



to promote, support, protect and expand the collection of mineral specimens and to further the recognition of the scientific, economic and aesthetic value of minerals and collecting mineral specimens

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Bill Stephens



The highlight of my spring was the machine dig targeting wavellite and related phosphate minerals at the National Limestone Quarry at Mount Pleasant Mills, Snyder County, PA and the extremely well attended post-machine dig field trip led by myself as President of FMPA, and our new board member, President of Central

Pennsylvania Andrew "Rockhound" Eppig (see bio elsewhere herein). We had well over 100 attendees from our 2 clubs and another 25 or so from the Franklin County Club. All of our organizations are members of the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies (EFMLS) of which I am currently President for my second and final term and Andrew is both Social Media Director, current 1st VP and incoming President. Everyone had an excellent adventure and many high quality specimens Tommy and I missed evidently, or on purpose, were recovered. Clubs continue to find very nice specimens every weekend. Tommy Greene, current Field Trip Coordinator for the newly formed Young Mineral Collectors (YMC- see explanation below), and member for both the North Jersey Mineral Collectors and the New Jersey FM was my partner in the machine dig, and Andrew took off the entire week with us to document with photos and video the entire event.

As I mentioned in last quarter's Newsletter, next year's symposium theme is on "green minerals". The wavellite dig and post-dig field trip were specifically tailored to develop both specimens and information for my planned presentations at our symposia at FMPA and FM National as a green mineral. Interestingly we mined out the large yellow wavellite zone from which Ryan Klockner recovered his 1" ball specimen during our 2022 Machine dig.

This year's FMPA symposium will be held at Pitt Johnstown campus (UPJ) the weekend of November 9 and 10, 2024, and I anticipate delivering a presentation on, as well as leading our symposium field trip to the Wavellite occurrence at the National Limestone Quarry at Mount Pleasant Mills, Snyder County, PA. Wavellite is on the list of green minerals for the FM National 2025 Symposium. I anticipate each symposium will be well attended, and each will likely be worth 6 CEUs for professionals. I am working on New York State and hope to have that state as other states

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Public group: [Friends of Mineralogy community](https://www.facebook.com/groups/friendsofmineralogy/)



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(President's Message, continued from page 1)



Image 1. View looking westerly at the crowd of avid collectors gathered at the west or main wavellite pit participating in the post-machine dig field trip held jointly by FMPA and CPRMC.



Image 2. Close-up of small green wavellite covering a chunk of the Ridgely member of the Old Port Fm, host rock for the wavellite at MPM, recovered from the back wall of the East pit, re-opened/discovered during the march 2024 machine dig.

have, list us as preapproved before either symposium.

If you are interested in contributing an article to the newsletter, or in giving a presentation at the FM National or FMPA symposia, you can contact me directly, our Newsletter Editor Sean Stimac (articles only) or Mark Jacobson for the National Symposium for 2025.

Before I continue with happenings and fun things, I have a couple of administrative things we are working to address, fix or improve:

1. I learned after taking office that we had a rather convoluted method of distributing the newsletter. Obviously it's on the website, but traditionally it has been emailed to a list of national officers, chapter officers/members, affiliates and National-direct members. I only have the limited list containing officers of National, Chapter Presidents and VPs, and our relationship affiliates. I did not know how it was supposed to work. In the past, the newsletter apparently went through 3 people to get distributed, one of whom is no longer active. As a result, the first quarter 2024 newsletter did not get emailed out to the general membership or anyone last quarter. I anticipate we will get it out directly to my list, but distribution to National direct/individual members awaits our receipt of a complete list presumably from our treasurer(s) past or present, and distribution to chapter members will be the responsibility of the chapter officers. I apologize for this oversight, and we are expecting to have the process streamlined and in place by the next quarter along with the complete distribution list. Sean (our new newsletter editor Sean Stimac) will work with me to make sure everyone gets the newsletter in the future.

2. Bruce has been working to fix some issues with our organization's non-profit status that apparently dates back many years. He has graciously carried on the responsibility for fixing these issues even though he is no longer the current Treasurer, and we thank him profusely for his efforts. As of this writing, we are just awaiting official notice from the State of California as all filings have been accepted as complete and approved.

3. We are using the old logo as the situation with the new logo made it untenable to employ. Just FYI.

4. Look for major show events listed elsewhere in the newsletter.

5. New Board member Andrew "Rockhound" Eppig was voted to be the incoming President of EFMLS. Congrats (or Condolences) to Andrew. Look for Andrew's Bio elsewhere herein. And, check out his Dirtman Reports on YouTube! They are a hoot and informative and professionally prepared by Andrew a.k.a. "Dirtman".

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(President's Message, continued from page 3)

6. Andrew and I took over the social media pages (there are 3) after the elections and his appointment. We are reviewing the main public facing page procedures as the lack of postings on this page is directly related to the level of effort required to comply with the original concept of this page. We both believe there is a better way to get information out to the public and reduce the effort required to produce such posts. Personally, I think directing folks to articles in our newsletter or our affiliate rags (Mineralogical Record, Rocks and Minerals, etc.), Mindat, other sources rather than trying to craft a stand-alone statement might just do the trick. It was clearly too much work for our board members who conceived it, and with reels and the like being the most effective way to draw attention to our (any) organization(s), we need to rethink and streamline the process. The other pages, particularly the internal chat oriented page, may be superfluous as they are largely unutilized. It is our opinion, coming from experience, that the primary purpose for social media accounts is to draw attention to our organization and attract new members, not compete with the newsletter.

7. At the FM National meeting this past February, Andrew and I agreed to take on the job of updating the operating regulations, which were under review in 2021. Not much has happened yet as we have both been extremely busy, but operating rules had been largely developed for FMPA regarding social media at that time, and we still anticipate having a full set of edits to the operating regulations in place for review by November.

8. Our VP Nicole Childs has taken a new job, and I/we congratulate her (as soon as we get her new email) Congratulations to Nicole!

Recognizing that EFMLS is a separate organization, I think it is important to explain the relationship we have directly or indirectly with the EFMLS and its parent the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc. (AFMS). You may be wondering why I even mention it. Here are a few reasons why it's fundamentally important in my view to maintain relationships with and cooperate with these organizations where it makes sense:1. First, these organizations are much larger and have large member pools from which our chapters and national may gain members. Many of the members of member organizations within the larger AFMS family belong to multiple local clubs and can join our chapters or national directly. Several attendees at last year's FMPA Symposium told me personally they had never heard of us before, but they would join now.

