PACIFIC NORTHWEST CHAPTER
FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY

December 2010

# PNWFM NEWSLETTER


Inside this issue:



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The expectant audience

## "MINERALS OF AUSTRALIA" PNWFM 36th ANNUAL

Penny Williamson, John Sobolewski, and Harvey Jong headlined the speaker program for this year's symposium on Minerals of Australia. All gave informative and enjoyable talks which were very appreciated by a packed room of PNWFM members. Speaker Chair, Alan Young again organized an outstanding program.

Many of the fourteen display cases on the main show floor featured specimens of Australian origin. Ray Lasmanis was able to secure cases of high caliber specimens from some of the premier collections in the Pacific Northwest. His report follows later in the Newsletter.

Al Liebetrau lined up four top main floor dealers in Lehigh Minerals, Earth's Treasures, Pacific Rim Gems and Minerals, and Multi-Fractured Gems. In addition the entire north wing of the motel was filled with room dealers offering a variety of material and plenty of socializing, story telling, and gossip, all mixed with an occasional beverage.

A highlight of the show was the awarding of the Noble Witt award for outstanding service to the goals of the Friends of Mineralogy. The award which hasn't been presented in the last few years went to a very deserving member, Wes Gannaway. See Bob Meyer's article later in the newsletter.

The other show highlight was the always lively banquet and auction on Saturday evening. Dueling auctioneers Karen Hinderman and Wes Gannaway provided a constant banter of wit spurring on bidding on donated items to new heights. Both donors and bidders are due thanks for their participation in this event which literally makes or breaks the financial feasibility of the Symposium.

The entire event was coordinated by George Gerhold.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - Bob Meyer

Happy Holidays, fellow mineral enthusiasts. My best wishes to you, your families, and friends this holiday season. While you prepare for the holidays, please remember to take the time to enjoy yourselves. One thing that mineral enthusiasts enjoy doing is getting together with other mineral people. The holidays are a good time to give that collector you have not spoken to for sometime a call to talk rocks, or to invite another mineral collector into your home. Mineral collectors share a keen interest that often is not shared even among our family members. Thus, we share an interest that even those closest to us might not understand. In that way, we are family.

Welcome to our last newsletter of 2010. Since it will be a long newsletter, I will keep this part brief.

It is my feeling that 2010 was a success for PNWFM. We kept a nice balance of activities, meetings, newsletters, and field trips, culminating in a successful and enjoyable symposium. As always, it is my duty and pleasure, as president, to give thanks on behalf of the club to you, our dedicated members, and I feel that you all contribute where you can. If I were to single any one group out for special thanks, it would be our symposium committee this year. Sometimes I have to pinch myself to check that I am not dreaming with these people. They are, to a person, a high-powered group who has served diligently and capably in their same roles for numbers of years. Our largest single event, by far, is the symposium and a great deal of effort goes into planning each year. In the past, we have had symposia where things were not so organized despite the fact that the symposium committees those years seemed very busy indeed. With our present group things go right and it hardly looks like these people are trying. That is no accident.

It is also my feeling that 2011 will be a success for PNWFM. What you should expect is more of the same. As the sages say, if it's not broke . . .

As always, one of the best parts of this job is the opportunity to communicate with members. I encourage you to stay in touch via e-mail or telephone, and let me know what you are thinking about PNWFM.

MC&aHNY,

# A Tale of Two Members:

## Noble V. Witt and Wes Gannaway

## *A Synopsis of the Presentation of the 2010 Noble Witt Award*

**By Bob Meyer**

I would like to talk a bit about two of our members. I'll talk first about one of our past members, and then we'll get around to the other member.

The past member I am taking about has been gone from us for 20 years now, as he passed away in 1990.

His name was Noble Witt.


**Noble Witt's Card and Mineral Label**

Most of you have heard of Noble because of the award we give that bears his name, but I wonder how many of you knew him. It is my thought that a good many of you did not know him, after all, he has been gone from us for a long while now.

So, let me tell you a bit about Noble Witt. He was a mineral collector; an advanced collector really. He rose up from what I guess was rock-hound status to the level of an amateur scientist who field collected extensively and ultimately co-authored articles for the American Mineralogist. His largest claim to fame in the mineral realm was his discovery of the rare mineral species Weddellite in the Biggs jaspers of North Central Oregon. Before that discovery, Weddellite was known only from core samples taken from the Weddell Sea, near Antarctica.

So far as Friends of Mineralogy goes, Noble was a regular attendee of the symposium each year—and he took part in things. He often put in a display, usually a case of unbelievable clunkers that he self-collected in South Dakota. Huge things, bigger than these things had any right to be. I am talking about cassiterites and columbites that were a foot long. Ugly as sin, but foot long cassiterites? Where do you see those?

Noble was a staunch supporter of the minerals dealers at the symposium. He had a decent mineral budget, and I have seen him lay down hundreds of dollars on a single piece. Remember, we're talking over 20 years ago, before inflation and crazy prices.

Noble was a generous contributor to the auction. He would typically donate three or four very nice specimens, and they would often garner the top prices at the auction.

I was a bit younger, really still a kid, when I met Noble at my first symposium. I remember that through the eyes of youth he seemed to be ancient. He had a bit of a tremor in his hands, and I wondered if he was going to keel over or something. However, despite his little tremor, Noble was a sturdy guy, and had done extensive field collecting in his day. For an advanced collector, Noble was unusual—he liked young people, those new to mineral collecting. Perhaps most of us can remember being young collectors and the old guard was not so welcoming. Not so with Noble. He and I traded specimens at my first symposium, and it became a tradition with us. I would spend time

before the symposium trying to figure out what I could part with in hopes of getting one of his nice pieces, and one year I had an eye on his Weddellite specimens.

Although Noble would sometimes give me the benefit of the doubt, he taught me about specimens and what would appeal to a collector interested in trading. Usually, I ended up with what I wanted, but sometimes I had to sacrifice something I really did not want to part with.

Then news came one year that Noble had tragically perished in a car wreck. While Noble had been a mentor to me, he had been even more so to PNWFM's then president, Carl Harris. Carl had the idea, possibly his most lasting contribution to FM, of giving an award in honor of Noble. Thus, it was in 1993 that we gave the first of our Noble Witt Awards to Mike Groben.

Now, let's come back to the present. When I considered running for president a bit over a year ago, I gave some thought to many things pertaining to PNWFM. One of the things that crossed my mind was the Noble Witt Award. My initial thoughts were that the award had lost its relevance. First, we have not been giving it out regularly. Second, I wondered how many of the members would even remember who Noble was or what he was about. Third, I wondered about an award named for Noble Witt.

Let me explain this last point, while Noble was a mentor to Carl Harris and I, and while Noble did attend and participate in the symposium each year, to my knowledge he never served FM in any official fashion. He was never an officer; he never chaired any committees, or took part in putting on the symposium. At this point, I had decided to table the Noble Witt Award.

It was sometime after this that one FM member, in this case a past Noble Witt Award winner, asked me what I was going to do about the award. I explained my views, but this member objected, telling me that the award meant more than just Noble, and that it was still important.

I gave the matter some thought. I looked over the list of past winners and found the list impressive. I noticed that about one-half of the past winners had never served as officers of PNWFM, but in almost all cases, the winners had been active in FM functions, and had volunteered for various committee positions, often for years on end. Additionally, a good number of the recipients had made contributions to mineralogy, to mineral collecting, or to the mineral collecting community, particularly in the Pacific Northwest. I would say that about half of the Noble Witt Award winners have contributed predominantly to FM in some official fashion, and the other half are more recognizable as significant figures in the Pacific Northwestern mineral community.

Then, I spoke with a number of other past Noble Witt Award winners, and asked them about their experience of winning the award. In every case, I heard that it had indeed been very important to the member in question, that they had really appreciated receiving the award and being recognized for their contributions.

