# THE VISIBLE SPECTRUM

## CANDIDATES FOR OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

AS OF JANUARY 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2022

#### **CANDIDATES FOR OFFICERS:**



PRESIDENT – Rhett Peterson (FMS #2087) – term ending 12/31/22

Rhett is a relative newcomer when it come to the colorful world of fluorescent minerals. Growing up in the corn-filled, but fluorescent mineral void of Northwestern Iowa, he didn't encounter his first "glowy rock" until stumbling upon a random online article on Christmas day of 2014. He was immediately and profoundly hooked and spent the rest of his holiday break devouring any information he could get his hands on pertaining to these seemingly magical rocks with a white-hot intensity and focus usually only brought on by only the most powerful of prescription drugs. Jumping headfirst into the hobby, Rhett designed and built his own

UV lamps just a few weeks later and began trying them out on just about every rock in and around his county. Disappointed that seemingly none of the local minerals elicited any fluorescent responses, Rhett began to reach out and connect with other people across the country to both share his passion and to find out where he could go to find these amazing rocks! Rhett's fellow glow-hounds soon began to take notice of his lamp designs and what started out just as tools for his own enjoyment quickly grew into the full-blown UV lighting company known as Engenious Designs.

Rhett has worked as a Senior Electronics Engineer specializing in LED lighting and hardware design for the last 13 years. He has designed lights for many high profile companies such as Harley Davidson and Caterpillar. While he still does a fair amount of electronics design work, most notably nex-gen LED UV lights, he has recently begun spending the majority of his time as an entrepreneur owning and managing several businesses including a metal fabrication and laser cutting shop, an automotive aftermarket grille business, and Engenious Designs which continues to grow and has recently becomes the official lamp supplier of the Sterling Hill Mining Museum.

Some of Rhett's favorite fluorescent mineral localities include Greenland, New Jersey and Australia, but he's really never met a fluorescent mineral he didn't like. Some of Rhett's other slightly less obsessive hobbies include Sci-Fi movies, ancient coins and the writing of bios for various publications. Rhett currently resides with his wife Patricia outside of Kansas City, MO where in the near future he hopes to form a fluorescent mineral hub for the Midwest.

#### **CANDIDATES FOR OFFICERS cont.:**



VICE PRESIDENT – Lee McIlvaine (FMS #801) – term ending 12/31/23

At the request of the FMS President and encouragement from several FMS Board members, Lee agreed to take over the remaining term of the FMS Vice President in late 2020. He is now running for a full term.

Lee has been a member of the FMS since 1994 and has been collecting fluorescent minerals for more than 32 years. He lives with his wife, Charlotte and their daughter, Noel (7) in Wyndmoor, PA just outside of Philadelphia. They are fortunate to be a short 2.5 hr. drive from Franklin and Sterling Hill, NJ. He was a past regional VP of the Northern CA Chapter

of the FMS when he lived in CA from 2003 to 2010. More recently he was the regional VP of the Northeast region fluoresophiles (NERF) chapter (2011-2020) until he accepted the role as FMS VP.

Professionally, he is a geologist with over 22 years' experience in environmental consulting. He received a BS and MS in Geological Science from the Lehigh University in Bethlehem, PA. He hold a Professional licenses in three states (PA, CA and WA).

When time allows he enjoys field collecting fluorescent minerals and has collected in 13 states including AZ, CA, CT, FL, ID, IL, ME, MD, NV, NJ, NY, PA and RI. Internationally he has taken trips to Greenland and Langban, Sweden.

A few years ago, he took over the reins as the Show Chairperson of the Ultraviolation Show (fluorescent minerals only). He enjoyed hosting the shows in October 2018 and 2019. For obvious reasons the show was cancelled in 2020, but retuned in 2021. Make plans now to attend next year's show on Saturday, October 29, 2022. Come see, purchase, (and sell (if you want) fluorescent specimens from around the world. Contact Lee for more details.

