



**Colorado Springs  
Mineralogical Society**  
Founded in 1936

**July 2014  
PICK&PACK  
Vol 54..... Number 6**

## **CSMS General Meeting**

**Thurs. July 17, 2014 7PM**

## **Colorado Turquoise**

**By**

**Pete Modreski**

**Treats provided by the Crystal Group.**

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## **FOSSIL COLLECTING AND THE USFS**

Mike Nelson [csrockguy@yahoo.com](mailto:csrockguy@yahoo.com)

The following is reprinted from the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies newsletter where my column appears on a monthly basis.

### **CONSERVATION AND LEGISLATION COMMITTEE**

In 2009 the U.S. Congress approved, and President Obama signed, the Paleontological Resources Preservation Act, part of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009. I have always been interested in Subtitle D--Paleontological Resources Preservation, section 6301 and following. Although many people battled against passage of the bill, I believed the PPRA was a positive step forward for rockhounds since it gave the community certain rights to collect:

*CASUAL COLLECTING- The term 'casual collecting' means the collecting of a reasonable amount of common invertebrate and plant paleontological resources for non-commercial personal use, either by surface collection or the use of non-powered hand tools resulting in only negligible disturbance to the Earth's surface and other resources.*

It also stated that rockhounds do not need a permit (there are exceptions) to collect common invertebrate and plant fossils on BLM and USFS land:

*(2) CASUAL COLLECTING EXCEPTION- The Secretary shall allow casual collecting without a permit on Federal land controlled or administered by the Bureau of Land Management, the Bureau of Reclamation, and the Forest Service, where such collection is consistent with the laws governing the management of those Federal land and this subtitle.*

In addition, rockhounds are allowed to collect a "reasonable amount" of these common fossils. Furthermore, the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture were assigned to work together and define "reasonable amounts, common invertebrates, common fossil plants and negligible disturbance." And, this latter requirement seems to be the fly in the ointment!

Last July the USFS made an attempt to define the terms listed above and the rockhound community (at least the fossils collectors) was "not very happy with results." Some/many causal collectors wrote letters to the agency, and I contacted several of the BLM paleontologists since the two agencies are working together. The full text of the USFS draft proposal may be found at: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-05-23/pdf/2013-12173.pdf>.

### **FOSSIL COLLECTING AND THE USFS continued**

Here are a few parts of the draft that sort of rankled rockhounds.

## CSMS Calendar

### July 2014

Tue., Jul 1—Fossil Group, 7 p.m., Senior Center. Jerry Suchan 303 648-3410

Thu., Jul 3—Board Meeting, 7 p.m., Senior Center.

Tue., Jul 8—Micromounts, 7 p.m., Senior Center. Dave Olsen, 719 495-8720

Thu., Jul 17—General Assembly, 7 p.m., Senior Center.

Jul, Crystal Group, Meetings resume in Sep. Kevin Witte, 719 638-7919

Jul, Faceting Group, Meetings resume in Sep. Paul Berry, 719 578-5466

Jul, Jewelry Group, By appointment. Call, Bill Arnson, 719 337-8070. 15610 Alta Plaza Cir., Peyton

Jul, Lapidary, By appointment until Sep., Sharon Holte 719 217-5683.

Jul, Pebble Pups & Juniors. Meetings resume in Sep, Steven Veatch, 719 748-5010

### August 2014

Tue., Aug 5—Fossil Group, 7 p.m., Senior Center. Jerry Suchan 303 648-3410

Thu., Aug 7—Board Meeting, 7 p.m., Senior Center.

Tue., Aug 12—Micromounts, 7 p.m., Senior Center. Dave Olsen, 719 495-8720

Thu., Aug 21—NO General Assembly Meeting this month, 7 p.m., Senior Center.

Aug, Crystal Group, Meetings resume in Sep. Kevin Witte, 719 638-7919

Aug, Faceting Group, Meetings resume in Sep. Paul Berry, 719 578-5466

Aug, Jewelry Group, By appointment. Call, Bill Arnson, 719 337-8070. 15610 Alta Plaza Cir., Peyton

Aug, Lapidary, By appointment until Sep., Sharon Holte 719 217-5683.

