



Colorado Scientific Society

*The objective of the Society is to promote
The knowledge and understanding of Earth science,
And its application to human needs*



Family Day Field Trip!

Amazonite-bearing pegmatites in the Pikes Peak batholith

Saturday, May 3, 2008

Family Day Field Trip, May 3

Amazonite-bearing pegmatites in the Pikes Peak batholith, near Harris Park, Park County, Colorado

Leader Pete Modreski, USGS

We'll meet at 8 a.m. at the Cold Spring RTD Park-and-Ride on Union Blvd just south of 6th Avenue in Lakewood. Travel will be by car-pooling; those who live along US-285 can also meet us at approximately 8:30 a.m. at the Twin Forks Park-and-Ride, located on the south side of US-285 about ½ mile west of the Indian Hills (Parmalee Gulch) turnoff and just past South Turkey Creek Road. We'll be driving to Harris Park, located about 6 miles north of US-285 from Crow Hill, and then on Forest Service dirt roads about 2 miles to the site, a total of about 45 miles from Lakewood.

We will be able to hunt in the granite pegmatites for smoky quartz, microcline var. amazonite, and if one is fortunate, goethite, fluorite, and topaz. Pete will brief the group about the geology of the pegmatites and the minerals found in them. The area is pleasant, lightly wooded with a small stream, and is kid-friendly. The site is on mining claims maintained by the Littleton Gem and Mineral Club, and we will be there courtesy of that club. Depending on how industrious you want to be

in searching for or digging for minerals (the best are found down in the undisturbed soil or bedrock, you know), **bring any or all of a rock pick, trowel, chisel, sledge, a small or large shovel, and pickaxe. Safety glasses or goggles are advised if splitting rocks, as well as suitable sun/rain/snow protection depending on the weather. You will also be required to bring your own lunch, drinks, and snacks. There will be no charge for this trip.**

Road access should be no problem if the weather is good, but any late April-early May snows could change that; if in doubt, check with Pete, 303-202-4766 (office) or 720-205-2553 (cell), or the Colorado Scientific Society website (www.coloscisoc.org). If the road is in good condition any vehicle may be able to reach the site, but SUV's are recommended if you have one.

No RSVP is necessary.

President's Notes, April 2008

By Matt Morgan

I am very excited that Pete Modreski has graciously offered to take our families to the Harris Park area for the inaugural Family Day. We will be able to hunt the spectacular blue-green amazonite (among others) on the Littleton Gem and Mineral Club's claim. I suggested this change from the typical presentation to a field trip because I want us to get out, with our families, and explore and enjoy the geology of Colorado. We are very lucky to live

in such a vastly beautiful state and to have access to such wonderful geology right at our doorstep.

The trip will be free to anyone (bring your own food and drinks) and there is no limit on the amount of attendees. Bring your friends and be sure to have them join up!

We are looking for volunteers to assist with two projects. The first would be to scan old, but important, CSS archival documents. These may be field trip guidebooks, proceedings, or other documents of interest. The digital files would be placed on the CSS website for its members to view and download.

Secondly, we would like to start including a column in the newsletter that would highlight the careers or discoveries of current CSS members. This is basically a tribute to their life's work. We are badly in need of volunteers for these two projects. If you can spare some time, please contact me (email: matt.morgan@state.co.us or ph. 303-866-2066) or Beth Simmons (email: cloverknoll@comcast.net).

Still Needed--Science Fair Judges

A series of science fairs for younger students in **Denver Public Schools** are going to be held in April and May. These science fairs are organized by Community Resources, Inc., a non-profit organization that provides educational enrichment support to DPS schools. Each of these

will take place on a weekday morning, typically from approximately 8:30 to 11:00. If you are willing to help at one or more of these, please contact Sue Edwards at Community Resources, Inc., Sue_Edwards@dpsk12.org or call 303-782-0975.

DPS School Science Fairs 2008

April 17 Godsman Elementary, 2120 W. Arkansas Ave.

April 22 Steele Elementary, 320 S. Marion Parkway

April 24 Bryant-Webster K-8 School, 3635 Quivas St.

April 30 Valverde Elementary, 2030 W. Alameda Ave.

May 1 McMeen Elementary, 1000 S. Holly St.

May 10 DPS District Science Fair (held at Place Middle School, 7125 Cherry Creek North Dr.)

Thanks, to Glen Scott

Glen Scott has donated a hard-bound edition of the "Glossary of Selected Geologic Terms" published by the Society in 1955, and a nearly complete list of CSS field trips from over the years. More importantly, he contributed hard copies of the handouts/field trip guides for many of these trips. This information is invaluable in

preserving the history of the society and providing a unique perspective for viewing geology.

Many thanks!

Spring Field Trip to South Park

By Karl Kellogg

New insights into the geologic and geomorphic evolution of South Park basin.

