

Truth & Some Consequences

By Jon Spunaugle, AFMS Conservation & Legislation Chair
AFMS Newsletter, Vol 60, No 1, Nov 2006

America the Beautiful Pass Update

On September 22, 2006, the U.S. Forest Service published a notice that it was going to use Recreational Resource Advisory Committee's (RACs) for advising the Forest Service on fees required by The Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act for accessing certain lands managed by the Forest Service. Where possible, through a new interagency agreement, the Forest Service will utilize existing BLM RACs, where appropriate, or new Recreation RACs will be chartered by the Forest Service (see www.fs.fed.us).



This presents us with great opportunity to have a significant say in the use and cost of fees for access to public lands. I strongly urge "rockhounds" everywhere to apply for membership on these advisory committees. Vacancies for these Advisory Committees are announced in the Federal Register. If someone wishes to do so and needs a letter of recommendation, they need only to contact me. I was honored to write such a letter for Isabella Burns as well as others, and would do the same for any AFMS Society member.

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Secure Rural Schools Land Initiative Follow-Up

As promised in the April 2006 AFMS Newsletter, I am bringing to your attention an update on the Federal Land Acquisition program. As you may recall, the Administration is proposing land sales to assist the Secure Rural Schools and Community Act of 2000. Most of the land sales would be small parcels not connect to larger parcels of public land. For more information on the lands that might be sold, see the USDA Forest Service Internet site at www.fs.fed.us.

The President's FY 2007 Budget for the Forest Service included a legislative proposal that would re-authorize the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 to allow payments under the Act to continue for an additional five years. This proposal underscores the President's commitment to states and counties that have been impacted by the on-going reduction in receipts primarily due to lower timber harvest levels on Federal lands. To provide a funding basis for an extension of the Secure Rural Schools Act, the President's proposal would authorize the sale of certain parcels of National Forest System Lands. Lands that are potentially eligible for this proposal have been identified at the Forest Service Internet site.

(See "Lands" on page 4)

CSMS is an incorporated non-profit 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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Rick Copeland..... Secretary
James Bushnell..... Treasurer
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PICK&PACK

Our Staff...

Bill & Betty Cain
Brenda Malin

Editor
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

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Drew Malin

The Silent Auction is in town! It's on Saturday Dec. 9th this year. This year the profits will go towards boosting the prizes that we give to the Pikes Peak Science fair and to the Crystal Group to use as they see fit. It will be held at the Silverwood Hotel from 10 am – 3pm. This year we will also be offering club members the chance to buy a vendor table for \$10. There will be 8 tables available on a first come, first serve basis. Contact Linda Laverty if you want a table.

I hope everyone had the chance to go to the Denver Show this past fall. I know that a big and growing number of our membership go every year, and many of the Denver clubs' members reciprocate and come to our show in the spring.

Speaking of the CSMS show, we have confirmed that it will be held on the weekend *AFTER* Fathers day this year. That would be June 23rd and 24th. We feel that we have less competition with other events on this weekend. **Start those displays now!**

Finally, I'd like to announce the slate of volunteers for Officers for 2006. President: Drew Malin, Vice President: Linda Laverty, Treasurer: Jim Bushnell, Secretary: Roger Pittman. Members at large: John Casto and Brent Williams. We will vote on the candidates at the next general meeting..

See you all there.

Editors' Note:

Drew isn't even giving us a chance to say "no". We were announced on the Slate of Officers as "Editors for life"! Oh well, guess we'll hang in there for a 'real term'. Is this what's meant by unanimous acclamation?

Bill & Betty

Leadville, Lake County, CO—10/5/06

Article & Photo by Dorothy Atlee

Four members of the CSMS Micromount Group looked forward to a field trip to Leadville. We had promised 2 new members good collecting. Upon arriving into the mining district, we were very disappointed.

The EPA Superfund Project may please the environmentalists but did no favor for the rockhounds and those interested in Leadville Mining District and its history. They destroyed many historical mines, leaving unattractive mountains! They configured the landscape by piling material from other mines, making sterile mountains from 50 to 100 feet near or over famous mines.

Many of our favorite and productive collecting sites no longer exist!

While driving around, we saw signs "No trespassing on either side of county roads". Upon returning to Leadville, we were given a brochure from the Chamber of Commerce, "LEADVILLE, ROUTE of SILVER KINGS". It states, "**Please do not touch or remove any artifacts. Rockhounding and treasure hunting is not allowed in this area.**"

The steel posts with the names of each mine are basically missing. The one we did find was at the First National Mine. So, to have a piece of history, the group posed for a photo. It was the only legal thing we could take!!!

