



Arcadia Round Barn along Route 66 in Oklahoma. Photo by Robby Robinette, CC BY-SA 3.0.



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

President's Message*Jim Gray, RMFMS President*

Summer has begun, and rock shows throughout the federation are in full swing. This is a particularly fun time of year filled with rock shows, club field trips, BBQs, and time spent with family and friends. As I write this in May, I am planning on going to St. Charles, Illinois, for the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) convention. Watch for pictures and articles in the June and July *RMF News* about these events, and so much more.



In July is the annual RMFMS convention in Tulsa, Oklahoma this year. It is shaping up to be another amazing convention and show at the Exchange Center, 4145 East 21st Street. Convention activities begin Thursday, July 9 and continue through the morning of Sunday, July 12. The gem and mineral show hosted by the Tulsa Rock and Mineral Society will be Friday through Sunday, July 10-12. You won't want to miss the convention meetings and activities or the gem and mineral show! It will be a fun and informative weekend. There are convention details, delegate and proxy forms, showcase entry forms, and more in this issue of *RMF News* and on the rmfms.org website. If you have never been to a RMFMS convention event this might be your year to jump in -- I do not believe you will be sorry.

Although we all get frustrated with computers, AI, and the internet now and again, I am pleased with the access to information we have at our fingertips in our homes sitting in comfy chairs. Of course, this comes with the warning that not all things on the internet are true or accurate, but usually a little research will clarify the questionable areas. I found a 2026 USGS.gov publication called **Fossil Footprints and Ice Age Ecosystems of White Sands National Park** with a reader-friendly summary and informative pictures and diagrams of a discovery in south-central New Mexico. The researchers found footprints of several animals and humans. It is interesting; you may want to check it out at <https://pubs.usgs.gov/fs/2025/3046/fs20253046.pdf>

TRMS/RMFMS Show Invitation

Roberta Wagle, TRMS President



Dear Rockhounds,

On behalf of the Tulsa Rock and Mineral Society, I would like to welcome you to our annual show and the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies 2026 Convention.



Established in 1958, the Tulsa Rock and Mineral Society remains a vibrant community with an active membership and an excellent Pebble Pups program. We are fortunate to maintain close relationships with two local museums that house our club's rock shops:

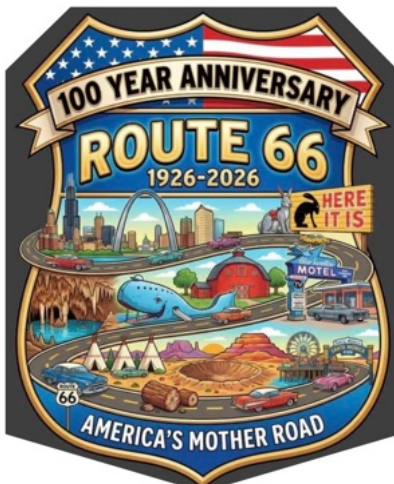
- The Elsing Museum: Located at Oral Roberts University, this free museum features a vast collection of minerals, gems, fossils, and artifacts. Our long-time member and geologist, Claude Bolze, serves as the past curator.
- The DW Correll Museum: Located in Catoosa, this unique institution displays antiques, rocks, minerals, and vintage automobiles. We are pleased to have the museum's curator, Eric Hamshar, as a long-time member and our current show chair.

This is an especially exciting year for Tulsa. In addition to the show and convention, the area is hosting celebrations for the **100th anniversary of Route 66** and the **250th anniversary of the United States**. As the capital of Route 66, Tulsa offers 28 miles of historic road to explore, leading to landmarks such as the iconic Blue Whale in Catoosa.

Thank you for joining us. We hope you enjoy the show and the many activities our city has to offer.

Sincerely,

Roberta Wagle, TRMS President



Did you miss the Convention Packet?

RMFMS Secretary Liz Thomas sent out the Convention Packet last month. Just in case you missed it, some of the forms you might need are included in this newsletter. The complete packet is available on the RMFMS website at:

https://www.rmfmts.org/_files/ugd/1aadcc_bf2e9267596a4363b04659b735ded9cc.pdf

Welcome to Tulsa, Oklahoma!

Judy Beck, McPherson Gem & Mineral Club



It is exciting to be coming to the Tulsa, Oklahoma area. Several years ago we discovered the **Oklahoma Route 66 Passport Program**. At Rest Areas along the highway you can pick up your very own Route 66 passport. The passport is divided into the eastern, central, and western regions and explores unique sites along Route 66. The eastern section begins in Quapaw, Oklahoma and travels through Tulsa, ending in Depew, Oklahoma.

At each site visited a stamp is placed in your passport. When you complete a section return to one of the Rest Areas, and

they will give you a piece of a magnet. Complete each section to have the whole magnet (we are working on the Big Blue Whale of Catoosa). When you have completed the entire route you will receive a commemorative coin. Along the way, you will come to find some little known facts about Oklahoma, experience some really good food, and

develop a love for the beautiful state of Oklahoma!