Lastly in 1996 he made his first trip to the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show to see the amazing fluorescent mineral displays and enjoy the FMS meeting and presentations. He is looking forward to the inclusion of his own fluorescent display at the 2022 Tucson Fluorescent Display.

#### **CANDIDATES FOR OFFICERS cont.:**



SECRETARY – Harold (Pat) Hintz (FMS #1723) – term ending 12/31/22

Pat resides in Bristow, VA, a short distance outside of Washington DC. He has a BS in Chemistry from the University of Michigan, followed by a PhD in Organic Chemistry from the University of Wisconsin plus post-doctoral work supported by NIH at the University of Virginia. Professional work included process research for Monsanto, analytical research, environmental studies, QA/QC and environmental regulatory affairs for BASF, and finally environmental and safety management for American Home Products (later Wyeth Pharmaceuticals).

Pat began collecting minerals in about 2007, and living in NJ at the time quickly discovered the Franklin / Sterling Hill sites. A Christmas gift of S. Schneider's "Collecting Fluorescent Minerals" that year sealed the deal and he has focused almost entirely on fluorescents since then.

He joined one of Mark Cole's Geo-Adventures to Greenland in 2010 and has been back four additional times. His mentor, Dr. Green, then dragged him off to Sweden (twice) and introduced him to the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show, where he has attended every year since 2013.

He regularly attends the Franklin shows as well as other local shows, is a member of the FMS, the Franklin-Ogdensburg Mineral Society (FOMS) and both the Franklin Mineral Museum and Sterling Hill Mining Museum. He served as President of the Morris Museum Mineral Society for several years while living in NJ and also as VP and later President of FOMS. Most recently he as has served as Secretary to the FMS since 2019.

While his fluorescent collections from Greenland and NJ are extensive, he is primarily a worldwide collector and always looking for specimens from new locales. His photo is from the Ilimaussaq Complex in Greenland.

#### **CANDIDATES FOR OFFICERS cont.:**



TREASURER - Andrew Silver (FMS #2291) - term ending 12/31/23

Andrew is a NY based engineering geologist, having over 40 years of experience in the industry. He is currently consulting and spending his time pursuing his obsessions: fresh water and surf fishing, wildlife photography, restoration of a 1949 Ford pickup truck, collecting art & antiques and of course, minerals.

His introduction into collecting fluorescent minerals began in the mid-1960's and this interest continued through his undergraduate studies in the Earth and Environmental Sciences Department at Queens College where he

focused upon economic geology. He was fortunate enough to enter and collect specimens from close to two dozen working mines throughout the U.S, Canada and Europe, and has hauled out close to a hundred pounds of fluorescent material from deep within the Sterling Hill Mine on several occasions.

Andrew gravitated towards environmental, geophysical and sedimentological/coastal processes during his graduate studies, and began his career working for a seismological consulting firm that monitored particle velocities during blasting of bedrock and construction activities. He moved to RI and worked for URI/GSO for a number of years making ocean-floor maps of the mid-Atlantic Ridge in the South Atlantic and fracture zones in the southeastern Pacific Ocean. During his time at sea, he was also able to participate in the exploration of "black smoker" hydrothermal vent systems with the "Alvin" submarine, and the collection of biological samples and sulfide mineral deposits. He next moved back to NY and worked on mapping the geology of NYC water tunnels at depths of 780 feet beneath the streets of the city, and four years later found himself involved with phase II operations on several inactive hazardous waste sites working for the NYSDEC. He returned to private industry and spent the last decades working for an environmental and geotechnical drilling company where he eventually opened and ran a subsurface geophysical investigations company that employed various instruments and techniques (ground penetrating radar the majority of the time) to locate anomalies that defined hazardous waste plumes; buried tanks and unexploded ordnance; subsurface utilities, and examined the geotechnical nature of the substrate prior to excavation or construction. Both companies were sold to a WA State firm and in 2017 Andrew decided it was a fine time to resume collecting, avian photography and fishing. Andrew also held a position as an adjunct lecturer in the Geology department of Queens College between 1986 and 2016.

