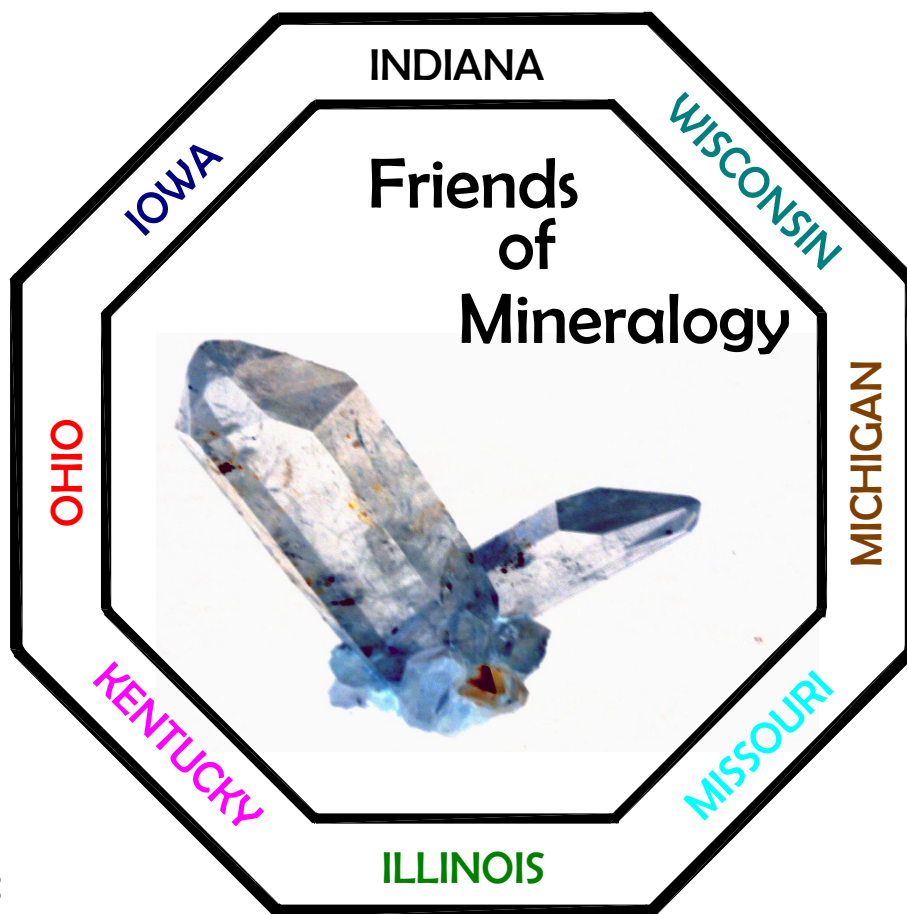


Friends of Mineralogy

Midwest Chapter Newsletter for
September – October 2013



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.

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.



FM Members preparing for a recent field trip.

In this issue, "Barriers to collecting" part III and summer field trip reports.

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The next FM meeting will be on Saturday, September 7th at noon. It will be held in conjunction with the 36th annual Indianapolis Gem, Mineral and Fossil show. The Meeting location is at the Hancock County 4-H Fairgrounds, 620 N. Apple St., Greenfield, Indiana.

2013 Officers

President - Clyde Spencer, 1858 Robin Hood Dr., Fairborn, Ohio 45324
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Vice President Programs – Vacant

Liaison Officer – Vacant

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Indiana Geode hunters, August 9th

Treasurer's Report

We recently signed up 3 new members (William Alabran, Randall Marsh and Heather Marsh) and 1 previous member rejoined (Ann Richardson). This brings our total number of active members to 104.

This brings our current account balance to \$755.47 out of which we owe \$24.00 in National dues. As you may know we currently pay \$6.00 per member as annual National dues and approximately \$6.75 per member in insurance premiums. You can see this does not leave us with much for discretionary items. We have cut the postage expenses back considerably and it's time we discussed raising the annual dues slightly. Your feedback is invited!

Please send me any questions or concerns that you have.

Jeff Spencer

Treasurer - Friends of Mineralogy Inc. Midwest Chapter

jspencer@jsite.com

513-476-2163 You will not need to take any actions to be added to the group member list.

*FM member Dave
Straw selling his
creations at the
Bedford, Indiana Gem
and Mineral Show*



President's Message

I hope that you all have had an enjoyable and productive summer thus far.

