



Pacific Northwest Chapter Friends of Mineralogy

December 2008 Bulletin

2008 Friends of Mineralogy SYMPOSIUM DISPLAYS

described by
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This year, members and guests made an impressive effort to put in displays featuring the theme, "Canadian Minerals," with eleven cases out of a total of sixteen. It was not surprising, that a majority of the cases featured and or contained minerals from our neighbor to the north, British Columbia. Besides personal collections, we had two museum displays and first time display from a manufacturer of synthetic quartz crystals.

Rudy Tschernich presented six of the best "Minerals of Rock Candy Mine, B.C." from the Rice Northwest Museum of Rocks & Minerals, Hillsboro, Oregon. Of the spectacular museum specimens, my favorite is a group of 3" to 5" green octahedral fluorite crystals on 6" x 10" matrix, #RM3823, and donated to the museum by John Lindell. There was a 14" x 30" grayish purple botryoidal fluorite plate on which were scattered attractive 1" barite crystals, #RM3825, and donated by Seattle University. Other eye catching specimens were: transparent tabular golden barite crystals on 5" x 8" fluorite matrix, #RM1457, and donated by Richard & Helen Rice; two other large barite crystal groups; and, a 14" x 16" plate of green 3" to 4" octahedral fluorite crystals, #RM3355, and donated by Des & Virginia Hinds.

Wes Gannaway's case, titled "Canadian Minerals," contained 19 specimens from various Canadian localities including the familiar Rock Candy mine, Greenwood Mining Division, north of Grand Forks, B.C. and Mt. St. Hilaire, Quebec.

Epsom Toyocom Corp. operates a quartz crystal manufacturing facility in Longview, Washington. They set up a case showing the process that starts with Brazilian quartz crystal fragments, then a seed crystal, to a fully grown synthetic crystal in 40 to 200 days at a rate of 0.5 mm/day. Their autoclave process produces 2 tons of crystals at a time. Since the plant is close to the symposium location, it was suggested that we try to set up a field trip for 2009.

Rob Woodside presented his "Sodalite Group Research Collection" with 21 specimens. Displayed were specimens of sodalite, cancrinite, helvite from Ontario and B.C., Canada, Afghanistan, Burma, China, and Bolivia. The case also contained a new, yet to be named, blue Mg-rich sodalite from Afghanistan.

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Current NW Chapter of FM Schedule for 2008

Washington Pass Cleanup
August 7-9, 2009

Annual Symposium:
Minerals of Africa
October, 16-18, 2009

The most complete suite of "Minerals of B.C." was presented by John Lindell with 47 nicely presented specimens. Most of the classic localities were represented including the Rock Candy mine. Some of the specimens that caught my eye were: an unusual 1" wide by 5" long white stalactitic looking fluorite specimen from the Rock Candy mine, #764, collected by John 7/5/85; a beautiful specimen of pyromorphite crystals from Society Girl mine, near Moyie, Fort Steele Mining Division, collected by Rod Tyson; and a excellent collection of native silver and associated minerals from the Highland Bell mine, Beaverdell, Greenwood Mining Division.

Lorna Goebel' case was titled "Minerals of Canada" and contained 42 thumbnail specimens from each of the provinces. The specimens were keyed to a map of Canada making for a nice educational display.

Mark Mauthner case was titled "Yukon's Silver Trail" and complemented his Saturday lecture on the subject with 12 specimens. There were specimens of argentiferous galena from Galena Hill, Keno Hill, and Sourdough Hill mines. The most spectacular Canadian crystals of the symposium had to be the three lustrous, iridescent, up to 1½" polybasite crystal groups and also lustrous, iridescent, up to 2½" stephanite crystal groups from Stope 302, Husky mine, Elsa, Mayo Mining District, Y.T.