Aug, Pebble Pups & Juniors. Meetings resume in Sep, Steven Veatch, 719 748-5010

The Senior Center is located at 1514 North Hancock in Colorado Springs. For more information on any of the sub-groups, meetings, and other CSMS valuable information, go to our website, [csms.us](http://csms.us)

## Other Events of Interest to CSMS Members

**Friends of Florissant Fossil Beds, Inc. 2014 Summer Seminar Series** \$25.00 for each one -day seminar. Reduced rates for members of the Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds, Inc.

Fri. July 10, 5pm–1am	The Natural History and Ecology Of Flammulated Owls	Brian Linkhart
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Fri. July 11, 9am-5pm	Fens, Forests, and Flowers	Doug Coleman
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Sat. July 12, 9am – 5pm	Fens, Forests, and Flowers (cont.)
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Sat. July 19, 9am-5pm	Follow a Fossil: Behind the Scenes Of the Paleontology Program at Florissant Fossil Beds	Herb Meyer
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Sun. July 20, 9am-5pm	From Pikes Peak to South Park Mid-Tertiary Volcanoes and the Shape of the Land	Bud Wobus
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Thu. July 24, 9am – 5pm	School in the Woods	Jonathan Wuerth, Carol Stansfield
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For more information go to <http://www.fossilbeds.org/seminars/>

**Aug. 7-10, Contin-Tail Rock Show**, Buena Vista Rodeo Grounds

**Aug. 14-17, Woodland Park Rock Gem and Jewelry Show**, Between Wal-Mart and Burger King on Hwy 24, Rock, Gem, and Jewelry Auction both Fri. & Sat nights.

**Aug. 15-17, Lake George Gem and Mineral Show**, Lake George, CO

**Sep. 5-7, Ouray-Silverton San Juan Mountains Mineral Symposium**, Sponsored by The Colorado School of Mines Geology Museum Friends of Mineralogy, Colorado Chapter and Friends of the Colorado School of Mines Geology Museum For the registration form and other questions and concerns, please contact Lou Conti, 303-797-3205 or [dlconti@aol.com](mailto:dlconti@aol.com)

**Sep. 19-21, 9AM-6PM, Petrified Wood Seminar**, Walt Wright at the Grand Junction Gem & Mineral Club. Cost \$80. Contact Jim Schultz, 970-242-0428 or [js@jimschultz.net](mailto:js@jimschultz.net)

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*291.5 Common invertebrate and plant paleontological resources are invertebrate or plant fossils that are of ordinary occurrence and wide-spread distribution. Not all invertebrate and plant paleontological resources are common.*

In my opinion, not all *common* invertebrates and plant fossils are of *widespread* occurrence---widespread is not the same as common. But what does widespread really encompass? Fossil collectors know from their experience those fossils that are rare and should be shared with the museum/university communities. I can't imagine the term "widespread" holding up in a court of law and think it better to allow fossil collectors the opportunity to present a museum with an uncommon specimen. This seems a bad solution looking for a problem.

*291.5 Negligible disturbance means little or no change to the surface of the land and causing minimal or no effect on other resources. The authorized officer has discretion to determine what constitutes negligible disturbance.*

This rule, as written, seems essentially unenforceable. Different rangers certainly would have diverse views about land disturbance. I realize that hand tools can cause "negligible disturbances"---all I need to do is look at forest land near Colorado Springs where quartz and amazonite hunters have dug up a storm. However, I would not want to be the USFS and take this ambiguous statement to court. Education of rockhounds seems the best answer; however, TV shows talking about big bucks for specimens brings out a wide variety of non-ethical rockhounds looking for the "easy" money and destroying the landscape. It seems reasonable to prohibit negligible disturbance; however, I believe the regulation should be constructed in a better understandable manner.

*291.5 Non-powered hand tools mean small tools that do not use or are not operated by a motor, engine, or other power source. These tools are limited to small tools that can be easily carried by hand such as geological hammers, trowels, or sieves, but not large tools such as full-sized shovels or pick axes.*

This is not an interpretation of the law but someone writing *new* law. The U.S. Congress, in passing the PRPA, allowed the causal collector to *use non-powered hand tools*. I find it hard to believe that anyone could/would not label a shovel or a pick axe as a hand tool!

