



Friends of Mineralogy, Colorado Chapter Newsletter – September 2009

Next meeting September 10th, 2009 (*Board meeting 6:45-7:30*)

FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY PROGRAM FOR SEPTEMBER

“The current plight of uranium deposits and mining in the world”

by Karen Wenrich

Dr. Karen Wenrich, a long-time FM and Colorado Chapter member, is a specialist in the geology and mineralogy of uranium deposits. Karen, retired from the USGS, has done extensive studies on the breccia-pipe uranium deposits of northern Arizona (of which the Grandview mine is one example) and elsewhere. Karen was the discoverer of the cesium-uranium mineral, margaritasite, described from Chihuahua, Mexico in 1982. Subsequently Karen spent several years working for the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna, Austria, as their geologist in charge of studying worldwide uranium resources. As an IAEA staff member she shared in their receipt of the 2005 Nobel Peace Prize “For their efforts to prevent nuclear energy from being used for military purposes and to ensure that nuclear energy for peaceful purposes is used in the safest possible way”.

This summer, Karen testified before the U.S. House Natural Resources Committee about a proposed bill that would permanently bar the filing of new mining claims on 1.1 million acres of federal lands north and south of the Grand Canyon.

Karen’s talk will discuss uranium deposits in the U.S. and around the world, and the current market for uranium and the issues affecting uranium mining in this country and elsewhere.

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

MUSEUM MUSINGS;

CSM Geology Museum Open House

The CSM Geology Museum will be holding its annual open house at 13th and Maple Street from 6 P.M. to 9 P.M. on September 16th. There will be a cash bar and silent auction. Come see the five newest exhibits, Pyromorphites, The Climax Mine, 1859 Gold Rush, Scientific Instruments and finally Trilobites from Morocco. The gift shop will be open and features 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.

Phone inquiries can be directed to Bruce Geller at 303-273-3823.

Thanks,

Bruce Geller, Director

CSM Geology Museum

PRESERVATION COMMITTEE;

HISTORY OF THE GREATER DENVER AREA GEM AND MINERAL COUNCIL, DENVER GEM AND MINERAL SHOW, YOUR METRO CLUB AND HOW THEY ARE RELATED

Much of the early history of the show and council was not written down or archived in any organized way, and relies on the memories of some of the "old timers" who are still with us. We have tried to put this all in some perspective for club members.

The early years are vague. Mineral and gem shows have been held around Denver since the 1930's, when the Colorado Mineral Society sponsored shows at the Jefferson County Fairground. Other clubs in the metro area soon began to sponsor their own shows and some still do.

The first Council had been formed to bring the entire metro area into one club show and attract a larger crowd and more exhibits. The council and show committee consisted of a group of close friends with no real show experience. Each of us knew all the members and had no problems with working together to put on a big show. The members were usually chosen because they were the only ones to volunteer for the job. In the early years the council and the show committee were the same. A representative from each club, as the Club Liaison, was to be present at each of the Council/Show Committee meetings to help with the planning. Leadership succession had been established so that the Assistant Show Committee Chairman would be the Show Chairman the next year and then Vice President of the Council the next year and then President of the Council the 4th year. The secretary's records and treasurer's books for the show were the same as for the council. The Council at the time had one purpose: to put on a combined metro area show. We were all so unassuming and non-professional that the Council/Show Committee party each year would be held in the back room of the show on Saturday night with food trays and many cases of Champagne.

In 1968 the first Denver-area show was held at the Englewood High School combined with the Colorado Federation show. This was the first time an invitation was issued to the Smithsonian. Six member clubs were involved: Flatirons Mineral Club, Gates Mineral Club, Colorado Mineral Society, Mile High Rock and Mineral Society, Littleton Gem and Mineral Club, and Denver Gem and Mineral Guild. After this year shows were held at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds.

In 1971 Council was incorporated as the "Federated Gem and Mineral Council." At this time the Council decided that the fairgrounds were no longer appropriate for the show, so the show was moved to the Adams County Fairgrounds.

In 1972 the Council asked for and received the American Federation Show for 1975. The show stayed at Adams County Fairgrounds until the 1975 National Show. In 1975 the Denver Gem and Mineral Council was incorporated.

Plans were made for the Federation show to be held in Currigan Hall but concerns about cost, parking and the suitability of the site led to a last minute change to the Hall of Education at the National Western Stock Show Complex. It was a good show and well-attended, but a combination of factors: changed location, a gasoline crisis, higher-than-expected expenses, and perhaps some mismanagement, led to a financial failure, and an \$8,000.00 loss for the show.

