

The Mineralogical Cabinet

A Newsletter for the Friends of the New Mexico Bureau of Geology Mineral Museum



Volume 3, No. 1, September 2018

From the Director's Desk

Greetings Friends,

Things have been going very well for the museum (and the Bureau of Geology) this year as Kelsey's article later in the newsletter will attest. The support from our friends is very tangible from exciting new specimens on the shelves to enhanced case lighting and new display cases. Your support helps us be "different" from most museums in that we are constantly changing our exhibits, upgrading our facility, and making new friends! Our visitor count is up (seems we have visitors in the gallery from open to close) and the comments in the guest book are flattering. Thank you for the continuing support.

In the "big news" department, the museum has been invited to be the exhibitor at next year's East Coast Mineral Show in Springfield, Massachusetts. I believe it will be the first major traveling exhibition that our museum has ever done. We are excited to "show off" our stuff back east as well as advertise our wonderful "land of enchantment." We will fill 52 cases which are slightly smaller than the Tucson or Denver types. The show sponsors paid my way to the show so I could observe the logistics required. They will also cover the expenses associated with the exhibition next year. We are pleased to be able to take advantage of the unique opportunity to make new friends.

We also get to be creative and develop new exhibits that we can use at other shows. While at the show I was able to obtain a number of specimens that include: a crystalline turquoise specimen from Virginia, an Indian powellite crystal, calcite on galena from Lordsburg, NM, and a spessartine "in matrix" that is either a repair or fake, although the crystal itself was well worth the price paid.



Guest display area at the East Coast Gem and Mineral Show. This year's exhibitors was the David and Karen DeBruin collection.



Notice the ribbon on our case at the Denver Show!

Our case funding drive is moving a bit slower than our previous projects so I have decided to modify our goal so we can move forward with others. We will be adding some new cases to the atrium with our current funding and moving some very nice Waddell cases that were in storage into the gallery. We will need to light these, so some money will go to provide them with LED lighting. I hope we can do another funding project to light the rest of the cases in the gallery as our next goal.

We had a very successful show in Denver. Kelsey set up our case titled, "Hecho en Mexico" that won the Donna Chirside Award for the best museum presentation. I gave a talk on the color of smithsonite for the speaker program on Friday, and Kelsey and I also participated in a new program called "Curator Tours." We added a few New Mexico mineral specimens at the show along with an Irish fluorite. Kelsey posted pictures on our Facebook page if you want to take a look.

The mineral symposium second announcement flyer was sent in early September. We have an excellent program scheduled. More details can be found on our museum web page under symposium. Phil Simmons has graciously agreed to lead a field trip on Friday to the Chupadera copper mine, east of Socorro. It is a red bed copper deposit so chalcocite, malachite, and azurite in sandstone can be collected along with UV fluorescent calcites. There is also some good fossil collecting in the area, especially my favorite, shark coprolites! See your flyer or our web page for details. If you have not been to the museum since the new lighting has been installed, you will be in for a treat when you return. In addition, we have a number of new minerals to visit and Alan Perryman revamped his guest display after our lighting project was completed. Come see how your being our friend is helping our museum!

—Dr. V
virgil.lueth@nmt.edu

Curator's Corner

Hello Friends,

IT HAS BEEN A LONG TIME since our last letter, so I hope this note finds you all doing well and enjoying 2018. So far this year we have put together mineral displays at the following shows: Tucson, Albuquerque, Farmington, Silver City, Durango, and Denver. Los Alamos will be our last in early December.

We are getting geared up for the November Symposium during the second weekend of November. The Friends of the Museum reception will take place on Friday the 9th, and will emphasize the fabulous new lighting in our large display cases. Regarding museum goals, we are still accepting donations to purchase more display cases (we are about half-way to our goal of \$20,000). Other projects on the to-do list include light installation on the smaller cases (to match the brilliance coming from our large cases) and signage for the Petting Forest in front of the building. Signs would include information on the geologic setting during the Triassic, processes of mineralization, and trace elements that give the wood color. We like to focus on relatively short-term projects, so you have an idea on how we use your monetary gifts!

