



Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society

Founded 1936
~ Lazard Cahn ~
Honorary President
“Pick & Pack”
Volume 63 No. 9
Nov 2023

CSMS General Assembly

Thursday, Nov 16, 2023 7:00 PM
Mt. Carmel Veterans Center

Program Speaker:
~ Dan Mira ~

“Minerals of Romania, Maramures County”

Everyone bring snacks (A-Z)

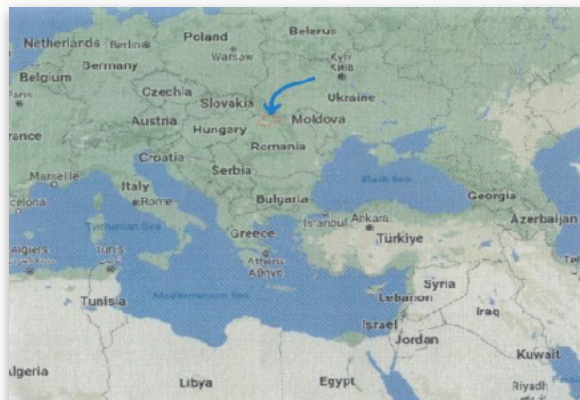
Society members are encouraged to bring specimens to general assembly to share and/ or for help with identification

In case of inclement weather please call Mt. Carmel
Veteran’s Service Center 719-309-4714

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Minerals of Romania, Maramures County - Dan Mira



Maramures (pronounced Maramuresh) is a Romanian county in northern Transylvania near the border with the modern Ukraine with a rich mining history. The first records and archeological finds prove mining activities existed in this region before Dacia (the country name before the Roman conquest) was conquered by the Romans. A lot of gold and silver artifacts showing the same characteristics as the ones discovered locally were discovered in other parts of Dacia, proving the quality of the artifacts crafted locally was known and appreciated in a wide area. Gold, silver, lead and zinc were commonly extracted from the area. Manganese and barium were also mentioned since the 1300s. High quality specimens from the area filled collections and European museums since late 19th century, however, the two world wars and the following 50 years of communist regime kept the specimens outside of the reach of collectors (especially in US). The mines that are most familiar to collectors are located in relatively small areas around Baia Mare (the Maramures county seat): Căvnic, Baia Sprie, Baiut, Herja and Rosia Poieni. Most sought after specimens include rhodochrosite, barite, black-and-white calcite spheres and stibnite. Dan’s talk will describe the geology, history, minerals and the culture of this mining area.

COLORADO SPRINGS MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY PO BOX 2 COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO 80901-0002
Visit our website: <http://www.csms1936.com/>

CSMS Group Calendar

Nov '23 Dec '23

8 Nov	13 Dec	Fossil Group	2nd Wed	6:00 PM	East Library Annex	Kristine Harris Richard Villareal	719-593-1524 831-760-6985
2 Nov	7 Dec	Board Meeting	1st Thur	6:00 PM	Zoom	John Massie	719-338-4276
7 Nov	5 Dec	Pebble Pups	1st Tue	4:15 PM	East Library	David St. John	719-424-9852
16 Nov	21 Dec	General Assy	3rd Thur	7:00 PM	Mt. Carmel Center	John Massie	719-338-4276
23 Nov	28 Dec	Crystal Group	4th Thur	7:00 PM	Mt. Carmel Center	Kevin Witte	719-638-7919
By appt	By appt	Faceting Group	By appt	By appt		John Massie	719-338-4276
By appt	By appt	Lapidary Group	By appt	By appt	Sharon's House	Sharon Holte	719-217-5683

2023 Community Events (Pete Modreski)

Nov 6: 2:00 – 3:00 PM, Denver Museum of Nature & Science, Earth Science Colloquium, “Our Earth was completely frozen?—twice?” Carol Dehler, Utah State U., In the V.I. Room; in-person only, all are invited, Museum admission not required; check in at the Security Post. See <https://sites.google.com/view/dmnsdes2020colloquiumschedule/home>

Nov 6: 11:30 AM, Denver Mining Club presentation: Stacey Holzer, Gemologist, Authentic Solutions. “Appraisal of Gems and Minerals: How to Get the Best Value for Family Jewelry.” If you’re not familiar with the Denver Mining Club, it has luncheon meetings every Monday, 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM, at Golden Corral Buffet & Grill, 3677 South Santa Fe Drive, Sheridan, CO 80110 (southwest side at Santa Fe Dr. & Hampden Ave.; purchase of buffet lunch required). All are always welcome; see their website for the full schedule of each month’s meetings & speaker topics: www.denverminingclub.org.

