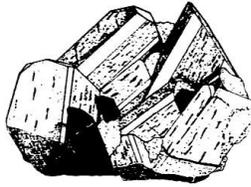




**F** friends of  
mineralogy  
colorado chapter



Friends of Mineralogy-Colorado Chapter  
P.O. Box 5276  
Golden, CO 80401-5276

## Friends of Mineralogy, Colorado Chapter Newsletter – January 2009

Next meeting **January 8, 2009** (*Board meeting 6:45-7:30*)

### **FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY PROGRAM FOR JANUARY Presentation by Jim Hurlbut**

Jim Hurlbut will be the speaker for the January meeting. Jim is well known in the mineral world. He studied Mineralogy at the University of Wisconsin, graduating in 1946. He was president of the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies in 1956 and president of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies in 1973. Jim has taught Minerals of Colorado for 20 years at the University of Colorado Denver extension center. He has been a volunteer at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science geology department for twenty years in charge of the Micromount Mineral collections.

Jim's talk will be about Diamonds, covering Colorado and world wide occurrences. He will show slides of Diamonds from the DMNS micromount collections and from Colorado.

#### **2009 FMCC Board of Directors:**

President, Larry Havens, 303-757-6577  
Vice-President, Jim Hurlbut, 303-757-0283  
Treasurer, Richard Parsons, 303-838-8859  
Secretary, Alan Keimig, alan-a-k@juno.com  
Director, Bill Chirnside (2009), 303-989-8748  
Director, Bruce Geller (2009), 303-237-2947  
Director, Pete Modreski (2009), 303-202-4766

#### **2009 Chairpersons:**

Membership/Hospitality  
Preservation, Richard Parsons, 303-838-8859  
Program, Pete Modreski, 303-202-4766  
Editor, Bill Hutchinson, 303-452-9009



## **From the editor**

Well 2008 has come and gone. The passage of time in the mineral world also means the loss of compatriots, friends and mentors, all of which we will sorely miss. We have memories and pictures of the 2008 shows and field trips. New mineral finds, purchases and the results of our labors are now on the walls and shelves of our homes and places of business. A newly cut stone or piece of jewelry is done. A painting of a mineral or mine scene at last is finished and we look back and give a sigh of contentment. A good year for some and not so good for others....a new year beckons us to try again. It means not only to excite our own minds to the upcoming possibilities but a chance to excite new young minds and imaginations with discoveries of untold treasures both natural and of man's design.

The mineral world starts anew with the Tuscon show this coming February. I find myself looking forward to all the new and exciting possibilities the 2009 collecting season promises. Dreams of new mineral discoveries from both hard work and good fortune invade my night. Exploring parts of the country for unknown or forgotten mineral specimens tantalize and tease me. I look forward to reexamining old collecting localities with new interest and vigor. The old mining districts will get reexamined and new ores will be seen in a different light. Mines for gold, silver and copper are still around but new mines chasing specimens of wondrous size and quality are now a real venture. In Colorado there is activity at several old mining districts to try and invigorate the atrophied muscles of old mines still rich with mineral ore. The future awaits us. May good luck be with us all in the coming year!

## **Fun with Mineral Identification**

I recently found the mineral ID quiz on the MINDAT internet site. I have to admit to being quite taken with it. It is a difficult test with a single picture and some stats on the mineral in question. The "most common" list is the easy test but don't be fooled, it will still challenge your brain. The pictures are often not the common form or color of the mineral. A good example was one quiz where the mineral shown appeared to have a trigonal or hexagonal x section and was green on top and graded down to red on the bottom. The first assumption was a tourmaline but it wasn't listed. The only listed mineral that could have the elongated crystal shape was diopside. Some are easy and some hard but all said and done it is informative, educational and fun.

