

PACIFIC NORTHWEST CHAPTER
FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY

September 2025

PNWFM NEWSLETTER



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Nepheline

Graulei, Eifel Volcanic Fields, Germany, fov 2.75mm. Ex Alan and Barbara Lundgren Collection

Photo and copyright by Beth Heesacker



President's Message

Jessica Robertson

It's almost time!

Our biggest event of the year— our **2026 Symposium (theme: Color in Minerals)** is in just a few weeks—the **weekend of October 11!** We are excited to return to Ellensburg and CWU. This newsletter is packed full of essential information. **Register and make your room reservation now** because we have some deadlines related to hotel reservations and the count for boxed lunches on Saturday.

We have exciting speakers planned as well as some new arrangements we're trying out for 2025, and I can't wait to see you there!

We are still looking for more donations of auction material, and folks to help with set up and take down at CWU. 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. See you soon!



PNWFM Contacts:

President
Jessica Robertson
jar7709@hotmail.com

Vice President
Thea Stender
Theasmineralworld@hotmail.co

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



2025 PNWFM Symposium

Color in Minerals

October 10-12, 2025
Ellensburg, Washington

Register online today: <https://pnwfm.square.site/>

Daytime Events

ALL daytime events on Saturday and Sunday will be held at Discovery Hall on the Central Washington University campus (map attached). These events include:

- Saturday and Sunday talks in the large lecture hall
- Mineral displays and silent auctions in the Intro Geology Lab classroom
- **NEW for 2025** CWU geology student poster session
- **NEW for 2025** Catered boxed lunch and lunchtime auction! Lunches will include a sandwich/wrap, chips, cookie, and water. We will also have a selection of soda available. If you'd like a boxed lunch, choose either a Southwest Turkey Wrap or a Hummus and Quinoa wrap during registration. Boxed lunches will be delivered to our location in CWU and can be eaten as we enjoy our auction.

Saturday Evening vendor hall at the hotel

NEW HOTEL: SureStay Hotel by Best Western Ellensburg. See details below.

- **NEW for 2025** PNWFM will have a dedicated "hospitality" room in the vendor hall for member check in and questions, and will have light refreshments available during the evening as well as other plans to be determined.
- **NEW for 2025** No Saturday evening banquet this year due to logistical challenges. Attendees are invited to explore Ellensburg for dinner options that suit your own preferences. More time for visiting with our vendors!

(continued on next page)

SureStay Hotel by Best Western Ellensburg

Reservation Information:

We have a contract with the SureStay Hotel by Best Western Ellensburg – 1500 Canyon Road, Ellensburg, WA. You will need to call the hotel directly at 509-962-6888 and reference Friends of Mineralogy to make your reservation. Reservations are for October 10 and 11. Club rate prices are \$149 for a single queen and \$160 for a double queen room plus 10.6% tax. **The cutoff date for club rate pricing is September 19.**

- It is very important that all room dealers have a reservation by September 19 and have communicated with Thea Stendar (theasmineralworld@hotmail.com), because on September 20, we must provide a list of room dealers to the hotel so that they can assign rooms on the first floor. If you have not reserved your room by the 19th of September, we cannot guarantee that you will be on the ground floor.
- The hotel address is 1500 Canyon Road, Ellensburg, WA 98926. It is just a short distance past the Red Lion where we stayed last year.
- Continental breakfast is included.

Prices

Symposium Registration	Price
Symposium + Membership + Lunch (Southwest Turkey Wrap)	\$127
Symposium + Membership + Lunch (Hummus & Quinoa Wrap)	\$127
Symposium + Membership – No Lunch	\$105
Full-Time Student Symposium – NO membership, NO Lunch	FREE

Add-Ons

	Price
Room Dealer Add-On (<i>Paid Symposium Required</i>)	\$25
Extra or Student Lunch (Southwest Turkey Wrap)	\$22
Extra or Student Lunch (Hummus & Quinoa Wrap)	\$22
Extra or Student membership (included in paid symposium)	\$20

Notes on prices:

- All paid symposium registrations include 1 year of PNWFM membership.
- Room dealers: The \$25 Add-On is **in addition** to paid registration.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY**2025 Symposium -- Color in Minerals**

October 10-12, 2025

Discovery Hall, Central Washington University (CWU)

Ellensburg, Washington

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2025

3:00 pm	DEALER SETUP: SureStay by Best Western & EXHIBITOR DISPLAY SETUP: CWU
5:00 pm	DEALERS OPEN: SureStay by Best Western
9:00 pm	DEALERS CLOSE FOR DAY ONE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2025

