



Colorado Mineral Society

Mineral Minutes



Volume 81, Issue 1

January 2017

President's Message

by John W. Smith

Welcome to a new year everyone. Hope this finds you all well and happy.

As promised, I am starting a short series of "talks" about cleaning the specimens that you found and captured during your rockhounding ventures. I am naming this series:

To Clean or Not to Clean – That Is the Question

Have you ever thought "How come my specimens do not look like those that I have seen at rock shows or in rock shops?" or "I wish my specimens had that extra little sparkle that I have seen in the specimens that others have on display in their house". I little hint but don't spread this around – they ALL started looking the same as yours do. With the right careful preparation, yours could show that same sparkle they have inside of them.

The very first, and I mean the absolute first thing you need to consider before you attempt to clean any specimen is to ask yourself "Am I willing to completely lose all of my specimen – I really mean to lose it completely"? Even something as simple as putting your specimen in water could destroy it. You may have a wonderful cluster of crystals of a mineral that every source says is stable in water but remember there is also a matrix that holds the cluster together. That material may be water soluble. So if you put the cluster in a bucket of water you may end up with just a pile of crystals – not a cluster. Don't fool yourself and rationalize "My specimen was sitting out on the ground and nothing happened to it by being exposed to the weather (including rain) so certainly putting it in water will not hurt it". Wrong!! You have no idea how it survived until you discovered it or even what size the specimen was before you found it.

This is why when you are out in the field it is a good idea to pick up a few of the less desirable specimens you run across so that you have some pieces of the material to experiment on (try to get some that have matrix on them).

The last thing for this month's message is to remember that no matter what your experience level is, try the method that is the least aggressive method to your specimen that you have available to you (normally that would be a dry brush and clean dry air to blow off the dust), use the proper personal safety equipment, and parents – please supervise your children at all times even if they are just using water and a scrub brush. Water that is splashed into their eyes may have some of the "dirt" in it from the specimen and depending on what the "dirt" is could permanently injure their eyes.

*Happy
New Year*

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Next CMS General Meeting January 6, 2017

The next Colorado Mineral Society (CMS) general meeting will include a presentation by Mark Jacobson who will talk about collecting minerals in China. See Page 6 for an abstract of the presentation. Guests and visitors are welcome at the general meetings. The meeting starts at 7:30pm at the St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 10th and Garrison in Lakewood.

COLORADO MINERAL SOCIETY OFFICERS

2017

President: John W. Smith

First VP-Programs: Gary Rowe

Second VP-Education: Debbie Kalschur

Secretary: Sandra Gonzales

Treasurer: Eva Siemonsma

Appointed Board Members - Committee Chairpersons

Annual Auction: Ben Geller

Door Prizes-Guests: Cindy Hatfield

Library: Kevin Atwater

Display Chair: **OPEN**

Membership: Cara Reynolds

Field Trip Leader: Gary Rowe

Field Trip Leader Co-Chair: Nels Grevstad

Nominations: Bruce Sales

Grab Bags: **OPEN**

Editor: Amber Brenzikofer

Historian: Amber Brenzikofer

Scrapbook: Jennifer Knies

Junior Rockhound Coordinator: Lewis Reynolds

Junior Rockhound Assistant: **OPEN**

Hospitality: Star Edwards

Donations: Debbie Kalschur

Web Master: Julio Edwards

coloradomineralsociety@comcast.net



Representatives (Board Members)

Denver Council Rep: Bruce Sales

Denver Show Rep: **OPEN**

COLORADO MINERAL SOCIETY (CMS) was founded in 1936 by a group of distinguished individuals within the mineralogical field. The organization was incorporated as a non-profit, educational organization in 1948. The Society is affiliated with the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies and the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies, a founding member of each group.

PURPOSE: To promote the study of minerals and other geologic materials, to encourage mineral collecting as a hobby and to conduct public meetings, lectures, and field trips, and to engage in all activities which relate to said purposes of the organization.

