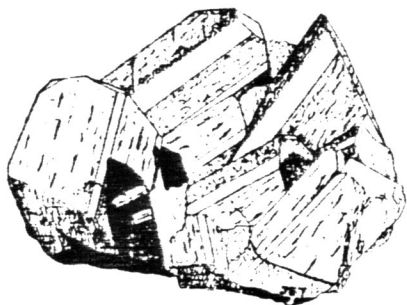


# Colorado Chapter

## Friends of Mineralogy

NEWSLETTER - August 1984 (No.4 for 1984)



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Board members - Steve Brighton, Mark Jacobson, Jim Hurlbut

**SEPTEMBER MEETING:** Thursday, Sep. 20, 7:30 pm, Denver Museum of Natural History. **Program:** Keith Williams will present a two-part program; first, a half-hour illustrated talk on "Epitaxial overgrowths of marcasite on pyrite from Rensselaer, Indiana"; and second, he will talk and lead a discussion about recent finds of mineral specimens in districts of Colorado where there has been current mining activity, including Gilpin Co. and the San Juans. Keith is a member of our chapter, and is a mineral dealer, field collector, and a participant in mining ventures.

**BOARD MEETING:** Our next Board of Directors meeting will be held Monday, Sep. 17, at 6:30 pm, in Jack Murphy's office at the Museum of Natural History. As before, bring your supper to the meeting if you wish.

**PAST EVENTS:** Our picnic and mini-field trip to the Boulder kimberlite on July 14 worked out well and was enjoyable though lightly attended. About 10 of us (I don't think that counts children or dogs) trekked up the hill and picked up specimens of the fabled ruby-red pyrope, emerald-green chrome diopside, dirty-tan olivine, phlogopite-brown phlogopite, and dark-black, really black ilmenite. Alas, the first discovery of diamond here still lies in the future. Some of the ilmenite crystals are almost not completely anhedral, but not quite. The picnic featured the first annual game of slow-pitch pine cone, in which the first team beat the other team although there was enough team-hopping as batters were needed that it was hard to tell which was which.

The Colorado Federation of Gem and Mineral Societies field trip to Summitville on July 21 was, I'm told, well attended and productive. Lumps of covellite--masses of intergrown crystal blades--were fairly abundant on the dumps of the Reynolds Tunnel; these ranged from an inch or less in size up to masses weighing several pounds. Nearby, on the dumps of the Missionary shaft, enargite was abundant (small to micro crystals were fairly common), plus some small single crystals of covellite. Thanks go to Arnold Hampson for arranging this trip, and to Galactic Resources for allowing it to be held. One note from people reconnoitering other mines in that region: the Crystal Hill gold mine near La Garita, a quartz/amethyst locality, is currently not open to collectors, and the former collecting area is not only inaccessible but more-or-less nonexistent. Blasting and earth-moving have caved in and brought down the entire steep wall of the open cut which was the main collecting area for the amethyst crystals which line cavities within this volcanic breccia pipe, and the former parking area at the base of the (former) open cut is

now the site of a cyanide heap-leaching operation. It appears that future mineral collecting here will have to wait for further operations to expose fresh rock, and for a period of inactivity which might once again permit access.

The "Contin-tail" rock swap near Cottonwood Pass west of Buena Vista, also sponsored by the Colorado Federation, was likewise a success. The crowd was not too large--perhaps 30-40 cars--full--but the fairly limited camping area at the site was about full, though plenty of additional camping or parking was available at a National Forest campground just down the road. The gathering was an enjoyable one, with an assortment of dealers, semi-dealers, miscellaneous collectors, and a few rockhounds from Kansas just passin' through. There were some interesting minerals there--nice clusters of Carbon County, Wyoming blue barite and a lot of Gilman pyrite were eyecatching. For variety one could try panning gold in the creek or hike up to the Roseberry mine dump (a few hundred yards away) or the Gladstone dump (a good mile up the hill) which offered spectacular scenery but not much in the way of minerals other than a few bits of quartz, pyrite, and malachite. A return engagement at the same spot is planned for next year; it's hoped that the reputation and attendance of this event will grow, and it is a very pleasant spot for a day or a weekend excursion. Not necessarily welcome for the 1985 repeat is the black bear which cruised through the site Friday night, inflicting minor damage on someone's (happily unoccupied) tent.

Those who attended the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies annual gem & mineral show in June in San Diego report that it was first class, and well worth the trip. Cym Cooper earned second place for her exhibit in competition for the AFMS trophy for the best display of thumbnail-size minerals.

