

CSMS Life Members Celebrates 42 Years of Service to Colorado Rockhounds

By Betty Cain
Photos by Bill Cain



Art and Helena Ackley, life members of CSMS and married for 62 years, came to Colorado Springs from New York in 1964. Art, a graduate of Alfred State College in New York state and WWII veteran, was an aerospace engineer with Martin Marietta.

The Ackley's opened their first rock shop on north Nevada and were there for 12 years before moving to their present location on North Stone in 1976. Whether you're a novice or advanced rockhound or philatelist (*stamp collector*), Ackley's Rocks & Stamps has something for everyone.

A trip to Ackley's is a wonderland for rock enthusiasts. You will see a show case of Colorado minerals, along with



Art & Helena Ackley



Karen & Rhonda in front of Colorado Minerals Case

fossils, rough-cut and finished stones, slabs, new and used equipment, and supplies of all kinds. "If we don't have it, we can order it", says **Rhonda Hart**, an employee of 17 years. **Karen Roth**, **Jessica Oxford**, and **Linda Kaufhold**, the other long-time Ackley employees, are knowledgeable and always willing to help identify specimens or assist with questions.

There is a large rock yard behind their store for those who want a field trip without leaving the city.

The Ackley's are proud to offer their store as a local field trip for area schools; reservations can be made in advance of the trip by calling (719) 633-1153 or emailing forackleys@aol.com. Visit their website at www.merchantcircle.com/business/Ackleys.Rocks.And.Stamps.2.719-633-1153 for monthly specials and valuable coupons (through the Newsletters link) or mention you saw it on the website when you go in the store. You can also be added to their mailing list to receive information about their big annual sales.



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.

Drew Malin..... President
Linda Laverty..... Vice President
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Brent Williams..... Field Trip Director

Proud Members of:

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS)

Rocky Mt. Federation of Mineralogical Societies (RMFMS)

Colorado Federation of Mineralogical Societies (CFMS)

Colorado Springs
Mineralogical Society
Founded in 1936

Lazard Cahn
Honorary President

PICK & PACK

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

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Drew Malin

Colorado Rockhounding Exhibit—The Western Museum of Mining & Industry, in partnership with the Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society, is proud to announce the opening of a new exhibit, **Colorado Rockhounding**. Learn about Colorado's geology, and why this is such a great area to collect minerals. Get a chance to see mineral specimens, including agates, epidote, amazonite, and a smoky quartz crystal weighing over 100 lbs! Examine

lapidary equipment, and see how this artistry has changed over time. This new exhibit is funded in part by the GM White Charitable Trust and runs until April 30, 2007.

Photos & article contributions by Betty Cain

The grand opening of the exhibit was held on August 17th and included hors d'oeuvres, drinks, and music by a local harpist.



Terry Girouard, WMMI curator, lead a tour through the exhibit, recalling the interesting history of Colorado mineral collecting and study. The first publication on the closely-guarded techniques of European guilds was *The Mineralogist* in 1932. A 'how to' on lapidary techniques was published in



Terry Girouard, WMMI Curator

1936 in Oregon, and interest in the field soared.

Early Colorado gold prospectors discovered crystals and many other beautiful stones. Collectors and dealers began to spring up in Colorado Springs, and the first territory geologist printed information on what minerals are available in Colorado. This document was the first of it's kind to be exhibited at the Chicago World's Fair. By 1940, 80 clubs had been established in the US, mostly on the east coast.



To fulfill a need to share Rocky Mountain information and experiences, in 1936 Richard Pearl helped start a Denver club, and Lazard Cahn, 1 of the top 3 mineralogist with a world-wide reputation, established Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society (CSMS), along with 18 friends who had been informally studying minerals and crystals with him. The American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS), of which CSMS is a member, was founded in 1947.

The Colorado Rockhounding Exhibit contains a tribute to these early Colorado rockhounding pioneers, the equipment used, and many rough and beautifully finished specimens provided by today's CSMS rockhounding enthusiasts.



Of special interest to the visitors at the grand opening was the 100 lb. smoky quartz crystal. Kids really enjoyed this 'touching' experience.

(Continued on page 8)

September Meeting Program

Pete Modreski, U.S. Geological Survey Office of Communications & Geological Resource Specialist, will present 'Pegmatites of the World' at the September 21st General Assembly Meeting, 7:30p at the Senior Citizens Center, COS.

