

FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY, INC MIDWEST CHAPTER

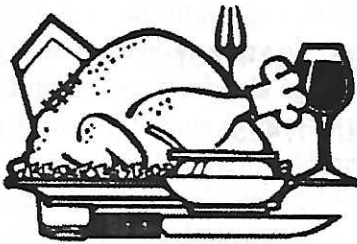


AFFILIATIONS:

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

NEXT MEETING

Saturday, November 7, 2009
Cleveland Museum of Natural History
1 Wade Oval
Cleveland, OH



NOVEMBER-

DECEMBER

2009



FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY, INC
MIDWEST CHAPTER
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FIRST CLASS



**FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY
MIDWEST CHAPTER**

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

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PURPOSE

Friends of Mineralogy, Inc - Midwest Chapter is organized to promote interest in and knowledge of mineralogy; to advance mineralogical education; to protect and preserve mineral specimens and promote conservation of mineral localities; to futher cooperation between amateur and professional and encourage collection of minerals for educational value; and to support publications about mineralogy and about the programs of kindred organizations.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We are now well into the fall season with cooler days and long chilly nites. The Denver and Detroit shows are history along with some smaller regional shows. Still other shows are yet to come within the next few weeks. Our fall field trips are also history and collecting was good and fair in the places we went. Most collectors came home with specimens needing cleaning and trimming or bought specimens at the shows. Now is a good time to start those home projects of rearranging specimens, culling excess inventory and thinking of where to proceed. I will be giving away some lower end and mediocre specimens to several venues including our local club's kiddie table and the state museum for its out reach programs. As the vast majority, we club members have much more material than we need, I urge all of you to think of doing similar type donations. Young prospective collectors are very appreciative of our outreach programs with the "freebies". Good hunting! Bob Harman

OCTOBER FIELD TRIPS

On October 2 and 3 the Chapter had 2 field trips. On the 2nd we went to Harding St. Quarry in Indianapolis to look for pyrite nodules and other specimens of interest. This trip was in conjunction with the Columbus Ohio club so about 60 total collectors were present. The weather was perfect and collecting was very good with most all members finding hi quality hen's egg sized lustrous pyrite nodules. Many smaller forms and other pyrite forms including pyritized fossils were also collected. For those older individuals, collecting was relatively easy. I will ask that we have another field trip opportunity to this site next spring. On Oct 3 we went to Corydon Quarry and were there with the Holland Michigan club. About 50 collectors were present. It was noted that the collectors from the other club were novices (not properly dressed or trained, but we did not need MSHA certificates so that did not matter); this worried some members. We should, perhaps, discuss this at an upcoming meeting. Anyway the weather again was perfect, but collecting was only fair. A few collectors found good material, but most came home only with very mediocre specimens by that quarry's past history.

Report by Bob Harman

MEETING MINUTES - GREENFIELD, INDIANA, SEPTEMBER 12, 2009

The meeting at the Greenfield, IN show was chaired by Nelson Shaffer; President Bob Harman being in Wyoming (or somewhere?). Nelson provided an excellent program on meteorites, with an emphasis on those which fell in Indiana. Also covered was the field trip to the Serpent Mound location east of Cincinnati, which followed the symposium at Bloomington on Sept 5th. This location is an old meteorite fall site, as well as the location for the serpent shaped earth work that was built by Native Americans. The location is also reputed by some to be a location of significant new age power of some sort. Treasurer Len Gritzer was under the weather but sent a report of our account balance being \$2717.73, as well as reporting receipt of thanks from the AFMS for our contribution of \$100 to the Scholarship Foundation in memory of Dee Slater. The MSHA safety training conducted by at the Geological Survey location in Bloomington was completed in late August. There was some discussion about field trips. The trip we were invited to by the Columbus club to the quarry at Delphos, Ohio did not pan out. The quarry personnel never showed up, so we could not go in. We ended up going to the Duff quarry in Huntsville, OH instead. Collecting there was sparse; some dolomite, calcite and pyrite was found, but I saw no show stoppers. There will be another trip on October 3 to the Corydon quarry (limited to 25 people), and the Columbus club has also invited us to join them on a trip to the Hanson quarry in Indianapolis on October 2. Contact Ernie Carlson for info. A suggestion was made that we investigate the possibility of duplicating tapes that Bob Armstrong has made over the years of the programs at our meetings. These could be made available for review by individuals or other clubs. There was a brief discussion regarding the recent events surrounding collecting activities at public road cuts. The current best advice is to refrain from such activities and to not take any other action pending possible future developments. Submitted by Dave Straw

DUEZY LADY ASKS FOR 2010 DUES. PLEASE REMIT PROMPTLY!

**FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY, MIDWEST CHAPTER
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM**

Dues are for calendar year Jan1 through Dec 31

Dues should be paid by January 15th

Dues must be current to participate in FoM Chapter activities

Annual dues currently \$15 for individual member. \$10 each additional family member

NAME _____

ADD'TL FAMILY MEMBER NAMES _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE _____ Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
E-MAIL _____

Commercial Mineral Dealer? Yes ___ No ___ Company Name _____

CLUB NEWSLETTER VIA E-MAIL? YES ___ NO ___

TOTAL MEMBERSHIPS _____ TOTAL REMITTANCE \$ _____

REMIT FORM & PAYMENT TO: **LEN GRITZER**
P.O. BOX 22581
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46222

ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

The Midwest Chapter Symposium held in September was well attended and received by members. Thanks to those responsible for organizing it and to the speakers who participated. The subject was Ohio meteorites with a field trip to the Serpent Mound area.

NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting will be on Saturday, November 7, 2009 at 2:00 PM. It will be hosted by the Micromineral Society of Cleveland in conjunction with their annual symposium which runs from the 6th thru the 8th. It will be held at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. 1 Wade Oval, Cleveland, OH. If interested in attending the symposium or if you have questions concerning the meeting, contact Janet Clifford, 2955 Berkshire Rd, Cleveland Hts, OH 44118, Tele: (216) 371-2749.

ANCIENT USES OF MINERALS

It has always been interesting to learn about the strange ways in which minerals have been used. Tin, for instance, has been known for thousands of years. The Phoenicians and other ancient people mined it in the famous mines in Cornwall, England, . . .and, from that time to this, tin has been an important metal in the progress of civilization. But perhaps the most unusual use of tin was as an additive to put rustle in silk cloth. The luxurious swish of a lady's skirt in the era of elaborate clothes at the turn of the century was produced by a silk that was up to 25% tin, by weight.

One of the strangest use of lead ever recorded is found in the story of the Hanging Gardens of Babylon. This wonder of the ancient world was contained in a square 400 feet on each side and built up as several large terraces which attained the height of the city walls. The whole structure was supported by arches, one above the other, strengthened by a wall 22 feet thick surrounding it on all sides. On the top were first laid large flat stones, 16 feet long and 4 feet wide. Over these were laid a layer of reeds mixed with a great quantity of bitumen, upon which were set 2 rows of bricks cemented closely together. The whole thing was covered with thick sheets of lead, upon which was laid the mold of the garden and soil deep enough to take the roots of the biggest trees. Amyitis, wife of Nebuchadnezzar, longed for the hills; her husband, to please her, built this magnificent structure. This ancient garden with its lead shielding suggest a plan for a modern bomb shelter.

We are all familiar with the crystal ball of the fortune teller, cut from flawless quartz. Another more practical use for these smooth spheres was discovered by oriental needle workers. These women, skilled in the art of fine embroidery, used the balls to cool their hands and prevent moisture from soiling the fine silks on which they worked.

The long slender crystal selenites from the Cave of the Swords at Naica in Chihuahua, Mexico are beautiful to look at, but they, too, have been put to a practical use. Some of these crystals retain the water of crystallization in the form of a bubble in which the water moves as it is tipped to and fro. These crystals have been used as hand levels by the native miners.

Obsidian is today one of the favorite cutting materials of amateur lapidaries, and many interesting things can be done with it. One of the projects of the early Aztec stone worker was a mirror for his lady. Pieces of obsidian were so perfectly polished and fitted together that there was no distortion in the reflected image, which of course, was very dark or black. Mirrors of the ancient Greeks and Incas were made of copper, silver and pits of pyrite or marcasite neatly fitted into wooden frames and the smoothed and polished. The ancient Peruvians were so skilled they made concave mirrors with which they concentrated the rays of the sun to be used to kindle fires. *From The Post Rock, Sept 1993 via MGAGS, Fall 2002.*

HUMOR or lack thereof

How can you delay milk turning sour? A: Keep it in the cow.

Name a major disease associated with cigarettes. A: Premature death.

How is dew formed? A: The sun shines down on the leaves and makes them perspire.

What is the fibula? A: A small lie.

What does varicose mean? A: Nearby

From EFMLS Newsletter, June 2002.