

PICK & PACK

THE BULLETIN OF THE COLORADO SPRINGS MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY Published Since 1960

MARCH 2005

Volume 45 Number 2

Zoned Crystals

"Tree Rings" of the Mineral Kingdom

Andy Weinzapfel, geologist

As I write this, the snow is flying; just enough to dampen any thoughts of collecting minerals in the Colorado "outback." Nevertheless, smitten with the bug, I opened a time capsule of long-forgotten boxes of rocks and minerals in the garage and found some interesting curiosities—zoned corundum crystals.

About 20 years ago, passing through western Montana on a family vacation, a "going out of business" sign on a rock shop caught my attention. I stopped to look. After finding mostly average mineral specimens at average prices, I was about to leave. However, a jar of hexagonal grayish-red corundum crystals in the corner

beckoned. I noticed several crystals were well zoned—that is, looking down the long "C" axis, a distinct pattern of multiple overlapping hexagons, like tree rings, could be discerned. I happily purchased the entire jar. Twenty years later, short work with my Diamond Genie produced a fine polish that accented their beauty considerably.

Corundum, aluminum oxide (Al_2O_3), has a Mohs hardness of 9, just below diamond. It occurs in quartz-poor, peraluminous (aluminum-rich) environments. Corundum forms barrel-shaped, stubby hexagonal crystals of variable color.

Rubies and sapphire are the gem varieties. See *Corundum* on page 4

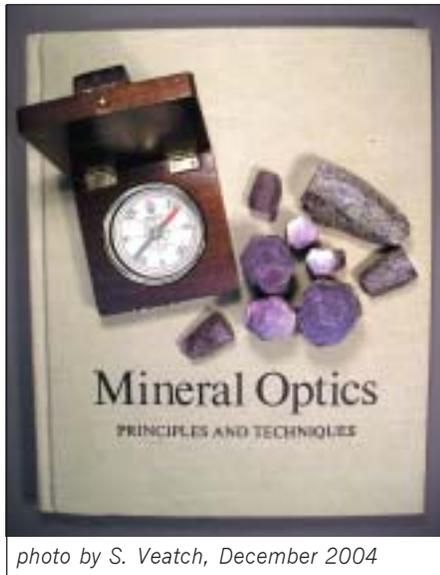


photo by S. Veatch, December 2004

New Zealand Mineral Collecting

February 2005

Bob King

My wife, Heidi and I just got back from spending three weeks in New Zealand. The last nine days in New Zealand were spent on the north island of New Zealand where we had a driver, Dennis Todd, who has been an active member of the mineral club in Palmerston North for the past 17 years and a mineral judge at the New Zealand National Mineral Shows. We had met Dennis through my giving an hourglass Selenite crystal to a lady, Janet, who sang with Heidi in our church's choir here in Cheyenne. Last

spring Janet and her husband were touring Australia and she showed the crystal to Dennis' brother, Malcolm, who was also touring Australia. Janet gave the crystal to Malcolm who eventually gave it to Dennis. Janet met Dennis when she and her husband toured New Zealand on their way home from Australia. At that time Dennis gave Janet several New Zealand mineral specimens that she brought back and gave to me. I sent Dennis an e-mail thanking him for the minerals and all of this led to

See *New Zealand* on page 5

CSMS is an incorporated nonprofit organization with these 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 is published monthly to assist and promote the above.

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Founded in 1936



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PICK & PACK

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We encourage everyone to submit articles, photos, illustrations or observations.

Share your experiences, trials and tribulations, your new finds, or simply your experience at our last field trip.

The ability to write well is NOT a requirement. We will fix the grammar while keeping the author's voice, style and work intact.

Handwrite it, type it or E-mail it. Format does not matter. All submissions are welcomed.

DEADLINE for items to be included in the next month's issue is the fourth Friday of every month. To submit an item, please use the following:

Photos:
For hardcopy photos, mail to the address below or bring them to the General Assembly Meeting. All photos remain the property of the submitter. All photos will be returned. Electronic photos should be submitted at resolutions above 200 dpi in TIFF or PICT format.

Articles:
Mail, E-mail, or fax to the address and numbers below. ALL FORMATS ARE WELCOMED.

E-mail:
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Colorado Springs, CO 80903

Phone & Fax:
(719) 448-9949
For faxes no precalls are required.

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

CSMS is an Organization of Volunteers

Please help support the WMMI

Drew Malin



Hello, all. As we get into the 2005 season, it's worth taking a moment to thank all of the members, past and present, who have volunteered their time to help with the running of our club. It's worth remembering that the CSMS has NO paid positions. All work done by our membership is voluntary, and, in many cases, members use their own funds to get minor things done for the club. So when a member approaches you for help on something concerning the club, try and help if you can; an organization of volunteers is only as good as its membership.

