



*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*

# BULLETIN OF FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Bill Stephens

TUCSON!!!

The holidays are upon us and Tucson is just around the corner. Where did the year go? As of this writing I have neither my shopping done, nor have I got in the spirit yet. Happens a lot more since my kids have been grown.

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I admit to being both a little apprehensive and deeply excited for Tucson this year. I rented a house on the north side near the university from January 28 to February 17 with 3 other guys (Tomer Shapira, Sean Price and Tommy Greene). Driving both ways and visiting my folks, and possibly spending a week in Huntsville for a project on the way home. Possibly more than 5 weeks away from home, longest ever. I'll have my survey gear, drones, laptop and monitors as well as other business trappings with me, mining gear and cloths etc. Full going out and fuller coming back.

I and my roommates hope to do some entertaining, invite some folks over for show and tell. Call me, let's get together! Got a pool too! (not sure who would take the plunge in winter temps, surely not me, lol).

I'll have to set up a little office so I can manage my business while away. We will be deep in planning as well as visiting all the great shows. Might even have a couple tables at the new show across the street from Mineral City.

Tommy Greene and I have a Wavellite case at the main show, as will my other friends including Lee Levesque who will be bringing his killer monster skeletal Herkimers from last year's discover at Mohawk Valley Mineral Mining. I will be speaking on PA Wavellite at the Symposium this year, joining the ranks of my betters in the mineral world. Check out the lineup of great talks and speakers elsewhere in this newsletter. We are "Going Green", our TGMS-FM Show and Symposium this year.

Can't wait to hit El Charro's with my friends and a few other foodie heaven venues. Be sure to check out posts on my Facebook and our new FB Group!

(continued on page 3)

## NATIONAL OFFICERS

### PRESIDENT:

Bill Stephens, PG • [bstephens@stephensenv.com](mailto:bstephens@stephensenv.com)

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Sean Stimac • [seanstimac@gmail.com](mailto:seanstimac@gmail.com)

## NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Terms expire before the annual general meeting in February

### TERMS EXPIRE IN 2025:

Andrew Eppig • [andrewrockhound@gmail.com](mailto:andrewrockhound@gmail.com)

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### TERMS EXPIRE IN 2026:

Matt McGill • [matt@irocks.com](mailto:matt@irocks.com)

Jessica Robertson • [jar7709@hotmail.com](mailto:jar7709@hotmail.com)

Jeanine Mielecki • [jaynine9@aol.com](mailto:jaynine9@aol.com)

William Besse • [wwbesse@gmail.com](mailto:wwbesse@gmail.com)

### TERMS EXPIRE IN 2027:

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Chapter representatives also have a board position

### COLORADO CHAPTER:

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### PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER:

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### SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER:

Dr. Don Buchanan • [dbuch7326@aol.com](mailto:dbuch7326@aol.com)

## EX-OFFICIO BOARD MEMBERS

### ROCKS & MINERALS:

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### THE MINERALOGICAL RECORD:

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### MINDAT.ORG:

Jolyon Ralph • [jolyon@mindat.org](mailto:jolyon@mindat.org)

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Paula Piilonen • [ppiilonen@mus-nature.ca](mailto:ppiilonen@mus-nature.ca)

### MINERAL NEWS:

Tony Nikischer • [tony@excaliburmineral.com](mailto:tony@excaliburmineral.com)

## ONLINE RESOURCES



### WEBSITE:

[friendsofmineralogy.org](http://friendsofmineralogy.org)



### CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

[friendsofmineralogy.org/calendar-of-events](http://friendsofmineralogy.org/calendar-of-events)



### FACEBOOK:

Official page: [@FriendsofMineralogy](https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofMineralogy)

Public group: [www.facebook.com/friendsofmineralogy](https://www.facebook.com/friendsofmineralogy)



### INSTAGRAM:

[@friendsofmineralogy](https://www.instagram.com/friendsofmineralogy)



(President's Message, continued from page 1)

We have plans to check out a number of collecting sites in the area, but unfortunately the Red Cloud Mine has been bought and no collecting is allowed at this time. I was hoping to reprise the success Ryan Klockner & I had two years ago, but not this year.

### RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Since my last newsletter, which waxed a bit nostalgic, several things have happened that will be of interest to our members. First, EFMLS President elect Andrew Eppig has taken office officially and I am now the immediate past president but also remain Region 4 and Region 5 RVP with direct connections to clubs in those two regions. In general, I have significantly curtailed my activities in that organization. I wish Andrew and his administration, of which I remain a part great, success. Our PA Chapter is a member as is the NJ chapter though we do not get our insurance from them.

Second, The FMPA symposium was a huge success once again this year with a few new members joining up, great attendance for us both in person and via zoom. I had absolutely no technical issues running the zoom this year, a first for any venue, and was relieved to say the least. The speakers were great. The show was not so great attendance wise, and the field trip was a bit lackluster due to heavy post-machine dig club digging throughout the year, and the rain, but that's ok, mission accomplished.

