



**Colorado Springs
Mineralogical Society**

Founded 1936
 ~ Lazard Cahn ~
 Honorary President
 "Pick & Pack"
 Volume 65 No. 2
 March 2025

CSMS General Assembly
 Thursday, Mar 20, 2025 7:00 PM
 Colorado Springs Christian School
 4855 Mallow Road

~ **Tina Cox** ~

"A Tale of Two Greenstones"

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

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A Tale of Two Greenstones

Join us for an engaging and educational program addressing a largely forgotten but highly significant chapter of Manitou Springs history. CSMS club member Tina Cox will explain how her experience in learning about metamorphic greenstone in Alaska ultimately led her to discover Manitou Greenstone – a unique stone found exclusively in a small section of Manitou Springs which played a huge role in the building of that town. Learn the history and geology of the stone that was used to build Miramont Castle, the Manitou post office and dozens of other notable structures

throughout both Manitou and Colorado Springs.



Both rock hounds and history buffs are bound to enjoy this intriguing presentation. You'll be shocked to discover the history that has been hidden in plain view since the late 1800's.



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,

I hope your March is off to a great start! As we prepare to move into the Spring (soon!), a new thing is happening at the Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society this month.

First of all, your CSMS Board has approved a new annual award that we will give out at the end of this year for the first time. The Prospector of the Year Award will be given out annually to the society member who finds the best mineral specimen within that calendar year, as voted on by you, the CSMS members. To be eligible, the club member must bring the specimen to a general assembly meeting for all members to see, they must have discovered it and dug it themselves (with no machines), and nominate that particular specimen for the award at the end of the year. All members will vote on the award after viewing all nominated specimens at the November general assembly meeting.

We will give out this award at the end of this year alongside The Rockhound of the Year Award, which is our other major annual award in the CSMS. As a refresher, the Rockhound of the Year award is given out to the active member in good standing who represents club goals as stated in our constitution, volunteers to lead field trips or speaks at club meetings, leads sub-group meetings or serves on a committee such as the annual show or fundraising committee; they may participate in field trips, help at general meetings, volunteer at the June show, and perform other tasks for the good of the club; or serve on the Board of Directors, as an officer, or as a sub-group leader.

Let me know if you have any questions about either of these awards—nominations for these awards will open in the Fall.

Also, a quick reminder: 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, I'll say it again: field trip and digging season is right around the corner as it usually starts next month! We'll start populating our field trip schedule with trips and events for this summer later in the Spring. If you have ideas or key places you would like to visit (or if you would like to set up your own field trip), please let Kyle Atkinson know—he is our field trip coordinator. His email address is: Atkinson.KyL@gmail.com.

Thanks everyone, and happy digging this March!

Warm Regards,
Alex

Alexander Field
alexfield1@gmail.com

CSMS Group Calendar

Mar '25 Apr '25

12 Mar	9 Apr	Fossil Group	2nd Wed	6:00 PM	East Library	Kristine Harris Richard Villareal	719-593-1524 831-760-6985
6 Mar	3 Apr	Board Meeting	1st Thur	7:00 PM	Zoom	Alex Field	719-351-4897
4 Mar	1 Apr	Pebble Pups	1st Tue	4:15 PM	East Library	David St. John	719-424-9852
20 Mar	17 Apr	General Assy	3rd Thur	7:00 PM	Co Sp Christian Sch	Alex Field	719-351-4897
26 Mar	23 Apr	Jewelry Group	4th Wed	6:00 PM	Library 21c	Ann Schmechel	annschmech@gmail.com
27 Mar	24 Apr	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

Community Events

p.modreski@gmail.com

Fri Mar 7, 6-9 PM: Free First Friday Night at the Mines Museum;” all are welcome! The free First Evening also includes an optional event, a special Gemstone ID session with Museum Executive Director and Gemologist Renata Lafler, registration \$10, call 303-273-3815. (The following next Free First Friday at the Museum will be Friday, April 4)

Wed Mar 19: “Wednesday Night at the Museum with Kirk and Ray; with Kirk Johnson and Ray Troll, authors of “Cruisin’ the Fossil Freeway;” tickets required (see the Museum website for more info; click on events, then click on the graphic for the Kirk & Ray event. Registration required; tickets are \$10 for the evening reception and book signing, and \$100 to include a special limited-capacity one-hour presentation by Kirk and Ray preceding the reception. Museum website: <https://www.mines.edu/museumofearthscience/> Other information also on facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/MinesMuseum>

Thurs Mar 20: Colorado Scientific Society March meeting, “Lava dams, Footprints, and Faults: some vignettes from the USGS luminescence dating lab in Denver, Colorado” by Harrison Gray, U. S. Geological Survey, Luminescence Dating Lab. 7:00 p.m., at Golden Calvary Episcopal Church. For full info see: <https://coloscisoc.org/> All are welcome.

