NEWSLETTER
VOLUME XII: JANUARY, 1998

MIDWEST CHAPTER, FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY

MEETING
SUNDAY JANUARY 25,1998
1:00 PM
INDIANA STATE MUSEUM
202 N ALABAMA STREET
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

PROGRAM: "DIAMOND FORMATION AND INFORMATION" BY ANDREW SICREE, CURATOR OF THE EARTH & MINERAL SCIENCES MUSEUM AT PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A TRIP TO ARKANSAS

The week of October 13-18 I visited Arkansas to collect minerals and to examine the syenite mining operations of 3M (Big Rock Quarry) and McGeorge Construction (Granite Mountain Quarries, or GMQ). Because I have done extensive research on the syenites, I'm usually given permission to enter these quarries and collect specimens of the rock units, xenoliths and minerals. I also combined this trip with the 25th anniversary celebration of the Coon Creek Association.

The Coon Creek Association is a rag-tag group of amateur and professional geologists and mineralogist who have been having a non-meeting each fall to collect minerals (the non-meeting is attended by non-members and is characterized by a non-schedule). Despite the loose nature of this (non) meeting, the group has been responsible for the identification of hundreds of minerals from Arkansas localities and the recovery of many new species for scientific study including delindeite, lourenswalsite, straczekite, and mahlmoodite. Over the years attrition and death has reduced the original group to a bare handful, but they remain steadfast descriptive mineralogists and (very) active field collectors.

The syenite quarries have been rather unproductive in recent years, but still occasionally produce nice specimens. We visited Granite Mountain No. 1 Quarry and searched an older gas cavity zone with little luck. Some mediocre cavities with zeolites, albite and aegirine were found. This gas cavity area had produced nice allanite and andradite garnet about 10 years ago, but none was found this trip. Good specimens of orange stilbite, reddish chabazite and white, fibrous tetranatrolite could still be found in the main dike. A visit to the Western pit in the quarry resulted in the discovery of an extension of the main dike that had cavities with acicular aegirine that spear deep orange heulandites and colorless analcites.

The Holiday Inn Quarry has been abandoned and is flooded now. This is unfortunate since this was the source of some very nice and rare minerals including a prismatic hydroxlbastnaesite.

The Big Rock Quarry has completely penetrated the border zone and no significant syenite pegmatites have been exposed for at least 8 years. Continued mining on the lowest level may eventually expose the central dike again and result in pegmatite material turning up again, but this will be at least 2-3 years in the future. Plans to "daylight" the South wall of the quarry have been put on hold until a potential northward expansion can be considered. If either plan proceeds, good mineralization should turn up again as it did in the 1980's. We collected only a few gas cavities and some interesting roof pendent material that had epidote xls.

The quartz syenite exposed near the small stream north of the crusher at 3M is still collectable, but overgrown (mostly with cacti - ouch!). We did find a few anatase crystals and some altered siderite and pyrite xls.

Magnet Cove is still mostly inaccessible and growing more so each day. A building boom has hit the area and houses are sprouting on most of the old pasture collecting areas. We examined the outcrop of carbonatite at the Magnet Cove Creek bridge with a "superbright" UV light and were rewarded with a view few people can see. The red luminescing calcite crystals are huge (a foot or more) and the rhombohedral clevage planes are outlined by thin layers of blue fluorescing apatite crystals. Xenoliths and syenite pegmatite within the carbonatite contain yellow fluorescing pectolite and deep red feldspars.

REPORT ON A TRIP TO UTAH AND NEVADA

In October, I attended the Geological Society of America meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah and stayed over four days to do some mineral collecting. Our group visited Lucin, Utah, Silver Coin Mine, Nevada, Majuba Hill, Nevada and Gold Hill, Utah.

Lucin, Utah is an active variscite nodule mining claim. We collected metavariscite and variscite crystals, crandallite and apatite from the pit. Some of the iron stained rock on the dump yielded what appears to be hemispheres of rockbridgeite and some clear, dark blackish-brown prisms of an unidentified mineral. The rusty looking rock is essentially ignored, but probably has potential for some unusual minerals.

Silver Coin Mine is a relatively new locality and produces an interesting suite of phosphates, arsenates, sulfates and chlorides. We found turquoise crystals, wavellite, chlorargyite, a whole suite of iron phosphates, jarosite and many other things that I will have to ID in the first stope. To the north, at another shaft we found mitridatite, spectacular jarosite xls., variscite and apatite xls. This is an excellent locality and produces lots of unusual minerals, most of them well crystallized.

Majuba Hill is a well known locality and a large mine. It produces an extensive suite of arsenates. Entrance is through a long adit that leads to the "tin" stope. I was poorly equipped for underground collecting and had to settle for picking up debris from other collectors. Even so, I got a lot of very nice micros. The hardier members of our group climbed down to the "copper" stope and collected. I declined, but they were nice enough to share some specimens with me. We also tried to enter the lowest adit to collect torbernite, but it was flooded a short distance in. It will take me some time to sort through the blue and green crystals we collected and identify the individual mineral species.