Faced with such a large debt, many groups would have given up but a handful of the show committee members refused to be defeated. They raised money from area clubs and individuals, sold some of their cases and found a new location for the annual show. The new Denver Merchandise Mart Exposition Hall had great amenities and with a great deal of hard work by a small committee, enough dealers were convinced to return to Denver in 1976 to have a viable show. From this shaky start came the show as we know it today.

In 1985 there were eight clubs in the Council, as well as a President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary. The show committee was not officially represented, but a few Council members also served on the Committee. Council meetings were open to other interested parties, but were fairly informal and usually held at the home of the President. The casual attitude led to problems. Papers were not filed correctly so the Denver Gem and Mineral Council corporate status was not renewed. The corporate status lapsed in 1981 and was revoked in 1985. This brought to the attention of members that other things needed to be corrected in the organization.

During an internal investigation to find out why the Council's incorporation had been allowed to lapse it was determined that the Show Committee treasurer, who was also the registered agent for the corporation, had not only failed to file incorporation papers, but had also apparently been embezzling money from the show committee for many years.

In April, the Council met to re-establish their incorporation. The name was changed to the Greater Denver Area Gem & Mineral Council because another party had already registered the name, Denver Gem and Mineral Council. New officers were elected for the balance of the year, incorporation under the new name was agreed upon, and the relevant paperwork signed. Work was begun on a new set of bylaws.

At this point things became more complicated, as members of the show committee who were concerned about the legal status of the Council, had acted to incorporate a separate entity (Denver Gem and Mineral Show). A resolution in May 1985 agreed that the Council would work with the Denver Gem and Mineral Show to produce the 1985 show and would strive to merge the two organizations in 1986. In 1986 the Council and Show formally merged with Council being the corporate body. Under the new by-laws, the relationship of the Council and the Show Committee was better defined. The annual show budget had to be approved by Council. The Show Chair was to be a member of the Council. The treasury (both Council & Show) was to be subject to an annual professional audit, and two signatures were required on checks to avoid any misdirection of funds. The by-laws have been amended, three times in the succeeding years, to more accurately reflect actual operations.

A CPA was hired to review the accounts of Council and Show Committee. It was noted by the CPA that there was no particular control over deposits or disbursements and proposed the check request form that is still in use. Tighter control of finances was definitely needed and many of the CPA's suggestions were adopted.

From this shaky start came the show as we know it today. Concurrent satellite shows started around 1984 and the Denver show really took off, finally attracting national museums and international visitors. Many of the long-time show committee members objected to the satellite shows but the wheels were set in motion and not to be stopped.

The current council consists of four elected officers (President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer, and one trustee from each of the nine member clubs. In addition to overseeing the budget and functions of the Show Committee, the Council receives requests for grants and acts to disburse the proceeds of each annual show. It is also responsible for long-range planning to ensure that the Council and Show Committee are prepared for future needs.

I want to remind all of the club members that our Council has been through many periods of disruption and has survived. It needs to be stressed that a successful show requires participation, cooperation and constant vigilance. By-laws and established procedures exist for a reason. Independent oversight of the Show Committee by the Council is necessary to ensure that individual special interests and pet projects don't consume too much of the show budget. Job descriptions are necessary so that when a Committee member leaves the committee the person replacing them can take over with minimal stress. The long-range planning committee was established to consider grant requests, so that money was not just disbursed at random but is used appropriately.

The Denver Gem and Mineral Show Committee meets the first Tuesday of each month (except December and February) and Council meets quarterly on various dates during the year. Both meet at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. New ideas and new faces are always welcome and all meetings are open to club members.

I want to thank Bill Harrison, Jim Hurlbut, Jordan Sawdo for information provided and I especially want to thank Regina Aumente for her input, critiquing and help with finalization of this article.

“THANKS OLD TIMERS!”

Maxine Sheel

Operating Procedures Chairperson of Denver Gem and Mineral Show Committee

Quotes;

Found on the internet;

Protect rare coprolites, they're an endangered feces.

“We learn geology the morning after the earthquake.”

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

“A cultivated man, wise to know and bold to perform, is the end to which nature works, and the education of the will is the flowering and result of all this geology and astronomy.”

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

“With their four-dimensional minds, and in their interdisciplinary ultra verbal way, geologists can wiggle out of almost anything.”

-John McPhee

From the editor;

PEGMATITE PROMISES

Prospecting enriches us all....

The Hobbyist, his collection he'll obsess
The Gemologist, new rough will prosper
The Mineralogist, new minerals to assess
The Crystallographer, conundrums he'll decipher

The Earth offers her gift....

The plants align with unseen structure
The ground swells due to hidden rock
The broken earth with fault and fracture
The prospector hears this whispered talk

The Pegmatite....

