PICK&PACK

THE BULLETIN OF THE COLORADO SPRINGS MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY Published Since 1960

MARCH 2008

PICK&PACK

Volume 48 Number 2

CSMS is an incorporated nonprofit organization with these goals:

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

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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 (CFMS) www.coloradorocks.org

Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society

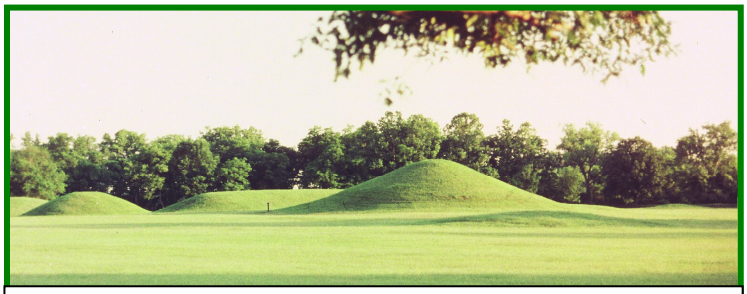
Founded in 1936

Lazard Cahn

Honorary President

The Hopewell Culture
A Glimpse into the Prehistoric of North America

By Steven Wade Veatch, CSMS



The Hopewell Culture was known for their construction of burial mounds such as these near Chillicothe, Ohio. Mounds of southern Ohio are the most numerous. These mounds contain graves and exotic mortuary offerings such as the canine teeth of grizzly bears inlaid with freshwater pearls. Photo courtesy of the National Park Service.

The Ohio River Valley, from about 200 BC to AD 500, was the center of the prehistoric Hopewell culture. The culture can be traced back to central Illinois where it developed along rivers and major waterways. Rather than a single group of people, the Hopewell culture was essentially a system of interaction among a number of different aboriginal groups in the Eastern Woodlands of North America. The Hopewell culture at one time extended beyond southern Ohio—remains have been found in the Mississippi Valley, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Kansas, Missouri, and Florida.

The Hopewell are characterized by earthworks built in the shape of squares, circles, octagons, and other geometric designs, and mounds of various shapes and sizes. A number of these earthwork sites were built on a large scale with walls of earth up to 12 feet high that formed geometric figures more than 1,000 feet across. Mounds were built in many shapes—some of the larger mounds measured up to 30 feet high.

Mounds, often found in association with the geometric earthworks, were used for burial and contained burial offerings. The mounds were constructed by covering the ground with a layer of sand. A large wooden or log enclosure that contained individual graves was built on the layer of sand. Artifacts were placed within the wooden enclosure along with the dead. These artifacts included figurines, pottery goods, and objects fashioned from copper and mica, and freshwater pearls (at one Hopewell site

(See "Hopewell" on pg 4)

Inside this issue:

MARCH 2008

PICK&PACK

Our Staff…

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Articles:
Mail or email to the addresses below.

Email: bcain2@earthlink.net or Info@csms.us
Address:
PO Box 2
Colorado Springs, CO 80901
Phone:
(719) 634-8205

The PICK&PACK is published at least ten (10) times per year; 275-300 copies mailed per month (no issues in January or August).

President's Corner


Rick Copeland

First of all I would like to thank the outgoing Board for their commitment to CSMS and contributing to 2007's success. I would specifically like to thank Drew Malin for his 3 years of service as President and 2 years as Vice-president. Drew's enthusiasm sparked a lot of new interest in CSMS and in rockhounding in our community; the growth in membership is just one example. I plan to continue and build on what Drew has accomplished but always keeping in mind the rich history of our club and learn from the esteemed progression of past presidents.

I want to thank the 2008 CSMS *"Flannel"* Board for volunteering. For those of you who could not make it to the installment dinner, I was honored by the 2008 officers wearing my favorite item of clothing, a flannel shirt. I obviously didn't get the memo, because I was sans flannel.

It won't be long before June is upon us and our spring show. Much work has already been done, but there is much more to do. Drew Malin is our 2008 Show Chairman, and as you know Drew likes to lead by delegation. That means we need volunteers, and lots of them. If you have a couple hours a week or a couple hours a month, let Drew know. I'm sure he will have something for you. And, as further incentive, I remind you that volunteering one 2-hour shift at the show gets you free admission for the whole weekend. Also, I would like to invite you to enter a display case in the show, either competitive or non-competitive. Show off some of your collection, rock related hobby, or an educational display.

March General Assembly Program

Information on the March program was not available at press time.

Show Meeting—Mar 20th, 6:30p

The 3rd show meeting will be held prior to the February General Assembly at the Senior Center. It's not too late to volunteer to assist with this great event. This year's theme is "Gemstones of the U.S."

Time is Running Out—CSMS Directory

CSMS 2008 membership renewal is underway, and the 2008 Directory will be published in April. It's not too late to submit your dues and be counted among our faithful rockhound friends.

Your annual dues include many privileges including one year of fun and education in Earth Sciences, presentations by world-class speakers, field trips (we're ramping up the 2008 season!), free admission to the Western Museum of Mining & Industry and their events, membership in the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies, membership in the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies, ten issues of the *Pick&Pack*, access to personalized training in one of our satellite groups, use of CSMS rockhounding equipment, the opportunity to show off your collected treasures at the Annual Pikes Peak Gem & Mineral Show (the Smithsonian is coming this year!!), and many more advantages.

Renew your membership before time runs out. An application is provided on page 15 and also available on our web site at www.csms.us.

AFMS News

BY SHIRLEY LEESON, AFMS PRESIDENT

I can fondly remember in the 1970's when I first because interested in the gem and mineral hobby, I enjoyed seeing the exhibits at the various clubs and regional shows. At that time, at the regional levels, there were numerous competitive exhibits, and they were to me the highest level of exhibiting. While I wasn't a competitive exhibitor myself, I did enjoy seeing the exhibits and reading the comments of the judges. These past 6 to 7 years, I have become more involved in the intricacies of judging competitive exhibits. In fact, I have attended the Eastern Federation's AFMS Wildacres Judges Training Course 6 times over the last 7 years. This workshop is for AFMS judges because there was a difference in judging from region to region. Many think this has been overcome, and judging is on an even keel at this time, ***but where are the exhibits to judge?*** If you have heard horror stories about judges—I believe that's now in the past.

I think that if the lack of competitive exhibits continues, this will hurt the hobby. Why? Because we have club and regional shows and invite the public in to see what we've collected or made. We have given the public an educational experience, and we have encouraged newer members by example. I can remember when early shows had exhibit cases that were really terrible to look at. Don't laugh; some had blankets or towels on the bottom of the cases, some had patterned liners that were so busy you couldn't see what was supposed to be the center of attention. Competitive exhibiting set a standard by eliminating all this and putting the emphasis on the material exhibited.

Exhibiting in competition usually starts at the regional level, and there are 3 regional shows coming up in June. If you belong to one of these federations, you can compete, and if you earn a 90 or above on the master level, you will be eligible to compete on the AFMS level at the show in September. Only trophies for Master are given out at the AFMS level except for Juniors.

