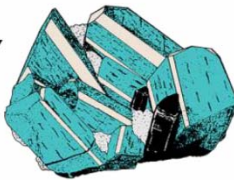


**FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY
COLORADO CHAPTER**



May 2020 Newsletter

*All future meeting are canceled
until conditions change*

***Our Chapter’s meeting place for the year: Berthoud Hall, room 109, Colorado School
of Mines campus, Golden.***

We’ve moved to the CSM campus. Parking on CSM campus streets and parking lots is free after 5 p.m.; parking along Maple or Illinois Streets should work well, or you may use campus parking lots—the closest is Lot D, west of Elm St. Berthoud Hall is at 16th St., between Illinois & Maple; the address is 1516 Illinois St. You may enter either from the east (Illinois St.), north, or west (Maple St.) sides. Go to the lower level, the 1st floor.

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President’s Letter

April 5, 2020



Greetings,

Well the Covid-19 pandemic has thrown a monkey wrench into a lot of people’s spring plans. Like most everyone in Colorado I am staying at home and waiting to see what is going to happen. Needless to say, all future meetings are on hold until further notice including our auction and our May meeting. Hopefully by June things may have resolved enough we can make plans for some activities and by fall we might be back to normal. We will see.

Some activities like mineral collecting with people in the same household is a form of recreation that gets you outside and away from other people, it may be time to get out and collect. I have been prospecting my property here in Bailey just to get out of the house. I have actually found some small quartz crystals.

Since we are all staying away from each other there is not a whole lot more to say, except for stay healthy.

Warm Regards,

Bob Hembree

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Additions to the November 2019 FMCC newsletter:

Due to some poor communication on my part (Pete, the newsletter editor) I neglected to add several items that should have been included in our November newsletter. Mark Jacobson has prepared a “revised” November newsletter that includes these items—about 8 additional pages. They include:
Special award winners at the 2019 Denver Gem and Mineral Show

The FMCC mineral journal reprinting project -- April 2019

Donations to the FMCC silent and oral mineral auction: society annual fund raiser May 2019

FMCC new membership badges – first and second batches October 2019

Membership report (October 2019)

Status of Gilman mine, Eagle County, CO photograph project

Dudley Blauwet’s autobiography (speaker at our September meeting, on Vietnam gem minerals)

You can find the revised newsletter on our Chapter website, at

http://friendsofmineralogycolorado.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/2019-November-FM-newsletter_revised.pdf, and I am also attaching a copy via email along with this newsletter, as a separate

pdf file. Happy reading!

--- Pete Modreski, editor

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Origin of the name Amazon Stone

Mark Ivan Jacobson

Amazon stone or amazonite is actually named after the green potassium feldspar found in Russia because for a short period of time Europeans thought the green stone observed in the possession of some indigenous peoples in Brazil was the same as the Russian material. To understand the twisted path of the origin of the name amazon stone and its later mistaken usage stated above, one needs to learn about the deep historic past.

Francisco de Orellana (b. circa 1511 - d. 1546), a Spanish conquistador, completed the first known travel along the entire length of the river known today as the Amazon River. He traveled with his military forces and a few Dominican Friars, overland from Peru to the upper reaches of the river and continued downriver in hand constructed boats to the Atlantic Ocean. During this journey, Orellana and his men were attacked in June 1542 by a local tribe of Tapuyas peoples where the women fought along side with the men (Heaton 1934, p. 214). Later stories of this attack, as retold in Europe invoked the memory of the mythical Amazon women warriors of Greece, a mythology that may have predated Greece (Mayor 2020). This led Europeans to rename this river, the Amazon.

Later travelers along the now named Amazon River, observed a green stone being worn by local peoples, along the river. This stone became called the “Stone of the Amazons” or Amazon Stone. The use of this term, Amazon stone was probably in use prior to or just after 1700. The European association of this name with the green feldspar of Russia occurred at this time.

