

PICK&PACK

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PICK&PACK

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CSMS is an incorporated non-profit 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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AGATES

BY MIKE NELSON, CSMS

The CSMS Board has selected "Agates" as the theme of the 2009 Annual Show scheduled for December 5-6 at the Phil Long Center in north Colorado Springs. Members and participants may exhibit their specimens via display cases (available from CSMS). Especially encouraged are cases with display of, and/or educational information on, agates.

The agates, and there are many, are semiprecious gemstones in the quartz family, specifically a form of concentrically banded or included chalcedony. Chalcedony is fibrous microcrystalline quartz. For a description of how agates form, please see the **Ask A Geologist** column in this issue of the Pick&Pack.

Chalcedony is an interesting stone in its own right and comes in a variety of colors such as the red, yellow, black, or green of jasper, the red of carnelian, the brown to yellow of sard, and the black and green of chrysoprase (See Pick&Pack v.48, #8). Chalcedony is quite porous, and this feature has caused problems with fraud and misrepresentation in the trade market. Somewhere I read (and I cannot find the reference) that essentially all "black" onyx marketed in the jewelry trade is dyed chalcedony. Chalcedony is also dyed to simulate chrysoprase, but this is considered fraud as the value of prase is determined by the "greenness" (Lyman, 1986). In addition, any rock and mineral show, and most rock shops, have displays of extremely gaudy (my opinion) agate in bright abnormal colors. These colors are due to a thin layer of dye that has been used to impregnate the surface of the mineral.

The name chalcedony is quite old and most likely is derived from the port of Calcedon/Calchedon on the Asian shore of the Bosphorus in what is now the country of Turkey (Lyman, 1986). The name agate came from the Achates River (now the Dirillo) in Sicily. The use of agate as an ornamental stone has been around for millennia, certainly as early as ~3000 BC in Crete (Hogan, 2007).

Agate has been given tens of trade names or local names, and it seems as if hundreds of varieties are for sale at various venues. Roger Pabien from the University of Nebraska is recognized as one of the world's finest authorities on agates and has authored a well-written book entitled *Agates: Treasures of the Earth* (2006). I have followed his terminology in describing the following agate varieties.

Agatized fossils: agate may replace some calcite of marine organisms when siliceous gel engulfs and permeates shells of "dead" marine animals but especially the exoskeletons of corals (commonly seen in Florida) (Fig. 1). Petrified wood is not an agate but wood that has been mineralized by chalcedony (for a differing opinion see The Quartz Page at <http://www.quartzpage.de/agate.html>).

Brecciated agate; Faulted agate: the original agate has been broken and fractured and then re-cemented. This activity probably takes place in fault zones.

Calico agate: the specimens exhibits small banded agate in a light colored groundmass.

Dendritic agate; Mocha agate: the agate has included dendrites

See next page



Fig. 1. Agatized Coral. Photo courtesy of the State of Florida.

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(a branch like structure) composed of dark colored iron and/or manganese oxide. A type of non-banded agate. See Ask a Geologist column.

Disk-bearing agates: the agate contains small white disks or ovoids. Rare.

Eye agate; Tube agate; Stalactitic agate: the eyes in the agate are caused by crystallization around a needle-like crystal. The agate must be sliced perpendicular to the length of the needle to see the eye (Fig. 2).

Flame agate: an agate with flame-like banding of red hematite.



Fig. 2. Bulls-eye Agate, Texas. Permission and photo courtesy of Rick Jacquot.

Fortification agate: a well banded agate with sharply defined bands.

Rainbow agate: fine banded but rather colorless agate until viewed as a very thin slice when colors are displayed.

Jasp agate: a mixture of agate and jasper.

Lace agate: usually a finely banded blue agate resembling lace (Fig. 3).

Moss agate: a rather "complicated" agate forming when chloritic minerals on the skin of the agate are forced in with the silica gel. The resulting stringy structures superficially resemble "moss".

Plume agate: a type of moss agate where the brightly colored (red: hematite; yellow: goethite) plumes form arborescent structures. In my opinion, one of the more beautiful agates (Fig. 4).



Fig. 3. Blue lace agate from Namibia. Photo copyright 2005-2008 by A.C. Akhavan. Used by permission.

Saganitic agate: an agate with included needle-like crystals of either rutile, goethite, anhydrite, aragonite, or zeolite.

Thunder eggs: an agate enclosed in a brown (usually) rocky and siliceous matrix. Egg or nodule shape. See Ask a Geologist column.

Onyx: level-banded agates (as opposed to the curved bands of traditional agates) with alternating black and white bands are traditional called onyx. Landscape onyx looks like "something"—a mountain scene perhaps. Sard onyx has alternating colors of red to brown to white to blue.

Very few collectors can agree of the number, types, and varieties of agates. The above listing is from Pabian (2006). For a different opinion, please check Zenz (2005) who listed 122 varieties. In addition, any number of web sites and rock/mineral dealers will be happy to sell you agate varieties not listed in either of these two references!

Most CSMS members collect agates for their appearance—they are really nice minerals and make beautiful displays. However, there are some collectors who believe that agates have metaphysical and healing properties. So, if you want to have pleasant dreams, cleanse your aura, balance your yin-yang energies, and eliminate your bad luck—consider agates.

You may also use agates and other varieties of quartz to enter a portal "opening into several realities, including the astral world; the far reaches of physical, interstellar space; and alternate, parallel universes". Please see "Ritual of the Portal for Personal and Planetary Ascension" at <<http://www.diskoftheworld.com/portal.htm>> Let me know how it works.

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Fig. 4. Plume agate from Needle Peak, Texas. Permission and photo courtesy of Rick Jacquot.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

BY RON YAMOLKOSKI, CSMS



Greetings folks!

