



# FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY, INC. MIDWEST CHAPTER

V 18 No. 2

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Affiliations: *The Mineralogical Record*  
The Mineralogical Society of America  
American Geological Institute

**SATURDAY, APRIL 3, 2004, 4:30 P.M.**

In Conjunction with the Cincinnati Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Show  
Cincinnati Convention Center, 5<sup>th</sup> & Elm  
Cincinnati, Ohio

Official show parking: System Parking Inc., Elm & 7<sup>th</sup> Streets



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(Dated February 12, 2004)

This note is written early since I will be leaving shortly for Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant, Michigan, to work on fluid inclusion research. I should be back in time for our next meeting, which is at the Cincinnati Show at the Convention Center on Saturday, April 3, at 4:30 pm. Hope to see all of you there.

We are going ahead with plans for the Symposium on the Illinois/Kentucky Fluorspar District that is being organized by Alan Goldstein, based on positive responses from FM members at the January meeting and two e-mail messages. The two-day Symposium will be held the weekend of October 2 and 3, and centered at Marion, KY, with motels available nearby. The tentative Symposium schedule will consist of: (1) visit to the Clement Mineral Museum (Marion) for Friday evening reception; (2) field stops Saturday in Illinois and box lunch at American Fluorite Museum (Rosiclare); (3) dinner Saturday at Fohs Hall, Marion; (4) Conference with slate of speakers after dinner; and (5) field stops Sunday in Kentucky with box lunch.

Pre-registration will be required for the Symposium. Fees, as yet to be determined, will include museum entries; reception Friday evening; catered box lunches Saturday and Sunday; catered dinner Saturday, and, Symposium guidebook. Alan hopes to get special rates on motel rooms. Becky Fortnear, curator at the Clement Museum, is making arrangements. Motels and other meals will not be covered in pre-registration fees.

The district is no longer operating, the only active site being the Hastie Quarry, which is quarried for limestone and intersects the fluorite horizon. Anticipated stops in Illinois will include: the Hastie Quarry, Ozark-Mahoning mill tour and mine dump, American Fluorite Museum and Annabel Lee mine dump. Anticipated collecting stops at Kentucky mine dumps will include: Lafayette, Columbia and Hutson mines. Conference speakers will be lined up once the facility rentals are locked in. Due to parking concerns at a number of sites, a limit of attendees will be set and carpooling will be necessary.

Alan will be at the Cincinnati Show and provide more details at our April meeting.

Have been trying to organize an Ohio field trip for this spring, but have been unsuccessful so far. Millersville, where we had excellent collecting last year, has closed its doors for now, and several other quarries are still closed to collectors. But, I will keep trying.

ERNIE CARLSON, President



MINUTES—JANUARY 11, 2004

Eleven members of the Friends of Mineralogy-Midwest Chapter met at the Indiana State Museum in Indianapolis.

President Ernie Carlson called the meeting to order. His first announcement was that B. Harman had resigned as Vice-President in charge of field trips. President Carlson volunteered to set up trips in Ohio and Dwaine Edington agreed to find places in Indiana. They would work together on a temporary basis until another member volunteers or an appointment could be made.

The March meeting was discussed and members agreed to not have a meeting that month, but delay until April at the Cincinnati show. The meeting will be April 3, 4:30 P.M. More details will be completed at a later date.

Alan Goldstein is working on the Symposium to be held in the Fluorspar District sometime in October. Details will be announced at a later date, but some of the possibilities are to meet on a Friday evening. On Saturday there would be a field trip. Saturday evening would include a banquet with the symposium speakers afterwards. More field trips on Sunday could possibly be arranged. Each attendee would pay their own registration fee, motel, banquet and all other expenses. There would be no expense for the club. There is the possibility that attendance would be limited to thirty participants.

Peggy Fisher announced that the 2004 GEOFEST would be held on October 22 and 23. This would be different than previous years, as the dates are Friday and Saturday. Flyers with details will be included in the September newsletter.

Treasurer Lorraine Wright gave an approximate balance in the checking account.

Nelson Shaffer passed out posters from the American Geological Institute. He will attend the Board of Directors FoM meeting in Tucson as our representative and also as a representative of AGI.

President Carlson announced that he would be away from Kent State for a short while, but would be available through email.

The business portion of the meeting was adjourned.

Mr. Shaffer was in charge of the program. He was a speaker at the October Symposium hosted by the Mississippi Valley Chapter of Friends of Mineralogy and a video of Mr. Mark Sherwood's talk was shown. The symposium was on the *Geodes of the Warsaw and Keokuk Formations—Missouri-Iowa-Illinois*. It was held on October 18-19, 2003, in Keokuk, Iowa. The video included many specimens of minerals found in the geodes of that area. It was taped by Dennis Haas. It was a very interesting program.

