



# Colorado Mineral Society

# Mineral Minutes



Volume 80, Issue 2

February 2016

## President's Message

by John W. Smith

What is a “Rockhound”? One on-line dictionary defines it as being an amateur collector of rocks, fossils, or minerals. To me that definition seems to be a little technical and does not really describe what I believe a rockhound to be. It is my opinion that a rockhound is much more than just a “collector” of rocks, fossils, and minerals. Through our participation in the various clubs that engage in these activities we slowly become quasi-geologists (that is those of us that are not official geologists that make of living as such), even us that started in this hobby because we simply liked the “pretty rocks”. Our understanding of the earth and the events that shaped it become more defined with every educational opportunity that presents itself at our meeting and every field trip that we participate in. We learn just how amazing Mother Nature is in all of her majesty yet just how fragile she is at the same time.

How often have you been asked “What do you do in your spare time for enjoyment” or something similar? It seems that when I respond that I am a rockhound people look at me with that certain look. You all know the look that I am referring to - that look that says “OK - and you have rocks in your head too. Now why would anyone spend time looking for rocks when they are all around us?” I find that no matter how hard I try, I just cannot adequately explain to those individuals what it is to be a rockhound. The joy and excitement of going on a field trip, digging into Mother Earth, and capturing that elusive specimen that no living creature has seen before (because it has been buried since it was created). It does not have to be the most magnificent ever discovered but it is still magnificent to us. We carefully take it home, nurture it by cleaning it, and then put it on display as though it is the most valuable thing that we own.

It does sound a little crazy doesn't it? However, our actions not only expand our own understanding of nature, but that of those individuals who are not rockhounds at heart. When non-rockhounds see our collections they cannot help but ask questions. It is at these times that we should not just tell them where the specimen came from but to try to provide a more in depth understanding of what the specimen means to you. Who knows, you may plant the seed that develops into a future rockhound.

In the meantime, where ever you go rockhounding, be respectful of the land that you are hunting on. Always try to leave the site in a better condition than you found it. Honor the conditions that the owner of the site puts in place. Above all, hunt safely. Good hunting.

Now it is your turn - What do you think a “rockhound” is? What does the hobby mean to you? I would like to hear from each of you about your thoughts.

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## CMS General Meeting

### February 5, 2016

The next General Meeting is **February 5<sup>th</sup>**. The church is not available, so we will be meeting at the **Clements Community Center** located at 1580 Yarrow St. in Lakewood (near W. Colfax and Wadsworth) on the first floor. Meeting time is the same at 7:30pm.

## COLORADO MINERAL SOCIETY OFFICERS

2016

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: Howie Houk

Door Prizes-Guests: Paul and Cindy Hatfield

Library: Kevin Atwater

Exhibits Chair: *OPEN*

Membership: Cara Reynolds

Membership Assistant: *OPEN*

Field Trip Leader: Gary Rowe

Field Trip Leader Co-Chair: Nels Grevstad

Nominations: Daryl Lamb

Grab Bags: Dale Block

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](mailto:coloradomineralsociety@comcast.net)



### Representatives (Board Members)

Denver Council Rep: Bruce Sales

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 \$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 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 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](mailto:editor.coloradomineralsociety@gmail.com)

# New CMS Life Members

by Amber Brenzikofer

CMS has awarded lifetime memberships to Leslie and John Osgood and Jack Sliemers. To obtain a lifetime membership, you must have paid 25 years of annual dues. Here is some details about our newest life members.

## Leslie and John Osgood

Leslie and John Osgood have been CMS members since 1989. Leslie currently works as a teacher's aide at Patterson International and has also worked as a librarian at the school. She will be retiring at the end of this school year. She got to order lots of geology books for the library and do rock talks when the kids were studying geology, which she really enjoyed. John retired in 2000 after 38 years as a meter reader for Public Service.

So how did Leslie and John get interested in CMS? When Leslie was in her mid-thirties, her older son, Charlie brought home a book he got from the school book fair. It was about oceans and what was underneath all that water. When she read that book to the boys and found out there were mountain ranges and deep trenches on the bottom of the ocean, she got all excited and snapped up every geology book she could find. A man named George Godfrey from her church gave the boys some pretty rocks, one of them being peacock copper. The Red and Green Mineral shop owned by Denzil Wiggins was near them, so they went there to look at rocks. Denzil was the one that told the Osgood's about CMS and they joined as a family.

