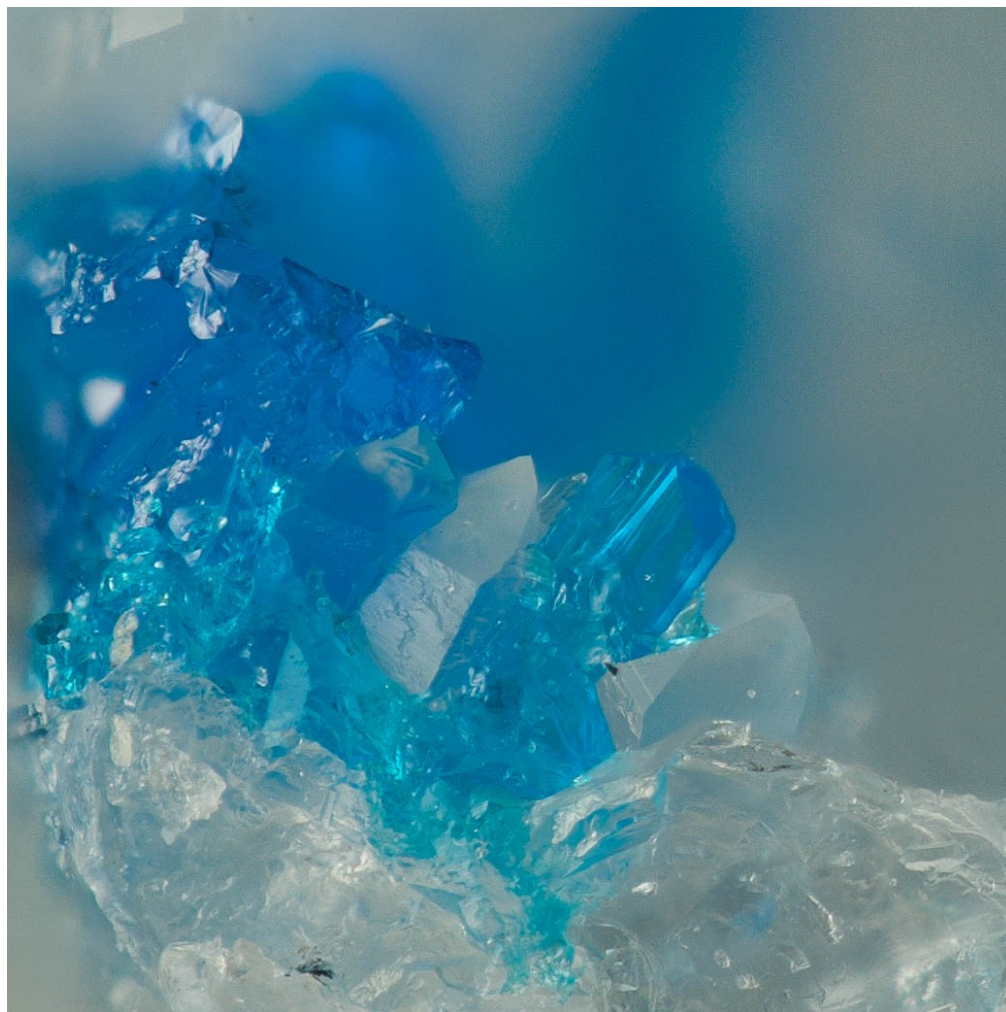




PNWFM NEWSLETTER



Teineite - $\text{Cu}^{2+}(\text{Te}^{4+}\text{O}_2) \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$

Trixie Mine, East Tintic Dist.,
Utah Co., UT.

FOV: 0.88 mm

Collected by John Degenais

Obtained from the PNWFM
symposium silent auction

Bruce Kelley specimen and
photo

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Happy Holidays





President's Message

Jessica Robertson

Happy Holidays!

Thank you everyone for the great turnout and high energy at our 50th Symposium. If you missed any of the talks, they should be posted on the Mineral Nation YouTube channel soon; we'll share the links on Facebook and pnwfm.org website when available. We learned a lot about our new venue and have some great ideas for next year's symposium. The results of our post-symposium feedback survey were very helpful in giving us direction for what to prioritize and what to change if possible.

Survey results were shared at the virtual membership meeting on November 10. Please contact me for a run-down of the results if you missed it and are curious. One big revelation: 2025's symposium theme will be "Color in Minerals!"

In addition to the October symposium, we already have several events in the works for 2025. After a break of many years, we have are pleased to announce the return of an in-person spring meeting! **Our spring meeting will be Saturday, April 26 at the Rice Museum of Rocks and Minerals in Hillsboro, Oregon.** The meeting will likely include a club mineral swap, a talk and business meeting, and fun surprises—details will be announced soon. We are also planning a presence again at Seattle Mineral Market, May 17-18. Our symposium and event planning team meets monthly via Zoom. If you'd like to help or even just watch and weigh in, please contact me to be added to the planning email list.

Another thank you— we received many generous donations of rocks and minerals during the symposium. This made a big difference! We can still use more for upcoming 2025 outreach events, particularly for Seattle Mineral Market. More common, less expensive material that an intermediate to advanced collector may ignore is ideal for the events that are targeted at a broad public audience.

(continued on page 3)

PNWFM Contacts:

President
Jessica Robertson
jar7709@hotmail.com

Vice President
Thea Stender
Theasmineral-
world@hotmail.com

Secretary
Karen Hinderman
khinderman79@gmail.com

Treasurer
Bruce Kelley
bruce.kelley@gmail.com

Symposium Chairperson
Jessica Robertson
jar7709@hotmail.com

Webmaster
Bruce Kelley
bruce.kelley@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor
Beth Heesacker
heesacker@coho.net

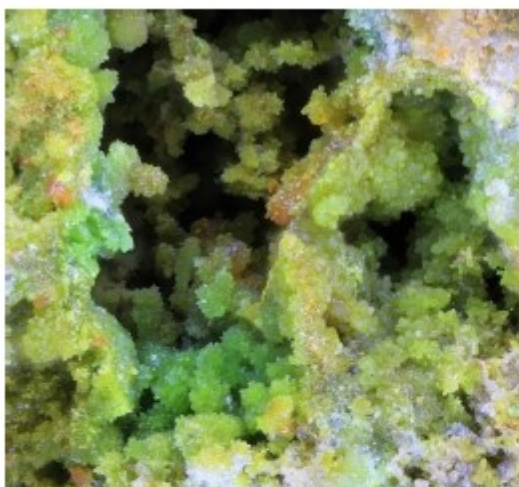
(Presidents Message continued)

If you have some old dusty flats or bags of shorl or quartz points, halite, some lesser garnets, tumbled agates, etc., please consider uncovering them from the big stack in the garage and donating them to PNWFM.

Thea Stender represented PNWFM at the November SMM Showcase event in Everett (thank you again Thea!) and reported that simple quartz points she happened to have in her car were just perfect.

