

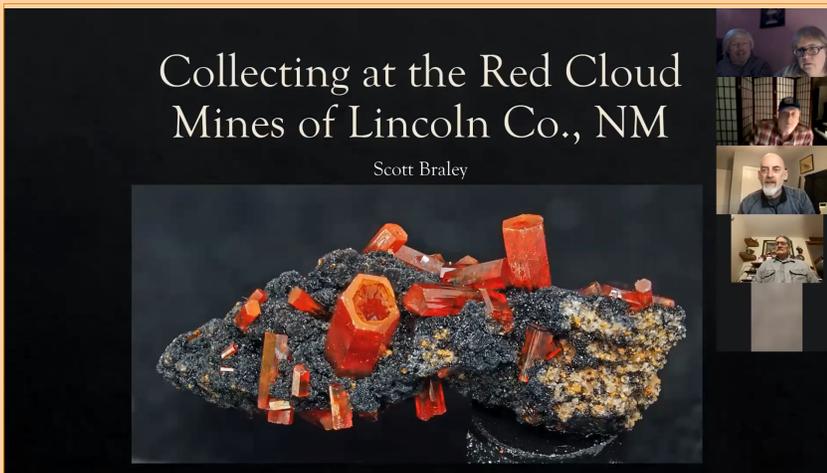
February 2021



OCMS SHALE MAIL



Join us for our monthly meeting via zoom on February 12th, 2021 at 7 pm. As you can see it's a good time with exceptional visuals so pull up your couch, make a coffee and join us for a little rock hound socialization. **SEE YOU ALL THERE!**



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President's Message!

Mike Tedford

Please join us Friday 1-12-21 for a ZOOM business meeting to plan 2021 at 6:30pm, followed at 7pm when Doc Bayne, ex-Ranger at Sterling Forest, combines local history, minerals and iron mining with enthusiasm.

Several members have expressed interest in meetings to plan our June 5-6 outdoor show, a May rock barbecue, and the June 5-6 mineral show. With careful planning, we can accomplish these safely. NY and Orange County Covid-19 statistics are slowly improving due to each person's careful diligence.

Our monthly business meetings with lecture program will continue via zoom until the Chester Senior Center is again available. The audio-visual quality on your personal computer actually can be better than the senior center. When you are on the road, your smart phone gets you to zoom also.... Thank you to Scott Braley for his impressive photography of the site and micro mounts from Red Cloud Mine in January.

2021 Calendar:

Jan 8, Feb 12, Mar 12, Apr 9, May 14 or spring rock barbecue, June 5-6 mineral show, Jul 9, Aug 13, Sep 4 rock barbecue, Oct 8, Nov 12, Dec 10.

Shows and field trips:

We all appreciate keeping current with the progress of other clubs and shows that have run successfully later in 2020. Most indoor shows and especially the huge commercial shows continue to be canceled. Our annual show is definitely scheduled at the most scenic outdoor venue, Museum Village, 1010 Rt 17M, Monroe, NY 10950 June 5-6 2021. We are reminded at our zoom meetings that we are invited to a lot of meetings, shows, sales and lectures on line. You can be occupied every day with virtual events. Please check out the newsletters from our regional and national societies. EFMLS and AFMS. We also get invited to attend other virtual meetings and we are grateful for these opportunities shared by our sister orga-

nizations. Our Program VP, Mark, and Shale mail editor, Alison include links to our lecturers, website and Facebook pages as well. We really do intend more local field trips this year. There are some field trips being run successfully prior to the winter freeze, on a smaller scale, and inclusive with our sister societies in the EFMLS. Alaska is off my wish list, Florida is back on, along with a few local spots around the county. Continued Healthy and Happy 2021!

Minutes of the Meeting!

December 11, 2020

Business Meeting: Mike Tedford brought the meeting to order on Jan 8th Minutes were approved as written in the Shale Mail.

Treasurer's report: No updates..

Programs: will continue via Zoom.

Show Report: The show is still scheduled for June 5th & 6th. Although the show moving forward is still dependent on the status of Covid-19 in the area come June.

Membership Report: No new members.

Shale Mail Report: Alison is looking for articles from members & Officers on any topic.

New business: There was a rather large discussion about mineral show which quickly turned virtual so with Marks help I gave it it's own page in this issue.

Adjourn business meeting: Motion and accepted.

Zoom February 12th 7 pm!

By: Doc Bayne & Alison Pacut

“Sterling Forest & The First Iron Industry in the State of New York”

Presented by: Doc Bayne, local historian & educator at Sterling Forest

A Presentation you won't want to miss!



