



### Denver Gem & Mineral Guild Founded March 1964

1420 S. Reed Street Lakewood, Colorado, 80232

**AFMS Silver Medal Club 2016** 

March 2022

## **TIPS & CHIPS**

HTTP://WWW.DENVERGEM.ORG OR HTTP://DENVERGEM.ORG AND FACEBOOK!!! EMAIL = MINERALGUILD@GMAIL.COM

### 2022 SHOW SPECIAL EDITION

There are many photos we want to share to show those who couldn't get to the show to show them that was indeed

### THE GREATEST SHOW ABOUT EARTH!

(At least in Jefferson County!)

### **Highlights of the Show!**

Jefferson County's most important historic rock—the Bear Creek Meteorite Four pieces of the meteorite, the big one from the Denver Museum of Nature & Science, two pieces from Deb Baldwin and a slab from Matt Morgan, Deputy Director of the Colorado Geological Survey, reunited in an outstanding display. (See pages 12-15)

Twenty-nine dealers!!! Of which the majority are club members!!! Twenty-six displays—the best ever in any show!!! New addition to the exhibits—Bob Johnson interviewed the exhibitors and posted a QR code on the case. That QR code links to the interviews on the DGMG webpage!!! Seven demonstrators—Faceting, lapping, cabochon polishing, Geode cracking

### A RECORD SETTING SHOW!!!

All seen by over 3,000 for the duration of the show—counting dealers and exhibitors! Saturday afternoon was wall-to-wall, elbow-to-elbow people! Could hardly get through the aisles to go to the restrooms! (We're glad the fire marshal wasn't there!)

People's Choice Award winner was Jim Dennis for the Fluorescent Exhibit Aided by Bob Johnson.

THIS SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT TO THE MARCH TIPS & CHIPS HAS SOME OF THE PICTURES MEMBERS TOOK DURING THE WEEKEND.

Contributors to the photo galleries were Bob Johnson, Pete Modreski, George Daggett, and Beth Simmons

Application for the DGMG 2023 show has already has been submitted to JeffCO!!

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## Hail to the Worker Bees By Marj Becker

What does it take
To put on a show
Like the one DGMG put
On this past weekend?

Lots and lots and lots.
Plenty of parking.
Volunteers. Vendors.
Customers.
Chairs and tables and covers. Electricity.

The organizers
Chair and co-chair
Telephone calls, paper work
Negotiation. Contracts.

Strong, strong people
To move the display cases
To and from the show.
Trucks for transport.

Volunteers assigned to greet Patrons as they enter. To acquaint them with Activities to enjoy.

Someone to crack Geodes and show The children the inside That no one has ever seen before.

A person in charge Of the grab bags. Another to handle The spinning wheel.

Persons to demonstrate The skill of turning Rough stones Into gems.







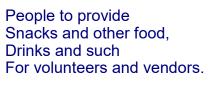












Vendors or dealers
As they are often called
To bring their wares
To sell.

Gems and minerals. Treasures all For the patrons To take home.

In the dark room Specimens illuminate Under the black light To dazzle the viewers.

The owner and Crew of the restaurant Who feeds The vendors and volunteers.

After two years
Of pandemic
A good time was had by
Kids - Parents Grandparents.
All!



















### 2022 SHOW SPECIAL EDITION

### THE GREATEST SHOW ABOUT EARTH

(at least in Jefferson County!)

The show must go on... we kept saying... and on it went! Despite COVID and the nasty subzero weather, we pulled it off! And upset all records of attendance, grab bag sales, and sales at the dealer booths. Eighteen joined the Guild at the show! We hope we meet their expectations! I want to take this small space to thank the hardy volunteers who went beyond the calls of duty to carry the event off. Start on Wednesday afternoon with George Daggett who met Ron Snelling (who came home from a job a day early to help!) at the storage unit in Thornton with the Garcia brothers to load the cases. At the same time, Wendy Carley and brother Greg Wilson, Ken Ray, Joe Walkowich and Gideon Breithaupt appeared at the clubhouse (in almost subzero temperatures) to haul all the necessary supplies—three truck loads. In the meantime, Deb Baldwin made her appointment at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science to pick up the Bear Creek meteorite, a major contribution to the show's offerings!

