

Meeting Minutes  
**Flagg Mineral Foundation**  
General Meeting  
January 3, 2013

*Attendees (32)*

Officers: Phil Richardson, Bill Yedowitz, Darrel Dodd, Lavone Archer, Mike Williams

Trustees: Ray Grant, Les Presmyk, Chuck & Harris Kominski, Marc Fleischer, Dana Slaughter, Doug Duffy, Stan Celestian, Glenn Hoffman, Paul Jaeger, Steve Decker

Members and Guests: Sue Celestian, Shirley Cote', Cynthia Grant, Harvey Jong, Chris Whitney-Smith, Keith Christy, Ann Baker, Pierre Cantou, Tom LaBonte, Neil Bearce, John Weide, Gary & Nancy Spraggins, Mike Shannon, Dick Zimmermann, Mardy Zimmermann

At 7:01 P.M., Chairman Phil Richardson called the January 3, 2013 general meeting of the Flagg Mineral Foundation (FMF) to order at the Physical Science Building at Mesa Community College, 1833 West Southern Ave., Mesa, AZ 85202.

I. TREASURER'S REPORT (Darrel Dodd)

Darrel reported details of the Foundation checking, investments and CD accounts.

Regarding the Flagg Gem and Mineral Show (FGMS), MCC and selected services had already been paid but there were still some services that had not yet been paid (sweeper) and there would be some additional costs incurred this year as well.

The Freeport scholarship check (\$10K) available to minority geology students had not yet been received pending clarification of FMF 501(C) status under the new Flagg Mineral Foundation name. 2014 would be the last year of a 5 year scholarship program supported by Freeport and the decision to continue the endowment with Foundation funding will need to be made.

II. MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 25, 2012, GENERAL MEETING

Marc Fleischer moved that the minutes of the October meeting be approved as written. Doug Duffy seconded the motion, which carried.

III. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A) *Collection Committee* (Bill Yedowitz)

U of A Loan/Display - Les Presmyk presented ideas for modifications to the current display of the ~267 FMF minerals (~30% of the FMF collection) on exhibit at the UofA. This was the first year of a 5 year loan of the minerals to the Flandrau Science Center. Bob Downs & Mark Candee (curators of the UofA mineral museum) were discussing

with Les possible improvements which might be made to the displays including new lighting for the current cases, installation of some additional FMF cases and the ability of the UofA to utilize some FMF specimens for topical displays within the museum but outside of the current cases.

#### a) Mineral Display/Lighting

- Lighting - The current cases housing FMF specimens would benefit from new LED lighting. Approximately 4 x 15-20' of LED lighting would be required at an estimated cost of \$5000 ± 20% and may be supplied by a LED lighting expert in Maricopa who was contacted by Les. The FMF would bear the entire cost for lighting the FMF specimens and would retain ownership of the new, modular lighting when the FMF specimens are returned. Cost to the FMF will be updated as additional discussions are held.

Questions raised included efficiency of new LED lighting over existing (and possible subsidies available from Tucson Electric) and purchase of new cases compared to retrofit of the existing cases. Bill Yedowitz stated one goal of the FMF is museum support and based on UofA feedback on the FMF display, improving the existing displays is appropriate. Other questions raised included viability of the UofA mineral museum under current budget conditions. Les stated there is an agreement between the mineral museum and Freeport to support the mineral museum independently of UofA if the museum can support some of the current endowment itself via sales.

- Shelves – The current cases have 2 rows of FMF specimens on each of 5 shelves. Les suggested that the cases may be more visually appealing with only four shelves and that the middle shelf could be replaced with one of wood to provide for optimized display and lighting.
- Backing – The current cases have a varnished wood backing. Les suggested these be replaced with mirrors or cloth liners of suitable color.
- Two Tier display – Les suggested that the second row of specimens on each shelf be raised on Lucite or glass risers. Individual display stands were considered but would be too costly.
- Additional FMF presence – It was recommended that appropriate FMF signage and informational FMF flyers should accompany the FMF specimen displays.

Les suggested that with the above modifications, the enhanced FMF cases would set the standard for the rest of the museum.

