



NEWSLETTER
VOLUME XI: NO 3 MAY, 1997

MIDWEST CHAPTER, FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY

MEETING
SATURDAY MAY 3, 1997
4:00 PM

CINCINNATI MINERAL SOCIETY SHOW
CINCINNATI GARDENS

FOLLOWING 3:00 PM JEFFREY SCOVIL PRESENTS:
"MINERAL, GEMSTONE & FOSSIL PHOTOGRAPHY"

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The trip to Arkansas I originally planned for mid-May has had to be pushed back to June 19-22. Unfortunately, family business will require that I be in Alabama from May 14-31. At this point I have the following sites planed:

- June 19 - Granite Mountain (not yet confirmed)
- June 20 - Quartz mine (negotiations in progress)
- June 21 - Hyw. 51 quarry near Magnet Cove (confirmed)
- June 22 - Visit to a phosphate mineral locality (to be confirmed)

I will issue a news announcement when all the localities are confirmed along with meeting places, suggested lodging and (I hope) a road log. participation in the trip will be limited to members of Midwest FM.

The Midwest Chapter now has a web page thanks to the efforts of Nelson Shaffer and the Indiana Geological Survey. The URL is:

<http://www.indiana.edu/~minerals/>

The site is under construction and will be added to continuously. If you have suggestions or comments please feel free to send them to me at hbarwood@indiana.edu.

I attended the Atlantic Micromount Symposium on April 5,6 and gave three talks on minerals. The symposium was excellent and there were probably 50-60 microscopes set up. After the symposium concluded, I traveled to Willis Mountain in central Virginia and collected at the Kyanite Mining Company's mine. Found good micros of goyazite/svanbergite, variscite, strengite, cacoxenite and two unknowns. Unfortunately, I did not find any specimens of the new mineral or of trolleite. They are mining in the direction of the area where these were found, but it may be a year or two before they reach that level.

At the symposium, I got to examine specimens of the unusual suite of sulphate, phosphate and oxalate minerals from Alum Cave Bluff in Tennessee courtesy of Dennis Coskren (coskrenite). Dr. Coskren advised me to take a close look at "alum" and other effloresces on bluffs, roadcuts, highwalls and outcrops. There is the possibility that many of these rare minerals occur elsewhere, but are going unrecognized. Anyone who would like me to take a look at such material, please let me know and I will advise you on how to collect it to preserve many of the unstable minerals.

Norway

MINUTES - MARCH 1997

The March 8th meeting of the Midwest Chapter of the Friends of Mineralogy (F Of M) followed a talk by Wayne Klusman on the Geology of Yellowstone National Park. The theme of his talk was that the present is key to the past in the study of the earths geology.

The clubs business meeting was opened by president Henry Barwood. Fifteen members were present.

The minutes of the January 11th meeting were accepted as published.

The treasurer, Kim Greeman, reported a balance of \$1487.57 as of March 8th, 1997. To date, 42 members have paid their 1997 dues.

Old Business: Henry Barwood, Nelson Shaffer and Ernie Carlson are doing preliminary work to set up a symposium sponsored by our F of M chapter. They will approach the Columbus, Ohio, club to propose holding this symposium in conjunction with the latters spring 1998 show. A field trip could be held along with this symposium.

New Business: Field trip chair, Pat Westby, reported that the Stoneco Inc. eastern division quarries, including the Auglaize quarry, have new management and all are now closed to collectors.

A discussion followed as to what could be done to reverse this closing trend. A consensus seemed to be that the aesthetic and the educational goals of our club and of mineral and fossil collecting needed to be formulated and be made more widely known. It was pointed out that the club has had a traveling exhibit of midwestern geodes which in addition to being displayed at several shows has been on display at a public library. The National F Of M has supported "The Mineralogical Record". Individual members, including Nelson Shaffer, have given educational talks at various club meetings and schools. Dave Straw pointed out his and Linda Spauldings contributions to schools, scouts and 4-H clubs. Several members have participated in Fossil Day at the Indiana State Museum and member Vern Swanson has contributed both specimens and considerable time to that museums work. The bottom line was that these facts needed to be made known to the quarry owners in hope of influencing them to ~~again open their~~ facilities to responsible and organized collecting.

Henry Barwood proposed to lead collecting trips to Graves Mountain, Georgia, for rutile, lazulite, and kyanite and to several Arkansas locations including the Granite Mountain syenite locale.

Henry Barwood also reported that the Nittany Mineralogical Society, in the past, has sponsored an 8 hour mine safety course leading to a certification which might ease access to quarries. Pat Westby reported contacting several officials in Ohio who might teach a similar course but to no avail-state funds are not available for this purpose. Dave Straw suggested that Grant Whitman of the Toledo club might know of someone who could be contacted about this matter.

