

**Midwest Chapter  
Newsletter for  
September – October  
2018**

**FRIENDS  
OF  
MINERALOGY**



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**Chapter Website:**

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

**National Website:**

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

**On the Cover –**

*“Calcite Geode” , Salem, Indiana*

*Tom Bolka*

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**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)

**Greetings fellow friends of mineralogy members!** I hope your summer has gone well. As I reviewed the previous three 2018 newsletters in preparation for this short communication, I was struck by the many accomplishments of the Chapter. None of which would happen without your involvement and the efforts of your hard-working officers. Please thank Clyde, Frank, Jeff, Randy, Reggie and Tom when next you see them. Now for my updates on Chapter business.

## **Item One**

The online survey for **feedback from Midwest chapter members** is complete and officers are working on the suggestions. Our first meeting to discuss feedback will occur immediately after the field trip to Williamsport quarry on August 25<sup>th</sup>. We will be contacting individuals who expressed interest in volunteer opportunities over the next month. **This online survey would not have been created and completed without the talent and efforts of Heather and Randy Marsh. The Chapter thanks you both.**

## **Friends of Mineralogy Midwest Chapter Survey of Members (July 2018)**

### **Summary by Ken Bladh, Chapter President - Part One**

The number after each response is the frequency of that answer among 42 responses.

**What is your overall rating for our chapter?** Excellent: 14 Good: 23 Fair: 4 Poor: 1

**How are we doing on fieldtrips?** Excellent: 7 Good: 22 Fair: 11 Poor: 2

*KWB Comments: Only 3 of the 14 members, who rated the chapter as "excellent" overall, rated fieldtrips as "excellent" also. However, 10 of those 14 rated fieldtrips as "good" and 3 of the 23 who rated the chapter as "good" overall, rated fieldtrips as "excellent".*

## Friends of Mineralogy Midwest Chapter Survey of Members (July 2018)

### Summary by Ken Bladh, Chapter President - Part Two

#### What activities or focus areas would you like to see our chapter pursue?

*Fieldtrips: 38*

*Swaps & ID: 24*

*Speakers on famous localities: 18*

*Symposia: 16*

*Micromounting: 8*

*K-12 Education: 2*

*Workshops on photography and/or displays: 1*

*Support network for students and early career members: 1*

#### What would attract you to our chapter meetings?

*Geographic closeness (less than 2-hour drive): 14*

*When tied to another event, like Geofair*

*If combined with a social event*

#### What else should our chapter be doing?

*Offer more fieldtrips*

*Purchase old quarries or pay for access to them*

*Support youth education*

*Support mineral shows state-wide (by our official presence)*

*Schedule joint meetings with clubs in our region*

*Schedule meetings at more locations (near membership clusters) (i.e. Mansfield, Troy)*

*Expand our activities in Michigan*

*Communicate*

*Establish and support networks for people with our interests*

# Friends of Mineralogy Midwest Chapter Survey of Members (July 2018)

## Summary by Ken Bladh, Chapter President - Part Three

### Volunteers: What positions/activities would you like to do?

*KWB Comment: 13 of 42 respondents identified at least one activity for which they would volunteer. Three activities (shown below) appeared in multiple responses. Of the 13 responders, 8 provided contact information so that officers can reach out to them.*

*Thank you!*

*Presence at Shows/Club information table: 9*

*Swap table: 8*

*Speakers bureau: 2*

### Item Two

Planning for the next **Symposium on Specimen Mineralogy** is underway. Miami University will host on Saturday, March 9, 2019, in Shideler Hall. Steve Chamberlain has agreed to provide a keynote presentation (topic to be determined later). We will be asking for presentations by undergraduate and graduate students again this year and have every expectation that the tradition of top-notch student papers begun at the 2018 Symposium will continue. Details about the 2018 Symposium were published in the May/June Chapter newsletter. A call for papers will go out closer to the time of the symposium. However, if you know of students who will have completed work on a topic in specimen mineralogy, encourage them to send me contact information so that I can send them the application when available.

### Item Three

Plans were underway to re-introduce a more formal presence of the **FoM Midwest Chapter in Michigan** before the online survey. One aspect of that presence will be a Chapter information table on the main floor at the **Detroit Show in October 2018**. I will be at the table all three days to welcome and greet any FoM members who drop by (we will be right inside the main doors next to institutional exhibits). There will be tabletop posters and handouts about our Chapter. **I would like to receive contact information for other mineral shows in our region that members believe would appreciate a similar FoM presence.**



## Treasurers Report

Since the last report, the audit for 2017 has been completed. I can supply a copy of the records for anyone who is interested. For 2018 we have 114 active members and our bank balance stands at \$6522.53

Jeff Spencer – Treasurer

Friends of Mineralogy Midwest Chapter



*FM on the go.....*

# Field Trip Reports

## **JULY TRIP AVERAGE FOR SOME BUT AWESOME FOR OTHERS**

*Reggie Rose*

On July 7, 2018 with the memories of fireworks displays, parades and picnics still fresh in their minds, 19 FM collectors took to the road to visit our good friends at Great Lakes Aggregates in South Rockwood, Michigan. This quarry is home to a bounty of drusy crystals with calcite and quartz also being abundant. Although the crystals in a drusy specimen are tiny, the term drusy does not refer to the size of the crystals, but the fact that the crystals are in a druse which is a cavity.