*291.5 Reasonable amount means a maximum per calendar year of one gallon by volume or 25 pounds by weight, and generally includes not more than five specimens of any one fossil kind. For rock slabs containing fossils, the amount is limited to a slab that can be hand-carried by one person with minimal effort without the aid of mechanical devices.*

This is the section that really drove me "to drink" (in the vernacular)-- rockhounds may only collect a single gallon or 25 pounds in one year! What about some of the large ammonites that may weigh in excess of 25 pounds? According to the rules, the rockhound would be finished for the year. I have seen landscapes littered with fossil oysters that would easily fill a gallon container in a few minutes. Not that I would need that many oysters, but some collectors give samples to school children. I also question if the writer(s) of this section has ever collected fossil Cnidarians (bryozoans). At some localities a collector could reach down and pick up a handful of bryozoan colonies, somewhere in excess of ~100 colonies-not five. How could this regulation ever be enforced? Will someone count my bryozoans---and could they tell the difference between those similar-looking little boogers? As for carrying a slab out of the field, what if the collector has a "bad back" and wanted to put the 10 pound slab on a small cart with wheels for a ride to the vehicle?

Not all rockhounds agree with me, but the PPRA was a good piece of legislation in that it: 1) prohibited the collection of vertebrate fossils; 2) allowed the causal collector a legal opportunity to collect common invertebrate fossils; and 3) essentially restricted the number of fossils collected by disallowing the sale or barter of fossils.

There are several other confusing provisions in the proposed rules but space in this column prevents further explanations. I will continue to monitor the situation, and work with the agencies to better write the regulations. My big fear is that the USFS will adopt the rules and BLM would soon follow. If that happens, my guess is that the agencies will then begin to define limits of minerals and that would be even more of a disaster.

Most rockhounds are good and honest collectors and many collectors that specialize in fossils are anxious to donate rare specimens to museums. Honest rockhounds want to work with the agencies. Most regulations associated with PPRA should address the dishonest collectors selling specimens on the open or black market.

## **Mr. Ackley Is Retiring This Year**

Art Ackley, owner of Ackley's Rocks & Stamps, is retiring this year after 50 years in the business. The 90-year-old proprietor of Ackley's Rocks & Stamps, 3230 N. Stone Ave., says it's time to retire. He plans to sell his inventory of rare and collectible specimens to an online dealer.

Stamps will no longer be bought or sold, but the rock and mineral sales will continue under the name Ackley's Rocks. David Key, with his wife and daughter, bought that part of the business five years ago and will continue to operate the rock and mineral business without changing the name.

The Keys plan to buy the Ackley building this summer, making Ackley's retirement official.

But until the sale is final, Mr. Ackley will be where Springs stamp collectors have come to expect him: manning the counter from 9 to 4:15 p.m. every day except Wednesday and Sunday.



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# Have Pick Will Travel A camping Trip to Big Sandy Reservoir

By Ellie Rosenberg, Pictures by Frank Rosenberg

Barb & Bob Landgraf invited us to come along with them to a joint field trip of the RAMS and the North Jeffco Mineral Society to Big Sandy Reservoir, WY, for petrified wood. Don Beamer of both the RAMS and North Jeffco has been leading this trip for several years and is very knowledgeable of the many localities in that area. Big Sandy is a great place to camp. We stayed in a big level spot right on the lake. There are only pit toilettes and of course no hookups or water. You can see the Landgraf's A-liner nestled in the trees in the left hand side and the Rosenberg's trailer to the left of them. We shared our site with a large flock of swallows and some very cute burrowing animals. They were not prairie dogs but looked more like little squirrels or big chipmunks.

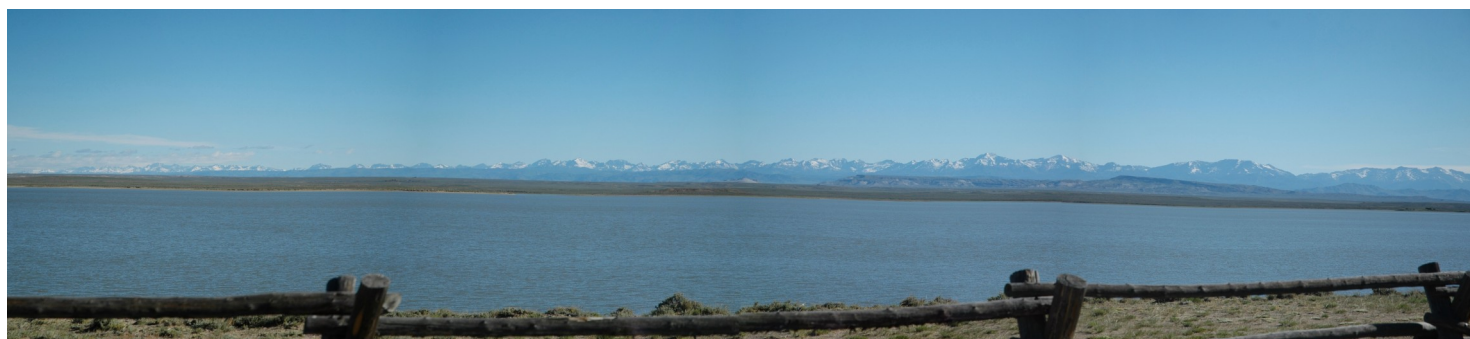
The first day we dug at Big Sandy itself. Bob, Barb and Don found some nice round logs. Frank and I found lots of pieces that look like someone split them for firewood. Many had some very nice blue chalcedony in them. Success depends on having the right tools. What seemed to work best was a long handled pointy