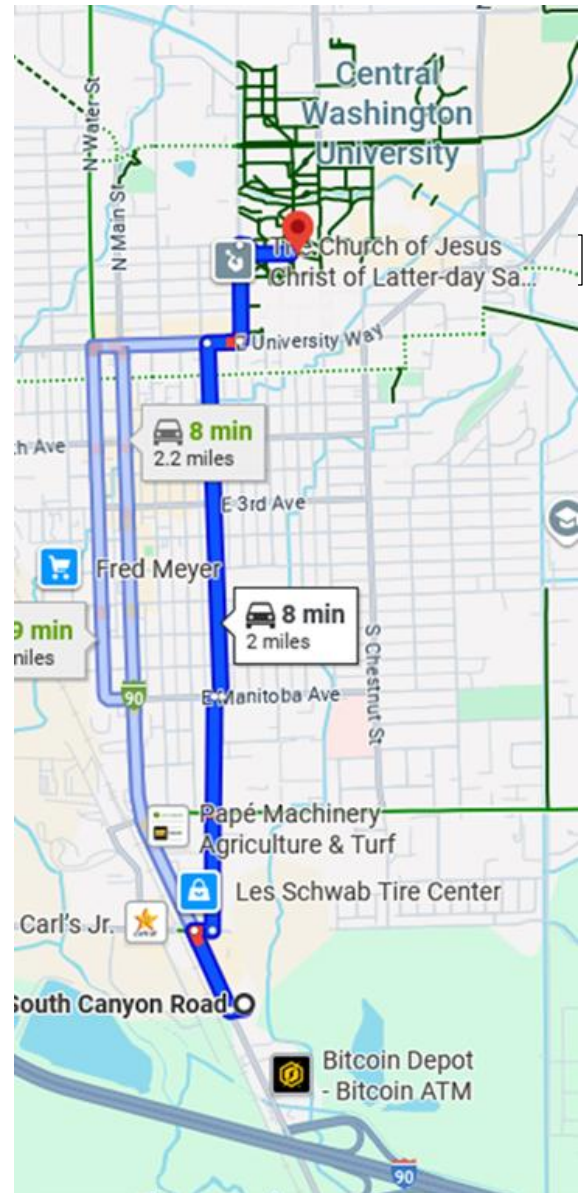
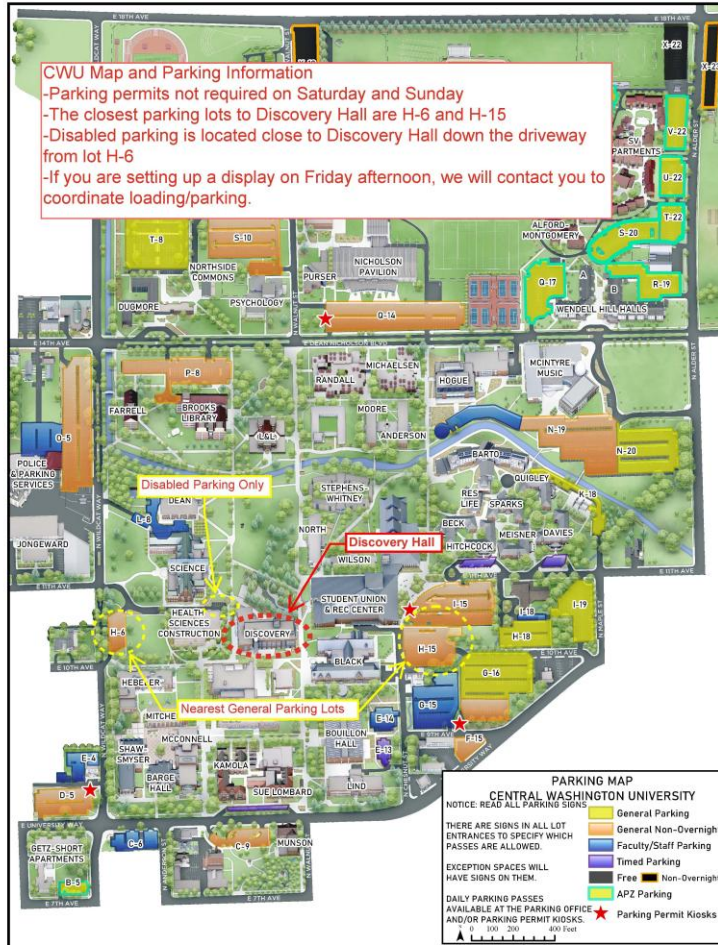
8:30 am	DISPLAYS OPEN - CWU	
9:00 am	Welcome and Opening Remarks	Jessica Robertson and Julian Gray
9:10 am	Causes of Color in Minerals – Part 1	John Rakovan
10:00 am	BREAK	
10:15 am	From Mine to Masterpiece: Using Minerals in Art	Angela Piller
11:05 am	BREAK	
11:20 am	Finding Art in Minerals: How an interest in color and form ignited my passion for minerals	Bruce Kelley
12:10 pm	STUDENT POSTER SESSION	
	LUNCH	
	LIVE AUCTION STARTS AT 12:45	
2:00 pm	Color of Pegmatite Minerals and what they tell about Pegmatite Formation	Mike Wise
2:50 pm	BREAK	
3:05 pm	Mineral News from the PNW	
	Lasmanisite and other Sulfosalts from Bear Basin	Frank Keutsch (virtual)
	Sulfosalts from Pedro – More unknown unknowns	John Lindell
	Caysichite-(Y) from Washington Pass – Now known	Markus Raschke
4:30 pm	AFTERNOON SESSION ENDS	
6:00 pm	Mineral Shopping at SureStay by Best Western	

Dinner on your own - No Saturday evening Banquet

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2025

8:30 am	DISPLAYS OPENS - CWU	
9:00 am	Causes of Color in Minerals – Part 2	John Rakovan
9:50 am	BREAK	
10:05 am	Color in Thin Section	Chris Mattinson
10:55 am	Closing Remarks	Jessica Robertson
11:00 am	SYMPOSIUM CLOSES	

PNWFM
NEWSLETTER



PNWFM Symposium Auctions & Reminders



It's almost time!

