



THE BULLETIN OF THE COLORADO SPRINGS MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY Published Since 1960

Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society

Founded 1936

~ Lazard Cahn ~
Honorary President

“Pick & Pack”
Volume 64 No. 8
October 2024

CSMS General Assembly

Thursday, Oct 17, 2024 7:00 PM
Colorado Springs Christian School
4855 Mallow Road

~ Dave Ehlert ~

“Discoveries in the Laramie Formation”

SNACKS: Bring em if you got em

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

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Dave Ehlert will present “Discoveries in The Laramie Formation,” a discussion of an interesting geological band that surfaces across Colorado Springs. It’s about 66-68 million years old, in the upper cretaceous and contains a wide diversity of paleofauna species from fish, mammals, to dinosaurs.

Dave’s Background: In 2002, Dave moved from New Jersey to Woodland Park, CO to start a new career as a Business Development Manager for Triebold Paleontology. A few years later Dave had the privilege to become the Director of the Rocky Mountain Dinosaur Resource Center. While there, Dave managed the museum, two traveling exhibitions, and was fortunate to go on digs with specimens such as Edmontosaurus, Triceratops, T-Rex, Daspletosaurus, and many marine species.

Dave has no academic education in dinosaurs except starting out as a kid growing up in Florida, which has some amazing finds! He likes to keep up to date with fossil news and those in the industry, especially CSMS! In 2023, Dave discovered a local fossil formation, just a short drive north of

Garden of the Gods. He passes on his knowledge to his son. Come see Dave on 17 Oct 24 at Colorado Springs Christian School.



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

CSMS Group Calendar

Oct '24	Nov '24						
9 Oct	13 Nov	Fossil Group	2nd Wed	6:00 PM	East Library	Kristine Harris Richard Villareal	719-593-1524 831-760-6985
3 Oct	7 Nov	Board Meeting	1st Thur	6:00 PM	Zoom	Alex Field	719-351-4897
1 Oct	5 Nov	Pebble Pups	1st Tue	4:15 PM	East Library	David St. John	719-424-9852
17 Oct	21 Nov	General Assy	3rd Thur	7:00 PM	Co Sp Christian Sch	Alex Field	719-351-4897
24 Oct	28 Nov	Crystal Group		7:00 PM	Co Sp Christian Sch	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 Garage	Sharon Holte	719-217-5683

Community Events (Pete Modreski)

Oct 1: 7:00 PM, Denver Gem and Mineral Guild Silent Auction, all are welcome to attend and to bring specimens (limited to two flats) to sell. At the Wheat Ridge United Methodist Church, 7530 W. 38th Ave, Wheat Ridge. For more info see the club website, <https://denvergem.org/>

Oct 10: (tentative), 7 PM, the Friends of the Mines Museum hopes to begin a bimonthly program of geological/mineralogical lectures at the Colorado School of Mines Museum on 2nd Thursday evenings, even-numbered months, alternating with the 2nd Thursday meetings of the Colorado Chapter, Friends of Mineralogy, which take place in odd-numbered months. Our tentative October presentation will be on Geology, Minerals, and Mining at the Xuebaoding W-Sn-Be Deposit, Sichuan Province, China by Dr. Markus Raschke, University of Colorado. Please see the Friends website for more information when it is available, at <https://friendsofminesmuseum.com/>

Oct 19: 2:00-5:30 PM, Mines Museum Spooktacular! The Colorado School of Mines Museum's annual fun free event. Open to all, no charge! More info at the Mines Museum website, <https://www.mines.edu/museumofearthscience/>

Oct 25: Colorado Science Conference, a conference and workshop for all science educators. Held at the CSU-Spur Education Center at the stock show complex, Denver. For full registration, program, and other information see <https://coloradoscienceconference.org/>. The keynote speaker at the conference will be Dr. Steve Hadfield, U.S. Air Force Academy, Artificial Intelligence in Education.

Nov 1-3: New Mexico Mineral Symposium, Socorro, NM, sponsored by the New Mexico Bureau of Geology & Mineral Resources, Mineral Museum, and held at the Macey Center, New Mexico Institute of Mining & Technology. For information see <https://geoinfo.nmt.edu/museum/nmms/home.cfml>. [Note, this is a recently announced date change to Nov. 1-3, from the earlier anticipated date of the weekend of Dec. 8-10]

Nov 15-17: (anticipated date), Denver Area Mineral Dealers (D.A.M.D.) Gem and Mineral Show, at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds, Golden.

