

# MWF News

Midwest Federation  
of Mineralogical and Geological Societies

March 2023 - Issue No. 620

Web Site - [www.mwfed.org](http://www.mwfed.org)

Member of the American Federation of  
Mineralogical Societies



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich, MWF President

This month sees me far distant from our Federation. I am in Tucson for their amazing show. This show, which is actually many shows throughout the city, was created by an AFMS club, the Tucson Gem and Mineral Society, many years ago. It has expanded to a fabulous experience.



I know there are a number of people from my state of Ohio out here, and I suspect many others from the MWF. If you've never experienced it, I recommend you put it on your list for 2024.

And don't forget to enter our contests! We are extending our T-shirt slogan contest until April 1. The deadlines for the Bulletin Editors' Contest and the All American Club Awards will be within a few days of the time you read this, so you may or may not have time to enter.

But if you missed them this year, prepare now for next year's contest. It is time to go for the glory.

## CONTESTS HAVE SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

Valerie J. Meyers, Editor

With the Super Bowl in the past, what great competitions remain this year? Midwest Federation contests, of course! Entries that rank high in the MWF competitions go on to compete with entries from other federations of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies. Your club probably has at least one entry to at least one of these four contests!

Editors, hurry to submit your entries to the **Bulletin Editors' Contest** – entries must be hard copy, mailed in, and must be postmarked by **February 27<sup>th</sup>**. There are four categories in which you can enter one issue of the previous year – best mini-size bulletin, best small bulletin, best large bulletin, and best new editor of a newsletter.

You can also submit original work that has appeared in your newsletter in several categories – adult articles, adult advanced articles, adult poetry, and written or drawn features. Juniors' work can also be entered in the features category, and there are categories for juniors' poetry as well as for articles by juniors under the age of 12 and articles by juniors 12

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## CONTESTS, CONTINUED

(Continued from page 1)

and up. If your club has put out a special publication this year, there's a category for that, too.

All of the rules about what and how to enter can be found on amfed.org on the Downloads page, as well as entry forms (the score sheets) for the editor to fill out. Entries should be mailed to:

Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich  
1166 Broadview Road  
Tallmadge, OH 44278

Then send an email to Mary Ann at [mafergusonrich@gmail.com](mailto:mafergusonrich@gmail.com) to tell her that the entry is on the way.

A contest that most people don't think about, but that every club can enter, is the **MWF All American Club Awards** (also known as the Merit Awards). This year's deadline is also **February 27th**. You can find the guidelines for producing and entering a club yearbook on amfed.org on the Downloads page.

Don't worry too much about the different categories of activities; each club's yearbook is judged, not against other clubs' activities, but against an AFMS criterion that is established each year. The yearbooks can be in either hard copy or digital format, and should also be sent to Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich, at the mailing address or email address above.

Deadline for the **MWF T-Shirt Slogan Contest** is **April 1<sup>st</sup>**. This is solely an MWF contest; the winner's original and refreshing slogan about rockhounding will be printed on the front of a T-shirt with the MWF logo on the back. This one's very easy to enter; just email your suggested slogan, also to the (apparently inexhaustible) Mary Ann at [mafergusonrich@gmail.com](mailto:mafergusonrich@gmail.com).

If your club has a website, consider entering the **MWF Website Competition**. The deadline is **April 15<sup>th</sup>**. No specific format or template is required, but there are certain rules about how information should be presented. Guidelines and a one-page entry form are also on amfed.org under the Downloads section. Send the form to the chair of the MWF Website Competition Committee, Brad Zylman, whose email address is [brad.zylman@mrm.com](mailto:brad.zylman@mrm.com). You can also contact Brad with questions you may have, or read his article about the contest on page 4.

## MWF OFFICERS

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## MWF CLUB MEMBER HONORED BY AFMS

Sharon Marburger, Editor  
Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club  
From the February, 2023 Pick & Shovel

As was reported in the January P&S, Jayne Beer was awarded the club Rockhound of the Year for her seemingly tireless hours of work for the club. The article was picked up by the *MWF News*, bringing the award to the attention of the Midwest Federation's Rockhound of the Year chairman, Jeanine Mielecki. She forwarded the information to the American Federation's Rockhound of the Year chairman.