Left: Route 66 Gate, Tulsa, OK



Above: Shopping for the perfect souvenir in Sapulpa, OK

Right: Route 66 Historical Village in Tulsa, OK



All photos courtesy of Judy Beck.

continued on next page

Welcome to Tulsa, Route 66— continued from page 4



Bristow Historical Museum and Depot in Bristow, OK



Heart of Route 66 Auto Museum in Sapulpa, OK



Buck Atom's Cosmic Curios on 66 in the Meadow Gold District, Tulsa, OK

Editor's Note: Here are some fun facts regarding Route 66, from Jean Kuhn's FaceBook post on Historic Route 66.

- April 30, 1926 is when 66 was selected as the number for the new highway.
- November 11, 1926 Route 66 was officially commissioned for the Chicago to Los Angeles highway.
- In 1939 John Steinbeck published his book, *The Grapes of Wrath*. He dubbed Route 66 as "The Mother Road."
- In 1946 "Get Your Kicks on Route 66" was recorded by the King Cole Trio.
- Route 66 is a highway of 2448 miles that starts in Chicago, Illinois and ends in Santa Monica, California, covering eight states along the way.
- Arizona has the longest continuous stretch of historic Route 66, which begins 17 miles east of Seligman at exit 139 and goes all the way to the California border, a distance of 158 miles.



Where in the RMFMS is Rocky?

- Arizona?
- New Mexico?
- Oklahoma?

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Photo at left by rawpixel.com/Carol M. Highsmith
Answers on page 20.

Club Corner: Southern Nevada Gem & Mineral Society

Mary Savage, SNGMS



Southern Nevada Gem & Mineral Society Booth at the Henderson, Nevada Art Festival, May 9-10, 2026.

The booth was so popular we ran out of flyers!

Left to right: Mary Beth Paladino, Wendy Dresser, and two Kids Club members.

Photo courtesy of Dave Ford

[Editor's Note: What a great way to use public relations to create interest in your club!]

Club Corner: Grand Junction Gem & Mineral Club

JoAnn Piburn, GJGMC

The Grand Junction Gem & Mineral Club is in the process of building a silversmithing studio to separate it from the lapidary shop. This will allow us to have more classes and better noise control.

We will also have a Members Rock Sale on June 13th with some of the proceeds going to the members and some to the rock club. Members can get rid of rocks that they don't need. It is open to the public.

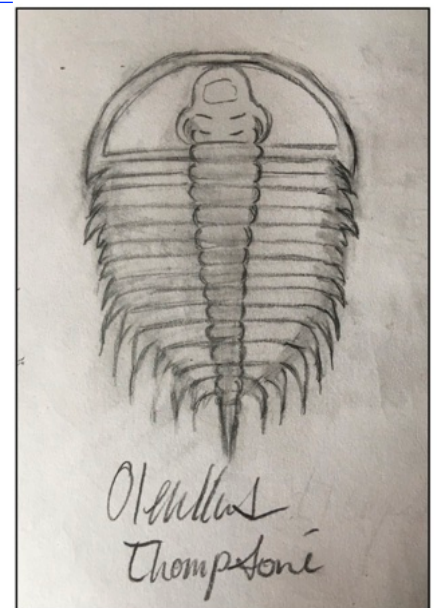
~JoAnn Piburn 970-778-5333

Trilobite of the Month: *Olenillus thompsoni*

Charlotte Small, Flatirons Mineral Club

Olenillus thompsoni is found in the lower Cambrian. It has many characteristic little spines protruding from its torso and possesses a small pygidium and a large, semi-circular cephalon. Not much is known about the species, but others of the same genus have unusually long pygidiums. It is unknown why.

From Flatirons Facets, May 2026



Club Corner: NE Wyoming Rock Hounds

Dennis A. Brown, NE Wyoming Rock Hounds

On May 9, 2026, The Northeast Wyoming Rock Hounds were treated to an amazing educational experience. John Harvey, a paleontologist in our club, gave a fantastic demonstration and display of some of his fossils. John showed how he cleans, restores, and curates his extensive fossil collection. The lecture was incredibly interesting and informative. Pictured are some of the fossils, John demonstrating an abrasive cleaning technique, and members enjoying the presentation. *[All photos courtesy of Dennis A. Brown]*



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.

If you would like to attend one of these field trips, please contact **Peter Grice** at:

petergricetrms@gmail.com

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.



