



## Wow!

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

In this issue of Showcase we bring you a taste of some of the museum's activities, donations, and news that reflects the continued growth and vitality of the museum. Further, as is our aspiration, we continue to hear many audible "Wow!"s from our visitors as they enjoy the museum galleries and gift shop.

Many thanks to you, our generous supporters, for helping us improve our displays, collections, outreach, and impact. Before we get to the many other topics of interest, however, we remember and celebrate the life of Susan Robinson who passed away earlier this year, and whose impact on the museum, thankfully, continues to resonate all around us.

## Remembering Susan Robinson, Honorary Curator

In recognition of her many years of volunteer service to the museum, Susan Robinson was named Honorary Curator of the A. E. Seaman Mineral Museum in 2010 by then-Director Ted Bornhorst. We are sad to report that Susan passed away in her home on January 28, 2025. Susan's contributions are inestimable and permeate the entire museum. Combining her amazing artistic talents along with her formal training in geology, she passionately assisted her husband George, who served as curator of the A. E. Seaman Mineral Museum between 1995 and 2013, with everything from exhibit and graphics design to specimen packing and unpacking when the museum moved between 2010 and 2011 from the EERC building to its current purpose-built home. Their collaborative work is perhaps no better illustrated than by the stunning Beauty of Minerals gallery they designed together, and can still be seen in the museum today.

Susan was both an accomplished artist and author. The realism of her

paintings of beach stones is legendary.

She

particularly

enjoyed painting birds and small animals on driftwood, as she explains in a [YouTube video](#). Among the many written works to her credit is the still popular booklet *Is This an Agate? An Illustrated Guide to Lake Superior's Beach Stones*, which has sold over 40,000 copies since 2001. She also wrote over 100 articles on mineral artists for *Rocks & Minerals* magazine, and drafted 36 pen-and-ink drawings for the covers of *Rochester Mineralogical Symposium Program Notes*.



*Photo of Susan taken by George Robinson, courtesy of Steve Chamberlain.*



*One of Susan's original paintings of Lake Superior beach cobbles with a small group of accompanying samples.*

Scan QR code to make a gift to support the museum



# ON THE ROAD

The museum's "On the Road" activities this year began in early February with the annual Tucson Gem and Mineral Show (TGMS). Since the theme this year was "Shades of Green," the museum brought a display on "Chlorastrolite: Michigan's State Gemstone," popularly known as greenstone. In celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Rocks & Minerals magazine, the TGMS also featured seven showcases of specimens that were illustrated on the magazine's covers. The museum was invited to bring two such specimens: Copper from the Cliff Mine, formerly in the John T. Reeder collection, was illustrated on the cover of the November/December 2002 issue, and silver from the Cliff Mine, formerly in the L. L. Hubbard collection, illustrated on the cover of the September/October 2018 issue.

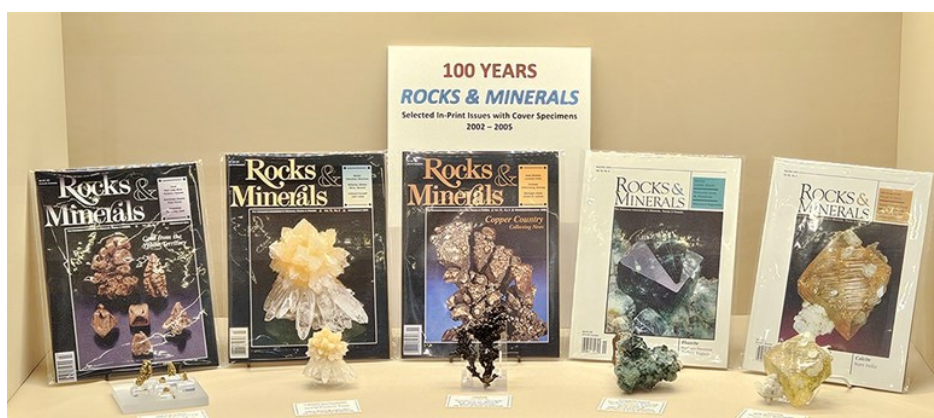
Much to our surprise, while attending the 2025 TGMS awards program the Friends of Mineralogy presented the "Best Kay Robertson Educational Exhibit by an Institution"

award, to the museum for its exhibit, "Wanted! Criminal Minerals", which was displayed at the Denver Gem and Mineral Show in September 2024. This exhibit, designed by John Jaszczak and

Janice Fraki, was illustrative of the lecture presented at the Denver show by Jaszczak on the same topic. The "criminal minerals" are an interesting and important class of minerals that break the laws of classical



*The Museum's exhibits at the 2025 Tucson Gem and Mineral Show included a case about Michigan's State Gemstone and two specimens in the Rocks & Minerals centennial celebration exhibit.*



crystallography yet have ordered atomic structures.

