



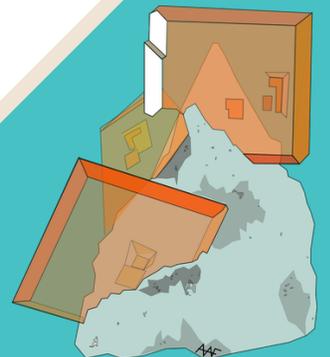
JUNE 12 - 15, 2025

SPECIMEN MINES OF THE UNITED STATES SYMPOSIUM



Program & Abstracts

Mines Museum of Earth Science
& Hill Hall
Colorado School of Mines,
Golden, Colorado



SPECIMEN MINES OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 12 - 15, 2025

Hill Hall &
Mines Museum of Earth Science
Colorado School of Mines,
Golden, Colorado

Editor: Anne Fulton

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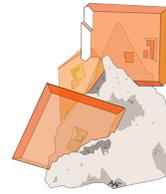
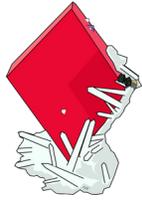
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Nicole Neu-Yagle
Marie Huizing
& everyone else who helped make this symposium possible
Thank You!

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WELCOME

Welcome to the 2025 Friends of Mineralogy Colorado Chapter Symposium, with the theme of "Specimen Mines of the United States"! We are pleased to continue with our (now-)annual symposium series after a highly successful reboot last year.

Our symposium this year examines the subject of specimen mining through scientific, engineering, economic, and aesthetic lenses. Pursuant to the goals of Friends of Mineralogy, we aim not only to appreciate aesthetic mineral specimens produced through specimen mines, but also to understand the geological and mineralogical genesis of the deposits that produce such specimens as well as the techniques for extracting specimens from the ground. We are tremendously grateful to our speakers for their willingness to present on this subject matter at the symposium, and we look forward to learning of their experiences and perspectives!

We are also pleased to offer mineral preparation demonstrations, a field trip to the Pinnacle 5 Smoky Hawk/Sky Hawk claims in the Pikes Peak batholith, and behind-the-scenes tours of the Denver Museum of Nature & Science (DMNS) collections as part of our symposium this year. We are grateful to Collector's Edge; to Joe Dorris and the Pinnacle 5 team; and to James Hagadorn, Nicole Neu-Yagle, Eva Jorn, and Emory Pollatsek at DMNS for facilitating these additional program features.

Our symposium this year was organized as a joint effort by the Mines Museum of Earth Science at Colorado School of Mines and the Friends of Mineralogy Colorado Chapter. We thank Renata Lafler, Samara Rhett Tebo, and Ed Raines, our colleagues at the Mines Museum, for all their efforts in helping us to get this event organized, including particularly with the Friday evening reception at the Mines Museum.

The Mines Museum of Earth Science features a prestigious collection of minerals from Colorado, many of which date to the early 1880s and were acquired by pioneers of Colorado mineralogy, in addition to an impressive collection of specimens from around the world. We hope that you enjoy your time in the Mines Museum during the opening reception on Friday evening, and we invite you to visit the Museum again in the future to explore their spectacular collections and displays. (Additional information can be found at <https://www.mines.edu/museumofearthscience/>)

The Friends of Mineralogy Colorado Chapter was founded in 1977-1978 as a service organization with the purpose of increasing knowledge about minerals and their deposits. As a chapter of the national Friends of Mineralogy organization, our overarching goal is to promote, support, protect, and expand the collection of mineral specimens and to further the recognition of the scientific, economic, and aesthetic value of minerals and collecting mineral specimens. Our organization comprises collectors, professionals, and curators who share a love of mineral specimens and the desire to promote understanding and appreciation of mineralogy. We welcome all who may be interested to join our organization. (Additional information can be found at <https://friendsofmineralogycolorado.org/>)

Thank you for joining us at our symposium this year, and we hope you enjoy the event!