2. They are affiliated with the American Lands Access Association, Inc. (ALAA), and together with ALAA, we have a much larger lobbying block to help protect our collecting on Federal lands from exclusion by executive fiat. We have a vested interest in not having our collecting and research sites converted to National Monuments just because.... Fortunately the ALAA is all over these kinds of takings and we are well advised to keep abreast and lend support to their efforts. Our efforts last year, which included letters from myself as FMPA President and EFMLS President have the BLM reconsidering exclusion of rockhounding and they have adopted in principal the rules set forth by the AFMS.

3. The AFMS and its Regional Feds including the EFMLS have hundreds of local member organizations, local clubs if you will, all of whom have shows and events at which we may advertise, participate and get our message out. They are always looking for speakers, qualified speakers who can give presentations in person or via Zoom. Who better than us to provide them with quality presentations on mineral-related subjects? We have many members who are members of these local organizations, some like Andrew and I are extraordinarily engaged as directors/officers, and we have 2 chapters that are members of the EFMLS/AFMS.

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(President's Message, continued from page 4)

4. We are the primary organization whose members are recognized leaders in the mineralogical sciences, authors, researchers and academicians, (generalists like me) as well as world renowned dealers and collectors and it is our mission to get the message out and to help our larger community of enthusiasts learn about mineralogy and related earth sciences, with the right information.

5. These organizations are in fact much larger than FM and its Chapters combined. We can learn much from them at least in terms of operations, membership initiatives and the like, what works and what doesn't work. We are too small to remain an insular inward looking organization. We do not need to reinvent the wheel or learn the hard way on our own through the school of hard knocks.

That having been said, I suppose I have some bragging rights (along with my EFMLS Board). The annual EFMLS convention was held at the famous Sterling Hill Mine Museum in Sussex County, New Jersey June 8, 2024, and was hosted by the North Jersey Mineral Society (NoJMS). Our newest FM National Board Member, Andrew, was elected President and though he will not take office until November 1, I expect he will continue the growth of this organization.

When I first joined EFMLS, filling a vacancy as the Region IV RVP (mid-Atlantic), I knew nothing of this organization (same as FM-National). We had the annual meeting and election, and the current President at that time was re-elected to a second term, though it was unclear the bylaws permitted it. By the spring of 2020 during the early shutdown of COVID, this person's intentions became horribly clear. He used the newly created website and zoom and the lockdown to cancel out the entire executive board to implement his "vision" without being fettered by the machinations of debate. The sole exception was the treasurer who followed him like a ... In short, his policies adapted from modernized Marxist handbook drove the organization to the brink of dissolution. That was literally one of 2 choices he gave to his illegally appointed board.

We regained control by a lucky break getting the website back first and later the treasury, after the fake board turned the keys back over to us. By that time over 35 clubs had left EFMLS and the total membership as under 6,000, all of whom required insurance through us. Since I became president, we have grown the EFMLS back to over 10,200 total members including a remarkable 1200+ junior members in 86 clubs. The AFMS gave us an award for the most growth of any of the regional Feds, and we are by far the largest of all the regional Feds again.

Why do I bring this up? Because it is important for us to recognize that we are not immune to the consequences of poor or ineffective leadership, or even sabotage, and we can learn much from a resurrection like this one we can utilize ourselves. We need to be certain in our revisions to the operating regulations that we include strong protections against improper use of social media, the website and zoom accounts. We need to be vigilant in our administrative duties. We need to vet prospective officers. And we need to pay attention to successful methods of growth. One thing is for sure and I can report seeing it: Local clubs come and go, but there is only one Friends of Mineralogy. I need your support and participation to grow this organization and make it the shining star its founders envisioned.

I do want to put in a plug for the Young Mineral Collectors (YMC), a relatively new organization that consists of mostly serious mineralists and avid collectors under the age of 40 globally. Some of their members had cases at Mineral City at Tucson. It's a new 501c3 and it's open to anyone but is designed for those under 40 who are serious about minerals. I had a collaboration strategy meeting with them Wednesday

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(President's Message, continued from page 5)

evening April 24 that was very productive. I have since had several conversations with YMC members including Tomer Shapiro and Tommy Greene, both of whom are members of NoJMS and I have been advising them on matters such as insurance, joining a regional Fed to leverage insurance and other topics. I look for them to launch their website later this year and begin collecting dues and other club functions. They along with FMPA and CPRMC are awaiting some enhancements to the Geology 365 website building functions and Ryan Klockner (NJFM President and founder of Geology365) has indicated he expects those enhancements for all of us by the end of this year. Geology365 is a free basic service developed by Ryan in honor of his father who got him interested in minerals.

As President of EFMLS, FMPA and FM-National, I see YMC (1700 FB members including international members with 300-400 active members and a core group of officers and volunteers) as a source of real talent, knowledge and commitment, and knowing they organized as a Facebook group in 2018, its clear they have created something quite different from the conventional society, yet they represent the exact demographic we should be courting. We'll see what comes from our collaboration going forward.

My next, and only field adventure since the machine dig in March, will be to a new private fee-dig mine in Fonda New York, and probably Treasure Mountain, the last week in June. One of our brand new clubs in EFMLS is asking me twice a week if I'm coming, so I guess I'd better. Look for a brief field trip report in next quarter's newsletter.

Till then, stay safe, stay tuned and happy hunting!

Sincerely,

Bill Stephens, PG, President

FM-PA, FM National & EFMLS



Image 3. Close-up of an extraordinary small cluster of shimmering yellow wavellite recovered during the March 2024 machine dig by Bill Stephens, PG. From the breccia zone in the old Port FM, Ridgely member, "Lemon Drop" yellow wavellite zone no completely mined out.

FM 2024 National Committee Meeting Using Zoom, Feb. 23, 9 p.m. EST

Attending: William “Bill” Stephens - President, Nicole Childs - Vice President, Jessica Robertson - Treasurer, Jeanine N. Mielecki - Secretary, William “Bill” W. Besse - Webmaster (non-voting), Mark Ivan Jacobson - Immediate Past President (non-voting)

Invited, though not present: Sean Stimac - Newsletter Editor (non-voting)

FM National President Bill Stephens convened a meeting of the FM National Executive Committee with the purpose to confirm the appointment of Andrew Eppig to fill the vacancy created by the recent resignation of Erin Delventhal from her position of at-large director. The meeting was called to order by President Bill Stephens at 9:05 p.m.

Mark Jacobson made the motion that the FM National Executive Committee confirm the appointment of Andrew Eppig as an at-large director to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Erin Delventhal from her position of at-large director. Bill Stephens seconded the motion.

