

PICK & PACK

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TRACKING THE PIERRE SHALE

BY DR. MIKE NELSON, CSMS

It appears that many readers of the Pick & Pack must drive across South Dakota on their travel journeys as I have received several requests to continue discussions about the geology/minerals of South Dakota. For example, Sarah writes: *Rockguy, last summer my family and I traveled to Minnesota and drove through South Dakota. As we crossed the Missouri River I noticed cliffs (guess it might have been limestone) topped by a black shale unit. Was this shale the same as what we have here in Pueblo?*



Fig.1. Outcrop of Niobrara Formation along Missouri River, South Dakota. Photo courtesy of Howard Woodward.

Sarah, you are very perceptive in noticing the two units, and yes, the South Dakota formations are the same as those cropping out along the I-25 corridor in southern Colorado. What you were observing were the Niobrara Formation, the lower limy and chalky unit (Fig. 1), and the overlying Pierre Shale (Fig. 2). Both of these formations were deposited as marine units in the great Western Interior Seaway (WIS; see March 2010 Pick & Pack) and both

are well exposed in the trench carved by the modern Missouri River.

The Niobrara Formation was named by the great 19th century geologists F. B. Meek and F. V. Hayden from outcrops along the Missouri River near Yankton, SD (1862). The Niobrara forms massive cliffs, perhaps 100 feet high, along the river but especially near the mouth of the Niobrara River in Knox County, NE (Fig. 1). The Niobrara, and its correlative units, crops out throughout the area of the WIS but may be best known from exposures in western Kansas. Here the formation is divided into the lower Fort Hays Limestone Member, a hard buff-colored and ridge-forming limestone (type locality near the city of Hays, KS) and the overlying Smoky Hill Chalk. This upper member is the coccolith-rich, buff to yellow to orange to gray chalky shale that has produced so many wonderful specimens of fish and marine reptiles, especially near the type locality along the Smoky Hill River in Gove County. Outside of western Kansas it is sometimes difficult to identify whether the rocks are the Fort Hays or Smoky Hill.

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In the Colorado Springs area the Niobrara is well exposed in Garden of the Gods and the Red Rock Canyon

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.

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Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society

Founded in 1936

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Fig. 2. The Pierre Shale and remains of the manganese mine.
Photo by author.

Open Space.

The overlying Pierre Shale (and its correlatives), named for exposures near Fort Pierre, SD (Meek and Hayden, 1962) is one of the more widespread geologic units in the United States cropping out from Montana to New Mexico, to far eastern South Dakota and west to Utah. In addition, it is one of the most recognizable formations and, in places,

contains spectacular vertebrate fossils (Fig. 3) and abundant invertebrates. Most states with outcrops have their own named members, both formal and informal. For example, around Colorado Springs the Pierre is perhaps 4500 feet thick but is only subdivided into informal zones

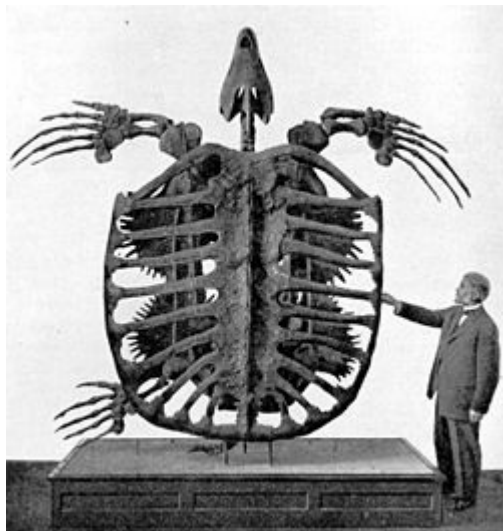


Fig. 3 Type specimen of *Archelon ischyros* in the Yale Peabody Museum. Photo courtesy of Wikipedia.

based on descriptive terms, i. e. the cone-in-cone zone, or ammonite zones such as the *Baculites ellasi* zone. The Pierre is notorious in most areas as being quite unstable for building purposes because of swelling soils and landslides. However, people continue to build on the Pierre with results ranging from cracked walls to completely destroyed houses.

Near Colorado Springs the Pierre may be found holding up “The Mesa”, along Bear Creek, and in road cuts south of

the city along I-25.

Sarah, the Pierre is exposed in many areas in western South Dakota, although it erodes fairly easily and is often covered with vegetation. In the eastern part of the state glacial drift covers the surface except for exposures along some of the river systems, such as near Yankton. I can’t begin to cover the biostratigraphy of the Pierre in this small article other than point out a few interesting outcrops the traveler could easily observe.

Near the Black Hills the Pierre is world famous for the concretions containing golden barite, especially those along Elk Creek in Meade County (Fig. 4). The 2008 publication *American Mineral Treasurers* (published



Fig. 4. Golden Barite, Pierre Shale, South Dakota. Mineral collection of Brigham Young University. Photo courtesy of United States Geological Survey.

by the *Mineralogical Record*) listed the site as one of the top 50 American mineral specimen producing localities. All of the collecting localities along the creek from its confluence with the Cheyenne River upstream for perhaps 25 miles are on private property so the collector must ask landowners for permission to search.

At around Mile Marker (MM) 98 near the hamlet of Wasta, I-90 crosses over the Cheyenne River and outcrops of the Pierre Shale are quite noticeable.

This area again is quite famous for the fossils collected in the concretions (Fig. 5). Most are mollusks including the pelecypods *Inoceramus* sp. and *Pteria* sp., the cephalopod ammonites *Baculites* sp. and *Hoploscaphites nodus*, the gastropods *Margaritella flexistriata*, *Amauropsis* sp., *Drepanochilus* sp., *Anisomyon sexculcatus*, the scaphopod *Dentalium gracile*, as well as the coral *Micrabacia americana* (Sharman, 2008). Again, the outcrops are all on private lands so be certain to check with the landowners.

