

# Friends of Mineralogy

**Midwest Chapter Newsletter for  
September - October 2017**

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*The next chapter general meeting will be on November 18th. It will be held at Wittenberg University, in Springfield, Ohio. More information will be available in upcoming newsletters.*



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**Fund Raising (Committee Chair) - Vacant**

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

### Chapter Website:

[www.fommidwest.org](http://www.fommidwest.org)

### National Website:

[www.friendsofmineralogy.org](http://www.friendsofmineralogy.org)

### On the Cover –

*“Double Celestine”*

*S. Rockwood Quarry*

*Lawrence Hull*

### Affiliations:

THE MINERALOGICAL RECORD  
THE MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA  
AMERICAN GEOSCIENCES INSTITUTE  
MINERALOGICAL ASSOCIATION OF CANADA  
ROCKS & MINERALS MAGAZINE  
MINERAL NEWS  
MINDAT

**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.**



# Friends of Mineralogy

*Midwest Chapter President – Ken Bladh* [president@fommidwest.org](mailto:president@fommidwest.org)

## *President's Message*

**G**reetings! I hope that your summer travels and collecting have provided the personal renewal and the tangible acquisitions you expected. My time has been busy as I moved a substantial professional mineralogical library and specimen collection from my Wittenberg office to home, as I will retire from active teaching September 1<sup>st</sup>. I still have access to all of Wittenberg's geological and mineralogical facilities and am happy to host the annual Midwest Friends of Mineralogy meeting at Wittenberg in November (as you will see in the current chapter events calendar). The officers decided to stage this meeting near the geographic center of our active membership. Those who have shared their thoughts about the safety training the past two years liked the easy access and facilities at Wittenberg.

**We need your help to plan a gathering with the activities you value most.** There will be the regular business items and most importantly elections. What else have past annual meetings included that you would like to see this November? Officers' brainstorming generated a list of possible activities: guided tour of Wittenberg's paleontological and mineralogical collections/displays, mineral swap/trade tables (I have materials from several localities that I could make

available if we do this), silent auction of donated specimens (I have specimens to offer to this activity), brief slide talks about favorite mineral species or localities (suggested topics are welcome), general "open mike" session to exchange ideas about collecting sites, techniques, new finds in the region, etc., or a suggested activity to add to this list. I can provide access to binocular microscopes if you have specimens with small crystals, but I will need a headcount to prepare a lab space (let me know if you have this interest). We will provide coffee and tea. Unfortunately, there are no vending machines in the building. **Please respond to the Friends of Mineralogy email address at the top of this news note with your 3 top choices and/or other suggestions for activities at the Wittenberg meeting.**

Are there any issues or suggestions for me to take to the annual **National meeting of Friends of Mineralogy at the Denver Show in September**? Unfortunately, I have not seen an agenda for the Denver meeting. However, the national trustees are in ongoing consideration of ways to celebrate the organization's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Are there any ideas to share with the organizers? As your representative, I want to communicate accurately the voice of the Midwest Chapter.



## Treasurer's Report

FM member Greg Brown completed the audit of the 2016 Chapter financial records. The statement and the results have been sent to the national treasurer. We now have 114 members for 2017 and the treasury stands at \$5667.01. Selling donated specimens has been quite successful at the Cincinnati show. We are still looking for a fund-raising chairperson and volunteers for various other positions. Contact the chapter officers if you are interested. We have finally built up some cushion in the treasury and if anyone has ideas or suggestions for worthwhile expenditures please forward those ideas to the Chapter officers and we will make sure that they get discussed and considered.

Jeff Spencer – Treasurer  
Friends of Mineralogy Midwest Chapter  
<http://www.fommidwest.org>

Treasurer@fommidwest.org  
513-476-2163

Fluorite & Barite Specimen collected by the editor  
– Woodford County, Kentucky (6"x4"x4")



## Mineral Collecting in the Digital Age

In this age of the internet and smartphones, digital technologies can be of great use to mineral enthusiasts. However, there can be risks and other issues surfaced by these same technologies. This is not a comprehensive article but is meant to give you some ideas and warnings that you can research further!

The internet can be a great source of mineralogy information. You can find old and recent books and publications that can be searched and read online. Locality information and collecting status can be researched. When planning trips I can easily see what shows, museums, mine tours and other points of interest are on my path. Remember though, just because it is on the web, does not make it true or up-to-date. Most "pay-to-dig" localities advertise on-line and those who have been there before you can offer their experiences. Use those search engines!

