

**FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY, INC
MIDWEST CHAPTER**



AFFILIATIONS:

THE MINERALOGICAL RECORD
THE MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA
AMERICAN GEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE
ROCKS & MINERALS MAGAZINE

NEXT MEETING

Saturday, June 27, 2009, 1:00 PM
Monroe County Fairgrounds,
Airport Rd & Hwy 45
Bloomington, Indiana
Speaker: Joseph Boyd, GG



**JULY - AUGUST
2009**



**FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY, INC
MIDWEST CHAPTER
JOHN BLUE, EDITOR
16155 SHURMER RD
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FIRST CLASS

**FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY
MIDWEST CHAPTER**

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AMERICAN GEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE
THE MINERALOGICAL RECORD
THE MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA
ROCKS & MINERALS MAGAZINE**

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our first spring field trip to Auglaize Quarry in Ohio has taken place. The weather was accommodating and attendance was good with about 40 of our members collecting. I would say that collecting was fair. While several folks found high quality specimens, most did not. Now, my threshold for quality is quite high and other's quality thresholds vary so I won't make any further value judgments, but stick with my personal assessment that "collecting was fair".

It was nice to see the large turn out and all the faces recognized from times past. What interested me though were the folks that I did NOT recognize. All attendees should, of course, be FoM members or invited guests

Pres Message (Cont'd)

and have their MSHA certificates with them. It is interesting how many attend field trips and how few attend FoM meetings, even when present at the accompanying mineral show. It is interesting how many attend field trips and how few ever have volunteered to present a short program at a FoM meeting. And it is interesting how many attend the field trips and how few are willing to work to make the chapter field trips etc. Possible!

I will review the list of field trip attendees and cross reference with current FoM membership lists. And at the Salem trip in June we will be required to show our current MSHA certificates. Where I am going with all this is simply that: 1. If anyone does have an accident, it will "screw us all", if they are not in compliance with all our rules and; 2. Do as JFK said.....Ask not what your club can do for you, but what you can do for your club. See you soon and good hunting.

MINUTES OF MEETING, SATURDAY, MAY 2, 2009

The meeting of the Midwest Chapter of Friends of Mineralogy was called to order by president Bob Harman at 4:30 PM on Saturday, May 2, 2009, in the lecture room at the Cincinnati Gardens, during the annual show put on there by the Cincinnati Mineral Society and the Dry Dredgers (a fossil club). In addition to Bob, 18 other members were present. Because there has not been a newsletter since the last meeting, at Richmond, Indiana, the minutes of that meeting will be brought up at the next meeting, when members will have read them. Treasurer Len Gritzer presented a report which showed that after a memorial donation for Dee Slater to the AFMS Scholarship Fund, and the payment of the chapter's dues to the national organization, we have a balance of \$3,483.83. The report was filed for audit. Len noted that his name is pronounced with a long "i". Several individuals had requested membership applications, and Bob asked for copies to give out. Dave Straw, Past President, said he would send them, and the new member packet, to both Bob and Len.

Nelson Shaffer, Vice President for Programs, was not present (he came to the show the next day), but had submitted a report which stated that there will be a meeting at the Marion, Kentucky show June 5-8, and he hopes to have a program on the area's fluorites for it. The following meeting will be at Bloomington, Indiana, at their swap, with no program. There may be a September meeting and program, but its location is not yet settled; it may be free-standing rather than in conjunction with a show.

Ernie Carlson, Vice President for Field Trips, was present, and spoke of the trip to Auglaize Quarry the following weekend (May 9), one to Salem, IN on June 13, and maybe one later to Sylvania. Dave Straw raised the question as to whether payment of a small fee by each attendee would help to open other quarries. Ernie felt that it probably would not. Safety Training is needed for all of these. Another session of the training will be in Indiana in August. A trip to Genoa will probably be in August or September; no training is needed for it, nor for one to the Huron River in mid-July. Contact Ernie if you are interested in going on any of these.