Finally, I remembered when I was president of PNWFM once before some ten years ago. It has been my pleasure to both nominate and present two earlier Noble Witt Awards. In one case, the recipient was so overjoyed that we both burst into tears. Let me remind you of the saying that it is better to give than to receive. How often does the opportunity in life come to make a significant difference for someone? How often can we give recognition to someone for years of service? Such opportunities are actually quite rare, and they are to be treasured. I realized then, that the experience of presenting those awards was among of the top moments in my life.

Then I thought about our members and the collecting community in the Pacific Northwest, and wondered if anyone deserved the award. That took about a nanosecond. Many FM members deserve to be recognized, and I realized that we have been remiss in not presenting the Noble Witt Award each year.

As I thought about potential recipients, one person was clearly in the front. This person exemplifies the dual nature of the award, as a person who has contributed in many ways to PNWFM, and as a person who has in a unique way contributed to the mineral collecting community of the Pacific Northwest.

**That person is Wes Gannaway.**

Wes' direct contributions to PNWFM are numerous and quite visible. Wes has served as the president of PNWFM for three two-year terms. He has been our newsletter editor. Wes has been in charge of layout and for obtaining our display cases for the past about 15 years, to my reckoning. Wes has helped with the auction, and in innumerable other ways. For example, at our meeting this past Spring, I couldn't help but notice that Wes volunteered to personally attend to three of the four action items that arose. This was after his four years as president had recently expired, when most members would be thinking about taking a bit of a break.

While Wes' contributions to PNWFM are obvious, it is my thought that his contributions to the mineral collecting community as a whole outweigh his direct contributions to our organization. Wes is active in promoting the mineral hobby as a driving force in his local club, in supporting geological education by making generous contributions of specimens to Western Washington University, and to promoting field collecting by leading trips and sharing knowledge of localities with others. Wes is well-known and well-respected in the mineral collecting community outside of the Pacific Northwest, particularly in the Western United States and British Columbia, Canada.

—Bob Meyer

**Wes Gannaway, the 2010 recipient of the Noble Witt Award for Outstanding Service, posing underground in the Arsenate Drift, Silver Coin Mine, near Valmy, Nevada on September 24, 2010**

Symposium photos by Linda Smith and John Lindell

# PNWFM BUSSINESS MEETING MINUTES

President, Bob Meyer, opened the annual meeting with 36 members present. Special thanks were expressed to this year's symposium committee.

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

Treasurer's Report provided by Bill Dameron. An electronic report was sent to every member.

Our keynote speaker, Penny Williamson, left a wonderful thank you note and bottle of wine from Australia. It was agreed that the wine would be auctioned off at the 2011 symposium. MSP to pay the Rice Museum $500.00 for the annual group membership rate. Last evenings live auction brought in $2104.00.

Theme for 2011 show is Mexico Minerals. Allan Young will begin the search for speakers soon. A general discussion about this years show ensued. One request was that all satellite dealers be downstairs. The show committee will work on this issue. One suggestion was that members who are in rooms downstairs could volunteer to switch with a satellite dealer. Another suggestion is for the satellite dealers to commit early, make reservations early and request a downstairs room when doing so. On another note, John Lindell asked that our speakers provide more scientific and educational programs instead of a travelogue. After discussion, it was agreed that a balance is needed and we trust Allan to bring in quality speakers. Several members asked that we bring back the Sunday morning How To Programs. Finally, themes were suggested and voted on for the 2012 symposium. And the winner is Sulfates (with Alkaline Intrusives coming in second).

Lorna Goebel reported on the ABC's mineral educational project which is a joint operation with the NW Federation. With Lorna's efforts, cases are ready to be mailed to teachers, clubs, shows, etc. Each case is filled with mineral specimens A-Z, a CD with games and activities, and prizes for the teachers to give students. The teacher gets to keep the CD and a box of minerals. For a teacher to receive the case, they need a sponsor from a Federation club or our club. One way for all of us to participate is to donate material for the cases or call up a local school and see if there is interest. Minerals may be left at Arlene's shop in Vancouver or sent to Lorna.

Wes Gannaway reported on the new polo shirts. He has also looked into purchasing hats and getting badges. The badges would be very expensive because we would have to order 500 up front. It was decided that Jim Etzwiler will contact Regina from National FM and see if we can get more badges from them. If you want a badge, contact Jim. There was interest in purchasing hats with the PNWFM logo and Wes will look into ordering the minimum amount.

2011 – Looking ahead we have 3 events on the calendar: Spring meeting at the Seattle Mineral Market, August camping and mineral collecting at WA Pass (after clean up efforts), and Symposium October 14 – October 16, 2011.

John Lindell, newsletter editor, requested more photos, more articles on interesting trips to museums, field collecting, etc. He also suggested that members sponsor one of the 10 or so members who do not receive email. In doing so the member would print out the newsletter and deliver to a member without email. This would be a cost savings to the club and a huge savings in time for John. John is able to provide a beautiful newsletter with stunning pictures because he doesn't have to print it. Contact John to sponsor a member.

Allan Young reported on the status on National FM. They are searching for a treasurer and a newsletter editor. The theme for Tucson 2011 is Minerals of CA.

At next years symposium we will be electing officers for another 2 year cycle. Please think about getting involved. We know that Bill Dameron will be retiring as treasurer. Let a current officer know if you are interested in becoming an officer for 2012.

Good of Order questions – Is there a way to have a florescent display annually? What about a micro display annually? These questions were discussed and will be researched further.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted'

Karen Hinderman, Secretary

# SYMPOSIUM DISPLAYS by RAY LASMANIS

Rice Museum display case

This year it was the Pacific NW Chapter Friends of Mineralogy 36th annual symposium with a theme featuring minerals of Australia. There were a total of 14 display cases with 7 of them featuring our symposium theme. Of the various displays, minerals from Broken Hill and crocoite from Tasmania were the most popular. The quality and diversity of mineral specimens displayed by our members is very impressive. One could write pages just on one display case but due to time constraints, I noted minerals that caught my attention or were from the Pacific Northwest.

The Rice Northwest Museum of Rocks and Minerals display was titled "Australian Minerals" and awed our members with 21 incredible and very colorful specimens that were donated to the museum by Richard and Helen Rice. My favorites were: lustrous, perfectly formed, up to 1 ½" azurite xls. in a 3" x 4" group from Broken Hill, N.S.W. (#1423); a beautiful reticulated 5" x 6" cerussite xl. group also from Broken Hill, N.S.W. (#1426); lustrous ½" atacamite xls. on 3 ½" x 4" matrix from the New Cornwall Mine, Kadina, South Australia; from Dundas, Zeehan District, Tasmania a very large group of red crocoite xls. (#2085) and a 4" x 5" specimen of yellow chrome-rich cerussite xls. partially covered by orange crocoite needles (#1415).

Don Phillips presented two cases featuring a systematic reference collection of "Minerals from Broken Hill, N.S.W." The first case of 52 specimens was filled with a great variety of primary species from the North BHP Mine, the Zinc Corporation Mine, the South Mine, and the Horizon Mine. The second case contained about 65 specimens from the oxidized zone of the Kintore Pit and the Proprietary Mine. This collection of Broken Hill specimens nicely illustrates our key speaker Penny Williamson's statement that Broken Hill is the most significant ore deposit in history. For those interested in this collection, contact Don Phillips.

Bob Jackson's case was titled "Smoky Quartz, Mooralla, Victoria". With 34 self collected specimens over ten years of collecting, the display showed the tremendous variety of forms that the smoky quartz xls. can take: multi-terminated, enhydros, and epimorphic. Transparent to smoky xls. up to 4" are found in decomposed rhyolite at Mooralla.