I'd like to encourage all clubs throughout the U.S. to have a "how-to" night. This would show new club members how to create an exhibit that will wow the public. Choices of materials used, fabric, and what to use as a backing for the liners, what you can use as risers to show off your material, and what to put on your labels.

I am asking all of you to work on this aspect of our hobby because we need the public to see what we are about.

Upcoming Shows

Mar 28-30
Fort Collins Show, contact (970) 493-6168 or showchairman@fortcollinsrockhounds.org

Apr 25-27
Colorado Mineral & Fossil Show, Holliday Inn, Denver Central (I-25 & I-70); Sat 10-6 & Sun 10-5.

Apr 25-27
55th Annual Wichita Gem & Mineral Society, "Nature's Wonders—Dazzling Gemstones"; Gene Maggard at show @wgmsks.org

May 2-4
McPherson Gem & Mineral Club; contact (620) 241-2433 or (620) 241-7003

May 10-11
Grand Junction Gem, Mineral, and Jewelry Show, First & Main; contact Dave McCollough (970) 523-5443.

May 16-17
35th Annual Rock Swap, sponsored by the Ellinwood , KS Chamber of Commerce; (620) 564-3300

May 21-28
NW, Rocky Mountain, & CA Federations Rockhound Rendezvous in Texas Springs, NV. Details on RMFMS website, www.rmfms.Org

Jun 21-22
CSMS 44th Annual Gem & Mineral Show, Phil Long Expo Center; contact Drew Malin at Advanceone@comcast.net

Sep 25-28
AFMS Show, Humble, TX.

Nov 7-9
RMFMS Show, Tulsa, OK.

WMMI Happenings

Mining and Minerals: Foundations of Society

This class will explore Colorado's mining heritage, investigate historic mining and milling (including a one-of-a-kind virtual tour of the ghost town of Gilman and the associated Eagle Mine), examine modern mining methods, look at environmental considerations, and become familiar with available mining educational resources. There will be special tours of the mining museum during the course. The instructor is **Steven Veatch**, an adjunct professor of Earth science at Emporia State University where he received an MS in Earth science and has published over 100 articles and professional papers on geology and regional mining history. The course fee of $50 includes all materials and a box lunch ($40 for CSMS/WMMI members). For an additional fee of $30, participants may earn 0.5 graduate-level semester credit from the Colorado School of Mines. The credit is optional but is applicable for teacher license renewal in the State of Colorado and is generally accepted elsewhere. Class date**: Saturday, April 12, 8:30 am to 5:30 pm. To register or for more information, contact:** Brad Poulson, Western Museum of Mining and Industry, Phone: 719/488-0880

Colorado Prospecting & Mineral Collecting Seminar (Aka: New Member Orientation) - Saturday, May 17, 2008; 10:00a—7:00p

Come to the Western Museum of Mining & Industry to catch the fever and discover the secrets of

(See "WMMI Events" on page 5)

HOPEWELL— CONT'D FROM PG 1

more than 100,000 pearls were found). When the grave was finished, the wooden enclosure was set on fire and was consumed in flames. The entire burial area was then covered with layers of earth.

By the 1890s these remarkable mounds attracted considerable attention, and some were excavated so that the contents could be displayed at the World's Columbian Exhibition of 1893. The most noteworthy mound site was on the Ohio farm of M.C. Hopewell: the name Hopewell was assigned to this culture.

The Hopewell culture produced an elaborate pottery that was fired and very durable. Photo courtesy of the National Park Service.

Today remains of the Hopewell culture are represented by earthworks and mounds such as the ones concentrated in the Scioto River valley near Chillicothe, Ohio.

The Hopewellian people made ceremonial objects that were crafted from materials that were traded across the Eastern Woodlands of North America. These materials included native copper from the Great Lakes area, silver from Canada, marine shells from the Gulf of Mexico, shark teeth from the Atlantic coast, mica from the Appalachian Mountains, and obsidian from the Rocky Mountains. An enduring mystery surrounds the obsidian—was it traded to them, or did the Hopewell make an expedition there? Although the Hopewell frequently used copper, they also used iron and silver. Their metals came from native copper, native silver, and iron-rich meteorites.

These obsidian projectile points were made in various sizes by the Hopewell. Some Hopewell projectile points are corner or side notched. Photo courtesy of the National Park Service.

The Hopewell were thought to have lived in small sedentary settlements concentrated around ceremonial earthworks and mounds. In addition to hunting and gathering wild plants, they had developed farming based on native plants (not the corn that would later come from Mexico). After AD 400 most of the Hopewell culture had faded from the archaeological record.

Note: a Hopewell newsletter is available for subscription at http://www.cr.nps.gov/mwac/hopewell/index.html

References:

Garbarino, M.S. and Sasso, R.F., 1994. *Native American Heritage*, Waveland Press, Inc. Long Grove, Illinois, 557 p.

Hopewell Culture National Historical Park, URL: www.nps.gov/hocu/, accessed January 30, 2005.

Prufer, O. H, 1974. "The Hopewell Cult." In, *New World Archaeology: Theoretical and Cultural Transformations*, edited by B.W. Zubrow, M. C. Fritz, and J.M. Fritz, pp. 222-230. W.H. Freeman and Company, San Francisco.

VINCENT JOHNSON BY RAY BERRY, CSMS

CSMS lost a long-time member when Vince Johnson died on January 20, 2008. Vince joined the Society in 1973, soon after he and his wife, Mildred, moved here from Illinois where they had been active in similar clubs. Being familiar with mid-west exhibitions, Mildred volunteered to be Special Exhibits Chairman, and she and Vince worked to bring several unique and interesting displays to the 1974 Pikes Peak Gem and Mineral Show.

Sometime during the '70s he took work in the Longmont/Fort Collins areas and dropped his CSMS membership until he moved back to Colorado Springs, rejoining the Society in 1983. He was awarded his life membership in CSMS at our recent banquet but sadly did not receive it before he passed away. He loved lapidary, and his collection consisted of many beautiful and expertly made cabs and other jewelry items.

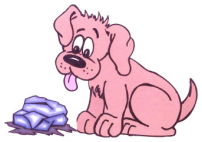
Vince was born on April 13, 1918 in Orion, Illinois. He was a farm boy with a beautiful singing voice and a love for music, particularly the classics. Vince was known for his quiet mannerly demeanor, smile, and wit. He always had a joke ready for anyone who would listen, and all were appropriate in mixed company! He sang in the choir of his church until his health finally prohibited it.

His age made him a member of "The Greatest Generation" and was a veteran of World War II, serving in Europe with the Military Police. He was a proud member of the American Legion. He and Mildred were married in 1943, and after the war he worked as a carpenter. His skill at this allowed him to become a 'finish carpenter', and this writer has a large and beautiful birch mineral cabinet that he built for him.

Some years after Mildred passed away, he married Elaine Bjork, who also pre-deceased him a few years ago. During 2007, he had surgery for cancer, and his last days were spent in hospice where his many friends visited him and found him always in good spirits and at peace, accepting his lot without fear. We will miss Vince greatly.

