



Earthset captured through the Orion spacecraft window at 6:41 p.m. EDT, April 6, 2026, during the Artemis II crew's flyby of the Moon. A muted blue Earth with bright white clouds sets behind the cratered lunar surface. The dark portion of Earth is experiencing nighttime. On Earth's day side, swirling clouds are visible over the Australia and Oceania region. In the foreground, Ohm crater has terraced edges and a flat floor interrupted by central peaks - formed when the surface rebounded upward during the impact that created the crater.

From <https://www.nasa.gov/image-detail/art002e009288/>



May 2026

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 **June** issue is due to
LJGRALG@aol.com by **May 15**.

President's Message

Jim Gray, RMFMS President

I hope everyone is getting ready to do some rock hounding. As always, this year is starting off very fast, or maybe I am just getting older and time becomes more precious.

I have a little word of advice for all volunteers. Please do volunteer for the many committees in your clubs, the RMFMS, and the AFMS. Otherwise some functions will start falling apart. Every year the President and Past Presidents spend hours trying to get all the committees filled. It seems like no one wants to accept the responsibility any more. I have been President for nearly 1-1/2 years and still have vacancies in the RMFMS; if you are interested in being a volunteer for a committee please let me know, even if the position is filled at the time. We have some committee people who have been committed for a long time and would consider stepping down if someone else becomes interested, so express your interest. Remember that we are all getting older and it would be good for other RMFMS members to volunteer while we older group can still contribute knowledge, experience, and help over the rough spots. I know, for myself, that filling the roles of Vice President (for a very short term) and then President (for two years once my terms are completed) has been a challenge at times. But, there are many past officers and committee chairs who are willing to help. I have never felt like I have been left alone to fend for myself. I know times are changing. Some of us older folks are not very computer-savvy, but that is where the younger generations are very good. It takes all of us working together to accomplish the tasks before us.

If anyone needs anything, has any suggestions, would like to volunteer, or has any questions please let me know. I am here to work with everyone. Have a wonderful summer and enjoy all of the rock club shows throughout the Federation.



Until next month, take care and be safe. ~Jim

Treasurer's Report

Gene Maggard, RMFMS Treasurer

All club annual reports and dues and insurance premium payments have been turned in for fiscal year 2025-26. Dues collections are \$20,076 compared to budget of \$20,000. Interest and dividend income for fiscal year 2024-25 was \$8,944 compared to budget of \$7,800. This amount was donated to the AFMS Scholarship Foundation this fiscal year.

We lost 2 clubs for fiscal year 2025-26, the Coconino Lapidary Club, Flagstaff, and the Beehive Rock & Gem Club, Ogden, UT, giving us a total of 82 active clubs. The Coconino club disbanded because nobody wanted to be an officer. Beehive simply did not submit an annual report or pay dues. Total membership is 14,319 members compared to 14,495 members last year. Dues paying membership is 13,206 members compared to 13,009 members last year, so dues collections are

up a bit even though total membership is down a little.

Insurance premium collections were \$7,435 in 2024-25 compared to budget of \$7,500. The insurance premium payment to the insurance company was \$7,435, compared to budget of \$7,500. Insurance premium collections are \$7,723 as of April 13 for 2025-26, compared to budget of \$7,500. The insurance premium payment to the insurance company as of April 13 is \$7,880, compared to budget of \$7,500. I don't know why the premium increased so much, but collections from the clubs is so close to the premium from PHLY that I don't, at this time, see a reason to increase the premium to the clubs.



Curiosities – Everywhere You Look!

Lori Loomis, ND-SD-NE State Director



Hello everyone. I ran across an article I thought you'd be interested in, so I'm sharing it here. *Geo Lifestyle* is a free, weekly newsletter started by a retired Geologist. It highlights geology news, events, and everyday life. The newsletter is posted on the American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG) website. I know — who, in their right mind, would ever go to that website? I hate to raise my hand in response to that question, but I am crazy enough to go to that website! I was amazed to find interesting articles and a quick read. You may find it interesting as well.

What I really want to point out is a recent article posted on January 22, 2026, titled "Exploring the Boulder Rooms and Post Oak Falls in the Wichita Mountains." [Editor's note: *Wichita Mountains are in southwestern Oklahoma.*] Here's a link to it: <https://newsletters.aapg.org/geolifestyle-01-22-26>. It caught my attention, and I thought that if you were planning to attend the RMFMS convention in Tulsa this year, you might want to explore this area. [Editor's note: *According to Google, the Wichita Mountains are a 1 hour 40 minute drive from Tulsa.*] You might even consider stopping by the Healthy Hippie Café and enjoying a "plant-forward dish or fresh juice drink" at the end of your adventure!

You don't need to be an AAPG member to sign up for this newsletter. So think about it, and take the opportunity to sign up for your weekly issue hot off the press.

Club Corner: Northwest Nebraska Rock Club

Wade Beins, NNRC President

The Northwest Nebraska Rock Club, a proud member of the Rocky Mountain Federation, has resumed regular monthly meetings after several years of inactivity. Collaborating with a pair of local rock shop owners who expressed a growing public interest in holding meetings for rockhounds to connect and share their experiences has led to a successful renewal of club activities.

The first meeting was held in November with 25 people in attendance for a "Bring a rock and tell a story" night. A history of the Northwest Nebraska Rock Club and the Crawford (NE) Rock Swap were presented to those in attendance. Since then, we have averaged 20 -30 people per meeting and have had presentations about Nebraska's State Gemstone, the Nebraska Blue Agate; Meteorites – Stones from Space; and a presentation on fossil collecting and preparation.



Nebraska blue agate, NE State Gemstone.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_U.S._state_minerals,_rocks,_stones_and_gemstones#/media/File:Agatenebraskablue.jpg

For our March meeting we have scheduled members of the US Forest Service to share what the current rules and regulations are concerning rock collecting on the Oglala National Grasslands. Our meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month at 6:30 PM at the Chadron, NE Country Kitchen.

