late-day UV prospecting by Art Finkelshteyn, Stephanie "Newbie" Apgar, and Kyle Kustka revealed Manganian and orange Fluorapatite responses. Chlorophane Fluorite finds added to the day's success.

Kevin "Coop" Cooper shared his impressive Aqua Beryl find, a highlight for all. The day concluded with Tony's Lunch service, adding to the enjoyment of this successful outing.

Field Trip (11/11/2023): Area 55 & Mohawk Valley Mining (Mohawk, NY)

The recent Double Header" Herkimer weekend, was a resounding success. Despite the chilly temperatures, just below freezing, attendees were well-prepared and enthusiastic. Hayley Shakespeare, alongside her father Jim Nalepa, led the field trip to Area 55 while Groundhog Dave led the Mohawk Valley trip.

The weekend was marked by some outstanding discoveries. Among them, Hayley Shakespeare unearthed a remarkable "palmer" Herkimer diamond with intricate skeletal inclusions and a well-formed termination. Brandon Tracey's find was equally impressive, featuring a slightly smaller Herkimer diamond with partial golden healer coloration. The Shaw family - Suzanne, Nate, and Jarrath - found several smaller, well-shaped Herkimers, with Jarrath discovering a particularly large and impressive doublet. Other attendees, including Andy Silver, Taylor Smith, and the Napolitanos, also contributed to the weekend's success with their own unique finds. This trip was notable for the increased exploration of the ledge/druze area, yielding several small pieces of druze quartz in matrix, with Lori Stahl's collection standing out as particularly impressive.



Virginia Chapter
friendsofmineralogyvirginia.org

Dear Friends of Mineralogy Virginia Community Members,

We are writing to inform you about an important development within our nonprofit organization, Friends of Mineralogy Virginia Chapter Inc. (FMVA). Over the last three years, our team has emphasized the outreach components to FM National's vision regarding mineral education in an effort to 'promote, support, protect and expand the collection of mineral specimens and further the recognition of the scientific, economic, and aesthetic value of minerals.' As we have grown and endeavored to make an impact in our local community, we have come to realize that outreach and education about minerals and their importance is necessary at a much broader scale. There is a need to bridge the gap between scientists, the public, citizen organizations, and government agencies. Much of this need results from the lack of mineral education in schools and the absence of organizations in our country focusing on the raw materials of modern society and their importance to industrial and energy policies. Organizations abroad, such as MineralsEd in Canada and Minerals Council of Australia, are doing just this and creating incredible impacts on public awareness. Our team believes we are in a good position with our community engagement strategies

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and outreach platforms to begin small, but work towards growing that same effort here within the United States. We found the FMVA framework in terms of collecting and geographic emphasis was limiting the opportunities to share the message to a wider audience.

After careful consideration and extensive discussions among our affiliates, board members, stakeholders, and volunteers, we have decided to refocus our organization's vision. Our team has determined it is in the best interest of the organization to downscale some of our activities starting in 2024 to concentrate on the activities and projects that have been the cornerstone to our success. As part of this growth and evolution, we believe that a new name would better represent who we are and the need we are most passionate about. Our new name will be Minerals in Context (MC). We chose this name because it embodies our commitment to education about minerals in their context as sources of critical materials, for their chemical and physical properties, as records of planetary histories, as inspiration for industrial materials, of health and safety issues, of culture (high and popular), and last, but not least, their beauty.

The name change will officially take effect on January 1st, 2024, and you will see our new name reflected on our website, social media profiles, and all our official communications from that date forward. This name change is a testament to our commitment to adapt and grow as we strive to make a positive impact. Our dedication to our mission and the people we serve remains unwavering. Our organization will also remain part of the Friends of Mineralogy organization and the Eastern Federation of Mineral and Lapidary Societies. We look forward to sharing more about these developments in the coming months.

We deeply appreciate the hard work, support, and engagement from our Virginia mineral family. During the last three years, the team released a new publication on the Northern Virginia Trap Rock Quarries, hosted countless teachers to local quarries with aggregate partners, grew a community group of 12,000 followers, and attended community gem shows throughout the year to provide outreach materials and educational exhibits.



