



PNWFM

President's Message Toby Seim



Greetings All,

Rockhounding season is here and there is an increased mineral interest evolving here in the PNW. I frequently visit many different social media avenues and collectors are out getting their hands dirty. Personally, I have already done my first collecting trip of the season at Peterson Mountain (Hallelujah Junction). The photo below shows one of my favorite finds from the trip.

There are lots of activities in work... I am working to organize a few collecting trips and our annual WA Pass Clean-up at Klipchuck Campground is looking like it will be scheduled in Early September. Stay tuned for details regarding these topics.

Symposium 2021: African Minerals, will be on October 16th and conducted virtually again, along with a virtual display (you can reach out to Julian Gray if you are interested to be a part of the virtual display). I am still looking to hold a hybrid symposium which would include both in person and virtual opportunities, but this appears to be a vision for 2022 due to covid19 conditions.

I am excited to see all the great things you find this collecting season and please, share your findings through this newsletter. It is the perfect avenue that can be utilized more. Stay safe and happy rock collecting!



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April 10, 2021

PNWFM General Meeting

Toby Seim, President, opened the Zoom meeting with 15 members present.

Bruce Kelley, Treasurer, gave a treasury report. We spend approximately \$2800 on our 2020 virtual symposium. Next membership dues will be due in October 2021, for the 2022 year. Bruce reported that around 15 members paid membership even though they didn't have to. He reminded everyone that we voted to have our Noble Witt Award winners be lifetime members.

Jessica Robertson reported on National FM. The National club voted to make the Young Mineral Collectors group an official affiliate. All membership to National FM has been suspended for 2021 and discounted to \$5 for affiliate members.

Toby contacted Tama Higuchi about the possibility of designing a new logo for our local chapter which was approved in our board meeting (3/28). Toby reported that our group is still hoping to hold our annual WA Pass Cleanup at Klipchuk Campground the weekend of September 11 – 12, 2021. Toby has contacted Randy Becker for assistance with organizing this outing. There was a brief discussion about possibly moving the annual cleanup to other collecting areas. One area mentioned was Hansen Creek. We will discuss this further.

Symposium 2021: African Minerals is topic. It was decided that speakers will be virtual on October 16, 2021. Julian and Bruce will be working with Bryan Swoboda again to put together the virtual speaker presentations. We are still pursuing the idea of an in-person symposium, but it is unlikely that this will happen in 2021. If we are able to have an in-person symposium, we would still be having our speakers Zoom in similar to our 2020 symposium. If all virtual, then look for virtual exhibits and possibly online sales. There is still much uncertainty around the pandemic, vaccinations, and the hotels capabilities to serve us in October. If we must hold this symposium virtually, we will do our best to make it a quality event. Then, we will all rejoice when we gather again in October 14 – 16, 2022, at the Red Lion in Kelso for a live symposium!

Reminder: Please send material to Beth for the newsletter.

Meeting adjourned.

Karen Hinderman, Secretary



Stunning Epidote

By Karen Hindman

I'm a creature of nature
plucked from the Earth.
Some call me gorgeous,
others are in awe at my birth.
I'm as green as a field of grass
and no other shall surpass.

Some Former Mineral Displays of Washington

By Sal Noeldner

Increasing interest in fine mineral specimens as natural works of art and investment opportunities has also created a quest in many an appreciator, both young and old, for strands of knowledge about previous finds. Not only is this to track what may be the lesser-known eye-candy of previous decades/centuries but also to know what generally to expect in terms of quality, quantity, color, and size of specimens from each geo-region. More importantly to science and (possibly unfathomed) future, clean technologies are what might set each geo-region apart from others in terms of differing geologic forces over time and following closely, changes in mineral composition, diversity, and scarcity due to each hardening formation rising out of the elemental soup never being quite the same. I have gathered here together some notes on historical mineral displays of Washington State for your research and reading pleasures. (Please contact the author if you have more information on these or other former mineral displays of the state.)

Hall of the Young Naturalists, King County

In the last month of 1879, within the burgeoning pioneer town of Seattle, a group of four young gentlemen decided to gather together in friendship to discuss their observations and interests in the natural world freshly exposed to view as development and population spread quickly from sea ports along the coast and prospectors fluxed in waves of interest for coal, precious and base metals. These young men had no professional training, just a shared passion of curiosity

about the natural world and aimed to create a group which "...would stand the test of time and become a perpetual source of pleasure and instruction...in which the study of natural history would be pursued, and a cabinet of specimens gathering(ed) around..." as described by P.B. Randolph, a founding member.

