



Friends of Mineralogy, Colorado Chapter Newsletter – May 2010

Next meeting May 13th then our summer break followed by September 9th, 2010 at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science

2001 Colorado Blvd., Denver, CO

[Enter the museum via the staff/security entrance, to the left of the main entrance doors on the north side of the museum. Security staff will direct you to the V.I.P. Room, which is to the left, past the T-Rex Cafeteria area.].

(Board meeting 6:45-7:30)

FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY PROGRAM FOR MAY 2010

Thursday, May 13, 7:30 p.m.

Mineral Pigments in Art, from Prehistory to the Present

By Fred Olsen

Fred Olsen is well-known to most Denver mineral collectors for his diverse interests in minerals and geology, which include minerals, meteorites, astronomy, volcanoes, and world travel, to name a few. Fred is a member of several mineral clubs, including the Denver Gem and Mineral Guild and the Colorado Meteorite Society; he has prepared numerous exhibits and given many talks to local groups on a variety of topics.

Fred's talk on this date will be about one of his interests, the history of the use of natural mineral pigments in art. Ground minerals were the original and prime source of color in art, from ancient times until the last century or two. Fred says that his interest in mineral pigments became serious as a consequence of his study of the Ensisheim meteorite. The 250-pound "Thunderstone of Ensisheim" fell on November 7, 1492 in Ensisheim, Alsace (then, Germany, now, a part of France) and led to the acceptance—as least in some parts of Europe—of the idea that rocks really *could* fall from the sky. Fred's examination of a colored woodcut print of the fall of the Ensisheim meteor (see one rendition, printed here) let him to try producing his own version of this print using authentic methods of the time, including self-prepared natural mineral pigments to color it. Fred will tell all this and more about the use of minerals as pigments throughout history, from rock and cave art through the Old Masters and beyond, in his talk to our group.

You are all invited to bring to the meeting your own choice crystal specimens of cinnabar, hematite, azurite, malachite, lapis, greenockite, and more, to see if Fred would like to borrow, crush, and grind them up for use in his future painting experiments.



Some Notes from the President;

A summer field trip? Our Chapter has not been noted for holding field trips on a regular basis; most members do this sort of thing on their own, and/or belong to other mineral clubs that are more focused on holding regular field trips. On rare occasions we have had trips in some past years, as well as making them part of our field symposiums, such as at our Leadville symposium in 2007.

I have been thinking about planning a one-day field trip for some time this summer, probably in late July or August. My idea is to visit several “old time”, seldom-visited localities, mainly in and around Clear Creek County. I wouldn’t promise extensive collecting of quality specimens; this would be more of an exploring trip, a chance to learn about some “different” kinds of mineral occurrences “of mineralogical and historic interest”, and to visit some places described in Minerals of Colorado but not often frequented by collectors. Members are invited to speak to me at our next meeting (or any other time) about this, or write via email, if you would be interested in such a trip. If we go ahead with plans for such a trip we’ll probably share the date and details via email during the summer so if you are not in touch with us by email, please let me know you are interested and we’ll be sure to keep you informed by other means.

Programs at our FM meetings: At our past few meetings, I had announced my intention of having a series of speakers who could talk about their personal experiences regarding specimen-mining activities in Colorado. We’ve only had one such talk so far, Joseph Dorris’ excellent program back in November. Our last two programs have departed from this theme, BUT I hope to continue it in the fall—please keep this in mind and don’t be afraid to contact me with suggestions along these lines, or your own personal offer of a talk.

Denver Gem and Mineral Show: You'll read several items elsewhere in this newsletter about the coming show, Sep. 17-19. I'd just like to put in some additional plugs/reminders about the show, for which as I'm sure you know, "Creede" is the theme:

Contact us (or the show committee, directly) if you want to enter an exhibit in the show.

PLEASE consider signing up to volunteer your help at any of these for the show:

Our FM-sponsored Mineral Identification Booth

The Kid's Corner hands-on activity table for kids (I, Pete, am the contact for this)

All the other show tasks that need volunteers (admissions, check-in, security, judging, setup and takedown, etc.