We have been limping along with less than a full slate of officers all year. I think that this will be the last year that John Davis serves as secretary. Soon, I will have to appoint a nominating committee to select candidates for the election to be held in November. This chapter can only survive and prosper if members are willing to do more than show up for field trips. So, please



consider running for an office and do your part to insure the survival of the Midwest Chapter. In addition to filling some officer slots, it looks like we could also use a volunteer for the position of Fund Raising Chairman. This organization is what you make it. You can't expect three or four people to do everything! Please let me know if there is a position that you would like to volunteer for.

I want to give everyone a 'heads up' that I will soon be sending out proposed changes to the chapter constitution, via email. Basically, the primary proposed change will be to clarify the wording about meeting quorums and to reduce the quorum to a number small enough that we can actually conduct business in person. Robert's Rules of Orders suggests a number like 1/20th of the membership for organizations like ours; that would mean that currently six members would constitute a quorum! That might be a little low. However, I don't think that we have ever had more than about a dozen members present in a room at the same time. Our field trips generally bring out 20 or 30 people. However, outdoor meetings may not be the best venue to conduct business. We will need more than 52 members to respond to the email ballot to modify the constitution. If I don't get a sufficient number of votes promptly, I will nag you!

I am concerned about our current dues. We are charging \$15 for individual memberships. Of that, we are obligated to send \$6 to National; we are spending about \$6.49 each for liability insurance. That leaves us with \$2.51 per person to pay for incidental expenses such as postage for a dozen newsletters six times a year. We had some start-up costs (\$125) associated with getting registered as a non-profit corporation with the state of Ohio. There may be some future costs to get official recognition by the IRS. That doesn't leave us with much in the way of discretionary funds to support non-profit activities. We are either going to have to raise dues and/or more aggressively pursue other fund raising activities to remain solvent and be able to support such things as symposia or scholarships.

Jeff Spencer (treasurer) and I have been doing some prospecting. We spent a day driving around checking road cuts and hiking in some woods in Ross County. We drove out to Copperas Mountain Road to check out a spectacular shale cliff along the river; it had some non-spectacular concretions in it. On another day we visited the Buckland Quarry in Wapakoneta. Like the last time the Chapter had a field trip there, there was nothing of interest showing in the recent shot pile. However, the geologist affirmed that next year they are going to have to blast in the area that had previously produced some interesting coarse calcite crystals. I'll stay in touch with him on that. He remarked that he had seen some calcite crystals recently at their Lima operation. He escorted us over there and Jeff and I had a couple hours to look around. Jeff found a respectable thumb-sized, amber-colored nail-head calcite crystal. I brought some matrix specimens home for trimming, but there wasn't really anything worth keeping. On the way home, we also stopped at the Wysong Stone Company quarry in Lewisburg. The management wasn't particularly outgoing, citing concerns about MSHA clamping down on them recently.

We had a couple chapter field trips to Indiana recently (See Reggie Rose's field trip report). Following the August 10th, Saturday morning field trip, some of us went to the Lawrence County Fairgrounds in Bedford to hear a talk by member and past officer Nelson Shaffer on meteorites, and the most recent find in Indiana. While we had members from as far away as Michigan and Kentucky, as usual, we didn't have a quorum to conduct business after the talk. However, we did have an informal board meeting to discuss some areas of concern, mentioned above.

One last item: I received a notice from National that a group in New Jersey has petitioned to form a new FM chapter. I supported the request to form the new chapter. It looks like they will be accepted as a new chapter, for a total of seven chapters.

Field Trip Report

INDIANA trip was "HOOSIERIFFIC"!!

On Friday August 9th, 17 FM Midwest members tried their luck at the Roger's Group Quarry in Mitchell, Indiana. Quarry superintendent Danny Powell pointed out before the trip that there would be two pyrite bearing layers in the quarry. He was correct; several collectors picked up dozens of small pyrite specimens that appeared to have multiple cube faces stacked upon each other.

Danny also said that we might run into some selenite. We absolutely did with John Lindsay collecting several 5 gallon buckets of the material for his Dearborn, MI "Minerals for Minors" program. Kathy Bailey collected for Dayton area schools, and I garnered 400 hand specimens for OESTA. Three forms of gypsum were present - sheet like selenite, fibrous satin spar, and crystalline forms. Some of the gypsum exhibited both the sheet-like and fibrous growth habits on single specimens. I did see one dolomite specimen.

