



# FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY, INC. MIDWEST CHAPTER

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Rocks & Minerals

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2004, 12:00 Noon (EST)**

In Conjunction with 500 EARTH SCIENCES CLUB

GEM, MINERAL, FOSSIL SHOW & SWAP

Hancock County 4-H Fairgrounds

**GREENFIELD, INDIANA**

## YOUR PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings! Hope your summer has been enjoyable. My apologies for canceling the Maumee trip on August 21. It turns out that Garry Getz no longer works for Shelly Materials and thus we lost a valuable liaison to Shelly quarries. I had talked to Garry on the 16<sup>th</sup> and so the job change was quite sudden.

Our next meeting is at Greenfield on Saturday, September 11 at noon Indiana time. Thanks to the efforts of the Edington's we will operate a silent auction again at Greenfield, one or two on Friday afternoon, beginning at 4:00 p.m. and one on Saturday at 10:00 a.m. Marlene Edington will run the Friday auctions and Paul Schwin the Saturday one. Both Marlene and Paul can use help at the table so PLEASE stop by and offer your services. We also need donations of material to auction so bring your seconds with minimum bids and locations, if known. The auctions at Bloomington were quite successful and we added \$187.10 to our treasury. Special thanks are due to those that helped operate the tables and brought in specimens.

Election time for Midwest FoM is fast approaching and a slate of officers will be presented at our meeting on November 6 at the Micromineral Symposium in Cleveland. The best way to make a change is to get involved. Let me know by email or phone if you would like to run for office.

Alan Goldstein will not be at Greenfield, but I will have an update on the Fluorspar Symposium at that time. By the way, when you make reservations at the Relax Inn, Kuttawa, Kentucky, be sure to ask for the special rate quoted from their motel web site (it is posted on our Registration Form.) Unfortunately, the Hastie Quarry has been removed from the field agenda due to MSHA regulations. The present schedule of events is as follows:

Friday evening: Reception at the Ben Clement Mineral Museum, Marion, Kentucky.

Saturday (Illinois): Hastie's/Ozark-Mahoning Mill; American Fluorite Museum; Ore stock pile/O-M dumps in Rosiclaire; Heavy Media Mill; lunch; Annabelle Lee mine.

Saturday Evening: Dinner and speaker program at Fohs Hall, Marion, Kentucky, includes – Alan Goldstein—Minerals of the Fluorspar District; Brett Denny – Geology of the Fluorspar District, and Boyce Moody – Fluorspar mining in Kentucky.

Sunday (Kentucky): Hutson Mine; Lafayette Mine; Columbia Mine; lunch; Old Jim Mine.

We presently have twenty-six enthusiastic people signed up so there is room for four more attendees. If interested let me know, first come, first served.

See you in Greenfield!

ERNIE CARLSON, President, [ecarlson@kent.edu](mailto:ecarlson@kent.edu)

330-672-3778 (office) 330-678-8875 (home)



Editor's Note: Some interesting to and from e-mails came to my attention recently and thought you might like to read about it.

1<sup>st</sup> member: I took some friends geode hunting over the weekend. Good picking, many are hollow and even rattle when you shake them. The rattle is loose doubly terminated quartz xls. Loose xls range from 4mm to 20mm.

Maybe I should take FOM out for the day.

(Note: There was a photo with the text showing the large geodes and a couple of strange looking ones.)

2<sup>nd</sup> member: Love your pictures of the geodes and especially the green ones on the right hand side of the picture. I think you may have made a new discovery and guess we'll soon see a write-up about it in MR.

P.S. Would you consider sharing the large green geodes?

2<sup>nd</sup> member: Did you decide what to do with those green geodes?

1<sup>st</sup> member: Green Geodes were red on inside, stained by iron oxide I guess. Numerous small black xls were found inside when cut open. Small black xls are probably seedites, which are not rare, but have a nice doubly terminated form, no twins noted. Unfortunately, during the separation of seedites from the iron oxide mass, all were spit out, and not retained.

