



Northern Rocky Mountain Wolf, pictures on Animalia.bio. CC0 1.0



February 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.

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Information for the **March** issue is due to
LJGRALG@aol.com by **February 15**.

President's Message*Jim Gray, RMFMS President*

I spent the first three months of my term contacting the committee chair persons to confirm their commitments to continuing their leadership roles with RMFMS. The current opportunities for RMFMS club members to serve in leadership and organization are listed below. It would be exciting to involve people from throughout the 13 states represented by the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies. Please contact me with any questions or to express your interest in any of these roles. We have a very competent group of people who would be able and willing to help someone new learn the ropes, so don't let your inexperience stop you from giving this a try! One of my main short-term goals as RMFMS President is to increase the involvement of younger members while we older members are still around to help. **Full descriptions of each role are in the Operating Procedures document at www.rmfm.org.**



Colorado State Director - State Directors "Serve as liaisons between all member clubs in their district and the RMFMS Executive Committee"

Fluorescent Tech – provide "pertinent fluorescent mineralogy information of benefit and interest to the collector and exhibitor" for publication in *RMF News* and to Clubs"

Lapidary Tech – provide "pertinent lapidary information of benefit and interest to the lapidarist and exhibitor"

Mineralogical Tech – provide "pertinent mineralogical information of benefit and interest to the collector"

PLAC (Public Lands Access Committee): (see below for more discussion about the PLAC positions)

Arizona—Colorado—Kansas—Oklahoma and Arkansas—South Dakota
 —Utah & Nevada

Resolutions – for the annual RMFMS meeting, "prepare and submit such resolutions to recognize outstanding service by some officer, committee, or member, to thank the Host Society, and similar deserved commendations."

Supplies – "maintain adequate inventory of both Rocky Mountain and American Federation supplies and/or materials for purchase by member clubs and/or their members."

Webmaster – maintain the rmfm.org website and its contents

Website Contest – organize the annual website contest encouraging submissions from member Clubs of their website

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Treasurer's Report

Gene Maggard, RMFMS Treasurer

As of this writing, we are 11 clubs short of having all clubs report and pay their dues for 2024-25. It is always a major pain getting reports and dues out of the last 15 or 20 clubs.

There is not a lot to report, financially, at this time. Two major items have been paid. First are the AFMS membership dues, which are \$.75 per RMFMS dues paying member. Payment was based on 9,669 dues paying members at the end of fiscal year 2023-24, in the amount of \$9,669. Second, our savings and investment earnings of \$7,828 for fiscal year 2023-24 were donated to the AFMS Scholarship Foundation. We will have a summary of the number of member clubs and membership totals for the March newsletter.



President's Message — *continued from page 2*

There are several vacancies in the PLAC (Public Land Access Committee) positions. The RMFMS Operating Procedures describe the PLAC duties including monitoring use, as it pertains to rockhounds and collectors, of public lands, becoming familiar with public land-use regulations and convey such information to the general membership, and maintaining contact with similar Chairs in other Regional Federations in order to facilitate cooperative action. The entire operating procedure (OP) can be found on the www.rmfmts.org website. If you enjoy researching things, this would be a good role for you.

For complete descriptions of the available positions, see the letter from Liz Thomas on **pages 4-6**.

I would also like to compliment Linda Jaeger on the publication of the monthly *RMF News*. Linda volunteered after the *RMF News* editor position had been vacant for a while, and she has reinstated the monthly publication. She cannot do this without input from all the clubs, and I would like to encourage each of you to send her pictures and information about what is happening in your area and in your club.

Specific articles about topics of interest to rockhounds, miners, and lapidarists would be welcome too. Send those items to LJGRALG@aol.com.

On a personal level, I have been cutting and polishing rocks and doing a little silversmithing. I wish everyone a happy and successful 2025! One of my great-grandsons [at right] is clearly taking after me!

Until next time,
Jim



Picture used with permission
of his mother.

Letter to All Clubs

Liz Thomas, RMFMS Secretary

Please look around your club to see if any of these jobs would match up with one of your members. Better yet, send it out to all your members. Who knows, maybe one is just waiting on a job to do. We really need your help with this.

It is important that we try to have a full set of officers and committees so the Rocky Mountain Federation can run at its highest standards of commitment to the clubs. To do this, we need volunteers to step up and take some positions.

I have added what we need and what the job duty entails. **Technical committee** chairs might get one phone call a year to answer a question. **Public Relations** (just filled-thanks!) will need to do a bit more. Writing reports for the newsletter is one great way to get information for each club. **Webmaster** will be the hardest job. Maintaining the website and keeping it updated is very important, but one big necessity for us is to keep every club informed of everything. **State Director** is a great job because you get to communicate with each club in your state, keeping them updated and informed of everything within the Federation, as well as helping them with shows if they need you.

All these jobs are very fulfilling! As someone who has held many jobs within the federation, I can tell you it is a blessing to see all the good you can do. If you would like one of these positions then please reach out to our current president, Jim Gray at 307.260.6442 or jimgray@wyoming.com. If you have any questions he can answer them for you, or you can always reach out to me at Liz Thomas, mygemsrock@gmail.com. ~Thank you, Liz Thomas

Fluorescent Technical

This committee will:

1. Furnish the Newsletter Editor for publication in the RMFMS Newsletter pertinent fluorescent mineralogy information of benefit and interest to the collector and exhibitor.

2. Prepare information and suggestions on labeling, grouping, classifying, and care and cleaning of fluorescent mineral specimens for home and show display.

3. Cooperate, work with, and study the report of the AFMS Uniform Rules Committee and make pertinent information available to all clubs of the RMFMS.

4. Encourage and assist member clubs to activate Fluorescent Mineralogy Technical Committees or fluorescent mineralogy study groups in their own organizations.

5. Encourage club committees and individual club members to submit questions and information they have relative to correct names, identification, and care of fluorescent mineral specimens.

Fossil Technical

This committee will:

1. Furnish to the Newsletter Editor for publication in the RMFMS Newsletter pertinent information on paleontology and fossils of benefit and interest to the collector and exhibitor.

2. Prepare information and suggestions on labeling, identifying, classifying, and care and cleaning of fossil specimens for home and show display.

3. Cooperate, work with, and study the report of the AFMS Uniform Rules Committee and make pertinent information available to all clubs of the RMFMS.

4. Encourage and assist member clubs to activate Fossil Technical Committees or fossil study groups in their own organizations.

5. Encourage club committees and individual club members to submit questions and information they have relative to correct names, identification, and care of fossil specimens.

Lapidary Technical

This committee will:

1. Furnish the RMFMS Newsletter Editor pertinent lapidary information of benefit and interest to the

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Letter to Clubs — *continued from page 4*

lapidarist and exhibitor.