Tom (the youngest son) and Charlie drifted away to their own jobs and life, but John and Leslie stayed on with CMS because of the people they met and they enjoyed learning about different places to see. Over the years, the Osgood's have been on a few CMS field trips. One of Leslie's favorites was the Top of the World mine where they dug for fluorite. Leslie has a problem with driving on scary roads, which is why she rarely goes on field trips anymore, but she does enjoy hearing about all the club member trips. Leslie has remained active in the CMS organization by being a greeter at the CMS meetings and she was the CMS newsletter editor for many years. Currently, Leslie handles the May auction bidder/seller registry, assists the Membership Chair when needed, and is an interracial part of the Christmas Party planning each year.

Leslie wanted to point out that one of the things that made a big impression on her about CMS was when her son Charlie died in 2007, many club members came to his memorial at the church. That really meant a lot to Leslie. She said "the club has been very supportive over the 25 years we have been members."



## Jack Sliemers

Jack Sliemers has 65 years of rock and mineral experience and has owned two rock shops (in Morrison and Englewood, Colorado). I could not get in touch with Jack to get more information; he may be heading to Tucson. I was able to get some information from Jack's Moss Rock Shop website.

It all started when Jack was 10 years old in 1944. He contracted Rheumatic Fever and doctor's orders were to lie in bed for two years. Jack's four sisters and brother regularly took day trips to the mountains outside of Denver and he would ask them to bring back rocks, since he couldn't go. With this, he accumulated quite a pile of "pretty" but largely unimpressive rocks. As the years passed, and he gained control of his own acquisitions, Jack's collection grew more sophisticated, as did his knowledge on the subject.

Jack went on to earn college degrees in philosophy, education, and counseling, none of which had much to do with earth sciences; these degrees, however instilled in him a thirst for learning which led to his extensive growth in lapidary arts, paleontology, mineralogy and jewelry making. He joined CMS in 1983.





## New CMS Members

### First Listing

- Deanna and Jeffrey Mackenna & family
- Jess and Lynn Overby

### Second Listing

- Lanell Perry and Kent Gestring
- Brian Walko
- Thomas and Nancy Carr & family

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

## February Meeting Presentation

The theme of the 2016 Tucson Gem and Mineral Show is "Shades of Blue: Minerals of the World". Hence there will be a significant number of exhibits featuring everyone's favorite blue mineral: azurite. Since most of us won't be attending the meeting in person we will feature a video lecture (~35 minutes long) recorded at the 2014 Dallas Mineral Collecting Symposium titled "Milpillas Mine, Sonora Mexico- A Modern Bonanza" by noted Arizona collector Evan Jones. In summer of 2007, Mr. Jones was contacted by a miner from Sonora, Mexico who said he had azurite and malachite specimens for sale. Thus began Evan Jones' interaction with the Milpillas Mine, which in recent years has produced some of the world's finest azurite specimens. Evan's lecture will cover the history, geology, and mineralogy of the mine and will feature many photos of world-class azurite specimens. The specimens are particularly noteworthy for their size, luster, and color and association with a green malachite matrix. Many of the Milpillas azurite crystals feature an electric blue color that is less commonly seen in azurite specimens from the classic Tsumeb, Namibia or the Toussit, Morocco localities whose crystals are a dark blue to almost black color.

## May 7th Auction

CMS will have its annual silent auction of mineral hobby items on May 7th at the Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church located at 920 Kipling, 3 blocks north of 6th Avenue in Lakewood, from 11:00 AM to 2:45 PM Admission is free. We need volunteers and a sign-up sheet will be available at the upcoming general meetings.

## CMS Junior Rockhounds February Program

**Topic:** *The World in Miniature* (Postponed in January)

**Overview:** The biggest rock, mineral, or fossil is not always the best. Many wonderful specimens rich with crystals or full of interesting features are smaller than the size of a golf ball. The specimen sizes are called *miniatures* (less than 2 inches on a side), *thumbnails* (less than 1 inch on a side), or *micromounts* (requires 10x or stronger magnification to enjoy it). At the February meeting, we will discuss some special techniques for collecting, preparing, and storing these small specimens. We will have an opportunity to use a magnifying glass and a microscope to observe the beauty of the world in miniature.