Raymond Lasmanis put in a case titled "Minerals from the Albert Chapman Collection". The specimens represented eight Australian localities were acquired from Chapman while in Australia during 1981. In line with symposium interest in Broken Hill, the case contained rhodonite in galena (#2063) from the North Mine and a lustrous spessartine xl. in galena (#2186) from the same mine. Of special interest, there were two specimens of cassiterite xls. from the Elsmore Tin Mine, New England District, Cough Co., N.S.W. (#2188) and three translucent single cassiterite xls. from the Aberfoyle Tin Mine, Rossarden, Tasmania (#2189). The case went well with key speaker John Sobolewski's presentation on the Albert Chapman Collection.

One of our consistent members who always steps forward to put in a display is Lorna Goebel. This year was no exception. Her case contained 22 thumbnail samples from various famous Australian localities such as Broken Hill in N.S.W., Dundas in Tasmania, and many others. Lorna's efforts are appreciated by all.

Ray Hill's case featured "Australian Minerals" with 33 specimens of classic minerals from well known localities such as: rhodonite from the Proprietary Mine, Broken Hill, N.S.W.; brown and black dravite xls. from Yinnietharra, W.A.; and, crocoite from the Adelaide Mine, Dundas, Tasmania. His case also contained some of the rarer Australian minerals like decrespignyite-Y, sampleite, beautiful scholzite sprays, iodargyrite, and gaspéite.

Robert (Bob) O. Meyer presented one of his favorite themes, "Copper Minerals". The case contained incredible classics from world-wide localities accompanied with professional, detailed, labels describing the specimens and providing their provenance. On display Bob had specimens that graced the collections of David Shannon, Lawrence Conklin, Lance & Darlene Hampel, Cariton M. Davis, John C. White, David Wilber, W.F. Davidson, Ralph E. Merrill, Clinton Collection, John L. Parnau, Noble V. Witt, J. Bratt, Rob W. M. Woodside, Harold Eales, Scott Williams, Joseph Urban, and Nobel prize winning chemist Carl Bosch as well as the U.S. National Museum and the British National Museum. My favorate classic was a bournonite xl. group collected between 1850 and 1875 from the Herodsfoot Mine, Lanreath, Menheniot Area, Liskeard District, Cornwall, England. From the Northwest, there were ¾" digente xls. on 4" x 5" matrix from the Leonard Mine, Silver Bow County, MT and micro blue boleite xls. covering 5" x 5" matrix, collected by Richard Thomssen from the Bi-Metallic Mill, Granite, near Philipsburg, Granite County, MT. The boleite is post mining and formed by lime in the mortar and metal residue leaching from the mill.

Rob Woodside set up a display with outstanding specimens from classic localities. The one's that caught my eye from Australia were a 3" x 4" specimen covered by lustrous raspite xls., Proprietary Mine, Broken Hill (ex. Chapman Collection) and bright stolzite and respite xls. covering 2" x 5" matrix from Broken Hill (ex. Roebling Collection). Others were: a spectacular tabular 3" yellow-orange stolzite xl. from 22nd Level, Saint Lucie Mine, Lozere, France; in the center of the case, colorful cavansite and pentagonite specimens from India; a deep blue 2" afghanite xl. on matrix from Rabot, Balákhchan, Afghanistan; and, not common to see due to acid decomposition, a 3 ½" long stalactite of marcasite from Schullsburg, Wisc.

Alan Young presented a beautiful display titled "Thumbnails from the Minette Collection". The case contained 30 specimens from diverse localities with the original 3 x 5 index catalogue cards and recently published 224-page book "The Jim and Dawn Minette Collection". The specimens became available to collectors during the 2008 Tucson show. From the Northwest, Alan displayed : a doubly terminated, floater, ilvaite xl. from the Laxey Mine, South Mountain, Owyhee County, Idaho (#87); a group of ½" to ¾" enargite xls. from the Leonard Mine, Butte, MT (#914); and, 3/8" wide and 1 ½" long clear cerussite xls. from Kellog, Idaho.

Bill and Diana Dameron treated the members with thumbnail to cabinet-sized specimens of his favorite species- barite. The case contained aesthetic barite xl. groups from Arizona, Colorado, Peru, Bulgaria, and other locations. Among others, two specimens stood out: a very beautiful 4" x 4" group of quartz xls. with a blue-gray coating and on the tips of the quartz xls. there were perched lustrous azurite xls., from Sierra Rica, Chihuahua, Mexico; and, an orange-red, spectacular, single 1 ½" x 2 ½" single smithsonite xl. from the Tsumeb Mine, Tsumeb, Oshikoto, Namibia.

Al and Sue Liebetrau's case was titled "Sweet Suites: Metallic Minerals". Native elements were well represented with four native copper specimens out of a total of 30 minerals. Of those the best was 3" copper xls. in a 4 ½" x 5" group from the Kearsarge Mine, Houghton County, Michigan. Also from Michigan, an aborescent 4" x 5" native silver group from the Wolverine Mine, Houghton County. Other native silver specimens on display were from classic old localities in Norway, Germany, and Mexico. From Siberia, there was a single, ½" xl. of platinum from the Konder Massif, Khabarovskiy Kray. Pyrite xls. were also on display with two specimens from the Huanzalá Mine, Dos De Mayo Province, Peru.

Art Soregaroli teamed up with Raymond Lasmanis to present a case "Minerals from the Ocean Floor". The 12 specimens, 2" x 3" to 8" x 16", gave the members a rare opportunity to view sulfide samples from ocean sub-floor vents and black smokers, the Axial Sea Mount, Juan de Fuca Ridge off the west coast of British Columbia and Washington. The samples were collected by the Alvin Submersible from locations such as the Inferno, Hell, Beard, Virgin, and Hillock vents. Samples on display contained chalcopyrite, wurtzite, sphalerite, barite, marcasite, and anhydrite crusts.

Wes Gannaway, Bob Meyer, and John Dagenais coordinated a display describing their summer field trip to Nevada and Utah. The case had photographs of the following mines that were visited: Centennial Eureka, Gold Hill, North Star, and Silver Coin. Accompanying the mine photos were microphotographs of collected rare minerals such as: juanitaite, tyrolite, strashimirite, and mixite. Thanks for sharing your field trip experience.

Thanks are extended to all the members that took the time from their busy schedules to assemble a selection of mineral for a display. It is the displays that contributed to the success of the Pacific NW Chapter's 36th Annual Symposium.

R.L.
November 8, 2010

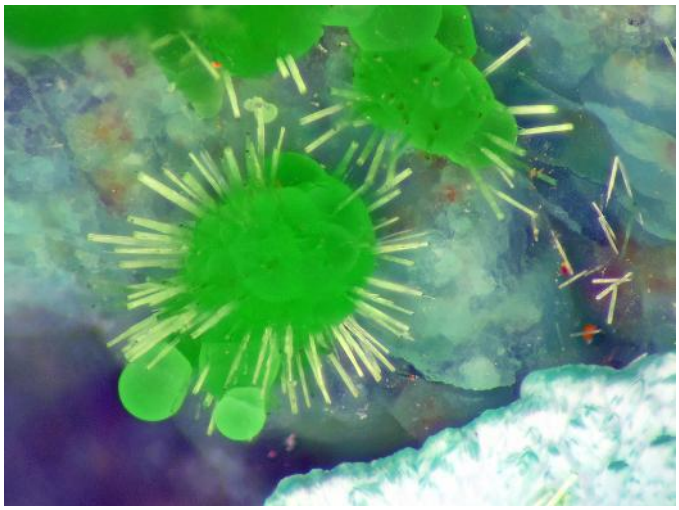
# Utah & Nevada 2010, A Field Trip··Part One

Bob Meyer on the rim of the Glory Hole, Gold Hill, Utah

Wes Gannaway photograph

We left from Maple Valley on the afternoon of September 17, and began the long drive to Utah. Despite the fact that we had publicized the field trip in the PNWFM newsletter, not many members had expressed an interest in coming along. In reality, it was just two of us, Wes Gannaway and myself, that began that long journey. Later on, PNWFM members John and Maxine Dagenais met us in Utah for the middle part of the trip.