What will be our core operations moving forward?

MC will focus on three areas:

1. **Community Engagement Events.** Our team will remain present at the shows we currently attend in Virginia. We believe our exhibits, local resources, maps, and community support are some of the strongest and highest-impact activities we have engaged in over the course of our development. We may begin to branch off and join other states, regional conferences, and other events to spread the message far and wide and gain further support.
2. **Publications.** Publications are still important to us. Over the next several months, we plan to work on a Rocks and Minerals of Virginia workbook. This will have activities and information open to all skill levels and will be a great way to get newer generations into the hobby and involved in local clubs.
3. **Communication Expertise and Support Services.** We want to become a resource for clubs, organizations, and agencies looking to increase communication with the public about minerals and mineral resources. Our hope is we can become a one-stop group for support and advice on how best to approach these topics by building a coalition of experts and passionate community members.

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What changes can be expected for 2024?

1. Our speaker series will cease until further notice, but the videos of previous speakers will remain accessible on YouTube.
2. The state mineral directory will be discontinued.
3. Rockhounding 101 courses will be discontinued through FMVA. Instead, we want to support clubs with templates, resources, and materials to start their own courses locally.
4. Our community group, Virginia Rockhounding, will continue to be maintained by our wonderful admins and others who will continue to see that group flourish.
5. Weekly community briefs and newsletters will cease for the time being, but we will provide relevant updates through social media when appropriate.
6. Field trips are not planned for this new organization as it will not be our primary mission and focus. However, MC can supply informational background, in print or in person, about the geology, mineralogy, and economics of localities.

How can you get engaged?

MC will operate differently than most mineral societies or organizations with which you are familiar. It will not be a member-dependent organization, but will have three engagement pathways:

1. You are welcome to sign up to our new email list when it becomes available and volunteer for events and activities when opportunities arise.
2. You can join in on our focus groups, community discussions, and meetings if you are interested in supporting mineral education. Our goal is to start a broader effort to tackle mineral communication, so we accept and are open to experts and passionate educators across the country.
3. If you want to get involved in leadership or run a project, you will need to reach out to our executive team, and we can discuss bringing you on to the group.

Please know that this decision was made with the long-term sustainability of our organization in mind. We are taking steps to ensure that our mission remains viable and able to weather the changes in engagement and needs of our society. While this is undoubtedly a difficult and confusing change, we are confident that our team will create new and bigger opportunities in the coming years. If you are interested in joining us in this endeavor or learning more about our next steps, please reach out to us.

If you have any questions or concerns about this name change or if you would like more information, please feel free to reach out to us at friendsofmineralogy.virginia@gmail.com. Thank you for your ongoing support and belief in our mission. We look forward to the future with enthusiasm and dedication!

Sincerely,

FMVA Executive Leadership Team

Thomas Hale, Alex Speer, August Dietz, and Katy Johnson

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Pacific Northwest Chapter

pnwfm.org

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year from the Pacific Northwest!

PNW Chapter’s 2023 Symposium on the theme of Rare Earth Minerals was a wonderful time and we’d like to thank all our fabulous speakers, organizers, and helpers, and thank you to everyone who attended and donated and made it a success. It was a bittersweet event as the last year at our long-time venue in Kelso, Washington, but we are excited for the next chapter. The PNW Chapter Board with agreement of membership have decided to hold our 50th Symposium next year at an exciting new venue in an interesting new city: Central Washington University (CWU) in Ellensburg, Washington! We hope this change in setting will draw new audiences to our symposium and to our club, and we are very excited about this new opportunity.

In 2024, we are not only planning our “Gold and Golden Memories” theme symposium in October and partnership with Seattle Mineral Market in May, we also have a 50th Anniversary “Golden Memories” project in the works. If you hold any copies of any photographs, memorabilia, or other memories regarding PNWFM and northwest regional mineralogy, please let us know and help us make a resource regarding the history of PNWFM and PNW mineral discovery, collection, and the personalities that deserve to be remembered.