Pebble Pups

By Betty Cain



March's program will be "Oil, Gas, and Mineral Exploration". Do you know how oil and gas were formed in the earth? Oil and gas core samples, microfossil samples, maps, electric logs, and seismic sections will be explained. The use of a compass will be demonstrated, and topographic and geologic maps will be studied.

We start at 6:30p and will conclude before the General Assembly starts at 7:30p. Adults are always welcome.

More new badges have been added to the AFMS Future Rockhound of America program. Come learn how you may qualify for these badges.

News from Mexico

By Peter Megaw, pmegaw@imdex.com

Orignally published in *Mineral News*, used with permision

(EDITOR NOTE: This is a follow up on the article "Giant Crystal Cave—Naica Peñoles" published in the *Pick&Pack, Vol 47, No 8, Sept 2007.)*

It has been quite a while since I last reported on Mexico, largely due to an overwhelming exploration schedule, but also due to a paucity of decent mineral finds. Fortunately, as predicted, the worm is turning thanks to high metal prices, phenomenal exploration investment and the reopening of many old mines. Interest in oxidized zinc ores has revived interest in smithsonite and hemimorphite occurrences, high lead prices have spurred demand both from (partially) oxidized and sulfide ores, and silver continues to shine as production ramps up all over the place. There are very few old mines that are not seeing renewed production and some new mines are already showing major promise as specimen sources. I am cautiously optimistic that a new wave of killer materials from Mexico is coming.

Naica, Chichuahua: The Cave of the Giants has achieved widespread fame despite many folks' initial reaction of "someone's having fun with Photoshop" on seeing photographs of puny orange spacesuit clad humans next to groups of selenite crystals up to 11 meters long. Some exceptional photographs of the cave can be found online at www.slideshare.net/random13579/naica-crystal-cave/-81k or punch "Naica, crystals" into Google and take your pick. Be careful with "Naica, calendar"!!! A photo of the cave graced the cover of the April 2007 issue of the Geological Society of America's *Geology*

(See "Giants" on pg 13)

WMMI Events—cont'd from pg 3

mineral collecting and gold prospecting in Colorado's world famous geology. With the assistance of the Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society, the Gold Prospectors of Colorado, the Lake George Gem & Mineral Club, and the Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds, experts in Colorado geology will teach an introduction to mineral collecting and gold prospecting. Starting at 10a, this event-filled course will include a practical hands-on session in the morning, a classroom session in the afternoon, and a keynote speaker in the early evening.

Plans for the morning practical session, which will be conducted on the Museum's beautiful grounds, include the demonstration of placer gold mining equipment, metal detectors, global positioning satellite systems, map reading and orientation, and mineral collection organization and display.

The afternoon classroom session will cover Pikes Peak regional geology and Colorado gold: Where and what to look for (structural and deposition geology and mineral ID), what tools and equipment to use, mapping applications, and the legalities of mining (how to file a claim, leasing mineral lands, and opportunities associated with county tax sales).

Finally, as part of the Museum's Heritage Lecture Series, a keynote speaker, renowned in this subject field, will lecture starting a 6p.

With the generous support of the above referenced organizations, this event is intended to be a fundraiser for the non-profit WMMI education mission. Members are encouraged to donate $5 per person, and a $10 donation is encouraged for all non-members. For an additional $10 per person, a box lunch can be reserved or attendees may bring their own picnic lunch to be enjoyed on the Museum's grounds. Space is limited, so please RSVP to the Museum at (719) 488-0880.

Family Exploration Day, March 15, 1-3p
Women's History Celebration & Edwardian Tea

Experience the lives of pioneer women with a featured storyteller and take part in hands-on activities such as quilting, wool dying, spinning, and soap making. The Colorado Women's Hall of Fame will display an exciting temporary exhibit that shares stories of women who "created, shaped, and changed our state's and nation's history." To top off the celebration, we'll have an Edwardian era tea! FREE with paid admission. Reservations at (719) 488-0880.

March 28, 10a-1p Springs Break with the Burros and Pioneer Games

Join us at the Museum and meet our famous donkeys, Oro & Nugget. Meet and greet as you learn what a pink donkey is and see how donkeys count. Afterward, come inside to warm up and learn what

(See WMMI Events on pg 13)

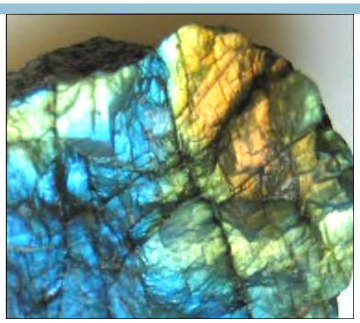
Orienting Obsidian, Labradorite, and Spectrolite

By Jim Small, Small Wonders LaPidary, used with permission

Obsidian:
Orienting obsidian depends on what type of obsidian and what you are doing with it. If you are polishing flats, the best way to orient rainbow sheen obsidian is 10-15 degrees off the plane of the parallel bands. If you are cabbing it, cut exactly parallel to the bands or the effect is lost or diminished. Fire obsidian sometimes loses its fire sheet when cut parallel and should be cut after careful examination of the best angles for viewing the fire which is actually in between bands. Other types of obsidian look different when cut at different angles to the bands; midnite lace is one such example, where you should experiment until you find the "look" that pleases you.

Labradorite/'Spectrolite':
Here is a procedure for orienting labradorite/-spectrolite. It will also do a credible job with moonstone. With most sunstone (India and upstate NY) orientation is simpler because you will just orient for the schiller (metallic flecks).

1. Set a student desk lamp, what we used to call a high-intensity lamp. They usually have a switch for two levels of brightness, and they always have clear glass bulbs (this is important).
2. Fix a high shelf where you can put your lamp so that you can adjust the arm to have the beam of light shine straight down onto a flat surface which needs to be no higher than thigh-high. A stool or flat-top crate will work fine.
3. Set a tin, like one of the tins which Danish butter cookies come in; it should be anywhere from 8" to 12" in diameter and between 2" to 3" deep. Fill this tin about 3/4 full with sand or fresh kitty litter or any other finely granular material.
4. Set a really good quality waterproof marker. It should be at least 6" long, and ought to have a relatively fine (no more than 1/8") point. Round-nose markers work fine as long as they haven't been squished by pressing too hard.
5. Stand on the opposite side of the stool/crate from the shelf with the lamp. Adjust your stance and the lamp so that you can look straight down on the middle of the tin while the lamp shines its beam straight down above the top of your head without your head occluding the beam.
6. Place a piece of mono-crystalline labradorite in the granular material in the tin so that at least 2/3 of it is above the supporting grains. If you have polycrystalline pieces of labradorite, you either have to cut them apart along the crystal boundaries or go for the largest of showiest crystal; trash the others.