Have you registered?

Have you reserved your room?

Have you prepped a box of minerals for the auctions?

Why not?

**Stop procrastinating and get ready for our 51st annual
symposium!**

The silent auction will be run per the usual during breaks between talks. We may even have a silent auction going on at the hotel. We've reserved a room for symposium business and recreation that will be open just like the other dealer rooms on Friday and Saturday evenings. There may be snacks and a raffle to entice you. This is something new we are trying, so let us know what you think.

I will be waiting for you to drop by with your donations Friday evening at the hotel or Saturday morning at the college. Because the live auction is at noon at the college this year, I will need donations as soon as possible. It takes a little time to process and prepare the items for the auction. Please bring your donations to me or Gary, so that we don't have to "run you down".

Most importantly, order your lunch, and stay around for the live auction. I need you to bid, bid, bid! Enthusiasm and bidding up your peers is encouraged. I'm looking forward to seeing you all.

Karen Hinderman

In Memoriam

A Life Well Lived – William H. “Bill” Dameron From Julian Gray



A purported African proverb states that “when an elder dies, a library burns”.

Musician, mineral collector, arts patron, scholar, diplomat, and dear friend to many, Bill Dameron passed away on Monday, 4 August 2025. My wife Barb Epstien and I have known Bill and his wife Diana for several decades. It started with a common love for minerals and expanded into music and good dining experiences. The four of us created many fond memories of excellent dinners, including the wine and beer courses. Those dinners included discussions about Bill and Diana’s worldwide travels including details of their annual trips to Europe and more.

Bill had an amazing mineral collection, and visits to their home always included viewing their collection. Every specimen was perfect, highly pleasing aesthetically, and came with a fascinating story and a geography lesson. Bill insisted on perfection in the quality of each specimen. Our friendship grew richer and deeper each year as we had visits together during the large national mineral shows in Denver and Tucson. We often had dinner and discussions of what we had seen at the shows. This was excellent mentoring for me on how to evaluate fine mineral aesthetics and recognize flaws in lesser specimens. Bill had a great network and was aware of new discoveries. Bill also collected friends and colleagues and mined their knowledge to lead to his next exquisite find.

(continued on next page)

When the position opened up at the Rice NW Museum in Hillsboro, Oregon, near Portland where Bill and Diana lived, I applied. Bill was on the board of the Rice Museum at that time. The opportunity to live closer to the Damerons was a key factor in our decision to move to Oregon to take the job.

One of the first things Bill did for us our first summer in Portland was to introduce us to the Chamber Music Northwest Summer Festival. We attended our first concert with Bill and Diana as their guests: a recital by the Emerson String Quartet. Our seats were in the second row and twenty feet from the first violinist. I could almost read the sheet music! On that program was the Shubert's String Quartet number 14, "Death and the Maiden". Do yourself a favor and give it a listen. We were hooked. Chamber Music Northwest is one of, if not THE finest Chamber Music Festivals in the world. We have attended concerts every year since. Bill was heavily involved with CMNW and served for a time as its board president. Bill had a current and encyclopedic memory for music and the musicians who performed that music. And so, Bill also mentored us on music and musicians.



We were also amazed to learn that Bill played bassoon in a local orchestra: Oregon Sinfonietta. The orchestra was quite good and we attended as many of their concerts as possible. It was fun to get to hear Bill talk about practicing and which pieces and parts he loved (and hated) and how we should not miss some particular concert because the soloist was amazing. Those who knew Bill can relate when I say Bill did nothing part way.

Last year, Bill and Diana received the terrible news of Bill's lung cancer diagnosis. The prognosis was not good and seemed to worsen with each treatment and scan. We spent as much time as we could with Bill and Diana and attended Bill's final concert with Sinfonietta May 11 of this year. Gene Meieran (who also lives in Portland) and several of Bill's family members were also present at the concert. It was an emotional event, but Bill was determined to make it through that concert, and he did that admirably. It was a brave performance.

In light of Bill's deep involvement with Chamber Music Northwest and the great programming this year, the 2025 Summer Festival was special. Barb and I attended as many concerts with Bill and Diana as we could this year. Each time I messaged Bill, he insisted that we **MUST** go to the July 15th recital, which included Benjamin Beilman, who Bill asserted was the greatest violinist of the century. Family members were again flying into Portland for this event. We relented and bought tickets. In retrospect, we would not have missed this emotion-packed concert for anything.

