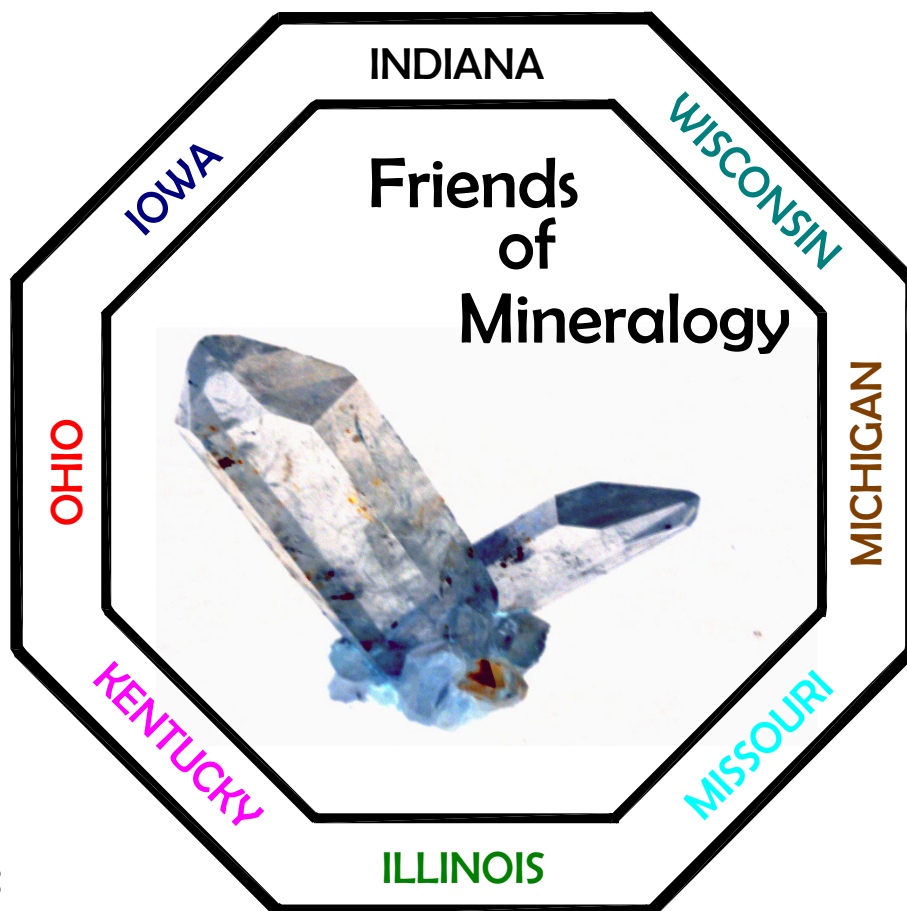


# Friends of Mineralogy

Midwest Chapter Newsletter for

November - December 2015



## 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 15<sup>th</sup> of the previous month.

**Chapter Website:**

[www.indiana.edu/~minerals/](http://www.indiana.edu/~minerals/)

**National Website:**

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

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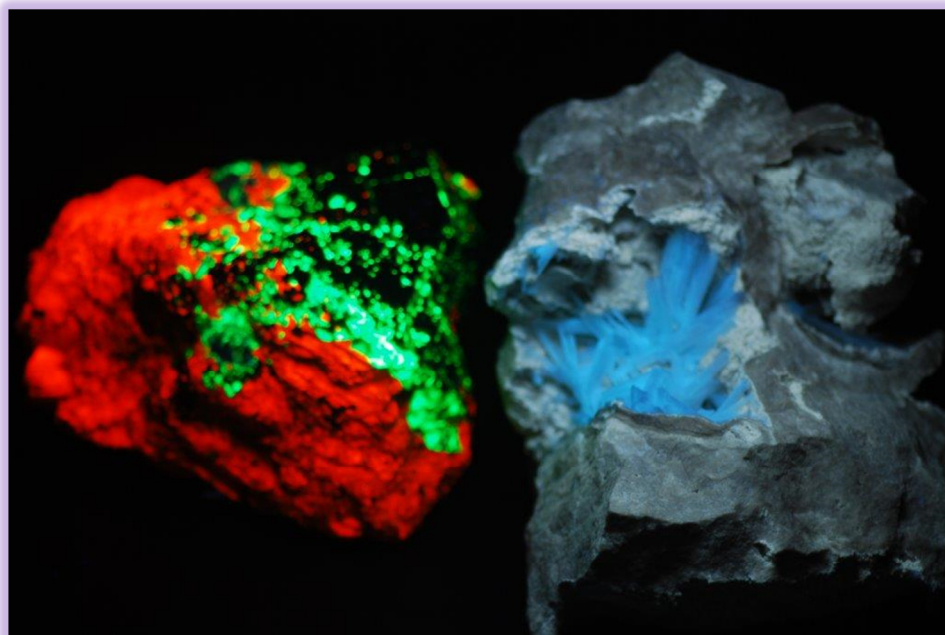
**Secretary** – Vacant

