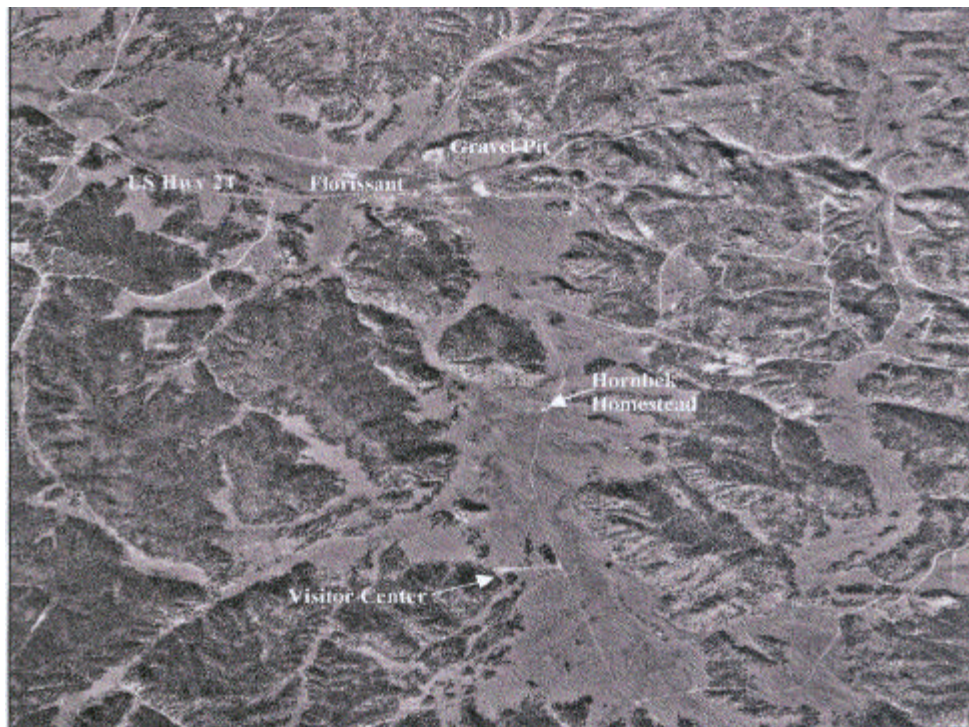


## Aerial Photo Shows Outline of Ancient Lake Florissant

By Steven Wade Veatch

Just west of Pikes Peak and south of the town of Florissant, Colorado (about 40 miles west of Colorado Springs on U.S. Highway 24) lies a scenic mountain valley where a number of petrified redwood stumps dot the landscape. Beneath this beautiful setting are incredible plant and insect fossils buried in the sediments of an ancient lake. These fossils, ranging from large tree stumps to single-celled diatoms, reveal a prehistoric Colorado of long ago. Today the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument protects these fossil resources.

About 34 million years ago, volcanic eruptions near Guffey (18 miles to the southwest) produced volcanic mudflows (water-saturated mass of ash and rock debris). These mudflows—looking and flowing like concrete—buried a lush valley and petrified the bases of huge redwood trees that grew there. These mudflows also created a dam in the valley, forming a lake about one mile wide and 12 miles long. Volcanic ash from subsequent eruptions formed fine-grained sediments at the bottom of the lake. Plants, insects, and organisms were entombed in this material. Over millions of years these sediments were compacted into layers of shale. The delicate details of these organisms were preserved as fossils and provide a look at the life and the prehistoric ecosystem of the Florissant valley during the end of the Eocene Epoch.



The approximate area of ancient Lake Florissant is defined in this aerial photo by meadows and treeless sections. The prehistoric lake area (light gray) is seen extending through the center of the photograph and then turns west at the town of Florissant. NAPP black and white vertical aerial photo from 20,000 feet (9/29/1999). Top of the photo is north.

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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Rocky Mt. Federation of Mineralogical Societies (RMFMS)

Colorado Federation of Mineralogical Societies (CFMS)

**Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society**

*Founded in 1936*



**Lazard Cahn**

*Honorary President*



### Our Staff...

**Bill Cain** *Editor*  
**Brenda Malin** *Mailer*

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.

ALL FORMATS ARE WELCOMED.

Email: bcain2@earthlink.net or Info@csms.us

Address:

PO Box 2

Colorado Springs, CO 80901

Phone:

(719) 634-8205

PICK & PACK is published ten (10) times per year. 270 issues printed. 200-250 mailed per month.

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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Drew Malin

First and foremost this month, I'd like to thank Bill Cain for taking over the editorship of the Pick and Pack. Without volunteers like him, we wouldn't have a great forum like this to inform and entertain us all. Thanks again, Bill!

Speaking of volunteers, I want everyone to remember that ALL of the CSMS positions are filled by volunteers. I know sometimes things seem to go slow and sometimes they are delayed, but remember that we also all have lives to lead, and everyone is doing the best that they can with the spare time they have. Constructive suggestions are always welcome, but casual criticism is not. If any member feels that they could do a particular job better, then let the Board know. We are always looking for new volunteers!