Thank you all also for re-electing the board for another few years. We are proud of what we accomplished in 2024 and look forward to continuing the momentum of re-energizing PNWFM in 2025 and beyond. This December newsletter is packed with some of that energy as well as memories. Enjoy, and I look forward to connecting with all of you again in 2025.

~~~~~



Grabbed from the fabled BMS Symposium Grab Table

Peter Bainbridge's Loch na Meine pyromorphite  
(Photo Peter Bainbridge assisted by Martin Gale).

Dick Belson found erythrite on mansfieldite from Mount Cobalt, Australia  
(Photo Dick Belson)



From the British Micromount Society Newsletter, June 2023. Used with permission.

## PNWFM General Membership Meeting Minutes

### November 10, 2024

President, Jessica Robertson, opened the meeting with nine attendees. Karen Hinderman, secretary, reported election results for the next two year cycle. We have elected the following:

President, Jessica Robertson; Vice President, Thea Stender; Treasurer, Bruce Kelley; and Secretary, Karen Hinderman. Bruce provided a review of the 2024 Symposium. Ninety four members and six speakers attended the symposium. We now have 101 members. We will make a substantial profit on the symposium for the first time in years. If you want specific numbers, please contact a board member as we don't publish those in our newsletter.

Jessica reviewed the survey results via a slide show. Thirty eight members responded to the survey. It was determined that the 2025 Symposium theme will be Color in Minerals and the 2026 theme will be Mines & Minerals of Nevada (themes may be altered based on availability of speakers). The 2025 Symposium will occur October 17 - 19, 2025, (unless there is a conflict with CWU).

Questions/Concerns about the 2024 Symposium were discussed:

- There were some issues with the Red Lion Hotel. We will continue to look at other options; however, with our current model which allows for minerals to be sold from rooms, our options with other hotels are limited. Do we want to change our current model? Could we use other classrooms in the Geology building for mineral sales? Must we be at two locations? The reason we made a substantial profit is because CWU did not charge us for room rental like a hotel does. Please contact a board member with suggestions.
- How do we increase local foot traffic for our mineral room dealers? Can we make Friday afternoon and evening more of a rock show environment? Can we get early arrival and late checkout for all room dealers?
- Will CWU and the Geology Department continue to collaborate with us. If so, we will need to communicate with attendees on parking challenges and moving from one location to another. We will invest in some sandwich boards to include signage into parking areas and to the geology building.
- Bruce will investigate how to use Square payments for registration in a more efficient manner.
- Beth Heesacker participated in all lectures online live. She reported that the lectures were great with wonderful reception. The Friday evening show that featured room dealers had issues with wi-fi. Mineral Nation reported an average of 35 individuals were online per speaker. All talks will be available soon on the Mineral Nation YouTube channel. It was discussed that we should include a way for those online to have an opportunity to make a donation.
- Many were disappointed in the buffet. We will look at other options for the future. If you have suggestions, please contact me at [khinderman79@gmail.com](mailto:khinderman79@gmail.com).
- Julian Gray, speaker chair, announced that Marcus Raschke will be joining our symposium team as speaker co-chair.
- If we are back at the Red Lion, we will move all the room dealers into the first long hallway to avoid having anyone way at the end alone.
- Thea and Jessica will put together a short survey for room dealers to get a clearer idea of how everything went for them.



- Members enjoyed the field trip option. We will look into offering another field trip at next year's symposium. If you have ideas, please contact a board member.

Other ideas/suggestions for improving our symposium are welcome. Please join our symposium committee. We meet once a month via zoom. Let a board member know if you are interested.

Thea Stender represented our group at the Fall Showcase, Everett Mall, sponsored by Seattle Mineral Market. Thea provided information and sponsored a silent auction. She reported that traffic was good and that the kids loved the Mineral BINGO game.

It was proposed that we renew our group membership to the Rice Museum. Motion made and passed to rejoin. As a member of PNWFM, you may visit the Rice Museum for free. Also, we are looking into having a spring meeting at the museum. Ideas include having a swap meet, show & tell, and/or speaker. Please let a board member know if you would like to help in planning this event.

It was suggested that we have door prizes at our meetings, both live and zoom, to encourage more participation in the meetings.

Meeting adjourned at 5:20.

Karen Hinderman, Secretary

## **PNWFM 2025 Symposium Committee Notes**

### **December 4, 2024**

The following individuals met via zoom to discuss our next symposium: Jessica Robertson, Bruce Kelley, Thea Stender, Karen Hindermn, Marcus Raschke, Nick Carlson, Beth Heesacker, and Tom Menzel.

If you would like to be invited to our monthly zoom meetings to plan the next symposium, let Jessica know and she will add you to the invite list. Our next meeting is January 8, 2025, at 7pm.

Marcus and Julian are looking at speaker distribution and time slot changes. The goal would be to have a keynote speaker who would give two talks, and several other speakers who would give shorter talks. Ideas included having university students showcase a thesis or current project related to the topic and/or members of our club speaking for 20 minutes on a related topic. The discussion included the topic of reimbursement. If you have ideas about this, join our team!

