



The Colorado River and Canyonlands National Park. Photo by Peter West Carey. CC BY-NC-SA 3.0.



March 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.

What's Inside:

President's Message.....2

Treasurer's Report3

ALAA Alert..... 4-6

AFMS Endowment Fund 7

Where in RMFMS is Rocky? ... 7,11,13,15

Ancient Turtle Fossil.....8-10

Colorado Ascent 11

Iowaite from the Basement..... 11-17

Brief Intermission for Levity..... 17

2026 Scholarship Opportunity18-19

Hot Links-Editor's Choice.....19

Upcoming Shows & Events..... 20

Plan Ahead-See the Show Flyers ...21-24

2025-26 Officers, Cmte Chairs.....25-27

RMFMS Purpose & Policies..... 28

AFMS Code of Ethics..... 28

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

President's Message

Jim Gray, RMFMS President

Advantages of Joining the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies (RMFMS)



From the RMFMS website: "The purpose of the Rocky Mountain Federation is to have a close association of all clubs in the Society to promote the study of earth sciences, including the lapidary arts, the study of fossils and paleontology, and related crafts."

The RMFMS was organized in 1941 and held its first annual convention at the Argonaut Hotel in Denver, Colorado. There were 16 organizations in attendance. The RMFMS became one of the original four founders of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies when it was organized in 1947.

The Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies covers local clubs in the following states:

Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, western Nebraska, New Mexico, Nevada, western North Dakota, Oklahoma, western South Dakota, Texas, Utah, and Wyoming."

There are many advantages of joining the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies (RMFMS) that have evolved from their long history, numerous members, and ground covered. It is important to note that membership in a regional federation automatically includes membership in the national federation – the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies – which further increases the range of experience, knowledge, and expertise available to all of the members. It is pretty amazing to think about how many people that covers!

At a local level, especially for new clubs, membership in these larger established Societies adds the impression of legitimacy, authenticity, and validity to the individual clubs. Additionally, the organizational guidance, assistance, and materials available from the regional and national groups are invaluable as there is no need to re-invent the wheel creating articles of incorporation, by-laws, forms, structure of

meetings, field trip forms, junior rock hound programs, video libraries, and many other resources available through the RMFMS, AFMS, and member clubs.

Membership in the larger organizations focused on earth sciences, lapidary arts, fossils, paleontology, and related crafts results in having a nearly endless number of people with whom to share ideas, brainstorm solutions to problems, and increase clubs' awareness of new places to explore. A lot of valuable information is contained in the regularly published newsletters from the RMFMS and AFMS which are provided via email to the entire membership as well as posted on the Societies' websites.

continued on page 3

Treasurer's Report

Gene Maggard, RMFMS Treasurer

All club annual reports and dues and insurance premium payments have been turned in. Dues collections are \$20,076 compared to budget of \$20,000. Insurance premium collections are \$7,723 compared to budget of \$7,500. I have not received the RMFMS insurance premium bill as of Feb. 15, but the renewal policy has been delivered and a pleasant surprise is that, according to the policy, the premium will be about \$6,800. The premium last year was \$7,200 and I budgeted \$7,500 for this year. I guess that insurance policies do not always go up.



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.

President's Message — continued from page 2

The RMFMS provides an option for liability insurance that covers third parties' property and non-members involved in club events such as the annual gem and mineral show. This group policy is usually less expensive than each club buying this kind of insurance.

Involvement in such a large membership (clubs, RMFMS, AFMS) can have an impact on decisions made about public land access throughout the United States. Each member has a path to communicate issues about land access in their area. That information is then conveyed to the regional and national contacts that can suggest actions and lobby for change resulting in potentially influencing the decision(s) made about public land access to preserve opportunities today and in the future to explore, collect, and share the earth's resources.

Each club is represented by an RMFMS State Director who comes to the federation annual meeting. Clubs can send delegates to the annual convention to represent them or can assign a proxy

to vote on their behalf. Each club has 2 votes. The proxy can be their state director or another RMFMS member of their choice.

Current Officers of the RMFMS:

- President - Jim Gray
- Vice President - Steve Kaminski
- Secretary – Liz Thomas
- Treasurer – Gene Maggard
- Historian - Cinda Kunkler
- Part President - Bob Regner
- Past President – Richard Jaeger

Upcoming Annual Conventions:

- 2026 Tulsa, Oklahoma
- 2027 Logan, Utah

Thank you, and if you have any questions please let me know. If I can't answer them, I will get the answer for you.

Jim Gray President RMFMS
jimgray@wyoming.com

ALAA Alert – President’s Message Regarding Mojave Desert’s Rockhounding Roads and Trails Closures

From Jennifer Haley, ALAA President via Jodi Brewster, Payson Rimstones Rock Club

Dear Recreational Rockhounds Near and Far,

It's come to our attention that we need to all pull together once again to assist in keeping our collecting areas open.

Once again, everyone’s focus is in the Mojave area which is one of America’s favorite collecting areas, and has been for over 100 years. This time, for those of you who collect in or near the mapped-out areas attached to this email, it’s going to be important to submit information to the BLM requesting continued access for rockhounding.

BLM’s first meeting for this specific topic is on Feb 18, 2026. Whether you attend the meeting or submit a comment letter, or both, as an individual or club, it will be very important to give constructive comments. This will help keep recreational rockhounding in the BLM’s planning process. If the BLM ends up changing the road access you are currently using, we all need to stress the importance of creating new roads which will help you get to your collecting areas.

Please contact ALAA with specific information you have about this area. This way we can share that information with everyone so we have more constructive information to submit.

Thank you, and let’s get to it! Jennifer Haley, ALAA President

In the **Center for Biological Diversity's** lawsuit against WEMO/WMRNP, the judge is making the BLM close every road in **desert tortoise "critical habitat"** via signage and **fencing**, monitor the roads, and then there

will be a process where **each road is analyzed individually** to meet new criteria to be opened. **2,200 miles.**