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CLOSE ENCOUNTERS FROM OUTER SPACE

By Nelson R. Shaffer, IGS

Oswego, Indiana—March 9, 1882. Several men riding home through a heavy snowstorm last night were startled as a bright light born down on them with incredible speed. It was accompanied by a rushing or roaring sound and had the cherry red color of molten iron, so bright that it lit the entire neighborhood as clearly as brightest day. When directly overhead it exploded with a tremendous blast that broke nearby windows and was heard clearly at Warsaw 11 miles away.

The mystery begins—read more in *Indiana Meteorites—Close Encounters from Outer Space* as it appeared in *Outdoor Indiana*, Vol. 43, No. June 1978.

## COLLECTING AT CORYDON

By Dennis W. Haas

On July 10<sup>th</sup>, the Midwest Chapter of Friends of Mineralogy organized a field trip to a quarry near Corydon, Indiana, Corydon Stone and Asphalt. I read that the Corydon Quarry is a classic Midwest locality for saddle back dolomite and was there one back in 1994 when the Midwest Chapter ran a field trip so I had some idea what to expect. Ever since then, I have always wanted to return. I had been told that the quarry was closed to collecting for years and a new owner had only recently been letting groups come in. So, when the latest newsletter of the Midwest Chapter of Friends of Mineralogy came in the mail, I was delighted to hear of the planned field trip. But, it was limited to 15, no one under 18, hard hat, steel toed shoes and other requirements. Also, the quarry only allowed collecting from 8 to noon on Saturday. Luckily I was able to get on the list since it quickly filled up.

Before going on the trip I did some searching on the internet for information on Corydon. Not a lot has been written about the mineralogy found at the quarry. There is a short description of Corydon in an old issue of *Rocks and Minerals, Indiana Minerals*, a locality index, Volume 61, No. 3 May/June 1986. The article had a few photos of the calcites and dolomites from the quarry, but a good source of information was the web page [Mindat.org](http://Mindat.org). They listed 14 minerals found at Corydon: Aragonite, barite, calcite, chalcopryrite, dolomite, fluorite, glauconite, malachite, marcasite, millerite, pyrite, quartz, sphalerite and strontianite. Also posted a message on their message board about the planned field trip and a few days later there were replies from several with some good advice.

The saddle back dolomite is what you find the most in the vugs. The dolomite occurs in the St. Genevieve Limestone of Mississippian age. The quarry exposes three formations—St. Louis, St. Genevieve and the Paoli.

The quarry is located not far from I-64 so it was easy to find and almost all of the drive was on

interstate highways. When I arrived at the quarry, I spent some time talking with other members of the chapter about Corydon. Everyone was excited about the chance to go into the quarry since it was closed in 1999 to collecting. And, of how it may be closed again if the new owners have any problems.

We signed the release form and the group entered at 8 am. I had a few photos from the field trip back in 1994 and when a worker led the group into the main quarry I could see how huge the quarry had become. They took the convoy of cars and trucks to the second to lowest level and we were allowed to start collecting. Since we had to be out by noon, it came quickly, but there were vugs of saddle back dolomite in just about every pile and it could be seen on the walls. Unfortunately, the walls did not look safe with all the fractures and they did not want anyone near the high walls. There was plenty to be found.

One needed a large sledgehammer at times. I found several large blocks with vugs lined with the dolomites and calcites. Too often vugs were nearly impossible to get out of the limestone so photos would have to do. The specimens were wrapped with newspaper to protect the dolomite crystals before placing them in buckets. Sorry to say it was a hot muggy day in the 90's with a clear sky so as noon approached several members left early due to the heat. Only a few vehicles were still on the lowest level when noon arrived. I drove out of the quarry with the last remaining members pleased with the back of my truck filled with buckets of specimens. I loaded up the truck as fast as I could since one may not be able to return.

Remembering back to 1994 when the Midwest Chapter had a field trip to the quarry, I did not collect all that much thinking I would return again and again. I did not realize that it would be ten years until my next visit. Hope another visit to Corydon Quarry to collect beautiful pink saddle back dolomite does not take as long.

