



## Something New

*John A. Jaszczak, Director and John and Phyllis Seaman Endowed Curator*

As we enter our busy tourist season, visitors to the museum are finding many exciting changes and additions in the museum's Thomas Shaffner Exhibit Hall that we have been able to accomplish over the past nine months. New wayfinding signs have been hung in the exhibit hall to help visitors identify the different galleries more easily. It continues to be very rewarding to hear visitors in the galleries telling each other, "This is so cool!". For the first time in many years, the museum is open on Sundays from 9 am to 5 pm this summer, June through August!

After quite a lot of planning and emptying of 24 display (and storage) cases, the museum closed for an extra week in early January this past winter in order to complete a redesign of the physical layout of the Mineral Formation Processes gallery. It was a major team effort. The new layout will allow for a logical thematic progression for visitors to follow and learn about the fundamental mineral formation processes. As a bonus, the rearrangement of cases opened up three additional display cases along the north wall that were formerly blocked. New content for the gallery will be designed over the next year, but already the new floorplan creates a new feel for the exhibit hall.

Collecting fluorescent sodalite-bearing syenite beach pebbles and cobbles on the shores of Lake Superior, with the aid of portable ultraviolet flashlights, has become a popular pastime in recent years and is a welcome boom to the mineral collecting hobby. Thanks to the craftsmanship of Bob Barron, generous donations of specimens, and financial support from the Fred Smith Memorial Fund, the museum has a new display of some magnificent examples in its Fluorescent Minerals gallery.

The meteorite display has been expanded and moved to the hall's main aisle, and includes artwork from our talented staff member, Janice Fraki. The move provided additional room to expand our display of fossils, including a large plate of Knightia fossil fish. New spotlights with color and intensity controls have been added to subtly highlight several displays in the museum, including a large sheet of copper showing ripples from the White Pine Mine, which is on loan from Robert Price. More new displays are in development as well.

As always, we are tremendously grateful to the museum's donors and supporters who make possible all of these additions and changes as we strive to inspire our visitors about the incredible world of minerals.

## Quincy Mine Copper Crowdfunding Campaign

The museum has the opportunity to purchase two remarkable crystallized native copper specimens from the iconic Quincy Mine in Hancock, MI. The specimens are currently on loan and on display in the museum, and are quite a sight to see in person. If you would like to help make the museum their permanent home, please consider making a donation by mail, or by using



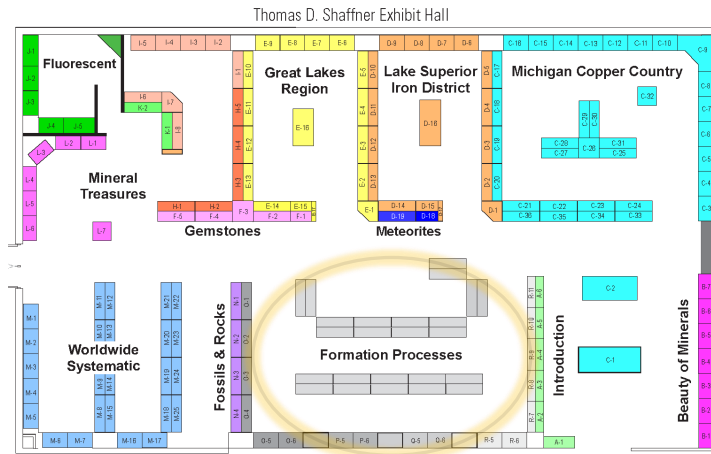
*Two world-class crystallized copper specimens from the Quincy Mine, currently on loan and on display in the museum, are the objects of the museum's crowdfunding campaign.*



the convenient online portal at [give.mtu.edu/project/37327](https://give.mtu.edu/project/37327) (or scan the QR code). Online you can read a bit more about the specimens and watch a short video.

# WHAT'S NEW IN THE EXHIBIT HALL

A portion of the 24 cases worth of specimens temporarily displaced during rearrangement of the displays.



Rearranged display cases (circled) in the Mineral Formation Processes gallery.

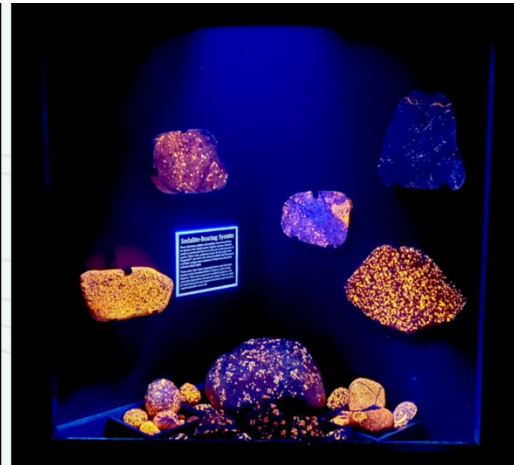
Specimens displayed in their new home.



New display of sodalite-bearing syenite beach stones in the Fluorescent Minerals Gallery.



With white light at left and ultraviolet light at right.



Expanded meteorite display with artwork by museum staff member Janice Fraki.



New display featuring fossil fish.

Consider making a donation to the Quincy Copper Crowdfunding Campaign. Scan the QR code to donate:



# Enjoy the Sunshine!

## Lake Superior Agate Displays

The museum exhibited some of its finest Lake Superior agates in February at the 68<sup>th</sup> annual Tucson Gem and Mineral Show, and then again in May at the 62<sup>nd</sup> annual Kalamazoo Rock, Gem, Fossil & Mineral Show.

As part of the museum's year-long celebration of the museum's 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Director & Curator John Jaszczak gave lectures at both shows on "120 Years of the A. E. Seaman Mineral Museum," highlighting some of the museum's history, curators, and donors, while presenting some of the iconic mineral specimens the museum is proud to have in its collections.



## Virtual Tour of the Museum Available on Husky Bites

At the invitation of Michigan Tech's College of Engineering, the museum presented an interactive webinar in the popular program series called Husky Bites on March 27. The program, hosted by Will Cantrell, Dean of the Graduate School and Professor of Physics, featured Museum Manager Patrice Cobin and Director & Curator John Jaszczak. Following a short introduction, they gave a walking tour of the museum through the gift shop and galleries, telling stories, pointing out some special highlights, and ending with a question & answer session. Recordings are available to watch through links on the Husky Bites website:

[\(mtu.edu/engineering/seminar/webinar-s23/\)](https://mtu.edu/engineering/seminar/webinar-s23/).

## KEWEENAW MINERAL DAYS 2023

To register and for more information see [museum.mtu.edu/KMD2023](https://museum.mtu.edu/KMD2023)

**August  
4th - 12th**

- ◆ Free admission to the A. E. Seaman Mineral Museum
- ◆ 15% discount on museum and gift shop merchandise
- ◆ 15% discount at Keweenaw Gem & Gift's store in Houghton, MI

**August  
4th**

- ◆ Mineral Surplus Sale & 15% discount
- ◆ Private viewing of the A. E. Seaman Mineral Museum
- ◆ Silent Auction (wide range of local minerals & beyond)
- ◆ "Micromineral Treasures from Michigan's Copper Country" presentation by renowned collector & author Tom Rosemeyer

**Registration is required to participate in all events.**



**Scan this QR code to register for Keweenaw Mineral Days**