Upcoming meetings will also begin to focus on the planning for the 2026 Crawford Rock Show coming up Labor Day weekend, September 4-7 in Crawford, Nebraska. This year will be our 40th anniversary, and we hope to outdo last year's record setting show that hosted 98 vendors from 18 states!

Highlights for this year's show are the 28th Annual Fairburn Agate Collector's Gathering with Roger Clark and John Masterson speaking; free daily field trips to the Agate Gravel Beds on the Oglala Grasslands area north of Crawford, where you can collect Fairburns, prairie agates, petrified wood, and a host of other jaspers and chalcedony.

Set up at the show is free, and only a donation of an item for our auction on Saturday evening is requested. Admission is free, and the public is invited to participate in all events. If you are interested in attending or selling at the show, please contact me at (308) 430-1399 for more information.

Another Brief Intermission for Levity

Who makes the best prehistoric reptile clothes?

A dino-sewer!

Do you know how long dinosaurs lived?

The same as short ones!

What do you call a dinosaur who is a noisy sleeper? *A Tyranno-snorus.*

How do you know if there's a dinosaur in your fridge? *The door won't close.*

From <https://www.rd.com/article/dinosaur-jokes/>

AFMS Endowment Fund

Richard Jaeger, RMFMS Chair

This is a raffle drawing with tickets being sold at \$5 each or five tickets for \$20. The drawing will be held at the MWF/AFMS Convention in St. Charles, Illinois on May 23-24, 2026. People from around the American Federation donate prizes for the raffle – they may be jewelry, crystals, minerals, fossils, books, or other items, the value of which range generally 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.

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 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 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 MWF/AFMS Show in St. Charles in May 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 many of you will participate and be winners. You need not be present to win. **I am also happy to accept any donated prizes for the raffle, or you can send them directly to Cheryl Neary.**

Cheryl's address is: **42 Jefferson Ave., Patchogue, NY 11772.**

Please purchase some tickets! If you would like to donate a prize, please donate soon.

My contact information is:

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Where in the RMFMS is Rocky?

- Kansas?
- Nebraska?
- Wyoming?

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

Photo at left by James St. John, CC BY 2.0..
Answers on page 20.



Field Trip Teasers for the RMFMS/Tulsa Show in July!

Liz Thomas, RMFMS Secretary

Friday, July 10: Blastoids & other Mississippian Marine Fossils**Limit:** 50 people**Meeting place:** Walmart parking lot in Wagoner (35.95789, -95.3975399)**Meeting time:** 9:00am

Description: We meet by the gas station and drive to the site. At the site we will be able to find several types of Mississippian age fossils strewn along the lakeside. The lower the lake level, the more we will be able to find. Once you are done here, you are free to run over to the nearby Sequoyah State Park to visit the nature center or to view the fossil plant material visible at the south end of the park (*collecting is NOT permitted in the park*).

What to bring: shoes for walking in water or those that can get wet, a bag for collecting, sunscreen, water, and lunch.

Saturday, July 11: Pennsylvanian Fern Fossils**Limit:** 20 people, possibly a second group in the afternoon depending on interest**Meeting Place:** West Highlands Park on 61st St S (36.07505, -96.02211)**Meeting time:** 9:00am

Description: After gathering we will take a short drive to the site. We have been given permission to access private property nearby, so we will need to be well-behaved and mind the grounds. We will be hiking back into the woods on the property. Hopefully, we will have been able to make sure the trails are cleared out, but if not, we will likely be walking up the creek. There we will be able to pop up slabs of the shale outcrop, likely part of the Coffeyville Formation, to find various fern fossils.

What to bring: shoes for walking in water or waders, sunscreen, bug spray, hammer, chisel, a flat box for carrying your finds (eg: a box lid, something to treat the ferns after they dry out a bit – such as a clear spray-on sealer or watered down Elmer's glue).

Sunday, July 12: Boley Agate**No limit on people attending.****Meeting Place:** Rivermist Casino, north of Ada at the intersection of Highway 377 and 56 (34.9396, -96.6834)**Meeting time:** 10:00am

Description: After meeting, we will drive a few miles down the road and walk along the roadsides for Boley agate, a type of brecciated jasper.

What to bring: comfortable shoes, a bag for collecting, hammer/prybar, sunscreen, bug spray, water, and lunch.



2025 Delegates Meeting Report, Grand Junction, Colorado – September 20, 2025

Liz Thomas, RMFMS Secretary



Delegates meeting was called to order by President Jim Gray.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Bob Regner.

The prayer was led by Leane Gray .

Roberta Wagle reported that 45 clubs were represented at the meeting and this was a quorum.

Dignitaries were introduced: J.C. Moore, AFMS President; Donna Moore, AFMS Secretary; AFMS Presidents: Richard Jaeger, Judy Beck; Past RMFMS Presidents: Judy Beck, Richard Jaeger, Liz Thomas.

Roberta made a motion that the secretaries' report be accepted as written. Marvin seconded. Motion passed.

Marvin made a motion that the treasurer's report be accepted as written. Roberta seconded. Motion passed.

Long Range Planning - Judy Beck – It is in the packet. No new business currently.

Vice President – Steve Kaminski – He read his report from the floor. It seems obvious that Groucho Marx never met the RMFMS. It is a very discriminating few that apply the phrase "For to know that him, regarding yours truly. Since my wife isn't here to defend herself, I can, however, count at least one in the group. Yet here I am. In all seriousness, I am grateful for the opportunity and honor it is to serve this group. Thank you for the community and friendship. I hope to continue in these efforts and maybe have a little more detail to report on this same missive next year.

Treasurer – Gene Maggard – It is in the packet. Gene Maggard presented a financial report for the 3rd quarter. As of October 2026, Income was 33,833.00. Expenses were 29,825.00. The Vanguard Bond Fund was 104,682.00. Checking Account balance is 8,958.00, E. Jones 924 is **98,8786.00**, for a total of 212,518.00. Meeting adjourned.

Richard Jaeger requested that he be replaced from all his committees.

NEW BUSINESS

Judy said the Trademark needed to be renewed. Marvin made a motion to renew the trademark. Norman Boettcher seconded. Motion passed.

