



Friends of Mineralogy, Colorado Chapter Newsletter – September 2008

September Meeting – Thursday, Sept. 18, 7:30 pm

(Board meeting 6:45-7:30)

September Program: WHAT'S WITH URANIUM 2008?

Uranium is HOT and back by popular demand! To fuel the discussion, Geologist Jim Burnell, PhD, with the Colorado Geological Survey, will speak about the issues revolving around uranium mining in Colorado and the importance of this resource worldwide. Dr. Burnell will highlight the historic, economic, and energy questions posed by current demand for this product. He will review the history of uranium mining in Colorado, discussing the current thoughts on the origins of uranium deposits, placing that in the context of Colorado deposits, and reviewing the proposed mining project in Weld County.

Dr. Burnell is a Pennsylvania native and Viet Name veteran. He earned his A.B. in Geology at Franklin and Marshall College, his MS in Geology at the University of Minnesota-Duluth, and has his PhD in Geology from Brown University. His experience includes a period as an Assistance Professor of Geology at Auburn University. At one time, while working with the Department of Energy, he was involved in research on high-level radioactive waste at Pacific Northwest National University in the state of Washington. He has regulatory experience with the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety, and is currently Minerals Program Director with the Colorado Geological Survey.

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FMCC dues for 2008 are \$13.00, which includes membership in national Friends of Mineralogy. Please send your dues payment to: FM-Colorado Chapter, P.O. Box 5276, Golden CO, 80401-5276.

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Colorado Federation of Gem and Mineral Societies

MEETING

WHEN? Saturday, Sep. 13th, 10 a.m.

WHERE? Greater Denver Gem and Mineral Show, Room H47-53

WHY? The Colorado Federation of Gem and Mineral Societies is no longer an active organization. The purpose of this meeting is to determine if a sufficient number of current Colorado State gem and mineral clubs are interested in reviving-the CFGMS;-and-if-they are,-to begin the-task of reconstruction.

What? What caused the demise of the CFGMS? On June 1st, 2004, the Colorado Secretary of State dissolved the CFGMS as a 501 C (tax free) corporation because the CFGMS did not submit the proper forms necessary to continue as a 501 C corporation. At some point after this date, CFGMS discontinued sending out letters requesting member clubs pay their annual membership dues. By the end of 2007, the CFGMS no longer had any dues paying members, unless some clubs paid without being asked. Without any member clubs, the CFGMS could not continue as a viable organization within the purposes under which it was originally formed.

The most important activity of the CFGMS has been the mid-August Contin-tail Show in Buena Vista. The original intent of the show was to provide Colorado club members with an opportunity to gather in fellowship, make new friends, renew old friendships and to swap, buy or sell hobby related items found during past, club field trips or excess collection specimens at a minimal cost to the participants. Over the years, it grew to include fellow hobbyists from many parts of the country. After June 1st, 2004, the Contin-tail continued under the sponsorship of the CFGMS. However, starting in 2007, the CFGMS name disappeared as the sponsor, and the show was re-named Contin-tail, LLC, and is currently owned and managed as a private, for profit, group.

As the Colorado State Director for the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies, I am calling for, and I will be chairing the above meeting. I ask each club to send at least one interested representative to this meeting to settle once and for all the future of the Colorado Federation of Gem and Mineral Societies. Please note this is not an official (or otherwise) CFGMS meeting. It is an informal meeting to discuss the possible revival of an organization important to our hobby and our state. It is my hope the CFGMS will continue on in the spirit under which it was formed, and a good turnout Sep 13th will be a big plus towards reaching that goal.

Mike Wheat
Colorado State Director
RMFMS
(719) 331-3313

CSM Museum Musings

CSM Geology Museum to Open Gift Shop

The CSM Geology Museum will be opening a gift shop shortly on the lower level of the Museum. This is the first time that the Museum has had a gift shop in its new building at 13th and Maple Street. The shop will feature surplus mineral specimens, lapidary materials and equipment, fossils, books, fluorescent minerals, starter kits, and related materials. Specimens will range from "starter" pieces for under a dollar, to fine specimens for the advanced collector.

