



PNWFM NEWSLETTER

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President's Message

Greetings, mineral lovers! I'll keep my message short this time... really!

So Many Volunteers!

I would like to thank all the volunteers who made our "Minerals of Colorado" symposium such a fun event:



- Allan Young – Speaker Recruitment, Projector Procurement
- Julian Gray – Master of Ceremonies
- Bob Meyer – Facilities Liaison, Display Coordinator, Contest Designer
- Wes Gannaway – Symposium Packets and Signs
- Bruce Kelley – Publicity, Facebook presence, Pre-Registration, Deputy Treasurer, Case Transportation, Case Loading, Master of letting things fall through the cracks...
- Karen and Gary Hinderman – Auctions, Storage Coordinator, Case loading, Picking up everything that was falling through the cracks!
- Fiona Kelley – Registration, Case Loading
- Bill and Diane Dameron – Registration
- Bob Jackson – Case Storage, Case Loading
- Anna Mendez – Case Loading
- John Meek – Case Transportation
- Al Liebetrau – Dealer Liaison
- Tom Menzel – Night Security
- And our setup/teardown crew – Roger Beck, Jim Etwiler, Bruce Kelley, Fiona Kelley, John Kelley, Tom Menzel, Sally Wojahn, and probably half a dozen I'm forgetting...

The sheer number of volunteers and the many hours of work you each put in speak proudly of your devotion to FM. It is a pleasure to work with such a committed group. Thank you all!

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Symposium 2015

The 2015 Symposium theme is *“Minerals of the Northeast US and Fluorescent Minerals.”* There has been some effort to word-smith this mouthful to something a little catchier, but this title really says what we want to say:

First, this symposium, like all of our events, is primarily focused on minerals, and in particular the minerals of the Northeast.

Second, there will also be a strong emphasis on fluorescent minerals this year, and this symposium will be a co-sponsored by the Fluorescent Mineral Society.

I have heard a number of rumors and comments that can be summed up thus: “2015 is nothing but fluorescent minerals. I’m not interested in that, so I’m not coming.” I would like to make it clear here that that is just not true. Here are the facts:

- There will be a number of talks that focus on fluorescence. We will also have a number of talks about general mineralogy topics in the Northeast US. The exact split and whether we can add a couple of talks to the total are still being determined, but we are working on it. All talks will be of the same high-quality, professional level that we are accustomed to.
- There will be a number of world-class fluorescent displays, hopefully filling up the Alder Room! And, will have our non-fluorescent displays set up as we always do. I hope that you, the PNWFM members will start planning now to step up and fill them with your equally world-class showcases!
- The FMS will be holding their annual meeting at the event. PNWFM will be holding our semi-annual meeting at the event.
- There will be fluorescent mineral dealers. There will be the general mineral dealers.
- There will be discussions about fluorescence in the hallways and rooms. And *maybe* there will be some really interesting cross-pollination of ideas and enthusiasm with the mineralogy topics that are sure to be discussed as well!

I hope you all consider this as the interesting event that it is intended to be: A chance to learn more about minerals with two specific focuses: The Northeast US and Fluorescence. For many of us there will be an opportunity to learn something new, whether it is about the minerals from a specific region or fluorescence. For those of us who are involved in both communities, it will be an opportunity to combine those interests in one great event!

2016 – 2017

We have decided to get a little ahead on our scheduling this year in order to get the hotel booked and to allow other events to plan around our dates. Mark your calendars now and if your club holds events in October, please let them know what our schedule is!

- 2015: October 9–11: *“Minerals of the Northeast US and Fluorescent Minerals”*
- 2016: October 14–16: Topic TBD
- 2017: October 13–15: Topic TBD

Member Participation: Even more ways to get involved!

1. Write an article or send in a few photos for the newsletter. Going to a show? Send us a trip report! Find a weird fuzzy green mineral you’d like to share? Send us a photo whether you can positively identify it or not; I think mysteries are as fun as scholarly certainty. Thanks to Wes Gannaway, Beth Heesacker, Karen Hinderman, Al Liebetrau, Bob Meyer, Don Newsome, Lanny Ream, Alexander Schauss, and myself for providing newsletter content so far this year.
2. Plan to attend our 2015-2017 symposia:
October 9-11, 2015: *Minerals of the Northeast US and Fluorescent Minerals*
October 14-16, 2016
October 13-15, 2017
3. “Like” our official Facebook page: [facebook.com/PNWFM](https://www.facebook.com/PNWFM)
4. Visit the Rice NW Museum of Rocks and Minerals in Hillsboro, OR. PNWFM members get free admission and store discounts.
5. Send me ideas for how PNWFM can better serve you and the mineral collecting community.