A quick note on this year's show . . . Make a show case, and put it in the show! (How's that for quick?)

I'd like to thank Jim Bushnell, the Thompson's, and all the other folks that made our new scholarship program happen. It's one of the main reasons for our club's existence, and everyone did a great job!

Finally, as stated at our last general meeting, anyone that wants to lead a field trip should email his/her info and/or questions to Brent Williams, Ethan Bronner, Drew Malin, Bill Cain, and Jim Bushnell, as well as to info@csms.us. With Ethan being so busy lately, we want to make sure that no one that can lead a trip gets lost in the shuffle. So, multiple contacts like this will ensure it gets to the web site schedule.

### Relics of Florissant's Ancient Past: Volcanoes, Ash and Fossils

*May's General Assembly*

Discover Florissant's remarkable past when volcanoes dominated the landscape and violent eruptions darkened the skies. This presentation begins with the nature of volcanoes, how they are classified, and their place in natural history. This gripping story concludes with the volcanic setting of Florissant and the role volcanoes played in creating one of the greatest Eocene age plant and insect fossil sites in the world. Join Professor Steven Veatch for this incredible journey into the fossil beds' intriguing past.

May 2006 General Assembly Thursday, May 18, 2006, 7:30 p.m.  
 Colorado Springs Senior Center 1514 North Hancock Blvd.

*May's refreshments courtesy: Faceting Group*

### Book Cliffs Field Trip

*By Ron & Judy Knoshaug*

CSMS has been invited to join the Denver Clubs North Jeffco and RAMS on a field trip to the Book Cliffs area outside of Grand Junction on Mother's Day weekend. This is a traditional field trip in conjunction with the Grand Junction Gem & Mineral Show. I arranged to join North Jeffco back in early March and have not gotten exact details. The following is from a past itinerary. The meeting time may be different dependent upon whether people drive over Saturday morning or Friday night. We will email updates later, or to be certain, please call the trip leaders.

Date: May 13—14

Days: Saturday and Sunday

Meeting Time: Usually 10AM on Saturday, check with leader

Leaders: Ron & Judy Knoshaug

Phone 303-423-2923

Email jrknoshaug@comcast.net

Meeting Place: Super 8 parking lot just south of I-70 on Horizon Drive

Camping: On site, no shade, no water; alternatively not far from Grand Junction motels

Health Hazards: Snakes, scorpions, sunburn, heat, wind

Land Owner: BLM

Fee or Donation: None

Difficulty: Easy

Vehicle: High clearance, better to have 4-wheel-drive, a small shower turns this area to mud and produces deep ruts and washouts. Roads do dry rapidly after a shower.

Equipment Suggested: Shovel, pick, rock hammer, prybar, chisels, scratcher and container for specimens. Barite crystals should be kept cool and wet so that they don't fracture. Let them gradually dry out at home.



## Green as Easter Grass . . .

### Letter from the New Editor

Hello, Folks:

My name is Bill Cain, and I'm new at editing. We have chosen a new format due to software problems. So, we'll start over from ground zero and work our way up. Basic news will still be available, along with trip information and other important facts.

I ask you to bare with me as I get into the task. Any information or assistance offered will be gladly accepted.

My email is [bcain2@earthlink.net](mailto:bcain2@earthlink.net);

my phone number is 719-634-8205. If you have something you would like to share with our members, please send by email to the above or mail to CSMS, PO Box 2, COS 80901-0002.

We are grateful to our past editors for their commitment and dedication to CSMS and hope to continue publication of this great monthly newsletter in a timely fashion.

We look forward to your input!

Sincerely,  
Bill Cain

## Pebble Pubs—New Leader

We welcome our new Pebble Pups leader, **Jennifer Morris**.

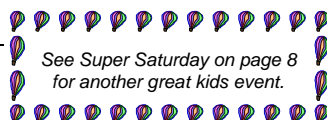
Spring is a very good time to get the kids involved in CSMS.

It is not only fun, but a great learning tool for the younger generation. Knowing about our earth and what makes it what it is can promote understanding as to just how fragile this old earth is. Our kids have the job of preserving what we leave behind. Let's get them interested.



The first field trip for Pebble Pups is planned for June 3rd, Fountain Creek walk. Drew Malin will be leading. Call Jennifer at 310-8367 or email to [ricklovesjenjen@yahoo.com](mailto:ricklovesjenjen@yahoo.com).

**Welcome, Jennifer.** We look forward to great adventures and stories about our Pebble Pups!



See Super Saturday on page 8  
for another great kids event.

## Black Bears

### Walking and Hiking in Bear Country

Your neighborhood IS bear country, too!

1. Heed warning signs.
2. Keep dogs on leash, especially near streams.
3. Make noise. Reduce your chances of surprising a bear.
4. Avoid berry patches.
5. Move away. Make yourself look large and back away, giving the bear room to leave.
6. Report sightings - call 720-564-2020.

#### If you meet a bear, STAY CALM.

1. **NEVER RUN.** Running can make a bear chase you.
2. Keep your distance. Back slowly

away facing the bear. Avoid direct eye contact.

