



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

**Next meeting September 5th, 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)*

### **Gem Tourmaline Mining in Maine by Pete Modreski, USGS**

This spring I attended the PEG2013 International Pegmatite Conference, held at Bartlett in the White Mountains of New Hampshire, which included three days of field trips to some classic pegmatite quarries around Paris, Maine (as well, there was a trip to the Palermo pegmatite in NH). Thursday's presentation will show some of what we observed and learned on the field trips, with a summary of the history and geology of pegmatite mining in Maine for gem tourmaline (their state gemstone) since its discovery there in 1820. The presentation will also include a ~7-minute video clip documenting the recovery of gem, green elbaite crystals from a pair of pockets at one of the mines we visited. The video was taken about a week after we were there; it's quite spectacular!



Gem Tourmaline Mining in Maine



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**From the editor;**

As some of you may know, I am employed as the field geologist for the North American Beryllium Corp. for exploration of economically important materials on Mount Antero. These include locating areas of increased beryllium concentration, clays used for cosmetics and of course, gemstones and mineral specimens. Due to the show "Prospectors" on the Weather Channel, the area had been of great interest to Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety who had posted cease and desist orders on the mountain. It took a full week to get all the paperwork approved and for us to get access to the heavy equipment and begin mining. All the paperwork was already in place but bureaucracy moves at it's own pace. This year the rain has been heavier than most so limited time up at the mining site also cut into our already short window of opportunity. Exploratory cuts were made, documented and then reclaimed. It is a wonderful place to work for a few weeks of the year. The heavy rains had made the roads worse than normal and at one point the car I was riding in had a wheel off the edge of the upper switchbacks. This is something I would prefer NOT to repeat in the future. It snowed almost every day I was on the mountain. One of those days our rental jeep lost it's brakes at the top of the south knob with four inches of snow on the ground. Luckily the brakes returned enough to get us off the mountain.



Another day at the office.

Outside of Antero, my prospecting and working of my own claims have had a measure of success. Prospecting has led to an area which produced an eroded pocket which included an almost two inch blue Fluorite cube and a spectacular eleven inch Smoky Quartz crystal with "Onegites" at the base. The Onegites are more Citrine than Amethyst. My claim in Teller County provided me with small pockets and various float material. My son William found a wonderful small Monazite crystal there. My claim on Antero relinquished some small Aquamarine as well as some nice Quartz crystals. My third claim is in the area of the Tarryalls and left me wanting. It had good pegmatite but no luck in finding a pocket along it so far this year. Earlier I had been invited to join some friends in Leadville for a hunt for Turquoise. This was very successful and I have some beautiful rough to work with. I paint watercolor "portraits" of mineral specimens and have finished a few new minerals including a Turquoise found this year. Due to the busy summer and health issues I did not cut as many stones as I would have liked but did manage a few including a nice Aquamarine from Antero which was collected last year. My favorite "back up" site to collect is the South Platte River and it did not disappoint me. Artifacts, crystals, fossil wood, agate and ancient bone were all found this year. A selection of all of the above we be on display at the Denver Gem and Mineral Show next week at the Mart.

Bill Hutchinson



Here is the eleven inch Smoky Quartz Crystal as it came out.

## *It's Our Thirty-fifth Anniversary!*

### **Friends of Mineralogy, Colorado Chapter Time Line**

- 1978** Colorado FM Chapter organized.
- Sep. 1982** “Colorado Minerals”, symposium at Denver Gem and Mineral Show
- Sep. 1983** “Classic Mineral Localities”, symposium at Denver Gem and Mineral Show
- Sep. 1984** “Mines, Collectors, and Their Minerals”, symposium at Denver Show
- Sep. 1985** “Recent Activities at Rocky Mountain Mineral Localities”, symposium at Denver Show
- May 1986** Colorado Pegmatite Symposium
- Aug. 1988** Mineralogy of Precious Metal Deposits Symposium
- Oct. 1989** Photography of Mineralogical, Paleontological, and Archaeological Specimens symposium
- 1993** publication of *Antero Aquamarines*, by Mark I. Jacobson (L.R. Ream Publishing)
- 1997** publication of *Minerals of Colorado*, by Eckel, Cobban, Collins, Foord, Modreski, and Murphy (Fulcrum Publishing)
- Sep. 1999** E.E. Foord Memorial Pegmatite Symposium on NYF Pegmatites

## MUSEUM MUSINGS:

### Colorado School of Mines (CSM) Geology Museum Musings



#### GOLDEN INVITATION

The Colorado School of Mines Geology Museum (CSMGM) invites all FM members to attend our annual open house on 11 September 2013, 6-9 P.M., the Wednesday evening preceding the Denver Show (whose theme is “tourmaline”). Come look at our displays and visit with our Museum Advisory Council members, Student Aides, volunteers, and Friends of the CSMGM, and also browse our gift shop.

