



Chips from the Quarry

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FEATURING FABULOUS FLUORITE (again): In keeping with the Denver Gem and Mineral Show's theme of *Fluorite*, our July/August issue had three feature articles on fluorite: one on UK fluorite, another on faceted fluorite, and the third on the James Gebel fluorite collection. In this issue noted author Philip Simmons describes fluorite from New Mexico in a lengthy, beautifully illustrated article. For those who haven't yet marked the Denver Show on their calendars, the dates are 18–20 September, and the place is the Expo Hall of the Denver Mart (401 E. 58th Avenue). The show, established in 1967, is considered the second largest in the United States (after the Tucson Show) and has numerous satellite shows in the area.

COPING WITH CORONAVIRUS: As I write this (mid-May), the whole world appears to be in isolation in response to the coronavirus. For mineral collectors, that translates into club meetings, shows, seminars, and symposia being cancelled and mineral shops and museums being closed. Collectors, abruptly house-bound, have discovered they suddenly have ample time to work on their minerals: sorting, labeling, trimming, cleaning, and cataloguing, tasks they had been putting off, perhaps for years, until they “had more time.”

But what about mineral symposia and mineral museums? How did they face, let alone overcome, the challenges thrust upon them. Some turned to the internet, as exemplified by two articles in this issue. The Rochester Mineralogical Symposium went live with four hours of presentations (see “Rochester: The eRMS 2020” by Raymond McDougall, beginning on page 450), and the Maine Mineral & Gem Museum immediately shifted its online focus to educate students who almost overnight switched from attending classes to being home-schooled, in some cases by their parents who became their substitute teachers (see the Museum Notes column, by Barbra Barrett, beginning on page 484).

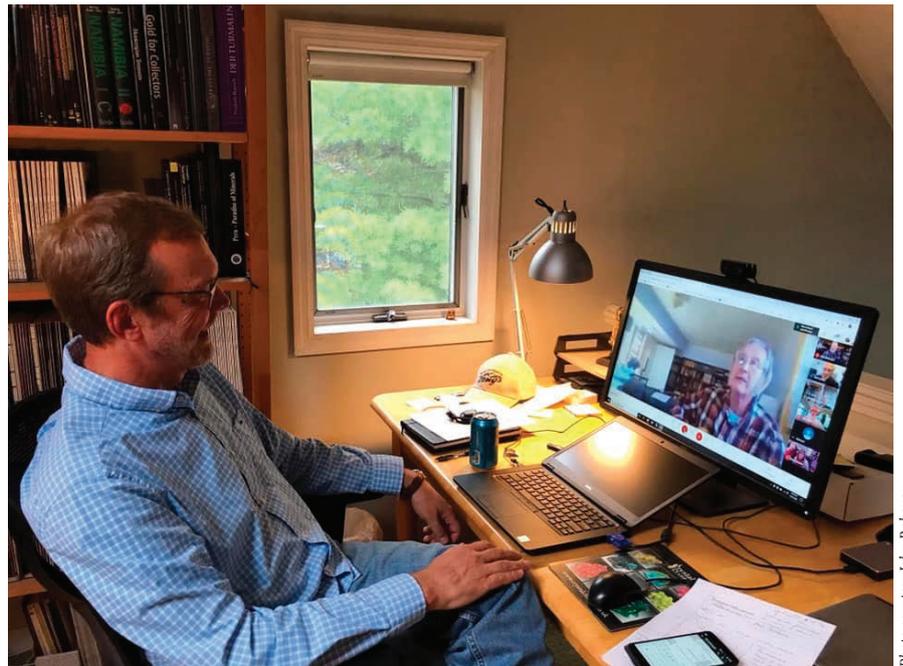


Photo courtesy John Rakovan.

John Rakovan hosting the online Rochester Mineralogical Symposium's 2020 presentations during the country's lockdown, seen here viewing David Joyce's sing-along.



Photo courtesy Maine Mineral & Gem Museum.



A screenshot of “Syd the Science Kid,” an online creation of the Maine Mineral & Gem Museum to educate students while sheltering in place at home.

EARTH SCIENCE WEEK: Since October 1998 the American Geosciences Institute (AGI) has organized the international Earth Science Week (ESW) to help the public gain a better understanding of and appreciation for the Earth sciences and to encourage stewardship of the Earth. This year's ESW will be held 11–17 October and will celebrate the theme *Earth Materials in*

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Now accepting nominations for the 2020 Carnegie Mineralogical Award

The Carnegie Mineralogical Award honors outstanding contributions in mineralogical preservation, conservation, and education that match the ideals advanced in Hillman Hall of Minerals & Gems at Carnegie Museum of Natural History. Established in 1987 through the generosity of The Hillman Foundation, Inc., the award consists of a bronze medallion, a certificate of recognition, and a \$3,000 cash prize. The award is presented each February during the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show.

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2020 award. Mineral enthusiasts and collectors, educators, curators, mineral clubs and societies, museums, universities, and publications are eligible. The deadline is December 1st.

For a nomination form, contact:
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Our Lives. The week-long event reaches more than 50 million people annually with activities, materials, and information about the geosciences. AGI leads ESW in cooperation with its approximately twenty national and international sponsors and the geoscience community as a public service. Pages of details about ESW's ever-expanding outreach can be accessed at <https://www.earthsciweek.org/>.

REMEMBERING Mark Feinglos and Kay Robertson: Two touching tributes are in this issue's In Memoriam column: one on Mark N. Feinglos, the other on Kay Robertson. Although separated by age, collecting background, and home-base, they nevertheless were close friends, and they died within weeks of each other.

We recently learned from Friends of Mineralogy (FM) President William Besse that Robertson was a founding member of FM and served on the board of directors for many years. In the 1990s she donated an endowment to create an annual "Best Educational

Case" award to be given by FM at the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show. The award continues to be given to this day and has posthumously been renamed the "Kay Robertson Educational Display Award."

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: The Houston Gem and Mineral Society, in memory of Arthur E. Smith, and the Cincinnati Mineral Society underwrote color costs in the Connoisseur's

Choice column; Laura Delano, of LLD productions, did the same for the Museum Notes column, as did Maryanne and John Fender (Fender Minerals) and Myrle Wiggins for the Where in Mineral Names column. Donors to the Color Fund contributed toward color in the remaining columns and articles. All are thanked for partnering with *Rocks & Minerals* to support color photography in the magazine.

M.E.H.

CANCELLATION NOTICE!

The following two events have been cancelled due to the coronavirus:

Denver Gem & Mineral Show at the Denver Mart

September 18–20

Open House, Mines Museum of Earth Science

Golden, Colorado

September 16

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Fluorite – Ireland; 10 cm wide. Photo by Jeff Scovil

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