

Friends of Mineralogy

**Midwest Chapter Newsletter for
July - August 2017**

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*There will be an FM National General Membership Meeting in September, as part
the Colorado Mineral and Fossil show.*



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.fommidwest.org

National Website:

www.friendsofmineralogy.org

On the Cover –

Fluorite Group 2017

Auglaize Quarry

Todd Rittenhouse

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THE MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA
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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.



Friends of Mineralogy

Midwest Chapter President – Ken Bladh

President's Message –

"To advance programs of mineral study and the educational activities of amateur groups."

Sound familiar? This is one of the expressed goals of our organization, both regionally and nationally. At the chapter meeting during the most recent Cincinnati *GeoFair*, conversations turned toward the current vitality of "teaching mineralogy" at the pre-college and undergraduate college levels. Many small geology departments have already cut back the amount of required and elective courses that were part of a traditional geological education two decades ago. Introductory mineralogy and optical mineralogy (polarized light microscopy) was a year-long sequence that was followed by a full semester or year of laboratory courses in the applications of mineralogy in petrography (typically thin section examination of rocks) or advanced instrumental techniques. In many undergraduate curricula the year-long introductory sequence is now a one-semester version of the year-long, two-course sequence with significantly less content and hands-on experience for the students trying to build their skills set. Early introduction of advanced instrumental techniques (e.g. scanning electron microscopy, IR spectroscopy, x-ray fluorescence chemical analysis) in undergraduate curricula has also displaced some traditional mineralogical content as a tradeoff for the valuable outcome of building early excitement for the power of these newer techniques to address important geologic questions – which now, more and more, are environmentally relevant questions.

One of the strategies suggested to address this reduction in curriculum was to support and encourage undergraduate students and their faculty mentors to undertake mineralogical research topics and present their results at symposia like ours. Students need experience giving presentations of their work and we learn new things about minerals from their presentations. The chapter might consider prizes awarded for the best student paper. By publishing abstracts on our website, we provide the student and mentoring faculty member some of the professional recognition of their work they deserve. The format for the next FM Midwest Symposium has been modified to make these kinds of presentations easier to accept and solicit. A decision about prizes has not been addressed yet.

Chapter officers have also discussed how to encourage and support hands-on educational activities for kids and amateur adults. I'd be interested to hear from all of you who are currently or have had experiences to share about how to accomplish these goals. None of us should stop learning, so let's not forget focused experiences for adults. Kids are naturally curious and eager to learn from engaging experiences. We should share our enthusiasm for mineralogy with them. I believe that one of the reasons, undergraduate college programs have decided to reduce their curricula in

mineralogy is that students have not had positive experiences with the earth sciences in primary and high schools. There are good teachers out there in the few districts that still include these topics in their curriculum. I would be happy, on your behalf, to enlist input from some of them if I receive names and addresses to contact. Could we direct our efforts toward extracurricular clubs or scouting groups more successfully than school districts perhaps already over-guided on curriculum by state and local boards? I would love to hear from some of you doing these kinds of educational outreaches now in your hometown or know someone who is doing it. Most districts are looking for qualified volunteers to supplement tax-supported programs. Do any of you think we have an opportunity to fill part of this gap if we get a bit more proactive? I don't have this experience personally, so am going to the membership for your wisdom and experience. I'll share feedback that I receive in a future newsletter.



A beautiful Marblehead quarry specimen from earlier this year – Mike Royal / Randy Marsh

