

# Colorado Mineral Society Mineral Minutes



Volume 78, Issue 9

December 2014

CMS Christmas Holiday Party December 5, 2014 starting at 6:30pm (note earlier time)!!!!

# **President's Message**



By Bruce G. Sales

Hello everyone,

Welcome to the mid fall season, colder weather, less light to collect in, and snow in the high country. This month's Colorado Mineral Societies (CMS's) meeting is the Christmas Party, which will start at 6:30pm, with set up for the Christmas party starting at 5:00pm, at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 10<sup>th</sup> & Garrison Street in Lakewood. We welcome and appreciate any help that we can get in setting up for the party and for cleaning up after said party.

We are starting the party early in order to accommodate all of the planned activities of the evening. The display theme for December is "Red and Green Minerals", so bring your best red or green mineral specimens with labels to be put in the display cases. This has been an annual tradition and over the years we have displayed many fine specimens.

We will have a gift exchange, bring a gift and get a gift. Please try to limit the value to \$10.00.

There will be a cake steal, so bring a cake to put on the cake table, tickets are \$1.00.

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There will be professional, amateur, and kids mineral challenges, with prizes for the first, second and third place finishers.

Bring a dish for the pot luck dinner, CMS will provide a plate of meats, cheese, rolls, and condiments for a traditional holiday sandwich.

We will have musical entertainment from Craig Hazelton and David and Jennifer Knies.

There will be a raffle of six very nice mineral specimens and there will be the annual events for the kids.

The mitten tree will be up, please bring kids mittens, hats and scarfs to donate to St. Paul's mitten tree.

As usual, I am going to ask for you to consider volunteering for service to CMS Christmas Party. We have several positions that need to be filled; including the hospitality coordinator, as Star Edwards has broken her arm. We need someone to run the cake steal as Leslie Osgood will not be able to attend the party. We also need someone to man the gift exchange, and as always, we need people to move tables and chairs, both before and after the party.

I would like to acknowledge Dale Gann for stepping up and volunteering to be the CMS Denver Show Rep. At the very heart of our existence are the many volunteers who spend their time and efforts in direct support of the club's mission. I look forward to seeing all of you at the Christmas Party.

#### COLORADO MINERAL SOCIETY OFFICERS

#### 2014

President: Bruce G. Sales First VP-Programs: Gary Rowe Second VP-Education: Debbie Kalscheur Secretary: Sandra Gonzales Treasurer: Eva Siemonsma

#### **Appointed Board Members - Committee Chairpersons**

Annual Auction: Howie Houk Door Prizes-Guests: Paul and Cindy Hatfield Library: Kevin Atwater Exhibits: Harold Taylor, Leslie Sebol, Dan Wray Membership: Cara Reynolds Field Trip Leader: Gary Rowe Field Trip Leader Co-Chair: OPEN Nominations: Daryl Lamb Grab Bags: Dale Block Editor: Amber Brenzikofer Historian: Amber Brenzikofer Scrapbook: Jennifer Knies Youth Activities: Lewis Revnolds Hospitality: Star Edwards Donations: Debbie Kalscheur Web Master: Julio Edwards coloradomineralsociety@comcast.net



**Representatives (Board Members)** Denver Council Rep: Daryl Lamb Denver Show Rep: Dale Gann

**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 Colorado Federation of Gem and Mineral Societies, 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 \$5.00.

**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 Contintail, 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 dinner.

**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, onetime 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 24th of the month prior to publication. All correspondence to Mineral Minutes should be sent to Editor, P.O. Box 280755, Lakewood, Colorado 80228-0755 or by email to:

#### editor.coloradomineralsociety@gmail.com.

# CLUB NEWS

# In Memoriam Marjorie Wiggins

Merlin Schreffler wanted to let the club know that her mom, Marjorie Wiggins, passed away on Wednesday November 26, 2014. She was 92 years old. She and her husband, Denzil Wiggins, owned the Red and Green Minerals Rock Shop for many years. Denzil passed away just about a year ago, on November 30, 2013. Services are as follows:

Public Visitation Thursday Dec 4, 2014 - 6:00-8:00pm Horan & McConaty Lakewood Chapel 3101 S. Wadsworth Blvd. Lakewood, CO 80227

Funeral Service Friday, Dec 5, 2014 - 11:00am Denver Friends Church 4595 Eliot St. Denver, CO 80211 Reception Immediately After Service

Burial Friday, Dec 5, 2014 - 1:30pm Ft. Logan Cemetery Need to leave church by 1:00pm at the latest

## **November Speaker Recap**

The CMS November meeting speaker was **Dale Gann**, who gave an informative and funny presentation on agates. If you didn't know anything about agates, you definately have an appreciation for them after the presentation. Thank you Dale for an entertaining evening!