As I sit here at my computer, I can see new snow on Pikes Peak. It must be fall, but it feels a bit more like winter. I think we all hope we can have a winter like last year, when many of us were able to collect into January.

There is a lot going on not the least of which is that it is time to select new officers for CSMS. Some of the members of the Executive Committee have been at it a long time and would greatly appreciate a chance to step down and allow someone else the opportunity to serve. If you are interested in a particular office, contact the current officer and chat with them about the position. Let them or the Nominating Committee know of your interest. I have appointed Sharon Holte, Laurie Hutchinson, and Al Zelenak to serve on the committee. I know that Al will gladly accept your e-mails at <azeeman@comcast.net>.

If you're not interested in being an officer but would like to help out, all of the officers are carrying a few extra jobs with which they would love to have assistance. It is a great way to get more familiar with the workings of CSMS and to contribute to the success of your club.

We are at the bottom of our field trip list, but fall is still a great time to have a field trip. If you want to lead a trip this year, please contact me as soon as possible; we will get it posted on the website. I'm still working on a couple of items but have nothing firm to report. Keep checking the website <www.csms.us>. Before I forget, I want to thank all of our field trip leaders for providing our members and visitors with such great opportunities this year. The word is getting around that CSMS is a club that does field trips that are fun and positive experiences for the whole family. Your efforts make this true.

The first weekend in December is rapidly approaching and with it the **46th Annual Pikes Peak Gem & Mineral Show**. Our next show meeting will be at 6:30 PM on October 15th at the Senior Center. Please join us and see how you can help. If you can't make the meeting but want to help, contact me or Francine Jampetero directly, and we can discuss how you can make our show great. Also, we will be needing donations for the Silent Auction at the show. This Silent Auction provides much needed funds for our Scholarship Program, the Florissant Fossil Bed Monument Interns, and the Science Fair prizes. Please look around your garage and basement to see if you have some items that you can donate. If you have some specimens, you can either bring them to the show or the next meeting.

For those of you heading to Roswell for the RFMS Show the first weekend in October, I will see you there. In the meantime, take care of yourself and enjoy Colorado's great fall weather.

Regards,
Yam

FROM AFMS NEWSLETTER . . .



Scholarship Foundation—For 2010 **only**, each student will receive a one-year grant of \$2,000; there will be no second year. This was decided by the AFMS Scholarship Foundation Directors due to very low interest rate (the scholarships are paid from the interest, not principal, on the AFMS investment of \$900,000). Additional change beginning in 2011, scholarships will be awarded in the amount of \$4,000 for one year only to two graduate students (same total amount but all in the first year). Second year recipients are dropping out and having to find new ones is causing a great deal of confusion—solution \$4K for 1 year instead of \$2K for 2 years. Incoming AFMS president, Emerson Tucker, issued a challenge to each region to raise funds so that the second year of the 2010 grants may be paid.

President—Joy Bourne, out-going AFMS President, thanked all for the support during her term and the great convention in Billings; Emerson Tucker will assume the office on November 1.

Uniform Rules—Modern Cabochons CC-7 class was changed to Modern and Creative Cabochons, thus allowing Creative Cabs in all classes CC-1 thru CC-4; change is effective 1/1/10. New Beading category was add. Changes will be sent to all federations and posted on the AFMS web site; they go into effect in January 2010.

Birthstone Stamp Campaign—Pebble Pups are encouraged to participate in the campaign with lessons, reports, FRA badge program, group petition, etc. July 09 issue of Rock & Gem featured our efforts.

Conservation & Legislation Chair—newly appointed chairmen is John Martin; he is searching for proactive persons who are passionate about keeping our collecting areas open and accessible to work on his committee. He may be contacted at <jmjr@antele.com.net>.

Webmaster Contest—very successful and has been renamed to Web Site Contest for 2010. RMFMS chair is Dale Watts <d.watts@oksoccer.com>.

All-American Club—Chair John Washburn has a booklet to help clubs put together the needed material to enter the contest.

2010 Show—Dates were edited to reflect June 16-20 at La Habra, CA.

Summer Camp Lap Instructor(s) - Teton Valley Ranch Camp is searching for instructors for the 2010 summer season, June to August. More info available from Bob & Nancy Hicks at <Ronan10@aol.com>, 918-371-2406, <www.tvrcamp.org>. Room & board provided.

RMFMS NEWS



Regional dues are determined at \$1.50 for each dues-paying member age 12 or older as of October 31 (family memberships are considered separately). Deadline for submission is December 15, 2009.

Liability Insurance dues were overpaid last year by double the premium actually paid to the new insurer. With approval by the House of Delegates meeting at the October convention, an insurance reserve will be established to apply the overpayment to future years, meaning there may not be a premium to pay this year. We anticipate the premium will be \$.75/club member but will not know until October.

RMFMS Newsletter Editor needed for 2010.

STEPPING DOWN . . .

While it's been fun and very rewarding on a personal level, Bill and I are looking to step down from our roles on the Executive Committee - those being Managing Editor and Membership Secretary. Both positions are elected by the membership each November. We were anxious to see CSMS grow and prosper and have slowly taken on more and more responsibilities as others have dropped out. As they say, a little goes a long way.

I'm sure there are members in the club who could do just as good a job (if not better) than we have done, especially if the duties were shared by others. One person doesn't have to do it all.

Other offices open for 2010 are Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Think about it and advise the Nomination Committee if you can answer the call.

ASK A GEOLOGIST

BY MIKE NELSON, CSMS

Jason writes: *What can you tell me about turritella agate since I bought a piece at a rock shop? Thanks.*



Interesting question Jason and thanks for asking. First of all, the specimen is not agate and second it is not composed of the gastropod (snail) genus *Turritella*. But that is okay since the name "turritella agate" is well entrenched in rock and mineral literature and certainly specimens are sold as such in hundreds of rock shops and shows (Fig. 1).