Thank you and cheers to an exciting 2024.



Colorado Chapter

friendsofmineralogycolorado.org

FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY
COLORADO CHAPTER

In 2023, the Colorado Chapter took a field trip to the White Raven Mine in Boulder County, Colorado, and enjoyed presentations on the Magdalena District, NM; Michigan copper; and fluorite from Berbes, Spain. The Chapter also provided gem and mineral identification at the Denver Gem & Mineral Show.



The Colorado Chapter will be hosting a symposium at the Colorado School of Mines Museum of Earth Science on June 13-16, 2024. The symposium theme will be “Mineral Oddities: Twinning, Inclusions, *morphs, and More.” The symposium will include field trips and tentatively a mineral photography workshop by Jeff Scovil.



Southern California Chapter

2023 Symposiums & Fieldtrips in Southern California

Fallbrook Gem & Mineral Society hosted our spring symposium in their museum facility in Fallbrook, CA once again, just west of the Pala tourmaline mining district of northern San Diego County. Jim Anderson, a UCLA Geology graduate serving as Interim VP of SCFMC, conducted a joint meeting of our FM chapter with Fallbrook's Gem & Mineral Society's membership gathering 70 some rockhounds and mineral collectors together on March 25, 2023..

Jeff Swanger, owner of the Pala Chief and Oceanview mines on Pala Chief Mountain in northern San Diego County, gave an opening presentation on recent workings within the mountain top as mining descends 200 feet below the surface. With all attendees now excited for their mine tours and collecting in the afternoon, Jim Anderson gave a background geological presentation on "The Paragenesis of Pegmatites" - a description of plate tectonics on the west coast and how lithium rich pegmatites came to be emplaced in the granite batholiths. Mike Evans, long time curator of the Fallbrook mineral collections, gave a historical perspective of the "Famous Pegmatites in San Diego County". Cal Graeber & Al Rose then wrapped up the morning symposium and museum tour with a presentation on "Mineral Preparation" - cleaning raw materials from the field into museum quality presentations. Marek Chorazewicz and Dr. Bob Housley, SCFMC Board members, closed the morning's silent auction of a variety of rare minerals, fossils, rocks, literature, and artwork to support funding of our non-profit symposiums.

Jim Anderson and SCFMC Board members then guided the entire group over to the Pala Mountain top to spend the afternoon fieldtrip in groups of 10-12 touring the mines with hardhats and safety gear. When not inside the mine the participants were encouraged to collect specimens of all sizes from small crystals to garden rock on the hillside while taking photos. Cost was \$75 per person, but to nearly everyone well worth the price for this once in a lifetime experience. The facilities on top of the mountain included dozens of sifting tables allowing participants to sift through buckets of mining wastes for gemstones of tourmaline, kunzite, morganite, aquamarine, smokey, quartz, optical quartz and a variety of other pegmatite crystals found at these mines, well documented in literature for decades. All returned home safely after this adventure.

Fast forward to fall 2023 found SCFMC gathered once again at the Jurupa Mountain Discovery Center near Riverside California on October 21st for a morning symposium and afternoon tours of two museums often neglected by rockhounds. Dr. Don Buchanan, current president of SCFMC, welcomed members and guests to the small facility where he first met Bob Reynolds, past president of chapter for 25 years. Ginny Odom and Maribel Vargas opened up the morning symposium with a presentation entitled "Gem in the Rough", an educational power point created for teaching school age kids about rocks and minerals at this educational non-profit facility. Busloads of elementary age students from around the Inland Empire are brought here during the academic school year to have hands-on experiences with rocks, minerals and fossils. In the afternoon Ginny as curator of the Jurupa Museum and her assistant Maribel provided guided tours of the newly reconstructed museum from ground up. It now houses hundreds of mineral specimens and lapidary spheres, identifies three major rock types, and exposes kids to fossils from around the world as well as Native American artifacts.