A vote was taken. The motion carried with all in favor.

Andrew will serve the balance of Erin Delventhal’s term per the current Bylaws, and will be eligible to run for that or other office once the remaining term expires in 2025.

President Bill Stephens has appointed Andrew Eppig to the Social Media Committee. Andrew also will be providing assistance to the new operations regulations update committee.

No vote was needed. The Executive Committee by consensus agreed and supported the appointment of Andrew Eppig to the Social Media Committee and his providing assistance to the new operating regulations committee comprised of Bill Besse, Dr. Don Buchanan, and Bill Stephens.

A motion to end the meeting was made by Bill Stephens. Nicole Childs seconded. All agreed. The meeting ended at 9:55 p.m. EST.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeanine N. Mielecki
Secretary, Friends of Mineralogy National



Andrew Eppig Elected as at-Large Director



On February 23, 2024 the National Executive Committee met to appoint Andrew Eppig to the Board of Directors to fill a vacancy left by the resignation of Erin Delventhal. His bio is below. Welcome, Andrew, to the Board.

Andrew “Dirtman” Rockhound has spent the last quarter century as an award-winning world-class post production audio engineer in Baltimore Maryland. Outside of his career, his geological outreach in Pennsylvania and across the country has earned him the EFMLS “Each One Teach One” award, and multiple “Rockhound Of The Year” awards. Yearly, Andrew teaches hundreds of kids about fossils and gold panning at events, and hundreds more about geology through online videos, giveaways and social media posts on his Facebook and YouTube profiles “Andrew Rockhound (Dirtman Report).” He currently serves in the following roles:

President/Field Trip Director, Central PA Rock & Mineral Club
 President Elect/1st VP EFMLS
 Founder, PA Presidents Roundtable
 Vice President, Keystone Treasure Hunters Club
 Board Of Directors & Social Media Director, Friends Of Mineralogy Pennsylvania Chapter
 Partner, Vernal School Educational Partnership/Montour Preserve Fossil Pit
 Producer/Creator, Dirtman Report on YouTube



NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Dear Reader,

We always encourage and welcome articles and submissions for this quarterly newsletter. Submissions can be on any topic relevant to or in advance of our mission to “promote, support, protect, and expand the collecting of mineral specimens, while furthering the recognition of the scientific, economic, and aesthetic value of minerals and mineral collecting.”

In this issue, you’ll find I’ve included brief pieces on the EFMLS convention, of which several of our chapters are members of, Ryan Klockner’s trip to Ruck’s Pit and the joint field trip to the National Limestone Quarry in Mount Pleasant Mills, PA led by FMPA and CPRMC. This is to give you what I hope are interesting stories and great pictures that highlight the activities this organization is involved in.

This is truly an incredible organization that is deeply involved in so many aspects of rocks and minerals from field collecting amateurs to professional researchers. I would like to place more emphasis on these contributions in the future and present them here for our membership. Your submissions would be greatly appreciated. You can submit to me directly via email seanstimac@gmail.com

Best Regards,

Sean Stimac



The Kay Robertson Educational Display Awards

The Kay Robertson Educational Display Awards are given twice a year, at the September Denver Gem and Mineral Show®, Denver, CO and at the February Tucson Gem and Mineral Show®. This award is given to both the best institutional and non-institution (individual or groups of individuals) educational displays at each of these shows. Accompanying this award is \$200 each for the institution and non-institution. At this year’s Tucson Gem and Mineral Show®, the Kay Robertson Educational Display Award was given to the Maine Mineral and Gem Museum, Bethel, Maine for a linked series of seven exhibits. These exhibits explained the formation and crystallization history of pegmatites with the Emmons pegmatite, Greenwood, Maine given as an example. Minerals and structural style were demonstrated by examples.

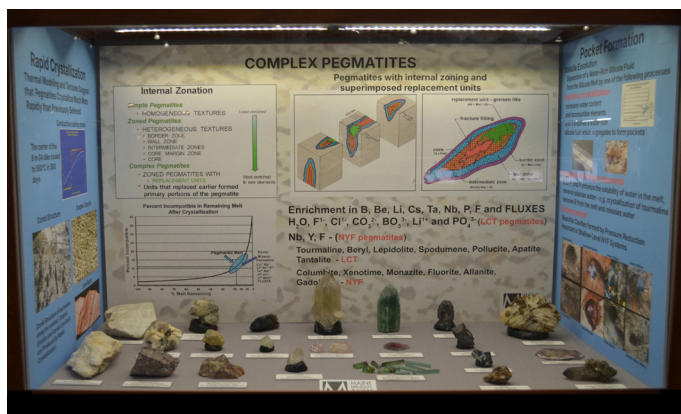


Image 1. Complex Pegmatites, case no. 3 of 7 by Maine Mineral and Gem Museum, Bethel, Maine. Mark Jacobson photo.



Image 2. W. “Skip” B. Simmons (right), representing the Maine Mineral and Gem Museum, receiving the award from Erin Delventhal, former FM national Vice-President. Mark Jacobson photo.

The Kay Robertson Educational Display Award for the best non-institutional educational exhibit was presented to Hannah Brodhagen, Tucson, Arizona for her display “Journey of a Gemstone,” the story from a raw mineral to a jeweler as a faceted stone or a specimen within a collection.

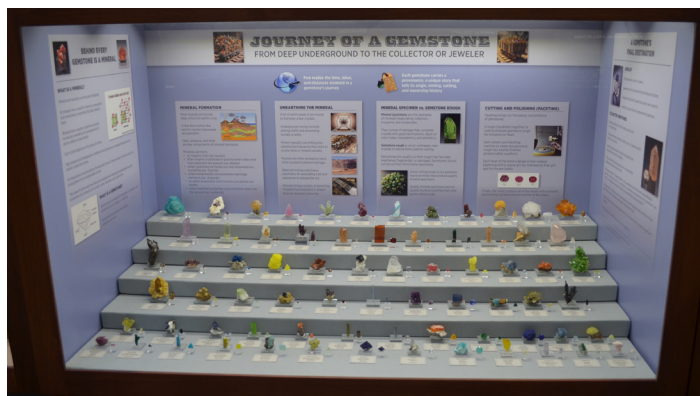


Image 3. The “Journey of a Gemstone” exhibit by Hannah Brodhagen, Tucson, Arizona. Mark Jacobson photo.



