



**NEWSLETTER**  
VOLUME X: No. 2      MARCH, 1996

**MIDWEST CHAPTER, FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY**

**MEETING**

SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 1996

4:00 PM (EST)

WAYNE COUNTY 4-H FAIRGROUNDS

N. SALISBURY ROAD

RICHMOND, INDIANA

NELSON SHAFFER, GEOLOGIST, WILL SPEAK  
TO US ON: MINING - THE "HOLE" TRUTH

**PRESIDENT'S PATTERN**

Following our return from the Tucson Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Show of February 5th to 12th, I am still reeling from the sheer magnitude and fascination of the exposition.

Forty thousand plus visitors, twenty two hotels or motels containing some 2400 plus dealers, 49 states and 32 foreign countries participated in the show. This does not include the many tents in parking lots or the outdoor, two block long, "flea market" south of the Pueblo Inn. The "flea market" is almost as exciting as the main show with dealers supplying gems, minerals, fossils, African masks, and articles from Asian temples I think from as far away as Bangkok. One booth even displayed a stuffed Husky dog from Alaska.

My wife and I only managed to explore three of the hotel/motels and the Convention Center in our four day visit. Imagine a hotel/motel with every room, the lobby, the pool, the parking lot and any adjacent open space with dealers working from vans or trucks. Beds in the rooms are covered with exotic gems, minerals and fossils in a mind-boggling array.

A dinosaur egg from China by way of Leicester, England, sold for \$70,000. I spoke with a chap with a small dinosaur exhibit in the lobby of the Convention Center. Since he was desperate for money, he sold an outstanding specimen for a paltry \$45,000.

It was interesting to watch some men carrying small black boxes trading or selling precious gems in any nook or cranny of the Convention Center.

Since returning, I have often speculated on the total value of the collective material at the convention. It must be astronomical.

As required, I attended the FM Board Meeting with 21 members present, including three Presidents from other clubs.

President Dr. Karen Wenrich passed the reins of FM over to Beau Gordon, of Rome GA, the new President. Our Nelson Shaffer continues his efficient work as the National Secretary and Roland Bounds is the new Treasurer.

One new feature proposed is a Photographic Contest for 1997. A donation has been received to fund this project. The plan would be to have a travelling exhibit touring museums to promote interest in mineralogy. More details will be published in the National Newsletter.

A public meeting was held on Saturday evening with 35 people present. FM reports and other general information were presented.

For anyone who has the time, the Tucson Show is a must! Besides fabulous weather of sunny 75 F degree days away from Indiana's cold temperatures, it is an exciting experience. We hope to return next year as soon as show dates are confirmed.

Oops!!!. At our November meeting at the Indiana State Museum there was a misunderstanding re having two Field Trip Chairpersons. Our constitution does not permit this arrangement. At the January meeting it was necessary to hold an election for this Office. By secret ballot, Pat Westby was elected by the members present.

Jim Nowacki volunteered to be our new Program Chairman. My sincere thanks to both of you for filling these important positions.

Hope to see all of you at our next meeting in Richmond, Indiana on March 9th.

## TRAVEL THROUGH TIME

Join Senior Geologist, James Nowacki, for a geology and stratigraphy trip through time on March 30th. 1996. Start in the Silurian Period at the Falls of the Ohio ( a river State Park). Hit the road up through various stratigraphic sections to the New Albany Black Shale to see 90 degree angled stata. Then travel into the Borden Siltstone of the Mississippian Age. This tour will provide many excellent photo opportunities, so bring along your camera. For details contact Mr. James Nowacki, senior, on evenings or weekends at (317)-888-7437.

From Pat Westby, Field Trip Chairperson.

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 14, 1996  
MEETING - MIDWEST CHAPTER- FOM

Fred Lewis brought the January 1996 meeting to order at the Indiana State Museum in Indianapolis, IN. The November minutes stated that the position of " fieldtrip chairperson" would be shared by Pat Westby and Mike Davis. Our constitution doesn't allow this. A last call for a Vice President for Programs was made. Jim Nowacki volunteered. Midwest Chapter (MWC) slated officers, except field trip chairman, were approved by the attending members. A runoff vote between Pat Westby and Mike Davis was held, and Pat was selected. Officers for 1996 :

PRESIDENT	Fred Lewis
VICE PRESIDENT/PROGRAMS	Jim Nowacki
SECRETARY/ TREASURER	Kim Greeman
FIELD TRIP CHAIRMAN	Pat Westby

Following the selection of officers, a discussion on fieldtrip reform was held. Field trips are very important, as many members joined to attend collecting trips. Suggestions to improve fieldtrip attendance included more and varied sites, and prepared guides. The MWC "geode display" will be shown at the Greenfield, IN, Library during August. The March 9th, 1996, meeting of MWC will follow Nelson Shaffer's 4:00 pm talk at the Eastern Indiana Rock and Gem show in Richmond, IN.

