

Friends of Mineralogy



Midwest Chapter Newsletter for July – August 2016

In this issue:

Presidents Message – 3

Meeting Minutes – 4

Treasurer's Report – 5

Field Trip Reports - 6

Quarry Travel / Event Guide - 8

New Website Details - 9



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Newsletter published bi-monthly in January, March, May, July, September and November. Please submit all information for publication in the newsletter by the 15th of the previous month.

Chapter Website:

www.fommidwest.org

National Website:

www.friendsofmineralogy.org

On the Cover –

Calcified Welk Shell

Ruck's Pit, Fort Drum, Florida

12.0" x 12.0" Tom Bolka photo

Affiliations:

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

Our purpose is to organize and 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.



President's Message

I want to thank Terri Huizing of the Cincinnati Mineralogical Society for once again providing our chapter with a room at the annual GeoFair for us to have a meeting. Incidentally, we tried something new this time. Randy Marsh provided a telephone link to Frank Konieczki so that Frank could record minutes remotely. There were some issues with him being able to hear clearly, especially those in the back of the room. If we do this again, I'll try to be more diligent about repeating questions and people's names.

I also want to thank Randy and Heather Marsh for once again organizing and staffing a swap table at Geofair on Saturday. FM made about half of what we did last year (Please see the treasurer's report.). However, it was still a substantial amount of money and our treasury is looking better than it probably ever has. Incidentally, the position of chairperson of the fund raising committee is still vacant, and I think that we could use a volunteer to relieve Randy and Heather of doing all the heavy lifting and let them actually see the show.

You may have noticed that the email addresses for all of the officers and committee chairs on the newsletter masthead has changed. This is a result of having our new website operational. Also, the website URL has changed. The new URL is: <http://www.fommidwest.org>. Please see the more detailed notice from Jeff Spencer. Thank you, Jeff, for making this happen!

By now, all of you should have received a copy of the current membership roster. If you did not see it, go back and check your email in-basket and junk-basket. We will endeavor to provide an updated list annually. Please see the minutes of the last meeting held at GeoFair below.

As you may recollect, I have asked for volunteers for speakers at the FM symposium on Saturday, in February, during the annual Tucson Gem and Mineral Show (TGMS). If you are willing and able to speak for 20 minutes on some aspect of Midwest Minerals, the TGMS theme in 2017, please let me know and I will pass your name and contact information on to the program chairman, Julian Gray. TGMS wants a list of speakers and topics no later than September. So, don't drag your feet about volunteering! Do it now!

Also, I'd like to remind all of you who will be going to Tucson in February that Randy Marsh and I will be coordinating a display case of Midwest minerals. If you have something that you would like to have displayed, please contact Randy or me. Again, don't wait until the last minute!

I have a little bad news. The woman who promised to get us into the Harding Street Quarry in Indianapolis wrote back to me that she was deferring all decisions to the quarry superintendent. Unfortunately, he has not responded to my email. I don't know where that leaves us.

Friends of Mineralogy

From the office of the President

Clyde Spencer



Meeting Minutes (4/30/2016)

Friends of Mineralogy, Inc. Midwest Chapter
Meeting Minutes- April 30, 2016
Sharonville Convention Center
Sharonville, Ohio

President Clyde Spencer asked for a show of hands of Midwest Chapter members and declared a quorum was present.

Called to order by President Clyde Spencer at 4:35 PM. The following officers were present: Clyde Spencer, President; Randy Marsh, Vice President Programs; Jeff Spencer, Treasurer. Twenty members and guests were present. Secretary Konieczki took minutes of the meeting via audio conference.

No formal agenda was presented for review/discussion.

Old Business:

President Spencer asked if any corrections to the March 12, 2016 meeting minutes were necessary. No changes were proposed or adopted.

New Business:

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Jeff Spencer reported that the club treasury summary is the same as published in the most recent newsletter. FoM Midwest had an ending balance of \$4,092.81 for 2015, including \$860 in 2016 dues received from 43 members. Forty - four members have paid \$880 for 2016 dues since January 1, 2016, bringing the current member total to 87. This year's projected membership is approximately 110, and if realized, this would yield \$460 in additional dues income. The budgeted expenses thus far this year include the following: insurance- \$625.00; National dues- \$440.00; symposium expenses- \$500.00, these expenses total \$1,565.00. Website registration and hosting expenses for two years was \$166.42. Currently, the projected balance after expenses is \$3,681.00 + \$450.00 year to year. Thus far today, \$373 has been realized from sales at the GeoFair. One new member signed up and paid their \$20 dues.