Alan Young dazzled us with "Minerals of Canada" – a collection of 30 outstanding thumbnails well presented and with lots of color. Some key specimens got my attention: a iridescent 1" polybasite crystal from the Husky mine, Elsa, Y.T.; a beautiful 1" grossularite crystal and a rose lavender 1 ¼" vesuvianite from Jeffrey mine, Asbestos, Quebec; a lustrous perfect ½" x 1" zircon crystal, Kuehl Lake, Renfrew County, Ontario (former Philadelphia Academy spec.); acanthite coating thick curved 2" silver wire, Highland Bell mine, Beaverdell, B.C. and illustrated in Encyclopedia of Minerals, 2nd edition; and, skeletal, 1" group of gold crystals, Mosquito Creek, Wells, B.C. and illustrated in Rocks & Minerals, Vol.81:1, Jan/Feb 2006.

Alan Young brought with him 19 specimens from "The Evans Collection" that is housed in the Mineral Museum, Boone Hall, The College of Idaho. The collection was a gift in 1970 from Glen and Ruth Evans to The College of Idaho and contains specimens from many of the old classic localities that now closed. Of the 19 specimens, there were Tri-State galena crystals and from the Northwest the following: a group of 3½" x 6" deep pink rhodochrosite crystals, Emma mine, and 3 ½" x 4" covellite blades

with enargite crystals, Butte, MT; from WA beautiful 3" x 4" meta-autunite crystal group, Daybreak mine, Mount Spokane, Spokane County; from Idaho, ¾" x ½" ludlamite crystals on siderite, Blackbird mine, Cobalt, a lustrous floater 2" ilvite crystal from Laxey mine, Owyhee County, and, a 3" long, curved native silver wire on matrix from the Red Bird mine, Custer County.

As in previous years, Ray Hill set up two cases. The first case, titled "Canadian Minerals" contained 28 thumbnail to cabinet-sized specimens including svanbergite crystals and other species from Mt. Brussilof, Radium Hot Springs, B.C. and phosphates from Y.T. Of interest, the case also contained from a one time occurrence, clear, 1" quartz crystals on matrix and up to 2" x 6" doubly terminated crystals from Sea to Sky highway cut, near Whistler, B.C.

Ray Hill's second case, titled "Eastern Canadian Minerals," contained a good selection 22 of specimens from Jeffrey Mine, Asbestos and St. Hilaire, Quebec. The case also contained a 2 ½" x 4" group of lustrous ¾" pyrite crystals from the Nanasivik mine, N.W.T.

Don Phillips had a case featuring "Minerals from Canada's Grenville Province." The educational case had the 46 specimens arranged according to the four geological environments: 1) Grenville marble contact zones; 2) fracture filling zones; 3) pegmatites with rare earth minerals; and, 4) nepheline and corundum-bearing gneisses.

A case, titled "Minerals of Canada," was assembled by Robert O. Meyer from his extensive collection. Of the 34 specimens, there were 13 excellent crystallized examples of phosphates from Rapid Creek, Y.T.; from Quebec, a 8" x 12" phlogopite crystal, and a classic 6" apatite crystal in orange calcite, Yates mine, Ot-

Barite Reference Web Site

Bill Dameron has created a website to serve as a locality reference for barite. The site has 400 photographs of barite specimens from worldwide locations that produce macro specimens of barite.

Visit: www.baritespecimenlocalities.org

ter Lake, Huddersfield Twp.; a 4" x 6" specimen of acicular, botryoidal masses of brassy millerite, Thompson mine, Moab-Setting Lakes area, Manitoba; and from B.C., a 3" x 5" specimen of native arsenic, Criss Creek, 800 m. from Deadman River Rd., N. of the west end, Kamloops Lake, and a ½" cobaltite crystal on matrix, Merry Widow mine, Port McNeil.

This year, Al & Sue Liebetrau's case was titled "Sweet Suites: Canadians." The case contained 17 outstanding specimens of which 5 were silver specimens from various localities. True to the quality of Liebetrau's collection, there was a very aesthetic 1 ½" x 3" specimen of argentite and calcite crystals on which are perched attractive, curved, thick silver wires, Highland Bell mine, Beaverdell, B.C. In the center of the case there was a

5" x 8" group of octahedral fluorite xls from the Rock Candy mine, N. of Grand Forks, B.C. and the case also had a lovely 5" pale green fluorite crystal from Madoc, Ontario. The showpiece was a deep red, flaming opalescent ammonite, Placenticeras intercalare, from the Bearpaw Formation, Alberta.

