



PNWFM NEWSLETTER

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President's Message

Greetings, mineral lovers, I hope you've all gotten a chance to find something unexpected and interesting amongst the pieces in your collections this winter. Perhaps that is an odd thing to say? Yes, but I have discovered during this wet and cold season that there are plenty of new discoveries yet to be found in the flats of self-collected specimens stacked in my rock closet. I realize that "mining the closet" lacks the exhilarating outdoor adventure of exploring old mines and mountain tops, but it is certainly safer, cheaper and more convenient. You can see photos of some of my recent closet finds later in this newsletter.



Long Term Goals

In the January newsletter, I hinted at a few goals that I have for my term as president:

- 1) Stay the course with what we already do well.
- 2) Improve our appeal to new members and newer collectors while maintaining what is working well for the long-term membership.
- 3) Increase and modernize our use of technology to reach our members and the public.

I will be discussing this "*appeal to new members*" item often in the next couple of years because I believe it is very important to the long-term health of the organization. Think back to when you started collecting. At whatever stage of life that was, most of us started collecting rocks before we had the depth of mineral science background to fully understand the highly technical talks that are the pride and hallmark of Friends of Mineralogy. For many of us, FM has facilitated learning the science and jargon associated with minerals, but in an informal way. At first, we learn by an uncomfortable immersion in the talks, just absorbing whatever bits make sense. Later at night, we learn by sitting quietly in the corner with a beer while the more experienced collectors talk phosphates and pseudomorphs and REE's and mine stopes. Or, we simply let all of that go over our heads and delight in buying beautiful new specimens. All of these have described me, and after talking with a number of you, it is a common

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path to knowledge in FM. PNWFM is a comfortable and wonderful place for the experienced mineralogist, but the entry has a very steep learning curve.

I think that steep learning curve scares people away. I have seen young people show up at the symposium, attend one talk and hang out with the dealers for a while, and then just disappear. This is not just the few young children, who I have observed being real troopers, but the teens and 20-somethings. We can argue the philosophy that “anything worth doing is worth a struggle to learn,” but the organization will always lose that argument when the effort to come up to speed is more than it needs to be. People will simply not return. My goal is to make them *want* to come back by making it easier to understand mineralogy at their first exposures to PNWFM.

How can PNWFM make it easier for the novice collector? Certainly not by dumbing down the talks or content of our symposium. The high technical level is, after all, what keeps our experienced members coming back. Here are a few ideas that could make the club more attractive to the inexperienced:

1) Split out a less technical track at each symposium. This might be something as simple as scheduling a time for informal question/answer chats with a seasoned member. Or, it might be as involved as setting up two completely separate sets of talks in different rooms. Maybe the novice track would be a hands-on practical technique session after hours at each symposium: Microscope Technique, Identifying Crystal Forms, Simple Chemical Tests, Measure Specific Gravity... I can imagine dozens of possible topics.

I've seen all of these approaches to breakouts at professional conferences in other technical areas and they do attract an audience.

2) Create a reading list and sell approved books through the web site. My experience here is that there are a lot of really bad books about minerals out there. Having trustworthy recommendations could have saved me a great deal of frustration. (Crystallography, anyone? I'm still searching for accurate and easy-to-understand in the same book.) If books are too old-school, make it a list of approved web sites. Whatever medium, if we can set people on the path of finding reliable, easy-to-understand material on the science of mineralogy they will be better able to understand the science presented at our symposium lectures.

3) Offer introductory level talks in association with a few of the larger rock and gem shows in the region or at the Mineral Market.

None of this is a done deal. At this point, I'm just brainstorming in public. I do understand there are costs and volunteer staffing issues with each of these ideas, but nothing insurmountable. Let me know what you think. Do you have other ideas for improving our appeal to less experienced collectors? Do you like the steep learning curve and think we should only appeal to the experienced? I want to hear from you!

Participate!

Here are some ways that you can participate in PNWFM in the coming year:

1. Write an article or send in a few photos for the newsletter. Going to a show? Send us a trip report! Find a weird fuzzy green mineral you'd like to share? Send us a photo whether you can positively identify it or not; I think mysteries are as fun as scholarly certainty.
2. Add the Washington Pass Cleanup, Seattle Mineral Market and *Minerals of Colorado* to your calendar for 2014 (see calendar section elsewhere in this newsletter.)
3. “Like” our official Facebook page: facebook.com/PNWFM

4. Visit the Rice NW Museum of Rocks and Minerals in Hillsboro, OR. PNWFM members get free admission and store discounts.
5. Send me ideas for how PNWFM can better serve you and the mineral collecting community.

