



Friends of Mineralogy, Colorado Chapter Newsletter – March 2011

**Next meeting March 10th, 2011 at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science
2001 Colorado Blvd., Denver, CO**

[Enter the museum via the staff/security entrance, to the left of the main entrance doors on the north side of the museum. Security staff will direct you to the V.I.P. Room, which is to the left, past the T-Rex Cafeteria area.].

(Board meeting 6:30-7:30)



Pegmatites around the State of Colorado or 23 Pegmatites in 5 Days

Pete Modreski, U.S. Geological Survey

In August, 2010, Pete hosted a visiting mineralogist, Dr. Luis Sánchez-Muñoz, of Madrid, Spain. To collect samples for his research studies on microcline feldspar in pegmatites, they visited as many pegmatites as they could during the 5 days Luis was able to spend in Colorado. This included 23 pegmatites in 5 districts covering 6 counties, throughout the Front Range from the Arkansas River to the Wyoming border. It did NOT include the Lake George/Crystal Peak area, from which Luis had already obtained samples on a previous visit. It was an opportunity to revisit many pegmatite outcrops and quarries that Pete not been to in quite a few years; some, not in 25 years. They had a very good time and some interesting experiences on the field excursions, although on the last leg of his trip Luis ran into more trouble than he'd hoped for. Nonetheless, he obtained a very good suite of samples, data from which Luis incorporated into two papers he presented at the 5th International Conference on Granitic Pegmatites in Mendoza, Argentina, Feb. 20-27, 2011. In Pete's talk he will describe the Front Range pegmatites they visited—some of which contain unusual minerals for the state such as elbaite, lepidolite, and spodumene; tell some interesting collecting stories; talk about Luis' work in relating the pegmatites to the granite batholiths of various ages to which they appear to be associated; and try to give a short synopsis of what Luis is learning from his studies on microstructures in microcline.

Here are some photos of his research



Luis Sánchez-Muñoz at Roscoe Dike



**Peter Modreski with large spodumene blades at Big Boulder pegmatite,
Larimer County, CO**

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Museum Musings

Fellow Club Members,

The past two months flew by. I attended the main Tucson Show for four days and visited with many fine dealers, collectors, and curators. The two new finds I enjoyed seeing were the crocoites from Tasmania, and the native gold from Idaho. There were several fine displays of California minerals, but I'll admit that our Museum's borates were the finest there. I could go on and on... I even got to report on my Tucson impressions to the Leidy Microscopic Society in Bucks County, PA the following Thursday. While I was east, I got to see the University of Delaware display in Newark, DE and was very impressed with their new tourmalines on loan. They also have a new display of Pennsylvania minerals to knock your socks off.

Now that I've returned, things are slowly returning to normal. Our book sale was a great success and I know several of you bought some reading treasures. The next item on the distant radar is assembling a display of loaned rare earth element (REE) minerals from Colorado, similar to what was done for Mount Antero and Colorado topaz. If you'd care to loan a super Colorado REE specimen for a year, starting this August, please let me know.

I also hope that the club will propose three dates and times that they would like a private guided tour of our Museum. I'm happy to lead it weekdays, weekends, days or nights before 9 P.M. Tours usually take about 1.5 hours and they are free. I really want to highlight our ten new displays from last August onward, which are a delight to behold.

Cordially,

Bruce Geller, Director
CSM Geology Museum

2011 TUCSON SHOW

Edited from <http://www.kristalle.com/>

The Adelaide Mining Company had some of their recent wonder finds of Crocoite from the Adelaide Mine, Tasmania.



A closer look at the Crocoite

There were a few new exciting finds on display at the show. The first was the new Pyromorphites on Malachite from Brown's Open Pit, Rum Jungle, Northern Territory, Australia. These were mined in August of last year. Specimens from Rum Jungle area came out in the 1970s. Brown's Open Pit is a conventional polymetallic mine (Copper, Lead, Zinc, Cobalt, Nickel) and is currently on care and maintenance. The old Brown's prospect falls within the new open pit.

Mining ceased for reassessment in 2008, and amazingly stopped about 1 foot from the Pyromorphite mineralization, otherwise these specimens would have been lost. The initial pocket was noticed as a small hole with a green lip on the face of a 5 metre pit bench, about 3 metres up from the pit bench floor and was investigated by Dave, a geologist at the mine, and was very excited to see the light twinkling off the Pyromorphite crystals inside the pocket. The pocket was a few metres below the old dig line.

The specimens are Malachite, fibrous to botryoidal of varying shades, dotted by small lustrous Pyromorphite crystals of yellow to green colors.

Australian collector and geologist Paul was called in to appraise the potential for the specimen, and the management of the mine were agreeable to rescue the specimens. The mining company has been very supportive of the project, covering initial costs, and the rest of the proceeds from the sale are going to local organizations such as the volunteer fire fighters.