Until next year, -- Bruce Kelley, President, PNWFM

Displays at the 2014 PNWFM Symposium, Minerals of Colorado.

By Bob Meyer



A feast for the eyes! Bill and Diana Dameron's case of superb specimens from Colorado.

The 40th Annual Symposium featured 10 outstanding displays, eight of which reflected the symposium theme, *Minerals of Colorado*.

The Rice NW Museum of Rocks and Minerals submitted a superb case consisting of nine cabinet to large cabinet sized specimens from the state of Colorado. The case included an impressive specimen consisting of large bright blue-green Microcline variety Amazonite crystals with dark Smoky Quartz crystals measuring about 25 cm across from the Two Point mine, Pikes Peak region, Teller County (RM#3064). Also included in the case was a 7.23 troy ounce specimen of spongy Gold and Quartz from Breckenridge, Summit County, measuring about 10 cm across (RM#1182). The case also included a specimen with a story, a superb 22 cm wide specimen consisting of bright pink rosettes of Rhodochrosite on a white matrix (Quartz?) from the American Tunnel (Sunnyside mine group), San Juan County (RM#1518). Years ago Helen Rice related to me that this was the first real "mineral" specimen they had purchased. This, versus, what I presumed to mean Richard and Helen's interest in lapidary related materials. Helen told me they had been hesitant to cross over to minerals, but had been enticed by this piece.



The Rice NW Museum of Rocks & Minerals display.



Rhodochrosite rosettes on matrix from the American Tunnel (Sunnyside mine), San Juan Co., Colorado. 22 cm.
Rice Museum specimen.

Al and Sue Liebetrau exhibited an impressive case consisting of 24 specimens from the State of Colorado. Particularly notable was a 25 cm specimen of pink manganoan Calcite in modified scalenohedral crystals from the Idarado mine, Ouray County (Ca 1090?); a superb 18 cm plate of 1 cm Rhodochrosite crystals on Quartz from the Cash Flow Pocket, Sweet Home Mine, Alma district, Park County (Rh 1432); a 14 cm specimen of botryoidal purple-gray Fluorite from Cañon City, Fremont County (FL 1020); a 9 cm high specimen of thick Silver wires from the Midnight mine, Aspen, Pitkin County (Si 2851); and a charming 10 cm specimen of small Quartz crystals overgrowing a hollow cast after an undisclosed species from the aptly named considering the piece, Crystal Cave, Ouray County (Qu 2813).



Rhodochrosite with Quartz, Cash Flow Pocket, Sweet Home mine, Park County 18 cm high.

Al & Sue Liebetrau collection.



A superb example of purple-gray botryoidal Fluorite from Cañon City, Fremont County. 14 cm high. Al & Sue Liebetrau collection.



A Quartz Cast after an unspecified mineral, 10 cm across, from Crystal Cave, Ouray County. Al & Sue Liebetrau collection.

John Lindell brought us closer to home with his excellent display of 61 mineral specimens, four artifacts, a stock certificate, a book, and a map all relating to Butte, Montana. Most impressive was a specimen of Tennantite pseudomorphs after Enargite (John Lindell collection 3098), from the Anaconda Copper mines, in a specimen nine cm across forming a hollow in massive sulfides and suggesting the whole thing is pseudomorphous; a lovely specimen of Pyrite with Enargite (John Lindell collection 5026) five cm across from the Leonard mine—the pyrite modified in a way familiar to Leonard mine aficionados; an excellent five cm complex single crystal plate of indigo metallic Covellite (John Lindell collection 2406) from the Bostick mine; a superb 12 cm plate of iridescent Betekhtinite with Quartz, Chalcocite, and Pyrite (John Lindell collection 3874); and a stupendous 7 cm high group of sharp gray Digenite crystals (John Lindell collection 2992) up to 2 cm in size from the Anaconda Copper mines.



