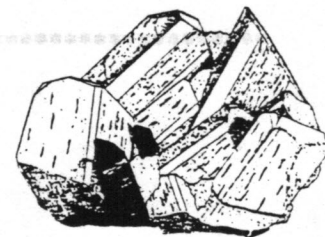


F **M** friends of mineralogy colorado chapter



Friends of Mineralogy - Colorado Chapter Newsletter No. 5, Sept.-Oct. 1992

September Meeting: 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 10, 1992
Denver Museum of Natural History
VIP Conference Room (at rear of T-Rex Cafe)

*(enter the museum through the staff door,
to the left of the main entrance on the
north side, facing the parking lot)*

PROGRAM

"Valuation and Appraisal of Mineral Specimens"

**Our program will include an audience participation
exercise in assessing the value of a selected group of
mineral specimens, plus comments and discussion by
a panel of knowledgeable collector/dealers:**

**David Bunk
Ed Raines
Marty Zinn**

Monetary value of mineral specimens is a factor that comes into consideration in many of the ways in which each of us is involved with minerals: purchase or sale of specimens; acquisition (by purchase or donation) of specimens by museums; appraisal for insurance or tax purposes; liquidation of an estate. Even if one tries to avoid the entire concept of monetary value of specimens by sticking strictly to personal field collecting or to the scientific or historic study of minerals, one or more of these factors is still likely to come into concern. And of course, with the Denver Show approaching, few of us will not contemplate purchasing at least a few specimens to further whatever our personal (or institution's) interests in minerals may be.

For the program on the 10th, we have arranged to have a small selection (10-12) of specimens on display in the meeting room. The three panelists will begin with a brief discussion of what determines the value of a specimen. After everyone has had a chance to view the specimens, each person in the audience will have the chance to mark his "ballot" with his own estimate the value of each specimen (we will define value as the estimated retail selling price of the specimen if offered for sale by a commercial dealer at the Denver Show). We'll discuss the results, and compare the evaluations of the audience with those of the "experts".

As background reading on appraisal, you might refer to "An experiment in specimen appraisal" by W.E. Wilson and J.S. White, in *Mineralogical Record*, 1977, v. 8, no. 1, p. 38-40, 47-48.

**Please note - We do not plan to mail a separate October newsletter;
this one will serve as your reminder for the October meeting,
Oct. 8. Please see the program information on the next page!**

October Meeting - Thursday, Oct. 8, 1992
Denver Museum of Natural History - Ricketson Auditorium
7:30 p.m. - enter the museum directly
through the west doorway into Ricketson
program:
Mining at the Sweet Home mine, Alma, Colorado
by Bryan Lees

Bryan Lees is well known as a mineral dealer (*Collector's Edge*), miner for specimen recovery, and international traveller and importer/exporter of quality specimens. During the past two years, Bryan has been conducting a mining operation at the Sweet Home mine in Park County, which has over the past decades been the source of some of the world's premier rhodochrosite specimens. Everyone will have had the opportunity to see some of Bryan's current finds at the Denver Show in September. At our October meeting, Bryan will present a talk about his reopening of the mine and the mineralogy and geology of the deposit. It should be a fascinating program!

November preview - Thursday, Nov. 12, 1992
Denver Museum of Natural History - VIP Conference Room
program:
Geology and Mineralogy of the Sterling Hill mine,
Ogdensburg, New Jersey
by Dr. Earl R. Verbeek

Earl Verbeek, FM Chapter member and geologist with the U.S. Geological Survey, has over the past several years made numerous extended visits to the world-renowned Sterling Hill mine. Earl has studied and mapped geologic features in the mine, with particular attention to faults and other structural features and their relation to the occurrence of minerals in the deposit. Earl will give us an exciting and up-to-date account of what has been done in recent years to open this famous deposit to tourists and to scientific study, as well as a summary of its unique mineralogy and of the insight gained from his own research.

Friends of Mineralogy, Colorado Chapter, meets seven times a year (Sep-Oct-Nov-Jan-Mar-Apr-May), normally on the 2nd Thursday evening of each month. Meetings are at 7:30 p.m. at the Denver Museum of Natural History. The purpose of FM is to advance the study and dissemination of information about mineralogy in Colorado. Annual membership is \$13, by application to the chapter; members automatically also become members of the national organization, Friends of Mineralogy, Inc., and receive a national as well as a chapter newsletter.

