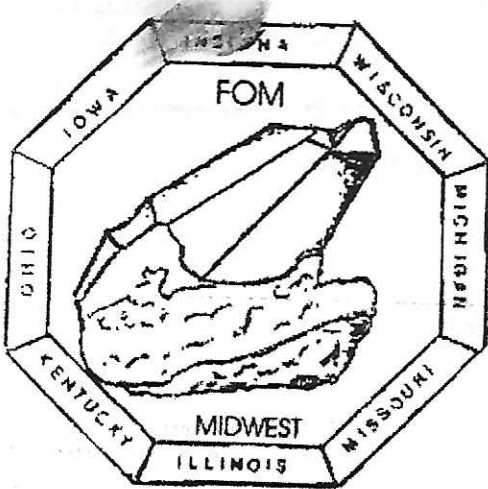


FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY, INC MIDWEST CHAPTER

AFFILIATIONS:

THE MINERALOGICAL RECORD
THE MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA
AMERICAN GEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE
ROCKS & MINERALS MAGAZINE

NEXT MEETING: SATURDAY, NOV 3, 2007, 3-4 PM
CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
CLEVELAND, OH

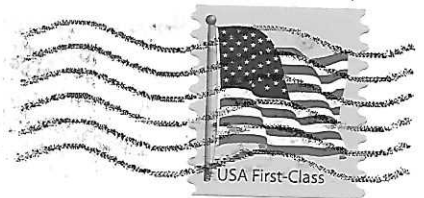


Merry Christmas

FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY
MIDWEST CHAPTER
JOHN BLUE, EDITOR
16155 SHURMER RD
STRONGSVILLE, OH 44136

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FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY
MIDWEST CHAPTER

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Page 1

NOVEMBER 2007

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AMERICAN GEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE
THE MINERALOGICAL RECORD
THE MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA
ROCKS & MINERALS MAGAZINE

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Boy, what a great symposium! We visited three quarries and several road cuts and other collecting sites over the two days. Many thanks to Nelson Shaffer and company, Alan Goldstein, Charlie Oldham, Dave Rush and Bob Harmon for organizing the field trips and providing talks. Jeff Smith gave a talk on the geodes from the Las Choyas Mine in Chihuahua; Alan and Nelson provided talks on Indiana/Kentucky geodes, and Dave Rush gave a talk on the Salem quarry which we were also able to visit on one of the field trips. Due to the lateness of the hour, Charlie's talk was postponed. He has promised to give it at a future meeting. Nelson provided a wonderful array of handouts and information including a DVD of his presentation. Alan also provided an excellent venue for the talks at the Falls of the Ohio meeting site. Nelson did most of the organizing, and has our thanks!

The next meeting will be on November 3 at the Micromounters Symposium in Cleveland. I will not be able to attend, so Janet Clifford has agreed to chair the meeting as she did last year. There will be an election of officers for next year at the Cleveland meeting. We are presenting a slate consisting of the same people that are now in office; President-Dave Straw, V.P.(field trips)-Ernie Carlson, V.P.(programs)- Bob Harman, Treasurer - Lorraine Wright, and Secretary for Ohio meetings - Anne Cook. Secretary for Indiana meetings is open. The floor will also be open for other nominations. If I am elected, next year will be my third year as President. After that I will ask that someone else take over the office. Actually, I think that there may be a mention in the National Bylaws that the same person should only serve two consecutive years

(President's Message Cont'd)

as President, so if anyone else would like to step in, please feel free to do so. Just let me and Janet know. We have composed a preliminary set of guidelines for field trips. If there is room in the newsletter, they will be included for your consideration. In any case, we will discuss them at the next two meetings before adoption. Please send me your comments and suggestions

Bob Armstrong is mending from his injuries, but he has a way to go yet. Marlene Edington is continuing her battle against cancer. Please keep them both in your thoughts.

Dave Straw, President

ADDENDUM TO PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

To all members that did not receive information about the symposium, please accept my apologies. There was a problem with delayed delivery of information packets sent by US mail, but I have been made aware that some people received no advanced information at all. These folks will be understandably upset and I do apologize. There are plans afoot for another symposium next year and we will make improved communication on a timely basis a priority.

Dave Straw

SCHOLARSHIP DONATION

Below is a copy of the certificate the chapter received from the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies for our donation to their scholarship program. For your information, the AFMS grants 12-2 yr scholarships each year at \$2000 per year for a total of \$48,000 a year. The funds come from clubs in the 6 regional federations and from outside donors such as FOM. Each regional federation annually selects an individual or individuals to honor with choosing the students or an institution to select the students for the scholarship. The students must be in or entering graduate school, majoring in the Earth Sciences. Our own Dr Carlson was so honored in 1999.

