

Friends of Mineralogy



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Midwest Chapter Newsletter for March – April 2016



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.

Chapter Website:

www.indiana.edu/~minerals/

National Website:

www.friendsofmineralogy.org

On the Cover –

*Fluorite, Calcite and Barite
Mundy's Landing, Kentucky
6.0" x 5.0"*

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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.



President's Message

I just got back from the Tucson show, where Randy Marsh (Midwest Chapter Representative) and I (National Vice President) attended the National general membership meeting and the Board of Director's business meeting. We were delayed on our return trip and missed our connecting flight in Atlanta. We checked into a hotel near the airport at midnight (with the ambiance of planes taking off and landing) and got up at 5:30 to catch our flight back to Ohio. The security lines were long (probably because of all the cancelled flights the previous day, Monday) and we were among the last to board. It was a bit of a shock to go from sunny skies and temperatures in the 80s, to overcast skies and snow sticking to the trees here.

From The office of the President

Clyde Spencer

We have a solution to the ongoing problem of a vacant secretary position. Frank Konieczki, from Michigan, has volunteered to serve as secretary. Since this is a position that is supposed to be elected, and the 2016-year election is over, I think that the best solution is to appoint Frank as Secretary *Pro Tempore* at the beginning of meetings this year that he can attend, or monitor by phone. If he is interested in continuing to serve in the capacity of secretary in 2017, we will put him on the slate of officers put up for election next November. Look for his first submission of meeting minutes in this issue of the newsletter.

ODNR has given us a green flag to run our own safety training independently from them. Scott Kell will be updating and revising his already excellent curriculum and offering training on March 19th at Wittenberg University. However, Randy Marsh (safety training committee chairman), John Rakovan, and I will be meeting with Jeff Hoblick, from MSHA, prior to that, to try to clear up some remaining nebulous points about how to comply with the regulations. It turns out that besides the regulations that are available on the internet to anyone who wants to take the time to read them, MSHA also has volumes of interpretations of those regulations. (I hope that there isn't also a secret handshake!)

I have been volunteered to help Julian Grey find speakers for the 2017 FM symposium in Tucson, held in conjunction with the Tucson Gem and Mineral Society (TGMS) convention. The topic for the show in 2017 will be *Midwest Minerals*. If you think that you would like to give a talk for the symposium, start working on your presentation and let me know about your interest. Surely, we have some people in our chapter with special knowledge or experience with Midwest minerals! While everyone appreciates pretty pictures, I'd like to encourage you to give something more substantive. What comes to mind, as an example, is an explanation for why we have such an abundance of celestine, fluorite, and sphalerite associated with the Findlay Arch, despite those minerals containing fairly rare elements. Even if you can't give a talk, you might want to make plans to attend Tucson in 2017.

The hoped for display of blue mineral specimens, from FM chapter members, in display cases on the TGMS convention floor this year was canceled because of poor response. However, National will again attempt to have one or two display cases from FM members on the convention floor. That is begging for a good response from Midwest chapter members.

Friends of Mineralogy

For those of you who couldn't make it to Tucson, but would like to sample the flavor of the show, Jolyon Ralph has a number of photographs on his Mindat.org website.

During the annual business meeting in Tucson, the Board of Directors voted to have the National website hosted on Mindat, with which FM is affiliated. That option is available to the chapters also, but your executive officers will explore our requirements to be sure that it is the best solution for our needs. I want to be sure that there aren't any downsides to being connected that closely with National and Mindat.

Lastly, while reading a recent newsletter from the A. E. Seaman Mineral Museum, I noted the following: "The datolite was collected about 1980 from an underwater area discovered by a park ranger and prior to restrictions on such collecting." Now I can appreciate that there might be concerns about excavating in a National Park, or damaging outcrops in what is supposed to be preserved for the viewing of future generations. But, isn't it being a bit overzealous to restrict collecting of minerals from areas that are out of sight and visited by almost no one except potential collectors? Eventually, the rocks in the shore area will be destroyed by wave action and no one will ever be able to enjoy what once existed. Fundamentally, the bureaucrats that decided to restrict collecting seem to think that one's outdoor experiences should be akin to watching TV, with no opportunities to touch or take away anything, even when most cannot see the things collected by a small minority who would be willing to get off the beaten path. I don't know about you, but I think that our lives are being over-regulated.