Sat-Sun Mar 22-23: Western Interior Paleontological Society (WIPS) biennial Symposium, “Retrospectives: celebrating 4 decades of paleo advances.” For info on this and the monthly WIPS meetings, see <https://www.westernpaleo.org/>

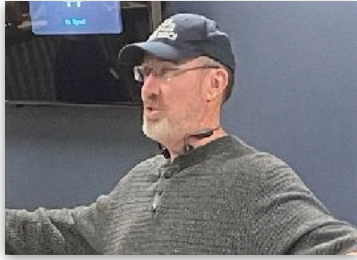
Thurs Mar 27: Friends of Mineralogy, Colorado Chapter, monthly meeting, featuring Dr. Aaron Celestian, Mineral Sciences Curator, Natural History Museum of Los Angeles; “Prospering backyards: a collaboration of art, science, and community”. 5:30 p.m., Berthoud Hall Room 243, CSM campus, Golden. See <https://friendsofmineralogycolorado.org/events/> for more info. All are welcome.

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

Fri-Sat-Sun Mar 28-30: Fort Collins Rockhound Club 62nd Annual Gem and Mineral Show, (Fri. 4-8 PM; Sat 9-6; Sun 10-4) at The Ranch/Larimer County Fairgrounds in the Thomas M. McKee 4-H, Youth and Community Building, 5280 Arena Circle, Loveland, Colorado. Free parking; admission charge. Show theme is “Feldspar and Jasper”.

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 Cockrell, 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 Feb 20, Colorado Springs Christian School

Address: 4855 Mallow Rd, Colorado Springs CO 80907

Board Attendance: President: Alex Field, Vice President: Shane Riddle, Secretary: John McGrath, Past President: John Massie, Treasurer: Kevin Witte, Member-at-large: Austin Cockrell, Show Chair: Lisa Cooper, 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 Alex.
- III. Program Speaker - Dan Kile spoke on Lazard Cahn, his collection and the Zentmayer Army Hospital Microscope
- IV. Meeting - There were 6 new members in attendance and 10 minerals were given. Attendance was 42
- V. Officer Reports
 - A. President - Alex Fields
 1. Volunteer Coordinator needed for the Gem and Mineral Show. Please see John Massie to volunteer.
 2. The Fundraising Committee has begun meetings.
 - B. Vice President - Shane Riddle - Absent
 - C. Treasurer- Kevin Witte - working on the Club's books to automate and digitize them.
 - D. Secretary- John McGrath -Requested that you update your email with him at john.mcgrath115@gmail.com if you are not receiving the monthly Pick and Pack.
 - E. Membership Secretary - Adelaide Bahr - She requested that you turn in your annual membership renewals/applications to her or renew online on our website.
 - F. Editor - John Emery -absent
 - G. Member at Large - Austin stated that he had purchased more mineral plates for our mineral giveaways.
 - H. Past President - John Massie - no report
 - I. Website and show boss - Lisa Cooper, working on the show

VI. Satellite Groups

- A. Crystal Group - Kevin Witte and Austin Cockrell - next meeting will be on "How Crystals form in miarolitic cavities."
- B. Faceting Group - Contact John Massie to reserve a spot learning or using the machine.
- C. Pebble pup group - David St John - absent
- D. Fossil Group -Kristine Harris and Richard Villareal- Absent
- E. Jewelry Group - no report
- F. Lapidary Group - Sharon Holte - absent

VII. Liaisons

- A. Claims and Librarian -.Frank Rosenberg and Mike McCarty. No report
- B. Field Trip Coordinator - Kyle Atkinson. No report.
- C. Hospitality Coordinator - Phil Sevenants. Thanked everyone for their food donations.
- D. Store Keeper - Ann Proctor. Absent
- E. Creative Director - Mark Mann. Absent.
- F. Scholarship Coordinator- Maureen Richardson. Working on the application and its marketing.

VIII. Unfinished Business - none discussed

IX. New Business - none discussed

X. Meeting adjourned by Alex at 8:45 PM

Respectfully Submitted

John M McGrath MD COL (RET) USA
Secretary

Alex Field
President



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.