The new website has been completed. The web address is <http://www.fommidwest.org/>, and we have received archive files that will be downloaded to the website as 21 pdf files. Ultimately, we will have a wealth of information available that stretches back to the Chapter's inception.

Vice President Programs Randy Marsh provided information regarding field trips. The following trips are planned for 2016: Auglaize- May 21; South Rockwood- July 9; Clay Center- August 27; Genoa- October 16. Randy indicated that he is planning a trip to Herkimer, NY in mid to late July. He had originally planned to couple the field trip with a visit to the Carnegie Museum; however, logistical problems prevented the latter from being scheduled. The status of field trips to Williamsport and Harding Street is presently unclear. The site contact for the Williamsport Quarry has now taken on a job with the same company in Kentucky. Clyde is trying to get us into the Harding Street Quarry in Indianapolis. Tom Bolka has been working on getting us into Danville, Kentucky to collect fluorite. Randy Marsh has been working on a



Missouri trip to collect at the old Valles Mines property because a trip there two years ago was successful. The main drawback is that the collecting area is very small, so if the trip is arranged, attendance must be limited.

President Clyde Spencer stated he is now filling multiple roles, owing to the resignation of FoM National President Alex Schauss. The National Bylaws provide that the National Vice President fills the vacancy, so Clyde is now the President of FoM National, acting as Vice President of FoM National until the position is filled, while remaining President of FoM Midwest.

President Spencer indicated that an appeal for the 2017 Tucson Show, themed *Midwest Minerals*, has been made, and he also indicated that we hope to have an “embarrassment of riches” to display. Any gaps in the showcase collection will likely be very specific, and request for these items will be made when identified. Mississippi Chapter President Larry Nuelle provided a tip for anyone who is transporting minerals to the Tucson Show where the nights can be quite chilly. Many minerals are thermosensitive, so it’s prudent to store those minerals in your motel room, rather than leaving them in your car when the temperature dips.

There was extensive, spirited discussion about the bylaw requirement that states our members have the right to a list of members, and how to best balance this requirement with privacy concerns. Two problems associated with the dissemination of this information were identified, namely, the misuse of this information by a Chapter member and stolen information. A suggestion was made to provide club members’ names, phone numbers, and city/state of residence, which should limit the potential for misuse. Subsequently, a motion was made to provide our members’ names, phone numbers, and city/state of residence to all other members, and the motion passed by vote (JSpencer/Marsh/P).

Meeting adjourned: 5:20 PM (RMarsh/Guest/P)

Respectfully submitted by Frank Konieczki, Secretary

Treasurers Report

As of the last report, our treasury balance stood at \$3,779.89. The swap table at the Cincinnati Geo-Fair raised an additional \$373.00 and a new member signed up due to the fact that the swap table gave us a presence at the show. That brings our current balance to \$4,172.89. All of our recurring annual expenses have been paid. Our roster currently stands at 111 members.

I will echo Randy’s sentiment that we really need a member to step into the vacant role of Fund-Raising Chairperson. As chairperson, you don’t have to do all of the work yourself! You just need to organize and coordinate the effort of other volunteers! This effort has had a significant impact on our treasury over the last two years, and it is just being done for one day at one show!

Jeff Spencer - Treasurer

FM on the go.....

Field Trip Reports

Penfield is a haul, but worth the drive! (Reggie Rose)

A trip to Penfield, NY is not one you leave for on the morning of the trip, especially if you are an FM Midwesterner. From Ohio, it's about a 7 hour trip. Three Midwest "Fmers" besides this author made the long trek.

If you find one really nice piece from any field trip worth taking home you have had a good day. Our FMMW representatives on the May 7th trip were Dieter Burrell (Ann Arbor, MI), Mike Royal (Defiance, OH) and FM Secretary Frank Konieczki (Belleville, MI). Frank found a dolomite-calcite combo specimen with a nice pocketed calcite crystal. The calcite manifested itself in multiple scalenohedral peaks. Frank also found a nice nearly 3" x 3" x 1/4" selenite plate, pearly and pretty clear, but the photo Gods did not cooperate on this specimen.

If you had to pick an FM collector who would not get shut out on any given trip, Mike Royal would be a good one to select. Mike also came up with a dolomite-calcite combo with multiple scalenohedrons piled one on another.

If there was one amazing find from Penfield on this early May morning, Dieter Burrell made it. Perhaps the quarry guide on this trip is incomplete; what Dieter found is not even in the mineral list. He brought back home a dazzling dolomite-celestine pocket guarded in sentinel-like fashion by several elongated celestine crystals over 3" in length. For sure, dolomite is in the quarry guide, and it is all over the place at Penfield. However, celestine is not common here. It's the first celestine specimen I have seen from Penfield, and it is a real beauty. What is encouraging about these finds is that the collecting at Penfield's sister quarry Walworth in the fall is usually better and is a two day collection, not one. Again, hats off to our FMMW collectors.



