

PACIFIC
NORTHWEST
CHAPTER



BULLETIN

APRIL 1999

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Greetings,

I hope that all is well out in mineral land! It seems as if our long, dreary, and very rainy winter here in Western Washington is about over. Spring's in the air and the birds are chirpin'. Our thoughts are starting to turn to those localities that we have not been able to visit since last summer, or to new ones that we have yet to visit.

This promises to be an eventful year for the Pacific Northwest Chapter of Friends of Mineralogy. We have not one, but two, symposia planned. The first is a special, once every ten years event, that will be held on Memorial Day weekend, May 28-30, at the Coeur d' Alene Inn in Coeur d' Alene, Idaho. Set aside those dates! The topic will be "*Finding Minerals*." Wow! This will be our second symposium in Coeur d'Alene. The first one, held about ten years ago, is my personal favorite. In other words, this is a must! You can address queries to Symposium Chairperson Lanny Ream, PO Box 2043, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83816-2043, (208) 667-0453, lream@comtch.iea.com. Hotel reservations should be made directly with the Coeur d'Alene Inn, West 414 Apple Way, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83814, (208) 765-3200, 1-800-251-7629. This is certainly not too early to make them. **Important!** Make sure to mention FM when making your reservation. We have negotiated special lower room rates and our conference room rates depend upon having a certain number of rooms sold.

The second symposium has extra-special significance. It is our 25th Annual Fall Symposium. That is quite a record! Appropriately, the topic for this silver anniversary symposium will be *Silver, Silver Minerals, and Silver Mines!* It will be held at the Day's Inn in Tacoma, Washington on September 24-26, 1999. We are taking special care to provide an entertaining

and innovative program to honor our 25th anniversary. You are expected to attend! Queries should be addressed to Symposium Chairperson Bob Meyer (me), 16239 N.E. 18th, Bellevue, WA 98008, (425) 641-0723, bobrocks@uswest.net. Hotel reservations should be made directly with the Day's Inn, 6802 Tacoma Mall Blvd., Tacoma WA 98409 (206) 475-5900. **Important!** Make sure to mention FM when making your reservation. We have negotiated special lower room rates and our conference room rates depend upon having a certain number of rooms sold.

Getting involved:

One of our members sent along a piece we are including in the newsletter that encourages members (you) to get involved in our activities. I would like to reiterate one of the items in the piece: one important way to be involved in our events is to attend them! Good examples are the two symposia we have planned this year. They represent a large commitment of our chapter's resources. It is only by **your attendance** of these functions that we can continue to hold them.

Something about Minerals:

Over about the last year and a half, I have not had much time to go through many of my field-collected mineral specimens. Meanwhile, my field-collected and unprocessed mineral storage facility (what I used to call my garage) is becoming so overloaded that I suspect it might have achieved gravitational anomaly status. There is so much Black Pine Mine material out there that some are calling it the "western adit." Nevertheless, I did get to some material, and judging by what is covering most of the counter space in my office, the Centennial-Eureka Mine seems well represented. I visited the mine late last summer and formed an immediate attachment to the place. Some of the items I found include very nice Olivenite specimens, some as acicular radiating sprays, some in larger crystals and some with phantoms. Associated are such things as Malachite crystals (some nicely terminated), lustrous Azurite crystals, some bluish-green fibrous Strashimirite, bluish-green acicular Mixite, etc. Another assemblage includes very fine prismatic, terminated, limpid, green, transparent Conichalcite crystals with similarly colored terminated β -Duftite crystals and lime-green translucent to milky cuprian Adamite crystals. Other minerals found include Rosasite, as blue balls; Tyrolite, as beautiful blue-green micaceous groupings; Tsumcorite, as yellow-orange crystals; and Cornwallite and Cornubite as green, blue-green, and light green spherical material. Another unidentified mineral occurs as bright orange, tabular, hexagonal-appearing crystals. I thought that they might be either Beudantite or Jarosite based upon their appearance. Actually, their composition is somewhere in between. A new mineral?