For those interested in past mineral collecting from the area, please read the article by Author Smith in the Sep/Oct, 2006 issue of ROCKS and MINERALS.



Tom Boven, Moyra Lyne, Dee Rickey.
Photo by Dorothy Atlee

I am your new AFMS President. As such, I am honored to lead this great organization.

My assessment of the health of the Organization follows:

- Membership has been declining over the past several years. Consequently, we have established an ad-hoc committee on advertising to promote the AFMS. The goal is to attract new members.
- We are fiscally sound, having had budget surpluses over the past several years, even though the past many budgets have been written in red ink. This anomaly is explained by the fact that many persons serving the AFMS do not submit their expenses.
- The Juniors Program seems to be gaining momentum. This program won't really see fruits for many years. As teens turn into adults, they have other interests, such as obtaining an education, starting a family, and pursuing a career. It isn't until they get older that they return to rockhounding. But we are planting the seeds.
- Our sister organization, ALAA, is barely hanging on by the skin of its teeth. This is the organization established so that rockhounds would have an opportunity to lobby Congress in the event legislation is introduced that would curtail our collecting rights (like the recent fossil bill). This bill and perhaps others, will probably be reintroduced again during the next session, and so we need to support this organization and be eternally vigilant. This is an area that needs more attention.

- This past year, two instances occurred where two Regional Federation Shows were held on the same weekend. One of those was the AFMS show. We have a mechanism in place to prevent that; it is called the AFMS Show Coordinator. Before making a firm show date commitment, please contact that individual. *Be first.*



"All in all, the health of the AFMS is good.

Major areas for improvement are in membership and protecting our rights to collect."

- The ad-hoc committee to promote uniform judging of competitive exhibits across all federations was formed into a permanent committee. This is an experiment that worked.

- Our committees to honor members for their service—such as Rockhound of the Year, Bulletin Editor Hall of Fame, Club Publications, and Program Competition—are all functioning well.

All in all, the health of the AFMS is good. Major areas for improvement are in membership and protecting our rights to collect.

Comments for improvement in these and other areas are welcome.



AFMS Endowment Fund: Thanksgiving

By Joy Borne, AFMS Chair
From AFMS Newsletter, Vol 6, No 1, Nov 2006

As we reach November, it has become traditional in our great nation to reflect upon and celebrate the many blessings we have received throughout the year. We celebrate the special day, call Thanksgiving, and we offer our thanks to those responsible for the harvest. The AFMS Endowment Fund has been especially blessed this year; achieving a new record harvest of funding

(See Fund on page 4)

Upcoming Shows

November 11-12

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

December 8-10

Flatirons Mineral Club annual show at the Boulder County Fair Grounds, 9595 Nelson Rd, Longmont, CO. Friday 10-7, Saturday 9-6, and Sunday 10-4.

2007

March, 2nd Weekend

Deming Gem & Mineral Society Rockhound Roundup, Deming, NM.

June 7-10

RMFMS/AFMS Regional Federation show at Roswell, NM.

June 23-24

CSMS Annual Gem & Mineral Show, Phil Long Expo Center, Colorado Springs, CO,

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 to reserve a place; bring your GPS unit if you have one.



Lands—continued from page 1

In my research, I find most of the parcels that could be sold are isolated small land areas of 60 acres or less and separated from larger Forest Service managed lands, but not all. To be certain of any impact on collecting activities and opportunities, local rockhounds need to review the maps available on the Forest Service Internet site.

The Secure Rural Schools and Community Act of 2000 is up for renewal in Congress with the following Bills HR 515 and S-267 being considered.



Fund—continued from page 3

from the efforts of those who made individual and club contributions to the Fund. What a fitting time to say "Thank You All for your Special Support during 2006!"

Individual and club contributions to the Fund are always welcomed and may be sent at any time to the AFMS Treasurer, Pat LaRue, earmarked for the AFMS Endowment Fund. Pat will deposit your gift in the Endowment Fund restricted funds, which means we will not spend your money—but will use the interest generated by the Fund to enable outreach programs of AFMS from which we all benefit.

To illustrate: This year (up to the end of August), the interest from your contributions has paid for badges for the Junior Rockhound program; for Judges to attend the training sessions at the Wildacres workshop; for A/V materials and distribution of winning entries from the AFMS Program Competition to all regional Slide and Video Libraries; not to mention other supplies furnished to the regional federations. Worthwhile? I think you will agree these are all programs for which we should all give a hearty Thank You!