Image 4. Hannah Brodhagen (right) receiving the award from Erin Delventhal. Mark Jacobson photo

The museum and individual received their award certificate at the Saturday evening award ceremony. The monetary amount of \$200 was mailed to them.





The 43rd FM-TGMS-MSA Tucson Mineral Symposium

Shades of Green: From Apatites to Zeunerites – More Than Just Emeralds

Saturday, February 15, 2025

Tucson Convention Center, Tucson, AZ

Call for papers

The forty-third Mineral Symposium, held in conjunction with the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show®, will take place on Saturday, February 15, 2025. This symposium is co-sponsored by the Tucson Gem and Mineral Society®, the Friends of Mineralogy, and the Mineralogical Society of America. As a tie in with the show, the symposium theme is the same as the show theme: “Shades of Green: From apatites to zeunerites – more than just emeralds.”

Presentations are sought on Green minerals – localities, geology, mineralogy, crystallography, cause of color, or geochemistry. Some examples of desired topics, but not restricted to these, are emeralds and hiddenite from the Hiddenite, NC locality; chrysoberyl localities and geology; emeralds, geology and mineralogy; variscite, Fairfield, Utah locality, history and mineralogy; malachite from Arizona; gaspeite, type locality, geology and Western Australia deposits; annabergite localities; pyromorphite, phoenixville, PA; diopside, Tsumeb locality; prehnite from zeolite localities; wavellite – PA and Arkansas; torbernite, best of; epidote – Prince of Wales island and Tyrol, Austria localities; and of course the cause of the green color on minerals.

An audience of amateur and professional mineralogists and geologists is expected.

Interested speakers, should first submit their desired talk title for a presentation length of 30 minutes (or 25 minutes plus 5 minutes for questions). There will be 10 minutes between talks to handle introductions, and computer and sound. There will be a wireless lapel microphone for mobile speakers who do not wish to be restricted to the podium or a mounted stationary microphone for the speaker.

We will acknowledge all submitted presentations. Accepted presentations will need to be followed up with a 200-500 word abstract (single spaced in 12 point font, Word or equivalent format) with one graphic or photograph associated with the abstract desired by the author (but not inserted into the text), a 5-10 sentence speaker biography and a photographic headshot of the speaker (submitted separately), also in word format. All abstracts, biographies, and photos will be combined for creation into an abstract-program booklet. The speaker will also provide their preferred email address and contact phone number. This is NOT for the program but for communication with the symposium organizer.

Presenters will provide the digital talk in PowerPoint (pptx or ppt) and PDF format either on a flash drive or a downloadable internet site. Presenters will not be permitted to use their own computers. The symposium computer is a PC using an up-to-date Microsoft operating system. In addition, these talks may be recorded IF all speakers agree to recording in advance.

Please send submitted titles (and later abstracts and speaker biographies) by one of three methods:

By mail: Mark Ivan Jacobson 1714 S. Clarkson St., Denver, CO 80210

By email: fm.mineral.symposium@gmail.com

By the form on the Friends of Mineralogy website at www.friendsofmineralogy.org/call-for-papers

Presentation titles must be submitted prior to July 31, 2024.

Abstracts, presentation images, speaker biographies, and photographic headshots must be submitted prior to September 1, 2024. The final abstract booklet with the speaker program is expected to be posted on the FM national website by December 15, 2024. The speakers and their presentation title will also appear in the January-February 2025 Rocks & Minerals magazine.



FMPA & CPRMC Joint Field Trip National Limestone Quarry on April 6

by Sean Stimac



Image 5. The Author, Bill Stephens and Andrew Eppig at the FMPA and CPRMC joint field trip at National Limestone Quarry, Mount Pleasant Point, Pennsylvania

On April 6 the Pennsylvania Chapter of Friends of Mineralogy and the Central Pennsylvania Rock and Mineral Club led a field trip to the National Limestone Quarry in Mount Pleasant Mills, Pennsylvania. The event followed a machine a dig the second week of March by our president, Bill Stephens and Tommy Greene, where they opened up fresh pockets of wavelite on the West Wall. Not only did this expose immense amounts of collectible material, it also made the collection area safer for us. The removed material was laid down in a long row making it unnecessary for us to approach the wall itself. While they certainly removed some substantial material, there was plenty of high-quality specimens remaining for the attendees of the field trip.

Our group of over 100 people was split into two groups, one of which collected along the East Wall and the other collected along the West Wall. This author was in the group that collected from the freshly exposed West Wall.

Because the quarry was not in operation the day of our trip, we were afforded the opportunity to also collect from the areas of the quarry where material is still being extracted. This author opted to spend the final hour of his trip in this area of the quarry searching for calcite and strontianite. It was an easy task finding several of each worth keeping.

The field trip was very well planned and organized. All attendees the author spoke to reported that they had a great time. Despite the large crowd, one would have been hard pressed to have gone home empty handed. Those of us in attendance owe many thanks to Bill Stephens and Andrew Eppig for making this such a memorable day with friends and minerals.



Image 6. The Author's favorite self-collected sample of wavelite collected during the field trip



Image 7. A sample of Calcite self-collected by the author from the lower pit area of the National Limestone Quarry



Image 8. A sample of iron-stained strontianite self-collected by the author from the lower pit area of the National Limestone Quarry.



Where have You Been? An Adventure to Ruck's Pit

Reprinted from the FMNJ May Newsletter

Article by Ryan Klockner, Spread by Lauren Anderson

In the early 2000's, a cement quarry operating 21 miles north of Lake Okeechobee in Fort Drum, FL, started to uncover treasures of particular interest to mineral and fossil collectors alike. Numerous species of fossilized shells lined with phosphorescent calcite crystals were found in the extremely porous limestone. These pieces quickly became sought after as soon as they hit the market. However, as quickly as they appeared on the scene, newly collected quality pieces disappeared.

The mine ceased operation in 2006 due to the end of its operational phase as a mining location. Shortly after that, it was filled in with water. Eddy Rucks Jr. stated that they were forced to flood it due to the dangers inherent to standing fresh water in Florida. As this was an open pit mine, water would accumulate at the bottom of the pit. As collectors had their backs to the water extracting specimens from the wall, a spotter had to keep an eye on the water and poke the alligators with a stick to keep them away. Shortly after, they were forced to flood the pit.

Knowing that the pit was soon to be inaccessible, they excavated tons of material and moved it nearby to a save and elevated area where it could be safely explored for years to come...