Nov 22-24: Jeffco Mineral Show (formerly called the Denver Area Mineral Dealers Show), at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds, Exhibit Building, Golden.

Dec. 13-15: Flatirons Gem and Mineral Show, at the Boulder County Fairgrounds, Longmont; sponsored by the Flatirons Gem & Mineral Club [Boulder].

Oct 24: Denver Museum of Nature & Science, Earth Science Colloquium series: *Brain evolution and the origin of birds*. (Amy Balanoff, Johns Hopkins)

Nov 14: Denver Museum of Nature & Science, Earth Science Colloquium series: Did the Deccan Traps volcanic province cause the end-Cretaceous mass extinction? (Blair Schoene, Princeton)

Dec 5: Denver Museum of Nature & Science, Earth Science Colloquium series: The wandering Falklands: A plate tectonic odyssey. (Eric Roberts, Mines) <https://sites.google.com/view/dmns-earth-science-colloquium/home>



Federation News Post

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies
Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies



The Topeka Gem & Mineral Society
67th Annual Show

October 12 - 13, 2024
Stormont Vail Event Agricultural Hall
17th & Topeka, Topeka, Kansas
CASH ONLY AT DOOR

Admission Hours
Adult \$6.00 Student (13-17) \$2.00 Sat. - 10 am - 6 pm
Child under 13 with Adult - FREE Sun. - 10 am - 5 pm
One Coupon Good For All Adults In Group Email: rock2plate@aol.com

Oklahoma Mineral and Gem Society & Rocky Mountain Federation Conference
Oklahoma Barite Rose Rock Hunt

Presently Scheduled:
October 25, 2024
9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Lake Stanly Draper
Oklahoma City, OK

Potentially a 2 mile round trip walk. Bring a rock hammer, collecting bucket, comfortable shoes and drinking water. Keep in mind that barite gets heavy the more you collect! If the lake level is low, another site near the road may be available.

ROCK HOUNDS

7TH ANNUAL MINERAL, GEM, AND FOSSIL SHOW

Children's Corner - Dinosaur Dig
Sponsored by Lunar Tides and Vibes

Raffle drawings
Silent Auctions
Demonstrations
Field trip (tentative)

OCTOBER 19 - 20, 2024
SATURDAY OCT. 19TH 9 - 5
SUNDAY OCT. 20TH 10 - 4

CAMPLEX EVENTS CENTER
EQUALITY HALL, GILLETTE, WY

Admission:
\$2.00 adults
\$1.00 Youth 12-18
12 - under free

CACHE ROCK & GEM CLUB

OCTOBER ROCK & GEM SHOW 2024

ROCKS, MINERALS, FOSSILS, JEWELRY, DISPLAYS, EDUCATIONAL EXHIBITS, SUPPLIES, VENDORS, DOOR PRIZES, CONCESSIONS

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES:
WHEEL OF FORTUNE, MYSTERY BAGS, AND GEM DIG

ADULTS \$3, FAMILY \$10, 12 AND UNDER FREE

OCTOBER 11TH, 12TH AND 13TH
FRIDAY & SATURDAY 10 AM TO 6 PM
SUNDAY 10 AM TO 5 PM

CACHE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS EVENT CENTER
150 S. 500 W., LOGAN, UTAH

Sponsored by **Topix Wholesale**

CACHE ROCK AND GEM CLUB GROUP
CACHE.ROCKANDGEMCLUB.COM

50TH ANNUAL GEM AND MINERAL SHOW

CENTRAL DAKOTA GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

Bismarck Eagles Aerie 2237
313 N 28th St. Bismarck, ND

Friday, October 25, 10-6 and Saturday, October 26, 10-5

GRAND DOOR PRIZES FRIDAY AND SATURDAY!

- VENDORS
- DISPLAYS
- KIDS ACTIVITY TABLE
- GRAB BAGS
- ROCK & MINERAL IDENTIFICATION
- FOSSILS
- EDUCATIONAL DEMONSTRATIONS
- FLUORESCENT DISPLAY

Special guest speaker **Dr. Allan Ashworth**

After a distinguished career has focused on paleogeography, stratigraphy and sedimentology, with a specialization in lead, zinc and silver deposits, Dr. Ashworth's research has discovered the only known lead and bismuth deposit in Montana.

