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. 1
February 2025

CSMS General Assembly

Thursday, Feb 20, 2025 7:00 PM
Colorado Springs Christian School
4855 Mallow Road

~ Daniel Kile ~

"The Lazard Cahn microscope and other microscopes with a Colorado Springs provenance"

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

In This Issue …

Dan's talk will document the Lazard Cahn Zentmayer microscope, along with the research to validate its provenance through a number of owners. Cahn was a founding member of the Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society, and mentor to many early CSMS members, including Willet Willis, Willard Wulff, Leonard Sutton (later the Chief Justice, Colorado Supreme Court), George White, Chris Christensen, Orville Reese, and Arthur Roe, many of whom carried on his passion for mineralogy and micromounting.

The Joseph Zentmayer microscopes were manufactured in the last quarter of the 19th century, and were considered among the best that could be attained; they were highly recommended by George Fiss, one of the early Philadelphia amateur mineralogists, who, along with George Rakestraw, introduced the realm of micro-minerals to collectors. The U.S. Army Hospital microscope that is attributed to Lazard Cahn was made ca. 1880; it was the second most expensive in the Zentmayer line of microscopes.

Several other microscopes with a Colorado Springs connection will also be briefly discussed, including an R. Fuess Rosenbusch microscope (ca. 1878) from the Colorado College, and a Victorian binocular microscope that belonged to Willet Willis, a long time CSMS member and micromounter.

The Lazard Cahn Zentmayer microscope

Dan Kile has been an ardent field collector of minerals (along with his wife, Dianne) for nearly 54 years, mostly in Colorado. In addition to field collecting antics, he has taught optical mineralogy for more than 25 years at several venues, including the Colorado School of Mines, the Hooke College of Applied Sciences (Chicago), and the U.S. Geological Survey in Denver. He is a coauthor of numerous articles pertaining to environmental and mineralogical sciences, as well as author of a monograph on the Petrographic Microscope published by the Mineralogical Record; he was additionally a co-author of the update to Ed Eckels' *Minerals of Colorado*. He is retired from the U.S. Geological Survey, where his last position as a research geochemist entailed studies on crystal growth mechanisms and the mineralogy of clay minerals, including clays from miarolitic cavities in the Pikes Peak batholith. Pursuant to interests in optical mineralogy he has also assembled a collection of mineralogical instruments, including petrographic microscopes and goniometers.

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

President's Corner

Alex Field
CSMS President

2025 Satellite Group Chairs

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

2025 Liaisons

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

Non-officer Positions

Mark Mann, Creative Director

Presidential Matters

Rockhounds!

Happy New Year to all of you (since we didn't have a newsletter in January)!

January was a great month for the CSMS: We had a strong showing at the January General Assembly Meeting, held the first meeting of our new Jewelry Group, and hosted a large field trip up to the Denver Museum of Nature and Science to view their archives of minerals and fossils.

A few quick requests:
• If you lead or work with a subgroup within the society, can you please send your meeting times and calendar updates to Lisa Cooper (lisavcooper@outlook.com) so we can keep the calendar on the website up to date?

• Also, if you would like to volunteer to help the CSMS, we still need an Assistant Volunteer Coordinator to work with John Massie to recruit volunteers for our June Gem & Mineral Show. We would love to make this upcoming Show in 2025 our best yet! Reach out to John Massie or myself, if you can help!

• The other volunteer opportunity we have is our Exploratory Fundraising Committee—we held our first meeting in January, and are starting to put some action steps in place. If you'd like to help fundraise for the future of the CSMS, we will meet once a month right before one of our other meetings.

Also, if you have NOT renewed your membership yet for 2025, go to www.csms.tectonictreks.com to renew online. Use the email address where you received this newsletter to sign in (if it's your first time on the site, go to LOGIN, and "Reset Password," then go to membership and renew).

Finally, field trip and digging season is right around the corner. We'll start populating our field trip schedule with trips and events for this summer later in the Spring, If you have any ideas, please let Kyle Atkinson know (our field trip coordinator). His email address is: Atkinson.KyL@gmail.com.

Thanks again everyone—cheers to 2025!

Warm Regards,
Alex

Alexander Field
alexfield1@gmail.com

CSMS Group Calendar

Feb '25	Mar '25						
12 Feb	12 Mar	Fossil Group	2nd Wed	6:00 PM	East Library	Kristine Harris Richard Villareal	719-593-1524 831-760-6985
6 Feb	6 Mar	Board Meeting	1st Thur	7:00 PM	Zoom	Alex Field	719-351-4897
4 Feb	4 Mar	Pebble Pups	1st Tue	4:15 PM	East Library	David St. John	719-424-9852
20 Feb	20 Mar	General Assy	3rd Thur	7:00 PM	Co Sp Christian Sch	Alex Field	719-351-4897
26 Feb	26 Mar	Jewelry Group	4th Wed	6:00 PM	Library 21c	Ann Schmechel	annschmech@gmail.com
27 Feb	27 Mar	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

Federation News Post

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies
Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies

AFMS Endowment Fund Report

Richard Jaeger, RMFMS Chair

Basically, this is a raffle drawing with tickets being sold at $5 each or five tickets for $20. The drawing will be held at the EFMLS/AFMS Convention in Hickory, North Carolina on March 27 to 30, 2024. People from around the American Federation donate prizes for the raffle – they may be jewelry, crystals, minerals, fossils, books, or other items. Values range from $75 to $200. The drawing is handled so that there is at least one winner from each of the seven regional federations; last year we had two winners from the Rocky Mountain Federation.

As items are donated, pictures of them will appear in the AFMS Newsletter (see the February issue) and on the American Federation Website <www.amfed.org> There are generally around 30 items.

This is a major way to financially support the American Federation's efforts on behalf of our hobby. Currently the funds go towards the Junior Rockhound Program, Judges Training, and preparing Programs for distribution to Regional Federations which can be used by individual clubs. Over $5,000 was raised last year.

Cheryl requests that the checks for tickets be sent to the regional chairs so that we may issue tickets and have a record of who has entered. Checks should be made payable to the "AFMS Endowment Fund." We then forward those checks to Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich, the AFMS Treasurer. I will fill out the proper number of tickets for each contribution, send the stubs to the donating individual, and get the tickets to the EFMLS/AFMS Show in Hickory in March to be put into the RMFMS bag. There will be at least one general prize ticket, maybe two or three, drawn from each of the bags for the seven regional federations. After that, all tickets will be dumped into one bag, and further drawings will take place until all the prizes have been awarded.

I hope that many of you will participate and hopefully be winners in Hickory-- you need not be present to win. I would also be happy to accept any donated prizes for the raffle or they could be sent directly to Cheryl Neary. The more prizes, the more winners, and more money raised. Cheryl's address is: 42 Jefferson Ave., Patchogue, NY 11772. My wife Linda and I are each donating a piece of jewelry for the Endowment Fund prizes. I hope some of you will donate prizes too. My contact information is provided below. Please share this information with your club members and thanks for your consideration.

