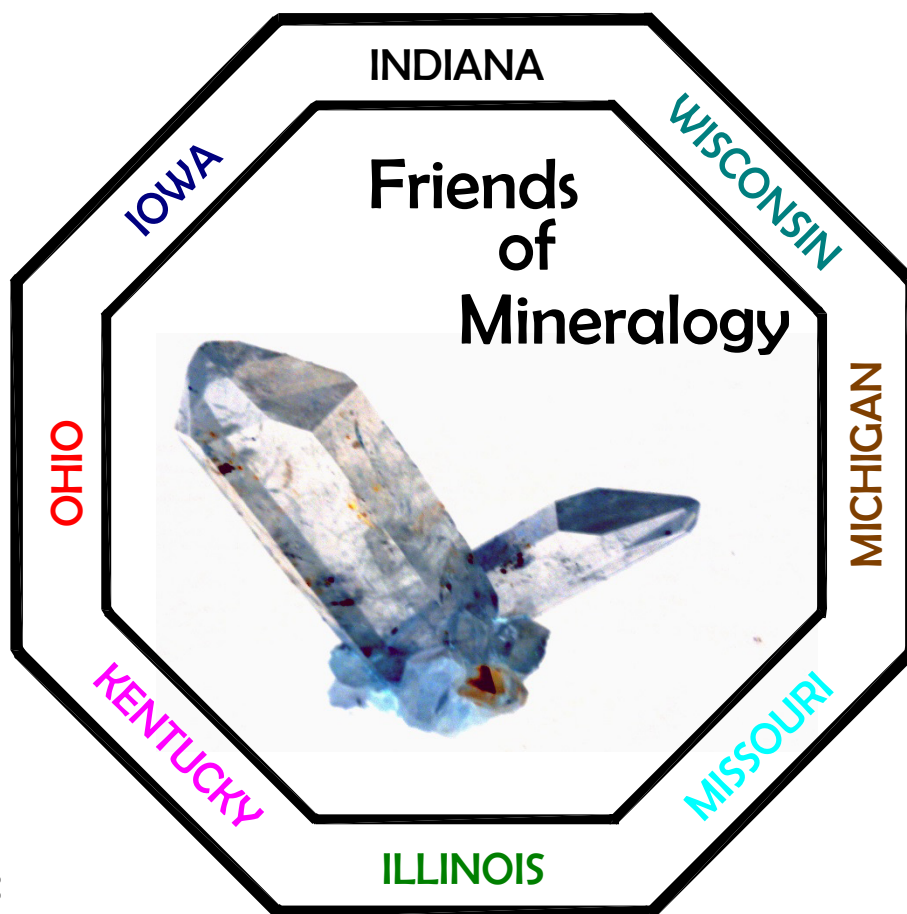


Friends of Mineralogy

Midwest Chapter Newsletter for
January – February 2014



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.



T-shirt orders should be arriving soon!

In this issue, the final installment of "Barrier's to Collecting"

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The next FM meeting will be on Saturday, January 11th at 2:00. The meeting will be held at the Orton Geological Museum in Columbus. The meeting location is on the Ohio State University Campus. See page 10 for directions and more information.

2014 Officers

President - Clyde Spencer, 1858 Robin Hood Dr., Fairborn, Ohio 45324
(937)878-9988 c_spencer123@att.net

Vice President Programs – Randy Marsh, 6152 Old Stone Ct.,
Hamilton, Ohio 45011
(513)515-7890 marsh.rg@pg.com.

Vice President Field Trips - Reggie Rose, 4287 Parkmead Dr.
Grove City, Ohio 43123
(614)875-2675 captaino@core.com

Secretary – Vacant

Treasurer - Jeff Spencer, 4948 Beachwood Dr., Cincinnati, Ohio 45244
(513)248-0533 jspencer@jsite.com

Liaison Officer – Nelson Shaffer, Ph. D., Indiana Geological Survey
611 N. Walnut Grove Ave., Bloomington, IN 47405
Phone: 812-855-2687 shaffern@indiana.edu

Fund Raising (Committee Chair) – Vacant

Newsletter (Committee Chair) Tom Bolka, 2275 Capestrano Dr.
Xenia, Ohio 45385
(937)760-6864 tbolka@att.net



Happy Holiday's Everyone! Remember it is time to pay your 2014 dues.

President's Message

Our new 1st Vice-president, Randy Marsh, is trying to come up to speed on what our organization is, what the culture is like, and where we are headed as an organization. He therefore asked me to articulate my vision for the chapter.

