



Friends of Mineralogy, Colorado Chapter Newsletter – November 2011

Next meeting January 12th, 2012 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 Planetarium.]

(Board meeting 6:30-7:30)

Minerals Under the Digital Microscope

Donna Ware and Jeff Self have done a short demonstration of the Dino-Lite Digital Microscope systems at one of our past meeting, but at the November meeting they will set up and fully demonstrate the operation of these microscopes. All who come to the meeting are invited to bring:

Specimens: any specimens you'd like us to look at under the microscope, with interesting micro crystals, inclusions, surface patterns, or whatever. These can be traditionally prepared micromounts, or any specimen of a crystal or micro crystals on matrix, of any size. A good chance to discuss any "puzzlers" that you may have, or just to let the group look at some of your interesting, or particularly aesthetic, micro specimens.

Thumb drive: if you bring your own digital "thumb" drive, Donna & Jeff will be able to download on to your own drive, any images they view and save with the Dino-Lite.



In addition!--Jeff and Donna will give a report on their accomplishments so far in making digital recordings of interviews with miners for our **FM Oral Mining History Project**. They have made one trip to Silverton, have recorded several interviews there and elsewhere with many more planned, and already have some interesting stories to tell.

Election for 2012 officers: At the November meeting, our slate of officer candidates for 2012 will be presented. Anyone who is willing to volunteer for one of the offices, please contact any of our present officers or directors. Some of you may be receiving a call about volunteering for an office!

2011 FMCC Board of Directors:

President, Pete Modreski , 303-202-4766
Vice-President, Jim Hurlbut, 303-757-0283
Treasurer, Lou Conti, 303-797-3205
Secretary, Alan Keimig, alan.keimig@gmail.com
Co Secretary, Norma Keimig 303-755-9604
Director, Bill Chirnside (2012), 303-989-8748
Director, Larry Havens (2011), 303-757-6577
Director, Don Bray (2011), 303-681-3646

2011 Chairpersons:

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

Museum Musings

Fellow Club Members,

The seasons changed abruptly, so we focus our collecting activity on indoor localities. One of my favorites is my basement, where I can totally lose track of time until spring arrives. This is handy for managing new arrivals from last field season, not to mention organizing for upcoming club auctions.

Another indoor destination should be the CSM Geology Museum. It would be a real pleasure guiding a tour of our facility just for our club members, focusing on the 11 new exhibits that debuted last September. I hope that the club will propose three dates and times that everyone would like to attend such an event. I'm happy to lead it weekdays, weekends, days or nights before 9 P.M. Tours usually take about 1.5 hours and they are free. Bring your toughest questions.

Cordially,

Bruce Geller, Director

CSM Geology Museum

From the EDITOR

I hope all went well down at the *32nd Annual* New Mexico Mineral Symposium and everyone has returned safely. Symposiums are always a great deal of fun where new information is garnered and old friends reacquainted, I hope everyone that went is bringing home fond memories.

I would like a volunteer to be the next FMCC member to have a short history printed in the newsletter. I think it is of interest to hear what some of us have done in the past, what we are doing in the present and what we are working on in the future. Any volunteers?

Jim Hurlbut Inducted into the Micromounter's Hall of Fame

On October 1 James Hurlbut attended the Paul Desautels Micromount Symposium held annually by the Baltimore Mineral Society. That evening Jim was inducted into the Micromounter's Hall of Fame. According to the Baltimore Mineral Society, the mission of the Hall of Fame is "to honor those who have served this hobby to the highest degree. They are the leaders, the movers and shakers of the past and present who have shown the way for the rest of us. They have not only built sizable collections, but they have also have earned and deserved a worldwide reputation among mineral collectors in general and especially among micromounters."

Jim is a past president of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Friends of Mineralogy, Inc., and the local chapter of the Friends. He has been actively involved with a number of national and international professional, mineralogical societies, including the Society of Mineral Museum Professionals, the International Mineralogical Association and the British Mineralogical Society to name a few. Locally, he has held membership in the Colorado Mineral Society, and currently is a member of the Littleton Gem and Mineral Club, the Friends of Mineralogy Colorado Chapter, and the Rocky Mountain Micromineral Association.

Jim has volunteered in the Geology Department of the Denver Museum of Nature and Science since the early 90's, accumulating 1000's of hours of service. Jim contributed to the update of *Minerals of Colorado*. Jim's micromounting "career" was kick-started when Micromount Hall of Famer Paul Seel and his wife Hilde visited Colorado one summer from their Philadelphia home. The Seel's decided to donate their large and renowned micromount collection to the DMNS. The collection of well over 10,000 specimens is comprised of Seel's own specimens, those of a number of historical collectors with whom Seel traded or purchased specimens, and a specialty suite of over 2000 mounted diamonds. Virtually every "old-timer" member of the Hall of Fame is represented by specimens in the historical sub-collection.