--- Pete Modreski, Chapter President

2010 FMCC Board of Directors:

President, Pete Modreski , 303-202-4766

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Membership/Hospitality

Preservation, Jeff Self and Donna Ware

Program, Pete Modreski, 303-202-4766

Editor, Bill Hutchinson, 303-452-9009

Liaison for DMNS, Alan Keimig 303-755-9604

From the editor;

Well I've made it into the field for two mineral collecting trips with good results. The family took a trip to Grand Junction and Utah in April (we left during the heavy Tuesday snowstorm) and we spent a day at the Book Cliffs. It was a perfect day. The temperature was warm with no wind and beautiful skies. We quickly broke into a pocket and spent a couple of hours pulling mainly small crystals out with a couple of large groups. One is what we call the tiara which fits onto a piece of matrix that has an inoceramus fossil on it. We brought back three flats of loose crystals and eight plates of crystals on matrix. No real museum pieces but a very worthwhile dig.

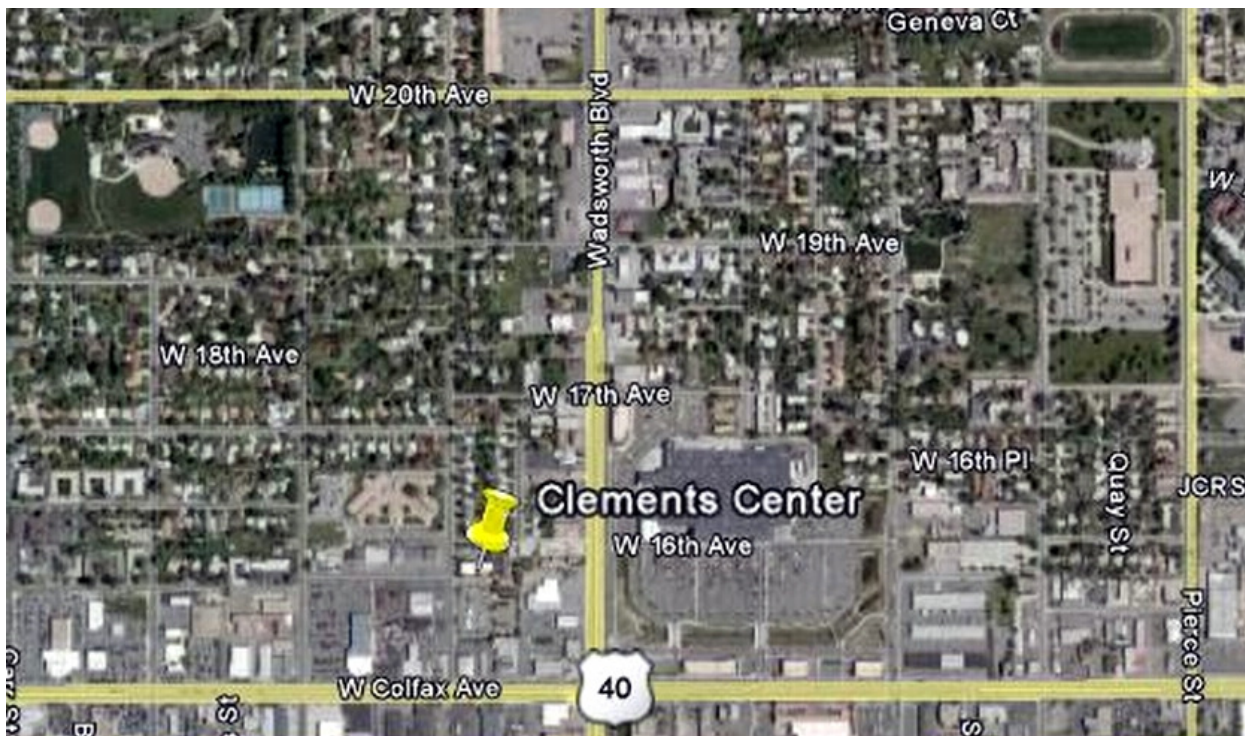
North Table Mountain; My son William who works at the School of Mines Geology Museum and has been my collecting companion since he was ten, had never collected Zeolites. After an hour or so of the usual banging on rock, we were left with little to show for all our hard work. I looked for a something that might produce a large pocket and spotted a very large 6'x6'x5' boulder with multiple large exposed pockets on it. A very small hairline fracture ran across the boulder. I decided to put my smallest chisel on the fracture line and give it a small tap. Much to my surprise the hairline increased ever so slightly. I began working the crack with three screwdrivers that I use for narrow cracks and it continued to open. I convinced William to come up and help split the huge rock with our 2 medium chisels, one small chisel, four screw drivers, 2 rock hammers and two three pound hand sledges. It took hours to finally split the rock but it wouldn't separate due to how it was sitting. We managed to get a large keystone wedge out and at the tip was evidence of a pocket. As we looked down into the boulder, there was a pocket about 14" long by 8" wide and 6-8" deep. Four Thomsonite specimens were recovered each about 2 1/2 to 3" across, Analcime crystals to 1 1/2" across, plates of crystals with small calcites everywhere. It was the best I have ever done on North Table Mountain. A spectacular pocket for the locality. The largest plate we recovered is about 10" long by 4-5" wide. A bed of Chabazites with Analcimes , Calcites and some Thomsonite perched on what was a wall segment of the pocket.

FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY COLORADO CHAPTER SILENT AUCTION May 15th

The 2010 Silent Auction will be held at the same place as last year, the Clements Center, 1580 Yarrow Street near the intersection of Colfax and Wadsworth. Many mineral specimens, books and other mineral related paraphernalia will be available to bid on. The silent portion of the auction will be tables set up with specimens with bid sheets. The tables will be closed in an organized manner and they will be removed to tally the bids. The verbal auction will be held during this time and the specimens will be shown around the room to anyone wishing to bid on some of the better offerings at the auction.

Set-up will be at 11:00 to noon; Auction begins at 12:00; Auction is over at 3:00

Members are asked to bring finger foods and refreshments.



On the following page are bid slips for your convenience.

Silent Auction: Friends of Mineralogy
Colorado Chapter

Seller to complete first 3 items below
And fill in specimen description at top &
bottom of slip.

1. Minimum Bid _____
2. Seller # _____
(assigned at check-in)
3. Amount donated to FM (circle one)
20% 50% 100%

Description: _____

Final bid \$ _____

To FM \$ _____ **to Seller**
\$ _____

Bidder Number	Bid Amount		Bidder Number	Bid Amount

Buyer's receipt

Description of auction item: _____

Final Bid Amount \$ _____

Silent Auction: Friends of Mineralogy
Colorado Chapter

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3. Amount donated to FM (circle one)
20% 50% 100%

Description: _____

Final bid \$ _____

To FM \$ _____ **to Seller**
\$ _____

Bidder Number	Bid Amount		Bidder Number	Bid Amount

Buyer's receipt

Description of auction item: _____

Final Bid Amount \$ _____

PRESERVATION COMMITTEE:

THE FUTURE OF OUR COLLECTIONS

by Jeff Self & Donna Ware

Friends of Mineralogy Colorado Chapter
Preservation Committee

One of the most overlooked, even ignored, aspects of mineral collecting is what happens to our collections after we are gone. What to us is a treasure to be studied, admired, even gloated over may be perceived by our heirs or the executor of our estates as no more than annoying dusty rocks, taking up space and cluttering up the place. We need to be aware that we are custodians for our collections and plan ahead for their future.

We have personally climbed into dumpsters to rescue collections destined for the nearest landfill. These pieces were not thrown away out of spite but because they were seen as Granddad's (Grandma's) dusty boxes of rocks. Unfortunately Granddad had left no instructions for his family as to what to do with his collection. They had no idea of the value of the pieces, scientifically, financially or otherwise. The specimens had no labels with them to identify them or show where they came from. To the uninitiated they were only clutter to be disposed of.

One of the first points to be considered to help protect our pieces is labeling. A well labeled specimen is less likely to be thrown out and is far more valuable than an unlabeled one. On the back of the label you might want to write how much the piece cost and the date of purchase. This makes it easier for others to realize these pieces should be dealt with appropriately. For self collected pieces an approximate value should be recorded as well.

The next step to be considered is the disposition of the collection. What happens to our treasures when we are gone?

