



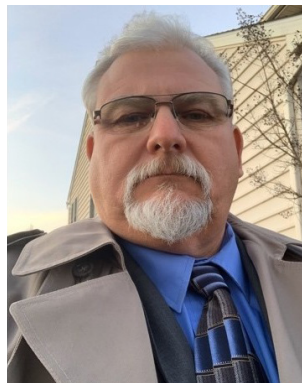
to promote, support, protect and expand the collection of mineral specimens and to further the recognition of the scientific, economic and aesthetic value of minerals and collecting mineral specimens

BULLETIN OF FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Bill Stephens

Hello everyone! The FM National Board has been pretty busy this summer. Lots of great news and developments. Here's some highlights of those activities prior to our Sunday September 14 Board meeting, which I'll enumerate separately:

The newly revised Operating Regulations have been updated and adopted by the Board!

We had been working on that off and on apparently since 2016, before I was even on the Board. It now includes a new section on social media rules and regs. It's on the website or will be shortly.

The Board has voted to remove any reference to California, California's state seal etc., and has removed Article 1 Section 2 in its entirety. The revisions to the Bylaws were adopted by vote of the Board of Directors. The revised Bylaws should be up on the website now.

- The Board of Directors has voted to move the Corporation to Arizona, and we are working on that process. I took a look at the regulations for incorporating in AZ and it was pretty ominous. I suspect we'll have to call someone who assists organizations with that process. There might be a cost, but it will be worth it.
- We have been working on refining the new Logo, which will maintain the loop seal motif and will have an identifiable crystal with the letters FM in the crystal (a Herkimer Diamond). An update has been shared with the Board for discussion and it was finalized and issued to the full Board for a vote.
- Mark Jacobson, our Symposium Chair and immediate Past President has all of our speakers in place/ committed and their subject titles and abstracts. See the announcement elsewhere herein and on the website.
- Mark has assembled 4 boxes of FM National archives and is inquiring with the University of Arizona to see if they would be willing to curate them. No action will be taken without Board authorization, but it's important we find a home for these documents unless someone is willing to take on the responsibility of scanning them first.
- The PA Chapter Symposium will be at West Chester University this year, Saturday November 8, 2025. The symposium will be fully hybrid and if you cannot attend in person you can register in advance on the web. Whether you attend the symposium

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(President's Message, continued from page 1)

in person or remotely, you can still attend the field trip on Sunday, November 9 from 9am to 4pm. This year we plan to visit the Phoenixville lead-zinc-copper mines and expect to have a machine expose new material within a week of the event. Recent diggings have produced some finds of note at the Brookdale Mine, and we will have a self-guided tour map of the old workings for attendees. The tailgate safety meeting will be in the parking lot, and I'll lead a group to the Brookdale, for those physically challenged it's a short walk, and then take another group to the new dump dig area.

I am working on some private field trip/machine dig opportunities as well as planning a field trip event for Tucson and for later in the year. For now we have tentative plans for field trips to Herkimer Mountain and Hogg Mine next spring, 2026. Stay tuned for field trip information and look for more articles on various topics as the year ends and we start planning for next year.

The FM National Board has opted to run our Annual National Symposium hybrid for the first time this coming February 14, 2026. The presentations, and other information will be live-streamed via Zoom for remote attendees. We are excited to be able to live-stream the symposium this year for a nominal fee, as it is the 250 th anniversary of the US independence, with our focus on the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show (TGMS) theme of Red White and Blue Minerals, in honor of this anniversary. We will ask remote attendees to register on line on our website no later than Thursday, February 12, 2026, so that the Board has the head count before the annual meeting and the Zoom operators have the list of paid attendees and those requiring certificates of attendance for Professional Geologist CEUs (worth 6 CEU's).

Coupled with and well in advance of the symposium, the FM leadership and all volunteers will embark on a guerilla social media marketing campaign to promote the symposium, raise awareness and get new members. This campaign as I envision it, will consist of developing a network of volunteers within FM and our affiliates (YMC in particular) to push out the message to social media contacts internally to chapter and national members and Facebook Followers of our page(s) and those of our members and chapter officers, and keep that message saturated across social media platforms. We have organized a group

within the Board and amongst our affiliates to get the message out, and that will involve cross-advertising with our affiliates and their message as well. I will personally lead getting the message out to Professional Geology Boards, organizations and Geological Surveys and look for assistance getting the message out to University departments to encourage students to attend. Ultimately I'm looking for not less than 200 remote symposium attendees/new members (500 desired) and at least another 2,000 – 3,000 followers on our pages by the symposium, with the real goal of doubling our following by year's end.

The registration fee will be set around \$10,

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BULLETIN EDITOR

Dear Reader,

This issue of the Bulletin was an absolute pleasure to produce. As you browse these pages, you'll notice that the appearance is markedly different from previous issues. Friends of Mineralogy has gone through a rebranding, which includes a brand new logo and color palette as well as new type faces. Those changes are reflected in these pages. Tama Higuchi invested a considerable effort for us over the past few months and when you look at her work, that effort is apparent. In addition to creating a wonderful, modern logo for us, she also produced an excellent style guide for us to use in producing consistent, branded content in the future.

I'm also happy to report that this issue is content rich. In these pages you'll find field trip reports and business news, Chapter reports and sadly, notices that two of our members have recently passed away.

I'm grateful for the effort you have all put towards this great organization and for the submissions I have received for inclusion in this issue. If you have content that you would like to include in the December issue, please send it to seanstimac@gmail.com. I would love to read it over.

Best Regards,

Sean Stimac, Bulletin Editor, FM National



(President's Message, continued from page 3)

what whatever we think we will need to cover the internet connection fee with some buffer if registration is lighter than expected. I'm also thinking we should have an early registration discount. In person attendance will remain free.

A few of us have discussed having a table up top at the convention center where we can advertise, get new members out and improve in-person attendance. I don't think we have anything to sell except memberships and Art Montgomery's book, but we have been thinking about tee shirts, maybe some other things like stickers, coffee cups, etc. All that requires design, costs the board must approve and it might not happen this year until we prove we can generate sufficient revenue from the symposium to justify taking the risk to make such purchases, especially with TGMS selling the same kind of stuff.

That may also have a cost and requires a staffing commitment. Minerals In Context (MIC) may be able to assist. Stay tuned.

My opinion, for what it's worth, is that we cannot fulfill our education mission or sustain our organization in this modern era without leveraging social media to the maximum extent practical, and in addition, we cannot maintain ourselves or our chapters without a robust and active membership. With all of the hard work, experience, connections and savvy Mark puts into the symposium, and our speakers put into their talks, it seems literally a crime to me that only 50 or so walk-ins get to see these incredible talks by men and women who are top in their areas of expertise. But we have never before had a Board with sufficient experienced manpower to run a hybrid meeting and given that the internet connection will not be free, paying for it without a serious and successful ad campaign is foolhardy. Experimenting with live video as I tried to two years ago is also not a good plan. Now we have the commitment from several knowledgeable and experienced people to pull it off. I hope we can live stream all future symposia. It takes a village!

An ad hoc symposium and social media campaign committee was formed at a meeting Sunday September 14, 2025. Per our above goals, the following team assignments were developed:

- Symposium Hybrid Meeting Co-Chairs/

Social Media Primaries: Sean Stimac, Newsletter Editor FM National and de facto Social Media chair and Bill Stephens, PG, President FM national & FMPA

- Chapter Social Media distribution points of contact:

- FMPA: Bill Stephens, PG, President; (Ross Elliott, Field trip Coordinator)

- PNW: Jessica Robertson, President

Thea Stender, VP

- MWFM: Sean Stimac, Editor

- FMNJ: Ryan Klockner, FMNJ VP, Geology 365

- FM CO: (pending)

- FM CA: (Pending)

- MVFM: (N/A)

- Affiliate Social Media Points of Contact:

- Young Mineral Collectors: Sean Price, President.