Lori Loomis needs to be sworn in with her new duties she has accepted.

Cinda is requesting that the business meeting and the delegates meeting be moved to 2:00. This will be discussed later.

Steve advised that Les Prezmyk has been appointed Arizona State Mine inspector.

J.C. Moore spoke about the AFMS convention. It will be hosted by Chicagoland Gems & Minerals Association. May 23 and 24th in St. Charles, IL at the Kane County Fairgrounds. There will be retail and wholesale dealers there. There will be a field trip to Lizzadro Museum in Chicago.

Dennis Gertenbach spoke to everyone about the juniors' programs and the newsletter for the kids.

Jodi offered to go speak to the new clubs about this.

Roberta made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Leane seconded. Meeting adjourned.

A Story Shared – A Unique Competitive Case

*From Pasadena Lapidary Society,
contributed by Lori Loomis*

Note from Lori: I ran across this article while looking at club websites one day and immediately knew it had to be shared. This is a story of an incredibly unselfish woman, and I thought it was worth sharing. A wildfire wiped out her home and everything she owned, yet she dug through the ashes to create a competitive display to rival all others. This is truly a story of how our rock treasures and our hobbies give us peace.

Sue Dekany, PLS Secretary, had been working toward entering a competitive case in late 2024.

Then came the Eaton Fire, and Sue's accumulated work was trashed. Out of the ashes, however, Sue thought the remnants would make an interesting educational display. Boy, was she right!

Over Mother's Day weekend she set up her Novice-Educational-General Concept-General Audience display showing her rocks that had been cooked in the Eaton Fire, submitted the case competitively in the Novice category of the CFMS show, and the result: a Double Win with 'Best of Show' and the 'President's Award'.



Meet Sue Dekany,, Pasadena Lapidary Society Secretary, with her CFMS awards.

(Sue's exhibit will be on display again September 20-21 at our annual show in Arcadia.)

Sue's observations from her rock collection debris: many rocks were massively oxidized (pyrite, some jaspers, onyx and serpentine), every bit of metal lost its protective polish, obsidian fractured in a spiral but otherwise looked normal, quartz crystals and fluorite turned white and brittle, and amazingly, an apatite cabochon survived, looking the same as before the fire.

[RMFMS Editor's Note: This is an excerpt from the PLS website, <https://pasadenalapidary.org/>]

Some Oklahoma Faves



Come see us in July!
Photos by Linda Jaeger



From Display to Competitive Cases

Roberta Wagle, Tulsa Rock & Mineral Society President



Larry and I recently traveled to Albuquerque, New Mexico, to visit friends Bob and Donna Regner and attend the Treasures of the Earth Gem & Mineral Show.

While the trip was originally intended to be a social visit, Bob and Donna invited us to help out at the show since they were working. We were asked to judge competitive cases, but as they weren't quite ready for formal judging, we spent several hours at a central table with the uniform rules book. We enjoyed providing pointers to various participants — including a junior member, the junior leader, the Faceting Guild, a museum, and a professional faceter — on how to transition from a great display case to a competitive one.



I want to highlight the **professional faceter's case (above)**, which was truly amazing. It featured man-made diamonds faceted into replicas of famous gems, each accompanied by its name, origin, discovery year, current location, and carat weight. I even consulted Leon Reeder for guidance and was pleased to find my assessment was correct. The only thing preventing the case from being competition-ready was that it contained too many gems — a wonderful problem to have.

Larry and I also ventured out on a solo field trip to the desert and found some interesting treasures. As always, the trip felt too short and, as you can **see from the photos (next page)** it was a warm and sunny outing for the season.

continued on page 10

Display to Competitive— continued from page 9



Above & right: A couple of displays working toward competition. **Below left:** Roberta found a dinosaur friend at the show! **Below right:** Larry & Roberta on the warm, windy solo trip to the desert.

All photos from Larry & Roberta Wagle.



Editor's Note: Want to get your feet wet in competition? There are experienced folks who are happy to guide you — just ask!

Gold from Maryland & Willard Wulff

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

Here in the Wisconsin woods winter seemed to arrive suddenly in early November. We were in a nice fall weather pattern with moderating winds tumbling down the maple leaves while I tried to keep the piles from a heavy covering on the grass. Boats were still on the river targeting freshwater river sturgeons and catfish. The "smarter" residents of my small neighborhood were in short sleeves installing outside Christmas lights and decorations. Then one night I heard the wind whistle in and here came Old Man Winter with freezing temps and in a couple of weeks night temps below zero. Thanksgiving arrived with blustering cold winds and snow while my spouse, daughter and I washed pots and pans for three hours at the community dinner. Then additional white stuff arrived, and the snow blower has cranked up several times. The big post-Holiday events were: 1) the full moons, AKA the Cold Moon, arriving on December 4 and the Wolf Moon on January 3, both bright (the latter a Super moon) while floating above the eastern River bluffs as they started their journeys across the sky before dipping below the western bluffs; and 2) the appearance of the first ice fisherman on the backwaters—a sure sign that winter had "really" arrived. In fact, the gang on the hardwater has never left, many snug in their little houses compete with heaters, beer, and TVs (to watch the Packers play football).

But the autumnal change to the cold season is a good thing for old rockhounds—I can hibernate in the downstairs office and play with minerals without being concerned about much outside yard work. And the first of January is a sure sign that the Tucson shows are but one month away. Last year I missed the shows due to "settling in" at our new abode in Wisconsin. Not so this coming season as Tucson here we come!

I am not a big spender at mineral shows but am usually happy with my buys/treasures although a few stinkers appear now and then. Remember, when Bob Jones coined the term, I am a frugal collector. I purchase less expensive specimens that "make me happy." I am not collecting for exhibits, or even local mineral shows, but for specimens that I can study and learn from. Being a life-long learner is a high priority in my life! Life is too short to be anything but happy.