Beilman lived up to Bill's assertion and exceeded our expectations. But something else, something very moving, happened. Following Beilman's performance, one of the festival's co-directors, Soovin Kim, came on stage to say a few words. He thanked Bill and described how significant Bill's contributions were to CMNW. He said that Bill was one of the cornerstones of the Festival. Soovin then said that they were going to make Ben work a little longer. Soovin knew that "Daisies", composed by Sergei Rachmaninov, was one of Bill's favorite songs and had the incredible young violinist play it. This concert would be the last live music Bill would hear. In the concert hall that afternoon, tears flowed.

During the early hours of Monday, August 4, Bill died at home, quietly and peacefully.

For more on Bill's life and legacy, his full obituary can be found here:

<https://obits.oregonlive.com/us/obituaries/oregon/name/william-dameron-obituary?id=59151961>



John Lindell with Bill and Diana at the 2025 PNWFM Spring Rendezvous at the Rice Museum

Shoebox Adventures 74: The Spider That Ate Cleveland

by Mike Seeds



Silver spider, Batopilas, Chihuahua, Mexico. This specimen is 10 mm in diameter and 16 mm high. (Photo by M. Seeds.)

Some years ago, experts said humans were distinguished from animals because humans are tool makers. That lasted till someone found a chimp modifying a blade of grass to fish termites out of a nest. Maybe we could specify that humans are rule makers. We love to make rules. Never wear stripes with plaids. Always pass on a long third down. A true micromount must fit into a micromount box. Not so sure about that last one.

The Tucson Gem and Mineral Show takes place every February in Tucson, Arizona, and it is filled with dealers in all kinds of rocks. As a micromounter, I go for the little stuff, and once I'm done with certain dealers who bring hundreds or maybe thousands of fabulous micromounts, I head for the micromount room where there are giveaways and micros for sale. Then I visit every mineral dealer in the show to look at inexpensive specimens that might need breaking up, and finally, I look at all of the dealers with trays of little Perky boxes containing micromount-size specimens. Just because they sell it in a Perky box doesn't mean it can't go into a micromount box. That show can keep a micromounter busy for days.

Checking those Perky boxes can be frustrating. You often find small mineral specimens for sale at prices that are astonishing compared with the prices for identical micromounts. A small cavansite sphere in a Perky box might be priced at \$30, but the same cavansite sphere in a microbox two tables down the aisle would sell for \$4. Some of those Perky boxes are like traps set to spring on unsuspecting collectors who have never looked at micromounts. Nevertheless, it's worth looking through all those trays of Perky boxes. Sometimes you can find a bargain or an unusual mineral. I was looking at such a tray when I found a silver spider set to spring.

The spider is wonderfully gnarly with misshapen legs and a long raised abdomen. It looks like it escaped from a cheap horror movie where it was the size of a football stadium and devoured entire cities. It would fit right into a black and white movie called, *The Spider that Ate Cleveland*. Even at its actual size, if you saw it on the carpet and it jumped at you, you would say something inventive. As it was, I jumped at it in spite of a few problems. The main problem was that the spider was just a little bit too big to fit into a micromounter box, and that pesky rule says that a real micromount must fit in a micromount box. Also, if I did get it into a micromount box, it would be viewed from above, and the spider is so beautifully, ornately ugly, it deserves to be viewed from all sides. I decided the spider was more important than the box. The most important rule in micromounting is **Rule #1. There are no rules.** I bought the spider, so it's my rock and I'll put it in whatever box I want. There are lots of good rules. Always carry extra water in the desert or at high altitude. Never order shellfish at a carnival stand. Buy low and sell high. But sometimes we make too many rules. If it's a rock and you like it, then it's ok.

Via Micro-Scope (New Zealand), Sept. 2025

Observations on Hematite

From Hendersons Quarry, Mt. Ngongotaha, New Zealand

By Tim Saunderson

I thought I would create just a quick article about some of the variations of hematite I have come across whilst working on material from Hendersons quarry. It is by no means comprehensive – mostly just a few photos I have taken in the past few days. Hematite usually occurs as hexagonal black plates standing on edge, on clear tridymite crystals. Sometimes the plates have highly iridescent edges, the iridescence being a thin film of secondary hematite only a few microns in thickness.

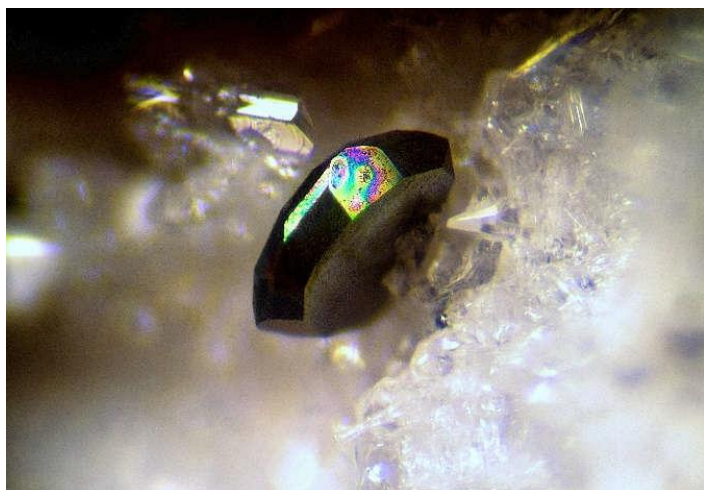


Fig 1.