Please purchase some tickets as soon as you can because of the early show– and please donate a prize soon if you wish to.

Richard D. Jaeger
RjgrSci@aol.com

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

2025 CSMS Officers

Alex Field, President
Shane Riddle, Vice-President
John McGrath, 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 Chairman

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

CSMS General Assembly Minutes

7 PM, Thursday Jan 16 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: Kevin Witte, Editor: John Emery, Members-at-large: Austin Cockrell and Mark Mann, Show Chair: Lisa Cooper, Membership Secretary: Adelaide Bahr.

Agenda:

I. The Meeting was called to order by President Alex Field at 7:02 PM
II. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Alex.
III. Program Speaker - Anthony Maltese, Senior Curator for Research, Exploration And Morphology, Rocky Mountain Dinosaur Resource Center, 201 S. Fairview St., Woodland Park, CO 80863
IV. Meeting - There was 1 new member and 3 guests in attendance and 3 minerals were given away. Attendance was 48.
V. Officer Reports
  A. President Alex Field - Alex made an announcement about the new t-shirts. Field trip tomorrow at DMNS. Ann jewelry group, Wednesday January 29th at library at 6pm. Alex mentioned that we're looking for an assistant volunteer coordinator for the June gem and mineral show. We are starting a fundraising committee and there are 4 members on the committee. First meeting hoping for this month.
  B. Vice President Shane Riddle - Shane is trying to setup a field trip to dinosaur resource center for this year.
  C. Treasurer Kevin Witte - short term rates at ENT Credit Union
  D. Secretary John McGrath - absent
  E. Membership Secretary Adelaide Bahr - Adelaide had applications for memberships. She had pins for members including 1,5, and 10 year pins.
  F. Editor John Emery - John E had two awards to present. Shane Riddle took 8th place for his paper about his visit to the Ben E. Clement museum. David ST John won for his poetry writing, 3rd place for grandpa's rockhound delight.
  G. Past President John Massie - faceting machine is available
  H. Website and Show Chair Lisa Cooper - no report
VI. Satellite Groups
  A. Crystal Group - Austin Cockell, no report
  B. Faceting Group - John Massie is refurbishing a donated machine
  C. Pebble Pups - David mentioned that we had to cancel the Rock ID event because of the incoming storm. Rescheduling for mid to late February. Science closet that needs help with classifying and identifying rocks/specimens. Pebble pups will be Colorado mining about garnets at the next meeting. Donations are happily accepted so continue bringing donations.
  D. Fossil Group - Fossil group had a good last meeting. Needs new members' contact information. Every second Wednesday of the month. East library 6-7:30 PM.
  E. Jewelry Group - Ann Schmechel, Ann gave a summer of the jewelry group and all the facets (ha) of the group. January 29th. Going forward fourth Wednesday at 21c above chapel hills mall.
  F. Lapidary Group - Sharon Holte, no report
VII. Liaisons - no reports
VIII. Unfinished Business - none discussed
IX. New Business - 2025 board induction of current and new members. All members responded "I will."
X. Meeting adjourned by Alex at 8:55 PM

Minutes submitted by Mark Mann

The Keeper of Tales

Grandfather's stories,
covered with the dust of old Colorado,
come alive in the places between words,
where the mines whispered about gold,
and the mountains echoed adventure.

He talked about the West,
where the sun bled into the earth,
each tale a reminder of the grit and the gold
that ran through the veins of the land.
And of men with rough hands and weary backs
who chased dreams buried deep in unforgiving rocks.

His words created such a vivid scene—
miners' lamps twinkling like distant stars,
their light dancing on mine walls
as picks clanged into ore.
I listened, breathless and wide-eyed.

Now, his voice lingers
in the spaces of my own mind,
like the shadows of the majestic mountains,
guiding me through the rough
and winding paths of my thoughts.

Grandfather, the storyteller
still speaks, and I still listen—
each word echoing in my memory
like the fall of a pebble in a well,
each story a stone
in the path I walk today.

—Steven Wade Veatch

Artwork created by Steven Veatch using AI.

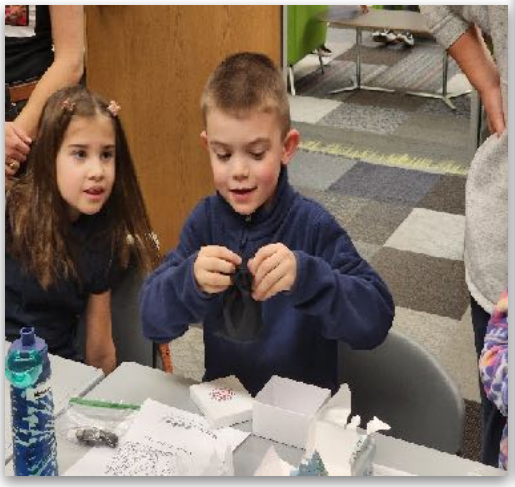
Pebble Pups
David St. John

CSMS Pebble Pups and Earth Science Scholars

Fossilfun14@gmail.com

Some catching up for our Pebble Pups in December and January

Happy Rockhound New Year to everyone. We had a great Winter party in December with lots of treats, free samples and a gift exchange. It was the best turnout we had since I took over which was my greatest gift of the year. Huge shoutout to parents, pups, and Jen Johnson assisting with the party in so many ways. Thank you to all the club members that donate samples and allow a budget to do all of our Outreach programs and June show.



The January pups meeting was cancelled due to a snow storm and the library being closed. The theme was on Colorado mining and rescheduled for Jan. 28th. This was a requested lesson from one our pups in December. We learned to mine chocolate chip cookies, do core samples with a 6-layer cake, and receive real core samples from Leadville, CO. I'm glad we could squeeze it in between storms this month.

The next meeting is 2/4/2025 at the East Library annex room 4:15-5:15 Garnet lesson part 1 with a guest speaker and hands on activities real garnets to take home. I plan do part two at the club picnic and break some rock up and find more garnets.

wonderwoman627 at Pixabay

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

wonderwoman627 at Pixabay

General Assembly
19 Dec 24

40-50 Rockhounds gathered on a chilly Colorado Springs evening at Colorado Springs Christian School for the annual CSMS Christmas party. There was plenty of food, including a turkey, two hams and plenty of yummy carbs. We also did our traditional "White Elephant" gift exchange and rockhounds brought personal collection samples to share.

Alex Field presented Lisa Cooper with the Rockhound of the Year award- congrats Lisa! Thanks for seven amazing shows!

Overall a nice festive evening of fellowship and cheer. *Pics by Frank Rosenberg*

Tracing Paleodictyon's Puzzling Patterns

By Sawyer Blizzard

Paleodictyon is a group of unusual cast trace fossils. They are a type of Graphoglyptid, which are the traces of organisms that have distinct shapes and repeating patterns. They fall under three distinct groups: line graphoglyptids, tree graphoglyptids, and net graphoglyptids. *Paleodictyon* is a net form, as it closely resembles a fishing net. According to Durden and associates (2017), "It consists of a hexagonal network of tunnels that typically appear as a pattern of holes in the seabed surface." These fossils are usually found at the bottom of turbidite beds (mixed sand-mud flows) in deep-sea environments all over the world (Durden, et al. 2017). However, Paleodictyon's original producer has eluded both scientists and explanation (Seilacher 2007).