**Treasurer** - Jeff Spencer, 4948 Beachwood Dr., Cincinnati, Ohio 45244  
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**Fund Raising (Committee Chair)** - Vacant

**Newsletter (Committee Chair)** Tom Bolka, 2275 Capestrano Dr.  
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*Celestine (right)  
from the Clay Center  
quarry and a  
Franklin specimen  
for comparison.  
Thank you John  
Medici for the  
fluorescent display!*

## President's Message

The current officers have agreed to continue in their capacities. I will offer up the entire slate for re-election unless there are nominations from the floor for any of the positions.

However, I would recommend that we continue with the current officers because they have been doing a good job and are familiar with their responsibilities.

As of October 17<sup>th</sup>, when I'm writing this, no one has agreed to be placed on the slate of nominations, to replace me. While I'm reluctant to continue for another year, I don't want to see the chapter be without a president. It would be an unfair burden on the other officers to try to take up the slack. Therefore, I will entertain being nominated from the floor during our business meeting in November. That solves one problem for the moment. However, we still need a secretary! Furthermore, should I be re-elected, it will be imperative that we have a representative in Tucson for the annual National business meeting. Otherwise, we will not have a vote to represent our chapter in motions that come up for consideration. Please attend our annual business meeting at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History at 3:30 on November 7<sup>th</sup>.

I recently became aware of the existence of the American Lands Access Association (ALAA) (<http://amlands.org/>) after reading the Michiana Gem & Mineral Society newsletter. I think it is important to be aware of both what the government is doing and what organizations like ALAA are doing to try to preserve our ability to collect on public lands. You may remember that I started my tenure as FM president with a series of essays on barriers to collecting. It is something that I'm still strongly concerned about. However, an organization such as ALAA may be more effective at countering restrictions than a not-for-profit organization such as FM.

Lastly, I want to remind you that annual membership dues (\$20) will be payable by the time you receive the next newsletter (January-February) in late-December. Therefore, we have included a membership form and Hold Harmless Agreement (HHA) with this newsletter to give you a head start. In addition, you can find the forms at our website. If you are a continuing member and have already submitted an HHA, you do not have to submit another one. Membership dues will be delinquent March 1<sup>st</sup>.

Clyde

# Friends of Mineralogy

**From The office of the President**

**Clyde Spencer**

## Treasurers Report

### **2015 chapter treasury report as of 10/18/2015**

#### **New items**

Since the last report in August, we've had 1 additional member pay dues for 2015. We also received \$40.00 for 2016 registrations. Additionally, we received a rebate of \$25 from our insurance company due to payment for a coverage we did not require. This resulted in an \$85.00 deposit, bringing our Treasury balance to \$3283.54.

#### **Outstanding Items**

Due to 7 new members signing up after we paid our National dues, we owe an additional \$28.00 in National dues payment.

6 members have already paid their 2016 dues (\$120.00) and that is reflected in the current balance.

Jeff A. Spencer - Treasurer

The next general FM business meeting will be held on the first Saturday (7<sup>th</sup>) in November at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, as part of the Micromineral Symposium. The meeting will be at 3:30 in the basement of the museum. If you attend the FM business meeting, you might also be interested in participating in the Micromineral Symposium. Additional information is available via FM group emails.

