



John A. Jaszczak

FROM THE DIRECTOR

I sometimes hear people refer to the A. E. Seaman Mineral Museum as a "hidden gem". While I wholeheartedly agree that the museum is a gem, we at the museum certainly don't want it to be hidden! We were very excited to learn that earlier this year the Michigan Tech Mineral Collection of the A. E. Seaman Mineral Museum was selected by the International Commission on Geoheritage of International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) as one of 21 newly ratified collections to be designated as an IUGS Geo-collection. The designation recognizes collections as being of "of global importance because of its particularly high scientific, historical or educational relevance for geological sciences." A summary of the significance of the Michigan

Tech collection, as well descriptions of the other Geo-collections, can be viewed on the [IUGS Geo-collection website](#). The museum is grateful for the work and support of all of its current and former staff, the University, and to you our friends and donors, for making this recognition possible. We trust it will further advance our ability to continue the museum's long tradition of excellence as we work to inspire people about the marvelous world of minerals.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

The Museum has a long history of employing students to work on a variety of projects ranging from helping to stock and organize the gift shop to helping the curator with collection care. This past year, Primrose Makwiranzou has been assisting the curator by working to accession specimens most recently donated by Janet Clifford from the Paul & Janet Clifford collection. Prim has a talent for the careful work of curation and has enjoyed discovering the various minerals in the collection as she works with them. Prim is working on her Master of Science degree in Geospatial Engineering and has a Bachelor's degree in Geology. Working at the museum allowed her to further connect with her geology background while contributing to a space enjoyed by students, visitors, and rockhounds alike. Her curiosity, attention to detail, and enthusiasm for earth sciences made her a valuable part of the collection care process and contributed positively to the museum.



Primrose Makwiranzou



Harris Peter Precht Jr.

Harris Peter Precht Jr. (1937-2025) was a beloved and highly respected mineral collector and part-time mineral dealer from Franklin County, Indiana. From an early age, Harris found joy in nature and developed a passion for collecting minerals. Through purchase and by field collecting, Harris focused on acquiring the finest Midwestern specimens possible for his personal collection. His life and his remarkable collection were featured in a collector profile by Chris Stefano in the May-June 2022 issue of *The Mineralogical Record*.

In December 2025, the A. E. Seaman Mineral Museum was delighted to receive a shipment of 52 carefully packed specimens from his collection, which are being donated to the museum by his family. The specimens focus on minerals from the Midwestern United States, for which Precht's collection was renowned. Among the donations, the museum is especially pleased to find many specimens from localities in Indiana, Ohio and Kentucky that fill gaps in the museum's collection. Fifteen specimens are now on exhibit in the museum.

NEW MINERAL SPOTLIGHT



Calcite crystals on Sphalerite (12-cm tall) from Georgetown Quarry, Scott Co., Kentucky; ex Harris Precht collection.

Keweenaw Mineral Days 2026

Events hosted by A. E. Seaman Mineral Museum are free and open to the public.

Museum Hosted Events

**August
3rd**

- ◆ Public Presentation by Dr. John Rakovan
- ◆ 15% discount on gift shop merchandise
- ◆ Extended gift shop hours: 9 am to 6:45 pm

**August
5th**

- ◆ Mineral Surplus Sale from 10 am to 4 pm
- ◆ 3 pricing tiers, up to 40% off

**August
7th**

- ◆ Food Drive: Supporting the HuskyFAN Food Pantry
- ◆ Bring 3 items = FREE ADMISSION
(non-expired & non-perishable only)

Copper Country Rock & Mineral Club Hosted Events

**August
2nd - 9th**

Keweenaw Week will include a social gathering, live auction, five excavated field trips, a lecture by noted historian Jack Deo about mining history, and the annual Gem and Mineral Show on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

See <https://ccrmc.info/> for more Info.

NEW INSIGHTS ON WIRE SILVER & GOLD

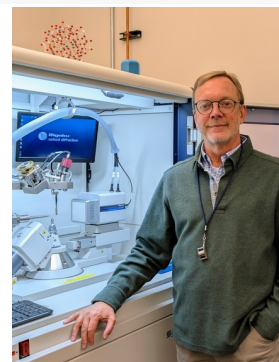
**August 3rd, 7 pm to 8 pm Public Presentation by Dr. John Rakovan:
Alumni Center (formally the ATDC, across the parking lot from the museum)**

Dr. John Rakovan, State Mineralogist of New Mexico and Director of the New Mexico Mineral Museum, will share exciting new insights into the mysterious formation of wire silver and gold. These remarkable mineral specimens, ranging from hair-thin filaments to rope-like strands of metal, have captivated collectors for centuries, yet their true origins have long remained a puzzle.

Using some of the world's most advanced analytical tools, including neutron diffraction and spectroscopy at Los Alamos National Laboratory, Dr. Rakovan and his team are beginning to unravel how these unusual mineral structures form. Their research explores whether wire specimens are single crystals or intricate bundles of fibrous growth, and has already revealed surprising isotope patterns that challenge existing ideas about mineral formation. He will also highlight early findings on wire copper, including specimens from Michigan's own Keweenaw Peninsula.



Close-up of wire silver and gold specimens



Dr. John Rakovan

With more than 25 years as a professor of mineralogy at Miami University and a longtime editor of *Rocks & Minerals* magazine, Dr. Rakovan brings both deep scientific expertise and a lifelong passion for mineral collecting to this fascinating topic.



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