## **An interesting find.**

I received an e-mail from Mark Jacobson recently that he thought would be of interest for the newsletter. He found a copy of an 1879 periodical named "The Analyst" which had an advertisement on the back for the sale of a mineral collection. Jesse S Randall was selling his entire collection. The Randall collection was from Colorado and New Mexico and housed at his home in Georgetown, Colorado.



# THE ANALYST.

Vol. VI.

NOVEMBER, 1879.

No. 6.

THE RANDALL CABINET  
OF  
*ROCKY MOUNTAIN*  
MINERALS AND FOSSILS  
FOR SALE.

The undersigned will sell, for cash, either the whole or part of his extensive collection of

**Minerals, Fossils, and Archaeological Specimens;**  
**COMPRISING ABOUT 2,500 PIECES.**  
**Collected Chiefly in Colorado and New Mexico.**

Among the very large and fine specimens, weighing from twenty-five to seventy-five pounds each, are:

|                       |                      |                     |
|-----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Fossil Palm Leaves,   | Agatized Wood,       | Petrified Cedar,    |
| Fossil Amonites,      | Osteocolla,          | Aragonite,          |
| Fossil Sigillaria,    | Chalcedony,          | Rose Quartz,        |
| Fossil Lepidodendron, | Wood Opal,           | Feld Spar,          |
| Beryl,                | Fortification Agate, | Cairngorm,          |
| Obsidian,             | Tourmaline,          | Oriental Alabaster. |

And Gold and Silver Ores from various mines.

Among the very fine specimens, averaging six or eight pounds, are

|                   |                |                      |
|-------------------|----------------|----------------------|
| Amonites,         | Pearl Spar,    | Silver Glance,       |
| Baculites,        | Chalcedony,    | Ruby Silver,         |
| Fish,             | Cairngorm,     | Iridosmine,          |
| Petrified Cedar,  | Onyx,          | Petzite,             |
| Garnets,          | Sardonyx,      | Bismuth Silver,      |
| Staurolite,       | Heliotrope,    | Horn Silver,         |
| Alston Moor Spar, | Tourmaline,    | Antimonial Silver,   |
| Dog Tooth Spar,   | Epidote,       | Galena,              |
| Calc Spar,        | Lapis Lazuli,  | Zinc Blende,         |
| Iceland Spar,     | Iron Pyrites,  | Geyselite,           |
| Native Alum,      | Alabaster,     | Chalcedonyx,         |
| Gypsum,           | Heavy Spar,    | Amethystine Quartz,  |
| Satin Spar,       | Specular Iron, | Agatized Wood,       |
| Wood Opal,        | Flour Spar,    | Rose Quartz,         |
| Landscape Rock,   | Gray Copper,   | Fortification Agate. |

The specimens will fill about three hundred feet of shelving.

Persons desiring further information of the character of the specimens, should inspect them personally, or correspond with the undersigned, or may refer to W. H. Cushman, Pres. First National Bank; T. W. Phelps, Miners' National Bank, Georgetown, Colorado; J. I. Brownell, of Brownell Bros., Bankers, New York City; or to the editor of the *Analyst*, 2. Des Moines, Iowa.

JESSE S. RANDALL.  
Georgetown, Colorado



## H.R. 554 Paleontological Resources Preservation Act

Oct 03, 2008: House Committee on Judiciary Granted an extension for further consideration ending not later than Jan. 3, 2009.

