

MINUTES—MAY 3, 2003

Midwest Chapter of Friends of Mineralogy held its May meeting at Cincinnati's GEOFAIR 2003. President Nelson Shaffer presided with twelve members present.

The minutes for the meeting of March 8, 2003, were approved as printed in the newsletter. There was no treasurer's report.

Two new members were introduced: Paul Schwin of New London, Ohio, and Nicholas Kelly of Olmsted Falls, Ohio.

Dr. Ernie Carlson will lead a field trip to Millersville, Ohio, on Saturday, May 10. Interested members were asked to sign up with Ernie before the trip. He will check with the quarry management in the week prior to the event and notify those signed up if the quarry will be closed and the trip canceled.

Alan Goldstein will lead a field trip to the Irvington Quarry in Kentucky on a date in August, preferably after a "shoot" at the quarry. Details will be available at a later date.

A letter will be sent to the Cincinnati Mineral Society and The Dry Dredgers thanking them for providing a venue for our meeting.

The Midwest Chapter will continue its affiliation with the American Geological Institute. Nelson Shaffer is the club's representative.

The chapter is considering hosting an information table at this year's Falls of the Ohio Fest.

Plans are proceeding for the Midwest Mineral Symposium to be held in conjunction with GEOFEST on October 25, 2003, at the Indiana State Museum. This 2nd Annual Geofest, sponsored by The Indiana State Museum, October 25-26, 2003, will include dealers, regional clubs and kid's activities. There will be an opportunity for groups to sell. The cost of a table will be \$55.00. Interested groups should contact Peggy

Fisherkeller at pfisherkeller@dnr.state.in.us or at 317-232-7172.

Alan Goldstein discussed holding the 2004 Midwest Mineral Symposium in the Tristate Fluorite District of Kentucky.

The Midwest Chapter will meet next at the Lawrence County Rock Club Show in Bloomington, Indiana, on Saturday, June 28 at 12:00 Noon.

Albert Sicree, Secretary

FoM TRIP TO MILLERSVILLE—MAY 10, 2003

About twenty members attended and weather was good. Once we found where the crystals were we had excellent collecting. At the N end of the new quarry at the top of the new pile, we found many nice transparent yellowish brown fluorite cubes that averages about 0.75 inches on an edge although some were larger. We found a fair amount of galena there and also further east. Some nice pale yellow calcites, iridescent pyrite and small ruby sphalerite crystals (S end of quarry) were collected as well.

A reminder to field trippers about leaving tools in the quarry—a local collector visited Millersville the following day and found a hammer apparently left by someone in our group. Hammers can damage rock crushers and careless collecting is one of many reasons that quarries close their doors to collectors.

I am trying to set-up another collecting trip for Saturday, August 16. Hope to have plans firmed up by the Bloomington show.

Ernie Carlson 330-672-3778 (Office) ecarlson@kent.edu

NOTE FROM ALAN GOLDSTEIN 6/16/03—I do not have a specific date for the August Irvington quarry field trip yet. I might be at the Bloomington Show. I will try to attend the FoM meeting on Saturday.
(Editor's Note: Watch for further information about this field trip. If you are interested, let us know how you would like to be contacted as the dates for the two trips are between the issuance of the newsletter.)

Deadline for information to be included in the September newsletter is August 24, 2003

ROCK COLLECTING ON STATE PROPERTY--INDIANA

Thanks to Kathryn Shaffer and Nelson Shaffer and The Indiana Geological Survey for the following information.

I called Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Law Enforcement for District 67, and asked about rock collecting on state property by Lake Monroe. He said that it was OK if you were issued a permit to do it. A permit could be obtained by calling 812-837-9546 (if that doesn't work, try 812-837-9536). However, he says that there is also federal forest down there and if so, the person would need to contact the Hoosier National Forest at Bedford: 812-275-5987. I was told also that the geode area near Camp Maumee was a very popular area for collecting geodes and that is in the Hoosier National Forest.

The Hoosier National Forest does not have the actual regulation posted on its website, and only vaguely discusses rock collecting (see link below) with no mention of permits.

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/hoosier/docs/collecting.htm#rocks>

I called them at the number given above and asked them about their regulations. I was told that if the person is only collecting one or two specimens for personal use that there was no problem. However, they do not allow collecting of large numbers of specimens at all and absolutely no selling of specimens is allowed. They do not issue permits, but these are the rules that are enforced.