MEETINGS: General membership meetings start at 7:30 PM on the first Friday of each month, October through May, at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, at 10th and Garrison in Lakewood, CO. Displays are set up by members about one-half hour before meetings. Specimens may be available for sale and trade.

VISITORS and **GUESTS** are welcome.

BOARD MEETINGS: The board members meet once a month to complete the executive business and affairs of the Society. Meetings will start at 7:00 PM usually the third Tuesday of each month. Additional meeting times, if necessary, may be called by the President or any three members of the board and will be announced at the general or board meetings.

MEMBERSHIP: Open to all persons who agree to abide by Society rules and rules of the Federations. Annual fees: \$16.00 for a Family or Newsletter Membership, \$14.00 for a Single Membership, \$12.00 for a Senior Membership (single or family over 65), and \$12.00 for junior members under the age of 18

who are not included in a family. Name badges are available for a one-time fee of \$7.50.

ANNUAL EVENTS: Yearly activities include a silent auction of minerals, fossils, gems, jewelry, equipment and other items related to our interests; participation in the Colorado Contin-tail, the largest mineral swap show in Colorado; participation as a member of the Greater Denver Area Gem and Mineral Council in sponsoring the largest gem and mineral show in Colorado; and the Founder's Day celebration.

FIELD TRIPS: The Society sponsors several field trips from Spring through Fall for the purpose of collecting minerals, crystals, and fossils. These trips are one-day, two-day, and occasionally several-day adventures. A field trip guide is published each year in May.

NEWSLETTER GUIDELINES: CMS has a proud history of promoting the education and pure enjoyment of the mineralogical world. At the very heart of its existence are the many volunteers and contributors who spend their time and efforts in direct support of the club's mission. The CMS official newsletter **MINERAL MINUTES** is published monthly during the active meeting season (October through May) and a summer edition, and is the primary way the club's activities and mission are communicated to its members and prospective members. On that basis, the Board of Directors would like to offer the following content guidelines for CMS newsletter contributions:

- Formal announcements concerning club business and/or membership
- Information around mineral-related education opportunities or fundraising activities
- Stories or history that concentrate on the edifying aspects of mineral collection and education
- Sharing of personal mineral-related experience from field trips or other related adventures serving an educational purpose
- Announcements of volunteer/leadership opportunities for the club or club representation
- Worthy news events or discoveries related to mineralogy or geology that align to club's core interests
- Appropriate announcements regarding mineral shows, one-time mineral related events, mineral auctions, sale of private collections and/or equipment, etc.
- Information around relevant donations and/or gifts made available to the club or club members

Please note that the editor may correct spelling, syntax, or content to conserve space and is also entitled to bring contributions in compliance with newsletter guidelines

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Deadline for publication is the 20th of the month prior to publication. All correspondence to Mineral Minutes should be sent to Amber Brenzikofer, Editor, P.O. Box 280755, Lakewood, Colorado 80228-0755 or by email to:

editor.coloradomineralsociety@gmail.com

CMS Christmas Holiday Party Recap

by Leslie Osgood

From 5:00pm on, people drifted in to help set up and enjoy the 2016 CMS party. Ian and Susan Duncanson, Dan and Brenda Wray, Mark Levitt, Bruce Sales, and Donnie Parsons were setting up tables. Working in the kitchen, I saw James Knoll poking oranges with cloves for the wonderful apple cider. Sandra Gonzales and Viola Padilla were taking pots and plates out and setting them up on the big table, where we always spread out our feast. I nabbed Mark Levitt to help me with decorating of the tree. Presents were brought in to put under the tree for the give-a-gift get-a-gift exchange for later on in the party; thanks to Mark Danuser and Amber Brenzikofer for helping with the gift exchange.