Later on Friday afternoon, the group fragmented and traveled to find a quartz-bearing geode site near Ft. Ritner. Also present were crinoid stems.

On Saturday, FM took 15 collectors to the Heidelberg Lehigh Quarry in Mitchell where we were welcomed by host Tyler Kalber. Though the collecting here was tougher, the specimens were worth the search. Kathy Bailey found a very nice specimen of purple fluorite & calcite. This was a bit of a surprise for this quarry. John Lindsay found some nice multi-mineral specimens featuring quartz, celestine and calcite. Scott Kell came up with a calcite, celestine specimen and also one comprised of calcite, celestine and dolomite.

Finally, we capped the weekend off with a FM talk by our founder Dr. Nelson Shaffer of Indiana University. He was his usual witty self, lecturing us on meteors. Nelson has actually found three of them himself which is very difficult. Before leaving the show, we had to circulate amongst the merchants at the Bedford Gem and Mineral Show. The one most familiar and accommodating to collectors was FM's own Bob Harman. He was selling part of his geode collection. Also on hand to keep things lively was Hoosier state field trip man, Steve Garza. If you have never met Steve, you have been missing a treat. One hour spent with this colorful personality is like spending a whole day with anyone else.

While collecting this weekend, a person in our group who is highly qualified in safety commended our members. On the Friday trip, several of our collectors approached a muck (blast) pile that appeared unstable. They gave it a look, and decided there were safer areas in which one could collect. I do not know who the collectors were, but they left a potentially hazardous area after they deemed it unsafe, and did so without any reminders from the safety person aforementioned. This speaks well of you members. Keep up the good work.

On this trip, we had plenty to do in two days. Our quarry hosts were cordial, we had fun talking with each other, and we left our collecting in a safe manner.



Celestine - Rockwood Quarry (Michigan) – Mike Royal



Calcite - Rockwood Quarry (Michigan) – Mike Royal

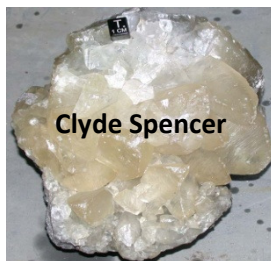


Calcite – Heidelberg/ Lehigh Quarry – Scott Kell



Quartz Geodes – Ft. Ritner – Reggie Rose

Barriers to Field Collecting – Part III



The US Department of Agriculture has proposed new rules for collecting fossils on public land – specifically US Forest Service land. The public comment period ended July 22nd. However, should you be interested, the proposed rules can be found here:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2013/05/23/2013-12173/paleontological-resources-preservation#h-8>.

I don't really have a dog in this fight because I'm not a fossil collector. However, some of the proposed restrictions on collecting-methods and quantities will probably have future implications for mineral collectors. Although I take issue with the stated purpose of "preservation," I'm sympathetic with conservation of resources and minimizing the impact of extraction activities. However, the old adage about the road to Hell being paved with good intentions seems to apply here. I personally feel that the bureaucrats are being overzealous in their restrictions and probably have little first-hand experience with fossil or mineral collecting activities.

One of the proposed discriminators between casual fossil collecting and fossil collecting that requires a permit is whether or not the fossils are considered rare. In the case of most mineral collecting, common rocks and minerals typically have little interest to collectors. I am concerned that, once established, these rules for fossil collecting might be used as a model for restricting the collection of minerals on Forest Service land. So, we must be vigilant that a similar rule requiring a permit to collect 'rare' minerals isn't implemented in the future.

Interestingly, if you want to collect a fossil and put it on a shelf for display, or pack it in a box in the basement, then you don't need a permit for "casual" collecting of said fossil. However, if you intend to do any research on the fossil, then you need a permit to collect it. Woe onto anyone who collects something with no intention of doing more than displaying it, and then later decides to study it, because that would be illegal!

The section of concern that prompted my sarcasm above about research reads as follows:

"The term *non-commercial personal use* as used in the definition of *casual collecting* would clarify the types of use allowed under casual collection, and would mean uses other than for purchase, sale, financial gain, or research. Common invertebrate and plant paleontological resources collected for research purposes is not personal use and would need to be authorized under a permit in accordance with Sections 291.13 through 291.20...."