Happiness, true happiness, is an inner quality. It is a state of mind. If your mind is at peace, you are happy. If your mind is at peace, but you have nothing else, you can be happy. — Dada Vaswani

Living in the Plains, Midwest, and West over the decades, I am not overly familiar with the geology of the Appalachian chains of mountains. Oh, I have driven through and camped several times, I can spout off the creating orogenic events, and the physiographic provinces, etc. but outside of a few famous collecting localities/ mines I remain a novice learner when it comes to minerals. That is one reason I enjoy the professional, but semi-hard core, journals like Mineralogical Record and Rocks and Minerals. I joined mineral clubs in Maryland, Washington D.C., and eastern Canada to get a "non-western U.S. perspective" on geology and minerals and now read several eastern mineral club newsletters that are available on the Web. Life is interesting.

I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life, and see if I could not learn what it had to teach, and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived. — Thoreau

continued on next page

Gold— continued from page 11

In rumbling around my basement office/storage I came across one of Willard Wulff's specimens, gold no less, that I purchased a decade or so ago for about \$3 at an estate sale. Willard W. Wulff Sr. was a Charter Member of the Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society who collaborated with Lazard Cahn to start the club in 1936. The gold specimen is mounted on a pedicle in a smaller Perky Box with handwritten labels in Wulff's very distinctive printing style. He acquired the specimen in 1962. I have a substantial number of Wulff's micromounts, in excess of 100, including several more gold mounts. The gold was collected from the Maryland Mine, one of a group of gold mines-- the Ford, Anderson, Watson, and Maryland--- clustered in the southern section of Montgomery County, Maryland, near the town of Potomac just northwest of the Beltway near the Great Falls of the Potomac. Today, the Maryland, Ford and Anderson are part of the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Historic Park. These mines, along with at least thirty other gold mines and placers found in and around Montgomery County, are situated in the northern tip of a gold-bearing belt that extends in a shallow arc across the Piedmont from northeastern Alabama through northern Georgia, west central South Carolina, central North Carolina, central Virginia, and into south central Maryland. Within this region many gold mines were discovered and operated, beginning in the late eighteenth century, including those in the famous Dahlonega District of Georgia (Nagy and Parker, 2013), site of the first gold rush in the U.S. (1828) that resulted in forced removal of Native Americans (Trail of Tears), and the establishment of the Dahlonega Mint to produce gold coins (D mint mark) from 1838-1861).

The country rocks in the Maryland Mine area are complex, to say the least, and are part of the Neoproterozoic (~750 Ma) to Cambrian (~550 Ma?) (they really don't know its exact age) Mather Gorge Formation (Wissahickon Schist during my classroom

days) that formed as the Supercontinent Rodinia broke apart (creating the proto-Atlantic Ocean). Originally the rocks were deposited as clastic sedimentary rocks shed into emerging oceanic trenches but later were subjected to regional volcanism and metamorphism during the Taconic (roughly Ordovician ~450 Ma), Acadian (roughly Devonian ~400 Ma), and Alleghenian (toughly Permian ~290 Ma) Orogenies. Today the country rock seems a mixed-up mess of interlayered mica schist and metamorphosed graywacke cut by dikes, sills, and small irregular plugs of light colored granite and, locally, of lamprophyre. I have always had a great deal of respect for the mapping geologists working in the Appalachians.



Above: Reverse of an 1843 gold half eagle struck at the Dahlonega Mint. Note small D variety mint mark. Public Domain photo courtesy John Reich.

The Maryland Mine, and others in the area, exploited quartz veins covering an area of about .25 miles wide by 3 miles long and ranging from a few inches to 14 feet in thickness that are part of the Mather Gorge Formation but were probably formed later when late-stage, silicarich, hydrothermal waters invaded cracks and fissures in the country rock with the gold and sulfide solutions traveling along (Nagy and Parker, 2013).

continued on next page

Gold— continued from page 12

Above: Gold on quartz matrix from Maryland Mine. Width FOV ~ 7 mm. Photo: Mike Nelson

The Maryland Mine has an interesting history. Although extraction started around 1867 and the mine officially closed in 1940 as WW II was looming, it seemed to never live up to its potential as stated by the promoters. In 80+ years the Mine underwent numerous owners and investors, but "unlimited riches" never seemed to evolve and soon a new owner would take over with big dreams. From ~1940 to 1951 "locals" prospected, panned, and broke rocks looking for the gold lode. One ounce of gold was shipped in 1951.

Interestingly, local panners are still able to collect dust, and a few nuggets, in the area's streams. However, the Mine, and its associated dumps and trenches, are now part of a National Historic Park and any sort of collecting is prohibited.

REFERENCES CITED

Nagy, J. & F. J. Parker, 2013, The Maryland Mine: Maryland's last underground gold mine: Rocks and Minerals Vol. 88, No. 5



Mike is a former University professor and administrator who enjoys outdoor activities, and writing articles for the *Pick & Pack*, other rock and mineral clubs, and the Newsletter of the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies (www.rmfmns.org). He also writes, and occasionally speaks, about members of the Colorado Cavalry/Infantry who participated in the march to Glorieta Pass (1862), helped settle central Kansas (1865), and later fought at Beecher Island (1868). But mostly he just tries to enjoy life with frosty IPAs, travel, and collecting mundane facts and pretty rocks/ minerals.

From CSMS Pick & Pack, February 2026



Where in the RMFMS is Rocky?

- Kansas?
- Nebraska?
- Wyoming?

Clipart at top by Phillip Martin.
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Photo left, James St. John, CC BY 2.0



Answers on page 20.