3. Slowly and calmly leave the area. Talk aloud so the bear will become aware of you.
4. Be extra careful around a female with cubs. Never approach a cub.
5. **NEVER throw food** to distract a bear. This teaches a bear to approach people for food.
6. Fight back if attacked. Black bears have been driven away when people fight with rocks, sticks, binoculars, or even bare hands.



## Upcoming Shows

### May 13-14

Grand Junction Gem & Mineral Show, Two Rivers Convention Center, theme—Rocks and Minerals of the Colorado Plateau.

### June 9-14

Rocky Mountain Federation Show, Stillwater, Oklahoma, Payne County Expo Center.

Field Trips—Mon, June 12th, will be a trip to Jet, OK. Great Salt Plains, for the hour glass selenite crystals, with a continuation west to a site for clear selenite sheet crystals, and on to another site for the gypsum "rattle snake eggs".

Tues, June 13th, will be a trip to Lake Stanley Draper and the city of Noble, OK area for rose rocks.

Wed, June 14th, will be a trip to a Ralston, OK quarry(s) for fossils. Mainly crinoid stem pieces and other marine shell types.

### June 16-18

Pikes Peak Gem and Mineral Show in Colorado Springs, an interesting and educational event sponsored by the Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society; see <http://www.csms.us/index.htm>

### September 15-17

The Denver Gem and Mineral Show. The theme this year is Minerals of South America. When you are putting together your exhibit for the CSMS show, think about displaying also at the Denver Show. You can certainly exhibit outside the theme, and you will get free admission for the three days of the show.

### November 11-12

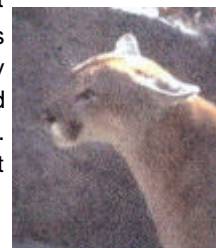
27th Annual New Mexico Mineral Symposium, Macey Center, New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, Socorro, New Mexico.

### Free USGS Map, Compass, and GPS Classes

USGS continues to offer these free classes for the public, the 2nd Friday of each month, at the Denver Federal Center, Lakewood, CO. Bldg. 810. Mornings (9-11) are Map & Compass, and afternoons (12-4) are GPS. To register, call 303-2024689 or email [gpsworkshops@usgs.gov](mailto:gpsworkshops@usgs.gov) to reserve a place; bring your GPS unit if you have one.

# Mountain Lions

Mountain lions have been a part of the ecosystem of the Front Range of Colorado for thousands of years. They are large predators feeding mainly upon deer. Lions have proved to be adaptable and can live on lands adjacent to cities as long as they have ample prey and places to rest and hunt. Although lions do live in open Space, they are primarily nocturnal and sescretive. So, the chances of seeing a lion are slight. Even less likely is an attack by a mountain lion. Even though most people may never see a lion, it is important to understand this magnificent wild cat that shares our natural areas.



## What to Do If You Meet A Lion

Report Mount Lion Sightings -

- When venturing into mountain lion habitat, go in groups and make plenty of noise in an effort to reduce your chances of surprising a lion. Make sure children are close to and under the supervision of adults. Teach children about mountain lions and what to do if they see one.
- Do not approach lions. Most mountain lions will try to avoid a confrontation. Give the lion a way to escape.
- Stay calm if you come upon a lion. Talk to it in a firm voice in an effort to demonstrate that you are human and not its regular prey.
- Back away slowly. Running may stimulate a lion's instinct to chase and attack.
- Face the lion and make an effort to appear as large as possible. Open your jacket or lift objects overhead to appear like a more formidable opponent. Pick up your children.
- If the lion behaves aggressively, throw rocks, sticks or whatever you can pick up, without turning your back to the lion or bending down.
- If the lion would happen to attack, fight back. Lions have been driven away by prey that fights back. Remain standing and keep attempting to get back up if you are brought to the ground.

More information is available from the [Colorado Division of Wildlife](#).

## Greek Fire

*By Jack Thompson*

**Pyrite** means fire in Greek. This was due to the sparks and sulfur smell that was present when a piece of pyrite was struck by a rock or piece of steel. The Greeks were familiar with this smell and fire coming from volcanoes. Chemistry of pyrite is iron disulfide; FeS. Pyrite may carry nickel, cobalt, copper, silver, or gold. The crystal system is isometric with cube, octahedron, pyritohedron, trapezohedron, and diploids. Many times found along with interpenetrating twins. When two pyritohedra twins are at right angles, they form the Iron Cross, a highly coveted crystal form. Pyrite crystals are metallic, pale brass-yellow. When tarnished, they become iridescent greenish-yellow to brownish black. The streak from pyrite is brownish or greenish black.

Pyrite uses as an ore mineral

are somewhat limited. It seldom contains enough gold, silver, or copper to make it valuable. However, when large amounts of pyrite is available, it can be placed on leach pads in the manufacturing of sulfuric acid. Pyrite is the most common of all sulfide minerals and is found in all sulfide veins. Pyrite is also found in all other environments. It can be found in igneous rocks, pegmatites, sedimentary rocks, and contact metamorphic rock. This makes pyrite what is called a persistent mineral.