In addition to the Liebetrau's Canadian display, they showed three specimens from a new and unique discovery during 2008 at the Richardson's Ranch, NE of Madras, Jefferson County, Oregon. The specimens consisted of 3" geodes containing clusters of up to ¾" blue barite crystals. The occurrence has been covered up but it is hoped that the owner would open up the geode bed for a 2009 FM field trip.

Bill and Diana Dameron added much to the success of the displays with their colorful case "Amethyst" containing 32 spectacular specimens. The information sheet on the cause of color in amethyst was an added bonus. The center piece was a stunning deep purple 39.78 CT faceted gem from Pakistan and cut by Mike Gray. There were scepters, doubly terminated crystals, phantoms, and even a twinned flat crystal with a outer amethyst phantom, all from Marovaolavo, Toamasina, Madagascar. Something you don't see very often, there was a spectacular group of lustrous amethyst scepters in a 3" x 6" group from Karur, Tamil Nadu, India. From Mexico, there was the deepest purple crystal from La Sorpressa mine, Amatitlan, Guerro. From the U.S. the following were of note: relatively recent find of beautiful 4" to 5" single crystals from Jackson's Crossroads, Wilkes Co., Georgia; specimens from 4th of July pocket, Deer Hill, Stow, Oxford Co., Maine; and, from Washington state, a nice 4" milky crystal on matrix with a 1" scepter head, Denny Mtn., King County.

Raymond Lasmanis had assembled a case titled "Phosphate Minerals, Dawson Mining District, Yukon Territory." It contained 22 specimens, most of them crystallized, including his favorite specimens of lustrous lazulite crystals with quartz crystals from Blow River. Over 25 species were represented including the type locality specimens of arrojadite (K, Na), kulanite, and gormanite. The provenance given on the labels showed specimens from Alan Kulan, Barry Kulan, Brian Kulan, Bev Kulan, Gunther Kuhnlein, Marc-André Brunet, Jerry Van Velthuizen, Wm. W. Pinch, Mark Mauthner, Rob Tyson, and Rob Belcher – all famous Canadian collectors.

A special thanks is extended to all of the exhibitors for taking the time to display their collections. Symposium attendees really appreciated all your efforts with lots of favorable comments. You contributed to the success of the 34th Annual Pacific Northwest Chapter Mineralogical Symposium- thank you all.

Silent and Live Auctions Big Success

Once again, our silent and live auctions were a big success. This happens because our members generously donate quality specimens each year. Then our members bid each other up at both auctions until someone finally "wins" a new specimen. It is the best way to recycle our treasures. Knowing that your donations keep the club afloat financially and that they will go home with another enthusiastic collector is comforting. So, thank you to everyone involved in bidding and donating. And remember, it is not too early to start putting together a box of donations now for next year's symposium. Cheers, Karen.

35th Annual Symposium

Our 2009 Symposium was a success. Our attendance was up a bit from past years. The Canada theme was reflected in the displays, which were all exceptional. Thanks to everyone who attended and thanks to the people who helped set the symposium up.

The theme for our next (35th) symposium will be "Minerals of Africa," and will be held at the Red Lion Inn in Kelso, Washington on October 16, 17, and 18, 2009.

Wes Gannaway

President's Message

Greetings,

I hope that everyone enjoyed our symposium. I have always looked forward to getting together to visit with other collectors and seeing what is new at the dealers. The displays seem to be getting better every year. Did all of you get to see the calcite on natrolite specimen collected by John Cornish? That is the reason for collecting, displaying, and having a get-together.

I heard a discussion at one of the meetings that I attend across the line in Canada. Is it proper to capitalize the names of minerals? I have written them both ways, and I have had other collectors also make statements for and against. Just a thought.

I will be the host for the annual Washington Pass trip again in August. Hopefully it won't pour rain this next trip. Ray and his family had quite a time drying out, and I think that Mike Croxell woke up in a nice puddle. The rest of us went up to milepost 164 and cracked some boulders, then collected at the Silver Star pull-out. We collected some nice micros from both sites. Quite a few members haven't been to the site yet. I would say that this is one of the premier collecting sites in Washington, and a different suite of minerals than the zeolites of SW Washington. I hope to see more of you at the 2009 trip.