On Thursday morning we descended upon the show hall to set up—a little later than expected when the 'ol Blue diesel truck didn't want to start in the 4° weather! Linda Burns and Joe Walkowich met with the fairgrounds operator to learn the "ropes," because Linda had to leave for two days, Joe subbed for her. Other folks had vehicle issues, but amazingly the scene was almost set by 11:00—tables skirted thanks to Ralph and Joanne King and Coury Langley and Linda Burns. Cases were erected and set up by noon thanks to many members— Joe Walkowich, George Daggett, Ken Ray, Ralph King, Gideon Breithaupt, Deb Baldwin, Coury Langley, Don McGuire, Bob Johnson, John and Jordan Hovanec and one non-member—Ty Dawley, Bob Johnson's faithful hiking companion! Coffee was up and running early thanks to Judy and Ron Knoshaug. Then came lunch with Bob Johnson's heavenly Taco Soup, a welcome hot meal for all. Exhibitors and dealers started setting up by noon. Ernie and Marilyn Hanlon got in from Colorado Springs despite the weather to set up his two cases. Muscle men, Gideon Breithaupt and Joe Walkowich, unloaded the 71-pound Bear Creek Meteorite from Deb's car; Beth Simmons and Deb Baldwin prepared the case with the new freshly-printed back-board. The whole time, Bob Johnson was busy taking photos and getting the fluorescent exhibit ready; then Jim Dennis (our second—oldest member, aged 85) came (unexpectedly—he couldn't stay away!) and finished setting up the exhibit. Almost all was in readiness by 8:00 when the fairgrounds had to shut down.

Friday morning when Joe and Beth Simmons arrived at 9:00, they called the Fairgrounds personnel to open the building—dealers were lined up (in the cold) with yet more merchandise and Sandra Lucero and her daughter with all the food stuffs for the kitchen including a crock pot full of rice soup! Dave Sanchez brought his annual donation of wonderful breakfast burritos. By 10:00 there was a line waiting to get in! Marj Becker was on duty at the front door, handing out door prize tickets and People's Choice ballots and clicking the counter. Joe learned the routine, and then manned the front table for the majority of the show after Marj became ill on Saturday. Joe also took over the announcing that Linda usually had done. So Joe did duty for three people, all of the time, including opening and closing, and sometimes did the jobs of four and five! Marj left at noon to go get the cupcakes for the dinner, and then went to the restaurant to set up for the dinner. Beth Simmons manned the front desk with Joe while Deb Baldwin and Wendy Carley were kept busy selling grab bags and wheel of fortune spins. Delicious lunch was meatballs in BBQ sauce from Maxine Sheel, delivered by Vickie and Clint Schlepp. At least 450 people came through the doors on Friday, a record-setting figure.

Saturday morning, a little warmer, dealers were lined up trying to get in the hall before 9:00 and visitors before 10:00 when the onslaught ensued. By the end of the day almost 1400 people had come through the doors, yet another record breaker. Bob Johnson donned the dinosaur costume and entertained the kiddos a couple of times during the day. Sandra Lucero worked grab bags with Deb and Wendy (and ran out of the 700 we had packed by 2:00!). Beth babysat the wheel where folks lined up to take a spin! Wendy and Hazel Gordon both helped Joe at the front desk, then came inside for grab bag duty. Don McGuire was out there in the lobby greeting people, too! Everyone went home tired, but happy, on Saturday night!

Sunday, even warmer, was a little slower in the morning, but by noon the hall was filled with show goers. Linda Snelling helped Deb and Karlene sell grab bags, and Joe headed the front desk crew. 650 grab bags in a replenishment came from CSM president, Amber Brenzikofer and CSM Grab bag chairman, Wendy Carley, in the now combined club event! And those nearly sold out!

