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

Friends of Mineralogy, Colorado Chapter Newsletter – March 2012

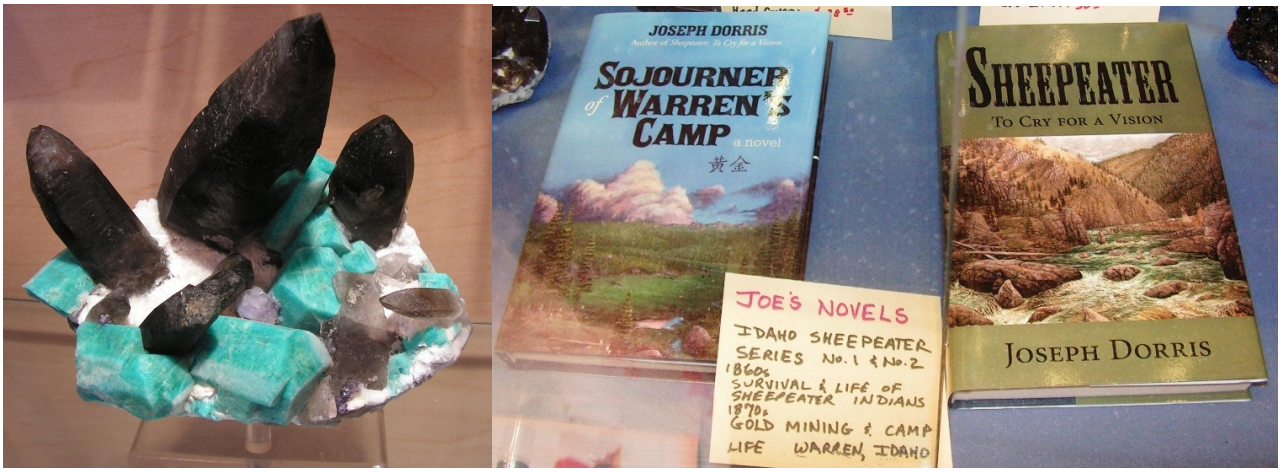
Next meeting March 8th, 2012 at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science
2001 Colorado Blvd., Denver, CO
[Enter the museum via the staff/security entrance, to the left of the main entrance doors on the north side of the museum. Security staff will direct you to the V.I.P. Room, which is to the left, past the T-Rex Cafeteria area.]
(No Board meeting this month)

An Update on the Smoky Hawk Amazonite Claim
by Joseph Dorris, Colorado Springs CO

Joe Dorris is a well-known field collector, mineral dealer, and proprietor of Glacier Peak Mining and Pinnacle5 Minerals. He operates several mining claims in the Pikes Peak batholith, including his amazonite claims in the Crystal Peak area and the Topaz Mountain Gem Mine in the Tarryalls. Joe last gave a program to FM in November, 2009; he has had many new and interesting finds and discoveries since then, and his presentation this night will be an update on how work on the claim has been progressing and the prospects for work this summer. We'll hear about his finds of genthelvite and milarite, as well as spectacular smoky quartz and amazonite.

You can read more and see pictures and accounts of Joe's mining operations at his website, http://www.pinnacle5minerals.com/GlacierPeakWeb/GlacierHomePage.htm

photos: amazonite and smoky quartz from Joe Dorris' room at Tucson Show, at the Hotel Tucson City Center this February



Joe is also an author; he has published two novels based on the history of the area where he grew up in central Idaho: *Sheepeater, To Cry for a Vision* (2009) and *Sojourner of Warren's Camp*. The second book, just published (Dec. 2011), is about gold mining and prospecting and is based on the true history of mining in the country south of the Salmon River, the "River of No Return".

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REMINDER: PLEASE PAY YOUR DUES.

Tucson 2012 By Donna Ware and Jeff Self

The first the thing we saw at the Inn Suites Show (Hotel Tucson City Center) was that a group of Dinosaurs had invaded the courtyard of the hotel! Dinosaurs were everywhere. A group was seen on the volleyball court, several Triceratops, Velociraptors and a T-Rex. These Dino replicas were made of fiberglass, beautifully done and were for sale. By the end of the show all but one had found new homes. But unfortunately none came home with us.