I want to again thank all of the people who worked to make the 2008 symposium a success. I especially want to thank Sharleen Harvey for her work with the hotel. Without Sharleen doing this important job, there would be no symposium. My thanks also go to Le Snelling for replacing Sharleen.

We are always looking for some officer types. If you want to be more involved, contact John Lindell. Remember, this organization only works if the members help out. As with other organizations, the same folks usually volunteer for everything because they want it to continue. However, burnout is a horrible thing, and some of the past officers have been known to even drop out of the organization. Please volunteer. The present group of officers terms are going to be up in 2009 and all positions are open.

Wes Gannaway

Collecting at Washington Pass

Wes Gannaway

For those of you that haven't been to Washington Pass, the experience is quite unique. The activity of collecting minerals is exciting enough, but when you also can combine the collecting of rare mineral species in an area known as the American Alps, then the adrenalin starts to flow.

The two main sites for casual collecting are at milepost 164 and at milepost 166.

Milepost 164 is a small pull-off just past the actual mile post sign. There is parking for 2 cars or light trucks between the guard rails. More parking is about 30 yards downhill. Care should be taken to keep clear of the highway as the cars are coming downhill at a good speed and won't be able to stop as quickly as you might like. If you want to cross the highway, be extremely cautious. I haven't found anything up the hill but some other collectors have. Go down the slope keeping to the right for about 10 yards. Piles of rock chunks are evident and indicate the major collecting area. These small chunks can be broken with a 3-4 pound hammer but a 10-12 pound sledge will be needed to break up the larger chunks and rocks. Look around the trees and bushes down slope from the collecting area for more exposures. Any vuggy rock should be checked for crystals. Rarer species such as zektzerite have been collected in the draw at the bottom of the slope.

Milepost 166 is midway between 166 and 167 in the talus slopes above and below the roadway. This is also known as the Silver Star pullout locality. The rock from the talus slope above the highway is constantly moving down into the ditch along the highway, and when the highway department cleans the ditch, the material is pushed over the edge of the downhill side. This is also where the debris was pushed over when the roadbed was created, and many of the large boulders are still laying on the slope from that time. Some of the larger boulders have produced pockets that contained dozens of zektzerite crystals.

Since zektzerite fluoresces, many collectors return at night to hunt for the rare mineral using a black-light.

The collecting area is along the edge of the Golden
Continued on page 7

Annual Symposium Meeting Minutes

President, Wes Gannaway, opened the annual meeting with 37 members present. Special thanks were expressed to George Gerhold, Dave Waisman, Bill Dameron, and many special thanks to Sharleen Harvey. All of these individuals were instrumental in providing for another successful symposium.

MSP to approve last year's symposium minutes as printed in newsletter.

Treasurer's Report provided by Bill Dameron. Basically, we make a little bit of money each year; therefore, our finances are fairly secure. We just paid the Rice Museum \$500.00 for the annual group membership rate. Last evenings live auction brought in \$1509.00. This is an increase from the past few years.

After discussion, MSP, for the club to purchase a more generic PNWFM polo shirt to be sold each year at the annual symposium. Suggestions included a need for a pocket, red in color, or a variety of colors available. The board will investigate.

Rudy Tschernich explained what our club gets from its annual group membership to the Rice Museum: free entrance to museum, 10% off at museum store, and 1 free event and meeting per year. After discussion, MSP, to continue with annual membership for \$500.00. Rudy also explained how to make a donation to the mineral acquisition fund. He discussed the new agate gallery, and told us that this winter the fluorescent display would be updated. Rudy reported on the thundereggs from Richardson's Ranch with the blue barite. Unfortunately these have been bulldozed and buried. Our club will pursue getting permission to uncover and collect these specimens. Al Liebetrau will be our club liaison with Richardson's Ranch. Finally, Dick Rantz suggested that the Rice Museum send out a list of wanted specimens; particularly NW specimens.

Ray Hill reported that next weekend the UBC Pacific Museum would be sponsoring a mineral mania; including a new exhibit.