# Colorado Mineral Society's Junior Rockhounds Program

The CMS Junior Rockhounds Program will not be meeting in December -- instead, enjoy the Christmas party! Interested children are encouraged to continue working on badge requirements with their parents or guardians during the holiday recess from school. In January, we will jump from the stone age to the computer age, so look forward to bringing in the new year by heading back to the future.

Sincerely, Lewis Reynolds, Coordinator



# Christmas Holiday Pot Luck Party

## Friday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at <u>6:30pm</u>

St. Paul Episcopal Church 9200 W. 10th Ave, Lakewood, CO 80215 (10<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Garrison Street)

Come celebrate the season with good company, fun things to do, entertainment, good food, and contests. Note that we are starting the celebration an hour earlier. Here are some of the activities we are planning and need all to pitch in and volunteer to help:

- Gift Exchange bring a rock related gift (approximately \$10), then you will receive a gift. We have our own "rock tree" to place your packages under.
- Cake Steal we need cakes for our cake table. Tickets will be \$1.00 for a chance to win one. Please donate a cake.
- Mineral Challenges one challenge for the professional rockhounds, one for the amateurs, and one for the kids with prizes for the first, second, and third place finishers.
- **Raffle** a raffle of six very nice mineral specimens.
- Display cases bring your red and green rocks, minerals or gems for the cases.
- Music Craig Hazelton and David and Jennifer Knies will entertain us with their musical abilities.
- Pot Luck Food bring your favorite party pot luck food! We will have plates, flatwear, napkins, cups, drinks, and condiments.
- Mitten Tree Please bring kids mittens, hats, and scarfs to donate to St. Paul's mitten tree. We like to say thank you to the Church for hosting our meetings throughout the year by donating to the mitten tree.
- Visitor from the North we will have a visitor from the North, farther than Point Barrow, along with his helper elf.

With all of this activity going on, we need everyone who can, come to the church on December 6th at 5:00 pm to set up and decorate the tables, bring your cakes in, help with the food, and decorate the tree. The party will start at 6:30 pm. Then after the party, we need to get everything back together even better than we found it when we came in.

# **November 7th Raffle News**

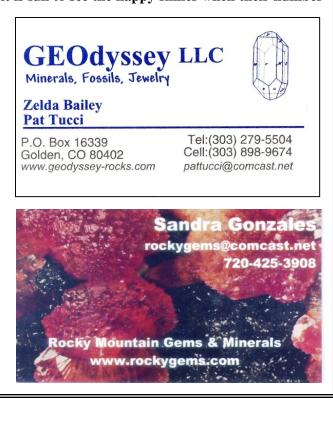
The raffle was again filled with some great specimens and your continued support of this endeavor allows the proceeds to be spent on CMS education, the purchase of library materials, and the state science fair awards. The retail value of the evenings donations was \$93, bringing a total of \$173 into the raffle account. The marcasite and calcite (\$22) donated by **GEOdyssey** was won by Marcus Liberman. The schallenblende specimen (\$59) donated by **Hands of Spirit** was won by Dan Guild. Rob Deschambault won a pyrite specimen (\$19) donated by **Sandra Gonzales** and Bob Heckman won an amazonite and smoky quartz specimen (\$10) from an anonymous donation. Carol Gray won a stilbite specimen (\$23) donated by **Richard Owens** and John W. Smith, III won a marcasite nodule (\$40) from an anonymous donation. Thank you to my two great helpers: Jennie Knies and DJ Heckman.

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!!!

#### Congratulations to all our lucky winners!

Submitted by Amber Brenzikofer CMS Deputy Raffle Manager





New CMS Members First Listing • Paul Wilson Second Listing • John W. Smith III • Michael Mason • Grant Martin • Jeanine Litton • Wendy Carley • Pam Goodman • Paul Wilson Per CMS Bylaws, comments concerning new, first listing members should be formally submitted to the President.