Treasurer's Report – 2016 Annual Statement

Friends of Mineralogy Inc Midwest Chapter

<u>2016 Annual Financial Statement - 12/31/2016</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Notes</u>
2016 Dues Amt. Received in 2016	\$1,440.00	
<u>2017 Dues Amt. Received in 2016</u>	<u>\$740.00</u>	
Total Dues Amt. Received in 2016	\$2,180.00	
Symposium donations 2016	\$127.00	
<u>2017 symposium donations received in 2016</u>	<u>\$150.00</u>	
Total Symposium Donations	\$277.00	
Fund raising - Cincinnati Show swap table donations	\$393.00	
Agate association donation	\$325.00	
other donations	\$195.00	misc donations
<u>Dues overpayment</u>	<u>\$20.00</u>	overpayment, see refund below
Total Donations/other	\$1,210.00	
Total Dues and Donations	\$3,390.00	
Symposium expense - speaker-scovill-CMS	\$305.60	
Symposium expense - refreshments	\$135.90	
<u>Symposium expense - speakers, Pesto, Denny</u>	<u>\$200.00</u>	
Total Symposium expenses	\$641.50	
Swap table expense	\$37.00	
Dues Overpayment Refund	\$20.00	refund for overpayment
insurance payment	\$650.00	
<u>Website and domain hosting 2 years</u>	<u>\$166.42</u>	
National Dues payment 1	\$412.00	
National Dues payment 2	\$28.00	
National Dues payment 3 - uncashed	\$0.00	check for 12.00
<u>National Dues payment 4 -true up - uncashed</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	check for 38.00
Total National Dues Paid	\$440.00	owe 460 plus 30 from 2013
Total Disbursements	\$1,954.92	
2016 Surplus	\$1,435.08	
Beginning Account Balance	\$4,092.81	
Year-end Account Balance	\$5,527.89	
2017 Symposium Fund	\$150.00	ear-marked donations
2016 memberships paid in 2015	43	
2016 memberships paid in 2016	72	
2016 members	115	
2017 memberships deposited in 2016	37	
2017 Dues amt in ending balance	\$740.00	
Expense carry-over to 2017	\$50.00	Uncashed checks national dues carryover

Our current balance is \$5,647.01 (as of 6.18.17), and there are no outstanding items. *Jeff Spencer – Treasurer*



Friends of Mineralogy, Inc. Midwest Chapter
Meeting Minutes- May 6, 2017
Sharonville Convention Center, Sharonville, Ohio

Called to order - by President Kenneth Bladh at 4:37 PM, after declaring a quorum. The following officers were present: Kenneth Bladh, President; Randy Marsh, Vice President Programs; Jeff Spencer, Treasurer; Clyde Spencer, Liaison; Frank Konieczki, Secretary. Vice President Field Trips Reggie Rose was unable to attend. The meeting was held in conjunction with GeoFair, the Cincinnati Mineral Society's annual show. Ten members and three guests were present.

The following items/topics were presented and discussed:

1. President Bladh asked if any corrections to the March 11, 2017 meeting minutes were warranted. No changes to the minutes were proposed or adopted. A motion was requested and made to accept the minutes as published, and the motion was carried by unanimous consent (CSpencer/RMarsh/P).
2. A request for a motion to approve the meeting agenda was made, and the motion was proposed and passed without opposition (CSpencer/RMarsh/P).
3. A brief summary of the officers' meeting that was held after the Wittenberg safety training session was discussed. The first topic that was discussed was the geographic region that FoM Midwest represents, and what could be done to allow members from all areas to more fully participate in FoM events (see Treasurers' Report for further information regarding this topic). The other major topic of discussion was identifying what activities were perceived to be the most important to the members. The consensus was that field collecting was the activity that was primary focus of the majority of the members, and that the symposium was another event that was enjoyed by a substantial portion of the membership. The officers felt that providing a survey to the membership might be useful to assist in refining our mission, composition, and goals. Suggested items for the survey included, but were not limited to: what does Midwest mean; topics for the symposium; format for the symposium; and what can be done to expand the number of collecting sites. Note, there was a wide ranging discussion regarding these issues during the membership meeting, the discussions are summarized in Officers' Reports and New Business.

Officer Reports:

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Jeff Spencer advised those present that a detailed financial report was available in the May/June edition of the newsletter. We have gained four members, which brings the current membership total to 114. The 2017 symposium expenses have been paid. There has been over \$1,000 of income realized from fundraising this year, including over \$300 from the 2017 GeoFair. He stated that a review of our 2016 finances was still needed, and during the meeting, Greg Brown volunteered to conduct the audit.

Jeff presented a pair of slides that showed the geographic distribution of the current members. The highest concentration of members is in Ohio, and the heat map shows a nearly linear distribution from southwest to northeast (Cincinnati to Cleveland), with Cincinnati, Dayton, Columbus, and north central Ohio having the most members. There also are a significant number of members in southeast Michigan. There is less representation in the other states, especially in Iowa, Missouri, and Wisconsin. It was noted that Indiana formerly had many more members, but the number of Indiana members lessened after Nelson Schaffer and Bob Harmon stepped aside from leadership roles in FoM Midwest.

