



NEWSLETTER

VOLUME X: No. 3

MAY, 1996

MIDWEST CHAPTER, FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY

MEETING

SATURDAY, MAY 4, 1996

4:00 PM

CINCINNATI GEM-MINERAL-FOSSIL-JEWELRY SHOW
(SEE FLYER WITH SPECIAL DISCOUNT COUPON)

PRESIDENT'S PATTTER

While visiting the Tucson Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show, my wife became intrigued with the many displays of amber found in the different venues.

After purchasing a moderately priced amber ring (sans insect) she wanted to learn the amber story.

An excellent article on amber, written by David A Grimaldi, appeared in a recent issue of the Natural History Magazine. From this article I have extracted a few of the interesting features.

Amber is the resin from 40 million year old fossil trees, a species of pine (*Pinus succinifer*), which may contain fossil insects e.g. centipedes, ants, spiders, beetles, moths, and flies, most of which are now extinct although some still do flourish today. Amber has a static charge which accounts for some of it's collection of insects which retain their soft muscle tissues and cells, makin them excellent study subjects.

Amber is found in many sites around the world , with large quantities coming from the 40 million year old deposits in the eastern Baltic regions and from 25-30 million year old deposits in the Dominican Republic and Mexico.

The deposits are almost always found in sediments that formed the bottom of ancient lagoons or river deltas. In Tucson we were told by one dealer that amber has also been found in South America where they are required to remove 45 feet of overburden to reach the deposits.

Mr. Grimaldi describes the Amber Room in a Russian Palace paneled with six tons of amber, valued at 150 million dollars, which was stolen by the German army in 1941 , shipped off to Germany, and never to be seen again.

Today, Russian craftsmen are attempting to duplicate the

room based on a single photograph and a few fragments of the paneling. They slice baseball sized chunks of raw amber into one-eight inch pieces on a special saw, using the various types of amber to form the patterns of this intricate jigsaw puzzle.

One last item! Have you seen the article and photographs of Smithsonian by Jeffrey Scovil in the April issue of Earth magazine? The photographs are spectacular. Mr. Scovil is to be one of the featured speakers at the Cincinnati Show on May 4th at 3:00pm. I hope he will show some slides of Smithsonian from the mines in Arizona, New Mexico, and Namibia. The show and programs look exciting, so don't miss it.

I look forward to seeing you in Cincinnati.



FIELD TRIP INFORMATION CENTER

I must apologize for the slow start this year. The changes at Stoneco Co. totally caught me by surprise! However, since low interest was shown, I have now listed some other possible locations and available dates. It is up to the members to make a choice. So cast your vote for the locations you prefer. I am also open to suggestion about locations which I may not know about. Thank you to the two members who have called me already.

POSSIBLE LOCATIONS:

Corydon IN - pink dolomite, calcite, fluorite
Duff Quarry OH - pyrite (unusual crystal formation), dolomite
Rocky Ridge OH - celestine, calcite, sphalerite, fluorite
Amhurstburg CANADA
- celestine
Danville KY - barite, fluorite
Irvington Ky - fluorite, pink dolomite

AVAILABLE DATES: July 13, 20 ; August 10, 17, 24

The following dates are for sure, but the locations are subject to change. PLEASE CALL 513-299-8128, THURSDAY OR FRIDAY NIGHT BEFORE THE TRIP TO VERIFY THE LOCATION!!!

You can talk to Pat or Eric Westby; if you reach the answering machine, please state your name and your phone number twice and talk slowly and clearly.

DATES:

MAY 11	Lime City, OH	7:30am (edt)
MAY 18	Maybee, MI	7:30am (edt)
JUNE 8	Findlay, OH	Call for specific time and directions as this may be a two quarry trip.

JUNE 15

Cave-In-Rock IL Meeting time and place to be announced; please call to be put on the list- limit 15 people.

CERTIFICATION LAW FOR PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGISTS, UPDATE

Indiana SB - 371 will require testing for C.P.G's not already certified in Indiana. Contact:

**STATE GEOLOGIST
NORMAN HESTER
INDIANA UNIVERSITY
BLOOMINGTON, IN**

DEADLINE FOR CPG IS BEFORE 6-30-96

MINUTES OF THE MARCH 1996 MEETING, MIDWEST CHAPTER, FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY

Fred Lewis called the March 1996 meeting to order, at the Eastern Indiana Gem & Geological Society Show in Richmond, Indiana. Due to an errant announcement made at the show, the meeting was held before the program instead of after. Fred Lewis led a vote on MWC's participation in the 1996 Falls of the Ohio Conference. Because the conference is scheduled for the same date as the Eastern Indiana Gem & Geological Society's swap in September, it was voted not to participate.

Kim Greeman reported we have 26 paid members, \$1140.94 in the treasury, and that DUES ARE DUE. Fred reported that his non-mineral collecting wife was so impressed with the 1996 FOM Tucson Show, that she wants to return in 1997. Information on an ongoing lawsuit involving a (national) Friends of Mineralogy text will be forthcoming in the National FOM newsletter. A mineral dealer with world wide material has a rental video showing specimens if anyone wants to see whats available. Fred adjourned the meeting, and introduced our speaker and fellow member, Nelson Shaffer.

Nelson's talk was on the minerals we use in our everyday lives. On an annual basis, we use approximately 900 lb of minerals per year. Nelson compared our silicon-chip culture with the earliest silicon culture, when he flashed a picture of a computer chip next to a chert arrowhead.

Nelson's talk emphasised Indiana's mineral industry. He stated Indiana produces 30 million tons of coal per year, which are used to produce electricity. New scrubber technology allows the removal of sulphur from the flue gas. Recovered sulphur is mixed with calcium carbonate (limestone) and oxygen to produce the gypsum used in making wall board. There are also gypsum mines in Indiana, and several wall board manufacturers.

Nelson mentioned that calcium carbonate (calcite) is our state mineral. Indiana produces about 30 million tons of limestone annually. Tens of thousands of tons of limestone are needed for each mile of Interstate highway. While Indiana has five cement production plants, only four use limestone as their raw material. Steel slag wastes are also used to produce cement. Montmorillinite is mined for kitty litter. Sandstone, peat, marl, gas and oil are other mineral species used daily by most homeowners.

Kim Greeman, Secretary/Treasurer.