Earth is moved off the ancient ground
The odor connects with the distant past
Rock shows that crystal texture is found
Pegmatite, near surface, no need to blast

The Pocket....

Mud is found, soft, silky and moist
At first a small gap in the wall of rock
The hole opens further and is rejoiced
Crystals stand tall on unbroken block

The Crystals....

Seen at first by sense of touch
The long smooth sides excites the mind
Flesh is cut extracting toll
Light shines on the discoverers find

Reclaim the land...

Shadows of what has past
Are all that should be visible
Fill the hole and to make it last
Enjoy your new found crystal.

Request for volunteers to help at our Mineral Identification booth.

Request for volunteers to help at my (USGS-sponsored) "Kids' Corner" booth, to help talk about and demonstrate rocks, minerals, fossils, geology, and earthquakes to kids at the show? contact me, pmodreski@usgs.gov or 303-202-4766. Many thanks,

Pete

MINERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Theft Reported at Smoky Hawk Mine

Date: Sat, 18 Jul 2009

Subject: Stolen Pocket

Hello Folks,

Between evening 16 July and morning 17 July thieves dug two pockets on the Smoky Hawk mine. The specimens are large smokies up to 4 or possibly 5 inches with tapering terminations and 2 to 3 inch amazonites. There may be some combos. The pockets were discovered late on the 16th and inspected for contents. We were saving them for filming by Blue Cap Productions. The amazonites are typical Smoky Hawk "green" and the smokies were satin luster. It is possible there were only a few good pieces as the two pockets were relatively small. I believe there were two diggers and that they walked in.

They may attempt to contact you with these specimens for sale. They may or may not be cleaned by the time they try to market them. We do have some pieces from the pockets and can make a positive identification. It is possible we also have some "fits" to the stolen pieces. I would appreciate and welcome any information regarding this theft or even if you have ideas as to who might be in the Crystal Creek area actively highgrading claims.

Thanks.

Joe Dorris

(719)685-4479.

Upcoming shows;

The 42nd Annual Denver Gem and Mineral Show

Show Hours

Friday, September 18, 9am - 6pm

Saturday, September 19, 10am - 6pm

Sunday, September 20 September 18 - 20, 2009 "Fossils - Windows to the Past", 10am - 5pm

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.

Colorado Fossil Expo

Show Hours

Friday, September 18, 9am - 6pm

Saturday, September 19, 10am - 6pm

Sunday, September 20 September 18 - 20, 2009 "Fossils - Windows to the Past", 10am - 5pm

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.

The Denver Coliseum Mineral, Fossil, Gem, and Jewelry Show

September 16 - 20, 2009 (Wednesday to Sunday)

10 am - 6 pm daily, except Sunday 10 am - 4 pm

Admissions \$4.00

Bead Renaissance Show

Crowne Plaza formerly Holiday Inn I - 70 and Chambers Rd. exit 283 Denver, CO 80239

Sept. 17 - 20, 2009

Thurs. 10 - 6 - Fri. 10 - 6

Sat. 10 - 6 - Sun. 10 - 5

Open to the Public - Admission Free

Wholesale and Retail

Colorado Mineral & Fossil Show (Fall), Denver, CO

September 16–20, 2009

Free shuttle bus to shows at the Denver Merchandise Mart.

10 a.m.–6 p.m. Wednesday – Saturday, 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Sunday

Free Admission. Free parking.

Holiday Inn -- Denver Central, 4849 Bannock St., Denver CO. Located at the intersection of I-25 and I-70.

Great American Gem Show

date: 09/16/2009 - 09/20/2009

time: Sept. 16-Sept. 19: 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Sept. 20: 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

location: Quality Inn/Central Denver

address: 200 W. 48th Ave. Denver, Colorado 80216

The International Gem & Jewelry Show

When: 09/18/2009 - 09/20/2009

Wholesale Only

Location: Denver Merchandise Mart, Denver, CO

Denver Expo Gem Mineral Fossil & Bead Show

16-20--DENVER, COLORADO: Wholesale and retail show, National Western Complex, 4655 Humboldt St.;

Wed. 10-7, Thu. 10-7, Fri. 10-7, Sat. 10-7, Sun. 10-4; free admission, open to the public; gems, minerals, fossils, beads, jewelry.

Miners Cooperative Mineral Show

Southeast Corner of 58th Ave. & Logan St.; 480 E. 58th Ave., Denver, CO 80216

Dates: September 12-14, 2008

Hours: 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

Meeting Dates for 2009

The dates for our next 2009 meetings will be Sept 10 and November 5th.

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.

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