Since our last newsletter in November, approximately 185 minerals have been added to the collection! Since there are too many for photos, here are some highlights:



Albert, Brian, and Virgil used muscles to move a rolling sphere (kugel) fountain. This piece was donated by Jim Platt & Jana Svobodova of San Antonio, New Mexico. We plan to place this fountain in the Bureau courtyard once it is cleaned and running.



This is how things get done in the Middle Rio Grande! A local green chile farmer helped load the fountain onto the trailer.



A large Brazilian citrine on albite requires some muscles! This piece is a gift from Jim Platt & Jana Svobodova.



Thanks to Albert and Brian, the bureau's carpenter and mechanic, the citrine is now on display as a "touchy" rock at the museum's entrance.

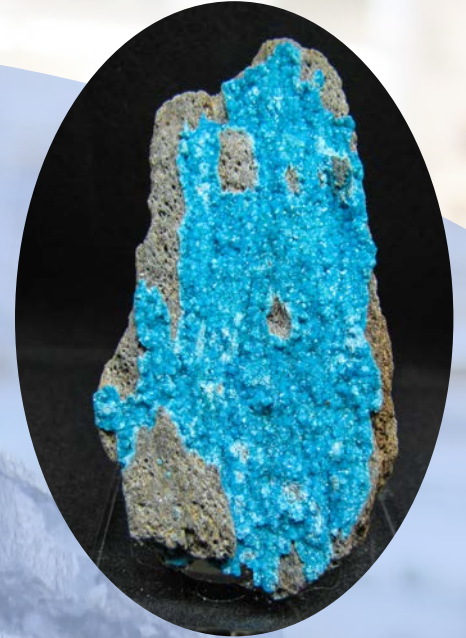
New Acquisitions



Quartz var. chalcedony, Mimbres Mountains, Grant Co., NM. *Gift of Martin Zinn III, MM# 19389.*



Pyrite, Pasto Bueno, Pampas District, Ancash Dept., Peru. *Gift of Marshall Koval, MM# 19351.*



Crystalline Turquoise, Lynch Station, Virginia. Approximately 4 inches tall, MM# 19433.



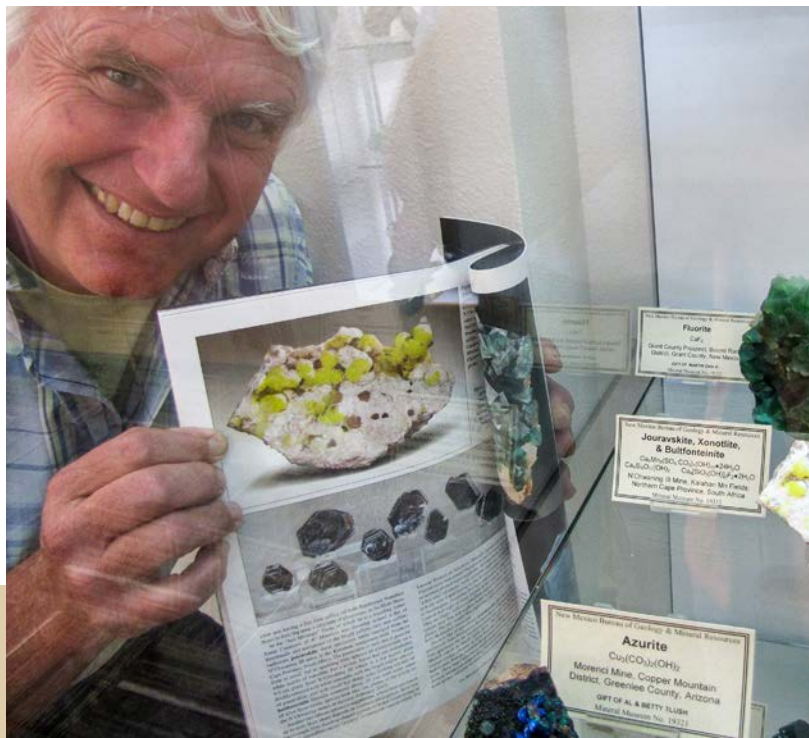
Quartz var. Amethyst, San Pedro Mountains, Santa Fe Co., NM. *Gift of Bobby & Arlene Gonzales, MM# 19379.*