We have a membership of about 100 avid mineral collectors who are largely professionals or advanced amateurs. We are one of seven chapters operating under the umbrella of the national Friends of Mineralogy organization. In all, there are about 500 members total in National and the chapters.



Officially, our charter is to **conserve minerals, preserve collecting sites, promote the science of mineralogy, and educate the public about the importance of minerals to society.** I interpret that to also mean to encourage and educate our members on how to properly care for specimens from collection to display and storage. It is particularly important to document the localities (provenance), so we need to encourage members to be diligent in recording location information, particularly for the rarer specimens. It means that we have an obligation to do more than just collect pretty or aesthetically pleasing specimens. If individuals have the ability to do research and publish their results, all the better. However, not all members have the background or inclination to do research. They can help by doing educational outreach and promoting both the science of mineralogy and our chapter. These are things that the typical 'rockhound' club doesn't do. I'd like our organization to get a reputation for being a cut above the typical club —indeed the premier regional group! While it is my understanding that, in the past, symposia have not been well attended, I'd like to see that change. The Rochester Mineralogical Society has been having major symposiums for over four decades that are well attended!

Over the last few decades, it has become increasingly difficult to find places to collect minerals, even on public land. One of the few opportunities, especially for those of us who don't live in the mountains, is to collect in active quarries. The specimens are unweathered and surprisingly diverse, particularly in Indiana and Ohio. There are some associations and habits that are unique to the Midwest. Those specimens that aren't collected end up going to the crusher and are forever lost to science and to those who have a special appreciation for the aesthetics of nicely formed crystals. There are priceless, irreplaceable examples of Nature's handiwork that get destroyed in the rush to load the crushers.

I would like our chapter to have a relationship with the various quarries such that after a blast, if the workers or onsite geologist notice an unusual abundance or unusual quality of the minor minerals that commonly occur in association with the limestone mining operations, that they would give me or Reggie a call and give our chapter an opportunity to collect and conserve the spectacular pockets and seams that sometimes show up. I would like to have a special relationship with these quarries such that Friends of Mineralogy is the group to call. Who are you gonna call? Rockbusters!

Respectfully,
Clyde Spencer, President
Friends of Mineralogy Inc. Midwest Chapter

To the right are 2 very nice samples from the recent Walworth dig at Walworth, New York. These specimens (barite and fluorite) were collected by Mike Scaglione.



CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!



12th Annual GeoFest - The Indiana State Museum Gem, Fossil and Mineral Show

GeoFest dates and times are Friday, February 21, 2014, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm, Saturday, February 22, 2014, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm and Sunday, February 23, 2014, 11:00 – 4:00.

The Indiana State Museum is once again hosting GeoFest: the Indiana State Museum Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show. This is a good opportunity for our Chapter to interact with the public and to share knowledge about minerals.

The board is currently deciding whether we will have a formal presence at this event. To make this a go, we will need several volunteers to help with staffing the event and, ideally, to provide some hands-on specimens and give-aways.

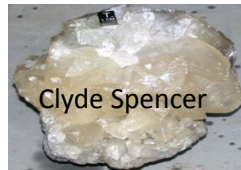
If you would like to help out, please respond with your availability.

Randy Marsh - Vice President – Programs

Quarry Travel Guide for January and February

No trips are planned at this time. However, a mini symposium on pseudomorphism is being planned for Miami University in March. Stay tuned for details. The directions to next month's FM meeting are detailed on page 10.

Barriers to Field Collecting – Part IV



As you may recollect, in three previous newsletters I talked about some of the problems that the mineral-collecting community encounters in trying to gain access to collecting localities. I didn't receive any responses, so I'll have to go this alone.

I don't have easy solutions for all the problems except to note that the solutions are primarily political. To that end, mineral collectors need to be organized and proactive. It would help to educate our legislators and increase the number of collectors (*i.e.* voters) who are concerned about the trends over the last few decades. It would also help if the public were educated about the role that mining plays in providing a comfortable, technologically advanced lifestyle. Perhaps that would help to put things in perspective and return a level of sanity that seems to be lacking in laws and regulations being passed.

Political power comes from numbers. So, FM might consider allying itself with other groups with similar concerns, such as off-highway vehicle enthusiasts and hunters (even AARP!), or at least contribute to law suits brought by organizations when a favorable decision would provide mineral collectors greater access to actual and potential collecting sites on public lands. However, because Friends of Mineralogy is a 503 (C) non-profit organization, we have to be careful not to cross the line separating educational activities from blatant lobbying. However, that doesn't prevent members from making financial contributions as individuals, nor from writing to their legislators as constituents.