The President's Hat

Richard Jaeger, 10/30/2022

Editor's Note: It has been awhile since this was published, so for those who are new to the RMFMS, here's the story of "The President's Hat." It is unique to the Rocky Mountain Federation. — LJ

It has come to my attention that some members of the Rocky Mountain Federation are unaware of the tradition behind the President's HAT which is worn by RMFMS Presidents at the RMFMS and AFMS meetings as well as other functions. When I first became President in November of 2005, I asked Howie Whiting to write a history of the HAT to be published in the *Rocky Mountain Federation Newsletter* so that people would understand its history and significance. He did so for the January 2006 issue of our Newsletter. I am attaching that article to this email; please read it as it has pertinent information beyond what I knew. *[excerpts from Howie's article are included in this posting]*

However, I want to add to the information since it is now over eleven years old. I have spoken with each of the RMFMS Past Presidents who have served since 2006. I want all of you to know that none of them consider the tradition of the HAT to be bullying, hazing, intimidating, or coercing! In fact each considers it a privilege and an honor to have been able to wear the HAT and are supportive of the tradition. The HAT originally belonged to Ralph Platt, who was President of the RMFMS in 1954-55. Ralph was a much beloved person in our Federation and just passed away two or three years well up into his 90s. In 1986 the Federation Show and Convention was held in Arizona. On one of the field trips Alice Smith, who was the RMFMS Vice President, forgot to bring her hat. Alice had health problems and needed to have her head shaded from the Arizona summer sun, so Ralph gave his hat to her. That is the hat that became and still is the President's HAT. The HAT was worn by Presidents from 1987 through 1995 without an Operating Procedure concerning it. It was determined that an OP was needed and it was

written primarily by John Alf, a past RMFMS President who passed away in his 90s just this past year. It was adopted at the Delegates meeting in 1995.

Now, what else is positive about the HAT? When the person wearing the HAT walks into a Rocky Mountain or American Federation meeting, the others there know who he or she is. It is the symbol of leadership in the RMFMS. When I first attended the big Denver Show as President, most of the people there didn't know me yet. But they recognized the HAT and knew I was the President. Rockhounds from several clubs came up, introduced themselves, talked with me, and told me how glad they were that I was there supporting their show. This is something that is repeated at shows and meetings all over the Rocky Mountain Federation and in other Federations as well. I certainly discovered this when I was AFMS Vice President and President and had to attend Regional Federation Shows all across the United States.

When I became RMFMS President in 2005, I determined that I was going to have as much fun as I could with the HAT and try to rack up the largest fine yet given for improper wearing of the HAT (but I was too good in Stillwater in 2006 and only got fined maybe \$20.)

Understand also that the 'fine' is paid as a donation to the AFMS Scholarship Foundation, which is able to award \$48,000 in Scholarships each year to graduate Geoscience students. I succeeded the next year by doing all I could to bait the Past Presidents, who make up the HAT Committee.

continued on next page

The President's Hat — continued from page 14

In Roswell in 2007 during the Awards Banquet while the Committee was meeting, I decided to wear the hat on my hand instead of my head and said I wasn't fearful of getting fined because the Past Presidents were 'actually just a bunch of teddy bears.' (I had done a couple of things earlier too.) I was assessed a \$40 fine, which I promptly blamed on my wife Linda, who was sitting next to me at head table, saying she was the one who had forced me to do these things.

At that point she informed the committee that I had moved Federation property from my car to the hotel while not wearing the hat; the fine increased to \$50. When I was President again in 2016, I decided that I wanted to break my record for the largest fine yet assessed by baiting the Past Presidents even further. Again, I succeeded and gladly so. I really had fun with the HAT. I also enjoyed decorating the HAT with various bands, feathers, Navajo and Cherokee pins, etc.

Stan Nowak served as President after me. He wore the HAT not only to the 2008 RMFMS Convention in Tulsa but to club meetings and shows all over our area. Another member of his club, John Worden, made sure to report to the President's Hat Committee if Stan failed to wear the HAT. He tells me that he was fined maybe \$20 or \$25. The

following year in 2009, because of health reasons, Stan was unable to attend the Convention in Roswell. Yonis Lone Eagle was the Vice President at the time and so at the Delegates meeting, the OP was amended to designate the Vice President to wear the HAT in the absence of the President. Yonis did so with distinction, and I don't think he was fined.

Bill Smith followed as the next President and was almost perfect in the wearing of the HAT. Bill found, as I had, that when he attended the Denver Show and shows or meetings elsewhere, including meetings in other AFMS Regions, that people knew who he was and what he represented. People talked to him and told him how much they appreciated his being at their functions. Now, it seems that Bill's wife, Janet, felt he should be fined over something, so she told Bob Carlson that Bill took the HAT off when he took a shower at the Colorado Springs Show – thus a fine of \$10. Bill is a very strong supporter of the tradition of the President's HAT.

DeLane Cox loved the HAT, too, and decorated it with peacock feathers, a band with sequins, and an amethyst hat pin. She actually did a pretty good job

continued on next page



Where in the RMFMS is Rocky?

- South Dakota?
- Texas?
- Utah?

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Photo left, Felix Wong, CC BY 4.0

Answers on page 20.



The President's Hat — continued from page 15

of wearing the hat with just a few slip-ups. She recalls that her fines were about \$20 at the Federation Shows in both Albuquerque and Sandy, Utah. Now, the AFMS Show in Jacksonville, Florida was another matter. I managed to get pictures of DeLane minus hat at a couple of official functions. I think we fined her maybe another \$10.

Diane Weir followed DeLane. Diane is Howie Whiting's daughter and so of course understood about the HAT. I think she had as much fun with the HAT as I did and tried to break my record for a fine by baiting the Past Presidents just like I did. In Tulsa the HAT appeared on the Vice President, Jeri House, at an official function and in Cody, Wyoming it appeared on Ben Thomas, the husband of our RMFMS Secretary at the Awards Banquet so, of course, fines were assessed. Diane really decorated the HAT. It was adorned with fancy broach pins, crystals, flowers, and beaded bands to match the colors of different outfits she wore.

Here are excerpts from Howie Whiting's article about the HAT in the 2006 RMFMS News. One Past President has described it as "Priceless."

"Ask any military man and he will tell you that a hat is a symbol of authority and prestige. But ask a desert rat and he will tell you a hat is a necessity for survival. Both are correct as was well known by Ralph Platt, a Past President of the Rocky Mountain Federation. Ralph led many field trips into the deserts of Arizona and New Mexico wearing an old felt hat with a wide brim. However, on one of those trips a young lady by the name of Alice Smith was having trouble, and Ralph presented her with his hat telling her to wear it with pride as it was assisting her to survive. Alice did wear the hat and, to honor Ralph, wore it as President of the RMFMS during the AFMS/RMFMS show in Oklahoma City in 1987.