The Grand Opening of the shop will be in conjunction with the Museum's annual open house slated for 6 P.M. on September 10th. Further information will be available as the event approaches. Phone inquiries can be directed to Bruce Geller at 303-273-3823.

Thanks,
Bruce Geller, Director
CSM Geology Museum

PRESERVATION - WHAT'S UP?

News from the FMCC Preservation Committee

Despite summer being digging season and some members of the Preservation Committee facing health challenges, we are moving ahead with the Preservation Plan adopted by FMCC last spring. We continue to include a brief article on preservation activities in each newsletter and to solicit input from Colorado museums with collections related to minerals, mining and related history for periodic newsletter articles – see “**The Museum Corner**” in this issue.

Also in this issue is questionnaire that incorporates a member survey of interests and priorities relating to preservation issues. The responses will be studied by the Board and the Preservation Committee, for guidance in enhancing the value of FMCC to its members and the mineral community.

The Committee expressed concerns about the loss of valuable specimens and important information about their provenance through careless dispersal of private collections by collectors or their estates. One approach to this concern that was outlined in the Plan was accepting donations of materials that are of educational value, for appropriate redistribution to collectors, teachers and/or educational institutions, or to area Gem and Mineral clubs for grab bags, door prizes, etc. The estate of local collector Dick Holmes (a miner and mine inspector, with a collection spanning 1925 to 1986) has contributed a large number of specimens to FMCC, for dispersal. The Committee will assess these materials and develop a plan of action consistent with the Committee's charter. More info later!

Jim Hurlbut continues to share information on proposed road closures potentially affecting access to Colorado collecting localities. We need someone to follow up on these bulletins. Any takers?

The Committee is also putting together a program on "Alternatives to Mine Closures" at the Denver Show (1:00 PM Sunday). We will have three panelists including Virgil Leuth of the Geology Museum at New Mexico Tech, Bruce Stover of the Colorado Inactive Mine Reclamation Program, and a representative of one of the "Tourist Mines" operating in Colorado.

Richard Parsons, Chairman

The 41st Annual Denver Gem and Mineral Show **September 12 - 14, 2008** **"Minerals of Colorado"**

What to see!

[Special Exhibits!](#)

[Competitive cases!](#)

[Over 130 Dealers!](#)

[Featured Presentations!](#)

[Non-Competitive cases!](#)

...and much, much more!

Show Hours

Friday, September 12, 9am - 6pm

Saturday, September 13, 10am - 6pm

Sunday, September 14, 10am - 5pm

[Schedule of Events](#)

Admissions

Includes admission to the Colorado Fossil Expo (Plaza Annex)

Adults: \$6.00

Seniors (65+): \$4.00

Teens: \$4.00

Under 13 free with an adult

Tickets are available at the door. Cash and checks only, please. Sorry, credit cards cannot be accepted at this time.

Location

Denver Merchandise Mart Expo Hall

451 E. 58th Avenue

(I-25 at Exit 215)

NOTE: All Presentations will be held in the Lecture Room (H47-H53) unless otherwise noted.

Friday

9am: Show opens to public

9am - 1pm: School groups visit show

Friday meetings will be announced soon!

6pm: Show Closes

Saturday

10am: Show opens to public

1pm: Presentation by Peter J. Modreski - [Starting a Mineral Collection](#)

2pm: Presentation by Beth Simmons - [Colorado Scientific Society's Collection - the Foundation of Colorado Museums](#)

3pm: Presentation by Ray Hill - [The Land Beneath the World](#)

4pm: Presentation by Steven Veatch - [From Mineral Strike to Meteor Strike: Guffey and the Freshwater Mining District, Colorado](#)

6pm: Show Closes

Saturday Night Special in the Palm Court of the Denver Merchandise Mart Main Building

6pm – 7:30pm: Silent Auction for the benefit of *Rocks & Minerals* magazine. Musical entertainment to be announced. (Refreshments and a cash bar)

