

Friends of Mineralogy, Colorado Chapter Newsletter – March, 2002

March Meeting – Thursday, March 7, 7:30 p.m.

(Board meeting 7:00-7:30)

Denver Museum of Nature and Science – V.I.P.. 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.

The Cresson Mine, Cripple Creek, Colorado

by David M. Vardiman, Exploration Manager
Anglo Gold (Colorado) Corp.
Cripple Creek & Victor Gold Mining Co.

The Cresson mine is Colorado's largest, and at the present time only, active gold mine. This large open pit mine occupies the site once partly covered by the old waste dumps from historic operation of the Cresson mine, and the pit floor still lies many hundreds of feet above the location of the rich and famous "Cresson Vug". David Vardiman will speak about the geology, minerals, and past and present mining of this famous deposit.

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FMCC dues are \$13.00, which includes membership in national Friends of Mineralogy. If your mailing label does not say "2002" please send us your dues payment ASAP, to

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

Thank you!

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FMCC 2002 Officers: President, Pete Modreski, 303-425-9549
Vice-President, Eunice York, 303-761-8296
Treasurer, Jim Hurlbut, 303-757-0283
Secretary, Ray Berry, 719-598-7877
Directors: Bruce Geller (2002-03), 303-237-2947
Judy Peterson (2001-02), 303-443-6888
Jack Thompson (2001-02), 719-636-2978
Past President, Bill Chirnside, 303-989-8748

A flier for our **Symposium on Gemstone Deposits of Colorado and the Rocky Mountain Region** is attached. As you'll see, we have a good program of speakers lined up. Our banquet speaker at the symposium, Dan Hausel, will speak on "The Great Diamond Hoax of 1872", not the more generic title as incorrectly announced in our last newsletter. We are still confirming our plans for the exact registration costs and for the field trip itineraries.

Please mark your calendar for our **Friends of Mineralogy – Colorado Chapter Silent Auction**, which will be held Wednesday evening, June 19, at the Glendale Community Center. More information will be given in our next newsletter.

Did you know that a bill is being introduced in the Colorado State Legislature this week, to designate **Rhodochrosite** the Colorado State Mineral? This proposal has developed very quickly; it was initiated by the students in the earth science class of Jon Ghist, at Platte Canyon High School, Bailey, Colorado. A bill is being co-sponsored by State Rep. Carl Miller and State Senator Ken Chlouber. As this newsletter goes to press, the bill, HB 1346, will be heard in the House Agriculture Committee on Wednesday, Feb. 27. Bryan and Katherine Lees, State Geologist Vicki Cowart, and Jack Murphy are among those who are expected to testify in support of the bill. A story about the proposal appeared in the Feb. 26 Rocky Mountain News; you can read it on the News' website at:

http://www.rockymountainnews.com/drmn/legislature/article/0,1299,DRMN_37_1002126,00.html

Colorado has a State Gemstone (aquamarine) and a State Fossil (Stegosaurus), but as of this time, no state mineral (or state rock). We are told that microcline or amazonite had been suggested as a state mineral at one time in the past, but the proposal never caught general interest. Possibly by the time you read this, our state mineral will have become official.

Some new publications:

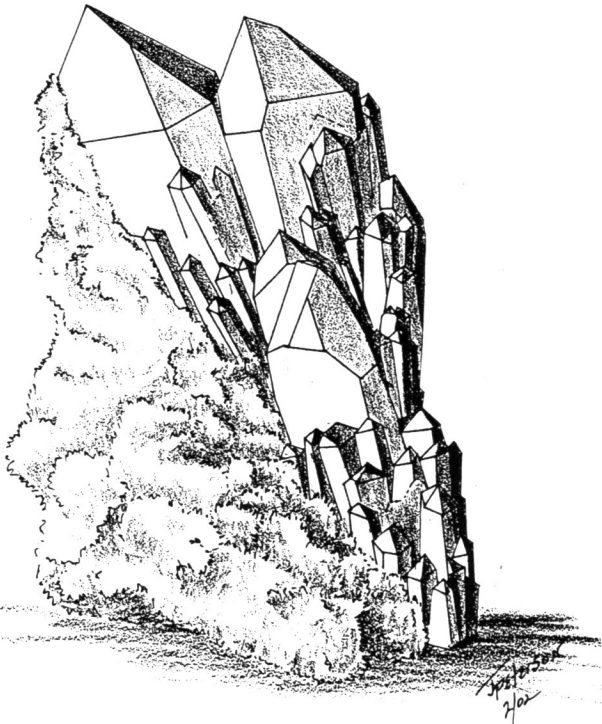
Back in our August 2001 newsletter I listed some USGS and CGS publications on Colorado geology that might be of interest to members; one was a geologic map of the Silverton and Howardsville quadrangles, USGS Map I-2681. Another new publication on the San Juans is "Geochronology and geology of Late Oligocene through Miocene volcanism and mineralization in the western San Juan Mountains, 2001, USGS Prof. Paper 1642, 30 p., by Dan Bove, Ken Hon, Karin Budding, John Slack, Lawrence Snee, and Ross Yeoman. You can purchase this for \$4.75 at Map Sales at the Federal Center or order it by calling 303-202-4200 or 1-888-ASK-USGS (\$5.00 P&H charge for mail orders).

