

***Midwest Chapter Newsletter
for July – August 2018***

***FRIENDS
OF
MINERALOGY***



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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 –

“Pyrite” – 5.9cm, Harding Street Quarry, Indianapolis Indiana

2010 - Jeff Spencer

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Fund Raising (Committee Chair) - Vacant

Affiliations:

THE MINERALOGICAL RECORD
THE MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA
AMERICAN GEOSCIENCES INSTITUTE
MINERALOGICAL ASSOCIATION OF CANADA
ROCKS & MINERALS MAGAZINE
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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@fommidwest.org

Hope your summer is going well. The collecting trip to the Auglaize quarry arranged by Reggie was fabulous. Great weather (dry and not too hot)! We had a full contingent of avid collectors and a gracious host. A few very nice fluorite groups in recrystallized stromatoporoid fossils were collected. Reggie has some good photos from the trip. See the field trip report on page 7. This was my first opportunity to join a Friends of Mineralogy Midwest collecting trip and hope to participate again as my schedule permits. Our safety training was evident in the careful and thoughtful pounding on boulders as big as cars and collecting prime fragments that I observed.

The pilot Friends of Mineralogy Midwest award for best educational mineral exhibit at the Cincinnati GeoFair was well received by the show host organizations. There were several good educational mineral exhibits considered by the judges (chapter officers available midday Saturday), who chose the exhibit by Terry Huizing on calcite twin laws. Some of you many have seen a version of this case at the 2017 Tucson Gem & Mineral Show with its theme on crystal morphology.



Another exhibit that caught the judges' attention at the Cincinnati Geofair was a display of a wide variety of mica specimens presented by Dr. John Rakovan of Miami University. Every specimen was of top quality and together the group covered the wide range of habits and colors of mica group species. Some I will admit that I had never seen before.



Please excuse the unavoidable reflections in the photo from the overhead lights in the exhibit hall.

The officers will consider the level of success of this new award and could use your input. After seeing these two examples of what this type of display can do for our hobby, would you have us continue it at GeoFair 2019 and elsewhere in our region? The individual responsible for the winning case also received \$100 and a certificate (thanks to Randy for overnight creation of the certificate). **I would greatly appreciate suggestions of other mineral shows in our region that attract educational display of this quality (email is fine).** I would also be interested if there are junior groups that could be encouraged to submit an educational display from their perspective.

Another very interesting case at the Cincinnati GeoFair asked the viewer to identify the Midwest locality for each numbered but unlabeled specimen. There was a typed sheet attached to the case with the answers. It was fun! Once again, excuse the reflections from the overhead lights. Even in this less than perfect photo, you probably can pick out the Corydon quarry dolomite, Pugh quarry calcite, Mershberger quarry calcite, Brushy Creek calcite with pyrite, and Schullsburg scepter calcite.

Officer Reports

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Jeff Spencer advised those present that the most recent financial report was available in the May/June edition of the newsletter. We have gained several new members, which brings the current membership total to 111. A donation of \$100 has been received, and this year's swap table proceeds were \$468. We still need an auditor to conduct the financial audit of fiscal year 2017 transactions. Greg Brown, who did the audit last year, will be contacted to see if he can do the audit. Secretary Frank Konieczki indicated he would conduct the audit if Greg Brown cannot.

Vice President Programs Report: Randy Marsh reported that the keynote speaker for the 2019 FoM Midwest Symposium will be Steve Chamberlin. Student speakers will also be scheduled. Vice President Marsh stated that efforts will be made to recruit student speakers from more schools than just Miami University.

Liaison Officer Report: Clyde Spencer reported that FoM member Kathy Bailey, who is also involved with the Dayton club, has made contact with the Williamsport quarry about the possibility of a field trip, but has not yet received an answer. Contact has also been made with the Harding Street operation, but the request for access was denied.

Liaison Spencer noted not all quarries require annual safety training, which is a requirement of MSHA Part 46. We (FoM) have required it for our field trips; however, the only training that is mandated for quarry guests is site training,

Old Business:

Those present discussed the possibility of conducting a survey to determine what other activities might be of interest to our members, and perhaps holding other events in conjunction with FoM business meetings to enhance members' interest and attendance (Secretary's note- see related information in New Business, Paragraph 2). No firm decision was reached as to the development of the survey.

New Business:

The location of the 2019 symposium was discussed. Miami University has been the host for past events, and Dr. John Rakovan has kindly offered to make Miami University's facilities available to FoM again next year, but there is the possibility of having the event at a different location. President Bladh offered that Miami has the advantage of having a nearby food court. After brief discussion, a motion was made to keep the symposium at Miami University for one more year (CSpencer/Konieczki/P).

