



Friends of Mineralogy, Colorado Chapter Newsletter – April/May, 2004

May Meeting – Thursday, May 13, 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.

May program:

Daniel E. Kile

will speak on

Zeolite Mineralogy of the Table Mountains

Dan recently prepared an article reviewing and updating the zeolite mineralogy of the Table Mountains for the upcoming July-August issue of *Rocks & Minerals*. Zeolite minerals will be the theme of the September 2004 Denver Gem and Mineral Show. Dan, an FMCC member, is a research mineralogist with the USGS Water Resources National Research Program in Boulder, CO. As a short addition to the program, Pete Modreski will give a brief presentation about other zeolite occurrences in Colorado.

* * * * *

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

FMCC Silent Auction in May

The annual FMCC Silent Auction will be held Saturday, May 22 at the Glendale Community Center from 1-3 p.m. See the flier and blank form enclosed in this newsletter for details.

Call for Volunteers for FM Mineral ID Booth, Denver Show

Each year our FM Colorado Chapter runs the mineral identification booth at the Denver Show in September. If you are willing to help for a couple of hours one or more days of the show Sep 17-19, please contact Pete Modreski at 303-202-4766 (office), 303-425-9549 (home), or at his email pmodreski@usgs.gov. Please remember, you don't have to be a mineralogical expert to help at our Mineral I.D. booth, which is FMCC's main contribution to helping put on the Denver Gem and Mineral Show. Many of the items brought to this booth are common rocks and minerals brought in by beginning collectors, and a general familiarity with rocks and minerals will help answer most questions. If a real "expert" is needed for a special, unusual specimen, it's always easy to call or find someone.

Call for Volunteers for Kids' Corner, Denver Show

Again this year there will be a Kids' Corner room for hands-on rock and mineral activities at the Denver Show. If you are available to help for a few hours on one or more days of the show Sep 17-19, please contact Pete Modreski at the numbers shown above. Anyone with general knowledge about rocks and minerals, and who enjoys talking with kids, will do fine in helping at the Kids' Corner.

Dues

Notice! Check your mailing label. If your membership date is marked in Red, this is the last issue you will receive unless you pay your 2004 dues promptly.

Gold Camp Road Project

The Pike National Forest is moving forward with a *Planning/Environmental Impact Statement Project* that involves repairing the collapsed Tunnel #3 in North Cheyenne Canon, and planning whether the 8 miles of closed Gold Camp road should be opened. This area is prime mineral collecting area for the full length of the closure. It is the historic St Peters Dome Mining District. Members of CSMS, as well as Denver area clubs and FM, should be interested in getting access again to this collecting area. One of the important purposes of hobby groups is to protect and preserve our collecting sites and rights.

The Forest Service is actively seeking comment, both written and email. You can call the Pikes Peak NF District planner, Frank Landis, at (719) 477-4203, or go to the Project website at www.fs.fed.us/r2/psicc/pp for more information and to make comments. You may ask to be kept informed of the progress and to receive a copy of the draft EIS. Click on Gold Camp Road Plan/EIS. Below is a copy of comments the writer made as a sample. Use this only as a sample of the type of comments that are suitable. How the opening or continued closure may affect you personally, as well as general comments, are proper items for your communication.

April 30, 2004
Pike National Forest
Pikes Peak Ranger District
601 S Weber St
Colorado Springs, CO 80903

Dear sirs:

I wish to comment on the Gold Camp Road Planning/EIS Project.

I support the repair of Tunnel #3 and the opening of the closed section of the road to motorized traffic. The true historic value of this road cannot be fully realized unless it is restored to its use as a road that can be traveled by all people, not just the lucky few who can hike or cycle. It is time to stop this elitist trend toward making our national forests the playground of the most hale and hearty citizens.

I remember that the most vocal opponents of the last attempt to open the road in the late 1990's cited dust that descended on the Canonwoods community. Actually much of that dust comes from the still open section before Tunnel #3 directly above them. Possible endangered species were also cited. I dare say a determined wild plant or animal specialist could find something endangered anywhere they look within the forest, and usually do!

This particular closed section of the road is all part of the historic St Peters Dome Mining District that dates from the earliest surveys of minerals in El Paso County. Winfield Scott Stratton was a prospector here at the Eureka Tunnel (down slope from the #5 tunnel) before going on to Cripple Creek fame. A number of rare minerals found here are known from only one other locality, Greenland. I have a list of 52 minerals reported from this district that appeared in various papers and mineralogical publications. It should be remembered that none of this area is pristine in the true meaning of the word. Nearly all of the lands abutting the road were prospected by bulldozers in the 1940's and '50's.

In May 2000, and again in July 2003, I led field trips to this area using the keyed gate at the St Peters Dome end. Over 50 mineral collectors who had been unable to get to this area without hiking for great distances were able to spend one day here! Obviously, not all who would like to collect here are able to go on any single day. They should be able to go on their own when it fits their schedule, and to other sites along this portion of the road that we were unable to prospect.

It is also important that this road be available for fire fighting purposes. On my last trip there in July 2003, the lock had been jammed by driving a nail into the key slot and breaking it off. It is apparent that some of those opposing vehicular use of the road are eco-terrorists. On one visit to the area my front and rear brake lines were cut on my vehicle while I was prospecting above the road.

It is my hope the planning project now under way will not yield to those environmental extremists who work to lock up our public lands. As a member of the Pikes Peak Multi-Use Planning Group, we incorporated the vehicular use of the Gold Camp Road in our final plans, but this has not come about because of these extreme environmentalists using lawsuits to stymie the fulfillment of our plans.

Please keep me informed of progress and I would like a hard copy of the draft EIS.

