

Colorado  
Mineral  
Society



Volume 76 Issue 1

January 2012



# Mineral Minutes

January 2012

## Colorado Science and Engineering Fair

CMS recently received a communiqué from Sam Bartlett, Special Awards Coordinator for the Colorado Science and Engineering Fair. Here is his first paragraph:

“Preparations are underway for the 57<sup>th</sup> annual Colorado Science and Engineering Fair to be held on April 5 – 7, 2012 . . . An important element in the Fair is the Special Awards Program. This is a voluntary program sponsored entirely by participating institutions. Each organization assembles its own panel of judges, uses its own criteria to select award winners, and then presents the award at the Awards Ceremony. In the past, your organization (CMS) has been an integral part of the Special Awards Program, and we are looking forward to your continued participation.”

Indeed, the Colorado Mineral Society is the only organization that has participated in the Fair from its beginning 57 years ago. If you think that you might enjoy being a member of our panel of judges, please get in touch with me, Jerry Kiefer, at 303-679-8049 or at [jerrykiefer@comcast.net](mailto:jerrykiefer@comcast.net).

## TRAVELING COLORADO'S GEM TRAILS with RICHARD PEARL

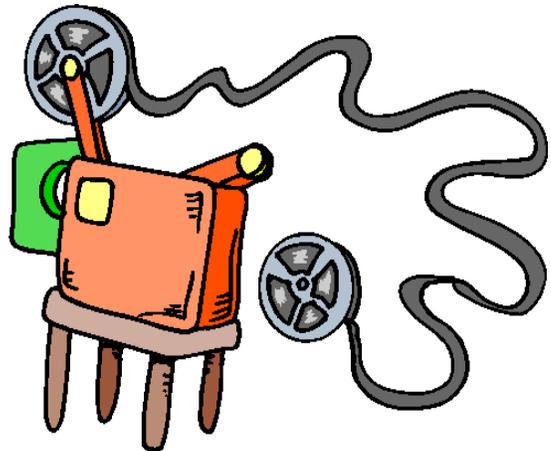
This month's display contains a representative sample of Colorado rocks and minerals as described in one of the most respected of Colorado's rockhound "bibles": *Colorado Gem Trails and Mineral Guide*, by Richard M. Pearl, one of the founders, in 1936, of the Colorado Mineral Society. Professor Pearl was the author of more than 300 articles and over 30 books on popular mineralogy.

Some time in 1958 I came across Pearl's newly published guide and studied it thoroughly. My whole family soon joined me in wanting to follow him around

the state. And we did do that. Some of the displayed minerals date back to that trip; others from our club field trips; and some I've purchased over the years. I hope you find the display enjoyable.

*Both articles by Jerry Kiefer*

## February Meeting: Movie Night!



Daryl will have 2 movies for us to pick from rock/mining themed material. Let us settle back with our popcorn and watch a good show!



# Mineral Minutes

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January 2012

Dear CMS Members,

Although we have certainly had our share of warm days this unusually dry winter I have not had time to venture out and do any collecting. However, Spring is only a few months away and I have begun compiling this year's field trip list. We will do several of the old favorites (Tarryall, DIA, Sedalia, Crystal Peak, Antero) and I am working to line up some new trips including rescheduling some trips that were cancelled last year because of poor weather (hard to remember based on this year's snowpack that last year's total was significantly above normal and then we had a very wet spring that kept the rivers running high and the groundwater flowing in the mines).

I am also looking to do one or more trips to neighboring states including Wyoming, Utah, New Mexico and perhaps others. However, I am always open to new ideas and suggestions and if any of you have some ideas on other places to go please let me know at the February general meeting. I would note that we have tended to focus on mineral collecting trips (we are after all, the Colorado Mineral Society) but I would like to do a few more trips that focus on lapidary materials (agate, jasper, jade), fossils or even meteorites (or impactites...thanks Dan for a great talk last month!). I am also working to schedule one or more "adventure" field trips that would involve some more involved hikes and/or climbs to some out of the way localities for physically fit members looking for something different. So please let me know your ideas by e-mail, phone, or in person. Finally, like all worthwhile endeavors, me and the other CMS trip leaders could use additional volunteers to lead CMS trips. The main benefit of being a CMS trip leader is you get to schedule some time in the great outdoors looking for cool rocks and minerals with a bunch of fun, intelligent, really nice people, including some of our award-

winning junior members who seem to have a nose for high quality specimens! Also, if you are interested in being a field trip leader but don't feel comfortable leading a trip by yourself let me know and I'll try and pair you up with a knowledgeable club member.