The collection of a *T. rex* would always require a permit because it is a vertebrate fossil. Strictly speaking, those common fossils that would otherwise be acceptable for casual collecting become *verboten* if money or research are motives (see above). It would be difficult to enforce. However, it is conceivable that if someone collected a fossil under 'casual' circumstances and later noticed that there was something about it that warranted examination, and the person then published his findings, he could be prosecuted because he had not collected the specimen under the permit system and placed it into a repository. I understand that the attempt is to document items of scientific value. However, basically, the rule is ill conceived and poorly written. It will discourage research and publication.

In the case of common fossils, it is unlikely that the fossil bearing locations will ever be truly "depleted." The amount collectable by 'casual collecting' may be decreased, at least temporarily. However, erosion will generally release new material over the years.

The restrictions that should be of greatest concern to mineral collectors are the methods of collecting allowed and the quantity of material allowed to be collected.

The definitions section states:

“The term *negligible disturbance* as used in the definition of *casual collecting* would clarify that casual collection of common invertebrate and plant fossils may only result in little or no change to the land surface and have minimal or no effect on other resources such as cultural resources and protected or endangered species. Disturbance caused by powered and/or large non-powered hand tools would exceed the “negligible” threshold and would no longer be casual collection.”

Strictly speaking, it would be impossible to collect anything and comply with the “no change” requirement. “Little” change is ambiguous and probably unrealistic except for picking up loose items lying around on the surface. The proposed rule states that “The authorized officer has discretion to determine what constitutes negligible disturbance.” I personally dislike such arbitrary exercise of power without obvious recourse to review. I think that some quantitative measure would be far preferable to a subjective opinion that will vary with the individual.

The definitions section further address disturbance with the specification of tools:

“The term *non-powered hand tools* as used in the definition of *casual collecting* would clarify the types of tools that can be used for the casual collecting of common invertebrate and plant paleontological resources, and would mean small tools that can be readily carried by hand, such as geologic hammers, trowels, or sieves, but not large tools such as **full sized-shovels** or **pick axes**. Larger tools are more likely to create disturbance that is greater than ‘negligible.’ The tools must not be powered by a motor, engine, or other power source.”

It does not directly address sledge-hammers, but considering that “full sized-shovels” are disallowed, I’m certain that anything larger than a regular geologic hammer would be frowned upon in collecting in Forest Service land regardless of what was being collected. Therefore, crow-bars and larger pry-bars are problematic. Clearly, diamond-blade saws and battery-powered drills are prohibited under these rules. What is not addressed is whether or not chisels would be prohibited. Using a geology hammer by itself is not the most effective way to remove fossils or minerals. While these particular regulations are specifically addressing collecting of fossils, I don’t see how they are going to handle surface disturbances for mineral collecting differently from fossil

collecting. Therefore, the mineral collecting community needs to be concerned about these rule changes.

Again, while these proposed regulations are specific to fossil collecting, there are already similar quantity restrictions on mineral collecting in effect on public lands.

“The term *reasonable amount* as used in the definition of *casual collecting* would quantify the maximum amount of common invertebrate and plant paleontological resources that could be removed from Federal lands. A person may remove up to one gallon of material in volume or 25 pounds in weight, and up to five specimens of each type of fossil per calendar year. If the fossil specimens are contained within rock slabs, the reasonable amount would be limited to a slab that can be hand-carried by one person without the aid of mechanical devices. The authorized officer may modify [i.e. reduce] the amount that is reasonable in order to preserve fossil-bearing locations that may be at risk of being depleted, thereby preserving paleontological resources in accordance with the Act.”

Two half-gallon milk cartons worth is not a lot of material to collect considering that the person may have driven hundreds of miles to collect. Since the size slab that can be carried by a 25-year old weight-lifting male is different from what a child or 70-year old woman can carry, does this restriction constitute *de facto* age or gender discrimination? Does the rule allow someone to use a mechanical conveyance, just to make the job easier, as long as the person is capable of lifting the slab? In any event, to collect very large individual fossils will obviously require a permit, and the person doing the labor to extract it won’t be able to keep it. So, there is little incentive to go to the effort. It will probably be left to the elements to degrade it and eventually destroy it.

