

Friends of Mineralogy, Colorado Chapter Newsletter – October/November 2007

November Meeting – Thursday, November 1, 7:30 pm (Board meeting 6:45-7:30)
Denver Museum of Nature and Science – VIP Room. Enter through the single door Security/Staff entrance to the left of the main entrance. The VIP room is to the left through the cafeteria area.

Note that this meeting is on the first Thursday of the month.

November Program:

Michael Wise
will speak on

Mineralogy of the Hiddenite Emerald Deposits

The Hiddenite area of western North Carolina constitutes the most significant emerald-producing district in North America and is the world's premier locality for the chromium-bearing variety of spodumene known as *hiddenite*. Both gem minerals occur in cavities in steeply dipping Alpine-type fissure veins that crosscut highly deformed migmatitic schists and quartz-biotite gneiss of the Inner Piedmont Belt. The primary mineralogy of the cavities consists of quartz, muscovite, various carbonate minerals and rutile. Albite is uncommon, but may be abundant in cavities that host emerald. Zeolites (chabazite), sulfides and clay minerals generally form as part of the last stage of mineralization in the cavities. Although most of the sulfide mineralization is characterized by pyrite, accessory pyrrhotite, sphalerite, chalcopyrite, molybdenite, gersdorffite and trace galena have recently been observed.

Dr. Michael Wise is a research mineralogist/curator with the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution and holds a PhD from the University of Manitoba. Mike has worked at the Natural History Museum since 1988 and his research specialty is the mineralogy, petrology and geochemistry of pegmatites. He is currently investigating the mineralogy of the Hiddenite deposits.

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FMCC dues for 2007 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 2007 Board of Directors: President, Richard Parsons, 303-838-8859
Vice-President, Pete Modreski, 303-202-4766
Treasurer, Jim Hurlbut, 303-757-0283
Secretary, Paul Kendall, 303-470-3261, and newsletter editor
Directors: Bill Chirnside (2007-08), 303-989-8748
Bruce Geller (2006-07), 303-237-2947
Larry Havens (2007-08), 303-757-6577

From the President, Nov 07

How time flies! As I reflect on my two years as President of the Friends of Mineralogy, Colorado Chapter, I find much to be pleased about, and much to be thankful for.

In 2006, the Board began a process of exploring future options for FM Colorado. In general, the group concluded that the Chapter was doing many things well, but needed to expand its activities and concentrate on expanding its membership base. With great input from the Board and participation by Chapter members, the Chapter has continued to present excellent programs at its meetings.

Under Bruce Geller's expert guidance, we had a record-setting silent auction again this year, with many excellent specimens going to new homes. Pete Modreski again set up our Mineral ID booth, a popular attraction at the Denver Show.

During the past year, the Chapter established a Membership Outreach and Hospitality Committee, to assure that members and guests are welcomed at each meeting, that we ask each guest to sign the Guest book, and that membership information is available. My thanks to Paul Kendall, Kay Thompson and Donna Chirnside for their fine job of getting this under way. Happily, Donna has agreed to chair this important group in the coming year.

Among the priorities established at the 2006 planning session was that we offer educational field trips or Field Symposia, a tour of the Climax Molybdenum mine, and a 2008 Symposium on the minerals of Leadville. These ideas were combined in the very successful Leadville Field Symposium this August. We had 65 participants for the weekend event, from 12 states. Several participants have subsequently joined the Chapter.

I have proposed two additional steps for the Board's consideration. First, I have proposed that we have a Program Committee consisting of a Chairperson appointed by the President and such additional members as the Chairperson may select. Jerry Kieffer has volunteered to serve as Program Chairman for 2008. This step serves two purposes: to relieve the President of this responsibility and to engage more members in the Chapter's activities.

Second, I have proposed that we establish a Preservation Committee whose purpose will be to develop and implement a program of activities to carry out the commitment to preservation set forth in the Chapter's Articles of Incorporation. This commitment includes minerals, localities, and access to localities, and the conservation of important specimen localities and mining deposits by publicizing their history, scientific and educational usefulness in Colorado. I have volunteered to chair this group, and to have a plan of action ready for the Board's consideration by the March, 2008 meeting.

My thanks to the Board for their support, and best wishes to the Chapter's new leadership for 2008.

Cordially, Richard Parsons

Door Prize Donors at the Leadville Field Symposium August 24 – 26, 2007

Thanks to the following dealers and individuals for contributing door prizes for the Symposium.

