



# Colorado Mineral Society Mineral Minutes



Volume 84, Issue 5

October 2020

## President's Message

by Amber Brenzikofer

Here we are at the end of summer and it has been a strange and tough year so far with many ups and downs. The Denver Gem and Mineral Show put on by the local rock and paleontology clubs was canceled this year, but the Rocky Mountain Mineral Show at the Crowne Plaza was a success with well-spaced dealers and limits on number of people in each area. We have had some good field trips this year with proper face masks and social distancing; however, significantly less than in previous years.

CMS is planning on having virtual online CMS meetings starting on October 2<sup>nd</sup> and continuing on November 6<sup>th</sup> and December 4<sup>th</sup> this year. We are lining up presentations for the meetings and will try to keep the meeting to an hour with a short business meeting and presentation. We would normally have our Christmas holiday potluck party on December 4<sup>th</sup>; however, that will be problematic this year. So we are working on something virtually online that will be fun. See the zoom meeting link below

The CMS Board has decided that we will get together for Founder's Day celebration on Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> at noon at Addenbrooke Park in Lakewood (see Page 3 for location map). We have selected an open shady area where members and their families can come out and bring chairs to sit and have lunch (bring your own food and drinks not to share) and socialize (masks and social distancing please) or they can set up a table to show off their specimen finds this year on field trips. CMS will bring a few specimens and buckets of rocks to sell. Because we are not located in a park shelter or have paid for an alcohol permit, no alcohol should be consumed on park property.

Because the CMS auction in May 2021 is questionable, we will plan on having a large CMS rock sale in May to help raise funds for the club. CMS has received many donations in the last couple of years. We will spend the next 6 months organizing, cataloging, pricing donations for the sale.

On a personal note, thank you to the rockhounding community for the cards and kind words due to my mother's passing last month after a long illness. We have lost several fellow CMS rockhounds this year, including Jack Gray and Jane Dianich (additional information on Page 7). Several other CMS members also lost loved ones this year. My deepest sympathy goes out to them and their families.

CMS did have several rock trips this summer, which were well attended and safe (see pictures in this newsletter). Thank you to the participants who wore masks and maintain social distancing, It was good to see everyone on the trips and find some kind of normal in this un-normal year. We will start to plan next year's field trip season early next year and are looking for a new field trip chairperson and additional field trip committee members to help with the planning.

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CMS October 2<sup>nd</sup> VIRTUAL General Meeting  
7:00pm to 8:30pm  
**Zoom:** <https://cuboulder.zoom.us/j/94797230279>  
Short business meeting and presentation by Markus Raschke  
(abstract on Page 5). You will need to download the Zoom app.

## President's Message (continued)

The online fieldtrip sign up process went pretty well this year, and allowed us to add trips as they became available. We are still working out some kinks in the online field trip site and our new Technology Committee will continue to explore additional technology upgrades and moving our platform over to a new server hub.

That brings me to the need for volunteers. We have an officer position (First VP) and numerous chairperson positions available. Not being able to meet for Board meetings and general meetings makes it more challenging for volunteers. If you are interested in a volunteer position and would like to sit in on a virtual board meeting to learn what we are doing, contact me at [pres.coloradomineralsociety@gmail.com](mailto:pres.coloradomineralsociety@gmail.com). Our CMS Board meetings are on the third Tuesdays of the month. The 2021 CMS Officer positions are voted on by the CMS members in December and ballots will be going out this year in November for the election (more to come). Stay safe this fall!

### Editor Note

Hello everyone, my name is Jimmy Betsill and I can finally say, after a delay of a few months, that I am now the new newsletter editor for CMS. For those of you who don't know me I am a junior in geological engineering at the Colorado School of Mines and this is my second year as a member of CMS. This is my first newsletter that I have produced as editor and I hope you enjoy this long overdue issue. This issue looks pretty similar to some of the recent issues but, I will be looking into potential changes for future issues so if you have ideas feel free to share them with me. My email is [editor.coloradomineralsociety@gmail.com](mailto:editor.coloradomineralsociety@gmail.com). I hope everyone has been well and I can't wait to share future Mineral Minutes with everyone.