Nov 10: 7:00 PM, “Fossil Diatoms in the Florissant Formation,” by Mary Ellen Benson; at the monthly meeting of the Denver Gem and Mineral Guild, Wheat Ridge United Methodist Church, Wadsworth & 38th Ave. See <https://denvergem.org/> for details. All are always welcome.

Nov 11: 1-4 PM, Free Mineral ID Day at the Mines Museum! “Let us identify the most mysterious specimens in your collection! (All are welcome; museum admission is always free. Limit 3 specimens per visitor; only identification assistance will be provided, we will not offer value assessment.) Just to mention—all persons interested in helping to support the museum and in taking part in special members-only activities, are invited to join the Friends of the Mines Museum! See www.friendsofminesmuseum.com. Annual membership, students \$10; adults \$30; family \$50.

Nov 16: 7:00 PM, Colorado Scientific Society November meeting, “Glaciers and Rock Glaciers” by Bob Anderson, Univ. of Colorado. (The CSS’ previously scheduled talk, Colorado Structural Evolution, by Lonn Abbot, had to be postponed; we hope to have it given sometime in 2024). The meeting will be in-person meeting at Calvary Church Golden, and also available via Zoom; see <https://coloscisoc.org/> for details. All are always welcome.

Nov 16: 2-3 PM, Colorado’s Glacial History by Dr. Vince Matthews, former Colorado State Geologist. A new presentation just added to the DES Colloquium schedule!

Nov 17-19: Denver Area Mineral Dealers (“DAM”) Gem and Mineral Show, 10-5 Fri & Sat, 10-4 Sun, Jefferson County Fairgrounds, Exhibit Hall, 15200 W. 6th Ave., Golden. No admission charge.

Nov. 29: 7:30 PM, Friends of Mineralogy, Colorado Chapter, bimonthly meeting; Berthoud Hall, room 109; presentation on some topic of mineralogical interest TBA at this time, but see <https://friendsofmineralogycolorado.org/> for an update on this. All are welcome to attend. (P.S., NOT on what would have been our regular meeting date of Thurs. Nov. 16, as you may have seen in one of my earlier “calendars of coming events,” i.e. the Nov 16 meeting shifted to this new date)

Dec 2: WIPS (Western Interior Paleontological Society) Holiday Party and Silent Auction Fundraiser, at the Clements Community Center, Lakewood. All are welcome. See the WIPS website for details!

Dec 8-10: “Rocks and Rails” Gem and Mineral Show sponsored by the Flatirons Gem and Mineral Club, Boulder County Fairgrounds, 9595 Nelson Road, Longmont; combined with the Boulder County Model Railroad Club model train show; one admission for both, adults \$8, seniors \$5, children under 12 free with adult. Fri & Sat 10 AM – 5 PM, Sun 10 AM – 4 PM.

Dec 14: 6:00 PM, Colorado Scientific Society, December Annual Meeting, Potluck Dinner and Presidential Address, Cal Ruleman, US Geological Survey (presentation title TBA); in-person meeting at Calvary Church Golden; see <https://coloscisoc.org/> for details. All are welcome.

2024 Community Events (Pete Modreski)

Feb 8-11: Tucson Gem and Mineral Show, at the Tucson Convention Center. These are the dates of the original, “main” show, sponsored by the Tucson Gem and Mineral Society; many other shows also take place in Tucson at multiple locations during the previous several weeks.

Feb 23-25: Denver Gem and Mineral Guild, Gem and Mineral Show, 10-5 Fri & Sat, 10-4 Sun, Jefferson County Fairgrounds, Exhibit Hall, 15200 W. 6th Ave, Golden. No admission charge. Dealers, club demonstrations, special exhibits, fluorescent display, door prizes, and more.

Mar 22-24: Fort Collins Gem and Mineral Show, 4-8 PM Fri, 9-6 Sat, 10-4 Sun, at The Ranch/Larimer County Fairgrounds, Thomas M. McKee 4-H Building; the Fort Collins Rockhounds Club 61st annual show.

May 4: 12:00-3:00 p.m., Colorado Mineral Society Silent Auction, held at Wheat Ridge United Methodist Church, Exhibition Hall, 7530 W. 38th Ave. (just east of Wadsworth). All are welcome to attend, and to bring specimens to sell in the auction (minimum donation of 20% of selling price to the club). Setup begins at 11 a.m.; there will be a vocal auction as well as silent auction tables.

May 18: 12:00-3:00 PM, Colorado Chapter, Friends of Mineralogy Silent Auction, held at Wheat Ridge United Methodist Church, Exhibition Hall, 7530 W. 38th Ave. (just east of Wadsworth). All are welcome to attend, and to bring specimens to sell in the auction (minimum donation of 20% of selling price to the club). Setup begins at 11 AM; there will be a vocal auction as well as silent auction tables.