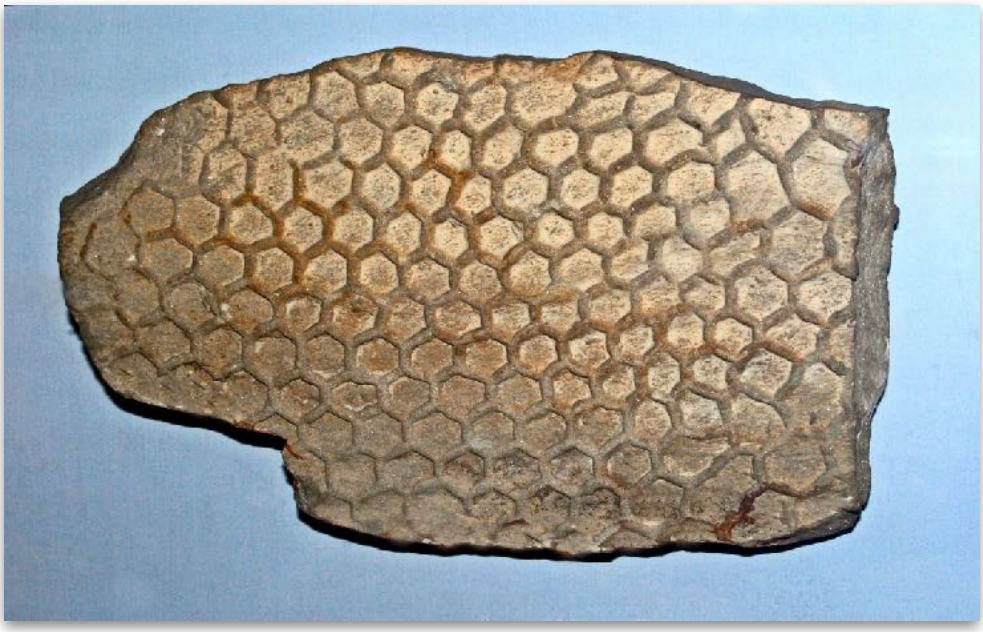


***Figure 1**. Paleodictyon from Miocene of Fiume Savio, Italy - on display at Museo Geologico G. Cappellini, Bologna. Hectonichus, CC BY-SA 4.0 <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0>, via Wikimedia Commons.*

Meneghini (1850) was the first to describe *Paleodictyon*. However, its existence has been known since the Renaissance, having been drawn by Leonardo Da Vinci in one of his many notebooks (Kushlin 1982). In Da Vinci's Paris Manuscript I, is a page full of marine fossils, and among them is a depiction of a vague honeycomb-like pattern. It has been hypothesized that this is a portrayal of *Paleodictyon*, making it the first recorded observation of this fossil. This makes its mystery even stranger, because it is not a new discovery nor are its fossils elusive.

Paleodictyon traces first appeared in the Lower Cambrian. These early forms were relatively simple, but the traces developed over time. By the time of the Cretaceous, more complex forms began to appear with hexagonal tunnels and vertical shafts that, from the surface, appear as a regular array of openings (Seilacher 1977; Uchman 2003). Fossils of *Paleodictyon* were found up through the early to mid-Paleogene, but with no living specimens, it was assumed to be extinct.

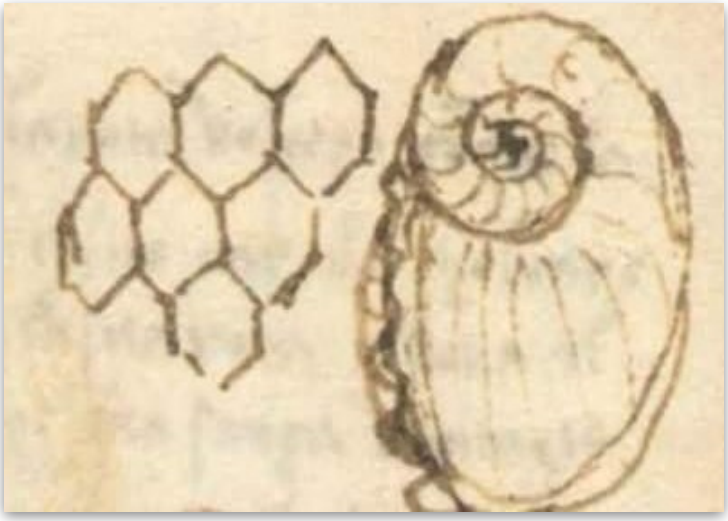


Figure 2. *Leonardo Da Vinci's drawing of what is presumed to be* Paleodictyon *(left) next to the shell fossil image. Source: Nature.com\Articles\Nature.2012.11841.*

But, during a deep-sea expedition to the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, Rona and Merrill (1978) made a discovery. They photographed the first modern traces of *Paleodictyon*, proving that this ichnogenus was persistent up to today. It was subsequently assigned to *Paleodictyon nodosum*, a species that was thought to have gone extinct during the Eocene (Seilacher 1977; Ekdale 1980; Rona et al. 2009).

Unfortunately, these modern specimens did not come with the host animal, leaving the creature that created it still a mystery. However, several hypotheses have been proposed about its creator.

Figure 3. *Paleodictyon with Euro for scale. Falconaumanni, CC BY-SA 3.0 <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0>, via Wikimedia Commons.*

One hypothesis suggests that the fossil is an open tunnel system that acted as a farm for growing bacteria or fungi on the deep-sea floor. This may have been an adaptation to the general lack of food at this depth. An idea like this is not very far-fetched, some animals, such as leafcutter ants, practice forms of agriculture.

Two tests were done on the microbiome of the *Paleodictyon*. However, it was determined that there was no significant difference in the number or composition of microbes in the sediment within and surrounding the specimen (Rona et al. 2009). This would indicate that *Paleodictyon nodosum* was not part of a farming behavior, but rather the growth of an organism, possibly a sponge. However, these same tests did not find the remains of the organism.

As of now, *Paleodictyon* remains a mystery. This creature has existed since the birth of complex life and has persisted throughout deep time. Even with fossils being relatively common, and modern examples being collected, it has been able to avoid detection. The trail of evidence ends almost as abruptly as this article! Perhaps if more research is done, the mystery of *Paleodictyon* will finally be solved. But right now, it leaves us to wonder what other secrets the Earth holds.

References and Further Reading:

Durden, J. M., Simon-Lledo, E., Gooday, A. J., & Jones, D. O. (2017). Abundance and morphology of *Paleodictyon nodosum*, observed at the Clarion-Clipperton Zone. Marine biodiversity, 47, 265-269.

Ekdale A. A. (1980) Graphoglyptid Burrows in Modern Deep-Sea Sediment. *Science* 207:304–306.