### CMS Open Board Positions

We still 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
- Donations Chairperson and Assistant
- Annual Auction Chairperson
- Volunteer Chairperson

We are going to need all the help we can get in the upcoming months. If you have any interest in these volunteer positions, please contact Amber at [pres.coloradomineralsociety@gmail.com](mailto:pres.coloradomineralsociety@gmail.com).

### Baculite Mesa Field Trip

The field trip season is not quite over yet. There is one field trip left this year that will take place at Baculite Mesa in Pueblo on October 24<sup>th</sup>. Make sure you log onto <https://fieldtrips.coloradomineralsociety.org/> for more information and to sign up.



### Reminder

If you are feeling ill, running a fever, have a cough or other symptoms, or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 in the past 2 weeks, please do not attend any field trips or events. Participants will be asked to wear face masks and practice social distancing. Carpooling is discouraged for now.



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# Founders Day Celebration

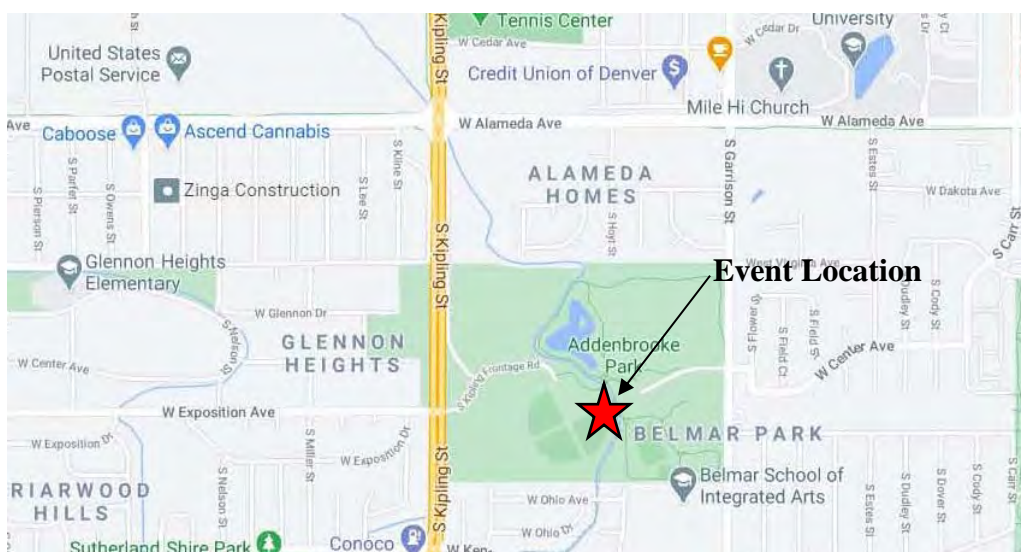
## Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, Noon to 3pm

### Addenbrooke Park

Come out and celebrate CMS Founders Day. CMS was founded in September 1936 and has a long history in Colorado. Bring your own chairs, blankets, and food/drink (no alcohol) for a fun get-together. There are playgrounds, walking trails around a lake, and shade trees. Parking is located next to the gathering area. Please wear masks when around other members and social distance.

If you found specimens on a rock trip this year, bring them to show off. You can bring your own table or a table will be provided to put them on. CMS will bring a few specimens and buckets of rocks to sell.

**Location:** The event location is located on the southeast side of Addenbrooke Park (600 S. Kipling) in Lakewood that can be accessed at **S. Garrison Street and W. Center Avenue**. Note: there is no access to the event site from Kipling Street. Go to the far parking lot and you will see a CMS sign and tables.