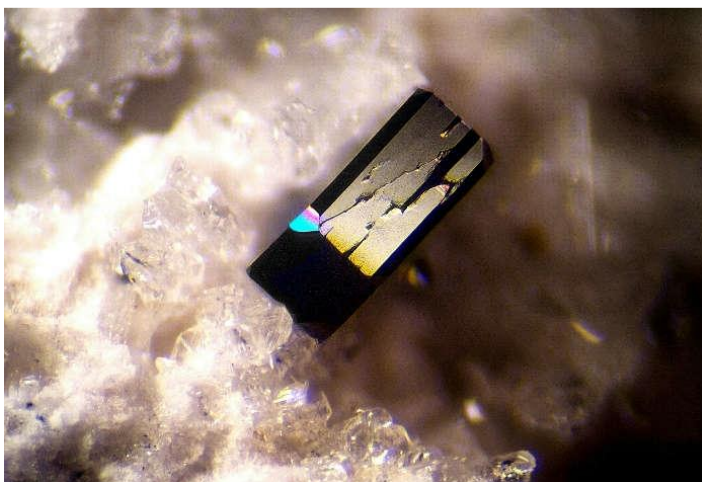


Fig 2.

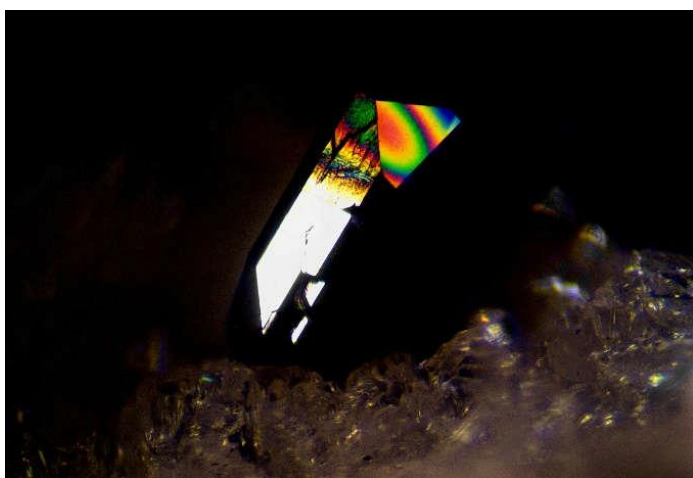


Fig 3.

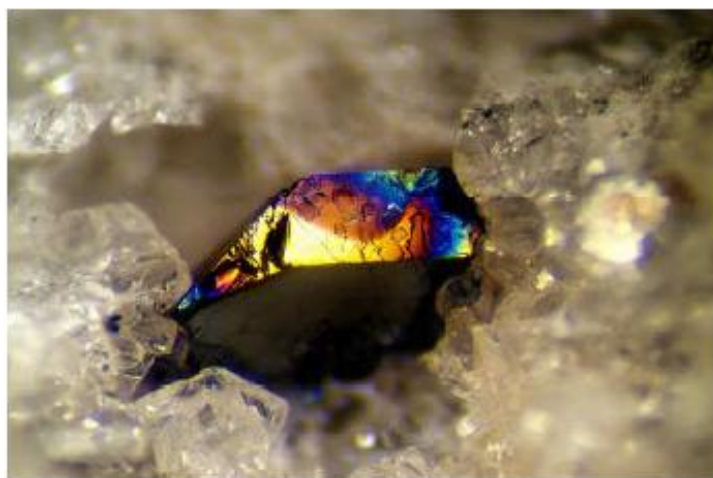


Fig 4.

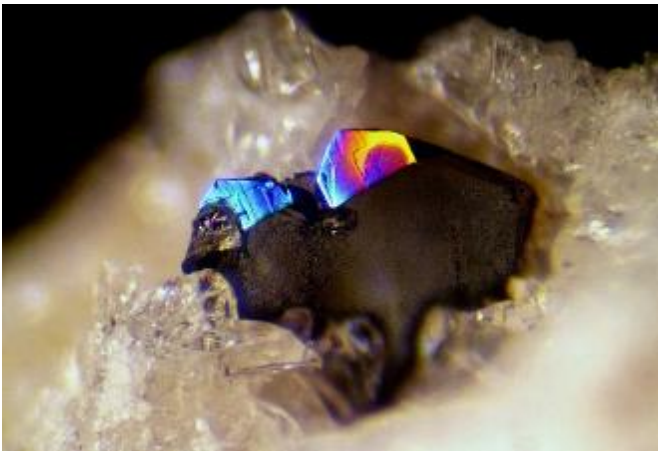


Fig 5.



Fig 6.