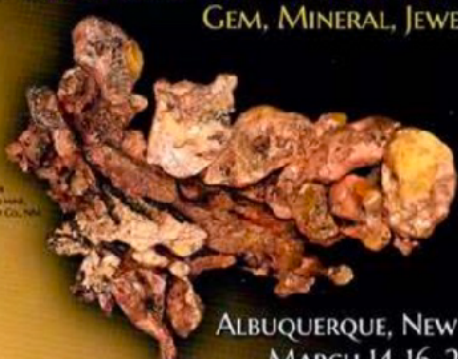
Please purchase some tickets as soon as you can because of the early show– and please donate a prize soon if you wish to.

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.

TREASURES OF THE EARTH
GEM, MINERAL, JEWELRY EXPO



ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO
MARCH 14-16, 2025

FAMILY-FRIENDLY *COMMUNITY* EVENT

**ADA GEM,
MINERAL & FOSSIL
SHOW**

MARCH 28th & 29th, 2025

FREE Admission Friday 8am-6pm
Saturday 9am-5pm

DON'T MISS OUR
EVER GROWING
FLUORESCENT UV DISPLAY
SILENT AUCTION
DEMONSTRATIONS & EXHIBITS
GRAB BAGS

**FREE SAND DIG,
ROCK IDENTIFICATION,
HANDS ON EDUCATIONAL
DISPLAY & KIDS GAMES
DINOSAUR TALKS**

**Pontotoc County
Agri-plex** 1710 N. BROADWAY -
Building #1 ADA, OK. 74820

ADA GEM, MINERAL, FOSSIL CLUB - NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
FOR MORE INFORMATION Contact: Bobby Freeman (580)399-7214

**62nd Annual 2025 Fort Collins Rockhounds
Gem & Mineral Show**

Featuring Feldspar & Jasper
Friday **March 28** 4pm-8pm
Saturday **March 29** 9am-6pm
Sunday **March 30** 10am-4pm

Details at www.fortcollinsrockhounds.org
frockhounds@gmail.com • (No dealer space available)

Thomas M. McKee 4 H, Youth & Community Building,
Larimer County Fairgrounds



**Northwest Arkansas
Gem and Mineral Society**

**2025 Gem, Mineral
and Jewelry Show**

Saturday, April 12th, 9-5
Sunday, April 13th, 10-4

Theme:
Arkansas ROCKS!

Bentonville Armory
6800 Minuteman Ave., Bentonville, AR 72712



Entry Donation: **\$5.00**
Children under 10 free with an adult

More Vendors! More Space! Family Friendly!

Vendors with gems and minerals, stones of all kinds, fossils, crystals, rough and cut stones, jewelry, home decor items from stones

Hourly Door Prizes, Silent Auction, Lapidary Demonstrations, Jewelry Demonstrations, Display Cases, Gem Sluice for finding your own stones, Food Truck for snacks

For More Information: DeLane Cox, Publicity • delanec3@earthlink.net • 479-254-0894
Sponsored by Northwest Arkansas Gem & Mineral Society

Reminder:
Advertise your Show in as many Free locations as possible!

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

Advertise in the Rock & Gem Magazine!
Send the information in early so it's published in the magazine as well as online:
www.rockngem.com/showdate-submissions/

Above from CFMS Newsletter, April 2024

A Communion of Discovery

Dedicated to Estella Leopold, conservationist¹

Melting ice washed gravels down,
burying the mammoth—hiding it through the ages.
And I found a rock at its grave,
with secrets deep inside.
I broke it, crushed it, sifted it;
dissolved it in a beaker,
spun it by a centrifuge,
and peeled back layers of time.

Now only hidden fossils remain:
Pollen grains and mossy spores—
once floating on an Ice Age breeze.

Now in that communion of discovery
these small fossils yield
the deepest glimpse through time
to the world before we came, and warn
of a future we must face—
while just outside forests change,
species die,
and life recedes.

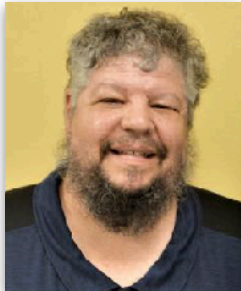


An imagined scene of the Ice Age mammoth found at the Florissant Fossil Beds, created by the author using AI.