The end result is that Jayne now has the distinction of being the only Rockhound of the Year recipient from the Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club to receive a certificate from the Midwest Federation *and* the American Federation for her efforts. Congratulations, Jayne!!

*[Editor's Note: Following is an excerpt from an article by Beer herself in the same issue of the Pick & Shovel.]*

I have no idea how I was nominated and chosen for these awards, but I am very thankful and appreciative that I was noticed by someone. I definitely try daily to promote and encourage everyone young and old to get involved with our great hobby. I also continually attempt to get our members to get active and involved with the club.



**MEETING AND ROCK SHOW WILL BE IN MAY**

Valerie J. Meyers, Editor

The Executive Meeting of the Midwest Federation will be held Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m. in Brainerd, Minnesota. MWF officers, committee chairs, and state directors will be there to discuss federation issues, but club members are also invited to attend.

“Ah, but why do I want to go to Brainerd to attend a meeting?” you may ask. Because – besides having input to the decisions being made there – you’ll be able to attend the annual rock show of the Cuyuna Rock, Gem, and Mineral Society (CRGMS), we reply! The show will be held May 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Various vendors, including those offering agates from around the world, will be there, as well as demonstrators, an agate rock pile for kids, and a feature called “Ask the Wizard of Rocks.”

“Ah, but should I go to a rock show on Mother’s Day?” you may ask. Sure you should, we reply, and take Mom along with you, because mothers will get free admission on Sunday.

The MWF Executive Meeting and the show will both be in Brainerd, although in different locations. The executive meeting will be held at the CRGMS’ clubhouse at 1001 Kingwood Street; the show will be at the Crow Wing County Fairgrounds, 2000 SE 13<sup>th</sup> Street.

Two hotels in Baxter, Minnesota, a suburb of Brainerd, are offering group rates to those attending the Cuyuna Rock, Gem and Mineral Society show. One is the Days Inn at 14466 Dellwood Drive, 218-829-3080, with a rate of \$122 plus tax per night, including breakfast. The other is the Super 8 at 1431 Edgewood Drive North, 218-828-4288 with a rate of \$99 plus tax per night, including breakfast. Both hotels are only about five miles from the show.

Hope to see you there!

**WANTED: YOUR CLUB TO HOST THE MWF**

J.C. Moore, Chair  
MWF Convention & Show Advisory Committee

Has your club ever considered hosting the annual Midwest Federation Convention? As the Convention and Show Chair, I am looking for clubs who are willing to allow the MWF to visit your show and hold our required meetings and awards banquet.

Your club has already proven that you know how to put together your show, and the Federation encourages you **not** to change or adjust your show because the Federation is there. Changing the date or size of your show can detrimental to your future shows. So far, we have a proposal for the 2025 convention, and need a club to step up for 2024.

The following are the items that would be in addition to your normal show:

**THE BASICS**

The minimum that the MWF needs is a meeting room set up for 50 people. We seldom have that many, but have had in the past. That room needs to have a head table set up for 6 people, two tables work best. Another table needs to be set up to hold reports; near the entrance works best. Chairs for the delegates should number 50. An American flag and a PA system would be nice (MWF has both of these items if none are available).

Coffee and doughnuts for the Saturday-morning executives’ meeting would be nice, but are not required. The Council of Delegates meeting is at 1:00 on Saturday. This is the meeting where delegates from all the MWF clubs meet with the executive committee.

On Saturday night we have an awards banquet. Attendance is usually 30 to 60 people, depending on how many people from the local club attend. This can be held wherever the club can arrange: the host hotel,

*(Continued on page 4)*

*April Issue Submission Deadline Is March 7th!*

## WANTED: YOUR CLUB TO HOST AN MWF CONVENTION, CONTINUED

*(Continued from page 3)*

the show site, or a local banquet facility. The meal need not be fancy; if the cost is much more than \$35.00 we start to have fewer people attend.

