



# Mineralogical Society of America



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[www.msaweb.org](http://www.msaweb.org)

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

### *New ideas for connecting with the public about minerals and mineral sciences*



Many MSA members interact creatively and effectively about mineral-related topics with non-scientists in their communities or more broadly via social media and other web-based forms of communications. MSA as a Society also has various ways in which it communicates beyond MSA. For example, MSA has a booth at the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show that is held annually in Arizona in February and uses this venue to interact with mineral enthusiasts. At the show, former Executive Director Alex Speer

and current Executive Director Ann Benbow and others spend considerable time at an MSA booth that has informative displays about minerals used in green technology and other essential aspects of modern life. At the show, MSA also co-sponsors events with the Friends of Mineralogy organization and the Tucson Gem and Mineral Society. This year, the theme of the Tucson show is "Pegmatites—Crystals Big and Beautiful"—clearly well aligned with the interests of MSA, which has a pegmatite special interest group, as well as a listserv for pegmatite enthusiasts.

At the 2024 show, MSA will also for the first time host "mini-workshops" on topics such as Minerals in Car Batteries, Cobalt, Garnet, Topaz, Pencils and Minerals, Mineral Density, and Trinitite. This is a 90-minute event involving displays at which MSA members interact with any show participants who want to stop by. Based on experiences this year, MSA will evaluate whether this program is effective and should be continued in future years.

According to our mission statement, "*The Mineralogical Society of America (MSA) is dedicated to promoting the study of minerals and advancing mineral-based sciences. Our mission is to foster scientific research, education, and collaboration among professionals, students, and mineral enthusiasts.*" Increased participation in gem and mineral shows may be a good way to accomplish part of this mission. In addition, one stated aim in MSA's new strategic plan, which is currently being implemented, is for MSA to grow and diversify the organization and its membership, so we are actively seeking new and creative ways to do so while also maintaining and strengthening support for our current members.

We welcome feedback and ideas from the mineral sciences community about these efforts.

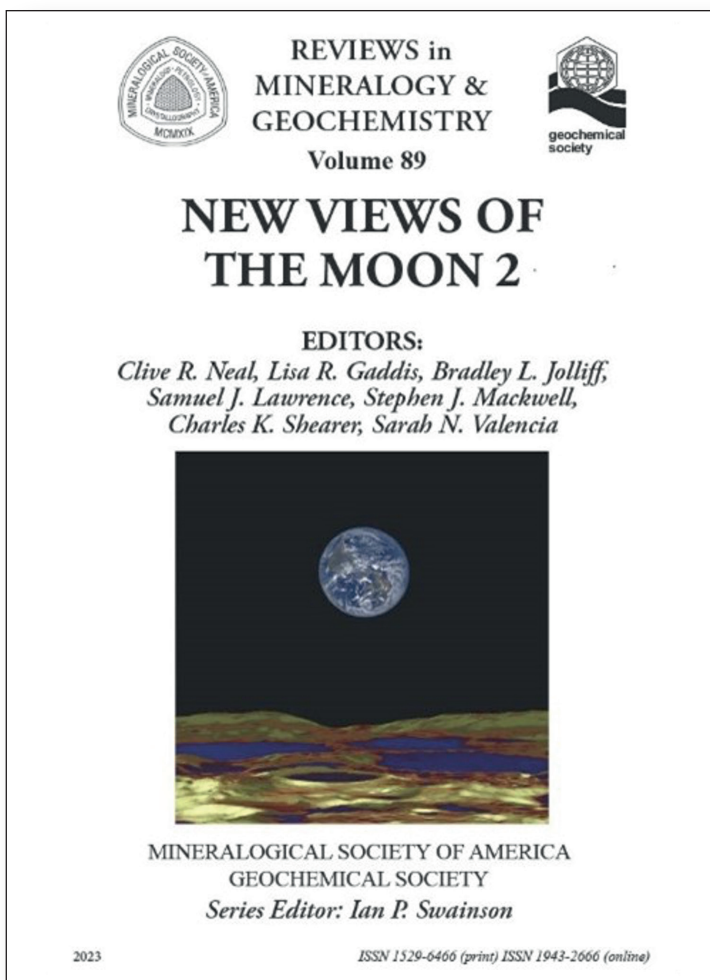
**Donna Whitney**  
2024 MSA President

## NOTES FROM CHANTILLY

- **Renewal Season!** It is time to renew your memberships for 2024, as well as subscriptions to MSA's publications. Member dues are: Regular Members and Fellows (\$85); Early Career Members (\$45); Student Members (\$20); Senior Members (\$0); Sustaining Members (\$235 – 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](http://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.