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Meneghini G. (1850) Observazzione stratigrafische e paleontologische concerneti la Geologia della Toscana e dei peasi limitrofi. In appendice alla memoria sulla struttura geologica delle Alpi, degli Apennini e dei Carpazi di Sir Roderick Murchison. Florence, Italy.

Rona P. A., Seilacher A, de Vargas C, Gooday A. J., Bernhard J. M., Bowser S., Vetriani C., Wirsen C. O., Mullineaux L., Sherrell R., Frederick Grassle J., Low S., Lutz R. A. (2009) Paleodictyon nodosum: A living fossil on the deep-sea floor. Deep Sea Res Part II: *Topical Studies Oceanography* 56:1700–1712.

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Seilacher A. (1977) Pattern analysis of Paleodictyon and related trace fossils. In: Crimes T, Harper J (eds) *Trace Fossils 2*. Seal House Press, Liverpool.

Seilacher A. (2007) *Trace Fossil Analysis*. Springer-Verlag, Berlin, Heidelberg.

Uchman A. (2003) Trends in diversity, frequency and complexity of graphoglyptid trace fossils: evolutionary and palaeoenvironmental aspects. Palaeogeography Palaeoclimatology Palaeoecology 192:123–142.

Fluorite and Minerals Associated with the IL-KY Fluorspar District Fluorite Series - Part II

by Robert Beadle

From: *The Pick and Dop Stick, 2/2010*
2nd Place — 2011 MWF Original Adult Articles
6th Place — 2011 AFMS Original Adult Articles

In the beginning of this series of articles featuring fluorite, I covered some of the historical background and geology of the Illinois-Kentucky Fluorspar District. I also listed some of the more prominent mines and sub-districts in the region. This part will cover some of the minerals the average collector may encounter. In writing this article I will be using specimens from my own collection along with others as a reference guide to fit the profile of an average collector. One major difficulty lies with the fact that a large part of my southern Illinois minerals list no specific mine for their origin. If I omit some of the rarer minerals from the district, it is because the probability of encountering them is small.

Fluorite (calcium fluoride, CaF_2) is the most abundant mineral found in the district, as well as the principal ore being mined. The crystal habit is cubic, sometimes etched by acidic fluids. Interpenetrating twin crystals, reminiscent of some of the English fluorites, are a signature of the ALCOA mine[1]. Colors range from clear to yellow, purple to black, and light blue to aqua-blue. Green fluorite has been reported from the Rose mine, and pink from the Conn mine. Generally the colors follow the ore horizons, yellow on the Bethel level and purple on the sub-Rosiclare level. Some of the best blue crystals have come from the Denton mine.

Oil (hydrocarbons) frequently coats some of the fluorite crystals. I've seen a moving oil bubble in one of the fluorite crystals. Oil also "includes" in some of the quartz crystals, turning them smoky. The district contained a major oil dome in the Permian Period before the northeast faults formed.

Quartz (silicon dioxide, $Si0_2$) crystals are usually small, occurring as druses throughout the district Petroleum- included quartz has been found in rock fractures in the Griffith mine[2]. Also, I've collected petroleum-included quartz "smoky" on the Columbia mine dump near Marion, KY.

Calcite (calcium carbonate, $CaCO_3$) is, aside from fluorite, possibly the most common mineral in the district. Its colors range from white to honey-brown. Crystal habits of rhombohedral, scalenohedral[3], and acicular are found throughout the area. Some of the best calcite crystals have come from the Denton and Annabel Lee mines.

Pyrite (iron disulfide, FeS_2) and chalcopyrite (copper iron sulfide, $CuFeS_2$) frequently occur as a coating, or as inclusions in fluorite and other crystals.

Sphalerite (zinc sulfide, ZnS) is widespread throughout the region. I have seen many fluorite crystals associated with sphalerite. Usually the sphalerite serves as the matrix. Galena (lead sulfide, PbS) is also common throughout the region. The crystals I have seen are elongated cubes, although other habits such as octahedral and cuboctahedral occur in the district.

Barite (barium sulfate, $BaSO_4$) is also widespread and sometimes occurs as druses. But well-formed crystals have been found at Minerva mine No.1, Denton, Annabel Lee, Gaskins, Crystal, and Victory mines. Barite crystals from these areas can be white, yellow, or blue.

Witherite (barium carbonate, $BaCO_3$) has been found at three mines: Minerva No. 1, West Green, and Ozark- Mahoning No. 7. It is most commonly seen as white or yellow barrel-shaped hexagonal crystals.

Smithsonite (zinc carbonate, $ZnCO_3$) is now rare, having been mined out early in the

history of the district. Specimens can still be found, as I have collected smithsonite (turkey-fat ore) on the Old Jim mine dump near Marion, KY. Strontianite (strontium carbonate, $SrCO_3$) is a rare mineral often mistaken for acicular (needle-like) calcite. It can be distinguished from calcite by having gently-curved terminations. Colors range from white to brown and even pink.

Malachite (copper carbonate, $Cu_2CO_3(OH)_2$) occurs as a weathering product of chalcopyrite. It typically forms crusts upon other minerals. It is my opinion that this is rare, as I've seen only one specimen in many years of collecting.

It has been said that fluorite from the Illinois-Kentucky Fluorspar District doesn't fluoresce very well. For a long time I've taken these authorities at their word. I now present in the following paragraphs the results of my experiments with ultraviolet light upon these minerals from the district.

Petroleum-included quartz (smoky) from the Columbia and Griffith mines fluoresces a bright white under shortwave UV light. Witherite glows white under both long and short wave. It also exhibits phosphorescence after exposure to short wave. Smithsonite from the Old Jim mine fluoresces creamy orange under both wavelengths. Barite from Minerva mine No. 1 glows white under both wavelengths. The underside of one of my specimens (which I believe has petroleum stains) glows yellow. Certain calcites from the district exhibit a faint orange-red fluorescence under short wave.

Some of the fluorites' from the area compare favorably to English fluorite with regards to fluorescence. For example, white fluorite from Mexico, KY and from Hardin Co., IL fluoresces bright blue under long wave. Purple fluorite from the ALCOA mine glows a medium blue under long wave. Grayish light purple fluorite from Minerva mine No. 1 fluoresces a medium blue under long wave.

Certain fluorites from the Griffith mine fluoresce bright blue, red, and yellow with red. This is possibly due to dissolved iron in petroleum inclusions in Griffith mine fluorite[4]. Under short wave, the petroleum shows up as a strong yellow. I have also seen traces of red fluorescence from Minerva mine No. 1 and Denton mine fluorites - always in connection with petroleum inclusions. Fluorites colored dark purple to black normally exhibit no trace of fluorescence.

I hope you enjoyed my article about the many minerals from this region. It was the first major area to contribute significantly to my interest in fluorites. It was also the area that I first started to build my collection out of. In fact, specimens from this area are the foundation of the Beadle collection. My next article will cover fluorites from some interesting mines in England, which is another major specimen producer.