John Lindell's very creative exhibit of specimens and artifacts from Butte, Silver Bow County, Montana



Tennantite pseudomorphs after Enargite from the Anaconda Copper mines, in a specimen nine cm across forming a hollow in massive sulfides and suggesting the whole thing is pseudomorphous

PNWFM President Bruce Kelley put in a display consisting of 43 miniature to large cabinet-sized specimens with the theme of Blue Mineral Species, which is one of Bruce's favorite collecting specialties. There was a wide range of species in the case, all of very good quality and all in various shades of blue. Several of the specimens on display were of species one rarely sees. Some examples included a 7 cm specimen of the copper sulfate species Kröhnkite, from Chuquicamata, Antofagasta, Chile as a bright blue crystallized layer without apparent matrix (Kelley 679); a 2 cm blue crystal of Häuyne on a 5 cm matrix of white-blue marble from Ladjuar Medam, Sar-e-Sang, Afghanistan (Kelley 471); a 6 cm specimen of Phosphophyllite from Cerro de Potosí, Potosí, Bolivia with pale blue crystals of up to 1.5 cm in a fan-like group (Kelley 337); and a superb botryoidal group of bright blue Plancheite 3 cm across on a dark metallic 8 cm matrix from the Katanga Copper Crescent, Katanga, DRC (Kelley 20).



PNWFM President Bruce Kelley's impressive display of specimens of blue species.



**A superb botryoidal group of bright blue Plancheite 3 cm across on a dark metallic 8 cm matrix.
Bruce Kelley collection.**

Alex Homenuke presented the most creative display in recent memory. The case consisted of two parts, with one half of the case dedicated to the Minerals and Ores of the Colorado Mineral Belt, and the second half of the case was a recreation of the cover of the May-June 1985 issue of the *Mineralogical Record*: “Colorado,” replete with artifacts and specimens arranged as on the cover of the issue.

Noteworthy in the first half of Alex’s case were two large slabs of sowbelly amethyst, one with rich dendritic acanthite, measuring about 25 cm across each, from Creede; an 8 cm specimen of proustite, with a 1 cm crystal, and small Polybasite crystals with Quartz from the Griffith mine, Clear Creek County; and nice small wire specimens of Gold from Farncomb Hill, Breckenridge, and Silver from the Bulldog mine, Creede.

The second half of Alex’s case contained an antique gold balance in the upper left and an assay balance in the center, a set of weights, a silver antique spoon in the shape of a shovel, a miner’s compass, three old books, a surveyor’s aneroid barometer, a surveyor’s alidade, and a number of mineral specimens.



The left half of Alex Homenuke’s very creative display. This portion of the case featured specimens of the Minerals and Ores of the Colorado Mineral Belt.



Two specimens of Rhodochrosite from Colorado from the collection of Alex Homenuke. The specimen on the left is 8 cm across and the one of the right is “smaller.”



The right half of Alex Homenuke’s very creative case, featuring a recreation of the May-June 1985 “Colorado” issue of the Mineralogical Record.



Three specimens from Alex Homenuke's case, a Fake Gold about 12 cm across, a specimen of Barite 9 cm across from the Rock Candy Mine, and a specimen of Azurite and Malachite 18 cm high from Bisbee, Arizona.

Bill and Diana Dameron presented a meticulously curated display consisting of 40 mineral specimens from the state of Colorado, ranging from miniature to large cabinet in size and of uniformly superb quality. Of special note was a Quartz epimorph after Anhydrite 12 cm across from the O.S. Pocket, Ouray County; Barites from Stoneham including a 10 cm high "V" shaped grouping of stout blue crystals, a statuesque grouping of parallel crystals with Calcite 8 cm high from the Leeson Pocket, and a delicate group two pale blue doubly-terminated crystals, the largest 11 cm long, roughly forming a cross with a third crystal intersecting at an angle of approximately 40 degrees; an exquisite 1.5 cm black pseudooctahedral crystal of Zircon perched on a 7 cm Quartz matrix with Riebeckite from the West Zircon Prospect, El Paso County; a charming 6 cm specimen of Quartz consisting of two partially intergrown Amethyst crystals forming a partial scepter on a crude larger crystal of Milky Quartz from Little Badger Creek, Fremont County; an exquisite specimen of Rhodochrosite with Fluorite, 7 cm in height, consisting of an offset pair of sharp, lustrous rhombohedral crystals of Rhodochrosite of an intense red-pink coloration 6 cm in size along with a few 1 cm pale lilac crystals of Fluorite on a small matrix of black Tetrahedrite from the Sweet Home Mine, Park County; and a very nice 6 cm high specimen of transparent colorless Calcite, as a single modified rhombohedron (possibly twinned) 4 cm across with a couple on smaller crystals on a bed of orange botryoidal Siderite from Billy Creek, Ouray County, collected in 1999.



