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April 2025

The Rocky Mountain Federation News



The official publication of the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc. The RMFMS is a regional member of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc. Email receipt of the *RMF News* is a privilege of membership in the RMFMS, and it cannot be exchanged by the editor for individual club newsletters from other regional federations. Accessible to the public on www.rmfmts.org.

What's Inside:

President's Message.2,3

Treasurer's Report. 3

Safety-An AED for Your Club? 3,4

Where in RMFMS is Rocky?. . . . 4,12,17,22

Crack the News-Juniors & Teens AFMS
Newsletter; Fossil of the Month 5

AFMS Bulletin Editor Awards 6,7,8

Unearthing Adventure-Converse County
Rockhounds9

AFMS Juniors Report & a New Badge. .10

Life on the Mineral Tech Committee.11,12

Club Show Details.12-17

North Central Kansas R&G Memorial. . .14

Quick Tips for Editors.14,15

The Selenides.18-21

Hot Links-Editor's Choice. 22

Upcoming Shows & Events 23-25

2024 Officers, Cmte Chairs. 26-28

RMFMS Purpose & Policies. 29

AFMS Code of Ethics. 29

Information for the **May** issue is due to LJGRALG@aol.com by **April 15**.

President's Message

Jim Gray, RMFMS President



Watch out for scams in your email! There seems to have been a recent increase in the number of fraudulent emails pretending to be from RMFMS members asking for a financial transaction to be completed on their behalf. **Do not open any attachments or respond to these emails! Mark them as Spam and delete them.** Our leadership and members would not ask for money or gift cards by email. It is a shame there are dishonest people in the world!

On a happier note, nicer weather has begun in most parts of our region and this means rock hunting! I look forward to seeing your field trip pictures and articles in the *RMF Newsletter*. Be sure to submit them to our editor, Linda Jaeger, at ljgralg@aol.com. She puts together a really good newsletter, but she cannot do it without submissions from the members of RMFMS!

I want to personally thank and welcome our newest volunteer committee leaders! The RMFMS will certainly benefit from your efforts and the efforts of our continuing committee heads. We are most productive when we work as a team and encourage others to join us. I am still looking for a Colorado State Director, a Lapidary Tech, PLAC (Public Lands Access Committee) leaders for Arizona, Colorado, Oklahoma/Arkansas, South Dakota, and Utah/Nevada, and a Website Contest committee head. If you are interested in filling any of these roles please contact me at jimgray@wyoming.com. I believe you will be glad you did!

What do you do with the rocks you collect? Submit your pictures and descriptions to Linda for future RMF Newsletters. I believe it will be fun and inspiring to see what we do with the rocks, minerals, and fossils we have acquired.

Until Next Time, Jim Gray

Southern Nevada Gem & Mineral Society

The crystal growing event on March 8, 2025 was a hit with this young rockhound!

Contributed by Mary Savage, SNGMS



Treasurer's Report

Gene Maggard, RMFMS Treasurer

The last dues and insurance check finally arrived as of the time of this article, March 14. Total dues collections are \$19,949 compared to budget of \$20,000. Dues paying membership is 13,071 compared to 12,849 members last year. Total membership this year is 14,360 compared to 14,042 members last year.

Insurance premium collections this year are \$7,235 compared to budget of \$7,500. The premium invoice from the insurance company just arrived. It is \$7,789 compared to budget of \$7,500, so insurance expense exceeds income by about \$500. The insurance premium last year was \$7,486, but we received a supplemental charge of \$350 in August. What it was for is unknown. It is about impossible to get an explanation of charges from the insurance company. Anyway, we will probably need to increase the premium that we charge to clubs by a small amount for next year. A 5 cent/member increase should balance the insurance ledger.

Not much else to report from the Treasury. Have a great summer.



Safety – An AED for Your Club?

*Gregg Josey, Safety Officer, Daisy Mountain R&M Club
via Jodi Brewster, RMFMS Safety Chair*



A topic came up about having an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) available in the clubs. So, I sent it out to the AZ/NV clubs and asked what their thoughts were on this topic. Many said they would discuss this at their business meeting. Thank you, AZ/NV for sending me your comments. There were some questions and concerns. Daisy Mountain Rock and Mineral Club has a Safety Committee and has an AED. Their Safety Officer, Gregg Josey has written an article that may help ease people's thoughts of the AED. After reading this it made me have a better outlook on an AED. Thank you Gregg for sharing this article.

If your club has any Safety Tips you would like to share, please email them to rmfmssafety2024@gmail.com

WOULD AN AED BE BENEFICIAL TO YOUR ROCK CLUB?

The question has been brought up, "Would an AED be beneficial to our rock club?"

First off, AED stands for Automated External Defibrillator. This is a device that can treat a person whose heart has suddenly stopped working.

Let's look at pros and cons of investing in an AED. More than 356,000 people suffer cardiac arrest in an out of hospital setting. 90% of those cases result in death. However, studies show that early defibrillation can triple the survival rate.

Pros of investing in an AED:

1. It saves lives. AED's have an indisputable health benefit for people who suffer an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest. Many, if not all, of our clubs go on field trips, which take us out to areas that are far from medical response.

continued on page 4

Safety—An AED for Your Club? — *continued from page 3*

1. (continued) In such a scenario there is practically no downside to using an AED; in fact the survival rate of people who have been defibrillated within 3 to 5 minutes of their cardiac arrest can be as high as 75%.
 2. Access. Easy access is another major advantage of investing in an AED. Due to their battery powered function, AEDs are very easy to transport and use in all settings.
 3. Ease of use. AEDs do not require prior training, which means they are designed in a way that is extremely user friendly. The defibrillator reads the victims heart rhythm and will administer an electric shock only if it detects irregular heart function. This means there is little to no risk of causing injury by shocking a person who does not need to be shocked.
 4. Liability. Due to the Good Samaritan Act in Arizona (*you need to check your own state*). The Good Samaritan laws offer legal protection to any person that gives reasonable assistance to those who are, or whom they believe to be injured, ill, in peril or otherwise incapacitated. It protects from being sued or prosecuted for any attempt to render first aid.
2. Risk of malfunction. AEDs are like any other device. They are not fail safe, especially if not maintained properly. Some of the most common problems are:
 - A: Error message displayed due to software bugs.
 - B: Dried out electrodes due to untimely replacement.
 - C: Battery problems.
 - D: Damaged due to abuse.
- AEDs are extremely important, especially on a field trip away from medical help and although they are not 100% fail safe, the chances of survival with an AED are always greater than without one.
- My overall thoughts on a club owning an AED is a no brainer. If you can afford the device, get one. If your club is not in the position to purchase one, start your safety program small and work up. There are many safety items that can be implemented at no cost or very little cost. As a club board member, I feel that safety is a top priority in keeping all trips safe and enjoyable.

Cons of investing in an AED:

1. Cost. The cost of an AED may be out of reach for your club. Even the least expensive can run upwards of \$700 and up to \$2,000.

Clipart from: <https://www.fda.gov/consumers/consumer-updates/how-aeds-public-places-can-restart-hearts>

**Where in the RMFMS is Rocky?**

- Utah?
- Colorado?
- Nevada?

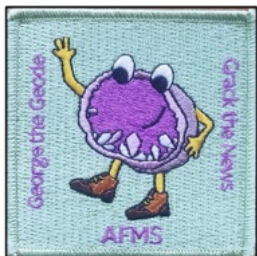
Clipart at top by Phillip Martin.
CC BY-SA 2.0.

Photo at left, Public Domain.
Answers on page 22.



Crack the News: The AFMS Newsletter for Juniors

Dennis Gertenbach, CTN Editor



The latest edition of *Crack the News*, the AFMS newsletter written by kids and teens for kids and teens, was introduced at the AFMS Convention in Hickory, North Carolina, last month. It's now available at <https://www.juniors.amfed.org/juniors-newsletter>. In this edition, juniors from around the country wrote about gold panning in California, hunting for pyrite in Oregon, and collecting Mazon Creek fossils in Illinois. They also

wrote about their favorite rocks and minerals, including pyrite, dyed agate, and K2. (Yes, there's a rock named after the second highest mountain on Earth.) Plus, you can read about Tully Monsters. It's wonderful to see the variety of rockhounding interests our juniors have.