AFMS—Be Kind to Your Dealers

By Dr. Robert Carlson, AFMS President-Elect

I recently attended a show, and read about another one, that had many dealers and very few customers. Result: Many of the dealers did not cover their expenses. Oh, they might have covered their dealer's fees, better yet, they might have covered their dealer's fees and their production costs; but when the customers aren't there, they don't cover their transportation, lodging, or food that are necessary expenses for them to attend the show. Result: They lose money; it costs them more to attend the show than they take in. In short, they could have saved money by staying home.

The dealer's fees are what make a show happen. Their fees cover the rent of the facility, the advertising, and some of the miscellaneous expenses. But they need sales to be able to exist.

The Rockhounds at the show are primarily interested in the raw materials, as opposed to finished pieces. Whether it be faceting rough, minerals, cabbing material, or jewelry supplies, most Rockhounds already have extensive collections and are only looking for something that is exceptional or unusual. They do a lot of looking, but not a lot of buying. The dealers, therefore, need to have a large number of products that are aimed at sales to the general public. Inexpensive things for the children, and medium-to-high quality goods for the adults—at a substantial savings over the local jewelry stores. Thus, most of their sales are aimed at the public that comes through the front door.

But, if for whatever reason, the public does not come through the front door? The dealers go home hungry. And, if they lose money over a couple of years, they are not likely to come to your show again.

I have painted a bleak picture. How can it be improved?

Show committees need to be more realistic, rather than optimistic, about the number of people who will come through the front door. Each person has only a limited number of dollars that can be spread among the dealers. The larger the number of dealers, the thinner is the spread.

Keep good records of the number of people that come through the front door. Canvas the dealers to see how they did, and what kind of items were their biggest sellers. Get an estimate of dollars that came through the front door, and plan the next year's show accordingly. Get the number and type of dealers down to the point where they can all make money.

Remember, without dealers, your show cannot exist.

Pebble Pups



Jennifer Morris, Pebble Pups leader, is back from a very busy summer and will be working to engage our young rockhounds in exciting activities. If you would like to be involved, please contact Jennifer at 310-8367 or ricklovesjenjen@yahoo.com. For information from the AFMS Junior Activities Chair on Thumbnail Collecting, see page 12.

Upcoming Shows

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.

September 22-24

53rd annual show, "A Prehistoric Journey"; Houston Gem & Mineral Society; Humble Civic Center. More than 75 fossil replicas from Dinosaur World in San Antonio, more than 40 gem, jewelry, bead, mineral, labidary, and fossil dealers, educational displays, demonstrations, children's activities; contact Sigrid Stewart, (281) 239-0377; www.hgms.org

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

June 7-10

Regional Federation show at Roswell, NM

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.

CSMS 2006 Scholarship Winners Awarded

By Jim Bushnell

"Really, I won?" came the excited response to a recent phone call. After a couple of years pause, CSMS has awarded scholarships to two college-bound students. The road to this exciting event began nearly two years ago when a group of volunteers got together and formed the criteria that was approved by the membership last fall. Application packets were sent out in early spring to all the local high schools and colleges that are allowed within the criteria. In addition to meeting the field of study and other qualifications, applicants were asked to answer the question: "How would you inspire young people to become active in the field of rock hounding/mineralogy and geology?"

At the May general meeting, the membership voted to allow for two awards this year. Shortly before the June Show, a review committee got together and reviewed the applications, and the results are now history. The two award winners for 2006 are Michael Mitchell and Scott Ferguson, both of Colorado Springs.



Drew Malin, CSMS President, and Michael Mitchell, 2006 Scholarship winner.

Michael Mitchell graduated from Palmer High School with a GPA of 4.584 and ranked 5th in his classes. Hockey and Cross Country were Michael's sports in high school, lettering in both and being named a 1st team Academic All State. Michael has also earned the rank of Eagle Scout with Troop 2. This achievement not only required the completion of many merit badges but also a service project that he had to plan and execute. Michael's inspirational ideas would leverage his experiences in scouting to lead young people on trips and geology expeditions and also to become a merit badge counselor for the Geology merit badge for his fellow scouts. Michael will be attending The Colorado School of Mines and will study Geophysics.

