



Mineralogical Society of America



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PRESIDENT'S LETTER



I have been teaching mineralogy classes for 20 years now. The students in our university's geology club include mineral and fossil collecting in their list of activities. They visit mineral shows and mineral and fossil collecting localities to find their own specimens. MSA has recently started sponsoring MSA student clubs—the students at the University of Maryland are starting one of these clubs. For the first meeting, we took a

mineral quiz on Mindat.org. If you have never done this, give it a shot. It was challenging and fun!

Mineral enthusiasm extends beyond our students, of course, and part of MSA's mission is to reach out to mineral enthusiasts in addition to students and professionals. There is much room for expansion in our efforts to reach out to mineral enthusiasts. We have a great deal to offer this group, including knowledge about the latest scientific research on minerals, access to our community of specialists, and opportunities to sponsor students who study minerals.

Current efforts to reach out to mineral enthusiasts include MSA's presence and engagement at the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show. As I write this, MSA is looking forward to having a booth at this year's Gem and Mineral Show. There are also plans in the works to hold a special MSA meeting at the 2026 Gem and Mineral Show in Tucson. Such a meeting could have both technical sessions and more public-facing talks, as well as social activities where professionals, students, and mineral enthusiasts could meet and interact.

MSA has many strengths, including its sense of community, its publications, and its awards and grants. But MSA also aims to educate non-academics and the general public about minerals. We could do a better job of this and reaching out to mineral enthusiasts represents an avenue for this type of engagement.

A longer-term way for the Society to engage with mineral enthusiasts would be to create a special membership category for those individuals who do not identify as professional mineralogists, but have a strong interest in minerals. This type of category could have different benefits from the regular professional membership. It would add to the traditional strengths MSA has in serving the professional mineralogy/petrology/geochemistry/crystallography community.

If you have ideas about creating such a membership category or even more generally about attracting more mineral enthusiasts to MSA, please send an email to Ann Benbow, MSA Executive Director, at abenbow@minsocam.org. Thank you for your input!

Sarah Penniston-Dorland
2025 MSA President

NOTES FROM CHANTILLY

- Renewal Season!** It is time to renew your memberships for 2025, as well as subscriptions to MSA's publications. Member dues are: Regular Members and Fellows (\$90); Early Career Members (\$50); Student Members (\$20); Senior Members (\$0); Sustaining Members (\$240 – membership plus a \$150 contribution to support MSA's many activities). You can renew via the home page of MSA's website: www.msaweb.org. At that time, we hope that you will also make a contribution to one or more of MSA's funds. These funds support our student research grants, lecture series, websites, education and outreach activities, awards, and much more.

- MSA Office Move** This is a reminder that MSA has relocated its Business Office to a new space in Chantilly, VA. The new address for U.S. mail is:

Mineralogical Society of America
P.O. Box 220037
Chantilly, VA 20153

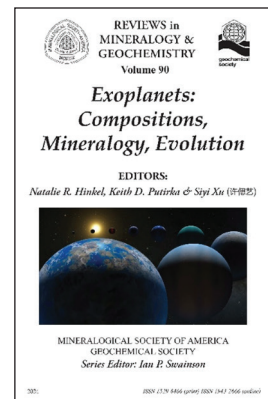
If you would like to visit the new space, the physical address is

14200 Park Meadow Drive
Suite 310-S
Chantilly, VA 20151

The move, after 19 years in the same space, was an extremely exacting process for the staff, and resulted in delays in processing our orders for publications. We are grateful to our Members for their patience and tolerance during the move, as it not only involved relocating offices, but moving our extensive inventory of publications to a new fulfillment house.

EXOPLANETS

MSA is pleased to offer *Reviews in Mineralogy & Geochemistry* Volume 90: *Exoplanets: Compositions, Mineralogy, Evolution*. Volume editors are Natalie R. Hinkel, Keith D. Putrika, and Siyi Xu. The series editor is Ian P. Swainson, and *American Mineralogist* Managing Editor Rachel Russell is responsible for production. The volume is available in both hard copy and online via a subscription to the *Reviews* series. For more information, visit the Publications section of the MSA website: www.msaweb.org. While there, you can also view the list of MSA's other publications.



2025 RESEARCH GRANTS

March 1, 2025 is the deadline to submit proposals for the Edward H. Kraus Crystallography Research Grant and the Mineralogy/Petrology Research Grant. There is one Kraus grant of \$5,000 awarded each year, two \$5,000 Mineralogy/Petrology grants for graduate-level research, and one \$2,000 grant for undergraduate research. For more information about the proposal format and how to submit, visit <https://msaweb.org/awards-grants/>. For any questions, please contact Ann Benbow at abenbow@minsocam.org.

UPCOMING MEETING

There will be the 2025 joint Friends of Mineralogy/Tucson Gem and Mineral Society/MSA Symposium at the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show. The symposium will be held on Saturday, February 15, 2025. For more information, visit <https://www.friendsofmineralogy.org/call-for-papers/>. MSA will have its usual booth on the Mezzanine Level of the Tucson Convention Center. If you are attending the show, please stop by to see our displays and say hello.