Also, USGS Circular 1219, which has the imposing title "Planning for the conservation and development of infrastructure resources in urban areas—Colorado Front Range Urban Corridor", by the USGS Front Range Infrastructure Resources Project, Daniel H. Knepper, editor, 2002, has a very good summary, with photos, maps, and diagrams, of the mineral, energy, and water resources of the metro Denver area. This publication is FREE upon request from the USGS.

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Officers & directors please note—our board meeting will begin at 7 p.m., 30 minutes before the regular FM meeting

GEMSTONE DEPOSITS OF COLORADO AND THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION



*A Symposium to be held at Colorado
School of Mines, Golden, Colorado
September 7-10, 2002*

*Sponsored by Friends of Mineralogy,
Colorado Chapter; Colorado School
of Mines Geology Museum; Denver
Museum of Nature and Science;
and U.S. Geological Survey*

*The symposium will precede the
Denver Gem and Mineral Show, theme
"Colorado Gemstones", Sep. 13-15, 2002*

*All persons, amateur and professional,
interested in the geologic occurrence of
gem minerals are invited to attend.*

The symposium will include:

- ◆ Welcoming party, Friday evening Sept. 6, at the Colorado School of Mines Geology Museum
- ◆ Lectures, Saturday Sept. 7 and Sunday morning Sept. 8, at the Colorado School of Mines
- ◆ Sat. banquet; speaker, Dan Hausel, Wyoming Geol. Survey, "The Great Diamond Hoax of 1872"
- ◆ Tour of Denver Museum of Nature and Science, Sunday afternoon Sept. 8
- ◆ Reception at DMNS, Sunday evening Sept. 8
- ◆ Field trips, Monday & Tuesday, Sept. 9 & 10. We hope to include trips to the State Line kimberlite district, Pikes Peak batholith, and Cripple Creek mining district.
- ◆ A booklet of extended abstracts and field trip guides

Speakers will include: Dick Berg, *Montana sapphire deposits*; Bill Chirnside, *Utah pink topaz*; Bob Cobban, *Colorado blue corundum*; Howard Coopersmith, *Kelsey Lake diamonds*; Heather Douglas, *emeralds of northwestern Canada*; Nelia Dunbar, *origin of thunder eggs*; Mary Garland, *origin of Montana sapphires*; Mike Gray, *rare and unusual gem minerals*; Dan Hausel, *Wyoming gem occurrences*; Mark Jacobson, *Mt. Antero aquamarine*; Bob Jones, *turquoise of the Southwest*; Melissa Kirkley, *new theories of the origin of diamonds*; Jay Lininger, *Art Montgomery and the history of mining gem minerals in Colorado and Utah*; Pete Modreski, *Colorado topaz*; Jack Murphy, *Colorado gemstones*; John Rhoads, *Colorado peridot*; Jim Shigley, *Utah red beryl*; Art Soregaroli, *Zapot pegmatite, Nevada*; and others.

To receive further information about symposium registration and the details about the program and field trips, or to offer to present a paper at the symposium, please contact any of the following:

Paul Bartos, Colorado School of Mines, 303-273-3823, pbartos@mines.edu
Dan Kile, U.S. Geological Survey, 303-541-3029, dekile@usgs.gov
Jack Murphy, Denver Museum of Nature & Science, 303-370-6445, jmurphy@dmns.org
Pete Modreski, U.S. Geological Survey, 303-236-5639, pmodreski@usgs.gov
or write to Friends of Mineralogy, Colorado Chapter, P.O. Box 5276, Golden CO 80401-5276

***FM March meeting is Thursday, March 7, 7:30 pm, Denver Museum of Nature & Science
The Cresson mine, Cripple Creek, Colorado, by Dave Vardiman, Anglo Gold Corp.***

Coming Events: 2002

- Mar. 7 March FM meeting, DMNS
- Mar. 22-24 Fort Collins Gem & Mineral Show, 419 W. Magnolia St.; "Jade and Petrified Wood"
- Mar. 22-24 Albuquerque Gem and Mineral Club Show, "Treasures of the Earth", "Garnets"
- Apr. 12 North Jeffco Gem & Mineral Club silent auction, 7 p.m., 6842 Wadsworth Blvd., Arvada
- Apr. 19-21 Spring Show in the Rockies, Holiday Inn-Denver North and Best Western-Central
- May 4 Colorado Mineral Society silent auction (all welcome), at "Lakewood Links"
- May 9 May FM meeting, DMNS
- June 12-13 Colorado Springs Gem and Mineral Show
- June 19 FM Silent Auction, Glendale Community Center
- June 20-23 Mile Hi RAMS Gem & Mineral Show, Westminster Mall
- Sep. 5 Sep. FM meeting, DMNS
- Sep. 7-10 Symposium on Gemstone Deposits of the Rocky Mountain Region
- Sep. 13-16 Denver Gem and Mineral Show: theme, *Gemstones of Colorado*
- Nov. 14 November FM meeting, DMNS

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