Jeff Self, Larry Havens, Jim Hurlbut and Pete Modreski all represented the Colorado chapter of F.M. at the national meeting. Thanks to Marty Zinn for hosting the meeting. Our miners oral history project was discussed and we have offered the other chapters help in setting up similar projects if interested.

Donna Ware and Jim Hurlbut attended the Micromount symposium and enjoyed a day full of lectures, trading and looking at minerals under the microscope.

The theme for the T.G.M.S. show this year was minerals of Arizona. F.M. sponsored a full day of lectures on Saturday. The talks were interesting and informative. Jeff Self attended quite a few of them. He said he learned a lot and had a good time.

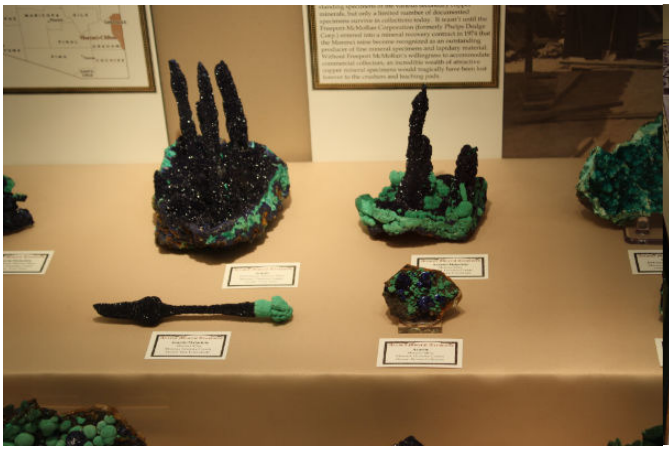
We both took a full day on Sunday to enjoy the displays, although at the end of the day we both felt we needed more time to thoroughly appreciate the displays. There were Copper minerals galore as one would expect from the Copper state. Jeff was particularly fond of the minerals from Bisbee, while Donna was enamored by the mining memorabilia displays. We saw some amazing Azurites, Malachites, Cuprites and many more from the Copper family. In addition there were cases of minerals from Pegmatite districts, Garnet localities, Gold, Silver, Wulfenites, Vanadinates,and so much more. As usual, sensory overload!!!

It is always pleasant to see so many of our friends from home while we are in Tucson, as well as renewing friendships with our friends from across the nation and around the world. It is wonderful how the love of minerals seems to bridge all language and cultural barriers.

Donna Ware

Jolyon of Mindat at the Mindat booth. Tucson 2012
Pocket Mindat free to your smart phone.

Dinosaurs were everywhere.



Copper Minerals

Bisbee Arizona Copper mineral case.

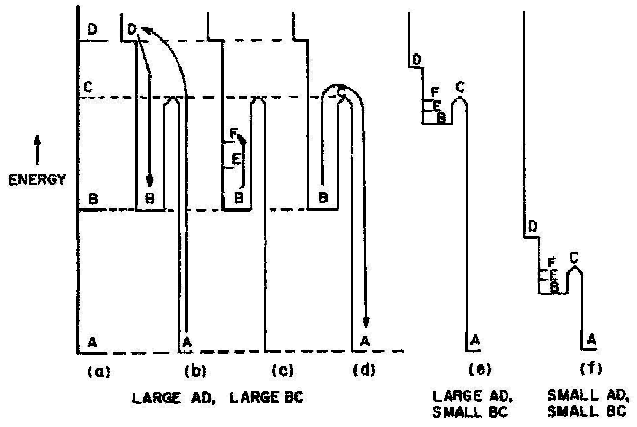
Photographs courtesy of Donna Ware.

From the EDITOR

Now that the Tucson Show is over, all eyes are on the weather and the coming spring. We are all eager to hit the mountains lustful for the pocket that brings forth museum quality specimens. OK maybe just a pocket to call our own....anyway we are all watching the snow melt away so the next round of local field trips and collecting trips open a world of possibilities. Just what will this coming summer bring us....the NEXT BIG DISCOVERY may be yours!