If you leave the collection to a museum there are several things to consider. Museums do not have a lot of space to store material. They tend to take the pieces they are most interested in and dispose of the rest. If a museum is to inherit the collection be sure to give them permission to do with it as they see fit. That way they can add the appropriate pieces to their collection then sell the rest in their gift shop and/or trade for specimens they are attempting to acquire. This enriches and improves the museum. Be sure to talk to the curator of minerals at your museum of interest and see if they would be amenable to this.

Many of your more common specimens can be given to schools to help educate children about minerals. Small quartz crystals, feldspars, calcites, etc., are always needed by schools. The U.S. Geological Survey often has need of just such pieces that they give out in teacher kits. Also many mineral clubs make Grab Bags for kids and they are always looking for more small pieces.

Another thing to consider is family and friends. Is there any one you would like to have "caretake" any of your pieces? Give this a great deal of thought. Some people may seem like they would be good candidates but they may only be saying what you wish to hear. Do they truly love the minerals or do they just love you and will say anything you wish to hear. "Gee these rocks are really neat".

Another issue is the matter of perceived value. We once were asked to evaluate some pieces from an estate that a nephew was wanting for himself. The rest of the family wanted anything he got to be taken out of his share of the estate. They believed the pieces he wanted must be incredibly valuable. The true value was far below the "wow" price. If the pieces had purchase prices on the back of the labels it would have saved everyone involved a lot of heartache.

Do not forget anyone you may have been working with when you found some of the specimens. (self collected). Be sure any and all bequests are mentioned in the will. A verbal agreement may not be enough.

Another option is to leave instructions to sell the collection (or part of it) to a reputable mineral dealer. Many dealers do buy collections. Consider leaving a list of mineral dealers who may be interested in your collection. Mineral dealers do have to make a profit so the price offered will be quite a bit below the full retail value. But this does tend to deal with the entire collection in one fairly painless transaction.

Or you can deal with part or all of the collection while you are still around. While this may not be an option for some due to the unhappiness not having the pieces would cause, this may be the simplest solution. You

would get to enjoy the look on the faces of your friends and family when you give them the piece or pieces you wish them to have. You can give pieces to a museum and enjoy the pride of having given to them. There is also the possibility of selling the collection yourself. Possibly by setting up as a mineral dealer. However the cost of doing shows can be prohibitive, a large investment in time and money. Sale to a mineral dealer may still be the best option. You might be able to take that money and have the vacation you always wanted.

These points are applicable to more than just minerals. Anything we collect should be considered as well: Books, antiques, mining memorabilia, family heirlooms, etc. Anything we care for and enjoy should have some thought put into its disposition.

CREEDE SYMPOSIUM;

Update. At the April show we passed out all 150 flyers for the symposium. Lou sent me a message that we already have paying customers. It all bodes quite well for a successful symposium.

SEPTEMBER 10-12, 2010

CREEDE, MINERAL COUNTY, COLORADO

Registration Form

_____ Name
_____ Company Name
_____ Mailing Address
_____ City/State/Zip
_____ Phone
_____ E-mail address

Please check only one entree:

Beef___Salmon___Chicken___

Optional Banquet Dinner \$26.00 (**tentative price**)

Symposium registration fees are to be announced, but they are expected to be **in the range of \$50.00 per person**. There will be a small additional fee for optional visits to the Creede Underground Museum (www.creede.com/mining_museum.htm). Registration does **not** include lodging, and is limited to the first 75 individuals, due to space limitations.

For more information, or to remit checks for registration +/- banquet fees:

Lou Conti

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Littleton, CO 80120

dlconti@aol.com

303-797-3205

MINERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Obituary;

We are all very sorry to here of the passing of Larry Haven's wife Kathy. The Haven family has been very active in the Friends of Mineralogy with Larry holding many of the offices available to our members. We know that he has been very busy caring for her. Our thoughts and prayers are with them as they work through the loss of a loved one.

HAVENS,KATHY

Kathy Havens of Denver. Passed away April 16, 2010 at home, "Wife of Larry. Mother of Mark (Tricia), Kent (Audrey) and Leigh Ann Duda, Grandmother of 5, Visitation, Wednesday, 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm, Archdiocese of Denver Mortuary. Mass of Christian Burial, Thursday, 10:30 am, Most Precious Blood, 2200 S. Colorado Blvd., Denver. Private family entombment Mount Olivet Cemetery, In lieu of flowers, donation may be made to Denver Dumb Friends League.