Blue Minerals from the Desert: Effenbergerite, Kröhnkite And Juangodyite

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

I am missing Tucson '26 and all of the activity associated with the shows and presentations. After spending February and March in a Tucson VRBO our Wisconsin home was reached early April after an 1800+ mile drive in less than three days. I sort of just rolled out of the car seat since my legs seemed stuck in a funny position. However, the pleasures of my home abode soon overrode the thoughts of those lonesome Interstate miles of eastern Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, and Oklahoma! And, Wisconsin has trees and water, big water, as the upper Mississippi River is only about a mile from my home. But, Wisconsin is still cool to cold in early April with good chances of snow. What I really missed was the Arizona spring weather — the warmth of the evenings and the cool nights that offered clear skies with minor ambient light and many bright celestial objects, including the March total Lunar Eclipse and Blood Moon. During this event the Sun, Earth, and Moon were exactly aligned, leaving the Moon completely enveloped in Earth's shadow, and the Moon actually turned blood red. Above my VRBO Jupiter was bright and clear in the low humidity sky while Venus was very bright in the low

western sky right after sunset. As for stars, I just followed the alignment of Orion's Belt right to the Dog Star, Sirius, the brightest star in the night sky. On March 20, the Vernal Equinox, I just plopped my derriere in a comfy reclining lawn chair and watched the night sky while dreaming about what might have happened decades and centuries ago at places like Stonehenge and Chaco Canyon. It doesn't take much to make an ole guy happy!



Lock and Dam #7 in the La Crosse area (Minnesota to the right, Wisconsin left). Interstate 90 bridge downstream. Photo public Domain.



The Upper Mississippi River near my home is about ~3 miles wide (alluvial floodplain ~5 miles) between the bluffs with the "main channel" (against the far western bluffs in Minnesota) and contains a wide variety of marshes, pools, and "back waters" (foreground) and looks much different than the levee enclosed ditch of the Lower Mississippi south of St. Louis (where it picks up the Missouri River) and the alluvial floodplain is ~50 miles wide).

Readers of my missives know that as a rockhound/collector ages: 1) mineral display space in their office and storage area decreases; and, 2) unless you have beaucoup bucks, larger, beautiful mineral crystals are best ogled at shows and in museums. But, several years ago a wise mineral collector told me about micromounts, including micros and thumbnails, and Perky Boxes. My collecting and buying habits immediately changed, especially when I purchased a cheap binocular scope online, discovered that many early members of my home Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society (CSMS) were

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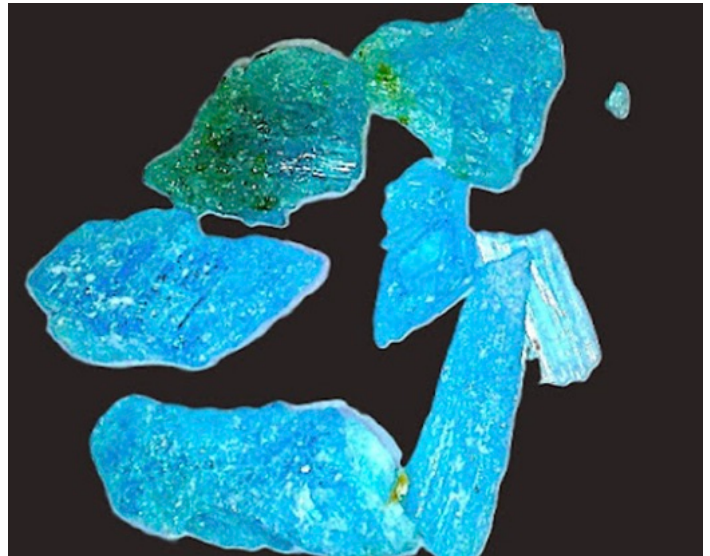
Blue Minerals — continued from page 9

micro collectors, found the Baltimore Mineral Club (home of the Micromounters Hall of Fame), noted that it does not take much space to store Perky Boxes, and that many/most micros display fantastic, often complete, crystals. Later in life I was able to purchase the Swift binoc of CSMS Charter Member Willard Wulff, and after several digital microscopes finally settled on a commercial Aven Mighty Scope. A few months ago, I took possession of a “super duper” AmScope with fantastic optics and a trinocular arrangement with camera. I am also trying to become a better photographer with a 35 mm camera with macro and micro lenses—the jury is still out with the latter setup. But as a lifelong learner I keep plugging away. Also, I continue to learn from my micro colleagues in the Baltimore Mineral Club, Canadian MicroMineral Association, and the Micro mineralogists of the National Capital Area.

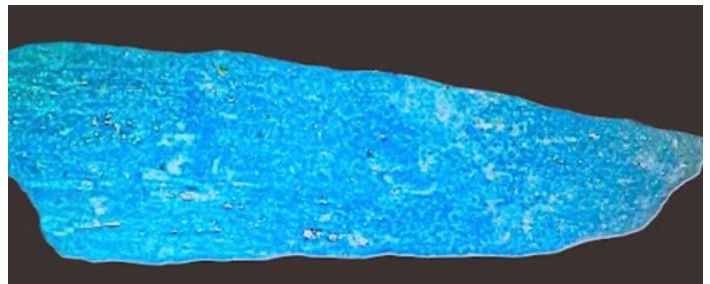
Readers also realize that I am partial to “blue minerals” as *blue color is everlastingly appointed by the deity to be a source of delight*. Therefore, I spent time at the shows looking for blue minerals in Perky Boxes and now wish to document a few uncommon blue micros from Tucson 26.