Cute burrowing animals



The Group Campsite



View of the Mountains from the campsite



hoe. The technique is to drag the hoe through the soil wherever you find pieces of wood on the surface until you feel and hear the ping of hitting something. Then digging down to see what you hit.

The second day we went to a locality not too far away. On the way we passed a nest of rough legged hawk chicks. At first we thought they might be eagle chicks but mom appeared shortly after we got out of the car to take a closer look. She was definitely a hawk. The second location was known for palm wood. We found quite a few limb casts. Don found a big clump of petrified palm root ball. Later I found a smaller piece. We did not find a lot here but the highlight of my day was walking up a wash and coming within 15 feet of a young antelope. He was laying down up against the low shrubbery. He was watching me but did not move at all. Mom was nowhere around. I gave him room so as not to scare him. Sadly I did not have my camera or my phone. Later people told me that the mother antelope gives strict instructions to the young to stay put and not to move. I stood for several minutes just looking at him and he at me.

The third day we went back to a different area in Big Sandy Reservoir. We were specifically looking for logs and had some luck. One of the North Jeffco members, Brett went off on his own in search of new prospects. We had all gone back to the campsite and were having beers, when he came back asking if anyone wanted to help him dig up an 8 foot log he had uncovered. Everyone took him up on it and after 4 hours with five people digging he finally removed the whole log.

On the way back to the campsite we came upon a group of horses. At first we thought they were wild, but later found out they were owned by the same rancher who ran cattle in Big Sandy. There was a stallion with six mares and 2 colts. Beautiful animals. We can't wait to return to Big Sandy. The experience was incredible. Rockhounds are the best people to travel with.



Barb using a hoe to find logs that are typically buried a few inches below the surface



Brett, Bob, Don and the 8 foot log



The Stallion



One of the mares and her colt

## Upcoming Field Trips

**Thu., July 10, Smoky Hawk Amazonite Claim**, Meet at the Lake George Ranger Station. 8:45 A.M. Contact Mark Lemesany, 719-649-2652, [mlemesany@yahoo.com](mailto:mlemesany@yahoo.com)

**Sat., August 2, Leadville Area Collecting**, Orthoclase Twins & Beta Quartz Crystals (FMC HOSTED) Meet at the parking lot at the top of Fremont Pass on the south side. Contact Tally O'Donnell (FMC) 720-409-6982

**Sat., August 9, Peridot Claim with GPOC**, Meet at Bayou Saludo Trading Post, Hartsel, CO. 9AM. Contact Yam Yamiolkoski 719-488-5526, [YAMOFHEWEST@gmail.com](mailto:YAMOFHEWEST@gmail.com)

**Sat., August 16, Topaz Mountain Claim**, Meet at Topaz Mountain Gem Claim parking lot. Contact Mark Lemesany, 719-649-2652, [mlemesany@yahoo.com](mailto:mlemesany@yahoo.com)

**Sat., September 20, Red Feather Lakes Quartz** (Hosted by FMC). Meet at Potbelly Deli & Restaurant, Red Feather Lakes, CO., located at the corner of Co Rd 74e & Manhattan Rd Co Rd 69 on the North side. 9:30AM. Contact Charlotte Bourg, [gabrielle.accatino@noaa.gov](mailto:gabrielle.accatino@noaa.gov)

See <http://www.csms-web.org/drupal/calendar-node-field-event/month> for complete detail

