PICK & PACK
THE BULLETIN OF THE COLORADO SPRINGS MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY Published Since 1960

Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society
Founded 1936
~ Lazard Cahn ~
Honorary President
"Pick & Pack"
Volume 65 No. 3
April 2025

CSMS General Assembly

Thursday, April 17, 2025 7:00 PM
Colorado Springs Christian School
4855 Mallow Road

~ Robert Eldridge ~

"Making Spheres"

Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82549739439?pwd=Jioxnc3mzWfSVO7vL7g7ybGOnTZvhp.1
Meeting ID: 825 4973 9439
Passcode: 233502

In This Issue …

Our guest speaker for April is Robert Eldridge from Cedar City, Utah. Robert is the owner of the company Minerals In Motion, where he makes spheres for the lapidary world. You can see some examples made by Robert or purchase one at www.mineralsinmotion.net. Robert can make spheres up to 5" in diameter currently and is talking about getting the additional tools necessary to make up to a 6" sphere in the future.

Robert will be joining us remotely for our meeting via Zoom and will be discussing all aspects of making spheres including good and bad material selection, the equipment used and the overall process. We will also have some spheres made by Robert on hand during the meeting that you can look at as examples of some of his work.

President's Corner

Alex Field
CSMS President

2025 CSMS Officers

Alex Field, President
Shane Riddle, Vice-President
Tina Cox, Secretary
Kevin Witte, Treasurer
Adelaide Bahr, Membership Secretary
John Emery, Editor
Mark Mann, Member-at-Large
Austin Cockell, Member-at-Large
John Massie, Past President
Lisa Cooper, Show Chairwoman

2025 Liaisons

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

2025 Satellite Group Chairs

Austin Cockell, Crystals
John Massie, Faceting
K. Harris/ R. Villareal, Fossils
Ann Schmechel, Jewelry
Sharon Holte, Lapidary
Vacant, Micro-mount
Fran Anderson, Photography
David St. John Pebble Pups

2025 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
Phil Sevenants, Social Chair
Mark Mann, Store Keeper
Lisa Cooper, Webmaster
Shane Riddle, Facebook Keeper
Mike Nelson, Federation Rep
Vacant, Federation Rep

Non-officer Positions

Mark Mann, Creative Director

Presidential Matters

Happy April Rockhounds!

I hope you're excited to get out and hunt for minerals and fossils soon as the winter recedes and the spring and summer sets in. Field trip season is upon us!

A few things to mention this month:

First of all, I want say thank you to John McGrath for his service to the CSMS Board as Secretary over the past three years. Due to his work schedule he had to step off the board recently - please thank him if you see him!

However, I am also happy to welcome Tina Cox to the CSMS Board as our new Secretary. Welcome Tina!

In other news, the CSMS is starting a new photography group in May! Fran Anderson will be leading the group and their first meeting will be on May 12 at 6:30 PM at Library 21c. If you have questions, you can reach out to Fran at: whenearthspeaks@gmail.com. Thanks Fran!

Finally, we're holding a Poster & Postcard Distribution Day for our 61st Gem, Mineral, & Jewelry Show (the show happens in June). Our distribution day will happen on Saturday April 19th at 10 AM - we'll meet at Hold Fast Coffee in the middle of town, then each person or group will hit a specific area of town with posters and postcards. Join us!

Thanks everyone, I hope you all have a great month!

Warm Regards,
Alex

Alexander Field
alexfield1@gmail.com

CSMS Group Calendar

Apr '25	May '25						
9 Apr	14 May	Fossil Group	2nd Wed	6:00 PM	East Library	Kristine Harris Richard Villareal	719-593-1524 831-760-6985
3 Apr	1 May	Board Meeting	1st Thur	7:00 PM	Zoom	Alex Field	719-351-4897
1 Apr	6 May	Pebble Pups	1st Tue	4:15 PM	East Library	David St. John	719-424-9852
17 Apr	15 May	General Assy	3rd Thur	7:00 PM	Co Sp Christian Sch	Alex Field	719-351-4897
23 Apr	28 May	Jewelry Group	4th Wed	6:00 PM	Library 21c	Ann Schmechel	719-205-5816
24 Apr	29 May	Crystal Group	4th Thur	7:00 PM	Co Sp Christian Sch	Austin Cockell	719-638-7919
By appt	By appt	Faceting Group	By appt	By appt	Your house	John Massie	719-338-4276
By appt	By appt	Lapidary Group	By appt	By appt	Sharon's Garage	Sharon Holte	719-217-5683
Kickoff	Kickoff	Photography Grp	12 May	6:30 PM	Library 21c, ENT	Fran Anderson	719-494-7776

Community Events

pmodreski@gmail.com

May 12: Kickoff meeting of the new photography group with Fran Anderson, photographer and designer. First meeting will happen at the ENT Conference Center, Library 21c at 6:30 PM. Members are encouraged to bring photos to share, any photography gear, and specimens to shoot.

June 6-8: 61st annual Pikes Peak Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show, Norris Penrose Event Center, Colorado Springs, hosted by yours truly, the Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society. This year's theme is beryl.

June 12-16: FMCC is also sponsoring a symposium, Specimen Mines of the United States, to be held on the Mines campus. For information see: https://friendsofmineralogycolorado.org/symposium/

Secretary's Spot

Tina Cox

CSMS General Assembly Minutes

7 PM, Thursday Mar 20, Colorado Springs Christian School

Address: 4855 Mallow Rd, Colorado Springs CO 80907

Board Attendance: President: Alex Field, Vice President: Shane Riddle, Secretary: Tina Cox, Past President: John Massie, Treasurer: Kevin Witte, Member-at-large: Mark Mann, Show Chair: Lisa Cooper, Membership Secretary: Adelaide Bahr, Editor: John D.Emery

Agenda:

I. Meeting was called to order by our President, Alex Field at 7:00 PM
II. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Alex.

III. Program Speaker - Tina Cox, Alaskan and Manitou greenstone.
IV. Meeting - There were 5 new members in attendance and 10 minerals were given out. Attendance was 53.
V. Officer Reports

A. President - Alex Field
   1. Hats and t-shirts are available for purchase
   2. Pat Malone has obtained a donation of flat lapidary machine and accessories. This equipment will be available for members to check out for a to-be-determined time period (likely 2-4 weeks) for a small fee that will be used to maintain the equipment. Details being worked out.
   3. The Board approved a new award – Prospector of the Year. It will be based on best specimen(s), including fossils, brought to general assembly meetings throughout the year.
   4. Regarding the June show, donations needed for Pebble Pups and the silent auction. Also, we need noncompetitive displays.

