



NEWSLETTER

VOLUME X: No.6

OCTOBER, 1996

MIDWEST CHAPTER, FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY

MEETING

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1996

12:30 PM

INDIANA STATE MUSEUM

202 NORTH ALABAMA STREET, INDIANAPOLIS

PRESIDENT'S PATTTER

It is difficult to realize another year of meetings, Mineral, Fossil and Gem shows is coming to a close. Our November meeting at the Indiana State Museum will bring down the final curtain for 1996 when we elect new officers for 1997.

This will be my final President's Patter. I thank all of you for your support and interest in attending meetings and shows. It has been educational and fun for me. We have not been able to increase our membership but at least have held the interest of our members due to your dedication and commitment. A special thanks to Pat Westby for her leadership in the difficult job of field trip co-ordinator even though a small number of members are able to participate and the reluctance of quarry owners to permit entry.

Did you see the excellent article and photography by Jeff Scovil in the December issue of Earth Magazine? His subject covered in part emeralds of Cleopatra's mines in Egypt. Emeralds like other precious stones are actually beryl with a small amount of chromium added for the beautiful green color. Chemicals can affect the different mineral colors, but man's technology of heat-treating and irradiating minerals make them more attractive to the buyer. This is a far cry from the laborious work of early miners.

Earth Magazine also contains an article and photographs on another mineral, sapphires from Madagascar. The September birthstone. Limestone rock is the home of the sapphires requiring weeks of hard work before the rock gives up its treasures. The lucky miners can make a fortune in a few weeks. The stones are selling at \$650 per gram-or \$18,180 per ounce. The monthly salary in Madagascar of a worker is \$26.00. No wonder there is a sapphire rush.

The Mineral meeting has been scheduled for Sunday November 10th from 12.30 p.m. to 1.55 p.m. in the reserved ISM auditorium after which we will join the Earth Science 500 Club in the auditorium at 2.00 p.m. to hear Ron Richards give the program.

On November 14th the IUPUI University is sponsoring a free lecture by Dr. Meinert on "Exploration Geology on the Frontier" with special emphasis on the mineral gold. See other details in this news letter.

See all of you at the November meeting.

MINUTES OF THE MIDWEST CHAPTER, FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY
MEETING, GREENFIELD, INDIANA SEPTEMBER 7, 1996

The June meeting was held in conjunction with the 500 Earth Science Club's annual Mineral, Fossil, and Gem show, held at the Hancock County (IN) Fairgrounds. Turnout for the Midwest Chapter meeting was small with only 13 members in attendance. President Fred Lewis brought the meeting to order. He announced that the Midwest Chapter's Geode Display was currently displayed at the Greenfield Public Library. Fred also announced the vice president Jim Nowacki, has resigned from his post.

Pat Westby passed out information on calcite twinning which was overlooked at the June meeting. Pat also announced she has another fieldtrip planned to the Martin Marietta Quarry at Woodville, Ohio. Mining is currently below the celestite zone, but some good fossils can be found. The Woodville trip is set for Saturday October 12th, 1996, the same weekend as the Detroit show. Pat was regretful about aborted attempts to enter a couple of quarries, and attendance at the last fieldtrip.

Nelson Shaffer informed us about the publication of "Roadside geology of Illinois" by Mountain Press, another book, "Photographing minerals" by Jeffery Scoville is available. Scoville was the speaker at our Cincinnati meeting. Nelson also passed on a request for information on museums with mineral displays. Send any info to Nelson and he will forward it to the author of an upcoming book of museum listings.

Nelson Shaffer and David Straw were selected as this years officers slating committee, and will have a slate ready for vote at the November meeting. Following a rather lengthy business meeting, Fred Smith entertained us with slides from his trip to the 1996 Tuscon Show. Freds slides showed several views of the indoor boarse area, and then some indication of the vastness of the outdoor show. I looked like all of the world was represented at the show. Thank you Fred for coming through in short notice.