Moving out of the show hall takes less than three hours, an amazing spectacle to see in itself. The exhibits came down by 6:00 and cases were loaded onto the carts and out to the truck and trailer by 7:00 thanks to Gideon Breithaupt, George Daggett, Joe Walkowich, Ken Ray, Bob Johnson, Dave Sanchez and Jimmie Klein (our oldest member, aged 90!). The Kings tore off the table skirting they had put up on Thursday so the tables were cleared by 7:00. Gideon and Joe loaded the meteorite back in its crate and Deb toted it back to the museum by 7:00. George Daggett accompanied the haulers (Sam Garcia and brother Joel), back to the storage unit. Sandra Lucero and her daughter packed up the remaining supplies in the kitchen and cleaned it and we got a thumbs up from Jack, JeffCO's check out man, for cleanliness. Wendy Carley, Greg Wilson and Gideon Breithaupt stuffed supplies into their trucks for the trek back to the clubhouse. Linda Burns and Joe Walkowich went through the inspection process with Jack and then waited until the final dealer packed their stuff and finally left at 9:00.

Obviously many workers made quick work of an immense task! Next year, we are going to aim to have MORE VOLUNTEERS from the 18 new members who signed up at the show (some of them volunteered this year!) The Guild thanks everyone who stepped to the plate, but particularly new President Joe Walkowich who did the jobs of many. I'd say that after about two years of COVID, we're back in business! We bracketed the COVID—we were the last event at the Fairgrounds prior to its outbreak in 2020, and this year were the first event after the mask mandate was lifted. It was interesting to see how many people were sticking with the masks at the show! It will become a new fashion trend, probably.

### THE DGMG 2022 SHOW—We Certainly Strutted Our Stuff to over 3,000!

Beth Simmons, Show chairman and Linda Burns, Dealer Chairman



Our oldest members: Jimmie Klein (90) on the left; Jim Dennis (85) on the right! Both worked their butts off to make the show happen!

And the winners were— People's Choice Award to the Fluorescent display! Jim Dennis has made that happen for many years, aided this year by Bob Johnson! Bob delivered the trophy to Jim Dennis.

Clint Schlepp won the "member lottery" on Sunday! ("How many visitors do you think will be here?") Clint's number was closest—1100!

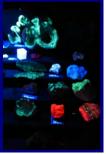


Totals for each day were: Sunday 1065! Saturday 1397! Friday 438! Almost 3,000 visitors! Broke all records by closing time on Saturday!

700 grab bags sold by 2:00 Saturday!
CMS came through with 637 more and those sold by the end of the day
Sunday! One happy father donated \$95
to the fund, because his kids were having such a grand time!











### **DEALERS' COMPLIMENTS—**

"It was a GREAT, GREAT show!"

"Best show ever in the history of my shop!"

"Best day ever!"

"A wonderful, healthy venue for everyone!"

"Greatest show for us! Show was very well managed!"

"I had a terrific show! Thanks for your efforts!"

# Other good news— All 2022 CALENDARS are sold! Plan your photos for 2023's edition!







2nd & 3rd generation DGMG members  $\,$ - Linda Westervelt Snelling and Luke (Jr.) Westervelt, Ron Snelling, & Chris Snelling enjoying a few free moments at the show



4° on Thursday MOVE-IN DAY!

### Dealer Dinner—Friday Night at Wrigley's Bar & Grill, Lakewood

One of the few clubs who feeds their dealers, the Guild hosts a lovely banquet, usually on Friday night of the show. Marj Becker has chaired the job of making the arrangements and takes it upon herself to decorate the room Guild style! We had an almost full house to partake of the delicious "American Buffet." And of the cupcakes Marj had made just for the event—with D, G, M, G in frosting.



















Above photos by Pete Modreski Marj Becker (age 81!) and Paula, owner of Wrigley's Bar & Grill

Photos center column by Beth Simmons Bob & Debby Johnson, love birds Clint & Vicky Schlepp Rosie & Mark, Blackstone Lapidary John Hovanec & Jordan, RMMC Dan Zellner and friend, Danz Rocks Ron Snelling and Lesley Sebol





Photos right column by Beth Simmons
The Sanchez brothers, Dale & Dave; Don & Diane Pollard, Earthstone-The
Solitaire; Gideon & Cindy Breithaupt, Harold Taylor; Pete Modreski, Wendy &

## SEE ALL THE SHOW PHOTOS AT https://photos.app.goo.gl/f3howDDQtHdJKeJ3A

Exhibits FIRST: Thanks to all who put in a case (or more) at the Greatest Show About Earth (at least in JeffCO!) (Photos appear sans names to protect the guilty!)

