This was FMPA's second year at Pitt Johnstown campus, and I think our great experiment venturing out into western PA outside our comfort zone has run its course, and we are looking to pin down a venue in the greater Philly area for our symposium next November and we have no plans to do a show, just the swap/sale we normally have had in the past. I must say we learned a lot, and we have upscaled our look with professional table covers, and new signs, posters and new tee shirts with our new logo (see pics attached). We are grateful to our hosts at UPJ for their generosity, fantastic venue and hope our symposium the last two years has benefited the geology department and raised awareness of the importance of earth sciences.

I must say I feel bad I wasn't able to make it to Denver or chime in on the PNW Chapter symposium, but I heard they were great. The usual job-related conflicts. Looking forward to all the chapter reports coming out for the annual meeting February 14, 2025.

I learned about a month ago that all 4 of the FM National at-large board of directors whose terms expire this February are not planning to sit for re-election, which created a rather daunting task for myself and the nominating committee. The prospect of showing up to the annual meeting without any prospects for those opening positions was troubling. I am pleased to report that I have submitted two names to our nominating committee chair Jessica Robertson (PNWC) and have one in the pipeline. Two are in the Young Mineral Collectors (YMC) and all three are tech savvy. Sean Stimac has agreed to fill the position being vacated early by Andrew Eppig, understandably with his workload at EFMLS. So, there's still one at-large director position open. Feel free to reach out and let me know if you have any interest. We need your support! And it's not that much work.

Andrew transferred the FM National Facebook pages to Sean Stimac (our newsletter editor at National) and me, and Sean has taken over with supreme incentive. He has set up a new group. Everyone should join and it's open to the public to attract new members. He can provide more details as further discussion is out of my depth. He and I and Sean Price (current VP of YMC and candidate for one of the opening at-large director positions) had a zoom meeting to discuss the future of the Facebook Pages and how to handle a massive advertising campaign and membership drive over the next year or so. Took him just a couple hours and it was up. He can tell us more.



(President's Message, continued from page 3)

I have been working with two of the chapters that are struggling and hope to have favorable reports at the annual meeting. Stay tuned.

I'll hold off on discussing board business and other developments until the annual meeting. I'll be running the annual meeting hybrid this year so wish me luck.

#### CALL For ARTICLES

If you are interested in contributing an article to the National or PA Chapter newsletter, contact our National Newsletter Editor Sean Stimac (articles only) or David Glick for our PA Chapter Newsletter.

Be sure to look me up if you are in town. Till then, stay safe, stay tuned and happy hunting!

Sincerely,

Bill Stephens, PG, President

FM-PA & FM National



## Friends of Mineralogy Facebook Group

By Sean Stimac

After working on the Social Media Ops Manual, Bill Stephens pulled Sean Price and I onto a call to discuss our social media strategy. We discussed various social media platforms including Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and several others. Our strategy with many of these platforms requires more strategizing and long-term planning, but it was decided that one item could be taken care of with little effort, that being the creation of Facebook group.

Our organization already has a Facebook page for official communications such as symposia, field trips, educational content, etc. With over 10,000 followers, we have incredible reach. What pages lack, however, is community. Facebook groups are an open forum, allowing members to post and comment on content that matters to them. With moderation, they can be used as a venue where like minded people can share content with each other. Used in conjunction with our page we can create and share content in a more targeted way and hopefully bring more people into the fold.

I have been administering Facebook groups for a decade. Creating one from scratch is a fairly simple process. Within an hour I had a group created, rules written and admin assist setup. Admin assist allows us to use well constructed, customized filters to reduce the amount of bots being admitted, ensure content isn't vulgar, and automate some moderation tasks.

The link to the group is: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/friendsofmineralogy>. We would love to see you there.



# Board Update

President Bill Stephens on November 8, 2024 called for an email vote by the Executive Committee of the Friends of Mineralogy National to confirm the appointment of Sean Price to fill the vacancy on the FM Board of Directors left by the recent resignation of Marcus B. Raschke, an at-large director.

The email vote by the members of the Executive Committee is unanimous.

Sean Price will serve the balance of Marcus B. Raschke’s term per the current Bylaws, and will be eligible to run for that or other office once the remaining term expires in 2025.

Duly recorded this 16th day of November 2024.

# Friends of Mineralogy National Board Election

The annual Friends of Mineralogy National Board election selects four candidates to serve a three-year term as at-large Board Directors on the National Board. Voting is conducted through popular vote by the national membership. For the election of 2025, Jessica Robertson/ Jeanine N. Mielecki will be tabulating results and presenting results to the National Board at the annual board meeting.

Voting to determine the four at-large Director positions is by vote of the general membership. As a member of the Friends of Mineralogy, you are strongly encouraged to vote! Just voting is a sign of your support for the organization. Submit up to four candidate choices by using one of these two methods:

1) Electronically via online ballot: <https://forms.gle/1cw3dQRYaPgE9tbr5> where Jessica Robertson and Jeanine N. Mielecki will tabulate the votes for the FM National Elections Committee. Online ballot votes must be received by 8 am on Saturday, February 15, 2025.