Despite the trip's sparse attendance, it has to go down in the annals as one of the most successful trips that I, at least, have been on in terms of finding good material, and plenty of it!



Olivenite forming pincushions on Conichalcite—
Middle Pit, Gold Hill. FOV = 2.4 mm

## Localities Visited

Gold Hill Mine, Gold Hill, Tooele Co., Utah

Dugway Geode Beds, Dugway Pass Area, Juab Co., Utah

Gold Chain Mine, Tintic District, East Tintic Mts, Juab Co., Utah

Centennial Eureka Mine, Tintic District, East Tintic Mts, Juab Co., Utah

Eagle and Blue Bell Mine, Tintic District, East Tintic Mts, Juab Co., Utah

Tintic Standard Mine 2, East Tintic District, East Tintic Mts, Utah Co., Utah

Trixie Mine, East Tintic District, East Tintic Mts, Utah Co., Utah

Ruby Mine, Tintic District, East Tintic Mts, Juab Co., Utah

North Star Mine, Tintic District, East Tintic Mts, Juab Co., Utah

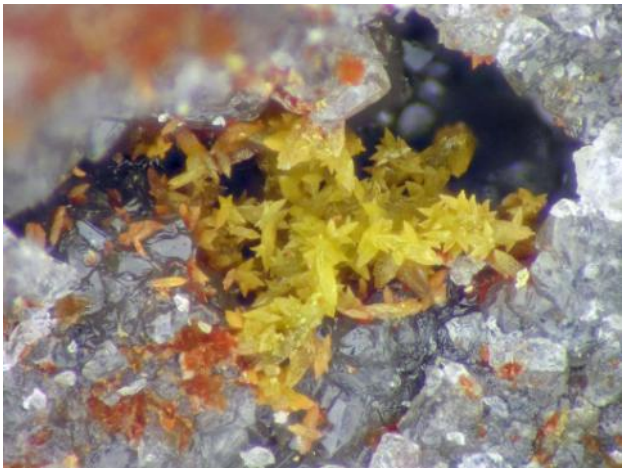
Silver Coin Mine, Valmy, Iron Point District, Humboldt Co., Nevada

Our first destination was Gold Hill, which is just a short distance inside Utah across the border of Nevada. The climate at Gold Hill is quite arid, a definite change for Wes and I from our normal surroundings in Western Washington. A dominant feature of the view from the mine is the Great Salt Lake, a dry salt lake bed lacking in vegetation and of vast enough extent that the curvature of the Earth is plainly visible. Temperatures in the summer can be extreme, and the elevation at nearly 1800 meters (5902 feet) brings snow in the winter months. For that reason, late spring and early fall typically are good times to visit. There are no guarantees at any time of the year that moderate weather will prevail, however, and it was hot and windy during our visit.

Gold Hill is famous for its minerals. According to Mindat, the mine is the host of 93 minerals species and is the type locality for the minerals Austinite and Juanitaite. Mining operations at Gold Hill consist of a complex of underground workings, open pits, trenches, dumps, a tramway, and outcrops, and for collecting purposes, it is subdivided into a number of individual collecting areas. Until about three or four years ago, it was possible to collect underground at Gold Hill, but entrances to the mine were blockaded, barred off, or collapsed as a part of the State of Utah's effort to reduce the supposed danger posed by abandoned mine workings. Despite this, Gold Hill still features a number of productive collecting locales that are above ground, and were not affected by the reclaimation efforts.

We arrived about noon on September 18 and eagerly made our way up to the mine, spending that entire day collecting, and loading our packs to the brim. Temperatures that day were ideal, with highs in the mid-80s, and the occasional breeze. We were able to collect fine specimens of quite a number of species, including Mixite, Zálesíite, Conichalcite, Olivenite, Philipsburgite, Jarosite, Pharmacosiderite, Aragonite, Talmessite, Austinite, and Clinoclase.


**Barracade blocking the 80' level adit, Gold Hill Mine**



**Tsumcorite, sharp doubly-terminated yellow crystals on Scorodite, 110' level, Gold Hill. FOV 1.1 mm**

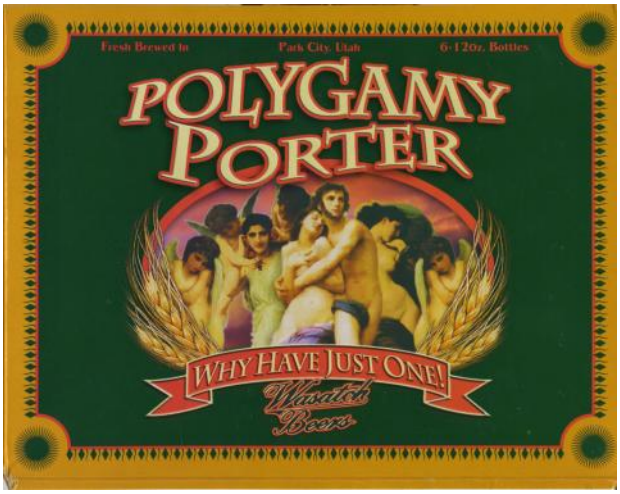
The next day dawned breezy and much warmer. We trudged up to the mine, again filling our packs. By early afternoon, though, temperatures rose to the point where collecting became unwise. Our thermometer hit 103.7 degrees F that afternoon back at the truck, as we relied on the vehicle for shade and as a wind break. Cold beers were especially nice that evening. Despite the heat, our collecting efforts were extremely successful. In addition to specimens of the species thus far mentioned, Wes got into a zone of nice cuprian Adamite in the Glory Hole, and I found an exquisite blue Scorodite on a contrasting dark matrix.

**Mixite, green spray on Quartz from the South Pit, Gold Hill. FOV 8.0 mm**

We rose early on September 19, breaking camp and figuring that we could fit in a half day collecting before we left and made our way to Delta, Utah, where we were to meet John and Maxine Dagenais on their way back from the Denver show. The weather had become moderate again, totally clear, slight breeze, and mid 80's. Perfect. We had our best day collecting.

I worked Wes' seam for the cuprian Adamite and noticed a large zone of yellow Pharmacosiderite nearby, again associated with nice green cuprian Adamite. Wes then concentrated on the Pharmacosiderite. Once again we collected until our packs bulged. As we left, we both commented that it had been our best trip to Gold Hill, even without going underground.

**Our base camp in Delta, Utah** Wes Gannaway photograph




**Polygamy Porter**
**a disrespectful, but delectable brew we enjoyed in Delta**

We started for Delta, a considerable distance away and almost all on dirt roads. The route skirted the southern edge of the Great Salt Lake, following the old Pony Express route, and passing through Callao, a town in the middle of nowhere. Our route then continued on for many miles, passing through the Fish Springs National Wildlife Refuge, and on again towards Dugway pass. We stopped very briefly at the Dugway Geode beds, collecting 30 to 40 pounds of geodes each in about ten minutes. Finally, hours later, we completed what seemed to be an interminable drive, and pulled into Delta in early evening. Civilization? flush toilets, running water, showers, green grass, and cold beer.

(Continued in the next newsletter)

Large Swiss Gwindel Quartz offered for sale at the 2010 PNWFM Symposium by Joe George.

Photo by John Lindell

Grossular on Quartz from Vesper Peak, Snohomish Co., Washington.