These six images show hematite crystals with iridescence mostly on the upper edges, the side faces are usually more-or-less plain black. To get the iridescence to show up, I use goose-neck LED lighting at an oblique angle. Getting just exactly the right angle is critical or the iridescence doesn't show up at all.

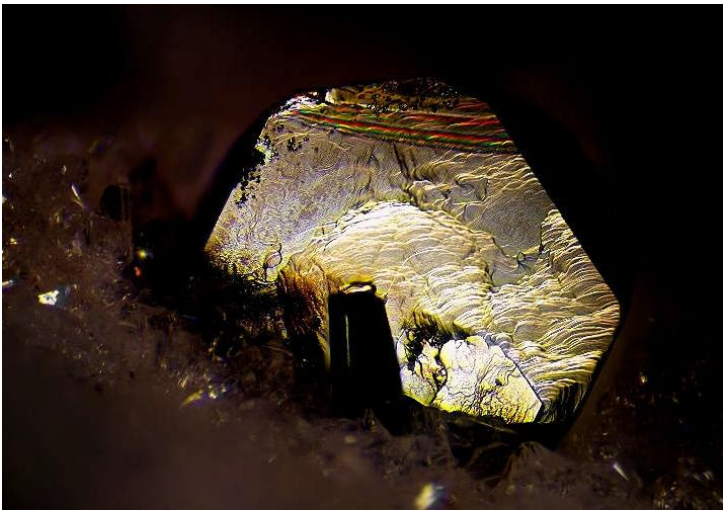


Fig 7.

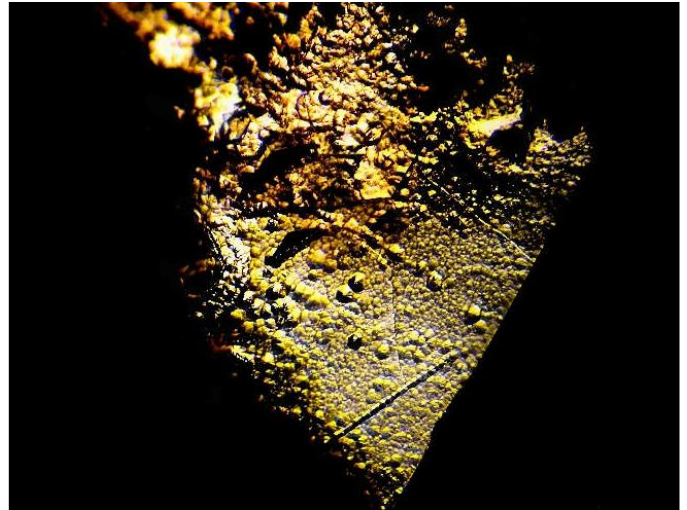


Fig 8.

The above two images show a uniform golden iridescence on the side face of two different hematite crystals; this brings out the tiny growth features on what would otherwise appear to be a black, featureless surface.



Fig 9.

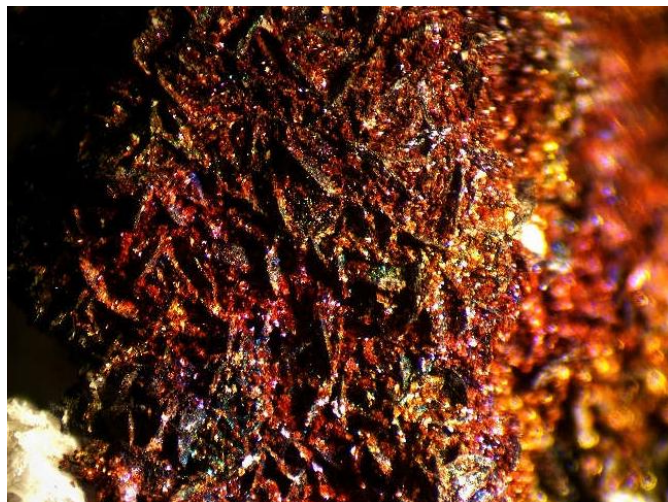


Fig 10.

Fig. 9 shows a hematite crystal with a rather gnarly appearance possibly due to partial resorption - being absorbed back into the hot vapour which formed it in the first place. Fig. 10 is an unusual form of hematite consisting of densely packed thin blades covered in a sparkly, iridescent mess of tiny crystals (possibly mica).



Fig 11.

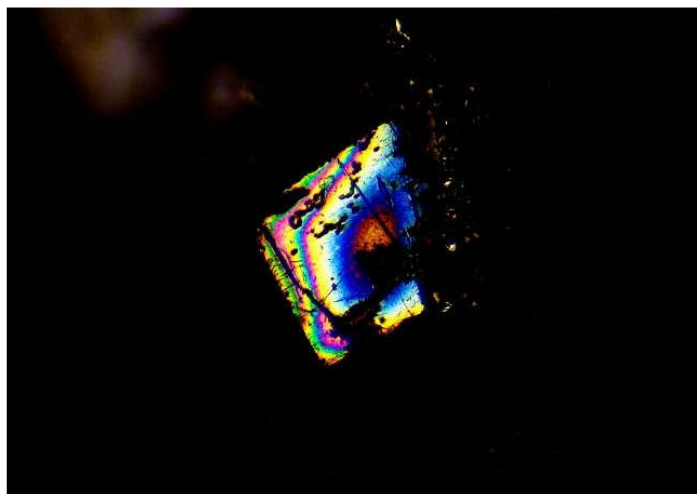


Fig 12.