Scott Ferguson graduated from Coronado High School with a GPA of 4.19, being ranked 20th in his graduating class. He is an Academic All American who also lettered in Cross Country, Track and Academics. His ideas for getting young people inspired included a "metamorphic meat pie" which would demonstrate thrust faults by pushing two slices of pizza together then letting them chow down on the resulting geologic culinary delight. Scott will join Michael at The Colorado School of Mines and plans to major in Geology.

Congratulations to Michael and Scott, and good luck in their studies!

One of the main goals of CSMS is to provide education about the field of geology and mineralogy. What better way to serve that purpose than to use the proceeds from the annual show and silent auction for scholarships to outstanding students from the local area!



Drew Malin, CSMS President, and Scott Ferguson, 2006 Scholarship winner.

The Board applauds the efforts of everyone who made this possible, from those who volunteered to work on the committees to all who gave of their time.

Money-Saving Hints

SKUNK! Whether you encounter 'Pepe Le Pew' on a field trip or in your backyard (as our four-legged family member recently did!), here's an environmentally-friendly, veterinarian-approved remedy to remove his lingering foul scent. Mix 1 box baking soda, 1 pint hydrogen peroxide, 1 pint of water, and a couple squirts of dishwashing liquid. Wet wipe the effected areas with a cloth dipped in the solution. What a relief for both us and our pet!

By Betty Cain

Calling 411 Information—Phone companies are charging us \$1 or more for information calls when they don't have to. When you need to use the 411 information option, simply dial 1-800-FREE-411 or 1-800-373-3411 without incurring a charge.

Quarry Quips Newsletter, July 06

Specimen Wrapping—Use an old phonebook for wrapping your small specimens. It can be kept in your vehicle's trunk so the pages can be torn out as needed.

Quarry Quips Newsletter, July 06

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.



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Fall Hours: Friday & Saturday 10:00 to 5:00

Collectable minerals, fossils, crafts & local artists

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
SEPTEMBER 2006 CSMS CALENDAR					1	2 Lapidary Group Mtg <i>Cancelled</i>
3	4 HOLIDAY	5	6	7	8 7:30p Crystal Study Grp Mtg	9
10	11 7p Board Mtg	12 7p Micromounts Group Mtg	13	14	15	16 12n Jewelry Group Mtg
17	18	19	20	21 7:30p General Assembly Mtg	22 Pick & Park Deadline	23
24	25 7p Faceting Group Mtg	26 7:30p Camera Club Mtg	27 7:30p Fossil Group Mtg	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; **looking for new
leader**
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 Har-
rington: 599-0989

Lapidary Group: 1st Satur-
day @ 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@frii.com
Moyra Lyne: 442-2673

September CSMS Fossil Group Meeting

JimBo Buck has finally unpack from his last move and is inviting everyone to come see his collection that's been "unearthed". The group will meet at 7:30p at 7360 Herbert Court in Widefield on September 27th. No program will be presented.

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	Brenda Malin	531-7594	advanceone@adelphia.net
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	Lorrie Hutchinson	382-3503	forlorrie_h@yahoo.com
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	dlwinlson@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@frii.com
Pebble Pups	Jennifer Morris	310-8367	ricklovesjenjen@yahoo.com

Do You Have a New Camera?

By Marge Collins, AFMS Program Competition
From AFMS Newsletter, June-July, 2006

Why not use it to make images to share your enthusiasm and knowledge and to tell the story of some aspect of our Earth Science hobby that you are especially interested in? With a digital camera, it's never been easier!

Before you head out on field trips, visiting museums, going to shows or workshops, think of how you can tell a story to share with your fellow club members and other rockhounds across the country. After you have the images (which can easily be lightened, darkened, cropped and moved forward or back within a presentation), you can develop the narration "to tell the story".

Think of programs you have seen at club meetings. Was there a topic on which you could elaborate or present in a better way? Look at your Regional Program Library's list to see what topics are missing. Surely you can find a "story to tell", a skill or technique to demonstrate or the work of another to show off.

Need help with the details of putting a presentation together? Contact the AFMS Program Competition Committee for tips or advice and after showing the program to your fellow club members, submit your presentation for Program Competition.* The "rules & guidelines" will be published in the September AFMS Newsletter or request them in advance (see below).

Contact AFMS Program Competition Committee
c/o Marge Collins, Coordinator
269-695-4313 or
email: margaret@qtm.net

If you don't receive a reply in a reasonable amount of time, send to margekccollins@yahoo.com.

