



## Friends of Mineralogy, Colorado Chapter Newsletter – March 2013

Next meeting Mar. 14th followed by May 9th, 2013 meeting 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 Meeting Room

(Board meeting 6:30-7:30)

### Giant Crystals Video; plus, Stories or Specimens from Tucson

We will view **The Mystery of the Giant Crystals**, "A film by Javier Trueba, written and presented by Juan Manuel Garcia Ruiz; copyright 2010 by Madrid Scientific Films."

"The Mystery of the Giant Crystals is a fascinating adventure in scientific research. A journey into the depths of the Earth in search of the most beautiful treasures of the mineral world, to explain one of its great mysteries, the formation of giant gypsum crystals. From the Roman mines of Segobriga described by Pliny the Elder, to Europe's biggest geode, found in Almeria, Spain; from the volcanic depths of the Andes, to the grandiose "Cueva de los Cristales" of Naica, an authentic crystal palace hidden beneath the Mexican desert of Chihuahua, we shall discover the wonderful world of crystals, their science and their beauty, through the guiding hand of Professor Juan Manuel Garcia-Ruiz."

The video will run about 50 minutes; it should be interesting!

In addition to viewing this video, we invite any members who were in Tucson to bring to show any "special" specimens (or other items) they acquired there. And, if you have any "special" photos you took in Tucson of things that most impressed you, bring them along, on a memory stick, and we'll show them on the screen, too.

*All are invited to attend! If you need more information or directions, please contact Pete Modreski, chapter president, [pmodreski@usgs.gov](mailto:pmodreski@usgs.gov) or 303-202-4766*

#### 2012 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;**

It has come to my attention that our ranks are diminishing, please renew your membership and enjoy the community of like minded mineral enthusiasts. We are working on arranging some top notch programs. We need some young fresh blood in our membership so help out and invite a friend or family member to come listen to our presentations.

## **Preservation News**

In support of the Miners Oral History Project directed by Jeff Self and Donna Ware, I recently interviewed two fellow Mining Engineers, Dan Bench and Bob Elder, who each have rich histories of their mining experiences in Colorado.

Dan Bench worked in The New Jersey Lead and Zinc Mine at Gillman, the huge Climax Molybdenum Mine and at a lead/zinc mine near Crested Butte, Colorado. Bob Elder, who gave a fine talk at our Leadville Seminar several years ago, comes from a long line of mining men, all of who lived in Leadville, and who knows the detailed history of many of the great Leadville mines. Bob's father sunk the new shaft on the famous, old Black Cloud lode and it again became a producing mine in April, 1971. In 1973 it became the third ranking gold mine in the state by producing 11,350 ounces of gold. Bob started his mining career in Silverton then moved on to the great lead/silver mine at Gillman and the huge Climax Molybdenum Mine.

Anyone interested in the detailed history of the Leadville mines, needs to further interview Bob and other old miners for more of their detailed mining knowledge before that knowledge also, is lost to history.

Lee Brown

## **Our Tucson Experience 2013 By Jeff Self and Donna Ware**

Looking back on three weeks of shows in Tucson we have a hard time picking out the high points. With hundreds of dealers, almost 40 shows and literally millions of mineral specimens to look at we are left with a sense of .....WOW! This year I ( Jeff ) went to the Mining Memorabilia show, a one day event, where I wanted everything. I was forced to limit myself to what I could carry, so was able to avoid bankruptcy.

The minerals I purchased however helped diminish our profits substantially. I was able to pick up some wonderful Tanzanite (natural ,untreated) ,some Moroccan Silver with Acanthite, some Benitoite and Neptunite, Crocoite, Tourmaline etc. etc. etc.

On to to the Main show... We were invited to put in a display case of Self-Collected Colorado Fluorites. Our case was next to a wonderful display from the Colorado School of Mines Geology Museum. Wandering the show and looking at the best Fluorites from around the world left us with sore necks and tired eyes. FM - TGMS -MSA- presented a mineralogical symposium titled " Fluorite : colors of the rainbow". We enjoyed all the talk and photos. Very informative, very fun, very depressing as all the minerals shown did not belong to us. The same could be said for the entire show, but isn't one of the commandments "thou shall not covet the neighbors rocks"

It was a pleasure seeing our friends from around the world and their specimens. As always looking forward to next year.

