

Friends of Mineralogy, Colorado Chapter Newsletter – December 2005/January 2006

January Meeting – Thursday, January 12, 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:

**Andy Weinzapfel and Steve Veatch
will speak on**

Treasures of Pikes Peak Backcountry: Order from Chaos

Pikes Peak backcountry has yielded four unique mineral and paleontological treasures: Cripple Creek gold; Florissant fossils; Lake George amazonite and smoky quartz; Tarryall topaz and beryllium ore. One occurs in unusual igneous-extrusive rocks (phonolites), one in sedimentary lake beds, and two in igneous-intrusive rocks (granites). To date, these anomalies have been widely assumed to be separate and unrelated. This presentation challenges that view, suggesting there is a unifying, previously unrecognized geologic element that has influenced their location over a very long time. An old rupture of the earth's surface, henceforth named the Florissant Lineament, manifests itself as a regional fluorine anomaly connecting four "pearls on a string" over a distance of 35 miles in approximately a straight line. This anomaly extends through the town of Florissant. Emphasis of this presentation will be on the northern portion of the lineament with its world-class specimens of amazonite, smoky quartz, and topaz. These treasures share a common genesis as part of a volcanic chain active about one billion years ago, extending from near Florissant-Lake George to the Lost Creek Wilderness region of the Tarryall Mtns.

Andy is a consulting petroleum geologist, Weinzapfel Geological Enterprises, LLC and retired Conoco Geological Fellow. Steve is adjunct professor of earth science, Emporia State University.

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FMCC dues for 2006 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 2006 Officers:

President, Richard Parsons, 303-838-8859

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

Treasurer, Jim Hurlbut, 303-757-0283

Secretary, Paul Kendall, 303-470-3261, and newsletter editor

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

Bruce Geller (2006-07), 303-237-2947

Pete Modreski (2006-07), 303-202-4766

Thoughts from the President - January, 2006

I am looking forward to the opportunity to serve as Chapter President this year. I will do my best to continue FM's tradition of excellent programs and activities.

With your help, I would also like to devote some time this year to looking to the Chapter's future. In particular, who are FM's future members? Where do we find them? What will attract them and get them involved?

The Chapter has, in my view, a unique niche among Colorado clubs, and I am delighted to be a part of it. How do *you* view FM's place in the mineral community?

I have been very happy with the programs over the few years I have been a member. Have we been meeting your needs? What kinds of programs would you suggest we have?

If you have thoughts on these issues, please let me know. I can be reached by phone, or by e- or snail- mail.

Happy New Year!

Richard Parsons, President

FM Colorado

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Friends of Mineralogy – Colorado Chapter 2006 Officers and Directors

At the November 2005 FMCC general meeting, officers and directors were voted into office for 2006 amid thunderous cheering by members in attendance. Page one of this newsletter lists the officers and directors and their titles. Also at the meeting Larry Havens was appointed as our Trustee (representative) to the Denver Council.

Pete Modreski will be a director of FMCC in 2006. The Board and members of FMCC would like to thank Pete for his service to our club as president for the four consecutive years 2002 through 2005.

Thanks to 2005 FMCC Meeting Speakers

Friends of Mineralogy, Colorado Chapter has had many knowledgeable, interesting speakers make presentations at our meetings. The FMCC Board and members appreciate the following persons speaking to us in 2005:

January	Susan Eriksson	EarthScope – a National Science Project to Investigate North America
March	Beth Simmons	Mining History of Idaho Springs and Clear Creek County
May	saw a video	<i>Rhodochrosite: Red Treasure of the Rockies</i>
September	No meeting	Members were invited to the Agate Symposium that occurred two days later
November	Pete Modreski	Carbonatites and their Minerals, of Colorado and the World

Thanks to 2005 FMCC Authors

Friends of Mineralogy, Colorado Chapter, has several members who have written articles to recent mineralogy publications. FMCC thanks these member authors for sharing their knowledge in the following journal articles from 2005:

Rocks & Minerals

Tom Rosemeyer	May-June	"The Occurrence of Porcelaneous Datolite in Michigan's Lake Superior Copper District: Part 2: South Keweenaw, Houghton, and Ontonagon Counties, Michigan"
Pete Modreski	Sep-Oct	"Colorado Mineral Collecting Localities"

The Mineralogical Record

Bill and Carol Smith et al.	Jan-Feb	"Locality Guide" (China Special Issue)
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Goldschmidt's Atlas der Krystallformen

The mineralogical reference *Atlas der Krystallformen* by Victor Goldschmidt with its mineral crystal drawings has for most of 100 years been an important tool in the identification of minerals and their localities and a work of art. Goldschmidt assembled 23,606 crystal drawings of 669 mineral species as nine volumes of figures and nine volumes of related text. Original hardcover books total 3,448 pages, require a foot or so of shelf space, and are difficult to acquire. Fifteen years ago the Rochester Mineralogical Symposium made softcover reprints of the *Atlas* with figure and text volumes combined for \$300.