Parents are invited to attend the Junior Rockhounds Program with their children. We need at least one other parent, guardian, or member to help supervise each meeting. Although the youth do not need any supplies for this meeting, a pencil or pen and a notebook may be helpful for taking notes.

This topic motivates *The World in Miniature* badge in the AFMS Future Rockhounds of America program. More information about these *optional* activities outside of our meetings can be found below. Lewis will be available after the Junior Rockhounds meeting to explain the badge requirements and to answer any questions you may have about this program (also review our goals in the Junior Rockhounds Program in the CMS Newsletter for August 2013 which can be found at <http://www.coloradomineralsociety.org/newsletters/August2013.pdf> on pages 7-8.).

### **AFMS Future Rockhounds of America Badge Requirements (Optional):**

[http://www.amfed.org/fra/AFMS\\_FRA\\_Badge\\_Manual\\_Revised\\_2012.pdf](http://www.amfed.org/fra/AFMS_FRA_Badge_Manual_Revised_2012.pdf)

The World in Miniature badge is discussed on pages 177-186 of the manual.

Parents or guardians: please print the sign-off sheet on page 178 and check-off, sign, and date each accomplishment as it is completed. Submit the completed form to Lewis Reynolds to process the badge award.

*Lewis Reynolds, Coordinator*

# Great Time Looking for Fairburns in Crawford!

by Gabi Accatino

We had a wonderful joint Flatirons Mineral Club (FMC)-CMS field trip to Crawford, Nebraska during the weekend of June 13-14, 2015. The weather was beautiful and we were lucky to have Wade Beins lead us on Saturday. Wade is a geologist and is an expert on Fairburn agates. He organizes the Labor Day Crawford Rock Swap each year, which is a huge venue for Fairburns.

Did anyone find the elusive Fairburn? Yes! While the odds are 25,000 to 1 to find one of these beautiful agates, several of us found some. Shaula Lee, Brennan Johnson, Craig Hazelton, and Bill Hutchinson were the lucky ones. In addition to Fairburns, we collected prairie agates, chalcedony, fossils, fossil coral, river polished quartz, and fossil wood. And most of us camped right at the collection site which made the whole experience that much better – collecting from dawn to twilight!



**Bill Hutchinson's Collection**

**Gabi Accatino's Tiny Finds**



**Craig Hazelton's Fairburn**

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## Adventures in Rockhounding

by Bill Hutchinson

### **Two Rock hounds.... Five Days..... Ogallala National Grasslands, Nebraska.**

It was Wednesday afternoon and I was going stir crazy and wanting to go out and dig on my claim in Lake George. My name is Bill Hutchinson and I am a self-employed geologist. I have been mineral collecting since the 1970s and enjoy spending much of my time in the mountains. As I get older more and more concern for safety creeps into the equation of whether or not to go digging. My wife felt it would be better if I had someone with me in case anything happened. She had just heard of a rock hound being trapped in a hole and having to be rescued so she was on high alert. I called a fellow Colorado Mineral Society club member and rock hound Craig Hazelton and asked if he would be interested in digging my claim up in Lake George. His response was yes but he had already made plans to attend a Colorado Mineral Society (CMS) field trip to Crawford, Nebraska and would I be interested in joining him. Now I am not known for being an agate person, my interests are more in the hard rock field chasing crystals, gems, and mineral specimens from the old mining districts and pegmatite deposits throughout the mountains. Craig wanted two extra days over the scheduled CMS weekend trip so he wanted to leave on Thursday and return on the next Tuesday. I thought about this and it started to have appeal. I have never gone after agate and it did sound like an adventure. I called my wife who immediately said I should go, so I confirmed with Craig and we were to meet at noon the next day.