CSMS Scholarship \$\$ at Work

By Betty Cain

On August 20, 2006, Scott Ferguson, one of our CSMS 2006 scholarship winners, and his fellow freshman classmates in the 2010 class of the Colorado School of Mines performed the tradition "M" climb up Mt. Zion to refresh the school's rock sign.



The event began with a trek up Mt. Zion, and each student carrying a rock to replenish the sign.

Next came the

whitewash bucket brigade. That's a mighty impressive number of young people beginning their earth science studies!



The rock refresh was meticulously accomplished as each student placed their stone on the pile. The stones were then given a

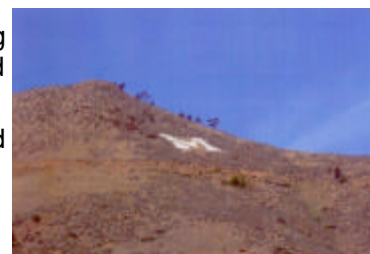
good whitewashing before they returned down Mt. Zion.

The finished



results can be seen far and wide. But the fun didn't end until Scott got his own "whitewashing"!

Thanks for the photos, Scott. Send us more of your adventures at school.



Tidbits

Storage Solutions—1) Need somewhere to store your 6" sanding and polishing discs? Use an inexpensive CD case; the discs fit in the pockets perfectly, and you can label each pocket with a different grit. 2) One of the most aggravating of all lapidary chores is finding a place to store silicon carbide sanding discs. An old-timer has found the perfect solution. Take an old magazine and store the discs between the pages. These "sanding books" can then be stacked on the shelf, and you'll have your sanding discs flat and ready to go when you need them.
From T-Town Rockhound 6/06

Rock Trimmings—Don't throw away the bits of rock you trim off. Smooth the edges and cut the shapes 1" or 2" one way and about 3/4" the other. Tumble polish these, and you have a pretty collection of free-form pieces. Glue a magnet to each, and you have a nice collection of refrigerator jewelry for yourself, a gift, or even a door prize.
From T-Town Rockhound 6/06

Scientists Find Ancient Rainforest

By Sarah Cooke (via The Tumbler, 6/06)

Scientists digging south of Denver in the Castle Rock area say they have uncovered evidence of a lush and vibrant rainforest that emerged surprisingly soon after the asteroid collision that wiped out the dinosaurs 65 million years ago.

The fossils of more than 100 kinds of towering conifer trees, huge ferns, and blooming flowers challenge scientists' long-held assumption that a desolate Earth took about ten million years to recover from the catastrophe and sprouted only a few dreary plant varieties for a long time.

Instead the finding suggest that plant life—at least at this non-dry prairie along Interstate 25—was flourishing as early as 1.4 million years after the impact. Some of the tree fossils measure six feet in diameter.

"It not only recovered, it went crazy," said Kirk Johnson, palentology curator at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. He reported the findings in an issue of the journal Science.

In fact, scientists said it might be the earliest example on record of a true tropical rainforest.

Other plant fossil experts who did not participate in the study said the discovery was totally unexpected. While one site cannot explain plant life around the world during that tumultuous period, experts said the Castle Rock fossils will compel them to reconsider the period of life immediately following the dinosaurs' extinction, known as the lower Paleocene.

"I never would have put this so early in the Paleocene, said Leo Hickey paleobotany curator at Yale's Peabody Museum. "A flora of this diversity and richness is really striking."

In their study, Johnson and Denver museum associate Beth Ellis said a comparison of fossils before and after the apparent asteroid impact indicate that the forest is not a holdover from the days of the dinosaurs, but something that sprang up later. Also, Johnson said the plants that grew there are not the same type as those that grew during the pre-asteroid Cretaceous period. Instead, they are closely related to other plants that typically grew during the Paleocene.

The ancient rainforest was more vibrant than some tropical locations today. Museum researchers have identified at least 104 plant species at the Castle Rock site. In contrast, many modern research sites in Brazil

(See "Ancient Rainforest" on page 6)

Birthstone for November: Citrine or Topaz From Mineral Galleries.com



Citrine Crystals

Topaz is a common gemstone that has been used for centuries in jewelry. Its golden brown to yellow color is classic but is confused with the less valuable citrine, which is sold under the name topaz. The blue topaz that is often confused with aquamarine is rarely natural

and is produced by irradiating and then heating clear crystals. Topaz is the November Birthstone.