From the moment I decided to risk a day of my vacation (two hours from where I was visiting), I had my doubts. After several voicemails left and several emails that went unanswered, I took to Facebook. The result of my posting was to "pull up to the gate. The donkey will see you and come running and make a racket. The owner will hear it and come out to let you in. If not, just head in and start digging. He'll come find you. Oh yeah, make sure to have a Coke for the donkey."

You see why I had my doubts. On top of that, I'll do the math for you. I visited the tailings piles 18 years after the mine was flooded. How much could be left to find?!?!

I decided to go anyway. The drive out was filled with flat land, cattle, and the occasional alligator. Pulling up to the "Fort Drum Crystal Mine", it played out exactly as I was told, including the Coke drinking donkey.



Image 9. The infamous Coke drinking at the Fort Drum Crystal Mine



Image 10. The cattle pasture at the Fort Drum Crystal Mine

(Ruck’s Pit, continued from page 12)



Image 11. A pit dug by the author

After being welcomed into the mine, I picked a spot and started digging. Since these tailing piles are mostly dirt, a shovel, was the primary tool needed. However, I would periodically find larger pieces in harder porous limestone that can contain clams (I never got so lucky). These pieces should be broken open, so a hammer and chisel is also good to have on hand.

It didn’t take long before I was finding clam shells, whelks, and a variety of other shells, most of which containing calcite which filled every gap it could find. Many of the finds lacked well formed crystals, however, the calcite phosphoresces a beautiful blue green color. The ideal find is a complete shell with both halves intact. If you are lucky enough to find one of these, the cavity that exists could provide enough room for crystals to grow. In addition, it would protect the crystals inside while existing in the tailings for nearly 20 years. Backlighting these specimens can give you a clue if/where the crystals are located.

From time to time, I would find well defined crystals in varying locations in/on the shells as the day went on. A number of excellent pieces came out that day, but the big surprise was the whelk that was found that was packed with mud. It wasn’t until I got home that I was able to clean the mud out and discovered that it was filled with crystals!

All in all, the trip was a great success. The uncertainty, the adventure, the specimens and of course, the Coke drinking donkey, made this trip memorable. If you are in central Florida, I highly recommend that you visit the Fort Drum Crystal Mine.



Image 12. A self-collected clam shell filled with well crystalized calcite



Image 13. A self collected shell filled with calcite



Image 14. A self collected whelk fossil containing well crystalized calcite

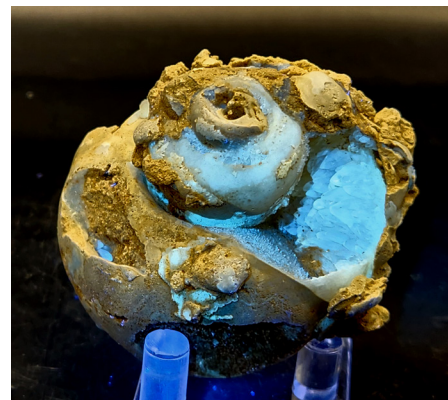


Image 15. The same fossilized whelk phosphorescing after ultraviolet light exposure



Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies Annual Convention, June 8th & 9th

by Sean Stimac



Image 16. Andrew Eppig being administered the oath of office at the EFMLS Annual Convention, June 8, 2024.

The Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies (EFMLS), of which our Pennsylvania and New Jersey Chapters are members, held their annual conference at the Sterling Hill Mining Museum on June 8th and 9th, hosted by the North Jersey Mineralogical Society (NoJMS). The event was kicked off with a business meeting and was followed by a presentation on meteorites by Bill Kroth. Andrew Eppig was also elected as the president elect of the EFMLS and will assume the role on November 1st.

While these events were occurring, several vendors had booths set up with spectacular local and global rocks and minerals. It was difficult to prioritize our lunch with so many great items on offer from such great vendors.

Following our lunch we were given a phenomenal tour of the Sterling Mine by former miner Doug Francisco. He was able to add a personal touch to the tour that few others truly could. His first-hand accounts of what was life as a miner made this a mine tour like no other.

This author was not able to attend the banquet, but was able to briefly collect some samples from the Mine Run Dump. Species collected include hendricksite, malachite, willemite, andradite and zincite. Certainly nothing rare, but adequate for trades and gifts. Also found was a large cobble of calcite weighing approximately 15 pounds with a few areas of an as yet unidentified (at least by this author) radioactive mineral.

The following day we reconvened at the Sterling Hill Mining Museum where we were led on a fascinating and lengthy tour of the Museums crushed ore conveyor facilities by Mel XXXXX. Over the span of two hours he led us through the conveyor building, across the conveyor and down alongside the museum telling stories, explaining the process and allowing us to collect a few specimens from the final run as we walked and talked. It was the perfect way to end the convention.



Image 17. Former miner, Doug Francisco discussing how miners reached lower levels of the mine.

NoJMS did a fantastic job organizing this convention. There were plenty of activities, good people and great minerals. Our hosts at the Sterling Hill Mining Museum, likewise, were great. As a fan of fluorescent minerals, this author could not have had a better time at a convention.



Image 18. Machinery we observed on the tour of the crusher conveyor system.



Image 19. A view of the surface level mine operations of the Sterling Mine, Ogdensburg, NJ



REGIONAL CHAPTER REPORTS



New Jersey Chapter
fomnj.wordpress.com

Friends of Mineralogy NJ Chapter (FM-NJ) Quarterly Report – Jun 2024

Major Event: The Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies (EFMLS) Annual Convention

Date: Sat Jun 8, 2024 and Sun Jun 9

Host Club: The North Jersey Mineralogical Society (NoJMS)

Location: Sterling Hill Mining Museum Ogdensburg, NJ

Friends of Mineralogy NJ Chapter (FM-NJ) attending Members: Ryan “Klock Man” Klockner (current Pres.), Dave “Groundhog” Shapiro, Lauren Anderson-Pullinger, Sean Stimac, Bobby Batic, Ray Sann

North Jersey Mineralogical Society (NoJMS) attending members: Dave “Groundhog” Shapiro (current Pres.), Diane Beckman, Karen Padreza, Bobby Batic; Volunteers: Dave “Lermanator” Lerman, Hayley “Shakespeare” Nalepa with Dad James; Diana Tasco and Derek “Google” Yoost,

Ron “Chisel” Schulz, Karen Padreza

Convention Vendors: Derek “Google” Yoost and Diana Tasco; Mark Sloan, Bobby Batic, Ralph Dames, Ron “Chisel” Schulz, Jim “Host Extraordinaire” Van Fleet, Bob Allen

The Friends of Mineralogy NJ Chapter (FM-NJ) recently participated in the 2024 EFMLS Convention, held at Sterling Hill Mining Museum in Ogdensburg, NJ. The North Jersey Mineralogical Society (NoJMS) hosted the Convention this time around; and did exceedingly well considering NoJMS was a contingency for a previously – booked Club who unfortunately had to cancel out. Particularly thanks to the diligence of Diana Tasco and Derek Yoost as the main “point people” with EFMLS Secretary Cheryl Neary, we were able to offer a modified / expedited version of the normally weekend – long Convention.