One of the world's foremost authorities on agate, Roger Pabian from the University of Nebraska, has written a wonderful book entitled *Agates: Treasurers of the Earth* (2006). He has defined agate as a banded or included chalcedony. Chalcedony, in turn, is "a microcrystalline quartz made of twisted crystal fibres [fibers]" that are oriented perpendicular to the surface". Agate may also contain small amounts of "crystalline quartz, moganite [a form of quartz, same chemical composition, but with a different chemical structure. Essentially impossible for the 'average person' to tell from chalcedony]...common opal...and water".

Generally speaking, agate is chalcedony with concentric color banding or "moss like"/dendritic inclusions, a Moh's hardness of ~6.5 (somewhat less than the ~7.0 of quartz). With that said, the internet and various books/publications describe a wide variety of siliceous rocks and minerals as agates, including "turritella agate" and petrified wood.

The formation of agate depends upon an adequate supply of silica and available cavities. After that, things get rather murky. Pabian (2006) believed that a silica-rich solution entered the cavities as a gel, or turned to a gel after entering. The banding is most likely "triggered by chemical and physical reactions due to temperature and pressure within the cavity..."

Pabian (2006) noted that agates occur in six different geological environments, as follows:

- From volcanic rocks with a rhyolitic composition. These rocks have a high percentage of silica, are quite viscous, and usually erupt in explosive conditions such as seen in the Tertiary volcanic of Oregon and Idaho. These explosive eruptions often produce thunder eggs with a central core of agate (Fig. 2).
- From volcanic rocks with an andesitic or basaltic composition, a less explosive and less viscous lava. These types of eruptions often produce cavities caused by gas bubbles and then these voids are filled with siliceous chalcedony (and at times zeolites or even a mixture of the two). Lake Superior Agates are derived from Precambrian basalts cropping out around Lake Superior; however, most are not found in the host rock but in glacial till and stream gravels, some as far south as Louisiana (Fig. 3).



Fig. 3. Lake Superior Agate. Photo courtesy of SuperiorTrails.com.



Fig. 2 Thunder egg from Oregon. Photo courtesy of Wikipedia. Retrieved 21 July 09. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thunderegg>

- From marine sedimentary limestones. These agate nodules form in solution cavities or burrows. Some of the more famous examples are the Teepee Canyon Agates of the Black Hills of South Dakota formed in the Minnelusa Limestone of Pennsylvanian age (Fig. 4). When these agates are found out on the plains surrounding the Black Hills, after eroding out of the limestone, they are known as Fairburn Agates.
- From solution cavities or burrows in continental and wind deposited siltstone and claystone. In western Kansas and eastern Colorado the Late Tertiary Ogallala Formation produces Moss Agate (Fig. 5), really a Dendritic Agate, (also known as Moss Opal but there may be a gradation from agate—lacking much water—to opal—containing water). The "moss" inclusions are manganese oxide although most specimens that I have collected lack the "moss".
- From faults or fissures in any kind of rock (Fig. 6). These are the vein agates, and I found references to a few found in New Jersey basalts and in some low temperature hydrothermal veins in California. However, unless the agates are found in place, in the veins, or unless a piece of the country rock is attached to the agate there is little way to categorize the alluvial agate as "vein".
- From ocean floor spreading. These have been recently recorded from oceanic basalts but seem unknown from the rock record on land. Certainly rare.

The "turritella agate" specimen you inquired about most likely was collected

from southwestern Wyoming in the Green River Basin at a locality termed the Delaney Rim. The Green River Basin was the site of a large freshwater lake during the Eocene Period of the Tertiary (34 my—60 my) termed Lake Gosiute (Fig. 7).

Related to Lake Gosiute is Lake Uinta that formed in northwestern Colorado (Piceance Basin) and northeastern Utah (Uinta Basin), and Fossil Lake (Fossil Basin) immediately to the west. The climate around the lakes during the Eocene was tropical to subtropical and the waters teemed with life. For example, the famous fossil fish localities



Fig. 4. Teepee Canyon Agate from South Dakota. John Deney Collection. Permission and photo courtesy of Rick Jacquot.

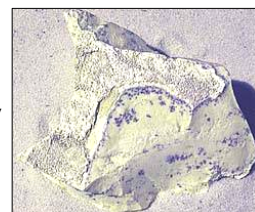


Fig. 5. Moss Agate/Moss Opal from the Ogallala Formation, western Kansas. Photo courtesy of Kansas Geological Survey.

near Kemmerer, Wyoming are located in the Green River Formation deposited in Fossil Lake. On the shores palm trees grew and flamingos waded in the shallow water. Among invertebrates, the lakes contained millions of snails of the genus *Goniobasis* or *Elimia*. The reason that I state "or" is that paleontologists are uncertain as to the correct name of the snail (it is sort of a matter of which name appeared with certainty first in the published literature). What paleontologists do agree upon, however, is that the common snail in the Green River Formation is not of the genus *Turritella* for this



Fig. 6. Vein agate from a low-temperature hydrothermal vein; Germany. Photo courtesy of and copyright by 2005-2008, A.C. Akhavan.

critter is a well known **marine** snail (and also differs in external markings from *Goniobasis* or *Elimia*). However, one should be aware that popular web sites such as Wikipedia

(retrieved 23 July 09 <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agate>) still note such misinterpretations as: "Turritella agate is formed from silicified fossil Turritella shells. Turritella are spiral marine gastropods having elongated, spiral shells composed of many whorls". For a more complete description of the naming problem I refer the reader to a newly published paper in Rocks and Minerals (Almond, 2009).

