

PICK&PACK

THE BULLETIN OF THE COLORADO SPRINGS MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY Published Since 1960

FOSSIL STORIES: WINDOWS TO THE PAST

BY STEVEN WADE VEATCH

When I was in the 4th grade, I explored the bluffs behind what is now the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs on the weekends and during summer vacations (this was more than 40 years ago). During these exciting times, I would investigate ravines and gullies eroding into the bluffs and bring home specimens of jasper, sandstone, and other rocks. This was the start of my rock collection and my interest in the earth sciences. Next year I bought a rock tumbler and joined the Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society (CSMS). At that time the club met at the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 113 building across from the Coca Cola plant on Pikes Peak Avenue. I was a "pebble pup." I also made a



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number of visits to the Denver Museum of Natural History (now the Denver Museum of Nature and Science: DMNS). To me this huge museum was a temple to science and the incredible dinosaur exhibits made a central shrine. By attending the programs of the CSMS and visiting the DMNS, I became a confirmed rockhound and developed an interest in the earth sciences that continued to grow and stays with me to this day.

Almost from the very beginning of my school days I went out into the field and collected rocks, minerals, and fossils. I especially enjoyed collecting trips to the commercial operations at the Florissant Fossil Beds before a national monument protected these resources. The excitement of fossil hunting strongly appealed to me. Since Colorado has a treasure trove of plant and animal fossils, there is much to find and collect. Fossil bones reveal prehistoric animals that once roamed a landscape of meadows, forests, and meandering rivers that flowed past conifers, gingko trees, ferns, and cycads.

Fieldwork is the best part of paleontology. It is hard work, but has all of the attraction of digging for crystals. A weekend in the field usually is a time of many adventures—sometimes great. Although the collecting of fossils is interesting to the public, it is just the beginning of a long sequence of paleontological disciplines. The hard part of preparing and studying fossils is often not known.

Prospecting is a matter of scrambling up steep slopes looking for signs of fossil bones. Sometimes you will see

(See "WINDOWS" on page 4)

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CSMS is an incorporated nonprofit organization with these goals:

- To promote and disseminate knowledge of the earth sciences, especially as they relate to mineralogy, lapidary, and fossils.
- To encourage study, collection and fashioning of minerals.
- To accomplish the same through social meetings, lectures, programs, displays, shows, and field trips.
- The Pick&Pack is published monthly to assist and promote the above.

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Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society

Founded in 1936



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**Our Staff...**

Betty Cain
Bill Cain

Editor
Mailer

We encourage everyone to submit articles, photos, illustrations or observations.

Share your experiences, trials and tribulations, your new finds, or simply your experience at our last field trip.

The ability to write well is NOT a requirement. We will fix the grammar while keeping the author's voice, style, and work intact.

Handwrite it, type it, or email it. Format does not matter. All submissions are welcomed.

DEADLINE for items to be included in the next month's issue is the third (3rd) Friday of every month. To submit an item, please use the following:

Photos:

For hardcopy photos, mail to the address below or bring them to the General Assembly Meeting. All photos remain the property of the submitter and will be returned. Electronic photos should be submitted at resolutions above 200 dpi in TIF, BMP, JPG, or PIC format.

Articles:

Mail or email to the addresses below.

ALL FORMATS ARE WELCOMED.

Email: bcain2@earthlink.net
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PRESIDENT'S CORNER



can now retire!)

Fall is here, and it's time for the election of officers for 2008. It's been a fun ride the last 5 years serving as your Vice President (2003, 2004) and President (2005, 2006, 2007), but now's the time to allow a new club member to take the reigns. I will continue to host the Lapidary Satellite Group meetings the first Saturday of each month and will also remain on the Executive Board as Past President (**Bob Landgraf**, current Past President, is so happy that he

We have a great slate of officers for election by our membership in November! President—**Rick Copeland** has volunteered to lead us in 2008. Rick was Secretary in 2005 and 2006 and has filled the vacant Treasurer's position of 2007. Vice President—**Ron "Yam" Yamiolkoski**, a 2007 new member, has stepped up to this important leadership position, relieving **Linda Laverty**. Secretary—**John Casto**, 2006 & 2007 Member-at-Large, has agreed to carry this important burden, relieving **Roger Pittman**. Treasurer—**Ann Proctor**, another 2007 new member, is willing to fill Rick's shoes in handling the CSMS financial matters. Editor—**Betty Cain**, fell into the vacant Editor position in 2006 and has agreed to continue cranking out the Pick&Pack in 2008 (she's looking for an editor apprentice and reporters!). We're in need of two Members-at-Large.

Let's not forget the CSMS Committees—a great place for you to get involved and serve a vital need in our organization.

NEXT LAPIDARY MEETING ON OCTOBER 13th (2nd Saturday).

OCTOBER GENERAL ASSEMBLY PROGRAM

Dinosaur Tracks Emerge from being Lost in History to Center Stage in the World of Paleontology, by Steven Veatch.

In 1904, Arthur Lakes, a professor of geology from the Colorado School of Mines, came to southern El Paso County on an expedition to examine tracks found in solid rock at the Merit Ranch near the Pueblo County line. This curiosity was widely talked about in the County and many officials came to see this remarkable specimen. After a good examination by Professor Lakes, it was determined that these were dinosaur tracks! Winfield Scott Stratton, the "Cripple Creek Mining King", sent one of his quarry master masons to remove the tracks with professional skill. These tracks were then carefully placed in the museum at Colorado College and, over time, the tracks were subsequently lost to history. With the use of historical archaeological techniques and methods from records and archival management, the tracks were found again. Through the efforts of the El Paso County Treasurer, members of the El Paso County Records Center, and regional paleontologists, this trackway has now been recovered and is being studied. The tracks are very important for these reasons: 1) they were discovered by a very famous Colorado geologist, 2) these were the first dinosaur tracks discovered in the American West, 3) the tracks were in a Cretaceous rock—prior to this discovery it was thought that dinosaurs died out in the Jurassic Period. These El Paso County dinosaur tracks provide rich sources of scientific information on dinosaur behavior, locomotion, foot anatomy, ecology, chronology, and geographic distributions.