As you can see in this issue of the Pick & Pack, our friends at the Western Museum of Mining and Industry have asked our help on their collection-themed Super Saturday. Any members who can help are encouraged to do so. I, for one, will be there with my famous (sort of) local agate collection. Let's all try to attend the event. The WMMI is a longtime and good friend of the

club, and they deserve our support.

The CSMS will be holding a silent auction Saturday, April 2 from 10am to 2 pm at the Embassy Suites. This event is an important fundraiser for our show this year. Those members that are new to the club, and those that can't always make the general meetings are especially encouraged to come. A silent auction is one of the most enjoyable ways to get acquainted with the people and events that our club has to offer, as well as a chance to get some great deals on minerals, rough and even finished gemstones!

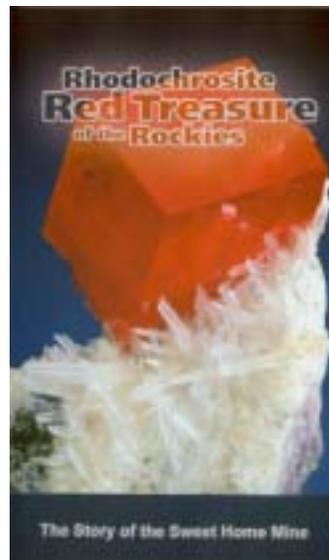
Finally, those who have access to the Internet are encouraged to visit our site more frequently. The site, www.csms.us, is now being updated by three different members. With the added help of Ethan and Brent, you will now find updated information on things like the field trips and items concerning the show. Anyone with ideas for additions and/or changes to the site, please e-mail me your ideas. We will make every effort to make our site the premiere place to find current information on the activities of the CSMS.

Rhodochrosite: Red Treasure of the Rockies

March's General Assembly

We are in for a treat at this month's general assembly. Rick Olson will be sharing the highly-acclaimed video about the Sweet Home Mine. This documentary received a rave review in the February 2005 (page 28) issue of *Rocks & Gem* magazine. This ought to be a fascinating evening.

Interviews with key people, historic photographs, graphics, and computer animations help this video document the story of the Sweet Home Mine from its beginnings as a modest 1870's silver mine, through decades of ups and downs, until its eventual rebirth as



a world-renowned source of beautiful red rhodochrosite crystals. Cameras go inside the Sweet Home Mine, deep within Colorado's 14-thousand foot Mt. Cross, to bring you up-close mining action. Watch miners as they drill and blast trying to find elusive pockets of red riches, and learn of the special tools and techniques developed over the years to remove delicate crystals. 3D computer animations show how the mine has evolved over the years and illustrate where the action is happening inside the mine.

See how a high-school

class led the way to get rhodochrosite established as the Colorado State Mineral in 2002! Find out about the geology of this amazing mineral deposit. Learn how science guides the underground treasure hunt - follow geologists as they try to unravel the mysteries of the ancient mountain in the hopes of keeping the mine alive.

Understand why the difficult decision was made to close the mine permanently in the Fall of 2004. This video provides the last coverage of the mine you will ever see!

Karl Mecklenburg, former All-Pro Denver Bronco, narrates the 87 minute video.

March 2005 General Assembly
Thursday, March 17, 2005, 7:30

Colorado Springs Senior Center
1514 North Hancock Blvd.

February's refreshments courtesy:
Everyone

Minutes...

February 17, 2005

Drew Malin called the meeting to order at 7:35.

Minutes accepted.

Treasurer's Report:

- Checks for dues have not been cashed due to Jim waiting for membership cards. New cards and dues receipts distributed at meeting; the rest to be mailed. Checks to be deposited soon.

Satellite Groups:

- Camera, crystal, faceting, fossil, lapidary, micromount, and jewelry group leaders announced dates, meeting locations and program for next month. We need leader for Pebble Pups group.

Show Report:

- Michael Wise from the Smithsonian will be presenting.
- April 2, 2005 Silent Auction to help pay for Michael Wise' travel expenses. Stay tuned for details.
- New post cards advertising show available.

Old Business:

- None.

New Business:

- Gold Camp Road Project - CSMS well represented at the public meeting. Committee suggested a partial opening of road to traffic on alternated days. Forest service wants to open road one way. CSMS has a letter stating our interest. Said letter was reviewed by the membership. Motion made and carried to publish letter as written with minor corrections.
- "Show Your Collection" at the Mining Museum March 12.
- Tucson Show Report
- Many CSMS show post cards distributed at the Friends of Mineralogical table and Micromount meetings.