2. Prepare information and suggestions on lapidary techniques, labeling and care and cleaning of materials for home and show display. 3. Be knowledgeable about the report of the AFMS Uniform Rules Committee and make pertinent information available to all clubs of the RMFMS.

4. Encourage and assist member clubs to activate Lapidary Technical Committees or lapidary groups in their own organizations.

5. Encourage club committees and individual club members to submit questions and information they have relative to lapidary techniques, correct names, care and upkeep of equipment, and care of lapidary creations.

Mineral Technical

This committee will:

1. Furnish the Newsletter Editor pertinent mineralogical information of benefit and interest to the collector. Such information may include suggested club programs that will encourage usage of correct mineral names and assistance in determining proper identification of minerals. 2. Prepare information and suggestions on labeling, grouping, classifying, and care and cleaning of mineral specimens.

3. Work with the Nomenclature Subcommittee of the AFMS Uniform Rules Committee in providing ways and means to inform club members and dealers who engage in the sale of minerals in the usage of correct mineral names and in the proper procedure for naming new minerals.

4. Study the report of the Nomenclature Subcommittee of the AFMS Uniform Rules Committee and make such pertinent information available to all clubs of the RMFMS.

5. Encourage and assist member clubs to activate Mineralogy Technical Committees in their own organizations.

6. Encourage club members and committees to submit questions and information related to correct names, identification, and care of mineral specimens.

Public Relations Committee (now filled!)

The duties of the Committee shall be:

1. Encourage affiliated societies to have a Public Relations Chair who will assist the society in planning the yearly program and activities that will include opportunities for increased publicity, promote better understanding of the hobby, and help promote club activities within their communities.

2. Provide the RMFMS Newsletter Editor with articles designed to lead clubs in developing various ways they can better utilize the members and activities in their clubs to gain a better image in the community.

3. Stay in touch with AFMS and other regional Federations and affiliated societies to gather relevant materials on the activities the society could utilize to enhance their image with the public.

4. Interact with other Public Relations Committees in the AFMS and other regional federations and affiliated societies by exchanging ideas and information.

5. Report each year to the Delegates Meeting the various activities that represent the best of public relations activities of member clubs, with the intent of giving clubs a better idea of what can be done to promote their clubs in their communities.

Webmaster

Duties of the RMFMS Webmaster include:

1. Communication with RMFMS Member clubs and RMFMS Officers to obtain input and feedback on the operation of the website.

2. Develop and maintain the site in a pleasing, easy to navigate presentation.

3. Post and update relevant information as it become available.

4. Follow RMFMS Operating Procedures for posting articles and information and obtain approval from the RMFMS Executive Board prior to posting any questionable information.

continued on next page

Letter to Clubs — *continued from page 5*

5. Maintain a connection to the AFMS website through interaction with the AFMS and other Federation of Mineralogical Societies Webmasters.
6. Work (within a committee, when necessary) to develop ways to further utilize the website for maximum benefit of the RMFMS and its membership.
7. Pay or make arrangements for the RMFMS Treasurer to pay any fees and/or expenses necessary for maintaining the website on the Internet.
8. Submit a budget request to the RMFMS Treasurer for the following fiscal year.
9. Send receipts for expenditures to the RMFMS Treasurer for reimbursement.

Webmaster Contest Chair

The RMFMS Website Contest is held yearly, and awards are presented at the RMFMS Convention. The contest is open to all current RMFMS clubs. The contest follows the AFMS website contest guidelines, using entry forms and scoresheets developed by the AFMS Website Contest Chair.

RMFMS clubs are sent an email from the Webmaster Contest Chair with guidelines, entry forms and scoresheets attached for the contest.

This notice is usually sent two months before the entry deadline. After the entry deadline, each entry is sent to two judges selected from other regional Federations.

State Directors (for Colorado only)

Each State Director shall:

1. Serve as liaisons between all member clubs in their district and the Executive Committee.
2. Render all possible services and assistance to member clubs.
3. Encourage all district clubs to publish a newsletter and have a website.
4. Assist member clubs with local, state, and Federation shows.
5. Maintain close contact by letter, electronic communication, or personal visit, if possible, with member clubs.
6. Promote Federation activities and programs to member clubs and individuals.
7. Prior to the Annual Convention, encourage each member club to have club Delegates attend the House of Delegates meeting. If no club member can attend, help arrange a Proxy so the club will be represented, and a quorum will be present to conduct business at the House of Delegates meeting.

How I Got Involved with RMFMS

Jodi Brewster, AZ/NV State Director



In 2018 I attended the Albuquerque Gem & Mineral Show and Rocky Mountain Federation Convention to represent our club, The Gila County Gem & Mineral Society.

While there, I met some of the people who are RMFMS officers and was finally able to put faces to those I called when we needed something from the RMFMS. Like most clubs, we get our show insurance from the federation, and it was nice to meet and talk with Gene.

I was asked if I was the delegate for our club, I just looked at them and said "Sure" — even though I was really there to take part in the cool rock trips they had planned. They invited me to sit in on the Executive Board meeting. I thought to myself "this sounds important," and so I sat there and listened. Roll call for the state directors was called and each state in attendance responded, but no one from Arizona. Then they asked all the state directors about what their member clubs were doing, and one report after another was given, but still nothing from Arizona.

continued on next page

How I Got Involved — *continued from page 6*

I was curious as to what a state director did so I asked them, "Just what does a state director do?" and "Do we have one and if so, who is it?" They told me that we do have a state director and because Nevada only has one RMFMS member club, they were represented by him. They told me the director is a liaison between the clubs and the federation. Some of their duties include keeping the clubs informed on what is going on in the federation and forwarding the monthly RMFMS newsletters to the clubs.

While at the floor of delegates meeting and still curious I asked "Who is the Arizona State Director and how do we get hold of them if needed?" To my shock the next thing heard was "I nominate Jodi Brewster for Arizona/Nevada State Director" and then "I second the motion." Which to my shock was followed by "All those in favor of Jodi Brewster being elected to state director say aye" and then a loud chorus of "Aye!" and not a single "nay", then "Let the record show that Jodi Brewster is nominated as AZ/NV State Director." All I could think was "DON'T EVER ASK ANY MORE QUESTIONS because I might get myself in deeper than this."

Yes, I did accept the position and got all the information I would need to be an effective director. When I returned to Arizona, I contacted all 18 of the clubs to introduce myself and to set up "Meet & Greets" so that all the clubs know they HAVE a director. My main goal was to let them know that the RMFMS is more than "Event Insurance," like the lending library, and several member contests which are judged every year for the convention.

I felt like a firecracker ready to explode. I needed to start right NOW so I could let the clubs know what I had learned.

Being President and Show Coordinator for the Gila County Gem & Mineral Society, I ran into some

issues that were so complex I almost canceled our annual show. If I had known we had a State Director, I could have reached out to see if they could help or have someone I could talk to about the problem.

