



Friends of Mineralogy, Colorado Chapter Newsletter – March 2009

Next meeting **May 14th, 2009** (Board meeting 6:45-7:30)

FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY PROGRAM FOR MARCH

Bruce Geller

COLORADO GOLD AND GOLD TELLURIDES

Bruce Geller, the director of the Colorado School of Mines Geology Museum, began his college career at Dickinson College in Carlisle, PA. Although he started as a pre-med student, Geller declared a major in geology after going on a series of geology field trips. He earned a master's degree at Binghamton University in New York and went on to Harvard where he focused on zeolites.

In 1981, Geller came to Denver with Asarco, a silver and base metal mining and smelting company started by the Guggenheims. Shortly after arriving, he compiled a thorough summary of Colorado metal and non-metal mining - "everything from alabaster to zinc," he says. "I learned a lot about the history of Colorado mining in those nine months writing the book. Places like Cripple Creek, Leadville and Silverton have classic geology and fabulous mining legacies." After this compilation, he authored a weekly article known as "Rock Rhetoric" for a mining weekly, *The Mining Record*.

He went on to earn his doctorate at the University of Colorado in Boulder, where he wrote his dissertation on telluride-bearing ore deposits. For most of his 26-year career since graduating, he has worked as an independent mineralogist, primarily for mining companies.

Bruce will be sharing his extensive knowledge on Colorado gold and gold tellurides.

2009 FMCC Board of Directors:

President, Larry Havens, 303-757-6577
Vice-President, Jim Hurlbut, 303-757-0283
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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

PEMATITE FIELD CLASS

Michael Wise of the Smithsonian Institution has organized a field class on Colorado Pegmatites for this coming summer. The class is open to geology students that are interested in understanding the formation and classification of pegmatites. Other interested persons will be considered if space allows. Please pass along to anyone interested in learning about the science of some of Colorado's more interesting pegmatic geology. Contact Michael Wise for more information concerning this class.

Michael A. Wise Geologist, Division of Mineralogy Phone: (202) 633-1826 E-mail wisem@si.edu
Smithsonian Institution
PO Box 37012, MRC 119
Washington, DC 20013-7012

From the editor;

Well the weather got the better of me and with such warm temperatures the itch had to get scratched. On Sunday March 1st, I took my youngest son, Alexander out for his first dig solo with Dad. I had decided to go to North Table Mountain due to its proximity and the fact that I hadn't been there for well over a decade.



My ten year old son had never been digging alone with me and he was all excited by the adventure of going digging with his Dad. We got a late start and left for Golden well after noon and because it had been a while since I had been to North Table Mountain, enough time had passed for me to forget how steep a climb it would be. Alexander scrambled up the mountain and I could only barely remember the distant past when I had such energy and enthusiasm. There were climbers on three different areas of the cliffs visible to us. They all had black labs and my son talked endlessly about this coincidence. We finally made it to the quarry of the SE face of North Table Mountain and there were plenty of small pockets for Alexander to pick up and put into his pack. I began to show Alexander what we were looking for...a certain texture in the rock along with a visible evidence of open pockets. He soon pointed one out that I wasn't so sure of but I whacked it with the sledge hammer and a very nice pocket of thompsonite with mesolite was exposed.



Pocket is 2 ½ X 2 ½ inches.



Pocket remnant is 5 X 3 inches

Across the pocket was a thick crystal of calcite over an inch long that stood out like a Greek column. Later we broke another rock to expose a large pocket roughly seven inches deep and five inches across full of salmon colored chabazites covered occasionally with analcimes. Climbing in and around and over the rocks soon wore us out and at 4:30 we began the easier but longer way down the mountain. This was a wonderful way to start the 2009 digging season and I hope to see many of you out in the field this year.

TUCSON SHOW REVIEW

by JEFF SELF photo's by DONNA WARE

There was so much to see in Tucson that I have decided my limit my review to the display cases at the main show. There were pieces that were just plain fun to see; A Calcite after Banana, yes banana, now how did that happen? A Smoky Quartz "fish" from Diamantina, Minas Gerais, Brazil - amazing (and amusing). What the imagination can perceive in a specimen. Gypsum on a Shoe ,from Australia, Fascinating piece but I can not help wondering about the poor devil who had to hobble out of that area wearing only one shoe.



There were many other specimens that were fascinating and a delight to see, For example, an entire case full of gem quality bicolored Morganite/Aquamarines from Brazil and Madagascar, Copper crystals on and in Mine Timbers from Arizona, Aragonite on Snake Vertebra from Santa Eulalia, Chihuahua, Mexico. one of my personal favorites.



A new find of interesting Aquamarines from a pegmatite in the Santa Teresa Mountains, Graham County, Arizona. The best piece is now in the Evan Jones collection.

There were also several large Fluorites from Orange River area, Namibia, showing sectoral color zoning. Green on the cube sectors and blue on the octahedral. There were several large, backlit specimens on display. (Rocks and Minerals has a photo of one of these in the March/April issue pg. 171)

There were many other pieces that were worth of describing but for the sake of brevity I will stop here.