This is the second announcement for the Society's Spring field trip May 17 to South Park. Highlights of the trip include (1) probable Quaternary normal faulting and structural relationships near Kenosha Pass, (2) the Elkhorn thrust and associated high-frequency footwall folding and syn-tectonic conglomerates, (3) new geophysical and hydrological data that constrain the configuration and extent of the Elkhorn thrust, (4) Eocene to Miocene volcanic and sedimentary rocks in southwestern South Park and the structural deformations that affect them, (5) regional and local evaporate dissolution and collapse, (6) new information on Late Paleozoic to Paleocene stratigraphy, and (7) (time permitting) Pleistocene paleovalley abandoned at the end of the Pleistocene or early Holocene. Field trip leaders

include Cal Ruleman, Bob Bohannon, and Bob Kirkham.

We will leave from the Cold Springs Park-n-Ride at 7:30 a.m., Saturday, May 17. We will return to Cold Springs Park-n-Ride about 5:30 p.m. Cost, including transportation (vans) and lunch will be \$45.00/person. Student grants from the Pillmore Fund are available to cover expenses. Contact Karl Kellogg (kkellogg@usgs.gov; (303) 236-1305) for questions or additional information.

Send the sign-up form below with remittance (checks written to Colorado Scientific Society) to: Karl Kellogg, Colorado Scientific Society, P.O. Box 150495, Lakewood, CO 80215-0495. Deadline is May 9 (but sooner is very much appreciated).

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South Park basin sign-up form May 17, 2008

Name(s) _____ Address: _____

_____ Phone: _____ E-Mail

_____ Food preferences? _____

Number of registrants ____ x \$45 = _____ (enclosed)

Write checks to: Colorado Scientific Society



photo by Bob Bohannon and Lisa Rukstales

Fall Field Trip!

By Karl Kellogg

The search for Braddock's Caldera: Field trip to the northern Never Summer Range volcanic field, September 6-7.

Set your calendar for Saturday and Sunday, September 6 and 7 for a visit to the 29-27 Ma volcanic field of the northern Never Summer Range. Early basaltic to dacitic flows were followed by two major ignimbrite eruptions that originated from near Mt. Richthofen, now underlain by a granodiorite stock. These relationships led the late William Braddock to

suggest that Mount Richthofen is the root of a deeply eroded caldera. This trip may include hikes of as much as about 3 miles. We'll stay overnight in Walden. As a sidelight, we'll also visit glacial features of the upper Poudre River Valley. Trip leaders are Ed Larson, Mike O'Neill, Jim Cole, Karl Kellogg, and perhaps others.

Earth Science Meetings and Talks



Newsletter items must be received by the 25th of each month.

Items may include special events, open houses, etc...thanks!

Colorado Scientific Society's regular meetings are held the 3rd Thursday of the month at the American Mountaineering Center in Golden (unless otherwise advertised). Social time begins at 6:30 p.m. and talks start at 7:00 p.m. For more information, contact Matt Morgan, at 303-866-2066, matt.morgan@state.co.us



Denver Mining Club meets every Monday (except when noted) at Country Buffet near Bowles and Wadsworth (at 8100 W. Crestline Ave., in the shopping center) 11:30-1:00. Apr 14, David LaFore, "The ultimate in automation for oil, gas, and mineral processing". Apr 21, Judy Colgan, "CMA's new public education program". Apr 28, Guy Johnson., "Coal, a good neighbor". <http://china-resources.net>.

Denver Region Exploration Geologists' Society (DREGS) meets in the Mutual Consolidated Water Building, 12700 West 27th Avenue, Lakewood. Social hour 6:00-7:00 p.m. Technical presentation at 7:00 p.m. Meetings are normally scheduled for the first Monday of each month. For information contact Jim Piper, (303) 932-0137, or the website <http://www.dregs.org>.

Denver Well Logging Society (DWLS) meets on the third Tuesday of each month, Sept. through May. Lunch and a technical talk at the Wynkoop Brewery begins at 11:30 a.m., 18th and Wynkoop Sts. in Denver. Subject matter usually deals with the application of well logs to oil and gas exploration. Apr 15, Russell Hadsall, Baker Atlas, "RPM pulsed neutron and gasview". Call Eleice Wickham at 303-573-2781 for reservations. Web page: <http://dwls.spwla.org>.

Rocky Mountain Association of Geologists (RMAG) Reception at 11:30, lunch at noon, talk at 12:30. Reservations by recording at 303-623-5396 until 10:30 a.m., Wed. before the luncheon. Cancellations until 11:00 a.m. on Wed. at 303-573-8621. Luncheon is \$20 payable to RMAG at the door. Talk only (no res)—cost is \$3. Location: Denver Marriott, 17th & California. Apr 18, Chuck Kluth, "New interpretation of the paleogeography of the ancestral Rocky Mountains." Web page: <http://www.rmag.org>.

Rocky Mountain SEPM Reception at 11:30, lunch at noon, speaker at 12:30. Reservations: steve.stancel@anadarko.com, 720-929-6536, before noon of preceding Friday. \$15.00 lunch, \$3 talk only. Wynkoop Brewing Company, 1634 18th St., Denver. Apr 29, Rick Sarg, "Sequence stratigraphy and economic importance of evaporites and evaporite transitions." Web page: www.rmssepm.org.

