

# SMP NEWSLETTER

## AUGUST 1997

Editor: [James F. Hurlbut](#)

### **PRESIDENT'S COLUMN**

A lot of energy so far this year has gone into getting our financial and legal affairs in order. Thanks to treasurer Anna Domitrovic, we now have a working checking account. And it has money in it! Those of you who have been waiting for old checks to be cashed should now be getting them back, since Anna has made all of the deposits.

We now employ the services of a Certified Public Accountant. Based in Tucson, this person will be responsible for doing annual audits and preparing the Society's tax statements. The accountant has also been assisting Anna in getting the Society legally registered with the State of Arizona as a non-profit organization. When the Society changed its name several years ago, the change was never registered with the State. And so, according to them, we ceased to exist when MMAC became SMMP. But not to worry, the Society now exists once again in the eyes of the State of Arizona.

The SMMP web site is full of information already, even though it is still under construction. The address is given later in this newsletter, and I encourage all members who have web access to take a look at it. Tony Kampf has done great work in getting this site organized and ready to go.

Ginny Mast has a very simple workshop planned for this year's Denver show, with no set schedule of speakers or demonstrations. Read about it further on here, and plan to participate at the show. This type of event will be another experiment in our ongoing series, as we try to find ways to interact (meaningfully) with the public.

Please plan to attend both the SMMP meeting and workshop at the Denver show. If you are unable to be in Colorado for the meeting, but would like to participate in any of the Society's projects or committee activities, please contact me.

### **TRACKING THE DUES**

Because of the problems we have been having with the treasury accounts and our name change paperwork, the membership list is not yet up to date. This newsletter, therefore, is going out to everybody who is now, or ever has been, on the mailing list.

The mailing label on this newsletter tells you the year for which we think your dues have been paid. If the number is 97, then you are paid up through the annual meeting, February 1998. If your dues were paid for 98 or beyond, that year should appear by your name.

This problem should be resolved in time for the Denver meeting. Please be assured we are working on it. If you have any questions about your membership status, please contact Anna Domitrovic.

The Society's dues for 1997 is \$10.00 U.S., payable to Anna Domitrovic, treasurer, Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, 2021 N. Kinney Road, Tucson, AZ 85743.

**DENVER MEETING:** Friday, 12 September 1997

The Society of Mineral Museum Professionals will meet on Friday, 12 September, in the Speaker's Room at the Merchandise Mart (same place as last year).

The board will meet from 1:30 to 2:00 pm.

The general meeting will be from 2:00 to 3:00 pm.

So far, the agenda includes:

- finances: progress on new bank accounts
- registration as non-profit under the new name (SMMP) with the State of Arizona
- workshop for Tucson: subjects?
- SMMP home page on the WWW
- collection standards document
- newsletter: contents and appearance
- stolen specimens
- SMMP outreach program
- Orphan collections and/or curators
- SMMP directory
- Announcements

If you have any items to add to this agenda, please send them to Jean DeMouthe before September 9.

**DENVER WORKSHOP:** Sunday, 14 September 1997

The Society of Mineral Museum Professionals will host an educational workshop for the public on Sunday, 14 September, in the Speakers' Room at the Merchandise Mart. It is scheduled to go from 2:30 to 4:30 pm.

This year's workshop will be very informal. There is no structured agenda or schedule of speakers. Members of SMMP will be available to the public to identify specimens and talk about collections.

Members should feel free to bring photos or advertisements for new exhibits or projects at their institutions.

It is hoped that the public will come in and talk with us about a variety of things.

All SMMP members are encouraged to come and join in the discussions, and (hopefully) identify some rocks.

These workshops give the SMMP a valuable link with the public, and it is important that as many members as possible attend and participate.

## **NEW DIRECTORY**

Because of the problems with the checking account and the old records, the new membership directory has been put on hold until we are sure that we have everyone's correct address and dues information.

It is hoped that the new directory will be produced in time for the Tucson meeting in February 1998. Please send any changes or additions to George Harlow, Secretary, at the American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West at 79th Street, New York, NY 10024. If you have added a world-wide-web site or e-mail address, please send them along so it can be included in the SMMP directory.

## **SMMP WEB SITE**

The SMMP home page on the world wide web is still under construction, but it is available for viewing by SMMP members at: <<http://nhm.org/~smmp>>. Please take a look at before the Denver meeting, if you can, so that we can discuss its contents and its future.

Right now, the site is divided into twelve sections:

- description: describes the Society, who we are & what we do
- board of directors: lists current board members & addresses
- bylaws: complete copy of Society bylaws

meeting notices: location, date & time of upcoming meetings  
committees: list of standing committees and chair-people  
reports: reports of past symposia and workshops  
newsletters: copies of past newsletters  
roster of members: most current membership list  
US collections: list of member institutions, in order by state and city  
minutes: minutes of past meetings  
how to join: dues notice & who to contact  
museum web sites: WWW sites of member institutions

There is a link that allows a browser to highlight a curator's name and be sent directly to that person's e-mail. And the museum web sites section has links to each of the listed sites.

The Society owes Tony Kampf a huge vote of thanks for setting up and maintaining this site through the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County. Visit the SMMP web page today! And come to Denver prepared to help us make it better.

## **NOTES AND NEWS**

Penn State University Fall Mineralogy Symposium will be held at the Penn State University on September 19-20-21. This Years theme is Apro-am@ (i.e. for both amateurs and professionals) with a title ALead, Zinc, and Iron Minerals@. More information is available from Andrew A. Sicree at sicree@geosc.psu.edu or phone 814-865-6427 and by fax 814-863-7708.

All members are invited to come to the Denver Museum of Natural History to see our new display the ARhodochrosite rock wall@. Contact Jack Murphy or James Hurlbut for arrangements during the Denver show.

The Eighteenth Annual New Mexico Mineral Symposium will be held at Macy Center on the New Mexico Tech Campus, Socorro, NM, on November 8 and 9, 1997. The Featured speaker is Dr. Carl Francis of the Harvard Mineralogical Museum. The topic for the symposium is Mineralogy of New Mexico and adjoining states. A complete program and registration information will be available at the information booth at the Denver Gem and Mineral Show. Or you can contact the registration chair: Lynn Heizler, NMBMMR, New Mexico Tech, 801 Leroy Place, Socorro, NM, 87801 (505-835-5166).