The Young Naturalists Society was born and debated wide-ranging topics but also offered talks to the public, wrote media for print, had professional oversight from nearby university staff, and displayed their quickly expanding collections of fauna (especially marine), flora, minerals, and cultural objects of local natives whose cultures were quickly disbanding.



University of Washington Libraries, Special Collections, UW910
"Territorial University Young Naturalists Building"

Begun in the back of the spacious A.A. Denny house, they moved in 1886 after raising money to build on the west side of the territorial university located in downtown Seattle at the end of University Street between Seneca & Union Streets. (It should be noted this 'Hall of the Young Naturalists' was permitted as long as the society permitted use of the collection for instruction purposes of the university. The two, school and the Young Naturalists Society were now linked together even more, one relying on the other.) The scant wood structure had two main floors and a basement with an unknown layout. It survived the Great Fire of 1889 and in 1894 the club became less gender specific, formally opening membership to women. Unfortunately, a year afterwards, the school moved eastward taking the many professional connections vital to increase of knowledge as well as portions of the collection for the new university classrooms which included a mineral display in the Chemistry room (if not in the Science and Mines and Mining areas as well though early photos have not yet been found by this searcher).



University of Washington, Special Collections, UW578
"Administration Building interior showing exhibit of rock specimens"
tion to the museum with multiple members becoming teachers themselves.

The club had an original 25-year lease on Territorial-university grounds in downtown, which thickened things, but in 1899, their collection at the hall was deemed worthy of preservation and became the "Washington State Museum". Moved to the Administration building (which was later to become Denny Hall) on the new university grounds and shown in tall and many-shelved, wood cabinets with glass fronts, this vari-colored, vibrant display in the same building holding many classrooms and school offices no doubt created awe and facilitated inspiration, maybe even a quest for knowledge in the passionate young, with a probable greater number of new recruits to university life in response. In 1904, the society disbanded and gave the entire collection to the museum with multiple members becoming teachers themselves.

Formative members of this society came from families with diverse fields of interest, including mining in districts east of the Puget Sound. Included in the collection would be silicate and mineral specimens from the iron and copper claims numerous within the tines of the fork created by the combined Snoqualmie River, also amber within coal, leaf imprints in shale and limestone, chalcedonies, silicified woods, and various ores and crystals of minerals the young explorers were given or found on field trips to both local and further regions of the state. Parts of this core collection may still come out for display at the Burke Museum, current name of the managing entity of the cabinet of the Young Naturalists Society.

College of Mines at U.W., King County

Besides the ephemeral, late nineteenth-century cabinet of the first state geologist of the late 19th century (whom eventually left the state with some haste as the state lost funding for both him and his efforts), no entirely 'lost' display found in research so far predates the historically significant display and reference mineral collection which began at least within the second Mines Hall built in 1921 (but may have grown from reference specimens used at the earlier College of Mines and Mining which themselves may have partially originated with the agreement with the YNS).



University of Washington, Special Collections, UW20323z
"School of Mines classroom"

This building housed the College of Mines (and in 1947 was called Roberts Hall after Dean Milnor Roberts). The Mines college continued as a sub-discipline within the Department of Geological Sciences located in Johnson Hall (built in 1930). Sparse photos show the labeled collection held at least partially in a large central classroom, with a seating area bordered by an instruction zone on one side, with standing-height wood and glass shelved cabinets filled with large cabinet-sized mineral specimens on the other wall and jutting also somewhat into the room along an egress to the next open room. I imagine these display specimens were both to dazzle students somewhat with local flair and also to show changes in physical attributes created from different geological terranes and differing,

possible companion minerals for the prospective prospector or mining engineer.

In 1971, after receipt of the largest research grant to date from the National Science Foundation two years earlier, upgrades to Johnson Hall were set into motion. Also, the Geological Sciences department had decided to acquire analytical equipment for a new crystallography-mineralogy program. Need for limited space outpaced conservation, paradoxically bringing an end to much of this major physical archive, lamented by some faculty even as it occurred. At least some if not much of the 50 years of accumulated card catalogs, notes, and minerals of past bequeathments, gifts, and field trips went either to a nearby burn pile or large dumpsters. Local mineralogical legend Bart Cannon related how he and others saved random spectacular mineral specimens from dumpster diving at this time. Unfortunately, specimens were separated from their labels and so must be considered only pretty yard/parlor rocks if they survive today.