2) Hard copy by mail to Jessica Robertson, PO Box 1006, Vaughn WA 98394, Mailed votes must be post-marked by Wednesday, February 1, 2025.

The candidates running for the at-large Director positions this year are presented below and thier bios on the following pages.

## 2025 BALLOT

(detach and mail as directed above OR respond via online ballot: <https://forms.gle/1cw3dQRYaPgE9tbr5> )

Vote for \*four\* candidates. The candidates are:

- Sean Price
- Tomer Shapira
- Thea Stender
- Sean Stimac
- Other (Write In): \_\_\_\_\_







## Sean Price

My name is Sean Price, I am 28 years old. I am a geologist from western North Carolina. I earned my B.S. in geology from Western Carolina University in 2018 and I currently serve as the Vice President of Young Mineral Collectors. It is also worth mentioning that I completed all course work for my M.S. in geology at the University of Georgia however due to family and personal reasons, the degree was not completed and instead I own a legacy tourism gem mining business in Franklin, NC. My geology field camp was conducted through the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology in Iceland 2019 and I was selected to be the teaching assistant for the same course in 2021.

I have been a rockhound and mineral collector since i was three years old when I collected mississippian brachiopods along the Allegheny River in Pennsylvania. My mineral collection generally revolves around minerals from the southeastern United States and in recent years, I have begun to focus on collecting radioactive minerals. Another project of mine is the documentation of abandoned mines in WNC with the hopes of educating the public about their local mineral wealth and industrial history.

My involvement with Young Mineral Collectors began in 2021 and in 2022. I attended their first Field Trip to Morocco. In 2023 I became an administrator for the organization which then translated over to a Leadership role where I was elected as their first VP. Within the organization i have helped to establish our current SOPs and other documents. Earlier this year with the diligent work of everyone in leadership, YMC became a federally recognized 501c3.

I am happy to make everyone's acquaintance and I look forward to the opportunity of working with all of you for the future of Friends of Mineralogy and Young Mineral Collectors!



## Tomer Shapira

My name is Tomer Shapira, and I am interested in being on the board for Friends of Mineralogy. I have been a collector since around the 4th grade, but pretty much lived within my own bubble of that hobby for most of my life. Around the end of the COVID era, I managed to reignite my interests in the hobby and visited Tucson for the first time (the 2022 show). After visiting again for the 2023 show, I went down the rabbit-hole of trying to find a community for this, at least naively through facebook, which really was my only form of social media. It just so happened that I stumbled upon the Young Mineral Collectors group, which I managed to vaguely recognize from seeing their logo in the halls of Mineral City. I became very active within that group to where I am now one of the board members / officers for it. My active role in

YMC brought me back to Tucson again in 2024, where I met Bill Stephens. This is how the current conversation between building a working relationship between FM and YMC kicked off. My goal with YMC is to help the organization grow and build the next generation of mineral collectors, especially in ways that they could



(Board Candidates, continued from page 6)

help reach people like how I was as a kid: very interested but unaware of the wider community. My desire to join the board of FM is exactly the same: grow the community. I want to do whatever I can to not only keep this great community and hobby alive, but to see it get even bigger.

People like me shouldn't be living in the direct shadows of titans of the hobby without being aware of it. Being based out of Northern New Jersey most of my childhood, it's a pity that I was so oblivious to it all. I do not want any other person to be in that position.

In YMC, I serve as the Webmaster alongside being on the board. I was briefly also on the social media committee for the club before being brought on as the webmaster and 5th board member. As webmaster, I handled our move to our new website from squarespace to wordpress while also creating our new YMC Membership portal, as we now finally moved to having proper membership.

My educational and professional background is in Engineering. I am an embedded systems engineer (where hardware and software overlap, for those unfamiliar). Currently, however, I am working on building up a new specimen prep lab based in northeastern New Jersey. If successful, it would be a significant pivot for me, but I am excited for the doors that it will open for me.



## Thea Stender

Hey there! I'm Thea Stender. I live in the Wenatchee Valley here in Washington State. I gained an interest in mineral collecting and mining when I was about 15. During the start of this passionate hobby, my focus was to discover new localities here in my home state. Now at 27 years old, that focus has stuck around although, my interests have expanded quite a bit throughout the years. For a few years, I've been involved in a couple of notable Washington State mines such as, Spruce Ridge, and Purple Hope #4. After being mentored by a few amazing collectors, I also acquired 2 of my own claims. One in the Wenatchee Valley called, "Black Tuesday" and one in the same valley as Spruce Ridge and Purple Hope called, "Big Chief".