Fri.-Sun., Dec. 13-15, Flatirons Mineral Club Rock & Mineral Show and Model Railroad Show, taking place at the Boulder County Fairgrounds, Main Exhibits Building, Hover & Nelson Roads, Longmont, CO.

Fri., Dec 13th, 10am-6pm, Rock and Mineral Show Only Sat., Dec. 13th, 9am-5pm Sun., Dec. 15th, 10am-5pm

Admission: Fri. \$3, Sat. \$5, Sun. \$5 Ages 12 and under free with paying adult

#### **Collector's Edge Tour Edges Collecting**

by Terry P. Beh

Normally on a beautiful, sunny, comfortably warm, late-October day, you would expect most Colorado rockhounds to be out digging for minerals. Not so for a group of usually more rational "diggers" from CMS, who intentionally chose to remain indoors. Of course, when being inside involves the opportunity to tour the facilities of one of the world's premier mineral dealers, perhaps it makes sense.

On Saturday morning, October 25, approximately 30 CMS members assembled at an unassuming building near the JeffCo Fairgrounds in Golden to take an indoor "fieldtrip" of the Collector's Edge (CE) offices, fine-mineral prep lab and



wholesale warehouse. Upon entering the doors, we were invited to partake of dozens of fine specimens sitting in boxes on the main counter—donut specimens, that is. A chance at the real thing would come later.

With Bryan Lees attending the Munich Mineral Show, head of showroom sales Steve Behling was our gracious host. If you've watched the *Prospector's* show on the Weather Channel, you've probably seen Steve accompany Bryan to assess the value of some of the great finds made by miners like Joe Dorris and Rich Fretterd. After a warm welcome, Steve divided us into two groups. Half went with chief specimen preparer Rob Lorda to learn about some of the techniques CE uses to bring out the best in its minerals; the other half joined Steve in a conference room to hear about CE's history and current projects. I headed off with Rob.



Rob Lorda demos an air abrasive cleaning tool

Have you ever wondered how CE and other dealers get their amazonite crystals to have such deep, pure color? Rob informed us that not only do the lovely blue-green crystals attract hematite to their *exterior* surfaces but they also act as a "sponge," sucking iron *inside* and dulling their color. At least part of the solution to this problem involves crockpot cooking amazonites in phosphoric acid at low heat for two to three *months*. No wonder it takes some of those *Prospector* finds so long to hit the market! Of course, it makes perfect sense to take such time for world-class specimens, but it might be worth trying on some of those less-thanperfect pieces you have in your basement or garage (or display case), too.

But, do not use phosphoric on fluorite, Rob warned. In fact, every mineral or mineral "combo" has its own unique qualities and cleaning requirements—techniques he and Bryan have honed to a science over Rob's 21 years with CE.

Generally, when a new shipment of minerals arrives at CE, Bryan and Steve select the finest specimens from the lot to be immediately submitted to the Prep Lab for trimming and cleaning. Rob first removes excess rock with a trim saw. Then, the specimens may be cleaned in an air abrasion box or with a water gun (or both) before using any chemicals. One lucky (smart?) CMS member brought along a Bingham, NM, fluorite he collected, which Rob gladly used to demon*Continued on Page 6* 



Checking out the specimens in the Prep Lab

## **Collector's Edge Tour Edges Collecting (continued)**

strate these tools. Interestingly, the abrasive he used in the air box was baking soda, which CE buys in large quantities. In addition to this kind of equipment, Rob advised that the basic rockhounder's "cleaning kit" should include Iron Out, ammonia, phosphoric acid and hydrochloric acid. He ended his part of the tour by discussing his use of color-matched epoxy to glue and repair specimens.



Steve Behling (right) giving us the "scoop" on CE

When Rob finished, the groups switched places, and Steve gave mine the "scoop" on CE's operations. While CE has become one of the major mineral dealers in the world since it began in 1984, I was a bit surprised when Steve said they still consider themselves mostly a mining company. Over the years, they have been involved in some 40 mining operations, including barite claims in Stoneham and Grand Junction and owning the Benitoite Gem Mine in southern California. Of course, they are probably most famous for the Sweet Home Mine in Alma, Colorado, which from 1991 to 2004 produced the finest rhodocrosite specimens in the world. Before CE closed the Sweet Home, it was costing around \$100,000 a month to operate, and their stock of the beautiful mineral it produced is now virtually gone. However, another mining outfit is taking a stab at finding more "rhodo" near the Sweet Home, so there may be more on the market in the years ahead. CE currently operates mines in Tasmania and Namibia, with some other mining projects in the works.