Contact Me:

As I have mentioned in each of my "messages," I am seeking your input. Actually, a number of members have contacted me and that input has been invaluable. The input has helped to keep me in-line and on-track (which I need!), and several excellent ideas have helped in guiding our group's direction. Thanks! Again, I welcome any input or ideas that you might have. Please feel free to contact me, even if it is to discuss minerals. Strike that—contact me especially if you just want to talk about minerals!

Sincerely,

Bob Meyer, President, Pacific Northwest Chapter, Friends of Mineralogy
Telephone: (425) 641-0723

P.S. Please note my new e-mail address—the old one will not work!

25 years of Symposia

Pacific Northwest Chapter, Friends of Mineralogy Symposia Themes

- 1975 Zeolites and Associated Minerals
- 1976 Pegmatite Minerals and Gems
- 1977 Mineralization in the Oxidized Zone
- 1978 Quartz
- 1979 Sulfides and Sulphosalts
- 1980 Elements
- 1981 Silicates
- 1982 Pseudomorphs, Twinning, and Mineral Oddities
- 1983 Lead Minerals
- 1984 Magic of Mineralogy
- 1985 Classic Mineral Localities
- 1986 Minerals of Mexico
- 1987 Gem Pegmatites of the World
- 1988 Carbonates
- 14½. 1989 Minerals of the Inland Northwest (spring)
- 1989 Zeolites (Fall)
- 1990 Ore Minerals
- 1991 Tourmaline Group Minerals
- 1992 Accessible Mineral Localities
- 1993 Pyrite and Friends
- 1994 Calcite
- 1995 Classic Mineral Localities II
- 1996 Classic Northwest Localities
- 1997 Pegmatites
- 1998 Phosphates, Vanadates, and Arsenates
- 24½ 1999 Finding Minerals (spring)
- 1999 Silver, Silver Minerals, and Silver Mines (Fall)

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

With the coming elections next year and the need for new symposium chair persons, I thought that I would write a letter to the membership encouraging them to consider volunteering for these important positions. Now I know what some of you are thinking "I'm very busy and I just don't have the time to take on any new responsibilities". It may indeed be that this is true for some of you, but there are those of you out there who could help and who have the ability to offer valuable contributions to our group. We are very fortunate to have so many members who are active within our group. Several of our members have been recognized for their contributions with the Nobel V. Witt award. These people and those who have held positions of office, or for that matter, even those who have had open houses or who have led field trips, have all managed to successfully volunteer their time without their worlds coming to an end.

I guess what I'm saying is that I just think that there are more of you out there who could be more active in this, your local N.W. chapter of F.M.

Though I'm not the most active member in the group, I do take pride in the fact that my contributions help this group and that I practice what I preach. The time a person spends in working on F.M. business will vary with each individual and that person's level of commitment. Personally, I've found that my F.M. business is usually not that hard or involved and that many times it can actually be fun, giving me an excuse to call and chat with other F.M. members.

Fun, that's the word I used all right, and really it's a word used in its proper context here because I'm talking about doing something good. Doing something that helps others and for which I receive no monetary wage or usually any word of thanks. I do it because it needs to be done and because I can. Many of you know me personally and know that I'm not the smartest guy on the block, still, I'm smart enough to figure out that this volunteer thing is really a feel good thing. In a world as harsh and bleak as ours can be, it's nice to have found something that I can do to make a difference, small though my contribution may be, it is still a contribution and it does make a difference.

Your contribution and the way you volunteer can be as individual as you are. We need contributions to the newsletter and people willing to share their collections while hosting open houses. We need members to volunteer their help to set up and tear down after the symposium. We need members who are willing to lead field trips and who are willing to hold positions of office. But really though, what we really need is for you to shake the dust off and come out of the cellar and take part in this your group. Contribute by just showing up if that's all you can do and share in the company of others of like mind and interests. I enjoy all that F.M. and this wonderful hobby/obsession has given to me and I'm thrilled to be able to give something back!