The striation on the pyrite cube conforms to the symmetry of the dyakido-decahedral class. Scientists have gone so far as to assign miller indices to the striations. The saw tooth edge of a cube is the result of the cube and pyritohedron competing for dominates. Pyrite has a very indistinct cleavage but sometimes has a conchoidal fracture.

Pyrite easily alters to gossans (limonite); early miners used this gos-

sans of pyrite as an ore vein indicator. This they called "Iron Hat". Pseudomorphs of pyrite after limonite are abundant world wide. Many are found in good pyrite crystal shapes. Pyrite among ammonites and other marine creatures is very common. This can be carried one step further—the marine creature can alter from pyrite to limonite.

Notable pyrite crystals have come from Selmeexbanys, Czech Republic; Facebay, Romania; St. Gottherd, Switzerland; Rio Tinto, Spain; Cornwall, U.K.; The Isle of Elba, Italy; and most of the mines in Peru. In the United States, fine crystals are found at Rossie, NY; Franklin, NJ; French Creek, PA; Sparta, IL; Park City, UT, and many other locations.

Colorado's best or most interesting pyrite crystals have come from the Wyoming Mine, Eagle County, CO. The "Iron Cross", rare and beautiful stepped cubes, formed in clay pockets at the Climax Mine.

*Continued on page 5*

## Some thoughts on Showmanship & Competition

By Dr. Robert Carlson, AFMS President-elect, reprinted from AFMS Newsletter—April 2006

Think about competition for your show. It has been my observation that when a show includes competitive exhibits, the quality of all the exhibits improves. They reach another level of showmanship.

Is showmanship important? You bet. I remember attending a show put on by a club that was vehemently opposed to competition. It was a fairly large club, and they had a lot of cabochon displays. Most of these—case after case, row upon row—were displayed in flat cases where you had to bend over the case to see what was being displayed. There were no case lights, but that was a good thing. Some of the case liners were filthy, and a few almost fit. The cabochons were packed together so that one could barely distinguish one from another. The labels were nearly non-existent, so you had to know what you were looking at to determine what material was being displayed. Imagine that you are a member of the general public and want to learn more about the Rockhounding hobby. Would the just-described displays help or encourage you in any way?

When you see a show with competitive exhibits, you will see displays of cabochons that are well lit so you can see the beauty of the material and the quality of the polish. Because the cabochons are labeled—with labels that do not overpower the display—you can determine what materials are being shown. The liners will be clean, fit well, and complement the material being displayed. There will be a focus to the cases of one or two items that will draw the attention of those who pass by. The items in the display will be neatly arranged and separated from one another so that once attention has been gained, the viewer can examine the rest of the items in the case at leisure.

The displays just described will thrill and educate the public. It is professional showmanship at it's best.

So why competition? Competition allows at least two independent individuals to review and critique a display and offer suggestions for improvement. This is especially important to a person who is just starting to display his or her material. When a display draws a lot of attention from the public, not only the material, but the showmanship is very good. Remember that the general public does not necessarily know about the hobby or the material being shown. It is the showmanship that stops them in front of the case, and they learn about the materials being displayed from that point onward.

## Greek Fire . . . Continued from page 4

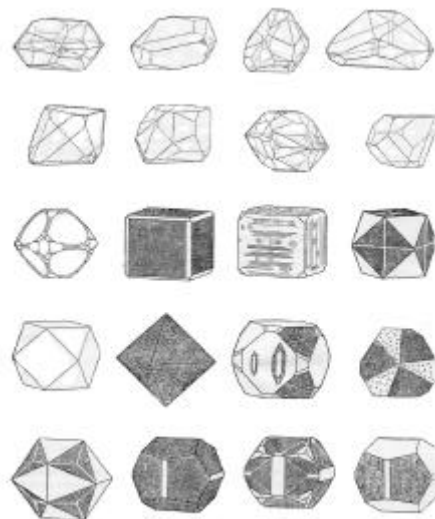
Well known pyrite collecting areas in Colorado, many of these are no longer accessible to collectors:

- Calumet Iron Mine in Chaffee Co, pyrites are found with uraltite and epidote.
- At Idaho Springs, Clear Creek Co. there are valuable amounts of gold and silver found most in micro size. The Glory Hole contained both pyrite and chalcocopyrite with white quartz.
- Rico in Dolores, CO produced many large pyrite crystals, some up to 6 or 7 inches across.
- In the Pikes Peak batholith, Teller Co. near Specimen Rock, some rare pegmatite pyrite occurred.
- Gilman district in Eagle Co. at the Eagle Mine is where many outstanding pyrites occurred. At Red Cliff, the Wyoming Mine was the main source of Iron Crosses in Colorado.
- The Portland Cement quarry produces many pyrite nodules in the area shale.