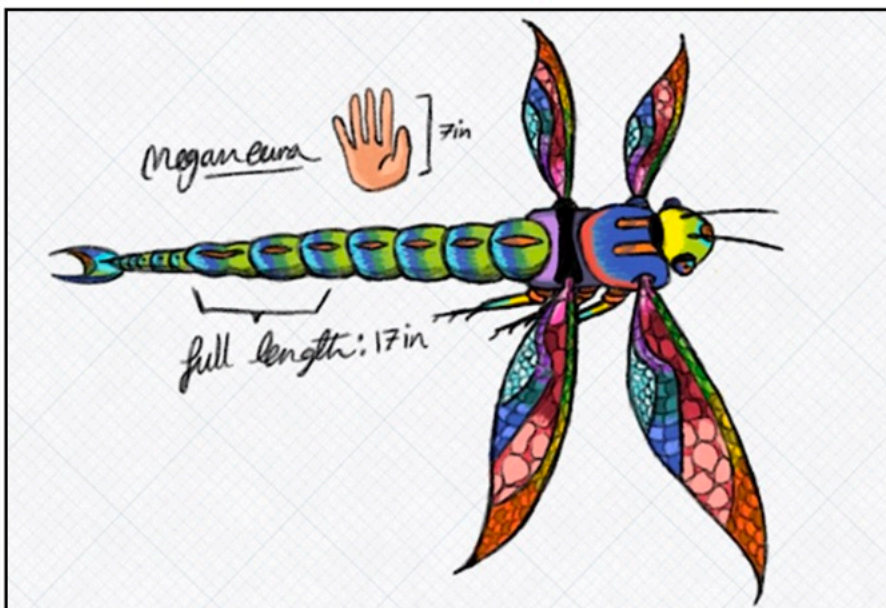


Be sure to send every junior in your club a copy to read.

Every junior who contributes to *Crack the News* receives a patch featuring **George the Geode**, the mascot of the newsletter. Encourage the kids and teens in your club to send an article, poem, artwork, or photos for the next edition.

Starting with the next issue, we will feature an article from a junior about their juniors club, including photos of their activities. Perhaps one of your juniors would like to write about their juniors club.

Details about where to send your contribution are at <https://www.juniors.amfed.org/juniors-newsletter>; just scroll down to the section "Calling all junior journalists, writers, poets, photographers, and artists..." Not only will your juniors receive a **George the Geode** patch, but they can share their knowledge and excitement about rocks, minerals, and fossils with kids and teens across the country.



Fossil of the Month

Charlotte Small, Jr. Geologist, From
Flatirons Facets, March/April 2025

Meganeura was a genus of massive insects related to modern-day dragonflies. They were carnivorous, mainly preying on other insects, and they dominated the late Carboniferous. If you would like to learn more about these, here are some good resources:

[Carboniferous - Meganeura](#)

[Meganeura : The largest insect ever existed was a giant dragonfly](#)

AFMS Bulletin Contest – RMFMS Winners

Linda Jaeger, RMFMS BEAC

Category & Place	Bulletin Name	Issue	Editor	Club Name
SB-2nd	<i>The Ammonite</i>	7/2024	Deborah Vick	Western Dakota G&M Society
LB-2nd	<i>CSMS Pick & Pack</i>	2/2024	John D. Emory	Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society
LB-7th	<i>The Rockhound Record</i>	6/2024	Joseph Philpott	Mineralogical Society of Arizona
LB-8th	<i>Flatirons Facets</i>	11/2024	Dennis Gertenbach	Flatirons Mineral Club
LB-10th	<i>Tips & Chips</i>	12/2024	Beth Simmons	Denver Gem & Mineral Guild
NE-2nd	<i>Rock, Pick & Chisel</i>	12/2024	Michelle Kalish	Northwest Arkansas G&M Society
Category & Place	Title of Article	Issue	Author	Club Name
AA-1st	Stromatolites	11/2024	Judy Beck	McPherson G&M Club
AA-2nd	Tech Tips: Collecting Gear	3/2024	Joseph Philpott	Mineralogical Society of Arizona
AA-6th	Member Spotlight-Phil Richardson	5/2024	Cameron Reichert	Mineralogical Society of Arizona
BEAC WC AA-1st	Recipe for "Jumping Off the Page"	6/2024	Linda Jaeger	AFMS
AAA-1st	Fluorite Off the Beaten Path	6/2024	Dana Slaughter	Mineralogical Society of Arizona
AAA-2nd	Trip Report:Superior Apache Tears	5/2024	Stan Celestian	Mineralogical Society of Arizona
AAA-3rd	Rocks in Balance: A Closer Look at the Geological Marvels of Precariously Balanced Rocks	3/2024	Steven Wade Veatch	Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society
AAA-HM	Vivianite from Sedimentary Rocks and Blue Dead Bodies	4/2024	Mike Nelson	Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society
AP-4th	Garden Park Bone Beds	3/2024	Steven Wade Veatch	Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society

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AFMS Bulletin Contest Winners — *continued from page 6*

Category & Place	Title of Article	Issue	Author	Club Name
AP-6th	Profundity	5-6/2024	Linda Cook	Flatirons Mineral Club
AP-8th	A Day Collecting Apache Tears	5/2024	Stan Celestian	Mineralogical Society of Arizona
Category & Place	Title of Feature	Issue	Author	Club Name
WF-8th	Book Review: Mineral Cleaning for Collectors, 3rd Edition (Duthaler & Weib)	2/2024	Joseph Philpott	Mineralogical Society of Arizona
WF-10th	Trip Report: Lizzadro Museum of Lapidary Arts	9/2024	Tina Cox	Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society
WF-HM	Joe Dorris' Smoky Hawk Claim Field Trip	9-10/24	Brian Walko	Flatirons Mineral Club
WF-HM	People's Choice Award: Pike's Peak Gem, Jewelry and Mineral Show	7/2024	Bob Landgraf & Susan Passmore	Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society
DF, Jrs 12 to 17-1st	Fossil of the Month: Jawed Fish	1-2/2024	Charlotte Small	Flatirons Mineral Club
DF, Jrs 12 to 17-2nd	Fossil of the Month: Bryozoans	7/2024	Charlotte Small	(Flatirons Mineral Club)- AFMS Crack the News
Category & Place	Title of Article	Issue	Author	Club Name
Junior Collaboration-1st	Investigating a Trace Fossil on Ripple Marks in the Middle Cambrian Hickory Sandstone of Central Texas	6/2024	Sawyer Blizzard, Lead Author & others (Nathan Peters, Brody Dymond, Wyatt Maeder, Hunter Maeder)	RMFMS: Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society MWF: Grand Traverse Area R&M Club
JA <12 -2nd	Castle Rock	11/2024	Zoe Crouch	McPherson Gem & Mineral Club
JA <12 -4th	My First Rockhounding Adventure	11-12/24	Quin Armstrong	Flatirons Mineral Club
JA <12 -5th	Making Stone Jewelry	4-5/2024	Ellen Carmona Smith	Flatirons Mineral Club

continued on next page

AFMS Bulletin Contest Winners — *continued from page 7*

Category & Place	Title of Article	Issue	Author	Club Name
JA, 12 to 17-1st	A Search for Oregon Sunstones	2/2024	Hannah Brodhagen	Mineralogical Society of Arizona
JA, 12 to 17-3rd	Obsidian	11-12/24	Emily Stevenson	Flatirons Mineral Club
JA, 12 to 17-5th	Fossiling in England	9-10/24	Connel Casson	Flatirons Mineral Club
CTN: JA 12 to 17-1st	Echoes of the Past: Examining a Small Shorebird's Tracks along the Shoreline of Ancient Lake Uinta	3/2024	Sawyer Blizzard	Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society (Crack the News)
SP-1st	A Field Guide to the Guild for New Members	11/2024	George Daggett	Denver Gem & Mineral Guild

Congratulations to all of you! RMFMS did very well. We had (8) first place awards, (7) second place awards, and (2) 3rd place awards. Twenty-nine (29) of you were top 10 in AFMS.