[1] Personal communication with Ron Stubblefield, Curator of the Ben E. Clement Museum, in 2001.
[2] Personal communication with Garry Griffith, mine operator.
[3] Scalenohedral, as in a crystal with faces containing 3 or more pair of congruent scalene triangles (triangles whose three sides and three angles are all unequal)
[4] Personal communication with Steve Garzain, Ohio collector

References:

Rocks & Minerals, Vol. 63, No. 3. "Minerals of the Harris Creek Fluorspar District. Hardin Co. Illinois" by Ross C. Lillie, May/June 1988

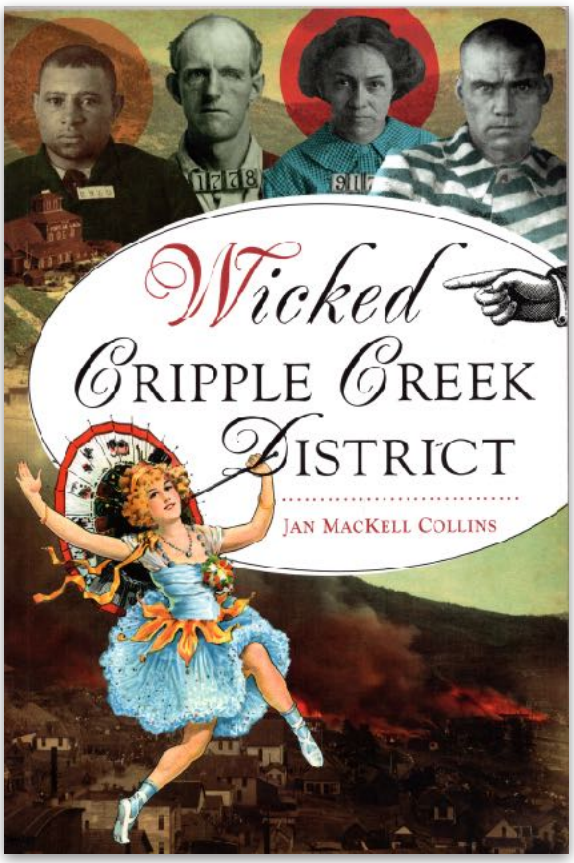
Mineralogical Record, Vol. 28, No. 1. "The Illinois-Kentucky Fluorite District" by Alan Goldstein, Jan/Feb 1997

The Henry and Patsy Schmidt Collection

The Robert Beadle Collection

[Editor's note:] Reprinted with permission. Third of three in a series of articles reprinted in the *Pick & Pack*, by various authors at various times, selected by Bob Landgraf, for the purpose of exploring fluorescence in minerals. Thanks Bob and thanks Robert Beadle. For permission to reprint this article, contact info@chicagorocks.org.

Wicked Cripple Creek District. By Jan MacKell Collins. History Press: Charleston, SC. 2024. 176 pages with black and white photographs. Paperback.



Book Review by Steven Wade Veatch

There are dozens upon dozens of histories written about Colorado's most famous mining district, Cripple Creek. What sets MacKell Collins' Wicked Cripple Creek District apart from the others is that it pulls back the curtain on the scandalous and shadowy history of the district.

Collins masterfully describes, in richly detailed storytelling, the Cripple Creek district's wicked ways, recounting the lives of its infamous inhabitants: saloon keepers whose establishments pulsed with raucous music, miners whose days were filled with the clang of picks and the scent of dynamite, brothel madams whose hushed whispers held held secrets, gamblers whose fortunes rose and fell with the roll of the dice, conmen whose slick words could charm any victim, and lawmen whose badges couldn't always keep the peace in the ever-expanding gold rush of Cripple Creek and the other towns of the district.

The book examines Cripple Creek's wild side and delves the district's dark past, including crime, exploitation, and the hardships of living in a gold camp. Yet, the author also points out the tenacity and drive of those who came to Cripple Creek to pursue riches and independence. Balancing historical accuracy and storytelling skill, her writing creates an engaging book for everyone, from history enthusiasts to casual readers.

What sets this book apart is Collins' ability to weave a tapestry of little-known stories from this period. Using firsthand accounts, historical records, newspaper clippings, and historic photos she intensely portrays the district's darker side. The bittersweet tales of hardship and loss woven into the author's narratives are a poignant reminder of lives lived on the edge. She directly addresses the racy tales and complex lives of the women in the mining camps' red-light districts.

Central to the Wicked Cripple Creek District's appeal is its focus on the human stories that make up its historical foundation. A saloon in Cripple Creek was the scene of the town's first murder in 1892—and this was only the town's second year—when Charles Hudspeth, following an argument in the Iron Clad Dance Hall, took a shot at the bartender but missed, hitting the piano player instead, killing him. By then shadows clung to the corners of the district's streets, whispering danger from dance halls, saloons, and the brothels that lined them.

More mayhem and murders followed. The Victor Hotel was the scene of a robbery in 1894, just months after it opened. The fatal

shooting of railroad superintendent Richard Newell stemmed from a heated construction right-of-way dispute.

In 1896, a quarrel broke out between Otto Floto and Jennie Larue, a prostitute living in the cramped confines of a second-floor apartment in Cripple Creek's Central Dance Hall. A fire broke out in their apartment, spread, and burned part of downtown Cripple Creek. Three years later (1899), Jennie Thompson was cleaning a garment with gasoline in the Victor shack she lived in. Her careless smoking ignited the fumes, resulting in a fire that ravaged a section of Victor.

Collins describes the sad story of Mexican Jennie and how her abusive blacksmith husband, Philip Roberts Jr., filled her life with the constant sounds of his rage, while he browbeat fear into her heart until she reached her breaking point. Then, on Christmas night, 1913, inside the walls of their Poverty Gulch shack, she shot Roberts dead. The cold steel of her gun was a stark contrast to the festive season. Collins includes a photograph of the quilt Jennie painstakingly sewed in prison—a visual autobiography stitched with love, loss, and hope; a testament to her spirit: each square a memory, each stitch a story.

A more unusual story recounts how the miner John McEachern plotted to defraud insurance companies and fake his own death in a mining accident. To perpetrate his scam, he used the corpse of Bob Speed (which would eventually be buried three times) as a substitute for his body.

Jan MacKell Collins has meticulously researched and vividly written this new account of the Cripple Creek mining district, bringing its wicked inhabitants to life and preserving their stories so that the reader can almost smell the perfume of the district's love workers, see the gamblers' sly faces as they bet, and hear the honkytonk saloon music play. Wicked Cripple Creek District is a must-read for anyone interested in Colorado mining history and the wicked side of a mining district. Collins brings to life the bright dance halls and shadowed alleyways, capturing the spirit of a time and place where fortunes were made and lives unraveled.

