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# FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY MIDWEST CHAPTER

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**SUNDAY, JANUARY 15, 2006, 12:00 NOON**

INDIANA STATE MUSEUM

650 W. WASHINGTON ST.

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA



## THE TRANCAS GEODES OF CHIHUAHUA, MEXICO

A SLIDE PRESENTATION BY  
DWAINE H. EDINGTON



### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings and Good-bye. Since a new president will be taking over in 2006, this is my last message. I have enjoyed my two-year tenure as president and have tried to do a good job, although my wife's illness last winter and early spring prevented me from attending a few meetings. During the last two years we have changed our Symposium format from meeting type to field type with a corresponding increase in attendance. The first was the Illinois-Kentucky fluorspar symposium led by Alan Goldstein in October, 2004, and the second was the Findlay Arch symposium led by myself in September, 2005. Hopefully we can continue the field type format in the future. At our Cleveland meeting in November an interest was expressed in holding an Indiana geode field symposium in 2006, but this was done in the absence of potential trip leaders from Indiana.

Due largely through the efforts and enthusiasm of Paul Schwin, our treasury has been aided from Midwest FoM mineral sales at the Bloomington and Greenfield shows. Hopefully this trend will continue in the future.

On another note, Alan Goldstein writes that the Clement Mineral Museum, Marion, Kentucky, which many of you visited on the Illinois-Kentucky Fluorspar Symposium is struggling to stay open. Alan suggests that the Midwest Chapter FoM might adopt the Museum "as a project to help them in some way, shape or form. It might be curatorial, helping develop a plan to market the museum to mineralogy classes and societies, or something that has not been yet discussed". This topic needs to be brought up at the January meeting, and Alan's entire letter read to the membership.

Our next meeting is Sunday, January 15, at 12:00 noon at the State Museum, Indianapolis. Nelson Shaffer will present a slate of officers for 2006 at that time. Hope to see you there.

Ernie Carlson, President, 2004-2005  
[ecarlson@kent.edu](mailto:ecarlson@kent.edu)

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## FIELD TRIP \*\* FLUORITE DISTRICT IN KENTUCKY \*\* APRIL 1-2, 2006

From Alan Goldstein [deepskyspv@insightbb.com](mailto:deepskyspv@insightbb.com)

A second field trip to the fluorspar district in Kentucky will be organized for April 1 and 2, 2006. The registration fee will be \$25.00 as before, with funds going to rent a track hoe. For traffic logistics and collector safety, we will limit the number of participants to about 35.

Bill Frazer will dig on the dumps and veins of the Columbia mine which contain galena, smithsonite, some fluorite, quartz, sphalerite, etc. and the Eureka prospects that contain a bedding replacement deposit with crystals of fluorite, calcite, galena, quartz, smithsonite and sphalerite. Everything from museum-size specimens to micromounts might be found. We will also go to the Babb-Barnes mill complex, the Hutson zinc mine and the Lafayette mine for collecting and viewing historical mine facilities.

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## MINUTES OF THE MEETING—NOVEMBER 5, 2005

Members of the Midwest Chapter met at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History in conjunction with the Focus on Micromounting. President Ernie Carlson opened the meeting with a call for a motion that the minutes of the September 10, 2005 meeting be approved as it appeared in the newsletter. D. Edington made that motion and Anne Cook seconded with the motion being passed.

President Carlson noted that the recent Symposium made a profit in excess of \$80.00 and all honorariums for speakers has been paid. Nelson Shaffer, in charge of the nominating committee was absent, therefore no slate of officers were introduced for 2006. This will take place at the January meeting. The dues for 2006 will remain the same. It was suggested that the treasurer's report be printed in the newsletter.

The National Friends of Mineralogy will meet again in Tucson. William and Anne Cook will be attending and would like for any other members that will be attending to please notify them either by telephone or email before January 22. Mr. Cook advised everyone to attend the Tucson Gem & Mineral Show.

There was no old business to discuss. New business was a discussion about another symposium and one suggestion was to have it on the geodes found in southern Indiana. Field trips were discussed. Pugh Quarry has opened a new quarry across the road. Ernie will inquire about getting into the quarry at Sylvania. George Simmons discussed the fluorite found at Clay Center and at the Bloomington show he heard there was no admittance, but research people can gain entrance, that there is no group collecting.

Paul Schwin will again be in charge of the mineral sales at the Bloomington and Greenfield shows. Donations are needed for this effort in boosting the treasury. Vern Swanson has donated his collection to Friends of Mineralogy-Midwest Chapter to sell at the before mentioned shows. G. Simmons led a discussion on sending the newsletter via the Internet. Members agreed that this would be a way to save money as the cost of postage is increasing. The editor stated that she would give it a try, but would have to make copies and send with the Post Office as some members do not have computers and email. M. Edington requested that the meeting for January be on the third Sunday in January so as not to interfere with another meeting that she needed to attend. Request was granted. Mr. Cook made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Cook seconded and it was approved.

Marlene Edington, Secretary pro-tem

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### Field Trip—continued

An evening at the Clement Mineral Museum will be held as well.

If you would like to participate, I don't know whether the Clement Museum or I will handle the registration at this moment.

The Clement Museum will hold its first Mineral, Fossil and Jewelry Show on June 2 and 3, 2006. It will be an indoor show at Fohs Hall, adjacent to the Clement Museum. This will be the first time they have had a fundraiser of this type. Since I have organized the Falls Fossil Festival for the last 11 years, I am helping coordinate this effort. I can use help—especially getting word out to rock hounds! In addition to the vendors, there will be trips to several mines in the area. (Since some may not be able to attend the April collecting trip, here is another opportunity!)