It was with this reason in mind I took the position. The thought that I might be able to pass on what I had learned to help make someone else's job a little easier is what drove me on.

November 2021 my title of RMFMS AZ/NV State Director ended, and I embarked on a new journey... RMFMS Vice President. You guessed it, I couldn't keep comments to myself. LOL.

November 2023 I completed my two year term as the RMFMS Vice President. Who knew where my next challenge might be.

In April 2024 I retired from the President position of 14 years with the Gila County Gem and Mineral Club. I still live in Globe AZ and now my home club is with the Payson Rimstones Rock Club.

November 2024 the past AZ/NV State Director stepped up to become the Vice President and that left this position open. I was asked if I would like to return to the AZ/NV State Director to which I said yes, and here we are again. My goal is to explain how important it is that the clubs and members get more involved with the RMFMS. Arizona has 21 clubs in the RMFMS so if you would like to know more about the Federation, I would be happy to come to your club to do a presentation and answer any questions you may have. You can contact me via phone or email to schedule for a "Meet and Greet Presentation" during your business meeting.

My motto is:

COMMUNICATION!

Without all the clubs participating, there would be no RMFMS. Looking forward to hearing from you!

Jodi Brewster, RMFMS AZ/NV State Director
623.810.9780; asnvestatedirector@gmail.com

Exhibitors Needed!

Lee Whitebay, RMFMS Uniform Rules

One of the pleasures of our hobby is sharing what we have and what we know. Displaying our collections and craftsmanship has been one way we do this. Exhibiting at Gem and Mineral Shows is a natural outlet for these displays.

Did you notice there were not many exhibits at our last convention? Those of us involved in exhibiting and judging noticed, and we recognized the need to encourage clubs to exhibit. We hope to do this by providing short, easily accessible, educational programs on exhibiting and judging following the AFMS Uniform Rules. One suggestion is to create a series of short programs accessed via the internet. The details are being worked out and are likely to change as feedback is received from YOU.

Club members can participate in shows by exhibiting, either in groups or individually. We plan to offer as much guidance as possible to make the experience rewarding. Our hope is that new exhibitors will go on to become judges. Seasoned exhibitors make good judges, because they know what it takes to create quality displays following the Uniform Rules. Once a person makes it known they would like to become a judge, guidance can be provided to help them achieve their goal. **Please include a discussion of creating a quality exhibit for your show in your next club meeting. And, make your feelings known as to how best you would like to receive information on Exhibitor and Judges Training.**

Update on All American Club, Website, and Editor Contests

Linda Jaeger, RMFMS BEAC

All American Club Award

The 2024 yearbook was due to me (RMFMS) by January 15, 2025. Questions? Please contact me!

—**Roberta Wagle, All American Club Chair**
waglemom@gmail.com

RMFMS Website Contest—Reminder!

Awards for 2024 will be presented at the 2025 RMFMS Convention in Grand Junction, CO.

RMFMS Bulletin Editors Contest

All entries for the 2025 contest have been judged and are on their way back to me. By the time you read this, our top three winners in each category and our direct entries will be on the way to the AFMS judges. We had a total of 56 Entries to RMFMS. I sent 30 entries to AFMS, including three direct entries. **Outstanding!** I appreciate all of you!

Where in the RMFMS is Rocky?



- Kansas?
- Nebraska?
- North Dakota?

Photo at left, The Tin Family, 36435236124_73763f7c82_o.jpeg on Flickr.
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Clipart at top by Phillip Martin.
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Answers on page 19.



AFMS Endowment Fund Report

Richard Jaeger, RMFMS Chair

Basically, this is a raffle drawing with tickets being sold at \$5 each or five tickets for \$20. The drawing will be held at the EFMLS/AFMS Convention in Hickory, North Carolina on March 27 to 30, 2024. People from around the American Federation donate prizes for the raffle – they may be jewelry, crystals, minerals, fossils, books, or other items. Values range from \$75 to \$200. The drawing is handled so that there is at least one winner from each of the seven regional federations; last year we had two winners from the Rocky Mountain Federation.

As items are donated, pictures of them will appear in the AFMS Newsletter (see the February issue) and on the American Federation Website <www.amfed.org>. There are generally around 30 items.

This is a major way to financially support the American Federation's efforts on behalf of our hobby. Currently the funds go towards the Junior Rockhound Program, Judges Training, and preparing Programs for distribution to Regional Federations which can be used by individual clubs. Over \$5,000 was raised last year.

Cheryl requests that the checks for tickets be sent to the regional chairs so that we may issue tickets and have a record of who has entered. **Checks should be made payable to the "AFMS Endowment Fund."** We then forward those checks to Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich, the AFMS Treasurer. I will fill out the proper number of tickets for each contribution, send the stubs to the donating individual, and get the tickets to the EFMLS/AFMS

Show in Hickory in March to be put into the RMFMS bag. There will be at least one general prize ticket, maybe two or three, drawn from each of the bags for the seven regional federations. After that, all tickets will be dumped into one bag, and further drawings will take place until all the prizes have been awarded.



I hope that many of you will participate and hopefully be winners in Hickory-- you need not be present to win. **I would also be happy to accept any donated prizes for the raffle or they could be sent directly to Cheryl Neary.** The more prizes, the more winners, and more money raised. **Cheryl's address is: 42 Jefferson Ave., Patchogue, NY 11772.** My wife Linda and I are each donating a piece of jewelry for the Endowment Fund prizes. I hope some of you will donate prizes too. My contact information is provided below. Please share this information with your club members and thanks for your consideration.

Please purchase some tickets as soon as you can because of the early show-- and please donate a prize soon if you wish to.

Richard D. Jaeger
3515 E. 88th St.
Tulsa, OK 74137-2602

918.481.0249
RjgrSci@aol.com



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North Dakota Votes – Part 2

Michelle Cauley, RMFMS Juniors Chair



The Bottineau Rockhounds are making waves in North Dakota! 2024 has officially ended and as we look forward to 2025, some big news might be coming out of the Peace Garden

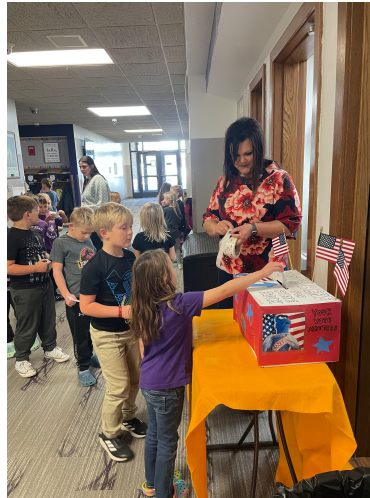
State shortly – North Dakota might finally be getting its own state rock! As one of only two states in our union without a state rock, North Dakota's budding geologists decided to change that. The 40 junior members of the Bottineau Rockhounds set to work in early September, learning about the American voting system.