Dr. Don Buchanan, then gave a presentation on the "La Sierra University's World Museum of Natural History" that has been a hidden jewel in southern California since the late 80s when 150 boxes of natural history specimens from Southeast Asia were donated to the school for establishing a museum. The museum was formally established in 1971 and slowly has been growing in size one donation at a time of not only mineral and rock collections, but also over 1500 mounted freeze dried wildlife specimens, Native American artifacts, and other man-made creations such as over 1500 spheres donated from the Smithsonian Museums. Since the museum is currently open only one Saturday a month from 2-5pm, we scheduled our normal symposium on this date in October months in advance so as to have a decent tour

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guided opportunity to experience after touring the Jurupa Mountain Discovery Center's museum on the same day. Two wonderful experiences for all who participated.

Dr. Bob Housley, long time chapter member and senior Board of Director for our chapter, then gave us his presentation on "Ruby Corundum in Cascade Canyon", located within a few miles of Jurupa in the south slope of the San Gabriel Mountains. Bob has visited the site a number of times during his decades of mineral collecting. In his presentation Bob shared his insights to the history of mineral collecting from original interest in rare deposits of lapis lazuli mining of placer gold and finally discovery ruby corundum in these mountains slopes and landslide below. David Lesperance, an avid geologist in our membership, visited the site earlier this fall with Bob, and returned before our symposium to prepare to lead the Sunday field trip for the brave boulder hoppers who navigated to the collecting site over the San Antonia Creek with its thorny berry bushes. Some camped over Saturday night on Dinosaur Mesa at the Jurupa Mountain Discovery Center's property in urban freeway experience, while others did the 5 star hotel closer to the San Gabriel Mountains. Those who collected specimens of glow in the dark ruby corundum, the experience was worth the challenge of boulder hopping a flowing creek.

Symposium and field trip locations for 2024 are in the works and will be announced this winter with flyers for those interested. Feel free to contact me for information if planning to come to southern California. In the meantime, here is a UV photo of the Cascade Canyon ruby corundum.

Dr. Don Buchanan, president

Southern California Friends of Mineralogy Chapter

dbuch7326@aol.com



Pennsylvania Chapter

rasloto.com/FM

Bill Stephens, PG, President

This year has been a very busy and successful year for FM-PA Chapter, last year's success notwithstanding. As I reported last year, our 2022 Symposium had a great turnout both at the symposium with 45 attendees and at the field trip to National Limestone Quarry at Mount Pleasant Mills with 20 attendees including at least 5 of our 7 Professional Geologists (PGs). We also joined the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies, Inc. (EFMLS), one of six regional federations under the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc. This year the EFMLS currently now has 8257 adult and 957 junior members in 92 clubs, up from approximately 7000 members in 85 clubs last year FM-PA by unanimous vote of the Board joined EFMLS last fall at the end of October 2022 and now enjoys the benefits of the outreach offered through EFMLS, of which I am President again until 2024.

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What a year for us! We began planning our 2023 Symposium very early this year and voted to accept the offer made by Steve Lindberg, University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown (UPJ) “Geology” Department to host us this year. The venue was UPJ’s living and learning center main hall, lobby and included a showcase. UPJ is in western PA, far from our comfort zone in the Chester-Lancaster Counties area of southeastern PA where we have traditionally held our Symposia for decades. We were aware that we would be leaving many of our lifelong and older members behind, but we anticipated acquiring new members and a broader audience with assistance from our UPJ partner, as well as having the ability to run an actual mineral show and utilize the display to show some champion PA specimens. Our gamble was a huge success as noted below.

Preparation for the symposium was more involved than ever before. We required prior group rate hotel arrangements, show room and symposium room layouts as well as layout for the registration area in the lobby that had to be approved by the University. We coordinated with a relatively unknown collector to have the largest smithsonite ever found in PA as well as many exceptional large calcites and other PA minerals, most featured in the Eureka supplement published by the Mineralogical Record displayed in the trophy case in the main lobby of the facility. We also had to modify the registration forms to include options for meals, made a completely new dealer registration form for online registration. We modified/updated our Logo and purchased table covers for our registration and head tables. We reduced the symposium rates and opened the show to the public for free. Advertising was considerably more extensive than usual. I believe all of these planning measures were new to us and were facilitated by our host, UPJ.