By Steven Wade Veatch

¹Estella Leopold assisted me in the actual paleontological research mentioned in this poem. A sediment layer associated with the burial site of a Columbian Mammoth at the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument was found to contain Ice Age pollen and spores. This research resulted in a paper presented at the Geological Society of America in Denver in 2013. Estella was one of the original “Defenders of Florissant” and was instrumental in the Florissant Fossil Beds in becoming a national monument. Estella is the daughter of Aldo Leopold, who wrote the Sand County Almanac. Estella passed away February 25, 2024. She was 97 years old.

[Note:] this poem is an expanded version of an earlier poem entitled "Mammoth" by the author.



Fossilfun14@gmail.com

Pebble Pups and Earth Science Scholars

Our pups meeting on February 4th was amazing with our Guest speaker Phil Sevenants on Almandine garnets in schist from Arroyo Gulch, Canon City. He shared the best way to extract the garnets is via a freeze/thaw process that's better than a hammer to separate them from the host rock. These garnets are also magnetic and the pup's used magnets and sifters to obtain the garnets from the loose gravel. They sorted different size garnets and were able to keep them in glass bottles. They also received large garnets from Alaska from a generous donor. Our next meeting is March 4th, East library 4:15 PM - see ya there!



Geology Day February 22nd at the WMMI was a Huge Success

We had a very busy and successful day for Geology Day at the Western Museum of Mining and Industry booth. Our focus was on the Rock Cycle with many hands-on samples to touch and learn about Earth Science. Betty came from the Lake George Club to help with the many crafts and questions the families had during the day. Sawyer also volunteered to help our community as our top Earth Science Scholars once again. Thank you for all the club members that have donated items for our outreach programs throughout the year. The gem dig was a big hit with the kids and several pamphlets were passed out to hopefully grow our member base. Thank you Betty, Sawyer, and all the pups that came to support our special day. Huge shout out to Phil Sevenants for his generosity and time for our pups.



Junior Rockhound of the Year 2024

Sawyer Blizzard was won three years in a row and is heading to college this fall studying Geology. Our club is so proud of all his accomplishments over the last few years. We will miss him but celebrate his future endeavors. Thank you, Steven Wade Veatch, for your amazing mentorship of Sawyer since he first came to us at the June show.



wonderwoman627 at Pixabay



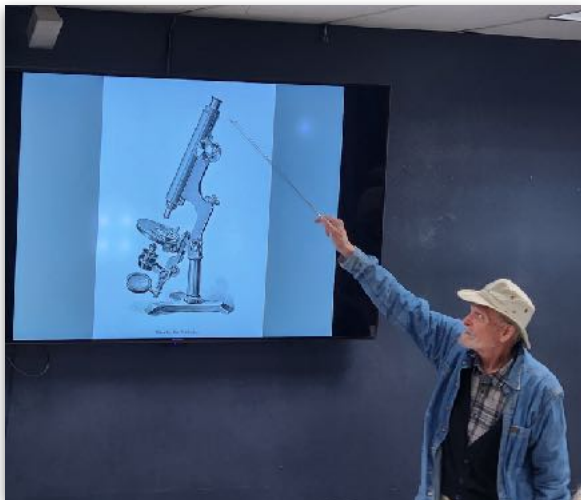
wonderwoman627 at Pixabay



General Assembly 20 Feb 25

42 rockhounds gathered on a cool Colorado Springs evening at Colorado Springs Christian School to see Daniel Kile talk to us about the Lazard Cahn microscope a.k.a Joseph Zentmayer microscopes, which were manufactured in the last quarter of the 19th century, and were considered among the best that could be attained. 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 were briefly discussed, including an R. Fuess Rosenbusch microscope (ca. 1878) from the Colorado College, and a Victorian binocular microscope Thanks Daniel!

- Pics by Tina Cox



A Few Nifty Minerals From Creede, Colorado

Mike Nelson
csrockguy@yahoo.com

I am still rummaging around my mineral collection trying to sort out and check material after my move from Colorado to Wisconsin. But I am not very diligent with sorting through a large amount of material “tossed” into the garage. This latter mess does not include my minerals; therefore, the stuff is being re-thrown into two piles 1) why did I transport this material just to haul it to Goodwill; and 2) how do I find space for this “good” stuff? I guess these are some of life’s persistent questions so perhaps I should call in Guy Noir!

Sorting minerals is an enjoyable hobby as I try to come up with ideas on how to include them into newsletter articles. Today I am briefly noting three mineral specimens that are quite attractive but only cost about a buck each. That \$3.50 total is about the price of a single black coffee at my local shop. The initial taste of the coffee is fantastic, but the enjoyment of the minerals is long lasting. In addition, I am throwing in a couple of other, slightly more expensive, specimens.