Fig. 11 shows an asymmetric, almost triangular hematite crystal; fig. 12 is an iridescent face on a fayalite crystal – it is not only hematite that has iridescence.

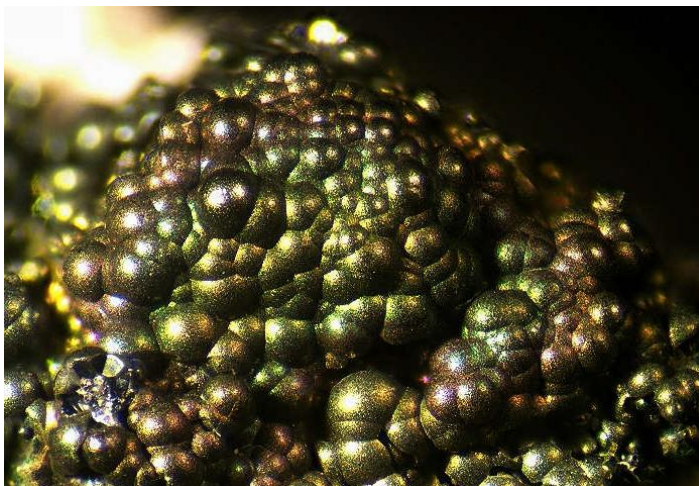


Fig 13

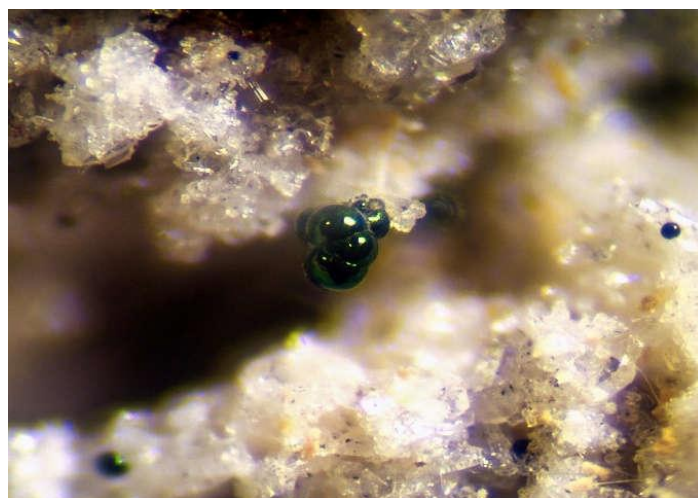
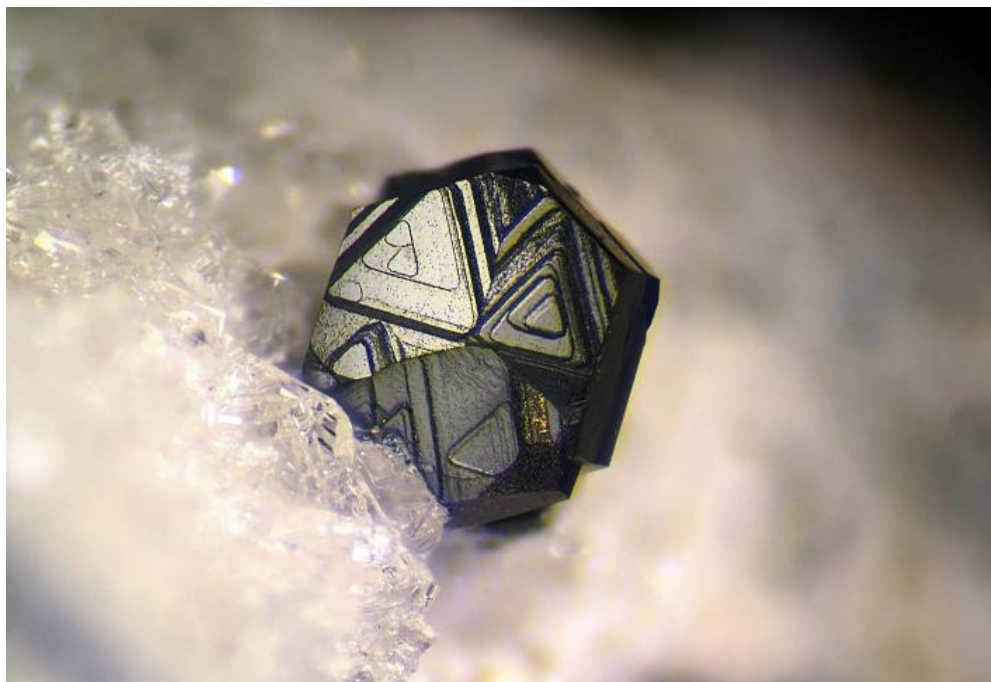


Fig 14

Fig. 13 and 14 show iridescent botryoidal hematite (fairly rare at Hendersons quarry)

Below - Fig 15. This appears to be two hexagonal hematite crystals back-to-back; the front face has what appears to be a thin layer of epitaxial magnetite crystals on the surface.