If any MWC members have considered becoming Certified Geologists in Indiana, the time is now. Currently, applicants are not required to take a written test, but after July 1, 1996, a written test will be required. For more information contact Norm Hester, Indiana Geological Survey, 611 N. Walnut Grove, Bloomington, IN, 47405. The meeting was adjourned for the program.

Fred Lewis presented a slide show entitled Discovering Dinosaurs. Traveling with a group of Canadians, predominately from Alberta, Fred was able to visit dinosaur digs that are closed to most visitors. The group of about 15 dino-fanatics traveled together and made a large loop through Texas' dino-land. The tour visited Lubbock, Ft. Stockton, Big Bend, San Antonio, Austin, and finally to Southern Methodist University at Dallas. Using numerous sources, Fred had slides illustrating the fossils of most species of dinosaurs mentioned. Big Bend was a focal point where numerous bones were seen, as well as footprints. Some sites were not identified due to ongoing investigations. The dino travelers were put-to-work at several digs. Kim Greeman, Secretary/Treasurer.

## Geodes

They are useless, there is nothing  
To be done with them, no reason, only

The finding: letting myself down holding  
To ironwood and the dry bristle of roots

Into the creekbed, into clear water shelved  
Below the outcroppings, where the crawdads spurt

Through silt; clawing them out of clay, scrubbing  
Away the sand, setting them in a shaft of light

To dry. Sweat clings in the cliff's downdraft.  
I take each one up like a safecracker listening

For the lapse within, the moment crystal turns  
On crystal. It is all waiting there in darkness.

I want to know only that things gather themselves  
With great patience, that they do this forever.

[ printed with permission of the author....

Carter, Jared, 1981, Work, for the night is coming:  
Macmillan Pub. Co., reprint by Cleveland State Univ.  
Poetry Center.]

## DUES

**A reminder, club dues are payable in January.  
\$15 per first member, \$8 for each additional  
family member. Send to our Treasurer:  
Kim Greeman  
6447 Lafayette Rd.  
Indianapolis, IN, 46278-1803**



## FIELD TRIPS

Hi! I'd like to introduce myself. I'm Pat Westby, your field trip planner for the year. While many areas of the rock and mineral hobby interest me, I most enjoy mineral collecting since it is like playing hide-and seek. I've been collecting in quarries for 5 years. I'm also active in the Dayton Gem and Mineral Society. One of my more recent projects is to combine two of my hobbies by casting settings for some of my average and duplicate mineral specimens. I hope to be wearing some of them at future meetings.

Stoneco's Lime City is being quarried in layers where there is no mineralization. However, I have been in contact with the plant manager to find out when they blast the upper walls. There may not be too many good collecting years left there. Regardless, I like to get into the Stoneco quarries when they first open in the spring. So here is our first tentative line-up:

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| March 24 | Salem, IN for geodes (limit 15 collectors). This is a tentative date depending on the weather. Please call me at (513)-299-8128, Dayton, OH, if you are interested and I will keep you posted on the trip. |
| April 13 | Lime City Stoneco  |
| April 20 | Auglaize Stoneco   |
| April 27 | Ft. Wayne Stoneco  |
| May 18   | Maybe Stoneco  |
- In the case of the last four trips, we will meet at the quarry office at 7:30 am **sharp**. Call me to confirm the location and/or get directions.

The locations in April may be subject to change depending on the blasting schedule at these quarries.

With all the rock shows in the area, the available open weekends are few. Here is a list of other dates that I am trying to schedule: June 15, July 6, 13, and 20, August 24.

I have a list of most quarries in Indiana and Ohio but I need recent information on the minerals available at each of them. I'm also searching for possible collecting areas in Michigan, Kentucky, Illinois, and Canada. If you can help in any way please contact me. Again, my phone number is (513) -299-8128 {Dayton, OH}.

## **SAFETY ON FIELD TRIPS**

Requirement for the use of safety equipment are becoming standard for entry into all quarries ( OSHA Regulations, etc.). The following equipment will be required for all field trip participants:

- 1) **Hard Hat**- properly fitting , that is your hat should stay on when you put your head between your knees. I have some loaners.
- 2) **Steel Toed Boots**-reasonably priced styles in both men and womens sizes are available at stores such as K-Mart or Wal-Mart.
- 3) **Safety Glasses or Goggles**-the latter are widely available for a few dollars.

## **COURTESY ON FIELD TRIPS**

Please collect in one area at a time-do not mark off areas to return to later on.

Please do not crowd in on one another- this could vary according to the situation at a particular time and place

Since most quarries expect to be host to an organized group, we will generally gather at some location outside before proceeding as a group into the quarry. Punctuality is essential- please be early or on time-if you are late ,we probably won't be there!