PICK&PACK

THE BULLETIN OF THE COLORADO SPRINGS MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY Published Since 1960

December 2012
PICK&PACK
Volume 52 Number 10

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 10 times each year to assist and promote the above.

Proud Members of:

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS)
www.amfed.org

Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies (RMFMS)
www.rmfms.org

Colorado Federation of Gem & Mineral Societies (CFGMS)

Merry Christmas, etc

December 20, 2012 7:00 p.m. sharp or sooner.

Please bring a small mineral, beautifully wrapped, well labeled with new form to share..

Also, goodies of all kinds to share and eat over and laugh over!!

Oh, and we will be having a silent auction… see the six pictures attached… we have a passel of very nice specimens for use by the society. These will be on the silent auction table for the duration of the evening… these will not be cheap…. extremely nice specimens!!!

Attached, also, find the "Silent Auction" form the society will be using from now on. redesigned, updated, and can be edited on the computer….designed so the information can be typed in the line below,

such as *Mineral Name:*

We will be accepting additional minerals for the Silent Auction, so if you have one or two extra, nice, and beautiful specimens, please bring to donate. Our auctioneer will be Yam….

This party should be fast paced and fun for all!!!

Hope to see you Thursday evening with money for silent auction minerals: minerals wrapped to share: and goodies to consume!!

ROAD TRIP: RIVER THAMES AND STONEHENGE

Mike Nelson csrockguy@yahoo.com

This last October I had the opportunity to visit my family in the countryside around Maidenhead, England, United Kingdom (Fig. 1). Maidenhead is a small town west of London (but still metro London) and located very near the famous Windsor Castle, part-time home of the Queen. The last time I looked her standard was flying (she is home) and I thought about stopping in for tea! After observing the castle I asked local citizens about the rocks that were used to build the structure. No luck in finding the answer. So I am attempting to locate answers in the literature but again most articles simply refer to the construction material as "stone". But, is that a quarried rock of some sort, dressed river cobbles, or perhaps brick? Don't know but hope to find out.

I had headed to Maidenhead with the idea of locating different types of rocks cropping out in the area and doing some rock hounding. However, I should have acquired a geological map of the area before having those grandiose thoughts about finding minerals. Mostly I settled for looking at the paving stones (granitic) and ornamental "gravel" (slate).

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January 17, 2012—General Meeting and Swearing in of 2013 Officers

Where: Golden Corral—E Woodmen Rd—by Home Depot

Time: 6:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Be certain to tell the cashier you are w/ CSMS

Articles in this Issue:

December 2012 CSMS Calendar	
Tue., Dec 4—*Fossil Group*, Fossil History through time: 7 p.m., Senior Center. Mike Nelson, Leader, csrockguy@yahoo.com	Thurs., Dec 6—*Board Meeting*, 7 p.m., Senior Center.
Tues., Dec 11—*Micromounts*, 7 p.m., Senior Center. Dave Olsen, Leader, 719.495.8720	Thurs., Dec 20 *General Assembly*, Christmas Party 7 p.m., Senior Center. *Pebble Pups & Juniors.* 5:30 to 6:15 p.m. Steven Veatch, Leader, 719.748.5010
Thurs., Dec 27—*Crystal Group*, Meeting or Christmas Luncheon Kerry will contact group members Kerry Burroughs, Leader, 719.210-6389 Faceting Group, No Meeting Paul Berry, Leader, 719.578.5466	Dec, *Jewelry Group*, By appointment only. Please call, Bill Arnson, Leader, 719.749.2328 to schedule a mutually agreeable time. 15610 Alta Plaza Cir., Peyton.
Dec—*Lapidary*—RSVP please. If you would like to cut stones, call Sharon Holte at 217.5683 for an appointment.	
Project Group—TBD—contact Ron "Yam" Yamiolkoski, yamofthewest@gmail.com	*Camera Club* is looking for a leader and meeting place, date and time. Interested? Contact Roger Pittman.
For more information on any of the sub-groups, meetings, and other CSMS valuable information, go to our website, csms.us	The Senior Center is located at 1514 North Hancock in Colorado Springs.

January 2013 CSMS Calendar	
Tue., Jan 1—*Fossil Group*, New Years Day No Meeting Looking for a new Leader	Thurs., Jan 3—*Board Meeting*, 7 p.m., Senior Center.
Tues., Jan 8—*Micromounts*, 7 p.m., Senior Center. Dave Olsen, Leader, 719.495.8720	Thurs., Jan 17—*Installation Banquet at Golden Corral*, Speaker Whitey Hagadorn of DMNS *Pebble Pups & Juniors.* 5:30 to 6:15 p.m. Steven Veatch, Leader, 719.748.5010
Thurs., Jan 24—*Crystal Group*, TBD 7 p.m., Senior Center., Kerry Burroughs, Leader, 719.210-6389 Faceting Group, 7 p.m., Senior Center. Paul Berry, Leader, 719.578.5466	Jan, *Jewelry Group*, By appointment only. Please call, Bill Arnson, Leader, 719.749.2328 to schedule a mutually agreeable time. 15610 Alta Plaza Cir., Peyton.
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For more information on any of the sub-groups, meetings, and other CSMS valuable information, go to our website, csms.us	The Senior Center is located at 1514 North Hancock in Colorado Springs.