Explanation of abbreviations in the chart:

SB - Small Bulletins

LB - Large Bulletins

NE - New Editors

AA - Adult Articles

BEAC WC, AA - BEAC Wildcard, Adult Articles

AAA - Adult Articles Advanced

AP - Adult Poetry

WF - Written Features

DF, Jrs 12 to 17 - Drawn Features Juniors 12 to 17

Junior Collaboration - Scientific Collaboration group across multiple clubs & federations

JA <12 - Junior Articles, under 12

JA, 12 to 17 - Junior Articles, 12 to 17

CTN: JA 12 to 17 - *Crack the News*, Junior Articles 12 to 17



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vectorportal.com. CC BY 4.0

Reminder — There's more! The **RMFMS contest awards** will be announced and awarded at the RMFMS Breakfast with Editors and Webmasters during the Grand Junction/RMFMS Convention & Show in September.

Unearthing Adventure with the Converse County Rockhounds

Callie Kunz, CCR



For those passionate about discovering the Earth's hidden treasures, the Converse County Rockhounds offers locals in the area a gateway to Wyoming's geological wonders. Founded in October 2023 by Gary Haptonstall, alongside vice president Jo Teal, the Rockhounds grew into a club bound by curiosity for geology. Along with the dedicated individuals who started the club, Chris Berendes served as the club's secretary and treasurer until Hope VanWey took over secretary duties in June 2024. With each passing month, the Rockhounds have continuously expanded their activities, offering something to every level of rock enthusiast. The Converse County Rockhounds held monthly meetings at Memorial Hospital of Converse County until the meetings were moved to the Enterprise building in downtown Douglas.

The club has gone on many field trips in Wyoming, taking its members to some of the state's most fascinating geological sites. From hunting shark teeth near



Glenrock to exploring agates near **Ayers Natural Bridge**, each outing is a chance to learn more about Earth's history.

The group has also explored petrified wood



deposits and agates in the **Shirley Basin** and Yevngite and other rare collectibles near **Guernsey**.

There are benefits from being a member of the Rockhounds as well, such as gaining access to hunt on private property. Members of the Converse County Rockhounds also enjoy going to rock shows and museums in the area to expand their knowledge about geology and rockhounding.

Along with these outings, the group enjoys activities that let the individuals get to know each other such as picnics around the area and holiday parties.

1-Converse County, near Douglas. Photo by Wusel007, CC BY-SA 3.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons

2-Water tower in Guernsey, Platte County, WY. Public Domain, http://www.loc.gov/rr/print/res/114_habs.html

3-Ayers Natural Bridge. Photo by Jim Bowen on Flickr. CC BY 2.0

AFMS Juniors Committee Report & a New Badge

Lora Hall, AFMS Junior Programs Chair



It has been a busy year for Juniors in the AFMS! The Juniors Committee continues to meet via Google Meets once a month to work on a number of projects. There is no shortage of great ideas that committee members continue to come up with and thank God, no

shortage of volunteers willing to tackle them.

One of the first projects we completed this year was a rewrite of the Showmanship Badge with the goal of encouraging more juniors to enter competitive displays. We highlighted the idea that a junior does not have to be present to enter a display at a regional or AFMS competition and that they can appoint someone to set up their display for them. This will open up opportunities for juniors and their families that cannot get off work or school to travel out of the state to conventions.

Badge #21 Sand and Sediment was unveiled at the EFMLS/AFMS Convention in Hickory, NC at the Junior's Cracker Barrel on Saturday.



We are also unveiling a new badge, Sand and Sediment written by Lori Carter and members of the International Sand Collectors Society. This is an amazing opportunity to share their knowledge. As the introduction to the badge says, "Big rocks become little rocks and little rocks become even smaller. Biological things can go from big to small too. This happens in various ways to produce sand, silt, and clay. Some things are just naturally tiny." Well, the reverse can happen too, when a small idea grows into a big one and just like that, we have a new badge to share with Future Rockhounds of America. Thank you to Lori and all her friends in the sand world for this awesome gift!

The website, www.juniors.amfed.org, continues to spread the word about the AFMS Future Rockhounds of America programs. Our goal is to reach clubs that already have a junior's program but are not signed up with FRA and to encourage clubs without a junior's program to start one. We currently have 96 clubs actively participating in one or more FRA programs including the Badge Program, Rock Pals Rock Exchange, Junior Volunteer Award, and *Crack the News* Junior's Newsletter. A special thank you to our webmaster Joan Stoker from the Indian Mounds Rock and Mineral Club in Michigan.

We have published five (5) issues of *Crack the News* and awarded each talented author or artist a George the Geode Patch. This year, articles from *Crack the News* will be competing in the AFMS Bulletin Contest. A huge shout out to our Editor, Dennis Gertenbach from the Flatiron Gem Mineral Club in Colorado.

This is the first year in a very long time that we have an active Junior Programs Chair in each of the seven (7) Regional Federations. Please welcome our newest chairs:

- **Michelle Cauley**, Natural Resources Instructor at Dakota College in North Dakota (the new RMFMS Juniors Chair). Michelle is also our Facebook moderator!
- **Jennifer Fitch** with the Hellgate Mineral Society in Montana (the new NFMS Juniors Chair)
- **Reinee Hildebrandt** from the Lincoln Orbit Earth Science Society in Illinois (the new MWF Juniors Chair)
- **Erin Erwin** with the Lubbock Gem and Mineral Society in Texas (the new SCFMS)
- **Darrell Powell**, owner of *Diamond Dan Publications* (the new EFMLS Juniors Chair)

Many of these individuals have already been instrumental in promoting Junior Programs in their respective regions, serving on the Juniors Committee, and driving our national AFMS goals.

Life on the Mineral Technical Committee

Mike Nelson, RMFMS Fossil Tech Chair



Newsletter space will not be wasted explaining why I am trying to drum up a column for the Mineral Technical Committee. Please take a peek at the Fossil Technical Committee article about the need for volunteers to staff RMFMS Committees. Certainly, other Federation

members have much more experience with minerals than an old softrocker like me. Will a volunteer step forward?

In reading the February newsletter I noticed that one responsibility of the Committee is to furnish the Newsletter Editor pertinent mineralogical information of benefit and interest to the collector. Such information may include—you name it, anything related to minerals.

I presume that most rockhounds are serious users of Mineral Database and have noted that descriptions of minerals now include Mineral Symbols. MinDat states, "as of 2021 there are now IMA–CNMNC approved mineral symbols (abbreviations) for each mineral species, useful for tables and diagrams. Please only use the official IMA–CNMNC symbol." For example, pyrite (FeS_2) has a symbol of **Py** while the potassium feldspar microcline ($\text{K(AlSi}_3\text{O}_8)$) has a symbol of **Mcc**. Warr (2021), in defining the naming process stated, "this contribution presents the first International Mineralogical Association (IMA) Commission on New Minerals, Nomenclature and Classification (CNMNC) approved collection of 5744 mineral name abbreviations...{that standardize} abbreviations by employing a system compatible with that used for symbolising the chemical elements." The Commission also continues to approve symbols for new minerals as they are officially described. For example, in 2023 112 new minerals were approved. The *American Mineralogist*, on a regular basis, publishes articles

listing and briefly describing a few new minerals appearing in the published record and approved by IMA. The latest listing that I could locate was a December 01, 2024 issue [*American Mineralogist* (2024) 109 (12): 2173–2175.] stating, "This issue of New Mineral Names provides a summary of the newly described minerals from May to August 2024, including karlseifertite, vegrandisite, touretite, auropolybasite, cuprozhenyite, calcioveatchite, and jianmuite." A total of 29 new minerals were approved by the IMA–CNMNC from May to August 2024.

The *American Mineralogist* is the flagship subscription journal of the Mineralogical Society of America; however, the issue containing New Mineral Names, is a free issue. Use your browser to search for New Mineral Names to find the appropriate articles.

