



Friends of Mineralogy, Colorado Chapter Newsletter – January 2011

**Next meeting January 13th, 2011 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)

“Come and Share Your Stories and/or Specimens from the Past Year”

As we also did for last January’s meeting, our program will be to invite all to come and bring specimens to show that you have collected, otherwise acquired, or puzzled over in the past year; and/or, be prepared to tell any collecting stories, interesting anecdotes, tall tales, and reports of other mineral-related activities that you may have to share. We will all look forward to hearing what the rest of us have to relate! For those who might like to bring any visual aids, we will have both a digital projector and a 35mm slide projector set up and available, and we’ll endeavor to have at least some type of a glass-covered display case on hand in case any would like to bring fragile or valuable specimens to show.



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Program, Pete Modreski, 303-202-4766
Editor, Bill Hutchinson, 303-452-9009
Liaison for DMNS, Alan Keimig 303-755-9604

A Happy New Year to all!



TUCSON SHOW

Friends of Mineralogy Talks;

The 32st Annual FM-MSA-TGMS Tucson Mineral Symposium

Minerals of California

Saturday, February 12, 2011

Tucson Convention Center

10:00 a.m. Introductory Remarks (Symposium Co-Chairs: Julian C. Gray and Mark Mauthner)

10:05 a.m. The Oceanview Mine: Pala's Newest Gem (Mark Mauthner)

10:30 a.m. The California Blue Pegmatite (Rick Kennedy)

11:00 a.m. The Little Three pegmatite mine, Ramona, California (David London)

11:30 a.m. Curating the Carpenter Collection of Crestmore, California Minerals (Carl A. Francis and Tracy L.

Warmington)

12:00 p.m. Photographing the collection at the Harvard Mineralogical Museum (Jess T. Dugan and Eva Barajas)

12:30 p.m. The Discovery of the World's Finest Fresnoite (Scott Kleine)

PRESERVATION REPORT:

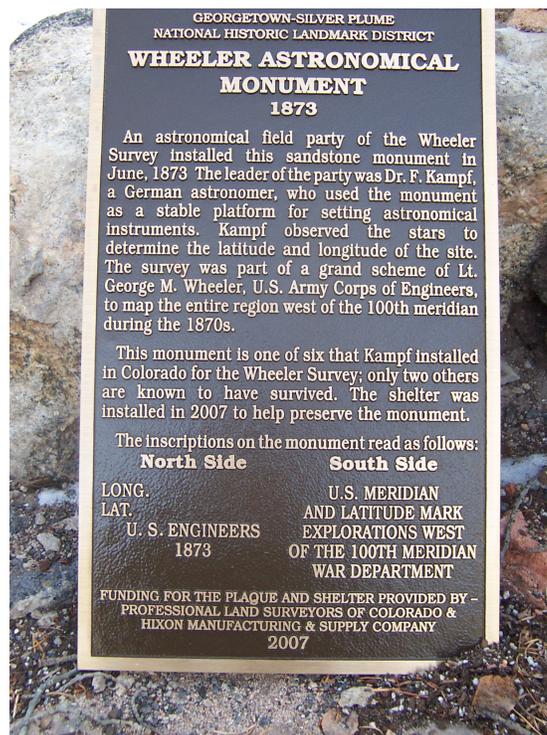
Star Crossings and Stone Monuments—Field Astronomy by the Wheeler Survey in 1870s

Colorado is a new USGS Circular (1362) just published. The author, William E. Wilson, is a retired (1993) hydrogeologist formerly with the USGS, who is an active member of Historic Georgetown, Inc. It describes the history and present state of three still-existing stone monuments, one in Georgetown, that were erected to mark the sites of astronomic observation stations established by the “United States Geographical Surveys West of the One Hundredth Meridian” led by Lt. George M. Wheeler in the 1870s.

Bill’s research into the history of these monuments makes for a fascinating report. He first learned of their existence by being curious about the notation “Astronomic Monument” shown on former and present topographic quadrangle maps of Georgetown. He visited the site of the Georgetown monument, which is on private land at the east edge of the town, and was able to locate the remains of two other monuments, at Julesburg and Trinidad. Three others once existed, plus one made just of brick, in Colorado Springs, “Hughes”, “Labran”, and South Pueblo, but no trace of them has been found. His work culminated in the raising of funds for the erection of a steel shelter to help protect the Georgetown monument from further weathering, as well as a new monumented plaque about the site. The Circular includes the story of Dr. F. Kampf, “Wheeler’s Astronomer in Colorado”, and about the controversy as to why the monuments, which were supposedly authorized to be made of “Maine Granite”, were instead made of sandstone from Colorado, which did not fare well in its exposure to weathering over the past 130-plus years.