Article about Zach that appeared in October 2012 edition of Rock and Gem

Please read the article in Rock and Gem, Page 38

My name is **Zachary Sepulveda**. I am 14 years old, and I am a 9th grader at Palmer Ridge High School in Monument, Colorado. I am from Southern California, and I have been interested in geology and paleontology since I was very young. My objectives for school are to get a Ph.D in paleontology at Montana State University.

I am a member of the Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society (CSMS) and participate actively in the Pebble Pup/Junior program. Since I have become a member this year I have represented the CSMS at the Colorado Springs Science Olympiad at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs where I conducted the mineral testing and scoring portion of the regional middle school students. I also helped the Pebble Pup/Junior program leader conduct a field program for the Earth Science Students from Emporia State University where the leader is an adjunct professor. I assisted with conducting all aspects of the college-level field trip. I also attended a meeting and field trip of the Florissant Scientific Society, a group of geoscientists that meet at various locations along the Front Range of Colorado each month.

I have participated in all of the Pebble Pup/Junior classes and helped teach one where I prepared a PowerPoint program on core sampling and how to determine which core has the most mineral value for mining. I have written two paleontology poems that have been accepted for publication in *Deposits* magazine, an international rock, mineral, and fossil publication. My poems have been published nation-wide in club newsletters. I am presently working on fossil spider project with the head of the arthropoda laboratory at the Paleontological Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences in Moscow.

I have also earned an Earth Science Achievement Award from Palmer Ridge High School—the only student in 9th and 10th grade to earn this award. The award was for outstanding Earth science student. I have done all of these things since I joined the CSMS in January, 2010. I am looking forward to working on more writing and research pro-

SECRETARY'S SPOT

by Jean Miller, CSMS

COLORADO SPRINGS MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY

To be passed out during General Meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Jean Miller.

Zachary Sepulveda

Socorro, NM ***Sand Hill Crains by Marge Regel***

Western Museum of Mining and Industry Awarded 3rd Place
for Best Cultural Attraction/Museum in Colorado Springs

The Western Museum of Mining and Industry was recently awarded 3rd Place for Cultural Attraction/Museum in the Colorado Springs Independent newspaper's *Best of Colorado Springs 2012* readers' poll.

Founded in 1970 by Frederick and Katherine Farrar as the "Museum of the West", the current exhibit hall was opened in July 1982, making 2012 the 30th anniversary of the museum. Dedicated to the collection, preservation, and educational interpretation of America's western mining heritage, the museum continues to operate today to the delight of young and old alike.

Visitors and school children explore the dynamics of physics, geology, and history on guided tours available Monday through Saturday at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. With over 4,000 artifacts on display in the 12,200 square foot exhibit hall including a working hoist, "widow maker" pneumatic drill, gold panning station, and multiple fully operational steam engines, the museum's staff and volunteers strive to make Colorado's colorful mining history and American industry appreciated and understood by all.

In addition to daily-guided tours, the Museum hosts several special events throughout the year such as Family Exploration Saturdays, special exhibits, and Heritage Lectures. With over 27 acres to explore, there is something for everyone at the Museum. For further information on membership, ticket prices, location, hours, and upcoming events, visit the museum's website at www.wmmi.org or call (719) 488-0880.

Park County Tax Sale Lots Yield a Treasure Trove of Chalcedony, Petrified Wood, and Other Specimens

By

Luke Sattler

Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society Junior Member

I recently took a field trip to the Hartsel and South Park area of Colorado with my brother, grandparents, Steven Veatch (the Pikes Peak Pebble Pups Leader), and his wife Shelly to check on two pieces of real property Steven Veatch received by paying the back taxes through the Park County Treasurer's Office in Fairplay, Colorado.

My grandmother, within seconds, found some beautiful blue chalcedony and some large, very smooth, jet black nodules that may be chalcedony as well. Other colors of chalcedony were found as well as petrified wood.