Contact: Brenda Morgan (701) 202-8898
Job: MARIPOSA (701) 425-4450



Oklahoma Mineral and Gem Society & Rocky Mountain Federation Conference
Sam Noble Museum in Norman, OK
Private Behind-The-Scenes-Tour of the Vertebrate Paleontology Museum.

Curator Dr. Jacqueline Lungius will lead the group through the research and storage rooms above the museum.

Presently Scheduled:
October 26th, 2024
10 am to 12:00 pm

Oklahoma City Geological Society & Rocky Mountain Federation Conference

General Material Gravel Pit
Oklahoma City, OK

Presently Scheduled:
October 27, 2024
9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Find bison bones, Alibates Flint, aragonite, petrified wood and sometimes you will get lucky and find a mastodon tooth!

50th ANNUAL HUACHUCA MINERAL, GEM, JEWELRY and FOSSIL SHOW

12th AND 13th, OCTOBER 2024
THE MALL AT 2200 EL MERCADO LOOP, SIERRA VISTA, AZ

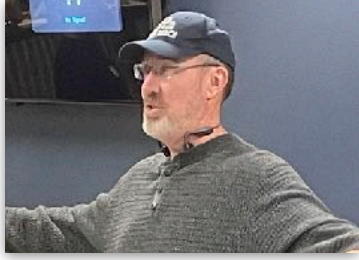
For information; Contact Maudie Bailey,
gmbailey@msn.com, 520 249-1541

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.

Secretary's Spot

John McGrath



2024 CSMS Officers

Alex Field, 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
John Massie, Past President

2024 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 Sep 19, Colorado Springs Christian School

Address: 4855 Mallow Rd, Colorado Springs CO 80907

Board Attendance: President: Alex Field, Vice President: Shane Riddle, Past President: John Massie, Treasurer: Ann Proctor, Editor: John Emery, Members-at-large: Bill Meyers and Chris Burris, Membership Secretary: Adelaide Bahr.

Agenda:

- I. Meeting was called to order by our President Alex Field at 7:00 PM
- II. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by our President
- III. There were 3 New Members present.
- IV. Program Speaker - Alex and Shane spoke on their visit to the RED CLOUD MINE in Arizona
- V. Meeting - There were 42 members/guests in attendance and 5 minerals were given out by raffle.
- VI. Officer Reports
 - A. President - Alex Field, informed everyone about the Lapidary Equipment Site clean up which would take place on 5 October 2024 at 0900. An email with more details would be sent.
 - B. Vice - President - Shane Riddle
 - C. Treasurer Ann Proctor no report
 - D. Secretary John McGrath, Absent
 - E. Membership Secretary - Adelaide Bahr reported that members continue to join through the website.
 - F. Editor - John Emery. Thanked everyone for their continued support with photos and articles.
 - G. Members at Large
 - H. Bill Myers - Present. No report
 - I. Chris Burris - Present. No report
 - J. Past President - John Massie. No report
 - K. Website and Show Coordinator - Lisa Cooper reported that a Show status meeting took place prior to the General Meeting and all was on track.

VII. Satellite Groups

- A. Crystal Group - Kevin Witte and Austin Cockrell. They stated that the next meeting would occur the upcoming Thursday and highlight Minerals of the San Juan mountains.
- B. Faceting Group - J. Massie. As always offered to provide private instructions on the use of the Club's machines.
- C. Pebble Group -David St John noted that due to construction at the East Library parking lot the Group's meeting would be held at the 21C Library at 1175 Chapel Hills Dr 80920 room B-6 at 4:15 - 5:15 PM. All were encouraged to bring fossils to celebrate Fossil Month.
- 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 - no report.
- F. Lapidary Group - no report.

VIII. Liaisons

- A. Claims and Librarian -.No report
- B. Field Trip Coordinator - Kyle Atkinson. All trips are posted on the Club's website with sign up done online
- C. Social Coordinator - Tina Cox. She is searching for a member to take the reins from her on this key job.
- D. Store Keeper - Ann Proctor. No report

IX. Unfinished Business - None discussed.

X. New Business - None discussed

XI. Meeting adjourned by President, Alex Field at 20:45 pm

Respectfully Submitted

John M McGrath MD COL (RET) USA
Secretary

Alex Field
President

President's Corner

Alex Field
CSMS President



Presidential Matters



Happy October Rockhounds!