### **ROCKHOUND ROUNDUP**

**Official Monthly Publication of the  
Alabama Mineral and Lapidary Society  
Birmingham, Alabama**

Volume 49, Issue 12

December, 2008

### **WORDS OF CAUTION**

by

John M. Wright, RPG

AFMS Conservation & Legislation Chairman

The Paleontological Resources Preservation Act, HR554, to the best of my knowledge has cleared all committees and the next logical step would be to schedule it for a vote by the House of Representatives, but with the current turmoil in congress caused by the failures on Wall Street, I can't get through to my contact to find out the exact status of this particular legislation. My personal opinion is that it has been placed on a back burner and action on it will be delayed for the time being. This does not mean that we are out of the woods, but it does give us another small window of opportunity to express our opposition. With the up-roar among the citizens caused by the proposed bail-out plans for Wall Street and the up-coming elections, constituents have really gotten the undivided attention of representatives, and if you have not written or petitioned yours to express opposition to you now have a short, but golden opportunity to let your sentiments be known. While my information has been very limited, I was very pleased to find out that quite a few of our members have talked to their representatives or have written them a letter in opposition to the Paleontological Resources Preservation Act. I also know that a number of our clubs have submitted petitions opposing this legislation. While these efforts are really commendable, the down side is that these individuals and clubs represent only a very small percentage of our membership. If we want to stop or have this legislation significantly modified in our favor, it is going to require a lot more participation. We have to let our representatives know what our desires are if we want them to act in our favor. I am serving as president of my club again and for several months I have encouraged our members to contact or write a letter to our representative regarding HR554. As you might expect, my efforts were basically ignored. Finally, I decided to write a petition that our members could sign and a sample letter that they could use as a guide to write their own. Quite a few of our members signed the petition and several of the ones that did not sign took copies of the sample letter to use as a guide in writing their own. I regret that I waited so long to do this and that all of our members did not participate, but at least we have taken a positive step. I would like to challenge other club presidents to take similar action to get more of our members and respective clubs involved. I am getting very little feed back about the issues I am addressing in my articles. I do occasionally see some of them reprinted in the exchange bulletins we receive from other clubs. If you have any recommendations or suggestions, please let me know. I would very much like to know about any conservation and legislative matters in your particular areas and also what actions your club might be taking in national issues like the Paleontological Resources Preservation Act. My email address is: [osjbw@datasync.com](mailto:osjbw@datasync.com).



## IN THE NEWS

Sat December 27, 2008

# 850-pound emerald at center of dispute

**LOS ANGELES, California (CNN)** -- An 850-pound emerald said to be worth as much as \$370 million is in the hands of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department while a court decides who really owns it, a spokesman for the sheriff said.



This enormous raw emerald was being kept in a Las Vegas, Nevada, warehouse.

The "Bahia Emerald" -- one of the largest ever found -- was reported stolen in September from a secured vault in South El Monte in Los Angeles County. The report was made by someone who claimed to own the giant gemstone, Los Angeles Sheriff's Lt. Thomas Grubb said.

Federal court papers showed the emerald has been at the center of a dispute between a California man who claimed ownership, a company he contracted with to sell it, and a potential buyer.

Detective work traced the Brazilian stone to a [Las Vegas, Nevada](#), warehouse, where the person in possession claimed to be the rightful owner, Grubb said.

A federal judge ordered the sheriff to hold the 180,000-carat emerald until he can sort the case out, Grubb said.

Investigators suspect someone used falsified papers to remove the stone from the secured vault in California, although no criminal charges have been filed, Grubb said.

While Grubb said it was his understanding the stone had been appraised at \$370 million, the value is unclear.

The company hired by the owner to sell it said in court papers it had received a \$19 million offer, which the company wanted to accept.

It alleged the gemstone's owner then tried to go around the broker to sell the emerald to the same buyer for \$75 million.

At one point, the emerald was listed for sale on eBay for a "buy it now" price of \$75 million.



## Meeting Dates for 2009

The dates for our 2009 meetings will be January 8, March 12, May 14, Sept 10.

Membership in FMCC and National FM is \$13 in 2009. Payment by check can be sent 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](mailto:wmhutchi5@msn.com). Also if you only want a paper newsletter but are presently receiving an email newsletter, let your editor know also.

## Coming Events;

**ONGOING, Sep. 26 - Jan. 4 DINOSAURS, Ancient Fossils-New Discoveries** at Denver Museum of Nature and Science.

**Friends of Mineralogy–Colorado Chapter**  
**P.O. Box 5276**  
**Golden, CO 80401-5276**