Final Critical Habitat for the Mojave Population of the Desert Tortoise (Gopherus Agassizii) in California (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office)

continued on page 5

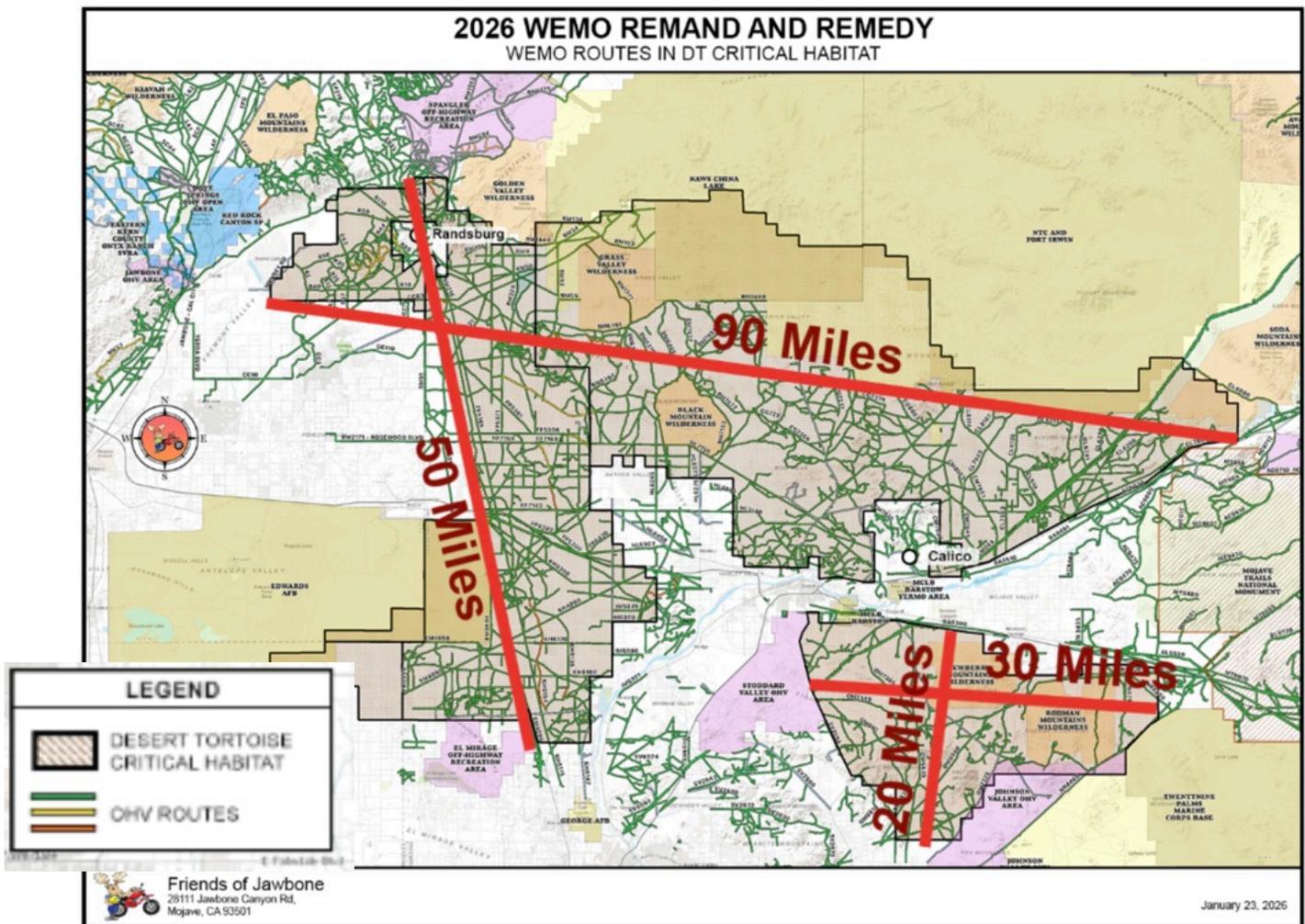
ALAA Alert— continued from page 4

In January 2026, a federal court judge ruled against the BLM and **ordered the closure of as much as 2,200 miles of OHV routes** in designated Desert Tortoise Critical Habitat in the Mojave Desert until a new route designation plan is undertaken and completed. Route closures could start as soon as late **March 2026**, and the BLM does have the option to appeal this decision. Although the court has spoken, and loudly, what's next is in the BLM's hands. (And the hands of Recreational Rockhounds and OHV and Americans who care for the Outdoors Desert Recreation. All of you must become Land Use Active and make YOUR Voice heard. The Public Land Access Loss is up to you! JRM)

In the greater Jawbone region OHV routes to be closed are in the **Rand Mountains, Red Mountain area, Cuddeback Lake, and Kramer Hills.**

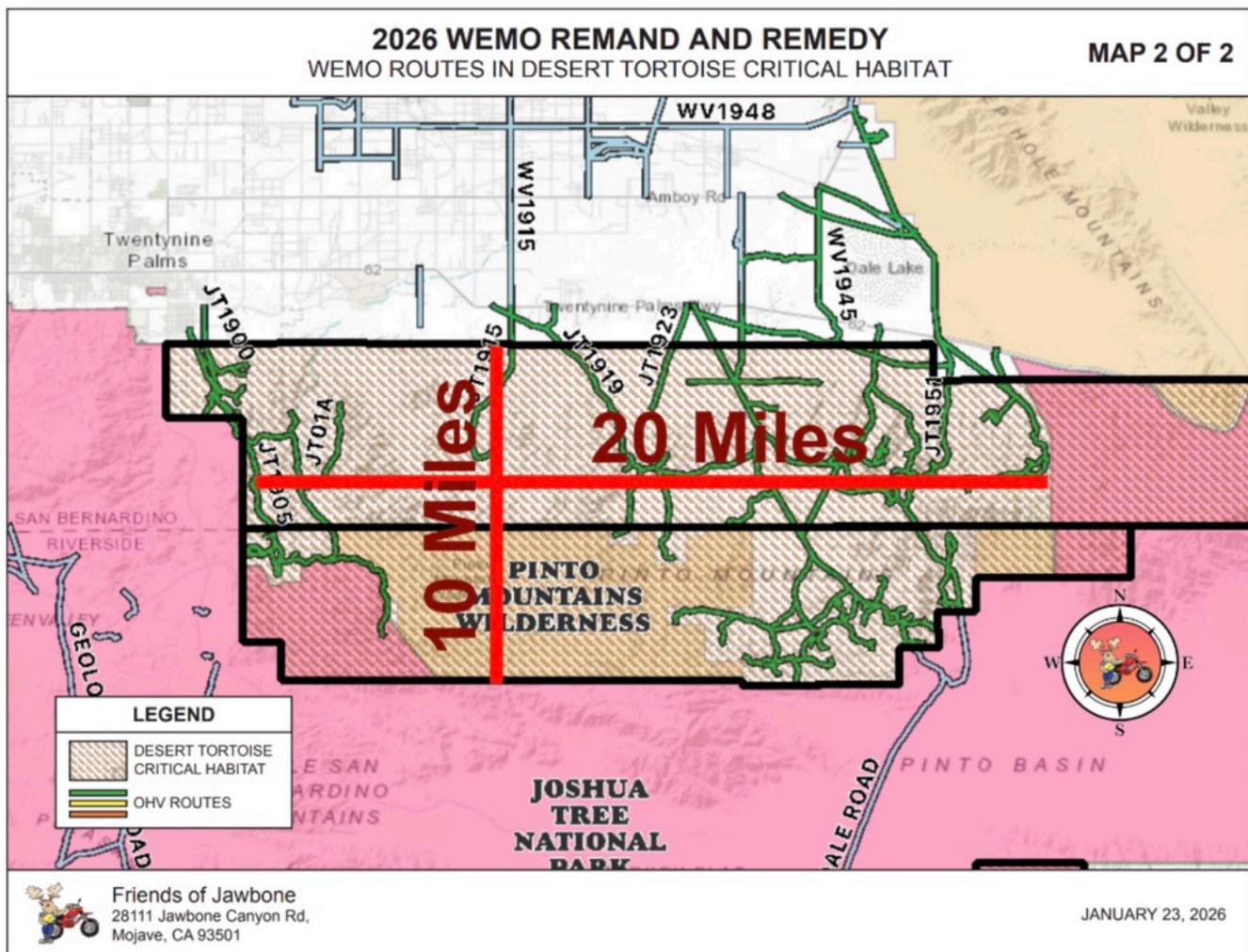
In the Barstow region, OHV routes to be closed are north of **Harper Valley and Hinkley**, north of I-15 to the **Cronese Lakes**, and in the **Ord, Newberry and Rodman Mountains.**