Until Summer,

-- Bruce Kelley, President, PNWFM

Hello From . . .

Your New FM Vice President –

A Long Time Resident of the Pacific North West

Alexander G. Schauss, PhD

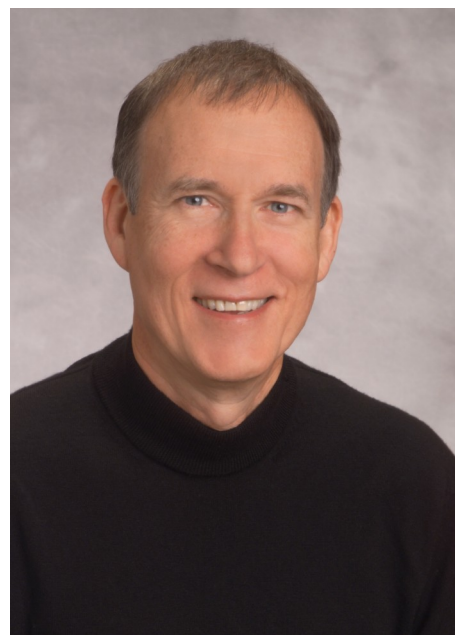
As the recently elected Vice President of Friends of Mineralogy, and a member of the Pacific Northwest Chapter of FM for over 30 years, I look forward to serving the association, its board and officers.

Laura and I moved from Tacoma, Washington, to just north of Tucson, Arizona, last year. It was an opportunity to be close to one of the most exciting concentration of mineral enthusiasts in the country. Since arriving in Arizona, we contributed specimens to the 2013 Minerals of China special Exhibit, at the University of Arizona Mineral Museum at the Flandreau Science Center. The special exhibit, highlighted by the remarkable collection Chinese minerals by Dr. Rob Lavinsky and Bill Pinch, resulted in the largest attendance the museum has had in its history. Its success has sparked a multi-million fund raiser to build a dedicated two-story mineral museum on the university's campus.

Earlier this year we donated minerals to be displayed at the 2014 Arizona Collector's Mineral Exhibit in the same museum. It will be on display through the end of the year. The exhibit, titled "The Best of the Best: Prize Minerals from the Vaults of Arizona's Collectors," <http://www.uamineralmuseum.org>, displays many of Arizona's elite mineral collectors' specimens, some of which appeared in a special issue of the *Mineralogical Record* in 2013 dedicated to Arizona's most prominent mineral collectors. I've been over to the museum four times since the exhibit opened in February to absorb the quality of world-class specimens on display.

One the most pleasurable experiences I had while living in Washington state, and as a FM member and mineral collector and enthusiast, was to take young adults and children on field trips around the state of Washington. Washington state's geologist, Ray Lasmanis, learning of these trips, often made me aware of legal collecting sites in the state that had a high probability of having these youngsters come home with some exceptional specimens.

I'll never forget the level of excitement these kids experienced at one surface-collecting site at about 5,300 foot elevation off a forest road near Mount St. Helen of world-class zeolites. (Today some of those zeolites are on display in museums around the world as far away as Copenhagen, Denmark, whose curator was at first certain that they came from India's famous zeolite deposits.) Several of the students who joined us on numerous such field trips went on to earn geoscience degrees, and earn scholarships to pay for their education.



Once these students had accumulated enough displayable self-collected specimens, they were helped by their Federation of Mineralogical Society-affiliated clubs, to exhibit their treasures. In one year alone, seven students exhibited their findings at various regional gem and mineral shows, with some earning NWFMS ribbons or trophies. Hopefully, as FM members you can find time to help the future generation of mineral collectors appreciate the wonders nature produces, and to serve as the next generation of custodians enjoying our mineral treasures.

During the annual meeting of FM, the decision was made, as you will learn from Allan Young, our President, to affiliate with Mindat.com . As probably all of you know, Mindat.com has become an indispensable tool for all collectors of minerals to gather a great deal of information about virtually every known mineral species. I'd appreciate hearing from you about how Mindat.com can better serve you so we can bring your suggestions to Mindat's managers through an ad hoc committee that has been formed to work with them to optimize its utilities.

