



Friends of Mineralogy, Colorado Chapter Newsletter – December 2003/January 2004

January Meeting – Thursday, January 8, 7:30 p.m.

(Board meeting 6:45-7:30)

Denver Museum of Nature and Science – V.I.P. Room. Enter through the single door Security/Staff entrance to the left of the main entrance. The V.I.P. room is to the left through the cafeteria area.

January program:

Dan Kile

U. S. Geological Survey

will speak on

The Petrographic Microscope

Dan will present a talk and slide show tonight on "The Petrographic Microscope: Evolution of a Mineralogical Research Instrument". A monograph on this same topic and title authored by Dan was just published as a special supplement issue to The Mineralogical Record magazine, December 2003. This 96-page issue describes the history, principles, and use of the petrographic (polarizing) microscope, accompanied by many excellent color photos of microscopes, their accessories, and what one seeks looking through them with polarized light.

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FMCC dues are \$13.00, which includes membership in national Friends of Mineralogy. Please send your 2004 dues payment to: FM-Colorado Chapter, P.O. Box 5276, Golden CO, 80401-5276.

FMCC 2004 Officers:

President, Pete Modreski, 303-202-4766

Vice-President, Jack Thompson, 719-636-2978

Treasurer, Jim Hurlbut, 303-757-0283

Secretary, Ray Berry, 719-598-7877

Directors: Bill Chirnside (2003-04), 303-989-8748

Bruce Geller (2004-05), 303-237-2947

Tom Michalski (2003-04), 303-320-5386

2003 Election Results for 2004 FMCC Officers

The results from ballots that were in the November 2003 newsletter are that Pete Modreski, Jack Thompson, Jim Hurlbut, Ray Berry, and Bruce Geller were re-elected to those positions shown on the first page of this newsletter. In addition, Bill Chirnside and Tom Michalski will continue as Directors in 2004; their two-year terms did not expire at the end of 2003.

Thanks to Recent FMCC Meeting Speakers

Friends of Mineralogy, Colorado Chapter has been fortunate to have so many knowledgeable and interesting speakers willing to make a presentation at our meetings. The FMCC Board and members are grateful to the following speakers for their contributions:

January 2002	Jack Reed	Geologic Story of the Colorado Mountains
March 2002	David Vardiman	The Cresson Mine, Cripple Creek
May 2002	Jim Hurlbut plus Others	Seel Collection and personal reminiscences
September 2002	Jack Murphy, Pete Modreski	Visits to New and Old Mineral Localities
November 2002	Ed Raines	Minerals of the Pikes Peak Batholith
January 2003	Dave Bunk	His Personal Mineral Collection
March 2003	Dan Kile	Del Norte Thunder Eggs
May 2003	Ray Berry	Hayman Fire and Holy Moses What a Pocket
September 2003	Jack Murphy	Eagle Mine and Idarado Mine
November 2003	Jack Murphy	Tour and Talk on the Coors Mineral Hall, DMNS

Curator Cutbacks at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science

Many of our members are aware that effective January 1, 2004, the DMNS plans to reduce Jack Murphy's Curator of Geology position from a full-time to a half-time position. At the November 13, 2003, FMCC Board meeting and general member meeting there was considerable discussion on this subject. Ed Raines made a motion requesting that FMCC write a letter to the Museum severing ties with the Museum. The FMCC members present did not approve this motion, but the members did approve a second motion that FMCC write a letter to the DMNS expressing our organization's concern and protesting the Museum's plans.

Accordingly, in December Pete Modreski sent a letter to the DMNS. In his words:

As chapter president, I composed a letter and let the other officers review it, and sent it by letter on Dec. 16 to the then chairman of the museum Board of Trustees, Michael Wilfley (I understand that a new Chairperson is taking over that position for 2004), with email copies to museum President Raylene Decatur, Vice President for Programs (and former Earth Science Chairman) Richard Stucky, Chief Curator (and also former Earth Science Chairman) Russell

Graham, and Earth Science Department Chair Kirk Johnson.

I received a call from Kirk Johnson in response to our letter, and at their invitation I met with Stucky, Graham, and Johnson at the museum on Dec. 19 to discuss the staff situation as well as FMCC's role in promoting curation of the mineral collections at the museum.