A host hotel/motel is needed. This should be near the show site if possible. Sometimes the hotel/motel would have meeting rooms and banquet facility available if a specified number of nights are guaranteed. If you do not need the host site for the banquet or meeting rooms, try to keep the cost of the room reasonable. If the price is over \$100, people start to look elsewhere for less expensive accommodations.

### IF POSSIBLE

The Endowment Fund Silent Auction chair would like to hold the MWF silent auction during the show. The last several years this auction has been held on Sunday after the host club has held its auction on Saturday. This allows the delegates and committee chairs the opportunity to attend the meeting on Saturday. This can be worked out between the show chair and the MWF Silent Auction Chair.

The next tier of add-ons would be a box lunch arranged for about noon on Saturday. The cost should be as reasonable as possible, with those partaking paying for their own lunch. If the meeting is at the show site with a food vendor, or if there are places to eat close by, this may not be necessary.

If the Bulletin Editors' Aid chair desires, a Sunday morning editors' breakfast/seminar may be held. This will be worked out during the planning for the convention. The last few years, this has only been held when we host the AFMS.

### NICE BUT NOT NECESSARY

Field trips would be nice but are not necessary.

On Friday night, a meet-and-greet with the MWF Officers and committee chairs, or a speaker presenting information about the area, gives people a chance to get together to visit.

We encourage you to keep your show the same. We are coming to see your show and meet your club members. We do not want you to make changes that

may cause additional expense for you. The banquet, lunch, etc. should be cost-recovered items.

Information about past conventions is available. However, much varies by locations and support from the local club.

The club needs to present a proposal to be approved by the MWF Executive Committee setting the date for hosting the convention. Once the proposal is approved, the club needs to prepare a registration packet that is put on the website and printed in the newsletter several months prior to the show.

If you have more questions about hosting the Convention, feel free to contact me – J.C. Moore, 25235 N. Illinois Highway 97, Cuba, Illinois 61427. Email [jcmoore3rd@gmail.com](mailto:jcmoore3rd@gmail.com) or call 309-789-6501 (please leave a message if no one is home).

The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be May 13, 2023 at the Cuyuna Rock Show in Brainerd, Minnesota.

## COULD YOUR WEBSITE BE A WINNER?

Brad Zylman, Chair  
MWF Website Competition Committee

Join the Midwest Federation's Website Competition!!

Are you proud of your club's website? Do you want others to see what you have done? Looking for ideas on how to improve it, or do you just want to see how it might fare against other websites across the nation? Join the website contest!

It's easy to do, and there is only one form to fill out. You can find the form on the Downloads page at [amfed.org](http://amfed.org). Simply fill out the information and email it to me at [brad.zylman@mrm.com](mailto:brad.zylman@mrm.com).

The deadline for entries this year is April 15<sup>th</sup>. Yes, I know it's tax day, so please plan ahead, so that the Midwest Federation can be represented at the national level! If you have any question on the contest or any of the rules for entry, please reach out to me. Only websites built by non-professionals and non-social-media websites will be accepted.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