- The Patch Mine near Central City in Gilpin Co., while not a large producer of pyrite, did produce some pyrites with very showy cathedral patterns.
- At the Yule quarry in Gunnison Co., large blocks of marble were damaged by small pyrites.
- Pyrites with fossil wood from Jefferson, Co. were found at a building site on Jewell Avenue in Denver.
- While in the Leadville district, Lake Co., all of the mines produced some pyrite. The finest pyrites from Colorado were found at the Climax Mine.
- In Montrose Co., pyrite was found with uranium-vanadium ores.
- At the Camp Bird Mine, Ouray Co., many pyrites were found associated with sphalerite, calcite, quartz, and galena.
- In Buckskin Gulch, Park Co., famous for rhodochrosites at the Sweet Home Mine, pyrite was found with fluorite, tetrahedrite, quartz, and the rhodochrosite. The combinations

made very showy specimens.

- San Juan Co., the Silverton district was not a great producer of fine pyrite in large quantity; most mines had pyrite material in massive form or small crystals.
- The Idarado Mine, Telluride district, San Miguel Co., was a producer of large pyrite cubes and white calcite crystals with a dusting of micro pyrites.



# Florissant Fossil Beds

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

**Summer Seminars Series and Fees**—Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument offers one or two-day seminars in a variety of geology, biology, humanities, and paleontology courses. The regular fees for each seminar are \$50 per person for a one-day seminar and \$65 for a two-day seminar. Reduced rates are available for members of the Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds, Inc. (see section on Friends group below). A special rate is available for teachers who join the Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds and sign up for seminars between May 1—May 15, 2006. This can be by phone or mail postmarked by May 15, 2006. This special rate is \$30 for a one day and \$40 for a two-day seminar.

Upon registration, participants will receive a seminar information packet. Registration information will be available on the Monument's web site after April 15, 2006 at <http://www.nps.gov/flfo> or go to the link for Education Programs.

**Teacher Friendly Graduate Credit**—Teachers can earn graduate credits through the Division of Extended Studies of Adams State College. Adams State charges \$22.50 for a 1/2 graduate credit (one-day seminar) and \$45 for 1 graduate credit (two-day seminar). BOCES re-certification credit is available for \$5 for 1/2 credit and \$10 for 1 credit. (No discounts are available for tuition).

**Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds N.M.**—If you join the Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds, Inc. either as an individual or family, you will receive a \$10 discount on the seminar fee. A one-year, individual membership to the Friends is \$15 and a one-year, family membership is \$27. Seminar discounts are only available to current members or those who join with their seminar registration. If you are no longer a member, you may wish to renew. Remember, if you are a teacher AND a Friend member AND you register early (see first section), you get a special rate of \$30 for a one-day seminar and \$40 for a two-day seminar.

**Contact Information**—For more information about prices, logistics, registration, or any other questions, please look at our web site: <http://www.nps.gov/flfo> and go to the link for Education Programs. You may also contact Jeff Wolin at 719-748-3254 or fax at 719-748-3164 or email at [jeff\\_wolin@nps.gov](mailto:jeff_wolin@nps.gov) or send a letter to PO Box 185, Florissant, CO 80816.

## REGISTRATIONS WILL NOT BE TAKEN UNTIL AFTER MAY 1, 2006

### Schedule for 2006

June 3	9-5	Ancient Life and Landscapes of the Florissant Valley	Herb Meyer
June 17	9-5	Flintknapping: Making and Understanding Stone Tools	Craig Ratzat & Joeff Wolin
June 24	9-5	Basement Geology of the Florissant Region	Bud Wobus
July 8	9-5	Teacher Workshop: The Worth and Wonder of Words	Gregory Denman
July 15-16	8-5:30	Geologic History of the Goldbelt Byway	Herb Meyer, Woody Henry, Steve Veatch
July 22	9-5	Focusing on Exception Nature Photographs	Kevin Snyder
July 23	9-5	Ecology and Conservation of Forest Birds in the Pikes Peak Region	Brian Linkhart
August 5	9-5	Geology Wonders of South Park	Don McGookey
August 12	9-5	Teach Workshop: Teaching with National Parks	Jeff Wolin, Carol Stanfield, Jonathan Wuerth, Val Brown
August 19	9-5	Geology and History of the Cripple Creek Mining District	Steve Veatch, David Vardiman
Sept 9	9-5	Living with Fire in Front Range Forests	Wayne Sheppard



## Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society Field Trips

**Gold Camp Road**—On May 27, 2006, Ray Berry will lead a field trip to Gold Camp Road. We will meet at the south gate of Gold Camp at the intersection of Old Stage Road at 9:00 a.m. or you can meet Ray at the Park 'n Ride lot at Woodmen Corporate Center Dr. at 8:00 a.m. and convoy from there. EVERYONE must enter with Ray and leave at 4:00 p.m. or be LOCKED IN! We'll stop at the Eureka tunnel first and then proceed to the Fairview siding about noon.

**CSMS Claim**—On July 22, 2006, Ray Berry will lead a field trip to the CSMS claim. We will meet at the Ranger Station (USFS Work Center) just east of Lake George at 8:30 a.m. and leave at 9:00 a.m.

**Things to Bring**—Water, food, sunscreen, bug repellent, and rock tools. A high clearance, four-wheel-drive vehicle is recommended. A UV lamp can be useful at the Eureka tunnel.