Announcements were made to a hungry crowd, by the time there were about 105 people all milling around. Then at 6:30pm, we could all eat!! The nominations for officers was carried on while we were all working on our Christmas plates and the tasty cider. Thanks to Gary Rowe and others for doing dishes in the kitchen. Cindy Hatfield set up for an adult mineral challenge and people were running over to her table to identify the specimens, and in the end, the winners were: 1st Pete Modreski, 2nd Bruce Geller, and 3rd Ben Geller. Marcus Lieberman and Mary and Ken Black donated the prizes for the winners of the challenge. Lewis Reynolds prepared the junior rockhound mineral challenge, which was administered by Paul Hatfield. The junior rockhound participants were Jonathon, Tobin, Monte, and a mystery young person who forgot to sign his/her identification sheet.

At 7:30pm, the Wheat Ridge High School Choir led by Brian Cook and accompanied by Vicki Duckworth sang holiday classics and other melodies. Oh my, they were wonderful. We should sign them up for next year. After they were through with their lovely music, we gave the girls earrings and the boys money clips, compliments of our club.

While all the activities were going on, I was selling tickets for the cake steal. Eva had 80 tickets to sell and I sold all of them plus one more. Next year she needs to make 20 more tickets, just in case our big winners of years past want three or more cakes. We also had two tables worth of cakes. I never in all my time at the cake table have seen that many cakes. We must have had 20!

Santa came at 8:00pm, rather early for a guy who runs around delivering presents all night. Santa had lots of bags to deliver with the help of a few of his rockhound elves who found all kinds of good samples. Dale Block donated some specimens for the Santa bags along with Gary Rowe, Debbie Kalscheur, Merlin Scheffler, Tom Kohnen, GEOdyssy, Jerry Kiefer, Richard Owens, Carolyn Johnson, and Christy and Ray Frost.

The party started to wind down about 9:00pm and then for the excited raffle ticket holders, Eva called the numbers at 9:20pm. Congratulations to all the winners! There were many more people who helped set up and take down than I have names for, so for all who helped make this party successful, thank you very much and have a wonderful Christmas/holiday season. Photos by Amber Brenzikofer.

P.S. I noticed a lot of nice hats, scarves, and mittens on the church's mitten tree in the corner of the room. Thanks to all who brought them and all the hand-made ones as well.

P.S.S. Practice up on your cake stealing skills for next year.



CMS Junior Rockhounds Program – January 2017 Meeting

Collecting Fossils in Colorado

Baculite Mesa. Denver International Airport. Elbert County. Flat Tops/Dotsero. Florissant Fossil Quarry. Highway 93 Quarry. State Bridge. These recent Colorado Mineral Society field trips have allowed us to collect remarkable invertebrate and plant fossils in Colorado. *Blue Forest, Delaney Rim area, and Kemmerer in Wyoming. Yellow Cat, Utah.* Our club also ventures into Wyoming and Utah in search of life now preserved in stone. At each locality, the set of fossils and the layer of sedimentary rock which host the fossils offer insights into the climate and ecosystems once present there. At the January meeting, the Junior Rockhounds will discuss the process of collecting fossils and consider some topics in geology, biology, and paleontology that provide support in interpreting our observations.



Tiphid Wasp (?), 6 mm across

Florissant Formation

Florissant Fossil Quarry, Florissant, Colorado

(Kuyper Reynolds specimen. Lewis Reynolds photo ©2011. We thank Ms. Laura Clarke and Ms. Conni Jo O’Conner, associates of the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument, for help in identifying this fossil.)

Because certain fossils are found in specific layers or strata of sedimentary rocks, we will review important geological formations accessible along the Colorado Front Range. Examples of fossils found during field trips will illustrate our discussion. Our understanding of biology and anatomy helps us to identify fossils, and a few applications will be presented to inspire the importance of studying the life sciences in school. We will also mention fossil collecting laws that constrain our activities on public lands.

Parents or guardians are strongly encouraged to attend the Junior Rockhounds Program with their children. Because our field trips require the participation of parents, our program is intended as much for adults as for their children. Although no supplies are needed for this meeting, a pencil or pen and a notebook may be helpful for taking notes.



Sycamore Leaf (?)

