



# PNWFM

## President's Message Toby Seim



Greetings all,

I hope everyone is of good health. Normally I would have more to say but I acknowledge and understand that this time is and has been really taxing on many of our members. I have been lucky enough to partake in some field collecting this last month and it has really brightened my spirits. I hope that some of you have been able to do the same.

The virtual Symposium being held in October is right around the corner. We have a diverse group of speakers this year who will be touching on some new and exciting topics. We will be communicating more details soon in relation to how the event will role out. COVID-19 has given us the push to finally record our talks this year which will help educate the mineral community in the future. I'm hopeful to continue to record our talks for reference going forward. I am looking forward to this event and reconnecting with all of you.



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### PNWFM Contacts

Toby Seim  
President  
Pnwgemcollectors@gmail.com

Gary Hinderman  
Vice President  
gkmhind@comcast.net

Karen Hinderman  
Secretary  
gkmhind@comcast.net

Bruce Kelley  
Treasurer  
bruce.kelley@gmail.com

Jessica Robertson  
Symposium Chairman  
jar7709@hotmail.com

Bruce Kelley  
Webmaster  
bruce.kelley@gmail.com

Beth Heesacker  
Newsletter Editor  
heesacker@coho.net



Calcite with Hematite inclusions through Calcite on Quartz var: Amethyst, Las Choyas geode, Aldama Municipality, Chihuahua, Mexico, FOV 13mm. Collection of, and photo by Beth Heesacker. Copyright by Beth Heesacker.

## Symposium Update – October 17, 2020

### Aesthetic Minerals – Color & Crystallography

Julian Gray has been working at getting us a great slate of speakers who will be fantastic whether in person or virtual. We will have five talks, all presented on Saturday, October 17. Bryan Swoboda is currently working with our speakers to record their talks and will apply his Blue Cap Productions magic to give them the professional polish that he is famous for.

On October 17, the symposium will be presented via the Zoom platform so that all current members of PNWFM will be able to join in. You will be able to ask questions of the speakers via a chat feature or with a webcam if you have one. Other than PNWFM membership, there will be no registration fee for the virtual symposium.

There was not much interest from the vendors in doing an online sale as part of the symposium, but we're still thinking about auctions. We will send out more information about membership, dues, speaker schedule and the yearly membership meeting soon. See Julian's article about our virtual display case!



#### **Aesthetics of Emeralds**

**Dr. Raquel Alonso-Perez**, Curator of the Mineralogical and Geological Museum, Harvard University (MGMH) is responsible for access to, teaching, research, public education, and continued development of the world-class Earth Science collections at Harvard University. She received her B.S. in geology from the University of Granada, Spain, her FGA from the Gemological Association of Great Britain (Gem-A) and her Ph.D. in Earth Sciences from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) in Zurich, Switzerland. Dr. Alonso-Perez teaching strengths are optical mineralogy and gemology and her main research interests are the mineralogy and geology of gem deposits. She is the secretary of the Society of Mineral Museum Professions (SMMP) and editor of *Gems & Gemology* and the *Journal of Gemology*.



#### **A Survey of Aesthetic Minerals**

**Michael J. Bainbridge** is an award-winning photographer, specializing in gem and mineral photography. He is a seasoned media professional with credits in film, television, publishing, and the arts. His work as a stills photographer appears in publications by the Canadian Museum of Nature, Mineralogical Record, Peabody Essex Museum, and the International Colored Gemstone Association, among others. Michael is also a regular contributor and Image Specialist for Colorado-based publisher Lithographie.

As a passionate advocate for the earth sciences, Michael has produced interpretive content, curated public displays, and authored numerous articles. As an expert guide, he has hosted international collecting tours, contributed to Ontario Provincial Signature Experiences development, and helped protect public lands as mineral collecting destinations.

Michael is frequently engaged as a guest-speaker and popular instructor on topics photographic and geologic, in venues from the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show to the Haliburton School of Art and Design. When not in the studio or the field, Michael is working at the jigsaw puzzle company he started in 2018 with his wife Brigitte.



### Why Minerals Make Great Art

**Tama Higuchi** is a 20 year-old mineral collector, photographer, and artist from Dallas, Texas. She began collecting specimens in the summer of 2015, and since then, has expanded her collection to include a wide array of aesthetic thumbnails and miniatures. She began creating mineral art in late 2019 and has since been bringing all kinds of beautiful specimens to life, on paper.