Kröhnkite is an uncommon, hydrated sodium copper sulfate $[\text{Na}_2\text{Cu}(\text{SO}_4)_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}]$, that forms in arid, oxidized zones of copper deposits. In fact, the type locality is the Chuquicamata Mine, Chile, in the famous Atacama Desert, and is the deepest (~3300 feet) and the largest open pit copper mine in the world. An AI article on Google described the Mine as a porphyry copper deposit (PCDs), one of the large-tonnage, low grade ore bodies associated with felsic magmatic intrusions and that are the world’s primary sources of copper. PCDs form in subduction-related convergent plate margins. The mineral deposits are created by metal-rich fluids associated with cooling magma chambers. As productivity of these large open pits

slows down after decades of mining, some of the mine operations simply stop, while others such as the Chuquicamata switch to underground mining to reach additional deposits. Chile, with its many mines, produces over a quarter of the global supply of copper.



Kröhnkite is an uncommon, hydrated sodium copper sulfate and the only good specimens come from the Chuquicamata Mine, Chile. Each specimen of this cluster displays the lamellar growth of crystals in parallel bundles best seen in the elongate form (length~1.0 cm) in right quadrant and shown below.



to collectors due to its color, sky-blue to pale blue to greenish blue to green with exposure to light, and its rarity. It is quite soft (Mohs) with equant to short prismatic Monoclinic crystals. At times kröhnkite occurs as crusts and granular aggregates.

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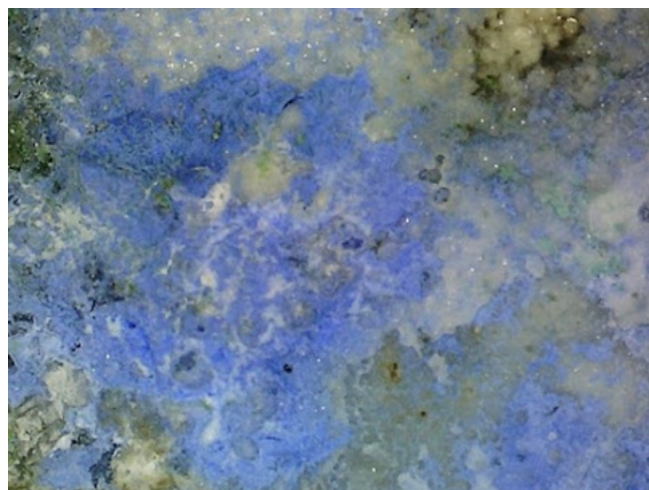
Blue Minerals— continued from page 10

Crystals are vitreous and translucent to transparent. Interestingly, heating kröhnkite to about 400 degrees F will drive out the water and form a new mineral saranchinaite, $\text{Na}_2\text{Cu}(\text{SO}_4)_2$. In the other direction, saranchinaite transforms into kröhnkite when exposed to open air at 87% relative humidity and ~77 degrees F for a week (Siidra and others, 2018).

And for a tongue twister, here is juangodyite, a sodium copper carbonate, $\text{Na}_2\text{Cu}(\text{CO}_3)_2$, whose Type Locality is the Santa Rosa Mine (described by MinDat as an adit within the now defunct Santa Rosa silver mining area), also in the Atacama Desert. The Chilean Desert is quite rich in mineral resources such as lithium, boron, gold, silver, iron and copper and contains the largest deposits of sodium nitrate (Chile saltpeter, NaNO_3). The latter mineral had a long history of usage as a major ingredient in gunpowder. In fact, the mining of sodium nitrate was the largest mining operation in Chile until the invention of synthetic nitrate in the early 20th Century. Wars and border disputes were fought until it all blew up (not gunpowder) via synthetics and something like 175 towns and mining districts were

abandoned. Today the Atacama is the major source of iodine-bearing minerals and of course copper.

The Atacama is known as the “driest place in the world” but also has a cold desert climate—mild temperatures with very little fluctuation and essentially a total lack of precipitation. It is a plateau stretching about 1000 miles situated between the Andes Mountains and the Chilean Coast Range which create a giant and permanent rain shadow.



*Ultramarine crust of juangodyite ps. chalconatronite.
Width FOV ~ 5 mm.*

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Where in the RMFMS is Rocky?

- Arizona?
- New Mexico?
- Oklahoma?

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Photo left by Zach Wade, Historic Route 66 on FaceBook



Answers on page 20.

Blue Minerals— continued from page 11

Enlargement better showing the <5 μm pseudomorphs of juangodoyite on tiny laths of chalconatronite Width FOV ~3.0 mm.