On Behalf of the Organizing Committee,

Benjamin S. Murphy
President, Friends of Mineralogy Colorado Chapter

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Thursday, June 12th

Field Trip
(2:30-3:30pm)

**Denver Museum of Nature and Science Behind
the Scenes Tour**
2001 Colorado Blvd, Denver, CO 80205

Friday, June 13th

Field Trip
(2:30-3:30pm)

**Denver Museum of Nature and Science Behind
the Scenes Tour**
2001 Colorado Blvd, Denver, CO 80205

10am - 12:30pm
& 2:00-3:30pm

**Mineral Specimen Prep Demo at The Collectors
Edge**

All Day (starting
9:00am)

Smoky Hawk / Sky Hawk Field Trip
Pinnacle5 claims, the Pikes Peak Batholith

5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

**Reception at the Mines Museum of Earth
Science - 1310 Maple St, Golden, CO 80401**
Drinks, Hors d'oeuvres, & On-site Registration
Silent & Live Auction



PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Saturday, June 14th

Hill Hall, Room 202 - 920 15th St, Golden, CO

(all presentation times are inclusive of Q & A)

- 8:00 - 8:45 AM Badge/Program Pickup, Walk-in Registration, Coffee & Tea
- 8:50 AM WELCOME REMARKS
- 9:00 AM **Levi Gregory** - *History and Production of the Little Three Gem Mine*
- 9:50 AM **Dave Varabioff** - *That moment my life changed. Gold fever is real!*
- 10:40 AM MORNING BREAK
- 11:00 AM **Karly and Don Litchfield** - *Specimen Mines of the United States; The Mineralogy, Paleontology and Geology of Elk Creek, South Dakota.*
- 12:00 PM LUNCH BREAK
- 1:30 PM **Jeremy Fuller** - *Minerals and Mining in the Thomas Range, Juab Co. Utah*
- 2:20 PM **Robert Nacarato & Walt Gaylord** - *The Elmwood Legacy: From Exploration to Iconic Specimens*
- 3:10 PM AFTERNOON BREAK
- 3:30 PM **Les Presmyk** - *The Brushy Creek Mine - A specimen collecting project*
- 4:20 - 5:05 PM **Graham Sutton** - *A brief history of 40 years of digging in the dirt*
- 6:00 - 9:00 PM **Symposium Warehouse Sale** - *Kindly hosted by Persson Rare Minerals - 4892 Van Gordon Street Unit 203 Wheat Ridge, Colorado 80033*
A handful of additional dealers will also be present, so stop on by to enjoy some light refreshments, great company, and fantastic specimens!

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Sunday, June 15th

**Hill Hall, Room 202 - 920 15th St, Golden, CO
(all presentation times are inclusive of Q & A)**

8:30 - 9:00 AM Coffee & Tea

9:00 AM **Joe Dorris** – *Artisanal mineral specimen mining, Smoky Hawk Pegmatite Group, Teller Co., Colorado*

9:50 AM **Mary Freeman** – *Trophies from Mount Mica, Paris, Maine*

10:40 AM MORNING BREAK

11:00 AM **John Cornish & Rosemary Miranda** – *High Desert Treasure Chest! – Rat's Nest, Custer County, Idaho.*

11:50-12:00PM CONCLUDING REMARKS

**GRL201 (classroom across from Mines Museum)
1310 Maple St, Golden, CO 80401**

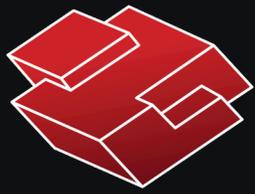
1:30 - 4:00 PM **Micromineral Summit** (Sponsored by Rocky Mountain Micromineral Association)





ABSTRACTS & AUTHOR BIOS





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W W W . C O L L E C T O R S E D G E . C O M

History and Production of the Little Three Gem Mine

Levi Gregory

The Little Three Mine is famous for producing large blue topaz, bright orange spessartine garnets, and a wide variety of other unique gems and minerals. In this talk, I will cover a wide range of material, ranging from the original discovery of the Little Three Mine in 1903, to the Spauldings' work and production from the '60s to 2000, touching on the significant scientific contributions of scientists who worked there, such as Eugene Ford, David London, and John Sinkankas.

And bringing it back into the modern day with my production, including the Gregory Pocket, April Fools Pocket, and the fascinating Faults Pockets. Then into our current workings, which have been on the Spaulding Ledge—opposed to the main spessartine or topaz ledges—and future plans for this historic property.



My name is Levi Gregory. I have been mining for gemstones in San Diego for 11 years. I spent most of my time working the Oceanview, Pala Chief, and Elizabeth R mines in Pala, and have spent the last three years working the historic Little Three Mine in Ramona.

That moment my life changed. Gold fever is real!