**Pictures from the Tucson Show**



Fluorite on Pyrite



Glen Cove Colorado Topaz

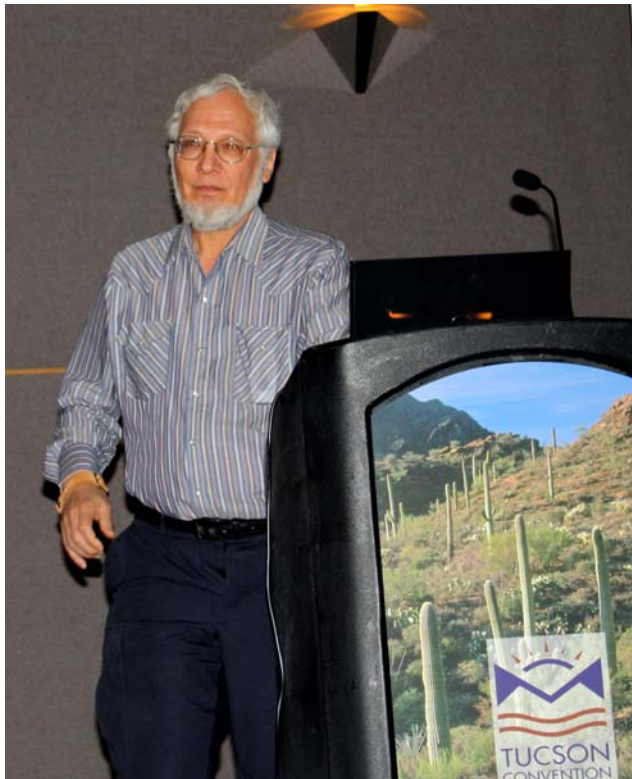


Giant Weardale Fluorite

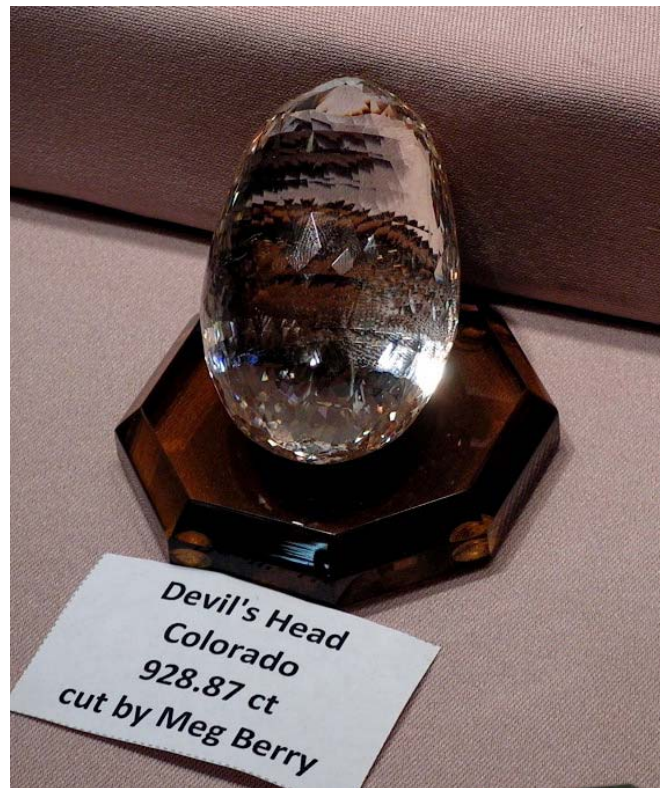




Jeff Self's Colorado Fluorite Display



Mark Jacobson at Tucson



Devils Head Topaz

## MINERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

FMCC folks,

Forwarding this message from Beth Simmons, in case anyone from FM would be able to and would like to attend this meeting with the insurance agent about the RMF insurance policy. FMCC is usually not so concerned about insurance matters, as we don't often have field trips; except, we do sometimes have them as part of symposia that we organize.

Subject: RMFMS insurance information for member clubs

I have arranged a meeting with the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineral Societies insurance agent, Allen Cook, here in Denver for Thursday afternoon, March 14th, at 2:30, at his office at 2084 S. Milwaukee Street in Denver, near DU. Any and all clubs who belong to the RMFMS are welcome to send a representative to discuss the RMFMS policy and its benefits. Please forward this email on to the person(s) in your organization who might be able to attend. Driving instructions are below.

This is the first time that clubs have had the opportunity to question the agent about the policy and voice our concerns and thoughts.