Collecting started on the upper bench. Here quite a few collectors found small pockets of calcite with an intermediate crystal form. The crystals were in the 0.5 cm range. Happy FMers discovering upper level calcite were Rodger Bartley (Tiffin, OH) and Mark Lacher (Centerville, OH). Frank Konieczki (Belleville, MI) unearthed a nice intermediate calcite form with celestite. Also present was drusy quartz which commonly lines small pockets in a chert matrix. Moving down to the lower bench near the end of the field trip did not produce the large amount of celestite as in years past, but did produce two memorable specimens. Most FMers had an average day, but two took home specimens for the ages.

Cliff Harness, the only member named after a type of climbing equipment (Columbus, OH) found a cantaloupe sized boulder covered with drusy calcite, which alone would have made it a nice specimen, But, what made it a superior specimen were two small sulfur spheres which were 2 mm. in diameter. When sulfur is found in Michigan mines, it is massive without evident crystal habit, but it is also small, rarely bigger than your little fingernail. Although sulfur is well-known in Michigan carbonate quarries, there is never much of it present. What made this specimen special was not only did it have sulfur, it also had two 2 small spheres that were so nearly identical and so mechanically positioned that it looked like someone took a yellow crayon and drew them on the specimen. If you found this specimen, you could end the day happily.

Not to be outdone, fluorite was not going to be shown up on this day by celestite, quartz or calcite. If memory serves correctly, this author has not reported on any fluorite in many trips to this site. So, the fact that one was found is by itself is breaking news. But the quality of this specimen made it more than special, in fact extraordinary. The guy with the eagle eye here was our newsletter editor Tom Bolka (Xenia, OH). Tom found a specimen which had a mass of well - defined white celestite crystals which formed a mass reminiscent of a badlands gully. Nestled in the celestite gully was a line of deep root beer colored fluorite. The cubic fluorite shapes were easily discernible, and the biggest cube, making this specimen truly memorable, was in the 0.5 cm. range. Anyone who could find this specimen at the end of a collecting season could say they had a good year.



Calcite – Deiter Burrell



Calcite – Rodger Bartley



Calcite/Celestite – Frank Konieczki



Celestine/Fluorite – Tom Bolka

# Prospecting

by

Clyde Spencer  
Liaison Officer

Eight years ago, FMMWC had a field trip to the Buckland (OH) quarry. The geologist had a large cabinet piece of crystalline calcite in his office. He said he found it while they were excavating for the sump. I poked around the sump area and found a piece about half the size (see below, left).



I have stayed in touch with the geologist over the intervening years because he said the company had plans to deepen the Buckland quarry. Unfortunately, about three years ago he informed me that the company had abandoned their plans to go deeper.

He offered me an opportunity to check out their quarry in Lima. Jeff Spencer and I went up there and spent three or four hours with little to show for our time. Jeff did find a decent honey-colored, single calcite scalenohedral crystal about the size of a thumb (see below, right).

Last year, the geologist informed me that they had finally gotten down to the same horizon in Lima where the calcite had been found in

Buckland. This time, Tom Bolka and I went up to check it out. We found some drusy sulfides, but not much else.

I asked to go back in this year to see if anything had changed. They were shut down for maintenance during the month of July, so Randy Marsh and I went up. The formerly abundant green shale/mud (glauconite?) was absent and there were a number of very-large, grey, coarsely-crystalline limestone boulders with a gritty texture. We found two boulders with pockets of large calcite crystals. Unfortunately, the single largest crystal in my pocket fell down under the boulders where neither Randy nor I could reach it.

Randy worked a very large boulder that had some pockets of attractive iridescent, drusy sulfides (see next page). He also worked one large pocket of calcite crystals and he was able to extract some of the calcite without losing it, as I had done.





Now the bad news. The boulder-field we worked in was really only big enough to supply material to two collectors, tops! There is very limited parking, perhaps enough for a half-dozen cars, *with valet parking*. Therefore, I don't think that we will ever be able to bring a large group into the Lima quarry. However, your dedicated officers will be prospecting for other opportunities.



## **Great Lakes Aggregates Quarry Fossil Walk!**

### **FM Members Not Only Take, But Give Back**

*Reggie Rose*

Earlier this year I received a call from the Great Lakes Aggregates CEO, who oversees operations at the South Rockwood, Michigan quarry, an FM field trip site for the past seven years. He was looking for a staff to create and fill spots at tables in an event called "The GLA Quarry Fossil Walk". The event will be held September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018 from 8:00 am to 10:30 am. So, I sent an email to our FM officers, our safety instructor and three of our Michigan members, and one "other guy" recruiting them to help at the event. The quarry was looking for 5 volunteers. Our club has over 100 members. I had my robust staff of five by only contacting nine members! That "Other Guy" that I recruited is an "outsider, a "ringer" if you will, and I'll get to him. Referring to FM's effort, they could probably rename the event "The Quarry Challenge Fossil-Mineral Walk" because of Frank Konieczki's participation.