Topaz is the hardest silicate mineral and one of the hardest minerals in nature. Topaz crystals can reach incredible size of several hundred pounds. Topaz can make very attractive mineral specimens due to their high luster, nice colors and well formed and multifaceted crystals.



Topaz Crystal

Topaz may be colorless, yellow, orange, red, blue and green.

CSMS Annual Silent Auction

By Linda Laverty & Betty Cain

The Annual CSMS **SILENT AUCTION** is scheduled for December 9, 2006 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the SilverWood Hotel, 505 Popes Bluff Trail, Colorado Springs. Proceeds to benefit the Regional Science Fair awards, which were voted to be increased in 2007. The CSMS Crystal Study Group will also receive new cleaning equipment purchased with the proceeds and will be made available for members' use.

A new feature of this year's auction is tables will be available for members to sell items. The cost of a table is \$10 plus a nice donation to the Silent Auction. Tables are on a first-come basis with a maximum number of 8. A sign up sheet was available at the last General Assembly, but there is still time to get on the list; contact Linda Laverty to sign up. Table setup is at 9:00 a.m. on December 9th.

New items will be added to the auction tables every 20 minutes or less.

Auction items are needed. Linda also suggested that we have a Bake Sale at the same time. If you would like to participate in the Bake Sale, please let her know. See flyer on page 12.

How Do We Know the Age of the Earth?

Source: www.wr.usgs.gov

The Earth is a constantly changing planet. Its crust is continually being created, modified, and destroyed. As a result, rocks that record its earliest history have not been found and probably no longer exist. Nevertheless, there is substantial evidence that the Earth and the other bodies of the Solar System are 4.5-4.6 billion years old, and that the Milky Way Galaxy and the Universe are older still. The principal evidence for the antiquity of Earth and its cosmic surroundings is:

The oldest rocks on Earth, found in western Greenland, have been dated by four independent radiometric dating methods at 3.7-3.8 billion years. Rocks 3.4-3.6 billion years in age have been found in southern Africa, western Australia, and the Great Lakes region of North America. These oldest rocks are metamorphic rocks, but they originated as lava flows and sedimentary rocks. The debris from which the sedimentary rocks formed must have come from even older crustal rocks. The oldest dated minerals (4.0-4.2 billion years) are zircon crystals found in sedimentary rocks in western Australia.

The oldest Moon rocks are from the lunar highlands and were formed when the early lunar crust was partially or entirely molten. These rocks, of which only a few were returned by Apollo missions, have been dated by two methods at between 4.4-4.5 billion years in age.

The majority of the 70 well-dated meteorites have ages of 4-4.6 billion years. These meteorites, which are fragments of asteroids and represent some of the most primitive material in the solar system, have been dated by five independent radiometric dating methods.

The "best" age for the Earth is based on the time required for the lead isotopes in four very old lead ores (galena) to have evolved from the composition of lead at the time the Solar System formed, as recorded in the Canyon Diablo iron meteorite. This "model lead age" is 4.54 billion years.

The evidence for the antiquity of the Earth and Solar System is consistent with evidence for an even greater age for the Universe and Milky Way Galaxy.

- (a) The age of the Universe can be estimated from the velocity and distance of galaxies as the universe expands. The estimates range from 7 to 20 billion years, depending on whether the expansion is constant or is slowing due to gravitational attraction.
- (b) The age of the Galaxy is estimated to be 14-18 billion years from the rate of evolution of stars in globular clusters, which are thought to be the oldest start in the Galaxy.
- (c) The age of the elements in the Galaxy, based on the production ratios of osmium isotopes in supernovae and the change in that ratio over time due to

(See "Earth Age" on page 8)

Ancient Rainforest-continued from page 5

contain 40 to 60 plant species, while a location in Peru contains as many as 293.

How a rainforest grew at the site remains unclear. Johnson believes the Castle Rock rainforest was nourished by humid Florida-like heat and 100 inches of rain a year, probably delivered by monsoons that brewed in an older, larger version of today's Gulf of Mexico and an ancient sea covering what is now the northern Great Plains.

The site was discovered in 1994 by a state highway worker. It is scheduled to be demolished later (2002) in a road-widening project.

Via AP June 2002.

New CSMS Members

The following 2006 new members were identified from the latest Membership Directory. WELCOME to all who chose CSMS during 2006; we've very happy to have you join our exciting organization!

