

## Friends of Mineralogy, Colorado Chapter Newsletter – October/November 2006

**November Meeting – Thursday, November 2, 7:30 pm - first Thursday** (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.

### November Program:

Join us Thursday, November second at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science for an exciting evening!

Two groups that had great success on Mt. Antero/White Mountain this summer will display specimens collected there, and talk about the finds and the environments in which they were found.

Tom Miller and John Melby brought down over 3,000 carats of Aquamarine (plus a few other goodies such as thorite) from John's White Mountain claim. Tom (an avid collector and a member of the North Jeffco Gem and Mineral Club), will bring examples and speak briefly.

Most of you probably saw the monster smokies that Jeff Self had on display at the Denver Gem and Mineral show. Jeff tells us that there was another, more spectacular find, which he describes as "unprecedented". Some additional specimens from this find will be unveiled at the FM meeting. Until that time, Jeff has asked that we not reveal the nature of the find! Geologist Bill Hutchinson will give a 10 -15 minute overview of the discovery and the analysis the specimens have undergone since summer.

We have also extended an invitation to Dr. Paul Morgan, the new Chairman of the Department of Earth Sciences and Curator of Geology at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. As there is much on the horizon for the Department, we are hoping that he will be available to talk about coming Museum events and activities.

Bring Guests! This will be a special event, which we would like to share with non-members with a strong interest in mineralogy.

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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



## Changes to Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation Approved

As a result of our members voting more than a month ago, the proposed FMCC Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation have been approved and are in effect.

## From the President Nov 2006

This year has flown by with remarkable speed! We were able to clear away some major housekeeping items and to enjoy several good programs through the year. We had good participation at the DGMS FMCC show booth, and helped many collectors identify specimens that had them puzzled.

The Board also began an exciting process of exploring future options for FM Colorado. As we only meet five times per year and we are really just getting started with this planning and development process, I have volunteered to serve a second term, and have asked the other officers and Directors to accept nomination to continue in their posts through 2007.

All agreed, with the exception of Jack Thompson, who did not feel that he was in a position to continue at this time.

Jack is a long-time, talented contributor to the Friends of Mineralogy! I thank him for his long service and ever-cheerful contributions to the Board in 2007. As our program of activities for 2007 and beyond unfolds, I am certain that Jack and his wife Kay will be there!

Pete Modreski has agreed to accept nomination to fill Jack's position as Vice President, leaving one Director position open. At this writing, we do not have a candidate for that position.

I would like to fill that position with someone new to the Board, or who has not recently been involved. I also hope to find other ways to engage other people in FM activities, in order to expand our pool of candidates for Chapter leadership.

Nominees for the 2007 Board are:

President:	Richard Parsons
Vice President:	Pete Modreski
Treasurer:	Jim Hurlbut
Secretary:	Paul Kendall
Directors:	Bill Chirnside (new term) Vacant (candidate needed)

Bruce Geller continues in his second year of his term in 2007 as Director. Larry Havens has also agreed to continue as our Show Council representative. We will be voting on these candidates in our November 2 meeting. **See the enclosed ballot on the next to last page.**

Thanks to all, and here's to an exciting 2007!

Richard Parsons

## Competition Winners at the 2006 Denver Gem & Mineral Show

Judging Assistant, Larry Havens, reports the competition winners at the 2006 Denver Gem & Mineral Show are:

C.E. "Shorty" Withers Trophy – David L. Roter, "Minerals of the Central City District"  
Best Museum Trophy – a tie between Houston Museum of Natural Sciences and Mineral Museum of Montana Tech of the University of Montana  
Richard M. Pearl Trophy – Jack Halpern, Hematite with magnesite  
Prospector Trophy – Bill Mahnken, Japan Law Twin Quartz



Club Prospector Trophy – Colorado Mineral Society

Best of Species Trophies –

Thumbnail – Carolyn Manchester, Twinned Phosphophyllite

Miniature – Audrey Neff, Brazilianite

Cabinet – James Hurlbut, Cassiterite

Oversize Cabinet – Annette Ondraka, Rose Quartz

Lapidary/Jewelry – Keith Sheel, ring set with Brazilian Emeralds

Individual Competitive Case (thumbnails – open) – Alexander Schauss, Masters – Red Ribbon

