



PNWFM

President's Message Toby Seim



Greetings All,

I'd like to start by sending my thoughts and prayers out to the several families who have been affected by the Coronavirus and are dealing with serious health situations. I am hopeful that our members are actively practicing prevention methods to help deflect the issue.

There has been some recent good attention regarding our PNWFM Chapter, I can hardly keep up with the emails trickling in. Most of the content contains feedback from our recent exhibition at The Whatcom Museum "What Lies Beneath", so I'd like to give a special thanks to the following all-star cast who helped with the project:

Bart Cannon
John Lindell
Lew Landers
Rick Dillhoff
Joe George
Randy Becker
Bill McKnight
Wes Gannaway
Julian Gray
Dylan Trevors
Cory Torpin
Dick & Erma Deanne Rantz
Jeff Schwartz
Tate Wilson



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It's been a wonderful five months with the exhibition and it's sad to see it go. Visitor turnout has been very good, with people coming from throughout the Puget Sound region and beyond. There were also several education opportunities for local school students and youth groups who toured the exhibit. Good Job PNWFM!

October Symposium

Our annual Symposium is on track to be very exciting and we have collectively decided the following theme:

Aesthetic Minerals

Colors - Crystallography – Presentation

This is a very exciting theme, it presents opportunities to include the scientific aspects of the minerals and the artsy aspects of the minerals.

In addition to a new great theme, I would like to formally announce our new Symposium Chairman – Jessica Robertson!

Jessica, who is on our Friends of Mineralogy National Board, has a BA in geochemistry from Whitman College and a M.S. in Geology from Central Washington University. She is highly involved as a leader amongst young mineral enthusiasts. I believe she will be a key contributor as our chapter continues to grow.



Noble Witt Award



Last October I had the tremendous honor to present the Noble Witt Award to Randy Becker. As I listed his accomplishments, it demonstrated the level of significance the award holds. Looking at the previous members who have earned the award further confirms that it's perhaps the highest level of achievement in our respected activity. Once again, congratulations to Randy Becker for a lifetime of mineral related achievements.

Board Meeting

There will be a PNW Friends of Mineralogy meeting at the Seattle Mineral Market, Sunday, May 17 at 10 am. FM members are welcome to attend! See event details here: <https://www.seattlesmineralmarket.com/>



Annabergite. Candelaria Mine, Mt. Diablo Pit, Candelaria Mining Dist., Mineral Co., Nevada. Photo by Beth Heesacker.

Winter – A Very Good Time To Collect Minerals ! By Beth Heesacker

Now some of you might disagree with me. Snow and ice, wind and rain are what are usually thought of during the winter. They are not favorable to collecting minerals. And I agree.



As my hubby and I get older we also do not climb well and our rv is not able to travel the backroads and still survive. And yet I believe winter is a very good time to collect minerals. As long as you go to the right places. The right places for us are southern California and Arizona.

Paul and I left our home in Oregon with sleet falling but with hope for our travel south. We had checked the weather through the Siskiyou Mountains and Mt. Shasta area. It did not look good, but we had to try. We gassed up the rv just before entering the Siskiyou passes and heard confirmation of a heavy snowstorm coming in that next day so we decided to push and get through that evening. We made it and faced the Mt. Shasta area the next day. Again, we were successful in beating the snow but for the next few days we faced torrential rain all the way to Bakersfield. What unusual weather!!

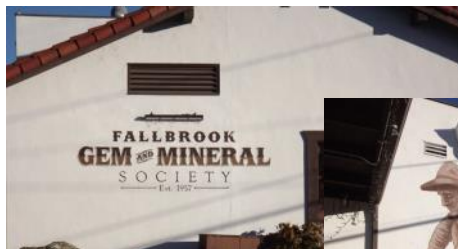
When we passed the sign along I-5 that says, "Pray for Rain", we figured that they had their prayer answered, big-time. It was sunny or just lightly cloudy for most of the rest of the trip to Arizona.



A Quartzsite sunset

Our first stop was Quartzsite. It is not the best place to acquire micro-minerals but occasionally I find something of interest. We did find a few nice pieces and had a good rest. Besides rocks and minerals, Quartzsite offers a chance to go junk shopping. I was able to get quite a few pieces of costume jewelry, metal chains, etc. that I can use in my artwork.

Soon it was time to head over to Fallbrook, CA for the Pacific Micro Mineral Conference. It had been three years since I was last able to attend this meeting. It is known for its free tables and for its \$1 tables. Attendees did not disappoint. Many flats and egg cartons of rough material were available, and the club had received a donation of a wonderful collection of mounted specimens for the \$1 table. I ended up with quite a few flats to bring home and was also please by the numerous PowerPoint presentations.



The Mineral Museum at Fallbrook



Attendees

Attendees with minerals named after them



After the conference we headed back to Quartzsite for a day or two of rest and some more shopping. Then we headed toward the Tucson show. I wanted to hit the Miners' Co-Op show just north of Tucson because it is quite a mix of dealers selling what they have mined themselves. I did find a few specimens of interest. The best was a new find of amethyst with inclusions from the state of Washington. Here we experienced a night of 20-degree weather. Most nights were cold but this one kept the furnace in the rv running most of the night.