Dieter, Mike and Frank



Dolomite – Celestine pocket, Dieter Burrell

Rain Rain Go Away (Reggie Rose)

Prior to our May 21st return to Auglaize quarry, I had an eye on the weather all week. We were due to get wet, but when the trip started, we had only the gray of the sky without the wetness.

Three collectors also starred on this trip. They found fluorite, fluorite and more fluorite. Both Bob Boyd (Macomb, MI) and John Davis (South Bend, IN) made similar finds in close proximity, and followed roughly the same procedure to get them. Neither Bob nor John are strangers to sledge hammers, and they swung them well to make difficult extractions of their take home prizes. Both Bob and John found fairly small pockets (maybe 4" in diameter or less) populated with fairly large deep purple fluorite cubes about ½" on a side.

Not to be "out-sledged", Mike Royal employed his trusty drill to disassemble a pocket of purple fluorescent fluorite which produced more than a dozen specimens covering matrix rocks from 3" to nearly a foot in size. In a quarry that can be miserly in giving up its prizes, these Fmers proved that with a sharp eye, if a mineral prize is hiding in a boulder pile, they will track it down even without the glint produced on a sunny day.



Fluorite – Bob Boyd



Iridescent Fluorite – Mike Royal

Quarry Travel / Event Guide

JUNE	<p>TITLE: Huron River Field Trip</p> <p>DATE/TIME: June 18</p> <p>LOCATION: Huron River at the bridge on Lover's Lane off Hwy 113, Monroeville, Ohio</p>	3 rd FM Field Trip
	<p>TITLE: 51st Annual Mineral, Fossil Show and Swap</p> <p>DATE/TIME: June 24-26</p> <p>LOCATION: Lawrence County Fairgrounds, Bedford, IN</p> <p>HOST/COORDINATOR: Dave Treffinger (djt5766jkft@msn.com)</p>	
JULY	<p>TITLE: South Rockwood Field Trip</p> <p>DATE/TIME: July 9</p> <p>LOCATION: South Rockwood, MI</p>	4 th FM Field Trip
	<p>TITLE: Keweenaw Mineral Days</p> <p>DATE/TIME: Jul 25-30</p> <p>LOCATION: Michigan Technical University, Houghton, Michigan</p> <p>HOST: Ted Bornhorst (tjb@mtu.edu)</p>	
AUGUST	<p>TITLE: Jewelry, Gem and Mineral Show and Sale</p> <p>DATE/TIME: August 19-21</p> <p>LOCATION: St. Joseph County 4-H Fairgrounds, South Bend, Indiana</p> <p>SPONSORED BY: Michiana Gem and Mineral Society</p>	
	<p>TITLE: Dallas Mineral Collecting Symposium</p> <p>DATE/TIME: August 19-21</p> <p>LOCATION: Eisemann Performing Arts Center, Dallas, TX</p>	
	<p>TITLE: Clay Center Field Trip</p> <p>DATE/TIME: August 27, 7:00 AM – 12:00 noon</p> <p>LOCATION: Clay Center, Ohio</p>	5 th FM Field Trip



New Chapter Website!

The new Friends of Mineralogy Midwest Chapter website is up and running! The new URL is www.fommidwest.org. We also registered fommidwest.com and that traffic is redirected to the .org site.

Initially, the goal was to convert the existing site content over to the new address. Now that it is complete and the site is under our direct control, we can consider enhancements. So please send any ideas or suggestions you have.

We also have created email addresses for the Chapter Officers to allow easier transitioning. For example, you can now send email to me, Jeff Spencer at 'treasurer@fommidwest.com'.

The new site has more photos, an event calendar, a contact form and is easy to maintain. We'd like more pictures and stories that illustrate the Chapter in action. So send anything you would like published to 'webmaster@fommidwest.org'.



Friends of Mineralogy Inc. Midwest Chapter

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The Friends of Mineralogy Midwest Chapter Website provides information about our chapter and its activities. Do a little prospecting on the site and learn more about our chapter and the parent organization, Friends of Mineralogy.

The Midwest Chapter covers an 8-state region: Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, Missouri, Iowa and Kentucky.

[Friends of Mineralogy Inc. Midwest Chapter Constitution](#)

[Friends of Mineralogy Inc. Midwest Chapter Bylaws](#)

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