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**M**ineral  
**S**ociety

# Mineral Minutes

*Affiliate of:*

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American Federation of Mineralogical Societies*

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# Mineral Minutes

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## President's Message

*Daryl Lamb*

Hello everyone. You may recall that back in April we were still dealing with cold and snow and wondering if we would have good weather in time for the start of the 2010 field trip season. Well now it's July, and we have plenty of sun and heat with afternoon thunderstorms to occasionally dodge, but on the whole the weather has been good for our collecting trips. We're about midway through the field trip schedule, and I'm receiving reports that folks have been finding some very nice specimens and really enjoying themselves. That's great to hear!

This year the CMS summer picnic is on Saturday, August 28<sup>th</sup>. You will find more information in the newsletter, so be sure and check the details for time and location. Don't forget to bring some of your summer collecting finds so that other members can see what your efforts have yielded.

During our July Board meeting, the members discussed the idea of creating a new position to assist the club with the monthly raffles and the annual auction. These two activities are critical to the club because they are our two main sources of revenue. Their continued success is very much dependent on our having an adequate supply of quality mineral specimens donated to the club for this purpose. We are looking for someone to serve as the club's "Donations Coordinator". This person will work closely with Eva S, who manages our monthly raffles, and Rich Nelson, the club's Chair for the annual auction. The Donations Coordinator will manage the club's solicitation of donations from dealers and individuals who have indicated a willingness to provide specimens. If you enjoy meeting and talking with people, would like to interact with the dealer community in our area, and would like to

manage an important aspect of our club's operation, then feel free to contact me or any other Board member and let us know of your interest. We would be glad to talk with you in greater detail about the position.

On the same note, we presently have two vacancies on our Board – Secretary and 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President. If you would like to serve on the Board, or know a member who might be interested, please contact me at 303-963-3688 or by email at [cdaryllamb@aol.com](mailto:cdaryllamb@aol.com). Serving on the Board is a great opportunity to help the club, get to know fellow club members, and participate in some interesting activities..... and it will not take a lot of your time.

Here's to successful collecting for the remainder of the season! Be safe and enjoy the field trips. We'll see you at the CMS picnic.

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## Editor Notes:

Since I was extremely busy with people coming and going around our house and school starting in the middle of all this, the paper will be a little short. See next month for exciting field trip reports and other news. The most important news for this month's paper is the upcoming Founder's Day picnic being held at St. Paul's Church, 10th and Garrison on August 28, 2010. See page 7 for more details. Please bring your best 2010 Summer field trip specimens to show and maybe one or two will be displayed in the fall Denver Mineral Show at the Merchandise Mart.



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## Raffle News:

The total retail value of the raffle items at the regular meeting on May 7<sup>th</sup> was \$210.00 and the total number of tickets purchased was \$191.00. The most popular item was a Garnet ring (\$64) donated by **Cheryl Ermon** and won by James Dennis. Next, a faceted Briolette cut quartz stone (\$39) donated by **Bob Aussprung** was won by Will Nelson. Neck and neck was a quartz geode from Kookuk, IA (\$26) donated by **Geodysey** and won by Jennifer Senary. A pyrite and boulangerite in chalcedony (\$26) donated by **Judith Holmes** was won by Bill Ramey. A beautifully polished thunder egg (\$21) donated by **Judith Holmes** was won by Bill Ramey as well. And last but not least, a nice calcite specimen from San Juan de Rayas, Mexico (\$15) donated by **Xtal Minerals** was won by Felix Beall. Thank you Ken Porter for assisting with this Raffle.

The total number of tickets purchased for all the specimens at the auction on May 8<sup>th</sup> was \$92.00 and their retail value was \$214.00. The favorite raffle item was the Japan Law twin quartz (\$25) *donated by Geodysey, and won by Richard Owens*, then the nicely polished Madagascar agate (\$21) *donated The Enchanted Rock Garden, won by Susan Duncanson*; the gypsum specimen (\$18), *donated by Xtal Minerals, won by Sue Lemieux*; the quartz specimen (\$17) *donated by Judith Holmes, won by Bob Heckman*; the DVD "The Brazilian Connection" (\$9) *donated by Self-a-Ware Minerals, won by Kevin Boulter*; and last but not least, the aventurin tea candle holder (\$2) *donated by Thompson Marketing, CO, was won by a happy Bruce Sales to match the one he won in February – we are happy you have a pair now.* Appreciation goes out to the raffle helpers, Cheryl Harrison, Leslie Osgood, Ray & Dorothy Horton and Richard Owens.

**Thanks to everyone for your continued support of the raffle activities.** The raffle money is used for the Science Fair awards, CMS Library books and the continuing education of our members.

Congratulations to all our lucky winners.

Submitted by Eva S  
CMS Raffle Manager.

