

# **FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY**

## ***MIDWEST CHAPTER***

### ***AFFILIATIONS***

*THE MINERALOGICAL RECORD*  
*THE MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA*  
*AMERICAN GEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE*  
*ROCKS & MINERALS MAGAZINE*

**JANUARY - FEBRUARY**

**2013**



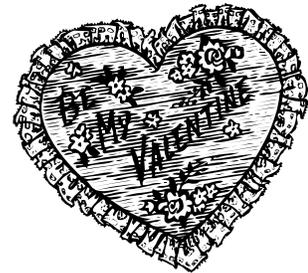
### **NEXT MEETING**

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 12, 2013**

**12:30 PM**

**INDIANA STATE MUSEUM**

**INDIANAPOLIS, IN**



**FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY**

**FIRST CLASS**

John Blue, Editor

16155 Shurmer Rd,

Strongsville, OH 44136

**FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY  
MIDWEST CHAPTER**

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AMERICAN GEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE  
THE MINERALOGICAL RECORD  
THE MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA  
ROCKS & MINERAL MAGAZINE**

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**PURPOSE**

**Friends of Mineralogy, Midwest, Inc, Midwest Chapter is organized to promote interest in and knowledge of mineralogy; to advance mineralogical education; to protect and preserve mineral specimens and promote conservation of mineral localities; to further cooperation between amateur and professional and encourage collection of minerals for educational value; and to support publications about mineralogy and about the programs of kindred organizations**

## FAREWELL MESSAGE

When you read this, the holiday season will be nearly over and New Year 2013 upon us. I hope your 2012 was bright with good field collecting finds, good bargain purchases and/or sales at your shows and, of course, all else fine in each of your worlds. May the new year 2013 be even better, bringing good field trip finds, bargain purchases and good sales! **HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EACH AND EVERY CHAPTER MEMBER !!**

I have been your FoM Midwest Chapter President for the past 4 years. During this time, there have been many chapter changes while many other aspects of the chapter structure have not changed. During this past year, I have increasingly looked to step aside, only agreeing to remain in my position as your President unless and until another individual agreed to step into my position. The position of your Chapter President has never overwhelmed me, but I am looking to travel more with family and place less emphasis on rock collecting activities. I no longer travel alone long distances either to field trips or to chapter meetings. Earlier this fall, chapter member CLYDE SPENCER of Ohio approached me with the intriguing idea of assuming my position as your Chapter President. My time has come.

CLYDE has a long professional geology background and has had a long time passion about collecting minerals with continuing success of the Midwest Chapter of the FoM and the FoM in general. CLYDE has expressed his willingness to actively work on your behalf, therefore I tentatively agreed with his proposal and sent out a notice to the other chapter officers. Some responded positively while others abstained from any response. None were negative. This may not be the usual way the position of chapter presidency changes hands and is passed on, but it is an offer from an actively interested chapter member that cannot be passed up. As such, I will relinquish my position as your Chapter President as of January 1, 2013. CLYDE SPENCER will become your Midwest Chapter FoM President on January 1, 2013. I can assure you that he will actively work on behalf of the FoM, the Midwest Chapter and your behalf. You will be in good hands with CLYDE!

I have also been informed that JOHN DAVIS, our Chapter Secretary and PEGGY FISHERKELLER, our Programs Chairperson wish to step down at year's end. We will sorely miss the work these 2 individuals did on behalf of our chapter and must now replace them. Neither resignation has anything whatsoever to do with the change of chapter presidency, but both positions need to be filled ASAP!

ARE THERE ANY VOLUNTEERS? If so, call me at 812.337.8994 or email CLYDE at [c\\_spencer123@att.net](mailto:c_spencer123@att.net)

Thanks to each and every one of you chapter members for bearing with me these past few years and please support our new Chapter President, CLYDE SPENCER. **HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL BOB HARMAN**

## AND GREETINGS

Our outgoing President, Bob Harman, asked me to tell you a little about myself. However, before I do that, I want to thank him for the years he has contributed to help run this organization. Also, our Secretary, John Davis, and our Vice-president of Programs, Peggy Fisherkeller, have resigned their positions effective at the end of 2012. I also want to thank them for their service. The constitution lists liaison officer as one of the six officers of the executive board; however, since I don't see such a person listed in the last couple of newsletters, I'm going to presume that position is vacant also. It is always difficult to find people to volunteer time out of their busy lives to serve organizations like this. Typically, they serve until they are burned out. Then there is a scramble to find someone to replace them. Having said that, I'd like to encourage all of you to consider stepping up and filling one of these vacant positions. On a related note, I've been told that the national organization is looking for three replacement board of directors' members.

Now, on to me: I have B.S. and M.S. degrees in geology from San Jose State University (CA), with an undergraduate emphasis in geophysics. However, my first love has always really been mineralogy. I have been an avid field collector since I was a child. My master's thesis was on the occurrence of platinum group

Greetings (Cont'd)

minerals in northern California. I taught geology, geography, and chemistry for ten years at Foothill College (Los Altos Hills, CA). During that time I was active in the Bay Area Mineralogists and served as President for a couple of years. However, about the last 25 years I have been working in the remote sensing field; I recently retired from Ball Aerospace & Technologies (Fairborn, OH) as a Senior Remote Sensing Scientist, where I specialized in Imaging Polarimetry (Ask me about it.). Since retiring, I have been working on determining the optical constants of opaque minerals.