In 1743, Charles Marie de La Condamine, a French geographer and mathematician, traveled the length of the Amazon River on a return trip to France from Quito, Peru. In September 1743, he noted

“In a sixteen hour sail, we went from Pauxis to the mouth of the Topayos River. We anchored September 2 [1743] under the fort of the same name, where there is also a Portuguese garrison. I located [obtained] in this place the acquisition of several green stones, known under the name of Amazon stones [Pierre des Amazones]: they are highly esteemed by Indians, who find it difficult to break down [part with] and they are becoming rarer every day. It is a real jade, similar to that of the east, but which we do not know when they were made, nor the methods with which the ancient Indians were able to work this material, despite its extreme hardness, and drill holes there, some [are] six to seven inches long, without any iron tools. The two most beautiful pieces I brought back were given to me in Cayenne by Monsieur [=Mr.] de Lille-Adam, Commissioner of the Navy, and by Monsieur [=Mr.] Molinier, the Royal surveyor of the colony. I placed the most beautiful of these stones in the cabinet of the Jardin du Roi” (Condamine 1751, p. 193-194, translated from the French).

Alexander von Humboldt traveled along the Amazon river during 1799-1804. His observations confirmed Condamine's when he wrote: "We found in the possession of the Indians of the Rio Negros some of those green stones, known by the name of the amazon stones, because the natives pretend, according to an ancient tradition, that they come from the country 'of the woman without husbands,' or 'woman living alone.'" (Humboldt, 1827, p. 380). These stones were worn as amulets that were believed to protect the wearer from nervous complaints, fevers and the sting of venomous snakes. The source of the stones was not local, nor was it known. Their attributed power made them valuable and thus objects of trade. Humboldt (1827) recognized the fiction fostered by the name. "What we see in our cabinets [in Europe] under the false denomination of Amazon Stone (amazonenstein), is neither jade, nor a compact feldspar, but a common feldspar of an apple-green colour; that comes from the Ourals [Urals] and lake Onega in Russia" (Humboldt 1827, p. 383). His observations can be considered authoritative since he purchased a green stone from one of the Indians. (Humboldt 1827, p. 384).

Thus, probably sometime circa 1700, before the original stone of the Amazon was recognized as a jade, the color of the stone caused it to be linked to the known green feldspar of Russia, the best known locality at that time for a green opaque gemstone in Europe. Tradition has caused the name to continue to be attributed to feldspar, although neither its origin nor mineralogy is related to minerals of the Amazon River basin of Brazil.

References

Condamine, Charles Marie de La. 1751. *Journal du voyage fait par ordre du roi à l'équateur: servant d'introduction historique à la "Mesure des trois premiers degrés du méridien."* Paris, France: De l'Imprimerie royale, 280 p. plus index (In French).

Heaton, H. C.; Editor. 1934. *The Discovery of the Amazon according to the account of Friar Gaspar de Carvajal and other documents.* American Geographical Society, Special Publication 17, 467 p. [In translation].

Humboldt, Alexander De. 1827. *Personal Narrative of travels to the Equinoctial regions of the New Continent, during the years 1799-1804.* London: Printed for Longman, Rees, Orme, Brown and Green, Paternoster row. Volume 5, 2nd edition. 865 p. (translated from the French).

Mayor, Adrienne. 2020. The Real Amazons. *National Geographic History* magazine, v. 6, no. 2, p. 32-45.

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Denver Gem & Mineral Show Mini Report May 2020

The Denver Gem & Mineral Show is planned for September 18 - 20, 2020 at the Denver Mart, 451 E. 58th Avenue. The theme this year is fabulous fluorite! The Show Chair is George Daggett, who can be reached at geoddaggett@hotmail.com or 303-453-9651. George is always available for talking with club members regarding ideas about the show.