B. Vice President - Shane Riddle - Shane and a colleague will be the speakers (via Zoom) next month. The topic will be creating spheres.
C. Treasurer- Kevin Witte - working on the club's tax return to preserve the tax-exempt status.
D. Secretary- John McGrath -Absent. Alex reported that John's work scheduled has changed, and he is no longer able to perform secretary duties. Anyone interested in assuming this position, contact Alex.
E. Membership Secretary - Adelaide Bahr - folks need to renew memberships
F. Editor - John Emery - send your stories!
G. Members at Large - nothing to report
H. Past President - John Massie. Sign up to volunteer for the show
I. Website and Show Coordinator - Lisa Cooper. All applications for the show have been received, and it's filling up quickly. Exhibits form is posted on the website under the Exhibits Tab. Club needs to coordinate postcard distribution for the show. Mark Mann is designing a poster/flyer to advertise the show.

VI. Satellite Groups

A. Crystal Group - Kevin Witte and Austin Cockrell - next meeting to feature widely-recognized expert. Bring specimens for identification.
B. Faceting Group - Contact John Massie to reserve a spot learning or using the machine.
C. Pebble pup group - David St John - Thanks for the donations. He needs small crystals and small chunks of unique rocks like pyrite. Sawyer is starting geology at Fort Hays. ID day at Janitell went really well. Lots coming up in April – Science Fair, STEAM night at Twain, WMMI Super Saturdays.
D. Fossil Group -Kristine Harris and Richard Villareal- Regular meetings 6 PM East Library (see calendar)
E. Jewelry Group - Ann Schmechel. Next meeting March 26, 6 PM at Library 21C (see calendar)
F. Lapidary Group - Sharon Holte - nothing to report

VII. Liaisons

A. Claims and Librarian -.Frank Rosenberg and Mike McCarty. No report
B. Field Trip Coordinator - Kyle Atkinson. Absent. Alex stated that Kyle needs an assistant this year organizing field trips. If you are interested in this position, contact Alex or Kyle.
C. Hospitality Coordinator - Phil Sevenants. Absent.
D. Store Keeper - Ann Proctor. Absent
E. Creative Director - Mark Mann. Working on a poster for the show.
F. Scholarship Coordinator- Maureen Richardson. Website has been updated to include scholarship information. She is reaching out to local universities to raise awareness.

VII. Unfinished business - none discussed.
IX. New Business - none discussed
X. Meeting adjourned by Alex ~ 8:45 PM

Submitted by Tina Cox, CSMS Secretary

Federation News Post

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies
Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies

***Crack the News*: The AFMS Newsletter for Kids and Teens**

Adapted from an article by Dennis Gertenbach, CTN Editor

The latest edition of *Crack the News*, the AFMS newsletter written by kids and teens for kids and teens, is now available at https://www.juniors.amfed.org/ juniors-newsletter. In this edition, juniors from around the country wrote about wire wrapping, Petoskey stones, field trips to collect zeolites, thunder eggs, and trilobites, uraninite, obsidian, *Sacabambaspis* (a jawless fish from the Ordovician seas), and Cambrian trace fossils. It's wonderful to see the variety of rockhounding interests of the juniors in our clubs. Every junior who contributes to *Crack the News* receives a patch featuring George the Geode, the mascot of the newsletter. Be sure to send every junior in your club a copy to read. And encourage the kids and teens in your club to send an article, poem, artwork, or photos for the next edition. Details about where to send your contribution are at https://www.juniors.amfed.org/juniors-newsletter; just scroll down to the section "Calling all junior journalists, writers, poets, photographers, and artists..." Not only will your juniors receive a George the Geode patch, but they can share their knowledge and excitement about rocks, minerals, and fossils with kids and teens across the country.

Reminder:

Advertise your Show in as many Free locations as possible!

- Local newspapers
- Current events sections!
- Local TV stations
- Community Calendars
- Other local shows

Advertise in the *Rock & Gem Magazine!*

Send the information in early so it's published in the magazine as well as online:

www.rockngem.com/showdate-submissions/

Above from *CFMS Newsletter*, April 2024

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.

Pebble Pups
David St. John

CSMS Pebble Pups and Earth Science Scholars

Fossilfun14@gmail.com

ID Day at Janitell Junior High Widefield, March 15, 2025

We finally were able to help JJH 6th Grade science with a huge closet full of rock, minerals, and fossils that needed identification for future teaching lessons. Thank you to Frank and Ellie Rosenberg, Jack Null, and Rhys Watson for their time and expertise. We only got through about half of the material but with the help of teacher Theresa and some of her students we had a great learning event and hopefully helped our community with our Earth Science passion. We may try one more day to finish the tasks, please look for the upcoming date.

Mining Day at Western Museum of Mining and Industry (WMMI)

We set up a booth for Mining Day at the WMMI March 22, 2025. We had a great day with many partners from around the community. We even had visitors from New Zealand!

In other news …

Pebble Pups met March 4th and learned why minerals have different colors.

wonderwoman627 at Pixabay

Visit the CSMS Pebble Pup website: http://pebblepups.blogspot.com/

wonderwoman627 at Pixabay

Extinction: Fossils of A Vanished Future

They ruled the world once,
lumbering giants beneath a fiery sun,
that trampled ferns
with their colossal strides.

No one mourned their passage:
A death simply by a massive rock and chance.
As the world burned, the sky turned to ash.
Next the Earth froze.
What remained was cold silence;
the stillness of a kingdom gone.

Now we walk on this earth,
masters of fire and thought,
builders of cities that stretch to the sky—
where we weave our dreams into metal and glass.
But listen closely—the oceans rise
like ancient prophets while nature
whispers warnings.

We are the asteroid now,
the architects of our own destruction.
Not by fire from the sky,
but by the slow smothering of our planet.

Will we fall as the dinosaurs did,
victims of a fate we cannot outrun?
Or will we rise, learning from the bones of beasts
and the spotlight of our science?

The dinosaurs left no poets,
no songs, no warnings carved on stone.
When we vanish will there be silence once more?
Or will the Earth find a new voice,
one that hums with life that does not know us,
does not need us, and does not contemplate
what we could have been?

—By Steven Wade Veatch

The final moments of a T. rex during the start of the end of the Cretaceous extinction event.
Image created by the author using AI.

Throwing Snow & Thinking About Djurleite

Mike Nelson
csrockguy@yahoo.com

Above and Below: Wisconsin life in the snow and cold lane. Looking forward to tomorrow (Feb. 17) with a robust high of 0 (zero) F and a low of minus 17 F. But I do have many friends!