All in all the show left me with a severe case of eye strain, a sore neck and general sensory overload. I can't wait to do it again next year when the show theme will be 'Gems and Gem Minerals'.

**Greater Denver Area Gem & Mineral Council
Report to Denver Gem & Mineral Clubs
2008 Approved Grant Requests**

The Council receives, evaluates and approves grants twice each year, in March and September. This report is sent to all nine clubs who are members of the Greater Denver Area Gem & Mineral Council.

1. **Friends of Dinosaur Ridge** received \$4,500 in total grants for the following projects: Dinosaur Ridge Discover Day, August 2, 2008. The \$500 grant helps partially fund the road closure for their monthly educational open house and tour. The Council and Show Committee members staff a table to promote the upcoming Denver Gem and Mineral Show.
A \$2,000 grant to help with the printing of the new Triceratops Trail Guide.
A \$2,000 grant to help with the printing of a Junior Paleontologist Activity Guide.
2. **D'Evelyn Junior/Senior High School** received \$523.62 toward the purchase of lapidary and field collecting equipment. A new program at the school includes information and activities in the earth science and the "rock hounding" hobby. The grant money will be used to purchase lapidary equipment for a new lapidary arts program. Members of the Denver Gem and Mineral Guild have spearheaded the development and continuation of this program. Attendance in the program has ranged up to 28 students who are very enthusiastic about the new program.
3. **Mineralogy and Museum Conference**-receive \$500 to assist with the funding of the M&M6 meetings for museum curators that were held at the Colorado School of Mines Green Center in September, 2008. The money was used to provide transportation for the attendees to events at a variety of locations.
4. **Platte River Academy Charter School** received \$400 to purchase items to support a paleontology program at the school to help the students prepare for the Science Olympiad.
5. **Newsletter Grant to 9 clubs** – Each of the nine area clubs can receive a \$250 grant from the Council to help defray their newsletter expenses. The prerequisite to receive this grant is for the club to have a representative attend all four Council meetings in 2008. Nine clubs met this requirement in 2008. The total amount of grants to clubs was \$2250. Total funding for all approved grant requests in 2008 was \$8173.62. The money for these grants comes from the profit of the 2007 Denver Gem and Mineral Show. March of 2009 will be the next time the Council will accept and review new grant requests. Grant information and the application form is available at: denvermineralshow.com.

Submitted by Janie Bennett, Council Secretary

Denver Gem & Mineral Show Mini Report January, 2009

Don't forget the dates for the Denver Gem & Mineral Show – September 18 – 20, 2009. The theme this year is a fossil theme, "Fossils – Windows to the Past". There has not been a fossil theme since 1998 so it is sure to bring many interesting and incredible exhibits to the show. The paleontology field is expanding by leaps and bounds with all the new discoveries being made around the world (feathers on dinosaurs, birds are dinosaurs!). Museums, dealers and exhibitors will surely have some of these new developments at the show to expand our knowledge and understanding.

The Denver show is a club show, meaning it is sponsored by the nine local gem, mineral, fossil and bead clubs through the Greater Denver Area Gem and Mineral Council. As a club show, all of the work to plan, set up and run the show is done by volunteers. Volunteers come from the clubs and the show depends upon having enough. Usually it takes about 400-500 volunteers total to do this job. That is a lot of people. The volunteer sign up sheets will be circulated at your club soon so please sign up to help with the show. It may be a little bit of time and work but you will enjoy it. There are many easy jobs and a few not so easy. But without the volunteers there would be no show, and then we would all lose out on this wonderful event for our hobby that we love.

The planning for the show is done by the Show Committee, which consists of about 30 volunteers from the clubs. The committee is always in need of new members and new ideas. Right now a Special Exhibits Chair is needed. This is the person who organizes the exhibits and is the contact person for the exhibit sponsors, including the museums. There is also a need for a few persons to help with Set Up and Tear Down. These are important jobs to ensure the show is set up according to the plans at the beginning and then put away orderly at the end. There are current committee members who will help you with these positions. If you think you might be that special person for these jobs, please contact your club representative to the Show Committee (each club has one; if you don't know who your club representative is, ask at your next meeting!) or the Show Chair Barb Melby at 303-423-5876. Being involved with the show is fun and you will be glad you did it.

Respectfully submitted, Judy Knoshaug, Secretary

Denver Gem & Mineral Show Scholarship Recipient Thank You

Remember all those grab bags that your club worked so hard to provide for the Denver Gem & Mineral Show? The ones with the ten separately bagged and labeled specimens in them. The proceeds from the sale of the grab bags provide a scholarship to a Colorado School of Mines geology student. Following is the thank you that was recently received from one of the recipients.