#### **CANDIDATES FOR DIRECTORS:**



DIRECTOR – Doug Bank (FMS #1831) – term ending 12/31/23

Doug is an electrical engineer by training and he currently runs a non-profit helping cancer patients.

He has been collecting rocks and minerals since 2007, often with his son, Justin. He started by collecting geodes and rocks on the beach for tumbling. In 2010 he and his son visited the mines at Sterling Hill and Franklin and have been collecting fluorescent minerals ever since. In addition to NJ they have collected fluorescent rocks at the Long Lake Zinc Mine and CN Dump in Ontario, the Columbia Mine in KY and various mines in Filipstad, Sweden. He and his wife

have also collected fluorite with the FMS Midwest Chapter in Southern IL.

He is an amateur photographer and enjoys photographing his fluorescent rocks, and he even had one of his photos (found on the FMS Website) published in the coffee table book, *Light: The Visible Spectrum and Beyond*. He has been an FMS member since 2011 and he currently resides in the suburbs of Chicago. He is a member of the Midwest Chapter of the FMS as well as the defunct Photography Chapter. He is also a member of the FMS Facebook Group, the Chicago Rocks and Mineral Society, the Franklin-Ogdensburg Mineralogical Society and the UV-Nomads.



DIRECTOR - Bruce Bannon (FMS #2019) - term ending 12/31/24

Bruce was destined to be a geologist. He was born in the mining town of Hibernia, NJ. His Slovak grandfather and uncles all worked in the iron mines of northern NJ. At a young age his Irish father worked in the Franklin/Ogdensburg zinc mines and Bisbee, AZ copper mine. His mother loved nature, she took him hiking in the mountains of northern NJ and rock collecting at the dumps of Franklin. He started collecting

rocks at six years old and still has some of the fluorescent rocks that he collected at the Franklin dumps.

Bruce attended Penn State and received a degree in Geologic Sciences with a minor in metallurgy. During each summer break he would work at various types of mines including the Sterling Hill Mine. This last summer He worked for a month at the Sterling Hill Mine in maintenance and as a tour guide. The Sterling Hill Mine which now is a wonderful museum had been shut down for several months due the "Virus". It was actually a lot of fun being part of the effort to reopen the Mine.

During his entire life he has collected rocks with a focus on fluorescent minerals. Being part of the FMS has enabled him to expand his collecting reach while meeting many interesting and nice people. He is also happy to be able to actively support the FMS as a member of the Board.

#### **CANDIDATES FOR DIRECTORS cont.:**



DIRECTOR – Dr. Bob Fendrich (FMS #774) – term expiring 12/31/2022

Bob is a retired college professor with a PhD in experimental psychology. He first started collecting fluorescent minerals as an adolescent back when the Buckwheat Dump in Franklin was strewn with large boulders of speckled willemite in calcite and one could look for esperite in the Parker Dump. After going dormant for several decades his interest in fluorescence reawakened around 1990. He

joined the FMS in 1992.

Currently he lives in VT and attends the annual meeting of the Northeast (NERF) FMS chapter where he has been a speaker on how colors are encoded by the retina and visual cortex.

In addition to the FMS he belongs to the Franklin Ogdensburg Mineral Society, the Burlington Vermont Gem and Mineral Society (where he edited the club newsletter for 5 years), and the Mid-America Paleontological Society (he is also a fossil collector). He is an author on over 40 scientific papers concerned with how the human brain processes visual information and although retired, continues to be involved in research with colleagues in Gottingen, Germany. He has built a substantial fluorescent mineral collection and currently displays over 200 specimens under a large variety of UV lamps. His collection contains a number of high-end Franklin pieces (turnaurites, margarosanites, esperites and a 1<sup>st</sup> find wollastonite) as well as hard to come by pieces from other localities (Ludlow, CA calcite diamond, and several Langban, Sweden johnbaumites). Visitors are welcome.