This is the furnace used to make the Great Chain that was used at West Point during the Revolutionary War to Impede the British ships from entering the Hudson River.



Southfield Furnace

Join us for an intriguing presentation about the beginnings of New York State's iron industry in Sterling Forest and learn how the mining of iron ore transformed the nature of the Revolutionary War.

Doc Bayne, local historian and educator at Friends of Sterling Forest, will bring guests on an amazing historical journey that chronicles the rise and demise of Lakeville NY, located in Sterling Forest. This small town of about 500 proved to be pivotal to the Revolutionary War effort.

Mr. Bayne will detail how iron ore was discovered in this area in 1736, and how the iron was mined, smelted and finally used during the Revolutionary War, including a discussion about the furnace that was used to create the Great Chain that was used at West Point to impede British ships from entering the Hudson River. Learn what happened long after the Revolutionary War Until the ed of the town of Lakeville in 1923.



The Great Chain

RED CLOUD MINE

Alison Pacut

At our monthly meeting on January 8th we got to see some phenomenal mineral photos. These minerals were self collected from the Red Cloud Mines in New Mexico. Our presenter Scott Braley both collected and photographed these exceptional specimens. I will share as much of the presentation as I can for you. If you have not yet experienced a zoom meeting join us I promise you won't regret it!

The Red Cloud Mines of New Mexico is probably not the one familiar with. The famous one is the Red Cloud Mine in Arizona. The mines are about 100 miles from Albuquerque.



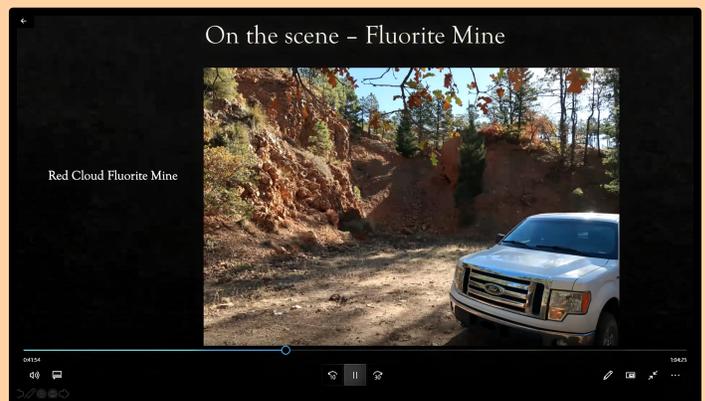
The main rocks you will see here are sandstone maybe a little bit of granite worked in there. You may also find a little bit of rhyolite and you will see hydro thermal bands that got deposited.

Beginning in the 1800's there were about 85 named prospects and mines including the Red Cloud Mines. The major outputs here were copper, silver, lead, iron ore, fluorite and bastnaesite. There were also small amounts of gold and zinc found. Iron ore was the single most tonnage mined here. More recently there has been more active exploration for rare earths with the interest in reviving US rare earth minerals but since

about 1955 there has been no active mining at Red Cloud Mines. The copper mine and the fluorite mine are a mere 100 feet apart. While the copper mine operated sporadically from the year 1900. The fluorite mine didn't open until 1943 but they both shut down about 1955.



The "On the scene" picture is of Forest Road that divides the 2 mines. Although you can't see it in the photo, the road is in a shallow canyon called Red Cloud cannon.

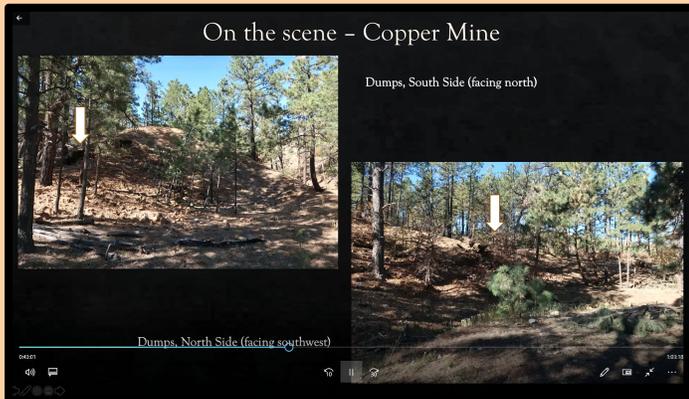


The fluorite mine started off as a tunnel. They began tunneling into the deposit but then they said it was too much work. They collapsed it and then trenched it for a few years until closing it. If you do visit the fluorite mine, watch where you