- Minerals in Context: Thomas Hale

- MSA: (TBD)

Other distribution individuals outside of FM, or inside, can push posts out to their followers and to their organizations. It's a 2-way street for our Chapters and affiliates.

Also, please read my Field Trip Report article on my field trip to the Havey Quarry and Mt. Mica with The East Coast Gem & Mineral Society back in Mid-August. The ECGMS was very generous inviting me as the EFMLS IPP for the second year in a row. I had assisted them in joining the EFMLS while I was President and they have grown from an 11 member start-up in February 2023 to over 100 members and have run at least 3 successful shows and dozens of field trips in the last 2 ½ years.

The venue/Airbnb we stayed at housed over a dozen of us comfortably, and we can use it as a hub for any field trips we plan in the area. The cost for a dozen of us for 3 nights would be less than one night in a hotel. I'm thinking we ought

(continued on next page)

(President's Message, continued from page 4)

to consider a field trip next year for the pegmatite conference or something similar. Thoughts?

Don't forget the show and symposium theme is red, white and blue minerals in celebration of the US 250th anniversary. Also, if your chapter would like a presentation via zoom, I have a dozen topics already in the bag and I am happy to provide one you select. 3 have been given at past National and all have been given at PA Chapter symposia. BTW: Follow me on Facebook for more information on symposia and trips.

All for now. Stay Tuned!

CALL For ARTICLES

If you are interested in contributing an article to the National or PA Chapter newsletter, contact our National Newsletter Editor Sean Stimac or David Glick for our PA Chapter Newsletter.

Be sure to look me up if you are in town. Till then, stay safe, stay tuned and happy hunting!

Sincerely,

Bill Stephens, PG,

President, FM-PA & FM National

FM NATIONAL BOARD VOTES TO ADOPT NEW LOGO

On September 17, 2025, an email calling for an email vote by the Board members of the Friends of Mineralogy National was issued. Secretary Jeanine N. Mielecki made the motion to approve the new Friends of Mineralogy logo designed by Tama Higuchi. President William "Bill" Stephens seconded the motion. The motion requires ten votes to pass.

Thirteen members of the FM National Board have voted aye to adopt the new logo design for the Friends of Mineralogy. There have been no nays received.

The new logo for the Friends of Mineralogy National has officially been approved.

Duly recorded this 25th day of September 2025,

Jeanine N. Mielecki

Secretary, Friends of Mineralogy National

FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY NATIONAL HISTORIC ARCHIVES, 1969-2015

by Mark Ivan Jacobson
Denver, Colorado

Circa 2015, I received 7 lawyer boxes of unsorted historic correspondence, newsletters, financial records, closed chapter documents, IRS-California legal documents, FM project work, and membership directories. This data came from several different sources and it kept getting passed to successive executive officers with no plan of what to do with them.

I spent a considerable amount of time discarding duplicate data as well as excessive financial records that neither the IRS nor FM members wants or legally needs. Passing this material on to the next board is just kicking it down the road until the material is abandoned or discarded. The material is now organized into 4 lawyer boxes and sorted into separate folders so that a finding aid can be created. The correspondence alone has value since these are letters

mostly from the founders of the society who have passed away – Art Montgomery, Richard A Bideaux, John Sinkankas and many others. A digital finding aid would take me about a week of labor but I will not create such a document until I have a receiving institution.

I have sent an offer to the University of Arizona, Tucson to see if their library archives would be interested in the FM historical documents. They are considering it but I do not expect a yes answer. To do such a donation in all cases, the FM National board would still need to vote and approve such an action. I would consider any other suggestions for the future of this material, except for passing this material on to another officer. Such an action might relieve me of responsibility but not the knowledge that the material would still be at risk. The best successful plan is that these documents would be driven to Tucson in February 2026 for hand delivery to an institution.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS FOR FM SYMPOSIUM IN TUCSON FEBRUARY 14, 2026

President Bill Stephens, PG, is calling for volunteers to assist with the planning, general and hybrid meeting operations and monitoring of the forthcoming 2026 Friends of Mineralogy Symposium in Tucson, Saturday, February 14, 2026. This year will be the first ever hybrid symposium where members and nonmembers alike who cannot attend in person can see the symposium live via Zoom for a small registration fee.

FM's goal is to expand awareness and influence, provide an opportunity for members and nonmembers alike to attend in person or virtually enjoy the talks via Zoom, and most important, get new members. For this new hybrid symposium to be successful, competent and well-coordinated teamwork on and offsite, and an effective pre-symposium ad campaign, primarily via social media, are required.

Duties include assisting President Stephens and Sean Stimac with ongoing onsite and offsite monitoring of the hybrid meeting for quality control purposes, troubleshooting and rapid reporting of issues as well as setup and breakdown. System testing takes place offsite following the annual meeting and onsite prior to the opening of the symposium. Volunteers man the computers and provide quality control feedback directly onsite or via the chat to be monitored on a second or third onsite computer. Volunteers for onsite computer duties must be competent running Zoom meetings and able to assist with troubleshooting and corrective measures. Offsite monitors should be able to report on the quality of the hybrid Symposium via chat, and alert onsite folks to issues individual registrants may experience. We also are seeking volunteers onsite to help guide attendees and man a table/information booth in the main lobby. These volunteers do not need to be Zoom experts and may watch the Symposium.

To prepare for the hybrid Symposium, President Stephens is asking for volunteers, preferably but not necessarily FM Board members, to join our newly forming social media team and assist in promoting FM activities including the forthcoming and future symposia, chapter symposia, national and chapter led field trips, developing field trip report content and contributing brief intellectual

social media posts for our public facing Facebook page. Volunteers need not be directors, but should be competent social media users and must follow the social media operating regulations newly adopted.

FM would like at least one volunteer from each chapter to assure we get even representation amongst our chapters. Other users should feel free to push out public posts to other groups and public. Participants and general members will be asked to "friend" each other on FB so we can achieve the widest distribution on social media possible for the public facing page, and for our internal group chats as appropriate.

RSVP/contact Bill Stephens at bstephens@stephensenv.com or Sean Stimac at seanstimac@gmail.com or both if you are interested in volunteering for the planning committee, day-of-the event activities, or both. Meetings are scheduled for every other Sunday evening beginning September 7 and those meetings are to be recorded with a summary available for review if you are unable to attend.