Chalcedony is a cryptocrystalline form of silica, its chemical structure or composition is SiO_2 or (silicon dioxide). Chalcedony forms in lower temperature solutions unlike crystalline quartz, which forms in high temperature solutions (Ralph & Chau, 1993-2012). Chalcedony's luster is dull to waxy, the hardness of chalcedony is 6 to 7, and has a fracture of uneven to conchoidal. The streak of chalcedony is white. There are many forms of chalcedony that include: carnelian, chrysoprase (green chalcedony), heliotrope (bloodstone), onyx, agate and moss agate.

The specimens of chalcedony—some with agate banding—are from a site near Hartsel in the South Park Ranches Subdivision. The material at this site occurred in veins and, over time, weathered free from the vein that now allows for easy collecting. This sort of material is called "float" (Figure 1).

Chalcedony at this site also formed into a crystalline habit known as botryoidal. Botryodial's name refers to its "Greek" name meaning grape-like. The grape formation occurs when thick mineral fluids form around a particle into a "jelly" like substance inside a void and solidify, leaving a bubbly surface outside of the specimen (Smigle, 2012). Some of the material had small vugs or cavities from where small drusy quartz crystals grew to form small, very attractive geodes (Figure 2).

Figure 1. An assortment of chalcedony specimens from the collection site. Photo October, 2012 by© Luke Sattler . A Luke Sattler specimen.

Figure 2. Image of one of the chalcedony specimens found near Hartsel, Colorado. Photo October, 2012 by© Luke Sattler . A Luke Sattler specimen.

Exploring the property obtained through the tax sale process not only yielded a great afternoon and fantastic views but provided us a great collecting opportunity where we found within hours various kinds of chalcedony and even some beautiful petrified wood.

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References Cited

Ralph, J., & Chau, I. (1993-2012). Chalcedony . Retrieved from http://www.mindat.org/min-960.html

Smigle, B. (2012). Botryoidal gems . Retrieved from http://www.bwsmigel.info/GEOL.115.ESSAYS/Gemology.Botryoidal.html

The End

See next page for Picture and Bio

Bio of principal author:
Luke is an avid rock, mineral, and fossil collector. He is a member of the Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society and participates in the youth division. He has written a number of papers on the geosciences and has been published throughout the nation. He is in 9th grade and lives in Castle Rock, Colorado.

The End

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INFORMATION: symposium@westernpaleo.org

"Ice Worlds and Their Fossils" Symposium to Explore Cool Times on Earth

Early registration is now open for March 16-17, 2013 event.

Denver (November 5, 2013) – The Western Interior Paleontological Society (WIPS) invites anyone interested in fossils and science to join them at "Ice Worlds and Their Fossils," a weekend symposium set for March 16-17, 2013. The event will be held at the Green Center, Colorado Schools of Mines, 16th and Cheyenne Streets, in Golden.

Many may know about "The Ice Age," usually a reference to Earth's most recent global cold snap that abated 12,000 years ago. Fewer people know that the last two million years may have seen 50 or more glacial advances and retreats—and that glacial climates are far from a recent phenomenon in Earth's history. Over a dozen speakers will tell the story of how glaciations and ice ages have shaped life on our planet, including top scientists from organizations such as the Denver Museum of Nature & Science, the Smithsonian, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