FM brass at the January 16 meeting in Columbus

L to R: Frank Konieczki (secretary), Jeff Spencer (treasurer), Clyde Spencer (president), Randy Marsh (Program Vice President), Reggie Rose (Field Trip Vice President)

Annual Meeting Minutes (11/7/2015)

Friends of Mineralogy, Inc. Midwest Chapter
Meeting Minutes- January 16, 2016
Orton Hall, Ohio State University
Columbus, Ohio

Called to order by President Clyde Spencer at 12:42 PM. 10 members present, including the following officers: Clyde Spencer, President; Randy Marsh, Vice President Programs; Reggie Rose, Vice President Field Trips; Jeff Spencer, Treasurer.

No formal agenda/old business was presented.

New Business:

Treasurer's Report: Jeff Spencer reported that the 2015 financial reconciliation has been completed. The 2015 financial report dated 12/31/15 was provided to all present. The beginning balance for 2015 was \$ 1,938.29, and income totaled \$4,088.00. Expenditures for 2015 were \$1,933.48, bringing the ending balance to \$4,092.81. Forty two members have paid 2016 dues to date, and a list of members who have not yet paid their 2016 dues will be compiled.

President Spencer indicated that he will inquire about the use of the \$200 donation from Ken Bladh's wife.

President Spencer mentioned that changes to the national bylaws and dues are being discussed, and he is on the committee for revisions.

First Vice President and Chairman of Programs Randy Marsh stated the 4th Annual Friends of Mineralogy Midwest Chapter Symposium is set for 3/12/16. The topic is Midwest Fluorites, and the speakers include John Rakovan and Jeff Scovil. Any members who have specimens that might enhance the displays are encouraged to bring them for exhibition, and to contact Randy for details.

Vice President Marsh reminded the attendees that the Geological Society of America is holding their annual meeting in Champaign-Urbana in April, and they are requesting guest speakers that would be willing to do presentations that relate to this year's theme, Mississippi Valley Type and Other Deposits of the Midwest USA. The meeting will be preceded by two days of field trips.

MSHA safety refresher training is scheduled to be conducted by Scott Kell on 3/19/16. The ODNR will also hold training on 3/25/16. President Spencer discussed concerns regarding the requirement of some quarries that field trip participants have MSHA training certification. It is not legally required, but local quarry operators have come to expect MSHA training as a requirement, though only site specific training is mandatory under MSHA Regulations Part 46. Providing training under Part 45, rather than Part 46 has been considered and reviewed, but Part 45 training is of concern for several reasons. The ODNR provided training is not specifically tailored for hazards encountered by collectors. Scott Kell's training session is designed for collectors. There was some discussion at the meeting regarding the merits of contacting individual quarries about what training requirements are needed, but no consensus was reached.

President Spencer indicated that recent attempted contacts with the Webmaster for the current website, which is affiliated with University of Indiana, have not been successful. So, Treasurer Jeff Spencer has explored the possibility of creating our own website. Jeff Spencer remarked that a web domain can be secured before a website format is finalized, and that the initial cost to obtain a domain for two years was \$85.00. A motion to establish a new FoM



Midwest Chapter website by obtaining a domain name at a preliminary cost of \$85.00 was made (JSpencer/RMarsh/P). The motion was brought for a vote and carried unanimously.

President Spencer stated that the goals and objectives of the organization are clearly specified in the constitution, but some clarification is sought regarding possible new ideas to further the goals. Suggestions for such expenditures included funding for scholarships, obtaining specimens to provide for student research, or a specified annual project.

The Ohio Aggregates and Industrial Minerals Association (OAIMA) has started an educational outreach program, and President Spencer has provided an informal commitment that FoM Midwest Chapter will assist in providing speakers. On a related topic, President Spencer suggested that 2nd Vice President, Field Trips Chairman Reggie Rose, could use help in preparing specimen kits for schools. This topic, as well as that referenced in the preceding paragraph, will be further discussed at the next meeting, owing to time constraints.

Meeting adjourned 1:50 PM (Rose/Royal/P)

Program: Presentation- Geological History of Ohio by Dr. Dale Gnidovec, Collections Manager and Curator, Orton Geological Museum, followed by a tour of the museum's mineral collection and Mendenhall Hall.