So please consider being a trip leader if you can lead a trip to a locality you think the club would be interested in visiting. Remember our field trips can also include trips to museums and other non-collecting sites, for example someone suggested visiting a commercial granite countertop business last year but I wasn't able to follow up on it. Again, all suggestions are welcome so send me your suggestions, or even better, consider volunteering to lead a trip and help make our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary field season one of the best in CMS history!

Sincerely,  
Gary Rowe  
CMS Field Trip Coordinator  
[glowe@usgs.gov](mailto:glowe@usgs.gov)  
work phone: 303-236-1461  
home phone: 720-962-0212





# Mineral Minutes

January 2012

## AFMS Conservation and Legislation

*by John Martin,  
AFMS Conservation & Legislation Chair  
From the February 2012 Issue of AFMS News*

On November 3, 2011 a bill was introduced in congress that has a large impact on all 5 states of the Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies.

The bill is entitled Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act – H.R 3334 and was sponsored by Rep. Carolyn Maloney [D-NY14]. The purpose of the bill is to “Designate certain National Forest System lands and public lands under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior in the States of Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming as wilderness and wild and scenic rivers, to provide for the establishment of a Northern Rockies Wildlife Habitat and Corridors Information System and Program, and for other purposes.”

If enacted, this bill will turn 24-million acres of the Northwest Federation’s National Forest and BLM Public land into a massive wilderness. This may have a devastating effect on access to amateur rock, mineral and fossil collecting sites in a five state area. More information on this bill may be found AFMS Conservation and Legislation by John Martin, AFMS Conservation & Legislation Chair on the American Lands Access Association Website:

<http://www.amlands.org/6652/index.html>.

The American Federation of Mineralogical Societies and the American Lands Access Association recognizes the need to conserve and protect our Natural Resources and Wildlife Habitat with sensible and reasonable Land Management Practices, this bill seems to take that protection to an extreme.

As this congressional legislative session comes to an end it appears that the Rockhound Community has not lost access to any identified collecting sites through legislative actions.

## Rock Solid

One of my favorite TV shows of all time is a DIY show called ‘Rock Solid’. It features two cousins who are stone masons back East in Massachusetts. I have watched them for two years when I was beginning to go through the grief period when my son Charlie died. Those cousins built walls, stairs, counter tops, concrete patio slabs and more walls. I watched each one while knitting, and then I realized the knitting was in my lap and I was glued to the TV and watching their every detail as they chipped a piece of granite curbing or laid a slab of bluestone on a porch. Well, after all that, I thought I could build something from stone. (Silly me!) I went to Santa Fe Sand and Gravel and talked to the guy in the office and asked him what to use in my planter that would eventually be 40 feet around. He recommended something called Rip Rap, which turned out to be granite and mica. I don’t think he thought he would ever see me again. After I dug the foundation, I was back and fine crusher stone was delivered and then the rock came crashing down all over the driveway. Now the rock is all in and I need a few more cap stones, but it is starting to look like a planter. Now I need some more dirt and flowers!





# Mineral Minutes

January 2012

MAY 05, 2012

Please put this date  
on your calendar

WHY??

The Colorado Mineral Society (CMS) will have its annual silent auction of mineral hobby items on May 5th at the Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church located at 920 Kipling, 3 blocks north of 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Lakewood, from 11:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. Admission is free. The auction features reasonably priced minerals, fossils, faceted stones, lapidary equipment, books, and jewelry to the general public. A unique aspect of this auction is the ability for visitors to view and bid on fluorescent minerals in a special ultraviolet powered Fluorescent Room! There are door prizes every half hour, and a special verbal auction at 1:00 P.M. of museum quality specimens donated by special dealers. There is abundant parking, refreshments, and easy handicap access without any stairs. As always, the club will have a few auction tables reserved for only children to bid on.

