

FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY, INC MIDWEST CHAPTER

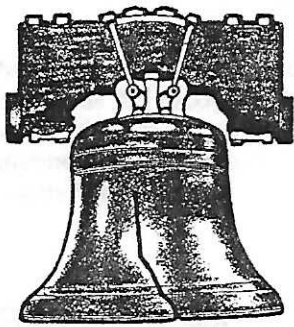


AFFILIATIONS:

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

NEXT MEETING

June 26, 2010
Bloomington, IN



JULY - AUGUST

2010



FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY, INC
MIDWEST CHAPTER
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FIRST CLASS



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

My message for this newsletter will touch on a couple of topics. There are several fields of science where the work of educated amateurs can potentially add significant knowledge to that branch of science. On any given clear night many more amateur astronomers have their telescopes pointed toward the heavens than professional or university ones. So it is with mineral, meteorite and fossil collectors; there are many more out in the field at any given time than professionals. In fact the museums and researchers rely on us for bringing discoveries to their attention far more than professionals. Yet the university types still try to squash our collecting efforts using phony excuses that we are not up to finding the material in a "professional manner". Hogwash!! They just do not have the manpower or numbers to have field collectors like we amateurs do. We must continue to stand up for our collecting rights.

Secondly I want to briefly touch on our FoM meeting sites in general and for the next few months. The Midwest Chapter comprises the states of Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Iowa, Wisconsin, Missouri, Illinois and Kentucky with a few additional members scattered in other states. This is a large area. Meetings generally are held in conjunction with shows and where the members live and can attend and also where the officers can conveniently drive to. Our next meeting will be held Saturday, June 26 at 1 or 2 pm and be at the Bloomington, In show. Then, after that, in conjunction with the Falls of The Ohio show on Saturday Sept 25 (?).

In November the FoM meeting will again be in Cleveland at the Micromount Symposium and I will again ask Janet Clifford to chair it. I recognize that travel, for some, may be long and tiresome making it difficult to attend our meetings. So I have briefly looked into the possibility of teleconferencing some of the meetings, but it just does not seem feasible. If anyone has other ideas they are welcomed. But be prepared to not only bring up ideas but work with the Chapter to make things happen. Good field trip hunting.

FoM MEMBER ADDS TO HIS LEGEND MAKES/IS A BIG HIT (WITH HIS BIG SLEDGE) IN SALEM, INDIANA AT FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY FIELD TRIP

Saturday June 05, 2010 - Hanson Quarry - Salem, Indiana, FoM Member, Dr. Clyde Spencer, Makes Epic Find

Geologist, Clyde Spencer, a veteran collector, member of Friends of Mineralogy - Midwest Chapter, Dayton Mineral & Gem Society, Columbus Rock & Mineral Society and countless other clubs dedicated to the promotion of the Earth sciences as both an educational endeavor, and hobby to enjoy, made the find of the decade.

On Saturday June 05, 2010, armed only with the standard fare of a collector, plus a set of chop sticks, "Dr. Clyde" as he is affectionately known by his collecting peers, went to work with his 15 pound sledge, pry bar and chisels to "unearth" the find of at least this decade, if not the last several. Dr. Clyde methodically took apart a slab-shaped boulder as big as a card table to reveal a massive layer of blue celestite crystals, accompanied by vugs of needle-point yellow scalenohedral calcite.

Bragging, not being part of his nature, Dr. Clyde quietly celebrated in the parking lot following his epic find by eating a can of "aged" odoriferous sardines with a set of chopsticks! His fragrant cuisine drew comparisons to "road kill", "dead groin" and the "south bound end of a north bound Billy goat." All ribbing surrounding his lunch was all in fun. Perhaps his choice of menu items was bit on the stinky side, but not his find. The only place that this author has seen blue celestite crystals that top these are in Crystal Cave at Put-In-Bay in Lake Erie, Ohio.

Not to be outdone, Bob Harman, FoM Grand Puba, took home a trunk load of geodes loaded with fine needle point scalenohedral calcite. Reported on the trip were finds of white and yellow scalenohedral calcite, white and pink rhombohedral calcite, sphalerite, quartz (crystalline, as well as massive, lining the geodes), and even selenite.

(BIG FIND CONT'D)

The uncomfortable weather was offset by the fact that the rock that was down was loaded with vugs. Thanks go to a long-time FoM supporter, our accommodating host, Jim Shultz of Hanson.

Field Report by Reggie Rose, Friends of Mineralogy Member

MINUTES OF CINCINNATI MEETING

The spring meeting of the Midwest Chapter of the Friends of Mineralogy was called to order by President Bob Harman at the meeting room of the Cincinnati Gardens on May 1, 2010, at 4:30 P.M. 13 members and 1 guest (prospective member) were present.

In the absence of the Treasurer, no report was given. Ernie Carlson, Vice President for Field Trips, reported that there will be trips to Salem, IN on June 5, Bayport, MI and the Wallace Stone Quarry on June 19, and Duff Quarry, Huntsville, OH on July 10. He will try to arrange trips to Auglaize Quarry and Genoa, but said that Lake City was not open at present. The Salem trip is the same weekend as the show at the Clement Museum in Kentucky, but participants can visit Salem, then continue on to the Museum show.

The next meeting will be at the Bloomington Swap, and will be on Saturday afternoon. Following that meeting, the next meeting will be on September 25 at the Falls of the Ohio show, and the last one of the year will be at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History during the Micromineral Symposium, on November 6.