Intergrown galena and fluorite, Portales adit, Blanchard Mine, Socorro Co., NM. *Gift of Martin Zinn III, MM# 19394.*



Scheelite & muscovite, Mt. Xuebaoding, Sichuan Province, China. *Gift of Dave Douglass, MM# 19386.*



Virgil poses with the May-June 2018 issue of *The Mineralogical Record*, highlighting jouravskite, bultfonteinite, and xonotlite from N'Chwaning III Mine, Northern Cape Province, South Africa. This piece was featured in the "What's new Tucson Show" article, and is now on display in our New Acquisitions case.

The museum looked like a yard sale! Pat Haynes points out his favorite European pieces.



Case Lighting Project

The Museum was closed for a little over a week in mid-May for the installation of new and bright lights! This project was funded through the Friends of the Museum, so I'm sending out a BIG THANKS to all who made it possible. Thanks to Les and Paula Presmyk, who worked overtime to make the minerals sparkle. We also appreciate the folks who helped with electric wiring, cleaning, and moving pieces from shelf to table and back again: Alan Perryman, Mike Sanders, and Pat Haynes.



Mike Sanders (without a mustache) peers through the glass while installing wiring.



Les and Paula Presmyk working as a team on LED lights and wires.



Virgil and Alan Perryman were on metal bracket duty.

K-12 Outreach News

Teachers in the field

Rockin' Around New Mexico, a yearly geology workshop for K-12 educators, took place in Truth or Consequences on July 11-13th. Approximately 22 teachers and 9 geoscientists were in attendance for geologic fieldtrips in the mornings and classroom activities during the afternoon. Geologists explained the sedimentary, volcanic, and hot springs deposits of the Rio Grande rift at field sites around town and near Elephant Butte reservoir. Please enjoy some photos of the field trip!



Dave Love teaches educators about the differences between P and S waves, which are generated by earthquakes.



Just look at those colors! Virgil discusses geologic processes responsible for alteration in a Paleozoic limestone unit.



Dan Koning and Shari Kelley explain a schematic diagram of the Hot Springs Fault, which goes right through the middle of the reservoir (in background).



A volcanologist, geomorphologist, and mineralogist walk into a bar...

Lite Geology: A publication that's light on the gobbledegook

Are you interested in New Mexico Geology, but not all the jargon? If so, then you should get your hands on Lite Geology, a publication that is specifically written for educators and the general public. The current issue of Lite Geology is focused on calcite in the rock record.

Past and present issues (all of which can be downloaded as pdfs) are available on the Lite Geology website. For more information on this publication, please visit: <https://geoinfo.nmt.edu/publications/periodicals/litegeology/home.cfm>



Cave formations of Carlsbad Caverns featured on the cover of the most recent Lite Geology.

New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources— Art in Public Places program

Since the New Mexico Bureau of Geology is a state agency, one percent of the building construction cost was set aside for public art through the Art in Public Places program (www.nmarts.org/art-in-public-places/). A committee (including a local charter-school teacher, bureau staff, the NM Tech architect and facilities manager, and a student regent) was formed to make decisions on how the money would be spent toward artwork for the Bureau. The decision was made to put \$60,000 toward smaller pieces for public use hallways and conference rooms, while the remaining \$120,000 would go towards a large commissioned piece for the bureau's atrium.

The committee purchased 38 pieces from work submitted by regional artists. The chosen works consist of a variety of media (photographs, oil paintings, cast paper, glass & metal, LEDs in plastic) with a geologic theme. Most of these pieces are being installed now and should be on display in public hallways and meeting rooms of the bureau in the coming months.

Four artists were chosen for the large atrium piece, and they will present their ideas on November 9th, which is the Friday of the Mineral Symposium weekend. The meeting is public, and if you are here for the Symposium, please drop in and check out the artist proposals. More detailed information will be available on this open presentation closer to the date.

