

Friends of Mineralogy, Colorado Chapter Newsletter – October/November 2005

November Meeting – Thursday, November 3, 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.

Note that our November meeting will be held a week earlier than normal.

November Program:

**Pete Modreski, USGS,
will speak on**

Carbonatites and their Minerals, of Colorado and the World

Carbonatites are very unusual igneous rocks, composed mainly of carbonate minerals: calcite, dolomite, and others. Aside from an enigmatic composition and origin, they are of economic importance because, at various locations in the world, they are enriched in minerals which make them important, or potential, resources. Copper, fluorite, barite, magnetite, titanium, apatite, rare earths, uranium, and vermiculite are among the minerals mined from carbonatites around the world.

Carbonatites famous for their minerals or their ores occur in South Africa, Namibia, India, Russia, Norway, Sweden, Brazil, Quebec, Arkansas, Montana, Colorado, and one active volcano in Tanzania.

Colorado is host to several carbonatite complexes and associated unusual igneous rocks. These include the Iron Hill (Powderhorn) complex in Gunnison County; Gem Park, Iron Mountain, and McClure Mountain complexes in Fremont and Custer Counties; and a number of associated carbonatite dikes (the Amethyst, McCoy Gulch, Road Gulch, and Goldie carbonatites). These rocks in Colorado host a number of fairly unusual minerals, including perovskite, melilite, bastnaesite, brockite, brookite, cryolite, fergusonite, monazite, parisite, pyrochlore, richterite, riebeckite, synchysite, thorite, and zircon.

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FMCC dues for 2005 are \$13.00, which includes membership in national Friends of Mineralogy. Please send your dues payment to: FM-Colorado Chapter, P.O. Box 5276, Golden CO, 80401-5276.

FMCC 2005 Officers:

President, Pete Modreski, 303-202-4766

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

Treasurer, Jim Hurlbut, 303-757-0283

Secretary, Richard Parsons,

Directors: Bill Chirnside (2005-06), 303-989-8748

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

Paul Kendall (2005-06), 303-470-3261, & newsletter editor

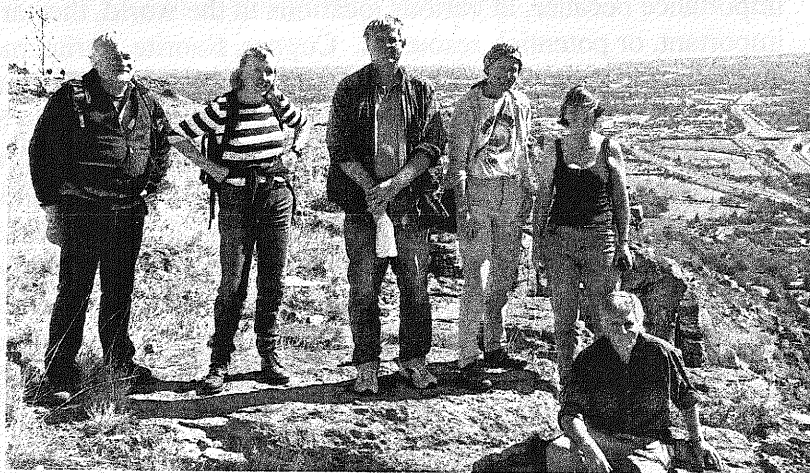
September 2005 Agate and Cryptocrystalline Quartz Symposium and Field Trips

One hundred two persons attended this two-day symposium, and thirty speakers from the US and four other countries gave interesting, educational talks. All speakers scheduled to talk were able to attend except one from Iran. Topics included agate, thundereggs, geodes, chalcedony, opal, fossil wood, jasper, history, carving, fluorescence, quartz, serious stuff, and lighter comments. Definitions given during the talks were important for those in the audience new to this aspect of mineralogy. This writer also went on two of the three field trips after the symposium, and both had typical sunny September weather. For the all-day trip to the Patch Mine near Central City, a few people found very good display specimens of galena or quartz, and many others found representative specimens of galena, quartz, sphalerite, siderite, pyrite, and other minerals. For the half-day trip to North Table Mountain in Golden, most persons found good specimens of analcime, chabazite, and thomsonite. The third field trip was in greater Denver to collect fossil wood, and it is understood that a good quantity was found.



Agate and Cryptocrystalline Quartz Symposium, Colorado School of Mines, Golden, CO, September 2005, photo by Pete Modreski

Field trip on North Table Mountain, Golden, CO, in conjunction with the Agate Symposium, September 2005, photo by Pete Modreski



Denver Gem and Mineral Show Mini Report October 2005

The 2005 Denver Gem and Mineral Show was another superb show. The displays were outstanding; many were educational. Several of the displays informed us of facts about quartz that we did not realize before. Even though we all think the show is a fantastic event and how could anyone miss it, paid attendance was down from 2004 slightly, by 294 persons. Total attendance including the school children, volunteers, exhibitors, scouts, dealers and their helpers summed to 10,234. That's a lot

of people! Volunteers from all the clubs, show committee, gold panners, and other groups totaled 369. It does take a lot of work to put on the show but it is certainly worth it. The Show Committee wishes to extend a hearty thank you to all the volunteers who helped in some way. Your efforts are truly appreciated.