I have defined agate as banded or included chalcedony and the siliceous rocks in the Green River Formation certainly do not meet those criteria. I have examined the so called agate under a petrographic microscope in thin sections, and the rocks are chalcedony; but they lack banding (also no banding seen in hand specimens). Why this particular layer of rock (~10 inches) is hard and siliceous, I am uncertain. Perhaps the silica came from abundant volcanic ash originating to the northwest of the lakes since some of the correlative formations (non-lake beds) preserve and display beds of volcanic ash.

In addition to the Delaney Rim locality, I have collected *Goniobasis* or *Elimia* from non-siliceous beds (limy and sandy) at other Wyoming localities in Lake Gosiute



Fig. 7. Map showing location of Eocene lakes. Map from Chicago Field Museum.

and in Utah in Lake Uinta. Another locality down by Price, Utah has produced "turritella agate" but these are most likely snails from the Paleocene Flagstaff Formation (older than the Green River Formation and from a different lake system).

So, it appears that the term "turritella agate" is here to stay in the rock and mineral trade. However, savvy CSMS members will know that the snail is not *Turritella* and that the mineral is really chalcedony. Whatever the case, a nice polished specimen is a wonderful addition to any collection.

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COLORADO FEDERATION OF GEM & MINERAL SOCIETIES REBORN!



BY YAM YAMIOLOKOSKI, CSMS

The Colorado Federation of Gem & Mineral Societies (CFGMS) held its "reformation" meeting in Denver on September 19, 2009. CFGMS, which is incorporated in the State of Colorado, is a non-profit organization. CSMS members present at the meeting were Ron Yamiolkoski, Bob Germano, and Michael Wheat.

After considerable discussion on the history of the organization and what should be done as CFGMS moves forward, a series of actions was taken. Specifically, the following officers were elected: John Hansen (Rams) – President, Ron Yamiolkoski (CSMS) – Vice President, John Haney (No JeffCo) – Treasurer, and Marie Wester (Four Corners) – Secretary. Mike Wheat (CSMS) was appointed to serve as liaison with the former officers of the organization to resolve certain financial issues and the rights to the Contin-Tail Show.

A motion was passed directing the treasurer to establish a new savings account and a new checking account for the organization to receive funds from the past treasurer. In addition, the secretary was authorized to secure new stationary for the CFGMS to be used for official purposes of the organization. Another motion was passed establishing the dues at \$10.00 per year per member organization. The secretary was directed to contact all of the organizations that were past members of CFGMS and advise them that CFGMS is again an active organization and what the dues are for the coming year.

The announcement of the next meeting date was postponed pending the results of the efforts of Mike Wheat. Tentatively, it was agreed that the next meeting would be held in concurrence with a club show this winter, most likely in December.

OCTOBER PROGRAM

Joe Dorris will be presenting our October 15 program entitled "The Smithsonian Pocket and Other New Discoveries in the Pikes Peak Pegmatites". Come hear this expert presentation.

CONTIN-TAIL ROCK SHOW AND SWAP

BY JIM FOSHEE, VIA SHAWNEE SLATE, 9/09

Linda and I had the good fortune to attend the 26th annual Show and Swap in Buena Vista, Colorado. This was our 5th time to attend the show, and, as always, we were not disappointed. There were 140 vendors this year. They had about everything that a rockhound could want. There was lots and lots of raw products. There were many rocks that I had never of, so naturally I had to buy some of them. Linda says that I have too many rocks in my shop now, but a true rockhound can NEVER have too many rocks, right? Many vendors had finished products ranging from beautiful cabs and free forms to beads and finished jewelry. There



Photo from the Contin-Tail web site <www.coloradorocks.org>

was all kinds of equipment both new and used for sale also. Everything from rock hammers to slab saws to facet ors and everything in between. There were several vendors that Klaus would never have gotten past. They had all kinds of fossils. One guy had a petrified alligator head complete with all its teeth (I know alligator isn't the correct scientific name, but I couldn't remember, nor could I spell, the correct name). I thought it was pretty cool, because it was so complete. Anyone that knows Klaus at all, knows that he dearly loves fossils. He would have had a ball there this year. All the people we met were very friendly and helpful and free with information.

We can highly recommend the show to anyone thinking of attending next year. It is usually held the second weekend in August. I was curious as to the name, Contin-Tail. How did they come up with that name? Come to find out, the name means "Continental Divide Tail Gate". It seems that 26 years ago, the swap was first held on Cotton Wood Pass, which is the Continental Divide. The first few people that attended simply parked on top of the mountain and displayed their wares on their tail gates. I can't imagine doing that. For one thing, it's COLD up there, the air is very thin and hard to breath, and there is only room for about a dozen vehicles. Needless to say, they quickly outgrew that area. Now the swap is held at the fair/rodeo grounds just south of Buena Vista. There are acres and acres of room. Many of the vendors camp there with their booths. Dry camping is available to anyone that wants to camp, free of charge. There are several RV parks in Buena Vista as well as many motels.

There is so much to do in the area besides attending the swap. The scenery is absolutely spectacular with a climate to match. While Oklahoma was broiling the first of August, it was only in the high 70s during the day and 40s at night. We would run the heater in the mornings and the air conditioner in the afternoon. They normally have Gold Rush Days the same weekend, but this year for some unexplained reason it was held the weekend before. God Rush Days are fun in that there are many different types of vendors set up in town, along with period dress and costumes, gun fights, burro races, etc. Oh yeah, did I mention that they have all kinds of marvelous food booths? I sorely missed the food booths this year however my waistline didn't.

Buena Vista is located in the Arkansas River Valley about 100 miles west of Colorado Springs. It is surrounded by 14,000+ feet peaks, and there are all kinds of jeep trails, ATV trails, hiking

trails, fishing, rockhounding, and prospecting. We have been lucky before and found gold in the Arkansas River just north of town. This year, however, after getting our dredging permit, we hit the river, and it was really too high and running too fast, not to mention too cold, for us to get into it. I have to add here that the Arkansas River is beautiful, clear, and cold; nothing like it looks when it reaches Oklahoma.

