

Showcase

This is the first issue of *Showcase* from the A.E. Seaman Mineral Museum of Michigan Tech. There are so many more interesting improvements, additions, activities, stories, and more at the A.E. Seaman Mineral Museum than we have communicated to you, our supporters and friends in our periodic newsletters. Thus, I've attached the inaugural Issue 1 of *Showcase*. My goal is to keep you better connected to the museum through more frequent communication. We have a considerable backlog of various happenings to tell you about. Each issue will be limited to one page only. Back issues will be posted on our web site. *Showcase* will be distributed by email unless someone requests a hard copy by regular mail.

As the header for this first issue of Museum News, you will see a museum logo along the lines of ones we have used for some years. However, soon we will begin transitioning to a new logo and I'm expecting to introduce it to you as the header of the next issue of *Showcase*. Michigan Tech Marketing and Communications Senior Strategist, Brandy Tichonoff, is actively working to develop the new logo and we have already been through multiple versions. I'm confident the new logo will be fresh and brand us in a way that better connects the museum to Michigan Tech.

The number one goal of the museum is to enhance the quality, usefulness, and value of the mineral collection. The collection is the foundation of who we are and without it we would not be a museum or be able to provide exhibits that truly engage and inspire visitors about minerals. A critical component of achieving this goal is to actively acquire high quality specimens for the collection through donations and purchases. Given our limited financial resources, directly or indirectly donations of minerals are the principal way we improve the collection. So, we have tended to highlight acquisitions of minerals in our newsletter more than other museum items. I expect that this tradition will continue in this new form of communication too.



Chris Stefano photo

Rhodochrosite, Climax, Mine, largest crystal 5 cm.

Six years ago, Jeff Post, curator at the Smithsonian, and I shared the Sunday program for the Tucson Westward Look show with the theme of "My Favorite Minerals". My talk included many pictures of copper and silver from the Keweenaw Peninsula and of course calcite with copper inclusions and datolite too. Since the collection is so much more than just Michigan copper, my pictures covered our strengths in Lake Superior iron, Great Lakes region, and worldwide. I remember well a picture I used in the talk reproduced here....



A shelf with a blank space and a label reading Sweet Home Mine, Alma, Colorado and Donor: Could B. You. We still would like to acquire another Sweet Home rhodochrosite to go along with the nice one subsequently donated to us by Bill Shelton.

In the meantime, we are pleased to announce that Angela and Cory Hammond in memory of Elizabeth Bekkala have donated an attractive rhodochrosite from the Climax Mine in Colorado. The new specimen measures 11.5x10x8.5 cm and has two main rhodochrosite crystals perched on quartz crystal matrix with many smaller rhodochrosites. Colorado rhodochrosite specimens are among the most desirable mineral specimens in the marketplace today. This specimen comes from a lesser known locality for good rhodochrosites, the Climax Mine. High quality specimens from Climax are rarely seen, and are much more difficult to acquire than examples from better known localities such as the Sweet Home Mine. Our piece ranks among the better specimens known from the locality. This outstanding specimen will enrich our exhibits in the Thomas D. Shaffner Hall and contributes to our ongoing efforts to further enhance visitor experience at the museum.

That concludes our first issue of *Showcase*. I hope you enjoyed it and look forward to showcasing more next month.

Ted Bornhorst, Director