MORE TO COME NEXT MONTH

Rich Nelson

## Colorado Mineral Society Minutes

January 6, 2012

Introduction of new visitors

**Daryl Lamb**

April Meeting falls on Good Friday – Meeting moved to Clements Community Center @ 7:00

Guest Speaker: **Dan Wray**

Announcements:

**Cara Reynolds:** Reading of new members

**CMS dues are due for 2012**

**Bruce Sales:** Display Cases

February – Need a volunteer

March – Sandra Gonzales

April – Rob D

**Eva:** Raffle Announcement – See page 5 for the donors and prizes won.

**Gary:** Working on field trip list

The planning for the Gem & Mineral show is currently in progress – Theme for the 2012 Denver Show

**“Copper Minerals”**

Posters available

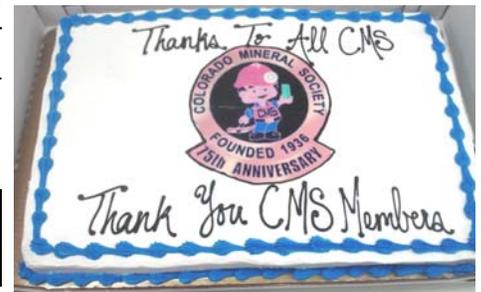
**Sandra Gonzales:** 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary update – Board has approved the purchase of the:

Rocky 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Pin; 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Patch;

Rocky Pin; Hoping they will be available for purchase in March-Sandra will organize the sale

A Commemorative cake was provided for CMS to kick off the beginning of the new year for the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration

The  
Cake!



**Bruce Geller:** Reminder that the CMS Auction is on Saturday May 5, 2012

Offering to give the CMS club a tour of the Colorado School Of Mines Geology Museum and needs set up a date

The friends of the Geology Museums has announced the Grand opening of the Toronto Museum

Need Volunteers for the Denver Show

Club Attendance: Adults – 82 Children – 11 Total in attendance 93

Door Prize Ticket Winners:

Lewis Reynolds

Judy Geller

Bob Jordan

Zelda Bailey

Phillip Gregory

Katie Chavez

Viola Padilla

Dee Horak

Dan Wray

Katie Hindman

Donna Ware



# Mineral Minutes

January 2012

## January Raffle News

The raffle continues to be a success with your never-ending support. January's tickets sold amounted to \$117, with the retail value of \$185. These funds will be spent on the state science fair awards, CMS education, and the purchase of library reading material. The Ethiopian opal (\$42) donated by **GEOdyssey**, was won by a very happy *Linda Skirrow*. *Fred Ceconi's* ticket was drawn for the amethyst point (\$19) and was donated by **David Geiger Minerals**. The faceted amethyst stone (\$18) donated by **John Kleber** was won by *Felix Beall*. *Jim Dennis* was all smiles when he won the drusy quartz specimen (\$16) donated by **Egger's Lapidary**. *Bob Heckman*, a frequent winner, claimed the celestite, calcite specimen (\$14) donated from the **Marge Regal Collection**. Last but not least, *Bob Burroughs's* ticket won the lepidolite specimen (\$8) that was donated by **David Geiger Minerals**.

**Thank you to those who donated these great specimens, it is fun to see the happy smiles when their number is called to be a winner!!!**

Thanks go to John Kleber, and Bill Jones for helping with the raffle.

Congratulations to all our lucky winners.

Submitted by Eva, CMS Raffle Manager.

David Geiger  
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John Kleber

Marge Regal

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GOLDEN, COLORADO 80401 PHONE (303) 279-3952

## Denver Gem & Mineral Show Mini Report January 2012 'CU in Denver'

It's 2012 already and time to start planning for the 2012 Denver Gem & Mineral Show! Don't forget the dates - September 14-16, 2012. The theme is Copper – chemical formula Cu. Show Chair Larry Havens coined the phrase "Cu in Denver". Clever!

The show poster is done and is eye-catching featuring green brochantite, red cuprite, blue azurite, green malachite and golden copper. The small posters and rack cards are available for club members so please use them to publicize the show.

The volunteer sign-up sheets are also out to the clubs. Please remember it takes about 400+ volunteers to put on the show so we depend on the generosity of club members to volunteer their time and energy to help with the show. There are many jobs available, including some sitting ones. Sign up for your favorite position early. Attached to the sign-up sheet is a brief description of all the positions along with the chair's name and contact information if you have questions about the job.