Near MM 156 (west of Chamberlain) one notices a “black streak” (informally the “Oacoma Zone”) run-

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Fig.5. Cephalopod collected from a concretion near Wasta, SD in the Pierre Shale. Photo courtesy of Humboldt State University Natural History Museum.

ning through the Pierre Shale, actually the DeGrey Member of the Pierre. The “black streak” is un-vegetated and many people assume the “pasture” has burned. However, this “streak” has a high abundance of manganese, especially in the numerous nodules (Fig. 6), and this element seems toxic to vegetation (Fig. 2). These nodules were mined “by hand” in the 1930’s and shipped to Pittsburg, PA by rail for processing and use in the steel industry (www.library.thinkquest.org). The



Fig. 6. Manganese-iron nodules from the Pierre Shale near Chamberlain. Photo courtesy Howard Woodward.

federal government became interested in the resource and in 1930 geologists from U. S. Geological Survey estimated the resource contained 102,000,000 tons of metallic manganese (Hewett,

1930). In 1941, due to a need for hardened steel during World War II, the U. S. Bureau of Mines constructed a pilot plant (near mile marker 257 north side of highway) and begin experimenting in mining and separation of the nodules from the shale (Cox and Beach, 1980) (Fig. 7). The mine closed in 1947 after the war. There have been periodic studies since that time, but no additional mining as geologists, at present, do not believe a viable market exists for the manganese nodules (Cox and Beach, 1980). One may still observe remains of this interesting old mine (Fig. 2) and a nodule or two should occupy space on a collector’s shelf (Fig.6).



Fig. 7. The manganese mine in operation in 1941. Photo courtesy of www.library.thinkquest.org.

Another interesting story about the Pierre concerns the Crow Creek Member of the Pierre exposed in the Missouri River trench near Chamberlain. Geologists have recently discovered impact shock-metamorphosed mineral grains in the Crow Creek, and new radiometric dates (73.8 Ma) for the Manson Impact Structure (northwest Iowa) suggest that the two are closely related. The shocked grains in the Crow Creek are seen as distal impact ejecta (grains thrown several hundred miles by the asteroid impact). Other sedimentary structures in the Crow Creek (remember this is a marine unit) suggest creation by impact-induced tsunami sedimentation triggered by the Manson impact (Hammond and others, 1995). I find that story fascinating.

Near MM 261, I-90 crosses the Missouri River (actually Lake Francis Case) into Chamberlain and the Niobrara and Pierre are well exposed in the Missouri River Trench. The traveler should actually exit the interstate at Oacoma (MM 263) and travel on Highway 16 across the “old bridge” for better and close-up views of the formations, feeling free to stop and explore the outcrops near the river. The road joins up again with I-90 at MM 265 after passing through a number of Pierre slide areas. The highway has been repaired numerous times and several houses, built inappropriately on the Pierre, have been damaged or destroyed. In summer 1966 I had the opportunity to work for the South Dakota Geological Survey as we studied landslides, and possible remedies, along the proposed route of then un-built I-90.

The Chamberlain area is part of the Lewis and Clark Trail through South Dakota and as such presents an interesting story. On September 16-17, 1804 the intrepid explorers laid up near Corvus Creek (now American Crow Creek) to wash and mend their clothes, rest, and dress skins. It appears Capt. Clark killed a “buck goat...a curious annamil...[that] was never yet know in the U. S. States....The Capt had the skin of the...Goat Stuffed in order to Send back to the city of Washington. The bones and all”.

Tracking the Pierre Shale, Cont. from Page 3

It seems as if the explorers had seen and shot their first recorded Pronghorn (Moulton, 1986). This was Camp Pleasant.

The explorers were told to watch out for volcanoes as they passed through this region. On September 14, 1804 both captains “walked on Shore with a view to find an old Volcano Said to be in this neighborhood by Mr. McKey [a gentleman from St. Charles, MO]. Could not see any Signs of a Volcanoe” (Moulton, 1986). Was there any basis for Mr. McKey asking about volcanoes here in the middle of the heartland? Well, many CSMS members are familiar with the clinker coal beds in Colorado. These are areas where the coal has been ignited, perhaps by lightening, and has burned the surrounding shale. At times, these fires have burned for decades. Although the Pierre Shale in South Dakota does not contain large coal beds, some sections have significant amounts of “oil shale” and/or other hydrocarbons.

These beds may ignite from friction, or perhaps by lightening, or perhaps from the oxidation of pyrite producing sulfuric acid that may combine with water to produce very high heat. These beds may then



Fig. 8 Smoldering bluffs 12 miles west of Platte, SD, along the Missouri River. The red material is shale which has burned and been heated. Photo courtesy of Sioux Falls Argus Leader and Howard Woodward.

burn/smolder much like the coal beds (Fig. 8). They are particularly noticeable in the winter as the hot smoke/steam collides with the cold air. Immediately downstream from Chamberlain is an area termed “Burning Brule” (once the sight of a night club) where for several years I was able to observe the smoke/steam coming from the bluffs. Several miles downstream from Chamberlain the explorers found “on a hill...the backbone of a fish, 45 feet long...” The bones evidently were sent back to Washington and later

identified as a plesiosaur, a long-necked marine reptile (Moulton, 1986). Most likely the animal came from the Pierre Shale.

This just about uses up my allotment of space for this month! I-90 continues east across the glacial plains to the Minnesota border (MM 412.5). Near MM 272 is a large ephemeral prairie pothole, Red Lake, but also the exit to the small village of Pukwana, home of my spouse!

Washington D.C., June 20, 1803

To Meriwether Lewis Esquire, Captain of the first regiment of Infantry of the United States of America. The Object of your mission is to explore the Missouri river & such principal stream of it as by its course and communication with the waters of the Pacific ocean, whether the Columbia, Oregon, Colorado or any other river may offer the most direct & practicable water communication across this continent for the purpose of commerce.

President Thomas Jefferson

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RMFMS PRESIDENT'S LETTER

BY BILL SMITH, RMFMS



It is with much sadness that I inform you of the passing of our Nebraska/South Dakota State Director, Donald Rathert. Don was an active member of the Western Dakota Gem and Mineral Society.

It is almost show time and by the time you receive this newsletter, the show will be upon us. I do hope you are planning on attending.

Our daughter and family visited us in March. We did have some fairly nice weather and even went rock-hounding; found some nice petrified wood and agates on a private ranch. The collecting sure made me wish warmer weather would arrive. It did, as today it reached 90 degrees.

We just received our mounted bobcat facing off with a Western diamondback rattlesnake. Both were collected locally, so must remember safety comes first in these hills.

We also visited the Alabaster Caverns near Freedom, OK. We viewed many different colors of alabaster with very unique formations, as well as several hundred bats.

The Salt Plains near Cherokee, OK, opened the first of April for the beautiful selenite hourglass crystals. *(Editor's Note: See related article this issue from Bob King: Hourglass Selenite Dig)*

These would be wonderful places to visit during the Wichita show.