Our last stop was at Gold Hill. We did not go underground here, but collected in the "Glory Hole" and associated pits. Conichalcite, adamite and calcite are abundant here. I worked a gossan zone that contained several minerals including olive green prisms (?), conichalcite, blue green xls. (?), bluish fibers (mixite?), and yellow pseudocubes (beudantite?). Pockets in the quartz yielded crude quartz xls. overcoated with nice conichalcite. I don't know if we got any of the rarer species. Everything in the pit looked green!

Henry Barwood

MINUTES - NOVEMBER, 1997

The Friends of Mineralogy, Midwest Chapter, held its November 8th, 1997 meeting at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History in conjunction with the Cleveland Micromineral Symposium. Fifteen members were in attendance.

With the exception of the Vice President for Field Trips, the 1997 incumbents agreed to continue in their respective offices through 1998, and were so confirmed by a vote of members present.:

President: Dr. Henry Barwood, Indiana Geological Survey, 611 N. Walnut Grove, Bloomington, IN 47405 (812) 855-2687

Vice- President of Programs: Dr. Ernest Carlson, Department of Geology, Kent State University, P.O. Box 5190, Kent, OH 44242 (330) 672-3778

Secretary/Treasurer: Kim Greeman, 6447 Lafayette Rd., Indianapolis, IN 46278 (317) 293- 4584

A motion was made and accepted to establish an interim committee for field trips whose membership represented different geographic locations and would be headed by Dr. Ernie Carlson. It was proposed that the committee would include: Bill Carney for Illinois, Dr. Nelson Shaffer for Indiana and Dr. Ernie Carlson for Ohio.

It was confirmed that up to $800. of club funds would be available to cover expenses arising from the chapters First Midwest Mineral Symposium on April 4th 1998 in conjunction with the Central Ohio Mineral ,Fossil,Gem and Jewelry Show.

Students and members attending the symposium will be required to pay the registration fee which will include admission to the show. This cost will be $10. for pre-registration or $12. at the door.

New Business: A discussion was held concerning an alarming trend for the BS in Geology to be awarded with no undergraduate mineralogy course required. Nelson Shaffer made a motion, which was accepted by the members present, that the Friends of Mineralogy draft a letter to departments of geology urging that they continue to provide a high quality education in geology which includes the teaching of mineralogy. It was suggested that this motion be sent to the National Friends of Mineralogy and the National Academy of Sciences.

Mineral Symposium: Dr. Carlson reported that the list of invited speakers is being confirmed. The hours for the lecture presentations at the symposium will be from 8:00 am through 12:30 pm. The poster program will be from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. Thirty three universities in Ohio, Michigan, Indiana and Illinois have been contacted with a request for submission of posters.

November Meeting Notes: Paul Clifford, Curator at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History invited the Friends of Mineralogy to meet at the museum and future Micromineral Symposiums. The interest shown by members in attendance from distant states and the cordiality of our hosts certainly will prompt the Midwest Chapter of the F of M to consider a future invitation.

MIDWEST MINERAL SYMPOSIUM - UPDATE

David Rush has requested that his presentation be cancelled. Terry Huizing has kindly agreed to be one of our speakers in place of David; his topic: "Midwest Minerals - Their Mineralogy and Origin". Copies of the revised program will be available at the January 25 meeting. As January 15 is the deadline for abstracts for the Poster Program, a report on the status of the Poster Program will be made also.

UPCOMING FM MEETINGS, PROGRAMS & FIELD TRIPS

Sunday January 25, 1998, 1:00PM. Indiana State Museum, Indianapolis. Speaker: Andrew Sicree, Curator of the Earth & Mineral Sciences Museum at Pennsylvania State University, will present "Diamond Formation and Information".

Saturday March 14, 1998. Eastern Indiana Gem & Geological Society Spring Show. Kuhlman Center, Wayne County Fairgrounds off North Salisbury Rd in Richmond IN. Midwest FM meeting at 3:00PM. Speakers: at 2:00PM, Ernie Carlson "Mississippi Valley-Type Lead-Zinc Deposits, Their Mineralogy & Origin"; and at 4:00PM, David Rush "Collecting Celestine In Southern Indiana".

Saturday April 4, 1998. First Midwest Mineral Symposium.

Sunday April 5, 1998. Field Trip to be held in conjunction with the First Midwest Mineral Symposium. C.E. Duff & Sons, Inc. Huntsville Quarry, Logan County OH. Special permission has been obtained from the owners for Sunday entry. The quarry is best known for well-formed diploidal crystals of pyrite. Fluorite (light yellow and dark brown), saddle dolomite, calcite, and sphalerite are present also. See the article in the Mineralogical Record, 1987, v. 18, p. 391-398 by Richards and Chamberlain.

Ernie Carlson

TREASURERS REPORT 1997

Savings balance (1/1/97)	$660.07
interest income	19.99 est
Savings balance (1/1/98)	680.06
Checking balance (1/1/97)	464.49
Income	
membership dues	663.00
	1127.49
Expenses	
insurance	128.00
printing and postage	242.53
symposium printing and printing	25.74
speaker fees	50.00
National FOM dues	290.00
OSHA training (balance due) ..	40.00
bank (return deposit charge) ..	18.00
	794.27
Checking balance (1/1/98)	333.22
Savings balance (1/1/98)	680.06
Total treasury balance	$1013.28

Kim Greeman 1/6/98