



# FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY

## Pennsylvania Chapter

### NEWSLETTER

Summer, 1994

Vol. 22, No. 2

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#### PAST PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Somewhere among the membership there's a candidate for President of the Board of Directors (elected by the Board), one for Treasurer (appointed by the Board), and several for the Board (elected by the membership).

Only one member has consented to be nominated for new Board membership, to attend two or three planning meetings a year, and work on Chapter projects. Since no one else the Board has approached so far (sorry if we missed you) has been willing to fill the officer or several Board slots. In order for the Chapter to go forward with an annual Symposium, plan a couple of field trips, host a Swap and Sell, make a couple of student grants, offer a Newsletter as forum for interesting research and collecting articles, and continue to publish books, we must appeal to the membership for volunteers, or "self-nomination."

We gratefully receive support in many ways from members who live out of the eastern Pennsylvania area, where our base has always been, even from as far away as Colorado. If you're willing to fly in, or stay overnight, come on along! Present Board members live from the Philadelphia suburbs and Allentown to the Harrisburg area, and from Schuylkill Haven to Wilmington, meeting at one another's homes (the next meeting will be in November).

Please let me know if you are able to participate in the worthwhile projects organized by the Board, under the leadership of a new President. Our Chapter is 22 years old. We have accomplished a great deal, and look forward to the future, under new leadership. Thank you.

Arnold R. Mogel  
15 Oak Rd.  
Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972-9330  
(717) 622-0033

#### MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

**Dues** for the Pennsylvania Chapter, which include \$5.00 for the National organization, are \$10.00, or \$8.00 for seniors over 62 and students, payable by check or money order to the Chapter, c/o Membership Chairman Marge Matula, 10231 Honeysuckle Drive, Walnutport, PA 18088.

**Address Change:** Dr. Joel Kauffman, 65 Meadow Brook Rd., Wayne, PA 19087



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## COMING EVENTS

**October 8: P.E.S.A. Autumn Minerafest**, Macungie Memorial Park, Macungie, Pa. Hours: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Contact Ed Richards (610-395-5138) for table reservations or information.

**October 11:** Berks Mineralogical Society Meeting, 7:30 p.m. at the Reading Public Museum Auditorium. Ronald A. Sloto will present a talk on the French Creek Mine, using slides of spectacular specimens, historic documents, and pictures, some of which were used in his article, co-authored by his wife, Lana, in the March-April, 1994, issue of the "Mineralogical Record."

**October 15-16: Mineralogical Society of Pennsylvania's "Earth Treasures" Gem and Mineral Show**, at the South Lancaster County Fairgrounds, Quarryville. Hours: Sat., 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Sunday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m, featuring sale booths, exhibits, demonstrations, lectures and video programs, mineral and fossil identification, and free specimens for kids in the Youth Room.

**October 22: Rock and Mineral Club of Lower Bucks County Fluorescent Mineral Show, "Ultraviolation,"** 10 a.m. to 4 p.m, at the New Location, Emilie United Methodist Church, 7300 New Falls Road, Levittown, Pa. Contact Ralph Thomas (215) 295-9730 for further information.

**October 22: 10th Annual South Penn Rock Swap, sponsored by the Central Pennsylvania Rock and Mineral Club and the Franklin County Rock and Mineral Club.** For information and registration, contact Pat Hoyer, 6528 Mountain Drive, Chambersburg, PA 17201-9055, (717) 352-8548.

## NEWS AND VIEWS

### Loss of a Friend

Member Henry Decker died Wednesday, August 24, 1994. He was a Past President of the Mineralogical Society of Pennsylvania, and most recently the Treasurer of that group. A professional administrator, as well as a teacher, Henry will be missed for his warmth and wit, as well as the abilities he applied to the avocation he loved. A Memorial Scholarship Fund has been established by M.S.P. in his name. Many M.S.P., F.M., and local club members joined with other friends to honor him and meet his widow, Dee, and their children and grandchildren at an evening viewing and a memorial service the next day in Ambler, Montgomery County.

### Memorial Grant Recipient Describes Study

**Editor's Note:** The following abstract is based on a talk given by Jennifer Warnowsky (co-authored with her adviser, Dr. George H. Myer), at a Piedmont Workshop at Temple University, Philadelphia, April 10, 1994.

Jennifer, a graduate student at the University, received a 1994/1995 grant from the Memorial Fund of the Chapter, to support the work described below. Note that three new minerals for Pennsylvania (baumite, nepouite, and pecoraite) are indicated by the preliminary XRD (X-ray diffraction) studies. Jennifer plans to update this report soon, for the "Newsletter."



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**Mineralogy and Petrology of the Ultramafic Body  
at Rt. 29 and Rt. 322, Within the Pennsylvania Piedmont,  
West Chester Quadrangle**

**Jennifer Warnowsky and Dr. George H. Myer  
Department of Geology, Temple University**

The objectives of this study have been to examine the serpentine-rich ultramafic body (latitude 39°59', longitude 75°36') located at the intersection of Routes 29 (Phoenixville Pike) and 322, north of West Chester. Geologically, the body is located within the Piedmont of southeastern Pennsylvania. The rock is surrounded by gneissic rock to the south and schistose rocks to the north.