Dave Varabioff

My dad took me gold panning when I was 11 years old, and in the very very first pan ever in my life, there were five match head size nuggets; and in that moment my life changed. I didn't know it at the time, however I've done nothing but be a gold miner for my entire life. I'm self-taught completely and I've owned goldbay.com and motherlodegold.com since 1999 I'm also co-owner in the Colorado Quartz mine and a mine yet to be named. Stay tuned!



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FOSSILS
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GEMS



Specimen Mines of the United States; The Mineralogy, Paleontology and Geology of Elk Creek, South Dakota

Don Litchfield and daughter Karly Litchfield

TheNaughtyNautilus.com – P.O. Box 1269, Jacksonville, OR 97530

Elk Creek, South Dakota, has long been famous for producing some of the most beautiful, lustrous, gemmy golden barite in the world. Recent discoveries, based on decades of research, have shed new light on septarian concretion formation, mineral genesis, and the highly mineralized geologic zones found on Elk Creek. The authors, who have been mining for specimens for over forty years, have recently witnessed the discovery of many new amazing concretion horizons, perfected collecting and preparation techniques, that have set a new standard of specimen quality and consistency for the occurrence.

There are several notable occurrences of golden barite in western South Dakota. Elk Creek in Meade County, a tributary of the Cheyenne River, cuts through the most prolific septarian concretion horizons. The Elk Creek locality is well known for the fabulous specimens it has produced over the decades. Specimens of golden barite from South Dakota are much sought after by collectors and are represented in most major museums as well as many private collections. In addition to barite, Elk Creek is also known for its whewellite specimens, the largest and finest crystals of this mineral from North America and possibly the world. Elk Creek is also unique for its Pierre Seaway fossils, producing the largest cephalopods and other colorful ammonites from the Western Interior Seaway of North America. This talk takes you on an exciting discovery using both descriptive text, charts, illustrations, and color photography to portray the genesis and history of this ancient marine environment.



Notes:

It has been 45 years since Don collected his first golden barite and fossil Ammonites from Elk Creek, South Dakota. Growing up on the farm and ranch in North Dakota, being a S.D. School of Mines Graduate with a B.S. in Geological Engineering, having Professors that were leaders in their fields of study, being a problem solving innovative engineer and exploration geologist, well-traveled throughout the world from cleaning up the Exxon Valdez oil spill in Alaska, remediating evacuated Soviet Military Bases in Eastern Europe, to extinguishing oil well fires in the deserts of Kuwait, solving complex issues in the hazardous and solid waste industries, and four decades of collecting on Elk Creek, have all provided a unique skill set to explore the unknown.

Karly Litchfield has been collecting Elk Creek barite and ammonites as long as she can remember. Her passion for fossil and mineral collecting began on Family vacations, which always included field trips, Museum stops and time exploring Elk Creek, South Dakota. Karly has completed an Internship with the Collector's Edge Minerals, Inc. Laboratory in Golden, Colorado and now prepares many Elk Creek specimens and other worldwide minerals. Karly is currently conducting Fossil Excursions, aiding in related scientific research and assisting with the development of museum learning displays that bring to light the many natural wonders of Elk Creek, South Dakota. www.Concretionites.com.



Notes:

Minerals and Mining in the Thomas Range, Juab Co. Utah

Jeremy Fuller – President of Utah Mineral Mining Inc.

The Thomas Range of Utah is one of the truly classic mineral collecting locations in the world. It has long been known for the topaz crystals lining the cavities and vugs of the Topaz Mountain rhyolite. Their brilliant luster, complex crystalline form, and appealing beauty make these crystals desirable to all who are interested in gems and minerals. Topaz Mountain and the Thomas Range has been, and still is, visited annually by thousands of eager collectors seeking topaz and the other rare associated minerals (such as Red Beryl, Bixbyite, Psudobrookite, Holfertite and More) that are found here. We will explore the Minerals and ongoing and planned mining projects in the Thomas Range Utah. We will explore unique and rare minerals such as the type locality for Red Beryl to the Durangite Area which has dozens of rare mineral species and many currently unknown minerals under study.