During the long winter months in the Northland I enjoy sorting through the many Perky Boxes that have accumulated during my mineral wandering. The other day, as I was contemplating the fact we have gained 3 hours and 30 minutes of daylight since the December Winter Solstice, I pulled out a specimen with several small notes stuffed in, or tapped to, the box. The specimen was djurleite, a copper sulfide ($Cu_{31}S_{16}$), with a confusing collecting history; hence, my stuffed notes from a past deciphering episode.

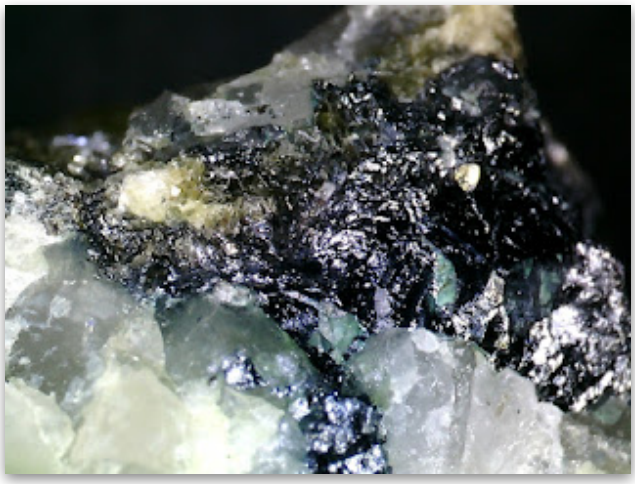
Djurleite is a member of the Chalcocite Group, all members being copper sulfides not known for their beauty. These sulfides are typically black in color with a luster ranging from metallic to dull unless a light hits them and they appear in various shades of gray. All are opaque, and quite soft at about 2.5—3.0 (Mohs). One essentially needs an XRD to make a final identification. A statement from Pósfai and Buseck (1964) seems way above my paygrade: “chalcocite easily converts to djurleite under electron beam through the rearrangement of Cu atoms.” That publication appeared at the time in my undergraduate life when I was enrolled in a Mineralogy and suffering through crystallography. Electron beams rearranging atoms was nowhere in my vocabulary. Another fascinating item about djurleite is that the mineral was named for Dr. Seved Djurle, a professor of Chemistry at the University of Uppsala in Sweden. Dr. Djurle was neither rockhound nor geologist but a chemist who synthesized djurleite before the mineral was discovered. That tidbit seems quite impressive to me!

So, back to the collecting history of my specimen. My purchase was made four years ago in Tucson from Michael Shannon and was an Ex David Shannon. The collecting locality on the ID card stated *Djurleite, Reutanieme, Lapland, Sweden*. A small cryptic note simply said “XRD.” So off to Mindat where Reutanieme was not listed as a collecting locality for any mineral nor was djurleite listed as a mineral found in Swedish Lapland. What’s an ole plugger like me to do? Well, for starters, hit the Internet!

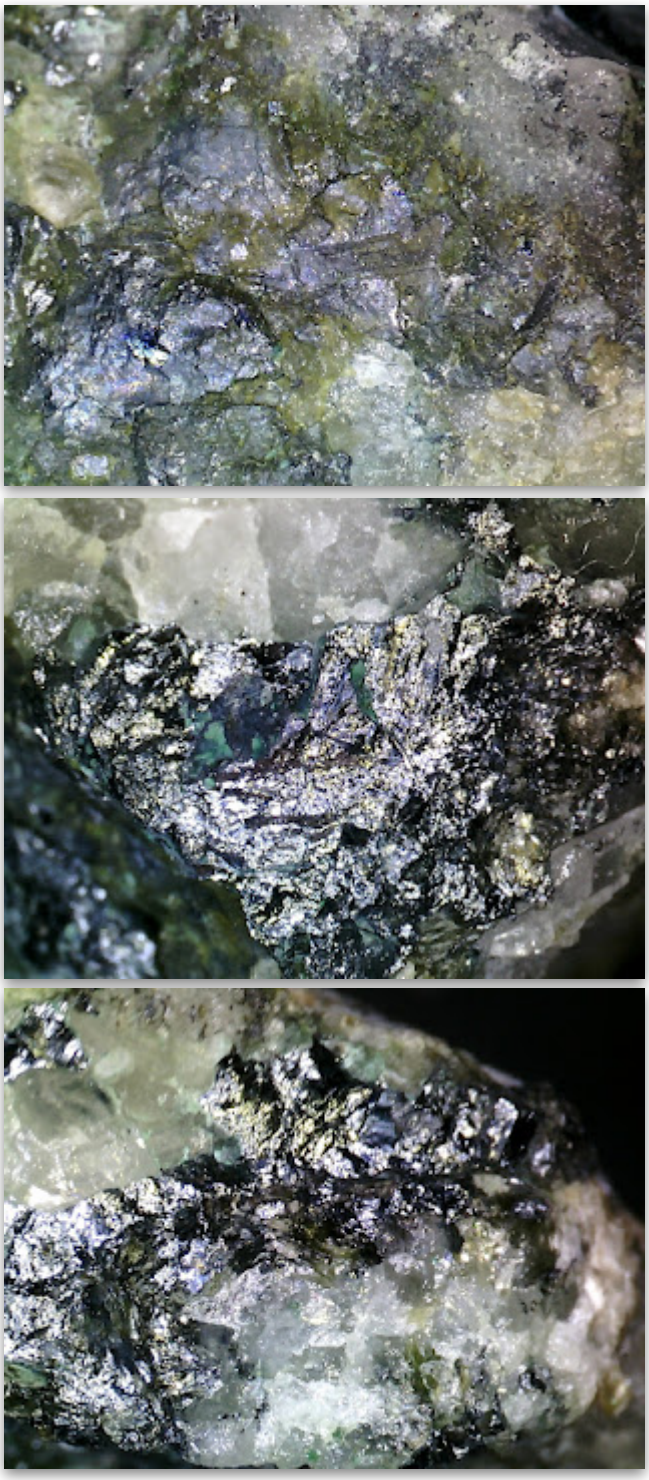
And guess what I found? From 2021 a question in the MinDat Discussion Group about Djurleite: “I obtained this djurleite in a fuschite schist labeled as coming from an outcrop near the town of Reutanieme, Lappland, Sweden and was collected by the late great Ingemar Johansson in the 1990s according to the accompanying David Shannon Minerals label. I can find no reference to any such town in the Lapland areas of Sweden or Finland for that matter. Any help is appreciated.” The best answer provided by Andŕe Heyninck was this: “In 1991 I exchanged several Collecting information for a specimen in the collection of minerals with Ingemar Johanson, including djurleite from the Naesmark site, Norway. See photo. I hope this will help you further.”