Visit field trips on [www.csms.us](http://www.csms.us) for further details or check with Ray Berry or Ethan Bronner.



## Regular meetings of various groups

**Café Scientifique** 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](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/>.

## Helpful Tips

By Bob Bernard

### Pressure Stabilizing

Find a glass jar that is big enough to hold your rock and is airtight. Punch three (3) pencil-size holes in the lid close enough together to be covered by a shop vacuum hose. Silicon the lid to the hose.

Place the rock in the jar, and cover one side of the rock with one (1) package of well-mixed 330 Epoxy. Secure the lid, and turn on the vacuum; continue the suction for 20-25 minutes. Carefully remove the rock from the jar and place on foil. Place in oven at 150° or lowest oven setting for 2-2 1/2 hours. Allow to cool in oven, preferably overnight.

### Stabilizing Porous Stones

Using a jar with a lid to fit the stones, add one (1) pint on Acetone. This should be done in a well-ventilated area, preferably outside. Add contents of 330 Water Clear Epoxy to Acetone and mix well. Add well-dried stones; cover, and let remain for at least four (4) days. Remove stones, and allow at least one (1) week to dry thoroughly. The stones should be stabilized and ready for working.

We're on the Web!  
[www.csms.us](http://www.csms.us)

### Faceting Tips

If you have problems with scratching when polishing a faceted stone, perhaps this technique described by Paul D. Oakey in the *Lapidary Journal* will help. He had trouble with his polish "balling up" and scratching the stone and remedied the problem by using a solution of 1 oz. of vinegar to 16 oz. of water. He recommended cleaning the lap first with a toothbrush and vinegar solution while the lap is turning at high speed. This procedure rejuvenated an old discarded Lucite lap. The solution should contain a little soap for a wetting agent. He dripped this slowly on the lap while polishing, and thus ended his scratching problems. Oakey said this gave good results with quartz, beryl, and YAG using either tin oxide, cerium oxide, or Linde A. To polish a large table, he mixed polish, vinegar, karo syrup, and soap into a creamy paste and applied it to the lap without a drop.

To remove cutting oil from slabs, first place them in kitty litter to absorb the oil, then put them in warm water with a dishwashing detergent.

**DICK'S ROCK SHOP**

- Natural Stone Beads
- Natural Stone Eggs
- Exotic Wood Pen Sets
- Mineral and Fossil Specimens
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**Diana Wing - Owner**  
**719-390-7788**  
[www.DicksRockShop.com](http://www.DicksRockShop.com)  
[dwing@dicksrockshop.com](mailto:dwing@dicksrockshop.com)

7310 S. Highway 85/87 • Fountain, Colorado 80817

**CRYSTALS**

Gems Minerals Jewelry  
Crystal Skulls  
by Appt. Only  
**719-531-7203**

Joe & Marylee Swanson Colorado Springs, CO  
[Krystals@webtv.net](mailto:Krystals@webtv.net)

(713) 633-1163

**Ackley's**  
**Rocks & Stamps**

RHONDA JO HART  
ART & HELENA ACKLEY  
OWNERS

3230 NORTH STONE AVE.  
COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80907

Minerals Fossils Artifacts Books Beads  
Custom Jewelry & Repair Rough Turquoise

**Claim Jumper's Rock Shop**  
Boyde Astemborski, Owner  
(in the penny arcade)

14 ARCADE (719) 685-5136

**GRAND INCLUSIONS**  
**ROCK SHOP**

• MINERALS • ANTIQUE BOTTLES • ARTIFACTS • CRAFTS

**RANDY STAPLETON** 2306 E. PLATTE  
**719-347-2195** SAT, ONLY 10-5

**Steve & Peggy Willman - Minerals**  
**Sangre de Cristo Gallery**

114 Main Street, Westcliffe, CO 81252  
email: [galler@ris.net](mailto:galler@ris.net) 719-783-9459  
Fall Hours: Friday & Saturday 10:00 to 5:00

Collectable minerals, fossils, crafts & local artists

# Events

- 6 May—Saturday Noon, Lapidary Group
- 8 May—Monday 7:00p, Board and Show Update Meeting, Silverwood Hotel
- 9 May—Tuesday 5:00p Micromounts Group
- 12 May—Friday 7:30p Crystal Group
- 18 May—Thursday 7:30p, General Assembly**
- 20 May—Saturday Noon Jewelry Group
- 22 May—Monday 7:00p Faceting Group
- 23 May—Tuesday 7:15p Camera Club
- 24 May—Wednesday 7:30p Fossil Group
- 3 June—Saturday Noon Lapidary Group and Pebble Pups first Field Trip
- 7 June—Wednesday 7:00p Board Meeting
- 8 June—Thursday 7:00p General Assembly & Show Planning**
- 9 June—Friday 7:30p Crystal Group
- 13 June—Tuesday, 5:00p Micromounts Group
- 16-18 June-CSMS Show
- 17 June—Saturday Noon Jewelry Group
- 26 June—Monday 7:00p Faceting Group
- 27 June—Tuesday 7:15p Camera Club
- 28 June—Wednesday 7:30p Fossil Group