Multi-colored labradorescence (shiller effect)

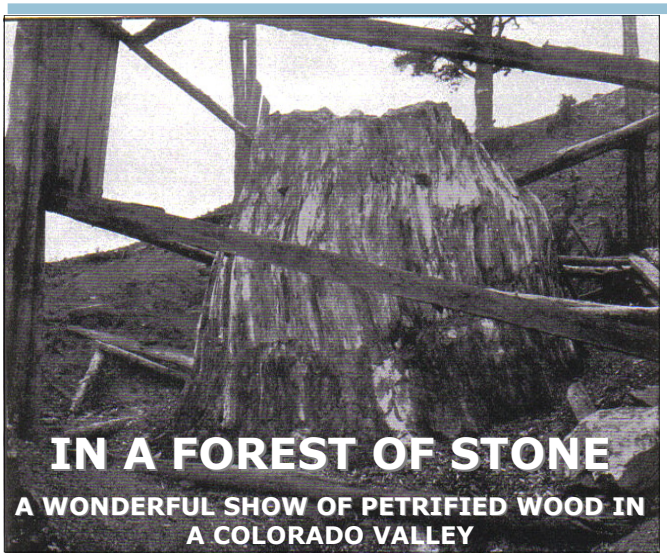
7. Slowly rotate the labradorite until you see a flash of color; once you locate a flash, slowly spin the piece until you have the very brightest flash showing right on top. After you have the brightest surface centered, rest your permanent marker on the top edge of the tin and drag it slowly around the piece, leaving a mark all of the way around. This mark should be parallel to the top flash.
8. Slice your crystal parallel to the mark to cut slabs which will produce finished cabs with a broad color flash over their top surface.

Some labradorite will behave like moonstone and have the capability of producing a floating eye in a cut cab. To test whether your stone has this capability, take the following additional steps.

9. Place the stone on its side so that the marker line is straight up toward your eye. Slowly rotate the stone, keeping the line in vertical orientation. When you see another "flash" (it will be distinctly weaker than the broad flash which you already marked), test its location by slowly revolving the stone from left to right or vice versa until you have the best flash firmly centered on the top of the stone. It should be somewhere on the first line; if it isn't, start over from the beginning.
10. After the second flash is firmly centered, draw another line in the same fashion as the first one. The two lines will not meet at a 90 degree angle but nearly so.
11. Slice the crystal parallel to the second line to produce a floating eye in your finished stone.

Now to make things really interesting, there is some labradorite from Labrador that not only has labradorescence, bit it also has schiller. In effect, it is labradorite/sunstone. If you have any of this material, you will see the small metallic flecks show up when you do the first orientation. If you have this material, don't bother to look for the floating eye, because the schiller is much rarer as an optical phenomenon.

You can get into really fancy tricks with the orientation if you want, like having pendant stones that flash only when they are hanging on someone. Labradorite is not recommended as a ring stone nor a bracelet stone. It is much too soft and tender for anything that rugged. Also, since it is a feldspar, it has perfect cleavage in two directions; a sharp rap will cleave it!



"In a Forest of Stone," The Mineralogists' Monthly, Arthur Chamberlain, Editor, Vol. 6 #10, August 1891, Chamberlain Printing Co., Jersey City, N.J., p. 118-119. Used with permission. Steven W. Veatch

The petrified forest of Florissant is located in a green valley a mile and a half from the station. The road to it leads south from the railroad, rising over the rolling hills in gentle slopes and disclosing new and beautiful views at every turn.

To the east and north rise the green slopes of the divide, culminating on the east in the snow-capped summit of Pike's Peak.

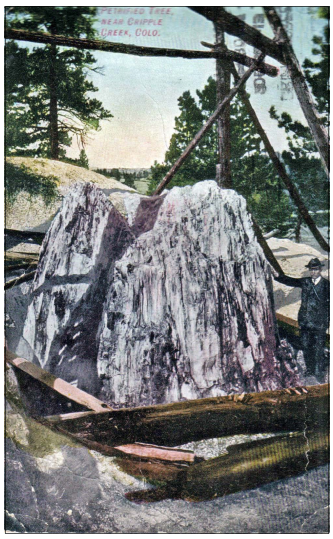
To the north, about five miles, Crystal Peak stands out, a sharp cone, from among a cluster of wooded hills, rising in round terraces to its base.

Far to the west, over the intervening mountains and parks, may be seen the snowy range, a perpetual wall of snowy white on the horizon, marking the backbone of the continent. Everywhere along the road may be found little chips of petrified wood, either dropped there by curiosity hunters or scattered from the remains of some stump in the vicinity.

After going up and down through several little valleys, the road descends a rather steep grade to the valley where the "forest" is located. The valley is broader here than elsewhere, and here and there, scattered over the bottom and on the lower slopes of the surrounding hills, are little mounds of white petrified chips, marking the spots where the tops of the stumps reach the surface.

Only one of the stumps has as yet been entirely uncovered, and to this most of the visitors go first. It is on the edge of a small grove of pine on the west side of the valley. Over it is a rough scaffolding, from which are suspended several saws, still deeply imbedded in the stump.

Several years ago, when the Midland was first opened, some one conceived the idea of transplanting the stump to Manitou, but it was found that it could not pass through tunnels on the road. He then commenced to saw it into vertical slabs, which he thought could be put together afterward. The saws sunk easily in the top of the stump for about two feet, when they encountered hard silica, to which the outside air had not yet penetrated, and there they stuck.



This stump is about forty-five feet in circumference and twelve feet high. Its shape is perfect; the buttressed roots, the knots and the irregularities of the bark are all there, as distinct as those on any of the pine trees close at hand.

The wood varies greatly. While all of it shows distinctly the grain and peculiarities of pine wood, there are some pieces which are hard as flint and white as marble, while others are soft and almost like natural wood.

By pulling off pieces of the petrified wood here and there are found little fibers which the silica did not for some reason reach, but these crumble to dust when touched. The tree has been identified as belonging to the same family as the giant trees of California.

Across the valley from the large stump is another one almost as peculiar. It is a large bluish-black stone, which is made of thousands of pieces of petrified charcoal, conglomerated in a solid mass. None of the pieces are over an inch in length, and how they became thus knit together is likely to remain a mystery.

The place, in its present condition, will fully repay a visitor, but the expenditure of a few thousand dollars by the town of Florissant in securing title to the land, digging out the stumps and grading the ground, would make it a great point of attraction for curiosity and pleasure seekers. The forest is reached by a ride of thirty-six miles on the Colorado Midland over the divide.

SNOW—A MINERAL?

MINI MINERS MONTHLY, VOL 2, NO. 1, 1/08

For a substance to be called "a mineral" it has to be all of the following things: A "mineral" . . .

- is a naturally occurring substance.
- is a solid.
- has a definite crystal structure.
- is inorganic (this means it isn't made by a plant or animal or made from plant or animal material).

Snow is natural, it is a solid, it forms six-sided crystals (snow flake!), and it is inorganic!