At the current time as everyone knows Covid-19 is impacting all of our lives. As of this writing Colorado is under a "safer at home" directive from our Governor. There is much uncertainty about the course of this pandemic. The Show Committee is closely monitoring the situation but is also continuing to plan that the show will take place in September as usual. Dealers, speakers and exhibitors are being confirmed for the show. Although clubs are not meeting, it is hoped that volunteers continue to be signed up to help at the show. For current information regarding the show, please contact your club representative. Here are the names and contact information for them: Colorado Mineral Society - Amber Brenzikofer 720-480-5234 or amberbrenzikofer@gmail.com; Flatirons Mineral Club - Gerry

Naugle 303-591-2830 or gnaugle@earthlink.net; Friends of Mineralogy - Larry Havens 303-757-6577 or lwrnchavens@comcast.net; Denver Gem & Mineral Guild - Kathy Honda 303-315-7749 or katherine.honda@ucdenver.edu; Littleton Gem & Mineral Club - Lynette Warren 303-956-4634 or flywithle123@comcast.net; North Jeffco Gem & Mineral Club, Inc. - Ron Knoshaug 303-423-2923 or jrknoshaug@comcast.net; Mile Hi Rock and Mineral Society - Judy Knoshaug 303-423-2923 or jrknoshaug@comcast.net; Western Interior Paleontological Society - Nancy Kimber 303-470-6491 or nkk9960@hotmail.com.

Please remember that the show has so much to offer all of us. The opportunity to fully immerse ourselves in this wonderful hobby of rocks, minerals, fossils, and gems. There will be fantastic and colorful displays of the finest fluorite from renowned collectors, unusual and incredible specimens from the dealers, informative talks by notable speakers, experiences and laughter shared with friends, a visual extravaganza in the Fluorescent Room (fluorite is a fluorescent mineral), and so much more.

Hopefully there will still be opportunities for us all to go out this summer to collect and explore a little. But please stay safe, support and encourage each other so that when this is over we will be able to gather again in friendship and hobby adventures.

Here are some pictures of fluorite to inspire you.

Respectfully submitted, Judy Knoshaug, Show Secretary



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If you have any informational or mineralogical articles that you would like FMCC to include in the newsletter, please send them to any of the officers.

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What's available on the Friends of Mineralogy Colorado Chapter website

Website: <http://friendsofmineralogycolorado.org/>

If you have never visited our website, you might be interested to know what the site contains. Under the history section is a brief listing of our historical activities, membership record and who occupied our leadership positions.

The Publications tab might be the most useful. All the publications our organization has created or helped create is listed here. Many of these publications are available as free digital downloads as pdfs. The newsletter tab contains almost all the past newsletters as free digital pdfs. Mixed into these newsletters are many short to long articles on Colorado mineral localities and activities. These articles have been indexed by google and a google search may yield what you are looking for.

When times are normal the events tab lists the next presentation of the chapter, an abstract of the presentation and usually with a brief biography of the speaker.

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What's available on the National Friends of Mineralogy website

Website: <https://www.friendsofmineralogy.org/>

The National website lists similar material as the Colorado chapter but

Best Article Awards tab: For quite some time, FM National has been recognizing the best articles for each year that have appeared in the periodical magazines the *Mineralogical Record*, *Rocks & Minerals*, *Mineral News* and *Mineral Monographs*. The winners of the best articles from 1998 to 2019 are documented.

The Kay Robertson Educational Display Awards tab: At the Tucson Gem & Mineral show and the Denver Gem & Mineral Show two awards are given each year, at each show, for the best educational display or groups of displays created by an institution such as a museum or foundation AND a non-institution such as an individual, or groups of individuals. The awards are listed for 1999 to 2020.

The Newsletter tab lists free pdf downloads of FM National newsletters from 1970 to the present day. The list is not complete yet as we are still scanning older newsletters to complete the record.

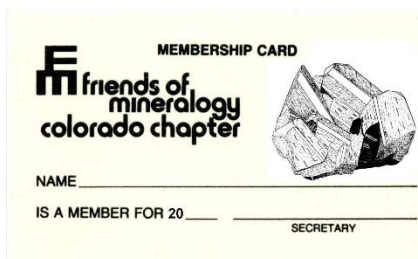
The State mineral indexes tab is the documentation of an early project that FM undertook, which was to create a published records of all mineral locations in each state. This project was initiated in the early 1970s prior to the creation of the internet. Although mindat provides an online listing today, the published record insures that the knowledge is not lost.

The State Mineralogy tab list all the identified books that can be considered state mineralogies for the United States.

