

## From the Director & Curator

**John A. Jaszczak**

Spring, summer, and fall this year in the Copper Country brought a record high number of visitors to the museum. On many occasions when I've been out in the gallery, I've often heard visitors make comments like, "Wow, this place is amazing!" or "There are more minerals on display here than there are at the Smithsonian." Without fail, whenever I hear the end of the video play in our fluorescent mineral gallery and the final ultraviolet lights reveal the "spectacular beauty" of the specimens on display there, I hear the visitors let out an enthusiastic "Wow!" Perhaps my favorite comment was relayed to me by the staff in the gift shop about a young visitor, perhaps only four years old, who asked, "When I'm older, can I work here?" Indeed, I would love to see that happen.



*Recently donated 49-ct cerussite from Tsumeb, Namibia.*

Another very rewarding part of being Director and Curator at the museum has been receiving gifts by so many generous donors. Over the past year, your mission-critical financial support has enabled us to add to our collection, improve the galleries, and create new educational programs. The museum has also received many generous donations of specimens for accession into its collection or for resale in the gift shop to support the museum. Some recent specimen donations include a 19-cm tall white datolite with blue-green copper-alteration banding from the Centennial Mine No. 2 shaft, Houghton County; a 4-cm wide crystallized silver from the "South Silver Vein" in Keweenaw County; a lovely 49-ct faceted cerussite gemstone from Tsumeb, Namibia, faceted by the late master gem cutter Art Grant; an 18.5-inch wide float copper with minor silver from the gravel pit in Hancock; an important scientific mineral collection rich in phosphate minerals; and a remarkable copper chisel fan that is described in more detail below.

Sincere thanks to all of our donors for their faithful support!

## Clark Family Copper Chisel Fan

When giant masses of native copper were encountered, miners engaged in the laborious process of using sledges and chisels to cut them apart into more manageable pieces. This process created a significant quantity of copper chisel chips but most of them were smelted. Copper chisel fans were skillfully made by miners as souvenirs, and are now highly prized by collectors.

The magnificent fan shown here on display in the museum's Thomas D. Shaffner Hall was donated to the museum this past year by the family of William H. Clark (1922-2010). The fan was originally owned by Captain Wesley Chester Clark (1857-1922), who came to the Keweenaw from Cornwall, England in the 1880s. Captain Clark's teenage grandson William Clark retrieved the fan from the ashes of the "Agent's House at Copper Falls," the home where William and his family lived, sometime after the house burned down on Memorial Day in 1937— just one day before the house was supposed to have electricity installed. The fan is nearly 40-cm wide, and still bears some of the scorch marks from the fire on several of its blades. The fan was the centerpiece of the museum's display at the 2021 Greater Detroit Gem Mineral & Fossil Show held October 8-11, 2021.



## Online Promotion

In their May 7, 2021 blog, *Lake Superior Magazine* promoted the A. E. Seaman Mineral Museum with a wonderful video in the museum by Bick Smith of CyBick Productions as part of his "Over the Waves" series. His video is available through the links to [Lake Superior Magazine](https://www.lakesuperiormagazine.com), or through [vimeo.com](https://vimeo.com).