Since 1997 Jeremy has dedicated his entire adult life mining and studying the minerals and mining prospects of the Thomas Range, Juab Co. Utah. Owner and operator of Maynard's Topaz Mine (Type locality of Red Beryl and Bixbyite), Solar Wind Bixbyite and Pink Topaz Mine, Searle Canyon Red Beryl & Topaz Mine. With Partner John Holfert continue to mine and prospect new mining claims. Utah Mineral Mining also offers Gem Hunting Mineral Collecting Fee Digs by reservation at TheGemTours.com.

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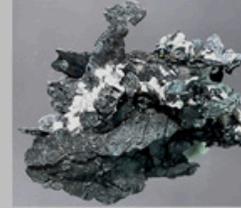
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Notes:

The Elmwood Legacy: From Exploration to Iconic Specimens

Walt Gaylord & Robert Nacarato

This presentation explores the geological and mineralogical legacy of the Elmwood Mine and its associated ore bodies within the Middle Tennessee Zinc District. Beginning with the early exploration work by the New Jersey Zinc Company, we trace the discovery and development of the region's major deposits. Walt Gaylord will present the geologic framework, including the formation and mineralization processes that shaped these Mississippi Valley-Type deposits. Robert Nacarato will focus on the mineral specimens that have made the district famous among collectors—fluorite, barite, calcite, galena, and more—highlighting their visual characteristics and zones of origin within the mine. Together, we'll provide a comprehensive look at one of the most iconic mineral localities in North America.

Walt Gaylord – Former Mine Geologist, Elmwood Mine

Walt Gaylord is a seasoned geologist with nearly two decades of experience at the Elmwood Mine in Smith County, Tennessee. A 1975 graduate of the Idaho School of Mines with a Bachelor of Science in Mining Geology, Walt joined the New Jersey Zinc Company's Elmwood operation in 1976. Over the course of his career, he advanced from entry-level geologist to chief geologist and eventually mine superintendent. He later contributed to the engineering department before returning to geology full-time. Walt played a key role in mapping, exploration drilling, and ore body modeling, and his deep knowledge of the deposit's structure and mineralization has helped shape modern understanding of the Middle Tennessee Zinc District. Today, he continues to share his insights and historical knowledge of the mine with collectors, geologists, and institutions across the country.

Robert Nacarato – Mineral Collector and Researcher, Middle Tennessee Zinc District

Robert Nacarato is a specialist in mineral specimens from the Middle Tennessee Zinc District, with a primary focus on the Elmwood, Gordonsville, Cumberland, and Stonewall mines. Born and raised in Franklin, Tennessee, Robert has developed his expertise by working closely with former mine geologists, including Walt Gaylord, and through years of hands-on study of specimen provenance. He is known for his ability to trace minerals back to specific stopes, ore bodies, and mining horizons, bringing historical and geological context to each piece. Robert has built a comprehensive catalog of Elmwood minerals, documenting colors, zoning, and associations in relation to their origin within the mine. Through his work, he aims to preserve the legacy of the district's mining history and contribute to future exploration and understanding of the region's mineral wealth.

The Brushy Creek Mine – A specimen collecting project

Les Presmyk

The Brushy Creek mine is located near Salem, Missouri and is one of the mines exploiting the lead and zinc, mainly lead, orebodies of the Viburnum Trend. The Viburnum Trend produces most of the lead for the United States.

In 1979, a watercourse was encountered with an opening about six feet above the drift floor that was explored by the miners. This access hole was large enough for a miner to get into, and what a site it must have been to these first miners. The watercourse opened up into a crystal lined “pocket” about 15 feet high, four feet wide, and about thirty feet long. However, the best was yet to be seen.

Near the drift opening there was another smaller tunnel, also completely lined with crystals that connected to a larger watercourse that dwarfed the first one. This second one was up to 15 feet wide, 15 feet high and over 200 feet long. For the next few years, as mining activity proceeded in the area, miners and mechanics would visit this treasure trove of crystals and collect the now classic yellowish and gray calcite crystals with some of the faces coated with iridescent colored marcasite. Once the mining moved away from this area and further into the orebody, it became more difficult for employees to justify being there and collecting stopped.

In 1994 Mike New and Joe Kielbaso were able to secure a contract with the new owners of the mine to collect this area. So, in the spring of 1995, I was invited to visit the mine for the first time with Mike, Joe, and Mark Kielbaso. Up to this point no one had actually been in the watercourses for 10 to 15 years and certainly not professional collectors.