Individual Competitive Case (thumbnails – open) – Ben Speed, Advanced – First Place Plaque

Individual Competitive Case (educational, pseudomorphs) – Jack Thompson, Masters – First Place Plaque

Individual Competitive Case (unlimited size, one specie – Calcite) – Lorry Melnick, Novice – First Place Plaque

### Denver Museum of Nature and Science Welcomes New Geology Curator, Paul Morgan

Paul Morgan, Ph.D., has been hired as the new chair of the DMNS Earth Sciences Department and Curator of Geology. He was educated in Great Britain, with his graduate research at London University taking him to field areas in Cyprus and East Africa. For the past 20 years, he has been at Northern Arizona University, where he was recruited as department chair to build support and obtain state approval for a Ph.D. program in geology. In 1998–99 he took a leave of absence to teach, conduct research, and serve as head of the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences at Macquarie University in Sydney, Australia. His research is diverse but is centered on how heat and temperatures control processes and properties in Earth and other planetary bodies. One of his particular interests is the Southern Rocky Mountains-Rio Grande Rift-Colorado Plateau, and he makes field and laboratory investigations related to these and other study areas. His first day on the job will be October 25, and his office will be located in the geology area on Level 3.

### Mineral Identification

Here again are more mineral specimens for you to identify. With the two color photos to the right, name 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. Your newsletter editor is including this exercise again because there were an insufficient number of complaints from members to prevent this from happening again, and because material is needed to fill this newsletter to an even number of whole pages. For specimen B, did you notice the pseudo sixling, just below and right of center, that looks like a 1 inch diameter metallic snowflake?



Specimen A  
1 inch tall specimen  
Anonymous owner

Specimen B  
2¼ inch wide specimen  
Anonymous owner

Photos by  
P. Kendall



## Peg Camp

The FMCC Board received the following letter recently. On November 2 the Board will discuss whether to contribute as a club to Michael Wise's plan.

Dear Friends:

Permit me to introduce myself. My name is Michael Wise and I am a curator at the Smithsonian Institution. My research interest is on the mineralogy, petrology and geochemistry of pegmatites. In 1992, I started a field course called PegCamp which was aimed at teaching college students all about the geology of pegmatites. This intensive 1 week course utilized lectures and field exercises to help them better understand the origin of granite-pegmatite systems. PegCamp is NOT a collecting experience, but a serious attempt to inspire young geologists to pursue research in pegmatology. Previously, PegCamp has been held in Maine and California. After a lengthy hiatus I am hoping to start PegCamp again, this time in Colorado. As many of you are familiar with collecting sites in the Colorado area, I am asking your help in coordinating the logistics. Currently the plan is to hold the camp near the Colorado Springs area, but at this point I am not ruling out other potential sites. If there are good accessible pegmatites in other parts of Colorado I would be open to holding the camp near them instead. Tentatively I am thinking late June or early July to hold the camp, but I'll defer to your insight as to the best time of year to do this.

I am looking for the following:

- 1) 8-12 pegmatite localities we can visit for the field exercises. We typically do 2 or 3 localities per day depending on driving distances and the nature of the pegmatites. Emphasis will be on a) pegmatite mineralogy, b) pegmatite textures, c) chemistry determined from the mineralogy and d) regional emphasis.
- 2) A place which can serve as a base camp. Ideally the place can house 8-12 students plus a staff of 2 or 3. The place should have a meeting or conference area for holding lectures and lab exercises. On site meals or cooking facilities is preferred. We are not looking for luxury accommodations, but the place should be comfortable for the attendees.

At the moment I have not established the cost for the course. In the past I've managed to keep the cost fairly low (~\$600-\$800) so that it's affordable for college students. With the exception of 1 year, we were able to make the course self sufficient (we don't make any money on this project). We have benefited from the help of a number of people who have generously subsidized part of the course. I am not asking any of you help out financially, but if you are so compelled we would be most grateful.