* Some Regions have their own competition in advance of the AFMS deadline.



TIPS...

Reprinted from Rock Chips, June '06

Jade Polishing Agent

A little graphite mixed with chrome oxide and applied to a muslin buff makes a wonders jade polishing agent. When using chrome oxide for polishing, mix it with a solution of 1/2 water and 1/2 vinegar.

Polishing Peridot

Apply a drop of lemon juice or vinegar to speed things considerably. The slight acid seems responsible for the improvement. Rinse laps and splash pans with plain water when finished.

AFMS Land Use Policy

1. Adherence to the AFMS Code of Ethics (*reprinted in the July 2006 Pick&Pack*) assures compliance with most statutes and regulations governing collecting on public lands and encourages respect for private property rights and the environment. Clubs are urged to read the AFMS Code of Ethics in at least one meeting every year, to publish the Code frequently in the club newsletter, and to compel compliance on club field trips.
2. Individuals and clubs are urged to write their elected representatives and land use management agency supervisors regarding issues of rule making, legislation, and enforcement affecting field collecting of minerals and fossils.
3. Individuals and clubs are urged to join and support activities of the American Lands Access Association (ALAA), a sister organization with responsibility for advancing the interests of earth science amateurs with legislatures and land use management agencies.
4. The AFMS will receive a report from ALAA at its annual meeting.
5. The AFMS endorses the principle of multiple use of public lands as a guarantee of continuing recreational opportunities.
6. Wilderness and monument designations are inconsistent with the principle of multiple use. In view of the vast amount of public land already designated as wilderness and monuments, future such designations should be minimal, taking into account the increased demand for recreational opportunities, including rockhounding, created by a growing population.
7. In furtherance of the principle of multiple use, the AFMS believes that laws, regulations and rules established by relevant governmental authorities should be designed to allow freest possible access to all public lands, coupled with minimal restrictions on the recreational collection of minerals, fossils, gemstone materials, and other naturally occurring materials.
8. A right to collect minerals and fossils on public lands should be protected by statute.
9. The AFMS urges its members to work with any or all government authorities to achieve a good working relationship in order to improve the "Public Image" of recreational collectors.

WMMI CSMS Exhibit Opening Pictures . . .

(Continued from page 2)

A history of Lazard Cahn and Richard Pearl is presented on the wall behind the 100 lb. smoky quartz crystal.

Pete Modreski, USGS and CSMS member, will present 'Pikes Peak Geology' during a tour on September 30 at 3:00 pm.

A big **"THANK YOU"** to all our CSMS members who provided items for this wonderful exhibit. Well Done!



Colorado Rockhounding Exhibit Room



Early Equipment on Display



P&P Editor enjoys crystal and history wall



PICK & PACK

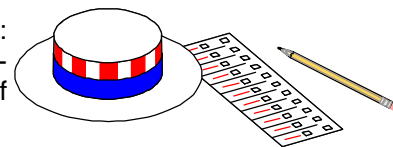


SEPT 2005

CSMS Officer Elections Coming Soon

By Betty Cain

CSMS officers election is coming at the end of the year. The offices are: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary. These officers serve as members of the Executive Committee along with additional elected positions of Membership Secretary, Editor, and 2 members-at-large.



In accordance with the CSMS Constitution and By-laws, Article IV—Officers and Election, “At the September regular meeting, the President shall appoint a nominating committee to present a list of nominees at the October regular meeting. At the NOVEMBER regular meeting additional nominations may be made from the floor. NO PERSON MAY BE NOMINATED OR APPOINTED TO OFFICE WITHOUT HIS OR HER CONSENT. Following the nominations at the November regular meeting, election will be made by secret ballot of the members present, except when there is but one candidate for an office, this requirement may be waived and a unanimous vote called for. Elected officers will take office at the JANUARY installation and/or regular meeting.”

If you are interested in serving as an officer or would like to nominate someone, please submit the name and office to the Nominating Committee or make your nomination from the floor.

Timeline:

- September Meeting—Nominating Committee is appointed by the President.
- October Meeting—Nominating Committee presents list of nominees.
- November Meeting—Additional nominations, if any, are made from the floor and officers are elected by a secret ballot of members present.
- January Installation and/or Meeting—Newly elected officers assume their offices.