Karen will contact hotels in Ellensburg to try and find another home base. We will also be looking at other catering options. Mineral Nation will have the talks out on their YouTube station soon. Bruce has paid all traveling expenses.

Good of the Order:

Bruce will be paying our National Dues this month. We will be participating in the Seattle Mineral Market Show in May. Volunteers are needed.

We will be having a Spring meeting on April 26, 2025, at the Rice Museum. Ideas discussed for the day include a mineral swap, a short presentation, brown sack meal, potluck, or restaurant meeting. We will be having some kind of drawing with prizes for those present.

Karen Hinderman, Secretary

## Displays at the 2024 PNWFM Symposium: Precious Metals and Golden Memories

By Bob Meyer, CPSM



Exhibit Sponsor Mineral Nation's display honoring the 50th Anniversary release of the Mineral Heritage Stamps with involvement by Lillian Turner.

*The 2024 PNWFM Annual Symposium featured 11 displays, many of which related explicitly to 50 years of PNWFM Symposia, Precious Metals, and Golden Memories, and all were relevant, informative, and entertaining within our new venue in Ellensburg and Central Washington University (One of my alma maters! Bachelor of Science with a 4.0 GPA!). The Pacific Northwest Chapter of the Friends of Mineralogy thanks each exhibitor for their efforts!*

Dan Mancano of Mineral Nation <https://www.youtube.com/@MineralNation> put in a very informative case about the 50th Anniversary of the US Mineral Heritage Stamps and their development with involvement by Lillian Turner as the original advocate for the 1974 release and the artist Leonard E. Buckley for both the 1974 and 1992 releases. The case had examples of the concept art revisions, (two preliminary concepts and the final approved artwork), information about Lillian Turner, the original advocate for the release of mineral stamps, and Leonard E. Buckley, the designer of both the 1974 and 1992 Mineral Stamp releases. The case is a wonderful juxtaposition of two collecting passions, minerals, and stamps!





Detail of examples of the concept art revisions, two preliminary concepts and the final approved artwork for the 1974 releases.



Information about the advocate for the 1974 stamp release and Leonard E. Buckley, the designer of both the 1974 and 1992 Mineral Stamp releases.





First day cancellations of both the 1974 and 1992 Mineral Stamp releases.

Martin Novak put in a case featuring small specimens accompanied by faceted stones of the same species. There were 16 different locality occurrences represented, including five within the realm of natural glasses or meteoric glasses, Libyan Desert Glass, Darwin Glass, "Saffordite," Bediasite Tektite, and Moldavite. Other highlights of Martin's case were a self-collected crystal of Zektzerite accompanied by two faceted Zektzerites, and some interesting specimens and faceted examples of Quartz variety Amethyst from Jackson's Crossroads, Georgia with one large specimen disguised as a dragon's head!



Martin Novak's case including uncut specimens accompanied by faceted stones from the same occurrences.



Examples of natural glasses accompanied by faceted stones in Martin Novak's case.



An approximately 1.3 cm wide Zektzerite crystal and two faceted stones in Martin Novak's case.





The whimsical Amethyst dragon, about 22 cm tall, from Jackson's Crossroads, in Martin Novak's case.

Roger Beck put in a case consisting of 8 attractive cabinet specimens on custom wood stands from the Oppu Mine, Nishimeya-mura, Nakatsugaru District, Aomori Prefecture, Japan. The Oppu Mine was first worked in the late 17th century for silver ore, then during the 18th century for copper. In the 19th century it produced lead, zinc, and cadmium, until it was closed in 1979. It was then worked on a small scale in the 1980s for its banded rhodochrosite as lapidary material. Famous for its beautiful banded mammillary rhodochrosite specimens.



Roger Beck's case featuring specimens from the Oppu Mine, Japan (sorry for the reflections)!





A 13 cm specimen of Rhodochrosite covering Quartz from the Oppu Mine, Nishimeya-mura, Nakatsugaru District, Aomori Prefecture, Japan, Roger Beck specimen.





A 20 cm specimen of Pyrite and Quartz from the Oppu Mine, Nishimeya-mura, Nakatsugaru District, Aomori Prefecture, Japan, Roger Beck specimen.

The Rice Northwest Museum of Rocks and Minerals put a very informative case featuring the mineral Turquoise. There were examples of both cut and polished turquoise and uncut specimens primarily from the American Southwest, Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico, and Colorado, and there were specimens from Mexico, Chile, and Persia (Iran). There were also three cabochons of Magnesite from the White Buffalo Mine, Tonopah, Nevada. A note indicated that the specimens in the case were donated by Ed Kristovich unless otherwise noted. There was one specimen that was donated by Lewis Birdsall, one specimen donated by Dave and Catherine Stevens, and two specimens donated by Richard and Helen Rice.

Also in the case were several very informative placards relating to Turquoise and its properties, history, related minerals, and uses. One placard discussed Enemies of Turquoise, which includes the mineral Variscite, and Howlite (sometimes sold as "White Buffalo Turquoise" which must also encompass the Magnesite cabochons in the case from the White Buffalo Mine) which is often dyed to look like Turquoise. Particularly impressive were the two specimens donated by Richard and Helen Rice, a lovely polished approximately 18 cm long specimen from the Sleeping Beauty Mine, Miami, Arizona, and my personal favorite in the case, a superb approximately 18 cm long specimen from the Bisbee, Arizona.





An overview of the Rice Northwest Museum of Rocks and Minerals case on the mineral Turquoise.



The left portion of the Rice Northwest Museum of Rocks and Minerals case on the mineral Turquoise.



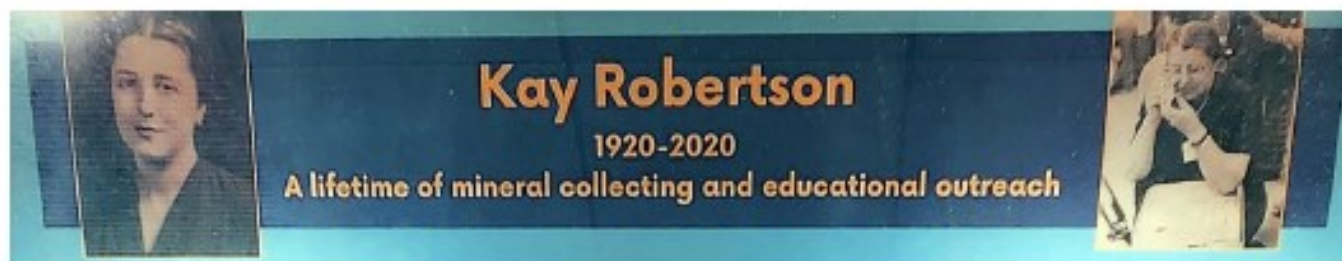


The left front portion of the Rice Northwest Museum of Rocks and Minerals case on the mineral Turquoise with some of the informative placards.