AFMS SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

In Recognition of Contributions since the 2005
MIDWEST Federation Convention
the

**MIDWEST CHAPTER OF FRIENDS OF
MINERALOGY**

has donated \$100.00

MEMORIAL for NORMAN LEPPERT & FRED LEWIS

Nellie Claxton
Nellie Claxton, Scholarship Chairman
Midwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies

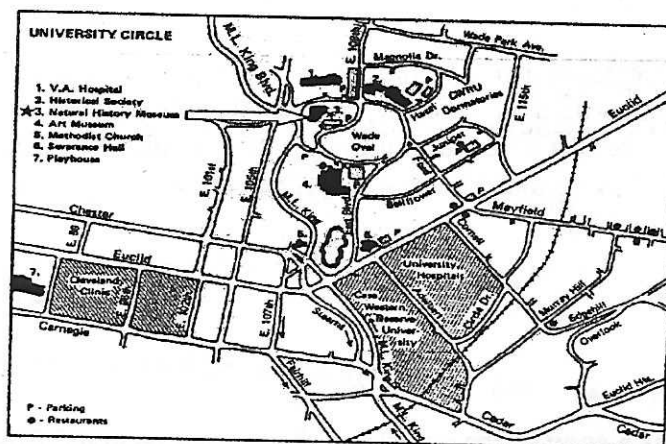
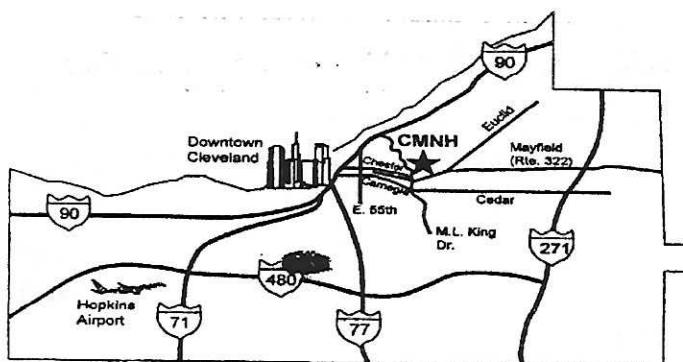


Dee Holland
Dee Holland, President
AFMS Scholarship Foundation

NEXT MEETING

Our final meeting of 2007 will be held in conjunction with the annual Micromounters Symposium of the Micromineral Society of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History in Cleveland, Ohio on November 3 at 3:00 PM. Election of officers for 2008 will be held. The slate is given in the President's Message. If you wish to nominate someone from the floor, please be sure the nominee is willing to serve in that office. Below are maps indicating the meeting location.

The symposium itself runs from Friday thru Sunday. If you desire further information contact Janet Clifford at (216) 371-2749 or Anne Cook at (216) 381-9003.



PROPOSED FIELD TRIP RULES

The following are proposed rules covering FOM, Midwest Chapter Field Trips. They will be introduced for discussion. Proposed amendments, additions, and deletions are sought. Adoption or rejection will be considered at a future meeting. If you are unable to attend the meeting, please feel free to submit written comments to President Dave Straw.

1. Attendees must be a current member of FoM. At the discretion of the field trip chairperson, members may bring a guest to one field trip, however, that individual must become a member in order to attend additional field trips.
2. Regarding safety, it is the responsibility of each member and their guests to have and use the proper attire and equipment (hard hat, safety shoes, eye protection, etc.). This document does not include a comprehensive list of safety rules for collectors. This sort of information is available at the MSHA safety training classes, and also at the website for the AFMS, [_www.amfed.org_](http://www.amfed.org) (<http://www.amfed.org/>).
3. Most field trips require a current certification for the MSHA safety training; individuals must have the certificate in their possession. This also applies to guests. Those without the certificate may be refused admission by quarry personnel. Note that the certificate must be updated annually in order to be valid.

(Proposed Guidelines, Cont'd)

4. The number of attendees to any given trip may be limited, so individuals must pre-register with the field trip chairperson in advance of the trip. Otherwise, admission may be denied. This also applies to guests.
5. Young children should not be brought on field trips. Age limits will be at the discretion of the field trip chairperson and quarry personnel.
6. Attendees must sign in at the quarry office and participate in any introductory talk given by quarry personnel. Rules delineated by quarry personnel must be followed without question. Note that quarries require that collectors sign a release absolving the quarry company and personnel of any responsibility for injuries or damage to property.
7. All collectors understand that there is some risk inherent in field trips. Neither FoM nor any other member can be held liable for injuries or loss of property.
8. Every effort must be made to avoid leaving trash at the collecting site. Take care that metal tools are not left behind, as they pose a risk of damage to quarry rock crushers.
9. It is understood that the field trip chairperson is in charge of the trip and that their instructions are to be followed.
10. It is to be understood that not all trips will be productive regarding either quantity or quality of specimens available. This is not within the control of either the field trip chairperson or the quarry personnel. We are able to visit quarries only by permission of quarry owners and if they hear negative comments, future visits may be denied. It is important to understand that many quarries are now owned by a single company, and if negative comments or inappropriate behavior is encountered by the quarry personnel at one location, the door may be closed at all facilities of the parent company.
11. Attendees must agree to the above guidelines, and to conduct themselves in a professional manner.