Rating: 4.8/5 prospector picks

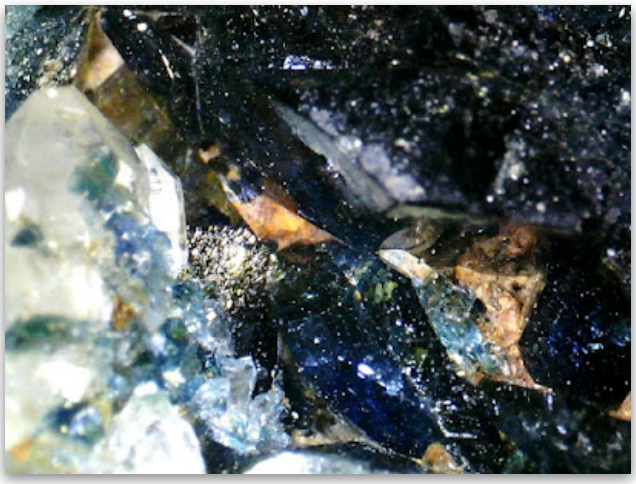
About the author: Steven is a geologist who joined the CSMS when he was 10, in 1965. The club met at that time at the old IBEW hall near the west side of the city. He was inducted into the Rock-hound Hall of Fame in 2015. His complete profile is available at:
https://www.blogger.com/profile/06566101278318062273

Gormanite from the Yukon; Finally, Sam McGee is Warm

Mike Nelson
csrockguy@yahoo.com

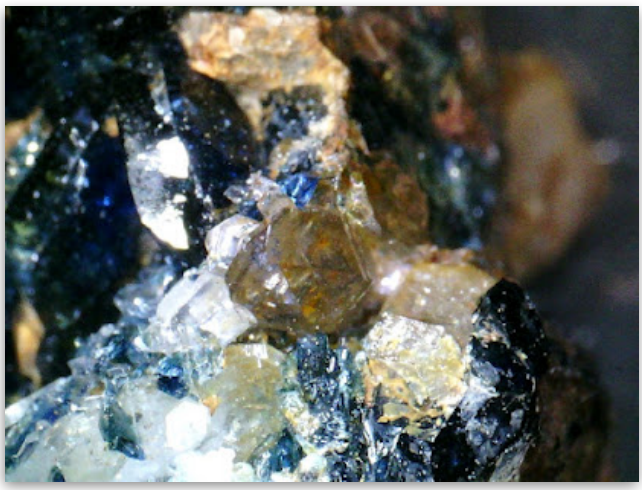
Above: A mixture of quartz, lazulite, and others. Width FOV ~9 mm. *Photomicrograph: Mike Nelson*

On a lazy weekend afternoon, I had a little daydream about phosphate minerals. My *Pick & Pack* articles usually wander all over the place but never seemed to land on phosphates. The secondary phosphates are among my favorite minerals, so I reached into my magic drawer and grabbed a box that I had been "eyeing" for several weeks—gormanite. This hydrated hydroxy phosphate is not all that attractive; however, the presence of beautiful siderite crystals, along with other microminerals beyond my skill to identify, in the specimen greatly increases the attractiveness. Mention gormanite and siderite in the same sentence and mineralogists and rockhounds in-the-know will immediately pinpoint the locality—Rapid Creek, Dawson Mining District, Yukon, Canada. Here gormanite forms as low temperature fracture fillings in siderite-rich mid-Cretaceous sandstones (Frost and others, 2003). But perhaps the best know mineral from the area is the beautiful azure-blue mineral lazulite [$MgAl_2(PO_4)_2(OH)_2$].



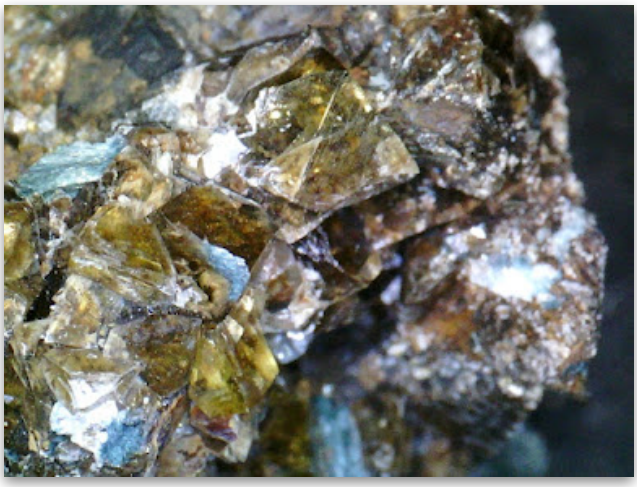
Above: Lazulite (blue), quartz, and siderite. Width FOV ~ 9 mm. *Photomicrograph: Mike Nelson*

Above: Lazulite crystal. Width ~ 3 mm. *Photomicrograph: Mike Nelson*

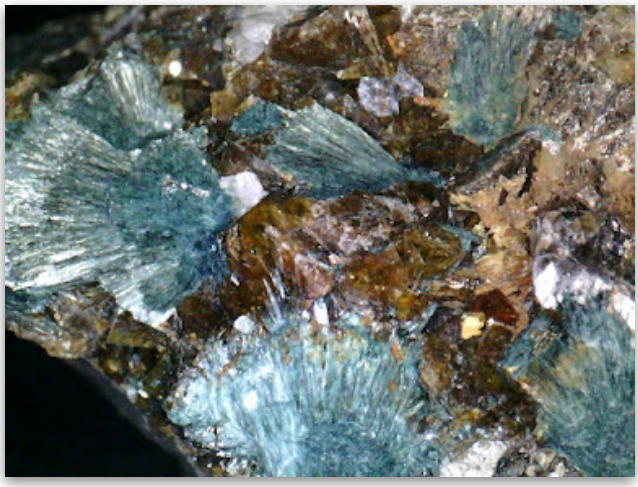


Above: Siderite crystal (center). Width ~ 2 mm. *Photomicrograph: Mike Nelson*

Above: Siderite crystals. Width FOV ~ 9 mm. *Photomicrograph: Mike Nelson*

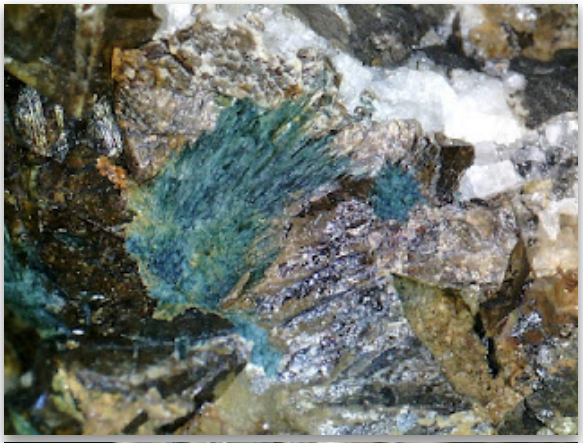


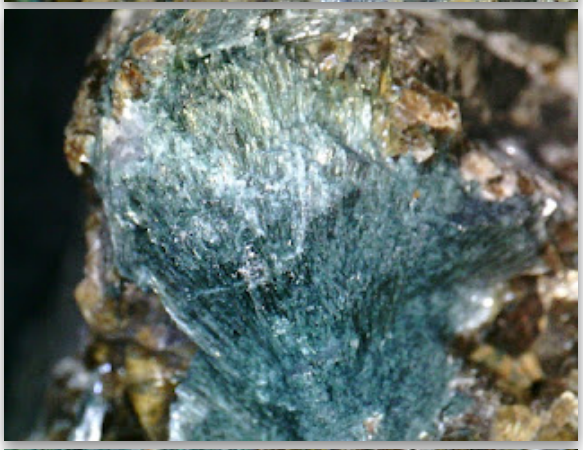
Above: Siderite crystals. Width FOV ~ 9 mm. *Photomicrograph: Mike Nelson*