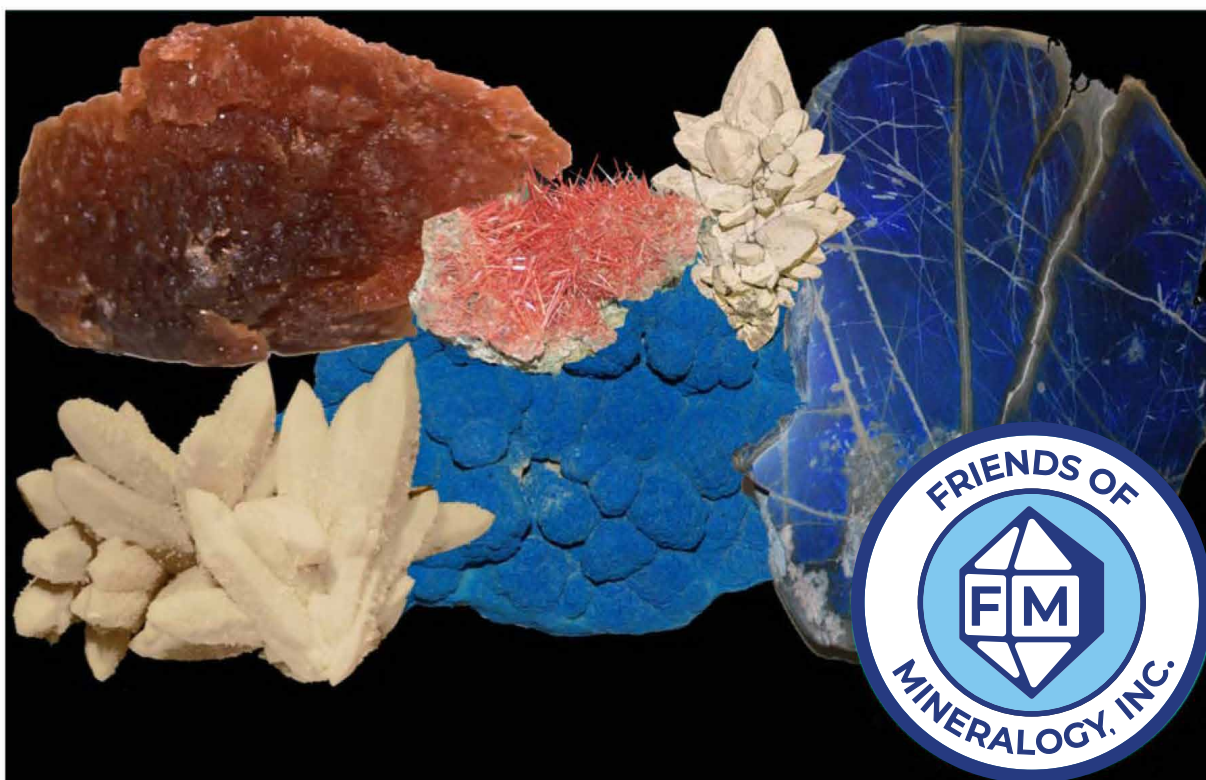
Sincerely,

Jeanine N. Mielecki, Secretary

Friends of Mineralogy National

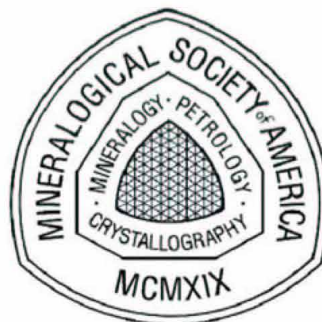
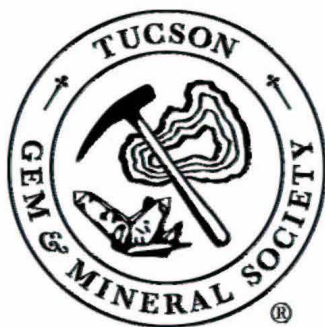


Former Friends of Mineralogy President, Mark Ivan Jacobson, announcing the start of the 2022 FM-MSA-TGMS Symposium on Apatite.



Friends of Mineralogy in conjunction with the Mineralogical Society of America and the Tucson Gem & Mineral Society® is pleased to announce the **44th Annual Tucson Mineral Symposium.**

*Red, White, and Blue minerals
- Celebrate the Spirit of Minerals!
Saturday, February 14, 2026*



FIELD TRIP REPORT

ECGMS TRIP TO HAVEY QUARRY AND MT. MICA

by Bill Stephens, PG

I was fortunate to be invited by East Coast Gem and Mineral Society, Inc. (ECGMS, EFMLS Region 1) President “Crystal Moon” Dawn Marie Crocco to participate in the second annual Maine pegmatite trip. I also attended last year, and we all stayed at the same Airbnb. This huge house served as an excellent base of operations for our activities and included fine in home dining courtesy of our culinary experts, Crystal Moon, Barb and others, not to mention wonderful bread including the best focaccia I’d ever had made by our host Lindsey.

Our first trip was to the Havey Quarry in Poland Maine, known for green and multi-color



Figure 1. Active workings at the Havey Quarry, operated by Jeff Morrison. Holes in the sidewalls are pockets that have been cleaned out. Bill Stephens, PG photo.



Figure 2. View of the access road at Havey running through the mined out area of the quarry with the spoils to the left. Note the mobile drill used to drill shot holes. Bill Stephens, PG photo.

tourmaline crystals, owned and operated by Jeff Morrison. Conditions at the mine have changed little from last year. No mining of the rock face (fig. 3) is permitted, and visitors are not allowed in the active mining area. All digging is confined to the spoils area (fig. 4) and large rocks within that area. The spoils have been screen extensively and the area is generally picked over. I was able to break off some mica with green tourmaline (fig. 5) off the concealed side of a large block of pegmatite. Parker recovered some exceptional pieces of lepidolite with tourmaline (fig. 6) adjacent to an empty pocket at the back wall and Beck found a nice Columbite-Tantalite crystal. Everyone found something they liked.

Last year Jeff gave our group a 45-minute mining history which I recorded but he was not with us for the guided tour this year. Extensive



Figure 3. Green Tourmaline (common, non-gem grade) in the wall rock, Havey Quarry. Bill Stephens, PG photo.



Figure 4. Drone photo showing the extent of spoils where collecting is allowed. Most collectors sift the finer material for tourmaline while checking the bigger pieces for matrix hosted tourmaline. Bill Stephens, PG photo.

documentation is available on the Havey Quarry and adjacent Berry Quarry YouTube videos, Facebook, and Instagram posts and their website will guide you to as “deep in the weeds” as your heart desires.

Our second day trip was to Mt. Mica in West Paris, Maine. Arrangements were made through “Dig Maine Gems”, an authorized guide service that runs trips only on Sundays. (Visit their website for more information). Mt. Mica is North America’s first gem tourmaline pegmatite mine, second documented elbaite occurrence, the first being Clarkes Ledge Quarry in Massachusetts. Mt Apatite has produced thousands of spectacular gem grade green, watermelon and rubellite tourmaline crystals since its discovery in 1821. The Maine State Museum has a nice historical review online.

Mount Mica has been owned and mined commercially for gems and crystals by Coromoto Minerals since 2003. An excellent if dated article on production, geology and general history may be found in *Gems and Gemology*, Summer 2005. Another publication, “Indicolite Discovery at the Mt. Mica Pegmatite” is in *Rocks and Minerals* Volume 98, 2023 Issue #6 by Gary Freeman. FM National’s Bill Besse did a locality map and map of the underground workings for that article.

You can download the “History of Mount Mica” by Augustus Choate Hamlin, 1895 for a deep dive in the early history. Visit Coronotominerals.com for recent mining activities.

Mt Mica is also mentioned in U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin 445.

See also “Maine Tourmaline” by Dr. Carl Francis in *The Mineralogy Record*, volume 16, September – October, 1985 and volume 2 of “*The Mineralogy of Maine*” by Vandall King. Check out the “Rock Fairy” on Facebook.

Stay tuned for more reports on my collecting adventures!



Figure 5. One of the better pieces I was able to break off the back side of a large block of pegmatite. Bill Stephens, PG photo.



Figure 6. Lepidolite in feldspar matrix with quartz and one piece of common green tourmaline. Havey Quarry. Bill Stephens, PG photo.



Figure 7. Some of my finds at Mt. Mica. Clockwise from top left: beryl, schorl and garnet in matrix, lepidolite, watermelon tourmaline, garnet. Bill Stephens, PG photo.

SILVER CRATER MINE, FARADAY TOWNSHIP, ONTARIO: A HISTORIC URANIUM PROSPECT AND SOURCE OF EXQUISITE BETAFITE CRYSTALS

by Sean Stimac

The Bancroft area of Ontario, Canada, encompassing parts of Haliburton, Hastings and Renfrew counties, has long been known to mineral collectors for its wealth of uranium and thorium bearing minerals. Uranium was initially discovered in the region in the 1920s, but it wasn't until World War II escalated the global demand for uranium that the area received much attention. However, Initial surveys and prospects extracted low grade ores and experienced site accessibility issues, discouraging mine development.