From an exhibitor: Great show! So good to see so many wonderful cases and faces! Thanks so much for providing the opportunity to put up a display, the great vendors and the awesome show!

### Exhibits, con't







Who can see the error in this "doubledup photo"?































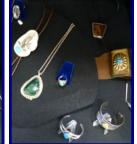
















EXHIBITS con't.









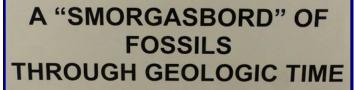


### **FOSSIL EXHIBITS**

























### FOSSIL EXHIBITS, con't.







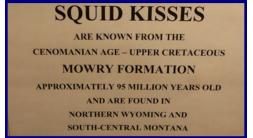






# SQUID KISSES THESE TRACE FOSSILS ARE KNOW AS Asterichnites octoradiatus THESE EIGHT-ARMED IMPRESSIONS REPRESENT WHERE AN ANCIENT SPECIES OF SQUID ATTACHED THEIR EGG CASES TO THE SANDY SEA FLOOR







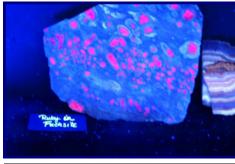






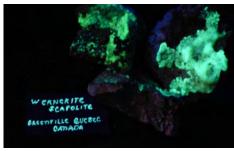
### Fluorescent exhibit—the Bat Cave! (WON THE PEOPLE"S CHOICE AWARD!)



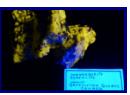






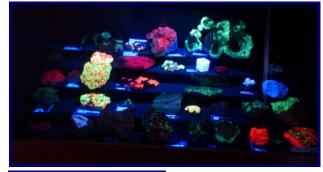






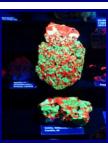














### Tale of the Bear Creek Meteorite, Jefferson County, Colorado By Matthew Morgan<sup>1</sup> and Gary Curtiss<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Deputy Director, Colorado Geological Survey, Golden, CÓ; email: <a href="mailto:mmorgan@mines.edu">mmorgan@mines.edu</a>; <sup>2</sup>Geologist, Lakewood, CO; email: <a href="mailto:kerfit6@gmail.com">kerfit6@gmail.com</a> WRITTEN EXPRESSLY FOR THE TIPS & CHIPS!

The Bear Creek iron meteorite was found on April 18, 1866, approximately 48 km (30 mi) west of Denver, on the eastern slope of the Front Range in Jefferson County. The mass was located by George R. Morrison and James L. Wilson, deep in a ravine at an elevation of about 240 m (7875 ft). The "ravine" is presumably Bear Creek which runs through the town of Morrison and thus, the meteorite was given that official name. There are conflicting reports on the actual weight of the original specimen - the finders indicate that it weighed about 227 kgs (500 lbs) but other people that were given pieces of the meteorite estimated its weight at 800 lbs. The official weight given in the Meteoritical Bulletin is 227 kgs (500 lbs). Morrison and Wilson documented their discovery in the May 14, 1866, article published in the *Rocky Mountain News*:

"On the 18<sup>th</sup> ult., in company with Mr. G.R. Morrison, we found it in the bottom of a gulch, where a freshet had washed away the loose stones and earth and exposed it. Mr. Morrison had seen it before, and taking it of blossom rock had spent some time in searching for the lode, and is therefore entitled to the credit of its discovery. It was irregular in form, about 22 inches long, 9 to 10 thick and 14 wide. Four of its sides are flat and two rounded. This form indicates it to be a fragment of a much larger mass. It is magneticweight about 500 pounds. The force with which it struck the rocks at the time of its fall has so shattered one end of it as enabled us to break off a piece that weighed eleven pounds. Its composition appears to be the native metals of nickel, cobalt, iron and a trace of copper, unequally distributed in the mass. In one part nickel and cobalt are largely in excess of the other metals while in other parts iron forms the chief ingredient. These metals are aggregated and highly crystallized. A coating of the oxide of iron half an inch thick has taken the place of the shining black crust observed on aerolites when they first reach the earth. The less oxidizable metals of nickel and cobalt still remain in their metallic state in this coating of iron rust.