I do not like going anywhere without some level of geologic research done to prep me for the field and I had little time to work with, so I went to the Internet and googled all I could find on Fairburn agates in Nebraska. After I had found the obvious material and glean what I could for the internet, I called an old friend of mine Robert Spomer as I had seen

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## Adventures in Rockhounding (continued)

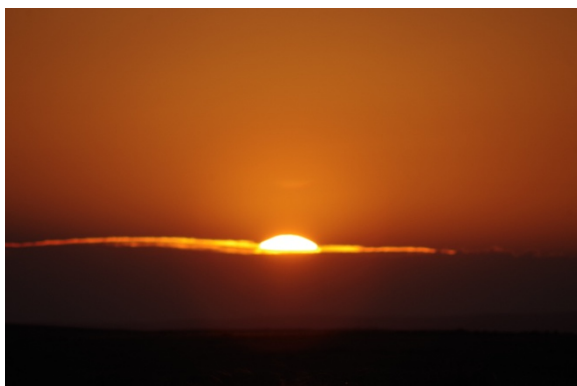
his collection and seen the passion for these agates in his eyes. He had collected Fairburns for many years thus I called him and along with his own ideas on where and how to collect around Crawford, he suggested I call Wade Beins who had assisted him in his pursuit of these elusive agates. I called and had a wonderful conversation with Wade which led to the invitation to stop by the next evening. Everything was a go!

We left Denver on Thursday, June 11, 2015 and drove 300 miles to Chadron Nebraska. We each had our own vehicle and were using two way radios to keep in touch. Soon we were at our destination, but too early for anyone to be home. We were to meet Wade Beins to discuss where and how to find the Fairburn agates around the Crawford area. Wade is well known to be the local expert and he had invited me and my digging partner to stop by when we got into town. So now we waited.

Due to arriving early in Chadron we had to kill some time so we went into town and had dinner at a local Mexican restaurant. After the meal we returned to Wades house and found him to be home and in a very pleasant mood. We were greeted with a hearty handshake and after introductions and small talk we were then directed into his personal collection room. An entire room for his collection! It was wonderful, old oak and glass cabinets filled with specimens focused the anticipation of finding the elusive Fairburn agates. He would show each of the wonderful Fairburns he had collected and lay them out on the floor with detailed description of when, where, with who, etc. All I could do was listen and think about what we might find the next day. He identified many types of banded agates from all over the world. To me it was his local collection that held my attention. Soon my mind went into prospector mode and I needed the critical information to locate these beauties in the field so I began to turn all the colorful fortification patterns over and examined the ugly side of the specimens. I know I wouldn't miss one if it was face up so to speak, but neither would anyone else. I need the down and dirty side to show so I could burn those images into my mind and hopefully find them in the field. Wade gave us a map of "pastures" that the National Grasslands used to allow grazing. He circled areas and would indicate which were safe when the ground was wet and what to avoid if it was raining and most important, where to locate the gravel beds that were known to contain Fairburn agate.

*The grasslands where we are hoping to find the desired agate lies within the [White River Group](#) of formations which overlies the Pierre Shale and is of Eocene and Oligocene age between 45 and 30 million years ago. The local rocks are primarily the result of volcanic activity to the west. The ash was transported by prevailing winds eastward and covered much of this area. This resulted in the fine silt and clay layers found in the Chadron and Brule formations where we will be searching. After the ash deposit, local streams reworked the sediments and deposited eroded sand and gravel beds in their meandering channels across the area. These gravel beds are the primary target for finding Fairburn agates.*

Wade was a treat. We talked agates and geology, then moved to Civil War history and to cannons, which he designed, built and fired. After a few hours, we broke through the conversation of rocks, cannons, and history and told Wade we needed to find a place to camp and maybe do a little collecting tonight. His response was wonderful. A confused look and a gentle stammer with the comment, "You are going to look for Fairburns at night? In the dark? In the rain? Yep. That is exactly what we were going to do! I explained that by using a flashlight your field of view is narrow and you focus more intently on each rock you see. Now the problem with this whole idea was that I had no idea where we were going, what the ground would be like or what exactly we were looking for, but hope springs eternal and we set off to our first locality.



Locality one was along the Sugar Loaf Road. We traveled about a mile back on this well graveled trail until we found a place to park and set up for the night. The sky was dark. A gentle misty rain blew through a fog which was illuminated by our flashlights creating a creepy night of the living dead effect. We headed down an embankment and found the ground to be saturated and slick. Each step was precarious and if not for the rocks showing promise, we would not have traveled very far. The lack of a sense of direction quickly led to keeping track of the cars by checking for the reflectors from time to time. Craig noted that the cars were up wind

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## Adventures in Rockhounding (continued)

and uphill into the rain. We started by finding what I thought were selenite roses, but found them to be pseudomorphs of selenite roses by chalcedony.