Circular 1362, 38 pages and containing a number of B&W and color illustrations, can be viewed online at <http://pubs.usgs.gov/circ/1362/> or can be ordered from USGS Map Sales or obtained over-the-counter from the Map Store in Building 810 on the Federal Center. There is no charge for the circular, but a \$5 charge applies to mail orders.

--- Pete Modreski



From the editor;

Winter's Promise

Its the dead of winter and the earth seems glacial
yet crystals beckon to the heart of a rock hound.
The crystal on the shelf, its growth epitaxial,
memories of the extraction from fresh broken
ground.

Colorado's cold and icy grasp of the favorite
collecting sites
make patience not a virtue but an absolute necessity
an endless waiting for those elusive earth delights,
treasures from the pegmatite's diversity.

Soon enough, time will pass, ground will begin to
thaw,
the forest will once again welcome the rock hound.
Mineral clubs with shovels, picks and eyes in awe
as the first pocket is breached, all gather round.

And the frozen ground becomes a memory.

Yet summer passes and soon enough we will find
that the passage of time will decree
that icy locks will force us to leave it all behind,
that unfinished pocket bound by roots of a tree

and dream the dream of rock hounds far and wide
that next summer will be the one, long waited for
to break open that pocket, world class and bona fide
and becoming the subject of local rock lore.

William H Hutchinson Jan 2011



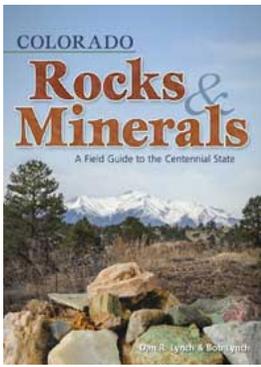
Colorado snow.



Editor's Aquamarine Mt Antero



Digging though roots on the Western Eagle II Claim



New Book: “Colorado Rocks & Minerals, A Field Guide to the Centennial State”

by Dan R. Lynch and Bob Lynch, Adventure Publications, Cambridge, MN; 2010, softcover, 280 p., \$14.95.

I learned of the existence of this book, to my surprise, by seeing it on the sales shelf at our USGS Map Store here in Building 810 on the Federal Center; the store is run by the Rocky Mountain Nature Association and it sells assorted maps, field guides, and other books and items not produced by the USGS. This book is a field guide in the sense that it is a pocket-size guide that describes many of the minerals—and rock types as well—found in Colorado, but it is not a “how to get there” locality guide. It is actually a very nicely done book. Each mineral (or rock, or mineral group) is given a pair of pages, with color photos (usually showing one, two, or three specimens) on one page and a text description on the facing page.

This publisher has produced a large number of similar field guides, covering many states and many nature topics; their intent was obviously to produce a mineral and rock field guide in a format comparable to the nature guides one sees for birds, wildflowers, etc. Guidebooks in their series already exist for Birds, Trees, Wildflowers, Fish, and Mammals of Colorado.

The photos are quite good, and they do indeed nicely illustrate the typical appearance of specimens found in Colorado. For example, the photos used for corundum are one showing elongate doubly-terminated crystals such as occur in schist in the Turret district, and one showing the small, dark blue hexagonal plates typical of the Calumet mine area. Acknowledgments for the information and photographs in the book include the authors’ thanks to George Robinson, Jim and Irene Witmer, Jennifer Klava, Brian Costigan, and Larry Costigan.

The book includes short introductory sections on collecting advice, Important Terms, Hardness and Streak, the Mohs scale, Quick Identification Guide, a Glossary, and a fairly long (8 page) section about Radioactive Minerals. Because it does not attempt to be a field guide to localities, the locality information is very limited and vague, and specific localities are not given for most of the specimens illustrated (though experienced collectors will recognize where they are from). For example, for rhodochrosite, under “Where to Look”, it simply says “Mine dumps in central Colorado’s mountainous region” (which I guess is true!), though the Sweet Home mine is mentioned in the text paragraph; and for epidote, it just says “Chaffee and Gunnison Counties”. This book was clearly intended for beginning collectors, so it’s not something that every “been there, done that” Colorado mineral collector will necessarily feel a need to buy a copy of—but it’s a well-done and enjoyable book, and it includes minerals such as, for example, creedite, pyrrargyrite, samarskite-(Y), volborthite, and zunyite, which one would not likely find in most introductory mineral books.