The right portion of the Rice Northwest Museum of Rocks and Minerals case on the mineral Turquoise with some of the informative placards.





The header of Jessica Robertson's case on Collector Kay Robertson's Life and Collection.



An Overall View of Jessica Robertson's case on Collector Kay Robertson's Life and Collection.

PNWFM President Jessica Robertson provided a very impressive and informative case featuring specimens, artifacts, and information about her grandmother and famed collector and mineral collecting advocate Kay Robertson, 1920-2020.





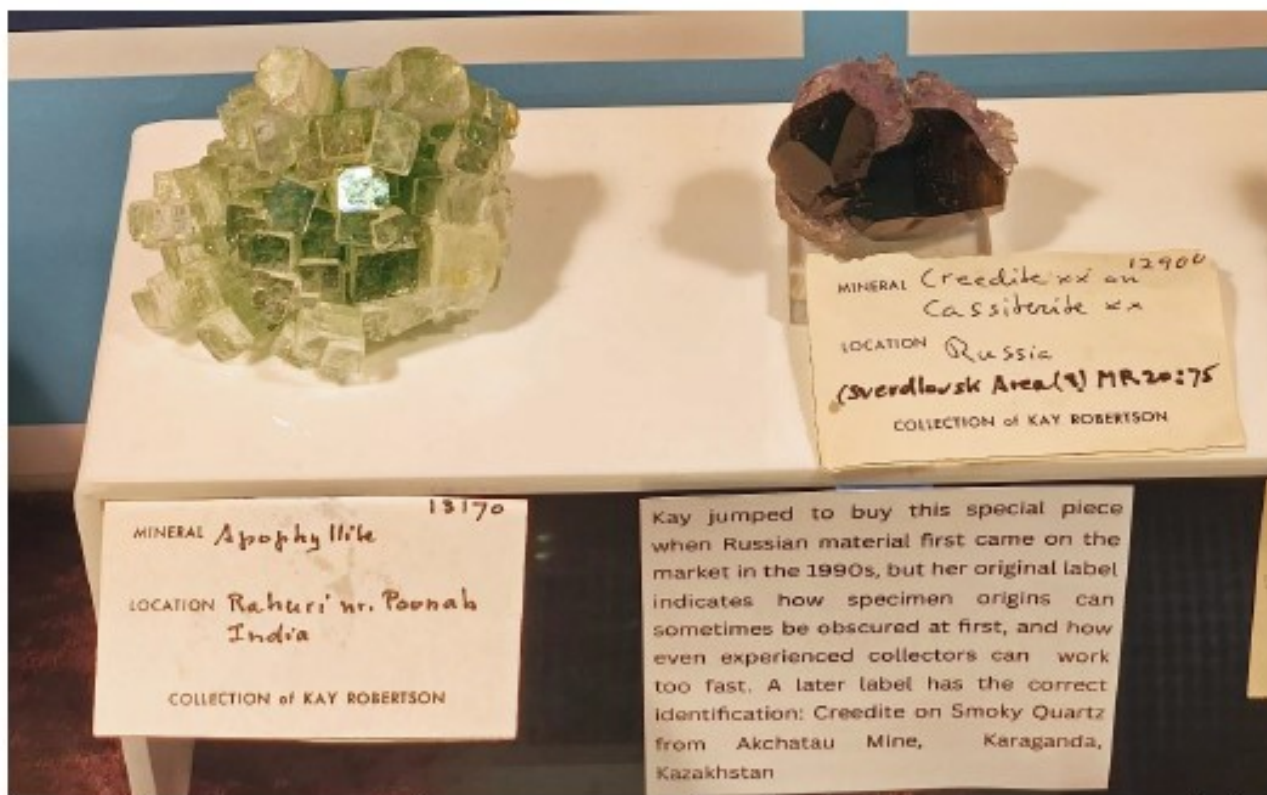


**Details and Specimens Relating to Kay Robertson, her family background, and contributions she made in the way of publications and community.**

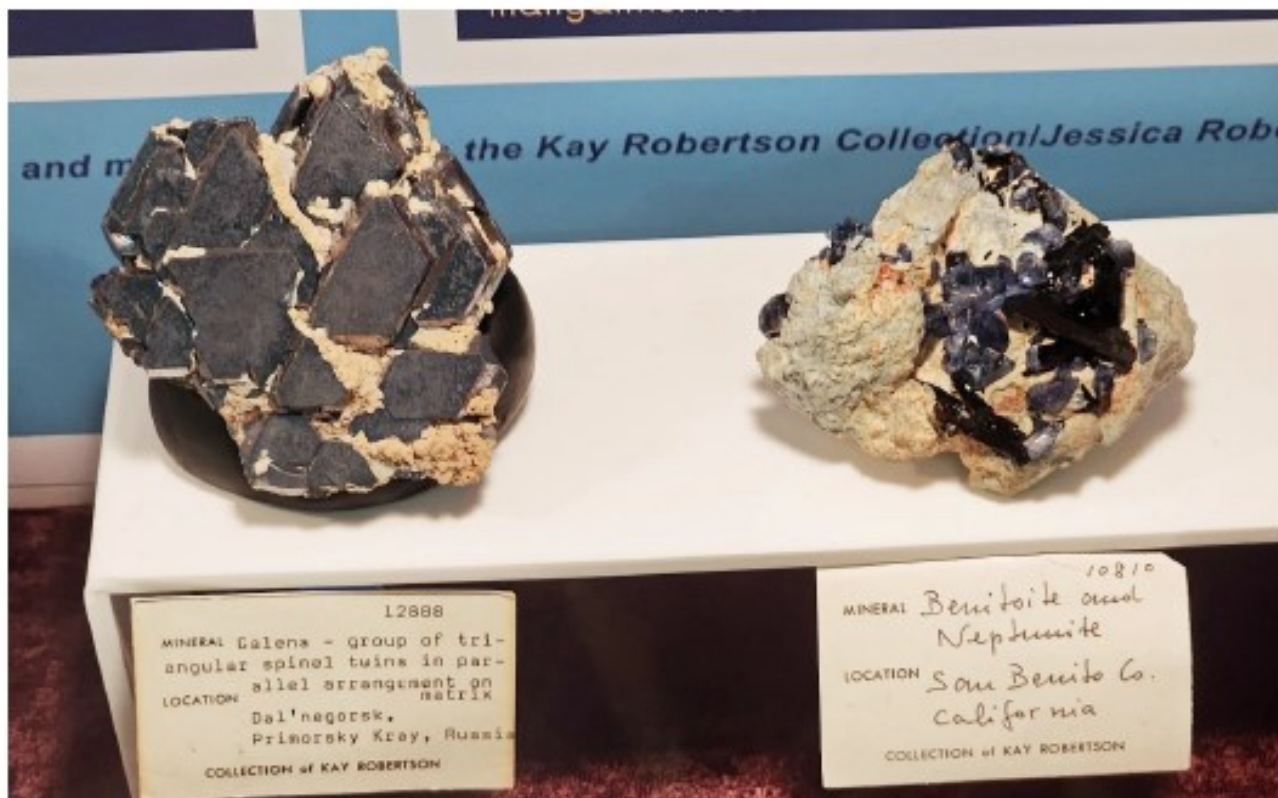


**An Amethyst specimen, about 15 cm across with an annotated Kay Robertson label. The location is shown to be Swiss Alps (found before 1900) and in her hand, Kay wrote, "according to Grandma – really – Uruguay?" [side note from Bob Meyer – I have a similar specimen of Amethyst that was gifted to me as a child from my grandmother. She told me that it was an old family piece that had been collected when crossing the country to San Francisco in a covered wagon in the 1800's.]**





Two Specimens from the collection of Kay Robertson in Jessica Robertson's case. The Apophyllite is about 8 cm across, and the Creedite is about 6 cm wide.



Two more impressive specimens from collection of Kay Robertson in the case. The spinel twinned galena is about 10 cm high, and the Benitoite and Neptunite is about 9 cm wide.





John Lindell's superb case honoring the 50<sup>th</sup> Pacific Northwest Chapter of Friends of Mineralogy Symposia. There were 49 specimens in the bottom tier and 12 specimens on the top, four each of Copper, Gold, and Silver to honor the Precious Metals and Golden Memories symposium theme this year.

John Lindell put in a case honoring the Pacific Northwest Chapter of Friends of Mineralogy Symposia on our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The specimens were excellent candidates to represent the themes. All were attractively presented with nice stands and were all within the same specimen size that I would characterize as large miniature to small cabinet. Each was accompanied by one of John's handwritten labels and an acrylic label that was triangular in outline and listed the symposium topics and numbers going back to the first. The top row contained four specimens each of Copper, Gold, and Silver to honor the Precious Metals and Golden Memories symposium theme this year. I would assert that this case stands out as one of the most thoughtful display entries in the 50 years of our symposia.

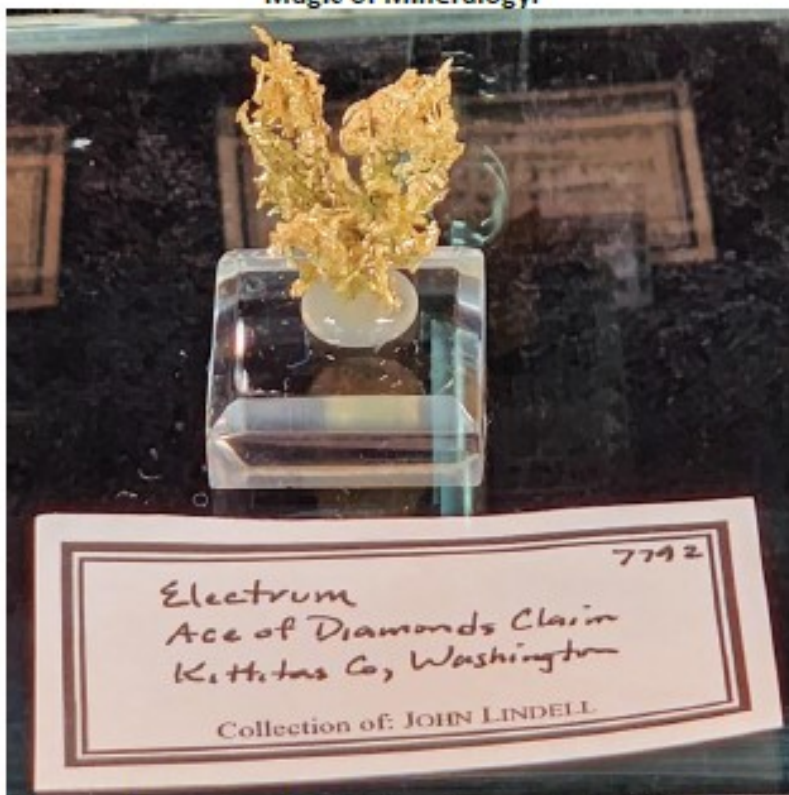


The four specimens of Copper on the upper left shelf in John Lindell's case. From left to right, Bisbee, Arizona; Itauz Mine, Kazakhstan; Onganja Mine, Namibia; and the Ray Mine, Pinal Co., Arizona.





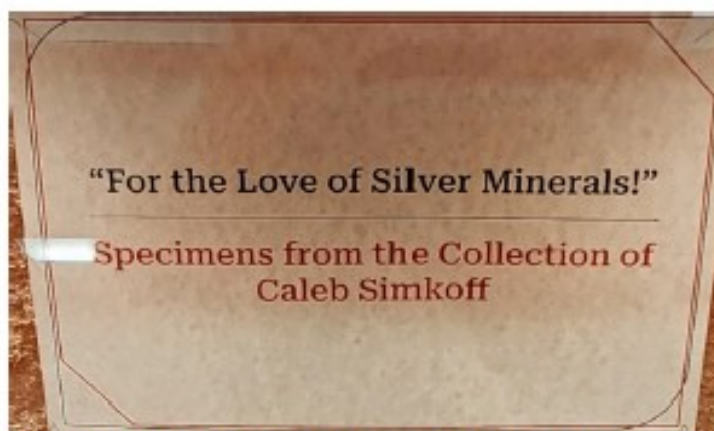
Two of the entries in John Lindell's case. Note the symposium and number and theme for each specimen, the Mimetite for symposium #9, Lead Minerals, and the Vauxite for symposium 10, The Magic of Mineralogy.



One of the specimens of native Gold on the top shelf of John Lindell's case.



Representing the Minerals of Mexico theme of symposium #12 in 1986, John Lindell displayed a superb specimen of Boleite 7cm across from the Amelia Mine, Santa Rosalia, Baja Sur, Mexico.



The title sign for the display provided by Caleb Simkoff: "For the Love of Silver Minerals!"

Caleb Simkoff provided a case aligning with his collecting mandate and featuring 15 stunning specimens of native silver or silver minerals in sizes ranging from thumbnails to cabinet specimens. Several were from historically significant finds and in addition to those specifically shown below, included a large cabinet specimen of silver in matrix from the Algonquin Mine in



Montana; a superb stepped Acanthite miniature from Chañarcillo, Chile; a rare Stephanite thumbnail from Butte, Montana; a superb large miniature of Chrysocolla featuring a pocket lined with Diopside crystals and a cluster of bright native Silver from Mindouli, Democratic Republic of the Congo; and a superb well-crystallized thumbnail of Chlorargyrite from the De Lamar Mine, Owyhee County, Idaho.



An overview of the specimens in Caleb Simkoff's case featuring 15 stunning specimens of native silver or silver minerals in sizes ranging from thumbnails to cabinet specimens.

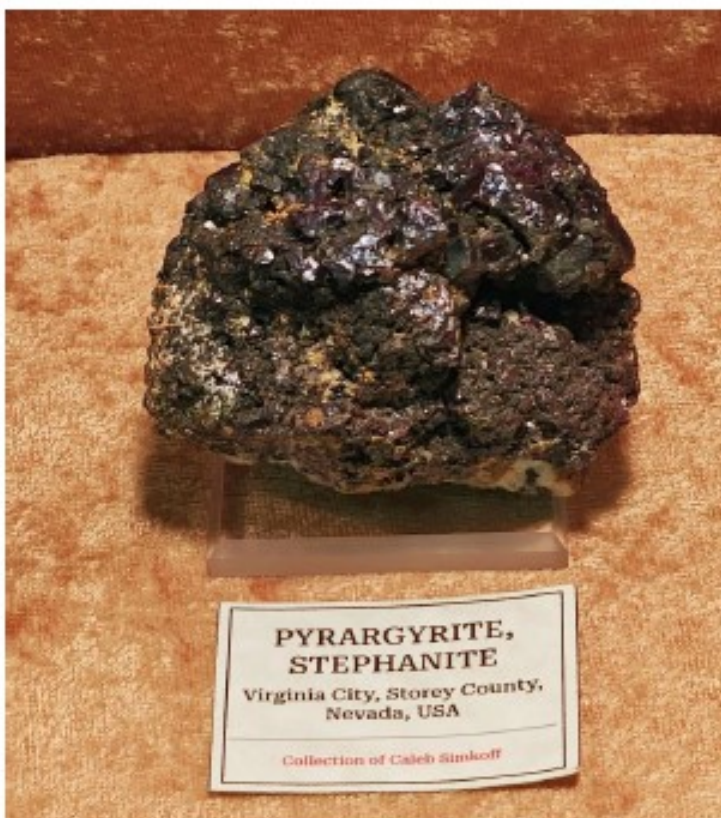


Caleb Simkoff displayed an exquisite group of Silver crystals about 18 cm long from the Chañarcillo Mining District, Chile.





Caleb Simkoff included this about 12 cm, classic Argentite pseudo. after Silver from St. Andreasberg.



Another historically significant silver mineral specimen, Caleb Simkoff displayed this classic, most likely 19<sup>th</sup> century, approximately 12 cm, Pyrargyrite with Stephanite from Virginia City, Nevada.





An overall view of the case presented by Wes Gannaway containing 23 specimens from Washington State localities and his Noble Witt award from 2010.

Wes Gannaway provided an excellent and thoughtful case containing 23 specimens from Washington locales that inspire the precious memories aspect of the symposium theme!



Two of the specimens included in Wes Gannaway's case: on the left an Autunite about 8 cm across from the Daybreak Mine, and on the right a superb Molybdenite crystal on matrix about 14 cm high from the Crown Point Mine.





The four Wes Gannaway specimens on the right are from the same pocket at the Spruce Claims, King Co., and on the left, there is ab about 14 cm wide specimen of Stibnite and Quartz from the Damon & Pythias Mine, also in King County.



Wes Gannaway's 2010 Noble Witt Award.

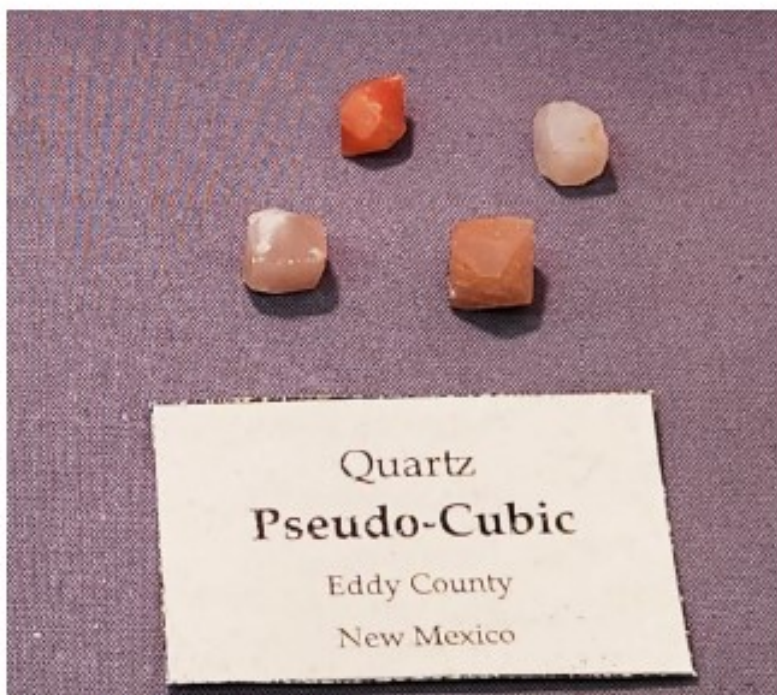




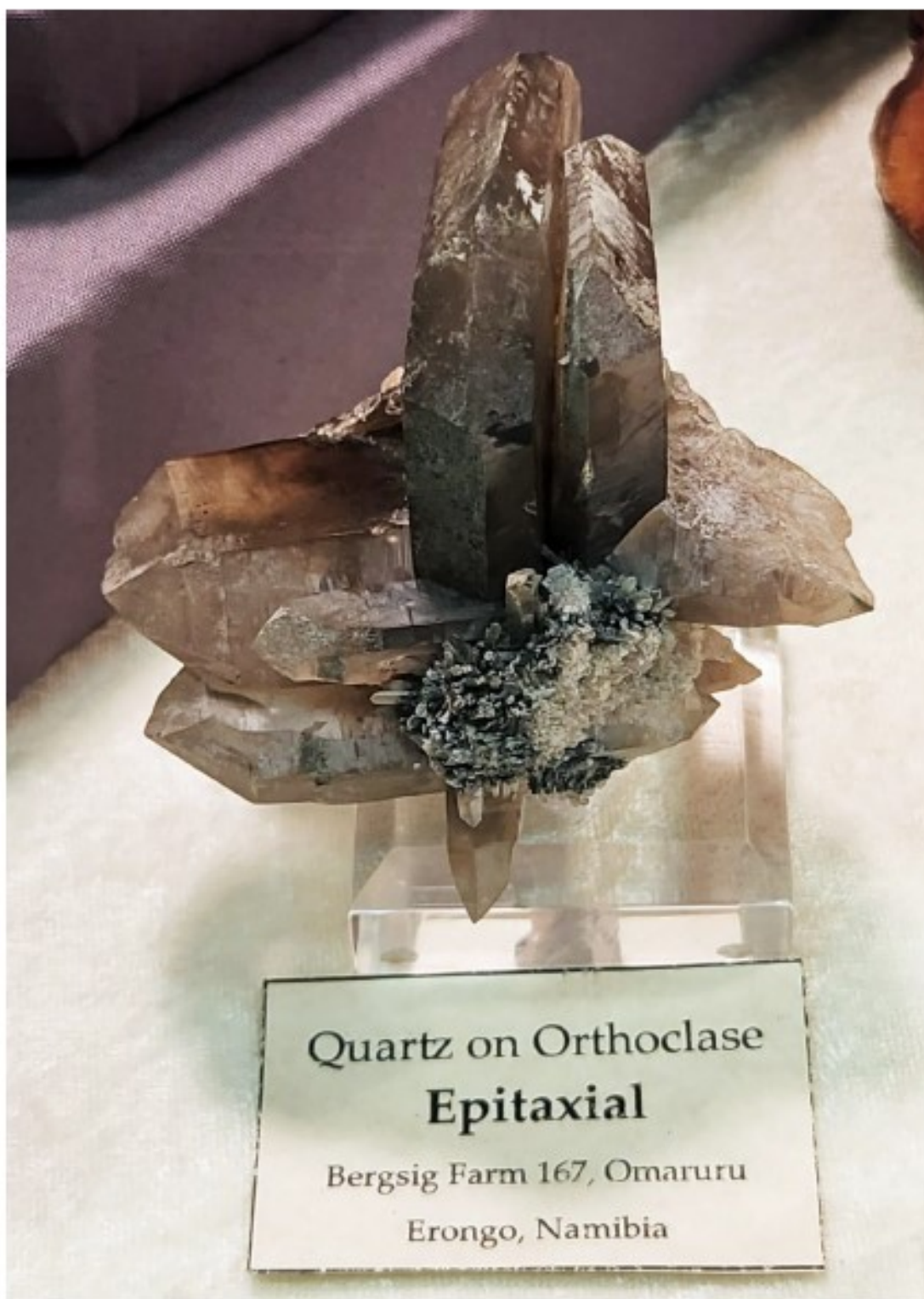
Justin Coward's case featuring Rare and Distinct Quartz Growth Forms, Twins and Habits.