FM-NJ President Ryan “Klock Man” Klockner and 1st VP Dave “Groundhog” Shapiro; Sean Stimac, and Lauren Anderson-Pullinger, attended the Business Meeting, representing FM-NJ. Ryan and I were asked to talk on the topic of Juniors programs when this was discussed as part of the Business Agenda. Ryan and Dave spoke of the recent success with the FM-NJ Juniors program, and advocated the use of the AFMS Badge Program as a logical “template” on how to efficiently organize and run workshops. They echoed the sentiment brought up earlier, regarding the need for youth to have access to and be able to enjoy Earth science – based educational material; particularly where future involvement in a hobby can be an output. Ryan mentioned his inspiration for pushing for the FM-NJ to organize and run a Juniors program, coming from his own twin daughters’ educational interests, and need for some “outside of the textbook” learning experiences. Dave and Ryan described the various topics covered in the workshops so far (What is a Rock / a Mineral; Fossils; Fluorescents) and we mentioned how we structured the workshops into interactive activities and relevant lecture portions and demonstrations. Dave mentioned he will be starting “Collecting” in June and shared a though or 2 on his envisioning of the upcoming workshops. Dave and Ryan also mentioned the tireless efforts of Will “Billy boy” Pazik as the now – recognized “Main Contact” for the Juniors group, and how critical his work has been

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(New Jersey Report, continued from page 15)

with sourcing of rocks / minerals and supplies for testing kits and other workshop – specific supplies (UV goggles, UV lights, etc).

Following the adjournment of the business Meeting, we were treated to Sterling Hill's own Bill Kroth giving us a presentation on Meteorites, a personal passion of his as well as Derek "Google" Yoost's. Bill talked about his interest in rocks and minerals, and how this led to specific interest in Meteorites. In particular, Bill has specific interest in several very notable Meteorites that have landed in the tri-state area; most notably in Titusville, NJ. Bill led us to the SH Museum, where we saw a unique exhibit on the Titusville Meteorite and objects involved in other nearby Meteorite incidents from the recent past. Artifacts such as car parts and house structural pieces, were on display with pictures, showing evidences of several Meteorite events involving crashing into a car, and into a house. Bill told the stories of the notable collectors who procured the objects struck by the Meteorites, or pieces of the Meteorites themselves; definitely a PRICEY venture and subset of the hobby. Bill spoke about several worldwide Meteor events which he has small pieces from (as does Derek Yoost); and how the sources of these pieces are often connected with museums or institutions.

We then had some free time before the next activities, to see what the Vendors had to offer. FM-NJ Club members Mark Sloan and Bobby Batic, both boasted impressive selections of NJ and US – wide specimens.

Following a delicious Sub sandwich lunch, we were given the opportunity to have a special Mine Tour with former Sterling Hill miner Doug Francisco. Doug gave us a unique look at the mining operations and how they evolved over time mechanically. The tour covered a great deal of first hand accounts of the specifics of blasting, mucking, ore shipping, bolting, mapping, crushing, and other mining operation specifics. We got to see the various safety measures utilized (hoist bells; chemical capsules for gas detection, Canaries for air quality, etc). We saw many unique geologic features of the mine walls including faults, intrusions, mineral veins, slickensides, and other features. Doug showed us the transportation modes within the mine, including the hoists and ore carts and small catacombs to crawl through; and also the vast piping network bringing cooled air into the mine and taking water out. Doug shared some stories of some of the other famed miners (John Kolic, Nick Zipco and others) and some of their Management, and their adventures in the mine over the years. We were shown the awesome Rainbow Room and other sections of mine tunnels that have installed UV lights, and were treated to illuminated displays of every fluorescent color under the sun. The tour ended in the subterranean Thomas F. Warren Museum of Fluorescence; Thomas Warren is credit as the father of Fluorescence with regards to minerals and UV lamps.

The evening crept upon us with the Banquet Dinner, which featured an AWESOME catered array of food from Franks Pizza in nearby Sparta. Sausage, Peppers and Onions; Penne Vodka; Shrimp Francaise w Linguini; Eggplant and Chicken Parmigiana trays; Chicken Marsala; Cavatelli and Broccoli; large Meatballs Marinara, Salads and bread were in abundance for us to enjoy. We received several compliments that it was the best food ever ordered at a Convention ! Groundhog Dave and Bobby Batic from FM-NJ, partook in the dinner feast.

FM-NJ and NoJMS Field Trips for Spring 2024:

FIELD TRIP REPORT: Hewitt Gem Mine

What: Hewitt Gem Mine trip

When: Sat Jun 15

Clubs in Attend: NoJMS, FM-NJ

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Trip Leader: Groundhog Dave

GRACIOUS HOSTS: Mine Operators Tony Apilla and Eric, and Owner Axel

ATTENDEES: Groundhog Dave, Tomer Shapira, Stephanie “Carpet Squares” Apgar, Arthur Finkelshteyn, Dr. Paul Becker, Steve Woodruff w Tracy Goddard; Micki Reiss; Laronda Davis, Kerri and Johnny Parani, Andrew Kreugel, Yu Lin, John Montgomery with Gayle Weigand; Nina Kiliszec and Joe Erard; Lisa Soklaski w Michael Mullen; Sarah Bernotas; Elizabeth and Luca Pendrini

This was an EPIC trip to Hewitt !! On top of having crisp, beautiful weather for the whole day, everyone had notable finds, even brand newbies that have never set foot at Hewitt !! Even despite (as Tony had mentioned) them not being able to do super - recent blasts for us, there was still plenty of great pegmatite material to go through and work from the pit walls !!