COMING EARTH SCIENCE-RELATED EVENTS, MAY-SEP 2010

Thur., May 13, talk on “**The History of Mineral Pigments**” by Fred Olsen, 7:30 p.m., at the meeting of the Friends of Mineralogy, Colorado Chapter; Denver Museum of Nature and Science, V.I.P. Room (use Staff/Security Door to the left of the main entrance); all are welcome to attend.

Fri., May 14, Denver Gem & Mineral Guild, Silent Auction, 7:30 pm at the Geology Building, Berthoud Hall, Room 108, 1516 Illinois Street, Colorado School of Mines, Golden. “We will start the evening with a brief meeting, then verbal sale in the main meeting room. Then we trek to the other end of the hall to Room 129 where the silent auction specimens will be laid out, awaiting bids!” All interested persons are welcome.

Sat., May 15, Friends of Mineralogy Silent Auction, to be held at Clement Community Center, 1580 Yarrow St. (near Colfax & Wadsworth), Lakewood, noon to 3 p.m. All welcome!

Sat.-Sun., May 15-16, Cheyenne, Wyoming, “Capital City Rock & Gem Show” at the American Legion Hall, 2001 E. Lincolnway.

Thur., May 20, two talks on **Ductile and Brittle Structures, Kinematics, and Hydrothermal Alteration in the Central Colorado Front Range** by Jonathan Caine (USGS) and Zachary Wessel (CSU) at the monthly meeting of the Colorado Scientific Society; 7:00 p.m., Berthoud Hall, room 241(?), CSM campus, Golden.

Sat., June 19, Annual Mineral & Fossil Home Sale, at “GEOdyssey”. “All specimens are a minimum of 10% off, with bigger discounts for volume purchases... Drinks and snacks provided. 15339 West Ellsworth Drive, Golden; go south on Indiana St. from 6th Ave., into Mesa View Estates; turn right at the first street (McIntyre Circle) and right at the next street (Ellsworth Drive). We are about midway down the street on the left. 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; 303-279-5504.”

Fri-Sat., June 25-26, "South Park Symposium" on history and natural resources of South Park, to be held at Fairplay RE-2 School these two days. Talks will include local history and historic preservation, "Sheepherding", "South Park Salt Works 1862-1883", "Miner's Partner--the Burro", "Evolution of Colorado water use and laws", and an afternoon field trip to see Ice Age landforms in South Park. One can register for a half day, full day, or both days; complete 2-day registration is just \$15. Email pmodreski@usgs.gov for a copy of the program & registration flier.

Sat.-Sun., June 26-27, "Rock Fair" at the Western Museum of Mining & Industry, Colorado Springs, cosponsored by the Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society; a mini-mineral show with related activities, in tents outside the Museum. For more info see <http://wmmi.org/>.

Aug. 12-15, "Contin-Tail" mineral show and swap, Rodeo Grounds, Buena Vista, CO.

Aug 20-22, Lake George Gem & Mineral Show, Lake George, Park County, CO. For more info see <http://www.lggmclub.org/>.

Sep. 10-12, Creede, Colorado, Mineral Field Symposium, to be held in Creede, CO, sponsored by the Colorado Chapter, Friends of Mineralogy, and the Colorado School of Mines Geology Museum; a two-day symposium (plus Friday evening) with lectures and field trips. More information will be available soon; contact Lou Conti, dlconti@aol.com.

Sep 15-19, Colorado Mineral and Fossil Show, Holiday Inn - Denver Central, 4849 Bannock St.; free parking and admission, many mineral dealers; see http://www.mzexpos.com/colorado_fall.htm

Sep. 17-18, Denver Gem and Mineral Show, Denver Merchandise Mart, 58th Ave. at I-25 (exit 215). For more info see <http://www.denvermineralshow.com/>; combined with Colorado Fossil Expo. Dealers, many museum and club exhibits; admission charge; free parking. The theme of the 2010 show is "The Creede Mining District".

Meeting Dates for 2010

The date for our next 2010 meeting will be Sept 9th.

Membership in FMCC and National FM is \$13 for 2010. Payment by check can be sent to our Treasurer or any Board member.

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, please let your editor know.

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