*1992 officers: Pete Modreski, president (978-9926)
Roger Bennett, vice-president (986-9056)
Carol Smith, secretary (466-5863)
Eunice York, treasurer (761-8296)
Eugene Foord, director (237-7745)
Glen Johnson, director (232-7147)
Ed Raines, director (443-0714)
mailing address: FMCC, P.O. Box 150401, Lakewood, CO 80215-0401*

1992 Denver Gem and Mineral Show - Will be Sep. 18-20. Hours are 9 a.m. - 8 p.m. Friday, 9-6 Sat., 9-5 Sun. The show will include exhibits from the Norwegian Mining Museum (Kongsberg); Bern (Switzerland) Natural History Museum; Miguel Romero Museum; Fersman Mineralogical Museum (Moscow); an exhibit of eastern Germany silver minerals by Manfred Schwarz (Saxony); plus many of the "usual" museums. Our feature mineral, of course, is silver (have you seen Ed Raines' article on Colorado native silver localities, in the July/August issue of *Rocks and Minerals*?). The "Saturday Night Special" awards and entertainment program will feature a talk by Tom Hendricks, Boulder County mine owner/operator, on "The Silver Rush, Colorado Style", plus Jeff Waters' ragtime piano music. Everyone is encouraged to dress up in "period" (19-century Colorado) costumes for this Saturday evening event! A full list of programs taking place during the show:

FRIDAY:

4:30 - 5:30 p.m. - Cecilia Ambrust (Colorado Gemological Association), "Colored Gem Stone Appreciation"

SATURDAY:

11:00 - 12:00 a.m. - Dr. Alexander Godovikov (Fersman Mineralogical Museum), "New Mineral Localities in Russia and Neighboring Countries"

1:00 - 2:00 p.m. - Daniel Grenard (Bureau of Land Management), "Garden Park Dinosaur Fossils"

2:00 - 2:30 p.m. - Richard Stucky (Denver Museum of Natural History), "Discussion: Fossil Collecting on Public Lands"

3:00 - 4:00 p.m. - Dr. Susan Eriksson (Virginia Polytechnic Institute), "Museums as Mirrors of our Culture"

SATURDAY NIGHT SPECIAL:

6:30 - 8:00 p.m. - Entertainment - Jeff Waters, "Ragtime Saloon Tunes," silent auction, awards presentation, refreshments, and cash bar

8:00 - 8:45 p.m. - Thomas Hendricks, "The Silver Rush, Colorado Style"

SUNDAY:

11:00 - 12:00 a.m. - Dr. Beda Hofmann (Natural History Museum of Bern, Switzerland), "Mineralogy of the Lengnabach Quarry, Switzerland"

1:00 - 2:00 p.m. - Eric Fritzsich (South Dakota School of Mines), "Silver Camps of the Black Hills"

2:30 - 3:30 p.m. - Doris Kemp (Lizzadro Museum of Lapidary Art), "Creation of Jewelry and Art Works from Organic Material"

We already have several people signed up to help at FM's *Mineral Identification* booth at the show. If more of you can help, please call Pete Modreski, 978-9926 (it's our little bit to provide an activity at the show, help spread a little more knowledge to the public about minerals, and it's an interesting experience to work at the booth besides).

A special fund-raising event at the show will be the auction of a specimen of malachite after azurite from Tsumeb, Namibia, donated by John Sinkankas for the benefit of *Rocks and Minerals*. The 7.5 x 6.2 x 3-inch specimen (see photo on following page) was mined from the first oxide zone at Tsumeb; it has been owned by Friedrich W. Kegel, Tsumeb mine manager; mineral dealer Martin Ehrmann; the U.S. National Museum, and John Sinkankas (see *Rocks and Minerals*, July/Aug. 1992, p. 221 & 264). The piece will be on display at the Denver show, and will be auctioned by written bids submitted either in advance by mail (through 9/17, to Denver Council, P.O. Box 621444, Littleton, CO 80162), or at the show; a sign will be posted during the show to announce the highest bid received so far, and the winning bid will be announced at the Saturday night program. The specimen has been appraised at \$2500.