#### b) Additional Cabinets

- Les & Bill Yedowitz discussed the existing FMF wall cases that were removed from the museum downtown. There is additional wall space for some of these at the UofA museum and Bob Downs has offered to install and light these cases with UofA funding. He has proposed a 5 year loan agreement. Bill suggested that additional FMF funds be spent on refinishing these cases before/if they were transferred to the UofA as they have evidence on wear and tear commensurate with age.
- New Flagg Collection – Les recommended that with the Flagg collection now being held by the FMF, a display of A.L. Flagg minerals and ephemera would be

appropriate at the UofA museum. The FMF currently has plans for two similar cases of A.L. Flagg materials to be on display at the TGMS. Additionally, the Flagg family resides in Tucson so it would be fitting to have some of the Flagg minerals and ephemera on display at the UofA.

#### New Phoenix Museum

- Recognizing that a new museum may exist in Phoenix in the next 5 years, Les suggested that that museum may not be interested in existing FMF cases due to age and Bill stated that there was minor damage to them accrued during removal and transport to storage from the old location.
- Les stated that in the event a new museum opens in the Phoenix area while FMF specimens are still committed to display at UofA, he would provide specimens from the Presmyk collection to either museum to accommodate their needs and support earth science education in Arizona.

#### Policy

- Les suggested that the UofA would like to have the ability to move FMF specimens from the cabinets currently housing them. Bob Downs had requested permission to utilize some FMF specimens outside of the cases (but still within the museum) to enhance occasional topical displays. Bill reminded those in attendance that per the existing agreement with UofA this would be appropriate as long as FMF specimens did not leave the museum without permission. Bill suggested that Bob discuss the move of FMF specimens with him and that he would be willing to loan to UofA additional FMF specimens (from storage) if needed.

Phil suggested that Les expound upon and present these suggestions to Steve Decker as an article for the next newsletter. A more in depth discussion will occur at the next FMF meeting.

#### c) Donation of the Cirillo-Meieran epidote collection.

This collection is now in the possession of the FMF.

#### d) Donation by Richard Flagg of the A.L. and R. Flagg Collection.

The Flagg collection recently obtained by the FMF contained substantial Arizona material but had specimens from worldwide localities including South Africa, Germany and Sweden as well. A number of the specimens included original labels from Arthur or Richard Flagg. There were approximately 20 wooden crates (1'x1'x3') containing Arthur Flagg specimens wrapped in newspaper and another 15 crates with Richard Flagg specimens. A number of Arizona specimens were removed from the donation for inclusion into the FMF collection and included Bisbee pieces and Arizona opal specimens. The majority of material was included on a master list with ~5100 index numbers, some index numbers had multiple specimens so there were ~6000-7500 total specimens. A number of flats were pulled aside containing material from undocumented localities in Arizona for Ray Grant's evaluation. Pieces from A.L. Flagg's native Rhode Island were also retained for the FMF collection as were specimen #1, 7-8 flats of Arizona material and a few flats of worldwide specimens to

demonstrate the breadth of the Flagg collection. Chris Whitney-Smith recreated A.L. Flagg labels from the few originals which remained and these were used, along with original index number, for all specimens.

There was also an extensive geology library and ~30 of the most important text and reference books were retained for the FMF collections. Other books received with the collection will be sold with pricing as determined from Amazon.com or other on-line sellers for a copy in equivalent condition. Bill thanked Dana, Chuck and Harris, Ray, Phil, Chris and Mike for help in preparing pieces in the collection for sale/labeling. During preparation of labels, only information from the index list was transposed so many labels contain varietal names for minerals or localities that have changed names geographically. Approximately 156 flats were priced and brought to the meeting for sale to members.

Disposition of specimens:

- To date all of the pieces have been unwrapped and transferred to flats. There are still ~750+ ore specimens and hundreds of sand specimens that require additional investigation to determine locality as they were not included on the master index.
  - The FMF will have two exhibits of the collection/A.L. Flagg ephemera on display at the 2013 TGMS.
  - Jeff Scovil has ~20 of the better specimens. These will be photographed for inclusion in the 2013 Mineralogical Record's Arizona Mineral Collectors Supplement issue.
  - There are still ~150 flats to process. These will be available for sale at the Minerals of Arizona Symposium or at later meetings/shows.
  - Mike Shannon inquired as to when membership could see those specimens that were retained for the FMF collection. Phil/Bill said they should be available for display at the Minerals of Arizona Symposium or at a future meeting. Phil said he would prepare a listing of those specimens retained for inclusion in an upcoming newsletter.
- e) Tom Hale was to stop by with a number of flats for evaluation and potential purchase by the FMF but that did not occur. These materials would have been for sale at the FGMS. The FMF is still actively seeking and purchasing collections for resale at subsequent Flagg shows.
- f) TGMS show posters are once again available and, although they are not directly for sale from the website, a link with contact information for Les (for pricing/shipping information) along with photos/availability of individual posters is currently on the FMF website. Select posters were available for sale at the meeting. It was decided to include a list of available posters in subsequent newsletters for those interested in purchasing them.

#### *B) Website (Mike Williams)*

Mike reported that the Foundation website (and Facebook page) are up and are being updated/maintained on a weekly basis. A new version of Wordpress is available but the

website will not be updated to that new version until after the FGMS, TGMS and Symposium so that there is no disruption in service. The website has seen substantial traffic prior to the FGMS and had been receiving emails from individuals looking for additional information, from vendors and from local media including the East Valley Tribune, New Times and KTAR. E-mail traffic was forwarded or received direct replies as appropriate. There was interest in some modifications to improve the website during the upcoming update and a number of members offered to help with the design/update. A weekend work session will be scheduled prior to the update so members will have the opportunity to suggest new web designs they feel are suitable.

*C) Newsletter (Steve Decker)*

Steve recommended that a hardcopy newsletter containing a registration form be mailed prior to the Symposium. A short discussion was held regarding keeping the newsletter completely electronic. Lavone Archer supported mailing a hardcopy with Symposium registration and suggested tracking donations/registrations for comparison if only an electronic copy is distributed. Minerals of AZ Symposium flyers will be updated and available at the TGMS.

Additional input from Les, Phil, Bill and Harvey (see below) will appear in the next newsletter

*D) Field Trips (Harris Kominski)*

Harris reported that he and Chuck were working on a field trip for the Symposium and that suggestions for locations would be appreciated. It was proposed that members contact Harris/Chuck if they have recommendations for a field trip.

#### IV. FLAGG SHOW 41ST ANNUAL JAN 4, 5, 6, 2013

*Sales Crew (Bill Yedowitz)*

Bill suggested that a suitable sales crew was in place for the FMF tables at the FGMS.

*Children's Activities (Ray Grant)*

Ray reported that the MCC geology club had taken over substantial portions of the youth activities with the fossil dig and giveaway materials already prepared. The MSA had sufficient donations for the spinning wheel. The gold panning exhibit was scheduled along with the geode cracking area (Les). All those activities were described in recent media reports regarding the FGMS.

*Food/Shirts (Phil Richardson/Bill Yedowitz)*

Phil stated that food for the FMF table had been planned and that FMF polo or tee shirts were available (via Darrel or Bill) for members that planned to be on the sales crew.

*Publicity (Marc Fleischer)*

Marc announced that, barring any news stories that would pull the mobile team away, Cory McCloskey from KSAZ (Fox 10) would be on-site at 7:30AM and would be going live at 8:20AM to include the Cave Creek Museum, Gold Panning and Geode Cracking.

That would be followed by another live spot at 8:40AM which would include the ESM and Fluorescent displays.

In addition, Channel 12 was at the venue on 2Jan and interviewed Darrel & Ray and would be airing those taped commercials for the FGMS at 4:50AM, 5:50AM and 12PM on Saturday.

#### *Mesa Tax Enforcement*

Mesa has contacted the FMF and has suggested that the FMF would be responsible for enforcing tax collection at the FGMS and that the city of Mesa may have a person on-site to ensure that tax collection/paperwork is enforced.

#### *2014 FGMS Show*

Potential dates for the 2014 FGMS show include 3,4,& 5 January or 10,11 & 12 January. It was pointed out that the 10,11 and 12 dates overlap with the Quartzite show, may have an effect on the TV coverage and would impact some dealer schedules. Les Presmyk moved and Bill Yedowitz seconded that the 2014 FGMS would be held on 3,4 & 5 January. The motion carried.