RMFMS Treasurer's Corner

By Gene Maggard, RMFMS

Annual reports and dues collections are about done as your treasurer writes this article. If you depend on the RMFMS for club liability insurance, it will lapse in mid February. Even if your report, dues, and insurance payment are late, your organization information will be printed in the bulletin and your insurance will be reinstated.

EDITOR NOTE: CSMS paid our dues, and the liability insurance coverage has been received.

If you are unfamiliar with the RMFMS sponsored liability insurance but are interested, give me a call or email, and I will give you some information. A fairly complete description can also be found in the RMFMS directory (www.rmfms.org).

As we get into the new fiscal year, RMFMS finances are sound. There has been no need to increase either dues or insurance payments even though prices of about everything have increased. We have set the budget for 2007-2008, and we should be in good financial shape for the new fiscal year. The budget is not for general distribution, but any member can get a copy from me with the understanding that it is not to be shared with non-members.

Here's to a successful 2008 with some great rock hounding. Perhaps we will meet at some great collecting area.

EDITOR'S NOTE: CSMS members serving on the RMFMS Committees are:

Mike Wheat—State Directors
Roger Pittman—Nominations
Jack Thompson—Uniform Rules Committee

Colorado School of Mines Museum Musings

by Bruce Giller, CSM Museum Director

Greetings from CSM Geology Museum. There has been a great deal of activity in the Museum. First, the grant that I mentioned in my last communication was formally awarded by the Golden Civic Foundation, for which we are most grateful . The grant will allow us to have signage installed by the city of Golden leading to the Museum. We will use the remaining funds to upgrade our website and improve our Museum brochures.

Our Advisory Council has been very busy establishing Museum goals and policies. We officially welcomed Bryan Lees as our newest member of the Council. Another Council member, Ed Raines, has headed a campaign to organize geologic items that we store in one of our four warehouses here on campus.

Other recent efforts at our Museum included exhibiting at the New Mexico Mineral Symposium in Socorro and also at the Flatirons Mineral Club show in Longmont. We have gotten several fascinating new donations in the past few months. I have personally led Museum tours to at least four mineral clubs. Work has continued on the symposium known as Minerals and Museums (M+M6), which is a conference for international mineral museum curators held every four years., slated for September 2008 here on campus (which will be the first time it was ever hosted in the U.S.).

New exhibits are being planned to better display our meteorites and a display will be created to play a DVD on the geology of the Golden area.

In conclusion, I encourage your club to schedule a private visit at the CSM Museum. Simply pick three nights or weekends that your club would like to visit and contact me at 303-273-3823. Museum normal hours are Monday—Saturday, 9a-4p; Sunday 1p-4p.

Tips & Tidbits: Stones to Carve — The following stones may be carved with only a file and/or motor tools and a few hand tools: **Sepiolite** (Meerschaum) Famous as a material to make pipe bowls. Work and finish with steel wool. **Alabaster** (Gypsum) Hardness varies. Hard types respond well to hand tools; others with files and wet or dry sandpaper. **Talc** (Soapstone) Work with files, sandpaper, and carving tools. **Anthracite** (Coal—Jet) Work with files and sandpaper. Work Howlite with hand tools; has the advantage of being dyed easily. Most of these can be sawed with a hacksaw. Most can be polished by hand with a piece of leather and tin oxide. *From Strata Gem 10/02 via Beehive Buzzer 1/08* Ripple Marks on Your Slabs? — There are several reasons for this problem: The carriage (or arbor) may be out of alignment. The blade may be dished. The bearing may be faulty. The blade may not fit the shaft properly. The feed speed may be too fast. To find a remedy, slow the feed speed. At the same time, make sure the blade is sharp. If it is not sharp, dress by running a piece of brick or grinding stone through several times. If this doesn't help, check the alignment. Check the bearings by trying to wiggle the shaft. If it wobbles, the bearings are faulty. Be sure there isn't any dirt under the shaft collars. If your check indicates misalignment, and you don't have the experience to re-align the carriage, contact your supplier or manufacturer. Don't let the blade slow down during cutting. Variation in RPM destroys accuracy, reduces cutting efficiency, and dulls the cutting edges of the blade. Use ample motor power. When running the piece through by hand, use only light, firm pressure. Tighten vise clamps after every few cuts for a smoother cut. Successive slabs are sawed from one piece of rough. To cushion rocks in a vise, use rubber composition such as stair threads, boot soles, etc. If blocks must be used, line with the composition for a snug fit. To mark rocks for trim sawing, use a Flair pen instead of an aluminum pencil. It is easier to see and doesn't run in the oil coolants. It is also water soluble. *From The Gemrock 3/00 via Beehive Buzzer 1/08*

Colorado Gemstones—Amazonite to Zircon

By Jack Thompson, CSMS

Amazonite with its green and white perthite banding and fine schiller make a great-looking gem cabochon.

Photo by Amanda Schaak, CSMS

Aquamarine is Colorado's only gem-quality beryl. Only on Mt Antero and near Mt White does aquamarine occur in any abundance for gem cutters. Needless to say, many broken crystals have met with the laps of faceters. Some small stones have been cut from clean and gemmy areas of the large beryl crystals found in and around the Big Devils Hole area. Aquamarine is Colorado's State Gemstone.

Barite of various colors and some bi-colored is often faceted as a display gemstone because it is too soft to be a true gem. Good stones have been cut from Book Cliffs and Stoneham.

Calcite, like barite, is very soft to facet, but it will cut into a nice looking stone.

Corundum (sapphire) has been reported from several Colorado locations, but only the Calumet Iron Mine and a Turret district mine are confirmed and documented. The 2 locations are obscure and may have been covered by caving in or slide rock. The sapphires are quite small, most under 1/3 of an inch. Cutting quality is somewhat questionable.

Chyomian Diopside. The State Line Kimberlites contain many small deep green crystal blebs; some have been faceted into gems.

Cordierite (iolite) from Grape Creek, Fremont County where a few blue stones were faceted by Robert Spomer. The finished stones were about 1/2 carat.

Diamonds from the mining area on the Colorado-Wyoming state line. The number of diamond-bearing pipes total over 100. Two of these pipe groups have been worked; one is Sloan's pipe which consist of 2 major and several smaller pipes. The diamond production was small in size and quantity with most of the crystals well under 1/4 carat and the largest 5.51 carats. The Kelsey Lake group with 2 main and several smaller pipes produced more stones of larger size with the largest a 28.2 and 28.3 carat. The latter crystal was cut into a 16.86 carat stone. Fragments of a large octahedron thought to be approximately 80 carats was found.

Elbaite, pink, green, and colorless gem-quality crystals were reportedly found in the east wall of the Royal Gorge; however, recent visits to the location showed no colored tourmaline in the pegmatite or fault zone.

Epidote from along the Arkansas River just south of Canon City: a few dark green stones have been cut as cabochons. The epidote from Calumet Iron Mine are mostly too fragile to cut into a good stone.

Fluorapatite from Eagle County at the Crystal Lode pegmatite should cut into some nice yellow-green faceted stones.