The Rock Hut

706 Harrison Ave.
Leadville, CO 80461
James Witmer, (719) 486-2313

The Rock Doc

at Prospectors Village
17897 U.S. Highway 285
Nathrop, CO. 81236
Cindy Peratt (719) 539-2019
<http://www.therockdoc.net/>

Self-A-Ware Minerals

Indian Hills, CO
Call Jeff Self or Donna Ware
at 303-697-8442 for appointment.

Cory Olin

Boulder, CO

Election for 2008 Friends of Mineralogy Colorado Chapter Board

In our November 1, 2007, meeting, we will be voting for the 2008 FMCC Board. See the 2nd to last page of this newsletter for the official ballot and candidate list. Write-in candidates are welcome. On a related subject, the Board is talking with persons for operating committee positions.

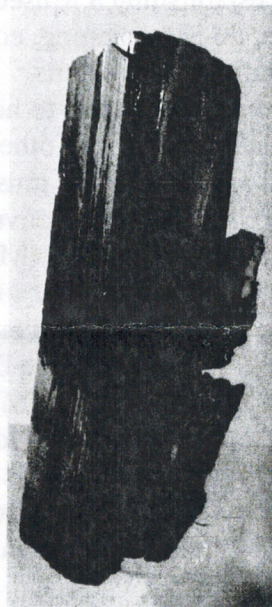
Richard Parsons will be stepping down from his current position as president, and the Board thanks him for his leadership in FMCC focus and activities for these past two years. Paul Kendall will be stepping down from Board activities, and the Board thanks him for serving.

Mineral Identification

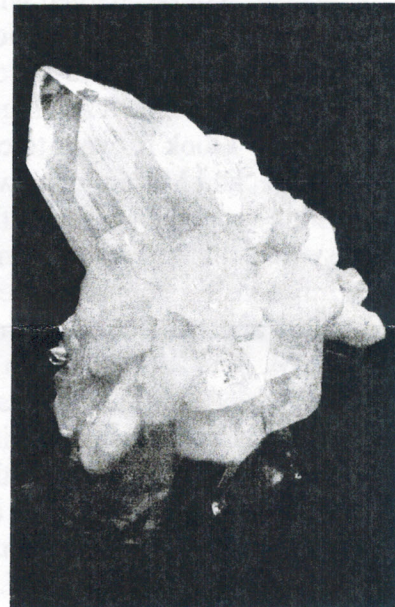
You know the drill. With the three photos below - which are in color if you are receiving this newsletter by email - name the mineral(s) in each and their localities. At least one clue for each specimen is given later in this newsletter, and the answers are given toward the end of this newsletter. For specimen A, just focus on the large, gray, vertically oriented crystal at about the 10 o'clock position on the perimeter of the specimen. Photos by Paul Kendall.



Specimen A 1" wide,
anonymous owner



Specimen B 1½" tall,
anonymous owner



Specimen C 2¼" tall,
anonymous owner

September Denver Show and Colorado Federation of Gem and Mineral Societies

The Denver Mineral Show in September was the best attended and grossed the most gate admissions ever. In fact, attendance was up 5.4% to 11,419 and admissions were up 6.4% to \$39,712. Over 470 volunteers helped run the show. Next year's Denver Mineral show will be headed by Rotha Randall of the Rocky Mountain Bead Society. Our club ran a very busy mineral identification table. Thanks to all of our club members who helped in any way.

One important item from the show that needs discussion is the Colorado Federation of Gem and Mineral Societies. During the show, there was an informal meeting to discuss the demise of the Federation and what should be done about it. Richard Parsons very kindly helped to mediate between two opposing factions at the meeting. I would like to ask you if you think that there should be a Federation. If not, how should its assets be distributed to past member clubs? If so, what should be the role of the Federation? Who wants to lead it? Who wants to go about reinstating it? Should it run the Contin-tail? If not, should it support the efforts of the Contin-tail, LLC? Please let your board members know your feelings on these matters. - - Bruce Geller

From the Director of the Colorado School of Mines Geology Museum

As some of you know, I was appointed the new director of the Colorado School of Mines (CSM) Geology Museum in late August. At the request of some mineral club newsletter editors, I drafted this brief synopsis of my goals for the Museum for insertion in your newsletter. During my first month, I have:

- Created a Suggestion Box, where visitors are encouraged to submit constructive criticism in writing, and they can remain anonymous.
- Generated a Mailing list of interested patrons – simply drop a business card, or write your contact information on our form and drop it in the box.
- Submitted a grant proposal to: install signage leading to the Museum, upgrade our website, and improve our Museum brochures.