| <b>Date and Time</b>                                  | <b>Organization</b>  | <b>Place</b>  | <b>Contact</b>                              |
|---|--|---|---|
| <b>March 3-5</b><br>Fri & Sat 10-6,<br>Sun 11-4       | Eastern Indiana Gem &<br>Geological Society                  | County Fairgrounds, 861 Salisbury<br>Road, <b>Richmond, IN</b>                            | Judy Burton,<br>jleeburton@woh.rr.com       |
| <b>March 4-5</b><br>Sat 9-5, Sun 11-4                 | River Valley Rockhounds                                      | County Fairgrounds, 22770 Old<br>Highway 169, <b>Fort Dodge, IA</b>                       | Jim Baumer,<br>jbaum@frontiernet.net        |
| <b>March 10-12</b><br>Fri 10-8, Sat 10-7,<br>Sun 10-5 | Association of Earth Science<br>Clubs of Greater Kansas City | KCI Expo Center, 11730 NW<br>Ambassador Drive, <b>Kansas City, MO</b>                     | Bruce Stinemetz,<br>brucestinemetz@att.net  |
| <b>March 11</b><br>6-9                                | Chicago Rocks & Minerals<br>Society silent auction           | St. Peter's United Church of Christ,<br>8013 Laramie, <b>Skokie, IL</b>                   | Jeanine Mielecki,<br>jainine9@aol.com       |
| <b>March 11-12</b><br>Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5              | Geodeland Earth Science<br>Clubs                             | Student Union Ballroom, Western<br>Illinois University, <b>Macomb, IL</b>                 | Mary Boesdorfer,<br>writteninwood@gmail.com |
| <b>March 11-12</b><br>Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4              | Kettle Moraine Geological<br>Society                         | County Fair Park, 3000 Highway PV,<br><b>West Bend, WI</b>                                | John Rettler,<br>johnrettler@gmail.com      |
| <b>March 18</b><br>Sat 10-5                           | Midwest Mineralogical and<br>Lapidary Society                | St. John's Lutheran Church, 13115<br>Telegraph Road, <b>Taylor, MI</b>                    | Louis Talley,<br>Ltalley1970@gmail.com      |
| <b>March 18-19</b><br>Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4              | Earth Science Club of<br>Northern Illinois                   | County Fairgrounds, 2015 Manchester,<br><b>Wheaton, IL</b>                                | Dave Carlson,<br>fossil54@att.net           |
| <b>March 24-26</b><br>Fri 4-8, Sat 10-7<br>Sun 10-5   | Rock Hobby Club  | Machinists Auditorium, 12365 St.<br>Charles Rock Road, <b>Bridgeton, MO</b>               | Roy Hurlburt,<br>hurlburt@juno.com          |
| <b>March 25-26</b><br>Sat 8:30-6,<br>Sun 9:30-4       | Cedar Valley Rocks &<br>Minerals Society                     | Hawkeye Downs Expo Center,<br>4400 6 <sup>th</sup> Street SW, <b>Cedar Rapids, IA</b>     | Marvin Houg,<br>m_houg@yahoo.com            |
| <b>April 1-2</b><br>Sat 10-6, Sun 11-5                | Columbus Rock & Mineral<br>Society                           | Rhodes Center, Ohio Expo Center,<br>717 E. 17 <sup>th</sup> Avenue, <b>Columbus, OH</b>   | Craig Kramer,<br>614-436-4511               |
| <b>April 1-2</b><br>Sat 9:30-5, Sun 10-4              | Des Plaines Valley<br>Geological Society                     | Park District Leisure Facility, 2222<br>Birch Street, <b>Des Plaines, IL</b>              | Mike Hanley,<br>geodeguy@att.net            |
| <b>April 1-2</b><br>Sat 9-5, Sun 10-5                 | Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club                                   | Lincoln Rm., Lancaster Event Center,<br>84 <sup>th</sup> and Havelock, <b>Lincoln, NE</b> | Jayne Beer,<br>JBeer60070@aol.com           |
| <b>April 6-8</b><br>Thur Fri Sat, 9:30-9              | Indian Mounds Rock Club                                      | Rogers Plaza Town Center, 972<br>28 <sup>th</sup> Street SW, <b>Wyoming, MI</b>           | Kreigh Tomaszewski,<br>kreigh@gmail.com     |
| <b>April 8</b><br>Sat, 9-1                            | St. Croix Rockhounds   | Valley Creek Mall, 1750 Weir Drive,<br><b>Woodbury, MN</b>                                | Dave Rusterholz,<br>stcroixrock@gmail.com   |
| <b>April 8-9</b><br>Sat & Sun                         | Fulton County Rockhounds                                     | Donaldson Center, Wallace Park,<br>250 S. Avenue D, <b>Canton, IL</b>                     | Cindy Guerra,<br>cindygemsrock@gmail.com    |

## TECHNOLOGICAL TOOLS JOIN HAND TOOLS TO PLAN AND ENJOY ROCKHOUNDING

Ellery Borow, AFMS Safety Chair  
From the March, 2022 EFMLS News  
(Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies)

Field trips still utilize buckets, bags, rock picks, crack hammers, chisels, magnifiers, wrapping materials, and plenty of perspiration. In today's technological world, field trips can also include a plethora of electronic gadgets that can be utilized in the preparation, travel, on-site, in an emergency, etc. The following can be very useful in planning, coordinating and taking a field trip:

**Tablet:** Great large screen for getting weather maps and reports in case there might be a storm in the mountains sending a flood your way to wash out your campsite or access road. A tablet can contain a set of mine rules for a dig in case there are any issues. It can also contain rock/mineral/fossil identification guides for use during the field trip.