Collected and photo by John Lindell

10cm+ garnets near Aneroid Lake, Wallowa Co., Oregon. Garnets to the right are in a bluish carbonate matrix and garnets to the left are in a wollastonite matrix. Outcrop is on patented ground owned by Whitman College (Walla Walla, Washington), located in the Eagle Cap Wilderness.

Photo by Aaron Weiting

# LOST ABERNATHY AMETHYST LOCALITY

## Cowlitz-Wahkiakum counties, Washington

## by

## Raymond Lasmanis

As mineral collectors, each one of us at one time or another, comes across a description, photograph, or actual mineral specimen from a locality that is unfamiliar, vague, or too general. The most common type of a lost locality is from areas that have been over-run by urbanization, shopping centers, or industrial sites. Those of course are lost forever.

But, how about a lost locality in a remote forested area? It becomes a real teaser when you actually acquire a specimen for your collection from a very credible source and can't find it in the field. For me the yearning to rediscover the locality has turned into an obsession that has lasted 26 years. It is time to pass this contagious feeling on to other mineral collectors. With that, the following information will provide you with all the knowledge that I have collected, to date, for the lost Abernathy amethyst location so that you can also get caught up in the hunt.

For me it began on July 19, 1984 when I decided to spend a day with John Cowles in Rainier, Oregon. During the day, John mentioned that his collecting friend and former judge, John (Bud) Whitter had zeolites and other mineral specimens that he wanted to give away to make room in his garage. "Bud" Whitter was very gracious and took time to show me his arrowhead and antique clock collections. Eventually we got to the garage and "Bud" let me select minerals for my collection.

Of the specimens "Bud" gave me that day, there was a Styrofoam pedestal on which were mounted six single and small crystal groups of amethystine quartz (the largest crystal is 2 ½" long by ¾" wide)and also a group of up to one inch amethystine crystals on a lightly altered 5 x 5 inch basalt matrix. The label read: "Abernathy Forest, 12 ½ miles north of Oak Point, Washington". See a 2010 photograph by Mark H.F. Mauthner of the matrix specimen. According to "Bud", he said that, with John Cowles, the crystals were collected on the side of a forest road sometime around 1965. Oak Point is on the Columbia River in western Cowlitz County. An important clue was that both "Bud" and John Cowles said that the location was at such a high elevation that they could see the Longview industrial area from the site. I asked the obvious question, what forest road is the locality on? Can you take me to it? Unfortunately, they said that they had made several attempts during the early 1980's to find the spot but were not able to and got lost due to extensive clear cutting, new road building, and road abandonment by industrial forest operators.

John Cowles and John Whitter have passed away taking their knowledge with them. But, being the former State Geologist and working for the Department of Natural Resources with extensive forest-land holdings in the area, I naively assumed that the search would be fairly simple: just head for the high ground from which Longview could be seen and check all the road cuts and rock pits for signs of quartz. The name "Abernathy Forest" does not show on any maps, both current and historical, so I started in the area of Abernathy Mountain southwest of Ryderwood.

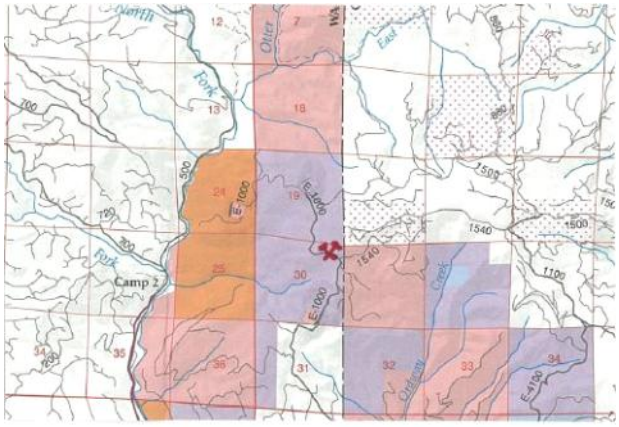
With no signs of quartz on Abernathy Mountain and vicinity, I turned to geology. In the headwaters of Abernathy Creek and north of Oak Point, the geological maps shows a very unusual Ordway Creek stock intruding Middle Eocene Grays River volcanic rocks (Walsh, T.J., 1987). Perhaps the amethyst crystals in the basalt were as a result of the intrusion dated at 41 m.y. So, my next phase over the years was to check all of the road cuts at high elevations within a mile or

so of the intrusive contact but to no avail.

By now I was getting both humbled and a little frustrated even though from April 2001 to October 2003
I was the Southwest Region Manager for the department that covered the area of interest. I had direct management responsibility for timber sales, road building, and road abandonment in the area and was constantly on the lookout for signs of quartz.

I thought a breakthrough came when I was told that a retired Department of Natural Resources forester had found amethyst crystals. During 2003 I contacted Fred Bennet, the retired forester and he confirmed that he had found crystals while walking down a logging spur road on state land during 1997. On September 24th, 2003 I met Fred on Abernathy Creek Road and he brought with him six single amethystine crystals up to 2 inches long that he had found. They were identical to the ones given to me by "Bud" Whitter. Fred told me that in the "old days" the state land in that area was known as the "Abernathy Unit". With anticipation, I thought that the day was going to bring success. I drove (up Abernathy Creek Road) and he directed me where to turn, eventually ending up at a high elevation re-prod unit and active logging site in Section 3, T.9N., R4W. A search that day and an expanded search over the following months of road cuts surrounding Section 3 and clear-cut sites did not reveal any evidence of quartz.

The last few years I have concentrated in an area one to two miles northwest of the igneous stock and in the vicinity of the onetime location of the Incline Look Out tower in the southeast corner of Section 30 (see state land ownership map). On March 5, 2009 in a driving snow storm I again made my way up to the top to check on a new Department of Natural Resources quarry along the E-1000 Road in the northeast corner of Section 30, T.10N., R.4W., in Wahkiakunm County. I was elated, in the quarry I found drusy quartz crystals lining vugs. No amethyst though. A follow up trip March 3, 2010 was on a sunny day allowing me to observe the geology. Cutting through the face of the pit is a shallow dipping fault zone (see photo) filled with clay gouge, rock fragments, and egg shell thin broken up chalcedony plates. Directly above the fault, the basalt contains scattered fractures lined by quartz and occasional vugs lined by drusy quartz crystals and in-filled with black manganese oxide rich clay (see en situ photo). Some vugs contain quartz with casts of calcite crystals.




This was the first occurrence of crystallized quartz that I have located in the headwaters of Abernathy Creek. To get there, one has to drive up Mill Creek Road north of Oak Point (Abernathy Creek Road is abandoned at the end of county jurisdiction) and then follow Main Line E-1000 forest road to the location. A 1956 Metsker map of the area calls the access road as the Incline Truck Trail. I walked out forest road #1548 above the pit and noted chalcedony at a number of locations including what was a landing from which you can see the Longview industrial area. The mileage, considering now you have to take a different route than in 1965, is still about 12 to 13 miles, fitting the label on the specimen given to me by "Bud" Whitter. All the indications are that the amethyst came from that general location- the exact spot is still to be discovered!

R.L.