I'd like to share with you some ideas I have on where I'd like to try to take our chapter. First of all, I'd like to try to expand our field trip opportunities. Reggie Rose has been doing a fine job of arranging field trips. I particularly like his procedure of providing background information on the geology and mineralogy of the collecting sites. This has been valuable to me because I only moved to Ohio eight years ago after having lived most of my adult life in California. However, Reggie recently has encountered difficulties in getting access to quarries. (I'll expand on this problem of collecting opportunities at a later date.) Some of the difficulties are related to the economy, and have also impacted our collecting success when he does get us into a quarry. In some instances it isn't obvious what the problem(s) is/are, he just gets a "No." So, to try to assist Reggie, I'd like to encourage all of you to share with him any collecting sites that you know of that are accessible. Also, if you have any personal contacts, try to 'grease the skids' as it were, and give Reggie contact and background information on the localities. Most of the collecting recently has been in Ohio, with a trip to Kentucky last year, and a couple trips to Michigan (Ohio North), and Indiana. I'd like to try to expand the range a little, if possible. So as not to be a burden on Reggie, I have agreed that I'd be willing to 'host' field trips that he can't attend; others can step forward to help, as is appropriate.

Also, I'd like to have more educational presentations associated with our nominal bimonthly business meetings. To that end, I'm coordinating with Dr. John Rakovan of Miami University (Oxford, OH) to have a mini-symposium at his university after the Tucson show.

I look forward to serving you and this organization. I have made plans to attend the annual Tucson mineral show in February and attend the national FoM business meetings. Lastly, I welcome any suggestions or ideas on how we can improve this chapter, attract more members, and accomplish the goal of advancing and promoting mineralogy.

Clyde Spencer

## **GENOA COLLECTING GOOD**

### **IF CLAY CENTER WAS A HOME RUN GENOA WAS A THREE BAGGER**

FM took what is probably its last trip this year to Graymont Dolime of Genoa, Ohio on Saturday November 17, 2012. FM was able to muster 25 collectors to the trip. They were greeted by partly sunny skies and mild temperatures, and an even warmer host, Superintendent Gary Elliot.

New member Bill Barr of Ann Arbor Michigan worked for an hour to extract a prized sphalerite which was a crystal mass which was approximately two inches by one inch in diameter. White celestite was abundant everywhere with individual crystals up to 2.5 inches perched in mini-vugs. Also present in some pockets were scalenohedral honey calcite crystals, often with celestite.

FM member Alan Dewitt reported that he ended up pleased with Genoa, and that it was probably his best trip ever there, as he collected one nice sphalerite, a double cluster of rootbeer/clear zoned flourite, a one inch sphalerite and a killer gastropod.

## Genoa ((Cont'd)

Gary Elliot's assistant, Harry, found and showed me a really nice beef heart clam. Incoming FM President Clyde Spencer (Dayton) found sphalerite in the quarry, and Tom Bolka (Dayton) found a six inch blade of celestite.

After FM field trips, if you would like to contribute what you have found to the FM newsletter, please do so. We are always interested in what members find on these trips.

Also, for next year, I would hope to "hold serve" on our present quarries. The field trips we attended this year (with attendance figures in parentheses) were: (1) Stoneco - Auglaize in Junction, OH (25); (2) Hanson of Salem, IN (8); (3) Great Lakes Aggregates of South Rockwood, MI (37); (4) Stoneco of Clay Center, OH (27); and (5) Genoa, OH (25).

Collecting in these quarries was excellent in Clay Center, very good in Genoa, and sub par in the other three quarries. We are always looking for new quarries, especially in Indiana, Michigan and Kentucky to give ourmembers in those states a shorter drive to field trips. If you live in those states and you know of a good mineral quarry which will accommodate a FM trip, please let me know.

Many thanks.

Reggie Rose

## FM Field Trips



Hi Reggie, I'm not a very good writer, so I'm sending some pics and will describe each one some, you'll have to be the author.

pic 1 believe to be an ammonite, maybe a gastropod, 1 1/4"

Collected by Robert Dewitt



The sphalerite crystal group shown took over an hour to remove from a hard-to-access position on a boulder. Overall size is 75 x 55 x 33 mm; largest crystal is 22 mm long. It fluoresces dim orange with green spots under shortwave UV (best on broken surface, i.e. the backside). The green spots phosphoresce for quite a while before fading

Collected by Bill Barr, Ann Arbor, MI

**NEXT MEETING**

Our next meeting will be on Saturday, January 12, 2013 at 12:30 PM at the Indiana State Museum, 650 W Washington, Indianapolis, IN 46222. Program will be a “behind the scenes” tour of the museum to see items not on display to the public and where exhibits are prepared.



FLUORITE

CLEAR CRYSTALS IN VIEW - BROWN ON REVERSE

Collected by Robert Dewitt at Genoa

**2013 DUES ARE DUE**

***SEASONS GREETINGS***