## Quarry Travel & Event Guide

For trip type - **FT** = Field trip with only our club **OH** = Open House with several other clubs

For training - **MSHA** means MSHA is required **OS** means on-site training is sufficient

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Time:</u>	<u>Trip Type:</u>	<u>Training:</u>	Company <u>Locale:</u>	<u>To collect:</u>
Sat Oct 31	8:00a-1:00p	FT	MSHA	Graymont Genoa, OH	calcite, celestite, dolomite, galena, marcasite, pyrite, sphalerite

## Field Trip Reports

### **Field Trip Report Various Arkansas collection sites**

Randy Marsh and I drove to Arkansas the week of October 4<sup>th</sup> through the 10<sup>th</sup>. It was over 10 hours of driving from Randy's house. However, because of the change in time zones, despite a late departure, we arrived in Bryant (AR) before dark on Sunday. On Monday, we drove around the general Magnet Cove area, revisiting some classic collecting localities that I had been introduced to by Mike Howard, since retired from the Arkansas Geological Survey. We did some prospecting around the old Halliburton baryte mine dumps. However, we found nothing of interest there. We spent about 3 hours in a roadcut collecting smoky quartz, while actually looking for brookite. I may have actually found some micro-crystals that I still have to examine. We later collected some massive magnetite along Route 51, adjacent to a former magnetite mine. Our best results were in the classic dysanelyte (niobium-bearing rutile) locality adjacent to the Beaver Creek Estates. The syenite is badly decomposed because of the sulfuric acid derived from included pyrite. (I couldn't help but wonder how the local razorback that had been wallowing in the mud holes dealt with the acidic water.) The area is heavily picked over! Therefore, my best finds were in the roots of a tree that had fallen over. I have yet to clean and trim the specimens. Randy was pleased with the pyrite cubes and rutile because he had not been there before. On Monday evening, we went to Mike Howard's house to see his mineral collection and buy some specimens.

On Tuesday, we drove to the Hot Springs area and initially collected at Ron Coleman's quartz mine; the cost of entry was \$20. The dumps looked like Hannibal's army, including the elephants, had trampled them! Everything was dry. The bad news was that we were told that we were not allowed to break any rocks. We found little of interest except one small quartz crystal with a very unusual form. Actually, when we took a break for lunch, I discovered that the discards at the washing station were better than most of the material I had collected. We decided to leave and go to Jim Coleman's Miller Mountain quartz mine; that cost \$10 each. When we got there, the woman told us that we couldn't use a hammer or chisel. She didn't want us breaking her rocks – they were already broken, she said! We were expected to break the dry clods of clay to look for crystals. I used my folding army shovel to extract and break the clods. Randy used the approach of picking up large boulders and putting them in his car. Later, at another locality, he trimmed them down since they were then 'his' rocks. I brought home a couple pounds of crystals, but I didn't do as well as I had done six years earlier.

On Wednesday, we joined up with Dr. Henry Barwood (Troy University, Alabama) and his merry band of micromounting expert mineralogists. Randy and I primarily collected stilbite in a weathered syenite at Granite Mountain Quarry #1. I probably brought back at least 50 pounds of stilbite-bearing syenite to be trimmed. However, the quality and abundance was not as good as five years ago. As to the escapades of the micromounters, I'll quote Henry's trip report below:

Our Southeast Micromineral Group held a field trip to the Arkansas syenite quarries October 7-9. Attending, in addition to me, were Bob (Stevens), Brenda (Johnson), Harvey (Johnson), Jim (Stoops), Clyde (Spencer), Randy (Marsh) and Mike (Howard). Several of our “regulars” could not attend for various reasons (mostly medical).

Bob and I arrived early and on Tuesday checked the Jones Mill Quarry. They put in a shot on the upper west bench, but it was all barren phonolite. Examination of the other benches showed very little that looked encouraging. Some sparsely vuggy quartz leucosyenite boulders were exposed on the lowest bench. There was no evidence of exactly where on the bench they came from. The vugs contained feldspar, aegirine, quartz, fluorite, light colored mica and siderite (ankerite?). The fluorite was beautifully zoned and lustrous. The siderite was a nice light brown and the rhombohedral crystals were also quite lustrous. This material does not appear to be a pegmatite, but a distinct dike, now completely removed.