Here's what going on around the society this month:

Volunteers! This is a good season to get involved in the society. We are looking for a new hospitality coordinator who will help us set up coffee and snacks for each general assembly meeting - a great way to get involved and get to know other members.

Board Nominations! Also, if you'd like to run for a seat on our CSMS Board, please let Randy Hurley know this month, as the board election will be in November.

Rockhound of the Year! It's time to nominate someone as Rockhound of the year for 2024. Send in your nomination by email to pickandpackeditor@gmail.com, or you can turn in your nomination at the next general assembly meeting.

New Club Shirts! At our October general assembly meeting we're going to bring samples of potential new club shirts and hat options. Please come join us and let us know which ones you like best.

New Logo! You may have noticed that the logo on the CSMS website, our Facebook page, and elsewhere has changed. We have updated our society logo and we'll have free logo stickers available at the next general assembly meeting for anyone to take.

2024 Satellite Group Chairs

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

2024 Liaisons

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

Finally, thank you to those of you who came out to the Lapidary clean up at Sharon Holte's house on October 5th. We've taken a step toward having the club lapidary equipment ready for use. We'll keep pushing!

Warm Regards,
Alex
alexfield1@gmail.com

Right: Hearty rockhounds Phil and Katie Sevenants learn how to use the club faceting machine with CSMS Past President and faceting group leader John Massie (red shirt).

Free faceting lessons come with the CSMS membership, by appointment, call John at 719-338-4276.



Little Black Cubes of Niobium- and Tantalum-Rich Minerals

Mike Nelson
csrockguy@yahoo.com

Niobium (Nb) is not a chemical element that effortlessly slips off your tongue when asked to quickly name 25 elements. However, it is the 34th most common element in the earth's crust. It is less abundant than zinc, nickel, and copper but more abundant than cobalt or molybdenum. That lack of familiarity is probably because free niobium is not found in nature; it is always combined with other elements in minerals. Niobium is closely related to the element tantalum and the two are often found together in minerals. In fact, at one time in the early 1800s chemists believed columbium (former name of niobium) and tantalum were the same element. That is one reason that columbite [(Fe,Mn)Nb₂O₆] and tantalite [(Fe,Mn)Ta₂O₆] are often confused in the field with each other and the moniker columbite-tantalite (or coltan) is attached to these unknowns. I certainly know that in the pegmatites of the Black Hills of South Dakota most rockhounds refer to these dark minerals as columbite-tantalite since it is virtually impossible to determine if tantalum or niobium is the dominant cation (at least for me).

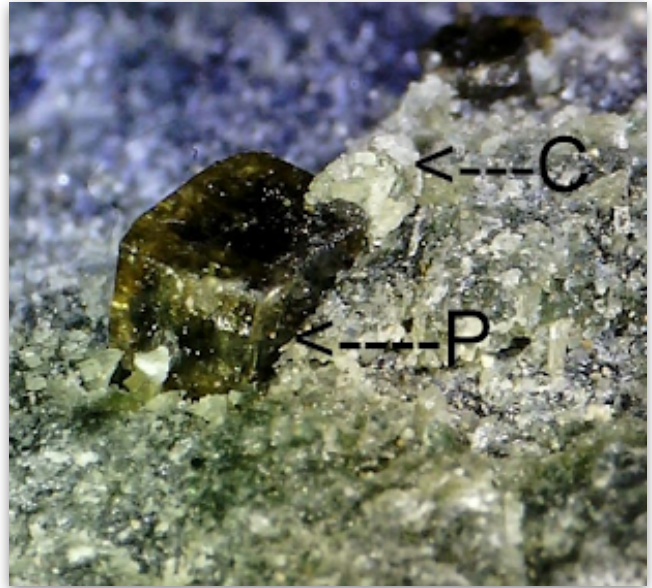
MinDat lists 115 minerals that contain essential niobium, the majority of which are oxides and silicates: euxenite (Y-REM), fergusonite (Y-REM), columbite, pyrochlore group, lueshite, latrappite, and limonorutile. Commercially most niobium is extracted from ores of columbite-tantalite, pyrochlore group, and euxenite with the largest resources located in Brazil and Canada. The primary niobium ores are oxides of the pyrochlore group and located in carbonatites (magmatic rocks containing more than 50% carbonate

minerals) and alkaline-syenite complexes. Carbonatites are usually associated with crustal tectonic rift zones. (Virginia Department of Energy: Virginia Division of Mineral Resources, Publication 115.)

