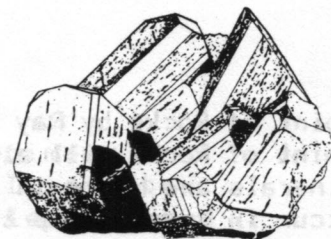


F M friends of mineralogy colorado chapter

NEWSLETTER - AUG 1985
No. 3 for 1985



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SEPTEMBER MEETING: Thursday, Sep. 19, 1985, 7:30 pm, 3rd floor meeting room, Denver Museum of Natural History (enter through the white Security trailer on the north side of museum). Program:

"SILENT SPLENDOR" and CAVE MINERALS

presented by Jack Murphy,
Curator of Geology,
Denver Museum of Natural History

Jack Murphy, Curator of the DMNH Geology Department and past president of the Friends of Mineralogy, Colorado Chapter, will present a program about caves and their minerals. He will describe "Silent Splendor", a newly discovered section of Cave of the Winds near Manitou Springs, Colo. First found in January, 1984 by a party of volunteers who had been exploring for new passages in Cave of the Winds, Silent Splendor is noted for remarkable, fragile formations of beaded helictites (small, twisted forms of calcite and aragonite).

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The August issue of Bear Pause, the DMNH newsletter, contains a feature article written by Jack about Silent Splendor. The issue includes an account by Rick Rhinehart, one of the NSS (National Speleological Society) members who found the new part of the cave, about how this discovery climaxed an 18-month exploration effort. The Bear Pause also includes an article by Jack about the existing cave exhibits at the museum: a reconstruction of calcite, aragonite and gypsum formations excavated from a cavern in the El Potosi mine in Chihuahua, Mexico, plus gypsum "sword" crystals from the Xochitl Cavern at Naica, Chihuahua. The El Potosi display was first opened in 1913; it was removed from exhibition due to construction in 1951, and reopened, with the addition of the Naica gypsum crystals, in 1975. If you would like to hear another perspective on the new cave discovery, Vi Allured will give a lecture on Wednesday, Sep. 18, at the Museum of Natural History about the discovery of Silent Splendor. Tickets for the lecture are \$3 for museum members and \$4.50 for nonmembers, available through the museum.

85 SYMPOSIUM: Jim McGlasson is chairman for our 4th annual Mineralogical Symposium, to be held Sunday afternoon, Sep. 15, 1985 at the Denver Gem and Mineral Show. See page 2 of this newsletter for the program of speakers at our symposium along with other information about the show.

85 FIELD TRIP!!: Sat. & Sun. Oct. 19-20, to Point of Rocks Mesa, New Mexico. Yes, we are having a field trip this year! Point of Rocks Mesa is a sill of alkali-rich igneous rock (phonolite) which has in the past few years become noted for an extensive suite of common and rare minerals which occur as euhedral crystals in vugs. See the article on

Point of Rocks by Ray DeMark in The Mineralogical Record, May-June 1984; a talk about Point of Rocks will also be given at our symposium at the Denver Show. Most of the minerals are micro in size, but some, such as villiaumite, cancrinite, and searlesite, can occur in crystals up to 1 cm.. The locality is an abandoned quarry atop the mesa, located on private ranch land; it will be possible to camp overnight at the base of the mesa. Your equipment for collecting minerals here should include heavy sledge hammers and chisels for breaking the dense, tough rock; egg cartons are useful for cushioning and separating specimens. Point of Rocks Mesa is located about 25 miles east of Springer in Colfax Co., N.M.; it is about a 300-mile drive (6 hours) from Denver. We will plan to meet at the mesa by noon on Saturday, Oct. 19; you may wish to start down Friday evening. To go on this trip (and to share rides), please call and leave your name and phone number with Pat Jablonski at Jack Murphy's office, Denver Museum of Natural History, 370-6355.

DENVER GEM AND MINERAL SHOW/ROCKY MOUNTAIN FEDERATION SHOW, Sep 13-14, 1985 The Denver show this year is co-sponsored by the Denver Gem and Mineral Show, the Greater Denver Area Gem and Mineral Council (of which our chapter is a member), and the Rocky Mountain Federation of Gem and Mineral Societies. Special exhibits at the show will include replicas of the crown jewels of Europe made by Frank Rodacy of Pueblo, Colorado, and scale-model dinosaur statues sculpted by John Fischner of Needville, Texas. Regular features of the show are 60+ retail and wholesale dealers; competitive and noncompetitive exhibits; lapidary demonstrations by club members and by dealers (sapphire is the stone featured by the faceters this year); gold panning for children; a swap area; a mineral identification table sponsored by FM; a Paleontological Symposium sponsored by the Western Interior Paleontological Society, and a Mineralogical Symposium sponsored by FM. An Independent Mineral Dealers Trade Show (28 dealers) will also be held at the Holiday Inn North (I-25 at exit 214C), Sep. 11-14. Paleontological speakers include Harley Armstrong of Dinosaur Valley Museum, Grand Junction; Dave Kuntz, on state permits for fossil hunters; Bob Tschudy, on the Cretaceous-Tertiary boundary and extinction of the dinosaurs; a talk on the mammoth site at Hot Springs, S.D.; and Neal Larson, on Fox Hills ammonites. The FM symposium will feature Keith Williams, leading a forum on new mineral finds; Eugene Foord on the San Diego County pegmatites; Barbara Muntyan on the mines of the San Juan Mountains; Mark Jacobson on lithium pegmatites of Colorado; and Pete Modreski on Point of Rocks, New Mexico. Show hours are 9-9 Fri., 10-8 Sat., and 10-5 Sun. If you would like to volunteer to help at the mineral identification table, please call Pete Modreski (978-9926) or Jack Murphy (370-6355).

COLORADO PEGMATITE SYMPOSIUM 1986: is planned by our chapter for May 30-June 2, 1986. It will include 2 days for presentation of papers about Colorado pegmatites and their minerals, and 2 days of field trips; more details will be available as the date approaches. Please contact one of the chapter officers if wish to volunteer to present a paper.

COMING EVENTS

- Sep. 8 FM board meeting, 6:30 pm, Jack Murphy's office, Denver Mus. Nat. Hist.
- Sep. 13-15 Denver/Rocky Mountain Federation Gem & Mineral Show
- Sep. 19 FM-Colorado Chapter bimonthly meeting
- Oct. 19-20 Mineralien Tage Munchen, Munich, West Germany
- Nov. 9-10 New Mexico Mineral Symposium, Socorro, N.M.
- Nov. 14 FM-Colorado Chapter bimonthly meeting
- Feb. 13-16 1986 Tucson Gem and Mineral Show
- May 30 - June 2 Colorado Pegmatite Symposium, Denver Museum of Natural History, sponsored by FM-Colorado Chapter

FUTURE MEETINGS: FM meetings are normally held on the 2nd Thursday of every other month (no July meeting). Dues are \$10/year. Coming meetings: Sep. 19, Nov. 14, Jan. 16 1986, Mar. 20, May 15.