



# **FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY**

***Midwest Chapter Newsletter for  
November – December 2019***



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# Midwest Chapter President – Ken Bladh

## President’s Report

### The 2019 Greater Detroit Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show

Frank Konieczki and I spoke with a constant stream of rock and mineral enthusiasts who visited the FM Midwest table. It was fun to chat with a few familiar faces and lots of kids and their parents. Many took the handout about our organization and website. Frank talked “minerals” with a lot of kids on Friday (school day at the show). He brought an assortment of durable samples and encouraged kids to pick them up and experience any specimen that caught their attention. Then the door was open for a bit of learning. Just look at the enthusiasm in the kid’s faces.



There were a couple of life-size vertebrate fossils – a Tyrannosaurus rex and a Stegodon, which of course never were on the earth at the same time as living creatures. ☺



The show theme was *Oh those Amazing Agates* and two museums brought stunning exhibits – Wayne State University and A.E. Seaman Mineral Museum.





The Cincinnati Museum Center brought a colorful assortment of calcite and quartz specimens. (below)



A.E. Seaman Mineral Museum brought an exhibit of semiprecious gem crystals and faceted stones (below). Back row left to right – quartz (*amethyst*) – almandine – spodumene (*kunzite*). Front row left to right – tourmaline (*rubellite*) – topaz – beryl (*aquamarine*).



## Preview of the November FM Business Meeting

There will be several important decisions made at the annual business meeting on Saturday November 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History (2:30 PM). As I announced earlier by an email to all members, the Executive Committee will bring a motion with changes to our field trip guidelines and procedures (before and during trips) in response to unacceptable behaviors by a few members on fieldtrips this past year.

This meeting is also when dues are set and officers elected for the coming year. In addition, the president provides an annual report on the Chapter's activities and finances.

The FM Midwest Constitution describes how elections occur ...

*Section 6. The President shall appoint a nominating committee to bring to the annual meeting a slate of officers for the coming year. In addition, any current member may be nominated from the floor. In the event two or more members are nominated for the same office, the voting shall be done by secret ballot. The candidate receiving the majority of the votes cast shall be declared elected. In the event no clear majority exists, a run-off election will be held between the two candidates receiving the most votes.*

## Personal Announcement

I have been challenged in good ways and enjoyed the interactions brought my way over the past 3 years as an officer of the Midwest Chapter of FM, a national organization that had its beginnings in Tucson, while I was a graduate student at the University of Arizona all those decades ago. My understanding of the intent of the FM Constitution ...

*Section 7. The President shall serve no more than two consecutive terms with the exception that the President may serve more than two terms when a quorum of members present votes to retain that person in office.*

is to cycle the presidency every two to three years. I am at a place in my life, when that guideline matches my personal needs. My other volunteer and family commitments that were already in place when I took over as President of FM Midwest Chapter from Clyde Spencer have now each grown in their time demands. I no longer have the time or energy to serve as FM Midwest President and sustain my long-term commitments with the quality that I consider acceptable. Consequently, I will not continue into a fourth year as president. I look forward to my continued membership and involvement with FM Midwest, but not as an officer past December 31<sup>st</sup> of this year.

The three years that I have represented the Midwest Chapter have gone by quickly and were filled with many moments and Chapter achievements that I will remember fondly. I will share a few of them in my annual report in November. The group of Chapter officers with whom I had the privilege of working brings a wide range of talents as a team that advances the objectives of this organization. Each of them has earned my respect and thanks for their dedication to their individual and group responsibilities. As described in Section 6 (quoted above), I will work with those officers to bring a slate for the November elections.

## Classic Ohio Mineral Locality – Pugh quarry

I have been examining specimens collected at Pugh quarry in the 1970s and now in the collections of Miami University (Oxford) and Wittenberg University (Springfield). Among the classic specimens of orange calcite scalenohedra are very interesting micro-crystals of barite, fluorite and marcasite. The photos below illustrate what I mean by “very



interesting". Some barites are skeletal. Many of the marcasite crystals are mosaic. A few of the fluorite crystals have corner modifications on the cube and others have phantom centers. I am preparing an illustrated talk on this topic that I will deliver somewhere in the region in 2020. Do you have "interesting" Pugh material that I could examine?



## Treasurer's Report

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

### Members of FM Midwest

Annual election of officers will occur as part of the November business meeting in Cleveland. Three current officers have volunteered to stand for re-election to their current office...

Reggie Rose for **Second VP (Field Trips)**,  
Jeff Spencer for **Treasurer**, and  
Frank Konieczki for **Secretary**.

Three current officers have chosen to not seek re-election to their current office.

Consequently, three offices do not have a candidate...