Denver Formation

Denver International Airport, Denver, Colorado
(Lewis Reynolds specimen and photo ©2013)

Submitted by Lewis Reynolds, Coordinator

Open Enrollment for Spring Mineral ID Course - - New Educational Ideas Welcome

by Debbie Kalscheur, Second Vice-President-Education

Just a reminder that the Mineral Identification Course with Ed Raines is being planned for the Spring with an estimated start date of Monday, March 6th. It is a 10-class course curriculum and we are planning on a cost of \$75 per person or couple (two people living at the same address). The class typically meets on Mondays from 6-9 pm. We do not have a confirmed venue for the course yet, but we are planning for it to be in the Golden area. If there is a change to the cost, it would be due to unplanned costs related to securing the location.

Many CMS members have already taken this course, so if you are interested in signing up, please feel free to ask other club members to share their experience of the course. If you have any detailed questions, please find me at the club meeting or send an email to me at kalscheur2004@yahoo.com.

If you have an idea for a course, or would be willing to teach one, please contact me. We are always open to new course offerings on any topic relevant to the CMS educational mission.

Junior Rockhound Artwork

Space Crystals by Kuyper Reynolds



Crystals come in many different shapes and colors. Stars also come in different sizes and colors. Both stars and minerals are beautiful. My artwork combines them. The facets and shape of the crystals; the wild colors and gradients of stars and nebula. This piece is entitled: Space Crystals.

CMS New Members

First Listing

- None reported

Second Listing

- Myron and Sandy Ababurko
- Patricia (Pat) and Kenneth Odom
- Phil Persson
- Albert and Patricia Powers
- Michael Randalls & family

Per CMS Bylaws, comments concerning new, first listing members should be formally submitted to the President.

Rocky Mountain Federation News

The Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies (RMFMS) is made up of 81 clubs representing 13 Western states. CMS is a member of RMFMS. The Rocky Mountain Federation News is published monthly and is located at www.rmfmts.org.



A.F.M.S Newsletter

The American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (A.F.M.S) serves seven regional federations, including RMFMS. The A.F.M.S Newsletter is published monthly and is located at: <http://www.amfed.org/news/default.htm>.

January 2017 General Meeting Presentation

Cultural aspects of mineral collecting in China

Mark Ivan Jacobson
1714 S. Clarkson Street
Denver, CO 80210

Minerals from China are widely available for purchase and commonly seen at mineral shows across the US. In China, mineral specimens, which are almost exclusively from China, are seen in a variety of settings: geology museums, private collections, retail mineral-rock businesses, and traditional viewing rock (奇石) exhibitions. Between July 2008 and April 2013, I lived in Chengdu, Sichuan Province and had the opportunity to see Chinese minerals in these settings, do some field collecting and overcome the hurdles of assembling a library on Chinese minerals and pegmatites.

During the 1800 - 1900s, China advanced its tradition of natural found art – these are rocks, and sometimes minerals, that either have interesting artistic geometric shapes and colors or have shapes that resemble either man-made objects or living things – people, animals or plants. There are Chinese guidebooks on the naming, classification and valuation of viewing stones (the literal translation of 奇石, **Qíshí**, is strange stones).

Polishing, carving and faceting of minerals has also continued, especially within their historic tradition of carved and polished jades. A word of caution: the Chinese word that is translated to jade, 玉 (**yù**), is also used for any rock or mineral that will form attractive masses after polishing. For example, a polished fine-grained purple lepidolite is referred to in translation as purple jade.

The collecting of crystals as art or minerals as scientific, intellectual curiosities started after Mao Zedong death in 1976 and the rise of Deng Xiaoping in 1978. Deng with the Eight Elders introduced the “reform and opening up” of China. As the governmental changes increased, travel to and within China has become both politically and physically easier, allowing for the development of domestic mineral dealers.