June 7-9: Pikes Peak Gem and Mineral Show, at the Norris Penrose Event Center, 1045 Lower Gold Camp Road, Colorado Springs, sponsored by the Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society. Fri. 12-7 PM, Sat 10-5, Sun. 10-4.

Aug 8-11: Buena Vista Contin-Tail Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Show, Buena Vista Rodeo Grounds; free admission and parking.

Sept 12-15: Denver Gem and Mineral Show, part of the Hardrock Summit Show, Westin Westminster Hotel, Westminster CO. The several other gem, mineral, and jewelry shows take place in Denver during the preceding week.



Above: A collection of stunning smoky quartz crystals found by CSMS member-at-large Chris “Crystal Whisperer” Burris. They were found in a pocket at the April Fool’s claim. The three top smoky quartz are twinned, the others are single points. Chris reports that he was with another club member at the time and that he “had a feeling” about the spot.

Photo and report: Chris Burris.



Federation News Post

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies
Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies



Visit the new AFMS Juniors Website! <https://www.juniors.amfed.org/>

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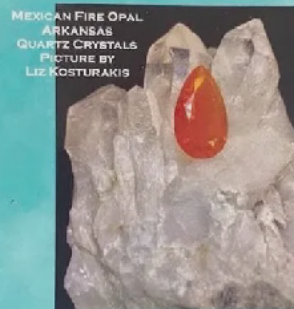
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2024**

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www.Flaggshowinfo

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FREE Samples for Kids
The Treasure Trail

EL PASO TEXAS 2023 MINERAL, GEM, JEWELRY & BEAD SHOW

DECEMBER 1ST, 2ND, 3RD, 2023
FRI & SAT: 10AM - 6PM, SUN: 10AM - 5PM



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WWW.EPMGS.COM
Free admission, free parking, door prizes,
kids table

Wickenburg Gem and Mineral Show Nov 25 & 26, 2023



Free Admission
gemclub.info
Jewelry
Fossils
Minerals

Over 40 Vendors Best Rock Contest Raffle
Door Prizes Kid's Area Silent Auction
Hassayampa Elementary School
251 South Tegner Street Wickenburg, AZ
9am - 5pm Saturday • 10am - 4pm Sunday

ROCKS & RAILS
December 8-10 10am - 5pm
Adults \$8 :: Children 12 & Under Free with paid Adult
Seniors Over 60 \$5 :: Discount Multi-day Passes Available

Flatirons Mineral Club
2023 Annual
Rock & Mineral Show
Gem and mineral dealers,
Exhibit displays, grab bags,
children's activities including
games, dig site, spin the wheel
fossils, meteorites, lapidary tools,
jewelry, fluorescent mineral
display, and more!
Bring your mineral treasures
in for mineral identification.

Boulder Model Railroad Club
46th Annual
Model Railroad Exposition
Come one, come all, and enjoy the
Boulder Model Railroad Club (BMRCC)
Exposition where you can see different
Model Train Layouts for the young and
old alike. The show will also have many
displays of Model Train related items to
both teach and entertain everyone. This
includes many vendor tables where
you can purchase railroad-related items
just in time for the Holidays.

ATM & Food Service Available at the Show
BOULDER COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS LONGMONT
MAIN EXHIBIT BUILDING 1900 Nelson Road Longmont, CO 80501
Bad Weather? Call 303-593-2830 to see if we're open

**DMRMC
ROCK & GEM SHOW
MARCH 2 & 3
2024**

The Daisy Mountain Rock and Mineral Club

The Tucson Gem and Mineral Society Proudly Presents
**THE 69TH ANNUAL
TUCSON GEM & MINERAL SHOW**

**PEGMATITES
Crystals
BIG
& Beautiful**

**February 8 - 11, 2024
Tucson Convention Center**

About the AFMS - A non-profit educational federation of seven similar regional organizations of gem, mineral and lapidary societies. The purpose of AFMS is to promote popular interest and education in the various Earth Sciences, and in particular the subjects of Geology, Mineralogy, Paleontology, Lapidary and other related subjects, and to sponsor and provide means of coordinating the work and efforts of all persons and groups interested therein; to sponsor and encourage the formation and international development of Societies and Regional Federations and by and through such means to strive toward greater international good will and fellowship. Founded in 1947.

About the RMFMS - A non-profit educational organization. The purpose of the Rocky Mountain Federation is to have a close association of all clubs in the Society to promote the study of earth sciences, including the lapidary arts, the study of fossils and paleontology, and related crafts. The RMFMS was organized in 1941, and held its first annual convention at the Argonaut Hotel in Denver, Colorado. There were 16 organizations in attendance. The RMFMS became one of the original four founders of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies when it was organized in 1947.