As we descended over 1000 feet underground, the excitement of the four of us was palpable. Once we got to the opening we discovered the miners had left a steel ladder to get into the first watercourse. As Mark and I entered the pocket we were mesmerized by the six inch crystals lining the walls. Once we explored the first area we turned our attention to the tunnel connecting to the second watercourse. Fortunately for us, the miners who had been digging here had brought in a piece of flexoid (flexible vent bag) and laid it over the tunnel bottom which was also lined with very sharp calcite crystals. After crawling through this tunnel, we entered the second, much larger watercourse.

As we explored this much larger crystal lined world, we saw numerous ball peen hammer heads left by earlier collectors. The wooden handles had been broken off and the heads discarded. After all, the miners and mechanics could always get a new one from the company warehouse. After working our way through over 100 feet of this cavity we came upon an impassable situation. Water filled the bottom of the pocket but we could see the large crystal lined cavity only 30 feet away. At this point we turned around to return to the main drift and give Mike and Joe the good news. And now the real work would begin.....



Les Presmyk is an Arizona native, married to his lovely wife, Paula, for almost 49 years and has been a collector for 63 years. He graduated from the University of Arizona College of Mines with a mining engineering degree in 1975. As a young collector he spent numerous hours collecting in Arizona, mostly in abandoned underground mines, for wulfenite, vanadinite and other treasures. As a professional engineer, he worked in open pit and underground copper mines in Arizona and then SRP, Arizona's second largest electric utility dealing with coal mines and uranium fuel supplies for the company's generating stations.

Starting in the early 1990s, Les was able to begin using his engineering expertise and experience to help mining projects for specimens move forward. This Brushy Creek project, along with the Red Cloud mine for wulfenite, were two of the earliest of these projects.

Les is now retired, after spending over 42 years as a mining engineer. But only retired from his day job. He spends his time volunteering for the Town of Gilbert's Veterans Advisory Board and various mineral related groups, including the Tucson Gem and Mineral Society and the Mineralogical Society of Arizona and its Phoenix Heritage Mineral Show. In addition, he is on the Arizona Mining, Mineral and Natural Resources Education Museum's advisory board, working to reopen this museum in about two years.



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*Pictured:
Tourmaline, quartz, lepidolite, 19 cm tall
Pederneira Mine, Minas Gerais, Brazil
One of only a handful of specimens from
the "Bicolor Steel" pocket, found in 2004
Photographed on fine marble surface
Mark Cross Collection and photo*

A brief history of 40 years of digging in the dirt

Graham Sutton

Where do the minerals come from? mostly from the earth is the obvious answer.

Over the last 40 years I have traveled the globe descended into the earth in search of minerals. The following is a small collection of stories about the places I went and the people who helped me bring those crystals to your collection.



Me in Huanggang



XiangHualing Mine China Fluorite

I began collecting minerals part-time in 1983, but by 1985 it had become a full-time job/obsession. My first Tucson show as a mineral dealer came in 1984, In those early years I focused on collecting any minerals that would sell, of which Arizona had no shortage, I have abundant memories of camping under the stars scratching in the dirt for shiny things that I wouldn't trade for anything. I keep a small collection of self-collected miniatures and thumbnail



specimens, A small sample from the 500,000 or so specimens I have collected and sold in my career. Like most field collectors and dealers most of what I found was sold to pay my bills.

My career in the mineral business has also included numerous specimen-buying trips all over the world for Collector's Edge. I have been to China over 100 times, and have also collected specimens in Colombia, Vietnam, Kazakhstan, Portugal, Mexico, Thailand, Bulgaria, Zambia and Namibia. As I entered my 4th decade in the business my relationship with minerals changed from digging to promoting when I started the Mineral City show. Soon after that I added The Denver Box Company to my resume of mineral related businesses.

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"Specimen Mines of the United States"



Fluorite and quartz, 21 cm across, Planggenstock, Göschenenalp, Kanton Uri, Switzerland.
mim Museum #2198, James Elliott/FMI photo. Reproduced with permission.

If you want to read more about the mim Museum in
Beirut, Lebanon and its founder Salim Eddé, check
out our 2023 November/December issue!