9/12/07

THANKS TO FIELD TRIP CHAIR

Our September 15 trip to Graymont Quarry at Genoa, Ohio was perfect. After 80 degree days and rain, the day was cool, clear & dry. Besides our group, the Toledo club and 20 graduate students from the University of Michigan were present. There was an abundance of calcite and celestine exposed, but it was difficult to collect from the vugs in the large boulders. Fluorite was also found. The quarry manager gave us interesting information on the products produced at this site.

I didn't attend the subsequent trip to the Huron River to collect from concretions because it sounded beyond my physical abilities. Haven't heard about that adventure. Thanks to Ernie Carlson for arranging the two trips.

WHAT??? In some countries, the natives practice the strange custom of beating the ground with hatchet-like clubs, and occasionally uttering blood-curdling cries. Anthropologists call this a form of primitive self-expression. In our society it is called "Rock Hunting"

SILICON, SILICA, SILICATES & SILICONE

People get confused about the differences between silicon, silicate, silica and even silicone. What is it exactly that we collect, cut and polish?

Silicon is a chemical element, one of the 97 natural building blocks from which our minerals are formed. A chemical element is a substance that can't be subdivided into simple substances without splitting atoms. Silicon is the second most abundant element in the earth's crust, making up about 27% of the average rock. Silicon links up with oxygen (which makes up 55% of the earth's crust) to form the most common suite of minerals, called the silicates. Quartz, feldspars, olivine, micas, thomsonite, jadeite, and prehnite are all silicates. There is so much oxygen around that pure native silicon is almost never found naturally.

Silica is a bit trickier concept. It refers to the combination of silicon plus oxygen. The mineral quartz is silica. But so are the minerals tridymite, coesite, cristobalite and stishovite which are mineral forms of silica that are stable at high temperatures and pressures. All these minerals are also silicates. In other words, quartz is a silicate made of pure silica. But feldspars contain sodium, aluminum, potassium and calcium in addition to silicon and oxygen. Thus feldspars are silicates but they aren't pure silica.

Geochemists also use the term "silica" to refer to the overall silicon and oxygen content of rocks. This is confusing, but stems from the fact that in rock analysis a sample is dissolved, the solution treated, and the amount of silicon present is determined by precipitating it as silica. So a geologist may say "This rock is 48% silica". A rockhound will look at the rock and say "How can that be? I don't see any quartz in it". Both are right. The rock will not have the mineral quartz because the silicon and oxygen are tied up with other elements to make silicate minerals like feldspar. It's a bit like looking at a cake and saying "I don't see any eggs in there!" The eggs are cake ingredients but are present now in different forms.

Now, what is silicone? It's a synthetic polymer of silicon with carbon and oxygen that could be in solid, liquid or gel form. It has all kinds of medical uses, such as in antacids, artificial joints, pacemakers and implants of various notoriety, but is not, as far as anyone knows, found in rocks.

Can pure silicon be found in Nature? Yes, rarely. Recently Russian geologists were sampling gases from Kudriavy volcano on the Kamchatka Peninsula. Here they drove quartz tubes into vents jetting out gases of over 900 degrees C. Their tubes filled with minerals precipitating from this gas. Among them were pure silicon metal embedded in masses of salts such as halite. The silicon formed crystals up to 0.3 mm across. It was associated with pure aluminum metal, Si-Al alloys and other rare minerals. This find was unusual enough to warrant a note in the prestigious science journal, Nature.

So unless you are in Russia sampling hot volcanic gases, you can be sure that what you are finding are silica and silicates, but not silicon or silicone. By Dr Bill Cordua, U of Wisconsin, River Falls via Cedar Valley Gems, 5/2002.

NEXT ISSUE: January 2008. Copy Deadline December 10, 07.

The Wisdom of Will Rogers: Don't squat with your spurs on. Always drink upstream from the herd. Never miss a good chance to shut-up. There's two theories to arguin' with a woman. Neither one works. The quickest way to double your money is to fold it over and put it back in your pocket. Good judgment comes from experience, and a lot of that comes from bad judgment. From Flint Flashes 2/00.