Ten Week Rock & Mineral ID Class

By Ray Betty

Ed Raines, a top notch mineralogist and geologist with a long history of writing about Colorado minerals and localities and teaching classes in the Denver area for years, is planning to offer a class to CSMS. Kits containing approximately 370 specimens of igneous, metamorphic and sedimentary rocks and a 20x microscope will be available students' use. The class will be part lecture and part lab for ten 3-hr sessions, once a week. The kits and microscopes are available for students to take home and will be collected at the end of the course. Cost for the class is \$150 per student.

If you're interested in this professional class, contact **Ray Berry**, Location, date, and times of the course are to be determined by interest expressed.



Boulder Field Trip From Flatirons Mineral Club website

September date to be determined - Baculite Mesa, seeking baculites, ammonites, and other fossils. Trip Leader: Tom McSherry. We will spend the day collecting baculites (of course), spiral ammonites, and other Cretaceous-aged invertebrates. Flatirons Mineral Club, Boulder, CO, Tom McSherry, tommcsherry@comcast.net.

You Might be a Rockhound If

Reprinted from www.amfed.org

- You describe your vacations by the rocks you brought home.
- The rock pile in your garage is over your head.
- Your PC screensaver features pictures of rocks.
- You find rocks when you empty your pockets at night.
- You gave rocks, tumblers, or rock tools for Christmas.
- When friends say they're going to Tucson, you assume it'll be in February.
- You can find quartz sites on a map in less than 5 seconds.
- You can pronounce "molybdenite" correctly on the first try.
- The polished slab on your bola tie is six inches in diameter.
- The bookshelves in your home hold more rocks than books; and the books that are there are about rocks.
- On a trip to Europe, you're the only member of the group who spent their time looking at the cathedral walls through a pocket magnifier.
- You are thinking about giving out rocks for Halloween.
- You planted flowers in your rock garden.
- You purchase things like drywall compound just to have another nice bucket to carry rocks in.
- The club you belong to uses rocks for center pieces for the annual Christmas dinner.
- The first thing you pack for your vacation is a chisel and a hammer.
- You spend hours and hours in the ugliest room in your home.
- You bought the ugliest boots available because they were waterproof.
- You know what findings are.
- You watch the scenery in movies instead of the actors.
- Your company asks you to not bring any more rocks to the office until they have time to reinforce the floor.
- The local jewelry stores and libraries give out your name for information on rock clubs.
- You examine individual rocks in driveway gravel.
- Your local rock shops send you get well cards when you don't stop by in more than a week.
- The baggage handlers at the airport know you by name and refuse to help with your luggage.
- The city sends you a letter informing you a landfill permit is required to put any more rocks in the backyard.
- You shouted "Obsidian!" to a theater full of movie-goers while watching the Shawshank Redemption.
- Your children have names like Rocky, Jewel, and Beryl.
- You get excited when you find a hardware store with 16 lb. Sledge hammers and 5' long pry bars.
- You can't remember the last time your car still fit in the garage.
- Local science teachers plan field trips to your backyard.
- You begin fussing because the light strips you installed on your bookshelves aren't full spectrum.
- You've spent more than \$10 on a rock.
- You still think pet rocks are a pretty neat idea.
- You have amethyst in your aquarium.
- You associate the word "hard" with a value on the Mohs scale instead of "work".
- You know the location of every rock shop within a 100 mile radius of your home.
- You plan on using a pick and shovel while you're on vacation.
- Your spelling checker has a vocabulary that includes the words "polymorph" and "pseudomorph".
- You put a web page about rocks on the internet.
- Your car hasn't seen the inside of your garage for ten years.
- You associate the word "saw" with diamonds instead of "wood".
- You begin wondering what a set of the Mineralogical Record is worth.
- You decide not to get married because you'd rather keep the rock.
- You make a backpack for your dog.
- You've spent more than \$10 for a book about rocks.
- You have mineralogical database software on your computer.
- You send your family on ahead into MacDonald's so you can check the gravel in the flower beds.
- You have 137 empty squeeze syrup bottles washed and ready to use as squeeze bottles on the next field trip.

This list was written by members of the GMEDITORS E-Mail Swap Group. Contributors include Mel Albright, Richard Busch, Betty Commean, Dan Imel, Bob Keller, and Paul Kline.

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For more surefire signs that you are a rockhound visit: Bob's Rockshop Surefire Signs Context

Minutes...