*Fundraiser Specimen**

Donated by
John Sinkankas

Proceeds
designated for
Rocks & Minerals

*See details on page 221

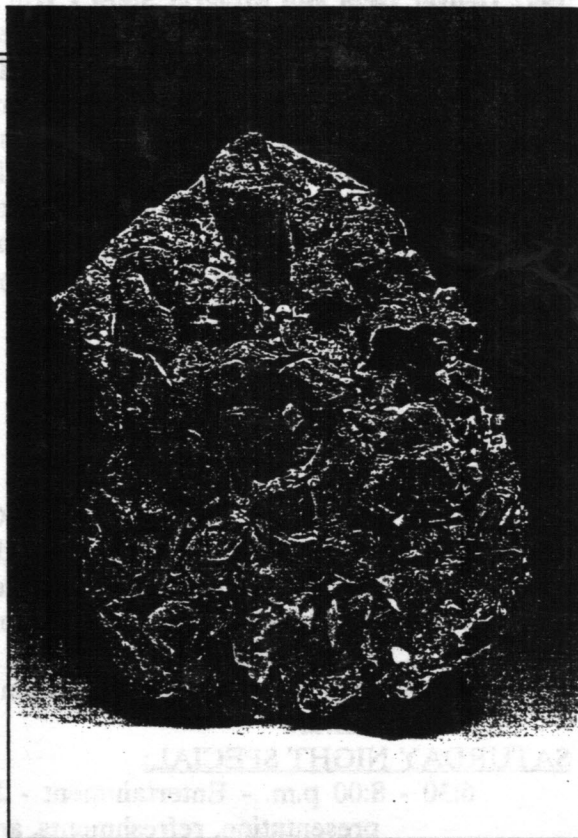


Photo by Jeff Scovil

August FM Field Trip - About 18 FM members met on Quartz Hill above Central City on Saturday, Aug. 22, for a day-long field trip to The Patch ("Glory Hole") mine, courtesy of Harold Caldwell, owner of The Patch/Chain O' Mines. The record for the longest distance traveled to attend the field trip goes to Arnold Mogel, usually-absentee FMCC member from Mohrsville, Pennsylvania (Arnold is also president of the Pennsylvania FM Chapter; he'll be back here again for the Denver Show). All appeared to have a fine time, pounding apart boulders of the breccia ore strewn around the edges of the open pit for specimens of crystallized quartz, sphalerite, pyrite, galena, chalcopyrite, siderite, barite, and the occasional yellow-green secondary coating of greenockite (cadmium sulfide). The ore is a breccia composed of clasts of Precambrian gneiss and granite, intruded by Tertiary-age monzonite and infiltrated by the quartz-sulfide mineral veins. It was a good outing; we're open to suggestions for a next field trip.

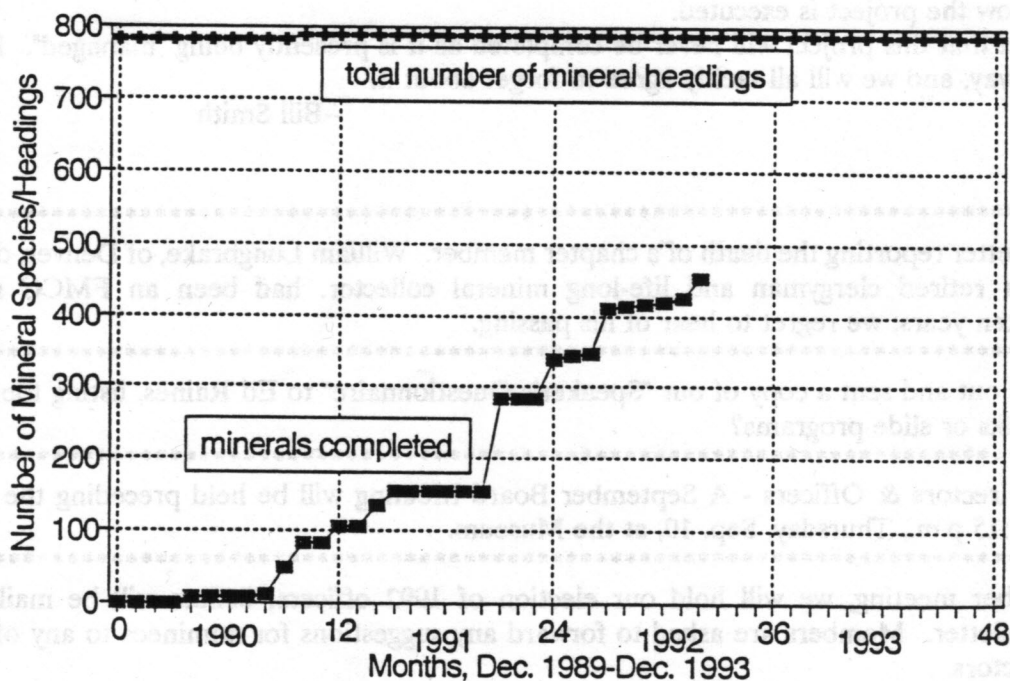
"Antero Aquamarines" Update - After FM's vote last spring to advance money to finance 1/2 the cost of publishing this book by Mark Jacobson, the Denver Council also voted to support the other half of the publication (not to exceed \$6000) in the form of an outright donation to Colorado School of Mines. CSM, FM, and Mark Jacobson will contract with Lanny Ream Publications to publish the book. Mark was in Denver in July; Mark, Virginia Mast, an FM representative (Pete Modreski) and a Council representative (Sandra Walden) met then to prepare a draft contract, a version of which is being circulated between CSM, FM, the Council, Lanny, and Mark; we hope to sign a final contract in September.