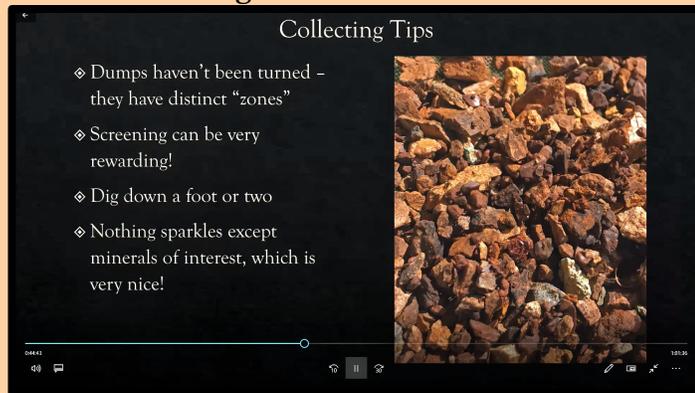
RED CLOUD MINE -cont.

Alison Pacut

Dig as some areas may be unstable.



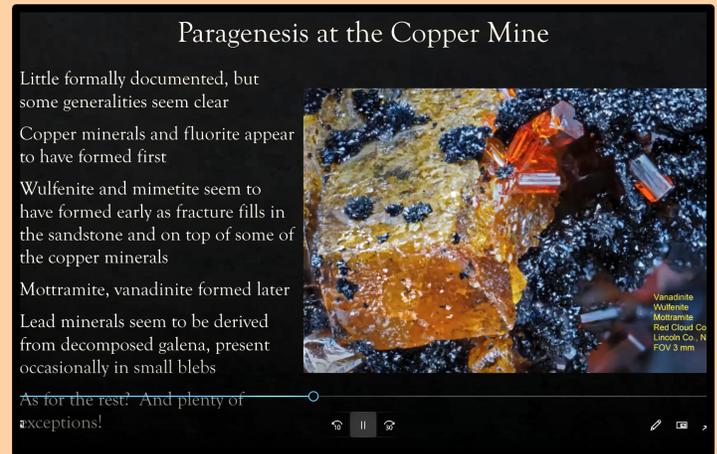
Originally the copper mine had 2 shafts. The one in the picture is the vertical one and there was a horizontal one as well. The horizontal one has been sealed and buried. The vertical one is fenced but it is still open. If you visit the mine Scott highly recommends that you do not enter that shaft because its too dangerous.



If it sparkles it's wulfenite, sphalerite or cerussite.

Scott was only able to visit the mines because Covid hit so I guess there is good in everything. What a great presentation, from all of us at OCMS, thank you Scott!

The pictures were so great in the presentation I am going to fill up the other half of this page with some of my favorites.



INTERESTING MAGNETITE FACTS

Alison Pacut

Source: <https://www.minerals.net/mineral/magnetite.aspx>



Magnetite is recognized for its strong attraction to magnets. I guess that's why they named it mag-ne-tite. Lodestone is magnetite but is itself a magnet. Lodestone is the only mineral that is a natural magnet known to us. This is why it is often sold in hobby shops to amateur collectors.



The science community has an interest due to the magnetis.

Magnetite is a dark gray to black with an isometric crystal system.

They usually have well formed opaque octohedral crystals with a metallic luster. Look for them in igneous rock such as diabase, or in contact and metamorphic rocks and in hydrothermal replacement deposits.

Have you ever washed a magnetite specimen only to find it formed an ugly yellow-



brown rust coating that is nearly impossible to remove especially in the cracks and crevices? While washing magnetite to remove the filth dry well and avoid the rust in the fist place. However, if you do have rust, the easiest way to remove it from your specimen is to soak the mineral in iron out.



Do you have magnetite in your collection? Perhaps you have bought a piece that came from South Africa, Bolivia or Russia. We had magnetite mines right here in our back yard. These



mines are pretty much closed now but produced quality collector specimens.

Some of these pieces had unique dodecahedral crystals, usually with rounded corners. I am sure we have all herd of the Tilly Foster Mine. Exemplary, isolated octohedral crystals in a diabase matrix was formed at Snake Hill in New Jersey.

Inadequately crystallized magnetite was mined commercially in NY and NJ. Even the subject of our presentation, Sterling Forest mass produced magnetite in the 19th century. Magnetite was discovered in Sterling Hill in 1736. Right before it was mined for the iron ore to create the Great Chain.