Day all day in the day-time...and there is no night in Creede, as noted by the poet Cy Warman after he arrived ~1892 in Creede, CO.

One of best-known mining areas in Colorado is Creede, located in the San Juan Mountains in the southwestern quadrant of the State. The mines of the area produced, starting in ~1891, a significant amount of silver. The

mine owners prospered for a couple of years but then the Panic of 1893 hit like a bomb as the Sherman Silver Act was repealed that year. Many smaller and less productive silver mines at all locations in the country were shuttered due to lower prices for silver and costly production costs. However, the Creede mines utilized their massive silver-rich veins and lower production costs to survive the Panic and produce until 1985 when the Last Chance mine closed. But even today there are rumors of core drilling in the area as companies try to ferret out new productive veins.

Creede is a booming community today—but only during the summer/fall months. Like the mythical Phoenix arising from the ashes and regenerating itself, Creede has made the journey from a typical western mining community with periods of boom and bust to a thriving “destination locality” that attracts thousands of visitors each year. The community has “boomed” due to the merging of their past silver history/wealth with an absolutely gorgeous physical setting at 8850 feet, a well designed underground mine tour, an underground museum, well preserved Victorian buildings and timbered mining structures, art galleries, numerous cultural and social events such as a rock and mineral show, a scenic main street hemmed in by tall, 1000 feet, beds of rhyolite, and the presence of the Amethyst Vein that still produces great mineral specimens. However, the icing on the cake was the arrival, in 1997, of Jack Moris, a long-haul truck driver, and his dream of turning a mine or two into an immense geology attraction. So, off he went and purchased the Last Chance Mine situated along the Amethyst Vein, started

specimen-collecting, both in the mine and in the dumps, and soon attracted hordes of rockhounds and tourists. Today, visitors can pay a very modest fee to collect in the dumps, take an educational underground mine tour (fully approved by the State), and shop. Old Creede, along with the ingenious Jack and his mine, has proved to be a spectacular tourist attraction, not only for rockhounds but for fans attending performances of the well-respected Creede Repertory Theater, the annual rock drilling competition, and the camping, off road and ATV trails, and nearby cold-water trout fisheries to provide a wealth of opportunities.

As a kid growing up in small town Kansas, I believed that we could see the mountains as soon as dad crossed the Kansas-Colorado state line on U.S. 40 heading to Denver. Today, more educated Kansas visitors to Colorado know you can't spot Pikes Peak from I-70 but often believe that the State's magnificent mountains formed about the same geological time during the Laramide Orogeny (AKA mountain building event). And it is true that the Laramide event greatly affected much of the western half of the State. I suppose it is too complicated to tell the kiddos that the elevation of the Front Range is due to a post Laramide regional uplift and accentuated by erosion.

However, the San Juan Mountains have their ancestor in the major volcanic event starting about 40 Ma when large magma domes begin pushing up and exploding, a massive ignimbrite flare-up across Utah, Colorado, and Utah in what must have been spectacular fashion. Many of these volcanoes and vents spewed out so much

ejecta they collapsed inward forming great calderas (think Crater Lake in Oregon). The best known of these San Juan calderas is probably the La Garita Caldera associated with a "Supervolcano" erupting about 28 Ma (location: east of Creede). The caldera is huge, something like 22 by 47 miles. The major ejecta from the La Garita explosion is termed the Fish Creek Tuff, a dacite by composition (high silica content). Geologists believe the Fish Creek Tuff occupies an area of ~1200 cubic miles. In contrast the eruption of Mt. Saint Helens in 1980 produced ~0.25 cubic miles of ejecta. (Steven and others, 1976)

Around 25-26 Ma another volcano in the Creede area (current geography) blew its stack and then subsided forming a caldera. This action allowed mineral-rich hydrothermal solutions to rise toward the surface, cooling, and then depositing the rich metallic ores that later produced silver, lead, zinc, and other metals. Along with these ores the hot solutions cooled into quartz, including the lavender to purple, band of quartz termed the Amethyst Vein, and the sowbelly agate.

MinDat (November 2024) lists 95 different minerals from the Creede Mining District obtained from about 100 mines and prospects. However, most of the wealth came from the Holy Moses Mine (discovery mine), Empress Mine, the Amethyst Vein mines: Amethyst Mine, Bachelor Mine, Commodore Mine with the OH Vein, P Vein, Commodore #5 Mine, and the Happy Thought Mine, the Last Chance Mine, Nelson Tunnel, and the Park Regent Mine. Although production figures are a little fuzzy, the Creede District produced about 9,000 tons

of lead, 2000+ tons of silver, 4,000 tons of zinc and lesser amounts of other minerals. Today the District is still in the mining business; however, the source of the “ore” is U. S. currency pulled from the pockets of thousands of visitors.