A couple of years ago in Tucson, while rummaging around in a dusty flat of minerals, I came across a specimen of latrappite. The label was "older" and stated "compare to perovskite, same family, these are better. From the Ray Collection." MinDat informed me I was looking at a mineral containing niobium. Older labels always attract my attention, and often my money, and a couple of days before I had picked up a specimen of perovskite with a Mineralogical Research Company (CA) label. Now I was ready to examine their relationship—it only took me two years.

Perovskite is a calcium titanium oxide [CaTiO₃] belonging to the Orthorhombic Crystal System; however, it is pseudo cubic, and crystals generally have a cubic habit. These small cubes come in a variety of colors from black to brown to shades of yellow, orange and red. My cubes have an adamantine to sub-adamantine luster, are fairly hard at ~5.5 (Mohs), and seem partially translucent (ranges from transparent to opaque). At times some cubes have a metallic luster and look similar to galena. Niobium is a common impurity in perovskite but not an essential mineral. Anthony and others (2001-2005) noted perovskite forms as an accessory mineral in alkaline mafic rocks, as nepheline syenites, kimberlites, carbonatites, and can additionally form in calcium-rich skarns (such as Magnet Cove, Arkansas), and is a common accessory mineral in calcium and aluminum rich inclusions within carbonaceous chondrites.

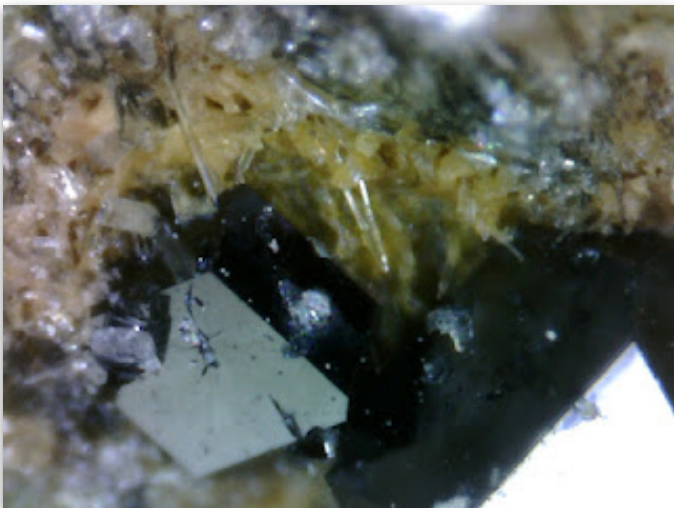
Continued ...



Above: Photomicrograph, cube of perovskite ~ 2mm on edge. Some overgrowth of calcite. Collected from Malenco Valley, Valtellina, Sondrio Province, Lombardy, Italy. *Photos: M. Nelson*



In contrast to perovskite, latrappite is a mineral where niobium is an essential element— $\text{Ca}_2\text{NbFeO}_6$. So, what is the relationship between latrappite and perovskite? One simple explanation is that the crystals of both minerals look like each other—crystals are Orthorhombic but pseudo cubic and have a cubic outline, cleavage is absent, the colors of the cubes are usually black to dark brown, a hardness of ~5.5 (Mohs), a metallic luster, and generally are collected from carbonatite complexes. A more “scientific” explanation is that the niobium exceeds the titanium in latrappite type minerals. In fact, at one time latrappite was known as niobium perovskite. Due to the analysis by Mitchell and others (2017) the IMA redefined niobium perovskite as latrappite (niobium greater than titanium) from a type locality (Carbonatite Complex), Deux-Montagnes RCM, Laurentides, Quebec, Canada. But it also remains as a mineral of the Perovskite Supergroup.



Above: Photomicrographs of cubes of perovskite ~ 0.6 to 1.0 mm along margins. Collected Perovskite Peak, San Benito County, California. *Photos: M. Nelson*

Continued ...



Above: A cube of latrappite ~2.4 mm on edge. Collected from the Type Locality, Bond Zone, Oka, Deux-Montagnes RCM, Laurentides, Quebec, Canada. *Photos: M. Nelson*

REFERENCES CITED

Anthony, J.W. R.A. Bichard, A. Bideaux, K. W. Bladh, and M. C. Nichols, Eds., 2001-2005, Handbook of Mineralogy, Mineralogical Society of America, Chantilly, VA 20151-1110, USA. <http://www.handbookofmineralogy.org/>.