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## THE FUTURE OF OUR COLLECTIONS

*by Jeff Self & Donna Ware*

### Friends of Mineralogy Colorado Chapter Preservation Committee

One of the most overlooked, even ignored, aspects of mineral collecting is what happens to our collections after we are gone. What to us is a treasure to be studied, admired, even gloated over may be perceived by our heirs or the executor of our estates as no more than annoying dusty rocks, taking up space and cluttering up the place. We need to be aware that we are custodians for our collections and plan ahead for their future.

We have personally climbed into dumpsters to rescue collections destined for the nearest landfill. These pieces were not thrown away out of spite but because they were seen as Granddad's (Grandma's) dusty boxes of rocks. Unfortunately Granddad had left no instructions for his family as to what to do with his collection. They had no idea of the value of the pieces, scientifically, financially or otherwise. The specimens had no labels with them to identify them or show where they came from. To the uninitiated they were only clutter to be disposed of.

One of the first points to be considered to help protect our pieces is labeling. A well labeled specimen is less likely to be thrown out and is far more valuable than an unlabeled one. On the back of the label you might want to write how much the piece cost and the date of purchase. This makes it easier for others to realize these pieces should be dealt with appropriately. For self collected pieces an approximate value should be recorded as well.

The next step to be considered is the disposition of the collection. What happens to our treasures when we are gone?

If you leave the collection to a museum there are several things to consider. Museums do not have a lot of space to store material. They tend to take the pieces they are most interested in and dispose of the rest. If a museum is to inherit the collection be sure to give them permission to do with it as they see fit. That way they can add the appropriate pieces to their collection then sell the rest in their gift shop and/or trade for specimens they are attempting to acquire. This enriches and improves the museum. Be sure to talk to the curator of minerals at your museum of interest and see if they would be amenable to this.

Many of your more common specimens can be given to schools to help educate children about minerals. Small

quartz crystals, feldspars, calcites, etc., are always needed by schools. The U.S. Geological Survey often has need of just such pieces that they give out in teacher kits. Also many mineral clubs make Grab Bags for kids and they are always looking for more small pieces.

Another thing to consider is family and friends. Is there any one you would like to have "caretake" any of your pieces? Give this a great deal of thought. Some people may seem like they would be good candidates but they may only be saying what you wish to hear. Do they truly love the minerals or do they just love you and will say anything you wish to hear. "Gee these rocks are really neat".

Another issue is the matter of perceived value. We once were asked to evaluate some pieces from an estate that a nephew was wanting for himself. The rest of the family wanted anything he got to be taken out of his share of the estate. They believed the pieces he wanted must be incredibly valuable. The true value was far below the "wow" price. If the pieces had purchase prices on the back of the labels it would have saved everyone involved a lot of heartache.

Do not forget anyone you may have been working with when you found some of the specimens. (self collected). Be sure any and all bequests are mentioned in the will. A verbal agreement may not be enough.

Another option is to leave instructions to sell the collection (or part of it) to a reputable mineral dealer. Many dealers do buy collections. Consider leaving a list of mineral dealers who may be interested in your collection. Mineral dealers do have to make a profit so the price offered will be quite a bit below the full retail value. But this does tend to deal with the entire collection in one fairly painless transaction.

Or you can deal with part or all of the collection while you are still around. While this may not be an option for some due to the unhappiness not having the pieces would cause, this may be the simplest solution. You would get to enjoy the look on the faces of your friends and family when you give them the piece or pieces you wish them to have. You can give pieces to a museum and enjoy the pride of having given to them. There is also the possibility of selling the collection yourself. Possibly by setting up as a mineral dealer. However the cost of doing shows can be prohibitive, a large investment in time and money. Sale to a mineral dealer may still be the best option. You might be able to take that money and have the vacation you always wanted.

These points are applicable to more than just minerals. Anything we collect should be considered as well: Books, antiques, mining memorabilia, family heirlooms, etc. Anything we care for and enjoy should have some thought put into its disposition.



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## PETE MODRESKI NEWS

For those who may be interested, here is updated information about the mineral symposium being held on Sept. 10-12 in Creede, Colorado, sponsored by the Colorado Chapter of Friends of Mineralogy and the Colorado School of Mines Geology Museum.

The symposium will consist of an icebreaker reception with refreshments and a lecture presentation Friday evening; a program of speakers during the day Saturday and an optional evening banquet; and optional field trips (to the Wagon Wheel Gap fluorospar mine a few miles east of Creede and to the Last Chance mine in Creede) on Sunday. Symposium registration is \$34; optional Saturday evening banquet is \$26; and optional box lunch for Sunday's field trip is \$10. Full information about registration is posted on the Friends of Mineralogy, Inc., website, <http://www.friendsofmineralogy.org/>, under "Upcoming Symposia". To register or for additional information, please contact FMCC Treasurer Lou Conti, dlconti@aol.com, 6987 S. Hill St., Littleton CO 80120. A list of speaker presentations at the symposium follows (some topic titles may be revised). We will hope to see many of you there in Creede; it promises to be a very interesting mineralogical event at this mining town which is relatively unfrequented by people from the Denver area.