The WEMO map did include the **Dale gold mining district** as "critical".



continued on page 6

ALAA Alert— continued from page 5



In the greater Jawbone Canyon region, OHV routes are shared not only by OHV recreationists, but also by **Recreational Rockhounds**, chukar hunters, flower watchers, birders, landscape painters, **campers**, and nearby residents. We're concerned about the **loss of access to these public lands**.

For More Information:

<https://www.jawbone.org/federal-court-orders-ohv-route-closures-in-mojave-desert/>

https://www.ridgecrestca.com/news/federal-judge-blocks-off-road-vehicles-from-critical-desert-tortoise-habitats/article_ce2f8c44-ac5f-4ca0-8c6f-049b3696e7be.html

<https://www.jawbone.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/desert-tortoise-ruling.20260123.pdf>

<https://www.jawbone.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/DT-Critical-Habitat-in-WEMO.pdf>

<https://databasin.org/datasets/5c6dfb8a13284c148bf8fc676377b81d/>

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:

Richard D. Jaeger
3515 E 88th St
Tulsa, OK 74137-2602
918.481.0249
RjgrSci@aol.com



Where in the RMFMS is Rocky?

- Arkansas?
- Nebraska?
- North Dakota?

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Photo at left by James St. John, CC BY 2.0.

Answers on page 15.

11-year-old Touren Pope discovers ancient turtle fossil on BLM land in Wyoming

Craig Thomas, Archaeologist and Paleontology Coordinator, BLM-WY Rock Springs Field Office



Above: 11-year-old Touren Pope poses for a photo with the fossilized turtle shell he discovered while rockhounding on BLM-managed land in the Rock Springs Field Office area. (Photo by Craig Thomas, BLM Rock Springs Field Office)

Last fall, a routine day of rockhounding on Bureau of Land Management–managed public land in southwest Wyoming turned into an extraordinary discovery. While exploring public lands overseen by the BLM Wyoming Rock Springs Field Office, 11-year-old Touren Pope spotted what would later be identified as a fossilized turtle dating back nearly 48 million years.

Around that time, the [Greater Green River Basin](#) in southwest Wyoming looked very different than it does today. The basin had a much warmer, almost tropical climate which was dominated by a large floodplain filled with rivers and streams surrounding the remnants of the once-mighty ancient Lake Gosiute. The area supported an abundance of plant and animal life, including various mammals, fish, crocodiles, and turtles.

This story begins with an individual turtle that lived and died during this period. The turtle was of the soft-shelled variety belonging to the trionychid family. Following the turtle’s demise, its remains were buried and eventually fossilized through various natural processes. For millions of years, the fossilized turtle remained buried underground until it was recently exposed at the surface by natural erosion and weathering.

While the fossil’s emergence could easily have gone unnoticed, it was instead discovered by 11-year-old Touren while rockhounding with his grandparents, Patti and Tom Patterson. After noticing the fossil, he reported his discovery to the Bureau of Land Management. Word of the find was soon shared with paleontology staff at the Rock Springs Field Office (RSFO).

At right: A close-up shows the fossilized turtle shell on BLM-managed land during excavation. (Photo by Craig Thomas, BLM Rock Springs Field Office)



continued on page 9

Ancient Turtle— continued from page 8



Eleven-year-old Touren Pope assists with the excavation alongside JP Cavigelli, museum collections specialist at the Tate Geological Museum at Casper College in Wyoming. (Photo by Craig Thomas, BLM Rock Springs Field Office)

Following this news, Touren's grandparents escorted RSFO paleontology staff to the site so the turtle fossil could be fully documented and stabilized. Once staff confirmed the fossil was located on BLM-managed land, efforts began to identify a permitted paleontologist to collect the specimen before further erosion could occur.

JP Cavigelli, museum collections specialist at the [Tate Geological Museum at Casper College](#) in Casper, Wyoming, volunteered to help with the collection of this unique specimen. In September 2025, Cavigelli and his crew returned to the site along with Touren and his grandparents to fully excavate the fossil. The excavation

revealed that only the turtle's shell, or carapace, remained; however, it was nearly complete and remarkably well preserved.

At right: Touren Pope's grandfather, 11-year-old Touren Pope, Tate Geological Museum volunteer Steve Felto, and museum collections specialist JP Cavigelli carry the fossilized turtle shell off BLM-managed land after excavating the specimen, as Tate Geological Museum volunteer Judith Johnston supervises. (Photo by Craig Thomas, BLM Rock Springs Field Office)



After excavation, the fossil was transported to the Tate Geological Museum, a BLM-approved repository, where it will be cleaned and prepared for future research and possibly for public display.

This discovery would not have been possible without Touren's keen observation for fossils and his decision to report the fossil to the BLM. By doing the right thing, he was rewarded with a unique and memorable opportunity to take part in the excavation process.

continued on page 10

Ancient Turtle— continued from page 9

His discovery not only helped preserve an important piece of Wyoming's paleontological history but also highlighted the role the public plays in protecting and responsibly reporting scientific resources found on public lands. Touren was also given permission to name the fossil. Henceforth, it will forever be known as "Little Timmy," the turtle.



Above: 11-year-old Touren Pope assists with the excavation of the fossil. (Photo by Craig Thomas, BLM Rock Springs Field Office)

Update

Since the excavation, the fossilized turtle shell has been transported to the Tate Geological Museum, where preparation work is underway. A museum volunteer has been carefully cleaning and stabilizing the specimen, revealing additional details not visible in the field.

The newly shared photo shows the inside of the turtle shell, while images taken during excavation captured the top surface of the fossil. A small toy is included in the image for scale, highlighting the size of the specimen as preparation continues.



Above: Inside of the shell since it has been moved to the museum and prepared. (Photo courtesy of the Tate Geological Museum, Casper, Wyoming.)