(L-R) Nick Morales, Brent Williams (Member-at-Large), Rick Copeland (Treasurer), and Linda Laverty Morales (Vice President) enjoy conversations after a great meal at the CSMS Annual Picnic at WMMI.
Photo by Betty Cain

AFMS PRESIDENT

By RICHARD CARLSON

Since this is my last message as AFMS President, I would first like to thank all of the Committee Chairpersons and the members of their committees for an outstanding job. With your help, this past year has gone by quickly and smoothly.

Looking back over the year, I can say that it has not been plagued with problems. The problems have been minor and were quickly solved. Rather, the past year has been blessed with fun and enjoyment. The only sad point is the loss of two persons who have been very active in the AFMS and their respective Federations: *George Browne* and *Dixie Alf*.

At this point, I have attended four Regional Shows: Eastern in West Palm Beach, FL; California in Lancaster, CA; Northwest in Butte, MT; and Midwest in Houghton, MI. As this newsletter goes to press, I will be attending the South Central Show in Arlington, TX; and when you read this, I will be attending the Eastern Show in Newark, NJ. I saved the best for last, the AFMS Show in Roswell, NM.

Attending all of these shows has given me an insight into the differences between Regions, and I have some observations that may help you improve your shows.

The Eastern Show in West Palm Beach did not have a lot of exhibits, but they did have a lot of dealers. Some of the dealers had jewelry and gemstones that I have not seen outside of Tucson, way above my price range. West Palm Beach is an affluent community, and these items must sell or the dealers wouldn't pay for the table space to display them.

By contrast, the AFMS Show in Roswell has been characterized in print as being a small show. It had a lot of exhibits (40 in competition) but relatively few dealers. Roswell is a relatively small community whose show caters to the public, not the few affluent in town.

In California, the exhibits and demonstrations were held in one building, and the dealers were in another. The weather was hot and the breeze was strong. Both buildings were air conditioned, and as one person said to me, "These must be new facilities, because the air conditioning works." The show was well attended. There were even tour busses in the parking lot during the show. This means that the advertising was effective.

At the Northwest Show in Butte, it was hot. The show location was large, air conditioned and had a good number of exhibits and a fairly large number of dealers. How were the dealers? Fran dropped a bundle.

In Houghton, the weather was somewhat cooler. The school where they held the show didn't need air conditioning. Houghton is a small college town. During the summer, there are only the permanent residents who are not on vacation. The show was appropriately small.

A common thread runs among these observations.

First, assess your potential patrons. If you expect high rollers, plan accordingly. If you do not expect high rollers, do the same.

Second, advertise as much as your budget will allow and don't spend a lot advertising to rockhounds; they already know.

Third, you need to provide an atmosphere that is comfortable for the public. The advertising will bring in the public; the comfortable atmosphere will induce them to stay. When the public comes and stays, they have a tendency to shop and buy. When this happens, the dealers are happy and will support your next show.

Fairgrounds that have recently had animal shows, complete with flies, and have no air conditioning are not comfortable to the public. That hasn't happened this year, but I do remember a Federation Show where Louie Redfern had an eight foot case of carvings, and he complained so bitterly about the flies that we awarded him a special trophy for having the most flies in a single case. 'Nuff said.

I have enjoyed my time in office. It has been a pleasure and privilege to serve you. My only request is that you treat the future AFMS Presidents with the same respect and affection that you have afforded me.

RLC



UPCOMING SHOWS

Sep 28-29

Enid OK Rock Show, Garfield County Fairgrounds, contact (580) 234-5344

Oct 2-7

McCurtin County G&M Club Show, Idabel, OK

Oct 6-7

Nebraska Mineral & Gem Club, Omaha, NE 53rd annual show; contact Tim Kautsch (401) 397-9606, www.nerockgem.org

Oct 13-14

Topeka G&M Society Show, Topeka, KS

Oct 13-14

Hauchuca Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show at Sierra Vista, AZ; contact Bill at (520) 803-6590 or billjaeger@hotmail.com

Oct 13-14

Payson Rimstones Rock Club show; contact Jo McKenzie (928) 474-4452 or rocks2007@earthlink.net

Continued on page 12

Field Trips

Oct 6-8

Book Cliff and Yellow Cat Field Trips, No Jeffco G&M Club, contact Ron & Judy Knoshaug, (303) 423-2923, jrknoshaug@comcast.net

WMMI

Oct 13

Family Exploration Day: The Art & Geology of Photography, 1p, Free to CSMS members.

New Museum Hours

9/1/07-5/31/08, Monday-Saturday, 9a-4p



Ron "Yam" Yamiolkoski wow'd us with fresh boiled corn-on-the-cob at the CSMS Annual Picnic!

Photo by Betty Cain

CSMS UNSUNG HEROES

CSMS is fortunate to have MANY unsung heroes—those who work in the background, generally going unnoticed, quietly performing a myriad of necessary, but not necessarily glamorous, duties that keep a volunteer organization such as ours running smoothly. These are the volunteers who shy away from the spotlight, seeking only to accomplish their mission month after month, meeting after meeting, and year after year. One such hero is **Brenda Malin**.

Brenda and her daughters have been folding, taping, applying labels, and mailing the hundreds of Pick&Pack newsletters for the past several years (probably since Drew became President 3 years ago ☺). I know they worked with the previous editor to ensure that the newsletter was mailed each month and have continued to work with this editor for the last 1½ years. I want to say thank you to Brenda and her 'crew' for the many hours they've devoted to CSMS; I appreciate what you've done.

Another unsung hero is our Librarian, **Sarah Udell**. Sarah maintains our CSMS library, never asking for applause, just making sure the books are available for our members to check out. The next time you see Sarah, tell her how important she is to CSMS.