Above: Label of Djurleite in the collection of Andŕe Heyninck. *From MinDat Discussion Group (accessed February 2025).*

Therefore, off I went from Sweden hopping over to Norway and the Naesmark Mine. The Naesmark is part of a collection of copper mines generally assigned to the Amdals Verk Mine/District in Telemark. I cannot locate much information about the mines and mining activity except that MinDat (February 2025) lists 417 minerals known from Telemark and djurleite is rarely noted. This scarcity may be due to its relationship with chalcocite and digenite as perhaps all were mixed together and tossed into the processing plant. After all, who would want to collect pretty ugly black specimens?



Above: photomicrographs with width FOV ~6 mm. Some show very shiny metallic luster while others point to a dull metallic luster. All are associated with quartz. *Photomicrographs: M. Nelson*



Above: photomicrographs with width FOV ~6 mm. Some show very shiny metallic luster while others point to a dull metallic luster. All are associated with quartz. *Photomicrographs: M. Nelson*

So, what am I supposed to do about collecting locality for my specimens? I could just leave it alone with the Reutaneeme, Lapland, Sweden notation, or I could switch the locality to the Naesmark, Telemark, Norway notation. Since my specimen looks "very related" to my specimen photo on MinDat I will go with the Norway collecting site. However, it could be from Sweden (doubtful) or one of several mines in Norway (likely).

That is about my total knowledge of the copper sulfide djurleite. It seems somewhat uncommon in copper mining areas when one examines total "numbers" of specimens. However, my uneducated thought is that djurleite is often mistaken for common chalcosite.in the enriched supergene copper deposits.

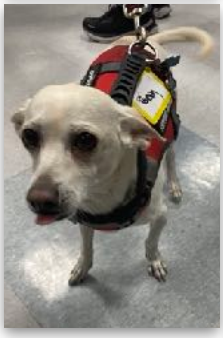
References Cited

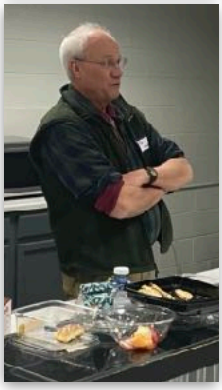
Pósfai, M. and Buseck, P. R., 1994, Djurleite, digenite, and chalcocite: Intergrowths and transformations: American Mineralogist, No. 79.

What good is the warmth of summer, without the cold of winter to give it sweetness.

- John Steinbeck, in Travels with Charley in search of America.

Mike is a former University professor and administrator who enjoys outdoor activities, and writing articles for the *Pick & Pack,* other rock and mineral clubs, and the Newsletter of the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies (www.rmfms.org). He also writes, and occasionally speaks, about members of the Colorado Cavalry/ Infantry who participated in the march to Glorieta Pass (1862), helped settle central Kansas (1865), and later fought at Beecher Island (1868). But mostly he just tries to enjoy life with frosty IPAs, travel, and collecting mundane facts and pretty rocks/ minerals.





General Assembly

20 Mar 25

53 rockhounds gathered on a cool Colorado Springs evening at Colorado Springs Christian School to see CSMS member Tina Cox talk to us about greenstone. She told us all about her adventures chasing the mysterious mineral down, from Alaska to Manitou Springs. Also, what happens when you give a mouse a cookie. A wonderful evening! Thanks Tina!

We conducted business as usual and gave out several free minerals to new members and by drawing.

A Florissant Fossil for the White City

by
Steven Wade Veatch

The “Big Stump” at Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument, Colorado is one of the larger petrified stumps exposed in the Monument: it measures 3.6 meters tall and is 3.7 meters in diameter at breast height (Meyer, 2003). This solitary petrified stump is all that remains of a tree that was more than 60 meters tall when a volcanic mudflow (lahar) buried its base during the late Eocene.

Big Stump is similar to the modern Sequoia (redwood) and is the type specimen described by Andrews in 1936 for *Sequoioxylon pearsallii*. An often-confusing aspect of paleobotany is that different organs (e.g., wood and leaves) that belong to the same living species are sometimes preserved isolated and unattached, in the fossil record. Therefore, it can be difficult to prove that they belonged to the same living species. For that reason they are sometimes given different names as fossils. At Florissant, *Sequoioxylon pearsallii* is the name assigned to the fossil wood and *Sequoia affinis* is the name for cones and foliage. They likely belonged to the same species of tree when they were living, but this cannot be proven unless these organs can be found attached in the same fossil. Philosophies differ, however, and in 1953 MacGinitie placed *Sequoioxylon pearsallii* into synonymy with *Sequoia affinis*. (Synonymy in the fossil record refers to the situation where two or more scientific names have been applied to the same fossil taxon.)

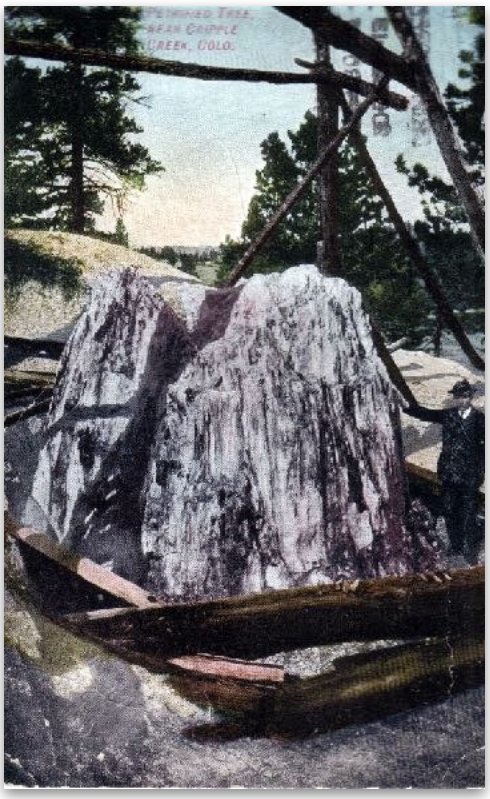


Fig 1: This postcard, ca. 1894, shows a wooden framework built around Big Stump. *From the E. Simmons collection.*