University of Colorado at Boulder, Geological Sciences Colloquium Wednesdays, 4:00-5:30, Rm. 380. Refreshments at 3:30 on the 3rd floor. Apr 16, Dan Rothman, MIT, "Disordered kinetics in earth's carbon cycle." Apr 23, Sean Solomon, "Exploring Mercury by spacecraft, seeking clues to the formation of the inner planets." 303-492-8141. Web page: <http://www.colorado.edu/GeolSci>.

Colorado State University, Dept of Geosciences, Rm 320 Warner College of Natural Resources Bldg, Fridays, 4:10 pm. Apr 21, Nigel Kelly, "Dateable accessory minerals as keys to crustal processes." 970-491-5661. <http://welcome.warnercnr.colostate.edu/geotraining/index.php>

Friends of Dinosaur Ridge. Web page: <http://www.dinoridge.org>. Admission is free, but donations are welcome. Visitor's center, 16831 W. Alameda Parkway. Apr 23, Harald Drawes, "Secrets of the Laramide orogeny". 7:00 p.m. For more information contact the FODR Visitor Center at (303) 697-3466 or cloverknoll@comcast.net.

Denver Museum Nature and Science. Apr 22, "Seasonal forests: homelands, shelters, and key to a stable climate". Ricketson auditorium, 7:00 p.m., free, but reservations required. <http://www.dmns.org>

Colorado School of Mines, Van Tuyl Lectures Thursdays from 4-5 p.m. in Berthoud Hall room 108. <http://www.mines.edu/academic/geology.html>

USGS Geologic Division Colloquium. Thursdays, 1:30, Foord Room, Building 20, Denver Federal Center. For more information contact: Peter J. Modreski, U.S. Geological Survey, Denver, Colorado tel. 303-202-4766, fax 303-202-4767 email pmodreski@usgs.gov.

Café Scientifique, Wynkoop Brewery, 6:30-8:00, Apr 22, Erica Ellingson, CU Boulder, "Dark matter, dark energy, and the accelerating universe." Free, except for beer. <http://www.cafescicolorado.org>

Colorado School of Mines. Short course, "Ore microscopy and ore petrology", Jul 28-Aug 1, taught by Dr. John Lufkin. Contact lufk3@comcast.net 303-284-2646

Lufkin field trips, to Costa Rica, for students, May 18-24; to Black Hills, SD, for seniors, June 22-28; Black Hills, students, Sep 7-13; lufk3@comcast.net 303-284-2646

For a constantly updated, online geo-calendar, visit the Colorado Geological Survey at <http://geosurvey.state.co.us>

Colorado Scientific Society
P.O. Box 150495
Lakewood, CO 80215-0495

<http://www.coloscisoc.org>



OFFICERS

President: Matt Morgan, CGS, 303-866-2066 matt.morgan@state.co.us
President-Elect: Don Sweetkind, USGS, 303-236-1828, dsweetkind@usgs.gov
Treasurer: Jeremy McCreary 303-744-0907 jeremv@cliffshade.com
Secretary: Lisa Fisher, CSM, 303-478-9427 (c), lfisher@mines.edu,
Past President: Bill Nesse, UNC, 970-330-7183, nesse@ctos.com

COUNCILORS

2007-2010: Jeremy McCreary 303-744-0907 jeremv@cliffshade.com
2007-2010: Tim McIntyre
2006-2009: Scott Minor, USGS, 303-236-0303, sminor@usgs.gov
2008-2011: Cal Ruleman, USGS, cruleman@usgs.gov
2008-2011: Lee Shropshire, UNC, 970-352-8778, leeshrop@att.net

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Best Paper Award: Matt Morgan, CGS, 303-866-2066, matt.morgan@state.co.us
Database Manager, membership changes: Erik Oerter, CGS, erik.oerter@state.co.us
Field Trips: Karl Kellogg, kkellogg@usgs.gov
Graphics: Karen Morgan, CGS, 303-866-3529, karen.morgan@state.co.us
History: Beth Simmons, cloverknoll@comcast.net
Membership: Thom Fisher, Libby Prueher, TC Wait, Eric Nelson, Beth Simmons
Memorial Funds: Bill Nesse, 970-330-7183, nesse@ctos.com
Newsletter Editor: Celia Greenman, CDOW, 303- 291-7327, celia.greenman@state.co.us
Outreach: Sue Hirschfeld, 720-565-9302, eqdoc@ix.netcom.com
Program: Emmett Evanoff, 303-444-2644, emmettevanoff@earthlink.net, Libby Prueher, Christine Turner
Publicity: Lisa Rukstales, lrukstales@usgs.gov
Science Fair: Chuck Weisenberg, 303-238-8806, cweisnbrg@aol.com
Webmaster: John M. Ghist, 303-875-9671 jmghistcss@msn.com

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