### 2014 CSMS Officers

**Mark Lemesany, President**

**Jean Miller, Vice President**

**Renee Swanson, Secretary**

**Ann Proctor, Treasurer**

**Ellie Rosenberg, Editor**

**Ariel Dickens, Membership Secretary**

**Susan Freeman, Member-at-Large**

**Frank Rosenberg, Member-at-Large**

**Roger Pittman, Past President**

### 2014 CSMS Chairpersons

**Kim & Bodie Packham, Show Chairs**

**TBD, Field Trip Director**

**TBD, Science Fair Chair**

**Frank & Ellie Rosenberg, Librarians**

**Camera Club Chair is Vacant**

**Georgia Woodworth, Social Committee Chair**

**Ann Proctor, Store Keeper**

**Gary del Valle, Webmaster**

### SECRETARY'S SPOT by Renee Swanson

### MINUTES OF COLORADO SPRINGS MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING JUNE 19, 2014

Called to order: 7:00 p.m. Followed by Pledge of Allegiance

Program for evening: Meteorites by Jack Thompson. Jack and Kay Thompson volunteer at the Museum in Denver where he works in the Meteorite Section.

New members and guests were introduced, seven sets of guests due to the show and members talking about the Society to others.

The break for refreshments was well appreciated by all!!

Figures for the Show – Silent Auction were given. We did very well. Other financial data for the Show is not currently available. It will take several weeks to get all the invoices finalized.

The Museum stated that in 2013 we had 1200 guests where in 2014 we had 1667 guests. This really helps us out and gives the Museum a real boost in revenue. Kim Packham stated that we had a fantastic show!

The drawing was held for several minerals.

Adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Reported by Sharon Holte who was standing in for Renee Swanson – CSMS Secretary

### Sub-Group Responsibilities for Refreshments for General Assembly Meetings

<b>Feb. Fossil</b>	<b>Mar. Jewelry</b>	<b>Apr. Lapidary</b>
<b>May Micromount</b>	<b>June Board</b>	<b>July Crystal</b>
<b>Aug. Picnic</b>	<b>Sept. Faceting</b>	<b>Oct. Fossil</b>
<b>Nov. Jewelry</b>	<b>Dec. Christmas Party</b>	



*5th Annual Rock Gypsies*  
*Woodland Park*  
*Rock, Gem and Jewelry Show*

**Thursday - Sunday, August 14th - 17th, 2014**

**9:00 am - 5:00 pm**

**Located on Hwy 24, Between  
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Woodland Park, CO**



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# Aug. 14-17, 2014

15-th Annual

# Lake George

## Gem and Mineral Show

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# PICK&PACK

## Our Staff...

### Ellie Rosenberg—Editor

We encourage everyone to submit articles, photos, illustrations or observations. Share your experiences, your new finds, or simply your experience at our last field trip.

Handwrite it, type it, or email it. Format does not matter. All submissions are welcomed. The DEADLINE for items to be included in the next Pick & Pack, is the **21st of the month**

To submit an item:

For hardcopy photos or articles, mail to the address below or bring them to the General 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

E-Mail to:

[csmseditor@hotmail.com](mailto:csmseditor@hotmail.com)

Mail to:

Pick & Pack Editor

PO Box 2

Colorado Springs, CO 80901

The PICK&PACK is published ten (10) times per year;(no issues in January or August). Unless otherwise marked, materials from this publication may be reprinted. Please give credit to the author and CSMS PICK&PACK.

## CSMS

**T-Shirts, Badges, and Pins** are available for sale.

If you celebrated a CSMS anniversary in 2012 or 2013, your year pin award

See Storekeeper,  
Ann Proctor

## Classifieds

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## **CSMS is an incorporated nonprofit organization with these goals:**

To promote and disseminate knowledge of the earth sciences, especially as they relate to mineralogy, lapidary, and fossils.

To encourage study, collection, and fashioning of minerals.

To accomplish the same through social meetings, lectures, programs, displays, shows, and field trips.

The Pick & Pack is published 10 times each year to assist and promote the above.

## **Joining the Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society (CSMS)**

Meetings are held the **third (3rd) Thursday of each month**, except January & August, 7:00 p.m. at the Colorado Springs Senior Center, 1514 North Hancock Ave., 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, 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 Meeting or visit our web site: [www.csms.us](http://www.csms.us).

### **CSMS is a Member of: the following:**

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) [www.amfed.org](http://www.amfed.org)

Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies (RMFMS) [www.rmfmts.org](http://www.rmfmts.org)