Silver Anniversary Symposium Update:

Note: for dates, location, and reservation information, please see the President's message.

At this time, the symposium committee membership is set. Debate continues concerning the ultimate floorplan, but the two-room format is favored. The idea for this format came out of our mix-up with the rooms last year. Out of adversity—triumph! This scenario would involve dividing the full space into two rooms. The largest—the Washington Room—would be reserved for dealers, displays, and FM sales. It would be open the entire time, even during the talks. The smaller room—the Lincoln Room—would be reserved for the talks, our meals, and the auction. What do you think? Let us know at the meeting. In addition, many of the budgetary details have been established. The speaker budget will be the same as last year. After looking at the costs and revenues, pre-registration fees will probably be at the same level as last year.

This year's speaker program should be very enjoyable. We are taking special care to pick speakers who are known to be entertaining, interesting, and relevant. Additionally, the emcee will closely monitor the schedule, so that it will finish earlier. This will allow more time to visit friends and the dealers, and will allow the auction to finish at an earlier hour. As for the main auction itself, we are going to attempt to limit it to pieces that will generate some excitement. This admittedly is somewhat difficult, because it depends on two things: first, knowing what type of thing will generate excitement, and second, and more importantly, the donation of exciting pieces.

Request for Auction Specimens:

As we did last year, we are strongly encouraging the early donation of specimens for our auction. Last year, we listed a number of specimens with their descriptions in the newsletter, and I think it generated some excitement for those pieces at the auction. Moreover, it is somewhat fun to read about specimens in the newsletter. Please bring specimens, books, or other auction items to our upcoming meetings. Last year, John Lindell, the 1998 Symposium Chairperson asked that members, "give something that hurts." This year I will repeat that request. In 1998, our successful auction kept the symposium in the black. Let's do that again!

1999 Symposium Committee

Bob Meyer, Chairperson 425-641-0723

Cheryl Burchim, Finance and Motel Liaison 360-665-4349

Rudy Tschernich, Dealers and Publicity 360-568-2857

Sharleen Harvey, Symposium guidelines manual 503-248-4194

Arlene Handley, Auction 360-693-1034

John Cornish, Displays and Speakers 360-457-7630

Bart Cannon, Layout 206-522-9233

Karen Hinderman, Hospitality 360-380-2035

Ray Lasmanis, Security 360-491-6893

Wes Gannaway and Gary Hinderman, Set up and breakdown 360-384-4209

If you have any input, questions, or wish to help please contact any committee member.

MEETING NOTICES, UPCOMING EVENTS, FIELD TRIPS:

Pacific NW Friends of Mineralogy Spring Meeting:

We will hold our next meeting in room 223 of the Environmental Studies Hall at Western Washington University in Bellingham, Washington, on April 24, at 1:00 p.m. Again, George Mustoe, Staff Geologist, has graciously agreed to be our host. Both before and after the meeting, attending members will have the "run" of the Geology Department. Possible activities include viewing the many displays, performing simulations in the wave tank room, photomicrography (using 35mm-daylight film), and perhaps viewing the SEM.

To those who have not attended our prior meetings at WWU, they have been very enjoyable. It is a rare opportunity, thanks entirely to the generosity of George Mustoe, for an institution to open its doors and welcome groups such as ours. Covered topics will include possible FM sponsored field trips, the status of some NW collecting sites, and the upcoming symposia. See you there!

Washington Pass Field Trip:

Plan now to attend the 10th annual Washington Pass Cleanup, tentatively set for August 7-9, 1999. There will be fun for all who attend.

1999 TUCSON SYMPOSIUM REPORT:

The following is a brief report of the 1999 Symposium at Tucson. The Symposium is held in meeting rooms in the same building as the Tucson Gem & Mineral Show.