There was discussion about the location of the November annual business meeting. The FoM Midwest annual business meeting had been held for several years in conjunction with the Cleveland Micromineral Symposium at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History; however, museum renovations made the location unavailable. Last year's micromineral event was held at a retirement home. The possibility of having a FoM micromineral event was also suggested. Vice President Programs Randy Marsh suggested contacting Janet Clifford, and President Bladh then suggested getting more information, so Ken and Randy will investigate to obtain further information.

The subject of guests attending FoM field trips had been extensively discussed by the officers prior to the meeting, and also during the meeting. The current language in the Bylaws restricts attendance at field trips by any guests to a single trip by a prospective member. This offers little flexibility with regard to having a special guest, such as the FoM National President, attend a field trip. The Bylaws would have to be amended to allow it. Treasurer Jeff Spencer offered that there are field trip guidelines on our website. That would be the natural place to identify any requirements or guidelines regarding field trips, and that the language in the Bylaws could be eliminated. Those present at the meeting agreed that the language in the Bylaws (Article II, Section 2) regarding field trips should be eliminated. Resultantly, a motion was made to remove field trip requirement information from the Friends of Mineralogy- Midwest Chapter Bylaws (JSpencer/CSpencer/P), and motion was unanimously carried. Secretary Konieczki noted that FOM Midwest Constitution requires any proposed changes to the Bylaws be published, and then voted on in the next business meeting after publication. A simple majority of a present quorum at the meeting is required for the amendment to pass.

For the Good of the Order: No comments were offered.

Meeting adjourned: 5:28 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Frank Konieczki, Secretary



AUGLAIZE WAS CHILLY BUT FM COLLECTORS WERE HOT

Thermal underwear in May? Are you kidding me? Actually, we who are cold weather wimps had them on. It was 80 degrees in central Ohio on May 12, the day of the trip, but the field trip was not in central Ohio. At the quarry, it was chilly and breezy; we started the day in the 40s. Though the temperature was cool, the FM collectors were not. We had quite a few collectors do well, and the group was well behaved. We looked like the “top notch” group that we are. And speaking of top notch, we had a past president (Clyde Spencer) and current president (Ken Bladh) both there. In fact, all the FM officers were there except for one. We also had a full boat load of collectors, the maximum allowed by the quarry.

With a large group present, it is impossible to visit everyone to see what they collected, but I did capture images of a few eye openers that our skilled roster discovered. To open the specimen review, our newsletter editor

Tom Bolka (Xenia, OH) had a nice day finding boulders, one bearing purple fluorite, and the other brown fluorite. Mike Scaglione (Streetsboro, OH) chipped in with a nice dark purple fluorite specimen.

Three of the four collectors featured in this report are long-time FM members. We did have one new member represent himself well. He is unique as a new FM member in several ways. First, he has a name that reflects intelligence. His name is Paul Scholar (and he is super smart). Second, to prove that he has mental acumen, he received a bachelor's degree from Clarion College in PA, and now is in pursuit of a geology masters degree at Case Western Reserve. The third fact that makes Paul unique to us is that he is from (Marienville) Pennsylvania. He's one of only two members from the Keystone state on our roster. The fourth factor that makes Paul unique to our membership is that Paul is young, most of us are not. Paul found an impressive triple combo specimen with both purple and brown fluorite with calcite.

As many of you know, Auglaize can be stingy with its specimens. In a large group, many collectors can have a sub-par day. This year was unusual because we had quite a few people do well. Mixed in with the sub-par days, occasionally, but not every year, someone hits a “mother lode” of fluorite. In years past, we have seen Lawrence Hull, Joe Vasichko and Alan Dewitt have big days. By a big day, I mean hauling in enough specimens to fill the trunk of your car. This year we had one collector have such a trunk-filler kind a day, and that person is none other than our safety instructor, Scott Kell (Columbus, OH). Scott hit two pockets and took home many nice specimens, including purple and iridescent fluorites. At the trip's end, I took a picture of Scott with our host Todd Rittenhouse with his largest basketball-sized iridescent pocket. In reflection, in the picture with Todd, Scott looked about as happy as a 14 year old kid who just shot a buck on his first deer hunting trip. But that's what minerals do, their beauty captures our interest and when we find something special, makes giddy children out of us all.



Scott Kell



Paul Scholar



The FM swap table at the CMS Geofair