Juniors Newsletter Submission Form

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies

Thank you for submitting an article, pictures, poetry, artwork, or other contribution for publication in the juniors newsletter. Your article or other contribution can be on any rockhounding subject that interests you. Juniors need to be 17 years or younger. The top part of this form is for the junior to fill out and the bottom part needs to be completed and signed by a parent.

FOR THE JUNIOR TO COMPLETE

Name: _____ Age: _____

Title of the article or other contribution: _____

Rock club name: _____

School (optional – your school will receive a copy of your published work)

Signature of junior: _____

FOR THE PARENT TO COMPLETE

I grant permission for the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies to publish this article or other contribution, along with your child's name, age, and rock club, both electronically and in print. Your child retains the right to publish elsewhere, anytime, and anyplace in the future.

Please note that any photo(s) with identifiable children's faces will need each child's parent's permission to publish.

Parent's name (printed): _____

Parent's signature: _____

Parent's email address: _____

Street address: _____

City or town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Please scan or photograph this completed form and send it to youth@amfed.org along with your article or other contribution for the juniors newsletter.

About the AFMS - A non-profit educational federation of seven similar regional organizations of gem, mineral and lapidary societies. The purpose of AFMS is to promote popular interest and education in the various Earth Sciences, and in particular the subjects of Geology, Mineralogy, Paleontology, Lapidary and other related subjects, and to sponsor and provide means of coordinating the work and efforts of all persons and groups interested therein; to sponsor and encourage the formation and international development of Societies and Regional Federations and by and through such means to strive toward greater international good will and fellowship. Founded in 1947.

Visit the new AFMS Juniors Website! <https://www.juniors.amfed.org/>

President's Corner

John Massie
CSMS President



2023 Satellite Group Chairs

Kevin Witte/ Bob Germano, Crystals
John Massie/ Bertha Medina, Faceting
K. Harris/ R. Villareal, Fossils
Vacant, Jewelry
Sharon Holte, Lapidary
Vacant, Micro-mount
Vacant, Photography
David St. John Pebble Pups

2023 Liaisons

Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument:
S.W. Veatch
Western Museum of Mining and History:
S.W. Veatch



Presidential Matters



A message from CSMS President John Massie:

As the Holiday season approaches, CSMS has a lot going on. The November 16, 2023 meeting has two elections. The first is for the board of directors for 2024. The second is for Rock Hound of the Year.

We also have to plan the Christmas Party. We will need volunteers to cook the turkey and ham. We will also let you know what side dishes to bring. We rotate salads, vegetables and deserts every year. We will also have a voluntary gift exchange. Gifts should be hobby related.

Minutes from the 2023 Executive Committee meeting and minutes from the 2023 RMFMS Delegates meeting (held in Casper Wy) are published and can be made available upon request. Contact Pick & Pack editor John Emery pickandpackeditor@gmail.com to obtain copies.

John Massie
CSMS President



FIRST PLACE: Sawyer Blizzard accepts his first place award from American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) for his paper titled, *Theiophytalia kerri: A Garden of the Gods Dinosaur*, 1st Place, Jr. Articles 12-16, 2023.

Secretary's Spot

John McGrath

2023 CSMS Officers

John Massie, President
Shane Riddle, Vice-President
John McGrath, Secretary
Ann Proctor, Treasurer
Adelaide Bahr, Membership Secretary
John Emery, Editor
Chris Burris, Member-at-Large
William Meyers, Member-at-Large
Sharon Holte, Past President

2023 CSMS Chairpersons

Shane Riddle, Program Coordinator
John Massie, Show Vol Coordinator
Kyle Atkinson, Field Trip Coordinator
Vacant, Science Fair Chair
Frank and Ellie Rosenberg, Librarians
Tina Cox, Social Committee Chair
Ann Proctor, Store Keeper
Lisa Cooper, Show Chairman
Lisa Cooper, Webmaster
Lisa Cooper, Facebook Keeper
Mike Nelson, Federation Rep
Vacant, Federation Rep

CSMS General Assembly Minutes

7 PM, Thursday 19 Oct, Mt Carmel Vet Center, Co Springs

Address: 530 Communications Circle, Colorado Springs CO 80905

Board Attendance: President: John Massie, Vice President: Shane Riddle, Secretary: John McGrath, Member-at-large: Chris Burris, Editor: John Emery, Membership Secretary: Adelaide Bahr.