I would like to whet your apatite with some of the more "interactive" minerals we collect here in Colorado. Thermolumenescent fluorite always bring a smile and a bit of the WOW factor to people who have never heard of or seen it. The fluorite has within its structure color centers which, due to its chemical makeup allows for some interesting properties. Fluorescence (the glow under short or long wave UV lights) named after the mineral fluorite, phosphorescence (the glow that continues after the light source has been extinguished) and thermoluminescence a property that produces light when the mineral is heated.

To get thermolumenescence there must be the right set of conditions. You must have some level of "trapped" energy such as electrons held within the crystal structure that are not integral to the structure itself. Another possibility is a structure that is stressed so that when given the proper about of energy it can recover back to its normal structure. Here is a simple diagram, part of a wonderful article from American Mineralogist Vol 63 1978 "The origins of color in minerals" by Kurt Nassau that shows how as the crystal originally forms "traps," allowing the capture of energy in the form of an electron or some other ionic energy and sets the stage for a form of release later on after the crystal has completely formed. These conditions are variable and depending on the amount of energy applied you can coax the trapped electron to recover to a more favorable site or state and in doing so, release photons. The first part of the diagram illustrates the capture of an electron (b). Diagram (c) illustrates exciting the electron, but not enough to release it, which creates fluorescence and phosphorescence. Diagram (d) shows applying enough energy to release the electron, which creates thermoluminescence. Diagrams (e) and (f) illustrate that different mineral structures will need different amounts of energy for any of these effects to occur. In some cases this can change the actual color of the mineral. The fluorite available to us along the front range allows for some beautiful results for only a minimal amount of energy input.



Energy-level schemes showing "traps" involved in phosphorescence, thermoluminescence, and bleaching color centers. American Mineralogist Vol 63

