

Colorado Mineral Society **Mineral Minutes**

Volume 84, Issue 3



March 2020

President's Message

by Amber Brenzikofer

I am not sure where January and February went this year; the months just flew by. Having to cancel the February Colorado Mineral Society (CMS) meeting because of weather seems to have thrown everything off a bit. Now that everyone is back from Tucson and spring is around the corner, I would like to turn our club's attention to field trip planning and the May 2nd Annual CMS Auction. We are still looking for field trip ideas and field trip leaders. The more field trip leaders we have, the more field trips we can offer. Because many of the popular collecting sites are within a couple of hours of Denver, we would like to add multiple trips to the same locations through the summer so that more members can enjoy rockhounding and learn more about the hobby. Contact me at pres.coloradomineralsociety@gmail.com or send an email to cmsfieldtrips@gmail.com with your ideas and willingness to lead a field trip. If you want to start out with a small group to lead to a specific location, we can accommodate your schedule. I know leading a large group on a field trip can be hard work, so by breaking the trips down into smaller groups may make it a more enjoyable experience.

The CMS Annual Auction is around the corner and we will be briefly discussing some exciting new ideas for the auction at the March 6th CMS meeting and sending out more information by email. We would like to set up an auction committee meeting in March to discuss planning and responsibilities. Contact Ben Geller at <u>geller520@gmail.com</u> if you are interested in being on the auction committee.

Jennifer Haley is the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) Historian and she is working on a project that I am interested in as the CMS Historian. Jennifer saw a society bulletin which had a wonderful field trip photo from long ago. It was taken during a time early in our hobby's history when it was customary for women to wear long skirts or dresses while walking the rough terrain, carrying rock hammer and bucket in hand while hunting for rocks, gems and fossils. If your family has a unique photo of Recreational Rockhounding from the earlier times in our history, please let me know. We would like to share the photos in the CMS and AFMS newsletters.

As your President, I am interested in hearing suggestions, concerns, and opinions of members for our continuous improvement. Email is the best way to reach me at <u>pres.coloradomineralsociety@gmail.com</u>. Please feel free to reach out to me anytime. We are all members of a truly unique and important Society in our community. Let's all work together to make it the best it can be!

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CMS General Meeting Friday, March 6, 2020 7:30pm-9:30pm

St. Paul Episcopal Church in Lakewood (10th and Garrison)

March 6th General Meeting Presentation

Recent Specimen Gold Activities in Australia

by Mark I. Jacobson

The discovery of gold in 1851 near Bathurst, New South Wales and its development fueled the growth of Australia and its major cities. The mining of visible gold (and sometimes invisible) has been a driving focus for fossickers – for pleasure, wealth and even lifestyle. The introduction of affordable metal detectors circa 1980 launched a new gold rush throughout Australia that was carried out by recreational fossickers as well as traditional miners searching for coarse, visible gold in the near surface. Today, after more than 40 years of metal detector use, such specimen gold is still found as well as the less common specimen gold from hard rock mines. It should be appreciated that in Australia there are perhaps a greater than 100 to 1 ratio of gold fossickers using metal detectors to mineral collectors.

Almost all the current gold specimen production is obtained with metal detectors. Specimens obtained this way are of nuggets, leaf and crystalline (dendritic or small crystals) masses or gold forming veinlets and lumps in quartz fractures. Material from these sources can be obtained from local fossickers in Australia, shops in the mining towns or remotely via a web site. Finders.com.au, jaysgoldnuggets.com, janetsgoldnuggets.com, treasureenterprises.com, or goldnuggetexchange.com are just a few of the sites that sell Australian specimen gold. Only a small number of gold specimens are recovered via hard rock mining. Gympiegold.com.au is just one company known for its gold in quartz specimens from Gympie, Queensland.

All the historic gold mining districts still produce specimen gold by metal detecting. In Queensland, fossickers still recover coarse gold from many of the abandoned camps west of Cooktown and Cairns. This area is attractive due to the high degree of tropical weathering and little competition from other fossickers. The goldfields north of Brisbane remain active for mining and fossickering. The goldfields north of Melbourne in Victoria remain active and popular for metal detecting with some successes reported in various Australian magazines or gold fossicking groups. In Western Australia, all the traditional areas around Coolgardie-Kalgoorlie, Laverton, Wiluna, Menzies, Paynes Find, Fields Find, Mt. Magnet, Cue, Pilbara, and Kimberleys are still detected with some success. Each fossicker may specialize in certain environments or areas. Dry (or almost dry) salt lakes are favored alluvial habitats for some. Others prefer the areas around abandoned gold fields or anywhere they happen to be traveling.