The general meeting was adjourned at 8:05 followed by an informative presentation by Kerry Burroughs, *An Introduction to the Crystal Systems*.

Invitation to CSMS Members

The Western Museum of Mining and Industry is asking for the support from our members for their upcoming Super Saturday (see below). Brad Poulson, Public Programs Coordinator for the WMMI and member of the CSMS, is asking for our support of this event. Our members can show off their collections, help educate the public, and reciprocate the support the WMMI gives our group.

The event begins at 1:00 PM, so set up can begin before that. It should be a fun day and it would be great to demonstrate a cool mineral or rock collection. Plus, it will give the CSMS an opportunity to advertise our upcoming show.

If anyone would like further information or would like to volunteer for a day, contact Brad at 719-488-0880.

Super Saturday: Show Your Collection Day!

March 12, 2005, at 1:00 p.m.

What do you collect? Old photographs, baseball cards, rocks, quilts your grandmother made? Come on down to the Western Museum of Mining and Industry for a collection day! Bring your collection to share and learn how to care for it! This event is open to kids and adults, whether you want to share your collection or learn how to care for an old family heirloom. Join us for a fun and exciting time! Reservations requested. Super Saturday admissions are only \$3 per person. (Museum and CSMS members are always free.)

Location: Western Museum of Mining and Industry (WMMI)
Located just north of Colorado Springs. Take I-25 to the Gleneagle Exit (156A); the Museum entrance is immediately east of the interstate, just opposite the north entrance to the U. S. Air Force Academy. Remember to visit our web site at: www.wmmi.org.

References for Zoned Crystals

Feldman, R., 1996, *Rocking Montana*: Falcon Press 154p

Gray, J., 2004, Zoning in minerals: Georgia Mineral Society Tips and Trips, http://www.gaminal.org/zoning_in_minerals.html

Lessing, P. and Standish, R., 1973, Zoned garnet from Crested Butte, Colorado: *American Mineralogist* V 58 P840-842

Wallace, G and Bergantz, G., 2003, The multiple personalities of zoned crystals: complex growth histories, the mixing phylogeny, and geochronology, with applications to the Lassen volcanic system: in *GSA Abstracts with programs*, v35 no6 p. 564

Wallace, G and Bergantz, G., 2003, Illuminating the magmatic story in zoned crystals: a schematic framework for the interpretation of multiple crystal zoning patterns: *European Geophysical Society research abstracts* V5 03026

Structure of Corundum Crystals

Corundum is comprised of its constituent elements (aluminium and oxygen) arranged in the trigonal system of crystal symmetry. This system of crystal symmetry includes four axes, three of which are of equal length and arranged in the same plane, the fourth axis being perpendicular to this plane and of different length from the other three. Corundum crystals are usually found in the form of either rough, barrel-shaped prismatic forms (as illustrated on this page), or tapering, spindle-shaped forms

Distinguishing feature

- Hardness of 9 (the second hardest mineral)
- Specific Gravity of 3.9 - 4.1;
- Distinctive Crystal Form (see photograph on this page)

Corundum

Continued from page 1

ies of this mineral. Montana is known for its blue sapphires.

Crystals grow much like trees do, from the inside out. The presence of later multiple bands (zoning) indicate complex subtle changes have occurred in the parent magma, suggesting overall disequilibrium conditions. The more bands present, the more the magma has changed through time. In this regard, time is tricky business. Recent geochronology work suggests individual crystals have extremely variable magma residence times, ranging from about 10 years to 1 million years. The premise of crystal zone analysis is that information at crystal rims is the same in all crystals within a common environment. However, crystals gathered from different parts of a magma chamber may show different profiles regarding their growth history based on differing isotopic and trace element ratios. "Event tree" or "mixing phylogeny" analyses seek an understanding of the

evolution of the parent magma through time, using information from zoned crystals as the primary evidence. This story cannot emerge from only conventional whole rock or single-crystal analyses. Perhaps some zoning may be due to hiatus (pauses) during growth, defects, or mineral inclusions rather than bulk chemical compositional changes.

A naturalist once told me that those who analyze tree rings do not just look at a raw wood cross section or core cut from a tree to determine its age and growth environment. As any woodworker knows, a fine polish accents the grain (rings) much better. The number of tree rings may be greatly underestimated if a microscope is not used. Likewise, polishing crystals brings out the zoning much better. When dealing with hard corundum, of course, diamond equipment is highly desirable to limit wheel wear. Electron microprobe work can perform chemical analyses on spots as small as one micron (one thousandth of a millimeter). This allows much more detail regarding the chemical changes and growth history of a zoned mineral.