And what about all those folks from the satellite groups who provide refreshments each month at the General Assembly Meetings! We've all enjoyed the sweet goodies they've spread out before us during the breaks. I am particularly fond of the chocolate rice krispie treats that show up on occasion and that yummie pop corn recipe! I always look forward to the break at the meetings so that I may sample those wonderful treats.

The unsung hero volunteer is the life blood of CSMS, keeping the heart of our organization pumping steadily. Do you know such a person? Please let me know—it's time we recognized their service and voiced our appreciation for their efforts.

BE AN ACTIVE MEMBER—FILL A NEED AND VOLUNTEER; IT'S YOUR CLUB!



CSMS Annual Picnic Swap/Sale, August 25th. Photo by Betty Cain.

WINDOWS—CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

a bone protruding from a cliff, sometimes just bits and pieces of bones in the dirt. **Rich Fretterd** took me to Garden Park for my first real exploration of a paleontological site. Rich had connections with a local rancher where we could explore exposures of Morrison Formation sandstones, shales, and clays on his ranch. We found many bones from the Jurassic during those fieldtrips.

Why the fascination with fossils? Just think of it—they reveal strange and long lost worlds. The aim of working with fossils is simply to piece together these fragments of the fossil record in order to tell larger stories of ancient inland seas, dinosaurs, Ice Age mammoths, and other vanished worlds and their denizens. The focus is on the mystery of life and how it changes over time. There are two approaches to paleontological research: 1) find new ways to interpret fossils already collected or 2) engage in fieldwork where you find new fossils.

John Harrington, also a member of the CSMS, knows many great locations of paleontological interest. He has, over the years, taken me to some of his best sites. Each visit ends up taking at least two years of research and study, and then the hard work of writing a paper. Most recently, John showed me a dinosaur track south of Colorado Springs that has now expanded into a huge project with a paper being submitted to the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology for their annual meeting this fall. **Martin Lockley**, a celebrated dinosaur track specialist, is a co-author of the paper.

John once took me to the Teepee Buttes, which resulted in a poster and abstract written for one of the first Western Interior Paleontological Society's Founders Symposiums. John also showed me a site behind Garden of the Gods that is rich with ancient sea urchin fossils. Another published paper followed after more than a year of research on these sea urchins. The exploration of this site was followed by a trip to the interior of the Garden of the Gods park where we studied and imaged a Ute petroglyph panel hidden behind scrub oak. This paper was presented at a Colorado Archaeological Society meeting in Pueblo. Even though this is not paleontological work, but rather archaeological, it was just as much fun. While working in fossil beds one commonly encounters archaeological artifacts and features, and knowing something about them is useful.

Today not much has changed. I am still a member of the CSMS (life) and I am still going on or conducting field trips. I did join a second rock club, the Lake George Gem and Mineral Club, in order to participate in even more rock, mineral, and fossil activities. I am looking forward to more adventures in the field and unraveling the secrets that fossils hold. Fossils, as windows to the past, have much to reveal.

PEBBLE PUPS

BY BETTY CAIN



Our Pebble Pups are reborn! The first group meeting to be held in five years was a roaring success on September 20th at the Senior Center.

Steve Veatch, a distinguished member of USGS and life-long member of CSMS,



presented the first program, "Volcanoes", to a large group of eager young rockhounds. The room just kept filling up as his program got under way. There were even some moms and dads present. A virtual field trip to El Capulin National Monument concluded the session.

The meeting started by providing the class with colorful fact sheets, volcanic specimens, and samples of periodot, the mineral of the month. Steve reported later that evening to the General Assembly that his students were very bright and quickly answered his questions on the material covered during the meeting.

Steve began his

rockhounding adventures as a CSMS Pebble Pup himself over 45 years ago—his love of earth sciences was ignited and lead to a successful career with the US Geological Service. As a Life Member of CSMS since 1978, he has provided many educational classes, presentations, and articles to the Pick&Pack over the years.

The October Pebble Pups program will be "Journey to the Center of Geology". Earthquakes, faults, and the structure of the earth will be examined. How to make a rock collection will be discussed. Igneous rocks will be featured. Mineral of the month is quartz in geodes.

Tell your friends and neighbors and join us in October, 6:45p at the Senior Center.

Contact Steve at (719) 748-5010 or sgeoveatch@worldnet.att.net for more info on Pebble Pups.



AJ Malloy displays his collection for sell at the CSMS Annual Picnic; he had some great specimens and good prices!
Photo by Betty Cain

WHAT HAPPENED IN VEGAS DIDN'T STAY THERE!

During a recent trip to Las Vegas, **Drew Malin** found a bargain at Bally's Casino that he couldn't refuse—a beautiful half-ton crystal plate mined in China approximate 200 years ago!

The plate is mounted in a custom-made ironwood base that weighs over 200 lbs.

Drew reports that it took two months to work through all the details of shipping the crystal and base from Las Vegas to Colorado Springs; the shipping company would deliver to his home garage but would not assist with moving the items into his home.

Now, what was he going to do with this gorgeous "garage ornament"?

Being the charismatic gent that he is, Drew enlisted the help of six neighborhood body builders and some CSMS friends to muscle the items inside to a special place he'd prepared.

The next time you're at a Lapidary Group Meeting or happen to be in his neighborhood, stop by and see this latest addition to Drew's rockhound collection—it's breathtaking!

(Hope the Colorado Springs dust bunnies never discover it! No way a burglar could 'pocket' this beauty! ☺)



Drew's mom, Ellie, poses with 1,000 lbs crystal plate

MINI MINERS MONTHLY: MINERAL OF THE MONTH—GOLD

FROM 9/07 EDITION BY DARRYL POWELL

Perhaps the earliest discovery of gold in the United States was in 1799 in North Carolina. Twelve year old Conrad Reed was out fishing in Meadow Creek where he found a large, shiny, yellow rock. He took his rock home and his family used it as a doorstep for three years. Eventually they sold it for \$3.50. Later a jeweler discovered the doorstep was gold! It was worth about \$3,600. This golden discovery started America's first gold rush.