Those pesky 'No Trespassing' signs have often come about for good reason. Although, it is not unheard of for people leasing grazing rights on public

land to post the land with unauthorized, unsigned 'No Trespassing' signs. While it is not always an easy or quick task to determine land

ownership, it is more important than it was decades ago. A polite request made to the landowner for permission to collect, and a willingness to sign a 'Hold Harmless' agreement, might be rewarded with the desired permission. Once a relationship is established, it might be easier in the future to gain access to the site. It can't hurt the relationship to offer a specimen to the landowner. They may well decline, but at least your generosity will be remembered, even after the bottle of Jack Daniels is gone. It shouldn't be necessary to say this, but past behavior of some collectors indicates otherwise: Your future access, and that of others, depends on your behavior! Clean up and remove any trash you find, and don't damage any structures or equipment, no matter how old. An admonition I would suggest for everything you do is **to consider what the world would be like if everyone were to act as you are about to act.**



I have mixed feelings about backfilling any holes dug. If the hole is a potential danger to livestock or people, then it should be filled in. However, if you or others are going to be doing additional collecting at the site, having to remove the backfill, and again put it back, becomes a real pain and reduces the time available for collecting. Probably the best thing to do, if you anticipate having to dig a hole(s), is to ask the landowner what his desires are with respect to filling holes.

Which leads me to another topic: There has been talk of paying quarry operators for their time and troubles, which is usually on a Saturday. Even though many collectors would be willing to pay \$20 or more to

gain access to some of the more desirable quarries, with up to 30 collectors, we are starting to be talking about a substantial amount of money. That may well have bearings on the legal liability of the host if he is being paid. It may also be a conflict with his responsibilities and duties when he is an employee of the actual quarry owner. Probably a small gift, such as a box of chocolate or a bottle of Wild Turkey may be appreciated, depending on the individual, and would go a long ways towards cementing the relationship and providing future access. Typically, federal and corporate rules regarding reporting gifts have a threshold of about \$25. Therefore, I would suggest sweetening the deal with something that is not trivial, but is under the threshold of where it may cause problems for the recipient. That means a donation of about \$1 per collector.

We have to remember that the working quarries and mines that are potential collecting sites are in the business to make money. All the employees have a job, which unless their job description includes outreach, they are going above and beyond their job to arrange and supervise our trips. Therefore, they don't appreciate lots of phone calls asking to be able to collect. That, apparently, has been a point of friction for one classic site in Indiana. Therefore, it is probably best if there is a single point of contact representing a group, such as Friends of Mineralogy (FM). To that end, it is probably in our best interest to encourage those collectors, who are not members, to join so that the quarry operators are not dealing with numerous phone calls. Unfortunately, if outreach does happen to be in the quarry employee's job description, it is usually interpreted as supporting schools. So, something else that might be useful to us is to stress the point that education is part of our charter – we aren't just rock hounds looking for pretty rocks. A related concern is setting expectations appropriately with the host about who the collectors are, collectively, and perhaps make the host aware that it is common practice to trade minerals, which may then find their way to eBay. Also, the quarry operator, who is typically selling aggregate, probably doesn't understand how important provenance is to collectors. These concerns are things that probably are primarily the concern of the field trip

coordinators. However, attention to setting expectations may avoid problems such as purportedly have occurred in the recent past.

A frustration in collecting on public land is that different agencies sometimes have different policies with regard to what can be done on 'their' land. A project that FM might undertake is to try to work through their congressmen to get, for example, the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management to have uniform policies and procedures with regard to field collecting unless there are unique conditions that justify a more restrictive policy. From personal experience, I



know that at least one National Recreation Area (Whiskeytown) in California, administered by the National Park Service, has such a restrictive policy about recreational gold panning that it would be almost impossible to actually find any gold, despite being in an area known for its past riches. When I enquired if the policies were the result of any scientific studies, I was stonewalled and never received a reply. So, one thing that would seem reasonable to me would be legislation requiring federal agencies to develop policies based on objective scientific research, and not just listen to demands from environmental advocacy groups expressing subjective concerns about the ecosystem. The Forest Service has started to go down the same road!