Later, sometime during the 1980's, after receiving a phone call from the UW's Engineering Department giving him one week to pack an assortment of rocks they had found in the ceramic building's attic, noteworthy and quick-thinking efforts by then State Geologist Raymond Lasmanis succeeded in saving a majority of the 'rocks', found to be a portion of the metals reference collection of the

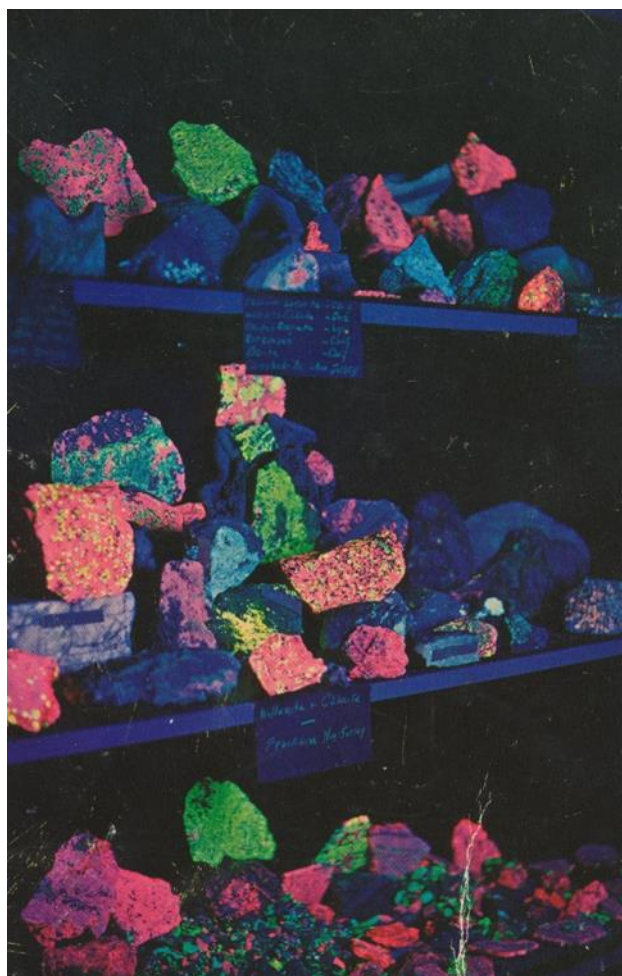
College of Mines. Only labeled, Washington State material could be saved at the time and luckily, in a more recent search of an old warehouse, this important collection resurfaced and two-thirds of it were able to be relabeled in a two-day effort (a good thing as the former labels were beginning to crumble with age).

Rock Chalet of Snoqualmie Pass, Kittitas County

Just off of I-90 in the hamlet of Snoqualmie Pass was a steep-pitched, alpine structure few would have the occasion to pass by for long. Brightly colored carvings by Gene Delaney (an indigenous craftsman from Oklahoma) stood at attention to either side of the entrance. Colored pennant flags flapped, strung on strings across these stoic ranks of figurative poles like arms opening wide to greet weary travelers. For a long while it was the only place to purchase butter, milk, and refrigerated drinks for many miles. Most travelers needing a respite from the Sunset Highway's (US Hwy 10, then I-90) beautiful but long and winding curves would stop for a breather.

Built by John "Jack" and Wilma Preston, who had prior purchased and operated the original Snoqualmie Summit Inn, The Rock Chalet (general store and lapidary area downstairs with mineral museum upstairs) operated for over 40 years. The collection sold in 1986 (so an early 1940's start?) with the property selling in 1987. Built to serve the many travelers going through, this building served to both comfort and introduce one to the beautiful and wide array of minerals and fossils, acquired from local miners trading for supplies, the personal collection of Clarence E. Dowling (and possibly others- this information has not been found), and the wider world in general.

The displays packed the upstairs with only room for the stairs and connected open-space. Shelves lined portions or all of three walls with the south wall holding a large, walk-in, curtained, fluorescent mineral display with at least shortwave and longwave ultra-violet lamp options. Spaces on the floor not used as walkways held glazed, wood-framed containers of museum-sized crystallized specimens, with a fossil thrown in here and there. These greeted the refreshing traveler entranced by the hushed, wide stairs away from bright colors and sweet snacks downstairs (food was not allowed upstairs). Just at the top was a luring display of rough and polished Ellensburg Blue agate, giving many the 'rock-hounding' fever before the angular consequence of crystals waiting just beyond in the room drew them to a life of mineral collecting or crystallography.