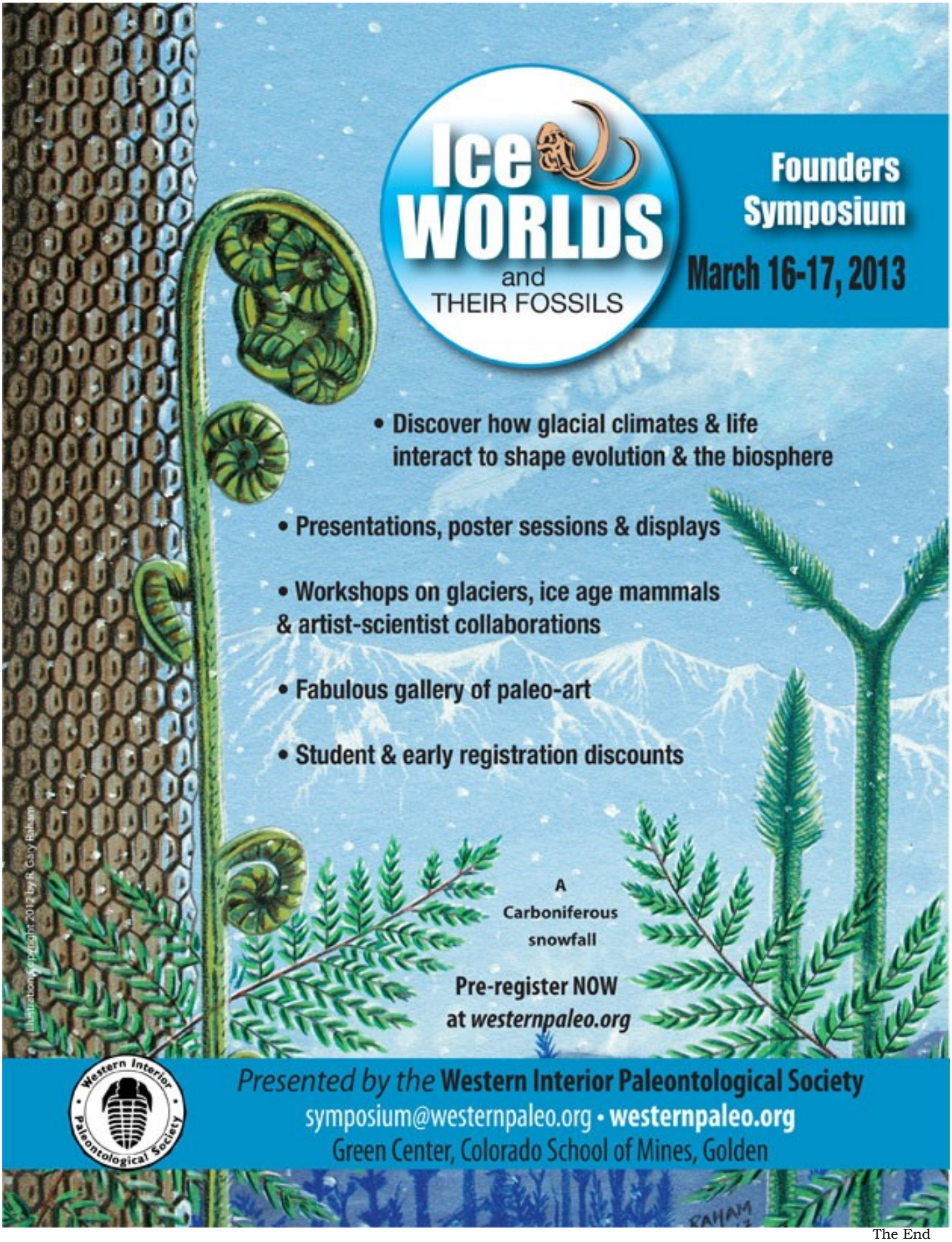
"Ice Worlds and Their Fossils" will also offer an art gallery featuring the work of local natural science artists as well as exhibits from organizations such as the Friends of Dinosaur Ridge, and displays of fossils.

An early registration discount is available until January 7, 2013, and a highly discounted rate is available for students. The two-day event is $75 for early registration and $85 if registering after January 7th. One-day registration is $40 until January 7th and $50 thereafter. Student registration is $15/day. For details and to register, visit westernpaleo.org and select "symposium."

About the Founders Symposium and the Western Interior Paleontological Society

Founded in 1985, WIPS is a nonprofit organization dedicated to scientific, educational and charitable activities related to paleontology, the study of fossils. The Founders Symposium, held every other year, honors the individuals who formed and guided the Society in its early years. Proceeds help fund WIPS grants and scholarships for researchers and students in paleontology.

See flyer, Next Page


Ice WORLDS
and
THEIR FOSSILS
Founders
Symposium
March 16-17, 2013
• Discover how glacial climates & life interact to shape evolution & the biosphere
• Presentations, poster sessions & displays
• Workshops on glaciers, ice age mammals & artist-scientist collaborations
• Fabulous gallery of paleo-art
• Student & early registration discounts
A Carboniferous snowfall
Pre-register NOW at westernpaleo.org
Western Interior Paleontological Society
Presented by the Western Interior Paleontological Society
symposium@westernpaleo.org • westernpaleo.org
Green Center, Colorado School of Mines, Golden

The End

I am a fan of river systems and always have been impressed with their complexity and intricacy. My personal game, as a child, was to learn about the major rivers of each country. My goal, as an adult, is to take a cruise down a river. So, I was excited to see the river at Maidenhead for the town is located on the River Thames upstream from London (Fig. 2) about 26 miles; their current town bridge dates from 1777. This Thames is certainly the most famous stream in the UK, and is also the longest river flowing entirely in England---at a robust 215 miles. That length certainly seems rather puny compared to the Platte or Arkansas here in Colorado! The Thames has a drainage basin of ~5k mi^2 while the Arkansas collects water from 170k mi^2. Much like the Mississippi River in the U.S., the Thames has a somewhat disputed source; the marked source with a designated sign is some seasonal spring named Thames Head. From the springs in west-central England the River generally flows east before finally emptying into the North Sea via the Thames Estuary (Fig. 2). The River is wide and tidal from the Estuary until a few miles upstream of London (Teddington Locks). It is the major shipping lane for the Port of London and the Royal Navy steamed an aircraft carrier to dock during the recent Olympics. Perhaps the most famous bridge on the River is/was London Bridge now located in Lake Havasu City, Arizona (Fig.3)! Although a proto-Thames drainage was established perhaps by ~60 Ma, the current river owes its course to Pleistocene glaciation.