Every year we strive to change 20 percent of our exhibits to make our museum more exciting for returning guests. As of now, we have nine new displays confirmed, as well as improved fossil, gold, micromount, and UV displays, among other intriguing surprises. As always, our gala offers free hors d’oeuvres and a cash bar. The melodious Colorado School of Mines String Quartet will be performing. We hope to see you there.

Bruce Geller  
303-273-3823

## Notes from the world of minerals:

### Boy, 12, unearths 5.16-carat diamond at Arkansas state park.

Published August 13, 2013 FoxNews.com



Michael Dettlaff, 12, of Apex, N.C., found the diamond on July 31 at Arkansas' Crater of Diamonds State Park. (State Parks of Arkansas)

A 12-year-old North Carolina boy has unearthed a 5.16 carat diamond while on vacation with his family at Arkansas' Crater of Diamonds State Park.

Park officials said Saturday that Michael Dettlaff found the honey brown diamond on July 31 after searching for less than 10 minutes. He named it God's Glory Diamond.

"It is thrilling any time a child finds a diamond here at Crater of Diamonds State Park. Michael was excited to have found his own diamond, as just about any boy would be, but he was absolutely awestruck when he realized its significance," Park Interpreter Waymon Cox said in a statement.

Michael found the gem in an area of the park where the 15.33-carat Star of Arkansas diamond was found in 1956. His father was still renting mining equipment when he discovered the diamond.

The diamond is about the size of a jellybean and is the 328th diamond found this year. It is the 27th largest diamond found by a park visitor since the site became a state park in 1972, according to Cox.

More than 75,000 diamonds have been found at the site since the first discovery in 1906 by John Huddleston, the farmer who owned the land at the time.

The largest diamond ever discovered in the United States was unearthed at the site in 1924 and weighed 40.23 carats.

"To Michael the entire experience may have felt like a dream, but it is certainly a dream come true, and an adventure he will remember for the rest of his life," Cox said.

*The Associated Press contributed to this report.*

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## **Friends of Mineralogy Colorado Chapter Show information;**

### **Volunteers Needed! Volunteers needed at the FM Mineral Identification Booth.**

**Slide Show about FM-Colorado Chapter at the Denver Show:** As part of a slide show that Marjie Payne has prepared to be shown at the Denver Show, depicting the various Council member clubs and their activities, I had prepared a short slide show about FMCC and its past activities, part of which was incorporated into Marj's slide show. I'm planning to use the slightly longer version of this show, to play at a laptop at our FM booth (= the Mineral Identification booth), if I can find a suitable laptop to use for this (anybody got one that we can use), and of course, only have it out at such times when there's someone there staffing the Mineral ID booth. It will showcase some of our past symposia, book publications, field trips (these have mostly been in conjunction with the symposia), past history of FM, etc. --- Pete

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## **MINERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

### **Subject: WANTED: Rock and Mineral Collectors**

Hello,

We are conducting a study of science hobbyists as part of a National Science Foundation Grant. We need your help getting the request to participate out to your organization.

Would you be willing to either send the study information below to the members of the Friends of Mineralogy - Colorado chapter (via email or newsletter) or post it on your website?

If you are willing to send this information to your membership, please respond to this email and let us know. Studies like this one would not be possible without the kindness of people like you to help us with recruitment.

If you have any questions about this study, please read the below information and feel free to contact me for further details.

<http://tinyurl.com/NCSUhobbysurvey>

Sincerely,

Elysa Corin

Research Assistant

Dr. Gail Jones

Professor

Science, Technology, Education, and Mathematics Education Department

North Carolina State University

[ced\\_stemhobby@ncsu.edu](mailto:ced_stemhobby@ncsu.edu)

## **UPCOMING EVENTS;**

**Fri-Sat-Sun, Sept. 6-8, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Lapidary, Rock and Household Sale** (including some remaining items from the Joe Maez collection), by Eldon Hunewell, 348 South Newcombe St., Lakewood, CO (1 block south of Alameda, between Kipling and Union). "Minerals, huge selection of cutting material slices, fossil wood (Wyoming), fluorite (Colorado), sporting goods, furniture, clothes, kitchen ware, rocks, some 14Kt gold precious opal jewelry, and some sterling silver jewelry, and more. NO early birds please."

**Fri., Sept. 6**, 7:30 p.m., at the monthly meeting of the Denver Gem & Mineral Guild, “**Causes of Color in Minerals and Gemstones**”, by Paul Hlava, Albuquerque, New Mexico. Berthoud Hall, Room 109, Colorado School of Mines campus, Golden CO. Paul has presented this fascinating talk at a number of places in the past, including at the New Mexico Mineral Symposium. All are welcome to attend.