COLORADO SPRINGS MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY

Minutes, General Meeting

July 20, 2006

Linda Lafferty, Vice President, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Minutes accepted as published.

Treasurer's Report

1332 people attended the Show. Dealers reported sales down by half from last year. Show should record a profit to go toward scholarship fund. 31 new members signed up at the Show.

Satellite Groups

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

2006 Show Report

- Attendance was down from 2005 due to choice of show dates and other local events happening at the same time.
- Radio outreach was not effective; the Gazette ad and features were successful.
- Event proceeds and vendors income were about one-half of last year's.
- We need more display participation next year to have a bigger field for judging.
- Show Chairman, Lorrie Hutchinson, asked for new committee volunteers who would be trained before next year's show.
- Many thanks to those who volunteered for making the 2006 Show a success.
- Show case awards were presented.

Field Trips

- CSMS claim field trip is on July 22 and will meet at the Lake George ranger station on Trial Creek Road at 9:00 a.m./ be punctual. Contact is Ray Berry.
- Annual CSMS picnic and creeking party to be held August 6, 10:00a—2:00p at Fountain Creek Regional Park, pavilion #2; bring your own lunch; maps are available.

Old Business

- Scholarships were awarded at the Show. The winners were Michael Mitchell and Scott Ferguson.

New Business

- A new CSMS directory is coming out.
- Marty Zin is selling his fluorescent mineral collection or perhaps donate it to CSMS to use at the Show.
- It was reported that the lights in the CSMS display case at Penrose Main Library need attention. Richard Strecker will make the repairs.

The general meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m. followed David Vardiman, Exploration Manager of AngloGold Ashanti, and his presentation on the Cripple Creek & Victor Gold Mining District.

Having Fun—Junior Activities

Thinking Small: Thumbnail Collecting

by Jim Brace-Thompson,
AFMS Junior Activities Chair
Reprinted from AFMS Newsletter, Sept '06

In my effort to develop new activities for FRA merit badges, this month I've been thinking small, probably because of an article a recent issue of *Rocks & Minerals* caught my eye: "The Year in Micromounting". The lens of a microscope can bring into focus astounding examples of perfectly formed crystals and fossils no bigger than a grain of sand with nary a ding or blemish. However, the art of the micromount can require a real bankroll to get a microscope and other specialized equipment, and it requires a truly steady hand and lots of experience and patience to prepare micro-mineral and micro-fossil specimens for study and display. So, while I'm thinking small, maybe when it comes to kids' activities, I shouldn't think that small! Fortunately, there's an intermediate step between the pinhead micromount and the fist-sized cabinet specimen: the category of minerals and fossils known as thumbnails. (As a rule of thumb, so to speak, if it fits in a 5-inch cube, it's a cabinet mineral; a miniature mineral will fit in a 2-inch cube, a thumbnail fits in a 1-inch cube, and a micromount requires magnification.)

Helping kids build thumbnail collections has several advantages. For one, a collection of thumbnails takes a lot less room to store. Over 100 specimens can easily fit in a space just one foot by two feet. For another, these smaller specimens can often-but not always!-be a lot kinder to a child's budget at a gem show. Finally, working with smaller specimens helps a child develop concentration and focus.

A good way to start collecting thumbnails with your club's kids is to take a field trip to the club rock pile or to the backyard of a willing club member who has a 40-year accumulation sinking into the ground. In this



case, you won't be looking for the spectacular, one-of-a-kind giant hunk of semi-precious. Instead seek the rejects and castoffs: the quartz or calcite-filled geode that had shattered under a hammer blow and now lays in unwanted pieces or that chunk of rotting granite shedding flakes of mica, quartz, and feldspar. These pieces may have been deemed unfit as cabinet specimens but, on closer inspection, may yield perfect thumbnails. Encourage your kids to get up-close-and-personal with the rocks. Other sources include more traditional field trips to mines and mineral localities listed in the guidebooks, gem shows, and trading.

After collecting, you can lead kids in an evening exercise of cleaning and trimming their specimens to size, followed by another evening teaching how to mount and store specimens. Basic supplies needed might include hammers and small chisels (and eye protection!), pliers to snip away pieces of matrix, a regular hand magnifying glass or, better, a bench magnifier that allows you to work with hands free, tweezers, and glue. Thumbnail minerals are often stored in perky boxes, named after their creator, Willard Perkins. These small plastic boxes, available from mineral suppliers, usually have a black bottom lined with styrofoam and a clear plastic top. Specimens can be pushed into the styrofoam or mounted and glued on pedestals made from clear plastic sticks, toothpicks, or tiny corks painted black, pins and tacks, or plastic bristles from combs or hair brushes. Kids just starting out might store their thumbnail specimens in those small plastic boxes with magnifier tops. Or even a simple matchbox will do!

