



NEWSLETTER
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MIDWEST CHAPTER, FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY

MEETING

SATURDAY MARCH 14, 1998

2:00PM

GEM & MINERAL SHOW

EASTERN INDIANA GEM & GEOLOGICAL SOC.

WAYNE COUNTY 4-H FAIRGROUNDS

NORTH SALISBURY ROAD

RICHMOND, INDIANA

**PROGRAM: "MISSISSIPPI VALLEY TYPE LEAD-ZINC
DEPOSITS, THEIR MINERALOGY & ORIGIN" BY
DR. ERNIE CARLSON, KENT STATE UNIVERSITY**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE- TUCSON 1998

I was able to travel to the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show, or rather Shows, and present a paper for the Friends of Mineralogy Symposium on Alpine Minerals and Fluorite. My paper was on the minerals from the Highway 51 Quarry in Arkansas, visited by our Midwest group last Spring as part of a regional field trip. The mineralization in this quarry has proven to be quite similar to Alpine veins, but influenced by the alkalic intrusive of Magnet Cove.

While in Tucson, I was able to participate in the FM board meeting as representative of the Midwest Chapter. I reported on our upcoming Symposium and on the Fluorite Symposium sponsored by the Falls of the Ohio Park. Newsworthy items from the Board meeting were the election of member Dr. Nelson Shaffer as National FM President. The Board also discussed the status of the FM Dealers Association and the status of Mineralogy in the Geology curriculum. The Lieber photography contest was successful and will continue this year and Kay Robertson has pledged support for a special educational exhibit award by FM that will combine esthetic display with an educational theme.

The mineral show was outstanding (as usual) and contained many excellent displays. Special exhibits of Alpine minerals dominated, but there were also many fine displays of museum quality specimens of all sorts. The Motel shows had some outstanding specimens for sale. There were few really "new" finds this year, but there was an abundance of extremely nice specimens from recent big finds available. Rhodochrosite from Colorado was plentiful (and specimens up to \$125,000 were offered!). Red Cloud wulfenite, tanzanite crystals, aquamarine, tourmaline and some excellent South American epidotes were noticeable. Very nice pyromorphites from Idaho were in good supply, but finds of French and Spanish pyromorphite with a beautiful apple-green color were particularly eye-catching.

There has been a new find of wavellite at Mauldin Mountain, near Mt. Ida, Arkansas. A local collector contracted to mine crushed stone and then excavated a 30 foot pit where our field trip last Spring found some indications of wavellite. He recovered about 200 flats of the largest "balls" of bright green wavellite yet seen from this quarry. Specimens with hemispheres 1-1.5 inches in size are not rare. Also found were some extremely unusual blue-colored wavellites. A small amount of this material was seen at Tucson and may make it to Indiana soon. The pit has been backfilled by the County and subsequent finds will have to wait for mining to catch up to the area (probably 3-5 years)

I was unable to arrange a Spring field trip for us to Graves Mt in Georgia. Recent finds of rutile there have set off a "rutile rush" reminiscent of many gold rushes. The site is booked solid by clubs and people are really taking risks to collect some large rutiles. Stories of broken legs and other depredations are not welcome and may lead to the closing of the locality. I will try and arrange a fall field trip if it is still available then.

Henry Barwood
President

MIDWEST MINERAL SYMPOSIUM - UPDATE

Symposium brochures have been mailed to about 500 mineral enthusiasts thanks to the help of Andy, Sylvia and Al Sicree.

UPCOMING FM MEETINGS, PROGRAMS & FIELD TRIPS

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, Theresa M. Boundy, Ball State University, "Norwegian Fault Minerals". Hal Roepke, Ball State University, will speak on Sunday March 15 at 2:00PM on "Relation Between Atomic Structure & Crystal Form".

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. We will meet at the scale house at 9:00AM. 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

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 25, 1998 MEETING

Henry Barwood called the group to order in the meeting room of the Indiana State Museum in Indianapolis. The opening topic of discussion was the First Midwest Mineral Symposium, Saturday, April 4, 1998 at Veterans Memorial, Columbus, OH. In order to increase attendance at the symposium, \$250 for advertising was made available. If our first symposium is successful it will become an annual affair and the Midwest Chapter FOM will schedule a meeting in conjunction with the symposium and show.

The annual Falls of the Ohio 1998 Mineral Symposium will be held on May 22 (Memorial Day weekend) at Indiana University Southeast in New Albany, Indiana. A field trip to the Illinois fluorite mining area and fluorite museum is scheduled for the next day. Cost of the symposium is \$25 and \$35 for registration with the field trip to cost extra. The members of the Midwest Chapter, FOM, voted to donate \$200 to the Falls of the Ohio seminar. Several members donated additional cash to bring the total donation to \$277.

It was pointed out college and university geology departments are under pressure to drop mineralogy requirements from their curriculum due to the increase in specialization. We urge all friends of mineralogy to write to your favorite geology department urging them to resist this idea.

It is reported that the world famous Graves Mountain, Georgia, rutile collecting site was open to collectors. However, before you pack your car, all available collecting dates are booked and the earliest we could visit would be sometime in 1999 (no cutting in line).

Following our business meeting, Andrew Sicree (son of members Sylvia and Al) presented an excellent talk on diamonds. His talk covered the formation of diamonds, the location of kimberlite host rock, and world wide production. The talk was illustrated with slides of many world famous diamond mines. Andy also discussed the formation of kimberlites. Following his presentation we were treated with the examination of several specimens.

Submitted by Kim Greeman - secretary/treasurer

**SEE ACCOMPANYING REGISTRATION FORM FOR FIRST
MIDWEST MINERAL SYMPOSIUM----- SAVE BY
PREREGISTRATION (POSTMARK BY MARCH 27, 1998).**