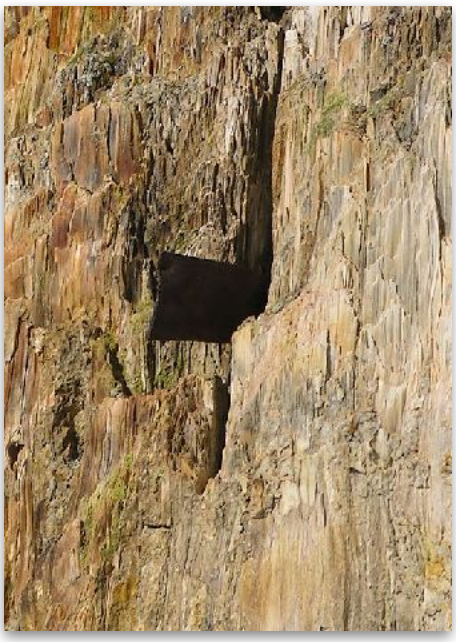


Fig 2: A broken and rusted saw blade remains wedged in Big Stump from an attempt to cut it into sections and ship it to Chicago for the World’s Fair. *Image date 2003 by S. Veatch.*

The Big Stump has been depicted in early photographs and postcards that date back to the late 1890s. Geologist Arthur Lakes, on an early expedition to the area with paleontologist Samuel Scudder, marked the location of a "petrified forest" on his original watercolor map in 1878—the general area where Big Stump is situated.

There was once a local effort to send this incredible fossilized tree stump to the World's Columbian Exposition (The Chicago World's Fair) of 1893. A plan was made in 1890 to remove the stump, transport it to Chicago by rail, and then rebuild it at the fair. Fortunately, the attempt to remove Colorado's prized fossil was unsuccessful. As it happened, the workmen’s saw blades became permanently wedged in the fossil wood. The plans to send Florissant’s famous stump

to the Columbian Exposition were then quickly abandoned. The World's Columbian Exposition, one of the greatest cultural events of the nineteenth century, was named in honor of Christopher Columbus and celebrated the 400th anniversary of his arrival in the New World.

Thousands were employed in the development of 633 acres of fairgrounds and the construction of 200 buildings in Chicago's Jackson Park. Many of the fair buildings were located along constructed waterways fed by Lake Michigan. The Court of Honor buildings (14 main buildings) were covered in white stucco. Visitors, after seeing these white buildings, began to call this the White City. After three years of planning and building, and at a cost of twenty-eight million dollars, President Cleveland opened the fair on May 1, 1893. Ticket prices were 50 cents for adults and 25 cents for children.

Fig 3: This ticket admitted the bearer into the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago, a landmark event in American history and culture. *From the Michele Veatch Collection.*

Visitors to the Columbian Exposition enjoyed more than 65,000 exhibits and attractions. The fair contained many marvels and introduced Americans and the world to picture postcards, carbonated soda, hamburgers, and a gigantic wheel (built by George W. Ferris Jr.) that visitors could ride. The fair also introduced the nation to the Pledge of Allegiance and a new holiday—Columbus Day.

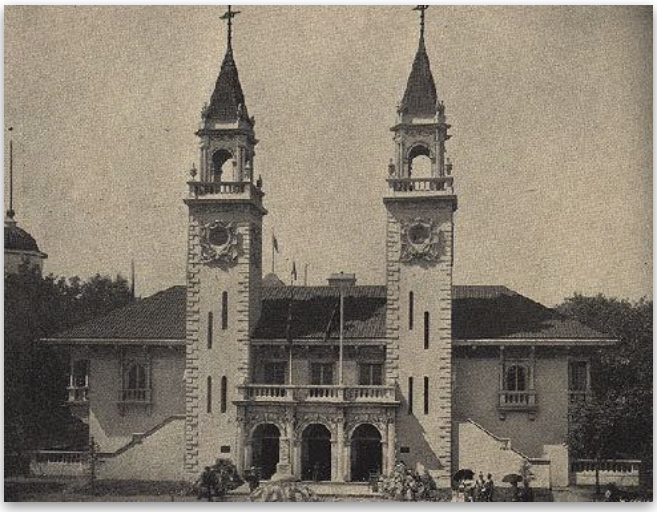


Fig 4: View of the Colorado building at the World's Columbian Exposition. Stacks of petrified wood appear to be on either side of the entrance to this building. *Photo from the Michele Veatch Collection.*

Most of the states and territories had exhibits at the fair, including Colorado. The Colorado building had a wide variety of displays from the Centennial State.[1] If Big Stump had been cut and quarried into sections, the Colorado building would have been a likely destination. Colorado Day was celebrated September 12 at the fair without Big Stump—Colorado's famous fossil remained at the Florissant Fossil Beds, intact. Although Big Stump did not make it to the Columbian Exposition, other Colorado fossils probably made it to the fair, perhaps even fossils from Florissant.

[1] Some photos of the Colorado building depict stacks of petrified wood by the entrance. Because the Big Stump didn't reach the Columbian Exhibition, I think this petrified wood is from Florissant. I contacted the Field Museum to see if they still had some of this petrified wood. The Earth science curator said they had some unidentified petrified wood in the basement. I went to the Field Museum, met the curator, and examined this petrified wood. It was not fossil wood from Florissant. The origin of this wood in the museum's basement is unknown. The wood in old photos of the Colorado Building might have come from Florissant and is no longer at the museum. We may never really know what became of the fossil wood in the photos or where it originally came from.

Continued …

By its closing date on October 30, 1893, more than 27 million people had visited the White City. If Big Stump had been removed and displayed at the fair, this oddity of nature would have been lost. This magnificent fossil is now protected by the National Park Service, and visitors to the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument can view Big Stump in its geologic setting.

Fig 5: Fortunately, Big Stump did not make it to the White City but remains for visitors to the Monument to enjoy. *Image date 2003 by S. Veatch.*

Acknowledgements
I thank Bob Carnein for improving this manuscript. I also benefited from many discussions of the Big Stump with park ranger Jeff Wolin. I dedicate this article to him.

References and further reading:

Andrews, H.N., 1936. A new Sequoioxylon from Florissant, Colorado. Annals of the Missouri Botanical Garden 23 (3): 439-446.

MacGinitie, H.D. 1953. Fossil Plants of the Florissant Beds, Colorado. Carnegie Institution of Washington Publication 599:1-198.

Meyer, H.W., 2003. The Fossils of Florissant, Smithsonian Books, Washington, D.C., 258.