Lorna Goebel reported on the ABC's mineral educational project which is a joint operation with the NW Federation. She needs 4 minerals of each letter of the alphabet, thumbnail size. These are for the display cases that go to the schools. She also needs minerals that the teachers would be able to keep. Arlene Handley suggested that we donate 12 – 18 like specimens, sizes that would fit into an egg carton.

Minerals like calcite, pyrite, muscovite, etc.

Symposium Themes: The 2009 theme was picked at last year's meeting, it is African minerals. We discussed themes for 2010 and 2011. After debate and a vote it was decided that the 2010 theme will be Australian and New Zealand minerals and the 2011 theme will be Mineral of Mexico.

At next years symposium new officers will be elected. John Lindell is the nomination chairman. For 2009 Lanny will continue being the newsletter editor, Jim will continue being our Tucson representation, and Wes will continue leading the WA Pass trip and bringing the show cases. Current officers through 2009 are: President – Wes Gannaway, Vice President – Lorna Goebel, Treasurer – Bill Dameron, and Secretary – Karen Hinderman. After many years of representing our club as the hotel liaison, Sharleen is retiring. Le Snelling has volunteered to take over this important position. Sharleen has already contracted with the Red Lion for the 2009, 2010, and 2011 symposiums.

Jim Etzwiler reported on outreach opportunities with NW Federation and WA State Mineral Council. Currently our only outreach is the ABC education program that Lorna heads. Jim discussed our need to branch out, enhance our appearance, and affiliate with other groups.

It was suggested that we have a field trip next year during the symposium to the crystal growing operation in Longview.

The executive committee will establish procedures and rules related to how much money should be kept in the treasury as reserves. This would then be used to guide the club in how much is available to donate.

Dexter reported that the WAM's club controls displays at the state capitol. If our club is interested in displaying, then we should contact the WAM's rock club. It might be very beneficial for our club to display in September or October as a way to promote the symposium.

Good of the Order: Many thanks to the Hinderman's for their work on both live and silent auctions.

Meeting adjourned.

More Collecting in Alaska: The Beach near the False Island Boat Launch Yields Two More One-Time Mineral Occurrences

This year turned out to be the year to collect minerals near the boat launch during my two weeks on Prince of Wales Island. First of course was the collecting of the quartz in a boulder at the boat launch which I described in the last issue, then two days later, I found two occurrences of collectible minerals in float on the beach.



Looking north up the beach from the False Island boat launch, Craig, Prince of Wales Island, Alaska.

On May 28, 2008, I took a walk up the beach, going north from the boat launch; something I tried to do at least once a day. I walked this beach dozens of times last year and many times this year. At low tide, the exposed beach is mostly strewn with cobbles and boulders, fist size up to about a foot and a half across. There are a few larger rocks, and lots of smaller rocks. Most of the rocks are various sedimentary formations, some from the island, some from nearby islands, or sources of unknown distance. There also are low grade metamorphic rocks and many igneous rocks. Yet with all this, I'd never seen anything of real mineralogical interest before.

This time, I had walked for 15-20 minutes north of the boat launch when up ahead about 20 feet I could see a black rock with tiny black bumps on it, and even from this distance, I could tell that they were crystals, not pebbles. I walked up to the small boulder, more than a foot across, and was pleased to see that they were indeed crystals. They looked like nearly equant pyroxene crystals. They were up to nearly 1 cm across, but most were under 4 mm. They were mostly



Black pyroxene crystal in pyroxenite, 7 mm across, beach near False Island boat launch, Craig, Alaska.

broken, a little beat up from being in the tidal zone and subject to daily poundings from the small waves along the channel; and from previous actions from transport to this location.

This was a surprise, something unusual, an interesting find. After making a mental note of exactly where the rock lay, I walked back down the beach to my van and got a hammer, chisel, wrapping paper and a bag, then returned to the rock. The rock was hard, it appeared to be a gray green pyroxenite. On the freshly broken surface, the black crystals could be seen in the finer grained gray-green groundmass. The rock may actually be an amphibolite and the crystals an amphibole. Further north on other islands there are pyroxenites, which have large areas that are dominantly amphibole, so both rock types are possible. This rock did not come from Prince of Wales Island, but is a transported boulder.