The Show Committee meets each month except December, February and July to plan the show. The meetings are held at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science beginning at 7:30 p.m. As you may suspect, we are always looking for fresh faces to help with ideas for the planning. If you enjoy the show and would like to become more involved, contact your club representative (CMS – Daryl Lamb, Littleton – Jeff Goldsberry, Flatirons – Carl Bird, Guild – Kathy Honda, Friends of Mineralogy – Jim Hurlbut, North Jeffco – Ron Knoshaug, RAMS – Judy Knoshaug) or a club member currently on the committee. He or she will be glad to bring you along and introduce you to the committee. It is a little bit of work but so rewarding to be a real part of the show. There is a job on the committee which will match with your talents.

Respectfully submitted,  
Judy Knoshaug, Secretary



# Mineral Minutes

January 2012

## Pete Modreski News:

The first few events are **Public Schools who need Science Fair Judges**. This sounds very interesting and fun. The best time to raise geology minded kids is right here in the Elementary schools

**Belmar Elementary School, 885 S. Garrison St., Lakewood, Feb. 9, 9:15 a.m.**

"The date for our science fair judging is Thursday February 9, 2012, start time is 9:15 am. We expect to have approximately 90 participants this year (5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders). Depending on the number of judges, we hope to have the judging completed by lunch time. We will be providing both breakfast and lunch for the judges.

Thank you very much for your help, Deborah Bowling, [bowling\\_2@comcast.net](mailto:bowling_2@comcast.net), 303-618-5296

**Ralston Elementary School (Lookout Mountain, Genesee area), Feb. 9, 5:30 p.m.**

"The 2012 Science Fair is just around the corner. Judging will take place at Ralston Elementary on **Thursday, February 9 at 5:30** (of course, dinner & dessert will be provided to all judges). Please reply as to your interest/availability as soon as possible. The fifth grade students are required to participate in Science Fair this year so we are anticipating a higher number of projects to judge thus we need more judges. We would greatly appreciate your help in judging again this year and will provide materials for your review prior to the event. Please forward contact information for anyone that you know who may be interested. We hope we can count on your help to help make this year's Fair a success.

Sincerely, Amy Flynn [aeflynn23@hotmail.com](mailto:aeflynn23@hotmail.com) 303-526-9263

Lanie Westgard [rlwestgard@msn.com](mailto:rlwestgard@msn.com) 303-526-2574

**Blue Mountain Elementary School, St. Vrain Valley School District, Longmont, Feb. 29:**

"The Science Fair Coordinators at Blue Mountain Elementary are looking for judges who are willing to volunteer five to six hours of their time on Wednesday, February 29, 2012, and who are able to ask meaningful questions of participating students to assess their understanding of and learning from their science fair projects. We expect each judge to take 7 to 10 minutes

per project and to grade approximately 25 projects in all. Blue Mountain will provide lunch.

On the day of the Science Fair (2/29/12), we need judges to be at the school by 9 am for a brief introduction. Judging will begin at 9:15 am. Judges will work in groups of three or more, and will evaluate: (1) 5th-grade or 4th-grade life science; (2) 5th-grade or 4th-grade physical science; (3) 5th-grade or 4th-grade earth and space science; or, (4) preschool through 3rd-grade class and individual projects. Judges will be interacting directly with the student(s), asking questions about the project, reading the project notebook, and observing the project display. The individual judges will then grade each project using a detailed, easy-to-understand rubric (provided), and are encouraged to write a brief, personal comment for each project judged. The judges in each fourth- and fifth-grade subject area group will select a first-, second- and third-place winner from amongst their group of projects, and the fifth-grade project judges from all three subject areas will together determine the overall school winner. If you think that you can help, please let me know in which area your expertise lies. Also, please feel free to recommend anyone else whom you think may be able to help us.

Thanks for your time! I look forward to hearing from you soon!"

Rebecca Weihe, Science Fair Committee, Blue Mountain Elementary, 1260 Mountain Dr., Longmont, CO 80503, email [weihefamily@yahoo.com](mailto:weihefamily@yahoo.com)

**Kepner Middle School, 911 S. Hazel Ct., Denver, Mar. 16;** The science fair at this school (rescheduled from an earlier date) is being organized by Community Resources, Inc.; approx. time, 8:30-11:30 am; to volunteer please contact CRI c/o Jill Peterson, [Jill.Peterson@dpsk12.org](mailto:Jill.Peterson@dpsk12.org) or Debbie Turner, [Debbie.Turner@dpsk12.org](mailto:Debbie.Turner@dpsk12.org) or call 720-424-2300.