In April, on the way back to the U.P. after travelling to Columbus, Ohio to pick up a special collection for possible acquisition, John Jaszczak stopped at the Cranbrook Institute of Science in Bloomfield Hills, MI. There, he gave a talk, "Copper Country Minerals: A Collector's Paradise in Michigan's Upper Peninsula," at the invitation of the Michigan Mineralogical Society. Jaszczak was invited to give a similar talk virtually in June to the Central Michigan Lapidary and Mineral Society.



*Award-winning "Criminal Minerals" exhibit at the 2024 Denver Gem and Mineral Show.*



# NEW DONATIONS

In June 2024, Judy Kern donated a collection of high-quality mineral and lapidary specimens. Several of the largest of these specimens are so impressive that we prioritized putting them on display as soon as possible. Shown below is the largest of three very large quartz crystal groups (this one measuring over 70 cm wide with a 40-cm tall crystal) of excellent quality from Arkansas, and two remarkable slabs of petrified wood from Arizona. They really add a “wow!” response from our visitors.



Above: Rippled sheet copper (White Pine Mine, MI). Below: polished chrysocolla (Ray, AZ)  
Donations by Robert and Merry Price.



The White Pine Mine in Ontonagon County, Michigan was the last commercially

operated mine in Copper Country (apart from mining for specimens), and was famous in the 1980s for the large sheets of native copper that were available on the market. A giant sheet of copper (~2.5-m wide) has been the centerpiece welcoming visitors to the museum at the entrance to the Thomas D. Shaffner Exhibit Hall ever since the museum opened in its new facility in 2011. Earlier this spring, Robert and Merry Price donated a rare sheet copper from the White Pine Mine that shows interesting ripple marks from the adjacent shale. The sheet is 1.4-m tall and was installed by Robert Barron near the other large sheet copper facing the Beauty of Minerals gallery. Robert and Merry also donated a large (43-cm wide) polished specimen of colorful chrysocolla from Arizona, also on display in the Beauty of Minerals gallery, and a giant pair of thunderegg agates from Succor Creek, Oregon.

Four splendid specimens of quartz, variety amethyst, from Chibuki, Zimbabwe were donated to the museum last summer by Simon Harrison of Bath, England. These specimens, showing excellent sceptered growth, fluid inclusions, and double terminations, are currently on display in the New Acquisitions exhibit.

*Petrified wood and large quartz crystals donated by Judy Kern.*





# OUT OF THIS WORLD

Following a visit to the museum last year, Martin Guth donated a whopping 12.2-kg Campo del Cielo iron-nickel meteorite from Argentina. The specimen is over 27-cm across and is on display in our meteorite exhibit. Also in the meteorite department, Graham C.



Wilson donated a spectacular slab of the Seymchan iron-nickel meteorite from the Magadan region in Siberia, Russia. It weighs nearly 20 kg, is about 60-cm × 30-cm across its polished face, and shows a magnificent Widmanstätten structure and feathery schreibersite inclusions.

*Seymchan meteorite slice donated by Graham C. Wilson.*



*Campo del Cielo meteorite donated by Martin Guth.*

# IN PRINT AND IN THE NEWS

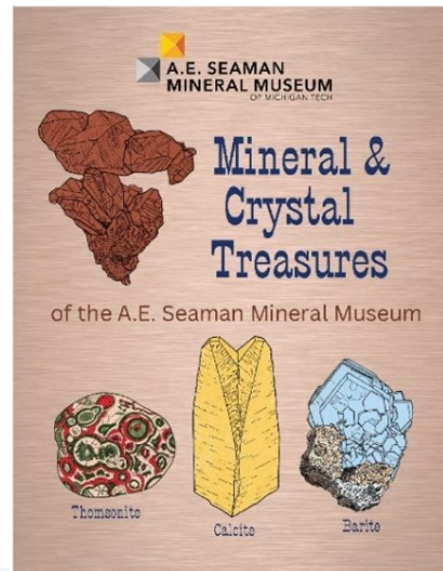


## Stibnite featured in *The Mineralogical Record*

A remarkable 46-cm long stibnite crystal group from Ichinokawa stibnite mine, Shikoku Island, Japan was illustrated in an article about the mine in the March-April 2025 issue of the *Mineralogical Record*. Specimens have been collected from this locality for over 1,400 years. The specimen, perhaps among the top 15 specimens still in existence, is part of the University of Michigan collection and is on display at the A. E. Seaman Mineral Museum as part the Michigan Mineral Alliance display in the museum's Introduction gallery.