Justin Coward provided a superb display entitled Rare and Distinct Quartz Forms, Twins and Habits that was expertly presented and of museum quality! From the image above, you can see Justin's presentation. Closest to us is a triangular shaped lower display zone, that draws your eyes first to the large Walker Valley stalactite in the center back. Then on each of the back corners there are triangular risers and then a second riser creating a higher display height. The overall theme results in a total of seven display surfaces.

The quality of the specimens in Justin Coward's display was uniformly superb, with a large variety of rare and unusual habits including twins, scepters, Gwindels, growth interference quartz, broken and healed specimens, a floater, botryoidal quartz, pseudo cubic Quartz, and others.



Pseudo-Cubic Quartz from Eddy County, New Mexico averaging 1 cm in size in Justin Coward's case.



Epitaxial Quartz growth on Orthoclase from Bergsig Farm 167, Omaruru, Erongo, Namibia about 11 cm high in Justin Coward's case.





A selection of specimens in Justin Coward's case. In the back and in the middle left are specimens of stalactitic Quartz from Walker Valley, Skagit County, Washington. The specimen in the back is about 35 cm high while the amethystine specimen on the left is about 25 cm wide. Also, on the right are two more Washington specimens, from Green Ridge, King County, Washington. The specimen in front is an amethystine doubly-terminated scepter about 12 cm across, and the specimen behind it is an amethystine scepter-enhydro about 12 cm high.



Two Quartz twins in Justin Coward's case. The specimen in back is a Japan-Law twin about 10 cm high from the Purple Hope #4, Green Ridge, King County, Washington. The about 6 cm specimen in front is labeled as a "Quartz Twin," but not a Japan-Law twin. (Author's note: I am not 100% sure, but this could be a Breithaupt Law twin.)



A growth interference Quartz crystal about 7 cm high in Justin Coward's case from Dal'negorsk, Primorskiy Kray, Russia.





An overview of Aaron Wieting's case featuring specimens, photos, and a newspaper article dedicated to the finds of Golden Barite from the L & L No. 1 Claim, (aka Lookout Point, Dreamchaser Claim), Lane Co., Oregon.

Aaron Wieting provided an excellent case dedicated to finds Golden Barite from the L & L No. 1 Claim, (aka Lookout Point, Dreamchaser Claim), Lane Co., Oregon. The specimens were dominated by two large cabinet crystal cluster specimens at each of the back two corners, and by a superb selection of clusters and single crystals from the find. The photos show both historical and current collecting activities.



A superb color-zoned single crystal of Golden Barite, about 8 cm across, from the L & L No. 1 Claim, (aka Lookout Point, Dreamchaser Claim), Lane Co., Oregon. Aaron Wieting collection.





An excellent large specimen of Golden Barite crystals, about 35 cm across, from the L & L No. 1 Claim, (aka Lookout Point, Dreamchaser Claim), Lane Co., Oregon. Aaron Wieting collection.



Michael Yaegar's case of self-collected Calcite from Poplar Bluff, Butler Co., Missouri.



Michael Yaeger provided a case with 20 specimens of lustrous golden-yellow Calcite crystals and groups ranging in size from smaller to large cabinet size. His label indicated that they were self-collected and were from Poplar Bluff, Butler Co., Missouri. Some clarification as to the locality would be good. On Mindat, the Williamsville Quarry, that produces very similar specimens to those Michael displayed, is shown to be near Poplar Bluff, Missouri, about 15 miles north of the town.



Golden Calcite crystal cluster about 27 cm across displayed and self-collected by Michael Yaeger from Poplar Bluff, Butler Co., Missouri.



Another group of Golden Calcite crystal clusters up to about 37 cm across displayed and self-collected by Michael Yaeger from Poplar Bluff, Butler Co., Missouri.

## Pre-Field-Trip Checkout A Tough Job But Someone Has To Do It

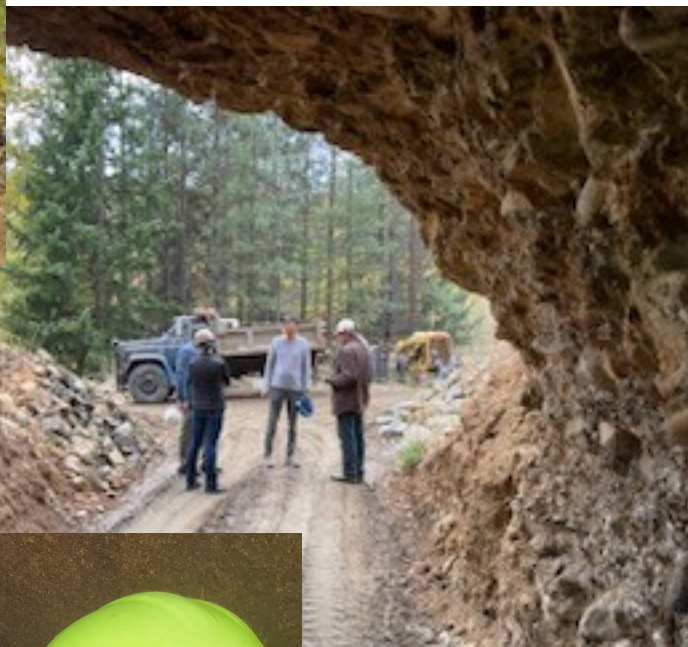




## 2024 PNWFM Field Trip

### One Picture is Worth a Thousand Words

Photos by Bob Meyer and Cynthia Campbell













**Ed Molsee**

09/07/1947-05/01/2024

Our dear friend, a true gentlemen of the Pacific Northwest, passed away on May 1<sup>st</sup> 2024. Ed wore many hats as collecting partner, miner, machinist, mentor, blaster, loving husband, and much more. He lived with his family on Main Street in Arlington, off and on, for much of his life. From this humble house, he practiced a fine type of kindness many of his friends and acquaintances benefited from.

The story goes that it was 1963 that this son of Dave and Ruby Molsee was in 9<sup>th</sup> grade when he took a lapidary class at the Sylvana Opportunity School in Snohomish County. A Mr. W. Edens thrilled the young



adults with a well-stocked lapidary shop, and trips to rockhounding localities. One day he brought to class a cigar-box filled with sparkling quartz crystals themselves filled with glittering hematite inclusions; these had been found while following a goat trail on a distant ridge. This story of local discovery excited the class who earned a field trip to Washington Pass the same year to find smoky quartz crystals - Ed's first ground score, a lustrous smoky quartz crystal, was logged in his collection list and still with his collection. After further field trips with other lucky children, Ed began to seek out minerals with his family even more and grew to be a passionate mineral collector with a zest for the unusual. Over time, he and his parents were to become major contributors to the state and local collecting community as active mineral club members, organizers, and field trip leaders.

Times changed and along the way Ed survived over 200 combat missions in Vietnam as a helicopter crew chief, having many close calls sometimes being the only survivor of a wreck. Once, upon landing after coming under fire, Ed discovered bullet holes in his clothes testifying to multiple near misses.

