



NEWSLETTER

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SEPTEMBER, 1998

MIDWEST CHAPTER, FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY

MEETING

SATURDAY

1:00PM(EST)

SEPTEMBER 12, 1998

**500 EARTH SCIENCES GEM & MINERAL SHOW
HANCOCK COUNTY 4-H FAIRGROUNDS
GREENFIELD, INDIANA**

**PROGRAM: "FLUORITE IN THE MIDWEST"
NELSON SHAFFER, INDIANA GEOLOGICAL
SURVEY.**

MINUTES

The June 27, 1998 meeting of the Midwest Chapter of the Friends of Mineralogy, held at Bloomington Indiana, was called to order by President Henry Barwood. The minutes of the May 2nd, 1998 meeting were accepted as printed in the newsletter.

Old Business: It was confirmed that the Midwest Chapter will sponsor a second Mineralogical Symposium to be held Saturday, April 10, 1999, in conjunction with the 1999 Central Ohio Mineral Fossil, Gem & Jewelry Show at Veterans Memorial in Columbus, Ohio. Dr. Ernest Carlson of Kent State University will chair the symposium and Dan Hall will be the liaison with the Columbus, Ohio club. Dr. Carlson has already contacted several potential speakers. The registration fee will remain the same: \$10 pre-registration and \$12 at the door.

The Falls of the Ohio symposium on Southern Illinois Fluorite, held May 22-23, 1998, was partially underwritten by our Midwest Chapter. The sponsors are planning a symposium volume and the F of M will be acknowledged.

New Business: The Indiana Geological Survey has a new director -Dr. John Steinmetz.

The F of M has access to publishing news of interest to the mineralogical world in the "Mineralogical Record"- at least four months lead is required for publication.

Submitted by Albert J. Sicree

President's Message

Not a whole lot of interesting things have been happening (at least mineralogically) this Spring and Summer. With completion of our new house, I have been unable to go into the field much at all. I did manage one short trip to Arkansas, but the collecting was rather thin.

I hear through my sources that Graves Mountain in Georgia continues to produce many large rutile specimens. Unfortunately, they are coming from an area of highwall that is very dangerous to work. I fully expect that at some point someone will be seriously injured or killed and that the locality will go extinct.

The 51 Quarry in Arkansas has changed ownership and collecting has been restricted. There are many unusual things being found there, but getting in to collect is much more difficult now. Recent finds have included some excellent anatase crystals up to 6mm in size.

The Granite Mountain syenite mines are rather dormant these days. Only a single dike in the Granite Mountain #1 quarry has produced any rare minerals. Specimens of kupletskite, pyrophanite and zircon in excellent micromount crystals have been collected along with quite a few "unknowns".

The Mauldin Mountain chert quarries have recently produced what has to rank as the finest wavellite ever collected in Arkansas. Large green and distinctly greenish-blue hemispheres of wavellite to 3 cm in size coating specimens up to several feet across have been recovered. The wavellite was recovered by a miner who mined only the wavellite with a backhoe. Much more is said to be in the ground, but the Forest Service has forbidden taking only mineral specimens from the lease. Eventually, the mining operation will work down to the veins and more material will be recovered.

I recently stopped at the Harrodsburg roadcut on Hyw. 37 to show a visitor where some geodes could be collected. To my surprise a recent rockfall had exposed a large geode with quite a bit of altered millerite (honnessite?) present. The debris pile from digging on the upper bench has also produced some nice smaller geodes.

Henry Barwood

UPCOMING FM MEETINGS, PROGRAMS & FIELD TRIPS

Thirteen members and potential members attended the field trip to Lime City and Millersville on July 11. The weather was excellent. We were restricted to the S end of the Lime City quarry where vugs containing celestite were abundant and nice groups of white prismatic crystals and blue tabular ones (hauled down from N end) were collected. Calcite and strontianite (associated with celestite) as well as some fluorite and sphalerite were also found. At Millersville the most interesting specimens came from the N end of the quarry, where attractive groups of small crystals of white prismatic celestite, calcite, fluorite and strontianite were brought back.

Saturday September 12, 1998, Greenfield Gem & Mineral Show, 4-H Fairgrounds, Hancock Co., Greenfield IN. FM meeting 1:00 PM (Eastern Standard Time). Nelson Shaffer of the Indiana Geological Survey and national president of the Friends of Mineralogy will present "Fluorite in the Midwest".

Saturday September 19, 1998. Field trip to the Suever Stone Co., Inc., Bloomlock and Delphos quarries in Allen & Van Wert Counties, OH. Rain or shine. Bring hard hats, boots and other field and collecting gear. We will meet Mr. Neal Lause at the Bloomlock quarry office at 9:00 AM. The site is located in NW Allen County midway between Delphos and Spencerville at the intersection of Bloomlock Rd and Acadia Rd. From Ohio Rte 66 turn W on Bloomlock Rd. and go about 1.4 miles. See enclosed map. The quarry will not be operating and apparently there will be no time restrictions for us. We will also visit the Delphos quarry which is a few miles further N in SW Delphos just off Jennings-Delphos Rd. The rocks at both sites belong to the Late Silurian Salina Group (Tymochtee Dolomite and overlying dolostones of the Undifferentiated Salina Group). These rocks contain very few fossils. Collecting is fair to good for fluorite (brown, yellow, purple, colorless), white and pink saddle dolomite, calcite, sphalerite, and pyrite. Natural asphalt sometimes oozes from pockets in the walls on warm days. Please write, phone or email Ernie Carlson if you plan to come (Dept. Geology, Kent State University, Kent OH 44242; office 330-672-3778; home 330-678-8875; ecarlson@geology.kent.edu). Then I will be able to contact you in case of last minute problems.

Saturday October 17, 1998. Field trip to the Martin Marietta Magnesia Specialties, Inc., quarry at Woodville, NW Sandusky County, OH. Rain or shine. This is the trip I take for my Mineralogy class at Kent State but have permission to bring along Midwest FM members that are interested. Meet at the quarry office at 8:30 AM which is reached from downtown Woodville by going W on U.S. Rte. 20, turning N on Lime Road and continuing past the RR tracks. See attached map. The rock is the Middle Silurian Lockport Dolomite which contains abundant and well preserved fossils. In recent years mineral collecting has been poor for celestite, fluorite, calcite, strontianite and sphalerite. However, MM usually arranges for us to go to the GenLime Quarry at Genoa, SW Ottawa County (3 miles N) late in the AM, where celestite is very abundant; we likely will not know if Genoa is open to us in advance. Please notify me if you plan to come.

Saturday November 7, 1998. Midwest FM meeting. This meeting will be held in Cleveland in conjunction with the Micromineral Symposium (November 6,7,8) sponsored by the Micromineral Society of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. Dan Behnke is the featured speaker.

SECOND MIDWEST MINERAL SYMPOSIUM

An update on the Second Symposium will be given at the September 12 Greenfield meeting.

Ernie Carlson