Above: Gormanite sprays. Width FOV ~17 mm. *Photomicrograph: Mike Nelson*

Gormanite, $[Fe^{2+},Mg)_3(Al,Fe^{3+})_4(PO_4)_4(OH)_6\text{-}2H_2O]$ occurs as radiating aggregate of acicular, bladed crystals of a blue-green color (depending upon light conditions). Crystals do have a pale green streak, Again, depending upon light conditions, their luster appears as greasy to sub-vitreous to metallic to dull/earthy. Their hardness has been measured at 4.0-5.0 (Mohs) and they are quite brittle with a splintery fracture. Individuals are often transparent to at least translucent. Gormanite forms a solid solution series with souzalite where magnesium is the dominant cation rather than iron.





Above: Sprays of gormanite with siderite crystals and other minerals. Width FOV ~ 9 mm. *Photomicrograph: Mike Nelson*

The Rapid Creek, and associated Big Fish River localities, along with several smaller sub localities, are in northern Yukon, Canada, a locality without a coffee shop or convenience store. Oil and or mineral geologists in the late 1960s to 1980s, armed with mosquito netting headbands, were cruising around the area, and happened on chips of lazurite. This blue mineral attracted the attention of mineralogists and rockhounds and now the localities have a list of 70+ known minerals including 8+ Type Localities counting gormanite. However, although the Rapid Creek Formation is noted for the presence of well crystallized secondary phosphate minerals it is also noted for the absence of common phosphates that are a normal part of the diagenesis of iron-phosphate bearing sediments (Gunter, 2020)

Confusion abounds in describing the depositional environment of the Rapid Creek Formation. Robertson (1982), one of the first geologists to deeply delve into the Rapid Creek mineralogy and geology, believed the rocks were deposited in a quiet near shore environment. Later work by Gunter (2020) noted the "absence of clay minerals was one of the main differences between the Rapid Creek Formation and the other contemporaneous sedimentary sequences of the eastern Canadian Cordillera. Traces of volcanic ash in the form of thin bentonite layers are widespread in the shoreline to shallow marine mid-Cretaceous sedimentary sections as far east as Manitoba. These bentonite-sourced smectite clays are not present in the Rapid Creek Formation and provide supporting evidence for the deep-water deposition of the phosphatic shales… an unusual situation since the majority of world-wide phosphatic shale sequences are shallow-water deposition."

So you're a little weird? Work it! A little different? Own it! Better to be a nerd than one of the herd!
— Mandy Hale

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Gunter, R., 2020), Yukon phosphate update: https://www.mindat.org/article.php/3865/Yukon+Phosphate+Update+2020.

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Robertson, B.T.,1982, Occurrence of epigenetic phosphate minerals in a phosphatic iron-formation, Yukon. The Canadian Mineralogist: Vol. 20, No. 2.

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The Trivia

I have actually set foot in the Yukon, maybe 10 feet or so. I rode the White Pass and Yukon Route narrow gauge railroad from Skagway, Alaska, up to the top of White Pass, the U.S.-Canada border. We actually used part of Yukon to "turn around." The gold loving "stampeders" continued to the Klondike in 1896-1899. Most never "struck it reach" and returned home or died. Some of these prospectors never warmed up in the cold until their final end, like my favorite Sam McGee.

The Cremation of Sam McGee (First Stanza)
By Robert W. Service

There are strange things done in the midnight sun
By the men who moil for gold;
The Arctic trails have their secret tales
That would make your blood run cold;
The Northern Lights have seen queer sights,
But the queerest they ever did see
Was that night on the marge of Lake Lebarge
I cremated Sam McGee.

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). 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.

General Assembly

16 Jan 25

40-50 Rockhounds gathered on a chilly Colorado Springs evening at Colorado Springs Christian School to see Anthony Maltese, Senior Curator for Research, Exploration and Morphology at the Rocky Mountain Dinosaur Resource Center (Woodland Park), talk to us about the bone-wars origin of Niobrara field work in Kansas. It was an amazing talk, thank you Anthony!

John Emery presented awards to two great writers for our newsletter: Shane Riddle for his Ben E. Clement paper, and David ST. John for his poetry in the 2024 writing contest.

Business was conducted as usual and three gems were given away.

Buddy the rockhound

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

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.**

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

The PICK & PACK is published ten times per year (no issues in January or August). Unless otherwise marked, materials from this publication may be reprinted. Please give credit to the author and CSMS PICK & PACK.

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

Western Interior Paleontological Society Symposium

Date: March 22-23 2025
Where: Green Center, Colorado School of Mines

We're doing it again — preparing a fantastic symposium to fulfill your yearning for paleontological wonders! *Retrospectives: Celebrating 4 Decades of Paleo Advances* will examine key discoveries, new technologies, and revised opinions that span the past 40 years. Those four decades encompass the Western Interior Paleontological Society's entire existence, so this symposium will also celebrate our anniversary — and perhaps remind you of past symposia that you enjoyed with friends and colleagues. In addition to expert speakers, paleo artists will once again bring the past alive with their artwork. We'll also host a poster session, displays and exhibits from earth science organizations. Tickets $140, students $25.

Register at https://westernpaleo.org/wp/events/symposium-2025/

Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society

2025 APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Join online:

https://www.csms1936.com/join-colorado-springs-mineralogical-society/

LAST _____ FIRST _____ MIDDLE INITIAL _____

SPOUSE _____ Child (Name) _____ Age: _____ GRADE _____

Child (Name) _____ Age: _____ GRADE _____

#/ STREET _____ CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____ EMAIL _____

CELL PHONE _____ HOME PHONE _____

Have you previously been a member of the CSMS? YES ____ NO ____ WHEN _____

May your name and contact information be published in the CSMS Membership Directory, distributed only to members? YES ___ NO ___

May your photo may be used in the CSMS Publication "The Pick & Pack"? YES ____ NO ____

	New/Continuing Members				**New Members Only** that signed up on/between:			
	Before Jan 31, 2025		After Jan 31, 2025		May 31, 2024 - Sep 30, 2024		Oct 1, 2024 - Dec 31, 2025	
Pebble Pup Membership (4 - 12 yrs old; parent is not a member)		$10.00		$15.00		$7.50		$10.00
Junior Membership (12 - 17 yrs old; parent is not a member)		$10.00		$15.00		$7.50		$10.00
Individual Membership (18 yrs old or older)		$25.00		$30.00		$15.00		$25.00
Family Membership (2 adults and dependents under 18)		$35.00		$40.00		$20.00		$35.00
Corporate Membership (Up to 5 individual memberships)		$95.00		$100.00		$50.00		$95.00