Fluorite, with its hardness of 4, is another chance for the facetor to cut a nice soft stone. The great colors of green, yellow, purple, as well as bi-colored and phantoms make a stone of great beauty. Good cutting rough is found from the San Juan Mountains, Mt Antero, Sweet Home Mine, and many lesser known areas around Colorado.

Forsterite (peridot) gems of fine green color, some over 2 carats, have been cut from material collected on the edge of South Park in Park County.

Garnet group will be listed together as they grade one into another in many cases. Almadine is the first garnet to be considered as a gem. Grape Creek southwest of Canon City produced red-pink gems to 2 carats.

Grossular are found in limited amounts at the Calumet Iron Mine; most were under 1/4 inch and not of good color. At Italian Mountain, sulfur-yellow crystals have been found and cut into gems.

Lazurite (lapis lazuli) from near the top of North Italian Mountain at almost 13,000 feet is one great gem location. This is some of the best lazurite in North America and the only location in Colorado.

Opal of the common variety is wide spread and ranges in color from clear (hyalite) all the way to green, yellow, purple, brown, and black; some with moss-like inclusions.

Phenakite only from Crystal Park are the crystals clear enough to cut gems. All other localities' crystals are milky or cloudy.

Pyrope: Most is too dark, a red-burgundy to make good gems; however, some of these from the State Line Kimberlites have been faceted.

Pyroxmangite: Often called rhodonite in old literature. At one time the Sunnyside Mill at Eureka had great piles of this material and some can still be found. Try looking in the stream beds for black rocks; weathering has made that pink black on the outside.

Photo by Diana Biggs, CSMS

Quartz is the most prevalent mineral on earth with both crystalline and cryptocrystalline varieties in great abundance. With both, the facetor and cabochon cutters have a great variety of material to work with. No wonder they say if there were only one collectable mineral on earth, let it be quartz. This paper will only touch the highlights of the quartz family.

Rock-crystal is the clear variety of quartz and is found as small crystals in the San Juan's, Mt Antero,

(See Gemstones, pg 10)

GEMSTONES—CONT'D FROM PG 9

and as small ant hill crystals near Trinidad.

Amethyst noted localities are Red Feather Lakes, Cripple Creek, Canon City, Unaweep Canyon, and Cotopaxi, with a number of lesser-known localities.

The best smoky quartz is from the Pikes Peak batholiths in our own backyard. Some citrine of cutting quality can be found around Devils Head. Most of the rose quartz is pale in color, but darker pieces may be cut either by faceting or as cabochons.

Colorado has two lesser known quartz gems; they are sagenite from Lake George where goethite penetrates citrine or amethyst and epidote in rock crystal from Calumet Iron Mine.

The sowbelly agate, as it's called, is an intergrowth of amethyst, clear quartz, and agate. Slabs and cabs are quite popular. Creed is the only location.

Cryptocrystalline quartz in Colorado is dominated by petrified wood, most of it coming from the area north along I-25 from Colorado Springs to the Wyoming border and US 24 east of Colorado Springs to the Kansas border. Most of the petrified wood is yellow-orange to brown and shows little wood grain. In South Park along Agate Creek, lavender and blue chalcedony have been found. Some of the finest plume agate found in the U.S. comes from about 10 miles northwest of Del Norte. Fossilized dinosaur bone from Oil Creek near Canõn City cuts nicely into cabochons.

Rhodochrosite like fluorite and calcite is too soft to be used for an everyday gem but make a lovely bright red display stone when cut either as a faceted or cabochon stone.

Spessartine from Ruby Mountain are mostly very small crystals, up to 2.5 mm and a deep red color. Many have been faceted or set in jewelry as crystals. Spessartine occurs at many other locations in Colorado, but most are mixed with other garnets and are dark brown or black and not of gem quality.

Sphalerite in Colorado is widespread. It occurs in most sulfide ore veins; however, most is the black variety, marmatite. The best gem locality is Creed where it has been faceted into lovely yellow-green gems. They are quite soft with a hardness of only 4.

Topaz, one of Colorado's best known gems, is found in approximately 20 counties. One reason for that is the occursen in all types of rock environments that are pegmatites, greisens, rhyolites, metamorphic, and hydolthermal veins. Colorado's best topaz has come from Tarryall, Glen Cove, Devils Head, Matucat Road, and Wigwam Creek. Topaz in clear and colorless, blue, green, amber, light pink, and bi-colored, along with its brightness and hardness, make it a Colorado favorite gemstone.

Turquois is one of Colorado's beautiful blue to blue-green gemstones. It's found in several localities around the state, some showing evidence of prehistoric mining. In the late 1960s there was an Indian jewelry uprising. The U.S. and other countries could not get enough native American silver and turquoise jewelry. Noted locations for turquoise are King Mine near Manassa, The Turquoise Chief near Leadville, Hall Mine near Villa Grove, and the gravel pit on miners hill in Cripple Creek.

Zircon is a potential Colorado gem. Only the zircons from the Eureka Tunnel are clear enough to facet. Their color from red-brown to honey-yellow is good, but their small size of only 1-5mm make them a real challenge for the faceter.

Try the following for further reading:

Colorado Gem Trails, Richard M. Pearle
Colorado Rockhounding, Steve Voynick
Minerals of Colorado, E. B. Eckel; revised by Friends of Mineralogy J.A. Murphy and P.J. Modreski
Rocks & Minerals Vol. 77-4, D.E. Kile
Gemstone Deposits of Colorado, CO Chapter of Friends of Mineralogy.

JENKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL

Roger Pittman, our CSMS School Program guru, conducted another presentation on February 6th for the Science Class of Diana Biggs (CSMS member) at Jenkins Middle School.

Ms. Biggs reported that Roger did an excellent job, and she took pictures to prove it! Roger said, "It is really less scary than you would think" and asked for other members to get involved with this great aspect of our charter. He would also appreciate donations of specimens for the kids.

Great job, Roger!

Jenkins Middle School Science Class

"From this to this!" Wow's them every time.

March 2008 — CSMS Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 No Lapidary Mtg 10a Science Fair at UCCS
2	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6** 7p Board Meeting	**7** 7:30p Crystal Group	**8**
9 *Daylight Saving Time begins. Spring Forward.*	**10** Orthodox Lent Begins	**11** 7p Micromounts	**12**	**13**	**14**	**15** 3p Jewelry Group
16 Palm Sunday	**17** St. Patrick's Day	**18**	**19**	**20** *Spring Begins!* 6:30p Show Meeting 6:30p Pebble Pups 7:30p General Assembly Meeting	**21** Good Friday	**22**
23 Easter	**24**	**25** 7:30p Camera Group	**26**	**27** 7p Faceting Group	**28**	**29**
30	**31**					

"I'd rather be a failure at something I enjoy than be a success at something I hate." - George Burns

Locations

Board Meeting: 1st Thursday @ 7:00p. Senior Center, *Ron Yamiolkoski, 488-5526*

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

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

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

Faceting Group: 4th Thursday @ 7:00p, Senior Center, *Paul Berry, 578-5466 paulpopsplace@msn.com*

Fossil Study Group: Meets at 6p quarterly at the Senior Center contact *John Harrington, 599-0989 or Steve Veatch 748-5010*

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

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

Pebble Pups: 3rd Thursday @ 6:30p, Senior Center, *Steven Veatch: 748-5010*

Refreshments for General Assembly Meetings

Mar—Crystal	Apr—Jewelry	May—Faceting
Jun—**Show**	Jul—Lapidary	Aug—**Picnic**
Sep—Camera	Oct—Micromounts	Nov—Fossils
Dec—**Everyone**		

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Jewelry Group	Bill Arnson	749-2328	ritaarnson@msn.com
Lapidary Group	Drew Malin	531-7594	advanceone@comcast.net
Micromount Group	Phil McCollum		acc@frii.com
Pebble Pups	Steven Veatch	748-5010	sgeoveatch@worldnet.att.net

Regular meetings of various groups

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CLASSIFIEDS . . .