The dawn of the Cold War in the 1950s saw global demand for uranium ores rise sharply and once again the region saw increased interest toward these deposits. A few prospects were developed into active mines, like Madawaska, Faraday and Bicroft, but many others became known for their mineralogical treasures rather than their ore potential.

The Silver Crater Mine, a notable but now defunct mine, is one such prospect that never saw significant success as a uranium mine. Instead, the mine briefly produced massive sheets of mica that were used in electrical and industrial applications. For mineral collectors, however, Silver Crater became a renowned locale for what are often considered amongst the best betafite crystals in the world. The mine is also well known for its zircon and fluorapatite crystals.

The origin of the Silver Crater Mine's carbonatite deposit dates to the Grenville orogenic cycle, approximately 1.15 billion years ago. During this period, portions the region's carbonate rich crust underwent partial melting, resulting in a mineralized carbonatite complex containing uranium and niobium bearing pyrochlores, fluorapatite, zircon and accessory silicates. The betafite crystals from this locale are often sharp, ranging from brown to near black and can occur as well-

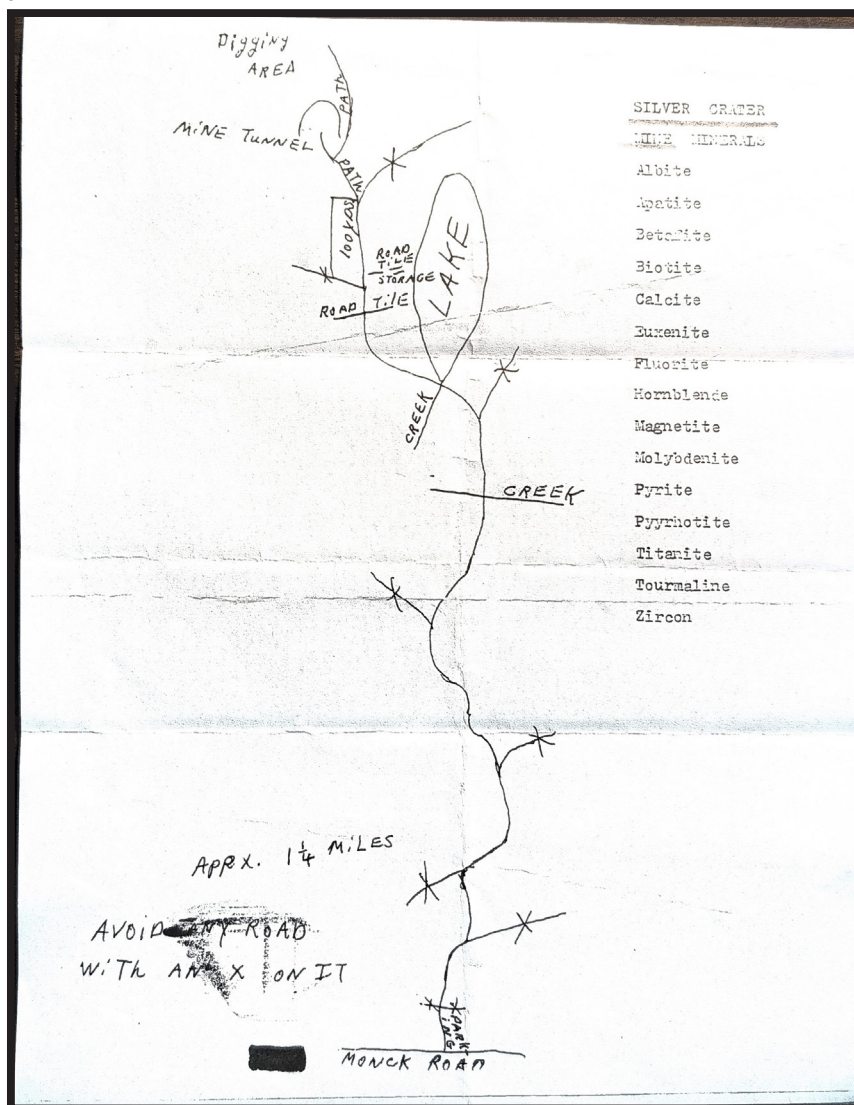


Figure 1. Photocopy of a map to the Silver Crater Mine from the parking area. Sean Stimac photo.

formed octahedral crystals or aggregates.

The Silver Crater Mine is open to the public for collecting and can be accessed via 1899 Monck Road. There is a fee of CAD \$5 for each collector, which can be deposited in a box on the porch of the white house near the entrance to the walking path. Sometimes paper maps are made available near the payment box (fig. 1). Parking is behind the old wooden garage on the opposite side of the driveway from the white house.

Accessing the mine requires a two mile (3.2



Figure 2. A tree marked with directions to the mine site. Sean Stimac photo.



Figure 3. The Silver Crater Mine adit. The standing water at the mouth was only a few inches deep, but deeper in was shin depth. Sean Stimac photo.

km) hike down a well-marked ATV path (fig. 2). The terrain is rough in some spots with several steep inclines and requires a creek crossing. While the path is generally clear, be prepared for changing conditions and bring adequate water and proper footwear.

During the Spring and Summer months, the mosquitoes are quite bad and bug netting is highly recommended. The hike offers the most comfortable conditions during the fall months, with fewer insects and cooler temperatures.

Once at the mine site, collectors are greeted with a 400 foot adit, partially filled with water (fig. 3). Adits are inherently unsafe and, if collectors chose to enter, they should be equipped with proper PPE such as safety glasses, a hard hat, hard-toed shoes, etc. Due to standing water, waders are essential for any exploration in the adit. It's strongly recommended that you use the buddy system. Never enter alone, and make sure



Figure 4. A Radiacode 102 against a partial betafite crystal. Sean Stimac photo.



Figure 5. A handful of betafite crystals and fragments. This amount was collected after a few hours of digging. Sean Stimac specimens and photo.

someone offsite is informed of your plans.

The area surrounding the adit has several overgrown dump piles which have been consumed by the forest. These piles and surrounding boulders contain multiple minerals of interest, primarily fluorapatite, mica and betafite. A Geiger counter or scintillation detector is an essential tool in locating betafite. Most specimens are small crystal fragments, but a small percentage of them will be complete, well-formed crystals.

The background radiation at Silver Crater is significantly elevated when compared to common background levels, with some readings on my most recent visit being over 7,000 cpm on my Radiacode 102. For safety, collectors should limit their time on site and limit their direct contact with extremely radioactive specimens. I typically limit my time in the area to four hours or less. Collected specimens should be handled care-

fully and stored in isolation.

Locating betafite is both challenging and rewarding, requiring digging through dumps now covered in soil and leaf litter. A good detector will help in identifying promising spots and hand tools are adequate for most excavation. The area containing nice crystals covers several acres and quality finds can occur throughout this footprint.

During my most recent trip I found three small complete betafite crystals and seven fragments over the course of 90 minutes. I would have preferred to stay longer, but the mosquitoes had made a feast of me and drove me away.

For collectors of radioactive minerals, the Silver Crater Mine remains one of Ontario's classic field locales. With some patience, moderate preparation and a healthy respect for radiation safety, collectors can still unearth exquisite betafite specimens that serve as a link to Canada's uranium history and the ancient geologic forces that shaped the Grenville Province as we know it today.

Further reading:

"Silver Crater Mine, Faraday Township, Hastings County, Ontario, Canada," Mindat Localities — a comprehensive locality page including mineral lists, specimen photographs, history, and geology.
Mindat

Mineral Deposits Series: Uranium and Thorium Deposits of Ontario, Northwestern Sheet, District of Kenora (Patricia Portion) — Geological Survey of Ontario publication P 0969, detailing uranium-thorium geology in Ontario (with useful analogues and regional context).
prd-0420-geoontario-0000-blob-cge0eud7azh-vfsf7.z01.azurefd.net

Economic Geology Series, 1962, No. 16 (Government of Yukon / Geological Survey) — classic reference on the geology of uranium and related mineralization (especially in metamorphic terrain settings).

