



FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY

COLORADO CHAPTER



SEPTEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER!

Next meeting

September 21, 7:30 PM;

Zoom link coming

Berthoud Hall room 109

Colorado School of Mines

The Fissure Veins of Keweenaw County, Michigan

Christopher J. Stefano, Ph.D., *The Mineralogical Record*

Phillip Persson, *Persson Rare Minerals LLC*

Abstract:

Michigan's Keweenaw peninsula is well known to mineral collectors for producing the world's finest specimens of native copper, along with world-class specimens of native silver, calcite, analcime and many other species. The district has a rich history dating back to prehistoric times, and its development has contributed significantly to the flow of US and therefore world history. Despite this, specimen mineralogical literature on the region has been largely confined to discussions of recent discoveries in a series of articles in *Rocks & Minerals* by Tom Rosemeyer. The only really in-depth historical dive was done by Marc Wilson and Stan Dyl in their 1992 *Mineralogical Record* special issue. While outstanding as far as it goes, this coverage only scratches the surface of the deep and rich history and mineralogy of the region. The present authors have begun the process of digging deeper with the recently released Michigan Copper Country II issue of the *Mineralogical Record*, which covers the so-called fissure mines of Keweenaw County, Michigan. Additional special issues are planned to cover the rest of the district with the same level of detail. We chose to start with the fissure veins because these were among the very first mines opened in the district. Conveniently, those early mines were among the most prolific producers of fine specimens for the collector, and most are familiar with the likes of the Phoenix, Central, Copper Falls and Cliff mines. This talk will briefly summarize the history and mineralogy of these mines as laid out in our recent *Mineralogical Record* special issue.



Colorado Convention Center

September 15-18, 2023 Gem Minerals: Nature's Bling

Denver Gem & Mineral Show

We will have a table to promote FMCC and perform mineral ID at the Denver Gem & Mineral Show (the "club show") at the Colorado Convention Center, Friday Sept 15 - Monday Sept 18. The primary goal of our having a table is to attract new members to our group. Please consider volunteering to help staff the table at some point during the show. You can sign up here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084EA5AA22A3F9CF8-denver>



[friendsofmineralogycolorado.org](https://www.friendsofmineralogycolorado.org)



A Note from the President

Happy Fall, everyone! I hope you're enjoying pumpkin spice season as much as I am. There are some new names/faces on the officer list, and I wanted to briefly introduce us for those of you that we have not yet met.

First of all, I (Ben Murphy) have stepped into the role of President, taking over from Pete. Thank you, Pete, for your service to our organization! Although I am still relatively new to FMCC, I am excited to start working on expanding the club's visibility and restarting symposia after the pandemic. I am an electromagnetic geophysicist by training, and until very recently I was a research scientist with the USGS in Golden. I currently have my own consulting practice aimed at the mineral exploration sector. I have been collecting rocks, minerals, and fossils across the US since I was four years old (I'm currently 32), and since Anne and I moved to Colorado in 2019 we have been thoroughly enjoying all the field-collecting opportunities that this wonderful state provides.

Anne Fulton (my better half) has taken on website duties, and she also has taken on the valuable task of refreshing the club's media designs. Anne has a background in igneous petrology and economic geology, and she currently works as Media Manager and Anne-of-all-trades at Dudley Blauwet Gems / Mountain Minerals International. With two geologists for parents, Anne was lucky to grow up around all things rocks; she has been collecting minerals casually for as long as she can remember and more seriously in the last decade or so. She will be splitting time between three different locations while working at the upcoming Denver shows, so if you see her, say Hi!

Caleb Chappell has volunteered to put together the FMCC Newsletters (this document included!) and to assist in club communications. He is an economic geologist, and he currently works for Falcon Butte America (lots of fly-in-fly-out to eastern Nevada; fortunately there are nice vapor-phase garnets around there!). He is a connoisseur of siderites, alpine cleft, and apatite group minerals. When not thoroughly examining rocks (and often simultaneously) he spends his time gallivanting around the world with his best friend and partner Hillary and/ or petting their cats Winston and Moira.

I hope you all enjoy the upcoming Denver Shows, and I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting on September 21!

~ Benjamin Murphy, President



2023-2024 Officers

Elections were held at the previous meeting in May. Here are the results:

Benjamin Murphy, President
Dan Zellner, Vice-President + Program Coordinator
Jeff Kuhn, Secretary
Sherman Marsh, Treasurer
Anne Fulton, Website + Design
Caleb Chappell, Newsletter + Communications

Bob Hembree, Director
Markus Raschke, Director
Jeff Self, Director
Donna Ware, Director



2024 Symposium

We have tallied the votes from earlier this year for the theme of the next FMCC symposium. It will be... Mineral Oddities: Twinning, Pseudomorphs, Inclusions, and More!

We are currently in the initial stages of organization, and a call for volunteers to help organize the symposium will be sent out soon. Stay tuned!