These tribulations no doubt contributed to his incredible mental and physical stamina which he put to use for mineral collecting in alpine environments, remote localities, sure footed on steep and exposed cliffs, and defying the elements. He never cared much about the weather when it came to going out on a collecting trip.

Ed had many interests, but mineral collecting and mining consumed him. No matter the outcome he enjoyed every minute of what he did, with no regrets. A potential monetary profit, while desirable, was always secondary. Whatever he tried his hand at, he had fun doing it. After returning from Asia, he rekindled a fascination with rockhounding, soon meeting an important influence, Lanny Ream, after at a mineral club meeting.

Ed has made several significant contributions to the mineral world of the Pacific Northwest and beyond. Specimens from localities he prospected, mined, and collected are now decorating



mineral displays of collectors and museums worldwide. Notable occurrences he found and/or worked include Royal Reward in King County, Spruce in the 1970's, Denny Gulch in the 1980's, the Mackinaw Mine near Monte Cristo, allocasite from the Sultan Basin (now Raschke Collection), oddities of the Middle Fork of the Snoqualmie breccia pipes, numerous underappreciated mineral locations of strange or unusual minerals, relocation of the Lone Jack claims in the late 1980's which led to a new and productive mining period, and last but not least, the large jade boulder he is often seen pictured with, itself only a piece of a large and newly found, in situ nephrite jade deposit. Stories of his adventures are many.

A significant tale relates to a particular partnership that developed with Bob Jackson. Bob and Ed won a contract for the Forest Service in the early 1980s where Ed elegantly drilled and blasted boulders, letting them finish the job efficiently. This cemented their relationship, and they took on joint specimen mining projects. At the same time, Ed worked in metal milling as a meticulous machinist for a Boeing sub-contractor, yet he could take time off and was available at a moment's notice for a chance with some mineral project with Bob.

Few conversations about minerals with Ed passed without a mention of "blasting" in some way. Use of explosives as a licensed expert became one of Ed's signature activities. His dad already was a blaster, and Ed seemed to have had it in his blood. Every time a shot went off, and the echo reverberated between the mountains' sides, Ed could be seen in his element, holding a broad grin from ear to ear.

After honing their ability to work together at Cedar Ponds for amethyst and the Royal Reward for realgar, Ed went to work at Spruce with Bob who had acquired a lease. This became one of the most productive periods at Spruce, with significant specimens extracted at the time, many of which he remembered in later years, fondly describing their appearance.



Ed at Denny Mountain

After collecting Denny Gulch with Lanny Ream and others beginning in the mid-1970's, Ed jumped at a chance to join Bob and Stan Esbenschade when leasing Denny in the early 1980's. They lived frugally in a shack flown in by helicopter and installed on a make-shift log platform. Over a 4-month period in 1982, with Ed commuting up on foot to stay days at a time, the three men used Cobra drill and powder, working the unusual, iron-rich skarn, finding multiple pockets of what became known as "Raspberry Scepters". These, often sizeable, amethystine, multi-generational quartz crystals with metallic red hematite inclusions are some of the most desirable quartz specimens from the Pacific Northwest and beyond. Spectacular specimens were extracted at that



time and are perhaps some of the most recognizable specimens signifying the minerals of Washington State found on prominent display in collections worldwide. The specimen mining process was punctuated/characterized with multiple near misses including a mishap during the cabin drop-off, and gigantic boulders barreling down the steep mountain during a rainy night, barely missing the cabin.

Soon after these spectacular few months, a tragedy occurred closer to home. Someone Ed trusted broke into his house and stole the lion's portion of Ed's share of the spectacular Denny find. These specimens, immediately recognizable by a few, are still missing to this day, the culprit never followed up on. Reeling from this great loss, Ed nonetheless did not lose his trust (thankfully) in people, and freely shared his knowledge of localities and passion for mineral collecting and mining with younger generations.

Ed was always cheerful, welcoming to visitors and sociable, while active in different mineral clubs. Showing and selling his finds he caught the interest of the local community. For fun, he loved to glue pewter figurines onto crystal clusters and these fantastical creations, self-collected mineral specimens, and agate windchimes were a staple at the local market.



Prospecting at Sawtooth, Idaho

Ed had an exceptionally keen eye for pioneering new mineral localities. With his natural curiosity he was willing to go look at places most people would pass over, not seeing the potential. A result



of these significant efforts was the discovery of many new mineral deposits and rediscovery of locations that had slipped through the floorboards of time. No matter how small the find, it made him happy. Many of these localities entered the Washington mineral community as "Ed Molsee" localities.

Ed may be associated with more nephrite- and jadeite-jade deposits in situ in Skagit and Snohomish Counties than anyone else, often introducing others to these localities. This search for jade along known geological contacts resulted in the discovery of new deposits of rhodonite, ornamental stone, and nephrite jade, one of which held a particularly large float boulder of jade, this discovery covered in the local press. Unfortunately, the quality was not what Chinese buyers were looking for, but this did not prevent Ed from building a drag saw and producing large slabs of similar material to decorate a number of homes in Arlington and beyond.