The symposia tab is a work in progress of listing all current, yet to be held mineral symposia and past mineral symposia. Where symposia programs and proceedings-abstract books were created, these are also being added to the current and past symposia listing as available. This tab does not list symposia that were focused exclusively on geologic or mining history events.

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Membership Cards



New membership cards for FMCC! If you don't have one, hand-filled-in for 2020, or haven't otherwise recently written a check to FM for \$15, then you probably haven't paid your dues for the new year! Once meeting are restarted we will be handing out membership cards at meetings.

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Membership report (May 1, 2020)

At the end of April 2020, FMCC had 56 members which includes our paid members and our 3 lifetime members- Jack Murphy, Marty Zinn, and Kaye Thompson.

We are carrying, a total of 75 members on our newsletter list, which includes those who have not yet paid for this year. Just in the last four weeks we have received 5 renewals and one new member. The chapter appreciates receiving the dues.

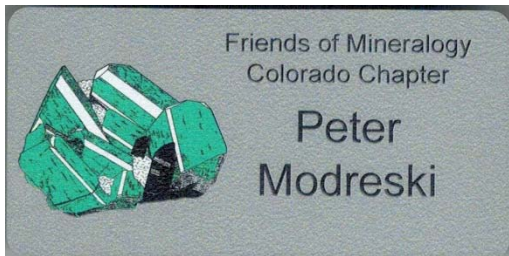
The Treasurer strongly encourages all members from last year who have yet not paid their 2020 dues to please mail it in using the new mailing address as shown in both this newsletter and our website. Dues are still \$15 per year for individuals and \$25 for families.

Our new mailing address is:

Friends of Mineralogy – Colorado Chapter
C/O Mark Jacobson
1714 S. Clarkson street
Denver, CO 80210

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Friends of Mineralogy Colorado Chapter name badges



If you haven't noticed—Mark Jacobson has had new Colorado Chapter-FM membership badges made for our current members and is distributing them at our regular meetings. If you haven't picked up yours yet—see Mark at the next meeting! They have a metal backing with a high-strength magnet bar that holds the badge on, inside your shirt or jacket—a “very cool” design!

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FM Colorado Chapter meetings, 2020:

Meetings are normally held at 7:30 p.m. on the 2nd Thursday of alternate (odd-numbered) months. Our meeting location is now Berthoud Hall Room 109, at 16th and Illinois Streets, Colorado School of Mines campus, Golden. Meeting dates may be shifted in September and November so as not to conflict with the Denver Gem & Mineral Show or the New Mexico Mineral Symposium. Visitors are *always* welcome at our meetings!

Currently, all future meeting have been canceled. After conditions change, future meetings will be announced.:

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You are invited to submit suggestions of names (volunteering yourself, or others) as FMCC officers or directors for 2021! Please get in touch with the President Bob Hembree, or any other Chapter officer. We need a new candidate for the position of Secretary—volunteers are welcome! We'll vote to confirm 2021 officers and directors at our January meeting.

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Friends of Mineralogy, Colorado Chapter, 2019 officers:

President: Bob Hembree, rhembree@comcast.net, 720-201-5486
Vice President: Gloria Staebler, gastaebler@aol.com, 303-495-5521
Treasurer: Mark Jacobson, markivanjacobson@gmail.com, 1-337-255-0627
Secretary Ed Pederson, mineraljeep@aol.com
DG&MS Council Trustee: David Bunk, dave@davebunkminerals.com;
Alternate, Mark Jacobson
Newsletter editor: Peter Modreski, pmodreski@aol.com, 720-205-2553
Field trip planner (not field trip leader): unfilled
FMCC Website: unfilled
Postings for the FM national facebook page: unfilled
At-large Directors:
Don Bray, don_bray@copper.net , 303-681-3646
David Bunk, dave@davebunkminerals.com
Larry Havens, lwrnchavens@comcast.net, 303-757-6577
Peter Modreski, pmodreski@aol.com, 720-205-2553
Jeff Self, selfawareminerals@gmail.com, 303-898-7539