Fig. 1. Map of Great Britain. Note position of Maidenhead a nd London. Map from Free-worldmaps.net

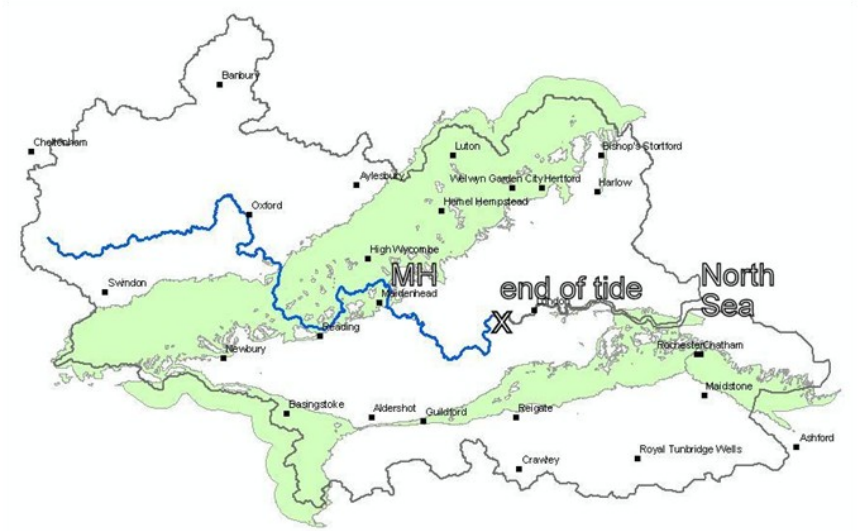


Fig. 2. Drainage basin of the River Thames. MH is Maidenhead. X is between MH and London and is the end of the tidal reach. Map from British Geological Survey.

Fig. 3. London Bridge (1831),

London Bridge (1831), moved from London to Lake Havasu City, AZ, and reconstructed in 1971 as a tourist attraction. The building stone is the Haytor Granite ~290 Ma quarried from the English County of Devon (the area that gave a name to the Devonian geological period).

In Maidenhead the river is navigable, but is quite narrow, and the barges and boats seem long and very "slim". I am uncertain how some of the boats are able to "turn around" in the river! There are numerous locks on the Thames including a set at Maidenhead, the Boulter's Locks that date to 1828. I was able to observe a boat locking through and noticed how “tiny” the locks seemed compared to the massive locks on the Mississippi River near my former home in Wisconsin.

I enjoyed walking downtown in the mornings to have my daily libation at Java and Company. All coffee, as best I can tell, is served Americano style and with steaming hot water poured over 4 shots of espresso in a ceramic mug (take-away paper cups are not common). I also have a soft spot in my heart for sweet pastries so was able to get my daily shot of sugar in the

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shop! Morning coffee is always good with a newspaper and as a news junkie I enjoyed the selection of papers. It is quite easy to find at least 10 dailies to choose from and I sort of preferred the Daily Express at 5 pence, about $07.5. What a bargain.

Fig. 4. Boulter's Locks in Maidenhead.

The UK is "sort of" part of the European Union as they kept their own currency (British Pound Sterling) but participate in most other ways. However, there seems to be quite a push by many members of Parliament to remove the UK from that organization. It will be interesting to see the results---if the government allows a vote. Another major issue coming up is a vote by Scottish citizens to become an independent nation and leave the UK (Fig. 1: England, Wales, Northern Ireland, and Scotland).

I am also fascinated by the advanced age (at least according to U.S. chronology) of the buildings. One of the local pubs in nearby Bray was constructed in the 15th century and others are older. And speaking of pubs, it was a treat to visit the local establishment for a pint of ale (my favorites are Fursty Ferret, and Old Thumper (A Beast of a Beer) and conversation. To my great happiness, 8-10 televisions were not blaring out football games during visits. And, after a couple of visits, the locals were quite accepting of a stranger.

Unfortunately I was not able to locate a local rock/mineral shop nor a local rock and mineral club. I had hoped to acquire some new like-minded friends! On my next trip I will probably attempt to find a local club outside of the immediate Maidenhead area.

Fig. 5. Stonehenge in the English countryside.

I continued to lament about the lack of outcrops in the Thames River basin near Maidenhead. Perhaps I just missed the rocks, or they were obscured by the vegetation, or maybe modern construction activities destroyed the evidence. At any rate, I needed my fix of rocks and so begin hunting for areas external of the town. Well, I located some fascinating rocks; however, they were exotic to the area and not arranged in stratigraphic order! On the other hand, these rocks were located at a World Heritage Area the world knows as Stonehenge.