Vice President Programs Report: Randy Marsh indicated that the total income from GeoFair was \$335. He also indicated that the topic for the 2018 symposium had not been determined to date, and there was brief discussion about using Miami University as the symposium location for at least one more year. This led to extensive discussion about the symposium's format, as well as next year's subject(s). Randy indicated that having a specific topic, as in the recent past, would favor attendance by FoM members, but

having a more general topic might attract a wider audience. He noted that the symposium focusing on Midwest fluorite was better attended than this year's ZnS polymorphs symposium. Jeff Spencer suggested that expanding the scope of activities might make the event more socially attractive. He indicated that another silent auction and having dinner in conjunction with the symposium might be two things to consider. John Rakovan stated the symposium is good way to bring the academic and collecting communities together. He indicated that Miami University's involvement in the symposium presentations depends on the topics. Their involvement will be more pronounced if the topic is something their group is focused on. His suggestions included a technical session for students to generate student interest. Dr. Rakovan also graciously stated that FoM is welcome to continue using Miami as the symposium site. This led to discussion about a hybrid topic format, including both a general session, technical session, along with having a keynote speaker. President Bladh suggested this might work. Vice President Programs Marsh indicated this format would be more time and labor intensive. A suggestion was made to solicit involvement with Cincinnati to bring them into the fold. Subsequently, a motion was made to not have a specific topic for the 2018 symposium, and the motion was carried (CSpencer/JSpencer/P).

Vice President Field Trips Reggie Rose: President Bladh provided an update on field trips on Vice President Rose's behalf. The next scheduled field trip is scheduled for May 20, 2017 at Auglaize/Junction, OH, and there will also be trips to Great Lakes Aggregates in South Rockwood, MI in mid-July and Walworth, NY in mid- September.

Liaison Officer Report: Clyde Spencer reported that he and Randy went to GeoFest in February, and Clyde asked why collecting at Indiana sites, including IMI quarries, has been restricted. The answer was potential liability. Clyde also noted that the number of collectors at trips to Harding Street and Corydon quarries caused trepidation in IMI officials, and may have been a factor in their concerns about liability. Scott Kell has provided his training material to an IMI PR Director for review, and perhaps there may be a meeting with IMI representatives in June to discuss renewing collecting opportunities in Indiana. Clyde indicated that problems regarding restricted access are not limited to the Midwest Chapter, the president of the Mississippi Chapter told Clyde that many of the Missouri sites are now reclaimed, so their collecting trips are in Colorado this year.

New Business:

Liaison Clyde Spencer suggested that FoM Midwest might want to become involved in promoting geology and mineralogy at universities.

John Rakovan indicates there is currently increasing interest in economic geology. He also indicated that the best way to promote mineralogy is by providing collecting opportunities to youth and that providing collecting access and training should be one of our club's major goals.

President Bladh stated he will contact volunteers to form a subgroup that will consider the possibility of redefining the chapter boundaries and expanding the number of collecting sites.

Meeting adjourned: 5:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Frank Konieczki, Secretary



AUGLAIZE: FINALLY IT'S DISNEYLAND

If you grew up in the Midwest or more specifically in Ohio, for a summer treat you might get to go to a Reds or Indians game, King's Island or Cedar Point. But a trip that was out of reach was the trip of all trips - visiting the wonderful world of Disney at Disneyland or Disney World. Visiting these more local family entertainment venues was something you would not turn down, but they were not the lottery of vacations; they were not Disneyland. The summer before your ninth grade year, while you are still young enough to be interested, your parents surprise you with a trip to Disneyland.