# The Micro Mineral Collector

**By Bob Meyer**

**Think Pink. Prismatic crystals of pink Zoisite with Actinolite from skarn material self-collected on July 26, 2010 at a small tailings pile, the Cameahwait Prospect, Beaverhead County, Montana. The identity of neither species has been confirmed by analysis, but the identification seems reasonable given the crystal habits of the material. The field of view is 4 mm.**

## Buy and Use a Good Microscope—*adopted from Neil Yedlin*

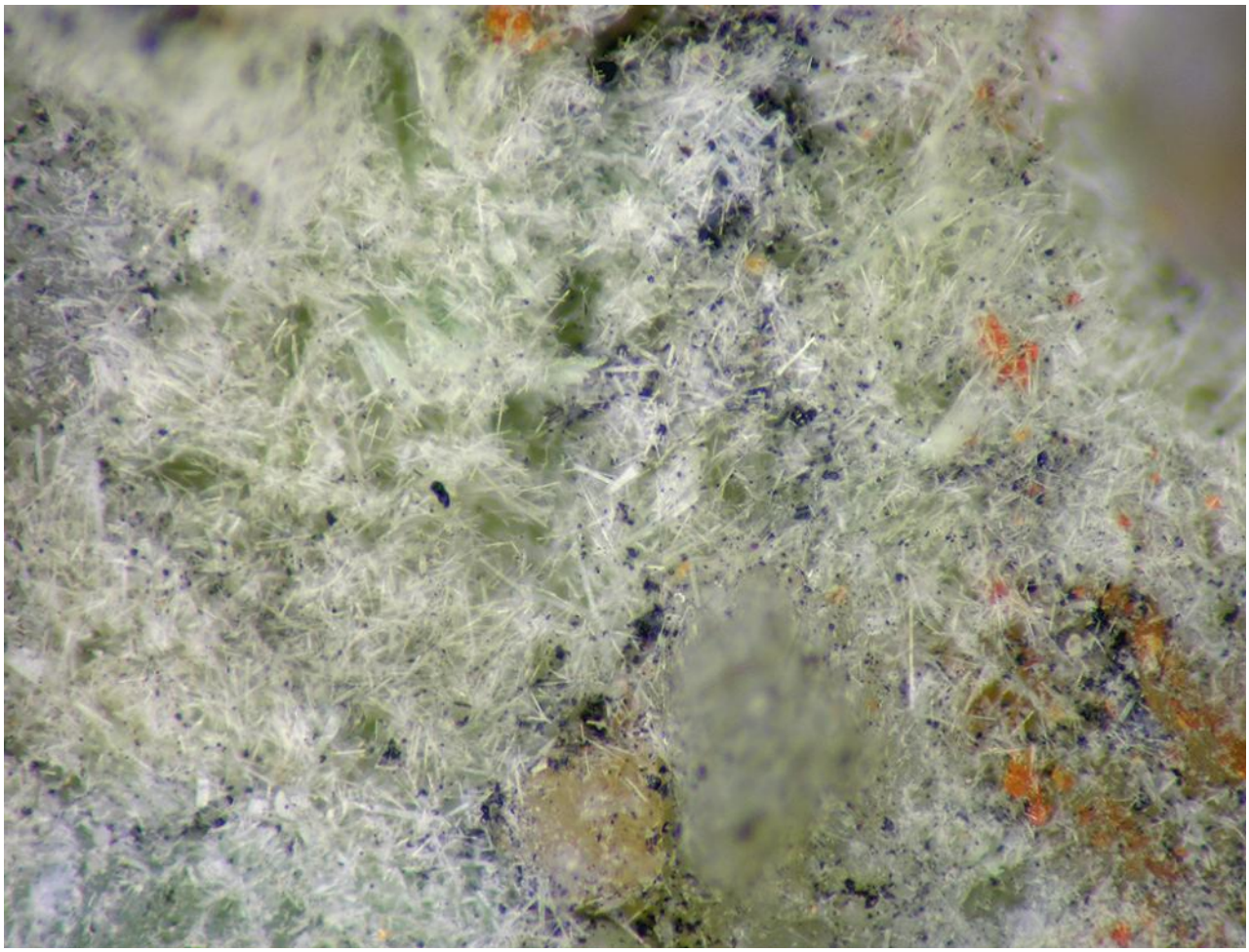
*Hello fellow mineral enthusiasts*. When I wrote last I was on the cusp of the last major field trip of the year, our semi-official trip to Utah with past PNWFM president Wes Gannaway. Since then, we returned safely, the symposium occurred, we are in the middle of the holiday season, and we are on the cusp of the New Year. Thus from one cusp to the next, we'll raise our cups and offer good cheer to all this holiday season!

In the first installment of this column, I drew a distinction between micro mounters and micro mineral collectors, ending with Premise Number One:

***Premise number one:*** ***Every mineral collector should have access to a microscope, and should use that microscope as an aid in studying their minerals. In other words, every mineral collector should be a micro mineral collector.***

In this installment, I will continue to elaborate on the distinction between micro mineral collectors and other types of collectors, and will describe the journey you will embark on as you transition over to being a micro mineral collector. All of this will be done under the heading: *New Developments in Micro Minerals,* which is just a fancy way saying that we will exploring some of the newer items that have come my way of late.

## Micro Mineral Collector versus Species Collector



**Hot off the Presses: Pale green acicular crystals of Rickturnerite, $Pb_7O_4[Mg(OH)_4](OH)Cl_3$, (=IMA2010-34), with orange and cream colored crystals of Mereheadite, from the Tor Works Quarry, Somerset, England, UK. This species, which is related to Chloroxiphite, was published and approved in October of this year. This is a co-type specimen, collected by Rick Turner, for whom the species was named, and is one of eight matrix specimens of this species in existence. The field of view is 1.0 mm.**

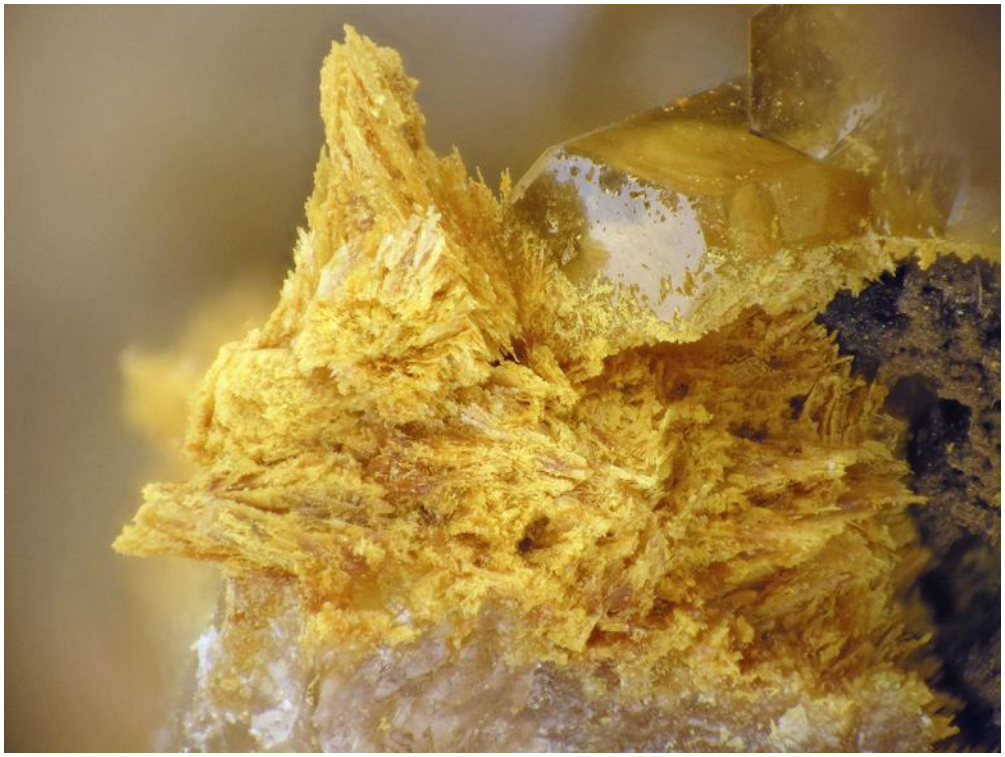
One possible journey that micro mineral collectors might find themselves on concerns the collecting of rare species. The number of opportunities to field collect micro minerals exceeds the opportunities to collect macro or display specimens. After a time, for diligent micro mineral collectors, the opportunity exists to collect very rare species, to find species that are new to given locales, or even to find new species. Such a level of collecting imparts the responsibility, or, depending on your outlook, provides an opportunity, on the part of the micro mineral collector to learn about the mineralogy, geochemistry, and paragenesis of the deposits to a very deep degree. For that reason, experienced micro mineral collectors are among the most knowledgeable of collectors. Occasionally, some individuals transcend the barriers between scientist and amateur, and author, or co-author, scientific papers in peer-reviewed publications.

