



## From the Executive Director by Ted Bornhorst

It is that time of year for the museum's annual newsletter. Since its beginning in 1902, almost 115 years ago, the museum has continually improved and evolved into the nationally and internationally recognized mineral museum we are today. The museum's mineral collection is the foundation of our existence, and enhancing its quality, depth, and breadth is critical to our future. By far, the principal way we acquire specimens is through donations. These donations can be large collections of many high quality specimens such as the one donated by Paul and Janet Clifford described in Showcase Issue 3, April 2015, or in contrast a single specimen of rhodochrosite from Climax, Colorado donated by Angela and Corey Hammond in memory of Elizabeth Bekkala announced in Issue 1. The museum's "heroes" are ALL of you for your generous donations of specimens and equally important monetary contributions. Whether small or large they are all important to us. There is neither space nor likely your reading patience, for me to tell you about every donation. Instead, in this newsletter I'll select a few donations to show the diversity.

I encourage you to support the museum. Renewing your membership, becoming a new museum member, or simply a year-end gift helps the museum; "your" museum. I have enclosed a form making it easy to mail back or you can donate via credit card online at the museum's website: <http://www.museum.mtu.edu/support-us/giving>.

I'm saddened to announce the passing of Thomas D. Shaffner (1935-2016) on Saturday October 22, 2016 of Fryeburg, Maine. Tom's generous donation to Michigan Tech was the principal catalyst for construction of the museum's main building here at 1404 E. Sharon Avenue, our permanent home. Tom graduated high school in Midland, MI and received his B.S. degree in chemical engineering from Michigan Tech in 1958. From 1958 to 1964, he served in the U. S. Army. For over three decades, Tom was instrumental in managing and growing a company which manufactures high precision tubular products for oil & gas, aerospace, and power generation industries. Founded in 1977 in Fryeburg ME, Dearborn Tubular Products was acquired by UK-based Hunting PLC in 2011. Employing about 200 people, Hunting-Dearborn is a top-10 employer in its home county of Oxford, ME. Tom was active in the local community and served on local boards. Tom's love of Michigan Tech and philanthropy gave the A. E. Seaman Mineral Museum a new beginning. The Thomas D. Shaffner Hall provides enjoyable education for the museum's many visitors. Thank You Tom.

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## Northrup Collection

In 2015, John Northrup initiated the process of donating his father, Frank's mineral collection to the museum. After Frank passed away John moved the collection to his home near Brighton, Michigan as he and his siblings had not decided its disposition. After moving the boxes a few times (the collection had roughly 2000 specimens), John decided it was time to take action and he and his siblings agreed their father would have wanted it donated to the museum. Frank had a connection with the museum and knew Jean Peterman-Kemp who was curator from 1975 to 1986. Frank, a lifetime auto worker from north of Ann Arbor, was an active field collector in the 1960's and 70's especially in Michigan's Upper Peninsula and in New Jersey. The museum is benefiting from this donation as the proceeds from selling the vast majority of the collection is helping fund several museum initiatives. The six specimens that have been accessioned into the museum's collection and the multiple specimens to be sponsored by the Northrup family will be a lasting legacy. A large collection such as this one, with only a few specimens accessioned into the museum's collection, nevertheless has significant impact on the museum.



Golden-yellow fluorite crystals with minor calcite from Hardin County, southern Illinois. Specimen is 19.5 cm tall. Photo by C. Stefano.

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## Jim and Bonnie Hird

Jim Hird, 1968 Michigan Tech alum, and his wife Bonnie recently donated a native copper vein slab, prepared by Keweenaw Gem and Gift, which hangs on the wall above the museum's coat rack by the gift shop. While it is not copper crystals, the slab adds to the museum's collection. This is the second, non-crystalline specimen donated by the Hirds. At the museum's 2015 Keweenaw Mineral Days Central Mine collecting event, Jim found a copper mineralized boulder. He had it slabbed and donated one of them to the museum; it is on exhibit.



Native copper vein, Valley View Quarry, Houghton County

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## The Meieran Family

Collecting minerals can be a family affair. The Meieran Family, Eugene and Rosilind and their children Andrew, Christy, and Sharon have donated more than 200 specimens since 2002. The gifts have included many exhibit quality minerals. Eugene's collection is especially strong in gem minerals such as aquamarine. The family typically gives just a few specimens in a given year but the cumulative impact of their donations makes the Meieran Family a major donor to the museum's collection. The specimen shown here is topaz with muscovite from the pegmatite district of the Shigar Valley in northern Pakistan donated by Sharon Meieran and Fred Cirillo. The specimen is 20 cm wide and the photo was taken by associate curator Chris Stefano.



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## Marcus Orglieri

Marcus Orglieri earned a Ph.D. in mineralogy from the University of Arizona. He has a personal collection of minerals of the Ojulea Mine in Mexico and thumbnails of rare species. Not only does he have a strong technical expertise in minerals, Marcus has developed his own mineral dealership in Tucson, Arizona with a focus on rare minerals. He has had such good success at buying and selling minerals he is introducing a new mineral show venue at the upcoming Tucson Gem and Mineral Show. Marcus's friendship with museum benefactor, Bill Shelton, and associate curator Chris Stefano, has led him to donate two beautiful rare minerals for the collection.



Phosphuranylite, Margnac II Mine, Haute-Vienne, France.  
Specimen is 12 cm wide. Photo by C. Stefano

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## Chet Sermak in memory of Bonnie J. Miljour

Chet Sermak, Ann Arbor, Michigan, recently donated a collection of minerals and fossils to the museum in memory of his wife, Bonnie J. Miljour. Since Bonnie was from the Upper Peninsula, Chet was pleased with the opportunity to give back to the area. A professional organizer helping Chet connected him with the museum. The collection consists of about 300 specimens. They are entry collector level quality and none of them will be accessioned into the collection. Instead the museum will benefit from the proceeds of selling them to others to enjoy. In recognition of the donation, an existing specimen in the collection will be selected for sponsorship. Bonnie's name will be attached to the specimen in the museum catalog and on any exhibits as long as the specimen remains in the collection. For more information about sponsorship visit: (<http://www.museum.mtu.edu/support-us/sponsor-specimen>). Even a donation that does not directly add to the collection benefits the museum.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE A. E. SEAMAN MINERAL MUSEUM

[www.museum.mtu.edu](http://www.museum.mtu.edu)