--- Pete Modreski

It's time  *for our 3rd*
Used Book Sale



CSM Museum



1310 Maple Street, Golden, CO

February 21-25, 2011
9 A.M. - 4 P.M. daily

Hundreds of books, journals, professional and hobbyist magazines, U.S.G.S. folios, maps, brochures, etc.

Prices individually marked. Most prices will be reduced 50% daily.

Information: 303-273-3815

MINERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Denver Gem & Mineral Show Mini Report January 2011

Planning for the 2011 Denver Gem & Mineral Show is well underway. Don't forget the dates – September 16 – 18, 2011. The Show Chair is Larry Havens of the Littleton Gem & Mineral Club (303-757-6577 or lghavens@aol.com). The show theme is Minerals of Russia. This theme is generating much excitement and interest about the show, especially in the publicity and exhibit areas. Some new avenues for publicity are being explored, and new ideas for exhibits are being pursued. If you have an interest in the show, consider joining the Show Committee. We are always looking for new members who wish to be involved to help plan and operate the show. Each club has a Show Committee Representative so talk to them about the show.

There are several new committee members at this time: Guy DiTorrice is the new Publicity Chair (541-961-1762 or guy@ditorrice.com), Richard Kerr the new Fluorescent Room Chair (303-627-9305), Marjorie Payne the new Historian (303-783-0221 or paynemarjorie@msn.com), Morgan Gray in Security (281-883-8412 or umlizeth@yahoo.com), and Bruce Brown is the Facebook Chair (303-691-6053 or Bbrown2345@aol.com). Yes, the show has a presence on Facebook! You too could join this group of people who help to make the show so great!

If you have any ideas for improving the show, feel free to talk to your club representative or any of the members on the Show Committee.

Respectfully submitted, Judy Knoshaug, Secretary

COMING EARTH SCIENCE-RELATED EVENTS,

Thurs., Jan. 13, 8:00 p.m., Colorado Scientific Society, Annual S.F. Emmons Lecture, 49th Annual S.F. Emmons Lecture: **Crete before the Cretans: Palaeolithic Mariners in the Mediterranean**, by Dr. Thomas F. Strasser, Associate Professor, Department of Art and Art History, Providence College, Rhode Island. Metal Hall, Green Center, Colorado School of Mines campus. No charge, and all are welcome. For more info see <http://www.coloscisoc.org/> or <http://www.coloscisoc.org/news/2010/Dec2010.CSSnews.pdf> (page 5).

Tues., Jan. 25, 10:30 a.m., USGS Rocky Mountain Area Seminar Series, **Spatial and Temporal Evolution of the Walker Lane-Eastern California Shear Zone: An Incipient Transform Fault along the Pacific-North American Plate Boundary**; by Jim Faulds, Univ. of Nevada, Bureau of Mines and Geology; Building 25 Lecture Hall, Denver Federal Center.

Tues., Jan. 25, 7:00 p.m., **"Death of a Megapredator"**; "Debunking, downsizing, and constraining the record of predation in the Paleozoic, with emphasis on showing that the famous predator Anomalocaris of Burgess Shale fame was not a ferocious trilobite-eater"; by Dr. Whitey Hagadorn, Denver Museum of Nature & Science; Friends of Dinosaur Ridge "Fireside Chat", held at the Lutheran Church of the Master, northeast corner of Bear Creek Parkway, West Jewell Ave and Alameda Parkway, Lakewood CO.

Also coming in 2011:

Feb. 12-13, WIPS (Western Interior Paleontological Society) Founders Symposium 2011, **"The West That Was, Exploring Colorado's Fossil Past"**; at the Green Center, CSM campus, Golden; preregister by Feb. 5; for program and more info see <http://www.westernpaleo.org/> .

Feb. 25-27, Denver Gem and Mineral Guild, **Jewelry Gem & Mineral Show**; Jefferson County Fairgrounds, 15200 W. 6th Ave. (Frontage Road), Golden, CO; 10-6 Fri., 10-6 Sat., 11-5 Sun.; "Free Parking and Free Admission". See <http://denvergem.org/Shows.html> for more info.

Mar. 25-27, Fort Collins Rockhounds Club Gem and Mineral Show at The Ranch in the Thomas M. McKee 4-H building, Larimer County Fairgrounds, 5280 Arena Circle, Loveland [new location for just this year; normally in downtown Fort Collins]. For more info see

<http://www.fortcollinsrockhounds.org/gemAndMineralShow.shtml> .

Meeting Dates for 2011

The dates for our 2011 meetings will be Jan 13, Mar 10, May 12*, Sep 8, Nov 17.

*held in the planetarium.

Membership in FMCC and National FM is \$13 for 2011.

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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