

Friends of Mineralogy Inc. Midwest Chapter Newsletter



Volume 41, Issue 4

July+August 2026

Mineral Corner—Pride from member collections.

Calcite from Minerva No. 1 Mine, Cave in Rock, Illinois

By Johan Maertens

The featured specimen is a multigenerational cluster of spiky, tapering, off-white opaque calcite crystals—an aesthetic habit known among mineralogists as "jackstraw" calcite. While calcite typically precipitates as rhombohedrons under slow-growth conditions, the jackstraw habit forms when high chemical supersaturation, rapid precipitation, and open void space force the mineral into a dense, multi-directional latticework of elongated, needle-like crystals.

The crystallization sequence begins in an aqueous hydrothermal environment rich in dissolved calcium and carbonate ions. Sudden environmental shifts, such as rapid carbon dioxide degassing or sharp fluid pressure drops, drive the solution into extreme supersaturation. This triggers intense heterogeneous nucleation, forming thousands of tiny crystal seeds simultaneously along cavity walls. Under high supersaturation, growth kinetics favor rapid ion attachment at the energetic tips of the lattice rather than the lateral faces. Consequently, the crystals adopt an acicular or acute scalenohedral habit, shooting outward as long spikes that collide and interlock with adjacent crystals. Subsequent pulses of mineralizing fluids frequently deposit secondary microcrystalline coatings, producing the characteristic opaque, multigenerational appearance.

Beyond its distinctive crystallography, this specimen carries the industrial legacy of the Minerva No. 1 Mine, (continued page 4)

**Fig. 1 Scalenohedral calcite, 100 x 71 mm . Minerva No. 1 Mine, Cave in Rock, Illinois.
Johan Maertens image and collection (00SE).**



Highlights

- **Calcite Illinois**
- *Get involved*
- *Field Trips*
- *Rings of Fire*
- *Calcite Marblehead Quarry*
- *Treasurer's Report*
- *Farewell Genoa quarry*



The newsletter is published bi-monthly.

Contact and submissions via E-mail at newsletter@fommidwest.org

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From the Newsletter Editor

Publishing our chapter newsletter and organizing field trips share a wonderful common goal: bringing our mineral-loving community together around exciting discoveries, fresh insights, and memorable experiences.

Every field trip arranged and every newsletter issue delivered represents the dedication of volunteers working to create value for all of our members. In a changing collecting landscape, keeping our association vibrant and connected is a shared adventure—and your unique voice makes all the difference!

I encourage you to share your discoveries with our community. Whether it's a new find, a memorable story, an event you attended, or even just a photo of your favorite specimen, we'd love to include it in our newsletter. Your contributions will help keep our collective passion for mineral collecting vibrant and engaging.

We look forward to hearing from you!



Johan Maertens at the
White Rock Quarry, Clay Center, Ottawa County, Ohio .
2026

Sharing our passion: How you help our mineral community thrive

Inspired by the famous equation " $E=MC^2$," we believe that our Existence as a thriving organization depends on Member-engagement and Two-Way Commitment. For this to work, we need your active involvement!

Commitment is key. We rely on members to stay connected with officers and committee chairs, while it's equally important that our leaders respond promptly to your inquiries. To keep things running smoothly, we need members who are ready to answer

the call for action and step up in leadership roles.

The Friends of Mineralogy needs fresh energy, new ideas, and passionate individuals to help us grow. There are unfilled positions, and it's crucial that we fill them with dedicated volunteers like you. Just as a body needs all its parts to function—arms, legs, back, and heart—our organization thrives when we all contribute. Together, we can build the resources we need, from insurance to training to credibility, that allow us to enjoy and

advance our shared passion for mineralogy in ways no individual could do alone.

This is your opportunity to make a real difference. Help shape the future of the Friends of Mineralogy and take an active role in our community. Whether you have leadership experience or a passion for helping others, there's a place for you here. Ready to volunteer? Reach out to an officer (contact info on the next page) and let us know how you can contribute. We can't wait to work alongside you!

This Newsletter is published six times a year by the Friends of Mineralogy Midwest Chapter for digital distribution to members in good standing.

Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the Friends of Mineralogy. We reserve the right to decline any submission judged to be inconsistent with FM-MW's purpose or not in keeping with the sensitivities of its membership.