Ed Molsee at the Lone Jack

Unerringly, especially in his later years, Ed literally was out of his time. He stayed true to himself, and in a refreshing way refused to go with convention, retaining his youthfulness in a disarming style.

Ed is survived by his wife Della, former wife Nancy Kaminski, son Azmyth Kaminski, brother Mike, and Della's sister Terri Bellamy, daughter Sandi McDaniel, and grandsons Sean and Nick Lathrop. He is preceded in death by parents David and Ruby.

Grass now grows where a hand-built drag saw was often seen slowly making progress through pieces of jade and local ornamental stones. The collection dispersed, Ed lives now in photos, our memories, and stories with many a person and pet uplifted, and many mineral specimens brought to light through his efforts.

*Submitted by Sal Noeldner and Markus Raschke, October 10, 2024*





**The Mineralogical Society of Southern California  
Presents the 58<sup>th</sup> annual Pacific Micro Mineral Conference  
January 31 and February 1 at  
The Fallbrook Mineral Museum  
123 W. Alvarado St., Fallbrook, CA**

**FRIDAY, January 31**

**3:00-6:00 PM: On-site Registration, greeting friends, setting up scopes, filling give-away tables, \$1 sales table and give away tables open**

**6:00-7:00 PM: Dinner (on your own). There is a great sports bar (Harry's) across the street from the museum for lunch or dinner and a great Mexican restaurant (Mariscos El Pacifico) a couple of blocks away for dinner. I hear there's a great Cuban restaurant nearby as well, for those with more exotic tastes.**

**7:00-8:00 PM: Evening talk by Bruce Kelley: "Art in Minerals"**

**SATURDAY, February 1**

**8:00-9:00 AM: Doors open, on-site Registration, filling give-away and sales tables**

**10:00 AM: Welcome, Special Announcements and Morning speaker introduction**

**10:15-11:30 AM: Morning Presentation by Paul Adams: "A Look Back at the Reward Mine, Inyo County, California"**

**Noon – Lunch (on your own)**

**1:30 PM: VERBAL AUCTION of donated specimens**

**3:00 PM: SILENT AUCTION of donated specimens, mineralogical books/magazines, maps, spare microscopes or other equipment, etc.**

**3:15-4:30 PM: Afternoon Presentation by Herwig Pelckmans: "The phosphate minerals of Folgosinho, Portugal"**

**4:30-6:00 PM: Microscope time, scouting the give-away and sales tables**

**6:00-7:00: Dinner (on your own)**

**7:00 PM: Contributed talks and Mineral Photos**

**SUNDAY Field Trip, February 2**

**People planning on participating in the field trip should probably plan to stay in Barstow, rather than Fallbrook on Saturday night. We will meet Sunday morning at 9 am at a central location in Barstow and probably either collect at a nearby mine, continue to the Blue Bell mine, Otto Mountain, or continue farther to a mine at Goodsprings, NV.**



Now is a very good time to make your advance registration for the 2024 Pacific Micro Mineral Conference. The registration fee is \$20 before the conference and \$25 at the door. If you have questions you can contact [rhouslev@its.caltech.edu](mailto:rhouslev@its.caltech.edu). Continue below for a Registration Form, driving directions and list of accommodations within 10 miles of the museum. When registering please provide the names and current city of residence of all in your party. We like to have a personalized name-tag waiting for everyone in attendance. And please bring a couple of nice micro mineral specimens for the verbal auction and any unwanted mineralogical books, magazine, photo equipment or larger mineral specimens for the silent auction table. Hope to see you there!

## LOCATION

**Fallbrook Mineral Museum, 123 W. Alvarado St., Fallbrook, CA 92028 (760) 728-1130**

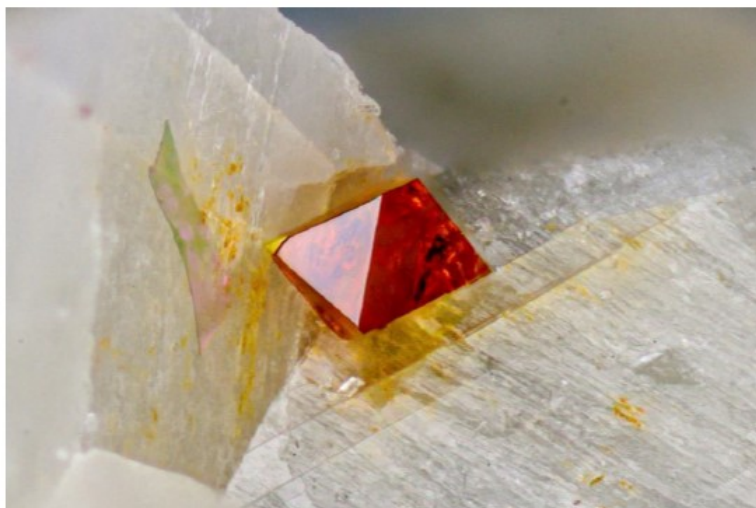
From I-15 south take Exit 51 toward Mission Rd. for 0.3 mile

Turn right onto Old Hwy. 395 for 177 feet, then quick right onto E. Mission Rd. for 4.4 miles

Turn left onto N. Brandon Rd. for 0.2 mile

Turn right onto E. Alvarado St. & proceed for 0.4 mile. Destination is on your right. Parking is on the left.

From the I-5, proceed south to take Highway 76 East (Exit 54A), near Oceanside. After 13 miles, go left on S. Mission Road (S13). After 6.5 miles, take a right on W. Alvarado St. The Fallbrook Mineral Museum is 500 feet ahead on the left; there is generally ample parking across the street, on the right.



From the British Micromount Society Newsletter, October 2023. Used with permission.

Henk Smeets. fluorapatitvorchlore. Pumice Ouarrv. São Miguel. Açua de Pau Volcano. Azores Islands.



**43rd  
Annual  
Tucson  
Mineral  
Symposium**

**February 15,  
2024**

**Tucson  
Convention  
Center**

**Tucson.  
AZ**



**Theme "Shades of Green: From apatites to zeunerites – more than just emeralds."**

**Saturday, February 15, 2025,  
Tucson Convention Center, Tucson, AZ**

- |                        |                                                                                                                                                                               |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 10:00 AM               | Opening of symposium                                                                                                                                                          |
| 10:00-10:15 AM         | Introduction by symposium chair, <b>Mark Jacobson</b>                                                                                                                         |
| 10:15 – 10:45 AM       | <b>Nathan Renfro</b> – Through the Lens: The Microworld of Green Minerals                                                                                                     |
| 10:45 - 10:55 AM       | break                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 10:55 - 11:25 AM       | <b>Nicole Ahline, Nathan Renfro, and Aaron Palke</b> – Gemological<br>Characterization of Emeralds and Hiddenite from Alexander County, North Carolina                        |