As of mid-July 2024, there are over 6000 valid minerals listed by the IMA! How are ole plugger rockhounds like me supposed to make sense of these thousands of minerals plus the new yearly additions? I have six suggestions/comments:

- I don't know the exact number but there are less than one hundred common rock forming minerals and learning about these is not an onerous proposition;
- make MinDat your favorite web site;
- most rockhounds will never have the opportunity to observe newly discovered minerals. Almost all new minerals need electronic gizmos located in research laboratories to validate their existence and many are organic or post-mining minerals;
- consider subscribing to professional journals, of which there are many. I certainly cannot afford several subscriptions but have found University libraries to be a fantastic reference source, and some public libraries subscribe to popular journals such as *Rock and Minerals*, *Rocks and Gems*, and *Mineralogical Record*; and

continued on next page

Mineral Technical — *continued from page 11*

- if your local rock club has a mineral study group, sign up and attend the meetings.

Responsibility six of the Mineral Technical Committee states “encourage club members ...to submit questions and information (to the Chair).” I am far from a competent mineralogist but might be able to answer some questions or point you in the right direction. I will give it my best.

Finally, if you are interested in seeing the official 2021 mineral list with their symbols just scan this QR Code:



Payson Rimstones April Gem & Mineral Show

The Payson Rimstones Rock Club from Payson AZ will be having a Gem & Mineral Show and Sale Saturday April 12 at the Parking Lot east of the former Big Lots, on HWY 260, Payson, AZ. Admission is free. Hours are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Gems, minerals, fossils, jewelry, slabs, or rough material will be available from our vendors. Free rocks for children at our spinning wheel. Come and find an unusual Easter or Mother’s Day gift!

All our proceeds go toward supporting scholarships for graduating Payson High School students and students who are residents of Northern Gila County attending a college of their choice, as well as books and educational materials for the local elementary schools and public libraries. The Payson Rimstones Rock Club, INC is a 501 c (3) non-profit gem & mineral club setting aside funding for the higher and/or better education of our local students.



Where in the RMFMS is Rocky?



- Utah?
- Colorado?
- Nevada?



Clipart at top by Phillip Martin.
CC BY NC ND 3.0.

Photo at left by Diana Robinson on Flickr. CC BY-NC-ND 2.0

Answers on page 22.

Historic Victor, Colorado Holds Annual Gem & Mineral Show Plus Oddities Alley



Downtown Victor 2 | sfgamchick | Flickr. CC BY-NC-ND 2.0.

The annual Victor Gem & Mineral Show presented by the Southern Teller County Focus Group (STCFG) in Victor, Colorado will be held June 20-22. The event will be held in **downtown historic Victor** and is open and free to the public.

The show will include vendors from across the state selling hand dug minerals. Items for sale will include polished gems, hand-crafted jewelry, rough slabs, specimens, cabochons, geodes, turquoise, and more. There will also be gold and

gem panning at the **Victor Lowell Thomas Museum**. Show hours are from 9 to 5 Friday and Saturday and 9-4 on Sunday.

June 21 and 22 you can experience **Oddities Alley**, a concurrent event with a unique blend of vendors, food trucks, and live entertainment. The Enigma will be performing during the weekend. The Enigma is a bizarre show of original music, odd humor, and amazing stunts. The concurrent events are sponsored by the **Black Monarch Hotel in Victor**.



Victor Lowell Thomas Museum. Photo by Jasperdo on Flickr. CC BY-NC-ND 2.0

In addition, the Victor Lowell Thomas Museum gift shop will be open with its collection of rocks, gems, minerals, rhodochrosite and aquamarine jewelry, geodes and gold panning for kids of all ages. The museum also houses a mineral collection as well as historic mining equipment, photos, and historic oddities. See VictorMuseum.com for information.

Victor's many shops and attractions will also be open, including **Victor's Gold Camp Ag & Mining Museum**, antique, art, and gift shops, the German bakery, the local bars and eateries, as well as the local parks and **Trails of Gold** where you can explore the outdoors in historic gold mining country.

For more information on the STCFG or this event, visit STCFG.com, email info@stcfg.com, or call 719-689-5509.

North Central Kansas Rock & Gem Club

Norm Boettcher, NCKRGC

Martin Weber Memorial

On Saturday, 29 March 2025, the North Central Kansas Rock and Gem Club joined together with members of the Weber family to dedicate a Memorial bench in memory of Martin Weber. The bench is in the IOOF park in Barnes, Ks.

Martin Weber founded the club in January 2009. He served as president of the club as long as he was able, stepping down in January 2023. This was very much appreciated by the members of the club.



Jared Kyner, Christeena Whitt, Norman Boettcher, Mark Schwaiger, Sara Weber



Tom Weber, Angela Weber, Sara Weber

The club and family spent time reminiscing together. After a short ceremony, Angela Weber was also presented a necklace made with a rock from Martin's collection, selected during an event when she had allowed the club to come and take some of his collection for themselves.

The North Central Kansas Rock and Gem Club meets every 3rd Tuesday at 6 PM in the basement of the FNB at 101 C St in Washington, KS.

[Editor's Note: What a lovely way to remember such a valued club member!]



Quick Tips for Editors

Linda Jaeger, RMFMS BEAC

A "Sleep Number" Bulletin?

NO, I don't mean are you putting your readers to sleep! We see commercials for mattresses that have dual controls to make them firmer or softer, depending on what fits your body. These mattresses are designed to fit both of the people using the mattress.

So, does your bulletin FIT your club members? Take a look at all the different activities where your club members participate. Is your bulletin providing something for everyone?

If you have **groups** within your club that meet in addition to the general club meeting, you can:

- announce those meetings and their programs/ events in the bulletin
- ask a member of that group to write an article pertinent to their group interest
- use articles from exchange bulletins or online sources that would be of interest to each of your club groups
- browse the Internet for web sites of interest
- highlight a different group each month, especially if your club bulletin is small

If your club has **field trips**, you can (should) announce these in your bulletin. Announcements should include:

- what materials expect to be found

continued on next page

Quick Tips— *continued from page 14*

- date, time, meeting place
- required equipment, clothing to wear
- food/water information
- whether waivers need to be signed
- a contact person for Q & A
- who is leading the trip
- how long the trip is expected to last

If your club has a **workshop**, you can:

- list days and times it is open
- highlight someone and/or something they have created
- announce classes offered in your workshop with all the appropriate information
- ask for an article about equipment or technique from a workshop user

If your club has **kids** as members, you can:

- announce their meetings/dates/times if they meet separately from the general meeting
- use materials from Diamond Dan Publications, which are created just for kids by a real rockhound who is very knowledgeable
- use materials from the AFMS program, Future Rockhounds of America (check the AFMS web site, <www.amfed.org>)
- read or have someone else read a kid's book about some phase of earth science and write a book review on it
- ask the kids to write on a specific topic related to earth science and publish their articles (short articles or poems; even artwork)

If your club offers **short-term classes**, such as silversmithing, making cabs, minerals, fossils, etc., you can:

- announce the classes with dates, times, places, instructors, contact information
- ask the instructor to write a short article on what will be taught, maybe with a week-by-week synopsis

- after the class is over, ask a class member to write about their favorite part of the class or about something they learned that really excited their interest

If your club **performs services for the public** such as giving programs for schools, participating in a state fair, working at a swap, etc., you can:

- announce the event
- use the bulletin to help recruit members to help
- afterwards, ask a participant for an article about what was accomplished or what was the funniest thing that happened, etc.

If your club includes members who are interested in all phases of geology and lapidary, try to include articles that address each area. We want members to read our bulletins, and they will read what is of interest to them. It's just like going shopping. We try things on (sometimes mattresses!), but we only buy what FITS!

(Clip art at top from Discovery Channel School Image Gallery, ©2003. Permission to use for educational, not for sale publications granted.)

From: *AFMS Newsletter, December 2012* (via *AFMS Newsletter Feb 2025*)



From: <https://classroomclipart.com/image/vector-clipart/reading-a-book-resting-on-pillow-clipart-87878-11083.htm>

32nd Annual Minerals of Arizona Symposium

from Chris Whitney-Smith

Sponsored by the Flagg Mineral Foundation

Theme: "Pseudomorphs"

Date: Saturday, April 5, 2025

Location: Southeast Regional Library
775 N Greenfield Rd.
Gilbert, AZ 85234

2025 Registration Fees:

- \$80/person for FMF members
- \$90/person for non-members
- Teachers receive a \$10 discount
- \$40 for students
- Registration includes lunch and refreshments

Payment can be made by check or Zelle.