**Mon., Sept. 9**, 7:00 p.m., at the monthly meeting of DREGS (Denver Region Exploration Geologists Society), “**Arc Volcanoes: Nature’s Cu-Au Refineries**”, by Dr. Byron R. Berger, USGS. “Active magmatic-arc volcanoes have long been recognized as the hearths within which many base and precious metal deposits are born. ...”. Berthoud Hall, Room 241, Colorado School of Mines, Golden. All are welcome to attend (social hour 6:00-7:00, presentation at 7:00).

**Thurs., Sept. 12**, 6:00 p.m., Western Museum of Mining and Industry's newest exhibit opening and Heritage Lecture entitled: **Lost Miner! A Brief History of Mine Safety and Rescue** with Jon Northern. The opening of this unique exhibit reviews the history of mine safety and rescue, and features the expertise and harrowing experiences of Hidee Mine miner and Colorado Mine Rescuer, Jon Northern. The exhibit opening will also feature the museum’s internationally unique Chilean miner rescue pod, a full scale replica of the Fenix (or Phoenix) II capsule which has become an iconic symbol of the dramatic 2010 rescue that saved 33 Chilean miners who were trapped 2300 feet underground – as the world watched and worried. All Heritage Lectures at WMMI are always free! Please RSVP to [rsvp@wmmi.org](mailto:rsvp@wmmi.org) or by calling 719-488-0880.

**Mon., Sept. 16**, 11:30-1:00, at the weekly luncheon meeting of the **Denver Mining Club**, “**Pegmatite Mining for Gem Tourmaline in Maine**”, by Dr. Pete Modreski, USGS. At Golden Corral Buffet & Grill, 3677 S. Santa Fe Dr., Sheridan, CO (purchase of buffet lunch is required). Visitors always welcome! See [www.denverminingclub.org](http://www.denverminingclub.org) for more info. [A second chance to see this presentation, if you miss it at the Friends of Mineralogy meeting, Sept. 5 at DMNS.]

**Thurs., Sept. 19**, 7:00 p.m., the annual Emmons Lecture sponsored by the Colorado Scientific Society; **What Killed the Ice Age Megamammals of North America?**, by Dr. Kenneth Tankersley, Depts. of Anthropology and Geology, University of Cincinnati. Social half-hour, 6:30 p.m., lecture, 7:00. Foss Auditorium, American Mountaineering Center, 710 10<sup>th</sup> St., Golden, CO. No charge or RSVP required, and all are welcome to attend.

**Mon., Sept. 30**, 11:30-1:00, at the weekly luncheon meeting of the **Denver Mining Club**, “**Snowstorm Dredge Preservation, Wheat Ridge Gold Panning Park, River Cleanups, and Recreational Gold Prospecting**”, by Don Finley, Vice-President, Gold Unlimited. At Golden Corral Buffet & Grill, 3677 S. Santa Fe Dr., Sheridan, CO (purchase of buffet lunch is required). Visitors always welcome! See [www.denverminingclub.org](http://www.denverminingclub.org) for more info.

**Sat., Oct. 12**, 10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., the last monthly **Dinosaur Discovery Day** public tour day at Dinosaur Ridge, Morrison CO, for the year. Tour guides are stationed at each fossil and geologic stop to explain what you see in the Cretaceous and Jurassic rock formations. One can walk up and down the road to see the sights (no charge), or ride a shuttle bus (\$3). “Mr. Bones” (a “live” walking dinosaur skeleton) will be present at each monthly event. October will also be Girl Scout Day—special activity booths for Scouts—as well as featuring National Fossil Day. See [www.dinoridge.org](http://www.dinoridge.org) for more info.

**Thurs., Nov. 14**, 7:30 p.m., **Friends of Mineralogy, Colorado Chapter**, bimonthly meeting; **The Alkaline Pegmatite Minerals of the Golden Horn Batholith at Washington Pass, Northern Cascade Mountains, Washington**; by Dr. Markus Raschke, University of Colorado. “The unusual minerals at Washington Pass include zektzerite, sogdianite, brannockite, and a newly identified mineral that is the world's second known occurrence.” Meeting at the VIP Room, Denver Museum of Nature and Science; all are welcome to attend.

**Meeting Dates for 2013**

The dates for our future 2013 meetings will be on Nov 14th, 2014 on Jan 9th, Mar 13th, May 8th.

Membership in FMCC and National FM is \$13.

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@gmail.com](mailto:wmhutchi5@gmail.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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