| 11:25- 11:35 AM        | break                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 11:35 – 12:05 AM       | <b>William "Bill" Stephens</b> – Geology and Mineralogy of the Wavellite<br>Occurrence at Mount Pleasant Mills, Snyder County, Pennsylvania                                   |
| <b>12:05 - 1:30 PM</b> | <b>Lunch</b>                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 1:30 – 2:00 PM         | <b>Jim Clanin</b> – Emeralds from Panjshir Valley, Afghanistan                                                                                                                |
| 2:00 - 2:10 PM         | break                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 2:10 - 2:40 PM         | <b>Peter Megaw</b> – Los Verdes...Green Minerals from Mexico                                                                                                                  |
| 2:40 - 2:50 PM         | break                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 2:50 – 3:20 PM         | <b>Kenneth C. Zahn</b> – My 45-Year Love Affair with Maryland's State-Line<br>Pit "Gem Serpentinite" (Williamsite/Antigorite)                                                 |
| 3:20 – 3:40 PM         | extended break                                                                                                                                                                |
| 3:40 – 4:10 PM         | <b>Benjamin Murphy and Anne Fulton</b> – Cr-azy Green and Red Minerals:<br>On the Occurrence and Genesis of Chlorite-Fuchsite-Ruby Rocks of the Granite<br>Mountains, Wyoming |
| 4:10 – 4:20 PM         | break                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 4:20 – 4:50 PM         | <b>Markus Raschke</b> – Mushistonite from Xuebaoding: from 'Panda Ore' to<br>quantum spin system                                                                              |
| 4:50 PM                | close of symposium                                                                                                                                                            |





News from the  
Rice Museum  
26385 NW Groveland Dr,  
Hillsboro, OR 97124

No News this time. Resting up for the holidays, I suppose.

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Topaz Lundy Island FOV 4 mm Photo David Roe

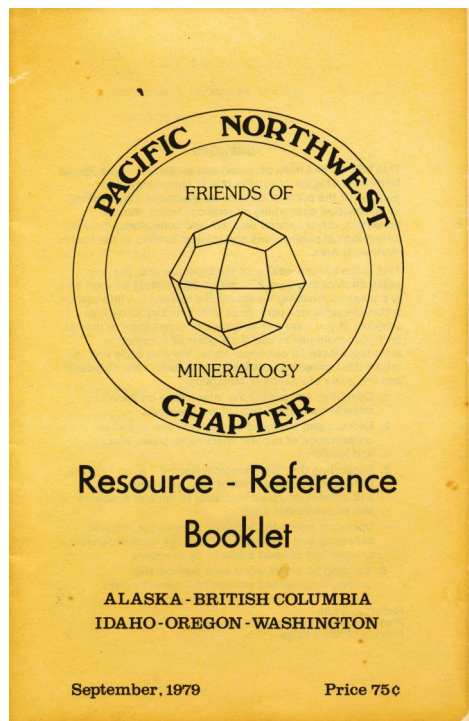
From the British Micromount  
Society Newsletter, October  
2023. Used with permission.

Andradite garnet, Brent Hill,  
Devon. By David Roe

From the British Micromount  
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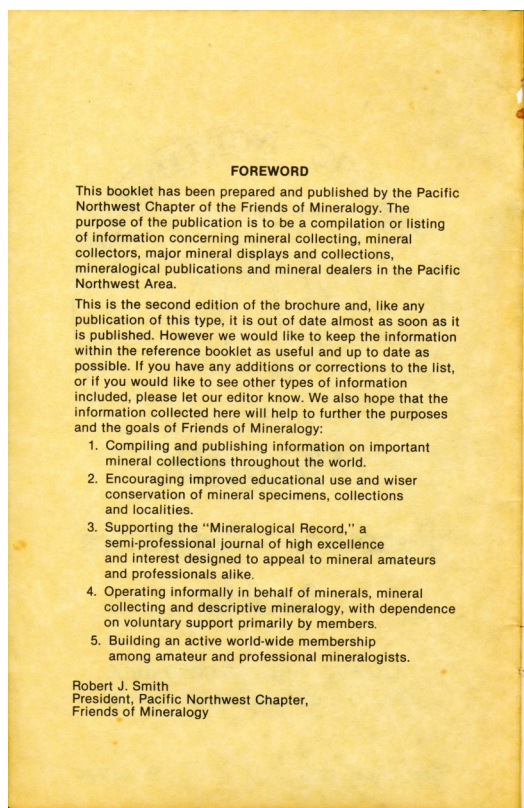
## Editor's Note:

Sal Noeldner sent me a scanned copy of this booklet from the past. I do not have room to include all the pages in this newsletter but if anyone has a desire to see the whole booklet, please email me and I will email the scanned pages to you.

heesacker@coho.net

Sal also wants to know if anyone has the first edition.

sal.noeldner@gmail.com



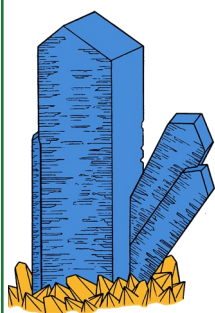
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Please email articles and  
photos to  
[heesacker@coho.net](mailto:heesacker@coho.net)

The next deadline will be **FEBRUARY 12, 2025**

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**BREAKING  
NEWS**

## from Swarf Systems

Hi All,

I am writing to tell you about a cool little attachment I made for my microscope. As you all know, I make microscope illuminators. Well, Jon Gladwell gave me a box of carpathite micros from Cook, WA, and they are a pain to find and see with a microscope because they are tiny. So, I made a dual light illuminator: There are two sets of LEDs: white light and long-wave UV, each with its own power switch. Now, when I put one of the samples from Jon under the microscope, I can zoom in on the fluorescing area, turn on the white light LEDs and see what I am looking at.

If you are interested, I can make illuminators for each of you to fit your microscope (provided it is a microscope model I can fit to). If you go to [SwarfSystems.com](http://SwarfSystems.com) you can see what microscopes I can fit to. If your microscope is not listed, I might still be able to help so don't give up if you want one. Since I have to buy lots of extra components, the cost of the illuminator will be 1.5x that listed on [SwarfSystems.com](http://SwarfSystems.com). If you already have a Swarf Systems illuminator, you will get a discount since I will only make a new circuit board and you will reuse your microscope mount. "Some assembly required."

One limitation is that there is no UV filter for the LW UV LEDs. I have found this not to be a problem since fluorescing minerals will advertise their presence brightly anyway.

If you know anyone else who might be interested, let them know.

Cheers, Ted, Swarf Systems





**www.PNWFM.org**  
**Editor, Beth Heesacker**  
**4145 NW Heesacker Rd.**  
**Forest Grove, OR 97116**  
**heesacker@coho.net**

## **MINERAL MEETING CALENDAR**

### **2025:**

**Pacific Micromineral Conference (MSSC) - Jan 31-Feb 1**  
**Fallbrook Gem & Mineral Museum**  
**123 W. Alvarado St., Fallbrook, California**

**PNWFM Spring Meeting - April 26**  
**Rice Museum**  
**26385 NW Groveland Dr., Hillsboro, OR 97124**

**NW Micro Mineral Study Group - May 10**  
**Sons of Norway Columbia Lodge**  
**2400 Grant St., Vancouver, WA 98660**

**Seattle Mineral Market - May 17-18**  
**SATURDAY 10:00AM-6:00PM**  
**SUNDAY 11:00AM-5:00PM**  
**The Hangar 30 building at Magnuson Park**  
**7400 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle, WA 98115**

**Northern Mineralogical Association (NCMA) - May 23-25**  
**Eldorado Community Hall**  
**6139 Pleasant Valley Rd., Eldorado, CA**

**PNWFM Symposium - TBD**  
**Central Washington University and ???**  
**Discovery Hall**  
**Ellensburg, WA**

**Seattle Mineral Market (Special Fall Showcase) - TBD**  
**Everett Mall**  
**1402 SW Everett Mall Way, Everett, Washington 98208**

**NW Micro Mineral Study Group - Nov 8**  
**Sons of Norway Columbia Lodge**  
**2400 Grant St., Vancouver, WA 98660**