The US Geological Survey identified an area in Trinity County (CA) as having significant potential for Platinum Group Minerals, second perhaps only to the Stillwater Complex (MT). Shortly afterwards, it was turned into the Chanchellula Wilderness Area. The road over the mountain was bull dozed closed. Thus, putting the valuable minerals off limits, and essentially wasting the money that was spent by the USGS studying the area. When I last visited the area, there had been only five people sign in at the trailhead in the previous two years. I would recommend that FM members throughout the country write to their federal legislators to ask for laws requiring federal agencies controlling

access to, and use of, federal land be required to base their regulations not just on environmental impact studies, but scientific studies related to resource and recreation potential.

Since the rise of the environmental movement in the 1970s, the concept of 'multiple use' of public lands seems to have fallen out of use in favor of emphasis on biological preservation. The public has little appreciation for the source of the raw materials that provide them with their televisions, smart phones, computers, and automobiles. FM should do more to educate the public about the importance of mineral resources and mining to technology and the economy. Perhaps we can restore the balance of emphasis from biological preservation to the former 'multiple use.'

It doesn't help our situation that, with the exception of the aggregate industry, the importance of mining has declined in this country. The aggregate industry is doing well and has even turned to low-silica sources such as the copper-bearing basalts in the waste dumps of the closed copper mines on the Keweenaw Peninsula. The roads in northern Michigan are being paved with copper! It is a loss not only to collectors, but to the world when useful and versatile copper ends up being pavement instead of being extracted and smelted. What few metal mines that exist in the country are now 'reclaimed,' meaning that the waste piles and unmined ore become inaccessible after the mining is concluded. It doesn't help that the mining industry is not perceived by the general public as the supplier of the raw materials that go into their airplanes, cars, household appliances, and communication devices. Rather, it seems that the public associates mining with spoiling the environment. Thus, there is generally antagonism towards any proposed new mining activity. You might want to consider personally joining the National Mining Association (<http://www.nma.org/index.php/position-on-minerals>) as a way to keep abreast of what is happening politically.

Unfortunately, the role of mineralogy has declined in real-world geology with the concerns today focused on environmental issues such as water and

energy. As a result, the number of mineralogy course offerings in most universities has declined and, therefore, the number of geology majors exposed to the wonders of mineralogy have declined. I take the position that the decisions to reduce course offerings were a mistake. If a geologist can't at least readily identify the common rock-forming minerals in a hand specimen, then they can't identify the rock. If the rock can't be identified and differentiated from similar rocks, then field mapping will be more difficult and less accurate. This ripples through the process to where even hydrologists and energy-exploration geologists may not be as competent as in previous generations. So, another suggestion I have is for those of us who care, to petition and agitate for universities to strengthen the mineralogy component of their geology curriculum.

However, before they even get to college, the younger generation might be enticed to become mineral collectors. Most people have little idea about the diversity of color and forms that minerals come in. One thing to consider is that after cleaning and trimming your field collection, you might have specimens that aren't the top-grade that you personally want to keep, either because of minor damage or duplication; instead of disposing of the leftovers, consider donating them to a local science teacher, or rock hound club. What is mundane to you just might excite some child who may then go on to try to find a better specimen.

Friends of Mineralogy might want to consider allying with additional mineralogical societies and hiring a lawyer to examine these issues and possibly even bringing a suit against the agencies impeding collecting. This is a power struggle between the tax payers who support the public lands, and the stewards who are paid with tax dollars. The stewards undoubtedly have their hearts in the right place, but the placement of their heads is highly questionable. Thus, they have had difficulty thoroughly thinking through the consequences of their policies. FM needs to assist them!

Secretary's Meeting minutes

Cleveland, Ohio 11/02/13

President Clyde Spencer declared a quorum and called the meeting to order; 10 FM members were in attendance, with 3 of them being officers. Officers attending were: Clyde Spencer, Jeff Spencer, and John Davis.

Call for old business went without comment

New business: Slate of officers was announced. The existing officers, with the exception of John Davis, have agreed to run for re-election. These officers are: Clyde Spencer (President), Jeff Spencer (Treasurer), Reggie Rose (Second VP, in charge of Field Trips), and Nelson Shaffer (Liaison Officer). Randy Marsh was introduced to the members as on the slate for First VP, in charge of Programs.

A call for nominees was made to the floor, but no additional nominees were offered.

The vote was taken to accept the slate of nominees as announced: 10 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstained

Treasurers Report: Jeff Spencer reported that there was \$843.57 in the treasury. There is a \$44 discrepancy in what we have in our account and what should be there. There are a few membership checks that apparently were lost before Jeff took over.