A little hammer and chisel work removed several



Black pyroxene crystals in pyroxenite, Prince of Wales Island, Alaska.



Analcime, largest crystal is 5 mm across, Craig, Prince of Wales Island, Alaska.



Analcime lining cavities, from the beach at Craig, Prince of Wales Island, Alaska.

pieces with crystals in fairly good condition. They were fairly sharp, euhedral crystals, but suffering from minor to severe damage from the exposure. The groundmass of the rock was black on the exposed surface, the same as the large crystals. I wrapped up the specimens, put them in the bag and gathered up my hammer and chisel and continued my walk up the beach.

I hiked up to a small estuary that was $\frac{3}{4}$ mile up from the boat launch. Here, I checked on the growth of the sea asparagus, it's growth was slow this year in the cold, and mostly cloudy weather. The little clumps were only about an inch high, much shorter than last year at this time. After spending some time watching the small crabs and other marine life moving around in the rocks of the shallows, I started back.

About two thirds of the way back, I was surprised to see a fist size rock, with some white veins and two cavities lined with white crystals. I picked it up and could see that the crystals were analcime, very nice crystals on either side of 6 mm in the cavity that was about 2 cm across. The smaller cavity had only damaged crystals in it.

Expecting cavities inside, I carefully broke the rock, but it was solid. Using the chisel and hammer, I trimmed the piece down to a nice specimen size. This was a good specimen, especially if one appreciates a few barnacles on their mineral specimens.

These finds were a real surprise. I'd walked this beach so many times and never before found anything of mineralogical interest. This walk yielded two separate mineral finds, the last specimen quality minerals I would collect on the island this year.

Lanny R. Ream

Washington Pass, cont. from p. 4

Horn Batholith. This 50 million year old intrusive was pushed up into the Cretaceous sediments and is along the crest of the Cascade Range in north central Washington. Highway 20 cuts through the range at Washington Pass exposing the fresher material in the form of boulders and roadside outcrops. Although the batholith is quite large, the specimens are only found in a limited area. Besides the two previously described roadcuts, specimens have been collected in the cirque just east of the summit and on the slopes of Liberty Bell Peak. Other areas of the batholith are mostly barren. The chemistry of the rock can change within a few yards, resulting in pockets full of zircon, polylithionite, orthoclase, quartz, arfvedsonite, and elpidite, as well as some of the rarer species as agardite-(Y), aegirine, bastnasite-(Ce), titanite, and others. I have mentioned zektzerite as most collectors may be familiar with the mineral. This is the type locality for zektzerite as well as calciohilairite and okanoganite.

A comprehensive list of minerals from this locality can be found at the Mindat.org website.

The Northwest Chapter of the Friends of Mineralogy will be conducting the 20th Washington Pass Cleanup on August 7th, 8th, and 9th of 2009. We meet in our reserved campsites on Friday evening (the only reserved campsites allowed by the Forest Service in Washington), perform a chore for the Forest Service on Saturday morning, then collect at the pass the rest of the weekend.

Dues

We currently have 94 members paid up for 2009! Only six more to reach one hundred.

Our Chapter's fiscal year runs from July 1 through June 30. Dues are \$15 annually, of which \$6 goes to the National FM. If you have paid dues since July 1, 2008 no NOT pay again. Otherwise, you can send your dues to me at any time before June 30, 2009. If you pay by January our outstanding membership is reflected in the report at the annual FM meeting in Tucson.

We save money and you get faster, color newsletters if you sign up to receive the Chapter and National Newsletter via e-mail. Please include your current e-mail address below and let me know if it changes. We do not accept dues in advance or for past years.

Return completed forms with your check for \$15 made out to PNWFM to:

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Pacific Northwest Chapter Friends of Mineralogy

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Analcime-bearing rock after breaking it in half, from the beach at Craig, Prince of Wales Island, Alaska.



The dark greenish black pyroxenite boulder lying amongst other beach rocks, Prince of Wales Island, Alaska.