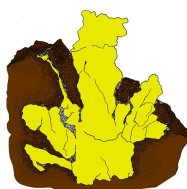


In 1848 James Marshall discovered gold in California on the American River at Sutter's Sawmill. Word spread of this discovery very quickly. By 1849, hundreds of people from all over the world rushed to California in search of a fortune of gold. Some of these "miner 49ers" were very successful; others were not.

Gold is often found with white quartz. This white quartz is called *milky quartz*. They are found together so often that gold miners will look for milky quartz and then search for gold attached to the quartz. The gold is very valuable. The quartz is not. When the gold is removed from the quartz, the leftover, worthless quartz is called *gangue* (pronounced "gang.")

Physical Properties:

Chemical symbol: Au
Crystal System: Isometric (cubic)
Hardness: 2.5-3
Luster: Metallic
Streak: Gold
Specific Gravity: 19.3 (VERY high)



Malleable: This means that gold can be hammered into very, very thin sheets. One ounce of gold can be hammered into a sheet that is 10 feet long by 10 feet wide (that is 100 square feet!).

Ductile: This means gold can be pulled into thin wires without breaking. A 1-ounce piece of pure gold can be pulled into a single wire 5 miles long!

Gold will not rust, tarnish, or corrode. Electricity can move through gold very easily. Because of these two properties, gold is used in computer parts and special scientific equipment.

Gold is easily rounded by rivers and streams. A rounded lump of gold is called a *nugget*.

Prospectors once searched for gold in rivers by hand using pans. Today, more pans are made and sold in Alaska for decorations and souvenirs than are made for panning gold.

The purity of gold is measured in *carats*. Pure gold is 24 carats. 18 carat gold contains 75% gold. Native gold from Scotland is the purest natural gold: it is 22.8 carats.

Very thin, natural gold is called *leaf gold*.

The Mini Miners Monthly is a publication for young mineral collectors. Subscriptions may be obtained at www.diamondanpublications.com or by snail mail to Diamond Dan Publications, PO Box 143, Manchester, NY 14504.

ANCIENT MEDICINAL USES OF GEMS, ROCKS, AND MINERALS

BY ANN JAMES, MEMBER PCBMS
VIA T-TOWN ROCKHOUND, 9/07

Medicinal preparations for various ailments and conditions using gemstones have been documented throughout the ages from Greeks, Egyptians, Romans, Hindus, and Arabs. One of the earliest complete therapeutic manuscripts, dated 1500, B.C. was the "Papyrus Ebers". It had prescriptions containing gems, rocks, and minerals. Other early tests originated from the Roman historians, Pliny and Solinus, as well as physicians, shamans, and medicine men from all cultures and throughout time. The stones and uses listed here barely skims the amount of information found regarding the ancient medicinal uses of rock.

Agates

Indian agates were a remedy for diseases of the eye. Agates from Egypt and Crete were used for curing bites of spiders and scorpions. The agate was reduced to a powder and sprinkled over the wound. Sometimes, the agate powder was mixed with wine and given internally. It was used in this manner to cure fevers and inflammatory diseases. Also, it was said that if agate were held in the mouth, it would quench thirst.

Amber

Early doctors prescribed ground amber mixed with water as a relief for various types of stomach distress. Ground amber mixed with honey or various oils was used as a salve for physical pains and injuries. In 1548, Johann Meckenbaugh claimed to have found a process for extracting oil from the amber. Up to the present day, the oil of *amberoleum succini* used in pharmacopoeia, has maintained a reputation of curing many afflictions. It relieves the inflammation and pain in the joints in gout and rheumatism. Due to its acclaimed antispasmodic action, it was found to be a valuable remedy for asthma, whooping cough, and bronchitis. Some sources also claim its use in the treatment of goiter and other diseases of the throat as well as disorders of the kidney and bladder. Ancient medicine men felt that amber used as an elixir could cure just about everything.

Beryl

Used as a remedy for diseases and injuries to the eyes. In a pulverized state, the minute particles would be sprinkled in the eye. An elixir, made by steeping beryl in water, was used to stop a hiccup attack. For swollen neck glands, the stone was rubbed on the area. Other medicinal uses referred to those disorders of the heart and spine and treatment of concussions.

Bloodstone

Ancient lore has it that bloodstone was formed at the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. When the blood of his wounds dropped upon the earth, it turned to stone. The Egyptians believed bloodstone mixed with honey would cure tumors and stop hemorrhaging of all kinds. By others, it was considered to be a purifier for the kidney, spleen, liver and blood. Worn as an amulet, it would prevent injury or disease. The ancient people would dip the stone in cold water and place it on the body as an aid to circulation. The basis behind the thought is that the red specks in the stone are caused by iron and since iron is the basic mineral in the blood, it has healing effect.

Continued in the Nov 07 edition of the Pick&Pack

AMBER—THE LATEST CRAZE

Editor's Note: I've been seeing a lot of articles in many of the rockhound publications lately on the latest fashion craze and have presented some of them for your consideration.

AMBER

BY WESLEY POWELL, MINI MINERS MONTHLY, 7/07

Amber is fossilized tree sap which often had different things in it such as bugs and spiders. (Don't worry! The bugs are dead!) Hundreds of years ago, amber which is today used in jewelry, was used in many other different ways. In the 1500's, many different items like bowls, plates, and sometimes chess sets were made from amber.

The two best places to find amber are in the Baltic States and the Dominican Republic. The price of amber can be from \$20 to as high as \$40,000!



Amber is very useful for people called paleontologists. Paleontologists are able to identify different things inside the amber. Over 1,000 different extinct insects have been discovered in amber!

Some of the insects and bugs inside the amber can be pretty old, too. Millions of years old! In fact, one scientist claimed to have found an insect inside of amber which is 135 million years old! That's when the dinosaurs roamed the earth!