Oriented field samples were prepared for the microscope and X-ray diffraction analysis. Serial slices were cut for XRD purposes to study textural and possibly compositional influences on diffraction patterns. XRD preliminary data thus far indicates the presence of pecoraite,  $\text{Ni}_3\text{Si}_2\text{O}_5(\text{OH})_4$ , clinochrysotile,  $(\text{MgFe})_3(\text{SiAl})_3\text{O}_7(\text{OH})_4$ , baumite  $(\text{MgMnFeZn})_3(\text{SiAl})_2\text{O}_5$ , and nepouite,  $(\text{Ni Mg})_3\text{Si}_2\text{O}_7 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ .

Microfaults and kinking of the minerals are prevalent. Foliation is defined by serpentine minerals and opaque stringers. Numerous serpentine-rich veins exist, which sometimes cross-cut each other, or sometimes pinch out. These veins are open-space fillings, with fibers extending across the width of the vein, without a median surface. Often the veins end at a crack tip and are en echelon to each other. The wall rock is dominated by a box-like texture with each box having an "hour-glass" core. This texture is probably a replacement of olivine. Preliminary investigation of volume change within this rock shows an increase in volume as defined on the microscopic scale.

### **Recent Acquisitions at Carnegie Museum's Hillman Hall**

Speaking at the Rochester Mineralogical Symposium in April, 1994, Bob Witkowski, Research Associate at the Museum, representing for Bryan Lees of "The Collector's Edge" and Marc Wilson, Collection Manager and head of the Section of Minerals at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, reported on the spectacular new mineral display at Hillman Hall. His presentation described the outstanding specimen of rhodochrosite found by Bryan Lees at the famous Sweet Home Mine near Alma, Colorado, and a suite of 164 mineral specimens from various republics of the former Soviet Union. Visitors can admire some of the finest of these mineral specimens in glass cubicles in the spectacular Hillman Hall of Minerals, which was opened in 1980.

The new rhodochrosite specimen is one of a group found at the 100-year-old Sweet Home Mine, Alma, Colorado, in 1991. The matrix, about 34 cm wide by 23 cm tall, displays mixed silver-bearing, grey-black crystals of tetrahedrite to 1.5 cm, sprinkled with small (1 mm or less) golden chalcopyrite crystals. Deep pinky-red crystals of rhodochrosite, 6 mm to 6 cm in size form a band of interlocking crystals across the specimen, and smaller crystals dot the matrix. Later this year, a slide



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### Recent Acquisitions at Carnegie Museum

presentation for visitors will focus on the Sweet Home Mine.

Eighteen of the recently acquired Russian collection are displayed in Hillman Hall, as well as a group of mineral sculptures from the former Soviet Union. The new acquisitions were selected by Marc L. Wilson, Collections Manager, who is an F.M./Pa. member. The Hall also features beautifully displayed gems, a Systematic Collection, a display of Pennsylvania mineral specimens, and exhibits on the properties of minerals and the formation of rocks.

### Calcite Crystals from Winfield, Pennsylvania

Most F.M., Pa. chapter, members are familiar with the fine calcite and celestine crystals from this well-known locality, which is currently open once a year, in September, for collecting. R. Peter Richards, of the Water Quality Laboratory at Heidelberg College (Tiffin, Ohio 44883) wrote an article on calcite crystals from the "old" quarry, open more than fifty years, to 1985, for the July/August, 1994, issue of "Rocks and Minerals" (p. 260-270).

He describes the geology and mineralogy of the quarry to introduce a clear explanation of a complex subject, the morphology of the calcite. Various "forms," related to each other by the symmetry elements of calcite are illustrated, and the complex Miller indices, which are used to characterize the orientation of the faces in relation to the crystal axes, are provided. Dr. Richards describes "habit" as a crystal shape composed of a set of "forms," and illustrates the prismatic, scalenohedral and rhombohedral "habits" of the Faylor-Middlecreek calcites with line drawings, which include several stereo pairs. One "form" found there is very rare at over 700 calcite localities.

Twinning is also prominent and common in Faylor Quarry calcite crystals. Dr. Roberts uses both text and line drawings (plus a stereo-pair photograph) to explain what he describes as much more complex twinning than is usually found in calcite. The Faylor twins include both penetration and contact types, with variations. Faylor Quarry turns out to be one of the very interesting calcite localities in the world for the complexity of its twins.

### Memories

Every collector has a special memory of a knockout mineral specimen, still to be seen in the mind's eye. Your editor was recently reminded of hers by a superb specimen of proustite illustrated in an article by Bill Smith on Martin Ehrmann, the noted mineral dealer, in the September/October issue of "The Mineralogical Record." Bill includes the story of the "Special Twenty-Five" mineral specimens retained by the Vaux family when George Vaux, Jr.'s collection was donated to Bryn Mawr College in the early 1960's. Bill Smith, aided by George Vaux III, who had made the arrangements then and recently unearthed the records, tells the story of their sale and dispersal by Martin Ehrmann. One Juliet Reed, a graduate student in the 1950's, now a Bryn Mawr curator, is quoted about the beauty of the large, ruby-red proustite specimen vividly displayed in the light of the setting sun at the Vaux home, where the Bryn Mawr mineralogy class had gone to see the collections.