Recent Micro-photos by Bruce Kelley



Caledonite & Linarite

Comet Mine, Elkhorn District,
Beaverhead Co., MT

FOV: 1.00 x 0.86 mm,

Stacking: 51 frames at 7.5 μ m



Hemimorphite
79 Mine, Banner District,
Gila Co., AZ
FOV: 2.93 x 2.14 mm,
Stacking: 144 frames at 7.5 μ m



Diopside & Apophyllite
Christmas Mine,
Banner District,
Gila Co., AZ
FOV: 1.78 x 1.78 mm,
Stacking: 296 frames at 7.5 μ m

**Clinoclase & Cornubite**

Majuba Hill Mine, Antelope
District, Pershing Co., NV

FOV: 1.43 x 1.22 mm,

Stacking: 325 frames at 7.5 μ m

**Boltwoodite, Hemimorphite & Unknowns**

Green Monster Mine, Goodsprings Dist.,
Clark Co., NV

FOV: 1.0 x 1.0 mm, Stacking:

36 frames at 7.5 μ m

**Kinoite & Apophyllite**

Christmas Mine, Banner District,
Gila Co., AZ

FOV: 0.753 x 0.613 mm,
Stacking: 401 frames at 5 μ m

PNWFM Business Meeting Minutes

Sunday, October 13, 2013

President, Bob Meyer, opened the meeting with 37 members present. Bob began by thanking the symposium committee and the hotel for being so accommodating. He also thanked Al and Sue Liebetrau for transporting our newly acquired cases from Denver.

Minutes from the May meeting were approved as printed in the newsletter. Treasurer's report was provided and reviewed by Linda. A onetime expense for the purchase of cases cost the club \$3791.00. Because of this expense we were down about \$900 for last year's symposium. This year's symposium had 73 registrants, our usual 4 floor dealers, and 14 satellite dealers. Another expense that the club may have to invest in is a storage facility for the cases and other club owned materials. Storing the cases in a barn is not the best for longevity of both the cases and the individuals moving them. This years silent auction earned \$625.75 and the live auction earned \$2540. Thanks to all who donated and purchased!

Themes for future symposiums were discussed. After a vote, Minerals of Colorado won for the 2014 theme. Other themes considered included: Minerals of Peru, Minerals of NE USA, Minerals of Morocco, Minerals of Tsumeb, German or European Classics, Butte, and Copper Minerals. For 2015 we are discussing the possibility of hosting a dual meeting and symposium with the Fluorescent Mineral Society. A possible theme would be NE USA and Fluorescent Minerals. The symposium committee will explore this option further. After discussion and vote it was decided to keep the symposium on the second weekend in October. The 2014 symposium will be October 12 – 14. Make your plans now to attend the 40th Anniversary Symposium!

John Lindell has been our newsletter editor for the last four years. He has done an amazing job. Bob would like our club to give John an official commendation for a job well done. Unfortunately, John is resigning! Bruce mentioned that Beth Heesecker is a strong possibility as a new editor. Remember folks our newsletter is a reflection of us. We need to send articles, reports and pictures.

Our webmaster, Jim Etzwiler, has been at the helm since the beginning. Many thanks go to Jim for approximately 10 years of service. A committee with the following individuals (Linda, Jim, Bruce, and Bill) has been formed to update the look of the PNWFM.org website. After discussion and a vote we have approved exploring the option of adding Pay Pal to our website to include renewing memberships and paying for the symposium. Bruce has also added social media links to the website.

Allan would like to investigate purchasing a new projector. He has the club's permission to explore costs. Bruce suggested asking speakers' permission to video record their presentations and then sell copies of CD's at the symposium and on the website. The board will discuss this further.

New officers were elected:

President: Bruce Kelley

Vice President: Ray Lasmanis

Treasurer: Linda Smith

Secretary: Karen Hinderman

Finally, a huge, huge thank you to Bob Meyer for being our President. We appreciate everything you have done for us Bob.



**PACIFIC NORTHWEST
CHAPTER
FRIENDS OF
MINERALOGY**

www.PNWFM.org

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PNWFM CALENDAR

Seattle Mineral Market — May 17-18, 10am - 6pm
12531 28th Ave NE, Lake City, WA
North of the Lake City Seattle Public library.

PNWFM Meeting — May 17th, 2:30 pm
During the Seattle Mineral Market

Micro-Mineral Study Group — May 3, 2014, 9-4
Clark County P. U. D. Building
1200 Fort Vancouver Way
Vancouver, Washington

Washington Pass Cleanup — August 8-10, 2014

40th Annual Symposium, Minerals of Colorado —
October 10-12, 2014