**President, First VP (Programs), and Liaison to National FM.**

Your Executive Committee seeks nominations for any of the six offices. Self-nominations are perfectly acceptable and you should ask someone else for permission before nominating them. Nominations from the floor in Cleveland will also be accepted before voting.

Please send me an email if you are interested and would like to know more about what is involved for any of the six officers. Brief descriptions are printed in Article VII of the Constitution posted on our website.

Ken Bladh  
President, Friends of Mineralogy Midwest Chapter

Since the last newsletter, the 2018 Chapter Financial Audit was completed by Frank Konieczki.

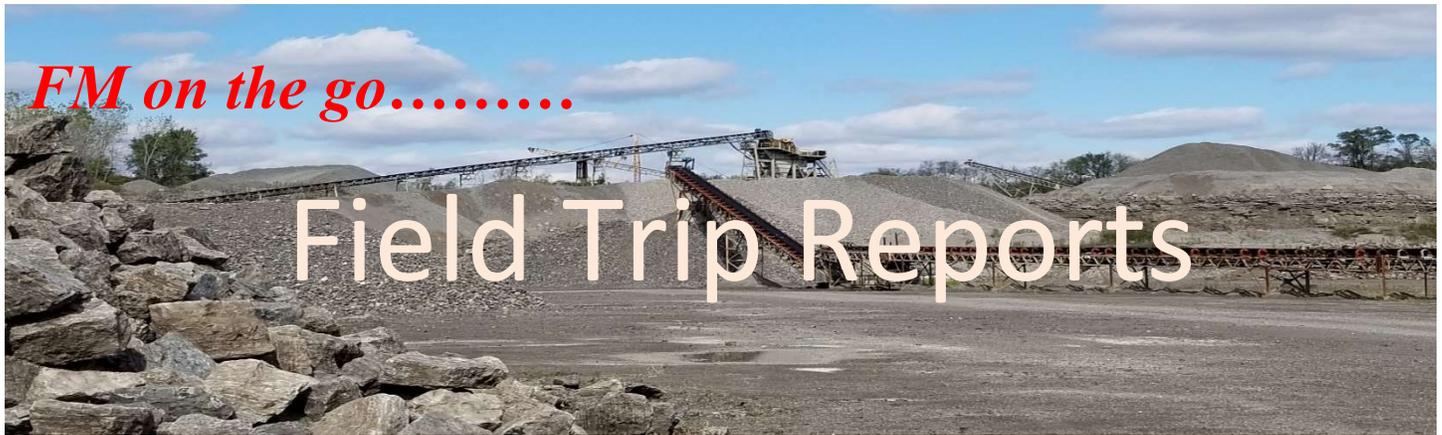
Dues of \$192.00 for 48 members was paid to our National organization. Also 4 members have already signed up for 2020 memberships and a donation for \$10.00 was also received. This brings our current balance to \$7624.50.

If you would like a copy of the financial statement or have questions, please contact me.

### Jeff Spencer – Treasurer Friends of Mineralogy Midwest Chapter



Mike Royal with his petrified wood find at Williamsport!



### *WONDERFUL WILLIAMSPORT*

Our August 24, 2019 Williamsport field trip can only be classified into the wonderful category. I saw more nice specimens than I had the opportunity to photograph, so I hope all our featured members sent their specimen photos to our newsletter editor so they could claim their moment in the sun. Speaking of the sun, following a rather toasty summer, Mother Nature turned off her blow torch for the day of our trip with a high of only 80F. This brought out 32 FMers to "get their sulfide groove on". Marcasite was the main player here today, but there were other goodies to be found.

With respect to findings, Mike Royal (Defiance, Ohio) appeared to be joyous after he found a large sandwich-sized piece of petrified wood (it would have been a very thick sandwich). It was very refreshing for fossil lover Scott Kell to see Mike so happy that he found a fossil. (Mike usually terms fossils "gray on gray".) Speaking of fossil finds, Cliff Harness (Columbus, Ohio) found a specimen that was also fossil wood. When he showed it to me, I did not know what to do photographically. The specimen is about 3" long and is the shape of a doubly convex file. It features pure fossil wood on one side and a covering of marcasite crystals on the other side, a very nifty specimen requiring a sharp eye to spot it.



Petrified Wood & Marcasite  
Cliff Harness

If you were from Indiana (Richmond) you had a really good day. Alan Dewitt found a calcite specimen. Big deal, so someone found a calcite specimen in a quarry. This sounds like a very generic find, but not his calcite. Alan's calcite was

about 18" x 14" x 9" and was a real scale tipper at about 80 lbs. It was totally filled with small white calcite scalenohedrons and featured a central pocket with 3/4" honey-colored calcites . . . very snazzy. This calcite is a yard rock on steroids. Not to be outdone, Alan's spouse Amy Bach found a marcasite specimen that would fall into the "big honker" category. Her marcasite specimen is close to 3" in length, and it features many well-defined spear shaped crystals typical of marcasites that we really covet. It was an exemplary specimen and as far as I saw, and was the marcasite of the day.