## CMS New Members

A warm welcome to all our new members who joined CMS over the summer

### **First Listing**

Vanessa and Jon Bayer  
Billy and Debra Bell  
Caryn and Keith Brick  
Jessica and Todd Brookhart & family  
Autumn Buehler  
Parker Carman  
Linda Chorney  
Elizabeth and Kelsey Chorney & family  
Theresa Corley  
Josephine Dalugdug  
Stacy and C. Todd Eary & family  
Silvan Erb-Summers  
Nicholas Griffes  
Travis and Alliene Gunn & family  
Kylee Hahn  
Jeffery and Irene Hall & family  
Shannin and Orlando Hamilton  
Daniel Helfer  
Mark Irby-Gill  
Bruce and Tina Jakel  
Andrea and Scott Jones  
Keita and Madoka Kato  
Megan and Darrell King & family  
Michael Leonard  
Robert and Valerie Leonard  
Jessica and Jeffrey Linder  
Sue and Sheldon Longhini  
Melissa and Felipe Lopez & family  
Mildred Lough  
Rebecca Lubitsky  
Vanessa and Nolan Mandonado  
Mallory McCormick  
Jena McGarrahan  
Joanne and Phil McKay  
Michael McNichols  
Nathan Meader  
Harold (Beau) and Beth Merkel

### **First Listing**

Eva and Bryan Millwood  
Gene Monroe  
Bridgette and Joseph Moss & family  
Noel and Jason Nemcik & family  
Shenna and Nathan Nichols & family  
Axel and Ashley Palmstrom  
Elizabeth Perillo  
Melanie and Nick Polanco  
Sami Reuter  
Jessica and Ryan Rhodes  
Alma and Gwen Rode  
Kirah Romo  
Taron and Melissa Rueger  
Jamie Salazar  
Julie and Tim Sharp  
Kate and Josh Spring  
Rebecca and Brian Stetson & family  
Dayshun and Kevin Stevens-Felling  
Ariel Stokes  
Kelly Sullivan  
Tony and Penelope Trease  
Nicholas Villarreal  
Marie and Wesley Wang  
Chris Willis  
Mark and Ashley Woods & family  
Jennifer and Curtis Wright & family

### **Second Listing**

Victoria and Matthew Baldwin & family  
John and Jasmine Cuccaro  
Mark and Barbara Fehey  
George and Nancy Gabbert  
Naomi and Ronald Gagnon  
Jim and Alicia Joy & family  
Bethany Steinhour  
Daniel and Ginger Wagster & family