Contributions of articles and photos are welcome: Articles may be edited for style, clarity, and length. The newsletter assumes no responsibility for lost mate-

rial. **SUBMISSION DEADLINES:** the 15th of every evenly numbered month, for each issue.

Guidelines for Newsletter Submissions: E-mail preferred (written material accepted); clearly state that the submission is intended for publication in the Newsletter; send photos as color, high resolution email attachments.

Send all submissions and suggestions to

newsletter@fommidwest.org

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Field Trips

Field trip details are communicated by email to members.

Inquiries with quarries are ongoing.

Field trips :

Caldwell Stone, KY, Sep. 19

Sylvania Minerals, MI: Oct. 3

Inquiries with other localities are ongoing.

To offer a field trip you can organize, contact the Field Trip Chairperson or a FM MW officer (see below).

For your education, watch Collector Safety Training videos by Scott Kell on YouTube. See [FM-MW newsletter Volume 39 Issue 2](#).

FM-MW Fieldtrip Requirements

1. Be a FM-MW Member in good standing to participate.
2. All field trips are weather dependent per decision of quarry supervisor.

pervisor.

3. Field collecting is physically demanding! All trips require at least an average level of physical fitness!

4. Quarry trips require members to be at least 18 years old, and fully comply with the FM-MW field trip guidelines posted on <https://www.fommidwest.org/field-trip-guidelines/>

Complete and sign the Waiver of liability and hold harmless agreement for activities (including field trips) of the Friends Of Mineralogy – Midwest Chapter Inc.

After receiving the announcement, sign up for the field trip by email to the acting Field Trip Coordinator.



MSHA Hazard Training

ALWAYS bring your **certificate of training Mining Safety and Hazard** with you to all quarry field trips.

If you did not complete Hazard training, or you lost your certificate or if you are new to the club, then you can **take the online safety training course**.

To sign up and receive instructions about the online course, contact Craig Kramer at craigwkramer@gmail.com with the following information in your email:

- club affiliation
- full name
- address
- telephone number

Website for test : <https://edpuzzle.com>

If you have taken the class before online .go to test website. Top right click Log In.

Select **I'm a student**

Enter user name and Password

Rock and Mineral Shows, Clubs, Rock Shops, Mineral Museums can be found using the Internet

www.rockandmineralshows.com;

<https://xpopress.com/show/exposearch>;

<https://www.mindat.org/museums/>;

https://www.mindat.org/shows.php?frm_id=searcher&cform_is_valid=1¤t=1&country=1&su

Friends of Mineralogy Inc. - Midwest Chapter

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COMMITTEES

Membership - Vacant

Newsletter - Johan Maertens

Webmaster - Jeff Spencer

Nominating Committee - Vacant

Audit Committee - Frank Konieczki

situated 6.5 kilometers north of Cave-in-Rock, Illinois in the historic Illinois-Kentucky Fluorspar District. Mineral extraction in the region spanned over 170 years, evolving from early 19th-century galena mining for silver and lead to large-scale fluorite production essential as a flux for the domestic steel industry.

Geologically, Minerva No. 1 is classified as a Mississippi Valley-Type (MVT) epigenetic bedding-replacement deposit, or "manto." It formed under low-temperature hydrothermal conditions (50 to 200°C) within the Mississippian-age Ste. Genevieve and Renault formations—a 230-foot-thick sequence of limestone, sandstone, and shale deposited roughly 359 million years ago. While MVT deposits typically yield lead and zinc, the district contained exceptional concentrations of economic fluorite.

The Minerva Oil Company discovered the orebody in 1940, initiating extraction in 1943 at what became the deepest operational mine in the district. In 1975, Allied Chemical Corporation purchased the property, idling it in 1976. Inverness Mining Company resumed production in 1982 until selling to the Ozark-Mahoning Mining Company in 1988. Following dewatering, operations restarted in 1989 under the name Ozark-Mahoning No. 1. Consequently, specimens recovered prior to 1988 are labeled "Minerva No. 1," while later finds are designated "Ozark-Mahoning No. 1." By 1995, cheap fluorite imports from China, South Africa, and Mexico made mining unprofitable. A final phase of "pillar robbing" between 1995 and 1996 yielded a final recovery of mineral specimens before permanent closure in early 1996. Beyond fluorite and jack-straw calcite, the mine left an enduring mineralogical legacy, producing collectible specimens of witherite, alstonite, benstonite, strontianite, barite, galena, and sphalerite.