As a member of a National F of M committee on Educational Awards, Henry Barwood reported that they have established a special award for educational exhibits at gem and mineral shows. He also reported that they have proposed setting up a WEB page to bring researchers and collectors together for exchange of information. For example, someone may be doing research on turquoise from eastern US localities and could request samples from collectors. It could provide notice of pending dispositions of older collections so that unique specimens could be preserved.

A question arose about what the age limit should be for membership. It was suggested that 18 be the lower age limit for participation in club sponsored field trips to quarries. For exceptions, each quarry would have to be contacted for their approval.

The Eber estate has set up a competition for both amateurs and professionals to submit photos of fluorite to be incorporated in a traveling exhibit. Details will be forthcoming on a WEB site.

A.J. Sicree

MIDWEST MINERAL SYMPOSIUM - UPDATE

Discussions were held in early April between the Show Committee of the Central Ohio Mineral, Fossil, Gem & Jewelry Show and the Symposium Committee of the Midwest Chapter of FM to explore Columbus as a possible site for the Symposium. We generally agreed that a co-hosted event would be beneficial to both groups and, if mutually approved, would be held in Columbus on Saturday April 4, 1998, in conjunction with the Central Ohio Show. The Show theme is appropriate, being "Mines, Minerals and Metals". This matter will be brought up for discussion at the Midwest FM Cincinnati meeting.

UPCOMING FM PROGRAMS

Saturday May 3, 3:00 PM, Cincinnati Gardens, Cincinnati OH.
Jeffrey Scovil, "Mineral, Gemstone & Fossil Photography".

Saturday June 28, 4:00 PM (Eastern Standard Time), Monroe County Fairgrounds, Bloomington IN. Daniel W. Behnke, "Microcrystals from the Flambeau Mine, Ladysmith, Rusk County, Wisconsin".

Saturday September 6, 4-H Fairgrounds, Hancock Co., Greenfield IN.
Program to be announced.

Ernie Carlson

THE MIDWEST CHAPTER, FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY

ARKANSAS FIELD TRIP

The Midwest chapter of Friends of Mineralogy is conducting a field trip to Arkansas to collect minerals. Participation in the trip will be limited to members of the chapter and their families. The schedule is:

June 19 (Thursday) - Visit the Granite Mountain No. 1 Quarry. We are being admitted to a normally closed quarry to collect syenite pegmatite that contains an unusual suite of minerals. This is a large and very active quarry and full safety precautions must be observed. I can't guarantee what we will find, but excellent specimens of zeolites and unusual minerals such as kuptletskite, pyrophanite, allanite, bastnaesite and tetranatrolite were found on my last trip here.

June 20 (Friday) - Visit the Coleman quartz crystal mine. We will get a special 50% off rate from the normal \$20.00 fee (assuming we have a minimum of 10 people participating in the trip). I have talked with local collectors and they feel that the Coleman mine presently has the best quartz collecting available. For those who are interested (or get tired of digging quartz) I will lead an afternoon side trip to Avant for wavellite. There are a number of excellent rock shops in the Hot Springs area that can be visited in the evening.

June 21 (Saturday) - Visit the Highway 51 quarry near Magnet Cove. This is an active quarry that has recently exposed some unusual contact zone mineralization. Smoky quartz xls. (to several inches), pyrite (octahedrons), hematite (brilliant "roses", mostly small), fluorite, calcite, anatase, rutile, apatite, barite, amphiboles, chlorites, micas, sphalerite and kolbeckite have been found so far. The potential for rare and unusual minerals is excellent. Sightseeing in the Magnet Cove area may be possible after visiting the quarry.

June 22 (Sunday) - Die-hard day! We will try to visit some additional unusual localities.

I am preparing a packet that will contain housing information, maps and meeting places. I need to know if you are planning to participate as soon as possible so I can determine if we have enough people to qualify for the quartz mine discount. Please contact me by June 11 at:

812-855-1378 (work)
812-825-5998 (home)
habarwood@indiana.edu (e-mail)
812-855-2862 (fax)

mail:

Henry Barwood
Indiana Geological Survey
611 N. Walnut Grove
Bloomington, IN 47405

You will need heavy collecting tools for the quarry visits (sledgehammer, crack hammer, chisels, etc.) and digging tools for the quartz mine. Buckets, bags or boxes will be needed along with wrapping paper to protect your finds. I would also suggest sunscreen and insect repellent. You will all need a HARD HAT, SAFETY GLASSES and STEEL-TOED BOOTS for the quarries. The non-quarry sites are suitable for family of all ages, but the quarries will be 18 or older only.