**Mapping software:** A practical way to create directions and maps to insure that people can locate the mine parking lot and/or campsite.

**Cell phone:** Safe way to keep people connected, reach medical help in case of an emergency, and prevent getting lost in the willy wags. They are also useful, to a degree, as an emergency flashlight in case of an after-dark return to your vehicle.

**Drone aircraft:** Super way to record movies or still photos of the adventure to share with other club members. Cell phones, digital cameras, and GoPro cameras can also capture great images for a club scrapbook.

**Global Positioning System (GPS):** A system and device offering a fine way to keep on course and record data points on the walk or ATV ride to the quarry. One may create detailed maps to share of the trip into the mine.

**Email and Texting:** For last-minute trip plan changes and updates.

**LED Flashlight:** Easier on batteries than incandescent-bulb flashlights. Also great in case of after-dark return to one's vehicle.

**Portable and Tabletop Digital Microscopes with Built-In Camera Capacity:** For additional on-site and back on-base examination of finds, and recording images for mineral identification.

That all said, please do not become so enamored with the fun of tech that you miss out on the fun of the walk and hammering, the thrill of discovery, sharing of specimens, or other fun aspects of the hobby.

## DEADLINE CALENDAR

Deadline for the **MWF Bulletin Editors Contest** is **Feb. 27, 2023**. Rules, categories of entries, and score sheets for the contest can be found at [amfed.org](http://amfed.org) on the Downloads page. Entries must be hard copy, postmarked on or before Feb. 27, and sent to:

Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich  
1166 Broadview Road  
Tallmadge, Ohio 44278

Send an email to [mafergusonrich@gmail.com](mailto:mafergusonrich@gmail.com) to tell her that the entry is on the way.

Club yearbook entries for 2022 will be accepted for the **MWF All American Club Awards** until **Feb. 27, 2023**. See the Downloads page of [amfed.org](http://amfed.org) for rules. For further information, contact MWF Merit Awards Chair (and President) Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich, [mafergusonrich@gmail.com](mailto:mafergusonrich@gmail.com).

Entries for the **MWF T-Shirt Slogan Contest** are due **April 1, 2023**. Sandy Shorter, Chair of the Public Image and Courtesy Committee, will design a T-Shirt with the winning slogan on the front and the MWF logo on the back. Entries should be emailed to MWF President Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich, [mafergusonrich@gmail.com](mailto:mafergusonrich@gmail.com).

The **MWF Website Competition** is accepting entries until **April 15, 2023**. Rules and the entry form are on the Downloads page of [amfed.org](http://amfed.org). Entry forms should be emailed to MWF Website Competition Chair Brad Zylman, [brad.zylman@mrm.com](mailto:brad.zylman@mrm.com).

**Rockhound of the Year Awards** may be submitted at any time for certificates and a mention in the MWF News. Contact Jeanine Mielecki, [jaynine9@aol.com](mailto:jaynine9@aol.com).

## TANZANITE IS A RARE AND BEAUTIFUL GEMSTONE WITH ONLY ONE SOURCE

Nick Smith, Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society (IN)  
From the November, 2022 issue of the Strata Data

Hello, everyone! I am excited to continue my series of articles on the ten rarest gemstones of the world. In this article, I will share ten interesting facts about a one-source gem, tanzanite, as well as a few facts about similar gems of the same family of minerals. Please enjoy!

1. Tanzanite is found only in the Merelani Hills of the Lelatema Mountains, Tanzania, Africa, hence the name.

2. It is the blue variety of the mineral zoisite.

3. Other colors of zoisite include green (anyolite), which often also has low-grade but big rubies with it. Thulite is a pink variety of zoisite. These two should never be called green tanzanite or pink tanzanite, as the name tanzanite is only for the blue to blue-purple variety.