Mr. Haas is a member of Friends of Mineralogy and wrote the above article for *The LOESS Bulletin*, newsletter for Lincoln Orbit Earth Science Society, Springfield, Illinois. He is also a member of that club. Thanks to Dennis for submitting this article. The editor appreciates his effort and interest.

SOME PICTURES FROM THE CORYDON FIELD TRIP.  
THANKS TO D. HAAS FOR HIS CONTRIBUTION.



Members of Friends of Mineralogy—Midwest Chapter  
In attendance at Corydon Quarry on July 10, 2004

Norman Leppert, Peggy Fisher, Keller, Bob Harman, George Heaton,  
Roger Heaton, Dennis Haas, James and Kathy Bailey, Len Gritzer,  
Ann Richardson, Al and Sylvia Sicree, Dwaine & Marlene Edington



Friends of Mineralogy—Midwest Chapter  
In the quarry at Corydon



View of the Corydon Quarry  
The lower level where the boulders  
Had vugs of pink saddle back dolomite  
With honey colored calcite.



Dwaine Edington hard at work extracting  
The dolomite and calcite vugs



## AN INVITATION

We have received from George Matyas, member of FoM-MC and Michigan Mineralogical Society, an invitation to participate in their CLUB ALLEY COMPETITION. This is a competition open to Clubs and Societies everywhere and gives each club the opportunity to exhibit the diversified interests of its members as well as the special character of each club. Club Alley lets you compete with the "best"...hobbyists from other Clubs. You are judged by your peers. The selected judge from each competing Club judges all other club entries, but not one's own. High score decides the winner of excellence. The winning Club goes home with the "Gold". (Silver Trophy that is!)

If you, as a member of FoM-MC would like to volunteer to enter this for the club and be a part of the judging, the dates for this competition are October 8-10, 2004. This is in conjunction with the Greater Detroit Gem, Mineral, Fossil and Jewelry Show's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Diamond Jubilee with a theme of Minerals: A Rainbow of Color. Application is to be mailed by September 25, 2004.

Please see Marlene Edington for the complete details at the show in Greenfield on September 11<sup>th</sup>

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## AMAZONITE

Amazonite is a light green variety of the mineral *feldspar*. The Pike's Peak area near Denver has produced many fine amazonite crystals. They are often found together with *smoky quartz*. Radioactive elements in the amazonite cause the quartz to turn black.

## GEOFEST3

The Indiana State Museum  
Gem, Fossil and Mineral Show

Friday, October 22, 9:00 am-4:00 pm  
Saturday, October 23, 9:00-3:00 pm

650 West Washington Street  
Indianapolis, Indiana

Meet the experts and shop for beautiful jewelry, minerals and fossils from all over the world. Participate in fun family activities, win prizes and view fabulous collections!

Visitors will have the opportunity to purchase jewelry, fossils and minerals from vendors. Earth science clubs from around the region are invited to participate with booths and demonstrations.

Hands-on activities lead by the museum staff and volunteers will include making fossils to take home, learning how to prepare fossils that visitors might find.

Experts will be talking about their own collections and answering questions about specimens that visitors can bring in.

This is not just another rock and mineral show! This is a weekend of personal interaction and sharing of knowledge between public and earth science enthusiasts.

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Members—Volunteer to help man the FoM-MC booth. This is to benefit you and your club.

See Page 2 for more details.

## AQUAMARINE

Aquamarine is the light blue variety of the mineral *Beryl*. *Beryl* is an important source of the metal *beryllium*. The name *aquamarine* means *sea water*, a reference to its blue to blue green color which looks like the color of the sea.

Aquamarine is the Colorado State gemstone. Many beautiful aquamarine crystals have been found on Mount Antero in Chaffee County. The crystals are discovered high up in the mountain—at 13,000 feet! This is one of the highest known locations for gems in the whole world. *Beryl* crystals are six-sided. Six-sided crystals are called "hexagonal" crystals.