There are several sources available for persons wanting to consult this work. On the internet, <http://www.meinmineraliensammlung.de/victor/goldschmidt/> has all 23,606 drawings on-line. The website <http://folk.uio.no/hansjb/goldschmidt.htm> has the complete *Atlas* for sale as a two CD set for approximately \$70. And the website <http://www.mindat.org/goldschmidt.php> has the complete *Atlas* for sale on one DVD for \$42 to the US. There may be other websites with the scanned drawings for viewing or for sale. For the three above websites, some include the related text and some do not. Arthur Lakes Library at the Colorado School of Mines in Golden has a complete original hardcover set of the *Atlas*.

2005 Auction Results

Our 5/15/05 FMCC auction was surely one of our smallest auctions in recent memory. We had 19 successful buyers, 18 successful sellers, and 193 items sold at an average price of \$5.50 per item. The club made a total of \$447. Thanks to all the helpers, sellers, and buyers. If anyone knows of a suitable replacement for our auction hall, please let me or any Board member know and we'll try reserving it for a date and time to be determined at our January meeting. Our previous site will no longer be available for rentals.

-- Bruce Geller 303-237-2947

It's Dues Time Again

Membership in FMCC and National FM is still only \$13 in 2006. Payment can be sent to the address on page 1 or given to our Treasurer or any Board member.

Friends of Mineralogy 2006 Annual Meeting and Social and Board Meeting - Comments from Bill Dameron

We look forward to seeing all directors at the annual meeting this year; last year's was the best attended and liveliest in at least 10 years. It will be at the Clarion, like last year. The announcement which Gloria will have in the newsletter is reproduced below FYI.

--Bill Dameron

FM ANNUAL MEETING AND SOCIAL, Tuesday, February 7, 4:00 pm
Cactus Room, Clarion Inn, 102 N. Alvernon Way, Tucson

All Friends of Mineralogy members and prospective members are invited, encouraged, indeed **URGED** to attend our annual meeting in Tucson. We had much better attendance in 2005 than in many years by selecting a time that does not interfere with the main show. The meeting will start at 4:00 pm promptly and the social will follow, at about 5:00 pm. We need your input and ideas for our annual Board meeting, which will be Friday morning. Please, come, contribute and then socialize with some really great people!

Summary of an Article in the AFMS Newsletter by John Spunaugle

The Paleontological Resources Preservation Act, Senate Bill 5-263 is now being considered by the U. S. House of Representatives Natural Resources Committee. This bill, for all practical purposes, is identical to the fossil bills considered by the 108th Congress in 2003-4. Therefore, past comments by previous AFMS and ALAA (American Lands Access Association) reviewers apply to this latest introduced Bill, S-263. Again, as in the last Congress, the Bill was passed by the U.S. Senate by voice vote and has been referred to the U.S. House of Representatives for consideration and possible passage. In the last Congress, several reviewers called it a "bad bill" primarily because it criminalized fossil collecting with outrageous penalties for picking up a fossil on public land. The Bill was also criticized for its reward provisions for turning in violators, making it rife for abuse. The S-263 Bill has some good points and some bad points. For someone like myself, who helped write the first version of the "rockhound" fossil collecting bill, and worked to defeat the so called "Baccus" Bill in 1992-3, I can clearly see some improvements. Some of the remaining objections to the Bill S 263 in its current form are:

The bill fails to make a distinction between scientifically significant fossils versus common fossils. Instead it defines the paleontological resource it would protect to mean "any fossilized remains, trace, or imprints of organisms preserved in or on the earth's crust...except for archaeological resources or those associated with an archaeological resource. (The latter are covered under an archaeological resources protection act passed many years ago). Casual collecting of a reasonable number of common invertebrate and plant fossil specimens may be allowed under this Bill in Section 5, at the discretion of the Secretary (the land managers). Therefore, amateurs "may" be able to collect certain common invertebrate or plant fossils found on federal lands but not necessarily. Only hand tools could be used and collecting can not cause more than a negligible surface disturbance (undefined). Collecting common vertebrate fossils such as fish fossils, sharks teeth and the like, would be a violation of the act, as would picking up a isolated single dinosaur bone fragment in the badlands of the western United States if it was on Federal land,

All other collecting of paleontological resources on Federal lands would require a permit issued

by the Secretary (the managers) and be given only to "qualified" applicants. The resources collected would remain the property of the United States with the resources collected and the associated data deposited in an approved repository when collected under a permit.