Apriotopos

Bear Creek iron

Colorado Jerimos

Gulch near Bear Creek

25 or 30 m from Denier cir

ii 42 - p250 + 286

ii 43 p 66 A + p 280 A

E , Slope of Sierre Madre

Range of the Rocky Ints
8000 ft high

500 pounds: iius rishepand

I No. 84

Original catalog label of the Bear Creek meteorite ("Aeriotopos") within the Amherst College Collection by C.U. Shepard (Wisconsin Historical Society)

A curious interest has always been manifest in these strange wonders, which in former times led to many fanciful and absurd conjectures, as to their origin, and the laws governing them. Fireballs, shooting stars and meteoric stones all come under the general appellation of aerolites."

Their description of the piece indicates that the meteorite may have collided with a rock ledge and was fractured. Due to the fractures, the finders were able to remove several pieces of the meteorite for examination. They noted that the meteorite was covered by a half inch-thick layer of iron oxide, a weathering product indicating that the meteorite probably fell at least several hundred or perhaps thousands of years before it was found. J. Alden Smith (of Trail Run, Colorado Territory) wrote briefly of the Bear Creek meteorite in *The Daily Mining Journal of October 26, 1866* and indicated that the mass was found on a bed of solid gneiss and was shattered on one end which enabled the removal of an 11 lb (5 kg) piece for his analysis. Later, J. Alden Smith became the first Territorial Geologist for Colorado from 1874-1883 and the first State Geologist from 1885-1887 when Colorado gained statehood.

Morrison and Wilson, although accomplished prospectors, lacked the knowledge to properly identify meteorites. They relied upon Smith, who was a local mining expert and Mining Editor of the Central City Register Call, to provide his opinion on the chemical composition and origin of the specimen. After assaying the Bear Creek iron, Smith believed it was a meteorite and sent two samples elsewhere for additional opinions. The first sample went to the San Francisco Mining and Scientific Press. Their reply was that the sample was a sulphide of iron ore and not 'meteoric' in origin. The second sample was sent to Benjamin Silliman, Jr. and James D. Dana (the famous geologist and mineralogist) at the American Journal of Science and Arts located in New Haven, Connecticut. They were the leading meteorite experts in the country. The sample was recognized as a meteorite and their assistant, C. U. Shepard, published the first scholarly report of the Bear Creek meteorite. At this time in 1866, Shepard had amassed the largest meteorite collection in the world and became fascinated with the Bear Creek iron meteorite. Thus, the November 1866 issue of the American Journal of Science and Arts announced that 'Prof. Shepard, through the agency of a friend in Denver City has secured the original mass for his cabinet.'

### Following the trail of the Bear Creek meteorite

The 227 kg mass (less 5 kgs provided to Alden) was dissected for research and distributed to institutions with the main mass in the Amherst College Collection curated by Shepard. At Amherst, the meteorite was catalogued under the Latin name "Aeriotopos", "topos" meaning "place" and "aerio" meaning "high in elevation." According to Shepard, in 1866, Smith sent him a piece of the meteorite 1.5 inches long by 3/5 inches wide and 1/8 inch thick. He indicated that Wilson and Morrison showed Smith the location, but a detailed description of the location was never published. In 1871, Shepard published a catalog of his meteorite collection which was at the time housed at the Wood's Building of Amherst. A note in Nature Magazine stated that the "Aeriotopos" was the heaviest iron in the collection, weighing 198 kgs (438 pounds); however, Shepard's original collection label (shown above) indicates a weight of "436 pounds" (197.7 kgs).

The 1909 Catalogue of the Meteorites of North America lists 436 lbs (197.7 kgs) of the Bear Creek meteorite in the Amherst Collection. This is corroborated by the Shepard Collection label.

On December 9, 1935, a proposal by the Colorado Museum of Natural History (now the Denver Museum of Nature and Science) listed ten meteorites to be 'retained' by the Colorado Museum and Harvey H. Nininger (then curator) from the Amherst Collection (listed in the Bailey Archives of the Denver Museum of Nature and Science). Topping the list was an 'end piece' of Bear Creek weighing 32.5 kg (72 lbs) – and note that adding the 32.5 kgs in Denver to the 197.7 kgs at Amherst, the Bear Creek meteorite weight was 203.2 kgs (507 lbs).