### Gemstone Aesthetics

**Ray Hill** has been an active member of the NW Chapter of F of M for quite a few decades !

His passions include minerals of all sizes from Micro to Large Cabinet, but they also encompass a love of the DARK side, Gems.

He started his gem obsession by taking the FGA gemology courses when he was 16, and teaching himself to cut stones from John Sinkankas's book, "Gem Cutting". In the intervening 58 years, he has slowly grown his gem collection until it now exceeds 300 pieces, including most of the top 10 rarest cut stones. It also includes about half that number again, in gem crystals.

A few years ago, he was invited to display his collection as a loaned exhibit, to the UBC Museum of the Earth, Vault, in Vancouver. It resided there for most of a year. It is true, that the Aesthetics of gem crystals is what drew him in, but the mystery and history of the transformation process that turns rough gem crystals into shining, beautiful, cut stones also engages him. He will be sharing that obsession with you.

### Causes of Color in Minerals



**Dr. George R. Rossman** is Professor of Mineralogy in the Division of Geological and Planetary Sciences, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California. He got his B.S. degree in Chemistry and Mathematics from Wisconsin State University, Eau Claire, and his Ph.D. from Caltech in Chemistry. His principal research interests deal with the use spectroscopic probes to study minerals. His work addresses problems relating to the origin of color phenomena in minerals; phase identification; and the special role of metal ions in minerals. He and his students develop analytical methods for analysis hydrous components in minerals and examine their role in modifying physical and chemical properties. He is also interested in the long-term effects in minerals from the exposure to background levels of natural radiation. He was the recipient of the inaugural Dana Medal, of the

Mineralogical Society of America in 2001, the Richard P. Feynman Prize for Excellence in Teaching at the Caltech in 2004, and the Friedrich-Becke Medal of the Austrian Mineralogical Society in 2005. He was also honored by having a new mineral of the tourmaline family named after him. He has more than 360 publications in the mineralogical and chemical sciences.



## 2020 Symposium – CALL FOR EXHIBITS

Yes, we are having exhibits at the fall symposium. Just as the PNWFM Symposium talks are moving to a virtual format, so are the exhibits. Members wishing to have a mineral case for the 2020 PNWFM fall symposium can submit photos for virtual exhibit case. Photos will be made into a virtual exhibit case: a looping slide show on the PNWFM website and our Facebook page. Individual exhibitors will be featured, one per day, leading up to the symposium October 17, 2020. This will give exhibitors a chance to showcase their collection and draw attention to our upcoming symposium.

Please consider submitting a virtual exhibit case and send individual specimen images to Julian Gray, [juliangrocks@gmail.com](mailto:juliangrocks@gmail.com) no later than September 30, 2020. Please try to keep the number of photos to fewer than twenty and include the mineral name(s), location, dimensions, and photographer. If your virtual case has a theme, please include a title and a short paragraph describing the case. Since this is entirely based on photographs, this is a great opportunity to show off micro-minerals which are normally not suitable for an exhibit case at a show.

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### Las Choyas Geodes By Beth Heesacker

I have recently been doing a study of the Las Choyas geodes from Aldama Municipality, Chihuahua, Mexico. Geodes were purchased from Gem Center USA, who own the mine. I am preparing a PowerPoint presentation for use when some of our groups get together. The pics (on this page and pages 1 and 6-7 are from these stacked images. The variety of forms of the minerals (although there are only a very few minerals according to Mindat) are fascinating. My apologies if I incorrectly identified any. I am very open to correction.



Calcite, Las Choyas geode, Aldama Municipality, Chihuahua, Mexico, FOV 4mm. Collection of, and photo by Beth Heesacker. Copyright by Beth Heesacker.

## Mineral Meetings in the Covid Era

### By Bruce Kelley

Like all of you, I've been missing all of the usual rock shows, micro gatherings, symposia and field trips that we normally attend during the year. Fortunately, there are a few silver linings to the dark cloud of Covid-19. Both of these virtual meetings go beyond just filling the void and add significant value to our mineral communication and relationships that I hope outlives the pandemic.