PegCamp was very successful in Maine and California. We've had students from across the country and Canada attend. I think PegCamp in Colorado can be equally successful. I want to send out registration information by January 2007 so it would be greatly appreciated if you could respond back ASAP so that I can determine if PegCamp-Colorado will actually be feasible.

If you want to know a little more about PegCamp you can visit the link on [www.pegmatology.com](http://www.pegmatology.com) (sorry the site is a little outdated). NOTE:(shameless plug to follow) I'm also looking for to restart the Journal of Pegmatology which you can also see on the website. Feel free to send me pegmatite-related articles (end of shameless plug).

Thank you all in advance for any help you can offer.

Sincerely,

Michael Wise  
*Pegmatites Rule!*



## FMCC Membership List

Our member list for 2006 is included in this newsletter.

### Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences To Sell Its Minerals and Gems

"Trustees of the cash-strapped Academy of Natural Sciences are selling more than 15,000 minerals and gems that haven't been cleaned or displayed for decades in a deal estimated to be worth several million dollars." News of this proposal has been circulating in mineralogical circles for the past year or two, with a lot of concern that this institution, which hold some famous old mineral collections, had not the funds or the interest to care for them and was going to be disposing of them; so, I see it's now in the process of happening.

I notice that the Academy's web site, <http://www.ansp.org/>, describes the Philadelphia Academy as "...Our scientists study evolution, biodiversity and ecology, providing information critical to understanding the natural world. These efforts are supported by a collection of 17 million biological specimens and a celebrated natural-history library." So obviously, they have decided to restrict that museum to biological matters, and drop the minerals from their natural history collections and displays. The Academy does have good fossil displays including a Dinosaur Hall, and many famous paleontological specimens.

I have mixed feelings about such a museum getting rid of its minerals. It's a shame, but at least one can say that the mineral specimens are going to be "recycled" by being sold to a dealer and then ultimately to collectors, or perhaps some to other institutions if any are interested.

-- Pete Modreski

### Mineral Identification Clues

Specimen A: This mineral crystallizes in the isometric system. Specimen B: This mineral crystallizes in the orthorhombic system.

### Agate Book

A new book is available by Roger Pabian: *Agates, Treasures of the Earth*. It can be purchased from the publisher:

Frank J. Daniels, Publisher  
Western Colorado Publishing Company  
2024 Freedom Court  
Grand Junction, Colorado 81503-9522  
mailto: [cycadwood@aol.com](mailto:cycadwood@aol.com) or [publisher@westerncoloradopublishing.com](mailto:publisher@westerncoloradopublishing.com)  
970.242.5255  
cell 970.216.9641

or from Amazon.com.

## **FMCC and the Denver Museum of Nature and Science**

You may be aware that FMCC is an associate group member of the DMNS, and part of that relationship allows FMCC to hold our bimonthly meetings in the museum. FMCC members are encouraged to also become members of the DMNS.

### **Thanks to All the Volunteers at the Show**

The Denver Gem & Mineral Show Committee wishes to thank all the club members who volunteered in some way to help put on the recent show. The show is such a wonderful event for all who enjoy minerals, fossils, gems and jewelry. Every year the Show Committee works very hard to make sure each show is a great one and perhaps a little bit better than the last. But when it comes down to it, the show would not go on without all the additional volunteers who help. In addition to the 30 plus members on the Show Committee, it takes more than another 400 volunteers to put on the show. These volunteers help in setting up and taking down the show, selling and taking tickets for admissions, maintaining security at the show, serving beverages and eats in the Hospitality Room, assisting the judges and exhibitors, selling grab bags and posters, checking in the dealers, checking in volunteers, greeting the school children, and giving away the free gemstones. The clubs also have their own tables, which must be manned and is usually a good way for gaining new members. So whichever of these jobs you did, we thank you! You did a great job, and we hope you enjoyed it because the show is also a lot of fun! We hope you will volunteer again next year.

The Show Committee has already started meeting for next year's show. If you wish to be more involved, we would welcome you on the committee. Contact your club representative (each club has one) and let them know you are interested. The Committee meets the first Tuesday of each month (excepting December, February, and July) at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science at 7:30 pm. The dates for next year's show are September 14 – 16, 2007 and the theme is "Minerals of the Leadville District".