This group of 3rd – 9th graders did research on rocks commonly found in North Dakota and filled out a "Candidate Nominating Form" for a rock they wanted to enter as a final candidate. These candidate forms included requirements for their rock – including the identification of the stone being either Igneous, Sedimentary, or Metamorphic, a shaded-in map to indicate the location of the candidate and where it is commonly found in North Dakota, and basic facts about the stone. David Cauley, Carrie Reimche, and Michelle Cauley, the three adult members of the club read and analyzed the candidate forms entered, and six viable candidates were selected in October: Chalcedony, Aventurine, Prairie Agate, Moss Agate, and Knife River Flint.

After two months of poster creation and intense campaigning – including some truly motivated Chalcedony fans who campaigned up and down the halls quite loudly – the Bottineau Rockhounds "Rocked the Vote." The entire Bottineau K-12 school was invited to vote, as was the nearby Dakota

College at Bottineau, two other in-state rock clubs, and a handful of other local schools. On Election Day, November 5, 2024 – the votes were tallied, and 56% of the hundreds of votes collected went to Knife River Flint.

While most stories might end there, our Bottineau Rockhounds were feeling inspired and took their efforts another step forward by writing letters of support and



sending their work off to our state representatives. The students were surprised with a visit by our district representatives in early December and after a short meeting with our club, excitedly proclaimed they would be drafting a bill to put into legislative session for a state rock – Knife River Flint – for North Dakota.



While it's still too early to know what the end result will be, the lesson here is that the world is changed by those who show up and do the work. Our junior rockhounds are learning at a very young age that anyone can make a difference, and they are looking forward to our visit to the capital in January to meet the state legislature and promote our bill.

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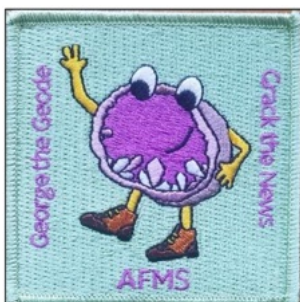
North Dakota Votes — continued from page 10

Take this as a call-to-action for junior rockhound groups around the country – what is something you'd like to change in your state? Does your state have a rock, gem, fossil, and mineral? If it does – take time to learn about them and the reason those specimens were chosen. If not – here's your opportunity to celebrate a specimen in your state. Good luck and happy learning!



Above: Bottineau Rockhounds

Photos on page 7: Students vote on November 5, 2024 for their choice of a state rock.
All photos courtesy of Michelle Cauley.



Send an Article, Receive This Patch

Crack the News, 12/2024

Juniors — write an article or poem or create artwork about rocks, minerals, fossils, or anything about rockhounding, and receive this special patch featuring **GEORGE THE GEODE**. Plus, you could see your name in the next edition of *Crack the News*. Contribute five times and you will receive George's fave rock, a geode! See the submission form on **page 15**.

AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year Honorees (ACROY)

Chris Whitney-Smith, RMFMS ACROY Chair

Quotes from Judi Allison, AFMS RoY Chair:

"Every club has at least one. Some clubs may have many. Those may be the folks who are almost always at the meetings. Perhaps they quietly help clean up the room. Or maybe they are the ones who regularly bring items for show and tell, or provide treats, or quietly help others learn about some aspect of the hobby. They are the folks who help keep our hobby going even if they are not the ones who are in the 'limelight.'

We can honor these folks in such a simple manner. That is what I believe the **"American Rockhound of the Year Award"** is all about. **This award is not a contest.** The only requirement is that someone in your club takes the initiative to pass on the information to the right people. Some clubs have committees to choose a person, some have the Executive Committee do the choosing, or possibly, the previous recipient makes the choice. The point is that the process is not set in stone with strict guidelines. The idea is to honor someone in your club who may have gone unnoticed in what they have done for the club during the year. Please don't overlook the quiet majority.

If you haven't taken the time to choose one of your unsung heroes to honor as your AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year, now is the time.

Remember, it is a simple process:

- choose the person
- write a few sentences why you believe the person should receive the honor
- submit the information to your Regional American Club Rockhound of the Year Chairperson."
- Our **RMFMS ACROY Chair is Chris Whitney-Smith**, ask.chrisws@yahoo.com

[Editor's note: We love to publish photos if you don't mind sending!]

Your honoree will receive a certificate and a write up in the AFMS Newsletter. Let's see those nominations come rolling in! **Send your nominee's information to Chris Whitney-Smith.**

Appreciation and congratulations to the following honorees from RMFMS:

Wendy Brodhagen

In recognition of her immense volunteerism to **Mineralogical Society of Arizona (MSA)** and Earth Science Community. Her service as 2024 Secretary providing detailed monthly meeting minutes is greatly appreciated. She volunteered (26) hours at MSA's 4th Phoenix Heritage Mineral Show and has worked numerous weeks and months as a member of 2024 & 2025 MSA Show Committees as Dealer Co-Chair, Venue Co-Chair and Scribe ensuring MSA's Phoenix Heritage Mineral Show's are well regarded. She was a patron and helped fund an art commission for MSA's Wulfenix Mineral Wings for MSA Shows. Wendy's contributions to MSA are legion, have elevated MSA's fine mineral show presence nationally and worldwide and are truly inspiring. Congratulations on your well-deserved selection as **2024 Rockhound of the Year** as voted by general membership!



Jesse Brodhagen

In recognition of his volunteerism to **Mineralogical Society of Arizona (MSA)** at shows and events. Jesse volunteered (26) hours at MSA's 4th Phoenix

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ACROY Honorees — *continued from page 12*

Heritage Mineral Show. He entered his first competitive fluorescent exhibit at 2024 Tucson Gem & Mineral Show® winning 1st Place in junior category. His volunteerism with MSA and promoting the hobby is truly inspiring. Congratulations on your selection as **2024 Junior Rockhound of the Year** as voted by general membership!

Luke Francis

In the past four years we have had numerous Pebble Pups join us only to fade from sight after a relatively short stint. In August of 2023 a young man came on board who has been very consistent, interested, and active (he and his family actually joined in 2021 but Covid got very much in the way). Luke Francis is an 11-year old in the 6th grade. He has collected rocks since he could walk. Whenever possible he goes on club field trips and is always eager to participate in the Pebble Pup activities. Luke also has his 1st degree black belt in taekwondo, enjoys Legos, and plays piano (and has won awards). He likes to hang out with his Grandfather, Papa, and helps his Dad doing chores and fixing things. He gives a 2-minute presentation every month about rocks to his peers in our Pebble Pups (Junior Rockhounds) meeting. Luke has earned 5 of the 20



available badges is very nearly eligible four three more. He is the **Tulsa Rock and Mineral Society's 2024 Junior Rockhound of the Year!**

Caleb Hardy

Caleb joined Pebble Pups in October 2023 and has been going strong ever since. He likes to be involved and volunteers to assist at club activities whenever possible. Besides attending most club field trips he and his dad do numerous individual hunts and frequently bring back really good looking specimens. Caleb Hardy is 10 years old and is involved in honor choir, basketball, strength an agility training, swimming, and soccer. He is particularly interested in dragons and science facts and is in the accelerated math program at school.