There are several digital communities where collectors and enthusiasts can share photos/videos, chat, learn and even sell and purchase specimens. Among these are Flickr, YouTube, eBay, Pinterest, LinkedIn, MinDat, and Facebook.

YouTube videos can allow you to experience collecting (vicariously) through other's experiences. This can allow you to get an idea of terrain, conditions and material available at a potential field trip location. MinDat is a large and vibrant community with moderated discussions.

This ability to easily publish and share information raises some issues we have been concerned about within the Friends of Mineralogy community. There have been issues in the past where specimens from localities that FM fieldtrips have visited have shown up on eBay and other sale sites with complete locality information. This has led to unwanted publicity for the host and resulted in lost access. There is still a web page out there (from another club) detailing the last trip (2010) that we were able to attend at a wonderful locality. It may be a coincidence, but we have been unable to gain access since. A few years ago, specimens collected by miners in a Tennessee mine were listed for sale on a dealer website. The description was so detailed that the dealer received a call from the mine supervisor saying that he knew when and where they were collected and who was involved since only a few were working in that part of the mine for a limited time. A good practice is to ask your host if they mind such information being published!

Smartphones are wonderful tools for collectors. One device can perform as a compass, GPS, still and video camera, voice recorder, notepad and flashlight. Taking a picture of a specimen in the field with GPS enabled will provide you with a record of the date and location where the picture was taken for future reference. I also use this technique when shopping the many mineral venues in Tucson. This allows me to remember where I saw that dealer with the specimens I was too much in a hurry to buy at the time. When shopping, always ask dealers if it is OK to photograph their inventory. While a great tool, the ability to embed location in a digital file can also be a detriment. If you publish or distribute the image file taken at your 'secret' locality it may be simple for a viewer anywhere to discern the exact time and location the picture was taken. There are tools that will remove this information prior to publishing.

Warning: never place yourself and others in a situation where your safety may depend on these devices! When going off the beaten path, always tell someone where you are going and when to expect your return and consider a Personal Locator Beacon (PLB) or Satellite Messaging device. Personal locator Beacons are high-powered portable devices designed primarily to send out a personalized emergency distress signal. They generally require an open view of the sky to transmit successfully. PLBs are the terrestrial equivalents of Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacons in use for decades in marine environments. Over the years, these devices are estimated to have saved more than 33,000 lives. A Personal Locator Beacon should be activated only in situations of grave and imminent danger, and only as a last resort when all means of self-rescue have been exhausted.

Satellite Messengers are handheld transmitting devices that are useful in backcountry areas far from reliable cell phone coverage. These user-friendly devices allow you to communicate short text messages and/or your location coordinates with friends or family back home so you can report on your trip's status or, in an emergency, send calls for help. While handy, satellite messengers transmit signals that are much less powerful than a PLB signal. They are not intended for serious mountaineering use.

Now that you have all those digital pictures and other assets, be sure you store them safely by backing them up regularly. 'Cloud' backup tools allow you to archive and recover your files cheaply.

Using these tools wisely can preserve valuable information, enhance your collecting and allow you to share that experience with others. Just be aware of the potential risks and use common sense! Please send me your ideas, experiences and comments and I'll respond and share them in a future article.

Jeff Spencer

[treasurer@fommidwest.org](mailto:treasurer@fommidwest.org)

## Prospecting Report - Fairborn Cement Company

**A**s you are probably aware, we have lost access to most of our Indiana quarry-collecting localities, and some of our Ohio quarries as well. In an effort to help Reggie Rose out, I have been looking for alternate opportunities.

The negotiations with Irving Materials (IN) has been ongoing since February. However, because it has dragged on for almost 6 months, and my and Scott Kell's attempts at communication with the Education and Public Outreach person are not being responded to in a timely manner, I'm getting concerned that we are being stonewalled. Indeed, after writing this, I finally received email that said the following: "I have spoken with our team and I must inform you that we are unable to host your group. I will keep your contact information for any changes that might occur. Thank you for your understanding." Unfortunately, we were not given an opportunity to present our case as we were led to believe we would.

Ernie Carlson's *Minerals of Ohio* lists sphalerite as being a mineral found at what was formerly CEMEX in Fairborn (OH). Therefore, I've been trying for some time to connect with the quarry manager. The Company has been acquired recently and the name changed to Fairborn Cement Company. It was formerly operating a quarry north of its present location. That is probably the location that Dr. Carlson was referencing. They donated that quarry to the city of Fairborn, and it is now a park. I have explored that, (as have others in the chapter) and not only did not find any sphalerite, but what little I found in the way of calcite crystals were quite small.