There have been many different myths about this gemstone. For example, Phaethon, who was the son of Helios, the sun god, asked his father if he could ride the chariot of the sun for a day through the heavens. Helios agreed. Phaethon got too close to the earth and burned it! To save the earth, Zeus threw a lightning bolt at Phaethon and killed him. His mother and sisters mourned and turned into trees and their tears are the amber.

10 GOLDEN RULES TO TAKE CARE OF AMBER!

FROM T-TOWN ROCKHOUND, 7/07

Amber is a delicate and gentle stone and must be taken good care of and treated with respect. There are certain rules that you have to follow to keep your amber jewelry in perfect condition:

1. Never leave your amber in direct sunlight.
2. Keep your jewelry away from too much hot or cold temperature.
3. Never apply perfume or hairspray while wearing the jewelry.
4. Never wash dishes or do laundry while wearing your amber jewelry.
5. Do not cook or clean house with household cleansers while wearing an amber product.
6. Store your amber in a separate jewelry casket and protect it from touching other materials.
7. Clean amber jewelry every time you wear it.
8. Ultrasonic or steam cleaners aren't suitable for cleaning amber.
9. Always clean amber jewelry with a mild solution of soapy and slightly warm water and a flannel cloth.



10. Polish amber and make it shiny with olive oil and a soft cloth.

TIPS ABOUT AMBER

FROM T-TOWN ROCKHOUND 7/07,

OBTAINED FROM CONNIE YUAN, KINGDOM TRADING COMPANY

There are several tests that will help you to distinguish between real and fake amber.

1. Put some drops of alcohol on the surface of the stone and wait until it evaporates. If the surface doesn't become sticky and the alcohol evaporates easily without leaving any spots on it, you can be sure the amber is real. If the surface sticks to your fingers and you see your fingerprints left on it, then the amber is definitely fake.
2. The next test must be done very carefully, because there is a chance you can spoil the amber. Take a pin or a needle and carefully scratch the stone. If the amber is real, it will be scratched. If not, it will remain undamaged.
3. The following test is rather difficult and needs the right sense of smell. Heat then slightly cool down the tip of a needle and press it against the stone. It will produce a puff of smoke, the smell of which will help to estimate the validity of the amber. Real amber smells like smudge; the fake one, on the contrary, has a sweet and pleasant smell.
4. Fill a medium pot with water, add seven teaspoons of salt, let it dissolve in the water, and stir several times for 30 minutes; add your amber. The salt solution has a high gravity, and the real amber stone will immediately start floating on the surface of the water while the fake one will begin to sink.



POLISHING AMBER

FROM PUEBLO ROCKHOUND, 7/07

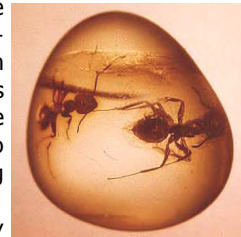
[Pueblo Rockhound Editor's note: Some of you have been acquiring amber recently that contains insect and would now like to put a polished clear window on the specimen for better viewing. Here's a procedure offered by the Victoria (Canada) Lapidary and Mineral Society.]

- Amber can be worked very easily. It can be filed to shape and then sanded with an aluminum oxide paper of finer and finer grades (200, 400, and 600 grit) until a polish step is necessary. Amber can be polished by the use of (1) Tripoli with oil; (2) aluminum oxide; (3) tin oxide; (4) Linde A; and (4) rouge, applied dry.

Dip the amber piece into the lubricant (oil or water) and then dip the piece into the polishing compound; rub vigorously on a smooth surface such as a leather strop or a chamois attached to a hard surface. The people of Europe and Mexico used wood ashes as a polishing agent.

NOTE: Use a piece of auto body sandpaper. If not sure of the grit, polish on a canvas disk with cerium oxide. Steel

(See "Amber" on page 9)



DECORATED ROCK SLABS

FROM [HTTP://WWW.STONEAGEINDUSTRIES.COM](http://www.stoneageindustries.com)

Decorated rock slabs for holiday ornaments is a fun craft project for young and old. (This project can easily be adapted for a neat wind chime.) Paint scenes depicting Christmas, Easter, Valentine's Day, Halloween, etc. Thin translucent slabs are nice to use for the rock slab, but the usual 1/4" slabs are best for hanging. A list of supplies is as follows: rock slab from 2" to 6" in size, large fold-over bails (about 1-1/4" long), small bottles of as-

s-sorted acrylic paints, cotton swabs on sticks, Bond 527 Multi-Purpose Cement®, Elmer's Glue All®, scissors, glitter,



toothpicks, 1/8" ribbon or other tie material, hanger for a Christmas tree ornament, and newspaper or wax paper for protecting the work area.

Attaching a fold-over bail to a slab: Pick the spot on the slab for placing the fold-over bail. The bail is going to be used to hold a ribbon for decoration and a place to attach an ornament hanger. Center the bail on the slab edge and then press the bail ends over the sides of the slab. (Note: some of your slab edges may be tapered if the slab is from a round rock, so take care to replace the bail and slab in the same position.) Remove the bail from the slab and press the bail ends together slightly so the opening is just a little smaller, and this will assure a tight fit about the slab when you are ready to attach it to the slab with glue. Check again that the bail and the slab are in the correct position for proper alignment, then apply Bond 527 Multi-Purpose Glue with a toothpick to the underside of both ends of the bail, then slid the slab into the bail. Leave a slight gap between the bail and the outer edge of the slab for a ribbon and a hanger to be inserted later. If your bail does not appear to close tightly on the slab, use a clothespin to help hold the bail firm against the slab until the glue dries, normally 2-24 hours. Make sure the bail gap at the top is still opened slightly and free from glue. If some glue has squeezed into this area, use a toothpick to remove the fresh glue from the bail opening for the ribbon. Let the slab and fold-over bail dry completely before proceeding to decorate the slab.

Decorating the slab: Snip the ends of a cotton swab with a pair of scissors to remove the cotton and proceed to use the stick only for painting your scenes or designs with the acrylic paint. The use of

continued in next column

DICK'S ROCK SHOP ROCKS

ON

FROM A VALLEY NEWS ARTICLE BY LINDA HOBBS

Thanks to CSMS member, Dorothy Atlee, for providing this article.