Agenda:

- I. Meeting was called to order by President John Massie at 7:04 PM.
- II. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President John Massie.
- III. Introduction of Guests: Mark Mann.
- IV. Introduction of New Members: Tom and Ann Baker
- V. Program Speaker - Mike Nelson
 - A. Gold - What is it? How to identify it? When and where did we find it? When did we use it as currency? How is it refined?
 - B. Finding Gold - First Gold rush in the Carolinas, next Georgia and then the California Gold Rush (1848-1955), Pikes Peak Gold Rush (1858-1861), Black Hills
- VI. Meeting
 - A. There were 38 members/guests in attendance and 5 minerals were given out
- VII. Officer Reports
 - A. President - John Massie
 1. Sept minutes were approved by voice vote
 2. The move to CSCS High School commons room from Mt Carmel for General and Crystal Club meeting will start in January 2024.
 - B. Vice President - Shane Riddle, present, no report.
 - C. Treasurer - Ann Proctor, absent.

D. Secretary - John McGrath, present, mentioned the need to turn in inventory information.

E. Membership Secretary - Adelaide Bahr, no report

F. Editor - John Emery. Present, reminded everyone to vote during the break for the Rockhound of Year.

G. Members at Large

1. Bill Myers - absent

2. Chris Burris - present, no report.

H. Past President - Sharon Holte, absent.

I. Website and Show Coordinator - Lisa Cooper, Absent.

VIII. Satellite Groups

A. Crystal Group - Crystal Group - Kevin Witte present. He reported that the next meeting would occur on Thursday night at Mt Carmel at 7pm. Bob Germano would be reviewing Crystal cleaning.

B. Faceting Group - John Massie reiterated contact him to bring the machine to your house.

C. Pebble Group - David St John, Absent. Club will continue to meet at the East Library at 4:15 PM which parents have told him is best time period. Shane reported that Fossil exposition was well received.

D. Fossil Group - Kristine Harris and Richard Villareal stated that meetings are held the 2nd Wednesday of the month from 6-7:30 at the East Library Annex.

E. Jewelry Group - still in need of a Chairperson. John Massie said there is no equipment for this group.

F. Lapidary Group - Sharon Holte, absent. Call her Sunday nights after 6:30 PM to sched appointment.

IX. Liaisons

A. Claims - Frank Rosenberg. Absent

B. Field Trip Coordinator - Kyle Atkinson, Present. He reported that on the next 2 Saturdays the Club would be meeting at our claims to beginning clean up activities.

C. Social Coordinator - Tina Cox, Present. She offered the idea that she could organize a Chili cook off in the Jan/Feb 2024 timeframe and the members present were very supportive.

D. Store Keeper - Ann Proctor. Absent.

X. Unfinished Business - None discussed.

XI. New Business

A. The Theme for the June Mineral Show will be Petrified Wood.

B. Christmas Dinner during the December General Meeting still needed volunteers to prepare the meat dishes. John Massie stated that the Club would reimburse for the cost of purchasing the meat.

XII. Meeting adjourned by President John Massie at 8: 38 PM

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED by **John M McGrath** MD COL (RET) USA



REPORT

General Assembly Oct 19, 2023

38 rockhounds gathered on a cool August mountain night to listen to CSMS member Mike Nelson talk to us about the history of gold. Thanks Mike!

Members brought in specimens to share, including a giant bar of silver (lot of grams), amazonite crystals, a fluorite specimen and thunder eggs (shown below).

Business was conducted as usual and 5 free gems and minerals were given away.



Canyon Rim Thundereggs
Collected at the Polka Dot Agate
Mine located North East of
Madras, OR



What to Do With a Volcanic Plug?

Mike Nelson
csrockguy@yahoo.com



Above: Painting of Edinburgh Castle ~ 1780 by Alexander Nasmyth. *Public Domain.*

The title says it all! What does one person/state/country do with a volcanic plug? I asked this question to a group of beginning geology students many decades ago. Probably the most common answer was to quarry the basalt (or similar volcanic rock) and use the material for construction aggregate. Since volcanic plugs, or any volcanic material (except bentonite and wind-blown ash), are unknown in the superficial sedimentary rocks of Kansas that was a reasonable guess. In further discussions I found that several of the students had seen cinder cone quarries during vacation trips/field trips through New Mexico and/or Arizona. There is a world of difference between cinder cones and volcanic plugs.

A cinder cone is a smaller conical hill composed of volcanic ejecta —

loose pyroclastic clinkers, volcanic ash, or scoria—that formed when a volcanic vent “blew” small fragments into the air and as they rained back down the fragments cooled and accumulated in a cone-like structure.



Above: Sunset Crater is a large cinder cone located north of Flagstaff, Arizona, in the San Francisco volcanic field. The vent erupted ~1075. *Photo Public Domain and courtesy of Mike Sanchez.*

These small cones are often quarried for construction aggregate, decorative yard rocks, and even for use in “backyard barbecue” grills as a cover for the burners. There is virtually no large-scale solidification of the clinkers, and they literally may be “scooped up” with a shovel or backhoe. Easy to quarry.

