

FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY, INC

MIDWEST CHAPTER

AFFILIATIONS

THE MINERALOGICAL RECORD

THE MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

AMERICAN GEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE

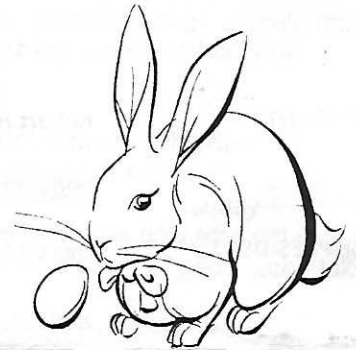
ROCKS & MINERALS MAGAZINE

NEXT MEETING – SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 2011, 2:00 PM



MARCH

APRIL 2011



FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY, INC

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JOHN BLUE, EDITOR

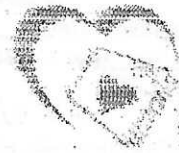
16155 SHURMER RD

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FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY

MIDWEST CHAPTER

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Page 1

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AMERICAN GEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE

THE MINERALOGICAL RECORD

THE MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

ROCKS & MINERAL MAGAZINE

OFFICERS 2011

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PURPOSE

Friends of Mineralogy, Midwest, 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 further 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

Mine Safety Training (Con't)

IN THE DAYTON, OHIO AREA

Tuesday, March 15, 2011; 8am - 5pm at the George Barrett House in downtown Spring Valley, OH. Contact Dayton Field Trip Chairman Doug Baird at 937-862-9344; email, jdbhawken@aol.com

IN COLUMBUS, OHIO

Wednesday, April 20, 2011; 8am - 5pm at the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, 2045 Morse Road, Columbus, OH 43229; Assembly Center Lecture Hall, Building E1; Instructor, Mike Reese, Tel (Cell): 614-205-6340; Off: 740-286-6411.

Information supplied by Reggie Rose, Vice President, Field Trips

ALL COLLECTORS NEED EMAIL -OR- GOOD LUCK - TAKE YOUR CHANCES

With the field trip season approaching, it is important that you update your email addresses. In December, on short notice, we had a FoM field trip to Indianapolis. With the possibility of future field trips or cancellations occurring either on short notice, or field trip details changing on short notice, it is absolutely mandatory that all people, expecting to go on field trips have an active email account. After emailing the collecting membership about the December trip, I received several "bouncebacks", informing me that the email account was no longer valid.

For those of you who have no present email account and cannot afford one, share an account with an FoM friend or go to your local library, get on line, and establish an account. There are several accounts which you could sign up for, gmail and hotmail are two of the more well-known ones. In an organization like FoM where we have only six bimonthly newsletters, as Field Trip Chairman, I need to communicate with people more frequently. Email is the only efficient way to accomplish quick, efficient communication. If you refuse to get email, then as the title of the article says, "good luck - take your chances." Reggie Rose, Vice President, Field Trips

REPORT OF JANUARY MEETING

The FoM meeting was held Jan 9 @ the Indiana State Museum. There were 6 members and 2 guests present so it was the quality that counted rather than the quantity of FoM members. Despite no quorum, business went on as usual.....any complaints with that??.....attend the upcoming meetings!

Nelson Shaffer gave the program which was a talk on Indiana meteorites; this is to be made into a general public program.

Len Gritzer was not present, but had me give his report. There is about \$2800 in the treasury at this time. Nelson needed financial help with his Tucson trip and as he attends the national FoM meeting and sets up our display and FoM table, he asked for our help. (Thru subsequent emails, etc, it was agreed to give him a \$250 travel stipend). This whole area will be further discussed at upcoming FoM meetings; then FoM chapter officers might request travel grants as a matter of routine, provided they attend FoM meetings and do FoM jobs at the national shows.

2011 chapter dues are now due. See the treasurer's address for the \$15.00 dues due now.

Renew MSHA training asap as we will spot check at upcoming spring field trips. Have your certificate on your person!!

Nothing yet on any specific field trip. When they are announced, the notice will go out via email to chapter members. People without email will need to let us know so they can receive notice from friends or fellow chapter members.

Nelson still is interested in setting up a field trip to the diamond or quartz area of Arkansas so if you are interested, please let us know soon so that further arrangements can be made. Also Marion Ky and the fluorite area is also a possibility.