In the mineral community, I try to be a researcher and provide community support. I strive to be someone who can bring new information, theories and discoveries about our local mineralogy to the table. Since becoming the Vice President for "The Friends of Mineralogy - Pacific Northwest Chapter" in 2022 and being President of the "Ginkgo Mineral Society" only for the year of 2024, I have felt a sense of purpose while working to make sure that our community here in the PNW can have an opportunity to congregate and, if they would like to do so, share their discoveries and research with the like-minded. Inspiration is knowing that you can have an impact on what you're passionate about and to know that you can help expand the community of your interests and inspire others to learn the beauty of mineralogy and its many aspects. Education is truly one of the greatest gifts of the human experience.



(Board Candidates, continued from page 7)



## Sean Stimac

I am Sean Michael Stimac. My interest in mineral collecting began when I was 6 years old, walking the shores of Lake Superior with my grandpa Paul collecting agate and prehnite cobbles and combing the copper mine waste piles around Keweenaw County, Michigan. I currently live in the Youngstown, Ohio area, but spent the first 28 years of my life between SW Michigan and the Upper Peninsula. Throughout my twenties, my primary collecting interest was in the rocks and minerals of the Lake Superior Region, beginning in the Iron Range of Marquette County, to the Copper Deposits of Keweenaw and Houghton Counties, to the Iron Ranges of Minnesota. Fifteen years later my interests have expanded to include the rocks and minerals of the Franklin Mining District, of which I have a collection of more than 500 unique reference specimens, Radioactives of the Eastern US and Ontario, Midwest minerals, and micro minerals and thumbnails.

I currently serve as a director for the Fluorescent Mineral Society, where I sit on the Social Media and Website committees. I am currently up for election to retain this role. I am heading into my third year as the Newsletter Editor for the Friends of Mineralogy National, a position I've thoroughly enjoyed. I am also the owner of perkyboxes.com, a small business that provides collectors, prospectors and miners with storage boxes (perkys, micromount boxes, etc.) for their samples, UV lights and occasionally mineral samples that I've purchased or self-collected.

Outside the world of rocks and minerals, I'm a Senior Project Manager for a Fortune 300 company. I manage manufacturing software implementation projects in locomotive and locomotive component manufacturing plants around the world.



## 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 advancement 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.”

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 content to me directly via email [seanstimac@gmail.com](mailto:seanstimac@gmail.com)

Best Regards,

Sean Stimac





# Kay Robertson Educational Display Awards

The Kay Robertson display awards are presented to an institution and an individual or group of individuals who exhibited a visually appealing case with an educational theme. These awards are done both at the Denver Gem and Mineral Show® and the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show®. The decision was made by several judges, working completely independently, using mutually agreed committee guidelines. Coordination and compiling the decisions of the judges is traditionally delegated to the Friends of Mineralogy Vice-President, who this year is Nicole Childs. The award is named after long time FM member, Kay Robertson, who had frequently advocated for more mineral oriented educational displays at gem and mineral shows.



The winner for best display put together by an institution goes to the A.E. Seaman Mineral Museum for **Wanted! Criminal Minerals**, which broke down ideas of periodicity in crystallography in a novel format.



The winner for best display put together by an individual is the Alton Collection for **Dissolution: Breaking the Chemical Bonds**, which showcased marvelous examples of dissolution fluorites from Carthage, Tennessee and etched helidor from Volodarsk, Ukraine.





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

*The 42th FM-TGMS-MSA Tucson Mineral Symposium*  
*Theme “Shades of Green: From apatites to zeunerites -  
 more than just emeralds”*

10:00 AM	Opening of symposium
10:00-10:15 AM	Introduction by symposium chair, Mark Jacobson
10:15 – 10:45 AM	Nathan Renfro, Through the Lens: The Microworld of Green Minerals
10:45 - 10:55 AM	break
10:55 - 11:25 AM	Nicole Ahline, Nathan Renfro, and Aaron Palke, Gemological Characterization of Emeralds and Hiddenite from Alexander County, North Carolina
11:25- 11:35 AM	break
11:35 – 12:05 AM	William “Bill” Stephens, Geology and Mineralogy of the Wavelite Occurrence at Mount Pleasant Mills, Snyder County, Pennsylvania
12:05 - 1:30 PM	Lunch
1:30 – 2:00 PM	Jim Clannin, Emeralds from Panjshir Valley, Afghanistan
2:00 - 2:10 PM	break
2:10 - 2:40 PM	Peter Megaw, Los Verdes... Green Minerals from Mexico
2:40 - 2:50 PM	break
2:50 – 3:20 PM	Kenneth C. Zahn, My 45-year Love Affair with Maryland’s State-Line Pit “Gem Serpentine” (Williamsite/Antigorite)
3:20 – 3:40 PM	extended break
3:40 – 4:10 PM	Benjamin Murphy and Anne Fulton, Cr-azy Green and Red Minerals: On the Occurrence and Genesis of Chlorite-Fuchsite-Ruby Rocks of the Granite Mountains, Wyoming
4:10 – 4:20 PM	break
4:20 – 4:50 PM	Markus Raschke, Mushistonite from Xuebaoding: From “Panda Ore” to Quantum Spin System
4:50 PM	close of symposium





# REGIONAL CHAPTER REPORTS



Pacific Northwest Chapter

[pnwfm.org](http://pnwfm.org)