The symposium featuring "Minerals of Mexico" included the following presentations:

"Mineral Photography", Jeffery Scovil

"The Tectonic Evolution of Mexico", Dr. Joaquin Ruiz

"Giant Jarosite Crystals from the Pena Blanca Uranium District, Chihuahua, Mexico", Dr. Philip Goodell

"Chris Tredwell's Collection of Minerals from Guanajuato: Preservation through Purchase", Dr. Carl Francis

"Silver Mineralogy of Guanajuato Mining District, Guanajuato, Mexico", Dr. Terry Wallace

"Mineralogy of the Silicate Orebodies of the West Camp, Santa Eulalia Mining District, Chihuahua, Mexico", Dr. Peter Megaw

"History of Mineralogical Studies in Mexico", Raul Rubinovich-Kogan

"Treasures of the Sierra Madre: Cool Minerals from Mexico" (Children's Lecture), Dr. Terry Wallace

"Reminiscences: Mexican Minerals and Stories", Manuel Ontiveros & Jack Young

"Minerals of the Laacher See", Herwig Pelckmans

"30 Years and 2000 Hours Underground at the Red Cloud", Garth Bricker

"Origin and Lore of Diamonds", Andrew A. Sicree

The Friends of Mineralogy Society of America annual meeting was held February 13, 1999 at Tucson, AZ. President Nelson Shaffer called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

The election report showed that the nominated officers were elected with 58 ballots from the eligible 511 members sent in. The highest vote count for an officer was 55, the lowest was 54. All three proposed bylaw changes passed. Bylaw change number 1) had one no vote, change 2) had none, and change 3) had 4 no votes.

The Treasurer, Roland Bounds, reported that the books were audited and found to be satisfactory. The FM treasury balance increased from approximately \$16500 on 12/97 to \$18280 on 12/98.

Mineral Locality Index Committee report: We are down to the last five states to be published. We need to discuss what to do next, please forward thoughts to James Hurlbut.

Membership Committee report: There are currently 511 paid members including approximately 30 new members in the new Southeast Chapter. There is a request to help form a new Mississippi Valley Chapter.

Dealers Committee report: Due to FM's non-profit tax status the former membership category of "Dealer Associate" had to be withdrawn. Currently, if a dealer becomes a member they may also list their business name in the directory. No other arrangements are in place at this time. Please contact Bill Dameron with any suggestions for revising the dealers status.

Awards Committee report: Best paper in Mineralogical Record: The Sweet Home Mine Issue. Best paper in Rocks & Minerals: The Himaliya Mine.

Lieber photo contest: there were 32 amateur category entries and 5 professional category entries; a traveling display of the entries was available for viewing at the meeting and will rotate around the country to mineral museums for display. Members are encouraged to submit entries for this contest. Watch the quarterly national newsletter for details.

Chapter activities: Each chapter present reported on their 1998 activities. These reports will appear in the next national newsletter. I reported on PNW chapter activities for 1998 and promoted both of our symposia this year.

Announcement: FM is exploring membership affiliation with American Geological Institute. At the current time it is believed that this will provide added services to the membership and can be accomplished without an increase in national dues. Watch the national newsletter for more information. The chapters will be asked to vote on this in the near future.

Announcement: Chapters should contact Roland Bounds for FM badges. New members should get one when they join. Long term members may buy replacement badges. Most badges are distributed through the individual chapters.

Announcement: The Tucson Symposia 2000 theme is "Minerals of Brazil".

The meeting was adjourned for the Awards Banquet at 5:00 PM.

Jim Etwiler
3935 Interlake Ave. N.
Seattle WA 98103-8131

NEW MEMBERS, ADDRESSES:

Everyone please notice Bob Meyer's new email: bobrocks@uswest.net

EDITOR'S COMMENTS:

If any of you have a new e-mail address please send it to me for inclusion in the bulletin. Another cold winter and wet spring is going by with plenty of time to get those notes together on your collecting trips and sites and sending them along to me. I wish to thank Jim Etwiler and John Cornish for being contributors to the bulletin this past year.

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