SATELLITE GROUPS: Please check all you may be interested in joining - *fill out each year please*

PEBBLE PUPS		FACETING		LAPIDARY		Other: _____
JUNIORS		FOSSILS		PHOTOGRAPHY		
CRYSTAL		JEWELRY		OTHER		_____

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES: Volunteers are what make our club! - *fill out each year please*

GUEST SPEAKER		FIELD TRIPS		EDITOR/ WRITING		Other: _____
CLUB OFFICER		LOCAL ROCK SHOWS		LIBRARY		
HISTORIAN		ARTIST/MEDIA		REFRESHMENTS		_____

I hereby agree to abide by the Constitution and By-Laws of the Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society available at: http://www.csms1936.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Constitution_and_By_Laws.pdf. I have read the membership information, as well as the request and waiver for field trips on page II (following). I understand that all members must sign a separate waiver at each field trip to participate. I agree to abide by the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) Code of Ethics available at: http://www.amfed.org/ethics.htm

_____ _____

Signature of Primary Applicant or Guardian if Minor Application Date

Mail this form and your payment to: Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society, PO Box 2, Colorado Springs, CO 80901 - 0002

You can also join online: https://www.csms1936.com/join-colorado-springs-mineralogical-society/

Membership Chair Rev: 3 Dec 21

Page 2: CSMS Application 2025

- Membership Information Page -
- Waiver Release to Participate in Field Trips -

Membership Information

- Membership to CSMS is annual, from January 1st to December 31st. Membership dues must accompany this application, which must be filled out each year.
- Members must abide by the CSMS Constitution and By-Laws, located on the web at: http://www.csms1936.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Constitution_and_By_Laws.pdf
- Members in good standing receive the following benefits: 10 electronic issues of the CSMS Pick & Pack newsletter; right to participate in all field trips (additional fees may be required on some field trips and members are responsible for all transportation to and from); participation in one or all Satellite Groups (some groups may request additional fees to help cover resource costs); free admission to the Western Museum of Mining and Industry; a year of learning and enjoyment, plus a lifetime of memories. The Pebble Pup program is a satellite program.
- Continuing memberships must pay full-year dues; a $5 discount can be applied to renewals on or before January 31st. Anyone who has previously been a member must pay the full rate each year regardless of the time of the year they pay their dues.
- A person, family, or corporation joining the CSMS as a new member after May 30th shall pay half the yearly membership rate. A person joining CSMS as a new member after October 1st receives the rest of the current year plus the next year's membership. The partial year membership shall not apply toward the 25 year Lifetime Membership.
- Members who have paid their dues for 25 years will be awarded a Lifetime Membership on their 26th year. Lifetime Members receive all of the CSMS benefits and no longer have to pay the annual dues. Individual Memberships provided by Corporate Membership are excluded from Lifetime Status. Corporate membership grants up to 5 individual memberships and one yearly (10 issues) 3.5" x 2" advertisement in the CSMS Pick & Pack.

Release by Participants from Claims Arising By Virtue of Mineral Collecting

Led By Field Trip Leader of the Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society
A Non-Profit Corporation – Member: Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies

I/we, the undersigned, hereby request permission to participate in mineral collecting led by the Field Trip Leader of the Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society, a non-profit corporation.

I/we know the risks and danger involved in such activities and that unanticipated and unexpected dangers may arise during such activities, and I/we assume all risks of injury to my / our persons and properties that may be sustained in connection with the stated and associated activities in and around the premises.

In consideration of the permission granted to me/our participation in the stated activities, I/we hereby for myself, my heirs, administrators, and assigns release to the Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society and the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies, and their representatives, servants, agents, officers and officials and all other participants in the stated activities of and from all claims, demands actions and causes of actions of any sort, for injuries sustained to my/our person and/or property during my presence on the premises and participation in the stated activities due to negligence or any other fault.

_____ _____

Signature of Primary Applicant or Guardian if Minor Date

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

Tom Massis

Obituary by Bob Landgraf

Back in the late 1990's, I was still a fairly new member of CSMS and learning about minerals by attending various mineral shows. At one of the April Spring Shows of the Rockies run at that time by Marty Zinn, I found myself entering a dealer room with beautiful blue fluorite matrix pieces. The dealers were Tom and Loretta Massis. He was a claim owner, miner, and dealer. I bought a few specimens and casually asked if he ever would allow a club to self-dig on his claims. He wasn't sure but did not say no. I had already been acquainted with the mineral symposium run by the Geology Museum at New Mexico Tech in Socorro. Tom owned the Mex-Tex and Royal Flush claims at Bingham, just south of Socorro. I wanted to do the field trip partly as a way to promote the mineral symposium, as an additional incentive to drive 500 miles down into New Mexico in November. As November came closer and the mineral symposium was coming up on the second weekend in November, I called Tom and we scheduled a visit to his home in Albuquerque on the way down to Socorro. We were to see Tom's private collection and have a chance to buy from his inventory and then have a collecting day at his Mex-Tex claim. We had about twenty club members for the trip. We had quite a time in his home. His kids were grown and out of the house so that their bedrooms could be chuck full of boxes of specimens not to mention a full garage. Tom would also setup for a tailgate session at one of the hotels to sell in the evenings during the symposium. We bought so many specimens that he out did what his sales would normally be in Socorro! Of course, we also had some dealers in our group buying for resale. The next day we had access to the Mex-Tex. The Mex-Tex claim was up one of those low gear four-wheel drive roads. As you started up the steep road, the rocks near the claim just glistened from the coatings of drusy quartz. There was such a variety of minerals for both micro mounters and cabinet size collectors. We had quite a great experience. On subsequent trips we also got to go under-ground at the Royal Flush mine. Those were great years.

Sadly, as with Tom's passing, I realize that many of the club members from that period have also passed away. The adjacent article is an obituary put together by Ray DeMark, another claim holder in the Bingham area. The article was printed in the News Nuggets by the Albuquerque Gem and Mineral Club newsletter and reprinted with permission from their editor.

Tom Massis

Obituary by Ray DeMark

Tom Massis, long time New Mexico mineral collector, passed away in late October. He was born May, 1941 in Jefferson City, NY. Tom was an active member of the AGMC in the 1970's and 1980's and was the Field Trip Chair for several years. He acquired the Mex-Tex and Royal Flush claims near Bingham in 1987. He actively collected throughout the state with particular emphasis at the Galena King, Poison Canyon, and Stephenson-Bennett mines .and many other locations. He was part of a disappearing breed, "the mineral collector/dealer", and he sold self-collected minerals for a number of years at the Travelodge and Inn Suites during the annual Tucson show. He was a common sight at AGMC field trips with his wife Loretta, sons, Mark and Kevin and daughter Cheryl. He retired from Sandia Labs as a Senior Staff member (chemistry), in 2017 after over 50 years! He will be sorely missed by his many collecting friends and all those that knew him.

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 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.rmfms.org