Copper from Wikipedia



# Mineral Minutes

January 2012

## It's Time Again For Another Thrilling Chapter In The Continuing Saga Of A Tow Truck Driving Rock Hound

*By Eric Hedricks*

Happy New Year everyone. 2012 started right where 2011 left off with snow and ice and cold and a lot of people who cannot drive. But Winter is a third of the way over and the days are noticeably longer. I can't wait to see bare ground and sunshine again. I must have really hit my head hard because I completely spaced out the January meeting and went to the ranch to play with my Marble project.

I tried to do some cutting, but the bearing on my Lapidary unit started making a lot of noise so I shut it down and took it apart and sent off to Diamond Pacific for a new one.

I guess my craftsmen of the month deal a few years ago caught the eye of some folks a while back and they got in touch with me. Seems these people have a shop in Northern California and they have offered me a position as a Lapidary and Silversmithing instructor. It is a great opportunity, the only problem is it is in California. I am a native of Colorado and have spent the last fifty years griping about people moving here from California, now I could be headed out there. But why not give it a try. This place doesn't seem like home anymore. I have had the same job for the last 15 years and I am not going anywhere there. And I'm sure that my family and "friends" would be overjoyed to see me go so they can freely raid my claims without having to worry about me finding out. Of course I will keep you all posted, but things could happen real fast after Tucson. That's about all on this end for this month. I will try to remember the meeting this month and hope to see you all there. Until then, stay safe and keep on rocken!

I want to start now to let you all know that if you want your name in the directory and a Field Trip Guide at the May meeting, make sure you are a current member!!!!

## More Pete Modreski News:

**Denver Metro Regional Science and Engineering Fair, Feb. 22:** Taking place at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science; judging will be from 11:00 a.m. to approx. 5:00 p.m. For information and to register as a judge see the judges information web page, <http://ahec.ucdenver.edu/sciencefair/judges/index.asp>

**Colorado State Science Fair, April 5:** "The Colorado State Science Fair, Inc. Board of Directors would like to take this opportunity to invite you to participate as a Grand Awards Judge at the 2012 Colorado Science and Engineering Fair (CSEF). The fair will be held at Colorado State University in Fort Collins on April 5-7, 2012. Approximately 320 6-8 (Junior Division) and 9-12 (Senior Division) grade student finalists from 13 Regional Science Fairs will compete at the 57th Annual CSEF. As a Grand Awards Judge, you will be selecting the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and Honorable Mention award winners from your assigned category and division. All judging will take place on Thursday, April 5th from 10:15 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. Judge check-in will be from 9:00 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. Team Captains will be required to check-in before 9:15 a.m. and will need to stay until 8:30 p.m. to serve on the All-Fair Judging Team to select the three best projects from each division.

Online Registration at the CSEF Website:

\* Home page for the Colorado State Science and Engineering Fair: <http://www.csef.colostate.edu/>

\* Grand Awards Judge Information page: <http://www.csef.colostate.edu/Judges.htm>

\* To register to be a Grand Awards Judge for the 2012 CSEF, please go to <http://129.82.204.188/csef/gaj/login.php>



Colorado Mineral Society has been judging this show in Fort Collins since the beginning. Help us keep up with the tradition and volunteer to be a judge at this upcoming show. See Jerry Kiefer and/or page 3 for more information.



# Mineral Minutes

January 2012

## Up Coming Events:

February 3, 2012 Regular meeting at St. Paul's church, 10th and Garrison, 7:30 PM

February 9-12, 2012 58th Annual Tucson Gem and Mineral Show, Tucson, Arizona

Various other shows associated with the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show . See <http://www.tgms.org/> for more information

March 2, 2012 Regular meeting at St. Paul's church 10th and Garrison 7:30 PM

March 23-25, 2012 Fort Collins Gem & Mineral Show; Larimer County Fairgrounds

April 6, 2012 Regular meeting at Clements Community Center. More about that next month.

<http://www.coloradomineralsociety.org/>

**Colorado Mineral Society**  
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If the Metro Denver area declares the roads on accident alert during a snowfall on meeting night, consider the CMS meeting canceled.

First Class Mail