Not too long ago, Howard Heitner gave us a presentation on pseudomorphs so I wanted to add this little tidbit of information for you. Martite is a pseudomorph of hematite over magnetite. It looks like regular magnetite. The differences are that they are only weakly attracted to magnets and have a reddish-brown streak.

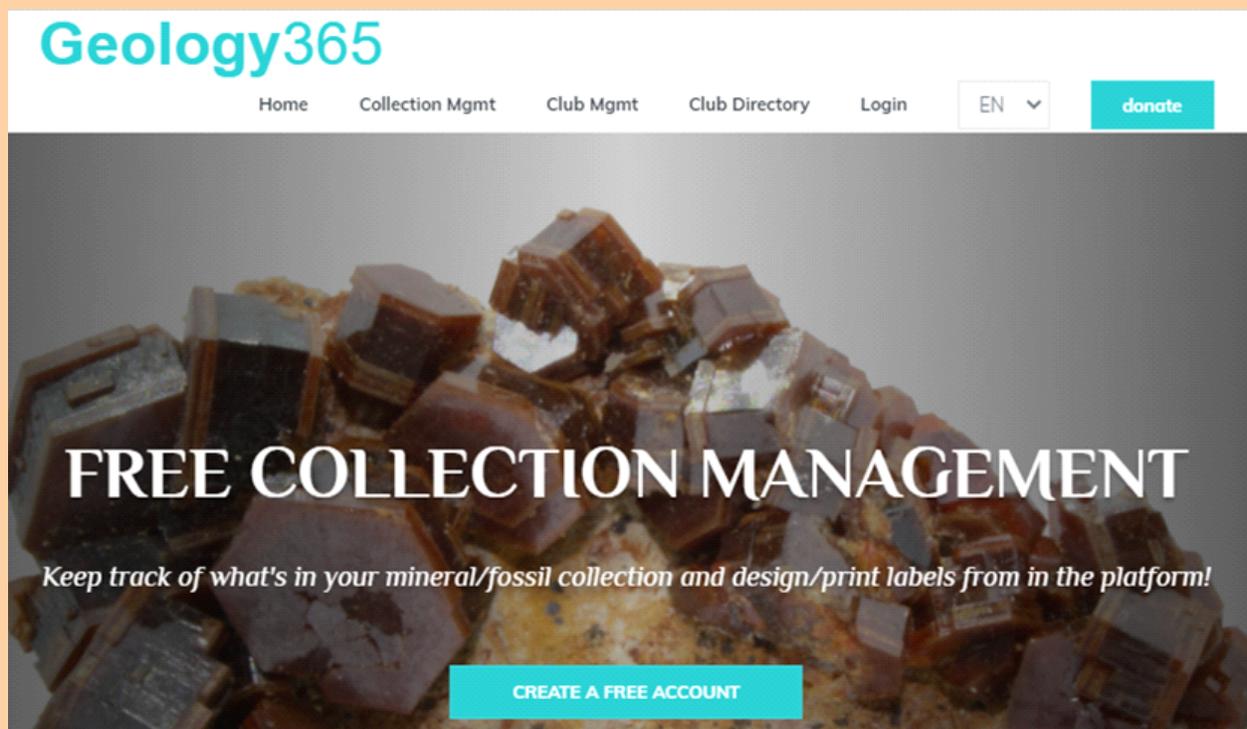
GEOLOGY365

By Pam Pollister, Philadelphia Mineralogical Society on behalf of the EFMLS

Author's note: The following information is based off a presentation made by Ryan Klockner and reviewing the website. This is not a personal endorsement of the site but rather sharing information about an online resource that could be helpful to mineral collectors and societies.

Have you heard about [Geology365.com](https://www.geology365.com)? It is a FREE resource for mineral collectors as well as for rock and mineral societies. Geology365 was the brainchild of Mark Klockner and his son, [Ryan Klockner](https://www.geology365.com). As rockhounds, they knew the importance of documenting a collection and together created an outline for an online resource that all mineral collectors could use. In honor of his father who passed away in 2018, Ryan has fulfilled their vision by creating [Geology365.com](https://www.geology365.com).

This article will focus on how you, a mineral collector, can use this free website. There are also many tools available in Geology365 to assist mineral societies in creating a website, managing membership and even fieldtrips. Those features will be the topic of a future article..