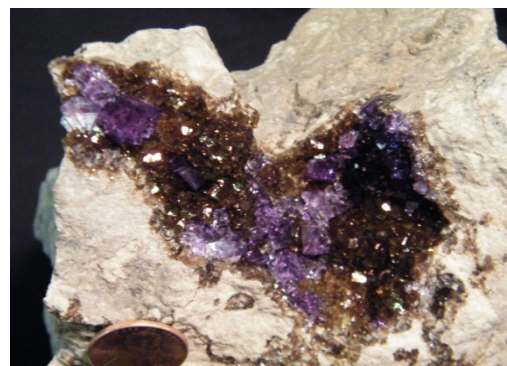
Well that's how Auglaize has been for many years, like a trip to a local amusement park. Auglaize has been OK, but not productive to fall into a Disneyland comparison . . . until this year.

The Auglaize Quarry has been reluctant to give up her specimens over the past ten years. When FM took 20 to 24 collectors there in years past, maybe one person would have an outstanding day with the rest of the group trying to find one specimen worth keeping. So, when 30 people signed up and another 12 were on a waiting list, I was afraid that many people would go home disappointed. A lot of our collectors found specimens to take home, but more importantly, what they took home this year was worth bragging about.

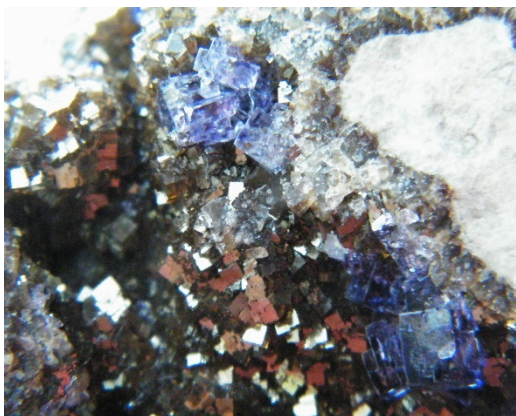
There were so many people finding worthwhile to dazzling specimens; it caught me by surprise and as a result, I wound up with so many photos that my notes have some gaps. So, if I misidentify the owner or crystal habit, please correct me. In writing this report, I found myself scratching my head hoping to come up with enough superlatives. Though it can be done, it makes the report seem patronizing to you, the collectors. But, if you had seen these specimens, you would agree that they all deserve such descriptions.

So, let us begin.

John Davis was able to extract several fluorites in matrix, and a very unusual and attractive calcite specimen showing intermediate crystal habit. Mike Royal discovered several fluorites but one specimen with both clear purple and iridescent brown cubes was a truly gorgeous catch of the day. Various members discovered and took home eye-popping iridescent fluorite pockets including John Medici, Pam Lauer, and most notably Lawrence Hull. We'll get to Lawrence in a minute. Another catch of the day was found by Mick Pinka who discovered a sphalerite-calcite specimen that was truly a dazzler.



Pam Lauer



John Medici

On Mick's specimen, several complex sphaerulitic fluorite crystals stood out in stark contrast to their calcite backdrop. Not to be left out in the cold, Jay Medici extracted a pocket in two pieces with both purple and brown iridescent fluorite and a large, well formed, white scalenohedral calcite crystal. Mike Scaglione came up with several specimens which held pockets of purple fluorite.

Now back to Lawrence Hull. A couple of years ago Lawrence missed a trip because while renovating a house he got stung in the eye by a bee. His eye was swollen shut, and he opted not to collect with "one eye closed". The following year he crushed his heel bones on the same renovation project when he fell off a scaffold. At the end of this trip, Lawrence worked his way over to see me and thanked me. I was then invited over to his truck to take

a picture. What I saw was a wondrous site. Lawrence happened upon a boulder that was loaded with iridescent brown fluorite pockets. He dissembled the rock and filled the back of his truck with specimens. Considering that his tough luck was causing him to miss trips, when I saw what he had found for the day, I thought "good for you Lawrence." The boulder that he took apart has to be the find of a lifetime. If anyone deserves to make such a huge find, it is Lawrence Hull. As with all of our FM members, it is a privilege to collect with you, and again "good for you Lawrence."