The competitive winners at the Denver Gem and Mineral Show were:

C.E. "Shorty" Withers Trophy - William Severance, Quartz and Associates

Best Museum Trophy - Virginia Technological Institute

Prospector Trophy - Donald Beamer, Barite from Book Cliffs, Grand Junction, Colorado

Best Fossil Trophy - W. Leslie Robinette, ancient pig skull

Richard M. Pearl Trophy - Larry Havens, Vivianite from Bolivia

Best of Species Trophies -

Thumbnail - Carolyn Manchester, Rose Quartz

Miniature - Larry Havens, Japan Law Twin from Montana

Cabinet - Al and Sue Liebetrau, Quartz after Fluorite

Oversize Cabinet - Jack Halpern, Quartz with Hedenbergite inclusions

Field Collected - Eldon Hunewell, Amethyst enhydro

Lapidary/Jewelry - Eldon Hunewell, Amethyst butterfly

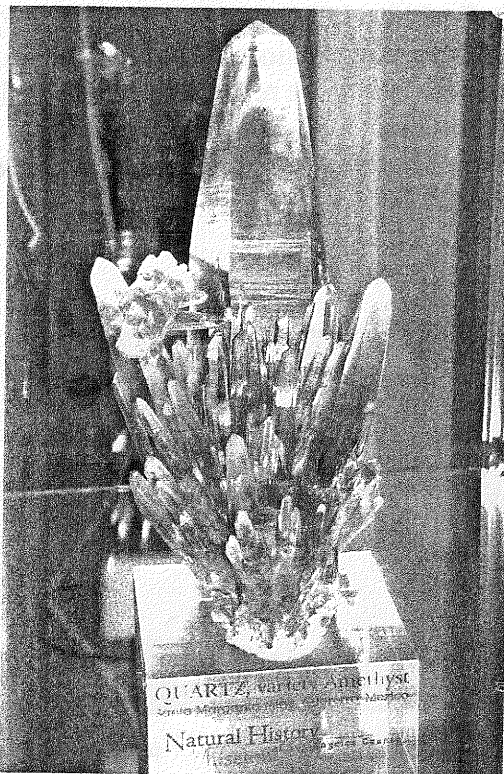
Colorado Specimen - Jack Halpern, Amethyst crystal from Creede

Individual Competitive Case Trophy - Bill and Chris Hayward, Quartz and Associates from the Pikes Peak Batholith

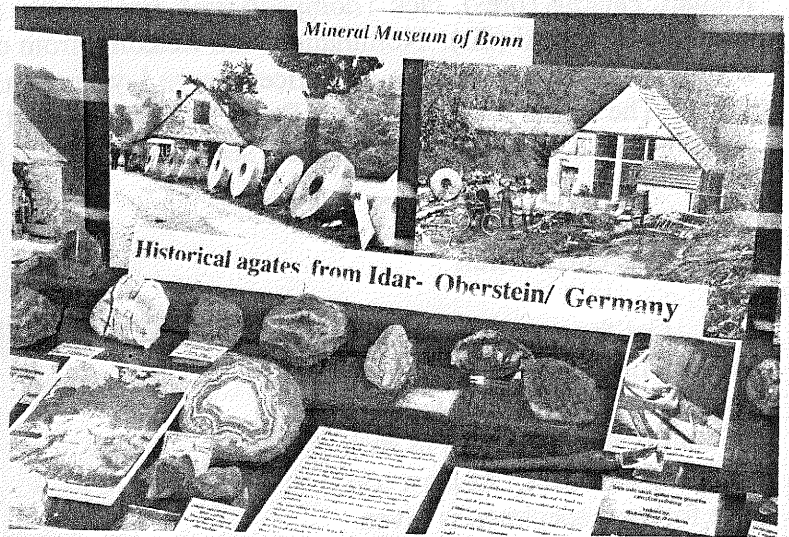
Club Prospector Trophy - a tie between the Mile Hi Rock and Mineral Society and the Colorado Mineral Society.