Story by Craig Thomas, Archaeologist and Paleontology Coordinator, BLM-WY Rock Springs Field Office

<https://www.blm.gov/blog/2026-01-14/11-year-old-touren-pope-discovers-ancient-turtle-fossil-blm-land-wyoming>

Contributed by Jim Gray, RMFMS President. **Touren Pope** is a junior member of the **Sublette County Rock Hounds Club**, of which Jim Gray is also president.

Colorado Ascent

Steven Wade Veatch, Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society

Sky-bound ridges beckon,
drawing the Earth into sharp relief,
each peak a timeless mystery etched in stone.

Granite boulders pierce
the clouds,
their solemn silence
roaring like thunder,
their immensity carved
by the breath of time.

Pine forests unfurl,
rooted deep,
while alpine lakes reflect
the heavens
with clarity unsurpassed.

Faintly gleaming in
forgotten veins,
gold murmurs of a
bygone frenzy,
yet the mountains
endure,
unyielding to the grasp of greed.



This is the land of rising—
where the damp soil breathes renewal
and birdsong arcs toward open skies;

where rivers leap from
cliffs,
their spray soaring toward
light.

As you climb, the trails coil
upward,
the air thins to whispers,
each breath a praise to the
heights,
each view a call to reach
beyond.

Colorado—where the
mountains stretch skyward,
and our spirits follow, ever
rising.

From Colorado Life, May/June 2025 via CSMS Pick & Pack, February 2026.



Where in the RMFMS is Rocky?

- Arkansas?
- Nebraska?
- North Dakota?

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

Photo courtesy of Angela Chandler, Geological Survey



Answers on page 15.

Surprises from the Basement: Iowaite, Northeast Iowa

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

My last posting described the major economic discovery of REE/Critical Minerals located in a fairly nondescript (surficial description) area of southeastern Nebraska called Elk Creek. At this locality, ~600 feet of Pennsylvanian marine rocks, topped with varying small amounts of glacial debris, cover some very complex subcrops of Precambrian (Proterozoic) rocks. Most geologists working with Phanerozoic (post- Precambrian) rocks of the Plains and Midwest simply refer to these subcrops as the "basement." I certainly did during my stints of teaching Historical Geology. Most of the class time was spent studying fossiliferous sedimentary rocks unless those pesky mountains were being emplaced (life became easier with the emerging knowledge of plate tectonics). In places like Nebraska and Kansas, surficial outcrops of Precambrian rocks were essentially unknown. The good news was that field trips to the Colorado Precambrian outcrops were always enjoyed.

My friends in the field of geophysics seemed to be the only people who really enjoyed the "basement." They could look at a page of squiggly lines and come up with ideas and interpretations about anomalies, faults, basins, etc. I believed these were secret codes that geophysicists used to communicate with each other and tease the paleontologists and soft rockers. I admit that interpretations of squiggly lines easily confuse me; therefore, I rely on my friends, and professional journals, to locate interpretations.

Several decades ago, I was a student in the graduate program at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion. Today USD is a well-known university, especially in the Plains and Midwest, due to their top-notch academics, and their winning athletic teams. During my two-year tenure in Vermillion USD was sort of lost among the schools of the Big 10 and Big 8. The academics were good and the

athletic teams excellent/OK; however, in those days before widespread TV coverage the "Dakotas" were cold and somewhere near Canada and maybe just a few miles from the Arctic Circle. While traveling out of the state, especially to my home state of Kansas, I got many opportunities to answer questions about the small-town kid who disappeared from home. Normally, questions centered around, "where are you working", or "where did you say you were going to school." My answers usually brought blank stares and finally they recovered with "is that near the Black Hills." But I enjoyed my stay, learned much, met many "really nice" people, and always looked forward to field trips to the Hills, about 400 miles to the west.



USD was closer to my home in Kansas than to the Hills (but a lot less interesting). At any rate, I took a course in geophysics trying to help calm my fear of squiggly lines—no such luck. But one thing I do remember were assignments trying to interpret those early gravity and magnetic maps. One assignment was for students (group project) to interpret a magnetic map with an anomaly situated in a sedimentary rock section out near the Hills. Oh, the students dreamed up a variety of scenarios except the easy one. Turns out this anomaly was centered on a "gravel pit" of Pleistocene age where many high-content iron minerals, like biotite, tourmaline, magnetite and hematite, accumulated after their weathering from igneous and metamorphic rocks and stream transportation from the Hills. An embarrassing situation for smart students. Oh well, we learned.

continued on page 13

lowaite— continued from page 12

The Department, or the SD Geological Survey, also had a magnetometer that was cumbersome, old, cranky, and tough to haul around and use, but we “sort of” learned the principles of use. I was then amazed to find out that a senior South Dakota Survey geologist had published, in 1962, the *Magnetometer map of southeastern South Dakota*. Our class discussions then moved to this map and the source of magnetic highs in the far southeast corner of the state. The only possibility that we could support was fault movement or doming of the Precambrian basement rocks. Close but no cookie! My fellow group members were also confused by gravity and magnetic maps! This map revealed the presence, not of gravel pits nor outcrops of faulted igneous rocks, but of a band of mafic intrusive igneous rocks subcropping in Union County, next door to Sioux County, Iowa (and very near Vermillion).

So, my stay in Vermillion was 1965-67, the SD map was published in 1962, and somewhere in that period of time Iowa had also identified several of these magnetic anomalies since an exploratory drilling program and aeromagnetic surveys had been conducted by the New Jersey Zinc Company starting somewhere around 1963. The company was looking for possible iron ore of economic significance when in 1966 they drilled through about a thousand feet of glacial debris and sedimentary rocks and then cored, with a diamond bit, as much as 500 feet of Precambrian igneous/metamorphic rocks. Since the drill site was near the

small town of Matlock, Iowa, one often sees the term Matlock Drill Core (see MinDat). In fact, the Company drilled 12 different wells into and around the anomaly.

In addition, MinDat lists 30 known minerals from these cores. One of the cores came from an ultrabasic serpentinite created by metamorphism of an igneous rock originally composed of olivine and pyroxene that was altered (minerals replaced) by serpentine, brucite, and magnesite with veinlets in the serpentine filled with dolomite, calcite, pyrite, brucite, magnesite, and other unknowns (Cordua, 1990). Two geologists from the New Jersey Zinc Company, in examining the core, noted “a material giving an unidentified X-ray diffraction pattern ...coming from a bluish green, translucent, platy, soapy mineral...a previously undescribed hydrous magnesium hydroxide-ferric oxychloride” they named lowaite ($Mg_6Fe^{3+}_2(OH)_{16}Cl_2 \cdot 4H_2O$) to honor the State of Iowa (Kohls and Rodda, 1967).

But there is another story associated with the naming of this new mineral, and that is the extent of these magnetic highs and the composition of these anomalies, and the reason for their existence. So now the story switches over to a great paper by Windom, Seifert, and Anderson (1991). What I find amazing, with regards to this work, is reading about the new amount of information that came forth in the previous 25 years (1966-1991).

continued on page 14



Where in the RMFMS is Rocky?