I decided to brave the traffic and head west from Maidenhead driving "on the wrong side of the road" for about 70 miles to near the village of Amesbury (Fig. 1). Other than some white knuckle stress the trip was completed without incident. I do feel fortunate that this excursion was completed midweek in October rather than in prime summer visitor season.

Millions of people around the world have at least heard of Stonehenge, mostly due to these very large rocks laid out in a mysterious arrangement (Fig. 5). There is some sort of stone alignment with the sun and the Summer and Winter Solstices are special times. However, we (modern populations) often fail to understand that some members of past civilizations were "very intelligent" and were able to interpret and predict celestial events with great accuracy. These events were marked in a variety of ways including rock windows, stone markers, displays on rock faces, etc. At Stonehenge the builders marked these celestial events by importing some really large rocks, some as large as 25 tons, and arranging them in a methodical order to maximize astronomical observations and mysticisms. In earlier time the area was heavily forested.

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The more I tried to learn about the history of Stonehenge, the more confused I became! However, that seems normal as scientists have been unable to unravel but a small part of the history. Media outlets have popularized the pagan ceremonies of the modern neo-Druids at Stonehenge, and equated these activities with ancient Druids. In doing so, they have piqued the interest of the public. However, the British Museum believes neo-Druids have no connection with ancient Druids, a group of priests living in the UK and France before the arrival of the Romans. And, Stonehenge was long constructed before the ancient Druids obtained any sort of power in the population. The history of Stonehenge is complex and certainly beyond the scope of this posting. So, I encourage readers to locate some of the hundreds/thousands of articles and books written on the subject—just carefully scrutinize the sources and stick to reputable authors such as the British Museum and academic geologists, historians, and archaeologists.

Stonehenge, at least what remains, is a circular placement of large exotic rocks arranged within a series of ditches and earthworks. Although unique in several ways, it is far from being the only example of ancient works. There are literally hundreds of Neolithic (~4000-2500 BC) and Bronze Age (~2500-800 BC) rock works, rock monuments, and burial mounds located in the UK. The earliest evidence of human activity at Stonehenge dates to perhaps ~7500-8000 BC and is in the form of holes that held posts (that would be postholes!). What these poles held up seems to be anyone's guess. The earliest rock construction seems to be ~3100 BC and involved digging a ditch, and piling up the rocks, in the poorly exposed chalk bedrock (Cretaceous Seaford Chalk).

Fig. 6. How did the workers ever "lift or slide" these multi-tons rocks.

By around ~2600 BC the builders were using an igneous rock (Ordovician dolerite/diabase) locally called bluestone, and lesser amounts of rhyolite and tuff. The original source of the bluestone was from Wales, and scientists have long debated the mechanisms of transporting large (several tons) rocks over 150 miles. Recently workers from the British Museum have suggested the bluestones were actually taken from local glacial erratics—still from Wales but transported to a closer location by Pleistocene glaciers.

A major building phase from ~2600 -2400 BC produced perhaps the most impressive part of the Stonehenge structure—construction of a ring of 30 standing rocks (each 13 feet high, 7 feet wide, 25 tons) capped with 39 "lintel" rocks (10 feet by 3.5 feet)—the so called Sarsen Stones! These rocks, silicified Tertiary sandstone, came from quarries perhaps 25 miles distant, or from local glacial erratics (Fig. 6). Inside this circle is a U-shaped arrangement of five "trilithons" (two standing rocks topped by a lintel) held together by a mortise and tenon joint system. Inside of this arrangement are other rocks including the "alter stone".

Additional building, and rock rearrangement, of Stonehenge continued for several hundred years, and modern civilizations have contributed to its demise by "taking away" bits and pieces and even whole rocks. Today Stonehenge is owned by the Crown and surrounding land is protected by a trust.

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Fig. 7. Perhaps this was Stonehenge? Sketch from Mandalasrok.comuf.comj.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by

Roger Pittman, CSMS

This is the last message that I will write as president of CSMS. Next month Mark Lemesany will assume all the responsibilities of the president and I hope that you support him and lend him and the rest of the board your expertise in the coming year. One of my last duties will be to present several of our members with awards from the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies. I already have had the pleasure of presenting these Jr. Members six awards; Jack & Julie (mom) Shimon 1st Place Written Feature, Jack & Julie Shimon and a Certificate of Appreciation, Jacob Murphy-2nd place Jr's 12 and under and a Certificate of Appreciation, Luke Sattler – American Federation of Mineralogical Societies Jr. Rockhound of The Year! At our installation / awards banquet I will have the opportunity to present these adult awards;

Terry Beh – Adult articles 1st Place for his article **"Amazing Fossil Discoveries at Colorado Ski Town"**,