A treasurers report through the end of September is presented here. The Midwest Chapter has \$1205.93 in the bank, and 62 paid members.

Submitted by Kim Greeman, Secretary/Treasurer.

1997 DUES ARE NOW BEING ACCEPTED

To join the MIDWEST CHAPTER of the FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY, send your dues to Kim Greeman, 6447 Lafayette Road, Indianapolis, IN 46278-1803. Annual dues are \$15.00 for the first family member, and \$8.00 for each additional family member (at the same mailing address).

FIELD TRIP REPORT:

The September 21st trip was to Corydon, IN since I had to be in that vicinity anyway. The quarry owner was right in saying that they aren't blasting "my ridge", they are working 6 and 7 layers above "my ridge." Although it was pouring rain we did manage to collect some calcite's (including one odd shaped crystal with black inclusions on only one side), some nice pink dolomite and a nice assortment of fossils.

October 12 we met up with Dr. Carlson and his mineralogy class from Kent State at the Martin Marietta Quarry in Woodville, OH. The quarry owners also allowed the Columbus area clubs to participate, but were a little nervous when 56 people showed up. Fortunately they had a big blast down and everyone found something they were happy with. One of the students was lucky enough to find a couple of pieces of big brown fluorite and I found a nice pocket of pale yellow fluorites. The highlight of the day was getting to spend several hours at a quarry north of there that had plenty of pockets of bladed celestine similar to Clay Center. This quarry is not open to the public so it had not been picked over. There was also an extensive fresh blast down. I was glad to see our club members showing Dr. Carlson's students some tips and techniques for removing mineral specimens from their host boulders! Way to go!!!

October 26th took us on a joint field trip with the Fort Wayne Club to the Fort Wayne Stoneco. I have to thank Linda Spaulding (joint club member) for making the arrangements (which wasn't easy) and appeasing the plant manager who came down to check on us. They were blasting in a different section of the quarry from the last few years. Although this region has yielded some unusual fluorites in the past, pickings were a little slim for the mineralogist, but some nice fossils were to be had.

The last trip of the season will be November 2 to Lime City, OH. As I wrap up this season I want to thank those who participated in the trips this past year and to the several people who have given me some leads in new areas. Please continue to let me know where and when you would like to go somewhere.

The speaker that is to follow our meeting is Pleobiologist Ron Richards, Chief Curator of Natural History at the Indiana State Museum. His talk is part of a monthly lecture series and is titled "Trapping Time: Discoveries at the Megenity Pecarry Cave. The museum is located at 202 N. Alabama St. Indianapolis, IN.

INDIANA UNIVERSITY
PURDUE UNIVERSITY
INDIANAPOLIS

Andrew Schedl
(317)-274-4946
aschedl@indyvax.iupui.edu
September 30, 1996

SCHOOL OF SCIENCE



Mr. Fred Lewis (President of Friends of Mineralogy)
137 Audubon Drive
Carmel, IN 46032

Dear Mr. Lewis:

Please announce in your organizations newsletter and at the November 10 meeting, that the Geology Department at IUPUI will host the Society of Economic Geologists Thayer Lindsley Lecturer. This year's Lecturer is Dr. Lawrence D. Meinert of Washington State University. His lecture for the general public is "Exploration geology on the frontier - the search for gold in exotic places". The lecture will be at 8:00 p. m. November 14, 1996 in LE (Lecture Hall) 100. The LE building is located at 325 University Boulevard between Michigan Street and New York Street. This lecture is an informal picture tour of places Dr. Meinert has worked Alaska, Irian Jaya and Papua New Guinea, etc.. The type of gold deposits he will examine are skarn and placer deposits.

Sincerely,

Andrew Schedl
Andrew Schedl

DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY

723 W. Michigan Street
Indianapolis, Indiana
46202-5132

317-274-7484
Fax: 317-274-7966

*An Indiana University
Degree Program in the
School of Science at
Indianapolis*