After shopping at the Miners' Co-Op we headed into Tucson. I had only two main destinations in mind. One was to pick up some Las Choyas geodes that contain a variety of minerals inside. Very beautiful, interesting and fun to crack. The other stop was Shannon Minerals.

Shannon always has clearance flats. He has them marked down and then discounts by an additional 10% each day he has his show open. Three years ago, I got there on the last day and they were discounted 90%. This year we arrived on the second day, so the discounts were not very deep but I picked up over 50 interesting flats. I go through them after I get them home and then bring the leftovers to a couple of Micro Mineral meetings, including the Micro Mineral Study Group, for their free tables.

As I was looking through the clearance flats, Paul called my attention to a large group of flats on the next table. The Allen and Barbara Lundgren collection. There were more than 250 flats and they were all mounted micros. They were catalogued on paper. They were from all over the world. They were from most places in the world: various countries in Europe, Asia, North America, South America, Australia, etc. My jaw dropped. They were priced very reasonably, \$1 each. BUT, I wanted it all!!

I talked to Mike Shannon and he said that he would need to count them and would not get to it until the next day, but we had planned to head back home in the morning. After a little negotiating, he agreed to let us count them. There were over 7,000 mounted perky boxes. My jaw dropped again when he told me what he would sell me the lot for. Less than the cost of the perky boxes they were mounted in!

Mike had picked out some for his personal collection and the collection had been to about five other shows and so not all of them in the catalogue were still there (maybe 10% gone) but it was still an intriguing collection. He emailed me later that he was glad that I had gotten the collection. He knows that I gather "orphan" collections and share with others.

After paying for them the problem became how to load them into our little Class B motorhome. I climbed in the rv, Paul was at the door, and Mike's workers carried them out to stack them up at Paul's feet. Paul handed them to me, and I started piling them carefully inside. The pile got higher and higher and higher but in order to not have them shift too much, I could not pile too high. On the beds, on the floor, from the back almost to the passenger seats and waist high.

We stabilized them with bungy cords, already talking about what we were going to do to get them home. Motel it home or rent a trailer. Figuring the costs, we decided to rent a trailer. Using our gps we found a U-Haul trailer store and chose a 4x8, half high enclosed trailer. The "trunk" we usually have attached behind our rv went inside the trailer and we drove off to our boondocking (free) camping site.

Out came all the flats and they were carefully stored in the trailer so that they would not shift. And we carefully worked our way home over the next few days. The major discussion on the way home

was with the occasionally rough roads, would we just have crumbs when we arrived.



Arriving home with our precious cargo

Paul had done a good job on the packing and everything looked great when we pulled up to the house. For the third time all the flats were unloaded and now carried into the house. Over the next couple of weeks, I went through all the flats using the catalogue and checked off what was still there. I also consolidated some flats so it would take less space to store them. Some labels were popping off but there are 3 labels on each one, so I was able to match them up and place the loose labels inside the perky boxes. Currently I am reattaching the labels and taking some time actually looking at the specimens. I am amazed at the very high quality that I have seen. As time goes by, I hope to take some pics and share them with you.

After working on this collection for a while now I can report that it includes all but six US states, Canada, Australia, ten European countries, seven Middle and South American countries, eight African and related countries, seven Asian countries, Russia, Greenland and various other mixed countries. The most represented US state is Arizona with 20 flats from 98 mines. There are 8 flats from Minnesota where the Lundgrens lived. According to the catalogue the minerals were collected starting in the 1980s and many were personally collected by the Lundgrens. Others were given to them and all this information is in the catalogue. Such a great history of a great collection.

I am very pleased to obtain this collection and hope to keep most of it intact. As I go through it, I may find some duplicates I can part with. Only time will tell.

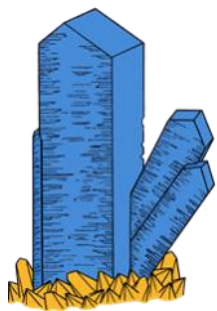
Yes, winter can be a very good time to collect minerals if you know where to look. My "silver pick" did a great job this winter.

Editor's Plea

Please, we need your articles and mineral photos to make this the newsletter what it should be.

Please email articles and photos to
heesacker@coho.net

The next deadline will be June 10th



**Interested in a
wonderful resource for
teaching
children about
minerals?**

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other resources at
Diamond Dan Publications.**

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**PACIFIC NORTHWEST
CHAPTER
FRIENDS OF
MINERALOGY**

www.PNWFM.org

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MINERAL MEETING CALENDAR

2020:

**Micro Mineral Study Group,
May 2, 11 am to 4:30 pm
Camas-Washougal Fire Station #42
4321 NW Parker Street
Camas, Washington**

**Seattle Mineral Market (PNWFM Meeting, Sunday, May 17, 10 am)
May 16-17, 2020
The Lake City Community Center
12531 28th Avenue NE, Seattle, WA 98125**

**NCMA Micro-Mineral Symposium -- note early date
May 15-17
Eldorado Community Hall
Eldorado, California**

**Washington Pass Cleanup
August-September**

**46th annual PNWFM Symposium
Theme - *Aesthetic Minerals*
Colors - Crystallography – Presentation
October 16-18, 2020
Red Lion, Kelso, WA**

**Micro Mineral Study Group,
November 7, 11 am to 4:30 pm
Camas-Washougal Fire Station #42
4321 NW Parker Street
Camas, Washington**