The symposium included an informal gathering on Friday evening at the main hotel where about 20 gathered for fun and shared stories, and then we went to the UPJ basement to pick out some free rocks. On Saturday, the symposium and show ran simultaneously in separate rooms. Our hybrid meeting was better attended than last year, and we had a lot of new faces including two student speakers. Several talks, including three student talks and my joint talk with Steve Lindberg focused on the field trip venue, the New Paris Quarry, which is now an educational geologic and collecting site known for fluorite and abundant Upper Silurian-Lower Devonian marine fossils.

For our Annual meeting always held at our symposium, which lasted only a few minutes, we elected two new board members:

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Andrew “Dirtman” “Rockhound” Eppig, who is our social media guru. Andrew is President of the Central PA Rock and Mineral Club (CPRMC) and was recently elected 2 nd VP and Social Media Director of the EFMLS, both of which are executive board voting positions. Andrew has been producing the “Dirtman Reports” which air on Jeri Jones’ rock room bi-weekly. You can search on YouTube and watch back episodes at your convenience.

Mark Sigouin, PG an existing member and professional geologist who is also an accomplished musician.

Note that all officers on the slate were elected, and at the next board meeting conducted via zoom the board voted to continue the current officers in office and approved the annual meeting minutes. I anticipate there will be some changes on the Board as Ron is looking to pass on the Treasurer’s office and the website he manages for us, which might cause some other shuffling of positions. Some of the important statistics and activities at the 2023 symposium are:

Total attendance in person and online was 66 this year versus 45 in 2022. The breakdown was 37 pre-registered online, 27 members, 10 nonmembers; 10 onsite registered, 5 members, 5 nonmembers; 14 students signed in at the registration desk and 5 non-member speakers

8 new members including 2 students, last year 1 new member.

13 PGs attending and requesting certificates for 6 credits versus 7 PGs last year for 5 credits.

Public attendance not counted but over 50 not registered for the symposium based on visual estimates making the overall event attendance over 100.

We made a substantial profit when we normally just break even.

The entire meeting was successfully recorded this year with no material hick-ups, using an Owl meeting device and hybrid zoom setup.

I attribute the success of the event to a number of factors: effective assistance from our host Steve Lindberg and staff at the facility, the fantastic facility itself and partnering with the “geology” department and Geology Club, effective advertising, reducing rates and opening the show to the public, having an actual show with dealers from outside the FMPA membership, and with respect to the increase in PGs, in addition to our formal advertising and my efforts, Kristen Hand of the PA Geological Survey and organizer for the annual Field Conference of Pennsylvania Geologists (FCPG) distributed our information to all the registrants of the FCPG 2023 field conference after the conference was cancelled due to budgetary issues at the state level.

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The field trip always follows the day after the symposium, and it was exceptionally well attended. At least 20 vehicles and we estimate subject to confirmation that attendance was not less than 40, double last year. The field trip to the New Paris Quarry, which has become a field study site for UPJ, has been visited by FMPA before as a multi-club field trip. Steve Lindberg leads trips to the quarry on a regular basis.

This limestone quarry, now inactive, has the Silurian-Devonian boundary exposed, abundant fossils and two bentonite layers (possibly 3). Some of the largest fluorite specimens found in PA came from that quarry though the main vein is currently covered. It was one of the field trip stops of the 2002 Field Conference of Pennsylvania Geologists (FCPG), and the geology is detailed in the field trip guidebook/road log for that conference. Our symposium brought new information to light on the geology, mineralogy and paleontology of this quarry including not yet published research by myself and UPJ Students and faculty. My work included drone based high resolution mapping, spatially fixed structural observations (some of which correct published information) and plotting of calcite veins, some fluorite bearing and bentonite bed elevations. Students presented information/research on the conodonts that move the Silurian-Devonian boundary upward in the LaVale member, fluorite origins, geochemistry of, and possible identification of a new bentonite bed while Steve provided the foundational description of the site.