Fig. 2 Scalenohedral calcite. Minerva No. 1 Mine, Cave in Rock, Illinois.
Johan Maertens image and collection (00SE).



All images by Johan Maertens ©

To share a pride of your collection, share pictures with specimen and locality descriptions with Johan Maertens.

Dues and Registration

2026 dues are \$20 paid by mail and \$21 paid on-line.
2027 Dues will be established at the November Annual Meeting

Dues are for calendar year January 1st through December 31st

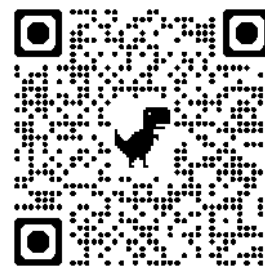
New members may register at any time.
Renewing members should register by January 15th.

To register for or renew your membership you have 2 options for payment.

1. Complete the form and mail it with \$20 check to the Treasurer (see page 3).
2. Pay on-line (\$21.00) through our website with a credit/debit card or PayPal. You do not need a PayPal account to use a credit card. The website has received security verification and certification.

Access to the forms and payment system with [this link](#) or use QR code.

Questions regarding your membership or current status: contact treasurer@fommidwest.org



BOOK REVIEW

Rings of Fire

Larry Hughes

BY JOHAN MAERTENS

As an avid calcite collector, I approached Larry Hughes's *Rings of Fire* with a critical mineralogical filter. I wanted to see whether a narrative-driven history could maintain geological rigor, locality authenticity, and genuine insight into how crystals grow, alter, and record their environments. Hughes delivers far more scientific substance than one typically expects from narrative nonfiction, even if he occasionally takes stylistic detours. I remember the first time I observed double refraction in calcite cleavage chunks. Calcite crystals were meant to be broken. I had to relearn fast.

The central theme of the book traces the high-stakes wartime effort to secure optical-grade calcite for the Optical Ring Sight (ORS), an innovative aiming reticle that revolutionized Allied aerial and naval gunnery. Hughes frames this achievement through the human network that powered it: Inventor and business man Edwin Land, field geologists, mineralogists, scientists, prospectors, quarrymen, drifters, eccentric artists, factory technicians, and military engineers. Rather than presenting the mineral simply as an inert commodity, Hughes presents the science as inseparable from the lives of people who labored to extract, test, and adapt it.

What distinguishes the book is its tactile, sensory prose. Hughes consistently grounds abstract geology and engineering in physical experience. Descriptions are vivid, olfactory, and immediate: the alkaline dust of remote desert prospects, the acrid exhaust of Barco drills in enclosed spaces, the sweat-soaked clothes of miners, and the musty dampness of forgotten archives. I spend at most a day or two manual mining a vein in heat and cold, experiencing firsthand the hard rock and its unwillingness to let go of its crystals. I hiked cold mountain slopes and hot deserts. Evenings provided a good meal, shower and sleep comfort. All for leisure, difficult to image making a living from it.