PENFIELD DRAWS A CROWD

The 2017 edition of the Penfield Open House on May 6, 2017, held by The Dolomite Group, a company of quarries in western New York and northeast Pennsylvania, did not disappoint those who made the journey. There were over 100 collectors in attendance. A small but merry band of five collectors from FMMW was greeted by gray skies and cool temperatures. It rained on the drive over, and on the way back to Ohio and Michigan, but Dr. Ernie put in a good word for us, and not one drop fell during the field trip. Besides this author, present were: Frank Konieczki (FM secretary), Scott Kell (our safety instructor), Jeff Schaumberg (new member) and Mike Royal (FM veteran). The day provided some noteworthy specimens. Both Frank and Scott found nice scalenohedral calcites in dolomite pockets. Mike Royal, as usual picked up a nice fluorite, a 1/2" cube with an unusual color, light tan with a splash of purple. The favorite specimen of my camera lens was also a Royal find, a sphalerite in dolomite specimen. The sphalerite was on the ruby Jack side on color and displayed a complex crystal habit.



Scott Kell



Mike Royal

Quarry Travel / Event Guide

JULY	TITLE: South Rockwood Field Trip DATE/TIME: Sat, Jul 15, 2017 LOCATION: South Rockwood, MI	3rd FM Field Trip (Not Confirmed)
	TITLE: Keweenaw Mineral Days DATE/TIME: Tue, July 18, 2017 through Sat, July 22, 2017 LOCATION: Michigan Technical University, Houghton, MI HOST: Ted Bornhorst (tjb@mtu.edu)	
AUGUST	TITLE: Michiana Annual Jewelry, Gem and Mineral Show and Sale DATE/TIME: Fri, August 18, 2017 through Sun, August 20, 2017 LOCATION: St. Joseph County 4-H Fairgrounds, South Bend, IN SPONSORED BY: Michiana Gem and Mineral Society	
	TITLE: Dallas Mineral Collecting Symposium DATE/TIME: Fri, August 25, 2017 through Sun, August 27, 2017 LOCATION: Eisemann Performing Arts Center, Dallas, TX	
	TITLE: Clay Center Field Trip – NOT CONFIRMED DATE/TIME: Sat, August 26, 2017 LOCATION: Clay Center, OH	Proposed 4th Field Trip NOT CONFIRMED
SEPTEMBER	TITLE: 41 st Annual Greater Indianapolis Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show DATE/TIME: Sep 8, 2017 10:00 AM – 7:00 PM to Sep 10, 2017 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM LOCATION: Hancock County 4-H Fairgrounds, Greenfield, Indiana HOST/COORDINATOR: Cheryl Hamilton (clhamilton1951@gmail.com)	
	TITLE: Colorado Mineral and Fossil Show (Fall) DATE/TIME: September 8, 2017 to September 16, 2017 LOCATION: Crowne Plaza Denver Airport Convention Center, Denver, Colorado MEETING INFO: TBD	FM National General Membership Meeting during Show



	TITLE: 19 th Annual Fall Indianapolis Bead, Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show DATE/TIME: September 29, 2017 to October 1, 2017 LOCATION: Indiana State Fairgrounds, Agriculture/Horticulture Bldg, Indianapolis, IN HOST/COORDINATOR: Van Wimmer (van@toteshow.com)	
OCTOBER	TITLE: 73 rd Greater Detroit Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show DATE/TIME: October 13, 2017 to October 15, 2017 LOCATION: South Macomb Community College Expo Center, Warren, MI HOST/COORDINATOR: Bob Nowakowski (rjn@rjnenv.com)	
	TITLE: Dolomite Group/Walworth Fieldtrip DATE/TIME: Oct 14, 2017 6:45 AM - 2:00 PM and Oct 15, 2017 6:45 AM - Noon LOCATION: Walworth, NY	Open House Field Trip (Multiple Clubs Participating)
	TITLE: Graymont Dolime Genoa Field Trip – NOT CONFIRMED DATE/TIME: October 21, 2017 8:30 AM – 1:00 PM LOCATION: Genoa, Ohio	Proposed 5 th Field Trip NOT CONFIRMED
NOVEMBER	TITLE: November Chapter Meeting with Elections DATE/TIME: TBD LOCATION: TBD	This is our November Chapter meeting with Elections NEED NEW LOCATION
	TITLE: OAIMA Trade Show DATE/TIME: November 9, 2017 and November 10, 2017 LOCATION: Hilton Columbus Hotel, Easton Town Center, Columbus, OH HOST/COORDINATOR: Pat Jacomet (patj@oaima.org) ACTIVITY: Booth	Have Not Confirmed Participation Yet