Alfrey, Dan
Archibald, Danny
Baptist, Robert & Pam
Beavers, Tom & Ellen
Blackwell, Craig & Raelynene
Braden, Lisa & Darrell
Buras, Glen & Julie
Cook, Cathy
Covert, Sue & Phil
Delellis, Jimmy & Rita Conklin
Doughty, Michael & Robin Temple
Dowdy, Peter
Egbert, Vera
Gardiner, David
Girourd, Terry & Purnima
Grego, George & Julie Kluver
Greenberg, Dave
Hagman, Robin
Heese, Marilyn & Darren
Holte, Sharon
Hunkins, Lynn & James
Liebert, Marc & Ida
Lynch, Lisa & Barb Hancock
Macur, Chris

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(See "Members" on page 9)

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

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.

Correction to October Ad

BOOK FOR SALE

Minerals of Colorado

by Edwin B. Eckel
Updated & Revised
Oct 1997, Hard Cover
Retail \$150—Sale price \$90
Marge Regel
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email: gallery@ris.net 719-783-9459
Fall Hours: Friday & Saturday 10:00 to 5:00

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radioactive decay, is 8.6-15.7 billion years. Theoretical considerations indicate that the Galaxy formed within a billion years of the beginning of the Universe.

- (d) Combining the data from (a) and (b), the “best,” i.e., most consistent, age of the universe is estimated to be 14-17 billion years.

Mineral Collecting

From: www.minsocam.org

SAFETY FIRST AND LAST

The first and last concerns should always be about safety. You need to follow all the safety procedures that you would on a hike in the woods (i.e. informing someone about where you are going and when you will return, taking along adequate water, food, and first aid supplies). If you are going to some place where breaking up rocks is required, you should get a proper hammer (either a geological pick or a brick mason's hammer). Then, be sure to get eye protection. Chips broken off of rocks can fly from the rock at high speed and can hurt. Mines and quarries are often dangerous places with open shafts, tunnels, loose rocks on high walls, and machinery. DON'T go underground; you need experience and the proper equipment to do it safely. Also make sure you have permission to be on private land. The owners can tell you about specific hazards in the area. It is also a good idea to check with the proper Federal Agency if you are going to collect on public lands.

WHERE CAN I COLLECT?

The next big decision is where can you go to collect. The best source for this information is often the members of a local gem and mineral society. The larger clubs have junior sections for younger members and often sponsor field trips. They can get the group into sites that are closed to individual collectors.

It can also be instructive to attend a local show put on by these groups. These shows will have displays of rocks, minerals, and fossils; dealers selling specimens; and often an identification booth run by club members.

A visit to a local rock shop may be helpful. Some carry printed guidebooks for localities in a region. They may also have examples of local rocks and minerals. Guidebook locations have probably been visited by numerous people and localities can be collected out.

(See “Collecting” on page 9)

Are They Just Words?

CSMS is an incorporated, non-profit organization with these goals:

1. To promote and disseminate knowledge of earth sciences, especially as they relate to mineralogy, lapidary, and fossils.
2. To encourage the study, collection, and fashioning of minerals.
3. To accomplish the same through social meetings, lectures, programs, displays, shows, and field trips.

dis-sem-i-nate: 1. To extend over a wide area: circulate, diffuse, disperse, distribute, radiate, scatter, spread, strew. 2. To pass (something) out: circulate, disperse, distribute, hand out. 3. To make (information) generally known: advertise, blaze, blazon, broadcast, bruit, circulate, noise, promulgate, propagate, spread.

Hi, I'm Bill, one of your two editors. I joined in 2005 and was delighted to find a rock club where I might be able to learn about the history of Colorado geology. To be frank and blunt, after a couple of meetings, I was disappointed to find that most of the knowledge of rocks or geology held by some was a closely guarded secret. When asked where something was found or what to look for when collecting, I was given little or no answer and even told to “just look for this or that”.

Okay, so what is “this or that”, and what does it look like in the rough? I'm still asking that same question after two years.

I realize not all rockhounds collect or look for the same thing. As for me, I look for odd shapes, coloration, texture; wondering how this rock became what it is. On one excursion, I found what is known as Manitou Dolomite. It contained numerous tiny sea shells. Neither my seven year-old granddaughter nor I had ever seen such a thing. I was told that it wasn't worth wasting time on; Trilobites are worth more.