- Arkansas?
- Nebraska?
- North Dakota?

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Photo left, CC0 SA 3.0

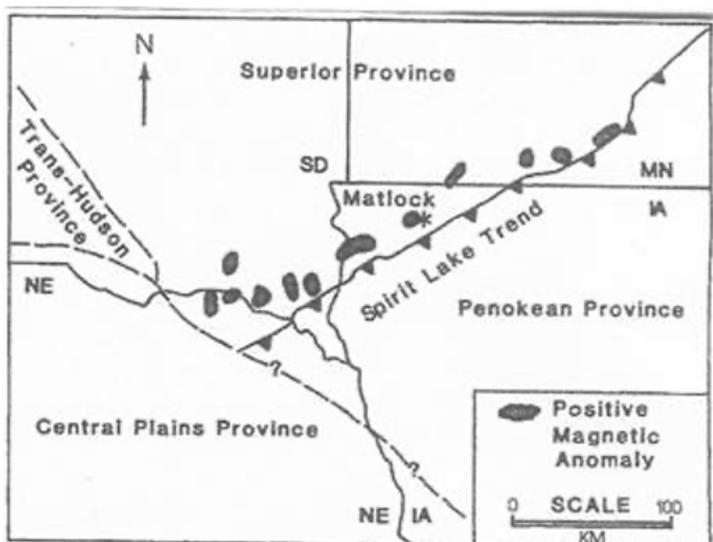


Answers on page 15.

Iowaite— continued from page 13

I believe that the original SD magnetic map was created from information provided by lugging that old magnetometer (Askania Vertical Ground Magnetometer—maybe) over county roads and pasture lanes to acquire readings about every five miles. My confidence in this call is based on the 1961 land survey of Tood and Mellette Counties by Survey geologist Bruno Petch along the Nebraska-South Dakota state line in the south-central part of the state. I am less familiar with Iowa, so I remain uncertain if hand magnetometers were used in northwest Iowa or if aeromagnetic surveys were the choice of the day.

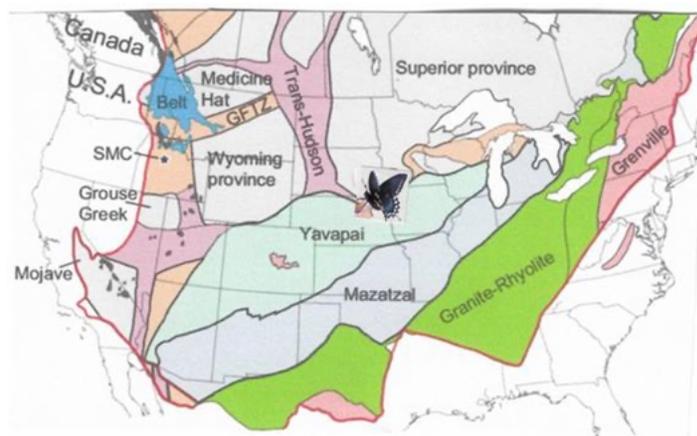
At any rate, after completion of drilling the 12 wells, and core examination at Matlock, information delineated a very complex assortment of layered igneous and metamorphic rocks that were now tilted and dipping to the northwest about 25 degrees. Their total stratigraphic thickness may exceed ~8000 feet (Windom and others, 1991) and are Precambrian Archean (2890 +/- 90 Ma) in age (Van Schmus and Wallin, 1991). These units were given the name of Otter Creek Layered Igneous Complex and Otter Creek Magnetic Anomaly.



Above: This location map, courtesy of Windom and others (1991), shows the relationship of the Otter Creek Magnetic Anomaly (*) to the other known associated magnetic anomalies associated with the southern boundary of the Superior Province.

Additional magnetic surveys (probably aeromagnetic) have shown the Otter Creek Anomaly is related to a string of nearby magnetic anomalies trending southwest-northeast from South Dakota through Iowa and into southwestern Minnesota.

These anomalies lie parallel to, but northwest of, the Spirit Lake Trend (SLT) (Windom and others, 1991). The SLT has been described as the boundary between Precambrian Archean rocks (2.5 Ga or older) of the Superior Province and the Precambrian Proterozoic rocks of the Penokean Province (2.5 Ga to 600 Ma) (Windom and others, 1991). Van Schmus and Wallin (1991), as noted above, defined an Archean age (2.39 +/- Ga) to the Otter Creek Layered Complex just northwest of the SLT, and dates of 2.5 to 3.0 Ga throughout the Superior Province. Southeast of the SLT, core samples from Nebraska and South Dakota are from ~1.76 Ga to ~1.80 Ga, or Proterozoic in age. The contact between the terranes seems sharp.



Above: Map from Whitmeyer and Karlstrom (2007) showing location of Yavapai terrain. Black butterfly is hovering over the tall grass prairie at Matlock, Iowa, along the Spirit Lake Trend. Compare with previous map, at left.

continued on page 15

iowaite — continued from page 14

Whitmeyer and Karlstrom (2007) and Van Schmus and others (1991, 2007) also believed the Penokean crustal rocks are limited to the central and northern parts of Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Michigan. They noted the Yavapai Province crustal rocks continue from Arizona eastward through Colorado south of the Cheyenne Belt, Nebraska, the mid-continent region, eastward further into Ontario and then further east into the protolith of the Grenville Province. However, dates associated with the Yavapai Orogen/Province do overlap with dates of the Penokean crustal rocks; interestingly, these two provinces are interpreted in terms of subduction flip from south dipping in the Penokean orogeny to north dipping along the southern border of the Superior Province/Laurentia. In addition, Windom and others (1991) used the term Central Plains Province to describe the eastward extensions of Colorado Proterozoic rocks into the mid-continent region. In today's language these rocks are now part of the Yavapai Province (Whitmeyer and Karlstrom, 2007). The Yavapai Orogeny is now defined in terms of a long-lived convergent plate margin orogen along a southward-growing Laurentia. Most of this new crust is the result of a series of separate oceanic arcs that developed diachronously outboard of Laurentia and became welded together and to Laurentia (Whitmeyer and Karlstrom, 2007).