Zoned crystals of some minerals are not

particularly rare. They have most often been found in igneous intrusive (plutonic), igneous extrusive (volcanic), metamorphic rocks, and hydrothermal ore veins. Garnets, fluorite, quartz, tourmaline, plagioclase feldspar, vesuvianite, and corundum are some of the more typical minerals dis-



Corundum crystal is 2.5 cm in width. photo by S. Veatch, December 2004.

playing zoning. While many minerals are zoned, their "rings" are often extremely subtle, requiring hand lens, microscope, or even microprobe to recognize and appreciate. Mineral specimens displaying obvious megascopic zoning make excellent displays. Zoned minerals could be a theme of interesting mineral displays. I am frankly puzzled that zoned crystals seem to be out of the mainstream of gem and mineral shows.

Bowen's Reaction Series predicts the order minerals precipitate out of a molten magma during gradual cooling. Specific minerals form at specific temperatures. As minerals are removed from the melt, the composition of the magma changes, sometimes gradually in dramatic ways. For example, the felsic (light-colored) Pikes Peak granite is thought to have evolved from mafic (dark-colored) gabbro. These are exceedingly different rocks! Bowen noted that calcium plagioclase feldspar (anorthite) crystallizes before sodium-rich feldspar (albite). Indeed, microprobe analyses of zoned plagioclase crystals show cores of high calcium and rims of high sodium.

The author is a member of the CSMS.



New Zealand *Continued from page 1*

us taking a 3-week tour of New Zealand.

After touring the south island of New Zealand for nine days, we flew from Christchurch to Palmerston North, which has a population of 78,000 people. Den-



Thermal area near Rotorua © 2005 Bob King

nis and his wife, Bev, met us at the airport where we rented a car and he drove us to their house. We had 250 pounds of luggage that included 50 pounds of mineral specimens to be given to New Zealand mineral collectors. For the next nine days Dennis would be our driver and tour guide. Each night we would stay in the home of a New Zealander. New Zealanders are referred to as Kiwis after the flightless bird, the Kiwi, who is native to New Zealand. I'll just mention the parts of our tour of the north island that are related to minerals. Collecting minerals was a minor part of our tour.

One day we hiked part way up Mount Ruapehu, which is one of the more active volcanoes in New Zealand. The north island has a great number of volcanoes, one of which exploded in 1995 when people were skiing on it. Now that would have been a ski trip to remember. We also saw the bubbling mud pools, geysers, scalding hot lakes, mineral hot pools, and a buried Maori village in the area around Rotorua. I picked up some pumice from the shore of Lake Taupo. We made a short stop near Puhipuhi to collect some mercury ore, cinnabar. I have been told that if I were to heat the ore, mercury would run out of the rock. A few years ago some roadwork was being done in the area where we collected the cinnabar samples and some of the mercury bearing rock was used in the roadbed. After this was done the cows in the area got sick and the vegetation near the road starting dying. It cost several hundreds of thousands of dollars to redo that road. Another day we had permission to do some collecting for zeo-

lites at a quarry for crushed rock for roadwork. We spent an hour or two breaking up very hard basalt to obtain some nice specimens. When thanking the man in charge of this small quarry he told us that there had been some "large crystals" found the day before and that those crystals were in a locker at another quarry and that we could have one of the specimens. We were headed in that direction so we stopped in to see the "large crystals." Dennis is now the proud owner of a large beautiful natrolite specimen. In the mining town of Waihi we stopped and took pictures of the open pit Martha Mine. This gold mine is now very near houses and I understand that they can't make the pit any larger so they are going to start tunneling under the town. Speaking of gold mines, one Sunday afternoon we stopped and toured an old gold mine in Thames. A

man and his wife run the tour of their mine that is dug into a hard clay-like material. No shoring up of the tunnels, which were dug years ago by Cornish miners, is required. The tunnels were dug without the use of explosives. The miners searched for veins of gold-bearing quartz. After the underground tour we were shown a working stamp mill that I found to be very fascinating. Dennis videotaped this in operation. The gold-bearing quartz is crushed, a water table is used to separate the heavy gold from the quartz, then mercury is added to gather the gold into a putty like substance, then the mercury is boiled away



Dennis & Bob collecting zeolites at a small quarry © 2005 Bob King

leaving the gold. The poisonous mercury vapors are distilled to reclaim the mercury that is then reused. They had some nice white quartz crystal groups for sale at very reasonable prices. A few times, during low tide, we walked along the beaches checking out the cliffs for various minerals. In New Zealand you are never more than 80

TIME TO PAY YOUR DUES

March is the cut off month for those of you who have not yet paid your dues for 2005. If you have not yet paid your dues, you have a few more weeks to send in your dues or attend the General Assembly meeting and pay the treasurer in person.