Thanks to Ackley's Rock Shop, I was able to find out that the small shells in the stone were Branchiopods (older in age than Trilobites). While the rock and the fossils within are considered worthless as far as sale value, to a young girl and her granddad it was quite a find. Learning the history of the host rock and the minute sea shells in it, to us was very exciting. We all collect for various reasons; does that mean we can't share with others what we know?

As members of CSMS we should share the knowledge we have with those who simply don't know. It is, after all, our goal, isn't it?

Collecting—continued from page 8

Additional information can be found from the State Geological Surveys or the United States Geological Survey. In the more mineralogically rich areas, state surveys have often published state mineralogies. Some states have also published pamphlets for amateur collectors or included information on their web sites. You can also get in touch with people on the staff. Your tax dollars pay for them and they also usually keep track of public inquiries to help them with the legislatures during budget times.

Rock and Gem magazine publishes a fair number of field trip articles. When you get further advanced in the hobby there are additional magazines such as Rocks & Minerals, the Mineralogical Record, Mineral News, and Matrix a journal of the history of minerals; which also publish locality articles.

You might want to consider a site that charges a fee for collecting. They often will bulldoze an area so it can be more productive. Most federal Forest Service and Bureaus of Land Management lands are open to collecting (except for areas under active mining claims, National Parks and Monuments, and wilderness areas [archeological artifacts and fossil vertebrates are also not to be collected]). You should contact the local offices to see what rules are in effect, and they may also be able to point you to good collecting areas.

The best places to look for minerals are where there has been recent activity to create fresh exposures of rocks. This can include construction sites, new roads (including newly graveled areas), quarries, and mines. A good state atlas or computer-based map program will often show where the quarries and mines are located.

(See "Collecting" on page 13)

New AFMS Officers

Your new AFMS officers that were sworn in at the 2006 AFMS Convention and have taken their offices to serve the AFMS.

President: Dr. Robert Carlson
(Rocky Mountain)

Pres-Elect: Shirley Leeson (CA)

1st VP: Carolyn Weinberger
(Eastern)

2nd VP: Bill Pattillo (So Central)

3rd VP: John Blue (Midwest)

4th VP: Rocky McCall (Northwest)

5th VP: Don Monroe (Southeast)

Secretary: Anne Cook

Treasurer: Pat LaRue



2007 AFMS Officers.. Dr. Robert Carlson, Pat LaRue, Don Monroe, Rocky McCall, John Blue, Carolyn Weinberger, Shirley Leeson. Not pictured... Bill Pattillo and Anne Cook. Photo: S. Weinberger

Members—continued from page 6

McGuire, Edward

Melgoza-MacCauley, Carol & Morris

Mogey, Ted & Jackie

Mosby, Mike & Catherine

Obremski, Ed

Prichett, Kenneth & Betty

Schaeffer, Robyn & George

Scott, Barbara

Skinner, Chris & Colleen

Smith, Andrew

Smith, Cindy

Tanis, Mike & Tammy

Thornton, Carolyn

Weiss, Robert & Tammy

Wing, Diana

Wolf Trujillo, Grace & Richard

Woods, Mara

We urge all members to get to know our new folks and introduce them to the educational benefits, exciting adventures, and great fellowship of CSMS.



From Geologem 10/69 via MWF Newsletter 3/01
via T-Town Rockhound 5/01

Photo from AFMS Newsletter, Vol 59, No 9, Oct 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
NOVEMBER 2006 — CSMS CALENDAR						
			1 12:15p <u>Mesozoic Mammals on Drifting Continents—Den Museum of Nature</u>	2 7p Show Com Mtg @ SilverWood Hotel	3	4 Lapidary Group Mtg—moved to 11/11
5	6	7 7p Micromounts Group Mtg <u>7-9p Water Resources of the Denver Basin—Den Museum of Nature</u>	8 <u>7-9p Water Resources of the Denver Basin—Den Museum of Nature</u>	9 <u>7p Explore The Planets—Den Mus of Nature & Sci</u> <u>7-9p Water Resources of the Denver Basin—Den Museum of Nature</u>	10 7:30p Crystal Study Grp Mtg	11 <u>NM Mineral Symposium</u> <u>12n Lapidary Grp</u> Jewelry Group Mtg—now on informal basis; contact leaders
12 <u>NM Mineral Symposium</u>	13 7p Board Mtg	14 <u>7p African Diamond Wars lecture—WMMI</u>	15	16 7:30p General Assembly Mtg	17	18 Pick&Park Deadline
19	20 7p Faceting Group Mtg	21 7:30p Camera Club Mtg	22 7:30p Fossil Group Mtg	23 THANKSGIVING	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Locations