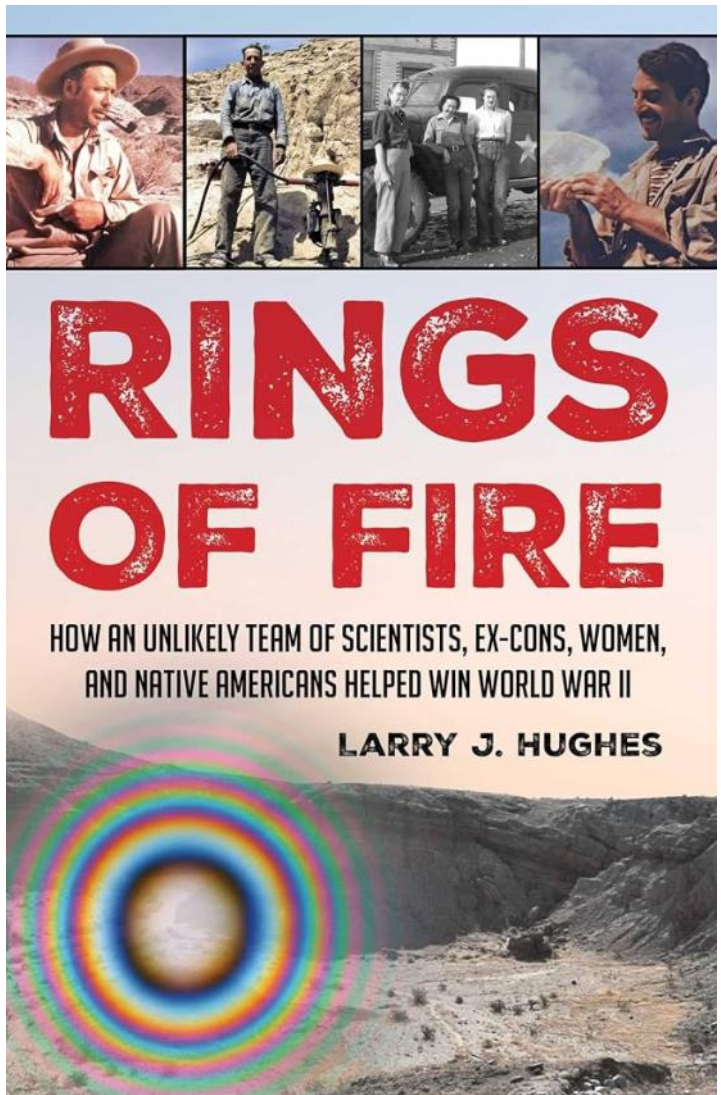
Structurally, Hughes favors narrative accumulation over clinical concision. He frequently pauses to develop full biographical sketches of field agents, archivists, Native American guides, and women recruited to wartime optical labs. Evocative landscape descriptions draw the reader in. While these excursions occasionally slow the pacing for readers eager for a straight technical history, they succeed in building a profound sense of presence and collaboration.

From a technical perspective, Hughes explains optical crystallography in language accessible to general readers. Principles such as polarization, cleavage geometry, and birefringence are treated clearly without overwhelming the narrative with excessive mathematical formalism. Full science is reserved for the book's appendices. While I cringed at the mass destruction of calcite crystals, Hughes' narrative reflects my collecting experiences and the frustration with the softness and brittleness of calcite.

A third of the book draws the characters in the raw brutality of warfare with the personalities in active war duty on all fronts. Hughes spares no details on the viciousness of combat and its human sacrifices.

For mineral enthusiasts and citizen scientists, *Rings of Fire* provides something uncommon: a compelling demonstration of how an everyday carbonate mineral—frequently admired in display cases solely for aesthetic form—became a decisive strategic resource in American history. Supported by extensive archival photographs, field diagrams, and specimen illustrations, Hughes has crafted an engaging, memorable account that deserves a prominent place on any collector's bookshelf.

Rings of Fire succeeds because it transforms an obscure chapter of history into an engaging human story. It reminds us that scientific discoveries, engineering innovations, and even minerals themselves achieve significance through the people who recognize their potential and devote themselves to putting them to use. For anyone interested in history, science, or the remarkable story of optical calcite, Larry Hughes produced a thoroughly researched and memorable account that deserves a place on the shelf.



Variable Luminescence in Twinned Calcite: Marblehead Quarry, Ohio

BY JOHAN MAERTENS

For years, field trips organized by the Friends of Mineralogy offered collectors access to the expansive Devonian limestone exposures of the Marblehead Quarry in Danbury Township, Ottawa County, Ohio. Although recent operational shifts have restricted physical access to the quarry face, significant scientific value remains stored in previously collected, unexamined inventory. A systematic review of stored flats from Marblehead reveals not only the expected morphologic diversity of the region's carbonate minerals, but also unexpected optical properties hidden within cavity-bound specimens.

Calcite (calcium carbonate) represents the predominant crystallized secondary mineral within the vuggy porosity of the Marblehead limestone beds. The habit spectrum across the locality ranges from simple, translucent rhombohedrons to complex, elongated scalenohedrons.

A recently re-examined specimen highlights this geometric complexity: a 44 mm tall, translucent orange scalenohedral crystal perched within a protective limestone matrix cavity. A distinct reentrant angle along the basal composition plane {00.1} confirms contact twinning, creating a notched symmetry across the principal axis.