There will be a scholarship in Ernie's name announced in the near future. Also a column on his passing will be in a near future issue of Rocks and Minerals.

The next FoM meeting will (probably) occur the Saturday of the Columbus show in April. Specifics after the date and time are firmed up. Bob Harman, President

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Those of you chapter members who know me, know that I love field collecting either locally here around Bloomington or as part of field trip groups going into Midwest quarries. This winter the Bloomington, IN area has been cold and snowy with relatively few chances to get out and locally field collect Indiana geodes. So to avoid boredom, I have done many inside projects.

One of my bigger undertakings has been to review on line mineral dealer web sites. How many of you visit or have visited on line mineral dealer web sites? And how many of you have purchased, or thought of purchasing specimens online? I visit many sites on a more or less regular basis, but have only rarely bought a specimen online (very few hi quality Indiana geodes for sale!). Anyway, I picked about 30 sites from advertisers in "Rocks and Minerals" and "Mineralogical Record". The web sites ranged between those thought of as selling predominantly moderate priced specimens and those dealers usually thought of as "high end". The sites were both domestic and foreign. All sold wholly or predominantly mineral specimens with little else.

I found a wide range of quality in these web sites. And I don't mean quality of the sale specimens offered, but quality of the sites themselves. A few of my findings even surprised me and are noted below. All are somewhat subjective and personal opinions. So, if you go to these web sites, see if you agree or have differing opinions. As part of my review, I needed some criteria that I thought important to the site's quality evaluation so here is some of what I thought important. 1 THE SITE'S EASE OF USE 2 IS THE SITE UPDATED OFTEN 3 IS THE SITE COMPLETE WITH ALL ASPECTS OF A DEALERSHIP 4 ARE THE PIX WITH EACH SPECIMEN OF HI QUALITY 5 IS EACH SPECIMEN'S INFO COMPLETE 6 IS THE SITE MISLEADING IN ANY WAY. Here are some of my (somewhat subjective) findings.

First, and most importantly, many dealer web sites were good to excellent with no real problems and no individual dealer site will be named. But some web sites were not up to snuff. A few had picture quality and specimen info issues.....usually minor, but would you by a specimen that you could not really check out?

Several dealer sites seemed really neglected. Much old material was offered, even from 2006 and 2007 with nothing new added in months. Very irritating was "SOLD" across very old material that had never been removed from the site. Some screens even had "SOLD, SOLD, SOLD" on all the undeleted specimens from months or even years ago. A few sites did NOT list prices; which I believe is okay for very hi end P.O.R. specimens, but never for specimens less than four figures. At least one dealer site was actually a museum. Many very hi end specimens were pictured with info, but no prices. After hunting all his fine print, it was noted that ALL the pictured items had been handled in the past and NONE were for sale. The individual might be a dealer, but his web site is more a museum of what has been.

After all was said and done, my biggest peeve was the neglected sites. And there were several. In these there was little to no attempt to update and freshen the web site up. For example, one site mentioned the dealer attending shows in 2007 and 2008! Specimens seemed to be added, but none was removed when sold or even noted as being sold, and no longer unavailable. Prices from several years ago had not been reduced on lower quality unsold specimens etc etc.

So, fellow collectors and chapter members, when you take time to surf the internet, think critically of the dealer web sites with whom you do business **GOOD (ONLINE) HUNTING !!**

NEXT MEETING

I have just gotten FoM meeting time confirmation for 2 PM, Saturday April 16, 2011 at the Columbus, OH show. As there are time constraints, the meeting will start rather promptly at 2 pm and take no longer than 45 minutes. I will make sure there is no program; we will consider the show speakers as the program. Bob Harman, President

MINE SAFETY TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

As you know, most, if not all of the quarries, which FoM visits, require that you have MSHA (Mine Safety Hazard) Training. Below are some opportunities to get your 2100 training:

IN GAHANNA, OHIO:

Thursday March 03, 2011; 8am - 5 pm at American Aggregates - 163 North Hamilton Road, Gahanna, Ohio, 43230; Tel: 614-428-7954; FAX: 614-428-7919; email, rocks@oaima.org; website, www.oaima.org. Go to the website, select March 4th on the calendar where you can access a printable application form. Print out the form and snail mail or fax it in.