Reports of large gold masses is an entrenched tradition in Australia. Some of the earliest discoveries were the Burrandong nugget from near Orange, New South Wales in 1851 (2200 ozs), the Welcome nugget from Ballarat, Victoria in 1858 (2217 ozs), the Welcome Stranger nugget from Mt. Moliagul, Victoria in 1869 (2315 ozs), the Poseidon nugget from Tarnagulla, Victoria in 1906 (953 oz) and the Golden Eagle nugget from Larkinville, Western Australia in 1931 (1135 oz). In addition to large alluvial masses of gold, matrix gold has been found. A mass known as Kerr's Hundredweight from Hargraves, New South Wales in 1851 (106 pounds) and the Beyers and Holtermann's matrix mass from Hill End, Victoria in 1872 (630 pounds).



Figure 1.The Normandy Nugget, weighing 819 ounces, was found in 1995 in the Eastern Goldfields, Western Australia. Photo by T. Peters (South Australian Museum)

Discoveries assisted by metal detectors range in weight from less than a gram to more than 100 ounces. Two to ten gram specimens are common, with a handful of specimens available for purchase in the 200-300 gram size. Some of the larger recent discoveries have been the Hand of Faith at Kingower, Victoria in 1980 (876 oz), the Pride of Australia at Mosquito Gully, Victoria in 1981 (256 oz), the Jewel of the Desert in 1982 (173 oz), Snapping Duck at Ashburton, Western Australia in 2001 (20 oz), and the Golden Aussie nugget in 1980 near Kalgoorlie (267.5 oz). Continued metal



detecting by avid fossickers will continue to uncover additional specimens for purchase.

Mark Ivan Jacobson is a geologist-mineralogist specializing in pegmatites. He obtained a BS in mineralogy-geochemistry from Pennsylvania State University in 1973 and a MS in sedimentary geology from the University of California at Berkeley in 1976. After graduate school, he worked for Amoco and Chevron in oil and gas development as an earth scientist, completing 35 years with Chevron before retiring in 2013. Between 1999 to 2003, he lived in Australia: Cairns, Queensland and Perth, Western Australia.

March 2020 Junior Rockhound Program

by MistyAnn Bateman Junior Rockhound Program Chair

For March's meeting we will be learning about fossils and how they are made. If you have a fossil bring it to show the group.

Note to Parents:

We are offering the class a second time so that the kids that missed the first one can still get credit toward their badge. I will have more information on the badge program in April's newsletter.



In Memorum – Duane Van Vleet

06/18/1938 - 01/28/2020

Duane Franklin Van Vleet, a CMS member who lived in Centennial, passed comfortably January 28, 2020 at the age of 81 years old. A memorial service was held February 10th at Fort Logan National Cemetery. Contributions can be made to the American Cancer Society.

No February 2020 Raffle News

No raffle was held in February because the CMS general meeting was canceled because of weather.

CMS Open Board Positions

As you can see, we have numerous open positions on the Board. Through our CMS Strategic Initiative, we want to do numerous things to improve the club, but that requires volunteers to step up and help out. Our goal is to make volunteering fun, enjoyable, and a learning experience.

- First Vice President Programs
- Field Trip Coordinator
- Technology Chairperson and Assistant
- Newsletter Editor
- Donations Chairperson and Assistant
- Historian Assistant
- Annual Auction Chairperson
- Volunteer Chairperson

If you want to learn more about these volunteer positions, please contact Amber or one of the other board members listed on Page 11.

Wanted Newsletter Editor

by Amber Brenzikofer, Editor

Since I am taking over as President of CMS, I need to pass the torch of editing the newsletter. I will still be involved with the newsletter and am looking for someone who can compile the information, format a newsletter, do research as needed, compile photos of events and field trips, and attend CMS Board meetings each month. I spend on average about 4 hours per month creating the newsletter and 2 hours per month attending the Board meetings (not necessary), so it is not a huge time commitment.

Other perks of being the newsletter editor is getting access to other club newsletters across Colorado and surrounding states, submitting newsletters and articles to the annual Rocky Mountain Federation newsletter competition and American Federation newsletter competition with the possibility of winning awards for new editor, best newsletter, article writers, and other categories. Please contact me for more information if interested.

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Colorado School of Mines Scholarship Recipients



CMS provided scholarship money from the raffle fund to Colorado School of Mines for students in the Geology Department. Eva Siemonsma (center) attended the Colorado School of Mines Scholarship Recognition Breakfast on February 5, 2020 and met the two CMS scholarship winners, including Kayla Brady (left) and Lauren Miller (right). Photograph by Donny Boulanger, Colorado School of Mines.