Collection of Canadian Geological Surveys (e.g. Ottawa / National Archives) — historical compilations of geological survey bulletins and reports (e.g. the MQ21696 series) offering older field data, maps, and regional geologic summaries.



Figure 6. A small, but complete betafite crystal cluster found in May, 2025. 24x21x20mm, 52k cpm RC102. Sean Stimac specimen and photo.



Figure 7. A spectacular betafite crystal cluster found in October, 2024. 41x40x28mm, 42.5k cpm RC102. Sean Stimac specimen and photo.



Figure 8. A small betafite crystal cluster aggregate found in May, 2025. 25x21x20mm, 32.4k cpm RC102. Sean Stimac specimen and photo.

IN MEMORIAM

A LIFE WELL LIVED - WILLIAM H. "BILL" DAMERON

by Julian Gray

A purported African proverb states that "when an elder dies, a library burns".

Musician, mineral collector, arts patron, scholar, diplomat, and dear friend to many, Bill Dameron passed away on Monday, 4 August 2025. My wife Barb Epstien and I have known Bill and his wife Diana for several decades. It started with a common love for minerals and expanded into music and good dining experiences. The four of us created many fond memories of excellent dinners, including the wine and beer courses. Those dinners included discussions about Bill and Diana's worldwide travels including details of their annual trips to Europe and more.

Bill had an amazing mineral collection, and visits to their home always included viewing their collection. Every specimen was perfect, highly pleasing aesthetically, and came with a fascinating story and a geography lesson. Bill insisted on perfection in the quality of each specimen. Our friendship grew richer and deeper each year as we had visits together during the large national mineral shows in Denver and Tucson. We often had dinner and discussions of what we had seen at the shows. This was excellent mentoring for me on how to evaluate fine mineral aesthetics and recognize flaws in lesser specimens. Bill had a great network and was aware of new discoveries. Bill also collected friends and colleagues and mined their knowledge to lead to his next exquisite find.

When the position opened up at the Rice NW Museum in Hillsboro, Oregon, near Portland where Bill and Diana lived, I applied. Bill was on the board of the Rice Museum at that time. The opportunity to live closer to the Damerons was a key factor in our decision to move to Oregon to take the job.

One of the first things Bill did for us our first summer in Portland was to introduce us to the Chamber Music Northwest Summer Festival. We attended our first concert with Bill and Diana



as their guests: a recital by the Emerson String Quartet. Our seats were in the second row and twenty feet from the first violinist. I could almost read the sheet music! On that program was the Shubert's String Quartet number 14, "Death and the Maiden". Do yourself a favor and give it a listen. We were hooked. Chamber Music Northwest is one of, if not THE finest Chamber Music Festivals in the world. We have attended concerts every year since. Bill was heavily involved with CMNW and served for a time as its board president. Bill had a current and encyclopedic memory for music and the musicians who performed that music. And so, Bill also mentored us on music and musicians.

We were also amazed to learn that Bill played bassoon in a local orchestra: Oregon Sinfonietta. The orchestra was quite good and we attended as many of their concerts as possible. It was fun to get to hear Bill talk about practicing and which pieces and parts he loved (and hated) and how we should not miss some particular concert because the soloist was amazing. Those who knew Bill can relate when I say Bill did nothing part way.

Last year, Bill and Diana received the terrible news of Bill's lung cancer diagnosis. The prognosis was not good and seemed to worsen with each treatment and scan. We spent as

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much time as we could with Bill and Diana and attended Bill's final concert with Sinfonietta May 11 of this year. Gene Meieran (who also lives in Portland) and several of Bill's family members were also present at the concert. It was an emotional event, but Bill was determined to make it through that concert, and he did that admirably. It was a brave performance.

In light of Bill's deep involvement with Chamber Music Northwest and the great programming this year, the 2025 Summer Festival was special. Barb and I attended as many concerts with Bill and Diana as we could this year. Each time I messaged Bill, he insisted that we **MUST** go to the July 15th recital, which included Benjamin Beilman, who Bill asserted was the greatest violinist of the century. Family members were again flying into Portland for this event. We relented and bought tickets. In retrospect, we would not have missed this emotion-packed concert for anything.

Beilman lived up to Bill's assertion and exceeded our expectations. But something else, something very moving, happened. Following Beilman's performance, one of the festival's co-directors, Soovin Kim, came on stage to say a few words. He thanked Bill and described how significant Bill's contributions were to CMNW. He said that Bill was one of the cornerstones of the Festival. Soovin then said that they were going to make Ben work a little longer. Soovin knew that "Daisies", composed by Sergei Rachmaninov, was one of Bill's favorite songs and had the incredible young violinist play it. This concert would be the last live music Bill would hear. In the concert hall that afternoon, tears flowed.

During the early hours of Monday, August 4, Bill died at home, quietly and peacefully.

For more on Bill's life and legacy, his full obituary can be found here: <https://obits.oregonlive.com/us/obituaries/oregon/name/william-dameron-obituary?id=59151961>



IN MEMORY OF RANDY MARSH

by Johan Maertens



Randy Marsh, who passed away September 5, 2025, was a dedicated mineral collector and a steadfast volunteer with the Friends of Mineralogy Midwest Chapter. His commitment, reliability, and hard work strengthened the chapter in countless ways.

Randy's service began in 2014 when he stepped in as Secretary pro tem during a vacancy. Later that year, he was nominated by President Clyde Spencer and elected First Vice President—Programs, beginning in January 2015, and later served as Liaison Officer. In these roles, he worked closely with the chapter's leadership, particularly President Clyde Spencer and Field Trip Leader Reggie Rose, and collaborated fully with officers, volunteers, and members to keep programs strong and the chapter active.

As Vice President of Programs, Randy coordinated FM Midwest Symposia at Miami University from 2015 through 2020. While these events were shaped by the guidance of the officers and the support of many members, Randy's careful organization, steady follow-through, and welcoming

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nature helped make them successful. With Heather by his side, he made students, speakers, and attendees feel valued—whether through smooth logistics, mentoring conversations, or even the simple gesture of sharing donuts.

Randy also worked year after year at the Friends of Mineralogy sales and swap tables at GeoFair. He collaborated with fellow officers and volunteers to gather mineral donations, set up displays, and represent the chapter with warmth and professionalism. His willingness to take on tasks, follow through carefully, and support the vision of chapter leadership ensured these efforts came together smoothly.

In his role as Liaison Officer, Randy carried out important responsibilities in communication with the parent organization. During transitions in leadership, he supported meetings by preparing agendas and helping keep business on track, always under the framework established by the chapter's officers. He often filled in when needed—assisting at field trips when Reggie Rose was unavailable, helping with displays, or arranging practical details such as the chapter banner. In each case, Randy approached the work with humility, cooperation, and generosity, embodying the collaborative spirit of the chapter.

A Lifelong Passion for Minerals

Randy's love of minerals began in childhood, when he started collecting at age nine. That passion never waned, and he shared it through responsible collecting, careful documentation, and encouragement of others. He valued mentorship, often guiding students and new collectors, and believed strongly in education as part of the chapter's mission.

Field collecting was one of his greatest joys, not only for the specimens but for the friendships and experiences that came with them. He also appreciated the community aspect of mineral clubs—exploring ideas like micromount activities, casual swaps, and social gatherings that deepened the bonds among members.