But back to iowaite and Iowa. The mineral from the Matlock core was never abundant and any/all studies on iowaite had to come from tiny specimens retrieved from the drill core. In fact, Cordua (1990) stated, "iowaite has, to my knowledge, only been found in this one drill core in this one spot." That all changed in 1983 when Jon Gliddon, the Manager of Mining at the large Palabora Mine, Limpopo, South Africa, discovered a mineral he provisionally identified as pyroaurite ($\text{Mg}_6\text{Fe}^{3+}_2(\text{OH})_{16}[\text{CO}_3] \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$). To confirm his identification, Gliddon sent a sample to Richard Braithwaite, a well-known mineralogist at the University of Manchester in the UK. Using microprobe, carbon analyses, thermal analyses, x-ray diffraction, mass spectrometer and optical studies Braithwaite and his colleagues (1994) stated "this new material have shown that it is indeed similar to pyroaurite, but with chloride taking the place of most of the interlayer carbonate in the latter, and despite some differences in analyses and physical properties, seems to be identical with iowaite" ($\text{Mg}_6\text{Fe}^{3+}_2(\text{OH})_{16}\text{Cl}_2 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$). And, it turns out, that the Palabora specimens are far superior to the Matlock Core specimens in purity, crystal distinction, size and greater availability. The Palabora specimens are well crystallized and are similar in habit to their relatives in the Chlorite Group.

continued on page 16



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 7, 11, and 13:

- page 7: Cannonball concretions, **Little Missouri Badlands, North Dakota**
- page 11: Turtle Rocks, **Petit Jean State Park, Arkansas**
- page 13: Agate Fossil Beds National Monument, **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.



iowaite — continued from page 15

For a much better description of iowaite see: Cairncross (2018), Braithwaite and others (1994), Gliddon and Braithwaite (1991), and Southwood and Cairncross (2017). In addition, MinDat (assessed 16 Oct 25) noted that iowaite “is bluish green, becoming pale green with a rusty red tint on exposure to air (alteration to pyroaurite).”

Since the cat came out of the bag in Palabora, iowaite has shown up in Australia, three Canadian provinces, China, France, Oman, Poland, four localities in Russia, Spain, Uzbekistan, Sterling Mine in New Jersey, and deep ocean sediments in both the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

However, the iowaite story continues. I certainly did not have the slightest idea about these fascinating stories about iowaite until three years ago. I had heard of iowaite since minerals named after states are rare and at one time, I wrote a little story about coloradoite (a mercury telluride) and discovered the other three minerals. I knew about the Matlock Drill Core but do not remember why it was stuck into the back recesses of my mind. I tend to gravitate to strange and weird minerals and so when I saw a specimen of iowaite for sale in Denver 2022, I nabbed it. After the purchase I grabbed a coffee, rested my ole body, pulled out my phone and dialed up MinDat to examine iowaite. Wow, the specimen I purchased certainly did not resemble, or even seem related to, any mineral found in Iowa. What I had purchased was a nice specimen of chromium-bearing iowaite, $Mg_6(Fe^{3+}, Cr^{3+})_2(OH)_{16}Cl_2 \cdot 4H_2O$ where there is significant replacement of Fe^{3+} by Cr^{3+} that perhaps leads to a transition to woodallite ($Mg_6Cr_2(OH)_{16}Cl_2 \cdot 4H_2O$). This colorful variety of iowaite is collected from a single locality in an ultrabasic massif in the Altai Republic, Russia, somewhere in southern Siberia! Specimens of this variety are beautiful purple (of various shades) that is platy with a greasy feel. Unfortunately, I can locate very little information about the discovery, and more

importunately, the source of the chromium. Also, I assumed that such a seemingly rare mineral (only the single locality I think) would be “pricey” on the mineral market. However, I noticed that on Etsy and Ebay that prices were quite modest, even “cheap,” with thumbnails starting in the single digits. Digging a little deeper in MinDat I found that at the main collecting site, chromium minerals of the hydrotalcite group [including iowaite], are confined to linear zones in serpentinites, sometimes stretching **for tens of meters**, are represented by massive fine-scaled aggregates of purple/lilac color in different shades — from light pink-lilac to bright deep violet-lilac. They form lenses and nests up to 30 cm in diameter, as well as veins in chrysotile-lizardite serpentinites. They also form pseudomorphs along rounded chrome spinel grains in serpentinite. So, there seems to be a good source of material but getting it collected and out of Siberia might be difficult in today’s world? Presumably this information in MinDat is from a Russian publication, unavailable here in the Village Library in Holmen, WI.



Purple resinous mass of chromium-bearing iowaite with inclusions of greenish yellow/brown serpentinite. Some of the lighter colored, lilac shade, may be closely related stichtite. Width of specimen 2 cm.

continued on page 17

Iowaite — continued from page 16

This story of iowaite, at the time of discovery, seemingly would restrict the rather non-descript mineral to the single drill core brought up from a serpentine-rich metamorphic rock about 1500 feet below the surface of a tall grass prairie in rural northeast Iowa near Matlock (population 74). Little additional work was completed on the mineral due to a lack of material in the core. But the 12 different drill cores in the area provided radiometric dates for the basement rock and helped build the foundation for mapping the Archean and Proterozoic boundaries.

So, iowaite was sort of moved to the back burner until an observant mine manager in South Africa sent samples of a mineral to a mineralogist in the UK who might have said, “wow this sample is the same as long forgotten iowaite from the colonies.” The sample from the Palabora opened up a wealth of information about iowaite and soon new localities were popping up across several continents. And somewhere in southern Siberia, Russia miners/mineralogists opened a seam that would provide chromium-rich iowaite to collectors and researchers around the world. And now, in this century, synthetic iowaite has been cooked up in a chemical lab, and today some deep hunting on the WEB will locate a plethora of research articles searching for industrial uses of—no kidding—iowaite.

For example, see *Molecules*. 2021 May 20;26(10):3052. doi: [10.3390/molecules26103052](https://doi.org/10.3390/molecules26103052): *Synthetic Iowaite Can Effectively Remove Inorganic Ar.*

A Brief Intermission for Levity

What do you call twin dinosaurs?

Pair-odactyls!

What do you call a dinosaur wearing a cowboy hat and boots?

Tyrannosaurus Tex!

Who woulda thought??

References Cited:

Browning, S.A. and K.E. Karlstrom, 1990, Growth, stabilization, and reactivation of Proterozoic lithosphere in the southwestern United States: *Geology (USA)*, vol. 18, no. 12.

Braithwaite, R.S.W. and J.P. Gliddon, 1991, Zeolites and associated minerals from the Palabora Mine, Transvaal [South Africa]: *Mineralogical Record*, vol. 22, no. 4.

Browning, S.A. and K.E. Karlstrom, 1990, Growth, stabilization, and reactivation of Proterozoic lithosphere in the southwestern United States: *Geology (USA)*, vol. 18, no. 12.

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Cordua, W.S., 1990, A mineral named for Iowa: *Leaverite News*, v. 15, no. 8, p. 2.

Kohls, D. W. and J.L. Rodda, 1967, iowaite, a new hydrous magnesium hydroxide ferric oxychloride from the Precambrian of Iowa: *The American Mineralogist*, vol. 52, nos. 9 and 10.

Southwood, M. and B. Cairncross, 2017, The minerals of Palabora, Limpopo Province, South Africa: *Rocks and Minerals*, vol. 92, no. 5.

What do you get if you cross a dinosaur with a pig?
Jurassic Pork

Why do museums exhibit old dinosaur bones?
Because they can't afford new ones.

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

STUDYING PALEONTOLOGY? GEOLOGY? EARTH SCIENCE?