Club Member Notable Finds:

Groundhog Dave - 3 inch long, 3/4 cm wide (w minor damage) teal green beryl xl in fist sized rock; also later, one 1/2” Goshenite Beryl fragment in small rock (single terminated)

Andrew Kreugel - nice bright and deep green Torbernite clusters in a fist sized peg. rock; several Goshenite Beryl xls and loose pieces

Kerry Parani - Large (maybe 2 inch diameter) hexagonal Goshenite Beryl piece in large peg. matrix rock; 1 much smaller one in smaller rock as well

Lisa Soklaski - Large (~ 1.5 inch diameter, maybe 1” long piece) semi - hexagonal very light or colorless Beryl (faint Aqua)

Tracy Goddard - Nice 3/4 inch single terminated Goshenite colorless Beryl in dark rust colored matrix; had faint yellowish tinge

Tomer Shapira - Nice sizable (3/4 cm) Spessartine Garnet orange blebs and crystal clusters; Double terminated Greenish Apatite xl in matrix; also several small Beryls, various types and clarity

Arthur Finkelshteyn - Interesting purple Lepidolite or Schernikite - coated Beryl fragment (appeared like purple Fluorite or Amethyst would look)

John Montgomery - Very nice 1/2 “ thick black Schorl Tourmaline stack of crystals (maybe 2” long); also some nice Spessartine Garnets

Stephanie “Carpet Squares” Apgar - Nice small clusters of Chlorophane Fluorite in peg. rock; also nice small Goshenite Beryl piece(s)

Luca Pendrini - Nice Schorl Tourmaline blades / xls in Mica sheets and Quartz, attractive and well defined

Yu Lin - the Crusher device / tool he immediately noticed and used expertly on many rocks throughout the day, resulting in various nice finds

Other folks not listed above, also found varying - sized and quality Beryl pieces (Goshenite, Morganite or Aqua type) and Schorl Tourmaline crystals, as well as various Garnets and various Quartz varieties.

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As always, Tony's Lunch did NOT disappoint, with excellent quality Wagyu Burgers and great Kirkland brand Hot Dogs, and snack bags of chips galore. Tony's wife came and gave us fresh fixins for the burgers (Lettuce, Onions, tomatoes, etc) and condiments. Plenty of Waters and drinks were available to keep us hydrated !!

Can't wait to return in the FALL !!

FIELD TRIP REPORT: Herkimer Mountain trip (fka "Area 55")

What: Herkimer Mountain trip

When: Sat May 4 + Sun May 5

Clubs in Attend: NoJMS, FM-NJ

Trip Leaders: Hayley "Shakespeare" Nalepa, Jim Nalepa, Groundhog Dave

GRACIOUS HOSTS: Owners Dino Zampini and Donna Cauti, w/ assistance from Tommy Greene

ATTENDEES: Hayley "Shakespeare" Nalepa, Jim Nalepa, Groundhog Dave, Tommy Greene, Tomer Shapira, Dave "Lermanator" Lerman, Dave "Dude" Miller and Ehmkey Delaleu, Julia Chien and Dave Roush, Ken and Ofelia Napolitano with kids, Mitch Seim with family, Suzanne, Jarrath and Nate Shaw; Stephanie "Carpet Squares" Apgar and Avery Federico, Giuseppe Liberti, Steve Woodruff

We had a great adventure up at Herkimer Mountain on this early May weekend. We immediately became aware of the emergence of swarms of large biting gnats, which make their very brief emergence during this time period. Despite the gnats' best efforts and continual onslaught on Saturday, they did not stifle our enjoyment of the collecting day. Part - owner Donna provided mosquito nettings and various repellent implements for a nominal charge, and we took advantage of these tools to survive the gnats throughout the weekend.

The weather was excellent on Saturday, never getting too hot throughout the morning and afternoon. Sunday unfortunately saw a continual downpour early on, and the few folks who camped overnight had to make the best of it. The campfire and S'mores and dinner on Sat night were a success, and the overhead tents served to thwart the gnats to a degree, as well as providing shelter if it started to rain.

Club Member Notable Finds

Dave "Dude" Miller and Ehmkey Delaleu - MANY near fist - sized and smaller, Herks of varying shapes, in woods-adjacent area opposite the parking lot

Julia Chien - Terrific Golden healer Herk with Calcite and Iron inclusions and caramel - colored striations

Dave "Lermanator" Lerman - 2 very handsome Herkimer on matrix pieces from the ledge area

Suzanne and Nate Shaw - some very nice small nearly water-clear double terminated Herks

Jarrath Shaw - impressive Herk in matrix from ledge area - took substantial effort to retrieve!!

Hayley "Shakespeare" and dad Jim - several nearly fist sized Herks from near the excavator / dirt area

Ken Napolitano - several small nice single and double terminated herks from dirt mounds next to parking area

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(New Jersey Report, continued from page 18)

Tomer Shapira - nice medium sized Herkimer doublet, from ledge area

We definitely hope to have a return Fall trip well after the gnats have come and gone (LOL). Overall, this was another great Herkimer collecting experience.

FIELD TRIP REPORT: FM-NJ Juniors: Big Brook (Preserve)

What: Big Brook (Preserve) trip

Who: FM-NJ Juniors kids and parents

When: Sun Apr 28

Clubs in Attend: FM-NJ (Juniors)

Trip Leaders: Groundhog Dave and Julia “Queen of Shark Tooth Shards” Chien

ATTENDEES: Groundhog Dave, Julia “Queen of Shark Tooth Shards” Chien, Stacey and Dexter Carton, Kristin Stine with Lily, Zoey and Gennaro

We had outstanding weather for this pop-up juniors trip to Big Brook. The local parking unfortunately was a zoo (LOL) resulting in Groundhog needing to play musical spots with folks in the process of leaving. Fortunately everyone else got the remaining spots on first pass.

We ventured several hundred feet to a seemingly negotiable drop-off point into the brook. Will “Billy boy” Pazik had previously mentioned that the bank had steepened quite a bit in this area, and the drop-off spots closer to the parking area were definitely steepened quite a bit by the elements.

Club Member Notable Finds:

Julia Chien - numerous Shark Teeth shards, several tiny teeth much smaller than 1/4 inch; several nice belemnites and Oyster shell pieces

Groundhog Dave - 2 small (1 - 2 cm) Turritella snail shells, 2 small (1 inch) very encrusted Ammonite fragments; small Brachiopod fragments

Stacey Carton - 1 cm Brachiopod bivalve - *Chlorthyris* sp.; several nice Belemnite pieces

Dexter Carton - Several nice larger - sized Belemnites, several Crow Shark teeth, some large pieces of various Oyster shell fossils

Lily, Zoey - Plastic boat on string (“distraction toy” courtesy of Julia Chien); several nice Belemnite pieces and assorted Oyster shell pieces; tiny Shark tooth smaller than 1/4 inch

Kristin - Several nice Oyster shell fossils (large)

We definitely will be having return trips going into the Summer to Big Brook and Ramanessin Creek as well.

