



# NEWSLETTER

MIDWEST CHAPTER, FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY, INC.

Volume VII: No. 5

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## PRESPROSE :

Check the masthead of this NEWSLETTER again! Notice the change in the name of our chapter of FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY? The 2/3rds of the membership required by the bylaws for such a change have voted and an overwhelming majority have chosen MIDWEST CHAPTER as our new name. With the help of Nelson Shaffer, our link to the national organization of Friends of Mineralogy, this new name should soon become official. A new LOGO is in order as well; is there anyone who would like to design one for us?

Our speaker for November, Dave Rush, should have a superb presentation for all geode hunters, especially Indiana geodes; they contain a remarkable assemblage of minerals.

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### MEETING

SUNDAY, NOV. 14, 1993

12:30PM

INDIANA STATE MUSEUM

Alabama at Ohio, Indianapolis

Our speaker, DAVE RUSH, will present a slide show on:  
"A GEODE FIELD TRIP: THE HARRODSBURG EXPERIENCE"

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The November Meeting is the time for our annual election of officers. So far I haven't found a person to take the Presidency. If you are interested or know someone who is willing please let me know or bring your nomination to the meeting. Albert Sicree has agreed to be nominated as Vice President for Programs, Mike Davis will run for V.P for Field Trips and Sylvia Sicree has agreed to continue as Secretary/Treasurer. If you would like to nominate others for any of these offices please plan to attend the meeting.

The minutes of the September meeting, submitted by Sylvia Sicree are enclosed. If you have any corrections or additions/deletions, please let me know. Al and Sylvia attended the Fall Seminar of the Pennsylvania Chapter of Friends of Mineralogy. Sylvia has prepared a very interesting summary of that event, also included herein. A copy of the membership application form is enclosed, for those who would like to get a headstart on dues for 1994!

If you come across a newspaper or magazine article or cartoon, or an announcement of a mineralogical/ geological/environmental meeting or political action that could affect or be of interest to **FRIENDS of MINERALOGY** or its members, please feel that your contribution would be welcome.

Cheers! Hal Roepke, Pres. '93

Hal Roepke opened the meeting with a welcome to all and introduced our speaker, Fred Lewis, long-time member of Friends of Mineralogy, who presented us with slides and stories about his trips to the flint country in Great Britain.

In the short business meeting after the talk the Treasurer reported a balance of \$436.22. Possible educational uses of this money will be discussed at the November meeting. Our speaker then will be Dave Rush. Elections will also be held. Possible field trips in October are in Illinois and Ohio. The book on Minerals of Indiana is being produced. Fossil and Mineral Day at the State Museum in Indianapolis is October 23rd. Vern Swanson will represent us but he needs lots of specimens.

Nelson Shaffer suggested a future "Minerals of the Midwest" symposium, possibly at the Cincinnati Gem & Mineral Show, to fulfill the public education part of our charter. This topic will be discussed further at the November meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00pm. Sylvia Sicree, Secretary/Treasurer

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**Pennsylvania Chapter, Friends of Mineralogy - Fall Symposium 1993**  
a report by Sylvia Sicree

Al and I decided to attend this years PA-F.O.M. symposium and see what our neighboring organization was doing. This decision was helped, not a little, by the fact that our son, Andrew, is curator of the Penn State Earth and Mineral Sciences Museum where the symposium was being hosted.

Friday night was an open house and social at the Museum. Everyone could spend as much time as he wanted examining the minerals, exhibits and large collection of mineral art.

Saturday we started bright and early with coffee and donuts at 8:00. After an introduction by Andrew Sicree, the talks began. We heard:

Dr. David P. Gold = The Habitat of Diamonds  
Chuma Mbalu-Keswa = Mineralogy of Tanoma Kimberlites, PA  
Heyward Wharton = The Viburnum Trend Lead-Zinc Ore Discovery  
Dr. Deane Smith = Genth Collection of Penn State  
Marcelle Weber = Mineralogy of Mont St. Hillaire

After the speakers, there was a mineral auction to benefit the Friends of Mineralogy Grant Fund. We won the bid on a field trip manual for New York State and found ourselves sitting next to the author!

Next there were optional tours of the geology department and laboratories.

Dinner was a banquet at the Atherton Hilton. After the food we were treated to another speaker - Richard Bostwick - who talked about the Franklin-Sterling Hill District.

If you think our heads were spinning from all this information - it's true. After dreaming all night about beautiful minerals, we met at 8 Sunday morning in the cold wet rain. We were provided with a very detailed field trip guidebook with maps, mileage and geology for the whole day. And the rain stopped!

We started with the Graysdale Pit of the Scotia Iron mines. Pieces of iron ores were still scattered around the old dumps. Next was the Blair Clay Pit. Initially mined for iron ore, then clay, we found huge piles of bauxite still there. Then we walked along a busy railroad to view a thrust fault known as the "Birmingham Window". During our entire drive our guide book explained in great detail the geology which was passing by our car window and at the stops our leader was very knowledgeable and patiently answered all our questions.

Last of all, we came to the New Enterprise Quarry at Roaring Spring, site of an overturned anticline. Many minerals have been reported there, but coming from Ohio, it was hard for us to get excited about fluorite which looked like purple dust! However, we did find clusters of wafer-thin calcites and some dolomites. Al even found a rock where the calcite was "slicked" by rock fault movement and a tiny purple fluorite was sitting in the white calcite. Best of all were the white balls of strontianite which upon magnification looked like prickly spheres of sharp white needles. We were allowed to collect until 5 p.m. and by then, we were exhausted.

The PA group has been doing this for many years and they put together a good collection of speakers and a highly educational field trip. We hope to be able to go back again next year.

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**Purposes of the Midwest Chapter:**

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.