There was discussion of our symposium, with a format of the first day of talks and the second of a field trip. Proposed topics included the Findlay Arch or a trip to Arkansas for quartz or wavellite. Bob called for other suggestions. Under old business, the Indianapolis Aggregate Quarry management was very upset when following a trip there, specimens showed up on e-Bay in large numbers. Collecting is for personal use, not commercial. If one wants to sell duplicates, one should wait 6 months or more, and let them trickle out. Remember, they are in control, and could forbid collecting if their rules are not followed. In Indiana, it is now illegal to collect on road sides.

There was no new business except a thank you to the Cincinnati Mineral Society for letting us meet at their show.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted, Anne Cook, Secretary

FLASH !! FLASH !!

Please note that the speaker for the June 26 FM meeting at Bloomington will be :

Professor Mark Cantin
Archaeologist at Indiana State University
Terre Haute, IN

Cherts of Indiana

He will emphasize chert details and uses by native peoples.

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UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

Duff, Clay Center & Genoa

This note is to confirm Midwest FM trips to Duff Quarry, Inc., July 10, 11:30 AM to 4:30 PM, White Rock Shelly quarry at Clay Center, July 17, 8:00 AM to noon, and Graymont Dolime quarry, Genoa, August 21, 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Updated MSHA certificates are required for Clay Center but not Duff quarry and Graymont quarry, Genoa. **Please notify Ernie Carlson one week in advance if you are planning on attending any of the trips so he can notify you of any last minute cancellations.** If you don't hear from Ernie the trips are on. We have Reggie Rose to thank for getting permission to visit the Duff quarry and Clay Center. Hard hats, safety glasses and hard toed boots are required for all trips.

The Duff quarry is located just E of Ohio Rte. 117 about 2 miles N of Huntsville, Richland Twp. The address is 9042 State Rte. 117, Huntsville OH 43324-0305. Duff quarry is best known for trapezohedral and diploidal pyrite crystals (Richards and Chamberlain, 1987, Mineralogical Record, v. 18, p. 391-398). Also present are white saddle dolomite, calcite, sphalerite, brown and yellow fluorite, and asphalt. These occur in cavities of the undifferentiated Salina Group of late Silurian age.

The White Rock Shelly quarry at Clay Center is reached from the Stony Ridge exit (71) of the Ohio Turnpike; get on State Rte. 795 going E and continue to Clay Center. Turn N on Bolander Road to quarry office. The address is 3800 Bolander Road, Clay Center, 43408. Clay Center is especially noted for crystals of brown and colorless fluorite and bladed celestine that occur in pockets and fractures of the Middle Silurian Lockport Dolomite. Also present are sphalerite, calcite, dolomite, galena, and pyrite.

The Graymont Dolime (OH) Inc. quarry at Genoa is reached from U.S. 20/U.S. 23 at Stony Ridge by turning NE and then E on Ohio Rte. 163 to Genoa, a little over 7 miles. Continue through Genoa on Rte. 163 and turn S on Graymont quarry road (N entrance). The address is 21880 West State Road 163, Genoa 43430. Meet Gary Elliott at quarry office. Genoa is noted for bladed celestine and cubic brown fluorite in pockets of the Middle Silurian Lockport Dolomite. Also present are sphalerite, dolomite, calcite, pyrite, galena, and marcasite.

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SALEM QUARRY FIELD TRIP

The Salem Quarry field trip was earlier today and 14 FoM and Columbus club members attended. The weather was quite cooperative as it was dry, mostly cloudy and not too hot for Southern Indiana in June. I would rate collecting as "ok"... a "B". Most collectors found nice examples of scalenohedral (dog tooth) calcites. Colors ranged from colorless and transparent to light yellow and translucent. Most were associated with quartz in thin walled geodes or vugs. A couple of collectors found celestine crystals and several more found partial crystals and cleavage portions in geodes or vugs. These were colorless to pale milky blue. In addition I saw some examples of sphalerite, strontianite and selenite variety of gypsum. In general all were happy with their finds. Several collectors also collected at the In 56 roadcuts near Salem.

Bob Harman, President

WALLACE STONE QUARRY, BAYPORT, MI

Members Janet & Paul Clifford reported on the FoM Trip to Bayport at the June meeting of the Mineralogical Society of Cleveland. The Wallace Quarry is noted for Millerite specimens. Most specimens are "micro" and viewed thru a microscope. Millerite is found in small quartz lined vugs of one-half inch in diameter or less. The quarry representative recommended collecting the vugs and opening them in a sheltered area at home as the winds in the quarry can destroy the specimen if opened there.

The quarry has been operated continuously since the 1800's and is the source of a very hard limestone. Much is quarried in blocks for building exteriors. If "micro" are your game, Wallace Stone Quarry is a place to go.

John Blue, Editor

SAFETY VESTS

Wallace Stone just informed me that safety vests are required at the quarry. These are bright colored vests that make you easily visible. Assuming you do not have a safety vest, you can obtain a relatively inexpensive class 2 surveyor's vest from Miners Incorporated, P.O. Box 1301, Riggins Idaho 83549-1301. The price of the vest is \$31.95 + shipping charge (UPS for me is \$6.02). They have a toll free number: 800-824-7452 to find out your shipping charge, and they said it would take six days to deliver.

Item number	size	price each
BX 750	small (35-37)	\$31.95
BX 751	medium (37-39)	\$31.95
BX 752	large (39-43)	\$31.95
BX 753	extra large (43-46)	\$31.95

My wife tells me that they are much cheaper at Wal-Mart.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: The above info was provided to members attending the Bayport, Michigan field trip. I am reproducing it even though that trip is past. You may wish to consider the vest as a standard part of your collecting tools for all quarries and mines.