There is one frustration to note about this aspect of our hobby: an apparent lack of reference resource. I've found Milton Speckel's *The Complete Guide to Micromounts* in the used book pile at a gem show. Originally published in 1965 by Gembooks and apparently reissued in 1980 by Gem Guide Books, it now seems to be available only in the used book circuit. And that's about it! If anyone out there knows of other helpful resources and publications for micro and thumbnail collecting, I'd sure appreciate hearing about them (jbraceth@adelphia.net).

With thumbnail collecting, thinking small can result in smiles that are big as kids build an affordable, space-saving collection from specimens that are often overlooked while, as always, having fun!

Ed Note: Probably the best reference on micromounting is "The Complete Book of Micromounting", authored by Micromount Hall of Fame member, Quintin Wight. It's available from Mineralogical Record.

Delightful Gemstones

*By Diane Weir, Chaparral Rockhounds
Reprinted from RMFMS website*

Gemstones are astonishing, don't you agree?
Used so many ways to delight us, even as a tree!

Faceted, tumbled, cabbed, or just free-form;
No two alike, where uniqueness is the norm.

The vast spectrum of colors radiating in the light;
Steal your breath away as you absorb the very site.

And their names, oh my, what diversity;
To learn them all you need go to the university.

Man's fascination with them descends through the ages;
Shown by the Bible, mentioning them scatteringly on it's pages.

Encompassing legends, curses, folklore, and medicinal properties;
Causing wars, thievery, murders, and other immoral properties.

Gemstones are astonishing, you really must comply;
Ever changing, ever forming, a remarkably endless supply!

Marjorie LaNell Strait, 94, died on June 9, 2006.

By Eloise Berry

Marge & Warren Strait were very active members of the CSMS during their 66 years of marriage. When we first visited a mineral show in 1970, they were in charge of the hospitality tables and continued to do that for many years. They also hosted the Basic Minerals Class.



Both Marge & Warren were teachers and introduced many young people to the pleasures of collecting minerals. Warren died in 2000, and Marge had been in an assisted living facility.

Marge received the Community Service Award for presenting rock and mineral programs to fourth, fifth, and sixth graders in El Paso County. She enjoyed traveling after retirement that led to an extensive rock, mineral, and shell collections. Her shell collection is on display at the Village at Skyline.

ACROY's For Everyone

*By Cathy Gaber, Chair, AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year
Reprinted from AFMS Newsletter, Sept '06*

OK, do you even know what an ACROY is? Like so many organizations, services, and the like, we have a recognition program through the American Federation that everyone should know about. Everyone in every rock and mineral club is eligible to submit names and to be the recipient of this honor. Because AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year is a mouthful, I find it convenient to use the acronym. Every year, one person or one couple can be recognized from each club. Isn't there someone in your club that you feel deserves to be the ACROY for this year?

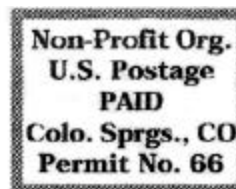
The process is very easy. All we need is the name of the person to be honored, the name of the submitter (and office held, if any), the name of the club, the name of the federation, and a few sentences telling us why this person is so special to the club. There is no need to do any research or have each detail nailed down. The important this is to just send it in, and then see how happy it will make your club member to be the designated ACROY for 2006. Each region has an ACROY representative that will be happy to process your submission, which will appear in this bulletin. I would encourage you to also send your submission to your regional newsletter editor and to your club bulletin editor so that everyone will know how much you appreciate the person selected.

Editor's Note: We have seen ACROY's from the California, Eastern, Midwest, Northwest, South Central, and Southeast Federations in almost every issue of the AFMS Newsletter but have not seen a nomination from the Rocky Mount Federation! We have some really wonderful, dedicated, and hard-working members who are serving and promoting CSMS in many ways. We would really like to see a write-up about one of our members in the AFMS Newsletter.

Bill & Betty Cain, Editors



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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 6.

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