While scalenohedral habits are well-documented at Marblehead, subjecting this twinned specimen to multi-wavelength ultraviolet radiation revealed a pronounced, variable photoluminescent response. Unlike typical calcites from the region—which generally exhibit uniform fluorescence or none at all—this crystal responds dynamically across distinct sectors of the UV spectrum:

The emission spectrum of fluorescent calcite is primarily governed by the interaction between trace activator ions and co-activators or quenchers embedded within the crystal matrix.

Orange Emission (365 nm): Typically induced by divalent manganese ions substituting for calcium in the crystal lattice, often sensitized by trace lead ions.

Purple/Violet Emission (305 nm / 275 nm): Suggests structural defect centers or intrinsic lattice excitation where manganese activation is less dominant.



Calcite. Central crystal 105 mm tall. Marblehead Quarry, Danbury Twp., Ottawa Co., Ohio. Johan Maertens image and collection 00OA

Brown/Dull Response (254 nm): Likely indicates energy quenching caused by trace iron ions or localized impurities within outer growth zones.



Calcite 25 mm tall. Marblehead Quarry, Danbury Twp., Ottawa Co., Ohio. Johan Maertens image and collection.



Calcite 44mm tall. Marblehead Quarry, Danbury Twp., Ottawa Co., Ohio. Johan Maertens image and collection.



Calcite 44mm tall. Fluorescence under 365 nm UVA "longwave. Marblehead Quarry, Danbury Twp., Ottawa Co., Ohio. Johan Maertens image and collection.



Calcite 44mm tall. Fluorescence under 305 nm UVB "midwave. Marblehead Quarry, Danbury Twp., Ottawa Co., Ohio. Johan Maertens image and collection.

The sharp shift in fluorescence color across excitation wavelengths points to complex, multi-stage crystallization dynamics at Marblehead. Zoning of trace elements during crystal growth likely created distinct micro-environments within the same lattice, resulting in a variable luminescent signature that warrants further spectroscopic investigation.

Have you sorted your Marblehead inventory?

Have you observed notable specimens?

Contact me to share your experience.



Calcite 44mm tall. Fluorescence under 275 nm UVC. Marblehead Quarry, Danbury Twp., Ottawa Co., Ohio. Johan Maertens image and collection.



Calcite 44mm tall. Fluorescence under 254 nm UVC "shortwave. Marblehead Quarry, Danbury Twp., Ottawa Co., Ohio. Johan Maertens image and collection.



Calcite, baryte and fluorite 41 mm tall. Marblehead Quarry, Danbury Twp., Ottawa Co., Ohio. Johan Maertens image and collection. Ex. John Medici

Calcite Luminescence : Marblehead Quarry, Ohio		
UV Spectrum	Wavelength (λ) LED	Luminescence Response
Longwave (UVA)	365 nm	Vivid orange (calcite) accented by pale tan (matrix)
Midwave (UVB)	305 nm	Deep purple / violet
Shortwave	275 nm	Soft, pale pur-
Far Shortwave (UVC)	254 nm	Dull brown

Calcite crystals in situ at Marblehead Quarry, Danbury Twp., Ottawa Co., Ohio.

Johan Maertens pocket discovery and image



Calcite crystals extracted from the pocket by Tim Marshall at Marblehead Quarry, Danbury Twp., Ottawa Co., Ohio. Tim Marshall image and thumb.

2026 Mid-year Treasurer's Report

JEFF SPENCER – TREASURER

2025 AUDIT COMPLETION

Frank Konieczki completed his review of the 2025 Financial records.

We ended 2025 with \$12,905.18 on deposit and a roster of 67 members.

At year-end 32 members had registered for 2026.

2026 July

Since January 1st an additional 32 members have registered, bringing our total to 64. Four members paid twice and the overpayments will be credited to 2027 dues. Donations totaling \$149 were received along with registrations.

National Friends of Mineralogy 2026 dues of \$4 per member were paid for 58 members (\$232) in April. Our insurance premium of \$650 was also paid. Our Internet domain registrations were paid for 2 years (\$170.72) and Hosting for 1 year (\$182.18). Postal fees (\$12.10) and an Ohio Continuing Operations filing fee (\$5) were also paid.

Our combined account balance (USBank and PayPal) stands at \$12,522.05

For the 2026 Chapter year (includes 2026 registrations paid in 2025) we have taken in \$1,429 and have expenses totaling \$1,246 leaving a surplus of \$183. The only bill to be paid is our remaining 2026 National dues (currently \$24).