He helps out at his Grandpa's farm, cooks with his dad, making notes about the meals they prepare and adds his own ideas. He enjoys being involved and volunteers to assist in club activities whenever possible and do working activities such as grab bag stuffing and making rock trees. He is very vocal and has made presentations on rocks to a group of engineers and geologists. He is always the first to speak up about Pebble Pup activities during our Rock Club meetings. He is the **Tulsa Rock and Mineral Society's 2025 Junior Rockhound of the Year!**



Where in the RMFMS is Rocky?

- Kansas?
- Nebraska?
- North Dakota?

Photo at left, Fisherman's Dream, Amy Goes West on Flickr. CC BY-NC-ND 2.0

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

Answers on page 19.



Gold Panning

Emily Stevenson (12), Flatirons Mineral Club



The Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park is located in Coloma, California, and is famous for being the site where James W. Marshall discovered gold in 1848. This event marked the beginning of the California Gold Rush, one of the most significant migrations in U.S. history. Marshall found gold while building a sawmill for John Sutter, and the news of his discovery spread quickly, attracting thousands of people seeking fortune.



Gold was discovered in California in 1848 by James W. Marshall while he was building a sawmill for John Sutter along the South Fork of the American River in Coloma. Marshall noticed shiny flecks of gold in the

tailrace (the area where water flows away from the mill) and initially kept it a secret. However, when he and Sutter had the gold tested, it was confirmed to be real.

Gold panning at Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park was such an exciting experience! Even though we didn't end up finding any gold, the whole adventure was worth it. We set up our panning spot on one side of the river, being careful to stay within the designated area. The other side is privately owned by the park, so it's important to respect those boundaries.



As we scooped up the river gravel and carefully sifted through it, I felt like a true prospector, just like those who rushed to California during the Gold Rush. Even without finding any shiny flecks, we enjoyed the beautiful scenery, the sound of the rushing water, and the thrill of searching for treasure. It was a great opportunity to connect with nature and learn about the history of gold mining in the area.

Excerpted from *Flatirons Facets*, January-February 2025

*[Editor's note: **Juniors!** Do you like to write? There is a submission form on the next page — fill it out with your parent and send in your articles, drawings, photos to be published in Crack the News, the AFMS newsletter written by kids for kids!]*



Juniors Newsletter Submission Form

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies

Thank you for submitting an article, pictures, poetry, artwork, or other contribution for publication in the juniors newsletter. Your article or other contribution can be on any rockhounding subject that interests you. Juniors need to be 17 years or younger. The top part of this form is for the junior to fill out and the bottom part needs to be completed and signed by a parent.

FOR THE JUNIOR TO COMPLETE

Name: _____ Age: _____

Title of the article or other contribution: _____

Rock club name: _____

School (optional – your school will receive a copy of your published work)

Signature of junior: _____

FOR THE PARENT TO COMPLETE

I grant permission for the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies to publish this article or other contribution, along with your child's name, age, and rock club, both electronically and in print. Your child retains the right to publish elsewhere, anytime, and anyplace in the future.

Please note that any photo(s) with identifiable children's faces will need each child's parent's permission to publish.

Parent's name (printed): _____

Parent's signature: _____

Parent's email address: _____

Street address: _____

City or town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Please scan or photograph this completed form and send it to youth@amfed.org along with your article or other contribution for the juniors newsletter.

RMFMS 2025 Scholarship Honoree

Richard Jaeger, AFMS Scholarship Committee

The 2025 RMFMS Convention will be in Grand Junction, Colorado. We try to have someone from the state of the host club designate an honoree who then selects two graduate students in geology to be recipients of the \$4000 scholarships awarded by AFMS in the six regional federations that participate in the program. Thanks to Beth Simmons (Denver Gem & Mineral Guild) for her help this year.

Below is a short biography of Dr. Kevin Mahan, who is this year's honoree.

Dr. Mahan received his bachelor's degree in Geological Engineering from Auburn University in 1996, a MSc degree in Geology from the University of Utah in 2000 and a PhD in Geological Sciences from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst in 2005.

After a 2-year post-doctoral appointment at Caltech, he began a research position at the University of Colorado Boulder (CU). He began a tenure-track position at CU in 2010 and is now Professor and Associate Chair of the Graduate Program for the Department of Geological Sciences.

Dr. Mahan is a structural geologist and metamorphic petrologist. His research primarily

focuses on deep continental crust, specifically the physical and chemical processes associated with rock deformation.

He and his students pursue questions such as:

- How do variations in mechanical properties, chemical composition or mineral reactions due to changing pressure, temperature, and water availability impact where and on what scale deformation occurs?
- How do these processes influence the physical properties of the crust?
- How do they influence our ability to remotely image the structure of tectonic plates through geophysical methods?
- What do the intrinsic characteristics and evolutionary tendencies of deep crustal rocks imply about the growth, modification and/or stabilization of continents?

At present, he advises three PhD students, a postdoctoral scholar, and several undergraduate students. They are working on projects related to magmatism and lower crustal metasomatism of the Colorado Plateau, crustal rheology and records of past earthquake activity in fault zones of the Canadian Shield, fault zone evolution in the Colorado Front Range, and early Cenozoic arc magmatism in the Caribbean.



Where in the RMFMS is Rocky?

- Kansas?
- Nebraska?
- North Dakota?

Photo at left, Grasshopper's Delight by minnemom.
4192537059_942ca095f2_o.jpeg on Flickr.
CC BY-ND 2.0

Clipart at top by Phillip Martin. CC BY NC ND 3.0.
Answers on page 19.



Jackstraws, Cerussite, and Atlas Missiles

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



As a kid growing up in rural 1940s-50s Kansas "the boys" essentially had the run of the town and created their own "fun." The young ladies preferred roller skating on the very few concrete sidewalks. No electronic games,

no TV, and not much money in families. But virtually everyone in town was on the same level, and my brothers and I really did not notice much of a socio-economic difference in the population of maybe 400 (that is a stretch), plus numerous dogs, only a few cats (no dog was a "house pet" and they all loved to chase cats), and one yellow canary who laid eggs and pined for a mate.

We knew the local bankers had more monetary resources than most, but on the other hand, my family was able to borrow money to keep my father's business above water. Well, not always above water since the town usually flooded about every five years (and still does). I always thought the village was a Ford and Chevy (always used vehicles) town with a scattered Mercury or Plymouth and an occasional Hudson, Packard or Studebaker thrown in the mix. In other words, a small non-wealthy town much like the others in rural farm/ranch Kansas.