Respectfully submitted by Frank Konieczki, Secretary pro tem'

Treasurers Report

2015 Wrap-up

We closed out 2015 with \$4092.81 in our treasury. This included \$860.00 in 2016 dues for 43 members. Significant items included \$717.00 that was raised by selling donated items at The Cincinnati Geo-Fair. Special thanks go to The Cincinnati Gem and Mineral Society for allowing this.



Randy Marsh designed and purchased a new banner and stand for \$88.73. There are still t-shirts available so if you would like to order any please contact Randy Marsh.

I need a volunteer to perform the annual audit of our financial records. It's not a difficult task and I can send you the required files and instructions via email. If you would like to volunteer, please contact me, Jeff Spencer at jspencer@jsite.com

2016 Activity

Since January 1st, 34 additional members have paid \$680.00 in dues. Thirty were repeat members and 4 new members registered. Of the 2015 membership, 37 have still not registered. Remember, if you have not registered at the time that a field trip is announced, you will not be eligible for that trip!

John Davis with the new banner at the Indianapolis Museum Geo-Fair

FM on the go.....

Field Trip Reports

Overview of 2016 Tucson Trip

Clyde and I arrived in Tucson on Monday, February 8 and stayed through the following Monday, February 15. In contrast to the cold and snowy conditions in the Midwest, the weather in Tucson was wonderful for our entire stay with daily highs in the mid 80's and endless sunshine.

On the afternoon of our arrival, we peeked into Westward Look to ogle specimens that most people can only dream of ever owning. We ran into an old acquaintance of Clyde's, Victor Yount, who had a wonderful collection of crystallized gold specimens from Pontes e Lacenda, Mato Grosso, Brazil. Below is a snapshot of one. Needless to say, we didn't purchase any.



On Tuesday, we headed out to some of the usual venues, including the Inn Suites and 22nd Street show. My overall impression was that there wasn't much new and exciting versus last year and that the prices had crept upwards. Like last year, I found the some deals with Chinese vendors who were willing to bargain. Tuesday afternoon was the FM General Membership meeting. There was considerable discussion about what we have been doing in the Midwest Chapter for collector-specific annual training to get the pink-piece-of-paper that most quarries are now requiring.

We headed to the University of Arizona Flandrau Science Center and Planetarium on Wednesday to view a special exhibit called *American Mineral Heritage: The Harvard Collection*. Exquisite specimens of fluorapatite, babingtonite, wulfenite, bornite and spangolite were on display, along with a case containing a wonderful collection of fluorescent minerals from the Franklin, NJ locality. Other highlights were gold specimens from the collection of A.C. Burrage and a case of minerals from the collection of A.F. Holden.



The TGMS show started up on Thursday and ran through Sunday. One thing was that noticeable was the encroachment of the jewelry dealings into the part of the convention center where the mineral vendors were located. Quite a few of the high-end dealers had booths set up at the show and were displaying some of the same content as the Westward Look show. While fun to look at, the prices were way out of reach for the average collector. Some of the other vendors had more reasonable prices on their specimens, although it seemed to me that prices were over inflated relative to what the specimens were worth. In my opinion, some of the best prices at the show were found at the booth of Larry Nuelle, President of the FM Mississippi Valley Chapter.



Quarry Travel & Event Guide

2016 Ohio MSHA Classes:

Richland County Library, Mansfield, OH

The 2016 Mansfield Minerals Collectors Hazard Class (MSHA) training class will be held on Thursday March 17, 2016. The start time is 10:00 am. The class will be at the library, 43 West Third Street, Mansfield, Ohio 44902. Please contact Bill Byrley (614-268-6828 - bbyrley@insight.rr.com) to attend.

Wittenberg University, Springfield, OH

Saturday, March 19, from 9:00 AM -2:00 PM in Room 262 at the Barbara Deer Kuss Science Center at Wittenberg University, 315 Bill Edwards Drive. The class will include specialized collector specific instruction from ODNR safety expert Scott Kell. Contact FM Program VP Randy Marsh (marsh.rg@pg.com; 513-515-7890) to attend.

ODNR, Columbus, Ohio

Friday March 25, 2015, from 8am – 4 pm at the ODNR, 2045 Morse Road, in Building E1 in the Assembly Center lecture room. The class will include specialized collector specific instruction from ODNR safety expert Scott Kell. Contact Field Trip Chairman Reggie Rose (captaino@core.com; 614-875-2675) to attend.

FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY MIDWEST CHAPTER 4th ANNUAL MINERALOGICAL SYMPOSIUM (SPONSORED BY THE KARL E. LIMPER GEOLOGY MUSEUM)



MIDWEST FLUORITES

		
White Rock Quarry, Clay Center, OH (1.5 in. H x 1.5 in. W x 1.5 in. D)	Auglaize Quarry, Junction, OH (2.5 in. H x 2 in. W x 1.75 in. D)	Minerva No. 1 Mine, Cave-in-Rock, IL (2.5 in H. x 4.5 in. W x 3.5 in. D)

DATE: Saturday March 12, 2016

TIME: 9:30 AM – 6:30 PM

LOCATION: Shideler Hall, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio

CONTACT: Randy Marsh, VP Programs, FM Midwest Chapter (marsh.rg@pg.com or 513-515-7890)

DETAILED AGENDA:

9:30-10:00	FM Midwest Chapter Meeting (open to all)
10:00-11:00	<i>Fluorite</i> – Arvid Pasto
11:00-12:00	<i>Midwest Fluorite</i> – Jeff Scovil
12:00-1:00	Lunch Break and Viewing Time for Specimens
1:00-1:30	<i>Fluorite in Mississippi Valley Type Deposits</i> – John Rakovan
1:30-2:00	<i>The Significance of Ultramafic Rocks Underlying the Illinois-Kentucky Fluorspar District</i> – Brett Denny



2:00-2:30	<i>Investigating the Nature of the Primary Ore Forming Fluids in the Illinois-Kentucky District – Stuart Kenderes</i>
2:30-2:45	Break
2:45-3:15	<i>Findlay Arch Fluorites – John Medici</i>
3:15-3:45	<i>The Many Faces of Midwest Fluorites – Nelson Shaffer</i>
3:45-4:15	<i>Crystallography of Fluorite – Pete Richards</i>
4:15-4:30	Break
4:30-5:00	<i>Fluorite Deposits of Kentucky – Alan Goldstein</i>
5:00-5:30	<i>Selecting Fluorite Specimens & Building a Fluorite Collection: A Mineral Collector's Perspective – Jim Gebel</i>
5:30-6:30	Tour of Facility and Viewing Time for Specimens

DIRECTIONS and PARKING: The Limper Geology Museum is located on the Miami University campus just inside the East and West entrances to Shideler Hall on the first floor. Shideler Hall is located west of the intersection of US Highway 27 and State Route 73. Parking on Saturday is free in the lot across from Shideler Hall (Cook Field Parking Lot on corner of 27 and 73). See map below.





GeoFair 2016

February 15, 2016

For Immediate Release

Contact: Greg Hand
GeoFairPublicity@Gmail.com
513-662-9171

Cincinnati's Largest Non-Profit Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Show
Saturday, April 30, and Sunday, May 1
Sharonville Convention Center

GeoFair, Cincinnati's Largest Non-Profit Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Show, will dazzle visitors from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Saturday, **April 30**, and 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sunday, **May 1**, at the Sharonville Convention Center 11355 Chester Road. The 51st annual GeoFair will highlight "Mineral and Fossil Collections in the American Midwest."

Admission to GeoFair is \$9 for adults and \$3 for children (uniformed Scouts enter at no charge). A two-day adult pass is available for \$12. (A coupon for \$2 off adult admission is offered for download at GeoFair.Com) Plentiful free parking is available at the Sharonville Convention Center.

More than 50 commercial vendors from as far away as Florida and Nevada offer stunning items for sale, ranging from curiosities costing mere pennies to museum-quality specimens costing thousands of dollars.

Family-friendly activities at this year's GeoFair. will include merit badge assistance for scouts, earth science games, gold panning, free mineral collections (for kids under 12), free fossils (for kids under 12), and free identification of your fossils, meteorites, minerals and gemstones.

Since 1965, GeoFair has introduced thousands of families to the pleasures of the earth sciences including collecting minerals and fossils, making jewelry and studying geology. Experts at GeoFair will identify any fossil or mineral specimens or any items of jewelry.. Dozens of displays showcase the rare "finds" of amateur collectors. GeoFair is produced by the Cincinnati Mineral Society and the Cincinnati Dry Dredgers, an association of amateur paleontologists.

For more information on GeoFair 2016, see our website at GeoFair.com



THE TUCSON GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY
PROUDLY PRESENTS:

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT: WWW.TGMS.ORG