## Museum Coloring Book

The museum is delighted to announce the publication of a new coloring book featuring specimens in the museum's collection from Michigan and from world-wide localities. With historical information, specimen and locality descriptions, and several activity pages, the coloring book has appeal to children and adults alike. The coloring book's artwork and design were done by Darryl Powell (Powell Publishers, Rochester, NY). We are grateful to the Elizabeth Bekkala Endowment for the A. E. Seaman Mineral Museum for underwriting this project and making it possible to give copies of the book to young visitors to the museum, while supplies last, to encourage their interest in minerals and in the museum. Copies are also available for sale in the museum gift shop and in our [online store](#).



## In other highlights:

- The A.E. Seaman Mineral Museum was chosen as the "Best Rainy Day Fun" in the inaugural [Keweenaw Voter's Choice Awards](#)! Popular voting took place online in May and winners were announced on May 14.
- [upgradedpoints.com](#) listed the A. E. Seaman Mineral Museum in the #1 slot of "The Best 21 Museums in Michigan" in August 2024.
- The Museum was selected as one of "7 museums around Michigan worth checking out" in the [July 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the Detroit Free Press](#).
- [Lake Superior Podcast](#) posted an interview on July 9, 2025 with A. E. Seaman Mineral Museum Director and Curator John Jaszczak called "Mining the Past: How Copper Shaped the Keweenaw and Its World-Class Museum", as episode 9 of series 6 in its podcast series.



# Keweenaw Mineral Days 2025

Both events are free and open to the public.

Monday

August

4<sup>th</sup>

9 am to 6:30 pm

## EXTENDED HOURS!

The museum will be open from 9:00 am to 6:30 pm on Monday August 4<sup>th</sup>



## PUBLIC LECTURE BY EVAN JONES “Ben Williams – First Superintendent of the Copper Queen Mine”



### LOCATION:

The Memorial Union Building, Ballroom B on the Michigan Technological University campus.  
(Free parking on campus after 4:00 pm)

### PRESENTATION DESCRIPTION:

Ben Williams (1852-1925) was one of the key men in establishing the Copper Queen mine at Bisbee, Arizona in the 1880's. He was responsible for general operations from 1880-1899. His mineral collection, consisting almost entirely of Bisbee specimens and representing a mineralogical time capsule from his time as mine superintendent, was packed up in the early 20th century only to resurface in 1998. Included in the collection were many fascinating photos, documents and historical artifacts.

### SPEAKER'S BIOGRAPHY:

Longtime mineral collector and dealer Evan Jones, son of author Bob Jones, started collecting minerals at age 9 and with his father visited museums, attended mineral shows, went on collecting trips and visited mineral dealers from an early age. A graduate of the geology program at ASU in Tempe, Arizona, Evan has been a full time mineral dealer since 1986 and is currently co-owner of the fine mineral dealership Unique Minerals, Inc. He has written articles for *Mineralogical Record*, *Rocks & Minerals*, *LAPIS*, and *Mineralien-Welt* magazines and given talks around the country on the subject of Arizona and Mexican minerals, mines and history. Evan was recently awarded the Best Article of 2021 in *Mineralogical Record* magazine by Friends of Mineralogy for his article on the Milpillas Mine in Mexico. His collection of Arizona minerals is considered one of the finest in the world.

## Mineral Surplus Sale (Restructured)

All are welcome!

LOCATION: at the A.E. Seaman Mineral Museum back entrance on the cemented sidewalk area.

- There will be about 28 six-foot-long tables with mineral flats.
- There will be three pricing tiers: tier one priced as marked, tier two at 20% off, and tier three at 40% off.

August

6<sup>th</sup>

from

10 am to

7 pm

This year's Keweenaw Mineral Days events do not require registration, though for planning purposes we ask anyone planning to attend either event to RSVP through this quick online [registration form](#).