Mitchell, R., M.D. Welch, and A.R. Chakhmouradian, 2017, Nomenclature of the perovskite supergroup: A hierarchical system of classification based on crystal structure and composition. *Mineralogical Magazine*, v. 81, no. 3.



Above: My phone decided this is how sunset over the Minnesota bluffs appears with a thick haze from fires in Oregon.

Greetings to my Rockhounding Friends

There has been a big pause in my writing this summer and I missed the September issue of the Pick & Pack. Most readers know that after 18 years of residing in Colorado Springs, the house was packed up and "stuff" was transported back to Wisconsin, my home prior to Colorado. I have moved from the hustle and traffic of metro CO SPS with a population of 701,000 to the Village of Holmen, WI, population 10,616. We live in a small neighborhood bordered by a sand prairie on the north, very tall red pines on the east, mixed trees on the west, and a main sort of road (although not very busy) on the south. Kids play in the streets and adults walk their dogs and stop by to introduce themselves. Main street of the Village, maybe a half mile away, is anchored by Smokie's Bar and Grill, Rudy's Feed and Seed, the Meat Market and Locker (stopped in and purchased a pound of bratwurst today), and about 10 small family run businesses. We visit the weekly farmers market and during the summer months the evenings are often filled with free concerts in the park. The major north-south road leads south to Onalaska (16,000) and La Crosse (~50 000). Important to persons of my age is health care. Never fear as Mayo has a very large hospital and clinic while the Gunder-

son System has another major hospital and clinics. I suppose downtown La Crosse is 10 miles away. Also important is that the Village has two mom/pop coffee houses and an old-fashioned drive-in serving fantastic root beer floats and the largest soft serve ice cream cones I have ever observed. The mighty Mississippi River is nearly a mile wide with many channels and islands and is a birder's and boater's paradise. The forested cliffs bordering the River are 500-700 feet high, so no Pikes Peak but a beautiful and different ecosystem to contemplate.

I miss many things about Colorado Springs, especially CSMS and my many rockhound friends. My email remains the same so if you are inclined, please stay in touch. For me, life goes on and I am happy to bounce out of bed in the mornings (well more crawl out rather than bounce). Signing out from the Village with my waterfowl friends having a great evening in a River marsh. Mike.



About the Author

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.rmfmts.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). In CSMS he heads up the Undergraduate Research Committee as introducing students to geology research is a long-time passion. But mostly he just tries to enjoy life with frosty IPAs, travel, and collecting mundane facts and pretty rocks/ minerals.



Fossilfun14@gmail.com

CSMS Picnic Sept 2024

Kathy and Mike McCartney set up a tent for the Pebble Pups to learn about Geodes. Pups got to pick one geode out, help cut it open, and keep it to add to their collection. Shout out to all that supported our pups and embraced their curiosity and shared other samples with them. I was very ill that weekend and the club stepped up to make the picnic memorable for our young rockhounds. It's why I love this club so very much.



Pebble Pups Meeting was September 2 and the theme was prehistoric sharks like the famous Megalodon. We learned about the sea creatures and studied many kinds of teeth. The students dug for shark teeth and received a special gift from Morocco in a gift box. We pulled a rope 65-75 ft with each pup holding it to show how big a megalodon was. Their eyes became bigger and bigger as we reached the end. So much fun! October meeting has been moved to 21C library due to construction closure. The theme will be fossils in honor of Fossil month.



wonderwoman627 at Pixabay

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



wonderwoman627 at Pixabay



CSMS General Assembly Colorado Springs Christian School 19 Sep 24

Over 30 hearty rockhounds gathered on a beautiful Colorado Springs evening to see CSMS President Alex Field and VP Shane Riddle present the tale of their adventure at the Red Cloud Mine, AZ. They brought beautiful specimens to share and Shane broke out his UV lights for demonstration.