Colorado Department of Transportation's (CDOT) expansion of Fountain roadways on Hwy 85/87 north of Hwy 16 to accommodate increased traffic flow into Ft. Carson has mandated the move of Dick's Rock Shop and other business.

After many months of searching, Diana Wing, store owner, found a new location across from the Fountain City Hall at 108 W. Ohio Avenue. The local artist who painted the familiar miner with his rock pick on the original store will recreate the image at the new location.

Diana reports that it wasn't easy saying goodbye to the old shop that was established by CSMS member Richard 'Dick' Stearns many years ago. She took over the family business in 2002 after the passing of Dick (8/00) and Flossie (5/02), his wife and Diana's sister.

"It's been a lot of stress," Diana said. "At the time (of notification to move) I said there's no way I can do this. It was overwhelming, but I have some very good friends...who all pitched in. We went display-case by display-case and wrapped everything we could."

The store will continue to sell lapidary and rock tumbling, polishing equipment, and supplies and rocks from around the world. Certified gold/silversmith services for making and repairing jewelry will also continue to be offered. The shop will feature natural stone beads, cabochons and gemstones, bookends, sculptures, and many other rock-related items.



a toothpick comes in handy for very small lines or dots of paint. Since the paint needs 20 minutes or so to dry, be patient applying paint over another paint color. When the paint is dry, apply Elmer's Glue to areas you want some sparkle added, such as around the edge of the slab, etc. Place a clean sheet of paper down on the work area before sprinkling glitter on the glue design, and then sprinkle the glitter. When the glitter has set on the glue for a minute or so, turn the slab over and let the excess glitter fall way on the paper. The paper can then be carefully folded in half and the glitter funneled back into the glitter bottle. When the slab appears dry, add your ribbon and ornament hanger to the bail, allow the paint 24 hours to completely dry, and ENJOY!

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

MINING FOR MINERALS

Partially from *The Glacial Drifter*, 8/07

Arsenic	Malachite
Azurite	Mercury
Barite	Molybdenum
Beryl	Opal
Borax	Overite
Calcit	Pyrite
Copper	Quartz
Feldspar	Silver
Galena	Spodumen
Garnet	Stolzite
Gold	Sulfur
Graphite	Topaz
Gypsum	Tourmaline
Iridium	Turquoise
Iron	Uvite
Jacobsite	Wulfenite
Lead	Zircon

Dinosaurs and Babies will be the subject at the next Fossil Group meeting, November 29th, 6:00-8:30p, at the Senior Center, 1511 N. Hancock, COS.

Join John Harrington and Steve Veatch for an exciting meeting. Each attendee will receive a dinosaur coprolite (fossil excrement) specimen.



Members and families enjoy the CSMS Annual Picnic Photo by Betty Cain

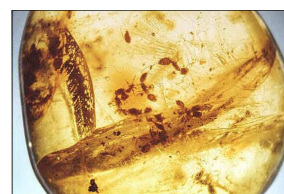
Did You Know . . .

Dave Wilson, CSMS Faceting Group leader, also teaches a public class in faceting? It's conducted every Monday at the Senior Center. Contact Dave at 635-7891 or email dlwilson@pcisys.net for information on the classes.

AMBER (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7)

wool has been reported to give good results also. Do not put in a tumbler; it might tumble away.

- As odd as it may sound, Crest toothpaste and a piece of denim will work fine to polish your amber.
- If you want to do it by hand, use wet and dry sandpaper starting with 80 grit to get a flat surface, then 240, 600, 1000, 1500. Finish with toothpaste, and buff with a dry cloth. Use a toothpaste without peroxide if you can find one.
- You can get the sandpaper packs at Pep Boys or other auto stores. Look where they sell the Bondo.
- To get a polish, use an 800-grit corundum sanding belt, and then hand polish with a chrome polish that you get at an auto store.



SEEKING FOSSIL TRADES

FROM THE ROCKHOUNDER, 9/07

I am endeavoring to start a fossil collection for my 8-year-old son and, therefore, hoping to find people in the USA that might be willing to trade for materials from New Zealand. I have numerous minerals that may be of interest including Greenstone (Jade), Cornelian, Obsidian, Kauri gum, Quartz after Calcite, and also some Boulder Opal and other minerals from Australia. If you have any members that may be interested, could you please pass on my message. My son's interests are fish, dinosaur teeth, shark teeth, and trilobites.

As a sign of good faith to show this is not a scam, I am willing to forward some samples if you could please forward your mailing address.

Yours sincerely,

Gary O'Neill

Email: Gary.ONeill@ap.o-i.com

New Officers Election

November General Assembly, 7:30p,
BE THERE AND CAST YOUR VOTE!

MOUNT ST HELEN UPDATE

FROM THE HOUND'S HOWL, 9/07

Current Volcanic—Alert Level **WATCH**: Growth of the new lava dome inside the crater continues, accompanied by low rates of seismicity, low emissions of steam and volcanic gases, and minor production of ash. During such eruptions, changes in the level of activity can occur over days to months. The eruption could intensify suddenly or with little warning and produce explosions that cause farther downwind.

Recent observations: Warm and clear conditions provide views into the crater this morning. Volcanic activity continues with on-going seismicity, deformation, and rockfalls from the crater walls and growing dome.

-adapted from U.S. Geological Survey, Vancouver, Washington; Saturday, September 8, 2007;

http://volcano.wr.usgs.gov/cvo/corrent_updates.php

NEW CSMM CURATOR


FROM ROCHOUND RAMBLINGS, 9/07


Bruce Geller announced at the Leadville Symposium that he had been selected as the new curator for the Colorado School of Mines Museum. CONGRATULATIONS TO BRUCE ON THIS APPOINTMENT! Bruce seems very excited about this new opportunity and expressed the desire to serve the local mineral community as curator of the museum.