See you at the show, or until next month.



Yam and former Pick & Pack Editor, Betty Cain, at RMFMS Annual meeting, Wichita KS, 2010—See Article Beginning on page 7.

Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society's Youth Group Work with Ancient Egyptian Artifacts

On April 15, 2010, the Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society (CSMS) youth--mainly middle school students--worked with 3,000 year-old Egyptian artifacts made of garnet, carnelian, lapis lazuli, and native copper. These materials, from the tomb of a pharaoh, blended history, archaeology, mineralogy, and geology in a way that totally engaged the students while they learned about these artifacts and laboratory procedures in a more deeper and meaningful way. The students put these objects under a microscope and imaged them. The photomicrographs they made showed many things, including marks revealing how the semi-precious gemstones were worked in antiquity. The students carefully measured each artifact and processed them using standard scientific procedures.

Each student was assigned a section to research and write a report on. Several students were assigned artwork and graphic design. A number of CSMS distance students, who live all over the United States, were given assignments so that they could participate.

In a few weeks the students will assemble all the research under the direction of Steven Veatch, the CSMS Pebble Pup leader. The results of the student's work will be written as an article with images of each artifact and published in the CSMS and other club newsletters. The same article will be submitted to *Deposits* magazine for publication. Veatch noted that the students did not want to leave the classroom when the program was over! They stood quietly in line to be sure they got their individual assignments and did not miss any instructions. Several students asked for more work. Veatch commented that he has never seen a group of kids so excited. In spite of their excitement, the students worked very carefully with the ancient Egyptian artifacts.

Veatch is now working on a paper about this teaching event and will submit the paper to the National Earth Science Teacher Association for publication in their professional journal: *The Earth Scientist* so that other teachers, both formal and informal, can duplicate this lesson.

The CSMS distance program, launched last year by Veatch, is for Pebble Pups and youth who do not live near a rock and mineral club or who do not have access to a pebble pup/youth program. Each month these students are emailed lessons and assignments. Returned assignments earn merit badges. There is a definite need for such a program, and the CSMS is the only club in the nation operating a comprehensive distance program. Veatch, a research geoscientist, has been teaching the CSMS pebble pups and youth group for over 15 years. Veatch also has worked with a group of geologists to start a new pebble pup program at the Lake George Gem and Mineral Club. The group meets the 3rd Thursday of each month. For more information send your request to this email: steven.veatch@gmail.com

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Bill Arnson requested information on where the money is being spent. Ray Berry suggested providing the money details outside of the P&P. Additionally, Ray suggested cutting down the size of the P&P so that it only costs regular postage. There was discussion that the new the family rate is high; on the other hand some think the higher rate is fair. Roni suggests that we need to focus on raising more funds through the rock shows. Yam clarified that show money goes towards education funds. Silent auction also goes to education funds & small groups. Chuck suggests not post in P&P but provide a copy of the report.

The New Member Orientation at the Western Museum of Mining and Industry on the north end of Colorado Springs previously scheduled for April 24 has been cancelled because there were no parties registered as of April 12. There will likely be a rescheduling of the session sometime in late Fall or Winter.

Ray is looking for a replacement to lead trips up to Gold Camp Road. Steve Russell, who has several claims along the road, will start leading the trips. Currently scheduled to lead a trip in June. Get with Steve to attend trip. There are seven field trips on the calendar and Holcim is currently filled. Yam is trading period field trips with other clubs.

Vice President's Report (Dave Olsen): Next meeting we'll have some of the science fair winners present their projects at the program. Still looking for future presenters.

Secretary's Report (Jennifer Beisel): none

Members-at-Large Report (Sharon Holte & Bob Germano): none

Membership Report – Roni Poteat: Dues for 2010 are past due. Please make sure you provide complete updated information on your application form so that our database is accurate. Dues can be paid to Roni Poteat if you want to pay tonight. Roni also has copies of the Application Form so you can do your update. Anyone not paying their dues by April 30th will be dropped from the roles and will no longer receive the benefits of membership (including the P&P).

Editors – Teri Stoiber/Ann Proctor: The March issue of the P&P has been e-mailed to all on the database. We will mail them as soon as time permits. The April issue is in the works.

Final reminders: Make sure you put the Silent Auction and Bake Sale on your calendar- April 17th.

Make sure that you pay your dues. We would hate to drop you from our membership list.

The New Member Orientation scheduled for April 24th at the WMMI has been postponed until this fall. Steve Veatch will get back to us with the dates and times.

Yam is still looking for Field Trips to offer to our members. Please help out. It's easy and fun.

Lastly, a thank you to Maria Weisser our Social Committee Chair and the Fossil Group for tonight's treats.

Close Meeting at 8:22 p.m.

Dave Olsen will now introduce tonight's speaker, Cathy Benecke, CSP, CHMM – Senior Safety Engineer for Colorado Springs Utilities who will talk about Safety.

WMMI HAPPENINGS



225 Northgate Blvd. Colorado Springs, CO 80921

Main: 719.488.0880

Toll Free: 800.752.6558

Hours:

9am-5pm, Monday-Saturday (June-August)

9am-4pm, Monday-Saturday (September-May)

Daily Guided tours at 10am and 1pm (included in admission)

STARTING JUNE 14, AND EVERY MONDAY & WEDNESDAY THEREAFTER IN JUNE: FARMERS' MARKET FEATURING COLORADO GROWN FRESH PRODUCE—LOCATED IN FRONT OF THE RED FARMHOUSE

Second Annual Rock Fair at WMMI

Date: June 26, 2010 / 9:00AM—4:00PM & June 27, 2010 / 9:00AM—3:00PM Lots of fun for the whole family. We will have gem, jewelry, mineral and fossil vendors; educational talks on rock-hounding, geology and paleontology; demonstrations of gold-panning by the Gold Prospectors of Colorado; rock identification, a special Kid's Area; food vendors; the exhibits of the Museum, CSMS display cases; and WMMI equipment operation. WMMI has chosen Fair Saturday to run their Yellow Jacket Stamp Mill at 10:00AM and 1:00PM. Come to the Fair and see this awesome machine in action.

Heritage Lecture—Oil Sands

Date: July 15, 2010 @ 7 p.m. Free to the Public. Call for Reservations.