Marlene Edington, Secretary pro tem for Al Sicree

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OFFICERS IN 2004

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If your label does not show 04, then you have not renewed your membership for this year.  
 The deadline has been extended until the April 3 meeting. This will be the last newsletter you will receive if dues are not paid by 4/3/04. Send your check or money order in now to  
 Lorraine Wright, Treasurer Form-MC,  
 1505 S. Randolph St., Indianapolis IN 46203  
 Individual \$15.00, \$10.00 for each additional family member.

500 EARTH SCIENCES CLUB OF INDIANAPOLIS

Cordially invites you to join with them on

JUNE 13, 2004, 2:00 P.M.

to hear a presentation by

TERRY HUIZING

“BEAUTY OF MIDWEST MINERALS”

Mr. Huizing is a retired chemical engineer and for the past twenty-five years has been Curator of Mineralogy at the Cincinnati Museum Center and a consulting editor for *Rocks & Minerals* magazine. Previously he was active in the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies, serving as president in 1975. The American Federation Scholarship Foundation honored him in 1991 for “Distinguished Achievement in the Field of Earth Sciences.” He most recently co-edited, with Dr. R. Peter Richards, the *extraLapis English* volume on calcite, authoring a number of the articles. His introductory article was awarded the best article in *extraLapis English* for 2003 by the Friends of Mineralogy. Mr. Huizing’s photography was recently featured in the book “*The Grandmasters of Mineral Photography*”, published in 2004.

His interests, besides calcite, include minerals of the Midwestern United States and aesthetic pseudomorphs. His topic, the “Beauty of Midwest Minerals”, combine his photographic talents with the story behind the occurrence of minerals found in the Midwestern states, particularly Indiana.



NORTH EASTWOOD CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
9425 E. 30<sup>TH</sup> STREET, INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

Located between Post Road and Mithoeffer Street on the south side of 30<sup>th</sup> Street.

Enter by the first canopied door from the parking lot.

From I-70 take Post Road North to 30<sup>th</sup> Street, turn east on 30<sup>th</sup> to the church.

For further directions or information, please contact

President Ann Richardson 317-570-0713--annRarichardson@aol.com

or

Program Chairman Len Gritzer 317-232-6769--leng@indy.net

Secretary Marlene Edington 765-345-5514--dandme@spitfire.net



FIELD TRIPS: Unfortunately, as of the mailing of this newsletter there have been no field trips set up for the upcoming months. As on page 1 Mr. Carlson stated that the quarry in Millersville has been closed and many others have been closed to collectors. Mr. Edington tried to get in touch with IMI at Pendleton, but was unsuccessful. These two members will continue to contact places to arrange a field trip. They ask that any of the members that have an idea or suggestion to please let them know. Any member can arrange a field trip. They would also like to be notified of the members that are truly interested in going on field trips. In the event that a trip can be arranged and it is between newsletters, give a telephone number or email so you can be contacted.



## A GEOLOGIST REMINISCES ABOUT DIAMONDS

When we think of diamonds, most of us think of South Africa, for the fabulous mines of that country has been the major source of diamonds for nearly a century. There are many stories about the discovery of the various mines, and of the amazing diamonds that have been recovered during the history of mining in South Africa. One of the more memorable experiences of my life was a visit to the Premier Mine at Kimberly, South Africa, as a young geologist in 1964. Even more memorable was the visit my wife and I made during that trip to Kimberly in 1964, to a 'house' where diamonds were sorted and graded. I'm not sure that a visit like that would be possible anymore.

But the diamond scene has changed dramatically in the last twenty years. Vast quantities of diamonds have been recovered from the Yakutsk area in Siberia. These stones have had an important influence on the world's diamond market. In the late 1970s diamonds were discovered in the desert regions of northwestern Australia. Interestingly the diamond bearing area of Australia has been called 'the Kimberlies' for nearly a century! The Kimberly region of Australia is now the leading producer of diamonds in the world.

Even more recently, a diamond rush in the Northwest Territories of Canada has become the greatest mineral rush ever in North America. Rumors of amazingly rich diamond pipes provide fuel for the stories of this new diamond district. And diamond exploration has been ongoing for nearly 15 years in the Great Lakes region. Diamonds up to 20 carats in weight were discovered in the glacial drift in Wisconsin over a century ago. The sources of these diamonds have remained a mystery. However, the discovery of the Kimberlites in Northern Michigan between Crystal Falls and Escanaba has certainly focused the search! Kimberlites are very difficult to find because they are very small features. They form as small, very explosive circular 'pipe-like' volcanic necks only a few hundred feet across. The rock in Kimberlites originates in the earth's mantle, perhaps a hundred miles deep. The rock, including the diamonds, is carried to the earth's surface by gases escaping from the mantle. As the material approaches the surface, expansion of the gas causes intense brecciation of the crustal rocks as well as the Kimberlite itself. One of the most characteristic features of Kimberlites is the mixture of a wide variety of rock types, mostly in fragments less than one inch in diameter.

