

# The Mineralogical Cabinet

## *The Newsletter for the Friends of the New Mexico Bureau of Geology & Mineral Resources - Mineral Museum*

Volume 4, No. 2, November 2019



### *From the Director's Desk*

Greetings Friends,

A fair warning to all museum visitors, be prepared to see some significant changes to the gallery! The second round of new lighting has brightened the district and surrounding cases and new, refurbished cases have been added to the center of the museum. New displays are currently being added to the newly installed cases. One is a pseudomorph display based on our Denver Show theme, "Pseudomorphs of Mont Saint-Hilaire" with the addition of a few other specimens that help visitors understand what a pseudomorph is. A second display of trinitite and related ephemera is also in the process of installation. The other two cases are awaiting ideas and some time to execute them. All of our "friends" should be proud of your contributions to the museum, thank you.

We continue to accumulate money for additional "aquarium" style cases for the center aisles of the museum. A pair of them are currently under construction. A set of recent donations honoring our passed friend, Jack Thompson, will be used to purchase a hexagonal case to house the quartz crystallography display graciously given to us by Jack and Kaye. Kelsey might even cap the case with a quartz termination utilizing her stained glass skills, should be very cool.

We are excited to introduce this year's "Guest Exhibitors" and their cases. Dennis Umschler of Albuquerque is displaying New Mexico petrified wood. Michael Michayluk features micromounts and his amazing photomicrographs. Finally, we are exhibiting some of Betty Tlush's specimens from her last personal collection.

Kelsey's "Curator's Corner" documents many of the things we have been up to this busy summer. We have already received three significant collections heavy in New Mexico minerals from Betty Tlush, Larry Caviggia, and Rex Nelson. Great timing for the new cases to show off this beautiful material. Lest you think we only play with pretty rocks all day, Kelsey also highlights some of the other things we do.

The symposium is fast approaching and we already have over 270 preregistrations! Dinner filled up by the third week of October and that is including adding more tables to max out the venue. With our busy summer schedule (see Springfield Show documented by Kelsey in her "corner") complicated by other issues we did not provide a field trip this year. We are always open to volunteers who might want to coordinate one in the vicinity next year.

Visitorship to the museum continues to rise. We have billboards on each end of town, courtesy of the City of Socorro. New brown information signs noting the mineral museum were also installed by the state highway department thanks to the efforts of our Educational Outreach manager, Cynthia Connolly. She has also increased the number of educational outreach activities for the Bureau and has driven visitorship up via that venue also. Kelly Luster and Elena Taylor have been adding new and exciting products to our bookstore making a museum visit educational and fun as well as providing information and souvenirs for the public. Lest not forget Amy Trivitt-Kracke in the Geologic Information Center providing geologic and historic information for professionals and people with an interest in geology. Everyone pulling the oars in the same direction, what a great staff!

We look forward to your next visit, be prepared to see an even brighter and more beautiful facility.

*Dr. V*

### *Curator's Corner*

Hello there friends,

Fall has arrived! We are glad to get over that summer heat and finally smell roasting green chile. We have been busier than ever this year—attending shows, participating in outreach, installing additional lights in our smaller displays (thanks to you of course), and working on Mineral Museum merchandise ideas!

As always, I like to keep it short and provide photos. The following galleries document new acquisitions and events since our spring newsletter. Enjoy!

*New Acquisitions*



Galena, Fletcher Mine, Viburnum Trend, Reynolds Co., Missouri, MM# 19588.



Spodumene var. Hiddenite, Alexander Co., North Carolina. Gift of Al & Betty Tlush, MM# 19576.



Elbaite, Newry, Oxford Co., Maine. Gift of Al & Betty Tlush, MM# 19574.