PNW Chapter had a fantastic 50th symposium, held for the first time in Ellensburg, Washington. The modern and sleek lecture space in Discovery Hall at Central Washington University was a fantastic upgrade for the great talks on the theme “Precious Metals and Golden Memories” by Terry Wallace, Nick Zentner, Ian Merkel, Clark Niewendorp, and round table discussions with old-timer collectors and representatives of younger generations. Talks were streamed live, and recordings will be uploaded to the Mineral Nation YouTube channel soon. Evenings in the dealer’s hall at the Red Lion Hotel were lively and we had a record turnout. The learning curve of transferring to a new city and venue was not without challenges, but we are confident we can make 2025 even better. Plans are in the works for an in-person spring meeting at the Rice Northwest Museum of Rocks and Minerals near Portland in April, outreach event at Seattle Mineral Market in May, and the 2025 symposium in October—theme: Color in Minerals!

**PACIFIC NORTHWEST FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY 2024 SYMPOSIUM**  
**PRECIOUS METALS AND GOLDEN MEMORIES**

ELLENSBURG, WASHINGTON  
 CWU DISCOVERY HALL  
 ELLENSBURG RED LION  
 OCTOBER 18-20, 2024



**50th Anniversary**

At CWU Discovery Hall:  
 Saturday and Sunday Symposium Talks  
 World-Class Mineral Displays

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2024

9:00 am Welcome – Jessica Robertson and Julian Gray  
 9:10 am Gold – A Cosmic Journey – Terry Wallace  
 10:15 am The Motherlode Reawakens, New Gold Productions at the Eagle’s Nest Mine, California – Ian Merkel  
 11:20 am Mining Gold in Oregon – Clark Niewendorp  
 2:00 pm Liberty Gold and the Challis Magmas – Nick Zentner  
 3:05 pm Collectors’ Round Table – Historical Perspectives  
 6:00 pm BANQUET AND LIVE AUCTION (Red Lion Ellensburg)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2024

9:00 am Silver: The Magical Mineral Maker – Terry Wallace  
 10:05 am Collectors Round Table – The Present and Future of Collecting in the PNW

At Ellensburg Red Lion:  
 Friday and Saturday Evening Vendors – FREE ADMISSION  
 Saturday Evening Banquet and Live Benefit Auction  
 Talks are free for Full-Time Students with Registration  
 Can’t attend in person? Watch live stream on YouTube  
**Register now at [pnwfm.org](http://pnwfm.org)**



New Jersey Chapter

[fomnj.wordpress.com](http://fomnj.wordpress.com)

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

The Friends of Mineralogy NJ Chapter had an excellent Fall 2024 season. Our guest speakers included Dr Paul Kovalski, Karenne Snow, and Kristine Fischer, and they covered a great diversity of topics including Cretaceous fossils, mammal fossils and bones and areas of interest in Pennsylvania including Centralia and St Clair, Hazelton / Macadoo and other places.

We had a Club Election in early December for the upcoming 2 years, and we successfully established new CLUB Officers for the Executive positions (effective Dec 2024):

**President: “Groundhog” Dave Shapiro**

**1st Vice Pres.: Ryan “Klock Man” Klockner**

**2nd Vice Pres: Julia Chien**

**Treasurer (continuing as): Ken Jasko**

**Secretary: Justin Spitzer**

**Board Support / officer back-up: Mark Sloan**



## REGIONAL CHAPTER REPORTS

At the moment, it looks like the renewal rate for 2025 is roughly 85 % of the total membership we had on average throughout end of 2023 into 2024. There will definitely be some more renewals early on in 2025.

### FIELD TRIP CORNER:

#### FIELD TRIP REPORT:

**Trip:** National Limestone Quarries, Middleburg and Mt Pleasant Mills Quarries, PA

**Post-Trip:** BBQ Cookout and Garage collecting at the Jim Van Fleet residence, Mifflinburg, PA

**Date:** Sat Oct 5, 2024

**Clubs in attend:** NoJMS, FM-NJ, MSNEPA, PA club

**Trip Leaders:** Groundhog Dave, “DirtMan” Andrew “Rockhound” Eppig

**Attendees:** Groundhog Dave, Andrew “Rockhound” and Cori Rockhound Eppig, Dave “Lermanator” Lerman, Steve “Pickles” Wien, Mike “the Pie Man” Dunton, Ron “ChiselBuster” Schulz, Paul “Mr Reveille” Radziewicz, Dave “Dude” Miller, EhmKay “MK” Delaleu, Rich “Drake” Drake, Leah Wiesel, Lisa “20 Questions” Bostedo, Kris and Maria Roselle; Hayley “Shakespeare” Nalepa, Stephanie “Carpet Squares” Apgar, Avery Federico, Dianne “CatMom” Soccio with Steve Jones; Dan “the Photog” Sackerman w/ Linda; Allen Gernon, Sean Stimac, Yu Lin, Lee Billings, Shane and Sherry Moore; Steve Woodruff, Gary Quam, Anders Todd, Linda Lovstad, Kevin “Coop” Cooper, Suz, Nate and Jarrath Shaw; MSNEPA and other: “Rock Doc” Dave Millis, Tyler Billet, Zack Racksnow, Kathleen Wilkinson, Mike Grech, few others

