

Noelle Glines-Bovio,  
Mojave Trails National Monument Manager

**Subject: Mojave Trails National Monument**

The Mineralogical Society of Southern California (MSSC), organized in 1931, is dedicated to the dissemination of general knowledge of the mineralogical and related earth sciences through the study of mineral specimens. Our scientific non-profit organization supports those endeavors through public outreach, field study and related programs.

A sampling of our member activities includes the MSSC sponsored Pacific Micromineral Conference (PMC). This well attended annual event features experienced and amateur micro mineral collectors alike. It hosts renowned speakers who are experts in mineralogy, geology, and characterizations of minerals. The camaraderie among field collectors and mineral collectors enhances the experience. Attendees come from across the United States, Europe and beyond for the 3-day event. PMC culminates with an exciting field trip, usually to the desert, for exceptional mineral collecting.

MSSC is known for its well-planned field trips. Field goers are given opportunities to enjoy their passion: hands-on experience of inspecting and collecting a wide variety of minerals and rocks *in-the-field!* For MSSC members who are professional educators and the like, this is a most important aspect for their students. In-the-field study and the collection of minerals is an asset and benefit to college and, especially upper division, students of mineralogy; geology students with hands-on experience of in-the-field study thrive as well. The opportunity to field collect minerals in MTNM is also a source of mineral specimens we give away to kids to study while helping them learn appreciation of and respect for all that the California deserts have to offer.

Subsequent to the COVID-19 outbreak, MSSC holds meetings via ZOOM conferencing. Since our ZOOM meetings began, word has spread, and our attendance has grown with the use of ZOOM in lieu of in-person meetings. It made it easier for more people from all over the world to connect and enjoy sharing their experiences and results of their field collecting activities. They come to hear our esteemed scheduled presenters and catch up on what's new in mineralogy. In addition to our meetings, we have a monthly newsletter, the Bulletin. It is brimming with informative mineral related articles, upcoming events, and news. And MSSC's website chronicles prior field trips and announces ones, lists other related events, has an archive library of the Bulletin and much more. We invite you to take a tour: <https://www.mineralsocal.org>.

MSSC has active outreach that appeals to young and old alike. We participate in community events held by various civic groups and organizations. For example, the Orange County Children's Fair, a late summer event, is one in which we proudly participate. We have display cases exhibiting mineral specimens, MSSC volunteers who answer questions about minerals and give a mineral specimen to each child, young or old. Look for us in October 2023! The Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County's (NHMLAC) Nature Fest is another event where we participate. Closed during COVID, Nature Fest will resume in 2024. We will be there with our display cases, free specimens and MSSC volunteers talking about minerals and collecting.

Our society has among its members prominent scientists and educators recognized as experts in their fields and many of whom have been responsible for the identification and classification of several

hundred new minerals. We have some members who have minerals named in their honor, and many who just enjoy everything about minerals and mineral collecting.

We are passionate about keeping the Mojave Trails National Monument for science, for education, for mineral collecting, and for rock hounding for many generations to come. It is our intention to be a part of the upcoming “scoping process.” We look forward to partnering with you in this endeavor.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Angela Guzman, President and  
Board Members of  
Mineralogical Society of Southern California (MSSC)  
[president@mineralsocal.org](mailto:president@mineralsocal.org)