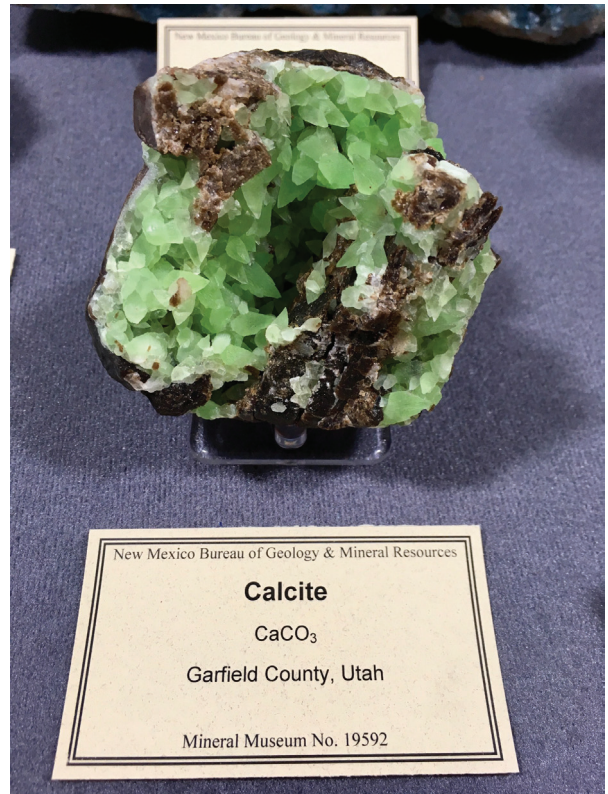


Pyromorphite, Wheatley Mines, Chester Co., Pennsylvania. Gift of Al & Betty Tlush, MM# 19575.





Quartz, Cabiche, Boyacá Department, Colombia, MM# 19589.



Calcite (aka "Kiwi" Calcite), Garfield Co., Utah, MM# 19592.



Azurite & Malachite, Nacimiento Mine, Sandoval Co., New Mexico. Gift of Larry Caviggia, MM# 19580.



An assortment of Ricolite cabochons from Ash Creek, Grant Co., NM. Gift of Chris Cowan, MM# G1002.





Fluorapatite, Rock Springs Canyon, Doña Ana Co., New Mexico. Largest crystal measures 55 mm tall, photo courtesy of Michael Michayluk, MM# 19583.



Four additional Waddell cases were installed at each end of larger walk-in displays.

## *Friends of the Museum Projects*

### **Additional Lighting**

Additional lighting for our smaller displays was completed just in time for Mineral Symposium! With the skill & expertise of Les & Paula Presmyk, we spent three days emptying small cases, installing LED bars, wiring, & transformers, cleaning glass, and then placing all items back on display. It was relatively painless and the museum managed to stay open during the project. In addition, we installed four Waddell cases down the center of the museum (now we just need to fill them!). The museum is really looking better than ever!



After lights were installed, Virgil placed minerals back on shelves while admiring the sparkle!



Paula & Les Presmyk working hard on wire configuration.

## *Gem & Mineral Show Photo Gallery*

### **East Coast Gem & Mineral Show, Springfield, MA**

The Mineral Museum was the featured exhibitor at the East Coast Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Show in Springfield, Massachusetts from August 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup>. This show is unique in that the featured collector or institution is responsible for filling 52 display cases. Anyone that visited the museum prior to this show found Virgil and me experiencing “Groundhog Day.” Months of preparation included taking pieces off display, setting them up in a mock-up case, configuring flats, photographing both the display and the flats, attaching labels & photos to the flats, and then putting minerals back on the shelves.



Here's the breakdown for the East Coast Show:

- ~650 mineral specimens were displayed in 52 cases
- 8 hours of display setup
- 2.5 hours of display teardown
- 6500 show attendees
- 187 vendors (140 retail & 47 wholesale)

Once we arrived back in New Mexico with all of the minerals, Virgil was able to sleep. Please enjoy a few photos from the fabulous experience!



East Coast Show 2019: The aesthetically geometric Chino copper display!



East Coast Show 2019: Our NMBGMR display backdrop, along with a beautiful Wilda watercolor of our flagship smithsonite. Even the tablecloths were Kelly blue!



East Coast Show 2019: Virgil with one of our generous donors, Joan Massagué.



East Coast Show 2019: A portion of the colorful Tyrone Mine display.



East Coast Show 2019: Virgil and Phil Simmons hard at work filling the first two of 52 cases.





East Coast Show 2019: Virgil gave two well-received presentations on the history of mineral collecting in NM.

### Silver City Show

The Silver City Show is always a fun time, taking place over Labor Day weekend. This show includes field trips and presentations each day of the show. We always bring a display of colorful New Acquisitions, from New Mexico and around the world.



Silver City Show 2019: A display of minerals with good color and nice form. We decided to highlight many of our NM acquisitions, including Bosque Draw pyrite chains and the large fluorapatite from Rock Springs Canyon.