**Quartz epimorph after Anhydrite 12 cm across from the O.S. Pocket, Ouray County.
Bill and Diana Dameron collection.**



Two partially intergrown Amethyst crystals forming a partial scepter on a crude larger crystal of Milky Quartz from Little Badger Creek, Fremont County, 6 cm high. Bill and Diana Dameron collection.



Modified rhombohedral (possibly twinned) crystals of Calcite on a bed of orange botryoidal Siderite, 4 cm high from Billy Creek, Ouray County. Bill and Diana Dameron collection.



Doubly-terminated Barite 11 cm long from Stoneham, Weld County. Bill and Diana Dameron collection.

Michael and Debbie Ausec presented two cases, each entitled Minerals of Colorado, and each consisting of 45 specimens (90 total) of relatively uniform size ranging from thumbnails to miniatures, but mostly in the size commonly referred to as toenails. The specimens were each professionally presented on white beveled bases that fit as a group in attractive eight-sided hardwood bases. For collectors to have the ability to present 90 specimens of uniformly high quality and similar size from a single state is quite impressive, and the process of putting together such a collection must represent a very significant effort on the part of Michael and Debbie.

Among Michael and Debbie's specimens were a thumbnail-sized group of Skutterudite crystals with a fused sample from the Horace Porter Mine, Gunnison County; a 4 cm group of dark copper crystals from the Cashin Mine, Montrose County; an attractive curved wire Silver, 3 cm high from the Smuggler Mine, Pitkin County; a Chalcopyrite with discoidal Siderite 3 cm across from the Black Cloud Mine, Lake County; a 1.3 cm white lustrous Phenakite crystal on a 4 cm Smoky Quartz crystal from Mount Antero, Chaffee County; a charming complex grouping of virtually colorless Fluorite on Quartz, 4 cm across from the Camp Bird Mine, Ouray County; and a sharp doubly-terminated crystal of Phenakite, 3.5 cm across from Mount Antero, Chaffee County.



One of Michael and Debbie Ausec's cases of Colorado Minerals.



The second case of minerals of Colorado presented by Michael and Debbie Ausec.



A detail of one of Michael and Debbie Ausec's cases of Colorado minerals. Both specimens are 3 cm in size.



**An exquisite doubly-terminated crystal of Phenakite, 3.5 cm long from Mount Antero, Chaffee County.
Michael and Debbie Ausec collection.**

Bob Meyer presented two cases, the first entitled Minerals of Colorado, consisting of 32 thumbnail to large cabinet specimens from localities in Colorado. Included in this case was a pictorial of the Cripple Creek Mining District from an 1896 edition of Harper's Weekly. The second case was entitled Minerals of the Eagle Mine, Gilman, Eagle County, Colorado and housed 26 specimens of thumbnail to large cabinet size from the Eagle Mine and a historical post card of the locality.

One half of the specimen's in Bob's first case, Minerals of Colorado, were examples of Tellurium or tellurides, mostly from the Cripple Creek district, Teller County, but also from Boulder and La Plata Counties. Of note was an excellent example of Sylvanite with crystal plates laying flat on matrix, 9 cm across, from the Cresson mine, Cripple Creek, ex: Lidstrom's, ex: Charles M. Shaw collection; a rich specimen of black Petzite, 8 cm across, from the Cresson mine, Cripple Creek, ex: Lidstrom's, ex: Charles M. Shaw collection; four specimens of Calaverite in fine crystals on matrix 3 cm, 6 cm, 7 cm, and 18 cm from the Cresson mine, Cripple Creek, ex: Charles M. Shaw collection; a crystallized Krennerite, 6 cm across from the Cresson mine, Cripple Creek, ex:

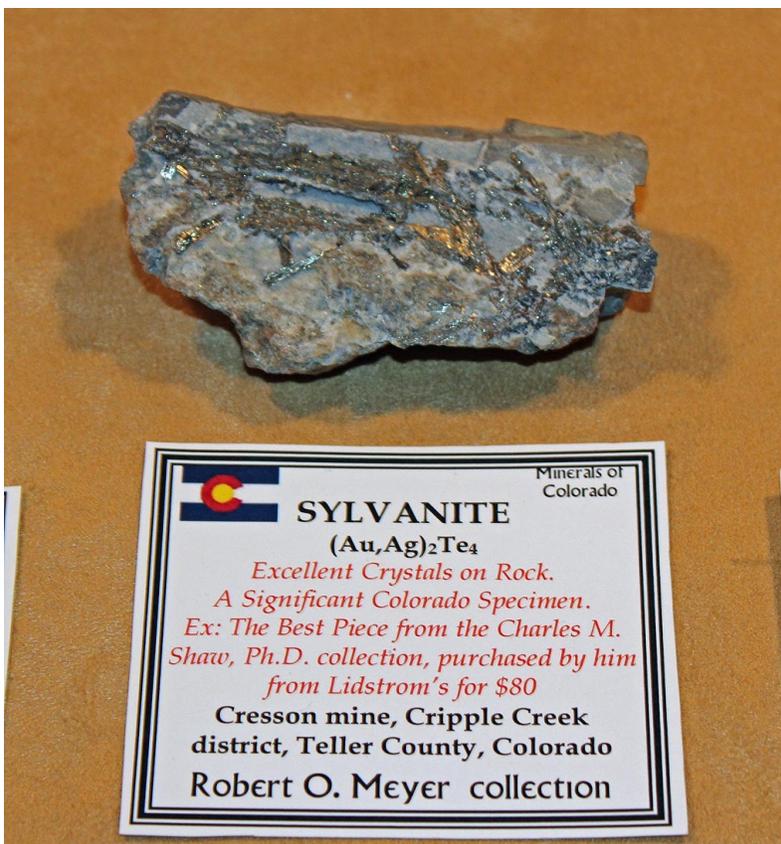
Charles M. Shaw collection; and a specimen of crystallized Petzite with Gold from the Cash Mine, Boulder County, 6 cm across, Ex: Art Eadie collection.

Other specimens of note in Bob's first case was a specimen with a single deep pink rhombohedral 1.3 cm crystal of Rhodochrosite on matrix, 8 cm high, with pale green Fluorite and Quartz from the Grizzly Bear Mine, Ouray County; a 1.5 cm rosette of pink Rhodochrosite on Quartz, 5 cm tall, from the Scotia Mine, Treasure Mountain, Animas Forks, San Juan County; an 8 cm tall group of Smoky Quartz crystals included by Hematite from the Crystal Peak area, Park & Teller Counties (collected by Paul Rhoades); a 6 cm specimen of pale pink 1 cm Rhodochrosite rhombohedrons on a dark matrix from the Sunnyside Mine, San Juan County; and a superb fan-like display of Anhydrite crystals from the Sunnyside Mine, San Juan County.

Bob's second case contained minerals from the now closed Eagle Mine, Gilman, Eagle County, almost all of which were originally in the collection of the late Paul Rhoades, although one specimen was from the Mike Groben collection and another was from the collection of Ernie Schlichter. Memorable in the case was a 12 cm wide specimen of lustrous black Sphalerite variety Marmatite with discoidal Siderite crystals; an 18 cm wide specimen of striated cubic Pyrite crystals with epitaxial Galena and Sphalerite; a 10 cm specimen of lustrous golden barite crystals to 1 cm in size; a 20 cm wide specimen of pale pink discoidal crystals of ferroan Rhodochrosite with Chalcopyrite crystals, and a superb 12 cm specimen consisting of drusy lustrous pyrite crystals forming two large balls coated in places with tiny tan discoidal crystals of Siderite and small transparent colorless crystals of Fluorapatite.



Two specimens of Rhodochrosite from the Robert O. Meyer collection.



An excellent specimen of Sylvanite, 9 cm across, from the Cresson Mine. Robert O. Meyer collection.



Two specimens from the collection of Robert O. Meyer. On the left, an 8 cm specimen of Rhodochrosite with Quartz from the Grizzly Bear Mine, and on the right a 9 cm high group of Smoky Quartz crystals from the Crystal Peak area, Park & Teller Counties.



Robert O. Meyer's display of minerals from the Eagle Mine, Gilman, Eagle County Colorado



Pale pink discoidal crystals of ferroan Rhodochrosite with Chalcopyrite, 20 cm across, from the Eagle Mine, Gilman. Robert O. Meyer collection.