*Photo by Robert M. Lavinsky, via Wikimedia Commons.*

4. Chemically, it is calcium aluminum hydroxy silicate.

5. It has a hardness of 6-7 on the Moh's Scale.

6. It is the birthstone for the month of December.

7. Tanzanite is a trichroic (pronounced try-CROW-ic) gem, meaning it changes color depending on which of the three angles you look at it. It can look blue, red-violet or yellow-green.

8. Almost all tanzanite gets the blue color from being heated to very high temperatures. Before heating, tanzanite is brown.

9. The price of tanzanite is determined by a grading system: A, AA and AAA, with A and AA grade having more purple color and AAA being the most blue, and most expensive.

10. Tanzanite crystals can reach hundreds of carats in size. Large gem-quality stones can sell for as much as \$1,500 per carat.

## SMITHSONIAN'S STEAMBOAT IS A REAL GEM

Eric Fritzsch  
Nebraska Mineral & Gem Club  
From the January, 2023 Pick & Shovel  
of the Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club

In the Smithsonian, you can see some of the finest minerals ever collected. One of the really outstanding specimens is a pair of mint green-capped tourmalines with a pink or red base. This specimen is known as the "Steamboat Tourmaline," as it resembles two exhaust towers of tourmaline on a quartz crystal boat.

What many don't realize is that this mineral was collected by a native Nebraskan: Frank Barlow Schuyler (1872--1927). Frank was born in Falls City, Nebraska. He was a machinist but apparently had an appetite for mining. Together with D. G. Harrington, he discovered a tourmaline-bearing granitic pegmatite on Pala Chief Mountain in San Diego County, California in 1903, which they named the Tourmaline King Mine.

Four years after mining the deposit, at a depth of approximately 60 feet below ground surface, Frank opened a pocket 30 feet long by 10 feet wide containing hundreds, if not thousands, of tourmaline

*(Continued on page 8)*

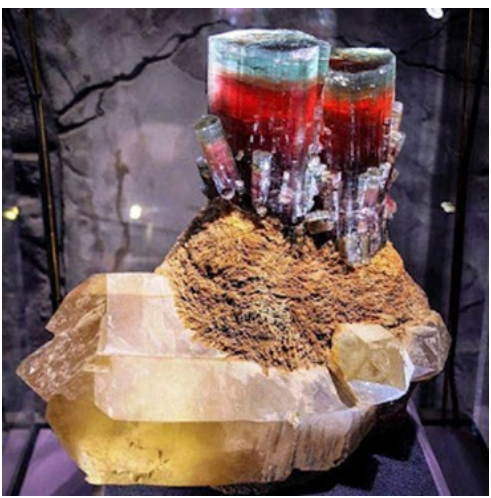
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**It is MWF policy that its name and logo may not be used for commercial purposes.**  
**Please notify the Secretary of any violations.**  
\*\*\*\*\*

**THE SMITHSONIAN'S STEAMBOAT TOURMALINE IS A REAL GEM, CONTINUED**

*(Continued from page 7)*  
crystals. The pocket produced almost 8 tons of  
tourmaline, including the Steamboat Tourmaline.



*OK, personally Ye Editor thinks it looks more like two  
smokestacks on a slice of lemon meringue pie, but what  
a gorgeous specimen! Photo by Duncan Pay, from  
geologyin.com.*

Most of the tourmaline was sold to the Imperial  
Chinese Government for a large sum of money,  
especially in those days: almost \$3 million.

Some of this tourmaline was carved into snuff  
bottles, figurines, and other items. I've seen many of  
these 20th century pink snuff bottles in museums, and  
they likely originated in Frank's mine.

Frank knew the Steamboat Tourmaline was  
special and eventually sold it to Washington Roebling  
(the engineer who built Brooklyn Bridge, although  
many believe his wife deserves more of the credit).  
Roebling's son eventually donated his father's  
collection of 16,000 minerals to the Smithsonian,  
where it is on display today.

In 1915, at the Panama Pacific International  
Exposition, Frank sold tourmalines from his mine with  
a "wear a tourmaline for luck" marketing campaign. He  
was certainly lucky and sold his mine in 1916. The new  
owner of the mine never produced much tourmaline  
and it closed in 1922.