Chinese collectors prefer giant to large crystals or crystal groups. Value depends more on size than authenticity or quality. There is no negative value assigned to material that is polished, enhanced, fabricated, dyed, or repaired. Oiling of minerals or selling the minerals water-wet is a common practice. Color and form is everything. There is either little interest in knowing a specimen’s locality or provenance or else this information is concealed to protect the seller’s perceived business advantage.

Books, magazines and technical articles on minerals, viewing stones, and pegmatites are obtained from used and newly-published bookstores, internet book sellers similar to Ebay or Amazon, geology museum stores, mineral shops, internet scientific article distributors (7 cents a digital page) and photocopies from libraries. Even if you can not read Mandarin, there is much to be gained - maps, specimens, chemical analyses and geologic cross sections can be understood with little to no language knowledge. The literature is extensive. Although small-scale (such as less than 1:100,000) topographic and geologic maps are still prohibited to the average Chinese citizen and all non-Chinese citizens, road and city maps are easy to purchase in markets and bookstores.

Museums of earth science materials are usually found associated with universities that have significant earth science research, provincial geological survey offices, or more recently places to attract domestic tourists. With a population that in 2013 was economically 25% middle class or above, the number of people who have discretionary recreational time (and perhaps money) exceeds 330 million, which is greater than the total US population.

Minerals and viewing stones are sold from clusters of small shops (an unofficial shopping plaza), private homes and apartments where a room might be dedicated just to selling minerals, or in curio and weekly markets laid out on a blanket or small table. Giant and small viewing stones, and cave speleothems (that may have come from immense limestone quarries for cement and aggregate) are sold sometimes associated with stone carving/ granite slabbing industrial centers.

This presentation will tour museums (the Geological Museum of China in Beijing, Chengdu University of Technology museum, Hubei Geologic Museum, and the Yifu Museum of China University of Geosciences), the Guilin mineral and viewing stone markets, curio-art markets (Chengdu and Beijing), the Pixian stone carving-granite slabbing center in Sichuan Province, and collecting localities along the eastern edge of the Qinghai-Xizang Plateau.

Cultural aspects of mineral collecting in China (continued)

The easily available minerals to purchase in China are mostly the same as can be found in the major US mineral shows – the supply-distribution routes from the mine to the market are the same. These include ore and gangue minerals from easily accessible mining areas from the coastal provinces such as calcites, fluorites, quartz, hematite, scheelite, pyrite, chalcopyrite and cinnabar, sedimentary minerals such as selenite, quartz and calcite, granite quarry minerals such as smoky quartz and some schist minerals such as dravite/schorl.

Minerals more likely to be seen in China than in the US include the topazes from Inner Mongolia, Yunnan and Hubei, beryls and tourmaline from Yunnan and Xinjiang and the less valuable pegmatite minerals from Hubei, Hunan, Sichuan and Xinjiang. Gem minerals that are common in certain areas of China – topaz, elbaite, beryl, and garnet will occasionally reach market areas. Scientific minerals such as pegmatite oxides, phosphates and rare-earth/rare metal minerals, although common at the mine, do not have established distribution networks so that these materials are almost never seen for sale in China or outside its borders. Access to certain areas of China, such as Xinjiang, Qinghai, Inner Mongolia, Xizang (Tibet), and Heilongjiang may be exceedingly difficult for both Chinese and non-Chinese due to both physical and political challenges. Time, travel and professional-personal friendships with the appropriate people can resolve most of these issues. The future will eventually bring an increasing abundance of mineral specimens, more numerous mineral species, and mineral knowledge from China to the world.



Figure 1. Index map of the provinces of China with the areas to be discussed. Map courtesy of and copyright© Australian National University, College of Asia and the Pacific, CartoGIS CAP-027.



Figure 2. Gem quality “orthoclase” from the Boziqouer (REE-Nb-Ta-Zr) pegmatite field, Baicheng County, Akesu prefecture, northwest area of Xinjiang Province. Qinglang LUO specimen. Other crystal vug specimens from this pegmatite are associated with clear quartz and schorl. Jacobson photograph, March 2013.