**An undescribed Crednerite phase in pale gray-pink Mendipite from the Higher Pitts Mine, Priddy, Somerset, England, UK. A fascination in the deposits of the Somerset area, such as Tor Works (see the Rickturnerite above) and this piece from the Higher Pitts Mine, stemmed from the similarity of the geochemistry of these deposits to the Mammoth St. Anthony Mine, Tiger, Arizona. Such mineralization is thought to only occur in closed systems or pods, and it was my initial interest in Tiger that led me on this journey of knowledge. Work is being done to characterize this Crednerite-like mineral. The field of view is 3.0 mm.**

A common misconception concerning micro mineral collectors who collect rare species is that they are species collectors. This is not so, or at least not necessarily so. A collector of rare species might, or might not, also be a species collector. For one, micro mineral collectors are primarily interested in *crystallized* species, while a species collector will also collect massive species. Micro mineral collectors typically become interested in rare species from **given locales**, of **rare chemistries**, or **in rare associations**. There is reason to their areas of madness. In contrast, a species collector wants one of everything. Species collectors are collectors in the same sense as are stamp and coin collectors. They have a list of all of the species and keep a count of how many species they currently have. While species collectors might also pay attention to such things as specimen quality, esthetics, and degree of crystallization, the major part of their motivation is to have as many species as possible.

# New Developments in Micro Minerals from a Given Locale: Ojuela Mine, Mapimí, Durango, Mexico

**Malachite pseudomorphs after Azurite, with Azurite, fibrous Malachite, and Calcite from the famous Ojuela Mine, Mapimí, Durango, Mexico. Here we have an interesting study in mineral phase stability. Dominating the photograph are sword shaped Malachite pseudomorphs after Azurite. Above these, one can see unaltered fresh crystals of dark blue Azurite. That alone should seem unusual, but there is more. The translucency of the pseudomorphs is odd, as Malachite usually assumes a fibrous structure when it replaces Azurite. Additionally, the color of the crystals is accurate, more a blue green than is typical for Malachite, and the tips and edges of the crystals are zoned with blue. Note also in the foreground that the pseudomorphs are altering further, being covered with selective crystals of very pale green fibrous Malachite. The field of view is 4 mm.**



**Arsenbrackebuschite—$Pb_2(Fe^{3+},Zn^{2+})[(OH,H_2O)|(AsO_4)_2]$—yellow lath-like crystals of this rare species with hexagonal, somewhat pitted crystals of Mimetite. This is from a recent find, new from the Ojuela Mine. The field of view is 5.0 mm.**

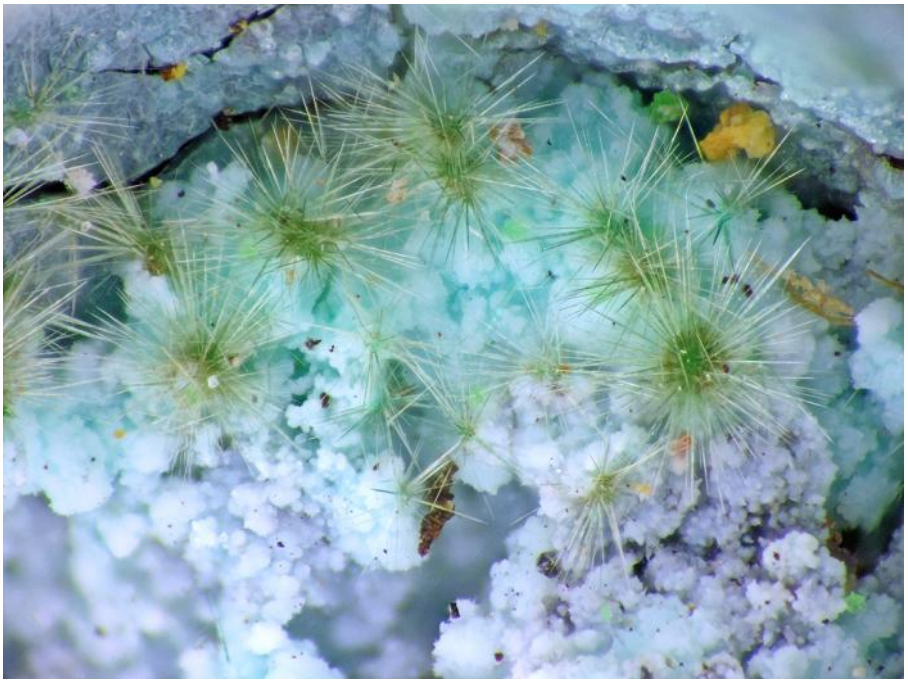
**Arsenbrackebuschite—another form of the species, as tiny sharp crystals, again from the Ojuela Mine. The field of view is 1.05 mm.**

**Tsumcorite—$Pb(Zn,Fe^{3+})_2[AsO_4]_2{\cdot}2(H_2O,OH)$, clove-brown crystals on yellow Segnitite—$Pb_3{}^{3+}[(OH,H_2O)_6(AsO_4)_2]$. Two more rare species from the Ojuela Mine and part of the find with the Arsenbrackebuschite. 1.5 mm FOV.**

**Tenorite pseudomorphs after Paramelaconite with Claringbullite (blue) and Malachite (green) from the Ojuela Mine. Most collectors are familiar with the copper oxide minerals Cuprite—$Cu_2{}^{+1}O$, and Tenorite—$Cu^{2+}O$. Less familiar is the very rare species Paramelaconite—$Cu_2{}^{1+}Cu_2{}^{2+}O_3$. This very rare pseudomorph is now Tenorite, with the form of Paramelaconite crystals. It is associated with the very rare species Claringbullite. The field of view is 8.0 mm.**