#### Mineral Talks Live

Bryan Swoboda of Blue Cap Productions organizes these with Dr. Raquel Alonso-Perez of the Harvard Mineral and Geology Museum and Dr. Eloise Gailou of the Paris School of Mines Museum.

From their promotions:

No mineral shows? Every Wednesday, through this series of live interviews a special guest will be answering questions in their field of expertise. We will be welcoming mineral collectors, curators, dealers, researchers and reporters in this talk show to share experiences and tips on mineral collecting, research and curation. We will take you to mineral heaven around the world and deliver the vibrant mineral community directly to your home.

From the very start, these talks have provided an excellent balance of high production value, mineral celebrity and personal connection. Bryan is such a warm host and interviewer that you feel like you're right in the room as part of the conversation. Examples of the mineral people interviewed:

Episode 03 – Peter Megaw, the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show exhibition chair and past PNWFM speaker

Episode 05 - Dr. Raquel Alonso-Perez – Harvard Mineral Museum – PNWFM Speaker!

Episode 06 - Diana and Ian Bruce – with live shots from the new fluorite diggings at Rogerly!

Sept. 2: Dr. George Rossman – Professor of Mineralogy at Caltech - PNWFM Speaker!

For those of you curious how our October symposium will work this year, these talks are an excellent preview! A month after the live talk, the recordings are posted to YouTube:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r4FzDmSC5Vg&list=PLYUSEUgiTprl9Vh7ZLXu8x_hHp0dN_TDJ&ab_channel=bluecapproductions)

[v=r4FzDmSC5Vg&list=PLYUSEUgiTprl9Vh7ZLXu8x\\_hHp0dN\\_TDJ&ab\\_channel=bluecapproductions](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r4FzDmSC5Vg&list=PLYUSEUgiTprl9Vh7ZLXu8x_hHp0dN_TDJ&ab_channel=bluecapproductions)

To join in the next Mineral Talk Live: [go.mineraltalkslive.com/register](http://go.mineraltalkslive.com/register)

#### Micromount Club Zoom Meeting

Australian collector Steve Sorrell organizes several mineral groups on social media platforms including Facebook and MeWe. As the global lockdowns started, he decided to start up a zoom meeting for the micro collectors in his Facebook group. It started out with about a dozen people from around the world and has expanded to a current group of about 35 from around the world. Every two weeks, we gather on zoom for an hour of chat and a presentation on micro minerals. The feeling is very much like attending the meetings of micro collectors around the country, but with more accents!

This talk is organized through the Micromount Club group on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/388243031331809/> If you are not on Facebook or MeWe, contact me at [bruce.kelley@gmail.com](mailto:bruce.kelley@gmail.com) and I'll send you the zoom links a day beforehand.

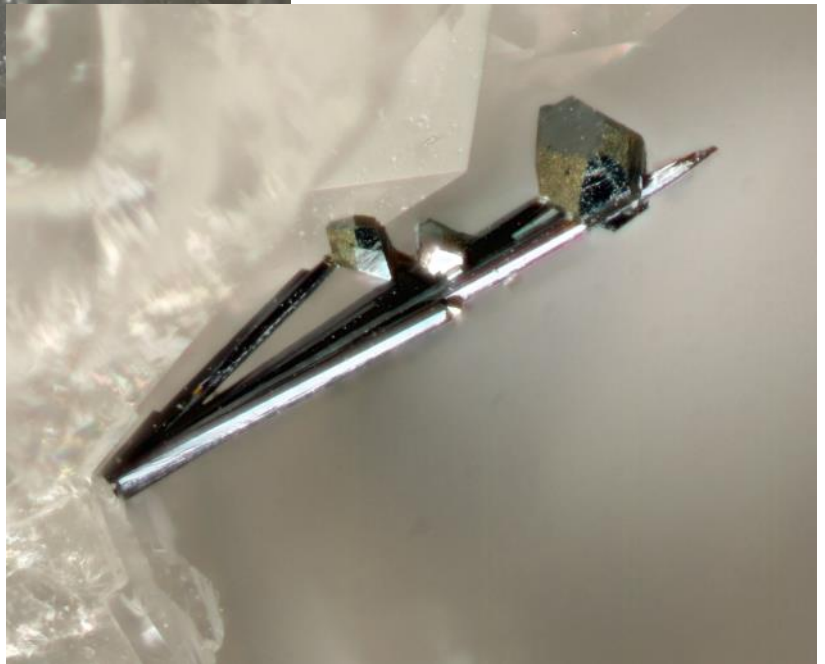


Todorokite on Ramsdellite on Goethite blade (left)

