

The Mineralogical Cabinet

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



Volume 2, No. 2, November 2017

From the Director's Desk

Symposium time is fast approaching. We are making the final preparations for "the Big Show." Registrations are looking good and we are excited to get started. Our featured speaker, Terry Huizing, was diagnosed with an illness and will not be presenting. Bob Jones, a previous featured speaker two times over, will be presenting in Terry's stead. The really good news, with some creative treatment scheduling, Terry and Marie will be in attendance.

The "Pet"rifed Forest project is nearly complete, only some signage is left to develop. A photo essay by Kelsey is found later in the newsletter, documenting some of our exploits (there were plenty). Alan Perryman will regale everyone at the symposium with some of the adventures (and misadventures).

A request for quotes has been sent out to LED light suppliers. Final section of the successful bidder will be done in early December and hopefully the new lights will be installed early next year.

The "Friends" have been fabulous in supporting our projects this year. Next year's project is the addition of more casework in the museum and atrium. Our donors have been so generous with their collections that we need more space to show them off!

—Dr. V

virgil.lueth@nmt.edu

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 the way that suits their tastes.

This year Les and Paula Presmyk, Bill Shelton, and Dave Stoudt will be our guest exhibitors.

If you are interested in participating, just contact the museum director and we can discuss the particulars.

Friends of the Museum Reception

A reception will be held for the Friends of the Museum on Friday, November 10, 2017 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.



Our display of Gold, Silver, and New Acquisitions at the Denver Show. The show theme this year was "Gold and Silver" commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Show.

Mineral Symposium Field Trip

The Bursum Mine (aka US 60 Mine) is located in the Luis Lopez Manganese Mining District immediately south of Socorro along U.S. Highway 60. The mine is unique in the district in that it produced banded goethite and hematite in greater abundance than manganese oxide minerals. Botryoidal and stalactite specimens have found their way into collections and museums around the country. Portions of the deposit have been recently reclaimed by the hosts of the trip, Alan Perryman and Richard Overley, and the rest of the deposit is on state land. Meet at the shrine along U.S. 60, (mile post 133) west of Socorro at 9:00 a.m. Friday, November 10, to be escorted to the collecting site by Alan and Richard. For more information contact: altperr@yahoo.com

Curator's Corner

Howdy Friends!

We have been inundated by new 'New Mexico' acquisitions this year, and don't worry, we are not complaining! These beauties have found a place in our cases, awaiting your admiration. Please enjoy this mineral photo gallery:



Silver in dolomite, Alhambra Mine, Black Hawk district, Grant County, NM.



Copper replacing azurite, Copper Rose mine, Georgetown district, Grant County, NM.



Fluorite, Doublestrike Claim, Bound Ranch district, Grant County, NM.



Vanadinite (var. endlichite) on calcite from the Macy Mine, Hillsboro district, NM.



Quartz (var. smoky) & albite, Organ Mountains, Doña Ana County, NM.



Malachite & azurite, Graphic Mine, Magdalena District, Socorro County, NM. Gift of Gary Fleck.

“Pet”rified Forest Project Update

Fifteen large pieces of Arizona petrified wood arrived to the NM Tech campus in late April and early May. It truly was an experience witnessing such behemoths moved by a forklift!

Theresa Boracci, a lapidary artist in the NM Tech Community Ed Art Department, opened up her outdoor workspace to accommodate three logs at a time. A community education class was offered in the summer and fall for students and community members to learn how to polish large pieces with hand-held polishers.



Working hard? Or hardly working? Virgil is ready to move some logs.



Frankie Lopez, Brian Wheeler, and Dr. V making sure this log is forklift-friendly.



Meet “Grosso Grando,” it almost managed to break everything that tried to move it, trailer, track hoe or forklift. Note crushed pallet underneath.



Alan and Joee Perryman giving a log a bath in the Community Ed Fine Arts outdoor workspace.



Doug Scott using a handheld polisher.

“Pet”rified Forest Project Update continued. After logs were finished, they had to be moved down to the Bureau building. A team from New Mexico Tech Property & Facilities Management used both forklifts and muscle to handle the behemoths.

All of the logs have been moved to their permanent location in front of the Bureau, with the exception of the smallest one, which is on display in the museum.