#### *Fee Level for 2014 Show*

With FMF incurring greater costs to hold the show every year, Bill Yedowitz suggested a moderate \$10-20 increase for the 2014 show (2013 costs were \$60-\$120 for the three days depending on size of reserved space). Neal Bearce suggested that it would be reasonable to increase the dealer fees by 10-15% according to the increased FMF expense. Bill made a motion to increase the dealer space fees by \$10 per space for the 2014 show. Les seconded and the motion passed.

#### *Show Chairman*

Phil and Ray discussed designating a show chairman for subsequent FGMS. Darrel Dodd volunteered to be the show chairman for the 2014 FGMS. There was discussion about the need of the chairman to have a temporary (2-3 week) cell phone contract with a dedicated contact number that may be published and provided to media, vendors, etc. Tom Labonte made a motion to provide the show chairman with a temporary cell phone for use in organizing and taking questions about the FGMS.

#### *Show Contract Inclusion*

The MCC campus is smoke-free and smoking is not permitted anywhere at or around the FGMS. In addition, dogs are not allowed on the MCC campus however, they may attend the FGMS as long as they remain on a leash and in the parking lot area only. The show contracts need to be modified to include this information.

V. ARIZONA MINERAL SYMPOSIUM,  
CLARION HOTEL, PHOENIX TECH CENTER, APRIL 5, 6, 7, 2013

*Micromount Symposium* (Joe Marty)

A micromount session will be held Friday 2-5 PM, with a presentation on “New Western United States Mineral Species” from 4-5 PM. There will be free specimens available at this session and some microscopes will be available for use.

*Preparations* (Ray Grant)

Ray has a full agenda of speakers lined up for Saturday.

*Field Trip*

Harris and Chuck will be working on a Sunday field trip (to be announced).

*Dealer Poolside/Courtyard Rooms*

A block of courtyard (pool-side) rooms are reserved for dealers selling from 5-10 PM Friday and at select times on Saturday.

*Registration Fee* (Ray Grant)

The fee is \$35 for members, \$40 for non-members. The Saturday evening buffet is an additional \$20.

Additional information about the symposium may be found on [flaggmineralfoundation.org](http://flaggmineralfoundation.org).

VI. OLD BUSINESS

*Earth Science Museum* (ESM) (Harvey Jong)

Harvey said he would prepare a proposal (the Founding Partnership Proposal) which would be included in the next FMF newsletter. Harvey would like the FMF's involvement as a Founding Partner by designing a Flagg Gallery as an initial step in the development of the new ESM.

Ray Grant commented on the upgraded teacher kits that the ESM has been preparing and distributing. These now include books and magnifiers and were put together in part using a grant received from Staples. He stated that one of the FMF goals was to support educational outreach programs and suggested the FMF allocate \$1500 to support the ESM outreach program. A motion was made by Les Presmyk to support the ESM with a \$1500 donation. The motion was seconded by Lavone Archer and passed. Bill Yedowitz reminded those in attendance that there were some materials at the storage trailer which were available for hardness kits and that he would transfer them to Mardy Zimmermann for ESM use. Dealer Keith Christy suggested he could also donate some materials for hardness kits for the cost of the postage.

*Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies Membership*

Discussion was postponed until the next meeting due to time constraints.

## VII NEW BUSINESS

### *Jack Howell*

Phil Richardson spoke with Genie Howell and she reported that Jack is on his way to recovery after suffering a stroke. Everyone is hoping & praying for Jack's full recovery. The best wishes of the FMF go out to the Howell family.

### *Nominations*

Other than for the position of secretary, all officers agreed to continue in their current positions for 2013. Mike Williams was nominated for the position of secretary by Bill Yedowitz. The motion was seconded by Lavone Archer and the motion passed. There were no other nominations.

Phil solicited nominations for the Arthur Flagg Service Award and suggested that nominations be directed electronically to the FMF website for distribution.

Shirley Cote' reminded those in attendance that volunteers for the ESM get free membership in the FMF and that those memberships could be obtained from Lavone. She would like to see this program continue into 2013. Les Presmyk made a motion to continue awarding ESM volunteers with a free FMF membership. The motion passed.

The meeting was closed at 8:40PM.

Mike Williams, Secretary