Jim happily accepted the daunting task of curating and cataloging the collection. In addition, he oversees the micro collection of Shorty Withers (local micromounters and Hall of Fame member) and has, since 2003, with his assistant Larry Havens, created a supplementary micromount collection now numbering near 2500 specimens. For this latter collection, Jim has been mounting surplus material from Seel's stock, museum specimens and from purchases he makes at various micromineral symposia.

Currently, with the guidance and encouragement of Whitey Hagedorn, Curator of Geology at DMNS, Jim and Larry are working on a book about the Museum's micromount collection, complete with expansive catalogs of the major collections and photographs of some of the spectacular microminerals.

Larry Havens

MINERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

CSM SEG Student Chapter Mini-Symposium on Rare Earth Element Geology
December 2, 2011
10:00 AM-2:45 PM

Ben Parker Student Center, Ballroom A
Colorado School of Mines
Golden, Colorado USA

Symposium description:

Given recent decreases in Rare Earth Element exports from China and the growing demand for these energy critical elements, REE supplies are at the forefront of energy concerns. Rare earth elements are used in a number of products, including high-strength magnets, lanthanum bearing batteries and other hybrid car technologies, photovoltaic cells, fluorescent light bulbs, disk drives, and a number of other widely used technologies the demand for which continues to grow. China currently leads the world in REE production, although other countries (USA, Australia) expect near term production.

This symposium will examine the geology and economics of rare earth elements. While the focus is on US resources and deposits, it will also examine the important ion absorption clay deposits of southern China. The CSM Department of Geology and Geological Engineering in association with the CSM Society of Economic Geologists Student Chapter invite you to attend this mini-symposium on rare earth element geology with talks and discussion from rare earth element experts from around the world.

RSVP: Please reserve your spot for the Mini-Symposium on Rare Earth Element Geology by contacting Wesley Hall (whall@mines.edu). Seating will be limited, so please RSVP today.

Schedule

10:00-10:05 AM Welcome and Introduction; Murray Hitzman and Wesley Hall - CSM

10:05-11:45 AM Rare earth deposits: From where we can get them?; Yasushi Watanabe Geological Survey of Japan AIST

11:45-12:05 PM The Principal Rare Earth Deposits of the United States; Brad Van Gosen USGS

12:05-12:25 PM Carbonatite and Alkaline Igneous Rock-hosted REE; Philip Verplanck USGS

12:25-12:55 PM Lunch and Discussion

12:55-1:15 PM REE in Supergene and Hypogene Altered Carbonatite, Bear Lodge, WY; Mandi Reinshagen CSM, Consulting geologist to RER

1:15-1:30 PM Geology and Progress at the Mountain Pass, CA REE Property; Michael Berger CU, Molycorp

1:30-1:55 PM Ion-clay REE deposits of southern China; Dick Grauch former USGS

1:55-2:35 PM Economic and policy dimensions of critical elements and materials; Roderick Eggert CSM

2:35-2:45 PM Discussion

Coming Earth Science Events, Nov–Dec 2011 From Pete Modreski

Nov. 7-30, Sue's World: A Cretaceous Course with a Field Trip to the K-T Boundary, at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. "This first-time class will introduce you to the extinct world of the Cretaceous during the height of dinosaur evolution. The course will be team-taught by Museum paleontologists Kirk Johnson (chief curator), Joe Sertich (curator of vertebrate paleontology), Richard Stucky (curator of paleoecology and evolution), and Ian Miller (curator of paleobotany). You will receive an unparalleled view of what the world looked like and how ecosystems operated during the time of *Tyrannosaurus rex* and its relatives. You will also get a chance to meet all of the Museum paleontologists who work on Cretaceous fossils and learn about ongoing research and volunteer opportunities. The course consists of five classes and a field trip to the locale where the K-T boundary was first recognized in rocks on land. Each of the five classes will tackle a different part of the world of the Cretaceous:

Dinosaurs and Reptiles of the Cretaceous with Joe Sertich

Plants and Cretaceous Ecosystems with Ian Miller

Mammals in the age of Dinosaurs with Richard Stucky

Shifting Climates, Seaways, and Continents with Joe Sertich

K-T Extinction: Close of the Age of Dinosaurs with Kirk Johnson

All the classes will be augmented with exceptional specimens from the Museum collections. These will include

bones of the well-known dinosaurs Triceratops and T. rex; extinct plants, some with no living relatives and others that are the ancestors to the world's rain forests; and the small mammals whose descendants now rule the planet but lived in the shadow of the dinosaurs. The field trip to the K-T boundary will reinforce what you've learned in class and cap your tour of the Cretaceous. You will actually see, in a single hillside, the end of the time of the dinosaurs and the beginning of the age of mammals. This class fulfills the Paleontology Certification Program requirement for Paleontology of the Western Interior." Mondays & Wednesdays, Nov. 7-30; no class on November 16, 21, or 23; 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.; field trip: Saturday, Nov. 19, morning and afternoon time slots; \$150 member, \$180 nonmember; see <http://www.dmns.org/learn/adults/classes>
Sat.-Sun., Nov. 12-13, New Mexico Mineral Symposium, sponsored by the New Mexico Tech Mineralogical Museum, Socorro, New Mexico. See <http://geoinfo.nmt.edu/museum/minsymp/home.cfm> and <http://geoinfo.nmt.edu/publications/fieldguides/rockhound/home.html>

Wed., Nov. 16, 7 p.m. at Denver Museum of Nature and Science, **How to Clone a Mammoth, Is it possible?** Acclaimed DNA researcher Beth Shapiro will take you behind the headlines and explain the difficulties involved in cloning a mammoth from frozen DNA samples. She'll also share other compelling stories from her studies, such as how mosquitoes can possibly live in the arctic, how she figured out the flightless dodo bird is related to the pigeon, and why Jurassic Park couldn't work. Shapiro is a member of the Museum's Snowmastodon Project Science Team and a National Geographic Emerging Explorer. Ricketson Auditorium, \$12 member, \$15 nonmember; see <http://www.dmns.org/learn/adults/after-hours>.

Fri., Nov. 18, for educators, **Colorado Science Conference for Professional Development**; sponsored by CAST (Colorado Association of Science Teachers) and affiliated organizations, and held at the Denver Merchandise Mart Expo Hall, 58th Ave. at I-25. Featured presentation this year will be by Dr. Phil Plait, author of "Bad Astronomy". 8 a.m. – 3:45 p.m., followed by a reception with annual awards presentations, and with three optional postconference workshops on Saturday, Nov. 19, including a tour of Dinosaur Ridge. For full information see <http://www.coloradocast.org/professionaldevelopment.php?page=overview>

Sat., Nov. 19, Littleton Gem and Mineral Club Annual Silent Auction, 12 noon – 5 p.m. at Columbine Hills Church, 9700 Old Coal Mine Avenue, Littleton. "Set-up will begin at 11:30 a.m. with the auction beginning at 12:00 p.m. Non-members are asked to not bring more than 12 specimens to sell. The club retains twenty (20) percent of the selling price. The verbal auction and a short business meeting will start at 12:30 p.m. There will be minerals, gems, jewelry, fossils, books and much more available for bidding at the silent auction. Food and drinks will be provided by the club and its members. For more information please email info@littletongemandmineralclub.com or call [\(303\) 840-1177](tel:3038401177)."

Mon., Nov. 28, The **Denver Mining Club** is an informal group that meets every Monday, 11:30-1:00 at the Country Buffet, 8100 W. Crestline Ave. (SE corner at Wadsworth), Littleton. There is no charge to attend but purchase of a buffet lunch is required at the restaurant. Visitors are always welcome! The program for Nov. 28 sounds particularly interesting: "**Exploration for Gold in the Precambrian of Egypt: Where Did the Pharaohs' Treasures Come From?**", by Dr. Larry James. For a list of their upcoming talks see <http://www.denverminingclub.org/> or email Dick Beach, rabeach.66@alum.mines.edu, to be put on their monthly email list.

Fri., Dec. 2, CSM - SEG Student Chapter Mini-Symposium on Rare Earth Element Geology, 10:00 AM - 2:45 PM; Ben Parker Student Center, Ballroom A, Colorado School of Mines. "RSVP: Please reserve your spot for the Mini-Symposium on Rare Earth Element Geology by contacting Wesley Hall (whall@mines.edu). Seating will be limited, so please RSVP today."

Fri.-Sat.-Sun., Dec. 9-11, Flatirons Mineral Club Show, Boulder County Fairgrounds, Main Exhibits Building, at Hover Road & Nelson Road, Longmont, CO; 10-6 Fri., 9-5 Sat., 10-5 Sun.; for full info see <http://bcn.boulder.co.us/community/fmc/fmcshow.htm> .

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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@q.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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