I hope someone from your organization can attend!

Beth Simmons, Ph.D.

### Upcoming events;

Here is an updated list of earth science events coming up in March and April; there are a lot, and I hope I haven't missed anyone's favorite program. I'd like to add, first, if you do not wish to be on my mailing list for these kinds of emails, please write back to [pmodreski@usgs.gov](mailto:pmodreski@usgs.gov) and I will remove your name. And, you may know that I am not always able to mention all of the events, or update these emails as often as I might like, such as when I am out of town (as I was to the Tucson mineral show in February), etc. In my emails I also don't mention every lecture, but I try to focus on those that are of most "general interest" to those who enjoy earth science; plus, I'll admit, some of own special interests that some of you may share. Most of you probably know that, for those open-to-the-public lectures that are free and not sponsored by a society with a regular paid membership, you can have your name added to their own mailing list to receive email notes about the programs, directly from them—for example, Café Scientifique, the Denver Mining Club, the CSM Van Tuyl Lectures, the CU Geological Sciences Colloquium, etc. Most societies with paid membership (Colo. Sci. Soc., DREGS, WIPS, RMAG, FODR, DMNS) send notices only to their own members, but anyone can go to their website to see the announcement of the current month's program. I'll be happy to help anyone find the url to contact any of these organizations or institutions to get on their mailing lists.

And... ***FYI, COMET COMING--***You have probably heard in the news that Comet PANSTARRS will be visible in the twilight sky starting in a few days. It had earlier been visible from the southern hemisphere, and as soon as it reappears after its March 10 closest approach to the sun it should become visible to the naked eye, very low in the western sky after sunset. It should first be visible on March 12, just to the left of and at about the same elevation as the very thin crescent moon (new moon is March 11), and for some days thereafter as it recedes from the sun. Our skies should be clear by then, so, don't forget to take a look!

**Tues., March 12, FrackingSENSE** with Reagan Waskom; **Water for Energy: How much does it take? How much will we need?** The latest in the free, weekly public lecture series on

**FrackingSENSE: What We Know, What We Don't Know, and What We Hope to Learn about Natural Gas Development.** 6:30 PM, Hale 270, CU Boulder Campus; the series continues through May 21. See <http://centerwest.org/> for information and lecture topics for the whole series.

**Mon., March 11**, Denver Region Exploration Geologists' Society meeting, **“To Reactivate or Not to Reactivate—Nature and Varied Behavior of Structural Inheritance in the Proterozoic Basement of the Eastern Colorado Mineral Belt Over 1.7 Billion Years of Earth History”**, by Jonathan Caine (USGS), John Ridley and Zachary Wessel (CSU); Colorado School of Mines, Berthoud Hall Rm. 241; Social hour 6:30 to 7:00 p.m., Presentation 7:00 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

**Thurs., Mar. 14, 7:30 p.m.**, at its bimonthly meeting the Colorado Chapter, Friends of Mineralogy, will view the video, **The Mystery of the Giant Crystals**, “A film by Javier Trueba, written and presented by Juan Manuel Garcia Ruiz; ...from the Roman mines of Segobriga described by Pliny the Elder, to Europe's biggest geode, found in Almeria, Spain; from the volcanic depths of the Andes, to the grandiose "Cueva de los Cristales" of Naica....” (2010; 50 minutes); as well as a show and tell of specimens, stories, or photos from the 2013 Tucson mineral show. All are welcome to attend; the meeting will be in the VIP Room, Denver Museum of Nature and Science (enter the Museum through the staff/security station entrance, to the left of the main entrance).

**Thurs., Mar. 21**, at the monthly meeting of the Colorado Scientific Society, **Ash in the Wind: NOAA Development of Global Atmosphere-Soil-Vegetation-Ocean-Earth System Forecast Models Including Volcanic Eruptions**; by Stan Benjamin. Social time, 6:30-7:00 p.m., speaker, 7:00 p.m.). At Shepherd of the Hills Presbyterian Church, 11500 W. 20<sup>th</sup> Ave., Lakewood; all are welcome to attend. For more info see <http://www.coloscisoc.org/>.

**Sat-Sun, Mar. 16-17**, Western Interior Paleontological Society (WIPS) Symposium, **Ice Worlds and Their Fossils**; “Discover how glacial climates & life interact to shape evolution and the biosphere”. At the Green Center, CSM campus, Golden. See [http://www.westernpaleo.org/symposiums/pages\\_2013/2013.php](http://www.westernpaleo.org/symposiums/pages_2013/2013.php) for more information. Click on “Speakers” for program info. Regular registration is \$85; student registration, \$30; single-day registrations are also available.