7:30pm - 8pm: Awards Presentations

8pm - 9pm: Presentation by Mark I. Jacobson - [Antero Aquamarines ... Minerals from the Mount Antero-White Mountain Region, Chaffee County, Colorado](#)

Sunday

10am: Show opens to public

1pm: Panel organized by Richard Parsons - [Alternative to Mine Closure](#)

2pm: Presentation by Ray Hill - [Mineral Treasures from the Mount Brussilof Mine, Radium Hot Springs, British Columbia, Canada](#)

3pm: Presentation by Mark Cole - [A History of Fluorescent Minerals from the Ilimaussaq Complex South Greenland](#)

5pm: Show closes! See you next year!

All Day - Every Day

ALL DAY: Continuous hobby demonstrations in the Club Area. (booths E12 – E21)

ALL DAY: Educational demonstrations and pamphlets in the Public Service Sector Area. (booths E3 – E11)

ALL DAY: [The Fluorescent Room](#) - mineral specimens that glow under ultraviolet lights! (room K35)

ALL DAY: Gold Panning! (booth E16)

ALL DAY: Numerous competitive and non-competitive (e.g. museum) exhibits.

ALL DAY: "Bones", the walking T-Rex skeleton.

ALL DAY: Rooms and booths full of dealers (retail and wholesale).

ALL DAY: Grab bags, Pins & Posters. (booths E01 & E02)

ALL DAY: FREE Shuttle bus service to the satellite shows is available at the North and South Entrances.



6th International Conference on Mineralogy and Museums



September 7-9, 2008

Over the last 19 years, Mineralogy & Museums meetings have provided the opportunity for persons with interests in mineral collections, particularly museum staff members, to stay abreast of the latest developments in the areas of communications, exhibitions, computerization of collections, history of collections, and other pertinent topics. The **M&M 6 Conference** will address the areas of growth since the last conference, as well as new developments in mineral museums. The first conference took place in London in 1988, followed by Toronto in 1992, Budapest in 1996, Melbourne in 2000, and Paris in 2004.

The [Colorado School of Mines Geology Museum](#) is the most recently constructed mineral museum in the United States. Its design has recently received rave reviews in *The Mineralogical Record*. Occupying 16,000 square feet on two floors, its open and airy configuration showcases fine mineral specimens and artifacts from Colorado mining districts, including Leadville, Cripple Creek, Creede, Gilpin, the San Juans, and more. There are also abundant worldwide mineral specimens including spectacular recent donations from Marty Zinn, Bruce Oreck, and John Marshall. A replica uranium mine and other displays touching on Colorado's radioactive past, as well as meteorite and invertebrate paleontology displays, round out the exhibits.

The [Denver Museum of Nature and Science](#) (DMNS) is the fifth largest natural history museum in the United States. The DMNS offers varied programs in geology, mineralogy, paleontology, space science, zoology, anthropology, and health sciences. The original building was expanded in the early 1900's and several times since then. The dioramas, Prehistoric Journey, and mineral displays are outstanding. For information on the DMNS gem and mineral collection, click [here](#).

The next Conference will be held in Golden, Colorado in 2008 at the Colorado School of Mines. Golden is a western suburb of Denver, the capital city of Colorado.

FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY
Colorado Chapter Member Questionnaire

July, 2008

Approximately how long have you been a member of FM? _____

Do you belong to any other local gem and mineral clubs? _____

Do you consider yourself to be (please check all that apply):

- mineral collector dealer geological professional
- museum staff or volunteer teacher/educator lapidarist
- _____ (other, you name it)

Concern	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No Opinion
FM Club meetings are fun					
FM Club meetings are informative					
I feel welcome at FM meetings					
I think the club makes good use of my skills or knowledge					
I am concerned about potential road closures affecting access to Colorado collecting localities					
There is a need for FM to develop a program on development and curation of private collections, to be offered to other clubs in the area.					
FMCC should explore with the State Historical Society the potential for gathering audio/video-taped accounts from individuals having special knowledge of mining or collecting in Colorado.					