Education, Outreach, and Legacy

Randy supported the chapter's efforts in outreach and education, helping to organize symposia, exhibits, and displays that reflected the group's shared mission. His work was always part of a larger collaborative effort led by the officers

and strengthened by many members, but his dependability and willingness to contribute made a lasting impact.

Together with Heather

Heather was Randy's partner in every sense—whether staffing tables, hosting members, or volunteering at events, she shared in his dedication and his enthusiasm for the chapter community.

Carrying the Legacy Forward

Randy's legacy lies in the spirit of cooperation and service he brought to the Friends of Mineralogy Midwest Chapter. He showed how much can be accomplished when members work together in support of shared goals. As we remember Randy, we honor him best by continuing the traditions he helped sustain: welcoming new collectors, mentoring students, working together as officers and volunteers, and keeping the spirit of community strong.

FM NATIONAL BOARD APPROVES BY-LAWS CHANGE

FM Secretary Jeanine N. Mielecki on August 13, 2025 made a motion to change the wording in Article I, Section 2, of the FM National Bylaws referring to a corporate seal be deleted and that it be marked "Reserved."

This wording of the Bylaws to be deleted, as it is no longer necessary, reads:

The seal of this corporation shall be circular in form and bear on its outer edge the words, "FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY, INC. and in the center the words and figures "Corporate Seal 1972 California."

President William E Stephens seconded the motion. The motion requires ten votes to pass.

Thirteen members of the FM National Board voted to approve the revision to Article I, Section, 2 of the FM Bylaws. There were no nays received.

Duly recorded this 14th day of August 2025,

Jeanine N. Mielecki

Secretary, Friends of Mineralogy National

FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY CHAPTER REPORTS



New Jersey Chapter

fomnj.wordpress.com

2025 has been an outstanding year for the Friends of Mineralogy NJ

Chapter (FM-NJ). WE continue to have new members joining and have maintained a vast majority of membership. Ryan "Klock Man" Klockner's Geology265 program and our electronic payment have significantly helped the club maintain high numbers and participation. The FM-NJ junior Rockhounds Program continues to go strong despite experiencing some challenges in keeping membership. Below are our Field Trip reports, which continue to be far and above, the club staying power.

FIELD TRIP REPORT: C.K. Williams Quarry

Event: C.K. Williams Quarry trip

Date: Sat. May 3, 2025

Location: Easton, PA

Clubs in attend: NoJMS, FM-NJ, PESA, DVESS, Nittany CLub

Hosts: Groundhog Dave; Mark Leipert (DVESS); "Great" Dane Transue (PESA); Mike "Pie Man" Dunton (Nittany club); Tom Prochar

Attendees: Groundhog Dave, Mark Leipert (DVESS), "Great" Dane Transue (PESA), Mike "Pie Man" Dunton (Nittany CLub), Tom Prochar, Erik Vadeika, Stephanie "Carpet Squares" Apgar, Yu Lin, Noah "Arrowhead" Garwood, LaRonda Davis, Zachary Schagrin, Erik and Emory Jensen; Rich "Drake" Drake, Elizabeth and Luca Prendini; Dottie Lennon; various members of PESA, DVESS, nittany Club

We had an enjoyable multi-Club visit to C.K. Williams Quarry in early May. As we did in 2023, NoJMS and FM -NJ teamed up with several NJ and PA clubs to organize a multi-CLub visit to the quarry, and a great time was had by all. Special thanks to "Great" Dane Transue for arranging to have resident long time expert Tom Prochar on hand to explain the geology and show some treasures he collected at the quarry over several decades. Many varieties of Serpentine, pegma-

tite minerals and some radioactives, were provided in the familiar red pick-up truck, for us to view and be amazed at. The specimens were quite colorful, varying shades of greens, reds and yellows were for all to see.

Following Tom's outstanding intro, members split up to venture either into the quarry, or across the road to the bank leading to the Delaware River, to dig into the hillside. The weather was very humid but impending rain did hold off "as advertised", so that was agreeable.

Everyone came away with nice examples of Eastonite, various Serpentine and Phlogopite and Muscovite Mica combos, and Chrysotile / asbestos mineral combos. And also some foks obtained Quartz and / or Feldspar pieces / combos from the intrusive Pegmatite body.

Some more Notable finds included:

- Possible small Zircon xls in serpentine - Noah "Arrowhead" Garwood
- Small Titanite xls in altered marble - Luca Prendini
- "Verdolite" small reddish coloration of / on Serpentine - Groundhog Dave

Mike "Pie Man" Dunton gave Dave some nicely manicured and organized small samples of Anthracite Coal form PA, for the FM-NJ Juniors program. Small perky boxes and vials contained the specimens.

FIELD TRIP REPORT: High St. Franklin, NJ / Phil Crabb property trip

Event: High St. Franklin, NJ / Phil Crabb property trip (afternoon to Night dig)

Date: Sat. May 24, 2025

Location: High St., Franklin, NJ

Clubs in attend: NoJMS, FM-NJ, FOMS

Hosts: "Franklin Phil" Phil Crabb Attendees: "Franklin Phil" Phil Crabb, Groundhog Dave, Dave "Lermanator" Lerman, Luca Prendini, Jesse Sunderland and Janice Ketchuck; Madeline Jewett,

Rich “Drake” Drake, James Nalepa, Rich and Meg Blatman; Yu Lin, Mark and Mark McArthur; David Kaminski, Eric Stroud

Once again, the NJ Clubs had an excellent and engaging trip to the aptly named “Mighty North Orebody” up at High St. in Franklin. Phil graciously gave everyone a historical overview of the area and property and emphasized the emergence of the orebody nearest to the surface, at the site. Folks quickly took to scouring the top of the wall and ventured downhill and examined the numerous boulders and smaller rocks embedded in the wall. Some folks opted to continue digging through the dumped material at the front of the site, from the construction project nearer Sterling Hill, from a few years ago.

Jesse Sunderland, Dave “Lermanator” and a few folks, found notable ore containing boulders near the top of the wall, that they slowly broke down into smaller collectible pieces. Nice examples of green Willemite and reddish to orange Calcite, were collected by all.

More notable finds:

- Hardystonite on ore piece - Janice Ketchuck and Jesse Sunderland
- Phosphorescent Willemite - Jesse Sunderland
- Yellow - greenish LW (likely) Carbonate material on marble - Dave Kaminski and Eric Stroud
- Slag fragments from nearby smelting - Groundhog Dave and Janice Ketchuck
- Remnants of previous norbergite / Diopside boulder - Yu Lin and Rich Blatman
- POTENTIAL Hardystonite - containing boulder for future examination - Jesse Sunderland, Dave “Lermanator”, Phil Crabb, possibly other(s)
- Small Garnet xls in Dolomite rock - Luca Prendini
- Sulfide (Pyrite or Arsenopyrite) in Dolomitic rock - Luca Prendini
- Multi-wave Fluorescing Calcite (reddish, blueish) - Dave Kaminski
- Nice Sphalerites in ore pieces - Yu Lin

- VERY nice Quartz xls in Dolomite vugs (up to 1 cs) - James Nalepa
- “Franklin Concrete” piece with Hardystonite fragment(s) - Dave Kaminski
- Interesting rich brick-red Hematite patches and bands on various pieces - Mark McArthur

“Franklin” Phil revealed that this coming week, he will be bringing a Komatsu / equipment to overturn select sections of his property. We must keep our ears open for any near future finds following this !!