Some of the changes I would like to make in the near term are:

- To organize an Advisory Council (whose first meeting is scheduled for 10/3) comprised of Dr. John Poate (my supervisor), Jack Murphy, Tom Hughes, Ed Raines, and myself. The Council will be charged with establishing a Museum mission and policy standards with respect to loans, volunteers, donations, de-accessioning, collection management; and strive for accreditation by the American Association of Museums.
- To enlist a small group of volunteers to help with Museum projects.

I look forward to collaborations with other local geology museums such as the DMNS, Dinosaur Ridge, and Morrison, as well as non-geology museums, libraries, and professional societies.

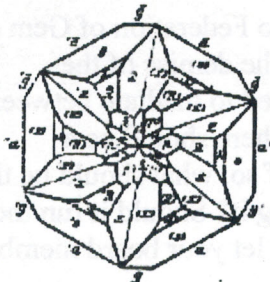
Long term, the Museum, the CSM, and the Denver Museum of Nature and Science (DMNS) will host a symposium known as Minerals and Museums (M+M6), which is a conference for international mineral museum curators held every four years, similar to the Olympics. The meeting will occur in September 2008 and will be the first one held in the U.S. I am very excited about this, as is the administration at the CSM, Paul Morgan (earth science curator at the DMNS), and Jim Hurlbut (volunteer extraordinaire at the DMNS). In fact, it was at Jim's urging that M+M6 is being held in Golden!

In conclusion, I wish to invite your club to a private night at the CSM Museum. Simply pick three nights or weekends that your club would like to visit the Museum by itself and have a club representative contact me at: 303-273-3823. I'll try my best to accommodate your club on one of those nights. You're also welcome to visit on your own during our normal hours: Monday – Saturday 9 A.M. To 4 P.M., Sundays 1P.M. – 4 P.M.

Cordially,
Bruce Geller
CSM Museum Director

Crystallography

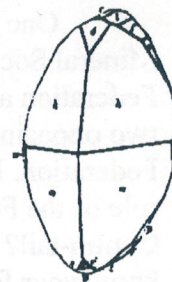
Phenakit Fig. 76.



Phenakite, Ober-Neusattel bei
Pisek (Böhmen), Czech Republic

Both drawings are from
Atlas der Krystallformen
by Victor Goldschmidt

Kupferlasur Fig. 296.



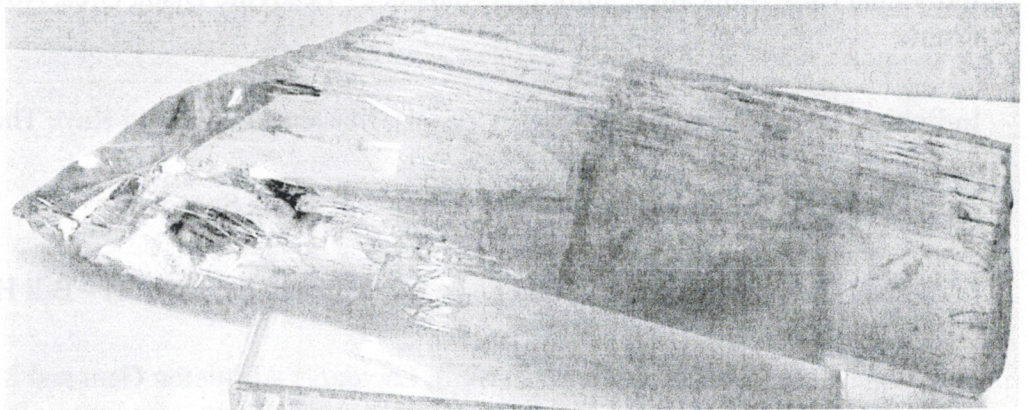
Azurite, Tsumeb, Namibia

Photos from the 2007 Denver Gem and Mineral Show



Minerals of Leadville, Colorado, specimens of Dave Bunk, Ed Raines, and Colorado School of Mines Geology Museum, 2007 Denver Gem and Mineral Show. These 4 photos by Paul Kendall.

Spodumene, both green (left end) and pink (right end), Resplendor, Minas Gerais, Brazil, 20 inches long, Wilensky and Brown collection, 2007 Denver Gem and Mineral Show.



Minerals of Leadville, Colorado (right half) and Leadville, New South Wales, Australia (left half). Large pyromorphite in front left is 9 inches wide. University of Wollongong, Australia display, 2007 Denver Gem and Mineral Show.