Figure 3. The Panda band playing bamboo, Giant Panda Breeding Research Park, northeast Chengdu, Sichuan Province, November 2012. Jacobson photograph.

December 2nd Raffle News

December's ticket sales amounted to \$185, with the retail value of \$95. Thank you for your continued support of this endeavor; the proceeds are spent on CMS education, the purchase of library materials, and the state science fair awards. The most popular specimen was the calcite (\$79), it was donated by **Sandra Gonzales - Rocky Mountain Gems** and won by a very happy *John Smith*. The crazy lace agate slab (\$48) donated by **Richard Owens** was won by *Marrielle Monte*. The smoky quartz specimen (\$23) donated by **Christy Fischer & Ray Frost** was won by *Amber Brenzikofer*. The sphalerite, marcasite, chalcopyrite specimen (\$14) donated from the **Charles Spletz Collection** was won by a smiling *Raven Major*. The selenite Christmas tree specimen (\$13) donated by **Merlin Scheffler** was won by the smiling *Katherine Brannan*. Last but not least the garnet in schist (\$8) **GEODyssey (Pat Tucci & Zelda Baily)** donated was won by *Chris Keilman*.

Thank you for the donations of these great specimens, without you we wouldn't have the happy faces as they claim their winning item.

Thanks John Kleber, mystery young man, and Monte for helping with the raffle. *Congratulations to all the lucky winners!!!!*

Submitted by Eva Siemonsma, CMS Raffle Manager



**Charles Spletz
Collection**

**Christy Fischer
and Ray Frost**

GEOdyssey LLC
Minerals, Fossils, Jewelry

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Golden, CO 80402
www.geodyssey-rocks.com

Tel:(303) 279-5504
Cell:(303) 898-9674
pattucci@comcast.net

Richard Owens

Merlin Scheffler

CMS Membership Dues Reminder

CMS memberships run from January 1st to December 31st. You can pay your 2017 membership dues now in three ways:

1. Pay with cash or check at the general meetings the first Friday of each month from October through May. Look for the Membership Chairperson to obtain a receipt and membership card.
2. Send a check made out to "Colorado Mineral Society" or "CMS" to P.O. Box 280755, Lakewood, Colorado 80228-0755. Please do not send cash through the mail. Membership cards will be mailed to you.
3. Fill out a membership form and bring cash or check to a field trip to receive a temporary membership card.

CMS Membership Fees:

Family: \$16 per year

Single: \$14 per year

Senior 65+ (single or family): \$12 per year

Junior (<12 years old): \$12 per year

Also, due to RMFMS insurance and liability purposes, we need to know the month and year of your children's birthdays, so please provide this information when you renew your membership. The children's information will not be published. A new membership form is located on the CMS website at www.coloradomineralsociety.com.

If you ordered a name badge, they will be available at the general meetings to pick up. Alternative methods of delivery for name badges may be available, so contact Cara Reynolds or Amber Brenzikofer to coordinate.

Socorro Symposium Trip Report

by Gary Rowe

The 37th Annual New Mexico Mineral Symposium was held at the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology at Socorro, New Mexico on November 12-13. This event was attended by number of CMS members including Bruce and Judy Geller, Dan and Brenda Wray, Jeff Self and Donna Ware, Bob Hembree, Tom Henderson, Gary Rowe, Kevin Atwater and Eva Siemonsma, Mark Jacobson and Ruth Yeager, and Amber Brenzikofer. Gary and Amber drove down on Wednesday so they could attend the annual Blanchard Mine trip. For those who attend the symposium, Ray DeMark generously opens the Blanchard mine and lets attendees collect underground in Sunshine Adit #3. This trip attracted about 35 folks including several of the aforementioned CMS members. Most folks came away with nice material and Ray and fellow claim owner Mike Sanders held an impromptu “raffle” in which each attendee picked a number that allowed them to pick from a couple flats of nice material Ray and Mike had collected underground from one of their favorite spots in the Sunshine #3 adit. Very generous as always.