Juangodoyite is a rare, secondary mineral from the oxidation zone of polymetallic ore deposits. It is an earthy mineral with a vivid ultramarine color. It is a fine-grained pseudomorph (crystallites up to 5 μm in size) replacing chalconatronite, a hydrated sodium copper carbonate that usually occurs as thin laths ($\text{Na}_2\text{Cu}(\text{CO}_3)_2 \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$). Due to the pseudomorph nature and the small size of the crystallites very few optical and physical properties are known. Juangodoyite will rehydrate to chalconatronite within a few hours of immersion in water. MinDat only describes two localities for Juangodoyite: 1) the Type Locality Santa Rosa in Chile and 2) the Rudna-IX Shaft in Poland, a polymetallic mine. Kruszewski and others (2020) believe the “blue colouration is mainly provided by a yet unspecified Ni-, Co-, Mg-, and Mn-bearing Cu-Zn-Ca arsenate mineral close to parnaute, [a copper sulfate-arsenate].”

In looking at my micromount specimens from Tucson, I noticed effenbergerite ($\text{BaCuSi}_4\text{O}_{10}$) is a barium copper silicate of a nice blue color. As

usual, my brain began to wander and wonder, and I assumed the blue was related to the copper content but was this silicate a particular or named shade of blue, like the ultramarine color of juangodoyite. So, I called up my alter ego, Guy Noir Private Eye, and decided to find an answer to one of life's persistent questions—what color is effenbergerite? Boy, did I plunge off the 12th floor of the Acme building into something bluer than the lakes of St. Paul, MN (apologies to Garrison Keilor).

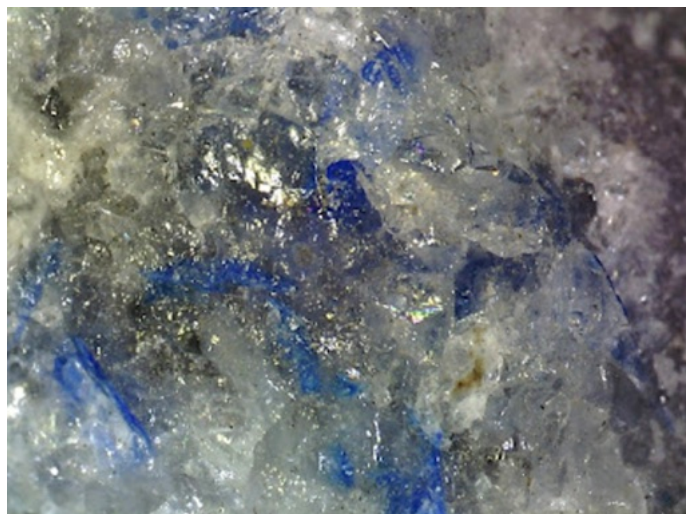
It seems as effenbergerite is not only blue but is the natural occurrence of the color Han Blue! Now, I did not have the slightest idea what defined Han Blue, hence calling in Guy Noir. It turns out that Han Blue is officially “blue in color, perhaps the purest” of the total blue color spectrum. Han Blue, AKA Chinese Blue, is closely related to Han Purple, or Chinese Purple, as both are pigments containing barium, copper, silicon, and oxygen that were developed in China. Han Blue ($\text{BaCuSi}_4\text{O}_{10}$) is more chemically and thermally stable than Han Purple ($\text{BaCuSi}_2\text{O}_6$) and does not break down when subjected to dilute acids, and it becomes more bluish when ground while Han Purple becomes more purplish when ground (Berke, 2002).

If you have your own garage lab, and have a few common minerals and want to make some Han Blue pigments like the Han Destiny Chinese, then follow the recipe described by Berke and Wiedemann (2000): heat a mixture of either witherite (BaCO_3) or barite (BaSO_4), malachite ($\text{Cu}_2(\text{CO}_3)(\text{OH})_2$) and quartz (SiO_2) in the presence of a lead salt (carbonate {cerussite} or oxide {litharge or massicot}). The lead salts serve as a catalyst for the chemical reaction and also facilitate the melting of the raw materials.

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Blue Minerals— continued from page 12

Sounds great; however, most small-scale labs cannot create a temperature of 1000 degrees C needed for melting! Oh well, it sounded interesting. Berke (2007) explained the chemistry as: $\text{Cu}_2(\text{CO}_3)(\text{OH})_2 + 8 \text{SiO}_2 + 2 \text{BaCO}_3 \rightarrow 2 \text{BaCuSi}_4\text{O}_{10} + 3 \text{CO}_2 + \text{H}_2\text{O}$. Besides the production of Han Blue, carbon dioxide and water vapor are released. I find it amazing that the Chinese alchemists or chemists were able to synthesize and develop (between 1200-200 BCE) Han Blue and Han Purple. Perhaps the best-known use of the pigment was to decorate the well-known Terracotta Warriors.



Han Blue effenbergerite associated with clear quartz (I presume) from the Wessels Mine. Rob Lavinsky at irocks wrote (MinDat): "any effenbergerite is good effenbergerite, considering how rare the species is, and how few specimens ever reach the market. Width of top photo ~1.0 cm. Bottom photo a closer view."

Silicates with only Ba and Cu as essential structural constituents are relatively rare in nature and only two such minerals have been documented thus far,

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Where in the RMFMS is Rocky?

- Arizona?
- New Mexico?
- Oklahoma?

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Photo left, Daniel Schwen, CC BY-SA 4.0

Answers on page 20.