Most families had provided a father and/or a brother to World War II, and Gold Star mothers proudly hung the medallion in the

front window (and grieved for the remainder of their lives). Korea sort of came and went (for a kid), but I do remember the WWII vets talking about the "commie reds" trying to take over the world. At 10 years old I was too busy climbing trees, swimming in the local ponds, fishing, and trying to blow things up with firecracker powder to think much about the "commies."

I've got to tell you I've been rackin' my brain

Hopin' to find a way out

*I've had enough of this continual rain (substitute
any word--shooting, war, hate, virus, etc.)*

Changes are comin', no doubt

It's been a too long time

With no peace of mind

And I'm ready for the times

To get better

~Crystal Gayle



Life in the fast lane in Tescott, Kansas, early 1950s (photo Nelson family). Life was interesting. BTW, this photo was taken at my substitute boyhood home! My "regular" home was partially destroyed by fire, so the local residents banded together and "fixed up" a deserted house and we soon moved in while ours was put back together. That hospitality was representative of small-town living!

Now, how do all these rattling words connect to geology? It has been a long story, but I am getting there. As I noted, kids in my small town did not have electronic gizmos to play with and our games were pretty simple—dominos, board games like Monopoly (not my favorite), building "things" with Tinkertoys or Lincoln Logs, and something called Pick-up-sticks or Jackstraws. If you can imagine a number, 50 or so, of ~9-inch-long colored toothpicks that are held in a "bunch" with one end touching the floor, and then gently released to form a "pile" of sticks, you have the basics of the game!!! Participants tried to remove a single stick without disturbing the others.

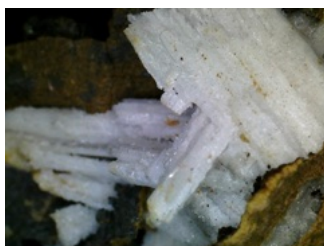
continued on page 18

Jackstraws, Cerussite, and Atlas Mine — continued from page 17

Big clumsy hands like mine were not overly successful and my final count was usually low.

I suppose that today's children would be quite bored with the game—I was! Jackstraws takes its name from the straws in a scarecrow or child's doll—individual straws going in many different directions.

In rockhounding and mineralogy the name jackstraw is now applied to long prismatic crystals of several different minerals that appear in sprays or masses in which individual crystals are haphazardly arranged in “every which direction”—a jackstraw aggregate of crystals. Among the best-known Jackstraw Crystals are orange-red crocoite from the Adelaide Mine, Tasmania, millerite from Halls Gap, Kentucky, stibnite and tourmaline group minerals from a variety of locations, and epidote from the Green Monster Mine, Alaska. However, to most rockhounds the descriptor jackstraw brings up connotations of cerussite from the Flux Mine, Santa Cruz County, Arizona, located in the Patagonia Mountains.



Jackstraw cerussite on limonite/goethite (iron oxide) matrix. Width FOV Top: ~1.2 cm.; Middle: ~9 mm.; Bottom: ~7 mm. Photos Mike Nelson

The Flux, at one time, produced copper, lead, zinc, silver, manganese, and minor gold from a complex of Paleozoic rocks intruded by Mesozoic igneous rocks, and a Tertiary rhyolite. I believe most

mineralization is associated with intrusive dikes and sills connected with both the granite and the rhyolite. Small scale mining was present in the middle 1800s while larger production centered on 1884-1963. Claims and ownership have been sort of haphazard since the end of large-scale mining in 1963 but active claims in the area are still present.

The major mineral commodities from the Flux were zinc and lead with the latter entering into the jackstraw picture. Cerussite is a secondary lead carbonate [PbCO_3] most often associated with primary galena [lead sulfide] and anglesite [lead sulfate]. In most instances the galena [PbS] oxidizes to anglesite [PbSO_4] and then to cerussite [PbCO_3] with exposure to carbonated water.

Cerussite, or white lead ore, has a variety of crystal habits including massive, reticulate, tabular, thin plates, equant, fibrous, prismatic, and others. The colors are also varied but are mostly colorless, white, and pale pastels and all leave a white streak. The hardness is ~3.5 while crystals have a greasy to adamantine luster, a conchoidal fracture, and are translucent to transparent. Because of the lead content the mineral is “heavy” with a high specific gravity (~6.5). As a carbonate, cerussite will “fizz” in weak hydrochloric acid.

The Jackstraw crystals from the Flux Mine are snow white in color and form spiky brittle crystals or very tight parallel bundles in a limonite/goethite matrix. Why do these jackstraw crystals form? I don't have the slightest idea! That is one of life's persistent questions that always are better described than easy answers.

Jackstraw cerussite or the game of Jackstraws is not to be confused with the song “Jack Straw” by the Grateful Dead!!!

continued on page 19

Jackstraws, Cerussite, and Atlas Mine — *continued from page 18*

*Leavin' Texas, fourth day of July,
Sun so hot, the clouds so low, the eagles filled the
sky.*

*Catch the Detroit Lightnin' out of Sante Fe,
The Great Northern out of Cheyenne, from sea to
shining sea.*

ADULTHOOD—HERE WE COME, READY OR NOT
I think if you question persons of my age and ask what changed their life as they lost their carefree “kidhood” and moved to adulthood, they will answer “Vietnam.” However, my change was almost immediately: the day they moved the giant Atlas Missile down the highway (KS 18) to a large hole in the ground about a mile from town (Operational Base #10 assigned to 550th Strategic Missile Squadron). I thought, wow, maybe those “commie reds” really did want to “kill us.” I dreamed about some guy in the Kremlin with a map and a red pin stuck into Tescott, Kansas, noting a hole in the ground there housed a really big missile. I feared that if those Kremlin boys pushed a button the people in Tescott did not have much of a chance. I also wondered where our big Atlas was pointed. Was it aimed at Moscow, or perhaps at a podunk small, rural town in Siberia? Dad didn’t know the answer; however, he was also worried. And then it all hit, Cuba, eastern Europe, and some unknown jungle in southeast Asia called Vietnam or French Indochina. Our country is still

suffering the effects of that jungle today. Will it ever go away? By the way, that ole hole in the ground is still in the pasture covered with those big steel doors. There were 12 of these missile silos surrounding a Strategic Air Command (SAC) base at Salina, KS, housing Atlas 65 D missiles from September 1962 to February/March 1965. My life changed forever as we watched that mighty big killing machine lumber down the highway and into the pasture.

This Atlas 65D was housed near Minneapolis, Kansas, 16 miles from the Tescott site. Notice the large steel doors that covered the silo when the “bird was in the hole”. My father and I “toured” the Tescott silo one Sunday afternoon since he was friends with the local Guard!