Thank You - 2007 Officers & Committee Chairpersons!



TIPS & TIDBITS:

 **Storing Agates**—Do not store agates in a coffee can unless you can guarantee they will not get wet. The stains that will occur when agates are stored in rusty water will not come out. Even the strongest cleaners will not remove them. Only grinding through the stains until you reach a clean part of your stone will work, and who wants to do that to a beautiful agate. The same goes for keeping agates in a fish aquarium. The green algae stains are just as bad as rust. *From Rockhound Ramblings 9/07*

 **Leaky Lincoln Marble**—Did you know that the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C. is sprouting stalactites and stalagmites in its basement? This phenomenon is caused by water seeping through the marble. Though the Memorial is a little over 55 years old, the formations have grown several feet in length. When the Memorial was built, engineers sank 122 cylinders to bedrock fifty feet underground. The base of the Memorial is set high above the ground on a rectangular platform, thus forming a cavernous space beneath the floor. This is where the stalactites and stalagmites are growing. *From Rockhound Ramblings, 9/07*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
OCTOBER 2007 — CSMS CALENDAR						
	1 	2	3	4 7p Board Meeting	5	6
7	8 Columbus Day	9 6:30p Micromounts Group Meeting	10	11	12 7:30p Crystal Study Group Meeting	13 12n Lapidary Group Meeting
14	15	16	17	18 6:45p Pebble Pups 7:30p General Assembly	19	20 3p Jewelry Group Meeting
21	22	23 7:30p Camera Club Meeting	24	25 7p Faceting Group Meeting	26	27
28	29	30	31  Halloween			

"The harder you work, the harder it is to surrender." - Vince Lombardi

Locations

Board Meeting: 1st Thursday
@ 7:00p. Location TBD, *Linda Laverty, 520-5939*

Camera Club: 4th Tuesday @
7:30p 1514 Hancock, CO
Roger Pittman: 683-2603

Crystal Study Group: 2nd
Friday @ 7:30p, 1514 North
Hancock, COS; *Kerry Burroughs: 634-4576*

Jewelry Group: 3rd Saturday
@ 3p; 6608 Gambol Quail Dr E;
contact *Rick Copeland: 594-6293* or *Bill Arnson: 749-2328*

Faceting Group: 4th Thursday
@ 7:00p, 1514 North Hancock,
David Wilson: 635-7891
dlwilson@pcisys.net

Fossil Study Group: Meets at
6p quarterly at the Senior Cen-
ter (next mtg on 11/29), contact
John Harrington, 599-0989 or
Steve Veatch 748-5010

Lapidary Group: 1st Saturday
@ Noon 3085 Rhapsody Drive,
Drew Malin: 531-7594

Micromounts Group: 2nd
Tuesday @ 7:00p, 1514 North
Hancock, *Phil McCollum:*
acc@frii.com
Moyra Lyne: 442-2673

Pebble Pups: 3rd Thursday @
6:45p, 1514 North Hancock,
Steven Veatch: 748-5010

REFRESHMENTS FOR GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETINGS

October=Fossils

November=Camera

December=**Everyone**

PRESIDENT	Drew Malin	531-7594	advanceone@comcast.net
VICE PRESIDENT	Linda Laverty	520-5939	chilipepper24@juno.com
SECRETARY	Roger Pittman	683-2603	prpittman@netzero.com
TREASURER	Rick Copeland	594-6293	rick.copeland@covad.net
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MANAGING EDITOR	Betty Cain	634-8205	bcain2@earthlink.net
MEMBER-AT-LARGE	John Casto	329-0912	Jcasto@fvs.edu
MEMBER-AT-LARGE	Brent Williams	632-3552	zaphod1863@yahoo.com
PAST PRESIDENT	Robert Landgraf	685-1364	RMLWP74@aol.com
SHOW CHAIRPERSON	Kaye Thompson	636-2978	
FIELD TRIP DIRECTOR	Brent Williams	632-3552	zaphod1863@yahoo.com
LIBRARIAN	Sarah Udell	237-7985	sarahudell@hotmail.com
CAMERA CLUB	Roger Pittman	683-2603	prpittman@netzero.com
CRYSTAL STUDY	Kerry Burroughs	634-4576	kburrou@comcastnet
FACETING GROUP	Dave Wilson	635-7891	dlwilson@pcisys.net
FOSSIL GROUP	John Harrington	599-0989	harrington1@mindspring.com
JEWELRY GROUP	Rick Copeland	332-7915	rick.copeland@covad.net
LAPIDARY GROUP	Drew Malin	531-7594	advanceone@comcast.net
MICROMOUNT GROUP	Phil McCollum		acc@frii.com
PEBBLE PUPS	Steven Veatch	748-5010	sgeoveatch@worldnet.att.net

COLORADO SPRINGS MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY

General Assembly Minutes
September 20, 2007



President Drew Malin called the meeting to order at 7:30p.

The July minutes were approved as printed in the *Pick&Pack*.

Treasurer's Report

Rick Copeland reported that the CSMS accounts are stable, not much coming in nor going out.

Old Business

- Linda Laverty reported that the Annual Picnic on August 25th was a big success, and all had a good time. The Board has decided to hold this annual event at WMMI each year. The venue is ample, shady, cool, plenty of resources, and WMMI will include a free museum tour. Next year's activities start at 10a with the swap/sale and will include lots of food, drinks, games, and prizes.