There was discussion on the stipend given this year to Nelson Shaffer to help off-set his expenses to attend the National FM Board meeting and staff a recruiting table in Tucson last February. The president stated that because of the condition of our treasury, the board is not in favor of a similar stipend in the future. If board members need financial assistance, they should ask National for it.

There was considerable discussion on possible dues increases. The National FM requires us to pay \$6 for each member and does not give family discounts. With our current family discount, we are actually losing money on extra family members. Jeff Spencer provided handouts showing, 1) the current dues situation, 2) Raising the dues to \$20 for the first member and \$15 for each additional member, and 3) going with a flat \$20 per member. Jeff Spencer made a motion to amend the By Laws to require an increase in dues to \$20 per member and strike the current family membership language. Mike Royal seconded the motion. The vote was taken with 9 in favor of increasing the dues, 0 against, and 1 abstention.

Mike Royal asked where the Club T-shirt project was at and if we were still going to get them. Clyde Spencer said he would look into the status.

Paul Schwinn announced that he wouldn't be able to continue as fund raising chairman. This leaves the club with one open position on the board (Secretary) and a need to appoint a fund raising chairman. We had some discussion on possibly having an FM club show. Randy Marsh said that if anyone wanted to donate minerals to sell on eBay, he would be willing to list and sell them with 1/2 of the proceeds going to the owner and the club getting the other half.

Respectfully submitted, John Davis

Treasurer's Report

It's almost time to close the books on 2013! As you probably know we have raised the dues amount for 2014 to \$20.00 per person. As of December 13th, 28 members have already registered and paid for 2014. We now have \$1502.17 in the account. This includes the proceeds so far from Tom Bolka's t-shirt project. We ordered 4 additional shirts that are available first-come first-serve (2 large and 2 X-large). Contact Tom if you are interested in purchasing one of these shirts. Just a reminder, membership dues should be paid by March 1st.

Please send me any questions or concerns that you have.

Jeff Spencer, Treasurer - Friends of Mineralogy Inc. Midwest Chapter
ispencer@jsite.com 513-476-2163

OSU Orton Geological Museum information and Directions

The official address is 155 South Oval but many people have gotten lost when attempting to get here using that address via MapQuest and such. Here are better directions. The easiest way is:

From Interstate 71

Get off at the Eleventh Avenue exit (north of downtown). At the top of the exit ramp turn right if you came from the north - turn left if you came from the south. Follow Eleventh for about a mile (past the Fairgrounds and through the lights at Summit and Fourth) until it deadends at North High Street. Turn right on High and go to the second light at 12th Avenue. Turn left on 12th (that brings you into the campus) and go a very short block to the first stop sign at College Road. Turn right on college and go a very short block to (just past the bus stops) Hagerty Drive. Turn left on Hagerty and follow it behind two buildings to the third building, Orton Hall, where the Museum is located.

From Route 315

Get off at the Lane Avenue exit. At the bottom of the exit ramp turn left if you came from the north - turn right if you came from the south. Follow Lane for about a mile to North High Street. Turn right on High and go to the light at 12th Avenue. Turn right on 12th (that brings you into the campus) and go a very short block to the first stop sign at College Road. Turn right on college and go a very short block to (just past the bus stops) Hagerty Drive. Turn left on Hagerty and follow it behind two buildings to the third building, Orton Hall, where the Museum is located.

Orton Hall is a tan-colored stone building with a red roof and a round pointed tower on its front from which chimes sound every quarter hour. Come up the front steps and go straight - you can't miss the big skeleton in the Museum. The Museum is free - there is no admission charge.

There is very limited meter parking behind Orton Hall. If no spaces are available drive back out Hagerty Drive to the Union South parking garage, which is on College Road directly across from Hagerty Drive. Parking costs about two dollars per hour.

In addition to the mineral collections I already told you about we have an extensive collection of fossils from around the world, concentrating on Ohio and the midwest. We currently have about 54,000 cataloged specimens, about 3/4 of which are fossils and the rest rocks & minerals.

For photos and more information on the Museum, visit our web site at:

<https://ortongeologicalmuseum.osu.edu/>

Dale Gnidovec, Curator

FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY, INC.

Midwest Chapter

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

MEMBER DATA SHEET

Please fill in this application and mail it along with your check 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? _____

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 Midwest Chapter members should send this completed application and \$20.00/year dues to:**

Jeff Spencer, Treasurer
Friends of Mineralogy, Midwest Chapter
4948 Beachwood Dr., Cincinnati, Ohio 45244

- *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.