Photo from Wikipedia Creative Commons and in the Public Domain.

Yesterday is not ours to recover, but tomorrow is ours to win or lose. ~Lyndon Johnson



Where in the RMFMS is Rocky? — Answers

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 8, 13, and 16:

- page 8: The Tin Family, Enchanted Highway, **North Dakota**
- page 13: Fisherman's Dream, Enchanted Highway, **North Dakota**
- page 16: Grasshopper's Dream, Enchanted Highway, **North Dakota**

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



Club Corner – Albuquerque Gem & Mineral Club Show

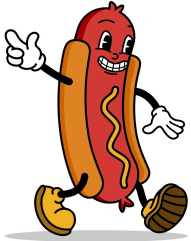
Regina Aumente, AGMC Editor

The Albuquerque Gem and Mineral Club will be hosting its 54th annual gem and mineral show at the Expo Facility in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The Albuquerque Gem and Mineral Club Show is one of the premier events in the area and is shaping up to be another exciting and educational event! With a rich variety of exhibits and activities, there's something for everyone—from mineral enthusiasts and collectors to families looking to spark their children's interest in geology and paleontology.

Here's a quick breakdown of some highlights of the show:

- **55 Dealers:** Selling minerals, rocks, fossils, gemstones, and handcrafted jewelry from New Mexico and around the world.
- **Junior Area:** Hands-on opportunities for kids to engage in minerals, rocks, and fossils to spark their curiosity.
- **Mineral Auctions:** Three mineral auctions every day, offering a chance to bid on rare and beautiful specimens.
- **Mineral Displays:** Focus on showcasing New Mexico's diverse mineral wealth in stunning displays.
- **Educational Demonstrations:** Learn about gemstone faceting and the art of gold panning through live demos.

*[Editor's note: See the Albuquerque show flyer on **page 24**.]*



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.

- **NGC 602 (Webb image) (The James Webb Telescope released a dramatic photo of a satellite galaxy roughly 200,000 light years from Earth.)**

<https://esawebb.org/images/weic2425c/>

- **Scientists film footage of extremely ancient deep sea creatures**

<https://mashable.com/article/deep-sea-rare-footage-nautilus>

- **Rare Jaw Fossil Found in China Might Belong to the World's Smallest Cat**

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/rare-jaw-fossil-found-in-china-might-belong-to-the-worlds-smallest-cat-180985837/>

- **Geologists Crack 134-Million-Year-Old Mystery of Amethyst Geode Formation**

<https://scitechdaily.com/geologists-crack-134-million-year-old-mystery-of-amethyst-geode-formation/>

The Road to Hickory, North Carolina

Cheryl Neary, EFMLS Secretary

This year's 2025 (EFMLS/AFMS) convention, March 28-30, 2025, will be held in Hickory, NC. Hickory is in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains in the western part of the state. Did you know that the mountains were named for the blue haze created when light scatters across the mountains and the isoprene is released into the atmosphere. Isoprene is a colorless, volatile organic compound produced by plants, animals and bacteria. Isoprene plays a role in protecting plants against a variety of abiotic stresses, such as sunlight, temperature, winds and precipitation.

The Blue Ridge Mountains span Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia. The EFMLS has clubs in all but South Carolina and Georgia, and we hope to see many of the clubs represented, not only from the states mentioned but from all the states in the federation!

So, what does this mean? First, the host hotel is Hampton Inn – conveniently located next door to the Metro Convention Center where the club show is being hosted. The show is a wonderful three-day



event. For \$6.00 you can visit the show for three days! One of the days, the Pottery show is also being hosted at the Convention Center – and for a separate admission price you can view/buy some spectacular pieces.

To make a reservation at the Hampton Inn, call 828-624-200, and inform them you are under the Catawba Valley Gem & Mineral Club for the group rate of \$139.00. The rooms will be held at this rate until February 26th, and after that the discount no longer applies.

The registration form is attached to this newsletter. The deadline for the registration is March 01, 2025.

This date will be here before you know it – so I suggest – take the time today to fill it out and send to Terry Russell with your check and be sure to email to Cheryl Neary at ciervo.neary@gmail.com.

From EFMLS News, February 2025

February,

a form pale-vestured, wildly fair.

One of the North Wind's Daughters with icicles
in her hair. ~ Edgar Fawcett

This month, you can celebrate:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1-National Freedom Day | 12-Hug Day | 21-Sticky Bun Day |
| 2-Groundhog Day | 13-World Radio Day | 22-World Thinking Day |
| 3-National Carrot Cake Day | 14-Valentine's Day | 23-Tootsie Roll Day |
| 4-National Sweater Day | 15-World Hippo Day | 25-National Quiet Day |
| 6-Time to Talk Day | 16-Innovation Day | 26-Tell a Fairy Tale Day |
| 7-National Periodic Table Day | 17-Cafe au Lait Day | 27-National Chili Day |
| 9-Read in the Bathtub Day | 19-Chocolate Mint Day | 28-National Science Day |
| 10-Clean Out Your Computer Day | 20-National Comfy Day | |

Snowflake clipart, CC0
(Public Domain).

Celebration info from:
[https://
www.thepioneerwoman.
com/holidays-
celebrations/
a63588511/february-
holidays-
observances-2025/](https://www.thepioneerwoman.com/holidays-celebrations/a63588511/february-observances-2025/)



**EASTERN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES
AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES**

National Show & Convention – March 27-31, 2025

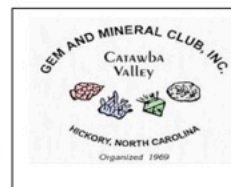
Host: Catawba Valley Gem & Mineral Club

Show location: Hickory Metro Convention Center @1960 13th Ave Dr SE, Hickory NC

Host Hotel- Hampton Inn 1956 13th Ave Dr SE, Hickory NC 28602

Use: Host name (see above) when booking 828-624-2000 (group rate is \$139.00/night)

ADVANCE REGISTRATION FORM – Deadline March 01, 2025



Primary Registrant (Registration will be recorded under this name—Please print name and title as you want them to appear on your name badge.)