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

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

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

Jewelry Group: Meets on informal basis; if interested, contact Rick Copeland: 594-6293 or Bill Arnson: 749-2328

Faceting Group: 4th Monday @ 7:00p, Various Locations
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. **No meetings in August or September.**
Drew Malin: 531-7594

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

Refreshments for General Assembly Meeting—2006

November =Faceting Group; December=**Everyone**

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 & Betty Cain	634-8205	bcain2@earthlink.net
Member-at-Large	John Casto	329-0912	Jcasto@fvs.edu
Member-at-Large	Brent Williams	632-3552	zaphod1863@yahoo.com
Past President	Robert Landgraf	687-3195	RMLWP74@aol.com
Show Chairperson	Kaye Thompson	636-2978	
Field Trip Director	Brent Williams	632-3552	zaphod1863@yahoo.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	dlwilson@pcisys.net
Fossil Group	John Harrington	599-0989	harrington1@mindspring.com
Jewelry Group	Rick Copeland	332-7915	rick.copeland@covad.net
Lapidary Group	Drew Malin	531-7594	advanceone@adelphia.net
Micromount Group	Phil McCollum		acc@friei.com
Pebble Pubs	Vacant		

COLORADO SPRINGS MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY

Minutes, General Assembly

October 19, 2006

Drew Malin, President, called the meeting to order at 7:27 p.m. Betty Cain, Editor, acted as Secretary in the absence of Secretary, Rick Copeland.

Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as published.

Treasurer's Report

No Report—Treasurer was across the pond (Big Ben country)!

Visitors & New Members

Sharon Holte was visiting at the invitation of a CSMS member and later joined—Welcome Sharon.

Satellite Groups

Camera, Crystal, Faceting, Fossil, Lapidary, and Micromount group leaders announced dates, locations, and programs for next month; no report was made by the Jewelry group.

Field Trips - No report.

Old Business

- Silent Auction—flyers were available. Saturday, December 9, 2006, 10-3 at the SilverWood Hotel. Proceeds will benefit the Science Fair awards and the Crystal Group's new cleaning equipment.
- Membership directory was available at the meeting and will be mailed with the November Pick&Pack after corrections that were identified are made.

New Business

- Brochures for the New Mexico Mineral Symposium, Nov 11-12, were available at the meeting. Ed Raines is the key note speaker Saturday evening.
- The mineral identification class by Ed Raines filled so quickly that he's considering conducting another class for CSMS; date is TBD.
- Handouts were also available from Pete Modreski, USGS, for scheduled events.
- Nick Morales presented the slate of proposed officers for the November election: Drew Malin-President, Linda Laverty-Vice President, Roger Pittman-Secretary, Jim Bushnell-Treasure; Executive Committee Members: John Casto and Brent Williams-Members-at-Large, and Bill & Betty Cain-Editors. No further nominations were made from the floor. Election will be held at the November General Meeting.
- Duties of Membership Secretary will continue to be performed by Drew Malin because of the complexity and coordination of the databases. Drew suggested a new position of Communications Officer be created during the up-coming year to encompass memberships, member email notifications, and email billing of membership dues.
- Officer Installation Banquet will be held at the Silverwood Hotel, the 3rd Thursday of January 2007, 6:00-9:00 pm in lieu of General Assembly Meeting. Pete Modreski will be the key note speaker. Cost is \$15 per person; dress is business casual to formal. Sign up sheet will be available at the November General Assembly.
- Kay Thompson, Show Chairman, needs pictures for the show postcard and also a theme suggestion on the show mineral, Barite. Show is planned for weekend (2 days) after Father's Day 2007.
- Roger Pittman reported on CSMS participation in the WMMI *Family Exploration Days: What's Mined is Yours!* held on October 14th. The children's gem mine was set up in our Colorado Rockhound exhibit area and enjoyed by 65 kids and parents.
- The December General Assembly will be a Chinese auction "White Buffalo (elephant)" event. Members are to bring a wrapped rockhound gift (\$5 & under) for the game. All members are to bring refreshments. Linda Laverty and Ray Berry will prepare the rules for the game. **DON'T MISS THIS FUN EVENT.**
- A draft of housekeeping on the Constitution and By-Laws was presented; input discussion required that a second draft be presented at the November meeting.

The general meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m., refreshments were enjoyed, followed Ray Berry's presentation on the life Edwin Over, a CSMS charter member.