The success of this year's symposium and our partnership with UPJ so far from "home base", cannot be ignored, and we are giving serious consideration to doing it again next year. I and the Board would like to thank our host Steve Lindberg and the "Geology Department", Geology Club, students and the UPJ Living and Learning Center staff for all their help. I'd also like to thank Mike Davis for generously allowing us to display some of his great finds as featured in the Eureka Supplement to the Mineralogical Record and to Kirsten Hand of PAGES and organizer for the FCPG for getting the word out to PGs about our pre-approved CEUs for symposium attendance. It worked. And thanks to our new and existing dealers who helped make the show a success and our hard and effective working Board of Directors first for agreeing to this gamble, and all their hard work.

During the course of the year the FMPA has issued its newsletter, maintained its membership and services to its members, and members have been conducting research. I am aware Ron is working on another county Mines and Minerals Book, continues to do research at West Chester University (WCU) and probably has something in the works on a new amethyst discovery brought in by a non-member. I have been/am very active with the EFMLS as it's President, guiding the development of automated

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functions on the EFMLS.org website with our vendor Madhouse Graphics that includes a fully automated club directory FMPA is in, and other functions as well as leading that organization to success. I have been doing some mapping projects that will come to light next year, and I'm working with Daryll Powell on a minimally technical book highlighting the discovery of extraordinary skeletal "Herkimers" by Lee Levesque earlier this year that will be available at Tucson. I also helped Lee and the men of "Twoguysonhole" who had an extraordinary discovery of fluorite at the Blanchard Mine this year get introduced to Peter Megaw and secure cases to display their finds at the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show this year. I've had several speaking engagements this year, including our symposium, guest speaker at the EFMLS annual convention in Syracuse and the Harrisburg Area Geological Society (HAGS) and Ryan Klockner and I are making progress with the speaker/presenter database in Geology 365 we set out to do two years ago.

I hope to run a hybrid/ live streaming zoom at the FM National Annual Symposium so that many who cannot afford or take time to attend in person can see the fantastic lineup of speakers Mark has pulled together for 2024 without burdening mark with the dual duty of managing the "zoomers" and the in person meeting. That includes PGs looking for credits.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the National Board meeting and symposium. I will be in town 12 days this year.

Sincerely,

Bill Stephens, PG, President FM-PA & EFMLS



OUR AFFILIATES

MINERAL NEWS

THE MINERAL COLLECTOR'S NEWSLETTER

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The Mineralogical Society of America Resources and Coming Attractions

minsocam.org

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.

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



Young Mineral Collectors

youngmineralcollectors.org

The Young Mineral Collectors group is an online, global mineral collecting community, in which over 1700 members from 50+ countries have come together to celebrate mineralogy, share knowledge, and create a positive environment for the newest generations of collectors. We welcome all collectors under 40 years of age.

The Friends of Mineralogy National Newsletter is issued quarterly, near the change in the four seasons – March, June, September and December. The Midwest Chapter distributes the Friends of Mineralogy National newsletter via an email notice from Google Groups that the newsletter is available. It is up to each member to download their own copy. The Pennsylvania Chapter sends the National newsletter out as an internet link. The Virginia Chapter sends the National newsletter out both as an internet link and attachment to the email. The New Jersey Chapter forwards the actual National newsletter via email. The Colorado Chapter has the National organization deliver the newsletter directly to its members. The Mississippi Valley Chapter has National organization send the newsletter directly to its members. The Pacific Northwest Chapter forwards the actual National newsletter via email. The Southern California Chapter President receives the National newsletter and emails the pdf copy directly to the chapter members. National only members receive their National newsletter as an attachment to their email. All Chapter presidents, at-large board members, and affiliated societies also receive the National newsletter directly by email. The National newsletter is also available directly from the National Friends of Mineralogy Website at: <https://www.friendsofmineralogy.org/newsletters-2/2020-present-day-newsletters/>