



Columbine Gem and Mineral Society Newsletter

Columbine Gem and Mineral Society

Volume 1, Issue 1

Field Trip Schedule Underway

What most members really care about is the annual Field Trip Schedule. January and February weather makes us long for those warm summer days hunting for agates, amethyst, blue barite, topaz, jasper, garnets, cretaceous fossils and amazonite.

This summer's schedule just might have a long weekend planned and a couple of new adventures hopefully to please most members.



Our logo

If you have a spot in mind that you'd like to visit this summer, give me or Steve a call and we'll look into the feasibility of visiting some new places. As always we must get permission to visit the area if it is private property and follow the Forest Service rules on rock hounding.

A reminder ! Membership must be paid for the 2011 calendar year for you and or partner/ family to participate on field trips. This is an insurance issue. And for the same insurance reason, please don't tell non-members about the locations of our field trips or bring them along or go out

on your own without permission. These are just common sense rules that club members must abide by.

Steve's number is:

719-207-2430

Kathi's is: 719-395-1993

Thanks to Lori Everhard for the poem on page 4.

Contact information is also on page 4 along with the dates of the monthly scheduled meeting.

The "show and tell" and refreshment list is on pg.4 of the December Newsletter.

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More Glossary

- *Erosion: The wearing away of the earth's landscape by natural forces of water, wind, ice, waves and tides.*
- *Evaporate: Mineral or rock that was formed when a body of water evaporated.*
- *Fault: A fracture in the terrain along which opposing sides have moved.*
- *Fissure: A narrow crack or opening of considerable length and depth.*

Upcoming Programs

Fred Jackson is working feverishly to line up some great programs.

However, if there is a topic you would like covered at the meetings please let Fred know. You may reach him at: 719-221-1201

John Huggins is available for a talk on meteors that he gave in February 2010.

Dr. Carnein will be back with a presentation.

Fred Henderson will speak on geothermal development.

And look for a presentation from the Rocky Mountain Dinosaur Resource Center in Woodland Park.

You'll just have to come to every meeting so as not to miss these programs.

Notes from the Rock Doc

Fellow Mineral Lovers.....Spring is almost here. We'll be hunting for those lovely gems soon so let's continue our discussion of how to identify rocks and minerals.

Recap of previous information: (see earlier newsletters)

- Rocks are made of multiple minerals
- Minerals are composed of elements
- Geologic processes create four categories of rocks; igneous, sedimentary, metamorphic and hydrothermal

All minerals fall into one of six crystal systems. The systems are defined by shape and symmetry.

Now let's talk more about ways to identify the minerals we find. Probably the most obvious characteristic of a mineral is the color. I strongly caution everyone that comes to the rock shop to be very careful about trying to identify a stone by color only. Certain minerals do lend themselves to this scrutiny, for example Malachite is nearly always kelly green, a color unlike most any other mineral. However, consider quartz with an orange tinge – citrine or iron staining? And how about massive purple fluorite, it is many times mistaken for amethyst. Or jasper that simply comes in so many colors that identification becomes impossible if using only the color properties. Color may be a starting point for identification but almost always requires other methods as well.

And just to complicate things a little more, the color you visually see when looking at a mineral may not be the true color. The true color is determined by rubbing, or streaking, the mineral over an unglazed porcelain plate called a streak plate. This item is one of the most helpful tools in a rock hound's arsenal as well as one of the cheapest. If you "streak" hematite (grayish black to your eye) you'll find the true color is red. How easy to distinguish between the similar minerals hematite and magnetite.

More in the next newsletter but I would suggest that you apply your new knowledge as we proceed. As they say "use it or lose it".

Until next time – Happy Hunting.

Cindy Peratt may be reached at "The Rock Doc"

17897 US HWY 285

Centerville/Nathrop

719-539-2019

More Modern Classics

I cherish my cracked geode from the January meeting. Mine was one of the less beautiful but a modern classic to me.

Here is the list of more classics from Bob Jones' List: **Vanadinite** from Morocco is the word's finest so there is little doubt that it qualifies as a classic. Look for simple tabular hexagons in clusters, often without a matrix. Their color varies from red-brown to bright red. Some vanadinite from Morocco is tan and is considered to be arsenian vanadinite.