About the author: Steven is a geologist who joined the CSMS when he was 10, in 1965. The club met at that time at the old IBEW hall near the west side of the city. He was inducted into the Rock-hound Hall of Fame in 2015. His complete profile is available at:
https://www.blogger.com/profile/06566101278318062273

How to do a Case for the Show

Bob Landgraf - recipient, DGMG People's Choice Award
Adapted from Denver Gem and Mineral Guild

THE BASICS

- You only have to fill a space that is about 35" x 23" with specimens. That means you will probably need about 15 to 25 specimens.
- Don't be concerned that your specimens "are not worthy" – the presentation is the thing.
- Here are the major tasks you have to accomplish – in sequential order:
  1. Build a set of "liners" for each case you want to exhibit. A set of liners consists of:
     — A "Back Panel"
     — A "Floor Panel"
     — Two "Side Panels"
     — Each of the panels needs to be covered with cloth.
  2. If you wish, you can add risers, steps, "floating" platforms, or other items to help display your specimens.
  3. Choose the specimens you want to display.
  4. Create labels for each specimen and for the case.
  5. Create the desired layout at home.
  6. At the show, add the liners to the case and adjust the liners if necessary. Clean the liners before adding the specimens.
  7. Carefully add your specimens to the case.
  8. Clean the glass front panel and secure it to the case.

THE ROCKS

- One really good rule is to avoid putting too many specimens in the case!
- If you have more specimens than will fit in a case, make another case!
- Most people have a tendency to try to put too many in, even when they think about it.
- Taking two or three specimens out and spreading the remaining specimens will often make a dramatic improvement in a case's appearance.
- Having several steps or separate risers in a case will allow you to put in more rocks without things looking as crowded.
- Though it is always best to lay out the case ahead of time at home, take an extra specimen or two to "fine tune" the arrangement with different specimens while setting up the case.
- After you make the arrangement at home be sure to number the bottom or back of the labels so that you can remember the order you planned.
- After you have finished and are absolutely sure it is right, try taking a specimen or two out of the case to see if that improves the look.
- Without trying to be slavishly tied to a symmetry a generally balanced appearance (color, brightness and especially size) helps. A trick to check this is to step back and squint, such that details aren't noticeable, but just the general form and colors.
- It is best that the case contains specimens that are approximately the same size. An alternative that may work is to have one or more large specimens surrounded by smaller ones.

Tips about specimens

1. If you plan to wash specimens before setting up your display, allow a few days for them to dry thoroughly. Otherwise, heat from the lights can cause moisture to form inside the case.
2. Wear thin white gloves when setting up your display to avoid getting fingerprints on crystal faces and other shiny surfaces.
3. Bring paper towels and glass cleaner, tape for removing lint, a ruler to check your spacing and alignment, and extra mounting materials.

LINERS

OVERVIEW

- Liners are required for any cases you do for the CSMS show.
- The best way to carry the liners is probably one or more large black plastic garbage bags.
- Make sure the liner pieces all fit snugly together so you can't see gaps or the wood of the case between the panels.

Tips about liners

1. To make the liners fit tightly, you can make the liners a little smaller – maybe 1/4 inch or so. Then, you can stuff extra cardboard or wrinkled up newspaper as spacer material behind the back and on the outside of the sides such that the spacer material doesn't show.
2. If the liners are too wide on the sides with a relatively soft spacer behind the back, tightening up the front of the case forces the side liners back and makes everything more secure.
3. If you make the back liner deliberately a little too tall and bend it forward, it will act as a reflector and will hold the side panels in place.
4. If you make the liners the proper size so that the back rests on the bottom piece and the sides push against the back piece, the joints/seams are less apparent and any imperfections in the edges are less noticeable.

[Warning:] Don't make the mistake of using backing material that is too heavy. One of our more illustrious members once used dry wall and the back fell over and virtually destroyed some expensive and cherished specimens.

STIFF BACKING MATERIAL

- Cardboard
- Coroplast
  - — Corrugated plastic
  - — Less likely to bend and break than cardboard
  - — Makes it easy to post photos and letters
- Use rubber cement, Weldwood cement, hot melt glue, "tacky glue," or duct tape to attach the cloth to the backing.

COVERINGS USED ON THE BACKING MATERIALS

- Carpet
  - — Advantages: easy to clean, lasts forever
  - — Cut to fit case
  - — Short nap, conservative color
  - — Can be glued to liner backing with Super Glue or carpet cement
- Felt
  - — Advantages: no wrinkles, lots of stretch
  - — Glue to liner backing with spray rubber glue
- Patterned paneling – stones, wood, etc

COLORS FOR THE LINER FABRIC

- Be careful – Garish colors can be an absolute turn-off or "show-stopper".
- Consider the colors of the specimens you are displaying when deciding what color background to use. You need to have good contrast between the specimens and the background color. For example, don't use a bright red background if you are going to display bright red minerals. The minerals will fade into the background.
- Light colors
  - — Don't show the lint
  - — Do make the cracks/seams between liner components more obvious than dark colors
  - — Are harder to keep clean
- Dark colors
  - — easier to keep clean
  - — do a good job of hiding the cracks/seams between liner components
  - — require a lint-picker roller to clean off anything white or light
- Mottled or Tweedy

[Note:] If you only want to make one set of liners, pick neutral colors that will be OK no matter what color specimens you put on them.

TYPE OF FABRICS USED FOR LINERS
Make it easy to clean – and easy to remove from the backing - if you are going to use it a lot.

SMOOTH OR GLOSSY CLOTH
- If you have glossy specimens such as quartz, a rough-textured cloth such as burlap will work.
- With rough rocks such as ore minerals or fossils, a smooth cloth might look better.

RISERS, FLOATERS AND SHAPES

OVERVIEW
· Use all of the case, not just the lower 12 inches.
· Take advantage of all the space.
· Don't put signs or labels on the sides of the case liners.

RISERS
· A 2-tier set of risers is the most common.
· 4 – 6 inches in height seems to be normal.
· You can vary the heights of risers within a case.

FLOATERS
· Use a dark cloth/covering.
· Cover the supports with dark material so they can't be seen.
· Keep the support materials back from the front of the floating shape so they won't be seen. .
· Make the support material for a floating shape big enough so the shape/board won't tip.

> **Tip about "floaters"** - Look around at work or home for riser materials to create new affects. Some large plastic disks at work gave Bob the idea for his and Janie's case with the "floating" round risers.

FREEFORM SHAPES DRAPED WITH CLOTH
- Shapes to consider
  - — Bricks
  - — Logs
  - — Wood blocks
  - — Plastic holders
  - — Glass jars
  - — VCR boxes
  - — Rock tumblers
- Possibilities for arrangement of shapes
  - — Up & down
  - — Ascending size
  - — Each specimen sits on top of its own shape
  - — Draw the viewers into the center of the case – where the specimens are.
- Avoid wrinkles, pleats and folds if at all possible.