List of speakers, Creede Mineral Symposium, Sept. 10-12, 2010

### Friday evening lecture:

Ed Raines; Geology and Mining History of the Creede Mining District.

### Saturday presentations:

Warren Andrews; Creede Mining History.  
Chuck Harbert, author; Views of Historic Creede through Postcards.

Ken Wylie; History of the Amethyst Vein.

Tom Rosemeyer; Mineralogy of the Amethyst Vein System, Creede Mining District, Mineral County, Colorado.

Dean Misantoni, Hecla Mining Co.; Mineral exploration in the Creede district.

Bill Atkinson, Colorado School of Mines; Sphalerite geo-

chemistry and the genesis of the Creede ore deposits. Bruce Geller, Colorado School of Mines; Creede Minerals in the CSM Geology Museum.

### Poster papers:

James F. Hurlbut, Denver Museum of Nature and Science; Creede Minerals at DMNS.

Michael M. Reddy, U.S. Geological Survey; Transient Calcite Fracture Fillings in a Welded Tuff, Snowshoe Mountain, Mineral County, Colorado.

## **Denver Gem & Mineral Show Mini Report August 2010**

The Denver Gem & Mineral Show will be here before you know it. Don't forget the dates – September 17 – 19, 2010. The theme is the Creede Mining District. It will be a fantastic show as usual with fabulous exhibits, dealers with irresistible and intriguing specimens, interesting talks, enjoyable Saturday night buffet and presentation by Ed Raines on Creede, delicious Sunday breakfast for volunteers, and many opportunities to participate in the fascinating hobby we all love of gems, minerals, and fossils.

To put on this wonderful show, however, many volunteers are needed. It takes over 400 volunteers for the show. We hope you have already volunteered for something. People are needed for admissions, grab bag and poster sales, volunteer check in, gemstone giveaway, security, hospitality room, judging clerks, exhibits assistants, and dealer check in. O 15<sup>th</sup> and show take down on Sunday, September 19<sup>th</sup>. These are very important jobs. If you have not already found your niche, contact your club representative (each club has one) or Show Chair, Barb Melby, at 303-423-5876. Don't forget admission to the show is free for volunteers plus refreshments in the Hospitality Room and a yummy Sunday breakfast for only \$1! Your help is definitely needed!

We hope to see you all at the show.

Respectfully submitted, Judy Knoshaug,  
Show Secretary

P.S. Of course, many people are also needed for show set up on Wednesday, September





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## It's Time For Another Thrilling Chapter In The Continuing Saga Of A Tow Truck Driving Rockhound

*By Eric Hedricks*

Hi everyone out there in CMS land, hope the summer is going well for all of you. Mine has been nothing but hard work.

I have only been out collecting two times since our last meeting. Once to my Crystal Creek claim, and once to my Topaz claim.

Just enough work for my small miners waver when I renew the claims at the end of the month. I did manage to get a few of my Topaz specimens over to Bruce for the School of Mines Topaz display. It should be a good one, so I hope everyone gets a look at it when it opens.

The rest of the time I have been driving the hook, or working on the ranch at Wigwam. I have been doing rock work there, but it is the kind where I am building with it, and not digging for them. Julie and I have done some work with the kids at the camp, showing them what to look for and filling them in on the geology of the area. We have found a few good pegs on the ranch, and collected some nice Fluorites, Smokys, and Feldspars. The kids went nuts and had a great time, and after all, is that not what it is all about? Next year the mineral collecting program will be an official part of the camp schedule. Way Cool!!

I may not make it to the club picnic, I still have a whole wall to finish before the snow flies, but I am taking my vacation from work for the show in September. So I will see all of you there. That's about all from this end, stay safe out there and I will see ya all in a month or so.

**!!!!CMS Party!!!!**

When: August 28, 2010

Where: St. Paul's Church,  
10th and Garrison

Time: 12 Noon

What to bring mineral-wise: Your collected specimens from the 2010 Summer CMS field trips.

What to bring food-wise: Meat to cook on the grill for you and your family plus a side dish to share. Food and drinks will be supplied by the hospitality committee.

Entertainment: Mineral questions will be asked of each of us party goers, with a prize for each answer.





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## Up Coming Events:

August 28, 2010 Founders Day Picnic at St. Paul's Church 10th and Garrison 12:00 noon

September 10-12, 2010 Creede CO Mineral Symposium, see inside for details

September 17-19, 2010 Denver Gem and Mineral Show: Theme this year, Creede

October 1, 2010 Regular CMS meeting at St. Paul's Church, 7:30 PM at 10th and Garrison

November 5, 2010 Regular CMS meeting at St. Paul's Church, 7:30 PM at 10th and Garrison

December 3, 2010 CMS Christmas Party! Watch for more information



[www.coloradomineralsociety.org](http://www.coloradomineralsociety.org)

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