**Board Meeting:** 2nd Monday @ 7:00p.  
Silverwood Hotel  
Drew Malin: 531-7594

**Camera Club:** 4th Tuesday @ 7:15p  
1514 North Hancock, COS  
Roger Pittman: 683-2603

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

**Jewelry Group:** 3rd Saturday @ Noon-4:00p, 6608 Gambol Quail Dr. East, COS  
Rick Copeland: 594-6293

**Faceting Group:** 4th Monday @ 7:00p, Paul Berry's home  
David Wilson: 635-7891  
dlwilson@pcisys.net

**Fossil Study Group:** 4th Wednesday @ 7:30p, John Harrington: 599-0989

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

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

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
★ **Items needed** for the SILENT ★  
★ AUCTION & KIDS GEM MINE ★  
★ area of the show. Contact ★  
★ Lorrie Hutchinson. ★  
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

## SHOW REMINDERS:



Be a Winner! You are needed and encouraged to volunteer to assist during the show. We have a specific need for volunteers in the children's area and at the information table. A sign-up sheet will be available at the General Meeting. We're also asking for assistance with the show set-up and take-down. Whatever time you have available would be appreciated.

## Super Saturday . . . May 27, Saturday 1:00 p.m.

**"COOL SCIENCE" Exhibit Opening.** With the support of the amazing scientists from the nonprofit, educational organization "Cool Science," the Museum debuts its new temporary exhibit with an afternoon of hands-on science experiments. From learning about potential energy and fluid mechanics to the chemistry of assaying and the basics of mineral identification, our guests will test minerals, make loud noises, race containers of fluids, and crush rock—all in the name of science! *Space limited—Reservations requested. 719-488-0880* Reprinted from Western Museum of Mining of Industry

President	Drew Malin	531-7594	advanceone@adelphia.net
Vice President	Linda Laverty	520-5939	chilipepper24@juno.com
Secretary	Rick Copeland	594-6293	rick.copeland@covad.net
Treasurer	James Bushnell	598-9262	bushy@pyramidpeak.com
Membership Secretary	vacant		
Managing Editor	Bill Cain	634-8205	bcain2@earthlink.net
Member-at-Large	John Casto	329-0912	Jcasto@UCCS.edu
Member-at-Large	Brent Williams	632-3552	zaphod1863@yahoo.com
Past President	Robert Landgraf	687-3195	RMLWP74@aol.com
Show Chairperson	Lorrie Hutchinson	382-3503	forlorrie_h@yahoo.com
Field Trip Director	Ethan Bronner	448-9949	ethanbronner@msn.com
Librarian	Sarah Udell	237-7983	sarahudell@hotmail.com
Camera Club	Roger Pittman	683-2603	prpittman@netzero.com
Crystal Study	Kerry Burroughs	634-4576	kburroughs@adelphia.net
Faceting Group	Dave Wilson	635-7891	dlwinlson@pcisys.net
Fossil Group	John Harrington	599-0989	harrington1@mindspring.com
Jewelry	Rick Copeland	332-7915	rick.copeland@covad.net
Lapidary Group	Drew Malin	531-7594	advanceone@adelphia.net
Micromount Group	Phil McCollum		acc@frii.com
Pebble Pups	Jennifer Morris	310-8367	ricklovesjenjen@yahoo.com



# Minutes...

## COLORADO SPRINGS MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY

### Minutes, General Meeting

April 20, 2006

Drew Malin called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

Minutes accepted as published.

#### ***Treasurer's Report***

Normal activity in CSMS accounts.

#### ***Satellite Groups***

Camera, Crystal, Faceting, Fossil, Jewelry, Lapidary, and Micromount group leaders announced dates, meeting locations, and programs for the month of May.

#### ***2006 Show Report***

- 34 vendors have paid; waiting for 3 others to respond. We are recruiting fossil vendors from the Denver Show. Now is the time for new vendors to apply.
- Dinosaur Resource Center is bringing a larger exhibit.
- Need to contact the Colorado Gold Panners.
- Looking for show field trip volunteers.
- The June General Assembly will meet the 2nd Thursday (June 8) for show planning.
- Need volunteers for show; i.e. security, hospitality, etc.
- We are in need of materials for the Silent Auction and Kids Gem Mine area of the show.
- Show set up is Thursday at 4:00 p.m. Vendor set up is Friday at 10:00 a.m.
- Show Committee meeting is scheduled for April 27, 7:00 p.m.

#### ***Field Trips***

New Pebble Pubs chairman is Jennifer Morris. Brent Williams will assist with coordinating field trips.

#### ***Old Business***

- Scholarship—Cover letters and applications were sent to area high schools. A committee is forming to evaluate the applications.
- Pikes Peak Library reported book dedication was delivered. In the future, CSMS will supply thank you cards to family members.
- Board Meetings will now be on 2nd Monday of the month at the Silverwood Hotel.