The Hell Creek
Paleontological Society

Apply
January 1st -
March 31st

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY 2026

A minimum of 1 and maximum of 3 scholarships will be granted.
The maximum award amount for each scholarship is \$1,000.00

SCHOLARSHIP DETAILS:

- The Hell Creek Paleontological Society Scholarship application process is designed to support individuals pursuing their education in paleontology, geology, or related fields.
- Scholarships are awarded to fund various educational expenses at any accredited university or college, with the primary goal of advancing the applicant's knowledge and expertise in their chosen field.
- Both members and non-members of the Society are encouraged to apply and demographics (race, ethnicity, financial situation, etc.) will not be collected or reviewed, thereby widening access to educational funding in paleontology.
- Scholarship recipients are expected to fulfill reporting requirements by sharing their experiences and outcomes with the Society.



DOWNLOAD & SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION AT:



[www.thehellcreekpaleosociety.org/
scholarships](http://www.thehellcreekpaleosociety.org/scholarships)

MORE INFORMATION:



scholarships@thehellcreekpaleosociety.org

The Hell Creek Paleontological Society is a 501(c)-3 non-profit organization focused on the study of fossils with the goals of inspiring and furthering the educational aspirations of our community through knowledge and scholarship.

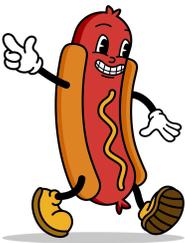
2026 Scholarship Opportunity

Heather Aziz, President Hellcreek Paleo Society

The Hell Creek Paleontological Society Scholarship application process is designed to support individuals pursuing their education in paleontology, geology, or related fields. Scholarships are awarded to fund various educational expenses at any accredited university or college within the United States, with the primary goal of advancing the applicant's knowledge and expertise in their chosen field. Each year, a minimum of one and a maximum of three scholarships will be granted, and the maximum award amount for each scholarship is \$1,000.00. One noteworthy aspect of this opportunity is its inclusivity, as both members and non-members of the Society are encouraged to apply, and demographics (race, ethnicity, financial situation, etc.) will not be collected or reviewed, thereby widening access to educational funding in paleontology.

The evaluation of scholarship applications is entrusted to the Society's elected scientific committee, who carefully assess each applicant's qualifications, dedication, and potential contributions to the field. Final approval for all awards rests with the Society's Board, ensuring a fair and thorough selection process. In addition to receiving financial support, scholarship recipients are expected to fulfill reporting requirements by sharing their experiences and outcomes with the Society. This can be achieved through either a brief presentation at a regular Society meeting or by submitting a note for publication in the Society newsletter. These reporting requirements not only provide transparency but also enable scholarship recipients to give back to the community by sharing their educational journey and the impact of the scholarship.

Applications for 2026 will be accepted from January 1st to March 31st, 2026. Notice of award will be sent to selected recipients no later than April 30th, 2026, with awards being mailed by May 30th, 2026. Completed applications must be emailed and submitted with supporting documents (essays, reference letters, etc.) uploaded as attachments. Please email all required materials to: www.thehellcreekpaleosociety.org/scholarships . [See the flyer on page 14.]



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.

- **Massive magma surge sparked 28,000 Santorini earthquakes**
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2026/02/260215225532.htm>
- **Types of Rock Art: Petroglyphs and Pictographs**
<https://geology.com/articles/petroglyphs.shtml>
- **Diatomite: The Rock Used to Make Beer**
<https://geology.com/rocks/diatomite.shtml>

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 at aol.com>. As with many of the other email addresses in the newsletter, you will need to remove the chevrons, < >, and replace the spaces and the "at" with the correct symbol, @ .

3/7-8/2026	Siera County Rock & Gem Society	Sierra County Fair Barn,1321 Hyde Ave, Truth of Consequences, NM	Megan Holden; scragssierracounty@gmail.com; scraggs.org
3/14/26	White Mountain Gem & Mineral Club	Mellon Center, Concho, AZ	
3/20-22/2026	Albuquerque Gem & Mineral Club	Expo NM State Fairgrounds, Kerr Scott Bldg, 4285 Trinity Rd, Albuquerque, NM; enter Gate 3 @ San Pedro & Copper	Roy McKinney, 505.715.0138; show-chair@agmc.info; http://www.agmc.info
3/20-22/2026	Fort Collins Rockhounds	McKee Building, The Ranch/Larimer County Fairgrounds, 5280 Arena Cir., Loveland, CO	https://www.fortcollinsrockhounds.org/gemAndMineralShow.shtml
3/27-28/2026	Ada Gem, Mineral & Fossil Club	Pontotoc County Agri-Plex, Building #1, 1710 N Broadway, Ada, OK 74820	Bobby Freeman, 580.399.7214
4/11/26	Gila County Gem & Mineral Society Spring Show & Sell	Bullion Plaza Cultural Center & Museum Lawn, 150 Plaza Circle, Miami, AZ 85539	Beverly Hawkins, gilagem.shows@gmail.com, 928.363.0345
4/18-19/2026	Northwest Arkansas G&M Society	Northwest Arkansas Armed Forces Reserve Center, 6800 SW Minuteman Ave, Bentonville, AR	Cathy Feather, 539.777.7575; nwarockhounds@gmail.com
4/24-26/2026	Wichita Gem & Mineral Society	Cessnsa Activity Center, 2744 Geoge Washington Blvd, Wichita, KS	Gene Maggard, 316.742.3746; gandpmaggard@gmail.com; https://wichitagemandmineralsociety.org/
4/24-26/2026	Wasatch Gem Society	Bastian Agricultural Center, 2100 W 11400 S, Ssouth Jordan, UT	Roberta Chase, 801.541.7569; roberta.chase@outlook.com; https://wasatchgemsociety.com/
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
5/15-17/2026	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

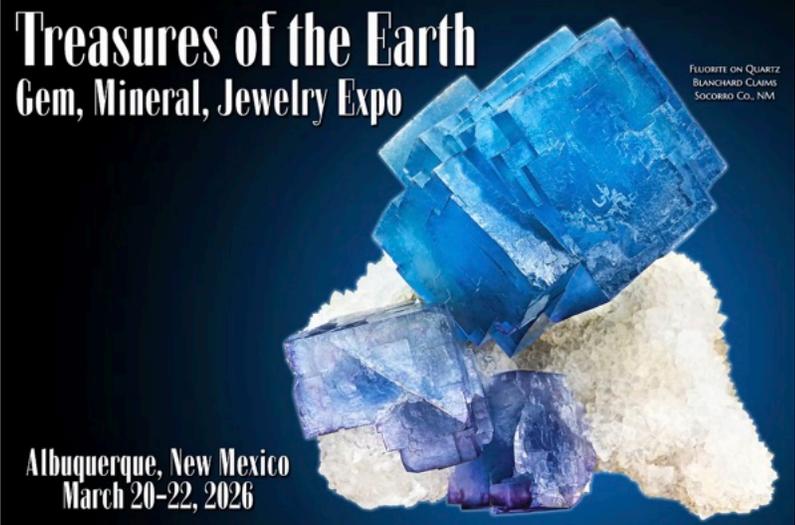
Below are upcoming regional federation shows:

	California Federation	Eastern Federation	Midwest Federation	Northwest Federation	Rocky Mountain Federation	South Central Federation	Southeast Federation
2026		Charleston, WV October 18-20	AFMS/MWF St. Charles, IL May 22-24	Missoula, MT March 20-22	Tulsa, OK July 9-12		
2027							



**WHITE MOUNTAIN
GEM & MINERAL CLUB**

2nd Annual Show at the Mellon Center,
Concho, AZ
March 14, 2026
9:00 AM-3:00 PM
Child Friendly, Bring the Family, Fun for
all
Local Member Vendors
Free Admission



Treasures of the Earth
Gem, Mineral, Jewelry Expo

Albuquerque, New Mexico
March 20-22, 2026

FLORENTIN QUARTZ
BLANCHARD CLAIMS
SOCORRO CO., NM



**63rd Annual 2026 Fort Collins Rockhounds
Gem & Mineral Show**

Featuring Fossils & Geodes
Friday **March 20** 4pm-8pm
Saturday **March 21** 9am-6pm
Sunday **March 22** 10am-4pm

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

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



Reminder:

Advertise your Show in as many Free locations as possible!

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

Advertise in the Rock & Gem Magazine!

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

www.rockngem.com/showdate-submissions/

Info from CFMS Newsletter, April 2024

Ada Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show

March 27th & 28th, 2026

Friday 8am – 6pm • Saturday 9am – 5pm

- Fluorescent Rock Display
- Silent Auction
- Demonstrations & Exhibits
- Mineral Dig & Rock ID
- Kids Games
- Educational Presentations

Pontotoc County Agri-Plex Building #1
1710 N Broadway, Ada, OK 74820

FREE ADMISSION!

For more information contact:
Bobby Freeman
(580) 399-7214

Gila County Gem & Mineral Society

SPRING SHOW & SELL

Bento Guy Food Truck on site!

Interested in being a vendor?

We offer 8-foot table spaces for \$10 each.
Must be rock/mineral related items.
Tables provided. Vendor to bring chairs, canopies and table covers if desired.

Deadline to Reserve: March 30, 2026
For information/reserve a table:
Beverly Hawkins: gilagem.shows@gmail.com
or 928-363-0345

Saturday, April 11, 2026
9 A.M.-2 P.M.

Bullion Plaza Cultural Center & Museum Lawn
150 Plaza Circle, Miami AZ 85539

2026 Spring Gem, Mineral, and Jewelry Show

Arkansas Rocks !!

Sat. April 18, 9-5
Sun. April 19, 10-4

We're Growing Again!
Several great new attractions this year.

Rock ID Table • Hourly Door Prizes
Bead Dealer • Flint Knapper • Geode Cracker
Silent Auction • Educational Display Cases

"Daisy and DeLois" local food truck, featuring Louisiana and American foods
And always gems, minerals, crystals, fossils, jewelry, home décor, and more fun stuff!

Northwest Arkansas Armed Forces Reserve Center (the Armory)
6800 S.W. Minuteman Ave. Bentonville, AR 72712
(On Highway 102, just North of NWA Airport)

\$5.00 Entry Donation, children under 10 free with an adult

For more information, contact DeLane Cox, delanec3@earthlink.net
Northwest Arkansas Gem & Mineral Society
nwarockhounds@gmail.com

Largest Club Sponsored

Gem Mineral Fossil Show in Utah!

\$3.00 ADULTS
KIDS 12 & UNDER FREE!

	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
APRIL 2026	24TH	25TH	26TH
	10am - 6pm	10am - 6pm	10am - 4pm

LOCAL & NATIONAL VENDORS • SHOW CASE DISPLAYS • WHEEL OF FORTUNE DEMONSTRATIONS • DOOR PRIZES
ROCK BAGS • KIDS TABLE

BASTIAN AGRICULTURAL CENTER
2100 WEST 11400 SOUTH - SOUTH JORDAN, UTAH
www.wasatchgemsociety.com

Don't Miss It!

Wichita Gem and Mineral Show

"Earth's Hidden Treasures"

April 24, 25 & 26, 2026

Friday
9am-6pm

Saturday
10am-6pm

Sunday
10am-5pm

Cessna Activity Center

2744 George Washington Blvd
Wichita, KS



Featuring dazzling gemstone jewelry, gems, crystals, beads, agates, polished stones, rocks, minerals, meteorites, and fossils.

See how rocks are cut and polished. See how unique jewelry is created using the wonders of nature. Special displays of rocks and minerals from throughout the world.

Dealers * Demonstrations * Exhibits
Gemstone identification, sphere making, cabbing, beading, arrowhead napping, faceting, wire wrapping, silversmithing, and much more.



C O U P O N

Adults: \$5.00, Youth 13-17: \$1.00,
Children 12 and under free with an adult
Proceeds help support a WSU Geology Scholarship.

For information:
316-202-4598, 316-742-3746
www.wgmsks.org

Bring this coupon for
**\$1.00 Off Each
Adult Admission**

\$1 Off **\$1 Off**

Special Things for Children: Junior rock pile, gem hunt, gem wheel, grab bags, demonstrations and exhibits.

Good food – Rest Area – Free Parking Door Side

For information contact:
www.wgmsks.org,
(316) 742-3746

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Follow us: Wichita Gem and Mineral Society

Discount coupons available at www.wgmsks.org

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



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

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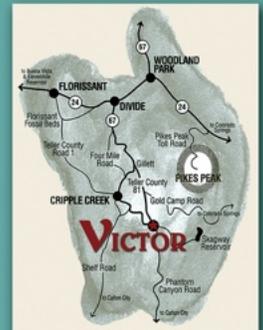
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FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY COLORADO CHAPTER 2026 SYMPOSIUM:

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

 **TULSA ROCK & GEM SHOW** 

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

Also hosting Rocky Mountain Federation Convention

July 10-12, 2026

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

\$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



2025-2026 Executive Committee – composed of the Officers & the State Directors

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Vice President	Steve Kaminski	<scsckamin at gmail.com>
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State Directors:

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KS	Larry Beck	<Lkbeckfam at gmail.com>
ND/SD/NE	Lori Loomis	<sdnестatedirector 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>
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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>
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PLAC - CO		<>
PLAC - KS	Mike Nelson	<csrockguy at yahoo.com>
PLAC - NM/TX		
PLAC - OK/AR		<>
PLAC - ND/SD/NE	Lori Loomis	<sdn statedirector at gmail.com>
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PLAC - WY	Greg Jones	<wyojones at wyjones.com >
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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 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.