Greater Denver Area Gem & Mineral Council,

August 11, 2008

Thank you for your financial support for this year's field camp. Your generosity really helped to off-set many of the expenses this spring from tuition and fees to gas. It all adds up. I really appreciate your efforts to make this experience more affordable. Thanks again. Tyler Benton, CSM Senior

MINERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

March 14-15 Mineral Sale Bill Hayward, a long-time mineral collector, especially in the Pikes Peak area, is having a spring sale at his house. Lots of crystals and minerals for sale Items from Red Feathers Lake and Crystal peak. Some new stuff. Address: 3286 Quitman, Denver, CO; for more information, call **Bill at 303-455-1977**.

Equipment Sale Chuck Allen

Equipment very clean and really good condition:

Highland Park A-50 combination unit mounted on bench with motor and many peripherals ...\$800

Highland Park 10" Trim Saw mounted on bench with motor ...\$150

Raytech Gem Saw L-65 mounted but not on a bench with motor... \$50

Diamond Pacific Genie Unit model 77-863... \$800

10"X1 1/2" 100 grit grinding wheels for \$25 each

1" black 100 grit wheels for \$20 each.

1000 grit at \$5 per pound.

If interested: **Call Chuck Allen at 720-922-2906**

The Rocky Mountain Micromineral Association

On August 10, 2008 The Colorado School of Mines Geology Museum hosted a special event drawing 20 micromineral enthusiasts for an afternoon of conversation, distribution of surplus micro material, and exploration of the potential for an ongoing group. At this meeting the Rocky Mountain Micromineral Association (RMMA) was formed.

The RMMA is a fellowship whose purpose is to promote micromineral study, the preservation, mounting and cataloging of specimens, education and good will among its members. Members are encouraged to share knowledge, techniques and supplies with other members.

The monthly Association meetings, hosted by the Colorado School of Mines Geology Museum, are very heavily oriented towards the hands-on use of microscopes. It is common to see small groups of people assembled all over the rooms discussing and attempting to identify their latest acquisitions. You will find most of the more experienced members willing to identify (or at least pass an opinion) on mineral samples.

The RMMA may periodically have field trips to locations known for micro minerals.

The RMMA may also, in conjunction with the Colorado School of Mines [Geology](#) Museum, sponsor events such as a spring micromineral symposium.

Adopted Feb. 8, 2008

Apropos April Adventures

Your club members are invited to the Colorado School of Mines Geology Museum's first "Garage Sale." This event will occur on April 18, 2009 from 9 A.M. until 4 P.M. in our Museum at 1310 Maple Street (southwest corner of 13th and Maple Streets), on our campus in Golden, CO. There will be a wide assortment of rocks, lapidary equipment, furniture, and miscellaneous items that were excavated during spring cleaning of one of our warehouses. Our Gift Shop will have a 20% off sale on our entire stock that day. Additionally, we will be dedicating our newest treasure, a fabulous mineral donation from the Oreck family. Weekend parking is usually never a problem. A map is provided below.

This is one way that our Museum recognizes the philanthropy that the Denver area mineral clubs extend to our students in the form of various scholarships, from the proceeds of the Denver Gem and Mineral Show. Don't miss the fun. For further information, please phone Bruce Geller at 303-273-3823.



EXHIBITING and JUDGING SEMINAR

Instructor: Jordan Sawdo

April 18 2009, 10:00 to 3:30 PM (Bring sack lunch)

Location: Adams County Museum 9601 Henderson Road (ADCO Fairgrounds)

This will be a great primer for the novice and a good way to learn how to trade up and improve collecting skills. This is open to all varieties of collectors with the afternoon emphasis on judging and fossil judging.

The 2009 Denver Show theme is "FOSSILS WINDOWS TO THE PAST" and hence we are in need of anyone interested in the skills of judging, or clerking. There will be some specifics related to fossils. There will be hand outs, websites for downloading, and hands on activities.

Benefit from 45 years of judging and exhibiting experience, have some fun in learning new skills that will improve your collection. First time and noncompetitive exhibitors this is a great opportunity for you.

Confirm to me in writing or E-Mail _jordanruth@msn.com or specific questions call 303-452-7792 Thanks and regards, Jordan

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. Also if you only want a paper newsletter but are presently receiving an email newsletter, let your editor know also.

Coming Events;

Jan. 23 through May 32, "On High, Cartography of Topography", a special exhibit at the Bradford Washburn American Mountaineering Museum, at the American Mountaineering Center, 710 10th Street, Golden. "Regular admission (\$6.50) applies"; see <http://www.bwamm.org/index.php>

March 14-15, WIPS (Western Interior Paleontological Society) Founders' Symposium, Paleoclimates: Exploring Past Environments. At the American Mountaineering Center, Golden; lectures on Saturday plus site visit field trips to NOAA and NCAR, Boulder, on Sunday Mar. 15. For more info see <http://www.wipsppc.com/symposium.php#speakers>

March 27-29, Fri.-Sat.-Sun., Gem and Mineral Show sponsored by the **Fort Collins Rockhounds Club**, at Lincoln Center, 417 W. Magnolia St., Fort Collins; see <http://www.fortcollinsrockhounds.org/>

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