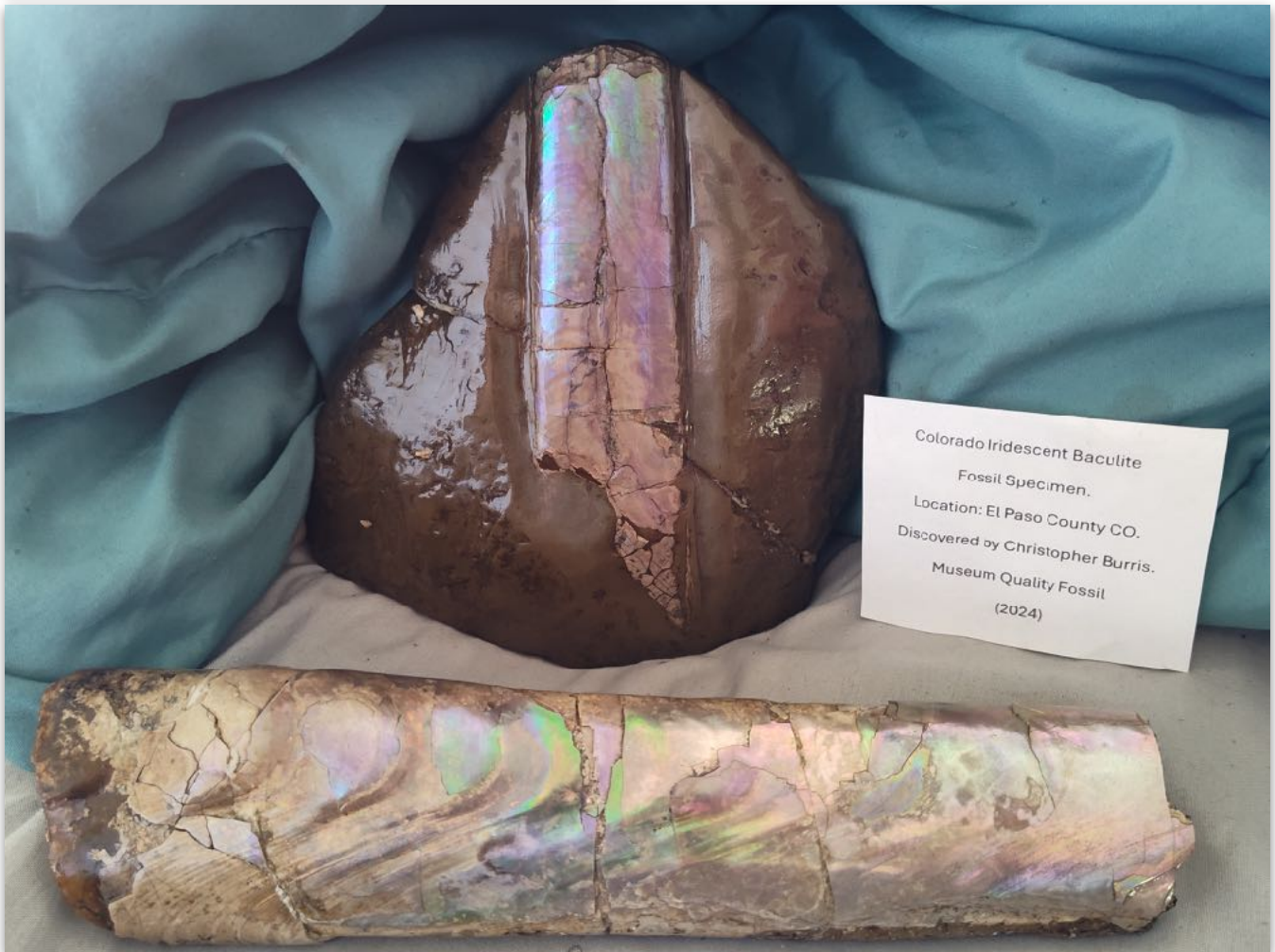
Free club specimens were given out to new members and club business was conducted as usual.





Baculite Finds

CSMS Member-at-Large Chris Burris is pictured here at Colorado Springs Christian School during CSMS general assembly presenting a baculite specimen he found in El Paso county CO in 2024. Chris “Crystal Whisperer” Burris specializes in finding crystals and fossils in the local area. Bottom photo provided by Chris Burris.