Don't have a jeep or ATV? No problem as there are several places that are happy to rent you one. There are guided jeep trips, horseback trips, hot springs, and heated pools in the area. So you see, the rock show is only one thing to take in while there. The show runs 4 days, Thursday through Sunday. We had so many things to see and do, a person needs to spend at least a week in the area. This was our 5th time to attend the show and swap, and we have yet to see and do everything there is there.

So if anyone wants to attend next year, I would suggest that you make your reservations early as the RV parks fill up during this time period. This year, however, we saw lots of vacancy signs at the area motels. There were a few empty spaces in the RV parks, but I would not count on being able to simply drive up and get a spot without a reservation. Hopefully, we will be able to attend again next year, and I hope to see a lot of familiar faces from the club.

To everyone out there—have fun, hunt rocks, and enjoy being alive. Jim

BUENA VISTA COLORADO, AUGUST 2009

BY TONY MCLOUGHLIN, QUARRY QUIPS, 9/09

Whenever I go some place where people have a chance to express themselves, it amazes me how creative they can be. I believe every person has something they can be good at. In the rockhound field, there are so many areas a person can take an interest whether you're a hobbyist, like me, a craftsman who can produce marvels to share with others, or an artist who has a passion they can express.

At the Buena Vista Rock Show this year there were many interesting things to see. One that really grabbed my attention was the paintings by Terry McKee. His paintings are so lifelike. Looking at his paintings was like traveling back in time. Each painting is based on fossil evidence and tells a story about what happened at the location.

Terry is a member of the Western Interiors Paleological Society, located in Denver. At an early age he became interested in map drawing, reading about, and drawing

dinosaurs. When he was 8 years old he moved to Oklahoma and became interested in Indians and western wildlife and pioneer paintings. He's sold hundreds of paintings over a 25-year period.

His membership and association with the Western Interior Paleontological Society and its members helps him paint. His paintings are detailed and realistic. They really do tell a story. Each painting is based on a site, the fossils found there, and what life was like at that time, whether it was two hundred or 200 million years ago.

Northeast of Pueblo are Tepee Butts where many baculites and ammonites are found. These buttes (small hills) are above the surrounding terrain and were caused by methane vents. Much like the vents found in the bottom of the Pacific, they were a source of food with the baculites being the top predator at that time. His paintings of these sites show what was going on and the types of life present. I can see the action just as if I was there. Terry McKee is an artist I hope to see again.



Photos courtesy of Carolyn White, Editor, Wichita Quarry Quips

EDITOR'S NOTE:

I thought Pick&Pack readers might enjoy seeing the Contin-Tail from the perspective of visitors from two different states.

MICROMOUNT GROUP TO HOLD 2ND MEETINGS

BY MARJ REGEL, CSMS

Our group has decided to start holding 2 meetings each month (except Dec and Jun-Aug) on the 3rd Saturday, 10 AM—4 PM at my house, 3609 Windsor Avenue (between Austin Bluffs and Fillmore, 2 blocks west of Union). We have extra microscopes to share and excess material from areas that are now closed. This is a great opportunity to introduce the kids and new members to the wonders of micromounts. Please contact me at 599-3031 for further directions and additional info. The other meeting is still the 2nd Tuesday each month at the Senior Center, 7 PM.

Please bring paper, pencils, egg carton or small boxes to label and store the take-home material. A 10-power loop is not expensive and is what we use in the field. You can also bring a brown bag lunch or visit one of the local restaurants.

WMMI HAPPENINGS

All of October

Halloween Scavenger Hunt

Kids age 6-12 will have a fun time building a miner's skeleton as they answer mining trivia questions throughout the museum. Open Monday—Saturday 9-4, this event will run the entire month of October. Daily tours begin at 10 AM and 1 PM.

Oct 1-31

Haunted MINES! Don't miss this terrifying adventure. Each year the Haunt gets bigger and better! All proceeds from the Haunted Mines are donated to the Western Museum of Mining & Industry. Visit <www.hauntedmines.org> for ticketing and hours of operation.

Oct. 10, 9:00 am—3:00 pm

Family Exploration Day

The focus of this Family Exploration Day is the Industrial Revolution. Machines of this era, how they were created, and what makes them work. Activities will focus on how physics are applied to basic mechanics. Customary admissions apply.

Reservations requested: <RSVP@wmmi.org> or call 719-488-0880.



ROSE ROCKS, THE INDIAN VIEW

BY HARVEY SHELL, TRMS, VIA T-TOWN ROCKHOUND, 9/09

Of course, we know all about them . . . Rose rocks . . . The barite rose . . . The Oklahoma state stone. And, yes, we also know that these are very common in parts of the state but quite rare in most other places.

We also know that barite is usually a reddish-brown crystal which can form into petal-like forms (frequently in sand) which make up the roses. This is certainly the most recognizable form of barite.

We've likely read the scientific version of how these crystals form. That version is 100% accurate and about as readable as a phone book.

While not nearly as accurate as the scientific explanation of rose rocks, the Indian version of how they came to be is much more interesting. While reading the rest of the story, you might want to envision an old Indian, possible Chief Dode McIntosh or Chief Dan George sitting in front of a campfire, holding out a rose rock, and saying something like this:

"Many moons ago, long before the white men came, all of this land belonged to the Indians. The people who lived in this land were happy and prosperous. To the west where Oklahoma City now stands, there was a small village of people; and, in this village, there lived a young girl named Singing Bird."