I think that the NFS has a responsibility to properly post any and all lands closed to particular activities. Despite the old rubric about “Ignorance of the law is no excuse,” the courts have routinely held that with *mal prohibita* class laws (No Parking, Don’t Walk on the Grass), it is necessary to clearly notify the public that activities that would normally be allowed are disallowed. It isn’t acceptable to put the onus on the public and make them check with some authority before taking a hike into an area with unknown potential restrictions.



I'm troubled that the world we live in seems to be getting more restricted. We are being told by know-nothing bureaucrats what we can and cannot do. Our National Forests are increasingly being managed for biological and environmental preservation instead of multiple uses. Mining is usually discouraged. Even lumbering is discouraged! Former mining districts have been withdrawn as Wilderness Areas and the roads have been gated or bull-dozed. Unless

you are comfortable with the idea of public lands being administered like a National Park or open-air zoo where you are told where you can drive and walk, it is necessary to start pushing back on the bureaucrats who justify their salaries by making more rules.

Quarry Travel Guide for September and October

#1

Field Trip Locality: DUFF QUARRY, HUNTSVILLE, OH
Address: 9016 State Route 117, Huntsville, OH 43224
Minerals Present: pyrite, dolomite, sphalerite, calcite
Date of Trip: Saturday, September 21, 2013

Time of Field Trip: 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm, check-in 11:30 am - 12:00 pm

Note: Usually, there is no limit at Duff's, but I will have to check to see what number Mr. Duff is comfortable with since FM will be there with another group.

#2

Field Trip Locality: IMI, ANDERSON, IN
Address: 1601 Scatterfield Road, Anderson, IN 46012
Minerals Present: calcite
Date of Trip: Saturday, October 05, 2013

Time of Field Trip: 9:00 am - 1:00 pm, check-in 8:30 am - 9:00 am

Note: This quarry has a small collector capacity since another group will be there. We are limited to 12 signees.

#3

Field Trip Locality: PENN-DIXIE, BLASDELL, NY [no limit; \$7 fee]
Address: 4050 North Street, Blasdell, NY 14219
Minerals Present: fossils*, pyrite
*brachiopods, bryozoans, cephalopods, conodonts, corals, crinoid aclyxes, crustaceans, echinoderms, fish, gastropods, ostracods, pelecypods, plants and trilobites
Date of Trip: Friday, October 11, 2013 or Sunday, October 13, 2013

Time of Field Trip: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Note: Ordinarily I would not include a fossil quarry in a mineral club's itinerary because I know that many of you would step over an outstanding fossil to get to an average mineral. However, a few of you are omnivorous collectors. So if you also like fossils, sign up to go to Penn Dixie. To see images of what has been collected in this quarry, go to <http://penndixie.org>.

#4

Field Trip Locality: DOLOMITE PRODUCTS, WALWORTH, NY [no limit – open house]

Address: 1200 Atlantic Avenue, Walworth, NY 14568

Minerals Present: dolomite, fluorite, calcite, sphalerite, selenite]

Date/Times of Trip: Saturday, October 12, 2013, 7:00 am - 2:00 pm

Sunday, October 13, 2013, 7:00 am - 12:00 pm

Note: The sister quarry in Penfield had an open house in May where I collected in the neighborhood of 150 dolomite specimens. Though dolomite appears here in abundance, the real prize specimens are the ones with fluorite. The fluorite can sometimes be blue.

Penn-Dixie and Walworth together make up a two locality trip. If you want to go, let me know. You should sign up for each trip through individual requests and list the dates. Saturday will be the best day to be at Walworth.

#5

Field Trip Locality: LAFARGE, MARBLEHEAD, OH [limit: 20 collectors]

Address: 831 South Quarry Road, Marblehead, OH 43440

Minerals Present: calcite, barite, fluorite

Date of Trip: Saturday, October 19, 2013

Time of Field Trip: 8:30 am - 1:00 pm

Note: The quarry operator is new to collecting trips and rather skittish about us coming to collect. By all means stay away from high walls and other areas he does not want us in, or we will get only one visit here. If you have a surplus of specimens from other trips, the operator and his son would like to have some of these specimens.

Signing up for the above trips should be completed before Thursday at 12:00 am the week of the trip. All cancellations should be made ASAP so if there is a limit, someone else can have your spot.

Be safe - have fun.

Reggie Rose

FM Field Trips

614-875-2675