FIELD TRIP REPORT: Hewitt Gem Mine trip, Haddam, CT

Date: Sat Jun 7, 2025

Clubs in attend: NoJMS, FM-NJ, PESA Club

Trip Leaders: Groundhog Dave

Host: Tony Apilla and Steve and Jim

Attendees: Groundhog Dave, Dave “Lermanator” Lerman, Hayley “Shakespeare” Nalepa, Kevin “Coop” Cooper, Lisa “20 Questions” Bostedo, Kris and Maria Roselle; Andrew, Leslie and Marty Kruegel; Paul Becker, Erik and Emory Jansen; Yu Lin, Mark and Mark McArthur; Mike Biehl, Anthony Jerussi, Kimmy Brancato, Jan Strachan, Rich and Megan Blatman; John Montgomery, Dave Tibbits, George Speidel, Kristin Stine with Lily D; Robert Witkowski, Zhongya Lin ; PESA Club: Mary and Stacy Pearson + 2; Kim Paynter, Rich Anders Marhost, Claire Farnsworth, Stacy Schadel.

NOTE: LARGEST group outing ever for the NJ Clubs !!!!! Also most newbies / first - timers ever in one trip !!

With the weather getting more challenging with a LOT of rain lately, all things considered, we lucked out overall this time out at Hewitt. The local forecast changed during the week leading in, from a total rainout, to chances of rain all day with moreso in the afternoon. This forecast won out, as despite the heavy cloud cover, the actual rain held out until just after 3:00 pm; and at 3:30 pm the floodgates finally opened. *JUST A NOTE - the trip ends at 4:00 pm, so this was a VERY agreeable outcome!

Aside from the weather, we once again had a

great time collecting at Hewitt. Extensive work had been done on the back walls of the main pit, and some recent blasts, along with the steady incoming club visits, created a new appearance of the back wall of the pit. Folks as always had plenty of fresh tailings to dig through, and good opportunities on the pit floor and walls, to expose new surfaces.

Tony once again did not disappoint with the prepared lunch and we did grill up some delicious burgers and was prepared to do so under a tent if needed! He did skip out on the Hot Dogs again this time around, however he did have plenty of bags of chips and waters.

NOTABLE FINDS:

- Lisa “20 Q” Bostedo - 2 very nice double terminated Smoky Quartz xls, each about 1”
- Maria Roselle - few nice Amazonite / greenish Feldspar pieces
- Kris “Paratsch23456ethynko” Roselle - nice small Schorl Tourmaline pieces (loose)
- Kevin “Coop” Cooper - several nice deep blue-green Aquamarine Beryl xls in pit floor
- Paul Becker - several small nice Schorl Tourmaline xls in Mica plates
- Dave “Lermanator” Lerman - piece with green Torbernite splashes
- John Montgomery - nice Goshenite Beryl fragment in feldspar
- Kristin Stine - nice small Aqua Beryl piece (loose)
- Anthony Jerussi - nice Goshenite Beryl piece (loose)

AWARD: MOST HEAVY DIGGING / MOVING:
Kevin “Coop” Cooper

Others in general found nice Beryl pieces (various varieties), Schorl Tourmaline pieces, Schernikite and Lepidolite Micas and other Micas; many Spessartine Garnets, plenty of Feldspars and Quartz, and other goodies!

FIELD TRIP REPORT: Diamond Mountain Mining trip, Little Falls, NY

Date: Sat Jun 14, 2025

Clubs in attend: NoJMS, FM-NJ

Trip Leaders: Groundhog Dave

Host: Diamond Mountain Staff / Mike W.

Attendees: Groundhog Dave, Hayley “Shakespeare” Nalepa, Dave “Dude” Miller and EhmKay Delaleu; Giuseppe “Uncle Seppe” Liberti; Luca and Elizabeth Prendini; Aron and Joanna Paige; Noah “Arrowhead” Garwood, Rachel Goodson, Robyn Abrams, Yu Lin, Dan Ritter, Karla Serpico and Sam Ritter; Kristin Stine, Justin Cares, LaRonda Davis, Mike Biehl, Erik and Emory Jensen; Suzanne, Jarrath and Nate Shaw; Mike and Coleen Heinig

They say, it’s hard to pass up a bargain, and Diamond Mountain Mining definitely has done very well in the advertising department of their popular “20 Club Members for FREE” campaign. Several Club members in 2024 had strongly encouraged the Groundhog to once again take advantage; however this didn’t fit into the 2024 Field Trip schedules. Groundhog Dave made sure to secure a Spring sate for us for this year, and overall we did have a fun and enjoyable dig.

Aside from Groundhog Dave himself, this was the first time at this location for a fair number of the other attendees. Folks who had been there before several times, immediately noted the major change in the terrain, as a lot of the main ledge section had been trimmed back and extensively worked, no doubt by the numerous regulars and club attendees over time.

Staff Member Mike W. greeted us and showed us the “lay of the land” after the minimum-fuss sign in and briefing and overview. A short 5 - 10 minute walk, and we were into the woods and at the main ledge layer. Mike W. told us about the extensive work having been done there in recent times and told us about specific areas in the woods (“Heidi’s Hill”, the stream and surroundings, “Dead Zone”, etc) that were fair game to check out. Some interesting geology and mineralogy was immediate evident, as blue-green Glauconite and 1 or 2 other sedimentary based minerals, occurred frequently in the majoritive host rock (Dolostone).

Folks enjoyed checking out the different areas of the ledge layer and into the woods, the different offerings. Convenience of the parking area being only a 10 minute walk away, was hard to beat, as well.

NOTABLE FINDS:

- 1 inch absolutely PRISTINE WATER CLEAR tabular Herkimer - Karla Serpico
- 2 or 3 x 1" tabular and crystalline Herkimers - Giuseppe "Uncle Seppe" Liberti
- 2 inch double term. Herkimer - Emory Jansen
- Various < 1 in to 1" Herks - Yu Lin
- Several small < 1 cm WATER CLEAR Herks (some double term.) - Nate Shaw
- 1 inch Herkimer single term. - Ehmkey Delaleu
- Small 1/2 cm double term. Herkimer in matrix - Luca Prendini
- 1 cm tabular Herkimer (single term.) - Kristin Stine; Mike Biehl
- Very gemmy blue-green Glauconite in matrix - Groundhog Dave and Luca Prendini; likely others

** THERE MAY HAVE BEEN OTHER NOTABLE FINDS, THESE ARE THE ONES FOLKS TOLD ME ABOUT **

Many < 1/2 cm single and double terminated Herks were found on or near the surface thanks to the recent rains

AWARD: MOST HEAVY DIGGING / MOVING: Dan Ritter and Giuseppe "Uncle Seppe" Liberti

FIELD TRIP REPORT: Ramanessin Creek, Monmouth County, NJ

Date: Sat Jun 28, 2025

Clubs in attend: NoJMS, FM-NJ

Trip Leaders: Groundhog Dave

"Pro" Guide: Derek "Google" Yoost

NEW Aspiring "Guide" = Arthur Finkelshteyn

Attendees: Groundhog Dave, Derek "Google" Yoost, Arthur Finkelshteyn, Rich "Drake" Drake, Patricia Brown and Tom and Emily Davidson; Valerie Pierce, Dan Blanco, Erik and Emory Jensen; Lee, Shay and Miles Billings; Lisa "20 Questions" Bostedo, Kris "Paratsche#\$%^zxkynko" Roselle with Maria R.; Ron "ChiselBuster" Schulz w dogs, Paul and Lily Turchin; Christine Skubish, Konrad

Majors, Janice Ketchuck and Jesse Sunderland; Noah "Arrowhead" Garwood, Sarah Bernotas, Steven Balint w Kristin Constantini; Carol Peters, Medeline Jewett, Jayme Brenham w Steve Woodruff; Ryan "Klockaroonius" Klockner, Michael Biehl w Laura Keeley, Iris and husband w / Emily Starling; Mitch and Athena Seim

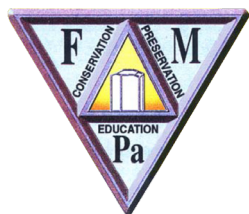
We had another outstanding outing to the popular Ramanessin Creek in Monmouth County, in search of shark teeth and marine fossils. The weather cooperated overall and allowed for collecting well into the afternoon. Virtually everyone came away this time out with a variety of shark teeth of varying sizes and various marine fossils. As always, having Derek "Google" Yoost as our pro guide, proved indispensable; and new aspiring guide Art Finkelshteyn joined in the hunt.