"She was called Singing Bird because she loved to sing, and her voice was so beautiful that any time she sang, even the birds would fly down to listen to her. Though she was not yet of marriage age, many of the young men wanted her."

"But before she reached the age of marriage, Singing Bird fell ill and, in a few days, died. The people of the village were very sad and, saddest of all, was Singing Bird's father. In his grief, he climbed to the top of a high hill and called out to the Great Spirit."

"Why have you taken my daughter? Did you not love Singing Bird?"

"And the Great Spirit answered him. A voice rolled like thunder across the land, and it said, I will show you my love for Singing Bird. Command your people in my name to pile rocks upon rock for a full moon."

"So the father returned to the village and told the others the words of the Great Spirit. When the new moon began, the villagers traveled forth into the land we now call Kansas. Each day, they piled one rock upon another, moving further south as they worked. By the time the full moon arrived, they had worked their way so far south that they were where Texas now is."

"When they were through, the Great Spirit passed his hand over the piles of rock. Suddenly the plain, ordinary rocks turned into beautiful stone roses and spread into the earth."

So the next time you see a rose rock, think of a beautiful Indian girl with a voice so lovely that even the birds would come to listen memorialized through the efforts of her people and the Great Spirit.



<<http://www.exquisitecrystals.com>>

UPCOMING SHOWS

Oct 2-4

RMFMS Show & Convention, Roswell, NM, www.rmfm.org

Oct 3-4

Greeley, CO Weld County Rock & Mineral Society, free admission, 1010 6th St; Melanie DeHart, hamlethouse@yahoo.com, 970-352-8149

Oct 3-4

Omaha, NE Nebraska Mineral & Gem Club 54th annual show, 108th & Grover St; Tim Kautsch, www.nerockgem.us, 402-397-9606

Oct 10-11

Sierra Vista, AZ Huachuca Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show, Ingrid, 520-459-3718

Oct 23-25

Austin Gem & Mineral Society, 900 Barton Springs Rd; Brian Wetzig, general@Austingemandmineral.org, 512-458-9546

Nov 7-8

OK Mineral & Gem Society, Okla City, State Fairpark, maburkhalter@cox.net, 405-732-0808


Nov 14-15

New Mexico 30th Mineral Symposium, Socorro, NM; Dr. Virgil Lueth, vwlueth@mtu.edu

Dec 5-6

46th Annual Pikes Peak Gem & Mineral Show, Phil Long Expo, Colorado Springs, CO; Ron Yamiolkoski, Ron.Yamiolkoski@aecom.com, 719-488-5526, Francine Jampetero, francijam@gmail.com, 719-634-4880

TIPS & TIDBITS . . .

 **Talc Tips**—In icy weather, rub talc on your automobile door seals to prevent the doors from frosting up. (from *The Glacial Drifter*, 9/9).


- If you have problems with rabbits getting into your garden, spread a band of scented talcum powder around the garden border; they don't like the smell and will not cross the powder. It really works!
- Grease on upholstered furniture can be removed by sprinkling talcum powder over the mark. Let stand for 15 minutes or until grease is absorbed. Brush off the powder; repeat if necessary.
- Stop floor boards from squeaking by sprinkling liberal amounts of talcum powder over the area and cover with a cloth. Walk over the area repeatedly to work the powder into the cracks. Add more powder and repeat.
- To keep scissors from getting sticky when you are cutting a sticky surface, dust the blades with talcum powder before cutting.
- If your automobile engine is leaking oil and you can't find the source, try dusting the clean engine surfaces with talcum powder. The powder will absorb the oil, and you'll be able to follow the oil trail in the talc.


 **Cleaning Druzy or Iron-stained**

Quartz—Spray the specimens with Easy-Off Oven Cleaner and leave in a closed container overnight before rinsing (from *Rocky Reader*, 9/09).

 **How to Remove a Tick**—(Good to know

no matter what season it is!) Apply a glob of liquid soap to a cotton ball. Cover the tick with the soap-soaked cotton ball and swab it for 15-20 seconds. The tick will come out on its own and will be stuck to the cotton ball when you lift it away. (from *The FACETS*, 9/9).

 **Rubber Bands Help Your Grip**—Many faceting machines have a smooth quill that you must grip when you change index settings. Particularly when you are doing a round perform or a round design where it is required to freewheel the quill, gripping it can be a bother and give you tired fingers. Just take a wide rubber band and stretch it around the quill where you grip it. It may take several loops of the rubber band to fit tightly. This creates a rubber grip that makes your fingers much happier. (from *The FACETS*, 9/9).

 **Prevent Silver from Tarnishing**—Apply a thin coat of Alberto VO5 Conditioning Hairdressing with a soft cloth to clean, polished, dry silver candlesticks, picture frames, service sets, and other decorative items. Wipe off excess, leaving behind a very thin, virtually invisible protective coating. VO5's protectants actually prevent tarnishing. (from *T-Town Rockhound*, 9/9).

FROM THE LIBRARY

BY FRANK ROSENBERG, CSMS



We thank the family of Dorothy Atlee for their donation, in memory of Dorothy, for the guidebook **MINES, MOUNTAIN ROADS, AND ROCKS**, by George E. Moore, published by Ouray Historical Society 2004, an impressive document covering the Ouray, Colorado area.

Mr. Moore begins with the area's in-depth geologic history including the emplacement of ore bodies. Continuing with the descriptions of eight mining districts, he winds up with fourteen detailed road logs. Full color geologic maps, topographic maps, and vivid photographs are used liberally throughout the book. Unlike other books about road log geology, Mr. Moore not only gives mileage readings but also provides latitude and longitude readings. Many of the mine descriptions include cutaway plans of the mines. Interestingly, the Guston Mine had 14 levels.

MINES, MOUNTAIN ROADS, AND ROCKS is interesting reading combining the best of geology, geography, and local history coupled with specific directions and photographs to locate and identify the author's subject matter.