Burro Birthday Bluegrass Bash

Date: August 7, 2010 / 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Oro & Nugget's Bluegrass Birthday Celebration—more details to follow.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Ron Yamiolkoski, CSMS

The question I think all of us are asking is, "When will it get warm?" As many of you know, I went to Wichita to represent CSMS at the RMFMS annual meeting.

Thanks to the efforts of many, we garnered a number of awards for Pick & Pack articles. Betty Cain, our Pick & Pack Editor, submitted them last year while she still held the position, so thanks to her efforts and those who



took time to sit down and write a few words, we collected quite a pile. We will be distributing these awards in the future, along with any we receive at the AFMS Show in June. Returning from Wichita on Sunday my wife and I enjoyed the green of Kansas (although a bit windy) as we drove

back. The wheat fields looked like lush lawns, the farmers were tilling the soil, and people were mowing their lawns. Flowers were blooming and leaves filled the trees. We arrived in Monument to find the remains of 8" to 12" inches of heavy wet snow, no leaves, no flowers and, best of all more snow, while I unpacked the car. How is a person to get out and go rock hounding?

Enough said, back to business. Our first **Silent Auction at the WMMI** was a success. We had a good turnout for the April 17th event. The items from the Dale Corbin estate added variety to the items offered and donations from Marg Regel and Ray Berry and others added to the jingle of coin. Big Ben Higley, President of GPOC and CSMS member donated a gold medallion which garnered \$75 for the Silent Auction. Thanks to Ben and those who bid on this neat item. I also want to thank those (Sharon, Bob, Dave, Mike, Marg, and Teri) of you who helped label the various items. There were times when it got a bit fast and furious. Chuck Webb was cashier and I thank him for handling the many purchases. Lastly, let me thank Maria Weissner, our Social Committee Chair, for the coffee and fixings along with those folks who donated goodies for the Bake Sale. Food and coffee kept the bidders there longer than they may have originally planned. Al Zelenak, our Treasurer, will be providing the financial results at the next meeting.

As I said, the weather has not been cooperative. Our **Field Trip to the Holcim Cement Quarry** on April 24th had to be cancelled. Between the moisture from above and a stream finding its way into the quarry, they had (and have) a bit of a mess to cleanup. We are trying to reschedule the field trip and will post it on our website as soon as possible. You will need to let us know if you would like to go, but first preference will go to those scheduled for the first trip if they let us know they want to go on the rescheduled field trip. In spite of

the weather, **Field Trip Season** is upon us. I have posted the field trips for which I have information on the website, BUT WE NEED MORE! Some of you have promised me that you will do a field trip. Let's try to finalize the details so folks can plan their season.

The next big event is the **Rock Fair at WMMI**. The Rock Fair will be June 26th and 27th. I still need speakers and volunteers to make the Fair a success. Those of you who are members and planning to have a booth at the Fair, need to get your contracts and money to me. I have a number of new dealers coming along with some repeats. The next planning meeting will be on May 20th at 6:30 PM in the Senior Center lobby. Please attend, especially if you want to volunteer. Bob Landgraf is handling the cases so please contact him if you would like to submit a non-competitive case.

Speaking of the **Rock Fair at WMMI and the RMFMS**, next year they will be one and the same. We have received the blessings of the RMFMS Board to proceed with our plans to have the RMFMS show and our Rock Fair be one and the same in June 2011. It will be a three day event, so we will need more speakers, more help, field trips, and some special help. One thing that we will need is to create a favor or gift to be handed out at the Editor's Breakfast and the Banquet. I will be appointing a committee to design and "make" these favors. I bring this up now, because it could take some time to produce these items. More will be written and discussed on this major upcoming event in a future newsletter.

Our May General Assembly meeting will deal with the issue of raising the dues. Let me say that this was an idea that has been discussed by two Boards extensively and although none of us wanted to do it, not doing it will have negative consequences on the ability of CSMS to continue to be the fine club that it is. We looked at a lot of ideas some of which may still be considered, but this seemed like the best approach to avoid hurting certain members more than others. Please come to the meeting with an open mind and consider the value that you receive from your membership when you vote.

Time is running out and I hope to report one way or another about our **Annual Show** at the May General Assembly meeting. I have gotten mixed feedback concerning trying to do the Annual Show this year. Many, including our loyal vendors, hope that we can do the Annual Show. Others say that the Rock Fair is enough and that we should consider it our Annual Show. As for myself, I think that we should try to have an Annual Show. It will probably be smaller, not include the Gold Prospectors or the Model Railroaders, and we will need to charge the dealers more to make it work.

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Hourglass Selenite Dig

By Bob King

After a nine hour drive from Ft. Collins, CO, Floyd Bement and myself arrived at the Great Salt Plains located near Cherokee, OK. It was late in the afternoon on Monday, April 27, 2010, but I wanted to show Floyd the area where the next day we would be digging for hourglass selenite. These crystals form near the surface of the reddish-brown, tightly packed, wet sand of this salt flat and are only found at this location. Sand and clay particles often form an "hourglass" shape inside the crystal thus the name "hourglass selenite." At the digging area we meet two couples who were packing up and heading home after doing some collecting of their own. Each couple showed us some very nice groups that they had found and took us to the spot where these specimens had been dug. See photo below.



Floyd and I had planned to dig the next day, but after seeing what these people had found couldn't wait until the next day. We now had the area to

ourselves and collected crystals ranging from 2" to 4" in length, but no groups. At sunset we drove 18 miles to The Great Salt Plains State Park where we had rented a cabin. These cabins are modern, clean and completely furnished. At eight the next morning we were back where we had been digging the evening before and started to find more crystals. Soon the Ginter family (Tim, Jana and their 12 year old daughter Taryn) from Cheyenne, WY; Larry Shearer, from Norman, OK; and a friend of his (and past Rocky Mountain Federation President), Stan Nowark, who lives near this digging area, arrived as planned. Stan has collected in this area many times and he spent the day giving us advice as to where and how to dig.

At my age of 72, I knew that my body should get in shape for the long



drive and all of the digging that I knew I would be doing. The month before this trip I walked 3 miles each day, did exercises, especially to build up the strength in my hands. This paid off.