Update on the Update - The accompanying graph is a current plot of the progress of the *Minerals of Colorado* manuscript. As of this August, 454 out of a total of approximately 800 mineral sections have been completed by the authors (this total is up from only 154 completed a year ago).

A few words about the way (and by whom) the work is being done: Bob Cobban, Rick Collins, Gene Foord, and Jack Murphy are the designated authors of this update to Bulletin 1114, *Minerals of Colorado, a 100-year Record*, by Edwin B. Eckel (originally published 1961). The Update is a project of Friends of Mineralogy, for which some of the work has been supported by the Denver Museum of Natural History, and some by the U.S. Geological Survey. Rick Collins is chairman of the author committee; in addition, Dan Kile and Pete Modreski have been acting as coordinators between FM and the update authors, and both of them have responsibilities for writing a few of the mineral sections. Jim Hurlbut has been assisting with some final abstracting of articles dealing with Colorado minerals in the recent literature, and Shirley Mossburg, DMNH volunteer, has been assisting Jack with manuscript and computer work. Ed Raines is in charge of obtaining photographs for the book, and Bill Chirnside is helping plan the maps that will appear in it. The sections, as completed by each individual author, are being reviewed by the other authors. In earlier years, FM (and the DMNH) had paid a typist to type the "first draft" of the update manuscript. Now, all typing and retyping are done by the authors themselves, strictly on a "volunteer" basis.

Some of the authors now feel that, with a really strong effort, the entire manuscript can be completed (pending final editorial review) by the end of 1992. Looking at the attached graph, completion by the end of 1993 seems a more conservative goal. As the text nears completion and the photographs are taken and/or selected, we will need to arrive at a definite plan as to exactly who will publish the book--a fairly expensive undertaking, since we are looking at a book of probably 500+ pages with color photos. Possibilities include publication by the Denver Museum of Natural History (our first choice), publication with funding from outside donors, publication by FM (we don't have anywhere near that much money ourselves!), and publication by the USGS (this last is probably the least likely alternative). There is still much work to be done, and many decisions to be made, but the manuscript itself appears to be well on target for completion.

Minerals of Colorado Update Mineral Drafts Completed through 8/92



The following letter about the *Update* was received from a chapter member for publication in this newsletter. Although I (editor--PJM) feel that he is much too pessimistic about completion of the Update, we know that a number of people have expressed similar concerns over the past years. These concerns are valid ones which should be weighed and discussed by people in the chapter; we do feel that a better understanding of what is happening on the Update project will give most people a feeling of confidence in its outcome.

One Man's View of the 100-Year Update

The following comments stem from my attendance at FM meetings, FMCC Director's meetings, and some private conversations.

1) I cannot figure out who controls the update. When I suggest that somehow the FMCC should have the authority, because it has offered to foot some of the costs (and has already expended in excess of \$5,000 for the data entry) I am told that since this is to be a USGS document, the FMCC must defer to the USGS authority. But other than the USGS writers involved (Gene Foord and who else?) I have heard of no one else in the USGS who accepts any responsibility for any editorial decisions on the update. No evidence has been shown, as far as I know, that the USGS has accepted any responsibility for publishing this document, even conditionally.

2) I cannot figure out how the writers write. Apparently the four (?) current writers operate by consensus, but the closer you observe this consensus, the more tenuous it appears. Perhaps an approximation to the consensus would be: if you don't complain about my contributions, I won't complain about yours.