Our recruits are going to run two tables at the event. The Michiganders working at the event are Dieter Burrell (Ann Arbor, MI), Don Venier (Rockwood, MI) and our own FM secretary Frank Konieczki (Belleville, MI). Filling out the FM staff of five are our safety instructor, Scott Kell (Columbus, OH) and the "Other Guy" or "ringer" that I referred to is Dale Gnodovec, OSU Orton Museum curator. Scott and Dale are both paleontologists by discipline. Dale is not an FM member, but this event is tailor-made for him. Dale talks to 5000 children per year in groups of 20 or 25. That's a lot of children and a lot of appearances.



Here's an overview of the GLA Quarry Challenge: The Quarry Challenge will involve a nearly 1 mile walk around the quarry with educational stations dotting the course.

FoM will be one of several groups arranging educational tables along the course. Each table will have a theme (fossils, rocks, minerals, etc), and FoM is putting together the mineral table. The participants will each have a passport style booklet that contains each table's information, as well as space to take notes. They will visit each table, take a look at the display we have set up, listen to information we present, and then have their passport stamped after we give them an opportunity to answer a couple of basic questions. There will also be one or more rock piles that kids can search to find fossils, and we may be helping by providing some assistance extracting them, as smaller kids will likely need help. We certainly have the tools, safety equipment, training and enthusiasm to help with this.

What Frank, Dieter and Don on behalf of FM will "bring to the table" (pun intended) will be of course minerals.

What that "Other Guy" Dale & Scott will have at their table will be fossils. Here is Dale's description of what he will be teaching at his fossil table:

Fossils tell us what life was like a very long time ago. At this table, you can see and touch many different kinds of fossils. You can check out the fossil of a tree trunk turned to stone, the tree that gave us electricity, and ancient worm burrows.

You can also see fossils of animals that once lived in the sea such as a Jurassic carp, a prehistoric sea bed, a fossil whale bone, and an ancient relative of Spongebob Squarepants. Fossils come in sizes both big and small from petrified poop to dinosaur bones. You can see all these kinds of fossils and more!

Month	Event Details
SEPTEMBER	<p><b>TITLE:</b> 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Greater Indianapolis Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show  <b>DATE/TIME:</b> Sep 7, 2018 to Sep 9, 2018  <b>LOCATION:</b> Hancock County 4-H Fairgrounds, Greenfield, IN  <b>HOST/COORDINATOR:</b> Cheryl Hamilton (clhamilton1951@gmail.com)</p>
	<p><b>TITLE:</b> Colorado Mineral and Fossil Show (Fall)  <b>DATE/TIME:</b> September 7, 2018 to September 15, 2018  <b>LOCATION:</b> Crowne Plaza Dia Hotel / Convention Center, 15500 E 40<sup>th</sup> Ave, Denver, CO  <b>ACTIVITY:</b> FM National General Membership Meeting may be held during show (TBD)</p>
	<p><b>TITLE:</b> 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Indianapolis Bead, Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show  <b>DATE/TIME:</b> Sep 28, 2018 to Sep 30, 2018  <b>LOCATION:</b> Indiana State Fairgrounds, Agriculture/Horticulture Building, Indianapolis, IN  <b>HOST/COORDINATOR:</b> Van Wimmer (van@toteshows.com)</p>
OCTOBER	<p><b>TITLE:</b> Dolomite Group/Walworth Fieldtrip – <b>Exact Dates TBD</b>  <b>DATE/TIME:</b> Oct XX, 2018 6:45 AM - 2:00 PM and Oct XX, 2018 6:45 AM - Noon  <b>LOCATION:</b> Walworth, NY</p>
	<p><b>TITLE:</b> 74<sup>th</sup> Greater Detroit Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show  <b>DATE/TIME:</b> Oct 12, 2018 to October 14, 2018  <b>LOCATION:</b> South Macomb Community College Expo Center, 14500 E 12 Mile Rd, Warren, MI  <b>HOST/COORDINATOR:</b> Bob Nowakowski (rjn@rjnenv.com)  <b>ACTIVITY:</b> Meet and greet table near entrance to show staffed by Ken Bladh</p>
NOVEMBER	<p><b>TITLE:</b> Micro-Mineral Symposium  <b>DATE/TIME:</b> Nov 2, 2018 to Nov 4, 2018  <b>LOCATION:</b> Cleveland Museum of Natural History, 1 Wade Oval, University Circle, Cleveland, OH  <b>HOST/COORDINATOR:</b> Janet Clifford (janet15clifford@gmail.com)  <b>ACTIVITY:</b> Chapter meeting at <b>XX PM (time TBD)</b> on Saturday Nov 3</p>
	<p><b>TITLE:</b> OAIMA Trade Show  <b>DATE/TIME:</b> Nov 15, 2018 and Nov 16, 2018  <b>LOCATION:</b> Hilton Columbus Hotel, Easton Town Center, Columbus, OH  <b>HOST/COORDINATOR:</b> Pat Jacomet (patj@oaima.org)  <b>ACTIVITY:</b> Booth manned by Reggie Rose and Scott Kell</p>

