

## Noble Witt Award Winner—2012—Allan Young

*by Bob Meyer*

I am pleased to announce that the 2012 Noble Witt Award for Outstanding Service was presented to Allan Young at our most recent symposium. Allan exemplifies the spirit of the award both for his contributions to the promotion of mineralogical knowledge, and also for his outstanding service to our organization, the Pacific Northwest Chapter, Friends of Mineralogy. The breadth of his contributions in both areas makes him very deserving of this award.

Allan Young began collecting minerals over 40 years ago when he was in high school. He attended the University of Wisconsin, where he graduated with a degree in mining engineering. This led in turn to a career in mining and management. He worked for several years early in his career at the Idarado Mine in Ouray, Colorado, and his experience there stimulated his interest in mineral collecting. He works currently as the Idaho State Lead for the Mining Law Administration Program with the US Bureau of Land Management. He resides in Boise.

Most of us are familiar with Allan's superb displays of thumbnail sized mineral specimens. Allan has built a very fine collection of thumbnails, and he also maintains specialty suites of minerals from Tsumeb and Idaho. He has received both the prestigious Desautels and Lidstrom trophies in Tucson.

Allan has ranged into the field of mineral photography, concentrating on photographing his own collection. Like his specimens, his photographs are meticulous and very fine.

He is active in contributing to the mineral community as well. Allan is currently President of the Board of Directors for the Mineralogical Record and has written two articles that I am aware of in the past couple of years, in both cases concerning mineral localities in Idaho, the Blackbird Mine in 2010 and the Belshazzar Mine in 2012. He is also the current President of the National Friends of Mineralogy and is the past Vice President.

His contributions to our group are no less impressive. He is quite visible at this symposium as our speaker chair and master of ceremonies, a role he has served admirably in since 2009. In addition, he has been an active and helpful member of our symposium committee, and he has been of great help to me with his support and advice. It has been a real pleasure to work with him.