Ellie Rosenberg – Adult Articles 2nd Place for her article **"Thunder Bay Amethyst"**,

Andy Weinzaphel – 2nd Place Adult Advanced Articles for his article **"The Global Politics of Rare Earth: Why Our High Tech Life-Style is Under Pressure"**,

Mike Nelson - Honorable Mention Adult Advanced Articles for his article "**Go West Young Man, Go West, There is Health in the Country",**

Frank & Ellie Rosenberg – Written Features – Honorable Mention for their article **"Our Next Great Adventure",**

Richard Strecker Written Features – Honorable Mention for his article "**Clarence Coil Display Case".**

Ron Yamilkoski - Written Features – Honorable Mention for his article **"The Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society 2011 – Our 75th Anniversary".**

CSMS is blessed to have these and it's many other knowledgeable members who share their expertise with us through the Pick & Pack their blogs and web sites. It has been a pleasure to serve as your president these past two years. I hope to see you all at our installation / awards banquet in January.

The End

Pikes Peak Pebble Pups work with the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument to Make Cool Science Day a Success

By Steven Wade Veatch

The Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society and the Lake George Gem and Mineral Club's Pebble Pup/Earth Science Scholars program combined forces with the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument to be a part of the Cool Science Carnival Day at the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs on Saturday, October 13, 2012.

Nonprofits, government agencies, museums, and other organizations from across the state provided a day of fun and science related activities. Cool Science presented more than 80 live science shows, workshops, activity stations, and performances throughout the day. The goal of Cool Science is to get Pikes Peak area students, parents and teachers engaged in exciting hands-on activities and workshops designed to provide intimidation-free opportunities to explore the joy of science and engineering.

The Pikes Peak Pebble Pups dominated an entire hall with a line-up on of activities that had to be spread out over six tables. We had five pebble pup/junior members work the event the entire day. More than 5,000 parents and kids attended the event. A number of the young people who visited our tables plan to join pebble pups and visit the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument soon.

A Florissant Fossil Beds National Park ranger mans the fossil beds table next to the CSMS table.

Soon another crowd appears wanting to know more about Earth science. Guess what? They came to the right place!

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The parents are as interested in our proceedings as their kids

Steve speaking passionately with a parent

A number of potential pebble pups look at our displays.

More possible pebble pups.

The Waldo Canyon Fire
by Jack Shimon, age 7
Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society

I live by the Waldo Canyon fire
I saw flames and smoke in the sky
My art teacher lost her house
How did this happen here?
We had a big drought
The trees are dry
We need more
Water
Now

Note: this poem is a nonet. A nonet is a nine line poem. The first line containing nine syllables, the next line has eight syllables, the next line has seven syllables. That continues until the last line (the ninth line) which has one syllable. Nonets can be written about any subject. Rhyming is optional.

Author Bio: Jack Shimon is a member of the Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society Pebble Pups and he participates with the Pikes Peak Pebble Pups and Earth Science Scholars on projects, field trips, and community outreach projects. He has fun and school and brings his dog Comet to all Pebble Pup meetings. Comet is the mascot for the CSMS Pebble Pups.

News Release

Happy National Fossil Day!

The Pikes Peak Pebble Pups were well represented in **an art contest to** celebrate the third National Fossil Day. The National Park Service and the American Geological Institute partnered to host the third annual National Fossil Day on **October 17, 2012** during Earth Science Week. National Fossil Day is a celebration organized to promote public awareness and stewardship of fossils, as well as to foster a greater appreciation of their scientific and educational value.

Here are the winners of the contest: **Ciena Higginbotham** *First Place* 14-18 year old category Pikes Peak Pebble Pups (Lake George Gem and Mineral Club) and **Jack Shimon** *Third Place* 5-8 year old category Pikes Peak Pebble Pups (Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society). It is unusual to have two winners in a national contest from the same informal educational group.
Pebble Pups and Earth Science Scholars (teens) were invited via the Pikes Peak Pebble Pup website to participate in the contest sponsored by the National Park Service. Several Pikes Peak Pebble Pups and Earth Science Scholars responded.

The national winners were posted on the following National Park Service Website:
http://nature.nps.gov/geology/nationalfossilday/art_contest_2012_results.cfm

The Pikes Peak Pebble Pups and Earth Science Scholars explore the wonders of rock, mineral,and fossil collecting in the Pikes Peak region.This program participates with the Future Rockhounds of America under the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies. The purpose is to train Pebble Pups and Junior Members (teens) to become skilled rockhounds and enjoy science. The Pebble Pups and teen members of the Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society and the Lake George Gem and Mineral Club use this blog site to display their research, writing, art, and yes, even Earth science poetry: http://pebblepups.blogspot.com/

Many of the pebble pups have been published in international magazines, newspapers, and electronic media. A large number of the Pebble Pups and Earth Science Scholars have received science writing awards. Several members have participated in science fairs and the regional Science Olympiad at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. Similar groups have launched some of the careers of notable geologists and paleontologists.