Rock Chalet fluorescent display postcard
(private coll.)

The collection sold in 1986 when the Prestons decided to retire, with the property selling in 1987. Unknown use and then vacancy for a year or two haunted the heavy snows dividing 1998-9, caving the roof and causing a complete loss. Demolished soon after, only a foundation remained.

No known photos of the inside of the Rock Chalet (other than the fluorescent display post-card) could be located for this article, neither could more information on the sale of the collection be gleaned unfortunately.

Clarence Dowling's Moocaliets Museum, Pierce County

Included within the Rock Chalet's collection was a sub-collection purchased from the formerly mentioned Mr. Dowling shortly before his passing in 1972 (age 95) at "Waverly by the Sea" or Rogers House, his residence and self-proclaimed natural history museum in Steilacoom, Washington. The collecting passion in Clarence was engendered early, growing up and exploring the Badlands of South Dakota as a child where he found many items of interest to a questing mind.

This thrill of discovery held and eventually Clarence would self-style himself the "Lone Wolf" collector. As a retired postal worker (and ex-president of the Minnehaha County Historical Society in 1939) he then entered a surge of rock collecting fervor. In 1940, he (age 65), wife Helen (34 years his younger), and two daughters (a son born 4 years later!) made the move to Washington State from Sioux Falls, South Dakota as his brothers had come before. During the world war, he worked at Boeing, his wife elsewhere to make ends meet and support the effort.

Moving to Steilacoom in early 1950s, by 1954 he had begun the Moocaliets Society which was devoted to the study and appreciation of geologic formations of minerals, fossils, and rocks. To become a member, one purchased an emblem symbolizing "Those who appreciate nature do nothing to detract from its beauty" and signed the Rules of Federation which included furthering and protecting the wonders of nature under threat of quick expulsion from the club. Connected to this idea was the non-profit 'Museum' started early in 1956 (and open "24 hrs. daily" when he was

home) "...an educational feature, consisting of gems, minerals (including fluorescent specimens), artifacts and fossils.". His cabinet consisted of a group of open shelved displays, flat glazed cases for larger or delicate specimens, and signage with labeled specimens of all sizes which were curated by fellow Moocaliets including Mrs. F. Cummings and Mrs. H. Dutton. Mr. Dowling called the museum "one of the most educational in the state" after one particularly successful trip to Europe for specimens and hoped it would become a major Steilacoom attraction.



Moocaliets founder, both curators and young appreciators in 1959
(private coll.)

ing the museum at the intersection of Rainier and Main Streets, then just down Main in the basement of the Hughes House which acted as the Dowling's modest residence. Somehow, almost a thousand labeled specimens were displayed catering specifically to local children, youth organizations, and schools. Quiet in nature,

The Moocaliets first met monthly at a rented building hold-

Clarence still loved to share what he had learned and specimens found in the Dakotas, Alaska, locally, other mainland states, Canadian provinces, South and Central American, Europe, and many named countries around the world including Columbia, Mexico, Egypt, Germany, and England. Included in the collection were gifts from others, including members of the Moocaliets Society in other countries.

In 1960, instead of being able to house the museum in City Hall as he originally had hoped, Clarence purchased the much more expansive Waverly-on-the-Sea (Rogers House) on the corner of Commercial and Wilkes for use as a restaurant and museum. No restaurant emerged (though they took boarders including Vietnam War veterans and possibly cooked in a limited capacity for them) but the natural history museum filled a room featuring an entrance and windows towards Wilkes Street. The multi-colored, radial emblem used for member badges was posted in the window to the left of the staged entrance and proclaimed "We are Moocaliets". (Clarence being the "Head Moocal".) Also, sometimes at night, it was remarked Clarence could be seen working on the collection in his long, white pajamas, passing the windows like an apparition.



Waverly Museum visitors (private coll.)



Only known photo of the inside of the Moocaliets Museum (private coll.)

He fed local interest by repeatedly traveling the world in search of new items for the museum and club members as well as relating some his travels in the local newspaper. He would come back from these 'extensive expedition(s)' with hundreds of specimens, some of which might exist in local collections today. His forthright enthusiasm was contagious with younger generations of his own family continuing to collect rocks, with no doubt some of this passion for geology rubbing off on one or more of the many kids coming through his museum over many years. Having a self-declared 'mania' for "...rocks and nature..." he would have felt joy at this continuing appreciation for his "only interest in this is in educating the public and influencing their love of nature".