*This blue chalcedony is from the Brule Formation which is above the Chadron Formation in the White River Group. The microcrystalline quartz occurs as veins and dikes as well as the “cement” that sometimes encapsulates the river rock. This chalcedony can display beautiful fortification banding similar to the Fairburns and make nice specimens or lapidary material. The chalcedony also has wonderful fluorescence, sometimes with a bi-color effect as Craig found when going back down the second time with his short/long wave lamp.*

Soon we found the chalcedony beds and an occasional jasper. As we traveled further we found rock beds as Wade had described but the slick ground soon took its toll as I went down three times on those slick hills. Once we had to go back to the vehicles as the batteries in my head lamp had failed and while I was hunting down my backup flashlight, Craig grabbed his UV lamp. With new light sources we went back down the hill. We were surrounded by cows and at each new hill we would flush a bird or rabbit from its hiding place or nest. Craig stayed above me on the crest of the hill with his UV lamp and I picked through the rocks at the base. Later Craig showed some of his beautiful bi-colored fluorescent specimens exhibiting a concentric pattern. Soaking wet and with our specimens in hand we returned to the vehicles and got to sleep around one AM in the morning. We each brought our own vehicle to sleep in and as Craig had been doing this for a while had all his goods stashed so he could quickly get to bed while I had to unpack the rear of my vehicle just to find an area to sleep.

At five AM I woke and made coffee and cleaned some specimens. There were interesting banded agates known as prairie agate, but no Fairburns were found. I woke Craig at six and he enjoyed some fresh percolated coffee and back down the hill we went. It was partly sunny and it was amazing to see that we did not travel far from the cars the night before. With good light we saw where the rock beds were and we hiked a mile out and back but with all



the wondering we covered a couple of miles. Craig found an area of “quick mud” where he sank instantly past his knee and had to work at not losing his boot to the earth. Not once did he slip and fall the night before so it was hard to stifle the laughter at it being his turn to taste the mud. During the morning there was one minor incident crossing a barbed wire fence, costing some minor damage to our clothes. While we were searching for the agate we found short horned lizards and on the way back to the car I almost stepped on a snake. The collecting that we were so intent on doing granted us limited success this morning but showed a great diversity of rocks to collect. Craig found the first Fairburn here while on hands and knees as he had learned from his previous trip that you needed to be close to the ground to really see the intricate banding that the Fairburns are known for.

I should stop here and explain that there is a lot of agate out here, banded chalcedony, banded jasper, banded chert, etc. Many of the agates were translucent and some had some other patterns to them. I was on a steep learning curve! The rock beds varied from area to area with some having a selective size and others having a preference for fossil wood or quartz cobbles. Some hills were capped with a chalcedony bed that was friable and float covered the slope of the hill. It could be very confusing. We were looking for the high grade fortification agate that has a holly leaf or eye like design. Normally very few would find any but with the recent heavy rains we were hopeful. We then headed back to the cars for lunch. After lunch we packed up and went to our second locality where we parked on the highway and crossed a fence. We wandered into the low lying hills looking for likely looking rock bars. Often the upper part of the hill would have the same abundant chalcedony often encapsulating some of the rock we were seeking. This is when I was greeted by a Long Billed Curlew. This is a Turkey sized bird with a 14” curved beak. Not something I would want to tangle with. I think I must have been near its nest so I took a long way around the large angry looking bird. We prospected many hills and were amazed at the size of some of the regular agate we found. Some as large as a football. The rock beds are a mix of all the rocks washed down from South Dakota and Wyoming and incorporated into the White River Formation. Well rounded quartz were everywhere in white, smoky and rose varieties. Fossil wood was abundant, most in the white to brown to grey colors but with interesting textures. Occasionally you would find high

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## Adventures in Rockhounding (continued)



grade colorful wood as good as the fossil wood of Arizona. Translucent agate the color of butterscotch came in fist sized chunks. Nodules of brown, red and yellow jasper were scattered about. Many of these were broken recently. My guess is that people with rock hammers were looking to see if the interiors had any fortification agate inside.