Ways You Can Support the Club

Volunteer

- □ Serve on the CMS Board or a Committee many openings
- □ Be a speaker at a General Meeting. We would love to hear about your rocks, rock hunting trips, your collection etc. (We can help you put together a slideshow)
- □ Keep your eyes and ears open for speakers/presenters
- \Box Conduct a workshop, teach a class
- \Box Submit ideas for the general meetings and field trips

 \Box Lead a field trip

□ Help with the Junior Rockhound classes

Rocks, Gems, and Minerals

- □ Buy Raffle Tickets The raffle funds go towards educational classes for CMS members, junior rockhound supplies, and Colorado School of Mines scholarship funds
- Donate anything Rock, Gem, Mineral, Fossil; anything you like could be someone else's treasure
- □ Donate rocks, gems, or minerals to put in kids grab bags at the Denver Show. If you are out collecting, pick up an extra bag of small stuff for the grab bags. We need a lot of different types of cool stuff

DID YOU KNOW...

-- A team from Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences examined teenage T. Rex dinosaurs from Montana and could determine their age by the rings in their leg bones. They also determined that T. Rex grew as fast as today's animals and birds. <u>www.science daily.com/releases/2020/01/200101144031.htm</u>, Science Daily, January 1, 2020.

--A meteorite that crashed on earth in September 1969 near Victoria, Australia, contains material that is about 7 billion years old—7,000,000,000—making it the oldest solid material known to exist on Earth and older than our Sun. www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2020/01/200113153306.htm, Science Daily, January 13, 2020 and www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/meteorite-grains-are-oldest-known-solid-material-on-earth, Smithsonian Magazine (on line version).

CMS 2020 Membership Dues - Time to Renew

A membership form with a renewal checkbox is located on the CMS website at <u>www.coloradominerialsociety.com</u>.

Single: \$18 per year

Junior (<12 years old): \$15 per year

CMS Membership Dues:

Family: \$20 per year Senior 65+ (single or family): \$15 per year

CMS memberships run from January 1st to December 31st. Here are ways to pay your dues:

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

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. If you ordered a name badge, they will be available at the general meetings to pick up or by other arrangements.

Denver Gem & Mineral Show Mini Report March 2020

The Denver Gem & Mineral Show is September 18 - 20, 2020 and the theme is Fluorite. The show venue is the usual Denver Mart, 451 E. 58th Avenue. The Show Chair is George Daggett, who can be reached at geoddaggett@hotmail.com or 303-453-9651. George is always open to talking with club members regarding the show. Linda Burns has accepted the position of Show Chair Elect. Linda is a member of the Denver Gem & Mineral Guild and can be reached at 303-263-0391 or burns.henley@gmail.com.

So now that you know the details about the 2020 show, here are some facts you may not know about the show. The 2020 show will be the 53rd Denver show. The Denver show is owned by the Greater Denver Area Gem and Mineral Council, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, and is the Council's primary program. The Council was incorporated as a non-profit organization in 1985 and is the successor to the Denver Council of Gem and Mineral Societies, Inc., which was incorporated in 1971. The Council is made up of the eight local clubs: Colorado Mineral Society, Denver Gem and Mineral Guild, Flatirons Mineral Club, Friends of Mineralogy - Colorado Chapter, Littleton Gem and Mineral Club, Mile Hi Rock and Mineral Society, North Jeffco Gem and Mineral Club, Inc., and Western Interior Paleontological Society. Each of these clubs appoints a Trustee to represent their club. The Council elects the usual officers - President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer- who along with the Trustees conduct the business of the Council. The Council was formed to promote exhibition, exploration and education in the earth sciences; for the discovery, development, and preservation of minerals and mineral deposits, and for the advancement, encouragement, and utilization of the principles of art and craftsmanship as applied to gems and minerals. Even though fossils are not mentioned specifically in the Council's mission statement, the Council fully supports the paleontological community and its activities as evidenced by grants that have been made for many paleontological projects. The Council has made approximately \$500,000 in grants to other non-profits in support of its mission statement over the years. That is an impressive history and it all results from the Denver Gem & Mineral Show. The Council also supports the local eight clubs with an annual grant of \$250 based on Trustee attendance at the quarterly council meetings.

For additional information, the Council published *The Denver Gem & Mineral Show - A Retrospective*, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the show. A copy should be available from your club. In addition, the Council publishes an annual report of the show and Council, which includes pertinent details about each show such as show theme, attendance, competition winners, exhibits, and grants made. The annual reports began in 1996 and many are still available.