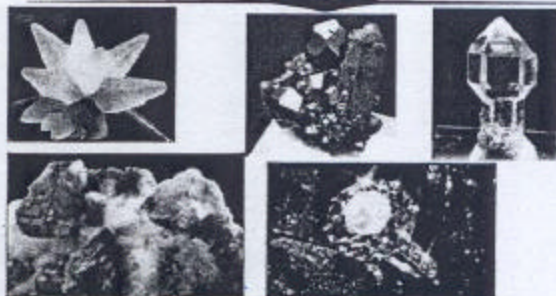


2006

COLORADO SPRINGS MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY SILENT AUCTION

505 POPES BLUFF TRAIL, CS, CO 80907

*December 9, 2006
10:00 am to 3:00 pm*



***Proceeds to benefit Science
Fair and CSMS subgroups.***



**SILENT AUCTION TABLES
NEW ITEMS EVERY 20 MINUTES
NEW FEATURE - MEMBER TABLES**

**Great gift ideas at
Silent Auction
Prices!!!**

Collecting—continued from page 9

WHAT DO I LOOK FOR IN THE FIELD?

What to look for really depends upon the locality and what is there. This is the reason it is helpful if you can go on an organized field trip and ask questions of more experienced collectors. A couple of rules of thumb is to look for the odd rock that doesn't look like the vast majority of stuff in the neighborhood. If there are holes in the rock, these are places to look for crystals (lots of shiny little flat faces of crystals). Metallic looking minerals are often things such as pyrite or galena.

Once you have found a specimen, it should be packed so that it is not ruined bringing it home. Newspapers or toilet paper make good packing materials. The specimens can be placed in paper bags and placed in shallow boxes (the infamous beer flats). If you visit more than one locality on a trip, be sure to record the locality information and keep it with the specimens. Egg cartons can be handy containers for small specimens in the field or for your collection at home. Be judicious in trimming rocks down, you can have greater control at home.

Once you get the specimens home, they should be labeled with the locality information. This is usually the only thing you can't tell later about a specimen. Lack of locality will often completely destroy any scientific value of a specimen and will destroy its commercial value.

Have fun, that's what it's about.

Having Fun—Junior Activities Careers in the Earth Sciences

By Jim Brace-Thompson, Junior Activities, AFMS Newsletter, 11/06

For many kids, an initial fascination with colorful minerals or fantastic fossils ebbs with the teen years as school, sports, band, dating, video games, part-time jobs, cars, and so many other activities and temptations compete for their time and interest. But there are those few intense teens—and every club has seen at least a couple—who maintain a consuming interest in our rocky earth. For those kids who truly get bitten by the bug, you can offer invaluable guidance by introducing them to the varied career paths toward which their interest might lead.

Such careers are found in a number of industries and sectors, including: The gem and jewelry business, the petroleum and mining industries, environmental consulting, the federal government (USGS, BLM,



National Park Service, or NASA, to name but a few agencies), national laboratories, state agencies, university research and teaching, paleontology, natural history museums, and K-12 education.

Last month, I directed attention to Earth Science Week, an annual event sponsored by the American Geological Institute (AGI) to promote a better public understanding and appreciation of the earth sciences. The AGI web site also provides helpful links telling about the varied careers open to youth wishing to take their interest in rocks, minerals, and fossils to the next level. Check it out at www.agiweb.org. Click on the "Geoscience Careers" tab. The Gemological Institute of America also has a "Careers" tab on their web site (www.gia.edu).

Finally, you can direct teens to the web sites of colleges and universities with particularly strong geology, earth science, or paleontology departments, such as UCLA, Berkeley, San Diego State, or UC-Santa Barbara in my home state of California. You might give them an assignment to explore a department web site, find the name of the department's undergraduate advisor, and contact that person to solicit more information about educational and career opportunities related to your teen's particular interest, and then write up a brief paper or give an oral report about their findings. Such an assignment also gives a teen a leg up when later making the big decision about going on to a college education.

Work to help direct your club's teens to web sites or organizations like the AGI, GIA, and university geology departments as one way to direct their vision toward potential lifelong careers while—as always—having fun!



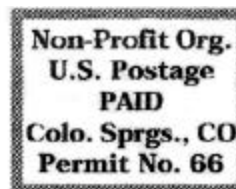
**Junior, Mommy would like to talk
to you about your rock collection.**

*by Erston Bernhart
via Hy Grader 3/94*

Bill & Betty Cain, Editors



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, 1514 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 10.

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