Now it so happened that at that show a group of individuals including myself was trying to find a way

to raise money to present the Big Topaz to the Smithsonian. When I asked Dixie Alf for a donation, she replied that if I wore the HAT during the Banquet she would donate \$25.00 to the fund. Agreed. So there I was, sitting at the head table with my wife in formal dress and me in my Sunday-Go-To-Meeting clothes, wearing the HAT. Several people commented, but not too loudly. Dixie paid the \$25.00.

The next morning Alice Smith and Jim Howell, President of the AFMS, gave me, as the incoming RMFMS President, the HAT and gave instructions to wear it on as many occasions as possible. Unfortunately this conversation was overheard by John Mastin, the New Mexico State Director who, upon returning to Roswell, informed the Chaparral Rockhounds that I was to wear the HAT at ALL Functions. He also suggested that the club assist me in performing this honor by fining me a dollar for the Scholarship Fund for any Function I attended without the HAT. Further, he defined a Function as any occasion where there were three or more rockhounds present.

Think about it! If I opened the door of my home and a man and wife (rockhounds) were there, I made three and didn't have the HAT on. If I stepped out of my trailer when camping and two people were outside, I made three without the HAT on. Standing in line at the pharmacy waiting for my prescription, I would turn around and see two smiling couples from the club and me without the HAT. And at every club meeting John would present the bill for that month's sins of omission. By the end of the year I would get up in the morning, put the HAT on, and then reach for my pants. Finally, my term was up and I could pass the HAT to my successor.

My wife and I flew to Bismarck, ND with the HAT in the luggage. Wouldn't you know, when we arrived at the hotel to check in, there was John Mastin with notebook in hand along with two smiling rockhounds.

continued on next page

The President's Hat — continued from page 16

However, I did pass it on to my successor, **Earl Campbell**, at the Pitchfork Fondue along with suggestions to his club. We don't know his performance since ND is so far north that we couldn't check up on him, but it was reported he did wear the HAT at most functions.

That wasn't the case with his successor. **Aldine Fireng** of El Paso filled the HAT with newspapers since it was too large for her. Unfortunately during the hot summer months a certain amount of moisture was generated, the ink ran, and Aldine had the craziest hair coloring you ever saw. Her husband was not amused. However, Aldine solved the problem in true executive fashion by replacing the newspaper with the more practical toilet paper, shampooed her hair, and soldiered on. She was watched closely and did her duty.

Dan Lingelbach wore the HAT at most functions and passed it on to **Art Pavin** who liked it so much (it was reported) he wore it to bed. This was never confirmed, however. **Dixie Lee Alf** inherited the HAT and wondered what Federation regulation required it. All she could see was an undefined group of self-appointed old codgers, acting without any authority. She was right. The HAT had been voluntary and most President's were supportive. But what would happen if one simply refused to wear the HAT? Something had to be done! Several meetings of Past Presidents were held and finally John Alf suggested an OP. Since he suggested it, he got to write it. In 1995 John presented his OP to the House of Delegates and moved that it be adopted. I seconded the motion. There was a rather lively discussion about the matter, and even though incoming President **Bob Carlson** voted against the motion, it passed with a large margin. The HAT was now official with rules and sanctions for noncompliance. **Richard Goodnough** was the last President to wear the HAT unsupervised. . .

By now the HAT had made the AFMS circuit two times. It had been in the State of Washington and in the Deep South, it had traveled to New York, California, and points in between. When seen it was immediately recognized as being worn by the President of the RMFMS and given respect. For it takes a certain amount of courage to wear the HAT, just as it takes a certain amount of courage to be President of the RMFMS. *[Editor's note: Cinda Kunkler, RMFMS Historian, is creating a special publication with the history of the HAT and photos of all the RMFMS Presidents wearing the HAT.]*

*Do you recognize the **HAT** and the recent presidents below?*



Annual Victor Gem & Mineral Show (and More!)

Southern Teller County Focus Group

Historic Victor, Colorado Holds Annual Gem and Mineral Show & Kicks off Summer of Free Live Music Concerts

The annual Victor Gem & Mineral Show presented by the Southern Teller County Focus Group (STCFG) in Victor, Colorado will be held June 19-21. The event offers a unique way to spend Father's Day weekend in the cool and sunny mountain air. Bring Dad to Victor, find a pet rock, learn to pan for gold, take a mine tour, and take in some free live music. The show will be held in downtown historic Victor and is open and free to the public.

The show will include vendors selling 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.

Saturday night, June 20*, the City of Victor will sponsor free live music on the Pinnacle Park Plaza stage. Come enjoy a cold drink and take in the concert, shop for gems and jewelry, and relax in the mountain air. This is the first in a series of summer concerts hosted by the city. Concerts are free and are

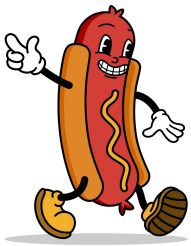
scheduled for several Saturday nights through August.

Friday through Sunday SSR Cripple Creek & Victor Gold Mining will offer yours of the modern gold mine. Victor Main Street will host a kid's pet rock event, and local businesses will host special events.

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 the museum hosts gold panning for kids of all ages. The museum also houses a mineral collection as well as historic mining equipment displays, photos, and displays in the old hotel rooms on the upper floor. 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 Gold Camp 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. The Victor Elks will be grilling on the lodge porch.

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



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.

- **Scientists find perfect fossils in rust beneath Australian farmland**

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2026/04/260423031536.htm>

- **Mount Vesuvius – Italy**

<https://geology.com/volcanoes/vesuvius/>

- **Lithium in Eastern States Could Replace Imports for a Century or More**

<https://www.usgs.gov/news/national-news-release/lithium-eastern-states-could-replace-imports-a-century-or-more>

Upcoming Shows and Events in the RMFMS

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, @ .