What would you most like Friends of Mineralogy to do to improve its value to members, or do more of, or do better?

Future programs I would enjoy : _____

I can do a program on: _____

I know of other available programs: _____

Contact person(s): _____

What else could the club do to increase your enjoyment of the hobby?

Name (optional but helpful): _____

Friends of Mineralogy, Colorado Chapter
Publications available for sale, 2008

- Photography of Mineralogical, Paleontological, and Archaeological Specimens (1989)** A Symposium on the Equipment and Techniques for Professionals and Amateurs, 74 p. + 18 p. of reprinted articles by Jeff Scovil from Rocks & Minerals Magazine **\$ 2.00**
- Antero Aquamarines, by Mark Jacobson (1993)** **\$ 15.00**
L.R. Ream Publishing, softcover, 126 p. + 8 color plates
- Minerals of Colorado (1997)** **\$140.00***
Fulcrum Press, 665 p. plus 40 plates with 118 color and 27 b&w photos
- Pegmatite Symposium Abstracts (1999)** **\$ 10.00****
The Eugene E. Foord Memorial Symposium on NYF-type Pegmatites, 73 p., as published in Canadian Mineralogist, vol. 37, part 3, June 1999, pp. 791-863.
- Pegmatite Symposium Field Trip Guidebook (1999)** **\$ 10.00***
Field guide to NYF-type [Nb-Y-F] Pegmatites of the Pikes Peak Batholith; field trips to the Lake George and South Platte pegmatite districts; 36 p.
- Symposium on Gemstone Deposits of the Rocky Mountain Region, Program and Abstracts (2002)** Program & abstracts of an FMCC symposium; **\$ 15.00**
79 pages including 3 pages plus cover in color
- Symposium on Agate and Cryptocrystalline Quartz (2005)** **\$ 20.00***
From an FMCC symposium; 144 pages including 3 pages plus cover in color; reprinted in 2006

** limited number of copies left in stock; orders will be filled as long as copies are available.*

*** the limited number of copies remaining have a slightly irregular binding—an extra set of punched holes on the outer margin of half the pages.*

Make checks payable to Friends of Mineralogy, Colorado Chapter

Postage and sales tax will be paid by FMCC. To order, write to Friends of Mineralogy, Colorado Chapter, P.O. Box 5276, Golden CO, 80401-5276; or contact Jim Hurlbut, Treasurer, 303-758-0283, jfhu@vanion.com, or Pete Modreski, 303-202-4766, pmodreski@usgs.gov

Meeting Dates for 2008

Dates for our 2008 meetings will be May 8, September 18, and November 13. The September meeting will be after the Denver Gem and Mineral Show.

Membership in FMCC and National FM is still only \$13 in 2008. Payment by check can be sent to the address on page 1 or given to our Treasurer or any Board member.

Newsletter

Your newsletter editor encourages all FMCC members to send your email address so that you will receive the newsletter electronically. The email version of the newsletter is in color; the paper version will have none. Please send your email address to editor Bill Hutchinson at wmhutchi5@msn.com. Also if you only want a paper newsletter but are presently receiving an email newsletter, let your editor know also.

FMCC May meeting is Thursday, May 8, 2008, 7:30 pm, at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science.

Coming Events 2008:

Sep 10	Colorado School of Mines Museum openhouse and introduction to the new gift shop.
Sep 10-14	Colorado Mineral and Fossil Show, Holiday Inn Central.
Sep 12-14	Denver Gem and Mineral Show, Denver Merchandise Mart, theme "Minerals of Colorado"
Sep 18	FMCC meeting, DMNS
Sep 25-28	American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) National Convention, Humble, TX
Nov 7-9	Rocky Mtn Federation of Mineralogical Societies (RMFMS) Convention, Tulsa, OK <i>Revised!</i>
Nov 13	FMCC meeting, DMNS

Friends of Mineralogy–Colorado Chapter

P.O. Box 5276

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