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

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

Advertise your rock-hounding business in the *Pick&Pack*.

Contact the Editor for details and rates.

"Paleontology of the Upper Eocene Florissant Formation, Colorado"

A publication date has been set for the Geological Society of American Special Paper on Florissant, a collection of pages about scientific research, education, and resource management at Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument. The volume is edited by park paleontologist Dr. Herbert W. Meyer and University of Colorado Museum of Natural History professor and curator of invertebrate paleontology and paleobotany Dr. Dena M. Smith. Both editors have conducted research in the Florissant Formation. The volume includes papers authored by former staff and interns, NPS employees, and Friends President Steven W. Veatch. This volume will be an important addition to the body of literature about the Florissant Formation and its history and management as well as paleontological significance. Available from the GSA Bookstore in March 2008.

www.geosociety.org/bookstore/

Member Pins & Patches are available at each CSMS events—$5 ea.

New CSMS T-shirts are on their way!

GIANTS—CONTD FROM PG 5

magazine, accompanying an excellent article describing the cavern and its genesis (download for $$ at http://geology.geoscienceworld.org/content/vol35/issue4).

Sulfur isotope studies indicate that the sulfate is derived from bedded anhydrite in the regional stratigraphic sequence that was dissolved by the late stage ore fluids that formed the enormous orebodies. The cave is an exceptionally hostile environment...with a temperature of 54ºC (129ºF) and 100% humidity. Without the special orange cooling suits a person can tolerate only 10-15 minutes under these conditions. (It is worth noting that the widely circulated story of a mineral collecting miner being found parboiled in the cave is a fabrication created by an early viewer of the cave who somehow felt the giant crystals were not inherently dramatic enough).

Industrias Peñoles, operator of the mine, has recognized that protection of the crystal cave will leave the local community an attraction that will survive exhaustion of the orebodies and has built a high security enclosure to protect these amazing crystals from collecting...as if one could really do much with a crystal the size of a large pine tree. The enclosure also protects the crystals from being casually vandalized or marked with visitors' initials as happened in the historic Cave of the Swords. Notably, the members of the scientific and photographic expeditions to the cave have worn soft plastic shoes to minimize scuffing of the crystal surfaces. Visits to the cave can be arranged periodically depending on the mining schedule.

On a more collectible level, Naica has produced a fair number of excellent pale green fluorite +/- sulfide specimens over the last 18 months. These crystals have come from a series of pockets on the 770 Level occurring along the contact between relatively low grade skarn ore of the main Quinto Manto and peripheral high-grade sulfide zones. The crystals are mostly cube-octahedrons to 8cm across with the dominant cube faces having a matte finish while the octahedral "corners" are shiny and transparent. Many of the fluorites have associated or inter-grown galena and sphalerite crystals to 4 cm and many have inclusions of 1-3 mm chalcopyrite disphenoids...often defining phantoms of early octahedral growth stages. A few large octahedral crystals (to 10 cm across) heavily coated with 3 mm chalcopyrite crystals have also been produced. Mining of this area is largely complete so it is unlikely that large numbers of additional specimens will be forthcoming.

Naica recently announced the discovery of a major new high-grade orebody to the west of the principal workings. Production headings should reach this zone within a year and it is reasonable to hope that the reportedly galena and low-iron sphalerite rich bodies will contain enough vugs to once again make Naica a significant specimen source.

(EDITOR NOTE: The entire article with news on other sites in Mexico may be found in the November 2007 issue of *Mineral News* or obtained from the author.)

WMMI EVENTS—CONT'D FROM PG 5

games pioneer children played in the 1800's. Use your imagination and venture to a time of limited technology but tons of creativity! Picnic grounds are available and there are over 27 acres to explore. FREE with paid admission or better yet, purchase a Family Membership! Reservations (719) 488-0880.

YOU COULD HAVE HEARD A PIN DROP . . .

When in England at a fairly large conference, Colin Powell was asked by the Archbishop of Canterbury if our plans for Iraq were just an example of empire building by George Bush.

He answered by saying, "Over the years, the United States has sent many of its fine young men and women into great peril to fight for freedom beyond our border.

The only amount of land we have ever asked for in return is enough to bury those that did not return."

You could have heard a pin drop.

Then there wasa conference in France where a number of international engineers were taking part, including French and American.

During a break, one of the French engineers came back into the room saying, "Have you heard the latest dumb stunt Bush has done? He has sent an aircraft carrier to Indonesia to help the tsunami victims. What does he intend to do, bomb them?"

A Boeing engineer stood up and replied quietly: "Our carriers have 3 hospitals on board that can treat several hundred people; they are nuclear powered and can supply emergency electrical power to shore facilities; they have 3 cafeterias with the capacity to feed 3,000 people 3 meals a day; they can produce several thousand gallons of fresh water from sea water each day; and they carry half a dozen helicopters for use in transporting victims and injured to and from their flight deck.

We have 11 such ships; how many does France have?"

You could have heard a pin drop.

General Assembly Minutes February 21, 2008

BY JOHN CASTO, CSMS SECRETARY

The February meeting was called to order at 7:30p by President Rick Copeland. January meeting minutes were accepted as recorded in the Pick&Pack.

Treasurer's Report: The audit of CSMS books has not been completed but should be done by the next meeting.

New members present at the meeting were recognized: Roni Poteat, Tom & DiaAnna Flynt, the Gilbert Davis family. Welcome, new members. New life members are Dorothy Atlee and Marge Regel.

Kaye Thompson shared that the Denver Museum is having a gold exhibit, and $2 off coupons are available. The Denver Show dates are Sept 12-14.

Drew Malin is the Science Fair Chairman; judging will begin at UCCS, March 1, at 10am.

Satellite Groups reports were presented for Camera Club (Roger Pittman); Crystal Study Group (Kerry Burroughs) - the April meeting will be a study on what to look for on the surface to find crystals; Faceting Group (Paul Berry is the new leader); Fossil Study Group (John Harrington); Micromount Group (Moyra Lyne); Pebble Pups (Steve Veatch); Lapidary Group (Drew Malin)—no meetings until April; and Jewelry Group (Bill Arnson is the new leader).