Blue Minerals — continued from page 13

including effenbergerite $\text{BaCuSi}_4\text{O}_{10}$ (Giester and Rieck, 1994) and scottyite $\text{BaCu}_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_7$, and both originate from the same locality, [Wessels Mine in the Kalahari Manganese Field] (Yang and others, 2013). Effenbergerite is a rather soft mineral (4+ Mohs), transparent to translucent, has a vitreous to resinous luster, a light blue streak and a brittle fracture.

The Wessels Mine, an underground operation, is located in the Kalahari Manganese Field, the world's most prolific producer of manganese. The deposits are in the Hotazel Formation of Proterozoic age (Precambrian) and are the largest land-based (deep sea deposits are larger but nearly impossible to mine) sedimentary manganese deposits in the world, perhaps covering ~425 sq. miles. The ore has been subjected to both hydrothermal alteration (temperatures up to 450°C) and to metamorphism. The Wessels Mine, according to MinDat, is the home of 127 minerals including 18 Types.

The origin of the giant manganese deposits has been debated for many years but remain controversial: "Proposed models cover a diverse spectrum of genetic processes, from large-scale epigenetic replacement mechanisms, to submarine volcanogenic-exhalative activity, to purely chemical sedimentation whereby the influence of volcanism is of reduced significance" (Tsikos and Moore, 2006).

One of the more interesting facts about effenbergerite turned up by Guy Noir is that "effenbergerite has been synthesized and used in specialized studies for the electrochemical detection of the antibiotic ciprofloxacin. It acts as a sensitive modifier for electrodes, allowing for the precise quantification of ciprofloxacin in pharmaceutical products, natural water, and wastewater effluents" (Muungani and others, 2022). Whoda thought.

I find it amazing that this rather rare and seemingly insignificant mineral can play a significant role in the biomedical field. What a wonderful piece of information I added to my personal knowledge field. I hope that info will last longer than my knowledge field of where I laid my car keys!

Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at twenty or eighty. Anyone who keeps learning stays young. The greatest thing in life is to keep your mind young. ~Henry Ford

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Blue Minerals — continued from page 14

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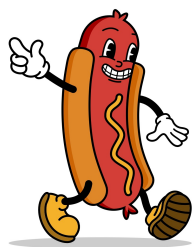
Quick Note — 2026 AFMS Bulletin Editor Awards for RMFMS

Congratulations to our RMFMS Editors, authors, and artists! We sent 28 entries to the AFMS Bulletin Editors Contest, and 27 of these were in the top 10 in their respective categories. Out of the 15 categories in which we had entries, RMFMS received 11 first place awards! AFMS awards are listed in the June *AFMS Newsletter*. RMFMS and AFMS awards will be presented in Tulsa at the Editors/Webmasters Breakfast, July 12. Complete results will be printed in the August *RMF Newsletter*.



Trophy With Red Ribbon.ai

Image by Vectorportal.com, CC BY



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 create global treasure map pointing to hidden rare earth deposits**

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2026/05/260525000450.htm>

- **USGS, NASA Map Critical Minerals from 65,000 Feet**

<https://www.usgs.gov/news/national-news-release/usgs-nasa-map-critical-minerals-65000-feet>

- **Labradorite**

<https://geology.com/gemstones/labradorite/>

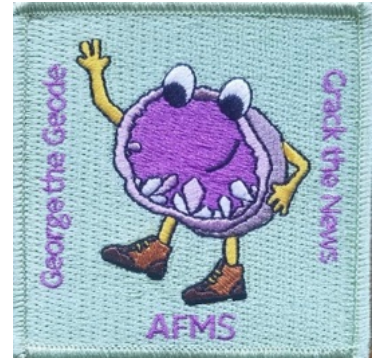
Latest Edition of *Crack the News*

Dennis Gertenbach, CTN Editor

The latest edition of *Crack the News*, the AFMS newsletter written by kids and teens for kids and teens is now available at <https://www.juniors.amfed.org/juniors-newsletter>. In this edition, juniors from around the country wrote about their favorites, including sunstones, fossils, ammonites, fluorescent minerals, and graptolites. See their stories about mining for gold and collecting in Central Oregon. And enjoy the Art Gallery featuring Kansas shark teeth, dinosaurs, and crystals. The last page features a geology radio star from Michigan. [See this article on the next page.]

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

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



We are looking for articles from juniors about their juniors club, including photos of their activities. Perhaps one of your juniors would like to write about their juniors club.

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

2026 RMFMS Convention —

MEALS for AWARDS BANQUET & EDITOR/WEBMASTER BREAKFAST

Awards Banquet, Saturday July 11, 2026

- Location: Hilton Garden Inn (4518 E Skelly Drive)
- 6 PM Happy Hour. Location: Hilton Garden Inn, this is a cash bar, and you can take your drinks into the Banquet room.
- 7 PM Dinner in the Regal Ballroom.