3) If it were desirable to drop this effort, there seems to be no human power that can stop it. There is no mechanism, as far as I can see, by which the FMCC, or the USGS, or the DMNH, can abort this project.

We seem to be supporting a project that is in the control of no-one, where no true, enforceable commitment can be required of anyone, to make anything happen, at any given time. We have a group of writers who are self-selected, with complete authority, but no responsibility.

This would be none of my business, except that I am a member of the FMCC, and though we have no authority, we seem to have morally committed ourselves to a financial responsibility. We have also let the rest of the mineralogical world know that "we" are engaged in an update. A majority of our membership feels that some of our surplus funds should be dedicated to this project, but our membership seems to have no control of how the project is executed.

I predict that this project will never be completed as it is presently being "managed". Eventually it will just drift away, and we will all tacitly agree to forget about it.

--Bill Smith

We received a letter reporting the death of a chapter member. William Longbrake, of Denver, died this past spring. Bill, a retired clergyman and life-long mineral collector, had been an FMCC member for approximately ten years; we regret to hear of his passing.

Have you filled out and sent a copy of our "Speaker's Questionnaire" to Ed Raines, listing topics on which you can give talks or slide programs?

For Chapter Directors & Officers - A September Board Meeting will be held preceding the regular FM meeting, 6:00-7:15 p.m., Thursday, Sep. 10, at the Museum.

At the November meeting, we will hold our election of 1992 officers; ballots will be mailed with the November newsletter. Members are asked to forward any suggestions for nominees to any of the FMCC officers or directors.

CONCERNS ABOUT SPECIMEN COLLECTING ON PUBLIC LAND

Numerous existing or proposed restrictions on the collecting of specimens on public land have received a lot of attention in recent months--even more so than in past years. Many of the current controversies concern fossil collecting, but the overall trend has been that the law- and regulation-making authorities in our society are examining and in some cases redefining the rules covering removal of all types of geological specimens from public land, mineral as well as fossil, and for recreational as well as commercial purposes. In recent months we've received a number of letters, editorials, and calls for people to pass on their views to their elected representatives, so we'd like to try to summarize some of these communications in our newsletters.

Senate Bill S3107 was introduced in the U.S. Senate by Montana Sen. Max Baucus on July 30, 1992. This "Vertebrate Paleontological Resources Protection Act" proposes new requirements and permits for the excavation or removal of any "paleontological resource", which is defined as "any scientifically significant naturally occurring remains of a vertebrate that lived prior to the Holocene epoch." Some provisions of the proposed act are that any amateur collector must have a permit to collect vertebrate fossils; an amateur collector must be "affiliated with a suitable institution for the purpose of collecting paleontological resources"; no commercial collecting would be permitted on public land; a purpose of the act is "to insure that all vertebrate fossils discovered on public lands remain the property of the United States"; and "After an amateur collector reports a discovery of a paleontological resource... the Federal land manager shall permit the amateur collector to retain the paleontological resource for the personal collection of the amateur collector, unless the resource is of significant scientific value", but that "Any resource retained by an amateur collector... shall remain the property of the United States and may not be sold." We have a copy of the complete text of the bill, sent to us by the RMFMS. Some points in the bill may be ambiguous (definition of

"scientifically significant"?), but it's clear that it would put many restrictions on (vertebrate) fossil collecting. It has been suggested that concerned persons should contact the Colorado U.S. Senators (Hon. Hank Brown and Hon. Timothy Wirth) via the U.S. Senate switchboard (1-202-224-3121) or by mail (Brown: 717 Hart Senate Office Building, Wash. D.C. 20510-0602; Wirth: 380 Russell Senate Office Building, Wash. D.C. 20510-0603).

A somewhat controversial "**Governors Conference**" on paleontological resources took place Aug. 24-26 in Rapid City, S.D. Its emphasis appeared to be to generate support for increased regulation of public fossil collecting; it had been charged as being "stacked" in favor of those who advocate prohibitions as opposed to open collecting. As reported in the news media, a number of public protests took place against the perceived bias of the conference.