The current operation is located north and south of Dayton—Yellow Springs Road, along Linebaugh Road. I recently received a personal tour of the quarries from the manager. He was most gracious and accommodating. They have several shallow quarries with slightly different chemistries. By shallow, I mean that their highwalls are not as high as the benches in most of the quarries we frequent. They are primarily interested in a pinkish limestone that appears to be composed of angular fragments similar to a breccia. There appears to be abundant glauconite evidenced as greenish-grey beds. I did find some dis-articulated crinoid stems, but very little in the way of calcite crystals, other than drusy coatings on fracture surfaces. One quarry has some novel, fine-grained gypsum balls about the size of a golf ball, embedded in limestone. However, they are not aesthetic. There is abundant iron-staining in the pits. Indeed, the only thing that I took home with me was a nodule of non-descript marcasite in limestone for my research collection. I did not see any sphalerite!

I asked about a rumor that I had heard that collectors were not welcome because previously someone had lost a rock hammer and it damaged their crusher. He said that he hadn't heard that, and he has worked there 17 years. Furthermore, for what it is worth, he didn't seem concerned about such an event. He remarked that their crushers were quite robust and it would probably spit out a hammer without even noticing it. In fact, he showed me a several-ton basalt glacial-erratic that had been stuck in their crusher. It took several hours of work, and ultimately required a crane to get it out of the crusher.

Unfortunately, I don't think that this location is worth pursuing in the future unless they change where they are working.

Clyde Spencer

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### ***FM GLA SOUTH ROCKWOOD FIELD TRIP IS A COLLECTING SUCCESS***

A total of 29 FM collectors were in attendance on July 15, 2017 at our field trip to Great Lakes Aggregate in South Rockwood, Michigan. Unlike our 2016 trip, temperatures were easily bearable rising to only the low 80s by the end of our time there (last year it was 93!). Although the temperature was cooler than a year ago, the collecting heated up. Many of our collectors found nice specimens to take home. I saw more worthwhile specimens this year and took more pictures than in any single year, and maybe as many as all the years we have been there. We spent about 3/4 of the day on the upper bench where there is mostly calcite. Celestine was hard to find on the upper bench, but what was found made very attractive specimens. The upper bench Celestine manifested itself in pockets that were filled with fine clear Celestine blades. Before this article concludes, all photographed finds will be mentioned, but the real Celestine dazzler from the upper bench was found by Pam Lauer (Crestline, OH). During the last part of the day FM collected on the middle bench where the rocks encased larger blue masses of Celestine which was blocky, rather than in fine blades like on the upper bench.

My camera lens was treated to images of three types of specimens: (a) Calcite, (b) Celestine, and (c) combo specimens of Calcite & Celestine. Keep in mind that during the course of a field trip, due to time constraints, I only get photos from a few collectors, so there are more members in the "clubs" below. I just did not get to see what everyone collected. Collectors in the "Calcite Club" were: Mike Royal (Defiance, OH), Tom Bolka (Xenia, OH), Cliff Harness (Columbus, OH), Marty Povirk (Franklin, MI) & Mick Pinka (Bellville, OH). In the "Celestine Club" besides Pam were Jeff Schaumberg (Columbus, OH), Mike Royal, Lawrence Hull (Lexington, OH) and Mick Pinka. The lone member of the "Combo Club" that I saw was Cliff Harness.



Lawrence Hull - Celestine



The FM South Rockwood Collecting Group

As aforementioned, the weather and collecting on this trip to South Rockwood were markedly different than last year. What was not different was the excellence of our host. Bill Begley is a veteran plant manager with a geology degree from MSU. What is noticeably special about him is his warmth as a host, knowledge of the quarry, and sense of safety awareness. On this trip, his knowledge about the quarry was important; Bill knew when to move the FM group to the lower bench. There was not as much material for inspection as on the upper bench. Our move was like an orchestral conductor waving the baton at the right time. Last, but not least important, Bill is a safety expert. Although we claim to have the best training of any club in the region, Bill showed he was the sharpest safety guy in the quarry, checking on finer details like wheel chocks, condition of our equipment and positioning of collectors. Thank you for keeping us safe Bill, and thanks to Great Lakes Aggregate having FM as guests.

It is what we collect that allows us to support the recipients of our charitable efforts. Mining companies like GLA have an interest in education in mineralogy and the geological sciences. Because of their supportive view of education and their belief that they can have a positive effect on the community outside the quarry through public relations efforts, it is easy to see why Bill Begley, GLA quarry manager, and Chris Kinney, GLA President and CEO have, in a period of a few short years, become FM favorites.