Menu is Chicken or Beef Kabobs, Chicken Wild Rice Soup, Toss Salad, Honey Glazed Carrots, Twice Baked Potatoes, Hot Rolls, Tea, Coffee, and dessert is Chef's Choice.

Breakfast for Editors and Webmasters, Sunday, July 12, 2026

- Location: Hilton Garden Inn (4518 E Skelly Drive)
- 8 AM Breakfast in the Ruby Room

Menu is Fresh Scrambled Eggs, Sausage Links, Hash Brown Potatoes, Assorted Breakfast Breads with Butter and Jams, Coffee, Tea, Orange Juice, and Fresh Fruit.

2026 RMFMS Convention Registration Form

The Tulsa Rock and Mineral Club (TRMS) welcome the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies (RMFMS) July 10 – 12 2026

Return Form and Check to:

TRMS

Box 2292

Tulsa, OK 74101

Name(s): _____

Phone: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Name of Club/Society: _____

Check all that apply: Federation: AFMS___ RMFMS___ SCFMS___ CFMS___ MWF___
EFMLS___ NFMS___ SFMS___ Office: Officer___ Chairman___ Delegate___ Alternate___
Editor___ Judge___ Clerk___ Other___ Exhibitor: _____

(Exhibitors must complete this form and the EXHIBITOR FORM)

Awards Banquet \$40.00 each (tax and tip included) x Number _____ Total\$ _____

Chicken Kabob

Awards Banquet \$40.00 each (tax and tip included)x Number _____ Total\$ _____

Beef Kabob

Editors Breakfast \$22.00 each (tax and tip included) x Number _____ Total\$ _____

= GRAND TOTAL \$ _____

Admission to the Show is \$7.00 at the gate. Kids 12 and under are free. Scouts in Uniform get in free. Military and First Responders with ID get in free. All Show passes are \$12.00.

Deadline for Registration is Saturday, June 20, 2026. Payments are non-refundable after July 1, 2026.

Going on Field Trip: Friday _____ Saturday _____ Sunday _____

Or contact Peter Grice at petergricetrms@gmail.com.

Convention Schedule: July 9-12, 2026

2026 RMFMS Convention

Date	Time	Activity	Location
Thursday, July 9	8 AM – 11 AM	Exhibit Cases Setup	Exchange Center, 4145 East 21st Street, Tulsa
	Around noon	Vendor Setup	Exchange Center, 4145 East 21st Street, Tulsa
	11:00 AM	Judge's Meeting	Exchange Center, 4145 East 21st Street, Tulsa
Friday, July 10		Field Trip	Ft. Gibson Lake
	9 AM – 6 PM	TRMS Show	Exchange Center, 4145 East 21st Street, Tulsa
	9:00 AM	Judging of competitive cases	Exchange Center, 4145 East 21st Street, Tulsa
	11 AM – 12:45 PM	RMFMS Delegate Registration	Hilton Garden Inn 4518 E Skelly Drive Regal Ballroom
	1:00 PM	RMFMS Board Meeting	Hilton Garden Inn 4518 E Skelly Drive Regal Ballroom
Saturday, July 11		Field Trip	West Highlands Park
	9 AM – 6 PM	TRMS Show	Exchange Center, 4145 East 21st Street, Tulsa
	11 AM – 12:45 PM	RMFMS Delegate Registration	Hilton Garden Inn 4518 E Skelly Drive Regal Ballroom
	1:00 PM	RMFMS Delegate Meeting	Hilton Garden Inn 4518 E Skelly Drive Regal Ballroom
	6:00 PM	Happy Hour	Hilton Garden Inn Lobby Area
	7:00 PM	Awards Banquet	Hilton Garden Inn 4518 E Skelly Drive Regal Ballroom
Sunday, July 12		Field Trip	Rivermist Casino, North of Ada
	8:00 AM	Editors Breakfast	Hilton Garden Inn 4518 E Skelly Drive Ruby Room
	10 AM – 5 PM	TRMS Show	Exchange Center, 4145 East 21st Street, Tulsa

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, @ .

6/5-7/2026	Pikes Peak Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show	Norris Penrose Event Center, 1045 Lower Gold Camp Road, Colorado Springs, CO	pikespeakgemshow.com
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
7/3-5/2026	LGGMG Gem & Mineral Show @ Cripple Creek	Hwy 67 from Divide OR Teller County Rd 1 from Florissant to Cripple Creek, Parking lot NW of Cripple Creek District Museum, 5th & Bennett Ave (east of Hwy 67)	
7/10-12/2026	RMFMS/Tulsa Rock & Gem Show	Exchange Center at Expo Square, 4145 E 21st St, Tulsa, OK 74114	trmsok.org
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
10/10-11/2026	Topeka Gem & Mineral Society 69th Annual Show	The Woodshed Event Center, 1901 N Kansas Ave, Topeka, KS	rock2plate@aol.com
10/30-11/1, 2026	Oklahoma Mineral & Gem Society Show	Modern Living Bldg, OKC State Fair Park, 608 Kiamichi Place, OKC, OK 73107	omgs-minerals.org

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		Logan, UT		AFMS/SFMS Huntsville, AL October (TBD)
2028					AFMS/RMFMS Scottsdale, AZ		



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. Some forms are in this newsletter.