No specific specimen information has been found but according to the sparse literature aragonite, orbicular jasper, petrified wood, thundereggs,

German halites, and various iron mine specimens were included. Parts of this collection surely garnered some of the 'oohs' and 'ahhs' heard upstairs at the Rock Chalet for some 14 years before being pieced out again into the mineral and fossil collecting world with the rest of the collection when it closed doors.

A good way of remembering his gentle yet firm nature may be heard as he waxed for an article for the Tacoma News Tribune, "There's nothing like the beauty of minerals. It's a permanent thing, unlike flowers, which are nice but not lasting," but then, "If anyone visiting this museum doesn't leave knowing more about rocks than when he entered, we don't want him".

The Western Mineral Exchange, King County

Sometime in the early 1930's, the Western Mineral Exchange appeared on the scene bay-side of Seattle's First Hill neighborhood at first 322, then 320 Madison Street (now occupied by the Safeco Plaza skyscraper). Sporting a free admission mineral "display largest on the coast" and fully-stocked mineral-interests store, the spaces eventually included rooms for classes in lapidary, mineral identification and demonstration of prospecting techniques. Setting up shop, the enterprising Hugh Brown called the accumulated spaces "Collector's Headquarters" in 1940 and advertised "No matter what you want in Western minerals, ores and gem stones, try us first", later pronouncing it was "The Largest Mineral House west of New York" as well as having a "mineral display largest on (the) coast" in 1946.



Western Mineral Exchange display (The National Amateur Mineralogist June 1943, Vol.3 No.6)

The store had a rotating mineral specimen stock often locally-sourced by "field crews" and along with offering representative boxed collections of Washington metal ores and fluorescent rocks (made in-store), carried both UV lights and fluorescent minerals "of all kinds", had a large mineral and geology book area, and offered "a full stock of everything required in cutting and polishing rocks" which included lapidary equipment crafted locally. Evidently, his passions were well-patterned and from his efforts grew a cornucopia of mineraline fruit.

Well-serving the local mineral community during the decades bracketing World War II, Hugh also created and managed the Washington State Chamber of Mines out of the same space. The mineral exhibit of the Chamber was offered in parallel to the mineral display of the Western Mineral Exchange with nothing being sold from this large exhibit until the Exchange's 'closing out sale' beginning Jan. 1, 1949.

The Chamber's display was "well-arranged for inspection" and was comprised of "minerals from practically every mine in the state of Washington, gem stones as found and as polished from every gem area of the state, and many minerals from every part of the world for purposes of comparison". For a membership cost of two dollars per year, Mineral Exchange and Chamber members were provided access to classes, field trips, and to a master map of "live" mining claims, corrected the first of July each year so that the public could see which ground was "open" (for claiming). Over "...twenty mining publications throughout the country (carried) the Chamber's press releases... (of)...uncolored, factual information..." regarding Washington's metallic and non-metallic minerals. Whereabouts of the Chamber of Mines archive is unknown and this author would greatly enjoy learning any more pieces or connections due to the Western Mineral Exchange.

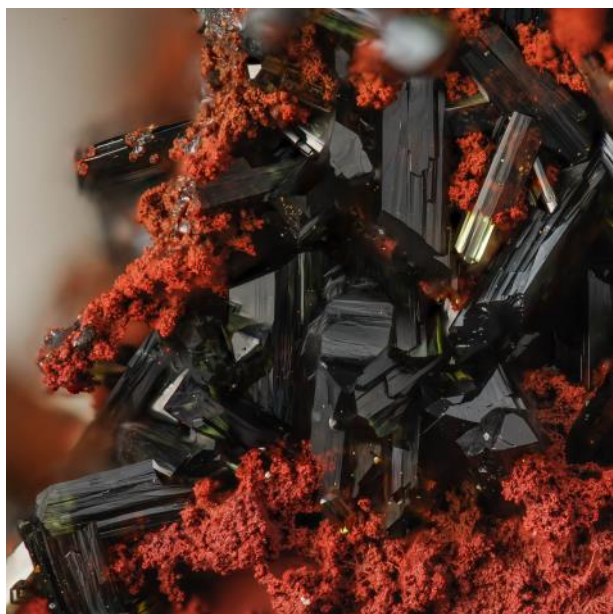
To even more fully supplement the offerings at this important hub for both beginner and expert Cascadian mineralogists alike, Hugh began to collect locality information from people coming through the shop and through correspondence with mineral clubs around the nation. This friendly banter eventually culminated in a book, **The American Mineral Guide to Notable Collecting Areas, and Directory of American Mineral & Gem Collectors...** during the 1940's. Sections were organized by state, county, then locality (if named) with major minerals listed. Cursed by timing, paper was in high demand in this pre-internet era and few copies were made, yet it stands as only one of the fine accomplishments coming out of Seattle's lost Western Mineral Exchange.