**Wed., March 20**, 4:00 p.m., CU-Boulder Geological Science Colloquium, Benson Earth Science Building, Room 180; **An up-side-down physics & seismology based boundary layer model for geodynamics, geochemistry and ambient mantle**, by Dr. Don Anderson, Cal Tech; refreshments will be served at 3:30pm just outside Benson Room 380; all are invited. See <http://www.colorado.edu/GeolSci/colloquium.htm> for the complete colloquium schedule.

**Thursday, March 21**, 4:00 p.m., in the Van Tuyl lecture series at Colorado School of Mines, Golden, Berthoud Hall, Room 241, Coastal **Erosion of Ice-Rich Permafrost Bluffs, Alaska** by Dr. Irina Overeem, Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research, Univ. of Colorado. See [http://geology.mines.edu/calendar/Van\\_Tuyl.html](http://geology.mines.edu/calendar/Van_Tuyl.html) for the complete Van Tuyl seminar schedule.

**Fri-Sat-Sun, Mar. 22-24**, **Fort Collins Rockhounds Gem and Mineral Show**, McKee 4-H Building at The Ranch (Larimer County Fairgrounds), Loveland, CO; at I-25 exit 259; 4-8 p.m. Fri., 9-6 Sat., 10-5 Sun. Admission, adults \$4/day or \$7/3-day pass, students age 12-18 with student ID \$1, children under 12 free with adult. See <http://www.fortcollinsrockhounds.org/>.

**Tuesday, March 26**, 10:30 a.m., USGS Rocky Mountain Seminar, **Oceanic and Continental Core Complexes**, by Christian Teyssier, Univ. of Minnesota. Denver Federal Center, Lakewood, Building 25 Auditorium. *Please email [pmodreski@usgs.gov](mailto:pmodreski@usgs.gov) for a complete list of all the USGS seminars scheduled through May 28.*

**Thursday, March 29**, 4:00 p.m., Van Tuyl lecture series at Colorado School of Mines, Golden, Berthoud Hall, Room 241, **Frontiers of Radar Remote Sensing**, by Dr. Zhong Lu, USGS

**Saturday, March 30**, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., **Silent Auction (and Bake Sale)**, sponsored by the Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society; held at the Western Museum of Mining and Industry, 225 North Gate Blvd.,

Colorado Springs. Regular admission prices apply (members of CSMS and other WMMI supporting clubs admitted free).

**Tuesday, April 2**, 10:30 a.m., USGS Rocky Mountain Seminar, **Petrogenesis and Metal Budget of the Chichinautzin Monogenetic Field, Mexico: A Melt Inclusion Study**, by Julie Roberge, Mexican Polytechnical Institute; Denver Federal Center, Lakewood, Building 25 Auditorium.

**Tuesday, April 9**, 10:30 a.m., USGS Rocky Mountain Seminar, **Miocene volcanoes, hot springs, and gold deposits in the Bodie Hills, California and Nevada**, by Dr. David John, USGS, Menlo Park CA;. Denver Federal Center, Lakewood, Building 25 Auditorium. [This lecture rescheduled from March 5]

**Friday, April 12, Silent Auction of Minerals, Gems, etc.**, sponsored by the North Jeffco Gem & Mineral Club; APEX Community Center, 6842 Wadsworth Blvd., Arvada; auction begins at 6:45 p.m.; see <http://www.peaktopeak.com/njeffco/auction.php> .

**Fri.-Sat.-Sun., April 19-21, Colorado Mineral and Fossil Show**, Ramada Plaza Hotel [formerly Holiday Inn - Central Denver], 4849 Bannock St., Denver; 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Fri./Sat., 10-5 Sun.; free admission and parking.

**April 21 (or 22)**, on the occasion of **Earth Day** (April 22), a geology/natural history hike at some location TBD in the Lakewood/Golden/Morrison area will be led by USGS Geologist Pete Modreski. Details will be available later (contact [pmodreski@usgs.gov](mailto:pmodreski@usgs.gov)).

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### Meeting Dates for 2013

The dates for our 2013 meetings will be May 9th Sept 5th, Nov 14th.  
Membership in FMCC and National FM is \$13 for 2013.  
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](mailto: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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