

# The Mineralogical Cabinet

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



Volume 2, No. 1, March 2017

### From the Director's Desk

Spring has sprung, the grass is ris, I wonder where the minerals is! I am pleased to report we had a very successful 2016 in the museum as all accounts are in the black. We received 21 formal donations of material last year, many now on display in the New Acquisitions case. The aggregate value of those donations exceeded \$500,000—Thank you!

Funding by the Friends for our two projects also exceeded our expectations last year. The “Pet”rified Forest project is fully funded, in part thanks to a generous donation by Terry and Marie Huizing. We are recurrently applying for matching funds through New Mexico True to make it even bigger. The case lighting project is almost funded thanks to a group of contributions from a number of friends. We are only about \$2,000 short of our \$13K goal for lighting the 4 interior cases of the museum. I visited some of the light vendors at Tucson and informed them we will be soliciting quotes in order to get them purchased and installed. We hope to light the wall cases in the future too, so don't be shy if you want to keep contributing to the lighting fund. All funding by the friends goes to infrastructure projects to enhance the facility and collections.

We went to Tucson beginning February 7th and exhibited some of our “Midwest Minerals” at the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show. We found some excellent pieces for the museum, especially a Kelly Mine hemimorphite on rosasite—really rare. The specimen came out of the famous Miguel Romero collection from Mexico. Check out its picture later in the newsletter. Another notable, but not really exceptionally lovely piece is a malacite, tenorite, chrysocolla from the Caballos Mountains. This piece is really old and not from a well-known locality. We also acquired a cool volcanic bomb with a mantle xenolith core from Baja California, Mexico. Think of a Kilbourne Hole xenolith with a thick rind of basalt. The final purchase was a great lime-green pyromorphite from Spain during the closing minutes of the show.

Thank you all for your support last year and we are looking forward to another great year in the museum.

—Dr. V

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### “Pet”rified Forest Project Update

We have established a timeline for completing the “Pet” project that was only complicated slightly by the New Mexico True funding opportunity. The trees need to be installed by June 1 to qualify for matching funding. We plan to truck the pieces (already selected) from Arizona in March and begin installation immediately, once the pieces are cleaned. Individual pieces will be “plucked” and moved to upper campus for polishing over the course of the summer. We are planning to offer a Community Education class on “monument polishing” for students or citizens interested in participating in the project. Once a piece is polished, it will be moved back to its site and another started. We plan to install the 15 pieces in the park area in front of the museum and around the Bureau of Geology building.



Alan Perryman cleaning one of the “Pets” at the ranch last November.

### Friendly Suggestions Wanted

If you have an idea for a project that will improve our museum or the visiting experience, please share it with us! We intend to propose an improvement project as current ones are completed. Our goal is to keep the museum and its collections new and fresh whenever we can. We hope you see or experience something new each time you visit.

# Curator's Corner

Hello Friends!

We started off the new year as the featured article in the January 2017 Enchantment Magazine, which is a monthly publication produced by the NM Rural Electric Co-op. Ellen Rippel produced a nice write-up with photos on the Mineral Museum. If you don't receive this magazine, feel free to peruse the article at this site: <https://issuu.com/enchantmentmagazine/docs/january-2017-enchantment>



*Turquoise in the Lapidary Display made the front cover of the January 2017 edition of Enchantment Magazine.*

We received off-the-charts mineral & monetary donations for 2016. I'm sending a BIG THANKS to everyone that contributed! Since January 2016, we have added over 230 specimens to the museum collection. If we keep up at this pace, we will need more display cases very soon!



*Bob Eveleth perusing antique stock certificates while checking out freshly donated mineral specimens.*



*Cody Schwenk collected this chalcanthite on gypsum specimen during the symposium field trip to Copper Flat last year. He displayed the piece at Tucson in his case of self-collected minerals. He kindly donated the specimen when we asked about it—Thanks, Cody!*

If you missed the symposium last year, the guest display now includes beautiful pieces from the collections of Ray DeMark, Mike Sanders, and Alan Perryman. Each display is unique and includes a variety of New Mexico and worldwide specimens, as well as photos (like Chris Cowan in a cattle trough)! These particular displays will be up until late October, so come check them out!



*Susie Welch, our Geologic Extension Service Manager, and I showing off some mineral specimens at the NMT Day at the Roundhouse in Santa Fe.*

We have been busy with outreach so far this year, with K-12 classes performing museum scavenger hunts and learning about fossils, minerals in everyday products, and topographic maps using our sandbox. Susie Welch and I represented the Bureau of Geology & Mineral Museum at the Roundhouse in Santa Fe for 'New Mexico Tech Day' on January 26th. I supervised the 'Rocks and Minerals' event for Science Olympiad on February 25th. Fifty teams of middle and high school students were tested on rock & mineral properties, identification, and processes of formation.

For updates and photos on what's happening at the museum, I try to post weekly on our Facebook page:


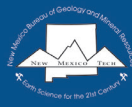
<https://www.facebook.com/NMBGmineralmuseum/>

—Kelsey McNamara

**EXIT 147**  
 Corner of Bullock and Leroy

**Mineral MUSEUM AND BOOKSTORE**

CITY OF SOCORRO

**NEW MEXICO TECH**  
 SCIENCE • ENGINEERING • RESEARCH • UNIVERSITY



**NEW! Museum Billboards on I-25 at north and south exits!** The City of Socorro recently offered to produce billboards for advertising the museum on either end of town. This one will be placed at the south exit. Special thanks to the City of Socorro, Mayor Bhasker, and the bureau design team of Rick Arthur and Stephanie Chavez.

**TUCSON TREASURES...**



Light blue hemimorphite spheres on rosasite from the Kelly Mine. Former Miguel Romero specimen.



Pyromorphite on barite from The San Andres Mine, Espiel, Cordoba, Andalusia, Spain.



Basalt bomb with a mantle xenolith inside from Guadalupe Island, Municipio de Ensenada, Baja California, Mexico.

**“Let’s be Friends”**

**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 at the bureau bookstore at **575-835-5490**.

**We thank you for your support!**

**2017 MUSEUM SHOW CALENDAR**

**March 17-19**

**“Treasures of the Earth Show”**

**Albuquerque Gem & Mineral Club**