

The Mineralogical Cabinet

A Newsletter for the Friends of the New Mexico Tech Mineral Museum



Volume 1, No. 2, October 2016

From the Director's Desk

A nip is in the air, cottonwoods are changing color, the first cranes have just arrived, so it must be nearing time for the New Mexico Mineral Symposium. We have a full schedule planned and an excellent group of speakers on the program. Online registration is open and we are gladly accepting mail-in forms if you choose snail mail.

The "Friends of the Museum" Reception will be held on Friday evening, November 11, from 5 to 7 pm. Appetizers will be provided and a cash bar will be available. The reception is free to the "Friends" and open to new ones! Once again, John and Maryanne Fender are sponsoring the event.

Our first major fund drive will be unveiled at the reception. We are hoping to generate additional funds to enhance the case lighting in the gallery. For the reception, new lighting has been set-up in one case to show what we hope to install. Hopefully you will agree that this project will be worth funding.

If you have not been to the museum since the grand opening, I think you will be surprised with all the changes.

I hope to see you all in November.

—Dr. V



Our display of African Minerals at the Denver Show.

Denver Show Report

The Denver Show theme this year was "Minerals of Africa" and we exhibited a case full of fine specimens from all over the continent. A lot of great African minerals were on display in both private and museum exhibits.

People always ask, "what's new at the show" and this year it was "grape agate." These are purple masses of botryoidal chalcedony from Indonesia. We purchased a modest specimen for the museum. I find it reminiscent of "Luna agate" material from western New Mexico which more blue and less purple in color. Some of the top end pieces (5-figure chalcedony prices?) had botryoids almost grape size and excellent color. Most pieces priced for the modest pocketbook were usually of smaller size, slightly inferior in color (tending to gray) and duller in luster.

The Denver Show is getting more and more like Tucson, with multiple venues scattered across the northern part of the city. Show locations ranged from just east of Golden to the usual hotels at the "Mousetrap" (intersection of I-25 and I-70) east to the Coliseum area. Word has it that the Ramada Show (ex-Holiday Inn) is moving out to the airport, east of the city. Can't get any farther apart than that!



One of our new acquisitions at the Denver Show, a "grape agate" from Indonesia.

Guest Displays

One large display case in the gallery is designated as the “Guest Display” cabinet. The display is changed out each fall in order to provide something new to see every year. The exhibitors are given “free reign” to design and execute their display so they can show their collections in a way that suits their tastes.

Last year’s displays were done by New Mexico Tech alumni, Pat Haynes (‘81), Jerry (‘72) and Philip Simmons (‘08), and our old friend and colleague Robert Eveleth (‘69). We thank them for sharing their collections in our first ever guest exhibit experiment.

The displays were so well received, that we have decided to go another round. This time with other collectors from the “Land of Enchantment.” Ray Demark of Albuquerque, has graciously agreed to share a part of his collection and it is already installed. Alan Perryman of Socorro, is next up to put in a part of his collection for the enjoyment of our museum visitors. Michael Sanders of Albuquerque, will present a portion of his collection as our third exhibitor with planned installation at the end of October.

We are looking forward to continuing this display format for some years to come. If you are interested in participating, just contact the museum director and we can discuss the particulars.



Jarosite (the greatest mineral on this planet and on Mars) and turgite (hydrated iron oxide) from Ajo, Arizona. A recent acquisition at the Denver Show.

Friends of the Museum Reception

A reception will be held for the Friends of the Museum on Friday, November 11, 2016 from 5 pm to 7 pm in the Mineral Museum. Appetizers will be served and a cash bar will be available. Tours of the museum by staff will highlight new displays, acquisitions, and upcoming projects. Nonmembers are welcome provided they become Friends of the Museum.

Mineral Symposium Field Trip

Dr. Virginia (Ginger) McLemore has graciously volunteered to lead a field collecting trip to the Copper Flat Mine near Hillsboro, New Mexico on Friday, November 11th. If you would like to attend, please contact Ginger for more info: virginia.mclemore@nmt.edu

Curator's Corner

Howdy friends! As you all know, autumn is the season for gem shows. For the African Minerals theme at the Denver show, we displayed some of our most colorful and interesting pieces, which also showcase the breadth of our donors. We flew our flag in Silver City and Roswell, showing some of our beautiful new acquisitions. Once again the Chaparral Rockhounds of Roswell raised money from their show for our Endowment Fund. Thank you!

In addition to shows, we have participated in other exciting events this fall! I was one of a hand-ful of curators/collections managers on a panel at the GEO-MAGIC Art Show on October 13th, which took place at the Zuhl Museum on the campus of NM State University in Las Cruces. It was a real treat to learn about different museums in the state, and the challenges associated with curating particular collections. Susie Welch hosted a demonstration of our Augmented Reality Sandbox (located in the museum classroom) for the annual STEM teacher’s conference on October 14th. After the 37th Annual New Mexico Mineral Symposium, I will be giving a talk on the geology of New Mexico and the museum at the Albuquerque Newcomer’s Club.

This summer, Virgil and I were busy writing an *Earth Matters* article on New Mexico gemstones. If you are interested in perusing this fine publication, please visit this link: https://geoinfo.nmt.edu/publications/periodicals/earthmatters/16/n2/em_v16_n2.pdf

For updates and photos on what’s happening at the museum, I also try to post weekly on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/NMBGmineralmuseum/>

This job keeps me on my toes and I LOVE IT! Looking forward to seeing many of you in mid-November!

—Kelsey McNamara

Dug up in Denver...

We acquired some very nice pieces during the Denver show this year. A couple of the recent acquisitions are shown below. It seems we were presented with more opportunities to obtain interesting species rather than many “showy” pieces. These unusual pieces include a 10 cm crystal group of Chevkinite-(Ce) from Pakistan, and Volkovskite, a new borate from under the North Sea, which was recently featured in Rocks and Minerals magazine.



Calcite with inclusions of marcasite from the Linwood Quarry, Iowa. You might remember a few years ago a good number of barite specimens came from the same locality. This piece will fit nicely with the barite we acquired years ago.



Tellurite (no hand lens or microscope needed to see it!) from the Moctezuma mine, Sonora, Mexico.

2016 Fall & Winter Museum Show Calendar

- Nov. 11** Mineral Museum Friends Reception
Nov. 12–13 37th Annual NM Mineral Symposium
Dec. 3–4 Los Alamos (NM) Show(exhibit)

FACEBOOK FRIENDS

To those who are interested in keeping up with the museum on social media, you can “Like” our public Facebook page at:

[https://www.facebook.com/
NMBGmineralmuseum/?ref=aymt_
homepage_panel](https://www.facebook.com/NMBGmineralmuseum/?ref=aymt_homepage_panel)

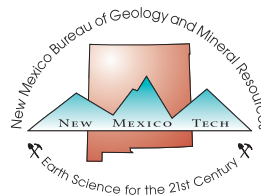
We use the public Facebook page mainly for museum announcements and events, Mineral Symposium highlights, and showing off new donations, interesting minerals, and sales material. The ‘Friends of the Museum’ Group page will show our generous supporters how contributions are being used for improving both the museum collections and displays.

A Friendly Reminder

Annual Dues for the Friends of the Museum expire on the weekend of the Mineral Symposium. You can pay dues on site or remit payment to:

NMT — Mineral Museum Gift Fund and send it to:
NMBGMR Mineral Museum
Friends of the Mineral Museum
801 Leroy Place
Socorro, NM 87801

You can also use a credit card by calling April Brunson or Adam Roybal in the bureau *Publications Sales store*:
575-835-5490



We thank you for your support!