A main focus of CE over the last 15 years has been helping to develop the Chinese mineral market. The company has an office in Changsha, Hunan Province, China and, while it can't "own" the mining properties there, CE has invested in many mining operations. Sometimes when a significant mineral find is made, "we'll just buy the whole pocket," Steve said. CE has also helped educate Chinese mineral producers and dealers in the best mining, extraction, cleaning, preparation and display techniques. While 15 years ago most minerals were sold in small, local market places— and size was the most important criteria for the few Chinese buyers—today China has become one of the largest markets for minerals in the world. It now boasts of many fine mineral producers, dealers with Western-style showrooms and buyers, who value quality over size.

For the last two years, China has also hosted the Changsha Mineral & Gem Show, where CE has operated a booth and sold fine minerals. Steve explained that the country's government much prefers that its citizens *sell* goods *to* rather than *buy* them from foreigners, so there are many business hurdles for CE to address when selling minerals there. Despite the business challenges, these days many Chinese can afford such luxuries and are purchasing beautiful specimens from U.S. dealers. However, because there are so many more buyers there now, China also exports fewer minerals and prices tend to be higher.

Before leading us into "the Vault," where many of CE's best specimens are kept, Steve informed us that Bryan only acquires Colorado minerals for his personal collection. Bryan also collects antique microscopes and other equipment used in the mining trade—many of which are housed in display cabinets in CE's entry room. As you might expect, lots of "oohs" and "aahs" were uttered as we toured the Vault's amazing contents (see photos on next page).



CMSers view "Colorado Treasures" in the Vault

## Collector's Edge Tour Edges Collecting (continued)

In addition, Steve invited us to visit CE's warehouse, which houses the majority of their minerals for the retail market, and where we could purchase specimens at wholesale! Located a couple blocks away, there we found hundreds (if not thousands) of white flats under the supervision of salesman Craig Wibirt, which were being readied for shipment to the 2015 Tucson Show. It was fun just to go through the boxes to see what they contained, and many CMSers bought flats of rocks, as well as individual pieces. There were even some free rocks on hand for the taking!

If a rockhound has to be indoors on a warm, sunny day, he could not do much better than hanging out at The Collector's Edge. Our thanks to Bryan, Steve and the whole crew for giving CMS this rare opportunity.







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At the CE wholesale warehouse





**Colorado Mineral Society** 

December 2014

# **CMS Membership Reminders**

A friendly reminder that your annual membership dues are coming due for 2015. CMS memberships run from January 1st to December 31st. You can pay your dues in three ways:

- 1. Pay with cash or check at the general meetings the first Friday of each month. Look for the Membership Chairperson to obtain a receipt and membership card. No memberships accepted at the December Christmas Party/Meeting.
- 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. Pick up your membership card at the next general meeting. Cards not picked up 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 (<12years 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 <u>www.coloradominerialsociety.com</u>.

Remember you can receive color electronic and/or black and white hardcopies of Mineral Minutes. However, CMS is trying to be "green" and cut back on paper copies, so please indicate if it is OK to send you an electronic copy only of the newsletter. Also, make sure to give us your updated email address and street address so you can continue to get the newsletter and other important CMS updates.

# CMS General Meeting Notes for November 7, 2014

Meeting called to order at 7:30 pm

Bruce Sales welcomed the visitors

Kids were called to the children's program and a call for additional parent was made and need filled

Bruce called for Open Announcements:

Bruce Sales - Reminded CMS members about the annual Christmas Party on December 7th

Debbie Kalscheur - Updated CMS members on the Education Fund from the raffles and the different options available

Littleton Club - Silent Auction - November 15th 12:00 - 3:00pm

Book Sale at the Colorado School of Mines Geology Museum - November 21-23, 9am - 4pm

Scrapbook Contest - Jennifer Knies will need help to get everything together for a due date on February 15th

Cara Reynolds: Read the membership number and announced new members

Dale Gann volunteered to be the next CSM Denver Show Representative

Guest Speaker: Dale Gann, "For the Love of Agates"