So now you know! And now you know why it is so important that club members likewise support the show by volunteering. There are so many easy ways to support the show. Talk to your friends and fellow hobbyists. Find out more about the show and ways to help with the show. It is fun, interesting and educational. It will help you learn more about gems, minerals, and fossils. And after all, that is a goal for all of us, isn't it?

Respectfully submitted, Judy Knoshaug, Show Secretary

Rocky Mountain Federation News

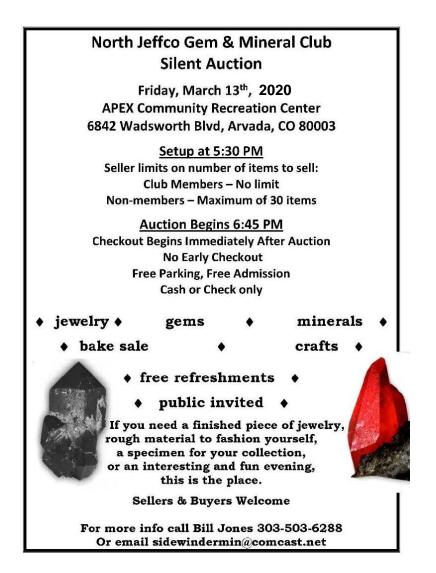
The Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies (RMFMS) is made up of 78 clubs representing 13 Western states. CMS is a member of RMFMS. The Rocky Mountain Federation News is published monthly and is located at www.rmfms.org.





A.F.M.S Newsletter

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







COLORADO MINERAL & FOSSIL SPRING SHOW APRIL 10-12, 2020

Crowne Plaza Denver Airport Convention Center, 15500 E 40th Ave, Denver, CO 80239

We are excited to announce that due to popular demand, we've expanded our Workshop offerings this year! For our Spring, 2020 show, we have several talented jewelry artists and teachers as well as a professional photographer sharing their decades of skill and knowledge! Classes come with everything you need to enjoy the project or lecture. Check out these amazing classes coming to the Colorado Mineral and Fossil Spring Show! Registration is open! Make sure to sign up early for these popular workshops!

Featuring Certified Professional Photographer & Certified Instructor, Bruce Danuser, CPP Tips and Techniques For Better Mineral, Fossil, & Jewelry Photos

For information and early Workshop registration, go to www.RMGMPromotions.com

Featuring Jewelry Artist & Teacher Katiri Peters from Texas!

Saddle Bail Stone Pendant Kingman Turquoise Fine Silver Pendant **Turquoise Sterling Silver Cuff Ring**

Featuring Jewelry Artist & Teacher Susan Gardner from Denver!

Traditional Wire Wrapped Cabochon Ring Wire Wrapped Cabochon Pendant Wire Weaved Reversible Pendant

Featuring Jewelry Artist & Teacher Kate Dowd from Denver!

Bead Bezeled Cabochon Pendant!

Lectures at Colorado School of Mines – Mines Museum of earth science

COUNT WORTH SHARING BLACK Tuesday, March 31: Tuesday, March 24: Western Clear Creek County Silver **Eastern Clear Creek County** Idaho Springs Lawson 12:30-1:30 PM Freeland Georgetown In GRL201 Lamartine Silver Plume Chicago Creek (Brown bags welcome) East Argentine **COLORADO**SCHOOLOF**MINES** EARTH . ENERGY . ENVIRONMENT earth scier

1310 Maple St, Golden, CO 80401

2020 FRIENDS LECTURE SERIES #1

"THE LAST MAMMOTHS: HOLOCENE EXTINCTION ON ST. PAUL ISLAND, ALASKA" PRESENTED BY DR. RUSS GRAHAM

> Tuesday, March 10th, 2020 6:00-7:30 PM in GRL201



Dr. Graham was the former Director of the Earth and Mineral Sciences Museum at Penn State University and former Curator at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. He is currently an Adjunct Faculty member in the Geology Department at the Colorado School of Mines

Colorado Mineral Society Board Meeting Agenda February 18, 2020

Attendees: Amber Brenzikofer, Ben Geller, Loni Cole, Debbie Kalscheur, Leslie Osgood, Eva Siemonsma

Call to Order @ 7:07 pm – Amber Brenzikofer

Open Positions

- Open 2020 Officer Position: 1st VP
- Other Open Positions:
 - Field Trip Coordinator
 - Newsletter
 - Donations Chair
 - Technology Leader Debbie and Amber to co-chair until we find someone, group will get together and meet in the near future
 - Annual Auction Chair
 - Volunteer Coordinator new position