We also thank Jerry Suchan for his field guide donation of **ROCK-HOUNDING UTAH** by William A. Kappeler published by Falcon Pug Inc, 1996.

WHERE DO YOU FIT IN?

FROM THE GLACIAL DRIFTER 9/9

Some members keep their organization strong. While other join, just to belong.

Some volunteer and do their share. While others lie back and just don't care.

On meeting days, some always show. While there are those who never go.

Some always pay their dues ahead. Some get behind for months instead.

Some do their best, some build, some make. Some never do, just sit and take.

Some lag behind, some let things go, and never help their club to grow.

Some drag, some pull. Some don't, some do. Consider—which of these are you???

| <i>Sunday</i> | <i>Monday</i> | <i>Tuesday</i> | <i>Wednesday</i> | <i>Thursday</i> | <i>Friday</i> | <i>Saturday</i> |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|--|--------------------------------------|--|
| OCTOBER 2009 CSMS CALENDAR | | | | 1 | 2 RMFMS Convention—Roswell | 3 |
| | Special Board Mtg | | | | | |
| 4 RMFMS Convention | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 7:30p Crystal Group | 10 9:30 Peridot Field Trip |
| 11 | 12 Columbus Day Holiday | 13 7p Micromount Group | 14 | 15 5:15p Junior Mtg 6:30p Pebble Pups 6:30p Show Mtg 7:30p Gen Assembly | 16 | 17 10A—Micromount Group 2nd meeting 12n—Jewelry Group |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 7p Faceting Group | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 7:30p Camera Group | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 Halloween |

REFRESHMENTS FOR GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETINGS

Oct—Micromounts

Nov—Board

Dec—All

CSMS Field Trip

One more trip has been organized—Oct 10 to our Peridot Claim. Contact Sharon Holte, 217-5683, for info or see the web site for details.

Area Code 719

ELECTED EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

| | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|----------|---------------------------|
| PRESIDENT | Ron Yamiolkoski | 488-5526 | Ron.Yamiolkoski@aecom.com |
| VICE PRESIDENT | Mike Nelson | 522-1608 | csrockguy@yahoo.com |
| SECRETARY | Bob Germano | 487-8945 | gliders1@hotmail.com |
| TREASURER | Ann Proctor | 684-9010 | annmgmt@msn.com |
| MANAGING EDITOR | Betty Cain | 634-8205 | bettycain3@comcast.net |
| MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY | Bill Cain | 634-8205 | billcain4@comcast.net |
| MEMBER-AT-LARGE | Laura Canini | 260-6007 | caninid@comcast.net |
| MEMBER-AT-LARGE | Charles Webb | 392-7214 | (none) |
| PAST PRESIDENT | Drew Malin | 531-7594 | advanceone@comcast.net |

APPOINTED COMMITTEES

| | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------|---|
| FIELD TRIP CHAIR | Ron Yamiolkoski | 488-5526 | Ron.Yamiolkoski@aecom.com |
| HISTORIAN | Brenda Hawley | 633-5702 | bghsprings@hotmail.com |
| LIBRARIANS | Frank & Ellie Rosenberg | 594-0948 | emr80918@yahoo.com |
| PUBLICITY CO-CHAIRS | Mike Christianson Ann Schmechel | 321-1739 488-2664 | bigguglyxii@gmail.com annschmech@gmail.com |
| ROCK FAIR & SHOW CHAIR | Ron Yamiolkoski | 488-5526 | Ron.Yamiolkoski@aecom.com |
| SHOW CO-CHAIR | Francine Jampetero | 634-4880 | francijam@gmail.com |
| WEBMASTER | Allen Tyson | 268-0775 | allentyson@yahoo.com |

VOLUNTEER SATELLITE GROUPS

| | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|----------|-------------------------|
| CAMERA GROUP | Roger Pittman | 683-2603 | prpittman@directv.com |
| CRYSTAL STUDY | Kerry Burroughs | 634-4576 | kburrou@comcast.net |
| FACETING GROUP | Dave Wilson | 635-7891 | dlwilson@pcsisys.net |
| FOSSIL GROUP | Mike Nelson | 522-1608 | csrockguy@yahoo.com |
| JEWELRY GROUP | Bill Arnson | 749-2328 | ritaarnson@msn.com |
| JUNIORS & PEBBLE PUPS | Steven Veatch | 748-5010 | Steven.Veatch@gmail.com |
| MICROMOUNT GROUP | Phil McCollum | | acc@friei.com |

Locations

Board Meeting: 1st Thursday @ 7:00p, Senior Center, Mike Nelson, 522-1608

Camera Club: 4th Tuesday @ 7:30p, Senior Center, Roger Pittman, 683-2603

Crystal Study Group: 2nd Friday @ 7:30p, Senior Center; Kerry Burroughs, 634-4576

Faceting Group: 4th Thursday @ 7:00p, Senior Center, Dave Wilson, 635-7891

Fossil Study Group: 3rd Tuesday @ 7:00p every other month, Senior Center, Mike Nelson, 522-1608

Jewelry Group: 3rd Saturday @ 12n, 15610 Alta Plaza Circle, Peyton, Bill Arnson, 749-2328

Juniors & Pebble Pups: 3rd Thursday @ 5:15p & 6:30p, Senior Center, Steven Veatch, 748-5010

Micromounts Group: 2nd Tuesday @ 7:00p, 1514 North Hancock, Phil McCollum, acc@friei.com, Moyra Lyne, 442-2673. **Additional monthly meeting**—3rd Saturday, 10a-4p, 3609 Windsor Ave, Marj Regel 599-3031

SEPTEMBER 17TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY MINUTES

BY BOB GERMANO, CSMS SECRETARY

Ron Yamiolkoski called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM and continued with the Salute to the American Flag.