Paul Schwinn, Ways and Means Chair, noted that in the past he has sold donated specimens at shows, however, he now is working for himself, and his time is more limited. He can sell some donated pieces, or give them to someone else to sell. There was a motion to let Paul do either or both of these options; motion passed.

Bob noted that he had a display of geodes at the Indiana State Museum, which will be there until the end of May.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Anne Cook, Secretary

MOTORISTS WARNED TO LEAVE ROADSIDE ROCKS ALONE

State officials say collecting rocks along highways is dangerous and illegal

By Mike Leonard
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It's a scene that's been witnessed by most people who drive on southern Indiana highways such as Ind. 37 or Ind. 446. You see a car or truck parked on the shoulder of the road and people who have hiked up the cut-out through the high limestone cliffs, looking for collectable rocks.

Maybe you've asked yourself: Is that legal? Is it safe? The answer to both questions is a resounding no. But whether these scofflaws who collect rocks for fun or profit will ever be called to justice is another matter.

The legal issue is clear. "We do not allow people to pick up that material along the right-of-way. That is state property and we own that right-of-way. It's the personal property of the State of Indiana," Indiana Department of Transportation spokeswoman Cher Goodwin said last week. "When you're talking about those areas, there is not a lot of shoulder there, so there's a safety issue involved as well," she added. "It's just not safe for the motorists who are parked there or the motorists driving along those roads."

Indiana State Police spokesman, Sgt. Curt Durnil, is more blunt. "It is illegal and it is very dangerous," he wrote in a recent e-mail exchange. Durnil said taking the rock is theft of state property, a Class D felony and a jailable offense. Parking on the shoulder of the road in a non-emergency situation is illegal parking and hauling an unsecured or poorly secured load of rock is a traffic violation as well. While fee structures vary from county to county, each of the latter two violations, if cited, would cost a person \$121.50 in Monroe County (a \$7 fine and \$114.50 in court costs).

Geologists and quarry operators say that rock harvesting in such a situation is far more dangerous than a typical person might realize and that they never go into hilly areas with loose rock without hard hats and steel-toed shoes. Even small rocks tumbling down a hillside can break a foot or other limb, and a rolling boulder no larger than a bowling ball could kill a person.

Similarly, rocks or boulders falling from a truck or trailer, or a shifting load, could easily cause a serious or even fatal highway accident.

The problem, from a public safety point of view, is one of enforcement. Goodwin said INDOT does not have a policing division, and so arrests for theft or illegal parking would have to be done by law enforcement agencies. "We have so many other pressing responsibilities that it's hard to have the manpower to cover this kind of thing," said Capt. Terry Hyndman, a Department of Natural Resources conservation officer. "It is illegal. It's theft, whether it's state property or private property. "And I hear different points of view on this," he continued. "Some people say, hey, we're doing the state a favor by picking up these loose rocks before they tumble down on the highway. In the end, it is illegal and it is, no doubt, dangerous. But, say, someone calls us up on Memorial Day weekend and we have to patrol a busy Lake Monroe and filled campgrounds, and they're reporting three or four vehicles parked illegally along Ind. 37 — I can't justify pulling someone off the lake to go check out something like that," he said.

That doesn't mean that enforcement doesn't ever happen, or won't happen in the future. State police public information officer David Bursten said that about three years ago, he "rolled up" on a vehicle that he thought was disabled and discovered that the motorist was loading up her vehicle with INDOT rocks she was going to use

Roadside Collecting (Cont'd)

for landscaping. Bursten was carrying news media with him at the time, so he called for an on-duty patrol car, the woman was arrested for theft and her car was impounded.

Durnil indicated that, manpower issues aside, the state police are committed to law enforcement. "If motorists observe any of these illegal activities, contact the Indiana State Police Post at 812-332-4411," he wrote. "Be ready to give a description and direction of the vehicle and its occupants, or be able to give the location of where the activity is taking place."