Large Calcite - Alan Dewitt

### WONDERFUL FM MEMBERS

Prior to the day of the field trip, it was announced that our quarry host has three young daughters. The two oldest are old enough to like rocks, minerals and fossils. Our quarry host has decided to teach them about what he does and about what we do, in effect, what interesting things can be found in a quarry. So, I mentioned that it might be nice if anyone on the field trip would have any specimens to donate. Well you came up BIG, in spades as the cliché has it. Here are the FM members and what they donated to the three daughters on the Williamsport trip: Scott Kell (crinoid plate, amethyst specimen), Randy Marsh (crinoid plate), Rodger & Janet Bartley (Ohio Flint), Phil Lind (3 egg cartons of specimens), Clyde Spencer (3 egg cartons of specimens) Amy & Brad Wagner (Marblehead calcite), Tim Marshall (Herkimer diamonds), and Mark Lacher (Iceland spar calcite). On a humorous note, Phil Lind's egg cartons were three different colors (blue, green and yellow). Phil said that the color coding would eliminate any arguments amongst the daughters as to who was the owner of each specimen set. Kudos to you all. As collectors we rarely give much back to the quarry. At Williamsport we gave generously.

## UPCOMING EVENT

Friends of Mineralogy Midwest Chapter  
8<sup>th</sup> Annual Mineralogical Symposium  
Hosted by the Miami University Karl E. Limper Geology Museum

Saturday March 14, 2020  
152 Shideler Hall, Miami University, Oxford, OH

Our keynote speaker will be Dr. John Jaszczak, Professor and Interim Chair, Dept. of Chemistry, Michigan Technological University. His talk will be on *Criminal Minerals*. Additional speakers for the event are still be worked, and a more detailed agenda will follow.

## Event Calendar

Event Details	Membership Meeting	Field Trip or Other Details
<b>TITLE:</b> Micro-Mineral Symposium <b>DATE/TIME:</b> Nov 1, 2019 to Nov 3, 2019 <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 2:30 PM on Saturday Nov 2	YES	November Chapter Meeting with Elections
<b>TITLE:</b> OAIMA Trade Show <b>DATE/TIME:</b> Nov 13, 2019 to Nov 15, 2019 <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	NO	
<b>TITLE:</b> Graymont Dolime Genoa Field Trip <b>DATE/TIME:</b> November 16, 2019 8:00 am – 12:00 pm <b>LOCATION:</b> Genoa, Ohio	N/A	5 <sup>th</sup> Field Trip





## Friends of Mineralogy Midwest Chapter Field Trip Waiver/Hold Harmless Agreement

1.0 I, \_\_\_\_\_, desire to participate in Friends of Mineralogy Inc. Midwest Chapter (“FMMC”)

(please print full name of participant)

field trips/activities (“Activity”). I fully understand and appreciate the dangers, hazards and risks inherent during any Activity, in the transportation to and from the Activity, and in any independent research or activities I undertake as an adjunct to the Activity, which dangers include but are not limited to serious and mortal injuries and property damage.

2.0 Knowing the dangers, hazards, and risks of such Activity and research, and in consideration of being permitted to participate in the Activity and research, on behalf of myself, my family, heirs, assigns, my estate and anyone claiming through me, release waive, forever discharge and covenant not to sue FMMC, it’s officers, directors, members, agents or third parties (hereafter called the “Releases”) connected with the FMMC Activity of any and all claims, loss, injury, damage, demands, actions, causes of action, costs, and expense of every nature, known or unknown for damage to personal property, personal injury, death, as well as any emotional or psychological harm, or damages or loss of reputation, employment, contract, property rights and due process.

I further agree to assume all the risks and responsibilities known or unknown surrounding my participation in the Activity, including transportation to or from, or any independent research or activities undertaken as an adjunct thereto. I understand the activities have inherent risks and I understand those risks and assume responsibility to protect myself from those risks and acknowledge that FMMC cannot foresee all risks and hazards.

3.0 I understand and agree that Releases do not have medical personnel available at the location of the Activity. I understand and agree that Releases are granted permission to authorize emergency medical treatment if necessary, and that such action by Releases shall be subject to the terms of this agreement. I understand and agree that Releases assume no responsibility for any injury or damage which might arise out of or in connection with such authorized emergency medical treatment.

