



## NEWSLETTER

VOLUME X: No.4

JUNE, 1996

### MIDWEST CHAPTER, FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY

#### MEETING

SATURDAY, JUNE 22nd, 1996

4:00 PM

PROGRAM TO BE ANNOUNCED

#### PRESIDENT'S PATTTER

I must apologize for mis-using the word " lawsuit" noted in Tim Greeman's minutes in our last newsletter. Tim picked up the term from some comments I made at our Richmond meeting on the Mineral Index discussion held in Tucson. It has been pointed out to me, there is still an ongoing dialogue between the various concerned parties. Again my apologies for any inconvenience in my interpretation of the discussion.

Last month while searching for a subject for the newsletter, Vern Swanson, known to many of you, suggested something on gold and diamonds in Indiana. As it turned out I did not need the material for the last letter, but will use it for this one.

Checking our Indiana State Museum minerals, I found a few flakes of gold embedded in a plastic block, but alas no diamonds. Even at today's gold prices the ISM collection would not make anyone rich. One might buy a cup of coffee at best.

In our natural history library we found two articles on the subject of gold and diamonds. One a september 1989 article from the "Gold Prospector", written by Micheal Paul Henson. Another in an excellent old publication written by W.S. Blatchley, one of Indiana's well known naturalists and former state geologist.

Canada and the glaciers receive credit for any gold or diamonds found in the state, as gold is not typically mined in Indiana. Gold found is of the "placer" type sifted from some of the black sand areas of streams and creek beds.

Brown and Morgan counties, south of Indianapolis can claim to be the most likely areas for a little gold panning. At least 15 other counties are also listed as possibilities for some gold and diamonds.

The Blatchley article consists of some 50 pages and goes into considerable detail on gold localities with appropriate maps. While the written material is old, I expect some gold could be found today if one should try working a couple of the known stream beds.

Diamonds, are not as well know but the Brown and Morgan counties are again listed as possible locations. Small diamonds might be found by the gold seekers, but diamonds of three and four carats have also been reported.

Perhaps we could find a speaker for one of our meetings who has prospected these areas. With some first-hand knowledge, a field trip could be an exciting experience sometime.

Looking forward to the Bloomington Show and meeting on June 22nd. See all of you there.

MINUTES of the MIDWEST CHAPTER, FRIENDS OF MINEROLOGY MEETING,  
CINCINNATI, MAY 4, 1996.

The May meeting was held in conjunction with the Cincinnati Mineral Society's 32nd annual show. The current President of the national Friends of Mineralogy, Beau Gordon attended the meeting. Someone also pointed out that the National Secretary was also in attendance (but since Nelson Shaffer is a regular, we didn't get as excited). A correction was noted for the minutes of the March, 1996 meeting. The reference to a lawsuit was incorrect, the (national) FOM did not file a lawsuit.

The IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT of the short meeting "Is the NEED for MEMBERS to PAY their 1996 DUES... and, THIS is your LAST issue of the NEWS-LETTER until your dues are PAID." Was that strong enough? Remember, that means, NO FIELD TRIP announcements either. Speaking of fieldtrips, several previously friendly quarries, are now turning us away. But, Pat Westby, our fieldtrip leader has been actively planning trips to Maybee, MI, and is working on a trip to the fluorite mines of Hardin Co.,IL.

Jeffery Scovil was the guest speaker at the Cincinnati Show. Jerry is from the Arizona Desert Museum. He showed slides of minerals available from Arizona's 15 huge counties. His photographs of the minerals were excellent. Attendance at the slide presentation was about 50 people, large in comparison with the FOM meeting which followed. Thanks go out to the Cincinnati Mineral Society for arranging the speaker. Perhaps Pat should plan a cross-country collecting trip.

Although not reported at the Cincinnati meeting, the Midwest Chapter has a total of 48 paid members, and a treasury balance of \$1079.02.

Dues:KIM GREEMAN,6447 Lafayette Rd,Indianapolis,IN,46278-1803

#### **FIELD TRIP NEWS**

On May 11 we were the first in the year to get into the Lime City,OH, Quarry.Those who braved the drizzle found some nice Strontianite and blue Celestine.

At Maybee,MI, on May 18th, there was a good turnout. Some nice sulfurs were found.

On June 8th, it didn't rain at Rocky Ridge,OH (thanks to George Heatons presence!).We found micros of Sphalerite,Pyrite,Fluorite and Calcite.

The next trip scheduled is to Bluffton, OH,on July 13th. Meet at 8:00am E.D.T. Call Pat Westby at (513) 299-8128 for directions.