#### ***New Business***

- Bill Cain (*and Betty*) is the new Pick & Pack editor.
- Forest Service for classes at Florissant Fossil Beds. Registration will be taken after May 1. Cost is \$60 per seminar.
- If you are a CSMS member and have email, make sure Drew has your email address.
- The general meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m. followed by Jack Thompson's Pyrites presentation.

**Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society**  
**"All That Glitters is Not Gold"**  
**Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies Convention & Show**  
**Phil Long Expo Center, Colorado Springs, Colorado**

**JUNE 16, 17, & 18, 2006**

**REQUEST FOR COMPETITIVE DISPLAY SPACE**

<b>NAME:</b>		<b>SOCIETY:</b>
<b>ADDRESS:</b>		<b>PHONE:</b>
<b>CITY:</b>	<b>STATE:</b>	<b>ZIP:</b>

Exhibitors are urged to bring their own cases. A limited number of club cases are available upon request. Exhibitors using club cases will need to furnish any risers, linings, extension cords or accessories as needed.  
**EACH CASE WILL BE LIMITED TO 120 WATTS.**

**COMPETITIVE EXHIBIT**

Describe Display:

	I will bring my own case	Case Length:	
	I will need a case *	Approximate Case Length:	

\* CSMS CASES ARE 36" X 24" OUTSIDE MEASUREMENT

DIVISION \_\_\_\_\_ CLASS \_\_\_\_\_ MASTER    ADVANCED    JUNIOR    SOCIETY  
*(circle one of the above)*

I hereby certify that this exhibitor is a member in good standing of the RMFMS.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature of Society Officer

Set up is Thursday, 4 p.m. until 9 p.m., June 15; judging will be at 9 a.m. Saturday, June 17.  
 Judge/Exhibitor conferences at 11 a.m. Saturday, June 17.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature of Competitive Exhibitor

With the signing of this request, it is mutually agreed that the Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society, the Rocky Mountain Federation, and Phil Long Expo Center shall not be liable to any exhibitor for damage, loss, or destruction of any exhibit or injury to his person for any cause, and the exhibitor expressly waives all claims for injury.

<b>DEADLINE:</b> May 15, 2006 Applications will be accepted on a Space-available basis after 5/15/06	<b>RETURN TO:</b> Lorrie Hutchinson 10915 Grassland Rd. Colorado Springs, CO 80925
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PLEASE USE ONE FORM FOR EACH ENTRY. FORM MAY BE REPRODUCED.

**Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society**  
**"All That Glitters is Not Gold"**  
**Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies Convention & Show**  
**Phil Long Expo Center, Colorado Springs, Colorado**

**JUNE 16, 17, & 18, 2006**

**REQUEST FOR NON-COMPETITIVE DISPLAY SPACE**

<b>NAME:</b>		<b>SOCIETY:</b>
<b>ADDRESS:</b>		<b>PHONE:</b>
<b>CITY:</b>	<b>STATE:</b>	<b>ZIP:</b>

Exhibitors are urged to bring their own cases. A limited number of club cases are available upon request. Exhibitors using club cases will need to furnish any risers, linings, extension cords or accessories as needed.  
**EACH CASE WILL BE LIMITED TO 120 WATTS.**

Describe Display:

	I will bring my own case	Case Length:	
	I will need a case *	Approximate Case Length:	

\* CSMS CASES ARE 36" X 24" OUTSIDE MEASUREMENT

**NON-COMPETITIVE EXHIBIT**

DIVISION \_\_\_\_\_ CLASS \_\_\_\_\_ MASTER    ADVANCED    JUNIOR    SOCIETY  
(circle one of the above)

I hereby certify that this exhibitor is a member in good standing of the RMFMS.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature of Society Officer

Set up is Thursday, 4 p.m. until 9 p.m., June 15; judging will be at 9 a.m. Saturday, June 17.  
 Judge/Exhibitor conferences at 11 a.m. Saturday, June 17.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature of Competitive Exhibitor

With the signing of this request, it is mutually agreed that the Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society, the Rocky Mountain Federation, and Phil Long Expo Center shall not be liable to any exhibitor for damage, loss, or destruction of any exhibit or injury to his person for any cause, and the exhibitor expressly waives all claims for injury.

**DEADLINE:**    May 15, 2006  
                     Applications will be accepted on a  
                     Space-available basis after 5/15/06

**RETURN TO:**    Lorrie Hutchinson  
                          10915 Grassland Rd.  
                          Colorado Springs, CO 80925

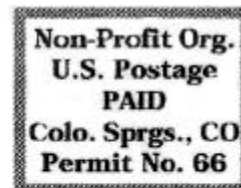
PLEASE USE ONE FORM FOR EACH ENTRY. FORM MAY BE REPRODUCED.



Bill Cain, Editor



P.O. Box 2  
Colorado Springs, CO 80901-0002



## 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, 15114 North Hancock Blvd., Colorado Springs, CO. **Visitor 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 Study Group, Jewelry Group, Lapidary Group, Micromounts Group, and Pebble Pups. For details of Satellite Group meetings, see page 8.

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 and 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](http://www.csms.us)