> **[Note:]** It is possible that that irregular, free form riser shapes can work better than shapes that are too geometrically regular. Use your imagination.

LIGHTING

- Make sure the whole case well lit
- Watch out for shadows - especially under any risers
- You might want to consider adding more lights. You can do this without drawing any more current than the standard pair of 75-watt bulbs. Use a Y-type adapter and two bulbs – a 50-watt clear incandescent bulb and a 25-watt fluorescent bulb in each light socket. This combination produces about twice the light of the standard 75-watt incandescent bulbs. The clear bulbs seem to give more "sparkle" to the specimen whether or not you use the fluorescent bulbs.

  [Note:] In competition, we are often restricted as to the type of bulb we can use. Check the rules.

  [Warning:] If you want to use bulbs other than what is provided, make sure their heat won't damage your specimens.

- Even when using dark risers, you can use white back and side liners to reflect more light on the specimens.

LABELS

OVERVIEW

- Always label your specimens. Viewers learn nothing from specimens that have no labels.
- Make labels the least inconspicuous thing in the case – but not invisible!
- The label should not dominate the case.
- When you look at the display, ask yourself: What is the first thing I see – labels or specimens?
- Case Title label
  - — 36 point type or larger
  - — Usually centered within the case

  [Note:] If the Case Label is on the back panel of the case, make sure it is low enough to be easily read when the glass front is placed on the case.
- After you make the arrangement at home be sure to number the bottom of the labels so that you can remember the order in which you plan to display the specimens.
- Don't put signs or labels on the glass or on the side case liners.

INFORMATION ON LABELS

- Include a location as complete as possible – unless the rocks are all from the same location.
- Often descriptions (crystal class, twinning, type location, or any other information that might be of interest) can be added.
- All labels should be consistent in their layout, typeface, and information contained.
- For more formal/serious shows, check to see if there are specific labeling requirements.

PHYSICAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR LABELS

- Match/blend colors with the case liner.
- Off-white is better than pure white.
- Make the labels uniform in size.
- Legibility – two different points of view:
  - — Make the labels legible from 4 feet away
  - — Viewers should be able to read the labels when standing in front of the case.
- For computer-generated labels, a 14-point sans serif typeface works best. A sample of this size font is shown below.

  This is a 14-point sans serif typeface
- Propping labels up for readability
  - — Just fold down the back of a card-stock label.
  - — Use folded card stock glued to back of label.
  - — Put one or two ." nuts in back of the label.
  - — Use a grooved piece of wood or Plexiglas.
  - — Allow space on the bottom of the holder label if you use a grooved wood or plastic holder.

  [Note:] It is OK to lay labels flat if they can be easily read.

TYPE OF MATERIAL USED FOR LABELS

- Many labels used today are either computer-generated or made on a label maker. If you have a PC and access to Microsoft Word, almost any "computer person" can help you create a template you can use for just about any size label.
- Card Stock with back folded up.
- Laminated.
- Transparent labels on glass slide mounts.

PARTING THOUGHTS

- The best thing to remember is to use your own imagination for your particular display. Often very striking effects can be achieved by using mirrors, back (or underneath) lighting, including artifacts, descriptive text, or whatever.
- One year Francis did a very whimsical (if unscientific) case with rocks and stuffed animals. While this type of thing may offend some sensibilities, it is the sort of thing that is attractive to the average, non-initiated viewer.
- Glen's stamp and mineral case is another example of a different approach that catches the eye.
- Don't be intimidated by what others do or by anything in this handout either. Let your imagination run wild. It will make it more fun for you and the viewer.
- Don't worry about whether your specimens are rare and valuable – the presentation is the thing!

PICK & PACK
THE BULLETIN OF THE COLORADO SPRINGS MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY Published Since 1980

Classifieds & Announcements

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 submissions are welcome. The deadline for items to be included in the next Pick & Pack is the **last day of the month.**

<u>To submit an item:</u>
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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Western Museum of Mining and Industry

The CSMS and WMMI have a cooperative agreement. Be sure to visit the WMMI website and learn about this amazing museum.

https://wmmi.org/

WESTERN MUSEUM OF
MINING & INDUSTRY

New Pick & Pack Logos

PICK & PACK
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The new Pick & Pack logos reflect definitive colors and features of Colorado Springs. The blue-green lettering is reminiscent of the unique color of the Pikes Peak Region Amazonite we love to hunt. The outline of the mountain is an accurate outline of Pikes Peak including the long sweeping arm that casts a shadow to the North. Just like our seasons, the Pick & Pack logo will celebrate colors and features depending on the time of year or even time of day. The logo shown here represents a mid-morning Spring view of Pikes Peak viewed from mid-town — Ed.

Left: A rare beauty found by master rockhound Chris Burris - its a fossil ammonite. Found at an undisclosed location in the vicinity of Colorado Springs.

The logical name is Exiteloceras Jennyi Ammonite.

It has the iridescent colors. A rare find for Colorado.

Photo and report by CSMS member Chris Burris.

Pike's Peak Gem & Mineral Show

Presented by the Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society
June 6 - 8 2025, Norris Penrose Event Center, 1045 Lower Gold Camp Rd, Colorado Springs
Fri 10 AM - 6 PM, Sat 10 AM - 6 PM, Sun 10 AM - 4 PM

Request for NON-COMPETITIVE Display Space

Name:	Society:

Address:

Phone:	Email:

City:	State:	Zip:

Describe display or cases:

	I will bring my own display	Your case length:	# of cases:
	I will need a case*	Case size desired:	# of cases:

* CSMS cases are approximately 36" by 24" outside measurements. A few 4-foot cases are generally available. There is a hasp on the case that accepts an exhibitor-supplied padlock.

Exhibitors are urged to bring their own cases. A limited number of club cases are available upon request. Exhibitors using club cases will need to furnish any risers, linings, padlock or accessories as needed. EACH CASE WILL BE LIMITED TO 150 WATTS.

Setup is from 1 PM to 7 PM on Thursday or 8 AM to 10 AM on Friday before the show opens. Note new show hours for Friday. Tear down is 4 PM to 8 PM on Sunday.