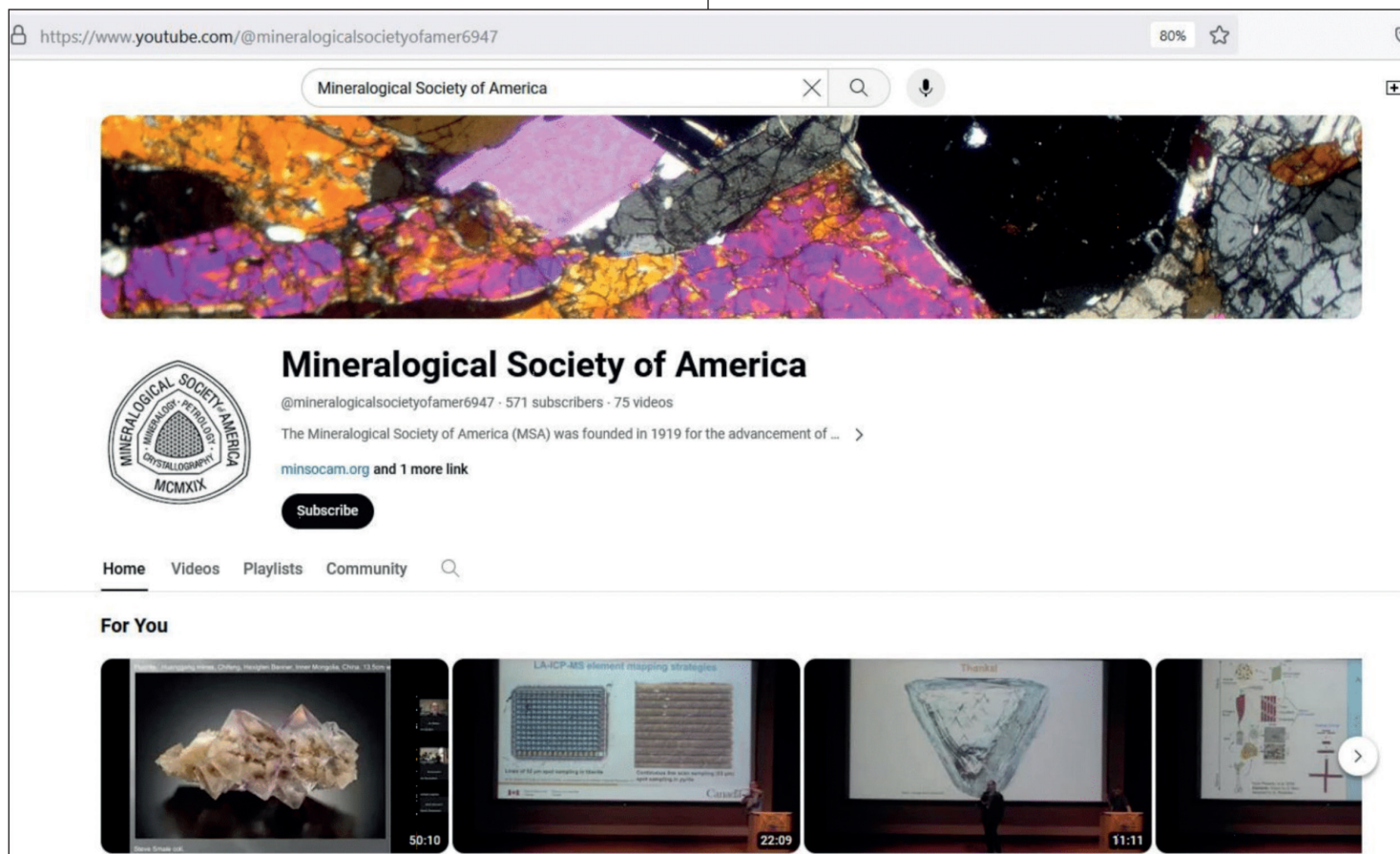
## EVENTS

**42<sup>nd</sup> FM-TGMS-MSA Tucson Mineral Symposium:** The symposium is held in conjunction with the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show®, and will take place on Saturday, February 10, 2024. The symposium is co-sponsored by the Tucson Gem and Mineral Society, the Friends of Mineralogy, and the Mineralogical Society of America. The symposium theme is: "Pegmatites: Crystals Big & Beautiful." An audience of avocational and professional mineralogists and geologists is expected. Further details are on the Friends of Mineralogy website.



## NEW VIEWS OF THE MOON 2

MSA is delighted to announce the publication of *Reviews in Mineralogy & Geochemistry* Volume 89: *New Views of the Moon 2*. Volume editors are Clive R. Neal, Lisa R. Gaddis, Bradley L. Jolliff, Samuel J. Lawrence, Stephen J. Mackwell, Charles K. Shearer, and Sarah N. Valencia. 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](http://www.msaweb.org). While there, you can also view the list of MSA's other publications.



## 2024 RESEARCH GRANTS

**March 1, 2024** 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](mailto:abenbow@minsocam.org).

## CONTRIBUTIONS

Many members donate to MSA by including a contribution with their annual dues and/or by responding to special appeals. The *MSA Forward Annual Fund* supports MSA's infrastructure. Depending on the wishes of the member, contributions are deposited with the principal of the MSA Endowment, the J. Alexander Speer Outreach Fund, MSA Mineralogy/Petrology Fund, J. B. Thompson Fund, Edward H. Kraus Crystallographic Research Fund, F. Donald Bloss Fund, or the Peter R. Buseck Lecture Fund. The income of these Funds is used to support MSA's research grants in crystallography, mineralogy, and petrology; the MSA Undergraduate Prizes; the Mineralogical Society of America Award; the Distinguished Public Service Award, the Dana Medal, the Roebling Medal; the website, and the Distinguished Lecturer program. If you have not done so previously, please consider contributing at the next opportunity.

## DID YOU KNOW?

If you haven't yet done so, please take some time to explore MSA's YouTube Channel. There, you will find videos on a variety of mineralogical topics, such as gemology, mineral photography, mineralogy and cultural heritage, mineral museum curation, diamonds, mineral collecting, space mineralogy and much more. There is also a series of videos on careers that use mineralogy, including forensics, environmental science, materials science, jobs in federal science agencies, and a number of others. The link to the MSA YouTube Channel is: <https://www.youtube.com/@mineralogicalsocietyofamer6947>.