In 1935, famed meteorite hunter Harvey H. Nininger, was a curator at the Denver Museum. Since 1930, he had received a small salary to make his headquarters in the museum and place his collection on display. This arrangement lasted until 1945. So, it seems safe to assume that Nininger facilitated the meteorite exchange that included the acquisition of the Bear Creek meteorite end piece. There is no direct evidence to show if he actually owned the end piece or was just instrumental in getting the piece to the Denver Museum. The catalog number on the Denver Museum piece is #5931 which does not reference to any of Nininger's personal collection pieces. Also, Nininger owned a complete 8,720 g slice that is listed in the Nininger Collection of Meteorites (1950) with catalog number 352.1 and a photo that is of similar appearance to the DMNS specimen cut face. It is unknown as to how or where Nininger obtained this slice.

The 1953 and 1966 Catalogue of Meteorites lists the Bear Creek main mass still at Amherst.

The 1970 Catalog of Meteorites at Arizona State University (ASU) shows one slice weighing 4.093 kgs (9 lbs).

According to the Handbook of Iron Meteorites as of 1975, the largest pieces of the Bear Creek meteorite were in the following institutional collections (note the Denver piece has the incorrect weight):

Amherst (160 kg), Denver (35 kg end piece), London (4.4 kg), Tempe (4.2 kg), Washington (275 g), Gottingen (235 g), Yale (156 g), Chicago (129 g), New York (116 g), Chicago (17 g).

In 1985, ASU updated their collection catalog with new acquisitions. It listed a total of 160 kgs (353 lbs) of Bear Creek in its collection consisting of the 124 kg main mass (273 lbs) and five slices weighing from 4.8 kgs (10.5 lbs) to 8.3 kgs (18.3 lbs). The catalog notes that ASU acquired the C.U. Shepard Collection from Amherst College in 1980 including the Bear Creek main mass of 124 kgs (273 pounds). The 2019 ASU Catalog shows that ASU still had 90.495 kgs (199 lbs) of the Bear Creek meteorite, the remaining main mass.

The Bear Creek meteorite is classified as a IIIAB iron containing 9.95% Ni, 0.54% Co, 0.7% P, 2% S, 18.8 ppm Ga, 32.8 ppm Ge, 0.06 ppm Ir. Cut and etched surfaces reveal a well-developed Widmanstätten pattern with kamacite (α-(Fe,Ni); Fe<sup>0+</sup>0.9Ni<sub>0.1</sub>) crystal planes ~0.60 mm in width. Numerous troilite (FeS) nodules are dispersed throughout the mass and are visible as dull-gray circular inclusions. Interestingly, three other meteorites from Colorado are also classified as IIIAB irons: Franceville (found 1890), Briggsdale (found 1949) and Burns (found 2003).

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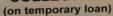
### **Bear Creek Meteorite Exhibit**



### BEAR CREEK METEORITE

Large piece with outside crust 32,500 grams (71.6 lbs)

DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURE & SCIENCE COLLECTION







Probably the only specimen in the hall that had a TRACKER on it!!





Click here to learn more from the guys:





Matt Morgan and Gary Curtiss, authors of the Bear Creek Meteorite article. They also wrote "Meteorites of Colorado." Matt owns the big slice of the Bear Creek in the exhibit.



### **Bear Creek Meteorite Exhibit, con't**















This is the first time in over a century that the pieces of the meteorite were all back together in one place, within a few miles of where they landed!

Thanks to Deb Baldwin for making all the arrangements for this exhibit in record time!











### THE DEALERS

Not enough space to capture all of them and their wares.... But a good attempt! \*=members

















## THE DEALERS, con't. Not enough space to capture all of them and their wares.... But a good attempt! \*=members











































Crystals Unlimited





## THE DEALERS, con't. Not enough space to capture all of them and their wares.... But a good attempt! \*=members



































### THE DEMONSTRATORS

























4° OUT THERE!