The Pebble Pup leader is Steven Veatch, a volunteer interpretive ranger at the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument. Veatch is strongly supported by John Rakowski, Dr. Bob Carnein, Julie Shimon, Roger Pittman, Allison Schlesinger,Sharon Holte, Betty Merchant, and all of the parents.

A celebration and reception has been planned at the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument to recognize these young paleo artists on **January 19th, 2013**. **Festivities will begin at 9:30 am**. The Pebble Pups and their friends and families will honor the two winners, tour the new visitor center, and then do some fun paleo activities in the yurt. The Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds will be providing refreshments. There will be lots of excitement and more fun than we can stand. The local press and broadcast media have been invited to this event at the fossil beds.For more information please call **Steven Veatch at 719-748-5010.**

Art by

Ciena Higginbotham

(first place)

The End

Art by

Jack Shimon

(Third Place 5-8 year old)

Photos of art work by Steven Veatch

(And, they have snow. No fair!

The End

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Dave Olsen, Micromount Group

Gary del Valle, Webmaster

To contact an officer or chairperson, go to csms.us, click on Board Members, and, if their name is underlined, click on it.

Sub-Group Responsibilities for Refreshments for General Assembly Meetings		
Feb.—Crystal	Mar.—Faceting	Apr.—Fossil
May—Jewelry	September—Lapidary	September—Micromounts
Aug.—Picnic	Sept.—Projects	Oct.—Board
Nov.-TBD	Dec.-TBD	

Theories abound as to the use of Stonehenge—take your pick (Fig. 7). Was it a cemetery? Yes, at least part of the time. A place of mystical or spiritual worship? Probably. A place for astronomical observations? Yes, at least part of the time. A place for healing? Maybe, that is a recent proposal. Whatever its use, the builders and users left behind no written record and Stonehenge's place in history may always be debated. However, I found it to be a place of marvel and reverence.

Upon returning to Maidenhead I poured myself a pint of Fursty Ferret and tried to interpret what I had seen—it was confusing! However, I could picture in my mind a group of ancient people gathering at Stonehenge trying to decipher the events of a Summer Solstice.

It took five hundred men just to pull each sarsen, plus a hundred more to dash around positioning the rollers. Just think about it for a minute. Can you imagine trying to talk six hundred people into helping you drag a fifty-ton stone eighteen miles across the countryside and muscle it into an upright position, and then saying, 'Right, lads! Another twenty like that, plus some lintels and maybe a couple of dozen nice bluestones from Wales, and we can party! Bill Bryson

The End

Cretaceous Petrified Wood

By Blake Reher

It is hard to believe this ancient rock was once a living thing;
That grew in the ground of the Cretaceous from a tiny seed.
Who knows, maybe a mammal ran up it one night searching for food?
Not knowing of its future wonder.
Triceratops may have fought for mating rights near this magnificent tree—
But of course we will never know—
For the secrets of the past are forever a secret.

Petrified wood from the Cretaceous Period. From the collection of Blake Reher. Photo © by Blake Reher.

The End

October 2012

PICK & PACK

Our Staff...

Sharon Holte & Ellie Rosenberg—Co-Editors
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 Board Meeting** - first Thursday of each 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 hardcopy 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 are preferred in word. Editors will correct font and type.

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

E-Mail to: preferred
SharonRocksCo@gmail.com
Mail to:
Pick & Pack Editors

CSMS Field Trips

No more 2012 field trips. Pooh

Below photo by Steven Veatch

Classifieds

CSMS

T-Shirts, Badges, and Pins

Are available for sale.

See Store Keeper, Ann Proctor.

Hurry! Hurry!! Hurry!!

Have You Picked Up Your

Membership Award Pin(s)?

If you celebrated a CSMS anniversary in 2007, 2008, 2009, or 2010, your year pin award is available from

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Joining the Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society (CSMS)

General Assembly meetings are held the **third (3rd) Thursday of each month**, except January & August, (picnic) **beginning at 7:00 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: Crystal Study Group, Faceting Group, Fossil Group, Jewelry Group by RVSP, Lapidary Group by RVSP, Micromounts Group, and Pebble Pups/Juniors. For details on Satellite Group meetings, check out the calendars on page 2 and the web-site.

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—$30 Family—$40 Juniors—$15 Corporate—$100 ********Application is on the web-site.

If you are interested in joining CSMS or would like more information, we encourage you to attend our next General Assembly meeting or visit our web site: www.csms.us.