# New Developments in Micro Minerals with Rare Chemistries: Tellurium Minerals

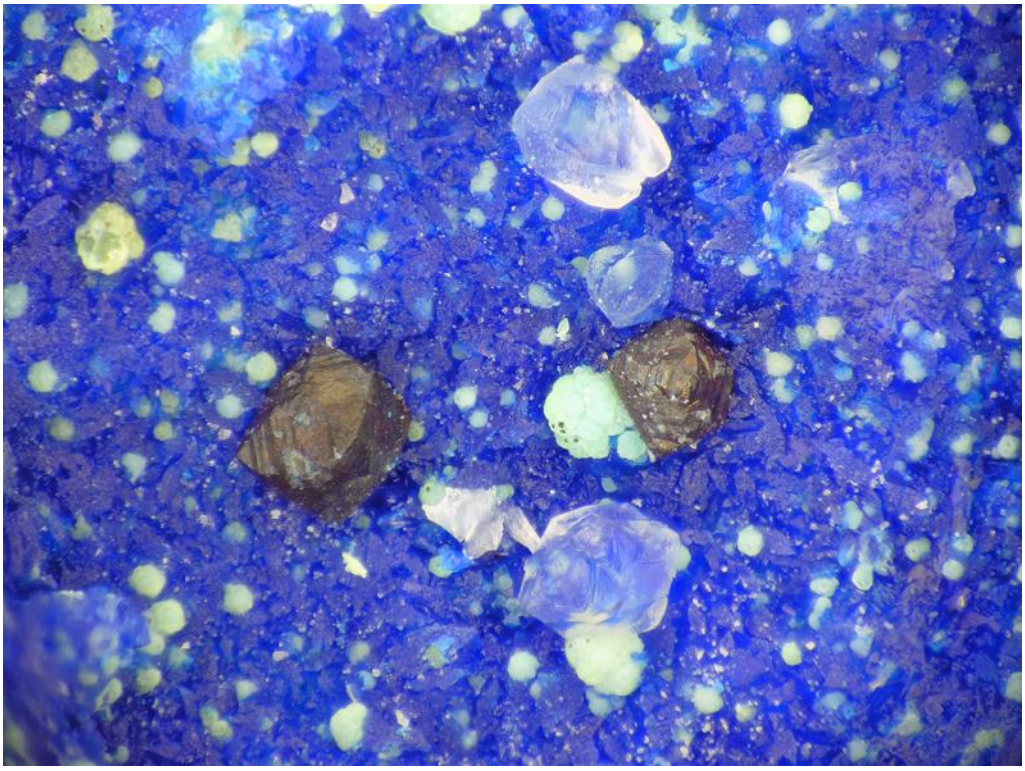
**Teineite—$Cu(TeO_3)\cdot 2H_2O$, an exquisite bright blue 1.0 mm crystal (above) and a 1.7 mm possible twin (below) from the Bambollita Mine, Moctezuma, Sonora, Mexico. Many micro mineral collectors specialize in collecting tellurium minerals such as Teineite. Such specimens are ultra-rare, expensive or not-for-sale, and occur at a very limited number of locales, such as Moctezuma, Tombstone, the Tintic District, and Otto Mountain.**



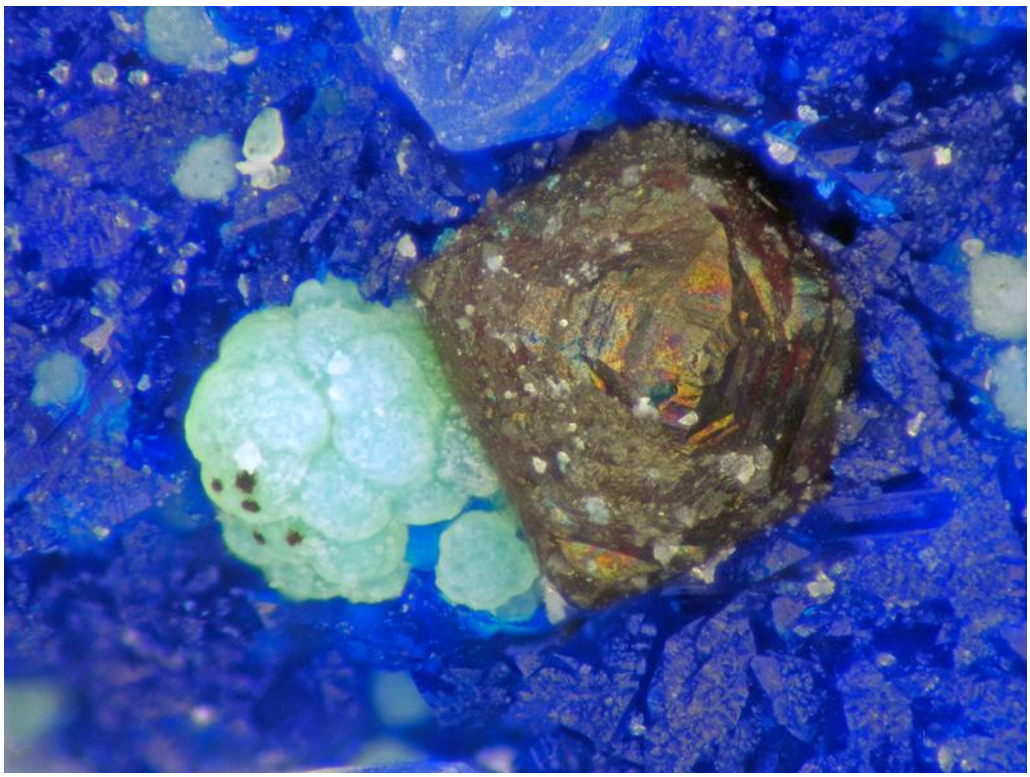
**Quetzalcoatlite—$Zn_6Cu_3(TeO_6)_2(OH)_6 \cdot Ag_xPb_yCl_{x+2y}$—green radiating sprays on Chrysocolla from the Blue Bell claims, Baker, San Bernardino County, California. The field of view is 2.0 mm. A rare tellurium containing mineral species from a locale primarily known for non-tellurates. However, nearby is Otto Mountain, an area that has produced seven new tellurate species since 2009—all originally found by micro mineral collectors.**

## New Developments in Micro Minerals: Rare Associations

**Metazeunerite—$Cu^{2+}(UO_2)_2(AsO_4)_2 \cdot 8H_2O$ (green plates) on Creedite—$Ca_3Al_2(SO_4)(F,OH)_{10} \cdot 2H_2O$ (pale yellow) from Qinglong, Guizhou Province, China. While neither Metazeunerite nor Creedite could be deemed ultra-rare, an association of the two species on the same specimen is well nigh unprecidented. The field of view is 4.5 mm**



**Cuprite, dark red highly modified crystals, on deep blue Kinoite crystals with balls of pale green Gilaite, and colorless crystals of Apophyllite from the Christmas Mine, Christmas, Dripping Springs Mountains, Gila County, Arizona. The field of view is 7.0 mm, (with a detail of 2.0 mm below). This is a very usual association, even for the Christmas Mine, the only locale in the world where Kinoite and Gilaite occur together. Cuprite is rare from the Christmas mine, with the acicular Chalcotrichite being more common.**



# Seattle Mineral Market # 4

*Free Admission*

## Saturday, May 21, 2011 - 10 AM until 6 PM

Dealer Load in 7 PM on the 20th 7AM on the 20th
Some Commerce the night of May 20th

## Lake City Community Center 12531 28th Ave NE

Northbound I-5, take Exit 174, Right on NE 130th, Left on 28th Ave NE
Southbound I-5, take Exit 175, Left onto NE 145th, Right on 15th AVE NE, Left on NE 125th, LEFT onto NE 28th

Contact: Bart Cannon 206 522 9233 bart@cannonmicroprobe.com
**Website: <www.cannonmicroprobe.com/test.htm>**

## MINERAL SPECIMENS, MINERAL and MINING BOOKS, MINERAL ART PHOTOGRAPHY and MINERAL COLLECTING EQUIPMENT

More than 80 assigned booths
Unique displays of northwest and worldwide minerals
Room lighting is adequate, but individual lighting outlets are available
Note that table skirts and extension cords are not provided.


### Predicted Dealer List

| | |
|---|---|
| Rice Museum | John Lindell |
| Earthlight | Rod Belcher |
| Bart Cannon | Sal Noeldner |
| Wholesale Nest | Lew Landers |
| Bob Meyer | Ed Molsee |
| Galaxy Gems Brazil | Alfredo Petrov |
| Pacific Rim Minerals | Bruce Wood |
| John Cornish | Gary Buhr |
| Ed Godsey | Cascade Scepters |
| AA Minerals | Ray Hill |
| Peter Boyd | Dakota Matrix |
| John Sobolewski | The Maple Tree |
| Christy Callens | Marcus Origlieri |

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## PNWFM CALENDAR

FM National Meeting in Tucson - Feb 11

PNWFM Meeting at
Seattle Mineral Market - May

Washington Pass Cleanup - August

PNWFM Symposium
Minerals of Mexico - September

Tucson Show and National Friends of Mineralogy Symposium and business meeting, February 2011