



# FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY

## COLORADO CHAPTER



# January 2025 Newsletter!

Next Meeting

January 9th, 7:00 PM

Berthoud Hall

Room 108

Colorado School of  
Mines Campus

**Caleb Chappell**

*A Common Thread: On the  
Nature of the Faden Habit*

### Abstract:

The faden habit has been observed in quartz, orthoclase, epidote, and apatite for decades, dating back to observations by Scharff in 1864 who was the first to officially observe the faden habit in quartz crystals. For many years the French and Swiss localities dominated the specimen scene for fadens, and more generally the 'Alpine' habit for quartz, orthoclase, apatite, epidote, hematite etc which includes of course the famous Gwindel habit quartz specimens. That is until the now exceedingly abundant, and often superior quality, faden specimens of quartz, orthoclase, epidote, apatite, and diopside (among others) began entering the worldwide market in notable abundance from the Alpine-cleft deposits of the Himalayas, principally Pakistan, in the late 90s/ early 2000s. We now observe the faden habit in more than a dozen different mineral species and from hundreds of localities around Earth, from the Trift Glacier, Switzerland, Alchuri, Pakistan, to Yuma Co., Arizona, there is clear evidence that the development of the faden habit is a ubiquitous feature of crystal growth. This talk will review the history of observations regarding faden development and discuss current scientific hypotheses on how these exquisite and often bizarre habits form, i.e. the common thread of geologic processes in the growth of faden habit crystals.



Figure 1. Quartz faden from the Trift Glacier, Bern, Switzerland. Ex Pete Richards



# Important Meeting Details!

## 2025 events!

This year is already shaping up to be an eventful one for our chapter! In addition to our wildly successful symposium returning for its second year, we will also be hosting one of this year's Mineralogical Society of America's distinguished lecturers, Aaron Celestian from the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles on March 27th. See the following page for more details on both events which you won't want to miss!

## Competition:

This week's competition will be your favorite quartz specimen(s), no limits! Let's see the good stuff!

## Elections!

We are happy to announce that the following individuals were voted into the listed positions and will serve in this capacity until November 2025.

**President Benjamin Murphy**

**Vice President: Brian Kraft**

**Secretary: Jeff Kuhn**

**Treasurer: Sherm Marsh**

**Director-At-Large, Seat 1: Anne Fulton**

**Director-At-Large, Seat 2: Caleb Chappell**

**Director-At-Large, Seat 3: Bob Hembree**

**Director-At-Large, Seat 4, Markus Raschke**

## Caleb Chappell

### Bio:

Caleb is an exploration geologist with Falcon Butte America and Falcon Copper Corp focused on identifying Cu porphyry-skarn systems in the underexplored American West. His specialties include mineralogy and geochemistry with specific application to the realm of economic geology. He has been a co-author on 10+ geoscience publications and conference abstracts, including first author on a publication in the prestigious American Mineralogist. Caleb obtained a Professional Masters in Mineral Exploration from Colorado School of Mines in 2022 and an M.S. in Geology from Miami University in 2019. He specializes in collecting apatite group minerals, siderite, and Alpine-cleft style minerals. Caleb and his partner Hillary can often be found exploring the beautiful state of Colorado where they live or at home with their cats Winston and Moira.





**PETER BUSECK NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN MINERALOGY AND PETROLOGY LECTURE**

# Aaron Celestian:

Mineral Sciences Curator, Natural History Museum of Los Angeles



## Prospering Backyards: A collaboration of art, science, and community

March 27th, 2025  
Berthoud Hall room 243, 5:30pm



Presented by:  
Friends of Mineralogy Colorado Chapter, Mines Museum of Earth Science,  
Mineralogical Society of America, Natural History Museum of Los Angeles



## FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY COLORADO CHAPTER



# 2025 SYMPOSIUM: SPECIMEN MINES OF THE UNITED STATES



Featuring a top notch speaker lineup, field trips, workshops, museum reception, mineral auction, & more!

## SAVE THE DATES!

June 12th - 16th, 2025  
at Colorado School of Mines in Golden, Colorado.



[friendsofmineralogycolorado.org/symposium](https://friendsofmineralogycolorado.org/symposium)



[friendsofmineralogycolorado.org](https://friendsofmineralogycolorado.org)