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Rocks and Minerals Magazine

Artisanal mineral specimen mining, Smoky Hawk Pegmatite Group, Teller Co., Colorado

Joe Dorris

Pinnacle 5 Minerals LLC, Box 413, Manitou Springs, CO 80829
joe@pinnacle5minerals.com Instagram: pinnacle_5_minerals

The Smoky Hawk and Sky Hawk claims are currently producing the world's finest amazonite and smoky quartz mineral specimens. These works of nature's art are not mined through usual industrial mining techniques but through precise and time-consuming techniques designed to protect and recover the best potential material. After mining, each potential specimen is then painstakingly cleaned and prepped to return it to near the beauty and aesthetics it possessed when first crystallized a billion years ago.

Artisanal minerals and materials become works of art through the hands of skilled artists. The materials necessary are mined through specialized mining techniques also at the hands of skilled "artists." The resulting specimens we see today can be attributed to correct mining and collecting methods and to extensive cleaning and restoration skills. Without this approach, the potential artisanal mineral specimens exhibit little value and will not support the high costs of production and preparation. Fine mineral specimens would simply not exist and therefore could not bring beauty and appreciation to humankind.

The differences between industrial materials mining and artisanal mineral specimens drive mining techniques for recovery and establish principles behind specimen preparation. In comparison to mining industrial materials, mining mineral specimens generally has less environmental impact. The operations are small and intermittent with generally minor disturbances. Minimal mechanized equipment is on site, and the work force frequently consists of three or four individuals often of a "recreational" nature. Mining methods also result in smaller and more quickly reclaimed disturbance areas. Unfortunately, the mining rules and regulations make no distinction and often this hinders production of artisanal mineral specimens.



Collecting methods focus on recovering specimens with no further damage and on preserving the best potential specimens. Once a pocket or productive zone is breached, operations are shut down to allow safe hand-collecting techniques to properly preserve the potential value of specimens.

Bringing back the beauty to mineral specimens is the most important aspect of specimen production. Mineral specimens have little collector value until cleaned, repaired, and restored. The skilled lab technician using the best techniques and equipment combined with an eye for detail and ability to restore those details is the reason mineral specimens become objects of beauty and value.

Challenges face the future mining of mineral specimens with most challenges resulting from lack of support for the artisanal mineral industry and onerous rules and regulations. De minimis regulations that recognize the differences between artisanal specimen mining that by nature require different production and recovery techniques and therefore result in essentially negligible environmental impact, could help ensure the future of specimen mining in Colorado.



Photo Tom Spann



Tim with Premiere Blue in August, 2021

Notes:

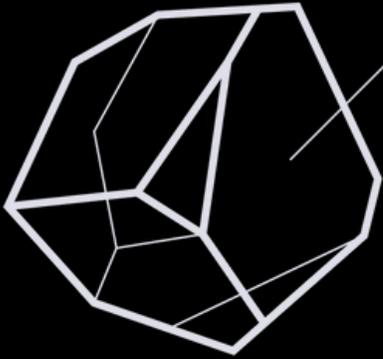


Joseph (Joe) Dorris is a specimen mineral miner and amateur mineralogist. He is an avid field collector, having roamed the mountains and canyons of Idaho while growing up, the sapphire deposits in Montana, and the pegmatites of Colorado. He began his first mineral business in 1986 and now manages his mining company, Glacier Peak Mining LLC, and his sales company, Pinnacle 5 Minerals LLC. Joe retired from active duty in the US Air Force in 1994. For several years afterward, he taught high school science and coached soccer. In 2006, he turned full time to mineral specimens. Joe has a BS degree in Life Sciences (pre-medicine) from the US Air Force Academy and an MBA from the University of Montana. He and his family were featured on the Weather Channel's series, Prospectors. He is married to Susan (Anderson) and they have raised three children, Scott, Timothy, and Krystle, and they now have six grandchildren. All of his children are avid miners and collectors. Joe is best

known for producing some of the world's finest amazonite and smoky quartz specimens from his family's mining claims near Lake George and is the 2021 recipient of the America Mineral Heritage Award for his work in recovering and preserving mineral specimens.

Notes:

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Quartz on Chrysocolla after Malachite after Gypsum. Tenke-Fungurume, DR Congo, 17 cm. Mark Cross photo.

