



PNWFM NEWSLETTER ADDENDUM

Julian Gray New Executive Director of Rice Northwest Museum of Rocks and Minerals Leslie Moclock Assumes Curator Position

By Bill Dameron



Julian Gray, Executive Director
and Barb Epstien

Leslie Moclock, Curator,
and Alex Bridges



Julian Gray has been selected as the new Executive Director of the Rice Northwest Museum of Rocks and Minerals; Leslie Moclock has been chosen as the new curator. Both assumed their positions at the museum in May. Julian was formerly curator at the Tellus Science Museum in Cartersville, Georgia, just outside of Atlanta. Leslie recently received her master's degree in geology from University of California, Davis.

The museum, located just outside of Portland Oregon in Hillsboro, has a long and close association with the Pacific Northwest Chapter of Friends of Mineralogy (PNWFM). Richard L. Rice and Helen M. Rice began it as a private museum in 1952, and their daughter Sharleen made it a nonprofit 501(c)3 corporation in 1997. Sharleen is a charter member and former president of PNWFM. Chapter members loan specimens for display, and contribute specimens, money and time. The chapter is a group member of the museum, entitling members to free entry and other benefits. The museum hosts PNWFM events and is an important exhibitor at its annual October Symposium, now in its 40th year. Its first full-time curator was PNWFM charter member and zeolite expert Rudy Tschernich. When he retired Lara O'Dwyer Brown became curator and also acted as Executive Director in 2013-2014. Lara is moving to Denmark because of her husband's work and will be sorely missed. Julian worked on the expansion of the Weinmann Mineral Museum from 2005, helping to turn it into the Tellus Science Museum in 2009. He earned his Bachelor of Science from Georgia State University in 1981 and his Master of Science in geology from the same school in 1998. Leslie has worked on and off in museums since she was an undergraduate at Amherst College, where she graduated in 2009 with a degree in geology. Recently she worked at [Oregon Museum of Science and Industry](#).

Julian is a long-time member of Friends of Mineralogy and past president of the national organization. He and his wife, Barb Epstien, are excited to be in the Pacific Northwest, fulfilling a dream they have had for some time. Leslie's husband Alex Bridges is a doctor in residency at Oregon Health Sciences University and both are relative newcomers to Portland.