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





# October 2<sup>nd</sup> VIRTUAL General Meeting Abstract

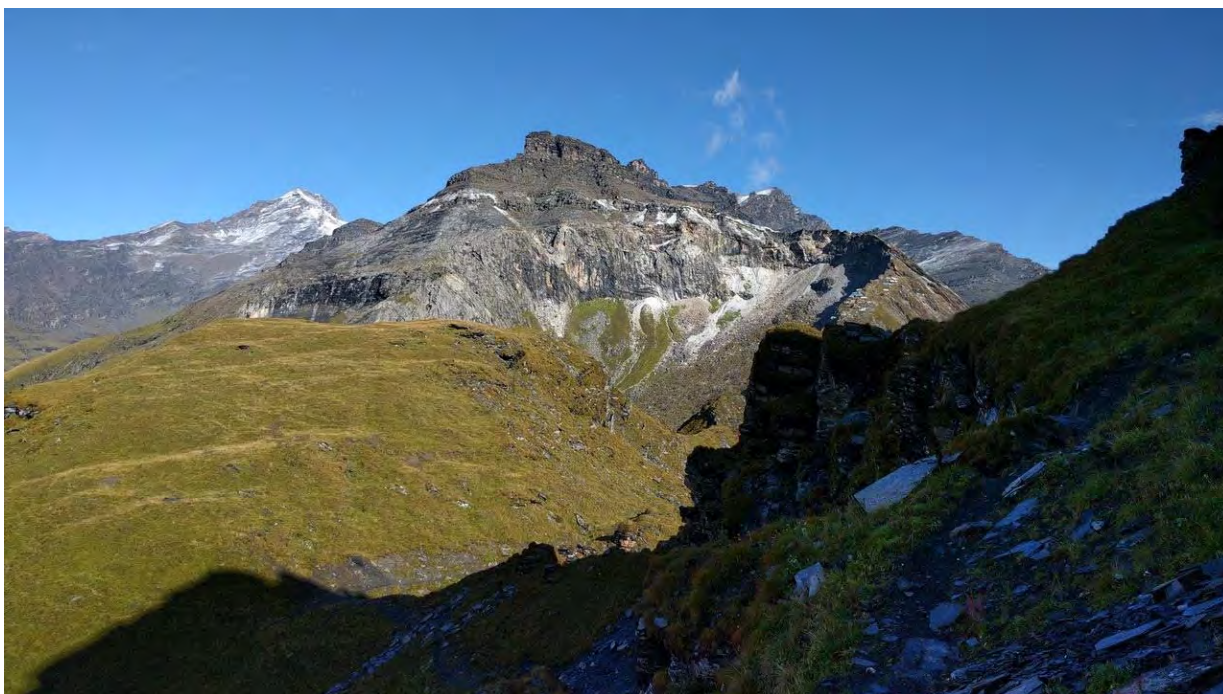
## Xuebaoding – Mining Above the Clouds

Markus B. Raschke

Department of Physics, Department of Chemistry, and JILA  
University of Colorado at Boulder

**Zoom:** <https://cuboulder.zoom.us/j/94797230279>

The Xuebaoding Mountain with its W-Se-Be deposits has emerged as a world-class specimen locality for scheelite, cassiterite, and beryl since its discovery in the 1950's. It is situated high above tree line on the northeastern edge of the Tibetan Plateau – an area known for its extreme earthquakes and vertical relief with mountains rising up to 7,500 m in elevation. The mineralized muscovite-rich quartz veins intruding Triassic metamorphic schist and carbonate rock are of a greisen-type associated with small alkali granite intrusions. Large well-formed crystals of scheelite, beryl, and cassiterite, and their aesthetic associations typically on muscovite matrix as well as the rare Sn-bearing minerals mushistonite and k sterite made the locality famous with the opening of China in the 1990's. At an elevation above 4200 m, the locality is a full day trip and almost 3000 m above the adjacent valley floor. These difficulties in access to this remote locality have long limited systematic research of its geology and mineralogy. This includes several mysteries of the number and location of, in fact several, and geographically distinct localities, which have long been lumped together under the Xuebaoding label. From several trips to this and other related localities in the area, the actual origin of different species and mineral associations could be resolved. As part of an international collaboration a new research effort has been started to understand the origin of the mineralizations. I will discuss from field trip adventures in pouring rain and overcoming landslide obstacles our recent progress and new insight into the mineralogy notably the unusual beryl of tabular habit.



Little Xuebaoding (雪宝顶) Mountain (background, elevation 5,440 m). The localities are in small adits and artisanal pits just above the talus slope and beyond the ridge to the right.

## Xuebaoding – Mining Above the Clouds (continued)



Accessing some of the outcrops and workings by Markus (blue hat) and student, in sketchy terrain holding on to old power transmission belts uses for makeshift protection by the local miners (white is water supply hose for the jack leg drills, with compressor hauled up the mountain on horseback).

A quartz crystal above omnipresent Sichuan cloud soup to the east at sun-rise.

### **The major minerals from the area:**

For a W-Sn-Be greisen the primary minerals are cassiterite, scheelite, and beryl. However, a number of associated rare especially Sn-bearing minerals mushistonite, k sterite, and others.