### Denver Show

The theme for the Denver Gem & Mineral Show was Canadian Minerals. We brought a unique collection of Mont Saint-Hilaire pseudomorphs, all gifts of Elizabeth Hobbs in Memory of Peggy Gross. These pieces will be put on display in new museum cases in coming months, be on the lookout!



Denver 2019: All smiles and pseudomorphs in Denver.

## Outreach News

### Rockin' Around NM: July 2019

Rockin' around New Mexico is an annual geology workshop held in July for K-12 educators. This year's Rockin' took place in Socorro with the theme "Water: Past, Present, and Future." The teachers spent the first day collecting water quality and depth-to-groundwater data to assess riparian recovery from the 2017 Tiffany Fire. The second day was focused on Paleozoic sedimentary rocks deposited in marine, lacustrine, and fluvial environments; and how these particular rocks could act as potential groundwater aquifers.

### Women's Mineral Retreat #4: October 2019

The 4<sup>th</sup> Women's Mineral Retreat was based out of Socorro in early October this year. The full-weekend event kicked off with a Mineral Museum and XRD Lab



Rockin' 2019: Hydrogeologist Kitty Pokorny leads water quality testing of the Rio Grande at the south boundary of Bosque del Apache NWR.





Rockin' 2019: Teachers measure depth to groundwater on a well near the river.



Rockin' 2019: Matt Zimmerer and Bruce Harrison talk about the formation of the Rio Grande Rift.



Rockin' 2019: Teachers investigate marine invertebrate fossils and sedimentary structures in Pennsylvanian Madera Group limestones.

tour, and a nice presentation on the history of mining at the Hansonburg District by Erin Delventhal. Some participants visited the Trinity Site (which is only open to the public twice a year), and then everyone headed out to meet Ray DeMark at the Blanchard Mine. The ladies enjoyed camping out, two days of digging at the Sunshine #1, and visiting the Blanchard Rock Shop. We would like to thank the participants for their generous donation to the Mineral Museum, which will be put towards educational signs for the outdoor petrified wood display!

### *Publications Store News*

We spent the early part of summer working with the Publications team on designs for merchandise, and



Women's Mineral Retreat 2019: Virgil teaches mineral retreat participants the basics of x-ray diffraction. Photo courtesy of Erin Delventhal.

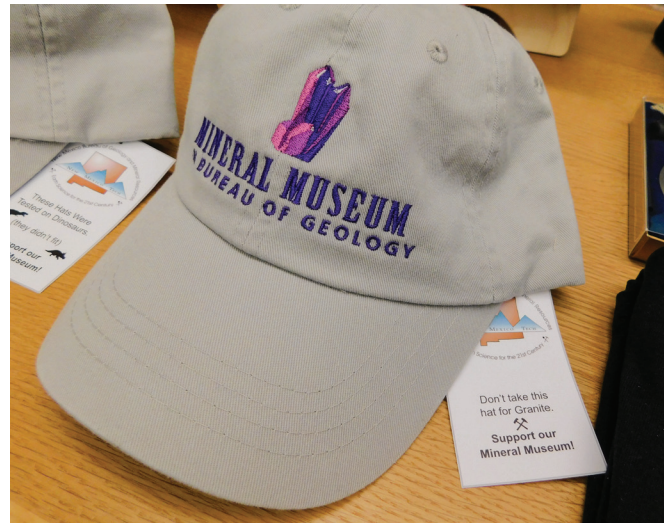


Women's Mineral Retreat 2019: Danger! Entrance to the Sunshine #1.





Women's Mineral Retreat 2019: A pocket here, a pocket there, pockets everywhere! Photo courtesy of Erin Delventhal.



Don't take this hat for granite! A close-up view of the NMBG Mineral Museum hat.

are happy to announce Mineral Museum tee shirts and hats now on sale! They are available in the Publications Store for very reasonable prices (tees: \$15+tax, and hats: \$20+tax). Just a reminder that tee shirts and hats make great gifts, as the holidays are right around the corner!

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

[www.facebook.com/NMBGmineralmuseum](http://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](http://www.facebook.com/NMBGMR)



Stephen, a Publications Assistant, models the Mineral Museum tee in the Publications Store.

## Upcoming Museum Show Calendar

- Nov. 9-10** 40th Ann. NM Mineral Symposium
- Dec. 7-8** Earth Treasures Show - Los Alamos
- Feb. 13-16** Tucson Gem & Mineral Show

### *"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, contact:  
 Kelly Luster or Elena Taylor  
 Publications Sales  
**575-835-5490**

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