Interestingly, the mineral creedite $[Ca_3Al_2(SO_4)(OH)_2F_8 \cdot 2H_2O]$ did not come from the Creed Mining District but from the Colorado Fluorspar Company Mine at Wagon Wheel Gap about 10 miles southeast of Creede. The mine was active from 1911 to 1950 and produced fluorite for use as a flux in the open-hearth furnaces at the Colorado Fuel & Iron Company's steel mill in Pueblo, Colorado.



Above: Nice, semi-translucent, honey colored crystals of sphalerite with dull gray cubes of galena (lead sulfide) collected from the Commodore Mine. Width FOV ~4.5 cm. *Photomicrograph: M. Nelson*



Above: I picked up this specimen due to numerous, small, gemmy, sparkling, terminated quartz crystals. These sparkles host several darker, almost appearing black, crystals of sphalerite (zinc sulfide) along with a couple of translucent crystals of greenish sphalerite. Width FOV ~6 mm. Collecting was in the "5th level, Commodore Mine." *Photomicrograph: M. Nelson*



Above: Beautiful, partially tarnished wire silver with a "peeling" top. Length of specimen ~1.1 cm. The Creede Mining District produces some of the best wire silver in the world. *Photo: M. Nelson*



Above: Wire silver covered with small nodules of acanthite (silver sulfide) and chalcopyrite (copper-iron sulfide). Collected from the Last Chance Mine. Width FOV ~6-7 mm. *Photomicrograph: M. Nelson*



Above: This specimen appears to be group of goofy looking quartz crystals. Actually the quartz is amethyst with a manganese coating. Collected from the Last Chance Mine. Width FOV ~6.2 cm. *Photomicrograph: M. Nelson*

Creede Colorado the LAST great place.

One is never wholly conscious of the greed hidden in one's heart until one hears the sweet sound of silver.

- R. Zafon

REFERENCES CITED

Steven, T. A., and Lipman, P. W., 1976, Calderas of the San Juan volcanic field, southwestern Colorado: U.S. Geological Survey Professional Paper 958.



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). But mostly he just tries to enjoy life with frosty IPAs, travel, and collecting mundane facts and pretty rocks/minerals.

PICK & PACK

THE BULLETIN OF THE COLORADO SPRINGS MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY Published Since 1960



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.

Classifieds & Announcements

Western Museum of Mining and Industry

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

<https://wmmi.org/>



**WESTERN MUSEUM OF
MINING & INDUSTRY**

New Pick & Pack Logo



The new Pick & Pack logo reflects definitive colors and features of Colorado Springs.

The pink glow can sometimes be seen at sunrise but disappears within minutes to be replaced by pale blue sky (you have to get up early!). The blue-green lettering is reminiscent of the unique color of the Pikes Peak Region Amazonite we love to hunt. The outline of the mountain is an accurate outline of Pikes Peak including the long sweeping arm that casts a shadow to the North. Just like our seasons, the Pick & Pack logo will celebrate colors and features depending on the time of year or even time of day. The logo shown here represents the beautiful Winter/morning view of Pikes Peak viewed from mid-town — Ed.

61st Annual
PIKES PEAK
Gem, Mineral &
Jewelry Show
JUNE 6-8, 2025
Norris Penrose Event Center

This year's theme is **BERYL**



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.



Pick & Pack
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Colorado Springs, CO 80901-0002



CSMS is an incorporated nonprofit organization with the following goals:

- To promote and disseminate knowledge of the earth sciences, especially as they relate to mineralogy, lapidary, and fossils.
- To encourage study, collection, and fashioning of minerals.
- To accomplish the same through social meetings, lectures, programs, displays, shows, and field trips.
- The Pick & Pack newsletter is published 10 times each year to assist and promote the above.

Joining the Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society (CSMS):

- Meetings are held the third (3rd) Thursday of each month, except January & August.
- 7:00 PM at Colorado Springs Christian School, 4855 Mallow Rd, Colorado Springs CO 80907
- Visitors are always welcome.
- Individuals—\$30, Family—\$40, Juniors—\$15, Corporate—\$100.
- Find the application at the web site: www.csms1936.com. If you are interested in joining CSMS or would like more information, we encourage you to attend our next General Meeting or visit our web site.

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

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

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

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