We used a long-handled sand shovel to dig the initial holes, then water and our hands to locate and re-

move the crystals. At the end of the day the ends of my fingers were as smooth as a baby's bottom as my fingerprints had been rubbed off from digging in the wet sand. Taryn, her mother and I got in the 18" deep holes that we had dug and poured water along the edge of our holes to wash the crystals out of the sand. This procedure soon filled the holes with water, which we then splashed onto the walls of the holes to expose more crystals. We got soaking wet, but were rewarded by finding many groups and hundreds of single crystals. Most people kneel down on the surface and splash the water up against the walls of their holes. At the end of the day Taryn took a shower with her clothes on and used up all of the hot water. I threw my clothes away. We brought 10 plastic one-gallon milk jugs full of water with us, which we went through quickly. We refilled them using water from a water tank that was located a 1/4 mile from our holes; in all, we used over 50 gallons of water.



Our trip was very successful and the weather was perfect. This FREE collecting area is only open from April 1 to October 15 from sunrise to sunset. Google "hourglass selenite" and "Great Salt Plains" for more information.

THINGS TO DO FROM CSMS MEMBER PETE MODRESKI

Sat., May 15, Friends of Mineralogy Silent Auction, to be held at Clement Community Center, 1580 Yarrow St. (near Colfax & Wadsworth), Lakewood, noon to 3 p.m. All welcome!

Sat.-Sun., May 15-16, Cheyenne, Wyoming, "Capital City Rock & Gem Show" at the American Legion Hall, 2001 E. Lincolnway.

Sat., June 19, Annual Mineral & Fossil Home Sale, at "GEOdyssey". All specimens are a minimum of 10% off, with bigger discounts for volume purchases. Drinks and snacks provided. 15339 West Ellsworth Drive, Golden; go south on Indiana St. from 6th Ave., into Mesa View Estates; turn right at McIntyre Circle and right at Ellsworth Drive. We are about midway down the street on the left. 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; 303-279-5504.

Fri-Sat., June 25-26, some may be interested in a "South Park Symposium" on history and natural resources of South Park, to be held at Fairplay RE-2 School these two days. Talks will include local history and historic preservation, "Shepherding", "South Park Salt Works 1862-1883", "Miner's Partner--the Burro", "Evolution of Colorado water use and laws", and an afternoon field trip to see Ice Age landforms in South Park. One can register for a half day, full day, or both days; complete 2-day registration is just \$15. Email Pete (pmodreski@usgs.gov) and he will forward an e-copy of the program & registration flier.

Sat.-Sun., June 26-27, "Rock Fair" at the Western Museum of Mining & Industry, Colorado Springs, co-sponsored by the Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society; a mini-mineral show with related activities, in tents outside the Museum. For more info see <http://wmmi.org/>.

Aug. 12-15, "Contin-Tail" mineral show and swap, Rodeo Grounds, Buena Vista, CO.

Aug 20-22, Lake George Gem & Mineral Show, Lake George, CO. For more info see <http://www.lggmclub.org/>.

Sep. 10-12, Creede, Colorado, Mineral Field Symposium, to be held in Creede, CO, sponsored by the Colorado Chapter, Friends of Mineralogy, and the Colorado School of Mines Geology Mu-

seum; a two-day symposium with lectures and field trips. More information will be available soon; contact Lou Conti, dlconti@aol.com

Sep. 17-18, Denver Gem and Mineral Show, Denver Merchandise Mart. For more info see <http://www.denvermineralshow.com/> Combined with Colorado Fossil Expo. Dealers, many museum and club exhibits; admission charge; free parking. The theme of the 2010 show will be "The Creede Mining District".

Sep 15-19, Colorado Mineral and Fossil Show, Holiday Inn - Denver Central, 4849 Bannock St. Free parking and admission, many mineral dealers; see http://www.mzexpos.com/colorado_fall.htm

CATHY BENECKE, CSP, CHMM, SPEAKS ABOUT SAFETY

By Sharon Holte, CSMS Member-at-Large

Cathy's program was really great. She modified her presentation for us and included: eye safety and some new eyewear protection; trench and digging safety; and oxygen displacement in the dig area. She had many slides of what happens when eye safety wear is not used, including several slides showing how the eyes were saved by using the new safety glasses. There were several slides showing projectiles caught in the glasses lens that saved the eye from damage, and one where the safety glasses saved the eyes and eyelids from being burned. The face was toasted, but the eyes were saved! Cathy showed many slides of unsafe trenching, while converting the OSHA safety standards to our type of digging and the fact that we can call for shoring (if we want to pay for it), which is much cheaper than losing a life or being injured. Cathy also explained how we could make our own shoring. Additionally, she spoke about the fact that the oxygen can be replaced by other gases in an excavation trench, thereby causing asphyxiation.

All in all, this was a great program. She even had some of the old timers like Mr. Berry laughing! And, more importantly, taking her seriously.

Thanks, Cathy for a great program!

ASK A GEOLOGIST

BY MIKE NELSON, CSMS



I often get asked, by adults and children, a question that goes something like this: *why do you like to collect minerals and fossils. As a child were you interested in collecting? Juniors commonly add something like I want to be a geologist (or a paleontologist) when I grow up.*

Boy, that is a thought-provoking question! I guess the simple answer is yes, well sort of, maybe. As a boy roaming central Kansas I certainly collected lots of rocks and minerals but really didn't know anything about a career in geology. In fact, I am not certain that I even knew the meaning of the term "geology". I did know I wanted to work where a person could interact with nature (many people of my age may remember the advertisements in the back of outdoor magazines promoting correspondence courses and promising a career as a "forest ranger"). In college, I dabbled with engineering (not fast enough with a slide rule) and chemistry (broke too much glassware). Then one day, in a serendipitous moment, I rediscovered geology and the rest, as they say, is history. I never really looked back.

One of the great things about collecting and working with rocks, minerals and fossils is that I get out in the open spaces of nature. For me, most anytime that I get out in the country, a "runner's high" is achieved. Physicians tell me this endorphin rush is related to strenuous exercise, pain, excitement, danger or stress. In my case, I am convinced that the "rush" is simply related to the excitement of seeing birds and flowers and trees and rocks and whatever else is out there. All of these external stimuli seem to trigger my pituitary and hypothalamus glands to produce these endorphins, a compound that sort of acts like an opiate to produce a feeling of well-being.

