



NEWSLETTER

of the **MIDWEST CHAPTER, FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY, INC.**

Volume VIII: No. 1

February 28 1994

PRESPROSE :

THE SUN IS SHINING AND THE SNOW IS MELTING! SPRING CAN'T BE FAR AWAY. I am very sorry that I was unable to attend the January meeting. Terry Huizing presented some of his lovely slides of minerals from the midwest and was very well received by those lucky enough to be present.

My pulmonary emboli seem to have disappeared so I am ready to join you all at our next meeting. As has been the case for several years, we will meet in March at the Eastern Indiana Gem & Mineral Show in Richmond, IN. They put on a great show and start us all thinking about the Spring collecting season. If you can, plan to be there on Saturday afternoon for our talk and meeting.

Speaking of collecting, Mike Davis would welcome any information you are willing to offer regarding opportunities for collecting trips. Please call him at 513/923-1650 if you have a suggestion, or if you know of any places that have yielded good specimens recently.

The speaker at our next meeting is none other than yours truly. I'll be describing and demonstrating the use of a spectroscope that uses a carbon arc to vaporize a powdered mineral sample.

The atoms of the mineral get so hot their electrons jump to higher energy states. The electrons eventually return to their orbits, giving up the energy that had knocked them loose. Much of this energy is visible light and the colors of light correspond to the amount of energy given up.

Each element produces distinctive colors in this way. By comparing the colors given off by a sample with charts in the spectroscope that show the lines of different colors produced by known elements, one may identify the elements in the sample and use this knowledge, together with other physical properties of the mineral, to identify the mineral.

At the business meeting that follows my demonstration we will continue the discussion on the topic of using some of our club funds for educational activities (see the minutes of the January meeting, next page). Please come to the meeting; we need your views on this subject.

Cheers! Hal Roepke, Pres. '94

FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY
MIDWEST CHAPTER
MARCH 12th, 1994
Eastern Indiana Gem & Mineral
Show

Speaker: HAL ROEPKE
"THE VREELAND SPECTROSCOPE - ITS
USE IN MINERAL IDENTIFICATION"

Purposes of the Midwest Chapter - Friends of Mineralogy:

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.

MINUTES of MEETING - JANUARY 9TH, 1994

Eighteen lucky people were present for a great talk by Terry Huizing and all appreciated lovely slides of "Minerals of the Midwest", which he limited to Ohio, Indiana and Illinois.

Due to the absence of our President, the Vice-President for Programs, Al Sicree, presided at a short meeting. Minutes were approved as printed in the December Newsletter. The Treasurer reported that the bank balance is \$670.72.

A discussion was held concerning possible educational expenditures. Suggestions included:

1. Sponsor a symposium
2. Sponsor a speaker at the opening of the new Falls of the Ohio Center
3. Purchase geodes for our display at future Shows
4. Purchase books for use at the Indiana State Museum
5. Purchase videos for University use.

It was agreed that the final decision be postponed until other suggestions and opinions could come in from our members.

The Indiana Minerals book is progressing. It will have lots of color photos, be hard-backed and will probably be out in 1996.

Nelson Shaffer will be attending the National FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY meeting in Tucson. Nelson asked for any information our members have on biological inclusions in minerals, or samples thereof, for a paper he is writing.

The Cincinnati Mineralogical Society meeting on March 11th will have Dr. Stephen Chamberlain as speaker. Dr. Chamberlain has collected mineral samples from the Mid-Atlantic Ridge via a submersible!

Hal Roepke will be the speaker for OUR March meeting. We are still hunting for a speaker for June at Bloomington, IN.

Meeting adjourned at 2:00pm. Sylvia Sicree, Secretary/Treasurer

Please bring Midwest GEODES (that you are willing to lend for our club display) to the next meeting or send to one of the officers. We want to have the display ready for the Cincinnati Show.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS - 1994

- MARCH 12, 1994, 4:00pm MEETING, FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY - MIDWEST. HAL ROEPKE: "Using the Vreeland Spectroscope in Mineral Identification: a Demonstration". Eastern Indiana Gem & Mineral Show, Richmond, Indiana.
- MARCH 12-13, 1994, EASTERN INDIANA GEM & MINERAL SHOW, 4-H FAIRGROUND, RICHMOND, INDIANA
- MARCH 24-26, 1994. IUPUI GEOLOGY DEPARTMENT'S "DINO FEST". A "Dino Feast" will be at 7:00pm, March 25. Call 317/274-7484 for more information.
- APRIL 30, 1994, 3:00pm MEETING, FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY - MIDWEST. DR. TERRY WALLACE "Earthquakes! When Is The Next Big One?" Cincinnati Gem & Mineral Show. A brief business meeting will follow.
- APRIL 30 - MAY 1, 1994 CINCINNATI GEM & MINERAL SHOW, CINCINNATI GARDENS, CINCINNATI, OHIO