We had another outstanding annual pilgrimage to the famed National Limestone Quarries and the ever popular after - event, the BBQ Cookout and Garage specimen collecting at the Jim “Host Extraordinaire” Van Fleet residence in nearby Mifflinburg. The weather was ultra cooperative for the trip and collecting, and as always owner Eric Stahl was extremely welcoming and accommodating to the Clubs. Following the briefing and Sermon, we were off to enjoy collecting for 3 hrs at Middleburg Quarry, which fortunately had a blasting round take place a few days prior !! Many excellent specimens of flowstone Travertine and Calcite were found, and in several areas of the quarry, druzy Calcite was found in Limestone vugs and cavities.

Mt Pleasant Mills Quarry offered the popular Wavellite location for collecting, and several nice specimens along with Brachiopod and Mollusk fossils were found in the area. The lower section of the quarry was not as productive as usual for dogtooth or druzy Calcite, however some pieces were found here and there. A few pieces of Strontianite were found in this area, in 2 different forms (fibrous and massive / amorphous). One member of the PA club found a several - inch long section of flowstone Stalactite. A few solitary Calcite rhombs and clusters were found in the Limestone.

The Jim Van Fleet BBQ Cookout and collecting afterwards, was excellent as always! On the JVF Menu were: homemade Chili, delicious burgers and hot dogs and their fixins; Sausages; Deviled Eggs, Baked Beans, Chips and dips, Watermelon and fruits, and a plethora of Pies and desserts. It was the smorgasboard we have come to love !! The Garage boasted plenty of opportunities for collecting of fluorescent and daytime specimens, and many members went home with flats and boxes with specimens.

All in all, another excellent NLQ - JVF outing !!



# REGIONAL CHAPTER REPORTS

## FIELD TRIP REPORT:

**Trip:** Herkimer Mountain site, Mohawk, NY

**Dates:** Sat + Sun Oct 26 and 27, 2024

**Clubs in attend:** NoJMS, FM-NJ

**Trip Leader:** Groundhog Dave

**Attendees:** Groundhog Dave, Elizabeth and Luca Prendini; Dave “Mailman” Mailman, Yu Lin, John Montgomery, Gayle Weigand, Ken and Ofelia Napolitano, Brian Lally, Christine Skubish, LaRonda Davis

We had an excellent weekend of digging once again up at the newly christened Herkimer Mountain site in Mohawk / Fonda, NY. Club folks had an option of either Saturday or Sunday to dig, or both days, and folks selected the gamut of options. To sweeten the pot, co-owner Donna alerted us of an offered Machine Dig for Sat 26th, which was their very first effort of this type since opening to the public in early summer. Member Brian Lally opted for the Machine dig (and also dug regular on Sunday); rest of the members did regular digs.

The 4 hour Machine Dig wound up being underwhelming overall, however it was their first effort of this type. However, on the flipside of that, the regular club attendees were allowed to dig literally right on the perimeter of the ropes / sectioned off area with the excavator; so there was always a potential of “cross-over” finds resulting from the excavating. In other more established Herkimer sites, a Machine Dig would have been completely isolated from any “normal” digging activity.

The regular digging proved much more productive than the machine dig, and was, as always, offered in more areas of the site (ledge work area; dirt digging / tailings, other digging areas). The most phenomenal finds of the day (Saturday) were by far, 2 bowling ball - sized multi-Herkimer clusters fully skeletal-ized. They were unearthed about an hour apart, 1 before the other, by a middle aged couple (not club members). Everyone was in awe, especially the owners, who evaluated each piece at over \$ 10,000.

Notable Club finds included Ken and Ofelia Napolitano finding several nice sized Herk clusters when they opted to try digging near the couple who unearthed the 2 unbelievable pieces. Groundhog found several 2 - 3 inch skeletal Herkimers (double terminated) and smaller fragments. Yu Lin also found a number of 2 - 3 inch Herks (some double term) and many smaller Herks and fragments. Luca Prendini found a few nuce druzy Quartz pieces i the ledge area and a few smaller Herks in the woods area.

All in all, a great trip, despite a few hiccups early on.

## FIELD TRIP REPORT:

**Trip:** Hewitt Gem Mine, Haddam CT

**Date:** Sun Nov 3, 2024

**Clubs in attend:** NoJMS, FM-NJ

**Trip Leader:** Groundhog Dave

**Hosts / Operators:** Tony Apilla and Eric and Steve; owner Axel



## REGIONAL CHAPTER REPORTS

**Attendees:** Groundhog Dave, Yu Lin with Jailee Lin; Kevin “Coop” Cooper, Will “Billy boy” and John Pazik, LaRonda Davis, Scott Smith, Pat Brown and Tom Davidson; “Uncle” Giuseppe Liberti, Jenn and Joey Strauss; Jean Savage with Steve Cavanaugh; Robyn Abrams, Anthony Jerussi

We had another excellent day of digging at the ever popular Hewitt Gem Mine. This time with one added wrinkle - a partial NIGHT DIG! The weather was clear and crisp and not too nippy. On schedule “as promised”, just about 4:30 pm, the sun really started to set, and by 5:30 it was pretty much dark.