-Respectfully submitted, Judy Knoshaug, Secretary

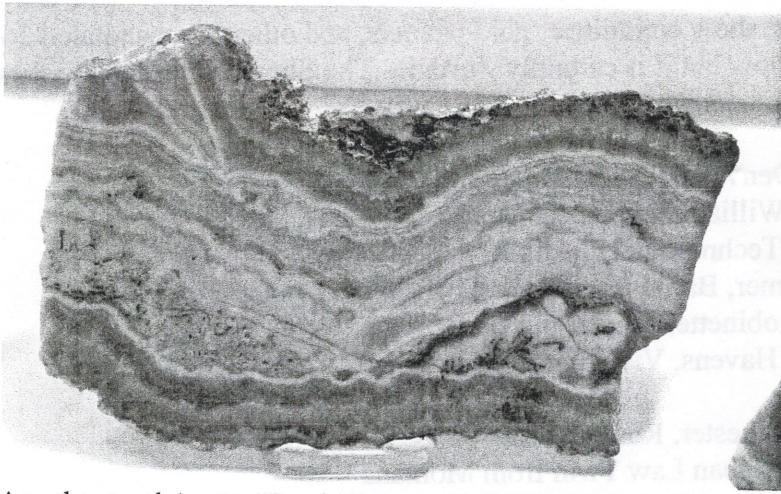
Photos from the Denver Gem and Mineral Show, September 2005



Amethyst, Santa Margarita Mine, Guerrero, Mexico, approx. 1 ft tall, Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County specimen, 2005 Denver Gem and Mineral Show, photo by Pete Modreski



Historical Agates from Idar-Oberstein, Germany, exhibit by the Mineral Museum of Bonn, 2005 Denver Gem and Mineral Show, photo by Pete Modreski



Amethyst and Agate, "Sowbelly agate," Creede, CO, approx. 5 x 3 inches, Ed Raines specimen, 2005 Denver Gem and Mineral Show, photo by Pete Modreski



Jim Hurlbut and saxophone, Saturday night auction and lecture, 2005 Denver Gem and Mineral Show, photo by Pete Modreski

Election of 2006 Friends of Mineralogy – Colorado Chapter Officers and Directors

Jim Hurlbut heads a nominating committee for 2006 officers and directors. Nominees are: Richard Parsons (pres), Jack Thompson (vp), Jim Hurlbut (treas), Paul Kendall (sec), Bruce Geller (dir), and Pete Modreski (dir). Nominations are welcome from our members, and nominees will be voted on at the November 3 meeting. All officers serve 1-year terms and are eligible to be replaced or continue in office. The 2-year term of director Bruce Geller expires at the end of 2005; a director is needed for director Paul Kendall's 2nd year if he's secretary. Director Bill Chirnside remains in office through 2006.

Mineral Identification

Get those mineralogical neurons firing! With the two photos to the right, your task is to identify the mineral(s) in each and their localities. At least one clue for each specimen is given later in this newsletter, and the answers are given toward the end of this newsletter. No prizes are planned. This is only some mental exercise, and it may not be much exercise for all of the high-steppers that read this newsletter.



Specimen A
1¾ inch tall specimen
Anonymous owner



Specimen B
3¾ inch wide specimen
Anonymous owner

Photos by
P. Kendall

Mineral Identification Clues

Specimen A: This mineral crystallizes in the monoclinic system. Specimen B: This mineral crystallizes in the hexagonal system.

Symposium Abstracts Booklet for Sale

Abstracts from all of the talks given at the September Agate Symposium have been bound together and are available for sale for \$20 postpaid. The booklet is 144 pages, and the cover plus 4 other pages are in color. These may be ordered by sending a check to Friends of Mineralogy – Colorado Chapter, P.O. Box 5276, Golden, CO 80401-5276 or by purchasing one at our regular member meetings.

Mineral Identification Answers

Specimen A: Crocoite with gibbsite, Red Lead Mine, Dundas, Tasmania, Australia. Specimen B: Calcite, Book Cliffs, Grand Junction, Colorado.

FMCC November meeting is Thursday, November 3, 2005, 7:30 pm, Denver Museum of Nature & Science.

Pete Modreski will present "Carbonatites and their Minerals, of Colorado and the World."

Coming Events:

2005

- Nov 3 Friends of Mineralogy meeting, DMNS
- Nov 12-13 New Mexico Mineral Symposium, Macey Center, N. Mex. Inst. of Mining & Techn., Socorro
- Nov 19 Littleton Gem and Mineral Club annual silent auction, Goodson Rec. Center, 6315 S. University Blvd., Littleton, CO, setup noon, start 1 pm
- Dec 9-11 Flatirons Mineral Club annual show, Boulder County Fairgrounds, 9595 Nelson Rd., Longmont, CO (new date and place, yes in Longmont)

2006

- Jan 13-15 Denver Gem and Mineral Guild annual show, Lakeside Center, I-70 at Harlan

Friends of Mineralogy—Colorado Chapter

P.O. Box 5276

Golden, CO 80401-5276