For those members who fail to pay this year's dues before the last week of March, this will be the last Pick and Pack you receive until you pay. You will also not be included in the 2005 CSMS Membership Directory.

Send your dues to:

CSMS - 2005 Membership
P.O. Box 2
Colorado Springs, CO 80901-0002

We are asking that all members fill out an updated membership form. This will allow us to correct and update our membership database. The form was printed in the November & December 2004 issues of the Pick and Pack or can be downloaded at our website: www.csms.us Click the **JOIN THE CSMS** button on the left.

Gold Camp Road Reminder

The deadline for comments about the Gold Camp Road & Tunnel #3 Planning / EIS Project is coming quickly. All comments must be received by March 15, 2005.

Please take the time to write the Forest Service and let them know that the CSMS members care about this issue.

Comments can also be sent via e-mail. Directions can be found on our website at:

www.csms.us/pickandpack

Click on the February 2005 issue.

OR Address your comments to:

Gold Camp Road Project
c/o Greystone Environmental
Consultants, Inc.
5231 S Quebec St
Greenwood Village CO 80111

The Ultimate Field Trip

Arkansas Quartz Crystal Dig

During the Tucson Gem Show I visited Coleman's Arkansas Quartz Shop. It was filled with museum quality specimens with prices to match. I mentioned to the clerk that I would sure like to come down there and do some digging, and she promptly handed me a video and printed material about how to do just that. Upon my return I e-mailed Ethan to send a question out to the members to see how much interest there was. Within a few days I received exciting news and enough interest to make solid plans.

When: April 30 - May 8th, 2005

Where: The "Mt. Ida area of Arkansas" and Jet, Oklahoma.

Tools: normal pegmatite tools + heavy sledge and pry bars for Arkansas, a shovel and something to dip water with in Oklahoma.

You supply your own transportation, housing and food.

What makes this exciting is that my initial plan was to go to Coleman's, camp in their RV Park and pay to dig in their dump. But, our Cheyenne Wyo. member, Bob King, contacted me with this plan: A few years ago he made the acquaintance of a mine owner in the area who at that time brought in a track hoe and dug until he opened a pocket - then let the persons who had paid dig it out. We cannot promise that will happen again but Bob has contacted this owner and he is very receptive to having us come out. We would have to pay a fee to off set equipment and fuel cost estimated at \$10 - \$20 per person depending on the number of participants. If this doesn't work out, we can always go to Coleman's.

Since the Jet, Oklahoma Selenite beds are only a couple of miles out of the way, I have to stop there. This can be one of the most fun places to dig you've ever been. Dig a hole about 2' deep, let it fill with water, then dip the water onto the sides of the hole and watch the crystals wash out.

If you are interested, call Roger Pittman: 683-2603 or (cell) 684-6286.

miles from the ocean. That's as the crow flies.

Some of the Kiwis that we stayed with at night were relatives of Dennis and some were mineral collectors. We saw some very nice mineral collections, one of which was Dennis'. Before we left Cheyenne I had packed a box of minerals for each mineral collector with whom we stayed so when we got to their house I would unpack these specimens and give them to them. They in turn would give me some minerals. One of these families has an opal mine in Lighting Ridge, Australia to which they go for a few months each year to work their claim. They leave their nice house in New Zealand and live in a small metal building with no utilities. They collect quartz crystals and they showed me a 75-pound quartz group that took them days

to dig out of a quartz seam up in the mountains. It was a two and a half hour hike into this location. They made this trip twice to dig out this very nice specimen and a third trip to haul it out in a sling. New Zealand has very lush vegetation and I asked how they could find places to dig. They hunt up old mine sights. These are often very difficult to locate because they are overgrown by the lush vegetation. They also mentioned that the vegetation above the quartz is slight stunted, so this is another indicator. They gave me a nice quartz crystal from this area which is called Coromandel. They both were off to the Tucson Mineral Show the day after we visited them.

There is a lot of obsidian on the north island and I now have a collection of obsidian. I have green, brown, black, red, amber, snowflake, iridescent, and some with vesicles. I learned at a rock club meeting that I attended in Whangarei that obsidian and pumice are chemically the same. Pumice was thrown into the air and the obsidian just flowed down the volcano. If you heat pumice with an acetylene torch it will melt and turn to obsidian. I have seen this done.