## Quarry Travel / Event Guide

FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY MIDWEST CHAPTER – 2017 CALENDAR OF EVENTS				
(Updated 8.11.2017 for remainder of year)				
Month	Event Details	Membership Meeting	Expectations for Chapter to Join	Field Trip or Other Details
AUGUST	<b>TITLE:</b> Michiana Annual Jewelry, Gem and Mineral Show and Sale  <b>DATE/TIME:</b> Fri, August 18, 2017 through Sun, August 20, 2017  <b>LOCATION:</b> St. Joseph County 4-H Fairgrounds, South Bend, IN  <b>SPONSORED BY:</b> Michiana Gem and Mineral Society	NO	NO	
	<b>TITLE:</b> Dallas Mineral Collecting Symposium  <b>DATE/TIME:</b> Fri, August 25, 2017 through Sun, August 27, 2017  <b>LOCATION:</b> Eisemann Performing Arts Center, Dallas, TX	NO	NO	
	<b>TITLE:</b> Clay Center Field Trip  <b>DATE/TIME:</b> Sat, August 26, 2017  <b>LOCATION:</b> Clay Center, OH	NO	NO	WILL NOT OCCUR
SEPTEMBER	<b>TITLE:</b> 41 <sup>st</sup> Annual Greater Indianapolis Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show  <b>DATE/TIME:</b> Sep 8, 2017 10:00 AM – 7:00 PM to Sep 10, 2017 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM  <b>LOCATION:</b> Hancock County 4-H Fairgrounds, Greenfield, Indiana  <b>HOST/COORDINATOR:</b> Cheryl Hamilton (clhamilton1951@gmail.com)	NO	NO	



	<b>TITLE:</b> Colorado Mineral and Fossil Show (Fall) <b>DATE/TIME:</b> September 8, 2017 to September 16, 2017 <b>LOCATION:</b> Crowne Plaza Denver Airport Convention Center, Denver, Colorado <b>MEETING INFO:</b> TBD	YES	NO	FM National General Membership Meeting  during Show
	<b>TITLE:</b> 19 <sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Indianapolis Bead, Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show <b>DATE/TIME:</b> September 29, 2017 to October 1, 2017 <b>LOCATION:</b> Indiana State Fairgrounds, Agriculture/Horticulture Bldg, Indianapolis, IN <b>HOST/COORDINATOR:</b> Van Wimmer (van@toteshow.com)	NO	NO	
OCTOBER	<b>TITLE:</b> 73 <sup>rd</sup> Greater Detroit Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show <b>DATE/TIME:</b> October 13, 2017 to October 15, 2017 <b>LOCATION:</b> South Macomb Community College Expo Center, Warren, MI <b>HOST/COORDINATOR:</b> Bob Nowakowski (rjn@rjnenv.com)	NO	NO	
	<b>TITLE:</b> Dolomite Group/Walworth Fieldtrip <b>DATE/TIME:</b> Oct 14, 2017 6:45 AM - 2:00 PM and Oct 15, 2017 6:45 AM - Noon <b>LOCATION:</b> Walworth, NY	N/A	N/A	Open House Field Trip  (Multiple Clubs Participating)
	<b>TITLE:</b> Graymont Dolime Genoa Field Trip – NOT CONFIRMED <b>DATE/TIME:</b> October 21, 2017 8:30 AM – 1:00 PM <b>LOCATION:</b> Genoa, Ohio	N/A	N/A	Proposed 4 <sup>th</sup> Field Trip  NOT CONFIRMED
NOVEMBER	<b>TITLE:</b> Micro-mineral Society of CMNH Annual Symposium <b>DATE/TIME:</b> November 3, 2017 to November 5, 2017 <b>LOCATION:</b> 200 Laurel Lake Drive, Hudson, Ohio <b>HOST/COORDINATOR:</b> Janet Clifford (janet15clifford@gmail.com)	NO	NO	



	<b>TITLE:</b> OAIMA Trade Show <b>DATE/TIME:</b> November 9, 2017 and November 10, 2017 <b>LOCATION:</b> Hilton Columbus Hotel, Easton Town Center, Columbus, OH <b>HOST/COORDINATOR:</b> Pat Jacomet (patj@oaima.org) <b>ACTIVITY:</b> Booth	NO	YES	Have Not Confirmed Participation Yet
	<b>TITLE:</b> November Chapter Meeting with Elections <b>DATE/TIME:</b> November 18, 2017 (times TBD) <b>LOCATION:</b> Wittenberg University, Springfield, Ohio	YES	YES	This is our November Chapter meeting with Elections

DANVILLE, KY: dates to consider for a late summer/fall trip: Saturday, November 11th or 18th