Some other former displays that may offer more information to Washington mineral researchers delving into the past might be the exhibit of minerals at the Spokane Mining Exchange, the pedestaled display of minerals at Sea-Tac airport in the 1990's, and the UBC museum collection, a portion of which was in store-like display in downtown Vancouver, British Columbia.

Though losing its major displays filled with geologic eye-candy, Western Washington still has a couple of places where an interested person can appreciate local natural wonders. One is the Environmental Studies Building at Western Washington University; the other is the Burke Museum at the UW which offers a glimpse of its vast stored collection of mineral and fossil bequeathments and acquisitions. Past parlor interest has given way to a finer appreciation, even wonder, of our local minerals, even to where particularly fine specimens are prized for their combined scientific, aesthetic, AND intrinsic values. Perhaps it is time again for either a public or private mineral museum to attempt to display the full rainbow of Washington State's mineral diversity.

(The author would like to specially thank the Steilacoom Historical Society for both writing and scanning the article about Clarence Dowling in their Fall 2007 bulletin and for their great help in locating additional information; also, the family for making themselves available for questions and sharing photos. Tacoma News Tribune is thanked for writing the 5 articles sourced: 1957/11/3 "Moocaliets is solid, rock-bound" p.A16; 1958/8/27 "Rockhound, 82, scours Canada for specimens"; 1959/12/13 "Rockhound returns from Europe"; 1961/1/1 "Old Moocaliet returns to Steilacoom from 20,000 mile jet-camel jaunt"; and 1961/6/18 "Rock Collector Remodeling Steilacoom Hotel" (the Tacoma Public Library Northwest Room is thanked for providing the three earliest articles from their archives). The UW is thanked for use of photos. The Brown family is thanked for their erstwhile efforts to educate others and provide opportunity.)

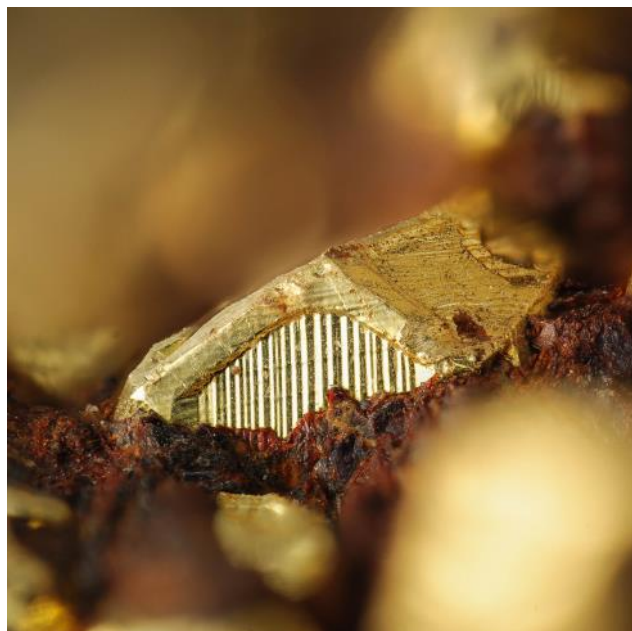
Annabergite from Georgine Mine,
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The authors of the Splendid Sands calendar state on their webpage that they are: “educators with scientific backgrounds and a curiosity for the natural world. We enjoy collecting sand, analyzing the bits within, and sharing our art and discoveries.



Dr. Von D. Mizell-Eula researches the sand from Johnson State Park, Dania Beach, Florida Photo by Leo Kenney

Offshore are sandy shallows and three reef systems at ~300 yards off, nearly half-mile, and over two miles out. Beach contents are mostly dredged material from Pleistocene sources offshore. Biogenic grains include forams, coralline algae, sandy worm tubes, barnacles, micromolluscs, and interesting button-like bryozoans. Background grains are tiny quartz grains.