NOTABLE FINDS:

- Groundhog Dave - several large Ammonite fragments
- Arthur Finkelshteyn - Large Goblin shark tooth > 2 inches

** There were other notable finds but Groundhog does not have record of them, unfortunately **





Pennsylvania Chapter

rasloto.com/FM

The big news is our November 8-9 Symposium and Field Trip.

Registration is now open; a fillable PDF form is available on the web site

<https://rasloto.com/FM/> under the "What's New" section on the right side.



Pacific North West Chapter

pnwfm.org

PNW Chapter's biggest event of the year—our 2026 Symposium (theme: Color in Minerals) is in just a few weeks—the weekend of October 11! We are excited to return to Ellensburg and Central Washington University with a lineup of exciting speakers as well as displays, hotel dealers, auctions, and new for this year a CWU student poster session. If you are interested in attending, see more details and register now at pnwfm.org. Talks will be recorded for later viewing on YouTube through Mineral Nation. See you there!

EDITOR'S NOTE

Chapter reports are a valuable way to keep the members of all our chapters informed of the goings on across this organization. This section highlights the great things each chapter is working on to further the mission of Friends of Mineralogy.



Friends of Mineralogy - Pennsylvania Chapter and West Chester University Earth and Space Sciences Department SYMPOSIUM Nov. 8, 2025 - Field Trip Nov. 9

Attend **ONLINE -OR- IN PERSON** at West Chester University

Online registration deadline November 6

SYMPOSIUM for mineral collecting enthusiasts Non-members \$20.00 Members \$15.00 Students free
Saturday Nov. 8: Hybrid Symposium - **ONLINE** or **IN PERSON**
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at West Chester University

Talks by knowledgeable **SPEAKERS, including:**

Mineral Localities of Delaware County, Pennsylvania - by Ronald A. Sloto, PG, West Chester University
Minerals of the Phoenixville Mining District - by Ross Elliott, PG, Delaware Mineralogical Society, and Bill Stephens, PG, Stephens Environmental

The Hogg Mine: A Tale of Two Machine Digs Revisited - by Bill Stephens, PG, Stephens Environmental
Recent Finds in Southeastern Pennsylvania - by Anatoly Bitny
Fossils of the C&D Canal - by Luke Jackson, West Chester University
Lead Isotopes from the historic Pennsylvania Frontier - by Dr. Ryan Mathur, Juniata College

Silent Auction — Give-away Table — Meet Fellow Collectors

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

FIELD TRIP Sunday Nov. 9 to Phoenixville area sites. Open only to symposium registrants.

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

www.rasloto.com/FM/ or **Friends of Mineralogy Pennsylvania** on Facebook

PACIFIC NORTHWEST FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY

2025 Symposium

Color in Minerals

October 10-12, 2025

Discovery Hall, Central Washington University (CWU)

Ellensburg, Washington

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2025

3:00 pm DEALER SETUP: Sure Stay by Best Western & EXHIBITOR DISPLAY SETUP: CWU
5:00 pm DEALERS OPEN: Sure Stay by Best Western
9:00 pm DEALERS CLOSE FOR DAY ONE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2025

8:30 am	DISPLAYS OPEN - CWU	
9:00 am	Welcome and Opening Remarks	Jessica Robertson and Julian Gray
9:10 am	Causes of Color in Minerals – Part 1	John Rakovan
10:00 am	BREAK	
10:15 am	From Mine to Masterpiece: Using Minerals in Art	Angela Piller
11:05 am	BREAK	
11:20 am	Finding Art in Minerals: How an interest in color and form ignited my passion for minerals	Bruce Kelley
12:10 pm	STUDENT POSTER SESSION	
	LUNCH	
	LIVE AUCTION STARTS AT 12:45	
2:00 pm	Color of Pegmatite Minerals and what they tell about Pegmatite Formation	Mike Wise
2:50 pm	BREAK	
3:05 pm	Mineral News from the the PNW	
	Lasmanisite and other Sulfosalts from Bear Basin	Frank Kentsch (virtual)
	Sulfosalts from Pedro – More unknown unknowns	John Lindell
	Cayschite-(Y) from Washington Pass – Now known	Markus Raschke
4:30 pm	AFTERNOON SESSION ENDS	
6:00 pm	Mineral Shopping at Sure Stay by Best Western	

Dinner on your own - No Saturday evening Banquet

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2025

8:30 am	DISPLAYS OPENS - CWU	
9:00 am	Causes of Color in Minerals – Part 2	John Rakovan
9:50 am	BREAK	
10:05 am	Color in Thin Section	Chris Mattinson
10:55 am	Closing Remarks	Jessica Robertson
11:00 am	SYMPOSIUM CLOSES	



Mississippi Valley Chapter

Report of the Mississippi Valley Chapter of Friends of Mineralogy

By L. M. Nuelle, Chapter President

September 2025

The Mississippi Valley Chapter gets its name from the ore deposit type known as Mississippi Valley Type (MVT) deposits. The base metal mines in the Mississippi Valley are of this type. Such deposits include 1) the mines in the Tri-State district of Oklahoma, Kansas, and Missouri, 2) the Southeast Missouri lead district (including the Old Lead Belt and the Viburnum Trend, 3) the northern Tri-State district of Illinois, Wisconsin, and Iowa, 4) the northern Arkansas zinc district (village site of Rush and surrounding area), and 5) the Illinois-Kentucky fluorite district (although this district appears to be a hybrid having some igneous influence; the definition of MVT deposits is that with no associated igneous systems). Currently, membership of the chapter is that of Missouri residents. Membership is open to anyone in the Mississippi Valley Region as well as to those interested in the geology and mineralogy of the region.

On August 9, the Mississippi Valley Chapter participated in a field trip to the Copper Valley mine in Ste. Genevieve County, Missouri. This is a private fee dig site in the tailings piles of the Cornwall Copper mine

(now referred to as Copper Valley mine. Participants dug in three different tailings piles finding malachite and azurite as well as other unidentified copper minerals. The malachite and azurite are nothing more than coatings, thin vein fill, and small particles. They are nothing special, but this is one of the few locations in Missouri where such minerals are found and thus are of interest to collectors of Missouri minerals. The Cornwall mine is referred to as the Cornwall mines as there are several adits into the hillsides. Chalcopyrite, malachite, and azurite were the main ore of copper with the first two being more prominent. The mines were in operation from 1863 to 1888, with minor production until 1916.

The chapter also sponsored an exhibit for the August show of the Greater St. Louis Association of Earth Science Clubs that was held in Bridgeton, Missouri, August 15, 16, and 17. The theme of the display was minerals from the Southern Illinois fluorite district.

No further activities are planned until our next meeting at the Grater Kansas City Association of Earth Science Clubs held in March in Kansas City.



Exhibit of minerals from the Southern Illinois fluorite district on display at the Greater St. Louis Association of Earth Science Clubs show in Bridgeton, Missouri, August 2025.

FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY AFFILIATES

MINERAL NEWS

THE MINERAL COLLECTOR'S NEWSLETTER

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American Geosciences Institute

AGI is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to serving the geoscience community and addressing the needs of society. AGI headquarters are in Alexandria, Virginia.

<https://www.americangeosciences.org/>



*Understanding the material
needs of our energy future...*

Minerals in Context (MiC) is a new grassroots 501(c)(3) civil-society organization dedicated to education and raising public awareness about minerals and their importance to society.



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/>