The day of digging was productive as always, with numerous attendees finding various Beryls and pegmatite minerals. Notable finds included:

- Pat Brown - 3 - 4 mm Microlite xl in Feldspar
- Jenn Strauss - ~ 2 mm Microlite xl with Spessartine Garnet, in Feldspar
- Will “Billy boy” Pazik - 2.5 - 3 inch light aqua Beryl in Feldspar with smoky Quartz
- Kevin “Coop” Cooper and Anthony Jerussi - 1 cm Spessartine Garnet xls, single or double terminated
- Robyn Abrams - small pegmatite rock with considerable meta-Torbernite coverage
- Kevin “Coop” Cooper - few small rocks with lavender Schernikite mica crystal coatings
- “Uncle” Giuseppe Liberti and Jenn Strauss - 1 cm or larger greenish Apatite xls in Feldspar

Other folks found nice examples of Schorl Tourmaline, various Micas and Spessartine and Almandine Garnets; and smoky Quartz. Also a few small pieces of Goshenite Beryl were found here and there.

The night dig portion proved to not be too productive overall, yielding some colorful bright yellow Apatite xls and some reddish Feldspar fluorescence; but not much else. Several coatings of powdery blue and bright yellow were found, but we couldn’t determine their identities. On top of the full day of digging, the night dig was challenging for folks who attended (roughly 9 -10) who already expended much energy digging in the daytime.

The provided lunch was a notch or 2 below what the norm has been. The burgers were excellent, however Hot Dogs never wound up making the grill for whatever reason. Chips and plenty of Water and drinks were as always, provided.

All in all, another great outing at Hewitt !!

### FIELD TRIP REPORT:

**Trip:** High St. / Phil Crabb property “aka Lange Shaft” Franklin, NJ

**Date:** Sat Nov 16, 2024

**Clubs in attend:** NoJMS, FM-NJ

**Trip Leader:** Groundhog Dave

**Host:** “Franklin” Phil Crabb

**Attendees:** Groundhog Dave, Dave “Lermanator” Lerman, Ryan “Klock Man / KlockSquatch” Klockner,



# REGIONAL CHAPTER REPORTS

“Uncle” Giuseppe Liberti, Rich Blaha, Noah “Arrowhead” Garwood, Brandon Tracey, Luca Prendini, Jenn and Joey Strauss; Linda Lovstad, Gary Quam, Kris and Maria Roselle;

Lisa “20 Questions” Bostedo, Renae Skubish, Jesse Sunderland and Janice Ketchuck; Eric Jones and Preme Charyatham; Nik and Joanna Caporossi with Jared

We were once again privileged to visit the “Might North Orebody” as Phil calls it, out at the High St. property in Franklin. “Franklin” Phil met us at the Franklin Mineral museum and gave us a thorough updating of things at the site and recent developments. We were on site and digging by 4:15 pm and many of us inspected the remains of the dump pile from the nearby construction project; this has been worked many times since its original deposition there 2 years ago.

Notable finds included:

- “Uncle” Giuseppe Liberti and Dave “Lermanator” Lerman - large boulder of Norbergite, Diopside and Tremolite in marble, atop and behind the top of the outcropping
- Noah “Arrowhead” Garwood and Luca Prendini - several nice multi-color Sphalerite specimens
- Brandon Tracey - blue-FL Calcite (LW)
- Maria Roselle and Jenn Strauss - deep red Calcite FL specimens (likely Salmon Calcite)

The large boulder with the Norbergite, Diopside and Tremolite, was worked on feverishly over time by: “Uncle” Giuseppe Liberti, Ryan “KlockSquatch” Klockner, Brandon Tracey, Luca Prendini, and Rich Blaha, while others collected small pieces and “shrapnel” pieces. All in all it was an INCREDIBLY productive boulder !!

All in all, it was a great outing and well worth the 20 \$ p/p fee!! Big thanks as always to Franklin Phil !!



Colorado Chapter  
[friendsofmineralogycolorado.org](http://friendsofmineralogycolorado.org)

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# REGIONAL CHAPTER REPORTS



## Southern California Chapter

Our Southern California Chapter faced the federal Bureau of Land Management (BLM) bureaucracy this year having to cancel our planned spring symposium and field trips into mines and collecting areas we have visited for decades. With threat of arrest if we proceeded with planned field trips into abandoned mines on BLM lands, we chose to delay the program for the 180 days demanded by BLM to evaluate our request for approval to perform our field trips.

