

MINUTES OF THE MEETING MARCH 19, 2006

Thirteen members and guests met at the Indiana State Museum in Indianapolis on Sunday, March 19, 2006, 12:00 noon.

President David Straw opened the meeting by welcoming the members and guests and thanking Mrs. Fisherkeller for making arrangement for today's meeting.

The minutes of the January 15, 2006, meeting were approved as they appeared in the March newsletter with a motion from Lorraine Wright and a second by Peggy Fisherkeller. Motion passed.

Ms. Wright, Treasurer, reported on the balance in the checking account and the report was approved with a motion from Dwaine Edington, seconded by P. Fisherkeller. Motion passed. Ms. Wright also reported that the bank account would possibly be moved to another bank. She will check into policies of the current bank and a new bank. She will also check into the status of our organization as a not-for-profit with the State of Indiana.

President Straw remarked on the letter to be sent to the widow of N. Gary Lane. Nelson Shaffer reported that a letter had been sent under the Indiana Geological Survey and a memorial is being planned.

President Straw reminded members of the field trip to the Fluorite District in Kentucky on April 1 and 2 and also of the Ben E. Clement Mineral Museum's first annual mineral and gem show to be held June 3 and 4, 2006 in Marion, Kentucky.

The support for the Clement Mineral Museum as suggested by Alan Goldstein is underway. Robert Harman has been in touch with Mr. Goldstein and also letters have been exchanged with the Museum. Some of the ideas to support the Clement Mineral Museum are as follows: 1) Work with Bill Frazer to host an annual dig for members in the fluorite district. Open it up to all FoM members across the country. 2) Host an informal FoM gathering for their annual show by asking members to come with friends and family, therefore, the chapter is supporting the show with action. 3) Ask members with expertise in earth science education to serve as volunteer consultants to the museum board with ideas of the type of program to be developed for K-16 students. 4) Have members donate good specimens from their collection for the museum's fundraising auction with the annual show. 5) Have members to come and buy specimens at the auction. 6) Perhaps members could donate \$10 to the museum when they rejoin FoM annually. Mr. Goldstein will discuss details of the support at our meeting in Cincinnati on May 6. The project was tabled until our next meeting.

A symposium for 2006 was discussed. Mr. Straw will contact Ernie Carlson to see if he has formed any ideas. Members are urged to send suggestions to Mr. Straw or Mr. Carlson. We need member's input on getting the symposium details completed. Mr. Shaffer noted that having the symposium with speakers and collecting field trips seems to be more successful than just a day of speakers. One idea was to tour the facilities that manufacture man-made crystals. This can be held anytime during the year.

Field Trips: Ideas and suggestions are needed from members on locations for field trips. Mr. Straw will check with Mr. Carlson about trips to Ohio and Mr. Edington will check into places to go in Indiana.

Meetings: Future meetings will be May 6 in Cincinnati, June 24 in Bloomington, September 9 in Greenfield and November 4 in Cleveland. Speakers will be needed for the Bloomington and Greenfield dates. Mr. Harman has indicated that he will be speaker at Bloomington, but has not confirmed.

Mr. Shaffer thanked the Midwest Chapter members that helped man the booth at the 2006 Tucson show. He also requests that anyone planning on being there in 2007, let him know, and volunteer to help for a couple of hours. This would be to hand out literature and information about Friends of Mineralogy-the National Organization and the different chapters throughout the U.S.

The web site was discussed and Mr. Shaffer requests that any images or handouts you would have available and would be of interest to prospective members please send to him either by email or snail mail.

Members and guests present were Jerry and Frances Hunt, Lorraine Wright, Peggy Fisherkeller, Robert Vetter, Nelson Shaffer, Dwaine and Marlene Edington, David Straw, Alan DeWitt, Kenneth Newman, Phillip Lind and Tim Fosberg.

Mr. Newman made a motion to adjourn the business portion of the meeting. It was seconded by P. Fisherkeller. Passed

The program was presented by Nelson Shaffer with the assistance of David Straw on The Tucson Experience 2006. Mr. Shaffer's photography was excellent in showing the minerals and fossils on display and for sale. With attendance in the range of 35,000 to 40,000, the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show is one that everyone interested in minerals and fossils should attend once in their life. The main show is held at the Convention Center with smaller shows throughout the entire city at approximately 40 hotels and motels. The theme of this year's show was the Minerals of Canada. The display cases held some of the most fabulous mineral specimens in the world from thumbnail to museum size. Museums from small to large cities displayed portions of their collections. Worldwide

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dealers had for sale every type with prices from just a few dollars to thousands of dolls. Mr. Shaffer showed some of the specimens he had purchased. Calcite with hematite inclusions, some pyrite from China, fluorite, celestine—all beautiful. Those in attendance were treated to a great slide presentation and an abundance of books and brochures for viewing. Thanks to Nelson and David for a great program.

Marlene Edington, Secretary pro-tem

MEMBERS—ATTENTION

To conserve space in the newsletter sent via e-mail a 2006 membership list will be sent through the US Postal Service along with an announcement for a special Silent Auction to take place May 13, 2006. Please check to see that all of your information is correct in the membership list. If there are corrections that need to be made, please let me know.

My apologies for the last newsletter and the size of the font. I did change it to add a special line and then forgot to go back to the larger size for the body of the newsletter. I will remember to keep it all the same size this time.

Membership fees are \$15.00 for the first member, \$10.00 for each additional family member. Checks can be sent to Lorraine Wright, Treasurer FoM-MC, 1505 S. Randolph St., Indianapolis IN 46203
Please note: If you do not wish to receive the newsletter via e-mail, please contact me at dandme@spitfire.net or 765-345-5514. We are still in the process of trying to get all of the e-mail addresses correct. Sending your newsletters via e-mail will cut our cost of copying and mailing, thus, membership fees will remain as they are now. If you do have an e-mail address, please let us know. If there are any questions or further information needed, please contact one of the officers. Name, telephone and e-mail below.

President David Straw (on first page)
Vice-President Robert Harman 812-237-8994, bobannhar@aol.com
Vice-President Ernest Carlson 330-678-8875, ecarlson@kent.edu
Secretary Albert Sicree 937-236-1320
Treasurer Lorraine Wright 317-784-1159, lwright@indy.rr.com

The Friends of Mineralogy National Newsletter is also being sent via the Internet. Again, if you do not wish to receive your copy this way, please let us know.
Marlene Edington, Editor