The remainder of the group arrived on Tuesday and we met Wednesday morning for breakfast at the motel where we were joined by Mike Howard. We all went to Jones Mill and checked out all the lower levels, but the quartz leucosyenite was the only material that was interesting. Everyone collected several buckets to split at home. Around noon, we decided that additional exploration was unlikely to yield anything additional, so we left for Granite Mountain Number 1 Quarry after lunch. The temperature was in the upper eighties by that time, but we spent the afternoon examining the pegmatitic dike rock on the second bench. This area has yielded unusual species for 3 years now and, while a bit picked over, still produced nice specimens. I collected on one boulder that was particularly rich in allanite group minerals. More buckets of specimens were loaded up. That evening we had dinner at a really good Italian place in Bryant that Mike directed us to.

Thursday we went back to Granite Mountain Number 1 to explore other areas. Unfortunately, most of the exposed dike rock had been there for several years, so was weathered and picked over. The west pit had a fresh shot in the dike, but the material there was badly altered by late fluids and yielded very little that looked interesting. The group collected some of the orange stilbite and a few gas cavities turned up (they are uncommon in both the Number 1 and Number 2 quarries). Again, by noon, we felt like collecting had reached a minimum and little was to be gained by additional searching. We moved on to the 3M Big Rock Quarry. They have moved a lot of material over the last year and have advanced a new level in the bottom of the pit. Search of the 3 main levels turned up only minimal amounts of pegmatite and gas cavities. Late in the afternoon we took a look at the newest shot that was on the central dike. A single boulder of “white” pegmatite turned up. It yielded several buckets of vuggy material and specimens were distributed to the group. A quick examination showed catapleiite and possibly burbankite in the vugs, along with REE niobates and other “stuff”. After 2 hours of sledge hammering in the heat, fearless leader (me) was pretty much done!

Friday we visited the Granite Mountain Number 3 Quarry, but found very little of the lavendite pegmatite that is the primary collecting material in this small quarry. By 11 AM we were all pretty much finished physically, and dispersed. I headed for home, so I don’t know who stayed to collect and/or went back to the other quarries

The trip home was loads of fun. A huge wreck on I-55 at Memphis all but closed that corridor. Following my GPS, I made it through via a tour of some of the more “scenic” neighborhoods (razor wire!). By the time I arrived at Birmingham, I-65 was a parking lot through the city (Friday football traffic). GPS routed me around the main clogs, but it still took nearly 2 hours to negotiate 17 miles.

I hope to have some of what we collected split out and imaged before too long. [see below]

Henry Barwood



While at the Jones Mill (Martin-Marietta plant) Quarry, I noticed a drilling rig sitting on top of a dipping-fault that I thought worthy of taking a picture of. It is an accident waiting to happen.