A fundraising and auction is planned. If you have some high-quality specimens to donate, it would be tax deductible. If anyone is interested in being a dealer, let me know. I am still working with the museum to determine the space sizes and cost.

This would be a great opportunity for the Friends of Mineralogy to become involved and help save the Clement Mineral Museum.

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Thanks to all that have renewed their membership for 2006. If you have not renewed, please send your check in the amount of \$15.00 for the first member and \$10.00 for each additional family member to FoM-MC, Lorraine Wright, Treasurer, 1505 S. Randolph St., Indianapolis IN 46203

## CLEMENT MINERAL MUSEUM

Message from Alan Goldstein to Ernie Carlson with copy to Nelson Shaffer  
Friends of Mineralogy-Midwest Chapter

Dated Monday, October 31, 2005

Hello:

I just returned from a weekend field trip to the fluor spar district (primarily on the Kentucky side). The mineral museum is struggling mightily to stay open. They are down to being open on Saturday. I met with Linda Schumann who is associated with Leadership Crittenden County. This year's leadership class is adopting the Clement Museum as their project. (Linda is a former corporate executive who moved back home.)

We discussed ways of making the Clement Mineral Museum succeed. I am going to give her your e-mail address(es). She may contact you to ask about increasing the number of mineral enthusiast visitors, university geology class visits and bigger issues. I already mentioned the possibility of the Midwest FM group adopting the Clement Museum as a project to help them in some way, shape or form. It might be curatorial, helping develop a plan to market the museum to mineralogy classes and societies or something that has not been yet discussed.

I had something like 36 people from five states participate in the weekend trip. Participants paid \$25 each in advance and Bill brought in a track hoe to try to find deposits associated with the Columbia mine/vein/fault system. The group enjoyed collecting from an open face and piles from the track hoe. I found a lot of smithsonite. One person showed me a spectacular galena crystal about 1.5" on an edge.

Bill is willing to do this as often as we can and bring in 30+ people. He can work the track hoe along the vein, dig up the Eureka mine workings (which produces the best fluorite crystals in the district at the moment). He is willing to dig at the Nancy Hanks mine (he says produces blue fluorite) and the Memphis mine properties where he has mineral rights.

The new owner of the Lafayette mine (we still don't have a name) has bulldozed a couple acre lake, spread several mine dumps out and knocked down trees exposing an open cut and new mine dumps we had not seen before. One was loaded with rounded fluorite (mostly clear to brownish yellow) with galena inclusions and calcite cobbles. I collected a five-gallon bucket of material for my dry creek bed in my front yard (one of my landscaping projects).

On a related note, I've discussed moving some mine dumps from the Annabel and Denton mines to the American Fluorite Museum property with Eric Livingston. But he wasn't too enthusiastic with the idea. I see that as an option to bringing people to mine sites. The Clement folks seem to be interested in doing whatever it takes to strengthen the museum's future. I'm not sure about the museum in Rosiclare

Both museums, and indeed the district as a whole, could be used as an earth science destination for schools much like the Falls of the Ohio is for this area. I hope you can help me with this. The potential to preserve mines and collecting opportunities is like sand slipping between our hands. We need to press this issue while there is interest at the LOCAL level in the fluor spar district. It will disappear like the Tri-state lead district if we don't!

Perhaps this can be discussed at the Micromineral Symposium next weekend! We had a micro-mineral collector from Lexington, Massachusetts, join us this time! Interest is there, but it will take more than myself working alone!!!

Alan Goldstein [deepskyspy@insightbb.com](mailto:deepskyspy@insightbb.com) 812-280-9970

## EDITOR'S NOTE:

As 2006 begins, Friends of Mineralogy-Midwest Chapter will put into effect a system of sending your newsletter via e-mail on the Internet.

On Saturday, January 7 and Sunday, January 8, I sent messages informing you that the newsletter would be coming to you this way and requesting that you respond so that I was able to determine that the newsletter would arrive with no problems. Many of you gave no response, hence, you are receiving paper copies of the January newsletter. The newsletter was sent on Monday, January 9, 2006, approximately 3:00 P.M.

There are some members that do not have e-mail or we do not have an e-mail in our records, therefore, paper copies will have to be sent. After checking with our treasurer, I found that some of the addresses were incorrect or that some had new addresses. Some I completely forgot to add your name and e-mail to my list. For that I do apologize. I will send future issues via the Internet and it would be most helpful if you would let me know that it has come through. Many servers will identify the newsletter as Spam so be sure to check this file if you have an anti-Spam installed.

If you prefer not to have the newsletter sent as an e-mail message and prefer to have a paper copy, you must notify me. My information is shown below.

I apologize for this being late, but with the holidays and other events, time slipped away. Please be patient with me as I work out the bugs and get the information sent to you in a timely manner. We will continue doing this until after the June meeting in Bloomington. This will be a way to save FoM-MC some money as you all know the cost of postage stamps was increased on January 8.

While typing up the newsletter to put it in the form you are familiar with, I noticed quite a few typos, so please excuse the mistakes on the copy sent via the Internet. I was in a hurry to get it sent and did not properly proofread.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Thank you.

Marlene Edington, Editor  
25 N. Front St.  
Knightstown IN 46148  
765-345-5514  
[dandme@spitfire.net](mailto:dandme@spitfire.net)