Persson Rare Minerals warmly invites all symposium participants to visit our gallery!
4892 Van Gordon Street, Unit 203, Wheat Ridge, CO 80033. | PerssonRareMinerals.com

Trophies from Mount Mica, Paris, Maine

Mary Freeman

In the early 1820s, colored tourmaline crystals were first found on the hill now known as Mount Mica. In subsequent years a series of miners unearthed numerous pockets. As evidenced by the jewelry and specimens on exhibit in museums, crystal color and clarity were often high. However, quantity was generally insufficient to support commercial mining. Even when Mt Mica was not actively being worked, its fame drew collectors. Mary and Gary Freeman purchased the locality in 2003. Mining underground, they



recovered tourmaline and other mineral specimens in an assortment of colors and associations. Several of these will be presented. Each has its own story and unique beauty proving Mt Mica to be among America's top specimen localities.

Blue Tourmaline with Lepidolite

Mary Freeman earned her degree in biochemistry and co-founded a laboratory instrument company with her husband, Gary Freeman, in Florida. She served as its president for 43 years. Gary and Mary share a curiosity and love of Maine minerals and gems. They successfully mined aquamarine crystals at the Orchard Quarry in Buckfield and discovered a large technical-grade spodumene deposit on their property in Newry.



High Desert Treasure Chest! – Rat’s Nest, Custer County, Idaho.

created and shared by John Cornish and Rosemary Miranda

In High Desert Treasure Chest!, John will present the fascinating history of his world-class, producing, Rat’s Nest claim. He’ll additionally share a dramatic parade of photographs featuring specimens produced from his claim. A highlight of this presentation will be several short mining videos which will share the adventure of mining, John style!



John Cornish is a native of Washington State. An accomplished field collector and miner, John loves finding treasure! His work at the Adelaide Mine recovering world-class crocoite specimens in Tasmania, Australia is well known. His time in the field has yielded several important discoveries including a 15-foot long fossil whale, a new genus and species, *Sitsqwayk cornishorum*, which he donated to his Washington State Museum of Natural History and Culture, the Burke Museum (UWBM 82916). When he’s not in the field, John works as an educator in the Olympic National Park and has shared his “Geology ROCKS!” program there since the late 1990’s. Last year, John was the recipient of the John S. White International Mineral Legacy Award for Excellence in Mineralogical Education. John can be found participating in both the big Tucson and Denver shows under his business name, John Cornish Minerals. Selling world specimens, with a focus on his personally mined specimens, his producing Rat’s Nest claim in central Idaho will be the focus of his talk titled, “High Desert Treasure Chest! – Rat’s Nest, Custer County, Idaho”.

Symposium Word Search!

M A K V M U I S O P M Y S W W G M U E S U M Y
 X I P F S O I G E O L O G Y H U H Z A P O T A
 N F N F R P F W Q T E C N A N E V O R P G O M
 L I I E L H E L I A N B M U H T W E P O T S A
 E R A E R U O S B E T I L O Y H R E S I I G Z
 T I R B L A O D S S P E C I M E N D L O G B O
 I D E O A D L R O A Y G O L O T N O E L A P N
 L E N R C R T O I C R U E T I N O M M A I H I
 O S I K Z K I R G T H T R G E M S T O N E T T
 D C L H I L V T I Y E R I Q U A R T Z V E T E
 I E A C N P V S E P G M O N L A T S Y R C X T
 P N M T C O L O R A D O I S E T I S A C R A M
 E T R A R T I S A N A L I N I J G A L E N A Q
 L E U K A E P S E K I P A C E T J A D Q N S M
 L H O F N D D I S C O V E R Y S E L I S S O F
 Z R T M Z E K R G C E P H A L O P O D A E L F

Find the following words in the puzzle.

Words are hidden  ,  ,  ,  , and 

MINERALOGY
 PIKES PEAK
 RHODOCHROSITE
 MUSEUM
 AMMONITE
 CEPHALOPOD
 ZINC
 LEAD
 IRIDESCENT
 AMAZONITE
 TOURMALINE
 COLORADO
 ROCK

SYMPOSIUM
 GEMSTONE
 SPESSARTINE
 PALEONTOLOGY
 BARITE
 TOPAZ
 GALENA
 FIELD TRIP
 THUMBNAIL
 PROVENANCE
 LEPIDOLITE
 CRYSTAL
 QUARTZ

MINES
 DISCOVERY
 GOLD
 FOSSIL
 WHEWELLITE
 RHYOLITE
 FLUORITE
 MARCASITE
 ARTISANAL
 STOPE
 SPECIMEN
 GEOLOGY

Pyrite



Mark Cross Photo

Daly-Judge Mine,
Summit County,
Utah, USA

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