Items for Board Approval/Special Topics

- Upsizing and organization of CMS storage unit Board approved upsizing CMS storage unit
- New projector screen and projector stand Board approved, Amber to order
- Grab bag party rescheduling before the April 3rd meeting with a 6pm setup
- New Lifetime Members Badges ordered for Melanie Hood-Lofthouse and Mark Lofthouse
- CMS Lifetime Member Appreciation moved to fall General Meeting October
- Committee Groups:
 - Auction Chair/Committee: Ben will create flyers by March meeting, committee meetings in March, volunteer position responsibilities/sign up in March, food, Volunteer Map
 - Field Trip Committee update, set up Blanchard Mine field trip in May, reciprocal with Arizona club so we can go to collect in Arizona in the fall, Gary will have another meeting
 - Technology Committee put together a technology plan including a functionality list to evaluate commercial products, set up a committee meeting Debbie
 - Education Committee set up a committee and meeting Mark
 - Creation of a Legacy Donations committee creation of a Donations Spreadsheet/Tracking mechanism Amber will go to Spring Show and collect donations
 - Creation of a Volunteer Committee create and manage volunteer tracking mechanism, new member welcoming committee, mentoring and training opportunities

Officer/Committee Reports

- Speakers for March and April Gary/Amber
- Treasury Loni gave a report on where we are financially up to early February 2020, she is working on the budget. A motion was made for committee leaders to send in budgets for fiscal year 2019-2020 and 2020-2021) in the next month (operating projections by the next board meeting)
 - o fiscal year 2020 (remaining)
 - o fiscal year 2021
 - Special projects
- Membership Leslie, a new member was read, along with number of members/families
- Raffle Eva, income down because of cancelled February meeting
- Newsletter Amber DEADLINE February 26, 2020

Other Topics

- Board will move monthly meetings to third Mondays of the month to accommodate Mark's teaching schedule
- Next CMS Board Meeting: Monday March 16th. Location: Leslie's unless otherwise communicated

Meeting Adjourned: 9:18pm

Minutes taken by Ben Geller, Secretary

COLORADO MINERAL SOCIETY OFFICERS 2020

President: Amber Brenzikofer First VP-Programs: **OPEN** Second VP-Education: Mark Leatherman Secretary: Ben Geller Treasurer: Loni Cole

Appointed Board Members - Committee Chairpersons

Annual Auction: OPEN Door Prizes-Guests: Jonathan Papes Library: Kevin Atwater Display Chair: Chris Keilman Membership: Leslie Osgood Field Trip Leader: **OPEN** Field Trip Leader Co-Chair: Nels Grevstad Nominations: Debbie Kalscheur Grab Bags Coordinator: Wendy Carley Publications: OPEN Historian: Amber Brenzikofer Jr Rockhound Coordinator: MistyAnn Bateman Jr Rockhound Assistants: Joanna Morsicato/Wendy Carley Hospitality: Star Edwards Donations: OPEN Technology Leader: **OPEN** Volunteer Chair: OPEN Web Master: Julio Edwards coloradomineralsociety@comcast.net

Representatives (Board Members)

Denver Council Trustee: Debbie Kalscheur

Denver Show Rep: Amber Brenzikofer

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

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

MEETINGS: General membership meetings start at 7:30 PM on the first Friday of each month, October through May, at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, at 10th and Garrison in Lakewood, CO. **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.

MEMBERSHIP: Open to all persons who agree to abide by Society rules and rules of the Federations. Annual fees are: \$20.00 for a Family living at the same household, \$18.00 for a Single Membership, \$15.00 for a Senior Membership (single or family over 65), and \$15.00 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 as a member of the Denver Greater Gem and Mineral Council and the original Denver Gem and Mineral Show; 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, 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 20th of the month prior to publication. All correspondence to Mineral Minutes or questions should be sent to Amber Brenzikofer, Editor, P.O. Box 280755, Lakewood, Colorado 80228-0755; phone: 720.480.5234; or by email to:

editor.coloradomineralsociety@gmail.com



Colorado Mineral Society PO Box 280755 Lakewood, CO 80228

FIRST CLASS MAIL



Calendar of Events

March 6, 2020, CMS General Meeting at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Lakewood, 7:30pm-9:30pm

April 3, 2020, CMS General Meeting at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Lakewood, 7:30pm-9:30pm

May 1, 2020, CMS General Meeting at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Lakewood, 7:30pm-9:30pm

May 2, 2020, CMS Annual Auction at Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church 920 Kipling Street, Lakewood

*Note, if Lakewood is on accident alert, the meeting may be canceled. Look at your email and the CMS website for confirmation.



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http://www.coloradomineralsociety.org