A volcanic plug is formed when molten magma hardens in the throat of an active volcano and blocks further eruptions from that particular vent. Sometimes the volcano becomes “unplugged” as massive pressure builds up under the plug and a very explosive eruption takes place—the volcano “blows its stack.” At other times the pressure in the magma field simply opens a new vent. At other times, as the vents start to cool down, the plug in the throat also hardens into a very tough basaltic type of rock (I use this term to indicate any of the fine-grained, extrusive igneous rocks that form from the rapid cooling of lava rich in magnesium and iron.

Some are actually diabase or dolerite or trachyte or a variety of other types). In fact, these throat rocks are often harder than the surrounding country rocks. As time moves on, erosion removes much/most of the surrounding rock and the volcanic plug becomes a positive topographic feature.

There are literally hundreds of these plugs scattered across the world but to me the most impressive are the volcanic plugs scattered across the red rocks of the Colorado Plateau. The most famous plug of the Plateau is probably Ship Rock near the Four Corners area of Colorado, Utah, New Mexico, and Arizona although nearby Agathla Peak, seven miles north of Kayenta, is much more intimate and easier to reach.



Above: Agathla Peak, a volcanic plug, rises about 1500 feet above the desert floor in the Four Corners area. *Photo: Mike Nelson.*

So, to add a second choice to the question —preserve the plug as a scenic area or state park or wilderness or tourist attraction. I find a third choice perhaps the most intriguing— build a fortified castle. I recently returned from a two-week train trip, with nightly stops at guest houses or pubs, visiting England and Scotland, from the southwestern beaches of England to North Sea beaches on the Firth of Forth in Scotland (I love the name of that locality).



Above: Edinburgh Castle. *Public domain. Photo courtesy of kids.kiddle.co.*



Above: Edinburgh Castle, with associated buildings (including the New Barracks 1799), is situated on the summit of Castle Rock, a volcanic plug. *Photo: Mike Nelson.*

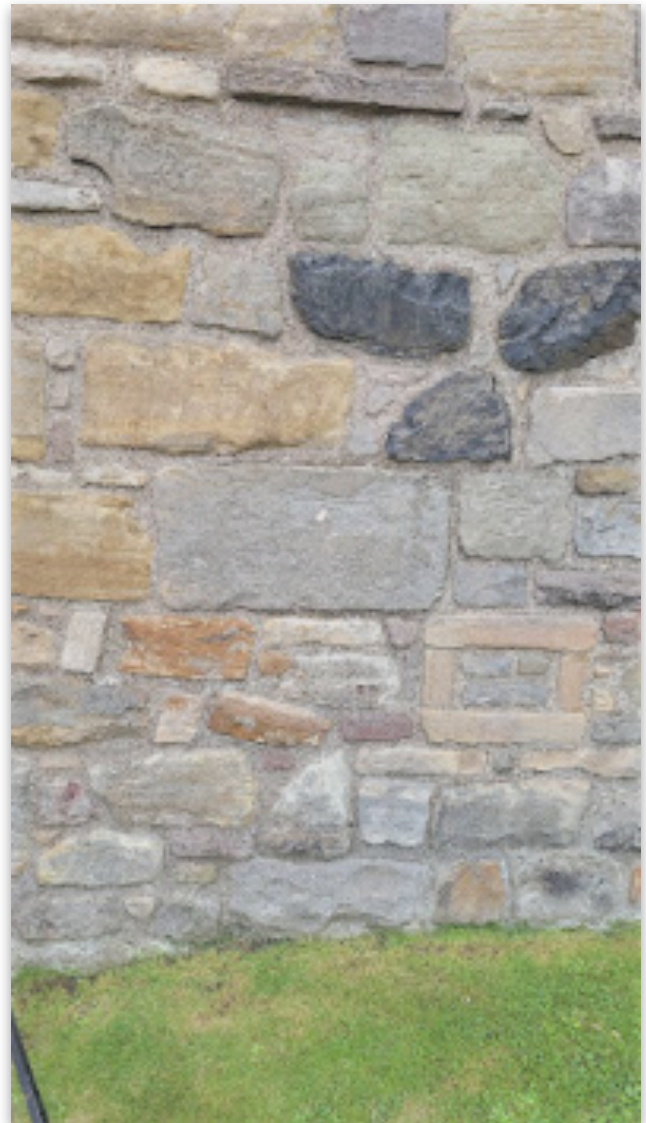
As most of us know, thanks to British BBC and/or U.S. PBS shows, the UK has numerous castles spread over the country. Some are in ruins while others are in quite good shape although the tremendous monetary expenditures needed for upkeep often necessitate opening the residences for tourist visitation. Most are built on flatlands complete with moats and swans; a few are built on higher points. The most impressive castle I observed on this trip was Edinburgh Castle (Scotland) situated on the high point of Old Town and constructed on Castle Rock. Impressive to a geologist since Castle Rock is a volcanic plug and was incorporated into the foundations of the buildings. In other words, the master stone masons did not “smooth off” the plug but cut