The day was soon spent and we needed to get to Crawford to meet up with the CMS club members at the city park. We got there and many people had showed up, some from CMS and some from FMS. Colorado was well represented. We cooked dinner, I had Rica a Roni and Craig had a wonderful fresh green salad with fresh made guacamole dip. What a show off! The guy has some serious skills. We stayed up late with a club member who was knowledgeable about astronomy. He had a pair of astrological binoculars and showed us the planets that were not hidden by the trees. For the second day, we got to sleep late, but we were able to sleep until about eight.

The next morning, Saturday, at ten, the club members were to meet Wade Beins and follow him to a good dig site. This site was also along the Sugar Loaf Road and as soon as we had parked the club members scattered over the expansive rock beds. Low growing sagebrush and prickly pear cactus were everywhere. Many that did not pay close attention were pulling needles out of their hands and clothing. We had our heads down for hours until it was time to return to the cars for lunch. Here we learned that some nice Fairburns had been found by club members. We passed them around and gave appropriate oohs and ahs over the finds. I have to admit that I was excited to find my first Fairburn while walking back to the cars with Wade and Craig. After lunch and sharing our finds we decided to disperse throughout the area and meet back here to camp and do some star gazing. Craig decided to go for a swim in Crawford as I went up north and started hunting a different area. This pasture I was in was recommended by Robert Spomer as well as Wade who described it a small series of rock beds. I went out and got quite a surprise when I almost stepped on a very young pronghorn. When he first got up he kept his rear haunches down and my first thought was WOW that is a large jackrabbit, but then it ran away and I felt bad that I had disturbed the small one. I was continually disturbing the wildlife. I kicked up rabbits, grouse, nighthawks, owls, snakes, lizards and of course the pronghorn. I had brought my wildlife camera with a 400mm lens but I was here to find rocks so I had left it in the car. This was day two and both Craig and I were short on sleep and long on tired. About 5:30 PM, Craig showed up from his adventures in town and we hunted until day light was casting long shadows across the grass and rocks so we headed to camp. We got there just as the sun set and we threw together our individual meals and relaxed. This night I had multiple hotdogs and Craig had his wonderful salad with more freshly made guacamole. The club members had heard of the Thursday night hunt with the shortwave lamp so we decided to do it again. Only one other brave soul managed to make it late enough for suitable darkness but we found many interesting things with the black light including many pieces of fossil coral which would glow a brilliant purple. Afterwards we pulled out cameras and took photos of the Milky Way and Saturn, but due to a mistake we accidentally set up next to the field trip leader's car and woke her in the middle of the night. We were called down and moved to an area away from others and when the clouds rolled in we photographed lighting from an aggressive storm happening to our south. Once again it was around one AM by the time we were asleep and tomorrow would be a long day.

Sunday dawned and after breakfast we all decided to go our own ways. Wade led some to another site down the road still others went to site from previous years, but Craig and I decided prospecting on our own would work for us. Don Bray joined Craig and me as we prospected some hillsides not far from this camp. We found some good prairie agate but no Fairburn so as Don needed to head back to Colorado Springs we headed into town for some lunch. After lunch we went to Craig's favorite pasture, No. 27. Here many of the Colorado collectors were already at it and the whoops and hollers from people finding



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## Adventures in Rockhounding (continued)

Fairburns indicated this was the right place to be. This is one of the areas inaccessible when wet but the roads were dry enough for now. I soon found some more Fairburns as did Craig. We continually scoured the hillsides looking for the elusive agate. I found nice wood and a large section of a Bacculite fossil, but little more Fairburn. The day got on and soon it was only the two of us on the hill. We contemplated staying on the pasture but with a thirty percent chance of rain along with the possibility of getting stuck, so we decided to drive out close to the highway. It was a prudent move. Thunder woke us with heavy rains in the middle of the night and Craig moved his car slightly closer to the highway to avoid sliding down a ditch. Craig's set up was simple and efficient. A well-oiled machine. My set up was awkward and as I stated before I had to keep stuff out side of the car so that I could sleep in the back. I wrapped this gear in a tarp thinking it would keep the heavy dew off but I wasn't thinking of heavy rain. We were running on empty, four hours of sleep the first night, five the next and this night interrupted by the storm.