Several pockets were uncovered with slight variations in the specimens:

- One pocket had golden yellow Pyromorphite crystals on dark green Malachite
- Emerald pocket featured emerald green Malachite with the more classic lime green Pyromorphites, with larger crystal size.
- The small Turquoise pocket produced a limited range of turquoise Malachite with light lemon yellow Pyromorphite
- Boulder pocket had a large overhang of preserved Dolomite, on the underneath of which was dark green Malachite with exceptional lime green crystals, with very 3 dimensional botryoidal form
- The Pizza pocket produced bigger plates with specimens coming out in triangular shaped pieces, with a botryoidal edge, like a slice of pizza.



Specimens already sold with their labels turned, the one at centre back is from the pizza pocket, the one on the front left is from the Golden pocket.

SYMPOSIUM NEWS

2011 Denver Gem and Mineral Show Symposium Russian Minerals

In Tucson Pete Modreski talked with John Watson, the fellow from CA who is organizing the "tour of the Russians" to Colorado and elsewhere. John says that he and they WOULD like us to organize a Symposium on Russian Minerals for the weekend before the Denver Show, and he promises several of the visiting Russian mineralogists as speakers for it. Hence, FMCC should go ahead and start making plans for a one-day symposium on this topic, for Saturday, Sept. 10. Our first choice is to hold this in a lecture hall at the School of Mines, so, Pete will ask Bruce Geller to check about the availability of a room for it, such as Metals Hall at the Green Center.



Uvarovite

Saranovskii Mine (Saranovskoe), Saranovskaya (Sarany) Village, Gornozavodskii area, Permskaya Oblast', Middle Urals, Urals Region, Russia

Closeup (field of view=1.2 cm) of one side of a double-sided plate of uvarovite on massive chromite. Collection and photo, T. Peterson.

Mindat.org Photo of the Day - 8th Apr 2007



Cuprite

Poteryaevskoe Mine, Rubtsovskoe Cu-Zn-Pb deposit, Rudnyi Altai, Altaiskii Krai, Western-Siberian Region, Russia

2.5 x 2.3 x 1.9 cm. This fine cluster of splendid and slightly translucent, dark red cuprite octahedrons, to 1.2 cm in length, is composed of several, interconnected and beautifully formed crystals. On the back side, it is contacted where it grew from matrix and at the points of attachment are seen several areas of crystallized silver dendrites ...

COMING EARTH SCIENCE-RELATED EVENTS,

COLORADO MINERAL & FOSSIL SHOW ~ Spring Holiday Inn - Denver Central,

4849 Bannock Street (*where I-25 meets I-70*), DENVER CO

April 22 - 24, 2011

65 top quality mineral and fossil dealers!!

Minerals ~ Fossils ~ Meteorites

Gems ~ Beads ~ Decorator Items

Open to the Public ~ Free Admission ~ Free Parking

Wholesale ~ Retail ~ Delivery Show

Show Hours: Fri. & Sat. 10 - 6 ~ Sun. 10 - 5

Martin Zinn Expositions, L.L.C., P.O. Box 665, Bernalilo, NM 87004, Fax: (303) 223-3478, mzexpos@aol.com, www.mzexpos.com

Hayward Annual Mineral Sale

March 19-20 Saturday and Sunday 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM

3286 Quitman Street

Denver Colorado

303-455-1977

Colorado and world wide crystal specimens

Tues, Mar. 8, 10:30 a.m., USGS Rocky Mountain Area Seminar Series, **Last interglacial sea level and global warming: a lesson for the future?**, by Dan Muhs, USGS Denver. Building 25 Lecture Hall, Denver Federal Center. Park in the lot east of Bldg. 25 and use entrance E-14. ***Please check the news that week; the lecture will not take place and the Federal Government offices will be closed if a budget bill is not passed as of Mar. 4.***

Mar. 25-27, Fort Collins Rockhounds Club Gem and Mineral Show at The Ranch in the Thomas M. McKee 4-H building, Larimer County Fairgrounds, 5280 Arena Circle, at The Ranch/Budweiser Events Center, I-25 Exit 259 [new location for just this year; normally in downtown Fort Collins]. For more info see <http://www.fortcollinsrockhounds.org/gemAndMineralShow.shtml> .

April 22-24, Colorado Mineral and Fossil Spring Show, Holiday Inn-Denver Central, 4849 Bannock St, Denver, CO 80216; free admission and parking. For more info see

http://www.mzexpos.com/colorado_spring.htm

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Meeting Dates for 2011

The dates for our 2011 meetings will be Jan 13, Mar 10, May 12*, Sep 8, Nov 17.

*held in the planetarium.

Membership in FMCC and National FM is \$13 for 2011.

Payment by check can be sent to our Treasurer or any Board member.

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. Please send your email address to Editor Bill Hutchinson at wmhutchi5@msn.com. Also if you only want a paper newsletter but are presently receiving an email newsletter, please let your editor know.

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