The city of Tauranga moved to another area several downtown buildings that are now used by craft groups. One of these buildings houses the Tauranga Gem and Mineral Club. We toured this building. In the front room is their store, which sells minerals, polished stones, crystals, and gifts from New Zealand and around the

world, a mineral museum and a newly installed fluorescent mineral display. Club members run this store that is open seven days a week. Behind the store is their meeting room and behind that is their lapidary room. Members pay about a dollar an hour to use the lapidary equipment. The club supplies the equipment which consists of several rock saws, tumblers, grinding & polishing wheels, vibrolaps, grit, etc. No faceting machine. The club earns about \$200 per month from members using the equipment. I took a

lot of pictures of this well-supplied room.

New Zealand is known for its jade. It is very expensive. While waiting for a train in Greymouth, on the south island, there was a 10-year-old Maori girl sitting on the lawn selling mostly unworked jade. I talked with her and her mother and learned that it was collected by them by walking along the shore of a nearby river. A mineral club member told me that it is illegal to ship unworked jade out of New Zealand. I had taken along some Wyoming jade which I gave to mineral collectors who I met and was given a few small pieces of New Zealand jade in return. I never ran across any Kiwis who carved jade.

Now I have gone on my share of field trips, but this May, 28 of the Palmerston North mineral club members are flying (1240 miles) to Australia to mineral hunt for 16 days. Now that's a field trip.

We traveled 3,100 km (2,000 mi) on the north island with Dennis. If you would like a tour similar to the one we had of the north island of New Zealand, feel free to contact Dennis Todd at:

Todd.family@inspire.net.nz



The author is a lifetime member of the CSMS.



Kevin Nicholson and the milky quartz group that he and his wife, Olga, found in the Coromandel region. © 2005 Bob King

FEDERATION NEWS

'America the Beautiful'*A Serious Threat to Rockhounding*

Peter Martin, S.C.R.I.B.E. President

That beguiling phrase is not the title of a song or a statement of faith, it is a phrase which may become a serious threat to all our rockhounding and collecting activities in the USA in the coming year.

The rump of the last Congress, in the days after the voting and before the holidays, late one night passed an appropriations bill 3,000 pages long. Apart from the necessary budgets for departments, in it were thousands of 'pork barrel' projects by which our Senators and Representative get Federal funds for projects in their districts, and then go home and trumpet what great representatives they are. Most of the bill is never read or discussed in either the Senate or the House. The bill was signed into law by President Bush a few days later, and in that bill, never read in Congress, never discussed, was the America the Beautiful bombshell.

In summary this is what the legislation does. Sometime in the next year or so it cancels the legislation which covers the Golden Age and Golden Access passes, once in a lifetime payments to allow Seniors into National Parks, US Forests and BLM land. In their place will be an 'America the Beautiful' card, whose estimated cost will be \$100 per year, every year! Adults would need to buy such a card. This would allow the user access to all USFS and BLM lands for the purposes of recreation, and entry to National Parks which are not 'improved' and have no facilities. Failure to produce such a card on demand could result in a fine of up to \$5,000 and 30 days in jail. As the USFS and BLM do not have enough staff for enforcement and collection, they are allowed in the legislation to outsource these activities.

The threat to Gem and Mineral and Rockhounding clubs is clear, but we are not the only ones affected. Consider the impact on a church picnic into a USFS forest, and the need to ensure everyone has their pass. Perhaps the commercial collecting agents will turn their primary focus on rockhounds and the Godly, and leave hunters alone; who will demand a pass from someone with a loaded rifle.

Like so many acronyms invented nowadays 'America the Beautiful' is meant to mislead, 'America the Overtaxed' would be

a better fit.

So what can we do about it? All may not be lost. Other interested groups have been protesting and it is having some effect. A spokesman for the Parks Service has been rapidly backtracking stating that the initial fee for Seniors will only be \$10 and few of the provisions will be implemented, so protest can make a difference. The States which will be hit hardest, because they have the most USFS and BLM land, are those same 'red' states which voted Republican last November, and in these partisan days, something may yet be done. In November the late night deal was stitched together between a Representative from Alaska and one from Ohio who has no public lands in his district. It has created anger among numerous of their colleagues and there is talk of reversing this legislation. Politicians listen to their voters, so the SCRIBE plan is to send as many letters as we can to complain and ask whether they agree with legislation, and if not, what do they intend to do about it. To help we will draft a sample letter and ask you to ask all club members to send four letters, one to each of your Senators, one to your Representative and one to President Bush, and more to anyone you might think it worth influencing. Where possible add a yellow rockhound sticker to your letter, that will help our Representatives recognize our concern.