5/1-3/2026	McPherson Gem & Mineral Club	4-H Fairgrounds, 710 W Woodside, McPherson, KS	Larry Hackney, 203.247.4300; larryrocks538@gmail.com; www.mgmc.club
5/2-3/2026	Southern Nevada Gem & Mineral Society	Boulder City Spring Jamboree, 900 Arizona St, Boulder City, NV	Orville Wiemers, sngmsjamboreeshowchair@gmail.com; www.SNGMS.net
5/2-3/2026	Mohave County Gem & Mineral Show	Mohave County Fairgrounds, 2600 Fairgrounds Blvd, Kingman, AZ 86401	mcgemstoners.org
5/9/2026	Arizona Fossil Fest	Pinal Geology & Mineral Museum, 351 N Arizona Blvd, Coolidge, AZ	
5/15-17/2026	Cache Rock & Gem Club	Cache County Events Center, 450 South 500 West, Logan, UT	Brett Fannesbeck, crgc.showmanager@gmail.com; cacherockandgemclub.com
5/19-21/2026	Sublette County Rockhounds	Sublette County Fairgrounds, Event Center, 10937 Hwy 189, Big Piney, WY	Jim Gray, 307.260.6442; email jimgray@wyoming.com
5/29-30/2026	Bighorn Basin Rock Show	Park County Fairgrounds, 655 E 5th Street, Powell, WY	https://bighornbasinrockshow.com ; contact Greg Jones, 281.224.2694; cody59ers@wsmsg.org
6/11-15/2026	Friends of Mineralogy Colorado Chapter, 2026 Symposium	Colorado School of Mines, Golden, CO	friendsofmineralogycolorado.org/symposium
6/19-21/2026	Southern Teller County Focus Group (STCFG)	Victor Gem & Mineral Show, Victor Elks Lodge No. 367, Victor, CO	STCFG.com
6/19-21/2026	Wyoming State Gem & Mineral Show, hosted by Sublette County Rockhounds	Sublette Co. Fairgrounds Event Center, 10937 Hwy 189, Big Piney, WY	Jim Gray, jimgray@wyoming.com or Mike Schaffer, maschaffer61@gmail.com
9/4-6/2026	Grant County Rolling Stones Gem & Mineral Society	Grant County Veterans Memorial Business & Conference Center, 3031 Hwy 180E, Silver City, NM	Jeannine Weiner, 575.654.4424, email: rockshow@grantcountyrockhounds.org
9/4-7/2026	Northwest Nebraska Rock Club	Crawford City Park, Crawford, NE	Valerie, 308.430.4404 or Wade, 308.430.1399, wadebeins87@gmail.com

Below are upcoming regional federation shows:

	California Federation	Eastern Federation	Midwest Federation	Northwest Federation	Rocky Mountain Federation	South Central Federation	Southeast Federation
2026	Reno, NV September 18-20	Charleston, WV October 16-18	AFMS/MWF St. Charles, IL May 22-24	Missoula, MT March 20-22	Tulsa, OK July 9-12	Houston, TX November 13-15	
2027			West Bend, WI March 5-7				AFMS/SFMS TBD



RTM TULSA ROCK & GEM SHOW

Exchange Center at Expo Square
4145 E 21st St
Tulsa, OK 74114

Also hosting
Rocky Mountain
Federation Convention

- Rocks
- Gems
- Minerals
- Fossils
- Jewelry
- Free Kid Zone
- Demonstrations
- Fluorescent Display
- Collection Displays
- Silent Auction

July 10-12, 2026

\$7 Adults
\$12 All Show Pass
Kids 12 and under free with adult admission

Military and First Responders free with ID
Scouts free in uniform

9-6 Fri & Sat
10-5 Sun

trmsok.org

Mark Your Calendars & Make Your Plans!

The **RMFMS Convention** is being hosted by the Tulsa Rock & Mineral Society this year, July 10-12. Packets were mailed in late April. They will also be sent as a separate email this month.

There will be field trips every day of the show. Did you see the show "teasers" in this issue?

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 5, 13, and 15:

- page 5: Partially devitrified obsidian, Obsidian Cliff, Yellowstone, **Wyoming**
- page 11: Chalk & impure chalk, Niobrara Formation, Monument Rocks, **Kansas**
- page 15: Carhenge, Alliance, **Nebraska**

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



Reminder:

Advertise your Show in as many Free locations as possible!

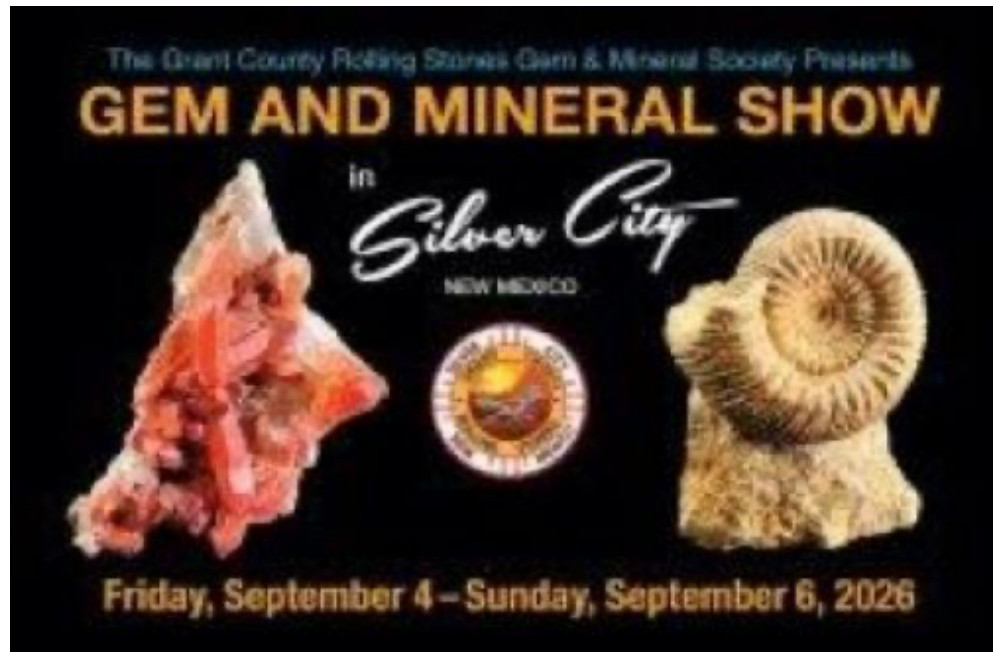
- Local newspapers
- Current events sections
- Local TV stations
- Community Calendars
- Other local shows

Advertise in the Rock & Gem Magazine!