As stated above, the 2025 audit has been completed. Our Federal and State filings are completed. An Ohio Continuing Operations filing was submitted along with a 'Zero amount' unclaimed funds report also, as required by law.

Symposium Donations and Fund Raising

In past years we conducted an annual symposium and raised funds at the Cincinnati GeoFair Show by selling minerals. We also raised funds via donations made during registration. I went back and tallied what was raised since the last symposium and came up with the following:

2020 symposium donations received in 2019	330
swap table 2019	451
symposium donations received in 2020	45
symposium donations received in 2021	65
symposium donations received in 2022	130
symposium donations received in 2023	111
symposium donations received in 2024	160
symposium donations received in 2025	250
symposium donations received in 2026	10
Total balance	\$1,552

I am **looking for options** as to how we can best use the \$1,500 funds in the spirit in which they were raised. Here are some ideas:

We fill the vacant Officer positions, and the new President and Program Director/VP lead the process.

We donate funds to another Organization that is conducting a symposium (in memory of Randy Marsh).

We provide a stipend and sponsor a speaker or speakers at a symposium on behalf of the Chapter.

I hope to be able to make a motion regarding this item at the Fall meeting.

Please mail your suggestions, comments or questions to Jeff Spencer—Treasurer at treasurer@fommidwest.org



Calcite crystals from
Marblehead Quarry,
Danbury Twp., Ottawa
Co., Ohio.

Johan Maertens image

Bittersweet Farewell to a Dolomite Giant: The legacy of Genoa, Ohio



JOHAN MAERTENS

In August I visited the Graymont, Genoa quarry to book a field trip for The Friends. While reviewing aerial images, I noticed no mining development beyond what we had seen during the Friends collecting trip in 2024 when a 2025 plant closing date was announced. After noticing very few employees on-site, I found the operations manager who advised the facility is closing in September 2026.

For decades, the quiet landscape of Genoa in Ottawa County, Ohio, concealed a prolific carbonate operation and cherished mineralogical playground in the American Midwest. The August 2026 closure of the Graymont Dolomite plant and quarry in Genoa marks the end of an era. It brings a lingering ache to generations of quarry workers and field collectors alike. Yet, while the final gate swings shut on active collecting, the legacy of Genoa endures in museum drawers, private cabinets, and the indelible memories of hammer-wielding enthusiasts who spent their finest Saturdays in the pit.

The Kilns and the Quarry: Over a Century of Industrial Excellence

The industrial history of Genoa is inextricably tied to the exceptional sedimentary geology of northwestern Ohio. Exposed across a massive open pit, the stone belongs to

the Middle Silurian Lockport Dolomite—a fossiliferous carbonate sequence deposited roughly 425 million years ago in a shallow, warm epicontinental sea. Genoa's deposit is renowned for its remarkable chemical uniformity, featuring an almost equal stoichiometric balance of calcium and magnesium carbonate with an exceptionally low iron content. This yielded processed building lime famous for its brilliant white color, superior plasticity, and workability.

Commercial exploitation began at the site around 1915, operating under notable banners including the U.S. Gypsum Company (USG) and GenLime Group before its acquisition by Graymont. Over the course of more than a century, the plant evolved into an advanced industrial complex:

Extraction and Sizing: Massive drill-and-blast benches mined stone down through more than 400 feet of permitted reserves. Primary and secondary crushers sized the dolomite into construction aggregates and specialized kiln feedstock.

Thermal Calcination: The sized dolomite fed three large rotary kilns fired by coal and petroleum coke blends at temperatures exceeding 2000°F (1093°C). This calcination process drove off carbon dioxide, converting magnesium and calcium carbonates into reactive quicklime oxides.

Hydration Processing: Quicklime was further processed into dry hydrated lime powder. The facility produced standard atmospheric Type N hydrates, as well as pressurized Type S and air-entrained Type SA hydrates, packaged under historic brand names such as Ivory, Grand Prize,



and Mortaseal for construction mortars, historic plasters, steelmaking flux, glass manufacturing, and agricultural soil stabilization.

Beyond the numbers and tonnages, the Genoa plant was an engine of community stability, supporting multi-generational workforce families across Ottawa, Sandusky, Wood, and Lucas counties, while earning national recognition from the National Lime Association for exemplary multi-year safety records.