Raffle winners were drawn

#### Door Prize Winners:

Judy Blakemore	Sue Ler
John Smith	Don Bra
Donna Roberts	Bill Car
Paul Hatfield	Keann I
Susan Duncanson	Arthur (
David Knies	Mark D
Leslie Osgood	Sandra
Jack Gray	
Meeting concluded	

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Submitted by Sandra Gonzales

# CMS Board Meeting Notes for November 18, 2014

Attendees: Bruce Sales, Gary Rowe, Debbie Kalscheur, Sandra Gonzales, Cara Reynolds, Leslie Osgood, Amber Brenzikofer, and Howie Houk

#### Old Business:

Display Committee: The risers for the display need new covers. The board had approved spending up to \$200 for the necessary supplies needed to re-due the risers.

• Leslie is currently obtaining pricing for the cork board (3/8") and the material needed to re-due the risers, and will report her findings at the next board meeting

Confirmed Speakers for CMS 2015 Meetings - Recap:

January - Michelle Rahm - The Gems of Madagascar

February - Craig Hazelton - Modern North American Jade Culture

March - Pat Tucci - Morocco

April - Marc Jacobson- History & Mineralogy of Pikes Peak Batholith

Volunteers needed for the Display Committee / Scrapbook Committee

• Ok in both departments

Raffle money fund supports CMS educational programs - Debbie has reported on the education programs for 2015

- Mineral Identification Class Ed Raines- Fall September 2015 sign up with Debbie
- Front Range Geology in April (1st week) 2015 4 full day trips, up to 20 people \$150 per person / Club picks up 50%
  A motion was made to approval the proposed educational programs, and a unanimous vote to approve educational programs were made by the board

Many members have requested CMS T-shirts, Bids will be taken for the board to approve.

- This will be tabled for the board meeting in January
- Amber will get information and will report to the board for approval
- Bill Jones stated that CMS will need a new club representative for the 2015 Denver Show

• Dale Gann has agreed to be CMS club representative and will attend the 9 meeting per year

Storage unit monthly charges to store all CMS collections of memorabilia, supplies, etc...

• A motion was made to approve spending a \$100 per month to store CMS supplies, and was approved unanimously by the board

Howie has asked for a budget for the CMS auction

• This will be put on the agenda for the January meeting

#### New Business:

Christmas Report:

- We got a notice that Santa and his Elf will be attending the CMS Christmas Party
- We have not been able to obtain a singing choir, but are looking to an alternative Debbie will contact Craig and Star to see if they would like to play for the group
- Need volunteers to set up for the Christmas part at 5:00pm The party starts at 6:30pm
- Gary Rowe will put together expert mineral challenge, Sherman Marsh will put together the novice challenge, ask Lewis Reynolds if he can do a children's challenge
- Red & Green Minerals for display case
- Gift exchange, cake steal, mitten tree
- Pot Luck dinner bring your favorite dish

Daryl Lamb asked the Board if Robert Barry, Chair of the Denver Show Committee, can say a few words to the CMS members regarding the Denver Show Committee at our January meeting

• The board approved for Robert Barry to talk to the members during the business meeting approx. 15 minutes

Leslie reports that Dale Block will continue to make bags for the Denver Show

Daryl Lamb plans on attending the Denver Show committee meeting November 18, 2014 to discuss next year's show @7:30 T-Rex room of Museum of Nature & Science

Amber reported that CSM member Jennifer Knies will possibly make vests to sell to CMS members. She has created a pattern to review

Names were read for new members

Motion to Adjourn

Next CMS Board meeting is January 20, 2015

Submitted by Sandra Gonzales



Colorado Mineral Society PO Box 280755 Lakewood, CO 80228

# FIRST CLASS MAIL



#### UPCOMING MEETINGS

#### **Regular CMS Meeting - January**

Date: January 3, 2015 Time: 7:30pm Place: St. Paul's Church, Lakewood Speaker will be Michelle Rahm "The Gems of Madagascar".

#### **Regular CMS Meeting - February**

Date: February 6, 2015 Time: 7:30pm Place: St. Paul's Church, Lakewood

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

## **Rocky Mountain Federation News**

The Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies (RMFMS) is made up of 78 clubs representing 13 Western states. The Rocky Mountain Federation News is published monthly and is located at <u>www.rmfms.org</u>. The next RMFMS newsletter is published in December.

## **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

http://www.coloradomineralsociety.org