**THINGS IN PROGRESS:** Jim Hurlbut is finishing up the final typing of a revised information sheet about the Colorado Chapter - Friends of Mineralogy. It will be available at the Denver Show, and we will send a copy to all members with a future bulletin.

The promised effort at producing a booklet about museums, dealers, clubs, shows, books, and localities in Colorado hasn't gotten very far yet; we won't have it for the show this year, but a draft version should be available for inspection and comments at our September meeting.

The Minerals of Colorado-Update volume is still cooking away; it's approaching a finished "second draft" version which will be ready for review and--at last--publication, but it isn't quite there yet. In the near future, Jack Murphy will be providing an updated summary about the update--some details relating to length, format, financing, and possible publication schedule.

Mike Groben, FM national president, had requested a loan of \$100 from each of the five FM chapters to help meet prepublication costs of the Mineralogical Record 14-year cumulative index, now in preparation by FM. At the May board meeting, the officers and directors of the Colorado Chapter approved his request and sent the \$100.

The national Friends of Mineralogy is sponsoring a Student Paper Award, for the best paper submitted by a full-time undergraduate or graduate student for presentation at the FM-MSA Symposium in Tucson, Feb. 10, 1985. This is the second year of this award. The award consists of \$150, plus up to an additional \$200 for travel expenses. Papers (not to exceed 15 pages) are to be submitted to FM vice-president Pete Modreski (U.S.G.S., Mail Stop 922, Box 25046 Federal Center, Denver, Colorado 80225) no later than Nov. 15, 1984. The theme of the 1985 FM-MSA Symposium is "Classic Mineral Localities".

**OLD THINGS MISSED THE FIRST TIME AROUND:** An item in the Rocky Mountain News, Nov. 14, 1983, noted that a group of Girl Scouts had discovered the bones of a small dinosaur near the I-70 roadcut at Morrison. The scouts were led by Donna Collins and Donley (whom we better know as Rick) Collins. Donna and Rick (who work, respectively, for the Colorado Geological Survey and the U.S.G.S.) are both (off-and-on) members of FM. The bones (of "a small theropod dinosaur, something like an Allosaurus") were excavated by the Denver Museum of Natural History and will be kept in the museum collection.

**COMING EVENTS:**

**DENVER GEM AND MINERAL SHOW, SEP. 7-9, 1984**

The Denver Show, at the Merchandise Mart Exposition Hall, off I-25 and 58th Ave. (exit 215), will feature 60 retail and wholesale dealers. Special exhibits will include a collection of beautifully carved gem opals from the Denver Museum of Natural History; a spectacular 121-pound carved turquoise boulder from the Hatchita Mountains, New Mexico (it took over 1100 hours to carve), exhibited by Dave and Tom Freeland (Raindance Traders, Inc.) of Albuquerque; and a part of the Anna Marie Knechtel collection of tourmaline carvings (mainly from Pala, California, and carved in Idar-Oberstein). Photographs of one of the opals and of the turquoise may be seen on p. 722 of the August, 1984 Lapidary Journal in an article about the Denver Show, and an article about the Knechtel collection is on p. 482-3 of the June, 1984 issue (the hummingbird carving shown on the cover of this issue is part of the Knechtel collection but is not one of the pieces that will be displayed in Denver).

Representatives from Mineralogical Record and Rocks and Minerals will be at the show.

Show hours will be 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday, Sep. 7; 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday; and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$2.00 per day for adults (\$4.00 for a three-day pass), and \$1.00 for senior citizens and children over 12.

There will also be an independent satellite show Sep. 5-8 at the Holiday Inn North (I-25 at exit 214C) with more than 25 dealers.

On Saturday, Sep. 8 the first Paleontological Symposium, sponsored by the Colorado Paleontological Society, will be held at the Denver Show. The program is:

Dr. Gustavo Morales-----Microfossils  
 Dick Dayvault-----Eocene fish  
 Carl Hirsch-----Fossil Eggs  
 Steve Jorgensen-----Cretaceous ammonites  
 Roy Peters-----Collecting in Germany  
 Jordan Sawdo-----Collecting in England and Scotland  
 Bryan Cooney-----The Colo. School of Mines Collection  
 Dr. Martin Lockley &  
 Nancy Prince-----Dinosaur Trackways of Colorado

Sunday, Sep. 9 will be the Mineralogical Symposium sponsored by FM, and organized by Mark Jacobson. A highlight of the symposium will be Ed Raines' much-acclaimed (one-hour) talk on the history of mining in Leadville; Ed will be flying here from Houston for the symposium, notwithstanding the Houston Gem and Mineral Show taking place on this same weekend (he'll catch part of both shows).