If you want to read more about this matter check some of these web sites;

www.sespewild.org/HR3283analysis.html

www.planetjh.com/klobnak_2004_12_01_pay.html

www.traditionalmountaineering.org/News_FeeDemo_Permanent.htm

www.americantrails.org/NewsAction/feedemo04.html

www.aznofee.org/aznofee/home.php
The full wording of the act may be found under

www.wildwilderness.org/docs/therat.htm

Rocky Mountain Federation News, March 2004, Volume 35, Issue 3



America the Beautiful: *Sample Letter*

Send to both your Senators,
your Representative and to the
President

Your Address
Date

Dear Senator / Representative,

In the Appropriations Bill which was passed into law at the end of the last Congress in November, a section was inserted at the last moment as a late night deal between two Representatives. This section has a fundamental effect on access to Public Lands throughout the USA. This section was never introduced nor discussed on the floor of the House or the Senate.

The legislation is HR3283 which cancels Golden Age and Golden Access passes and introduces a new pass; 'America the Beautiful'. It opens the doors for the National Parks, the USFS, and the BLM to introduce fees for many activities not previously charged, in many places where no fees had formerly applied. It mandates draconian punishments for fee evasion. Although Agencies have since commented that they do not intend to instigate all the fees allowed, we are all aware that if it is allowed, in future it is likely to happen. The new law does not stop any of the activities which are at present permitted, including rockhounding, in which I am particularly interested, but it does permit stiff fees for doing so in many places where such activity has always been free of charge.

I strongly object to this legislation and to the corrupt manner in which it became law.

I ask you to act to reverse the legislation in full and to guard against its reintroduction.

I would like your opinion as to whether passing far reaching legislation in the above manner fits your understanding of democracy in the United States at a time when we are lauding the ideas of freedom and democracy throughout the world.

Sincerely,

YOUR NAME

MINERAL SALE

April 30th & May 1st
Saturday & Sunday

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Symposium 2005

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www.wipsppc.com.

Date: Saturday, March 12, through Sunday, March 13, 2005

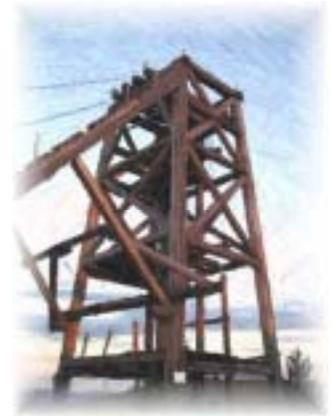
Time: Registration begins at 7:30 am
Saturday: 8:00 am to 5:00 p.m.
Sunday: 8:30 am to 5:00 p.m.
Location: Green Center at the Colorado School of Mines.

Cost: Walk-in registration is \$50.00 for each day.

March 10

The Ultimate Cripple Creek and Victor Gold Mining Experience

From Bob Womack's first discovery until now, the Cripple Creek Mining District has produced over 23 million ounces of gold. Join David Vardiman, the chief exploration geologist for the Cripple Creek and Victor Gold Mining Company, for a presentation on past and present mining operations in the Cripple Creek and Victor area. David will illustrate his lecture with many fascinating photos and will show the latest technologies in finding and removing gold ore. Come and join the Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds and learn about the World's Greatest Gold Camp.



Admission: there is no charge for the program

Time: the presentations start at 7:00 p.m.

Location: Tutt Science Center (Lecture Hall), 1112 North Nevada, Colorado College. Located in Colorado Springs. Take I-25 to Uintah Street Exit (143); go east, turn right (south) and you are there. Parking is available on the west side of the building and along the curb on Nevada Avenue.

Presented by the Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds
P.O. Box 851
Florissant, CO 80816
719-748-5010

Board Meeting: 1st Wednesday @ 7:00
Drew Malin: 531-7594

March's meeting again will be at the usual place at the regular time.

Camera Club: 4th Tuesday @ 7:15
1514 North Hancock, C/S
Roger Pittman: 683-2603

The Camera Club competition for February was won by Kaye Thompson. March's competition is "Farm Machinery" and April's will be "Pictures of Minerals Taken at a Show."

Our long time friend Larry Roith passed away Sunday Feb. 20th, and the camera club is putting together a potluck for his family on Friday the 25th.

Crystal Study Group: 2nd Friday @ 7:30
1514 North Hancock, C/S
Kerry Burroughs: 634-4576

The March meeting of the crystal group will feature a presentation by Don Bray on specimen labeling. Proper labeling helps specimens retain their scientific and monetary value. We'll explore some of the standard practices and techniques.