Erich Fromm (1964) used the term *biophilia* to describe our attraction to all that is alive and vital (animals and plants). Edward O. Wilson (1984), in his book entitled *Biophilia*, stated that *biophilia* describes the connections that humans seek with other life forms, something that is inherent in our internal biology. In other words, our "humanness" connects us with other living creatures and we have this affinity with nature ingrained in our genes. *Philiias* (the love of nature) are the opposite of *phobias* (our fears of nature). We often use *biophobias* {think *arachnophobia* (fear of spiders), *ophidiophobia* (fear of snakes), or even *xenophobia* (fear of "foreigners")} to try and scare people, or even eliminate animals and people. However, *biophilias* are used to calm and comfort people, think the use of green plants in homes and business or even the use of animals, especially infants, in all sorts of advertisements. Research findings, especially by Robert Ulrich from Texas A & M University, seem to show that "nature" has a positive and calming effect on hospital patients. I argue that experiencing, or even seeing "nature", also has the same calming effect on most everyone. *Biophilias*, I believe, can produce the release of endorphins and cause a feeling of well-being.

In reading Wilson's book he stated that *most children have a bug period, and I never grew out of mine.* This got me to thinking about my childhood and my love of rocks, fossils and minerals and made me think that *I had a rock period and never grew out of it.* For me, the endorphins seem to release as I climb among the ledges or simply reach down and pick up that shiny

specimen of *chalcedony*. I suspect that similar feelings are achieved by faceters and jewelry makers as they inspect their final projects.

So, these thoughts made me ask "is there a *geophilia* hypothesis"? The literature about such is quite scarce but Paul Faulstich in 2004 used the term to define *a biologically based tendency to emotionally associate with the landscape* and further believes this evolutionary heritage forms the basis for our conservation ethic. I believe *geophilia* is much broader than Faulstich's thought and should include our **emotional association with all things geological**, not just the landscape. This would put the term in a context similar to *biophilia*. Every morning I "need" to see Pikes Peak so I get that calming effect and that release of body opiates to notify my brain that "all is good" in the world. I may be ill or in a cranky mood, but the vision of Pikes Peak reminds me that the natural world is still in order and that is a calming effect.

In the opposite spectrum, perhaps a *geophobia* would include a fear of a beautiful treed landscape with a trout stream running down the middle of the property. Someone with that fear would likely envision the bustle of a housing sub development! I don't know! I have not run across any specific listed *geophobias*, except perhaps *spelunkaphobia* (fear of caves) and *acrophobia* (fear of heights).

So, what does all this mean for CSMS readers? Perhaps nothing except that the cold outside on this early January day allowed me to do some thinking about the big picture of life. But then again, perhaps it means that CSMS members have some sort of an evolutionary propensity, something built into our genes, that allows us to communicate with, and hear the call of, rocks, minerals and fossils. I learned long ago that the rocks could really talk; one just had to listen and to understand!

Perhaps we need this relationship and affiliation with living organisms (*biophilia*) and the land (*geophilia*) to not only enhance our commitment of living sustainably with the earth, but also to live in a life full of moments of well-being. I do believe that my love of nature is hardwired from my genes to my brain. I collect rocks, minerals and fossils because it makes me "feel good", something primitive in my genes tells my brain, "hey, pick up that rock, and remember that life is good, enjoy it to the fullest."

So, perhaps this is a rather esoteric answer to a simple question! But, as for me I always wanted just to interact with nature in a positive manner and picking up rocks became second nature. I simply followed my dreams in becoming a geologist.

Climb the mountains and get their good tidings. Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees. The winds will blow their own freshness into you, and the storms their energy, while cares will drop off like autumn leaves. **John Muir**

A similar and earlier version of this article was published in the Newsletter of the RMFMS.

REFERENCES CITED

- Faulstich, Paul, 2004, *Natural Considerations: The Human Ecology of Place-making*: <http://hdl.handle.net/1885/42130>
- Fromm, Erich, 1964, *The Heart of Man*. New York: Harper and Row.
- Wilson, Edward O. 1984. *Biophilia*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

WOODLAND PARK GEM, MINERAL & JEWELRY SHOW

Kim and Bodie Packham (of the Rock Gypsies) present the Woodland Park Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show to be held August 19- 20 - 21 - 22, 2010, at the Woodland Park Saddle Club.

The Woodland Park Saddle Club is located on Hwy. 24, just west of the Wal-Mart, in Woodland Park, CO.

There will be Rocks– Gems– Minerals– Crystals– Jewelry– Rough Material– Cut Stones– Colorado Specimens– Free Gold Panning– Spheres– Fountains– Gifts– Lapidary– Faceting– Prospecting Equipment, and more!

Best of all, Admission is Free, as is the Parking!

There will be food available.

Contact Kim or Bodie at 719.360.9665, or at runninboar@hotmail.com.

CREEDE MINERAL SYMPOSIUM 2010

The Creede Mineral Symposium will be held September 10-12, 2010, at the Creede Underground Mining Museum Community Center.

The tentative registration fee is \$50/person, with small additional fees for optional visits to the Creede Underground Museum. Registration DOES NOT include lodging, and is limited to the first 75 individuals, due to space limitations.

There will be an optional banquet (estimated cost is \$26/person) at 7 p.m. on Saturday, September 11, 2010.

There will be talks on Creede area history, economic geology, mineralogy, current events, and artifacts from those who have been involved in the Creede mining district over the years. Displays of classic mineral specimens found in the Creede district and the local area, as well as a special micromount display by the Rocky Mountain Micromineral Association, will be available for viewing. There will be dealers offering materials for sale to those wishing to bring home some of the local treasures.

For more information or to remit checks for registration and/or the banquet, contact:

Lou Conti 303.797.3205 dlconti@aol.com
6987 S Hill St.
Littleton CO 80120

FROM THE LIBRARY

by Frank Rosenberg, CSMS

Book report: By Kevin Witte, CSMS:

This month's book review is on The Agates of Northern Mexico by Brad Cross, and is a signed edition. The book begins with an overview of the history and people of the Mexican state of Chihuahua. Cross talks about the formation of Mexican agate and follows this up with 30 color plates of different agates. Did you know there were over 50 different named varieties of agate in Northern Mexico? Cross covers agates from Acebuche to Zebra Lace agate. Another chapter goes into some depth on geodes. The author then discusses the future of Mexican agate and importation of stone into the States. Lastly he tips his hat to several pioneers of the Mexican agate fields with anecdotal stories of agate hounds going back to the Mexican civil war. Cross has compiled a comprehensive history of Mexican agate discovery that would probably otherwise be lost. If you can't get enough of looking at beautiful agates there are several websites that might interest you as well, try the website <http://www.picsearch.com/> and do a search on agate pictures. Enjoy thousands of agate pictures!