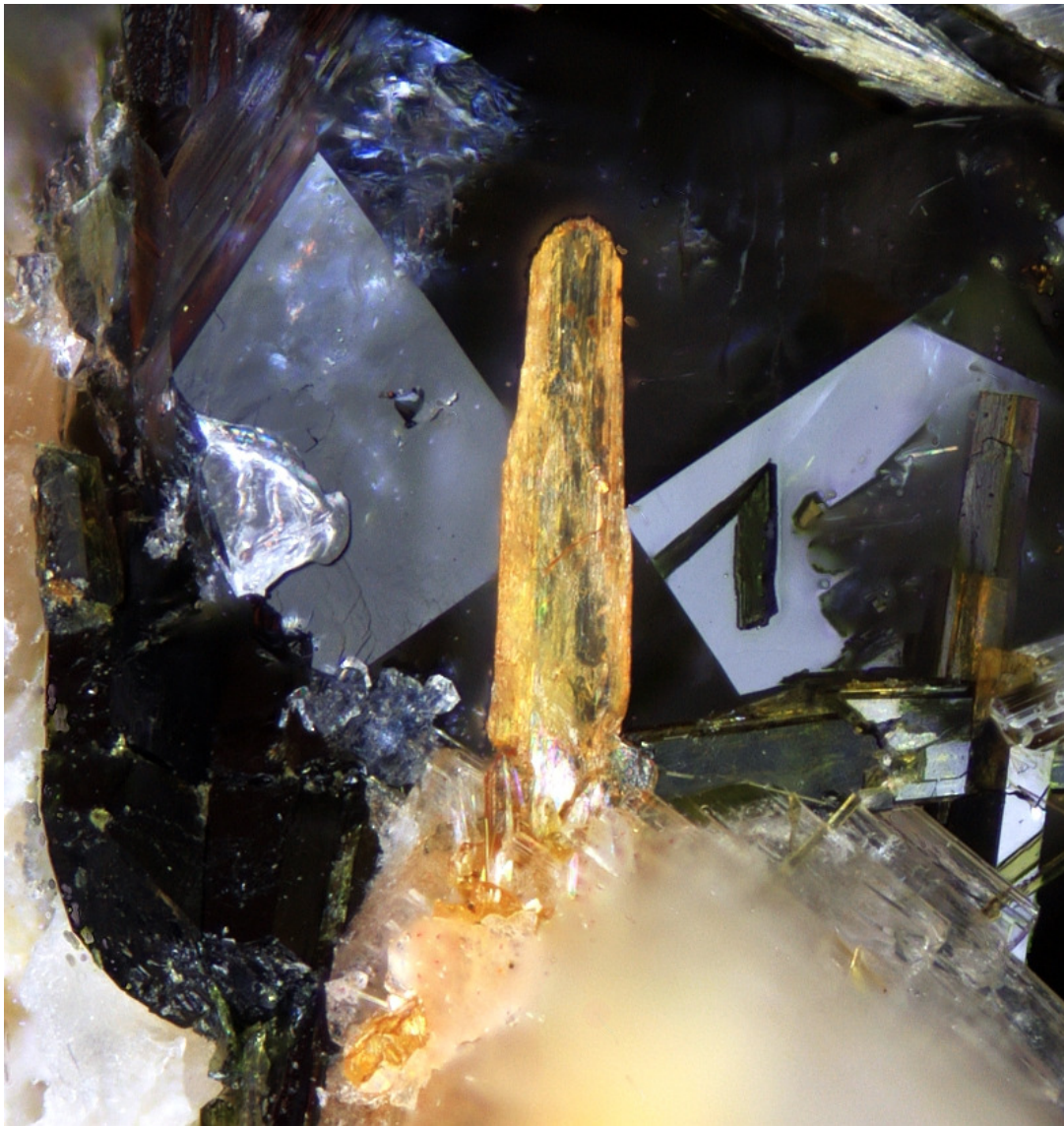
Probably one of the more interesting events was when GMQ #1 set off a small shot about noon on Wednesday. Following is a before, during, and after sequence of photos from the shot in an area that hadn't been blasted in 28 years.



On Friday, Randy and I returned to GMQ #1 to bust up a boulder with a pegmatitic knot with a vug in syenite, which I had discovered when there the day of the blast. It had minerals that could be seen without a microscope, which included potassium feldspar, calcite, stilbite, and a couple little triangular plates of magnetite(?). We checked out another new blast, but didn't find anything of interest. When it started to rain about 3:00, we decided to pack it in and have an early dinner. Unlike Henry, our trip home was uneventful.

I also collected pieces of the host rocks at all the quarries with the intention of someday having thin-sections made of them.

Clyde Spencer



Interesting distorted lavenite crystal from the brown syenite pegmatite from the Granite Mountain Number 1 Quarry, Pulaski County, Arkansas. I collected this material for the allanites, but it also contains lots of other interesting species. FOV is about .6 X .6 mm. Imaged with a Canon 40D, 23mm Nikon objective and Canon 300mm telephoto lens used in a tube configuration. Stacked using Combine Z. Copyright 2015 Henry Barwood





A large group of FM'ers  
preparing for a dig at Clay Center

## Field Trip Report Clay Center Stoneco Quarry, Clay Center, Oh

### CLAY CENTER IS A CELEBRATION

For our annual Clay Center trip on August 29th, 39 FM members signed up and 31 actually showed up. Before I describe what happened on the field trip itself, I want to say thanks to eight FM members who could not make the trip. As I have found out this year by missing a few field trips myself, no one has the time or energy to get to every event. Family commitments, jobs, illness, other interests and a myriad of other reasons prevent us from attending all the trips of a given club. The people who did not go to Clay Center were perfect in their sign up procedures. When they found they could not go, they cancelled in a timely fashion. This act allowed others to attend who signed up later in the sign up period. So to those who could not go, I sincerely thank you. Your cancellation was an act of kindness and courtesy that allowed someone else to experience Clay Center. So my hard hat is off to you all.