dimension stone to fit the varied surface. I suspect that only an ole plugger like me would notice such a masterful piece of work; however, I was really impressed. The Castle was started sometime in the early 1200s; however, Castle Peak was inhabited several centuries earlier. In the ensuing 1100 years Scotland and England were the sites of almost continuous warfare, and the Castle of sieges, at least 21 according to our tour guide. Readers need to use a web browser and “look up” Edinburgh Castle.



Above: Notice how the building stones “fit” into the topography of the igneous rock foundation. *Photo: Mike Nelson.*

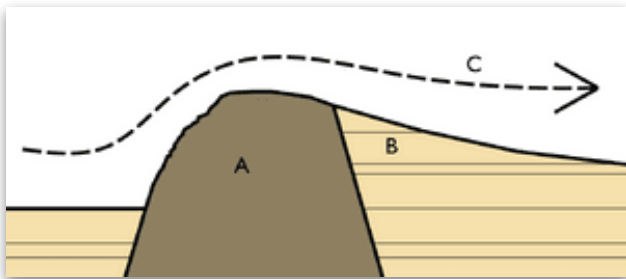
The geological makeup of Scotland is extremely complex and many/most of the



Above: Stonemasons quarried local limestone and sandstone as well as parts of the plug. *Photo: Mike Nelson.*

country seems composed of small orphan terranes stitched together during plate movements. The volcanoes that produced Castle Rock, and numerous other volcanic features of southern Scotland, are about 350 Ma, early Carboniferous (Mississippian in the U.S.) Period. At that time “Scotland” was part of the Supercontinent Pangaea and situated near the equator. There were periodic incursions of shallow marine waters and the southern Scottish volcanoes evidently intruded, at times, into these shallow seas. Many of the local quarried stones for the Castle buildings are of shallow marine origin

of Devonian and Carboniferous age. Pleistocene glaciation helped create most of the modern landscape of Scotland and was critical in shaping the “modern” Castle Rock. As glaciers moved in from the north the volcanic rocks were more resistant to erosion than the surrounding sedimentary rocks and left the plug as an isolated highland. However, the harder plug (a crag) protected the sedimentary rocks on the leeward side and formed a somewhat tapered ramp (tail). The Scots like to call this a “crag and tail formation.”



Above: Edinburgh Castle is built on a volcanic plug or crag (A), the Pleistocene glaciation moved from left to right (C), B is the tail of rock on the leeward side protected from massive erosion by the crag.
Figure: public domain.

We saw many impressive sites on the journey and we surprised our concerned children that an 80-year-old-guy who walks with a knee brace and cane, along with a very tough spouse, were able to do a fair bit of walking in the villages and completed the steep hike up Castle Rock.



Above: The UK has a magnificent high speed passenger rail system. We opted for a rail pass available to U.S. residents and spent a few dollars more for First Class. Wow. Luxury reserved seating with complimentary (somehow, I paid for it) food and libations.
Photos: Mike Nelson.

There were challenges as we picked small guest houses or lodges that normally do not have elevators. The toughest was a four-story lodge in Edinburgh with narrow steps that required schlepping two, forty-pound roller bags along with backpacks up 80 steps —one at a time. The scariest time was trying to board a Birmingham train station escalator (lift was out of order), losing my balance, and falling backwards. Strange feeling looking up while in a slanted position and people screaming “shut it down.” My heavy backpack protected my head and the people behind me dodged the tumbling roller bag and held me steady until the contraption shut down. EMTs were quick to clean me up and stop the bleeding from a series of “wolverine claw marks” running up my leg (from those bitty pointy teeth on the steps). But life goes on and old geologists are tough old birds and used to tumbles. We caught a later train and had an extra ale in a nifty inn in Shrewsbury.



Soldiers of the Castle Garrison ca. 1845 (Top, Public Domain). A lone guard 2023 (Bottom, Photo Mike Nelson).



A nice destination that, unbeknownst to us, happened to have ale for sale.

REPORT
Crystal Group
Oct 26, 2023
Frank Rosenberg

At this month's Crystal Group meeting, Bob Germano enlightened us how best to clean Pikes Peak Batholith Minerals. Bob's presentation included a great deal of information important to both beginning and experienced collectors alike. Thanks Bob for letting us learn from your personal experience!

After Bob's presentation, we had a chance to admire some of the recent additions to our member's collections. Some of which were collected within the last 24 hours from one of our club claims.