Worldwide minerals, Mineral Association of Dallas display. Imperial topaz, back row towards the right, is 5 inches tall. 2007 Denver Gem and Mineral Show.



Denver Gem & Mineral Show Competition Winners 2007

The winners of the competitions at the 2007 Denver Gem & Mineral Show are as follows:

Individual Case (Cabinet size, All one species - Barite, Advanced) – Larry and Kathy Havens

Individual Case (Unlimited size, All one species - Calcite, Advanced) – Lorry Melnick

Individual Case (Miniatures, All one species - Calcite, Masters) – Barbara Sky

Individual Case (Education, Informed Audience - Leadville Distal Ores, Novice) – Dale and Mary Plume

Individual Case (Thumbnails, Single Crystals, Masters) – Jack and Kaye Thompson

Individual Case (Thumbnails, General, Advanced) – Ben Speed

Individual Case (Single Mine - Julia Fiske Mine, Leadville, Novice) – Bill Hayward

Individual Case (Education, General, Skill, Lapidary) – Littleton Gem and Mineral Club, “How to Facet – step-by-step”

Best Fossil: Paul LyVere, Araucaria cone, Utah

Best of Species Trophies:

Cabinet: Bill Hayward, Rhodochrosite/Galena, Julia Fiske Mine

Field Collected: Bill Hayward, Rhodochrosite/Galena, Julia Fiske Mine

Miniature: Kathy Havens, Barite, Black Cloud Mine

Oversize Cabinet: Larry Havens, Barite plate, Black Cloud Mine

Thumbnail: Jack and Kaye Thompson, Barite, Black Cloud Mine

Lapidary/Jewelry: Eldon Hunewell, Pyrite in silver sun ray design

Richard M. Pearl Trophy: Diana Conti, Sardinian Barite

Prospector Trophy: Bill and Mary Davis, Montana Quartz Scepter

Club Prospector Trophy: North Jeffco Gem & Mineral Club

C. E. “Shorty” Withers Trophy: David Roter, “Minerals of Leadville”

Best Museum Exhibit Award: Denver Museum of Nature & Science

Mineral Identification Clues

In specimen A the gray mineral crystallizes in the monoclinic system. In specimen B the dark mineral crystallizes in the monoclinic system. In specimen C the white mineral crystallizes in the tetragonal system, pink in the monoclinic system.

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. We are so lucky to have such a wonderful event right here in Denver where we can enjoy all the minerals, fossils, gems and jewelry that we can absorb in three days. The Show Committee works very hard to make sure each year's show is a great one, but honestly, the show could 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 470 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 food in the Hospitality Room, assisting the judges and exhibitors, selling grab bags and posters, checking in the dealers, checking in the volunteers, manning the information desk, 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 to plan next year's show. If you wish to be more involved, we would welcome you on the committee. We are always looking for new faces. Contact your club representative (each club has one – do you know who your representative is?) and let them know you are interested. The Committee meets on the first Tuesday of each month (excepting December, February, and July) at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science at 7:30 p.m. The Show Chair for 2008 is Rotha Randall of the Rocky Mountain Bead Society. The dates the show are September 12 – 14, 2008, and the theme is "Minerals of Colorado". - - Judy Knoshaug, Show Secretary

To All Admission Workers at the Denver Show – Thank You

A big **THANK YOU** to all the people who worked for Admissions this year. Your help is really appreciated because we simply could not do it without you. There were approximately 60 volunteers helping this year. Since I do not have individual addresses, I am using the newsletter to express my thanks. Plus I greatly appreciated Ruth Macklin's and Janie Bennett's extra help this year when I was laid up with my sore foot. I hope that all of you will volunteer again next year. It's an easy but important job for the show.

- - Barb Melby, Admission Chair

Mineral Identification Clues

Specimen A is from Eastern Europe, specimen B from Africa, specimen C from India.

Newsletter by Email

Your newsletter editor encourages all FMCC members to send your email address so that you will receive the newsletter electronically. The email version of the newsletter is in color; the paper version will have none. In addition, an email newsletter reduces expenses, it means less time on the part of your editor, and it is in line with a less-paper 21st century. Please send your email address to editor Paul Kendall at bealsio@qwest.net (yes that is QW).

Publications For Sale by FMCC

We have the following publications for sale as of August 2007. Quantities may change. See below for ordering information.