It is now Monday and I arose at first light, the heavy rains had left my gear wet and muddy. I got my camping equipment stashed as best I could, with the mud covered tarp stuffed into a trash bag Craig let me borrow. We headed into Crawford for breakfast and found a small café. It was decided that the second pasture that we saw needed more attention so we went back out and searched the fields yet again. I immediately headed out east to the far rock bars and Craig stayed on the near rock bar with a chalcedony cap near the top. This time it paid off for me as I found my best Fairburn of the trip. I hunted as far east as the exposures were evident and finding most of the area covered in chalcedony, I came back toward the road following the exposures to the southern



end of the exposure. Here I found more Fairburn agate as well as many interesting rocks to bring home. All the walking and bending over to pick up rocks had my neck and back aching and soon I was ready and found myself headed back to the car. Craig was having a hard day as well and was tired and burnt out but did not want to give up. I told him not to rush and I would wait at the car. I soon became restless and decided to do a quick trip down the road to grab some photographs. I found a great fox den on the side of the road but as I pulled out my camera they ran down into the den. I waited for a few minutes then headed back to Craig. We finally got together and had lunch in Crawford and talked over our next move. Storms were moving in and we were both exhausted but it was still a hard decision to call it quits and head back home to Colorado. To keep ourselves awake we talked almost constantly into the radios describing what we enjoyed and liked best about our trip. Both of us agreed that it was a memorable trip, a successful trip, but ultimately we will remember it as a great adventure.

### CMS General Meeting on January 8th, 2015

John Smith, the new CMS President opened with an introduction and asked if there were any new members or visitors to introduce themselves.

Attendance - 45

The February 5<sup>th</sup> meeting will be at Clements Center, downstairs on the first floor, starting at 7:30pm.

Eva Siemonsma - Introduced the raffle prizes and who donated the specimens. She reminded all the members that the raffle tickets that are sold benefit the CMS education programs.

Amber Brenzikofer reported for Howie Houk that the CMS auction is on May 7<sup>th</sup> and we will be looking for volunteer sign-ups at the next meeting.

Debra Kalscheur is currently working on the education program and will get back with members when they have confirmed classes.

Guest Speakers: Dave and Jennifer Knies - The Incredible Pyrite of Navajún, Spain.

Congratulations to the five door prize winners:

Dennis Boyer

Doug Osborn

Marilyn Pearson

Debra Kalscheur

Lucky Bruce Sales

*Submitted by Sandra Gonzales, Secretary*

## January 8th Raffle News

**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!!!** December's tickets sold were \$166, with the retail value of \$136. These funds are spent on CMS education, the purchase of library materials, and the state science fair awards. The most popular specimen was the fluorite from England (\$87) from **Hands of Spirit Gallery** and won by *Chris Keilman*. The lucky *Chris Keilman* also won the actinolite specimen from the Calumet Mine (\$18) from the **Dayton Mong Collection**. *Bob Murphy* won the adamite specimen from Mapimi Durango, Mexico (\$17) donated by **Rocky Mountain Gems and Minerals**. *Ron Lucero* won the barite specimen (\$16) donated by **GEOdyssey**. The calcite specimen from Galena, Illinois (\$15) from the **Charles Spletz Collection** was won by the lucky *Bruce Sales*. Finally, *Denny Voyer* won the fluorite/calcite/mico cerussite specimen from the Buckskin Mountains in LaPaz County, Arizona that was donated anonymously.

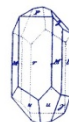
Thanks to Amber Brenzikofer and Leslie Osgood for helping with the raffle. Congratulations to all our lucky winners!

*Submitted by Eva Siemonsma, CMS Raffle Manager*



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Collection**

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Minerals, Fossils, Jewelry



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Cell:(303) 898-9674  
[pattucci@comcast.net](mailto:pattucci@comcast.net)

**Charles Spletz  
Collection**

## CMS Membership Dues Reminder

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 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. 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](http://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 to coordinate.

## CMS Board Meeting on January 19, 2015

Attendees: John W. Smith, Bruce Sales, Eva Siemonsma, Sandra Gonzales, Amber Brenzikofer, Cara Reynolds, Howie Houk, and Leslie Osgood

### Old News:

Defining Family for membership:

Put on next month's agenda - Cara Reynolds will follow up with additional information.