4.0 In signing this Release, I acknowledge and represent that I have fully informed myself of the content of the foregoing waiver of liability and hold harmless agreement by reading it before I sign it, and I understand that I sign this document as



my own free act and deed; no oral representations, statements, or inducements, apart from the foregoing written statement have been made. I understand that the corporation (FMMC) does not require me to participate in this Activity, but I want to do so, despite the possible dangers and risks and despite this Release. I further state that I am at least eighteen (18) years of age, and fully competent to sign this Agreement – and that I execute this Release for full, adequate, and complete consideration fully intending to be bound by the same. I further state that there are no health-related reasons or problems which preclude or restrict my participation in the Activity, and that I have adequate health insurance to provide and pay for any medical costs that may be attendant as a result of injury to me.

5.0 I further agree that this Release is in effect in perpetuity once executed, unless revoked in writing and shall be construed in accordance with the laws of the state in which FMMC is incorporated, Ohio. If any term of this provision of this Release shall be held illegal, unenforceable, or in conflict with any law governing this Release, the validity of the remaining portions shall not be affected thereby.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have executed this Release this \_\_\_\_ day of the month of \_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_\_\_.

**Participant Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip Code

**Phone (with area code):** \_\_\_\_\_ **email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Emergency Contact:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone (with area code):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Witness Signature (must be at least 18 years old):** \_\_\_\_\_



# FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY, INC.

## Midwest Chapter

### APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

#### MEMBER DATA SHEET

Please fill in this application and mail it along with your dues to the address listed at the bottom.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First Middle Initial

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City or Town

State Zip/Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_ (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ (Office/cell)

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Would you be willing to serve as an officer or committee member/chair? \_\_\_\_\_

Would you be willing to serve in another volunteer capacity? \_\_\_\_\_

How did you find out about Friends of Mineralogy? \_\_\_\_\_

I affirm that I support the purposes\* of Friends of Mineralogy:

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Friends of Mineralogy, Inc. is composed of the members of 7 local chapters, plus national members not affiliated with a chapter. **Prospective and renewing Midwest Chapter members should send this completed application and \$20.00/year dues to the address below:**

Our Chapter is funded by membership fees, fundraising efforts and additional contributions. Please consider an additional contribution to help support us in achieving our Chapter Mission. We will email you a receipt for tax reporting purposes.

<b>Additional donations:</b>	<b>Annual Symposium</b>	\$ _____
	<b>General Fund</b>	\$ _____
	<b>Total (including Dues)</b>	\$ _____

- \*
1. To promote interest in and knowledge of mineralogy.
  2. To advance mineralogical education.
  3. To protect and preserve mineral specimens and promote conservation of mineral localities.
  4. To further cooperation between amateur and professional and encourage collection of minerals for educational value.
  5. To support publications about mineralogy and about the programs of kindred organizations.

**Jeff Spencer, Treasurer**  
**Friends of Mineralogy, Midwest Chapter**  
**4948 Beechwood Rd., Cincinnati, Ohio 45244**

## 2019 Officers

**President - Ken Bladh**, 132 East 2<sup>nd</sup> St.  
Springfield, Ohio 45504  
(937)390-1742 [president@fommidwest.org](mailto:president@fommidwest.org)

**Vice President Programs –Randy Marsh**, 6152 Old Stone Ct.  
Hamilton, Ohio 45011  
(513)515-7890 [vpprograms@fommidwest.org](mailto:vpprograms@fommidwest.org)

**Vice President Field Trips - Reggie Rose**, 4287 Parkmead Dr.  
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(614)875-2675 [vpfieldtrips@fommidwest.org](mailto:vpfieldtrips@fommidwest.org)

**Secretary – Frank Konieczki**, 50355 W. Huron River Dr.  
Belleville, Michigan 48111  
(734)-699-3321 [secretary@fommidwest.org](mailto:secretary@fommidwest.org)

**Treasurer - Jeff Spencer**, 4948 Beechwood Road  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45244  
(513)248-0533 [treasurer@fommidwest.org](mailto:treasurer@fommidwest.org)

**Liaison Officer – Clyde Spencer**, 1858 Robin Hood Dr.  
Fairborn, Ohio 45324  
(937) 878-9988 [liaisonofficer@fommidwest.org](mailto:liaisonofficer@fommidwest.org)

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

**Newsletter (Committee Chair) Tom Bolka**, 2275 Capestrano Dr.  
Xenia, Ohio 45385  
(937)760-6864 [newsletter@fommidwest.org](mailto:newsletter@fommidwest.org)

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 –*

*Williamsport Quarry - marcasite sphere, Amy Bach*

### 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.**