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

www.rockandgem.com/show-date-submissions/

Info from CFMS Newsletter, April 2024



**SOUTHERN NEVADA
GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY**

**GEM AND MINERAL
SHOW** First Weekend
in May
BOULDER CITY, NV

FREE ADMISSION

Saturday 9am - 5pm Sunday 9am - 4pm

Rock and Mineral Displays
Gems, Jewelry & Crafts Sale
Great Activities For Kids
Dinosaur Pics & Selfies
Geode Cutting

See You There!

Saturday 9am - 5pm Sunday 9am - 4pm

**Scan Here for
Directions**

**900 Arizona St
Boulder City, NV**

Inside the Parks and Recreation Gymnasium

First Weekend in May

900 Arizona Street, Boulder City, NV
Inside the Parks & Recreation Gymnasium
sngmsjamboreeshowchair@gmail.com

Saturday 9am - 5pm Sunday 9am - 4pm

springjamboree.com
www.snvngms.org
sngmsjamboreeshowchair@gmail.com



Free Admission!
Plenty of free parking!

Gem and Mineral Show

May 2nd and 3rd

Hours:
Saturday 9 am to 5pm
Sunday 9 am to 4pm

Join us for a fun day of activities with the family!

Silent auction, Educational Displays,
Activities for the kids, Door prizes every
half hour and more!
And Lots of live demonstrations
presented by MCC and many
others.

Location:
Mohave County Fairgrounds
2600 Fairgrounds Blvd.
Kingman, AZ 86401

mccgemstoners.org



THE PINAL GEOLOGY AND MINERAL MUSEUM
AND JOHN CHRISTIAN PRESENT

ARIZONA FOSSIL FEST 2026

SATURDAY, MAY 9
351 N. ARIZONA BLVD, COOLIDGE, AZ
10AM-4PM

HAVE YOUR FOSSILS IDENTIFIED BY EXPERTS
FREE EVENT!

BIGHORN BASIN ROCK SHOW

**MAY
29-30
2026**

Fri 1pm-7pm
Sat 9am-5pm

Location:
Park County Fairgrounds
Powell, WY

Admission \$5
Kids 12 & under FREE

Gems • Minerals • Fossils
Kids Activities

For More Information:
www.bighornbasinrockshow.com



FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY COLORADO CHAPTER 2026 SYMPOSIUM:

COLORADO 150

Celebrating 150 Years of Colorado Statehood

Featuring presentations on Colorado Mineralogy, field trips, workshops, mineral auctions, & more!

General Registration Now Open (Field Trips and Workshops will be announced in early 2026; register now for priority field trip and workshop sign up)

REGISTER HERE:



June 11th - 15th, 2026
at Colorado School of Mines in Golden, CO

friendsofmineralogycolorado.org/symposium

Sublette County Rockhounds  hosting the annual
Wyoming State Mineral & Gem Society

Gem & Mineral Show

Our Club's **10th Anniversary** 

June 19-21, 2026
Friday & Saturday, 9am - 5pm
Sunday, 9am - 3pm 

Sublette Co. Fairgrounds
Event Center, 10937 Hwy 189
Big Piney, Wyoming

Vendors Demonstrators Exhibits Presentations
Field Trips Kid's Activities Raffles
Door Prizes Silent Auction & MORE!

Food Concessions & Camping On-site

Contact: Jim Gray jimgray@wyoming.com or Mike Schaffer maschaffer61@gmail.com

VICTOR GEM AND MINERAL SHOW

JUNE 19-21, 2026

FREE ADMISSION
VISIT STCFG.COM FOR DETAILS VICTOR, COLORADO

Join Us In Downtown Victor, Colorado, City of Gold Mines
Fri/Sat 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sun 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

COLORADO MINERALS, GEMS, HAND CRAFTED JEWELRY,
FOSSILS, ROUGH SLABS, SPECIMENS, CABOCHONS, GEODES

GOLD & GEM PANNING

STCFG.COM

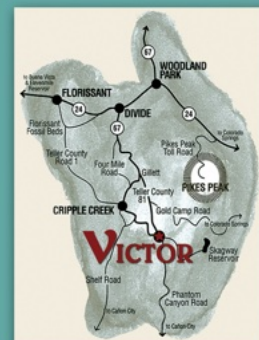
GEM SHOW SPONSORS



VICTOR ELKS
LODGE No 367



CRIPPLE CREEK & VICTOR



2025-2026 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	<cccrocks25 at gmail.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	Steve Bohannon, MD	<bohannon_steve at yahoo.com>
KS	Larry Beck	<Lkbeckfam at gmail.com>
ND/SD/NE	Lori Loomis	<sdnestatedirector at gmail.com>
NM/TX	Donna Regner	<Dwanna7 at aol.com>
OK/AR	Roberta Wagle	<waglemom at gmail.com>
UT	Daniel Ahlemann	<ahlemann.rockandgemclub at gmail.com>
WY	Leane Gray	<lgray at wyoming.com>

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2025-2026 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>

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2025-2026 Committee Chairs – *continued*

Parliamentarian	Gene Maggard	<gandpmaggard at gmail.com>
PLAC - AZ	Chuck Greenhawt	<cegcag at gmail.com>
PLAC - CO		<>
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	<rmfmssafety2024@gmail.com>
Scholarship Committee	Richard Jaeger	<RjgrSci at aol.com>
Stationery/Trophies	Ben Thomas	<myretirementrocks at gmail.com>
Supplies	Lori Loomis	<sdnestatedirector 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	<tyler@cacherockandgemclub.com>
Website Contest	Leane Gray	<Lgray at wyoming.com>

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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 April 2026 issue. Deadline for articles is March 15, 2026.

- 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.