Please visit Flagg Mineral Foundation website for registration form and details.

<https://flaggmineralfoundation.org/home/minerals-of-az-symposium/>

AGENDA

7:30 -8:30 AM REGISTRATION

8:30-8:40 AM
OPENING REMARKS
Les Presmyk & Catie Sandoval

8:40-9:25 AM
STAN CELESTIAN
The Science of Pseudomorphs

9:25-10:10 AM
ANNA DOMITROVIC
Pseudomorphs - What Is and What Isn't?

10:10-10:30 AM — BREAK & MINERAL SALES

10:30-11:15 AM
TERRY WALLACE
The Silver Curl - The Magic Mineral Maker

11:15 AM-12:00 PM
DAVID JOYCE
Collecting Quartz at Temporal Gulch

12:00-1:30 PM
LUNCH & MINERAL SALES

1:30-2:15 PM
ERIN DELVENTHAL
What is a Pseudomorph?
Das Pseudomorphosen-Problem

2:15-3:00 PM
STEVE SCOTT
Nevada Triassic Park,
Triassic Fossils and Fossil Locations in Nevada

3:00-3:30 PM
BREAK & MINERAL SALES

3:30-4:15 PM
JOHN RAKOVAN
Cherry Blossom Stones - Muscovite Pseudomorphs

4:15-5:00 PM
RON GIBBS
What's New in Arizona Minerals

5:00-5:05 PM
CLOSING REMARKS & ADJOURN

5:05-6:00 PM
SOCIALIZING & MINERAL SALES

FEATURED MINERAL DEALERS

- Shannon Family Minerals
- Don Boushelle
- Dan Fortunato
- Anna Seedhill/Ken Elliott
- Jim McGlasson
- Cameron Reichert
- Dana Slaughter
- Stan Celestian


Please see the Symposium **flyer on page 24.**

Get Ready! Grand Junction Gem & Mineral Club Hosts RMFMS Convention 2025

79th Annual!

Gem, Mineral & Rock Show

September 20-21, 2025
Mesa County Fairgrounds
Grand Junction, Colorado



Beautiful Barite

Also:
Hosting the RMFMS Convention!
 Sept 19-21

Gems – Minerals – Fossils – Rocks – Jewelry – Geodes - 40 Vendors
Kids Activities – Silent Auction – Food Trucks – Grab Bags - More!

September 20 9am-5pm & September 21 10am-4pm, 2025
 Mesa Country Fairgrounds, Grand Junction Colorado
 2785 US-50, Grand Junction, CO 81503
 Entry: \$5 Adults, \$4 Seniors and Military, Kids<12 Free.

Mineral specimen and photo by: Jim Schultz

Presented by the Grand Junction Gem & Mineral Club.
 For more info, see: www.grandjunctionrockclub.org/shows
 The GJGMC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization providing scholarships to earth science students



Meet us in Grand Junction, Colorado for the 2025 RMFMS Convention at the GJGMC Show.

RMFMS activities begin Sept. 19 and continue throughout the GJGMC Show, which opens Sept. 20 and continues through Sept. 21.

Look for show packets in next month's RMF News!



Where in the RMFMS is Rocky?

- Utah?
- Colorado?
- Nevada?

Clipart at top by Phillip Martin.
 CC BY NC ND 3.0.

Photo at left by Marko Forsten on Flickr. CC BY-NC-ND 2.0

Answers on page 22.



The Selenides: An Excuse for Life-Long Learning

Mike Nelson, csrockguy@yahoo.com, Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society



This has been a tough subject to grasp--the selenides, and I have read countless hours trying to better understand. I apologize up front for any confusing statements or ideas. With the selenides, I moved out of my comfort zone.

Every time I get out of that zone, regardless of whether I win or fail, I learn something new, and that is a personal enjoyment. Some people tend to think that after a certain age, they are no longer allowed to start something new, and perhaps something scary. The truth is, not branching out is just an excuse to stay in the comfort zone. If I had stayed in the zone, I would have never learned about oxygen fugacity, fO_2 , and its relationship to the formation of minerals. However, I suspect that rockhounds and readers on this list might wish I had never ventured out of my zone.

In this time of my later life, I try to be brave, learn something new every day, get out of my comfort zone, read a book to learn or relax or both, support my local businesses, walk around the block and breathe deeply, think peacefully, check on neighbors (especially the ill), contribute to the local food bank, and be first in line to get vaccinated (when they come around)! May you look forward to the coming change in seasons, and I wish for new and better and safer coming months. Thank you all for taking an interest in my writing. Keep in contact; I answer all emails. Stay well. And now, on to the selenides.

Jöns Jakob Berzelius (1779-1848) was described by Wilson (1994) as one of the *greatest mineral chemists who ever lived*. That is quite a statement! Berzelius was born in Väversunda Sörgård, Sweden, a product of three generations of clergy on each side of the family. Now, I presume

that father, grandfathers, and great grandfathers all expected a great theological future for Jöns. Surprise! His grades in theology were not so hot but he excelled in the natural sciences. So, he entered the great University at Uppsala and confused the faculty. Seems he was considered gifted but undisciplined (I was probably considered average and undisciplined). But all was not lost since he was very good in inorganic chemistry and mineralogy, and as an adult became *one of the greatest mineral chemists who ever lived*. He received that accolade, since MinDat.org noted that Berzelius was the father of analytical chemistry, inventor of chemical symbol notation. and discoverer of selenium (Se), cerium (Ce), silicon (Si), thorium (Th), titanium (Ti), and zirconium (Zr) in addition to other elements that he gave to his students to work on. Those discoveries certainly would qualify him as *the greatest*, but do current students learn these facts in mineralogy and/or chemistry courses!



Jöns Jacob Berzelius,
1779-1848 from Svenska
Familj-Journalen. Public
Domain.

One of the elements first described by Berzelius was selenium, Atomic Number 34 on the Periodic Chart of Elements, collected from copper deposits in the mines near Falun, Sweden (home of some of my ancestors who later migrated to Falun, Kansas). Selenium was named after the Moon goddess Selene due to its similarity to the recently discovered tellurium (named for the Earth). Selenium is a metalloid with properties intermediate between a metal and nonmetal

continued on page 19

The Selenides— *continued from page 18*

For comparison, other metalloids include silicon, boron, antimony, arsenic, tellurium, and several others. Selenium is a rare element and its abundance in the earth's crust ranks 67th (0.05 ppm) while #1 oxygen has 461,000 ppm. Native selenium is rare as a mineral but does appear in some uranium-vanadium sandstone deposits. If selenium is available in hydrothermal or magmatic solutions it often substitutes for some sulfur in the formation of sulfide minerals.

Commercially, selenium almost entirely (>80%) is obtained as a byproduct of copper refining (Brown, 2002). A smaller amount comes from the refining of gold, silver, zinc, and lead, where high concentrations of selenium allow for profitable operations. No ore deposits are mined for selenium alone. Although Germany and Japan are the leading producers of selenium, the raw products come from Africa, Asia, Australia, and South America (Bleiwas, 2010). The U.S. has about 8% of the world's reserve, mostly tied up in copper resources in Nevada, Utah, New Mexico, and Arizona (Brininstool, 2015). Selenium is used in the manufacturing of glass and electronics, and in some color pigments.

I do not have a specimen of native selenium but have acquired thumbnails of clausthalite [PbSe], klockmannite [CuSe] and berzelianite [Cu₂Se]; all are fairly rare minerals and in the selenide group. Selenium can exist in the oxidation states of 2-, 2+, 4+, and 6+ and form selenates, selenides, and selenites. In selenide compounds the selenium has an oxidation charge of 2-; the group includes all ~125 naturally occurring selenium minerals (I think). Selenites (not the gypsum variety) contain the SeO₃ radical (Se IV) while selenates contain SeO₄ (Se VI); both of these latter groups are quite soluble in water and do not form naturally

occurring minerals, at least none that I could not locate. Once selenium becomes aqueous it can be taken up by organisms. Selenates prefer well-aerated waters while selenites are more common in slow-moving waters such as lakes (Stillings, 2017). There are a plethora of synthesized selenium compounds and solutions in the laboratory.