-- Respectfully submitted, Judy Knoshaug, Secretary

### **To All Admission Workers at the Denver Show: Thank You**

Ruth Macklin, Janie Bennett and I really appreciated all your help. I do not have all your addresses so I am using your club newsletter to pass on our thanks. I hope to see all of you next year at the show. There were approximately 60 volunteers helping this year. We could not do admissions without all your help. Thanks again.

-- Barb Melby, Admission Chairman

### **Mineral Identification Answers**

Specimen A: Lazurite on marble/calcite with pyrite, Kokcha Valley, Afghanistan. Specimen B: Dyscrasite on dark gray, oxidized native arsenic, Pribram, Czech Republic.



## Election of 2007 FMCC Officers and Directors

The FMCC nominating committee offers the list of candidates given below. Each officer (president, vice-president, treasurer, and secretary) serves for a one-year term, and each director serves for a two-year term. Richard Parsons, Jim Hurlbut, and Paul Kendall are presently serving in the same offices as those shown below, respectively. Pete Modreski has agreed to be a candidate for vice-president, but that leaves a director nomination open. Bruce Geller is presently serving as a director, and in 2007 he will be in the second year of his two year term. Bill Chirnside is now being nominated again as a director. The Board is currently looking for another person to be nominated for the third director.

Please vote.

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### FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY, COLORADO CHAPTER NOVEMBER 2006 ELECTION BALLOT FOR 2007 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Officers (one year term):

\_\_\_\_ President: Richard Parsons  
\_\_\_\_ Vice-president: Pete Modreski  
\_\_\_\_ Treasurer: Jim Hurlbut  
\_\_\_\_ Secretary: Paul Kendall

or

\_\_\_\_ (write-in)  
Position Name

Directors (two year term), 2 new persons are needed:

\_\_\_\_ Bill Chirnside

and

\_\_\_\_ (write-in)  
Name

Note: The Board encourages you to vote for two directors because two positions need to be filled.

Mark one for each officer and one or two for directors. Please mail your ballot to FMCC, P.O. Box 5276, Golden, CO 80401-5276, in time to be received before the November 2, 2006, meeting, or return your ballot in person at the November 2 meeting, or vote in person at that time.

FMCC November meeting is Thursday, November 2, 2006, 7:30 pm, Denver Museum of Nature and Science.

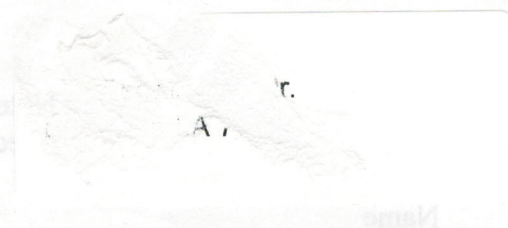
**Tom Miller** will speak about specimens found on Mt. Antero/White Mtn. this summer, and **Bill Hutchinson** will speak about specimens found on Mt. Antero/White Mtn. this summer. **Dr. Paul Morgan**, new Chairman of the Department of Earth Sciences and Curator of Geology at the DMNS, may be present to talk about upcoming Museum events and activities.

**Coming Events 2006:**

- Nov 2 Friends of Mineralogy meeting, DMNS. This is the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday in November.
- Nov 11-12 New Mexico Mineral Symposium, New Mexico Tech, Socorro, NM
- Nov 14 Lecture: African Diamond Wars, Western Museum of Mining and Industry, Colorado Springs, 7 pm, RSVP 719-488-0880
- Nov 18 Littleton Gem and Mineral Club Silent Auction, Goodson Rec Center, 6315 S. University, 12 n
- Dec 8-10 Flatirons Mineral Club Gem and Mineral Show, Boulder Cnty Fairgrounds Exh Bldg, Longmont

The October newsletter of the Denver Gem and Mineral Guild states it will not be holding its annual January Show in 2007 because the Lakeside Mall is finally closing. There may or may not be a Show later in 2007.

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



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