With respect to the trip itself, the FM folks who did show up were greeted to a pleasant day of collecting, with fair skies and warm but not hot temperatures. Since this trip was on such a pleasant day and was the last of summer, it was not only an unofficial celebration of our hobby, but also a celebration of the end of summer. Each quarry has its own list of minerals that have been found in the past. The most common object of our affection here at Clay Center has been and is our old friend celestite, also with her modernized moniker celestine. More highly prized and harder to find are accessory minerals fluorite, and sphalerite, as well as dogtooth calcite.

Considering what Clay Center produces, I was lacking a plethora of volunteers to show me their finds. Sometimes we get caught up in the excitement a trip that we are not as astute in our note keeping as we should be. So if I give credit to the wrong persons for the find, please forgive me and I'll give you proper credit in a future issue. Among

the nicest specimens I was privileged to see were a nice cluster of sphalerite found by Dave Esch (Ann Arbor, MI), calcite and celestite specimens from Mike Royal, and delicate celestite crystals from John Medici. But the find of the day went to Fredericktown Ohio's Jay Medici who found a gargantuan sphalerite which covered the whole end of a boulder. This sphalerite crystal cluster approached the 3 inch mark at its widest point. Jay also unearthed a pale, tan, clear fluorite cube.

Though my efforts at notetaking were poor, the joyous atmosphere that our collectors set was not. Your enjoyment that was evident and matched the pleasant weather conditions of the day.

Reggie Rose

## **Field Trip Report**

### **IMI - Corydon Quarry, Corydon, IN**

On Saturday, September 12, 2015 IMI had the last of their open quarry days for the 2015 season at their Corydon, IN location. There was an estimated 100 attendees from throughout the region, including clubs from the States of Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Arkansas, and Kentucky. All I can say is we must be doing something right this year, as with most of our previous field trips of the 2015 season, the weather could not have been more perfect. Early in the day it started out mostly cloudy and cool with a stiff breeze blowing in from the northwest. But near mid-morning the clouds broke and the sun came out making for a beautiful day to be outside enjoying the day. The temperatures hovered in a comfortable lower to middle 70's for the remainder of the day.

The collectors began to gather at the predetermined meeting site around 9:00 AM, awaiting the customary on-site safety briefing prior to caravanning down into the quarry pit. By approximately 10:15 AM everyone was saddled up and heading across the stock pile area for the quarry pit itself. As we proceeded down the access road into the pit it became immediately apparent to me that this was going to be a very productive collecting day for everyone, even with our numbers. The worked area of the quarry had expanded considerably since my last visit and there was lots of room for everyone to spread out, so as to not disturb anyone else. As our hosts had promised, there was plenty of material down to collect. As such, the group split up into two groups, one group proceeded to a new area of the quarry where a high wall had only recently been blasted out, still laying where it fell after the shot. The other group proceeded around the back side of the old cave complex that had been left in place since well before I began to routinely collect at this location. The intent was for each group to switch locations mid-way through the day. This may not be true about everyone, but I believe most people were content to just stay where they were. There was something worth collecting in just about every direction we looked. Personally, I never made it over the new area of the quarry. I was quite content with the material that was available to collect in the area where I first stopped.

It was noted that the following mineral species were collected: dolomite (both pink and white), calcite (multiple habits ranging in color from clear, white, and waxy yellow), fluorite (in multiple colors ranging from deep purple, to clear zoned with occurrences of yellow and root beer brown). Other mineral occurrences included water clear barite, malachite, glauconite, filament pyrite or millerite (?), marcasite, quartz, and banded calcite (also known as travertine or cave onyx). Below are some selected photos from some of our members illustrating a sampling of what was found on the day of our visit. Those contributing photos include: *Danny Settles, Rick Schrantz, Tim Barnes, Ron Jackson, Allen Ferrell, Steve Bonnie, Brenda Johnson*, and a guest from the Ozark Earth Science Club *Ed Hakesley*.

I for one am truly looking forward to our next opportunity to collect at this location. I have always loved it and always will.

Ed O'Dell - Via the Blue Grass Gem and Mineral Club



Millerite spray on Dolomite



Yellow & brown Fluorite with Calcite



Malachite sprays





Dolomite vug with Calcite



Calcite in Dolomite vug



Dolomite Saddles





## **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 “Releasees”) 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 Releasees do not have medical personnel available at the location of the Activity. I understand and agree that Releasees are granted permission to authorize emergency medical treatment if necessary, and that such action by Releasees shall be subject to the terms of this agreement. I understand and agree that Releasees 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 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.