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I have been told to avoid December so that means looking at September, October and November before Thanksgiving. If we can find a place that has a weekend available that we can afford, we will go for it. I hope that if we are successful, that all of you will help make this redefined Annual Show effort as successful as our Rock Fair.

One last thing: Our new Editors, Teri Stoiber and Ann Proctor, need your help to carry on their work. Teri, who produces the Pick & Pack, needs you to send her your articles. Ann who handles the Board duties and helps Teri with the newsletter needs your input on vital Club issues. Just like all of our Board Member, she needs to know what Club members like and what they would like to see.

Also, it is not too late to think about whether or not you would be willing to serve. Ask a Board Member what it is like and drop in on one of the Board meetings. They are open to all.

Take care,

Yam

CSMS FIELD TRIPS

Although it is early in the season, some Field Trips for 2010 have already been set. As usual, check the CSMS website (www.csms.us) for the latest list of Field Trips. Also, if you have an idea about a field trip or would like to lead a field trip, contact Yam our Field Trip Chair at ron.yamiolkoski@aecom.com.

May 8-9: Yellow Cat/Cisco UT & Grand Junction Mineral Show Field Trip, Marg Regel, marjory.regel@yahoo.com

June 5: Peridot Claim, Yam, ron.yamiolkoski@aecom.com

June 12: Spruce Grove Topaz, John Rakowski, LGGMC, rak873john@centurytel.net

July 10: April Fools Claim, John Casto, Jcasto@fvs.edu

July 10: Peridot Claim, Yam, ron.yamiolkoski@aecom.com

ACCOLADES FROM STEVE VEATCH

There are some interesting developments with our youth section of the CSMS. Kurth Lahmers, who is a member of our junior group, is 12 years old and in middle school. He has won first place in an article contest and will receive an award at the editor's breakfast (he will not be present). Aaron Hendricks, who is a member of our pebble pup group (distance), is 9 years old and in 4th grade. He has won first place in an article contest and will receive an award at the editor's breakfast (he will be **present**--his folks are bringing him). I would like to arrange to be there. I am immediately checking my schedule and seeing if I can get time off from work to go.

Yesterday I learned that Chris Retzlaf, another member of the CSMS youth (middle school) has written an article that has been accepted by the editor of a rock, fossil, and mineral magazine for publication. He too is a CSMS distance student. One of Aaron's articles is also currently under review for acceptance in the same magazine.

Tonight, the middle school group worked with 3,000 year old Egyptian artifacts made of garnet, carnelian, lapis lazuli, and native copper. The students put these objects under a microscope and imaged them. The photomicrographs they made of the objects showed marks revealing how they were worked in antiquity. The students measured them and processed them using standard scientific procedures. Each student has been assigned a section to research and write about. Several students were assigned artwork and graphic layout. **ALL** distance students, although not present to work with these materials, have been given assignments so that they may participate.

In a few weeks we will assemble all the research and publish the results. Yam, these kids were going nuts tonight. They did not want to leave the classroom! They were standing in line to be sure they got their individual assignments. I have never seen a group *so excited*. I was excited too. I am also going to write all of this up to submit an article on this event to the National Earth Science Teacher Association for publication their professional journal: *The Earth Scientist*. Somehow the *Gazette* found out about this and called for an interview.

THE SUBURBAN ROCKHOUND: ROCKS ARE WHERE YOU FIND THEM?

As most of you know, we live in a great collecting area. You can drive up to Lake George area and collect Amazonite and smoky quartz and possibly some topaz or fluorite. Drive a little further and you are collecting barite and peridot or panning for gold. Work a little harder and you can collect some more exotic minerals. There are fossils and petrified (or fossilized wood) to be found in many areas, but what do you do in the cold of winter or when it is raining?

For a number of years my wife and I have enjoyed collecting together at antique stores. Finding the treasures of our childhood or picking out something fun has filled many a cold or wet Saturday. In the past few years, I have noticed some rocks and fossils showing up in the places where we go. They were probably always there, but I just never noticed. Often times they are on a bottom shelf or in the back. Sometimes they are mislabeled or just labeled "fossil" or "rock." Virtually all of the time, they don't say where they are from. Prices vary from "You have got to be kidding," to "That is worth looking at." I like the latter the best.

I've added a few of these items to my collection. They include a really nice piece of dark green jade from Wyoming that I found in a flea market in Billings, MT. I should be able to make a number of nice thick cabs out of it. I found a couple pieces of baculite fossil in an antique store in Pueblo. You can see the suture marks and some of the original nacre on these pieces. At a place in Florence, CO, I found a nice piece of reasonably priced cinnabar. I bought this because I thought I would probably never collect a better piece personally, and the price was right.

Like I said, "Rocks are where you find them", but when the weather is cold or wet, I join my wife and we hit the antique stores and flea markets. Each of us find treasures, but sometimes the Suburban Rockhound comes home with a prize for which he would have spent hours outside.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
MAY 2010 — CSMS CALENDAR						1
2	3	4	5	6 7p Board Meeting	7	8 12n-4p Lapidary Group
9	10	11 7p Micro-mounts Group	12	13	14	15
16	17	18 7p Fossil Study Group	19	20 5:15p Junior Group 6:30p Pebble Pups 6:30p Rock Fair Mtg. 7:30p Gen Assembly	21	22 12p Jewelry Group
23	24	25	26	27 7p Crystal Study Group 7p Faceting Group	28	29
30	31					

REFRESHMENTS FOR GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETINGS		
Feb—Crystal	Mar—Faceting	April—Fossil
May—Jewelry	June—Lapidary	July—Micromounts
Aug—Picnic	Sept—Projects	Oct—Board

Area Code 719

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WEBMASTER	Allen Tyson	268-0775	allentyson@yahoo.com

Locations

Board Meeting: 1st Thursday @ 7:00p, Senior Center, David Olsen: 495-8720

Crystal Study Group: 4th Thursday of the month @ 7:00p, Senior Center; Kerry Burroughs: 634-4576

Faceting Group: 4th Thursday @ 7:00p, Senior Center, Paul Berry, 578-5466

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

Jewelry Group: 3rd Saturday @ 12:00p, 15610 Alta Plaza Circle, Peyton, Bill Arnson, 749-2328

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

Lapidary Group: 2nd Saturday @ 12:00p, 6570 Ramrod Road, Colorado Springs,, Jennifer Bailey, 638-8169

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

Project Group: Meeting time TBD, Ron "Yam" Yamiolkoski

APRIL 15, 2010 GENERAL ASSEMBLY MINUTES

BY JENNIFER BEISEL, CSMS SECRETARY

Yam called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m. followed by the salute to the flag.