Via Micro-Scope (New Zealand), Sept. 2025

RIP Randy Marsh

Dear Friends,

With a heavy heart, I write to share that, our dear friend and colleague, Randy Marsh — Vice President of Programs and FM Liaison Officer — passed away after a courageous battle with cancer.

Randy has shown immense strength but the disease outpaced all efforts.

<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/hamilton-oh/randall-marsh-12512745>

There will be a Gathering of Family and friends at Rose Hill Funeral Home, 2565 Princeton Road, Hamilton, Ohio, Saturday October 11, 2025 starting at 10:00 am, followed by a Celebration of Randy's Life at 11:00 am.

The Friends will honor Randy's tremendous services to the association at the Celebration through an exhibit, give-away of crystals and a brief address to attendees.

Heather needs our love and support.

If you feel moved to reach out, here are a few ways to help:

- Send a letter or note with memories, words of encouragement, or photos of good times shared with Randy.
- Participate in a meal train or support effort for the family.
- Keep Randy, Heather, and their loved ones in your thoughts and prayers.

You can send messages or support items to me and I'll make sure it gets to them.

Please share images of Randy with me for the memorial.

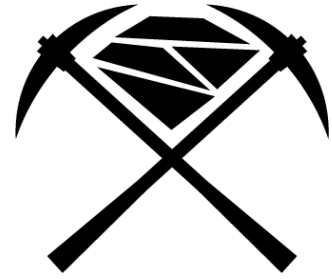
Thank you for holding the Marsh family close in your hearts during this time.



With warmth, Johan Maertens, calcite4ever@gmail.com






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





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Auctions.com

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Garage Sale

ROCKS LAPIDARY MATERIALS MINERALS



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20TH
MEMBERS-ONLY ENTRY 10-11 AM
GENERAL ADMISSION 11 AM-4 PM

\$5 GARAGE SALE ONLY ADMISSION
REGULAR ADMISSION FOR MUSEUM & GARAGE SALE

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10am-2pm



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Free for Members
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for Nonmembers

SAVE THE DATE:

Sat, Sep 20th – Garage Sale

Sat, Oct 25th – Halloween at the Museum

Sat, Nov 15th – Diamonds and Diorite: A
Minecraft Day

Sat, Dec 6th – Nifty Fifties Christmas at the
Museum



Please email articles and photos
to heesacker@coho.net

The next deadline will be December 10, 2025

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October 10, 11 & 12, 2025
10am-10pm

1010 E. 8th - Kittitas Valley Event Center, Ellensburg WA

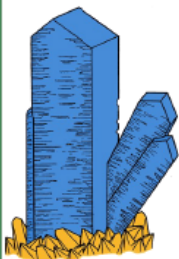


swaukminingdistrict.org

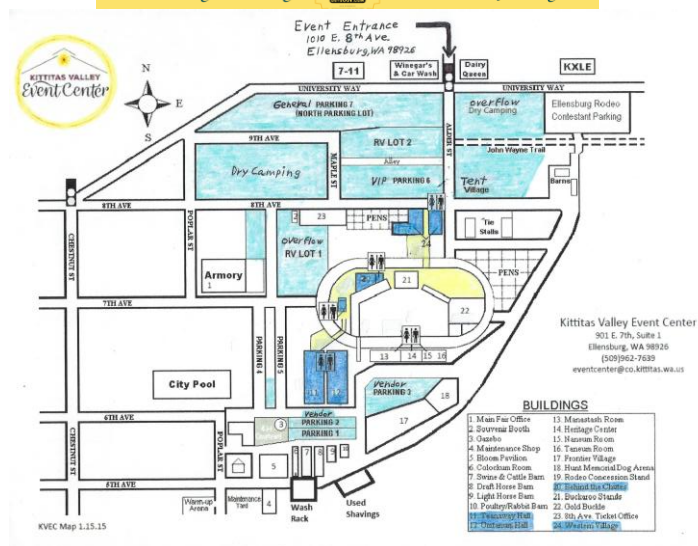


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www.pnwffm.org

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

MINERAL MEETING CALENDAR

2025:

PNWFM Symposium – Oct 10-11

Central Washington University and SureStay Hotel by Best Western, Ellensburg
Discovery Hall
Ellensburg, WA

NW Micro Mineral Study Group - Nov 8

Sons of Norway Columbia Lodge
2400 Grant St., Vancouver, WA 98660

2026:

Pacific Micromineral Conference (MSSC) – TBD

Fallbrook Gem & Mineral Museum
123 W. Alvarado St., Fallbrook, California

NW Micro Mineral Study Group - May 9

Sons of Norway Columbia Lodge
2400 Grant St., Vancouver, WA 98660

Seattle Mineral Market – May 16-17

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 29-31

Eldorado Community Hall
6139 Pleasant Valley Rd., Eldorado, CA