Name _____

Title _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Federation or Club Affiliation _____

Check all that apply:	AFMS Officer _____	Delegate _____	Judge _____
Demonstrator _____	EFMLS Officer _____	Alt. Delegate _____	Competitive Exhibitor _____
Dealer _____	Past President _____	Editor _____	Noncompetitive Exhibitor _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO Catawba Valley Gem and Mineral Club

CONVENTION ACTIVITIES	NUMBER	AMOUNT
Thursday: March 27, 2025 AFMS Uniform Rules for Competitive Exhibits @ 9am AFMS Annual Meeting @ 1pm AFMS Scholarship Meeting @ 3pm (or immediately following) Location: Hampton Inn Meeting Room	_____ _____ _____	N/A
Friday: March 28, 2025 3-day Show tickets @ Metro Convention Center @ \$ 6.00 Learn Viking Knit @ 8:30am (fee for supplies-TBD) @ Hampton EFMLS Cracker Barrel Session @ 4 pm at Hampton Inn EFMLS Annual Meeting @ 7pm at Hampton Inn	_____ _____ _____ _____	\$_____ N/A N/A N/A
Saturday: March 29, 2025 AFMS/EFMLS Editor's Breakfast @ 8:30am (Free if hotel guest; \$10.00 non-guest of hotel) @ Hampton Inn Meeting Room EFMLS Annual Auction @ 2pm @ Convention Center AFMS/EFMLS Awards Banquet, 7pm Pulled Pork BBQ, Chicken Marsala, & Salmon, House salad, Cole slaw, Grilled vegetables, Sweet potatoes, Mac n' cheese, bread, Dessert / Cash Bar @ 6:30pm	____ hotel guest ____ non guest@ \$10 ____ @ \$65.00 pp	N/A \$_____ \$_____
Monday: March 31, 2025 (Limited) Field trip on Monday to Propst Farm in Newton, NC @ \$30/pp Meet in Hampton Inn lobby @ 8:30 am (Money collected separately at time of field trip)	_____	N/A
Total Amount Enclosed		\$_____

Please send this form and remittance to:

Terry Russell,

5254 Olde School Drive, Hickory, NC 28602

Deadline for receiving REGISTRATION forms March 1, 2025

Upcoming Shows and Events

1/10-12/2025	Gila County Gem & Mineral Society	Gila County Fairgrounds, Globe, AZ	Haley Williams, gcgms1954@gmail.com; 480.815.6901
2/28-3/2, 2025	Denver Gem & Mineral Guild	Jefferson County Fairgrounds	https://denvergem.org/show/
3/1-2/2025	Sierra County Rock & Gem Society	Sierra County Fair Barn, 1321 Hyde Ave., Truth or Consequences, NM	Megan Holden, scragssierracounty@gmail.com; scraggs.org
3/1-2/2025	Daisy Mountain Rock & Mineral Club	Anthem School, 41020 N Freedom Way, Anthem, AZ	Tiffany Poetsch, dmrclub@gmail.com; www.dmrclub.com
3/14-15/2025	Albuquerque G&M Club	Expo NM State Fairgrounds, 300 San Pedro NE, Albuquerque, NM	Roy McKinney, 505.715.1038; show-chair@agmc.info; www.agmc.info
3/28-30/2025	Fort Collins Rockhounds	The Ranch, Larimer County Fairgrounds, McKee Building, 5280 Arena Circle, Loveland, CO	Nancy Howerter, 970.206.9569; fcrckhounds@gmail.com; www.fortcollinsrockhounds.org
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
4/25-27/2025	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

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@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		
2026			St. Charles, IL May 23-24		Tulsa, OK July 17-19		

Highlights and Note

DENVER GEM AND MINERAL GUILD ANNUAL SHOW 2025

February 28 – March 2, 2025
Jefferson County Fairgrounds

Friday 10 -6; Saturday 10 -6; Sunday 10 -5

Gems

Books

Displays

Minerals

Sculptures

Demonstrations

Kids' activities

Crystals

Jewelry

Geodes

Fossils

Over 25 Sellers

**Amazonite & Aquamarine
Theme Minerals
Best of species contest**

<https://denvergem.org/show/>

Photo by
DGMG member
Ron Wolf
CSM Specimen,
Mt. Antero, CO

TREASURES OF THE EARTH

GEM, MINERAL, JEWELRY EXPO

ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO
MARCH 14-16, 2025

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/

Above from CFMS Newsletter, April 2024

62nd Annual 2025 Fort Collins Rockhounds Gem & Mineral Show

Featuring Feldspar & Jasper

Friday March 28 4pm-8pm
Saturday March 29 9am-6pm
Sunday March 30 10am-4pm

Details at www.fortcollinsrockhounds.org
fcrockhounds@gmail.com • (No dealer space available)

Thomas M. McKee 4-H, Youth & Community Building,
Larimer County Fairgrounds

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

Officers:

President	Jim Gray	<jimgray at wyoming.com>
Vice President	Steve Kaminski	<scsckamin at gmail.com>
Secretary	Liz Thomas	<mygemsrock at gmail.com>
Treasurer	Gene Maggard	<gandpmaggard at gmail.com>
Historian	Cinda Kunkler	<cindakunkler at att.com>
Past President	Bob Regner	<Rnregner at aol.com>
Past President	Richard Jaeger	<RjgrSci at aol.com>

State Directors:

AZ/NV	Jodi Brewster	<jodibrewster66 at gmail.com>
CO	Kathy Honda	<Kathrine.honda at ucden.edu>
KS	Larry Beck	<Lkbeckfam at gmail.com>
ND	Steve Fasching	<steve.fasching at gmail.com>
NM/TX	Donna Regner	
OK/AR	Roberta Wagle	<waglemom at gmail.com>
SD/NE	Lori Loomis	<sdnestatedirector at gmail.com>
UT	Tracy Jensen	<tracyjensen0515 at gmail.com>
WY	Leane Gray	<lgray at wyoming.com>

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	Liz Thomas	<mygemsrock at gmail.com>
Editor of Newsletter	Linda Jaeger	<LJGRALG at aol.com>
Finance	Wayne Cox	<WayneC3 at earthlink.net>
Fluorescent Tech	Pete Modreski	<pmodreski at aol.com>
Fossils Tech	Patrick Rowe	<rowe_patrick at gmail.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	vacant	
Long Range Planning	Liz Thomas	<mygemsrock at gmail.com>
Long Range Planning	Richard Jaeger	<RjgrSci at aol.com>
Long Range Planning	Judy Beck	<Lkbeckfam at gmail.com>
Mineralogical Tech	vacant	
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	Richard Jaeger	<RjgrSci at aol.com>

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2024-2025 Committee Chairs – *continued*

Parliamentarian	Gene Maggard	<gandpmaggard at gmail.com>
PLAC - AZ	Dr. Alex Schauss	<Aschauss at arizona.edu>
PLAC - CO/NE/ND		
PLAC - KS	Jared Kyner	
PLAC - NM/TX		
PLAC - OK/AR	Stan Nowak	<snowak48 at yahoo.com>
PLAC - SD	Brandon Nelson	<nelson.bc80 at gmail.com>
PLAC - UT/NV	Jack Johnson	<j4x4jj at comcast.net>
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	<rmfmssafety2024@gmail.com>
Scholarship Committee	Richard Jaeger	<RjgrSci at aol.com>
Stationery/Trophies	Bennie 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	Dale Bright	<webmaster at rmfms.org>
Website Contest		

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.



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 March 2025 issue. Deadline for articles is February 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.