That night Amber and Gary took U.S. 60 claim owner Allan Perryman and his wife out to dinner and afterwards had a chance to view Allan’s personal collection at his house. The collection consists of several hundred high quality specimens housed in a beautiful set of custom built wood cabinets. Highlights included a cabinet of fine fluorescent minerals with custom fluorescent lighting and a large number of botryoidal mineral specimens that perhaps reflects Allen’s ownership of the U.S. 60 claim where fine botryoidal goethite/hematite specimens can be collected. The next morning a number of CMS folks and other Symposium attendees met at Sophia’s Mexican restaurant for breakfast burritos and we then headed out to the U.S. 60 claims which are about 15 minutes west of Socorro off of Highway 60. A group of about 15 spent most of the day collecting at the upper collecting area, known as “Richard’s Glory Hole” for co-claim owner Richard Overley (see photos). Allen and Richard both taught for a number of years at New Mexico Tech where they oversaw explosive testing at Tech’s offsite sled track site. Getting paid to blow up things...a great job for sure.

Allen came prepared with a generator, two hammer drills, and a large shop vac that made collecting the botryoidal goethite material much easier. He directed me to a seam they had opened up previously and I was able to extract a number of fine specimens including one very nice stalactitic specimen (see photo). Allen informed me CMS is welcome back to the claim any time and that he will also offer the site up as field trip for the Friday before next year’s symposium. I’d like to thank Allen and Richard for being such gracious hosts to CMS and others who attended the Friday trip.



Gary Rowe in Blanchard Mine Sunshine Adit #3½ adit (photo by Amber Brenzikofer)



Amber Brenzikofer handing goethite specimen to Eva Siemonsma (photo by Christina Johnson)



Gary Rowe (white shirt) working on goethite seam with claim owner Allan Perryman (tan shirt and sunglasses) (photo by Christina Johnson)



Nice example of stalactitic goethite collected by Gary Rowe (photo by Christina Johnson)

Socorro Symposium Trip Report (continued)

We collected at the site until about 4:00 pm and then headed into town to get cleaned up for a reception hosted by the Friends of the Museum held at the New Mexico Tech Mining Museum. If you get a chance the Museum is well worth a visit as it has very fine displays of New Mexico minerals from the various mining districts around the State and very good representation of other US and international localities. From the reception everyone headed over to the Comfort Inn and Suites for the Friday night “tailgate” which actually consists of a number of dealers set up in rooms at the Inn.

The Mineral Symposium was held at the Macey Center on the New Mexico Tech campus on Saturday and Sunday and it featured a day and half of talks, mineral displays, book dealers, good food, happy hours, and most importantly a chance to meet new people and say hello to old friends. All the talks were very good, but presentations by Larry Havens and Jack Thompson on pyrite, Philip Simmons and Mike Sanders on Cooke’s Peak fluorite, Mark Jacobson on mineral collecting in China, and John Cornish on collecting fabulous crocoite specimens at the Adelaide Mine in Tasmania were excellent. John’s talk was definitely the highlight as he relayed his experience collecting plates of 3” to 4” bright orange-red crocoite crystals that were literally several feet across from the famous Red River pocket. Saturday evening there was a cocktail hour and dinner (Figure 5) that included both a silent and verbal auction that benefited the New Mexico



Bruce and Judy Geller at the Saturday night dinner
(photo by Sherman Marsh)

Symposium. The latter was punctuated by a bidding war to attend a personal underground collecting trip to any adit at the Blanchard Mine that are not open to the public that is hosted by Ray DeMark. It was back and forth, but in the end a four-person consortium headed by Amber Brenzikofer won the trip, which includes a catered champagne (from New Mexico!) lunch with Ray. There was also a silent auction on Sunday afternoon to benefit the New Mexico Tech Geology Museum.

In summary the Symposium contained a great mix of field trips, mineral talks, and opportunities to buy, trade, and talk about minerals with a large number of experienced mineral collectors (there were ~240 attendees) from the southwestern United States. Next year’s Symposium is scheduled for November 11-12, 2017.