DIAMOND LOCALITIES OF THE WORLD CAPE PROVINCE, SOUTH AFRICA

The first diamond discovery in South Africa occurred on a small farm named DeKalk, just south of the Orange River in western Cape Province in 1866. A very strange looking bright stone was picked up by Erasmus Jacobs, a 15 year old boy who had been sent by his father to clear the outlet pipe of a small dam which was located only a few hundred yards from the banks of the Orange River. This unusual looking stone began a long journey that ended in Grahamstown many months later where it was identified as a diamond by Dr. William Atherton. Dr. Atherton had an interest in mineralogy and was able to perform a series of tests that proved that the stone was a genuine diamond. This first stone, weighing over 12 carats, was sold for 800 pounds Sterling, which was a very handsome price considering the value of money during those days. This accidental discovery by an observant young boy set in motion one of the world's great industries that employs thousands of people in mining, the industrial manufacture of tools and abrasives, and the processing and sale of gemstones. The use of diamonds has been the basis of modern technology in all phases of industry from heavy machinery to dental tools. The Orange and Vaal Rivers both extend westward and have carried countless millions of carats of diamonds to the Atlantic Ocean.

Ballas crystals—the term "Ballas" applies to diamond spherulites of a radial fibrous structure with crystals that are usually rounded to slightly oval, however, they can occur in drop to pear-shaped forms. The colors of nearly all of these Ballas crystals are light gray to black, and are due to minute black graphite inclusions concentrated in the crystal. This is one of the rarer forms of diamond that has been found in only three major world localities.

By David New – Via The Mineral Mite 3/99



We'll try one more time. An up-to-date membership list is included with this newsletter. Again, please review and forward any corrections to dandme@spitfire.net – call or write at address shown on the list.

New Members: Welcome. You are receiving back issues of our newsletter plus a copy of the Midwest Chapter's Constitution and By-laws. If there are any questions or if you have comments, please contact one of our officers listed on Page 1.

M. Edington, Editor



GEM MINERAL ~ FOSSIL SHOW & SWAP

And June Meeting Of I.S.P. Indiana Society of Paleontology
Also June Meeting of Midwest Friends of Mineralogy

Sponsored by the Lawrence County Rock Club, Inc.
At Monroe County Fairgrounds, Bloomington, Indiana
Southwest of Junction Ind. 37 & Ind. 45 S., 1 2/10 Miles on Ind. 45, then 7/10 Mile
on Airport Road, West of Bloomington

**FREE
ADMISSION**

Gems - Jewelry - Gifts - Lapidary Materials
Minerals - Fossils - Rocks - Supplies

**FREE
ADMISSION**

June 27, 28, 29, 2003

INSIDE AND OUTSIDE SET-UP SPACE

Reservations taken when number of feet and Money to accompany Reservations. Space reserved according to postmark on envelope. No telephone reservations. Space remaining when door opens will be sold on a first come/ first served basis. \$2.00 per front foot space charge. Bring your own tables and chairs. Limited number of rental tables (no chairs) available and these must be reserved prior to the show. Limited electrical service.

Camping 10.00 per night. Camping in designated area only, if using 30 amp. Electric hook-up

Gate Opens at 2:00 PM. Thursday, June 26

Displays Welcome - Food Service on Grounds - Donations Welcome for Auctions

FRIDAY

8 A.M. - 10 A.M. SET-UP
10 A.M.DOORS OPEN
7 P.M. CLOSE FOR DAY

**NOT
RESPONSIBLE
FOR ACCIDENTS**

SATURDAY

8 A.M.DOORS OPEN
12 NOON .FOM-MC MEETING
2 P.M.M.A.P.S. MEETING
7 P.M.CLOSE FOR DAY

**NOT
RESPONSIBLE
FOR ACCIDENTS**

SUNDAY

8 A.M. DOORS OPEN
4 P.M. SHOW CLOSES

**Hotels & Motels
Available**

SHOW CHAIRMAN
Margaret Kahrs
9145 W. U.S. Hwy. 50 East
Seymour, IN 47274-9401
Phone (812) 522-6093

SHOW CO-CHAIRMAN
Elmer Richter
4741 St. Rd. 54 W.
Springville, IN 47462
Phone (812) 279-5830

**Daily
Silent Auctions**