Scheelite with cassiterite on biotite. Xuebaoding, 11.7 cm. Collection Steve Smale. Photo Jeff Scovil.



Scheelite with beryl in typical tabular habit. Xuebaoding, 4.2 x 3.7 x 2.2 cm. Collection and photo Yasu Okazaki.



Beryl (var. aquamarine) with cassiterite. Xuebaoding, 21.0 x 13.0 x 10.0 cm. Collection MIM museum. Photo James Elliott.



## In Memorium

Two CMS members recently passed away and our deepest sympathy go out to their spouses and family.

### Jane Dianich

Jane Dianich passed away on July 25, 2020 at the age of 72, sadly, through an accident in the water at her summer cottage at Pleasant Lake in Delton, Michigan. Jane was the wife of Pete Modreski and a native of Michigan. Pete and Jane joined CMS in 2014 and participated in the general meetings, events, and field trips. She will be greatly missed by the rockhounding and earth science community.

Jane earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Botany and Physical Sciences from Michigan State University in 1969, a master's degree in Earth Science Teaching in 1975, and she completed additional postgraduate classes in earth science and hydrology at Colorado State University. Jane taught earth and other sciences at secondary schools in Michigan and Colorado, including at East Junior High School, Jackson, MI; Mason Junior High School; Cranbrook-Kingswood Schools, Bloomfield Hills, MI; and Kent Denver Country Day School, Englewood, CO. Jane was named the Outstanding Secondary Science Teacher for the State of Michigan by the Michigan Science Teachers Association for 1974-75. Jane did substitute teaching at St. Catherine of Siena School in the Archdiocese of Denver, and she also taught professional development earth science classes for teachers through Colorado School of Mines.

Jane loved to study, and share her knowledge with others, about all areas of science, especially botany, animals, the earth, astronomy, hydrology, meteorology, and everything in nature. Her great loves in life included flowers, butterflies, geology (especially the glacial history of Michigan), children, and her friends and family. She passionately loved gardening, teaching, music (she played the cello), and everything connected with water. Jane was buried at her family's plot in Riverside Cemetery in Albion, Michigan, the town where she was born.



### Jack Gray

Jack Gray passed away unexpectedly September 20, 2020 in Creede, Colorado. His wife, Carol was by his side. More information on an obituary and memorial will be forthcoming at a later date. Jack and Carol joined CMS in 2009. Jack loved to attend field trips and general meetings. He will be greatly missed by the rockhounding community.



#### 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.rmfm.org](http://www.rmfm.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>.



# CMS 2020 Field Trip Season

by  
**Amber Brenzikofer**

Even with COVID issues, CMS had a fun field trip season. Thank you for everyone who attended, wore masks when around the group, and social distanced to make it as safe as possible. Here are some photos I took from the trips I attended. If you took photos on other trips or these same trips, please send them to me at [pres.coloradomineralsociety@gmail.com](mailto:pres.coloradomineralsociety@gmail.com) and we will include in future newsletters.

## Celestite Queen Mine, Utah (May)





CMS 2020 Field Trip Season (Continued)  
**Smoky Hawk Claim – Lake George, Colorado (July)**



**Tarryall Topaz Claim – Lake George, Colorado (July)**





CMS 2020 Field Trip Season (Continued)  
**Arkansas River Gold Panning – Salida, Colorado (August)**





CMS 2020 Field Trip Season (Continued)  
**Last Chance Mine, Creede, Colorado (September)**





# Colorado Mineral Society Board Meeting Minutes

## September 22, 2020

**Attendees:** Amber Brenzikofer, Mark Leatherman, Loni Cole, Ben Geller Jimmy Betsill, John Papas, Eva Siemonsma, Leslie Osgood, John Todesco

Call to Order @ 7 pm – Amber

### Open Positions

- First VP (Speakers/Presentations)
- Field Trip Coordinator
- Donations Chair
- Technology Leader
- Annual Auction Chair
- Volunteer Coordinator – new position