Sincerely,

Raymond R. Berry

rayber@peoplepc.com

No termination date for comments was given in the brochure I received from the Forest Service. Please give your views, and do not put this aside where it may be forgotten. Comments should be addressed to:

Gold Camp Road Project
c/o Greystone
5231 S Quebec St
Greenwood Village, CO 80111

Thanks to FMCC Authors

The mineral collecting community is fortunate that several members of Friends of Mineralogy, Colorado Chapter, are among those who have contributed articles to recent mineralogy publications. FMCC thanks its member authors for sharing their knowledge and time in the following 2002 and 2003 journal issues:

Rocks & Minerals

Tom Rosemeyer	May-Jun 2002	“History, Geology, and Mineralogy of the Brooklyn Mine”
Dan Kile	Jul-Aug 2002	“Occurrence and Genesis of Thunder Eggs Containing Plume and Moss Agate”
Mark Jacobson	Jul-Aug 2002	Book Review Section
Jack Murphy and Pete Modreski	Jul-Aug 2002	“A Tour of Colorado Gemstone Localities”
Tom Rosemeyer	Nov-Dec 2002	“News from the Keweenaw”
Tom Rosemeyer	May-Jun 2003	“The Occurrence of Porcelaneous Datolite in Michigan’s Lake Superior Copper District”
Ray Berry (principal author)	Jul-Aug 2003	“Large Smoky Quartz and Fluorite Crystals from the Holy Moses Pocket”
Jack Murphy	Sep-Oct 2003	“Preserving Minerals and Mining History at the Eagle Mine”
Tom Rosemeyer	Sep-Oct 2003	“History and Mineralogy of the Indiana Mine”

The Mineralogical Record

Bill Smith	Mar-Apr 2002	Pacific Mineral Museum Gold Show Gallery Review
Dan Kile	Nov-Dec 2003	“The Petrographic Microscope” special supplement

Denver Gem and Mineral Show Mini Report April, 2004

Keep those dates in mind – September 17, 18 and 19 – for the fantastic 2004 Denver Gem and Mineral Show! The theme is ZEOLITES AND ASSOCIATED MINERALS. Have you started planning your exhibit? It is not too early to be thinking about exhibits for you personally or for your club. There are many categories of possible exhibits, both competitive and non-competitive. Perhaps you have collected at North Table Mountain in the past and have a nice collection of Zeolites that could be displayed. Or perhaps this is the year you have decided to try your hand at a competitive exhibit. The Show Committee would like to see more competitive exhibits. Then there is the Club Prospector's Trophy. This will be the third year for this competition. So far only three clubs have participated in this competition. Let's try to increase that number. Winning the Club Prospector's Trophy would be a great achievement and may attract new members for your club.

The Show Committee is always looking for new people to join the committee to help plan and improve the show. There is an acute need for someone to help in the publicity area. Regina Aumente has been handling publicity for the show for many years and needs assistance. There must be some club members out there who have a little experience with publicity matters and who would enjoy working in this area for the show. Please come forward. WE NEED YOU!! If you are that special person, please don't be shy but call either Regina Aumente at 303-978-9926 or Barb Melby at 303-423-5876. Working on the show is fun and rewarding. You won't regret it. -Respectfully submitted, Judy Knoshaug, Secretary

Annual Open House at the Geology Museum, Colorado School of Mines, in September

On September 15, 2004, the Geology Museum at the Colorado School of Mines will have an open house from 7:00 to 10:00 pm. Everyone in the mineral collecting community is invited. Museum curator and host Paul Bartos will have hors d'oeuvres and a silent auction, and he plans to do this annually on the Wednesday before the Denver Show. Mineral specimen donations are welcomed for the auction.



Denver Gem & Mineral Guild Annual Silent Auction



Friday, May 14th 7:30 – 9:30 pm
Room 126, Berthoud Hall, Colorado School of Mines
16th & Illinois Street, Golden, Colorado
Gems, Mineral Specimens, Fossils, Petrified Wood and ???
Free Admission – Public Welcome
Special section for Kids Only

Sellers from other Denver Area mineral clubs are welcome.
For more details, call Bob Park at 303-279-1015

FMCC May meeting is Thursday, May 13, 2004, 7:30 pm, Denver Museum of Nature & Science.
Dan Kile will discuss Zeolite Mineralogy of the Table Mountains.

Coming Events: 2004

- May 8 Dinosaur Ridge Dino Discovery Day, 10-2:30, dedication as National Natural Landmark at 11am
- May 8 Colorado Mineral Society Silent Auction, Lakewood Link Rec. Center, 1295 S. Reed St., 1-4pm
- May 8-9 Grand Junction Gem and Mineral Show, Two Rivers Convention Center, First and Main
- May 13 Friends of Mineralogy meeting, DMNS
- May 14 Denver Gem and Mineral Guild Silent Auction, 7:30-9:30pm, Room 126, Berthoud Hall, CSM
- May 22 Friends of Mineralogy Auction, Glendale Community Center, 999 S. Clermont, 1:00 – 3:00 pm
- June 19-20 Colorado Springs Mineral Society Show, new location: Phil Long Expo Center
- July 3-4 Days of '92 National Hard Rock Mining Competition, Creede, CO; call 800-327-2102
- Aug 7-8 Rock and Mineral Show, Underground Mining Museum, Creede, CO; call 719-658-2376
- Sep 9 Friends of Mineralogy meeting, DMNS
- Sep 15 Annual Open House, Geology Museum, Colorado School of Mines, 7-10 pm
- Sep 17-19 Denver Gem and Mineral Show
- Nov 4 Friends of Mineralogy meeting, DMNS. Please note that this is a date change.
- Nov 13-14 New Mexico Mineral Symposium, Socorro, New Mexico

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