Ramsdellite on Goethite blade (right)

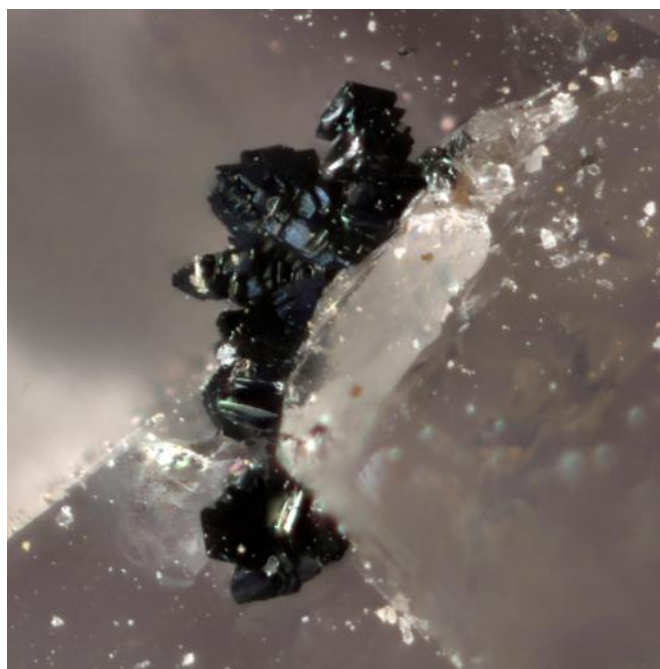
Las Choyas geode, Aldama Municipality, Chihuahua, Mexico, FOV 4.5mm. Collection of, and photo by Beth Heesacker. Copyright by Beth Heesacker.

Ramsdellite on Hollandite, Las Choyas geode, Aldama Municipality, Chihuahua, Mexico, FOV 2mm. Collection of, and photo by Beth Heesacker. Copyright by Beth Heesacker.



Ramsdellite on Hollandite needles on Quartz, Las Choyas geode, Aldama Municipality, Chihuahua, Mexico, FOV 4.5mm. Collection of, and photo by Beth Heesacker. Copyright by Beth Heesacker.





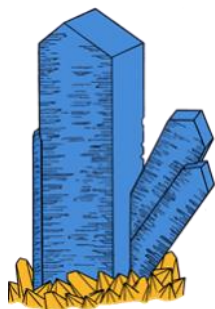
Ramsdellite, Las Choyas geode, Aldama Municipality, Chihuahua, Mexico, FOV 1.25mm. Collection of, and photo by Beth Heesacker. Copyright by Beth Heesacker.

### Editor's Plea

Please, we need your articles and mineral photos to make this the newsletter what it should be.

Please email articles and photos to  
heesacker@coho.net

The next deadline will be December 2nd




**Interested in a  
wonderful resource for  
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www.PNWFM.org  
Editor, Beth Heesacker  
4145 NW Heesacker Rd.  
Forest Grove, OR 97116  
heesacker@coho.net

## **MINERAL MEETING CALENDAR**

### **2020:**

**46th annual PNWFM Symposium **Virtual****  
**Theme - *Aesthetic Minerals***  
*Aesthetic Minerals – Color & Crystallography*  
**October 17 -- See articles in this newsletter for information**

**Micro Mineral Study Group **Cancelled****  
**Camas-Washougal Fire Station #42**  
**4321 NW Parker Street**  
**Camas, Washington**

### **2021:**

**Seattle Mineral Market**  
**May 22-23, 2021**  
**Lake City Community Center**  
**12531 28th Ave NE Seattle, WA 98125**

**NCMA Symposium **TBD****

**Stay Safe and Healthy!**

**And keep saving your flats of specimens for the free tables. I am getting quite a collection together, and I expect tables groaning under the weight when we finally get together again.**

**Beth Heesacker, editor**