Crystals in the Vugs: Decades of Field Discovery and Field-Day Lore

To the industrial staff, the Lockport Dolomite was high-grade feedstock; to mineralogists and the Friends of Mineralogy (FM), it was a labyrinth of crystallized treasures.

The exceptional mineral paragenesis at Genoa was born from post-depositional dolomitization. As magnesium-rich brines percolated through the Silurian carbonate beds, the dissolution of primary marine fossils left expansive dissolution voids and solution-collapse vugs. Within these protected cavities, epigenetic hydrothermal fluids deposited a distinct mineral suite:

Celestine: The undisputed signature of the locality. Crystals ranged from sky-blue and translucent white tabular blades to water-clear, razor-thin crystal clusters lining the dissolved cavities of fossil bivalves (*Megalomoidea canadensis*, affectionately dubbed "beef heart clams").

Calcite: Crystallized in sharp, honey-toned scalenohedrons and doubly terminated, rounded rhombohedrons,

often perched atop sparkling celestine sprays.

Sphalerite: Highly prized, lustrous, dark sub-metallic crystals and crystal aggregates, ranging from thumbnail nodules to multi-pound masses.

Fluorite: Distinctive amber, root-beer brown, and clear-zoned cubic crystals, frequently challenging to spot against the weathered dolomite until struck by sunlight or an experienced eye.

Legendary Field Days and Lore

The quarry was the stage for countless unforgettable field encounters. Long-time Plant Superintendent Gary Elliott stood as a living legend among Midwest collectors. With an unwavering commitment to public earth-science education, Gary welcomed FM field trips with thorough MSHA safety briefings, iced coolers of water, and an infectious enthusiasm for the geology beneath his boots.

The field excursions were as varied as the Ohio weather:

The Deluge of 2016: Twenty-seven undaunted FM members weathered an absolute tempest on September 14, 2016. While rain accumulated to nearly three inches inside the collectors' 5-gallon buckets, new members and grizzled veterans hammered on unabated—rewarded by Mike Scaglione extracting a dazzling, tennis-ball-sized cluster of sphalerite and Mike Royal uncovering sharp fluorite cubes.

The Autumn Warmth of 2017: A perfect October Saturday yielded a bonanza across the benches. Alan Dewitt hauled out a massive two-inch blocky sphalerite mass; Clyde Spencer extracted a volleyball-sized boulder lined with tan fluorite cubes; and first-year collector Jason Larson found delicate, paper-thin celestine blades transparent enough to read newsprint through.

Heavy Artillery and Hard-Core Science: Field days often resembled full-scale engineering feats, such as when Randy Marsh swung a sledgehammer to drive bull pins into holes drilled by Mike Royal's gas-powered hammer drill to split massive fluorite-bearing boulders. On another sub-freezing November trip, Dr. Tom Serenko, Director of the Ohio Geological Survey, joined the group in 20-degree winds, marveling at the passion of amateur and professional collectors tearing into freshly blasted rock piles.

A Lasting Community Bond

The partnership culminated in community outreach, such as the Genoa Plant Open House where FM volunteers set



up educational cases, distributed polished Ohio flint to children, and crystals to quarry employees and their families.



As Graymont ceases operations, we feel the unavoidable sorrow that accompanies the loss of access to this classic American mineral locality.

Yet, the overwhelming feeling remains one of gratitude. The stone quarried at Genoa built cities and stabilized industries; the minerals rescued from its crushers will educate, inspire, and spark wonder for generations to come.



Images: Graymont Dolime Genoa Quarry and minerals.

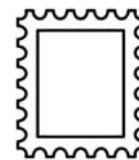




Johan Maertens, Editor

Friends of Mineralogy Inc. -
Midwest Chapter

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The Midwest Chapter covers an 8-state region: Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, Missouri, Iowa and Kentucky.

Our purpose is to organize and 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.

View membership information at

<https://www.fommidwest.org/registration-forms/>

National organization:

www.friendsofmineralogy.org

Friends of Mineralogy is Affiliated with:

THE MINERALOGICAL RECORD <https://mineralogicalrecord.com>

THE MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA www.minsocam.org

AMERICAN GEOSCIENCES INSTITUTE www.americangeosciences.org

MINERALOGICAL ASSOCIATION OF CANADA mac-amc.myshopify.com

ROCKS & MINERALS MAGAZINE www.tandfonline.com/journals/vram20

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SCAN ME