### Items for Board Approval/Special Topics

- Discussed a change of board meeting nights, but the 3rd Tuesday at 7pm will remain for the rest of the year.
- Remaining 2020 general meetings – online video conference call:
  - October 2<sup>nd</sup>** – no presentation lined up yet - discussed several ideas.
  - November 6<sup>th</sup>** – presentation set up, call for officers and board member nominations, spoke about virtual ways and paper ballots for officer elections in November.
  - December 4<sup>th</sup>** – no Christmas Party, officer elections, presentation, or other event (e.g., online trivia, mineral ID with pictures competition).
- Raffle expenditures needed by end of year for education. Proposal from Amber to purchase 24 additional kids backpacks and Rock Logs for Kids journals. Mark spoke about additional supplies for kids (hardness kits). A motion was made by Eva and approved by the Board to use raffle funds to purchase Mark's and Amber's education supplies.
- Rock sale potential dates and locations discussed - Board decided spring sale on **May 1st or May 8th next year**, rocks to be organized and priced by end of March 2021. Amber will set aside two Saturdays a month (October through March) for volunteers to meet at the CMS storage unit to organize and price sale items.
- Donations Spreadsheet - Amber has Donation Chair's laptop with spreadsheet for donations. Amber will create a master donations spreadsheet. There are many handwritten donation pages that require data entry. Amber to find a volunteer for data entry.
- Membership databases and reconciliation - Board talked about reconciling data from the master database and online database. Board will work at reconciliation by end of September.
- RMFMS Editors awards for 2019 include: Amber 2nd place for Mineral Minutes large bulletin and 2nd Place for Photo Collage of 2018 Field Trips; Eva 2nd Place for Written Feature for 2018 Christmas Party write-up; Debbie honorable mention for Written Feature CMS Strategy Summary; and Marcus Raschke 1st Place Trophy for Photo Collage on China Field Trip.
- Jack Gray and Jane Dianich memorials -- Motion made by Amber, seconded by Eva, approved by Board.
- Founders Day Celebration - Board discussed having an outdoor celebration at a Lakewood Park on **October 3rd** to show off rock finds, each family brings their own table and specimens.

### Officer/Committee Reports

- Education Update – Mark, education kits, possible virtual online classes
- Treasury- Loni, end of Fiscal Year is Sept 30, spoke about the financials and where the club stands with net gains and net losses
- Secretary – Ben --- nothing to report
- Membership – Leslie, new members --- will send out the report in an email
- Raffle – Eva, raffle expenditures needed by end of year for education
- Newsletter – Jimmy, deadline 9/27/2020
- Technology committee – John has taken over for Debbie, conversion over to new hosting environment, John to research
- Field Trip Committee Update – Amber, field trips and online sign-up have been successful this year, one more field trip coming up in October. Suggestion to have a special field trip at end of season specifically for field trip leaders to entice volunteers next year.

Next CMS Board Meeting: October 20th, Conference Call

Call to Adjourn: 9:00pm



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: Jimmy Betsill  
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](mailto:coloradomineralsociety@comcast.net)

**Representatives (Board Members)**

Denver Council Trustee: Amber Brenzikofer  
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 usually 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, 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 or questions should be sent to Jimmy Betsill, Editor, P.O. Box 280755, Lakewood, Colorado 80228-0755; phone: 720.480.5234; or by email to:

[editor.coloradomineralsociety@gmail.com](mailto:editor.coloradomineralsociety@gmail.com)



Colorado Mineral Society  
PO Box 280755  
Lakewood, CO 80228

## **FIRST CLASS MAIL**



### Calendar of Events

**October 2, 2020, CMS VIRTUAL October General Meeting**

**October 3, 2020, CMS Founder's Day Picnic**

**November 6, 2020, CMS VIRTUAL November General Meeting**

**December 4, 2020, CMS VIRTUAL December Meeting**



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