Further, there would be no commercial collection of fossils allowed. This would preclude anyone, amateur or otherwise, from selling, trading, or bartering any fossil collected on federal land. Not only does this affect amateurs, but completely eliminates the valuable and considerable contributions to paleontology that commercial fossil entities have provided in the past in discovering, extraction, and preparation of fossils. The dinosaur "Sue," a Tyrannosaurus Rex, is a perfect example.

Penalties for criminal violation of any provisions of this Bill would result in fines in accordance with Title 18 of the U.S. Code, and/or imprisonment for up to 10 years. Title 18 provides for fines ranging up to \$5,000 and up to \$10,000 in certain circumstances. Violations would be prosecuted in Federal Courts.

Civil penalties are also provided for in the Bill and can go as high as double the replacement cost or restoration cost of the resource involved as determined by the land managers. No due process is required under the civil penalty provisions other than a required notice of a hearing. A judicial review petition is allowed only within a thirty day period following any civil penalty assessment, but the court is allowed to rule only on the evidence presented in the hearing report. Forget "innocent until proven guilty" and the right to a trial by your peers. Fossils in your collection, especially if you cannot prove where they came from, are subject to the provisions of this bill. Most fossils I know of don't say Made in China or Hecho en Mexico on them. And, how many of you kept receipts on items purchased, or can you vouch for exactly where the vertebrate fossils really came from even if you did purchase them and can prove it? The Bill calls for a person to exercise "due care" in knowing whether the resource was excavated or removed from Federal land. Again "due care" is undefined.

Also subject to forfeiture under this Bill are the paleontological resources with respect to which the violation occurred; in addition all vehicles and equipment of any person that were used in connection with the violation may be forfeit. I'm not a lawyer, but do have knowledge of what has happened to several collectors and to several hobbyists in the past with regard to property confiscated, rightly or wrongly. In most cases nothing was ever returned, regardless of its being legally obtained.

So, I worry for fossil collectors if this Bill, S 263, becomes law. The best way to prevent its passage in its present form is for all of us to communicate our feelings to our Congressional Representatives. A copy of the Bill is found on the Internet by using any of the Internet search engines Google, Yahoo, MSN, etc.

2006 FMCC Meetings

Please note the following dates for our 2006 meetings. Included are two exceptions to our customary second Thursday of the month: Jan 12, Mar 9, May 11, Sep 21 (third Thursday), and Nov 2 (first Thursday).

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 they may be purchased at our regular member meetings.

Denver Gem and Mineral Show Mini Report

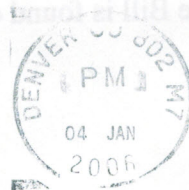
There is no mini report for January because the Show Committee meets after the production of this newsletter, and they did not have a December meeting.

FMCC January meeting is Thursday, January 12, 2006, 7:30 pm, Denver Museum of Nature & Science. **Andy Weinzapfel** and **Steve Veatch** will present "Treasures of Pikes Peak Backcountry: Order from Chaos."

Coming Events 2006:

- Jan 12 Friends of Mineralogy meeting, DMNS
- Jan 13-15 Denver Gem and Mineral Guild annual Show, Lakeside Center, I-70 at Harlan
- Jan 28-Feb 11 Arizona Mineral and Fossil Show, Tucson, www.mzexpos.com
- Feb 7 Friends of Mineralogy Annual Meeting and Social, 4 pm, Clarion Inn, Tucson
- Feb 9-12 52nd annual Tucson Gem and Mineral Show, Tucson Convention Center
- Feb 10 Friends of Mineralogy Annual Board Meeting, Tucson
- Mar 9 Friends of Mineralogy meeting, DMNS
- Apr 14 N. Jeffco Gem and Mineral Club Silent Auction
- Apr 21-23 Colorado Mineral & Fossil Show-Spring, Holiday Inn, 4849 Bannock, Best Western, 200 W 48th
- May 11 Friends of Mineralogy meeting, DMNS
- Sep 15-17 39th annual Denver Gem and Mineral Show, Denver Merchandise Mart, 58th Ave. and I-25
- Sep 21 Friends of Mineralogy meeting, DMNS. This is the 3rd Thursday in September.
- Nov 2 Friends of Mineralogy meeting, DMNS. This is the 1st Thursday in November.

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