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|--|----------|
| Antero Aquamarines , by Mark Jacobson (1993) L.R. Ream Publishing, soft cover, 126 p. + 8 color plates | \$15.00 |
| Pegmatite Symposium Abstracts (1999) The Eugene E. Foord Memorial Symposium on NYF-type Pegmatites, 73 p., as published in Canadian Mineralogist, vol. 37, part 3, June 1999, pp. 791-863 | \$10.00 |
| Pegmatite Symposium Field Trip Guidebook (1999) Field guide to NYF-type [Nb-Y-F] Pegmatites of the Pikes Peak Batholith; field trips to the Lake George and South Platte pegmatite districts; 36 p. | \$10.00 |
| Minerals of Colorado (1997) Fulcrum Press, 665 p. plus 40 plates with 118 color and 27 b&w photos | \$140.00 |
| Recent Activities at Rocky Mountain Mineral Localities, a Symposium (1985), 30p. | \$1.00 |
| Photography of Mineralogical, Paleontological, and Archaeological Specimens (1989) A Symposium on the Equipment and Techniques for Professionals and Amateurs, 74 p. + 18 p. reprinted from articles of Jeff Scovil | \$2.00 |
| Symposium on Gemstone Deposits of the Rocky Mountain Region, Program and Abstracts (2002), 79 pages including 3 pages plus cover in color | \$15.00 |
| Symposium on Agate and Cryptocrystalline Quartz (2005) 144 pages including 3 pages plus cover in color (reprinted in 2006) | \$20.00 |
| Field Guide to the Kelsey Lake Diamond Mine & Cresson Gold Mine, Cripple Creek 1996, reprinted from SEG, 83 p. | \$10.00 |

Make checks payable to Friends of Mineralogy, Colorado Chapter. Postage and sales tax will be paid by FMCC. To order, write to Friends of Mineralogy, Colorado Chapter, P.O. Box 5276, Golden CO 80401-5276, or contact Jim Hurlbut 303-757-0283, jfhu@earthlink.net, or Pete Modreski 303-202-4766, pmodreski@usgs.gov.

Mineral Identification Answers

Specimen A: hessite, Botes pris Zalathna, Transylvania, Romania; specimen B: azurite, Tsumeb, Namibia; specimen C: apophyllite and stilbite, Jalgaon, India.

Election Ballot for 2008 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. In 2008 Bill Chirnside will serve the second year of his two-year term as a director, and thus his name is not on this ballot.

Please vote.

FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY, COLORADO CHAPTER BALLOT FOR NOVEMBER 2007 ELECTION OF 2008 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Officers (one year term):

_____ President: Larry Havens

_____ Vice-president: Jim Hurlbut

_____ Treasurer: Richard Parsons

_____ Secretary: Len Keller

or

_____ (write-in)
Position Name

Directors (two year term), 2 votes are needed:

_____ Bruce Geller

_____ Pete Modreski

or

_____ (write-in)
Name

Mark one for each officer or a write-in for that position, and mark two for directors or a write-in for the position(s). Please mail your ballot to FMCC, P.O. Box 5276, Golden, CO 80401-5276, in time to be received before the November 1, 2007, meeting, or return your ballot in person at the November 1 meeting, or vote in person at that time.

FMCC November meeting is Thursday, November 1, 2007, 7:30 pm, Denver Museum of Nature and Science.

Michael Wise will speak on "Mineralogy of the Hiddenite Emerald Deposits."

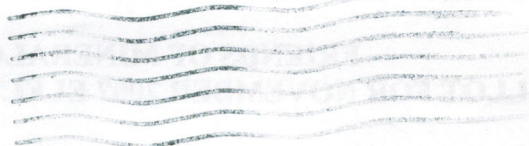
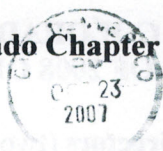
Coming Events 2007:

- Nov 1 FMCC meeting, DMNS. This is the first Thursday in November.
- Nov 2-4 Denver Area Mineral Dealers Show, Jeff Co Fairgrounds, 15200 W 6th Av, Golden, 303-986-3647
- Nov 10-11 New Mexico Mineral Symposium, Macey Center, N. Mex. Inst. of Mining & Techn., Socorro
- Nov 17 Littleton Gem and Mineral Club Auction, Columbine Hills Church, 9700 Old Coal Mine Av.

2008:

- Feb 22-24 Denver Gem and Mineral Guild Mineral Show, Jefferson County Fairgrounds
- Sep 12-14 Denver Gem and Mineral Show, Denver Merchandise Mart, theme "Minerals of Colorado"
- Sep 25-28 American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) National Convention, Humble, TX
- Oct 31-Nov 2 Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies (RMFMS) Convention, Tulsa, OK

Friends of Mineralogy – Colorado Chapter
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