Jewelry Group: 3rd Saturday @ Noon-4:00
6608 Gambol Quail Drive East, C/S
Rick Copeland: 594-6293

The Jewelry Club will meet Saturday, March 19, from Noon to 4:00 at Rick Copeland's house, 6608 Gambol Quail Dr E. This month's topic: Bracelet Construction.

Faceting Group: 4th Monday @ 7:00
Dave Wilson: 635-7891

We failed to get information in time for press. Please give Dave a call for information and venue of the February meeting.

Fossil Study Group: 4th Thursday @ 7:30
John Harrington: 599-0989

For March and April I'm going to replace our fossil meetings with "Friends of Florissant Fossil Beds Community Programs" at the Tutt Science Center (Lecture Hall) at Colorado College, since they're on the 4th Thursday evenings.

Lapidary Group: 1st Saturday @ Noon
3085 Rhapsody Drive, C/S
Drew Malin: 531-7594

The March Lapidary group will be again at Drew's lapidary workshop. Everyone is invited to cut open rocks, polish cabs, and hang-out and socialize. Lapidary meetings always prove to be a great time to get together and share some time with your fellow rock lickers.

Micromounts: 2nd Tuesday @ 7:00
1514 North Hancock, C/S
Phil McCollum acc@frii.comm
Moyra Lyne: 442-2673

President	Drew Malin	531-7594	advanceone@adelphia.com
Vice President	Rick Olson	531-7818	RickPat66@aol.com
Secretary	Rick Copeland	594-6293	rick.copeland@covad.com
Treasurer	James Bushnell	598-9262	bushy@pyramidpeak.com
Membership Secretary	Ethan A. Bronner	448-9949	CSMSpickANDpack@msn.com
Managing Editor	Ethan A. Bronner	448-9949	CSMSpickANDpack@msn.com
Member-at-Large	Louis Severini	687-9491	
Member-at-Large	John White	630-0300	bluski2222@msn.com
Past President	Robert Landgraf	687-3195	RMLWP74@aol.com
Show Chairperson	Lorrie Hutchinson	382-3503	lorriehutchin@wmconnect.com
Field Trip Director	Brent Williams	632-3552	zaphod1863@yahoo.com
Librarian	Mary O'Donnell	689-7209	mod4185@compuserve.com
Camera Club	Roger Pittman	683-2603	rpittman@netzero.com
Crystal Study	Kerry Burroughs	634-4576	kburroug@adelphia.net
Faceting Group	Dave Wilson	635-7891	dlwilson@pcisys.net
Fossil Group	John Harrington	599-0989	harrington1@mindspring.com
Lapidary Group	Drew Malin	531-7594	advanceone@adelphia.com
Micromount	Phil McCollum		acc@frii.com
Jewelry	Rick Copeland	332-7915	rick.copeland@covad.net

Events

2 Mar - Wednesday, 7:00
Board Meeting

5 Mar - Saturday, Noon
Lapidary Group

8 Mar - Tuesday, 7:30
Micromounts Group

11 Mar - Friday, 7:30
Crystal Study Group

17 Mar - Thursday, 7:30
General Assembly

19 Mar - Saturday, Noon
Jewelry Group

22 Mar - Tuesday, 7:15
Camera Group

24 Mar - Thursday, 7:30
Fossil Group

28 Mar - Monday, 7:00
Faceting Group

2 Apr - Saturday, Noon
Lapidary Group

6 Apr - Wednesday, 7:00
Board Meeting

8 Apr - Friday, 7:30
Crystal Study Group

12 Apr - Tuesday, 7:30
Micromounts Group

16 Apr - Saturday, Noon
Jewelry Group

21 Apr - Thursday, 7:30
General Assembly

25 Apr - Monday, 7:00
Faceting Group

26 Apr - Tuesday, 7:15
Camera Group

28 Apr - Thursday, 7:30
Fossil Group

Ethan A. Bronner, Editor



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Joining the Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society (CSMS)

General Assembly meetings are the third (3rd) Thursday of each month, except August, 7:30 p.m. at the Colorado Springs Senior Center, 1514 North Hancock Blvd., Colorado Springs, CO. **Visitors are always welcome.**

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: Camera Club, Crystal Study Group, Faceting Group, Fossil Study Group, Lapidary Group, Jewelry Group. For details of Satellite Group meetings, see page 9.

Yearly Dues include the 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), free admission to the *Western Museum of Mining and Industry*, a year of learning and enjoyment, plus a lifetime of memories. Individuals - \$15.00 Family - \$25.00 Juniors - \$2.00

If you are interested in joining the CSMS or would like more information, we encourage you to attend our next General Assembly meeting (see page 2 for details of the next meeting) or visit our website: www.csms.us