Kimberlites also contain some very distinctive minerals. Pinkish red pyrope garnets and emerald green chrome diopside along with lustrous black metallic crystals of limonite and brassy yellow books of phlogopite mica are sprinkled throughout the dark greenish black matrix that is often very altered to serpentine. Most Kimberlites are geologically very 'young'. In South Africa, Australia, Siberia and Michigan, they appear to be Cretaceous in age. The Kimberlites in the Northwest Territories of Canada even contain wood fragments! Again I remember our experience in South Africa, where the diamonds were separated from the host Kimberlite. The process evidently resulted in the separation of various mineral concentrates, for I recall walking on a path whose surface was red pyrope garnets, and another path surfaced with emerald green chrome diopside. These brilliant paths leading to the diamond-sorting house were at least exciting as the 'yellow brick road' in the Wizard of Oz!

The sorting house was another fascinating place. We were taken in through several sets of doors that had to be keyed simultaneously from both sides. The room was about 20x30 feet with windows on two sides. Long tables lined the walls with windows. A number of workers (mainly women) sorted the diamonds. Each worker had a mound of diamonds to sort and grade by color. The crystals in each pile were limited to a certain size range. One worker had a mound of diamonds all one-half inch or larger. The next worker had a pile of crystals about 3/8 to 1/2 in diameter, and so on, around the room. Because color is so important to the value of the diamonds, the workers made maximum use of the natural light from the windows. Needless to say, our several hours in the sorting house went by very quickly! I could write on for pages, but I will end this article by saying that diamonds, and the rocks in which they form, possess many fascinating features.

By Dr. Gene LaBerge, member of the Oshkosh (Wisconsin) Earth Science Club and chairman of MWF Geology Committee, in MWF Executive Committee Report, April 9, 1994 \*\*via Toledo Gem & Rockhound Club, Toledo, Ohio May 1996

The 23rd Annual Tucson Mineralogical Symposium  
Saturday, February 16, 2002

Sponsored by Friends of Mineralogy-Tucson Gem and Mineral Society-Mineralogical Society of America

## Mineralogical Symposium: Minerals of Africa

**The Minerals of the Erongo Mountains,  
Erongo District, Central Namibia**

**Christopher L. Johnston**

P.O. Box 354  
Omaruru, Namibia

**The Occurrence of Diopside in  
African Mineral Deposits**

**Robert B. Cook**

Department of Geology and Geography  
Auburn University, AL 36849

**Benjamin E. Nicolson**

P.O. Box 344  
Tsumeb, Namibia

**The Reopening of the Tsumeb Mine, Namibia  
by Tsumeb Specimen Mining Ltd.**

**Robert B. Cook**

Department of Geology and Geography  
Auburn University, AL 36849

**Benjamin E. Nicolson and Ian R. Bruce**

Tsumeb Specimen Mining Ltd.  
P.O. Box 344  
Tsumeb, Namibia

**Yellow Orthoclase (Sanidine) from  
South Betroka, Madagascar**

**William B. Simmons and Alexander U. Falster**

Department of Geology and Geophysics  
University of New Orleans  
New Orleans, Louisiana

**Londonite, a New Mineral: the Cs-dominant  
Analog of Rhodizite from Madagascar**

**William B. Simmons, Alexander U. Falster,  
and Karen L. Webber**

Department of Geology and Geophysics  
University of New Orleans  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70148

**Federico Pezzotta**

Museo di Storia Naturale di Milano  
Corso Venezia 55  
I-20121 Milano, Italy

**The Messina Copper Mines, South Africa  
Bruce Cairncross**

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Rand Afrikaans University  
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Johannesburg, South Africa  
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**Mineral Highlights from Southern Africa:  
A Tour of the Desmond Sacco Collection**

**Bruce Cairncross**

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Johannesburg, South Africa  
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**Tourmaline from the Antandrokomby,  
Anjanabonoina and Fianarantsoa Pegmatites,  
Madagascar**

**Karen L. Webber, William B. Simmons,  
and Alexander U. Falster**

Department of Geology and Geophysics  
University of New Orleans

**Graphite with growth spirals from  
Arises River Marbles, Wlotzkas Baken,  
western Namibia**

**John Rakovan**

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**John A. Jaszczak**

Department of Physics and the A. E. Seaman Min-  
eral Museum  
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