Yam entertained a motion to approve the July 16, 2009 minutes as they appeared in Pick&Pack; the motion was seconded and approved.

Anne Proctor provided a detailed Treasurer's Report to the general membership indicating we are doing well despite the current economic down turn.

We had the very good fortune to have 15 new members/guests attend our September meeting. Yam extended a welcome to all, continuing with the introduction of our Satellite Group Leaders and a short comment regarding the activities surrounding each group. Yam also commented on the current status of the Lapidary Group. Drew Malin, the past Lapidary Group Leader, agreed to host a meeting in the near future of all the Lapidary Group members in an effort to find a new leader and discuss possible new locations to conduct our lapidary meetings.

Our Annual Show Chairs are Ron Yamiolkoski and Francine Jampetero. The next organizational meeting will be October 15th at 6:30 PM in the Senior Center Lobby. Any and all members are welcome to attend. Yam had Annual Show flyers printed announcing our show and will get them posted around town and up to the Denver Show. He also noted we are in need of volunteers to ensure a successful event.

Our Librarians, Ellie & Frank Rosenberg, announced several new books were recently added to our library and encouraged the membership to view the library inventory on our website. To check books out, simply contact Frank or Ellie and tell them what book(s) you are interested in; they will have the book(s) at the next meeting. Books may be borrowed for one month.

Field Trip Chair, Ron Yamiolkoski, informed us that the 2009 field trip agenda was just about completed with the exception of the Topaz field trip and a possible second Holcim Cement Quarry trip in late October. He also noted a trip to the Florissant Fossil Beds may happen this year.

We have two new Publicity Chairs for 2009, Mike Christianson and Ann Schmechel. Welcome aboard.

In his President's Report, Yam noted it's almost time for the annual election of officers; therefore, he appointed a Nominating Committee to present a slate of officers for the elections to be held at our November General Assembly Meeting. The members of the committee are Lorrie Hutchinson, Sharon Holte, and Al Zelenak.

He continued his report by informing the membership that RMFMS has asked if we would be interested in hosting their Annual Show in 2011. Yam said, "I have checked with Phil Long Expo, and we can add a day to

our 2011 Show making it a 3 day Show as required by RMFMS. The Board has approved the idea of us doing the Show subject to the approval of the General Assembly. If you vote yes for us hosting the RMFMS Show please keep this in mind, this effort will entail more work than our regular show; therefore, we will need more volunteers than normal. If you vote no, we will still have our usual Annual Show. but we will not be hosting the RMFMS Show." A motion was made to host RMFMS at our 2011 show; it was seconded and voted on, resulting in a majority vote of "YES" with two "NO" votes.

Membership Chair, Bill Cain, reported a total of 239 paid memberships to date, including 51 new members for the year.

Pick&Pack Editor, Betty Cain, displayed the new CSMS ball caps and bucket hats that will sell for \$10 and \$17, respectively. This is a great way to keep safe from the high county sun (several were sold after the business meeting). She also informed the membership that Steve Veatch will be presenting "*Victor - Colorado's City of Mines: Its History, Geology, Mines and Minerals*" and "*Pseudomorphs - They Aren't What They Use to Be*" by Ray Berry and Jack Thompson at the 30th Annual New Mexico Mineral Symposium, 14 & 15 November 2009, being held at the Macey Center, New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, Socorro, New Mexico.

The door prizes for the meeting were provided by Ray Berry (smoky quartz) and Tom Towles (orthoclase feldspar).

The show-and-tell portion of the meeting got under way with the various satellite groups showing the best of their summer finds. This was an informal meeting designed to provide new members with the opportunity to see what each of the CSMS groups do and perhaps join their ranks. There were ample displays and lots of good conversation.

As always some final reminders:

1. Check the CSMS website periodically for updates on field trips. Yam is still looking for more trips.
2. If you have not paid your dues as yet, please get them to Bill Cain as soon as possible.
3. The Micromount Group will provide refreshments for the October General Assembly Meeting.
4. The next Annual Show Planning Meeting will be on October 15th at 6:30 PM, before our next General Assembly Meeting. See Yam and help us distribute the flyers.
5. The Rocky Mountain Federation Show is in Roswell, NM on October 2-4, 2009.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.

October 2009

**Our Staff...**

Betty Cain *Editor*
 Bill Cain *Mailer*
 CSMS Members *Reporters*

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 is the Saturday after the General Assembly every month.

To submit an item, please use the following:

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

All articles not shown with an author are provided by the Editor.

Mail or email to:
 bettycain3@comcast.net or
 Info@csms.us
 PO Box 2
 Colorado Springs, CO 80901
 Phone: (719) 634-8205

The Pick&Pack is published at least ten (10) times per year with email distribution and/or printed copies to 450 recipients per month (no issues in January or August); special editions may be distributed during January or August.

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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.

**CSMS Caps & Hats are
 now available. Pick yours
 up at the Oct Meeting**

CSMS Membership Pins

2008 New Members who have paid their 2009 dues are entitled to a one-year pin, as are other members renewing on 5-yr increments. Please see Bill Cain, Membership Secretary, to receive your **award**.

All back-year pins may be purchased for \$5 ea.

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Betty Cain, Editor



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October 2009



Joining the Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society (CSMS)

General Assembly meetings are held the third (3rd) Thursday of each month, except January & 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, Fossil Group, Jewelry Group, Lapidary Group, Micromounts Group, and Pebble Pups/Juniors. For details on Satellite Group meetings, see page 9.

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. **New Members Oct 1-Dec 31 receive 15 months of membership.**

Individuals—\$20

Family—\$30

Juniors—\$5

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 at www.csms.us or send an email to Info@csms.us.