Those monsters were heavy, truly a team effort!



Two forklifts were utilized to transport logs to our front yard. Special segments of portable runway (for airplanes!) had to be set down along the travel path to keep the forklifts from getting stuck.



The largest piece (Grosso Grando) tested the forklift hydraulics and strap tensile strength. You could hear the fibers popping!



The team places a log across the stream.



Brian and Alan taking a log for a stroll.



Please feel free to touch!

The 'Petting Forest' is ready for you to enjoy! The next step will be installing informative signs, which is on our future projects 'to-do' list.



Morning photograph of the "Pet"rifed Forest in the front of the Bureau building, surrounding the "Water Volcano."



Alan Perryman, the wheeler-dealer, lapidary artist, and ramrod of the whole project encourages everyone to have a seat and pet the rocks!

K-12 Outreach News

Rockin' Around New Mexico, an annual geology workshop for K-12 educators, took place in Socorro from July 12th to 14th. Approximately 28 teachers and 8 geoscientists participated in a slot canyon fieldtrip east of town at Arroyo del Tajo. The educators also learned about riparian ecology and measured water levels in wells at Escondida, and worked together on orienteering, topographic sandbox models, and rock identification at the Bureau. The workshop was a big success!

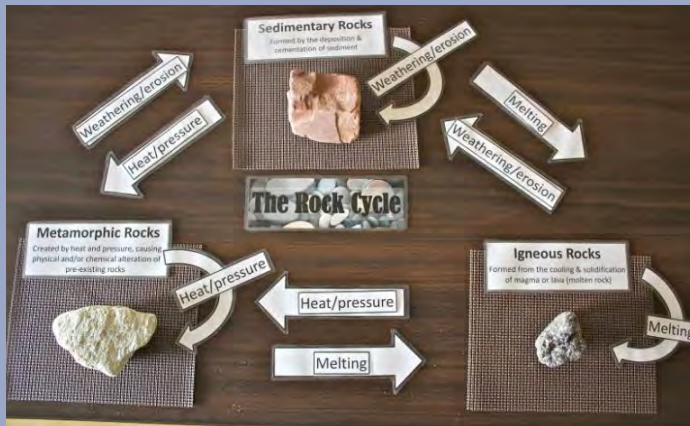


Dave Love, the bureau's emeritus environmental geologist, and educators hike through a slot canyon formed in Precambrian granite.



Ethan Mamer, a bureau hydrogeologist, helps a science educator measure depth to water.

In other outreach news, I constructed a rock cycle classroom demo for middle to high schoolers, which was tested on Upward Bound students with good results! We also tested it during the Rockin' workshop, and the teachers enjoyed thinking about the formation of different rock types.



To assemble the rock cycle, users must first identify rock types and then consider processes that change one rock type to another.



Rockin' teachers constructing the rock cycle in the museum classroom.

2017 Museum Show Calendar

Nov. 10, Mineral Museum Friends Reception
 Nov. 11–12, 37th Annual NM Mineral Symposium
 Dec. 2–3, Los Alamos, NM Show(exhibit)

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

www.facebook.com/NMBGmineralmuseum

The New Mexico Bureau of Geology ALSO has a Facebook page! Please check it out at this address:

www.facebook.com/NMBGMR

—Kelsey McNamara



Updates on Displays/Collections

A new 'Ricolite: New Mexico's Serpentine' display is out for everyone to see. Located in a tabletop case, enthusiasts can appreciate these freeform lapidary pieces in 3D. Steve Blodgett donated 23 specimens, including eggs, slabs, and freeform shapes from Grant County, NM. Ricolite consists of bands of serpentine group minerals (think asbestos!), which surprisingly make a nice cabbing material. Above is a photo, but these pieces look much better in person!

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

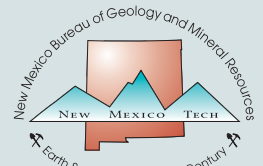
You can use a credit card too by contacting:

April Brunson or Adam Roybal
 Publications Sales
 575-835-5490

Contact Us

Director: Virgil W. Lueth:
 575-835-5140
virgil.lueth@nmt.edu

Curator: Kelsey McNamara
 575-835-5418
kelsey.mcnamara@nmt.edu



We thank you for your support!