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, 11, and 13:

- page 5: Gift shop along Route 66 in **Arizona**
- page 11: Pin monument at halfway point of Route 66 in OK; Wellston, **Oklahoma**
- page 13: Route 66 Diner in Albuquerque, **New Mexico**

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.



PIKES PEAK

GEM, MINERAL & JEWELRY SHOW

**5-7
JUNE
2026**

**NORRIS
PENROSE
EVENT
CENTER**



This year's theme:
**SOUTHWEST
COLORADO
MINERALS**

Over 50 gem, mineral, fossil and jewelry dealers!
PIKESPEAKGEMSHOW.COM

VICTOR GEM AND MINERAL SHOW

JUNE 19-21, 2026

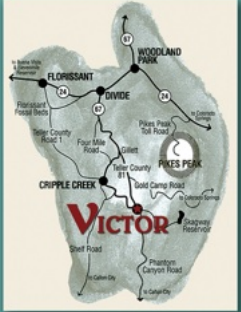
FREE ADMISSION
VISIT **STCFG.COM** FOR DETAILS VICTOR, COLORADO

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 №367**



SSR MINING CRIPPLE CREEK & VICTOR

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
Our Club's
 **Show** 
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

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:

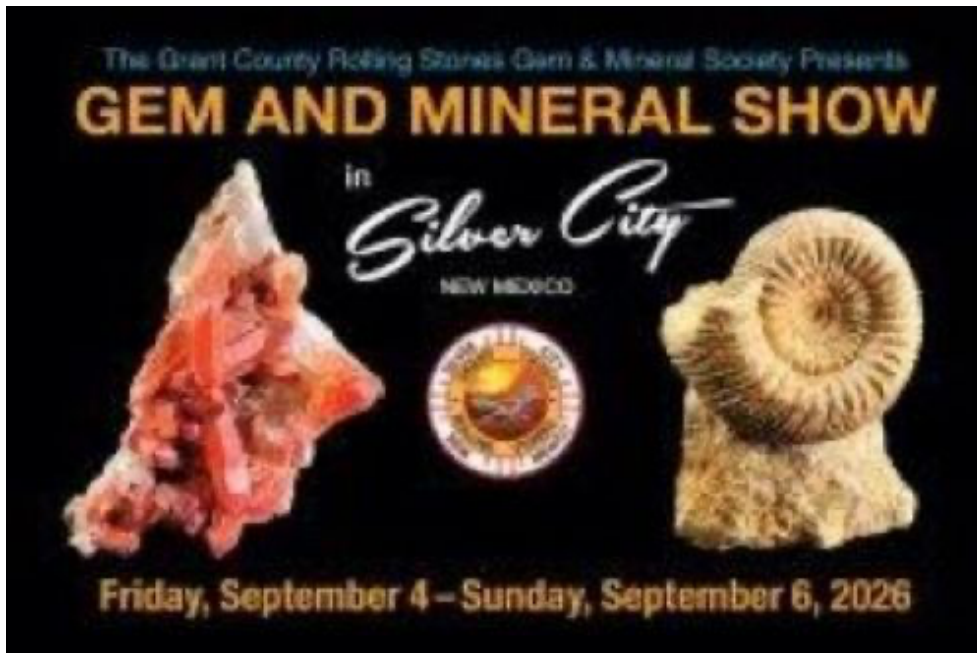
www.rockandgem.com/show-date-submissions/

Info from CFMS Newsletter, April 2024



26th Annual LGGMC GEM & MINERAL Show
@
CRIPPLE CREEK
July 3rd - 5th, 2026

Dave Bruess
LGGMC Patience Claim
Jefferson County CO



\$1.00 Off

The Topeka Gem & Mineral Society

69th Annual Show

October 10 – 11, 2026

The Woodshed Event Center

1901 N Kansas Ave, Topeka, Kansas

CASH ONLY AT DOOR

\$1.00 Off

Admission	Hours
Adult \$6.00 Student (13-17) \$2.00	SAT – 10 am - 6 pm
Child under 13 with Adult – FREE	SUN – 10 am – 5 pm
One Coupon Good For All Adults In Group	Email: rock2plate@aol.com

2026 Annual Mineral and Gem Show

Modern Living Building
OKC State Fair Park
608 Kiamichi Place,
OKC, OK 73107

Oct. 30th, 9-6
Oct. 31st, 9-6
Nov. 1st, 10-5

Daily Admission \$8 Kids Under 12 Free

Exhibits, Gemstones, Fossils, Earth Science Education, Tools, Rough Rocks, Crystals, Florescent Room, Artisan Jewelry and Children's Activities

Hosted By Oklahoma Mineral and Gem Society

omgs-minerals.org

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>

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.

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>

continued on next page

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>

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 July 2026 issue. Deadline for articles is June 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.