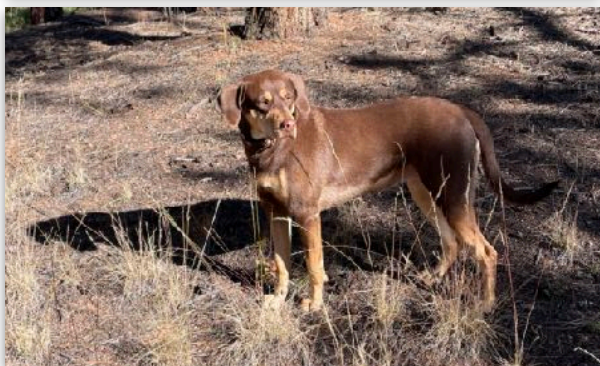


Colorado Iridescent Baculite
Fossil Specimen.
Location: El Paso County CO.
Discovered by Christopher Burris.
Museum Quality Fossil
(2024)



Field Training 5 Oct 24

Over 20 hardy rockhounds, including “Psyche” the rockhound, gathered on a beautiful 70 degree Colorado Saturday at the Rainbow Falls rec area, north of Woodland Park for some rockhounding 101 with CSMS Secretary and Super Rockhound John McGrath. We gathered at the Rainbow Falls trailhead and caravanned into Pike National Forest followed by a short hike to the Lost Dutchman’s Mine. John taught us basic skills and then let us loose in the hills to go find crystals.



Archaeopteryx
A dinosaur with feathers
Transition to flight



Haiku poetry about *Archaeopteryx lithographica*, the famous dinosaur with wings and feathers. Found in the Jurassic Solnhofen Limestone of southern Germany, Archaeopteryx is a transitional fossil between dinosaurs and birds. Watercolor pencil drawing by Steven Wade Veatch.



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**.

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

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The Breit Award - Steven Wade Veatch



Steven Veatch, CSMS member, will be honored with the Breit Award for Historic Preservation in October during his trip to Colorado. The Teller Historic and Environmental Coalition will present the Breit Award to him at a banquet on October 20, 2024 in Woodland Park, Colorado. This Colorado award honors individuals and organizations for their efforts in preserving the history, environment, and culture of Teller County, Colorado. The award is named in memory of Doris "Dee" Breitenfeld, a key figure in local conservation and preservation efforts.

The coalition has acknowledged that his publications, articles, and research have played a crucial role in safeguarding the historical integrity of this specific part of the Pikes Peak region. Although he moved away from this county 3 years ago, he continues to conduct research there and publishes articles on the gold rush history of Cripple Creek and the ancient environments of the Florissant Fossil Beds.

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/>



\$ For Sale \$

LORTONE LU6X-130 Lapidary Machine
— Saw, grind and polish

\$550.00

Contact Rick Rea 719-271-9217



Classifieds & Announcements

\$800.00 donation by CSMS to Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds



July 6, 2024
Alex Field, President
Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society
PO Box 2
Colorado Springs, CO 80901

Dear Alex :

Thank you so much for your donation of \$800.00 to the Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds. We deeply appreciate your donation.

Leadership Team:
Patty Glatfelter
Sally McCracken
Jan Beals

Secretary:
Bev Harms

Technology Coordinator:
Wendie Warner

Treasurer:
Jan Beals

As the non-profit partner of the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument, we have the flexibility to respond to critical Monument priorities that are not easily addressed within the strictures of Federal funding.

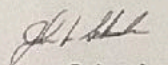
This year we shall be providing funds to support interns and graduate students once they are appointed and their projects are identified. At this time \$2,000 is earmarked for the program, with additional funding based on need. Furthermore, we are providing \$1500 for transportation to the Monument's summer camp program. Most camp programs have begun in late June.

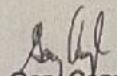
As you can see, our primary focus is on education and research. Your donation is invaluable to the success of these efforts.

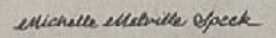
Allow us to provide the following information about our non-profit status. The Friends of the Fossil Beds, Inc. (EIN: 84-1114146) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to assisting the National Park Service in preserving, protecting, and interpreting the natural and historical resources of Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument. The Friends' primary mission is to raise funds and provide assistance to projects that preserve the fossils of Florissant, as well as to organize and promote programs and activities that support the Monument's educational, conservation, and scientific research objectives.

Donations such as yours allow us to attain our mission. In fact, we want to thank our generous donors more publicly. We now have a mechanism to mention donors by name in our quarterly newsletter. If you would prefer not to be named, please drop an email to Gary Censoplano at runfar48@gmail.com

Please accept the grateful thanks of the Friends of the Fossil Beds Donor Recognition and Fundraising Committee.


John Schwabe


Gary Censoplano


Michelle Melville Speck

Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds, PO Box 851, Florissant CO 80816



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), 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.rmfm.org