Tsumeb **cerussite** from Namibia, Afri-

ca is a worthy representative of this locality. The abundance of the specimens mined there have made it possible for all collectors to own a specimen of this colorless to white lead carbonate.

Spanish **pyrites** from the provinces of La Rioja and Soria are among the world's finest pyrite cubes.

Next is **Crocoite** from Tasmania, rang-



Geode from Mexico cracked at January meeting

ing in color from a fiery red to orange red thanks to its chromium ions.

Kelly Mine **smithsonite** from New Mexico comes in almost any color.

And finally, from the Emke mine in Namibia, **cuprite**. These crystals are green instead of the normally

dark red with a metallic luster. Thanks to **Rock & Gem**, October 2010

Legislative Update: Good News

All users of Public Lands dodged the legislative bullet in December 2010.

The Lame Duck Congressional session though busy with other issues did introduce the dreaded Omnibus Land Use Bill and it came to a vote in the Senate. Fortunately the Senate rejected the bill due in part to the timely notification alert to all ALAA members and clubs who had an email on file with the American Lands Access Association. Our Gem and Mineral Society needs to become a member of this organization.

If there's one thing I've learned when talking to Congressman Lamborn about the club's concerns about public lands and Brown's Canyon Wilderness area, it's that large numbers "talk" even if you don't live in the 5th Congressional.

ALAA is a 501(c)(4) set up by the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies representing the Rockhounding interests of 325 Gem & Mineral Clubs/Societies in 47 states and the District of Columbia.

ALAA has become an organization that

is present wherever there are hobbyist and recreational users of our public lands whose interests and concerns are not being heard or are being jeopardized by proposed policy, regulation or legislation at the local, state and federal level. The stated purpose of the Association is to ensure the rights of amateur fossil and mineral collecting, recreational prospecting and mining, and the use of public and private lands for educational and recreational purposes. Let's Join!

Secretarial Order 3310: Bad News

DOI Secretary Ken Salazar has been asked by 47 House Members and eight Senators to withdraw Secretarial Order 3310 which creates a new Wild Lands classification for public lands. The directive will significantly impact western economies and rural communities which depend on multiple-use access to federal lands. This order represents a considerable departure from the meth-

od for designating lands as "Wilderness Areas" specified in the Wilderness Act of 1964. The Wilderness Act gives the U.S. Congress and only the Congress the power to designate public lands as protected "Wilderness Areas". Secretarial Order 3310 appears to be an underhanded attempt by DOI to circumvent Congress and the federal rulemaking process. Public lands should be



Geode from Morocco, thanks to President Steve

managed in a way that provides the greatest benefit to the public. Multiple use has been the bedrock for many rural western economies for decades.

Columbine Gem and Mineral Society

Meets 2nd Thursday monthly
Meeting Room
Mount Shavano Manor
525 West 16th Street (at J Street)
in Salida, 6:30 pm

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Scheduled Meetings:

The Man Explains His Souvenirs

Twenty years ago, the skeleton
of a wild pig gleamed among violets
while the leaf rot around it
grew hot with spring, I slipped
the molar out of its grin like an oiled key
and took it home, leaving the boar
to reassemble, if it ever did,
at a gap-toothed resurrection. I hold it up
to show my daughters. They are
less impressed each year. I have antlers
and trilobites and chips of pretty bedrock
from all the places where the sun came up
to burn me awake with beauty—even
a turtle shell we used as an ashtray
in that first apartment, on the bank
of a creek that flooded every March
and took our trash to sea. All of it
sleeps in a basement box—a kind of coffin
for my former life, but also a proof
that I stooped to the world,
that I kept what came my way.

—Charles Rafferty

Calendar:

6:30 pm except Picnic and Xmas Dinner

Thursday April 14, 2011

Thursday May 12, 2011

Thursday June 9, 2011

Thursday July 14, 2011 (picnic/auction)

Thursday August 11, 2011

Thursday September 8, 2011

Thursday October 13, 2011 (Officer Election)

Thursday November 10, 2011

Thursday December 8, 2011 (Xmas Dinner)