Show Report by Drew Malin, Show Chairman: the dates are June 21 & 22, 2008 at Phil Long Expo Center; the theme is Gemstones of the U.S. A change was made in the show field trip—must be a new member to participate. Drew encouraged everyone to enter a display and asked for help in building cases.

Field Trip by Brent Williams: asked for leaders for field trips; please contact him. WMMI is having a class on how to find minerals on May 17th, and the haunted mine will be open. Bruce Geller will be presenting evening programs; dates to follow.

The new CSMS pins are in; buy yours for $5—they are selling fast! They are free on your 1, 5, 10, 15, 20, and 25 year anniversary. CSMS T-shirts have been ordered and should arrive soon; the price is $14 for Adult, $15 for 2XL and $10 for Youth sizes. The meeting adjourned at 8:00p for refreshments, and a new CD presentation was on Dinosaur Tracks made by Roger Pittman.

Note from CSMS Secretary: Your new CSMS Board is off to a busy start for the year. We have new pins to honor anniversaries, T-shirts on order for the Show and member purchase, new lap wheels for the Faceting Group, and lots of other fun stuff. As you know, our club show is quickly approaching; please help in any way you can to make this year one of our best. A friendly reminder that spring is right around the corner: I am sure you are all as eager as I am to get out into the field and do some exploring! Please be sure to give me a call at 392-0212 if you plan to go to the April Fools claim so that I may log it for assessment. The rules are on the web site. HAVE FUN!

AFMS Commmemorative Stamp Committee

BY WENDELL MOHR, COMMITTEE CHAIR, RMFM NEWS, 12/07

This Committee of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies is responsible for the efforts to obtain stamps featuring subjects of interest such as minerals, fossils, gems and general geology. The Committee has been active for years and submits an annual report at the AFMS annual meeting.

Our current efforts are directed to trying to convince the United States Postal Service to produce stamps showing Birthstones. No stamps featuring gems have ever appeared on US stamps although there have been some beautiful ones from other countries. The mechanism is to encourage both AFMS members and the public at large to send requests to the Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee of the USPS. It is very difficult to succeed in getting any desired stamp. Only about one out of a thousand requests are approved. It took 10 years of lobbying efforts to get the first set of Mineral Stamps in 1974 and 18 years to get the second set in 1992! The USPS has rules by which the Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee, which recommends adoption of stamp subjects, operates, although the Postmaster General has final say. Rules state there will be no repeat subjects in 10 years.

Our message continues to be the same. The address for the Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee has recently changed. A new promotional flier has the updated address. AFMS clubs are strongly encourage to make copies of it. Use the fliers at your club meetings, at your shows, and to groups your members might encounter such as when presenting talks at schools, to Boy or Girl Scouts, or at Nature Centers, etc. Use the Teacher, Student Information Page in working with children. A tent card for use with the fliers at your shows can also be used. Non-AFMS members are requested to support the campaign. Although many of you may have previously written, do it again so we may flood USPS with requests.

There have been, in addition to the two sets of mineral stamps which were the direct result of the AFMS Committee's work, many prehistoric animals including dinosaurs, the Klondike and California Gold Rush stamps and other geology related subjects on stamps, not a result of this Committee's efforts.

EDITOR NOTE: The Teacher and Student Information sheets may be downloaded from the AFMS web site at www.amfed.org. This campaign ties in very nicely with our 2008 show theme, "Gemstone of the U.S." Take a few minutes to send your vote on the new series to the USPS!

Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society, Post Office Box 2, Colorado Springs, CO 80901

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

1. **All memberships run from January 1 through December 31.**
2. Any person joining the CSMS as a new member after June 30th shall pay half of the yearly rate. Any person joining as a new member after October 1st received membership for November and December plus the following year beginning January 1. The partial year membership shall not apply towards the 25 year Lifetime Membership.
3. Anyone who has previously been a member MUST pay the full rate each year REGARDLESS of the time of the year they pay their dues.
4. Members who have paid their dues for 25 years will be awarded a Lifetime Membership. *Lifetime Members* receive all of the CSMS benefits and no longer have to pay the annual dues.
5. Members in good standing receive the following benefits. 10 issues of the CSMS newsletter, *The Pick&Pack*, right to participate in all field trips (additional fees may be required on some field trips and members are responsible for all transportation to and from), participation in one or all Satellite Groups (some groups may request additional fees to help cover resource costs), free admission to the Western Museum of Mining and Industry, a year of learning and enjoyment, plus a lifetime of memories.

LAST		FIRST	MIDDLE
SPOUSE			
STREET		CITY	
STATE	ZIP	EMAIL	
PHONE		CELL	

HAVE YOU PREVIOUSLY BEEN A MEMBER OF CSMS NO ☐ YES ☐ WHEN

YOU ARE PAYING FOR THE YEAR 2008

Each year the Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society publishes a Membership Directory. *The directory is distributed to members ONLY.*

Your dues MUST accompany this application.

☐ Check if you would NOT like your name and address included.

	Existing Member Before Jan 31	All Members After Jan 31	New Member After June 30	New Member Oct 1 – Jan 31
☐ JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP (12 TO 17 YEARS OLD)	☐ $2.00	☐ $2.00	☐ $1.00	☐ $2.00
☐ REGULAR MEMBERSHIP (18 AND OVER)	☐ $15.00	☐ $20.00	☐ $10.00	☐ $15.00
☐ FAMILY MEMBERSHIP (PARENTS & DEPENDENTS UNDER 18)	☐ $25.00	☐ $30.00	☐ $15.00	☐ $25.00

YOUR INTERESTS *Please check ALL that apply*

CRYSTALS ☐	MICROMOUNTS ☐
FOSSILS ☐	FACETING ☐
LAPIDARY ☐	SILVERSMITHING ☐
JEWELRY ☐	PHOTOGRAPHY ☐
METEORS ☐	FLUORESCENTS ☐

FOR FAMILY MEMBERS, PLEASE LIST CHILDREN AND AGES

VOLUNTEER CAPABILITIES *Clubs are made up of volunteers!*

ARTIST ☐	WRITING ☐	EDITOR ☐
MAILING ☐	LOCAL SHOWS ☐	YOUTH ACTIVITIES ☐
PROGRAMS ☐	FIELD TRIPS ☐	REFRESHMENTS ☐
HOSPITALITY ☐	WEB SITE ☐	LIBRARY ☐

Sometimes knowing where our members are employed or retired from helps us when we are looking for special information or guidance in our activities. This information will not be published or accessible except by the CSMS Board of Directors.

List any other things you may be willing to do.

I hereby agree to abide by the Constitution and By-Laws of the Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society.
CSMS Constitution and By-Laws are available at our web site, www.CSMS.us.

Signature of Primary Applicant

Application Date

Mail this form and your payment to:

Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society
PO Box 2
Colorado Springs, CO 80901

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March 2008

Joining the Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society (CSMS)

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

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

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

Individuals—$20 Family—$30 Juniors—$2

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