We had a good talk that day, for over an hour. They reiterated their position that because of the museum's need to make budget cuts, they felt they had no choice but to reduce the Geology Curator position to half-time. They expressed their continued belief that satisfactory curatorial work on the geology and mineral collections will continue, and that Jack Murphy's reduction to half-time work will reduce or eliminate some of the other areas he has worked on (presumably, such things as educational projects, exhibits, classes and lectures, public contact, publications). They expressed a commitment and intention to continuing a serious mineral collection and acquisition program as part of Earth Science at the museum. Hope or interest was expressed in finding alternate sources of funding for Jack's work at the museum, but no such sources are immediately forthcoming, so the likelihood of obtaining them is questionable.

The museum administrators (Richard Stucky, Russell Graham, and Kirk Johnson) all expressed interest in having the Friends of Mineralogy play a role in furthering research and specimen preservation at the museum, and they invited any of our members, or our organization as a unit, to come to them with any ideas or suggestions of things that might be done to enhance the museum's role as an institution to preserve and make use of, Colorado mineral specimens. I pointed out to them our members' likely reluctance to be seen as coming in any way to "fill the gap" of mineral specimen curation, as a stop-gap solution to their reduction of Jack Murphy's professional staff time.

However, the museum would like to hear from any of our Friends of Mineralogy members with suggestions of any positive things that might be done at the museum, by the museum, or for the museum, to enhance the nature and use of its rock, mineral, gem, and meteorite collections. If anyone has any such comments you may pass these on to me (Pete Modreski) or to any of our other FM officers and we'll discuss them at our coming January and March meetings, and/or you may send them directly to:

Kirk Johnson, Chair, Department of Earth Science
Denver Museum of Nature and Science
2001 Colorado Blvd.
Denver, CO 80205
email kjohnson@dmns.org
telephone 303-370-6473

- Pete Modreski, President, FM Colorado Chapter

Request for Email Addresses

At times Pete Modreski sends emailings concerning relevant earth science items, upcoming events, etc. For those of you interested in receiving these emailings and in supplying further membership information, please send your email address to Pete at pmodreski@usgs.gov and to Jim Hurlbut at jfhu@vanion.com

Get Well Wishes

We send get-well wishes to Betty Hurlbut and to Jack Murphy. Both are recovering from recent infirmities.

Denver Gem and Mineral Show Mini Report November 4, 2003

As all club members should know, the Greater Denver Area Gem and Mineral Council is the sponsoring organization for the Denver Gem and Mineral Show. The Council is a non-profit organization under Section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code. The financial books for the 2003 show have been completed and disclose that the show had a "profit" of \$27,487. This money will be turned over to the Council to be used as grants or gifts to further the purposes of the Council. The stated purpose of the Council is to promote exhibition, exploration, and education in the earth sciences; for the discovery, development, and preservation of minerals and mineral deposits; and for the advancement, encouragement, and utilization of the principles of art and craftsmanship as applied to gems and minerals.

In addition, proceeds from the sale of grab bags at the show, in the amount of \$3,663, has been forwarded to the Colorado School of Mines to provide a scholarship to a geology student.

Thank you and congratulations to your club for your participation in the show. Your efforts and dedication generated these moneys, which will be used for many worthwhile endeavors in the earth sciences. Many people will be grateful.

Respectfully submitted, Judy Knoshaug, Secretary pro tem

Planned 2004 FMCC Meeting Dates

See the Coming Events section on the last page of this newsletter for the five 2004 meeting dates.

FMCC January meeting is Thursday, January 8, 2004, 7:30 pm, Denver Museum of Nature & Science.
Dan Kile will discuss the Petrographic Microscope.

Coming Events: 2004

- Jan 8 Friends of Mineralogy meeting, DMNS
- Jan 9-11 Denver Gem & Mineral Guild Show, Lakeside Center, I-70 and Harlan
- Jan 24-25 5th Annual Cripple Creek School of Prospecting, reservations: 719-689-3514
- Jan 31-Feb 14 Arizona Mineral & Fossil Show, Tucson
- Feb 12-15 Tucson Gem and Mineral Show 50th anniversary, Tucson Convention Center, theme: Gold
- Mar 11 Friends of Mineralogy meeting, DMNS
- Apr 23-25 Spring Colorado Mineral & Fossil Show, Holiday Inn Denver Central, 4849 Bannock St., and Best Western-Central Denver, 200 W 48th Ave.
- May 13 Friends of Mineralogy meeting, DMNS
- Sep 9 Friends of Mineralogy meeting, DMNS
- Sep 16-18 Denver Gem and Mineral Show
- Nov 11 Friends of Mineralogy meeting, DMNS

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