New Business

- Visitors: Kevin, Pat, Bob, Flo, Robert, Connie & Willie, Mark & family, and Dianna were recognized and welcomed.
- A Deluth, GA Middle School student is asking for Colorado samples; Roger Pittman will provide specimens and ship to him in an \$8 Flat Rate box.
- 2008 Slate of Officers were recommended: Rick Copeland for President, Yam Yamiolkoski for Vice President, John Casto for Secretary, Ann Proctor for Treasurer, and Betty Cain for Editor. Two Members-at-Large positions are still open. Drew will be the Past President. Duties of the Executive Board MEMBERS may be found in the CSMS By-Laws (available on the web site). The election will be held at the November General Assembly with installation of officers at the January 2008 Banquet.
- The contract with Phil Long Expo Center for next year's show has been received. The 2006 Show will feature Michael Weise of the Smithsonian Institute.
- Ray Berry is planning another Gold Camp Road Field Trip—details TBA (see the CSMS web site).
- Roger Pittman reported that the Colorado Federation of Gem & Mineral Societies (CFMS) has decided to disband; the Contin-Tail is now managed by a LLC organization. The CFMS funds will be distributed to member clubs in good standing. The Executive Board will obtain details and work the issue on behalf of CSMS.

Program

Satellite Group Show & Tell was exciting and well attended. Each group manned a table with information and examples of their skills. The group leaders addressed the Assembly, explaining when/where they meet and answered questions. After enjoying refreshments, the crowd went from table-to-table admiring the specimens, asking questions, and gathering information. It was a great time to get a lot of information and ask specific questions about their crafts. Several visitors asked for membership applications.



SHOWS—CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Oct 26-28

Wasatch Gem Society annual show, Salt Lake City, UT; contact Paul Cooper (801) 501-0559, ppwcooper@msn.com

Oct 27-28

Sedona Gem & Mineral Club 6th annual show, Sedona, AZ; contact Pat McMahan (928) 634-2404 agates920@yahoo.com

Nov 2-4

Retail & wholesale show and sale; Kansas City, MO; contact Judi Tripp, Shows of Integrity, 504 N. College St., McKinney, TX 75069

Nov 3-4

OK Mineral & Gem Society show, OK City, OK, OK Fair Park, 10th St. East exit off I-44, Modern Living Bldg.

Nov 10-11

28th Annual NM Mineral Symposium, Socorro, NM. Info (505) 835-5140

Regular meetings of various groups

Café Scientifique features a talk and discussion on some current science topic; 6-30-8:00 p.m. Tuesday evening once a month (approximately the 3rd Tuesday) at the Wynkoop Brewery (Mercantile Room), corner of 18th & Wynkoop Streets, Denver. No charge; all are welcome. <http://cafescolorado.org>

Colorado Scientific Society, monthly meetings with one or two speakers on an earth science topic, 3rd Thursday, 7:00 p.m. American Mountaineering Center, 710 10th St. (NE corner with Washington), Golden, CO. <http://www.coloscisoc.org>

Denver Mining Club, Informal weekly luncheon meetings with a speaker, every Monday, 11:30-1:00, Country Buffet, 8100 W. Crestline Ave, #A3, Littleton, CO (about 1/2 mile north and east of the intersection of Wadsworth Blvd. & Bowles), tel: 303-933-9923. No charge, but all who attend must purchase a lunch at the restaurant. See web site http://china-resources.net/den_min.html

Denver Region Exploration Geologists' Society (DREGS) meets monthly on the 2nd Monday, 7:00 p.m. Consolidated Mutual Water Company (lower level), 12700 W. 27th Ave., Lakewood, CO; no charge, all are welcome to the meetings. See <http://www.dregs.org/>

Rocky Mountain Assoc. of Geologists (RMAG) has monthly luncheon meetings with a speaker at the Marriott City Center, California St. between 17th & 18th Streets, 11:30 a.m. Luncheon cost is \$24; no reservations are needed for the talk only. See <http://www.rmag.org/>

USGS Colloquium Series, lectures on Thursday, 1:30-2:30 p.m. Foord Lecture Room, Bldg. 20, Denver Federal Center, Lakewood, CO. USGS staff, visitors, and guests are welcome. See <http://geology.cr.usgs.gov/crg/colloquia.htm>

Western Interior Paleontology Society (WIPS), meets 7:00 p.m. first Monday of the month, Sep-May, Rick- etson Auditorium, Denver Museum of Nature and Science, <http://www.wipsppc.com>

CLASSIFIEDS . . .

NOTICE—Items listed for sale in the Pick&Pack are displayed only as an informational service to our members and advertisers. CSMS and/or the Pick&Pack do not promote nor warranty any item displayed. The sellers and buyers are responsible for the condition and ownership of any item shown.



Mettler H33AR Electronic Scale, 160 gal max; accurate to .0001 grams. \$170
Dick's Rock Shop



4-1/2" Trim Saw \$195
Dick's Rock Shop

FOR SALE

14" diamond
Lapidary Saw
Highland Park
\$800
Dick's Rock Shop

Reporter(s) Wanted

The Pick&Pack is looking for members who could submit short stories about our satellite groups' activities; no experience required! Contact the Editor.

Seeking Members-at-Large

CSMS Board is asking for two volunteers to serve as 2008 Members-at-Large. Duties are light but important. See By-Laws for description. Contact Drew Malin to apply.

(719) 633-1153

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October, 2007

Joining the Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society (CSMS)

General Assembly meetings are the third (3rd) Thursday of each month, except August, beginning at 7:30 p.m. at the Colorado Springs Senior Center, 1514 North Hancock Blvd., Colorado Springs, CO. **Visitors are always welcome.**

CSMS also offers Satellite Group meetings that allow more focused attention in specific areas of our members' interests. Our current Satellite Groups consist of the following: Camera Club, Crystal Study Group, Faceting Group, Jewelry Group, Lapidary Group, Micromounts Group, and Pebble Pups. For details of Satellite Group meetings, see page 11.

Yearly dues include 10 issues of the **PICK&PACK**, all field trips (additional fees may be required on some field trips, and members are responsible for all transportation to and from), participation in all Satellite Groups (some groups may request additional fees to help cover resource costs), free admission to the *Western Museum of Mining & Industry*, a year of learning and enjoyment, plus a lifetime of memories.

Individuals—\$20

Family—\$30

Juniors—\$2

If you are interested in joining CSMS or would like more information, we encourage you to attend our next General Assembly meeting (see page 2 for details of the next meeting) or visit our web site: www.csms.us.