Approval of February 18, 2010 Minutes as they appeared in P&P. A motion was made to approve the minutes. Bill Arnson seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Treasurers Report – was given by Al Zelenak

Introduction of New Members - Gary Bederstadt

Introduction of Guests – Kathy McFerrin

Chair's Group Introductions:

Crystal Study Group – Kerry Burroughs on the 4th Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM at the Senior Center

Fossil Study Group – Mike Nelson on the 3rd Tuesday of every other month (January, March etc.) at 7:00 PM at the Senior Center

Micromount Group – Phil McCollum (Moyra Lyne) On the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM at the Senior Center and the 3rd Saturday of each month (except Dec. & June thru Aug.) from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM at 3609 Windsor Ave. in Colorado Springs, CO.

Faceting Group – Paul Berry on the 4th Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM at the Senior Center

Lapidary Group – Jennifer Bailey on the 2nd Sat. of the month from 12:00 PM until 4:00 PM, 6570 Ramrod Rd., Colorado Springs, CO

Jewelry Group - Bill Arnson on the 3rd Saturday of the month from 12:00 PM until 4:00 PM at Bill Arnson's house – 1560 Alta Plaza Circle, Peyton, CO

Pebble Pups/Juniors – Steven Veatch on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at the Senior Center. Juniors meet at 5:15 PM and Pebble Pups meet at 6:30 P.M. Roger Pitman announced the Pebble Pups field trip "Going for the Green" originally scheduled for March had been changed to May 8th due to snow on the Peridot claim. Additionally, Steve has "Egyptian stones and artifacts" for the Pebble Pups to study.

Librarians – Ellie & Frank Rosenberg. All the CSMS books are on our website, to obtain/check out a book just email the Rosenbergs with your request.

Webmaster – Allen Tyson

Rock Fair Chair – Ronald "Yam" Yamiolkoski informed the general assembly that the dates have been set for June 26 & 27, 2010

Field Trip Chair – Ronald "Yam" Yamiolkoski announced the current list of field trips: Holcim Cement Quarry (Apr. 24), April Fools (July 10), Table Mt. (a combined trip with the Boulder, Colorado Flatiron Club)-- hunting for Zeolites (May 8 & 9). Grand Junction and Utah is in the planning stages.

Publicity Chairs – Mike Christianson

CSMS Historian – Brenda Hawley

Bill Arnson's personal schedule is getting in the way of the jewelry group schedule. He'll be gone a lot and the June, July, August, September Jewelry group meetings cannot be hosted by Bill. He can do "one-on-one" sessions but the 3rd Saturday sessions will be cancelled for awhile unless he can find a volunteer to take over.

Rock Fair - The dates have been set for June 26 & 27, 2010. There will be a potluck after the fair on the 26th. We need about 7 speakers for the show. Bob Landgraf is handling the cases. There is room for about 20 cases (non-competitive). Last day for vendors to sign up is 1 June.

Field Trips - We have 8 Field Trips posted on our website as of today.

Presidents Report (Yam):

I am officially accepting the resignation of Tracey Yamiolkoski as Editor of the P&P. Thank you for your service. I am now officially appointing Teri Stoiber and Ann Proctor as Co-Editors. Teri will handle the production of the P&P & Ann will handle the Board responsibilities of the Editor position.

As you know, the RMFMS has selected CSMS to host their Annual Show & Convention in 2011. We have received approval from the officers to move the Show to June and use the Rock Fair at WMMI as the Show. We are looking into using the Air Force Academy for the RMFMS Banquet and will secure a hotel for the actual meetings. The Board will be working on the details of this event, to include security, so we can report to the RMFMS at their annual meeting in Wichita in April (next week).

The status of our Annual Show for 2010 is still not resolved. We are once again looking at the Civic Auditorium.

The next big event is our Annual Spring Silent Auction and Bake Sale. This year it will be held at the WMMI on April 17th from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM. We will need donations for the Silent Auction and the Bake Sale as well as volunteers to make sure it all gets done. Since all members of CSMS get in to the WMMI for free, all you need to do is bring your membership card, donations and money. We are excited to report that we will be offering rocks from the estate of Dale Corbin of Castle Rock, along with some of his lapidary equipment and materials. Our agreement with his family is that we will share equally in the proceeds from the items from his estate sold at the Silent Auction. Members can bring donations at 8 a.m. on the day of the auction. Also, Maria Weisser, our Social Committee Chair will be looking for help in providing coffee, juice and milk at the Silent Auction for



Our Staff...

Teri Stoiber and Ann Proctor
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 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 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.

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

Mail or email to:
blacklabaccounting@gmail.com
PO Box 2
Colorado Springs, CO 80901

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those who buy a treat and want to eat it right there and then.

To get your mouth watering, we have a mini-Silent Auction tonight with some of the items from the Estate of Dale Corbin.

The Board is trying to balance the Budget for CSMS. Because of the way our funds are segregated, we cannot take money from one area of the Budget to cover another area. This means that some areas are OK and others are not. Our Workshop fund should receive a lot of help from the weekend's Silent Auction. That money goes to the Pebble Pups/Juniors program and the needs of the various groups.

The one area that is in the most difficulty is the General Fund. This is the fund that supports our general membership and includes such costs as RMFMS insurance, space rent and the P&P. All of these costs have gone up dramatically in the past few years and, as a result, our dues structure is no longer in line with the costs we are incurring. Therefore, the Board is bringing the following motion to change our By-Laws to the General Assembly for consideration: Motioned by Al Zelenak: **It is moved that effective 2011 membership dues for CSMS will increase to: Juniors - \$10, Regular (Individual) - \$30, Family - \$40, and Corporate - \$100.** Chuck Webb seconded the motion. Bob asked for clarification on old dues and "new" dues.

Cont. on Page 6

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 T-Shirts, Badges, and Pins are available for sale at each meeting. See Store Keeper, Ann Proctor.

Have You Picked Up Your Membership Award Pin?

If you celebrated a CSMS anniversary in 2007, 2008 or 2009, your year pin award is available from the Storekeeper, Ann Proctor. Last call for 2007 pins.

(719) 633-1153

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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, 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: 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 13.

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

Individuals—\$20

Family—\$30

Juniors—\$5

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.