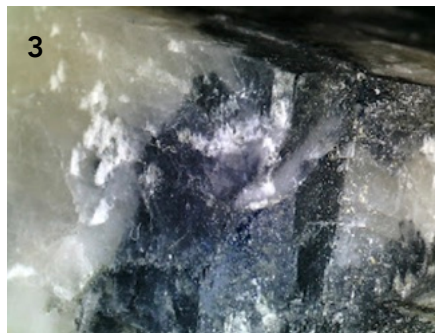


1-Black grains of fine grained berzelianite disseminated in calcite. From the Skrikerum Mine in Sweden. Width photo FOV ~ 5.7 cm. Photo M. Nelson.

2-Photomicrograph of disseminated berzelianite (and perhaps other selenides) in calcite. From above specimen. Width FOV ~1.7 cm. Photo M. Nelson.



3-As above. Width FOV ~1.7 cm. Photo M. Nelson.



Berzelianite, a copper selenide, is rare in the mineral record and was first described from the Skrikerum Mine located in south central Sweden; a mine "famous" for producing rare selenides. Besides berzelianite, the Mine is the Type Locality of three other rare copper-silver selenides: crookesite, eucairite, and selenojalpaite. The minerals are found in fracture-fillings hosted by vein calcite associated with hydrothermal alteration.

continued on page 20

The Selenides — *continued from page 19*

Copper was first mined ~1779 and some exploration and mining, mostly for selenium, continued until the end of the 1800s.

Berzelianite is a soft (~2.0-2.5 Mohs) metal with a metallic luster, a lead-gray to blue gray to black color (but shiny when fresh), an irregular fracture, and is opaque. It occurs as microcrystals disseminated in a carbonate matrix (calcite at the Type Locality). At times, berzelianite [Cu₂Se] is incorporated within the calcareous matrix and is difficult to distinguish from other selenides at Skrikerum, especially klockmannite (CuSe). The massive form of both minerals seems indistinguishable to a soft rocker like me; therefore, I am relying on previous identifications and published descriptions.

Klockmannite has a molecular weight of 44.59 % copper and 55.41% selenium (Webmineral.com) while berzelianite weighs in at 61.68 % copper and 38.32 % selenium. Klockmannite belongs to the hexagonal Crystal System while berzelianite is Isometric; however, in massive minerals there is little chance of observing mineral shape under a scope. Both are grayish black to dark gray in color, opaque, and soft at ~2.0+ (Mohs). Both have a sort of a dull metallic luster and are associated with calcite. So, I am just taking my chances, especially since I do not have a reflected light microscope and polished sections.



Above L-Blackish blue klockmannite "encased" in calcite. Width of specimen ~9 mm. Skrikerum Mine, Sweden. Photo M. Nelson.

Above R-Photomicrograph of boundary of klockmannite and calcite. Photo M. Nelson.

Clausthalite is a lead selenide (PbSe) related to galena, the lead sulfide (PbS). In fact, Förster (2005) has documented a solid solution series between the two minerals. Clausthalite forms in low-sulfur hydrothermal deposits and may be the most common selenide. In many ways it looks like galena with a lead-gray color, a grayish black streak, and a metallic luster. It is soft (~2.5 Mohs), brittle and often granular but at times forms nice euhedral crystal (Isometric Crystal System).

One of my specimens came from the famous Tilkerode Mining District, Mansfeld, Mansfeld-Südharz, Saxony-Anhalt, Germany (part of the Bohemian Massif, see below). Here selenide minerals (including three Types) occur in veins with carbonate minerals, gold, hematite, platinum group minerals, and rare sulfides. Mining hematite for iron occurred in the 1700s and 1800s (Stillings, 2017). Simon and others (1997) studied the "why" of selenides forming from solutions rather than the simpler incorporation of selenium directly into sulfide minerals replacing some sulfur. They believed that high f_{O_2} (oxygen fugacity: the pressure of oxygen that is available to react with other components) values helped separate selenium from sulfur and prevented incorporation into the sulfides! If I understand any small thing about mineral/ore deposits, and that is a real stretch, above the groundwater line there is a high f_{O_2} and oxide minerals form. Below the water line there is a high sulfur fugacity (s_{O_2}) and sulfide minerals form. Don't take that to the bank without checking.

The second specimen of clausthalite I obtained is labeled as being collected from Petrovice, Russia—I believe this is incorrect. First, I could not locate mines in or near a Russian locality named Petrovice. In fact, not even a locality was noted. Second, there is a mining district in the Czech Republic named Petrovice, a major locality noted for the occurrence and collection of rare selenides, including petrovicite. continued on page 21

The Selenides — continued from page 20



Clausenthalite, Tilkerode Mining District, Germany. Width FOV ~ 1.5 cm photo left. Photomicrograph right. Both Photos M. Nelson.

The old mines are located in one of the uranium-vanadium-polymetallic mining districts in the Bohemian Massif (structurally controlled block of highlands). The Massif encompasses parts of the central Czech Republic, eastern Germany, southern Poland, and northern Austria. In the Czech Republic, the Massif has a core of plutonic granites surrounded by metasedimentary rocks of late Precambrian and early Cambrian age. Mineralization, as dated by the uranium, is Permian in age and is associated with the Variscan Orogeny (the mountain building event associated with the collision of Laurasia and Gondwana producing the Pangaea Supercontinent) (Škácha and others, 2017).



Clausenthalite, Petrovice, Czech Republic. Left, Width FOV ~ 1.0 cm. Photomicrograph on right. Photo M. Nelson

The selenide occurrences in the Bohemian Massif are amazing as the rocks have produced at least 18 newly discovered species (since around 1970; and 5 more before that date). These selenides seem fascinating to me and minerals worth studying if I were a young student in a major research institution!!! Those selenides...are characterized using wavelength-dispersive spectroscopy, reflected light, powder X-ray diffraction, single

crystal X-ray diffraction, Raman spectroscopy, and electron backscatter diffraction (Škácha and others, 2017). As I said, if I were a bright young student well versed in electronic gizmos!!!! Now I am just an ole soft rocker trying to have fun and do my best with some pretty complex, and hard to identify, minerals.

Lifelong learning is a form of self-initiated education that is focused on personal development. While there is no standardized definition of lifelong learning, it has generally been taken to refer to the learning that occurs outside of a formal educational institute...Lifelong learning ... is best described as being voluntary with the purpose of achieving personal fulfillment. valamis.com.

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Where in the RMFMS is Rocky? — Answers

Linda Jaeger, Editor

We have clubs from 13 states in the RMFMS. Have you been there? Do you recognize the photos from the areas shown this month? **I would love for you to send an awesome photo from your state with a caption and location to print!** RMFMS has amazing country and activities to fill your senses.

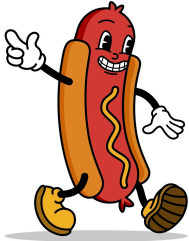
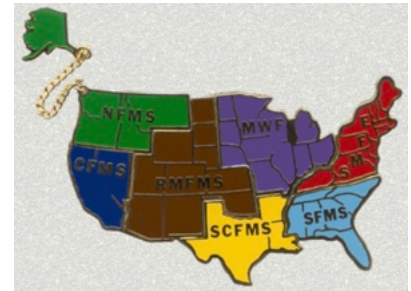
Here are the answers for the photos on pages 4, 12, and 17:

-page 4: Ghost town cemetery, **Nevada**

-page 12: Dead Horse Point Lookout, north of Moab, **Utah**

-page 17: Winery in Grand Junction, **Colorado**

Look for more beautiful locations next month from our member states: Arizona, Arkansas, Nebraska, New Mexico, Nevada, North Dakota, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Wyoming.