Submitted by Bob Harman

MINUTES OF RICHMOND INDIANA MEETING, MARCH 8, 2009

President Bob Harman called the meeting to order in Richmond, Indiana at the show of the Eastern Indiana Gem and Mineral Society. Present were 8 members and one guest, Donald "Ed" Goodman. A report sent by the new Treasurer, Len Gritzer, showed a balance of \$3,714.88. For those who need to contact Len, the address is P.O. Box 22501, Indianapolis, IN 46222. Bob will mail applications with the new address to possible Members.

Nelson Schaffer, Vice President for Programs, reported a trip on April 18 to three quarries. Contact him if interested in going. Future meetings will be on May 2 at the Cincinnati Mineral Society show, Cincinnati Gardens, and June 6 at the Clement Museum, to which the Mississippi Valley chapter is invited. Also probably at the end of June at the Bloomington, Indiana, Swap. A possible meeting at Miami University was mentioned, for Sept. 26 or 27, with a discussion and talk about mineral evolution on Sept. 24 or 25. The final meeting of the year will be on November 7 at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, in conjunction with the annual micro-mineral symposium.

The business meeting was adjourned, and Terry Huizing gave a talk on his trip to China, showing both minerals and scenery.

Anne Cook, Secretary

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Midwest Chapter, Friends of Mineralogy, will be on Saturday, June 27, 2009, 1:00 PM, at the Monroe County Fairgrounds, Bloomington, Indiana. This is the site of the annual swap and show hosted by the Lawrence County Rock Club. It runs Friday, June 26 thru Sunday, June 27. Tables are available for those interested.

Our meeting will feature a talk by Joseph Boyd, Graduate Gemologist, of Bloomington. He will speak on appraisal techniques and procedures. His information will be applicable to collections in general.

The Monroe County Fairgrounds are located west of Bloomington on Airport Road and Hwy 45.

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

CAREER POSITION

Wanted: Chairperson, MicroMounts Committee, Midwest Federation of Mineralogical & Geological Societies. The Chair is a member of the Executive Committee of the MWF and is appointed for a 3 year term. The committee is charged with promoting interest in micro-mineral specimen collecting & micromounting within the MWF and will establish study groups, demonstrate, and promote seminars at club shows and MWF Conventions.

Current Chairman, Bob Beauvais, Granville, Michigan is stepping down November 1 after 10+ years of service. Our thanks to Bob for his service.

If interested and willing to serve, contact Rose Blue, MWF President, 440-238-4412 or jblue@n2net.net or Judith Washburn, MWF 1st Vice President, 217-498-7713 or jrwashburn1@msn.com.

SALEM, INDIANA FIELD TRIP

Editor's Note: Although I did not participate in the recent field trip, I am able to write a brief report on it because two attendees displayed their specimens at a recent meeting of the Mineralogical Society of Cleveland. Just think what better information could have been provided by a participant!

Recent heavy rains flooded portions of the quarry, but collecting in exposed areas was quite good. Quartz lined geodes were found, however, many were embedded in hard limestone and/or dolostone and difficult to extract. Also found were calcites and celestine in cavities. Massive sphalerite could be found and a few distinct crystals were collected. All in all it was reportedly a productive collecting trip.. Our thanks to the organizers.

ANOTHER INTERNET JOKE?

Three guys; a Canadian, Osama bin Laden, and Uncle Sam are out walking together one day. They come across a lantern and a Genie pops out of it.

"I'll give each of you one wish, that's three wishes total," says the Genie.

The Canadian says, "I am a farmer, my dad was a farmer and my won will also farm. I want the land to be forever fertile in Canada". With a blink of the Genie's eye, "Poof", the land in Canada was forever made fertile for farming.

Osama bin Laden was amazed, so he said, "I want a wall around Afghanistan so that no infidels, Jews, or Americans can come into our precious state." Again, with the blink of the Genie's eye, "Poof" there was a huge wall around Afghanistan.

Uncle Sam (a former Civil Engineer) asks, "I'm very curious. Please tell me more about this wall."

The Genie explains "Well it's about 15,000 feet high, 500 feet thick and completely surrounds the country. Nothing can get in or out - virtually impenetrable."

Uncle Sam says, "Fill it with water"

Oh Yeah! The above is preventable with your submissions