We also have a letter from Roger Pittman (5990 Renneberger Rd., Falcon, CO 80831), new Colorado State Director of the RMFMS. He notes current concerns about access to public lands for recreational purposes (including rock/mineral/fossil collecting) and encourages people to contact him with ideas or proposals for the RMFMS' *Public Land Advisory Committee* (PLAC). Roger suggests joining (if you support their goals; \$20.00+) *People for the West* (P.O. Box 4345, Pueblo, CO 81003).

A related current matter in Colorado is the proposed transfer of State School Trust Lands (3 million acres; now mostly leased for grazing) to responsibility of the State Division of Wildlife, which would *lease* it for hunting, fishing, and recreation. There is concern that this transfer of responsibility would make such land unavailable for geologic specimen collecting under provisions of D.O.W. regulations (Chapt. 9, Art. 1, Sec. 900-A-6) which make it unlawful to "remove, modify, deface, or destroy any object of archeological, geological, or historical value or interest", or to dig trenches, holes, or pits. Comments on this proposed transfer may be made to: State Board of Land Commissioners, 1313 Sherman

St., Suite 620, Denver, CO 80203; attn. Max Venzanni, (303) 866-3454.

PUBLIC LANDS - cont.

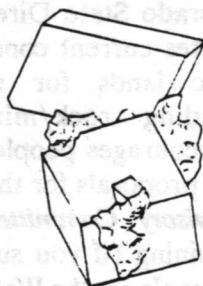
Most of you have probably heard or read about the incident involving "Sue", the *Tyrannosaurus rex*, excavated (1990) by the Black Hills Institute of Geological Research by contract on land owned by a member of the Cheyenne Sioux tribe, and impounded (May 1992) by Federal agents on the grounds that it was U.S. property. The controversy continues; a fund has been established to "Free Sue" (c/o First Western Bank, P.O. Box 126, Hill City, S.D. 57745; (605)574-2531).

A different point of view concerning fossil collecting has been offered by Dr. Richard Stucky, curator of paleontology at the Denver Museum of Natural History. He points out that current laws actually prohibit any vertebrate fossil collecting by amateurs on public land, while the proposed new regulations would permit regulated collection by amateur paleontologists. He feels that this new law would serve to protect the scientific

and educational values of all fossils for the future. Dr. Stucky will be available for a discussion concerning fossil collecting at the Denver Show, on Saturday at 2:00 p.m.

Finally, we continue to hear comments about the proposed changes to the U.S. **Mining Law of 1872**. Two such bills have been introduced: Senate bill S-433 by Sen Dale Bumpers, and House bill HR-918 by Rep. Nick Rahall; both would basically make substantial increases in fees and require additional permits for prospecting or for filing and holding mineral claims. Again, once you have acquainted yourself with the provisions of these bills you may want to express your opinions to your senators and representatives.

---a summary by Pete and Regina Modreski, written jointly for the Littleton Gem & Mineral Club and the Friends of Mineralogy newsletters.



No. JS/ <i>Mh-6</i>	
MALACHITE replacing azurite Tsumeb, South West Africa	
COLLECTION OF JOHN SINKANKAS San Diego, California	

COLLECTION OF JOHN SINKANKAS

SPECIES: <i>Malachite</i>	CAT. NO.: JS <i>Mh-6</i>
VARIETY: <i>pseudo after azurite</i>	SIZE: <i>8" x 6" x 3"</i>
ASSOCIATIONS: <i>massive malachite</i>	U. S. NATIONAL MUSEUM DIVISION OF MINERALOGY
LOCALITY: <i>Tsumeb, Southwest Africa.</i>	
REMARKS: <i>From the Kegel Coll., of the 1st oxidized zone. Sold to USNM by Martin Flermann.</i>	Locality: <i>Tsumeb, Southwest Africa</i>
WASHINGTON A. ROEBLING COLLECTION	
ACQUIRED: <i>Exchange U.S.N.M. Wash. D.C.</i>	DATE: <i>June '64</i>
	COST: <i>300 =</i>
	VALUE: <i>300 =</i>

1992 COMING EVENTS

September FM Meeting: Thursday, Sep. 10

Denver Gem and Mineral Show: Fri.-Sun., Sep. 18-20

Denver Satellite Shows: Wed.-Sun., Sep. 16 - 20

October FM Meeting: Thursday, Oct. 8

November FM Meeting: Thursday, Nov. 12

New Mexico Mineral Symposium: Nov. 14-15

Friends of Mineralogy,
Colorado Chapter
P.O. Box 150401
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Ginny Mast
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Golden, CO 80403