Adapted from the Wayne County Gem and Mineral Club News, Newark, NY January 2021

[Home - WCGMC.ORG](http://Home-WCGMC.ORG)
www.SplendidSands.com

My Favorite Beach Sand Discoveries

by Kathy Hrechka, Editor

It is hard to imagine getting bored at a beach, but that is what happens to me at times. I began to observe the sand. Even though I am not a sand collector, it is all geology. When I observe these sands under my microscope, I realize how each beach is unique. Some samples that intrigue me include Cancun, Juno Beach in Florida, Bermuda, and the Big Island of Hawaii.



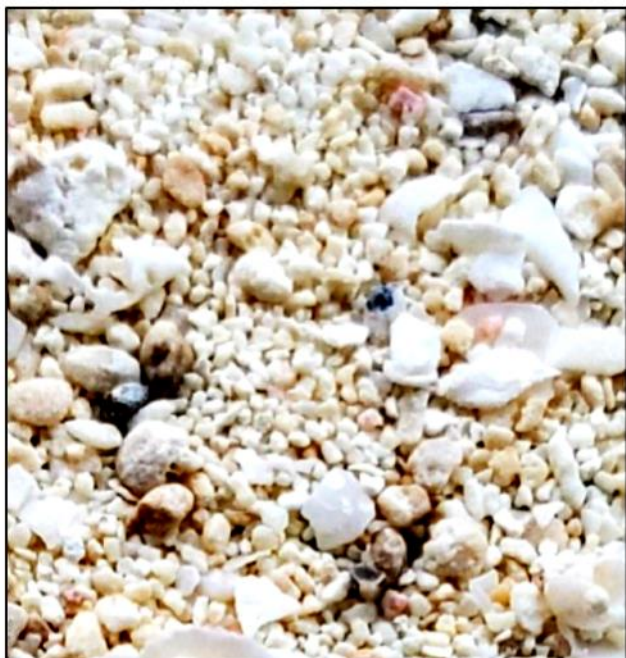
Cancun beach in Mexico: The main chemical composition of sand particles was confirmed to be calcium carbonate. This sand feels like sifted flour.



Juno beach in Florida: The main chemical composition of sand particles turns out to be quartz. Cell phone photomicrography by Kathy Hrechka

continued next page

Beach Sand continued



Bermuda's Pink Sand Beach

The pink sand is made of red-shelled foraminifera, bits of coral, and crushed shell mixing with regular sand. Offshore Bermuda lies a coral reef, which thrives from the warm waters of the Gulf Stream.



Black Sand Beach, Hilo: Big Island of Hawaii

The famous "black sand" beaches of Hawaii were created virtually instantaneously by the violent interaction between hot lava and sea water. Olivine grains eroded from the lava . Via The Mineral Mite 1/21



Fluorite (according to the label but maybe Diaspore) on Natrolite. Fov 3 mm. Saga 1 Quarry, Sagåsen, Auenlandet, Porsgrunn, Vestfold og Telemark, Norway. From the Lundgren collection, now in the Beth Heesacker collection. Copyright Beth Heesacker.



Anandradite. Fov 2.5mm. Hotvedt Quarry, Fokserød, Sandefjord, Vestfold og Telemark, Norway. From the Lundgren collection, now in the Beth Heesacker collection. Copyright Beth Heesacker.



Georgius Agricola Father of Mineralogy

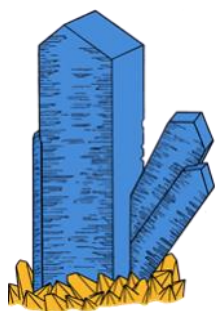
HAPPY FATHERS' DAY JUNE 20

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 September 1st




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PACIFIC NORTHWEST CHAPTER FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY

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MINERAL MEETING CALENDAR

2021:

NCMA Symposium - September 24-26
Eldorado Community Hall
6139 Pleasant Valley Rd,
El Dorado, CA 95623

PNWFM Symposium - October 16th - Zoom

NW Micro Mineral Study Group - November , TBD

2022:

Seattle Mineral Market - TBD
The Hangar 30 building at Magnuson Park
Seattle, WA

MSSC Conference - TBD

NW Micro Mineral Study Group - May, TBD

Stay Safe and Healthy!