Hot Links – Editor's Picks

Linda Jaeger, Editor

Below are some hot links you might find interesting. Just click on the link — it will open the web page in your browser.

- **'Mystery volcano' that erupted and cooled Earth in 1831 has finally been identified**
<https://www.cnn.com/2025/01/03/science/mystery-volcano-1831-eruption-simushir/index.html>
- **Kilauea volcano erupts on Hawaii island, drawing crowds for the holidays** [from 12/24/2024]
<https://www.cnn.com/2024/12/24/us/kilauea-volcano-erupts-hawaii-island/index>
- **Giant flying squirrel found at Tennessee university's fossil site**
<https://www.wvlt.tv/2025/02/24/giant-flying-squirrel-found-tennessee-universitys-fossil-site/>
- **Earth's oldest meteorite crater found in Australia**
<https://www.popsci.com/science/oldest-crater-on-earth/>

Upcoming Shows and Events in the RMFMS

4/5/25	Flagg Mineral Foundation	Minerals of Arizona Symposium, Southeast Regional Library, 775 N Greenfield Rd., Gilbert, AZ	Registration at: https://flaggmineralfoundation.org/home/mineral-s-of-az-sumposium/
4/12-13/2025	Northwest Arkansas G&M society	Bentonville Armory, 6800 SW Minuteman Ave, Bentonville, AR	DeLane Cox, 479.254.0894; delanec3@earthlink.net
4/12/25	Payson Rimstones	April Gem & Mineral Show, Parking Lot east of former Big Lots on HWY 260, Payson, AZ	
4/25-27/2025	Wasatch Gem Society	Bastian Agricultural Center, 2100 West 11400 South, South Jordan, UT	Roberta Chase, roberta.chase@outlook.com; wasatchgemsociety.com
4/25-27/2025	Wichita Gem & Mineral Society	Cessna Activity Center, 2744 George Washington Blvd, Wichita, KS	Gene Maggard, 316.742.3746; gandpmaggard@gmail.com; wichitagemandmineralsociety.org
5/2-4/2025	McPherson Gem & Mineral Club	McPherson County 4-H Building, 710 Woodside, McPherson, KS	Larry Hackney, larryrocks538@gmail.com; website: www.mcphersongemandmineralclub.org
5/3-4/2025	Southern Nevada Gem & Mineral Society	Recreation Ctr/gymnasium at Boulder City Spring Jamboree, 900 Arizona St, Boulder City, NV	Orville Wiemers, Jr, sngmsjamboreeshowchair@gmail.com; website: www.sngms.org
5/3-4/2025	Mohave County Gemstoners	Mohave County Fairgrounds, 2600 Fairgrounds Blvd, Kingman, AZ	Daina Sandhop, 425.268.9983, ddaes1961@hotmail.com; website: http://www.gemstoners.org/
5/16-18/2025	Cache Rock & Gem Club	Cache County Events Center, 450 South 500 West, Logan Utah	Brett Fannesbeck, crgc.showmanager@gmail.com; website: cacherockandgemclub
5/17-18/2025	Cheyenne Mineral & Gem Society	Archer Complex - Bldg M, Just South of Exit 370 on I-80, 6 mi. east of Cheyenne, WY	Jan Shively, 509.953.0634
5/30-31/2025	Big Horn Basin Rock Show	Park County Fairgrounds, Powell, WY	www.BighornBasinRockShow.com
6/6-8/2025	Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society	Norris Penrose Event Center, 1045 Lower Gold Camp Rd, Colorado Springs, CO	Lisa V. Cooper, 719.351.4018; email: ppgmjshow@gmail.com; www.PikesPeakGemShow.com
6/13-15/2025	Sublette County Rockhounds	Sublette County Fairgrounds Event Center, 10937 Hwy 189, Big Piney, WY	Jim Gray, 307.260.6443; email jimgray@wyoming.com
6/20-22.2025	Southern Teller County FG	Victor Gem & Mineral Show, Victor, CO	STCFG.com

If your club has show information that you would like to have listed in the *Rocky Mountain Federation News*, please email the information to the editor (including show flyers) — <LJGRALG at aol.com>. As with many of the other email addresses in the newsletter, you will need to remove the chevrons, < >, and replace the spaces and the “at” with the correct symbol, @ .

Below are upcoming regional federation shows:

	California Federation	Eastern Federation	Midwest Federation	Northwest Federation	Rocky Mountain Federation	South Central Federation	Southeast Federation
2025	Lancaster, CA May 10-11	AFMS/EFMLS Hickory, NC March 28-30	Lincoln, NE April 5-6	Walla Walla, WA Sept. 5-7	Grand Junction, CO Sept. 19-21	Austin, TX Oct 17-19	Norcross, GA Sept 12-13
2026			AFMS/MWF St. Charles, IL May 23-24		Tulsa, OK July 17-19		

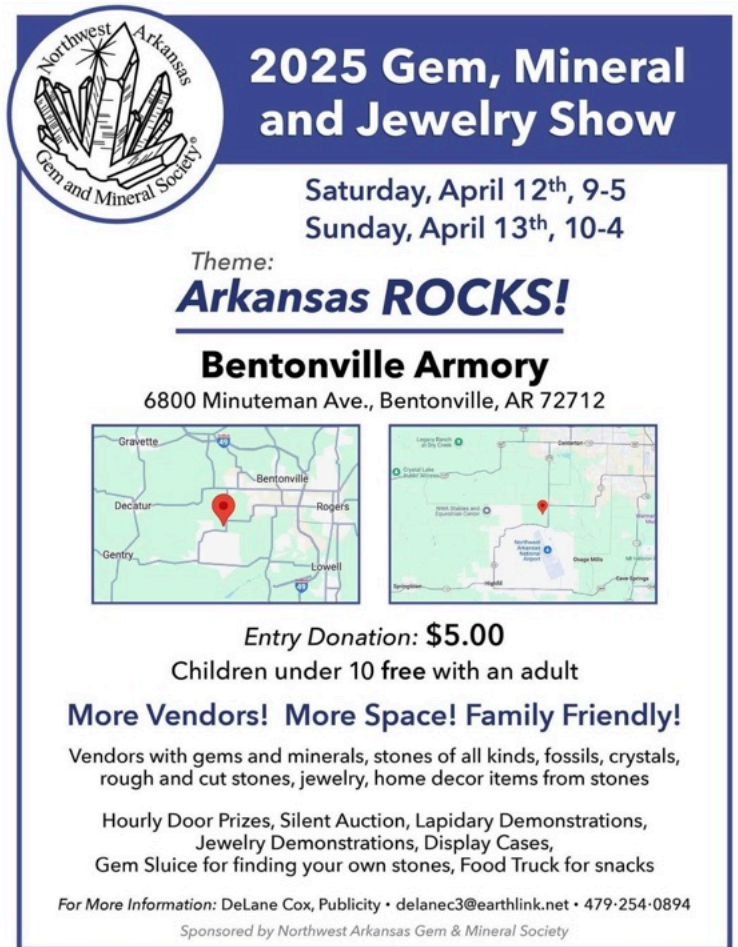


32ND ANNUAL
MINERALS OF ARIZONA SYMPOSIUM

APRIL 5TH, 2025
 SOUTHEAST REGIONAL LIBRARY
 775 North Greenfield Road | Gilbert, Arizona

Chairperson
 Les Presmyk
 Co-Chairperson
 Catie Sandoval

FLAGG MINERAL FOUNDATION



2025 Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show

Saturday, April 12th, 9-5
 Sunday, April 13th, 10-4

Theme:
Arkansas ROCKS!

Bentonville Armory
 6800 Minuteman Ave., Bentonville, AR 72712

Entry Donation: **\$5.00**
 Children under 10 free with an adult

More Vendors! More Space! Family Friendly!

Vendors with gems and minerals, stones of all kinds, fossils, crystals, rough and cut stones, jewelry, home decor items from stones

Hourly Door Prizes, Silent Auction, Lapidary Demonstrations, Jewelry Demonstrations, Display Cases, Gem Sluice for finding your own stones, Food Truck for snacks

For More Information: DeLane Cox, Publicity • delanec3@earthlink.net • 479-254-0894
 Sponsored by Northwest Arkansas Gem & Mineral Society

Reminder:

Advertise your Show in as many Free locations as possible!

