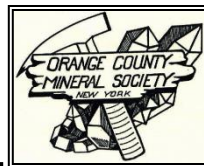




SHALE MAIL



Our next meeting is on Friday December 14, 2018 at 6:30 pm

At 2250 Goshen Tpke, Middletown, NY (Greek Church)

Orange County Mineral Society

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Directory of Rock Shops and Geology Attractions

<http://www.virtualmuseumofgeology.com/>

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http://www.amfed.org/afms_news.htm

President's Message & Program

Our December 14, 2019 meeting this Friday at the Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church in Middletown will feature a pot luck supper, election of 2019 club officers, and the annual mineral auction. Please bring along any interesting mineral specimens you would like to show the members. We also have some planning to discuss for mineral shows, lapidary workshop, and the annual 2019 Eastern Federation Mineral and Lapidary Society meeting. Please renew your membership with Ron so we can keep our membership lists and emails current. Please remind me if you didn't yet receive your membership hat. Club hats, patches and shirts are also available for purchase.

November Meeting speaker Jeff Fast gave us some highlights of his collecting and dealing over the past year including trips or acquisitions from only 5 continents. Please

read the summary Mark has included in the meeting minutes in this report. Thank you Jeff.

EFMLS Annual Meeting 2019

The Eastern Federation is holding their 2019 annual meeting to coincide with our annual mineral show. The meeting will start Friday May 31 at the Comfort Suites Hotel conference room in Goshen, NY. They will also have an auction and separate display competition, probably at Museum Village during our show June 1 and 2. The EFMLS banquet will be at Limoncello Restaurant at the Orange Inn on Saturday evening.

Pot Luck Supper this Friday

Bring your favorite entrée, side dish or dessert with serving utensil to share. The club will provide plates, cups, beverages and utensils. Look over the mineral auction specimens while the food is being set out.

Election of 2019 Officers

Thanks to all the members for helping make 2018 an educational and enjoyable experience. This is your club. Thank you for the emails and sharing of information throughout the year. The 2018 members and officers have done a fine job in organizing and arranging our meetings, annual show, liaisons to other clubs and shows, trips. We would like to welcome your help in these activities. If a few members get together for a few trips that often fills up all the time you have available for this hobby. Please thank Alex, Ryan, Frank, Ron, Linda and Al, Mark, John Dorval and John Wheeler. If you would like to assist and learn, please let us know.

Rocks, Minerals and Fossils Auction

Last year we had about 80 items for auction and we anticipate similar this year. Some members bring in some books, duplicates or extras from their collections to share. There will be some specimens that exceed our usual fare. I again have several brachiopod fossils that need new homes. If someone can bring their black light, we sometimes find some surprises among the specimens. The auction will be run like a silent auction, Chinese auction or penny social type to select who gets each specimen. You purchase a bunch of tickets decide which items you want to win. Place them in a cup next to the item. More of your tickets raise your chances of winning that item. The winning ticket will be drawn from that cup.

Minutes and Speaker

The November meeting was held at the Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church in Middletown. Attendance reached fourteen. Mike Tedford welcomed everyone and introductions were made. Mike talked about the benefits of membership. Mike related that the Herkimer show is offering free tent/table space next year for clubs. He also hit some of the highlights from the September picnic. It seems the quartz finds from Ellenville and the cupcakes were well appreciated. Mike encouraged Tony Marion to bring the crystals in to show again.

Minutes: Minutes for the October 12th meeting had been distributed in the Shale Mail. They were approved without change. The lapse in obtaining approval for the August meeting minutes was rectified also.

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer's report was read by Ron Nelson and approved.

Committee Reports: Club show and 2019 EFMLS Convention: We did have an article (we edited an article Cheryl Neary wrote) in the November EFMLS newsletter announcing our hosting of the 2019 Convention and welcoming folks to Orange County. We also talked about furthering discussion on advertising and working on more detailed planning for the show and convention. A meeting for the officers will likely be needed soon. Jeff Fast also shared his perspective on the value of social media for club communications. Jeff is the webmaster for the Meriden, CT club and feels the club has benefited greatly.

Field trips/digs/misc: Nothing new is known on rescheduling the Dutchess Quarry dig. The Poughkeepsie (Mid-Hudson) Club continues to run Sunday geology classes with a related field trip. Right now, the schedule is being revised for the remaining sessions. They will likely be pushed off until Spring.

Shows:

10-11 Nov - New York City

23-25 Nov - Morris Museum Show

1-2 Dec - Suffolk County

8 Dec - Cindy Strom selling Sarna's material at the Kinnelon Library

Old/New Business: Old: Nothing offered.

