

Noble Witt Award 2015

When Bob Meyer handed over the presidential reins to me two years ago, he gave me only one piece of advice: "My favorite part of the job is honoring members with the Noble Witt award." Last year, that was one of the things that did not happen as the more immediate tasks of getting the symposium running took precedence. Since then, I have pondered the concept. From our web site:

The idea for an award to honor an FM member or "friend" of mineralogy originated with a long time member of the PNW chapter, Noble Witt. The prestigious award soon became known as "The Noble Witt Award".

Nominations are called for each year from the membership to honor a person of the FM community that stands out as having made great contributions to the organization, to mineral science, and the mineral collecting hobby.

Nominations are received by the Chapter's Board of Directors and a recipient is selected from the nominees to receive the award and be honored at the Chapter's annual Symposium.



Every time I think about it, one person rises very quickly to the top of the list. The board of directors enthusiastically agreed with my nomination of Robert Meyer. So today, Bob, you are on the receiving end of the award. Bob was one of the first people I met at PNWFM, at my first symposium eight years ago. As is his nature, he welcomed me into the organization, included me in conversations - always sharing his knowledge and passion for minerals. When a year later, I expressed curiosity about the micro collectors group that meets in Vancouver, he gave me a ride and another great piece of advice: "You cannot fully appreciate minerals without a microscope." Later, I would see him sharing knowledge and specimens with everyone at Washington Pass.

Bob is well known for his service in Friends of Mineralogy. He was president of this chapter from 2009 through 2013, and has been a board member of the national FM. He is always one of the members who steps up and offers to help at symposium time. Currently, he holds the board position of Past President and has taken on the unenviable job of hotel liaison.

Bob has long collected systematically and according to his mindat page, has over 2000 different species in his large collection. But, his true love seems to be studying the minerals of Tiger, Arizona. When he first told me about this, his voice lit up like a child anticipating Christmas. Do I even need to mention bobmeyerite? How cool is it to have a mineral from your favorite locality named after you? Not to go into every qualification, but the last one I will mention tonight is Bob's fine mineral photomicrography. Looking through mindat, one runs across his "ROM" photos quite frequently. I can almost always recognize his images because of their clarity, color and skillful technique, but most of all, his artistry. He has inspired me to take better photos and once again... shared his secrets with the new guy. Robert Meyer is the ideal example of a deserving Noble Witt recipient, and Bob, I hope it feels as good to receive the award as it did to present it.