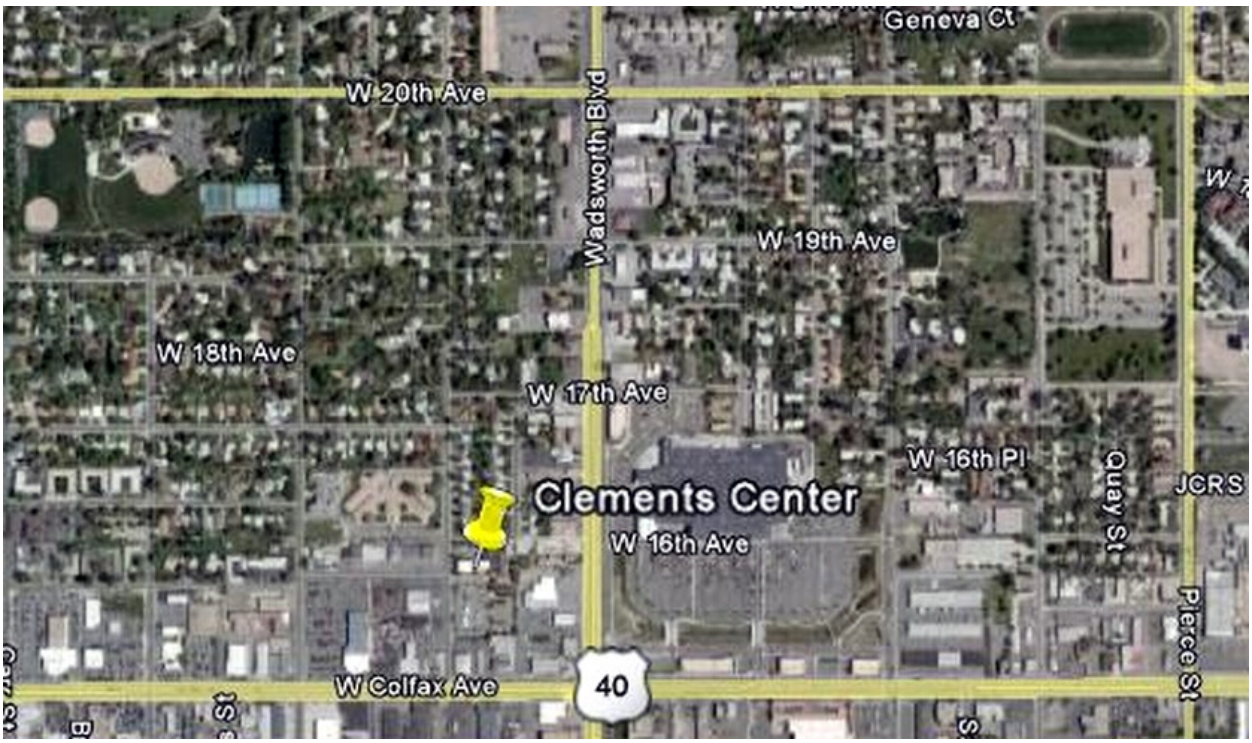
Bill Hutchinson

FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY
COLORADO CHAPTER
SILENT AUCTION
May 12th

The 2012 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; Dealer set up at 12:00; Auction begins at 1:00;
Auction is over at 3:00 Check-out 3:00-4:00

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

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Buyer's receipt
Description of auction item:_____
_____
_____

Final Bid Amount $_____

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Colorado Chapter

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_____
_____
_____

Final bid $_____

To FM $_____ to Seller $_____

Bidder Number	Bid Amount		Bidder Number	Bid Amount

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Buyer's receipt
Description of auction item:_____
_____
_____

Final Bid Amount $_____

In Memoriam:
The wife of longtime mineral enthusiast and collect Ray Berry, Eloise Berry lifetime member of the Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society, holding such positions as Show Chairman (1977), and newsletter editor (1978-1984) will be missed.
"Eloise Berry Passed away today Saturday February 11, 2012. A celebration of Eloise's life was held at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, February 17, 2012 at the Shrine of Remembrance "America the Beautiful" Chapel, 1730 E. Fountain Blvd., Colorado Springs. A reception followed the services at the nearby Olympian Plaza Reception and Event Center, 975 South Union Boulevard. In lieu of flowers, memorials in her name may be made to the American Lung Association, 600 Greenwood Plaza Blvd., Suite 100, Greenwood Village, CO 80111. Online condolences: shrineofremembrance.com "

MINERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:
Coming Earth Science Events, Mar 2012
Fri., Mar. 9, 7:30 p.m., at the monthly meeting of the North Jeffco Gem and Mineral Club, Pete Modreski of the USGS will give a slide show and talk on **"23 Pegmatites in 5 Days, a Colorado Field Trip Saga"**. Meeting is at the North Jeffco Community Recreation Center, 6842 N. Wadsworth Blvd., Arvada. All are welcome to attend.

Thurs, Mar. 15, 7:00 p.m., monthly meeting of the Colorado Scientific Society, at Shepherd of the Hills Presbyterian Church, 20th Ave. at Simms St., Lakewood; topic will be "**Paleogeography of the Denver, Cheyenne, and Colorado Headwaters Basins, from the Latest Cretaceous through the Eocene**", to be given jointly by Marieke Dechesne, Bob Raynolds, and Jim Cole, of the Denver Museum of Nature and Science and the USGS.

Mar. 23-25, Fort Collins Rockhounds Club Gem and Mineral Show at the Thomas M. McKee 4-H building, Larimer County Fairgrounds, 5280 Arena Circle, at The Ranch/Budweiser Events Center, I-25 Exit 259. Hours 4-8 p.m. Fri., 9-6 Sat., 10-5 Sun. For more info see http://www.fortcollinsrockhounds.org/gemAndMineralShow.shtml .

April 20-22, Colorado Mineral and Fossil Spring Show, Ramada Plaza Hotel (formerly the Holiday Inn), 4849 Bannock St, Denver, CO 80216 (frontage road on west side of I-25, north of I-70); free admission and parking; hours 10-6 Fri. & Sat., 10-5 Sun. For more info see http://www.mzexpos.com/colorado_spring.htm

Membership in FMCC and National FM is $13 for 2012. Next meeting May 10th.
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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