New: Brigitte and Greg Nesterok talked about visiting a slate museum on Route 22 outside Bennington, VT. The museum had waste piles that were available for collecting. They saw pyrite and galena in the pile. There may be field trip potential.

Program: We welcomed Jeff Fast as the speaker. Jeff has been a collector and dealer longer than anyone can remember but I think it was the first time he had spoken to our Club. Jeff shared what he considers interesting things he's come across in 2018. In no particular order but starting in North America Jeff showed slides and described: From the United States, 2.5" almandine garnet crystal from Connecticut. The site had been long considered exhausted but he and friends pulled out nice pieces. Pieces nice enough to be immediately bought by the Peabody Museum at Yale. He also showed amethyst from Jackson's Crossroads, GA. From outside Montreal, Canada, trilobites. From Mexico, arguable the best danburites in the world and sceptered pyrargyrites. He gave some quick tips for identifying the different silver bearing minerals. The "ruby silvers" show red. Pyrargyrite is more common than proustite for the "ruby" silvers. Acanthite and stephanite, two other silver bearing minerals, will not show red. Dropping into South America: From Brazil, dumortierite inclusions in quartz; rutile on hematite; apatite from the Golconda Mine; rhodochrosite with a unique habit. Columbia has attractive emeralds but the one he showed had a supposed alluvial story behind it that he personally doubted.

Jeff injected some general insights. He suggested that when minerals worth having are readily available from a location, you should take advantage of it. The locality won't keep producing indefinitely. He also helped differentiate between some collection types. Of the many ways to collect,

some collectors are buying samples of minerals and others are buying esthetic pieces. Both are perfectly fine. But the sample collection will not likely hold much value down the road. The esthetic collection will likely do much better.

He suggested that the esthetic pieces had common traits to aim for. They should be beautiful, show no damage, have nice color, luster and transparency. Jeff suggested that if a specimen is set on a table ten feet away with fifty other pieces, the good piece will be the one that draws your attention.

Jumping to Africa he showed faden tsavorite garnet with pyrite from Tanzania, spessartine garnet from Nigeria, blue barite and dyscrasite from Morocco. Morocco also has native silver. To tell the difference, the silver is flexible.

From Russia, Jeff showed heliodor and azurite. He talked about the current market availability of the azurite nodules. He also related the lethal dangers of using hydrofluoric acid.

Over in Asia also: Burma/Myanmar has some complex topaz crystals from Mogok with great clarity and luster, associated with quartz matrix. Pakistan had plenty of highlights. Aquamarines from the Shigar Valley; petroleum included quartz on matrix that fluoresce; brucite with hydromagnesite; ruby from the Hunza Valley; purple spinel on matrix (Afghanistan?); spodumenes; topaz with quartz from Katlang; demantoid garnet from Balochistan; red and purple apatites; vayryneite. Jeff also explained the differences between the aquamarines from different regions. Aquamarine from the Shigar Valley is associated with albite feldspar while the Nagar aquas are with muscovite mica. While talking about Pakistan he cautioned that everything now seems to get irradiated. Internet buying is a risky proposition. Photoshopping of pictures is all too common. Know your dealer and ask plenty of questions.

India has sceptered amethysts and heliodor. Jeff had already mentioned the Indian zeolites in the context of a locality that may be an exception to the assumption that a locality will dry up eventually. He also showed some of the mineral coming from China including: silver wires; iridescent siderite; bournonite on matrix; and a few fluorites. One fluorite from Guilin had dark purple zoned edges. Another fluorite variety is called "tanzanite fluorite." Indonesia has the "grape agate" clusters and some petrified wood with a lime green color.

He let us in on what he considers his personal prize from this year. He found a chalcocite specimen with three ping-pong ball sized clusters composed of thousands of tiny octahedral crystals with bornite on a weather-worn copper bearing matrix.

Along with the mineral highlights and the occasional general buying tips for finding the real good pieces he gave us a general feel for the extent of his travels. He didn't enumerate all his trips but did cite at least sixty to Mexico, six to Pakistan, and trips to Russia (Dal'negorsk), Madagascar, Columbia, Brazil and Peru. He indicated that he's cutting back and may even have time to dig for fossils. He said he's always been interested in fossils but didn't have time to chase them previously.

At the end of his lecture, questions were taken. Jeff also brought along a few flats of minerals to further illustrate some of the minerals he discussed and to show a representation of what he looks for. We appreciate Jeff sharing his experience, travel adventures, buying and collecting tips. Jeff has also made mineral donations that may end up in the December auction or next year's show prizes.

Raffle: A mineral raffle was held of about a dozen items thanks to C. Nelson.

Next Meeting: December 14th will be the holiday pot luck supper and auction.

Mark Kucera, Secretary