Photos and report: Frank Rosenberg





REPORT
 Rocky Mountain High (Colorado)
 Oct 21, 2023
 Lynn Vansickler

On Saturday, 21 Oct, three rockhounds teamed up to head to the RMH claim. Tina Cox, Mark Mann (new member) and Lynn Vansickler met up and headed to the RMH claim. Mark and Tina were on their first field trip to the RMH claim. This was Lynn's third trip (she remembered the directions after going twice with Kyle).

We went to the Smokey Quartz side of the claim first and had a very productive dig. We found many pieces of smokey quartz and some amazonite pieces. We even found a huge rock with a lot of amazonite pieces attached. Tina is cleaning that big rock and will bring to a future meeting to "show it off." We also filled in some of the holes after our dig.

We worked that claim for 3 hours and then took a lunch break before heading to the amazonite part of the claim. We were not as successful there, but did find a few pieces. Kyle and Shelby had already done a lot of cleaning up at that site and we added to it.

All in all we were very pleased with all the rocks we collected. The weather was perfect!

Photos and Report: Lynn Van Sickler; Mark Mann and Tina Cox contributed.

Below: the bottom third of the picture are specimens from Rocky Mountain High 21 Oct 23.





Fossilfun14@gmail.com

October Pups and Scholars Meeting

We learned about Colorado mining and the thousands of minerals that make this state amazing. We looked at a child's size leather helmet from the coal mines and studied gold in so many forms. The table was full of artifacts, ore samples, and minerals that they could touch, see, and asked so many questions. The free gem stones samples were donated from club members and were a huge hit.



Our next meeting is November 7th at 4:15-5:15 at the East Library room F1 (Election Day) parking could be a challenge. We will discover Geology of Indigenous People and the impact on the Earth Science world.

Fossil Day at the Garden of the Gods Visitors Center October 14th



Sawyer (scholar, **left**) and Blake (former scholar, **right**) volunteered all day. Many Thanks. Our outreach programs are so important to our club and community and are supported by your donations, required insurance coverage, yearly budget supported from membership dues. The eclipse was going on during this amazing day and made it extra special.



Our fossils were touch and learn for all. Rox the Fox loves to learn new things. The fossil dig was busy the whole time and gave away all of our fossil skeleton toys.



Remember to send in your art, poems, and essays or turn in at the meetings and keep our winning ways.



John Emery
Editor

Thanks to our contributors. We encourage everyone to submit articles, photos, illustrations or observations. Share your experiences, your new finds, or simply your enjoyment of our last field trip. Handwrite it, type it, or email it. Format does not matter. All sub-missions are welcome. The DEADLINE for items to be included in the next Pick & Pack is the **last day of the month**.

To submit an item:

For hardcopy photos or articles, mail to the address below or bring them to the General Meeting. All hardcopy photos remain the property of the submitter and will be returned. Electronic photos can be submitted at resolutions above 200 dpi in ANY format.

Feature articles can be in MS Word or Mac Pages, preferably NOT pdf. The newsletter is produced in Mac Pages.

e-mail the editor:
pickandpackeditor@gmail.com

Mail to: Pick & Pack Editor PO Box 2 Colorado Springs, CO 80901

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Mammoth

By Steven Wade Veatch

I found a rock at the mammoth's grave.
Inside only hidden fossils remain—
pollen grains and mossy spores
that once floated on an Ice Age breeze.

Now these tiny remnants yield
the deepest glimpse
of a world before we came
and warn of a future we must face
as the forests change, species die,
and life recedes.



An Ice Age mammoth. The author created this AI image with the assistance of DALL-E and MS Bing.



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



CSMS is an incorporated nonprofit organization with the following 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 newsletter is published 10 times each year to assist and promote the above.

Joining the Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society (CSMS):

- Meetings are held the third (3rd) Thursday of each month, except January & August.
- 7:00 PM at Mt. Carmel Veterans Service Center; 530 Communication Circle, Colorado Springs, CO 80905
- Visitors are always welcome.
- Individuals—\$30, Family—\$40, Juniors—\$15, Corporate—\$100.
- Find the application at the web site: www.csms1936.com. If you are interested in joining CSMS or would like more information, we encourage you to attend our next General Meeting or visit our web site.

Meetings: CSMS also offers Satellite Group meetings that allow more focused attention in specific areas of our members' interests. Our current Satellite Groups consist of the following: Crystal Study Group, Faceting Group, Fossil Group, Lapidary Group, and Pebble Pups/ Juniors. For details on Satellite Group meetings, check out the calendars on page 2 and the web site.

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

Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society is a Member of the following organizations:

- American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) www.amfed.org
- Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies (RMFMS) www.rmfmms.org