Bob has collected a number of classic fluorescent mineral sites (Mont St. Hilaire in Quebec, Miller Canyon in AZ, Langban in Sweden and recently at the long Lake Zinc Mine in Ontario with the newly formed UV-Nomads group). He has collected five times at Langban, twice on his own, and three times with a group organized by Howie Green of the NERFS. His initial trip is described in an article in the Jan-Feb. 2010 issue of *UV Waves*. He regularly attends shows at Franklin, Tucson and Munich and the Ultraviolation show when it does not conflict with Munich.

His technical expertise is rather different from many FMS members in that he does not deal with subjects like X-ray diffraction and spectral analyses, but on how the brain processes visual information, a topic germane to the visual impact of fluorescence. He is also a member of the FMS Research Chapter.

#### **CANDIDATES FOR DIRECTORS cont.:**



Director – Stephanie Koles (FMS #2136) – term ending 12/31/2024

Stephanie has been a very active rockhound since 2015, actively collecting fluorescent minerals from the Franklin and Sterling Hill mine locations in NJ as well as at the Long Lake Zinc mine in Ontario Canada. Minerals collecting was first introduced to her by the Herbert Zim "Rocks and Minerals" book which she received as a gift many many years ago. She truly considers her relatively recent return to rockhounding good timing for keeping active and healthy at this point in life.

She is Vice President of the Franklin Ogdensburg Mineralogical Society and contributes by coordinating and leading the group's field trips. She is a member of the Walker Mineralogical Club based in Toronto, Canada as well as other Northeast US area mineral clubs.

Other recent notable collecting adventures have been to the Keweenaw Peninsula in MI for some serious copper locality collecting and usually an annual collecting trip in the Bancroft Ontario area.

She is a Senior Radio Frequency Engineer for a telecommunications engineering consulting firm in Northern NJ providing engineering expertise on Distributed Antenna Systems installed in major international airport hubs and area businesses. Her work for the past 27 years has been focused on the design, testing and troubleshooting of wireless cellular systems and products with companies such as Verizon Wireless and AT&T Bell Laboratories. After Hurricane Sandy stormed through NJ in 2012 she was one of the many Verizon Wireless network engineers involved in restoring basic cellular voice service to many sites within 10 days that needed to be rebuilt after being submerged under water.



DIRECTOR - Dr. Phil Neuhoff (FMS #2120) - term ending 12/31/2023

Phil is a mineralogist, geologist and chemist living in Eagle and McCall, ID. He has a B.S. in Geology from the University of Iowa and a PhD in Geological and Environmental Science from Stanford University. He currently serves as partner and chief geologist for Wildcat Diversified Investment LLC and Rock Flat Minerals, LLC. Rock Flat Minerals has mining claim holdings on a new source of fluorescent minerals from west central Idaho.

A lifelong mineral collector he has been collecting fluorescent minerals since the age of nine though this interest has grown in recent years due to his work

on luminescence spectroscopy and discovery of Rock Flat Minerals holding. He joined the FMS in early 2017 and currently serves as a director of FMS, Chair of the Research Chapter and Editor of the Journal of the FMS. His particular interests in fluorescence include geologic applications of fluorescence, triboluminescence and tenebrescence.

#### **CANDIDATES FOR DIRECTORS cont.:**



DIRECTOR – Glenn Waychunas (FMS #665) – term ending 12/31/2022

Glenn has been a collector of luminescent minerals since he was a teenager when he collected at Franklin, NJ and Bancroft, Ontario. He has always been interested in the processes involving luminescence and has published several book chapters and scientific articles on this topic including ones on Terlingua Texas calcite and Mapimi, Mexico fluorite, as well as review articles covering much of luminescence

### technology.

He was at Stanford University before going to Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory in 1997, studying solid-liquid interface molecular structure at both institutions, and developing methodology utilizing synchrotron radiation