The selected artists are listed below, along with their websites:

Mark Abildgaard—www.markabildgaard.com

Joseph Bellacera—www.josephbellacera.com

Michele Gutlove—www.studioogh.com

Tim Prentice—www.timprentice.com

Art in the Mineral Museum

Wilda on the Walls

Thanks to Marty Zinn, we now have art on the walls of the Mineral Museum. In early January, Virgil found his tape measure, nails, and rock hammer and began putting up stunning water color originals and prints by Frederick Wilda. The next step of the process is to create a key for the pieces, so that patrons can read about each mineral and locality. Thanks Marty!

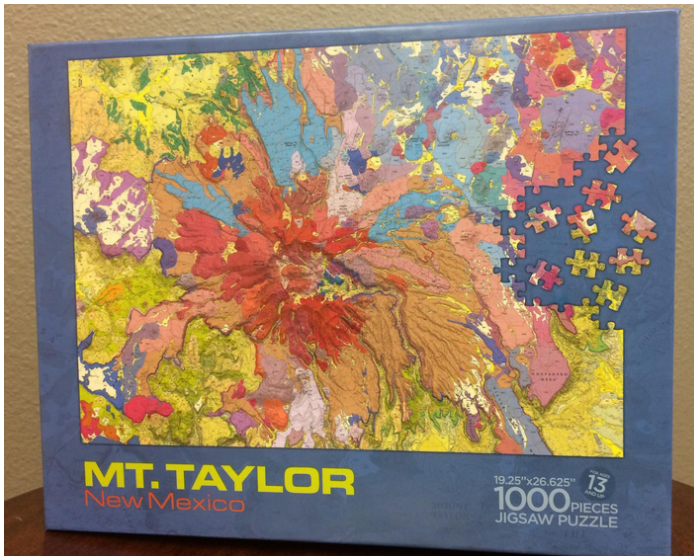


Virgil, busy hanging pieces (with his trusty rock hammer) above the student office.

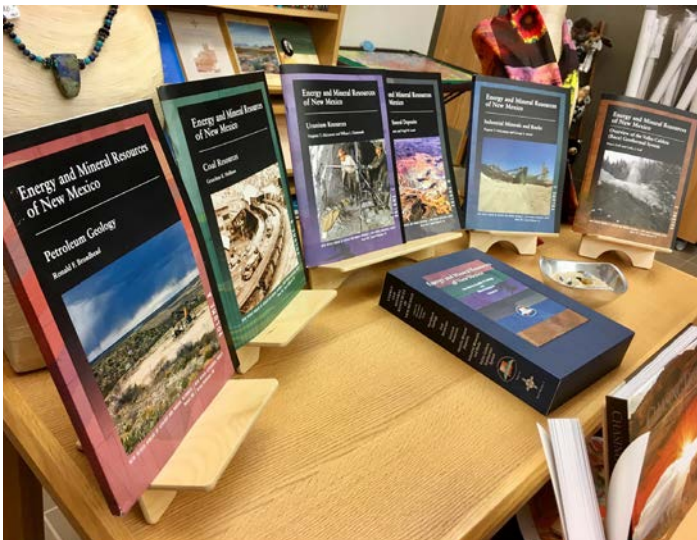


View looking toward student office and the top of the Dana display.

*New Mexico Bureau of Geology
Bookstore News*



Interested in procrastinating? A new 1,000-piece puzzle featuring the geologic map of Mount Taylor, New Mexico is now on sale for \$19.95.



Memoir 50—Energy and Mineral Resource of New Mexico is a boxed set of six volumes covering important natural resources of the state. The set includes extensive information on petroleum geology, coal, uranium resources, metallic minerals, industrial minerals and rocks, and an overview of the Valles Caldera geothermal system. Individual volumes can be bought separately.

FACEBOOK

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

2018 Museum Show Calendar

Nov. 11–12 39th Annual NM Mineral Symposium
Dec. 8–9 Los Alamos (NM) Show

“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 if you contact:

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

Contact Us:

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***We thank you for
your support!***

