



## NEWSLETTER

VOLUME X: No. 5

AUGUST, 1996

### MIDWEST CHAPTER, FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY

#### MEETING

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1996

4:00 PM

500 EARTH SCIENCES GEM & MINERAL SHOW

PROGRAM: TUCSON '96 - FRED LEWIS

#### PRESIDENT'S PATTTER

Hot! Hot! Hot! - is the only way to describe the weather for the Bloomington Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show, June 21st, 22nd and 23rd.

The weather was not the only thing hot, according to some of the exhibitors and dealers I spoke with on Saturday. Apparently the management failed to have the buildings cleaned out following the Auto Show they held during the first part of the week. The showers were out of commission and our normal air-conditioned meeting room had been rented for a wedding party. Our meeting had to be held in the Community Center Hall with a fan for air circulation. All this greeted the Show Committee when they arrived for the Friday setup. Not a good way to start a show even under pleasant weather conditions.

Did you see the article in the August issue of Earth Magazine on the new mineral from Morocco? First mistaken for lapis lazuli, a 15 year search revealed they have a new unknown mineral. The specimen is now on display in the Natural History Museum in London, England. Anna Grayson, the geologist who purchased the specimen in Morocco is trying to raise funds for an expedition to search for the location of this unusual mineral.

The August issue of Earth Magazine also contained an excellent article on Witwatersand gold in South Africa. Gold was first discovered in 1886. In the 110 years following the discovery 98% of gold has come from the Witwatersand desposits. At its peak in 1972, South Africa produced 64.4% of the world's gold. The mines have produced 45,000 tons of gold and today produces only 27% of the World's requirements as the deposits have played out.

Our September meeting at the 500 Earth Science Gem and Mineral Show in Greenfield is important to us. We must choose a nominating committee to present a slate of officers at our November annual meeting at the Indiana State Museum.

See all of you at Greenfield.

MINUTES OF THE MIDWEST CHAPTER, FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY  
MEETING, BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA JUNE 22, 1996

The June meeting was held in conjunction with the annual Lawrence County Mineral, Fossil, and Gem show, held at the Monroe County (IN) Fairgrounds. The show was bigger and better than ever before. It seemed like the indoor and outdoor tables of dealers went on forever. It was the largest show the Bedford club has put on. It was also one of the hottest shows in many years, with temperatures in the nineties.

The Friends of Mineralogy meeting was brought to order by Fred Lewis. Please note a correction to the minutes of the May meeting. The speaker at the Cincinnati, OH meeting was famed mineral photographer Jeffery Scovil, who is not affiliated with the Arizona Desert Museum as stated. Pat Westby announced she has arranged a fieldtrip to the Bluffton (Ohio) Quarry for July 13, 1996. Earlier collecting trips to Maybee, MI, Lime City, OH, and Cave-in-Rock, IL were reviewed. The program was a slide show of crystals, crystal twins, crystal pseudomorphs, and other crystalline mineral oddities.

Thank You, Pat Westby for the fieldtrips and program.

A treasurers report through the end of June is presented here. The Midwest Chapter has \$1116.15 in the bank, and 58 paid members.

Submitted by Kim Greeman, Secretary/Treasurer.

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1996 DUES ARE PAST DUE

To join the MIDWEST CHAPTER of the FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY, send your dues to Kim Greeman, 6447 Lafayette Road, Indianapolis, IN 46278-1803. Annual dues are \$15.00 for the first family member, and \$8.00 for each additional family member (at the same mailing address).

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FIELD TRIPS

Pat Westby reported that the three club members who showed up for the 13 July trip to the quarry at Bluffton, Ohio, were rewarded with some very good specimens of *Ruby Red Sphalerite*.

Pat has field collecting trips scheduled for the following dates: Sept. 21; Oct. 5; Oct. 12; Oct. 26; Nov. 2; and Nov. 23.

The specific venue for each of these dates will depend on recent blasting activities there as well as accessibility to the quarry as verified by Pat within a week of the scheduled date. Please call Pat at (513)299-8128 from 7 to 10 pm on the Wednesday evening prior to the scheduled date for details.