CMS General Meeting/Christmas Party on December 2, 2016

John Smith opened the meeting by greeting all CMS and new members.

Bruce Sales ran the general elections for 2017

A motion was made to elect the following board members to represent the CMS in 2017

A second motion was made to approve the following names for board members for 2017

A vote was taken by CMS members and all approved. No CMS members disapproved of the following members:

John Smith – President
Sandra Gonzales – Secretary
Gary Rowe – Vice President
Debbie Kalscheur – 2nd Vice President
Eva Siemonsma- Treasure

Christmas Party 2016 was a success – everyone enjoyed all the events!

Notes taken by Sandra Gonzales, Secretary

CMS Board Meeting on December 20, 2016

Attendance: John Smith, Eva Siemonsma, Debbie Kalscheur, Gary Rowe, Bruce Sales, Sandra Gonzales, Leslie Osgood, Amber Brenzikofer

Call to Order – John Smith

Old Business:

Board-Appointed Positions Available for 2017:

- * Secretary – Opened
- * Junior Rockhound Assistant – Opened
- * Donations Assistant – Opened
- * Display Chairperson - Opened
- * Denver Show Committee Rep - Opened
- * Grab Bag Chairperson - Opened

Christmas Holiday Party Recap

Attendees: ~105, including 18 kids.

Eva will look into other high school choir clubs to perform Christmas 2017.

Thank you to all CMS members for all the great food and helping with set up and tear down.

Education Funds:

Lewis Reynolds, Jr Rockhound Chairman, has made a request for funds for the Jr. Rockhound program. A detailed proposal was made with pricing and items needed to expand the educational program.

Debbie Kalscheur made a motion to support the proposal for funding the program up to \$275 plus tax to purchase the items that were needed. A second motion was made by Bruce Sales to support the proposal. A vote was made to the board members and everyone approved the funds to support the program

Debbie is also working on educational programs for 2017. Several ideas have been suggested, and Debbie will keep everyone updated on any finalized plans.

New Business:

Treasurer's Report – Eva Siemonsma provided the board with the past monthly report and detailed annual report. The board reviewed the annual financial report and approved the report.

CMS trade name renewed for 2017. RMFMS report has been filed for 2017.

Membership Report – Cara Reynolds out of town, and there were no new members in the last month.

Amber and Cara have been working on the data base to identify members who have indicated their interests for volunteer for future events. CMS is a club that depends on its volunteers. If interested in any volunteer jobs, please let Amber know so she can update your information in the database.

General Meeting Presentations – Gary Rowe

- January – Mineral Collecting in China – Mark Jacobson
- February – open
- March – Pat Tucci (need to confirm)
- April – Pyrite – Larry Haven

Field Trips – Gary Rowe – Currently working on 2017 trip schedules

Denver Council Report – Bruce Sales announced the newly elected council members for the Greater Denver Gem and Mineral Show:

- Joe Payne – President of the Council
- Dale Gann – Vice President of the Council
- Maxine Shields – Treasurer
- Larry Havens - Secretary

May Auction Planning Meeting – A planning committee will get together after January to work on the auction plans for 2017.

Newsletter Deadline – Amber Brenzikofer – Thursday, December 22nd

Next scheduled CMS Board Meeting: January 17, 2017 7:00pm

Notes taken by Sandra Gonzales, Secretary



Colorado Mineral Society
PO Box 280755
Lakewood, CO 80228

FIRST CLASS MAIL



Calendar of Events

**January 6, 2017, CMS January
General Meeting** at St. Paul's Episcopal
Church, Lakewood, 7:30pm

**February 3, 2017, CMS February
General Meeting** at St. Paul's Episcopal
Church, Lakewood, 7:30pm

**March 3, 2017, CMS February
General Meeting** at St. Paul's Episcopal
Church, Lakewood, 7:30pm



<http://www.coloradomineralsociety.org>