Positions open:

- Membership Co-Chair
- Jr Rockhound Co-Chair
- Display Chair

CMS Life Members:

Name badges have been ordered and will be presented at the February meeting

Leslie & John Osgood, Jack Sliemers will be honored for Life Membership

John Smith and Howie Hauk will be assisting Cara with organizing old Membership files

Education - Debbie was not present at the meeting.

Debbie will present ideas at the next board meeting.

Possible educational classes, including GIA with Star Edwards and Mineral Identification with Ed Raines

Denver Show Committee Update:

Gloria is working on media artwork

Next CMS meeting will at the Clements Center, February 5, downstairs. The meeting starts at 7:30pm and we have to be out of the building by 9:45pm.

February Presentation – TBD (possibly a video)

May Auction will be on May 7, 2016 from 11am -4:30pm. We need to be out of the facility by 4:30pm.

- ❖ Flyer is being produced so we distributed to members, clubs, and at April Gem and Mineral Show
- ❖ Howie will start recruiting volunteers - sign up at next meeting
- ❖ Phone Leslie Osgood at 303-986-4488 to obtain a bidder's and seller's number. Check out will be based on the order of the numbers so get your bidder's number early!
- ❖ Daryl & Lori Lamb will coordinate the food

Field Trips: Gary Rowe, Amber Brenzikofer, and Nels Grevstad will be working on the field trip guide

Guest Speakers:

- March – Bob Christy - Arkansas Quartz
- April - TBD

### New Business:

John Smith asked Amber to come up with a 2016 updated calendar for meetings / events

Complaints and Announcements – John plans on asking members to express their concerns and solutions to keeping the club operating efficiently.

Bruce Sales made a motion to purchase more business cards for the club. A second motion was made to find out if we still had business cards in storage and if so, we can hold off buying cards. Leslie and Amber will report back on how many cards we still have. This will be addressed at the next meeting.

Sandra Gonzales announced that there will be an April Gem and Mineral show this year

The show will be sponsored by Rocky Mountain Gems and Minerals at the Crown Plaza Hotel Convention Center D (15500 E 40<sup>th</sup> Ave Denver, CO 80239) on April 15, 16, 17, 2016.

Denver Gem and Mineral Show Packet is being taken care of by John Smith. The sign-up sheet for volunteers will be circulating at the next few meetings. Please sign up to volunteer. For volunteering you will get free entrance into the September show.

Cara Reynolds read the roster for new members

Eva Siemonsma presented Treasure Report updates

Amber Brenzikofer - deadline for newsletter submission is January 26, 2016

Meeting Adjourned

*Submitted by Sandra Gonzales, Secretary*





Colorado Mineral Society  
PO Box 280755  
Lakewood, CO 80228

## FIRST CLASS MAIL



### Calendar of Events

**February 5, CMS February Meeting** at  
Clements Community Center, Lakewood,  
7:30pm

**February 26-28, Denver Gem and Mineral  
Guild, Gem, Mineral, and Jewelry Show** at  
the Jefferson County Fairgrounds, Exhibit  
Building. No admission charge.  
<http://denvergem.org/Shows.html>

**March 4, CMS March Meeting** at St. Paul's  
Episcopal Church, Lakewood, 7:30pm

**April 1-3, Fort Collins Rockhounds Gem and  
Mineral Show** at the McKee 4-H Building,  
Larimer County Fairgrounds, I-25 Exit 259.  
<http://www.fortcollinsrockhounds.org/gemAndMineralShow.shtml>

**April 15-17, Rocky Mountain Gem and  
Mineral Spring Show** at Crown Plaza Hotel  
Convention Center, 15500 E. 40th Ave, Denver.  
No admission charge.  
<http://www.rockygems.com>

### Rocky Mountain Federation News

The Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies (RMFMS) is made up of 81 clubs representing 13 Western states. The Rocky Mountain Federation News is published monthly and is located at [www.rmfm.org](http://www.rmfm.org).

In the **January issue**, the Colorado Springs Pebble Pups have several submissions, which are good examples of stories, poems, and cartoon that our Junior Rockhounds could do. There is also a discussion of collecting on BLM-managed lands.



### 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 N is published monthly and is located at <http://www.amfed.org/news/default.htm>.



In the **December/January issue**, CMS's Bronze Award for All American Club and 7th Place finish in the website competition were announced.

<http://www.coloradomineralsociety.org>