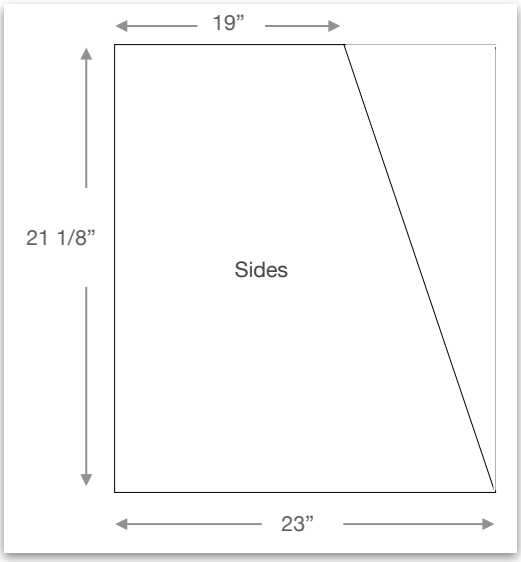
Return by mail or email by May 29th to reserve a case and exhibit space. After May 29th, exhibitors are still welcome based upon availability of cases and space. Return to: Bob Landgraf, 304 Palmer Trail, Manitou Springs, CO 80829 719-685-1364 rmlwp74@aol.com

Signature of Non-Competitive Exhibitor: _____

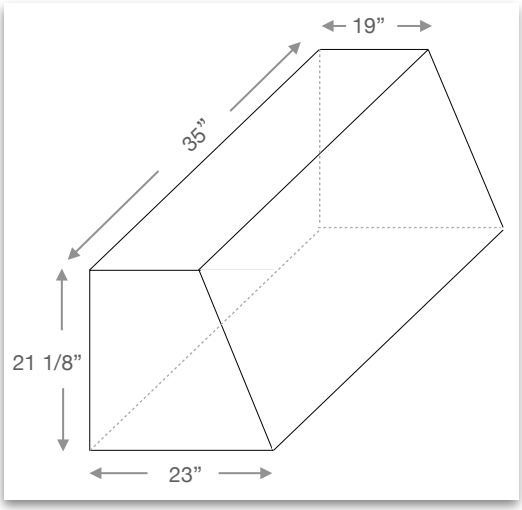
With the signing of this request, email submission of this document or showing up with an exhibit, it is mutually agreed that the Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society and the Norris Penrose Event Center shall not be liable to any exhibitor for damage, loss or destruction of any exhibit or injury to his person for any cause and all claims for injury are expressly waived by the exhibitor.

The Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society Case

All measurements are inside measurements. However, since all cases are handmade there may be some slight variations in the cases. Be sure to bring any necessary tools required to make adjustments to your liners. Also remember to allow for thicknesses of your liners to make the final fit.



All measurements are inside measurements.



Gold Prospectors of Colorado

5th Annual Poker Run / Fund Raiser

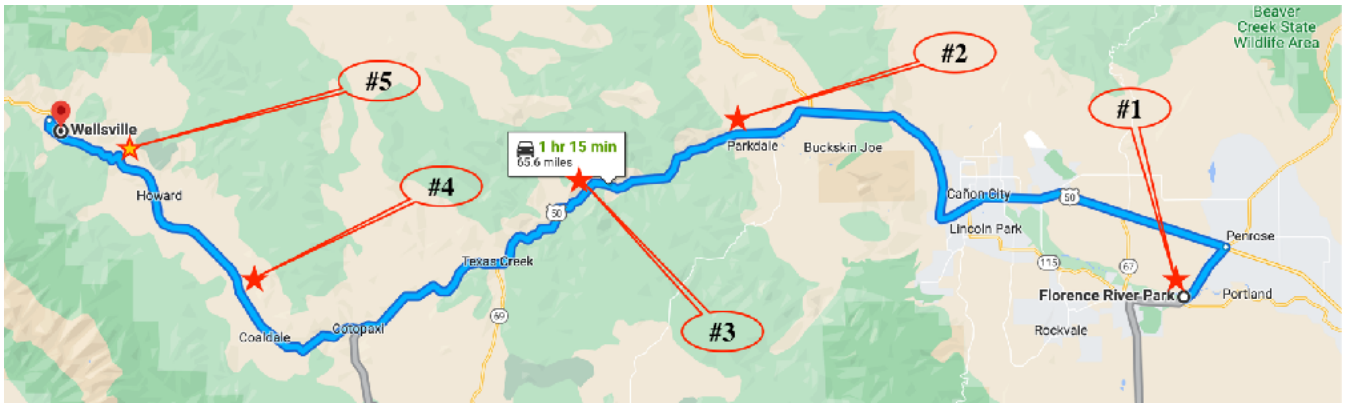
Who: Gold Prospectors of Colorado (GPOC) A local non-profit club that teaches about Colorado gold history, prospecting, gold panning, and other fun and interesting things in the great Colorado outdoors.

When: Saturday, May 10th (Mother's Day Weekend) Registration **9:00AM – 12:00PM**

Where: River Front Park, Florence, CO will be the registration and starting point. Five stops along the Arkansas river with the final point at the GPOC claim near Salida, CO.

Cost: $10/score sheet. No limit to how many cards can be purchased. The more the better chance of winning. Prizes for the best scores at the final point.

Why: Why not ?!? Turn off the TV and electronics off and get outdoors! Learn some local history, learn something new and just enjoy a day in the great Colorado outdoors on the Arkansas River.



Check points:

#1 - Starting Point: River Front Park, Florence CO. New member sign-up, Poker run registration ($10 per score sheet), and draw first two cards per score sheet.

#2 - AHRA Parkdale Recreation Site. Draw one card per score sheet.

#3 - AHRA Pinnacle Rock. Draw one card per score sheet.

#4 - Vallie Bridge Camp Ground. Draw one card per score sheet.

#5 - GPOC Woody's Claim. Ending Point and draw two cards per score sheet. Prizes for best scoring sheets!

For more info go to: https://gpoc.club

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies

Code of Ethics

I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without permission from the owner.

I will keep informed on all laws, regulations or rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.

I will, to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.

I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.

I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind such as fences, signs, buildings, etc.

I will leave all gates as found.

I will build fires only in designated or safe places and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.

I will discard no burning material - matches, cigarettes, etc.

I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.

I will not contaminate wells, creeks, or other water supplies.

I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.

I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.

I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.

I will cooperate with field-trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.

I will report to my club or federation officers, Bureau of Land Management or other authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.

I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.

I will observe the "Golden Rule," will use Good Outdoor Manners and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and Public Image of Rockhounds everywhere.

http://www.amfed.org/ethics.htm

Established 1936
MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY

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 Colorado Springs Christian School, 4855 Mallow Rd, Colorado Springs CO 80907
- 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), 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.rmfms.org