FIELD TRIP REPORT: ** submitted by Dave “Lermanator” Lerman

What: Phil Crabb / High St. Franklin afternoon into Night Dig

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REGIONAL CHAPTER REPORTS

(New Jersey Report, continued from page 19)

When: Sat Apr 20, 2024

Clubs in Attend: NoJMS, FM-NJ

Trip Leaders: Dave “Lermanator” Lerman (NoJMS) and Rich Blaha (FM-NJ)

GRACIOUS HOST: “Franklin Phil” Phil Crabb

ATTENDEES: Dave “Lermanator” Lerman, Rich Blaha, Pete DeKleine w family, Linda Lovstad, Laura “Ghostbuster” Schmeltz, Kimmy Brancato, Kris and Maria Roselle, Arthur “The Man of A Forever Mystery” Finkelshteyn, Leah Wiesel, George Speidel, John “Kush” Kushmerick, Nik and Joanna Caporossi, Amanda and Bryan Van der Steer

Our Phil Crabb NoJMS Club Trip 04/20/2024 officially in the books !!!!!!!!!!! The weather was picture perfect, the minerals were coming out of the ground like hot potatoes, and all of those attended were find AWESOME minerals specimens !!!!!!!!!!!!!!! There were the usual specimens - #Willemite #Calcite #ChristmasTreeOre #Spalerite ... and then #Hardystonite plus others. And what was great, there were many first timers at the #PhilCrabb property; really really nice to see many new people taking part in one of our favorite club trips during the year !!!!!!!!!!!!!!! #RockOn #NoJMS #FlorescentMinerals

Club Member Notable Finds

David “Lermanator” Lerman - Old relic - nail used for constructing railroad tracks and screaming green willemite in vein like structure

Richard Blaha - nice calcite pieces

Peter / Dana / Charley Dekline - willemite and calcite pieces

Linda Lovstad - willemite and calcite pieces

Laura Schmeltz - willemite and calcite pieces

Kim Brancato - willemite and calcite pieces

Maria / Kris Roselle - willemite and calcite pieces

George Speidel - willemite and calcite pieces

Arthur “The Man of A Forever Mystery” F - good lapidary material and several good willemite pieces

Leah Wiesel - A LOT of EVERYTHING including lots of good lapidary material - Arthur’s car had lots of rock to carry lol ** over 200 lbs **

John Kushmerick - some rare find - hardystonite and possibly others

Nik / Joanna Caporossi - willemite and calcite pieces

Amanda Van der Steer - hydrozincite as well as several good willemite and calcite pieces





Pacific Northwest Chapter


pnwfm.org

Greetings and happy summer! Our 2024 plans for PNWFM are in full swing. PNWFM had a great time at Seattle Mineral Market on May 18 and 19. Our displays and snack booth were again popular with the public, and our auctions helped raise some funds.

We are happy to announce that registration is now open at <http://pnwfm.org/> for our 2024 symposium to be held in Ellensburg, Washington the weekend of October 19. Tickets prices are lower relative to last year, and we're pleased to announce that this year's hotel room costs are lower, too. If you'd like to join us in person and want to make hotel reservations, call the Ellensburg Red Lion and ask for the "Mineral Club" pricing for the weekend. We are planning daytime talks at CWU, a Saturday evening banquet at the Red Lion, and our traditional hallway of room dealers for everyone's favorite time of evening socializing and looking at rocks.

We are also working on our project to produce a retrospective keepsake book or magazine about the history of PNWFM, previous events and members, in honor of our 50th Anniversary. If you have any favorite memories or photos to include please contact Jessica Robertson at jar7709@hotmail.com.

Have a fabulous and safe summer. Happy digging!



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REGIONAL CHAPTER REPORTS



Colorado Chapter
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**FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY
COLORADO CHAPTER**

The first Friends of Mineralogy Colorado Chapter (FMCC) symposium since 2018 was a hit! The symposium took place from June 14-16, and this year's theme was Mineral Oddities:

Twinning, Pseudomorphs, Inclusions, and More! We had an excellent lineup of speakers, a lovely reception and auction at the Colorado School of Mines Museum of Earth Science, and a wonderful group of attendees. Thanks to all the positive feedback, we are delighted to announce that planning for the 2025 FMCC symposium has already begun! We hope to see you in Colorado next year!



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MINERAL NEWS

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The Mineralogical Society of America Resources and Coming Attractions

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The Mineralogical Society of America (MSA) was founded in 1919 to advance mineralogy, crystallography, geochemistry, and petrology, and to promote their uses in other sciences, industry, and the arts. MSA encourages fundamental research about natural materials; supports the teaching of mineralogical concepts and procedures; and raises the scientific literacy of society on issues involving mineralogy in the widest sense. MSA encourages the preservation of mineral collections, displays, mineral localities, type minerals, and scientific data. MSA publishes the journal *American Mineralogist*, *Elements* magazine, the book series *Reviews in Mineralogy & Geochemistry*, textbooks, and monographs.

Anyone with an interest in mineralogy/petrology is eligible to join MSA. Information about membership is on the MSA home page: minsocam.org



Young Mineral Collectors

youngmineralcollectors.org

The Young Mineral Collectors group is an online, global mineral collecting community, in which over 1700 members from 50+ countries have come together to celebrate mineralogy, share knowledge, and create a positive environment for the newest generations of collectors. We welcome all collectors under 40 years of age.

The Friends of Mineralogy National Newsletter is issued quarterly, near the change in the four seasons – March, June, September and December. The Midwest Chapter distributes the Friends of Mineralogy National newsletter via an email notice from Google Groups that the newsletter is available. It is up to each member to download their own copy. The Pennsylvania Chapter sends the National newsletter out as an internet link. The Virginia Chapter sends the National newsletter out both as an internet link and attachment to the email. The New Jersey Chapter forwards the actual National newsletter via email. The Colorado Chapter has the National organization deliver the newsletter directly to its members. The Mississippi Valley Chapter has National organization send the newsletter directly to its members. The Pacific Northwest Chapter forwards the actual National newsletter via email. The Southern California Chapter President receives the National newsletter and emails the pdf copy directly to the chapter members. National only members receive their National newsletter as an attachment to their email. All Chapter presidents, at-large board members, and affiliated societies also receive the National newsletter directly by email. The National newsletter is also available directly from the National Friends of Mineralogy Website at: <https://www.friendsofmineralogy.org/newsletters-2/>