- Local newspapers
- Current events sections!
- Local TV stations
- Community Calendars
- Other local shows

Advertise in the Rock & Gem Magazine!

Send the information in early so it's published in the magazine as well as online:

www.rockngem.com/showdate-submissions/

Info from CFMC Newsletter, April 2024



**26TH ANNUAL
CHEYENNE MINERAL &
GEM SHOW**

MAY 17 & 18, 2025
SAT 9-5, SUN 10-4

CHILDREN 12 & UNDER FREE

**EXHIBITS, JEWELRY, FOSSILS
MINERALS, SILENT AUCTION
DEALERS, CHILDRENS AREA
FLINT KNAPPERS**

Archer Complex - Building M
Just South of Exit #570 on I-80
6 mi. East of Cheyenne

HOSTED BY CHEYENNE MINERAL &
GEM SOCIETY
SHOW INFORMATION: JAN SHIVELY
509-953-0634

FREE COLORING BOOKS FOR KIDS



**2025 BIG HORN BASIN
ROCK SHOW**

Admission \$5.00 **May 30-31** Kids 12 & under Free

**ROCKS • MINERALS
JEWELRY • FOSSILS
KIDS' ACTIVITIES
EDUCATIONAL DISPLAYS**

Park County Fairgrounds / Powell, Wyoming
1-7 p.m. Friday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Saturday
www.BighornBasinRockShow.com



61st Annual
PIKES PEAK
Gem, Mineral &
Jewelry Show

JUNE 6-8, 2025
Norris Penrose Event Center

This year's theme is **BERYL**



**VICTOR
GEM AND MINERAL SHOW**

JUNE 20-22, 2025

FREE ADMISSION
VISIT STCFG.COM FOR DETAILS — VICTOR, COLORADO

2024-2025 Executive Committee – composed of the Officers & the State Directors

Officers:

President	Jim Gray	<jimgray at wyoming.com>
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Secretary	Liz Thomas	<mygemsrock at gmail.com>
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Past President	Richard Jaeger	<RjgrSci at aol.com>

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Please note: All email addresses are enclosed in chevrons, < >, and the @ symbol has been replaced by the word "at" with a space before and after the word. This is to prevent bots from picking up our email addresses. You will need to remove the chevrons and replace the word "at" and the two spaces with the @ symbol to have the correct email.

2024-2025 Committee Chairs

ACROY (AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year)	Chris Whitney-Smith	<ask.chrisws at yahoo.com>
All American Club	Roberta Wagle	<waglemom at gmail.com>
BEAC (Bulletin Editors Advisory Committee) & Bulletin Editors Contest	Linda Jaeger	<LJGRALG at aol.com>
Boundaries	DeLane Cox	<delanec3 at earthlink.net>
Convention Advisor	Liz Thomas	<mygemsrock at gmail.com>
Credentials	Roberta Wagle	<waglemom at yahoo.com>
Directory	Lori Loomis	<riggsoldchap at yahoo.com>
Editor of Newsletter	Linda Jaeger	<LJGRALG at aol.com>
Finance	Wayne Cox	<WayneC3 at earthlink.net>
Fluorescent Tech	Brian Walko	<bwalko at earthextractions.com>
Fossils Tech	Mike Nelson	<csrockguy at yahoo.com>
Gold Pan Award	Richard Jaeger	<RjgrSci at aol.com>
Insurance	Gene Maggard	<gandpmaggard at gmail.com>
International Relations	Mike Nelson	<csrockguy at yahoo.com>
Juniors Program	Michelle Cauley	<michelle.cauley at dakotacollege.edu>
Lapidary Tech		
Long Range Planning	Liz Thomas	<mygemsrock at gmail.com>
Long Range Planning	Richard Jaeger	<RjgrSci at aol.com>
Long Range Planning	Judy Beck, chair	<Lkbeckfam at gmail.com>
Mineralogical Tech	Mike Nelson	<csrockguy at yahoo.com>
Name Badges	Richard Jaeger	<RjgrSci at aol.com>
New Program Contest	Gene Maggard	<gandpmaggard at gmail.com>
Nominating Committee	Bob Regner	<Rnregner at aol.com>
Nominating Committee	Liz Thomas	<mygemsrock at gmail.com>
Nominating Committee	Jim Gray	<jimgray at wyoming.com>

continued on next page

2024-2025 Committee Chairs – continued

Parliamentarian	Gene Maggard	<gandpmaggard at gmail.com>
PLAC - AZ		<>
PLAC - CO	Mike Nelson	<csrockguy at yahoo.com>
PLAC - KS	Mike Nelson	<csrockguy at yahoo.com>
PLAC - NM/TX		
PLAC - OK/AR		<>
PLAC - ND/SD/NE	Lori Loomis	<sdnestatedirector at gmail.com>
PLAC - UT/NV		<>
PLAC - WY	Greg Jones	<wyojones at wyjones.com >
President's Hat	all past presidents	
Program Library	Gene & Peggy Maggard	<gandpmaggard at gmail.com>
Public Relations	DeLane Cox	<delanec3 at earthlink.net>
Resolutions		
Ribbons	Jenelle Hopkins	<Jhopk67328 at aol.com>
Safety	Jodi Brewster	<rmfmsafety2024@gmail.com>
Scholarship Committee	Richard Jaeger	<RjgrSci at aol.com>
Stationery/Trophies	Ben Thomas	<myretirementrocks at gmail.com>
Supplies	Roberta Wagle	<waglemom at gmail.com>
Uniform Rules	Lee Whitebay	<lwhiteba at gmail.com>
Uniform Rules	Leon Reeder	<leonreeder47 at yahoo.com>
Uniform Rules	Les Presmyk	<presmyk at cox.net>
Webmaster	Tyler Jacobsen	<webmaster at rmfms.org>
Website Contest		

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RMFMS Purpose & Policies – Excerpts from 2023 Directory (Revised)

- To bring about a closer association of the Earth Science Groups in the Rocky Mountain region.
- To increase and disseminate knowledge about minerals and other geologic materials.
- To encourage mineral study, collecting, and fashioning as a HOBBY.
- To sponsor local organizations interested in similar purposes.
- To encourage all clubs to publish bulletins and newsletters.
- To continue building up and promoting the use of the Federation Library of slide programs, videos, CDs, and DVDs to each member club.
- To distribute information and suggestions on the preparation and arrangement of specimens and materials for exhibit and display.
- To provide information and assistance to clubs holding Gem and Mineral Shows.
- To encourage clubs to support the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies Scholarship Foundation Fund.

AFMS Code of Ethics

- I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without the owner's permission.
- I will keep informed on all laws, regulations or rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.
- I will, to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.
- I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.
- I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind—fences, signs, buildings.
- I will leave all gates as found. I will build fires in designated or safe places only and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.
- I will discard no burning material—matches, cigarettes, etc.
- I will fill all excavation holes, which may be dangerous to livestock.
- I will not contaminate wells, creeks or other water supply.
- I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.

- To promote the concept that all members of all clubs are members of the RMFMS and the AFMS, and to encourage individual members and clubs to take responsibility for asking questions or making known that help is needed. To encourage more contacts between those working at the Federation level, between clubs, and between club members.
- To keep the members informed of problems and activities regarding the use of Public Lands.
- To continue to support Federation-sponsored programs.

The Rocky Mountain Federation is composed of a membership of approximately 14,000 members in the following states: Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, New Mexico, Nevada, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, and Wyoming.

The work of the Federation is directed by the Executive Committee, composed of: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Historian, State Directors, and the two immediate Past-Presidents.

Reminder — next RMF Newsletter is the May 2025 issue. Deadline for articles is April 15, 2025.

- I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.
- I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.
- I will cooperate with field trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.
- I will report to my club or Federation officers, Bureau of Land Management, or other authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.
- I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.
- I will observe the "Golden Rule," will use "Good Outdoor Manners" and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and public image of rockhounds everywhere.