Having appealed the BLM offices we obtained a BLM Letter of Agreement to proceed with planned field trips this fall in September, 5 1/2 months later, giving us a very short timeframe to invite our membership to participate. Our chapter reactivated all plans from the winter and spring to meet at the Lone Pine Senior Center on the morning of October 26th where we have met a number of times since this chapter was formed in 1983. Dr. Tony Kampf, president of FM, along with other museum directors, academic institutional leaders, and professionals in southern California established this chapter with primary focus to collect mineral specimens for museums and educational institutions. Dr. Kampf and several other officers of this chapter have been recognized for their mineralogical discoveries and support to the museums not only in California, but around the United States. Kay Robinson, Robert Housley and Bob Reynolds who were instrumental in development of this chapter are all recognized with minerals being named after them. Through the 20 plus years that Bob Reynolds guided this chapter he worked with both academic and professional organizations to enfold college students, faculty and mineral enthusiasts from rock and mineral clubs into the chapter. He developed short morning academic symposiums in both spring and fall coupled with two days of personal field collecting of minerals, rocks, and fossils. Now BLM is challenging us with their restrictive requirements.

For the first time our group size was arbitrarily limited by BLM to no more than 28 participants and no more than 14 vehicles. We accomplished these new requirements without protest to avoid any denials of future mineral collecting. We worked with two different BLM regional offices, one in Ridgecrest and the other in Bishop. These requirements challenged us when we were accustomed to much larger groups. In fact, the last time we visited many of the same mines in Owens Valley and the Darwin Mining Area in 2017 we were welcomed by the Darwin mine owner who accommodated 40 vehicles with over 55 participants on the first afternoon mine dump visit before splitting the participants into two smaller groups on our second field trip collecting day on multiple BLM land sites. Hopefully we can negotiate any future trips with BLM.

Group size limitations as well as vehicle restrictions were the most obvious concerns, but not the only ones. We can live with most of BLM's concerns for limiting spread of invasive species, and insisting of no removal of Native American artifacts, but there is one set of restrictions that is a real challenge. "No core drilling, breaking/chipping or any other destructive sampling or rock collection is authorized under this letter." This requirement hidden on second page of the Letter of Agreement that BLM sent to us requiring us to sign was much harder to deal with. We do have one of our Chapter's Board members working with BLM and other government agencies who is addressing this restrictive wording for national parks, monuments, and other desert and mountain areas in California under BLM control. This is an ongoing concern that Bob Reynolds worked on for years and that Gregor Losson and I continue to do now as Bob passed away in 2019.

Our plans for 2025 and the future will drive us to stay away from any collecting on BLM lands until we can negotiate waivers on these restrictive requirements.

We still managed to pull off a successful weekend program this fall from first arrivals on Friday, October 25, with some participants staying in Lone Pine, CA which has numerous motel accommodations as well as camping for nearly



## REGIONAL CHAPTER REPORTS

half of us. Lone Pine at 3700 ft elevation lies in Owens Valley below Mt. Whitney in the Eastern Sierra Nevada Mountains. Mt. Whitney at 14,505 ft as seen in our photo (white peak left center) is the tallest mountain in the coterminous United States or lower 48 states in North America. It continues to rise with plate tectonics and earthquake adjustments creating a significant relief from crest to valley floor below. The first photo in this newsletter takes your breathe away when looking up from Lake Diaz, a sag pond, created by the March 26th 1872 Lone Pine earthquake within the Owens Valley fault zone. This lake didn't exist on the day before the earthquake, but at 2:25am during the moonlit night the right lateral strike slip fault shifted the Sierra block to the right or northward approximately 35-40 feet. At the same time portions of the Lone Pine fault, a branch of the Owens Valley fault, created multiple scarps found today on both sides of Lake Diaz. These scarps created a dropped block of valley floor in front of the historic Alabama Hills, the dark reddish brown hills above the lake. Lake Diaz was created overnight dropping the block down 6-8 feet to collect water as it flows downslope from snowmelt coming down from the Sierras above.

Saturday morning program was filled with three power point presentations: 1) "Origin of the Sierra Nevada Range" given by Dr. Don Buchanan, 2) "Formation of Owens Valley", given by Professor Bruce Bridenbecker, and 3) Green Monster, Snowcap, Dolomite & Darwin Area", given by Dr. Gregg Wilkerson. Gregg provided digital reports for each of the mines we were visiting this weekend providing geological background, maps, mining history and photos of the mines or specimens collected during reconnaissance trips. His link can be accessed via <http://www.greggwilkerson.com/field-trip-schedule.html>. For a more detailed newsletter with photos and lists of minerals collected at each location, please contact Dr. Buchanan, president, Southern California Chapter of Friends of Mineralogy, at [dbuch7326@aol.com](mailto:dbuch7326@aol.com).



## OUR AFFILIATES

# MINERAL NEWS

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### The Mineralogical Society of America Resources and Coming Attractions

[minsocam.org](http://minsocam.org)

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](http://minsocam.org)



### Young Mineral Collectors

[youngmineralcollectors.org](http://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/>