Collection Management

Geology365 allows you to easily create and maintain an electronic catalog of your rocks and minerals. After all, it is important for you – and your family - to know what is in your collection. There are fields for everything you might want to track and if there are too many options, you can select which fields you'd like to use. For example, the online database has fields for you to enter location, date collected/obtained, estimated value and other relevant details about each piece. There is a limit of 365

GEOLOGY365-CONT.

specimens that may be included for free in your personal catalog. For \$5/month you can add up to 1,460 specimens (there are additional options, as well, for larger collections). Each specimen has a public/private setting. If “private” is selected, only you can view the item on the website.

Do you already have an electronic list of your collection and want to move it to Geology365? If so, you are in luck as there is an import feature that allows you to upload a csv or Excel file.

The screenshot shows the 'New Specimen' form in the Geology365 interface. The form is organized into three main sections:

- Basic Details:** Includes dropdowns for Status (In Collection) and Sharing Permissions (Private). Text input fields for Identifier (1235), Suite/Sub-Collection, and Date Acquired (11/04/2017). A text area for Acquisition Notes.
- Specimen Description:** Includes a text input for Mindat ID, a radio button for Type (Mineral selected), a text input for Mineral(s) (Fluorite), a text input for Title for Label (Fluorite), a text area for Description, and a file upload field for Cover Image (1176.png).
- Locality Details:** Includes a text input for Mindat Locality ID (3752) and a text input for Locality Name.

From a financial and practical standpoint, having your collection cataloged is a pre-requisite for insuring your minerals. This tool may also serve as a resource for you and your family if/when the collection must be moved forward.

GEOLOGY365-CONT.

Labels

Once you have minerals in the collection management system, Geology365 has a template to design custom labels. Once set up and saved, the custom format can be used for all your mineral labels. Capabilities remain in place if you later want to change the design of your label. As your collection grows you can print labels for just your new specimens.

Geology365 can also incorporate QR codes (Quick Response code) on the labels. When the QR code is scanned your computer or smart phone will automatically open Geology365.com to that specimen's page where you can read the available information. Having a QR code on a label is a great way to assure that the mineral's provenance is not lost to future generations.



Conclusion

Geology365 was created by a father-son team who recognized the mineral collector's need to catalog and label their collection. By sharing this website, Geology365 is a free and easy to use online resource that any mineral collector may use. Perhaps this is the year you will document and custom-label your collection. Let Geology365.com help you attain that goal.

Virtual Gem Shows

Alison Pacut & Mark Kucera

In the midst of this pandemic I was thinking about how much I miss going to club shows. During our January monthly meeting there was discussion about virtual auctions. Of course Mark Kucera was in the thick of the discussion having been to several of the sites so, I emailed him. Mark was more than happy to supply us with his experience. I have made all photos & links are clickable for your convenience.

I've personally dealt with the individual dealers extensively over the years - actually decades. I can recommend all of them. The Facebook open auctions popped up with COVID and I've seen dealers I know there. I have not bought anything from the shows - really only because I don't need to find new dealers since I already know plenty and would rather work with them directly through their own websites.

There are plenty of other sites out there. There is actually a group out at Tucson right now with plenty of dealers tied in to it. I don't have a good link to share because I had to register to get access.

Robert Rosenblatt (Rocko) is a dealer at plenty of NY area shows. He has done the Poughkeepsie Midland Park (North Jersey) and Franklin shows. Very good dealer with a world wide selection and a wide price range. He also has a really strong selection of NY minerals including Herkimers.



Rocko Minerals, North Adams, Massachusetts. 1,218 likes.

Alan (& Elise Benson) are also big in local shows. They do NYC, Midland Park and Franklin. World wide selection on the mid to upper range. Good selections of thumbnails.



Jeff Fast has been a club speaker. He was one of the first guys to put stuff on the internet. He also has a store over around Haddam, CT. Wide range of items from mid-range up.

[Mineral Movies: Mineral Specimens and Crystals for Rock Collectors!](#)

John Betts was also one of the first to get rolling on the internet. He also has plenty of good educational articles. Wide range of materials from mid-range up.

[John Betts - Fine Minerals, New York, NY dealers since 1989.-Home Page of Hundreds of minerals for sale to mineral collectors from online mineral dealer.](#)

The Covid Home Gem Shows run all week - but maybe not the weekend. I think you have to join the group to have access. Wide range of material



mineral related.

This High Sierra Stone Auction House has a wide range of material. I think it is public. Wide range of material.



Click, click, click away! Just because we are house bound because of the pandemic does not mean our fun has to stop too. Go virtual shopping or virtual cyber space collecting and find that perfect treasure for your collection!

OCMS members are covered by Society-sponsored insurance.

OCMS Disclaimer

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